Global wake up call

By Tharee Davis

On September 11th a group of faculty and students gathered for a spontaneous outpouring of expression in response to the terrorist attacks.

The talks motivated the faculty-run Council on Global Awareness to create a forum on the political situation of the Arab nations and view of Islamic tradition offering insight as to possible motivating factors of the terrorists. The council drew upon resources provided by the CSUMB institution for Teledramatic Arts and Technology to produce the television broadcast “Global Wake-Up Call.”

On October 1st Julie Shackford-Brady, on the faculty of Global Studies and a member of the council, hosted the live telecast, which streamed across the Internet and broadcast live to channel 42. The television studio was crowded with a concerned audience of faculty, student and staff from CSUMB as the forum began with public opinion gathered by documentary students from the Monterey Bay area.

People were asked what they knew about the Middle East and why they thought terrorists had attacked America. Comments ranged from U.S. oil interests, thousands of dead Iraqi children, to America being bombed for what they felt their country stood for: freedom.

The panel then opened with response from an associate professor of political science, Dr. Steven Zunes of the University of San Francisco. “While I am proud of our freedoms as Americans, foreign policy in the Middle East is about anything but freedom,” he said.

He stated that the dilemma is about U.S. support of Israel and refusal to acknowledge Palestine as a nation; the semi-permanent military occupation of the Persian Gulf; hacking corrupt dictatorships throughout the Middle East; and the starvation of the Iraqi people.

“These issues cannot justify terrorism,” Dr. Zunes said. “No one deserves what happened to this country on Sept 11, yet I must point out it is not our values, but the abandonment of them which has made us a target.”

He went on to say, “Even though only a tiny minority of Middle Easterners and Muslims support Bin Laden’s methods and tactics,” the complaints are congruous with much of the Arab and Muslim world.

The second panelist, Katharina Harlow, a member of The Council on American-Islamic Relations and Muslim Peace Forum, stated, “Suicide is illegal in Islamic belief. To kill one innocent human life is to kill all of humanity.”

The Muslim community was shocked and outraged that fundamental extremists would exploit Islam, Harlow said. “Muslim people around the world unequivocally renounce terrorism.”

Harlow supports unprecedented amounts of humanitarian aid throughout the Middle East to help alleviate extremist activity.

The forum then opened up for questions from the audience.
Voss is not sorry he joined, he says. He only feels better about his decision. No, he does not want to die, but he is willing to put himself in harm’s way for the good of his country. To him, patriotism is looking beyond one’s self, and understanding what each individual must do to serve the nation as a whole. “It’s really hard to feel good about war, but sometimes it’s necessary,” says Voss.

Voss isn’t too worried though, as he is not expecting to go to combat. He will be attending schools and training for about two years, and then is ready to, “be a part of the process of devising solutions to a new warfare.” This new warfare, Voss explains, is the biological, chemical, and terrorist attacks Americans are beginning to see up close and personal.

So how many Americans are willing to drop what they’re doing and enlist in the military today, in the country’s time of need? In a recent two hours at a local Army recruiting office, not one person walked in. It was not bustling with eager faces ready to fight for America, like Voss’. But the Army is suffering no lack of enlistees. Approximately one in 250 Americans is enlisted in the Army, while one in 125 is in one of the branches of the military. The quota for soldiers set by Congress will be met by mid 2002, and the Air Force has already achieved 102% of its recruiting goal for 2001.

While some people’s show of patriotism is joining the armed forces, others offer money and food, donate blood and put out their flags to show support for America. After the horrific attack in September, blood donations actually had to be limited because Department of Defense donor centers were overwhelmed by the volume of those willing to give blood.
“Teach-In” brings out enthusiastic student reaction

By Kelly Bland

The large turnout of CSUMB students at the October 16, 2001 “Teach-In” held in the campus University Center reacts in support of the CFA.

A march from Divarty Quad to the University Center conference room started the festivities. With the help of drums, voices, bodies and signs the CFA and their supporters made their way to the “Teach-In.”

The CFA put on the event in efforts to inform people about contract negotiations between the CSU (California State University) Administration and the CFA. “On workload, CFA had proposed improvements in the overall student/faculty ratios (which have being climbing) and improvements in the student/tenure-track faculty ratios (which has been exploding) to make it possible for departments to reduce class size, to reduce the number of classes faculty are required to teach, or both,” stated CFA President Susan Meisenhelder in the Fall 2001 Presidents column of the California Faculty Magazine.

