Student Diagnosed with Meningitis

By Caroline Musto

On Friday, February 9th, a CSUMB student living on Princeton Court in Frederick Park was diagnosed with a case of noninfectious meningitis. Another Frederick Park resident called 911 Thursday morning after finding the student seriously ill and unconscious in his room. By acting quickly, the unidentified caller saved the student's life. Police and paramedics transported the student to Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula (CHOMP) immediately.

The particular form of meningitis with which the student has been diagnosed cannot be easily transferred from one person to another, however it is a very serious illness and is not to be taken lightly. The Otter Realm was assured on February 10th, by a nurse at CHOMP that the student's condition has improved since being admitted to the hospital. This is good news, for meningitis is an infection of the brain and known to be lethal with the possibility of after effects including learning disabilities, hearing impairments and temporary loss of sight.

The symptoms of this serious illness come on very quickly. They include a fever, headache, stiff neck, nausea, vomiting, lethargy and tiny red or purple-black spots.

The bacterial infection causes inflammation of the membranes surrounding the brain and spinal cord. This disease effects about 3,000 Americans per year and causes about 300 deaths. Meningitis seems to be on the rise, especially among college students since risky behaviors like excessive drinking and smoking can lower the immune system. There are about 100 to 125 cases of meningitis that occur on college campuses annually with 5 to 15 of the students dying from it.

Because this form of meningitis is noncontagious there is no reason to seek immediate medical treatment. Should you be concerned about contracting meningitis call the Campus Health Center for the cost of $75.00. If anyone would like to know more about this disease call the TelMed medical information number at 624-1999 and dial extension 238.

Many students who voted yes on the Student Union Referendum to restore the Black Box Cabaret (BBC) may not get to enjoy the box by graduation. The last renovation cost estimate of $600,000 has been upped to $727,000 which includes more roof work, trim for the windows, added sheathing in various areas, extra support beams under the flooring, patio and deck work, and concrete access ramps, railings and stairs. All the above changes need to be made before the BBC will be able to be reopened so it meets fire code, safety and ADA regulations.

In the spring of 2000 the BBC was closed due structural deficiencies. Prior to its closure the BBC served many purposes. It was a place that students, staff and faculty could gather on even ground, have a latte, a salad or a sandwich. The BBC was a place to hang out and talk or just chill out and read. It was also a place for students to work, or play pool or dance the night away at Spin Cycle. Open Mic Night, for those who don't know, was an opportunity for students to say anything or do anything they wanted such as skits, music, dancing, comedy, spoken word, etc. But since the BBC closed down there have been murmurs that there is no longer a place worthy of such activities.

The BBC coalition, currently headed by Rebecca Rosenthal, has been doing all they can to get the BBC back up and running and the new estimated renovation costs are just another hurdle to cross.

"The BBC was a place were we could build community, have events, it was the essence of the CSUMB students community. We need to know if students still want it and they do so Farah and I will take that to the BBCPG so we can start the business plan."

Former BBC employee, Dominic Manchesta took the stage and addressed the audience at Club Fest on Wednesday, February 7th "We love the BBC, and we know you love the BBC. I want my job back, I want my family back, and I want my home back, so help us support the BBC."

Photo by Caroline Musto

Otter Announcements

Be sure not to miss...

The Vagina Monologues February 15th, 16th, and 17th at 8:00pm in the World Theater. Tickets are $3.00 Students $5.00 General Public. Proceeds go to local organizations working to stop violence against women.

Come to the Tailgate Party and Basketball Doubleheader on Saturday, February 17th at 4:00pm $5.00 includes "Carlos and crew BARBEQUE" and admission to both games. (Students can use their meal cards)

Basketball Double Header vs. College of Notre Dame
Women's 5:30pm, Men's 7:30pm

The First American woman in space, Sally Ride is coming to CSUMB Friday, February 23. She'll lecture on "Our Future in Space" at the University Center at 7:30pm. There will be a private reception at 6:30 pm. $100 for private reception and lecture, $30 for lecture only For more information: Please call 751-1858.

The Vagina Monologues

February 14, 2001 Volume 6 No. 10
Dear All,

In the coming months, I will again be participating in a very special and powerful event to help raise awareness about AIDS. I am writing to ask you all to share this experience with me, either again or for the first time.

