Life's Perfect Balance: The Teeter-Totter

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Sometimes I think about what life would be like if I could be a kid again. I would be able to play in the park on one of my favorite toys, the teeter-totter. I loved the exhilarating feeling of going up and down and up and down, and the challenge of trying to keep it level. Back then it was a just game to maintain balance and feel the wind in my hair. Now, as an adult, I feel like I am back on a teeter-totter, going up and down with the demands of daily life, and trying to find that ideal balance.

I know; good luck.

As college students, we have many stressors. We have school, work, personal relationships and the effects of a weak economy. How are we supposed keep a balanced life? We worry about completing our assignments and meeting with a group for class. After school, we race to work, determined to be on time. While at work, our mind is consumed with the demands of the job and thoughts of the homework we have left to do. Plus we think about those back at home, whether their lives are going well and what we can bring to the relationship. On top of all this, we wonder if we will be able to find a job when it's time to get off the ride.

Up and down we go on the teeter-totter, just hoping to keep it level and not hit ground.

As we reach mid-semester, I have to remind myself of my priorities, and keep that teeter-totter balanced. Although school is significant, and work, The Otter Realm for me, is also important, they are not my number-one priority. As we become more stressed throughout the semester I think it is important to keep in mind those relationships we hold close.

The first is the relationship we have with ourselves. Nothing we do, nothing we achieve will matter if we don't put ourselves first. No all-nighter spent studying, no hard-earned grade, no promotion at work, no diploma will be worth it if we sacrifice ourselves in the process. We must put ourselves first, especially when we are facing stress.

Second, are personal relationships, the ones that will outlast school, our current jobs and the economy. They will get us through the hard times in all our areas of life. If we lose sight of those who are important to us, the rest of lives will feel like trying to ride a teeter-totter without a partner. We should spend quality time with those we love and let them know we need them on the other end of the board.

And so, as an adult, just as I did as a child, I often hop back on that teeter-totter, knowing as long as I take care of my relationships and myself, the rest of my life will come into balance. It may not be perfect, but at least I know that, every time it gets off kilter, balance can be restored when I put the ones I love and myself first.
Poe's Second Celebration of Death

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His famous first-person narrative perspective brought about "The Raven," the legendary poem about the gothic bird that responds, "Nevermore." His work includes the story of "The Tell-Tale Heart," a man claiming insanity after hearing the heartbeat of a dead man. Along with these works of literature, he has published other equally renowned, eerie and blood-curdling poems and short stories that have panicked people around the world. He is the inimitable Edgar Allan Poe.

Born in Boston, MA as Edgar Poe in January 1809, Poe lived a difficult life since the beginning when his father left him and his family a year after he was born. His mother died soon after from consumption, and he was informally adopted by John Allan, where his middle name comes from. Poe then attempted a career at writing after his elder brother, Henry, died in August of 1831. Poe struggled with his career his entire life, and was not well known until his publication of "The Raven" in 1845. The next death was his wife, Virginia. This led Poe to depression and his death in October of 1849.

After his death, observers thought his life would not live on through his writing, and his death would mark the end of his dark portrayal of humanity. Surely no one foresaw another plot in which involving Poe. However, one might think Poe himself had thought of it: a second funeral for himself.

Despite the fact that Poe's life ended 160 years ago, fans of his work recently decided to throw another funeral for the legendary author to celebrate the bicentennial of his birth. His second funeral was held in Baltimore, MD on Oct. 10 and 11 by the Poe House and Museum, which stands near the church where Poe's remains are buried. The activities included a re-enactment of Poe's death, held in the Edgar Allan Poe Museum in Richmond, VA.

Jeff Jerome, curator of Poe House and Museum, was responsible for conducting the second funeral and making sure the event received proper accommodations, especially since details documented from Poe's first funeral showed a lack of interest.

"It's sad about what happened at Poe's first funeral," said John Lawton-Haehl, a theater professor at Gavilan College. "He hardly had anyone attend his funeral." According to what was documented, Poe's cousin, Neilson Poe, failed to announce his death publicly. About 10 people attended the funeral.

Other details of Poe's passing include the destruction of Poe's tombstone, which was carelessly placed on the train and demolished before it could be installed on his grave. Any medical records and death certificate for Poe are untraceable and considered lost.

Some 350 people attended Poe's services. During the funeral, which featured a death-like mannequin of Poe's corpse, eulogies were delivered by actors portraying writers during Poe's lifetime and others who were influenced by Poe's work, including Sarah Helen Whitman, Arthur Conan Doyle and Alfred Hitchcock. One actor even portrayed Rufus Griswold, a nemesis to Poe who often criticized his work. Griswold did so even after Poe's death, belittling him through the "Ludwig" obituary, a pseudonym under which Griswold wrote.

Likely the only thing that would have pleased Poe more than a second celebration of his death would have been an erstwhile raven circling overhead. "Nevermore."
President Obama Wins
Nobel Peace Prize

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The United States made history less than a year ago in the election of its first minority president, Barack Obama. According to MSNBC, the election of 2008 brought to the polls the highest number of 18-24 year old voters. According to MTV, Obama received 60 percent of the youth vote. Although old enough to vote, the young adult age group statistically have shown little to no interest in politics. The introduction of Barack Obama greatly changed that.

Recently Obama was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. This is an achievement, say many, especially for someone who has yet to spend a full year as President of the United States.

The award is presented by the Norwegian Nobel Committee and is conducted through nominations. There had been 205 nominations for the award when President Obama was awarded. The nominations include the Prime Minister of Zimbabwe, Morgan Tsvangirai, and Columbian Senator Piedad Córdoba.

Clearly, Obama stood out in the committee’s eyes. However, some feel that his recognition is premature. Obama’s achievement was criticized because of his short time in office. The committee stated that the speech he gave in Cairo about Islam was impressive, and that the award was not for what he might do but for what he has already done. Thorbjorn Jagland, the chairman of the committee, said, “We are hoping this may contribute a little bit for what he is trying to do.”

The Wall Street Journal compared Obama’s recent victory to a 1994 episode of “The Simpsons” called “Sideshow Bob Roberts,” where the character of Sideshow Bob was convicted of attempted murder without actually committing the act of murder. This implies this prize was awarded for an “attempted act.”

Freshman Business major, Ian Kaneshiro said, “People should be happy because an American received the award. And Obama did not ask for it,” while another student on campus has a different idea on the choice to award Obama the Nobel Peace Prize.

“It’s a little too premature,” said junior transfer student, Andrew Steiner. “Much as his peace talks have not even been put into action, and his presidency has only lasted less than a year.”

Elinor Ostrom: Scholar, Writer and Now Nobel Prize Winner

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She received the 2009 Nobel Memorial Prize for Economics for her work and research in common pool resources, a particular good consisting of a natural or human-made resource system. While this is a great triumph for her and for her research, it also can be seen as an accomplishment for the pursuit of feminine establishment. Elinor Ostrom is the first woman to achieve such recognition in this field.

Ostrom, an American professor at the University of Indiana, was honored with the award based on an analysis of economic governance and her study of self-sustaining communities. She asserted that a common property could be managed and cultivated successfully by a common group that is using the land. She studied how fisheries, forests, oil fields, grazing lands and irrigation systems operate and sustain themselves. Ostrom is believed to be one of the leading scholars in the study of common pool resources. She developed a theory of how humans can interact in an ecosystem without damaging it, and confirmed that humans actually can maintain the land for long-term stability.

