Students celebrate Semana de la Raza

By Laura Ramos, Staff Reporter
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The slow and steady thumping of a distant drum beats...

as it is unexpectedly interrupted by a fire alarm. This was the beginning of the Cinco de Mayo celebration at the University Center featuring Calpulli Huitzilopochtli, an Aztec dance group from San Jose.

CINCO DE MAYO continued on page 12

President’s new office approved despite opposition

By Brian Chapman, Staff Reporter
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This library plan has passed, despite students, staff and faculty coming out against the plan. Smith’s office will take away a projected 15 percent of the panoramic view, though this projection has been disputed.

“Looking at the plans, the office will cover at least a third of the view. It will be in the middle of the view, so instead of being 180 degrees it will be a 90 degree view,” said Yuri Beckelman, president of Associated Students.

The concern about placing Smith’s office on the fourth floor was because that section was originally designed to be the quietest floor in the library. The office, which would potentially hold about 15 or more people plus visitors, may distract students in the library from their studies.

“Now that President Smith’s office is going to be in the quietest part of the library, visitors may be bothered by business transactions that are done in the same area,” said Beckelman.

LIBRARY continued on page 4

RallyCom a go

Presidential veto saves RallyCom

By Darrell Hirashima, Staff Reporter
DARRELL_HIRASHIMA@CSUMB.EDU

It may not be sanctioned by the NCAA, but finger-pointing is an active competition on this campus, and no one seems to be winning. Former Associated Students (AS) Vice President Mac Clemmens and former Public Relations Director Kelly Bland, in response to what they saw as a lack of school pride at CSUMB, created RallyCom as a standing committee in the 2002-03 school year.

Clemmens and Bland took a look at RallyCom organizations throughout the state like the “Beach Patrol” at Cal State Long Beach, and decided RallyCom might be the perfect thing to raise spirit and pride for the Otters.

As the largest and most active committee in AS, students might remember them from the pre-basketball game bonfire or their help with “Late Night with the Otters.”

On April 26 in the University Center Conference Room, AS voted to “realign RallyCom’s directive of increasing turnout at AS events to the Public Relations Committee, remove RallyCom from the AS bylaws and assist in its formation within the ICC (Inter-Club Council).” This would essentially remove RallyCom from student government and turn it into a club.

Events leading up to the vote seem to differ slightly.

RALLYCOM continued on page 6
**NEWS**

**Former senators and students discuss world leadership as part of Panetta Lecture Series**

By Louie Vicedo, Staff Reporter

The fresh faces and hungry minds of America’s future were intently fixated, as they studied the words of wisdom flowing from the former senators.

On May 3, the Leon & Sylvia Panetta Institute for Public Policy held a Student Academic Program in the University Center ballroom that featured former Senators Fred Thompson and George Mitchell. The program was a precursor to the seventh annual Panetta Lecture series, which took place later that night at the Monterey Convention Center.

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**You don’t have to wait till they stab you until you take some action.**

—Senator George Mitchell

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In front of a brass fireplace adorned with the official seal of CSUMB above its mantel, moderator Leon Panetta sat with the two senators as they fielded questions from the assembly of college and high school students from Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz counties, including students from CSUMB.

The theme of this year’s lecture series is “The Challenges of Leadership in the 21st Century.” The first discussion of the series centered on “World Leadership in the 21st Century.”

According to the Panetta Institute, the focus of this year’s series is “The role of the United States in the maintenance of peace and order in the international system.”

Former Senator George Mitchell (D-Maine) served 14 years in the senate and six years as majority leader. Mitchell has received recognition for his role as chairman in creating a historic accord that ended decades of violence in Northern Ireland. He also served as chairman of an international fact-finding committee on violence in the Middle East, the outcome being “The Mitchell Report.”

Having appeared in 18 motion pictures might be a claim to fame for some, but it doesn’t end there for former Senator Fred Thompson (R-Tennessee). He first broke on to the scene as assistant counsel in the Watergate Investigation. In 1996, Thompson was elected Chairman of the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs where he proposed legislation against China’s proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction.

He currently stars as the district attorney on the television show “Law & Order.”

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The senators entertained questions from students ranging from Iraq, disarmament, U.S. economy, partisanship and education, to name a few.

With the uncanny air and eloquence of a politician, Senator Mitchell responded to a question on U.S. preemptive strikes.

A student asked him whether or not preemptive strikes “encourage countries like North Korea to be more aggressive.”

“Every individual and nation retains the right of preemption as a last resort,” Mitchell said, using the analogy of facing a knife-wielding advisory. “You don’t have to wait till they stab you until you take some action.”

The senator continued, stating, “My concern with the administration is that it has elevated preemption from an action of last resort to a policy of first resort. Therein lies the danger.”

“The problem is that the lesson today by invading Iraq and not doing anything about North Korea is the possession of nuclear weapons which immunizes you from such action,” said Mitchell.

Thompson was asked a question about the political partisan polarization that has taken place during recent years in America.

With an inviting southern drawl, Thompson explained that politicians sometimes have to “cross that partisan aisle” and do what’s right for their constituents.

Thompson said, “I can’t stress enough the importance of this to the next generation. We’re coming up on an entitlement crisis, a fiscal crisis; you’re going to be faced with world terror for the rest of your lives. It is important to know and have people who know something about the problems, not just have an opinion. You don’t need to know anything to have an opinion.”

Mitchell commented on the crisis between the Israelis and Palestinians.

“Israelis want security, the Palestinians want a state,” he said. “The Palestinians will never get a state by suicide bombings. Each such attack sets their chances back. The Israelis are never going to get security until the Palestinians get a state.”

At the close of the program, Panetta left the students with a parting message: “Ultimately the only answers are when people like yourself decide that you’re going to get involved. Most importantly I wanted to urge you to please stay involved in our democracy. Vote, but more importantly get involved with issues that affect you.”

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**Beach to open near campus**

By Daniel Burr, Staff Reporter

For students that wish they could stroll from the dorms to the beach by simply walking, it will be possible next school year.

Since CSUMB was opened in 1994, the beach along the Fort Ord dunes has been off limits to the public, particularly to curious college students. However, this issue is soon coming to a close.

The Fort Ord Dunes State Park is scheduled to open in early 2005. The park will include four miles of beach that stretch from Sand City to Marina, and will encompass approximately 886 acres of land.

The future plans include numerous trails for hiking and recreation as well as a possible campground on the site. The Eighth Street overpass will be the connection road from campus to the state park, with a parking lot around the area of the former Stillwell Hall.

The land is currently controlled by the Army, and will be handed over to California State Parks around the end of 2004, although once the land is transferred, the park may not be open for some time.

According to Ken Gray, the Monterey district representative for California Parks and Recreation, “Even after the transfer there will be a period of unknown time before the park is open because of the budget cuts and other decisions that need to be made.”

For now, the Army still has control and needs to finish the final paper work for the transfer, which Gray says involves administrative detail and the preparation of a record of decision. Essentially, the Army needs to produce a written account of the work they have done and the current status of the land.
Dressed in street clothes, their badges on their belts, five officers from the Monterey County Sheriff's Office entered 2940 Yorktown on April 30, acting on a warrant to search the residence for findings in relation to the death of former 56-year-old CSUMB student, Rusty Walters.

Walters, one of two victims discovered in the last three weeks on or near campus, was found dead on April 26 in a dusty clearing some several hundred feet from his residence in East campus housing. Walters was found with his wheelchair nearby.

According to Sgt. Dahmen of the Monterey County Sheriff’s Office, Walters’ death “was suspicious, because he is wheelchair bound.” Dahmen said the area where Walters was discovered is “not an area that is really conducive to wheelchairs.”

