Time to vacate?
Single students in FP running out of options

By Rachel Kane
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Residential Life has a housing plan in store that will force single students to vacate their apartments in Frederick Park in exchange for newer and more expensive housing.

Beginning as soon as June 30, single students living Frederick Park II (FP II) apartments will be herded into either the new apartments in the North Quad or the old military housing in Frederick Park I (FP I).

“What are students supposed to do after June 30?” asked Amy Vigallon, a sophomore and VPA major living in the residence halls. “Residential Life has given an ultimatum to the students with a scarce amount of living options.”

Students will request a space in April during Reservation Days. A single room in the new apartments will be $6,000 for the school year, while FP I currently costs $310 a month or $2,790 for a nine-month school year.

As of fall 2004, no new or continuing

Poorman’s cinema
SF filmmaker turns trash into film

By Enjolina Moss, Staff Reporter
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“Story-telling is a way to create an allegory to the problems of the world,” said SF-based filmmaker Craig Baldwin, whose unique filmmaking style necessitates dumpster diving along San Francisco streets.

Baldwin uses found-footage, or previously recorded material, to create a “collage-essay.” His style, which he has self-titled “cinema-povera,” serves “to take detritus or trash ... and create an arena of ideas through image and sound.”

Through “re-contextualization” and “image re-appropriation,” Baldwin has taken footage from newscasts, cartoons, old travel films and other discarded

Plagiarism reports rise
Campus officials: “It’s the tip of the iceberg.”

By Colleen M. Cooney, News Editor and
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Typing the keywords “term paper” in any online search engine will result in millions of hits. Some sites offer pre-written papers, others promise a custom job on anything from essays and book reports to fully researched term papers and dissertations. All this can be easily attained for a monthly access fee or a per-page purchase price of up to $30.

Though plagiarism is certainly not a new concept, the Internet has provided a method of purchasing and delivering these valuables almost instantaneously. But easy as it is for students to find this information, it’s just as easy for instructors to find it as well.

“The instructor] just has to do a search to determine if the information is from the Web,” said Samuel Hale, chair of the School of Business. But it is up to the
Vacate: Families to take over Frederick Park

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double

single students will be allowed to move into the FP II apartments as it will be reserved for family housing only. This is part of Residential Life’s plan over the 2004-2005 academic year to effectively phase out single student occupancy in Frederick Park.

Kyle Petty, a junior in FP II said simply, "The rent situation is crappy." Single students may also move into the new suites, which require them to purchase the $2,200 meal plan. Another option is to downgrade to the Residence Halls for Fall 2004 and room next to freshman and sophomores. If an FP II single student resident wanted summer housing in FP I, their new assignment would have to be ready on or before June 30 for them to move there.

"Now sophomores don’t really have anything to look forward to."

-ADRIANA GOMEZ, HCOM JUNIOR

If the apartment is not available, their only on-campus summer housing option is Residence Hall 201. "They’re giving us this June 30th deadline and it seems pretty rash," Petty said.

Assistant Director of Residential Life Randy Hanlin said the decision is due to the large number of families being turned away for housing each semester and the lack of affordable housing near campus. Adriana Gomez, a junior currently living in FP II, thinks that the East Campus apartments are a good place for students to get their bearings on life in a more realistic setting. "I think people on our campus really need a way to grow up," she said.

She believes that taking away the options for single students to reside in the Frederick Park Apartments is a let down and unfair. "Now sophomores don’t really have anything to look forward to," Gomez said.

Hanlin sympathizes with the families. "Families only have one choice of housing on campus," he said.

The separation of families and single students is an attempt to eliminate conflicts and provide more space for families on campus. "Singles and families have had considerable conflict," Hanlin said.

Essentially, Hanlin said that because of CSUMB’s relatively new status, as students advance in their academic careers, the school advances along with them. Empty spaces on campus must be filled with residents to decrease the weight of debt. The apartment and suite complex was $37 million to construct.

Therefore, the new preparations in the Frederick Park Apartments will give students more of a choice in their living arrangements, but also less of a choice in that they’ll be required to live in the new North Quad Apartments and Suites or Residential Halls.

The new housing "options" have upset the plans of transfer student Amanda Letlow, who lives in FP II. "I feel the rent increase is extremely unfair, considering the fact that the first reason I chose CSUMB over other CSUs is because of the ‘guaranteed’ affordable housing," she said.

"Students vacating the apartments are better in the long run for the families and for the students," Vigallone said of the Frederick Park Apartments. "I think that they’re blown up more because you don’t have to pay a meal plan. That’s the only difference. I think that the new apartments are going to be great."

The new North Quad Apartments will be available to students with junior status (60 completed units or more) and/or students who are 21 and over and are equipped with single occupancy rooms in either two bedroom one bathroom or four bedroom two bathroom setups.

Hanlin is in the process of setting up an informational meeting in February for students who are confused about the new moves and buildings. For more information, contact Residential Life at 582-3378.

To post an event, contact Colleen Cooney via FirstClass

Nov. 17 – Dec. 15
"Give the Gift of Giving" by supporting the Holiday Giving Project. 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Building 23. Cost varies depending on gift. Contact Karen Williams at 582-3358.

Thursday, Dec. 11
Town hall meeting to discuss fee increases in the coming semesters. 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. University Center conference rooms. Free.

Friday, Dec. 12 – Tuesday, Dec. 16
M.E.Ch.A’s 4th Annual Lectures on Indigenous Culture & History at CSUMB, presenting Sergio "Ocellocatl" Ramirez Muñoz, Indigenous. 9:30 a.m. – 9:30 p.m. Music Hall.

Dec. 12, 6 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. University Center.
Dec. 16, 6 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. University Center.

Wednesday, Dec. 17
Take a Break! Live DJ, free games, and prizes: (2) $25 gift certificates for Del Monte shopping center, (1) DVD player and more! 7:30 p.m. – 10:30 p.m. Student Center. Free.

Professors recover from car crash

By Erica Ruedas, Staff Reporter
ERICA_RUEDAS@CSUMB.EDU

Amalia Mesa-Bains, chair of Visual and Public Arts (VPA), and her husband, Richard Bains, chair of Musical and Performing Arts, were involved in a car accident on Nov. 22.

The couple was taken to the Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula, where Richard was treated and released. He has since returned to work.

Amalia was admitted, and was moved to Hospice of the Central Coast on Nov. 30, where she will most likely remain for several weeks.

The staff of VPA is looking forward to Amalia’s recovery and return to work. "Her spirit is strong; she’s an amazing person. She’s always thinking of others," said Johanna Poethig, a faculty member.

Poethig talked to Amalia on Dec. 3, and said that Amalia had taken a few steps, but that it would be awhile before she was fully recovered.

Stephanie Johnson, an instructor in VPA, said that Amalia sends her regards to everyone.

Armando Arias, a Social and Behavioral Sciences professor, held a potluck where he and others made a holiday video for Amalia, because she is not yet ready for visitors. Those who wanted to say hello to Amalia, including students, were able to appear on the video.

Anyone who wants to send a card or a note to Amalia at Hospice of the Central Coast can write to her at 100 Barnet Segal Lane, Monterey, CA 93940.
Plagiarism

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The number of reported cases of plagiarism at CSUMB has jumped from three last year to 10 this year, all of them occurring within the last month or so. Though most of the cases were in the business school, "Other directors are facing the issue," Hale said.

According to Vincent Montgomery, Judicial Affairs officer, these recent numbers, though an increase from last year, are still ridiculously low. "I'm seeing the tip of the iceberg," he said.

Montgomery believes the rising numbers do not necessarily reflect the actual plagiarism that is occurring, but a change in faculty involvement and awareness of the problem.

"Only a small number of instructors are reporting students," he said, explaining that many handle plagiarism cases internally or one-on-one with students.

In a random anonymous survey taken on campus, it was found that 52 percent of students admit to cheating or plagiarizing at one time or another, 25 percent of these have done so at CSUMB.

Almost three-fourths of the students surveyed claim to know someone who has plagiarized, and 41 percent of those that have not cheated say they have considered doing it.

One freshman that admitted to cheating while in college commented, "Everybody does it." But that does not seem to be the case. According to one senior surveyed, plagiarism is "very unethical and can lead to bad habits and work ethics." Not to mention getting caught.

Hale talked about plagiarism-detection software through which assignments can be screened to determine whether a paper is original.

Though the university has not purchased the program, Montgomery said that he is willing to work with faculty to invest in such software. And even without the program, he added, it's not difficult to detect. In last month's cases, "Faculty were able to detect where students found the information," he said.

Some online services promise that their custom-researched papers will pass these detection systems and, as www.essaytown.com states, "Our writers do not plagiarize—period." But once the student puts his or her name on it, she or he becomes the plagiarist.

"While there are many unscrupulous online writing services that promise to write papers on a specific topic, tailor it to a chosen citation style and even make it sound like it's not cheating," Montgomery said, "none can write one that will reflect the personality of the student which our faculty disappointedly detect."

