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The Mismeasure of E-mail

by Mary Patyten

When tempers flare, words often fly which are neither fully meant nor carefully thought out. Whether the words are spoken or written matters little. The heat of the moment can sweep people away in a torrent of emotion that doesn’t pay heed to what is sensible, right, or fair.

This age-old human trait has flowed into the instantaneous age of communication like tidal water flows into rocky coastline fissures, seething up crevices to explode in loud and foamy droplets, raining down upon a far greater area than the crack it burst from. E-mail provides such an instant outlet for anger. Enraged words shot immediately to key people through this medium can and have ruined reputations, relationships, careers, and lives. Only with much effort can a wrongly-sent e-mail’s effects be reduced in scale; they can never entirely be erased from the minds of those who first read them and reacted to their contents.

Recently the media has made much of “hate crimes.” These are indeed heinous acts, ranging from discrimination to violence, directed at people based on their race, creed, color, religion, etc. The teenage gunmen at Columbine High School were said to have targeted “jocks” and “blacks.” The Ku Klux Klan targets “negroes.” Gay-bashing, etc. The teenage gunmen at Columbine High School were said to have targeted “jocks” and “blacks.”

The only exception that comes readily to mind would be the relentless targeting and stalking of a person or persons through hate e-mail. Precedents must exist in law for prosecution of stalking hate e-mailers just as there exist laws to protect people from other kinds of stalking. In cases such as this, professionals (i.e. the police) should be called in to handle the situation.

Hate e-mail is a disgusting misuse of freedom of speech, yet perhaps it is the price this society must pay in order to enjoy such freedoms. Personally, I do not believe that a fair and facile way of monitoring and eliminating general “hate e-mail” exists, and that only in radical and particularly threatening cases should measures be taken to muzzle the mailer.

Should a university try to eliminate “hate e-mail”? This immediately brings up the issue of free speech. Being a writer, I hold the right to free speech near and dear to my heart. As much as I dislike “hate e-mail,” I cannot see a way of curtailing it without impinging the rights of all university students to free speech (or all Americans, for that matter). Universities could create a domino effect throughout the United States regarding what may and may not be written over the e-waves. How might one go about reducing the amount of “hate e-mail” that currently circulates through the system?

One might install a “censor” to delete the more flagrant cases of bigotry, bad mouthing and hurtful language, but there are major, major problems with this line of thinking. For one thing, this “censor” would most likely be human, and susceptible to all the human foibles that have caused the race heartache and regret throughout the centuries.

All our perceptions of the world come through the physiological filters we are born with and the existential filters we develop throughout our lives. Even scientists, trained to be objective when examining, measuring and describing the way the Earth works, cannot help but be influenced by these filters. Take, for example, late-nineteenth century “craniologist” Paul Broca, whom Stephen Jay Gould wrote about extensively in The Mismeasure of Man. Broca nearly succeeded in relegating the “dark-skinned savage” (i.e. African Americans) to a moral and intellectual status very near the ape, on the basis of what he claimed was the comparatively larger cranial capacity of the white man. Broca, though trained as an impartial observer and measurer of men, fell so in love with the theory that whites had larger brain capacity (and thus superior intelligence) that he even faked his data to validate his theory. He was eventually caught when another scientist measured the same brains and found that the weights did not concur with Broca’s published results and therefore with his conclusions. Yet, Broca’s theories even now influence cultural perceptions of differences between races, erroneous as they are.

Like Broca, wouldn’t a censor be susceptible to his own interpretations of “acceptable” matter for e-mail? For example, does the phrase “dark-skinned” qualify an e-mail for deletion? What if the term “dark-skinned” were used in a purely descriptive way, perhaps not even connected to a human being? Who decides what is “correct”? And who is to say that the cadre of artistic efforts which use foul language or offensive terms in poetry, art, short stories, or novels? Who is to say that they may not be communicated, whether in their entirety or in excerpts, over the campus e-mail system? Would not such censorship be akin to discrimination, or censorship of a student’s learning experience, such that new avenues and new ways of seeing the world are withheld from developing minds? How are students to know different ways of seeing the world if they are not allowed to use and experience all manner of expression to explore themselves and their world artistically and realistically?

Eliminating the “hate mail” on the campus e-mail system thus becomes quite the sticky wicket.

Of course, not exactly being a ‘democratic society’, the university could simply lay down its own rules and procedures and be done with it. That is to say, the university could install a censor and tell the community to like it or lump it. Not likely, however, especially given the current sensitivity (some would say ‘raw’) state of the Administrative relations with both the student body and the faculty. Taking a hard line on e-mail hate crimes through imposition of an arbitrary censor might not be the best for uniting the campus once again, especially considering the large number of persons on campus who, like me, hold the right to freedom of speech near and dear.

The only exception that comes readily to mind would be the relentless targeting and stalking of a person or persons through hate e-mail. Precedents must exist in law for prosecution of stalking hate e-mailers just as there exist laws to protect people from other kinds of stalking. In cases such as this, professionals (i.e. the police) should be called in to handle the situation.

Hate e-mail is a disgusting misuse of freedom of speech, yet perhaps it is the price this society must pay in order to enjoy such freedoms.
Welcome to a new year and a new century at the California State University.

Over the holidays, I had a chance to reflect on the many accomplishments of our faculty, students, and campuses during the past year. As I read through list after list of honors and awards, I felt exceptionally proud of the CSU and optimistic about its future.