The cause of Walters’ death is undetermined, pending toxicology results in four to six weeks. So far, there seems to be no connection between Walters and the murder victim found in the abandoned ghost town of former Fort Ord.

Apiru Sua, 21, was found between two abandoned apartments on April 18. Four people have been arrested in connection with his murder.

Dahmen insists that there is “no indication the deaths are related.”

Gregory Lukas, a CSUMB student and former acquaintance of Walters, remembers him fondly. “We shared the point-to-point van,” said Lukas. “We used to drive conversation about whose body parts hurt worse. If you can make fun of pain, the rest of your day goes better.”

Lukas remembers Walters looking forward to completing his final units and receiving his degree. “He’s not the type of person that would turn around and do anything,” said Lukas. “Plus, he’s a nice guy, so there is no indication that anyone would want to harm him.”

With the deaths of CSUMB students, it’s important to get the idea that we have an unsafe campus. This is a relatively safe campus, but at the same time we are not immune.”

FRED HARDEE
UNIVERSITY POLICE CHIEF

Summer session nears

By Louise Vicuña, Staff Reporter

Hang on to your hats and open your wallets, because the favorite pastime of all Otters is almost upon us: summer school, the sure cure for those summer doldrums. Registration is now open until the first day of summer classes on June 7.

Another important day to remember is May 23, which is the first day to buy required summer parking passes. July 2 is the end of the first session; the second session starts July 6. Classes end July 30.

Fall 2004 and spring 2005 graduates may be eligible to take more than the summer semester load limit of eight units for matriculated students if a required course is offered in the summer and not in the fall. Distributive Learning and Extended Education is offering a chance to take more than the standard eight units if this is an issue.

To determine eligibility, obtain and fill out the Summer Overload Petition form available at http://extended.csumb.edu or in Building 47. For more information, contact the Distributive Learning and Extended Education at 582-4500.

Summer session fees for undergraduate students currently enrolled in a CSUMB degree program:

- 1 - 6 units: $594 + $14 campus fee
- 6.1 - 8 units: $1023 + $14 campus fee

Managing your finances is an important part of your college learning experience. We at Central Coast Federal Credit Union are here to help! With the only on-campus ATM and the nearest branch location to the CSUMB campus, we’ve designed our checking plans to fit your lifestyle and pocket book. Stop by today and experience that “personal care” in banking!
Library

...from page 1

A library planning commission spent years compiling ideas from other university libraries and drafting a plan for the building. Just before the approval came through, Smith and his cabinet halted the plans for five months and, according to Technology Development Coordinator Steve Watkins, had his office added to the plan.

The planners rejected the idea of Smith’s office on the fourth floor, but were ignored. The fourth floor will feature an atrium with a 360-degree view.

Some students have expressed that it shouldn’t matter if Smith’s office is on top of the library.

“What if a majority of the campus doesn’t care, or would prefer that his offices were there? I just don’t see how adding this office is going to so greatly impact academic careers that we should spend all of our time rallying against it,” said student Eric Hansen.

“Isn’t there enough room for study areas on the first, second, and third floors? Adding two more floors should be a lot more space,” said Hansen, referring to the single floor the current library contains. Others feel the issue isn’t simply space or physical location.

“Apathy allows for autocracy. In life, everyone chooses a cause that’s important to them. Students should care that they get even treatment and not have the majority’s opinions disregarded,” said Rebecca Bergeon, a library staff member.

The opposition to the plan was also left wondering why so much was spent on the office when the money could be spent on students or their needs. Some students have questioned why the money wasn’t spent on giving scholarships or building offices for other departments.

“Whole departments like HCOM and SBS should have priority over new building plans than one man. Universities are about students and not about making sure the president has all the luxuries,” said junior Kali Viker sociology major in SBS.

Peter says he will fundraise the additional dollars for his library office which could cost anywhere from $1.7 million to $3 million more, I would much rather have him fundraising for student scholarships or to make our housing cheaper,” said Ashley Simmons a senator of Associated Students.

Although there have been several donations, there is still a need to raise another $12 million for the library to be built.

Alumni help fund capstone projects

By Matthew Fox, Staff Reporter

Who knew that the alumni do more than put license plate frames on their cars, party in Las Vegas, and attend baseball games? Yeah, they do.

This year the Alumni Association of CSUMB awarded six capstone grants, giving away $1,500 in funds to help seniors with their capstone projects. One reason the alumni set up the capstone grant system was because many students were not eligible for their scholarship.

According to Nicole Mendoza, external relations coordinator, this will ensure that any student, no matter what major, would be eligible for a grant, as long as the capstone focuses on some part of the vision statement.

Mendoza feels that the capstone grants are proof the association is gaining a stronger base at CSUMB. “The alumni is moving forward, and looking for opportunities to help the student body. This is our way to make it happen. Not everyone could apply for the scholarship, but everyone is welcome to apply for the capstone grants. This is a new way for us to connect to the students,” said Mendoza.

The alumni are known for events on campus like Kelp Craze, Grad Fest, and Student’s Success auctions which help raise money for scholarships and capstone grants. The alumni also earn money through its member base. Currently there are 3,000 alumni, and 600 paid members.

The capstone grants helped many students with a variety of projects. It enabled Jessica Nixon, SBC major, to travel to Vietnam to research her capstone called, “Socio-Economic and Cultural Legislations: The Implementation of Juvenile Delinquents in Vietnam after the Market Reform of 1986.”

Audren Morris used the money to raise funds for a boxing program in Salinas. “My proposal included the development of a brochure to highlight the program to be used for fundraising purposes,” said Morris. “My research was on the funding challenges that at-risk youth programs face.”

Ashley Johnson used her grant to create a memorial to Taylor Brutzman, a student who passed away last year. Her project consisted of tiles that Brutzman’s friends painted and were then applied to a bench in order to commemorate her.

The grant money was appreciated by all. Nixon explained how the grant helped with the hefty bill of traveling to Vietnam. “Since I traveled to Vietnam to do my research, the bill was quite expensive,” said Nixon. “This was the only funding that I received from the school, so it was extremely appreciated.”

The only other group on campus that supports capstone funding is the EMPOWER club. However, its grants are only donated to students doing capstones on women’s issues.
RallyCom

CSU MONTEREY BAY

...from page 1

depending on who one talks to. It appears that some time in mid-April, Nat Rojanasathira, AS environmental senator, sent out suggested revisions to the AS bylaws. Former Senator-at-Large Maggie Watts noticed that RallyCom had been stricken from the bylaws and notified former AS President Lisa Moreno and RallyCom Chair Ren Herring.

“It could have been brought out better, but there was a discussion,” newly inaugurated AS President Yuri Beckelman said. An emergency meeting was held in the AS office on April 19 to discuss what Rojanasathira called in an e-mail, “the restructuring of RallyCom.”

That night, the office was so full of RallyCom supporters, that even Bill Trumbo, director of athletics at CSUMB, was made to stand in a corner while most students took up seats on any available piece of carpet in the room.

Parties from both sides expressed their concerns about RallyCom. One senator said, “RallyCom doesn’t have any responsibilities but receives a lot of money.”

In a later interview, Moreno said that RallyCom used about $800 compared to the $3,000 used by the Environmental Committee and about $100,000 allocated for Events Workgroup.

Chair of the Otter Student Union (OSU) Derek Ford pointed out during this meeting that when OSU needed help for an international conference last November, there were about 10 members of RallyCom and two members of AS.

Many pointed out finance and organizational nuances, but others had more personal stories to tell.

“My house burned to the ground. No one else did anything. Ren and RallyCom were there for me,” student Megan Holbrook said of the San Diego fires in October.

When Herring noticed an RA crying in front of the dorms last October, he approached her to find out if she could help in any way. Herring learned that she was one of the many students being personally affected by the destructive wild fires in Southern California.

