No Somos Criminales
Somos Americanos

April 6, 2006

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Controversy brews in Marina over Wal-Mart’s arrival

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Marina becomes the new battleground for the Wal-Mart debate as community members, including CSUMB students, fight to keep the major retailer out of the city.

The mega-store obtained the lease of the old K-Mart building on Reservation Road near Denny’s and could open up as early as November 2006.

Led by Steve and Tina Zmak, Citizens Against Wal-Mart in Marina is a group of local community residents spear-heading a fight against the multi-billion dollar franchise.

"[Wal-Mart] has a history of destroying local communities," said Tina.

On the national level, the retailer has been sued for unfair wages, discrimination of women, child labor violations, and environmental issues.

The group also believes Tallen & Keshen Holdings may have misled the Planning Commission in obtaining the permit to the site.

But according to Marina City Council member Gary Wilmot, Wal-Mart has obtained the rights to open in Marina.

"The only legal remedy for the situation is to go to court," said Wilmot, "but the chance of them winning is highly unlikely."

It may be too early to take it to the legal system, according to Citizens Against Wal-Mart in Marina.

"We have asked the Marina City Council to direct the city manager and planning staff to put the use permit on the agenda before the Planning Commission for revocation and modification," said Tina.

Based on the Marina City Code 17.48.060A, if false information was given to obtain a use permit, the permit may be revoked.

"If the City of Marina does not follow its own Municipal Code, [taking the issue to court] may be an option," said Tina.

According to excerpts from the Oct. 13, 2005 Marina Planning Commission meeting, Tallen & Keshen CEO Terrence Tallen told the Planning Commission they were going to have several retailers on the site including a grocery store and a sporting good and apparel sectors.

"Our goal is certainly to develop projects that enhance community needs," said Anne Keshen, co-chairman of Tallen & Keshen. Tallen also told the planning commission Tallen & Keshen was planning on attending the International Council of Shopping Centers in the first week of April to look for possible retailers.

"We'll invite the retailers out and have a little event on-site and say, 'here's your next big opportunity,'" said Tallen.

The issue of Wal-Mart opening in Marina was made public on March 3. It caught many in the community by surprise, including the Zmak's, leading to their belief that Tallen & Keshen has not fully followed their plans to reach out to other retailers.

"We expected a pedestrian mall area; the plan was to use that land for medium and small retail stores," said Steve.

Despite the anti-Wal-Mart sentiment of community members, nine-year Marina resident and mother of two Janet Ralf, 28, is in support of the Wal-Mart plans.

"[Wal-Mart] has good deals; they do have bargains," said Ralf. "Before Wal-Mart, there was a K-Mart, what's the difference? I don't see what the big deal is."

According to Wilmont, Wal-Mart will actually help the economy of the city by bringing in more revenue. It will also attract more consumers from the surrounding cities for other local merchants.

"From an economic point of view, it's a good thing for general merchandise," said Wilmont.

Citizens Against Wal-Mart in Marina has been very active and vocal for their cause by circulating flyers, volunteers, petitions, going door-to-door, and protesting on corner of Reservation Road and Del Monte Boulevard.

"There have been 277 communities nationwide that have beaten Wal-Mart," said Steve, "and we hope to be 278."
Introducing President Harrison

Dianne Harrison, CSUMB’s new president, said “things are a little crazy here,” referring to the chaotic preparation of moving from her Florida home to California in just a few short weeks.

On Tuesday, March 7, Chancellor Reed of the California State University System, phoned Harrison with the news that she had been selected as the next president of CSUMB.

Harrison was pleasantly surprised to hear the news. “I felt good (about my chances) but you never know until someone says ‘you’re it,’” she said during a phone interview from her Florida State University office in Tallahassee. “It was a joyous moment.”

After hearing the good news, Harrison first told her fiancé, then her son, 21, and daughter, 24, and lastly her mother.

Before the big move, Harrison looks forward to another major life changing event, her wedding day. “The wedding is actually on April Fool’s Day,” she said laughingly.

Harrison appeared composed for someone who is going to be married, begin the presidency of a university, and move across the country by June 23, which is her first day on duty at CSUMB.

The presidential candidate panels held in early March, Harrison regarded as, “a chance for the students, faculty, and community to ask questions of me. Now, I need to ask questions.”

“What do we (CSUMB) need to do to improve?” is the sizzling question at the top of Harrison’s list. In order to achieve improvement, Harrison believes in using the “positive strength approach, looking at what already works and building on it,” rather than looking at what doesn’t work. “There are always solutions for improvement when using the positive strength approach.”

Harrison plans to build upon the university’s strengths in multicultural values, its passionate and committed faculty, and growing the enrollment while retaining the elements of a small campus. “I always want students to feel a welcoming environment,” she said.

CSUMB’s Vision and Mission Statement are “consistent with a social work background. It’s definitely easier to commit to equity and service learning and continue to champion them, as someone who uses social work skills everyday,” Harrison said.

Right off the bat, Harrison will leap into multiple tasks as president including building next year’s budget, student enrollment, fundraising, and establishing herself with students, faculty, staff, and the surrounding community.

“I’ve been involved in every breadth of the university experience and touched on every element of how a university operates,” Harrison said. In her current position as vice president for Academic Quality & External Programs at Florida State University, Harrison is responsible for overseeing every academic program and having some knowledge of every academic program, at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, and there are hundreds.

In response to the question, “What is your vision of a successful university campus?” Harrison answered, “A university campus is supposed to be full of diverse ideas and open debate. It’s a place where students should be exposed to different views to help them form their own views.”

Harrison not only looks forward to her new position at CSUMB, she looks forward to enjoying the beautiful beaches of Carmel and the serene trails of Big Sur.

“Everyone says, ‘Dianne, you’re going to heaven,’” when they hear I’m moving to Monterey.”

Masters application deadline extended

Maxwell Green, Staff Reporter

The Department of Health and Human Services has extended the fall application deadline for their Masters in Public Policy.

The original deadline of March 1, 2006 has been extended to May 1 “to give as many people as possible time to apply,” according to Masters in Public Policy Program Director, Kim Judson.

The program commenced in Spring 2003 with just two classes offered and has since expanded from six to eight courses and joined forces with the Panetta Institute.

According to Judson, the main requirement besides the G.R.E. and entry letter is “if students have any background,” because there is no specific undergraduate degree that is required.

The degree is designed for “a much broader interest,” Judson said as she explained how policy is an aspect of many disciplines.

Martha Diehl has been in the graduate program for three and a half years, and likes that students “can fit your passion in the frame work” of the degree. She explained that it was her passion to “move forward with an idea of a non-profit.” Diehl explained her non-profit idea was to develop a community center for pet health and education, particularly in K-9s.

