


OTTER REALM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, MONTEREY BAY'S OFFICIAL STUDENT-RUN NEWSPAPER

OCTOBER 16, 2014

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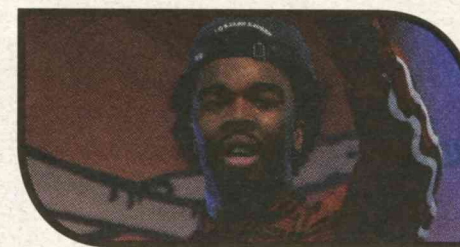
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Editor's Note:

THE INTERSECTION OF HOPE AND FREEDOM



Elizabeth Hensley, Editor in Chief
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When uprisings happen and the tides of civil unrest begin to come in, authorities tend to ramp up force in the face of opposition or shy away from it instead of taking the time to listen to the pleas of the masses.

So much of this fallout may be avoided or reconciled if we take the time and empathy needed to listen to one another and look for new and creative ways to foster social change.

Last week, I attended a conference in Atlanta, Georgia by an organization called Imagining America. This national convergence of scholars in the humanities, arts and design meets annually to collaborate and encourage change in campus practices and policies to help students, artists and scholars thrive with on and off campus and to plant the seeds of social justice and understanding.

Though often overlooked, the arts and humanities are essential to the survival of the human spirit. Everything we know, we somehow gleaned from someone's story. We can see this in history (oftentimes her story) but it is always our story; many voices contributing to provide the nuanced narratives of our own common existence.

On Oct. 10, Malala Yousafzai became the youngest person ever to win the Nobel Peace Prize along with fellow children's rights proponent Kailash Satyarthi. Their humanitarian efforts have been recognized the world over as a welcome example for

generations to come. Similarly, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. earned the Nobel Peace Prize, inspiring millions with his peaceful and approach toward social justice.

We look upon these leaders as extraordinary – almost superhuman, but the power of their ability to create social change lies with their basic principles of education, service and nonviolence; the ability to see those against them as fellow members of the human race, not as enemies.

This made me think of the unique programs that provide a great sense of agency to our students like service learning, which gives every student at CSUMB the chance to serve others and open their minds to other ways of life. The Academic Skills and Achievement Program (ASAP), our on-campus learning center also provides agency to students by giving them the resources to take control of their academic success.

When I visited the National Center for Civil and Human Rights in Atlanta this weekend, I thought of how the struggle for equality continues today and could be seen on our campus.

These successes and struggles of social change can be seen in the latest issue of the Otter Realm with articles that focus on the protest of the CSUMB faculty for fair wages, the Hong Kong protest for democracy, the blind eye turned to the homeless population in our community, the courage it can take to "come out" and even the drive it takes to be a mother and a student at the same time. We can also see the importance of narrative with founding faculty member and acclaimed director and playwright Luis Valdez's "Valley of the Heart" coming to the World theatre this weekend.

All of these struggles can be used to teach us that if we take control and write the story we all want to read, we have the potential to write an amazing one. Today's present is tomorrow's history, so let's make it a story we are proud of.

**I would like to give a special thanks to Cassandra Lim, Danny Simon, Alex Hennessey and Estella Porras for taking the reins while I was away to make this issue possible.

WHAT YOU OTTER BE DOING

October 16 — October 29

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
 <p>Psychology junior, Brad Clark, patiently awaits Monte's next move.</p> <p>Photo by: Natasha Daly</p>				10/16 LITERATURE STAND TABLING Main Quad 9:30AM FARM CLUB MEETING Student Center Rm 113 12:00PM-1:00PM OUT OF THE BLUES Personal Growth & Counseling Center 3:30PM-5:00PM	10/17 ANIME POP Media Learning Center Rm 160 4:00PM-10:00PM HOMECOMING BONFIRE & PEP RALLY Black Box Cabaret 7:00PM-8:30PM OSU HOMECOMING CONCERT Student Center - Rm 120 9:00PM-12:00PM SUGAR SKULL WORKSHOP Building 72 10:00AM-2:00PM	10/18 MEN'S RUGBY CLUB Student Rec Field 10:00AM-5:00PM BSU WEEKLY MEETING Student Center - Rm 120 12:00PM-1:50PM HOMECOMING DANCE: MB ODYSSEY University Center 9:00PM-12:00AM
10/19 MB HOMECOMING SCAVENGER HUNT Campus-Wide 12:00PM	10/20 STUDY ABROAD 101 Library- Room 1128 12:00PM-2:00PM BREAST CANCER AWARENESS TABLING: SIGMA THETA PSI Main Quad 12:00PM-2:00PM YOU OTTER THINK BEFORE YOU DRINK Student Center - West Lounge 8:00PM-9:30PM	10/21 LITERATURE STAND TABLING Main Quad 9:30AM FARM CLUB MEETING Student Center Rm 113 12:00PM-1:00PM NSLS SPEAKER BROADCAST: DAVID GARIBALDI University Center - Living Room 3:00PM-6:00PM AS PRESENTS: OTTERS GOT TALENT Black Box Cabaret 7:00PM-8:30PM	10/22 AS SENATE (SPECIAL MEETING) Student Center 12:00PM-2:00PM FIRST IN MY FAMILY WORKSHOP Health & Wellness Services 12:00PM-1:00PM SURVEY SAYS University Center - Ballroom 8:00PM-9:00PM	10/23 PAINT TO PLEDGE Main Quad 12:00PM-2:00PM OUT OF THE BLUES Personal Growth & Counseling Center 3:30PM-5:00PM RHA FIRESIDE CHAT Main Quad 8:00PM-10:00PM	10/24 FOOD DAY AT CSUMB Main Quad 12:00PM-3:00PM MOVIE NITE: LUCY World Theater 7:00PM-11:00PM FREAKY KNIGHT Fox Theater 9:00PM-2:00AM	10/25 HAUNTED HOUSE UC Ballroom 8:00AM-10:00PM Make A Difference Day Cleanup! Natividad Creek Park 10:00AM-1:00PM
10/26 HAUNTED HOUSE UC Ballroom 8:00AM-10:00PM ICT FORUM FOR EAST CAMPUS RESIDENTS University Center - Living Room 6:30PM-7:30PM	10/27 HAUNTED HOUSE UC Ballroom 8:00AM-10:00PM STUDY ABROAD 101 Library- Room 1128 12:00PM-2:00PM ILLUMINATE World Theater 7:30PM-9:00PM	10/28 LITERATURE STAND TABLING Main Quad 9:30AM CHICANO/A LATINO/A GRADUATION ASSC. MTG. OC3 12:00PM-1:30PM EMPOWER MEETING MEDIA LEARNING CENTER- ROOM 170 8:00PM-10:00PM	10/29 STUDYING ABROAD TABLING Main Quad 1:00PM-2:00PM YOGA, ART, AND MEDITATION GROUP Health & Wellness Services 3:30PM-5:00PM	<div> <h2>Submit your work!</h2> <p>The Otter Realm is always accepting student submissions to highlight achievements. Send us your work!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Art -Cartoons -Editorials/Opinion -Short Stories -Photography -Poetry -Anything creative! <p>Please email your submissions to otterrealm@csumb.edu</p> </div>		

A GLIMPSE OF WHAT COULD BE

NATIONAL CONSORTIUM OF SCHOLARS DISCUSS SOCIAL ACTION THROUGH HUMANITIES, ARTS AND DESIGN

Photo by: Elizabeth Hensley

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Just before the dawn of the new millennium, the University of Michigan, the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation and the White House Millennium Council met up to discuss how to honor the past and imagine what the future could look like in an exciting new way.

The organization, Imagining America, is now in its 14th year and last week I was granted the unique opportunity to spend three days in Atlanta, Georgia at this year's conference. The theme was "Organizing. Culture. Change." an inspiring slogan that captured the history of the region.

The conference is designed to bring together "publicly engaged artists, designers, scholars and community activists" from all over the country who, according to the organization's vision, are "working toward the democratic transformation of higher education and civic life."

Though I went in with the intention of learning from the scholars who represent some of the most prestigious universities in the nation, I left proud, feeling like an ambassador for California State University Monterey Bay (CSUMB), an institution that is already honing learning models that so many universities are still striving to create.

The conference began with the smooth and steady voice of Co-Founder and Executive Director of Ashe Cultural Arts Center of New Orleans, Carol Bebel, who opened with a heartfelt poem about the need for meaningful communication for every living person on the earth.

As I heard Provosts and directors of programs talk about the importance of community and civic engagement, I thought about how CSUMB truly prepares its students for civic and professional success in the community by requiring service learning and capstone courses to graduate, making community engagement the norm at our institution.

I was also greeted with enthusiasm from those who know Seth Pollack, a founding faculty member of CSUMB and Stanford alumnus who helped pave the way for the service learning programs we are accustomed to at our institution today.

Workshops and seminars at the Imagining America conference focused on topics including the importance of narrative, civic engagement, racial justice, sustainability and performing arts, showing that the liberal arts have a lot to contribute to the conversation regarding research, and encouraging the group's unique approach to dealing with these issues.

One workshop titled Brick Gardens: A Media Series Linking Arts Practice with Cultural Research, outlined an initiative put forth by the Imagining Research Center to shine a spotlight on art and artists in underserved

communities by allowing the artists themselves to provide oral histories surrounding their vision.

Artist's stories will be showcased on an interactive website much like Google Maps, connecting local artists with each other and their community alike. Currently, the research group is focusing on the arts community in Baltimore, Maryland, but aspires to broaden their scope to meet the needs of underserved art communities across the nation.

Another workshop focused on the sustainability efforts of Imagining America's host and community partner, Emory University (EU). The workshop titled 'Transforming Higher Education toward Sustainability and Social Justice' provided a tour of the campus and a Q&A session with sustainability officials from many areas of EU's campus.

EU recently banned the use of Styrofoam on campus and hopes to eliminate all trashcans by way of their ambitious sorting, composting and recycling efforts throughout campus, which is on track to save the university approximately \$40 million over the next twenty years.

They also partner with local farmers to serve high quality meat and produce in their cafeteria and offer competitive prices at their weekly farmers' market.

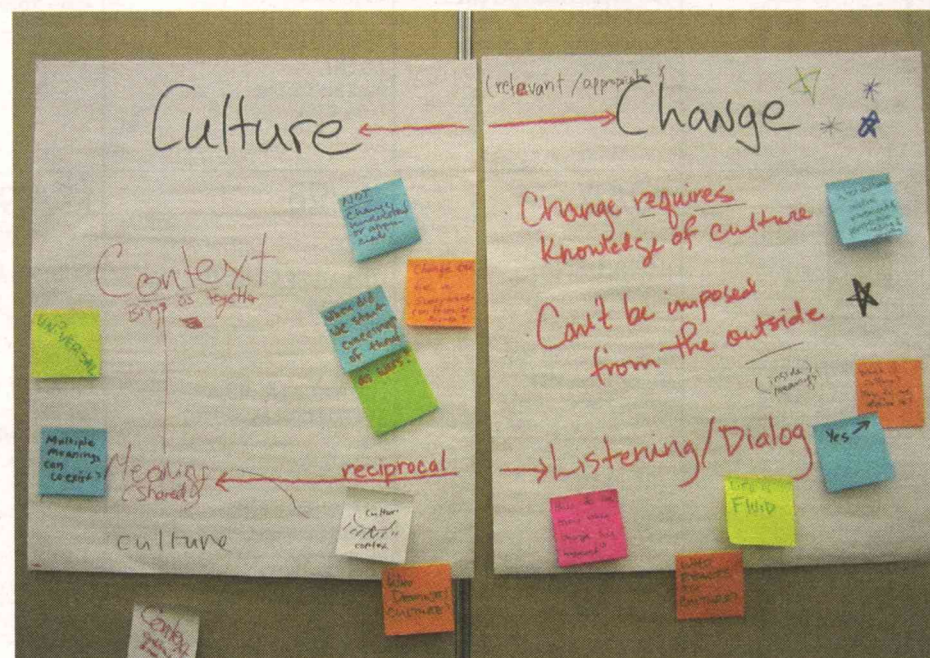
Similar to CSUMB, EU seeks to sustain more than the physical presence of the university. Emily Cubie-Drake, a Sustainability Program Coordinator at EU said on a campus tour that they are "moving towards a system where all freshman dorms are considered Living Learning Communities." Living Learning Communities help students become engaged in specific causes outside of their classes with their classmates.

On Friday morning, the conference's theme of "Organizing. Culture. Change." was amplified with the keynote speech by Founding Chief Executive

Officer of the National Center for Civil and Human Rights, Doug Shipman, who reminded the crowd that one of our nation's greatest proponents of civil and human rights, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., was not only a great leader, but he was also a scholar.

Shipman then began to wonder how others could achieve similar victories. Shipman said "It took me about six months to figure out how this would work in conversation, but it is so crucial to know who you are, who your people are and what it is you're going to do" when thinking about social change of any kind.

Imagining America also has its own peer-reviewed journal, Public, which aims to connect "imagination with practice, scholarship and action."



Collaboration at a workshop at Imagining America.

Photo by: Elizabeth Hensley

FEDS PAY HOMAGE TO CENTRAL COAST VETERANS

FINAL RESTING GROUND APPROVED

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The Central Coast Veterans Cemetery project has secured a federal grant in the amount of 6.8 million. These monies, in addition to the 2.6 million raised through state and local funding sources, has given Monterey County the green light to break ground on the veteran's cemetery in early 2015.