I know it is difficult, given the sheer size of our university system, to keep up with all of the happenings at the CSU. That's why I wanted to share with you just a sampling of these achievements:

The American Association of State Colleges and Universities’ listing of 100 effective programs at public colleges and universities cited programs at Dominguez Hills, Fresno, Fullerton, Hayward, Monterey Bay, Northridge, Sacramento, San Diego, San Francisco, San Jose, and San Luis Obispo.

Three CSU athletic teams won national championships: the CSU, Long Beach women’s volleyball team, the Humboldt State women’s softball team, and the CSU Chico men’s baseball team.

CSU San Bernardino English professor B.H. Fairchild won the Kingsley Tufts Poetry Award, the largest poetry award honoring a single work, for “The Art of the Lathe.”

Sonoma State was chosen to represent California on the prestigious Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges.

FutureWatch, a science show co-produced by Cal Poly Pomona and Harvey Mudd College, was picked up by the Central Education Network and is now available to 400 public broadcasting stations nationwide.

A team of students from the CSU Stanislaus School of Business Administration won the international Advanced Global View Competition, a global business Internet simulation.

San Diego state adjunct physics professor Shawn Carlson won a prestigious MacArthur Foundation “genius grant” for his work in founding the Society for Amateur Scientists.

Cal Poly San Luis Obispo architecture professor James R. Franklin received the 1999 Edward D. Kemper Award, the highest award given by the American Institute of Architects.

All five university wines entered by CSU Fresno won awards at the California State Fair Wine Competition, including a “double gold” for its 1998 Shiraz wine.

Computerworld magazine named CSU Sacramento’s master’s degree concentration in management information science one of the top 25 programs in the nation. CSU San Marcos education professor M.G. (Peggy) Kelly led a national team that developed an implementing guide for standards on teaching technology in K-12 classrooms.

San Francisco State’s Innovative Interactive Mathematics Program was recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as one of the nation’s top five “exemplary” math programs.

Deans Raymond B. Landis of CSU Los Angeles and George Castro of San Jose State received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring.

The CSU Maritime training ship Golden Bear made two 60-day cruises last summer, taking over 400 students and faculty to Costa Rica, Hawaii, and other Pacific Island destinations.

CSU Hayward mathematics professor Julie Glass was named 1999 California Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

CSU Bakersfield Athletic Director Rudy Carvajal was named Division II Athletic Director of the Year by the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics.

Finally, two national publications recognized CSU campuses for helping minority students earn academic degrees. Black Issues in Higher Education reported that 10 of the nation’s top 30 universities in number of baccalaureate degrees awarded to minorities are CSU institutions. And Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education found that CSU campuses account for seven of the top 20 universities in number of baccalaureate degrees awarded to Hispanics. Hispanic Outlook also named 20 CSU campuses as “Publishers Picks” for offering solid opportunities to Hispanic students.

Of course, these are only a tiny fraction of our accomplishments over the past year. But I hope that after reading this list, you share my sense of pride in belonging to this outstanding institution. In this list, I see the promise that the California State University holds for the 21st century. I hope that all of you join me in celebrating the high quality so evident at the CSU, and in feeling great optimism and excitement about our future.
a tale of two taquerías

by Robert DeLaRosa

Spending many years in Gilroy and San Jose, I have grown to love the little taco shops. I have fond memories of skipping class and heading over to Iguana’s (San Jose) or Gaeta’s (Gilroy). When I first moved to the Ord, I was a little worried that I would not find another gem of a taquería in the area. I could not have been more wrong.

The first place I encountered is Papa Chuy’s on Fremont Blvd, in Seaside. Chuy’s opened in 1996 and has since become a staple in the diets of many people in the CSUMB community. “Chuy’s is inexpensive and a great way to start or end your night,” said student Ryan Bane (TAT).

My first experience with Chuy’s was a bean burrito with potatoes and a large coke. I must say that this burrito was huge. If this meal had a name it would have been called “The Gluttony”. It was packed with beans, cheese, potatoes and a tangy salsa. I ate the entire thing and then felt like taking a nap (Thanksgiving style). The meal was about $3.50 and worth every penny. Chuy’s is a really small place that is big on flavor. My advice is to take it to go because there is not much room inside.

Papa Chuy’s opens early (7 am.) and closes late (midnight) so it is perfect for those all night study sessions or early morning gorging. There are locations in Seaside, Marina and Salinas.

My favorite place to eat in this area has got to be Jose’s on Del Monte Blvd in Seaside. When I first walked into Jose’s, I felt like I was in my grandmother’s house. I was greeted with a warm smile and I could sit wherever I chose. I sat in the back and was immediately served chips and some of the best salsa I have ever tasted. The zesty red salsa will compliment any meal, and if you try the green sauce make sure you have a drink ready. The quality and taste of the food is excellent and the prices are very reasonable (you can eat lunch for around six dollars). My favorite is the cheese enchilada with rice and beans. The service is always very fast, so you stop in for a quick bite and beer; but if you are short on time to go orders are never a problem.

Jose’s is a more of a restaurant then a taquería but it still maintains the authentic taco shop flavor. Jose’s was opened in 1993 and is owned and operated by the Maldonado Brothers. Not all the employees are family but it seems like they all treat each other as such (and you as well). You can be sure that waitress Veronica Jimenez will make sure your food is brought to you hot and fresh. Make sure and bring your appetite because the portions are pretty large.

