Few CSUMB students know much about the Child Development Center, and fewer still know anything about what issues and concerns the CDC is facing, as parents are having to deal with. For those who don't know, the CDC (as it is also known) is the building next to the WAC. CSUMB students, staff and faculty can leave their children to be cared for while they work and go to school. These children are being cared for by hard-working staff members that have to deal with many challenges.

One of the challenges the CDC is facing is that it is short staffed. The center relies mainly on volunteers and Student Assistants, and according to Joya Chavarin, Interim Administrative Assistant, they currently do not have enough teachers for all the children in the CDC. "Our wonderful student assistants are the lowest paid on campus for all of the work that they do. We cannot operate without our student assistants." The CDC does not have enough money in their budget to hire more than two teachers and one program coordinator with benefits.
"If there is anything to be done, the Indian has to do it; if he fails to do it, nothing will be done... But what about the other class that calls itself 'gente de razon'? Nothing. With them it is walk about, play the gentleman, eat, be idle... generally at the cost of the Indian's hard labor, so that in reality it seems as if nature had destined the Indian to be the slave of the 'gente de razon.'"

Fray Duran, 1831

There is a story behind the controversial mural in the University Center ballroom. But as we enter a second year in its presence, the artwork is still a mystery to most people who encounter it.

For some, like senior Damien Reyes, the depiction of an early ranchero Fiesta represents simply a happy, ".Spanish style old school party." For others, like sophomore Adrienne Goldsworth, it is a looming reminder of the military institution the military, it takes away your personality, your ability to speak, they speak for you."

For still others, the forty-two foot long painting delivers a more disturbing message. As HCOM junior says, "An monument to white imperialism, that celebrates colonial domination. It takes up the whole wall. The way it's set up in stature, and the position it's in, glamorizes it. Maybe getting it taken in down is a more plausible solution."

Students are frustrated with promised explanations that are long in coming, and find this an all-too-typical scenario at CSUMB. Remarks Reyes, "Same old thing as the other stuff, there's always an explanation, but they never really give you one."

"An easy way to get us to shut up and get over it," adds University Service Advocate Brenda Vallés. This student discontent begs the question, how does the mural benefit or fit into this multicultural university? Smith admits that, "these are large issues." If so, why are they yet to be publicly addressed by the university?

Student Voice members are considering a resolution that speaks to these culturally sensitive issues. They realize that the University Center represents the entire campus, as it is frequently the first place where visitors, students, and community members are invited for events. They are concerned with the painting's unexplained glorification of a society that depended on the exploitation of another, and feeling that this may be potentially offensive to others we invite onto campus, are moving to take action on the issue.

Student Voice chair Kevin Miller describes the resolution originally presented: "It had the options of removing it, putting up a mural depicting the suffering caused by those in the picture, or putting up a plaque that talks about its history." Alterations discussed include dropping the removal option, and changing the proposed mural theme from one of oppression to one celebrating indigenous life. The plaque alone did not seem like a viable option either, because, as Miller agreed with a sigh, "people won't read it."

Gerardo Salinas, Student Voice PR Director feels strongly that, "if they're going to show Europeans dancing, they should show what else they did."

But Environmental Senator and ESSP junior, Claire Porter, says that "what we don't want is a mural of suffering, but rather representing indigenous people as they were at that time, enjoying their culture, not oppressed. And furthermore they deserve it more because their cultures are vanishing."

About the existing mural she firmly states that, "It encourages an ideology that I do not support. I think it's important that we remember that this culture happened, but not without equal representation of cultures which were abused. In fact it stands as a silent reminder of how history could be repeated."

Events Senator Cenan Pirani would like to see come down, as it is a "monument to white imperialism, that celebrates colonial domination."

He continues, "We're in an environment that recognizes power in the framework of the university and tries to do things to build a more diverse but conscious community. I don't think [the mural] will do it, it will still be up there conveying images of domination. It takes up the whole wall. The way it's set up in stature, and the position it's in, glamorizes it. Maybe getting it taken in down is a more plausible solution."

Miller emphasizes, "what's the difference between one genocide and another? What makes it ok to have this picture, but not one of the Nazis? Spanish colonialism killed more people by far. It's a sign of disrespect, not only to them but to anyone who has fought for equality."

Smith cautions that, "art must be understood not just as something 'I like or don't like', but as something that represents an idea or concept that was current when it was painted... I hope that Student Voice will educate itself about the mural before it expresses an uneducated opinion."

Ironically, it is precisely CSUMB's emphasis on multicultural education that has led to students' deeper understanding of the mural's historical implications. Multicultural senator Ethan Brown explains that, "the mural represents a standard technique of conventional history that seeks to eliminate the reality of indigenous people by erasing them, quite literally, from the picture."

Lori Jansen-Whitett, a 6S junior, is enrolled in a class that is currently discussing colonial California. She notes, "I have recently read about Spanish colonial soldiers who came only to rape and pillage. Priests were trying to spread Christianity. It was very hard when Christians themselves were the devils. If we have this in the university center and we're praising it, that's just ignorant. I don't think that piece of art reflects a progressive understanding of history, yet we're supposed to be a progressive university."