The idea of a veteran's cemetery on Fort Ord grounds was set in motion about 20 years ago when Fort Ord was selected for closure by the base realignment and closure commission. "Retaining military history and honoring our veterans," was the focus for establishing the cemetery according to Candace Ingram, Director for the Central Coast Veterans Cemetery Foundation (CCVCF).

Candace Ingram, credits Congressman Sam Farr and



Senator Bill Monning for pushing to get funding through the federal and state legislative process. "Both men took champion roles in pursuing funding for the veteran's cemetery project," said Ingram.

On the CCVCF web site, the Veterans Cemetery Action Committee which is composed of veterans, states that the principal goal of the cemetery project is to "provide dignified, environmentally site-sensitive burial accommodations and infrastructure which support cemetery activities while honoring and respecting veterans".

The site of the 84.4 acre cemetery is on Parker Flats road and will be accessible from Normandy Road and Eucalyptus Road. It is approximately 2 miles east of Highway 1. The area has been cleaned up of munitions and explosives as required by the Fort Ord Reuse Agency and a 629 page environmental assessment report was released in June 2014 giving the cemetery project a nod of approval.

The environmental report was challenged by coastal advocate groups such as Land Watch Monterey County and Keep Fort

Ord Wild. One reason for the challenges was that the report only focuses on the initial 16.9 acres to be used in Phase I of the project.

The federal, state, and local funds raised to date will only cover Phase I of the cemetery project which Ingram said included building out the entry way, administrative and maintenance buildings, the columbarium and various walkways and assembly areas. Phase I will cover the first 10 of what is expected to be a 20 year project. The cemetery is expected to be available for veterans in Monterey, Santa Clara, Santa

Cruz, and San Benito counties.

The Central Coast Veterans Cemetery project is affiliated with the much larger 548 acre Monterey Downs project, which like the cemetery, has been in the works for 20 years. Monterey Downs has also been challenged by coastal advocate groups, Land Watch Monterey County and Keep Fort Ord Wild, who are concerned about the removal of coastal Live Oak trees which provide habitats and shelter for many wild animals and the closing of trails for outdoor recreation.

Many of these trees targeted for removal are ancient landmarks and add to the beauty and allure of the Monterey coast. For more information on Monterey Downs, visit their web site at <http://montereydowns.com/>. If you are concerned about how these planned developments might impact the natural landscape and environment of Fort Ord and the Monterey coast, check out <http://keepfortordwild.org/>.

Homeless man struggles to make his way on the street.



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A city ordinance banning the sitting and lying down on certain streets of Monterey went into effect Oct. 1 with intentions of clearing the sidewalks of obstructions. The new law prohibits sitting and standing on the sidewalks of Lighthouse Avenue, Cannery Row, Fairground Road, Fremont Street, and much of downtown Monterey between the hours of 7 a.m. and 9 p.m.

PUTTING UP A CLEAN FRONT

**MONTEREY'S
SIT-LIE BAN
HIDES
THE HOMELESS
POPULATION**

The ordinance was brought to light by a public testimony stating that the economic health and safety of citizens and visitors have been threatened by encampments on the sidewalk of commercial areas. The ordinance will not target any specific group, Monterey Police Chief Phil Penko reported on KSBW, and is based on behavior rather than socioeconomic status.

However, with the number of Monterey Peninsula's homeless reaching 2,800 people on any given night, this ordinance doesn't leave many options for the people it directly affects. "It is aimed at the homeless/transient population," said Salvation Army Director, Anthony Lopes. "Rather than passing an ordinance restricting them from sitting down, the issue needs to be addressed in terms of a solution," he told the Otter Realm. Lopes says the ordinance is a violation

of basic human rights because anyone has the right to sit down when they are tired, whether homeless or not. Lopes said that Monterey has ample land to provide housing for the homeless, rather than pass restrictive bans on where they are allowed to be.

The Salvation Army's Good Samaritan Center located in Sand City opens at 8:30 a.m. with coffee and pastries and serves a hot meal from 10:30 to noon while offering facilities such as showers, washing machines for laundry, computers, fax machines and phones until closing at 4 p.m. While serving as well-sought resource, it is only a day shelter and much of the homeless population heads to beaches to sleep for the night where they are "out of sight," according to Lopes.

Human Communications professor Dr. Stephanie Spoto, along with other members of the

Direct Action Monterey Network (D.A.M.N.) spoke out against the sit-lie ban legislation that, "criminalizes sitting and lying down on public sidewalks," and, "punishes people who are perceived as not contributing to the so-called cultural capital of the city." D.A.M.N. believes that there are few resources for those who are homeless and that there is no reason to make a criminal act out of the poor or homeless allowing themselves to be seen.

Brian Sheffield, D.A.M.N. member and California State University, Monterey Bay graduate told the Otter Realm that, "The sit-lie ban is a clear attack against the homeless community in Monterey who already have little to no access to resources in a city surrounded by wealth and natural beauty. Instead of offering a solution to what the chief of police has

called the 'homeless problem,' the City of Monterey has maliciously shown that ownership of property and capital is the sole prerequisite to basic human rights." Both Lopes as well as members of D.A.M.N. agree that funds should go towards helping the homeless, not relocating them somewhere out of the public eye.

According to members of D.A.M.N. who were present at the city council meeting, the number of people in opposition were greater than those in support of the legislation, despite the ordinance passing in a four to one vote. Exceptions to the ban include medical emergencies, wheelchairs or other devices needed for mobility, public benches and bus stops, children seated in strollers, or those participating or attending a parade or demonstration.

BILL BANS "GAY/TRANS PANIC" DEFENSE

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GOOD NEWS FOR LGBTQQ+ COMMUNITY

On Sept. 27, California governor Jerry Brown signed four bills into state law. Among them was AB 2501.

Authored by Assembly member Susan Bonilla, AB 2501 prevents homicide perpetrators from pleading to a lesser charge, and receiving a lighter sentence if their victim is gay or transgender.

Prior to the passing of this law, if a man planned to have sex with an individual he assumed to be biologically female, only to find out that she is transgender, he could have potentially used her gender identity to justify his murder as a killing done while in a state of extreme panic. A teenager uncomfortable with his

classmate's sexuality could shoot said classmate in the head, and the victim would be blamed for being "too aggressive" with their sexuality.

In 2005, dental assistant Joel Robles was stabbed to death when Estanislao Martinez discovered that the 29 year old woman with whom he had been drinking had been born male. According to the Seattle Gay News, Martinez described the murder, consisting of roughly 20 stab wounds, as a "crime of passion," and spent

four years in prison for voluntary manslaughter.

Manslaughter carries a sentence of up to twelve years, but Martinez's "Trans Panic" defense resulted in reduced

time. Martinez is not the only Californian to use such a defense.

Brandon McInerney was only 14 years old in 2008 when he shot his homosexual classmate, Lawrence "Larry" King, 15, resulting in King's death. As reported on the Huffington Post, McInerney claimed that he murdered King as a result of what

he considered to be an aggressive display of homosexuality. King was openly gay, and enjoyed wearing makeup and high heels to school. McInerney was not sentenced until 2011, due to legal complications stemming from his "Gay Panic" defense. McInerney eventually received a sentence of 21 years.

The passing of AB 2501 is a milestone for civil rights in California, and indeed the United States, but what does it mean for CSUMB? When asked this question, Human Communications Senior Ariel Robinson, an out black lesbian, said, "Students who identify as trans or gay don't need to be

"Students who identify as trans or gay don't need to be afraid of their identity being used to blame them as victims"



afraid of their identity being used to blame them as victims, should they be attacked or killed. I imagine it's similar to the relief felt when it was made illegal to justify a murder based on race." Hopefully, this law will make students at CSUMB feel safer in their learning environment.

IT'S OUT- OBER

HERE IS WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



Phoenix Miles, Staff Reporter
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The lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning (LGBTQQ+) community here at California State University Monterey Bay (CSUMB) has been putting on a series of events throughout the month of October to celebrate Out-ober and spread

awareness for students who may be struggling with their sexuality.

Coming out as homosexual is still a daunting issue for many young people, even though we as a society are more accepting than ever of LGBTQQ+ issues. Many of the events this month are used to foster a culture of acceptance, letting people who may be struggling know that they are not alone, and aiming to help them feel comfortable enough to come out.

The events held have focused mainly on coming out, with it being labeled Out-ober. Many of these events took place in the earlier part of October, however many events are also being held to inform students on life as part of the LGBTQQ+ community later in the month, such as the 'Evening with Lea DeLaria,' a popular lesbian actress who is holding a talk on life on Oct. 15 as

an LGBTQQ+ woman in today's world. As well as a Meet & Greet for many LGBTQQ+ members of CSUMB held on Oct. 13, and the 'We're Gay and we Pray' event focussing on Christians coming together with members of the LGBTQQ+ community and encouraging spirituality no matter your sexual preference.

Events like this can provide a lot more hope to those who think they may be discriminated against as a homosexual, by having a successful lesbian entertainer appear on campus showing students here that the sky is the limit, as well Christians to let people know they will not be subject to

intolerance here at CSUMB.

This reporter decided to speak with some students to see if their experience with being part of the LGBTQQ+ community here at CSUMB has opened doors.

"Coming to a place more accepting, like California, makes it easier to be myself. I have no problems meeting new people and dating interests"

"Before I was out I was more shy. I've made a lot more friends now that I'm out, it's a lot easier to talk to people when you're more comfortable"

said Chris O'Toole, a Junior Film & Drama exchange student. "Back in Australia I can't act as myself, I'm more restricted coming from a smaller town. Coming to a place more accepting, like California, makes it easier to be myself. I have no problems meeting new people and dating interests."

These events and others like them are helping to show students

that being homosexual is nothing to be ashamed of. The month of October being LGBTQQ+ month, as well as gay pride in the summer, continue to teach students and non-students alike that being homosexual is something to be proud of, and not be hidden away. "Coming to CSUMB from the East Coast, It's nice to be here at CSUMB knowing how liberal it is, it's a lot easier to be gay here than in other states, like in the South where we might be more discriminated against," said Stephen Dellostritto, a Junior Biology major exchange student. Attitudes about acceptance like this are the result of campaigning by CSUMB and other institutions all across the nation. Everyone should be proud; proud to be out, or just to be part of such a forward university.

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Monday: Standard 6pm
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MONTEREY BAY EXPERIENCES A WHALE OF A SEASON

**HUMPBACK WHALES PUT ON QUITE A SHOW
FEEDING CLOSER TO SHORE THAN EVER BEFORE**



Jessica Salimi, Staff Reporter
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This summer has been exceptional for Monterey Bay whale watchers not just from aboard a boat, but even standing on shore.

Moss Landing Harbor has been all the buzz with visitors traveling from near and far to see humpback whales feeding on anchovies just outside the harbor.

The humpbacks put on quite a show gulping up thousands of anchovies with their massive mouths and breaching up out of the water. Even veteran whale watchers have been amazed by the turnout of whales and how close they are feeding to the coastline.

This reporter spoke with Dorris Welch, a marine biologist and co-owner of Sanctuary Cruises, a whale watching and research vessel out of Moss Landing. Sanctuary is a different type of whale watching trip as they guarantee watchers see whales or the next trip is free.

When asked what made this summer exceptional

for whale sightings in comparison with previous seasons, Welch replied "It is the anchovies. There have been huge schools of anchovies swarming close to Moss Landing since late spring. In mid-July they were so close to shore and even in the harbor, so that the whales were feeding right outside the surf zone and actually inside the harbor mouth. The abundance and nearness of the whales has been constant at Moss since March. The sea lions and birds are also swarming with the whales and it is a true feeding frenzy."

There are many whale watching companies to choose from along the peninsula, some are a little heavier on the pocket but the experience can be unforgettable!

Along the wharf you have Princess Whale Watching, Monterey Bay Whale Watch, or Chris' Whale Watching for some options.

Down the road in Moss Landing, watchers can try out Blue Ocean Whale Watching or Sanctuary Cruises. Prices for these

vessels range from \$40 to \$50 and Sanctuary offers discounts for local college students through a professor or science-related club.

Although the whales have been fairly easy to spot this season, it does not mean their species is not still under threat due to environmental and man-made factors. Welch informed Otter Realm of the two biggest threats facing whales right now, entanglement and boat strikes. Whales tend to become entangled in fishing line and must depend on the help of humans to become free. The entangled line can slow the whale down causing them to be more susceptible to predators and other dangers. Monterey Bay is one of the only locations in the world where diverse species of whales can be seen year-round. If our area has any hope of keeping the bay in pristine conditions for the whales and other animals, we as a community must do our part to keep the bay healthy.

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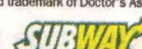
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Otter Realm

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AN EPICENTER OF CHANGE FOR YOUTH

CSUMB ALUMNI BRING HOPE TO SALINAS AT-RISK YOUTH

Christopher James-Justice Siders,
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Salinas, home of rich history, arts, and agriculture, has gained notoriety in recent years for the danger and risk that affects its youth. Last year the city saw 26 homicides, and several disturbing headlines about gang violence and police brutality. The homicide rates for men of color is six times higher than for caucasians.

In the dangerous environment of Salinas, eight community leaders have created a program for youth outreach called "Epicenter." "We want to create a space where youth can flourish and be their best possible selves. We will not define the youth by their statistics; we will help them define what they want their success to look like," said Patterson Emesibe, one of the founding members.