Jose’s is open from 11 am to 10 pm. The address is 1612 Del Monte Blvd in seaside.

men’s basketball team impressive at home

by Chris Lee

The CSUMB Men’s Basketball team went a perfect 2-0 during their most recent home stand with back to back victories over Dominican College February 5, and Pacific Union College on February 6.

The Otters showcased a balanced attack en route to a 13-point victory against San Rafael based Dominican College. CSUMB held an edge in rebounding most of the game and came up with critical rebounds in the fourth quarter to protect their lead. On offense the Otters displayed good ball movement and committed only 13 turnovers in the 81-68 victory. Senior Matt Dalhamer led the Otters with 20 points as they avenged a blowout loss to Dominican earlier this season. The Dominican Penguins were led in scoring by Sean Heal who had 23 points.

The next afternoon the Pioneers of Pacific Union College of Napa Valley came to Fort Ord looking to defeat CSUMB. However, it was the Otters who secured victory by scoring early and often on their way to an 86-60 win. The Otters played a suffocating defense forcing the Pioneers into 25 turnovers. The team was, again, led in scoring by Senior Matt Dalhamer who exploded for 28 points.

Barrett Benson paced the Pacific Union attack with 12 points and five rebounds. CSUMB made 49% of their shots from the floor in the blowout victory.

The Otters recent two-game sweep boosted their conference record to 4-6 for the season. They have won five of their last seven games but must win their remaining games to make the 2000 playoffs.
"The sky is the limit to what we can have. I'm looking for a miracle," sang CSUMB's Gospel Choir the evening of Monday, February 7, 2000. The Choir, President Peter Smith, members of the faculty, staff and Administration, and many other unfamiliar faces gathered in the University Center to unveil an original work of art and honor those unfamiliar faces.

Many of the unfamiliar faces belonged to those who have given generous donations to CSUMB. Their names have been emblazoned upon CSUMB's new "Crescent Moon," a sculpture which was designed, created, and erected by Santa Cruz artist, Angelo Grova. Those individuals who donate one thousand dollars or more can also have their name included on the new donor wall.

Two faces present at the unveiling which have become more and more familiar to CSUMB are those of Hilton and Roberta Bialek. The Bialek's donated $540,000 to the Recruitment Science Initiative which serves to promote science education in three local middle schools. The coupling and their time.

"The Bialeks are important partners in the RISE program. At one point we thought they would just be donors when, in fact, they have become an intrinsic part of the programs development," said Chris Hasegawa, Director of the Institute for Earth Systems Science and Policy. "They come out to the middle schools and attend every planning committee event," he continued.

A representative from The AT&T Youth Fund, Carmel Martin, commented on why he feels it is important to support CSUMB.

"This California State University is an important economic, intellectual, and academic part of the Monterey Bay Area. We want to be a part of this great academic community."

Not all donations have been made in the form of money. Steven and John Ridgley, both graduates of CSU San Jose, donated their father's rock and mineral collection to the Institute for Earth Systems Science & Policy.

"My brother and I decided to take the collection out of the basement and make it useful to others," said John Ridgley. "I think this [CSUMB] is the best possible place for this collection. My father was very proud of it."

Other large endowments came from Marjorie P. Love who has donated enough money to CSUMB to kick off a new Special Education program. The money will initiate the hiring of new faculty. The David and Lucile Packard Foundation has also generously donated $2.25 million to go towards the new Science and Academic Center, a $22 million project which is in the works.

Staff and faculty are vying for space on the new donor wall as well. According to Beverly Grova, Director of University Development and wife of Artist Angelo Grova, 54 staff and faculty members are donating through payroll deduction.

"The donations go towards the greatest areas of need such as scholarships and facilities," said Beverly. "The cabinet will most likely decide where the money will go.

Peter Smith enthusiastically gathered everyone together for the unveiling of the sculpture and to graciously thank the donors.

"Money is the margin that it takes from being a good university to being a great university," said Smith. "We [CSUMB] can't do it without you [the donors]," said Smith.

President Smith and President's Council President, Mark Johnson pulled back the curtain revealing the sculpture and the crowd of fifty or so let out a din of approval. Angelo Grova was then invited to take the podium and explain the significance of his work of art.

"The tidal connections of the earth and moon are similar to the connections of CSUMB and the community," said Grova. "This is what it's all about. People helping one another in nature as well as economics." Grova went on to say, "It's about how much you [the donors] as friends of CSUMB can help the minds of students."

The shape, color and beauty of the piece clearly incorporate local, global and planetary symbols. It was even made with materials from all over the world. The blue "azul" comes from Brazil, the antique green marble comes from Italy. The stainless steel perimeter contains chromium from Africa.

The southern wall of the University Center is now graced by this sculpture which represents the creation and culmination of large and small miracles. If you would like to be a part of this miracle you can do so by donating $1,000 or more. Contact Beverly Grova at 582-3908 for more information.

Donor wall sculptor Angelo Grova shows off the CSUMB Crescent Circle at a presentation to the donors.

