Get creative; show it off

Announcing The Otter Realm’s first creative writing and photography contest for CSUMB students

Are you a creative writer? A photographer? A poet?
Are you looking to express yourself? Show off your work?
The Otter Realm is hosting its first student writing, poetry, and photography contest to draw out the creative sides at CSUMB.

Students are invited to submit one piece in any or each of the categories.

Short stories up to 800 words and poems up to 25 lines are welcome. Entries should be submitted by email to the paper: OR@csumb.edu by May 1, 2002. Only electronic copies of writing entries will be accepted.

Photos—in envelopes with names and phone numbers—can be dropped off at The Otter Realm mailbox in Building 86A, or digital copies can be sent to OR@csumb.edu.

There is no theme, so be creative. We are looking for originality and creativity.

Entries will be judged by the editorial board of The Otter Realm, and the winner in each category will be published in the May 15th edition of the paper.

Sorry, there’s no cash or flashy prizes available for winners, just a shot at immortality as a published writer, poet or photographer.

CSUMB isn’t alone in housing dilemma

By Kelly Bland

Compared to the 22 other campuses in the California State University (CSU) system CSUMB is the “baby.” But it is seeing student-housing problems just like other CSU campuses, such as Chico. The difference is CSUMB opened in 1995. Chico has been around since 1887.

A housing crunch is expected to get worse next year. First and second year students are guaranteed living space, but there may not be very much of it because of the growing enrollment.

When asked how she would feel if she was forced to be in a triple or quadruple unit next semester, Diane Segawa, a freshman, replied: “I would not really mind because I would get to pay less. I would not mind a quadruple, if I were in a big enough space.”

CSUMB isn’t alone in housing dilemma

Students at CSUMB pay different rates for room and board, depending on the number of roommates they have. There are different rates for singles, doubles, triples, and quadruples.

But are living conditions here really that bad?

Consider CSU-San Marcos, where there is no housing on campus, and very little available off campus. That forces students to commute, and gives the campus the label of “the commuter college.”

How about other CSU’s that have on-campus housing?

CSU-Sacramento, for instance, which is located in a developed area, surrounded by residences on two sides, a a scenic river on the other two.

Housing problems on 11 of the CSU campuses

Summary includes these CSU campuses: Monterey Bay, Humboldt, Los Angeles, Long Beach, Northridge, Pomona, San Diego, San Marcos, Sacramento, San Francisco, and San Luis Obispo.
Students push for universal “key” cards

By Sarah Yates

A petition in support of universal access, signed by approximately 400 students, was presented at an open-forum discussion on Wednesday, March 6, 2002, at the University Center.

The forum was arranged to discuss the possibility of having cards that would provide universal access to the residential halls. All res hall occupants were invited to join the Residential Hall Association (RHA) and voice their opinions on the subject.

The idea of universal access is that each student enrolled at the university can have access to all main entrances to all of the dormitories, and that would provide a safer and friendlier environment for students. This idea was widely supported by the majority of those who attended the meeting. There were many different reasons stated.

"If our University truly is promoting a student-wide community, they sure make it hard by limiting us to what buildings we can, and can not, have access to," resident Vanessa Zellmer said.

Zellmer, along with many other universal access supporters, brought up the idea that if all students were granted access to all buildings, it would bring the school closer together so the student population would be more like a family.

There were other ideas discussed. If universal access was put into effect on campus, it could lower the number of false fire alarms, lessen the need to prop open doors, and monitor who was entering what dorms at what time.

The forum attracted not only supporters of universal access. Several students brought up points to ponder. For example, if all university students were given access to all of the dorms 24 hours a day, would we see an increase of vandalism?

Other points were that harassment between students might increase, and supplying card readers to each entrance door would be costly.

A poll was taken at the forum find a general consensus of what the res hall occupants want. The poll, as well as the petition with about 400 signatures, will be sent to the director of student life, and then onto Student Voice.

If the majority of students support universal access, it will just be a matter of time before it will be activated.

"If our University truly is promoting a student-wide community, they sure make it hard by limiting us to what buildings we can, and can not, have access to."

— Vanessa Zellmer

A LITTLE BORED?

OtterEvents knows what’s going on.

Introducing the new online student resource for events and information.

VOICE.CSUMB.EDU/EVENTS
REWIND
AN OTTER REVIEW

GBA Lays Down the Funk

By Wayne Lile

Rewind dug deep into its cache of musical recordings to bring you this gem.

