"An Actual Nerd"
CSUMB selects graduation speaker
by Caroline Musto

It took five years but on May 20th, 2000, California State University, Monterey Bay will have a technologist as its keynote graduation speaker. The graduation audience is in for a treat when humorous CSUMB fellow and highly sought speaker Brenda Laurel takes the podium at Freeman Stadium. This will be Brenda's first honorary degree but she considers herself an "honorary nerd." "In fact," she said, "I think I am an actual nerd."

Brenda Laurel is a renowned computer games pioneer and has been working in the computer industry since 1977 when she began her career as a computer game designer and programmer at CyberVision, Inc. Since then she has worked with many of the most innovative and influential interactive and new media industry leaders such as Atari, Activision, Apple Computer, Citibank, Fujitsu Laboratories, Lucasfilm Games, Sony Pictures and Paramount New Media. Currently Laurel is a member of the graduate faculty for the Digital Media program at Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, California and is also employed as a design research consultant for Cheskin Research, a global market research firm in Redwood City, California.

A respected authority on human-computer interface design, virtual reality and interactive fiction, Laurel has been published in several leading consumer and industry publications including Wired, Multimedia Review, Computel and The Journal of Computer Game Design. She is also the editor of the book The Art of Human-Computer Interface Design and author of Computers as Theater.

After receiving the CSUMB fellowship award in 1997 for outstanding service to the community, Laurel says "I have bragged to anyone who would listen about the diversity, creativity, social commitment, and service orientation of the students and faculty at CSUMB. I'm tremendously proud to be associated with the university."

She spends much of her professional time "trying to understand, honor, and advocate teens and young people to various businesses and institutions. It's a great opportunity to communicate directly with people I care very much about."

She first noticed a lack of real playing experiences, i.e. video games for girls in 1980 when she produced her first Atari game. Along with Silicon Valley pioneer David Liddle, Laurel directed an exhaustive four-year gender and technology research project that revealed a void in relevant girls' entertainment experiences and led to the formation of Purple Moon, a girls entertainment company founded four years ago. Purple Moon produced eight CD-ROM games geared towards 8-12 year-old girls and a "very lovely" web site at www.purplemoon.com.

"Purple Moon was fun and important," said Laurel. "I think the project touched everyone who worked on it. There are Purple Moons everywhere now, from MTV to LucasArts to Mattel to internet startups to Hollywood. We all take what we learned with us to the next thing, and we'll do a better job because of it."

Laurel earned a M.F.A. and Ph.D. in theater from Ohio State University and a BA in theater from DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana. As a graduate student, she came to love teaching and found that she needed to pursue her intellectual fascination with drama and theater. So instead of moving to New York after she got an M.F.A. in acting, she went back to work on her Ph.D. "That was about the time that video games were being invented," she said. "Seeing a computer graphics display was a life-changing experience for me. It was clear to me that this new technology could be used dramatically and could extend the idea of participatory theater in radical ways."

When asked how she's integrated her training in theater with computers, she replied, "I did my dissertation topic on the potential of computers to give us new possibilities for theatrical form and structure. I learned about technology on the job at Atari, Activision, Apple, and other companies. My colleagues have always been very generous with their knowledge." Talk about a capstone project!

When asked what she thinks of today's technology, Laurel had well thought out opinions. "In my view," she said, "the web today is temporarily stuck in a particular realm of style and functionality. This is partly due to the fact that internet businesses are paying more attention to money than to design or social integration, but change is inexorable and coming fast. At the moment, remarkable things are happening in the world of communication through handheld devices. Over the next few years we will see unimagined hybrids, blends, and evolutionary forms of new media. Roughly, e-commerce is to the web as the Bible was to the printing press, only much more briefly."

Laurel has incredible expectations of the technology we'll be using in the future. "In ten years or so," said Laurel, "the equivalent of a Pentium 3 will cost less than a dollar. Technology will no longer be a distinct object of design, but an element in the design of just about everything. More than ever, it will be the sea in which we swim. A great challenge is to take our values and our humanity with us on this new voyage."

