CHINATOWN'S PERPETUAL MAKEOVER

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Salinas Beautification Day

Reporters, muralists, community politicians, and members of the Dorothy’s Kitchen job center gathered on Soledad Street for Salinas’ fourth annual Beautification Day.

The quarterly event is sponsored by CSU Monterey Bay and the City of Salinas as part of a long-term project to ensure a cleaner Salinas.

Around 100 volunteers gathered on Soledad Street, commonly referred to as “old Chinatown.” All the volunteers were assigned different jobs upon arrival including: graffiti cover-up, gardening, mural painting, and trash pick-up.

In the middle of all the beautifying, a bright yellow sun was painted in the middle of a big blank wall on the side of Iglesia De Dios.

Patricia Gardner, a graduating Visual and Performing Arts major painted the sun to inspire people.

“People don’t think they are artists, they need something to inspire them which is why I painted the sun,” said Gardner.

Gardner passed out a plastic cup cake pan filled with pink, green, red, blue, and yellow paint. A count of 20 people from very different backgrounds collaborated; sorority girls, residents of the community, former homeless people, and recovering drug addicts approached the empty walls after placing black plastic bags over their clothing and began to fill the buildings with hearts, flowers, drawings of people and butterflies and inspirational words in English, Spanish, and Hawaiian. The wall boasting new vibrant colors gave one of the many Chinatown alleys a new sense of life.

According to Gardner, the protocol for the mural was different than usual. Unlike a previous mural, also found on Soledad Street, which Gardner painted for the City of Salinas, there weren’t any guidelines for her to follow.

“My favorite is when everyone just paints and it serves as therapy,” said Gardner. The mural painters gathered to beautify the wall freely. There was no need for permits or approval of any kind of design; all she needed to do was ask the owner who was more than generous to provide the wall of his building.

Across the street from the mural where a parking lot used to be, is “cob station,” an all-natural version of concrete; wood,
clay, straw, and sand that was the primary source for the future garden. The garden will consist of benches and a tool shed all made from cob.

Chris Axton, the person in charge of the gardening project, not only cut wood himself from the Santa Cruz forest, but also received a bachelor's degree in ecology. He spoke about the importance of using all natural substances from within our environment.

"50 percent of landfills is from the destruction of construction sites, and by using natural substances there is no detriment to the planet. If and when the city decides to destroy this garden all of the substances will decompose into the earth, and their will be no problem," said Axton.

After gardening, picking up trash, and painting all day, the group at Dorothy's Kitchen provided food and entertainment to all the volunteers. CSUMB's own Mariachi played, as well as the socially conscious band Para La Gente, who reached out to the audience by allowing the Chinatown residents to speak on the microphone.

Teresa Lindsey, a member and vocalist for the band shared her thoughts on the event. "As a former drug addict, I understand where all these people come from, how they feel and what they are living." Born and raised in Salinas she mentioned knowing about Chinatown and what it used to be, and was glad to be a part of the event because she felt giving back to the community was one of the most important things she could do.

The event inspired other strong personalities to share their stories and what this event meant to them. Ms. Rose, a former drug addict, who was incarcerated for 27 years spoke without introducing herself, sharing experiences about jail, and what growing up in Chinatown was really like.

"I grew up in these streets," said Rose. Inspired by the presence of university students she expressed her thoughts about college life. Insinuating that even college students could go astray. "Do you guys like to party? So you see drugs, and unprotected sex right? Where is the party in that?" said Rose. She continued to talk about Chinatown and how thanks to the life she led in Chinatown, she works as a motivational speaker for young people in correctional facilities.

At the end of the day, the event brought different people together to accomplish the common goal of bringing positive change to Salinas' most infamously desolate street.
Arnold, Propositions, and Local Mayors Elected As Patriots Cast Ballots On Election Night

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Democracy was in full bloom on election night at CSU Monterey Bay as students exercised their right to vote in their very own Student Center.

Two friends, who had just cast their ballots, stood behind a couch right next to arcade games and continued to debate some of the more controversial propositions.

"I think parents should know—at that young of an age, they're just not capable of making that decision," said Jessica Nicholas, undeclared sophomore, in discussing Proposition 85, parental notification on underage abortion.

"My friend had an abortion and it was good she didn't have to tell her parents because of their situation," said Pilar La Pointe, SBS freshmen.

CSUMB students were able to vote on campus as two polling stations were set up, one in the Student Center and the other on Eichelbeger Court.

Associated Students President and Polling Inspector, Zachary Kasow, oversaw the polls stationed in a corner inside the Student Center. Three voting machines had been set up, two for Seaside voters and one for Marina.

Polling volunteers had been there since 6:30 a.m. until the polls closed at 8:00 p.m. "There's been a steady flow of traffic," said Kasow, "It's good to see students participating in the election."

Two hours before the polls closed, as political pundits on television began to predict the power shift in the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate, students were still arriving to cast their ballots.

According to Kasow, in the end, 224 people voted at the Student Center. It was slightly short of the election committee's goal of 250.

As election night came to a close and as more ballots were counted, La Pointe and other voters prevailed and rejected Proposition 85 along with Proposition 86 (cigarette tax), 87 (alternative energy incentives), 88 (education property tax), 89 (campaign finance), and 90 (eminent domain).

Proposition 1A-1E, the bonds for traffic security, transportation, emergency shelters, education facilities, and flood prevention, all passed convincingly along with Proposition 83 (sex offenders monitoring) and 84 (water quality).

As for the local elections, Ila Metee-McCutcheon and Ralph Rubio both won another term as mayor in Marina and Seaside. The cities of Monterey and Salinas elected new mayors, Chuck Della Sala and Dennis Donohue.

Nicholas and La Pointe were both happy to know Arnold Schwarzenegger was leading in the polls and ultimately won a second term as Calif.'s governor.

"I'd be disappointed if Arnold lost because I think he's done a good job in his reign," said Nicholas.

Schwarzenegger received 56 percent of the votes cast while Democratic contender Phil Angelides placed second with 39 percent.
Signs, signs everybody signs

New campus signage help visitors find their way on campus

Celissa Valenzuela, Staff Reporter

Signs with a coherent map of the campus and all its buildings have recently gone up all over CSUMB for visitors and new students.

New street signs have also gone to prevent any further confusion for campus visitors. First Street has been changed to Divarty Street, making it easier for students to change their addresses.

The new orientation maps are in a new color combination of bright ocean blue and white.

"I like the signs," said HPWE junior, Caitlyn Lombard, "They make the campus look more professional."

On several streets, CSUMB's Space Management and Campus Planning department have placed large directional signs that show where students and visitors are on campus. The signs also include wide arrows pointing towards the direction of Highway One.

