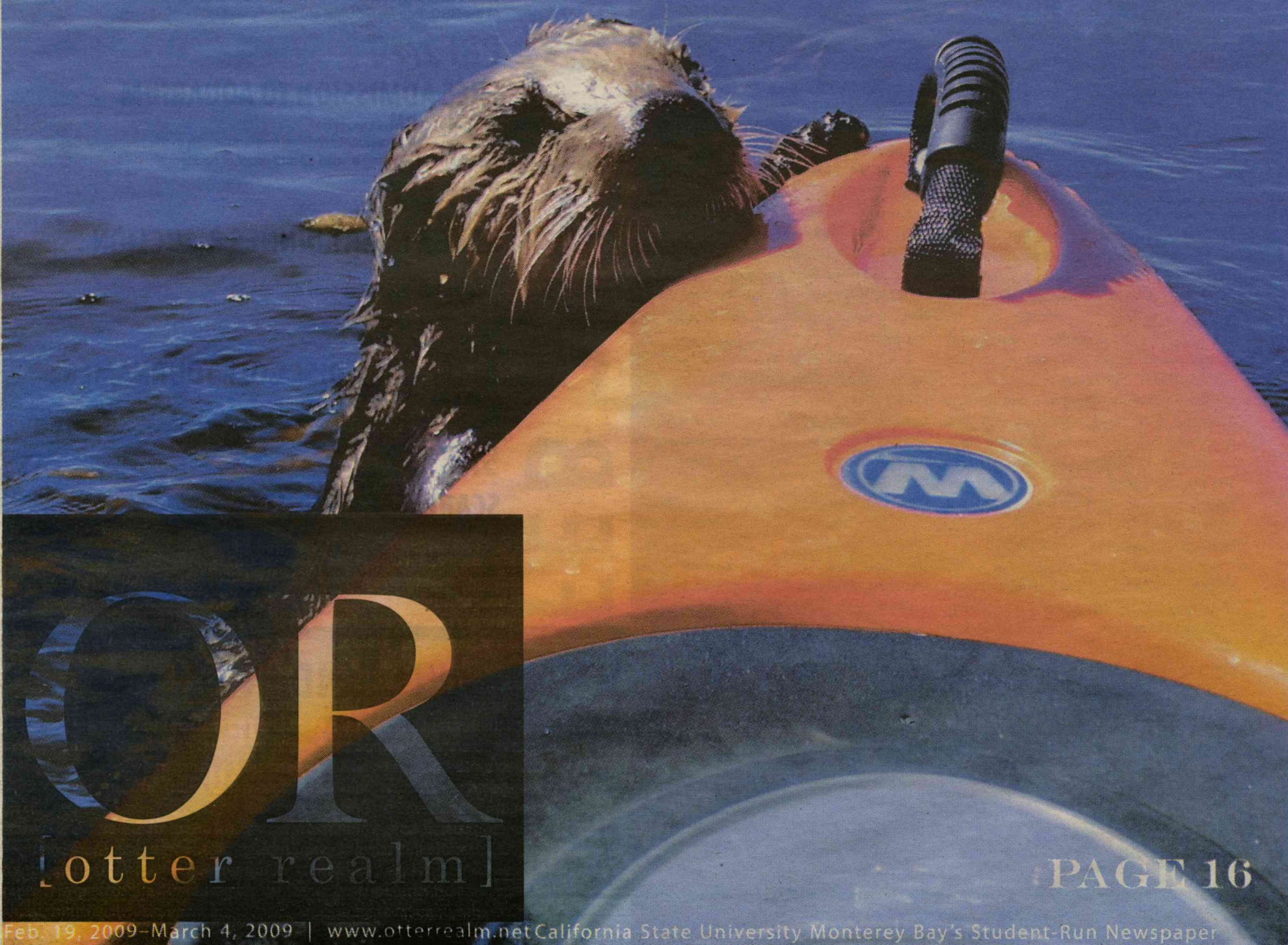


KAYAKING WITH THE OTTERS

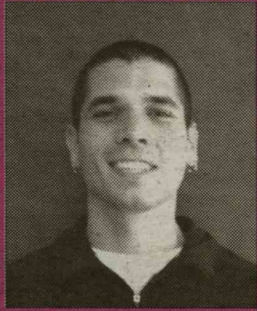


OR

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College Student IOI: *The Audacity of Hope*



Rick Welshiemer, Editor-in-Chief
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We're living in a time when our backs are constantly hurting, not because we're carrying too many books, but because we're carrying around the weight of the world. Everywhere we look, there is little more than despair on display. We're told there are no jobs for students after we graduate, and the economy is only going to get worse; good luck with that, keep wishing and... whatever.

I'll tell you now; living in a world where everyone is thinking negatively can only lead to hopelessness. America was built on dreams and hopes, and through time and turmoil, I think we have forgotten this. Don't get me wrong; it has been easy to give up and lose hope, especially when you're constantly discouraged or put down.

We have the TV telling us we've hit an all-time high in job losses. Washington can't seem to get on the same page we're reading in the morning paper. Tuition continues to rise, and Californians refuse to give equal rights to everyone. Trust me, this definitely adds weight to a college student's back. And frankly, my back is sore.

However, I'm changing the way I'm thinking this New Year. I'm going to find

reason to think optimistically in 2009. I'm one of the few, I mean thousands, preparing to graduate this summer and take our chances in finding a job or, if we're lucky, continue to grad school. But no matter what happens, no matter the outcome of my efforts, I'm not going to let it get me down.

I have nothing but hope in my future. America is the land of the free, and more than anything, that means free thinkers. It is a place where possibilities are endless. And, more than anything, that's because we believe it. Yeah, we've hit a pothole in the road, but eventually we're going to kick it into four-wheel drive and get out of it. And when we do, I'm going to be ready to hit the high road.

What we need to do is hold onto our hopes and trust a good change is coming. We need to believe our generation is going to be at the front lines. In the words of our new President Barack Obama, "Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek."

I think we need to consider what is really important; not the material things that money buys, but the opportunities we've been given and those we will create. Here, at CSU Monterey Bay, we're breathing in the ocean air and feeling the rain or the sun's rays; when I can't do that anymore, then there'll be thoughts of losing my hope. Until then, I'm taking the weights off and standing up straight. As the leader of the free land said, "If you're walking down the right path and you're willing to keep walking, eventually you'll make progress."

OR

FEB 19 - MARCH 4

WHAT YOU OTTER DO!

THURS 2/19

BLACK HISTORY MONTH MOVIE NIGHT 8 P.M. - 10 P.M.

Black Students United is hosting a movie night in building 18, room 118.

THURS 2/19

NOISEART MUSIC FEST 8:30 P.M. - 12 A.M.

At the BBC, free for CSUMB students

FRI 2/20

FREE ADMISSION TO AQUARIUM 10 A.M. - 6 P.M.

Monterey County residents receive free admission to the Monterey Bay Aquarium. Must bring a valid ID and proof of residence

FRI 2/20

HAVE A HEART DINNER & AUCTION 6 P.M.

For more information, see story on page 13

SAT 2/21 - 22

OTTER OPEN DISC GOLF TOURNAMENT 6:30 A.M. - 7 P.M.

For more information, visit www.discgolf.csUMB.edu

SAT 3/7

SCARLET SYMPHONY 8 P.M.

At Monterey Live, more info. at www.myspace.com/scarletsymphony

GOT AN EVENT? LET US KNOW!
OTTER_REALM@CSUMB.EDU

WHAT YOU'LL FIND IN THIS ISSUE:

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ARTS P. 13 | HAVE A HEART AUCTION

SPORTS P. 17 | TRAINERS TRIBULATIONS

OPINION P. 18 | BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The DC: Same Grub, New Digs

Karen S. Eggemann, Staff Reporter
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Many students plan to rest or recreate during Spring Break, but not the employees of CSU Monterey Bay (CSUMB) Dining Services. They'll be busier than ever: moving and shaking things up, tossing out the old, and introducing an innovative design to the Dining Commons (DC). More importantly, the staff is dedicated to creating a hip place to find flavorful food.

General Manager of the Dining Services at CSUMB Dave Taylor feels strongly about creating the new DC. "I look forward to the day," he said, "when we present the new-and-improved Dining Commons to students and the

entire campus community next Aug. The place where students come to eat many of their meals, as well as gather to socialize, should be as comfortable, convenient and enjoyable as possible."

Closing for remodeling on Saturday, March 14, the DC is scheduled to reopen Aug 21 in the same location, once students return for the Fall '09 semester.

"The Dining Commons serves [nearly] 1,000 [students] per day during the week, and 600-700 on the weekends," said Taylor. "We will continue to serve comparable meals to our students [in the new Student Center building on the Main Quad March 22]."

While the work progresses, the temporary dining facility finds a home in the old library, so there

should be no interference with meals being served.

Representatives of Sodexo, Student Life, Student Affairs and University Advancement met with the Associated Students and residence hall RAs during the week of Sept. 29. Although their feedback was not disclosed for this article, the groups met, according to Taylor, to be ensured the entire student body was aware of the temporary change of location.

"Most if not all of the existing food options will be available," said Taylor. "Because it will be a smaller space, we are urging students to try to avoid the rush. But we also timed this project for the end of spring and summer, when fewer students use the [DC]." On the whole, working together and serving



PHOTO PROVIDED

everyone's needs is Dining Services goal.

The DC "is being renovated to create a single, expanded dining room and one combined food service area, rather than two separate dining rooms and food service areas," said Taylor. He also said the remodel "is an opportunity to update and upgrade

the appearance... and create more of a restaurant feeling."

To that end, the remodeled facility will be larger and will include new restrooms, a big-screen TV and heating and air-conditioning.

Student feedback will be reported following Spring Break once the new DC opens.