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**Referendum to Separate Student Voice Fees**

Wednesday, March 15, in the CSUMB Dining Common, voting will take place on the Student Voice Fee Referendum. Currently, each student pays a mandatory Materials, Services, and Facilities Fee of $387 per year as part of tuition. $96 of this fee is then allocated to Student Voice through university accounts. If passed by a 2/3 vote, this referendum would allow the $56 Student Voice Fee to be placed in a trust account, separate from the University's general fund. In addition, the referendum would assist Student Voice in its goal to become incorporated.

If passed, the referendum will be sent to President Dr. Peter Smith and signed into place. Financial Director of Student Voice, Farah Hassan stated, "(Dr. Smith) has assured us, if the students pass the referendum, he'll sign it."

Student Voice is confident the referendum will pass as it does not increase or decrease student fees.

The Referendum to Unbundle Student Voice Fee recommendations are as follows:

- The mandatory materials, Services, and Facilities fee should be reduced from $387 to $391 per academic year.

A mandatory Associated Student Body fee of $56 per academic year ($28 per semester) should be established to support the program and operations of the Associated Students of CSUMB also known as Student Voice.

The associated Students' allocation should be established to support the program and operations of Student Voice.

If passed, the referendum will be held in a separate trust account that will allow funds to rollover at the end of each fiscal year.

The recommended modification of the fee structure should be effective with the 2000-2001 semester.
In the coming months I will be reviewing newly released movies in a bi-weekly column. Since reviewing movies is an entirely subjective matter, I wanted to share a little bit about the preferences of the person whose matter you will be subjected to. I have compiled a list of my personal top ten movies of all time. This list seems slightly testosterone based so I want to mention that some movies that almost made my top ten include: The Princess Bride, Titanic (just kidding), Dances With Wolves, and Hope and Glory.

THE LIST
by Kyle Squyres

10. Godfather II - Martin Scorsese's brilliant sequel to his Best Picture winning, The Godfather. There are two stories told in Part II: the roots and rise of immigrant Don Vito, played with uncanny ability by Robert Deniro and the ascension of Michael Corleone (Al Pacino) as the new Don. The two tales are paralleled and woven together with superb fluidity.

9. Dutch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid - A classic that blends adventure, romance and comedy. Paul Newman and Robert Redford star as two of the most likable bank and train robbers ever. This pair also created a success in The Sting.

8. Fantasia - I'm not a big Disney fan, but Fantasia is an animation classic. This flick takes you on a magic carpet ride through the full spectrum of human emotion.


6. Rocky - Stallone wrote this screenplay and insisted that he play the lead. The hero actually loses, as do the rest of us who paid to see any of the sequels, excluding Rocky III, which starred Hulk Hogan as Thunderlips and Mr. T as Clubber Lane.

5. One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest - Jack Nicholson puts on an awesome performance and challenges everyone's definition of crazy. This rare film that did justice to the book it was adapted from.

4. Braveheart - "They may take our lives, but they will never take our freedom!"

3. Reservoir Dogs - Tarantino's violent gangster masterpiece about a bunch of assembled robbers whose robbery is ambushed because of an informant from inside.

2. Natural Born Killers - Oliver Stone's flick that exposes the cycle of violence that American's are trapped in. Rodney Dangerfield is down-right eerie as the incestual.

1. Caddyshack - Bill Murray may have been better Stripes and Chevy Chase may have been better in Fletch, but never has a movie been as completely layered with humor as this. "Are you gonna eat your fatty?"

If the rainy season has you indoors and you need a break from all that reading then go to the movies and see American Beauty. One of the top contenders to be nominated for Best Picture this year for an Oscar is American Beauty, which is directed by British-born Sam Mendes.

Suburban America is often the symbol of comfortable banality. In reality, it is not immune to the dysfunction and dissatisfaction that often plagues contemporary times. In the movie, we are introduced to the Burnhams, who could be any middle class family in America, but like the slogan on the movie poster, we are told to, "Look closer."

American Beauty is set in any suburb of an unnamed city of America where a "normal" family is on the brink of a crisis. The movie starts with a narration by the father of the family, Lester Burnham (played superbly well by Kevin Spacey who also has my vote for Best Actor). In the first scene where we are introduced to Lester Burnham, he confesses that masturbating in the shower is the highlight of his whole day. We, the audience, later conclude he is right. Monotonous is an understatement in describing the Burnham household. Contrary to Kevin Spacey's character, we have Carolyn Burnham [Annette Benning], a real estate agent, who is vivacious, well-groomed and efficient. She leaves the house each morning with the mantra, "I will sell this house today." Then there is sullen daughter Jane [played remarkably well by Thora Birch], who is a black velvet skirt away from being a Goth and throwing herself off the top of the tallest building in her town. Jane, like most teenagers, feels alienated and totally despises her parents, especially her father, who she holds a certain contempt. All that is missing is Jane carrying a copy of Sylvia Plath all day long.

One day, Lester Burnham is awakened by the vision of his daughter's best friend, a blonde cheerleader named Angela [Mena Suvari]. This calculating Lolita knows her power over Lester as she discusses having sex with her best friend's father to her best friend. The moment Lester starts obsessing with Angela, the family begins it's long journey to unraveling. While Lester fantasizes about Angela bathing in a bath tub full of red rose petals, Carolyn begins a sordid affair with her main nemesis in the real estate market- Buddy Kane [Peter Gallagher]. Not to be left out in the cold in all this intrigue, daughter Jane discovers that the eerie next door teen neighbor- Ricky Fitts [Wes Bentley] is infatuated with Jane since, unknown to her, he videotapes her.