ESSP major Lani Clough, who participated in demonstrations during the Democratic National Convention, links the painting with current issues. "Today Al Gore is a shareholder with family ties to Occidental Petroleum," she says, "a company planning to drill on land in Columbia that is sacred to the U'Wa, a peaceful tribe thousands of years old. They are threatening mass suicide because they would rather die than watch their lives and culture be destroyed. Why does Oxy have the right to this land? Tell me that this is not historically rooted colonialism, that this is an unrelated situation."

Integrated Studies graduate Freeda Burnstad is in disbelief of the mural, asking, "Hello, are we Eurocentric elitist colonizers? I think that VPA could probably come up with something a lot more attractive and more true to the vision of the university." She adds, "If we're going to put permanent artwork in our center we should have student participation in what that is; discussion should not be shoved aside."

Mesa-Bains agrees, saying, "what I believe about that particular piece is that it's a learning experience, open to debate, open to discussion." She feels that the planned supplementary display needs to be prioritized, "if it's going to work at all."

"Art lives," she says, "its purpose is to bring up issues that plague us even now, from the past, stereotypes that in the long run disrupt us from knowing who we are. If we put it up, we should welcome questions, criticism, comments that anyone has... If this offends, there must be images that affirm."
An Interview with Minnie Bruce Pratt

by Caroline Musto

On Tuesday, October 23 white anti-racist lesbian author and poet, Minnie Bruce Pratt spoke and read from her latest book, Walking Back Up Depot Street, to a buzzing and anxious crowd of more than 150 in the University Center Ballroom. A day earlier Minnie Bruce made herself available to two HCOM classes for questions. But I had the pleasure of interviewing her one on one.

Minnie Bruce Pratt was born in Selma, Alabama in September of 1946. She received her undergraduate degree from University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, and at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, but she feels that her real education came through grass-roots organizing with women in the army-base town of Fayetteville, North Carolina, and through teaching at historically Black universities. Like many of her southern white peers, Minnie Bruce was raised in a household of white supremacy. Through educating herself she realized how ignorant she was when it came to racism and oppression. “I grew up with a set of values and I was so sure I was right. I was quick to say that I knew. A concrete example of this is the controversy of Thomas Jefferson and his former slave Sally Hemmings. For decades Black southerners had said that Jefferson and Hemmings had children together. White historians were defiant saying, ‘No, no, no!’ Modern DNA tests have since proved that the white historians were wrong.”

Minnie Bruce was one of the first individuals to use the term anti-racist. “It’s very important to use the term anti-racist because it states that you are actually in opposition against racism. It’s not a wishy-washy term. It says ‘I’m really against racism.’ I think it’s really important for me to say it because in my southern upbringing you were either for racism or against it.” Becoming an anti-racist has been a journey for Minnie Bruce. “I had to unlearn a lot of attitudes, learn a lot of history I didn’t know and I think for anyone interested in fighting racism those are essential steps. You have to educate yourself and not wait for those suffering from the oppression to educate you. Get out, read, go to lectures, listen, keep your mouth shut and assume there’s a lot you don’t know.”

For those interested in practicing anti-racism Minnie Bruce has many more suggestions. “We need to let it sink into our consciousness that maybe there’s a lot we don’t know [about racial oppression] and be open to listening without interrupting or arguing, asking questions for information, reading. Then you need to immerse yourself in multicultural experiences. That may mean going to the theater, movies, dances, taking certain classes like Latina Life Experiences, where you may encounter the experience of not being in the majority, which is the experience closest to reality since people of color are the majority of people in the world.”

In Minnie Bruce’s fourth volume of poems, Walking Back Up Depot Street (University of Pittsburgh Press) which she read from in the University Center, is both a story of the segregated rural South and the story of a white woman named Beatrice who is leaving that home for the post-industrial North. Beatrice searches for the truth behind the public story, the official history of the land, and her childhood. She struggles to free herself from the lies she was taught while growing up and during this, she finds other people who are also on this journey. The book of poems is set up like a story, which is partially autobiographical for Minnie Bruce, though not entirely. Some of her books have become standard reading for hundreds of college courses, including Yours In Struggle: Three Feminist Perspectives On Anti-Semitism and Racism (Firebrand Books) which Pratt co-authored with Ely Bukin and Barbara Smith. She has published three books of poetry, The Sound of One Fork (Night Heron Press), We Say We Love Each Other (Spinster/Aunt Lute & Firebrand Books), and Crime Against Nature (Firebrand Books) which was chosen as the Lamont Poetry Selection by the Academy of American Poets, an annual award given for the best second full-length book of poetry by a U.S. author. The judges said of the book, “Pratt tells a moving story of loss and recuperation, discovering linkages between her own disenfranchisement and the condition of other minorities. She makes it plain, it’s really important for me to say it because the real crime against nature is violence and oppression.” In 1992 her book of autobiographical and political essays, Rebellion: Essays 1980-1991 (Firebrand Books), was a Finalist in Non-Fiction for the Lambda Literary Awards. Pratt has also been granted a Creative Writing Fellowship in Poetry by the National Endowment for the Arts. Her book of prose stories about gender boundary crossing, S/HE (FirebrandBooks), was one of the five finalists in Non-Fiction for the 1995 American Library Association Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Book Award, as well as one of the three finalists for the Firecracker Award in Non-Fiction. In these lyrical vignettes, Pratt writes about the many ways to be girl, boy, man, woman, and those of us in-between. S/HE explores the inconsistencies, the infinities, the fluidity of sex and gender.