Once an instructor determines that a student has cheated or plagiarized, he or she can simply assign a "zero" on the assignment, or it can be reported to Judicial Affairs, resulting in more serious consequences. The severity of the punishment usually depends on the level of plagiarism.

Montgomery said that students could be placed on probation, suspended or even expelled for more serious offenses. "To plagiarize on a major project or on capstone," he said, "could be cause for not awarding a degree." But for less serious offenses, he wants to push a different philosophy: "To find opportunities to educate students to get better rather than penalizing them."

One of the main goals in preventing cheating at the college level is educating students on what is considered plagiarism and what is not. According to one student surveyed, "A good teacher would clarify to their students how to avoid it." Montgomery agrees that it is the responsibility of each faculty member to convey to their students what is appropriate and not appropriate, and these definitions should be in every class syllabus.

According to a study done by the Center of Academic Integrity, campuses that have honor codes related to academic integrity tend to have far fewer instances of cheating than those that do not. Currently CSUMB does not have a specific honor code, but Montgomery hopes to work with Associated Students in developing one.

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Pesky critters invade campus housing

By M. Cristina Medina, Staff Reporter

Sophomore Julie Kester had a problem with fleas in her dorm room in building 201 a few weeks ago. She would wake up with tiny bites on her arms and it wasn't until she went to the Campus Health Center that she was told that these bites were from fleas.

"I told my [residential advisor] and the work order was done for ants instead of fleas, but still the spraying worked," said Kester. Since the spraying it took a week and a half before she stopped getting the bites. Kester said that she had another pest problem in building 206 last year, that time with ants.

From ants to raccoons, the wildlife environment of the campus often leaves CSUMB students living in the dorms or apartments with not-so-welcomed guests.

Both east side housing and Residential Life have assured that there is nothing new about the insect problem. Out of 1,200 apartments only six have complained about a pestilence problem, primarily downstairs apartments.

The usual pests are mice, raccoons, squirrels, skunks, spiders, fleas, and ants. The first level apartments are more likely to encounter problems with pests because of easier access being on ground level, not to mention people leaving doors open. It's a problem that affects all courts equally, not just in one area.

"We live in a wildlife area" said Heather Church, operations manager for the Frederick Park apartments. Therefore residents are the ones who are in the wildlife's territory.

Church also explained that when students first move into the apartments they are provided with information about wildlife that exists on campus. Flyers are given to students with specific details of what to do when encountering wildlife.

"There is no crisis to be solved regarding pests; we live in a wild area, which is more prone for furry friends to visit us" said Randy Hanlin assistant director for Residential Life Operations.

Hanlin also mentioned that one major problem the dorms have is students leaving doors open on the first floor, a clear invitation to any rodent.

Both Residential Life and Ford Hort Asset Management (FOAM) rely on Western Exterminators to handle the pest problems such as ants, spiders and fleas.

If there are any problems with such infestations report them right away to FOAM or Residential Life.
Smoke Clears on Ord Burns

By Adam Swanson, Staff Reporter
Adam_Swanson@cmubm.edu

Nearly two months after the Army performed another "controlled" burn on Fort Ord it looks like the smoke has finally cleared. Land surveys are being conducted to make way for future development.

What began as a 490-acre burn quickly escalated into a five-day fire, ultimately burning approximately 1470 acres.

Despite the retardant treatment and the good burning conditions, the fire spread beyond the control line. Preliminary reports concluded that there was shrapnel under the brush.

Due to the burns, the Monterey Bay was plagued with a rain of ash. As a result, 81 complaints were logged within the first day.

A study conducted by the Army in consultation with leading local and federal environmental agencies concluded that smoke from the exploded ordnance, "would be minor compared to emissions contributed by burning vegetation alone."

Some students complained of problems due to smoke inhalation. In an e-mail, Nat Rojanasathera, environmental senator of the Associated Students, wrote "despite what The Source pop-up stated ("This does not affect the campus"), many students live off-campus. Myself, a student living in Pacific Grove, [I] clearly felt the affects of the burn."

Nancy Gere, director of communications and marketing at the Carmel Hill Professional Center stated that "a small amount" of people had checked into the hospital, however, "almost all of them had prior respiratory problems."

The burns also have a dramatic effect on the landscape. Although plants and animals do die in the fire, it is also beneficial.

The plant community of the coastal chaparral is dependent on fire for the recycling of nutrients and the germination of seeds.

Once the burns ended, the cleanup began. The Army and other agencies associated with the cleanup have estimated up to 792 munitions discovered in the burn territory.

Land surveys will be conducted after the initial cleanup. The land will then be doled out accordingly to the government, the public and various conservation groups.

According to Bruce Delgado at the Bureau of Land Management, the land recently burned will be named "Parker Flats and will be reserved as an equestrian park, police driving and shooting training and land conservation."

Students can get involved in the cleanup process through volunteer work or by taking one of the numerous ESSP classes offered.

Fire Stop, the agency hired by the Army to maintain the burns, has prepared a preliminary report, which is available, along with other burn information on the Army's Website: www.fortorskcleanup.com.

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Printing theft: NOT LOGGING OUT CAN BE COSTLY

By Zachary Stahl, Managing Editor
Zachary_Stahl@cmubm.edu

When senior Jenna Wolfson tried to print a term paper in a campus computer lab two weeks ago she was outraged to find her printing account practically extinguished.

"I tried to print the other day and I couldn't print anything," Wolfson said.

Wolfson knew for a fact that she had not used all of her pages yet since she primarily prints from her home computer. After the Technology Support Services department (TSS) tracked her printing records, they realized that Wolfson had forgotten to log out of the language lab and 88 pages were printed from her account that day.

"It's not very hard when you are sitting in a lab of 20 computers to find one that isn't logged off," Wolfson said. "If it's there and they need to print, what are they going to do?"

Henry Simpson, TSS Help Desk lead, is surprised that Wolfson is the first student to report a case of printing theft since the print management system started this semester. "It's not really as bad as we thought it would be with lab logs," Simpson said. "Most people are logging out."

Wolfson is most concerned that students consider the language lab an "open lab" and don't think about logging in when they see a computer. But she also hinted that, "somebody is consciously making the effort."

Simpson disagrees. "I don't think there is some conspiracy out there," Simpson said. "A lot of people still don't understand the login process."

Since Wolfson was the first "victim," Information Technology (IT) reimbursed her account with the pages, but Simpson warned that other students might not be so lucky. He even posted a bulletin on the IT website reading "printing credits are not issued when this happens."

"It would suck if someone got into your account and IT didn't cut you any slack," said Joseph Forman, technology senator of Associated Students. Forman suggested that IT add some security features like at an ATM that would limit the amount of paper a student could print in one day.

Simpson said that his department has considered a number of security features like page limits and having the computer automatically log out after a certain amount of idle time. But he explained that this is also problematic since students sometimes need to print large quantities of paper, and students could lose their files if the computer logs out while they take a break.

There is a thin line between security and inconvenience according to Simpson, and IT didn't want to make the print management system too different from the old system. IT tried to make the print management "as close to as it was before," Simpson said.

He added that running out of paper hasn't been a problem for most students since "70 percent of students have printed less than 100 pages." But Simpson said these numbers could change with all of the printing that occurs at the end of the semester and students are encouraged to keep close tabs on their accounts.

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Printing Tips:

1. Don't forget to log out
2. Don't give out your login and password
3. Change your login and password word every 90 days or if theft is suspected
4. Check your printing balance often

4 | The Otter Realm | Dec. 11-18, 2003
Governor targets CSU system

By Zachary Stahl, Managing Editor
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With enrollment caps, a possible fee increase and student support and outreach programs threatened, Gov. Schwarzenegger’s budget proposal cuts to the core of the CSU system.

Faced with an estimated $24.8 billion deficit over the next 18 months, Schwarzenegger has proposed some controversial cuts to the CSU that could begin as early as next semester.

“Somebody has to make up for that, and he is shaving it on the education system,” said Crystal Macias, statewide affairs representative for Associated Students. “The financial hardship that we are in right now is on the backs of CSU students.”

At the end of November, Schwarzenegger proposed a mid-year reduction to the CSU system, amounting to $23.8 million, $12.5 million of it coming from outreach programs. For 2004-05 the governor wants to slash $74.6 million from the CSU system and virtually eliminate the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) with a $37 million reduction.

Although the numbers have yet to be debated by the CSU Board of Trustees and the State Legislature, CSUMB officials are bracing for the upcoming cuts.

“None of us know right now what this is going to mean for CSUMB,” said Karen Mendonca, vice president of Student Affairs. Still, President Peter Smith was able to give some tentative numbers, representing how the governor’s proposal would trickle down to campus. CSUMB would have to find $430,000 to trim for spring semester and $1.5 million for the next academic year.

“If I get the direction, we will decrease our student body or we will raise tuition if they tell us to do that,” Smith said.

Vision statement threatened

Although it is too early to say whether student support and outreach programs will be impacted at CSUMB, the threat of cutting them has the campus concerned.