Emesibe is a California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) psychology graduate with a passion for social justice

and community participation. The Epicenter was formerly known as a program called "VOICES" which was also located in Napa and Sonoma counties. "The umbrella non-profit 'On The Move' is looking to expand all over the state and revamp VOICES. The Epicenter is a repercussion of that."

VOICES set out to empower youth at risk as well, however the Epicenter, with the support of over 150 community members, aims to provide to youth techniques on how to achieve their goals in education, employment, and to sustain a healthy lifestyle mentally, emotionally, and physically. The goal is to help young people coming out of systems of care such as the juvenile detention and foster care systems. This help is crucial because according to the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, one in five foster kids will find themselves homeless after age 18, and only half will obtain

employment by the age of 24.

Emesibe sees the need for this non-profit because of his personal experience. "As a former foster youth myself, the issue with foster youth care has always been when the youth are transitioning. What happens to them? Personally, I want to be able to help foster youth transition and have equal opportunities as everyone else," said Emesibe.

The plan for the Epicenter is to work with community partners from other organizations to improve youth outcomes in Monterey County. "It's not about creating more centers, it's about creating more relationships with different community members and different agencies in order to make a change," said Emesibe.

There will be a Halloween barbeque event on Oct. 22 at the Epicenter, which is located at 20 Maple Street. They will have a financial counselor present to give the youth advice on financial management and credit reports.



The eight founders of "Epicenter"

Photo by: Mitchell Findely

OUR LOST YOUTH

THE STARTLING STATISTICS OF YOUTH HOMICIDES AND HOW IT IS BEING ADDRESSED

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An alarming study by Violence Policy Center (VPC) titled, "Lost Youth" was released in September of 2014, ranking Monterey County number one for 'Youth Homicide Victimization' (ages 10-24) in the entire state of California.

This distinction of Monterey County, amongst all the other counties of the state is not new. VPC has conducted this study for four years from 2009-2012. Monterey has been the leader in youth homicides for three years out of four. In 2012, Monterey's rate was 23.32 homicides per 100,000 people, practically three times the statewide rate.

Homicide is the second leading cause of death for all youths in California, unintentional injuries taking first place. Homicide is also the number one cause of

death for African-Americans, the second for Hispanics and the third for Caucasians.

The VPC study breaks down the analysis of homicides in youths from ages 10-24 for gender and for race in all of California. According to the study, 89 percent were males and 11 percent were female. In respect to race; 52 percent were Hispanic, 33 percent were African-American, 9 percent were Caucasian, 4 percent were Asian, and 2 percent were "other." A chilling detail from the VPC study shows that 89 percent of homicides victims died as a result of gunfire, of these 70 percent were killed by handguns. This data raises the question of gun control. Many deaths could have been prevented with less access to firearms.

In Monterey County, according to VPC's breakdown analysis of race and gender of youth homicides in 2012, 95 percent were male and 5 percent were female. In respect

to race, 100 percent were Hispanic. Out of 94 percent of homicides that were, "not related to the commission of any other felony," 88 percent of those were gang-related.

Attempts at dealing with gang violence may be misguided, the billion-dollar jailing system incarcerates many individuals each year. "Further research suggests that suppression efforts have been shown to increase gang cohesion by reinforcing an 'us versus them' mentality, and by providing external validation of the gang's importance," writes the VPC author.

County Sheriff Scott Miller told the Monterey Herald, "While our suppression efforts are now more robust than they have ever been, we know we can't arrest our way out of violence. We realize that an approach that involves prevention, early intervention and suppression holds the greatest hope for permanent violence reduction."

There are other approaches in Monterey County to be proactive in this crisis. There are public safety associations such as; The Community Safety Program, Monterey County Health Department-STRYVE Youth Violence Prevention, Community Partnership for Youth - CPY, COPA Communities Organized for Relational Power in Action, and Partners for Peace/Strengthening Families Program. These programs are dedicated to building a safer community and a place of refuge for children by engaging in child safety, child education, school programs, out of school programs and many other ways to stop gang violence and youth homicides. This is a step in the right direction for the fight against youth homicides by preventing violence at an early age.

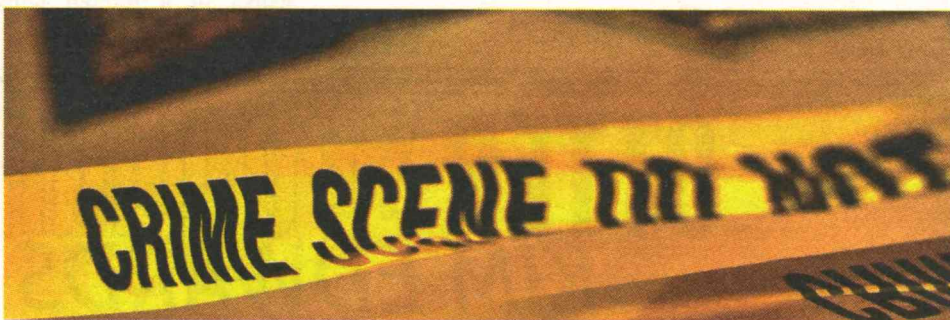


Photo by: Yumi Kimura

STUDENTS DIVIDED OVER LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT

IS CSU MONTEREY BAY'S LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT STILL RELEVANT?

Tyler Costa, Staff Reporter
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California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) is known for its distinct and diverse educational environment. One of its defining programs is the Language Proficiency, which requires articulate knowledge of a second language. Though CSUMB deems this requirement important for individual and professional success, some students are beginning to wonder: Is the language proficiency still relevant 20 years after its inception?

Alongside its General Education (GE) and Major Learning Outcomes (MLO), CSUMB places a large emphasis on foreign languages and cultural exploration. The School of World Languages and Cultures (WLC) at CSUMB coordinates all of these types of courses on campus. The WLC's mission is to, "prepare students to be active participants in an ever-shrinking and increasingly interdependent globe."

CSUMB believes that being bilingual is essential for success in the 21st century, as it allows students and professionals to see the world through multiple lenses and solve problems that individuals may not be able to through collaboration. As an extension of CSUMB's Vision statement, the language proficiency has existed since the college's inception. CSUMB is also unique in that it is the only campus across the California State University (CSU) system with a language proficiency requirement.



Japanese Language and Culture B.A.

Gus Leonard, Language Lab Coordinator at the WLC, stated that it is critical for people to be bilingual or multilingual. Speaking only one language limits the ability to communicate on both personal and professional levels with those from various backgrounds, and that learning a new language through the intermediate level will allow students to be fluently bilingual for the rest of their lives.

Though the proficiency is designed to ultimately help students merge into the professional world, some students feel that the time spent taking language courses would be better spent on GE or major requirements. In an informal sample taken from 100 students, 42 felt that the language proficiency is not relevant to their future successes, while 58 believed that it was important.

To the students who feel that the requirement is irrelevant, Leonard believes that, "No matter what your future career is, you will be working with a wide variety of people. Having the creative and cognitive capacity to be flexible and understanding of other cultures is essential in the modern job market." Stacey Malone, Administrative Coordinator at the WLC, then stated that companies value those who are bilingual, often hiring those who know more than one language over someone who only knows one, and may even pay a bilingual employee more depending on the job.

At CSUMB, enrolled freshmen must show intermediate (three-semester) level proficiency in a secondary language before graduating. For most students, this consists of three semesters. CSUMB's programs currently consist of Spanish, Japanese, American Sign Language, and Italian.

It should be noted, though, that there are external qualifications for completing the proficiency. Students with high advanced placement scores, college level entrance program scores, or international baccalaureate scores in a foreign language are exempt from the



language requirement. Students who are heritage speakers may take one of CSUMB's heritage courses (SPAN or WLC 212) to complete the requirement.

Furthermore, transfer students in high-unit majors do not have to fulfill the language requirement. These majors include Biology, Business, Technology and Policy, Liberal Studies, and Computer, Environmental, and Marine Sciences.

Whether students consider it a necessity or waste of time, it is certain that CSUMB's Language Proficiency is a critical aspect of the university and students' future successes. Leonard concluded with this thought, "I want students to have a positive experience... Learning foreign languages helps you to better understand yourself, so you can appreciate all aspects of others and their cultures."

OTTER SPOTLIGHT: KIM EDWARDS

Miranda Squires, Staff Reporter
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While students line up outside to get their OtterCards swiped for breakfast by the cashier at the Dining Commons (DC), the staff works diligently to have food prepped and ready for unique preferences for consumption. As plates are piled high with fixings, Kim Edwards sits behind the scenes and behind the kitchen, going about her daily routine as the DC Administrator.

Ironically, before California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) was founded, Edwards' grandfather opened up one of the first mess halls here on the original Fort Ord military base. Although Edwards did not anticipate food administration becoming her future career, being native to Seaside and playing on Fort Ord as a child, it is only natural that she ended up back where it all started with her grandfather.

Edwards still reminisces about being a part of such a close knit community in her neighborhood. She mentions how times have changed since she was a kid. "There were always multitudes of kids riding bikes, swimming,

and playing sports together in my neighborhood." She explains that her neighborhood is nothing like that anymore. Now you see one or two kids playing together, the comradery just isn't the same. Nowadays, her sense of community interaction is simply lacking.

After graduating high school, Edwards went on to become a certified Nurse's Assistant working with Alzheimer's and dementia patients. In doing this, she became a live-in nurse for a house of eight tenants, working with her patients daily. Her job became grueling and disappointing at times, when cranky patients would bicker with each other constantly. This is what prompted Edwards to decide she needed a change.

Stepping in to the job she has now, she expresses how she has always loved food and cooking. After 17 years, she still enjoys working at the DC, saying "it is just something I like." She admits however, that students also used to be different.

"Students don't intermingle with the DC employees anymore." A few of the longtime employees like herself, say there used to be students who knew them by name and chatted with them regularly, but not anymore.

Although Edwards still loves her job because of the familial atmosphere of the staff, she misses the interaction



Photo by: Alex Hennessey

with the students that she used to have. As a result of this lack of community, people end up failing to recognize that friendship opportunities lie right in front of them.

GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

WHAT'S THE GENERAL OPINION ON GENERAL EDUCATION?



GE Courses require a lot of hard work, studying, and group projects.

Hailey Vetter, Staff Reporter
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Why is pre-calculus necessary for a Human Communication (HCOM) student? Are you a Spanish major finding yourself stuck in a basic chemistry class? As a Psychology student, you may be wondering why it's required to take a course on the political history of our country. The reason we are all taking these seemingly basic courses is because of the California General Education (GE) requirements.

"General Education is the equivalent of the university 'commons,'" professor Debian Marty, Chair of the California State University Monterey Bay (CSUMB) GE Committee and Communication Ethics professor said, "All students learn foundational knowledge and skills through GE."

The state of California and the California State University (CSU) system develop the requirements for all CSU campuses. Each university may offer various courses to fulfill each requirement, but each course must be approved by the state and the CSU system.

CSUMB's GE requirements are made up of the A1, A2, A3, A4, B1, B2, B3, B4, C1, C2, C3, D1, D2, D3, D4, and E requirements. The courses to fulfill GE requirements at CSUMB were uniquely designed to cater to our diverse student population.

The CSUMB Academic Senate's GE Committee, in conjunction with State and CSU System officials, developed our current Otter GE requirements in 2010. The Academic Senate's GE Committee is made up of 14 CSUMB faculty members who meet for three hours every other Friday afternoon. The committee is responsible for voicing concerns and initiating change. If any changes to the current Otter GE model need to be made, they must be voted on and passed.

Although some GE requirements may seem unreasonable or unrelated to your

major, several students have benefited by learning that they are interested in something completely different from their major.

In an interview with the Otter Realm, Cinematic Arts and Technology junior Tyler Hall says she began her time at CSUMB as a Marine Science major. Hall said that she learned from taking General Education courses that Marine Science was not truly her passion. Hall said, "After taking a film class for one of my GE's, I learned that I really wanted to pursue film for my future career, and it quickly became a passion of mine."

In addition to Hall, Global Studies junior Neil Vidal started as a Biology major with a concentration in Molecular Biology. After taking a Global Studies

"General Education helped me realize who I am and what I really want to do with my life"

course to fulfill a GE requirement, he learned that he, "loved meeting people from other cultures, and learning their languages and traditions." Vidal also said, "General Education was very beneficial for me as a student; it helped me realize who I am and what I really want to do with my life."

While Hall and Vidal both expressed positive experiences with General Education requirements,

several CSUMB students have expressed a lack of interest in GE courses. Some students feel that high school is the place for general education, and college should be dedicated to one area of study.

Cathy Queen, Psychology junior and transfer student from Santiago Canyon College says, "I understand that we should learn a broad spectrum of things, however it's asinine to pay for classes I have no interest in taking!"

Similarly, Lane Lewis, sophomore Biology Major and Statistics Minor believes that there are too many GE requirements. Lewis said, "I've planned out my schedule, and I'll be here for the next five years easy." Lewis also mentioned, "If there were more classes for CSUMB science majors that covered a couple GE's as well as a major requirement, it would help us science majors graduate within the standard four years."

HCom junior Jose Armenta believes that, "GE requirements need to be systematically addressed from time to time in order for students to have the ability to graduate in a timely manner." Armenta believes that occasionally revising CSUMB's GE requirements will help us to maintain an accessible university that will continue to see increased student enrollment.

