

# Welcome Back!

## CSUCI Kicks Off Year With Welcome Back Barbeque

by **Brendan Malloy**

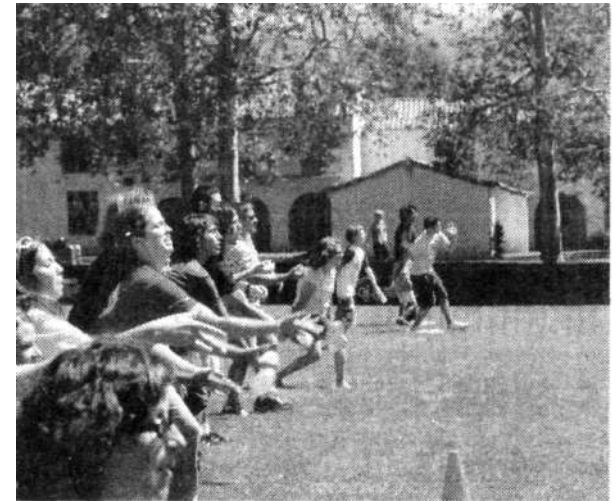
Children were bouncing in an inflatable castle and throwing water balloons to one another. Several CSUCI students took a break from their whiffle ball game to cover their faces in whipped cream and watermelon. One after another, unfortunate volunteers were climbing out of a bright green dunk tank to the amusement of onlookers. Music was streaming from a bright blue van representing a popular local radio station. With all of the commotion emanating from campus on Sunday August 28th during the Office of Student Affairs' annual Welcome Barbeque, one would never know that it was almost time to get back to work for California State University Channel Islands.

The barbeque, held the Sunday before the first official day of classes from 11 am to 4 pm, was an opportunity for students and their families to gather in the university's South Quad for a last day of festivities and fun before the start of the semester. Many attendees took the opportunity to relax, meet other students' families, do some shopping in the student store, and certainly take advantage of the limited free food. Jolly Jump™ provided plenty of attractions for younger guests like the ever-present moon bounce, a bungee cord racing course, and a

dunk tank. Personalities from 95.1 The Beat provided guests with popular music and provided a celebratory ambience to the event. Recreation and Leisure Services provided a Quickball™ field for guests to enjoy a quick game of whiffle ball. Of course, officials from Student Programming Board and Student Government were busy popping popcorn, making cotton candy, and serving meals.

The annual Welcome Back Barbeque has proven to be one of CSUCI's most successful and consistent events. So many people attended this year that the cooked meals had run out by 12:45 pm making it a barbeque without food. At the highest point, Student Programming officers estimated that there were 500 people who attended the event.

The Barbeque was the first of several events that made up Welcome Week, a series of events sponsored by Student Programming Board and Student Government that allow students to ease into the semester. Other Welcome Week activities included a movie in the Hub, a Jamba Juice fundraiser, and a festive Luau. Programs like Welcome Week are designed to not only bring students together to develop social relationships, but to also instill a sense of pride for CSUCI



Channel Islands students and family at the Welcome Back BBQ.

in both returning and new students.

With events like this, one can easily deduce that Cal State Channel Islands is a rapidly-growing University with a growing interest and level of pride among the student body. Hopefully, this student body can take a break from their busy schedule to relax enjoy the many social opportunities CSUCI gives them.

## Anacapa Village Welcomes New Residents

by **Ben Gallagher**



Now that everyone is settled in to their rooms over in Anacapa Village, I thought it appropriate to recount the chaos and nervousness of August 26th, the first day of move in for the school year. I arrived at Anacapa at around noon with the hopes of conducting a few interviews and taking

a few pictures, I had no such luck. My interviews were brief and my pictures were out of focus, due to the fact that every student I tried to photograph ducked out of view before the shutter could close.

But not everyone was too busy for me, I did have time for a couple of interviews and a few bad pictures, none of which are featured. One person I did get to speak with was Christopher Powell, a sophomore resident assistant getting his major in business. When we sat down, Chris looked exhausted. Having had friends who went through resident assistant training before, I knew why.