Macias discovered CSUMB through one of its outreach programs. She then got in contact with the EOP program, which provides academic and financial assistance to low-income and often first-generation college students.

“That’s how I am in here,” Macias said. And now, “it’s just going to be wiped out.” CSUMB currently provides services to 436 EOP students. It is a program that supports the ideals of CSUMB’s vision statement.

“EOP is essential for CSUMB and its vision students,” Mendonca said. “It helps students find a home away from home.”

Schwarzenegger’s proposal vaguely makes cuts to “outreach programs,” but it is unclear what specific programs would fall under this category. Either way, Macias stressed the importance of outreach to high school students.

“I can’t imagine where they’d be without the support of these services,” Macias said. “They’d think, ‘I just need to graduate high school.’”

Capped Enrollment

Due to the budget constraints, CSUMB has already locked its enrollment at 3,654 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) students for spring semester and the 2004-05 academic year. This cap doesn’t necessarily mean that students will be turned away from CSUMB, however.

“We will indeed have new students at CSUMB,” Mendonca said. With many students graduating and some not returning, new students will be able to fill the openings.

The CSU system as a whole could turn away 15,000 students next year since a three percent increase in enrollment is expected.

With such a looming state deficit, Smith agrees with the cap on enrollment. “I think it’s the right tactic,” Smith said. “At a single point you can’t do more with less. You do less with less.”

Another fee increase?

There has been no concrete talk about a fee increase for CSU students, but it hasn’t been ruled out yet either.

With next year’s proposed $74.6 million cut to the CSU system at hand, Macias thinks a fee increase is inevitable.

“They’re definitely going up,” she said.

“There’s no other way out of it.”

The reality of the CSU budget may either call for reduced services or increased fees.

“I don’t want to pay more but if it means other students won’t be able to come to CSUMB then I will have to second guess myself,” said Jacob Martin, upper-division academic senator for Associated Students. If they go up, Martin would like to see a portion of the fees used “for things that benefit the students directly.”

Associated Students will be hosting a fee increase town hall meeting to address some of the confusion surrounding the budget. The meeting will take place today from 12-2 p.m. in the University Center.

Stories from the ashes: SoCal fires still burn in students’ lives

By Warren Lee, Staff Reporter
WARREN.LEE@CSUMB.EDU

A monstrous wildfire, that had the possibility of destroying hundreds of homes and endangering the lives of families and loved ones, was on the minds of CSUMB students from Southern California and a horrible reality for others.

“We were pretty lucky,” said senior Daniel Smart. “We had a few friends that lost their houses. It’s the worst ... they have lost everything.”

The fires began in Southern California with the hot Santa Ana winds spreading the devastation to entire neighborhoods and killing 13 people. In San Bernardino County, a fire named the “Old Fire” ended up torching more than 400 houses in the beginning of November.

The fire spread to Crestline, and eventually ended up in Arrowhead, California, Smart’s hometown. His hometown was one of many in which these blazing infernos occurred.

Smart described what his hometown now looks like with a short but vivid sentence: “It looks like the moon.” One fourth of Arrowhead’s residents lost their homes to the fire; Daniel’s house, fortunately, was unscathed.

At one point, Smart stated the fire circled around his entire mountain city. “It was hard, I didn’t know what I should have done,” said Smart when asked about the fire.

Though the fires have directly affected Smart, he admits he’s been able to move on from this. Smart states that even with the fires, his college plans and life have not been dramatically effected. He still plans on graduating next semester.

For Marybeth Mistretta, however, her career path has taken a radical turn. Mistretta
SoCal

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also originates from Lake Arrowhead, but the effect the fire has had on her is a bit more serious.

Originally a sophomore, Mistretta said, “I left CSUMB pretty much on account of this (the fires).”

Mistretta actually dropped out of CSUMB to return to Arrowhead, where she now regularly volunteers her time to the forest academy. The fires “have turned my career path to being a firefighter,” Mistretta said.

The turn her life has taken is something Mistretta actually welcomes. “I’m actually thankful to the fire for this. It has totally given me inspiration to be part of never letting anything like this happen again. As a person, it has definitely changed me.”

Another issue Mistretta and Smart had with the fire was the need of awareness on campus. “They barely had any awareness,” said Mistretta. “In Southern California, the fires were on every station, but there wasn’t anything on it in Monterey. I was so pissed.”

Smart partially agrees. Though the fires weren’t the topic of discussion in every class, Smart said that many fellow classmates and friends showed concern for his situation.

Denise Huey, however, disagrees. Huey, a senior, also born and raised in Southern California, states, “During those weeks, the fires were the topic of discussion in every one of my classes.”

“Everything becomes important, even that little tree on your front yard, because you realize it can all be burnt up.”

- DANIEL SMART, SENIOR

“Some students were late to class because they claimed it took them 8 hours to drive ... because of the traffic and closed-off freeways from the fires,” Huey said.

Now that the situation has been controlled, the concern for the Southern California fires has almost disappeared completely, but Smart believes the fires have the possibility of returning.

For the past two years, Lake Arrowhead’s water levels have lowered greatly. This resulted in the destruction of half of the existing pine trees by bark beetles. Eighty percent of the trees are a very real fire hazard because they are so dry.

“The one thing we have to do,” said Smart, “is cut down all the dead trees.”

With the possibility of another fire looming in the near future, one might ask how Lake Arrowhead’s situation is now.

“Pretty hectic,” said Smart. “Everywhere you look there are burnt houses and people cleaning them up.”

“Slowly, but surely, things are getting back to normal,” said Mistretta, referring to Arrowhead.

When asked what lesson a person can take from these circumstances, Smart quickly affirmed the importance of holding onto everything you have.

“You never realize how important your friends and family are until they can be lost,” said Smart. “Everything becomes important, even that little tree on your front yard, because you realize it can all be burnt up.”

Fortunately for both Mistretta and Smart, their families are alive and well.

Monterey Bay’s Own......

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Chilly heights send winter thrills

By Jacob Pickering, Staff Reporter

Sitting on a lift staring up at a view of trees on the mountainside, your feet dangle over the edge anticipating the first drop onto the crunchy snow below. Looking down the mountain, a storm of adrenaline rushes through your limbs. A slight push starts the plunge down the monstrous slope right into jumps, between trees and over the heads of everyone watching.

With the snow falling already, the slopes are warming up with all of the feverish skiers and snowboarders ready to rip into some fresh powder. If you’re like Kyle Petty, an HCOM junior who is, “Getting all excited just talking about snowboarding,” then you know snow is falling and now is the time to get to the slopes.

Now where would be a good place to go this year? Yes, there are many options open, but if you need a little help, here are just a few to consider:

The roads are clear sailing to Lake Tahoe and Mammoth Peak is towering overhead with snowbound pleasure.

An interesting spot in Tahoe is Sugar Bowl’s run called “the 58s.” A huge avalanche cleared out this spot in 1958, getting rid of trees and cliffs. Now it rips with fun when there is fresh powder and riders and skiers can storm down its steep face in and out of all of the gullies. This run is for the more advanced skier or snowboarder, so be cautious.

On the north shore of Tahoe, half-pipe action is popping at North Star. All of the crazy kids are showing off the newest twist, plant, slide, and fall. If you’re interested in testing out your skills in any of these departments, rush right out to North Star for the best half-pipe in the Tahoe area. This half-pipe is cut very deep and extra wide, adding to your speed and providing a better ride so you can do more advanced tricks.

Sierra at Tahoe has some great trails and some adventure too. “Sugar and Spice is mostly everyone’s first run, but you can take it into the trees and onto other trails,” said Petty. Sugar and Spice is also a good beginners’ trail, “It just goes back and forth all the way down the mountain, it’s really relaxing,” Petty added.

If you’re an adventurous type and would also like to do some exploring, Sierra also has lots of out-of-the-way places to hike to for some private fun.

Kirkwood offers fat jumps and lots of air! Now were talking the big stuff. Along with any mountain, jumps are everywhere, but few places offer jumps that take your breath away. No, they really do, so you need to be experienced to take risks such as these. “Kirkwood is good for their jumps because they make them really big, most other parks don’t do that,” said Benjamin Brackin, a second-year TAT major. Kirkwood has a decent half-pipe, some gnarly runs and plenty of tight gullies. Getting to the park might prove to be a bit troublesome, though; it’s a very popular spot.

But despite Kirkwood’s killer terrain, lift lines stay reasonably short during the week and the mountain is notorious for preserving powder stashes for three days after it snows.

No one likes nasty downhill spills. Sometimes we all need to start simple and learn slowly. If that fits your style a bit more, then it looks like a gentle bunny hill will give you all the action you need.

A good place to learn is at Boreal, located at Donner Summit about 9 miles from Truckee. “It’s a smaller mountain that has plenty of runs that don’t have jumps,” said Brackin. Not just for beginners, Boreal has plenty to offer any skier. It’s “good for freestyle and repetition; you can hit the same jumps 30 times because of the big turn around, which is great for practice too,” he added.