"I am extremely pleased to have Brenda as our speaker," said President Peter Smith the afternoon of March 6, after asking her to be the 2000 graduation Keynote Speaker. "She is a pioneer in her field and a leader in providing opportunities for women in science. Brenda is a bright, engaging lifelong learner committed to creating opportunities for others. She has stretched and continues to stretch the boundaries. The graduation committee is to be commended for considering and then recommending her as our speaker."
Census 2000:
It Counts to be Counted
by Theresa Mendoza

Along with the 2000 presidential election, the Census 2000 is also sure to make history, a chance that happens only once every ten years. Census data determines how much and to which programs federal funding is allocated.

Many tri-county residents may have some memory of the huge undercount that resulted from the last Census ten years ago in 1990. An undercount can have many negative implications. Not only do the census results decide how many seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives, but also how much funding will be given to some non-profits, social programs, education, and communities in a given region.

One of the non-profit organizations that serves the tri-county area is The United Way, which helps finance youth programs such as the Boy’s & Girl’s Clubs in Seaside and Monterey. For example, an undercount of the number of youth, single mothers, and single fathers in the tri-county would have a huge affect on the amount of funding that is given to programs such as The United Way. The program would get less money if the Census count indicates there are fewer people who qualify for that program than there really are. Welfare programs and employment assistance programs would also be affected by an undercount because the amount of funding they get depends on how many people that depend on these programs are counted in the Census. Generally, Census counts decide how much funding will be given for each specific program.

Census employees are also required to pass a security and reference checks prior to employment. If a Census employee ever does break a privacy policy, the guilty employee must pay a fine and will be removed from employment with the Census Bureau.

According to the Census Office, which is located in Salinas, a Census form has begun to be mailed out and will continue to be mailed out all through March. The official Census date is April 1 with a two-week window period for returning the form. In the cases where a completed Census form is not mailed back to the Census Office, a Census employee will either call the home or make a visit to the home to follow up on the incomplete form.

As part of the effort to eliminate any possible undercounts for this decade’s Census, the recruitment for Census employees has become just as important as the Census count itself. "How many have they hired and how have they recruited. I would add this or other information here or delete this paragraph on its own, it doesn't seem to have much impact."

In order to encourage participation, television and radio ads have been run. "It's your future, don't leave it blank," is one ad that stresses the importance of filling out the Census forms.

The Otter Realm
March 15, 2000

The Whole Nine Yards
by Kyle Squyres

For those of you who don’t want to spend your time reading a review of a lousy movie, my review of The Whole Nine Yards can be summed up in nine whole words: an awful, uncreative, boring, terrible waste of two hours.

For those of you who prefer a longer judgment here goes: The Whole Nine Yards falls a few yards short, it earns zero out of ten stars, no thumbs up, no "You might want to check it out when it’s released on video." Without Matthew Perry this movie sucks worse than any movie ever made; and I don’t even like Matthew Perry.

Basically, this movie is about an American dentist named "Oz" Oseransky (Matthew Perry) who, already browbeaten by his sharp-tongued wife, becomes involved with Jimmy "the Tulip" Tudeski, a notorious mob hit man turned informant (Bruce Willis) who moves next door, Tulip’s wife Cynthia (Natasha Henstridge), and a notorious Hungarian mobster. The humor in this film is about as creative as "the Missionary" position. People in the audience fell down laughing at such inventive humor as women running and falling, other girls farting, and Chandler —sorry, Oz— running full stride into a sliding glass door. Physical humor has its place, but it can’t fuel a two hour movie that is void of all else funny.

In spite of the lack of quality script Matthew Perry was extremely entertaining; his facial expressions got me to chuckle a few times. He did a superb job and I think he has established himself as genuine big screen comedian. On the flip side of that coin, Natasha Henstridge displayed the level of her acting ability, which is somewhere between professional wrestling acting and porn acting. Follow me? She can’t act ladies and gentlemen. Amanda Peete provided a little energy from her minor role as Oz’s dental assistant. She even flashes her bare breasts about an hour and a half into the film for no obvious reason other than to wake up a sleeping audience.

VIDEO TO WATCH FOR: Soylent Green is set in 2022 and accurately illustrates what a decrepit and filthy place the world is going to be if we continue on present course. The movie confirms that there is a problem, but offers little in the way of solutions. That is left up to the viewer. YOU! ME! US!
Want to save money and become a healthier person? Look to the plant kingdom; all around us are herbs and flowers that can be used for medicine, food, cosmetics, and performance.

