Where is the Black Box Cabaret, the informal forum for students, faculty, and administration alike? Sitting on a paper waiting in line to be put into motion. Instead, projects more important to administration have taken precedence. During initial planning, the renovation project for the Black Box was estimated to take one semester and $341,000. Over the course of one summer, these numbers have ballooned to a $600,000 tab and a one year completion time.

Students can remember the marches of last February, walking from the University Center to the Black Box, chanting "my box, my choice". Students can remember the speakers, Brandon Blomquist, Phil Esparza, Carlos Gonzales. For those that cannot remember, on February 24th, over two hundred and twenty five students who were walking for a cause marched to save the BBC. The protests were loud, the speeches louder, the call to action the loudest. It was at this meeting, the announcement of the "Black Box Cabaret Coalition" was given -- a committee whose sole purpose was to breathe life into the BBC and fight for its reconstruction. They have done their part, now it's our turn.

Since May, however, that forum has vanished, and along with it the student talent that could only have been a part of the Black Box. And what was the reason for the closure? The building could not comply with necessary code compliance of today. Without consultation of the student body, the BBC was brought to a close. "The Cabinet concurred with that recommendation [of the Campus Planning and Development office] and the decision was then made public," said Kevin Saunders, a representative of the Foundation. The failure to incorporate Student Voice in the events surrounding the closure of the Black Box has prevented the student body from starting on plans to reconstruct the BBC sooner. Instead, the Black Box Coalition could not be formed until the official announcement. The reaction to the close was more than anyone could have expected. Hundreds of students rallied in protest. "Save the BBC" flyers were posted everywhere, and speeches to save the BBC were given in the Black Box itself.

The university does have its alternatives, however. The Student Center, referred to as the "Brady Bunch Club" by Felix Dilger has provided some modicum of entertainment, although not to the standards established by the Black Box. To the students for whom the Black Box had become a part of their lives however, the Student Center is nothing more than a university building.

The same holds true for the World Theatre and University Center. Only at the BBC were students given free reign of the stage, the ability to perform impromptu if they so desired. Instead, students must file forms, and wait usually a month before being able to secure either of these two buildings. As a solution to this lack of an "open mic", students have begun holding their own open mic sessions in the 203 quad, almost protesting their inability to hold the sessions within the Black Box Cabaret.

But the protests, the flyers, the speeches all ultimately paid off in the end result. The Black Box Cabaret, CSUMB's own coffee house / pub will once more be available to students.

The plans are being drawn for renovation, the Student Union Fee Referendum has been approved, giving the school the money it needs, so why will the BBC not be available to students until the Fall 2001 semester? "It is not a priority to them," said Aaron Bilyeu. "Nowhere in the plans was it mentioned it would take a year. It ended up taking to the back burner." In fact, initial estimates done by contractors on behalf of the planning commission claimed that the reconstruction of the Black Box was half of the current totals: only $341,000 dollars and one semester worth of work. For many students who fought for the Black Box, they will graduate, and Fall 2001 won't be soon enough.

The students demand the Black Box back.

Photos: http://csumb.edu/otter
The Otter Realm  September 27, 2000  2

Experience JAPAN!

✓ a chance to live and work in Japan!
✓ open to grads of ANY major!
✓ does NOT require Japanese language ability!

Come and learn more!
Graduate and Professional School Day
Date: Tuesday, October 17, 2000
Time: 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Place: University Center

JET Program!
1 (800)INFO-JET • jet@cgjsf.org
http://www.cgjsf.org/jet

International Programs
by Melissa Delliens

California State University, Monterey Bay promotes diversity and multiculturalism. What better way to learn about these values than traveling and studying in another country? The International Program provides students with this opportunity. The International Program was started thanks to the efforts of Dr. Robina Bhatti (Global Studies Director) and Claudia Rico (International Programs Coordinator). When asked how the International Programs was started, Dr. Bhatti replied, “In fall 1997 I was elected as CSUMB faculty representative to the CSU wide Academic Council on International Programs and then to its Student Affairs Committee which does the final selections of all CSU students for International Programs. At the same time Claudia Rico was appointed International Programs Coordinator for CSUMB. Between us we advised a number of students; received 5 applications for fall and selected all 5. I followed these in my Student Affairs Committee in the Chancellors office at Long Beach and all 5 of our students were accepted for fall 1998. Claudia Rico was wonderful in helping students get all their paperwork together and the Financial Aid office was wonderful in working with our students.” And so the International Program was started.

How does one get involved with the International Programs? Students must have declared a major and completed their Major ProSeminar class. For most students, this means they can study abroad their Junior Year. Merlyn Calderon, a returning senior was registered. New students, by the way, represent a population who could benefit. Everything is much more personal.” Merlyn always knew she wanted to travel in Italy, Italy. Merlyn always knew she wanted to see the Coliseum in Rome, and to learn about lifestyles of different cultures. “When I got back, people noticed how I had changed on the inside, and those are the most dramatic changes.” If you are interested in studying abroad, please contact Dr. Robina Bhatti or Dan Olney.