Not only does Lester begin obsessing over his daughter's best friend, he finally stands up to his dismissive boss, finally buys the car he always wanted- a red 1970 Firebird, and starts lifting weights and smoking weed again. Kevin Spacey's portrayal of a man going through a mid-life crisis is fresh and aggressive.

As the movie poster says, "Look closer." It seems Ricky is not at all the typical voyeur we think he is, meaning perverted and sick, but a lonely boy who looks at the world through rose colored glasses, or in his case, video lenses. Ricky does deliver the movie's most poignant line, "Sometimes there's so much beauty in the world I feel like I can't take it, like my heart's going to cave in." Ricky does double duty by fulfilling Jane's intimate needs and fulfilling Lester's needs by supplying him with marijuana. One of the subplots of the movie is Ricky's relationship with his father, a homophobic ex-Marine Colonel [Chris Cooper] who takes parenting lessons from the movie Mommie Dearest.

American Beauty takes dead aim at our obsessions with youth, beauty, and achievement, and satirizes the disorder and distress in a tree-lined middle-class America with uncanny accuracy. In the first moments of Lester's narration, he states what events lead to his death. This clearly shows the film's lofty ambitions to defy the usual "shocking" ending but to lead the audience on a journey to a man's cathartic moment. When Lester does finally die, there is no sense of remorse but a feeling of fulfillment since Lester finally realizes what is important in his life. American Beauty is more than a comedy/drama but a brave and daring film, which is sure to haunt you as you leave for home.

On my Al Pacino Movie Scale, I give it 4 Stars.

4 Stars = Godfather II
3 Stars = Dog Day Afternoon
2 Stars = Scarface
1 Star = Revolution

who is the otter realm?

Editor-In-Chief: Robert DeLaRosa
Staff Reporters: Leon Smith, Stephanie Smith, Mary Paltynen, Caroline Musto, Andrew Rogers, Jesse Lewis, Jason Sanchez, Chris Lee, Kyle Squyres, Errol Rimando, Greg Newhall
Graphic Design: Chris Hughes
Advisor: Holly White
Advertising/Business Manager: Caroline Musto
Copy Editor: Kyle Squyres
Sports Editor: Chris Lee
Residents of Frederick Park have a difficult time finding parking spaces. The streets are narrow and depending on the time of day, congested. Due to this, students find themselves unable to use their own driveways and end up parking on other streets. Others fed up with these difficulties often resort to parking on grass or sand adjacent to their driveways, in violation of the California Vehicle Code.

Frederick Park was designed and built by the U.S. Army as married officers quarters. Each unit housed one family who on average owned one vehicle. Currently the average unit is occupied by up to four individual adults who each own their own vehicles. The current infrastructure was not designed to handle the volume of traffic it now receives, especially when taking into consideration the fact that Fort Ord was closed to civilian traffic. Since the closure of Fort Ord and the opening of its streets to civilians the volume of vehicles and traffic has increased exponentially.

To deal with the dilemma of parking in the Frederick's Park housing area several solutions have been proposed. One is the expansion of existing driveways and the conversion of islands into parking areas. Another, although controversial and limited by existing capital, is the building of an auxiliary parking lot in spaces previously left undeveloped.

This proposal, as Jay McTaggart of the UPD has called “paving the wilderness,” just will not work. He goes on to say, “Such a proposal would meet with great institutional opposition primarily because of the extreme cost and the destruction of acres of wilderness area for nothing other than asphalt parking lots. If the university ever wants to wean the campus community from reliance on personal vehicles and embrace alternative modes of transportation, construction of vast parking areas makes no sense.”

Less costly solutions that can help alleviate the parking crunch can be as simple as residents improving their communication with one another and making parking garages more accessible. Many garages are home to Ping-Pong tables, basketball hoops, pool tables, couches and garbage.

Other less costly solutions can be expansion Nightwalk and shuttle services between main campus and Frederick’s Park, thus allowing students to park on main campus and avail themselves of the public transit system.

Another and most popular of all proposals is the creation of a community council. According to Brian Dawson, the apartment living coordinator for the Office of Residential Life states, “The Frederick Park Community Council (FPCC) is the answer to the shaping what apartment life will be here at CSUMB now and in the future. Decisions on rental prices, landscaping, roommate and guest policies, lighting, parking, pets and a hundred other things that will effect your daily life will be made for you if you are not willing to tell the university what you want. The community council will be meeting every month in each court so you can get to know your neighbors and discuss issues relating to your court. A general council meeting will be held for all of Frederick Park once a month to organize our proposals and discuss the direction of our apartments.”

Many people feel that there has been a parking problem for a long time. Now a possible solution is in sight.
The day the Dining Commons became a Very Cool Place was the day I realized I could get free food by mooching off of my beloved and precious friends who have meal cards. One swipe of an ID card and free food was mine to have, but not without a vast universe of appreciation for those that were sweet enough to spare my wallet a gruesome robbery.

"I am one of the Dining Commons mooches. I've come for your free food," I say.

The students living in the dorms don't have a choice in the matter regarding the meal plans. They have to pay for them. Whether it's unjust or too costly, I'm not going to judge that requirement. I'm here to help my friends spend their money, but believe me—know how to be the good kind of mooch, not the evil kind.