"When you have your health you have everything", says Judith Bean of Earthwares in Carmel, and she feels that there is something very special about taking care of yourself by using herbs. Humans have utilized herbs throughout history, it is only recently that we have become accustomed to taking over-the-counter and prescription remedies, but in this way we have less knowledge and contact with what goes into or onto our bodies. From male and female energy formulas to strengthening shampoo to recipes for incredible edibles, secrets to better health aren't in medical school but growing in the fields. So how does one learn what to do? The best way is to take a class, it can be very dangerous to go ingesting herbs that you are unfamiliar with, cautions Jeanine Pollak, a renowned local herbalist. Just as you wouldn't mix up a flu medicine with your home chemistry set, it's unwise to go out picking "blind". Pollak, founder of Botanical Adventures in Santa Cruz, has created a unique educational travel company where she and students of all ages go all over the coastal mountains learning how to identify and prepare just about everything growing from the soil. She recently offered a free course - which she does again at various times in the year - as an introduction to folks interested in learning more about the art and science of herbalism. Participants sampled several of her creations, both external and internal, including; muscle and nerve relaxers, immune system boosters, an energy tonic (rumored to be better than Viagra), and one called "Love Potion No. 9". Ms. Pollak is one of several professionals in the Monterey Bay area that use botanicals for health and healing, as herbal remedies are being embraced by our culture as a balanced part of living. The fact is, that plants have always been used in creating medicine, both at home and in the laboratory, and enormous industries have sprung up around the business of making medicine. Judith Bean remarks that large companies offer ready made herbal capsules, but they are never pure herb, and that it is cheaper to buy bulk herbs and fill your own capsules. This, obviously requires an extra step, yet there would be more awareness of what we put into our bodies, and a desire for those things to be natural. By that token, we can look at what we buy for food and health and see that many things can be grown and are already growing around us, such as mint, fennel, rose, rosemary, and plantain, to name a few. Many of us don't have time or money to take more classes, and fewer of us have gardens to grow our herb stash. Fortunately, there are at least fifteen locations around the bay to purchase dried and fresh herbs, three in Salinas. There are many books to find recipes and instructions for preparation, either on-line or in stores. Most suppliers can order any kind of herb even if they don't stock it; some, such as Earthwares, stock well over 500 varieties. Be sure to go with someone who is knowledgeable if you are going out to pick. The most effective way to learn is to take a short course.

Immediate Job Openings!

Household Credit Services is a top ten credit card issuer and an innovative Fortune 500 company offering a generous compensation and benefits package. At our great location in Monterey County, we have the following opportunities:

Customer Service Representatives
Seeking enthusiastic self-starters with strong organizational skills to work with a team of customer care professionals in an energetic telephone service environment. Duties include resolving customer inquiries, and selling Balance Transfer offers and fee-based Products to existing customers. Must have excellent customer service and verbal/written communication skills, and telemarketing sales experience. Must be able to work weekends and evening hours. Part-time and full-time opportunities available.

We offer a generous compensation and benefits package which includes: paid vacation after 90 days, industry-leading 401K plan, and medical/dental/vision/life insurance tuition reimbursement, and incentive pay. On-site fitness center and child care facility available. For consideration, please stop by and fill out an application no later than Monday, March 20th at Household Credit Services, 1441 Schilling Place, Salinas, CA 93901.

www.household.com

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899 - 4557 Seaside / Marina / CSUMB
372 - 1999 Pacific Grove / Monterey
Monterey Bay is offering certification through classes on becoming a sanctuary steward. Save our Shores has been in existence for 50 years now and will be exploring Monterey Bay sanctuary through many activities like kayaking, tide pooling and marine ecology educational seminars. Training includes beach clean ups, boat tours, slide programs, puppet shows and community events. Classes began on Tuesday, February 22, 2000 and will continue for 9 weeks. This program welcomes anyone to join in order to help our shoreline. There is a fee involved; for non-members the fee is $50.00, and includes a book and a year membership. For those who are members the fee is $35.00 and for limited income, students and seniors, the fee is $15.00. The classes are held at First United Methodist Church at 250 California Street, Santa Cruz, California, 95060.