Before the signs were in place, visitors and students often complained about the difficulty in finding their way around campus. Jennifer Bliss, a graduate student in Public Policy said, "If I was not a student on campus, it would be really difficult to find the buildings you need to go to."

President Dianne F. Harrison stated in her State of the University Address that she is happy the construction is going on. "I plan to look at each step in campus development as something to celebrate—whether an underground cable, a ground-breaking, breaking news on road closures, or completion of this fall's signage project," Harrison said.

Mehul Mody, assistant director for Space Management and Campus Planning in charge of the planning that went into the sign project, could not be reached for the total amount of new signs.

The orientation maps can be found in any part of the campus along with the smaller versions of direction signs.

"I like the signs. They make the campus look more professional."

CAITLYN LOMBARD, HPWE JUNIOR
MY DINNER WITH THE BERTEAUXYS

A look into the life of HCOM’s renaissance man

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An hour-long discussion with Dr. John Berteaux is inspiration enough to run a marathon, sky dive, learn how to speak Latin or ponder Plato’s “Allegory of the Cave.”

I recently had a chance to spend quality time with Dr. John Berteaux, one of the most positive and thought provoking professors on the CSUMB campus.

The first afternoon we went for coffee and strolled around campus chatting about his life lessons and realizations.

I tried to jot down notes but my hand couldn’t write fast enough for the amount of knowledge he poured out from his soul. Berteaux expressed reality and the illusion we face, referring to Plato’s “Allegory of the Cave.” “We forget that there is all of this other stuff that is happening behind our backs,” he exclaimed.

As an African American in the 1960’s and one of the first affirmative action students admitted into San Diego State, Berteaux had a difficult time, but it was his love of philosophy that encouraged him to move forward and pursue his fervor for knowledge. Berteaux learned to deal with the complexities of racism through philosophy.

In 1973, he graduated with honors from San Diego State with a Bachelor of Arts degree in philosophy and a minor in the classical languages.

However, being disheartened by his own insecurities about affirmative action and the lack of guidance from a male African American mentor, Berteaux almost dropped out. Afraid that he wasn’t smart enough to achieve his passion in philosophy, a professor he claims he will never forget, reassured him that he had amazing potential to be a scholar.

As an Assistant Professor in the HCOM department, Berteaux teaches Ways of Knowing and Practical and Professional Ethics; however, this is not the beginning nor is it the end of his journey.

Before I was a glimmer in my mother’s eye, Berteaux was in the Marine Corp, flying planes and competing in Hawaii’s World Iron Man Triathlon Championship.

I was invited to have dinner at Berteaux’s house with his wife of 36 years in their quaint home.

As I drove up to the well-kept house I was welcomed at the open door by Susie, his wife. I anticipated the dinner as I walked into the threshold as Norah Jones played on the radio. Berteaux comfortably awaited my arrival on his brown leather recliner.

I was a bit nervous at first but Berteaux struck up a conversation immediately and I relaxed, as he reminisced about his past. No matter how different my life appears or our age gap, Berteaux has the incredible ability to apply the lessons he refers to about his life to my own life experiences. No conversation with Berteaux is without deep meaning and though provocation.

After a few bites of bric and crackers we began to talk about his front-page column that appears in the Monterey Herald’s Local Section on the first Monday of every month. Berteaux’s columns are first person experiences about the diversity issues he deals with. Aside form his journalist commitment, he swims daily, writes articles and presents on issues of diversity, justice, social ethics, and biomedical ethics.

We didn’t just talk about his accomplishments all night. Berteaux, Susie and I explored issues about the world, the CSUMB campus, family problems and Trader Joes.

In 2004 he received the James Hervey Johnson Fellowship while at San Diego State University.

Berteaux was also recognized in 2002 as the Most Influential Faculty, in the College of Arts & Letters, at San Diego State University. In 1999, at the University of California at San Diego he won the Outstanding Faculty Award for Thurgood Marshall College.
Things that go bump in the night

Vandalism hits the residence halls again

Kate Kiechle, Staff Reporter
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"Destruction and violence are not the answer. Please respect your community," read a flyer, posted anonymously after extensive damage to a North Quad fire door was discovered; officials are on a search for suspects.

Homecoming weekend proved itself reckless when reports of a male suspect banging and kicking doors at 4 a.m. The next day led to the discovery of a destroyed fire door. The second floor door in building 303, is now unable to close, difficult to enter, and will be costly to repair.

There are reward posters all over building 303's walls. According to Lt. Earl Lawson of the University Police Department, "The door is designed to shut in the event of a fire to help keep the fire from spreading from one part of the building to another."

ESSP senior, Michelle Daubert, heard some noise that night but said, "I just figured it was drunk people being really loud."

"I just figured it was drunk people being really loud."
Michelle Daubert, ESSP Senior

Accounting sophomore James Chassee agreed with Daubert, "I was not surprised...people are stupid and they do stupid things."

Residential Advisor, Nicole Saad wondered if it was a guest to the school. According to Saad, her floor is usually pretty quiet.

"It is disappointing that this level of destruction can happen in a community where adults live. It is even more disappointing no one has come forward to take responsibility for their actions, the actions of their guests, or to identify the person responsible," said Emmalyn Yamrick, Area Director for North Quad.

The reward poster calls the destruction malicious and expensive. The officials know there must have been witnesses due to the amount of noise the destruction would have caused. The posters put up by residential life and the UPD, offer $250 for information leading to the arrest and prosecution of suspect(s). Until someone comes forward or the UPD finds out more information, there is nothing to be done, but replace the door.
CAROLINA IN MY MIND

HOW ONE WOMAN COORDINATES A SUPPORT SYSTEM FOR STUDENTS IN NEED

Elliott Singer, Staff Reporter
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A short trip down the submarine-like hallways of building 47 leads to the office of Carolina Gonzalez-Lujan, the head of Student Support Services or SSS.

As Coordinator of TRIO, Student Support Services Program, she is responsible for 160 students through SSS.

In SSS, she offers study skills that include time management skills as well as the "STAR" program, Success Through Academic Retention. STAR is a six-week program in which Gonzalez-Lujan tries to find out why students are on academic probation and talks them through it.

"Whether it is girlfriend or boyfriend issues, or they have problems fitting in I try to help them and talk them through it," she said in a telephone interview.

She also offers one on one support as well as workshops for capstone and technology seminars for students who transferred in and did not take a tech tools class.

Gonzalez-Lujan assists other departments as a temporary "stand-in" by lending extra time when needed. Carrie, as most people know her, works closely with Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) which has more than 1380 students. One of her big goals is to "demystify studying abroad."

