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Issue #4

OTTER REALM

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

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OtterMedia vote just as confusing as the issue

This is the second of a two-part in-depth report.

By D'Quan Stewart

The resolution regarding OtterMedia and a possible Low Power FM (LPFM) radio station before the California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) Academic Senate was voted on Oct. 12 during the group's regular monthly meeting. After several recounts and the Senate Parliamentarian and President frantically searching through *Robert's Rules of Order*, the resolution passed; there were 14 votes in favor, six against and nine abstentions.

The motion to approve the resolution came from Steven Levinson, the former OtterMedia advisor and resolution author. "This is a non-controversial, basic resolution," said Levinson. He went on to say it is important to develop student opportunities such as OtterMedia.

The resolution linked OtterMedia and the LPFM station, which seemed to be the sticking point for some Senate members.

The Senate Technology Committee

had been asked to review the resolution. After doing so the committee voted not to support it, according to Senator Jill Yamashita, co-chair of the committee. She said they were uncertain where Associated Students (AS) stood on the issue and were concerned that the LPFM station would have a limited three mile range. The limited range would only cover CSUMB's campus and portions of Marina and Seaside.

"We can reach some of the community or none of the community," said Levinson in response.

Another Academic Senate committee that reviewed the resolution was Student Affairs and Academic Support; Senator Kenny Garcia reported on its behalf. He said the committee believes OtterMedia

and the LPFM are two separate issues.

AS President Emma Richardson also was in attendance and spoke before the resolution vote. She echoed the Student Affairs committee and said the two issues were separate. She also announced that OtterMedia would begin streaming after the fall break.

Richardson said AS is "working on getting an extension" of the current LPFM license and a consultant would be hired to research the project.

"We need student input," said Richardson. She said there will be a meeting between AS and OtterMedia on Oct. 22 to discuss LPFM. She didn't announce when the broader student body would be able to make comments.

Following the comments a vote was

taken, retaken and taken again. The uncertainty was centered on the number of votes needed to pass the resolution - was it a majority of Senators present, or simply more yes votes than no.

Furthering the confusion, some Senators voted twice in the first round, which resulted in 32 votes. There were only 29 voting members present.

While the vote seems to be in favor of the resolution, there were more Senate members who voted no or abstained.

Ultimately, the vote will not have a major impact on the ongoing transition of OtterMedia or the future of LPFM at CSUMB. Senate resolutions are

OtterMedia continues on page 3

Marina movie theater open for the public

Cinemark Theaters brings the big screens to Marina

By Joey Bennett

With movies such as *The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part Two*, *The Last Witch Hunter* and *Steve Jobs* coming to the big screen, the opening of the new Cinemark Theaters in Marina on Oct. 8 is right on time.

The theater is a state-of-the-art facility with "ceiling-to-floor and wall-to-wall" screens that fit the entire room, stadium seating with each row being placed lower than the one behind it and a private party room for rentals and events for up to 17 people.

The theater has five screens, which is "just the right amount," said Bryan Jeffries, marketing director for Cinemark USA. This allows the theater to show the most popular and recent movies, which means locals in the Marina area can see "big hits" like *Star Wars* this December without having to drive a long way.

There are two small theaters with 99 seats each, as well as two mid-sized theaters seating 188 each, and the fifth theater with an Extreme Digital (XD) screen that can hold up to 300 people.

Each of these theaters has the "ceiling-to-floor and wall-to-wall" screens, with the XD screen being the largest, containing the best sound system. Full surround sound is offered in each theater, which includes speakers behind the screen, multiple rows along the walls and even in the ceiling.

For patrons who like to use self-service machines, there is a kiosk where you can pay with a credit card, a gift card or just to simply pick up your pre-purchased tickets.

To avoid lines all together, download the Cinemark App on iOS, Android or a Windows device. A neat feature is if in CineMode through the movie, you can earn coupons.

The theater is wheelchair accessible with descriptive narration devices available to those who need the accessibility.

Currently, 12 of the 30 staff members are California State University, Monterey Bay students. The theater plans to hire more employees at the end of October. If you are interested in a job apply online via the Cinemark website.



Alex Hennessey/Otter Realm

Chancellor White visits CSUMB

A question & answer with the CSU chancellor

By Achelle Reynoso

The California State University (CSU) Chancellor Timothy P. White visited the Monterey Bay (CSUMB) campus on Oct. 7 as part of a statewide tour to all 23 campuses. White held an open forum for members of the CSUMB community, heard from undergraduate researchers and met with campus officials. He also took the time to sit-down with the Otter Realm and answer a few questions. Here is a transcript of what he had to say:

Q: Does the CSU plan any tuition or fee increases in the next two to three years? If so, how much and why? If not, how will the CSU maintain costs?

White: There is this budget cycle, so in November, we will formalize our budget request to the governor and then that request goes to him. In January, he will communicate what his budget is for the State of California.

January through June is when all the politics happen. Give and take with the legislature, at the end of the day the Governor has to sign the budget, but the legis-

lature has to agree with it.

What we are putting in for this November, is for next school year, starting in the summer of 2016-17. That year will not have a tuition increase in it. Tuition will be the same as 2015 for the 2016-17 year.

I believe that when we put our budget together next year, 12 months from now, for the budget for the 2017-18 year may, not for sure, we'll have a modest increase in tuition. First one in about six or seven years.

What I want to make sure we don't do, and it is not totally up to me, is get in the situation as today's economy [fluctuates], and all of a sudden, like we did in the last recession, CSU's tuition doubled in about two and a half years, from \$2,500 to \$5,500.

I would much rather have a system where the state agrees to increment a little bit, and students, regrettably, but necessarily increment a little bit say a two percent raise the next three years. Everybody can plan then. Two percent of \$5,500, is money, but it's not catastrophic.



CSU Chancellor Timothy White speaks to the CSUMB community during an open forum Oct. 7.

Estella Porras/Otter Realm

What I'm trying to do is create a coherent sustainable financial plan, so there is not these overnight massive increases or overnight massive decreases in faculty or staff, and then nobody has classes.

So, I think that is where we are on tuition. I wouldn't want to say it's going to happen, but I would say it has a likelihood in that 2017-18 year.

Actually, we will be talking to student leadership about this. I've already had a conversation with CSSA [California State Student Association] on several occasions. I want to have an honest conversation, if we don't have a tuition increase, what won't we be able to do?

Despite it being difficult, is it better to pay a few bucks more and have all the communications

classes and physics classes? Or is it better to pay a few bucks less, and not have the classes, the longer it is going to take you to get your degree.

The longer it takes you to get your degree, that is a huge cost, both to stay in school an extra year, and you are not in the work

Chancellor continues on page 3

CSUMB Colleges

Hispanic Heritage Month celebrations

By **Andres Hernandez**

On Wednesday, Sept. 30 the College of Health Sciences and Human Services (CHSHS) presented Latinas Making a Difference in the Health of California's Underserved. More than 100 people attended the event that featured Zoila Escobar and Dr. Lourdes Baezconde-Garbanati.

CHSHS called upon these women to share their stories and highlight their accomplishments and work in the field of health sciences and human services. The pair also spoke with students about different ways in which to work in this highly collaborative field.

Escobar spoke about the importance of her work with Alta Med. Alta Med is the nation's

largest independent health center which has been serving Los Angeles and Orange counties for more than four decades. Escobar started her career doing outreach work with Alta Med at the age of 16. During her time with Alta Med she moved up to and is currently serving as the Senior Vice President of Strategic Development and Community Support.

Escobar went in depth with her descriptions of the systems she uses to organize her company's operations. She related her systems to grades and time management for students. She suggested students find a mentor who will help one understand who they are, what is lacking and what the future holds.

"You have to have a place to

evaluate. A mentor will help you do that. Take the feedback. Don't get defensive. Hear it," said Escobar emphasizing the importance of mentorship and becoming a mentee.

Although Escobar is immersed in the healthcare industry, she made it clear that students from many fields have the opportunity to contribute to the field. The required components of a successful and well rounded healthcare network, according to Escobar's graphics, includes individuals from fields such as marketing, psychology, social sciences, biology, kinesiology and many more. The healthcare industry is a very broad-reaching field to find work in.

Bringing the conversation back to celebrating Hispanic heritage, Escobar stressed the importance of understanding one's clientele; most importantly understanding their needs and wants. The only way to do so is to understand their background. This includes their culture and language.

"The importance of cultural interpretation is much more important than the actual words that we use," said Escobar. "We need to understand where we are in the cultural spectrum in terms of cultural competency."

Baezconde-Garbanati, a University of Southern California re-

searcher and professor, explained the importance of understanding a target market, as Escobar had mentioned, and being able to reach that group effectively.

Baezconde-Garbanati is responsible for spearheading the Es Tiempo campaign which used "entertainment education," as she put it, to promote cervical cancer screening and the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine. This employed elements of entertainment to educate people through creative avenues which included graphic art and multimedia outlets.

"Es Tiempo has been one of the most visually stunning campaigns which is designed around the purple bloom of the Jacaranda tree, which is a tree that's common in Los Angeles, Mexico, and various parts of Central America," said Baezconde-Garbanati.

The objective is to help women associate the bloom of this tree, which occurs between April and June, with getting screened for cervical cancer and HPV annually.