GE Committee Chair Debian Marty says the GE committee is currently in, "planning mode," and student input is weighed heavily during the decision making process. Students are encouraged to voice their opinions on our current General Education requirements. Any questions or comments on our Otter GE Requirements should be directed to Debian Marty via email at dmarty@csumb.edu, or Associate Vice President of the GE Committee Dr. Kris Roney via email at kroney@csumb.edu.



Students must complete a rigorous list of GE requirements before graduating from CSUMB.

REQUIEM FOR A CONTRACT

CSU FACULTY PROTEST FOR SMALLER CLASSES AND ADEQUATE RAISES

Tyler Gidney, Staff Reporter
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On Wednesday, Oct. 8, in the shadow of California State University Monterey Bay (CSUMB)'s Tanimura and Antel Family Memorial Library, dozens of current faculty and their allies dressed in black and gathered to mourn the 100th day since their labor contract expired on June 30. The group then marched in a "funeral procession" to President Ochoa's office to deliver personal letters regarding the hardship placed on faculty by the absence of a fair contract.

This planned action was not only carried out here at CSUMB, but was a coordinated effort by the California Faculty Association (CFA) to organize protests on all California State University (CSU) campuses. The protests were designed by the CFA and its local teams on each campus to call on university presidents to make different decisions regarding

allocation of funds and to support the faculty without whom universities could not function.

Among the contentions regarding the new contract are issues such as adequate workload, class sizes and various practices that seem to punish long-standing lecturers hired during the recession.

Oftentimes, a new faculty hire will make as much or more than faculty who have been with the university for several years. This happens for many reasons, but the major one is the fact that CSU faculty has not been receiving any significant Service Salary Increase (SSI) due to them for the last seven years.

The SSI is a simple, unit based salary increase. Faculty are eligible for a SSI when they

have taught twenty four semester weighted teaching units in a single department since their last raise. This is an issue throughout the CSU system but as Steven Levinson, the CFA Chapter President at CSUMB and a full-time lecturer since 1996, points out "We have a relatively underpaid faculty and an extremely expensive neighborhood."

According to the CSU final budget allocation, CSUMB ranks second only to Sonoma State in the percentage of faculty eligible for SSI who have not received a salary increase. Sixty-two percent of tenure track faculty at CSUMB are due for an increase, compared to the 40 percent average in the CSU system.

"Because we didn't get increases for many years,

salaries stayed flat, whereas when they go to attract new faculty they have to attract them with higher salaries," says Rob Weisskirch, Professor of Human Development here at CSUMB.

This creates a situation where, because of when he was hired, Weisskirch is one of the lowest paid full-time professors at CSUMB despite his history with the university. Often, new hires make more than he does because the university is unable to recruit new faculty at the salary he receives.

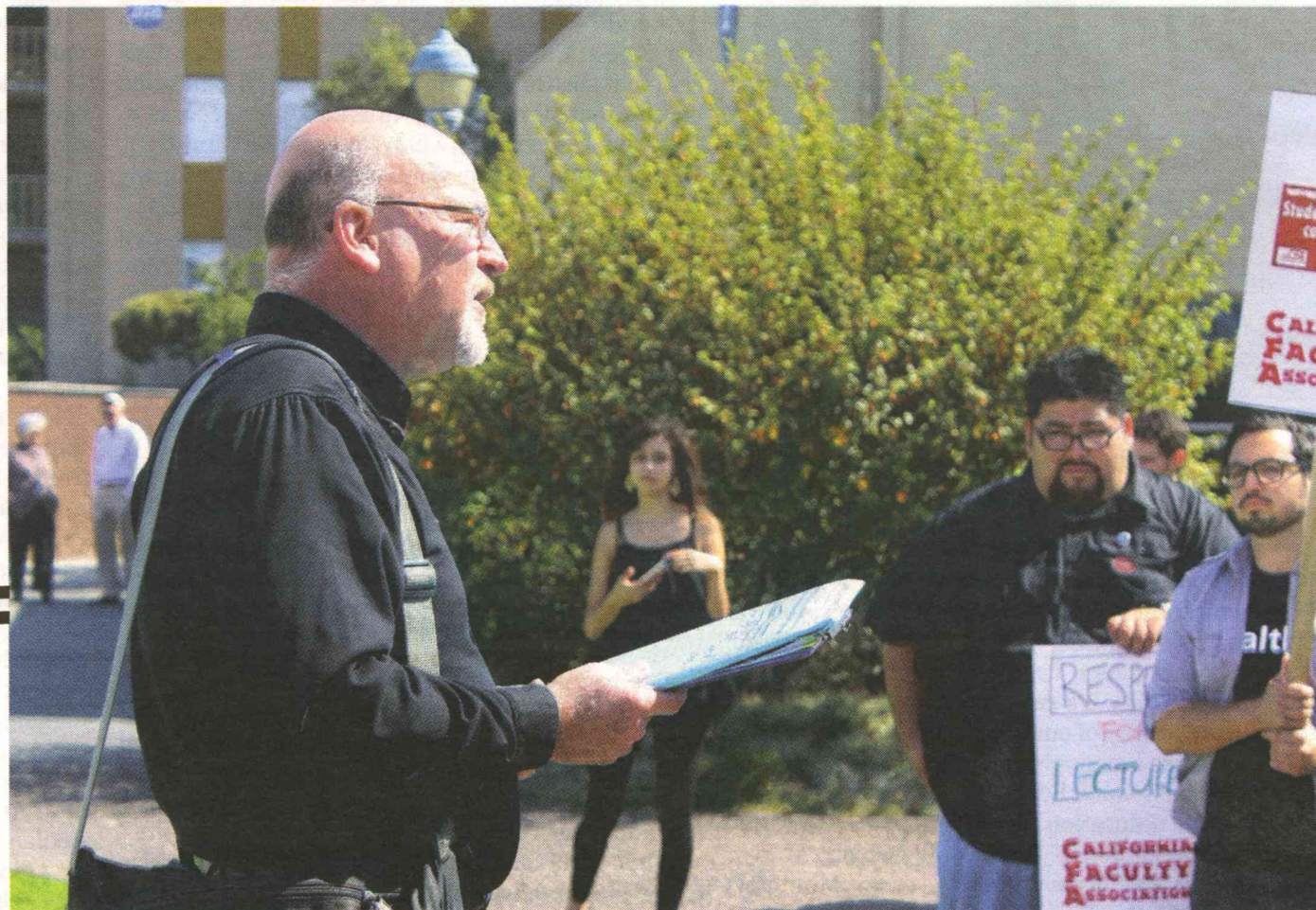
There are contract talks in the works and Levinson reports that there have been small successes. At CSUMB specifically, lecturers can get paid for a maximum of 15 units. However, the university is on a four unit system so lecturers with four classes are

not paid for the 16th unit. That is fixed in the skeleton of the new contract. Still, "what they are offering is insufficient to make up for seven years of absolutely frozen salary," Levinson says.

WHAT CAN STUDENTS DO?

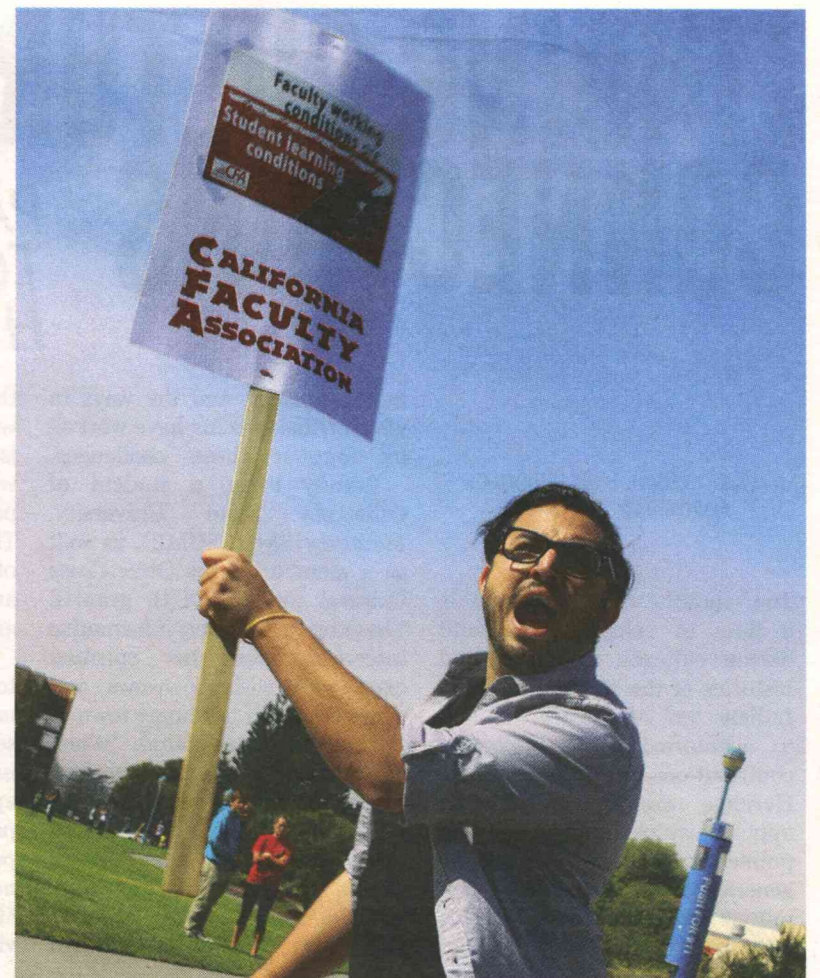
"I think students should be more involved in every level of their educational experience," says Levinson. Student involvement in faculty issues could raise a common ground which would transform the educational environment. "I would encourage students who want to get involved to attend a Students for Quality Education (SQE) meeting to start learning the information and get some understanding of the issues," Levinson continued.

Emma Gibson, a CFA intern



Professor and CFA Chapter President of CSUMB, Steven Levinson addresses protestors before the "funeral procession."

All photos by: Tyler Gidney



and SQE member added that it can be hard to get students involved in activities where they are seemingly not directly affected. "Students do care and you can tell that they care, but often they just don't have time to come out or they just don't want to," Gibson said.

Indeed, student participation at the event was low; however, the students who did attend the event and who spoke to the gathered crowd expressed a strong sense of compassion for their professors, gratitude for the effort that professors put forth, and solidarity with their cause.

The bottom line is that these issues do affect students. For example, underpaid faculty often

will have to take jobs at several universities in order to support themselves, stretching them thin and limiting their time spent in each specific campus community.

This limits their availability in office hours and the level of dedication and commitment they can give to a classroom full of students. We as students often expect near perfection from our professors, but professors need our support to go along with our expectations.

Future SQE meetings will discuss the CFA issues and the fight for a new and fair contract for CSU faculty. SQE meets every Thursday from 4 to 6 p.m. in the Otter Cross Cultural Center (OC3).



FINDING CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL CONNECTIONS

PASSIONS AND TRADITIONS COME TO LIFE DURING NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH CELEBRATIONS

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The month of November is a time to celebrate rich and diverse cultures, traditions, and histories of the Native American Indians and Alaska Natives and to acknowledge the important contributions of Native people. Heritage month is also an opportunity to educate the general public about tribes, to raise a general awareness about the unique challenges Native peoples have faced both historically and

in the present, and the ways in which tribal citizens have worked to conquer these challenges.

Erandy Frias, a student of California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB), as well as a member of the Otter Cross Cultural Center (OC3), granted The Otter Realm a very informative interview about her spiritual experience with powwows and drum circles in her home town of Bakersfield. Frias stated, "When you are [at a Native American event] spiritually and you're open to it, you give yourself." She went on to explain that even though she is a believer in one God, and the Native Americans, who she knows, believe in different

things, she expresses, "I feel what they feel; when a woman is singing passionately, I fall with her, I passionately dance. I passionately give myself to her." The event becomes a movement of her soul, she gives herself and then the drums and dances and singing give back to her.

Such a passionate response to a cultural event is breathtaking to watch. Frias had so much enthusiasm and life in her responses that it was apparent what an effect this part of her life had on her as a person. However, Frias does not feel that Native American Heritage month expands the views about the hardships of the

Native American peoples of the past to the students of CSUMB. Her experience has been that a lot of the students here are not interested in learning about new cultures, especially that of the Native Americans, or they are just too busy with life to realize such an amazing occurrence is right in front of them. She expressed, "But if [fellow students] could take the time, just sit down, hear it, be a part of it, minds will be opened because cultures all intersect. We are all connected."

There was supposed to be a large powwow on campus, but because of a lack of funding it may not happen. The OC3 wanted to have a large event to raise awareness for

the Native American families all around us with traditional food, dance, and a drum circle lead by Prof. George Baldwin. This event would have opened the minds of the students. Learning about different cultures can be one of the most beneficial ways to retain information about the world.

The last bit of information Frias wanted to conclude with was, "Realize that the Native Americans have a history all their own. In order to celebrate Native American History month, we need to learn about our past and embrace the sometimes unseen hardships that they have faced."

SURFING UP AWARENESS

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World renowned non-profit Monterey Bay Aquarium has become the official conservation partner of the iconic big wave surfing competition, Titans of Mavericks.

As part of a recent overhaul to the event, held annually two miles off the coast of Pillar Point Harbour, the newly rebranded event, formally Mavericks Invitational, will be working closely with the aquarium in an attempt to generate greater awareness of the threats facing our ocean.

The Los Angeles based Cartel Management firm in alliance with the aquarium, envisages year-long activities aimed at promoting the health and sustenance of our oceans. According to organizers, the Mavericks festival

held in Half Moon Bay could likely feature a walk-through mobile aquarium. Additionally, competing athletes will serve as eco-stewards featuring on public services announcements on TV and radio. They will also be representing the Titan brand in World Oceans Day and look to sponsor conservation programs in local schools.

