Unknown Workers: Fields of Plenty

We will not tolerate the systematic poisoning of our people.

—Caesar Chavez

By Matt Parker

In Monterey County in 1995, more than 10 million pounds of pesticides were used on the food that was delivered to your dinner table.

Farm workers are exposed to a disproportionate level of the pesticides, compared to an average Monterey County worker. The effects of the pesticides on these marginalized people and their struggles to stay alive are too often overlooked and ignored, even now, when the time of giving Thanks is right around the corner.

Agriculture is the county’s largest industry, yielding more than $2 billion a year. Pests can destroy entire crops, leaving the growers with few products to sell. Then, too, consumers demand to have fruits and vegetables year round at low costs, making pesticides imperative and indispensable for modern agriculture.

There is little doubt that pesticides play a major role in minimizing the financial risks. If the pesticides are a necessary evil, then the people who work in the poisoned fields and their families become the casualties of a multibillion-dollar war.

Who are these men, women and children who work in the fields alongside our roads? An estimated 85 percent of the farm workers are minorities and, in some places, 99 percent are Latino.

A farm worker will work long hours in a field, often putting in 12-hour work days and seven-day weeks. Adults can be exposed to what the federal government has decided is a safe level of pesticides for adults. But then Environmental Protection Agency has set no stricter limits for children, nor for pregnant women who work in poisoned fields.

Wet pesticides in the field collect on clothes and can then be passed casually to children and relatives at home through a family’s wash. Children who always pick up things and put objects and hands in their mouths can ingest the chemical pesticides. Since their hearts beat much faster, they have higher rates of metabolism, putting
The challenge of change: The space issue at CSUMB

By China Bury

While speeding hurriedly past miles of yellow-lined asphalt with the feeling of stress-drops of sweat falling hurriedly to the car floor, the hope of arriving on-time suddenly vanishes the moment the car pulls up at the destination and finds that there is no place to park.

Empty space has been disappearing more and more rapidly at CSUMB’s once extremely secluded campus. Lately it is not merely various campus parking lots that are jam-packed, but nearly every aspect of campus life that has of late filled to heightened capacity. Worries and ideas are circulating restlessly in every conference room and computer screen across the campus, and both the faculty and the students are finding that the only answer thus far may be the one no one wants to hear.

When CSUMB started out as a small isolated and innovative institution, the equation for education-business longevity seemed simple: more students equal more money. When the school opened in 1995 the amount of students enrolled was a mere 654 “pioneers.” Over the years the numbers have predictably climbed, reaching an as yet unofficial status of 3,026 total students. However, contrary to popular belief, it is not head count that makes the money.

The school instead depends on a term not commonly recognized as the source which drives everything at Monterey’s campus—everything from construction, to computers, and yes, even to parking spaces. This ominous name is FTE, the code that equates no relationship with undergraduates or paying bodies, but with the set amount of dollars for units. One FTE equals 15 units, and every semester when the amount of units—units, not students, gets totaled up and divided by 15, it is according to that amount by which the university gets money.

When CSUMB was first established in it’s lost days of ease, now a nostalgic six years ago, the amount of money allocated to the school was a roughly estimated $10-12,000 per FTE. This amount was high and helpful due to the substantial needs involved with forming a university. In the founding days of 1995 money was needed for everything. Costs existed for construction, housing, faculty salaries, recruitment, various departments, the list of needs went on and on.

With the inevitable passage of hurried time, now that the university is a few years in the making these needs are not as direly important as they once were. FTE-based funding that was previously above the $10,000 mark is now estimated to drop possibly even fifty percent lower in coming years. The problems enveloping this university no longer exist because CSUMB is still in the process of establishment; the dilemma now arises because CSUMB is established.

Because the school has in many ways at last reached its initial goal, the funding that was once an enticement for growth and improvement now instead serves as its standstill. With the consequences of what this transformation means close to mind, Juan Avalos, the Director of CSUMB’s Institute of Assessment and Research, describes this epoch in CSUMB’s life as what will be a “difficult transition to make.”