Minnie Bruce Pratt currently lives in Jersey City, New Jersey with her partner, Leslie Feinberg, who is also an activist and writer. She teaches Women’s Studies, Lesbian/ Gay/ Bisexual/ Transgender Studies, and Creative Writing as a member of the Graduate Faculty at The Union Institute, a non-residential alternative Ph.D.-granting university. Please visit her at her Web site <www.mbrpratt.org>.

HOROSCOPES

Libra (September 23-October 22)
Whatever projects you put your mind to should turn out to be a success. But watch out! You should be careful not to take anything for granted, especially when it comes to personal matters.

Scorpio (October 23-November 22)
You may not feel as confident as you usually are. On the good side you will be thinking more clearly than you have been in a long time. You should put off really important decisions until you feel more confident in your self.

Sagittarius (November 23-December 20)
Your goals and ambitions are very important to you. Your determined attitude will make anything possible. With this in mind you should set goals that you haven’t already and go for them.

Capricorn (December 21-January 19)
You should put more energy into your work or studying time. Try to get organized and figure out where you’re wasting time. By concentrating more on your tasks you will end up getting a lot more done and put yourself ahead.

Aquarius (January 20-February 18)
You will have many opportunities coming your way. The only bad side to this is having to choose between which opportunity to take and which to ignore. You will have many options so you can afford to be choosy and hold out for what you really want.

Aries (March 21-April 20)
You may have very good luck with financial matters. It will all depend on how alert you are to new opportunities and leads. You should also resist the temptation to overspend or your luck could turn around.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)
You will become more creative and intuitive, making you successful in your work. Use this energy to get as much done as possible in important decision making and smoothing relationships.

Taurus (April 21-May 20)
You may not be as clear headed as usual, which means a project won’t come off as planned. Just take a shortcut and get the job done. Try to loosen up more and get organized.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)
This is a good time to try something new and fun. Get out there and flaunt your individuality. You will have no problem meeting new people by just being your self. Spontaneity will bring out your fun spirit.

Leo (July 21-August 21)
You’ve been extra stressed lately about all the work you have to do. Try to take more time for yourself. Find those exercise clothes and try to work off the extra tension or just go have a good time with friends.

Virgo (August 22-September 22)
You will have no trouble making decisions and being in control. This is a good time to get a lot of important work done. Be careful not to let your being in control get in the way of admitting your wrong.
Want to see your favorite team play? Now you can see all the NFL and collegiate action at Peter B's Brewpub. We carry almost all major sporting events. And, besides the great pub grub, signature pizzas and handcrafted brews, we will be awarding prizes every quarter and at halftime. And, as if that's not enough, we're offering many special drink and menu items.

**The NFL Direct at Peter B's**

So, catch the college or NFL game of your choice on one of our 9 sports TVs while enjoying a cold micro brew for only 75 cents an ounce (served in 16 and 20 ounce glasses) during all weekend collegiate and all weekend and weekday NFL games. So catch a pass over to Peter B's and win one for the Gipper. We also have a heated outdoor patio (smoking permitted).

On the alley behind the DoubleTree Hotel
2 Portola Plaza, Monterey
649-4511 x 138

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**Otter Nonsense**

This yellow bicycle was found atop a stop sign at the corner of Spotsylvania and Petersburg courts.

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**Letter to the Editor**

**Vote Yes on Proposition 39**
For Smaller Classes, Taxpayer Protections
by Senator Jack O'Connell

Investing in our schools is the most important commitment we can make for our children and California's future. No generation of Californians knows better than those in our university system how desperately new classrooms are needed. And Prop 39 will benefit no generation more than the children who will be attending public schools in the coming decade.

Proposition 39 allows local voters to make decisions about repairing or building classrooms to make it possible to reduce class size or accommodate a rising student population. At the same time, it protects taxpayers by imposing tough new requirements to hold school administrators strictly accountable for the way school bond money is spent.

Passage of Prop 39 will...
- Help Build and Repair Needed Schools and Classrooms. California schools are among the most overcrowded in the nation. Some school districts are forced to teach children in trailers, converted cafeterias, libraries and gyms. Experts predict we'll need 20,000 new classrooms just to keep up with student population growth expected over the next ten years.
- Protect Taxpayers and Homeowners. Passage of Prop 39 would require local school bonds to be passed by a tough 55 percent super-majority vote and prohibit these votes except during regularly scheduled elections. A strict cap limiting the amount property taxes can be raised as a result of a local school bond would be imposed if Proposition 39 passes. For the average California homeowner, the maximum cap is less than $100 per year.
- Overhaul School Bond Spending. If passed, Prop 39 will implement tough new fiscal accountability standards to ensure every penny of local school bond money goes directly toward building and repairing classrooms—not toward administration or bureaucracy. Proposition 39 will:
  - Strictly forbid the use of local school bond funding for administrative salaries;
  - Require local school districts to provide voters with a specific list of school construction projects to be financed by a proposed bond; and
  - Require school districts to commission two independent audits—financial and performance—annually throughout the life of the bond to ensure funds are expended on the approved projects and that all bond proceeds are accounted for.
- Mandate new citizen watchdog committees comprised of local parents, seniors, taxpayers and businesses. These watchdog committees are empowered to seek court orders to stop any project if audits show wasteful or unauthorized spending, inform the public of abuses or waste, and work with law enforcement to vigorously investigate and prosecute violations.

