Tastes like Ord
By Matthew Fox, Staff Reporter
Matt_Fox@csumb.edu

It tastes bad, it smells, and it’s hard. It’s Fort Ord water that comes out of the tap at CSUMB.

According to the results of an on-campus survey, students feel uncertain about water safety at CSUMB. Out of the 100 randomly surveyed students, 73 percent said that the quality of the water was a concern for them. Many students fear the water’s safety despite the fact that officials on the matter claim the water is perfectly fine.

“It smells funny and tastes funny but you just try not to think about it,” said student Erik Green.

But beyond the immediate tastes, some students believe there are serious health risks. In the survey, Meghann McDonald asserted, “Everyone knows the water is toxic.”

An anonymous student surveyed expressed her worries: “I hope not to have mutant babies and cancer.”

“They need to get this crap fixed, otherwise we are all going to die, and then they won’t have any students, and the school will go to the shits,” said Anna Echlepp.

To add to these worries, claims, 54 percent of the students who took the survey said they had some physical illness that they related to the water, including rashes, hair loss, diarrhea, stomach pains, harsh/dried out skin, dried out hair, and a darkening of the hair.

Are the students assessing the risk of the water correctly or could it be that they are overreacting? Could a university really let toxic water run through the tap to its students?

Diane Ehlers, the environmental protection health and safety officer at CSUMB offered to shed a little light on all of these concerns. “The water meets all state health requirements for drinking water,” she said.

Silencing ignorance
One student’s experience
shutting up to shed light on hate and homophobia on campus
By Erin Lawley, Sports Editor
Erin_Lawley@csumb.edu

It was a day full of emotion for me.
I was fortunate enough to participate in the National Day of Silence on Wednesday, April 21. The National Day of Silence is held in remembrance and recognition of the lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgender (LGBT) people who have been silenced by homophobia.

SILENCE continued on page 13

Stomping prohibited
Proposed policy restricts free speech
By Brian Chapman, Staff Reporter
Brian_Chapman@csumb.edu

Once again, CSUMB students have a growing concern about their First Amendment rights. A committee may soon control the rights to protest and circulate handbills.

The reason for the recent concerns is the administration’s release of the “Time Place and Manner Guidelines” draft, which will likely be approved at the end of this semester or beginning of fall. The guidelines will be a set of rules that all protesters will have to follow.

“The university has been attempting to draw up a Time Place and Manner Guidelines for the past six or seven years, because every CSU school has to have some guidelines in effect, it’s a California law,” said Stephen Reed, associate vice president for University Relations.

Reed and Rich Taylor, director of business and support have been involved in the committee drawing up the current draft that is written under Title 5 of California’s law. There were no students on the committee to help in this draft, as there are on some committees.

One of the main concerns expressed by Ashley Simmons of Associated Students (AS) is the guidelines state that you can’t...
Hazardous crossroads: Drivers wary of intersection

Matthew Fox, Staff Reporter

Ever have trouble doing homework or getting to sleep because of constant ambulance sirens? Maybe you live next to the Abrams and Imjin intersection like many other students.

Imagine a typical day, heading over to the Ord Market to get a bite to eat, or maybe just heading home. But be wary, and remember, the intersection of Abrams and Imjin is one of the most accident-prone in Monterey County. Last month the Monterey Herald published an article about the most dangerous intersections in Monterey County, and Imjin and Abrams intersection made it into the top twenty.

According to Lt. Jay McTaggart of the on University Police Department, this particular intersection has a recurring theme. “This intersection has been an issue for many years, the same problem seems to be occurring over and over,” said McTaggart, explaining what the main problem actually is.

“It’s the left-turners fault if they aren’t giving way to traffic coming through.”

The Army’s way of combating the plethora of accidents was a “yield on green” sign that was placed in the intersection, but McTaggart feels the sign hasn’t helped give the message to drivers.

In 2003 McTaggart’s records show that there were nine auto accidents in the intersection and four already in the year 2004.

McTaggart also stated that the land at the Abrams and Imjin intersection is actually the Army’s property, and there are even more accidents on record than what UPD’s records show.

If the intersection is faulty, why doesn’t the army do something about it to fix it? McTaggart has a theory on this, “The Army sees it as people doing stupid driving mistakes. If you see a car don’t make a turn.”

McTaggart also clarified the reason for the rise in accidents. The problem began when the traffic increased, due to development. “Traffic was low priority and it stayed that way forever.” Apparently the intersection used to be a four-way stop.

However, the problem may be soon fixed. John McCutchon, campus Chief of Staff at CSUMB claims there are changes in the works for Imjin and Abrams. “The campus has expressed its concern a number of times with Fort Ord Refuse Authority, with the increased traffic and the problems there.” McCutchon claims there is a plan to add four traffic signals in the area. “They have the funding for the signals and they have a time line which they will manage to add the additional traffic signals.”

“Date-rape” drug a threat on campus

By Enjolina Moss, Staff Reporter

On a typical Thursday night, many students head out to the apartments expecting to find a good time. What may be shocking for many CSUMB students to believe, and infuriating for students such as senior Ricky Maldonado, is the possibility there may be someone willing to prey on others at parties with the help of a powerful drug called GHB.

Odorless and colorless, when mixed with alcohol, GHB (gamma hydroxybutyrate) is virtually undetectable by taste. Referred to as the “date rape drug,” GHB comes in both liquid and powder forms, and according to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), may also be called by the street names Liquid Ecstasy, Easy Lay, Scoop and Liquid X.

Maldonado, HCOM senior, is passionate about promoting awareness of the possible use of GHB on campus. He is currently working with Residential Life to mandate the posting of GHB awareness posters at all registered parties, which would include symptoms of GHB intoxication and locations of the nearest hospitals. Maldonado also works extensively on promoting awareness of alcohol poisoning and is responsible for many of the alcohol awareness posters posted around campus.

Maldonado reported his concerns about the possible predatory use of GHB on campus to the University Police Department, but “none of the victims were willing to come forward, so the UPD is not able to pursue the matter,” said Lt. Jay McTaggart in an e-mail.

McTaggart said there has only been one reported case of GHB use on campus. On March 7, 2000, a male student living in dorm 201 was arrested and convicted of possessing and manufacturing GHB. But according to McTaggart, “There is no evidence he sold any of it, although he may have been giving it away to friends.”

Along with Ketamine and Rohypnol, GHB is listed by the DEA as a predatory drug because it “render(s) the victim incapable of resisting sexual advances.” Predator drugs induce memory impairment and are metabolized quickly, so by the time victims become aware of a possible attack (8 to 12 hours later, depending on the dosage), there is often little physical evidence remaining.

“I think it’s horrendous that someone could prey on women for their own kicks,” said Maldonado. According to the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), “GHB is a powerful, rapidly acting, central nervous system depressant.” At low-level consumption it may only act as a relaxant and reduce inhibitions, but when consumed at higher levels, GHB can slow heart-rate and respiration and interfere with blood circulation, motor and speech controls.

When mixed with alcohol, the effects of GHB intoxication are enhanced, causing consciousness, coma and overdose (death). Symptoms of GHB intoxication include nausea, vomiting, hallucinations and loss of consciousness. According to the Monterey Rape Crisis Center, signs of “rape drug” intoxication may be distinguishable from alcohol intoxication include unexplained hot and cold flashes, feeling drunk sooner than normal, and partial paralysis of the legs and arms.

The MRCC recommends going to a safe place, calling 911 or a local rape crisis center, or going to the nearest hospital if a person suspects she, or someone else, has been given a “date rape drug.”

Maldonado said, “I just want women to read this and be aware that there are people out there that will put something in their drinks. Please, be aware.”

The 24-Hour Crisis Line for the Monterey Rape Crisis Center is 375-HELP (4357). Information on “date rape drugs” is also available on its Web site: www.mtryrapecrisis.org.

PHOTOS BY GIOVANNI DI GIORGIO

The intersection of Imjin and Abram Roads has been named one of the most dangerous in Monterey County.
Prohibited: AS critiques “free-speech zones,” punishments

stomp or chant in unison. “Many protests are supposed to be disruptive, and handbills are often spontaneous.” She went on to say that needing to ask permission to protest or distribute a handbill is against our First Amendment rights.