"It is an excellent conference that informs of opportunities for internships, entry level positions and graduate school financing," said Adriana Pacheco, who received a grant from the USDA and traveled to San Antonio.

"HACU has many services for students such as scholarships, paid internships, job opportunities, and conferences" says Rosalba Garcia of HACU which is the school program that also took her to San Antonio. Although it is a Hispanic serving oriented program, students of all ethnicities are encouraged to apply. The program requires "that the total Hispanic enrollment constitutes a minimum of 25 percent of the total enrollment," said Rosalba in an email.

Her last support role is for MSSSP or Migrant Student Support Services Program that replaced the now extinct College Assistance Migrant Program. CAMP was a program that was designed to help incoming freshmen of migrant field workers in finding grants as well as services. MSSSP essentially does the same thing, just without being able to dole out grants.

She has great enthusiasm for her position, "I love helping the students," she reiterated several times.

For class of 2007 Graduating Seniors

Steve Arvizu

$1000 Capstone Grant
Sponsored by Associated Students

The purpose of the capstone grants is to assist undergraduate and graduate CSUMB students with proven financial needs in developing their Capstone projects in specified fields of study.

Applications are available Nov. 1, 2006 on First Class and Bldg. 14 in AS office and Administration Office.

http://as.csumb.edu
DEADLINE FEBRUARY 2, 2007

Otter oops Nov. 2nd issue

The Otter Realm sincerely regrets any errors.
We apologize.

Photo by Kate Kiechel on page 2.
Page 6 and page 8 Sean Tibbitt's name is spelled wrong.
Prop 86 levies at 13 cents tax not .13 percent.
Cheryl Karol took the picture on page 13, not Kristina Kendrick.
OPINION

The 411 on Vegelean

Joseph McCarthy, Staff Reporter

The CSUMB Dining Commons (DC) has a variety of different food choices, many of them healthy. From the partially organic salad bar to the hot cereal and oatmeal or the fruit and yogurt cups to the breakfast burritos, the DC prides itself in being a healthy eating option for CSUMB students.

However, the environmentally friendly changes and healthy options pose a stark contrast to the dining services’ use of “Vegelean” oil, used for all their grill cooking.

Vegelean is the first ingredient in Vegelean oil spray. It is vegetable oil but it is partially hydrogenated to give it a thicker consistency and a longer shelf life.

Hydrogenated oil (trans. fat), is the unhealthiest thing a human can consume. Hydrogenated oil sticks to and clogs arteries, like putting barbed jacks through the veins. The top nutritionist at Harvard recently said, “By our most conservative estimate, replacement of partially hydrogenated fat in the U.S. diet with natural un-hydrogenated vegetable oils would prevent approximately 30,000 premature coronary deaths per year, and epidemiologic evidence suggests this number is closer to 100,000 premature deaths annually.”

The DC is a great place to get a good meal on the way to class; it provides many choices and the employees are friendly. It is unfortunate that the company policy is to cover the grill and everything on it with hydrogenated oils.

According to one DC employee, they use 100 percent vegetable oil which is better than butter. But they refused to add any further comments on company policy and referred all questions to a manager.

Another employee, who wishes to remain anonymous said that the “Vegelean is used because it is what we’re given to use.”

According to the Vegelean can, it sticks to the grill less than butter and doesn’t burn like butter does. It also gives people serious heartburn and heart disease. As a substitution for the hydrogenated death spray, students can ask for “butter” at the DC.

Burgers grill in Vegelean at the OE.

PHOTO BY ADAM JOSEPH

“Hey, it’s CSUMB”

Students at CSUMB have a real acceptance of mediocrity, a general acceptance that classes are easy and professors are easily manipulated. A common phrase among students is “Hey, it’s CSUMB.” It’s used when cutting corners, when you increase page margins and use Arial rather than New Times Roman because it will get you an extra half page. It’s used when rather than reading Romeo and Juliet you add it to your Netflix queue. The phrase is used to describe lower standards.

When I first thought about this piece I wanted to ask why students are satisfied in classrooms filled with excessive bias, and why half-ass work passes with the same marks as exceptional work. I wondered why there are so many classes that seem completely impractical. It bothers me that the students who pay to get their education here at CSUMB Monterey Bay become so jaded and disgruntled because they don’t agree with the curriculum or because they feel the young school lacks prestige.

Then I thought about the individual responsibility that students have when they come to college. Those who are here to for the education, rather than just a degree, are studious and do very well, while other students at CSUMB Monterey Bay are able to do well without putting forth much more effort than a junior college.

Senior Travis Clark, BUS major, has been here for four years and has been able to succeed without struggling too badly. “I get pretty good grades in my courses, and don’t spend a whole lot of time studying outside of class,” Clark said. “I do well but I dislike how biased some teachers can be sometimes.”

Indeed some professors at CSU Monterey Bay may not be ideally impartial, and it may feel awkward disagreeing with a professor. I have found that here it is often best to remain silent, to agree with the professor rather than contest: the often opinion-rich material being taught.

Zachery Ishikawa, BUS senior, felt his Service Learning course was unreasonably opinionated. “I spoke my mind in that class and disagreed with the book and teacher. I did way more work than some people who I know did much better in the class than me.”

Perhaps this is an isolated incident, but the fact remains that so much material taught is loaded with opinion.

“If you recognize a teacher’s bias you can tap that for a good grade,” said Justin Kleinman, LS senior who believes in high standards. “It’s like everything else holding value gets thrown out the window if you play to their opinions.”

As difficult as it may be to oppose an instructor, students can look at the biases as a chance to challenge a professor, a time to make your own beliefs known.

“You should use that opportunity to transcend and step up your game,” said Kleinman.

I agree. Here at CSU Monterey Bay we are given the choice to either absorb the material taught or, skate by without accomplishing what we came here for.

Sean Tibbitts, Staff Reporter

Here at CSU Monterey Bay we are given the choice to either absorb the material taught or, skate by without accomplishing what we came here for.

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THE GREAT WAL OF MARINA

Here we come
It was nothing more than an attractive building and large parking lot a few weeks ago; but, at 7:30 a.m. on Wednesday Nov. 8, the site of the new Marina Wal-Mart store was packed with vehicles and community members for the grand opening. Customers stood in a line stretching across the parking lot with carts in hand, ready for some hardcore shopping.

"Who are all those people out there? They're all for me," exclaimed a Wal-Mart sales associate just two days earlier about the crowd of community members and employee family members awaiting a sneak peak of the store. This preview was arranged to give family and prominent citizens of Marina a chance to appreciate all the hard work the associates had put into readying the store.

