The distance between the World Theater and the Tele Dramatic Arts and Technology (TAT) Institute is wider than the parking lot that divides them and illustrates the growing feeling of isolation from many TAT students, faculty and staff. Among those disheartened is TAT Director Benny Ambush who recently announced his resignation, effective the end of spring 2001. Ambush, one of the many TAT directors in the last few years including founding Director Luis Valdez, Marilyn Abad-Kardinali, Eric Hayashi, and Interim Director Shannon Edwards, says he is saddened at the prospect of leaving but can no longer function within the current system of administration at CSUMB. He is concerned about the lack of resources for TAT, including money and faculty/staff, and his perceived view of the lack of support and communication between academic departments and the President and Provost's offices.

...the problem is bigger than just lack of funds and struggles over "shared governance."

BENNY AMBUSH
TAT DIRECTOR

When asked for a reaction for Director Ambush's departure, the Provost could not be reached.

Ambush says his concerns for TAT include an insufficient base-line budget, lack of staff and faculty and lack of money for producing. Ambush is also concerned about the division between the function of the World Theater and the function of TAT. Initially the World Theater was thought by the TAT department to be an integral part of their curriculum, but TAT students were only recently given permission to use the World Theater for classes. The theater first opened, Esparza says though he was given a directive from the former Provost, Dell Feller, not to allow classes to take place in the World Theater.

It has only been this last semester that a few classes have been slowly "allowed" in. Director Ambush said that many times he and his students would "sneak" over and while World Theater employees "looked the other way," classes would take place there on the sly. "Now we can have some classes in the World Theater, but the pressure is always on to get out, so that they can make money renting to outside groups. The entrepreneurial aspect does have some academic and instructional benefits to it...but what has happened is every time I went there I felt like we were breaking the law while someone 'higher up' looked the other way because we had no where else to go."

The World Theater is not the only problem Ambush believes exists with the way TAT is currently running. Among other things, Ambush feels that TAT lacks faculty and staff. Though they do have tenured faculty Luis Valdez, he has been on leave making a movie, Ambush is on a tenured track, Caitlin Manning is on track for tenure as well and there is one more available tenure track line, that TAT is currently attempting to fill. That leaves a handful of committed, hardworking folks, including Esparza, Ambush and Media Production Specialist Chris Carpenter, who all say they work 50-80 hour weeks. According to the Dean of Center Four, Marsha Moroh, "TAT (also) has three additional full-time, dedicated and hard-working faculty (Steve Levinson, Karen Davis and Shannon Edwards) who have made, and continue to make, tremendous contributions to the program."

TAT is also just one of the four majors housed inside of Center 4, under the direction of Dean Marsha Moroh. Thought to be a champion for TAT by Ambush, Dean Moroh must still deal with the competing needs of Earth Systems Science and Policy (ESSP), MATH, the Institute for Communication Science & Technology (ICST) and TAT.

"Since TAT has been historically underfunded, in the past few years, this has meant contributions from MATH, ESSP and ICST, and some other non-academic programs in STIR at the time. The other programs of STIR have been very supportive of TAT, giving where they could to help sustain the program. I believe the budgets of the others are stretched to the point where there is little additional they can contribute. This year, I have gone back to the Academic Affairs budget table on TAT's behalf, and I believe that the other Deans and the Provost recognize the seriousness of TAT's fiscal situation, and will act to help remedy it," states Moroh.

Ambush says Moroh's efforts as an attempt at positive change, but still not enough. According to Ambush, the problem is bigger than just lack of funds and struggles over "shared governance." Ambush is concerned that the priorities of the academic institutions are not equal to that of the administration. He also says he tried to get all of the key players in this situation to sit down around a table together and talk, but has been told, "by almost everyone," that those making the ultimate decisions, including the President and the President's Cabinet, "do not want to get involved." Frustrated, Ambush has decided that he can not merely "go along" with such a system in which the administration and the academic units cannot work together. He says he feels the lines of communication between the President and President's Cabinet and the academic departments and students are not always easily crossed. He sees the current direction of TAT to be convoluted by competing interests, and not necessarily just those of students. Ambush says he cannot understand the priorities or ways of thinking of those who ultimately make the decisions about the structure and function of TAT, "And rather than try to fit a square peg in a round whole, I just have to leave and allow someone else who can fit to come in" Ambush says.

While TAT is equally valuable as the other institutions on campus, there are eleven other majors with students whose needs are equal to that of TAT. The question becomes how to address the needs of all the students. A "plan" then would seem helpful, Dean Marsha Moroh states, "The university up until now has not had a strategic plan, in which decisions are made about priorities, and how best to allocate limited resources so that they help us to achieve our goals, the primary one of which is student learning. That plan is now under development, along with an academic planning process. The result should be that there is more equitable allocation of resources to support those goals and programs the University deems most important."