“The Time Place and Manner Guidelines are eliminating everything but what the problem was,” said Garrett Barnicoat, senator-at-large.

Before students can post anything on campus, the content has to be reviewed by the committee to be sure that there is no false information or dealings with illegal matters.

The poster may be displayed after it is approved, but only in designated areas.

Some of these zones have heavily restricted guidelines, such as the area in front of the University Center where only events can be posted. In front of the Dining Commons, only messages having to do with student government may be displayed.

Taylor and Reed assure students that there will be very little denying of materials that are brought forth to be approved. AS is worried that the drafted guidelines will give the administration power to persecute students with whom they disagree. Another concern for AS was that those who wrote the guidelines would have no say in what the committee does with their rulings.

“There isn’t anywhere you can protest as long as you don’t disrupt businesses of the university.” 
— STEVE REED
ASSOCIATE VP FOR UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS

The free speech zones are very vague within the guidelines and this has concerned some students, because of the recent Boy Scout protest. The protestors were moved away from their spot, and were placed in an area where their message wasn’t easily conveyed because of the low pedestrian traffic.

“There has been no response yet as to where the free speech zone is, and as far as I can tell many protests will be in violation,” said Yuri Beckelman of the designated areas.

“In essence the whole campus is a free speech zone,” said Reed. “There isn’t anywhere you can’t protest as long as you don’t disrupt businesses of the university.”

Punishments for violations of the guidelines are done on a case-by-case scenario, and will be handed down by the administration’s committee. At other CSU schools, the Time Place and Manner Guidelines state exactly what will happen with each infraction that occurs, avoiding a possible controversial ruling. At CSUMB, the guidelines simply state that there will be a committee to decide the punishment for each particular incident.

“Case-by-case can be so subjective that it can be used to clamp down on certain student activities,” said Barnicoat.

The AS and the Academic Senate (faculty) are looking into the legality of the document along with ways to counter it, because there are so many different areas that they disagree with and feel that it is unconstitutional.

“(Yuri and I) are contacting a lawyer organization to do our own review of the document,” said Barnicoat.

Reed and Taylor did state that the time restriction would be stricken from the final draft, so that students won’t have to protest or pass out their handbills during business hours.
Career Day: Students prepare for life and work after graduation

By Colleen Bormann, Staff Reporter

Dress for Success

As CSUMB is facing the end of the road for the spring semester, graduating seniors are facing the end of their college journey.

So, ready to graduate? Is there a job offer in sight? Don’t panic. According to www.jobweb.com, each year graduates venture into the real world from college without a job in hand. Studies show that within six to seven months, most graduates have secured a job or opted for graduate school.

For CSUMB seniors, the important thing is to take action.

Alethea Horne, Career Development office manager, is here to help these savvy seniors take the next step. On April 15, Horne and the Career Development office hosted “Career Day” to help students, especially seniors, meet with and interview with 40 different corporations, ranging in many different fields to accommodate everyone.

“Many students took advantage of Career Day. Those who participated were pleased,” Horne said. “My idea was to offer a wide range of career opportunities, locally and regionally.”

Nearly a third of the 300 students that attended were seniors preparing for graduation.

Résumé Tips

Writing a résumé can be a daunting experience. The following is a list of tips on how to build a great résumé.

- Pay careful attention to spelling, punctuation, grammar, and style
- Proofread your résumé carefully, using a dictionary and stylebook, and have several others proofread it as well
- Organize info in logical fashion
- Keep descriptions clear and to the point
- If you are a new graduate, clarify your info to one page
- Use a simple, easy to read font
- Use good quality white or off-white bond paper
- Include as much work experience as possible, even if it doesn’t relate to the job you’re seeking
- Tailor your info to the job you’re seeking
- Ask for help at the career development office

Representative Gisele Larson was one of the vendors at Career Day, hoping to recruit interested CSUMB students. “We have many opportunities that we feel can help these students after they graduate, like offering internships,” Larson said. “As a company, we look for an opportunity like this one to give back to students.”

In fact, this opportunity has been proven as a formula for success for at least one student. Amid the enthusiastic students and knowledgeable professionals stood Christy Clark, a Liberal Studies graduate that has now stood herself at the other end of the road, eager to help the students that are at the same place she was just one year ago. Clark was there representing one of the many vendors that had helped her with her success. She reminisced about the previous year when she was the eager senior, hungry to find a career fresh out of college.

“I think a lot of seniors are much more worried about actually graduating than looking for a career,” Clark said. “For me, I knew I wanted to stay in this area, and started looking for jobs before I graduated.”

Although many students are concerned about their future careers, some are just searching for something more short-term. Kristen Lafollette, an HCOM junior, searched the crowded balcony, specifically looking for a summer job.

“I am just thinking about now,” said Lafollette. “Graduation in a year doesn’t scare me, but others are afraid for me. I just plan on getting a job wherever I can.” Overall, she feels the Career Day was a success.

Although many seniors were not able to attend, many already have their plans in progress. Ryan Tronson, a senior HCOM major, is working towards the credential program, like many other seniors who want to continue their education rather than going straight into a career.

“I have no fears of graduation, I do have a fear of not graduating,” said Tronson. “I am definitely ready to get out.”

With graduation right around the corner – May 22 – seniors need to prepare for the transition from college life to the real world. With a little help and a lot of planning, CSUMB graduates have a great chance of making it in this fast-paced world.

To contact the Career Development office, call 582-3845 or e-mail CareerDevelopment@csumb.edu
**NEWS**

**Between books and battalions**

Babaco is not among them...

Babaco’s six-year enlistment with the Army was coming to a close only a month before his battalion was scheduled to leave. “I had already made the decision to get out,” said Babaco. “I couldn’t reverse the decision.”

“Every time I wish I could be there with them,” he said. “Pretty much everyday I open the newspaper or look on the internet and see something about Iraq and wonder how they’re doing.”

Babaco, a native Californian from Sacramento, was stationed at Fort Riley in Kansas for six months before his battalion was tapped to join the heated conflict in Iraq.

“They were anxious,” said Babaco.

“They’d trained so long; they were eager to finally have the chance to use some of that training.”

Even though Babaco was fully prepared to go with his battalion if necessary, he was not permitted to join them in Iraq. Instead, he came to CSUMB to advance his education and joined the National Guard, which helps with expenses. “I get around $1,100 a month in salary,” he said.

Reflecting on his decision to leave the Army for higher education, Babaco said, “I had mixed feelings about it. These are my friends. I would like to be there for them.” Although he said, “If I had wanted to go with them I couldn’t have.”

“My mom in particular was glad I didn’t go,” he added.

When he dialed the numbers for California from Kansas to tell his mother in Sacramento that his unit was scheduled to leave for Iraq in a month, “She was really silent for a moment,” said Babaco. “I just had to calm her down, told her I’m pretty sure I’m not going. Don’t worry.” Babaco says he didn’t think she was convinced until he knew for sure, then finally, “She was relieved.”

Despite his mother’s worrying, and even with the death tolls of both soldiers and civilians rising in Iraq daily, Babaco was not acutely afraid of dying in battle. “In the Army, once you sign your contract you pretty much have to accept that someday that might happen,” he said. “I guess you could call it a occupational hazard.”

“I know my mom was definitely thinking about it,” said Babaco. “But it’s not something you think about everyday.”

After spending six years in the military, Babaco, like his grandfather before him, became accustomed to Army life and plans to enroll in officer school after he obtains his bachelor’s degree. His nine weeks in basic training conditioned him to follow orders, take responsibility and rise as early as 4 a.m. When asked if he is a morning person, Babaco grins and replies, “I wasn’t after basic.”

Babaco also appreciates the camaraderie of soldiers. “Even when you’re not having a good time, you’re out there with everyone,” he said.

For the soldiers that departed near 9-11 into sandy assault by way of desert land across the expansive indigo of the Atlantic Ocean, there is some solace to be had in the undeniable truth that Babaco realized in the armed services. “Everyone is out there together and you’re working towards the same goal,” said Babaco.