The invite-only competition that hosts many of world's greatest big wave surfers is already well into the selection process. The "Committee 5," a group comprised of Maverick's pioneer Jeff Clark and former contestants, have whittled down prospective athletes from 56 to 38 and have revealed contestants who will occupy five of the 24 available places so far. The remaining candidates are to be revealed periodically to the public through the Titans of Mavericks Facebook page.

This comes as another change put in place by Cartel Management, which is focusing on increased interaction on social media to drive the event's publicity.

The five names already revealed are; Carlos Burle of Brazil, Kohl Christensen of Hawaii, Jamie Sterling of Hawaii, Chris Bertish of South Africa and Zach Wormhoudt of Santa Cruz.

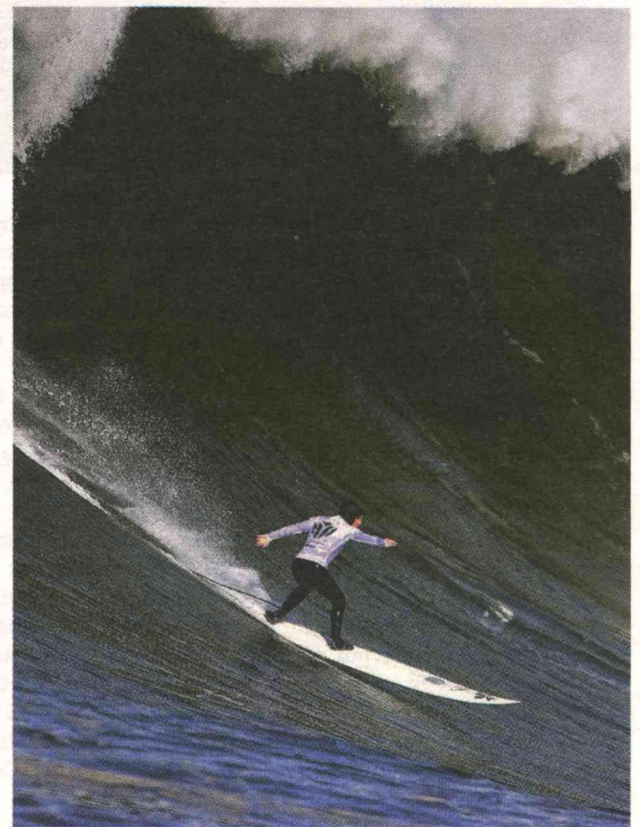
This year Savannah Shaughnessy, another Santa Cruz local, remains in the running for the potential to be the first female ever to be given an invitation to compete in the event.

"I would love to see Savannah get given a place in this year's mavericks. She's a phenomenal surfer and can out-surf most of the men," said Hannes Reinwald, Environmental Science Major. The fourth year student also expressed enthusiasm for the newly formed partnership between the aquarium

and the event, "As an environmental sciences major and an avid surfer myself, I couldn't think of a better relationship – one of the world's most influential aquariums and an awesomely popular surf contest. The two complement each other brilliantly and will definitely drive greater understanding of proper ocean care."

The competition window this year officially opens Jan. 1 through March 31, but there will also be the Traditional Opening Ceremony on Oct. 31 at Pillar Point, Half Moon Bay. Members of the public are invited to gather at the beach and celebrate the upcoming season. All competing surfers will be in attendance, where they will paddle out to perform the traditional Hawaiian prayer circle to mark the start of the event.

MONTEREY BAY AQUARIUM TEAMS UP WITH BIG WAVE SURF CONTEST, TITANS OF MAVERICKS



FIGHTING FOR DEMOCRACY FROM ABROAD

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS REACT TO OCCUPY PROTESTS WHILE AWAY FROM HOME

Casey Aubert, Staff Reporter
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Hundreds of thousands of Chinese protesters gather in Hong Kong to promote democracy, the protests began Oct. 1 and as of Oct. 13, have not shown signs of slowing down. International students at California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) share their thoughts.

The peaceful protests have taken place the last few years in the summer with the same idea, letting the people choose their nation's leader. Oct. 1 is National Day of the People's Republic of China, normally a celebration of the foundation of China since 1949. In recent years it has been a day of protest.

Adley Tong, a junior in International Studies, is an international student from Hong Kong studying at CSUMB this semester and has friends going through the ordeal. "My Secondary School friends had taken part in the protest, or Occupy Central (OC), they are all fighting for the future of democracy and universal suffrage. There are some friends who have taken part in Occupy Central in the first night [until it ended]... It has been 10 days already and the demonstration is still continuing."

Tong added, "The first serious skirmish happened in the third night of OC. Anti-rebellion cops were deployed and tear gas was fired upon the protesters most likely upon the order of their superiors (those who are high up in the government ladder). Beginning last Friday, anti-

protestors (anti-OC) were mobilized to fight against the OC movement."

His reaction to the incidents show what it is like to be on the sidelines when your nation is fighting for its deserved rights. "In the beginning I felt really depressed of the situation of how Hong Kong is becoming and how the cops only follow some ridiculous order from their superiors... Not to mention that [the protesters] are being so polite, they even clean up after themselves by dividing their garbage into recyclables and non-recyclables. Where can you find such peaceful and considerate protesters besides Hong Kong?"

Tong better described the poise that OC participants carry. "They demonstrate the highest standard of citizen protest. When the police [marched] toward them, they raise their hands to demonstrate they have no intention to fight."

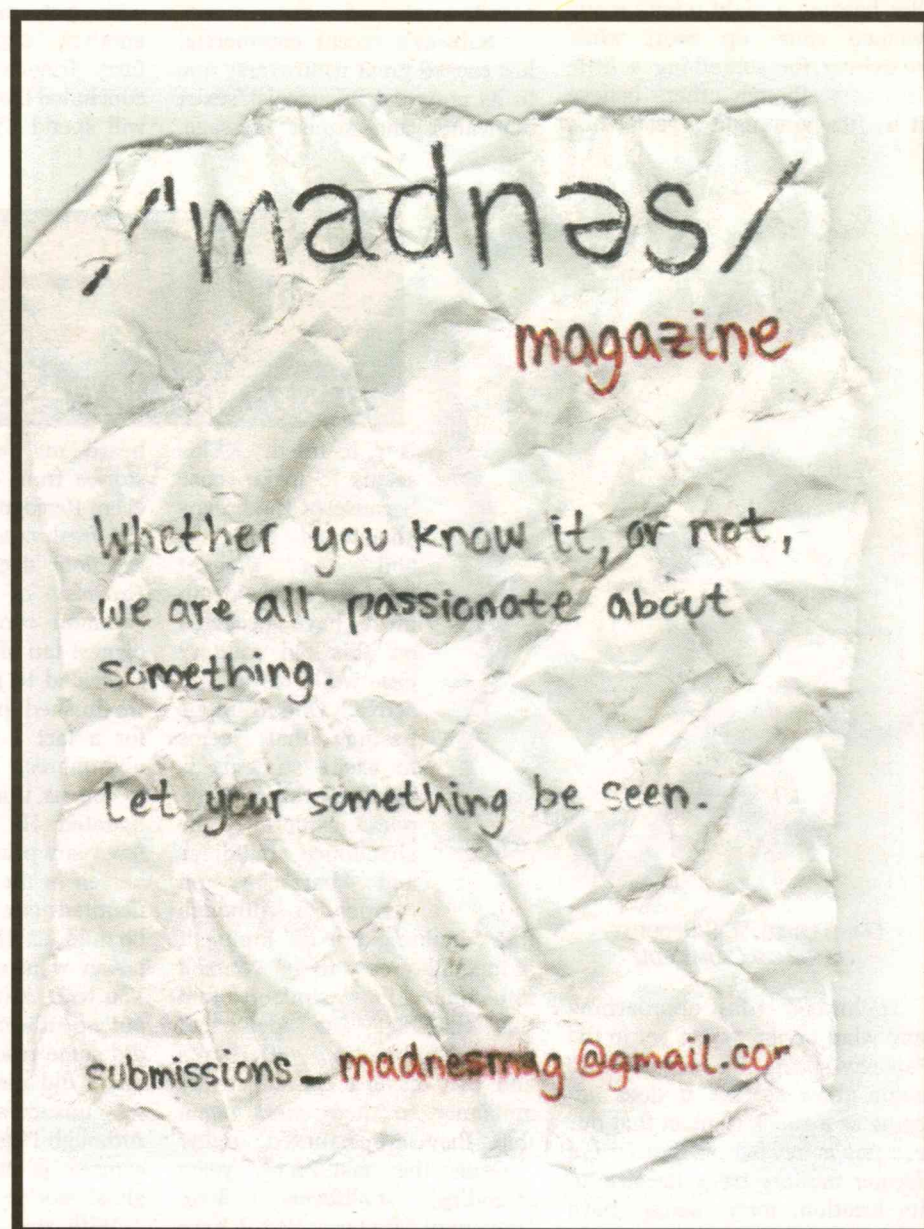
FireChat is an app that, when strung together with other cellphones using the app, can create an isolated network through which information can be shared. In Hong Kong protesters grouped in order to share their experiences

Tong not only has heard of FireChat, but stated, "FireChat was the primary communication app during the Taiwan Sunflower Revolution earlier this year, it helps the protesters to communicate when cell phone signals are blocked or cut. So far, the Hong Kong government has not blocked phone signal, or dare they not."



Occupy Central participants flood the streets of Hong Kong.

Photo by: Pasu Au Yeung



FROM VIRTUOUS TO VIXEN

POP CULTURE PRESSURES ON HALLOWEEN LOOKS

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Just as little girls dress up as Disney princesses for Halloween like Elsa or Anna from the box office hit "Frozen," adult women too can join in the fun. The only difference: skin, and a lot more of it.

As the season of Halloween creeps upon us, we are reminded of the absurdities the public faces during All Hallows' Eve. Due to cultural pressures, Halloween has become a night where many women come up short while searching for something a little less sexy, though others believe it is, "the one night a year when

girls can dress like a total slut and no other girls can say anything about it," to quote Mean Girls.

This sexism is not fixed to just our favorite "human" characters, as this year's most popular choice, "Sexy Snowman," is a play off of the loveable "Frozen" character Olaf. Yes, even you can dress up as a suggestive snowman and melt away the innocence of children's characters everywhere.

Marketing for women's costumes include provocative adjectives hinting at sexual innuendos and the idea that sex sells. As women are faced with costumes resembling fantasy play and lingerie, the male counterparts aren't out of the norm.

Subway's recent commercial has caused great controversy due to its apparent misogynist/sexist demeanor and sizeist message.

The commercial conveys that though bikini season may be over, "there's more reasons right around the corner to stay fit," according to their YouTube channel. That reason being to dress in sexy costumes.

As if Halloween didn't have enough strings attached with the media's pressure to be thin and wear skimpy outfits, the public is expected to shell out exorbitant amounts of money to conform to an ideal created by pop culture.

In a poll done by the National Retail Federation, it is expected that, "celebrants will shell out \$1.1 billion on children's costumes, and \$1.4 billion on adult," with pet owners contributing another, "\$350 million for their furry friends." The survey also concluded that the average person will spend \$77.52, compared to

\$75.03 on Halloween last year, with an overall expected \$2.8 billion spent on costumes alone.

The irony of the whole ordeal is that these skimpy costumes are climbing in prices, with some even maxing out at roughly \$400.

As a fourth year student on a ramen noodle budget saving for graduate school, spending anything over \$20 on a costume I plan on wearing for one night seems a bit far-fetched. However, there are still ways college students can have unique Halloween costumes without breaking the bank. As I too have been that girl rummaging through a closet and drawers full of clothes trying to find anything I can turn into something, all to feel I have nothing to wear, I can tell you there is hope.

Pull inspiration from your

everyday life; perhaps that Grande, soy, no whip, extra shot, pumpkin spice latte you've been fan-girling over for a month, and turn that sleek white dress into your own wearable cup. Don't worry gentleman, there is hope for you too, all you need is a white towel and your favorite scent of Old Spice to get the ladies whistling your creative tune. Even a group can find harmony in their costumes if only they remember party like Mario.

Dress as a character from your recent Netflix binge, become your favorite liquor bottle, even transform into a red solo cup complete with ping pong necklace. All of which are easy and affordable while allowing you your own discretion for sex appeal.



Clare Lenard, Staff Reporter
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Halloween is fast approaching and what better way to get in the "spooky spirit" than to dive into some ghost stories. It does not come as a shock to most that our campus is located on Fort Ord, a former military base. Because of its location, many people have harbored ideas that our campus

is haunted. This seems to make sense because of the creepy abandoned buildings and the thought that so much death must have occurred on this old military base while it was still active. One campus pastime that seems to excite students is "ording," this is when one explores the abandoned buildings and barracks on campus. Although

these building are off limits, it is incredibly easy to get yourself into one. Many students find this thrilling! The idea that these building are off limits and they have a certain creepy ambiance to them must mean that they are haunted, right?

Over the last four years attending California State University Monterey Bay, I have

heard my fair share of ghost stories from other students and even Resident Advisors. During my freshman year everyone on my floor decided to watch *The Exorcism of Emily Rose* in the common room. I am not the biggest fan of horror movies, but I decided to join everyone. After we finished the movie and I knew for a fact I was going to have nightmares, My RA proceeded to tell us that our building was haunted. He informed us that a few years prior a girl had hanged herself in the floor above us and haunted our halls. Right after he told us this ghost story the power went out in our building. You can imagine how freaked out we all were! After that night I did some research to see if a girl really did die in our building. I was unsuccessful in my search. Although I have no proof that our campus is haunted, I still hear ghost stories from time to time.