Many of the TAT students, faculty and staff are concerned about the well being of the program.

The lines of communication are not always open between faculty and administration on this campus, and when communication breaks down, pleas turn into more drastic measures, like the one Benny took by tendering his resignation.

MATT FIORI
TAT STUDENT

In this Edition: Otter Realm Roundtable-3 | Wetlands-3 | Food Drive-3 | Men's Basketball-6 | First generation college students-7 | CSUMB buys KAZU-7
My First Semester at CSUMB
(An Open Letter to the Administration)
By Matthew Ulrich

With one semester now under my belt, I would like to take a look back at what I've learned from my classes over the course of my college career at CSUMB thus far. Unfortunately, it's not much. Do not misunderstand. I've learned a great deal that I consider to be personal experience. I just don't know what I have from my classes. Call this an open letter, if you will, but I'd like to offer a few suggestions to anyone listening, on how to make a freshman's first semester smoother and more productive.

Coming to CSUMB in the August, I did not know what I would find. College... in the immortal words of Keanu Reeves, "What?" I expected to be assaulted with loads of class work, to drive home that it's no high school anymore, to have no free time, and to sit around lonely in my room with my good friend, video games. But after the weeklong Otter Days festivities, I was crowning around with more newfound friends than I ever had in high school like we were old pals. The Luau was the best event for making friends, and I would advise the University to focus more on events like that. Otter Days was an experience unlike anything offered at the other universities I considered attending, and a promising start to college life. Thumbs up to CSUMB for the great introduction!

Then classes began, and everything went downhill. I often had so much free time that I didn't know what to do with it, which was good for getting to know others, but as far as the classes go, I felt like I was being ripped off. I'm not paying thousands of dollars a year to take Tech Tools, Pro Sem, and Math 98/99. I understand the need to get these basic requirements out of the way, but it seems that they have no clue as to how to do it than with the current set of courses.

The requirement to learn basic math skills before moving on to more advanced classes is a part of every program, and learning by figuring it out for yourself rather than just being told is supported by plenty of statistics for the university to flaunt. So Math 98/99 must be a good class, right? Guess again. As the other ninety percent of freshmen required to take the course, I felt like I was being ripped off. It's ridiculous. As much as I hate to say it as a friend, if they're correct, they have an obligation to make an immediate like to them. Maybe it was because I witnessed the guys drive away the fog with their Allman Brothers cover 'Blue Sky,' or maybe it was their impromptu rendition of Bob Marley's 'Stir It Up,' but by the end of the day I felt that we had just experienced something beautiful and lasting.

I've focused on the academic aspect. I should note that CSUMB has quite an active rumor mill, much of it founded in legitimate concerns. If the University wants to calm its students, it must take a more upfront role in addressing issues in a public manner. The administration certainly pays lip-service to the concept of groups of three students, I have to admit that we all complain about, but that what I have out-lined are serious concerns, which, if addressed properly, could improve many freshmen's opinion of CSUMB during their initial semester here. Probably once I've been able to choose my own more difficult classes, I'll long for the days when I could lay back with only easy classes like Math 98/99 and Pro Sem, but at least somewhere inside I'll know I'm getting my money's worth.

The Black Box Cabaret was one of the few places where the CSUMB PD and the student community could interact on even footing. Officers would drop by either as part of a patrol or security, or just for coffee & snacks. This contact point allowed many students first get to know the officers as individual persons rather than as blanket uniformed officers. One officer told me recently, "Since the BBC's closed, now the only time I interact with students is when I'm giving them a ticket."

James Green

425 Carmel Ave.
(corner of Carmel Ave. & California)
Marina
384-6323

Sunday Service 10 am
Weekend Review
By Matt Fiori

The Orange Sunset show was a bit of existential musing from a Santa Cruz cafe that would delighting the ears and tickling the fancy fellas that makes you want to invite them to play at your party. Breakin' All the Rules has a cool surf rock, 'Mong on Sloppe' that rocks out. By the end of the song, everyone will be dancing from the little kids to the grandparents.

Chinese Cat Sunflower. As IF we haven't heard this song enough, these boys decide to give it a go. Groovin' up the hook, and providing plenty of background boogie for this timeless tribulation to psychedelia. I think Jerry would be pleased, especially with their funky tag at the end of this 9+ minute jam.

What follows is a song in the style and flavor of "the other" jam band, PHISH, delighting the ears and tickling the mindful jazzer than even PHISH gets. Reminds me of something I'd hear coming from a Santa Cruz cafe that would drive me hypnotically off in the street.