Proposition 39 helps students and protects taxpayers. That's why it has won the support of Governor Gray Davis and former Governor Pete Wilson. Proposition 39's long list of supporters includes major senior, teacher, parent, taxpayer, labor, ethnic and public safety organizations, including the California State University Board of Governors, individual CSU campuses and the California State Student Association.

Learn more about Proposition 39 by visiting www.yeson39.org. You can find the full text of the measure on the Web site as well as materials to download and distribute if you want to get more involved in the campaign.

Every vote is important. If you haven't registered to vote where you attend school, you can request an absentee ballot at http://www.ss.ca.gov/elections/elections_w.htm. The Associated Students office on campus can also help you vote absentee.

Vote YES on Proposition 39 on November 7!

* Senator O'Connell (D-Santa Barbara) is a member of the Senate Education Committee and a longtime supporter of public education in California. He authored the legislation that mandated class size reduction and another bill that raised starting salaries for teachers.

Send all editorial letters and comments to:
The Otter Realm 100 Campus Center Building 86A Seaside, CA 93955
Who knew that Liberal Studies major Jennifer Barrett could take anyone on campus in a serious shot put and discus challenge? Who knew we have a World Record holder in the discus masquerading as a student at CSUMB? Barrett left on Monday, October 9th to compete in the Paralympic Games in Sydney, Australia. A competitor in the Track and Field competition, specifically shot put and discus, Barrett holds the World Record in discus and the American Record in shot put. She grew up in Gonzales and still resides there, and was born in Salinas.

Barrett is a member of Disabled Sports USA, a team that has approximately 200 leg and arm amputee athletes. Barrett was born an arm amputee. Among the athletes with other disabilities, including blind and deaf athletes, Barrett is in fact the only female amputee in the United States doing shot put and discus. A natural right-hander, Barrett has had to learn to work only with her left hand, as her right arm is missing just below the elbow. As a child, she found it especially difficult to train her left hand to write and fasten buttons, and now she says her "handwriting is still terrible."

Barrett was part of the Hartnell Track and Field team when the coach of a Sacramento college, who was involved in Paralympics at the time, approached her suggesting she compete in disabled sporting events. Offended at first by this, she thought long and hard about it before deciding she would try it just to "get friends and family off her back," because they had been pestering her about giving it a try. Luckily, she did, and she has become the fiercest competitor the United States has to offer. She says, "I have always been accepted at both able-bodied and disabled meets, but when I walk in to a disabled event, I feel a sense of unquestioned belonging."

Barrett became interested in the events when she was given a shot put assignment by her fifth grade Physical Education teacher. She originally was more into playing basketball, but the pressure and encouragement from a teacher her freshman year of high school made her think twice about giving the Track and Field events a more serious try.

Now, Barrett says she can "throw with her eyes closed." She has participated in many international meets, including the Paralympic Summer Games in Atlanta four years ago, where she won gold and bronze medals. Of her victory in Atlanta, she says, "You're really proud to be an American when you hear the national anthem being played. You're standing on the podium and you know most people in the stands are American and have a certain sense of pride also." Hearing the national anthem in foreign countries always feels a bit different. She has traveled to Spain, England, Mexico and now, Australia, to compete in Track and Field. With so many different countries represented at the Paralympic Games, Barrett says, "As long as you try to get along with other people you're okay. Just because your competitors are your nemeses on the track doesn't mean they are nemeses in life."

With approximately 130 countries represented at the Games which are fast becoming quite popular, Barrett says they have not always been held in the same arenas as the impressive complexes built especially for the Olympic Games. She says the Paralympians also did not always have the same uniforms as the Olympic athletes. However, the Paralympians go through the same rigorous trial process the Olympians do. An athlete has to be invited to the trials, and has to fall into the "A" Standard athlete in order to make the team. The two standards, "A" and "B," depend on your performance at regional, statewide and national competitions.

Barrett finds her toughest challenges are athletes from China and Germany. She feels confident when she enters the arena, however, and thinks most people in the event know she is the World Record holder in the discus: the one to beat.

A Liberal Studies major in her third semester at CSUMB, Barrett expects to graduate this May. She graduated from Hartnell in 1996, spent a few years at Sonoma State University, and came back home to finish up her degree at CSUMB. With her concentration in human development, Barrett would like to do her final Capstone project on a study of how disabled students are treated in the classroom, and how curriculum could be designed to better accommodate disabled students.
Q & A on the upcoming Presidential Election

Ruth Rodriguez, HCOM
Will you be voting in the 2000 Presidential elections? Yes, because I am now over eighteen years old and I think [voting] is the only way you can make a difference.
Where you able to watch the Presidential debate on television and what did you think the outcome was? Yes, but I had already made up my mind before and the debate didn't change my view. It is important to look at what each person has done in the past.

David Russell, ESSP
Will you be voting in the 2000 Presidential elections? Yes, because I think that if you don’t vote then you don’t have the right to complain. It is an amazing privilege to be under a democracy.
What do you look for in a Candidate? Integrity is something I look for. I also look for somebody who has the people’s interest on mind.

Salvador Chavarin, TMAC
Will you be voting in the 2000 Presidential elections? Yes, because I want to elect the one who will do the better job and hopefully improve the United States.
Where you able to watch the Presidential debate on television and what did you think the outcome was? Yes I was able to watch them. I thought that George W. Bush was more open to new ideas and is the one I think will do the better job.

