The Otter Realm flushes out the truth

What you've always wanted to know—Where's the best toilet on this campus?—will be revealed, more or less, in a special report on page 11 of this edition of The Otter Realm.

Student reporters left no toilet unchecked, no lid unlifted, no roll overlooked in their relentless search to flush out the truth about the restrooms.

They've provided a heads up for everyone, with a unique system of identifying the best bowls on the CSUMB campus, and the worst. The findings make mighty good bathroom reading.

Two veterans seek the top post
in the Student Voice election

By Glenn Cravens

CSUMB's Student Voice President John Charter is ready to serve another term while another officer, Farah Hussain, believes she is ready to move up the ranks.

Charter and Hussain face off in the elections that take place Wednesday, April 17, 2002, and Thursday. Charter seeks re-election while Hussain, an Otter Student Union representative, wants the top elected spot.

Charter, a sophomore, has been in school offices for five years. Before being president, he was a class and ASB president at Colusa High School, and was last year's Student Voice Financial Director.

Hussain was a Student Voice financial director for more than a year, a Student Union chairwoman for more than a year, and on the fee advisory committee and student athlete advisory board.

There are 16 other elections taking place, although most are uncontested. Students can vote at the Student Voice building, No. 14, from 1:30pm to 8pm Wednesday, and from 8:30am to 5 pm Thursday.

Charter says teamwork is key to success at the university.

"I look at the team as a whole, and that's the way I look at Student Voice," he said. Hussain agrees, and she said her experience will better help guide the students to achieving their goals.

"Above all, I have the ability to make what I see in my head happen," she said. "I have vision in the truest sense of the word, in the ability to make a plan come to life."

She said one of her accomplishments during her term with OSU was passing the student bylaws and helping reopen the Black Box Cabaret.

With the university's constitution being rewritten, Charter says he should be at the helm to continue leading the charge.

"This is a time where continuity is vital. I want to take the responsibility of translating our vision to action, and carry the team through as we implement the future," he said.

For information on the elections, log on to voice.csumb.edu.

Who are the candidates for other offices? See page 3

Rents hiked 10 percent
next year to cover the real costs of campus housing

By James Thomas Green

The $300 across-the-board rent increases next year, which will add 10 percent to the average cost of housing on the CSUMB campus, will be more in line with the actual costs of providing the housing, university officials have said.

Up until now the CSUMB Foundation, a support organization that helps manage some of the business aspects of the school, has been subsidizing housing and meal costs in order to hold the rates down for students, according to Andy Klingelhoefer, director of Residential Life. The actual rents and meal charges haven't been covering the full costs of providing them, he said.

But university and foundation officials have decided that housing and meal prices have to reflect the actual costs in order to be self-sustaining, Klingelhoefer said.

Rents in the residence halls and on-campus apartments, as well as meal plans required for residence hall residents, will go up for the next three years in order to get to those self-sustaining levels, he said.

"The president's (Peter Smith's) mandate a year ago was that we figure out how to make both housing and dining self-sustaining," Klingelhoefer said. "We presented the president with numbers which scared him, because to do it in one year would have been some significant rate increases, and he indicated that was not acceptable."

Klingelhoefer said he and Kevin Saunders, director of Auxiliary Enterprises for the foundation, worked out a plan to raise the rates over a three-year period in order to get housing and meals to the break-even point. That point assumes renovation and debt for new housing construction, he said.

Bonding agencies, which provide loans for schools to build housing like that that will be needed on the CSUMB campus, want to see that existing housing is self-sustaining and not subsidized from the outside. Klingelhoefer said.

A general statement from the university administration said the foundation no longer has the capacity to subsidize campus housing and meals because additional residence halls are needed for the increasing enrollment.

"Philosophically, student housing should pay for itself," Klingelhoefer said. "What it costs to run it should come from the rates the rents that the students pay. It shouldn't be subsidized, nor should it be providing money for other parts of the campus. It should be a self-contained process."

There are other contributing factors, he said, such as increased utility costs, particularly water rates.

News of the rate increases have provoked a lot of angry reaction from CSUMB students.