Well there you have it folks. Just in time for the holidays, these E.P:s make nice for anyone who's a kid at heart. Contact the band for purchasing information or to find out about their next gig.
Otter Realm Roundtable Discussion Inspires Lively Exchange

By Kechia Smith-Gran

Expectations for the first Otter Realm Roundtable Discussion were high, and though the turnout was small due to the short notice, four students attended the two-hour meeting. The purpose of the roundtable is to have a meeting of a diverse group of people, ideally students, staff and faculty, to candidly express their views on particular topics relative to CSUMB. The subject of the first meeting was to discuss the cultural climate on campus relative to identity. While several students, staff and faculty were asked to take part in the discussion, only four participants were able to attend the inaugural event due to less than 72 hours notice.

The participants, Ethan, David, Noel and Jason, who agreed to allow the use of their real names, shared a few things in common: all are students, they all are looking for ways to be more involved in the life of CSUMB. The subject of the first meeting was to talk about an event due to less than 72 hours notice.

The conversation explored dimensions of identity and how students relate to each other, to faculty and to administrators. Noel and Ethan had a great exchange about reciprocity between cultures. Noel shared how he wanted his new university to have him seriously. He wanted the university to have him seriously, and for the new students to put their culture on campus in a way that would not be effaced by the dominant culture. Noel and Ethan had a great exchange about reciprocity between cultures.

People simply do not see the wetlands as a valuable resource. Rainforests receive lots of attention because of the exotic plants and animals they hold, but wetlands cannot lay claim to the fame that rainforests can. They do not have colorful birds or strange looking frogs. What they are most famous for, you can't see.

How many have times have you seen a scary movie with a girl being attacked by something in a swamp in the dead of night? Swamps don't really seem like great places from that image, do they? Well, truth be told, all you see on TV is not to be believed. Wetlands, or swamps, instead of being dismal and full of water monsters are one of our most important resources.

So, why aren't wetlands receiving the same attention as the rainforests? Wetlands are often seen as wastelands, unimportant, and seemingly a good place to build a mall or a new neighborhood. And unfortunately, their value is not appreciated until after they are gone.

Ethan self-identified as "queer, woman-identified male" who had at one point been a skinhead for three years of his life prior to his spiritual conversion. The other participants in the room stayed silent during David's revelation of his ideological evolution.

Jason was largely silent during this part. While there was not a sense that the four men would be best friends for the rest of their lives, there was a sense that they were able to see, hear, interact and share in a discussion that may not end as quickly as the scheduled meeting. David, Ethan, Jason and Noel made sure to take the first step toward uncovering other points of view. While none of them can speak for the whole campus population, they did at least see how complicated the issues of culture on this campus can be. The work obviously does not stop now. There are several opportunities during the academic year to talk about environmental issues through campus organizations like National Coalition Building Institute - CSUMB Affiliate, Multicultural Feminists Club, All In The Family, Otter Christian Fellowship, Jewish Student Union or inside the classrooms or dining commons. You can do your part in environmental issues on this campus.

The Otter Realm Roundtable Discussions will continue into the next semester, and will involve students, staff and faculty to discuss many more topics. If you would like to be on the next roundtable panel, please contact Otter Realm Editor-in-Chief, Kechia Smith-Gran, also on FirstClass. The topic will not be announced until the spring. For more information about campus organizations, please contact the Student Activities and Career Development office in building 44 or on FirstClass.

Competition with Selfless Benefits

By Menekse Ayapdin

People are dying for food every day in the paradise known as Monterey County. Its that time of year again to not only eat good food but to give some as well, especially to those who are in need, and what better way to help out than contributing to a worthy cause.

As in years past, California State University, Monterey Bay is having its annual food drive, only this year things are a little different. In a recent email interview, Amy Driscoll the person in charge of the food drive said “last year we did a mini-drive at the employee holiday party.” The differences this year are that the drive is campus wide and will last for a month, beginning November 20th and ending December 15th. Also to make things a little more interesting competition has been added, CSUMB will be competing against Hartnell College and Monterey Peninsula College to see who can collect the most food to the Food Bank of Monterey County.

The Food Bank of Monterey County is a large organization that not only feeds the needy, but also helps people with shelter and/or with rent. They also provide counseling services. They serve 32,000 people a month and are able to through the help of 120 non-profit organizations, one of which is Dorothy's Kitchen. They distribute county-wide and utilize 400 volunteers to accomplish this. All of the food that is distributed is stored in an 18,000 sq. ft. warehouse.

In this last year alone the Food Bank has distributed 4 million pounds of food. In a recent phone interview, the Executive Director of the Food Bank, Leslie Sunny said, “The need of food for people has increased 185 percent this year.” A reason for so much need is due to many factors such as minimum wage, and with the money they bring home having to decide whether to pay rent or buy food. Sunny also said “Within the 50 percent of families that are served at least one person in the family holds down a job.” These people are known as the “working poor.”

