NOVEMBER 10, 2016

OTTER REALM

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

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BECAUSE BLACK LIVES MATTER

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What we should really be thankful for on Thanksgiving

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NOTHING BUT A NUMBER:

Large age gaps in college relationships
GRADUATION... OR BUST?

Kelly Galten

Every college student longs for that moment of flying caps and gowns flashing in the sun as the college president announces, “You have now graduated!” This moment is the whole reason we started this crazy journey in the first place. Regardless of what school we attend, how much financial aid we receive, or where we live, everyone has gathered here in hopes of receiving that diploma. However, only 42 percent of us will ever get to this point, according to CollegeScoreboard.gov. That’s the disheartening reality of college. Why are there talks of requiring more units to graduate, with little advisory help, sluggish financial aid, and few classes already making our lives difficult?

Registration season is here again and the panic buttons have already broken from overuse. Students with financial aid are being denied access to enrollment because their aid has yet to be processed. Classes that are essential to our distinct majors get filled up on the first day, while waitlists are quick to gather names. Students are frustrated, as we should be; we have to take these classes, but are blocked from doing so by the lack of available sections. Perhaps the argument could be made that more classes equates to more funding, but here’s a thought: you know that huge student union building that’s supposed to raise funding, but too many classes enrolled for the amount of classes offered.

So, maybe the problem is not rooted in the vague figure of “The Administration” at CSUMB. It could be that the entire system is stuck in a vicious cycle. There is no question that something needs to be done. Until it is, registration will continue to be a mad struggle, advisors will be overworked, and the question, “Will I graduate?” will remain a daunting shadow.

MEET MULTIMEDIA

Dylan Avnet

Hey everyone!
My name is Dylan and I’m the Multimedia Manager here at the Otter Realm. I’d like to take the chance to tell you about some new things that are happening. We are committed to delivering up-to-date news as well as telling stories related to our community and campus. There are other ways of telling these stories besides printing them in the newspaper, and we are planning on using new tools and forms of media to bring these stories to fruition.

We are excited to announce the expansion of our Multimedia Department, starting now! Our team will be developing news videos, infographics, comics, podcasts, and other forms of media to do these stories justice. Come check us out at Otterrealm.com and find us on our social media accounts!

OOPS!

Last issue, we failed to credit the team behind the article “Bans? It’s in the Bag.” The article was co-written by Ivy Binns, Perla Reyes, and Angeline Fang with our staff writer Carolyn Hinman. Our apologies!
"No justice, no peace, no racist police!" protesters chanted at the top of their lungs as they marched the Cal State Monterey Bay (CSUMB) campus on Monday November 7th. Approximately 80 people turned up wearing Black Lives Matter t-shirts and holding signs proclaiming support for the movement and resistance to racial violence.

The protest was organized by the campus chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and the OC3 and addressed the issues of racial profiling, police brutality, and unfair protection of law enforcement officers during instances of abuse.

The president of the campus NAACP, Marquise Crear, explained that the goal of the march was “bringing awareness to policies that protect officers when they use lethal force, bringing light to the situation.” He continued, “I feel police shouldn’t have extra rights than any other citizen, especially when they’re dealing with human lives.”

According to a Washington Post report, 40 percent of all unarmed victims of fatal police violence are black men, despite that black men are only six percent of the U.S. population. Crear also said, “An African American male dies every 28 hours in the US. Trayvon Martin, Freddy Gray, Sandra Bland make the issue more personal, but it’s definitely more widespread.”

Jasmine Lottier was among those marching. “We’re here to bring unity within the community, with the police, and we’re here to talk about issues pertaining to the integrity act and the racial profiling act.”

Second year psychology major and a student leader of the protest, Breahna Watkins spoke of why the message of the protest is so important to her. “Police brutality is not just outside in the world. Even though we’re not getting killed on campus, there’s still a lot of racial profiling with the UPD, and it just makes it so much harder to be a college student. And then police brutality in general, it just hits home, because it happens in my city, it happens to my people. If I’m gonna say something, I’m gonna scream it from the top of my lungs. It matters, Black Lives Matter.”

With Watkins at her side, Jamaica Tatum, a 2nd year Biology major, led the march through campus, shouting through a loudspeaker “turn up, don’t turn down, we do this for Mike Brown!” and “I can’t breathe!” Proclamations that expose the grief at the heart of the movement. As Monday’s protest drew to a close, Tatum had this message. “I just need everyone to stay woke, or if you’re asleep, wake up, because this is real.”
As the California State University’s budget falls short to cover operations and goals for the next academic year, students at the 23 campuses, including Monterey Bay, may face a tuition increase starting Fall 2017.