For the soldiers fighting on soil far from home and all familiar landmarks, Babaco states that at least when you’re in the Army, “You’re not alone.”

---

**Controversial library plan ok’d**

By Brian Chapman, Staff Reporter

The quietest floor in the new library plan of 2003 will now be the office of Peter Smith.

Despite much resistance from many groups on campus the library plans are approved.

The plans were changed when Peter Smith’s request to put his office on top of building 47 were rejected. He then proposed to place his office on the fourth floor of the new library, which was just approved.

“In doing this he has exceeded everyone including the students, faculty and staff in the planning and future of their University,” said Yuri Beckelman, Associate Student. Many groups have opposed the plan including library staff, students, Associated Students, and the Academic Senate. There have been many other proposed locations for the office, but all have been rejected.

“I would personally rather see Peter Smith have his office located in the Otter Student Union if he is so concerned about being amongst the students and saving money by latch onto another building,” said Yuri Beckelman.

Pamphlets have been circulated by the groups in protest of the Administrations decision, which state on the cover “Nice View—You’ll Take It! Details of the Scandal Surrounding your New Library.”
Sailing not for the weak of spirit

By Corey Edmonds, Staff Reporter

There is something very intriguing about propelling yourself across a body of water using only the wind and a boat as your transportation.

CSUMB has a women’s and a co-ed sailing team that is busy competing all year long. The Otters compete in the Pacific Coast Intercollegiate Yacht Racing Association (PCIYRA).

CSUMB sails competitively in the spring and in the fall, but the most important races tend to be in the spring. The PCIYRA is split into two divisions: the North, which the Otters participate, and the south. Each division hosts six regattas, the term for a competitive sailing event. They usually consist of two days, typically on a weekend.

Frank Degnan is the coach for these sailing Otters. He has been with the team for three semesters now and has been on campus for almost five years. “Sailing is the ultimate college sport,” Degnan said.

If students know much about sailing Degnan encourages them to come out and join the team. “We have an A fleet and a B fleet,” Degnan said. This allows students with different sailing experiences to compete. Degnan went on to explain, “We race six to seven weekends in a semester, and practice three to four days a week.”

A typical college race lasts between 18-25 minutes, and is scored as follows: first place receives one point and the 10th team earns 10. The team with the least amount of points wins the regatta.

Jessica Jenks, who is a senior in the Liberal Studies program, thoroughly enjoys sailing. “I grew up on a boat and my dad taught me to sail when I was four years old. I have been sailing ever since.” Jenks said. “When I was 14 we sailed from San Diego to Jamaica, when I came back I was 18.”

Some enjoyable aspects of sailing for Jenks are “using the wind to your advantage and dealing with the ocean. It is a free ride, which is fun.”

Sailing can be very enjoyable, but also a challenge. “You have to be racing wise, and it is a very physical sport that demands conditioning and weight training,” said Jenks. “The boat is wet and cold, and capsizes from time to time. We don’t always sail in warm water.”

The CSUMB women’s sailing team qualified for the Women’s Pacific Coast Championships, which will be held April 24-25 in Hawaii. They tied with Stanford University at fourth place, which qualified them for attendance at the championships this year.

When asked of Jenks if she enjoys competitive sailing or leisurely sailing, she had this to say: “I like both, but competitive sailing is a lot more exciting, there is a lot of adrenaline involved. Leisurely sailing is much more relaxing, and in competitive sailing you have to use teamwork in order to succeed.”

Elizabeth Olsen, a senior ESSP major has been sailing ever since she joined the team three semesters ago. “I love the adrenaline of being in competition, being able to finite my skills so that I can beat the competition,” Olsen said.

“Everything goes so fast when you are on the water; it takes a lot of concentration.” Olsen explained that it is not always easy to be the best at her sport. “We sail up against students that are really experienced from Cal and Stanford,” Olsen said. “I am still learning, so it is frustrating sometimes.”

If you are interested in sailing please contact Frank Degnan via FirstClass or check the sailing web page under Otter Athletics on the homepage.
Otter golfers shoot for Nationals

By Darrell Hirashima, Staff Reporter

On April 15, at the Metropolitan Golf Course in Oakland, the CSUMB men's golf team fell just one stroke short of a victory, taking them out of first place in the Cal Pac conference.

Five golfers play in each match but only the lowest four scores count. Their accumulative score of 315 was not enough to get the men's team over the hump. Entering the tournament in first place, the Otter men had to at least tie with the top team and split the points from the match to have remained in the top spot.

Junior business major Jonas Carlsward did his best to keep his team in the hunt, shooting a 72 in the final round of the match. "Jonas can definitely play, that's for sure," said freshman golfer Grant Haney, who tried to pace Carlsward with a score of 77.

CSUMB's women's team finished seventh in the Western Washington Invitational at Bellingham Golf and Country Club on April 19 and 20. They now look ahead to May 15 when the NAIA sends out the invitations for Nationals.

The feeling in the golf office is the women are a shoe-in to be invited, but head women's coach Marcia Juergens doesn't want to make a habit of counting her chickens before they're hatched.

Even behind the solid play of juniors Katie Murphy and Feren Lauser, Juergens doesn't see a reason to be overly optimistic heading into the final stretch of the season. But contributions from other players, like freshman Mariko Miranda, will likely give the women enough of a push to be invited to Nationals.

"I'm very pleased with Mariko this year," said Juergens of the standout freshman.

Murphy, who shot under 80 in all three rounds of the match, has been the Otter keeping the boat steady this season, as the women make a bid to return to the National Championships in Florida.

"Katie has been by far our most consistent player," said Juergens.

And they will need that consistency if they hope to continue on the course set by last year's team. Last spring, the Otter women golfers made history at CSUMB by finishing 12th in Nationals; a best for the university in NAIA competition.

With next year's transition to CCAA NCAA Div. II looming on the horizon, the importance of this year's championship is particularly heightened for the Otters. The men's team also know the move to the NCAA from NAIA will present new challenges they need to get ready for now.

The Otter men got a firsthand lesson at their match in Oakland on how every stroke really does count. "You never know when it can come down to one stroke," said Haney.

Haney said that men's head coach Bill Paulson talked to the team afterwards to emphasize the importance of never giving up and really focusing on each and every shot.

"I think we have a young team, and a lot of the things we learned will help us down the road," said Haney.

Next on the agenda for the men is the Regional Championship in Lompoc, where if they win, they are guaranteed to go to Nationals in Kansas. According to Haney, they "definitely have a good chance."

Both Otter golf teams will be up against heavier teams next season as they travel all through California to Cal Poly Pomona, CSU Bakersfield, CSU Dominguez Hills, Cal State L.A., CSU San Bernardino, CSU Stanislaus, Chico State, UC San Diego, San Francisco State and Sonoma State.

The CCAA is in its 63rd year as the NCAA Division II's most victorious conference. The men have produced 95 championships while the women have taken 42.

Athletic Events

To post an event contact Erin Lawley via FirstClass

Friday, April 30
Lake San Antonio Water Ski. Friday 5 p.m.-Sunday 7 p.m. $100 students, $150 faculty/staff, $200 for general admission. This trip includes two nights, three days, camping equipment, food, boat and captain, ski equipment, and transportation. For more information go to sports.csumb.edu/adventures

Saturday, May 1
Penitentiary Paintball. TBA. $20 students, $30 faculty/staff, $50 for general admission. Includes 100 paintballs, safety equipment, guns, and instruction. Meet at penitentiary. Directions given at sign-up. For more information go to sports.csumb.edu/adventures

Sunday, May 2
2004 All Sports Banquet. Monterey Hyatt. 2 p.m. $25 for family and friends of Otter Athletics. For more information contact CSUMB Athletic Department at 582-3015

Tuesday, May 4
Indoor Soccer. 8:30p.m.-10 p.m. OSC. Free.