While widely considered a jazz ensemble, The Greyboy Allstars are not your run of the mill jazz noise. Unlike classical jazz albums, continuity can be detected throughout the album.

Deft bass lines put out by Chris Stillwell accompanied by the spaced keyboards of Robert Walter lay the foundation for a funk/jazz infusion that will leave the listener mesmerized.

However, it is Elgin Park’s guitar and band leader Karl Denson’s sax that brings it all together.

Turnips Big Move, the opening track of the album, is a small glimpse into the genius of The Greyboy Allstars. A forceful organ and a twangy guitar track will have you dancing from the first beat.

Happy Friends is a wonderfully delightful piece. The funk is lost a bit and the true jazz roots of the artists are displayed. Nonetheless, you may still find yourself playing the dashboard drums.

“The Many Moods of Eric Newsome” leaves the listener wondering exactly what his moods are.

If there is any doubt to the credentials of this collection of artists, the live “Quantico, VA” will dispel them. The timing of this track and the audience’s reaction to the incredible noise hints this piece will forever be considered a classic.

If you can refrain from getting down and funky here...well, there isn’t any hope for you.

Perhaps the most incredible track on “A Town Called Earth” is the title track. At first listen it appears the boys have done one heck of a job remodeling a piece off of Miles Davis’ “Bitches Brew”. Quite the contrary.

The free for all jazz improvisation will have you rocking to the groove. It is the epitome of jazz-fusion and may leave the listener gasping for breath.

From beginning to end, this southern California quintet will rock your socks off. The funky, free, spacey jams will make it nearly impossible to resist the urge to move to the beats. This album is a must have for any collection.

www.greyboyallstars.com

The Greyboy Allstars
A Town Called Earth

Turnip’s Big Move
Planet of the Superkids
Happy Friends
The Many Moods of Erik Newsome
Quantico, VA
Toys R Us
A Town Called Earth
December’s Bicycle
Blues for Celia (Cee Cee’s Blues)
Sportscaster

REVIEWER’S SCALE:

○○○○ Classic
○○○○ Excellent
○○○○ Good
○○○ Fair
○○○ Poor

HOUSING CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

As a result there is no room for the campus to expand and build more housing for students.

CSU-Los Angeles, in the heart of one of the biggest cities in the nation, is in the same boat as CSU-Sacramento. The scarcity of space forces students to live in expensive apartments nearby.

CSU-Northridge has the land, but not the money to build more housing.

Located in densely-populated Southern California, off-campus housing is a challenge to find as well.

CSU-Long Beach has the exact opposite problem as Northridge.

They have the money to build, but not the land. Long Beach students explain how landlords in the area take advantage of students.

Freshman at Long Beach are placed in a lottery for on-campus housing. But there were 1,800 spaces available, and more than 10,000 freshmen trying to get them.

Difficulties like rents constantly increasing face students at CSU-San Luis Obispo, CSU-San Diego, and CSU-San Francisco.

While going to college is expensive in itself, having to worry about paying for housing is added burden, said students who gathered in Sacramento the first weekend of March for the California Higher Education Student Summit (CHESS).

“Colleges over-enrolling cause this kind of thing to happen,” said Amanda Canning, legislative assistant to state Assemblymember Fred Keeley.

At “The Higher Education Housing Crisis” seminar she gave, Canning explained the cons of cramped student housing.

Student government representatives from all 23 CSU campuses were given an opportunity to share their housing problems.

Canning pointed out that over-crowded dorms can turn into an emotional issue. Students dealing with new lifestyles, new cities, and no understanding of their terrains should not have to worry about getting housing for school, she said.

“Not having enough housing for students is against the vision of the university system,” said Canning.

Discussion on housing encouraged Keeley to propose a $2 billion bond issue that was approved by the state Legislature this January. It was designed to address the housing problem facing California’s universities and communities.

The bonds will provide low-cost funds to nonprofit developers who construct buildings intended for students, faculty, and staff in higher-education communities, both public and private, with California.

The law that set up the bond issue says CSUMB is expected to grow by 2,835 students within the next five years.

Canning encouraged CSU students to get involved in solving the current housing problems. She suggested they build relationships with city government officials and organize lobbying trips to Sacramento.