Learn n' Leave: Low Otter Retention Rates

Kelly McDermott, Staff Reporter
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Starting college is a big step. For some students, it can be difficult to make the transition from the comforts of home to campus. In fact, so difficult some do not

return to campus the next year. CSU Monterey Bay (CSUMB) has been experiencing this problem. Large freshmen classes often dwindle significantly by the time the following school year rolls around.

Many factors influence the decision some students make not to come back to CSUMB. Sometimes, students find after a year they simply are not cut out for the college curriculum at CSUMB. "Students who arrive with weaker academic preparation for college, and who might not have pursued a degree in the past," said President Dianne Harrison, "sometimes struggle with college-level expectations."

Another reason students do not come back to CSUMB is because of ever-growing economic issues surrounding college expenses. Burdened by the nation's struggling economy, students and their parents feel the financial

straps grow tighter. Unfortunately, there may not always be sufficient funds to cover the cost of attending college.

"Students here and elsewhere face a growing economic challenge," said President Harrison. "Financial pressures continue to grow for young adults and their families. They are understandably anxious about the cost of tuition and fees, books, housing, food and transportation, despite the wide variety of financial aid opportunities."

Sometimes, students may feel CSUMB does not quite suit all of their needs. President Harrison believes that students may choose to transfer to a "larger, more mature campus with more majors and an even greater variety of student activities" over CSUMB. However, students actually may choose to attend CSUMB based on the unique programs offered in the Psychology, Biology and

Computer Science and Information Technology categories.

Even though there are multiple possibilities for CSUMB's low retention rate, ongoing efforts continue toward fixing this issue. "I assure you it is no accident that increasing student success is the first of the four major goals in the new Strategic Plan we adopted in Sept.," said President Harrison. This plan is meant to improve the CSUMB campus overall, through academic and community progress. Also, degree requirements are being updated so they are more logical and more easily attained by students. Improvements have been made to the Academic Advising department as well, making it less complicated for students to get the help they need.

Even though CSUMB's return rate is lower than some schools, many changes are underway to increase student retention.

**BURDENED BY
THE NATION'S
STRUGGLING
ECONOMY,
STUDENTS
AND THEIR
PARENTS FEEL
THE FINANCIAL
STRAPS GROW
TIGHTER.**

NEWS



PHOTO BY COLE MAYER

Tickets: What's the Deal?

Cole Mayer, Staff Reporter
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Blue and red lights flash in a review mirror; an angry student pulls over...again. Are ticket citations increasing, or are people just getting pissed off?

Rumor has it, the amount of traffic citations given by the University Police Department (UPD) has gone up lately, or so students would like to believe. "From personal experience, I have found that the police here in Monterey are quite aggressive," said John Wood, a sophomore in World Languages and Cultures, in regards to his two recent speeding tickets. "Even though the California Vehicle Code section 41602 prohibits [quotas], like any other job, there must be incentive to keep up pace and perform."

Logic suggests that such pressure, in turn, leads to more tickets, which results in more funding for police departments.

"I think they rely on the belief," said Wood, "that most people won't fight the ticket."

According to the UPD, however, there has not been an increase in traffic tickets. On the contrary, there was one less citation in Jan. than during the same month last year. Citations are given for

"not wearing seatbelts, running stop signs, expired registration, unlicensed drivers or having no insurance," said Earl Lawson, lieutenant in charge of administration at UPD. He mentioned, however, citations for possession of beer and marijuana also are included in this number. Only about 60 percent of the citations are moving violations.

"I'd say we cite less than half of the cars stopped," Lawson said. "Just a talking-to is enough." He said it's all about the circumstance. If the person is aware of why, and unlikely to repeat the offense, they probably will be let off with a stern warning. However, if the person claims not to have done the crime, they will receive a ticket.

Lawson said the aim of the UPD is to deter, not to give tickets, and the safety of the students comes first. He said police presence on campus is meant to show they are watching, and to keep students from breaking the law, not to cite as many people as possible.

Who's Stopping The Crime?

Berenice Rosillo, Staff Reporter
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Throughout the last few years, Salinas has become known as the city of gang violence, but to many CSU Monterey Bay students, it is known as home. Last year's violence spree ended in 25 gang related deaths. This year, numerous shootings throughout the City have lead to six deaths in January alone. The citizens of Salinas have become increasingly worried about their own safety and that of their children.

While the state budget has dropped, the City's crises have doubled. Salinas needs all the money, resources and personnel it can acquire to help make its streets safe. The Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey has partnered with Salinas in an attempt to diminish the violence. By studying Salinas participants hope to discover the City's root causes for organized crime.

In addition, citizens tired of waiting for their rescuer to arrive have decided to take action themselves. Students at El Sausal Middle School organized a peace rally to bring attention to the recent shootings in the surrounding area. Many citizens also have organized neighborhood watch programs to keep their communities safe. The residents of Boyle Street, Wheeler Drive and Christensen Street have petitioned the City to close off a pathway to North Main Street in an attempt to stop an increase in home burglaries and vandalism.

"Many of us in the neighborhood have come home and realized," said Salinas

resident Greg Martin, "that many of our belongings have disappeared, our cars have been vandalized and, a few months ago, a stray bullet pierced a wall in my house a few inches above the pillow, where my son was sleeping. I hope that the closing of the pathway will keep the crime out."

Mayor Dennis Donahue stated on Feb. 6 at the State of The City address in the Maya Theatre, "Every member of this community must do his part to build peace, from the student who decides to go to class instead of skipping class, to the business owner who gives a job to the at-risk teen, to the mother who convinces her son to stay of the streets..."

Citizens have grown weary of seeing their homes, property and community vandalized, and often hearing shots fired and ambulance sirens at various times in the middle of the night. Most of all, citizens are tired of learning about loved ones shot and young teens killed for being in the wrong place at the wrong time in a place they call home.

**EVERY MEMBER OF
THIS COMMUNITY
MUST DO HIS PART
TO BUILD PEACE...**

MAYOR DENNIS DONAHUE



PHOTO BY BERENICE ROSILLO

NEWS

The Search Is On: Be the Voice For All CSU Students

Elizabeth Breault, Staff Reporter
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Imagine the opportunity to hold a student position so powerful, Governor Schwarzenegger will make the ultimate decision. The California State Student Association is conducting its annual search for the next Student Trustee to serve on the California State University Board of Trustees. The application process is now open for eligible students, and the deadline is April 1.

The Student Trustee is responsible for providing the voice of students from 23 CSU campuses. They serve at meetings to advocate

for beneficial student perspectives, and to act as a liaison between CSU students and the board. "I was looking for a way to give back," said current trustee Russel Statham.

The Board of Trustees focuses on student fees, financial aid, admissions, parking and student housing. Responsibilities also include attending the regularly scheduled meetings in Long Beach, as well as making other campus visits throughout California. The website indicates that, although this role does require a bit of travel, everything is pre-arranged and reimbursed by the Office of the Chancellor.

Acceptable candidates must be a junior by July, and must be in good standing, have at least a 2.0 grade-

point-average and be a continuing student during the academic year. Candidates must be able to attend the scheduled meetings and travel statewide, as needed. Director of University Affairs Sarah Vagts said candidates also should have knowledge of current CSU system-wide issues and initiatives. "I had been student body vice president for two years," said Statham, "so I knew what the trustees were about," which included a passion for advocating on behalf of students, being diplomatic and assertive, and maintaining good written and verbal skills.

Once the application deadline closes, applications are reviewed and scored based on a point system. Each CSU campus is entitled to have either its Student

Body President or elected delegate attend the interview panel. Names of the few applicants with the top interview ratings are forwarded to Governor Schwarzenegger for the final decision.

Applications and more information can be found on the CSSA website at csustudents.org, or on the CSU Student Trustee Facebook group.

The Wal-Mart Effect

Jo Dahl, Staff Reporter
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"Fishman's book is highly readable, incisive, precise and even elegant..." said the San Francisco Chronicle. Investigative reporter Charles Fishman is the author of *The Wal-Mart Effect*, a book that focuses on the good and the bad of a big corporation like Wal-Mart, and what kind of effect it has on American society.

"Wal-Mart has changed the world," Fishman said during his visit to the CSU Monterey Bay (CSUMB) campus, where he addressed a community

audience at The World Theater. Whether you shop there or not, he explained, you still receive the impact of this major corporation. For example, when a new Wal-Mart moves into town, all grocery prices in the area, including Wal-Mart's and its competitors', drop 15 percent. Wal-Mart stays ahead of the game simply by keeping the price advantage over other grocery stores in the area.

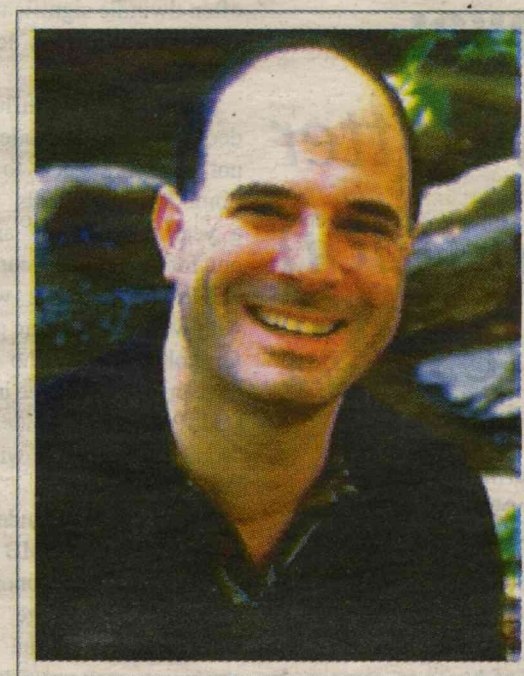
In his book, Fishman gives numerous examples to support the notion that Wal-Mart has good effects as well as bad effects on society. He describes how Wal-Mart has saved a vast number of forests. Wal-Mart allegedly persuaded suppliers to stop shipping deodorant in cardboard boxes that would simply get thrown away after the product is

stocked on the shelves. However, Fishman also reports the negative effects of Wal-Mart. He tells stories of how products made for the store are produced in poor working conditions.