The 94,445-square-foot complex is located on Beach Road adjacent to the 7-11. Store manager Mark Blome said, "Our associates have been working together as a team to get this store ready, helping to make a difference in the community by building a beautiful new store that will attract shoppers from surrounding neighborhoods." Blome stressed the significance of the attractive, classier exterior of the store, "it doesn't look like every other Wal-Mart...we weren't going to come in and paint it grey."

Along with the appealing exterior there are interesting features inside including an energy saving sky light system that automatically dims and raises the lights in the store depending on how bright it is outside.

As people crowded to get inside on Wednesday, a local man said, "People who said they didn't want this, I think they were wrong, very wrong." The parking lot was full, people were waiting for spots and some even parked in the dirt.

Blome addressed opposition to Wal-Mart by observing, "One of the bad things about Wal-Mart is that if there is a bad one in a community, one that's not run well, then people think that all Wal-Mart's are run that way." He said that each manager has a different philosophy and brings something unique to their work.

There has been a lot of speculation as to how this store will affect the community as well as local businesses. Sam Lau, a soft-spoken manager of Marina's Grocery Outlet said, "I have nothing against Wal-Mart, but they will definitely hurt business." "We're lucky, we have a niche market," he continued.

The new store has hired 260 employees thus far and still has a few more openings. Blome estimates that 75 percent of their employees are from the Marina and Seaside areas. One associate from Seaside left his job at Target to work for Wal-Mart. "I like working with everybody...I like everything about it," he said of his new job.

Local stores such as Ace Hardware and Your Home Town Sewing Center have about six employees each.

"We may take a little bit of a hit," said Ace Hardware manager Augie Ramirez with some uncertainty in his voice.

Roberta Brunet, owner of Your Home Town Sewing Center said, "It's going to hurt a little bit here and there, but in the long run its something that's necessary." Brunet was pleased to see Wal-Mart's fabric department is small, much unlike the variety and openness of her store. "How can I, as a retailer, compete with $3.99 a yard when I pay $4 a yard," Brunet wondered as she pointed out that the fabric she buys are of higher quality cotton than that of Wal-Mart. She continued, "On the plus side there are a lot of things in there we need in town," like children's clothes and toys.

Wal-Mart's children's section includes many hot items for Christmas including 80 new "Tickle-Me Elmo" dolls.

"30 seconds and this base was cleared, I was trampled, but I'm still alive," joked an assistant manager about the rush to purchase the dolls, which are selling for upwards of $150 online. Wal-Mart offered the doll for $34.88.

At the opening, the City of Marina Youth Program received an $8,000 grant from Wal-Mart, to "advance their youth program," said Blome. The store donated a total of $37,500 to local charities.

"This is the most motivated group of people I have ever seen...I am looking forward to working with Wal-Mart and every other new business that will be here in the next few years," said Marina Mayor Ila Metee-McCutchen, who also attended the grand opening.

Landowners Terry Tallen and Anne Keshen of Tallen and Keshen Land Holdings said, "We believe the new Wal-Mart store will be the catalyst to develop Marina."

Mary Johnson, a Marina resident attended the opening because she was excited that she would no longer have to travel to Salinas to get her shopping done. "I think it's a real convenient thing." Joanna Black, also a Marina resident noted, "It's created employment opportunities for young people...well for all people actually."

Although this Wal-Mart is not a Supercenter, which offers groceries, it is geared towards the area and its people. "This store is unique verses other ones...it is a beach store meaning we have water equipment year round," said Blome, as well as expanded outdoor and golf sections.

"We're here only to provide the best deal for the customer," Blome said. Wal-Mart is open seven days a week from 7 a.m. until 10 p.m., but don't expect to see a sign, Wal-Mart and City Planning are still in negotiations about the size.
Rock 'n' Roll is heading back to Carmel by popular demand at the Golden Bough Theatre located on Monte Verde St.

The Buddy Holly Story will take the stage again, enthralling audiences of all ages Nov. 22 through Dec. 31. Running for 13 years in London and then moving all over the world to places like Germany, Australia, South Africa and Monterey Bay the “Buddy” story in total has already reached an audience of over 16 million people according to www.buddythemusical.com.

The Web site is dedicated to musical performances, not a movie version of the “Buddy” story. The site guides fans and potential viewers into the world of the famous musician Buddy Holly, a young man who rose to stardom in 1957 and graced the rock ‘n’ roll world for like most legends, too short of a time. The show follows Holly from the very beginning, from his start with the Crickets in Texas all the way to his famous tour with Ritchie Valens and the Big Bopper that ended all three of these iconic American musicians’ lives.

Last years run of the “Buddy” story exceeded all local box-office and audience turnout; winning awards from the Bay Area Critics’ Circle for Best Musical, Best Ensemble and Best Leading Actor (Travis Poelle). This year, the show is being put on by the Pacific Reparatory Theatre and its Web site boasts “It could be called the show that changed Carmel and is the stuff of local legend (www.pacrep.org).” It’s also the type of show that kids and adults both will enjoy.

CSU Monterey Bay administrative support staff Kana Parmelee-Martinez has lived on campus for eight years now and with three children; she is constantly looking for entertainment in the community that doesn’t come from the box (T.V.). The show “is not something I would see on my own, but when my parents come to town or taking my kids it’s something we could all enjoy.”

The “Buddy Holly Story” takes Carmel by storm starting 7:30 p.m. Nov. 22 and tickets can be purchased on ticketguys.com or by calling the PacRep box office at (831) 633-0100 ranging from $6 to $36.

The intricate mystery “Brick,” is a strange and highly innovative feat for first time director, Rian Johnson. Not only does Johnson pull off a well crafted film noir, from the shadows cast by cigarette smoke to a single light bulb’s hesitant illumination, he pulls it off using a high school as the film’s setting.

None of the characters are over 18 years old, but they all appear as though they have lived a lifetime; they’re cool and collect in their demeanor no matter what the situation is. This may sound far-fetched, because it is, and Johnson doesn’t care, he goes all the way, merging spoiled Southern Californian high school students with caricatures pulled from old Howard Hawks and John Huston gangster films.

Joseph Gordon-Levitt plays Brendan Frye; Humphrey Bogart reincarnated as a 17-year-old high school outsider whose uniform is a white tee and dark jeans. Brendan’s cynical and cold sensibility is the result of his girlfriend, Emily (Emilie de Ravin) breaking up with him.