This was a personal topic for Ostrom in that she was raised during a decade of war when water was a precious commodity. As a child, Ostrom learned from her mother how to find fresh water and cultivate a garden sufficiently to feed the family. Ostrom learned how to use the land by respecting the ecosystem around her. The result was long-term sustainability of the garden and a fresh supply of food for the family.

Some might say Ostrom’s achievement of the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economics has been well in the works since childhood, ironically a pursuit that stemmed from the stereotypical job expected of women: to care for the garden and feed the family. Ostrom has broken through barriers that traditionally have oppressed women, including getting a Ph.D at UCLA in 1965, and becoming president of the American Political Science Association, the Midwest Political Science Association, and the Public Choice Society, plus writing four books.

Dr. Ilene Feinman, a Human Communication professor and instructor of the Feminist Theory class said, “Scholars such as Dr. Ostrom paved the way for the next generation of women to contribute important research and perspective to historically male-dominated fields. Her achievement indeed bodes well for future women scholars in many historically male-dominant fields.”

Reportedly Ostrom had a significant impact on her field and all of the organizations of which she has been a member or contributor. In this time of economic and ecosystem uncertainty, Ostrom emerges as an apparent example of what can and should be done to resolve economic issues. “Her win is a model and inspiration for young girls imagining the possibilities of their careers,” said Feinman, “and her research is a promising model of community responsibility and efficacy.”
Blackout: Temporary Closure of The BBC

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Weekend nights in the northern region of CSU Monterey Bay (CSUMB) campus seems to be a lot quieter this semester with the temporary closure of the Black Box Cabaret (BBC). Since its opening in 1996, the venue has hosted numerous events and artists such as Rebelution, Zion I, Dustin Kensrue and RX Bandits, plus many others, including student performances.

The CSUMB University Corporation, which has since served as the primary financial backer of the BBC, severed ties once the venue’s million-dollar renovation debt was finally paid off.

The venues’ fate now rests on the students. Decisions about the business are now to be made by the Otter Student Union (OSU) and Chair, Edward Sena. But due to an incomplete board of 14 out of a desired 15 members, including CSUMB faculty, administrators and students; the decision-making has been delayed. The OSU has to start from scratch, hiring a new staff and management team. “[The BBC] will open. That’s our main goal,” said Sena, who said he wants the committee to be properly trained, and professional.

The venue, which is acknowledged by university officials as a great resource for students, will reopen once an efficient business plan is devised. Yet, until that happens it will remain closed.

In 1996, the former military cantina was transformed into a performance center by CSUMB students and staff, and has since served as a creative outlet for many entertainers, local and student bands.

In 2000, the BBC was closed due to building code violations. Upset about the closure, students rallied to reopen the venue and voted for a $40 tuition increase to pay for its renovation. The referendum won with a 90-percent approval, and the BBC was opened two years later. It has since served as an informal student union building. “The BBC was for the students by the students. It was that simple” said Josh White, CSUMB alumni and former events coordinator for the BBC, “Students could make it the way they wanted, and that’s why it was so important to our school. All the other venues on campus you had to run it by a staff member, where as the BBC you ran it by the students and if they liked it, it happened. I have a lot of memories in that place and it is a shame that it shut down. Students need to stand up and take on the legacy.”

Despite the lack of student involvement in the venue, Sena hopes to see it open within the next several months. Sena acknowledged the Root’s “The Seed 2.0” playing in the background of the vacant student center. “Music is important to me. The BBC used to host battle of the bands and open mic nights, which are important for the community. I figure we fought for it once, why not fight again?”

Viva Vaquita

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With a blunt beakless head, dark gray eye and lip patches and oversized fins, the Vaquita searches the shallow murky water for food. Using its sonar to locate them, it comes upon a school of fish. The Vaquita swims towards them. But, it’s stopped. The fisherman on the surface are trying to make a catch with gillnets and the Vaquita is entangled in the mess.

At roughly four feet long, the Vaquita is one of the smallest marine cetaceans, the order which contains whales and dolphins. The habitat for the species is limited only to the northern section in the Gulf of California near the Colorado River estuary.

Many factors threaten this rare species. Invisible nets used for fishing snare the Vaquita and a decrease in fresh water flow from the river has drastically altered the environment in which they live. The Vaquita is listed as “Critically Endangered” by the International Union for Conservation of Nature, or facing exceedingly high risk for extinction in the wild. If the Vaquita does become wiped out, it will be the second species of cetacean to vanish in less than five years.

The Save the Whales organization, formed in 1977 by mother-daughter team Maris Sidenstecker (I and II), has put forth a new campaign, along with the American Cetacean Society, to save the Vaquita and stop it from an untimely fate. “We saw an urgency in protecting them,” said Sidenstecker II, “There are only 150 left.” With extremely low population the organization is trying to reach out to the community and spread awareness about the issue.

Working with students from CSU Monterey Bay (CSUMB), Save the Whales is looking for additional people to become more involved with ocean health and the state of its inhabitance. For the third year, the organization is working with service learning students (SL) at CSUMB to stencil storm drains, monitor water quality and data entry. One student in particular, Ashley Duquette a senior Environmental Science and Technology major, is designing educational programs about endangered species for her Capstone project. Using hands-on models and power point presentations, “Kids can learn about endangered species around Monterey Bay,” said Duquette, “as well as other endangered animals around the world.” Drawn to the program due to her love of marine mammals, she hopes to teach children and adults about the effects society has on the ocean.

CSUMB students continue to bring awareness to environmental issues that surround the campus and extended in to an international level. Through student support and involved programs, CSUMB hopes bring forth change.

Graduate Seminar Workshop Monterey Regional Storm Water Management Program
When: Nov. 16, 2009 4-5:15 p.m.
Where: CSUMB University Center (B29)
Otter of the Issue:
Mark Johnson

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The Otter Realm has recently revamped its website, which now allows its visitors to read online articles and columns, both new and old. News websites are becoming more popular than newspapers. It is beneficial for news outlets and their readers to become more widespread and accessible. With the updated website, audiences from all over the world can get to know more about the realm of an Otter.

Junior computer science and information technology (CSIT) major Mark Johnson is the new webmaster for www.otterrealm.net. Initially hired by The Otter Realm to effect a simple redesign of the website, Johnson, 22, quickly discovered that working for The Otter Realm presented all kinds of creative opportunities, thus he decided to take over webmaster duties.

"I love being part of The Otter Realm," he said. "I really don't look at it like it's a job. The people I get to work with are really great, and I really like being able to contribute to the newspaper."

Not only was Johnson responsible for refurbishing The Otter Realm's website, but he continues to expand the array of media formats available. In addition to a new color scheme and layout, otterrealm.net features an archives section, enabling anyone surfing the web to browse through stories.

Johnson hails from Mariposa, CA, a small mountain town located just 20 miles southwest of Yosemite National Park. When he is not designing pages or transferring newspaper articles into websites, he enjoys spending time in nature. He professes a love of camping and hiking, which he attributes to his outdoorsy upbringing. Before transferring to CSUMB, Johnson attended Merced College in Merced, CA. While there, he served as webmaster for the Merced County Office of Education. Johnson says he enjoys CSUMB and the Monterey Bay area, in general. "I like it here a lot more than I liked living in the Central Valley. I really enjoy living so close to the ocean," he said, "and I also like how much of a tight-knit community CSUMB is."