“The more you extend yourself, the more they will pay attention to you,” Canning said.
Biking the back country that surrounds the campus

By Jacqueline Gasser

Cheap, exhilarating, adrenaline-pumping fun in the great outdoors. That is what we all need more of in our free time.

Unfortunately, many do not know what our own backyard has to offer. The Fort Ord back country has thousands of acres of open territory with old Army trails that can be used for many outdoor activities, including horseback riding, hiking, and especially, mountain biking.

What's out there?
Some of the sights you may see within five miles of the campus apartments are deserted buildings, churches, wild animals, incredible viewpoints, and mysterious gravesites. There are numerous one-track lanes and deserted roads for biking.

Who owns it?
The U.S. Army, CSUMB, and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The BLM owns 7,200 acres of these lands and is responsible for the basic upkeep and alerting people about the wildlife in the area. Their primary goal is to tailor the land for people’s enjoyment.

What are the dangers?
Most of the 28,000 acres of former Fort Ord is still owned by the military. Some of the back country lands have not been cleaned of munitions yet, and it is important for people to be careful. There are signs posted throughout the back country, and people should read them carefully.

“Anyone can come out to the back country as long as people adhere to the signs,” said Bill Collins, the natural resources manager. The East Garrison Gate off Reservation Road or the Toro Park entrance off Highway 68 are the best ways to enter the trails.

What are the rules?
There is an abundant amount of wildlife. The typical animals you will find in the back country are owls, various birds, snakes, bobcats, coyotes, skunks, squirrels, and an occasional mountain lion.

“People must abide by the rules of the trail,” Collins said. “Leave the wildlife alone and respect it. Do not cut any vegetation and don’t make new trails.”

Is there a CSUMB biking program?
Unfortunately, there are no biking programs as of yet at CSUMB, as they have no bikes for rent. However, the outdoor recreation center was very well informed about the Ord territory.

Cynthia D’Vincent, the Boating Recreation Coordinator, said any reasonable outdoor request from students will get a response with the resources available. “Student ideas are very important,” she said enthusiastically. “We have outdoor programs for the students, by the students. Your voice is important to us.”

Is there a bike club?
There is not one currently. But Mark Gomez, the mountain bike expert student assistant, said he would like to organize one. “I would like to organize a club that will encompass beginning to advanced mountain bike riders, to explore the area and promote environmental awareness and ethics.”

Interested students can contact the Athletics, Sports Recreation & Health Center at CSUMB for more information.
Welcome to "What's Up!" This listing of events lets CSUMB students know what's going on on campus. Find out about great activities like when the shuttle heads to downtown Monterey, what movies are showing at the World Theater, and what music group is coming to campus.

You can find "What's Up" on General News and in the Events folder, both are located in The Source, and on our web site http://csUMB.edu/events every Friday afternoon. You can also have it e-mailed to your mailbox—just e-mail Joan Weiner and ask to receive "What's Up" every Friday.

"What's Up" is geared toward CSUMB students, although it contains useful information for staff and faculty as well. To publicize an event on "What's Up," simply fill out a publicity form from the University Advancement conference folder and send it intercampus mail to 86A or e-mail it to Joan Weiner on FirstClass. If you need disability or interpreter accommodations to attend these events, please promptly contact the sponsors of the event.

Every Saturday
What: Free Shuttle to Monterey
Where: Starting at 4 pm shuttle leaves lot #12 every hour on the hour. Return to lot #12 on the hour.

Every Monday
What: Student Voice meeting
(all members of the campus community are invited to attend)
Where: University Center (or see the Student Voice conference folder for changes in location)

For more information: Please contact Cory Schmidt via FirstClass

Every Tuesday
What: Free Shuttle to Farmer's Market
Where: Starting at 4 pm shuttle leaves lot #12 every hour on the hour. Return to lot #12 on the hour.