Immediately, RallyCom went into action, coordinating with Residential Life and RHA to collect supplies and raise money. They then rented a U-Haul on their own dime and personally drove the supplies to southern San Diego to assist in the relief effort.

“It was a big deal and it was nice to help,” said Herring of the blaze that burned down the houses of eight CSUMB students.

The emergency meeting gave people a chance to voice their opinion about RallyCom before the senate made their final decision at a meeting on April 26, voting overwhelmingly in favor of the motion to realign RallyCom.

According to Rojanasathira, realigning RallyCom with the ICC would allow them to receive additional funding.

Beckelman said, “It will be easier to receive funds when they can go right to ICC; they can do just as much.”

But as the committee makes its transition to the ICC, they would have to combine with other clubs or go through the AS Events Workgroup to receive funding at all, because new clubs don’t get funding in their first year.

Trumbo spoke at both the emergency meeting and at the senate meeting to sing the praises of RallyCom, but his opinions fell on deaf ears.

According to Trumbo, no group on campus has made more of an impact than RallyCom. At the emergency meeting, he said that the student government is here to provide student-empowered environments for students, and in four years he has been here, he has not seen any group do more “to represent and empower students” than RallyCom.

Rojanasathira and other senators remain firm in their stance. Senator-at-Large Ashley Simmons believes it is only a matter of placement.

“It’s not like we have an arts senator or an ‘other-people’s-interests’ senator,” said Simmons.

Others see much more to the issue than that. Greg Balza is a research analyst for Institutional Research and Assessment at CSUMB and one of the first members of Student Voice, now Associated Students. Balza was at the April 26 senate meeting to announce that CSUMB is being recognized by a new college report for its groundbreaking steps in campus-wide activism.

During the open discussion on RallyCom, Balza addressed the senators as “someone who sat in your shoes.”

“It seems that you want to take momentum away from something that brings student involvement,” said Balza. “School spirit is something this campus definitely needs.”

Despite all that was said, the motion carried. And when it did, more than 20 supporters of RallyCom stood up and walked out of the conference room, along with the two senators who voted against the motion.

“We heard all these voices, and AS is the voice of the students, but I don’t know if we were listening,” said Watts.

“RallyCom was used as a vessel to get students involved in other organizations,” said Morgan Marilley, vice chair of RallyCom.

“I think RallyCom was victimized,” said Herring.

And when a group of people feel victimized, there is a good chance that they might lash out at those who did them wrong.

As her last act in office, in an unprecedented decision, Moreno pulled out the trump card.

At 11:58 a.m. on May 3, 17 minutes before inauguration of the newly elected student government, Moreno vetoed the motion to realign RallyCom.

Beckelman compared it to “letting jail inmates off death row by political cronynim.”
A sticky-icky situation

By Rachel Kane, Staff Reporter
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Weed, pot, dope, dank, grass, sticky-icky, the chronic, ganja, herb, bud, Mary Jane, cannabis, reefer and marijuana: no matter what it’s called, it’s still contraband at CSUMB.

“What we call recreational use is really enhancement of life”
—ED ROSENTHAL

‘Guru of Ganja’ and 30-year veteran of medical marijuana activism, Ed Rosenthal, came to Monterey on May 7 to discuss the future of medical marijuana in the United States.

Rosenthal was arrested at 6 a.m. on February 12, 2002. He “ran down the stairs naked” to answer the pounding at his door, and was greeted by the DEA, FBI and the IRS.

Rosenthal was tried and imprisoned for a grand total of 36 hours for his research and growth of medical marijuana in the Bay Area, even though his sentencing required only a day in prison.

Now that he’s out, Rosenthal is picking up where he left off in the struggle for de-criminalizing medical marijuana use. According to Rosenthal, for most medical marijuana users, “It’s more like insulin than Viagra.”

“What we call recreational use is really enhancement of life,” said Rosenthal.

One marijuana user, who chose to remain nameless, said, “I use it to go to sleep or help with stress.”

Opponents of medical marijuana use would not put pot and pharmaceuticals in the same category. According to Sandra Bennett, past president of Drug Watch International, “Marijuana is not prescribable. It is an illicit drug that has failed to meet any of the FDA criteria for therapeutic drugs.”

In regards to students who use marijuana to “enhance their lives” in the CSUMB residential halls, Rosenthal warns against lightening up. “The actual ritual of smoking is the red flag before the bulls.”

According to Rosenthal, smoking marijuana is not the only way to ingest THC (delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol), the active drug in marijuana. Marijuana can be concentrated into a liquid form and taken with an eyedropper, or even baked into pastries or sprinkled over pasta.

For chronic smokers, eating and smoking marijuana go hand-in-hand. Students, who chose to remain anonymous, site “the munchies” as a large part of the experience. According to Rosenthal, marijuana experts, such as himself, are working on a reverse form of THC which would be used as an appetite suppressant.

Because marijuana sales and usage without the prior consent of a physician is illegal in California, students at CSUMB would be wise to take the reefer recipes with a grain of salt, especially considering the “two strikes and you’re out” policy regarding campus housing and illegal drug use.

SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE PHOTO BY FREDERIC LARSON
Ed Rosenthal with his wife, Jane Klein, and his 12-year-old daughter, Justine Rosenthal, before the sentencing hearing in 2003.

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 AE Pi
Twelve Tribes Coop (housing)  Women’s Collective

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Jaylene Appelbaum Tel: 831-373-7306
This project is funded by Grant 300-90378, California Department of Health Services, Tobacco Control Section
OTTERS DIVE INTO A NEW SEASON OF WATER POLO TO START ITS ENTRANCE INTO THE NCAA

Amidst all the changes happening on campus, CSUMB has added a women’s water polo team for the fall 2004 season.

This brings the Otters’ total number of official varsity teams to 10. Women’s water polo was added to help comply with CSUMB’s new entrance into CCAA NCAA Division II.

Bill Trumbo, director of Athletics, said, “The ten sports represent the minimum number required to become an NCAA member at the Division II level.”

The addition of women’s water polo to CSUMB offers one more reason for students to attend the University. Trumbo went on to say, “The addition of the sport will also promote interest from prospective students and the hiring of a coach to lead the program. It will also allow recruiting to take place that will enhance the number of interested and motivated students and prospective student athletes.”

Water polo is a physically demanding sport. The players have to tread water for the entire game. It is a mix between basketball and soccer but in a pool environment. Water polo consists of six fielders and a goalie for each team.

The players in the field may only use one hand when handling the ball, while the goalie may use two. The game consists of four 7-minute quarters, with a possession clock indicating to the team that they only have 35 seconds to possess the ball.

“I know there is an interest in the sport by students currently enrolled,” Trumbo said. “As there was a good show of interest this year in our club-level program.

Margaret Mullen, a sophomore VPA major, is very pleased to see CSUMB adding a women’s water polo team next semester. Mullen played goalie in Sacramento at Loretto High School for four years. She is very excited for the upcoming season.

“I have met a number of people who love the water as much as I do and as a result, we are going to have our first women’s water polo team which is so awesome!” Mullen said.

Mullen went on to say, “I really can’t wait to see the team grow! I know for the first couple of times that we might get our butts kicked by teams who already have team unity and have been playing for a while.”

This does not deter Mullen though. “It doesn’t bother me as of right now because I am excited to just start playing again.”

Because of the Otter’s entrance into the CCAA NCAA Div. II, the Otter’s will be up against tough competition against much bigger Universities that have had an existing team. “At this time the department is in the process of hiring a coach for the team,” Ken Howat, Aquatic Center Coordinator, said. “The search committee has been through its first round of reviewing candidates’ resumes and expects to narrow it down to three or four candidates to interview in the very near future.”