Baezconde-Garbanati showed the short film *The Tamale Lesson*, for which she conducted research, as an example of how to efficiently reach a target market. The film encourages Latinas to undergo HPV screenings as a preventative measure through



Dr. Lourdes Baezconde-Garbanati



Zoila Escobar Andres Hernandez/Otter Realm

Andres Hernandez/Otter Realm

the use of a narrative.

The film is set in the kitchen of a Mexican-American family. Here the women of the family are making tamales and are enthralled in conversation. The conversation carries on and in the end the women come to understand that being tested for HPV

is neither painful nor degrading.

The speakers demonstrated the passion they have for serving the people of southern California, as well as what is possible for Latino/a students to make careers out of service to others. Their stories continue to prove: It's not where you start, it's where you finish.

Majoring in Math as easy as π

By **Achelle Reynoso**

Have you ever wondered what it is like to be a math major at California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB)?

"CSUMB is, in my humble opinion, one of the best places to be a math major," said Kimberlee Margosian Mathematics and Statistics professor. "The staff and faculty in the department are helpful and caring towards the math majors. If you want to succeed and show a good effort, they will help you get there."

Margosian feels as long as you love math, there are few negatives to being a math major. Overall, it adds up to a positive

experience.

"Every employer loves a math major! Even if it is not a math skills heavy profession, employers want people who excel in math because it takes perseverance and problem solving skills," said Margosian.

"Being a math major means hours upon hours of studying, and sometimes using the five pieces of paper to answer one problem," said Whitney Chadwick, CSUMB math major.

Chadwick hopes to use her math degree to teach others. "I really want to make a difference in other people's lives in a big way. I like the foundation of math, for example, I want to be able to show people why every

time you multiply a number by two that the product is an even number."

Chadwick is on track to graduate in the 2016 spring semester and plans to continue at CSUMB in pursuit of her teaching credentials.

Teaching is not the only career you can get with a math degree.

Judith Canner, Mathematics and Statistics professor said jobs such as economist, geographer/cartographer and business analyst are just a fraction of the things you can do with a degree in math.

"Many of the top/highest paying jobs all require mathematics in some form," said Canner. "People respect you for majoring in mathematics."

A day in the life of a math major equates to hard work, but with effort and dedication the rewards can be exponential.



Whitney Chadwick, Business and Math major, Senior

Achelle Reynoso/Otter Realm

College of Business adds major and reviews programs

By **Aubrie Layne**

The College of Business has a new major - a Bachelor of Science in Sustainable Hospitality Management, which is the first of its kind in the world said Dr. Shyam Kamath, dean of the College.

This new major focuses on "responsible business" and on people, ethics, equity, planet and profit, something California State University, Monterey Bay

officials believe is important.

"Students gain hands-on knowledge and skills needed to pursue careers in hospitality, including hotels, restaurants, resorts, festivals and events, ecotourism, attractions, and eco-recreation with a focus on 'green' jobs in business and industry," according to the College of Business website.

"We are also currently doing

a program review of the BSBA [Bachelor of Science in Business Administration] program so as to improve its course offerings, content and outcomes for student success. Similarly, we completed a program review of the EMBA [Executive Master's in Business Administration] program last year and are currently implementing the changes suggested to enable this market leading program to be even more innovative," said Kamath.

There are currently six concentrations in the BSBA major: accounting, agribusiness, entrepreneurship, information systems, management and international business and marketing.

College of Education offers Multiple Subject Teacher Credential program

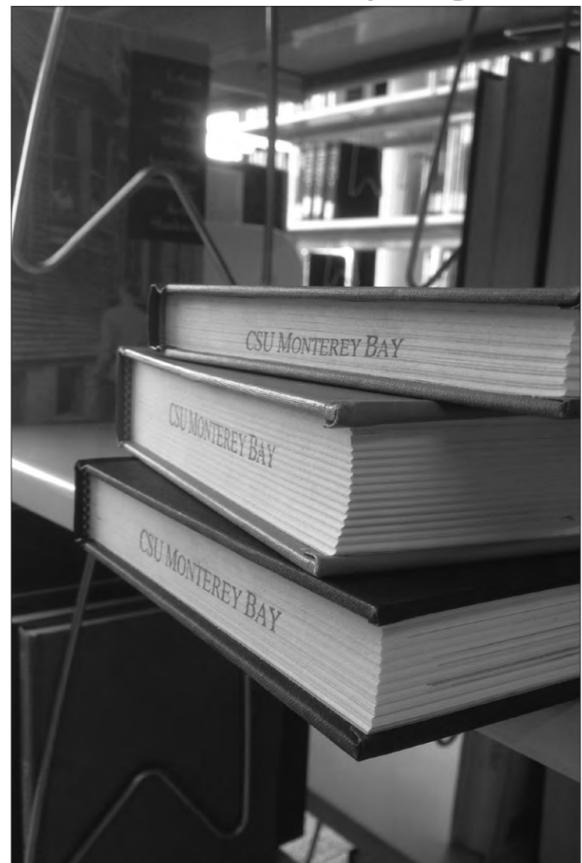
By **Sarah Ontiveros**

California State University, Monterey Bay's College of Education offers a Multiple Subject Teaching Credential program for future elementary school educators.

The mission of the program is to prepare teachers who are committed to bringing out the success in all students. "Credential candidates who participate in our elementary education, or multiple subjects teaching credential program will experience a rigorous program that is clinically-based and exposes our candidates with multiple opportunities to engage students in real world environments," said Dr. Jose Luis Alvarado, dean of the College of Education.

The program includes the English Learner Authorization, which allows the holder to teach school-age students from non-English backgrounds who are limited in English proficiency, according to the College's website.

There are three pathways through the program. For more details on the program visit the College's website.





Chancellor White talks with Otter Realm reporter Achelle Reynoso.

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force. You aren't earning an income. So if you put those two together, adding a year because courses aren't available is probably in the \$40,000 to \$50,000 cost versus a \$200 tuition increase.

Q: What is the CSU doing to improve six-year graduation rates?

White: In the graduation rates, we have created a program called 'Graduation 2025' and the way those numbers were calculated is the staff went in and worked with each campus. They looked at their current numbers for the four year, six year and eight year rates and what you can see, based on predictors, you can see what happens to students from the first to second and the second to third years, etc.

[We] created these campus specific algorithms that are predictive of the future and based on the success of today and yesterday. So, rather than homogenizing the whole system, we have individualized it.

Some campuses have low numbers, maybe have a really low student population, maybe a new campus, may have been a mistake in admission five years ago bringing in a bunch of students that just weren't up to the task, and so it lowers your rates, etc. But we have individualized those created stretch goals for each campus and when you glue it all together, we are going to raise our four year rates and our six year rates.

We are going to get close to 60 percent on the six year rate by 2025. We are going to produce probably another 100,000 graduates, than we otherwise would by this graduation initiative. The important thing is there was an interaction with each campus, and then an agreement, if you will, saying these are our stretch targets, and we are all going to work day and night to succeed at that.

Then we can see what interventions are necessary. That is

where I really want the President to make the decision, because for some communities, it means doing much more in the summer between a student's high school completion and the first day of classes in the fall. That means there is probably a weak K-12 system.

For other places it means, we don't need to do that summer rich program, but when a student gets there in their first year, you need to have ten more academic advisors, so the wait time in one hour instead of one week. If we do that we know we are going to keep students and get them on the right track.

So, President Ochoa, and all the other Presidents, are given clarity on the goal, but very loose on the means to get there. To me that is the way to get a good system to work, because the way President Ochoa has to go about it, might be different than San Diego State.

If I said: 'I know all, and you are all going to do it this way,' then we are not going to make progress. I believe in leading by clarity on the goals, and loose on means. However, still hold them accountable. Every year we sit down and discuss [how each school is doing].

Q: What do you see as the CSU's greatest challenge and greatest potential?

White: I think the greatest challenge is going to be resources, because escalation of costs and demand. The number of college qualified high school graduates is going up across the state. We have a demand and a need going forward, and resources that are not yet in place to meet that.

I think the biggest opportunity is an educated California and with that all the benefits for people who have that degree, but also for the people who are around that person.

Editor's note: For the complete interview transcript visit: otterrealm.com.



Academic Senate members vote on OtterMedia/LPFM resolution on Oct. 12.

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non-binding, according to Pat Tinsley-McGill, Senate president. She also noted that the resolution had no one listed in the forwarding section, which means it will not be sent to anyone or any office; it will just go into the Academic Senate minutes.