Stewards of the Sanctuary
by Sandra Gaona

Outdoor Recreation
POM: Bldg. 228, Lewis Hall, 242-5506/6133
Mon - Fri 10:30 AM - 2PM; 3 - 6 PM
POMA: Bldg. 4260, Stillwell Community Center, 242-6155
Mon 12-1:30 PM & 3-8 PM, Tue & Thu 4-7 PM,
Wed 12-1:30 PM & 4 - 7:30 PM, Fri 1:30-6 PM

Trips & Tours
March
Sharks vs Carolina Hurricanes
Mar. 4, $45
San Fran. Get Acquainted Tour
Mar. 11, $20
Egyptian Museum San Jose
Mar. 18, $18
Disneyland-Fantas-ia
Mar. 25, $30

April
San Fran. Get Acquainted Tour
Apr. 8, $20
Hearst Castle
Apr. 15, $35
Monterey Wine Tour
Apr. 22, $20
Cirque du Soleil
Apr. 29, $55

May
Intel Museum/Link Observatory
May 6, $20
Oakland As Vs Seattle
May 13, $30
San Fran Get Acquainted Tour
May 20, $20
San Fran. Giants Vs Chicago Cubs
May 27, $30
Disney Magic Tour
May 27, $199

The Outdoor Recreation Office will arrange private tour packages for anywhere in California, for groups of eight or more. Call 242-5506/6133.

SCUBA - Open House
at ODR Recreation Center
Thursday, March 16 from 6pm-9pm
Everyone Welcome!!
Door prizes, Catered Snacks, Meet divers, & instructors
RSVP encouraged to Joanne@ 372-9235

Kelp Climbers Dive Club
Meets on the last Thursday of every month.

www.pom-odr.com

Rental Equipment
Water Sports, Boats (Ocean & Lake),
Camping, Vans, Skiing, Fishing,
SCUBA, Rollerblades, Bikes, Camping,
Golf Clubs, Trailers, and Buses
Powerboats and Kayaks
are available on the water at the
Monterey Coast Guard Pier.

Adventures Sports
Backpacking Classes
Rock Climbing
(Indoor Rock Climbing Gym)
Kayaking Classes
Hang Gliding Classes
Sky Diving Classes
Paragliding Classes
Bicycle Tours
Surfing Classes
Sailboard Classes
Paintball

Ski Trips
CSUMB Spring Break
Spring Break Trip
March 20-23
$199 per person

CSUMB March Madness
March 2-5, 10-12
March 17-19, 24-26
3 nights lodging
2 days skiing
$149 per person

CSUMB One Day Ski Trip
Mar. 4, 11, 18, 25 & Apr. 1
$199 per person
All trips include round trip transportation, hotel lodging (double occupancy), lift tickets and ski equipment. Ski school, and snowboards are available for an additional fee. Family ski packages are also available. CSUMB Facitally, Staff, Students and Family Members.

Discount Tickets
Local Movie Theaters
Monterey Bay Aquarium
Disneyland, Great America,
Santa Cruz Beach
& Boardwalk, Universal
Studios, Marine World Africa
USA, Winchester Mystery
House, Raging Waters,
Magic Mountain, San Diego
Zoo & More!

Lake Tahoe Lodging
Discount hotel/motel lodging, condo and cabin rentals are available through Outdoor Recreation. Ask about holiday special rates.

Speciality Programs
Discount/Amusement/Movie Tickets
Charter Bus Service
Group Tours
Hotel Bookings
RV Storage

Moss Landing
by Benjamin Smith

It flies by in the blink of an eye, yet if you slow down just a little, Moss Landing will pull you in for a closer look. Perhaps the large smokestacks capture our attention so we forget that there is also a small town. Across the highway is a blend of local cultures, plus some elements unique unto themselves. Few places on Earth can boast such a heavy concentration of antique merchants, and if you can visualize it sitting in your house, you can probably find it here. Among the best lost treasures are the thousands of old and used books at Yesterday's Books, which purveys literature from travel stories of the 1800's to the International Book of Beer Can Collecting. Rose, the canine socialite, may greet you when you come by. On sunny days, locals and tourists alike rent boats from Monterey Bay Kayaks, who offer classes and guided tours up Elkhorn Slough. The fourth Saturday of every month is their free demo day, where paddlers can test drive the boats they sell. In town are also several options for charter tours, both for sightseeing and fishing. A popular lunch spot for local students is Phil's Snack Shack, a colorful deli serving all kinds of smoothies and cold treats. Head over to Phil's Fish Market to see part of the fishing industry in action, where the catch of the day is brought in and chopped up right by the dinner table.