Shuffling to find and fit more chairs in the conference room was a result of the overflow of students. “I would consider the ‘Teach-In’ a huge success. The turnout was incredible and is perhaps even comparable to that of the BBC (Black Box Cabaret) rally which occurred two years ago,” stated CFA student Intern, Camille Dereninger.

Getting the word out was a mission the CFA had in mind. Supporters who put on the “Teach-In” passed out flyers, pennant flags, and packets of information. CSUMB Teachers encouraged students to attend. Concerned and questioning people helped fill the room with more bodies than just avid CFA supporters.

Along with Union leaders, activists, CSUMB staff and faculty, students spoke out during the “Teach-In.” This enabled students to share ideas and concerns. Students spoke about how the “Teach-In” relates to students at CSUMB directly. Senior Kevin Miller stated, “We can not be a part of our learning community with our professors,” in response to the more part-time, and less full-time faculty situation. Problems and concerns brought to the “Teach-In” by the CFA, “effect students,” Miller stated.

The “Question and Concerns” session of the event led to student feedback, which was immense. Many students in the audience anticipated what the next step would be. Ideas of the audience were brought to the CFA’s attention on tactics to get the word out about the CFA issues. Suggestions included forums, statewide media, word of mouth, and promoting it at the upcoming Kelp Kraze in November. Students hope to get someone’s attention.

There are already proposed ways students can get involved prior to the next event. A letter writing campaign is in process to let the California State University Chancellor know opinions and concerns of CSU students. Senior Matt Fiori asked his fellow students to “take up the mighty pen and write Chancellor Reed.” Attending a rally in southern California is another option if there are enough interested CSUMB students willing to attend.

The CFA and supporters feels the “Teach In” was a success. “It was really refreshing to see many of the newer, younger, and veteran CSUMB faces at the ‘Teach-In.’ These events give the aspirations that will empower students to take an active stance on their education,” stated Dereninger.

For more information contact Camille_dereninger@csumb.edu.

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Advisors:
Holly White, holly_white@csumb.edu
Parker, James Green, Lindsay Molinaro

Graphic Designer:
Angelynn Odom
Staff Reporters & Photographers: Chris Lee, Brian Kees, China Buryn, Gabriella Lopez, Patrick Kuhl, Clara Holtsnider, Chaneille Rabateau, Emily Garton, Elizabeth Ahrens, Cory Schmidt, Kelly Bland, Sophia Bianchi, Matt
Student Voice follows up on last semester's SWAT team incident

The following is one of the letters of apology received from the SWAT team. It regards an incident that occurred last semester in which men in full military garb conducted training activities on sixth avenue amidst students, staff and faculty while classes were in session. Student Voice called for a public apology for the incident and asked that this kind of action not occur in our educational environment as it is inappropriate. A Townhall meeting was held on this issue on October 17. For more information on the Townhall, contact Matthew Fiori via First Class.

Dear Mr. Charter,

On behalf of Sheriff Sonne, I want to extend our apologies to any student or facility who were upset during SWAT Team Training at CSUMB on April 25, 2001. While Sheriff Sonne has the ultimate responsibility for the actions of every employee of the Monterey County Sheriff's Department, the SWAT training on April 25th was my responsibility and I failed to insure that the training did not disrupt the CSUMB community.

The Monterey County Sheriff's Special Weapons and Tactics/Hostage Negotiation Team has a long history of resolving potentially violent incidents without any serious injuries to hostages, suspects, or deputies. Part of this record of success is the result of frequent and realistic training. In the last several years we have conducted at least four other training exercises at CSUMB without incident. We have also conducted training at North County High School and Gavilan View Middle School where volunteers from the student body have taken part in the training.

On April 25, 2001 we planned to train in an unoccupied building on CSUMB that we had used for training in the past. During the planning for that training I failed to insure that the SWAT/HNT Team members would be properly briefed on what areas the training would be limited to and I failed to insure that there were backup systems in place to see that our training would not disrupt the CSUMB community. Since this incident we have reviewed our training procedures, and are in the process of establishing additional procedures to see that this type of incident does not repeat itself.