Folks who come from Southern California might want to check out places like Mammoth, Sierra Summit, Bear Mountain, or Snow Summit. “Mammoth is a good place to ride because there is so much to do there. You can ride the park, free ride on open tails, or backcountry through fresh snow,” said Ryan Rodriguez, a TAT student and a southern California native.

“The terrain at Sierra Summit is pretty fun to ride, the park is okay and the trails are usually fun to ride. There are also some places where you can get some good tree runs,” he said.

Prepare to take armfuls of tumbles when learning to ski or board, and then show all your friends when you get home how cool you are with your bruises. “Painful” comes to mind for Derek Ford, a student at CSUMB and an avid snowboarder. “I was kind of sketchy at first, but once I realized no matter how much it hurt now it will all pay off in the end, it was the most fun I’ve ever had at the snow.”

Some great downhill deals are offered for student pocketbooks.

Squaw - $39 lift tickets every Tuesday – Thursday, all season (excluding holidays)
www.squaw.com

Kirkwood - Seasons passes for full-time students under 25 years: $229 value pass (non-holidays)
$199 (each) with purchase of four
$329 single (including holidays)
$229 (each) with purchase of 15
www.kirkwood.com

Mammoth - $62 lift tickets for weekends, holidays
$57 Monday - Friday (non-holidays)
www.mammothmountain.com

Sierra at Tahoe - Adult (23-69): $49 all day, $44 half-day.
Young adult (13-22): $39 all day,
$34 half-day www.sierratahoe.com

North Star - Adult (23-64): $58 all day, $46 half-day
Young adult (13-22): $43 all day, $39 half-day
www.skinorthstar.com

Sierra and North Star - College rate season passes only apply with proof of 9+ units.
$379 unlimited (college)
$219 limited to blackout dates
$159 college six-pack (blackout dates)

Boreal - $36 adult lift ticket any time 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.
$22 adult nighttime 3:30 p.m. - 9 p.m.
$99 College season pass (age 17-24) Monday - Friday (non-holiday)
www.borealski.com

Sugar Bowl - $39 lift ticket. Get a Safeway gift card and you save $17, plus no blackout dates, no age, any day! www.sugarbowl.com

With all of these deals, who wouldn’t want to head up to the mountains for a little weekend action?
Heart and skill make the MAN

By Erin Lawley, Sports Editor

"He’s our best natural leader on the team," men’s basketball Head Coach Bill Trumbo said.

Trumbo is referring to senior co-captain Mike Miller. A two-year starter for the Otters, Miller is a strong-willed, hard-working individual who not only has talent on the court but heart for the game.

This HCOM major is from Long Beach, California where he started his love for the game. "I’ve been playing since I could dribble a basketball," Miller said. After playing four years of high school hoops, this now 25-year-old didn’t skip a beat when he started playing for Compton Junior College. He finished his junior college career after two years. Miller then took a little time off from school before he transferred to CSUMB and graced the Otters with his presence on and off the court.

“Our coach encourages us to be nice people off the court to get people interested in coming and watching us play," Miller said.

The 6-foot 2-inch athlete, likes the "utility" position rather than just one specific spot. Miller plays shooting guard (a two) and small forward (a three), but even dribbled in the point guard (a one) spot last year. "I prefer shooting guard, but I like both ‘cause I like to post up," Miller said. "Three is my game, but I don’t like to be labeled a forward, I can do both.

Growing up, Miller had two very important inspirations when it came to basketball. His two older brothers, Andre, 31, and Ross, 29, both played basketball and took their little brother under their wings. "I used to love watching them when I was younger," Miller said. "They would let me play with them so I got to play with older, stronger, better players.

Miller takes the leadership qualities he learned from his brothers to help him be a better captain to his fellow Otters. "Miller is a crafty, intelligent player who backs down from no one," senior Colin Pfaff, co-captain, said. "His leadership is essential for our team this season."

In response to being a captain this season Miller responded with a simple, “I enjoy it.” He strives to lead by example for his teammates. "Right now I have to step up my game before they can," Miller said. "We all need to step it up.

Simply demanding respect from teammates doesn’t get the job done. One must give and take. "I don’t distance myself from anyone," Miller said. "It’s a respect thing. We have a friendship outside of basketball."

"He (Miller) is a great guy," Pfaff said. "I’m thrilled to have played last season and this season with him."

Miller is a powerful athlete when it comes to game time. He’s a "very good leader," Trumbo said. "He’s a very tough competitor and likes to protect his teammates. He’s tough but can back it up with a high level of talent, he’s a take charge guy."

Miller has a lot to juggle for only being a 25-year-old man. He has two beautiful daughters, Cheyenne, 5, and Jaida, 11 months.

They like watching their daddy play, but there are times when being a parent and a student, and a basketball star can be a little much.

"It’s hard. I try to focus," Miller said. "I try not to be stressed out. There are sometimes when you’re just tired and wore out. You get mentally drained sometimes."

Another inspiration in Miller’s life is his mother. "My mother helps me with everything," Miller said. "She’s my pride and joy. She takes my place when I’m not there. January and February are the worst for me because I’m not able to go home a lot. We talk on the phone a lot."

Last year the Otters were knocked out in the first round of playoffs against Hayward. "It hurt," Miller said. The Otters had beaten Hayward earlier in the season at home but injuries slowed them down in playoffs. "We just couldn’t stop their big man and we missed some easy buckets."

This year, the Otters are hoping for a change. "I think we have a real good team," Miller said. "We’re athletic, we like to hustle; (we have) good defense. I just want to win and go all the way."

After graduation next fall, Miller hopes to continue his career in basketball. Whether it is playing like his favorite NBA stars Kobe Bryant or Kevin Garnett, or coaching high level hoop stars, one thing’s for sure, his heart will stay in the game.
**Athletic Events**

to post an event, contact Erin Lawley via FirstClass

**Friday, Dec. 12**
Lake Tahoe Skiing / Snowboarding trip. Friday 5 p.m. – Sunday 7 p.m. $130 for students, $180 for faculty/staff, $220 general admission. http://adventure.csumb.edu

Women’s basketball vs. San Jose Christian College. OSC. 7:30 p.m. $2 for students and faculty/staff, $5 general admission.

**Saturday, Dec. 13**

**Sunday, Dec. 14**
Women’s basketball vs. Whittier College. OSC. 5 p.m. $2 for students and faculty/staff, $5 general admission.

**Monday, Dec. 15**
Women’s basketball vs. Cal Tech University. OSC. 6 p.m. $2 for students and faculty/staff, $5 general admission. Saturday, Dec. 20

Men’s basketball vs. Fresno Pacific University. OSC. 7 p.m. $2 for students and faculty/staff, $5 general admission.

**Thursday, Jan. 1**
Women’s basketball host the Monterey Bay Classic vs. Ripon College. OSC. 3 p.m. $2 for students and faculty/staff, $5 general admission.

Men’s basketball host the Monterey Bay Classic vs. Carroll College. OSC. 7:30 p.m. $2 for students and faculty/staff, $5 general admission.

**Friday, Jan. 2**
Lake Tahoe Skiing / Snowboarding trip. Friday 5 p.m. – Sunday 7 p.m. $130 for students, $180 for faculty/staff, $220 general admission. http://adventure.csumb.edu

Women’s basketball host the Monterey Bay Classic vs. Freed-Hardeman University. OSC. 3 p.m. $2 for students and faculty/staff, $5 general admission.

**Friday, Jan. 9**
Lake Tahoe Skiing / Snowboarding trip. Friday 5 p.m. – Sunday 7 p.m. $130 for students, $180 for faculty/staff, $220 general admission. http://adventure.csumb.edu

**Friday, Jan. 16**
Lake Tahoe Skiing / Snowboarding trip. Friday 5 p.m. – Sunday 7 p.m. $130 for students, $180 for faculty/staff, $220 general admission. http://adventure.csumb.edu

**Friday, Jan. 23**
Lake Tahoe Skiing / Snowboarding trip. Friday 5 p.m. – Sunday 7 p.m. $130 for students, $180 for faculty/staff, $220 general admission. http://adventure.csumb.edu

**Saturday, Feb. 7**
Extreme Mountain Biking. 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. $6 for students, $9 for faculty/staff, $12 general admission. http://adventure.csumb.edu

**Sunday, Feb 8**
Intro to snorkeling. Lovers Point. 10 a.m. – noon. $15 for students, $20 for faculty/staff, $25 general admission. http://adventure.csumb.edu

**Tuesday, Feb. 10**
Women’s basketball vs. Pacific Union College. OSC. 5:30 p.m. $2 for students and faculty/staff, $5 general admission. Wednesday, Feb. 11

Sanctuary Rock Gym Indoor Climbing. 6 p.m. – 9 p.m. $10 for students, $11 for faculty/staff, $12 general admission. http://adventure.csumb.edu

**Outstanding Otters**

Two honored for CSUMB volleyball: Heath and Weiller named All-Conference

Seniors Hilary Heath and Jamie Weiller were honored for their outstanding athletic achievements Saturday, Nov. 15. Both were named All-Conference at the Cal-Pac coaches meeting.

