US Army burns Fort Ord Vegetation to find unexploded Ordnance

Is Fort Ord going up in Smoke?

By James Thomas Green

The United States Army is conducting an ongoing program of controlled burns on Fort Ord and their primary objective is to remove vegetation to allow investigation and removal of ordnance and explosives (OE) from sites suspected of containing unexploded ordnance. After the fire, searches with detectors will hunt for, flag, and remove any ordnance they find. If they burn out the underbrush, the "mag and flag" operation goes much more quickly and effectively.

The Army is planning to conduct prescribed burns of approximately 1700 acres on 18 to 20 days through January 1999. According to Lyle Shurtleff, Spokesman for the United States Fish and Wildlife Service in an October 1997 document, "Maritime Chaparral, the vegetation type being burned for ordnance clearance, is a fire-adapted vegetation community. This community is in its healthiest state (i.e., supporting a diverse number of plant species with a variety of age classes) when it is subjected to periodic fires. Mechanical removal of maritime chaparral would not have the same benefits for the vegetation and could actually be detrimental to the community and sensitive plants."

Shurtleff further asserts, "Controlled burns is a more ecologically sensitive and potentially beneficial method for vegetation removal in the maritime chaparral, and the (Fish and Wildlife) Service strongly recommends that the Army continue to use this method."

Freda Burnstad

"I feel that we weren't informed directly. The information about the meeting was only given to the administration and they didn't pass it on to the students."

-Freda Burnstad

Student Voice Charges Into a New Year

Student Voice is an organization started by the pioneers of CSUMB to represent the interests of the students in university affairs. As CSUMB's officially recognized student government, Student Voice works to insures that the voices of the students are being heard and that they are properly informed.

The eleven student representatives elected to the Board of Directors of Student Voice organize activities for both entertainment and awareness of the university body, as well as making decisions about how best to use campus-based fees to support student-based needs. Each of the members is committed to providing positive leadership and promoting student participation in the planning of CSUMB's development.

"Your level of involvement ultimately determines the quality of your educational experience at this university," commented Sarah Lemna, SV President.

Sarah and the rest of the Board welcome CSUMB's students back from their summer adventures, or to campus for the first time. All students are invited and encouraged to attend meetings of Student Voice.

"Get radical! Stand up! Do something! Have a voice!"

-Bethrina Woodridge
By Greg Riley

The evening of Friday, June 12, 1998 was hell for Michael and Alice Williams whose 13-year-old daughter, Christina, was kidnapped from the Presidio of Monterey Annex on the former Army Base of Ford Ord near Seaside.

"It was the worst feeling in the world...you're just desperate to get your daughter back...it's indescribable," Michael Williams Sr. said.

Christina didn't. Her family knew something was wrong and after a brief search, they came up with nothing. The Williams notified the authorities and that is what lead to the national search for Christina.

According to police reports, a witness was jogging in the vicinity where Christina was last seen. The witness, a woman, said two male subjects drove by, verbally assaulting her. In addition, a second credible witness described a girl, who appeared scared and matched the description of Christina, in the car with the two men.

Mr. Williams mentioned, "...though we did everything this still happened." Michael Williams suggested that, "in a situation by yourself don't trust anyone. If you do get caught in a situation escape in the first few seconds - the odds are better than being put into a car." It boils down to this, according to Williams, "the best thing to do is turn and run."

The University Police Department (UPD) assisted in the search for Christina for a few days after the incident. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) requested information from the UPD on possible suspects. Students were not among the list of suspected perpetrators. In addition, the UPD lent manpower to check abandoned buildings on campus and vacant apartments. This incident has heightened awareness for child safety not only in the immediate area, but also on a national level.

Chief Alex Kerekes of the Federal Police advised CSUMB students.

Kerekes pointed out that people who witness unusual activity, vehicles, or individuals for the area should contact police and let them investigate matters further. He notes that reporting information doesn't need to take hours, but it is important to let the authorities know so they can handle it appropriately.

Kerekes stresses people need to help the police by using their "eyes and ears to serve as citizen policemen to help one another." Many times, according to the Chief, people may witness a crime occurring, but not notify law enforcement because it does not pertain to them or they think someone else will take care of it.

Famous celebrities have also been of assistance trying to help return Christina safely. Clint Eastwood, a former mayor of Carmel and actor, recorded a public service announcement that has been airing nationwide. In addition, singer Mariah Carey has recorded a PSA with Christina's sister producers of the show approached the family and the taping took place at the show's set in Los Angeles. Christina's father, Michael; mother, Alice; sister, Jennifer; and brother, Michael pleaded with her abductors to let her go.

The story quickly made national headlines. It also captured the attention of the Leeza daytime talk show. The producers of the show approached the family and the taping took place at the show's set in Los Angeles. Christina's father, Michael; mother, Alice; sister, Jennifer; and brother, Michael pleaded with her abductors to let her go.