While faculty committees struggle with the question of CSUMB’s management of current and estimated capacity, it is them, as well as the students who live the struggle. Student questions and concerns about space at CSUMB pervade throughout the campus. Inquiries regarding topics such as the new dorms, lack of computer availability in the library and MLC, housing crunches, class non-availability—the list of present concerns surrounding what seems to be an everlasting issue is exploding almost as quickly as the questions that appeared when the school first opened its doors. Common concerns such as those of dorm students like Kevin McRoberts, revolve around issues such as bike racks and dorm crunching. Many others have voiced primary concerns focused on class availability and housing prices.

Senior HCOM student, Chandra Apperson, explains that her concerns lie in every aspect of campus life. It is not simply about new buildings or more money, but the truth that “every decision that faculty and administration make about spending money and configuring space affects every student on this campus. For students like me who have been here for a few years, we’ve become accustomed to the fact that change has been the only consistency at CSUMB, but no matter what, everybody wants the change to be for the good.”

Between the clutter and clang of student questions and faculty ideas, the space issue at CSUMB is just that, an unsolved issue. Like most processes that involve a variety of challenges and sub-issues, as well as the direct concerns of a multi-faceted community, there can be no realistic estimation of a finish date. This issue is not simply a matter of logic or a question of money, but also an issue of patience. Like so much at CSUMB, the only answer is the one that comes to those who wait.

Looking Ahead... The Otter Realm will continue to follow up on this issue.

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UN’s role in current crises

By Tharee Davis

In celebration of United Nations Day several students and faculty gathered on October 24th at the University Center for an informative lecture presented by the Council for Global Awareness. Professor Julie Shackford-Bradley, a member of the council and faculty of the Institute of Global Studies invited the director of Nonproliferation Studies of the Monterey Institute of International Studies, Dr. Tariq Rauf, to address the nature of the United Nations and to bring clarity regarding its response to the current terrorist crisis. "What we need is information and critical analysis to form a clear objective" states Professor Shackford-Bradley "especially when there are extreme opinions ranging from U.N. invasion of sovereign governments, to being seen as a panacea for the world's ills." Dr. Rauf began his lecture with the history of the United Nations. It was established with the conclusion of World War II by 51 countries in 1945. Derived from the framework of the abandoned League of Nations, the aim of the U.N. charter is to maintain peace throughout the world by facilitating ways by which countries would resolve their disputes without the use of force and work together to help people lead better lives, eliminate poverty, disease and illiteracy in the world." Today there are 189 members states of the U.N. It meets year round presently in New York in the form of the General Assembly. Each country has a single vote in this main deliberative group. While the decisions made by the General Assembly are not legally binding, they carry the weight of the international views at that particular time.

According to Dr. Rauf, the U.N.'s principal executive committee, the Security Council, determines resolutions for disputes among countries. The council consists of five permanent member states: China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States. These countries have the power of veto. In order for any resolution created by the Security Council to be binding, the council needs the affirmative votes of all permanent member states. "Even if one member voted against a Security Council resolution it would collapse," Dr. Rauf noted “However, all countries have the right to proportional self-defense as stated under Chapter 7, Article 51." The U.S. and the U.K. have invoked Article 51 in the context of the events on Sept 11 to justify the military actions against the Taliban in Afghanistan. Questions from the audience commented on the term “proportional, self-defense.” Professor Rauf replied, "This is a loaded term, however, the context of proportional was defined by the International Justice Court of the U.N. within the context of the condemned use of nuclear weapons." He added "For the people of the Islamic world there is controversy over the bombings in Afghanistan action, but there is much sympathy for the U.S."

Professor Rauf then discussed the accusations against the United Nations as either an invasive supra-national organization or inadequate as an international peace coalition. He stated during the Rwanda crisis, “measures taken by the United Nations forces which are comprised of member states who contributed their military resources were a humanitarian act to stop the massacre of hundreds of thousands of Hutus. It was not an invasive violation of a country’s sovereign right to take care of its domestic affairs.”