Upon earning his Bachelor of Arts in CSIT from CSUMB, Johnson has his heart set on joining the Air Force. For now, he plans to focus on his studies at CSUMB, while continuing to improve otterrealm.net. "I think I have had the opportunity to make a lot of improvements to the website as far as making it look more appealing and more enjoyable to read," he said, "There is always more room for improvement and I'm always open to suggestions on how to make the website better."

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Lending a Hand by Giving a Shoe

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Walking around the sun-drenched streets of Buenos Aires, Blake Mycoskie was relishing his three weeks of vacation in Argentina. The beaches, the weather, the music, the people; Mycoskie was living the life. Out on the town, he met a variety of characters and one in particular led Mycoskie to the outskirts of the city, where he watched children running around.

This was not his normal experience of kids out having fun. These children were barefoot and their feet, bleeding. Upon investigation, Mycoskie found they could not afford to cover their feet. The sight of cuts, infection and other elements of poverty sparked in him a mission to help these kids get shoes.

What began as a stress-free vacation turned out to be the start of TOMS Shoes. The company is founded on the simple idea that for every pair of canvas shoes a customer buys, a pair of shoes will be donated to a child in need. Mycoskie organizes Shoe Drop Tours every two to three weeks, where a group of volunteers goes to Argentina, Ethiopia or another poverty-stricken country to pass out shoes so the children can keep their feet free from injury and infection.

According to tomsshoes.com, since the company was started, "TOMS has given more than 150,000 pairs of shoes to children in need through the One for One model." The company plans to give more than 300,000 pairs of shoes to kids this year, but requires support from customers and other TOMS Shoes advocates.

TOMS Shoes recently found a new resource through CSU Monterey Bay (CSUMB). This semester, CSUMB Campus Representative for TOMS, Brittany Land, sophomore psychology major, established a new club on campus, called TOMS Shoes Club. "I first heard about TOMS Shoes in 2007," she said, "and I decided to start the club here at CSUMB. I applied to be a Campus Representative this summer, and one of the things TOMS asked the reps on various campuses to do was to create a club if possible on their campus."

The club's mission statement closely resembles that of the TOMS Shoes company, "to share and educate people on the One for One movement. The movement is a great cause. Again, for every pair of shoes or merchandise purchased from tomsshoes.com, they will donate a pair of shoes to a child in need in Argentina." The company is currently expanding its Shoe Drop locations to Ethiopia, South Africa and the United States.

The TOMS Shoes Club currently has 20 active members. "The club has a goal," said Land, "to try to sell 200 pairs of shoes on campus. We meet twice a week to accommodate our members various schedules." Monday meetings are at Peet's Coffee from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. and Thursday in the Student Center from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m.

On Nov. 6, the TOMS Shoes Club will host a TOMS Fashion Show in the CSUMB Student Center from 7 to 9 p.m. A second event is tentatively set for the first week of December, called "Style Your Sole for the Holidays." At both of these club events, visitors will have the opportunity to receive a Promo Code for $5 off an order on tomsshoes.com. For more information about TOMS Shoes Club or its upcoming events, Land can be contacted at bland@csumb.edu.
Lost property, loss of love and lack of expensive production create three works that portray real-life circumstances. Vision and Volume brings director Vittorio De Sica, author Hunter S. Thompson and musicians Pavement to your attention.

**Bicycle Thief**

_Bicycle Thief_ is a neorealist Italian film from 1948. It portrays the life of the poor in Italy after World War II, specifically focusing on a poor man who needs to find a job so his family may eat. He finds work hanging posters, but the job requires a bicycle. The man's wife pawns their bed sheets in order to fund the family. As he is hanging one of the posters, a young thief steals the bike. The man tries to go to the police for help, but they have little concern over petty theft, and he is left to roam the streets with his young son, searching for the thief or the bicycle. He finds the thief, but the bike has already been sold. With nothing to ride and thus no job, the man sits in front of a packed football stadium with a fleet of bicycles outside. He soon learns that he is no better than the thief.

**The Rum Diary**

_The Rum Diary_ is a 1960's novel written by Hunter S. Thompson and not published until 1998. It is the story of Paul Kemp, a journalist from New York. He moves to Puerto Rico to work for a major San Juan newspaper, where the staff is full of drunks and is in a state of decline. Paul sees a young couple, Yeamon and Chenault, of whom he is envious for their youth and passion. He soon gets involved with the couple, and a bitter love triangle forms. The novel, although written when he was 22, deals with the fear of growing old and being alone. It includes fits of jealousy, treachery, some violence and an older writer stumbling through life.

**Slanted and Enchanted**

Slanted and Enchanted is Pavement's 1992 debut album and one of the most influential albums to low-fi independent music. With songwriting genius Stephen Malkmus on guitar and vocals and 40-year-old Gary Young on drums and producing, the album is messy yet cohesive, melodic, catchy and strangely poetic. Malkmus' lyricism, of life, love and loss, is humorous and surrealistic over Young's shaky and pounding drumming. Although the album has an amateur feel due to the recording and stylistic choices of instruments and equipment, it works well and ends up coming off as grungy but charming. These works all have a common connection of losing: love, life, belongings and time. They use the influence of common life to present a picture of reality. Be sure to keep an eye and ear out for volume 5 of Vision and Volume.

**Surroundings: STOP**

**Collateral Damage**

If you are experimenting, using, selling or buying drugs on the CSU Monterey Bay (CSUMB) campus—STOP. If you are an enabler to that person, STOP.

Some people stretch it. Some bend it, others bury it—Truth. Most drug users, casual or chronic, are constantly lying to those around them in order to achieve that all-important "high."

Marijuana, Meth, Crack, Cocaine, Vicodin, Valium, Heroin, Hash, Oxycontin, Opium, Pot. Fact is, when it comes to using drugs, more people are affected by the drugs than the user may realize, even recreationally, and why the user should STOP.

Both young and old people use drugs. To them, it feels good. It feels better. It looks cool. It looks hot. But what about how it looks and feels to those who care about the user? What about the collateral damage of the drug user?

What, about the yellow, black or missing teeth, pock-marked skin and jutting bones of the methamphetamine user, looks good? What, about the bleeding nose of the person who snorts cocaine, feels good? And, what about the little boy or girl abandoned by parents whose drugs use changes their abilities to care for their child?

For this piece, I tossed around the idea of talking statistics of the illegal and prescription drugs abused in our area. But, I changed my mind. What good would it do to tell how many students kill themselves, either accidentally or intentionally, because of drugs they bought, sold or used? What good would it do to tell about a mother who dresses for her son's funeral after he decided to "shoot up" between his toes where no one would notice?

While high crimes or misdemeanors may mean little to the habitual drug user, they can mean a lot to those affected by just one line, one toke and the alchemy of meth.

Some people stretch it. Some bend it, others bury it—Truth. When does the person, who becomes so good at twisting the truth, become accountable for hurting those around them? When does the deception end; only when he or she is buried? Maybe not even then.