“We will have a full schedule in the 2004-2005 season and hope to create a strong program in the future,” Trumbo said.

For more information regarding the new water polo team, please contact Howat at 582-4552.

Summer Pool Hours
Mon-Fri 6:30-8am, 12-2pm, 5:30-630pm
Sat & Sun 1-4pm

Summer Otter Sports Center Hours
Mon-Fri 6:30am-9pm, Sat 9am-3pm
Closed Sunday
Athletics transition to next stage

By Darrell Hirasuna, Staff Reporter
DARRELL_HIRASUNA@CSUMB.EDU

The CSUMB campus and reputation is growing and the athletic program is taking a bold step to lead the charge for a bigger, better, university.

Next fall, Otter sports will move up to NCAA Division II, and enter their inaugural season of play in the most successful conference in all Div. II: the California Collegiate Athletic Association (CCAA). After eight years as an NAIA Div. III program competing in the CalPac Conference, CSUMB gets its shot at some of the toughest competition in the country.

“It’s like jumping four or five levels in the space of one year,” said Amber Magner, women’s head basketball coach. “Imagine playing sixth grade basketball, and then jumping to varsity.”

According to their Web site, the NCAA “is a voluntary association of about 1,200 colleges and universities, athletic conferences and sports organizations devoted to the sound administration of intercollegiate athletics.” The NCAA has three divisions and the CCAA has captured well over 100 National Championships in Div. II.

In 1996, men’s basketball and women’s volleyball had the honor of being the first teams to don the green and gold of CSUMB and represent the Otters in the athletic arena. With the growth of the campus came a greater interest for competitive intercollegiate athletics and soon the sports program had expanded to cross-country, golf, soccer and even sailing. The 2004-05 academic year will see the addition of water polo and give CSUMB the kind of well-rounded athletic department the Otters have yet to experience.

The university has made these steps without the benefit of scholarships to offer to their student athletes. In the world of collegiate athletics, CSUMB was on “the bottom of the totem pole,” according to Bill Trumbo, director of Athletics.

But this jump gives them a new lease on life and a second chance to prove they belong.

“People always told me I was never going to be able to do this because I was too short,” said Ashleen Aimes, a shooting guard on the women’s hoop team. “But it’s always been my dream to play in the NCAA.”

Aimes, listed at 5’7” on the roster, knows it’s a completely different level, but says she likes competition and is working to get quicker and stronger, as well as working on a quicker release on her shot.

The move in divisions does not only impact the athletes and coaches on campus. It could have a profound effect on the future of the entire university as the CSUMB name travels throughout the state.

But many, including next fall’s recruiting class, are optimistic about the move.

Athletics at CSUMB and head coach of the men’s basketball team.

For the athletes who already call themselves Otters, the move up has more of a personal meaning than anything else. The ultimate goal of many athletes is to play in the NCAA, and most of next year’s returnees thought they were pretty much giving up on that goal when they first got to CSUMB.

According to Trumbo, with the number of trips each team is taking, along with the different schools that will be coming here, there will be a consistency of media coverage mentioning CSUMB and Seaside like never before.

What Trumbo called an “enhancement of exposure” will make the university more visible in places like San Diego, L.A. and Chico, where, were it not for schools from those cities competing in the CCAA, the Otters would not likely make the papers.

And whether people want to admit it or not, students like attending colleges with successful athletic teams. The director of Athletics also cited studies that were done making links between student retention and higher levels of university pride based on how many school logos were seen on clothing.

“There’s an associated benefit to having a great athletic program. It increases the entire ambiance for the university,” said Trumbo.

While the new schedule gets the CSUMB name out there immediately, the ability to offer scholarships and just say we are in the NCAA Div. II will give us a new recruiting edge that will hopefully bridge the gap between being in a great conference and actually having a great athletic program.

“A typical 18-year-old kid doesn’t even know what the NAIA is,” said Magner. “As soon as you say ‘NCAA,’ it makes a massive difference.”

Both the women’s volleyball and soccer teams have already got the ball rolling, each signing a pair of top high school recruits to help build next year’s squad. But with the budget cuts there will also be added pressure to raise more money for the teams through fundraising.

Trumbo fully intends to be much more aggressive with his fundraising efforts, first by selling season tickets to all athletic events at a reduced price and then in October, a sit-down evening with legendary college basketball coaches Pete Newell and John Wooden, moderated by UCLA and NBA hoop legend Bill Walton.
Kayaking to camp

By Enjolina Moss, Staff Reporter

Crescent-peaked waves rippled past the campsite as the early morning sun cast an oblong yellow glow across the bay.

From our makeshift beach bungalow on an almost secluded beach of Tomales Bay, my fellow campers and I watched pristine white sailboats bob in the mellow tide, speedboats attack the current and sea lions play a game of “catch me if you can” with the waves.

On a perfect Friday afternoon, Kristin Bruce, president of Otters Outdoors, and CSUMB students Nicholas Maness, Chuy Archuleta, Pam Bone and I, loaded our new rides—Adventure Connections’ ocean kayaks—into Bruce’s homemade trailer and packed everything we needed to survive the camp/kayak weekend into what I prefer to call “not so” dry bags.

The four-hour drive to Point Reyes made me carsick, but I’m a wuss and although I hate to admit it, it was mostly attributed to my worrying whether I could make it through a weekend paddling a kayak as my only means of transportation, while sleeping nights on the sand. But as I told my friend James a day earlier, “I’m not exactly a granola girl, but I think I can hang.” And that is exactly what I intended to do.

Chicken Ranch Beach was our first stop and was supposed to be our first campsite, until we discovered camping was not allowed. We backtracked to the city of Olema, population 55, where we had passed the Olema Ranch Campground and RV Park.

With a Laundromat, bathhouse (which includes showers) and espresso bar, I had discovered my kind of camping. I was at one with nature to a degree with which I was comfortable. But the amenities in Olema were merely a formality, for after Friday night there was no controlling how close I got to nature, or rather, how close nature’s critters got to me.

We set off Saturday from Chicken Ranch Beach bright-eyed and bushy-tailed, ready to paddle a little over three miles to our final camping destination, Marshall Beach.

While many of the beaches along the shore of Tomales Bay are not open to camping, Marshall Beach is and it boasts a view of Hog Island, clean pit toilets and garbage cans, as well as a mile-long uphill trail that rewards takers with a spectacular view of the forests and beaches that make up Point Reyes National Seashore.

Along the way we stopped in the warm waters of Heart’s Desire Beach, a popular spot for families that is part of the Tomales Bay State Park. We lunched in front of the Teepees on Indian Beach before we hugged the caved coastline on the way to Marshall Beach.

We shared our final stop with a large, but friendly, family of campers before we found a spot on the other side of a fallen tree to call our home for the remainder of the weekend.

The mosquitoes descended at sundown, but they never bit and I awoke often through the night by the occasional sound of a fish, or perhaps much larger animal, splashing in the water. But the bugs kept at bay, so I was happy. In fact I was content and at peace with the newfound beauty we surrounded ourselves in.

As I awoke early Sunday morning to the sounds of the waves and saw the salty dew beginning to drip off the kayaks, I found myself disappointed to know it was finally time to go.

All together we were never very far from civilization. We could see harborside mansions and cars traverse a well-traveled road from across the bay. But in the end, we were immersed in the beauty of the bay and secluded enough by the forest and trees that we could forget all our worries, even for just one weekend.
Chiapas Media Project

Zapatistas use films as another means of resistance

By Diana Layton, Staff Reporter
Diana.Layton@csumb.edu

"Everybody is responsible for what these people are going through," said Linda Lopez CSUMB senior.

Lopez attended the Chiapas Media Project's showing of three documentaries on Tuesday, May 4. The documentaries, shown in the University Center Living Room, tell the stories and struggles of the Zapatista communities in Southern Mexico.