The September 8th episode aired nationally. Michael Williams, Sr. thanked the community, nation, and world for their outpouring of support. Alice made a plea with Christina's kidnappers, "...please let Christina go...she's a wonderful kid."

Support has been incredible from the community. One instance that stuck out is when a lady, who was moving out of the area, gave Alice a rosary that had been in her family for twenty-five years. The lady, who was not named, said the Williams family needed it far more than she did. The Pope has blessed the rosary.
Grant Fuels ESSP

by Mary Patyten

Ask any Earth Systems Science & Policy (ESSP) professor or any CSUMB professor for that matter, and they'll tell you that working to obtain funding for their program is a time-consuming necessity.

"Traditionally, a large percentage of research funding for the sciences in the CSU system comes from outside sources," said Sara McClellan, ESSP program system analyst. Science programs need sizable, steady funding to produce quality learning experiences, which include valuable hands-on training through current research. CSUMB's ESSP faculty work long hours planning extraordinary and meaningful curricula, and to secure the funding needed to shape ESSP into a strong and innovative science program. Here are some recent examples of grant awards:

Dr. Lars Pierce was recently awarded a grant jointly funded by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA.) The $700,000 innovative science program. Here are some recent examples of grant awards:

Dr. Henrik Kibak was recently awarded a National Science Foundation grant for $353,000 to create a bilingual science curriculum, which will focus on field studies of elephant seal behavior on Año Nuevo Island, just north of Santa Cruz. The curriculum will be computer based, and made available on the worldwide web.

Dr. Rikk Kviték was awarded a $250,348 National Science Foundation grant this year to investigate the influence of toxic algae on the distribution and ecology of high level marine predators. Kviték and a group of students recently returned from a research cruise in Southeast Alaska where they studied how algae in clams affected sea otter behavior.

Dr. Jack Paris received a $49,998 grant from the California Department of Conservation for the evaluation of NASA JPL GeoSAR and Topographic SAR data in Monterey County. GeoSAR and TOPSAR refer to advanced radar systems used to map terrain elevation.

ESSP students are deeply involved in these and many other externally funded research projects. This traditional type of research, combined with exceptional instruction and an evolving 'earth systems' and unique 'policy' focus, gives the ESSP program its well-grounded, singular character.

Tran Returns Home A Scholar

by Caroline Musto

Dr. Angie Ngoc Tran, the first CSUMB professor selected to receive a Fulbright Scholar award, will return to her birth place to be the first Fulbright scholar to go to Vietnam.

"I am very thrilled and honored to go back to my motherland, and serve as a bridge to enhance mutual understanding between the Americans and the Vietnamese people," Tran said. "It is an honor to collaborate with my Vietnamese colleagues and students in order to engender long-term cooperative relationships between peoples in my two homes."

Professor Tran's field of study is Political Economy and Public Policy. She teaches a Senior Capstone class, a Capstone reading lab, and a course entitled "Global Dimension of Political Economy: Connections Between Americans and Pacific Rim Peoples" at CSUMB.

The J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship program is one of the most respected educational exchange activities of the U.S. Government for more than 50 years, with the principal purpose of increasing mutual understanding between the people of the U.S. and those of other countries.

Tran was regarded as "one of the advantages of the Fulbright Scholar program in post-war Vietnam," according to a Fulbright Scholar Official.

Once Tran reaches her destination in January of 1999, she will teach at Hanoi National University - Social Sciences and Humanities University. She will teach both undergraduates and graduate students on international economics, globalization processes, research methodology, as well as facilitating faculty development workshops. She will collaborate with faculty from both the north and the south of Vietnam. Hanoi National University is the most prestigious and largest university in Vietnam and comprises many multi-disciplinary member universities in Vietnam.

Tran came to the U.S. at the age of 17 and later received her Bachelor's degree in Management and Information Systems at California State University, Long Beach. She worked for Rockwell International for three years and decided to go back to graduate school at University of Southern California full time where she received her Master's of Arts degree in Developmental Economics. Tran remained at USC to complete her interdisciplinary doctoral degree in political economy and wrote her dissertation on "An Analysis of the Developmental State: the Case of Vietnamese Textile and Garment Industries." Immediately after finishing her dissertation she was offered a teaching position at CSUMB.

President Peter Smith's Welcome

I'm happy to welcome everyone in the CSU Monterey Bay campus community back to campus, and on behalf of the faculty, the staff and administration of CSUMB, I want to extend a special welcome to all NEW students. We're off to a typically fast and excellent start and, if history holds true, the Fall semester will be over before we know it!

Our community continues to grow. This year, the student body at CSUMB has increased to 1950 students, compared to 1804 which is where we were one year ago. We have also welcomed some wonderful new faculty and increased course offerings as we build a bigger, and better, CSUMB.