Fishman did extensive research on the effects of major businesses before writing the book. He visited Wal-Mart stores in more than 25 different states, and he has spent the past 20 years not only trying to learn more about Wal-Mart, but about other major corporations, as well, including NASA and Tupperware. He continues to speak about *The Wal-Mart Effect* to different audiences, including universities like CSUMB.

Fishman began his journalism career at the *Washington Post*. One of his first assignments was investigating the Challenger space shuttle catastrophe. He also has worked at many other newspapers, such as the *Orlando Sentinel* and *News & Observer*. Currently,

Fishman works as a senior writer at *Fast Company*, a magazine that reports on different aspects of the business world; although he has taken a leave of absence to complete his next book.



OR

Bike Friendly Campus: An Oxymoron

Marc Russo, Staff Reporter
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Imagine coming home from winter break, excited to see everyone and get back into the swing of things, only to spend the first day back in a hospital room. Business Major and freshman Jacqueline Haydon did just that.

On Jan 16, Haydon and a friend were leaving the CSU Monterey Bay (CSUMB) campus on their bikes. While the two were approaching the intersection of General Jim Moore and Divarty Street, a woman driving a red Honda Civic failed to stop completely at the stop sign and plowed right into Haydon's bike, throwing Haydon and her bike into the air before she hit the ground, face up. A witness called 911 immediately and, within two minutes of the accident, Haydon was taken away in an ambulance.

Haydon suffered a scaphoid fracture, which required her wrist to remain in a cast for 10 weeks. She also was left with road rash on her face, arms and legs. While describing her injury, Haydon looked down at her feet and said, "She ran over my toes."

After the accident, Haydon was left wondering if CSUMB was truly a bike-friendly campus. Students strive to be eco-friendly and abandon automobiles in favor of riding their bicycles and skateboards around campus. The cross streets where Haydon was struck seem to be the most popular place where bicyclists also fail to stop completely before crossing. While Haydon's accident was not

her fault, many bikers could end up being hit and find themselves at fault instead of the driver. According to CSUMB's Traffic and Parking regulations, Section 1200, "Every person riding a bicycle on university grounds has all the rights and is subject to all the duties of a driver of a motor vehicle."

Riding a bike on campus is a privilege many larger CSU campuses don't have. According to their school websites, San Diego State University does not allow bikes or skateboards on any of the campus walkways. Both Sacramento State University and San Jose State University have a very limited area where bikes are permitted. Breaking these rules can result in a citation. Fortunately for CSUMB students, currently there are no plans to limit the use of skateboards and bicycles on campus. But, in the coming years, as CSUMB continues to grow, that privilege may disappear.



PHOTO BY JENNA RANSOM



PHOTO PROVIDED BY ED GHANDOUR

Economy Vs. Ecosystem

James Lustenader, Staff Reporter
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The Monterey Bay Shores Resort is a planned building operation containing 161 rooms, 180 condominiums, a restaurant, atrium, yoga studios, a spa and a host of new "eco-friendly" design ideas for the new age of Green Construction Technologies.

Since 1996, Security National Guaranty, Inc. (SNG Inc.) has had plans for 32 acres of land, situated on the western side of Highway 1. However, the Bay Shores Resort project has not started due to the *California Coast Act of 1976*, which Sand City adopted in 1985 for the area of sand dunes West of Highway 1. The Act was designed to protect, maintain and restore quality to the California Coast, as well as ensure equal distribution of limited resources

The project was accepted in 1998 and then rejected again in 2000.

The change in decision was due to strict building regulations that surround protected areas, such as the California coastline. There also have been recent rulings by San Francisco courts, which state the land does not fall into the jurisdiction of the California Coastal Act, effectively reversing the denial the City Council issued in 2000. This has given the project a new life, meaning it has, once again, come up for a vote in front of the Council.

Sand City is a small town with a population of just over 300 residents. This 300-plus-unit project will be expected to generate "\$1.5 million in hotel, property and sales taxes alone, as well as more than \$1 million annually," said Sand City Building Planner, Steve Matarazzo. This number seems impressive, considering the modest \$5 million operating budget Sand City has now.

While the project has endured plenty of changes to make it more Green, such as an open air habitat for natural species of plants and animals as a roof. Besides wind, solar and thermal power, the resort also plans to recycle all non-potable water. Environmentalists still are not convinced the changes will be enough to protect the already damaged and highly valued Monterey Bay Sanctuary. Concerns include the safety of the Dune ecosystem due to erosion, traffic congestion during construction and the shortage of water. On the other hand, benefits include income from taxes and tourism, as well as plenty of new temporary jobs for students and permanent jobs for graduates.

For additional information about the project, visit www.montereybayshores.com

OR



**CONNECT WITH
YOUR FUTURE!**

PROFESSIONAL NETWORKING CAREER CONFERENCE

A chance for CSUMB students and alumni to connect
with the diverse career opportunities available to them

Saturday, March 7, 2009
in the University Center

FREE PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED for students and alumni at career.csumb.edu

Personalized Business Cards

Come to the CDO to get personalized business cards printed up free of charge. Look like a professional and easily exchange information at the PNCC or Career Fair

Monday - Thursday, March 2-5
Career Development Office (Bldg 44)
10:00am-1:00pm

The Professional Networking Career Conference is being featured in *Campus Career Counselor*, a national magazine, as one of the great ideas in career development for universities.

To request disability accommodations call (831) 582-3845 or email career_development@csumb.edu at least 10 days prior to conference.

Schedule of Events

10:00-10:20 **PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATION AND NETWORKING TIPS**

10:30-11:45 **CAREER PANELS**
HEAR FROM ALUMNI AND OTHER PROFESSIONALS ABOUT THE JOBS THAT ARE OUT THERE IN THESE FIELDS AND HOW TO GET THEM!

CHOOSE A CAREER FIELD FROM:

- ★ BUSINESS
- ★ EDUCATION
- ★ HEALTH AND SCIENCE
- ★ PUBLIC/SOCIAL SERVICE
- ★ TECHNOLOGY

12:00-1:00 **NETWORKING LUNCH FOR ALUMNI & STUDENTS**
ENJOY LUNCH AND A LIVELY DISCUSSION OF A VARIETY OF TIMELY CAREER RELATED TOPICS

1:15-2:00 **TOPICAL SESSIONS, CHOOSE FROM:**

- ★ EFFECTIVE JOB SEARCHES IN A TOUGH ECONOMY
- ★ ROOTS OF WELLNESS

Sponsored by **Career Development**



Students Would Rather Stay in the Bay than Graduate

Alex Poggione, Arts & Entertainment Editor
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According to this year's Jeanne Clery report, CSU Monterey Bay's (CSUMB) graduation rates are eight percent below the California State University (CSU) system as a whole. This means, in the four years most students plan to spend at CSUMB, only one in 10 will get his or her degree from CSUMB. Add two more years of studying, and still only four in 10 students will graduate. This is an increasing problem as the CSU system becomes more impacted, and campuses run out of room to house their students.

Whether a student graduates in four years depends on whether

or not they change majors, take enough units, pass enough classes with a "C" or better, and complete all the graduation requirements and outcomes. An advisor from the Undergraduate Advising Center (Bldg. 44), who wished to remain anonymous said, "Problems usually arise when a student decides to switch from a relatively flexible major, like Human Communication, to a more regimented one like Business or Liberal Studies, where they have more specific requirements. These students often take much longer to graduate than others, and can drive down the graduation rate."

Another problem unique to CSUMB is the availability of East

Campus housing. "CSUMB has some of the most desirable housing of any CSU in terms of location," said the advisor. "Those students who live in East Campus and aren't graduating are 'milking it,' trying to stay as long as possible because they don't want to leave [the Monterey area]."

Sophomore Emily Fanucchi, a World Languages and Culture major, feels CSUMB's outcome-based education is too confining for most students to graduate in four years. "I think it's kind of stupid; why can't we just get the grade and consider that done? It just makes it harder for people when you say, 'You must pass this one test or get a "C" or above on this one paper.' And, if they

bomb that, they lose the ULR and have to retake the class. It's a bit inefficient."

Students can take control of their graduation date by meeting regularly with both their undergraduate advisor and their major advisor throughout their university careers. Students also can utilize CSUMB's newest software purchase, PeopleSoft, which is linked to student grades, classes and records. The new program has a feature that enables students to check their degree progress and make sure their numerous University Learning Requirements are fulfilled, and they can graduate on time.

CSUMB HAS SOME OF THE MOST DESIRABLE HOUSING OF ANY CSU IN TERMS OF LOCATION. THOSE STUDENTS WHO LIVE IN EAST CAMPUS AND AREN'T GRADUATING ARE 'MILKING IT'...

New Library Offers New Hot Spots and Hang Outs

Lucas Anthony, Staff Reporter
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Rotted wood buildings with peeling paint stain the CSU Monterey Bay campus. The opening of the Tanimura and Antle Memorial Family Library on Dec 1, 2008 at CSUMB, however, served as a beacon of hope for the campus landscape and also offered many new services to the campus.

"The new library has 10 group study rooms, compared to four in the old library," said Library Director, Bill Robnett. "There are classrooms in the south wing, a computer lab, ASAP and Writing, and Undergraduate Research Opportunities programs and the new Café."

The anticipated opening of the Extended Hours Café on Jan 20 attracted even more students to the library. The Café is run by food service corporation Sodexo, but is better known to students as 'Peet's Coffee'. Tara Cvek, an employee and sophomore Business major, said there is always a line of students before and after classes.