Heath, a four-year starter for the Otters, started her award-winning season with a Cal-Pac Player of the Week nod in October for her dazzling performances in wins against Simpson College, Pacific Union College and San Jose Christian College.

The 5-foot-11-inch Heath then earned her first honor as a member of the Cal-Pac First Team. She had received honorable mention for her past three seasons at CSUMB.

Heath led the conference, along with the Otters, in blocks this season, averaging 1.98 a game for a total of 95. She was second for the Otters in kills with an impressive 222 for the season.

Weiller, a three-year starter for the Otters earned her first Second Team honor this year as an outside hitter. She received honorable mention the past two years as an Otter.

The 5-foot-9-inch Weiller led the women’s volleyball team in kills with an astounding 265. She also was No. 1 in digs and aces with 215 and 31 respectively.

Both women were co-captains for the Otters this season.

**Men’s golf in National Championship contention**

CSUMB just earned their highest ranking in school history at No. 2 in the nation by the latest Golfstat ranking. The Otters take second behind Oklahoma City University.

The Otter Men are a safe bet to take the NAIA National Championship.

**Women’s golf taking it to the top**

The Otter Women have come a long way in the past three years as they stake their claim at the highest Golfstat ranking in school history at 11th. They were ranked 35th three years ago and moved up to 16th and then 12th last year.

CSUMB is looking to continue its effort and make a strong entrance into the CCAA NCAA Division II next season.
Mahoney, a junior HCOM major, is a center for the CSUMB’s women’s basketball team. She was born in Central America and later moved to Ontario, California when she was four years old, the same age she started playing hoops.

“It used to be just fun,” Mahoney said, referring to playing basketball in her preteen years. Later it became more than that. She earned a coveted spot on her high school’s varsity team as a freshman.

“I’ve realized over the years, it gets harder and harder,” Mahoney said of her involvement in basketball. She also admitted, hesitantly, that coming to play for CSUMB was somewhat of an “accident.”

Mahoney originally had her sights set on UC Berkeley, but when academics prevented her from entering her college

of choice, she opted for CSUMB. “It’s a good environment. I feel welcome here,” Mahoney said.

“No one can stop her except herself and I think she is finally beginning to learn that important lesson,” said Shauna Flores, Mahoney’s teammate. “She is becoming a team player.”

At 6 feet 2 inches, Mahoney is a definite leading weapon on the court.

“Jo (Mahoney) has a good inside game that is hard to stop, and she has a very nice outside touch so the defense must play her with respect to both a power and finesse game,” said Amber Magner, women’s basketball head coach.

Mahoney cites Magner as one of the few people who have helped her come this far in her life. “She pushes me, she believes in me,” Mahoney said. “She’s so world-wide, she’s made me realize a lot of things.”

When asked about her training, Mahoney said, “The training is difficult but it is some of the best training I’ve had my entire life.” And difficult, to say the least, considering she has suffered not

point lead to win its third of the season.

Lisa Mispley and DeAndrea Brooks led the Otters in points with 12 and 11 respectively. The Otters fall to 0-5 on the season.

Saturday, Dec. 6
Men’s basketball: Fresh off their first win of the season against Occidental, CSUMB once again started on a good foot but lost steam in the second half taking another loss with a defeat to NAIA Division I Christian Heritage College Saturday night 82-71. Things were tied up at halftime 39 all but the second half was won with free throws. The Otters sent the Hawks to the line 44 times, only going themselves 17 times. Twenty points alone were due to Hawk free throws.

Mike Miller and Kenny Renfro led the Otters with 11 points apiece. Renfro led the squad with six rebounds.
Encounters with officers

Speeding home for the holidays

Road trips are affronts to the leisure-seeking traveler’s existence, but for most students, provide a much-needed break from the rigors of academia or that annoying, messy person with which they are forced to share a room.

For filmmakers and writers, these jaunts are pure humor. Taken from Tom Green, road trips are hilarious adventures chock full of airborne cars, probing nurses, rau-cous frat parties and sexy videotapes.

Winter break is descending quickly upon the campus and many students will be driving to their winter destinations after final exams. Before hitting the road it is easy to laugh at previous encounters with officers and boast about getting out of a two hundred dollar speeding ticket, but it is much harder to look at the facts.

Of the near 38,000 fatal crashes in the United States in 2001, just over half occurred in zones posting speed limits of 55mph or more.

College students are not known for their common sense behind the wheel and if they are not careful, may find themselves face to face with a badge, sending a fun little road trip careening down a slippery slope into the arms of the law.

But if luck prevails, it just may lead to a funny story.

Utah or Bust-ed

"I'm sorry, officer, but the 250 horsepower, V8 engine was begging me to push harder on this great open highway you have here," didn’t go over well with Utah Trooper I’m-not-in-the-least-bit-amused-with-your-style-at-all Dyce.

So, I tried the next best thing. I started to cry.

In past experiences, crying in front of a man is like presenting Superman with a gift of Kryptonite, but not for this badge-emboldened henchman. He was out to generate revenue from poor, unsuspecting Californians like myself. Who knew Utah Highway Patrol Troopers park their silver vehicles in the center divide facing traffic? At least I slowed down when I saw him.

Of course, as for most hardened officers, the tears were ineffective and only made him try to look as if he felt bad for writing me a ticket. He justified his absence of guilt by writing it for 11mph over the speed limit as opposed to the 20-plus mph the Ford made me go, which halved the fee to $125.

As the F-250 slowly inched its way back onto the highway, my mother, who was riding shotgun and made me wish I had one, assured me I deserved the ticket, after which visions of passenger homicide danced in my head.

According to the Utah Division of Travel Development, Utah’s state tourism office, 17.5 million people traveled to Utah in 2002.

Last year alone, 22.9 million vehicles crossed Utah’s borders along Interstate highways. Perhaps Trooper I’m-not-sorry-you-have-a-lead-foot was just part of the tourism office’s welcome wagon, fact-finding team.

Highway to Hell

Route 46, which runs through southern California, is at times a winding and desolate road.

With just two lanes of open highway, desert and foothills in front of him, freshman Bob DiRado was speeding home to Bakersfield along 46 when a slow moving gold Buick got in his way.

"He was going the speed limit, so I passed him," said DiRado.

Little did he know, the gold Buick was being driven by the newly elected Kern County Sheriff.

The gold Buick soon caught up to him.
Author revisits MANZANAR

Thirty years after “Farewell to Manzanar,” Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston is once again venturing into the land of storytelling, historical fact and cultural folklore with her newly published first novel, “The Legend of Fire Horse Woman.”

The School of World Languages and Cultures hosted the appearance of Houston Dec. 8 at 8 p.m. in the university’s Music Hall where she spoke about the “why and how” of writing her books, beginning with a history of Japanese-American presence in western America.

As a young girl Houston spent three years in an internment camp in the high desert country near Death Valley. She and her family were carted there because the American government considered people of Japanese descent dangerous to homeland security after the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

“Farewell to Manzanar” is the story of that internment told through the eyes of Terri, a young Japanese-American girl. Now a standard read in high schools and colleges across the nation, it details the experiences of Japanese-Americans during wartime, the humiliation and suffering they endured. It also bears witness to the inef fable strength of the human spirit to rise above crushing circumstances to continue to love and to live.

“The Legend of Fire Horse Woman” re-examines some of the same material as “Manzanar.” You can say Fire Horse Woman sets the stage for Manzanar giving depth to characters that have already been introduced such as Sayo, Terri’s grandmother and Hana, her mother.
The story begins with Sayo in Japan before her arrival in America as a picture bride. But she does not fit the stereotype of the submissive Japanese woman; she was born under the sign of the horse, the sign associated with strength and willfulness and, God-forbid, freedom to think for oneself, not a good sign for a Japanese woman whose role is to please and be submissive to her husband. Every 60 years a woman is born under the sign of the horse, and Sayo is cursed, or blessed, to be one of them.

The internment camps in Manzanar are a main setting for the story and some of the same scenes are retold. But Houston now tells the story of Sayo as a young woman, and Hana her submissive daughter, and Terri, her adventurous granddaughter. "The Legend of Fire Horse Woman" is the tale of three generations of Japanese women who struggle to survive in America as immigrants, who struggle against cultural inheritances and expectations and are changed in the process.

Before her visit to the university I interviewed Houston via phone and email about her books from her home in Santa Cruz.

Morning Star Vasquez: What was your inspiration to write, 30 years after “Farewell to Manzanar,” “The Legend of Fire Horse Woman?”

Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston: I was in Hawaii and I heard of elderly women who were once picture brides who were living in a hospital. Their stories were incredible and I thought that it would be a good idea for a novel. The stereotype of being submissive and accommodating was turned around. They were feisty and strong ladies and had to be to be able to survive in America as immigrants.

MSV: Fire Horse woman is a strong and independent female character in your book. How did you gather her character?