As I stated above, I want to extend my apology to the Associated Students of California State University, Monterey Bay, and the entire CSUMB community for this incident. It is my hope that this apology is accepted by the Associated Students, and that this unfortunate incident does not preclude future training opportunities at CSUMB.

Sincerely,

Lt. Jim Cronin
Commander, MCSO SWAT Team

Financial Director Greg Riley will serve as a voting member on the Student Voice Board of Directors. He will handle financial matters including the budget and all expenditures.

Goals: “My goal is to bring a Glacier filling station so that students, staff and faculty can get filtered water for their offices, homes, or residential hall rooms. Also in wake of security concerns in the residence halls, I would like to look into the feasibility of getting universal card access for all residence hall students. Since I am in a position to serve the students, their concerns will be heard and given serious consideration.”

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Halloween events

By Renee Infelise, Events Senator

On Halloween, come out to the main quad during University Hour for a multitude of events. Don’t forget to dress up for the costume contest where you could win one of three fabulous prizes. Stay after the costume contest for the BBC roast to find out anything and everything you wanted to know about the BBC, pool, bowling alley and Student Union building.

Not interested in dressing up? You can still come and check out the clubs and other student organizations that will be showcased during the contest.

Newly appointed Student Voice Financial Director

Financial Director Greg Riley will serve as a voting member on the Student Voice Board of Directors. He will handle financial matters including the budget and all expenditures.

Goals: “My goal is to bring a Glacier filling station so that students, staff and faculty can get filtered water for their offices, homes, or residential hall rooms. Also in wake of security concerns in the residence halls, I would like to look into the feasibility of getting universal card access for all residence hall students. Since I am in a position to serve the students, their concerns will be heard and given serious consideration.”

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Letter to the Editor

Hi, I wanted to relate an experience that I had last night... Weds 10/17/01 around 10 PM, or a little after, I heard loud 'car engine sounds' hysterical laughing and shouting from the park across from my street. These sounds went on for a while, and were quite disturbing.

Thurs 10/18/01 Went for a walk in the park, and discovered... Large muddy ruts in the grass of the soccer field where someone... Or several vehicles had driven over the cement curb up all over the grass, digging up large mud rings in the dirt to a degree that there are places now where no grass remains...

To the persons responsible: (You know who you are)...

There are plenty of places to take your vehicles to off road them legally without destroying the grass and the parking lot of beautiful parks. These are parks which are there for the community to enjoy, and are not for the pleasure of single destructive persons.

I am greatly disappointed and saddened by this activity. Please consider others and the destructive power of automobiles before going on your next joy ride...

I am only grateful someone was not hurt.

Wynter Nichols
Harvest Season Celebrations-Dia de Los Muertos and Halloween at CSUMB
By Chanelle Raboteau

The dead have never had it so good. Starting October 31, 2001, Halloween and Dia de los Muertos gives the campus community a reason to celebrate those gone but not forgotten.

"Halloween is a time to celebrate the darker side of life," said senior Ian Sardegna-Stephans, when asked about his opinion on Halloween. "Part of the dark side that Halloween celebrates has to do with honoring the dead and celebrating death."

But if being scared out of your skin is not for you, then on November 2nd, 2001, our campus celebrates Dia de los Muertos providing something for everyone.

"It is laughing at fear and it is laughing at death," said Amalia Mesa-Bains, who also explained that Dia de los Muertos "uses death to talk about eternal love."

Together with Student Voice and help from the community, the Visual and Performing Arts department has created giant skeleton puppets, sugar skulls and altars celebrating the dead, making this holiday a time for students and the community to heal.

A traditional processional during the Dia de los Muertos holiday takes participants to the graveyard where they lay flowers and food for their love ones. Our procession, with the help of Aztec dancers, starts in the MPA building, Building 30, and makes it way to the University Center.

"The main set-up will be in Building 29. This is the first year that we have gone indoors. In the ballroom there will be a large altar in front and on the stage. On the right side of the stage there will be the 'healing wall,' which was created by our outreach partners through Reciprocal University for the Arts Project, said Todd Krupner, studio tech for VPA.

It all begins with face painting in the MPA lobby at 5:30pm and makes it way to the University Center at 6:30pm. At 7:30pm a ceremony will take place with in the University Center, followed by a dance at 8:30.

"This year's theme is around healing and peace," said Krupner.