The campus is physically growing too, and our hope is that new facilities will make CSUMB a more enriching and complete campus for students.

Work is underway on 6th Avenue to open the Pomeroy University Center and the new Theater (which will offer both cinema and stage presentations). The Black Box Cabaret (BBC) is now open; it's a student-operated Pub & Coffee House, and it's a great, much needed addition to the social and physical fabric of campus. I urge everyone to visit the BBC, and to keep reading Otter Realm for more information about new campus buildings and programs.

Again, I think we're off to a great and exciting start for Fall, and I hope you agree. I'll look forward to meeting many of you as we live, learn, work and play here together. I'm very, very pleased that you have chosen to be a part of the CSUMB community!
Welcome from the Editor

Our visions of the goals of California State University, Monterey Bay includes a model, pluralistic, academic community where all learn and teach one another in an atmosphere of mutual respect and pursuit of excellence...

- CSUMB Vision Statement

Hello to all new and returning students, I am the new Editor-in-Chief of the Otter Realm and I am very excited to help serve the CSU Monterey Bay community as part of the news and information vehicle on campus.

I am a Human Communications major and this is my fifth semester as a CSUMB student. Before coming to CSUMB I was in the Americorps National Civilian Community Corps where I performed full time community work in the San Diego area.

I received my Associates Degree from Gavilan Community college in 1994. I was the sports editor for the campus newspaper, The Rambler. My main focus at Gavilan was on Title IX and gender equity in sports, which led to an article that I won first place in News Sports from the Journalism Association of Community Colleges.

The following year, I was hired to work as a sports reporter for the Gilroy Dispatch where I learned about working for a professional newspaper and also editing skills.

It has been a few years since I have been involved in Journalism, but the passion is still inside to follow the news on campus. Prior to this year, my focus at CSUMB has been as a participant in many activities around multiculturalism, diversity and activism. I have been an active member of the Multicultural Cultural Club, attended conferences on Race and Ethnicity and have participated in a video focused on race issues within the CSUMB campus.

I came to this campus because of the Vision Statement and I still believe in it. I believe it is my responsibility to uphold the Vision Statement within the Otter Realm club and newspaper and to be an example for my staff and readers.

It is my goal this year to increase investigative stories throughout campus so students, faculty and staff feel they know what is happening on their campus and in their immediate community. I also hope to create an all-encompassing newspaper that includes the needs of everyone in our CSUMB community including but not limited to students, faculty and staff.

I am looking forward to facilitating the great and energetic writers, photographers, and community collaborators on our staff. We have a Newspaper Writing class this year, which has increased the staff. Also, new this year is our Editorial Board, which will be creating Editorial Policies and Procedures that will help us run the paper more efficiently.

I would like to welcome students, faculty and staff to participate and contribute to the paper or to just submit ideas. Stop by our office in Bldg. 3712 behind building 17 and talk to me about what your interest is and what you would like to see in the Otter Realm.

Susan H. Nisonger
Editor-in-Chief

EDITORIAL:

"Controlled Burning" on Fort Ord

Driving down Inter-Garrison towards CSUMB housing there is a cloud of smoke in the distance to the left. At first sight it is quite alarming and almost looks like a nuclear explosion. It isn’t one of the nuclear mushroom clouds but to our dismay, it is a controlled burn put on by the United States Army.

The burns are meant to destroy vegetation so that unexploded ammunition can be removed. This sort of burning has outraged many Fort Ord inhabitants, including our CSUMB community, because of an incident last winter in which the fire got “out of hand” and more plant life than needed got burned. There was one positive development that came out of this tragedy; now there are much tighter restrictions and the army must also monitor the weather to see if it is safe to burn.

The burning raises speculation as to what toxins the Fort Ord and CSUMB communities might be breathing in. The Army claims that we are perfectly safe but many Fort Ord residents are enraged at the short notice that was given and some have even left Fort Ord for the time being. Apparently the burning is something we at CSUMB are going to have to accept gracefully, however this does not mean we have to stand by and allow it to happen if it is harming us.

It is our responsibility as educated adults to find out and educate ourselves on the harms this may be causing us without automatically jumping to conclusions. We should all value our education and at the same time utilize the critical thinking skills we have acquired to determine for ourselves if the burning or anything else on this campus may be causing us bodily harm. It is our right as students to be informed and we have the right to be provided with a safe environment and to know in plenty of time when that environment may be at risk.

DEAR THEA

If you have any questions, personal or of the school, you may send them in confidence to: dear_thea@monterey.edu or through first class by typing “dear thea.”