JWH: Sayo, the picture bride and grandmother, is not patterned after one character, but from a combination of admirable women I’ve known. Her qualities are those of strength, loyalty and independence with a nurturing sensibility, qualities immigrant women acquired and honed to survive in this country.

MSV: What was the impact of the internment period on your adult life?

JWH: I think the level and type of impact the internment has had on those surviving internees depends largely on their age when the event happened. As an innocent child, who knew nothing of politics, racism or war, the fact of being imprisoned was translated—thusly for myself. Somehow I was responsible for the bombing of Pearl Harbor. It was not only “bad” to be Japanese; it was criminal. Isn’t that why we were imprisoned? What had we done wrong?

MSV: Manzanar is a standard work for high schools and colleges. Why do you think this period of history is important enough to keep in the minds of children and young adults?

JWH: The internment of Japanese-Americans is not a Japanese—American issue; it is a very important AMERICAN issue. For the first time in our history, all three branches of the government violated the Constitution, the highest law of the land. More than 110,000 individuals of Japanese descent—70 percent native born Americans—were rounded up from their communities, moved to strange lands for an average period of three years imprisoned without ever being indicted, charged with a crime or put on trial. We were incarcerated because of our “potential disloyalty” in the name of national security. We were imprisoned because of our race and for economic gain.

MSV: Do you see any parallels between what is going on today with a strong sense of prejudice against people of Middle Eastern descent as there was against Asians after the bombing of Pearl Harbor?

JWH: There are parallels to what is happening in the Middle Eastern community today. The Patriot Act, passed by Congress and fueled by fear, is proven today—after the shock of 9/11 has subsided—to be a great violation of our civil liberties. In the name of national security, there is danger of freedoms and rights being eroded, the Constitution diluted, and individuals deemed “unpatriotic” if questioning authority or the government. American ideals of freedom and democracy are being threatened by those who claim to be so “patriotic.”

Houston’s new book “The Legend of Fire Horse Woman” can be purchased at most bookstores for $24.95.
material to create films raising awareness of themes such as corporate media dominance and copyright infringement laws.

Baldwin hosted a lecture/screening of his films at the Black Box Cabaret (BBC) Dec. 3, sponsored in part by Associated Students and Tele-dramatic Arts and Technology (TAT) Students Club.

“He’s an experimental and avant-garde filmmaker,” said Caitlin Manning, faculty advisor for TAT Students Club.

Born in Oakland and residing in San Francisco, Baldwin is passionate about his film making, style, which he also refers to as compilation narrative and how it utilizes the power of allegory, metaphor and imagination. After attending the University of California at Santa Barbara and the University of California at Davis, Baldwin earned his MA in 1986 from San Francisco State University.

Unlike documentary filmmaking, Baldwin’s technique dismisses the idea of a unisonic and monotone narrator, most apparent in his film “Rocket Kit Kongokiti” (1986), which uses five different narrators.

Many of Baldwin’s films present “critical commentary on issues of the day”, theories and solutions, while leaving much else up to interpretation by the audience.

Baldwin showed clips of his earlier work like “Tribulation 99: Alien Anomalies Under America” (1991)—an unvarnished perspective of United States intervention in Latin America with a satirical look at the idea of conspiracy theories. He also presented “Spectres of the Spectrum” (1999), which includes footage from early television shows, educational films and even cartoons to create a paranoid story of a telecommunication industry takeover in the future. Baldwin spoke about his filming technique and answered questions before screening his feature-length film “Sonic Outlaws” (1995), which details one small band’s fight over copyright infringement with the Irish rock band U2.

In “Sonic Outlaws,” the lawsuit embroiled Bay Area rock-band quartet, Negativeland, and others talk about corporate greed, the power of money, and the absurdity of copyright laws. The film also documents Negativeland’s misfortunes legal battle with savvy Island Record (U2’s record label) lawyers, costing them financially and halting the release of their album.

One memorable sequence in “Sonic Outlaws” shows members of Negativeland discussing the copyright infringement case against them, followed by footage from an old film that parallels the story of David and Goliah—a giant fighting a little man. This sort of reappropriation of imagery “uses visual exaggeration and the audience to make a point like an editorial cartoon,” Baldwin said.

Baldwin calls his work satirical, but takes it very seriously, of which the audience was made aware after a defensive and exaggerated response to a woman who said the film “Sonic Outlaws” gave her a headache during the screening. Baldwin’s personality is well described as eccentric as much as it is a description of his films. His visuals are bold; the sounds can be grating, but the messages, though open to interpretation, are cleverly made clear.

“It’s inspiring because it has no limits and allows us to interpret in any way that we’d like to,” said Carlo Bressler, a senior TAT major. “The culmination of his images can be vulgar, but very intriguing ideas arise from it.”

For more information on Craig Baldwin or his films visit Other Cinema, 992 Valencia, San Francisco or the Web site at http://www.othercinema.com.

No money, no excuse

Holiday gifts for the poor college student

By Zachary Stahl, Managing Editor
ZACHARY_STAHL@CSUMB.EDU

The worst thing about going home for the holidays is walking up to your family’s doorstep without a present. Sure, your parents or friends may tell you “just bring yourself,” but we all know that everybody loves a little something under the tree with their name on it—whether it’s placed in a shiny gift bag or wrapped in newspaper.

But if you are living on a college student’s budget then there is just one minor obstacle to overcome: No Money.

Luckily, the value of a gift does not necessarily depend on the amount of cash you blow on it, and many cheap buys can be found around town. Getting creative always pleases; “no money” is no excuse.

Framed pictures of yourself don’t have to be cheezy, especially if you can surprise your friend or lover with a shot they forgot about. Ross sells cheap picture frames and it’s easy enough to buy a disposable camera—24 pictures = 24 gifts.

Got some flour, sugar and some unexpired eggs in the kitchen? Whether it’s zucchini bread, Christmas cookies or cherry pie, baked goods will add to your relative’s Christmas feasting. Visit www.allrecipes.com for thousands of gift ideas.

For a college student, having a book that doesn’t invoke the pangs of debt every time they look at it is a comfort. Buy your friends or family members a general used book. Books and Things or Old Capitol Book Co. on Lighthouse Ave. in Monterey both offer cheap used books.

An easy way out is to buy a gift card. It may not be the coolest thing to unwrap but at least you know your loved ones will get what they want. And besides who wouldn’t want to spend $20 at Target?

Another way to get on your parents’ or friends’ good side is to come up with some creative coupons. Back rubs and cleaning favors are nice to cash in on. Just don’t give out too many.

Even if you failed your poetry course and avoided all art classes, writing a poem or sketching a drawing will leave a lasting memory. Be creative, save your money and give your friends or family something that truly came from you.

Happy holidays.

The Low Down

To post an event contact Morning Vasquez via First Class

Dec. 6 - Dec. 16
The Monterey Aquarium is free for Monterey County Residents. Must have proof of residency, an ID card, school ID or billing statement. Call 648-4800 for more information.

Thursday Dec. 11

Friday, Dec. 12
Time Travel and Talking Fish? TAT Capstone Festival. 7 p.m.-10 p.m. World Theater. Free. Contact Karen Davis via First Class.

Friday, Dec. 12 - Tuesday, Dec. 16

Tuesday, Feb. 3
Fagaa. Inspired by books by Sengalese writer Boubacar Boris Diop, a stirring look at history of Rwanda. 7:30 p.m. World Theater. $20/person. Call 582-4580.

Thursday, Feb. 12
Have a Heart for Students Dinner and Auction. Annual event to benefit the CSUMB Student Scholarship Fund. 6 p.m. University Center. $50/person. Call 582-4141.

FYI

Need to do research in the library, but all the computers are taken?

You can check out a laptop from the library Reserves Desk for up to 2 hours.

Only your CSUMB ID and current semester sticker needed.
Student Film Showcase

By Adam Swanson, Staff Reporter
ADAM SWANSON@CSUMB.LIU

"I never came into TAT to be a filmmaker. I came because it was a spiritual journey, my passion, my goal," said Ryan Robertson, a TAT major who co-wrote and directed the short film "Forever Man" with Jon Gianelli.

"Forever Man" is part of a collection of films and theatrical productions to be presented during this Fall's TAT capstone festival. The festival will be held Dec. 12 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the World Theater. Both admission and parking are free.

Described by TAT capstone adviser Karen Davis as "visually dazzling," "Forever Man" tells the tale of a scientist who invents a serum for immortality. He is suddenly thrust into success but after time destroys man and Earth, he is forced to live on.

Robertson and Gianelli shot the 16mm film at 31 different locations around the bay over the course of 34 days.

"It's really hard to do a TAT capstone project, but it's rewarding if you can pass the inherent personality conflicts," Robertson said. "TAT provides an opportunity to foster relationships and that is what this industry is about. It all rests on relationships."

Eric Bachman, writer and director of "Books and Beyond," agreed with Robertson. "It [capstone] was a positive experience. I had never directed before, and my film was the kind of humor only I thought was funny but when I showed it to the class they liked it." Bachman's film will also be part of the capstone festival.