While many of the folks in town are fishermen or marine scientists, you don't have to be either to need an excuse to come over. When nighttime rolls around, stop by the Moss Landing Inn for a little jazz music and the ceiling made of money. Further exploration will lead to the Bear Flag bar, truly a visual experience, and one that almost defies description - think road signs. Dinner possibilities abound, and all except the Fish Market are along the highway. The Lighthouse Harbor Grille and The Whole Enchilada are the most obvious, but don't miss the Oyster Bay and Moss Landing Cafe just down the street. Come with an appetite and an appreciation for busy dining rooms. Night or day, there is always some form of entertainment in this little community, check it out next time you're in the neighborhood. Or, you can always admire the power plant as you speed past.
In the Snow
by Sophia Bianchi

Spring Break is a longtime tradition for college students throughout the country. After finally making it through half of the semester most students like to spend their vacation time baking under the hot sun in places like Cancun or Lake Havasu. However, there are those who choose to spend their break riding the slopes. There is not a better time then now to go chase that powder. Ski resorts like Alpine, Kirkwood, and Mammoth are open 100% with snow depths ranging from 180-300.

If you’re itching to hit the snow but have to budget check out Open Forum under Outdoor Recreation are special ski trip rates that CSUMB is offering throughout the month of March. There is a trip specifically set up for CSUMB’s spring break. The dates are March 20-23, the price is $199 per person.

If your lucky enough to make it up to the snow this spring break take full advantage of snow and the mountains and stay warm.

My Box!!!
by Marisa Mercado

Student Voice Resolution:
Against the Closure of the Black Box Cabaret

WHEREAS the Black Box Cabaret has helped and continues to support independent student ventures such as musical performances, art shows, and other forms of creative expression which are vital to a well-rounded educational experience, and;

WHEREAS the Vision Statement of CSUMB calls for a university paradigm that is both "student and society-centered," which the Black Box Cabaret (herein referred to as the BBC) unquestionably represents, and;

WHEREAS the CSUMB cabinet, on February 21st, 2000 made a final decision to close the BBC without student input or representation, and;

WHEREAS the student body has shown a whole-hearted support for the BBC through a rally in which 225 people marched to show their support, and as of Friday, February 25th, 2000, 600 students, faculty, staff, and members of the Monterey Community have signed a petition to keep the BBC open, and;

WHEREAS the financial cost of renovating the BBC is more than justified when taking into account the priceless individual growth that occurs on and off it's stage, and;

WHEREAS the BBC is a necessary venue for small to medium sized events.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Student Voice is committed to representing the student body of CSUMB by supporting the BBC Coalition solely in decisions pertaining to keeping the BBC open as outlined in sections 1, 2, and 4 in the BBC Coalition Actions. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Student Voice officially supports keeping the BBC open. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this action will be communicated to the Monterey Herald, the Coast Weekly, and other local media outlets through the form of a press release.
Senior Basketball Players
Close out their careers
by Chris Lee

With the end of the 1999-2000 men’s basketball season came the end of a career for some senior basketball players. Jon Breazeal, Will Chavarin, Taqi Tirmazi, and Noah Winters will never play college basketball again, a fact which provoked mixed emotions from the players. Taqi said it made him feel “kind of empty inside,” while Jon said, “I knew it would end sometime.”

In their final season this senior class knew from the start they would be counted on to lead the team both on and off the court; a challenge the players responded to with relative ease. Throughout the season, whenever the Otters needed a big play, they usually called on one of the seniors to deliver, and whether it was Jon with a big steal, Will or Noah pulling in clutch rebounds, or Taqi nailing a critical jump shot, they delivered! Coach McClintock was impressed all season with the way they led the team on the court saying, “We had good senior leadership all year long, and that was really important.”