"We need to protest... but I doubt it would change anything," said student Ambre Ploeger. "But we need to try. I was thinking possibly a rent strike? They need to prove why we need an increase."

Student Carolyn Drouin called the new prices "insane" and asked, "Do they not realize they are going to be forcing people to move off campus?"

Student Stephen Johnson asked: "Why are we told year after year that an increase is needed to level the budget of Frederick housing? May I propose that this year we get the real truth as to why it is needed to increase our already too-high rents."

How does this affect student aid? See page 2
**Students may find help paying additional rent**

By Chanelle Raboteau

Money may be short with increased costs or rents and meal plans, but it may be there if you look.

Some students on a campus where 60 percent of them receive one form of aid or another will not receive any help from their federal and state grants.

But CSUMB is not alone. “Our campus is hurting just as much as other campuses,” said Lou Reinhart, Financial Aid Director.

Though most federal and state grants will not increase money to students; the Federal Pell Grant increases every year and will provide a little relief to students.

The Federal Pell Grant is available to students pursuing their first undergraduate degree and to students enrolled at CSUMB in the Teacher Credential Program. Award amounts range from $400 to $3,750.

Those students wondering if they are receiving the highest possible financial aid and loan assistance should make an appointment with the Financial Aid office, located in Building 47.

Based on parents’ income and financial need, all students are different in the areas of what grants and how much money they can receive.

To contact Financial Aid call 528.3518, or email them at Financial_Aid@csumb.edu.

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**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.

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**The new rates, effective fall 2002, are:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Residence Halls</th>
<th>Meal Plans</th>
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<tr>
<td>Increase $300 per academic year</td>
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<td>02/03</td>
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<td>Single</td>
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<td>Double</td>
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<td>Triple</td>
<td>$3320</td>
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**Frederick Park Apartments**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Continuing Students</th>
<th>New Students</th>
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<tr>
<td>02/03</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shared Bedroom</td>
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<td>Entire Bedroom</td>
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**Family/Domestic Partners**

Increase $35 per month per unit for 02/03.

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**Otter Oops!**

Not everything can be perfect. Here are a few oops we made in the last edition. Our apologies.

- Page 12, “Person on Campus” Rebecca Macewen is actually Rebecca Unger.
- Page 11, “Baseball team working through losses” Brain Laatsch is actually Brian Laatsch.

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**The games of spring include a real winner**

By Glenn Cravens

Similar to Arizona Diamondback Luis Gonzalez, “Triple Play 2002” comes through in the clutch.

Gonzalez delivered the game-winning hit last November to give the Diamondbacks their first World Series championship.

The newest baseball video game, available for the Sony PlayStation 2 and Microsoft Xbox, is a winner all around with its smooth looks and gameplay.

In most sports video games, the only things that change are the team rosters and the facilities where the players compete. Producer Electronic Arts tampered with all aspects of the game to make it one better than its predecessors.

The 30 parks look exactly like they do in real life, and most of the logos and sponsors are there. The Coca-Cola sign on the makeshift bottle at Pacific Bell Park, for example, is in the game. That is a change from last year, when mock companies or EA’s logo were put in place of obvious signs.

The graphics are so good, you can see the calm McCovey Cove waters beyond Pacific Bell Park in San Francisco. You can also train your pitchers with the Financial Aid office, located in Building 47.

Based on parents’ income and financial need, all students are different in the areas of what grants and how much money they can receive.

To contact Financial Aid call 528.3518, or email them at Financial_Aid@csumb.edu.

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Many candidates for Student Voice

The CSUMB student election is Wednesday, April 17, 2002, and Thursday, April 18, in Building 14. Students must have their CSUMB picture identification to vote. For information on the election, log on to voice.csumb.edu.