In June, 2001, I will take seven days to ride my bicycle 580 miles from San Francisco to Los Angeles with over 2,700 other people in an event called the California AIDS Ride®. We are riding to raise money for the San Francisco AIDS Foundation and the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center in their mission to end the AIDS pandemic and the human suffering caused by AIDS. Together, we have raised more than $11.25 million last year for individuals living with, at risk for, and affected by HIV and AIDS, and important AIDS prevention programs in San Francisco and Los Angeles.

I have agreed to raise at least $2,700 in pledges between now and the beginning of the Ride on June 3rd. I need your help to meet my goal. I am asking that you make a pledge in the amount that is right for you. Please keep in mind how far I am riding, the commitment I have made, and how long I will have to train for this event!

You have heard the numbers before, but it is easy to become numb to that information. Let's consider them again; AIDS has affected nearly all of us, having taken more than 418,000 of our loved ones. In addition, it's estimated that over 1,000,000 are living with HIV right now in the United States alone. With your support, you can share with me in the commitment and hope to avert any more deaths caused by this pandemic and to help those who are in desperate need of care.

If you decide to contribute, all you need to do is reply to this letter, and I will contact you and either give you a pledge form along with a stamped & addressed envelope for you to send to the California AIDS Ride, or you can simply log on to the San Francisco AIDS Project's Website and pledge electronically, using a credit card. I have set up the URL so that the pledges get sent directly to my account (Rider #2335). The site is located at: http://fw4.netserver3.net/alfapledge_org/carftmn.chn?ridernumber=2335.

Soon, I will be sending out a reflection of last year's Ride along with a website I have created that contains information from past AIDS Rides and to our Otter Realm community policing board. There are several ways to do this, including: making a donation, participating in the Black Box Cabaret, or writing to request a guest pass. In addition, I will be distributing flyers with this letter, and I will be available to answer any questions or concerns you may have.

All my best,
Angie Cricchio

Letters to the Editor Policy

The Otter Realm likes to hear from its readers. Full name, address and daytime phone number are required for verification purposes only, not for publication. Letters may be up to 300 words and must be factually accurate. Letters may be edited for length only. Threatening or tasteless letters will not be printed and will be reviewed by the Otter Realm editorial board. There are several ways to submit commentary.

Email: OtterRealm@moneymail.com
Fax: 831-582-3505
Mail letters to: Otter Realm 100 Campus Center, Building 86A Seaside, CA 93933

Cynthia Gonzalez, Liberal Studies
What is your favorite Valentine's Day memory? When my boyfriend snuck in my room and decorated it. He put roses all over everything. There were balloons all over the ceiling and on my bed there were chocolates and teddy bears.
How will the two of you celebrate this Valentine Day? I won't be able to see him, because he is at the police academy this time of year, but I will be thinking of him.

Amanda Irwin and Lake Waters, members of Dan Only Band (Featured at Club Days)
Do you have any special plans for Valentine's Day? Yes, we are going to have really hot sex all day long.
Anything else? We might eat some really good food, if we have any time.

Martina Garcia, Liberal Studies
How do you usually spend Valentine's Day? We have a tradition in our family that everybody, daughters and sons and husbands, everybody gets together and we exchange gifts. Such as? Flowers, jewelry, cards and hugs too.

Jessica Smiley, KCOM
What's your most memorable Valentine's experience? Two years ago boyfriend and I went whale watching in Santa Cruz. As soon as we got out to sea I started throwing up and didn't eat anything, and we didn't even see any whales even a otter, nothing!

Steven Rivas, D.C. Cook
Are you going to cook your girlfriend a Valentine's Day meal? No, I want to take a break from cooking and go out, have someone cook for me. Where will you eat out? The Whole Enchilada in Moss Landing.

By Megan Keogh

People on the Street

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Roy Foster, ESPP
Are you doing anything fun for Valentine's Day? My girlfriend and I are both working. So you won't be celebrating at all? I will probably give my girlfriend April a present or card that day, and maybe on Friday we will go out to dinner and a movie.

By Jessica Smiley, KCOM

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By Megan Keogh
The Otter basketball team is at the height of its development, emerging from a pool of developing athletic talent at the California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB). Students and coaches spend long hours practicing and developing skills, with the hope of growing into competitive teams. After surviving a Fall semester of continual practice, the athletic department is more than deserving of a few claps of praise.