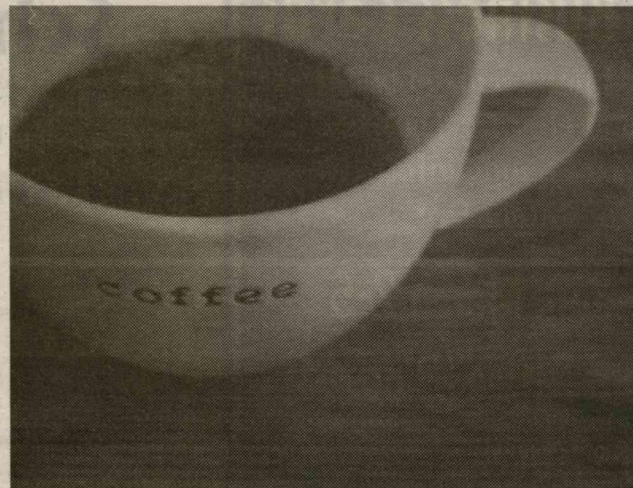


PHOTO PROVIDED

COMPARED TO THE OLD LIBRARY, THE NEW ONE ACCOMODATES A LOT MORE PEOPLE.

JULIAN HERRERA

"The new library is conducive to studying because it's the place to be—everyone studies here," said Senior Global Studies major, Jackie Woods.

With the attraction of the Extended Hours Café and new services, the Tanimura and Antle Memorial Family Library draws the public from surrounding areas.

"Compared to the old library, the new one accommodates a lot more people," said sophomore

Business major, Julian Herrera, who takes advantage of the laptops available for check-out at the front desk.

The increased attendance is cause for concern among library staff, whose numbers, according to Robnett, have not increased since the closure of the old library.

The library staff has teamed up with the University Police Department's (UPD) Community Service Officer (CSO) Program to patrol the building. CSOs will report suspicious activity and lookout for student safety.

"Public libraries inherently draw people that you don't want there," UPD Sgt. David Snell said. "Just having the [CSO's] physical uniform presence there sometimes deters people who have ulterior motives."

Whether people are grabbing a cup of coffee or cramming for a mid-term, the new library seems to be a hot spot on campus.

OR

Shuttles Reduce Congestion... and Commerce

Kevin Clark, Staff Reporter
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The evening is cool and clear on the Monterey Peninsula. Fireworks put a sparkle on the sky shortly after sunset. The display offers a subtle reminder that soon the streets will be a crunch of cars, horns and humanity, heading home. This is Fourth of July in Monterey. Except for the fireworks, it also is the Concours d' Elegance, the Monterey Jazz Festival, the Moto GP and, this last week, the AT&T National Pro-Am Golf Tournament in Pebble Beach.

In the past, the golf tournament has created serious traffic congestion and complaints throughout Monterey County, purely because a surplus of eager spectators needs a place to park.

This problem has been largely resolved by turning CSU Monterey Bay (CSUMB) into a sizeable parking lot. "There are no other stops," said Ed Manger, director of official cars and transportation. Which means the shuttles operating between the

campus and the golf courses bypass the local market places, taking business from surrounding economies.

It is efficient. But perhaps it is not so effective, particularly when it comes to restaurants, art galleries and other retail establishments. Ted Walter, owner of Passionfish, a restaurant in Pacific Grove, noted a decrease in dinner reservations when the shuttles first started. "Before the parking started in Fort Ord," he said, "the restaurant was crazy [busy]." Walter recounted the days when the event would bring in so many customers simply because they were locked into the city. "Now," he said, "everyone is shuttled out, away from the city, and too tired to come back."

Steve Worthy, tournament director for the AT&T, says the surrounding areas such as Monterey, Pacific Grove and Carmel, simply outgrew the parking capacity.

However, options have opened new doors for local business. Monterey, Pacific Grove and Carmel now have busses exclusively for this tournament, whose routes are not

limited to tournament traffic. The city buses actually promote stops in specific cities.

"Locals complained about traffic," said Kent Torrey, owner of The Carmel Cheese Shop. "So, they alleviated the congestion." Torrey recalls the first few years after the shuttles started and, like Ted Walter, noticed a difference in business. "Now people have

gotten used to it," he said, referring to the shuttles. Golf tournament fans may have gotten used to the shuttles pulsing from CSUMB. But retailers, it seems, have not.



PHOTO BY KEVIN CLARK

Together With Love

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It was the perfect romantic day. Waves crashed on the rocks, spraying the path. A slight drizzle and a gentle breeze could be soothed by a simple blanket. The ocean and its romance could be felt in the atmosphere. Although the people collected along the coast were a symbol of love, something else was on their minds. The group was on a mission to stop rape.

On Feb. 8, 930 pre-registered people participated in the 24th annual "Together with Love" Run/Walk, and 200 to 500

more registered on race day for a grand total of 1,372 participants. They gathered at Lovers Point in Pacific Grove to celebrate romance and stop rape. The race was hosted by the Monterey County Rape Crisis Center (MCRCC), a nonprofit organization designed to advocate for victims of rape and child abuse. Through entry fees and donations, "we are hopeful to raise between \$20,000 and \$30,000," said MCRCC Executive Director Clare Munteer. The grand total after the event was \$27,000. The money will be used wherever grant funding cannot help, such as rent for women and children in need of shelter.

The day started at 8:15 a.m., with a short run for kids, aged 10 and under. Each wore the number one because it was important for every child to be a winner and feel he or she had accomplished a goal. They also received a medal at the finish line. At 9 a.m. the adults stepped off the start line. Some ran a 5k or 3.1-mile course, and some, a 10k or 6.2-mile trek.

Several CSU Monterey Bay (CSUMB) students decided to participate in the run to get exercise while, at the same time, raising funds for a local charity. Senior business major Adrienne Huesca ran the 5k. "I did it last year," she said, "and I wanted to beat my time. And, it is for a good charity." Another reason students love this run is because of the beautiful scenery along the coast. The path took them from Lovers Point to the golf links at Spanish Bay in Pebble Beach, and back to the finish line, where food and drink awaited.

CSUMB students can get involved with the MCRCC by volunteering at events such as the "Together with Love" Run/Walk. Also, opportunities are available to become an intern or to help out with the 24-hour crisis hotline. The next workshop will be in May; additional information is available online at www.mcrcc.org. Making a difference in the community can be a wonderful way to come together with love.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY CLARE MOUNTEER

NEWS

From CSUMB to D.C.: The Journey to the Innauguration

Randall Rigali, Staff Reporter
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President-elect Barack Obama took the oath of office from Chief Justice John Roberts and became the 44 President of the United States on Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2009. Two students from CSU Monterey Bay, Nick McGill, a senior majoring in business, and Riana Hardin, a sophomore majoring in Human Communication, were selected to attend the Inauguration for an 11-day journey into history-in-the-making. The students were chosen by Student Activities Coordinator Rebecca Nestor, for writing an outstanding essay regarding their leadership skills and the historic event.

Heading into the trip, both students had quite different political views, which helped them develop a better understanding of President Obama's "Change we can believe in." McGill said, "I voted for McCain; I consider myself a moderate and was worried about if Obama had enough experience to

run this country." Hardin, however, voted for Barack Obama. Originally she supported John Edwards but changed her mind about him back in 2004. She said, "Ever since Obama gave his speech in the Senate in 2004, aligning himself with the importance of human rights and environmental policies, I knew this was my leader." Although the students had opposing views, they were able to put them aside and open themselves up to the journey.

While in Washington, D.C., McGill and Hardin were required to attend conferences every day, where there was time to meet politicians and leaders from around the world. The international community of ambassadors gave seminars, telling how delighted they were to work with Obama and to help him fix the global economic crisis.

Dana Gorino, press secretary for George W. Bush, was available for McGill to ask questions about the proposed tax cuts. The most influential information came from

Congressman Bob Booke, Democrat, and Cal Thomas, Republican. McGill said, "They preached on how important it was to build a common ground," said McGill, "which creates a personal relationship with other people. That shows how you can collaborate and get things done in legislation."

The most spectacular part of the inauguration, says Hardin, was capturing the reactions and actions of the millions of people in the crowds. She was the only one in her group unable to get a ticket to the Inauguration, so she watched it from

the National Mall. McGill watched near a reflecting pond by the Capital building.

Hardin recalls feeling speechless with excitement as she watched the "We Are One" concert, which included performances by Beyonce, Bruce Springsteen and U2, "The way the musical artists quoted Abraham Lincoln during the concert," she said, "was very touching." These two students report amazing memories from their journey to Washington, D.C., to be forever shared in stories to friends and family members about the historic 44 Inauguration.

Then There was Group B: Cal Grant Delay Affects Majority of Recipients

Lauren Owens, Staff Reporter
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Instead of the highly anticipated checks, suspension letters filled the mailboxes of students at CSU Monterey Bay (CSUMB). Frustration lingered on wrinkled foreheads as students expecting to receive a Cal Grant tried to make do in the absence of their funding.

"I have had to scrape to cover my rent," said senior Business major Kayleigh Bodan, "because I received less than normal. It has impacted my budgeting, making everything that much more difficult. I am currently looking to get another job, which has been more than difficult, just to compensate for it."

On Jan. 15, the pressroom for the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) announced Cal Grant A, B, and C awards would be delayed for spring 2009 recipients. The stalled awards, which were intended to pay for tuition, housing and student fees, was paid, not from CSAC, but instead, by the University. "CSUMB fronted the money that paid for the student's

fees, which will hopefully be reimbursed by CSAC," said Financial Aid Director Maria De Los Angeles Fuentes. "Although, the stipend of \$751 for Cal Grant B recipients is not being paid by the University."