Candidates
(l) denotes incumbent

President
John Charter (l) Farah Hussain
Vice President
Mac Clemmens Yuri Jimenez
Public Relations Director
Katie Murphy Cory Schmidt (l)
Residence Hall Senator
Jason Howard George Nagata
At-large Senator
Kelly Bland Anthony Popovic
Finance Director
Daniel Pangelina
Legislative Director
Joshua Crabtree
Student Union Representative
Derek Ford
Multicultural Representative
Gabriela Lopez
Events Workgroup Chairperson
Vito Triligia
Technology Senator
Kenneth Paulino
Upper-division Housing Senator
Jason Manger
Environmental Senator
Nat Rojwansathira

Students approve constitution and bylaws

By Kelly Bland

Student Voice and Otter Student Union members are sighing in relief with the passage of the new Student Voice constitution and Student Union bylaws.

"I am very pleased that our bylaws passed, said Farah Hussain, senior and Student Union chair.

"Passing the bylaws was one of the longest projects I have worked on at CSUMB. We started drafting them in May of last year and continuously reviewed and edited them with many different students, staff, administrators, and faculty until about two weeks prior to the vote," said Hussain.

Students of CSUMB overwhelmingly approved both documents in a referendum on March 11 and 12, 2002.

The constitution passed with 294 votes for and 17 against. The bylaws drew 272 votes in favor and 33 opposed.

"Very pleased [with the outcome of the referendum]," said Mac Clemmens, freshman and Student Voice chief of staff, "I am encouraged by the overwhelming number of students that supported it."

More than 300 students voted during the referendum.

"I was very happy with the outcome," said Maggie Watts, freshman and Student Union vice-chair. "I'm glad that the student body took interest and voted."

The newly passed constitution and bylaws can be viewed on the Student Voice Web site at voice.csumb.edu.

Otter Realm Classified

$250 a day potential/bartending
Training provided 1-800-293-3938 ext. 221

When it's all said and done... it's the food that counts.

That's Some Seafood! That's Some Pasta!

... (her) halibut was perfectly cooked, fresh ... My linguini with clam sauce was delightful, full of fresh clams, seasoned beautifully and served over perfectly cooked pasta. * Raymond Napolitano - Coast Weekly

That's Some Meat! The Pork Chops were excellent..."

* Martin Meinsen - The Monterey Co. Herald

That's Some Italian! Featured in "SUNSET" magazine

Now ... That's Some Restaurant!

Italian Grill Cafe Pronto! Finds sweet success at its Marina locale.

- Fresh Seasonal Seafoods
- Fresh Pastas - Steaks
- Gourmet Pizzas - etc...
UPCOMING EVENTS

FLAG FOOTBALL
Saturday, April 20th - 12-2pm
(Wainwright field)

SOFTBALL
Saturday, May 11th - 12-2pm
(Fredericksburg Park)

COME JOIN IN THE FUN!!!
Questions:
1) Does spring bring romance to mind?
2) Are you getting loving this spring?

Katrice Miller, freshman, TMAC
1) When I think of spring I think of allergies.
2) No loving for Katrice this spring.

Garrett Barnicosat, sophomore, Global studies
1) Romance... No. Spring means fog.
2) I think so; my girlfriend is coming to visit me soon.

Karen Miller, sophomore, TAT
1) I can definitely feel that love is in the air.
2) Yeah I got some love.

Mike Northcot, junior, TMAC
1) Yeah because of freedom, and day time savings.
2) Yes I am, I have a girlfriend, so yep.

Leigh Corulla
1) To a certain point, but not really romance, more like sex.
2) I'm getting loving this spring.

Sara Stult, freshman, MIE
1) I associate spring with flowers.
2) No, I am a born again virgin.

Joy Molano, sophomore, VPA
1) Yeah, because of Bambi.
2) Yes, but he doesn't live around here.
Biking the back country of Fort Ord

By Jacqueline Gasser

During the year of 1997, Baz Luhrman gave out indispensable advice to graduates: “Don’t forget to wear sunscreen.”

I didn’t follow his words for a weekend of biking the back country.

Sunburn, pain, and peeling notwithstanding, the big sky country never ceases to amaze me and my fellow members of the “Unofficial Otter Bike Club,” time and again. Biking the back country was uplifting.

I feel more fit, energetic, and confident than ever before, and my bike and I are becoming long-term and, hopefully, life-long friends.