The flyers around campus describe the Chiapas Media Project as "a bi-national partnership that provides video equipment, computers and training, enabling marginalized indigenous communities in Southern Mexico to create their own media."

More simply stated, this organization is providing a means for the people of Chiapas, Mexico to tell their own stories in their own way.

Chiapas is the southern-most state in Mexico, bordered by the Pacific Ocean to the south, Guatemala to the east, and Oaxaca and Veracruz to the west. It is one of the richest states in terms of natural resources, but many of its indigenous people are among the poorest in Mexico.

Leon Gomez and Sara Villagrana, both CSUMB students, went to Chiapas, Mexico as part of a delegation through the Mexico Solidarity network.

Villagrana, a sophomore in HCOM, explained, "It's one thing to hear about what's going on there, but it's a whole other experience to go and live it. It opens your eyes when you see it at work, and you realize that you really can make a difference."

"We wanted to see what we could learn from the movement and apply it here in the U.S.," said Gomez.

Gomez and Villagrana are referring to the Zapatista movement, which is an ongoing struggle of the indigenous people in Southern Mexico. The Zapatistas are fighting "a war on the Mexican government and neo-liberalism, a system of power and privilege," explained Gomez.


Free Trade allows corporations to locate their factories in Mexico where they can exploit cheap labor, paying workers unfair wages. NAFTA also removes the penalty tariffs for these corporations to sell their finished products in the American markets.

The Zapatistas refer to NAFTA as "a death sentence for indigenous people," said Gomez.

When NAFTA was initiated, it basically reversed the rights given to indigenous people through Article 27 of the Mexican constitution. These rights that the Mexican people fought for in the Revolution of 1917 guarantee equal land distribution to the people of Mexico.

Zapata fought for the rights of the indigenous people of Mexico against the dictatorship of Porfirio Diaz, who sold Mexico to imperialist interests.

He also fought for the article in the constitution that would secure equal distribution of land to poor agrarians.

The Zapatistas are fighting to take back these rights, and promote fair trade.

The Chiapas Media Project was created because "there was a need for indigenous people to document human rights abuses and other issues in the community," Gomez explained.

During the question and answer period following the documentaries, many students asked questions such as, "What does this have to do with us?" and "What can we do to help?"

What this has to do with us, said Gomez, is that "our consumption in the U.S. coupled with our governmental policies are in many ways responsible for conditions in Chiapas and the rest of the so-called third world."

The first step toward helping, said Gomez, "is understanding how we as Americans, in our purchases and lifestyles, effect people all over the world."

"We can become advocates for the cause by educating others and setting an example through our actions and purchases," agreed Lopez.

The Zapatistas are often pictured wearing bandanas over their faces. The covering of the face "symbolizes that the movement is not fought by any one person, but by a community," explained Gomez.

CHIAPAS continued on page 17

A mural of a woman in Oventic, the Zapatista community in Chiapas, Mexico, one of five main centers of the Zapatista organization. Women are an essential component in the Zapatista movement.

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In the main quad Cinco de Mayo a CSUMB student plays a soccer game of sorts with a water balloon attached to her shoe lace.

Cinco de Mayo

Those present claim the smoke from the ceremonial burning of sage set off the smoke alarms.

The elaborate feathering in the Aztec dancers' headpieces and their ceremonial attire made it very difficult to become distracted at any point during their performance. The spectators were drawn into their dances, tapping their feet in unison to the beat of the drums.

Olin, CSUMB's folklorico dance group, preceded the keynote speaker, Dr. Ray Gonzales, Spanish professor and director of ASAP, as he explained the significance of the celebration by stating that Cinco de Mayo is "an accidental holiday" in the United States. Cinco de Mayo is not as widely celebrated in Mexico as it is in this country.

Cinco de Mayo is the commemoration of the battle of Puebla that took place in Mexico in 1862, in which the people of Mexico united to defeat occupation by the French troops under the command of Napoleon III.

Cinco de Mayo is not the celebration of independence from France, as some students believe. Cinco de Mayo is the commemoration of a very important battle in the history of Mexico; they would defeat France many years after. The Mexican Independence Day, celebrated on September 16, is the commemoration of Miguel Hidalgo's cry for freedom in 1810 that was the onset of the war for independence from Spain.

Leon Gomez, co-chair of M.E.Ch.A., explained in a radio interview conducted at Studio CSUMB by Jennifer Lucia, that Cinco de Mayo is the "remembrance of an event of resistance to occupation and resistance to oppression."

However, Cinco de Mayo generates an enormous advertising outburst for beer companies. Every year, viewers are bombarded with beer commercials commemorating this event, merely for profit. Gomez urges, "Cinco de Mayo has a lot more of a historical significance than the commercialization that a lot of us are exposed to."

Dr. Tomas Sandoval, assistant professor in the Chicano/o Studies Department, concurs that this event "has become much more commercial" than when he was a student at UC Berkeley.

For Daisy Zavala, a junior and SBS major, Cinco de Mayo gives her "a sense of pride in being Mexican, because the people fighting in Puebla were able to defeat one of the best military forces at the time – the French – using only machetes and sticks."

The weapons used by the French were far more at an advantage, but the Mexican army, who was mostly composed of peasants, persevered and was victorious.

According to Dr. Gonzalez, Semana e la Raza is "an expression of cultural awareness and presence. It began in college campuses in the sixties, as students were trying to express their appreciation of their culture."

Semana de la Raza is a weeklong series of events that encompass the unification of all the diverse races of CSUMB and the Chicano community, including the celebration of Cinco de Mayo.

The week's event ranged from musicians such as Flojos Nos Visten, Para La Gente, Vertigo, and La Banda Guanajuatense. The "Lunada" took place in the Main Quad following the Cinco de Mayo performances. Booths included Mexican Flower Art, a Mexican Theme Picture Booth, Loteria, and a Balloon Popping Match.

However, the highlight of the night was the breaking of the Piñatas, even more so than the live band. Students crowded the tree in front of Building 6, as they enthusiastically tore apart three piñatas. Once a piñata was broken students piled one on top of another in a frantic search for the treats inside them. Once the night's fun was over, all participants made sure to clean up after themselves.

According to Nallely Gutierrez, co-chair of M.E.Ch.A., and the multicultural senate for Associated Students, this event incorporates all the races within its festivities, and she considers it "important for all of us to come together as a human group."
Attention bronzed bods of CSUMB! There are risks and alternatives to using a tanning bed to achieve a deep, golden tan of the tropics to your skin.

When choosing tanning methods other than simply being outdoors, there are options other than different types of tanning beds: gels, creams, and sprays, and yes, the good ol’ sun.

The most popular and most common method is the tanning bed, because it is found in the majority of tanning salons and provides quick results on most skin types.

Kristina Kendrick, HCOM freshman uses tanning beds because she is “in search of a perfect tan.”

Jessica Watson, ESSP freshman said, “The benefits for me in tanning in a bed are that I can control how much I tan and don’t have to worry about frying. Also, it is a quick and easy way to get an even base tan.”

The beds in tanning salons are generally clamshell-like beds. The tan seeker lays down on a Plexiglas surface as lights from above and below reach the body. It takes a daily tanning commitment to achieve a full tan. (Even though it’s informational, I would think it’s common knowledge, so I think it could be cut)

“I go to the beds about five times a week. I know that is a lot, but it’s worth it,” said Kendrick. “The sun takes too long and your tan is never even on both sides,” she added.

Move over standard tanning beds, the MATRIX, an I SO Italia brand bed, is the current rage in tanning bed technology, claiming to provide 360-degree coverage, eliminating the need to twist and turn in tanning beds, and nearly cutting tanning time in half.