Thank You,
Dana Marsh  Nancy Phillips  Fernando Hernandez
Dan Olney  Autumn Aubergine  Molly McCormick
Aaron Bilyeu  Katherine Phillips  Laurel Leonetti
Miguel Carrillo  Jose Curbelo  Hossien Koch
Laurel Leonetti  Global Percussion Students

To: Richard Bains
RE: Reinstatement of MPA 309

Sept 15, 2000

To our shock and dismay, we learned that the Music Department cancelled this excellent class and reduced it to one day a month clinic. There were 8 students enrolled in the class and this was before the Freshman and Sophomores were registered. New students, by the way, represent a population who could completely benefit from a class that teaches the one truly multi-cultural language, with drumming traditions existing in most ethnic groupings on every single continent on our planet. The new students deserved to have one class they could attend that has been able to meet so many needs.

We know that the Music Department has run classes with as few as 4 students. The idea that on a campus supposedly devoted to Diversity and building coalitions between the various ethnic and gender groups, there is not enough money to afford the one class teaching the truly universal language—Well!—that just seems absurd!!!

As students at a University, we are learning to accurately identify problems and to create viable progressive solutions. We therefore invite the wisdom and foresight that informed the vision of CSUMB to help us to correct yet another violation to our stated Mission.

There is one element common to the personal and collective communication processes of all peoples on every continent. This common practice has a history going back over 10,000 years depending on which oral histories one can study. It is the one practice ALL peoples on every continent have used for survival, communication, medicine, social communion, spiritual worship and just plain fun. This practice is drumming.

We were fortunate enough to have one of the world’s leading drummers, percussionist, composer, performer, educator, healer practitioners, Babatunde Lea, teaching both the spirit and the many skills of community drumming. Students reported learning benefits way beyond that of the drumming from this totally dedicated and remarkable professor. We learned:

1) a practice of discipline that could be carried over to all of our academic and career endeavors,
2) respect for ourselves and others in the learning and discovery process,
3) how to use our natural abilities to relieve stress and release behaviors that sabotage our lives,
4) how to integrate creativity with our careers and our social responsibilities just for starters.

We could observe, some of us for the first time up close, an adult who operates with ethics, honesty, accountability, respect, caring, encouragement, and the guts to walk his talk.

We have a great need at CSUMB for activities to promote community inclusive of everyone.

We are certain that the Music Department, rather than endure scrutiny about the funds in the budget, could somehow locate the moneys to continue a class that has so much potential to be a beacon for the Monterey Bay community at large.

This must occur. We have the students—we need this class.

Aaron Bilyeu
Dan Olney
Dana Marsh
Melissa Dellens
Fernando Hernandez
Molly McCormick
Laurel Leonetti
Hossien Koch
Global Percussion Students
This summer forty-two incoming CSUMB freshmen were involved with the Summer Bridge Program. This was a six week program where the students were involved with courses such as writing, math, and technology. This was a great experience for them to make the transition from high school to college and to get a sense of what college classes are really like. These students all received Compaq laptop computers as part of a pilot wireless program. The students were chosen by the University to help pilot this program. Lev Gonick, Chief Technology Officer of CSUMB said, "The Summer Bridge students received the notebook computers because the University was looking for a pilot group that would allow us to scientifically find out how students are going to use flexible, wireless technology in their learning. This set of students also met the criteria of high-need financial aid students." CSUMB paid for the laptops used by the Summer Bridge students. The cost of the notebooks was $999 per notebook. The cost for the wireless card technology varies from $129-$209. "A total of 42 wireless laptops were ordered for the Summer Bridge program which are on a semester-at-a-time loan," Gonick also says, "The University is heading in a direction to recommend that all students on the campus be strongly encouraged to acquire wireless Laptops. Raymond Gonzales, pro-seminar instructor for the Summer Bridge students says, "the students didn't expect the laptops and they didn't ask for them. They will eventually have to return their computers unless they buy them. If anything happens to their computer they will have to pay about $500." Regarding the talk about these students getting computers Gonick says, "In general there has been very positive response to the campus investment in wireless infrastructure. Dozens of Faculty and staff are also using wireless notebooks acquired under the university program. Dozens of students have acquired wireless PC cards and are using them across the campus.

Confused about accreditation? Want to know how you can get involved in the process? Read on.

What is WASC?
A social insect known for its nasty sting? A secret conspiratorial branch of the government? Just another bloody acronym? Well, yes, but this time not of CSUMB's making, WASC stands for the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, and is our regional accrediting commission.

What is accreditation?
Accreditation is a peer review process through WASC ensuring the continual improvement of education and cooperation among educational institutions and agencies.

Why is accreditation important?
Whether or not CSUMB is accredited can potentially have an effect on things like financial aid funds for the institution, course credit transfers outside the CSU system and the state of California, military funding and student loan payment programs, Fullbright scholars, and teacher credentials. Accreditation is a voluntary process – no institution has to go through it. But it would be in the best interest of CSUMB's students and faculty for the university to become accredited. Accreditation certifies to other educational institutions and to the general public that an institution meets or exceeds established standards and is achieving its own stated objectives.