Attention All Students... last week our average sales reps earned $12.00 - 14.00 an hour (our top producers earned $20.00!!) selling the nation's leading newspapers. You can too with our base guarantee and a generous commission/bonus plan. We have morning, afternoon and evening schedules available at our modern facility. Call today!

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Self and diversity awareness were the themes for CSUMB’s weeklong event, Diversity Days. Students, staff and faculty participated in a variety of events that stimulated reflection on diversity, cultural awareness, and gave opportunities to explore new ideas. From Club Fest to Diversity Days, students, staff and faculty appeared to be successful, as expressed by Ms. Laduke.

Monday’s dinner with Winona Laduke appeared to be successful, as expressed by those who went. Winona Laduke, Native American activist and former Green Party Vice-Presidential Candidate, spoke to the CSUMB community about environmental, political and mundane issues facing society. Prior to hearing Ms. Laduke speak, Hyon Chu Yi, Diversity Days Chair, thanked those who contributed to the planning of Diversity Days and informed the public of the week’s events. Hyon Chu also discussed the idea of Diversity Days saying, “we don’t require a special event to celebrated ourselves; everyday should be a diversity day.”

Hyon Chu introduced Provost Diane Cordero de Noriega who then introduced Winona Laduke.

Winona Laduke, who traveled with her youngest child to the campus, discussed her background in activism and said that the most important reason for her activism is her children. Along with discussing her background, she also gave the audience advice to improve issues of diversity. “The challenge we face as humans is to reconcile ourselves [with our environment, with each other].”

In regards to the economy, Ms. Laduke pointed out the economic problems faced by Native Americans and the unjust distribution of wealth, “Wal-Mart alone has a higher economy than 100 countries.” Winona Laduke’s discourse commenced a week of discussion with a diverse group of presenters and orators.

President Smith continued discussion on Wednesday evening at an informal dinner. Here students, staff and faculty had the opportunity to partake in a dinner and roundtable discussion with President Smith. The free dinner covered on-campus issues about “achieving a more multicultural learning community.” Former Black Panther, Elaine Brown was the last speaker of Diversity Days and a featured speaker for BSU-sponsored Black History Month.

Diversity Days participants not only listened to speakers but could also partake in discussion of diversity issues. Throughout the week, participants had the opportunity to take part in a variety of workshops and panel discussions such as Religious Wars and Linguistic Diversity. All in the Family, CSUMB’s club for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered, Straight and Questioning students, faculty and staff presented a panel on Tuesday regarding issues faced by the gay community. The panel consisted of All in the Family club members, who wore “Just Ask, It’s OK” buttons, to inform the community that they were available to answer questions or engage in discussion of diversity. “I’m glad I went, because it gave me an better understanding of the gay community and how I can be an ally to their cause” one student said.

We don’t require a special event to celebrated ourselves; everyday should be a diversity day.

HYON CHU YI
DIVERSITY DAYS CHAIR

Various participants outside of the LGBT program panel wore the “Just Ask, It’s OK” as part one of the “Passive Programs” of Diversity Days. Participants with these buttons were free to answer Diversity-related questions or engage in a conversation of diversity with students that were not comfortable discussing those issues in a workshop or roundtable setting.

Diversity Day’s also had two different experiential events to increase the welcoming of diversity among the CSUMB community. Thursday’s DisABILITY Dinner, not only taught participants how to welcome diversity but how a person with a disability may feel in having a meal. The DisABILITY Dinner gave participants various examples of disabilities, which the participants had to portray. Participants later were involved in a reflection with facilitators from Student Disability Resources. Margaret Keith, director of Student Disability Resources, reminded participants that a disability can occur to anyone at anytime of her or his life.

But beyond speakers and panels, Diversity Days also held events that were entertaining to all audiences and yet delivered the message of the importance of Diversity. On Wednesday Ibrahima Ngom taught students healing dances from Senegal, which left a few students sore after the lesson. Friday, February 2nd, kicked-off Diversity Days and Black History Month with “Let’s Groove Tonight,” a dance that helped participants celebrate Black History Month and the First Annual Diversity Days at CSUMB. The Saratoga Annex assisted participants in learning how to appreciate his or her culture “as well as others” with a free event called Culture Sculpture.

