CSUMB Student Voice budget approved

-Paves way for a more visible student government

by M. J. Oehlman

The process of establishing the CSUMB student government, Student Voice, took another step forward as the fiscal budget proposal for the 1997-98 academic year was approved by both the Student Voice Board of Directors and by the administration. Although such a process seems straightforward and uncomplicated, decisions had to be made concerning the initial direction of the Student Voice in terms of both its short term and long term goals and objectives. The focus for the current members of the Student Voice is to concentrate on establishing a working and visible student government office, thereby laying the groundwork for the future.

In a statement, Student Voice Chair Bethina Woodridge said that goals for this year include, "...maintaining a positive cash-flow; providing aid and services for the students and student-organizations; and establishing a visible and working Student Voice". End of the year objectives include an office with the proper equipment to do business; staff so students can walk in the office Monday through Friday and have access to someone affiliated with Student Voice; small stipends for members of Student Voice to implement a policy of public relations- not only with the campus community, but with the immediate surrounding communities and the general public as well, and lastly a fiscal policy which will incorporate a growth strategy that goes beyond that of the present.

Unlike other established student governments, CSUMB allows for no forms of revenue for student government outside of student fees. Much of this situation is due to prior contractual obligations with vendors and purveyors, which will come under review and scrutiny as these contracts near expiration. The other stumbling block is that of incorporation- making the Student Voice a legal corporation in the eyes of both the CSU system and the State of California. Not all CSU student governments are incorporated, and according to Woodridge, there are both pros and cons to incorporation. This matter is being investigated by the Student Voice Board of Directors and by the administration. End of the year objectives include an office with the proper equipment to do business; staff so students can walk in the office Monday through Friday and have access to someone affiliated with Student Voice; small stipends for members of Student Voice to implement a policy of public relations- not only with the campus community, but with the immediate surrounding communities and the general public as well, and lastly a fiscal policy which will incorporate a growth strategy that goes beyond that of the present.

New Chancellor receives $39,000 pay increase

By Jennifer C. Wilson

Dr. Charles Reed, Chancellor of the Florida Board of Regents, has recently been hired by the CSU Board of Trustees to replace Barry Munitz as the Chancellor for the California State University System. Munitz announced that he would be leaving CSU to head the J. Paul Getty Trust in January. Reed was hired at a $39,000 increase from what Munitz is currently being paid.

In a phone interview with Ken Swisher of the CSU public Affairs office, he stated that the reasons behind the large salary raise for the new chancellor was discussed at the Board of Trustees Meeting in August, prior to the hiring of the new chancellor. Current Chancellor Munitz recently received a salary raise from $187,000 to $215,000 while Reed is being paid $254,000. Swisher stated that the Chancellor of the University of California system is currently receiving $253,000, and they wanted to stay within the running market value.

He said that this pay increase will be taken out of the general fund salary pool which includes student tuition fees, state support, and private funding.

Reed, a Pennsylvania native, previously served as chief of staff for former Florida Governor Bob Graham. Prior to that he served as deputy chief of staff, chief legislative advisor, and educational policy coordinator for then-governor and now U.S. Senator Graham.

Reed has also served in administration in the Florida Department of Education for eight years and with the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education. For seven years he was a member of the faculty of the George Washington University in Washington, D.C., where he earned bachelor's, master's and doctorate degrees.

Reed has served as a member of the Executive Committee of the Florida Education Commission of the States and as vice-chairman of the Southern Regional Education Board.
CSUMB gives girls science lesson

CSUMB and AAUW host Girls science and math conference

By Kim Woods

CSUMB and the Monterey Bay Interbranch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) sponsored a girls science and math conference Saturday, October 18, 1997. The conference, entitled "Welcome to the Water Planet," was held in the CSUMB Music Hall.

Faculty and students from the University’s Earth Systems Science and Policy (ESSP) Institute introduced one hundred eighth grade girls to the important role water plays on planet Earth. The girls were selected prior to the event from schools in Monterey, Salinas and Santa Cruz. The aim of the conference was to raise the girls’ awareness of the sciences and possible career options. According to a 1993 report released by the National Science Foundation "even though women make up almost one half of the American labor market, they hold only 22 percent of the jobs in science, math, and engineering and are paid less in these jobs."