We began to talk and I asked Chris a few questions, like "What is your biggest fear about the upcoming year"? He responded "I'm afraid that I will let down the people who are counting on me".

When asked what he was looking forward to most, he said "Building relationships with residents and continuing to build a community and culture across Channel Islands". I was encouraged by Chris' high hopes and continued on for another interview.

I ran into two residents with their hands full. Stopping them, I asked them what they were most excited about for the upcoming year. John Welch, a returning sophomore from Yorba Linda stated "I am most excited about living with all guys". Scott Hildee, also a sophomore returnee, retorted, "My biggest excitement is living next to my girlfriend...., and March Madness". With that, I had finished my work in Anacapa.

All this being said, it looks to be an exciting year in the village, and I may be stopping by again soon, so if you stop to take a picture, wait for the flash.

## Letter from the Editors

Welcome to the first edition of the Channel Islands View for 2005-2006 school year. My name is Ben Gallagher and the one on the left is Brendan Malloy. We are both junior English majors and have been here since the doors first opened for new freshmen in 2003.

We hope to play a part in helping to engage all members of the CSUCI community into our campus culture. We will be publishing an issue of the CI View once a month for the entirety of the school year. By reading your school newspaper, you can catch up on what's going on around campus as well as find ways to get involved in various areas around your school. In the future, we will feature a classified advertisement section where you can find job listings from our surrounding community as well as right here on campus. We will also be featuring columns such as: a series of articles based on the history of our campus and how it evolved into what it is today, a detailed look into all of the new majors, an advice column from a CSUCI student, a column from an anonymous faculty member "Dr. Why" on various issues around campus, and, finally, health tips from your student health center.

If you would like to participate in putting together our monthly issues of the CI View, you can contact us by e-mail at [CIView.editor@csuci.edu](mailto:CIView.editor@csuci.edu), or by phone at 437-2753. We also encourage you to stop by our office anytime. We are located in the East Bell Tower, room 1852. If all that is too much, say hello to us around campus and tell us what you think. Remember that this your student newspaper.

Stay out of trouble, guys. We'll see you next month.

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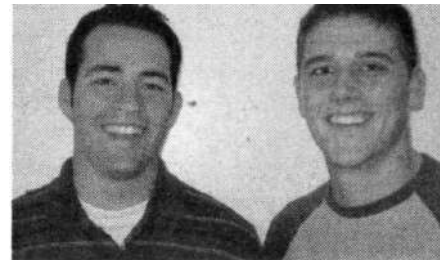
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**DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE:**  
Wednesday, September 29



### Letter from CSUCI President Richard Rush

Dear Campus Community:

I know we have all watched with disbelief and sorrow the tragic events that have befallen the residents of the Gulf region due to Hurricane Katrina. An event of this magnitude demands the support of all of us to assist our fellow citizens. That is why I am especially proud to announce CSUCI's efforts in this crisis.

Led by the CSUCI Associated Students group, students, faculty, and staff have come together to offer a month long effort to assist the victims of this tragedy. Plans are underway for:

"Dollar a Day for 20 Days" fundraising campaign where the campus community can make donations at various campus venues and wear badges indicating their daily contributions to date.

Walkathon on campus on September 24th where members of the campus and surrounding community will raise funds through individual and team participation.

Community carnival will be held on October 8th with booths sponsored by student clubs and organizations.

In addition, our University bookstore, through the Follett corporate headquarters, will offer the opportunity to make a donation as you pay for your purchases. Simply let them know at time of checkout that you'd also like to make a donation and they will add that to your cash or credit card purchase and indicate the donation on your receipt. All funds raised will go to support the Red Cross disaster relief efforts in the affected areas.