For help anonymously, visit www.aa.org or www.na.org/.
Spooky Trails

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Crisp blue eyes seemed sinister as his head swayed from shoulder to shoulder. The apparent rage rocking his body was enough to reveal that visitors are not welcome in this chilling place so far and away from civilization where what once was a town, is now no more than an eerie illusion.

There is only one reported ghost town in the Monterey County, a mountain town called Manchester, tucked in the remote regions of the Santa Lucias. A scenic drive south on Highway One guides the way to a sharp left turn on Willow Creek Road.

Records of the town were not kept until the early 1850s, during the boom of gold mining in California. In 1875, old-time miners gathered to start an organization called the Los Burros Mining District. The small town of Manchester grew to a record population of 350 residents. The town included a hotel, two general stores, a barbershop, a restaurant, a post office, a blacksmith shop, a one-room school, mess halls, bunkhouses, cabins, a cemetery, and a number of dance halls and saloons. “There isn’t much left of the town,” said native Duke Crinkle, local Fire Fighter for the Los Padres National Forest. The town burned down in 1970 leaving its remnants a ghost of the past and has been referred to as, “The Lost City of the Santa Lucias.”

Discovery of the lost city begins on Willow Creek Road with slight twists and turns along the packed-dirt pathway. However, the road is much like a ghost appearing a certain way, and then transforming to something different. Shadows peek through trees popping out at travelers. The groomed portion of the road fades away, leaving a more challenging rugged terrain in its path.

It is best to bring a four-wheel drive; eliminating the chance of sliding off the terrain down into the unknown. With every turn, the road slithers deeper and deeper into the cuts, slipping over rocks and going through caramel-colored puddles splashing mud. The road appears to go on forever, unclear what will be revealed around the next turn or up the hill. Ghost towns are like that.

Piles of mineral deposits appear off the path, a mosaic of black, green, coral, silver and gold. Abandoned mining hills emerge in the distance, surrounded by valley views and forestry blanketed by shades of brown and red, with the occasional green shrub. The growth is much different on these hills, absent the Douglas Firs and Pine trees normally native to the area.

A few turnouts provide good areas to rest, observe, have lunch or, for the brave, camp out. “It was still, there was no one around for miles and all of a sudden there were sounds of someone stomping through the forest,” said Monterey County native Ashley Hewitt. Alder Creek and, for the most courageous, Lion’s Den Camp are amongst the attractions for camping.

While on the hunt for the lost city of Manchester, many get lost. The drive leads the way through clues toward the jaws of ancient tunnels, colossal of stamp mills, forgotten steam engines and jagged pieces of old buildings. “Even though we weren’t able to find the lost city, we were able to find some remains, while getting really spooked out and it was about the adventure of itself. I will be back,” said Hewitt. It may take a few visits to find all this ghost town hides but may be worth the ride.
Imagine living life as a dream, a dream that can only end in death. Not a scary kind of death but a peaceful transition into the next life each is meant to live. The indigenous people of Mexico reportedly once believed that life was simply a dream world and that with death would come an awakening to true life.

friends and family feast on pan de muerto (bread of the dead). Often, a little sugar skull is hidden inside the bread by the baker. Many believe that the one who bites into the skull will have good luck. VPA Professor Dr. Amalia Mesa-Bains said, “I believe this is because death is sweet.” It also is typical to exchange gifts, which may include sugar skeletons or other death motif items. The more prized gifts are those embossed with the name of the dead.

This holiday can be memorialized publicly and privately. Many friends erect an ofrenda (altar) in the home, which usually showcases pictures of the departed as well as items that used to belong or appeal to the late friend or family member. The ofrenda is also illuminated by candles.

“Dia de los Muertos is not a cultural event,” said Dr. Mesa-Bains, “as much as it is a spiritual event where the living and the dead come together in this moment.” This she said is the type of environment, the VPA department hopes to create through face painting, live musician Dazanitas, poetry readings, practice that they feel really rooted in,” said Dr. Mesa-Bains. Dia de los Muertos gives students the opportunity to be exposed to such spirituality through the remembrance of friends and family who have passed on.

An ofrenda (altar) for a deceased family member displayed during a past celebration of Dia de los Muertos.

The celebration of Dia de los Muertos is as much alive today as it was then. On Nov. 2, CSU Monterey Bay (CSUMB) observes the Dia de los Muertos. The Visual and Public Art (VPA) Department, will host an altar ceremony in the University Center (UC). Traditionally, Dia de los Muertos starts in the early hours of Nov. 2, when participants host a grave cleaning and night-long candlelight vigil in the graveyard. However, this is not frequently practiced in the United States because it is illegal to stay the night in a graveyard.

Customarily this event includes singing and dancing, as well as story telling about the deceased. Privately family and as well as pan dulce (sweet bread) and hot chocolate. This year’s theme is Hecho por Mano, meaning made by hand. According to Dr. Mesa-Bains, this theme was chosen to emphasize that everything was created by artists and this is truly a creative event.

Young people need to start their spiritual practices early, to have a spiritual
Hallway Ballin’ with Rebelution:
Locals to Rock the Catalyst on Halloween

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Three California-based, reggae-style bands are scheduled to take the main stage at the Catalyst’s annual Halloween Costume Ball on the night of Oct. 31. Santa Barbara’s Rebelution will headline the show, while San Diego-based Tribal Seeds, and the Hallway Ballers, a local band from Moss Landing, will open the night.

Costumed concert goers and musical performers might be the draw for some; however, an underlying bond other than song makes this show special for those involved. Rebelution drummer Wes Finley and Hallway Ballers guitarist and vocalist Dave and Raphael Grijalva, share more than similar tastes in music style. They’ve got history.

Finley, a product of Monterey County, is finishing Rebelution’s Bright Side of Life tour, which highlights their latest CD of the same name, at the Catalyst. Rebelution seemingly achieved success by doing most everything themselves and controlling the business side of the band. Their most recent CD, the third-most downloaded album on iTunes in the United States, was released on their new record label 87 Music which, like their songs, promotes uplifting, feel-good music.

Having grown up in Prunedale and attended North County High School in Castroville, Finley looks forward to ending the tour near his hometown. “I’m super stoked. It’s the last show before we have some time off,” he said. “I’m looking forward to seeing family and friends, and playing for the home crowd.”

Finley also looks forward to sharing the stage with two childhood friends, the Grijalva brothers of the Hallway Ballers. Having grown up playing music with them, he said he thought it would be cool to bring them on board for the Catalyst show.

“I played music with them early on,” he said. “Both our bands have a similar style of surf-rock reggae with a little hip-hop. Jamming out with them at an early age helped me develop that.”

The Hallway Ballers recently played Billabong’s “Still Filthy” movie premiere after-party at the O.C. Tavern in San Clemente. Like Rebelution, they seem to be all about spreading their music and message through their songs. “Our music represents the lifestyle we live and being happy in life,” Raphael said, “so it was awesome to play for the pros, who make a living doing what we love [surfing, skating, snowboarding].”

After years of pursuing their love of music, the Grijalva brothers seem stoked to finally land the main stage at the Catalyst. “It makes it even more meaningful to play alongside Wes,” said Raphael. “He used to kick it with our little bro, and we used to rough him up, so it’s cool to see him be so successful. Rebelution gives us hope that we can achieve similar success.”