To inform students personally on the status of their Cal Grant, letters were sent to home addresses during winter break. The news resulted in students having to look for alternative resources to cover suspended funds. Clearly, the suspension has created money worries for students. "I pay for everything myself, which includes rent, my car, phone, insurance," said Bodan, who received a Cal Grant B. "So, the more I can work, the better. It's not just having more than one job; it is about having a job that pays enough. Eight dollars an hour just doesn't cut it."

Out of the 527 students who receive Cal Grant A, B or C at CSUMB, 332 receive Cal Grant B. Their funds will remain in the frozen section until the California State Budget is finalized. Once that has happened, the budget can melt away the worries of the "if" and "when" questions for students, and signed checks will once again, show up in student mailboxes,



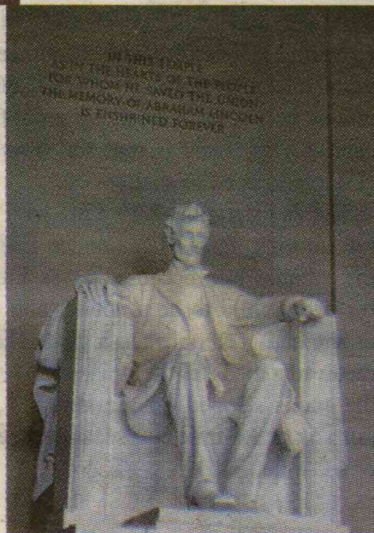
PHOTOS PROVIDED BY RIANA HARDIN

**I VOTED FOR
MCCAIN... I WAS
WORRIED ABOUT IF
OBAMA HAD ENOUGH
EXPERIENCE TO RUN
THIS COUNTRY.**

NICK MCGILL

**EVER SINCE OBAMA GAVE HIS
SPEECH IN THE SENATE IN
2004, ALIGNING HIMSELF WITH
THE IMPORTANCE OF HUMAN
RIGHTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL
POLICIES, I KNEW THIS WAS MY
LEADER.**

RIANA HARDIN



OR

Read the **Otter Realm** online! @ otterrealm.net



First Monterey African Americans Are Given Spotlight

Lauren Owens, Staff Reporter
LAUREN_OWENS@CSUMB.EDU

“Knowledge, beauty and joy.” These were the words CSU Monterey Bay (CSUMB) Visual and Public Art (VPA) Director Dr. Amalia Mesa-Bains used to describe *Renderings: The African American Legacy Project Exhibition*, the art exhibit she co-founded at the National Steinbeck Center.

The exhibit is the result of a two-year project designed by Mesa-Bains and Dr. Richard Bains, two CSUMB professors. They who wanted to show the work

done thus far from collaborative efforts by students, faculty and community members in finding the stories of African Americans on the Monterey Peninsula.

African American Legacy Project originated when Dr. Bains and Dr. Mesa-Bains came to the Monterey Peninsula with a quest for dialogue in the African American communities. Knowing the roots of the culture was another goal. With their chosen task, interviews were held among regional citizens who had been in the peninsula community for more than 60 years, which created the exhibit’s artwork.

“Many of the interviewees are more between 60 to 70 years old,” said Dr. Mesa-Bains. “Many were the first African Americans in the community and in their jobs.” With the interviews completed, insight into the struggles, successes, and photographs of their history on the Peninsula laid the foundation for the artwork displayed in the exhibit.

Artwork created for the exhibit ranged among portraits, paintings and photographs. The exhibit was designed to be both interactive and retrospective. The goal was to show where the African American past meets the future. Works were

borrowed primarily from students who took Visual and Public Arts (VPA) courses at CSUMB.

Third-year VPA major Michael Fitzgerald’s digital artwork concentrated on the influence of African Americans in the military at former Fort Ord. Along with Fitzgerald was Interim Liberal Studies Chair Lynda Bynoe, who focused on Mae Johnson, the first black principal for King Middle School in Seaside. Her story was of interest among many attendees. “Of all the pieces, Mae Johnson’s, was my favorite. She is amazing and few people know about her,” said Seaside resident Princess

Johnson who attended the opening of the exhibit.

Throughout the journey, Dr. Mesa-Bains said she remained hopeful that the audience would become even more curious about the roots of the African Americans on the Peninsula. The exhibit will be on display until April 12 at the National Steinbeck Center in Salinas, during which pieces will be interchanged to show all forms of relevant art.



Art observers at the Steinbeck Center



African American Soliders at Fort Ord

PHOTO ABOVE AND BELOW PROVIDED BY VPA.CSUMB.EDU/AALP_SCANS

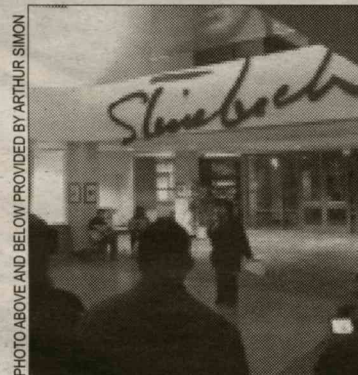


PHOTO ABOVE AND BELOW PROVIDED BY ARTHUR SIMON



King's Middle School Principal Mae Johnson

OR



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Writing Away Global Warming

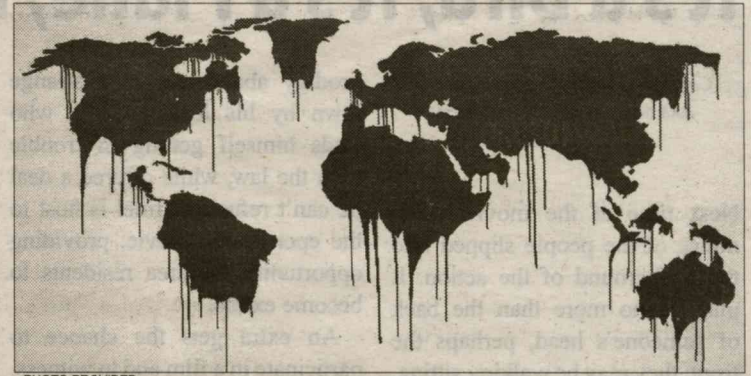


PHOTO PROVIDED

A local science event, a most unlikely place for similes, metaphors and rhyme had 16 CSU Monterey Bay (CSUMB) poets ranting about Global Warming. Thursday Feb. 5, CSUMB hosted the second Focus the Nation global warming event themed "Food, Fuel and the First Hundred Days" and this year took a more creative approach.

According to Daniel Fernandez, Chair of Division of Science and Environmental Policy and organizer of Focus The Nation, the event presented 27 speakers and panelists including mayors, former state assemblymen, a current city-councilwoman,

business professionals and CSUMB faculty members, staff and alumni. On display was a "green" dorm, furnished with green and low-impact items such as organic sheets, a solar oven and a bike.

Among-discussions-and speeches on global warming and the environment, CSUMB students brought more creative approaches to the issue. Music and Performing Arts students James Meder and Andrea Blunt sang throughout the event. Also poetry on the issues were exhibited in the lobby and voted on electronically.

Among the 16 poets entered in the contest, emerged a three-way tie among Human Communication students, Kirsten Bauer, Josh Varon, and Colin Cole.

Varon's poem, "Apathetic," was conceived through concern about the environment. "[I] decided to

write out about [the environment]," he said, "considering that this is my way to help and take a stand for social justice." Memories of his hometown, Palos Verdes, which Varon describes as a, "beautiful, simplistic grass hill" now "covered in affluent housing and attitudes," influenced his poem.

Bauer took a less traditional approach with her poem, "It's not easy being Green," focusing on the trend of being green. "We need to examine the actual impact instead of following trends such as organics and recycled bags," Bauer said.

These are just three of the many CSUMB students who are doing their part in spreading knowledge to mitigate global warming, which is the goal for Focus the Nation. "It is important for students to know the challenges and what is being done," Fernandez said.

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY JOAN WEINER



Be Smart... And Have A Heart

Nicole Jones, Staff Reporter
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For many getting into college is only half the chance for advanced education. The other is figuring out how to pay for it. Any valuable source of money will help, but free money is even better.

Marlene Hurtado, an architecture concentration and sophomore at CSU Monterey Bay (CSUMB), is one of many recipients of a few prized scholarships offered by the university. One being provided by the school American Association University Women is what made it possible for Hurtado to come to college; "This scholarship" said

Hurtado "was only for women pursuing a higher education." "After receiving the call that I had gotten the scholarship I was very excited and happy that I had been chosen, because I was pursuing a career in architecture. I was given the opportunity to intern at the Engineers of Monterey County."

Hurtado has a great amount of enthusiasm about pursuing her long term goals with this degree and with the opportunities this scholarship has provided her with. "Eventually I plan on transferring to a school of architecture, where I can get a degree that emphasizing in "green" building which means that it is better for

the environment," said Hurtado. "I also plan on getting my masters, later my PhD, and later in the future, I plan on becoming a professor of architecture in Italy." Scholarships offer more than just financial assistance.

The importance of funding scholarships, such as the one Hurtado was awarded, is that every child deserves a chance at higher education. On Feb. 20 the largest scholarship fundraising event on campus will be in effect. Founded 10 years ago by CSUMB financial aid directors Bonnie Brown and Lynn Blaskavitch.

The Have a Heart Dinner and Auction is a volunteer event, specifically designed to benefit university students, who are awarded community scholarships. "This is the eleventh year of the Have a Heart event," said Event Coordinator Christina Bailey. "We have successfully grown from 50 people to 350 people who come out and support us."

Hosted in the University Ballroom, the event has a different theme every year. In celebration of this years, it will be a French theme. The ballroom will be decorated with an array of

beautiful Parisian designs and an elaborate Eiffel Tower.

A decade ago, engaging in a living room conversation about the need for student support two women came up with an idea, which has benefitted more than 300 students since. "Even with the economy the way it is," said Christina. "We still go above and beyond our financial goal each year; this event is our bread winner. So it won't be going anywhere."