However, students are getting ready to prevent this measure.

Raising student tuition by 5 percent is a possibility that the Board of Trustees (BOT) of the university will discuss at its next meeting on November 15-16 at the Chancellor’s Office in Long Beach, and a vote is expected in January.

The proposed tuition increase per year would be $270 for undergraduates, $428 for graduate students, and for out of state students $24 (per unit, per semester).

The proposal faces resistance from the California State Students Association (CSSA) and the Students for Quality Education (SQE). Locally, the Associated Students (AS) and the Monterey Bay chapter of SQE are informing students, exploring alternatives, and organizing a protest at the BOT meeting on November 15-16.

“CSSA firmly believes that CSU students should not be expected to bear any additional financial burden for pursuing a college degree,” reads a letter from the CSSA President David M. Lopez. “It is imperative that the devastating impact of the state’s disinvestment in higher education is reversed if the promise of an affordable, accessible, and quality CSU education is to be kept.”

To meet its educational goals, the CSU has three options: increase state funding, increase student tuition or make cuts to campus budget. Students will put pressure, so the CSU will have to find sufficient funds from somewhere else different than tuition, said Lopez.

The additional funding will help fuel Chancellor White’s program Graduation Initiative 2025, which aims at helping freshmen graduate within four years and transfers graduate in two years. It would do this by updating class scheduling, hiring more tenure-track faculty, and improving advising services. Some concerns about the initiative are that it may affect the quality of education. Lauren McClain, AS President at Cal State Monterey Bay, said she believes the focus should not be on speeding up the graduation rate because everyone’s lives are individual and unique, and this initiative would not suit everyone’s lifestyles.

Students statewide have been speaking up against the potential increase in tuition.

The hashtags #DearBOT, #TheWalkingDebt, and #ReclaimTheCSU have gone viral as students post messages to the Board of Trustees as to why they do not want tuition to rise.

A Twitter user posted “#DearBOT: I can only take up to 9 units per semester. I work and have a child. I can’t afford your plan!” and another one wrote “#DearBOT: Stop contributing to the push out rates of students! Increase of tuition is a gateway for dropout rates because of unaffordability.”

In March AS will be lobbying in Sacramento at the California Higher Education Student Summit (CHESS) as they do every year to gain statewide support. Moreover, there is a ‘Stop-Tuition-Hike’ mobilization on November 15 and 16 in Long Beach where the Board of Trustees will be meeting to discuss the budget options.

For more information about the possible tuition hike visit: tuition.calstatestudents.org. And for updates on the lobbying and protests, visit: http://csusqec.org/

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OTTERS TUSSLE WITH BRONCOS

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The women’s volleyball game against Cal Poly Pomona on Saturday November 5th was action-packed from the start. The opening seconds of the first set promised a fiery face off between the two teams, with the Cal Poly Pomona Broncos taking the first point. The Otters countered immediately, tying up the score within the first minute of the game before taking an early lead. The entire two and a half hour game was like this, with no letting up from the determined CSUMB Otters as they rallied against an impressive opponent. The Broncos narrowly took the first set with a score of 31 to 29.

The Broncos initially pulled ahead in the second set, but CSUMB rapidly turned the tables on them with a smart strategy that took advantage of the Broncos’ aggressive strikes and long range serves. For a lead of 7 to 4, the Otters held back and let the Broncos shoot out of bounds again and again. Unfortunately it wasn’t enough to beat them out, and the second set went to the Broncos at 25 to 21. The Otters never let up in the third set and took it 25 to 11, in the biggest margin of the night, but ultimately were unable to follow through in the final set, which went to the Broncos 20 to 12, resulting in a final score of Broncos 3, Otters 1. The Otters play again Tuesday, November 8th, at the Kelp Bed.

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As the last two games of the season approached for the men’s soccer team of California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB), they looked to have a strong finish.

As a slight drizzle fell from the sky, the men’s soccer team kicked off their game against the Stanislaus State Warriors. The Otters jumped out early with an early goal from Alejandro Garcia, assisted by Michael Maul. The game was looking good as the Otter headed into the 2nd half with a 1-0 lead, but they were unable to stay out ahead. The Warriors scored two quick goals and took the game. “We came out pretty quick, pretty hot, we managed to find that first goal. I feel like next game we are going to come out hot, get a win for the seniors, and end the season well,” Michael Maul said.