Diehl has been chair of the County Planning Commission since 2000 and has also been working for the CSUMB since last year. She has also been an intern with the Big Sur Vision project.

Janet Barnes has also been in the graduate program for three and a half years. Like Diehl, Barnes has worked in a related field. Her resume ranges from being a business executive, to 20 years of teaching and 8 years in politics.

Barnes said she is “interested in alternative technology,” particularly in waste management putting into place the ideas of “energy reduce and re-use,” said Barnes.

Barnes talked about Leon Panetta’s involvement. “You could not ask for a more protégées person... very interesting lecturer,” said Barnes.

There will be a seminar on the Masters in Public Policy Degree May 18 in Moss Landing at 8272 Moss Landing Road from 3-4:00pm. For further information on the degree please call (831) 582-3565 or e-mail icsc@csumb.edu
 Appeal to bring conservative speaker successful

“V-Day: The Feminist War Against Love” and “Guns Don’t Kill Black People, Black People Do” are two out of many hundred disputatious articles written by nationally known conservative author, C-SPAN commentator and former Black Panther, David Horowitz. The smoke has yet to settle regarding the debate on whether Horowitz should or shouldn’t be invited to speak on campus.

With the Associated Student’s budget already spent, a suggestion was made to draw money from the AS contingency fund to bring Horowitz to campus. The first day back from spring break, an appeal was filed with the AS to overturn the Financial Committee’s initial decision to deny drawing funds from the contingency to bring far-right speaker to campus.

Kimber Solana, AS senator-at-large, was asked early in the spring semester by AS colleagues if he would lead a search for a conservative speaker to bring to the campus. As a liberal campus, the intention of AS was to help bring more political balance to CSUMB after having two speakers from the far-left, Ward Churchill and Joe Wilson, come to campus.

“The event will serve the student population that is underrepresented at CSUMB,” Solana said during the appeal.

Solana had already received a promise from the Young America’s Foundation to pay for $2,000 of Horowitz’s $5,000 speaking fee as well as his room and board. The Republican Club agreed to pay for Horowitz’s car rental, ushering at the event, and catering. The $4,500 remaining cost that needed to be raised would cover the rest of Horowitz’s speaking fee and parking and security for the event. AS paid $2,490.40 for Wilson and $5,175.23 to have Churchill speak on campus.

Michael Ludwig, vice president of AS asked for a point of clarification regarding whether the motion would be for approval of using money from the AS contingency or approval of bringing someone like Horowitz to the CSUMB campus.

Ren Herring, AS president, said that the reason the Financial Committee voted against bringing Horowitz to campus was the lack of funds to do so. Herring clarified that the motion was for the approval of moving money from the AS emergency fund to pay for the speaker.

“If we dip into the contingency, there will be enough money,” Herring said.

The forum opened for discussion.

“Balanced, to me, doesn’t mean bringing a racist to campus,” Sara Villagran, AS multicultural senator said. Villagran provided the analogy, “We wouldn’t bring someone who is considered to be a great priest to campus if that same great priest molest children.”

“What makes you think he’s racist?” Solana asked.

“I don’t know… I don’t want to dig myself into a hole,” Villagran responded.

“His (Horowitz) articles aren’t racist, they’re factual. As a minority, I would be the first to prevent a racist from coming to speak on campus,” Solana said with sincerity.

Upper Division Academic Senator Lydell Martin said, “some of what he (Horowitz) says is hard to stomach, but I love the idea of bringing a conservative speaker to campus. It’s hard for me to say yes, but I can’t oppose.” Martin continued, “I’ll probably abstain from voting altogether.”

Environmental Senator Zoe Carlson wanted clarification about what Horowitz’s topic of speech would be.

“Horowitz talks about Academic Freedom… unbiased teaching in the university classroom,” Solana responded.

“The AS is supposed to represent all students. Everyone pays a $48 fee and every student doesn’t have the same point of view. The last two speakers the AS brought to campus catered to liberal views. It’s important to cater to the rest of the students on campus,” Herring said.

Zoe Carter, senator-at-large, expressed the importance of representing both sides, then asked if it was “necessary to bring a speaker that would stir up controversy.”

“I welcome controversy and I expect it,” Solana said.

“Actually, I don’t really know anything about him (Horowitz),” Carter confessed.

Orlando DeLaCruz, senator-at-large, motioned for a vote. With four votes in favor, three against, and three abstentions, Solana’s appeal was successful. On May 4, Horowitz will speak from 7 to 9 p.m. in the UC Ballroom. The event is free and open to faculty, staff, students and members of the community.

Panetta lecture series discusses democracy’s future

Each year since 1998 the Leon Panetta Lecture Series has brought policy thinkers and political leaders to the Monterey Peninsula and CSUMB to discuss important issues of the day.

On Monday, March 27 the Leon Panetta Institute, located on the campus of CSUMB, kicked of its annual lecture series. The theme for the spring 2006 series was “The Future of Democracy in the twenty first century.”

On Mon, the lecture series commenced focusing on “whether democracy can survive in Iraq.”

John Murtha, a U.S. Representative from Pennsylvania, joined Slade Gorton, a former U.S. senator and member of the September 11 Commission and Richard Haass, the president of the Council on Foreign Relations.

The lecture began with grim observations about the war in Iraq and the hurdles faced in fostering a successful democracy, former U.S. Rep. Leon Panetta moderated the lecture. In attendance during the afternoon events interested tri-county high school and college students, along with their chaperones.

The lecture began with Panetta asking the panel members questions; basic debate rules applied. Murtha repeatedly claimed that the Iraq situation was a failure because of the lack of basic resources for the Iraqi people, such as running water and electricity. He was outspoken regarding the presence of a civil war in Iraq, claiming that the country was already in such a state and that the continued rhetoric of the Bush administration was not only false but also damaging to the troops.

Murtha’s intensity was countered by Haass, who emphasized the war was “ill-advised,” but stated that a civil war was in the making but not presently occurring. Haass’s most interesting observation concerned the presence of a democratic state amidst Islam. He stated that a separation of church and state in an Islamic society was virtually impossible under Islamic law and that any Iraqi democracy will “not look like America.”

Trying to provide a little bit of balance to the debate, Panetta included Gorton, who was not in full support of the war. He only stated that Iraq was not in the middle of a civil war and withdrawal was not a solution at this time.

The afternoon events came to a close as students were given a chance to ask their own questions to the panel. Later that evening another event took place, with the same format and the same speakers only with community members involved.

The next event in the lecture series, titled “How Do People in a Democracy Get Their Information?” is scheduled for April 17 and will feature Paul Begala, political analyst and CNN commentator, and Pat Buchanan, former presidential candidate, political columnist and commentator.
CSUMB has many different programs available at the Personal Growth and Counseling Center located in Building 80 for students who are seeking help in desperate times. Their main focus is preventing the rise in suicides on university campuses across the country, but there is also help and guidance offered for alcohol and drug abuse and eating disorders.