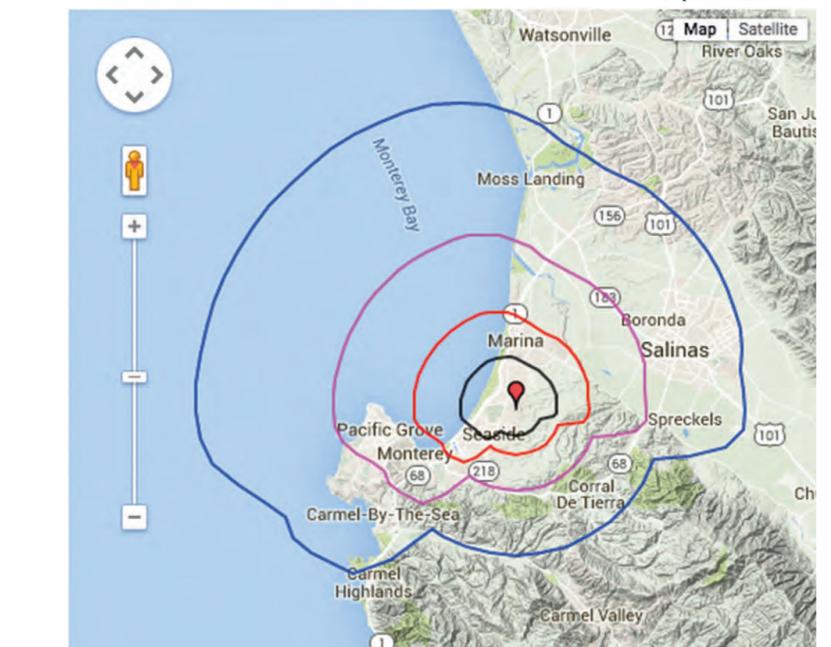
This leaves the real purpose of the resolution unknown and does not resolve any issue related to OtterMedia or a LPFM station, which is a muddled topic.

More on LPFM

Levinson was given the go-ahead by the then Provost Julio Blanco and President Eduardo Ochoa in 2014 to apply for an LPFM license from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). The application was approved and a license granted on Nov. 4 of that year. The station call letters would be KBMB-LP and it would have a limited broadcast range.

"There are nine CSUs that have some form of 'radio' distribution, including CSUMB," said Levinson. "Three of those, including CSUMB so far, are online only. The other six are Full Power broadcast stations. CSUMB would be the first LPFM."

Based on a coverage map on the FCC website City and Local range would include the CSUMB campus and the City of Seaside. Marginal coverage would get the cities of Marina and Monterey, with Fringe coverage reaching Pacific Grove, Carmel and Salinas. About half of the coverage area would be over the waters of the Monterey Bay. It should be noted though, that the coverage map has the antenna in Seaside, not on CSUMB's campus.



Advanced coverage map of potential LPFM station's range from FCC website.



"Having a true broadcast radio station would help us reach out to and inform the local communities," wrote Levinson in an email to Academic Senators asking for their support of the resolution.

Levinson has continued to state that he thinks OtterMedia and the LPFM station are inseparable issues, but not everyone agrees with him.

"The LPFM is a completely separate issue from OtterMedia," said Professor Enid Ryce, chair of Cinematic Arts and Technology in a September email. "Whether the administration will invest the money in the LPFM

May 2016 and an antenna has to be in place before then.

However, it should be noted that CSUMB has not yet asked the FCC for an extension. AS is considering this option. This could take off some of the pressure to make a quick decision on the LPFM and possibly give time to conduct a feasibility study, which has not yet been done.

OtterMedia transition update

AS has come up with an OtterMedia transition team, which consists of three former student disc jockeys (DJs)/managers and

Those selected would be a mix of those with prior experience in OtterMedia and those with no experience. The release date for applications have not yet been determined.

"We plan on having DJs attend an orientation for OtterMedia, which will likely happen on a Saturday," said Richardson.

Having a show on OtterMedia under AS leadership will be similar to when it was a course. Students with a show have full responsibility for their behavior while at the Bomb Shelter (Surf Hall), where the shows take place. This includes making your

Marina purchases Preston Park for \$35 million

Marina apartments will now support local economy

By Joey Bennett

The City of Marina just purchased the affordable housing property known as Preston Park from Fort Ord Reuse Authority (FORA) for \$35 million.

Preston Park housing is similar to East Campus in that it was once housing for the U.S. military, and it has a very familiar architectural structure for those who have visited or lived in East Campus apartments. Located in Marina at the intersection of Imjin Parkway and Reservation Road, Preston Park is a common

location for students at California State University, Monterey Bay to live.

Preston Park housing has been a housing option previously, however now it is going to be legally recognized as a part of the City of Marina, and not a separate portion of FORA's land. This means that the Preston Park Apartments will now allow for "economic investment back into our community," according to Layne Long, Marina city manager.

The Preston Park Apartments are low income housing (section 8), with 98 percent of the 352 units currently occupied. However, if you are interested in applying for housing it is best to do so before you are in actual need of a place to live. Preston Park is managed by Alliance Residential which also maintains the East Campus residential housing. Alliance Residential can be contacted at (888) 249-7993.

"The FM radio station project is an entirely different matter that is being addressed with the Academic Senate and other university officials."

antennae or not, OtterMedia will start podcasting as soon as possible. It is misinformed to connect the fate of OtterMedia to the LPFM tower. It is reasonable for the students to review the cost of the tower before spending student dollars on it. And, I'm betting it would have been wise to have a reasonable plan mapped out for where the FCC-compliant content for the LPFM would be coming from. But no one has drafted such a plan."

This view was shared by the Academic Senate committees tasked with reviewing the resolution.

Joanna Iwata, Associated Students senior coordinator of Governance and Operations concurred with Ryce's position: "The FM radio station project is an entirely different matter that is being addressed with the Academic Senate and other university officials."

Some question why Levinson is pushing to link the two issues and why he proposed the Senate resolution. He says it is because the FCC license will expire in

three AS representatives, which includes Richardson. From the meetings the team has had, they are working on getting the logistics of OtterMedia down; as well as creating job descriptions for future applicants.

"We are developing a structure of [job] positions for OtterMedia," said Richardson.

These job titles include Station Manager and Music Manager, both of which were offered when OtterMedia was a class. These would be the paid positions. The student DJs would not be paid and would be considered volunteers for OtterMedia.

Students who were enrolled in the course were guaranteed a show, whether they would do it as a pair or individually. There were student DJ's who were not in the class who got a show because they were able to get in contact with Levinson when a spot was available.

AS plans to offer open applications so all CSUMB students can apply for a show. There will be eligibility requirements, which are still being developed.

committed showtimes, following on-air regulations and attending the tentative orientation.

As a course, OtterMedia ran eight shows a day Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 a.m. with a cap of 40 shows a week; AS plans on following that model. It is possible that a substitution list could be created for those not originally chosen for a show slot. The number of people on that list has yet to be determined.

OtterMedia will return to on-line streaming after Fall Break. All of the course materials are now in the possession of AS, courtesy of Levinson, and those with any other information regarding OtterMedia are encouraged to contact Richardson.

Editor's note: D'Quan Stewart has been an OtterMedia DJ for three semesters and now is a member of the AS OtterMedia Transition Team.

OTTER REALM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, MONTEREY BAY

The Otter Realm is a student publication produced by the HCOM 387 and HCOM 389 classes. Opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of the Otter Realm, CSUMB administration, faculty or staff.

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 and reserves the right to edit for libel, space or clarity.

Advertising revenue supports Otter Realm publications and events. Letters to the Editor should include first and last name and should be less than 300 words, submitted via email. The Otter Realm will not publish anonymous letters and reserves the right to reject any Letter to the Editor for any reason.

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Defense spending high while other branches suffer



By Colin Bockman

Though the war in Iraq has come to an end and the United States' involvement in the War on Terror has lessened a great deal, our country is still projected to spend \$495.6 billion on defense, according to the National Defense Budget Estimates for Fiscal Year 2015. This means about half of the Federal Discretionary Budget is spent on the Department of Defense (DOD).

We spend as much on defense as China, Russia, Saudi Arabia, France, the UK, Germany, Japan, India and South Korea do combined. After the attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, our defense budget increased by roughly 50 percent.

This disproportionate amount of defense spending means that other areas such as education, Medicare, health care, housing, community improvement, energy and environment receive much less from federal discretionary spending. The federal agencies regulating the first three of these expenditures range from \$63 to \$70 billion each (6 percent each of the total budget), while the Department of Energy and Environment receives \$29.1 billion (3 percent).

If the U.S. government was to cut defense spending by just 10 percent, nearly \$50 billion could be put to use for other government expenditures.

People might argue that a bigger defense budget keeps the country safer and helps maintain the status as a world superpower. This goes without question considering the U.S. spends as much as the nine countries that round out the top 10 defense spenders combined. With a big defense budget, it also means that technological advances created by the military are at times manufactured for the public as well; a vast list includes GPS, penicillin, duct tape, the microwave oven, freeze drying, nylon, canned food, Jeep automobiles, wristwatches and drones. Other benefits of a big military include employment and from that,

educational opportunities. War feeds the U.S. economy.

Yet, there are still millions of hungry mouths to be fed. Improved education, nutrition and employment programs could help these people far more than increased defense spending. Perhaps we should strive to fix these problems in our own communities before we act as world police. This could give other countries fewer reasons to spend so much on defense.

Our leaders – the President, Congress, and the Military – need to work together to cut our enormous defense budget. Regardless of which politicians it might affect, the focus must be on the bigger picture of helping our country.

Christianity and equality

Shedding light on our differences



By Katie Kishi

On June 26 the United States Supreme Court ruled that same-sex couples are guaranteed the right to marry. On July 1, after being denied marriage licenses four couples filed a lawsuit against Kim Davis, county clerk in Rowan County, Kentucky.

Her reason for refusing to sign the licenses was that it: "violated a central teaching of Scripture and of Jesus Himself regarding marriage," since two of the couples were of the same sex. Since then, Christians sharing this belief about marriage have taken a beating from supporters of same-sex marriage.