Four workshops featuring lectures and visual "hands on" experiments from the ESSP department’s four female professors provided the girls with a sense of what it is to be a scientist. Dr. Eden Rue’s workshop is entitled \"The Water World.\" I am basically going to show these girls a whole bunch of cool properties of water. We will also get to see an actual culture of an algae from the Monterey Bay in the dark and then have to recreate botanically in the lab to mimic what biology is doing."

The CSUMB professors, Dr. Susan Alexander, Dr. Laraine Lomax, Dr. Suzy McConnell and Dr. Eden Rue, are all recognized experts in their respective fields. All feel that it is extremely important to give young girls a sense of confidence in science and math. "I have been told that it is at this age that girls somehow decide they can’t do math and science! If I can convince at least one girl that I do, I have succeeded!\" said Dr. Rue.

Dr. Lomax, an Ecological Economist, stated prior to the conference that "Many young girls are either not exposed to math and science or don’t have access to role models in math or the sciences. Often they are inadvertently given the signal that a career in math or the sciences is not appropriate for girls. We want to show them that not all scientists are nerds and that there are many aspects of doing science that are really fun."

CSUMB welcomes new VP for university advancement

By Otter Realm Staff

CSUMB has recently hired Dr. LucyAnn Geiselman as the new Vice President for University Advancement. CSUMB engaged a national search to fill this important position. In her capacity as Vice President for University Advancement, she will continue the development and implementation of CSUMB’s fund raising, community relations and advancement programs.

Dr. Geiselman will be on campus full-time starting December 1 and will assume responsibilities for Campus Development, Alumni, News and Public Information, Publications and Special Events.

Dr. Geiselman comes to CSUMB from the American Council on Education where she served as a Senior Fellow. Prior to that she was President of Mount Vernon College, in Washington DC, from 1991-1997. She served as Vice President, Planning and Advancement for the California Institute of the Arts from 1989-1989. She is a graduate of Texas Christian University, and received her Ph.D. from the University of Chicago.

Stephen Reed, who was Vice President for University Advancement, is now Associate Vice President, External Affairs.

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Horoscopes
by Mystic Silka

Aquarius (Jan 21-Feb 19)
You are living a “great time” in your life. Be happy and live one day at a time. If there is a special person in your life, share your happiness with him/her.
Pisces (Feb 20-Mar 20)
Remember those who love you, and give them some love too! Sometimes, when one gives and does not receive anything back, one feels discouraged and depressed. Do not let that happen.
Aries (Mar 21-Apr 20)
You are going through several new experiences and a special person may come into your life as well. Take things slowly and you will live unforgettable moments.
Taurus (Apr 21-May 21)
It has been tough, but you have managed to put a smile in your face once again. As long as you continue to give love, you will receive it abundantly, and that will help you be happy all the time.
Gemin (May 22-Jun 21)
Believe in yourself and have faith nothing bad will happen to you. But, if something bad does happen, overcome it and learn from the experience. Only good things can follow a bad experience.
Cancer (Jun 22-Jul 23)
You have stepped way for a while and have lost touch with special friends. Remember, they are not the cause of your problems and they need to hear from you too. Pick up the phone or give them a visit as soon as possible. They are waiting to hear from you!

CSUMB students to dance in Seaside

By Otter Realm
The Seaside Cultural Arts Group Theater Night 2 will present a night of dance performances under the direction of Laurie Leslie-Groves, dance instructor at CSUMB.
The CSU Monterey Bay Dance Coalition will perform a duet by CSUMB students Jennifer DePaolo and Heidi La Franboise to Return To Innocence and The Silent Spirit by Enigma, and music by Peter Cetera’s One Clear Voice, including an arrangement of American Sign Language and Ballet Pointe.
Other performances will include: Monterey High School Dancers, performing to Imagine, by John Lennon; Monterey Peninsula College Soloist, Samantha Luster, will perform to Mahalia Jackson’s Troubles of the World; Trio, with Crystal Evans and Oney Stewart, will do a dance performance to The Other Side Of The Game, music by Erika Badu; Donny Arelis, Seaside High School Dance Company’s president and principal dancer, will perform to The Mission, his version of a piece from the Dallas Black Repertoire; along with Super Star 1997, Christy Korcal, Star’s Composition solo to The Stars Go Out.
Seaside High School Dance Company will end the evening with the performance of the Blues Brother’s Soul Man.