The argument that the United Nations could “just go and take over the United States government or some other country’s government is totally wrong.” The Secretary General of the United Nations can not act without the consensus of the other permanent member states of which the U.S. sits on. Rauf explains that “As for the U.N. being blamed as inadequate in dealing with the conflicts between the Israelis and Palestinians or between Pakistan and India, the international organization can only do what its member states authorize it to do.”

Dr Rauf concluded that the “U.N. is the forum whereby countries participate to maintain international peace and security. It provides many functions particularly for the poor of the world—more than 5 billion people do not have clean water to drink, clean air to breathe or have systems which provide economic and social well being. The United Nations tries to help these situations.”
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Greek Organization issue continues to be debated

By Chanelle Raboteau

Boxes will be checked and voices heard on December 5th and 6th, 2001, when a referendum will take place to hear what the campus has to say about Greek organizations becoming a part of CSUMB.

Referendums usually held to gather opinions from students on changes in student fees and changes in and around student government, will now take on a whole new topic of Greek organizations.

But before the referendum can begin and students can be polled, ballots have to be made. Many meetings and revisions later, Student Voice is close to voting on a ballot that will be used in the referendum.

The CSUMB administration wants what the students want “but we want to do what is right for the campus,” said Matt Kristscher, Director of Student Activities and Career Development. This referendum, which is an advisory to the president and purely informational, will hopefully help them decide what is best for the university.

Yet with all this talk about referendums, information on Greek organizations themselves may be overlooked.

225 years ago in 1776, at the college of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia, the first society to have a Greek letter was established. Four years later other chapters developed at colleges like Yale.

In the past 225 years the United States has changed a lot and so have Greek organizations commonly known as sororities and fraternities. Like most things, they have developed many pros and cons.

Armando Villanueva, a senior at CSUMB, when asked if he believed that Greek organizations went against the Vision Statement said, “Yes!! Here is an excerpt from the Vision Statement: The campus will be distinctive in serving the diverse people of California, especially the working class and historically undereducated and low-income populations.” Greek organizations have traditionally discriminated against the working class and historically undereducated populations.

However some do not share Lopez’s belief that Greek organizations go against the Vision Statement.

When asked if they felt that their sorority went against the Vision Statement, the members of FEMME answered that they “believe that there are many ways in which we violate the Vision Statement everyday. Sadly but true, there are only a few departments within CSUMB that live up to the Vision Statement. But that is not a reason to continue to justify the violations.”

The members on FEMME went on to say that they searched for a sorority “that would most closely mirror the values, ideal and goals of the CSUMB Vision Statement, helping to keep it unique.”

While deciding whether or not Greek organizations should come to our campus, examples and information can be drawn from what other campuses are doing with their Greek organizations. Starting in October 2000, the members of the Policy Committee on Student Affairs at Santa Clara University in Santa Clara were charged by Provost Dr. Denise Carmody “with a review of fraternities and sororities at Santa Clara University. The purpose of the review was to determine if the presence of fraternities and sororities contribute positively to building a vital community of scholars whose members collaborate as partners in learning and scholarship.” After many months of heavy consideration and working with the committee and student government, Dr. Carmody came to a decision on March 16, 2001. She said that all sororities and fraternities were not in the best interest of the campus and all chapters are to close by June 2003. But where one school is closing down there are many others still going strong. For instance, Cal Poly State University in San Luis Obispo enjoys a strong Greek system, in which hundreds of new members join every year.

Even though the referendum of December 5th and 6th is still a while away, interest in certain sororities and fraternities has already started to begin among students around campus.

FEMME, founded October 24th, 1986, on the campus of CSU Sacramento, has sparked interest in a group of female students here at CSUMB.

When asked why the members of FEMME chose that sorority they concluded that Lambda Sigma Gamma “fulfilled what we were looking for in a sorority, that the organization emphasizes scholastic excellence, civic responsibility, and unity among women of different cultures.”

Not only have sororities had an impact on certain students here on campus, but fraternities have as well.

