CSUMB Students Honored for Outstanding Volunteer Efforts

By Ted Benbow

On Friday, February 13th, the Volunteer Center of Monterey County presented the 22nd Annual Community Service Awards at the Monterey Plaza Hotel. Among the recipients of the "Hearts of our Community" award, given for "outstanding service in the true spirit of volunteerism", was the organizing committee of CSUMB's first annual "Hunger Awareness Week", consisting of CSUMB students Audrey Ciccone, Scott Johnson, Kelly Osborne, Amanda Quintero, Ernesto Sanchez, and Darcie Warden. The vision statement of this committee was to: "To provide CSUMB students and community members the opportunity to understand the effects of hunger at the local, national, and international levels... thereby encouraging positive actions against hunger."

The first annual Hunger Awareness Week focused on hunger and homelessness, and related volunteer opportunities through a series of workshops and special presentations, including a "Hunger Banquet" which simulated the inequitable distribution of food and wealth globally. Discussion brought motivation and action, and inspired the formation of a new student organization, Students Hungry For C.H.A.N.G.E. (SH4C). The acronym stands for: Community, Hope through helping, Non-judgmental communication, Education. The group meets every Monday at 7 p.m. in the Watershed Institute building. For more information about how you can become involved, please contact Scott Johnson via email.

A statement on the award presented to the Hunger Awareness Week Committee stated, "These students embody the meaning of Margaret Meade's quote: 'Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that never has.' Just a little food for thought.

Fort Ord Superfund Site Cleanup Experts to Answer Questions

By Mary Patyten

Still wondering what the government is doing to take care of the pollutants and toxic agents that gave Fort Ord its Superfund site designation? Get answers and information on lead recovery and recycling, ordnance removal, groundwater treatment, planned burns, dates of public meetings and comment periods, and other issues concerning residents of the former Army base this Wednesday night, February 25th from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the CSUMB Library. Gail Youngblood (Biologist and BRAC Environmental Coordinator), David Eisen (Hydrogeologist for the Army Corps of Engineers), Jim Willison (Directorate of Environmental and Resources Management) and others will be presenting poster displays and answering questions concerning their roles in the Superfund site cleanup process.

This informative presentation and question and answer session coincides with the opening of the Fort Ord Environmental Cleanup Document Repository in the CSUMB Library. The Information Repository (IR), one of four in the area, will allow public access to documents dated from 1995 to the present focusing on the Fort Ord Superfund program. For example, numerous volumes filled with Remedial Investigation Feasibility Studies, which document the extent of contamination (complete with maps) and remedies the Army has considered are available for public review. The CSUMB Library's IR Index is available online through the CSUMB home page (seeULR below), and documents are available for researching or photocopying at the library. Other Fort Ord Cleanup Project IRs are located at Seaside County Library and Chamberlin Library, which house primarily large reports concerning the project.

The official, complete collection of documents relating to the environmental cleanup is located at Building 4463 on Gigling Road.

"To date we've scanned about 90,000 pages for our future website," said Kris Beall, Administrative Record Coordinator for the Fort Ord Cleanup. Kris, who is responsible for keeping the most up-to-date documents filed and available for public review at the IRs, says that the information from the IRs will soon be available on the world wide web. "I think the base provides a wonderful working laboratory for the University community, especially for students in the Earth Systems Science and Policy program. There are many reports on scientific studies here that could be used to walk students through the process," she said.

Fort Ord Cleanup Project IRs are located at the following locations:

- Seaside County Library
  550 Harcourt Street
  Seaside CA 93955
  899-2055
- Chamberlin Library
  Building 4275, North South Road
  Presidio of Monterey Annex
  242-4275
- Kris Beall 393-9186
  cqc@mail.redshift.com
- Online Index, CSUMB Fort Ord Environmental Cleanup Documentary Repository
  http://library.monterey.edu/tcrepository/ticindex.html
New President Leads California’s Largest Student Association

By California State Association of Community Colleges

Sandi Sawa was named President of the California Student Association of Community Colleges effective February 1, 1998 following the resignation of President Paul Higgins. Sawa has served as the organization’s Vice President for the last six months.

To ensure an orderly transition in leadership, Sawa will coordinate with outgoing President Paul Higgins, who announced his resignation to pursue other personal and professional interests January 7, 1998.