For more information, to attend or to volunteer at this event contact Christina Bailey via first class.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

It's a Bird, It's a Plane; No, It's an Extra

Courtney Thorngate, Staff Reporter
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Next time at the movies, take notice of the people slipped into the background of the action. It may be no more than the back of someone's head, perhaps the front; they may be walking, sitting, standing or talking. These stealth individuals are known as "extras," a minor actor with a major role in creating a crowd.

"Carmel: The Movie," is set in a local hamlet where warm sand meets epic shores, and gingerbread houses actually exist, exuding coziness. The storyline, essentially, is a 15-year-old art

prodigy abandoned in a strange town by his loser mother, who finds himself getting in trouble with the law, while offered a deal he can't refuse. Carmel is host to the eponymous movie, providing opportunity for area residents to become extras.

An extra gets the chance to participate in a film and to witness, firsthand, how movies are made. Last weekend, on Feb. 13, Extra Casting Organizer Hannah Walker said, "I am scheduling 800 extras over these two days." She gathered 200 extras just for a party scene at the legendary Sunset Center in downtown Carmel.

The following night, another 580 extras showed for the same

scene at the Sunset Center. Walker said, "We only accepted volunteers that would be available 14 hours a day. The days might not go that long, but we have to prepare them for the long day." For this particular scene, Walker accepted adults, mostly, of both genders and all races. The extras had to be dressed in their Sunday best and bring two wardrobe changes.

Carmel resident Tiffany Everett ended up in a scene at Dawson Cole Gallery, located at 6th and Dolores in Carmel. Everett was the youngest by far out of 20 extras, most of whom were men. Everett believes she was chosen as an extra because they needed a variety of people, representing

different community characters, based on sex, gender, age and race.

Inside the gallery, the crew was filming a scene with actors Alfred Molina and Josh Hudgerson. In this scene, Molina catches Hudgerson, who plays the 15-year-old, robbing Molina's house. Instead of calling the police, he introduces the boy to art forgery. Everett and other extras walked up the street by the art gallery windows, and then crossed the street to head back up the street. During the 10 hours Everett worked as an extra, the crew filmed just two scenes in the same setting. Everett said, "I got to see how a movie is filmed and learned it is very time consuming. Exhausted from long hours of

work and sore, having chosen to wear high heels, I'm realizing this was still pretty darn cool."

This particular day of filming started at 7 a.m. and ended around 5:40 p.m.

All the extras are strictly volunteers and are given one 40-minute break for lunch. For information on becoming an extra, send an e-mail to Hanna Walker at smithwalker@mac.com.

Grab a Piece of Pie: New Pizza Joint

Bre'Aja Bruce, Staff Reporter
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Pizza is essentially a staple in college life and, as such, is ubiquitous in any college town. Every shop offers its own special pizza, and every pizza has its own unique flavors, so it must be fairly hard for a pizza place to stand out from the crowd. Yet one pizza shop in downtown Monterey has had no trouble rising above the rest. In these current economic times when it's survival of the fittest, Croce's Pizza stands strong. Croce's door constantly has been swinging open ever since owner Sean Croce opened it seven months ago.

Croce attributes his success to a recipe of customer service, "We really try and work with our customers," he said. "We sell pizza by the slice; deliver for free out to CSU Monterey Bay and even all the way out to Carmel. Another reason is the great people we have working here, so there's great customer service. We try to have all our deliveries there in 25 to 30 minutes and really just have a friendly staff behind the counter."

From their non-dairy, vegan-friendly pizza to their extended hours until four in the morning on Friday and Saturday nights, Croce's Pizza is definitely finding new ways to slice its way through the competition and become the number-one pizza shop in Monterey.

However, Croce claims his success is, "definitely because of



PHOTO BY BREAJA BRUCE

the ingredients." This New York-style pizza joint has been open only since July yet it has already added on to its location by buying out the Pink Tuna restaurant and opening up Croce's East Coast Eatery, a complimentary Italian-themed restaurant, next door. This restaurant opened its doors just one month ago to serve, a variety

of choices from Philly cheese steaks and pasta, to beer and wine. It offers a different menu than the late-night pizza shop but still promotes the same great taste and service.

Even during a troubled economy, when other businesses are closing their doors, Croce doesn't seem worried. "I try not

to pay attention to that," he said. "I think, as long as we keep doing our job, making great food for you guys at reasonable prices, you'll keep coming back." For now, Croce's Pizza is happy right where it is, at 404 Tyler Street, amid the nightlife of downtown Monterey.

OR

Time Vessel of the Twenty-First Century

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The sun shines on a popular street in Monterey, highlighting cars as they whiz past the day dreamers, business folks and tourists. Off to the side of the busy black pavement, a nondescript building houses a haven of creative expression.

Inside, the walls are covered by mythical creatures, Chinese scripts and symbols of all sorts that radiate blues, purples, pinks, oranges, greens and vivid yellows. Big black books lie open across two glass countertops. A light shines down on the bright green shirt of a man hunched over the bare-skinned back that has become his canvas. An artist, he turns on the silver machine in his right hand and begins to craft his composition.

Gold Coast Tattoo has broken the, "I'm a badass" stereotype of body art by truly living up to its down-to-earth, cater-to-all mentality. Whether going in for a tattoo, a piercing or simply to have a good time, Gold Coast has become, by all reports, the place to hang out.

Founded in Monterey in 1976 by Jack and Eileen Massey, Gold Coast Tattoo is reportedly one of the oldest, most established body art shops in the area. This is where current owner Steve Hendricks got his start.

At age 16, Hendricks hung around the local shops in downtown Monterey, getting tatted and learning the business. "I had a dream," he said. Once Gold Coast came into business, Hendricks became a fixture in the shop, eventually becoming an apprentice to Jack Massey. In 1979, the Masseys sold the shop to Hendricks. Thirty years and



six shops later, Gold Coast Tattoo has become a west coast haven of culturally diverse, world-traveled artists.

Located on 639 Lighthouse Ave., Gold Coast is a "legendary shop with an experience of its own," said Orlando Ferron, a tattoo artist of five years. Laughter lingers in the air, as his "artistically diverse" colleagues, Nate Gonzales, Richard Webster, also known as "West Coast Rick," and Mike Wilson bounce jokes off of one another and ink permanent images and messages across the body canvases of their clients.

"Tattoos are like time vessels," said Ferron. "We want people to have that positive experience, so they have a good story to tell about Gold Coast when they are 60."

The name Gold Coast suits a shop entrenched in the west-coast California vibe, whose artists carry a laid-back yet professional sensibility that has kept the shop thriving for decades.



PHOTOS BY ALISHA THOMAS



The men of Gold Coast tattoo shop.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Kayaking With Otters

Kristin Leal, Staff Reporter
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When the ocean whispers adventure, it calls for kayaking. The roar of freedom creates an excited energy as paddle meets water and the rider feels unbound. Monterey Bay offers endless shorelines that are ideal for kayakers. Salty air flushes the face and fills the nostrils. Whether the sky is overcast or clear, moody or mild, as long as the ocean is calm, Monterey Bay offers scenic shorelines ideal for kayakers.

Monterey's unique location along California's Central Coast provides a habitat in which many marine animals flourish. "The canyon and the upwelling stimulate plant growth," said Tom Langland from Adventures by the Sea, "and the large bay offers an ideal spot for migration." The natural bounties of the bay are easily accessed by kayak. Clusters of jellies drift through fingers of kelp, and starfish grip the sides of the wooden pillars.

Moss Landing is an ideal location for the first-time kayaker. The harbor offers a calm ride with

plenty of marine life to encounter. Just beyond the launch ramps, harbor seals sun on the beaches beside plucky pelicans. Rafts of otters scatter in the brackish water. Massive sea lions outline the mouth of the harbor.

Paddling up the Elkhorn Slough, kayakers encounter water flowing like a steady stream controlled by the tides. The push and pull of the ocean directs the path of the kayak. Otters are often seen floating on their backs, breaking clam shells on their bellies. Tiny Dungeness crabs hide in grubby caves along the water line. Various sea birds cruise the surface, in search of their next meal. Below twisting currents, the unseen is both scintillating and scary.

Fisherman's Wharf on Monterey Bay offers both a beginner and an intermediate paddle experience. This launch location begins with an easy paddle through the harbor, where bronzed sea lions balance on buoys, and harbor seals blend into the rocks. Dolphins are known to show off near Cannery

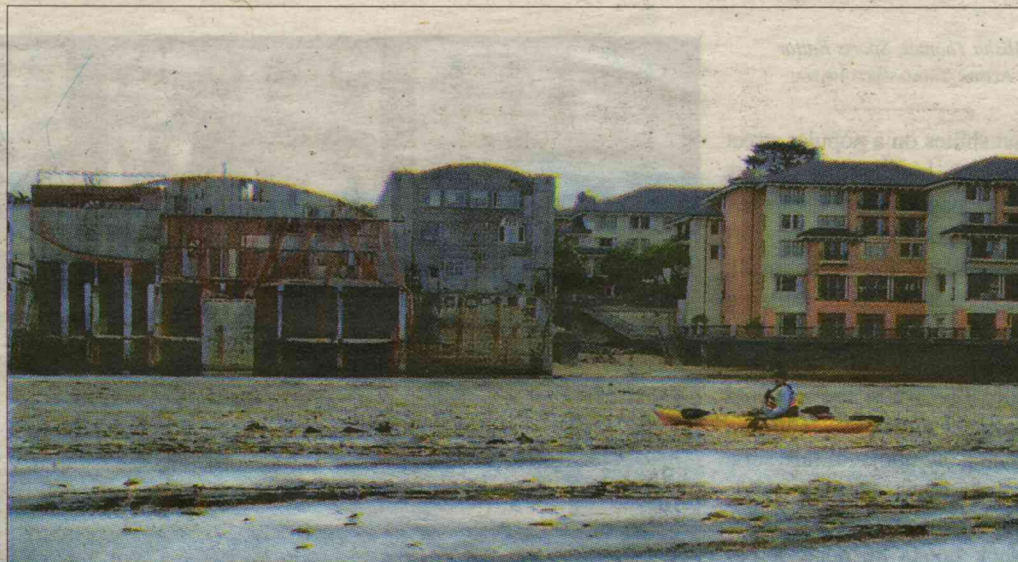


PHOTO PROVIDED BY KRISTIN LEAL

Row. Crossing through the canopy of kelp where otters rest slows the kayak, and paddles can become tangled. Mother otters hold petite pups on their bellies.