Why is CSUMB not accredited yet?
CSUMB is a young institution and obtaining initial accreditation is a multi-year, 3-phase process - there are no shortcuts. CSUMB began the process in 1994 when it was granted eligibility status by the WASC commission. In 1998, the university was recognized as a candidate for accreditation, and is up for an extension of candidacy visit in October of this year. The final review visits for initial accreditation will take place in 2002, and the commission review and decision will be made in June 2003. If accreditation processes go, CSUMB is right on schedule.

WILL CSUMB'S accreditation status affect the value of my degree?
Each of the degree programs offered by CSUMB has been approved by the CSU and endorsed by the California Postsecondary Education Commission (CPEC) as required by law. Any student graduating from CSUMB has been awarded a CSU and CPEC-approved degree.

What's all this about an Extension of Candidacy Visit?
The Extension of Candidacy visit is kind of like a "check-up" visit. WASC wants to make sure that CSUMB is making significant progress since the last visit in 1997, and that the university will be ready for initial accreditation in 2002. The visit is scheduled for October 18-20. WASC has revised the standards that it uses to evaluate institutions. The new standards are outcomes-based and are organized around issues of Capacity and Educational Effectiveness. The team will be asking questions like: How is the university scaling up to serve more students? How have the Vision and Core Values been built into programs? How does the university know students are learning what it thinks they're learning? Does CSUMB have sufficient resources to sustain its educational program and support student learning?

Two documents were prepared for the visit in order to address these questions and more. The Extension of Candidacy Report updates the reader on CSUMB's progress and challenges since 1997, and is available on special reserve in the library. The Extension of Candidacy Portfolios are a series of briefing papers and supporting documentation addressing specific areas related to Capacity and Educational Effectiveness: Strategic Planning, Fiscal Stability, Organizational Structure and Process, Institutional Integrity, Learning Effectiveness, and Student Support. These briefing papers are available via the WASC conference on FirstClass.

Who will be evaluating CSUMB?
There will be a team of four evaluators plus a representative from WASC on campus for the Extension of Candidacy visit Oct. 18-20. They are: Judith Ramaley, President of the University of Vermont; Deborah Olsen, Director of Institutional Research and Planning from the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University; Lindsey Desrosers, Sr. Vice Chancellor for Capital Resources & Treasurer for the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, and a fourth member still to be determined. The WASC representative will be Gregory Scott.

After the visit, what's next?
After the visit, CSUMB will begin preparations for an in-depth self-study to be completed before the next visit in 2002. Students, faculty, and staff will be participating in committees focused on answering specific and probing questions around Capacity and Educational Effectiveness outlined in the Self-Study Proposal for Initial Accreditation. The resulting analytical essays and supporting evidence will be submitted to WASC for review.

How can students get involved?
First, get informed! There is a WASC conference folder on everyone's FirstClass desktop. There you will find general information about the WASC Project, directions on how to view a copy of the Extension of Candidacy Report, the full text of the Portfolio briefing papers, and the Self-Study Proposal for Initial Accreditation. Questions and comments can either be posted to WASC1@monterey.edu, or posted directly to the conference.

There will also be opportunities for students to interact with the WASC team while they are on campus. On October 18-20, there will be two open sessions for students to talk directly with the team. Also, the team will have a confidential email account for on-campus students and distance learners to post comments and questions directly to them. More information about the team's schedule and email address will be made available closer to the visit date.

Under the Army's Loan Repayment program, you could get out from under with a three-year enlistment.

Each year you serve on active duty reduces your indebtedness by one-third or $1,500, whichever amount is greater, up to a $65,000 limit.

The offer applies to Perkins Loans, Stafford Loans, and certain other federally insured loans, which are not in default.

And debt relief is just one of the many benefits you'll earn from the Army. Ask your Army Recruiter.

1-800-USA-ARMY
ARMY. BE ALL YOU CAN BE.®
www.goarmy.com

WHEN YOUR RECRUITER ASKS 'WHY THE ARMY?'
YOU SAY 'WANT TO BE PART OF THE GREATEST TEAM ON EARTH?'
What is your favorite Olympic event and why?

“I like swimming and gymnastics because it’s never on television.”
Eric Chavez, TMAC

“I like women’s gymnastics because it is absolutely amazing the way they flip their bodies.”
Raquel Godinez, TAT

“I like the exercises in gymnastics-both men and women. The uneven bars, balance beam, floor exercise, vault for women and the horse rocks for men! It shows a high level of athletic range, agility, teamwork, incredible strength and concentration. I would one day like to see my brother or sister competing as Olympians.”
Abraham Anaya, Integrated Studies

“I like water polo because that is what I played and it is an awesome sport.”
Francois Pepin, TMAC

“I like gymnastics because the way they perform and prepare their techniques to finish perfectly.”
Karina Sanchez, MIE

New “Kid” on the Block
by Tracy Anne Burke

Here’s a puzzle for you: what do Academic Senate, Advising and Articulation, ASAP, Graduate Studies, Integrated Studies, Migrant Student Support Services, Pro-Seminar, Service Learning, Writing Programs, the Panetta Institute and ULRs all have in common? Well, they are now just a few things keeping Dr. Henry E. Villanueva, Associate Vice President of Academic Programs and Learning Support, occupied since he began his new position August 11, 2000.