President Higgins’ resignation became effective February 1, 1998.

Sawa began her association with CalSACC in July 1996 when she was elected by her peers to serve as Policy Board Representative from CalSACC Region 7 (Greater Los Angeles Area). In July 1997, Sawa was elected to serve as Vice President of the Policy Board. The Policy Board is an elected fifteen member board composed of student leaders from across California, representing the students of the 107 community colleges.

While serving in CalSACC this year, Sawa worked with other board members to host the annual CalSACC Presidential Summit Conference as well as looking at ways to restructure the organization’s constitution and by-laws to improve participation and accountability.

“I am very excited about the opportunity to serve as President,” Sawa said. “I am looking forward to continuing my work on the Policy Board as well as reestablishing the lines of communication with our member colleges,” she said.

The next few weeks will be important for Sawa and her new administration. CalSACC has been adversely affected by a number of resignation and replacements on the Policy Board within the last two months. Commenting on the recent challenges Sawa stated, “We have to focus on teamwork and rebuilding our working relationships with each other.”

President Sawa plans to call a special four day meeting of the Policy Board later this month in order to reorganize the Policy Board and help the organization get back on track towards its stated goals for the year.

The California Student Association of Community Colleges (CalSACC) is a non-profit public benefit organization representing the 1.5 million students of California’s 107 community colleges. CalSACC works with the Chancellor’s Office of the California Community Colleges as well as the State Legislature and Governor’s Office to maintain open access to affordable higher education for all Californians.

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Local Wine Tour, Mar 28, $20
NBA Tour, Warriors vs. Lakers, Apr. 11, $36
Great America Trip, Apr. 18, $33
Great American Musical "Show Boat", in San Francisco, Apr. 25, $45
Marine World Africa USA, May 16, $30
Disney Magic Tour, May 23-25, $189

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Apr. 3-5; 10-12; 17-19

Squaw Valley Weekend
Mar. 6-8
Adult $185/Teen $178/Child $165

CSUMB Special Package Student Ski Weekend
Mar. 20-22; Apr. 10-12
Adult $165

Student One Day Package
Feb. 28; Mar. 22; Apr. 5
Adult $59

CSUMB Faculty & Staff Ski Weekend
Mar. 27-29
Adult $165

All trips include round trip transportation, hotel lodging (double occupancy), lift tickets and ski equipment. Ski school, and snowboards, are available for an additional fee. Family ski packages are also available.

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Discount ski lift tickets for California Ski Resorts are at Outdoor Recreation.

Power boats and Kayaks are available on the water at the Coast Guard Pier.
About My Family and Home Life

I live with a host family that was found for me by the Reconnaissance Japan program at Obirin. The Katanos are a family of four living in Kogasaka, a suburb of Tokyo. Mrs. Kato is a university housewife and a very hard working one at that. They have two sons; Satoshi, a 16-year-old high school student and Shuron, a 21-year-old college student. I mostly get along very well with all of them and thankfully they have been nothing but great since I came. I often play video games at home with the boys, and sometimes I’ll go out. Satoshi at baseball video games and then lose to Shun for Shunseku who is somewhat a pro at video games. The mother, Hisami, enjoys crafts and nature and is a great cook especially considering how picky I am. Sheigeru, who speaks some English, has been very helpful with me and Japanese work. So, all in all, things couldn’t have gone better with my host family. This was somewhat of a concern with me before I came but no longer. The Katanos are truly like my second family.

Christmas in Kyoto

Christmas in Japan this year was of course very different. Although most Japanese celebrate Christmas, it is not a religious holiday and there are no Christmas decorations everywhere and even some somewhat different Santa Claus’-s. However, not matter how much this I will say I really don’t. Very few Japanese celebrate Christmas as a religious holiday and in fact to some it’s just another day. It is a holiday mainly to be spent with family and is not to sell lots of merchandise. Another interesting thing about a Japanese Christmas is that it is a somewhat common tradition to go to a “love” hotel with your special someone on Christmas Eve. A love hotel is somewhat easily understood name for a hotel where you can discretely go to, you know for a couple hours or the whole night and pay for, among other things such as Karaoke, hot tubs, etc. So as you can see the moral standard in Japan is somewhat different.