LGBTQ+ supporters say equal rights for all. I say if they can have equality, I should have religious liberty.

Who is right? Can Christianity and equality coexist? Though there is not a direct answer to this question, there can be a proper way to go about it, regardless of what we believe.

I think about what I would have done if I was in Davis' position. Would I have gone against my beliefs about marriage in order to obey the law giving equal rights to all couples? Or, would I have stood up for what I believe is the ultimate law, the Bible? If it would glorify Christ, I would choose the latter. Davis chose the Bible over U.S. law and this put her in jail.

The Bible states in Leviticus 18:22: "Do not practice homosexuality, having sex with another man as with a woman. It is a detestable sin." Again, in 1 Corinthians 6 it states: "Those who indulge in sexual sin, or worship idols, or commit adultery, or are male prostitutes, or practice homosexuality, or are thieves, or greedy people, or drunkards, or are abusive, or cheat people – none of these will inherit the Kingdom of God."

There are many other sins that ev-

eryone commits on a daily basis and one is not greater than another. Lying or stealing are sins just as practicing homosexuality is, and all are equally detestable by God, as well as forgivable, according to the Bible.

There are Christians who support same-sex marriage. Some people, Christians included, would interpret these verses differently or feel these laws are outdated, especially in our modern society.

I've heard things like: "I thought Christians are supposed to treat everyone equally," and "Christians believe in a God who loves everyone so they should do the same." These statements are true, but as a Christian, it's hard for me to distinguish the fine line between equality and the law of God, not just with marriage, but with anything else being argued today.

We can coexist with those who do

not share our beliefs. It is a Christian's duty to respect others' beliefs and be examples of Jesus. Christians are not meant to deal with these types of situations by arguing or forcing our beliefs on others.

As a Christian, my ultimate goal is to share His love with those with opposing beliefs so that they might come to know Him. Loving others is one of the most important commands Jesus gives. Christians can love those with whom we disagree while maintaining our beliefs.

All of us, regardless of beliefs, must adjust to the events of today. Some are able to do this easier than others, if they agree with the laws. Davis had to sacrifice in order to remain faithful to what she believed. We all have beliefs that we would never want to compromise, and sometimes we just have to choose the option that we want to

represent the most.

Before attacking a particular group of people, we need to think about the firm beliefs we hold that we would never want to give up, and be content with the fact that our differences give us opportunities to grow.

In our constantly changing society, Christians can keep up with today's events while being loyal to God's laws. Kevin Neuner, a pastor, stated in a blog post: "If Christianity does not engage respectfully and informally in the 21st century, we will neither retain nor create new disciples of Jesus."

Questions of equal rights in the present age can be viewed as opportunities to grow and search for answers. In encountering diversity, Christians have opportunities to be faithful to God's law by loving people despite circumstances.

Get a clue, know your news!



Students typically are unaware of national and local news despite 24-hour access through mobile technology. Stay up to date and read the *Otter Realm*.

Banks takes the helm at UROC

By Caroline Carroll

“Undergraduate research is the perfect vehicle for students going on to graduate school, or to any student willing to build cultural capital in a scholarly setting,” said Dr. John Banks the new director of California State University, Monterey Bay’s (CSUMB) Undergraduate Research Opportunities Center (UROC).

UROC engages students in undergraduate research by facilitating mentored research experiences; rigorous, authentic and calibrated scholarly activities; and the development of social capital.

Banks comes to CSUMB from the University of Washington (UW) Tacoma campus. He is a quantitative ecologist by training and was a faculty member at the UW Tacoma for the last 15 years. He was first trained as a mathematician and later moved into field ecology as he taught undergraduate courses in ecology, restoration, biology and all the basic life sciences and entomology.

While teaching and doing research in agricultural settings, his focus was reducing reliance on pesticides by means of biological and cultural control. He did field research in Washington state, Costa Rica and east Africa particularly with sustainable coffee systems.

Banks said he is excited to be here because: the “CSUMB com-

munity is surrounded by a lot of agriculture and there is potential for students and faculty getting involved in research across all disciplinary units”. He has already started discussing plans with the Dean of the College of Health Sciences and Human Services about putting together a program that would meld public health and social justice issues with environmental issues in agricultural health.

UROC Scholars program

The UROC Scholars program prepares students for intense undergraduate research experiences and plants the seed for students professional and academic research goals. UROC Scholars enroll in four courses that are to be completed during their last two years of undergraduate studies. Students gather information, present and publish their research.

UROC Scholars are paired with faculty research mentors who work with the students to develop a line of research, as well as build scholarly social capital. UROC Scholars also participate in a summer research experience that can be done near the CSUMB campus or with partner organizations across the United States.

The UROC Scholars program is a two year commitment. Students must maintain a minimum

3.0 grade point average (GPA). Students who do not currently have a mentor picked out for their undergraduate research are still encouraged to apply.

Applications for the UROC Scholars program are currently available and are due Nov. 2 by 5 p.m. via the UROC website. Consultations are available for students inquiring about the process. Students are encouraged to stop by the UROC office in the Tanimura & Antle Family Memorial Library, second floor, suite 2150.

UROC Researchers program

The UROC Researchers program was developed to be an intentionally flexible program that can support students at various stages in their academic trajectory. The Researchers program is a less-structured pathway to undergraduate research opportunities, than the Scholars program.

Students need to have a minimum 2.75 GPA to participate in this program. A mentor is required for this program as well.

The UROC Researchers program has a rolling application and are reviewed on the 15 of each month. UROC Researchers are also required to attend two UROC workshops per semester.



Dr. John Banks

Letter from AS President: Emma Richardson



Hello Otters,

Midterms are upon us: keep your heads up and remember that Fall Break is just around the corner! Your Associated Students (AS) hope that your semester has been excellent thus far and that you are staying happy and healthy.

There are a few events that AS and other student organizations are bringing to you shortly.

Otter Eco Expo, on Oct. 21 from 12 to 3 p.m., is an event that showcases the importance of the environment in celebration of Camps Sustainability Day.

Homecoming weekend will take place Oct. 23 through Oct. 25. This is a time to welcome back California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) alumni and celebrate your Otter athletes!

There is another Open Forum that will take place at 5 p.m. on Oct. 29 in the Student Center. This is an opportunity for students to express any grievances they have with the university

so AS officers can advocate for change on behalf of students.

Thank you to all who have attended our events and other student groups’ events this semester!

AS also offers scholarships to students. The AS Legacy Scholarship application is available in the AS Office (Room 125 of the Student Center) or online at csumb.edu/as. You can receive \$1,000 or more if you are a recipient of the Legacy Scholarship!

In terms of advocacy, one of the key efforts AS is working on is ensuring that communication takes place between administrators and students. We are working on establishing communication venues that cater to the needs of the many different students at CSUMB.

More frequent, relevant information is something that can benefit all students! As we develop and utilize more creative communication outlets we will surely keep you all informed.

There is other news to report from different areas on campus. There are 7,101 students en-

rolled at CSUMB, according to Oct. 5 campus census data. This is a milestone for the campus and you all have been part of expanding this university!

Among the new campus initiatives that are being implemented, as we strive to serve the many students at CSUMB, are counseling services for veterans. Being implemented in the spring semester, these counseling services will aim to ensure a healthy transition into the University for the many veterans who attend CSUMB.

Thank you all for reading the Otter Realm! Your involvement on this campus is inspiring. Be sure to reach out to your Associated Students if you ever find yourself in need. We are here to advocate for you and to ensure that your experience at CSUMB is as positive as it can be. If you have questions or concerns please email aspresident@csumb.edu.

Much love!
Emma Richardson
AS President

CSUMB Annual Crime and Fire Safety Report



Mandated report now available online

By Sophie Snow

The three most common crimes committed at California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) in 2014 were: stalking, 12 reports, sex offenses, 11 reports and burglary, 10 reports. This data comes from the Annual Crime and Fire Safety Report, which was released on Oct. 1.

On main campus there were two reported cases each of robbery, aggravated assault, motor vehicle theft and dating violence; there was one report of domestic violence for 2014.

As for residential housing, the 2014 data indicate there were nine reports of sex offenses, one report of aggravated assault, four accounts of burglary, one report of dating violence and two accounts of stalking.

Murder non-negligent, negligent manslaughter, robbery, motor vehicle theft, arson, and dating violence, had zero record-

ed accounts for main campus and residential housing.

The report is made available under the Clery Compliance Act enforced by the United States Department of Education.

“The report is essentially a current crime security policy as well as crime statistical data for the three previous calendar years and it covers everything from law enforcement authority, to working relationships with law enforcement to crime prevention programs and descriptions up to disciplinary procedures and rights for reporting incidents of domestic violence, violence, sexual assault and stalking as well as the statistical data itself,” said Shanieka S. Jones, CSUMB Crime Prevention and Clery Compliance specialist.

“Some institutions may also combine the annual security report with their fire safety report, which would be called the Annual Fire and Safety Report,” said Jones. “Fire policies for on

campus residential housing as well as a description of the fire safety systems within each of the facilities. Fire statistics that have occurred three previous consecutive calendar year on campus residential housing.”

This data is gathered from four different geographical areas that include crimes committed on campus, residence halls, public property and university owned property that is not located on campus.