Here's an example of an evil mooch:

**EVIL MOOCH:** Hey, bud, err...I mean, Bob. Buy me lunch? I'm hungry, man!

**BOB:** Well, alright.

(a few minutes pass as lunch is being purchased)

**EVIL MOOCH:** about to take off to sit with other people:

**EVIL MOOCH:** Hey aren't you gonna sit with me?

**BOB:** Hey aren't you gonna sit with me?

**EVIL MOOCH:** Haha! Good one. Well, take care!

(he goes off to sit with his buds and high fives them all)

Freebie!

That's just wrong. I'm not trying to encourage this kind of behavior. I think what's missing is a basic understanding of proper mooch etiquette. The golden rule requires that you at least sit down with whoever buys you some food, and provide the company they deserve. Unless, they're merely trying to buy you food hoping you'll be satisfied and leave them alone. Learn to read people.

There's all kinds of mooches. If you're considering giving it a whirl, why not become the good kind. Offer to buy them food off campus, which is an offer most will take you up on in a mad second. They want non-DC food. They need it. Reciprocity is the key here, which a few fellow mooches I know understand all very well.

"The way I work it is when someone buys me food at the DC, I invite them over to my house for a home cooked meal, just like Mom used to make it. This works for me because I live at home, and many of the people who buy me food, don't," says J.P. Hill, a sophomore.

Most of us have heard people complain of the quality of food at the Dining Commons even when it's pretty good. No one wants to get stuck eating the same meals day in and day out, and only a limited variety available. Not to criticize the DC because, as a true mooch, I love that food. I'm strange like that. Yet I do understand all the students wanting to eat off campus but not having much money for that, if any.

So, the solution? More mooches. I save myself the trouble of having to go home or off campus every time I'm hungry, and dorm residents get a little treat now and then. Save our appetites, be a mooch.

**GOOD MOOCH:** Buy me food and I'll love you forever.

**BOB:** Ok, or you could just get me a Frappuchino later.

**GOOD MOOCH:** Oh, you better BELIEVE we've got a deal!
**hip-hop 101**
by Andrew Rogers

"You know what's gonna happen" with hip-hop, whatever's happening with us. If we're smoked out, hip-hop is gonna be smoked out. If we don't all right, hip-hop is gonna be don't all right... People talk about hip-hop like it's some giant living in the hillsides coming down to visit the townspeople. We are hip-hop. Me, you, everybody." These are the words of Mos Def on the introduction to "Fear Not Of Man," to what is easily the best hip-hop release in years, "Black on Both Sides," from Rawkus Records.

From the intro to the final cut, DJ Premier produced "Mathematics." Mos Def delivers the goods: vintage beats and superb lyrical skills. His incredible word play and unique singsong style of rap make him the most original MC to emerge in quite some time. For many true hip-hop aficionados Mos Def is some sort of messiah MC here to save us from the evils of today's diamond loving, gun toting, ego-maniac rapper, which there is definitely no shortage of.

Mos gets right down to business on Diamond D. produced "Hip-Hop," a lyrical exploration of the truths, complexities, and contradictions within the rap game. In "Ms. Fat Booty," "Speed Law," and "Do It Now" (featuring Busta Rhymes) Mos gives us the most satisfying block of beats and rhymes from three consecutive songs we've heard since A Tribe Called Quest's "Midnight Marauders," "Things Fall Apart" by the Roots, and Prince Paul's "Handsome Boy Modeling School".

The purpose of Hip-Hop 101, which will start appearing regularly in the Otter Realm, is to inform fellow otters about the art of hip-hop. My intent is to review newly released albums from within the genre and give general commentary on the state of hip-hop music in America. You probably won't read about Will Smith, Puff Daddy, Master P, or any of those Cash Money Millionaires who seem to be the only hip-hop artists on the radio or television. Strictly the real. There's way more to hip-hop than guns, drugs, "bitches," and money.

Mos Def says, "The next time you ask yourself where hip-hop is going, ask yourself, where am I going? How am I doing? Then you'll get a clearer idea." R.I.P. Big Pun, One.

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**steve bantu biko**
beacon of hope
by Otter Realm Staff

In 1997, Biko's son Nkosinathi Biko created the documentary Steve Bantu Biko: Beacon of Hope, in honor of the twentieth anniversary of his father's death. The documentary provided interviews from family and close friends who told stories from Biko's childhood all the way to his battles as a young activist. After the documentary, Nkosinathi answered questions and discussed with the audience his father's life and trials. He also spoke of South Africa today and discrimination throughout the world. Steve Biko's drive for anti-apartheid came from the desire that one day South Africans would not have to worry about dying for equality and live normal fearless lives. Nkosinathi closed by saying, "Young people today in South Africa can focus on their youth." Steve Bantu Biko will forever remain a hero and inspiration to South Africans and to many others throughout the world.

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**spring into action**
by Stephanie Smith

Would you like to feel more confident about speaking in public, facilitating groups, or building consensus? Then the spring leadership conference will be held on Saturday, March 12, in the University Center, from 8:30AM to 4PM.

The objective of this interactive conference is to help students build upon their existing leadership skills and make sure they leave with some real-life applications. The way this conference has been set up, each individual will first learn some new techniques, be able to see them in action, and then have the chance to practice their new skills before they even leave the conference.