Two feature films were shown during Diversity Days. “Remember the Titans” and “Iron Giant.” Both films highlight the problems of prejudice and intolerance. “Remember the Titans,” starring Denzel Washington told a true story of a football team and their coaches fighting a town’s prejudice. “Iron Giant,” an animated film for children discusses the discrimination of a town and how a child and his friend, an Iron Giant from outer space, learn to challenge discrimination and prejudice.

Club Fest, held on Wednesday afternoonin the Main Quad brought together different student clubs and organizations to showcase their organization and inform other students of upcoming events and to recruit new members. The main attraction of Club Fest was Oakland children’s choir, The Cantare Samaritan Singers. The singers, composed of children, sang songs and recited poetry that have had an important influence on African American culture, such as the poem “Phenomenal Woman,” by Maya Angelou. A barbecued lunch, a climbing wall and back massages were only a few of the activities available at Club Fest.

Along with the Cantare Samaritan Singers, a “thrill-hop” group, as they labeled themselves, called the Tremendous Trio played a variety of “old-school” and funk songs and voiced their support for the opening of the Black Box Cabaret (BBC).

The first annual Diversity Days was an avenue for participants to explore issues of diversity and of self-awareness through different mediums. Whether by listening to Winona Laduke speak, or making a culture sculpture, Diversity Days brought out awareness throughout the campus community. The next step is, as Hyon Chu said, to make every day a diversity day.
Producing a Pliable Plan for TAT

CSU Monterey Bay is a small campus with twelve major areas of study and sometimes not enough money to go around. Recently, it has been a major concern of many participants in the TeleDRAMATIC Arts and Technology (TAT) program that they are not getting their fair share of the budgetary pie. TAT is a CSUMB major conceived in the idea of linking technology with theatrical arts, an expensive process. Since majors get funding largely based on the amount of students enrolled in classes, and TAT has approximately 120 students, that isn't always enough to fund everything needed in TAT. This semester, for example, two production classes usually offered every semester (a beginner and an advanced level), had to be cut in half and only one course could remain.

These funding issues, along with the perceived division between the function of TAT and the function of the World Theater by TAT Director Benny Ambush, recently led him to announce his departure from CSUMB. Concerned students, faculty and staff want to know why TAT is having the problems they are currently experiencing. As far as the World Theater is concerned, it was never intended to be for the sole use of the TAT Department. In the "World Theater Business Plan," created last summer by a nationally known theater professional, Jerry Yoshimoto, and endorsed by the President's Council in October, it is stated that a campus the size of CSUMB cannot support several different theaters, though many people have the need for such facilities (such as TAT and MPA, etc.) According to Provost Dr. Diane Cordero de Noriega, "The report recognizes that it makes no sense on a campus of this size to resource the World Theater, TAT and MPA individually to do similar work, and recommends that the World Theater be the central source of these services for all activities held in the Theater, as well as those produced by TAT and MPA, no matter where they might be held. As the World Theater operational infrastructure is developed, these services will be enhanced." Ambush is not in favor of the plan and was the sole abstaining vote at the President's Council meeting to endorse the plan.

Ambush states that it is not the sharing of the World Theater that is the problem though but rather where the priorities lie. For example, if more than one person need to use the theater at the same time, some decision of priority would need to be made. Provost Cordero de Noriega continues, "One challenge that we as a rapidly growing campus currently face is the need for additional space for classrooms, specialized instruction and offices. At this time, the World Theater serves as the site for a wide variety of functions, and in that capacity is a university-wide facility. Part of the tension we as a campus currently feel about the use of the World Theater is that there is no alternative space for performances, rehearsals, performance-based classes (such as TAT's acting, production and film courses), and large gatherings that require the technology available in the World Theater. The World Theater is currently called upon to serve all of these needs, which it cannot continue to do in the long run. The World Theater report acknowledges that the campus will need to develop alternative space for many of these events, courses and activities. Until that occurs, there will continue to be more demand for the World Theater than can be reasonably met, and conflicts will undoubtedly arise which require rescheduling or relocating. The day-to-day decisions on what activities will be held in the World Theater rest with the World Theater staff, who work extremely closely with the TAT and MPA Directors, faculty and students. It is my understanding that this last semester, great effort was taken to avoid disturbing courses that had been scheduled in the World Theater when conflicting activities and events arose. Given that TAT has chosen to schedule a larger number of classes in the World Theater this semester, the potential for conflict has increased."

