President Smith resigns

By Alex Chapman, News Editor

Founding CSUMB president Peter Smith has resigned to take work in Europe.

"I'm going to miss it enormously," Smith said. "I'm going to miss the vitality. I'm going to miss the energy."

Smith has been hired as assistant director-general for education at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in Paris, France starting July 1. His departure leaves behind an influential but controversial role that affects every aspect of life at CSUMB.

"I have total executive responsibility, but I'm not sure I have control," Smith said. "I'm the chief executive officer of the campus and I'm responsible for the overall quality of life here."

While technically he could make all decisions about the campus arbitrarily, Smith said if he did, he'd "be out of a job."

"I'm what they call an at-will employee," said Smith, who answers to the governor-appointed CSU Board of Trustees. "I serve at the will of the board."

The CSUMB presidency pays Smith $207,148 annually with on-campus housing provided, according to CSU spokesperson Colleen Bentley-Adler. For the transitional year after his departure Smith will earn $157,926.

This salary places CSUMB at the low end of CSU presidential salaries, with Warren Baker, president of Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, earning $833,946 more annually including housing allowance. Smith earns less "because it's a small school," Bentley-Adler said of the salary.

The position of president involves talking about the university to the community, students, staff and faculty as well as to conferences abroad.

SMITH continued on

BOOZE continued on page 5
**News**

**Graduation rates low**

*By Alex Chapman, News Editor*

Graduation is never easy, but new reports suggest many students are less likely to graduate from CSUMB than from most schools.

CSUMB has the second to worst graduation rate of all California universities, according to the recently launched Web site College Results Online (collegeresults.org). The Web site allows simple comparison of national graduation rate data drawn from the U.S. Department of Education’s Graduation Rate Survey.

Backing College Results Online is The Education Trust, a nonprofit organization founded in 1990 with a stated mission: "to make schools and colleges work for all of the young people they serve."

The overall graduation rate at CSUMB is 30.3 percent, according to the most recent data from 2003. Demographically white and Latino males have the hardest time graduating with rates of 15 percent and 17.4 percent respectively.

Most successful at graduating are underrepresented minority females at 41.3 percent and Latino females at 43.6 percent. There is no data for African-Americans or Native American graduation rates available for CSUMB at College Results Online.

"Graduation rates have sometimes been used inappropriately to compare students and institutions and the new tool will provide more reasonable comparisons," said the president of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, which lists CSUMB as a member, in a press release for the new Web site.

The Education Trust is funded in part by the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Pew Charitable Trusts among many others.

Many on campus claim these numbers are misleading.

"It is difficult to compare public with private, large doctoral granting with small comprehensive universities," Diane Cordero de Noriega, provost and vice president for Academic Affairs said via e-mail. "Within the CSU system and within our classification, CSUMB ranks average or a little above."

Abe Abrams, Institutional and Academic Research head, said via e-mail, "caution should be used when comparing graduation rate data across schools with some consideration being the type of school, selectivity, enrollment type and size of a school."

CSU’s Division of Analytic Studies keeps its own data. CSUMB places poorly there too.

**CSUMB vs. Other CSUs**

- **CSUMB**
  - In six-year graduation rates for first-time freshmen from their campus of origin, CSUMB ranks at the bottom in the division's recent data from 2003.
  - These graduation rates, which fluctuate yearly, show for the 2002-2003 academic year CSUMB graduated 17 in 100 fewer freshmen than the CSU average and 30 in 100 fewer than frontrunner Cal Poly San Luis Obispo.
  - CSUMB isn’t denying there’s room for improvement. Carla Pew, vice provost for academic administration, said, "the campus is always seeking to increase our graduation rates."
  - "We are not satisfied with these graduation rates and we are actively taking steps to increase our numbers," said Cordero de Noriega. "These strategies include better advising and clearer pathways to the degree."

**Residential advisor shortage:**

*Free rent, benefits, no takers*

*Marian Muhammed, Staff Reporter*

Need an on-campus job, free room and board, a meal plan, plus a $100 stipend? This sounds like the job of a lifetime to most, but it’s been a hassle for Residential Life to keep residential advisor (RA) positions filled.

The main hiring process is held every spring. Due to low grades, transfers, graduation, career and educational opportunities, many RAs have left their jobs to pursue other endeavors. Additional hiring sessions have become necessary to fill open positions.

Not having a full staff of RAs hasn’t been “a huge impact,” said Emmalyn Yamrick, Area 1 resident director.

Several spring information sessions are held to give interested students a taste of what the job is like. There has been a “good turnout at the info sessions,” said resident director Mayra Llamas.

Interviews last two weeks. The process begins with interviews by resident directors, apartment living coordinators and finally a group interview.

RAs work from 8 a.m.-7 p.m. during their training sessions for two weeks. Each night, RAs walk through each of the buildings in their assigned area checking for misconduct.

“Every night, 10 RAs are doing rounds,” said Joshua Goin, apartment living coordinator for Frederick Park II.

RAs are responsible for putting on two programs a month, duty assignments from 5-10 p.m., where they help students check out items, answer questions and help with lockouts. The workload is “like any other student’s,” said Goin. RAs have twenty-hour weekly schedules.

Compensation includes free room and board, a $1,250 semester meal plan and $100 stipends with $300 stipends for senior RAs adding, up to approximately $4,400 per semester.

“They are compensated very well especially compared to other schools across the country,” said Yamrick.

RAs are expected to be active in their communities and be “role models” to their assigned floor or court at all times, which means no acting like stereotypical college students. “It’s a life-

A lonely service desk chair waits for an RA, currently a shortage in the dorms, to fill its void. STYLE CHOICE,” said Llamas.

A cumulative GPA of 2.5 and a semester GPA of 2.5 must be maintained by RAs. Those who fail these requirements are put on academic probation and are monitored for improvement. Students who still fail to meet the requirements are terminated.

There are currently 54 RAs and senior RAs on staff. All are separated into different areas staffed with six to 12 RAs and senior RAs each.

Though some RAs will be missed, “we want toCTION so and do better things,” Ryan McRae, Area 3 resident director said. “We’ll find someone new for the opportunity and we’ll grow again.”
Building Problems Normal

By Kimber Solana
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Flooding, leaking heaters, locks malfunctioning, elevators breaking down, and toilets clogging up may not be signs of poorly built buildings after all. Many residents of the North Quad buildings have experienced these problems.

“Our heaters keep breaking randomly and we get water leakage on the floor,” said HCOM junior Alex Davis. Davis recalled the last incident when she and her suite mates had to put a bucket under a leak to prevent another flood.

“One of my roommates actually had to move out because of the problem,” Davis said.

Along with the leakage problem, workers had to tear down the walls from two different areas of Davis’ suite. “Those times, they had to fix the pipes because they were punctured,” said Davis.

According to Andy Klingelhofer, director of Residential Life, not only are these minor problems, but also they are actually quite normal.

Niraj Dangoria, associate vice president of Campus Planning, said, “for the first year of any buildings, these things are fairly normal; it’s no different than moving in a new house.”

A planning team that included Residential Life and the contractor started working on the North Quad project about four years ago. Web Corp. was chosen as the construction company. The North Quad buildings were completed last summer right before students moved in for the fall semester.