You do not have to have a desire to join Student Voice or a club to make attending a leadership conference worthwhile. The skills that will be developed at this conference are looked for by employers, can be used on a day to day basis, and can certainly help you in your academic endeavors. Some teachers will even be offering extra credit for attending, find out if yours will!

There is a ten-dollar registration fee, which includes both breakfast and lunch. Scholarships can be provided; if you are interested in attending the conference and would like to apply for a scholarship, please contact Student Activities and Career Development at 582-3845 or drop by building 44. Registration is due March 3 in building 44 to take action! Save the date and sign up!
Pam Africa speaks at Mumia rally

by Chris Lee

Famed political activist Pam Africa spoke at CSUMB as part of the worldwide effort to free Philadelphia journalist, and former Black Panther Party member, Mumia Abu Jamal from his prison cell on death row for a crime many believe he did not commit. Africa was joined by several other speakers at the February 1st 2000 event in CSUMB’s University Center.

Pam Africa delivered a powerful message to the audience on Mumia’s behalf. The message was filled with compelling facts and eyewitness stories to the crime. Her captivating words of reality inspired the diverse gathering and drew several shouting cheers of support. Pam named Rage Against the Machine and rap- per KRS-one as some of Mumia’s mainstream supporters, but also cited numerous instances when famous people have been intimidated by the American hierarchy for expressing their belief that Mumia is innocent. This is proven by the fact that police stood outside a Rage Against the Machine concert harassing patrons, saying that by being there, they support a "cop killer." Africa also spoke in strong opposition to Proposition 21 and pointed to the recent WTO protests in Seattle as a long overdue example of the people taking action against the American government.

Pam Africa is at the forefront of the MOVE organization whose members practice the teachings of their founder, John Africa. The teachings include a belief in black-empowerment and strong opposition to the American Government. She has been active in MOVE since 1977. Since her joining, the MOVE organization received national attention when their Philadelphia home was bombed, killing 11 members of her MOVE family in 1985. Many, including Pam Africa, believe the United States government was responsible for the attack.

Pam has been fighting to free Mumia Abu Jamal since 1981 when the outspoken journalist was convicted of killing a Philadelphia police officer. Since his conviction however, an overwhelming amount of evidence has been uncovered suggesting Mumia was framed by the United States government was involved in the assassination of Dr. King.

Pam Africa and the MOVE organization were at CSUMB as part of a ten-day Northern California Tour which included stops in Berkeley, Santa Cruz, and Oakland.

For more information about Pam Africa, MOVE, and/or Mumia Abu Jamal call (415) 695-7745.

The Career Development Office can help you with your self-assessment process. We provide career counseling, workshops, and self-assessment tools; the Strong Interest Inventory compares your interests with the interests of people happily employed in a variety of jobs and the Self-Directed Search identifies certain personality types are most comfortable with certain types of working environments. We also offer Eureka software which helps you identify your unique skills and suggested occupations that match.

Someone once told me "if you don’t know where you are going, any road will get you there.” Career planning is an on-going process that begins with getting to know thyself! Getting from here to there requires that you know who you really are and what you really want.

If you would like to meet with a career counselor, please call Career Development at 582-3845 or email to Career_Development@monterey.edu

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somewhere to go
the new student center opens
by Jason Sanchez

The Student Center will be opening its doors for the first time to the campus on Wednesday, Feb 23 at noon.

Its grand opening will include music, free food, and most importantly, community. Matt Kittscher, Director of Student Activities and Career Development and overseeing administrator of the Student Center calls it a historical event. One of the goals of the Student Center is its location. Because it is in the main quad between the Dining Commons and the library, students will have the most opportunity to use it.

The Student Center will simply be a place for the students. Students can hang out, study, organize events, just have fun and meet up friends. "Think of it," Financial Director Faraa Hussen smiled and rolled her eyes, "as a more elaborate common room with everything!"

Inside the Student Center will be a recreation room, a lounge, a 15-person-conference room, and the Student Voice offices.

The lounge will have a 32-inch-Sony rear-projection TV/VCR and three computers that will be available for checking e-mail or surfing the web.

Equipment in the recreation room will include: three regulation pool tables, two air-hockey tables, a ping pong table, two foosball tables, free lockers, food and drink vending, a sound and TV system. Students will even be able to bring their personal CD's and cassettes to the clerk.

Kittscher emphasized, "The Student Center will fill a much needed void in life on campus," and later added, "It'll meet unmet student needs that the BBC and University Center don't."

The planned hours of operation for the Student Center will be from 12 noon-10 p.m. Monday through Friday beginning on the opening date of Feb 23. Both weekday and weekend hours will depend on student interest and availability of volunteers.

The Student Center will be run by two student supervisors and a volunteer staff who will be under the direction of Director Matt Kittscher. Originally the Student Center was scheduled to open on Jan 26 but because of construction delays and other unforeseen problems the opening was pushed back.

One of the biggest challenges for this project was having enough funding. Costs exceeded what was expected and more work was needed on the building than previously estimated. These expenses came as shocks to those involved. Heating and new entrance doors are among the items that may be left out.

Acting coordinator of the Student Center and Student Voice office manager Anita Castledine said that she will be "relieved with a capital "R" to see the center finally opened."