With that being said, I have

found proof that other locations within Monterey are haunted. One of these places being the Lara-Soto Adobe located at 460 Pierce Street. The legend states that the child of Manuel Soto and Dona Feliciano Lara died when he was three and was buried in their front yard. "The action of burying the child in the front yard led to many rumors of the child's death and put a curse on the home which the Spanish/Mexican people knew as 'malpaso,' an evil path," said Gary Munsinger, the coordinator for "Ghost Walk of Old Monterey". There are accounts of people hearing footsteps and children laughing at nighttime in the empty adobe. No

one has seen the child haunting the premises, but rather felt his presence. I have yet to come across any paranormal activities on campus and around Monterey, but I can tell you that I am completely fine with that! Have a happy and safe Halloween.





GRACES THE WORLD THEATER

RENOWN PLAYWRIGHT, LUIS VALDEZ, TALKS ABOUT HIS LATEST PLAY

Cherri-Wilson Thornton, Staff Reporter
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For 50 years, the acclaimed playwright and theatre director, Luis Valdez, has stayed true to his roots telling stories that touch a cord of Americans from the vantage point of the Chicano experience. This time, he explores a painful moment of Californian history with "Valley of the Heart," a production of his company, El Teatro Campesino.

"Valley of the Heart" embarks its matinee performances at the World Theater at California State University Monterey Bay (CSUMB) on Saturday, October 18th at 8:00 p.m. and Sunday, October 19th at 2:00 p.m., with a reception following Sunday's performance celebrating El Teatro Campesino's 50th year Anniversary with the playwright and cast. The reception will take place from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the CSU Monterey Bay Alumni and Visitor Center.

Valdez, also one of CSUMB's founding faculty professors in 1994 and 1995, became mesmerized with the theater at the ripe old age of six. This child's play soon turned into serious adulthood play where he has gone on to achieve many accomplishments such as playwright, director, filmmaker, founding and continued mentor working as Artistic Director of El Teatro Campesino, council member of the National Endowment of the Arts and founding member for the California Arts Council.

However, Valdez is best known for his successful works such as "Zoot Suit," which earned him an honorable title of "the First Chicano Playwright Broadway," then "La Bamba," which became the largest grossing movie with the use of a Latino theme, and "Corrido," which won the George Peabody Award.

Other awards include the esteemed Azeca Award, the Governors Award of the California Arts Council and the Presidential Medal of the Arts.

These successes allowed him the opportunity to found his beloved El Teatro Campesino in 1965, the legendary Farm Workers' Theater.

"Valley of the Heart" is both, a love story and a family story. It is about two immigrant, brave and hard-working families coming out of the Great Depression, the Yamaguchis, the Japanese-American family, and the Montanos, the Mexican-American family, who share a dramatic interaction during the historical days leading up to Pearl Harbor.

The two families struggle to provide for their American born children's future in the face of war. The news of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, hurls both families into utter panic and uncertainty, as the horrid news begins to seep out that all Japanese and Japanese-Americans throughout the West are being singled out by the U.S. Government and guided away from their homes into the degradation and horror of internment camps.

Valdez explains that being a Chicano, Mexican-American, he has confronted racism through a very political form of theater. El Teatro Campesino was born on the picket lines

of the Delano Grape Strike. "I have reached into my origin and into my heritage and I've gone to the roots of America, I've gone to the Mayans," Valdez says with a cracking voice.

Valdez, born to a migrant, farm-working family in 1940, was only two years old when the call came during the spring of 1942. It was the call for all Japanese-Americans to relocate to internment camps due to the impending war.

To protect the continued production of food on the ranches, the U.S. Army took control and removed all Japanese-Americans from their farmland homes and passed the farms over to the workers, who were living on the ranch, most of whom were Mexican-American farm workers. His dad was one of them.

"So, my first memories are those living on this ranch in the Delano area," says Valdez who is now 74. As a boy, Valdez thought that his family had owned the ranch, but later learned that they didn't – that it was leased to his father and it belonged to a Japanese-American farmer who had been sent with his family to internment camps during World War II.

Around 1947, Valdez met a kid who was half Mexican and half his age. He was part of a migrant family who lived in a shack much like he and his family. His Mother, Thelma, was Japanese-American and his father was Benjamin. Thelma was a tremendous cook. Fascinated with Japanese food, because he had never had it before, Valdez would visit often and was often invited for family dinners.

"I only knew them for a few months, a summer, maybe more, and then they were gone with the wind -- they were migrants. I never heard from them again, but I never forgot them," Valdez said. "Valley of the Heart" isn't completely autobiographical. The characters in the play aren't really these people, he just uses their names because to him, they represented that whole life – that whole generation.

"So, I wanted to tell a story within the context of these two contrasted families during World War II -- to really tell the story of what happened to Japanese-Americans and to kind of get out of 'our' skins for a bit and to really sympathize and to acknowledge that they went through

a hell of a period," Valdez articulated.

Valdez goes on to say that unfortunately, it's not a story that's very well told in American history. "We should be a lot more magnanimous because the creator has been very generous with the American people, so we should be generous with the rest of the world," he says.

For further details or to purchase your performance and reception combo ticket for "Valley of the Heart," please visit the World Theater located at 100 Campus Ceneter Drive, Building 28 (located on 6th Avenue), Seaside, CA 93955. You can also call the Box Office at (831) 582-4580 (Opens Mon-Fri 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., or visit the website at <http://worldtheater.csumb.edu/world-theater-o>

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Valley of the Heart

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SUN OCTOBER 19 at 2 pm

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OTTER EBERT'S NETLIX PICK OF THE WEEK

EVER HAD AN STD SCARE? THAT IS NOTHING COMPARED TO WATCHING "CONTRACTED"

Stefanie Berman, Staff Reporter
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This week's film may leave you gagging and looking away from your screen because it's not only the spooky month of October, but it is also just plain horrible. The 2013 indie horror film *Contracted* had plenty of potential, but left this otter dead inside.

The film opens at a party which the main character, 20-something Samantha (Najarra Townsend), attends. After getting date-raped by a mysterious stranger, she wakes up to an extreme form of an STD taking over her body.

The party host tells her that the stranger is wanted by the

police. Do we know what he is wanted for? No. It is implied in the very first shot of the film before the opening credits, but that is it, just implication.

Samantha also has a complicated relationship with her girlfriend Nikki (Katie Stegeman). She will leave the viewer wondering why she is there in the first place since she seems simply disinterested.

If anything, the film could have been better if Samantha was recently broken up with by her girlfriend. Nikki does not add anything to the story other than to make Samantha emotionally distraught while going through

a disfiguring transformation.

Samantha also has one of the most unsympathetic mothers in cinema. Played by Caroline Williams, she is shown as an untrusting mother. She does not approve of her daughter being a lesbian and blatantly accuses Samantha of being on drugs, for sleeping in and not giving her full details of what she is doing when she goes out.

The men in this film are as lecherous as the women are cold. Aside from the mysterious stranger, there is Riley (Matt Mercer), a barely developed character who is so infatuated with Samantha that he barely

notices her transformation despite not only seeing her at the party, but also being a patron who regularly eats at the restaurant where she works as a waitress.

Viewers can tell that this film is attempting symbolic analysis of various aspects of life, from STDs to the impact of same sex relationships on others, but at the same time, *Contracted* is missing closure. There are plenty of films that can successfully be left open-ended, but this is not one of them.

There are some good things about this film. One of which is the makeup and special effects. Samantha's transformation is astounding and disgusting

rolled into one. While the transformation is in the span of three days, various symptoms arrive gracefully. You believe those veins on her body are there and the scab on her lips are real too. There are parts in the film where the viewer will find themselves covering their eyes. This works in the film's favor because your skin crawls when you simply imagine experiencing the symptoms.

This horror film had the potential to have a great, coherent story, but it had a lot of loose ends that needed to be tied up. As a result, this film will leave viewers with unanswered questions and a desire to keep protection nearby.

IAMSU! AND ROACH GIGZ BRING HIP HOP TO CAMPUS

BAY AREA RAPPERS SHOW CSUMB STUDENTS LOVE

Jacob Guzman, Staff Reporter
JAGUZMAN@CSUMB.EDU

IAMSU! is coming here to California State University Monterey Bay (CSUMB) in concert for all of us students! On Oct 17 at 8:45 p.m. we will be turning up with one of the realest in Hip Hop. San Francisco rapper Roach Gigz will be opening for IAMSU!. Roach Gigz is famous for his mixtapes, "Roachy Balboa."

For those who are unfamiliar with IAMSU!, he is a hip hop artist from the city of Richmond, California. This bay area rapper has erupted in popularity since 2010. His birth name is Sudan Ahmeer Williams, but used "Su" as his rap name. He soon changed

his rap name to IAMSU! because of particular search reasons. He began making music at the age of 14. He graduated from California's Pinole Valley High School in 2007. He then moved on to college by attending Cal State East Bay where he was a communication major.

IAMSU's music is considered hardcore rap and hip hop. His music is unique with the way that he flows within his music. He raps about the struggles of living in an area that is dominated by poverty and homicide. He is quickly moving up in the rap game by putting in work and hustling in his own ways. IAMSU's music talks about how he overcame the struggles that existed within his block by attending college and getting out of the hood. He speaks

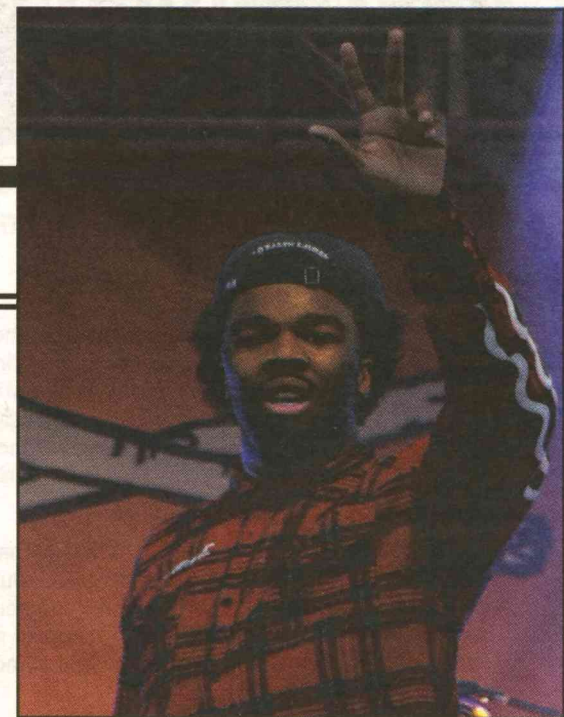
about getting money with his crew, HBK Gang, by just being yourself. His raps are moving because they discuss issues that the younger generation is dealing with like finding yourself as a person within this society and following your dreams no matter what those dreams are. Su raps about current issues within the world as well and how he deals with it. IAMSU is very popular with the younger crowd of hip hop fans because many of us college students can relate to everything he raps about. Su's music is explicit because of violence and drug references as well as strong language. He has a variety of songs that can turn a little kick back into a full blown function. As well as some songs that are perfect for a relaxing

evening at home while hanging out with that significant other.

IAMSU has 8 mixtapes which can be downloaded as well as one album that he recently released earlier this year. It is available on iTunes and your local music store. A few songs that I recommend are

"Only That Real" which features rapper 2 Chainz and Sage the Gemini, "I Love My Squad," and "Bout' Me" featuring Wiz Khalifa.

Let's welcome IAMSU and Roach Gigz to CSUMB and prepare for a turnt up night!



IAMSU! Performing.

Photo by: Erin Cecil

CARMEL INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL RETURNS

A WEEKEND OF FILM, ART AND CULTURE

Sean Hutchison, Staff Reporter
SHUTCHISON@CSUMB.EDU

Starting Wednesday, Oct. 15, one of the premier film festivals in the country will be in our own backyard. The Carmel International Film Festival is a five day event that features contemporary art, music, a lecture series, and of course, films.

The film submissions must fall into one of these different categories; Student, Animation, Short, Documentary, and Narrative Feature. Films range from major motion pictures to small independent projects.