"Books and Beyond" is a 13-minute dark comedy about a college student with money problems who decides to rob a bookstore.

"It's in the same vein as the Coen Brothers ("Fargo," 'Big Lebowski,' etc.)," said Bachman.

Davis offered this run-down of the "cutting-edge work" that will be displayed:

"Tale of Tam," is a theatrical excerpt from an original production based on Vietnamese folklore. The production is complete with fabulous costumes and is a prime example of "grand-scale pageantry," Davis said.

"Monterey Bay Fitness: Mind, Body, Health and Spirit" is a DVD focused on a total body wellness plan, promoting a new integrated approach to physical and mental health.

It was produced by Mercedes DePamphilis and directed by Bernardo Rodriguez.

Jack-of-all-trades Benjamin Freer wrote, directed and produced "One Night in Vegas," a film noir, radio drama-comedy, "about a lucky man who stumbles on some loot," Davis said.

"Shut Up!" is the "personal documentary" of director and producer Diego Kusak. It focuses on his dynamic relationship with his Air Force veteran father.

David McCoy will be displaying video excerpts of the special effects he created for "The Wizard of Oz," which was presented earlier this year in King City.

Any students interested in finding out more about the TAT program are encouraged to contact Karen Davis by e-mail via FirstClass.

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Farewell to a one-of-a-kind professor

The staff of the Otter Realm would like to give thanks and recognition to Rachele Kanigel for her incredible contributions as our faculty advisor.

Rachele started as an assistant professor of journalism and media studies at CSUMB in Fall 2002. She will now be moving on to her dream job teaching journalism at San Francisco State University.

Although her time with CSUMB was short, her contributions to the Otter Realm and the Division of Humanities and Communication (HCOM) will be shared by current and future journalism students.

Rachele has been instrumental in decentralizing the role of the advisor and giving the newspaper back to the students. She has also successfully guided the current staff to producing the newspaper, where in the past we hired a non-student to design the pages.

Her drive and commitment to the Otter Realm and the craft of journalism has inspired many of us to devote our time to the student newspaper and also pursue a career in journalism. We are well on our way thanks to Rachele.

At first it was hard to imagine a semester without Rachele as our advisor but the guidance and inspiration that she has given us has empower the Otter Realm for years to come.

We will miss Rachele, but we deeply respect her decision to move closer to her family in Oakland and return to the university she graduated from. The Otter Realm thanks Rachele and wishes her the best in her new position at San Francisco State.

Accomplishments

- Designed a minor in Journalism and Media Studies
- Created HCOM courses that allow students to do media internships for credit
- Helped design MLO 2: Media, Narrative and Ethnographic Skills for HCOM

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Congratulations to the more than 200 students that are graduating this fall. Many will return in the spring to participate in the commencement ceremonies, but for all, CSUMB is a chapter of their lives they are getting ready to close.

**Bachelor of Arts, Collaborative Health and Human Services**
Zenola Evans
Melissa J. Fanning
Maha Jan Shammas

**Bachelor of Arts, Global Studies**
Isis A. Armendariz
Donald Leroy Bieber
Mario R. Campos
Robert Daniel Fischer
Nicolette Helen Jones
Jason D. Joseph
Shannon Kau'i Kahumoku
Anthony Popovic
Dana M. Sandman

**Bachelor of Arts, Humanities and Communication**
Dawn Marie Antelo
Kathleen Susan Armstrong
Christine E. Bennett
Lisa A. Bianchi
Jody Ann Bowland
Kristina L. Corso
Craig Lee Fortier
Elana Maia Gainor
Emily Cathryn Garton
Dianna Lynn Geiszler
Alberta Ann Jimenez
Melinda McBee Johnson
Patrick A. Krupski
Patrick D. Kuhl
Christopher John Lack
Christopher Aaron Lee
DeAndra Lakeisha Lewelling
Joshua K. Ludwig
Rosanna Leyva McCormick
Alejandro Naranjo
Joan Marie Rey Natividad
Jesus Santiago Obas
Matthew F. Parker

**Bachelor of Arts, Integrated Studies**
Lucretia N. Parks
Ismael Peña
Kathryn Anne Power
Victoria Kathleen Reed
Robert J. Richards
Katherine Lee Stockham
Jennie Anne Welton

**Bachelor of Arts, Liberal Studies**
Zachary B. Cohen
Charles P. Keller
Christopher Walsh Martini
Cassandra Nicole Platt

Brandon Kohl Rose
Daniel J. Vallentyne

**Bachelor of Arts, Social and Behavioral Sciences**
Stacy E Gill
Emile Derrick Gourieux
Sara Malinda Huber
Jennifer D. Kerrigan
Joan Marie Kevorkian
Kelly Lynn King
Tamara L. Kury-Lee
Christian Anthony Lamonea
Megan Aline Lavengood
Emily J. McDaniel
Jeannette Cardona Mejia
Thomas M. Melville
Amy Marie Miner
Amber Rae Newman
Aurora DeLaFuente Ortega
Maria del Carmen Ortega
Nancy Ortiz
Michelle Rene Pérez

Jedidiah D Taitano
Yesenia Tovar
Mark Francis Vanderhorst
Arlene Albarran Vargas
Megan K. Woods

**Bachelor of Arts, Teledramatic Arts and Technology**
Vanessa Ross Aquino
Elvia Alejandra Espinoza
Eric Peter Bachman
Jenny Rebecca Baker
Christopher L.H. Chang
Carli Danielle DeCastro
Mercedes Lee Depamphilis
Malinda Anne DeRouen
Todd Andrew Gardner
Erica Karen Hemenway
Diego Kusak
Timothy James McCarley
Kevin Eric McCarthy
Chandra Lacy Noble-Ashford
Nicholas Lee Rini
Fall Graduates!

Ryan James Robertson
David J. Stuart
Bachelor of Arts, Visual and Public Art
Edward B. Chávez
Laurel Ann Leonetti
Marco Antonio Muñoz
Bachelor of Arts, World Languages and Cultures
Robin Camille Altit
Amber Lea Bocanegra
Juliana Mia Lorenzen
Derrick Michael Psaros
Bachelor of Science, Business
Robert C. Amerine
Kevin M. Barber
Brian Jacob Berman
Simone G. Botros
Adam D. Breault
Kelly A. Carota
Jacqueline N. Cavalieri
Jenell V. Cline
Alicia R. Estrada
Jennifer M. Fernandez
David Joseph Foster
Joshua A. Goin
Melissa Clara Gomez
Aimee Michelle Leckie
Daniel P. Lewis
Lisandro E. Lopez
Eugene Nicholas Mitchell
Steven Donn Neher
Chérie Renée Perdue
Craig D. Rice
Ian Thomas Rumery
Kymbal Vaughan Smith
Lauren Diane Stein
Christopher Martin Taylor
Joseph John Vokal
Sean P. Woods
Bachelor of Science, Earth Systems Science and Policy
Asya Fannyce Guillory
Christopher E. Horton
Joy Larson
Meghann Kathleen McDonald
Stacy Lynn Miller
Amy Caryn Howard
Jeffrey L. Summers
Bachelor of Science, Telecommunications, Multimedia, and Applied Computing
Jose L. Anaya
Kevin L. Beatley
Robert Stark Blanchard
Eric L. Bookin
Andrew C.M. Coile
Patrick M. Dempsey
Lisa Renee Edwards
Jamie Joe Foster
Carson Henry Franklin Jr.
Jamie Joe Foster
Carson Henry Franklin Jr.
Abigail Koolani Keller
Robbie Ann Mack
Denise McFaddin
Marisa C. Michaels
Ngocvan Thi Nguyen
François Pépin
Brian L. Perez
Cassidy C. Porter
Sheri A. Ruggeri-Herring
Selso H. Ruiz, Jr.
Jennifer Jenell
Jenell
Laurel
Bachelor of Science, Business
Edward
Rob
David
Ryan
Joshua
Simone
Bachelor
Robin
Edward
James
Kevin
Robert
Derrick
Steven
Lisandro
Lisandro
Eugene
Eugene
Nicholas
Nicholas
Mitchell
Mitchell
Steven
Donn
Neher
Neher

Master of Arts, Interdisciplinary Studies
Alexandra Joann Weiland
Linda Marie Johnson
Master of Science, Management and Information Technology
Michael Dingle Cabanilla
Hung-Chang Chen
Hung X. Hoang
Maria Edith Delgado Rivenbark
Eric J. Simoni
Master of Science, Marine Science
Clare Margaret Dominik Judah
D. Goldberg
Nicolas C. Ladizinsky
Colleen R. Perez
Steven Gregory Watt

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Person On Campus
By M. Cristina Medina

Do you think that CSUMB athletes should receive priority registration because of their athletic standing?

Stephanie Vang
HCOM, SOPHOMORE
“No, it’s suppose to be equal, it’s not right because they are ‘athletes,’ other people are in organizations, clubs and work. Priority should be to Jrs. and Srs. Since they will be graduating.”