Everyone is encouraged to participate in this year's holiday food drive. Some of the locations on campus anyone can bring canned goods such as, milk, soups, beans, tuna, fruits, vegetables and pasta to are the University Center, or to buildings 1,2,3,12,17,18,46,80,82,99 during normal business hours. At these locations there will be festivie looking bins with pictures of wreaths and other colorful decorations on them. On the bins will be the list of sponsors for this food drive. Some of the sponsors include Fox 35, Rotary Club of Carmel Valley, Monterey Herald and Salinas Valley Memorial Healthcare System. If there are any questions regarding the food drive, contact Amy Driscoll who is the person on campus behind this effort, or contact the Monterey Food Bank at (831)758-1523 or (831)372-7843. Also if anyone is interested in volunteering during the holidays or at anytime, the Food Bank always accepts volunteers for their cause. Anyone in need of food, help with rent, shelter, or counseling can call 1-800-339-8282, 24 hrs a day.
Spring 2000. At departure time, in late afternoon, parents, friends, and relatives were herded off the dock in Vallejo. Cables splashed into the water and the gap between the Golden Bear and the dock slowly widened. Last-minute gifts, supplies, chairs, a hat, littered the deck. The ship's whistle blew bone-jarring blasts as it turned towards San Francisco Bay. By dark we reached the Golden Gate Bridge, and well-wishers who had raced the ship stood mid-span, eerily suspended in the pitch black ed. One faculty and fourteen California State University Monterey Bay students had carved two months out of their daily lives to spend traveling the oceans together, to places we often could not pronounce, let alone visualize: Manzanillo, Mexico; Callao, Peru; Valparaiso, Chile; transited through the Panama Canal; San Blas Islands; Isla Roatan, Honduras; Grand Cayman; and New Orleans. Along the way students would visit all these places, learn about all aspects of ship operations and complete as many as twenty-one units of CSUMB curriculum onboard.

Another voyage of the Golden Bear had started. One faculty and fourteen California State University Monterey Bay students had carved two months out of their daily lives to spend traveling the oceans together, to places we often could not pronounce, let alone visualize: Manzanillo, Mexico; Callao, Peru; Valparaiso, Chile; transited through the Panama Canal; San Blas Islands; Isla Roatan, Honduras; Grand Cayman; and New Orleans. Along the way students would visit all these places, learn about all aspects of ship operations and complete as many as twenty-one units of CSUMB curriculum onboard.

We drifted off to continue packing our cabins, grab a quick bite, wonder about the weather and who would get sick first as the ocean lifted the ship with its unique unmistakable 'you are at sea now' swell.

The next day the ship dropped anchor in Monterey Bay, its first visit ever, in honor of the CSUMB students on board. In the afternoon the motor launch was hoisted overboard to start shuttling visitors for an onboard reception. After the first launch load, rising swells from a distant storm and rapidly increasing winds caused the ship to drag anchor and the captain made the call to get all visitors back to solid ground. By the time the launch returned from its last trip, the ship was miles out and the waves were standing it on its head. The launch crew worked to attach huge hoist shackles while the gray wall of the ship's hull rushed up and down alongside it like an amok elevator. Once up in the air, the ships roll set it careening across the ship, up, up, and in a great arc back to the other side. Ocean, deck, ocean, like a demented carnival ride. With precise timing the crane driver managed to slam it down on its cradle, and again, we were off.

Students unanimously describe the voyage as a life-altering experience. Each identified different highlights. Earth System Science and Policy (ESSP) Senior Kimberly Takacs learned about the sea. She comments, "The most awesome thing about the cruise was that I was learning about systems of the earth while experiencing and seeing them firsthand." Takacs' perceptions of the natural world were both enhanced and changed on the trip. She states, "I came to the realization that this is a very small world we live in. I saw such contrasts in ecological support."

Human Communications (HCOM) student Karen Patty describes a typical day on board: "The ship life has become fairly routine. Everyone gets up in the morning, goes to class, eats lunch and goes to quarters, goes back to class, 'clean sweep'; gets dinner and then studies. Usually around 20:00 the movies begin at various locations on the ship, from private rooms to the lounges, to the Pirate's Cove (snack shop), and sometimes even out on the deck projected onto a bulkhead. I am learning more and more about our HAM radio every day. I am learning more about the atmosphere and the weather, too. On Monday the boat began rocking from front to back in addition to rocking from side to side. This means that the current is coming at us from a different direction: straight ahead... Monday evening we were able to observe an electrical storm over Nicaragua. Rarely have I seen something so sublime... Sometimes I can't believe these words...it is such an awesome adventure."