The fraternity is called Chi Delta Beta. It is a multicultural fraternity that does not discriminate against any ethnicity, religion or social economic status. “Although we do not allow women in, this doesn’t make us women haters or chauvinistic pigs. Our fraternity was established to form bonds of brotherhood to help each other whenever we need help,” said Villanueva.

Whatever viewpoints the campus has towards Greek organizations, all students will have the chance to be heard on December 5th and 6th. If any students are interested in participating with a committee on the subject of Greek organizations, please contact Alfonso Lopez via First Class for information.

Upcoming venues on Greek organizations include two town hall meetings at the end of November. Check General News for exact dates and times.

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New “Signs and Symbols” mural nears completion

By Gabriela Lopez

Piece by piece, the wall on Third Street has been unfolding as a visual history of what CSUMB was and is. What began as a VPA class project, the mural project Signs and Symbols, is now making itself a new landmark on the CSUMB campus. Professor Johanna Poethig has been a major player in making the mural project happen, along with various VPA students that designed and proposed this project to the campus community. Signs and symbols have been in the works for four semesters and has had various students working on it since its early stages.

Standing in front of the mural, Poethig assists two student artists on one of the many symbols that represent what CSUMB is. With painting clothes on and a sponge in hand, she explains the meaning behind the mural. “[The symbols] represent the transformation of the Fort Ord to CSUMB” Poethig says. Poethig explains that many symbols on the mural were symbols left by the military that have been transformed into symbols relevant to the campus now. One symbol Poethig says will have a reaction of the public is the tanker. “The tank will have reactions because of what has happened, but it represents peace and art.” The symbol of the tank with a paintbrush and flowers is a clear example of how former Fort Ord is now a community of art and education.

To connect this transformation, the mural will also include a restored military painting. The Field Artillery mural that lies on the same wall of the mural project is expected to be restored if funding is available. Poethig says that help from the University and the community is necessary to fund this project.

A major feature on the mural is a red ribbon that connects the past of Fort Ord with the future of CSUMB. The ribbon, which was inspired by the Field Artillery mural will run on both sides of the mural and contain excerpts from the Vision Statement. Symbols on the mural have been strategically placed to be near excerpts of the Vision Statement, such as the computer above the excerpt on technology.

The mural is a myriad of symbols ranging from culture, to the environment, to history. “We are going as far as the Ohlone, by having an acorn on the mural,” Poethig mentions. The project is a clear collaboration of ideas and cultures.

Working on surfboard symbol, Derek Moehlenbruck, a freshman, says he became involved by taking the mural painting class. He says that when taking the class, he never thought he would be working on a mural for the campus. Next to him, another artist says, “It’s about time someone did something with this wall.” Both artists agree that the mural will make the campus look more like a school and less like a military base.

Next to them, Shane Mahon is assisting Marisol Valdez on the painting of computer cables. Marisol says she became involved in the project by asking Shane, who is president of the Art Club how she could be involved. “I love doing art and looking at murals, murals mean more, they mean for the people,” Marisol says as she looks at the brush strokes she has added to the mural. Marisol explains that her love of murals and her interest in participating in this project comes from the collaboration of making a mural. She is happy to know that a piece of the project is her own and says working on the mural has made her care about what the campus looks like.
Art can be a sanctuary of healing for people trying to escape fear and thoughts of death. Art therapist Linda Haveren made that observation as part of a program at the University Center titled Art and Healing: Journey through Breast Cancer.

"The imagination is an incredible place," Haveren told the audience that gathered October 24, 2001, during Breast Cancer Awareness Month. "And art helps one create escapes and happy worlds."

She was part of a program in which women who have battled breast cancer explained how their art helped them survive. The Institute for Human Communication sponsored the event with the help of Kira Carrillo, Barbara Sayade, and other women who shared their personal experiences.

The event was primarily about art therapy and how any form of art can heal. The three-part event consisted of a video entitled "Art and Healing: Journey through Breast Cancer." Carrillo produced the video, which told the stories of different women who had fallen ill with breast cancer and turned to art in hopes of recovery. There was also a panel discussion, and a collaborative art project that everyone in the audience participated in.