This "potential" for conflict is a very real concern for Ambush, as several of TAT's classes need to use that space, seven this semester. In a meeting between Ambush, Cordero de Noriega and President Peter Smith however, Cordero de Noriega's assurance was that, "there is agreement that the academic programs are the first priority."

Cordero de Noriega says that while she understands what Ambush's view is regarding the World Theater (that the Theater operation should be absorbed into the TAT program), "that simply isn't possible, given the variety of uses and the broader vision we have as a campus for this facility."

Cordero de Noriega recognizes that there seems to be university wide, CSUMB, no longer in its infancy, is now facing the growing pains of moving from the enhanced start-up costs it once received to the now typical California State University funding. TAT is an expensive major when compared to others and the Provost recognizes the challenge of keeping all the technology up-to-date. "There is no doubt that TAT is an expensive degree program,"

CSUMB is Going the Distance with Ready2Net

By Rudolph J. Heuser

On January 31, 2001 California State University Monterey Bay's President, Dr. Smith, took part in a nationwide satellite and internet telecast regarding the future of colleges and the integration of technology. This is Ready2Net, and this was the first of four large-scale broadcasts that will be conducted, ranging in topics from e-commerce for colleges, to distance learning, to wireless applications in a learning environment. During these discussions, several of the top educators in the academic learning system talk about technological issues and the impact it will have on staff, faculty, and students alike. The first of these four sessions dealt with the concept of distance learning classes over the Internet. With the establishment of CSU Monterey Bay, the idea of distance learning has been something the campus has strived to achieve. Steve Reed, the associate VP for University Relations, stated that, "we have actually hoped we would be able to do that immediately." Imagine taking a class from Chico State in the comfort of your own room, at your own computer, and it is clear why CSUMB's forefathers felt distance learning would be an intricate part of the curriculum. The idea behind distance learning is simple classes are taken at a distance, and the only time, if at all, the student enters the classroom is on the first day, or for large class projects. The rest of the work is done outside of the university, reducing the number of students that must remain on campus. Another benefit of Distance Learning is the accessibility it provides for students with disabilities or special needs who, otherwise, might not be able to attend classes. This method of teaching, however, does not take into consideration the diverse abilities of the students in a given classroom. To remedy this, CSU Monterey Bay created a model for teaching distance learning, a framework that is being mimicked in other campuses throughout California.

For teaching over a vast difference to be effective, learning must take place. The campus has strived to integrate technology into its curriculum, making the transition from classroom to home room effortless. Online discussion boards and mailing lists make it easy for students to discuss class topics, and with the ability to send video through the campus servers, a real-time classroom can be created. The faculty seems ready for this transition, "we're not going to have to take many steps..." Steve commented. "We are a new campus, and the new campuses have already assimilated this technology. As far as a campus community accepting digital communication, it is as much a part of us as our DNA." With email and FirstClass being fundamental skills, applying these skills to the classroom, and later the workplace would be the ultimate practicality.

As futuristic as it may seem, online courses are quickly becoming a reality. Students wishing to fulfill the Technology/Information University Learning Requirement have the option to take an online version of CST 101, Tech Tools. Soon students will be able to take other courses online.

The discussions held during this satellite and web broadcast dealt with the issues of education, and the topics discussed will have a direct impact on the methods of teaching with technology implemented in the future. This being the first of four talks, the other three vary in coverage, including the training and certification of teachers in an online environment, March 1, what campuses must do in order to compete in an online business, April 5, and the impact of wireless networks on a campus environment, May 2. Each focused talk deals directly with issues that impact students, and will be available for downloading over the Internet at CSUMB's website: http://ready2net.monterey.edu.
The Light at the End of the Tunnel

The time has finally come for the Class of Spring 2001 to put their party hats on. Senior commencement is just around the corner and the excitement is definitely in the air. Along with the commencement ceremony there are many other important activities to remember, such as the Senior Capstone Festival (which not one single senior is likely to forget) and the Senior Commencement Awards.

There are many exciting events that have been planned in honor of graduating seniors. These activities will take place from April 3–11, a week that has been fittingly named ConGRADulations week. As of right now there are only two events scheduled. The first is Career Day at the University Center on April 4th from 10am-2pm. Next, on April 10th from 9:30am-9:30pm, GradFest will be held at the University Center. This is when you can purchase announcements, the ever fashionable cap and gown, have your picture taken, check out the spelling of your name in the commencement program, and basically do everything necessary to prepare yourself for the big day. There will be a number of people available to answer any questions that the nervous and delightfully excited seniors may have. You don’t want to miss this. As for the rest of ConGRADulations week, stay tuned for details about other events.