The mystery begins when Brendan receives a chance phone call as he passes a public phone booth. It is his ex-girlfriend Emily who tries to ask him for something, sounding extremely shook up and unhinged. The call ends abruptly and soon after, Emily goes missing. Brandon, whose days appear quite lonely and unproductive, finds a purse containing Emily’s disappearance. Brendan stumbles upon several other mysteries while trying to solve that of Emily’s disappearance; mysteries that are far more intriguing and involve colorfully bleak characters with names like: the Pin (Lukas Haas), The Brain (Matt O’Leary), and Tugger (Noah Fleiss). These kids speak in their own tongue, made up of nuances and lingo like “dippy,” resembling the old school dialogue of films such as “The Maltese Falcon” and “Key Largo.”

The Brain is Brendan’s only confidant against what turns out to be a criminal underworld that is part David Lynch part John Hughes. This criminal underworld is led by the Pin; a lengthy, game-legged masochist, whose oblivious mother pours milk for all his flunkies while they wait to see him in his faux-wood paneled office.”

As Brendan delves deeper into the mystery of his ex-girlfriend’s disappearance, he slips into the Pin’s criminal operations. As shady as the Pin’s underworld is, Brendan remains calm with an unruffled bravado no matter how close he gets to being rubbed out by one of the Pin’s conscienceless crewmembers.

“Brick” is a dreamy mishmash of classic gangster film noir, Southern Californian elitist high school brats, and an electric Kool-Aid acid test; it’s engaging from start to finish.
The oysters' slippery and clitoral interior is guarded by a firm fortress reminiscent of the chastity belts sported by stately virgins during medieval times. Like medieval chastity belts, the oysters' exterior shell must be forced open to fully experience the pleasures of its eroticism.

Once inside this dirty little shellfish, you will never be able to get enough. Oysters have been cultivated since the fourth century B.C. in places like China and Ancient Egypt, but it was the Ancient Romans who first used oysters to enhance sexuality.

Romans, being the horny little deviants they were, recognized and enjoyed the sexual arousal brought on by the salty sweet, milky mollusk; and many orgies were had.

Since those ancient days of daily Caesar sex parties, oysters have only grown in popularity and have been tempting the world with the promise of stimulating the libido.

Oysters act as little filters, ingesting algae and other water-borne nutrients from the water, and they also ingest pollutants which make some wild-oysters a tad dangerous to one's health.

Farm raised oysters insure a safe eating pleasure, that may end in safe rear-entry pleasure. No sex is worth the sickness brought on by bad oysters, so use caution when searching for these lustful shellfish.

Just the nutritious value of oysters is enough to give anyone a hard throbbing...appetite. The oyster's high level of zinc is used by the body to produce testosterone. High levels of testosterone ensure elongated sessions of bedroom banter.

There are only 57 calories in six raw oysters and 5.9 grams of protein, to be used by the body to build muscle in all the right places and provide the body with its own shots of protein.

Casanova was said to have dined on 50 oysters for breakfast to maintain his hyperactive sexual hunger and in his autobiography he offers his own suggestion on how to enjoy and entice with this desirable shellfish. "I placed the shell on the edge of her lips and after a good deal of laughing; she sucked in the oyster, which she held between her lips. I instantly recovered it by placing my lips on hers."

Tips:
Fresh oysters should be closed tightly.
And if slightly open, they should close when tapped.
Fresh oysters should have a fresh sea breeze odor.
Don't eat oysters with broken shells.
Eat fresh oysters as soon as possible.
Store in the refrigerator covered with a damp cloth.

Coming to America

Kristen Halverson, Staff Reporter

Tche'tche' Dance Team arrives in the United States from Côte d'Ivoire, Africa this November. Three dancers will perform "Dimi" at the World Theater on Wednesday, Nov. 29, at 7:30 p.m.

The Dance Team's name, Tche'tche', means "eagle." The name symbolically represents power, glory and domination. "Dimi," which means "pain," is a performance that Beatrice Kombe created and choreographed in 1998.

Kombe began working with Tche'tche' in 1997, and has created numerous performances. "Dimi" is a performance that represents the emptying of one's body of the suffering that lives within.

There is an alteration between calm and delicate movements to those that are violent. Together these women dance, share the anguish that is within, and embrace each other through the experience. In the end they come together in solidarity. "Dimi" won the United Nations Educational Scientific Cultural Organization award at the African market of arts and spectacles in Abidjan.


Nadia Beugre started dancing with Tche' tche' in 1998. She was born in Ivory Coast. Her career began when she danced for the Dante Theatre in 1995.

Flavienne Lagon began dancing with Tche' tche' in 1998. She was born in Ivory Coast as well. She began her in 1994 where she performed in the Ivory Coast contest. In 1997, with this same group, she won second place in the Variétoscope contest. For more information or tickets, visit the World Theater Website.
With the bass bumping and sweat dripping, 13 girls double pirouette through the air, land on one foot, then the other and strike a pose at the end of the dance they learned only minutes prior.

It's just a regular Wednesday night practice for the CSU Monterey Bay Dance Team better known as the Otter Dance Team (ODT), who meet in the humble setting of a small room in building 84.

Every Monday and Wednesday they gather to teach and practice various dances that have all been choreographed by one of the team members to a variety of music, ranging from hip-hop to rock and roll. The team practices provide a chance for friends to collaborate, skills to be refined and the end result of an almost perfectly executed dance routine.

"All of the girls work very hard and this year, our dances are more technical and demanding than previous years," said dance captain Dana DeVries.

The ODT has had its fair share of troubles that have plagued their progress, including insurance changes, practice space and lack of funding. However, they have overcome all hurdles and have left their audiences asking for more.

"When I saw both of their performances at Late Night with The Otters, I was amazed at how awesome they looked," said third year Business student Preston Andrews. "They really knew how to keep the crowd engaged."

The team credits much of their success to their captain, DeVries, who has organized many fundraisers and team activities to help not only strengthen the teams' skills but also help the team bond.

"This semester we were lucky to attend a dance camp in San Jose were we were able to all really connect as a team and spend quality time with just the team," said senior dancer Ashley Keels. "I really feel that we get along better and have more fun dancing with this group of girls."

The team has preformed at new student orientations, Homecoming, Club Showcase Days, university ceremonies, Welcome Week, other events held on campus and throughout the community and is currently performing at Men's and Women's Basketball games.

"We will also be teaming up with the baseball team to promote their games and fundraise to benefit both of our teams financially," said Co-captain Adrienne Huesca. "We really want to involve ourselves in supporting all campus teams."

From their start in 1994, the university's inaugural year, the ODT has rocked, jazzed and axled their way into being a vital part of CSU Monterey Bay spirit.

"I am so happy to be a part of this team as it has really helped me adjust and be involved in my university community," said freshman dancer Erin Bartle.

The ODT plans to stick to their mission statement of creating enthusiasm through performance and to continue to strengthen their dance and performance techniques.