In these difficult times I am heartened by the generosity of spirit and action of the people of CSU Channel Islands. If you would like to get involved in these efforts I encourage you to contact the Student Government Office at 437-2734. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,  
Richard R. Rush  
President

## A Message from Student Government

by Sarah Vogel

Greetings from Student Government and welcome back to CSUCI! This is going to be an exciting year and Student Government wants you to be informed and get involved. The purpose of a Student Government is to discuss concerns, ask for input, provide information to students across campus and instill a strong sense of school spirit. Your Student Government will work as a team to accomplish these goals. Anneka Busse is the Student Government President. Elizabeth Freeman is the Student Government Vice President. Victoria Olvera is Secretary and Treasurer. Your senators are Elizabeth Buckley, Cody Fullenwider, Brian Olsen, Sarah Vogel and Hiromi Arai. You can contact them at any time through email or find them in the office during their hours. If you see them on campus be sure to say hello.

This September and October are filled with opportunities to get involved. Express your pride in CSUCI during Spirit week September 19th -22nd and attend the Tsunami try outs! Tsunami is the schools mascot and spirit leader. His presence at any event will encourage CSUCI pride.

Getting involved in activities on campus will enrich your experience at CSUCI. Student Leadership at CI is offering an intern program which will present a unique opportunity to learn about student government, develop leadership skills, and meet faculty, staff and administrators. If you are ready for a three hours a week commitment and want to learn, then request a Student Government intern program application from the Student Government office.

If you have any questions or comments for your Student Government don't hesitate to let us know. Visit our website and drop us an email, stop by the office or call. We are here for you.

Student Government  
BT East 1762  
805 437 2734  
[sgasi@csuci.edu](mailto:sgasi@csuci.edu)

## Five New Majors Introduced at CSUCI

by Alyssa Ervin

Channel Islands is a growing university. Each year, a larger number of students make CSUCI their four-year college of choice. These students come from far and near to continue their education and, more importantly, graduate with a degree. The larger the number of students there are, the more diverse their interests. That is why the University is now offering five new majors. They are biology, chemistry, economics, sociology, and Spanish.

**Biology** tends to attract students who are interested in learning about the study of life, mainly because, well, that is what biology is. Topics covered include the origins and diversity of life, cellular structure and function, basic biochemistry, heredity and genetics, ecology and physiology. Classes include exciting hands-on laboratory experience, mixing chemicals, and doing other lab experiments.

**Chemistry** is the science of molecules. Chemists are advanced in their knowledge of everything about molecules. To be precise, students will learn about molecular transformations, properties of molecules, shapes and colors of molecules, and molecular theory. Although this major may sound like a narrow study, it is important to keep in mind that everything we can touch or see is made up of molecules.

**Economics** is a social science. A student in the field of economics would acquire skills

necessary to calculate and explain the way in which our economic world functions. Graduates of this major will have acquired skills necessary to make accurate economic predictions in a world where time, resources, and skills are limited. This major also has the capability of preparing students for fields such as business, resource management, public administration, law and international affairs.

**Sociology** is the study of human social interaction and institutions. That means any group of people, anywhere, at any time. Not only will a graduate be knowledgeable about social behavior and social settings, but he or she will be advanced in the knowledge of cultures, research methods, social class structures, and other pieces necessary to be completely knowledgeable in the field of sociology.

**Spanish** is offered at CSUCI for those students interested in learning not only the Spanish language, but also in learning about cultures and people of Spanish descent. Graduating students will be proficient in the understanding, writing, reading, and speaking the language. To obtain a degree, all Spanish majors must complete 11 units or more of 400-level courses beginning with "SPAN" as their title. Studying abroad is also a great way to accomplish these requirements because it allows students to practice what they have learned in the real world.

## Service Learning

Service Learning is an important part of the CSUCI mission and a great way for students to actively learn more about our community and the larger social, cultural and political issues that make up the world around them.

Service Learning provides a unique opportunity for CSUCI students to get civically involved in our community, build student leadership skills and forge professional networks. It is also a great way to learn about and test out career interests.