The tanning salons college students are flocking to these days for quick tans are adding to the risk of developing malignant melanoma, a potentially deadly form of skin cancer.

The lights beaming the skin in many older tanning devices used light sources that gave off short wave ultraviolet rays (UVB) that actually caused burning, according to the Health.net Web site. Some eventually switched to a bed that emits mostly long wave (UVA) light sources that are claimed by tanning bed manufactures as rays that are less likely to cause burning than UVB rays, but are still suspected to have links to malignant melanoma cancer.

A study in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute found that women that reported going to tanning salons at least once a month were 55 percent more likely than other non-tanners to be diagnosed with malignant melanoma.

The alternatives to tanning beds are self-applied creams and gels that run the risk of leaving a streaky tan from the hands of the applicant, but there are products such as Estee Lauder’s Go Bronze Self-Action Tinted Self-Tanner, or TanShops Tanner Maker lotion that claim to be streak free.

Hollywood has begun to push the doors of the tanning bed close and step into the world of spray on tans, and making this harmless tan popular amongst those who tan.

The mystic spray on tan is applied in a booth with specially designed nozzles, which spray the customer with a completely even sunless tan that last up to five days.

According to Mystican.com, the spray “insures uniform coverage over the entire body, which our proprietary sunless tanning solution instantly transforms into a quick natural-looking tan that continues to darken throughout the day.” This tanning method is now making its way into tanning salons around the country.

What about the good ol’ sun? Has that disappeared?

Hanako Wood, ESSP senior, said, “While I do tan while I’m hiking, it’s usually unintentional.”

Rebecca Wilner a Liberal Studies sophomore is averse to tanning beds. “Tanning beds only leave me orange and streaky, so I tan in the grass outside the dorms.”

Whether a bed, creams, lotion, gels, sprays, the MATRIX, or the sun, there are many ways to achieve that desirable summer look. Know your options and look good.
The Big O

Friends with Benefits

On an unusually dull night while alone in your room, your cell phone rings.

It’s your ex.

“What’s up, baby?” he asks.

“Nothing,” you say. “What are you doing?” It is the familiar banal conversation that reminds you why you are not still together.

“Wanna watch a movie?” he finally gets to the point. But you know what he really means. In fact, it has become a recognized code between the two of you, which, you are all too happy to hear.

When you arrive, the house is dark; his roommates are asleep or out, or holed up in their room. As you allow yourself to be embraced in his arms and his smell, you notice his hair is still a little wet. He’s freshly showered and oddly you have a fresh attraction to him tonight, at least physically.

You start to watch “Once Upon a Time in Mexico,” but between Salma Hayek’s gyrations and the gun fighting you begin to feel his hand creeping up your back. As it works its way back down to the new thong you put on, both of you know it is time to reap the rewards of your newly defined relationship.

You are no longer boyfriend and girlfriend and you most certainly aren’t just friends. You are friends with benefits.

But what defines a “friendship plus a little extra” and who exactly gets to make the rules?

One beneficial friend I know steadfastly believes the most important part of a friendship with benefits is a mutual understanding and agreement of the terms. Most notably, the acknowledgement that the purpose of the relationship is “hooking up” or sex, rather than emotional stimulation and fulfillment, is key to a successful beneficial “friends with benefits” relationship.

But what if you are most physically attracted to someone who stimulates your emotion or intellect? Can you simply have a relationship based around sex, if those other factors are involved, I ask.

Most certainly, this friend believes, but you just can’t expect a commitment other than a good, or at least satisfying, lay.

From the mouth of a babe. (This is odd...)
Organic, soy, kosher? They both got 'em!
Trader Joes and Albertsons are grocery stores from different sides of the cart.
Amber Newman, a vegetarian Liberal Studies senior had this to say about Albertsons: "Albertsons is all huge, flourescent, and abnoxious place!"
According to their Web site, their vision states, "Albertsons is a unified team of associates obsessed with creating the world's number one food and drug retailer in the areas of market value, scale, profitability, customer service and associate satisfaction."
On the other hand, Trader Joe's does not have a similar vision. As stated on the Trader Joe's Web site, "At Trader Joe's, our mission is to bring all our customers the best food and beverage values to be found anywhere, and the information to make informed buying decisions." They add, "Our buyers travel the world searching for new items; we work with a variety of suppliers who make interesting products for us, many of them exclusive to Trader Joe's."
"I love the huge selection of alternative, organic, environmentally friendly foods that I find at Trader Joe's," said Newman. All of the Trader Joe's products have their own angle: vegetarian, Kosher, organic, and all made with minimally processed ingredients.
Bernice Esbit, a vegetarian SBS junior said, "Trader Joe's has much cheaper tofu, soymilk and other non-meaty products vs. veggies like..."
Trader Joe's adds, "Whenever possible we buy direct from manufacturers, in large volume. We bargain hard and manage our costs carefully."
Richard Innocenti, graduate student in the teaching credential program pronounced, "I hate the S.O.B. chain store, mutha f--- attitude and gouging prices found at Albertsons."
Albertsons and Trader Joe's are different because, one is a place where a shopper can do everything on his daily list of chores and the other is for buying groceries.
The Albertsons Web site states, "Albertsons offers a design that incorporates several 'stores within a store.' The design is based on the needs of today's busy shopper." This "store within a store" offers a Better Care Center for over-the-counter and prescription medications. In addition, they offer baby care and pet care products, as well as meals-to-go, in-store banks, video rentals, film developing, fresh flowers and wine stewards.
Laurel Schmolze a TMAC senior says, "I go to Albertsons because it is convenient, but I prefer the products I can find at Trader Joe's."
Trader Joe's offers organic and imported beef with no hormones, frozen chickens raised without hormones and antibiotics, not to mention herbs and supplements.
Jainesh Singh, a business major said, "Personally I can care less, and I say make and hunt your own food."
The buyer looking for gluten-free products, kosher, soy foods, sodium-free products, and no genetically engineered products (a set of biotechnology processes used to transfer the genetic material from one source to another) will find those products at Trader Joe's. A buyer looking for corporate name brand products like soda, chips, beer, and ice cream, should look no further than Albertsons.
As stated in the Trader Joe's Web site, "Our future plans call for on-going development of new, one-of-a-kind food items at value prices, and continued expansion of our chain across the country."
The Albertsons hope for the future is, according to their Web site, "We want to be the biggest grocery store, and as of now we are the second largest food-drug retailer in the nation."
Each has something to offer, but one cares about being the biggest and the other cares about selling one-of-a-kind products for less. The choice falls into the hands of the cart pusher. Take your pick.
Are you going to throw that away?

By Matthew Fox, Staff Reporter
Matt_Fox@csumb.edu

Emily Wentz found her masterpiece in a Chicago alleyway where she first encountered the dilapidated ten-inch TV.

Wentz was one of three winners who split the cash prize of $100 from a recycled art exhibit held in the University Center at CSUMB. Alexandra Moore, a VPA major, put on the event for earth week on April 23.

A number of different students entered their recycled art renditions. Students turned trash into treasure as they let their imagination go to work on anything from old buoys, rope, electrical wire, bottles, tennis balls, jack in the box french fry wrappers, rusted pieces of metal, and just about anything one could possibly think of.

Moore came up with the idea for a recycled art exhibit because of her appreciation for art and her belief in recycling.

"I wanted to give the students a chance to show their work, and I am a firm believer in sustainability and recycling," Moore said.

Another reason Moore put on the exhibit was her work experience. "I used to work at the dump and just seeing things that get thrown away that don't need to be - that really opened my eyes," said Moore.

In our area, the 475-acre Monterey Peninsula Landfill, located in Marina off Del Monte Rd., takes in about 220,000 tons of trash a year. That's about 750 tons per day. Last Chance, the dump's salvage shop, only saves a small portion of the remains.