PGCC has a screening set up on campus during the semester were anyone may have their symptoms diagnosed and guided in the right direction for help.

Founded in 2000 by Caroline Haskell who says, “the first thing to do if you notice any signs of somebody showing signs of depression is to just reach out to them” offering a shoulder to lean on or an ear is the biggest help to them.

The campus has faculty advisors, peer mentors and residential advisors who are here to turn to for help. PGCC offers ten free counseling sessions during the year for students who seek it through their department.

Shannon Edwards a TAT Professor and faculty advisor, said that “suicides on campus is rising with statistics showing campus suicide rates on campus at 10% in 2000 and was 14.9% in 2004.”

CSUMB did not have their first suicide until 2003, nine years after the school opened. There are specific times of the year that students are more susceptible to depression. Both Edwards and Haskell confirmed that the risk of suicide increases during fall and spring breaks because of seasonal changes.

The causes of depression are the breakup of a relationship, divorce, family separation, a death in the family, academic or financial stress and verbal or physical harassment. Knowing what signs to look for is an important part because a suicidal person will usually give you a clue that something is wrong they just do not know how to get help.

The signs to watch are threats, talk or jokes of suicide, major changes in the way someone acts and a depression.

Haskell said, “Most suicides that are completed, are by people who never sought help”. The counseling department has events throughout the year such as a candlelit vigil and a memorial wall of yellow ribbons to remember those who have died. For more information on the programs available go to http://pgcc.csumb.edu which have resources available to students who do not know where to go for help or call for an appointment at 582-3969.

There is no doubt there are inevitable problems that come with going to college. Be it classes, your social life, or family. According to pamphlets all over campus, there is a place to go for help.

The Personal Growth and Counseling Center [PGCC] in Building 80, co-located with the Campus Health Center is the place to turn to.

We always have friends to talk to. They can give us advice, but only as far as their knowledge goes. However, sometimes it helps to go to someone you don’t know. Granted it is hard to tell someone you don’t know all the details of your life, but it is said in the pamphlet, “We are here to help you succeed academically and personally. We are committed to providing our students with the very best counseling.”

I decided to make an appointment and see if everything they tell us is sugarcoated, or if they truly are a positive and constructive refuge from the overwhelming problems of everyday college life.

The PCCG phone was answered with a pleasant sounding woman’s voice on the other line. I was asked a few questions for “counselor placement purposes.”

They were booked until the following week, but eventually I was given an appointment and paired up with counselor, Tai Kang.

Upon arrival, a receptionist greeted me and I informed her who I was. Within minutes I was whisked away to a room deep within the building. There I was, face to face with a complete stranger, known only to me by her name.

I decided to let loose and spill my guts. It turned out for me that speaking with a person with an objective view was much easier than speaking with someone that knows all about me.

She just listened, and had no prior knowledge to make judgments about my decisions or actions. Which lead me to be brutally honest; something that at times can be hard to do in your own mind, let alone to someone that knows you inside and out.

After about 20 minutes of mindless rambling about everything on my mind I stopped, took a deep breath, and waited for the responsive lecture I feared was coming. To my surprise, it was nothing like those judgment filled disappointment come-downs from parents in high school after coming home late and smelling like booze.

Instead of coming back with memorized, typecast answers to problems she probably hears 20 times a day, she in essence had me answer them myself. While helping me get to the root of my issues, I realized more times than not the answers were down in that same hole.

After my first counseling experience I felt better than I had anticipated. She didn’t tell me what to do and she helped me figure it out with her guidance. Without playing the therapists role, she brought out the inner therapist in me.
At 4 p.m. on Thursday, March 30, 350 Seaside High students and residents of Monterey County marched for immigrants' civil rights, and then convened in front of Seaside City Hall for a rally.

The rally was different from those of the previous days, which marched in opposition of the Senate's proposed bill to "secure the border." The Seaside rally became representative of all races and cultures uniting together peacefully to fight for the rights of, not just immigrants, but all human beings. Mel Mason, CSUMB personal growth counselor and president of the Monterey Peninsula Branch of the NAACP, praised the students in Seaside for "voting with their feet;" he also praised the students around the country for "filling the streets."
Water polo team shows heart and remains positive

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The Otter Tank was the site for the last home game of the season for the CSUMB women’s waterpolo team and the women’s waterpolo Otter Invitational on Sat., April 1.

CSUMB (7-21) fell twice, losing 15-4 to Cal Baptist and 14-10 to Chapman University.

Cal Baptist scored three goals in the first 4:05 of the game, enroute to a 6-1 lead and putting the game out of reach. CSUMB sophomore Chelsea Laning had four steals in addition to scoring three goals while senior Alex Davis added four assists and eight steals.

The game against Chapman University resembled a heavyweight boxing match for most of the first three periods as both teams matched up to create a hard-fought game. Laning scored with 4:29 left in the third period to make it 9-9. However, Chapman University’s Jennifer Manship scored twice within 21 seconds to give Chapman a lead it would never relinquish. For CSUMB, Laning scored six goals, freshmen Janine Boutte had four steals and Davis had two goals, seven steals and seven assists to break the single-season records for assists and steals which she set last year.

“I felt we played solid,” said CSUMB Women’s Waterpolo Head Coach Gary Figueroa. “Cal Baptist used their speed to take advantage of mistakes we made. Against Chapman, the girls played their hearts out. They gave it everything they had and we just came up short.”

Despite the recent woes of a current losing streak, the team has stayed extremely upbeat, knowing all too well that, given the competition, they are not expected to have a winning record.

“I may have overbooked them a bit,” admits Figueroa. “We have faced a lot of good teams, and looking at it, perhaps I should have scheduled things differently.”

However, Figueroa notes that he wants his team to face stiff competition, allowing them a chance to see what the next level is all about. “We are trying to build something, so that, two or three years down the line, we will be ready to compete and challenge for a championship,” said Figueroa.

Figueroa is already seeing faster development because of this grueling schedule even though it doesn’t show in the win-loss column. Laning is averaging about five goals per game and has scored three times as many goals as anyone else on the team. Opponents have recognized this, often setting up a defensive scheme designed specifically to limit Laning. In response, other Otters have stepped up offensively, most notably freshmen Kellie Koorndyk, who is second on the team with 28 goals. In addition, senior Kristi Lopez and junior Samara Phillips have also seen their offensive production increase over the past eight games.

One thing that has impressed Coach Figueroa and others is that this team doesn’t give up. “We are a new team still trying to figure out how to work and play together but no matter what, I don’t see anyone on the team giving up,” said Lopez.

“Our ability to stay positive in most situations, even when playing top 10 nationally ranked teams, has impressed me the most,” Davis added.