According to Klingelhofer, landscaping was the only part of the construction that was not completed. “The construction was not rushed, the contractor would have probably wanted another month, but it was completed on time,” said Klingelhofer.

It may be a little difficult to accept this when, for the first few weeks, students had to rely on their social skills and imagination because there was nothing on their televisions. The cable wiring was not complete. Also, the kitchens of the North Quad suites only had ovens and no stovetops.

“It is a little frustrating because sometimes I want to cook my own meals and I can’t,” said WLC sophomore Paul Tabag. “I’m still waiting for Residential Life to get some stoves for us.”

In some cases, parts of the North Quad that students have thought were poorly built were actually part of the design. In the beginning of the last semester, many students found the toilets of the North Quad problematic.

“I know that many students had problems with using the toilets in the beginning of the school year because it kept clogging up on them,” said Tabag.

“The toilets were low flow for a reason; it was in order to save and conserve water,” said Klingelhofer. The residential advisors immediately posted flyers to inform the residents of the North Quad on how they could prevent clogging.

According to Dangoria, for the first year if any problems arise with the buildings the contractor is required to fix it due to a warranty. “There are safe guards in place to ensure we get a solid product,” Dangoria said. “There is always something tweaked in the first operational year.”

Dangoria said the North Quad “is an extremely well designed project.”

Even with leaking and flooding problems, Davis agreed. “Besides the leaks, I think the buildings are pretty cool,” Davis said.

AS Elections

By Annette Partida, Staff Reporter
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Here we go again. Once again it’s election time, but George W. Bush will not be on the ballot. The Associated Students (AS) elections are right around the corner. Seventeen positions, including seven chairs in the presidential cabinet and 10 chairs in the senate will be up for election.

Wendy Rutledge, staff worker for the AS election committee, stated the significance of the event. “Voting in the election is one of the most important things a student can do,” said Rutledge.

Last year CSUMB had a voter turnout of about 20 percent. Candidates have to meet criteria such as maintaining a 2.0 GPA and carrying a load of at least six units. Official candidates will be announced Feb. 17.

The candidates will hold a “Candidates Forum” in the Black Box Cabaret (BBC) on March 2 at 7:30 p.m. to promote their platforms, agendas and answer questions. Candidates can also be contacted on FirstClass.

Elected officials abide by position descriptions, the AS constitution, bylaws and standing rules. The cabinet provides student support, student-to-student advocacy, state advocacy and lobby for education funding in Sacramento.

“Students want to know where their money is being spent,” said AS president Yuri Beckelman. He has kept an open budget for all students to view.

According to Beckelman, unlike most CSU campuses, AS cabinet and senate members are elected by the popular vote. “We truly are a student voice,” he said.

The positions receive a stipend, but nothing extravagant. No company cars or business charge cards.

Beckelman has received invaluable experience in exchange for his small pay. He suggested the old ideas of white-tired politics are being replaced by officials that are composed of hip, smart students that bring with them a fresh idea for responsibility and power.

“The overall message of the AS is whatever we can do to help you succeed in academics and make campus life more accessible and enjoyable we do. That is our job,” said Beckelman, who plans on running for the presidential seat.

Voting days are March 9 in Building 27 at the Saratoga Annex in Frederick Park and on March 10 in the Student Center.

Election results will be announced March 13.
Black History Month Celebrations Continue

By Cristina Medina

Besides being the month of love, Lincoln's birthday and this year's Super Bowl, February is also the month of heavy historical context, pride, and above all justice.

Despite the trouble that the Black Student Union encountered, members such as Princess Pope, who is BSU's Public Relations and the Associated Students Upper Division Academic senator, encourages the students' presence.

"We would like to invite all CSUMB to the events, Black History Month is about civil rights, and all rights of humanity," said Pope.

Black History Month is celebrated throughout the month of February. Although half the events have passed, there are still a good portion of scheduled events which are coming up.

There were a few obstacles in the way of BSU such as funding, scheduling guest speakers, and having paperwork ready for the scheduling of events. The BSU has not received a cent from the school as of yet.

BSU Vice President Marian Muhammad declares that this matter will be taken care of shortly.

"We made a proposal for the funding; we were not put in the AS agenda, therefore we have to wait to the following meeting to see if funding will be provided," said Muhammad.

In the long run, BSU was able to get both monetary and information for the events by the National African American Coalition Politics (NAACP), which is associated with the Pro-Democracy Education Fund, and funding from the Bakewell Co.

"Black history is American history and talked about the books, Black Reconstruction and The Negro in the Revolutionary War.

At the end of the first presentation, the floor was open to discussion where former NAACP President Helen Rucker questioned students on how they valued their education and their future.

Another highlight of BHM is the arrival of Soumaya Moore and Talibah Shakir, former members of the Los Angeles Chapter of the Black Panther Party. Moore and Talibah were in the movement of assuring that women held leadership positions at every level within the Black Panther Party. Both will be speaking on Feb. 21 on the 40th year of the assassination of Malcolm X.

Other events that are through the month include "soul food" at the Dining Commons (DC) where the menu will include chicken sausage, seafood gumbo, fried rice and cabbage, and 7-Up cake.

On Feb. 25, BSU will hold its fifth annual Banquet. Tickets will be $7 for CSUMB students, $10 general and $5 for children. During the banquette, there will be a guest speaker, performers, and the CSUMB gospel choir.

Crash course in student vehicle maintenance

Amanda Folliard

Studious CSUMB automobile-owners often neglect car maintenance and suffer ill consequences.

"As a college student, car maintenance is something that is easily forgotten, but I always try to keep on it as much as possible," said undeclared sophomore Rod Hance, 22. "I try to keep my Jeep as reliable as possible."

There are six steps to maintaining a car or truck, according to automotive experts.

The first step to maintaining a vehicle is changing the oil every 3,000 miles.

"In high school I didn't change my oil as often as I should have and had to learn a hard lesson. Now I check it every 3,000 miles," said LS junior Tina Jackson, 21.

This is easy and can be done at home by purchasing three to five quarts of oil and an oil filter, which costs around $10-20, according to AutoZone specialist Joe from Prunedale. Another option for you hands-off students is to make an appointment with your neighborhood garage.

The second step is rotating the tires every 5,000 miles which will allow the tires to last longer. Sears in Salinas will rotate tires for $20-$30, the average.

The third step is keeping a clean air filter installed. The air filter can be bought at Auto Zone, Kragen or Napa auto parts store and will cost $5-$10.

The fourth step is buying and installing wiper blades at least once a year.

Wiper blades cost $3-$15 and can be purchased at Wal-Mart, Target or your neighborhood auto supply store.

The fifth step is scheduling a tune-up for the car or truck every 20,000 to 50,000 miles. During the tune up the mechanic should change all fluids, check spark plugs, check hoses and check for leaks. Midas in Salinas will schedule a tune-up for $50.

The sixth thing that needs to be done is to keep the car washed and waxed, Wax helps protect the car's paint from the elements.

Automotive experts agree following these steps will keep your automobile running smoothly.
Water shortage shocks Marina

By Paul Wetterauer, Staff Reporter

Low-flow toilets are but one indication of a water crisis on campus. Housing projects and lawsuits are squeezing an already dry campus drier.