Without history our campus community would not be able to enjoy all of the rich traditions that these holidays have to offer.

For Halloween, the history stems back to the festival of Samhain, more than 2,000 years ago. Celtic people feared the eve of October 31st more than any other day of the year. Not only did it mean the end of another year, but it brought with it evil spirits that roamed throughout the land. It is also said that charms and spells had more power on the eve of October 31st.

Thousands of years later the holiday has changed into a day where children dress-up and receive candy for saying the magic words, "Trick or Treat."

This is great for children but some are not in favor with the commercial side of the holiday.

"Unfortunately, yes. From what I've read, the Church pretty much condemned Halloween, or any derivative, as a 'pagan' holiday back in the day. That made it pretty unpopular for generations, and it was primarily celebrated amongst kids, misfits, and us freaks," said Sardegna-Stephans when asked if Halloween had become too commercialized. He later added, "Today, in the U.S it has become kids, candy, and costumes. Boring, lame and mundane."

While Halloween has changed from the Samhain festival into the holiday it is today, Dia de los Muertos traditions have stayed in touch with their original roots.

Dia de los Muertos, also known as All Soul's Day, is a three-day holiday that starts on the eve of October 31st and ends on November 2nd. October 31st marks the day when the dead return to their earthly homes. Families and loved ones make their way to graveyards burning incense to help the departed find their way home. The celebration continues at the graveyard where loved ones place the deceased's favorite foods on the their headstones and even wash bins and a towel so that the dead can clean up before their feast.

There are many more traditions that each holiday offers so that those gone but not forgotten will be remembered.

Each holiday is beneficial not only to those who have lost someone, but it also brings together communities.

"Traditions are the things that hold us together in these hard times and I think that this is what Dia de los Muertos is about this year," said Mesa-Bains, when asked how this holiday benefited the campus. "Being together and having a way to build community in a time of fear and loss is very important," she said later.

If you would like to get involved with the VPA department on the upcoming Dia de los Muertos event, call 831-582-3005 or email Amalia Mesa-Bains via First Class.
Why the new CSU alcohol policy?
By Patrick Kuhl

When in an alcohol recovery program, the first step toward recovery is admitting that there is a problem. Recently, the California State University system took that first step toward recovery by admitting there is a problem with alcohol among some of its 350,000 students. The second step toward recovery is to attempt to remedy the problem, which is what the CSU is hoping to do by adopting a new, system-wide alcohol policy.

The new alcohol policy was developed by a committee of CSU presidents, vice-presidents, students, alumni, faculty, and staff. Chaired by CSU Fresno President John Welty, the Alcohol Policies and Prevention Programs Committee reviewed the university system's alcohol policies and prevention programs. Their goal was to strengthen policies and programs so fewer students are injured or die as a result of alcohol abuse.

The policy calls for early intervention and treatment of alcohol-related problems for students and provides $1.1 million in funding to help campuses implement the policy. There is currently no system-wide funding for alcohol education, prevention and enforcement programs.

General recommendations of the policy include the development of treatment programs, regularly reviewing state alcohol laws and notifying students of changes, banning alcohol advertising and products at campus events, and offering awards and incentives to student organizations that raise funds from sources other than alcohol companies.

To help implement the new policy, each campus will be required to create an alcohol advisory council. Councils will be composed of faculty, staff, administrators, students, and members of the community, including law enforcement officials. CSUMB has yet to create such a council.

Recent incidents at two CSU campuses prompted the system to reevaluate alcohol policies and programs. In late April, a student at CSU Chico died of alcohol-related causes and two students at CSU San Diego experienced near-death alcohol-poisoning incidents. For Chico, it was the second alcohol-related student death in six months. In early October, a freshman fraternity pledge died of alcohol-related causes.

Even though three of the four recent cases involved Greek organizations, CSU Chancellor Charles Reed recognizes that the problem goes beyond fraternities and clubs, and reaches into the general student population.

On their own for the first time, in most cases, college students are vulnerable to alcohol problems and sometimes misconstrue excessive drinking as a rite of passage. "Banning alcohol would not solve the problem," said John Welty, president of CSU Fresno, who chaired the committee, "instead, the culture that encourages the use and abuse of alcohol has to change."