We are always looking for strong student leaders to participate in our Service Learning workshops and conferences. Please stop by our offices located in the Professional Building or check out our website for more information about how to get civically involved today!

Contact information:  
Office of Service Learning and Civic  
Engagement  
805.437.2747

## New Changes at the Islands Cafe

by Kyle Ragsdale

Many of us were excited to see the Islands Cafe in full operation last spring. This semester there have been some great changes to the cafe, including a salad bar and a wide variety of daily specials. These new changes were brought on by new General Manager Michael Spann and his team at the Islands Cafe.

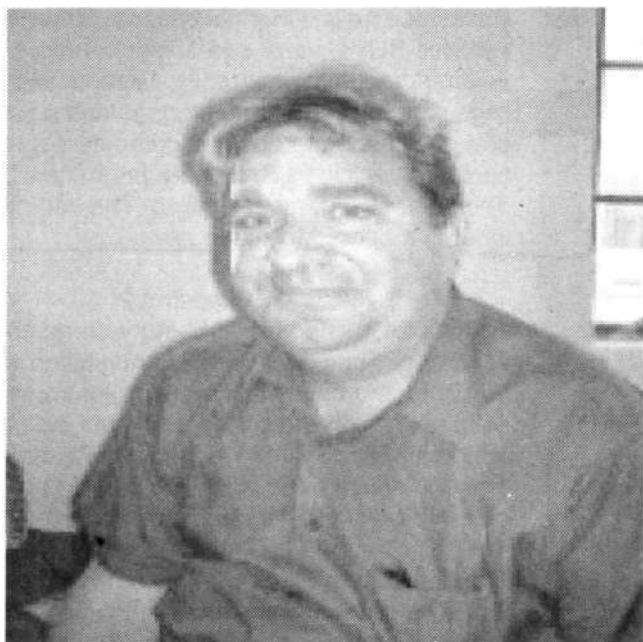
Everyone can look forward to some of the exciting promotions and activities that will be put on inside the cafe. The first promotion of the year will be the Apple Combo. This promotion consists of buying an apple and a few other items to receive a scratch card with a one in five hundred chance of winning an Apple mini iPod. There will also be other promotions throughout the year.

The Islands Cafe has also become a great place to study and hang out as well as eat a variety of food. Come experience the new changes at the Islands Cafe and see for yourself.



## Friendly Faces with John Peres

by Rachel Duarte



**Name** John Peres

**Position** Supervisor of Dining Services

**Quote** "Go after what makes you happy."

Today, I met a man named John Peres. John is very new to this campus, so I thought it would be nice to give more people a chance to look into his life, especially because he is one of many great people who work here on the Channel Islands campus. Starting just this semester, similar to all of the freshmen on campus, he is getting into the swing of things. The driving force behind what made him want to work at CSUCI was the fact that he would get to be around younger people who of course make every job interesting. He is also from the community. Like all of us, he likes the ghost stories that go along with the school's creepy history as well.

Not only does John work at CSUCI, but he has an outside life too! He is an advanced certified scuba diver who has completed dives in a wide range of places like Tahiti, Mexico and the Caribbean. It seemed pretty logical to me that he is a travel agent on the side. In all, John has completed 150 dives. Pretty impressive.

John's favorite color is sapphire blue because that his birthstone. Be sure to say Happy Birthday to him this month! Being more of a movie buff than a book reader, he recommends Dances With Wolves as the best movie to watch.

Some people seem not as keen on the idea to work at such a new establishment, but John loved the fact that the school has so much growth potential and opportunity. There are many choices you can make and routes you can go working at a place like this. Most importantly, John has a goal in life: continuously strive to be a good father. He believes that parents get so caught up in work and cannot always be there to watch their children grow up. The time can just fly by, and, soon enough, you realize you weren't there for as much of it as you wanted. He definitely didn't want this to be the story of his parental career. John also believes money doesn't buy happiness; you can sit at a desk all day at work making tons of money, but it does not matter if there is no one there to enjoy it with you.