The Halloween atmosphere may shape the evening for those facing the stage, and bands might surprise the crowd with creative costumes. Nevertheless, Finley and the Grijalva brothers hope to share their life-long love of music and leave fans wanting more.

Halloween Costume Ball
Bands: Rebelution, Tribal Seeds and Hallway Ballers
Where: The Catalyst Club
1011 Pacific Ave.
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
(831)423-1338
When: Oct. 31 Doors open at 7:30 p.m. Show starts at 8:30 p.m.
Cost: $25 advance/ $25 at the door
*Show will most likely sell out.
Trick-or-Shop
Kristin Leal, Staff Reporter
KLEAL@CSUMB.EDU

Walkways fill with tiny princesses and rogue pirates among the gardens at Del Monte Shopping Center in Monterey. Throngs of trick-or-treaters venture past the many store fronts in search of chocolate nuggets and orange candy corns while parents hunt for the latest fashions.

As bags begin to fill, excitement builds, and ghastly goblins, silly clowns, wicked witches and packs of vampires slip through the crowds at the annual Pumpkin Pandemonium. Stores, stocked with both candy and merchandise, seem ready for the evening, but usually run out of candy long before the merchandise is spent.

This free family event is geared to provide a safe Trick-or-Treating and motivate the shopping environment with entertainment. Farmer Mike will be there to reveal the three-dimensional face carved into the side of his Heavyweight Championship Pumpkin. The massive pumpkin weighs in at more than 700 pounds. Scott Campbell Photography will provide a free 4 x 6 photo of the super squash with a donation to the Monterey County Food Bank.

The shopping center, big enough to accommodate the many kites and princesses, wizards and warlocks that will come with their bags and their buckets, hosts more than 75 shops and restaurants, plus a spa and fitness center, Whole Foods Market and Century Theaters. This open-air, spacious location blends into the lush landscape of well-groomed gardens, generous seating and plenty of opportunities for people-watching.

With Halloween landing on a Saturday this year, the whole family has a better chance of spending the last day of Pacific daylight together before darkness sets in with the time change in Nov. 1. Families can get in some early Trick-or-Treating, while grabbing those last-minute items for the costume party later. “This event is a lot of fun,” said Del Monte Shopping Center General Manager Jill Vivanco. “The kids love it.”

This Saturday, the center will come alive with the undead. Among the screams and giggles of goblins dash through the crowd and on to the next store, “Trick-or-Treat” will echo from the Century Theater, down to Pottery Barn.

“Come out and join in the fun with this safe community event,” said Vivanco. The Pumpkin Pandemonium event is on Saturday, Oct. 31 at the Del Monte Shopping Center in Monterey. While the Trick-or-Treating begins at 1 p.m. and runs till 6 p.m., families can grab a camera and head over to the giant pumpkin for a memorable holiday photo from 4:30 p.m. till 6 p.m. For more information, visit www.shopdelmonte.com.

The Peculiar World of Mark Licari
Tristan Von Junsch, Staff Reporter
TVONJUNSCH@CSUMB.EDU

It is a crazy place, cartoonish and morbid, where machinery, fauna and flora are no longer distinct but rather fused in some new form. This world of odd alchemy of the animate and inanimate can be seen in the works of Mark Licari. The Monterey Museum of Art La Mirada is hosting the inaugural exhibit of its new series, In Process, exhibitions of emerging and mid-career artists.

The Licari exhibition is a multimedia presentation of sculpture, and paintings plus a mural created on the museum walls in just seven days as part of the exhibition. The creation of this site-specific wall drawing, called La Mirada: Flows to Bay, can be seen on You Tube in time lapse photography. This is the first time MMA has had an on-site specific installation. The Licari exhibit can be seen at La Mirada through Feb. 14, 2010.

The show opened Saturday, Oct. 10 with a catalogue signing and talk by Licari on the artistic process. An article in This Week at the Monterey Museum of Art, The MMA’s weekly e-mail bulletin said, “Contemporary Art Exhibition Takes Monterey by Storm.” Reportedly hundreds showed up for the opening.

Licari is a Los Angeles-based artist who, according to his website, www.marklicari.org, has been showing his work in group and solo exhibits since 2000 after he graduated from University of Southern California with a Masters in Fine Art.

He has previously exhibited at The Baldwin Gallery, the Haight Ashbury Food Program, Equator Books, The Hamilton Press, The Drawing Center and in private residences.

The works at La Mirada portray Licari’s characteristic cartoon style showing his fascination with 1940’s-era machinery evolving into undersea plants and animals that look like the doodlings of a crazed Dr. Seuss or a mad engineer on an all-nighter.

Besides the mural, three representative pieces that seem to be attracting a lot of attention are Blue Suit, Stuck in the Clouds and Squid Shower.

“I can’t think of a better exhibition for CSUMB students to experience this semester,” said Sara Beth Newell, director of communications at MMA.
The World Theater: Bringing the World to CSUMB

Annie Sacks Staff Reporter
ASACKS@CSUMB.EDU

Applause ripples through the air. Whether Ukrainian and American dance; Brazilian and bluegrass music; presidential and political, speakers; all can be experienced at one place, The World Theater on the CSU Monterey Bay (CSUMB) campus.

Most members of the campus community know where the theater is and even that it tends to show a movie there once or twice a month, but perhaps most do not completely understand what goes on behind the scenes and how much effort is put into running this multi-use theater. It offers more than just movies, it brings much more.

The World Theater was created to bring a diversity of nationally known performers from all over the world to CSUMB, both in person and through various forms of media, such as web streams, podcasts, or on-campus cable.

All of this was the brainchild of Luis Valdez, a playwright and director, who provided the opportunities to make the World Theater possible. He also created the Teledramatic Arts Technology (TAT) program, which works closely with the theater.

The World Theater was once part of the Fort Ord military base. In 1999, to better serve the CSUMB campus community, it was remodeled from a 900-seat auditorium to a 457-seat multi-use theater.

The World Theater has brought in dance companies such as the Paul Taylor Dance Company out of New York, and instrumental groups, including the Woods Tea Company out of Vermont. It has hosted, among others, the Oberlin Dance Company (ODC) out of San Francisco, the Nrityagram dancers out of India, Flamenco Vivo out of Italy and San Jose Taiko out of the Silicon Valley. The vision and mission of the theater has been to open up the world to CSUMB students and the surrounding communities, and to attract all audiences.

The World Theater, as some other programs on campus, has felt the impact of budget cuts, which makes it more difficult to book shows. The World Theater staff is responsible for finding and booking the diversity of shows. “[The] World Theater’s full-time staff [has] full-time artistic background,” said Operations Manager Phil Esparza. “[We are] very proud of the quality [brought in].”

Every year, the Theater puts on a performing arts series. This year, is the series includes six different shows from different art venues. Every year, Esparza and Interim Director Joe Cardinalli connect with people all over the world to secure performers to entertain at CSUMB.

Their goal is to enforce the university mission statement and broaden the horizons of students and the surrounding communities. “The University is to experience things,” Esparza said. “You wouldn’t otherwise get a world view.”

Five full-time employees, doing the jobs of eight to nine people, often bring in some of the most well-known artists of their time for students to experience at a very low price of $5 to $10.