Natalie Franka
UNDECLARED, FRESHMAN
“Yes, because of the schedules they have, because of game practice, as well as volunteer activities”

Ermes Prado
BUSINESS, SENIOR
“No, it’s not fair, everyone should have the same time frame. If they fall in the categories of Sr, Jr then they should have priority.”

The purpose through War on cotton
By Maxwell Green, Staff Reporter

It is no secret that there is a resolution going through student government that’s main purpose is to implement the use of organic cotton. The resolution was reported on as the “Price v. people” article in the Nov. 6-19 edition of the Otter Realm. It was also a hot topic in an Inner Club Counsel (ICC) meeting and a Student Senate meeting. In general, the resolution and cause behind it has been misrepresented.

The article, “Price v. people,” said that the resolution “would require all student organizations to purchase organic cotton for promotional items” That is not correct. The draft as of Nov. 5 (keeping in mind, resolution is subject to change), says something different.

In line 14 it says, “Demand that all associated students body fee funded programs purchase clothing exclusively made from 100 percent organic cotton (add strong exception clause for athletic gear).” Only “fee-funded programs” which implies only things paid for by Associated Students. There are some student organizations that are self-funded, like RHA and Greek organizations, there are also events were funding comes from elsewhere, to which the resolution would not apply.

The “Price v. people” article says the resolution “is moving through the Associated Students Senate with resistance.” But Vito Triglia, Events Workgroup chair, and one of the main organic cotton advocates in student government said, “Really almost every one in the student organizations that would be affected by it, such as ICC and the Associated Student Senate, are in favor of the resolution in some form.”

RallyCom Chair Ren Herring who is opposed to the resolution in its current form, pointed out that the CSUMB Vision Statement says “ and seek ways to contribute to the economy of the state,” and that CSUMB’s organic cotton T-shirts would be made in Mexico. Even though there was no mention of where the current non-organic T-shirts are made, they come from many places, some not even in the United States, let alone California.

Herring is also concerned that organic cotton will be a big cost for an already strapped budget. EMPOWER is looking into buying their own organic cotton shirts outside of the resolution, and have found a company called American Apparel. American Apparel sells 100 percent organic cotton made in the USA (mostly California cotton) and other clothing articles.

The shirts would be screened and printed by a local business in Seaside called Art-Rageous that said the finished shirt with three colors cost $8.80, which is only $1.80 more then RallyCom paid for non-organic cotton in the 75 T-shirt order quoted to be $26.66 per shirt in the “Price v. people” article.

It is obvious that the Organic Cotton Resolution has been misrepresented. Because it does support a cause that our Vision Statement preaches: “The campus will be distinctive in serving the diverse people of California, especially the working class and historically undereducated and low-income populations.” It is possible to buy 100 percent organic U.S. union-made cotton T-shirts (not Mexican-made) for minimal or no extra cost. The resolution does not imply organic for every situation as previously implied; in general it is just a way of insuring the student government has say in were its funds go.

To view the Organic Cotton Resolution Draft visit http://as.csumb.edu
Nag about this, b!tch about that...

By M. Cristina Medina, Staff Reporter

College has changed so much in the past two decades. However, what has changed the most is the way students react to certain issues, topics, and the way our country is being governed.

The students of today are very passive, they let things go and figure "hey, someone else will do the protesting." NEWSFLASH! NO ONE will be doing this for you! This is the time where we the students can get up, rebel, revolutionized and say, "I don't agree with this, I don't agree with that." If we don't do it, no one else will.

The only reason that nothing has changed either at this school or at other schools is that none of us are willing to take action. You have class you say?!!! Well guess what, generations before us also had classes when they would protest; they would hold boycotts, petitions, rallies, and even meetings to unite students and to be able to make a difference.

Many issues on this campus have been overseen not only by the faculty, but by the students as well. Some of these issues include the change in our tuition cost, the difficulty to add or to drop from a class, and the printing quota, which has affected many students and their personal budgets.

In the Otter Realm I as a staff reporter am always trying to cover every issue, event, and activity that will be of interest to both the staff and students, however with every passing week less is happening and I don’t get the feedback of the students to let us know what they want to see in the news.

When I started to write for the Otter Realm I got to see how hard it was for students to try and cover a story and to make sure that it was an “issue” and not just gossip or rumors of students who either have nothing better to do, or are trying to just cause chaos on campus. There have been plenty of times where I go out as a staff reporter and try cover a story beginning to end, and at the end of the day I find out that the story was just either a complaint, rumor or gossip of a student who was bored and had nothing better to do but worry the rest of the students with nonsense.

It is difficult enough to be a student on a budget, taking more than 16 units, and trying to find a job to also try to deal with the rest of the world’s bullshit. If students really have issues then they should react and try to do something about and not just let it slide. The more we let things slide, the more we give others a chance to decide for us.

The point of my whole bitching and releasing some steam is to tell all of the students if you do not like something do something about it, do not just sit there and wait for someone to do it for you. No one knows your needs better than yourself. Also if you feel that this newspaper is too dry, not entertaining enough you could do a couple of things: you can stuff it, you can give us some suggestions, or you can join the Otter Realm.

Happy Holidays!!!

CSUMB critics should get educated

By Charez Batiste

This past semester, I have heard some college students from neighboring schools say many negative things about CSUMB. And it is really starting to get on my nerves!

Yeah sure, I talk crap about CSUMB too sometimes, but I’m also aware that I chose to come to this school. No college is perfect. Especially since CSUMB is new and growing.

Policies and procedures change all the time and unfortunately, we just have to roll with the punches and accommodate those changes into our lives. However, at the same time I know that this school has caused some unnecessary stress in students’ lives and it can be frustrating.

(You better bet I’ll be protesting if I don’t graduate in May!)

I’ll admit that I’ve had times when I was fed up with the procedures at CSUMB and wanted to go to a different school. But I can honestly say that I have learned a lot since being at this college. Of course there’s always room for improvement, but at least CSUMB is making the effort to improve in the first place.

What really gets on my nerves is when I talk to Seaside residents who do not attend CSUMB, yet they have negative things to say about the school. One person commented, “Do they even have real classes there?” Um, it’s a University...what do you think? Some of these people have not even taken the time to come visit the school, but want to make jokes about it. (As a resident of Seaside for 17 years now, I think I can definitely speak for the validity of this college).

Yes, it was a long process but we are accredited now. Yes, we have real faculty members with Ph.Ds. Yes, we have a student population above 100 and we attend real classes. If people are going to talk trash about CSUMB, at least visit the school to know what you are talking about!

Finally, here’s a word of advice for those who do go to CSUMB: If you continue to constantly complain about how you absolutely hate it here, maybe you should consider attending a different school. CSUMB certainly is not for everybody.
Figurative to surreal: art with a message

By James Speir, Photo Editor
JAMES_SPEIR@CSUMB.EDU

Growing up in Chino Hills near Riverside, Social and Behavioral Sciences Senior, Alexis Sturgeon is a modern artist with something to say about the way women are portrayed in the media. She uses acrylics to create high contrast, bold colored, textured paintings that slam the norms of societal imagery in the media.

Sturgeon said about her style, “I portray the candy-coated Hollywood glamour.” Most of her paintings have the underlying idea that what people see in the media is not real, when most of society consider these images to be truth. She uses surrealistic forms to express her views on how the human body is portrayed and the implications for women to be perfect.

For Sturgeon, SBSC is a good “ground base” degree. “Art comes naturally to me, but the sciences are very interesting to me: how people think, the intricacies of the mind,” she commented. To incorporate her art with her social sciences major, Sturgeon started volunteering her time to the Marina Youth Arts program and quickly became the art assistant. The organization goes to schools around the community and teaches children about art through painting murals and helps them get involved with the whole artistic process.

She is currently working on her capstone project in which she is evaluating art programs for children in the community. Sturgeon is happy she has the chance to do this as a capstone because it incorporates art with social psychology. “I feel like I have been able to help kids see if they like art,” she said.

Growing up, Sturgeon had a very supportive father who also happened to be an architect. He would give her art supplies for Christmas and he constantly looked for art classes outside of school for her to attend. She took to pen and pencil drawings as a child, and it wasn’t until attending Ayala High School in Chino Hills that she found how much fun acrylics could be.

Sturgeon referred to her painting talent as a skill that, “I taught myself more by experimenting, like with bubble wrap or by scraping for different textures.”

When asked why she is not a Visual and Public Arts major, she responded, “I wanted to join the VPA program at the beginning of my junior year, but I didn’t agree with the teachers or the focus on art only being public. They don’t emphasize classical or commercial. Public art is important, but commercial art should also be covered.” Sturgeon is geared more toward selling her art and showing them in galleries, than designing public art for communities.

Sturgeon has some impressive, powerful paintings, and plans to put more time into showing her art in galleries when she graduates. “I’d like to go to Europe to sell. I also heard the East coast is the place to go as an artist.”