For more information: Please contact SACD 831-582-3845

Every Thursday
What: Chat the Movies:
March 7
The Golden Bowl, March 14
American Beauty
When: 7 pm
Where: Student Center
Cost: Free
For more information: Please contact David Hensler via FirstClass

Every Friday
What: Otter Christian Fellowship Bible Study
When: 7-9 pm
Where: Building 18, Room 120
Cost: Free
For more information: Please contact David Hensler via FirstClass

Wednesday, March 13
What: Campus forum on the creation of an on-campus Multicultural Center
Where: Noon
Where: Bldg 18, Room 118
Cost: Free
For more information: Please contact Matt Kritcher at 831-582-4070

Wednesday, March 13
What: Student Activities Leadership Workshop
When: 6:15 pm
Where: University Center
Cost: Free
For more information: Please contact Matt Kritcher at 831-582-4070

Wednesday, March 13
What: WCAD Guest Speaker Series: Richard Gallo and Rosie Gonzalez from the Central Coast Center for Independent Living
When: 6-7 pm
Where: Bldg 18, Room 131
Cost: Free
For more information: Please contact Irene Steffen at 831-633-2274

Thursday, March 14
What: Movie:
The Green Mile
When: 10 pm
Where: World Theater
Cost: Free
For more information: Please contact Hyon Chi Yai at 831-582-3808

Friday, March 15
What: Last day for Summer 2002 registration and fee payment

Friday, March 15
What: Last day to apply for financial aid and have fees deferred for Summer 2002 session

What's Up for Students was brought to you by:
Sarah Thompson
News and Public Information Intern
If you would like an event posted in What's Up, please contact Sarah Thompson at 831-582-3955

Campus to close for Chavez Day

By Blanca Arias

"Grant me the courage to serve others; For in service is true life."
—Cesar Chavez

Classes will be canceled and the CSUMB campus will be generally closed on Monday, April 1, when Californians celebrate the birthday of the late Cesar Chavez.

Chavez, a founder of the United Farm Workers Union and an inspirational leader for social reform and justice, has been honored by statewide commemoration only since the year 2000, when Cesar Chavez Day was created by law to ensure that his life, work, and values would continue to inspire Californians.

Chavez's devoted work helped create better pay and working conditions for farm workers. It also created a wide awareness of the personal mistreatment and social injustices that farm workers and other impoverished laborers are forced to bear.

His work surpassed the boundaries of California farms and influenced people around the world.

Chavez promoted service to others, nonviolence, justice, equality, tolerance, respect for all humanity, and respect for the environment.

California schools will recognize Cesar Chavez Day by teaching students of his history and his commitment to bettering lives.

CSUMB will be hosting activities that promote service and learning for students and the community. Those events include planting days on March 21, April 19 and April 20; and children's theater on April 18 and 19.

For more information, visit www.chavezday.ca.gov.
By Wayne Lile

History is fraught with lessons. But lessons can only be learned if they are critically analyzed.

From history we have learned empires are formed and empires fall. The evidence is irrevocable.

The Greek Empire fell, so did the Roman and Ottoman Empires. So, in this age of world security insecurity, the climate seems ripe for the fall of yet another world empire.

In the past, the expansion of an empire depended on the amount of land it controlled. However, it wasn’t just a matter of how much territory the ruling party held, but also how easily it was for the empire to disseminate their brand of culture.

Machiavellian theory subscribed to instituting as little change as necessary within a conquered region. According to this concept, converts could be won to the side of the conquering party by means of little change. This lack of governing change, in relation to religion, self rule, and language dealt with making as few of the citizens unhappy as possible.

This has been applied by the United States on several fronts throughout the world. It may be argued these governmental changes were not a means of taking over the regions, but this would be assumed falsely.

First, regime changes are made in order to dethrone those who are counterproductive to the American idea of capitalism and democracy. Second, the United States government benefits from regime changes because in most cases they bolster the American influence in other cultures.

Now America treads dangerously in the ocean of international policy.

The attacks that leveled the World Trade Centers in New York were the catalyst for where we stand now on the world stage. Most countries signed on, albeit verbally to support the U.S. with our War on Terrorism. But few could foresee the path the War would take outside of Afghanistan.

With the help of the State of the Union Address, President Bush has clearly stated our world purpose. Most have heard the remarks the President made on January 29, 2002, but how many truly understand their significance?

The State of the Union historically has been used to convey the health of the governmental system as a whole, to include the economy, defense, education and so forth. It is also used to indicate the course of action the administration intends on taking on certain issues.

This last address was clearly devised to inform the citizens of the United States that the efforts against terrorism were moving into a new day of preemptive strikes against suspected terrorist states, namely Iran, Iraq and North Korea.

For the first time since September 11, world opinion turned against the United States. The French and Germans issued public remarks denouncing Bush’s “Axis of Evil” assertion, as well as the targeted parties, the South Koreans, Chinese and Russians.

But President Bush has made himself clear. America as a country will not be dependent on another country for consent and support in future military movements across the globe. This sense of unilateralist rhetoric is troubling at best.