The recycled art exhibit opened in the late afternoon and went on for a couple hours. People wandered in and out throughout the event, stopping for the refreshments and to look at the recycled art.

Marina Ots, TAT major, came to see the art exhibit and found it a pleasant surprise. "It's really cool; I was expecting something much grosser. I was in a documentary class, and someone interviewed a guy who made art out of road kill. This was not disgusting it's just kind of cool."

Michelle Gossman and Mike Pinkerton were the other two winners of the recycled art competition. "Mine was for VPA Ways of Seeing," Gossman said when asked about the motivation behind her design. "Our teacher wanted us to sell a product. I used old magazine pictures, and I wanted to visually make cool shapes. I'll add stuff to it when I get more things that spark thoughts," she said.

Pinkerton's creation was titled "Wooden Dreams." He carved a scene on an old piece of wood of a detailed tree with waves crashing in the background. The lacquer and precision of the piece exemplified Pinkerton's skill and talent.

Jose Ramirez from Hartnell community college came specifically for the recycled art exhibit and a poetry reading.

"If we keep cutting trees down they will end up like that, in test tubes," said Ramirez as he pointed to one of the art pieces that featured trees inside of bottles titled A rose created from, well, junk for the recycled art exhibit held April 23 in celebration of earth week.

"I wanted to give the students a chance to show their work, and I am a firm believer in sustainability and recycling."

-ALEXANDRA MOORE

The Low Down

Tuesday, May 18
Master of Arts in Education: Meeting House, 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Wednesday, May 19
Teacher Education: UC Ballroom, 4 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Thursday, May 20
Information Technology and Communications Design, Building 18, Room 116, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Social and Behavioral Sciences: Music Hall, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Business Administration, Building 82A, Room 115, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Service Learning — Spotlight on Service: UC Living Room, 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Master of Science in Management and Information Technology, Building 18, Room 116, 5 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Friday, May 21
Human Communication, UC Conference Rooms, 5 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Information Technology and Communications Design, Building 18, Room 116, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Social and Behavioral Sciences: Music Hall, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Global Studies, Meeting House, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Earth Systems Science & Policy, UC Living Room, 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Liberal Studies, Building 15, Room 122, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Business Administration, Building 82A, Room 115, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.
World Languages and Cultures, Building 45, Room 116, 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Collaborative Health and Human Services, Building 860, Room 120, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Tele-dramatic Arts and Technology, World Theater, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. 7 p.m. - 11 p.m.
Visual and Public Art, Building 71, 72 and BBC, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Integrated Studies Special Major, Music Hall, 6:30 p.m. - 10 p.m.
McTaggart to celebrate a decade of loyalty

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

Lt. Jay McTaggart is reaching his 10-year anniversary this Aug. 12; he is one of the founding members of the University Police Department.

"When I transferred to CSUMB I was working out of a rented office building and the school didn't have a name yet," McTaggart said. "We had three police officers and one secretary."

McTaggart is witness to the ever so constant transformations CSUMB has experienced through the last decade. He expressed his interest in wanting to be a part of something new, something he could cultivate and be proud of.

While sitting in his office with pictures of his beautiful daughter sitting to the side of me, he talked about numerous aspects of his job and his learned appreciation of the serene lifestyle the Monterey area offers, which he admits was not one of the deciding factors for his transfer from southern California.

McTaggart came to CSUMB from CSU Northridge Police Department, already having a good understanding of a University Police Department. He said he did not take this job for a change of scenery or a job promotion like most people.

"I knew the CSU was still in their planning phase and I wanted to be a part of a new imprint in the development," McTaggart said. "I wanted to leave a mark."

He admits that when he first moved to this area it was too rural for him and he would travel down south to visit. "It's the opposite now. I don't like to go to L.A.; it's too busy. I like it here now; it's less crowded, prettier, slower, not as hectic and frantic," he said.

McTaggart believes his best experience at CSUMB was "hiring [the students] to work for Transportation and Parking Services (TAB) and Community Service Officers (CSO). I've hired over one hundred students; they are amazing, great people."

He says with a smile, "I've worked with outstanding, good caliber students, not just academically, but also their maturity and interpersonal skills."

When asked what changes he has noticed since serving CSUMB, he said, "The early days were fun; everything was new. It was about getting things accomplished. Now it seems more bureaucratic."

Asked what he thought about the new apartments? "Well putting everything aside, regarding the moving issues, I think it will be nice to bring the students closer to the heart of the school, and it's also just across the street from the BBC where most students get together and hang out," McTaggart said.

McTaggart has surely been a great asset to the CSUMB community, bringing previous knowledge of a CSU Police Department and implementing his own ideas to guide ours into the right direction. He has been, and continues to be, a vital component in making CSUMB a safe environment.

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

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American Lung Association Central Coast / CAMP
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jappelbaum@alacoast.org

This material is made possible with funds received from the Tobacco Tax Health Protection Act of 1989 - Prop. 96, through the California Department of Health Services, under Grant No. 00-60369, administered by IPHE Management Solutions.

Chiapas

"This is a culture with a collective ideology," he continued. "They believe everything every person does has an effect on every other person."

Gomez believes that we need to take a closer look at the effect of our own actions. "If we are the least bit serious about issues of democracy, human rights, and freedom, we should pay attention to the results of our actions."

Gomez is also selling fair trade textiles and clothing made by a Zapatista woman. All proceeds benefit the cause. Students who wish to get more involved can apply for internships with the Chiapas Media Project.

For more information visit www.chiapasmediaproject.org, or contact Leon Gomez via FirstClass.
Park Patrol: a solution to vandalism or a “bad idea?”

Proposal to stop light breaking

Submitted by Heather Church
As you may or may not be aware, we have had an enormous increase in vandalism to our lights throughout the parks in Frederick Park. This problem has been getting progressively worse each week. We have literally spent thousands upon thousands of dollars replacing broken lights and fixtures just in the past two months alone.

We at Alliance would like to propose designating specific park hours. i.e.: All park areas and back sidewalks would be off limits between the hours of 9 p.m. – 7 a.m. We feel that by doing this, it would allow UPD to approach anyone in the park areas and site them as deemed appropriate. Ultimately, we hope and anticipate that by designating park hours, much of the vandalism will cease.

Please share your thoughts with me in regards to this matter.
I look forward to your reply.
Respectfully,

Heather Church,
Operations Manager Schoonover/Frederick Parks Alliance Residential Co.

One student’s argument against Alliance’s solution

Submitted by James Green
Regarding the issue of broken lights in the parks and back sidewalks as outlined:

This is indeed a serious issue, and needs to be addressed, but I don’t think placing parks and back sidewalks “off limits,” as suggested, would solve the problem. Respectfully, I offer some of my thoughts and opinions on this issue:

- Placing parks and back sidewalks “off limits” would be unenforceable without a lot more police patrols and perhaps hiring more police dedicated to this one task as well. Many of the parks and back sidewalks are not visible from roadways, which would mean that police would have to conduct foot and/or bike patrols on a frequent basis in order to catch those “violating” the off limits curfew.

- The shortest routes are often through parks and these back sidewalks. It’s not realistic to expect that pedestrians, cyclists and other people will take a much longer path simply because the parks and back sidewalks are “off limits.”

- Placing such large areas off limits would be oppressive to the rights of those who live and visit there.

- Many of those who would be caught “violating” the off limits curfew would be innocents who were simply passing through or innocently enjoying the night in the parks.

- I believe a better solution to the issue of broken lights is to design light fixtures that can’t be broken as easily as current designs. I’ve thought about this issue and I have some thoughts on the matter, and even a few possible design ideas in my head. I’m sure that more stable designs can be thought up by others, and perhaps are already available commercially. Perhaps a light that can’t be easily broken by a drunk hoodlum might be more expensive than one of the current fragile lights, but they would pay for themselves over time in that they wouldn’t need to be replaced all the time.