Since we are all beginners, we have been slowly checking out the lands in teams of about six people per trip. We go at a snail’s pace, and attempt to make it up the steep grades while we become acquainted with our newly purchased bicycles.

This weekend’s mission was the land behind the Department of Defense building, formerly Hays Army Hospital. We biked from Frederick’s Park II to Inter Garrison Road, took a right on 8th Avenue, went to the end of the road, and turned right onto Gigling. We entered the lower trail that is blocked off to motorized vehicles.

We went out about ten miles, but even by the first one, I started getting that feeling that being on a bike gives—total freedom, oneness with nature, and burning thighs.

Not a lot seems to matter out there but the roads, single-tracks, fellow companions, and natural inhabitants of the area. The big pictures of our lives—classes, due dates, financial obligations, children, family, relationships, MLOs, ULRs, LSATS, GREs, graduate schools, internships, last weekend, the coming one—seem less important. This can give the much needed distance from our problems that we all need at times.

The trails varied from extremely steep inclines on the single tracks of a 20 to 40 percent grade, to flat and paved roads. Some of the less-difficult downhill were extremely challenging due to shifty sand and unstable ground, rocks, and fractions of gravel.

When you are a novice biker, you just have to keep going. I realized that the hills are not so bad after you understand how the gears on your bike work!

Although the freedom and difficult riding was exhilarating, we couldn’t help but notice all the signs reminding nature enthusiasts that the lands were not swept clean as of yet. All the ‘danger zones’ were blocked off clearly with fences, barbed wire and blatant signs warning you to keep off.

The ghosts of the military are still very much there. You can see in your mind’s eye the practice battles, training, camping, and hard-core soldier stuff just by looking out over the lands. There were watchtowers every five miles or so where you could picture the Army guards protecting the lands, ready to shoot anything out of the ordinary.

The Unofficial Otter Bikers spotted no wild animals up close, but their presence was everywhere. You could hear the brush shifting, as if mysterious creatures were watching and following your every move. We even saw some kind of cat skull, not to mention the amazingly large vultures circling high in the sky, looking for prey.

There were also broken-down buildings—the kind you see after large earthquakes—and others that had heavy sets of ammunition holes all over. We even saw large machine-gun hideouts hidden in the sand.

Luckily there is much to see in the back country, regardless of your expertise on a bicycle. There is an abundant amount of land available for CSUMB students and community members to enjoy while still obeying the Bureau of Land Management’s guidelines and respecting the struggling ecosystem. Just make sure to purchase a helmet and sunscreen first, or you could be an unwanted lobster the next day, or worse!

For further information about the Unofficial Otter Bike Club, or bike questions in general, you can email jacqueline_gasser@csumb.edu.

Otter Realm
Survey says
OSU conducts survey of students

By Kelly Bland

The results are in. CSUMB students were recently given a chance to contribute ideas on student fees paying for an Otter Student Union Building. Those completing the survey said they support such a fee increase by a margin of more than 4-1.

The OSU, a non-profit student organization, gives the students the opportunity to work in a business setting that provides services for the CSUMB community. An amenity the OSU currently operates is the Black Box Cabaret.

The survey, which was available in the Dinning Commons at the beginning of March, asked students how they would feel if there was a Student Union fee increase.

"We got student backing and support for a project that uses the students money," said Melissa Schultz, committee member and a freshman.

Of over a hundred responses, 82% of students support a fee increase, while 18% of students disapprove a fee increase. According to the survey, 86% of students support a steady increase, whereas 14% would rather pay a large increase all at once.

If OSU decides to increase fees, they would have to go to referendum and the students have to vote on it. Fees cannot be changed without student consent.

"With the help of students, we can make this school for their benefit. I am hoping that students agree with the results and help the student union get these activities for them," said Michele Emley an Operations and Planning committee member.

Discussion of a student union building at CSUMB encouraged Farah Hussian, OSU Chair and a senior, to acquire student input. Operations and Planning committee picked up the responsibility for student feedback. Members conducted the survey.

"The survey was essentially used to get people interested and determine how much of an increase the students would support," said Derek Ford, a freshman and committee chair for Operations and Planning.