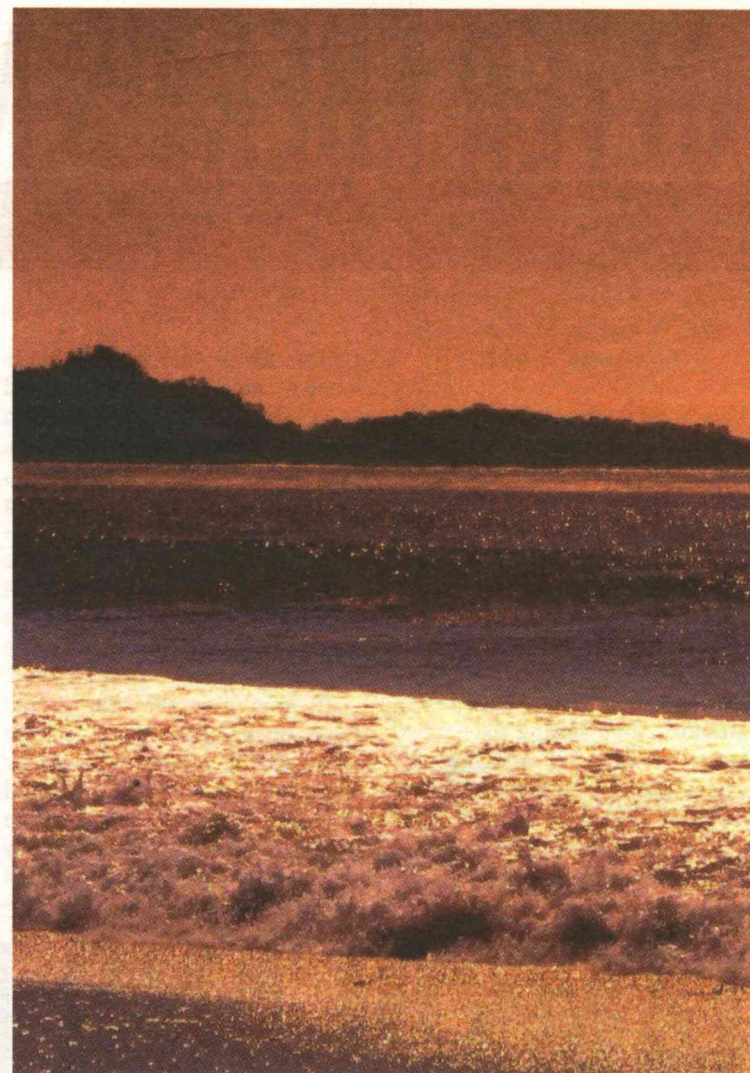
The movies will be screened at various theaters throughout Carmel, and general admission

is available. It is \$10 for general admission and \$5 with a student or military ID, cash only, and admission is first come first serve. If you are someone looking for a full weekend pass, those start at \$50, called the 555 Day Pass which gives you admission to all movies that are beginning before 5 p.m. There is also the All Access Film Pass for \$95, giving admission to all movies from Wednesday to Sunday. The other ticket passes available range from \$195-\$3,000 granting you various things such as access to parties, wine, gift packages, green room, lecture series and more.

With 48 full length films and 53 short films, there will be films for all palates. One potential highlight

for locals will be the documentary The Salinas Project focusing on the children of immigrant farm workers. The director, Carolyn E. Brown is scheduled to attend and the screening will be held at the Carmel High School of Performing Arts.

The estimated attendance throughout the festival weekend will be 24,000 people, making the small town of Carmel a bustling art and film hub. The festival will use the backdrop of the Monterey Bay in one of their culminating events, the Film Makers Beach Bash. For an extensive list of all the events and movie times visit carmelfilmfest.com.



STUDENT UNION & RECREATION CENTER INFORMATION CAMPAIGN TEAM (ICT)

The ICT wants you to come learn about the proposed Student Union & Recreation Center buildings!

What's ICT?

The mission of the ICT is to educate the campus community on what Student Union & Recreation Center buildings would look like physically, financially, and socially at CSUMB. Through objective analysis, including statements both for and against the proposed fee, we will provide opportunities for members of the campus community to learn, ask questions, and provide feedback/input.

Who is ICT?

The ICT consists of six (6) student Ambassadors who are charged with carrying out the education campaign. Our ambassadors represent both "traditional" and "non-traditional" students; students who live on- and off-campus, including east campus; studying different majors; and different class standings (ex: sophomore, senior).

Why should I come?

Because student, faculty & staff are critical to this process; no feedback means it is harder for the ICT to advocate on behalf of the majority opinion on this matter.

Check out our website for more information, including: FAQ's, survey/feedback form, reports & other documents. You can also meet the ICT Student Ambassadors leading this project.

activities.csumb.edu/ict

For questions & disability accommodations, please contact: ICT@csumb.edu.

Student Open Forums

Monday, October 6th, 12:15 pm

Tanimura & Antle Family Memorial Library, Room 1180

Wednesday, October 8th, 6:30 pm

Student Center, West Lounge

Thursday, October 9th, 8:00pm

Black Box Cabaret (BBC)

Pizza and drinks provided.

Staff/Faculty Open Forums

Wednesday, October 22nd, 10:30am

Student Center, West Lounge

Thursday, October 23rd, 6:30pm

University Center, Living Room

Friday, October 24, 12:15pm

Student Center, West Lounge

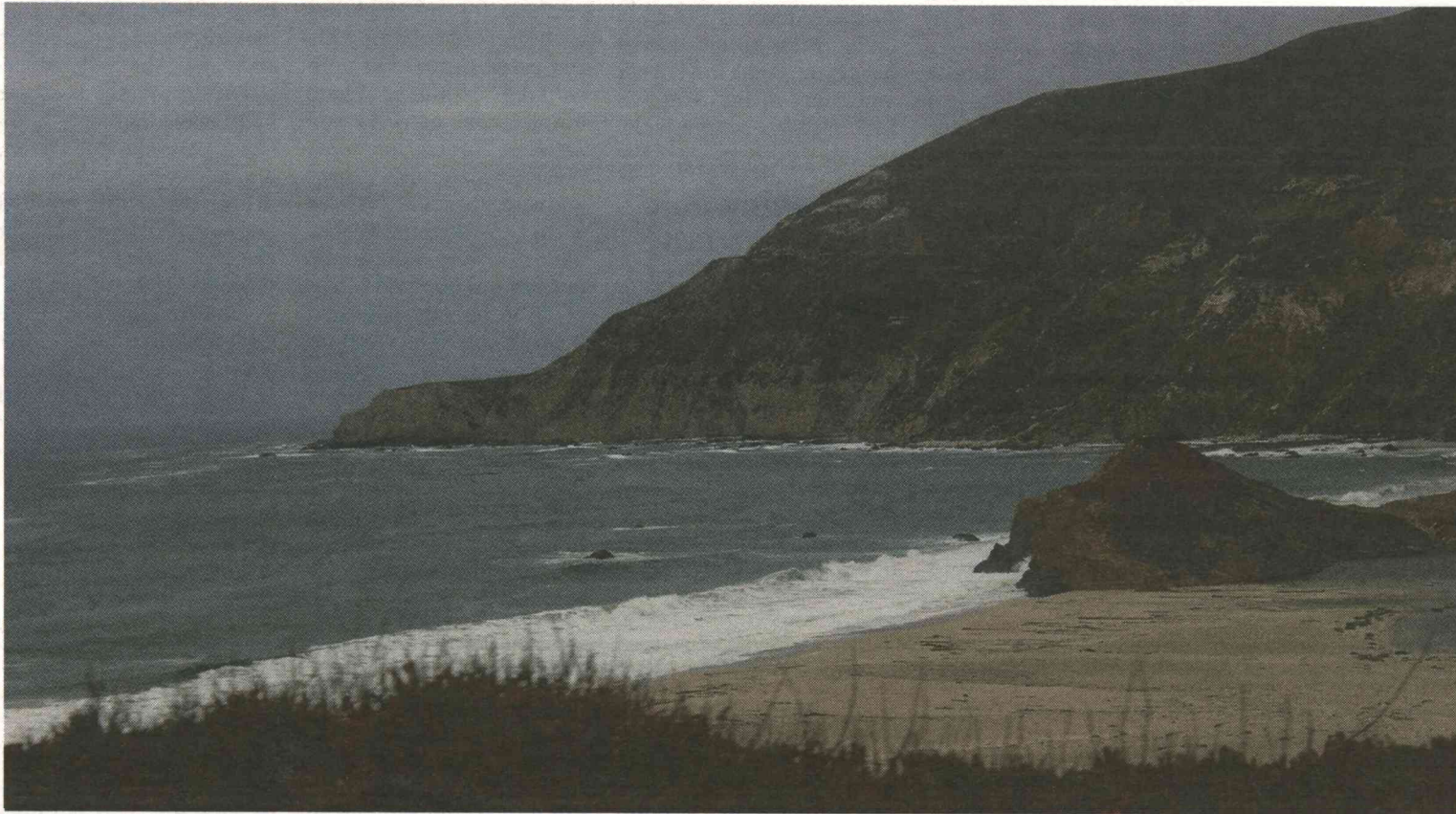
Coffee/tea, fruit & cookies provided.



80% of students would not see a rise in their tuition.

BIG SUR, BIG BEAUTY

BIG SUR OFFERS PLENTY OF TRAILS TO TAKE IN ITS BEAUTY



Big Sur Coastal Hike

Photo By: Keven Krause

Dalton Strobel, Staff Reporter
DSTROBEL@CSUMB.EDU

With our campus so close to Big Sur, it only makes sense to go visit the State Park at least a few times per semester. Carved by the Santa Lucia Mountains, Big Sur is considered to be the 90 miles of coastline that start near Carmel River and can be followed to San Carpoforo Creek in San Luis Obispo County. World renowned for its beauty, we have to consider ourselves lucky to be able to live right in its backyard.

Big Sur offers trails and campsites of many kinds so you can enjoy the park for as long or as little as you like. Big Sur has a variety of trails, so if you consider yourself to be an inexperienced hiker or a novice one it will always have a trail that is right for you.

Amazing beaches and views are not far, just 23 miles south of Carmel lies Andrew Molera State Park. This park is also home to 24 first come first serve walk in campsites if you are the type that wants to spend a night or two away from it all.

Andrew Molera is even worth it if you are planning a day hike. With the Beach Trail and the Creamery Meadow trail only one mile in length, and terrain that is friendly to all hikers, it makes for an easy but beautiful hike to Molera Point Beach. After the short mile hike you will see the Bluffs trail which is only 1.7 miles each way and winds alongside of the cliffs of the ocean offering breathtaking views to the North and South.

Keep Heading South on Highway 1 and next will be Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park. Pfeiffer Falls and the Valley View Trails are slightly challenging hikes at two miles each way with 450 feet in elevation. Instead of the coastline these two trails twist

and turn between giant redwoods, eventually making its way to a waterfall. If you want to keep going you can hike up through

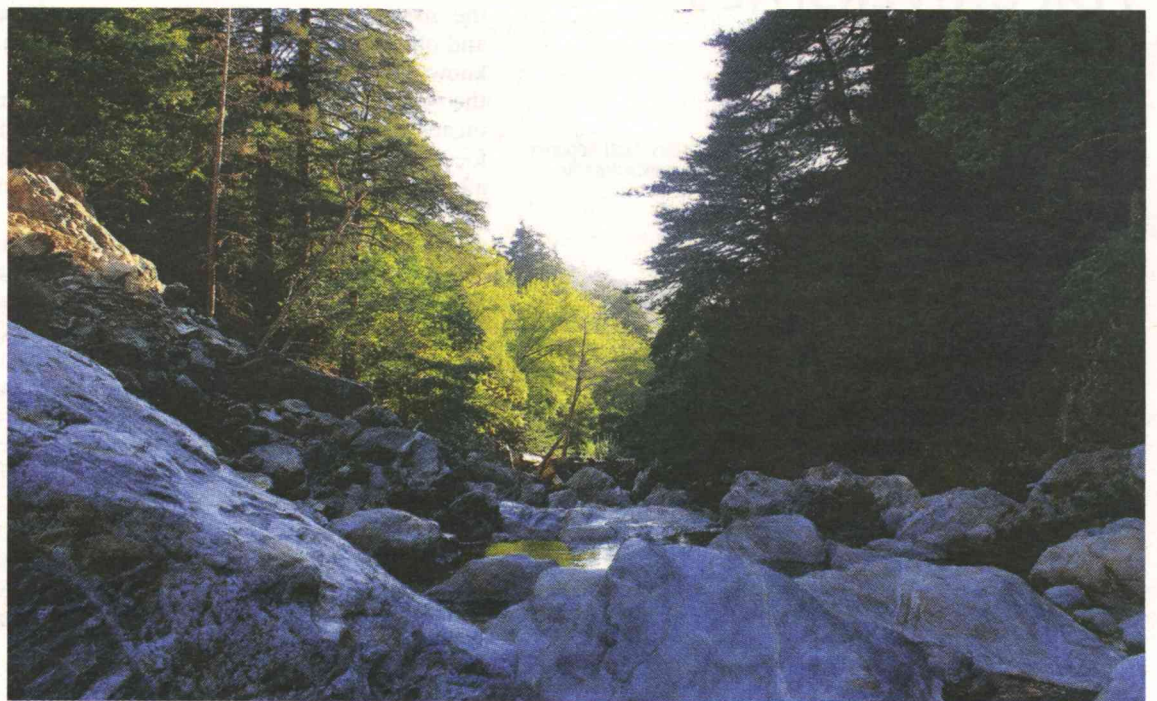
the oak trees to Overlook Bench where you can stop and enjoy views of the Big Sur River Gorge. Again, travel south on Highway

1 and you will find Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park. This is where the famous McWay Waterfall is located. The McWay Waterfall trail is a short and easy hike less than .75 of a mile in length and leads to stunning views of the coastline and McWay creek which feeds into the Pacific Ocean below.

Some quick things to remember as you take in Big Sur's beauty; make sure to wear comfortable shoes that offer good support as trails can become rough and sometimes slippery. Bring water and snacks to keep your energy up throughout the hike.

We know that coastal fog can come and go at any time in this area so make sure to always pack a sweater as well. Remember to not feed or approach the wildlife as this is their home and not ours.

Lastly, take out what you take in, leave no trash behind! Put trash and empty bottles back in your bag and dispose of them properly. Bring your family and friends as they will not want to miss what Big Sur has to offer.



Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park

Photo By: Keven Krause

OPINION

COLLEGE PARENTING: A BALANCING ACT



Gabby Enriquez, Staff Reporter
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Many of students encounter everyday problems and stresses, but do we ever consider the parents who are also going to school and working double time. There are dads and moms, single, and partners, either has the everyday struggle to balance parent life and student life.

As a mother, there never

are enough minutes in the day. So the idea of adding another thing to do, like school, seems absolutely crazy, right? You already know the only way to get the future you and your baby deserve is by pursuing a better job, but you may need to go back to school first. In normal situations, mothers are expected to be the central caregivers for a new baby. Standard care for a newborn requires months of time and complete devotion.

Not a lot of moms on campus have many places to breastfeed. When I was a new mom and my son was three months old I had to pump in the car in-between

classes or breaks. It is very exhausting and draining. Breastfeeding is literally taking calories and energy out of you. Being in a hot car and going to the restroom isn't very comfortable.

"Moms on campus would benefit to have breastfeeding accommodations"

Therefor I think moms on campus would benefit to have breastfeeding accommodations: a safe, quiet and hygienic space for mother and baby.

When a career or school is thrown into the mix, the

life of a mother and or father is chaotic. Full time student mothers (or working) live a more demanding life compared to those of non-working mothers. There are decisions on child care services, breast pumping breaks, maternity leaves and career barriers. It's hard to juggle everything at once and also very exhausting, but hey, no one said it was going to be easy only that it was going to be worth it.

Speaking as a parent myself and multitasking a one-year-old and full time house duties I have firsthand experience on how much work it takes to give time to both your baby and your responsibilities.

Whether it's diaper duty or school duty, I never have a choice. It's all about learning to use my resources and get the job done.

Luckily there is some help! CSU Monterey has a Child Development Center, and according to their site, it "provides a safe and fun learning environment for children between ages of 6 weeks and 5th grade..."

Members of the CSUMB Community who are interested in enrolling their children are encouraged to contact the Center for more information (831) 582-4550.

YES MEANS YES IS IN AFFIRMATIVE CONSENT LAW SETS STANDARDS FOR UNIVERSITIES



Jordan Boomsliter, Staff Reporter
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The SB967 bill signed by Gov. Brown last month is the first piece of legislation in the nation that enforces an affirmative consent policy to deal with cases of sexual assault in colleges.

The affirmative consent standard means that sexual partners give and receive clear, consistent, and affirmative consent to engage in sexual activity.

The law to be implemented in Californian campuses is a standard for how college officials proceed when they are presented with a report of sexual assault.

It is meant to change the mentality of students and officials from the well-known "no means no" to the perspective of "yes means yes." This shifts the focus from questioning after-the-fact whether or not the victim said "no," to asking if the victim said "yes" or gave some other type of affirmative consent.

The California State University Monterey Bay (CSUMB) Provost Bonnie Irvin said our campus is participating in workshops and training provided by the CSU Chancellors' office. In a brief comment during the Academic Senate meeting, she explained that the Students Affairs office, and the Title IX coordinator

have this legislation at the top of their agenda. There will be a group in charge of figuring out how to implement the policy, and among the members the provost had included the new dean of Health Sciences and Human Services, Dr. Britt Rios-Ellis.

Sexual assault is a real and prevalent problem on college campuses, and even though most colleges claim they are doing everything they can in terms of prevention and support it never seems to be enough. CSUMB has already had one reported incident of sexual assault this year, and according to the annual security report of the university police, in the last four years there have been 13 incidents of forcible sexual assault.

The new student safety legislation passed by Gov. Brown could be the key

to establishing a clear protocol for universities to follow in these situations.

Some view the restriction as unfair or unreasonable. Some even go so far as to say it is a means of controlling and entrapping students who simply wish to experiment with their sexuality. This is not what the law describes, and it certainly is not its intent.

"This bill does not seek to control what occurs between consenting partners"

Of course it is unreasonable to think that every sexual encounter can be monitored and that students must be given step-

by-step directions for how to have sex. This bill does not seek to control what occurs between consenting partners, and those who engage in consensual sex have nothing to fear from it. It is a tool that will help college officials change the way they investigate reports of sexual assault, and will ultimately protect victims from the ambiguity of the "no means no" mindset.

Human sexuality is not black and white, and in fact it is a sea of grey, which doesn't make it easy to classify or compartmentalize. The grey means there is plenty of room for interpretation, and this standard helps to give more definition to that murky area of consent. Ultimately this law is not a means of limiting sexual experience, but of protecting it.

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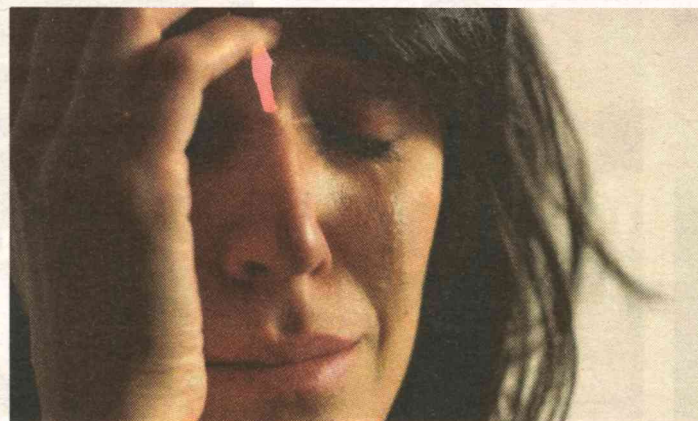
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#FIRSTWORLDPROBLEMS YOU OTTER COMPLAIN



Gabriela Joseph, Staff Reporter
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After a solid week of cramming for mid-terms, it is nice to take a break and complain about the much less crucial, and yet still hella important things in life. Like worrying about what to do about your roommate's unhealthy obsession with passive-aggressive post-it notes. Or realizing your blocks are now in the single digits—let's face it, those paninis must be laced with something.

Remember a month ago, when tests seemed so far away and the weather actually made sense? Now we're skim reading entire textbooks, bribing ASAP tutors for more hours and Googling "temperate zone rain dances" so you can finally wear those super cute rain boots you bought last week.

Normal mid-semester problems aside, California State University Monterey Bay (CSUMB) has its own special drawbacks—flex consuming pumpkin lattes, dreaded group projects, etc. Regardless of major, you can expect to receive some kind of cooperative assignment. And there is always that one invisible member who never responds. After leaving

53 messages and 14 missed calls on their phone, you discover that that one team member also happens to be the one person at CSUMB without an iPhone so you get charged for each one of those texts.

Let's be real; life at CSUMB is no walk in the park. Whether you're trying to find something at the DC that isn't deep-fried or vegan, or running from animate bloodthirsty fog after a 10 p.m. film class, we've all got problems.

Kevin Salgado had to buy a 10-foot Ethernet cable for his Apple TV. Joshua Giglione broke his pinky toe at MMA after trying to prove that, "yeah, I can totally do that move from Karate Kid." Shanna Garcia, a north-quad resident, has physically aged five years waiting for the elevator to reach her floor. Husaina Bhajee confesses that she has removed cars from her north-quad parking space "Grand Theft Auto style," so watch out for the green triangle button. And Heather O'Connell has to live knowing her class schedule prevents her from going to the DC during Horchata Tuesday.

Think you have it worse? Send us your CSUMB first world problems and it could be featured in an upcoming issue, because you otter complain about something.

STUDENT SUBMISSION:

Mason Fernandez
Junior, Environmental Studies Major

From ancient oils underground,
Startled to see the light of day,
I arose, arrived to stay,
Birthed to be shaped and shipped overseas.
I am the bloom of Petroleum's rose.
I am the outbreak of Plastic disease.

I pondered my purpose,
Fathomed my function,
And was left ill at ease by what I came to suppose.

Since the moment composed
I was meant to enclose
The moisture of a spring.
A device for drinking.

But at last, I'm fulfilled!
Contentedly empty,
No longer distilled.
Devoid of my droplets,
I'm utterly thrilled.
To be disposed of,
Without love,
Is all I can think of.

So where shall I go?
My need is expired.
To be more specific,
Where should I retire?
With my saturated siblings?
In the North Pacific Gyre?

Carried gently by the breeze
To reunite in distant seas.
I miss my kind,
Discard me please,
I plan to swirl eternally.

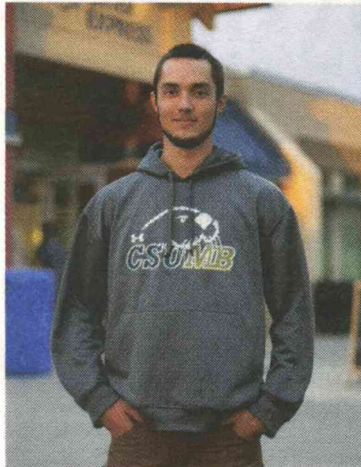
EDITORIAL POLICY

The Otter Realm is a bi-monthly student publication produced by the HCOM 389 and HCOM 489 classes. Opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of the Otter Realm, CSUMB administration, faculty, or staff of the 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.

PEOPLE ON CAMPUS

Do you believe current General Education requirements to be beneficial to your overall college experience?



DANIEL GROSS, 1ST YEAR MARINE SCIENCE MAJOR

"I feel like they cover a lot of basis that we need to have in order to succeed in the workplace today. There are some things that could probably be changed about it, but overall it's good."



SHANNON MONE, 3RD YEAR MARINE SCIENCE MAJOR

"Yeah definitely. I think it forces us to take a wide breadth of classes that we usually wouldn't. Like, I do Marine Science, so it has forced me to take a lot of classes that I would have never considered before."



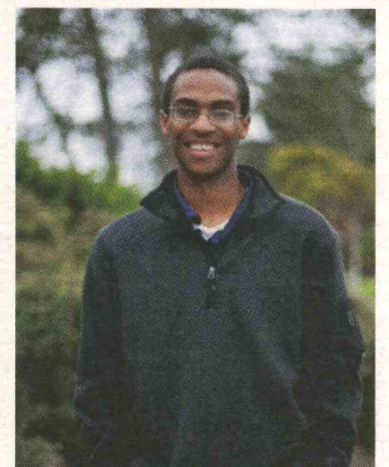
JUSTIN FRAGO, 3RD YEAR HCOM MAJOR

"No. I feel like it's a repeat of high school, and it just feels like a waste of my time because it's the same curriculum, essentially."



STEPHANIE BARNARD, 3RD YEAR CD MAJOR

"No. I think that I'm taking GE because they feel like they're basics that we should know, but I'm really spending more money being here, rather than actually learning more about my field and the career that I want to go into."



IAN OLDEN, 4TH YEAR GLOBAL STUDIES MAJOR

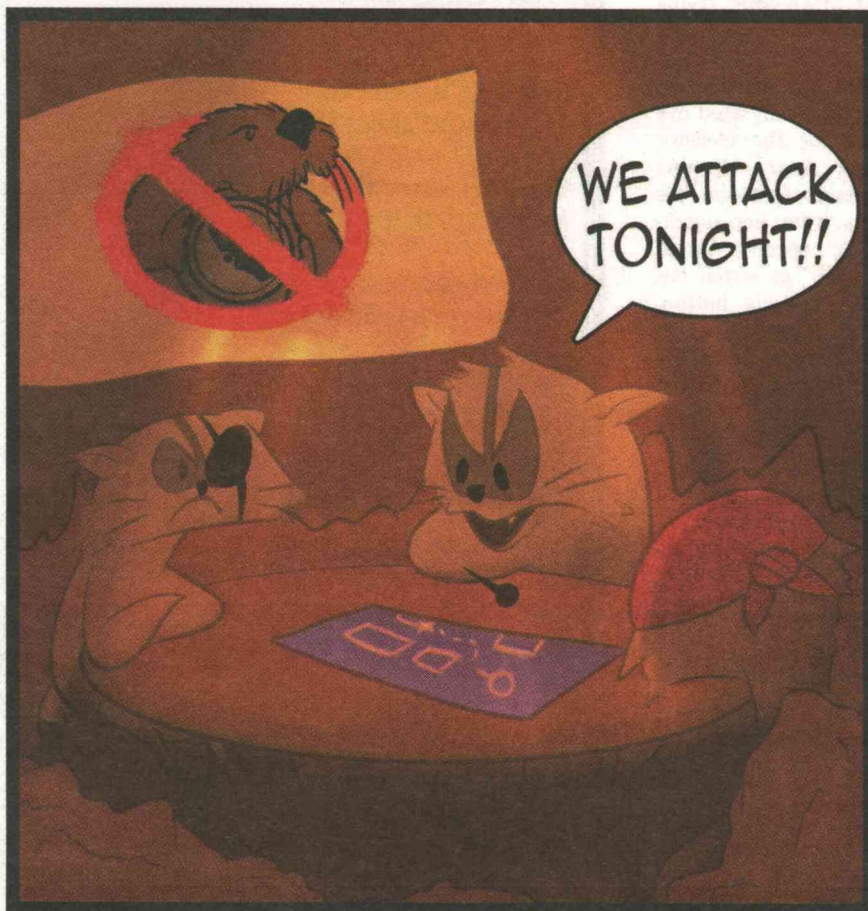
"I appreciate the institution of general education. Its purpose is to educate students about more diverse subjects, so you don't just know about your major, you know about other things that are important."

Photos and interviews by: Bernard Green

CARTOON SUBMISSION

MIDNIGHT SNACK

Created by Andre Sitolini, 1st Year CART major.



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