When paddling through the mouth of the harbor, paddlers use caution as a large boat passes, leaving a wide wake in its path. Beyond Cannery Row, the Bay begins to open up to the sea. Currents start to churn, and waves gain height and momentum.

Experienced paddlers head the kayak straight into the oncoming waves to cut through the surf, like a surfer paddling over the top of the waves. Suddenly, the adventure becomes a little more exciting. Digging in deep with every stroke provides a more strenuous workout and a more successful ride in such challenging surf.

Several kayaking rental companies within the area

offer guided tours. CSU Monterey Bay students have the opportunity to rent kayaking equipment through Adventure Connections on campus in building 93. There, they offer both daily and weekend rentals for a single or double kayak. For more information about rentals or trips, visit csumb.edu/adventures. To get on the direct mailing list for all upcoming events, call (831) 582-4644.

Funds Lacking, Sports Slacking

Lauren Scholz, Staff Reporter
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The fresh off-shore breeze calls for more sailors, while the track waits patiently for its runners. A shortage of funds in CSU Monterey Bay (CSUMB) athletics programs for certain teams may be prohibiting the University from attracting potential athletes. Cross country

and sailing are two major sports affected by the lack of funding. Although these two sports are thriving on land and in water, they will not be able to excel as fast as they want or, perhaps, should, as CSUMB teams. More funds would enable these teams to buy new materials, fix old equipment and purchase team gear.

The repair of equipment and purchase of new material would give these teams a better chance at success in competition. Also, if these teams were better funded,

they wouldn't be so limited by the places they can afford to travel and the number of matches they can compete in.

"The team could benefit from getting more funding because then we could show up to regattas looking more like a team," said Environmental Science Technology and Policy junior Danielle Walker, of the sailing team. "For example, like Stanford when they show up with their matching jackets, but we're working with what we have." With

looking like a team with matching gear, our athletes can represent CSUMB in a professional way. Without matching team gear, teams do not look serious to other teams who are dressed alike.

While other schools are able to offer more scholarship money to their potential athletes, this university will have to find another way to lure athletes to these sports if we are not able to give them money. The problem is likely that the teams in question are not being funded as much as other teams because they do not bring in as much revenue as the other popular sports.

"Just being such a new school and having a program in the building stage contributes as well," said Global Studies senior Vincent Carr, of the cross country team. "If we were to have the financial backing to put out scholarships to prospective athletes, I'd say we'd be in the running with other programs and build a solid team." Perhaps there is a light at the end of the tunnel for these teams because CSUMB is a young school, and it is starting to build a potential athletics department by fundraising and gaining credibility from other schools.

OR

ATHLETE OF THE ISSUE:

JESSICA BOYLE



SENIOR
24
POSITION: PITCHER
HEIGHT: 5'7"
HOMETOWN: SALINAS
ERA: 1.42
INNINGS PLAYED: 19
HITS: 11
RUNS: 9

Hayley Alaniz, Staff Reporter
 HAYLEY_ALANIZ@CSUMB.EDU

Strike one. Strike two. Strike three. You're out! With a strong wind up and a dangerous pitch, senior pitcher Jessica Boyle is a force to be reckoned with on the Cal State University Monterey Bay (CSUMB) softball team.

Leading into her fourth season on the team, Boyle has continued her love of the game since she was 10 years old. As she grew up, Boyle was able to experiment with different sports, but got stuck on softball when she realized it was more enjoyable for her and the one in which she excelled.

With years of experience and their accompanying memories, Boyle has especially enjoyed her

time as a female Otter. "It's hard to point out a memory that I call my best," said Boyle, "but my favorite memories are of the times and relationships I have shared with my teammates. I feel this year's team is strong and [we] get along really well."

Holding a current record of two wins, three losses, and one tie, Boyle, along with her fellow female Otters has started the season with a bang. On Feb. 1, during the second game of a double-header against Notre Dame de Namur University, Boyle was able to pitch 16 innings. Within this same game, she set a CSUMB record of 20 strikeouts, ending in the tenth inning. "I thought it was never going to end," Boyle said.

After competing in the first few weeks of the season, Boyle

will continue to pitch against fierce competitors throughout the coming weeks. With the team changing each year, this season will be different than the last. Hoping to maintain a low earned-run average (ERA), Boyle would like to be helpful to her team in order to reach the conference and regional tournaments.

"I have put a lot of time and dedication into playing," said Boyle, "and I can't believe I'm almost done. I feel very lucky to be playing where I grew up."

Otters At Play

Men's Baseball

2/20 vs UC San Diego, 11 A.M. (DH)
 2/22 vs UC San Diego, 12 P.M.
 2/28 @ CSU San Bernardino, 2 P.M.
 2/28 @ CSU San Bernardino, 11 A.M. (DH)
 3/1 @ CSU San Bernardino, 12 12 P.M.

Basketball

2/21 @ UC San Diego, 7:30 P.M.
 2/26 vs CSU San Bernardino, 7:30 P.M.
 2/27 vs. Cal Poly Pomona, 7:30 P.M.

Women's Softball

2/20 @ San Francisco State, 1 P.M. (DH)
 2/21 @ San Francisco State, 12 P.M. (DH)
 2/22 @ Notre Dame de Namur University, 12 P.M. (DH)
 2/27 @ CSU Dominguez Hills, 1 P.M. (DH)
 2/28 @ CSU Dominguez Hills, 12 P.M.

Women's Basketball

2/21 @ UC San Diego, 5:30 P.M.
 2/26 vs CSU San Bernardino, 5:30 P.M.
 2/27 vs Cal Poly Pomona, 5:30 P.M.

Women's Golf

3/1-3 @ St. Edwards Invitational (Austin, TX)

Sailing

2/21-22 North Series 3-4, @ Cal Maritime Academy

Water Polo

3/5 @ UC Santa Cruz, 4 P.M.

Megan Luna, Staff Reporter
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Tired Trainers

Athletic trainers are a crucial part of an athletic department's success. They are the unsung heroes prepping and preparing athletes in a time of need. This past year marks the first year CSU Monterey Bay (CSUMB) Athletics will compete as a whole under Division II regulations. With longer conditioning seasons, regional opportunities and new appearances, the athletic department has been rapidly growing.

The University is bringing in a plethora of new recruits and student athletes every year. Recent changes and updates have been made to accommodate the growing athletic department, such as the new baseball and softball fields, and the renovated gym. They have placed new, state-of-the-art turf fields and new flooring in the gym. The most recent addition to CSUMB is the new field house for the care and treatment of players.

Yet a major problem lies in the training room. It is hard to get the attention you need with only one, at most two trainers in each room, particularly while multiple sports are going at once. Three athletic trainers currently oversee and service the

entire athletic department. With 280 student athletes, it works out to more than 93 athletes for every one trainer. Among icing up, stem treatment, taping, and taking care of individual cases, the training room gets overloaded. It becomes difficult to get all the athletes ready on time. "At times, they are being stretched a little too thin," said Assistant Athletic Trainer Dave McNeil. "However, the new field house has helped out in a huge way to spread out the athletes and cause less crowding in one training room."

Ken Hawat, head athletic trainer, is starting a work study program within the Kinesiology department to get more help by and on behalf of CSUMB students. The work study program not only would help the athletes get in and out of the training room more quickly, but those who hope to become a trainer also can gain the hands-on experience they need. Despite good intentions, at present there is no set date as to when the program will take effect.

SPORTS

Don't Dream It's Over: Is Black History Month Still Necessary?



Simone Thompkins, Staff Reporter
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History has a perspective. We tend to forget that. As children, most of us accept history as absolute truth, and imagine events playing out exactly as we are told. It's a fair notion—we weren't there, so what do we know? Well, intuitively, we know quite a bit more than we might realize.

We know that history isn't completely objective; it often paints a two-dimensional picture when a multi-dimensional understanding is needed. Dr. Carter G. Woodson wanted recognition of African-American history for this reason. In 1926, he initiated "Negro History Week" to compensate for the lack of African Americans in textbooks. Today, Black history is celebrated for a whole month worldwide; incidentally, the U.K. celebrates it in October.

Celebrating Black History Month might mean listening to Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech or reading/watching *The Color Purple*. For me, Black History Month always

meant the Black History Parade, book reports and innumerable tirades from my uncles about how the government is still cheating Black folk out of an honest living.

But what does it really mean?

History months of every declaration exist to remind us of the other stories and of perspectives out there; the ones we may never hear.

Should we, however, condense a specific culture's achievements into one month out of the year? Some argue Black History Month encourages discussing Black history out of its historical context, then letting it remain absent in standard curriculum thereafter.

Others say history months are "racist" or "exclusionary"; there are too many unacknowledged minority groups to pay tribute to one.

So what should we do? Have we reached a point of awareness where we can do away with special ethnic and cultural recognition, or is our segregation between "American" culture and "Other" cultures perpetuated by such practices?

I'm still sitting on the fence with this one. But I will say that in a world where the victor holds the pen, the validity of history months isn't entirely lost. It's important to remember why what we're celebrating matters—Black history, Women's history, Latino and Asian history, is all a valid part of American history.