Conclusion:
I think placing parks off limits is a very bad idea.

The solution may lie in much sturdier lights than in curtailing freedoms.

Respectfully submitted,
James Thomas Green

This is your school, stop the vandalism!

Submitted by Chareea Batiste
Call me crazy, but I just don’t get vandalizing and trashing the place you call home, especially when it costs thousands of dollars to live there.

As a resident of 211, I have seen the building go from brand new, to worn out in less than a year. Here are just a few examples of what I am talking about. Someone took the great honor to rip parts of the ceiling going along the whole first floor hallway. Every time the RA puts up a calendar display in the common room, it gets torn down and trashed.

The couches in the common room have been ripped so that you can now see the stuffing inside. The window to the entrance of the building has been broken because someone decided to throw a rock through it. Residents have forgotten how to use trash cans, and they don’t even bother throwing items away. Now some students just leave their garbage, half eaten food, and used condoms lying outside of their door. Not to mention the huge goopy junk of unidentified brown substance that has now appeared on the carpet by the mailboxes. What the heck is going on?

It is not a requirement that students have to keep their rooms immaculate. How you live in your own room is your own business. However, it’s disgusting walking down the hallway and finding any and every kind of substance lying on the floor. And it’s embarrassing when you bring your parents or visitors to a building that looks like garbage.

Yes, we have wonderful janitors who come and clean the hallways, but do you think they enjoy seeing the mess that students make? The janitors here are humans like we are and we should treat them with decency and respect. We all have trashcans in our rooms. If you are done with your food, throw your plate away. Don’t leave it outside for the cleaning department to pick up. That’s just plain rude.

As the school year comes to an end, I hope that students will take what I have written into future consideration. Hopefully next semester, the residents of the dorms will become more respectful of the property they live in. Take pride in your school! We’re not in high school anymore, so let’s stop acting like it.
Editorial: Whose campus is this, anyway?

It’s not just about the view or the noise. No. The reason the Otter Realm feels betrayed by President Smith’s choice to place executive offices in the new library is because his decision clearly undermines the voices of concerned CSUMB students, faculty and staff.

College campuses generally float around the term “shared governance,” which means the student senate, academic bodies and staff organizations along with the presidential cabinet “share” campus decisions.

In the case of the new library, the Associated Students, Academic Senate and the Library Steering Committee all opposed the re-design of the library’s top floor yet the decision was finalized without hesitation.

President Smith did not ignore campus concerns per say. Smith was quoted in the Monterey Herald’s April 29 article “Room with a View” saying, “I can’t suggest that there aren’t people who aren’t happy with this decision. There are, but at the end of the day we’ve got to keep making this place better and stronger.”

Alright, so who is benefiting from executive offices being placed in the library? Obviously, the handful of top administrators at CSUMB will enjoy the view (and their friends too). Supposedly, if they didn’t place the offices on top of the library then a whole other building would have to be constructed for them. Thus, the university will be saving some money with this fiasco, ah-hem, scenario.

But guess what, libraries are designed for students and so was this one, originally. It may make financial sense to have the offices there but it doesn’t make academic sense—study space sacrificed for executive legroom, student tranquility for cabinet meetings with a view.

Smith says in the above-mentioned article that “this decision has to make long-term sense for the community and rise above concerns of the moment.”

Hmm...Does this mean that if the campus has a major problem with something now that it shouldn’t matter because what’s at stake here is the future?

Well, the Otter Realm thinks that opposition by virtually every other governing body on campus should be enough to change policies, short-sighted or not. Student and faculty senates were created to keep balance on this university and although they are currently still in advisory capacity, we feel that their resolutions should be taken more seriously.

By unilaterally placing the executive offices in the library, President Smith has sent the message to the CSUMB community that its opinions don’t matter, but “hey, thanks for the input.” From what just occurred, the defiant voice of the campus is not enough to overturn administrative decisions.

And what is going to stop Smith and his cabinet from disregarding shared governance in the future? We feel sorry for the next wave of CSUMB students.

Prisoners prioritized, students marginalized

Submitted by Breonna Tiffany

A few nights ago, I had to call my parents and tell them how much they needed to pay for my next semester. Then I had to listen to a half hour tirade about how it keeps getting more expensive for them to send me to school.

Normally I would have just rolled my eyes and waited for them to stop, but this time I understood.

The school has raised its prices yet again. It has done so every single semester since I’ve been going to school here. If this continues, there may not be many more semesters in my college education at my cheap little state-funded school. Well, it’s supposed to be state-funded.

It seems like there is less and less funding available for our school and who knows how many other schools. So what is the state spending its money on?

The answer of course is countless things, but during my fiscal research I found an interesting fact: the state of California spends more money per year on prisoners than they do on students. Billions more according to the California Budget listed on the California state web page.

While inmates are on death row, they are offered the luxury of a FREE education. According to the San Quintin Penitentiary, inmates can earn degrees while working and writing on pictures of art. For what? They’re going to die anyways. Why does a prisoner condemned to die need a brand new book, but students can use four-year-old books that are falling apart. Doesn’t this seem backwards to anyone else?

In terms of societal hierarchy and community welfare, where are the state’s priorities? Statistically, highly educated people do not end up in prison. This is a proven statistic. They do not make the types of mistakes that create burdens on society or they have enough money to fund a really good lawyer. They have a greater knowledge base to make better-informed decisions.

It’s these decisions that give them the advantage and edge and keeps them from prisons. So, from a financial point of view, it is more practical to spend the money on colleges and education to ensure that the money is going towards preventing crime rather that just trying to keep up with it.

Why won’t our state invest in our schools? We, the students at these schools are the future, not the felons in the penitentiaries. California needs to invest in its future.
Against the grain: artist reflects on inspiration

By Matthew Fox, Staff Reporter
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Besides making art and having esoteric knowledge, like the quadratic equation, Emily Wentz is into philosophy, do-it-yourself (DIY) punk culture, and making her own clothes. "I like a lot of the mentality of DYI punks that go against the mainstream," said Wentz, "which can be sexist, racist, and homophobic," she added.

Wentz herself is a work in progress like some of her pieces. Her hair has seen "every color you can think of," as she put it. Right now it is half black on the left side and half bleached white on the other. Her friend says it looks like Cruella Deville's hair from 101 Dalmatians.

She also makes her own clothes. Her jean jacket has taken two years to make so far. The jacket is covered with patches from bands and silver studded pyramids and other punk accessories.

This punk rock artist is a freshman, and is undecided in her major. When working on art, she says she doesn't start with an idea, she just begins a piece and lets her hands take over. "I'm an addict," she said. "I like to make things." Wentz's latest project is a series of old make-up mirrors and compacts that she has painted and pasted a variety of different pills on, which she plans on framing. She agreed the piece would have the meaning that make-up is addicting, but she didn't start with any particular idea in mind.

"Maybe I am manifesting subconscious desires through my work," said Wentz.

Her projects are works in progress like a TV she has had for a couple of years. She recently entered the TV into the recycled art fair and tied for first place. The TV still sits in her room next to a skull with a candle melted on top.

How do you feel about President Smith getting his office on the fourth floor of the new library?

Patricia Poston
SOPHOMORE - TAT

"I think his office is a waste of money. We should use that money on books. Isn't that what a library is for?"

Alex Bodine
FRESHMAN - TAT

"We should put the library on the roof of his office."

Lauren Gamblin
JUNIOR - LS

"It's our library, what the hell is he doing there? We're the ones studying, not him."

Kyle Sullivan
SOPHOMORE - TBA

"As long as I have some cocktails with him in his new office, I'm fine with it."