I agree with John's views, and I suggest anyone who goes to the Islands Cafe here on campus to drop by and say hello to him. He is a friendly and goofy man who would love to get to know more students here. I appreciate his time and hope I have allowed you all to get know someone at CSUCI a little better. Stay tuned for next month's "friendly face"!

## Monthly Academic Spotlight: The Spanish Department

by Keith Gross



One thing comes to my mind whenever I think of anything related to Spanish class: boring. My high school Spanish days were filled with repetitive reviewing and Spanish words that now, one year later, I barely remember. That's why when I heard of the new Spanish Major on campus, I instinctively thought "what poor souls are willing to sit through that nonsense again?". My views changed dramatically when I sat down with Professor Terry Ballman, the chair of the Spanish department here on campus as well as the current Chair of the Academic Senate.

Professor Ballman told me that the Spanish major here at Channel Islands isn't like the "kill and drill" method of learning that occurs for other college Spanish majors. There are numerous hands-on activities such as going to see Spanish language plays, helping to celebrate the Day of the Dead, and a few study abroad programs sprinkled in for a tastier Spanish treat. This past summer, eight CSU Channel Islands students went to Cuernavaca, Mexico for a study abroad program. The major doesn't just focus on Spanish literature. The students who chose to select this as their major or one of their majors will learn about the language, culture, linguistics, translation, and the literature allowing for the student to have a relationship with the Spanish world.

The Spanish major has a healthy enrollment for a new major and is a relatively short program with only 34 units needed to fulfill the required units for the major and 20 units for the minor allowing students to also major in another field. This is a great major for anyone who wants to be bilingual as well as students who wish to work in a variety of fields in an area where Spanish may be a dominant language as well as places where not many people speak the language. Wherever your career might lead you, a Major in Spanish would be a great asset to have in your pocket.

## University Growth

by Austin Dias

After years of careful planning and hard work, CSU Channel Islands is starting to feel the rewards. That is, just the beginning of the rewards, as the University has embarked on its next phase of new construction. These projects will be seen all over the campus, from the new classrooms of 34 Ventura Street to the John Spoor Broome Digital Teaching Library.

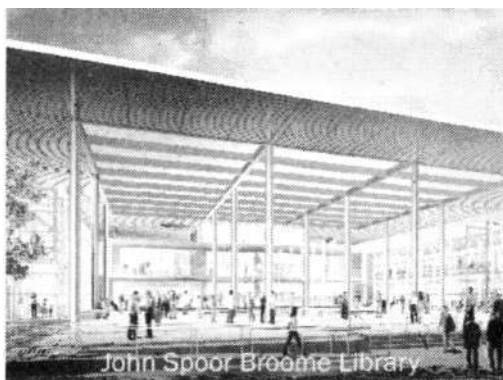
Anyone who has experienced Channel Islands' campus has also had to experience the treacheries of Lewis Road. With that said, there is relief coming in the form of a widening project that is expected to begin this fall. Many aspects of the project, such as moving the phone poles, have already started. The widening calls for a four lane road from Pleasant Valley to CSUCI with two south bound lanes and two north bound lanes.

The students have always been asking for a place that they can call their own and that place is the Hub. Currently it is being restructured and rearranged to better suit the needs of the students. There are plans for a stage in the main room to accommodate events and a Java Hut cart in the relax room. There are also card tables, pool tables, video games and a secluded theater set up. By the end of September, the Student Programming Board will have put their touch on the Hub.

With the recent boom in students wanting to live on campus, the University has already started planning their next phase of Student Housing. At this time Phase 2 of Student Housing is in the design stages and the organizers hope that construction will start in the spring of 2005 and be completed in the fall of 2007. This housing complex will be built on the other side of Oxnard St., adjacent from Anacapa Village and will face the south quad.