To increase participation, Ford and Emley went on a door-to-door campaign in the residence halls and with other committee members also manned an informational table during the Student Voice referendum.

"With surveys, we can find a clear and fair way to see student's opinions," said Emley.

The OSU survey went beyond asking about money. It gave students a chance to say what they wanted in a Student Union building.

The most popular business students chose were social gathering areas, media (television, video, and radio), food services, pool hall, and a bowling alley. Not so much support went to ideas like commuter amenities (lockers), conference and events services, and multicultural programs.

"Gauging student interest is an ongoing thing, it will never be over," said Ford.

Students are encouraged to become involved with the OSU beyond filling out a survey and attending OSU meetings.

Surveys are still available in the Dining Commons and Student Center for students to fill out. Student Union board meetings are every Wednesday in the University Center at 5pm.

More information on the OSU can be found on their newly renovated Web site http://voice.csumb.edu/osu. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the survey, email Derek Ford via First Class.

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Graph showing preferred options for a Student Union Building:

- Social Areas
- Media
- Video Arcade
- Food Services
- Mailing Services
- Study Lounge and Computer
- Arts Spaces
- Pool Hall
- Bowling Alley

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For information about becoming a CSO, please call 582-3573
Panel points to media shortfalls in war coverage

By Wayne Lile

Students flowed into the TAT building on the CSUMB campus to participate in a Global Wake Up Call: The Media at War.

The show, being fed live over the Internet, was to be a critical critique of the current state of the news media in America. While it fulfilled its intended purpose of informing the audience of the general grievances imposed against the media, the program did little to offer possible solution to the information crisis.

On the panel for the April 4, 2002 event were David Cook, a DJ and journalist from Oakland; Marc Herold, a University of New Hampshire professor of economics and gender studies; and Sunil Sharma, the founder and editor of the Dissident Voice News Service.

"The country has become like a football team," said Cook.

But Cook warned this fervor is not necessarily the result of true patriotic intentions.

"The coverage of the terrorist attacks and the coverage of the war in general has been offensive in Afghanistan, all the fixed targets of opportunity had dwindled."

By the end of October the number of targets played masterful roles dictated by the U.S. government.

Answers. Both politicians are veterans and them during interviews and press conferences. Attorney General John Ashcroft and Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld have played masterful roles in avoiding the tough answers. Both politicians are veterans and them during interviews and press conferences. Ashcroft sets the tone," said Cook, "he knows the lay of the land and the information he offers is painted only in one color."

Much was said during the evening, but little was resolved. Left to air were possible solutions to the misinformation campaign being run by the government. As Herold said early in the program, "the further away journalists are from the 'Hall of Power', the more critical they are."

With this in mind, Herold was asked after the taping what solutions he would suggest to improve the media's coverage of the war effort in Afghanistan.

"Our media should have the diversity of, say, the European media," he said.
What's Up! 
at CSU Monterey Bay

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 folders, both 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 intake 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
When: 4pm-2am
Where: Starting at 4 pm shuttle leaves lot #12 every hour on the hour. Arrive at Gettysburg shuttle stop at 6 minutes past the hour, arrive Princeton shuttle stop at 11 minutes past the hour, arrive Doubletree at 31 minutes after the hour and leave Doubletree at 45 minutes after the hour. Return to lot #12 on the hour. Last shuttle leaves Doubletree at 2 am.
For more information: Please contact SACD at 831-582-3845

Every Wednesday
What: Pianemakers Quilling Group
When: Noon
Where: Black Box Cabaret
Cost: Free
For more information: Please contact Lynda Haddock at 831-582-4118

Every Wednesday
What: Intramural Basketball
When: 6-8pm
Where: Otter Sports Center
For more information: Please contact Amber Magner at 831-582-4646

Every Second Wednesday
What: Teacher Credential Meeting
When: 5 pm
Where: Building 3
Cost: Free
For more information: Please contact Lydia S. Martinez at 831-582-3638

Every Thursday
What: Chat the Movies
When: 7 pm
Where: Student Center
Cost: Free
For more information: Please contact Paul Strudwick via FirstClass