Institute for Communications Science and Technology (IEST) Senior Ammie Heringer learned about the different currents off the coast. She recalls when "the water temperature dropped by about 10 degrees because we went from the offshore current to the further out current to avoid the fog." When asked which destination stood out most in terms of nature, Heringer recalls the day spent in San Blas: Sitting on the beach, eating coconuts, swimming in and out of coral, watching the storm approach the anchored ship as we are out of harms way on the beach.

Ammie spent much time on her Radio Communications capstone project. On most ships, automation and satellites have turned radio rooms. They were once the hub of activity and the only link with land. This was also true for the Golden Bear. However, CSUMB students cleaned, tossed, organized, cabled, fastened, and installed equipment until they had built a computerized shortwave radio station. After days of testing, tuning, fixing, scrugging a derelict computer, the first email contact with land was made. The team developed procedures and formed themselves into shifts, often until late at night, to transmit emails that were brought up to the radio shack on floppy disk by students and staff. They often communicated with Pat Barthelow, the stateside Marina Radio Club expert contact. People came by, brought snacks, asked for news from home, exchanged notes and visited. Long evenings were spent...
that were all too short. Reality, one step out the door, a hissing dark ocean and the brightest stars you will ever see as you make your way home, three flights down, three flights up to the aft house.

ICST major and Senior Robbie Ann Mack learned that "the environment is ever changing and the sea has an amazing power and is full of life. The environment is much more fragile than I was aware of before, as well as a lot more potentially menacing." Mack learned to appreciate the night sky. She remarks, "You've never really seen the stars until you've been to desolate a place as the sea."

There were many memorable experiences. Our priority transit of the Panama Canal took place at night under bright lights. The ever-present tropical rain steamed up every port hole you might look through, camera lenses, glasses, and anything else having to do with vision. The canal entrance and locks were brightly lit, with arrows pointing at the lock to be taken. Web cams were attached to the lock buildings. The ship moved up and down with the water level at amazing speed, and moths the size of a man's hand alighted quietly all over the deck. The twenty or so Canal line handlers casually went about their business attaching us to tracked mules on each side, never missing a line throw, mule whistle command. After twelve hours of transit, the Canal split us into the Caribbean dawn on the way to our next stop.

ESSP Senior Holly Lopez adds that this was a particularly meaningful event as she "re-lived my grandfather's sea going days as a merchant marine by re-tracing the route he took as he steered a ship through the Panama Canal at age 17. I sailed the same waters that he sailed many years ago." For Lopez, "memories ranged from days spent wandering the sandy palm-tree filled islands, swimming in warm water, feeling thermoclines and taking the helm at night. I also recall spending quiet moments outside on the deck admiring the vast, dynamic sea."

ESSP Senior Chad Peddy studied the chlorophyll levels in each of the harbors visited and compared them to the chlorophyll levels of the Monterey Bay. His project is linked to his Capstone. His fascinating non-linear presentations revealed enormous differences in the 'quality of life under the surface.'

As the Golden Bear approached New Orleans, observations of ocean smooth as silk and a thin brown veil of sea mist obscured but the brightest stars. Brightly lit Christmas tree oil platforms lining the channel like lights on a runway. But runway lights don't flare bright jets of burning gas, or rumble deeply with mechanical sounds, chirps, hammering echoing farther than sound has a right to travel.

At dusk, sensing the dock, the ship steamed full turns eighteen knots up the Mississippi, passing right, left, and washing its brown wake over the banks, flushing the occasional bird.

Bob van Spyk comments on the classroom side of the experience: "The ship has four classrooms, down about eight flights of stairs. Forgetting something in your cabin means using about 200 calories to get it. Classes start at eight, right after breakfast, go until noon, and start again at one, depending on your registration. The ship rolls, usually lightly, and sometimes you can hear the rustle of water along the sides. Close enough to a womb that it becomes inherently comfortable and second nature in short order. Since the body is always in motion, however imperceptibly, sleep is never far away no matter how hard the desk, or interesting the lecture. The well-stocked library is two more flights down. It has big overstuffed chairs and couches and as you read you can hear the water rushing, gurgling, and slapping along the hull, while you gently roll this way and that. Ah, life is good."

Summer 2001 Cruise
Hawaii to Guam, the Philippines, China, Japan, and back to Hawaii and Vallejo with explorations in Midway and Truk.

Did you miss the boat? Fortunately, the Study at Sea offers CSUMB and other students new opportunities every summer. The Study at Sea Program is open to CSUMB students in any major. Registration also welcomes students from other CSU campuses, lower division students, and MPC students. On June 23rd 2001, the ship will travel from Hawaii to Guam, the Philippines, China, Japan, and back to Hawaii and Vallejo with explorations in Midway and Truk, scenes of some of the fiercest WWII battles in the Pacific. Each port allows for two or three days of shore visits with optional organized tours and explorations. Curriculum on board is still being planned but will likely include ESSP, CST, Math and other disciplines. To prepare for this trip the Institute for Communications Science and Technology offers in Spring 2001 CST 372 Study at Sea Current Issues, which covers climate weather, the geography of each of the destinations, and technology. So those who are even thinking of this opportunity would do well to register. Further information is on the web page: http://atsea.monterey.edu or contact Dr. Robert van Spyk at bob@monterey.edu or 831-582-3519.