Saturday, May 8
Arroyo Seco Day Trip. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. $17 students, $20 faculty/staff, $25 for general admission. For more information go to sports.csumb.edu/adventures

Skindiving. The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. $15 students, $20 faculty/staff, $25 for general admission. All equipment provided, including mask, snorkel, wetsuit, hood, gloves, boots, fins, and weight belt. Minimum age 8. For more information go to sports.csumb.edu/adventures

Everyone's Harvest

Certified

FARMER’S MARKET
Every Sunday 10am-2pm

• Fresh Produce and Flowers
• Art, Jewelry and Crafts
• Free Live Music
• Children’s Reading and Art Booths

Marina Transit Station
280 Reservation and De Forest
Across from the Marina Post Office
For more information, please call 831-384-6961
Blood, sweat and cheers

By Rachel Kane, Staff Reporter
RACHEL_KANE@CSUMB.EDU

Hoisted up by their squad mates, green pleated skirts billowing fiercely, their matching spankies are exposed as their agile bodies cut through the air. Vivacious and bouncy ponytails held tightly by emerald and gold ribbons, faces smiling: cosmetic and broad.

They cheer through busted lips, bruised legs and chilly Monterey weather, all while donning little short skirts. “If you can feel your legs you’re not a cheerleader,” says CSUMB’s cheerleading coach, Aria Colby.

Damp climate is not the only environmental obstacle the squad has to face. This is the fourth year that CSUMB has had an active cheerleading squad, yet the girls don’t feel the student body appreciates their pep. “We get stereotyped a lot,” said SBS freshman Ashley Myers. “We have gotten comments at the games telling us to sit down or shut up. It’s been tough because we really don’t see a lot of school spirit.”

Jacqueline Silva, a two-year veteran of cheering, cites “knowing that you’re actually supporting other people (and) inspiring other people” as her main motivation for cheering through the opposition.

Despite the distaste for pom-pom enthusiasts at CSUMB, the six-member squad continues to show up at men’s and women’s basketball games, a few soccer matches and a majority of the Inter Club Council meetings.

According to squad member Brittany Norris, the ICC awards the cheerleading squad $1,000 per semester for expenses. “It was a big help,” said Norris.

The squad still holds fund raising events, like pizza night at Mountain Mike’s Pizzeria in Marina. This helps pay for uniforms, cheerleading camps, bags and cheerleading gear, including the spanx briefs worn under cheerleading skirts (spankies).

“They’re like grandma undies,” said Silva.

“They cut the circulation off,” said Liberal Studies junior Angela Hernandez.

“We’re lucky,” said Silva. “When it first started, there was no coach.”

At its inception, the CSUMB cheerleading squad was run by CSUMB alumni, Stephanie Pelheim.

The current coach is a former cheerleader and current aerobics instructor who took the job as an extra task on top of her aerobics classes. Coach Colby subjects the girls to a weekly regime of cardio exercise, cheer and routine.

“If we’re late we have to do push-ups,” said Myers. “We work out about an hour and a half.” According to Myers, Coach Colby also prescribes push-ups for potty mouths, although the obscenities Colby finds offensive are not exactly conventional. “Can’t is a bad word,” said Myers.

The squad is lacking a stunt group and is currently looking for new additions, particularly of the male variety. They will be holding try-outs Sept. 7 thru 9 at a location yet to be determined. Try-outs are open to anyone with “Commitment, determination and perseverance,” said Myers. “You need to show some skill, be willing to learn and be spirited.”

“You’re supposed to always smile,” said Silva as she parts her glossed lips and flashes a gleaming example full of gums.

“And,” she adds with a brassy, pointing gesture, “you get extra points if you wink.”

More than a halftime show: Dancers groove to hip-hop, jazz

By Enjolina Moss, Staff Reporter
ENJOLINA_MOSS@CSUMB.EDU

“Our main goal is to create enthusiasm through dance,” said Jessica Moye of the CSUMB Dance Team.

The self-run dance team performs for the CSUMB men’s basketball games and is often asked to perform at university functions, such as Kelp Kraze, Night with the Otters and graduation. Half the team will also be taking part in Kenneth Paulino’s TAT Capstone, Funktate, in which they battle it out in a hip-hop “dance off.”

“We dance to all types of music,” said Moye, an ESSP junior, “but our style is mainly hip-hop and jazz.”

In lieu of a coach, Moye and fellow team member Deanne Knippenberg serve as performance coordinators, leading practices and designing the choreography.

Along with the fresh choreography, each dancer brings her own unique qualities to the floor.

“We all have different backgrounds and different areas of experience, so we bring different styles together,” said team member Raylene Werner, a TAT senior.

But dance is not the same as cheerleading.

“We don’t do stunts. We don’t cheer. We just dance,” said Knippenberg of the fundamental differences. But the team insists there is no rivalry.

“The school perpetuates a rivalry,” said BUIS sophomore Kelly Bohn, who along with the rest of the team, insists a rivalry does not exist.

While most of the members feel the campus supports the team, some aren’t so sure most people know they even exist.

“You don’t know how many times people have asked me, ‘We have a dance team?’” said Bohn.

The dance team has steadily grown in size since its inception in 1994. Even with only nine members and the anticipated loss of one this year due to graduation, the team is not concerned with numbers.

“We go for quantity instead of quality,” said Knippenberg, who recommends hopefuls should have some experience before trying out.

Auditions are held in September and at past tryouts, the team has seen turnouts of up to 30 people.

Auditions begin with a warm-up and then “skills” practice across the floor. Later, dance team hopefuls are taught a routine, of which they have about two hours to practice before performing in front of the established team. After a brief interview about why they want to be a part of the team and a chance for them to show off any special skills they might have, hopefuls must simply wait to hear the decision.

Much of the team’s funding comes from fundraisers, such as pizza night at Mountain Mike’s, car washes and recycling. Most of the money raised goes toward the team’s annual trip to summer dance camp.

Practices are open and Moye and Knippenberg encourage anyone who is interested to come out and dance. Practices are held in Building 84F on Wednesdays from 7-9 p.m. and from 5-7 p.m. on Fridays.
Hardly a drag

By Enjolina Moss, Staff Reporter

In a pleather skirt, red lipstick, fishnets and a goatee, senior Daniel Lyons explained the purpose of the colorful gathering held Saturday night at the BBC. “We’re here, we’re queer and we’re gonna party,” said Lyons, a social history major.

The second annual Drag Ball, held April 24, commenced with hostess Coco Chardonnay (aka Queen of Pride) once again in attendance. According to Lyons, she is “a really sassy queen who loves Out and About and the Drag Ball.”

Local band, Frootie Flavors, kept the dance floor alive before the lip-synching, DJ-ed dance party and crowning of the drag Queen and King.

Lyons coordinated the event with the help of Bernice Esbit and the support of Out and About, a Gay/Lesbian Events Group, and Pride, a Gay/Lesbian social club. Out and About was also responsible for coordinating the National Week of Silence events and the wedding parties for the gay and lesbian members of the CSUMB community who were married last month in San Francisco.

Aside from just having a good time, many in attendance felt their presence stood in support of the gay/lesbian community on campus.

“I’m here to dress up,” said freshman TAT major Andrew Kramer. “But I’m also here to show my support for gay rights.”

Lyons felt the importance of having the Drag Ball and a group such as Out and About on campus is “to provide events for lesbian, gay and queer-identified people and to make CSUMB a comfortable environment.”

The Drag Ball drew people to the BBC from the outskirts of Monterey County and even Santa Cruz, thanks to Lyons distributing flyers around the area and having many supportive friends.

Rose Nowatzki of Prunedale brought her infant daughter, Ruby, to the celebration. For the night Ruby got to be “Pierre,” according to Nowatzki, “a very small French-Canadian lumberjack.” In his red plaid shirt and carrying a foil axe, Pierre’s looks were quite deceiving, except when he licked off his mustache.

Nowatzki came as a friend of Lyons, but also because she feels events such as the Drag Ball celebrate and promote acceptance of other people’s differences.

“It’s important to make it known that however you want to be is okay, as well as whatever clothes you choose to wear or whichever people you chose to be with,” she said.

Put on your dancin’ shoes

By Colleen Bormann, Staff Reporter

This year’s spring formal will soon be blossoming. With the success of last year’s formal many students are eager to end this year with a bang. It’s time to put down the books for one night and put on your dancing shoes.