James Watt. At 13, he founded the Sierra Club Coalition, a student-run organization adjunct to the Sierra Club that today boasts 30,000 members.
In addition to his own efforts, Werbach will talk about the accomplishments of the Ventana Chapter of the Sierra Club, which through the work of its members has served as catalyst in local environmental actions. These include the creation of the Ventana Wilderness, the creation of the Monterey Bay Sanctuary, the designation as a natural preserve for more than 50,000 acres of Bureau of Land Management land, the recent cleanup of Elkhorn Slough (more than 800 discarded tires were removed), and the creation of the Monterey Regional Park District.
This event is free and open to the public, though a $5 requested donation at the door will benefit the Sierra Club’s Ventana Chapter. Following his talk, Werbach will sign copies of his book. Reservations are suggested, call 375-1855.

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Sierra Club President to speak in Monterey

By Otter Realm Staff
Adam Werbach, the president of the Sierra Club (and at 23, the youngest ever), will speak at Bay Books in an event on Friday, November 7, at 7 p.m. This event will take place in the Steinbeck Forum at the Monterey Conference Center. His appearance is sponsored by Bay Books, the Ventana Chapter of the Sierra Club, the New Forum, and Coast Weekly; proceeds from the event will benefit the local Sierra Club chapter.
Werbach, the president of the country’s largest grassroots environmental organization, will focus on his call for more grassroots community involvement in environmental issues, which is the subject of his new book, Act First, Apologize Later: An Activist’s Guide to Saving the Environment. He will also discuss his own environmental career, which began at 8-years-old when he organized a petition drive at school that called for the dismissal of then Secretary of the Interior

Leo (Jul. 24-Aug. 23)
Do not lie just to get what you want. Tell the truth at all times and even if you do not receive what you want right away, it will be in your hands sooner or later. Just be patient.
Virgo (Aug. 24-Sept. 23)
Someone special will come into your life this month. Give him/her all your love and try to be close to him/her at all times. They will need your affection for the rest of their lives.
Libra (Sept. 24-Oct. 23)
Do not be cruel. Have compassion of other not so important things, when you should be focused on those who need to lean on your shoulder.
Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)
Sometimes you are happy and other times you are sad. Remember that life is not simple and that you need to live each day as if it were the last day of your life.
Sagittarius (Nov. 23-Dec. 21)
You worry too much about others and forget that you are important as well. Praise yourself once in a while and remember you are a special person many people need and love.
Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan 20)
You need to rest more often! Take things easy and do not stress-out so much. Remember, life continues with or without you.
Big blue keeps student sailor on campus

By Mary Ann Rinehart

She's an education-seeking student, but there's more than the completion of a bachelor's degree keeping Julie Bliss on campus at CSUMB. Bliss, a senior Human Communications major, studies at CSUMB not only with dedication to the university's academic spirit of green and gold but for her love of the big blue.

Monterey Bay, with its big blue neighboring ocean waters, has become the preferred classroom for Bliss.

Bliss, originally from Tracy, CA., came to the University hoping to meet opportunities for sailing. She not only found sailing in the classroom, but represented the university during the 1995 fall semester in the North South Intersectional Regatta.

"Julie represented CSUMB in its first athletic endeavor against outside competition," said CSUMB's Head of Athletics Dr. Bobbi Bonace. "We are really proud of what she and the first sailing students accomplished."

Bliss' accomplishments developed through hard work and dedication. She grew up around a sailing family, but her advanced instruction started when she enrolled in campus sailing classes.