The planned Marina Heights project will add to the reduction of scarce water supplies. It will include 1,050 new homes built across from Ord Market in Marina. Water meters indicate that the school uses very little water compared to dorms and on-campus apartments.

“The housing units use a hell of a lot more water than classrooms and labs,” said Stephen Reed, associate vice president for External Relations.

In 1994, CSUMB was expected to hold up to 25,000 students but now is only expected to reach 12,500 due to water constraints. “Eventually they understood that water was an issue,” said Reed.

The Marina Coast Water District owns a desalination plant that produces 300,000 gallons of water each day. This represents over 13 percent of the district’s water.

“Desalinated water is one of the purest forms of water you can find,” according to the Marina Coast Water District’s website. With a current capacity of 350,000 gallons a day, the plant will soon be expanded to produce 500,000 gallons a day.

In essence, the plant provides water for the entire school campus.

Booze

provides free showings of blockbuster films in the World Theater throughout each semester.

The films are usually shown on Thursday nights as an alternative to drinking. The past two movie nights have drawn full houses of 425 students per film, proof of the demand for this program.

There are not a lot of options for those who choose not to drink on campus, so we offer movies as an alternative,” said Young.

There hadn’t been any problems until the end of the fall semester when some students brought whistles to the theater, causing some rowdiness. In the beginning of the spring semester, some students started to sneak alcohol into the theaters which was never an issue in the past.

On Feb. 3 OSHA presented the film “Ray,” Young and the rest of the OSHA officers found alcohol containers on the floor that night while cleaning up the theater after the movie.

Some students rely on this event being a safe, “alcohol free zone.” Posted at the entrance of the World Theater is a sign stating “No outside foods or drinks.” Bringing in a beverage, let alone alcohol, is a disregard of the rules.

“When a few students decide to abuse alcohol during the movies it takes away from the experience of the other students,” said Katie Hernandez, OSHA president.

All members of OSHA do not want the movie night to be discontinued.

“If students continue to abuse this opportunity further discussion will take place,” Hernandez said.

Young believes that OSHA will have to keep a closer eye on the students attending movie night in order to keep this problem. Most of those involved in OSHA have figured out how to tell if someone is drinking during the movie.

“They will usually get up frequently, use the restroom often, and cause an overall disturbance during the film,” said Young.

In addition to Thursday Night Movies; OSHA occasionally has Saturday Night Movies, aimed at families that live in East Campus Housing. A few of OSHA’s notable upcoming movies include “Team America: World Police,” from the creators of “South Park” on Feb. 24, “Ferris Bueller’s Day Off” (80s dress up night) on March 3 and “The Incredibles” will be shown March 12 as the Saturday Night Family Movie.
Sports

Together with love and a good cause

By Madeline Asetyne, Staff Reporter

On the foggy morning of Sunday, Feb. 13, runners and volunteers amassed at Lover’s Point in Pacific Grove for the 20th annual “Together with Love” 5/10K race to benefit the Monterey Rape Crisis Center (MRCC).

The purpose of the race is to raise money to support the MRCC and all the programs that they offer, including a 24-hour crisis hotline, violence education and prevention programs in schools.

“I think that in promoting non violence we need to offer healthy forms of healing, and this is a chance for everyone to get together around Valentine’s Day. It’s really affirming for people who have survived violence,” said Emily Gonzales, the Director of Education and Events for the MRCC.

In the 20 years the race has been going on, it has become a Pacific Grove institution.

“There are people that have been running in it every year for all 20 years,” said Gonzales.

Participants have the option of a 5K run/walk, or the 10K run.

There are nine divisions for competitors of all ages from 8 and under to 70 and up. And since the race is always held close to Valentine’s Day, there were a significant amount of couples out running to support the cause.

New this year was a 1K kids run. The kid’s run was just for fun, and is a non-competitive way to promote healthy living and non violence.

But the race itself has become a race for competitors. To register for the race, the MRCC utilized a Web site called Active.com. The site has many different events and races available for one to register; it is like a phone book for races and events in the United States.

“Using Active.com gave us access to more runners. This year we have a certified course, and it’s a race. We get great support from the community, but it’s a way to access more runners,” said Gonzales.

Runners like CSUMB seniors Britanni Donnachie and Mandy Higi, both veterans of the Otter women’s soccer team took part in the event.

“Soccer is over, said Donnachie, “and we need to keep in shape,” added Higi. Then in stereo, they both said, “And we’re training for the Monterey Bay Half Marathon.”

“Together with Love” is the fastest growing 5/10K race in California. This year the MRCC had a record breaking turnout with more than 1,500 registered runners, and to help control the turn out, they needed volunteers.

Many CSUMB students volunteered to help on Sunday, most arriving at Lover’s Point at 7 a.m. to prepare for the race, including seven women from Theta Alpha Sigma sorority who assisted the MRCC as course monitors.

“We’re happy to be here,” said sorority member Kathleen Ramirez.

Other CSUMB volunteers found a way to knock out some service learning hours as they lent a helping hand to the community.

“Our teacher is giving service credit for us volunteering. She said they needed people, but I would have helped out even if there wasn’t service credit involved,” said Mary Alison Higi, one of the CSUMB volunteers.

The race sustains a good organization and most involved were happy to be apart of it and looking forward to next year.

“I could maybe to do the 5K walk, but I will definitely be volunteering or involved next year,” said Camille Walker, Admissions specialist at CSUMB.

Uncommon Sense

By Danrell Hiroshima, Sports Editor

Apparently, games at the Kelp Bed are the thing to do these days. At least for the raucous crowd of 1,114 that filled the gym the last time the Otters played in front of their home fans on Jan. 29.

The men’s basketball team has been repaying the fans by pulling major upsets as spectators continue breaking attendance records and students scramble for the best seats. Not even the Cal Poly Pomona Broncos (tied for first in the CCAA) had enough in the tank that cold January night, to overcome the men’s team with the strength of a record-breaking crowd behind them.

The 1,114 fans who witnessed the Otters shock the Broncos 54-53 broke an earlier record of 1,043 set on the night of a stunning OT victory over Chico on Dec. 3. Promotions like free pizza and free tickets have provided initial incentives for students to come out to games, but to the delight of their supporters, the play of the team has become the main attraction.

At home the men’s team is 4-2 in conference play, and seemingly, as the crowds get bigger, so do the wins. As a result, the Otter faithful are learning to get to the Kelp Bed early for basketball games this season.

With the next four games all at home, CSUMB students have a few more chances to be a part of the biggest crowds their little gym has ever seen. And, with a rabid swarm of Otter fans lurking in the Kelp Bed, CSUMB might just have a few more underdog heroes up their sleeves. Apparently, it’s the thing to do to do these days.

This Kelp Bed crowd of 1,114 broke the attendance record in January. This Friday’s games will feature free pizza for the first 200 fans in attendance, as well as 100 free tickets from Papa Murphy’s available at the AS office, first come, first serve. Complimentary tickets for this Saturday’s games are being handed out to all OBC customers starting Thursday at noon.
Righting the ship

By Darrell Hirashima, Sports Editor
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After a slow start and a rocky mid-road, the Otters (3-18, 0-14 CCAA) struggle onward to the finish line. But what the hell are they gonna do… Quit?