CSUCI's recreation personnel have been gaining steam with every new event that they introduce to the students. With this type of growth they have called for recreation fields and are being put in at the moment. The excitement can be felt from students who complained that they had no real area dedicated to the outdoor sports that call for a larger field. There is room for a full size football or soccer field, along with smaller side fields. The-completion of this project is expected in the spring.

In the academic realm, Channel Islands can look forward to three new class rooms.



An artist rendition of the future CSUCI Library

These new classrooms will be located at 34 Ventura and will be general use classrooms. These rooms will be hopefully ready by spring.

Many people around campus have been hearing about the Town Center for a while now. Construction set backs have delayed the project, but the contractors are optimistic that it will be open in late spring. When the University community is allowed to enjoy the Town Center, it will house the Cove bookstore, food vendors and convenience stores among other. In addition, the levels above the first floor will be apartments.

The most impressive project that will break ground on campus is the John Spoor Broome Digital Teaching Library. Construction for this project will begin on October 7, 2005 at 10:30 am. Our current library has become the center of campus and cannot accommodate Channel Islands' vast collection of books. The new library promises to be an epic learning center as well as an architecturally-breathtaking facility. Sir Norman Foster, a world renowned architect, is the man behind the exhilarating project. It has been established that the John Spoor Broome Digital Teaching Library will be built where the old hospital is and will utilize the old buildings.

With the blending of the old and the new, the whole community will have something grand to look forward to.



This building stands in the place of the future Library

## Materialism on Parade

### Snapshot 1

Residence halls, Channel Islands. Street lined with vehicles-SUVs, vans, oversized pickups, cars pulling trailers, cars toting top racks. Moms and dads and siblings carrying boxes and luggage and plastic milk crates, tvs and stereos and computers, out of the multicolored vehicles and into the bright new buildings. The sun shining, faces smiling. The campus president lending a hand. Moving-in day.

### Snapshot 2

Parking lot outside an eight-story dorm: no SUVs or vans or pickups. VW Beetles and station wagons. Students and boxes and luggage, of course, but wooden, not plastic crates. Hi-fi sets, no computers, only the occasional tiny portable black-and-white tv. The sun shining, faces smiling, but less colorful vehicles. No president lending a hand.

The first picture I took with my digital camera a week ago. The other a friend took with a Brownie Instamatic the day I moved into the dorms, September 1969. > Everything was packed into my tiny VW: suitcase of clothing, box of books, manual typewriter, and a children's record player I stole from my sister.

Those two snapshots reveal a lot about where we've come from. The difference isn't just technology, it's what we carry with us. Our lives depend on things. Unthinkable not to have a tv. Impossible to survive without a computer. Who can imagine a life without a blow dryer or microwave? Who wants to? Why miss such creature comforts when others are surrounded by possessions?

To the brick wall of my dorm room I taped a colorful poster with a quote from Thoreau: "Simplify, simplify." I took that to mean own fewer possessions, spend less time with things and more with ideas. Learn to fill time with reading, walking, thinking and writing (by hand). I wonder how that message got lost in the intervening 36 years.

And, inevitably, I wonder why.

-Dr. Why, CSUCI



# Library News

## Library Hours for Fall 2005:

This semester, the library will be open 6 days a week to serve students, faculty, staff and the community. Fall library hours are:

M-TH: 8am to 10:30pm

FRI: 8am to 5pm

SAT: 12pm to 5pm

SUN: 1pm to 10pm

## Library Cards

Bring your student or faculty/staff I. D. cards to the library and have them made into library cards. Having a library card will allow you to check out materials, order items through interlibrary loan and check out digital equipment. PLEASE NOTE: Students will need a library card to check out materials that have been put on Reserve.

## Digital Equipment Check-out at the Library

The library offers faculty and students access to digital equipment through its Media Distribution Services. MDS is a section of the University Library that caters to the digital technology needs of the campus community for course and/or instructional^ related use. Faculty members (and students who have faculty pre-approval) with valid library cards may check items out from Media Services in BT 1372. Please contact Tom Emens at 437-8946 or [tom.emens@csuci.edu](mailto:tom.emens@csuci.edu) for more details.