“Our school can be proud of the work and time these girls have invested on our behalf,” said Figueroa. “Everyone is going way beyond the call of duty to be at all the practices and on time. The payoff always takes time and we are already seeing it.”

We are trying to build something, so that, two or three years down the line, we will be ready to compete and challenge for a championship.

—Gary Figueroa, head coach, women’s water polo
MUD OR BUST

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The constant marching and yelling of army personnel and civilians woke up CSUMB’s campus with the Annual Fort Ord Mud Run presented by the military. This is a true test of one’s athletic competition and survival skills. Over 100 people competed in Saturday morning’s event: it was the military vs. civilians in a five-mile, mud-covered obstacle course.

The CSUMB cross country team, the Presidio Army, and the Big Sur Marathon Organization have put on this event for years. The course starts at the CSUMB stadium and ends back in the same area. The first mile is on cement, which runs through 3rd Street and into the back county of Fort Ord. With four center dividers surrounded by a small mud pathway, runners hurtle themselves into the back county to start their next three miles.

In the back region, runners travel over steep, rolling dirt hills and around switch-back trails. With army and civilians helping direct runners to the right area, the heard of these athletes push themselves to excruciating limitations.

“This is not your every day run around the track. You are truly running into hard obstacles that fall in your path; shit, give it hell and have fun,” explained team Dry Heave, U.S. Army. The course followed out of the back county onto 6th Street and behind the MPA building where runners rolled and scrambled over mud jumps and hurled over a five-foot wooden wall and down into a mud pit. Runners slipped and slid across the murky liquid to reach the last stretch of the two miles where the biggest mud pit was held between the swimming pool and the stadium. Runners dove into the four-foot mud pit where they swarmed and the army crawled to the finish line.

“I threw up twice and injured my ankle during the middle part of the run and possibly took out a couple other runners,” said 50-year-old Marina resident Frank Trambar.

He and his two boys have been competing in the races for the past three years now and they explained that every year the course gets better and better.

This five-mile course proved the stamina and endurance of the runners, which was noticed toward the finish line by spectators. The individual runners pushed themselves to the end and others crawled the last ten yards. Teams of five held and supported their fellow members to cross the finish line together.

This isn’t an event for quitters. While I was running the race, there were so many times that I could’ve easily quit. I competed in the race without ever running five miles before. The race was long and hard to complete. With mud covered from my head to toes, I picked myself up and charged the course with everything that I had till the end.

“I looked liked Pig Pen from the Peanut’s cartoon!” I definitely will be looking forward to compete in next year’s competition.
Otter cheerleaders bring it on without coach

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The Cheer Squad helps support the athletic activities on campus while supporting school spirit and serving as CSUMB ambassadors when attending away games. They hold fundraising activities, support athletic department raffles, actively participate during basketball games, and work on halftime performances and mind-blowing stunts.

The stunt team consists of men who help during the halftime shows and the sideline cheers. The men are not required to dance or do cheers; they are just present to do the grunt work.

With games at the Kelp Bed over for the season and the spring sports programs entering their final months, the Cheer Squad at CSUMB is practicing harder than ever for next season. Tryouts were on March 6 for cheerleaders and March 9 for the stunt team, the Cheer Squad hopes to have another successful season next year even though it will be without a head coach.

Rumors have been swirling around campus that the CSUMB Cheer Squad Coach, Aria Colby, left the team without notice and without a replacement coach. According to members of the Cheer Squad, that couldn't be further from the truth.

"Coach Colby told us at the end of last semester that this was going to be her last year coaching us because her husband's job is moving him to Southern California and she's moving too," said Leah Priest, a junior Cheer Squad member.

Co-Captain Sheena Staveley said, "Coach Colby has been a great coach and we are really going to miss her. Our squad has improved this semester and it could have never happened without the help of Coach Colby."

Not wanting to leave the Cheer Squad without a coach, Colby took it upon herself to look for a new coach, even though she wasn't obligated to. Colby found a new coach but the deal fell through several weeks ago and as of right now, the Cheer Squad will not look for a new coach. Instead, the three captains, Staveley, Erin O'Brien and Tracey Hoffman will be the coaches for next season. Go Cheer Squad.

Kiel's Kitchen: NCAA March Madness nears wrap up

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The Brackets are torn up, the money has been handed out and now its reflection time as the NCAA men's basketball tournament has ended and the madness that is March is officially over.

"The Otters were handed somewhat of an embarrassing 104-41 loss to the (UCLA) Bruins..."

This year’s NCAA men's basketball tournament may have arguably been one of the best and exciting tournaments in its history. With all four number one seeds eliminated before the final four and in their place an 11th seeded George Mason, a four, three and two seed in LSU, Florida and UCLA respectively.

With Buzzer beaters, upsets and mere college kids rising to become national heroes, this tournament had all the standard stuff and then some. As it usually happens the tournament dwindles itself down to two teams that play for the crown of national champion. In this case the finals showcased a Florida team with only its second ever appearance in the finals and a UCLA team that has won the title of national champs 11 out of 12 times. With UCLA making the finals the CSUMB men's basketball team has something interesting to tell people to say the least.

Throughout the tournament the Bruins have put their defensive prowess to work as they have held their opponents to some of the lowest scores in NCAA history. This defensive prowess that UCLA has exhibited on a national level was also shown to our CSUMB men's basketball team early in the season.

Perhaps a memory that some of the Otter basketball players would rather forget has probably turned into a memory worth never forgetting. In an exhibition game earlier in the season the Otters got a first hand look at a UCLA team that had yet to begin their season. A team that eventually would take a Pac 10 championship and an eventual appearance in the finals of the 2006 NCAA men's basketball tournament.

The Otters were handed somewhat of an embarrassing 104-41 loss to the Bruins on Nov. 11, 2005, but they had the chance to play against the likes of point guards Arron Afflalo and Jordan Farmar, two players that have been leading the way for the Bruins the whole season as well as in the NCAA tournament. Afflalo is averaging 16 points and 4.3 rebounds a game in the tournament and Farmar has been putting up an average of 13.3 points and 2.6 rebounds a game for the Bruins.

Although the Otters didn’t fair as well as they had hoped in their game against the Bruins, they took it as a learning experience and now can look back on that game and see that they actually showed a certain level of competition against a team that is at the head of its class.
Otters host inaugural spring golf invitational

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Bus loads of fans and players piled into the Monterey Presidio on March 12 for a three-day golf tournament; there is no affiliation with the yearly Pebble Beach event.

After many years of hosting a fall invitational at Blackhorse Golf Course, the CSUMB Women’s Golf team held their first ever Lady Otter Spring Invitational at Bayonet Golf Course that started March 12 and ended on March 14. Even though weather conditions were lousy, with cloudy skies and occasional rain showers, all rounds were completed.