Brennan Mitchell, Staff Reporter
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I'm just finishing up my free meal as my friends order a pitcher of beer before it's time to play music. It's looking like another successful Thursday night at the Otter Bay Restaurant (OBR) on the CSU Monterey Bay Campus (CSUMB). The seats are filled with stressed-out students who have found refuge from another week of classes.

My initial thought is to hang out and enjoy the time with everyone, but it's getting closer to 7 p.m., and

Audiosyncrasy: Restaurant at the End of the Universe

the show must go on. We have our normal set list of covers and a couple of original songs; now it's time to play some rock n' roll.

The new Thursday Night Jam Sessions have been a hit so far this semester, and students, as well as OBR staff members, are looking forward to enjoying this as a weekly attraction. My band has had the opportunity to play the first two weeks of the schedule, but the OBR is looking to showcase all kinds of student performers. Located in the University Center, the OBR gives a different vibe than the rest of the CSUMB campus. "It's something fun for students to do," said OBR Chef Sam Wallace, "and it's nothing to get nervous about."

Weekly live music is something students and musicians on campus have been waiting for. The key word for this venture is community. OBR Supervisor Matt Bailey said, "We

want the community here. It helps us enjoy working, and it is great to see students just coming to have a good time." Bailey and Wallace are the guys behind this concept for our campus. However, it is not only an event made for musicians. The OBR is planning to streamline this to VPA or TAT students for art exhibits or student film nights.

So, if you are a musician or an artist looking for a little community recognition or just want to practice performing, the OBR is the place. It doesn't matter if you have been playing for years or maybe just months. Students looking for a gig can visit the OBR and talk with Bailey or Wallace. CSUMB has been looking for an event like this for a long time, and this is a step in the right direction for our student community. With the help of students and the OBR, hopefully we can make this last beyond this semester.

Surroundings: The Things We Bring



Karen S. Eggemann, Staff Reporter
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It didn't matter that I was older than other students living in East Campus housing. It didn't matter that I was in my late 30s. Or that I had to ask for special permission to have my little poodle Humphrey live there, too. It didn't even matter that my social life was nearly non-existent because it took me what seemed like forever to complete my homework.

What did matter is that it felt like a real home inside.

Back then, it was just Humphrey and me. We were our own little family. Having him close helped me feel secure, and needed.

Back then, I brought what I believed

to be a delightful blue-and-white gingham living room set, paintings in oil by my mother, hand-me-down antiques to accent the rest and, of course, my beloved Sony Vaio. Plus a history rich with my father's love, my mother's care and a sister's devotion to help guide me through the two semesters I lived on Antietam Court. Bringing their love with me meant bringing even more security.

If someone were to ask me today what I would bring to East Campus housing, my list would sound a bit like the first one I made. It also would be filled with more questions to ask of campus staff, professors and Residential Advisors. Just because I was "on my own" didn't mean I couldn't use more help to master living independently. Today, I would ask questions without fearing I sounded incapable of living without my parents around.

A friend and former neighbor on Antietam told me, when he first moved onto campus, the only things

he owned at the time were the family beds, a few lamps, household linens and his computer. But he brought more than material things with him; he brought his family. As a single parent, Elmer Dickens is an inspiration to any student who meets him. He is his own security.

Elmer Dickens brought something else with him. Wisdom.

He said, "You can be a part of the community or live in solitude."

Dickens' inspiration reminds me about my surroundings wherever I am, and what is most important to carry with me. He continues to inspire me to surround myself with good people, positive energy, and anything else that will help me stay independent.

Dickens also reminds me of the words of novelist Barbara Kingsolver, whose book, *The Poisonwood Bible*, I read in class. She said, "Each one of us arrived with some extra responsibility. . ."

What did you bring to campus?

OR

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om·buds [äm-bu-dz]

1. One who investigates reported complaints (as from students or consumers), reports findings and helps to achieve equitable settlements.

Hello My Fabulous and Outrageous Otters!

As the New Year begins, so does the school year. First, welcome back, and let me take this time to introduce myself. I hope you all got the classes you needed, whether it was through early registration or even the faithful schedule adjustment forms. My name is Lauren Owens. I will be doing the Ombuds column for the spring 2009 session. The Ombuds section has the opportunity to listen to any student, faculty or staff comments regarding each and every issue of the Otter Realm and all the stories it encompasses. If ever there is a time when you feel something was written in our newspaper on which you want to voice a comment, concern or question, please feel free to contact me, and I will do my best to address the situation. No comment will be overlooked. I look forward to working with you this semester and to making sure your voice is heard. Have a great semester.

Sincerely,

Lauren Owens, Staff Reporter

EDITORIAL POLICY

The Otter Realm is a bi-weekly student publication produced by the Otter Realm club and HCOM 389. Opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of the Otter Realm, CSUMB administration, faculty, staff or college policy.

The Otter Realm serves two purposes: It is a training lab for students who wish to develop journalism skills, and it is a forum for free expression of campus issues and news. The Otter Realm Editorial Board will determine what to print on these pages. The Editorial Board reserves the right to edit for libel, space or clarity.

OTTER OOPS

It is a new semester, with a new staff; hopefully we can omit this

 **Stay Current Online at**
www.otterrealm.net

Albums to Check Out - by Anthony Bell

Spring Essentials - by Jayna Patel

Library Problems - by Lucas Anthony

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SUDOKU
 su·do·ku [sōō-dō'kōō]



Each Sudoku has a unique solution that can be reached logically without guessing. Enter digits from 1 to 9 into the blank spaces. Every row must contain one of each digit. So must every column, as must every 3x3 square.



Sexual Healing

The End to All Relationships

Ryan Murray, Staff Reporter

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Once upon a time, there was an era without the convenience of cell phones and computers. A magical time, when couples communicated through postcards and letters, via friends or by the sheer coincidence of running into one another.

Those days are long gone. We are now victims of a new era when technology can literally destroy personal relationships. Whether it's the use of Facebook, text messaging, or email, people are keeping closer and closer tabs on one another from farther and farther away.

We have seen the steady rise of text overload, where couples have become so obsessed with it they find themselves constantly texting their "loved" ones. Maybe it's an effort to connect; perhaps it's a way to check up on one another. It could, however, be a way to avoid intimacy. Yet in the event that a text goes unanswered for even a few minutes, this can send these same couples into a dangerous, out-of-control spiral, leading to insecurity and serious trust issues.

Websites such as Myspace and Facebook also have given couples the creepy ability to "spy" and "check up" on one another by enabling them to see nearly everything they are doing, online. Whether it's who commented on whom, what pictures were uploaded or the latest relationship statuses, whatever the wannabe Sherlock Holmes wants, he or she can find.

The current communication invasion may be harmless, but it also could put a damper on the couple's interaction and the time they spend together. Constantly being interrupted by a text or phone call can ruin almost everybody's mood, pushing the relationship further and further apart.

It is a shame that the days of traditional courtship are over. We now find ourselves among techno-zombies who rely solely on texting and the Internet to communicate, when in all actuality time spent face to face is so much more personal and valuable. Face time instead of Facebook gives people a chance to see true emotion and contentment. It's our only chance at having nothing lost in translation.

I say turn off those cell phones, especially when you're with the one you love. It may be the best – and most romantic decision you ever make.

OPINION

Person on Campus

Do you have any tattoos, why or why not?



"No, I don't want to deface my body and live with it for the rest of my life."

-Nick Pally, Music, Junior



"I don't have tattoos. I have a rule that I have to choose what I want and want it for one year so I don't regret it."

-D.J., BUS, Sophomore



"Yes, I do because it is a good expression for an individual. I think the best ones are in memory of someone. I have one on my arm in memory of my father who passed away a year ago."

-Adam Kelley, HCOM, Senior



"I do, both of them are to remind me of something significant in my life. One on my neck to remind me of my grandpa. One on my wrist to remind me that there are healthy ways to relieve stress."

-Jaclyn Woods, GS, Senior



"I don't have any tattoos, but I don't have any problem with them. It is a form of expression."

-Alexandra Gonzalez, Psychology, Sophomore

Piper's Predictions



Happy Birthday Pisces! Our thoughts control our life. If we think negatively, it's going to affect the flow of events. It is time for positive thoughts, continually and consistently.... good things will happen.

Aries- The coming weeks are going to be a breeze for you; you will accomplish everything you need almost effortlessly, and all on time. This is going to give you a jump start to other projects coming up...keep it up.

Taurus- I know it seems there are always little obstacles to overcome, but you are bullish. If anyone can handle it, it's you... with grace and a smile on your face.

Gemini- Many don't seem to understand you. They are simply misinterpreting what you are trying to say. Perhaps you need to make yourself more clear to the people closest to you...communication is key.

Cancer- It seems you are stuck in a dream land lately. Hello? Earth to

Cancer; we are calling you back. It's time to wake up and start taking care of business...back to reality!

Leo- You are going through a nostalgic period that will pass soon. Allow yourself to recognize those feelings and them let them go when you are ready... it's okay to look back but not forever.

Virgo- If someone dear to you doesn't immediately respond to you, do not get offended. Remember how busy life can get, and try and understand where they are coming from...life happens!

Libra- If only others could see how hard-working you really are. You are very good at being social and fun loving, but you know when it's time to do the work, too...work hard, play hard

is what it's all about!

Scorpio- Don't let your emotions get the best of you right now. It is absolutely essential that you look at things for what they are and not to read into anything too deeply at this moment... take it for what it is.

Sagittarius- Ooops...

Capricorn- Life is unpredictable. Lately it seems the only constant is change and movement. This isn't a bad thing at all; it may seem uncomfortable, but ...just go with it.

Aquarius- Being social is a good thing, but you also should schedule some down time for yourself. You want to find that midpoint between going out and staying in...find your balance.