"I have expected a lot and (the team) has impressed me," said DeVries.

Women's golf place third at Lady Otter Invitational

The CSU Monterey Bay's Women's Golf Team placed third overall at the Golf Mart Lady Otter Invitational on Oct. 18, held at the Bayonet Black Horse Golf Course.

The team could have placed second if the distribution of the roster would have been better. Head Coach Marianne Towersey and Co-coach Teri Greene divided the 13 player roster into two teams, team CSU Monterey Bay (A) and team CSU Monterey Bay Gold (B).

With the split roster, senior Kierstan Capito placed second for CSU Monterey Bay, shooting a 22-over 241 and junior Lauren Grounds placed fifth for team CSU Monterey Gold, shooting a 27-over 241.

If we would have put Lauren on the A team, we would have come in second and only been two strokes off the lead," said Greene. "We had a qualifying round and Lauren didn't make the A team, so she played on the B team and fared well individually but they could have used her on our A team."

Capito said the key to success of the team placing third was that every girl played solid throughout the tournament and have been practicing really hard, understanding what they need to do while playing.

Another key reason for the success of the team is that the coaches have been helping the players improve their driving and putting games. The results speak for themselves as the team placed in the top-twenty in all four of their fall meets, with three of them being top-ten finishes. "This just shows how competitive we are this year," said Greene.

With the fall season over, the team will now focus on training in the winter in preparation for the upcoming spring season, which will kick off Feb. 25 in Lakeland, Fla. for the Fla. Southern Invitational.
As the CSU Monterey Bay gymnasium emits the aroma of the Men’s Basketball team working up a sweat in practice for their game against St. Mary’s College on Nov. 15, they are optimistic in having a successful season after ending last season with only seven wins.

The team’s new coach is Pat Kosta, who had been the assistant coach for seven seasons and became head coach when Bill Trumbo left at the end of last season.

Kosta’s main objective for his team is to teach and learn about the guys on the team. Kosta plans to have a team bonded together that knows the fundamentals of how a team works as one. Kosta ensures that the new players are adjusted to their environment on campus and academically, those on the team are required to have a 3.0 Grade Point Average.

The team practices Monday through Friday, from 4 to 6 p.m., dividing in to two teams that play at opposite ends of the gymnasium, where Kosta works with six of his players, one-on-one. Running laps around the court with their shirts off to music after shooting hoops, the team comes together with Kosta before calling it a day. The team consists of 13 players, eight of whom are returners, five freshman and two red shirts that will not play unless they are needed to fill in for an injured player.

Returning center Joey Lindquist, who is in his fourth year of playing on the team, is looking forward to the new season because of the new philosophy Kosta brings.

“Coach Kosta has a different philosophy of the game than Coach Trumbo did and that has created a new excitement to the team because he [Kosta] focuses on the attributes of the team and players, which should be beneficial for a successful season,” said Lindquist.

Team captain Harold “Auggie” Johnston said the teams’ main focus this season is to be considered a defensive team. In addition, Johnston does not like to label any one specific player as a key player since they are one team and everyone is a key player.

Basketball fans at CSU Monterey Bay can look forward to an exciting new season of men’s basketball at the Kelp Bed.
In a weird coincidence of how unpredictable life can be, CSU Monterey Bay women’s basketball junior guard Sabrina Jenkins was a freshman at Los Angeles’ Pierce Junior College when she found out she had something in common with a member of the Pierce men’s basketball team other than basketball. While attending a Pierce men’s home basketball game in 2004, Sabrina found out that she shared the same last name as Pierce forward and current CSU Monterey Bay forward Rich Jenkins.

Almost instantly, Sabrina began cheering for Rich and was attracted to his game on the court, which she described as nice. Through friends, the two eventually met and have been stuck to each other like glue ever since.

Even though they have been good friends for almost two years, they have only been a couple since this past summer, when they began hanging out with each other a lot.

Despite their last names being the same, their roads to CSUMB were quite different.

Born in Inglewood, Calif., Rich began his basketball at the age of 1, when a basketball was first placed in his hands. As he grew older, Rich began to love basketball more and more each day as he saw the game as an escape from school work, problems and anything else that would cause stress.

After spending some time in Louisiana, Rich and his family moved back to California for his last two years of high school, where he attended North Hollywood High. Graduating in 2002, Rich attended Pierce College and graduated with his Associates Degree in 2005.

Shortly thereafter, Rich was invited to CSU Monterey Bay for a recruiting visit by good friend, former Pierce teammate and current CSU Monterey Bay Men’s Basketball Assistant Coach, Carlos Arroyo. After meeting some of the guys and getting a feel for the school, Rich decided CSU Monterey Bay was the place to be.

Current CSU Monterey Bay Men’s Basketball Head Coach Pat Kosta, who was the assistant coach during Rich’s first year, recalls getting Rich was a steal as the other coaches had missed the boat on him. Kosta describes Rich as the backbone of the team and the type of player that comes in and gels with everyone.

When selecting captains for the 2006-07 basketball season, it was a no brainier for Kosta to name Rich team captain along with Augie Johnston. “Rich
brings leadership, maturity, heart and leads by example,” said a smiling Kosta. Added Arroyo, “Rich is just a beast who brings everything, works hard and keeps us going. He is our stabilizer.”

Sabrina Jenkins grew up in Reseda, Calif. and with her dad as her coach, began playing basketball at the age of 9. After taking a small break from the game, Sabrina returned to the court at the age of 12 and has been playing non stop ever since as she loves the competitiveness aspect of the game.

After graduating from Notre Dame High School in Sherman Oaks, Calif. in 2004, Sabrina would attend Pierce College as a member of the women’s basketball team. There, she formed a close bond with Rich and admits it was hard last year being away from Rich as he attended CSU Monterey Bay. Luckily for Sabrina, the time flew by as she had basketball and classes to keep her mind occupied.

After finishing up at Pierce College, Sabrina began looking around for different schools and wanted away from home. Sabrina would eventually get in contact with CSU Monterey Bay Women’s Basketball Head Coach Amber Magner and visited for a recruiting trip. Loving the feel of the team when trying out, Sabrina decided to attend CSU Monterey Bay.

With a tremendous work ethic, Sabrina has earned the praise of her coaches and teammates for her hard work and ability to play big for her size by not being afraid to take the ball to the hole. “She is a great team player and does whatever is necessary to help make our team successful,” said CSU Monterey Bay women’s point guard Megan Okui.

One of the perks of coming to CSU Monterey Bay for Sabrina was the fact she would be reunited with Rich, the one person who Sabrina finds it easy to communicate with since both know what the other is going through with basketball and school.