For some reason though, I went with a fellow exchange student to Kyoto and other major cities in western Japan. Kyoto is a very old city that was one of the original capitals of Japan. Of course there are several things I don’t like. Here’s a lowdown:

Like-The train system here makes it relatively easy for me to travel all around Japan. This is especially important since I don’t have my car or a Japanese driver’s license.

Dislike-Other horror stories you heard about people packed like sardines in trains are true to a point. If you take a well used route during busy hours you are likely to be squished the whole way into the train car. I’m just glad at that moment only that I’m taller than everyone else is. If I wasn’t I would have my face pressed into somebody’s back or such during crunch time.

Like-All the new friends I have made since coming here and the politeness of strangers sometimes!

Dislike-Other big cities in the world sometimes the huge amount of people get to be too much. Many times people bump into you with even a word of apology and some people even packed in tight. I have even found some people ticked off because you need a long, hard day is some little old man pushing me on his way off the train! Some people even bump into me while I’m standing still reading a train map or such. I don’t see how they could miss me. A six foot six inch man in Japan is pretty rare.

Like-There is some number of ways here to waste your money in silly and fun ways. You can at arcades-take small pictures of you and your friends called purikura short for photo sticker. There is also the millions of love hotels you can go to in English classes here at Obirin but discussing my life and quizzes them on their listening skills. I also teach about 12 elementary age children English once a week. My favorite “arubaito” part time job in Japanese though is my job with the Japan Ice Hockey Federation. They have a semi-pro ice hockey league here that I was interested in as a college student and there was a team only twenty minutes away and I am pretty knowledgeable of hockey I applied successfully for a job taking statistics during the games. There was a lot of fun working behind the scenes, meeting the players and coaches, etc. For those who know me, I know me to be in 7th heaven since we are wearing tweed jackets with the name of my team. I am also going to the Nagano Winter Olympics to see an ice hockey match there. I can’t wait. This will be my third Olympics after attending the 1984 LA games which also took place in my hometown of Arcadia.

There have been some very difficult things here that I have had to overcome. One thing is the idea that wood life goes on in the US without me and sometimes it passes me by. Recently I was very close to choosing to move back home and there are times when I would be tempted to do so. It is a long way from home and they will probably continue to be so for a long time but with the support of my host family here and the foreign students office things have gone as smoothly as can be expected. Yes, apparently I do go on the way all over the world whether I like it or not.

Well, this is my life in Japan so far. There have been some good things and some bad things but generally I like it here and am learning a lot everyday whether I’m in school or not.
CSUMB Welcomes New Student Activities Specialist

By Otter Realm Staff

Jeanine Cowan is the new Student Activity Specialist in the Office of Student Activities & Career Development. Cowan’s position at one time was occupied by Dina Brown. Cowan will be coordinating student club activities, special events, leadership training sessions and working with the Inter-club Council (ICC).

Previously, Cowan worked with the Student Activities office at Central Florida Community College and, prior to that, Colorado State University. Cowan earned her Master of Science in Student Affairs in Higher Education from Colorado State University and her Bachelor of Arts in Meeting Administration from Metropolitan State College of Denver.

Students are welcome to stop by building 44 or call 582-3329 in order to set up a time to speak with Jeanine and see what the department has to offer.

Lectures to Trace Evolution of Dance

By Mary Ann Rinehart

The Wellness, Recreation & Sport Institute will present a two-part Dance Lecture Series at CSUMB this semester. The lectures will be held from 4:30 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. on Sunday, March 1 and Sunday, April 5 in Rm. 118 of Bldg 18 (the MLC). The events will be free and open to students, staff, faculty, and the community.

The lectures will be presented by Fran Spector Atkins of Spector Dance with introductions by WRSI faculty member Dr. JoAnn Careaga. The theme of the lectures is The Importance and History of the Evolution of Dance.

Spector Atkins received her M.F.A. in Dance and Choreography from Mills College and is a certified Movement Analyst from The Laban Institute for Movement Studies in New York City. She has more than 25 years of experience as a professional dancer, teacher and choreographer.

Additional information on the lecture series will be posted on FirstClass.