Dr. Villanueva joins CSUMB most recently from CSU Hayward where he served as Executive Director of Student Academic Services. Dr. Villanueva has also served as Director of the CSU Fresno College of the Sequoias Off-Campus Center.

“Anything that has to do with university wide issues, from an academic perspective are areas I am involved in,” responded Dr. Villanueva when asked what exactly his title meant. “Working university-wide is also very attractive [to me] because it delves into areas that really touch all the corners of the campus in a way that you can influence the way they are going to shape up and do well,” finishes Villanueva.

Dr. Villanueva is joining a team that has already been working together at fulfilling the Vision Statement. From Dr. Villanueva’s perspective, CSUMB is fulfilling the Vision. “I’d definitely give CSUMB a B+ in its efforts so far,” states Villanueva. Dr. Villanueva knows that there are those who are concerned about whether the university is fulfilling its Vision, but he believes that CSUMB is truly reaching towards its goal.

“I chose to come to CSUMB, I had other options but I wanted to be a part of this university,” said Villanueva. Dr. Villanueva talked about how he had never known the feeling of really wanting to work somewhere before coming to CSUMB. When he thought about working at CSUMB, he knew it was the best decision. “I just felt it.” he finished.

Dr. Villanueva’s decision came from an educated background and a deep involvement in the CSU system over the last eighteen years or so. He received his Ed.D in Educational Leadership from the University of California, Davis, his M.S. from the University of Wisconsin in Counseling and Guidance and his B.A. from CSU Northridge in Mexican-American Studies.

Dr. Villanueva feels very fortunate and grateful to be a part of this school. He truly believes we have something special going on here. “I really like the level of enthusiasm and the level of passion and commitment, not just amongst the faculty and staff but amongst the students as well. This is a very unique place. There is a real sense of almost urgency to do the right thing and work at it. The students are challenging the status quo and that doesn’t happen at your typical university.”

The Otter Realm would like to welcome Dr. Henry Villanueva and looks forward to continued improvement to the CSUMB learning support programs under Dr. Villanueva’s leadership.
This year the CSUMB sports program brings a new team to the ranks of NAIA competition, in the form of women's golf. After two successful years of men's golf, which saw two tours to the NAIA National Golf Championships, it was time to field a women's team that could do the same. Under the guidance of CSUMB Director of Golf, Bill Paulson, Clyde Folk, a former Army man and Golf Rules Official for 20 years, stepped in to coach the team.

Since there hasn't been a team for women to play on in the past, Folk, with the help of Paulson, had to go out and find women who could play competitive golf for CSUMB. Their recruitment efforts were successful; they put together a team of players from a variety of different backgrounds and experience levels.

They brought in Autumn Aquinaldo a junior from Salinas. Gina Battaglia is a junior transfer from Davis, CA who played golf for American River College of Sacramento. Freshmen who joined the team are Allison Furgeson from Oakley, CA and Stephanie Shinno from Lihue, Hawaii. The team recently added Courtney Porras, who played women's basketball for the Otters last season.

When asked about the team, Coach Folk said, "We really appreciate the courage of these girls to walk on to a new program like this. We have some good girls here, but we are also still looking for players so we can have more depth."

The women's team, along with their men's counterpart, has been getting great support from the community lately. The team has hired swing coach Nick Nelson from Bayonet and Black Horse, and has also been offered help from Laid Smail, head teacher at the Pebble Beach Teaching Academy. Physical Therapist Charles E. Krapata P.T., ATC out of Carmel has offered his services to help out the team in any way possible.

"It is a great benefit to the program to have these people help us. We want to express our appreciation to the community for all their support," Coach Folk stated.

The women will have to quickly prepare for the season as they are jumping right into major college golf competition. On September 23rd, the team is leaving for Belton, Texas to compete in a tournament hosted by the defending NCAA women's national golf champions Mary-Hardin Baylor College. Mary-Hardin Baylor's tournament will include 8 NCAA Division III women's teams, and other NAIA squads including CSU San Marcos and Oklahoma Baptist.

The tournament will be held on two courses: Mill Creek Club in Salado and Sammons Park Golf Course in Temple, towns both neighboring Belton.

The women also have four other tournaments this semester. They will be competing in three California Pacific Conference tournaments, the conference CSUMB competes in under the NAIA. The women's team will host their first Invitational at Bayonet and Black Horse courses starting November 2.

Teams already scheduled to come are: Cal-Poly SLO, Gonzaga University, Williamette University, and CSU Sacramento. Lewis & Clark College which finished eleventh in the NAIA will be coming along with the University of British Columbia which finished second in the NAIA last year. The defending NCAA Division I National Champions, the University of Arizona will be sending their second team.

This event will be a big coming out for the CSUMB Women's Golf team. Asked about the upcoming season and events Coach Folk said, "The girls are excited, I am excited, and we are going to work hard and have a good time together."

If you are interested in joining the women's team or know someone who might be, please contact the sports office at 831-582-3015.