Dear Thea: Why is it that some people feel that the whole neighborhood wants to hear their music?.... Signed: Tired of Closing my Windows

Dear Tired of Closing my Windows: Those who go around purposely invading others space are selfish and/or immature. Many of them are also seeking some type of approval. If enough people hear their music, they feel they will be seen as cool, (their claim to fame). They are violating the law. Ask them politely to keep their music down and if it continues to happen, contact your Residential Assistant (RA).

Dear RA: If you are a senior and you’re graduating and the classes you need to take have been canceled, what do you do? Signed: Confused Senior

Dear Confused Senior: Who ever told you that the school would actually let you graduate? You need to go and speak with your advisor and find out if there are cross listed courses that you can take. You advisor will be able to assist you in acquiring the classes you need to complete your graduation.

Dear Thea: My roommate keeps threatening to kill herself. Should I take her seriously or is she just trying to get attention? Signed: Don’t Wanna Guess

Dear Don’t Wanna Guess: Please, please take your roommate seriously. If you are not sure of her intentions, you may suggest her going and speaking to one of the Peer Counselors on the campus. They will be able to access if she needs professional help. No, you don’t want to guess wrong and lose a friend.

Dear Thea: I think since I am living on my own, I should be able to drink. Don’t you think they should drop the legal drinking age to 18? Signed: Handling my Booze Just Fine.

Dear Handling my Booze Just Fine: NO! I think the legal age of drinking should be raised to 25 years of age. Too many young people think they can “handle their booze” and they end up becoming alcoholics.

Welcome Back
The Complete Back Store
Across from See’s Candy
(408) 858-0178

10% off a Relaxing Massage
Exp. October 7, 1998

Relief from back to school Stress!!!
ESSP Students Conduct Summer Research at MBARI

by Mary Patyten

Every summer, the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute (MBARI) chooses 10 to 12 undergraduate and graduate students to serve 12-week internships, giving them the opportunity to pursue their specific interests in the marine environment and work with the Institute’s scientists and engineers. MBARI receives applications for the internships from around the world. This summer, they selected two CSUMB ESSP students, Saundra Butcher and Randy Bucciarelli, to serve as summer interns. Saundra Butcher, senior at CSUMB and a Department of Defense scholar, chose to research whether she could develop a DNA probe for the toxic algae which causes paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP) in humans. With her mentor Chris Scholin, Saundra found two likely probes to identify Alexandrium catenella, the algae that cause PSP. In her lab experiment, Saundra gradually narrowed down the number of likely probes, testing the final 7 possibilities in solutions of varying salinity to find just the right concentration to cause only A. catenella to fluoresce under UV light. She and the scientists at MBARI were surprised to find that their most successful probe fluoresced at a much lower salinity than originally predicted by a sophisticated mathematical formula. Development of a DNA probe for PSP makes it possible to determine if a specific region of water may become toxic, and provides a useful tool for determining how PSP algae spreads. Randy Bucciarelli chose to address MBARI’s mission statement to “disseminate data and information amongst the general scientific and educational communities” by developing a CD-ROM displaying Geographic Information System (GIS) data of the Monterey Bay. Randy and his mentors Gerry Hatcher and Norm Maher converted the data set to a format that makes it accessible to many different individuals and institutions. Randy’s work will give marine researchers and educational institutions the ability to access detailed information about the mapping work that MBARI has conducted.

Randy said he loved his time at MBARI, “it gave students like myself an opportunity to see what it is like to work alongside established professionals in the top of their fields outside of the ‘classroom setting’. Not only that, but imagine being able to pick the ideal place you could possibly imagine working at. That to me was either an all expense paid research trip to the tropics to study surfing or the chance to work a summer at MBARI. If I were to choose again I’d absolutely pick the latter of the two...... Then again, I might have to think twice about it - nah! My summer at MBARI was awesome!” The rigorous internships culminated in a seminar presentation in August. Saundra’s and Randy’s research papers can be accessed through the MBARI website at http://www.mbari.org/.

FEATURES

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From mid-July through mid-August of this year, ESSP student Kate Thomas took part in a scientific research cruise through the inside passage of Southeast Alaska, researching the feeding habits of Alaskan sea otters. For Kate, it was the trip of a lifetime. Their goal was to determine whether the inside passage of Southeast Alaska, taking pictures but I don't think it will show beautiful. We stopped a couple of times to Next to the runway!

Our research vessel, the Alpha Helix, is great - actually, a little scary at first. It has very small skinny stairs...the bedrooms and labs are bigger than expected, though. We got all the gear stowed; we leave tomorrow at 9 am for Glacier Bay. There are supposed to be tons of orcas, blue whales and humpback whales. Pictures, pictures!

I saw a mountain goat on the way to Seward. Also, got a behind the scenes tour of the new marine aquarium there, pretty cool, though there's still not much to do. It takes 2 days to get to Glacier Bay...oh well!