CLCV Names Assemblymember Keeley “Rookie of the Year”

By California League of Conservation Voters

Assemblymember Fred Keeley (D-Santa Cruz) was honored with the California League of Conservation Voters “Rookie of the Year” award for environmental leadership at CLCV’s 2nd annual Sacramento Reception on Wednesday, February 4, at Brannan’s Bar and Grill.

As a freshman, Assemblymember Keeley distinguished himself as a rising star in environmental leadership. Keeley carried a host of key coastal protection bills and fought successfully to protect environmental programs during the budget war with the Governor. He also scored a perfect 100% on the 1997 CLCV “Environmental Scorecard”.

“In just one year, Assemblymember Keeley accomplished more for California’s environment than many politicians do in a lifetime,” said San Schuchat, Executive Director of CLCV. “He is a solid environmental leader with the savvy to get things done.”

CLCV is the non-partisan electoral arm of the environmental movement. It campaigns for candidates who are committed to solving environmental problems and, through its annual California Environmental Scorecard, holds elected representatives accountable to the public for their votes in environmental legislation.

Bill To Prevent Domestic Partner Benefits Introduced

From CFA Governmental Relations Office Weekly Report Issue No. 6

Senator Pete Knight (R-Bakersfield) has introduced SB 1484. The bill would prohibit the use of any state funds appropriated by the legislature for the purpose of providing medical coverage and other employer-funded benefits to persons other than the employees, and the spouses, children or other legal dependents of those employees, of the UC and the CSU.

CFA Legislative Chair Bill Crist promised that, “CFA will do everything we can to defeat this bill. CFA is committed to expanding medical and other benefits to domestic partners. Senator Knight’s bill may play well to only a few people in the state. I doubt this bill will pass its first committee.”

The bill has not yet been assigned to a policy committee. Stay tuned, because letters, calls and faxes opposing the measure will need to be sent to committee members once the bill is assigned.

Career Development Specialist New to CSUMB

By Otter Realm Staff

CSUMB welcomes a new Career Development Specialist, Katrina Cope, to the Office of Student Activities and Career Development. Prior to her employment at CSUMB, Cope served as a graduate intern in the Career Services Center at CSUMB and in the Student Life and Activities office at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. She earned her M.A. in Education, Counseling and Guidance at Cal Poly, prior to her leadership position as program coordinator/counselor at North Central Michigan College and a Project Director for the Workability Program in the Santa Cruz Adult Education Office.

She received her two teacher credentials from San Jose State University and her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from University California Santa Cruz.

Cope will be providing career development services for students in career counseling, workshops, class presentations, job fairs, employer/community relations, and coordination of student employment. Students are welcome to stop by building 44 to see and relish in the multitude of opportunities available, or can contact the office at 582-3616.

CFA Meets With Incoming Chancellor

From CFA Governmental Relations Office Weekly Report Issue No. 6

On Tuesday, February 10, CFA President Terry Jones, Vice-President Susan Meisenhelder, Legislative Chair Bill Crist, CFA lobbyist Bob Garian and Political Director Carla Pinkey met with incoming CSU Chancellor Charlie Reed and CFA lobbyist Karen Yelverton in the CFA GRO office in Sacramento. The sole topic of discussion was the CPEC salary lag.

Reed presented his plan to close the faculty salary lag over the next four years. The Chancellor repeatedly stressed his commitment to close the lag, and asked for CFA’s support in the legislature.

While not agreeing to the specifics of the Chancellor’s plan, CFA leaders did indicate their support in seeking additional money from the legislature and Governor. Upon adjourning the meeting in the CFA office, the CFA representatives joined the Chancellor, Senator Jack O’Connell (D-San Luis Obispo) and CSU Trustee Anthony Vitti for a meeting in the office of Senate President Pro-Temistic John Burton (D-SF). Senator Burton asked both Chancellor Reed and Mr. Vitti about their plan to close the CPEC salary lag. Both Chancellor Reed and Mr. Vitti, in terms even stronger than used earlier in the day, spoke of their commitment to close the salary lag over four years.

The Chancellor again stressed his commitment to seek additional money from the legislature and Governor to close some of the lag this year.

President Jones commented that the meetings were helpful. “This was the first time a CSU Chancellor has met with CFA leaders in the CFA office. Chancellor Reed understands the California political picture better than previous Chancellors. While these meetings were a good first step, much needs to be done.”