Remember Labor Day weekend when you tried to get your email or the system seemed to be working slower than that old black and green screen you used to work on? Well, four CSUMB students decided to make a statement about the concern they have for what, in their opinion, is being said on Open Forum: nothing.

“We had a discussion string of blank emails,” states Marisa Mercado, one of the students involved in the mass emailing, “and that's not much different from what is on Open Forum everyday. Every point is lost in every discussion,” continues Mercado. “Some people start off with some good ideas or discussions but then someone takes it the wrong way and it just becomes a whole lot of [personal attacks] back and forth.”

“That's what is on Open Forum, discussions about nothing. There is no dialog, only slander,” continues another student involved, Kevin Miller. “People discuss people and not the issues being brought up,” finished Miller.

Personal slander is something Miller and Mercado are used to now. In three days Miller received over three hundred emails, many personally attacking him and having nothing to do with what he had done. Which, Miller claims, no one really cared about, only that they couldn't get on FirstClass for a while.

Miller and Mercado are concerned about FirstClass, how it reflects CSUMB and how it reflects on CSUMB. "The problem is the technology of Open Forum because it allows individuals in a small community to publicly attack one another without seeing a person on the other end of the attack," says Miller. Both students were hoping a dialog might spring up after their actions, encouraging those who contribute to Open Forum to talk about what goes on in Open Forum. Such a discussion did not come about.

These students are concerned that people get scrolled up by Open Forum and never speak in person. They say many people have been "two-faced" about the mass emails on Open Forum (emailing them distasteful messages but chatting and smiling with them in person) and say this is a common occurrence with Open Forum users. Mercado thinks there is a "Jekyll and Hyde" phenomenon working where Open Forum users are creating two personalities, their online image and their in-class one.

"And it's not even the whole campus that uses Open Forum," continues Mercado. "Open Forum is supposedly a 'pulse' of the CSUMB community but many people never even contribute to it or read it. To claim that Open Forum is the beat of the campus is dangerous," she finishes.

“I would bet that at least half of the CSUMB population doesn't even use Open Forum,” agrees Miller. “People talk about freedom of speech on Open Forum but it's always about the opinion of the dominant few who are always on Open Forum,” he concludes.

Mercado and Miller and the other two students involved, Claire Porter and Daniel Davis, do know what they did was not necessarily ethical and admit that if they had known their approximately 2,000 emails in fifteen minutes were going to clog the server, they would not have done it. They were sure the messages would "delete" when they got to the "bottom" and did not mean to deliberately annoy anyone. They were trying to bring to light problems they see with the use of Open Forum by CSUMB students. "We did not intend to clog the server... our emails were blank, but by no means empty messages," says Mercado.

What did they actually do though? Some say it was annoying but was it against any rules?

According to the CSUMB website about the Policy for Responsible Computing: "The current policy for responsible computing at CSUMB is not yet official." Dr. Lev Gonick, Chief Technology Officer here at CSUMB states, "CSUMB does not have an approved policy for responsible computing. We have operated with an interim policy since the campus has opened. In turn, our policy framework is governed by the Appropriate Use Policy of the California State University." It includes these highlights:

- Information resources accessed or delivered through 4CNet (a CSU-wide computing system) will be used by members of its community with respect for the public trust, academic freedom, and in accordance with policy and regulations established by the State of California, the Board of Trustees of the California State University, and the Board of Governors of the California State Community Colleges. Any additions, deletions, or changes to the 4CNet Acceptable Use Policy enacted by the CSU will be sent by e-mail to all member institutions. Subsequent to that communication, member institutions may reference the 4CNet home page (http://www.csu.edu/docu­ments/4cnet_policies.html) for the most up-to-date information.

- Member institutions and their users follow normal standards of security, ethics, conduct, and protocol when using 4CNet. Responsible behavior includes consideration of other users, as well as the efficient use of information resources accessed through 4CNet in a manner that produces the desired effect or product with a minimum of effort, expense, or waste.

In order to access your email account here at CSUMB, you must fill out a Student Account Activation Request, on which you must agree to the acceptable terms policy. The agreement begins, "All members of the University community who use the University's computing and information resources must act responsibly. Every user is responsible for the integrity of these resources. All users of University-owned or University-leased computing systems must respect the rights of other computing users, respect the integrity of the physical facilities, and respect all pertinent legal and contractual obligations. It is the policy of California State University, Monterey Bay that all members of its community act in accordance with these responsibilities, relevant laws and contractual obligations, and the relevant faculty, staff and student standard of ethics." According to information found on FirstClass itself, this is said about mass emailings: "Mass mailings are also considered abusive to the email system and are a violation of our 'acceptable use policy'. Conferences have been established for this purpose and are a formidable way of communicating messages to users on a large scale."

The idea then seems to be that there is an "official" standard by which we all need to be working. Miller claims they didn't "get in trouble" because the policy is technically non-existent and the policy is difficult to enforce because it is difficult to define standards of what is and is not acceptable.