The form of art that these women participated in ranged from painting, sculpting, to dancing. The actual practice of art takes the focus off the cancer and helps the individuals to focus on something rather than death, they explained.

Kira Carrillo informed the audience about how scientific studies prove that art heals by changing a person's physiology and attitude. Art and music can affect the human brain wave pattern.

The panel discussion was lead by five ladies who are well informed about art therapy. Charity Crane was one of the women on the panel, who used art to heal herself. She explained that art sent her to a "meditative state." In this meditative state she was able to exhale all the negative energy that was inside her body and she relaxed and became open to creativity.

The art project that the attendees participated in used clay. The audience members were given colorful pieces of clay and art tool. They were told to sculpt something that was meaningful to them. The sculptures varied from hearts to figures of people. At the end of the event the sculptures were placed upon pyramid, which is now being displayed on campus in the Health Center.
FIELDS CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

their small bodies at much higher risks of poisoning than grownups.

In low-income, agricultural areas, the number of school children with slower motor skills and learning defects is rising.

In a report on the Health of California's Agricultural Workers, The California Endowment found that nearly 70 percent of all farm workers lack health insurance, and only 7 percent of them are covered by government-funded programs directed at low-income families.

Only 16.5 percent of the polled workers were offered health insurance by their employers, but only a third of those eligible participated in such programs. Most families simply couldn't afford the premiums for the company-offered insurance, or couldn't afford the co-payments for treatment if someone got sick.

The first chemicals for crops were used more than 50 years ago. One of the deadliest, DDT, a chlorinated hydrocarbon, was invented in 1939. Thanks in part to the United Farm Workers (UFW) and the efforts of its founder, Caesar Chavez, early chemicals such as DDT have been banned.

Chavez, who fought for better working conditions, higher wages and a centralized union in the fields, earned national attention when he led a massive grape boycott that targeted growers and the markets that sold their products. That campaign drew the support of then-President John F. Kennedy's family, among others.

Chavez used peaceful protest in a time when violence seemed like a solution, risking his own health by enduring long campaigns lengthy hunger strikes. All that he fought for vigorously from the '60s through the '80s seems to be all but forgotten today.

Dr. Max Cuevas and Clinica de Salud in Salinas are working in conjunction with other organizations to inform workers of the dangers of pesticide poisoning, and their rights to health care. Cuevas explained that many workers don't know, or are misinformed on what services are available to them. Increased health access will provide essential information on the effects of pesticide poisoning through programs like the Pesticide Illness Surveillance.

Hundreds of children and teens labor in the fields each year—picking garlic and artichokes in Castroville, grapes in Soledad, broccoli and lettuce in Salinas. They are frequently exposed to pesticides while working long days in the sun, risking heat exhaustion and dehydration, and working around heavy machinery, sharp knives and repetitive motion.

Lack of sleep from the long working hours can interfere with school, which too often is a second priority. Human Rights Watch has reported that only 55 percent of the farm workers' children in the nation will go on to high school. Many of those workers are being paid less than minimum wage, the organization said.

Child labor laws are much more lax in agriculture than in other fields of labor. A child may work on a farm at a much younger age under the Fair Labor Standards Act. In other jobs, children under 16 can work no more than three hours during school sessions. But there is no limit to the number of hours a child can work in the fields, nor does the law require overtime pay.

It's ironic, especially on the eve of the national feasting day of Thanksgiving, that the people who work so hard to provide us with our produce have to struggle to provide for their own families.
CSUMB to become a 'Hate Free Zone.'

By Kelly Bland

CSUMB may soon become a "Hate-Free Zone" in response to military action taking place in Afghanistan. A formal draft is being prepared and sent to CSUMB administrators to make the document official.

The "Hate-Free Zone" proposal was announced at the peace rally held in the main quad of CSUMB on October 25, 2001.