After signing up for classes, Julie Bliss found the sailing club on campus. Mary Swift, Boating Education Program Coordinator for the Wellness, Recreation & Sport Institute at CSUMB, identified Bliss as a strong talent early on and invited this eager student to sail with the Monterey Bay Yacht Club.

"Mary Swift had been in touch with me so I ended up being a guinea pig for the sailing program," Bliss said. "There were about six or seven of us students and we would just go out and get on our boats and learn how to sail with Mary or our guide. Mary started talking about intercollegiate racing and after a few practices for Justin Tarrants and four or five for me, we competed in the regatta."

The racing team of Justin and Julie sealed the fascination of the sport for Bliss.

"In the beginning it was hard and Justin and I were in the back of the pack," she said. "By the end of the weekend we were in the middle of the pack. It was great and I decided that I wanted this to be part of my life."

Since her first race, Bliss has earned her marks in the world of sailing and has garnered two sailing certifications from the American Sailing Association. Swift, who has guided Bliss in the classroom and at sea, notes that CSUMB's ability to certify student sailors makes the campus very unique.

"The ASA certification is not easily attainable," Swift said. "It's also essential for sailors who want to rent vessels. Julie has been one of the pioneer students of our program. She needs more time on the water and with that exposure she'll develop the confidence to take out boats up to 50 feet and earn her advanced certifications."

Bliss appreciates the importance of her ASA card that confirms her sailing abilities.

"It's no joke," Bliss said. "You have to prove yourself on the water and you have to prove yourself on the written test."

CSUMB's first "team captain" was certified with dinghy and basic keel boat in 1996. The next semester, fall 1996, she enrolled in intermediate keel boat and moved up to bare boat and coastal navigation.

"I had bare boat and coastal navigation in the same class which was really hard and I was struggling," Bliss said. "I didn't end up taking the navigation test because I didn't have the skills."

She may not have taken the navigation test, but Bliss made her way to the water for a memorable passage in March 1997. The members of the sailing class and their instructors, guided by Swift, started in Sausalito and headed down to Half Moon Bay to test their skills and potential as skippers.

The adventure lasted throughout the weekend, as the boat departed Sausalito Saturday afternoon, anchored overnight in Half Moon Bay and arrived Sunday evening at Monterey Bay.

"We were surfing a 34' boat," Bliss said. "When we were going around Año Nuevo I had a lot of help at the helm. What a feeling coming into Monterey. That kind of trip will really build confidence in your ability. I started thinking, 'Can I do this by myself as a career?'"

With her love for sailing as well as photography and writing, Bliss hopes to make sailing a part of her career.

"I may be poor the rest of my life," she said, "or I may end up making great money doing something I love."

While Bliss focuses on her academics and part-time work, she continues to breathe the salty air of Monterey Bay with a sailor's gleam in her eye.

"Sailing's important for the college because of our resources," Bliss said. "You have so many resources available because the community is very supportive and the water is right here. If you're interested, jump out there and do it."

I started thinking,
"Can I do this by myself as a career?"

-Julie Bliss, CSUMB Student

Sailing club welcomes “All Aboard”

By Mary Ann Rinehart

There's more than one president on campus at CSUMB. Dr. Peter Smith may command the helm of the university but Harold Hulbert steers the direction and growth of the campus sailing club.

A junior Integrated Studies major, Hulbert serves as the sailing club's president. With his pumped effort to increase the sailing club's membership, Hulbert has been firing off campus FirstClass e-mail to recruit new members this semester.

"I usually post one or two messages a week," Hulbert said. "There's no experience necessary whatsoever. I got out there and I did it because it's fun and I like it. Certified instructors are out there watching us and we learn from them. I worked with Bob Furney (CSUMB Boating Education Program instructor) for an hour and boom - I was out on the water."

The CSUMB Sailing Club practices from 12 p.m. - 4 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays at the Elkhorn Yacht Club at Moss Landing. The club roster currently boasts 15-20 active members. The sailing club does not require a membership fee and welcomes CSUMB students with or without sailing experience.