Junebug, Liberal Studies
Will you be voting in the 2000 Presidential elections? Yes, because I want to make sure Bush doesn’t win.
What do you look for in a Candidate? What I look for in a candidate none of the current candidates have, which is concern for all people and the respect for the earth.

Janie Silveria, Reference Coordinator for CSUMB library
Will you be voting in the 2000 Presidential elections? Yes, but I don’t think there is a very good choice this time. I will probably vote for Gore so Bush doesn’t win.
What do you look for in a Candidate? I look for honesty, compassion, and intelligence.

Mark Holbik, Integrated Studies
Will you be voting in the 2000 Presidential elections? Yes, I believe there is a candidate worth voting for, which is Ralph Nader.
What do you look for in a Candidate? I am looking for someone who is out for the interest of the people, not business.
CSUMB's First Voter Registration Day is a Knockout Success

by Brian Kees

On Wednesday October 4th CSUMB hosted its first annual Voter Registration and Information Day. The event was hosted and put together by CSUMB Judicial Director, Tamara Murphy. Murphy said, "I called all of the parties and invited them to come and present their information to the students in a very informal way, and each was given their own table." Students were free to come out and get information about the different parties and their candidates running in next month's elections. Students were encouraged to go to different tables, and if they received 5 stamps by visiting the different parties, they then were given free food, entered in a drawing, and could go in the bouncy boxing ring. The event also featured the band "Weekend Grass," which had some students dancing in the sunlight in front of the stage. "I felt the event went very well," Murphy said.

The main goal of the event was to get students to register to vote for the upcoming election. Due to the event, forty-two CSUMB students are newly registered voters. One of the forty-two is Student Voice President Jason Sanchez who said, "I just registered to vote, and I registered non-party because I don't believe in parties any more. I am going to do more homework before I make my decision."

Though many students had already registered to vote, the event offered the campus a chance to gain more awareness of the issues. A volunteer for the Pat Buchanan campaign, Don Miller, said, "when students get up to voting age they aren't aware of what they need to know and without volunteers, and events like this they wouldn't be informed of all the issues and the candidates." Another representative, Carl Pohlhammer the Chairman of the Monterey County Democratic Chapter stated, "young people, by in large, don't vote on the issues voted on by older people, and they need to be aware of those issues because those issues can affect them and will affect them in time. We all believe strongly in our issues and want to get that information to the young voters."

The parties and organizations were able to get their information out to an estimated 300 students. One such student was Jaymee Castillo who said "I came out to gather all the information I could for my mom. I am going to mail it all to her because she will be voting for the first time." Regarding the turn out Murphy said, "I had hoped for all 2500 students to come out, but the approximately 300 will have to do for now, but I think a lot of people left more informed and possibly more excited about voting."
Controversy erupted recently as one of CSUMB's newest clubs exploded on campus life. The Interdenominational/Non-Denominational Fellowship Group (INFG) was a club created last semester, intended to be a club to bring together those of different faiths and spiritual paths and celebrate their diversity and learn from one another. Their plan failed. The event on September 21, 2000 at the University Center Ballroom was slated to be a program with music and speakers. The music was supposed to be diverse. Members of the club did not plan the event collaboratively but rather it was planned solely by the Student Activities and Campus Development (SADD) liaison to the club, Charles Stringer. Club President, Kecia Smith-Gran, and club treasurer, Jason Weiner, were under the impression the event was to be a multifaceted event, inclusive of all peoples and their spiritual paths.

"I thought that the music was going to represent many cultures because that's what Charles told us, but it turned out to be made up of only Christian denominations, and they thought that was multicultural! But they were preaching about Jesus the whole time. Trying to convert people. The event was supposed to be a unity event for all people, not specific to religion, where everyone would feel comfortable. In the end, almost everyone walked out on it disappointed," Jason Weiner said about the event. Weiner had to leave the event after about a half-hour, as his religious beliefs did not permit him to be at such an event.

The former club advisor, Dr. Herbert Martin, who resigned from the club almost immediately after the event, is deeply disappointed by what happened with the club. After having student Charles Stringer in a Culture and Cultural Diversity class last semester, Stringer approached Martin about creating the Interfaith club. Martin teaches a philosophy of accepting all spiritual views. Being himself closely connected to Native American spirituality, Martin still believes faith is very personal, he is a champion of all spiritual views and believes a club such as the INFG was touted to be was a great idea. Dr. Martin believes a religious bias exists in this country and was looking for someone saying to others that what they believe is their own faith approach...What I realized was that you can camouflage your purpose inside a Mission Statement... I am going to say that (what happened at the presentation) was unintentional. I'm going to believe that it was unintentional that it turned out this way. Everybody's spiritual path is personal...it makes no sense to try to force someone into the same straightjacket, so to speak, and it feels like a straightjacket to me."