"I could just never quit," said sophomore gunner Natalie Franka. "It's just the desire for basketball, just to keep playing."

Our effort as a team."

Junior shooting guard Tes Soracco added to Moore's sentiment, "When you play as a team, everything else comes together."

Throughout the season the Otters have had difficulty defending penetration, finding good rebounding position, and producing quality shots for their top scorers. These problems can not be alleviated by teamwork alone, but it is a good place to start. Although individual fundamentals of defense, rebounding and shooting are paramount to any basketball player, in order to win at a high level, even the greatest players need four other skilled and determined teammates on the floor who've got his or her back.

CSUMB will try to put those components together this weekend in order to pull an upset or two in front of the home fans at the Kelp Bed. First, against the Cal State San Bernardino Coyotes (16-6, 9-5) Friday, Feb. 19 at 5:30 p.m., then on the next night at same time against the UC San Diego Tritons (13-8, 9-5). For their part, the Otters intend to get the most out of every game.

"Everything is a learning experience," said Soracco. "You have to stay positive, or it's just a waste of time."

Hang Up Your Skates?

By Josh Warren, Staff Reporter
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According to Christine Diorio, a representative from the University Village project, there was a "needs assessment" on the roller hockey rink at a recent Marina city meeting.

"Over 400 people showed up to the meeting dressed in hockey jerseys to support Water City," she said.

From that meeting, she explained that the city sees there is a need for roller hockey in the community. However, because the rink's current location is on land only available for parks and recreation use, the city may feel it is not the best place for the building.

"If considered to be removed, the rink will be replaced and relocated to another place," said Diorio.

From Tanous' point of view, the city would turn the rink "into a park after construction is done."

Although the idea of closing the rink is very strong in the air, Tanous is very encouraged by what he is hearing from the city and city council.

"The meeting was a success," he said.

Tanous strongly expressed that after one successful city meeting, it is still important for the community to continue to come out and attend the city meetings and show support.

A mandate will be given within six to nine months on whether the Water City Roller Hockey rink stays or goes.

C.A.M.P.~C.O.U.G.H. CLUB

Would like to thank CSU Monterey Bay for implementing the 25-Foot Smoking Policy!
Coalition meetings in the Library 5-7pm Tuesdays!
Come Join the Fun!!

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Winter Event on February 14th, 2005.
Quit Kits are available in Health Center See Flo Miller!!
Interested in CAMP contact Julie Dustin at 373-7306x18 or jdustin@alacostcoast.org

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Otters look to shock Coyotes, Tritons

By Mike Lewis, Staff Reporter
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Otter Men’s Basketball stood alone, undefeated in the CCAA. Rivalry, the previous statement only held true through Jan. 8, when the Otters (9-12, 6-8 CCAA) were defeated by Sonoma State. They do want to let you know however, that’s completely all right.

The Otters will have the advantage of playing at home on Feb. 18 vs. the Cal State San Bernardino Coyotes (16-4, 11-3) and Feb. 19 vs. the UC San Diego Tritons (10-11, 6-8), when CSUMB attempts to get back on the winning track. The Otters have impressive wins over some of the top teams in the conference, including a one point victory over division nemesis Cal Poly Pomona on Jan. 29.

On Jan. 15, the Otters were defeated by the Coyotes 78-69 in a game that featured only one block for CSUMB’s entire team. The Otters’ seemingly depleted offense scored fewer points than the Coyotes despite more shot attempts, and was less efficient on the boards.

“They were rested,” Trumbo said of San Bernardino in the loss. “There were many factors. They were fresh, Devoughn Lamont got into early foul trouble and they have a guy in Eddings that is hard to stop.”

Trendell Eddings of San Bernardino is seventh in the league in scoring with 15.3 ppg. He also torched the Otters with 28 points in 38 minutes of play in their last meeting.

Senior Carlos Arroyo said of Eddings, “We’ve just gotta stay in front of him, and hope that he misses. Hopefully he misses here (the Kelp Bed); in his gym he’s lights out.”

Conversely, the Otters defeated UC San Diego 87-82 in their last meeting. Although the Otters deftly handled the Tritons early in the contest, it wasn’t pretty the whole game.

“Our problem was that the game was too up-tempo. We’re gonna slow it down next time,” said Lamont, a junior center, referring to San Diego’s attempt at a late rally. San Diego was able to cut the final lead down to five points in the end of a losing effort to the Otters.

“We can’t let them spread us out,” Trumbo said, referring to the Tritons tricky 2-3 zone defense which is difficult to permeate.

Otter Senior Night is scheduled for Feb. 26 when the Otters play their last home game – the seniors’ last game ever in the Kelp Bed – against the Golden Eagles of Cal State Los Angeles. Seniors, Brian Bisno, Will Brown, Desean Walton, Azman Walker, John Lapachet, and Carlos Arroyo will be honored on the night.

Will Brown checks his traction, but doesn’t need to check if his teammates have his CSUMB’s newest team takes the plunge

By Paul Deciduo, Staff Reporter
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This semester, the women’s water polo team is diving head first into intercollegiate competition as a brand new program. But the Athletic Department’s new baby will have to grow up fast in order to face the challenges ahead.

The program, which only started in August, is a member of the NCAA Division II and will compete in the Western Water Polo Association (WWPA).

“The girls have endured lots of sacrifice and are improving as a team,” said head coach Gary Figueroa. Figueroa, who previously coached at Salinas High School, will be joined this season by assistant coach Sherrie Vigneau on the bench.

One atypical challenge for some of these athletes is not having played a sport for up to three years, and now suddenly competing in Div. II. According to junior captain Kelli Lyons, they “have been struggling to simply get into shape.” But she added that the team is in high spirits as they start their new season.

The water polo team boasts a roster of 10 students from all different grade levels and polo histories. Some have competed at the college level in the past, while others are actually brand new faces to the game.

On Feb. 5 at the USC Tourney in Santa Cruz, the Otters (0-6) took part in their first tournament of the year. CSUMB struggled throughout the day and was unable to overcome the more experienced squads. But while they search for a win, the team remains stable and positive.

“Last Saturday was a huge stepping stone for us,” said Lyons. She went on to say that she believes “we have a very strong, supportive group of girls,” and for that she is thankful.

Feb. 11, in CSUMB’s first home game at the Otter Tank (formally the CSUMB pool), the Otters fell 11-5 to the Sonoma State Seawolves. Lyons chalked up three goals along with two from freshman center Chelsea Laning. Two days later Laning scored three more as the Otters were overwhelmed, 17-4, by the 29th ranked UC Santa Clara Broncos (6-2). Feb. 19-20, the Otters head back up the coast for the all-day Slug Fest Tournament at UC Santa Cruz.

Golfers lend hand for Pro-Am tournament

By Katrice Miller, Staff Reporter
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For a team in its first year NCAA Division II play, the CSUMB women’s golf team is certainly making its mark. They are among the top 40 women’s golf teams in their division in the nation — pretty impressive for a team in their provisional season.