For more information on attending a practice, joining the club or volunteering to take part in upcoming club-sponsored events, contact Harold Hulbert through FirstClass or call 408-884-9420.
Otters win inaugural golf tournament at Spyglass Hill

By Mary Ann Rinehart

The California State University Monterey Bay Otter Golf Club hosted the Otter Golf Invitational October 10 at Spyglass Hill Golf Course. CSUMB turned in the top team performance in a field which included golfers from CSU Maritime College, Holy Names College and Bethany College. Mark Roman led the Otters with a score of 70 in the club sport's inaugural tournament. "Our team members came out victorious and it's a start," said Bill Paulson, Golf Program Coordinator for the Wellness, Recreation & Sport Institute.

In addition to guiding the athletes to their first victory, Paulson also served as the tournament director for the event. "This inaugural tournament was played on one of the top 25 courses in the United States ranked by Golf Digest," Paulson said. "We are grateful to Spyglass and pleased to launch our first tournament there. The overall plan is to offer a men's and women's golf team and with the success of our first endeavor of the men's golf club, we hope that more women students will take interest in the women's golf program."

The CSUMB Otter Golf Club meets at 2:00 p.m. each Tuesday and Thursday at the driving range at Ford Ord Bayonet course. "The club members have been hitting balls and playing at Bayonet and that's really helped them," Paulson said. "This is the beginning and we expect to continue to build strong partnerships in our community."

The Otters travel October 21 to the Bethany College Invitational at Spring Hills Golf Course in Watsonville and October 27 to the CSU Maritime Invitational at Blue Rock Springs Golf Course in Vallejo. For more information on Otter Golf, contact Bill Paulson at 582-4258.

Golf Results

Otter Invitational Spyglass Hill

Friday-October 10, 1997

Summary Scores (15 hole scores)
1. CSUMB - Seaside, Calif.
   Mark Roman 70
   Bill Harke 72
   Wil Resing 76
   Brody Schellenberg 79
   Jim Fogar 87

Low 4 scores 297

2. Holy Names College, Oakland, Calif.
   Stephen Helliwell 70
   Kyle Schelen 82
   Brian Hartigan 83
   Arturo Navar 97
   Frank Souza No card

Low 4 scores 342

   Sean Dobbs 85
   Tim Whitman 86
   Josh Reede 93
   Paul Chandler 102
   Jared Hermitch No card

Low 4 scores 366

4. CSU Maritime, Vallejo, Calif.
   Brian Jensen 83
   Dave Mapalo 84
   Dave Kowkduck 86
   Don Moore 122
   Allan Shackleton No Card

Low 4 scores 375

CSUMB hosts the 1997 President's Invitational Golf Tournament

By Kim Woods

Continuing its dedication to student and community involvement, CSU Monterey Bay (CSUMB) will host its second annual "President's Invitational Golf Tournament" on Friday, October 24, 1997.

The tournament will be held on the beautiful fairways at the Rancho Cañada Golf Club in picturesque Carmel. Registration is open to all friends and supporters of CSUMB. Registrations for the tournament must be accepted by Friday, October 10, 1997. To register contact: Lisa Gaddis at (408) 582-3398 or, Alida Fitzpatrick at (408) 582-3396.

The majority of the proceeds from this year's tournament will be donated to the CSUMB Scholarship and Development Fund. Remaining proceeds will be used to develop the CSUMB Golf Program. Last year's proceeds exceeded fifteen thousand dollars. The money was used to support low-income students attending the University. CSUMB President Peter Smith is excited about the event stating that, "The golf tournament is a terrific opportunity for the community and CSUMB to join together for a day of fun which benefits students in need of financial support.”

Last year's event was a great success and this year promises to be even more fun. This is a great opportunity to help students achieve their goals in higher education while spending the day on one of the Monterey areas most beautiful golf courses. Fees for the event are $35.00 per person, or donating items for auction. Among the items to be auctioned are: a custom-made set of wooden golf clubs, a one night stay for two people at the luxurious Post Rancho Inn at Big Sur, two tickets to next year's AT&T Golf Invitational, and much more.