Dr. Lev Gonick continues, "At CSUMB, we have always seen the Open Forum folder on FirstClass as an un-moderated, unfiltered, public space where anything goes in the spirit of free speech. The analogy to this would be a public park where someone gets on a soapbox and is free to say whatever they want. As such, behavior in the Open Forum is governed not by procedures but by community feedback. Arguably in an open forum it should be peer pressure and socialization and not the long arm of the administration that should govern behavior."

Several students had a concern about how FirstClass is and is not used and they protested in their own way in hopes of opening a dialog about what goes on in Open Forum. Open Forum is a unique way for this campus to stay in touch with one another, but like all things it will have it's positive and negative aspects. As Dr. Gonick, the CSUMB website and other subsequent information presented to FirstClass users suggests, it is the students, staff and faculty's responsibility to make sure Open Forum is indeed open to everyone, and to encourage and continue to use this resource in an ethical manner.
The newest and oldest issue facing students is the question of Campus Life at CSUMB. This year the issue began brewing up on Open Forum.

Rene Bravo writes to Open Forum, "You know, I was wondering where is everyone who's done with classes for the day? If anyone knows what there is to do for fun, inform me and the many others who wonder." The responses to Rene's questions covered a wide array of perspectives.

One student, Charles Chappell's, response on Open Forum was, "the phrase campus life is an oxymoron when applied to CSUMB." Greg Lukas writes, "Ask about the BBC, ask about spin cycle, and ask about open mic." Robert Delarosa writes, "sex and drugs, I am not kidding, I have chosen to stay sober and talk trash on Open Forum." Frank Hernandez writes, "Use your creativity, mine comes up with lots of fun things to do."

We at the Otter Realm feel that there has been a lack of campus life this semester. We remember the years of the Black Box Cabaret as our source of evening entertainment. Every Tuesday was Spin Cycle, which brought in local DJ's who spun jungle, house and techno. On Wednesdays we had Hip-Hop night, the turntables thumping and pumping. On Thursday, starting at 4 pm, there was Peter's Party that allowed students to speak with our President and enjoy free food. Following Peter's Party was Open Mic night, a time for any willing students to put their best talents on stage. Performances ranged from poetry, comedy, music or dance. Each of these events attracted CSUMB students and faculty as well as people from surrounding communities. The Black Box was not only a place to fill up on beers and caffeine but also a place for teachers to have coffee and meetings with their students.

Unfortunately at the end of Spring 2000 the school had to shut down the Black Box because it was neither up to fire codes nor compliant with the American Disabilities Act.

Currently Peter's Party takes place at the student center and has been renamed University Hour. This is a good attempt at a replacement, but neither the vibe nor the atmosphere of the Black Box has been substituted. What about Spin Cycle, Open Mic, and Hip-Hop night? These are the events that brought our community together. When we get out of class at night the question of what to do seems to come up more now because there is no more Black Box.

We believe that the Black Box gave our desolate campus a feeling of life and entertainment, which is missing now. Only after an adequate replacement has been established will campus life become as rich as before.

Otter Realm Editorial Board

Hawaii Pacific University provides the tools to be successful in today's fast-changing environment. Located at the crossroads of the Pacific, HPU brings a global perspective to the classroom.

HPU offers nine graduate degree programs:
- Master of Business Administration
  - e-Business and 12-month programs
- Master of Science in Information Systems
  - e-Commerce program
- Master of Science in Nursing
- Master of Arts in Communication
- Master of Arts in Diplomacy and Military Studies
- Master of Arts in Human Resource Management
- Master of Arts in Management
- Master of Arts in Organizational Change
- Master of Arts in Teaching English as a Second Language

For more information, call 1-866-GRAD-HPU or visit us online at www.hpu.edu

Graduate Degrees with a Competitive Edge

Visit the Hawaii Pacific University representative on campus Tuesday, October 17
Ask about scholarship and assistantship opportunities.
If you need disability or interpreter accommodations to attend these events, please contact the event sponsors. If you are planning an event open to the campus community and would like to announce your event in Otter Happenings, please contact Jen L. Reeves via the following.

September 27
What: Recreation & Adventure Recreation
Sports Showcase
When: 12:00-2:00pm
Where: Main Quad
For more information: Please call
Student Activities and Career Development at 831-582-3845.

September 27
What: Women's Problem Solving and Support Group
When: 12:00-1:00pm
Where: Personal Growth and Counseling Center
For more information: Please call the Personal Growth and Counseling Center at 831-582-3969.

The following events provide opportunities to explore alternatives and learn new skills for solving problematic patterns and life issues. Within a warm and encouraging setting women share experiences, gain supportive relationships, and take control of their lives.

September 27
What: Women's Rugby Practice
When: 12:15-1:00pm
For more information: Contact Carolyn Drouin via First Class for location and more information.

September 27
What: Meeting of the International Martial Arts Club (IMAC)
When: 5:00-7:00pm
Where: Wellness Activity Center Annex
For more information: Please call George Baldwin at 831-582-3625.

September 28
What: Women's Rugby Practice
When: 8:15-4:00pm
For more information: Contact Carolyn Drouin via First Class for location and more information.