## Book, Movie & Pizza Night

On Thursday, September 22, the library will be hosting a Book, Movie & Pizza event. The library will be screening a movie that has been made from a book, and serving pizza to all attendees. The event is FREE, and open to all students, faculty and staff. This month's movie will be "Blade Runner", starring Harrison Ford. The screening will be held in the Residence Hall Commons at 6:30pm. Please RSVP Debi Hoffmann at 437-2701 or [debra.hoffmann@csuci.edu](mailto:debra.hoffmann@csuci.edu) so that we know how much pizza to order.

## Online Database Spotlight: Academic Search Premiere

This month's database spotlight focuses on one of the library's most comprehensive and well-used databases, Academic Search Premiere. Academic Search Premiere is designed specifically for university libraries, and is the world's largest scholarly and multi-disciplinary database. ASP contains over 4,500 full-text publications on a variety of disciplines including: social science, humanities, education, computer science, physics, chemistry, language, arts and literature and ethnic studies. Academic Search Premiere can be accessed from the library home page (<http://www.library.csuci.edu>) by clicking on the Articles & Databases link.

Not sure how to get started, or which database is right for you? The library home page offers a link to Resources by Subject & Major, which allows students and faculty to locate databases specific to their majors or fields of interest. Simply roll over the Resources by Subject & Major link on the library home page to access the list. Still not sure how to get started? Stop by the library and meet with a reference librarian who can show you which databases are right for you.

## The 2005 Fall Festival of Shrrt Plays

Dramatic readings of new scripts by students, faculty & staff of CSUCI \*

November 3 and November 11 @ 7:30 pm

In conjunction with the campus Celebration of Reading and the visit of guest author Terry Tempest Williams, This year's theme is "Landscape & Environment."

For further information about the Fall Festival, or to submit scripts, contact:

Bob Mayberry  
English  
437.2786  
[Bob.mayberry@csuci.edu](mailto:Bob.mayberry@csuci.edu)

## Catch the Wave with Alumni & Friends!

The Alumni & Friends Association (A&FA) welcomes new and returning students to the Fall 2005 semester. We believe that from the moment you first start classes at C\$UCI, you are a CSUCI alumni. The A&FA is not only a bridge for alums back to their alma mater but also a link for current students to access the benefits and services we provide.

As an A&FA current student member, you will receive invitations to special events we sponsor, such as Dodger Day. Also, members receive a discount on selected merchandise from The Cove Student Bookstore. The annual membership fee for current students is only \$10. For further details and how to join please contact Alumni Relations at (805) 437-8952. Or visit us at [www.csuci.edu/alumni/index.htm](http://www.csuci.edu/alumni/index.htm). Go Dolphins!

Yvette Bocz ('02)  
CSUN-CI Alumni  
President, A&FA

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY CHANNEL ISLANDS  
ALUMNI & FRIENDS ASSOCIATION  
Catch the Wave

# Calender of Events

DATE	EVENT	TIME	CONTACT
9-20 through 10-15	Flag Football League	4:00 pm	RLS
10-1-2005	Destination College	8:00 am	Advising
10-5-2005	Fundraising Workshop	11:00 am	SLC
10-6-2005	Advising Workshop for Clubs/Orgs.	2:00 pm	Student Leadership and Community (SLC)
10-6-2005	Secrets of Sound and Music	3:30 pm	Physics Department
10-7-2005	Counselor Day	8:00 am	SLC
10-8-2005	AAUW Conference	8:00 am	SLC
10-10-2005	Volleyball League	4:00 pm	RLS
10-10 through 10-14	Rock the Vote Week	8:00 am	Student Government
10-13-2005	Pizza with the President	12:00 pm	Student Government
10-14 through 10-16	Family Weekend	12:00 pm	SLC
10-14-2005	Golf Tournament	4:00 pm	SLC
10-16-2205	Students vs. Faculty/Staff/Parents Softball	4:00 pm	RLS
10-18-2005	Volleyball Tournament	4:00 pm	RLS