"It really is a big deal. It's been a long time coming," said Castledine "The campus made the commitment to establish the Student Center. It's definitely been a collaborative effort."

The CSUMB Student Center has been a project in the making for the past two years. The collaborative efforts of students and administrators made the Student Center a reality.

Special thanks to Student Voice, The Student Voice Financial Committee, Student Affairs, Administration and Finance, Design and Construction, and the President's Office.

Another special thanks to Director Matt Kittscher who allocated funds from SACD for the eco-friendly paint in the Student Center and Vice President for Student Affairs, Bert Rivas, who was able allocate funds for Carpeting.

When asked what she thought was one of the most important aspects that the Student Center will bring Hussain nodded and said, "I think it'll build a stronger sense of community. There has been such a lack of places for students to go."

While the Student Center does improve student recruitment and retention, it must importantly improves student quality of life here at CSUMB.

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WLC—not an obstacle but a point of departure
by Leon Smith

Dr. Donald Urioste, the Director of World Languages and Cultures has been teaching language for almost 30 years, says CSUMB was one of the first universities in the system to have a language requirement. He says planners were wise in having a language department and a vision for the university. They realized that they needed a working language besides English for the 21st century. We can no longer ignore it. The core value is multi-lingualism. The natural context is to deal with customs and culture to go along with the language. Having the language requirement doesn’t mean we will have fluent speakers. Students learn a second language as a survival skill—it can not be achieved in the classroom alone and therefore the ULR (University Learning Requirement) is structured that way.

Donald says there are two different levels students must achieve: low and intermediate skills. Survival skill level can communicate basic information to people of the native language. For intermediate skills in the major we are requiring much more. He goes on to say this requirement is not out of line but it is unique since CSUMB is only one of two in the CSU system. Students want to compare us to another CSU School but we have chosen to have the language ULR here. They knew that when they applied here.

Kritscher emphasized, "The Student Center will fill a much needed void in life on campus," and later added, "It'll meet unmet student needs that the BBC and University Center don't."

His general statement to student body would be "Don't look at the language department as an obstacle, look at it as an experience or as a point of departure for the 21st century" for embracing cultures other than our own. Don't put it off, deal with it.

Professor of Japanese, says it takes time to satisfy the language ULR requirement and if we emphasize this it may discourage students from taking it. We can market and emphasize the Asian languages to help bring up the numbers (currently lower than what the Administration would like to see).

The department just went through an external review— as we get comments and self assessment we will put into practice what we learn and this will be first big step in line tuning. His general statement to student body would be "Don't look at the language department as an obstacle, look at it as an experience or as a point of departure for the 21st century" for embracing cultures other than our own. Don't put it off, deal with it.

Dr. Yoshiko Saito-Abbott, Professor of Japanese, says it takes time to satisfy the language ULR requirement when you transfer in. Students realize by their second semester it takes three or four semesters for the language requirement to be met. You only need one semester for culture and equity. In the Spanish department there are so many students so they offer all the courses every semester, but in the Pacific rim languages there are so few students that if you miss a class sequence you have to wait a year or more to take it when it is offered again.

There is a notion that Japanese is more difficult than Spanish. It's really not. It's a non-cognitive language and when looking at the script which is so different the perception then becomes that Japanese is more difficult. Once they study it it's not that difficult.

CSUMB's vision goes beyond vocabulary and grammar—there is a desire to be able to function. Vision statement wants students to connect culture skills with language disciplines.

We collect data at the beginning of classes to see who is more likely to drop out. The data suggests freshmen tend to drop out more so than other factors. Students who have higher anxiety study French. 96 percent of Japanese students have no prior exposure to Japanese. Spanish students usually have none if they are taking it for the language requirement. Students dread language ULR because of previous bad experience. Most colleges don't offer Japanese culture courses, they only offer language. Most programs also do not offer exchange programs like we have here at CSUMB. The Exchange Program started here in 1997. This accelerates learning the language. The language program has to be balanced and practical to attract new students with a vision. Students get together and help each other in groups. There will also be approval for a minor in Japanese culture this semester. Saito Sensei's last words were, "Don't be afraid, there are interesting courses and teachers in WLC."
Letter to the editor

The Campus Transition Plan for ADA Compliance

At the time the campus was opened, the Cal State system was in the process of evaluating all of its facilities to identify architectural barriers in the design of its buildings. CSU Monterey Bay was given a preliminary review, and a report was prepared by Building Analytics in 1994. This information was used in the early planning for the campus, but it is insufficient to stand alone as the official Transition Plan for CSU Monterey Bay.

The campus is preparing to launch a planning effort that will result in the formulation of a campus Transition Plan as prescribed in the Americans with Disabilities Act. Building on the information in the Building Analytics study, the Transition Plan will include a survey of University facilities and an inventory of areas that are not currently in full compliance with ADA. The plans will identify the deficiencies and the necessary corrections to bring the facilities into compliance. A timeline for implementing the corrections will be established as part of the planning outcomes.

The campus will retain a consultant experienced in evaluating campus conditions and knowledgeable about the requirements of the law. The plan will be coordinated by Campus Planning and Development, and the project will be directed by the Design and Construction office. Campus Planning and Development is currently in the process of writing the scope of work for the contract. The schedule calls for the project to begin in March, to continue throughout the Spring, to develop draft reports over the Summer and to have materials ready for campus review and discussion in the Fall.

Peter Smith