All of the seniors played a large part in the success of this year’s team, the fact that they led on the court, was only half the story of their impact. Whether making sure the team wasn’t distracted while on road trips, or playing hard in practices, the seniors led by example. The Otters encountered some tough times during the season but the senior leaders were there to help the team remain positive. Will Chavarin said he tried to talk to them about their individual responsibilities, I would also let them know I was behind them.”

Jon Breazeal could be seen consistently hitting jump shots this season, as well as harassing opponents on defense. Jon, who is from Arcadia, CA, played two seasons for the Otters after transferring from California State University Fullerton, where he also played basketball. In his final season he averaged 12 points and shot 45% from the field. Jon is pursuing his BA in Liberal Studies. His most memorable moment as an Otter was “Winning the conference tournament and being the first team sport in CSUMB history to go to the Nationals.”

One of the Otters most vocal leaders was point guard Taqi Tirmazi, who played two seasons for CSUMB. This past season he passed for over fifty assists, and impressed many with his leadership ability, including coach McClintock who said, “Taqi was a leader for us both on and off the court.”

His biggest moment in an Otters uniform came this season in the last game of the season when he hit a three-point shot to send the game to overtime. Taqi commented, “That game was real cool.”

Will Chavarin transferred from Clarke University in Atlanta to play for CSUMB, which is much closer to his hometown of Oakland, Ca. This season will end the Otters in bounting with seven per game, and also made 50% of his shots from the floor. He will earn his BA in Liberal Studies, in December of 2000 after which he will become a teacher in his old community. Will’s most fond memory of playing for the Otters was this season’s home finale, “Hearing our bench with the yells of the crowd in our last home game. That support really helped our team to win the game.”

Only one person can go down in history as the first four-year player at basketball, and his name is Noah Winters. Noah made his final season his finest as he averaged 14 points 6 rebounds and shot 47% from the field. Coach McClintock agreed saying, “Noah was strong for us all year long.” He says he remembers the good and bad times playing for CSUMB, but his greatest memory is when he dunked in the last home game of his career. “In my last home game as an Otter, I got the only home dunk of the year, my first and last dunk of the season.”

Will receive his BS in Computer Science and Technology in the Spring of 2000. These former college basketball players all agreed on one thing regarding the end of their careers: although they are sad to see their college basketball careers end, they are all looking forward to graduating and beginning new chapters in life. As Will Chavarin put it, “I had a lot of fun, now it’s time to take care of real life situations.” These seniors and their leadership will be missed as they advance in life, but the CSUMB community will always remember their accomplishments.

Lady Otters
Headed in the Right Direction
by Chris Lee

Last season there was no women’s basketball team at CSUMB, so coming the 1999-2000 season, all anyone knew was simply that women’s basketball would be played at CSUMB.

Dave Carmichael, who previously coached at Sacramento City College, was hired as the head women’s basketball coach in July of 1999. Even he didn’t know what to expect, from his team, because none of the Lady Otters were recruited by him.

Entering the season, coach Carmichael felt the team, “didn’t have a lot of athletic ability.” Some players decided to sit out this year, which the Coach believed changed the complexion of the team, “with those players in, we go to another level.”

Nevertheless, the Lady Otters began the season on a roll going 5-2 in their first seven games. The team was healthy and playing with a lot of energy in those games, coach Carmichael was encouraged by the fast start... “Those first few games were against weaker teams, but they helped us to build some confidence.” The first victory of the year against Westmont College, was also the first victory in the brief history of women’s basketball at CSUMB. “That first win was huge for us,” Carmichael describes. Player Odessa Greggans was more explicit saying, “After the game was great, I have never had a victory so sweet!”

After their fast start, the team began to play some much tougher competition, which led to five consecutive defeats, including the conference opener versus Cal State Hayward. The Lady Otters clearly had less depth and chemistry than those teams, but they lost many of those games by a close margin. The Lady Otters had to stick together and play hard for success, and as they realized this, the team began to play better.

In the beginning of the season, many of the players had trouble adjusting to the new offensive and defensive systems. All the players came from different systems, so they all needed time to learn the new system. Once they began to grasp the concepts, the team began to win again. As the Head Coach said, “They saw the joy of the team.”

This “joy” led the team to consecutive victories against College of Notre Dame and Bethany Bible College. The victories raised the Lady Otters overall record to 7-7 for the season. From this point on, the Otters season was a roller coaster ride, as the team would win a few games, then lose a few, then win a few, and so on.