## One Student's Opinion

by Andrew Ritchie

Now that I am once again living in the dorms, I have more or less resigned from the worries of the world at large. World War III could rage and I would not have the slightest clue that it is happening, at least until winter break. The only news that I will be seeing is whatever is playing on the big plasma TV they have placed not more than twenty feet from where I sit and work at the circulation desk inside the library, and I would not have it any other way. It might be nice if they played something other than the news though. Everyone knows that what is shown on the news is everything they want you to see. No way they'd remind you that North Korea is ruled by a madman who has openly proclaimed that he is in the process of acquiring nuclear weapons (if he hasn't already), as opposed to the land they show daily, known as Iraq, a country we invaded, in which there used to be a ruler that claimed he didn't have any weapons of mass destruction but he really did...not.

Whatever happened to the terror alert bar they used to have on the news? Last time I checked, we were somewhere on orange, which meant something like a lot of people are angry at America, so if you see someone that looks suspicious to you, like a teenager acting somewhat obnoxiously in public, don't hesitate to alert the officials.

And all this live news on CNN from New Orleans is pretty informing as well. There's a guy standing on his roof, and there's a guy swimming in a tire, and there's a helicopter lifting some guy up. I'm sure that all the money these news stations are spending on live helicopter coverage could be

used for something better, like, I don't know, actually helping the victims instead of providing twenty different identical and worthless coverages of the same images, only from slightly different angles? I understand that these images potentially serve a greater cause in that they may stir the viewer to show compassion and donate some money to help the victims of Katrina, but to have every news station providing live coverage is a bit excessive. I am pretty sure the story of Hurricane Katrina won't have a different ending if I tune in to a different channel.

The only things I truly enjoy watching on the news is America's petite cutie-pie apple-of-my-eye Katie Couric, the slew of fine-looking women they have reporting for KTLA, or Dallas Raines, because the Doppler 7000 XL is just too cool; and a name like Dallas Raines for a weather man? He was born to rock meteorology-

To be sincere though, why watch the news when the people who put it on are indifferent to the consequences they may incur on others? Take, for example, Valerie Plame.

A selfish man by the name of Robert Novak thought it a good idea to leak the identity of Valerie Plame, who, before the leakage of her identity, was a CIA Operative. The leakage of her identity would have most definitely meant bad news for herself and everyone else involved. Robert Novak blames everyone but himself for the exposure of her identity. Plame's husband, Joseph Wilson, blames the Bush administration for leaking her name in the first place. I cannot say I blame him. After all, Wilson got a call from Chris Matthews of MSNBC's "Hardball" in which

Matthews told Wilson the following: "I just got off the phone with Karl Rove, who said your wife was fair game." Everybody knows that Karl Rove was responsible for the disclosure of her identity. Karl Rove, in case you did not know, is Bush's right hand man, so nobody seems to care, not even the news.

But either way, Robert Novak gave us the news, and he endangered another human that was working in the interest of the safety of America, and he knew his writing would do just this, but he does not take responsibility for

If the news is not willing to take responsibility for what it says, how can you trust what you see and hear? After endangering Valerie Plame, Novak is still working at the Chicago Sun-Times. One would think that the endangerment of a government operative working in the interest of America would put a stain on your resume, especially when the whole world knows about it. But the Chicago Sun-Times seems content with Novak, since he is obviously still working for them. What makes Novak and news in general look pathetic, though, is who they let take the blame.

Miller was a journalist as well, and she went to jail for contempt of court as she refused to testify before a federal grand jury. She apparently had evidence relevant to the leak, but she was not the one who wrote the article; Novak did. Now the news has forgotten her, and now tune into whatever channel you want, to see how many people have died today from either Katrina or the war in Iraq...oh wait, there was no war; just an invasion. Whatever happened to that guy Osama...Osama...hmmm that's funny I can't remember his last name.