The team is participating in two Division I invitational tournaments in March: one in San Jose and the other in Santa Clara. The team has also contributed to the world-renowned Pebble Beach Pro-Am by running the “First Tee” booth at the tournament. The “First Tee” program began in 1997 with the intent of teaching all children life skills through golf.

“It’s my last year of playing, so I am going to go out and try to win some tournaments. We get to compete against the best teams and we are excited to see how we finish in them,” said senior golfer Katy Murphy.

According to Murphy, participating in the Pro-Am is exciting because the players get to be around the pros and watch and learn from them.

The team credits their success to strong seniors and a very competitive squad. “We are really very good, and are only going to grow bigger and better as the years go by. I think a lot of it has to do with our older players and their strength and guidance as well,” said sophomore Matiko Miranda.

With a roster sporting six freshmen, four sophomores, three juniors, and two seniors, the team has the potential to grow into a golf powerhouse.

The ladies are up against such teams as UC Santa Cruz, San Jose State, and Chico State, who placed second and had a daily low round score in the Golf Mart/Lady Otter Invitational. They will also be traveling to Arizona in March to compete in the Grand Canyon Spring Invitational.
**Arts & Essence**

**AXIS Dance Company finds freedom in movement**

**By Justin Kisner, Staff Reporter**  
JUSTIN_KISNER@CSUMB.EDU

The Bay Area native dance company, AXIS Dance Company, has been paving the way for "physically integrated dance" since 1987. CSUMB's World Theatre will open its doors to this award winning, world renowned dance company on Tuesday, Feb. 22 at 7:30 p.m.

AXIS includes works performed by dancers with and without disabilities. "They are from California and we like to make sure our artists get support, especially with the state budget crisis," said Dawn Gibson-Breton, Presenting Program and World Theatre director.

Stated in its press release, AXIS Dance Company has been described as a "visual and physical discovery, creating fascinating works of movement art." They have created and performed a repertory of over 30 works including two even-length works and two works for young audiences.

AXIS Dance Company has gained international acclaim for its high artistic and educational standards and innovative movements. According to their website, the company has received numerous Isadora Duncan Dance Awards for ensemble performance, company performance, costume design, lighting design and choreography. Included in these Isadora Duncan Dance Awards is Individual Performance to Uli Schmitz in 2000, which was the first time a disabled dancer received such an award. Along with performing across the globe, AXIS also has an extensive community education and outreach program called "Dance Access" and its youth component "Dance Access/KIDS!" This program offers classes and workshops for adults and youth of all abilities, school assemblies, presentations, lecture demonstrations and residencies locally and abroad.

AXIS Dance Company is scheduled to perform four selections for the World Theatre including the premiere of their latest selection, "Terre Brune (Brown Earth)."

This non-profit organization relies on many state and national grants including the National Endowment for the Arts and the Christopher Reeves Paralysis Foundation as well as support from its fans.

All CSUMB students are encouraged to attend for just $10 with student identification, $25 for the general public and $22 for groups of 20 and more.

Photos provided by World Theatre

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**Performers spread the vaginal word in name of violence prevention**

**By Ben Demarest, Staff Reporter**  
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The Vagina Monologues has been translated into 35 languages and performed in 76 countries. In the past seven years, the play has raised over $25 million and received an Obie Award, one of the theater's highest honors. Vagina Monologue playwright Eve Ensler is still not satisfied. Ensler states satisfaction will only come to her when victory is won over violence against women worldwide.


The group raises money and awareness for the cause by allowing communities, colleges, and local theater groups to perform the Vagina Monologues free of charge between Feb. 1 and Mar. 8. Money raised from ticket sales must go to local organizations helping to prevent violence against women.

Money raised from this year's show on Feb. 10-12, as well as the past four years of performances on the CSUMB campus have gone to Empower, a school organization. Empower is a club designed for the "empowerment of women through the arts, education, and culture," according to their student activities Web site. All money raised by the play, other than production cost, goes to the club. Empower uses this money to support local female artists through scholarship, providing funding for capstone projects related to women's studies, and to help raise awareness about violence against women.

"It is a common misconception that the play is just trying to get a rise out of people," said Tiana Trutna, an actress in the Vagina Monologues. That is why she feels the message of the play and actions of Empower are important for people to understand.

Any misconceptions about the purpose of the Vagina Monologues are often altered after participating in the play, or viewing it as an audience member. Patricia Poston, director of the play stated that audience members can feel uncomfortable with the play in the beginning, but said "the audience seems to love it at the end."

The play's message and purpose brings actresses like Sara Villagran back for a second and third year. Villagran said last year, when she first performed, her friends forced her to do it. This year she is back on her own free will.

Since 1999 when V-Day began its campaign, over 38 million people have seen the Vagina Monologues, and more will see it "until the violence stops," according Ensler.

Until then, clubs like Empower and Organizations like V-Day are dedicated to the message "until the violence stops."
Goodbye Mammy and Sambo

Adam's Pics
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During a time when Hollywood used blacks in film solely to play the servant, the maid, the nanny, the comic relief, or the "bad guy," Sidney Poitier made a triumphant and luminous name for himself on the big screen never once playing any of the above roles.

In 1955 Poitier was in his first major role in the film "Blackboard Jungle"; playing Gregory Miller, a tough high school student and ring leader of a group of troublemakers attending a rough urban school; Miller comes to see a light of hope in his future. His fellow classmates begin following a similar positive attitude putting to rest the violence against the school's teachers that the students had inflicted. Playing the character of Gregory Miller shaped the acting style that Poitier would go on to use in all his starring roles: strong leadership, nobility, intelligence, sensitivity, and trying to subtly make discrimination go away from the world.

By the mid to late 1960s, Poitier had become a humble mouthpiece for black Hollywood playing strong, eloquent characters in films that all followed similar formulas and dealt with racial prejudice as the thematic element of the plot. Though many of Poitier's films followed similar formulas, they always had some sort of social commentary and were always entertaining.

Thirty years prior to Spike Lee's "Jungle Fever," Poitier played Gordon Rafile in the 1965 film, "Patch of Blue." Selina D'Arcy, played by Elizabeth Hartman, is a blind young woman who becomes infatuated with Gordon Rafile. The irony of the situation is that D'Arcy cannot see that Rafile is black and Rafile never tells her fearing that she'll reject him as many already do because of his skin color.

Both Rafile and D'Arcy have variables pulling at their arms to stay away from one another. Rafile's brother fears that the police will think he's taking advantage of the young white girl and D'Arcy's mother, played by Shelly Winters, is just a mean spirited woman that despises any happiness in her daughter's life and is even more outraged that the happiness is the result of the love for a black man. "Patch of Blue" remains to be one of the greatest films about interracial relationships and can be applied to any day and age.

"Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?" released in 1967, follows the similar subject of an interracial relationship within a much more complicated premise. In this film Poitier plays John Prentice, a doctor that Joanna Drayton brings home to mom and dad with news that they have fallen in love and are engaged to be married. Mr. Drayton, played by Spencer Tracy, never thought of himself as prejudiced, but he can't help having reservations about his daughter marrying a black man. It turns out that John's father feels the same way about his son marrying a white woman. Both Mr. Drayton and Mr. Prentice (Roy E. Glenn) are against the engagement – not because they are prejudiced but because the rest of the world is. They feel fear when they look into their son's and daughter's future, while Mrs. Drayton (Katherine Hepburn) and Mrs. Prentice (Beah Richards) can only see the power of love that their husbands once would have been able to see as means enough to get by. The culmination of this film, just as most of Poitier's films, is an original entertaining portrait of a social issue that nearly 40 years later remains just as relevant.

North Quad Activities

By Heather Johnson, Staff Reporter
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Aspiring poets and interested students are invited to come share their poems among friends and peers, or perhaps just come to sit and listen to others while enjoying some delicious snacks. Starting this month, every Friday at 8 p.m., the first floor of Building 302 will feature a weekly poetry night.

Maria Garcia, an HCOM junior, is the event's coordinator as well as an inspiring poet. After attending open mic night at the BBC, she saw the need for CSUMB to have a night all about poetry that's away from the stage.

"I wanted to create a relaxing atmosphere for poets who might otherwise be intimidated by microphones and big crowds," said Garcia. She also thinks that it is a great opportunity for students to listen and be inspired by other poets, learn new styles, bounce around ideas, and make new friends.

Melissa Fehn, an ISM junior, was an RA in Building 301 during the fall semester. When Garcia approached her with the idea of a poetry night, or "Expression Night" as Garcia sometimes prefers to call it, she thought it was a wonderful idea and a great way to get to know different groups of people.

"Last semester was my first experience with poetry night and I really enjoyed listening to everyone express themselves in their different and individual ways," said Fehn. The three poetry nights held last semester yielded a good sized turn out where students decided not only to recite, but sing and rap their poems as well. All styles were welcomed and some students even choose to recite poems in other languages or use a variety of musical instruments to better express themselves.

Students are not required to share their own works, and instead are invited to listen if they choose, to what others have written in a peaceful and comfortable environment.

Monica Conception, a senior in HCOM, was one of the students who showed up to all of the poetry nights last semester. Though she said that she preferred not to share any poems herself, she still enjoyed listening to all the different styles of poetry and music composed by fellow students.

"Everyone should come; it's fun!" said Conception.
The tattoo debate:
Why students choose to get inked

By Erin Nokes, Staff Reporter

As the days grow warmer here on campus, it is hard not to notice the increasing visibility of skin and tattoos. They come in all different shapes, sizes, colors, and significances.

Tattoos have been around since almost the beginning of time, having many followers from sailors, who acquired them on their travels to far off lands, to military men, with tributes to years spent at war.

In the last few decades, tattoos have become more popular among young college students such as stars like Britney Spears have begun to adorn their bodies with many ink designs.

Here at CSUMB the tattoo ink is unique, with colors and designs as different as the individuals baring them are. Senior HCOM major Deanne Knippenberg explains that her tattoo "doesn't seem like it means anything to anyone, but it means something to me," proving, at least to some extent, students are choosing their tattoos for some sort of special meaning.

Knippenberg continued on by describing that she acquired her tattoo only after much deliberation and planning, eventually coming up with a design that she thinks not only looks cool, but also has significant meaning to her. The tattoo itself contains a tribal-like design masked by three stars, two of which match in color and design.

There are many reasons for getting a tattoo, but commonly the significance to the owner or adorned body is the only acceptable and understandable reason for someone having a tattoo.

Some people get really stupid tattoos, like they wake up and think I'm going to get a tattoo today," said Knippenberg. Tattoos are permanent ink and if the tattoo is thought unwanted at some point, it is not likely that it can be removed without a considerable amount of cash. The idea is to find something that is important to the individual obtaining the tattoo in order to prevent this.

"You can't just get a bird, because then it's just a bird. It needs to mean something to you," said HCOM major Kiel Stromgren.

With the trend increasing it is hard to be original in tattoo design, especially when it seems that many young women seem to be adorning their bodies with fairies and butterflies on their lower backs and men seem to be getting more tribal bands or covering their arms with tattoo sleeves.

"The last huge tattoo I got on the inside of my ankle was planned, but at the last minute the artist said he had to re draw it, so it wasn't my original vision," said senior Michelle Gossman.

Underage students struggle to find entertainment in Monterey

By Chad Redo, Staff Reporter

Being over 18, but not yet 21, can limit the options of fun activities for a student. Sometimes an Otter has to veer off the beaten path to find what he is looking for.

"We like to go roller skating and get our groove thing on," said Alison Sahli. Sahli, a 20 year old HCOM major, also listed going to the movies, and bowling as things to do for fun off campus.

Beer mugs hang from the ceiling of English Ales Brewery's small dining room, which offers authentic British pub food. English Ales also offers American standards such as a Philly cheese steak and a half-pound hamburger.

"It's the best burger in town," said bartender Hassan Z.

Students who are looking to do more than eat might want to head down the highway to Knuckles Historical Sports Bar. Referee shirted servers and walls lined with football helmets create an atmosphere for sports fans looking to cheer on their favorite team. Eighteen televisions and three satellite systems ensure that Knuckles will be showing teams from all parts of the world on game day. There are also two pool tables and a selection of arcade games for the non sports fans.

Besides free peanuts and popcorn, Knuckles has a full menu. Dishes include sandwiches, burgers, pizza and salads. There's a weekday happy hour from 4-6 p.m. featuring discounted appetizers. Ask about the bar card, which gives locals a 15 percent discount and 30 percent off on happy hour specials.

If the enthusiasm of die-hard sports fans is too much to handle, Indian Summer is a place where one can go. Indian Summer is the spot for students who are looking to avoid the typical night scene of downtown Monterey.
Happy Birthday

Black Box Cabaret

The Naked Otter

The Naked Otter understands the reasoning behind the use of urine in sexual matters within the animal kingdom.

There is no better way to claim and mark territory within one’s dominion of the wild than to spray the surrounding bushes, rocks, and sometimes small creatures with the pungent and unmistakably personal bodily fluid that is urine.

Yet the Naked Otter is still perplexed by the use of urine the sexual activities of human beings.

It is extremely odd that a race as advanced as the human one would try to claim possession of their mates by urinating on them, chiefly because of the impermanence of urine and its ease of disposal and cleaning.

If a mate objected to being claimed via urination, then he or she would need only to rinse him or herself and rub the resulting liquid on his body.

Nevertheless, the Naked Otter would like to extend its paw, heart and superior intellect to the problems and questions of the human population.

Any interested parties may send their questions and answers to my handler, Rachel Kane, the editor in chief of the fine publication that bears my noble moniker at Rachel_Kane@csumb.edu.

Be Serene,
The Naked Otter

BBC turns eight

By Katrice Miller, Staff Reporter

The Black Box Cabaret (BBC) is turning 8. Despite some rocky times, building code issues, and some minor plumbing problems, the BBC has been a place run by and for students in the CSUMB community.

February has always been a special time for the BBC, and this year is no different. The CSUMB Events Workgroup, the Otter Student Union, the Pacific Asian Student Union and the BBC staff are throwing a birthday party for the once abandoned military building turned hot spot. This weekend long celebration takes place on Friday, Feb. 18 and Saturday, Feb. 19.