As all CSUMB students know, capstone is a BIG deal. From the minute you step foot on this campus as a student you hear whispers of the graduation project that will take over your life in your last semester. It sounds scary at first, but the closer it gets the less intimidating it really is. As seniors, we have worked so hard to get to this point in our undergraduate education. This is our chance to show the world (or at least everyone who attends the Festival) what we have learned. So, although it is a lot of work, it truly is a worthwhile effort in the end. This year’s campus-wide celebration of the Senior Capstone Festival will be held on May 24th and 25th. Times and locations will be announced by each department as the date draws near.

Along with the many activities in store for graduating seniors there are awards galore to be given out. To start, the awards ceremony will be held on May 25th from 4:30pm–6:30pm at the University Center. Tickets are required for admittance. They are free of charge, and will be available at the UC after April 10th. The Awards Ceremony will honor the recipients of the student awards (see sidebar) and students awarded Academic Honors and Distinction in the Majors. The academic honor criteria are as follows: 3.0–3.49 for Cum Laude, 3.5–3.74 for Magna Cum Laude and 3.75–4.0 for Summa Cum Laude. The GPA used to determine the students who will receive honors is the cumulative GPA of coursework from all institutions attended. To find out if you are getting an award check the list at GradFest. Academic honor cords will be given to students receiving Academic Honors to wear at the Commencement Ceremony. Students who are awarded Distinction in the Major are chosen by the faculty of their academic program and will be notified by the department.

Finally, we reach the Senior Commencement Ceremony, the culmination of our struggles and triumphs in higher education. For some it is the end of their school career, for others it is the next step. However, it is a proud day for all, regardless of where the individual goes from there. The long anticipated ceremony will be held on Saturday May 26th at 10:00am–12:00pm. The ceremony will be held at Freeman Stadium, located off Second Avenue near Gen. Jim Moore Blvd. This is an outdoor ceremony and will be held rain or shine so advise your guests to be prepared. As for the ceremony procedure itself, students will be called to the platform and individually recognized. The ceremony will proceed alphabetically by major. Tickets are not required for attendance and guests should be in their seats by 9:45am. Disabled parking and seating will be available, as well as American Sign Language interpretation for individuals with hearing limitations. Keep in mind that this is Memorial Day Weekend and it would be wise to make hotel accommodations early. If not yet sure of where to start on this arduous task of making reservations for the entire family, call Resort To Me at #846-9250 first. This is a reservation service that helps find accommodations on the Monterey Peninsula for the right price. Or, check out their website at www.resort2me.com.

CSU Monterey Bay’s Undiscovered Dance Artist

Fran Spector Atkins, CSU Monterey Bay ballet, modern dance, and yoga teacher owns her own ballet school and dance company, Spector Dance, located at CSUMB. Fran is a highly motivated and respected dancer that combines ballet, modern dance, and modern technology to show the interested spectator the fine art of dance. Fran believes that dancing is an art form that can be studied historically, scientifically and emotionally. She uses the form of classic ballet and turns it into the beauty of modern dancing in attempt to cross cultural boundaries.

Fran Spector Atkins mentions that she is constantly investigating the process and theory of ballet. For instance, why do we plie, why do we tendue? After understanding the theory and process of ballet, we can use our bodies to help access our inner voice through dance. According to Fran, ballet is something that one must devote themselves to. After doing that, Fran believes that a student can then appreciate the outcome of relaxation, being physically healthy as well as mentally healthy, and aware of one’s body. Spector Atkins believes that ballet is a “user friendly” activity that can be personal, inventive, challenging, experimental, and thought provoking.

Fran has traveled all across the world dancing in countries including Denmark, Egypt, England, Israel, the island of Guam, and Taiwan. She has danced with teachers including Zena Rommett and Richard Gibson. Fran danced for The Incredible Journey Dance Company as well as the Mariko Sanjo Dance company, both in New York City. She mentioned that she began ballet during her first year at Boston University after dancing with guest choreographer Twila Tharpe for two weeks. "Those two weeks changed my life," Spector Atkins said. Fran believed that was a calling for her and so after she traveled to New York City to pursue her dream.