Sponsored by Feel Golf, a company that is a growing name among golf club manufacturers due to its impressive array of wedges, a strong turnout of 15 schools competed in this tournament, including Chico State and St. Martins University.

The Lady Otters of CSUMB were split into two teams, a gold team and a teal team. On the final day of the Lady Otter Invitational, the gold team of CSUMB was able to move up one spot by shooting a 332 and ended up in third place overall, shooting a 676. The teal team of CSUMB finished eleventh.

Following the lady otters were Berry (Ga.), who shot an overall 680 and Mesa State, who shot an overall 700. However, Chico State once again had the best round of the day, shooting a 325 to win the tournament by 14 strokes over St. Edwards.

Individually, Katie Leong of Chico State ran away with the title, winning by five strokes over teammate Caitie Munroe. The low score of the day and of the tournament was a 77 shot by Michelle Mitra of Dominican University.

The top Lady Otter was senior Alison Sahli of the gold team, who shot an 80 the first day and a 78 the second day for an overall score of 164 and finished fifth. For the teal team, freshmen Ashley Dickman shot an overall score of 175 finishing tied for 29th place.

“I am pleased that we were able to turn things around on day two,” said CSUMB Women’s Golf Coach Marcia Juergens. “Alison had the best round of her career and the eight-shot improvement was marvelous.”

Senior HCOM major Amy Kirsch added, “Our team has really come together this year and is filled with an enormous amount of talent and not many people are aware of that.”

A main reason for the team coming together is, Coach Juergens. Considered by her players as a wonderful coach and person, Juergens has taught the Lady Otters a tremendous amount about the game of golf with her wealth of knowledge.

“Coach Juergens has had an enormous impact on the lives of many of the ladies this season,” said junior Business major Kim Jenkins. “I think that her etiquette and customs are part of what makes this team who we are in regard to how we conduct ourselves on the course,” added Kirsch. “It has been a privilege being a part of this team and having her as our coach.”

New CSUMB teams meet and greet the public

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Every Tuesday the Farmers’ Market closes down Alvarado Street in Monterey and opens up the street to different booths and food stations. On March 14, the CSUMB baseball and softball teams had their own booths on Alvarado Street promoting themselves to the community.

“This was to support the new sports and make the people aware that we offer these sports now,” said Michelle Gonzales, the coordinator of events for CSUMB athletics.

The booth, which was stationed at the beginning of Alvarado Street, carried various Otter gear. The gear included things like baseball hats, jerseys, shorts and other Otter accessories.

Both the Softball and Baseball teams showed up along with both coaches and even Athletic Director Bill Trumbo made an appearance.

“We’re promoting ourselves and the new program, trying to get more fans, some money and sell some gear,” said freshman baseball player Norman Hebert.

Each team took shifts at the booth; each had members at the booth encouraging people to check out their gear, schedule and meet and greet the players. The booth drew a lot of attention and had onlookers intrigued as to who these teams were and what they were all about.

“The booth informed the community that CSUMB is expanding its athletic programs and it now includes both baseball and softball. It also encouraged them to come out and watch a game,” said sophomore softball player Joleen Batista.

As upstart programs for CSUMB, it is important for the baseball and softball teams to spread the word to the surrounding community that they exist.

Having the booth on Alvarado Street was a start on attempting to form a consistent fan base in the community.

The booth at the Monterey Farmers’ Market will just be the start for the programs.

“The softball team has plans on doing community service in Salinas, where our home field is located and we will be putting on youth softball clinics,” said Batista.

The softball and baseball programs are reaching out to the community and doing their part to spread the word and will continue to do so as the programs get bigger and more recognized.
The CSUMB pool is a quiet scene as dark figures move across the bottom of the pool. 10 minutes later, Diving Safety Officer Frank Degnan and his Scuba class surface during training in full black dive apparel and yellow tanks.

For 5 years now, Degnan has been teaching CSUMB’s Scuba Diving class, but for the past 3 years, Degnan has equipped students in an Advanced Rescue Diving class with skills that may help them save lives.

Though many people may think diving is just jumping off a boat after slapping on a wet suit, tank and fins, diving takes a lot of practice.

“Recreational divers learn what is needed to scuba dive safely,” said advanced diver and Computer Science and Technology major, Sean Schoeneman.

This course requires a series of tests to assess a student's health and physical abilities. One test is a 400-meter swim in less than 12 minutes. That is equivalent to 15 laps at the CSUMB Aquatic Center.

“There are swimming skills that you must pass to be able to be a certified diver, and some people just get overwhelmed trying to pass these skills and drop the class,” said Schoeneman.

The semester begins with a series of swimming pool instructions on scuba gear. The gear is all provided for students and is included in the $140.50 class fee.

After the basics in the pool, Degnan takes his students out to the ocean. If the weather permits, the class usually involves seven or eight oceanic dives which progress in depth to a maximum of 40 to 60 feet depending on the diver.

“The beginning course involves teaching basic Scuba skills – the skills divers use on every dive,” said Degnan.

Upon successful completion of the class, a dive student receives his PADI (Professional Association of Diving Instructors) certification.

The only prerequisite into the advanced rescue diving class is being a certified diver, even if the certification was not obtained at CSUMB.

The advanced class is a combination of an advanced certification and a rescue certification designed to make students more comfortable and better divers.

Advanced students get to see the Scuba flag fly in the dark when Degnan takes his class on an oceanic night dive.

“In the advanced class, we introduce new activities such as night diving, advanced navigational skills and we go down to deeper depths,” said Degnan.

The rescue training involves the experience of a diver to assess a situation. Degnan wants his students to know for themselves how to prevent a dangerous situation, and if there is a rescue situation, rescue diving students should know when it’s best to dial 911.

“On dives, we practice skills that can be used in case of a diving emergency, such as when people are in distress,” said advanced diver and International Business and Management major Michelle Pham.

During rescue training, students simulate rescues. A student will lie on the surface pretending to be unconscious while another drags him or her on shore.

“Probably the most difficult part for students in the rescue class is getting people out of the water,” said Degnan.

The training grounds for both classes are anywhere off the peninsula where there are good conditions, being beach breaks for rescues and clear water conditions for diving. The conditions are assessed by Degnan.

“Frank is a very thorough and strong instructor,” said Environmental Systems Science & Policy major, Jessica Flower Moye. “He has done this for a long time and is understanding of different learning paces. He makes it fun. He’s my scuba hero,” she said.

Besides being a certified dive master, Degnan has instructed divers in the Monterey area for over 19 years.
Bringing Back the Music will bring live jazz to Del Monte Center every Saturday to raise money for the musicians affected by Hurricane Katrina.