The golf team is looking forward to the financial help it will receive from the tournament. Bill Paulson, former Executive Director of the Northern California Golf Association in Pebble Beach, is developing the CSUMB golf program. Says Paulson, "With so much enthusiasm for golf in the Monterey area and the world renowned golf facilities, a golf team at Monterey's only four-year University seems like a natural."

CSUMB MEN’S RUGBY SCHEDULE 1997-98 OTTERS

Day  Date  Opponent  Site  Time
Sun. Nov. 16  Stanford (scrimgage)  CSUMB  11:00 a.m.
Sat. Dec. 6  Stanford Tns Tourney  Away  TBA
Sat. Jan. 31  Cal. State, Chico  CSUMB  1:00 p.m.
Sat. Feb. 7  Univ. of Nevada, Reno  CSUMB  1:00 p.m.
Sat. Feb. 14  Sacramento State  CSUMB  1:00 p.m.
Sat. Feb. 21  UCSC  Away  1:00 p.m.
Sat. Feb. 28  UC Davis Tournament  Away  TBA
Sat. Mar. 7  Santa Clara  CSUMB  1:00 p.m.
Sat. Mar. 14  San Jose State  Away  1:00 p.m.
Sat. Mar. 21  California J.V's  CSUMB  1:00 p.m.

Rick Humm CSUMB Coach [408-582-3715]
Betsy Hill CSUMB Assistant Coach [408-582-3015]
Cyndi Fulop CSUMB Athletic Trainer [408-582-4964]
Dr. Bobs Bonace CSUMB Head of Athletics [408-582-4527]
Wellness, Recreation & Sport Institute [408] 582-3015
Secretary of the Interior visits CSUMB

By Mary Patyten

In a lecture held in the University Center last month, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt shared his views on global climate change with CSUMB students, faculty and community members.

Afterwards, he held a round-table discussion and question-and-answer session, attentively listening to college students' views on global warming.

According to CSUMB student Audrey Ciccone, who had the honor of introducing Mr. Babbitt, the Secretary of the Interior took notes on the discussion, adding his own thoughts to suggestions and ideas presented by students and others who attended the lecture.

Babbitt hand-selected CSUMB as part of a 5-university nationwide lecture circuit, which he spent listening to college students' and public opinions on global warming.

There is much debate in the scientific community concerning the causes and effects related to the evident rise in air temperatures over the past 100 years or so. These disagreements among prominent scientists do not leave the world community with a clear picture of what is happening, and without a consensus of opinion on an effective plan of action that would best serve the environment. Babbitt's talk focused on several issues, including the role carbon dioxide emissions play in global warming. He is working to get industry and government to take action to reduce carbon dioxide emissions, in this country and worldwide.

Babbitt agreed that further research into harnessing solar energy, using natural gas and other alternatives to burning fossil fuels were needed to help reduce carbon dioxide emissions.

The Secretary of the Interior has an impressive background, which gives him a unique foundation from which to operate. He is a geophysicist, amateur botanist, skier and hiker. He also received a degree in law at Harvard, and practiced law with private firms for fourteen years. He served as Arizona's attorney general for two years, and as that state's governor for ten years.

When he came to the Department of the Interior in 1993, he was well established as a conservationist and boldly took up the cause of protecting the environment. Yet over the years, he has made enemies of both environmentalists, who occasionally accuse him of being too ready to concede to business interests, and businesspersons, with whom he has had a long-standing feud over the use of natural resources, especially here in the West. "I guess the only thing I'd worry about is if nobody were unhappy" he said in an interview with journalist Scott Lunsford, "...that would probably mean that I had spent my time in the tradition of many of my predecessors, who spent four years sleeping at their desks." As he told Audrey Ciccone and others who attended his speech, "I started out as a physicist, decided I wanted a life and became a lawyer, then stooped even LOWER and became a POLITICIAN!

Being a scientist, lawyer, and now policymaker, Babbitt is unique among those who have served as U.S. Secretary of the Interior. Ciccone said of his visit, "It was a neat experience. I felt lucky being chosen to represent CSUMB and the Earth Systems Science and Policy Institute at this event."