As the season wore on, the team lost some players to both injuries and academic woes. These setbacks depleted an already thin roster. There were only seven players available for the final three games. As forward Malia Johnson said, “In the very beginning there were about 14 players, then ten, then eight, our last games with seven players.”

Despite the up and down season, the Lady Otters still had a chance to make the playoffs with two games left in the season. They faced Bethany Bible College in the final home game, whom they defeated despite only having seven players available for the game. A victory in the season finale, would guarantee CSUMB a playoff spot. The Lady Otters would have to defeat Menlo College, the league’s best team, to reach the playoffs. The team played hard, but didn’t have enough depth to match up with Menlo. The defeat left the team with a record of 12-14, and tied for third place in the conference. The top three teams make the playoffs, so a tie-breaker was used to determine who would go. The Lady Otters fell short in the tie-breaker, but did well to compete all season.

Referendum to Separate Student Voice Fees
by Kevin Racine

Wednesday, March 15, in the CSUMB Dining Commons, voting will take place on the Student Voice Fee Referendum. Currently, each student pays a mandatory Materials, Services, and Facilities fee of $5 per year as part of tuition. 1999 was the first year this was allocated to Student Voice through university accounts. If passed by a 2 to 1 vote, this referendum would allow the $5 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, Shara Nassam 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 Allocate Student Voice fees for the 1999-2000 academic year. A mandatory Associated Student Body fee of $5 per academic year ($5 per semester) should be established to support the program and operations of the Associated Students of CSUMB also know as Student Voice. The associated students’ allocation should be held in a separate trust account that will allow students to roll over at the end of each fiscal year. The recommended modification of the fee structure should be effective with the 1999-2000 semester.

SEASON LEADERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WOMEN</th>
<th>MEN</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>points (per game):</td>
<td>Chris Pope 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>assists (total):</td>
<td>Holli Lines 133</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rebounds (per game):</td>
<td>Odessa Greggans 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pt shots made:</td>
<td>Chris Pope 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total made (minimum 10 attempts):</td>
<td>Peggy Hudson 24%</td>
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<tr>
<td>field goals % shooting:</td>
<td>Odessa Greggans 45%</td>
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Overall, Coach Carmichael was pleased with his team’s performance this season, saying, “We played hard, and stuck together all season.” Many of the players including Peggy Hudson felt good about the season as well, “Overall, we played well, considering we weren’t really used to playing with one another.”

Coach Carmichael said he is recruiting all types of players, but specifically wants to bring in freshman who can play four years for CSUMB. “My vision is to try to bring in as many freshman as possible, and build.” He is also looking to add some size to next year’s team from the junior college level.

Considering the fact that last year there was no women’s basketball team, and the year before, they lost every game, to come within a tie-breaker of the playoffs is a testament to both the players and coaching staff. The team is definitely headed in a positive direction, and has set a firm foundation to build on next year.
Hip-Hop 101
by Andrew Rogers

"Where were you the day hip-hop died?" Black Star asked the Santa Cruz crowd. To the left side of the floor, "Is it too early to mourn?", then the right, "Is it too late to riot?". This was the scene Friday, March 3 at the Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium when Mos Def and Talib Kweli, known as Black Star, took the stage. The Schools Not Jails benefit for the No on Proposition 21 cause featured Ozomali, Meshell N'Degeocello, and of course Black Star. When Mos Def and Talib Kweli finally hit the stage at ten o'clock I was pleased to hear that J-Rocc of the Beat Junkies was sitting in on the one's and two's. Kweli immediately told the crowd that he and Mos had not performed together since last September. It was obvious they didn't have much of a set planned out, but these guys improvise pretty well. Any truly live hip-hop show with no DAT is bound to have mistakes, but that's almost the beauty of it.

Black Star fed the hungry crowd solo joints as well as classics from their collective album. Kweli blew me away with his new single "The Express" in which he states, "ya'll niggas tickle me like Elmo". The highlight of Black Star's two-hour set was the improv. There were a few times where J-Rocc would throw down some vintage beat and Mos Def would just spit a few minutes worth of lyrics nobody's ever heard before. When Mos finished he persuaded Kweli to do the same, and this dude spit some of the sickest rhymes I've ever heard. I looked over and even Mos Def was standing with his jaw wide open in admiration.