The Black Box Cabaret: Past. Present. Future!
By James Thomas Green

The Black Box Cabaret, located on North-South Road Behind University Services, Building 80, will be home to the Teledramatic Arts and Technology (TAT) performance activities. Live performances of all kinds including music, poetry readings, and plays will be presented in a setting that replicates a coffeehouse of the 1950s.

The Black Box Cabaret will feature a full service coffeehouse offering hot and cold beverages, sandwiches, salads, and an assortment of pastries. Enjoy the performances sipping your java in a unique atmosphere.

An excerpt from the 1996-1997 CSUMB catalog

"I've seen this place go from an empty building filled with dust and spider webs to the place to be on Thursday nights!" - Preston Mullins, TAT Graduate

The BBC History

The Black Box Cabaret (BBC) is an ordinary building on the CSUMB campus. If you were to drive by, you might not notice much to differentiate it from other wooden buildings on old Fort Ord. However within its walls it was, and will soon again be, a very active and vibrant center of CSUMB life.

The place of the BBC in the CSUMB community has been compared to a Venn diagram. The various cultures, cliques, students, staff, faculty, et cetera, form the diagram circles with the BBC being the point where most of them intersect.

The building now known as the BBC was built in the 1940s as a canteen, or nightclub, for army personnel. The BBC began its current incarnation as a student center through the initial activities of then Teledramtic Arts and Technology (TAT) staff member Phil Esparza. During the early days of CSUMB, Esparza scouted through abandoned buildings looking for salvageable equipment for the TAT program. He examined this building and realized its potential.

Esparza took TAT founder Luis Valdez to the building. At that time, when the World Theater was still a dream, there were few facilities for TAT available. Valdez and Esparza decided that with its stage, this would be a good interim forum for TAT activities. Because the building was unused and scheduled for eventual demolition, there was little problem in Esparza and Valdez obtaining permission for TAT to use the building. Since "Black Box" is a common theater term and since "BBC" made a connection to the British Broadcasting Corporation, this was the name that was given to the building.

With the volunteer help of students, the BBC was modified specifically to support theater work, including building an upper deck specifically designed to support the showing of 16-mm films. The facilities at the BBC were constructed and there was an agreement that TAT had access to the BBC.

The work drew attention from the local community. Former BBC employee Sabine Wolpers told of a woman who came into the BBC in the beginning to perform a "cleansing ceremony" to drive out all the "negative energy."

Funding for BBC operations became a concern. The BBC was founded with the understanding that there would be little official money. Esparza and Valdez decided to set up a coffee bar to help fund the student and stage activities. Initially a partnership with Morgan's Coffeehouse in Monterey was formed to run the coffee bar, but ultimately this failed. When the partnership failed, the university bought out Morgan's interest and CSUMB foundation became involved in the BBC.

The BOSS Student business club worked in collaboration with the CSUMB Foundation and the Institute for Management and International Entrepreneurship to set up and manage the coffee shop end of the Black Box. BOSS was given sales authority over the BBC's coffeeshop. Eventually however, as the arrangement with Morgan's, the BOSS arrangement failed and then the CSUMB foundation took direct control of the BBC.

The BBC was forced to close down due to a number of building code violations at the end of the spring 2000 semester. Initially the CSUMB Foundation did not plan to reopen the BBC, at least not in the same building, which was marked for demolition.

Many CSUMB fans of the BBC became active in saving the BBC. One rallying cry was "My Box My Choice."

There was a march across campus to a rally in the BBC where many students voiced their support for a rebirth of the BBC.

Local news media followed the story. In order to get funding to save the BBC, a referendum was held and students voted to add to student fees to support the rebuilding of the BBC.

What's ahead for the BBC now that it's about to reopen in mid to late November? For some of those who worked at or patronized the BBC, there's an anticipation and excitement. Former BBC employee and current ESSP student Heather Yeager says, "Working at the BBC was a great experience. I got to meet many of the students and faculty that matriculate here at CSUMB while working in a laid back environment. Also, the job allowed me to view much of the local talent, through concerts and open mic nights. I can't wait for the BBC to reopen, so that I can continue to enjoy its amazing atmosphere and character."

Anton Prange of the Lutheran Campus Ministry said, "The BBC was a comfortable place for the local clergy to host the staff and faculty for a get acquainted lunch in the fall of each year. The University Center tends to be less personal and more expensive."