After many attempts to contact Charles Stringer and several promises to get some information from him personally, I received a message from Stringer stating, "Since I am no longer associated with the Interdenominational/Non-Denominational Fellowship Group if it even still exists, I don't know. I feel that I should not comment anymore and have gone on to where I belong." However, in an excerpt from an email posting (to various First Class conferences and mailing lists) dated September 27, 2000 Stringer does make the following statement: "I, Charles C. Stringer, Jr. one who has been in the midst of controversy concerning a program that was held at The University Center Ballroom on Thursday, September 21, 2000 am a Christian and state that boldly, I profess a belief in Jesus as Christ and I follow the religion based on the life and teachings of JESUS. I do attempt to show a loving concern for others. But let it be known that no one has a monopoly on/or with God. No one person knows everything about everything. No one knows my relationship with THE CREATOR and no human is qualified to judge me in reference to my religion or spirituality. No human being has the qualifications to judge another in reference to one's relationship to God, with God. People who have chosen a certain path to follow lean toward that path, that's the way it is, that makes good sense. Why would you choose a path to follow and then lean another way? That doesn't make good sense. You either ride the horse, or get off the saddle.

Having experienced what I did following the program, I choose not to associate myself with people who talk with two tongues, people who straddle the fence, people who don't do anything until someone else does something, then they come out of the woodwork and criticize when they have been asked to participate over and over again. Having stated my position, I now state boldy that the Interdenominational/Non-Denominational Fellowship Group will serve as an autonomous group and will not be a part of SADD or anything else that might restrict us in any way."

The club has seemingly gone down in flames, to the sincere disappointment of many. There was a group of very genuine, dedicated and hopeful individuals who started with an idea to bring people together. This event has hopefully not disheartened these people too much. Kecia Smith-Gran sums it up by saying, "I do believe that an Interfaith dialogue can happen and it's happening in the community, and we're a part of the community too. I suggest that if people want to be a part of a true interfaith group that is truly diverse and open to all, they need to leave their emotional investments in the hallway. Once the dogma is eliminated from the equation, I believe true exchange occurs."
Sitting with Dr. Lucha Ortega, one gets the feel of someone who knows what it is really like to be at CSUMB, a unique place of higher learning, an intricate and close-knit "family." Dr. Luz Maria (Lucha) Ortega is a highly educated woman, closely connected with this area and California in general. Committed to higher learning and multicultural communities, Dr. Ortega, CSUMB's newly appointed Associate Vice President of Student Affairs and Administrator in Charge of the Student Affairs division, began her new position on June 1, 2000.

Dr. Ortega's job includes working with all the directors and providing leadership to the different divisions under Student Affairs, which include Admissions and Records, Financial Aid, the Student Information Center and Student Outreach and Recruitment, as well as Student Activities and Career Development, Student Support Services (which includes Student Disability Resources, Educational Talent Search, Upward Bound, the Educational Opportunity Program, Mentoring and Summer Bridge) and Athletics. After a recent restructuring that caused some upset, resulting in Bert Rivas retiring, Dr. Ortega reports to the Provost who reports to President Smith.

"We have a motto which is 'Students First,'" begins Dr. Ortega. As Bert (Rivas) would say, we are the only division with the name 'student' in it. We take that very seriously. We have a group here very highly committed to serving and helping students." Dr. Ortega states that there isn't any area on campus that isn't somehow related to Student Affairs. Whether from classrooms to living environment, Student Affairs is committed to making students' experiences the best it can be.

Adding to her vast experience and education, Dr. Ortega recently earned the title of "Dr." when she completed her doctoral work at the University of LaVerne, in LaVerne California, where she obtained her doctorate of Education in Educational Leadership in May of this year. Dr. Ortega received her Master's of Education in Administration, Planning and Social Policy in 1986 from Harvard Graduate School of Education in Cambridge, Mass. Dr. Ortega received her Bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of Santa Clara in 1985. She joined CSUMB in September of 1997 and has worked to better serve students ever since.

"I have to make sure I secure resources for Student Affairs...I am concerned for the whole division, and making sure I represent the whole division of Student Affairs well, that I serve as a voice for the Cabinet and that I bring up concerns and that the division gets recognized for the work that it does well," says Dr. Ortega. Dr. Ortega tries to focus on all the good things that have happened in the short time since CSUMB has been open. She thinks often folks focus on the negative and don't look at how far along certain programs have come in the short time they have been operating, Dr. Ortega likes to focus on the positive way things are going and commits herself to maintaining the Vision.

"I think the Vision statement is great...I think there is a high level of commitment among the staff and students and everyone and there is a real passion for the Vision Statement, people really internalize it and try to live it and breathe it...Clearly I don't think we are 'there' in terms of fulfilling it, but I think we are on our way. I think we're in this together. I think of it like my family. Sometimes we have hard time with whatever, but I still love them and I'm not going to walk out on them, sometimes we go through aches and pains, but I'm not going to leave. We're going to make it [the Vision statement] work, keep it going, keep it alive, don't let the dream die...We've just got to keep working at it."
A Synthesizing of Thoughts and Experiences with the Four Students That Ventured to Ecuador Last Semester

If you lived in Ecuador for a semester, what would you expect to see? Dollarization - the process which strips a country of its home currency to replace it with the United States dollar? Would you expect to see every climate zone on the planet within the borders of Ecuador? Do you think you would catch many of the 25,000 species of birds that make their home in Ecuador? Would you walk down the streets, paved or otherwise, conducting surveys with the locals, asking them how they felt about the United States' current influence on their communities, homes and selves?

These experiences only scratch the surface of what four CSUMB students felt, saw, smelled, and tasted last semester. Recent CSUMB graduate Freeda Burnstad, Global Studies major Rhiannon Gillespie, and Integrated Studies majors Marc Holbik and Dara Zimmerman arrived February 5, 2000 to the capital city, Quito. The team spent their first three weeks getting into the groove with their Spanish, meeting friends and comrades, and beginning an unforgettable adventure.