They also produce their annual performance of Dicken’s “A Christmas Carol.” Tuning into new media but keeping the arts alive at the same time, the World Theater hopes to have created an atmosphere that lets people express themselves through art form, and to educate the community both on and off campus.

From Roses to Wine

Courtney Thorngate, Staff Reporter
CTHORNGATE@CSUMB.EDU

I reach for the stem of the glass with my fingers. I begin to carefully swirl around the contents inside, bringing the cool glass to my nose. I take in a deep breath, making sure I’ve captured all the aromas, before I take a small sip, swishing the liquid around in my mouth. Then I repeat, only this sip is a bit larger, and no swishing is needed. I have captured the taste of the most delicate flavors this wine has to offer.

When most people think of the “Wine Country,” they usually think of Napa or Paso Robles; however, located conveniently in between is the great Carmel Valley, an ideal place to plant vineyards.

Testament to this wine country are my favorite tasting rooms around the Peninsula; some are located off Highway 68, in Carmel Valley, Monterey and Carmel. In Carmel on Dolores Street between Ocean and Seventh avenues resides one of my most favorite tasting room called Galante, specializing in the most unique flavors. You follow the river rock walls down a small alley and stumble upon this western-themed enclave.

Galante Vineyards is located in Cachagua, a few miles down the road past the Carmel Valley Village. Galante is a family-produced estate winery that specializes in Cabernets and Cabernet Francs. Its first vines were planted in 1984, and the family bottled their first wine in 1994, which they called Red Rose Hill.

In 1969 the Galante’s purchased their existing 700 acres, and planted an abundance of rose bushes, known as “Galante Roses.” These formed the largest rose farm in California. “The family grew roses, during which time they were rumored to have a Hollywood contract allowing all roses seen on television during the 1960s and 1970s to be from their gardens. Competition in the rose market became untenable, which caused the Galante’s to retire their business,” said Amanda Sarich, Galante tasting room specialist.

Today, Galante’s planted vineyards make up 30 to 40 of their 700 acres. The rest of the terrain is dedicated to the cattle, sheep and horses, which make this a working ranch. This explains the western theme of their tasting room and owner Jack Galante’s wine label “Black Jack,” after his favorite horse. It also accounts for the cowboy philosophies, which can be found on each bottle. Two of my favorites are, “There are two theories to arguin’ with a woman; neither one works,” and “Don’t squat with spurs on!”

The tasting room offers many different and flavorful tasting wines, ranging in price from $10 to $40. Discounts are available when buying a case and also for those who become a member of the Galante Wine Gang. The Kick Ass Cabernet is one of my favorites; it is known for its rustic flavors of huckleberry preserves, rounding out its dusty finish. “It’ll make any trail meal taste fancy.”
TAT’s Teen Film Festival:
Making a Difference One Video at a Time

Jordan Walsh, Staff Reporter
JOWALSH@CSUMB.EDU

“It was not just another school project,” said senior and Teledramatic Arts and Technology (TAT) major Ashley Paolini, referring to her experiences as one of TAT Professor Enid Blader’s Service Learning (SL) students. According to Paolini, Blader has put her own twist on the usual service learning projects.

Starting in the Fall of 2008, TAT SL Students embarked on a new journey, designed to support a holistic and empowering series of film workshops.”

College students are teaching high school students from Monterey County, including teens at the Monterey Alternative High Schools, Salinas Juvenile Hall and the Seaside Boys and Girls Club about technology in sound, video and digital editing. The high school students receive high school credit for attending these workshops. The end product will be a movie showcased at the Monterey Bay Teen Film Festival, established by Blader last year.

This semester the SL students sat down with Blader to create a six-week syllabi for the various workshops. Each week the students must attend a “faculty meeting” to go over problems, concerns and strategies on teaching.

The film festival was created to “build self-esteem and a connection between the desperate teen community,” said Blader. All teens, aged 13 to 19, are able to enter the festival by filling out an application available at CSUMB.edu/filmfestival.

The TAT students get to decide which films make the cut. Then students edit the films to create one 70-minute film that will be distributed throughout the community and the country.

This teaching tool is keeping Blader’s students interested. “It beats sitting in a classroom. We got to teach people what we know and to see the impact it made on them,” said Paolini. The festival has already received entries from across the country and national teen film programmer’s attention. Entries for this year’s festival will be accepted Nov. 13 through Feb. 12.

Students given the opportunity to work with youth at Juvenile Hall were faced with an additional challenge. They could not show any of the students’ faces on film. The Juvenile Hall students wrote lyrics and poems about their time spent in imprisonment. “We created a curtain made of cheese cloth that they could sit behind and recite their work,” said Paolini. The SL students worked with 50 Juvenile Hall students who were experiencing a second or third return to jail. Of the Youth who participated in the program, none of them have returned to the Salinas facility after working with the SL students.

“The students came with their families to the film festival and got to watch themselves on a big screen,” Paolini said. “Seeing their eyes light up was so rewarding.” The SL students’ film on the Juvenile Hall teens called “Concrete Paradigm: One-Way Mirror,” was just one of the films featured in the film festival last year, which hosted 750 guests.

This year, Blader’s students are continuing with the program, adding another site in Salinas working at the John Steinbeck Library. The students meet with some of the older farmers of Salinas “to get their story before it’s too late,” said third year Psychology major, Ricardo Herrera. “California of the Past” will include the stories of these farmers and their family history. “Agriculture is such a huge part of our community,” said Herrera. “This is a great way to show the younger crowd how hard generations before us had to work to get where we are today.”

For some students, looking for a way to reach the community on a profound level, this class may be the outlet. “I have done a lot of volunteer work in my past,” said Paolini, “but this was something beyond what I had ever experienced. I got to see the other side of the law and what it’s like to be an incarcerated teen.”

TAT SL students are asked to write lesson plans, considering their students’ experiences through a “social justice lens.” They are engaging in the local community and strengthening their own skills by teaching them to others. “By promoting and curating a film festival, they gain invaluable insight to an important professional process,” said Blader. “They also build bridges between CSUMB and local high schools.”

While other SL students spend hours reading to elementary youth, or working at needle exchange sites, the TAT program is taking volunteering to the next level. “Most people think of Hollywood and movie-making as a snobbish community, and that’s why we are going there. We want to make a big difference,” said Paolini. “Create that change and make it a reality.”
ATHLETE OF THE ISSUE:

CICILIA CHUDIVAN:
HOMETOWN: JAKARTA, INDONESIA
CLASS: SENIOR
MAJOR: BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
HEIGHT: 4'10"
RIGHT-HANDED

Indonesia, this Otter hits the course every 14

Sports

Otter Games

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<th>Date</th>
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<td>12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Women's Soccer</td>
<td>vs. CSU Stanislaus</td>
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<td>3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Men's Soccer</td>
<td>vs. CSU Stanislaus</td>
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<td>vs. CSU Dominguez Hills</td>
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<td>Men's Soccer</td>
<td>vs. Chico State</td>
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<td>5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Men's Basketball</td>
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<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Women's Basketball</td>
<td>vs. Santa Clara University</td>
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<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Women's Volleyball</td>
<td>@ CSU San Bernardino</td>
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<td>Sat 11/7</td>
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SCHEDULE AND PHOTOS PROVIDED BY OTTERATHLETICS.COM

SPORST

Nationally Ranked: Women's Golf

Annie Sacks, Staff Reporter
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She stands, admiring the waves of blue, rippling as far as the eye can see. Taking a huge breath, she takes a drag off the smell of fresh-cut grass permeating the air. As she strolls onto the tee box to set up her ball, she looks off into the distance, seemingly to take in the view, but actually in an attempt to line up her drive. She stretches her shoulder, a little tense from the weight of her clubs, before taking a swing. With a steady hand and one smooth motion, the ball takes flight.