We left the dock at around 9 am after our safety meeting. Three or four people are seasick. Not me though (knock on wood!) Once we got under way I hooked up the new marine aquarium there, pretty cool, though there's still not much to do. It takes 2 days to get to Glacier Bay...oh well!

After dinner I worked with Rikk Kvitek, the principal investigator on the research cruise, on Geographic Information System (GIS) stuff. It took a good 2-3 hours to make it work, between the two of us we got it.

No shore in sight....this is so cool! Its 9 PM right now and it looks like its noon! I’ll be loading some software later, then try to get some sleep. They’re predict- ing heavy winds and 12 foot swells. We’ll see. There are white caps now, but it doesn’t feel bad. Hard to walk, though.

We left the dock at around 9 am after our safety meeting. Three or four people are seasick. Not me though (knock on wood!) Once we got under way I hooked up the computers. Of course they didn’t work, and the tech is not on the boat. We figured it out though - a wrong cable was being used. Then we had the rest of the day to do nothing. It takes 2 days to get to Glacier Bay. I sat up at the bow most of the day enjoying the view.

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Today was the first day we actually observed sea otters. Carrie Bretz and I (being the experienced observers) were team leaders. We were in groups of four, and I was teamed with Mike Castleton, Shelliann Maldonado and Elizabeth Rossi. We went to “No Name Point” (named that by Rikk because...it has no official name!) Carrie and her team went to Rush Point, where two black bears were feeding on the beach. By the time Carrie and her team were picked up, the bears were on either side of them, closing in. Actually, the bears really didn’t pay much attention to them.

We had two black bears down the beach from us as well. They were not that close, but when you’re dropped off at a beach with no way to leave...well, you feel pretty abandoned, let me tell you! Just at the high tide line, there is a section of grass as tall as me, and forest behind the grass. Who knows what could come out of that!!

We watched a very large raft of sea otters (about 50) that were about 200-300 meters off the point. It was very difficult to tell what they were eating, especially since I don’t know their prey very well. We watched from about 8:30 am until 1:30 PM. There was about 45 minutes to 1 hour when no animals were feeding, which is pretty amazing considering the number of otters!!

During this time, a large humpback whale entertained us about 50 ft. offshore. I’m not kidding research case 50 ft.; he was so close! We could hear every breath, every breach, every tail slap. The dive team later found that the whale was eating small fish schooling along the beach. It is too bad I can’t take pictures of everything, but after carrying all the sampling gear the last thing you want to do is lug around a camera! Really, I don’t have the time to take pictures, either!

After we returned to the Alpha Helix and ate lunch, the dive team got back and we recorded our samples. I measured sea urchins and clams, then shucked the clams, teaching everyone else how to shuck as well.

We had a treat later that evening. Captain Bill Rook called down to say that there was a pod of orcas off the bow, three of them. At first they were far away, but they soon surfaced right in front of us, maybe 20 ft. away. I think 6 to 8 people on the boat all have that same picture! Talk about beautiful! It looked like a male, female and calf. We had to stop our pursuit of them because to follow them is against the law.

Dreams seem to come true every day here! When I went back to the lab my face must have been awe-struck because Rikk looked at me and smiled, saying “I take it you saw the orcas!”

I think I could easily live here in the summer. The long days really aren’t a problem and you adapt pretty fast. We didn’t catch any king crab while in Glacier Bay...oh well!

We will be heading to Excursion Inlet and Porpoise Island tonight.

Don’t miss Part Two of Kate’s Adventures in Alaska in the next issue of the Otter Realm!
CLUBS

By DeBorah Gadson

Students wishing to find a club on campus that is ideal to their liking have more than 30 to choose from. The clubs here on campus range from academics to sports to personal interest. Below is a short list of clubs and their descriptions.

The African Students United (ASU) desire to establish open communication with the community to assist in recruiting, career developing, mentorship and promoting services for all African American and minority students here on campus. All in the Family (AIFT) is the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Alliance (LGBTA). They welcome diverse life experiences and viewpoints and respect the confidentiality of members due to the sensitive nature of sexuality and gender identity issues. The Bob's International stands for Business Organization for Student Success International. BO$$ tries to provide opportunities for the students of CSUMB through internships and service learning. They offer concrete experience with an on campus student-run venue, the Black Box Cabaret. The Disciples of Design is a student club open to anyone interested in networking with fellow students, and learning about current trends in telecommunications, multimedia, Web technologies, 3D graphics, VRML, and more. They meet the 1st & 3rd Wed of every month in Bldg. 18, rm.160. For more info, e-mail dana_lookadoo-liar@monterey.edu. The Jewish Culture Club consists of conservative Jews, Reformed Jews, as well as non Jews. This club is involved in educating the community about Jewish history and culture. The Martial Arts Club will be kicking up something that you will surely want to be involved in. You may contact Leif Bright if you are interested in this club at: bizdev@22cool.com. The Otter Baseball Club will scrimmage against the Lobos, Gavilan College and others. All of you are encouraged to root for the Otters. You can contact Arthur Morfin if you are interested in this club at: arthur_morfin@monterey.edu. The Otter Realm organization was formed to process and distribute information relevant to the CSUMB community in the form of a quality newspaper. Stiving for excellence, the organization will focus on integrity, accuracy, responsibility, and leadership.