Tips on having a safe and enjoyable formal:

• Don’t stress if you’re dateless, going solo with friends can be just as fun.
• Don’t drink and drive, be responsible.
• Drink water the day of the formal to prevent dehydration
• Plan out what you are doing after formal
• Eat protein during the day, it prolongs stamina
• Bring protection, you can never be too careful
• Always remember: Beer before liquor, never sicker!

Women:

• Don’t match the eye shadow with the dress
• Cleavage or legs, not both
• Don’t over do it, beauty is elegant, not gaudy
• Less is more, especially when it comes to hair
• Keep jewelry accessories under 7
• If you remember anything, remember lip-gloss

Men:

• Shave, it’s only one night!
• You can never go wrong with flowers
• If you are going with a date, you can spice up your outfit by matching your tie to your dates dress

Both:

• Don’t mix gold with silver
• Deodorant, please
• Don’t mix browns with blacks

Spring Formal

Where: Saturday, May 8
Where: Monterey Conference Center
Price: CSUMB ID $15, Non-CSUMB $25, First 300 CSUMB student tickets sold will be $10 (advance tickets only)

• No tickets will be sold after 5:00 pm on Friday, May 7
• A shuttle service will be provided

April 29 – May 12, 2004 | Otter Realm | 9
Poetic justice: contest-winning students tackle societal issues through writing

By Carmina Martinez, Staff Reporter
CARMINA.MARTINEZ@CSUMB.EDU

For the fourth straight year, CSUMB writers have placed in the top three in the Poetic Voices Competition.

The fifth annual event took place April 23 at the Muse Hall auditorium.

First place winner took $150, the second place winner took $100, and third place, received $40. Two honorable mention gift certificates worth $25 each went to fourth and fifth place.

Two out of the five possible winners included Maja Zmyslowski, who took first place, and Sarah Kincaid taking fourth place. Both are HCOM majors.

Zmyslowski gave a remarkable and compelling reading of her poem “Girl in the Sand,” a poem about a girl, mutilated by an unexplained ordinance.

“Rough purple craters/and scars zip down her back/like highways/and crash into a dead end/at the base of her knee where/there should be a calf, an ankle, a foot.”

15 to 20 thousand casualties per year are the result of land mines.

Zmyslowski said she was inspired to write her winning poem “after seeing a picture of a child without limbs because of land mines.”

Kincaid’s poem took a different approach, responding to the overwhelming abundance of negativity with the often over looked aspect of love and beauty in our lives. She refers to her poem as being about “the calm and serenity you feel at night when someone you love is sleeping next to you.”

“Tall grass’ spell in moonlight rests inside you/your tired breath a hushed simplicity/Perhaps, asleep, you see yourself as I do/the blue light making stripes across the sheets.”

Kincaid’s poetry reflected the simple subtleties of life. “I wanted to write a poem that wasn’t complex or about something troubling, just an honest poem about something I feel is a beautiful part of life,” she said.

Diana Garcia, HCOM professor and organizer of the Poetic Voices Competition, said CSUMB, in the past, had only had six to seven entries, but this time around had 24. “I want their work to make an impact on the creative writing program in our country, not just writing about birds and flowers, but tackling the bigger issues that face our society,” Garcia said.

Featured guest speaker, Margarita Luna Robles finished the evening with selected poems and readings. Robles is a poet, performance artist, and the recipient of the 2003 Local Hero Award for Art.

Robles touched on issues of the current political climate, censorship, activism, and requested the audience to “do one act of love a day without expecting anything in return.”

Asked if she was in love, Robles responded, “If I am not in love, I am not happy.”

W e all hope we are good kissers. But it is seldom that someone will actually inform you if you are not. They may tell all their girlfriends how sloppy it was or subtly send you signals, but unless you did something to warrant a backlash of hard truths, the truth on your kissing style will probably never come out.

But what is a kiss? And what, exactly, makes a kiss good?

To begin with the more modest of kisses, there are the Eskimo and Butterfly Kisses, both of which can be done without any lip involvement. The Eskimo Kiss requires rubbing cold noses, while the Butterfly Kiss involves matching up and enjoying a flirty flutter of the lashes.

“The Art of Kissing,” by William Cane, details how to master over 30 different types of kisses, including an extensive breakdown of how to French Kiss.

Personally, I have had no formal schooling in the art of kissing, but I do know how I like it: full of passion, ravenous without being carnal, usually accompanied by gentle hair pulling, lip-biting, light tongue flickering, but always action-packed.

One “Super” Senior told me it all depends on the mood of the day.

“Some days are great to get as many small kisses as possible,” he said. “And then there are the ‘…drop what you are doing and get over here, I can’t wait any longer to kiss you…’ type kisses that send shivers and quivers throughout the body.”

As for tongue, “yes, but not too much,” said another senior. “But in public, no tongue.” She also thinks long and passionate kisses are “the best.”

If you are interested in learning how to kiss better or to learn some new tricks, “The Art of Kissing” is now available on DVD and includes three kissing exclusives: The spanking kiss, the hand kiss and the androgynous kiss.

Wouldn’t you like to know…

Take it slow and easy,

Jo

askJo@csumb.edu

Next time:

Friends with benefits

The Big O

K-i-s-s-i-n-g me softly

EMPOWER, a campus club that raises awareness about violence against women and promotes empowerment through art, culture and education has raised $2,000 to award to Senior Capstones “that are outstanding in their field, integrate social justice values, service learning and the CSUMB Vision Statement.”

“This grant supports the community in not only achieving academic potential, but also in making women’s issues more visible and understood,” said Katherine Murphy, EMPOWER member.

Through fundraisers and events—the most popular being the annual production of the Vagina Monologues and V-Day—EMPOWER has raised the grant money for the purpose of funding CSUMB undergraduate students who are working on Capstone projects relating to “ending violence against women and girls or to a broader scope of women’s issues.”

Eligibility requirements include at least half-time enrollment, a minimum GPA of 2.5, no outstanding university fees or tuition and most importantly, a Capstone relating to women’s issues or more specifically ending violence against women and girls. Along with the application form, applicants must submit a one-page personal statement that addresses how the Capstone is related to ending violence against women, incorporating the values of social justice, service learning and the CSUMB Vision Statement, as well as financial need.

“Many students have amazing ‘dream’ Capstones in mind that address issues of social justice and really support the vision of the university, but are limited by their budgets,” said Murphy.

A single-page project summary is also required that includes a basic description, goals and outcomes and demonstrated research of the project.

The application deadline for the 2004/2005 CSUMB Empower Capstone Grant is May 3 by 5 p.m. Applications are available on the EMPOWER Web site, www.empowerscsumb.edu under Scholarships and must be mailed to or placed in the EMPOWER Inbox at the Student Activities Office in Building 12 (next to the library). Any questions should be directed to Katherine Murphy via First Class.
TAT filmmakers look at the big picture

By Darrell Hiroshima, Staff Reporter
Darrell_Hiroshima@csUMB.edu

With plans to submit their student-produced movie to the Sundance and Cannes Film Festivals, a handful of students in Teledramatic Arts and Technologies (TAT) are continuing to lift the ever-rising bar of professionalism for capstone films and shedding CSUMB’s small-school image in the process.

“I don’t even call it my capstone anymore; it’s an independent film,” said Jake Cooney, senior TAT major and director/producer of the 26-minute student film, “Small Town Life.”

“Small Town Life” is the story of a 20-something male struggling to make a choice of whether to leave the confines of his hometown or remain close to everything he has always known. Cooney developed the concept; the script was written by TAT graduate Bill Hanstock and TAT senior Kumiko Maemura signed on as a producer.

“The basic storyline is universal,” said Cooney. “You can be from Chicago or L.A. and still be stuck in your protective bubble. Being scared to leave is something everyone goes through.”

Cooney and his cohorts, a crew of 35 and a cast of six, have been committed since day one of pre-production to move beyond the bubble of CSU Monterey Bay, and see how the film they spent two and a half years preparing matches up at the top festivals in the business.

Cooney said that he came to CSUMB for the hands-on experience and as soon as he got here he wanted to do something big. From working on independent films in San Francisco and on other TAT capstones, Cooney learned that preparation was the key to a successful production.