Ecuador is the first country ever to fully go through the process of dollarization. While it did stabilize the current economic scene, it had serious ill effects as well. For example, it caused serious inflation problems, as the dollar came in as being already much stronger than the Ecuadorian currency, the sucre. Dollarization helps export/import and foreign investors that work with the dollar already, making the dollar worth more in Ecuador, a country known for having corrupt politics and a bad economy already. Now Ecuador is forced into pushing tourism, an act that Marc Holbik feels makes the country "seem like a sideshow."

During their first few weeks, the team spent time conducting surveys. The surveys were done as a group project to find out how the Ecuadorians were being effected by their current economic crisis, as dollarization takes over, and to sample the local political opinion. One question posed on the survey asked whom those surveyed trusted most, both to receive information from and to give information to, and nearly all of those surveyed answered "friends and family." As a result of the general rule that you must help relatives and friends in need, homeless shelters and rest homes are very uncommon in Central and South America. Marc commented, "There is a respect in the human being that goes beyond politics."

Dara Zimmerman says, "People are just trying to adjust to inflation right now, and a new currency. People hate the government, they want change, the indigenous people are rebelling, but many people see no hope, they just see the United States controlling everything. Transnational corporations have seized control of the oil and shrimp export.” This is a growing problem with free trade as it stands now with the grip of the World Trade Organization. The WTO displaces the power from the country to the rich Chief Executive Officers who pull the strings from plush leather seats in the United States, ensuring unsafe working conditions, long hours and low pay. Now that Ecuador has undergone dollarization and has been forced to give up their own unit of currency, the sucre, they have been further dehumanized, now resembling only numbers rather than actual people with a diminishing sense of nationalism.

In Quito, the adventurers had a myriad of "special" episodes in the youth hostels. But once they had the system figured out, they began to stay in a very nice pension, run by a couple that became like their own family that they kept returning to after a stint in the jungle. Costing only around $1.10 per night, the team became very comfortable indeed. Although much time was spent in the city of Quito, when Marc thinks of Ecuador, he thinks of the people in the countryside. Feeling most of the economic strain, the tribes and indigenous people are having to survive sometimes with as many as seventeen extended family members in one house. "The people living in the country lack the luxury of choice to take up a cause. In this country we have the freedom to fight for the change we want to see and most don't take the opportunity to fight. But when you are stuck in the middle of the battle, struggling every day, it becomes increasingly more difficult to work for change," says Freeda.

Quito being much like other large cities in the world, with the inhabitants having city dweller lifestyles, fast-paced and party-wise, there becomes a problem specifically with the gringa, a rough slang translation of 'white girl.' Since many white female travelers from the United States are particularly more liberal than many of the women in Central and South American countries, it is sometimes dangerous to be a gringa, because the white woman is so much more visible. Gringas are often times viewed as women that are looking for action, in whatever form action may take. White women have become more of a novelty among the women of color. At the discos in Quito, the crew spotted some women that dyed their hair blonde and wore blue eye contacts in effort to appear more Western, as the Ecuadorian women have seen the attention lavished upon the white women that travel to Quito.

And still, another view of America comes from the "Pilgrim Barbie" dolls Rhiannon spotted in a mall in Quito. This is specifically disturbing because "America" refers to more than just the United States with our Pilgrim Thanksgiving celebrating that alleged fateful meal of corn and turkey: it's Central and South America and all of North America, not just us. Yet, Mattel sends their version of the modern-day imperialist to scout out new territory for colonization, as we see happening with dollarization.

Marc had an interesting experience being the only male among 3 females in Ecuador. Having grown up in Guatemala, he felt very comfortable in the lifestyles and tradition of living in Ecuador. But being the only male made him feel unique, stared at and wondered about. Luckily, the travelers met a good number of friends, ones that were interested in helping them in their studies and ones interested in the partying at the discos and elsewhere. Freeda says, "Ecuadorian's love to party! Everyone! Everyone loves to dance!"

A typical day in Ecuador as Dara describes it goes something like this: "Wake up at 6:30; help make a yummy breakfast; run around the jungle doing assigned tasks like recording government weather data or clearing trails with machetes; eat a yummy lunch; go back and do some more work; eat a yummy dinner; sing and dance till you can't anymore; sleep like a baby; wake up and do it all over again.

Rhiannon says of the entire experience, "It felt like a dream. I wish I was back there right now." However, it wouldn't be so easy for the Ecuadorians to come to the United States. Unfortunately, Ecuadorian immigrants cannot legally get into our country. In an effort by the U.S. to keep as many working class people out, immigrants from Ecuador will not be awarded visas. With a common foreign view of California being, as Rhiannon puts it, "Whoa! Beverly Hills 90210!" it seems that the United States could be a better option than staying in Ecuador as the U.S. dollar takes over here.

The prerequisite class the group took prior to departure is Integrated Studies Special Major (ISSM) 398S. The experience combines International Service Learning, Indigenous rights issues, Spanish, natural resource management, and global politics. Freeda Burnstad is the instructor for this class, with Dara Zimmerman as a co-facilitator. As Freeda says, "It's important to be traveling, reflecting and thinking about things. If you need to explore, if you need to expand your horizons, Ecuador is the perfect place." If you are interested in spending a life-altering semester in Ecuador, please contact either of them through e-mail: Freeda_Burnstad@monterey.edu or Dara_Zimmerman@monterey.edu.
NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ALCOHOL AWARENESS WEEK

October 16th- October 20th

Do you know what’s in your glass?