Moments later, crouched down, and eyeing every possible angle of the green, she imagines the little white ball rolling perfectly into the hole. She did it on that perfect October day, and her team had won the golf tournament.

CSU Monterey Bay (CSUMB) women's golf team just swung their way into national ranking. Now exceeding their final ranking of ninth last season, these Otter athletes are planning to do it again. After placing second on Sept. 29 at the Grand Canyon Invitational, the team hoped to do better next time.

On Sept. 30, the CSUMB women’s golf team landed at number five in the nation for the NCAA Division 2 with two woman ranked within the top 10. Senior Cecilia Chaudhvan, Business Administration major, ranked number eight, and sophomore Courtney Soekland, also a Business Administration major, ranked ninth. On Oct. 13, the team took third in the 16th annual Western Washington Invitational at the Bellingham Golf and Country Club. This year seems to have started out on par for these Otters.

Golf Coach Terri Stratton-Greene said, “This year’s team has great chemistry, and I expect my team to continue to work hard toward their goal. My purpose in being a golf coach is to create and build character for my players, on and off the course.”

The women's golf team made it to Regionals last year, but “We didn’t play as well as we could, and the team was disappointed,” said Coach Green. “The team is setting their sights for nationals this season.”

The women’s team seems to be swinging their way up the charts and plans to keep going strong. Coming to the end of their fall tournaments, the team has high hopes once the spring season arrives. With her bag over her shoulder, she walks off the green with the feeling of accomplishment. They had won, she had done what she came to do. Admiring once again the scene that surrounded the golf course, she admired what her team had done.
Some Otters Like the Heat: *Basketball ‘09-'10*

David de Grassi, Staff Reporter
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Sea otters and river otters have exceptionally thick coats of fur. They are adapted to perform in the environment in which they live and play, and they do it well. At CSU Monterey Bay (CSUMB), another type of otter, one who wears a thick coat of excitement also, has adapted to perform well in the environment in which it plays. While sea and river otters prefer the cooler waters of rivers and oceans, CSUMB Otters like the hot sweat of competition and achievement. It is another season for CSUMB basketball, and the men and women who represent the Otters are ready to play in their familiar environment again.

Men’s Basketball Hits the Courts

For most teams, a new season brings new players, new challenges and a new dynamic. This year promises the same. Although last season was among the most successful for CSUMB Men’s Basketball, the Otters lost some of their top players at the conclusion of the previous schedule. Joe Mitchell and Steve Monreal, the Otter’s forward and guard, both All-CCAA honors recipients last year, have moved on. To counter these losses, CSUMB has brought in new players. A total of six freshman, one junior transfer and nine returning players have assembled to take the Otters back to the playoffs.

Coach Bishop, helped take the team to the playoffs last year and anticipates a successful second season with the Otters. The team ended last season with 16 wins and 14 losses.

“I think we will be very competitive,” said Bishop, “and no matter what team we face, we will compete.”

Coach Bishop seems both confident in his team and “excited about the new talent.” The biggest challenge this season, he said, will be “how quickly we come together as a team. How quickly we accept our roles.”

Returning player and senior Django Evans said, “I’m excited and ready to go.” He will share the responsibility and excitement with other veteran players by using his experience to help new players assimilate into the team.

“We have experience getting new guys together,” said Evans. “We have a lot of young talent.”

Nine out of the 17 players on the official roster are either freshman or sophomores, including freshman Davion Berry.

Berry, one of the additions to the Otters, feels ready to go. Both new and returning players, he said, “will be able to make a positive contribution.”

CSUMB Men’s Basketball’s first home game will be Nov. 15 at 2 p.m. against the Academy of Art University. Both Coach Bishop and the CSUMB Otters encourage anyone and everyone to come out. “[Fans are] a big home court advantage,” said Coach Bishop, “We hope everyone comes out.”

Lady Otters: Shooting Into Season

CSUMB Women’s Basketball team, the 13th most improved team in the country last year, look to keep the pressure up and heat on high. Head Coach Renee Jimenez said, “We are about to do big things.” With seven returning and nine new players, the Otters will have a mix of experience and fresh talent. One of the changes the Otters will have to their lineup is the addition of several previously red-shirt players. These are players who did not play in games last year, due to restrictions, but were with the team throughout practice and the season. Coach Jimenez said, “My red shirts last year gave us a real run for our money [in practice].”

The Otters also have suffered some losses as well. Dana Andrews, one of the teams All-CCAA players, is no longer with the team. Veronica Williams, one of the previously red shirted players said, “I don’t think it will affect us.”

Even with the loss of Andrews, Williams said, “[The team] is mixing very well. We play very well together. The freshmen are catching up very fast.” Williams and Coach Jimenez are confident in their team’s ability. “The University. Although the game is an exhibition, Santa Clara is a division one team, which is a first for CSUMB. No division one basketball team has ever played at CSUMB against the men or women. “We are going to give it our all,” said Williams.

Coach Jimenez also looks forward to the competition, “I think it will be a great game,” she said. “We are going to compete from the start.”

Jimenez and the team hope everyone comes out to show their support. “[Blue Crue and the fans] really affect the other team,” said Williams. CSUMB was underestimated last year in a preseason poll but were able to prove that poll wrong, finishing the season with 11 wins and 15 losses. Facing another season of adversaries, Williams said “I’m ready to prove a lot of people wrong.”
Sweat Some Steam

Virgina Brown, Special Reporter
VBROWN@CSUMB.EDU

The man with the board strapped to his back ignores the rush of the waterfall beside him as the water pounds into the waiting pool. His anchor is already set up, and he climbs with a steady pace, occasionally pausing to adjust the load weighing him down. What sounds like any other rock climber is only the tip of an iceberg After all, today is laundry day.

Halfway up the cliff face, the man stops, anchoring himself. He reaches behind him, struggling for a moment with the unseen ties, and then pulls the board around his body. He sets it across his outstretched legs and, once again reaches back. This time he retrieves a folded shirt and an iron. As calmly as if he were standing in his own home, the man proceeds to iron his button-down work shirt, paying careful attention to the collar.

Although seven years have passed since the last Extreme Ironing World Championship, fans and ironists alike hunger for the next showdown. According to the official website, www.extremeironing.com, the sport is a mixture of "the thrills of an extreme outdoor activity with the satisfaction of a well-pressed shirt." Ironists challenge themselves and others to chance new locations and risks. Icy winds, rough stone, hungry sharks and poisonous snakes are the current companions for their ironing boards rather than four walls and a television set.

In one popular video, ironist Mike Frost leaps from a plane, followed by professional sky surfer Steve Scott. As Scott hangs upside down, his sky board, almost perpendicular to the ground, Frost manages a few passes at a polo shirt as white as the clouds drifting below him. Iron in hand and grin firmly in place, he waves at the camera as he pulls the parachute cord and is suddenly up, up and away.