Film crews for TAT capstones are all students. Everyone pitches in on each other’s projects for the highest quality work. Cooney stressed the fact that the capstones are a group effort and even though one might call it “my capstone,” it’s really not because so many people put so much time into the projects.

Senior Nick Rini is just one example of this cross-integration. As cinematographer for “Small Town Life” as well as the film “December,” directed by senior Aaron Raabe, Rini will see two of the films he’s worked on vie for the festival scene. Other students directors, like Shannon Pielock with her movie “Spandex Boy,” and Annalisa Moore with her documentary on fieldworker’s families in Mexico, “Ayutla,” are also setting a high standard for future Otters to follow.

A submission does not guarantee entry into the festivals, but students like junior TAT major

PHOTO PROVIDED BY JAKE COONEY

James Baker (left) films a scene of “Spandex Boy” with actor Jeff Silence in mid-air. Jeff Olney and Theresa Moore reflect on the outskirts.

FILMMAKERS continued on page 13

Go to
WWW.SANTACRUZHILLEL.ORG

click “Info Card” and
SIGN UP TO GET THE LATEST INFO!

AEPi Chabad Student Center Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life
Jewish Student Union Jewish Studies Program Leviathan Oy Gay Valt (GLBT)
Santa Cruz Hillel Foundation Santa Cruz Israel Action Committee Sigma AEpi
Twelve Tribes Coop (housing) Women’s Collective

Santa Cruz Hillel Foundation , 222 Cardiff Place, 426 5332

April 29 – May 12, 2004 | Otter Realm | 11
In focus: Club keeps photography alive

By Daniel Burr, Staff Reporter

Whether a photo guru or not, the campus has limited classes and facilities for students interested in photography at the present time.

"I know I want to be a photographer, and there’s no photography path here and I’m pretty much just taking TAT courses, because I want to get out of here and get a degree," said senior TAT major and campus photo club president, Jacob Kauffman.

Photography on campus is slowly growing, and the Photo Club is looking for members for support and to advance the school’s facilities and classes. Currently, the school only offers two photography classes that cover basic camera and darkroom techniques. The club offers the extra resources that the school lacks.

It’s a place to collaborate with peers, and to learn more than a classroom environment can offer.

According to Kauffman, “Our purpose is to have a sense of photographic community on campus and to be a resource for beginning or experienced photographers. We do everything from explaining to people how to use their camera, to printing techniques, to shooting techniques in general. We’re trying to learn as a group and to just grow.”

The club consists of roughly 12 active members, and meets every Wednesday at 12:15 at the BBC.

As HCOM major Maxwell Green says, “Coming to a meeting once is what inspired me to come and get my camera out of moth balls.”

With any club on campus there are difficulties with sustaining an organization. “People seem to get involved and then they just drop. The whole general atmosphere around here is well I don’t have to do it, why do it? And that’s the thing. A lot of photography is personal motivation,” said Kauffman.

The Photo Club puts out an annual calendar that has become a staple item in photography stores and bookstores around the area.

In photography there are no rules or restrictions as to what a person can shoot. According to Kauffman, “If you truly are a good photographer you should be able to find beauty in anything.” Fortunately for CSUMB, the Monterey Peninsula is one of the most photogenic places in the world. Many famous photographers such as Ansel Adams and Edward Weston have made the peninsula their home to shoot and study.

Located on campus, the Photo Club is an open resource for students.

“We’re the heart and soul of the photographic community on this campus,” says photo club advisor Steve Zmak.

For students interested in joining to participating with the Photography Club, drop by their weekly meetings, or contact Jacob Kauffman or Steve Zmak via FirstClass.

Spiritual leader brings Monterey a breath of fresh air

By Diana Layous, Staff Reporter

Hundreds of people held their breaths in anticipation last Tuesday night as Sri Sri Ravi Shankar made his way onto the stage at CSUMB’s University Ballroom. The world renowned spiritual leader lead the crowd in song, spoke of love and peace, and left the audience breathing much easier than he had found them.

“Breath is the secret, the link between emotions and body,” explained Shankar, who has traveled the globe teaching people his breathing techniques for health and stress relief.

Shankar guided the audience through a 23-minute meditation, which included chanting, smiling, and, of course, breathing. “I felt overwhelmed with peacefulness and calmness,” said CSUMB senior David Winans.

“T Shankar, called “Sri Sri” by his devotees, is known as much for his humor as for his wisdom. After asking the audience to suggest topics for discussion, which ranged from harmony and happiness to sexuality and drugs, he smiled and said, “I was able to refocus my energy in a more positive way.”

Shankar continued on page 14

The Low Down

To post an event contact Morning Vasquez via FirstClass.

Friday, April 30
Multicultural Night Festival and Disco Night with La Banda Skalavera. Festivities go from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. in quad and start at 9 p.m. in BBC. Free. Contact Miguel Pantoja

Saturday, May 1
“The Good Doctor.” Student play. 8 p.m. Call 582-4580 for ticket information.

Sunday, May 2
MPA Spring Concert. Annual event features CSUMB choral groups and jazz band. 3 p.m. Music Hall. Free. Call 582-4085.

Tuesday, May 4
Tiangus. DJ Mike mixes hip-hop with Mexican folkloric dance by Ollín. 12 p.m. Main quad. Free. Contact Miguel Pantoja via FirstClass.

Wednesday, May 5
Cinco de Mayo Celebration. Aztec dancing and keynote speakers followed by a soccer tournament and various activities. 5-8 p.m. in UC. 8 p.m. in main quad. Free. Contact Miguel Pantoja via FirstClass.

Thursday, May 6
Open mic with Flōjos Nos Visten y Para la Gente. 7 p.m. BBC. Free. Contact Miguel Pantoja via FirstClass.

Friday, May 7
Pachanga with Banda Guanajuatense. 8 p.m. UC Center. Free. Contact Miguel Pantoja via FirstClass.

Saturday, May 8
Heritage Festival. Event features John Santos and “Machete,” The Erhman Hall Band, Nihongo No Chongo, Esperanza del Valle and Ollín Mexican Folkloric Dance. 6 p.m. World Theater. $7 students/$10 general. Call 582-4580.
Silence

...from page 1

It is a student-led action to support the end of anti-LGBT bias in schools and was founded in 1996 by the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) in partnership with the United States Student Association (USSA).

CSUMB’s gathering was organized by the Student Leadership in Service Learning Group along with PRIDE, Out and About, and the Multi-Cultural Feminist Group.

I decided to support this action once I heard about it from my service-learning teacher, Tania Mitchell. I thought it would be a great way for me to actively stand up for what I believed was so wrong.

I also wanted to learn more about what LGBT people go through. I knew I wouldn’t fully understand because I’ve never been there. But I wanted to see, even if only a miniscule amount, how it must feel to be looked at as so different, so wrong.

I attended a group meeting at 9 a.m. that morning in the main quad. Just as I got there CSUMB student Daniel Lyons was handing out a rainbow flag from a pole in front of the DC. I expected more people to be there, but those there were very welcoming. A man next to me offered me a “Silence the Violence” shirt to help show my support.

We, gay and straight, students and faculty, gathered around and read names of people who were killed because of their sexual orientation. We didn’t read close to the astounding number of victims who have fallen to these hate crimes.

After the reading was done, we took a vow of silence for the day in remembrance and recognition of all those silenced by this hatred and ignorance.

I had class that day, but I had to keep my silence. My professor in my first class was also participating so it made it easier to get through. Two other students in my class had “Silence the Violence” shirts on as well.

I didn’t have a hard time being quiet because I knew I was devotedly doing something to hopefully raise awareness of homophobia. I felt so somber the whole day. Being silent really made me think of what LGBT people face every day. The emotion I felt was overwhelming.

At 8 p.m. that night I went back to campus for the Shout Out where people broke their silences. Several CSUMB students told stories of those who have been victim to homophobia. Others fought tears with words of fear that one day they, or someone they love, may fall victim.

Lyons played a heart-felt harmonica that brought me to tears. It was one of the most emotional experiences I’ve had in a long time.

As I listened to everyone’s stories of hate and fear I got so frustrated. I didn’t understand why this hate was so prevalent. I hated that days like this were necessary. My problem is I always look for logic, but so many things just aren’t logical.