October 16th- 7:30pm: BBQ at Saratoga Park
Candle Light Vigil to Follow
October 18th- 12-2pm: Information Table in front of D.C.
October 19th- 10:00pm: “When a Man Loves a Woman” @
  World Theater, Bldg. 28
10:00pm - 2:00am: Safe Ride Home @ SCC
  Call 582-4842 and 582-4841
October 20th- 10:00pm - 2:00am: Safe Ride Home @ SCC
  Call 582-4842 and 582-4841

Sponsored by the Office of Residential Life
If you need disability or interpreter accommodations to attend these events, please promptly 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 First Class.

October: Breast Cancer Awareness Month
Visit the Campus Health Center for more information on breast cancer. Call 1-800-333-4320 to find out if you are eligible for a free mammogram.

October 16-21
What: National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week (NCAAW)
Where: 3:00pm
For more information: Please contact the Personal Growth and Counseling Center via First Class.

October 18
What: Women's Problem Solving and Support Group
Where: 3:00pm
For more information: Please call Sharon Riley at 831-582-3015.

October 18
What: Men's Forum
When: 12:00-1:00pm
Where: Personal Growth and Counseling Center (Building 9) - Conference Room
For more information: Please contact Mel Mason at 831-582-4437. To serve as a support group for African American male students with a focus on goal setting, problem solving and mentorships with African American male faculty and staff.

October 20
What: Men's Soccer vs. Pacific Union College
When: 12:00pm
Where: Soccer Complex
Counseling Center
For more information: Please call Sharon Riley at 831-582-3686.

October 22
What: Native Plant Propagation Training and Volunteer Opportunity at the Watershed Institute Green House
When: 10:00am-4:00pm
Where: Watershed Institute
For more information: Please call Sharon Riley at 831-582-3686.

October 29
What: Catholic Mass and Newman Community
When: 11:00am
Where: Building 44
For more information: Please contact Matthew Fish or Debra Rivera via First Class.

October 30
What: National Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention week
When: 4:00pm
Where: Bldg. 29 - Room 114
For more information: Please contact Ber Amir via First Class.

November 1
What: Women's Problem Solving and Support Group
When: 12:00-1:00pm
Where: Personal Growth and Counseling Center
For more information: Please contact the World Theater at 831-582-3686.

November 7
What: Early Focus - a time for Bible reading and prayer
When: 7:00am
Where: World Theater
For more information: Please call the World Theater at 831-582-4580.

Cost: $7.00 Students/Alumni
$10.00 General

November 9
What: Women's Rugby practices are held every Monday and Wednesday, 5:00-7:00pm in the WAC annex. Please contact George Baldwin via First Class.

November 12
What: Inter-Club Council Meeting
When: 6:15pm
Where: Student Activities and Career Development
For more information: Please call 831-582-3849.

November 12
What: Student Voice Judicial Committee meeting
Where: 8:15am-9:30pm
Where: Student Voice Office in the Student Center (Bldg. 14)
For more information: Please contact Tamaisha Murphy via First Class.

November 13
What: Outdoors Club meeting
For time, location and more information: Please contact Kristin Bruce or Julia Montgomery via First Class.

November 15
What: Catholic Mass and Newman Community
When: 11:00am
Where: Building 44
For more information: Please contact Matthew Fish or Debra Rivera via First Class.

November 16
What: Women's Problem Solving and Support Group
When: 12:00-1:00pm
Where: Personal Growth and Counseling Center
For more information: Please contact Marsha McRory via First Class.

November 27
What: Flu Shot Clinic
When: 10:00am-3:00pm
Where: Campus Health Center
For more information: Please contact Flo Miller via First Class.

Cost: $10.00 due at time vaccine is received. Vaccinations given on a first come-first served basis.

November 29
What: Women's Volleyball vs. Bethany
Where: 7:00pm
For more information: Please contact the World Theater at 831-582-3686.

December 6
What: Men's Forum
When: 12:00-1:00pm
Where: Personal Growth and Counseling Center (Building 9) - Conference Room
For more information: Please contact Ber Amir via First Class.

December 13
What: Student Voice Town Hall Meeting to discuss Multiculturalism
When: 12:00am-2:00pm
Where: Student Activities and Counseling Center
For more information: Please contact Jason Sanchez via First Class.

December 20
What: VPA Lecture Series presents Gustavo Lugo
When: 5:30-6:30pm
Where: Music Hall
For more information: Please contact the World Theater at 831-582-3686.

December 22
What: Make a Difference Day in the DC
When: 10:00am-7:00pm
Where: Student Activities and Counseling Center
For more information: Please contact Catrina Flores via First Class.

Make a Difference Day is a nationwide celebration of neighbors helping neighbors.

December 23
What: Native Plant Propagation Training and Volunteer Opportunity at the Watershed Institute Green House
When: 10:00am-4:00pm
Where: Watershed Institute
For more information: Please call Sharon Riley at 831-582-3686.

Cost: $7.00 Students/Alumni
$10.00 General