The Pacific Asian Student Union (PASU) is a club that wishes to celebrate the myriad cultures within the Pacific-Asian community. Their goal is to enlighten themselves and the outer community about the various little known Pacific-Asian cultures that are so often overlooked in American society. The Parents Club. The purpose of this club is to offer support to students who are also parents by providing social and educational opportunities for them. Anyone interested in becoming a member is asked to e-mail: jenni_clayton@monterey.edu. Students Hungry 4 C.H.A.N.G.E. (Community Hope Action Non-Profit) has a goal to create an environment that will allow members to learn about design and use this knowledge in personal, academic and professional pursuits. The electric eels (e²) is a technology club open to anyone interested in networking with fellow students, and learning about current trends in telecommunications, multimedia, Web technologies, 3D graphics, VRML, and more. They meet the 1st & 3rd Wed of every month in Bldg. 18, rm.160. For more info, e-mail dana_lookadoo-liar@monterey.edu.

Here Today, Ghana Tomorrow

By Troy Martin

On September 28 Amy Freitas, class of 1998 CSUMB alumnus, will leave for the tropical jungles of Ghana to begin a year of volunteer service as the first CSUMB alumna to join the Peace Corps. While in Ghana, Freitas will be using the Earth Systems Science and Policy (ESSP) degree she earned to work with local efforts in helping to restore the rainforests of the country. Specifically, her time will be dedicated to turning this Peace Corps reforestation program over to the local government. "It's how Peace Corps works" she explained to me. This international program doesn't just randomly pick a country and work for environmental or social causes. The group only enters countries that ask for assistance. The local government then decides what aid is needed and the Peace Corps develops a program that is able to address their concerns. The goal is to create a program that will eventually fall under local governance. This is where Amy Freitas believes she will fit in. However, she did point out that exactly what role she will take is yet unknown.

When Freitas arrives in Ghana, she will spend a short time in the capital, Accra. From there, she will go through an intensive three part training, first in language, then in culture, and finally in technology. During this arduous training experience, Freitas' instructors will be assessing her skills in various areas to see how she can best serve the Ghanaian rainforests. She said she hopes to work with local children, teaching them the dangers of deforestation. In addition, she said she wants to...
AIDS WALK: Have fun making a difference

By Marisa Mercado

The upcoming AIDS Walk on October 10th will be a memorable day, not only for the participants, but also for the thousands of HIV infected men and women in Monterey County. A five-kilometer parade of people will be walking with friends and neighbors, preceded by registration and breakfast hospitality beginning at 8:30 AM. Breakfast is followed with a welcome program and warm-up exercise. The walk actually begins at 9:30 AM and ends with a celebration at 11:30 AM that includes music and more food!

Bill Lutz, of Monterey County AIDS Project (MCAP), points out that this is a great opportunity for students to do something that is easy and fun while being part of the community at large. Lutz, development director of MCAP, believes that students are a vital link in the Monterey community because of their "energy and commitment to change."

Lutz welcomed students who have service learning classes to volunteer for MCAP, and said, "Service Learning has been a great asset to us. We have a wonderful working relationship, which brings AIDS awareness to the university."

Even without Service Learning classes, anyone is welcome to volunteer some time to help out at MCAP, which is the only full-service HIV/AIDS agency in the county. MCAP also provides services that are directed at our bilingual and bicultural community, including programs to educate farm workers. MCAP's brochure explains that outreach programs are also specifically directed towards helping youth, women at risk, intravenous drug users, the elderly, and men who have sex with men.

According to the TELLUS report, there are as many as 3,000 people living with HIV/AIDS in Monterey County. That is twice the national average. AIDS is the number two cause of death in the county behind only "non-specific accidents."

There is some good news, however. Lutz said through working to provide services and compassion to those in need, HIV-infected citizens are now living longer with more emphasis on safety and health.

Service and outreach is part of a philosophy of "harm reduction." Lutz explained, "It's not our job to change or interfere in people's lives. We're there to provide psychosocial and material support to minimize harm, but they have to change their own lives. We build on a relationship of trust that encourages responsibility and a sense of self-worth, which you need to take care of yourself."

In addition to improving quality of life for those living with HIV, MCAP works to increase awareness both of AIDS and "AIDS-phobia" through advocacy and community education. The annual AIDS Walk is the most visible means of showing support and educating the larger community. As walkers raise funds from friends, family, and neighbors, they are also raising the issue of AIDS awareness.