After a typical class, Fran hugs each student and discusses the progress that has been made during the class time. Dr. Jo Ann Carino, faculty here at CSUMB, has seen Fran Spector Atkins teach and mentioned, “Her teaching style is incredibly kind and even, which as an educator I find most rare.” Fran believes that she has given herself the opportunity of a lifetime and has chosen a path of life that has lead her to many successes and accomplishments. She notes with a subtle smile and a warm tone, “Ballet is what I love to do and I want to share that with the community in the best way that I can.”

Otter Realm February 14, 2001

The Light at the End of the Tunnel

By Behnaz Hejazian

CSU Monterey Bay’s Undiscovered Dance Artist

By Elizabeth Ahrens

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Photos by Elizabeth Ahrens

The Otter Realm February 14, 2001
Cheez Doodles could save your life. When archaeologist/anthropologist/rocket systems designer Charles Pellegrino goes exploring, he always takes a bag of Cheez Doodles: "A Cheez Doodle on the end of a tweezer will burn for at least two minutes. A bag of them can provide you with an extra hour of light if you're stuck underground," he writes in his book, Return to Sodom and Gomorrah. In 1981, Pellegrino was exploring a New Zealand cave looking for the remains of a centuries-dead Maori princess. A quarter mile inside the mountain, all his spare lights had either malfunctioned or were destroyed. As he lit a Cheez Doodle for light, his life was saved when the light revealed "a 10-foot drop off into a stalagmite, pointing up like a hundred swords."

From continental drift and the creation of the Nile River, to quantum mechanics, to the history of archaeology and the creation of the first processed meat, Pellegrino is a cross between Albert Einstein and Indiana Jones. He worked on the deep-sea robot that probed "The Titanic," designed an anti-matter reactor, and his article in a magazine on cloning dinosaurs was the inspiration for "Jurassic Park." Return to Sodom and Gomorrah is quickly turning into one of my favorite books of all time.

At first glance, it appears to be an easy-to-read book on archaeological evidence of Old Testament stories. But, a few pages into it, you are swept up into a whirlpool of interconnectedness: "All philosophy is ultimately reducible to philosophy." "All science is ultimately reducible to biology. Biology is ultimately reducible to chemistry. Chemistry is ultimately reducible to physics. Physics is ultimately reducible to mathematics. And mathematics is ultimately reducible to philosophy." From continental drift and the creation of the Nile River to quantum mechanics, Pellegrino tries to capture and explain eternity in 350 pages. He comes pretty close. If you have questions about who we are, where we came from and where we're going, you definitely need to read this book. And if you need a good reading light, I suggest a good lamp. Save your Cheez Doodles for snacking.

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February 15–17
What: The Vagina Monologues
When: 8pm
Where: The World Theater
Cost: $3 for CSUMB students, $5 all others
For more information: Please contact Ethan Brown at 831-582-4067 ext 3

February 17
What: TAILGATE PARTY AND BASKETBALL DOUBLE HEADER
When: 4:00pm
Where: In the lot adjacent to the Otter Sports Center
Cost: $5, includes tailgate food and admission to both games following the party (Students can use their meal cards)

Barbecue and all the trimmings provided by the fabulous "Carlos and crew BARBEQUE." Meet the teams and coaches.
For more information: Please call Bill Trumbo at 831-582-4270

February 17
What: Men and Women's Basketball v. College of Notre Dame *DOUBLE HEADER
When: Women's - 5:30pm, Men's 7:30
Where: Otter Sports Center
For more information: Please call 831-582-3015

February 18
What: Surf Monterey
When: 10AM
Where: Meet at Building 93
For more information: Please contact Julia Montgomery at 831-582-4644

February 23
What: "Our Future in Space" by Sally Ride, the first American Woman in Space
When: 6:30pm for private reception, 7:30pm for lecture only
Where: University Center
For more information: Please contact Julia Montgomery at 831-751-1858

March 9
What: Kayak the Salinas River
When: 8am
Where: Meet at building 93
For more information: Please contact Julia Montgomery at 831-751-1858

Every Tuesday
What: Rinse (DJs and dancing)
When: 10pm - 1am
Where: University Center Living Room
For more information: Please contact Julia Montgomery via First Class

Every Thursday
What: Piecemakers Quilting Group
When: 12noon-1:00pm
Where: MLC room 171
For more information: Please contact Lynda Haddox via First Class

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