CSUMB TMAC Graduate Travis Melvin had less profound thoughts. "I was the local drunk, so to speak, and have got a head full of fuzzy stories and memories."
The Wind Beneath My Wings

By Elizabeth Ahrens

CSU Monterey Bay student Christina Bibbins, an Earth Systems Science major, passed away September 27 due to complications of a pre-existing condition after being rushed from her Yorktown apartment to the Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula. Christina is survived by her children, Jonathan, 12, and Shelly, 8.

The memorial service, held on October 2, 2000, was a heartfelt event. Dr. Karen Mendoca, Caroline Haskell, Margaret Keith, Chris Hasegawa, and Paul Strudwick were a few CSUMB members that gave thoughtful words at Christina’s funeral. Many people shared stories of Christina and proved the fact that she was indeed a wonderful and special person. Christina was a re-entry student that was studying for her third year at CSUMB. She was single mother to her two children, and while maintaining her family, she enjoyed her school life as well. As a person with a disability, she faced many struggles in life, but always came out on top. She worked through many challenges that would have sent others away; she defeated these challenges.

Evident from the funeral, many of her friends and family noted that Christina was always there to lend a helping hand, her commitment and devotion to others was strong through difficult times. One of her close friends remarked that, “It was easy to talk with Christina about anything because she’d either experienced it firsthand or was working through some aspect of it that she could relate to.” Christina was an encouraging student that was always there to lend a hand with schoolwork and the first to volunteer to help in events.

As an active member at the Valley View Baptist Church, Christina practiced her faith accordingly. Christina was an encouraging student that was up to the challenge of schoolwork and tutoring others. She was remembered by friends as a faithful math tutor, and helpful in pursuing and persisting in her mathematics studies. At CSUMB Christina participated in many community activities, she willingly gave her time to time students have told me and my colleagues that we are ‘the wind beneath their wings’. But really, the people I work with/for, and especially people like Christina Bibbins, are the wind beneath my wings. She was clearly the wind beneath many, many wings.”
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People on the street
By Clara Holtsnider

Have you ever seen the sign that says “Brown and Root Services” off Inter-garrison road? What do you think it is?

“Does it have anything to do with ice-plant?”
Nick Klein

“I think that it is a secret military operation to cover up nuclear weapons on Fort Ord.”
Armando Galvan

In all actuality, Brown and Root is a construction management firm which works for the Army Corps of Engineers. They are responsible for groundskeeping and maintenance of the areas which still belong to the Army on Fort Ord.

“Do they clean the porta-potties?”
Shane Spratt

“Are they hiring?”
Matt Montevideo

“Are they hiring?”
Clint Hoffman

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Otter Athletics

Hope for a winning season

By Sophia Bianchi

With seven wins and twelve losses, the Lady Otters remain hopeful they will dominate their next seven games. Much of the team’s ambition is due to their past winning weekend. They defeated Simpson College and Holy Names. It is the first time that the volleyball team has ever beaten Holy Names.

Farah Hussain, a senior and the team captain, feels that after the triumph weekend the team has now hit a turning point. “Before last weekend, we struggled through some hard matches, not so much physically but mentally,” she said. “I think the season is in a good place now and I am looking forward to finishing out the season strong.” Hussain is not the only team member who has faith in her teammates’ potential to make it to playoffs.

“I think the team definitely has the capability to go to the playoff. It’s just a matter of whether or not we will all come together and play like we all know we can,” said Hilary Heath, a sophomore who was just named Cal Pac Player Of The Week October 15th.

In order to make to make playoffs, the Lady Otters will have to play their last seven matches with a consistently strong start in each the game and depend on their strengths, serving and playing aggressively.

Much of the ambition that the Ladies are filled with comes from the motivation of the team’s two new coaches—Jerry Gregg, head coach, and Sarah Bernson, assistant coach. Gregg and Bernson, arrived at CSUMB just this season and although both coaches bring different styles and skills, everything seems to be working well together.

“Combined, their knowledge of the game and way of coaching is very complete,” said Hussain. She is also confident that in the seasons to come, both Gregg and Bernson will mold a strong volleyball program. Both coaches are anticipating a good ending to the season. “I hope the team will continue to play with heart and improve their skills. I would like to manage a winning season and even make it to playoffs,” said Gregg. Regardless of the team’s record, Benson said, “We are proud of our performance and attitude.”