It is crucial to replace fear with a "social atmosphere that is protective and supportive for people infected with HIV," Lutz said.

This is especially important in Monterey, an area filled with young men, women, and men under the age of twenty-four are infected every hour of every day. Community awareness of facts like this is essential to control the spread of AIDS and HIV infection.

As friends talk to friends about a scary and uncomfortable subject like AIDS, it becomes less of a monster and more of a reality.

"A fundamental piece of awareness and prevention is care," Lutz said.

"People in the university are educated and have the ability to protect themselves and help other people."

When we don't understand what AIDS is about, we are more vulnerable as a community to be endangered by its spread. As students, we can have a great impact on both the CSUMB and Monterey communities when we are present at local rallies, shows, and events like the AIDS Walk. A morning walk around Monterey can be the beginning of a compassionate bond with all the people in our community and a great experience in personal learning.

To find out more about MCAP and...
FEATURES

Burningman proves to be an adventure

By Megan Wong

No rules, no laws, no spectators, and no holds barred fun were the only requirements at the annual festivities of Burningman that took place in the Black Rock desert of Nevada Labor Day weekend.

Burningman were thrown out the window the second they drove through the main gates. Visitors were greeted by people who must have been in some sort of sleep deprived, induced state. Clothes and any other inhibitions of the sort were left at home as with any notion of remaining clean. The only thing one absolutely needed to survive Burningman was an open mind and a lot of creativity. Theme camps and naked bodies were prevalent and for the most part all encompassing. If you were to take a walk throughout the festival grounds, you would run into many different types of camps, such as The Mud Bath Camp, Toy Mahal and The Bondage Camp. Running water was scarce at Burningman as well as anything else of a convenience. Consequently if you ran out of toilet paper, you’re in big trouble, because there are no 7-11’s around. Although, an option would be to meander over to a neighboring camp and trade a few oranges for a roll.

"It definitely takes an adventurous person to endure Burningman", CSUMB graduate Daniel Bremenstuhl said, "You have to be OK with mud and rain". The counter-culture at Burningman may have come as quite a shock to an unsuspecting person. It is like nothing many people have ever seen or heard of and could very easily be mistaken for the movie set of "Mad Max". It was pure, unadulterated hedonism (acting to obtain personal happiness), at its best, touched with a twist of community and outright friendliness.

The time spent at Burningman was preparation and build-up for the main and spectacular event of burning the Man. The Man was a wooden structure about 20 feet high, which was mounted on a sort of shrine with steps ascending up to his feet. On the final day, all camps and structures were at their best and everyone was dressed (or undressed) to impress.

The Burningman procession was one of the main events and consisted of some 50 to 100 people in amazing costumes. The procession started off by parading from main camp to the Man that sat in the middle of the playa. By that time, everybody was exhausted but determined to make the last night the best.

As soon as the sun went down, everybody rallied in front of the Man, most danced around a huge bonfire and waited for sacrifice. The man suddenly burst into flames and exploded. There were screams, shouts, singing, and dancing, all ten times as fast and loud as before. After the man had been obliterated into a million pieces the crowd dispersed and everybody went to different camps and danced the night away.

Some people don't know what the significance of burning the Man was. One possible conclusion was that it can signify anything the individual wanted it to be, like corporate America destroying the earth and the human’s connection to it.

Other students who attended, like CSUMB’s Events Coordinator Jonathan Edmonds, thought of it as signifying that “everything is temporary and nothing is permanent”. Bremenstuhl believed it to be symbolic of “the destruction of society and creating something new”.

Ian Sardegna-Stephens, a CSUMB student, did not attend Burningman, described the burning of the Man as “representative of all man’s fears and setbacks”.

This story was the adventure off-campus of reporter, Megan Wong. If you have a great adventure or an exciting trip that you’d like to share in future issues, please contact the Otter Realm.

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582-4346
**SOCCER TEAM STARTS A NEW SEASON**

By Brian Rutherford

The Otters began conference play on the road last Wednesday with a strong 3-0 victory against Menlo College. Sweeper Paul Gamble and goalkeeper Andy McCormick lead a strong Otter defense. Goals by forwards Alex Zamora and Jose Perez proved to be the difference.

Saturday was the home opener for the Otters and it wasn’t a pretty one. The score at the end of the first half was 4-0 in favor of the College of Notre Dame. Midway through the second half it was 6-0. A late goal by freshman forward Alex Zamora proved to be too little to late for the home team.

With a 1-1 record the Otters are still in good position within their league. This week the Otters play Cal Maritime away and have another home game against Simpson College on Saturday.