Every Thursday
What: Intramural Disc Golf
When: Noon
Where: Disc Golf Course
Cost: Free
For more information: Please contact Amber Magner at 831-582-4646

Every Friday
What: Intramural Indoor Soccer
When: 6:30pm
Where: Mike Hall, Bldg 30
Cost: Free
For more information: Please contact Alison Geitner at 831-582-3766

Thursday, April 18
What: Children's Theater Festival
When: 7:30 pm
Where: World Theater, Bldg 29
Cost: $8 for community members; $5 for CSUMB students, staff, faculty as well as seniors and children 12 and under
For More Information: Please contact Shannon Edwards at 831-582-4261
Tickets: Box Office at 831-582-4580

April 19
What: WCAD Guest Speaker Series: "Dr. Joan Smith from the Melvin Smith Learning Center"

Friday, April 19
What: World Theater Movie "Oceans 11"
When: 10pm-midnight
Where: World Theater
Cost: Free
For More Information: Please contact the RHA Office at 831-582-3815

Friday, April 26
What: Spring Formal
When: 7:30-11pm
Where: Monterey Bay Aquarium
Cost: $20 for CSUMB faculty, staff, and students (ID required)
Tickets on sale at the World Theater. No tickets will be sold at the door.
For More Information: Please contact Student Voice Workshop at 831-582-4261

What's Up for Students
What's Up was brought to you by:
El Cid Rojas
News and Public Information Intern
If you would like an event posted in What's Up, please contact El Cid Rojas at 831-582-3955
An Otter Realm public service project:  
Searching for the best restroom on campus

By Wayne Lile and Chanelle Raboteau

"Brilliant gold taps, virginal white marble, a seat carved from ebony, a cistern full of Chanel number five, and a flunky handing me pieces of raw silk toilet roll. But under the circumstances, I'll settle for anywhere."

- Trainspotting

Everyone does it. Women just seem to need to do it more often, and so their restrooms tend to be more appealing to the eye. But there are a few things that every restroom needs so that the toilet experience is as pleasant as possible.

In fact, there are a few things you should demand when you're seeking out the perfect spot to squat.

Toilet paper is a must. There is nothing worse than sitting down to a peaceful moment only to discover the proper implements are missing.

Smell is also important. The better the aroma, the better the experience. If you walk into a bathroom and feel as though you've entered a sewage treatment plant, then chances are you need to look for alternative facilities.

But requirement number one, the most important item to consider when selecting the stall of your dreams, you shouldn't be able to skin surf in the bathroom.

With these requirements in mind, the Otter Realm's investigative reporters set out to search for the best pots on campus—and the worst. It wasn't a scientific search, but it wasn't always done in emergency conditions either. Here, then, are the findings:

The average restroom
Hers: On the average, you're hoping to find a restroom like those in the University Center. As well-traveled as they are, they are kept incredibly clean. It would be nice if students, staff and faculty could find all the restrooms on campus in such conditions. The numerous stalls here also diminish long lines, which can be found in other buildings around campus.

His: Most of the men's rooms on campus can fill the bill as average. Generally they are located in areas with little to no foot traffic. But the men's bathroom in the University Center comes to mind in particular. It does take an extreme amount of foot traffic, but somehow the bathroom remains relatively clean. This bathroom isn't suggested as a place to hang your hat first thing in the morning, but for emergency purposes it will suffice.

The worst on campus
Hers: Is it an earthquake? Those working in offices around Buildings 84C and 86A have experienced the ground-shaking experience that comes with flushing the toilet. Small and dark also might play a role in the fact that these brown-hued restrooms are the worst on campus.

His: There are two areas with latrines that come readily to mind here. The men's bathroom in the MLC and the bathroom in the Dining Commons. Unlike their counterpart in the University Center, these bathrooms fail miserably to the human traffic they are exposed to on a daily basis. On any given day a squatter might encounter wet floors, or find the toilet paper missing when it's too late to leave, or find a stench to beat all stenches. Worst of all is the feeling of rubber being burned off the soles of your shoes as you stand near the urinals. These bathrooms are definitely places to avoid at all costs. If the urge hits you, do yourself a favor and walk over to the Student Center, or just go home.