Vice-President Meisenfelder, a member of the CFA Bargaining Team added, “It was a start. What happens from this point forward will depend on the faculty’s willingness to get fully involved in convincing CSU administrators that the PSSI contract provision must be eliminated. Clearly we have the CSU Administration’s and Trustees’ attention.”

Heavyweight Poetry Champion to Appear at MPC

By Jennifer C. Wilson

The Heavyweight Poetry Champion of the World will give a poetry reading at Monterey Peninsula College, on February 27 from 7:00-9:00 p.m. in the Music Hall. Quinn Troupe’s appearance is sponsored by Monterey Peninsula Colleges Extended Opportunity Program and Services (EOPS) in celebration of Black History Month.

Emmy award winning Troupe has also been presented with two American Book Awards and a Peabody Award, among others. His new book of poems, entitled "Kente," published by Bottomless Fund, is now available at bookstores.

Extended Opportunity Program and Services (EOPS) is a non-profit fundraising event. Tickets are $10.00, and questions can be directed to the EOPS office at 646-4247.
GO OUTSIDE AND PLAY!

Take the word apart. Recreation, or rather, re—creation. Renewal. Rebirth. Revitalization. Recharging one’s batteries. As we spend ourselves through our daily activities, it’s important to remember to reinvest in ourselves. Recreation can help us achieve balance and keep our batteries charged. Outdoor pursuits allow us to surround ourselves with living things and, in so doing, enrich our own lives. Involved oneself in outdoor recreational pursuits provides a great workout that’s so fun you forget you’re exercising. There are many reasons to engage in outdoor pursuits. The best has got to be how great you feel once you have gone surfing, been hiking, spent a weekend skiing, an afternoon paddling, or a day climbing. Remember when we were little and our whole job was simply to find things to do to amuse ourselves? Our imagination took us to incredible places where we had fantastic adventures. Now that we’re adults, we don’t have to wait for summer, someone else’s permission, or only fantasize about adventures. If we don’t want to eat our broccoli, we don’t have to. If we do want to try rock climbing, we can go for it!

It’s not only the fun side of things and the exercise that is beneficial; look how much you can learn in the “Great Outdoors” (They don’t call ‘em great for nothin’!) You can kayak and study otters. You can hike and learn about plants. You can sail and study whales. You can surf and understand hydrology. You can ski and study alpine ecology.

Why settle for something “virtual” when you can have the real thing? It’s a great BIG, wide, wonderful world, and we’re lucky to live in a place of incredible beauty with a lot of opportunities. We also happen to have an amazing amount of recreational resources for a university that is just a few years young.

If you promised yourself this year you’d learn to fill in the blank, then what are you waiting for? Go outside and play!

For more information check out; outdoor.monterey.edu. Or students may call Robert Alexander, CSUMB’s Outdoor Programs coordinator at 582-4846, or stop by the Outdoor Center in building 93 near the corner of 3rd Ave. and 3rd St.

Student Voice to Hold Elections for 1998-1999 Board of Directors

By Ted Benbow

On the first of April, Student Voice (CSUMB’s student government) will be holding a general election for all positions on the Board of Directors. Elected officials will receive stipends ranging from $800 to $1000 for the academic year, as per the recent school-wide vote. Election packets, containing applications for candidacy as well as job descriptions for each position and eligibility requirements, will be available beginning February 25th. Packets can be picked up in the Student Voice Office (bldg. 4), the Office of Student Activities and Career Development (Bldg.44), and the Library. Students are also needed to serve on the Elections Committee to assist with balloting and other essential duties. For more information, please contact the Student Voice office at 582-4067, and watch for upcoming announcements in the Otter Realm and on First Class. Get involved! Your voice is needed!

Return of the Natives Planting Day & BROOM BASH Scheduled - Your Help Needed!

By Otter Realm Staff

Not rain, snow, sleet or the gloom of El Nino will deter the Return of the Natives program from its campaign to re-introduce over 50,000 native California plants to Fort Ord Public Lands! El Nino conspired to rain out the Valentine’s planting day, so the Return of the Natives group is crying again - and your help is needed! In addition to the planting, a BROOM BASH is planned for the same day - uprooting the signs from the main gate of Fort Ord to the planting/BROOM BASH sites.