September 28
What: Women's Rugby Practice
When: 12:00-1:00pm
Where: Personal Growth and Counseling Center (Building 99)
For more information: Please call Melon at 831-582-4437.

September 28
What: Music by All BYUers, Jazz Flute, and Joe Beck, Jazz guitar
When: 6:00-6:00pm
Where: Music Hall Room 100
For more information: Please call Alice Thompson at 831-582-4085.

September 28
What: Otter Hall Association Movie Night presents "28 Days"
When: 7:00pm
Where: World Theater
For more information: Please contact RHA via First Class
Cost: $2.00

September 29
What: African American Men's Forum
When: 12:00-1:00pm
Where: SCCF
For more information: Please contact Melon at 831-582-4437.

September 29
What: Women's Volleyball v. College of Notre Dame
When: 7:00pm
Where: WAC
For more information: Please contact Vicki Gomez via First Class.

September 29
What: Women's Rugby Practice
When: 12:00-1:00pm
Where: Personal Growth and Counseling Center (Building 99)
Conference Room
For more information: Please contact Melon at 831-582-4437.

September 30
What: Sailing Club Meeting
When: 12:00pm
Where: Old Fisherman's Wharf in Monterey (usually in front of the London Bridge Pub)
For more information: Please contact Danielle Renouf via First Class.

September 30
What: Women's Basketball v. Oregon
When: 11:00am
Where: WAC
For more information: Please call Wendy Herrera at 831-582-3889.

October 1
What: Catholic Mass and Newman Community
When: 11:00am
Where: Building 44
For more information: Contact Matthew Floit or Debra Rivera via First Class.

October 2
What: Ridershare Week
When: 10:00am
For more information: Check out www.ridershareweek.com.

October 2-6
What: Rock the Vote
When: 11:00am
Where: WAC
For more information: Please call 831-582-3015.

October 7
What: Performance by Savin Yantou, World Music (Mediterranean)
When: 2:00-3:50pm
Where: Music Hall, Room 100
For more information: Please call Shirleen Campbell at 831-582-3009.

October 7
What: Meeting of the International Martial Arts Club (IMAC)
When: 5:00-7:00pm
Where: Wellness Activity Center Annex
For more information: Please call George Baldwin at 831-582-3625.

October 7
What: Chat the Movies presents "Planet of the Ape"
When: 8:00pm
Where: Meeting House
For more information: Please call Tim Jansen at 831-582-3735.
Followed by a discussion about science and religion.

October 7
What: Early Focus: A Time for Bible Study and Prayer
When: 10:00-10:30am
Where: Steinbeck Room of the Dining Commons
For more information: Please contact e-mail Antion Prince via First Class.

October 7
What: Study at Sea Meeting
When: 10:30am
Where: MLC Room 164
For more information: Please contact Annie Hergering via First Class.

October 7
What: African American Men's Forum
When: 12:00-1:00pm
Where: SCCF
For more information: Please call Student Activities and Career Development at 831-582-3685.

October 8
What: Reading by Poet/Writer Minnie Bruce Pratt
When: 11:00am
Where: Student activities Center
For more information: Please contact Minnie Bruce Pratt via First Class.

October 8
What: Women's Rugby Practice
When: 12:15-1:00pm
Where: Old Fisherman's Wharf in Monterey (usually in front of the London Bridge Pub)
For more information: Please contact Danielle Renouf via First Class.

October 9
What: Women's Rugby Practice
When: 12:15-1:00pm
For more information: Contact Carolyn Drouin via First Class for location and more information.

October 9
What: Meeting of the International Martial Arts Club (IMAC)
When: 5:00-7:00pm
Where: Wellness Activity Center Annex
For more information: Please call George Baldwin at 831-582-3625.

October 9
What: Women's Rugby Practice
When: 3:15-4:45pm
For more information: Contact Carolyn Drouin via First Class for location and more information.

October 9
What: International Martial Arts Club (IMAC)
When: 5:00-7:00pm
Where: Wellness Activity Center Annex
For more information: Please call George Baldwin at 831-582-3625.

October 10
What: Early Focus: A Time for Bible Study and Prayer
When: 7:00-8:00pm
Where: Steinbeck Room of the Dining Commons
For more information: Please e-mail Antion Prince via First Class.

October 10
What: Men's/Women's Cross Country (Invitational 4.2 miles mixed course)
When: 10:00am
Where: Meet outside Building 6, Service Learning Institute
For more information: Please call Wendy Herrera at 831-582-3889.

October 11
What: Women's Soccer v. Menlo College
When: 4:00pm
Where: WAC
For more information: Please call 831-582-3015.

October 11
What: Women's Rugby Practice
When: 12:15-1:00pm
For more information: Contact Carolyn Drouin via First Class for location and more information.

October 11
What: Early Focus: A Time for Bible Study and Prayer
When: 8:00pm
Where: Meeting House
For more information: Please call Tim Thoan at 831-582-3735.
Followed by a discussion on sin that leads to death.

October 12
What: Early Focus: A Time for Bible Study and Prayer
When: 7:00-8:00pm
Where: Steinbeck Room of the Dining Commons
For more information: Please e-mail Antion Prince via First Class.