Otter soccer teams advance to Conference playoffs

By Chris Lee

When the 2001 season began both the Men’s and Women’s soccer teams set a goal of reaching the conference playoffs. That goal has now become a reality for both squads, as they made the playoffs by defeating Menlo College in the season finale.

Both teams ended the California Pacific Conference regular season with records of 3-2, and pulled off victories in “must win” games versus Menlo to get to the playoffs. While both squads won, they did it in completely different fashion.

For the Women’s team, it was a case of total domination, as they routed Menlo 11-0, behind goals from most of the teams key offensive players, and suffocating defense. The team truly saved their best for last, as this was easily their most complete performance of the season, and a great way to head into the playoffs.

The Men’s Soccer Team finished the season with a hard fought 1-0 victory over Menlo College. The game was decided on a penalty kick scored by CSUMB player Scott Muleady. With the victory the Otters advance to the Cal Pac playoffs for the fourth consecutive season.

Running is a way of life

By Chris Lee

For CSUMB Cross-Country runner Miguel “Angel” Gomez, running has been a part of his life since he was in middle school. For him running 3-6 miles daily is just as ordinary as brushing his teeth. “I like running! It demands a lot from me, but at the same time, it’s also very relaxing for me.”

Gomez has been making waves on the Otter Cross-Country team for the past three seasons, including last year which saw the Otters win the California Pacific Conference Title. In 2000 he was also nominated for the “Athlete of the Year Award” given annually at the CSUMB All Sports Banquet.

While last year saw him reach a team goal, his biggest individual triumph came during his freshman year when he finished second overall in the Conference Championships Meet, his highest collegiate finish to date. When asked about it Gomez was modest saying, “That was pretty good, it was my freshman year, we had a fun season.”

The Junior Social and Behavior Sciences (SBSC) Major has excelled in the classroom as well, currently carrying a lofty 3.7 GPA. He attributes some of his in-class success to running saying, “It (running) keeps me motivated, the program is flexible and understands the students needs. It has allowed me to run without missing classes.” His future academic goals include plans to study abroad, and earn a teaching credential in history. He plans to graduate with an SBSC degree in 2004.

Coaching is also in his future plans, as he is looking to take on more administrative duties with the team, as early as next season. Being around Coach Yi Mao has influenced Gomez in many ways including strengthening his desire to coach cross country. “Coach Yi has a good coaching style, he has a lot of knowledge about running, and he always challenges you. He’ll make you run hard and push you to be your best.”

When asked about Gomez, Coach Yi put it simply saying, “He is a great runner, very dedicated.”

Aside from running full-time, Gomez keeps busy by participating in a year-long internship with the CSUMB Watershed Institute. His activities there include restoration of plants and working with local youth to heighten their awareness of environmental issues.

He is also the founder of the Roadrunners Running Club. The club was started by Gomez and high school friends in his hometown of Fresno, Ca. and has carried over to his college career. The Roadrunners Club does a variety of things including recruit for the school, participate in races, and community outreach. Gomez spoke more about the club’s mission saying, “I want to continue doing the same things I did back home like community outreach and we’re gonna use the club to get runners to train in the off-season.”

The Roadrunner Club is recognized by CSUMB as an official club. Although the numbers are small, Gomez hopes the club will expand quickly saying, “We plan to incorporate members from the team, and grow quickly.”

This season the Otters expected to once again contend for the conference title, as Head Coach, Yi Mao, planned to field a very strong team. Unfortunately the team has been depleted by injuries and academic ineligibility to key members. The team has not done as well in team competition due to a lack of runners.

Gomez gave his thoughts on the current season saying, “We had high hopes for this year because we had a lot of people returning, but we haven’t had a full team all season.”

Gomez has done his part competing hard in all his races finishing as high as 4th place in a conference meet. (CSU Hayward Invitational) He refuses to give up on the season saying, “We’re hoping to still make a good impact on this year’s league championships, hoping to place top five and maybe win a league championship.” The Cal Pac Conference Championships will take place on Friday October 26th, 2001at 2pm on the campus of CSU Hayward.

The Otters will host the Annual CSUMB Turkey-Trot on Saturday November 17th 2001 at 9am. For info regarding Roadrunners Club email miguel_gomez@csumb.edu.
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