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"LoVeLiNe"

Join Adam Carolla & Dr. Drew week nights at 10 pm for one of the most popular & unique call-in radio talk shows about love, Sex and Relationships.

103.9 The Eagle

Classic Rock & Roll (KISE-FM)
Personal Growth and Counseling Center expands

By Caroline Musto

The Personal Growth and Counseling Center is committed to the development of the whole person: academically, personally, socially, spiritually, and physically. They provide high quality crisis intervention, consultation, educational outreach programs, support groups, and referrals all designed to help students:

- Resolve personal problems that interfere with academic success
- Develop healthy relationships, personal growth & enhance individual potential
- Cope with and adjust to college life and pressures
- Resolve life crises that threaten persistence in college
- Deal with problems stemming from personal life experiences, trauma and situational stress
- Learn skills to optimize decision-making, problem-solving, communicating, managing stress, & resolving conflicts.

Their philosophy is to value the self-worth of each individual, respect and embrace human diversity, and provide services that aid the healthy behaviors necessary for success. The Personal Growth and Counseling Center is a warm and safe place to discuss what might be worrying students personally, academically or socially.

Information revealed to a counselor is confidential. It does not appear on any academic records. Confidentiality may however not be protected in cases of child abuse, suicide, homicide and/or individuals who are gravely disabled and unable to care for themselves.

Counseling is available, free of charge, for CSUMB students. No insurance is necessary. CSUMB has seven professionals dedicated to student's positive mental health and well being. They are, Caroline Haskell, Gary Rodriguez, Nancy Stanley, Nadyne B. Katz, Mel Mason, Mary Lounsbury, and Lynn White Dickson. Each member of the staff is dedicated to providing students and their loved ones with the very best counseling. Each of them, whether a professionally trained counselor, social worker, educator or psychologist, follow the professional ethics, laws, and guidelines that govern their respective disciplines. If they aren't able to help directly, they can refer the students to people or agencies who can.

The Personal Growth and Counseling Center works with many organizations in the community such as Lifesavers for Youth, A student staffed Peer Counseling Program, the YWCA, and Monterey Rape Crisis Center. Hours of operation are 8:00am to 5:00pm, Monday through Friday. The Personal Growth and Counseling center can be reached at 582-3969. It is located in Building 99, in the West side of the Veteran Administration Building, inside the Campus Health Center, on Engineer Lane. To contact a peer counselor call 582-4850. Lifesavers For Youth can be reached at 582-3973.

FEATURES

MWR

Hours
Mon. 4-7 PM
Wed. 4-8 PM
Thu. 4-9 PM
Fri. 4-7 PM

Serving
CSUMB
Students, Staff and Faculty

Recreational Classes/Trips/Tours
- Scuba - Surfing - Windsurfing - River Rafting - Hang Gliding - Backpacking
- Mountaineering - Biking - Orienteering
- Water Skiing - South Lake Tahoe - Reno - Las Vegas - Yosemite
- Kayaking - Fishing - Alpine/Cross Country Skiing

Rental Equipment
- Water Sports - Boats (Ocean & Lake) - Camping - Fishing - Skiing
- Scuba - Camping Trailers - Bikes - Rollerblades - Vans

Discount Tickets
- All California Attractions - Local Special Events - Sporting Events
- Movies - Aquarium - Phone Cards - Adventures in Dining
- Cultural Events

Specialty Programs
- RV Storage - Rental Properties in South Lake Tahoe - Charter Bus Service

Outdoor Recreation Center, Stilwell Community Center, Bldg. 4260
Presidio of Monterey Annex
For more information call 242-6155

Wanted
Sports Reporters
Last seen: in the stands at the CSUMB rugby game

Hight: average (or not)
Wait: no!

If you have seen this shady character please call 582-4347
While non-native species often contain chemicals that native creatures cannot digest, non-native annual grasses keep certain lizards and amphibians from running freely along the ground, so their predators have an easier time catching them or they cannot catch their prey. In addition, the seeds of plants consume of certain native plants require fire to germinate.

From an ecological perspective, creating a comfortable place where students can meet, hang out, and have a good time. Students to get involved with our unique campus at the state-wide systems, and starting to understand that if we don't do something about it then nobody will. It is time to take control of our destiny!

And also introducing:
Name: Matt Kritscher
Position: Student Activities Coordinator/Student Voice Advisor
Job Description: Serves as Administrative Liaison to Student Voice. Attends all regularly scheduled Student Voice meetings and retreats. Works to develop collaborative strategies. Advises CSUMB administration on key issues related to student leadership and/or concerns. Respective roles and responsibilities as directed by President.

Comments: “Here at CSUMB, there are opportunities to create our own future in a way that few other universities do. Participation and a positive attitude are the keys to success at this university. We all grow and contribute to the student body get involved in the creation of the future they choose that embraces diversity of mind, body and spirit.”