To prepare for
On Thursday, December 7th students and faculty of the CSUMB Spanish department traveled to the historic Mission San Juan Bautista to view El Teatro Campesino’s holiday play, La Virgen Del Tepeyac. El Teatro Campesino’s 2000 production of La Virgen Del Tepeyac carries on a tradition spanning almost 25 years. The music and dialogue of the play were entirely in Spanish, and although the level of fluency in CSUMB’s group ranged from Spanish 101 students to native speakers, the remarkable performance was able to transcend language barriers to deliver a unique insight into the culture and history of the Aztec culture.

La Virgen Del Tepeyac was adapted by Luis Valdez from the Mexican Folk Tradition and was directed by Kinan Valdez. In the program, Luis Valdez, sets the premise. “This special Christmas offering, dramatizing the four apparitions of Our Lady of Guadalupe to the Indian Messenger Juan Diego in 1531, is a reenactment of the miraculous events that inspired the religious rebirth of Indigenous Mexico, a mere ten years after the Spanish Conquest.”

The play opened on November 24th and will run through December 17th. Due to the incredible response from audiences, all of the remaining December performances of La Virgen Del Tepeyac were sold out by November 30th.

The evening began with many of the students and faculty meeting at the Jardines de San Juan, an authentic Mexican restaurant located in the heart of the historic district of San Juan Bautista. The group consisted of faculty and staff from both the CSUMB Spanish department as well as the Monterey Institute of International Studies (MIS).

As for the future of these traditional holiday productions, Artistic Director, Luis Valdez writes, “Our hope is to continue presenting these old, joyous religious folk dramas to alternate the La Virgin Tepeyac with our other Christmas presentation, La Pastorela.” While tickets for the remainder of this year’s performances are sold out, El Teatro Campesino plans to continue grasping audiences with this spectacular holiday tradition for years to come. Just remember to get your tickets early.

The 2000-01 Men’s Basketball team played in its first home game of the year, losing in a lackluster performance to California Baptist College 83-52. The Otters were held scoreless for the first five minutes, finally breaking through on a short jumper by leading scorer Dexter Amey.

However, this was a sign of things to come, as the team struggled all night to find an offensive rhythm against the much taller Lancers. Head Coach Bill McClintock feels his team’s lack of emotion hurt them in this game saying... “I didn’t think we were ready to play at all.” Coach McClintock was also disturbed that the Otters leading scorer (Amey) only shot the ball six times in the second half.

The Otters only shot the ball 45 times all game as team, leading to 33% shooting, while the Lancers got off 59 shots and made 56% of them. Coach believes this lack of shots was attributed to poor screenng and no offensive movement without the ball.

Cal Baptist does deserve some credit as their pressure defense allowed them to dictate the game tempo, and force the Otters into hurried decisions. The pressure led to 32 Otter turnovers, and made CSUMB deliver some tough passes as well.

Offensively, the Lancers were able to have their way inside. With three post players at 6’6” or better, they towered over the Otters, leading to easy shots at the basket. They were also able to use their size to get offensive rebounds and second chance points.

The Otters frustrations came to a head in the first half when they were whistled for a shot-clock violation, and received a technical foul for having six players on the court. The Otters then went into halftime trailing 41-22.

At the half, fans were introduced to “Sally the Otter” who joined the cheerleading team, on the sidelines.

The Otters came out in the second half with a quicker starting line-up to combat the pressure defense. They were able to deal with pressure for a short time, getting as close as 4 points down, but eventually the pressure was too much for the Otters on this night.

CSUMB’s only three point shot of the game came late in the second half from Guard Jay Lockett. Forward Mike Neely played strong all game finishing with 16 points and 10 rebounds, while forward Dexter Amey led all scorers with 20 points.

The Lancers Balanced scoring attack was led by George Elder who poured in 15 points in only 18 minutes of play.

The Otters brought in a 0-10 pre-season record compiled against mostly superior teams including Division I schools UC Davis and Cal Poly SLO. They were also without key players Rocky Steroy and Alex Frank who will be eligible to join the team in a few games.

Coming off a 31 point loss, the Otters responded in strong fashion to defeat Race Express in an exhibition game 85-72. Everything the Otters didn’t do against Cal Baptist, they did do Saturday night.