Off the court, both Rich and Sabrina are described by friends and coaches as being great people overall who love to have fun and a great time. In addition, both share similar interests such as going to the movies, traveling, cheering for Kobe Bryant and the Los Angeles Lakers and eating out at restaurants. “I love to eat but I don’t know where it goes,” said Rich, who claims to eat like a bull but never gain a pound.

Knowing they can’t play the game forever, both have made plans for life after basketball. “Being a TAT major, I am focusing on either becoming an actress or a broadcaster but I’m not sure which one,” said Sabrina. “When I’m older and done with my career, I hope to play in some women’s leagues and maybe coach my kids since my dad was the one who coached me.”

“I’m getting my degree in business next fall and will just make moves from there,” said Rich. “As for basketball, I really don’t know how much longer I will play.”

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**Men’s basketball exhibition called at halftime due to leaky roof**

The exhibition game between the CSU Monterey Bay men’s basketball team and traveling Australia on Nov. 3 was called at halftime due to a leaky roof that caused multiple wet spots on the court. The game was called for the players safety as neither team wanted to lose one of their players to a freak injury.

**Women’s golf “Gold Team” takes first at UCSC Invitational**

The CSU Monterey Bay women’s golf “Gold Team” edged out UC Santa Cruz to win the three-team UCSC Fall Invitational at Delaveaga course on Oct. 31. The Otters shot a team score of 668 to edge out the Banana Slugs for the team title. While two UC Santa Cruz golfers faced off in a playoff for the individual championship, CSU Monterey Bay junior Nicole Pechi placed 2nd with a 15-over 171. CSU East Bay placed third.

**Women’s golf coach Towersey wins 40th California Women’s Amateur**

CSU Monterey Bay’s Women’s Golf Coach Marianne Towersey saved par on the last three holes to rally from a two stroke deficit and edge out 19-year old Danielle Cwitanov in the finals of the 40th California Amateur Women’s Championship at Quail Lodge on Nov. 4.

**Women’s golf place 16th at Cal Poly Invitational**

The CSU Monterey Bay women’s golf team ended the fall portion of their 2006-07 schedule with a 16th place finish at the Firestone Grill Cal Poly Invitational on Nov. 8. The Otters’ team score of 688 was 76 shots behind champion UC Davis. Senior Mariko Miranda was the top individual Otter of the tournament, improving by five strokes on her second day to finish tied for 48th place with a 167 score.

**Roller hockey losing skid hits 7 games**

The CSU Monterey Bay roller hockey team (1-7) saw their losing streak extend to seven games after being defeated by the University of San Diego, 9-4, on Nov. 5. Box score stats were not made available for the game.

**Men’s basketball to open season against St. Mary’s**

Coming off successful scrimmages against Australia and Humbolt State, the CSU Monterey Bay men’s basketball team will officially open their 2006-07 season on Nov. 15 in Moraga, Calif. against Division I school St. Mary’s.

**Women’s basketball to open season at Notre Dame DeNamur Classic**

The CSU Monterey Bay women’s basketball team will officially open their 2006-07 season on Nov. 17 at the Notre Dame DeNamur Classic in Belmont, Calif. Their first game will be against Dixie State, followed by a Nov. 18 clash with Notre Dame DeNamur.

**Seaside High to play King City in first round of CCS football playoffs**

The number one ranked Seaside High Spartans (9-1) will face the number eight seed King City Mustangs (6-4) Friday night, Nov. 17, in a first round game of the Central Coast Section football playoffs. Kickoff is at 7 p.m. at Seaside High School.

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**Jenkins from page 16**

Rich goes up for two (above), while Sabrina draws contact on her shot attempt (top right).
Grace on fire gets
HOT N’ SWEATY

I grabbed a pamphlet and learned there are many health benefits when performing yoga in heat. For example, it can improve one’s sex life, which is always useful and of course interested me. Never having done yoga, I assumed it would be easy. I mean it’s only stretching. I slowly opened the door, unsure of what to expect. My throat became tight and I gasped for breath. It had to be a humid 95 degrees in that tiny room. I thought most people moved to Monterey to get out of the heat.

Bikram Yoga is done in a heated room to purify the body and remove toxins. It is accompanied by specific dialogue that guides the student through 26 different poses.

My face warped like wooden floorboards as the smell of sweat and body odor engulfed my senses. I tried to shake it off so no one would notice my look of disgust.

The environment was positive and upbeat. The monotonous tone of the instructor that guided us through each position was hypnotizing. She was so versed in her speech I wondered if she had carried a script.

The people in the room followed along knowing exactly what to do. I stood there clearly confused most of the time wondering why I didn’t look like the others. Joining a gym class is like being the new kid in school. Who is noticeably struggling and holds up the class so they can “catch up”.

Frustration poured over when I realized how easy, yoga is not. It involves twisting one’s body into abnormal positions while trying to stay still and concentrate, which is nearly impossible. People all around were drenched in sweat, dripping from every pore on their bodies.

As I performed each pose two or three times, my muscles quivered. I decided that Yoga is not supposed to be this strenuous so I stole a few more breaks then allowed.

As I sat, I stared at myself in the mirror in the front of the room. I hadn’t dressed right either for a situation like this, less is more. Clothes were scarce and I had too much.

When class finally ended, everyone rested in the stillness of Shavasana, the corpse pose (designed to quiet the mind). I felt nauseous and wondered if anyone had ever passed out. It was over, at last.

$15 had bought me a week of unlimited Bikram Yoga and although it’s not my favorite sport, I did feel rejuvenated. But, most importantly, did it improve my sex life? Well, I was too sore to find out.

But, most importantly, did it improve my sex life? Well, I was too sore to find out.

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Grace Castro, Staff Reporter

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PHOTOS PROVIDED BY WWW.BIKRAMALTQNA.DE/80758/80754.HTML
Volleyball goes out with a spike

Grace Castro, Arts Editor
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Coming off of a thrilling win over CCAA rival, CSU Stanislaus on Nov. 3, the CSU Monterey Bay women’s volleyball team entered the Kelp Bed prepared for a victory over Chico State.

On an emotional Senior Night and in front of a loud crowd of 238 screaming fans, the Otters gave Chico State the fight of their life, giving everything they had. However, Chico State showed their resiliency and defeated the Otters in 3-games (31-29, 30-19, and 33-31).

Despite the Chico State loss, the Otters (14-15, 8-12 CCAA) ended the 2006 season with 14 wins, the most in CSU Monterey Bay history since moving up to Division II and one victory shy of tying the school record for most wins in a season (15) since the program’s 1996 inception.