The Annual Crime and Fire Safety Report of 2015 includes the previous three calendar years: 2012, 2013 and 2014. The Fire Security Report for 2014 accounts for no recorded causes of fires, injuries, deaths, property damage or total number of fires.

The Annual Crime and Fire Safety Report is now available for public viewing on the CSUMB University Police Department website at csumb.edu/clery.

INFORMING the uninformed



Students filling out surveys on National News Engagement Day on Oct. 6.

Georgette Ward/Otter Realm



Georgette Ward/Otter Realm

By Heather Audyski

Given our society's addiction to mobile technology, accessing current news is easier than ever. However, survey after survey finds that most people are quite unaware of what is happening around them.

The *Otter Realm* took to the Main Quad to find out just how informed California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) students are about current news.

Students were surveyed as part of National News Engagement Day on Oct. 6. The results were not surprising, but rather disappointing.

Students ranging in age from

18 to 26 and from freshmen to graduate students took part. The highest percentage of students questioned were in their third year at CSUMB, 30 percent of those surveyed.

Who are the current front runners for President?

This was the question answered correctly by almost all of the students, 97 percent. The most popular answers were Donald Trump, Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders.

How many Syrian refugees has Obama planned to give asylum to in 2016?

The answers to this question ranged from: "I don't know," to 10 refugees, to 1,000 and up to 7 million refugees. The correct answer is 10,000 refugees.

What is the mandatory water reduction percentage set by California Governor Jerry Brown?

This question seemed appropriate to ask and easy to answer due to California's ongoing se-

"I am totally unaware, it's very sad"

vere drought and nation-wide news coverage about the issue. However, most students had no idea what the answer was. For the few who did answer, only one third-year student answered it correctly. The

correct answer is 25 percent.

What do you think about Bernie Sanders five year jail sentence regarding the distribution of prohibited weapons?

This hoax question was de-

signed to see if students would know when they were being fooled with false news. Sites such as The Onion and The Daily Currant frequently create an Internet buzz by getting people from around the world to believe

their false stories. Given that most of the students demonstrated some level of awareness related to Presidential candidates, it was surprising that only one student knew this was false.

One fourth-year student scored zero correct out of the ten questions answered. She wrote on her survey: "[I am] totally unaware, it's very sad." The average score of all students was 32 percent correct answers.

From the results of the questionnaire it's clear that students at CSUMB could be more informed with what is happening in the news locally and around the world.

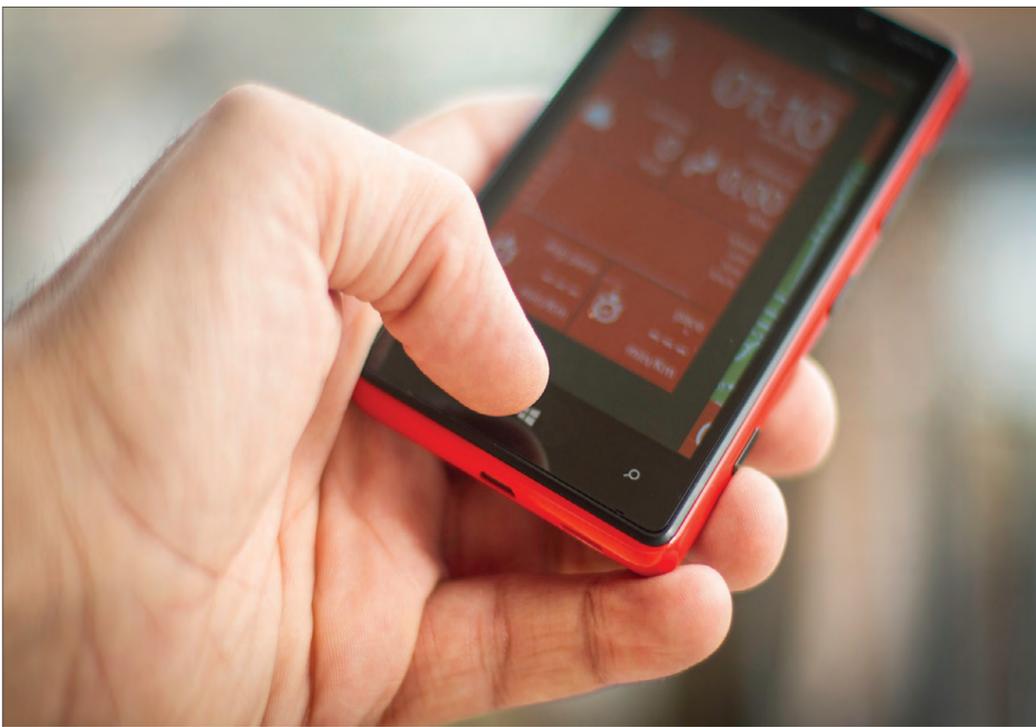
Smart phones are great devices for students to catch up on the

news while waiting for their coffee or for a class to start. Applications from the app store can be downloaded for instant access to many news sites such as CNN Breaking US & World News, Yahoo! News, Sports & More, NBC News and NYTimes - Latest News.

Students who prefer non traditional news outlets could even turn to YouTube to keep updated on the latest events. Even Snapchat offers a "discover" feature which gives users access to current news.

Or, better yet - read the *Otter Realm*.

3 Apps every college student needs



Lori Mackey
Financial Literacy Advisor

Money is not abundant in college life, I'm sure there is more going out than coming in. Even if funds are scarce, it seems impossible to turn down a night out with friends.

So what do you do? Simple, save money in other areas.

First, you must always know how much you have at any moment. Mint is an

app designed to help you do this. It's like having a money manager in your pocket.

It puts your checking, savings, credit cards and investing accounts in one place. Mint tracks your spending and will create a budget so you know what you have at all times.

It will send you customized tips on reducing fees and saving money. The up-

Save money with the tap of a finger

dated version provides a weekly summary page and shows where you spend the most.

Next, try to save every chance you can. Yowza, is a mobile coupon app and promotes how "saving money has never been easier." The app locates local business deals, coupons and events. You can still go to the places you love while spending less.

Finally, the best way to save money is not paying for all your friends! Venmo, owned by PayPal, allows you to instantly transfer money.

We all have those friends who forget their wallets, but they will always have their phones, no more excuses. Venmo allows you to send

and receive money securely between friends

It works by connecting to your debit card. Be mindful, if you use a credit card you will be charged a 3 percent fee.

You probably don't need another app on your phone, but these tools will help you manage money now and into the future. Believe it or not making more money will not solve money problems.

If you can't manage \$10 you will have a hard time managing \$100. Learn to manage small amounts and account for every penny, that's how you create wealth not vice versa.

Scholarship opportunities



Unplug Scholarship

The Unplug team is pleased to launch its Scholarship for Students essay contest for students all around the world. Since Unplug cares about original writing and battles against plagiarism, it gives away a \$2,000 scholarship to the student whose essay is the most creative.

The competition began on Sept. 1 and lasts until March 1, 2016. Any essays sent late won't be reviewed by the committee. Unplug will announce the winner's name on March 9, 2016.

Participants should be current students who are 18 years old and older. Essays are sent together with the application form that can be found on the scholarship page.

Requirements for the essay: Essays should be written in English, consist of no more than 500 words, be related to the plagiarism problem and be written by the applicant. Students can choose any of the topics on the scholarship page or suggest their own topics. The essay style is up to the author to choose.

The committee consists of the Unplug team and independent professionals in the education field who will select the best essays. All the best entries will be found on the Unplug blog. Please go to the scholarship page to learn more details about the contest.

Unplug is an online tool that has developed a text analysis algorithm to detect similarities between written materials.

United By Music scholarship

Attention Dream Act students: there's a scholarship opportunity for you. Non-profit organization, United By Music is focusing on DREAM Act students/Dreamers by gifting four scholarships on their second annual fundraising event to support the community.

The scholarships will be given out on Nov. 6 and aim to help the students to start and/or to continue their higher education. The scholarship deadline is right around the corner - Oct. 19, so if you are a Dreamer and in need of the extra economic help for education, apply as soon as possible at www.UnidosPorLaMusica.org.

The fundraising event where the recipients will be announced and where members can donate and participate in will take place on Nov. 6 at Los Globos in Los Angeles with special guests Latin stars Sie7e, Christian Chavez (RBD), San Diego's pop rock band Los Hollywood and Miami's indie rock band Minimal.

For more information on both the scholarship and ways to donate or participate in the event, visit www.UnidosPorLaMusica.org. United by Music (Unidos Por La Musica) was founded in 2011 with "the objective of being able to continue to support our students in the community to achieve their dreams through higher education, especially for low-income students," said Oscar Ayon, CEO.

PEOPLE ON CAMPUS

California State University, Monterey Bay's (CSUMB) annual Open House for potential students was Oct. 10. Visitors were able to learn more about CSUMB majors, tour residence halls, meet Monte Rey and start their admissions applications.

Students were asked why they are considering CSUMB.



ALEEZA ADAMS
INCOMING FRESHMAN

"I just love the area. There are a lot of majors offered that interest me, which is good since I am undecided."



ERIKA PEREZ
JUNIOR TRANSFER

"It is close to the beach and close to home."



REBECCA RAMIREZ
INCOMING FRESHMAN

"It is close to home. I like the weather and the campus. I am happy it offers a Kinesiology major."