Tears were shed and hugs given out. All were there for one reason, to stop the silencing of LGBT individuals. Even with our silence, the message was heard throughout campus, I just wish more had heard it.

Filmmakers

...from page 11

Troy Rice, who worked as the key grip (head grip technician in charge of equipment) on “Small Town Life,” believe the planning and persistence needed to submit a movie to Cannes or Sundance exemplifies the aspiring professionalism of CSUMB’s student-produced films.

“It shows the aggressive nature of the TAT program,” said Rice, who works on multiple capstones while preparing to get his own film under way.

Samantha Stevens, another filmmaker in TAT, also has plans to go beyond the Capstone Festival in May with her documentary “Bingo: A Game of Chance.”

Stevens will submit the film, which will feature the Oakland based Rockabilly band Phenomonauts on the sound track, to the Film Arts Festival in San Francisco.

Stevens describes her film as “a five minute documentary on the underground world of Bingo and the people who love it.” This humorous piece takes you into a local bingo hall as quirky people find community and make friendships while gambling on a randomly numbered ball.

Beyond Cannes (an international film festival which has taken place in France since 1946) and Sundance (regarded as the foremost showcase for American independent films), Cooney has a host of other festivals he plans to submit the movie to including the Hollywood Film Festival and the New York Independent Film Festival.

During the festival season, Cooney projected that he’ll be submitting “Small Town Life” into anywhere from six to 12 festivals a month. Cooney in particular realizes this could be his last chance to make his own movie and he could spend the rest of his life making other people’s movies, so he has a simple objective: Take it as far as it will go.

“This is our chance to do what we want to do and really rock it out.”

The Environment needs your help!

In 2001, the EPA reported that 3.5 Million pounds of chemical waste was generated by tobacco manufacturing.

1 in 8 trees worldwide are cut down and used for tobacco growing or curing.

A total of 300 cigarettes are produced from one tree.

16 applications of pesticides are recommended in the three months before the tobacco seed is planted.

500,000 acres of forest are lost to tobacco farming each year.

20 Million people could be fed worldwide if the land used to grow tobacco grew food instead.

23.6% of California’s 18-24 year olds smoke.

The earth is your future.
Live tobacco-free.
ARTS & ESSENCE

Heritage Festival features Jazz and Ballet Folkloric

By Laura Ramos, Staff Reporter

CSUMB will be celebrating its sixth annual Heritage Festival, displaying a wide array of talent from the bay area and the central coast.

This year’s headliner will be Grammy nominee John Santos and the Machete Ensemble from San Francisco. Sharing the limelight with John Santos will be Erhman Hall and Nihongo Ni Chongo from CSUMB.

For the first time since the inception of this event, folkloric dancers will accompany the musicians. Esperanza del Valle from Watsonville and Ollin from CSUMB, both folkloric dance groups, will be displaying a wide range of traditional dances from various regions of Mexico.

The Heritage Festival began in 1998, and according to Shirlene Campbell, program coordinator at the Music and Performing Arts Institute, has served as “an opportunity to bring together professional musicians along with the musicians on campus.”

The festival traditionally features Latin Jazz, as its artistic dynamics are symbiotic with the Vision Statement. According to Richard Bains, chair of the Music and Performing Arts Department, this type of event allows students to talk to the artist and learn from those who are in the field professionally.

He believes that “students don’t realize the caliber of the performer who come to this campus.”

The Heritage Festival has displayed a range of important figures in the music scene, such as Eddie Palmiere and Armando Peraza in 2000 and Grammy Award winner Poncho Sanchez in 2001. Bill Berry, who used to sit in the trumpet section of Duke Ellington’s Orchestra during the 60s played his last gig here at CSUMB before his death in November of 2002.

John Santos’ influences range from Santana, to Malo and Azteca. Santos has performed and recorded with Tito Puente, Cachao, and briefly played timbales for the Carlos Santana Band in the 70s.

Erhman Hall and his band Nihongo Ni Chongo, a Seaside band of CSUMB, is one that will benefit from Santos’ expertise.

The group plays original music along with some cover tunes from bands such as The Pixies, Pearl Jam, David Bowie, Chicago, Otis Redding and Marvin Gaye. They’ve performed locally at the Black Box Cabaret, Everyone’s Harvest Farmer’s Market in Marina, and at the Otter Bay Café.

The Heritage Festival will also feature Esperanza del Valle, a Mexican Folklorico Dance company, founded in 1980 in Watsonville.

Their mission is to cultivate and promote pride and understanding of the Mexican culture through folkloric dances, with the majority of the members being teachers and educators in the Watsonville area. Their artistic director, Janet Johns, is the advisor for Ollin, CSUMB’s folkloric dance group.

According to Bains, next year he hopes to expand the festival to a full day event.

The Sixth Annual Heritage Festival will take place on May 8 at the World Theater from 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. Admission is $7 for CSUMB students, $10 for groups, alumni, faculty, and $17 general admission.

Denim Day

By Kara Alaimo, Staff Reporter

Denim wearers were out in full force April 21 in support of Denim Day, one of many events sponsored by Monterey Rape Crisis Center (MRCC) in support of April’s National Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

California Coalition Against Sexual Assault (CALCASA), the official sponsor of Denim Day California, contacted Monterey Rape Crisis Center in hopes of joining smaller agencies together to increase awareness about sexual assault within the community.

Californians who wore denim on Wednesday supported a campaign, which began in 1999 after a controversial trial in Italy where a 45-year-old rape suspect was dismissed because his 18-year-old victim was wearing jeans.

The court stated, “it is common knowledge…that jeans cannot even be partially removed without the effective help of the person wearing them…and it is impossible if the victim is struggling with all her might.”

Many CSUMB students responded whole-heartedly to the call to action.

Laura Veith, TMAC freshman said, “The decision was made without considering the girl, and victims should be recognized to make sure the issues are taken care of and this doesn’t happen again.”

A club on campus called, Empower Women Through Art, Culture and Education or better known as EMPOWER, passed out free buttons in support of Denim Day.

Rhianne O’Leary, a founding member of EMPOWER said, “We did this to raise awareness that rape happens and the injustices surrounding it, like what happened in Italy. It happens all the time with cases close to us and more needs to be done for rape and abuse.”

The unpopular verdict became an international symbol of myth-based injustices for sexual assault victims everywhere.

Other supporters on campus include the CSUMB police officers, who participated in Denim Day by wearing jeans with the top portion of their uniform.

According to the website CALCASA.org, “wearing denim during the month of April is a symbol of protest of harmful attitudes about rape in response to an Italian Supreme Court decision to overturn a rape conviction because the victim wore jeans.”

Liberal arts senior, Irazu Ortiz Ma Suy said, “I was not able to wear denim today, but I support denim day and what it represents.”

Sara Watts, MRCC coordinator of Denim Day said, “This day helps make people in the community aware of the situation and reality of rape.”

This is the first year MRCC has actively participated in Denim Day, and with the support of the community they were able to spread the message of awareness.

Schnarley’s Brox Pizza on Lighthouse in Pacific Grove gave free garlic bread to patrons supporting Denim Day. Starbucks and Boarders were other local supporters of Denim Day.

Jon Woodworth, owner of Schnarley’s said, “I do anything I can to support the community, because the rape crisis center is a huge benefit for men and women in the community.”

The denim jeans that some students wear everyday served as a symbol on April 21, to rape survivors and supporters that there is global movement to make people aware of the injustices surrounding rape.

According to Watts, “The day was a huge success, and MRCC will participate again next year.”

Shankar

By Lea Moro, Staff Reporter

“Shankar”p.<br>“And what if I know nothing about any of this stuff? What shall we do? Sing?”

“I have been in spiritual circles for 25 years,” one audience member said, “and I feel like I have finally found the real thing.”

Born in southern India in 1956, Shankar is also the founder of two chartered non-governmental organizations with the United Nations. He created the International Association for Human Values (IAHV) in 1997 and the Art of Living Foundation (AOLF) in 1986.

Through IAHV, Shankar has created relief programs for times of crisis throughout the world, including Bosnia, Afghanistan and New York.

The Art of Living Foundation includes stress management programs designed for everyone from students to prisoners to the people of Iraq.