The festivities kick off on Friday with an 80s dance night. This event, as with many other BBC events, is free; the only restriction at this event is clothing related. There is a 1980s dress code in effect, and adding to the theme, there will be lip-syncing of all those big-haired rock ballads as well.

The culmination of the BBC Birthday Bash weekend is a live performance by the Sweet and Tender Hooligans. The Sweet and Tender Hooligans (Jose Maldonado, David Collett, Jeff Stodel, Mickey Rey DeLeon, and Danny Garcia) call themselves “the ultimate tribute to Morrissey and the Smiths.”

Morrissey and the Smiths, bands from Manchester, England, were cutting edge alternative rock bands in the 1980s. The Sweet and Tender Hooligans formed in 1982 and have gained local and international attention. They have performed in Southern California, Arizona, Texas, New York, Massachusetts, and most recently they completed their first tour of the United Kingdom. The band has also received recognition known as the “Best Cover Band in Los Angeles.”

Once an abandoned military building, the BBC opened in 1996, but was closed in 2000 due to building code violations. Reopening in Feb. of 2002 the BBC returned to being one of the central student socialization spots.

“I like that the BBC is student run, and I think it’s one of the better student run places on campus,” said 19-year-old ESPF major Amanda Jung.

“I really enjoy [the BBC’s] artwork, and they always have really interesting things going on. It’s totally cool that it’s turning 8, and I hope that it stays around a lot longer because it’s a great place to go for entertainment, eat and chill,” said Jung.

The Low Down

Thursdays Feb. 17-March 17

Stress Management Workshop. 5-week section to learn how to cope with stress and anxiety through breathing and relaxation techniques and raising self-esteem. PGCC Group Room. Free. Contact PGCC at 582-3969.

Thursday, Feb. 17

“Have a Heart for Students Dinner and Auction- De Todo Corazón-The Heart of the Matter.” Performance by a folklorico dance group. Mexican food and live silent auctions to help provide scholarships to financial aid students. UC Ballroom. 6 p.m. $50 per person. Contact Michele Melicia Young at 582-4141.

Friday, Feb. 18

BBC Birthday Party and 80s dance party II: “Retrofied Revisted.” Presented by CSUMB Events Workgroup, OSU, and PASU. 80s dress code strictly enforced. BBC. 8 p.m. Free.

“Straight Outta Hunter’s Point.” Filmmaker Kevin Eppes will screen his cinematic portrait of a community battling gentrification. Sponsored by TAT Club, Events Workgroup and BSU. Contact Vito Triglia.

Saturday, Feb. 19

Sweet and Tender Hooligans: Ultimate Tribute to Morrissey and The Smiths. Presented by CSUMB Events Workgroup. Listen to the tribute band out of Los Angeles along with Novela from Salinas. BBC. 9 p.m. Free.

Tuesday, Feb. 22

AXIS Dance Company. Combines performers with and without disabilities, said to pioneer a new dance form: “physically integrated dance.” World Theater. 7:30 p.m.

Happy Birthday
Dear Readers,

For the next few issues of The Otter Realm we will be changing the look and feel of our publication.

We ask that you give us any feedback regarding our new and old details.

- The Otter Realm Staff or@csumb.edu

Ahead for VPA...

By Adam Joseph, Arts and Essence Editor
{ adam_joseph@csumb.edu }

Johanna Poethig, one of the founding faculty members of the Visual and Public Arts Department, has her plate full this semester partaking as well as leading VPA students into a vast world of public art, social awareness, and cultural diversity. Several VPA students along with Poethig have proposed to paint a mural in the Campus Service Center. "Painting a tree and sky in an enclosed area will really open up the space," said Poethig. The mural will feature the ocean intertwined with the sky and a large cypress tree. There will also be "welcomes" written in several different languages and several symbols representing CSUMB's educational values. One of CSUMB's educational values includes students getting involved with the outside neighboring community. The VPA Digital Public Art Department will be producing several experimental video commercials for a local Planned Parenthood. "We're trying to use a contemporary approach — something that will appeal to kids," said Poethig of the project.

All students are invited to be interviewed about different sexual issues for these commercials.

CSUMB's "Friday Artist Series," titled Art Matters, is set to begin (tentatively) Thursday, Feb. 24 and go until March 17. The first discussion will be led by Poethig and fellow VPA instructor Siobhan Arnold, titled "Women: Public and Private."

There will be four more of these discussions scheduled, each led by two faculty members from the VPA Department. All of the faculties leading these discussions are accomplished artists known nationally and some, like Poethig, known internationally.

This past Thursday, Feb. 10, Los Arboles Middle School held a special dedication for Hannah Balfour, a VPA student who passed away last year. Before her passing she had designed and begun work on a mural painting at Los Arboles Middle School in Marina. Eleven VPA students, headed by Constance Coffey, finished the mural in Balfour’s memory.

CSUMB's VPA department is progressive in their teaching as well as their creations. Accompanied with many of the beautiful works created by VPA students are newly formed strong ties with the outside community. Poethig stated that "bringing many groups of different people together through art" is one of the most important teachings of the VPA department.

Letter to the Editor - Jody Rae Lasda, Junior, LS Teaching Major

Rachel Kane recently dished the ladies strutting around on campus in too-tight, two-sizes too-small clothing in the Otter Realm, writing:

"Slap your mesh hat over the bleached mass that is your hair and smear on the goopy, fruity smelling crap you spent $15 on at MAC, take into consideration that the spare tire you are proudly displaying and accentuating with that rhinestone belly ring is not attractive."

What Rachel fails to acknowledge is that while the ladies she describes may need guidance when picking out their $140 ass coverers, these ladies do at least put effort into their appearances, unlike the majority of females on campus. CSUMB is plagued by a campus that thinks fashion stops at what the bookstore sells: lounge pants with CSUMB emblazoned across the backside, bulky school sweatshirts, and polo shirts with otters on them. Nothing against otters or comfort, but this is not fashion, folks, nor is it attractive or presentable in the real world.

Perhaps my viewpoint is a bit skewed because I grew up in New York, where everyone is always fashionable, come hell or high water. Or, more likely, several feet of snow and a temperature with a negative sign in front of it.

I both work full time and attend CSUMB full time, and I can say without hesitation that if anyone showed up to work in the sweatshirts and lounge pants they wear to class, they would be fired, on the spot. Some might argue that this is college, not the real world, but college is the steppingstone between high school and the real world. Better to learn this lesson now rather than later.

I do not suggest that every female invest in a pair of Citizens for Humanity jeans or BCBG heels. Certainly, most students do not have room in their budgets for $140 jeans, and teetering around in stilettos on the way to class is a wee bit impractical. But Birkenstocks are not the way to put your best foot forward, ladies, and neither are tennis shoes. There are plenty of affordable, yet stylish alternatives to the loungewear look. Those on a budget can check out Isaac Mizrahi's line for Target, the spring line Sarah Jessica Parker is plugging for the GAP, and Oscar de la Renta's line for Macy's, all of which offer reasonably priced, streamlined basics for the spring. It's also the perfect time of year to score awesome markdowns on designer items at Macy's and Nordstrom's. Most importantly, you don't have to buy the look of the rack. If you have classic basic pieces, you can mix and match the new with the old and perhaps even accessorize.