As the last game of the season rolled around, the Otters were hungry for a win. They hosted a thrilling game against CSU East Bay. During the first half, the Otters scored three goals: the first by Michael Maul, assisted by Adam Voloder, the second and third scored by Adam Voloder, assisted by Alejandro Arreola and Israel Ayala respectively. The Otters took a 3-1 lead going into the second half. About five minutes into the half, Adam Voloder secured a hat trick and put his team up 4-1. The Pioneers made it interesting by scoring two goals to bring the score within one point. The Otters clutched it and finished their season with a win. “I think we are a team that is underachieved with a lot of talent. The talent is there, we showed spurts of it, we are just our worst enemy,” stated coach Rob Cummings.

The Otters ended their season with an overall record of 5-9-2. See more Otter sports action as Men’s basketball returns on November 11, and Women’s Basketball returns November 16.

Duce Bell races towards the ball in hopes of getting it into the back of the net. Photo by Noah Owens/Otter Realm

Marissa Miller sets the ball as Samantha Brennan and Amber Tygart prepare to receive the pass and spike it down. Photo by Noah Owens/Otter Realm

ANOTHER WIN FOR MEN’S SOCCER

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Another win for Men’s soccer

Duce Bell races towards the ball in hopes of getting it into the back of the net. Photo by Noah Owens/Otter Realm
The Otters keep the score close in Nov. 5 game against SCU

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On Nov. 5, the sky over the Student Recreation Field was a clear blue, and the air was crisp and cold as the Cal State Monterey Bay (CSUMB) Women’s Rugby Club warmed up for their match against the Santa Clara University (SCU) Broncos. The Otters focused on communication on the field; “In rugby, there’s a lot of talking,” says coach and Kinesiology Assistant Professor Maria Bellumori. “It’s important to make sure you’re supporting your other players.”

The team was excited and confident for their match. SCU came out fighting pushing for CSUMB to defend. SCU scored several tries, but the Otters caught up at the end of the half, closing the gap. The second half saw a resurgence from CSUMB, as they made two tries almost immediately. They seemed to have regained new life in their game play, and fought hard to put the score in CSUMB’s favor. In the end, however, the Broncos would take the lead, finishing the game with a final score of 36-44.

The Otters were optimistic despite the loss. Coach Bellumori and Club Co-President Terree Okabe, a Junior Kinesiology major, both expressed their pride in the Otters’ performance. Coach Bellumori said, “We couldn’t have asked for them to play any better.” Okabe agrees, adding “There’s always room for improvement. We are a very young team, and we couldn’t be more proud of our girls for stepping up to the plate.”

The Women’s Rugby Club will play against UC Santa Cruz, again at home, on Nov. 19th.

Strong Finish for Women’s Soccer

Last two games of the soccer season end in a mixed bag for CSUMB women’s team

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The California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) Women’s soccer team played their last two games of the season at home against Stanislaus State and CSU East Bay.

On Thursday, Oct. 27, Stanislaus State visited the Otter Sports Complex. The Otters were able to put several balls towards the goal, but they were never able to score any. Stanislaus State took the game with a 2-0 score.

“This season unfortunately we didn’t get a couple more wins under our belt, but hopefully on Saturday, senior day, we step it up and finish on a good note,” stated Ashlee Cortez.

The next and last game of the season had the Otters looking to end on a high note. After honoring the lone senior Amanda Guerrero, the game began. The first half was somewhat of a stalemate, but the Otters were able to pick up the pace in the second.

The Otters scored three goals during the second half, each by a different player; the first by Karlee Neer, the second by Ashlee Cortez, off an assist from Karlee Neer, and the third by Madison Aguirre. “This season was a lot of learning, growing, and growing up since we are such a young team,” stated coach Erin Reineke.

The Otters ended their season with an overall record of 6-11. See more Otter sports action as Men’s basketball returns on November 11 and Women’s Basketball returns November 16.
**Player Profile**

Jessica McIntyre  
Cross Country  
Junior, Environmental Science Major

**When did you start playing sports?**

I started playing sports when I was five. I started playing soccer, softball, and I also did gymnastics. I started running around 14, in high school.

**Why did you start doing Cross Country?**

During middle school, when I had to run the mile every week, I was just naturally good at it and my P.E. teachers told me I should try it out. I did a camp, ended up liking it, and made the Varsity team.

**What made you choose CSU Monterey Bay?**

I came here in high school on a recruiting trip. The team was probably the main reason why I choose here, because they are like a huge family. They took me out on the trails that they practice on so I got to experience the trails that I would be running on. The area is also sweet.

**What are your favorite things about being on the team?**

A major highlight is how it is like a big family. It’s cool being on a coed team with a great balance of male and female energy. There is a lot of sisterhood and brotherhood between everyone on the team. We do different races and distances but besides that we do pretty much everything together. Being able to wake up and run every day and be surrounded by a bunch of friends.