Charities working with Bringing Back the Music include the New Orleans Musicians' Clinic, a not-for-profit wellness partnership offering health care for musicians. The Jazz Foundation of America, another partner of Bringing Back the Music, provides employment to musicians, and has expanded to contribute housing and instruments since the tragedy of Katrina.

Bob Phillips, piano player and member of the Sweet Thursday Jazz Band, is the organizer of Bringing Back the Music.

"Since I could not do anything significant for the people in New Orleans, I tried to think of what I could do," Phillips said. So he started Bringing Back the Music.

Phillips got into contact with musicians displaced from their home because of Katrina, and asked them to play a paid gig at Del Monte Center. Phillips also found them work playing music on the Peninsula.

"I said 'Come on down for the weekend, and we'll send ya' home with some money,'" recalled Phillips.

"The money won't repair any damage," he explained, "but psychologically it's good to help them get paid to play. These are baby steps."

Bahama Billy's and other restaurants help by donating 20 percent of a customer's bill upon request to Bringing Back the Music.

KRML radio has also helped to make this benefit possible. Bringing Back the Music will sponsor performances in the Sunken Garden at Del Monte Center from 2 until 4 p.m. every Saturday that weather permits. Donations will be gratefully accepted.

An April 15 performance will feature the animated Big Mamma Sue, and music will continue through November 2006.
"All the President's Men" documents a disgraceful period of American history that we'd all like to forget. Unfortunately, our current commander-in-chief casts similar shadows of deceit with the bleak light of another unjust war.

Alan J. Pakula's cinematic interpretation of Washington Post reporters Carl Bernstein and Bob Woodward's investigation that led to the uncovering of Nixon's involvement in Watergate and later to his resignation as president, may be the most important instance of American journalism.

Woodward (Robert Redford) and Bernstein (Dustin Hoffman) are young, neophyte reporters; they look like college kids lost amongst a pile of desks in the Washington Post newsroom, but they're "hungry." Ben Bradlee (Jason Robards), the Post's editor, says, "They're hungry... Remember when you were hungry?" to a colleague who tries to put more experienced political reporters on the story about Watergate. Hoffman's nervous chain-smoking bravado fits well with Redford's sexy ferociousness.

Together their newsroom etiquette may be unorthodox, but proves to be more effective than the dinosaur reporters surrounding them.

The story is structured like a "how to" manual on investigative journalism. A 30-year technology gap shows how much harder reporters had to work before laptops, Internet, and spell-check. For the film, the lack of technology results in more action. Woodward and Bernstein literally run down city streets, knock on people's doors, do all their investigating in person, and all the while they hustle to make their deadlines.

More than political opinion, the film delves into the subject of trust, and the importance of any publication's trust of their reporters and their reporter's sources. At the time, no other publication would have anything to do with reporting on Watergate. This was troubling to Post publisher Kathy Graham, but they stuck with their two young, "hungry" reporters and trusted their roster of nameless sources until the end.

"Deep Throat" (Hal Holbrook), Woodward's anonymous but key source on the story, only meets with him at night in a nondescript parking garage. He signals to Woodward from the darkest corner flicking open his gold Zippo lighter to ignite a cigarette.

"You tell me what you know, and I'll confirm. I'll keep you in the right direction if I can, but that's all. Just... follow the money," is "Deep Throat's" most crucial advice. And Woodward and Bernstein follow the money leading them to grounds higher than they ever expected.

White House officials and the FBI begin to comment on the duo's Watergate coverage on TV giving, what the newsroom calls "non-denial denials." With threats on their lives, taps on their phones, and eyes following their every move, the Post gains more confidence that Woodward and Bernstein's story is on target, even though most of their sources wish to remain anonymous.

"All the President's Men" flows like political paranoia fiction but has a logical realism that can only be found within a real-life event. If two Washington Post reporters were able to expose the underhanded sliminess of a previous U.S. president, why has it been so hard to reveal our current president's deceptiveness? And Woodward and Bernstein didn't even have cell phones.
David Kashveroff, 2000 TAT graduate, attends the Vanity Fair party after this year’s Academy Awards (left). Kashveroff poses with Eric Simonson, director and producer of “A Note of Triumph: The Golden Age of Norman Corwin” (below), Kashveroff edited the film for this year’s winner for Best Documentary Short.

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David Kashveroff graduated from CSUMB in 2000 and now currently makes his living in the film industry and attending awards shows.

Kashveroff, a Teledramatic Arts and Technology graduate, worked as the motion graphics supervisor for the documentary “A Note of Triumph: The Golden Age of Norman Corwin.” The documentary won an Oscar for “best documentary short subject” at this year’s Academy Awards.

“It felt great, it’s not something you expect to happen but you just go with it,” said Kashveroff over the telephone.

According to Kashveroff, he was never a big Oscar fan. He rarely watched it on television and expected the event to be boring. But he was definitely having a good time that evening.

“It was kind of like a high school prom but with more money,” Kashveroff said of the event. “Everyone’s in tuxes and dresses.”

He also attended some of the exclusive after parties including the HBO and Vanity Fair parties where, according to him, all he needed was the statue to get in.

Kashveroff isn’t the only one celebrating. TAT faculty member Karen Davis is thrilled for her former students’ success.

“I’m incredibly proud of him,” said Davis. “It’s such an honor for us in TAT to have seen him along the way.”

Davis described Kashveroff as a “non-chatterbox” and was extremely focused in his classes.

Kashveroff’s recent success has also given current TAT students new hope that there is life after CSUMB.

“It’s great to know that a TAT grad could go on to be so successful,” said TAT senior Chris Anderson. “TAT alumni have continually been a strong influence to those who are still in the program.”

Davis, who is also the senior programmer for the Mill Valley Film Festival, is confident more TAT graduates will follow suit in Kashveroff’s success story.

“I know the content and projects TAT students are producing are strong,” said Davis.

Kashveroff arrived at CSUMB in the university’s second year. It was the TAT department’s then lack of structure that helped him find what he was passionate about.

“I kind of just went through the gamut and found film and editing and enjoyed the post production process the most,” said Kashveroff.


But according to Kashveroff, his recent success was a combination of talent, persistence and luck.

After graduation, Kashveroff took some time off and did some traveling. When he was ready to join the film industry, he found out how difficult it really was to get into the business.

“I was turned down a lot,” said Kashveroff. “There is a lot of downtime, but you have to keep going, continue to work, and stay focused.”
A new art exhibit on campus is drawing people to Building 71. The Visual and Public Art (VPA) department is proud to present the first student run exhibit, which opened on March 28 to an excited crowd of artists.

"Part of the reason that we decided to do this exhibition was to show other departments that we have a good, solid art department here. There are a lot of talented artists in the Visual and Public Art program, so we figured a good way to get the message out was to create a venue for them to show their work," said Paul Van de Carr, a VPA senior.