Phil Shaw, author of "Extreme Ironing," and father of the sport, reportedly returned to his home after a long day in 1997 and decided he wanted to spend the evening rock climbing rather than ironing. He combined the two, and though the resulting activity was originally kept quiet, a world tour in 1999 thrust the sport into the spotlight. As its popularity grew, some ironists even gave themselves nicknames. Shaw calls himself Steam, with famed ironists including Spray, Starch and Creased Lightnin'.

Steam appeared at the championship as part of the British team. The competition was held in Munich in September 2002 and included teams from Austria, Croatia, Great Britain, Germany, Chile, and Australia. Teams competed for awards in five categories: Urban, Forest, Water, Rocky and Freestyle. Great Britain took the gold in the team event while Austria and Germany swept the individual categories.

While the next championship has not progressed beyond rumors, ironists have lost neither hope nor desire to iron where no one has ironed before. One ironist, known as Permanent Press Release, spoke for all ironists when he said, "I want to have the first iron in space — in space, no one can hear you steam."

http://crazys_deviantart.com
Where can you find pure white sands, shallow sand bars, clear blue water, and a never-ending parade of dogs? No more than 20 minutes south on Highway One from CSU Monterey Bay lies a beach where almost everyone can have a good time at. Carmel Beach, located on Scenic Road in Carmel-by-the-Sea, offers a long stretch of beach for surfer, body boarder and sun bather alike.

Carmel Beach can be surfed year round and generally takes all swell directions but does best on West swells. It still can be tricky to get good waves, however, depending on your timing of high and low tides. Too much water can bring close-out sets which break boards and send you into the sand if you wipe out. The best time to surf here is mid-tide, while the water is rising. Just beware of riptides and locals.

The town of Carmel takes pride in walking their dogs. The beach is dog friendly, and on a normal weekend you can see many people walking with their pooches on the sand. I constantly have to watch out for the brown stuff.

From the water is a great view of the famous Pebble Beach Golf Course, as well as the mystic Ghost Tree, where winter swells bring waves of 30 feet or more. If it is ever too big to surf in Carmel, I sometimes stop at this spot on my way through Pebble Beach toward Asilomar just to check it out. Chances are, if Ghost Tree is breaking, its going to be too big anywhere in Monterey Bay to paddle out.

When taking a look at the beach, make sure to look on both the north and south ends. The south end is more long-board friendly, as well as particular if on smaller days, for beginners. The north and middle sections of beach are where it tends to pick up waves, left and right. The occasional barrel can be spotted if you drop in on the right spot.

There is a large kelp bed just outside the surf break, which keeps the waves glassy, but also makes the water a little colder than most other beaches around the area. Once the water temp drops further into the season, I normally wear booties.

Whether you’re surfing, playing Frisbee, or even making a bonfire; Carmel Beach can be a fun place to hang out. The waves can be good, and there are many coffee shops in town to warm up after a long surf session. People travel from all over California to surf in Carmel, and I would suggest trying it out, if you haven’t already.
om·buds [äm-bu-dz]

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

Happy Fall, Otters,

Technology is a major force in the journalism industry today. So much so that some estimate print journalism will become extinct, leaving people to read all of their news online. In keeping up with the times, The Otter Realm Newspaper website is now fully operational and updated with the release of each biweekly issue. We are grateful for the comments that have been received, and encourage all of our readers to visit the site (www.otterrealm.net), read stories and leave comments.

Comments, read by the staff, can be a way for the readership to inform the newsroom of what they like or dislike. We hope you enjoy the newly refurbished website and look forward to hearing from you.

Your Ombudsman,
Lucas Anthony

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

To the best of our knowledge, we have nothing to report here... If you have noticed something, let us know online at www.otterrealm.net or email us at otter_realm@csumb.edu

Stay Current Online at www.otterrealm.net

SUDOKU

S U D O K U

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.

The lights go off and so does the hair. As evening turns into night, the woman you believed you were taking out suddenly starts taking off the layers of her masks. Yes, masks, both literal and figurative.

It begins by her smiling at you as she strings her fingers through her hair to pull out the hidden “Bump It” product she tucked away for that extra lift.

Next, as she slowly unbuttons her top, you notice the chest you had “innocently” admired earlier at dinner. Turns out it is the product of a water bra, once again, designed for that extra lift. “Hmm,” you think to yourself, “that’s odd.” Just when you think she is done with the undoing, a false eyelash flutters to the floor. She slips into the bathroom to “make herself more comfortable.” While you wait for her to come to bed, time goes by and, before you know it, you fall asleep.

The next morning, the sound of an electric toothbrush wakes you up and you walk over to the bathroom to witness the transformation. She is drawing in her eyebrows and then puts on her mole. Next come the colored contact lenses. Were her eyes not really that seductive cat-like green? She still hasn’t noticed you are behind her. You start breathing heavily in fear. “Who is this,” you ask yourself, “This is not the girl I asked out.”

You look away for a second, only to notice your bathroom counter is covered with beauty products. You start to ask yourself some very deep questions. “Where did all this crap come from? How big is her purse; am I dating Mary Poppins?” You start to remember how long your sister used to take, getting ready for her dates, and you suddenly realize why. You scan the counter, trying to figure out the exact functions of these objects and, more importantly, why she needs them. You remain clueless.

These items are the trappings women often do to make themselves more “appealing.” Girls must not realize that guys know nothing about all of this. We have no clue if the attractive woman we happily admired as she passed by was, in fact, wearing a push-up bra, a mask of make-up or jeans that gives her an ass. We automatically take things at face value. We assume the bump in her hair is not for beauty enhancement, but is, instead, the natural shape of her head. Surely no sane woman would choose to look like she had just been hit over the head with a bat.

Things are a little different for men. You rarely see an infomercial for male beauty products. And our bathroom counter has little more than a toothbrush, a razor and, if we’re lucky, a comb. As a guy you’re either blessed or you’re not.

We appreciate the effort, but honestly, most guys will admit the ideal girl is the one who has that natural beauty, where she wakes up somehow prettier than last night.
Person on Campus

How do you celebrate Halloween?

GETTIN THE TRUCK WITH THE DIRT BIKE AND DRIVIN TO PISMO. GONNA RIDE THE DUNES ALL DAY, THEN PARTY AS A DICTATOR IN SLO THAT NIGHT WITH A POTATO ON MY BELT THAT SAYS "DICK TATER." ~BOB DIRADO, BUSINESS SUPER SENIOR

GOING DOWN TO SANTA BARBARA TO PARTY AT THE FRAT HOUSES.
~EMILY WEBER, KINESIOLOGY FRESHMAN

GOING TO CHICO TO VIST OLD HIGH SCHOOL FRIENDS.
~KELSEY SPYRKA PSYCHOLOGY JUNIOR

PROBABLY GO TO THE BAR AND DRINK.
~ERIC WONG, ACCOUNTING SENIOR

AFTER WORK TIL 12 A.M. GOING DOWNTOWN S.C AS DARTH VADER, I LOVE THOSE RED LIGHT SABERS.
~JOSH WILLIAMS, ACCOUNTING SENIOR

Tidal Forecast