New/Upcoming Releases: On Common's soon to be released Like Water For Chocolate, the Chicago emcee proves once again that soulful expression and artistic integrity have their place in hip-hop. The new album, due out March 20, is Common's fourth full-length LP, and could go down as his best. With it's jazzy horns, tribal beats, and psychedelic rhymes, the opening cut entitled "Time Travelin'" shows just why Common is a man seeking to stretch the boundaries of hip-hop at the turn of the century. The album's hottest joint is no doubt it's first single, "The Sixth Sense". The track's production credit goes to none other than DJ Premier, who once again steals the show with the sickest beat on the album. Primo for president, nuff said. On "Sunshine" Common shows that you can still be a dope emcee and talk about true love, which is a refreshing break from "big booty hoes". The next to last track, "Cold Blooded" is probably Common's tightest lyrical display on the album in which his "over the average cat's head" style is most evident. Like his previous works, the new album could definitely be called introspective, but I thought it was much rawer in the respect of simply showcasing Common's incredible talent in the area of rhyme skills. With other song's featuring guest appearances by D'Angelo, Mos Def, and Cee-Lo from Goodie Mob, "Like Water For Chocolate" is a must buy for any hip-hop junkie.

Another highly anticipated release, "Worldwide" from Diggin' in the Crates (DITC), came out February 22. The late Big L easily outshines his eminent counterparts on DITC's latest effort. The album's first joint, "Thick" shows once again why DJ Premiere is the best producer in hip-hop. Big L's dope lyrics and smooth delivery are a perfect match to Primo's beats, and it's a tragedy they'll never be able to collaborate again. Premiere also blesses a remix of "Ebonics", another reminder of Big L's incredible talent. Both tracks you should keep on the corner for. As always, be sure to check out the Venn diagram Peep, Primo, and the late Big Pan. True rhyme connoisseurs should peep Pun's verse, simply mind-boggling.

"Worldwide" is a dope album, but I do have some gripe. After listening to it a few times I felt similar to the way I did after listening to Biggie's "Born Again". "Worldwide" makes me feel slightly shorted. I mean, from a crew featuring the skills of O.C., Showbiz & A.G., Diamond, Fat Joe, Buckwild, Lord Finesse, and the late Big L I expect all new material. Six of the album's songs, or at least rhymes, were from previous DITC-related releases. "Day One" and "The Enemy" are definite standouts on the track list, but I've heard this shit before (three years ago). Don't get me wrong, for the average hip-hop head this album serves as a great chance to catch up on DITC and see what's all about. They certainly have delivered a compilation of classics serving as a great tribute to Big L. I just think this elite crew should be able to hold down a full album without digging in their own crates for old material to simply update and regurgitate.

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**HOROSCOPES**

For entertainment purposes, courtesy of igniro.com

**PIECES** (3/21-4/20) This week will be successful in every respect. There could be new projects and interesting trips on the horizon.

**ARIES** (3/21-5/20) You will be helped by increasing organizing talent. There will be unexpected opportunities for realization of personal plans.

**TAURUS** (5/21-6/21) It is necessary to consider your work more balanced and critically. At the same time your ambitions will unreasonably increase.

**GEMINI** (6/22-7/22) There could be events. There will be reasons to scold and praise yourself. Protect the integrity of your influential friends.

**LEO** (7/23-8/23) This week this you will have to work tensely, receiving from this process minimal satisfaction. Try to maintain mellow tones both internally and externally.

**VIRGO** (8/24-9/23) You will participate in an activity showing you have healthy professional ambitions. Your positive qualities will receive recognition.

**LIBRA** (9/24-10/23) Be careful of carelessness, unusual for you. It would be best to double check everything this week.

**SCORPIO** (10/24-11/23) Be attentive both to your own actions, and to the acts of your colleagues. It will help you to prevent unpleasant situations.

**SAGITTARIUS** (11/23-12/21) Devoting yourself to work, do not forget about your personal interests. Such behavior will affect everyone close to you.

**CAPRICORN** (12/22-1/20) Expect an overall quiet week, it will definitely be better this way. Your friends will help you to smooth things over with your significant other.

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