October 12
What: Performance by Trio Three: Oliver Lake, Sagol Workman, and Andrew Cyrille
When: 10:15-11:50am
Where: Music Hall
For more information: Please call Shirlene Campbell at 831-582-3009.

October 17
What: Women's Rugby Practice
When: 3:15-4:45pm
For more information: Contact Carolyn Drouin via First Class for location and more information.

October 17
What: Women's Soccer v. CU Hayward
When: 4:00pm
Where: WAC
For more information: Please call 831-582-3015.

October 18
What: Women's Problem Solving and Support Group
When: 12:00-1:00pm
Where: Personal Growth and Counseling Center
For more information: Please call the Personal Growth and Counseling Center at 831-582-3969.

October 18
What: Women's Rugby Practice
When: 12:15-1:30pm
For more information: Contact Carolyn Drouin via First Class for location and more information.

October 18
What: Women's Soccer v. CU Hayward
When: 4:00pm
Where: WAC
For more information: Please call 831-582-3015.

October 18
What: Women's Rugby Practice
When: 12:00-1:00pm
Where: Personal Growth and Counseling Center (Building 99)
Conference Room
For more information: Please contact Danielle Renaud via First Class.

October 18
What: Women's Rugby Practice
When: 12:15-1:00pm
For more information: Contact Carolyn Drouin via First Class for location and more information.

October 18
What: Women's Soccer v. Dominican College
When: 10:00am
Where: WAC
For more information: Please call 831-582-3015.

October 18
What: Women's Soccer v. Dominican College
When: 3:00pm
Where: Soccer Complex
For more information: Please call 831-582-3015.

October 18
What: Women's Rugby Practice
When: 12:15-1:00pm
For more information: Contact Carolyn Drouin via First Class for location and more information.

October 18
What: Women's Soccer v. Dominican College
When: 3:00pm
Where: Soccer Complex
For more information: Please call 831-582-3015.

October 18
What: Meeting of the International Martial Arts Club (IMAC)
When: 5:00-7:00pm
Where: Wellness Activity Center Annex
For more information: Please call George Baldwin at 831-582-3625.
The sun is setting over Monterey Bay, and the tumbleweeds blow across the dusty prairie. Several gun-slinging cowboys emerge from the shadows to stake their claim at superiority. With spatulas firmly across the dusty prairie. Several gun-slinging cowboys emerge from Taco, El Charro, and the Fishwife that is. Awakening from this strange dream, you are taken by a sudden craving for Mexican food. Not only that, but those tumbleweeds now look and smell an awful lot like skunks. It's time to get off campus!

When you're in the mood for something a little south of the border and you've had just about all of Tierra Del Sol that you can stomach, it's time to head to Sand City or Seaside. Sure, we all know by now about Papa Chanos in the Target shopping center area. Good food, good prices, good atmosphere. It's a general all-around winner. But not all of us have fully explored Fremont Boulevard's entire array of options.

Coming into Sand City/Seaside from Highway 1, you can't help but notice Baldemiro Taco Shop on the corner of Fremont and Old Grove Avenue, but is it worth the stop? Although the prices on individual items can be steep (up to $4 for a burrito), when it comes to the combo meals, you get your money's worth in serving sizes. Quality, however, is subjective. While visiting, I watched an old couple eat every last bite of their meal, and a young man eat a small portion of his food, then threw it away. Baldemiro's atmosphere is cramped, though it does boast two outdated arcade games to help pass the time. Verdict: It's worth a stop if you can't think of anywhere else to go.

Next stop is Señor Taco, which can be best described as an upscale Taco Bell. A friend warned me never to eat there, so I took his advice, although the service was very friendly. Like the Taco Shop, it's open late which makes for a good late night munchies destination, although with Taco Bell and its 24-hour drive-through a block away and less expensive, your best bet is to skip el Señor. If you're looking for fast, cheap and never disappointing, there are also two marvelous Papa Choy's taquerias for your choosing: one on Fremont in the University Plaza near one of the abundant 7-11s on Fremont, or one on Del Monte Boulevard in Marina. Also open late, CSUMB is without a doubt helping to keep Choy's alive and well.

El Charro's Mexican Food is a nice sit-down style restaurant with a comfortable, family atmosphere. Open until 10 PM, the $5 to $13 per dish prices are fair for the kind of eatery. If you're looking for a nice, but casual Mexican food establishment to bring the family to, this is your best local bet.

Finally, on the corner of Fremont and Trinity Avenue is the real treasure. The Fishwife's Tidewater Grill features Mexican coastal cuisine, using only fresh fish and veggies—no pre-packaged, day old substitutes here. With indoor or outdoor seating, music playing, and the ability to watch your food being made from scratch, Tidewater Grill has a prime atmosphere. Turtle Bay takes its biggest drawback, lack of size, and turns it into an asset with a cozy, relaxed atmosphere. This is a definite winner!

So the next time you're in the mood for Mexican food, do yourself a favor and support locally owned and operated restaurants right in your own backyard. Californians definitely reap the benefits of some of the most authentic and delectable Mexican delights in the entire United States.