Other "Hate Free Zones" have been established across the United States to promote unity between cultures, unity of people of all races, and peace. Neighboring community Santa Cruz began their campaign to become a "Hate-Free Zone" back in 1999.

Authors of the "Hate-Free Zone" at CSUMB have already formally written a draft. Vice President of Student Affairs Karen Mendonca and Student Voice member Farah Hussain introduced the proposal of the "Hate-Free Zone" at the rally.

It will become a formal resolution of CSUMB. All the necessary steps are being taken. "We make the safety and protection of all people a priority," is a statement embedded in the draft. Hussain read the proposal during the rally. It was the first public reading ever. The document states, "We affirm that every human being has the right to live in peace without fear." Making the safety and protection of all people will be main concern of being in a "Hate-Free Zone."

The rally was a chance for speakers to talk from experience about peace programs and how it is relevant to what is going on in the United States right now.

Anna Caballero, Mayor of Salinas, began their campaign to become a "Hate-Free Zone" back in 1999. "We have a "Hate-Free Zone" proposal was presented at the peace rally. The anti-war vibe was felt in the crowd. Audience participation included sign holding, speaking out, and encouraging speakers. Phrases such as, "Stop the bombing," were said often.

Faculty members Angie Tran and Ilene Feinman read thoughts for peace by historical peace activists such as Thich Nhat Hahn and Dalai Lama.

The peace rally gave any interested people a chance to make a difference. The Service Learning Institute sponsored a letter writing campaign to government officials. Service Learning students, faculty, and employees asked CSUMB students to write letters in support of peace to the White House, California Senators Diane Fienstine and Barbara Boxer, and other representatives.

"I think the voice of dissent and the voice of protest have not been heard a lot in the mainstream media," stated Service Learning faculty member Emily Gonzales. Service Learning at CSUMB is an organization to promote peace. "Service Learning is to create peace and harmony in the community," stated junior Angela Viasion.

CSUMB will continue its trend to become a peaceful campus. The "Hate-Free Zone" and Service Learning projects are examples how.

Kelp Kraze Displays Otter Pride

By Patrick Kuhl

The third annual Kelp Kraze event that took place on Saturday, November 10, 2001 was a showcase of CSUMB pride, in an attempt to show prospective students what their future may be like here at CSUMB.

Kelp Kraze is an integral part of On-Campus Admissions Day (OCAD) because it provides relief from the stress of attempting to gain admittance to our university. OCAD is an opportunity for high-school seniors and eligible transfer students to be admitted on the spot.

Potential students were required to submit an application along with high-school or college transcripts which were evaluated by Admissions and Records. They receive the results of their application approximately four hours later. Hopefully, the potential otters receive good news of acceptance to the university as they get what is most likely their first glimpse of life at CSUMB.

As the new green and gold directional signs were hung from streetlight posts prospective students arrived at CSUMB with hopes of being admitted and eventually attending this unique university. As they waited to have their applications and test scores evaluated, they watched the fog burn off and CSUMB's major thoroughway, Sixth Avenue, turn into into a street-fair type of event.

Sixth Avenue was transformed into a venue where visitors and enrolled students joined together to participate in various activities and explore the majors, clubs, and services CSUMB has to offer.

CSUMB clubs set up tables along the street to show off what they can offer to members. A large majority of on-campus clubs participated in the event. The diversity of CSUMB was reflected by the clubs in attendance, as they ranged from the Disc Golf club, to the Sailing Club, to the Otter Christian Fellowship, Chantel Touryan, member of the CSUMB volleyball team stated, "There seems to be a lot more students interested in becoming otters this year. Maybe it's the weather. This has got to be the best weather that Kelp Kraze has ever seen!"

Some of the activities included a rock climbing wall, "Reaction Attraction", "Clash of the Spheres," and a dunk tank with a real Episcopal priest inside. Vendors came out as well to peddle their wares, offering Kelp Kraze participants an opportunity to whet their appetites with Soul Food, Monterey BBQ, Knox Root Beer, and a Sierra Mist taste test. The radio station BTU 101.7 FM, broadcast live from the 101.7 BTU bus.