THERESA VOSS
JUNIOR TRANSFER

"It is close to San Jose and I like the small town feel of it."



DAELIN WOFFORD
INCOMING FRESHMAN

"I like the location and I heard it had pretty good communications majors."

Bioreactor project explores ways to remove nitrates from runoff



Sharkdon shows the different between the bio ball and porous ceramic.

Zena McCartney/Otter Realm

By Zena McCartney

White tents, dark green water tanks, PVC pipes and gravel surround an open area near the California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) Watershed Institute building. This is where students and faculty have been creating new ways to safely remove nitrates from the water, for agricultural purposes.

is lined with plastics, filled with wood chips and then covered back up. Then there is the out flow from your field that goes through the bioreactor and out comes clean water."

How does a farmer do this on a small, affordable and focused scale? That is when the Science and Environmental Policy (SEP)

them feed on nitrates in the water. Then the bacteria we do not want goes away and you're left with a very high concentrate of desirable bacteria. De-nitrification is the scientific term for it. We're developing a new kind of bioreactor."

"It is a biological machine we are creating, using Mother Na-

Skardon added: "If we can colonize these bio balls with bacteria, we can dramatically increase the bacteria per unit volume, which results in rapidly removing nitrate from the water, reducing the cost for agricultural farmers. Our goal is by shrinking the size of the reactor, then all of a sudden we do not have to

"It is a biological machine we are creating, using Mother Nature to do things we as humans can do but not as simply as these little micro balls can"

This area is designated for the bioreactor experiment; a way to safely remove bacteria, such as nitrogen in runoff water from agriculture fields.

Student Hunter Burnham explains the method used by farmers: "A traditional bioreactor is a trench dug in the ground that

division decided to step in and research.

John Skardon, SEP adjunct faculty member, explains: "We're taking natural occurring bacteria that already exists in the watershed and selecting them out from everything we do not want; yeast, E. coli, etc. and having

ture to do things we as humans can do but not as simply as these little micro balls can," said John Silveus, SEP lecturer.

Burnham, has been studying "bio balls" which centralize the bacteria in the water more than the traditional wood chips used in a bioreactor, said Skardon.

wait as long. It's smaller, above ground and easier to maintain."

Skardon was eager to note: "We have another grant for this project coming in October. Arlene [Haffa] and John Silveus have really made the team effort, we could not do it without their help and the students."

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Paws and take a look

SPCA offers pets of all kinds

By Samantha Gray

The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) is a widely known nonprofit where animals that are malnourished or subjected to cruelty get the chance to find a loving home. They are nursed back to health, given the proper vaccinations and treatments, and given a temporary home at the adoption center or local animal shelter.

The Monterey County adoption center, located at 1002 Monterey-Salinas Highway in Salinas, holds all kinds of animals including: cats, dogs, guinea pigs, horses, chicken, rabbits, donkeys, pot-belly pigs and more.

When adopting pets they are spayed or neutered, vaccinated, have a microchip identification, a health evaluation and for dogs, behavior evaluations. The SPCA takes into great consideration what is best for the animals and making sure they get placed in safe, nurturing homes.

The adoption process itself is simple and time efficient. Anyone looking for a critter goes in, forms a bond with one of the

animals, introduces other pets from home if necessary to make sure they are compatible, fills out paperwork and goes home with their new pet!

People adopting pets must also pay a fee to offset microchips, surgical and healthcare costs. Fees for small animals can range from \$15 to \$290. Fees for exotic and outdoor farm animals may be more.

The SPCA holds a variety of events, such as their upcoming Pet Telethon in January to raise money. Their monthly visits to

the community include bringing animals to a public park and giving those who can't make it to the shelter an opportunity to meet the animals. The next event is at Diggity Dog in Carmel on Nov. 3.

Students are encouraged to research rules for owning a pet where they live before they begin any adoption paperwork. You also should consider the time and cost associated with properly caring for a pet before making this serious commitment.



Liam

California State University, Monterey Bay student, Courtney Chan, recently took part of the adoption process, inviting a kitten to her East Campus home. The adoption fee for the male, orange tabby, Liam, was \$125. This included his vaccinations and neutering. His new home includes two litter boxes, a scratching post, multiple toys and a loving owner.

"Owning a pet is the best form of comfort and he's very social with everyone and loves to cuddle," said Chan.

Rather than resorting to PetSmart or Petco, she decided to adopt from the SPCA because they rescue animals.



Lorien

Lorien is a domestic cat with a strong personality and is up for adoption for \$35. She tends to be quiet and relaxed when compared to many of the energetic, loud cats at the adoption center.

Although, she has a passion for keeping to herself and sleeping as much as possible, Lorien still loves to be adored as much as the next cat. She is a tad older than the kittens also up for adoption, but this could mean less trouble.

Kittens available at the SPCA are required to undergo more care than older, more mature cats. The SPCA offers private training lessons as well as helpful tips on its website to ensure a happy life for the pets and their owners.



Dolly

Dolly is a black and white dutch rabbit that loves to lay around and eat, as most rabbits do. Her adoption fee is only \$20. Rabbits don't require as much attention as dogs or kittens might, yet they still need a whole lot of love.

Before having a rabbit in the home, it must go through the proper preparations including getting to know other animals that may be living in the house. As rabbits are prone to heart attacks, it is best to make sure they are comfortable around other pets in the family.



Napy

Napy is one of the few guinea pigs at the SPCA. The adoption fee is \$20. Guinea pigs, like rabbits, do not require as much care as dogs or cats. They like to eat and take up only a small living space.

However, before entering a pet into the home, no matter how big or small, it is best to make sure the home is prepared to host a new family member. If an owner's life is undergoing major changes or time consuming responsibilities it is not recommended to take on the challenge of becoming a pet owner; wait until the pet can receive the appropriate amount of care and attention.



Bo

Bo, a seven month old Terrier and Pit Bull mix, is adorable. His adoption fee is \$240, which is higher than other dogs. The SPCA changed their adoption fees recently in order to help ensure homes for all animals, including the older, "less desirable" ones. The puppies tend to be looked at more frequently rather than the special needs animals, who need the most care.

If those seeking a specific breed of dog can't find the type they want at the shelter, they have the chance to sign up for notifications directly through SPCA.org. Not limited to dogs, this offer includes requesting which breed, sex and age of pet desired.



Echo

Echo, a black, female Border Collie, is quite sweet and in the process of recovery. Her ribs are visible and her legs thin. Her adoption fee is \$190. When CSUMB student, Brittany Darnell, took the time to play with her, Echo remained timid and restrained. Unfortunately, animals who are fearful and unaccustomed to a loving owner are common in the shelter.

In addition to the endless behavioral tips and evaluations, the SPCA provides tips for working with shy animals. Whether their fear is caused by previous cruelty or maybe a household vacuum, desensitization is recommended.

This includes exposing the animal, in small "doses", to what they are scared of to build up an indifference to it. However, it is recommended never to punish the animal for being scared or force it into situations where it would be frightened.

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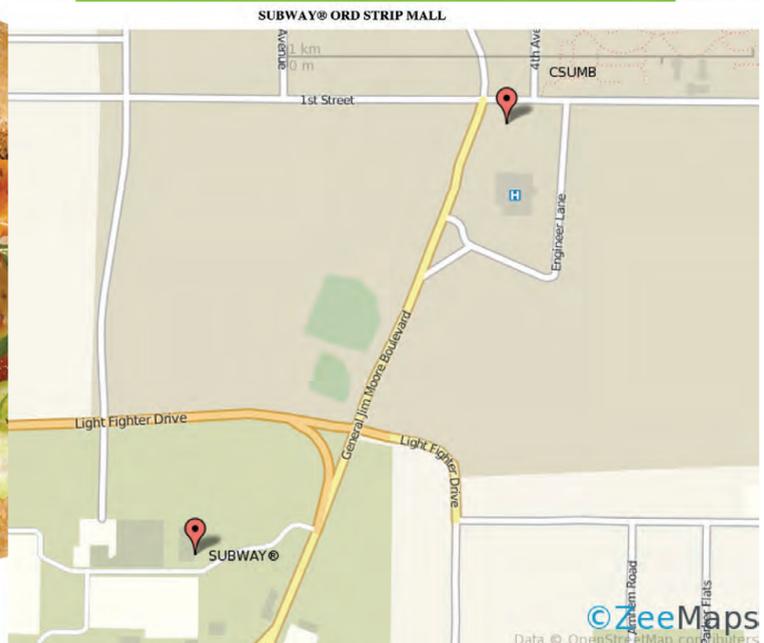
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CSUMB students and faculty always receive a free 21oz fountain soda with the purchase of a six-inch or footlong sub (with CSUMB ID).

Students reaching new depths

Scuba program gives students with disabilities opportunities to dive

By Katie Kishi

Nothing can stop scuba students from getting in the water – not even their disabilities. California State University, Monterey Bay’s (CSUMB) scuba program provides equal opportunities for all students, including those with paraplegia and mental illnesses.

Karah Silacci, a senior transfer student, is paralyzed in both of her legs and sits in a wheelchair, but that doesn’t stop her from learning how to scuba dive. Through CSUMB’s scuba program, she has been able to take lessons with just a few changes in technique.