The presentation of student work included painting, mix media, sculpture, and photography. The exhibit will remain in Building 71, which will continue to be used as a space for VPA majors to display their work.

"The main focus is to get student work on display," said Lila Staples, the head of the Museum Studies program within the VPA program.

The exhibit is put on by co-curates, VPA seniors Cristiano Colantoni and Van de Carr. They both have pieces on display and as curators have the responsibilities of organizing and operating the exhibit.

"Our school needed an art gallery where students could present their work; Lila needed someone to curate and asked Paul and I, and we accepted," said Colantoni.

The space was originally used to present the art of CSUMB’s faculty members, and is now dedicated to giving students an opportunity to display their pieces.

"I’ve been campaigning for a student gallery for a long time," said Kelly Watson, who has her sculpture on display in the exhibit.

The exhibit will remain student run as long as there is work to display and someone to oversee operations. In the future the curators would like to open the exhibit to any CSUMB students who want an outlet to present their art work.

"Regardless of what a student chooses as their major, there is a creative expression URL to fulfill. Many students seem unaware of the VPA major, and this exposure will open their eyes to possibilities they had previously not considered. Our hope is that people will see the exhibit and be attracted to our department and broaden their artistic horizons,” said Van de Carr.

"The thing I liked was that every piece was diverse and interesting, and all of the students and faculty looked very proud and happy with their work. The exhibit gives students the freedom to display their art the way they want to, the pieces on display looked very professional and marketable. I had a class with Kelly [Watson] and I was surprised to see such an intricate piece, I was very impressed," said Samantha Nelums, ISSM sophomore who enjoyed the exhibit.

When asked about future plans for the art exhibit, Staples replied "anything is possible; it belongs to the students.”
Barcelona has two official languages: a slowly annunciated brand of Spanish, and Catalan, the more ancient language of the Spanish state Catalunya, which used to be an empire.

Learn a few simple phrases when visiting another culture as a sign of respect. For instance, instead of ordering “café con leche” at breakfast, opt for the Catalan phrase “café amb llet.”

A week off from school, or nine days and eight nights without classes, is an open window daring students to get out of town. I opted to stroll out of the country and leave it all behind. I chose Barcelona.

It’s tough to get those last assignments done when you’ve just bought a non-refundable ticket. Things like hotel options, museums and daytrips fill the imagination much more easily. But I would be traveling solo, and it’s difficult to get those left behind exited about these details.

There’s a freedom in riding the airbus to San Francisco International Airport, a blurred gaze of yellow wildflowers along Highway 101, and a kiss goodbye to all things familiar.

Barcelona is the perfect place to call “Not Your Own.” For one thing, it’s perfectly common to encounter a city block of buildings 700 years old. I think about our famed missions and San Carlos Church in Monterey barely two centuries young.

Vespa mopeds and golf-cart sized autos zoom through alleyways that you might have thought were too narrow for walking.

Hotels serve as a private place to do laundry out of the sink and picnic on a balcony, but hostels are an affordable option for travelers who want to meet people from all over the world.

I spent my first two nights in a hostel near Las Ramblas, the renowned boulevard of street performers, reptile vendors, people-watchers and pickpockets. Las Ramblas begins at a towering portside statue of Christopher Columbus and runs along the south side of the Gothic quarter, Barri Gotic.

The Port of Barcelona is rife with seafood restaurants, windsurfing, and topless beaches. The Gothic quarter is an enchanting pre-15th century home to La Catedral, whose black spire pierces the skyline.

The South side of Las Ramblas boasts a swarming, covered outdoor market. At this city within a city you can find live seafood, fresh fruit, pastries, and every part of a mammal that you can think of. Tourists take their number and wait for service while locals walk up and buy what they need without uttering a word.

Upon heading off the beaten track I found the best espresso I’ve ever had for the equivalent of one US dollar. Five to ten percent gratuity is optional but not expected at places where you sit down to eat.

I also found that mom and pop bakeries are an affordable and interesting alternative to the touristy restaurants. At a market I bought a baguette, a round of brie cheese, and non-carbonated mineral water for two Euros, or about $2.40.

Day tours are well worth the cost and are a useful tool to help you get oriented. One such tour took me in a luxurious bus to see the Picasso museum and modernistic architecture by Antoni Gaudi. Another took me to the 1,200 meter high Montserrat, where a basilica houses the black statue of Mary and the longest running choir of Europe performs daily.

The day’s time schedule can take some getting used to when coming from North America. A substantial meal is hard to come by at breakfast time, and dinner isn’t served until well after 9 p.m. Any time before 1 a.m. is too early for dancing, so be ready to stay out until four.
Lindyquist, the first skydiver, stepped into the plane and was ready to enjoy the sixty seconds before the parachute was pulled. As they spun through the air the ground became clearer by the second. "I could see my house" said Larry Joe who lives in Marina.

Making a safe landing on their butts, Larry Joe touched down safely and experienced for the first time "the flight of a bird" as the instructor Randy Pacheco said.

Skydive Monterey Bay is located off highway one, next to Fort Ord at 721 Neeson Road, Ste. 1 in Marina, Ca. Jumps range from $149 to $249 with $89 for video or stills of the jump. Winter hours are Monday thru Friday 7 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., weekends 8 a.m. to sunset, summers Monday thru Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekends 8 a.m. to sunset closed Christmas and New Years. Contact Skydive Monterey Bay at (831) 384-3483 or fax at (831) 384-7522 more information at skydive monterey-bay.com.

“I guess it’s too late to turn around now,” said Larry Joe, hooked in with instructor Randy Pacheco.
Student disappointed in mockery of Christianity in World Theater production

Dear Editor,

On Thursday, Feb. 23, 2006 I had the chance to go see the much-anticipated ODC San Francisco perform at the World Theater. There were many talented artists who came from all over the world to perform with ODC and it was an enjoyable evening of dancing.

One thing that was not enjoyable to me was the way Christianity was represented in the second act of the Ballet. The scene that disappointed me consisted of a dancer wearing what seemed to be the stereotypical Catholic priest black top with the white band around his neck. Throughout the scene he put his hands in the air and then touched dancers who were lined up to "receive" his blessing. As the dancers were touched they fell into some type of trance, almost fainted, and then were dragged away. The priest had a sparkly ring on his finger and in a discussion of Christianity, while at the same time claims to provide an environment free of discrimination.

Inside the program given at the door were advertisements for the Nrittyagram Dance Ensemble. Within the advertisement there were prayers to Lord Krishna, one of the most commonly worshipped deities in the Hindu faith. Why at one WT performance can we mock Christianity, but then celebrate the Hindu Faith at the next one? If the ballet had a scene that openly mocked Islam or the Hindu faith, would CSUMB invite the group and support it financially?