The Otters controlled the game by pushing the ball up the floor, playing strong defense, and finding good shots out of the half-court offense. CSUMB forward Dexter Amey had a monster game scoring 40 points on a variety of moves around the basket, and hauling in 17 rebounds. Forward Billy Curry also had nice game contributing 18 points.

Everyone who played for the Otters looked very good, whether it was passing, reboudning, or taking advantage of open shots. The guard play was much better in this game as the Otters turned the ball over 15 times, which was less than half as many as they had in the previous game.

This was an exhibition game, so the stats do not count toward the overall season results, but a win is a win. This was a game the team needed to win, for their own confidence. Guard Jay Lockett summed it up best saying, “When you 0-11, any win is big, plus it showed the kind of team we really are.”

Of his big game Amey said, “We played well, we played together as a team, and my teammates gave me some good passes in spots where I could score easily.”

Otter players also said the crowd got them fired up to play with their rowdy cheers.

Race Express is an AAU team made up of former collegiate players. They were led by Jesse “Outlaw” James who scored 35 points in a losing effort.

Celebrate Responsibly

By Dr. Charles B. Reed

In just about every tradition, the end of the year is a time for socializing and celebrating with friends and family. Whether you are planning to celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Ramadan, New Year’s Eve, any other special occasion, or simply the end of the fall semester, I urge you to keep safe and healthy during this holiday season.

As many of you know, alcohol abuse is a prevalent and persistent problem on many college campuses. The entire CSU family was forced to confront this issue when some of our students experienced tragic and near-tragic incidents this semester. At Chico State, a fraternity pledge died after ingesting a considerable amount of alcohol. At San Diego State, two different fraternity-related incidents involved underage drinking and hospitalization of pledges.

Because of its importance to our students and to our campuses, I believe that we must increase awareness of this critical issue. We must find alternatives to alcohol and solutions that work for our students, not just in theory but in everyday practice. We also must join together to learn from each other’s practices and about new approaches from around the country.

That is why I have appointed a committee of CSU presidents and students to review our university system’s alcohol policies and prevention programs. It is my hope that this committee can help us strengthen our policies and minimize the number of students who are harmed by alcohol abuse.

The chairman of this committee will be CSU Fresno President John Welty, who also happens to be the vice chair of BACCHUS, the international association of college-and university-based peer education programs focusing on alcohol abuse prevention. He will be joined by five other CSU presidents, two CSU vice presidents of student affairs, six students, and representatives from the faculty, alumni, and CSU staff. I expect a report from this committee by early spring.

In the meantime, I hope that all members of the CSU family will take the time to recognize and become more thoughtful about the serious issue of alcohol abuse on campus. And while I encourage all of you to enjoy this festive time with friends and family, I hope that you will take the necessary steps to celebrate responsibly:

• Don’t drink and drive;
• Don’t let your friends drive drunk;
• Don’t ride with someone who has been drinking;
• Don’t drink and drive;
• Always buckle up.

I wish you all a very happy holiday season.
First Generation College Student Research Expands

By Matthew Ulrich

For the past two years the HCOM350S: Oral History and Community Memory class has been studying first generation college students at CSUMB. First generation students are those who are the first in their family to go to college. Usually their poor or ethnic backgrounds have resulted in lack of funds or simply seeing no reason to attempt something that is so out of the ordinary for them. Because these students are coming from such a different background than those who grew up knowing they would go to college since their parents did, it is a greater challenge for them to become accustomed to college life and studies.

The HCOM350S class has, through oral interviews and with the help of family histories, profiled these students here at CSUMB to reach some interesting findings, which the class has made available on the web at http://classes.monterey.edu/HCOM/HCOM350-02/world/index.html.

Why such fuss over first generation college students? As Damian Reyes, a participant in the class and a first generation college student himself, puts it, "I think that everyone would "gain from it because if everyone better understands each other then there is [far] better communication."

The CSUMB Vision Statement emphasizes special attention and commitment to those students who have traditionally been underserved and ignored by higher education, which makes the topic a natural for the Oral Histories and Community Memory class to choose. By interviewing students who have participated in the Summer Bridge Program each year the class can track first generation students as they move through all the levels of their college experience. This, in turn, allows the university to better understand how to serve those students. There are currently two sites—one from 1998 and one from 2000—and with each class, a new site will be added. As the results grow, the individual findings of each site can be referenced for further study.

Each site has three main sections: Freshmen, Sophomores, and Juniors. Soon, they will be able to include Seniors. The results themselves serve many purposes. "This information could be useful to different kinds of people," says Rose Erwin, who put together the 2000 website. "High school students who are wondering about college, students who are considering interviews, and alumni, interpret, and present findings. Filled with a wide variety of ethnic backgrounds, HCOM350S works with the Service Learning department, and is useful for students who are interested in such a variety of fields as teaching, history, storytelling, museums, and libraries. Most of all, says Benmayor, "[it is useful] students who have a passion to work in their communities."