**Is it hard juggling school and being an athlete?**

Yeah definitely. It is mainly difficult because we are tired and hungry all the time. A lot of focus and time and energy go into this sport. My biggest struggle is just staying awake all the time.

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TO END RACIAL PROFILING

CSUMB NAACP Chapter Calls for Police Reform

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The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) chapter of California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) recognizes the racial issues of police violence and brutality facing people of color in the United States. In solidarity with the #BlackLivesMatter movement, the local chapter illuminated many of these issues and provided ways to resolve these systemic problems.

Approximately 32 million Americans have been racially profiled, even though racial profiling has been proven to be an ineffective law enforcement tool.

According to the chapter’s proposal, studies show African Americans are 72 percent of all people stopped during routine traffic stops, even though they represent only 17 percent of the Northeast driving population and are one third of all persons killed by police after a traffic stop. The End Racial Profiling Act would prohibit all law enforcement “from targeting a person based on actual or perceived race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, gender expression and identity, or sexual orientation without trustworthy information relevant to linking a person to a crime.” This act would also require law enforcement to train officials on issues and policies of profiling as well as “maintain adequate policies and procedures designated to eliminate profiling.”

Following racial profiling, the chapter also called for the passage of the Law Enforcement Trust and Integrity Act, which would require the Department of Justice to study and report data around the effects of “any law, rule, or procedure that allows a law enforcement officer to delay the investigation and prosecution of law enforcement misconduct,” as well as establish a task force on law enforcement oversight to detect and refer complaints of alleged law enforcement misconduct. Lastly, the current Law Enforcement Bill of Rights across many states protects police officers and other law enforcement officials from scrutiny, accountability, and punishment for issues of police misconduct, while simultaneously decreasing public transparency around these problems. The chapter calls for the repeal of such legislation, which they find inhibits public transparency and defends people in power who are not held accountable for such actions of misconduct.

In sum, the local chapter asks for the reform of all Law Enforcement Bill of Rights across many states, the End Racial Profiling and Law Enforcement Integrity Acts, as well as the reform of all Law Enforcement Bill of Rights legislations.
SAFETY FIRST

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While there have been a few minor incidents this semester, the campus of Cal State Monterey Bay (CSUMB) is reasonably safe, under the watchful eye of Chief Earl Lawson and the University Police Department. The Safety Committee’s Oct. 28 meeting reported the construction work and progress on 8th Street, the roof repair of Heron Hall, and the rapid and efficient response of UPD to the Main Campus gas leak. According to the Committee Minutes, “the evacuation was over and students able to return to their buildings within an hour of the first report of the leak.”

The Oct. 26th leak raised questions about campus safety. Several incidents at CSUMB this year put students potentially at risk: The Promontory flood and Business Information and Technology (BIT) building fire alarm, to name a few others.

CSUMB released 2016’s Clery Report in October this year. The report lists the yearly crime statistics on campus. While a few categories remained steady over time, many reports had risen in frequency in recent years, including sexual assault and robbery. University Police Department (UPD) Chief Earl Lawson said UPD has plans to meet these challenges. “We are growing the PD with the University and added two positions to patrol operations in this year,” he said. “We work very closely with the Title IX Office on campus to share information and make sure our community members are receiving the best services available.”

Students can also take precautions to make their everyday lives a little safer. Night Walk service is available to students walking to their car or dorm late at night. Apps for personal phones feature automatic texts to friends if the person does not mark themselves safe after a certain amount of time. Emergency call boxes are located all over campus as well. Chief Lawson recommended the list posted at www.csumb.edu/police for personal safety procedures.
ONE STOP SHOP FOR VETERANS

Bulletin boards adorn the walls of the Veteran Representative office welcoming veterans to the beautiful Monterey Bay. The friendly smiling face of Giselle Young, the Veteran Representative, immediately greets me. From admissions to health care and everything in-between, Giselle Young is the one stop shop for the veterans of CSUMB.

Q: What is your job here at CSUMB?
A: I'm the Veteran Service Coordinator, and what that means is that I'm the person that veterans liaise with if they have issues. I welcome them to the campus. I provide connections to all of the campus services that are provided to all students. But I'm kind of the point of contact and the first stop for veterans when they come to campus so that they can get help to navigate all the things that they need to do. I also process G.I. Bill benefits for veterans that are eligible.