The program caters to all different levels of diving skills. It offers various classes within the Kinesiology department, scientific diving classes for students studying Marine Science and independent classes for people with disabilities.

Frank Degnan, the Dive Safety officer at CSUMB, teaches scuba to students with disabilities. He has been teaching scuba for 31 years and came to CSUMB 15 years ago after teaching in the scuba program at San Jose State University. As the Dive Safety officer, he oversees scuba activities on campus and makes sure classes comply with the Dive Safety Manual.

Degnan carries his own insurance policy that allows him to teach inde-



Karah Silacci (center) receives diving instruction at the CSUMB Aquatic Center.

Katie Kishi/OtterRealm

pendently from CSUMB in order to work with veterans and others who can’t afford to take a scuba class through Extended Education. He has a contract to use CSUMB’s Aquatic Center pool and uses available money from the National Instructor’s Association for Divers with Disabilities, a non-profit organization, to rent equipment.

Silacci, one of Degnan’s students, had always wanted to try scuba and got involved in the program this semester. She was telling her Marine Biology lab partners she wanted to try scuba diving

and one of her classmates suggested calling Degnan, who then told her to come out for a lesson.

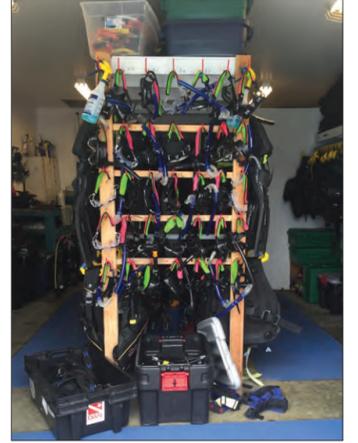
During a typical session, the first couple of hours consist of learning in the classroom. Students then get prepared to get in the water. “It takes me at least a half hour to get in my wetsuit and gear because I have to wear two extra layers so that my legs don’t get cold and lose circulation,” said Silacci. The next two hours take place in the pool. After several weeks of training and when divers are fully prepared, they head to the ocean.

Silacci has been in a wheelchair since 2009 due to a neurological condition. “I was always an athlete so it was really hard [to transition],” she said. But, CSUMB’s scuba program has helped her become more confident in doing things everyone else can do.

“They’re really cool. They’re not afraid of my chair at all. When I had looked into scuba in the past before I started school, everybody was afraid of trying to teach me due to liability issues. They were all afraid of my chair,” she said.

The scuba program adjusts to each student’s unique needs. Because Silacci can only swim with her hands, her instructors tie her legs together and created a pulley system that allows her to pull on a rope to move her legs in the direction she wants to go in order to maintain balance.

Degnan’s career in teaching scuba has given more opportunities to many students with disabilities. “For a lot of people, [scuba] is a life changer. It’s fun to watch people get excited about getting into the ocean,” said Degnan.



Katie Kishi/OtterRealm

Sox Box will sweep you off your feet!

By Aubrie Layne



“For every person there is a sock and for every sock a person...”

Vince and Athena Suich are the creators and masterminds of The Sox Box, a business that sells socks with personality. Their main goal, and what they are so passionate about, is giving back to their community.

The Sox Box donates a portion of its earnings to various charities including Gateway for Cancer Research, California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) Alumni Association and Team Red White and Blue, a veterans’ organization.

“I wanted things that were fun and motivating that other people would like also and so I came up with all the designs and ideas,” said Athena. She came up with the idea of putting messages on socks in 2012 when she was in training for the fire service.

Statements such as: *Strong Mama*, *Ham and Eggs* and even *Burpees are Fun* can be found on pairs of socks. Vince, a 13 year veteran of the Air Force, supported his wife in her decision to start the company by using his business degree from CSUMB to come up with a plan to sell socks and give back to the community.

Vince was interested in developing a “hybrid” nonprofit and profit organization, continuing to get profit from their product but also giving to various charities.

“What we found is, what I was hop-

ing, that it resonates with our customers so they really see that it’s important to us and we’re very transparent about that so I think that that’s a big part of why I wanted to do this business,” said Vince.

Their website first launched with seven pairs of socks. Now, they have upgraded to a Monterey area warehouse that uses renewable energy and offer 250 pairs of socks to choose from. The socks are made in the United States, which is important to the couple.

One of their main partners is The Independence Fund, a nonprofit organization that receives 20 percent of Sox Box proceeds. “What I really appreciate about them and other similar organizations is the percentage of dollars that goes to veterans,” said Vince.

The Independence Fund gives care to veterans, who are seriously injured in combat, and their caregivers. The whole idea is to give veterans their independence back through mobility chairs, hyperbaric oxygen therapy and other treatments.

The socks are made for athletic use, like working out, running and even hardcore Spartan races. “We use high-quality combed cotton and we pay more for that. But it allows for high quality socks that are very durable and it’s soft and we worked a lot on the stretch so they would fit on the calves,” said Vince.

Not only have Vince and Athena revolutionized the way socks could be worn, they have paved the way for many

companies to see that it is very possible to make a profit and give back to the community.

They have donated more than \$60,000 and 5,000 pairs of socks to charities and are still growing. They are coming up with new ways for personalities to shine with no words- just art, on their socks.

“With our business I am appreciative of the fact that those organizations we support serve people often dealing with far greater mental or physical pain than I have endured. It helps to give me perspective in life,” said Vince.

Students can find The Sox Box online through its website: TheSoxBox.com and on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. A portion of the proceeds from CSUMB and Otters socks sales goes to the CSUMB Alumni Association.



Athena (left) and Vince (right) Suich with a veteran.

Photos provided by Sox Box

Need another reason to explore Big Sur? We’ve found the perfect spot

Big Sur’s only eclectic gift shop

By Georgette Ward

Just off of Highway 1 South, tucked away beside the Big Sur bakery resides a tiny, one of a kind gift store known as The Altar.

This shop, which sells unique crafted items is operated by Emily Birmingham and Zosia Considine, two Big Sur locals. This “interactive installation” is constantly being updated with new creations and covered wall to wall in knick knacks and art that you likely won’t find anywhere else.

“We started out hanging out at each others houses getting inspired, crafting, gossiping, making art and clothes together,” said Birmingham about how it all got started. “Zosia had been dreaming of a greenhouse store and I’d been trying to find the right place to showcase the clothing I’d made. We decided to collaborate and turned what was essentially a broom closet that Zosia had been renting as an office into The Altar.

This gave us an outlet for the work we do while maintaining creative control over the way our pieces are displayed and discussed.”

As it stands now, The Altar encases a multitude of crafted eclectic items from gifts for an enemy, to ex-boyfriend gear, clothes, voodoo dolls, hanging terrariums, succulent wreaths and lavender bouquets. Nearly all you see in the shop has been hand-crafted, or at the very least tinkered with, by the owners themselves. It is a must-see shop and the only one of its kind in the area.

“We use our blunt humor and fascination with cultural/religious and esthetic diversity to inform everything we offer,” said Birmingham. “We think of our homes, closets and gardens as our altar. The pieces you take home should be additions to your personal altar. Each piece is displayed in a unique way and is intended to inspire the shopper to be

resourceful and creative.”

Much of its charm lies in the fact that nearly everything about the shop is unconventional, including the store hours. The best way to make sure the shop is open is to contact the owners or make an appointment via Facebook.com/thealtarbigsur or their instagram account The_altar.



Georgette Ward/Otter Realm



A look at the outside of “The Altar”

Georgette Ward/Otter Realm

Local Events

Kingston to perform at CSUMB Homecoming, Oct. 23

California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) will celebrate Homecoming Oct. 23, 24 and 25. The Homecoming concert featuring Sean Kingston and Casey Veggies is Friday, Oct. 23 in the University Center Ballroom.

Tickets are \$10 until Oct. 18. The price will increase to \$15 Oct. 19. Tickets can be purchased at the Student Center front desk.



October 23, 2015

HOMECOMING CONCERT

SEAN KINGSTON
CASEY VEGGIES

UC Ballroom
Doors: 8:30 pm | Show: 9:15 pm

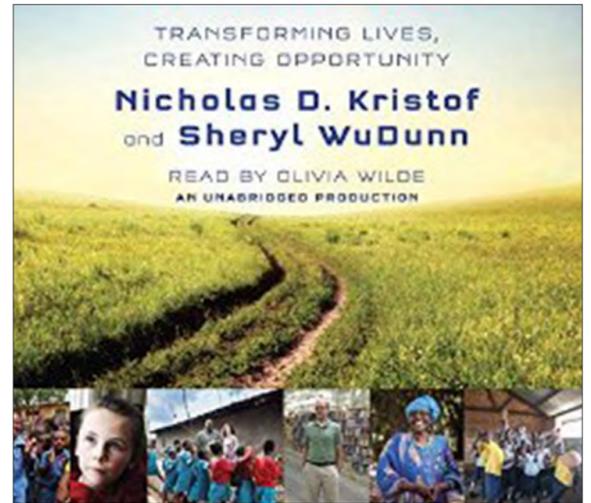


Documentary screening and discussion about gender-based oppression Oct. 23 at World Theater

On Oct. 23, California State University, Monterey Bay's World Theater hosts two screenings of the documentary, *A Path Appears*. The first showing begins at 4 p.m. and is followed by a panel discussion about gender-based violence at 5:45 p.m.