Has this country become so far removed from dominant world opinion that we can place ourselves into the role of world police? The ramifications of any actions outside of the already agreed upon parameters of the post September 11 world are startling.

The focus of the administration is clearly settled on Iraq in the Middle East. The Bush administration has openly confirmed they have been weighing their options but what actions have still been unanswered, although three come readily to mind.

First, there is the option of attacking Iraq and aggressively pursuing the destruction of Saddam Hussein’s regime. Second, government sponsored assassination of Saddam Hussein and lastly, a government sponsored internal coup.

Regardless of the course of action the U.S. decides to take in the Middle East, there can only be one outcome. Any U.S. military operations in the region will be met with force and reprisal attacks.

This anti-American sentiment has already begun to manifest itself in the increase of terrorist’s attacks in Israel and the harsh rhetoric spewing from Tehran and Baghdad.

Empires are made and destroyed on the policies instituted by their central governments. If America continues to push for action along the “Axis of Evil” it may be headed down a path of irreversible consequences. World War.
Person on Campus
By Matt Parker

CSUMB Otters have plans for next week’s spring break... and confessions about a few in the past.

Jaime Alvarez
SOPHOMORE, CHS MAJOR
What are you doing for spring break?
The first week is road trips to different universities—Berkeley, Stanford, and Fresno.
Why?
To visit friends.
What’s your most memorable spring break?
San Felipe, Mexico, I was there the whole week, it was off the hook. I also went to MTV Spring Break down in Cancun.

Arturo Ruelas
SENIOR, HCOM
Where are you going for spring break?
I plan to go to Cabo San Lucas with some friends who have a condo there. I've never taken a spring break like that before. I usually spend it with my family but since this is my graduating year, I want to have some fun with friends.
What's your normal Spring Break like?
I go down south to my family in Mojave, Hesperia. Me and my brother-in-law hike around the mountains.

Elizabeth Hung
FRESHMAN, MIE
What are you doing for spring break?
I'm going to Chico to stay with a friend for a couple of days.
What was your craziest spring break?
Hopefully this one!

Maria Tassos
SOPHOMORE, HCOM
What are you doing for spring break?
Going home to San Jose, then I'm going to Canada BC, Vancouver.
To do what?
Hang out with my sister and party at UCBC.
What was your craziest spring break?
I went to LA and spent the weekend in TJ.

Matt Amendt
SOPHOMORE, TAT
What are you doing for spring break?
Going home to Ventura; chillin'.
What was your craziest spring break?
Walking down the street in Isla Vista, and these girls said, “Hey drop your drawers and we'll give you a beer!” So my friend drops his pants and only got a Budweiser. He was bummed.... But it was pretty funny at the time.

Janet Ruiz
FRESHMAN, UNDECLARED
What are you doing for spring break?
I'm going to Palm Springs and then LA. I'm going to relax during the day, and go out at night.
What was your craziest spring break?
One time we went with these guys we didn't know. My friend hadn't learned how to drink yet and threw up in a parking lot on some guy's car... then she peed on the side of a pool and hit her head on the bottom.

Erin Bernsten
FRESHMAN, SBSIC
What are you doing for spring break?
I'm going to Palm Springs, then to Santa Monica.
What’s your craziest spring break story?
I've been grounded for spring break.

Sundy Sosavanh
JUNIOR, LIBERAL STUDIES
What are you doing for spring break?
Going to Redding, the hot box. Keepin' it low key so I don't run into high school people. Visit old teachers, hang with the family.
What's your craziest spring break experience?
I went to Canada and got drunk with the French.

Adam Nielsen
SOPHOMORE, TAT
What are you doing for spring break?
Me and two buddies are going down Highway 1 on a surf trip, campin' on the beach.
What’s your craziest spring break story?
My brother and his buddies went to Mexico and got arrested by the cops and had to bribe them 200 bucks. But it was all right because they just got back from Vegas and were up 3 grand.

Lisa Reid and Ashley Black
SOPHOMORE, LIBERAL STUDIES
FRESHMAN, UNDECLARED
What are you doing for spring break?
Ashley: We're going to Chico for St Patrick's Day.
What are your craziest Spring Break Stories?
Lisa: Last year my roommate danced on a table... and gradually took her clothes off.
Ashley: I haven't really done anything.... I went skinny-dipping.