In addition to providing what Benmayor calls a "report card" on how well the campus is meeting needs and recognizing talents in its first generation students, the website is an excellent source to learn more in-depth about the class' findings for your own personal knowledge. "This information could be helpful to others as their experiences at CSUMB have helped benefit others as their experiences at CSUMB have benefited them. If they take a look at it," says Reyes over First Class, "they might find the problems facing them here at school, in the home, or in general society." He adds that during the semester he took the class, he dedicated more time to it than any other.

Although intended for Upper division students, some sophomores have been so motivated by the subject matter that they were able to do very well in the class. Students learn how to work in groups, design projects, do background research, conduct interviews, and analyze, interpret, and present findings. Filled with a wide variety of ethnic backgrounds, HCOM350S works with the Service Learning department, and is useful for students who are interested in such a variety of fields as teaching, history, storytelling, museums, and libraries. Most of all, says Benmayor, "[it is useful] students who have a passion to work in their communities."

On Monday, December 4th, 2000 it became official that after almost a year of negotiations and bids the CSUMB Foundation, led by Kevin Saunders and Peter Smith, purchased KAZU Pacific Grove, 90.3 FM.

The frequency that KAZU operates underneath, 90.3 FM went up for sale in December of 1999. Frequencies usually don't go up for sale at a cheap price, but KAZU, which was having money trouble, did. Four main bidders emerged with an interest in owning the frequency. KXED in San Francisco put a bid in to buy the frequency, and it was the intention to send their signal down to Pacific Grove and have their format broadcast on the Monterey Peninsula. KUSP, a Santa Cruz based station, put in a bid to purchase the frequency also; they are a similar community type based radio station. Another group that tried to make an effort to buy the station was a group of volunteer programmers from KAZU. But in the end, the KAZU Board sold the rights to the frequency to the Foundation at CSUMB.

By listening to their experiences, we can provide more support to students who are interested in such a variety of fields as teaching, history, storytelling, museums, and libraries. Most of all, says Benmayor, "[it is useful] students who have a passion to work in their communities."

CSUMB has had relationships with community radio in the past. Four years ago CSUMB did a joint production with Robert Louis Stevenson School on their station KSPB. It was a two-hour variety show called Monterey Bay Live. According to Levinson it didn't work out in the long run for a number of reasons.

For the next five to six months there may be very few visible changes to KAZU. The Foundation and CSUMB want to take a feel for the station as well as hear the community's response. Eventually it will be determined what is the best way to implement new ideas. KAZU is constantly trying to develop programmers and an audience that is younger. And the wide spread hope is that in the future students will be more involved in KAZU without changing their community radio.

The Otter Realm December 13, 2000

The CSUMB Foundation Buys KAZU

By Brian Kees

In the last few years CSUMB has developed a relationship with KAZU. CSUMB students have been active in helping KAZU with variety, news, and talk shows. Currently there are three students who work for the station. Ian Sardegna-Stephens, Andrew Rogers, and Alison Geitner are late night programmers.

Another TAT student, Melanie Walker, is the current music director at KAZU. Walker started over at KAZU through a service learning class, and eventually was hired as music director. "This is a great opportunity for students to get involved in actual radio production, we have Internet streaming here on campus which helps students start out in radio, but the involvement with KAZU is great," said Levinson. Christian Womack, another TAT student and head of Broadcast Analog and Digital Audio Stream (BADAS) said, "Radio students will now have more hands-on experience and training. The majority of TAT students have a distribution point in the World Theater. Those of us focusing in radio have our own now. Not to mention local programming has been preserved.

No other information source covers the Salinas Valley like The Californian.

Printing Compliments of The Californian.
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. All events listed are free unless otherwise noted.

December 13
What: Women's Problem Solving and Support Group
Where: 10:30am-1:00pm
When: 10:30am-1:00pm
Where: Personal Growth and Counseling Center
For more information: Please call Flo Miller at 831-582-3613

December 14
What: Group Meeting
Where: 12:00am-1:00pm
Where: MLC room 171

For more information: Please contact Lynda Haddox via First Class

December 14
What: Blood Drive
Where: 12:00pm-1:00pm
Where: ChOMP/Red Cross mobile donor unit will be parked between the Dining Commons (Building 16) and the Media Learning Center (Building 18). No appointment necessary.
For more information: Contact Mel Mason at 831-582-4437

December 15
What: African American Men's Forum
Where: 12:00-1:00pm
Where: Personal Growth and Counseling Center (Building 99)- 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.

December 15
What: Men's Basketball v. Holy Names College
Where: 7:30pm
Where: WAC
For more information: Please call 831-582-3015

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