CSUMB’s Wilderness Leadership class take a break at 10,000 ft.

By Melissa Ainsworth

Solar Event of the Season

By Melissa Ainsworth

You’re on a huge boat with people catering to your every need. The surrounding water is crystal blue and you can see the island of Antigua off in the distance. A warm Caribbean breeze gently teases your hair, and you’re excited because you’ve learned that the drinking age on international waters is only 18. Suddenly, a shadow falls across the ocean. You look up to see the moon begin its eclipsing journey across the sun. You watch in wonder as the moon slowly slides in front of the sun, casting an unnatural darkness over the water. A darkness that will last...OK, it only lasts three minutes, but the sight is still amazing.

That could actually be this weekend if it happens to be cruising the Caribbean on February 26th. That’s when the largest solar eclipse since 1991 will appear in our skies. Well, it won’t really appear in our skies; in fact, Monterey probably won’t be able to see the eclipse at all. However, if you’re south of San Diego or east of Tucson, you might be able to catch a glimpse. A solar eclipse (opposed to lunar) eclipse occurs when the moon passes between us and the sun, blotting out the sun for a few minutes. You might want to catch a glimpse while it can because the next big one won’t occur until the year 2017. Just don’t try and look directly at the sun; who knows if the Health Center can handle “eclipse blindness.” For more information on solar eclipses, visit www.skypub.com. The site has a great explanation of how a solar eclipse happens, along with an animation so you can watch your own eclipse right on the web. You won’t have the Caribbean weather, but try and pretend.

Student Voice to Begin School-wide Meetings

By Ted Benbow

The Board of Directors of Student Voice (CSUMB’s student government) has decided that the interest of students will be best served by reserving one meeting a month to address issues of concern to the student body. These meetings will be held in the Meeting House in order to accommodate larger numbers of students than is possible in Building 4, where the Student Voice is located and where meetings are currently held. Speakers will be invited to come and answer student’s questions about a variety of issues. The first such meeting will be scheduled for March 2 from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m., and will address Housing issues, such as the contract with Fort Ord O&Ms Management-Residential Services (FOAM-RS) and the sale of houses in the Schoonover Park residential areas. If students have suggestions for issues to be discussed at these meetings or would like more information, please contact Student Voice at 582-4067, or B Woodridge (Chair of the Student Voice Board of Directors) via e-mail.
Ballot Measures Assigned Numbers By The Secretary Of State

From CFA Governmental Relations Office Weekly Report Issue No. 6

This week, Secretary of State Bill Jones announced the ballot numbers of the nine measures qualified for the June 2 primary election. Most important to CFA are the numbers assigned to the Anti-Employee Initiative (Proposition 226) and the Unz “English-Only” Initiative (Proposition 227). CFA opposes both of these measures.

Other ballot measures of interest include: Proposition 223, which would prohibit school districts from spending more than 5% of their total revenues on administrative expenses (also referred to as “95-5”); Proposition 224, the “competitive bidding” initiative sponsored by the PECG (the Professional Engineers in California Government); and Proposition 225, which would declare that California’s elected officials should vote to enact a constitutional amendment to impose term limits on congressional members.

Field Poll Released On Initiatives

From CFA Governmental Relations Office Weekly Report Issue No. 6

On Tuesday, February 10, 1998, The Sacramento Bee reported the results of a Field Poll testing voter support of the Anti-Employee Initiative (Proposition 226) and the Unz “English Only” Initiative (Proposition 227). The poll was conducted January 29 through February 2. The sample included 729 registered voters. The margin of error is 5%.

The results are as follows:

Proposition 226 (Anti-Employee Initiative)
Would vote yes: 71%
Would vote no: 22%
Undecided: 7%

Proposition 227 (“English Only” Initiative)
Would vote yes: 66%
Would vote no: 27%
Undecided: 7%

The poll also tested voter support of the “95-5” initiative, Proposition 223. Of the voters polled, 52% indicated they would vote yes, 27% indicated they would vote no, and 20% were undecided.

Field Poll Director Mark DiCamillo was quoted as stating, “The results (of the poll) show voters haven’t focused on the issues yet, and the numbers are likely to change a lot as campaigns get underway.”