“The birth rite of every human being,” said Shankar, is to have a “stress-free mind and a disease-free body.”

Shankar’s message to college students spoke of friendship and love. He explained that upon asking a student who his or her friends are, the student would probably name only a handful of people.

“If we can not recognize and make friends in the few hundreds or thousands of people on the university campus,” Shankar asked, “how will we ever get along with the 6 billion people on this planet?”

He believes that educating young people in a multi-cultural and multi-religious fashion will help bring peace to the world.

“Did you know,” Shankar asked, “that babies smile 400 times a day, adolescents smile 17 times a day, and adults barely smile at all?”

Through enlightenment, says Shankar, one can achieve “a smile that no one can take away from you.”

Shankar’s message even inspired local musicians.

Sophomore Dimitri Leudemann and Senior Trevor Roth came to hear Shankar speak as, “sort of a band field trip.”

Did they feel inspired? Judging from the smiles on their faces in the audience and the throngs of people rushing to purchase one of Shankar’s books, it is safe to guess that Leudemann spoke for everyone that night when he replied: “Inspired? Definitely.”
What’s wrong with a ‘good ole romp’?

By Michelle Burke

Michelle_Burke@csumb.edu

Apparently, the reason all of us pleasure-mongers at CSUMB are sexually active is most likely because we didn’t have a “strong and healthy family life.”

This according to an opinion piece in the last issue of the Otter Realm, entitled, “Listen up ladies - what is so bad about being chaste?” Ever the supporter of those who have come to appreciate their sexuality - be it abstinent, merely flirting with running to “home base,” or down-right promiscuous - I was extremely insulted by the piece. Not only does she attack those whose morals don’t match her own, but she makes assumptions about the motives behind the choice to have sex out of wedlock.

She gives the oh-so-Freudian diagnosis that the reason some women choose to have sex without love is because they didn’t have a strong, stable upbringing. According to her, they are more likely to have multiple sex partners (gasp…), looking for love in all the wrong places.

Interesting theory, but she makes the assumption that the only reason a woman could possibly have sex with someone she doesn’t love is because she’s hoping that maybe, just maybe, he’ll love her after the fact. Thanks for judging, but that’s not always the case. Yes, some women might choose to have sex with someone because it makes them feel better about themselves. That’s their issue. But, please, don’t generalize all women who have made a choice to express their sexuality in their own way.

Why is it so hard to comprehend that sometimes, women just want to have a good ole romp in the sack? No strings, no emotions, and best of all, no regrets.

She asks us to “say a little prayer for the strength to set a higher standard for [ourselves] and the men in [our] lives.” For one, not all of us believe in a god to pray to, and second, what about the men in our lives? What happened to female independence? And third, whose standard is she referring to? Hers? Developing a healthy sexual attitude doesn’t necessarily mean accepting abstinence.

However, the writer made some valid points that those decisions are hard to make, considering the risks – pregnancy and STD infection. She uses a lovely little battalion of facts (one in particular, inaccurate) to convince people that sex without love can only bring about consequences. Nothing good. Only bad.

The writer commented that condoms only give 85 percent protection from HIV/AIDS when correctly used every time. This is actually an average percentage with normal use. The protection percentage lowers because of a lack in education on how to properly use them in the first place, according to the Salinas chapter of Planned Parenthood. But lack of education is an issue all on its own.

It is true that some little buggers, namely HPV, herpes and chlamydia, can escape the protection of condoms more easily than other STDs, as the writer stated. But for the sexually extroverted, those little latex sheathes of lust is one of the few hopes for a disease-free filing, and she casts them off as not-good-enough because it’s not a 100 percent guarantee.

After time goes on – and sexcapades are had – I can only see this conclusion creating more bad than good. Downplaying the protective qualities of condoms is not going to get everyone to voluntarily strap on a chastity belt for the remainder of their single lives. People will still have sex, with or without them. If we send them the message that they don’t work “well enough,” then some might think, “Why bother?” and forget it all together, ultimately spreading STDs like a burning, itching wildfire.

But more immediately, I only ask that before judgements are made about people whose ideals are different than her own, that she take a second to try to understand that some of us have made a healthy choice to do what we do. Please don’t cast us off as having lost our “moral” way.

Letter to the Editor

I am vice president (along with Daniel Lyons) of the Out & About club. I really appreciate your article in the Otter Realm covering the homophobic activity around CSUMB. I noticed however that you referred to us (Out & About) as a “homosexual support group.” I really would like for you to print a correction in the next page because we are not a “homosexual support group,” nor is it accurate to label us as such.

I have cut-n-pasted a portion of our mission statement to give you a better idea of what our club is about: “The primary intention of Out & About is to secure the presence of the LGBT community on the CSUMB campus. Out & About strives to create an LGBT-friendly atmosphere by providing a viable LGBT community. This visibility will be established through the holding of events sponsored by Out & About. The events will act as a catalyst of bringing together a wide variety of the student body, under the umbrella of an LGBT event.”

I hope I have not come across as impolite or discourteous in this e-mail as that is not my intention. I’d just like to give you a better idea of us as a club, as there’s quite a difference between a support group and a club whose intention is to create visibility for the LGBT community and bring education and awareness of the LGBT community to CSUMB. Please let me know if you’d like to set up a meeting or something to talk a bit more.

Thanks so much for your time and once again, thanks for the article,

Bea Esbit,
Out and About vice president

Otter Oops

*In our April 15 issue in the photo caption of the article “Chalk Art Festival showcases varied talents” Victoria Salas’ club was mispelled. The correct spelling is Sigma Lambda Gamma.*
Playing music with a paintbrush

By Louie Vucinich, Staff Reporter
LOUIE.VUCINICH@CSUMB.EDU

The paintings that adorn the walls of Farhana Ferdous’ apartment are like a photo album: snapshots from the pages of her life.

“I am an emotional person,” Ferdous said. “Painting is a way for me to express any emotion, so I can capture a time in my life and it is reflected in my paintings.”

Ferdous, a CSUMB junior, strives to impart a unique meaning of her paintings to her audience. “It’s like a song,” she said. “The singer has a different interpretation than the audience does.”

Ferdous hopes that just by looking at her work, viewers can get a sense of who she is. “When someone tells me the feeling they get and it was what I was going for,” explained Ferdous, “it shows that my emotion shines through my work.”

When she was 13, the now 21-year-old Ferdous moved from Bangladesh. “It gave me the opportunity to really see the world through a different set of eyes at an early age.” Her experiences enabled her to grow and adapt to a new environment, which gave her the determination and focus to excel at painting.

While perfecting her craft, to create on canvas Farhana works with many types of paints. “I use so many mediums right now; I’m experimenting,” she said. Oil, acrylic, tempera, and pastel are among the different mediums she works with.

The theme she is currently painting deals with the concept of beauty and society’s perception of it. She describes it as “contrasting between the ideas of beauty compared to natural beauty.”

Impressionist painters like Monet influenced her, but her style is hard to clearly define. “I am a contrast of three styles,” she said. “I am influenced by surrealism, impressionism and realism.” This is evident in “The Plunge,” her painting of a nude woman covering down in anguish. Realism is displayed with the detail of the woman and the rawness of the human form. Over her back a blue motion of energy washes over her forming a waterfall that flows with her falling hair, creating the element of surrealism.

She smiles and admires her newly tattooed ankle. “I chose a butterfly, because I love the whole concept of metamorphosis,” she said. “Life is amazing. It’s always changing.”

What is your favorite movie and why?

Michele Black
JUNIOR – VPA

“‘Arthur.’ I can relate with it. Not the rich part, only the alcoholic part.”

By Giovanni Di Giorgio
GIORGIO.DIGIORGIO@CSUMB.EDU

Jon Sprang
JUNIOR – HCOM

“‘Bram Stoker’s Dracula.’ The movie itself deals with the tragedy that is the human condition.”

Athena Witscher
FRESHMAN – HCOM

“‘Munchie Strikes Back.’ It has a killer theme song and the casting is excellent!”

Justin Richardson
JUNIOR – HCOM

“‘Waking Life.’ It’s a trip, check it out.”