Conservation International
-Presentation at Bay Books

By Jennifer C. Wilson

Dr. Karen Ross, Director of Conservation International, will give a special presentation entitled "Learn What Each of Us Can Do to Help Save Our World's Great Biodiversity" at the Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History. These events will take place on October 30 at 2 and 3:30 p.m. Conservation International works to conserve global biological diversity in ecological "hotspots" - those areas around the world with the highest number of species at greatest risk.

Conservation International works in 22 nations around the world, including Bolivia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru, Equador, Papua New Guinea, Madagascar, and the Philippines.

Dr. Ross is a wildlife ecologist who grew up in Kenya with an early exposure to nature. Because of her background and education, she studied abroad in Britain to obtain her MSc in ecology. She worked in East Africa with wildlife authorities, and later she received her Ph.D. from the University of Edinburgh based on her research on Kenya's sable antelope in the Shimba Hills.
The Otter Limits

By M. J. Oehlman

There are some constants in this bewildering life that I lead, some of which are idiotic and stupid, and some which are simply annoying. Of course, being annoyed usually means that I did something stupid or idiotic, and to be frank with you, you would be right. You would ask me something like, “Frank (because I am that sometimes stupid stuff happens! For example, the last issue of the bottle of Nair?"

I would reply with an emphatic and undeniable., “maybe?” But not in this case! No, this is just one of those weird things of the journalistic/electronic medium in which I toil—just a complex way of saying that sometimes stupid stuff happens! For example, the last issue of the Otter Realm contained my beloved column which I thought in whole (hint right here!) was pretty good! I even had some people come up to me (not my immediate family) and say stuff like, “That was pretty funny! Please seek professional help immediately!” and “Wow you are brilliant! Did you write the final episode to St. Elsewhere too?” Actually there were more comments closer to the seeking help type than comments praising my brilliance—but enough about me!

You see, the column was not finished at “Hmmm.” To those who found it funny, thanks, and please seek professional help! To those who think that I am simply deranged, well, you might have a point there. But the truth be told, the computer (a Mac) ate up half of my column, and then of course, the graphic artist noticed that something was lacking and needed to fill space, so he made the font as large as he could, ostensibly so that Mr. Magoo could read it without his Austrian crystal glasses!

That was not of my doing, so in keeping with my wackiness, my idiocy, and purported stupidity, I hereby give you the rest of last issue’s Otter Limits. Read and cringe! ...

...So I’m starting to give reality a good long hard look—sort of like a hungry wolf looks at a rabbit in the dead of winter. Yuck! Have you ever tasted rabbit? I have. My pop had one rule as a kid—“you shoot it, you eat it.” I learned at very young age that light bulbs from the neighbor’s front porch, while immense fun to destroy with my Daisy Repeater, taste lousy even with liberal doses of ketchup! So I moved up to the animal kingdom—eating birds, rabbit, and the occasional rattlesnake. The only time I broke pop’s rule was when I “accidentally” shot my sister.

The point is that I realize that I will soon be poor, unemployed, and saddled with a debt that combined with my share of the national debt qualifies me for foreign aid! For this reason I have stopped eating, or in the least, eating well. I can probably (okay—NEED) stand to lose a few pounds, but that craving for goodies whenever I want is difficult to combat. Sugar and preservatives can help your body believe that it is full—let’s for a little while.

For example, I am looking at what is left of my dinner—a empty baggy with scattered remains of GORP (good ol’ raisins and peanuts) and an empty Squirt can. With that combination of alleged healthiness and liquid crud, I am wide awake and not terribly cognizant of my surroundings. Hmm... did you know that there are 150 calories here in this darn can!!! Cool. Saved me a couple of bucks at the DC! Plus. NO FAT! IT’S A MIRACLE! It is caffeine free. Bummer (see Mtn. Dew), and this “glycerol ester of wood rosin” makes me nervous—sounds like I just swallowed a baseball bat.

Gurk! I’m not feeling all that well at the moment, so I won’t even mention the other stuff which requires a degree in chemical engineering to understand. I need food! Real food! Momma! Geez.. even liver with onions sounds good right now! I am sick! Thank God for the week of October 13—BREAK! Because I am sick of school!