Hope for the Best, but Prepare for the Worst

Ever wondered what to do when disaster strikes? In light of the recent floods we should all be prepared with the answers to that question. The American Red Cross gives several tips on what to do if disaster strikes.

IF DISASTER STRIKES:
Remain calm and patient.

CHECK FOR INJURIES:
Give first aid and help for seriously injured people.

LISTEN TO YOUR BATTERY POWERED RADIO FOR NEWS AND INSTRUCTIONS:
Evacuate if advised to do so. Wear protective clothing and sturdy shoes.

CHECK FOR DAMAGE IN YOUR HOME:
Use flashlights; do not light matches or turn on electrical switches if you suspect damage! Check for fires, fire hazards and other household hazards. Sniff for gas leaks, starting at the water heater. If you smell gas or suspect a leak, turn off the main gas valve, open windows and get everyone outside quickly. Shut off any other damaged utilities. Clean up spilled medicines, bleaches, gasoline and other flammable liquids immediately.

REMEMBER TO:
Confine or secure your pets. Call your family contact; do not use the telephone again unless it is a life-threatening emergency. Check on your neighbors, especially elderly or disabled persons. Make sure you have an adequate water supply in case service is cut off. Stay away from downed power lines.

For more information on disaster planning you can contact the American Red Cross at 424-4824 or write to FEMA, P.O. Box 70274, Washington, D.C. 20024 and request a copy of: Are You Ready?, Your Family Disaster Supplies Kit and Emergency Food and Water Supplies.

Lend a Hand

By Otter Realm Staff

All of us have been affected by the recent heavy rains and floods. Many of us have been forced to miss work and classes due to freeway closures and mudslides. Others bemoan the situation of being stuck on campus with nowhere to go. Despite all the hassles, we are the lucky ones. Many residents of the Salinas Valley, Pajaro and Big Sur were left without water, electricity, and in some cases, a home. Flood victims all over Monterey County have been forced to relocate to temporary shelters set up by the American Red Cross. This fact leaves many of us with feelings of despair and helplessness. Is there something we can do to help? The answer is yes.

The American Red Cross is looking for able-bodied volunteers to help with their disaster relief efforts. There are many positions open and one is sure to fit your special skills. People are needed for on-site disaster relief and assessment. Those who would prefer to stay in the office also have many opportunities to help. The chapter offices, in Monterey and Salinas, are always in need of a hand and Public Information Officers are needed to keep the media and public informed in the case of a disaster. The Service Center has many openings as well. Working in the Service Center, you will be an integral part of the victim’s recovery by comforting and helping them rebuild their lives. Some positions may require special training, so call your local chapter for more information.

When the next storm hits, and it inevitably will, get out there and give a hand to those who need it. You can make a difference in someone’s life by showing a little compassion. One day you may need the favor in return.

To volunteer with the American Red Cross please call: Salinas chapter, (408) 424-4824, or the Monterey chapter at (408) 375-5730.

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the otter limits

By M. J. Oehlman

This time of the school year I find that it really doesn’t pay to ditch with all of this rain, so I am left with television and this month’s fare de jour- THE WINTER OLYMPICS. Basically I find the Olympics as inspiring as my 8 AM class (I had NO choice in this!), but I watch anyway, which is a good thing, because it gives me material- OK, at least I think it’s material!

There are some Olympic sports that actually seem to be sports- the downhill, luge, bobsled (see a pattern?), speed skating, hockey, and figure skating. Some of the sports I can’t figure out are curling, ice dancing, and the biathlon. Now this grave condition of ignorance can be blamed on many factors- some medical and some herbal, but I chance to say that there are others who must ponder this instead of pondering chapters 3-16 of that Macro-Economics in a Multi Cultural Society book!

Let’s start with ice dancing. To me, the fact that if, A) You don’t fall down, B) You smile like you actually like the crowd, C) You move your feet all over the place, and D) You skate to either Elvis or B. B. King, you should get a 6. A six? What kind of number is that? I watched, and picked out all of my winners between beers, and to my chagrin, the judges didn’t agree. How the hell anyone is supposed to judge this sport is beyond me, and I’ll leave it out there, thank you very much.