And kudos to the select few who do bother to apply lip gloss and make sure they match before heading out the door. May you be role models for the rest of the ladies on campus!
Letter to the Editor

Hello,

I am writing about the article I read from the December 16, 2004 edition entitled “Gettin' in, gettin' out” I am appalled that you would write such a discouraging and inaccurate article about CSUMB in the CSUMB newspaper. I do not think, no, I am sure this article is not based on fact. I am an academic advisor on campus. I have had many students successfully transfer out to Cal Poly SLO (even for engineering), Cal Poly Pomona, CSUS, CSUN, USC, and many other schools. I have had many students come in screaming about classes they took that “CSUMB wouldn’t accept” and then all it took was an email or a phone call. Do you even understand that there are laws governing the CSU system? CSUMB cannot deny a class that the state has recognized as satisfying an area. I think for the benefit of the student attending the university that this paper is associated with, someone should do their research and re-write the article. I years proving this was only a myth to hundreds of students and now with a single inaccurate article you have stirred the myth right back up again, nullifying the progress I have made. I know CSUMB is far from perfect, I have had my share of horror stories and experiences, but for the school newspaper to stir things up from word of mouth from people that are not educated in about the things the are talking about is not cool. Have a great day.

- David Levysohn

Editor response

Mr. Levysohn,

The article you refer to in your letter was admittedly and clearly one-sided. Although based in fact, it showed only one side of a serious issue at CSUMB. On behalf of the entire Otter Realm staff, I promise that we will always strive to print the most factual, unbiased and well researched articles possible, taking great care to explore all sides and possibilities of all issues. As a growing and changing publication we are bound to experience some faults in our endeavor toward excellence and will always work toward informing our readers in the most responsible and timely manner possible. Thank you for your concerns and for alerting us to this issue.

- The Otter Realm Staff

Early Academy Awards predictions: Sideways or bust

By Garrett Thomas

It is comforting to know that the Academy still likes to recognize independent films: TAT students, pay attention. With the Oscar nominations released January 25th, such “smaller” films as Maria Full of Grace, Vera Drake, Hotel Rwanda and Sideways each fared relatively well, the last even receiving a nomination for Best Picture of the Year. Oh, is it ever.

Sideways, which received a total of five nominations, is an amazingly hilarious and poignant look into the lives of one reveling man named Jack and his diffident friend named Miles embarking upon a wine-tasting road trip during the last week before Jack’s wedding. What ensues manages to be at times hysterical, jovial, melancholy and exhilarating.

First and foremost, the lack of a Best Actor nom for Paul Giamatti (Sideways) perhaps indicates that their heart is not with the rest of the critics. Sideways won Best Picture, Comedy or Musical, at the Golden Globes mid-January.

And, because of a stupid rule (now changed for 2005) prohibiting documentaries from consideration if it is televised within nine months of its theatrical debut, the controversial yet marvelous Fahrenheit 9/11 was neglected (though it was still eligible in all non-documentary categories).

One opportunity for CSUMB students to see a smaller film the Academy didn’t utterly ignore lies directly on campus next month. The Academy Award-nominated The Motorcycle Diaries will be shown Thursday, March 10th in the World Theater through OSHA. It stars Gael García Bernal of Y tu mama tambien and chronicles part of the life of Che Guevara. The film received two nominations, including one for screenplay.

Another opportunity yields from Central Coast Cinemas in Osio Plaza at 350 Alvarado in Downtown Monterey. Aside from almost always showing “smaller” films (including Sideways at present), they offer a student discount that is even cheaper than the matinee price.

Even without seeing all of the Best Picture nominees, it really isn’t that difficult to correctly predict all of them; I did, having only seen (you guessed it) Sideways.

Forget New York Minute, Forget Scooby Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed. Certainly forget Catwoman (sorry, Halle). Thus, the main nominations are as follows:

Best Actress: Annette Bening, Being Julia; Catalina Sandino Moreno, Maria Full of Grace; Imelda Staunton*, Vera Drake; Hilary Swank, Million Dollar Baby; and Kate Winslet, Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind.

Best Actor: Jack Nicholson, About Schmidt; Benicio Del Toro, Traffic; Jack Black, The Cable Guy; Jack Black, School of Rock; and Ryan Gosling, The Knick.

Best Supporting Actor: Al Pacino, Scent of a Woman; Kevin Spacey, American Beauty; Morgan Freeman, Million Dollar Baby; and Jack Nicholson, About Schmidt.

Best Supporting Actress: Robin Wright Penn, The美工日志; Keira Knightley, Pride & Prejudice; Sissy Spacek, Far from Heaven; and Drew Barrymore, Crash.

Best Director: Alexander Payne, Sideways; Martin Scorsese, The Aviator; Steven Soderbergh, Traffic; and Martin Scorsese, The Aviator.

Best Film: The Aviator; Finding Neverland; Million Dollar Baby; and Sideways.

* = my choice.

The Academy Awards telecast is Sunday, February 27th.
This guy and his music

James Piña defines masochism in a way that only a musician can: taking 20 units of college classes and trying to write and record an album of original songs at the same time.

"Most people start out playing Metallica," said Piña, who bypassed the metalhead route. He started out with the Smashing Pumpkins.

"They influenced my guitar learning experience a lot," said Piña.

Piña took few formal guitar lessons, the exception being sessions with a guitar teacher named Sam Cannon.

"He taught me scales, how to do scales, and some interesting chords, and, you know, how to make chords, how to build from them."

Piña’s informal education came from being in a number of bands. None of them quenched his artistic vision, and he decided to see what kind of music he could come up with on his own. His interest in music also prompted him to major in Teledramatic Arts and Technology (TAT) at CSUMB, a major in which he could learn more about audio production and recording.

Piña's interest in recording also prompted him to make his own computer-based portable recording studio to record his upcoming album, local bands and audio for video productions.

"I've started recording a couple of the songs for my new album. I'm using the project name, 'The Temperate' and the album is going to be called 'Object and Subject,'" Piña said.

It is the first time Piña has taken every step of the musical process (writing, performing, producing and recording) completely alone.

When he is not working on his own music, Piña interns at Ear to the Ground Studio under Mr. Will Shanks, where he gets to work around advanced recording equipment.

Some of Piña’s album can be heard at www.audiostreet.net/thetemperate and he can be contacted with questions about his music at indietron@gmail.com.

If your genitals could talk what would they say?

What do you think social security is?

By Chad Ghiron, Photo Editor

Christin Grice
SBS, JUNIOR
"Stop choking me."
"Just money."

Amber Khtean
TAT, JUNIOR
"Arrrrgghhh!!! Prepare to be plundered says I!"
"Money to buy your grandkids ugly sweaters!"

Michael O'Conner
SBS, SOPHOMORE
"I need to get out for some fresh air! It's hot and humid in here and I got an itch you wouldn't believe."
"Money when you retire."

Kristen Milliman
SBS, JUNIOR
"Good times ahead."
"A drop in the bucket when you're done with your job."

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