Kelp Kraze also played host to a number of workshops for students and their families. Workshops focused on freshman housing, financial aid, transfer housing/transfer success, Educational Opportunity Program, campus life, and other CSUMB programs and services. During the festival, visitors were also encouraged to partake in campus tours, a Residential Hall open house, a Frederick Park student apartment open house, and an academic majors fair. The Fort Ord Alumni Association also led historic tours of the "hidden secrets" of Fort Ord which included visits to the old Stockade, Stilwell Hall, The Impossible City, and East Garrison.

Look for more intensive coverage and photos about this tour in an upcoming Otter Realm.
University technicians learned of the equipment locations by honing in on phone numbers received when two of the computers stolen from the library were used to access the university's computer network, they said.

Once investigators had time to trace the equipment, they realized it came from the Library Learning Complex, the Media Learning Complex and Building 82, all of which have computer labs open and available for student use. Even though a large stash of equipment was reportedly recovered, university police don't know if more is missing, nor what the thieves planned to do with it. When asked about how CSUMB plans to prevent such thefts in the future, Sgt. Jeremy Young said, "The entire university is going to have to deal with it. We [UPD] do frequent patrols but it's really going to have to be the responsibility of the people who work with the equipment on a daily basis."

The CSUMB coffers are not endless, as lab users who see the rows and rows of sleek, compact, brightly colored Macs and PCs may believe. Missing and stolen equipment is not automatically replaced with a quick purchase order. As Sgt. Young pointed out, "The CSU budget is shrinking and when things are taken, it has an impact on the availability of equipment for all students."

Investigations also turned up a laptop computer from UC Berkeley. According to Lt. Jay McTaggart, it had been reported stolen sometime during this year.

This could beg the question about CSUMB going to a wireless network. Had the computers used to hone in on the locations, such as those stolen from the library, been wireless and accessing the university's network, would university technicians have been able to locate them?

The availability of technology is one reason many students choose to come to CSUMB. Many hours of work goes into the purchase of every piece of equipment on campus. Students pay tuition expecting that their dollars are being used to their full potential and that every computer that is supposed to be available is booted up and ready to use. When this isn't the case, the entire university population suffers.

The recovered equipment has not yet been put back in its proper locations. However, Sgt. Young assured that it would be soon.

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**Conclusive evidence found reported rape never happened**

By Chanelle Raboteau

Early the morning of Friday, October 19, 2001, a female student filed a report of having been raped in the residence halls by a male student. After investigation the charge has been found to be false.

The University Police Department, UPD, found conclusive evidence in the form of a video collected from the accused, which falsified the charges. Neither criminal nor civil charges were filed in either case.
Otter Athletics

Hard core athletes: CSUMB’s women’s rugby

By Glenn Cravens

Kimberly Char’s leg went numb for two months when she was kicked in the shin by an opposing rugby player. That has not stopped her from preparing for her second year with the California State University, Monterey Bay women’s rugby team. On Saturdays, passers by are likely to see the team practicing near the apartments on Abrams Drive.

Char is one of 15 players that grind it out every weekend practicing for the Otters, fourth year of college competition. The team plays against the likes of Sacramento State University and St. Mary’s College. This spring they will play about 10 games within the state.

Char’s classmates played the sport and “eventually I got dragged along,” she said.

“In the beginning I’ll admit that it was way hardcore and I almost didn’t think I could make it but I kept with it and it all turned out like gravy,” she said. “But as it turns out, rugby is the coolest sport, but most of all I play because of my team mates. We’re like a family and it’s a lot of fun to be out there with them.”

Playing her third season, she likes playing the sport because it is fun and a good way to exercise. Nicki Jones plays for the competition. Jones was told by a friend the sport was like soccer and football put together so she decided to give it a try. Five minutes before participating in a game, she was told all the rules. “The next thing I know, I get tackled,” Jones said. “Then I knew I would love this sport. I don’t think that just anyone can play this sport, so the women that do come out and stay with the sport are incredible.”