Perhaps the stupidest sport is curling. Unlike it’s name, which implies snuggling and lifting weights, this sport is ice shuffleboard with of all things, guys scampering about with whisk brooms and talking (like a screaming Adam Sandler) to these hunks of hockey pucks on steroids. Speaking of which, I for one am glad to learn that marijuana is NOT a banned substance at the Olympics! I’ll bet that dude (he IS a boarder) was soooo shocked when they asked for that “random” test! NOT! Anyway, curlers remind me of bowlers, except these guys wear more sensible and presentable clothing. I’d like to say that I would like to know where the sport originated, but the fact that we spend thousands of dollars to train curlers frightens me!

Last, there is the biathlon. It combines cross-country skiing and drive-by- I mean, marksmanship! With all the guns in this country, you’d think we’d win this one! Frankly, I am surprised by this shortcoming, as we boarders all know the animosity that skiers have towards us! You’d think that ski-by’s would be a natural!

Whew! The Olympics are just too confusing for me! I’ll stick to something which makes sense- men hitting a baseball and getting paid $23,245.62 per hour to do it!

Let’s Ask Zoey

You may send your questions to Dear Zoey on First Class or to: dear_zoey@monterey.edu Everything sent to Dear Zoey is confidential.

Dear Zoey,
Do you think this campus needs a fireplace for ambiance?
Signed: Inquirer

Dear Inquirer,
I don’t know if we “need” a fireplace to bring out all the character here on our campus, but it does sound like a warm place to commune with a cup of hot chocolate on cold wet nights like we’ve had these past few weeks. The Pomeroy has a fireplace. Maybe that will be made an option one of these days.

Dear Zoey,
Why do police officers hide and wait for traffic violators such as speeders when they could be of better use patrolling areas that may need patrolling much more?
Signed: Hide and Seek

Dear Hide and Seek,
According to our officers here on campus, traffic enforcement is to prevent accidents which are major causes of injuries and deaths on roadways, especially when you add pedestrian and bicycle traffic. There are studies that show direct correlation between aggressive traffic enforcement and reductions in accidents. Our officers here say they spend more (most) of their time patrolling functions and that they issue more warnings than they spend “hiding” and issuing tickets.

Dear Zoey,
There is this woman that I like. She is black. I am white. She has already said once before that she does not date out of her race. How can I get her to give me a chance?
Signed: Seeks Black Beauty

Dear Seeks Black Beauty,
I would suggest that you just be yourself and be a good friend to this woman. Take things one step at a time, one day at a time. After a while, she may see just your heart and not your skin color. However, if she is firm in her beliefs, then you may have to settle on just being her friend.
CALENDAR of EVENTS
February/March

Feb. 25 Wednesday Resumes & Cover Letters, Building 44, 12 noon, 582-3845
Feb. 25 Wednesday Inter-Club Council Meeting for Welcome Week Student Advisory Session, Build. 44, 6:30 p.m. 582-3845
Feb. 25 Wednesday Otter Christian Fellowship Building 4, Room 110 7:00 PM, Kristi:582-2911
Feb. 26 Thursday Basketball - M & W, Cal-Pac Tourney Semi-finals
Feb. 26 Thursday Otter Realm meets, build. 3712 12 p.m.
Feb. 27-29 Friday Steinbeck's Birthday Weekend Monterey, 372-8512
Feb. 28 Saturday Basketball - M & W, Cal-Pac Tourney Championship
Feb. 28 Saturday Monterey County Red Cross Centennial Ball Monterey, 424-4824, 375-5730
Mar. 1 Sunday Newman Catholic Community Build. 44, 10 a.m.
Mar. 2 Monday Project Pipeline Orientation: Teacher Internship & Credential Program Build. 44, 12:00-1:30

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Place your classified in the Otter Realm by calling 582-4346.

Career Development Activities 582-3845
Workshops
Located in Build. 44
Time 12:00 to 1:30
• Clarifying Career Goals April 1
• Interview Skills March 4 April 22
• Resumes & Cover Letters February 25 April 15
• Job Search March 11 April 29
Job Fairs
Summer Jobs Fair March 18
Professional Opportunities Job Fair April 8
Career Events
Project Pipeline Orientation: Teacher Internship & Credential Program Build. 44, 12:00-1:30
Drop-In Resume & Career Counseling Mondays 12:00 to 2:00

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