Even though the season got off to a rocky start, the volleyball team pulled together and finished the season well above expectations, tying for fifth place with CSU Stanislaus, after being picked to finish ninth in the pre-season polls.

“I’m so proud of how we have done this season,” said defensive specialist Danielle VandenBos.

The team proved to be a strong one this year, breaking many of the CSU Monterey Bay school records. Senior setter Nicole Sanderson had 27 assists in her final game and ended her career with a school record of 2,958. Sanderson is also third all time with 96 aces and has been the team’s MVP for three years.

The Otters will be losing two seniors, VandenBos and Sanderson, both four year veterans of CSU Monterey Bay volleyball, who have left significant impressions on the team. “It will be sad to see Nicki and Danielle leave the program,” said coach Jerry Gregg. “The team and the program will never be the same.”

The end of the season brings mixed emotions for both VandenBos and Sanderson. “It’s very bittersweet,” said VandenBos. “My volleyball experience has been a rollercoaster, very up and down and in the end a great ride.”

VandenBos plans to continue to play volleyball in adult leagues and right now, will focus on getting good grades and getting in to law school. Sanderson will graduate in May and will continue on to obtain her credentials to become an elementary school teacher.

The volleyball team will continue its search for new talent for the upcoming 2007 season. “They were two big leaders and we will have to recruit hard to fill their spots,” said junior middle blocker Christine Ricketts. The Otters have been in the process of recruiting and have recognized some likely candidates with ability and experience. They are hopeful to find recruits who can add motivation and talent.

Despite losing Sanderson and VandenBos, the Otters have high hopes for next season. “I hope we start off as strong as we ended [this season],” said Ricketts. Next year’s team will be lead by Kim Sordello, Christine Ricketts and Courtney Taubert, who were all voted as captains for the 2007 season: “The ‘06 team “cleared the decks” for the improvement you will see in the ’07 season,” said Gregg.

Golf a go-go

Sean Tibbitts, Staff Reporter
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On Oct. 24, CSU Monterey Bay’s Men’s Golf team placed sixth at the annual Sonoma State Invitational Tournament, which was held over two days at the Santa Rosa Golf and Country Club in Santa Rosa, Calif.

The lowest scoring Otter of the tournament was senior Brian Thompson, who shot a 5-over-par after the 56-hole event, tying for 12 place. “It was still a bit disappointing for me because I was doing really well on the last day and then I played very poorly on the last few holes,” said Thompson. “That’s just the way it goes sometimes.”

Both days of the tournament began with fog delays that postponed play nearly an hour but afterwards, the weather was ideal for hitting off the tee. “The first three holes were tough but the day turned out nice and sunny for us,” said senior golfer Grant Haney.

After the first round of play, CSU Monterey Bay had two players shoot under par, seniors Nick Bell and Brian Keck. Bell also played well throughout the second round, up until the last hole where a dropped ball caused him to shoot a ten on a par 5 hole. “I was among the top five in the tournament,” said Bell. “But with a mental mistake, I dropped down to a point where I could only manage 17 in the tournament.”

The winner of the tournament was Eric Justesen, a former member of the CSU Monterey Bay golf team. “It’s always fun to go up against him because you know you’re going to have to play well to beat him,” said Thompson. “I look forward to competing with him more in the spring.”

The Sonoma State Invitational marked the end of tournament play for the Otters until Feb. 26, when the team will travel south to Bakersfield for the CSU Bakersfield Invite.

Looking ahead to the spring schedule, The Otters plan to use their time off to work on their conditioning and in addition, look forward to an increased competitive edge from currently ineligible players Ricky Stockton and Oskar Nyström.

Also, this spring will be the last season the team will be ineligible for postseason play. Until now, the team had been limited to the California Collegiate Athletic Association (CCAA), which restricted play to normal league tournaments. Next fall, the team will become full members of the NCAA Division II and with the change, will be allowed to compete on a national level.

The lowest scoring Otter of the tournament was senior Brian Thompson

PHOTO: SPORTS CSUSM ED ATHLETICS

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person on campus

"IF YOU COULD STEAL FROM WAL MART, WHAT WOULD YOU STEAL AND WHY?"

Debra Agnew
SBS JUNIOR
"I would steal food. Then I could spend my money on other things."

Macheel Roper
SBS JUNIOR
"I would steal a computer with all the new programs and accessories because I need a new computer for school and for my kids."

Emily Sciotto
SBS SENIOR
"I would nab one of those huge bouncy balls like at Toys 'R Us so I could bounce all day. Yeah toys!"

Maddie O'Neill
VPA JUNIOR
"Tickle Me Elmo, so I can play with it."

Susan Morley
PROFESSOR, SBS ANTHROPOLOGIST
"I would steal the employee's time cards and give them a union wage."

The otters and the turkey trotters

Jon Allred, Sports Editor
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Beautiful ocean views, free long sleeve t-shirts and a chance to win a turkey can only mean one thing...its time for the tenth annual CSU Monterey Bay Turkey Trot.

With proceeds benefiting the CSU Monterey Bay Cross Country teams,

"Just have fun with it and if you feel that it is harder than you expected, just keep going because you will feel a lot better in the end."

MEN AND WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY COACH YI MAO

What: Tenth Annual CSU Monterey Bay Turkey Trot

When: Nov. 18

Where: Third Street/Intergarrison Road

To sign up, fill out an application form located at the Otter Sports Center and show up at 8 a.m. for registration on Nov. 18.

The Turkey Trot will be held on Nov. 18 and begin on Third Street/Intergarrison Road, traveling along the CSU Monterey Bay campus and trails. Participants may choose to run the 4.8 mile course or walk the 3.1 mile course.

"The [running] course is all flat with one hill, but it's hard because 90 percent of the course is concrete and it hurts your knees," said junior cross country runner Leilani Ortiz. "But once you hit the trails, it's a walk in the park."

Ortiz cautions first time participants not to go out fast at the beginning of the race since the course is almost five miles and to save some energy for the entire race.

For this year's event, Men and Women's Cross Country Coach Yi Mao would like to see more hometown folks turn out to run as the event only attracts 50-60 runners. "The Turkey Trot is a fun, safe, less known, low cost local race and I don't see that anyone should be afraid of doing a 4.8 mile run because we give one hour to finish."

Junior HCOM major Maria E. Reyes, who was persuaded into last year's event after taking a class with Mao and motivated by the free t-shirt, said the Trot was a rewarding experience. "Just have fun with it and if you feel that it is harder than you expected, just keep going because you will feel a lot better in the end."

To sign up, fill out an application form located at the Otter Sports Center and show up at 8 a.m. for registration on Nov. 18.