Jones will play on the Otters squad for the third year. This past summer, she toured with the Surf City Sirens in Santa Cruz, a semi-professional women’s rugby team that went 13-1.

Women’s Soccer headed in the right direction

By Chris Lee

The women’s soccer team was defeated in the playoffs losing 2-1 to Dominican College. The match was a close battle until Dominican scored two quick goals late in the contest to seize the momentum.

The women’s team had two first team all-conference performers in Marissa Prescott and Brittany Donnachie. Prescott was again the defensive catalyst, while Donnachie paced the Otters scoring attack leading the team in goals (11) and total points (24).

Teresa Sengo and Chrissie Lukacs were selected second team all-conference. Though the Otter’s season ended in defeat, there is much optimism for next season. Most of the team’s core players are returning, and the team will have been under the new system for a full season.

CSUMB Men’s Basketball: Setting their sights high

By Ronald Valentine

For returnees Rocky Sterryo, Andy Cannon, Dexter Amey, Jay Lockett, Alex Frank and Abe Predroza this year’s CSUMB basketball is very meaningful. All five team members are seniors, making this their last year wearing the Otter green and yellow, and probably their last year playing basketball ever.

They have cherished their time here at CSUMB. Not many people can say they were got a chance to compete at the collegiate level, where people pay for the opportunity to watch them entertain. Despite the disastrous win-loss record from last year, this year’s team believes things will be different.

The loss in last season’s final game to rival opponents and playoff bound, College of Notre Dame, has this year’s team hungry to join them and other elite teams in February, by attaining a playoff berth.

Last year, problems with player eligibility plagued the Otters, leaving them with two of their would-be starters sidelined, forcing the team to play under-manned, for most of the year. All players this year are eligible and healthy, making their playoff dreams change from a wish to a reality.

The chemistry amongst the five seniors is excellent. Forward Abe Predroza was quoted as saying, “I love these guys. They are like my big brothers.” Because their relationship off the court is so good, their relationship on the court strengthens, making them confident and strengthening them as a team and as individuals.

Look for a splashboard season this year from the Otters. With other returnees such as centers 6’9” Alex Frank, 6’7” Billy Curry teamed with last year’s conference scoring leader Dexter Amey, the team will blend these returners with a solid recruiting class to form team capable of winning the conference along with 5 to 6 transfer athletes.

The 2001-02 team will be a stacked with talent, skill, and chemistry, and with the promise of success! “I don’t want to finish my college career without going to the big Dance. That would be ridiculous,” says, Cannon. “We have way too much talent not to win this league. We need to set our sights a little higher, but take it one game at a time.”

Men’s Soccer season ends in playoff defeat

By Chris Lee

The men’s soccer season came to an end with a loss to Dominican College in the conference playoff semi-final round. The Otters finished the year with a California Pacific Conference record of 3-2. The team has lost in the conference semi-finals in four consecutive years.

The Otters had many outstanding performers this season including four players named to the all-conference team. Erick Supnet (junior), and Nathan Northrup (sophomore) earned first team all-conference honors, while seniors Patrick Kelly (GK, 60 saves) and Michael Bielski (3 goals, 3 assist. 12 pts) received second team honors.

Supnet, who has been nominated for all-NAIA honors, put up MVP type numbers scoring eight goals and collecting nine assists this season for a conference leading 25 total points. Northrup scored five goals and had four assists for season total of 14 points.

With their two first-team all-conference players returning, the Otters have high hopes for next season, as they look to build on this year’s success.

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Otter Happenings

Attention prospective student Orientation Leaders for the 2002-2003 school year. This year the application requirements have changed to be selected as a Welcome Week Orientation Leader. Orientation Leaders are now required to register in HWI 200 worth 2 elective units. This class will take the place of the end of the year training. This Orientation Leaders training class will be held from 4:00-5:50 PM on Mondays. If you have any questions please contact Matt Kritsch at the Student Activities and Career Development office in building 44 or at 831-582-3845.