Taken straight from the Vision Statement at CSUMB: "Our vision of the goals of California State University, Monterey Bay includes a model pluralistic academic community where all learn and teach one another in an atmosphere of mutual respect and pursuit of excellence."

Although the ODC Ballet was a learning experience, I do not feel it was in an atmosphere of mutual respect.

Thank You,
Greta Dobie

Where have all the Capstones gone?

The Capstone project is the culminating experience for all CSUMB students—a distillation of several years of study into one dazzling piece of evidence that shows how well you can synthesize and communicate new knowledge. As a librarian, I have had the opportunity of helping many of you with your Capstone research, so I know just how hard you work on these projects.

So what will happen to your Capstone when you've completed it? Will it stay on your memory stick? Languish on a shelf at your parents' house? Hang out in a box along with your dorm room posters in the trunk of your car? Let me suggest a better option that demonstrates to others your experiences at CSUMB.

There is no better place to put your project—document, Power Point, or multimedia—than the online CSUMB Library Capstone Archive. Archiving your capstone will demonstrate how your Capstone contributes to the body of knowledge in your field and allow future scholars (at CSUMB only or internationally—it’s your choice) to use your research to support their work. And last but not least, the Archive is a place where potential employers can view your best work.

All it takes is 20 minutes. Check out the Capstones and Theses Archive Web page on the Library’s Web site.

A Capstone is a terrible thing to waste.

—Mardi Chalmers, CSUMB Reference and Instruction Librarian
I'd like to take a moment to reflect upon the nature of our loss. To hear the alumni tell it, in their letters of support and in person, TAT is an immensely successful multi-disciplinary model of education, developing the skills, professionalism, and flexibility necessary to succeed in today's media markets. Current students have repeatedly spoken out in support of the value of learning to produce compelling material across a range of mediums. Theater is at the heart of the vision of TAT, providing students access to the core values and skills of our story-telling culture. Radio is a venue to learn valuable production skills in a positive, distribution-oriented market. Both avenues of study within TAT have consistently had full classes and successful outcomes, and are often the introduction needed to draw fringe students into the greater TAT program. However, questions of "sustainability" have arisen within the department, and cuts needed to be made.

In a meeting between administrators, faculty, and students at the end of the Fall '05 semester, rumors and concerns were brought to the table. Department Head Michelle Riel and Dean Rikk Kvitek adamantly declared to a room full of concerned students and professors that no plans had been officially made regarding cuts to the TAT curriculum. Students were promised access to important documents pertinent to the process of planning the future of TAT, including budget histories regarding the issue of sustainability. Claims were made that students would be involved in the decisions to come. The meeting ended with most questions unanswered and concerns unresolved, but there was optimism that perhaps the powers that be would be more responsive to the voice of the student body.

Here we are, nearly four months later, mourning the loss of two valuable courses of study within TAT. The fall schedule includes neither Radio nor Theater, but has instead placed the enrollment-challenged New Media as its centerpiece. To date, no documents, no budget, no further information has been released to student review. There have been no more open forum meetings. In fact, it appears that every single student, past and present, who cared enough to speak up has been ignored. The promises of last semester amount to nothing more than lip-service and the administrators of the TAT department are acting in flagrant disregard of the vision of this university.

When a class that regularly experiences full-enrollment is jettisoned in favor of a focus of study that has repeatedly been canceled due to low-enrollment, there is an obvious problem. The TAT department is being treated as a personal project rather than as a service to the students who choose to attend here. When the powers-that-be claim to be listening but show no signs of consideration for the very compelling input of all concerned parties, perhaps these powers have lost their focus and are no longer suitable to the CSUMB environment. NO ONE cares about TAT more than its students.

Denying us that dignity and ignoring our heartfelt input is a slap in the face; were the dean and director to truly understand the nature of our beloved major, they might recognize how important Radio and Theater are to the TAT experience.

Until accountability, transparency of process and a policy of responding to student's concerns with more than lip-service are restored to the department, I am unable to recommend pursuing a TAT degree to anyone considering it. The department that has sent so many successful CSUMB alumni into the world is failing its current generation of motivated and talented students. Future TAT students will not be receiving the education advertised by the TAT vision statement, and it may be said that TAT as envisioned by its founders will have ceased to exist. May it rest in peace.
INQ mashes up the Lava Lounge

Rebecca Bolin, Staff Reporter
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The Lava Lounge inside Club Octane was buzzing with curiosity as the Bay Area band INQ prepared to take the stage March 23.

Local music event The Scene, hosted by 103.9 The X every Thursday at the Lava Lounge, featured INQ following a live broadcast with The Big E, one of the station’s disc jockeys.

"Think Black Sabbath meets Jane’s Addiction meets The Smashing Pumpkins," said drummer Cole Berggren. INQ illuminates with an authentically original genre of their own.

INQ released their first professional grade album, Life Assurance, this year. Created from the maturation of demos they recorded in late 2003 and 2004, the album is actually one you can start at track one and listen to all the way through.

"INQ's self-released Life Assurance showcases the band's classic rock influenced sound, and its impressive musical range," said Paul Linblad of MESH magazine album review.

All four members were in previous bands before forming INQ as if fate brought them together. Vocalist Chris Landon, former front man for Shovelhead and member of Squeeze the Dog, has the deep, emotion-filled voice of an old soul.

Guitarist Dave Pousho, formerly of Creamsickle, brings a new sound to the band. A taint of retro rock can be heard through his masterful contemporary approach to both solos and back up. He makes his riffs look easy and his distinctive talent stands out.

Distinguished bassist Kevin Cole, a former member of Your Precious You, and drummer Berggren, formerly of Creamsickle, together create the backdrop for INQ’s unique sound.

"While our CD was recorded with utmost care in arrangement and sonic quality, you have to see our live show," said Cole. "Our shows bring out something else that the studio can not duplicate."

INQ appears to have made quite an imprint on the Bay Area music scene, and quite possibly has an upper hand on their competition. Having played with big timers like Crossfade and Slightly Stoopid, the band is on the road to real success.

INQ has dedicated itself to nationwide tours and continuous recording. A summer tour up and down the West Coast is in the works. They are anticipating the release of a new album before the year is done.

Keep an eye out; these savvy musicians have the potential for prestige.

What is the most bizarre thing you’ve ever bought at Wal-Mart?

Lauren Oliver
SOPHOMORE
LIBERAL STUDIES

"The craziest thing I have bought at Wal-Mart is a candy whip."

Chad Gibson, Photo Editor
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Anthony Zelensky
2ND YEAR SOPHOMORE
ESSP MAJOR

"I bought a “Hemet is heaven” t-shirt. Let’s just say Hemet is not heaven."

Sharonda Layton
FRESHMAN
BUS. ADM.

"Condoms with a twist."

Pamela Kline
FRESHMAN
ESSP / WLC

"Lingerie for a gag gift."