And the best
Hers: The nice mixture of sparkling chrome and well-placed, brick-colored tile add a touch of class to Building 47. The first-floor restroom is an especially important addition to the one-stop shop, where many students, staff, and faculty spend a lot of their time. And though there are only two stalls, a wait is worth it.

His: Do you really think we're going to reveal one of our best-kept secrets to you? Right! While you're avoiding the pits in the DC and the MLC, we'll have a relaxed reporter sitting on the pearly commodes of the language lab... oops, disregard that. We meant to say, ahh, the bathroom on the first floor of the Campus Center. And good luck!
Ten feet at seventeen seconds, Monterey Bay beach break.

By Matt Parker

Imagine rising before the sun, driving up the coast with three of your friends, boards on top, coffee in hand, in search of clean, empty surf. You pull up to a parking lot to find every surfer’s dream; waves six to eight feet high, light offshore winds, and nobody out there. For a surfer it’s like finding the fountain of youth.

As you scatter out of the car to pull on your wetsuits, a group of other surfers inform you that if you expect your car to remain in the same condition as it is, you shouldn’t surf “their beach.”

This is what the collective beach communities have labeled localism. You can call it harassment, vandalism, or intimidation. But localism is a complex issue with roots deep in the surfing subculture, reflecting all of these definitions and more.

This is a common scenario that is played like a broken record all over the Monterey Bay. With CSUMB’s enrollment steadily increasing, the relationship between the surf population on Monterey Bay and CSUMB surfers can only get worse.

One surfer who arrived here in 1998 said he couldn’t believe how empty the surf was. But when he went to certain beaches, instead of smiles he was greeted with icy stares and the words, “Beat it, kook!”

The local surfing population is so small that the locals from the middle of the Bay all the way down to Big Sur know each other... and they don’t know you.

“I couldn’t believe how big dicks the locals were when I first got here,” said CSUMB student Chris Gaskell. “With uncrowded surf so accessible I can’t believe how big of a deal this is.”

If there is a positive side to localism, besides keeping the crowds to a minimum, it is that locals are the people who care the most about their home spot and, therefore, will take care of it the best. “Each area has its own rich history. This area is no different than any other community. There are so many guys around here that charge [quality waves] and surf for no other reason than it fulfills their souls. But you usually find that the more respect you give, the more you get back,” said CSUMB senior Adam Bumgardner.

At most localized beaches there is a definite hierarchy, where the oldest teach the youngest unwritten laws of the ocean. Surfing is a sport with no rule book, and without rules you have anarchy. Locals, in a way, are the peace keepers of the sport (when they’re not busy threatening the non-locals).

“We don’t want what happened with UCSC students in Santa Cruz to happen here,” said one local referring to infamous battles between UCSC surfers and the Santa Cruz surfing community, “Steamer Lane looks more like an LA freeway than a surf spot.”

But if you follow a few simple guidelines, there should be a minimum of hassle:

1) Know your ability. Don’t paddle out at a spot that can push you past your ability to swim to shore if necessary
2) A surfer closest to the peak, or breaking part of the wave, has the right of way.
3) Do your best to stay out of the way of the surfer riding the wave.
4) If you do come across a crowded lineup, walk down the beach and find your own waves. Don’t add any tension that is not needed.
5) If you are surfing a notorious spot try to remain discrete. Let your surfing do the talking.
6) If you pull up to a spot with eight local surfers packed in a van, and you have CSUMB stickers on your windows and a parking pass on your rearview mirror, don’t expect them to roll out the welcome mat.
7) Help other surfers.
8) It never hurts to smile.

In my 10 years of surfing I have found only three truths:

• For every mean local in the water, there are three smiling surfers, wet and stoked.
• Nothing can replace strong ocean knowledge, wanton need for exploration, and the stoke of getting barreled for four hours straight with nobody but your friends.
• In a world of instant gratification, surfing is the only thing that keeps me sane.