The discussion features experts Deputy District Attorney Elaine McCleaf, YWCA Executive Director Cheryl McCormick and Monterey Rape Crisis Center Rape Prevention Educator Corrina Hatzidakis. The talk is followed by a reception with refreshments and the second screening begins at 7:15 p.m.

A Path Appears takes viewers on an in-depth journey around the world to uncover the roots of gender-based oppression and contemplate solutions with reporters Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn, and actor/advocates such as Jennifer Garner,



Blake Lively and Eva Longoria.

This event is sponsored by the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council of Monterey County, the University Police Department and the World Theater. To

RSVP, please visit the World Theater's special events page. This event is free and open to the public. Doors open at 3:30 p.m.

December People tickets on sale now



December People's annual "classic rock Christmas show" is coming to the World Theater on Nov. 7 at 8 p.m., with an encore matinee performance on Nov. 8 at 2 p.m. Featuring a wide array of musicians from some of the world's top bands, December People put a Christmas spin on music from legendary artists such as Santana, The

Who, Elton John and ZZ Top.

The event also supports our local community. Guests who bring five cans of people or pet food receive a discount for the performance. The World Theater and HIPPO 104.3 FM donate the items to benefit the Food Banks of Monterey and San Benito counties, and the Santa Cruz Animal Shelter.

Ticket Prices (with five cans per person):

General: \$20; Senior/Military: \$15; CSUMB Staff/Faculty/Alumni: \$9; CSUMB Students/Children: \$7.

Monterey County LGBTQ+ history project

Rainbow Speakers and Friends are launching a Monterey County LGBTQ+ history project. The kickoff event will be Saturday, Oct. 24 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Epiphany and Episcopal Church

in Marina.

The goal of the project is to document the hidden stories of the LGBTQ+ community in the area by collecting oral histories, photos, and documents as the project is

developed. The meeting on Oct. 24 is a cross-generational meeting to jump start the project.

For more information visit the Rainbow Speakers and Friends facebook page.

Art Competition in Seaside

By Colin Bockman

Beginning Wednesday, Nov. 4 and going through Wednesday, Dec. 18 Seaside City Hall will host an Adult Art Competition at the Avery Art Gallery. Categories include 2-Dimensional Painting/Fine Arts, Photography and 3-Dimensional displays.

There is a \$10 fee per entry for artists. Each contestant is allowed to submit one work per category. Those submitting their artwork must be a resident of Monterey County. Entries are due by Friday, Oct. 30 and can be turned in from 3 to 6 p.m. at the Avery Art Gallery.



Judging will take place that day and ribbons will be awarded to winners and runners-up. First place prize will be awarded \$150, Second place will receive \$100 and Third place will get \$75.

A reception will be held on Friday, Nov. 13 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. For more information, call (831) 899-6811 or visit www.ci.seaside.ca.us.

Carmel International Film Festival begins Oct. 21

The Carmel International Film Festival is featuring the hot films destined for Academy Awards before they are available in theaters. The festival runs Oct. 21 through 25.

See *Room* starring Brie Larson (*Trainwreck*, *21 Jump Street*), *Spotlight* with a star-filled cast: Rachel McAdams, Liev Schreiber, Mark Ruffalo, Michael Keaton and *James White* starring Christopher Abbott (*A Most Violent Year*, *Martha Marcy May Marlene*).

Meet Lizzie Velasquez at her screening of *A Brave Heart* on Saturday, Oct. 24 and become part of the #imwithlizzie campaign alongside of Kylie Jenner, Chris

Hemsworth and iJustine.

Go back to the era of vinyl with *All Things Must Pass*, the story of the rise and fall of the iconic Tower Records and take your photo on the red carpet on Thursday night.

Join a group of leading women in tech and entertainment at the screening of *CODE: Debugging the Gender Gap* on Saturday at 9:30 a.m.

The Middlebury Institute of International Studies' Irvine Auditorium at 460 Pierce Street in Monterey is your base for films from around the globe all weekend. If music is your scene, come to the new Music Café located at the Forge on 5th and Junipero in

Carmel showcasing Morgan St. Jean, Richie Conway and Johan Sotelo.

You can find a complete film schedule at: <http://carmelfilmfest.com/schedule/>

Tickets are \$5, cash only at the door and you must have your student identification. Seating based on availability. There is a special student package that includes an all-access film pass and entry to panel discussions, Filmmaker's Music Lounge and Filmmaker's Welcome Party Thursday, Oct. 22, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. The cost is \$150. To purchase this pass visit: <http://carmelfilmfest.com/tickets-2/>.



Caption Contest



Photo provided by wikimedia

Each issue, the Otter Realm will feature a photo that needs a caption. Send your caption to us, and we will post the winner at otterrealm.com

Any CSUMB student and resident of Monterey County may enter their captions. Good luck!

Oct. 1 issue winner is:
Ivan SantosSanchez
 "Let's run away! Thanksgiving is coming!!"

Send your submissions to
otterrealm@csumb.edu

Sudoku

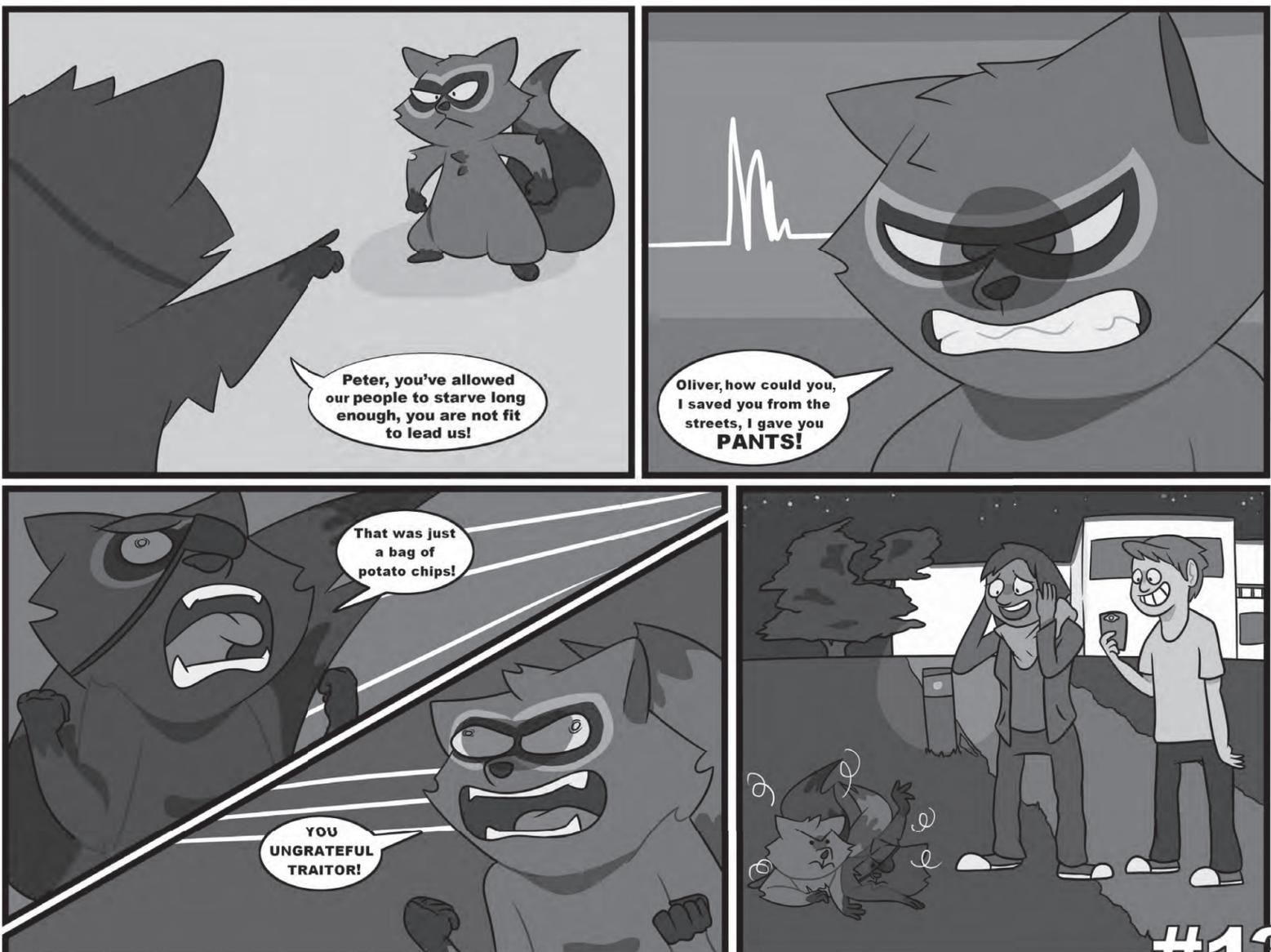
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Find the answers at otterrealm.com

FOLLOW US ON SNAPCHAT



Take a snap to add, and be on the lookout for updates!



Peter, you've allowed our people to starve long enough, you are not fit to lead us!

Oliver, how could you, I saved you from the streets, I gave you PANTS!

That was just a bag of potato chips!

YOU UNGRATEFUL TRAITOR!

Andre Sitolini/Otter Realm and Chelsea Akpan

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