Q: Is this a job that you sought out or did you just fall into it?
A: Uh... a little of both. In 2006 I was a graduation evaluator in the Registrar's office, and the campus decided to move the VA certification from Financial Aid to the Registrar's office, and I'm an Army spouse, so when my boss asked me if I'd like to be in charge of that service I said sure! It has grown from 2006 with the change in the G.I. Bill and the post 9/11 G.I. Bill coming on board in 2009. So my job kind of evolved to graduation processing and Veteran Services for quite a few years and about two years ago the campus decided to make Veteran Services its own position. I kind of created my position as the time has gone by and it has changed with the student makeup. We've got over a million veterans in California right now, we have about 10 percent of the veteran population in our state, so the CSU as made it a priority to support veterans, so every campus has a Veteran Services person.

Q: In my other college, it was hard trying to squeeze in time with the Vet Rep when they're not doing the ten other jobs they have to do. How is it different here?
A: Well, on some campuses it's just somebody who does the certifying but they're not qualified to do any advising and depending on who the person is that get hired for the position, it's how much they want to make the job into. I've always been interested in advising and because I have a background in degree audit for our campus, I know how the requirements work. So it helps me when students are having questions about their learning plan... I can actually be of assistance. We do have a good team set up on campus. I call it the 'vet support team.' Basically, they are contacts in all of the student services areas. In Academic Advising there are advisors, in Health and Wellness Center there are people, in Personal Growth and Counseling, in Student Disability and Resources, and we have reps from both, the East Campus Housing and on campus housing, and obviously in Admissions. What I've done is created a support team that I can pull from and say "I'd like to do a welcome workshop for veterans, can you do a presentation?" It's how I keep the veterans connected to the campus and the campus connected to the veterans. It's important for me, in my role, to make veteran's issues relevant on campus. On some campuses, it is easier to do that and on others it is not so easy. I'm on one of those in-betweens, I have some challenges, but I also have a lot of support. Because of the very nature of where we are, an old military base and surround-ed by active duty and veterans, it's easy for me to get things pushed through.

Q: What some of the common problems that you help veterans resolve, besides the problems that arise from the G.I. Bill?
A: I think sometimes the problems arise from transitioning to higher education. Most of our [Veteran] students are transfer students from community college and community college is a little different makeup that a four-year institution. Some of the challenges are, well, [related to] campus housing. For an older student can be a little hairy because you are potentially on East Campus with two roommates who you may not know, who maybe twenty-something and you're in your thirties, and you just don't want to deal with their quirks. I think some of the most important work I have done is getting housing established that works for them. Also I have done connections with the Career Center and getting people internships in the fields that they are interested in. I try to help students that are having issues with their health. We are a campus that has a VA clinic on school grounds, but not all Vets get their healthcare through the VA, so I try and make sure that Veterans are getting the care that they need.

As a veteran student on campus, I am comforted in knowing that a staff member like Giselle Young is here for the students.
Hundreds of participants from Native American communities in California gathered for a celebration that included a powwow dancing contest in full traditional regalia, music, educational presentations, film, arts and crafts, vendors, and “native tacos,” at the University Center of Cal State Monterey Bay on Nov. 5th.

The Ohlone Costanoan Esselen Nation (OCEN) in collaboration with the CSUMB Native Advisory Council (NAC) and Native American Students United (NASU) hosted the event that congregated hundreds of Native Americans of all ages.

OCEN Tribal Council Chairperson Louise J. Miranda Ramirez led the ballroom in a prayer in Lex Welel, their native language, and welcomed those in attendance: “Thank you for coming to our homeland and honoring it with your dances.”

CSUMB’s Associate Vice President of Inclusive Excellence, Patti Hiramoto, called the event, “a great example of building community on campus through learning each other’s cultures and supporting them.”

The campus NASU and NAC launched with this massive gathering the Native American Heritage month this November, which includes a conversation about the current North Dakota Standing Rock Protector Movement, on Nov. 17 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the OC3.

The conversation about the protest at Standing Rock Sioux reservation which has lasted for several weeks, is intended to increase awareness about the current struggles for sovereignty and environmental justice that many native communities face, and in particular, the goal is to understand the reasons of the North Dakota Sioux community against the pipeline that threatens their water supply and their land.

This month helps everyone to recognize that Native Americans are not legendary people of the past, but citizens like anyone else, classmates, staff, faculty, and community leaders. The identities of the contemporary Native Americans are complex and rich as professor George Baldwin explained in his presentation on Saturday during the event.

Today most native people live in urban areas and engage in traditions and experiences that challenge the movie stereotype of the “Indian.” Baldwin argues that nowadays digital communication has allowed people to gather in what he calls “digital reservations.” With his guitar and songs, he presented a complicated mosaic of the native american experiences, which included stories of continuous colonization, and a piece about the conditions that create the phenomenon of extremely high suicide rates among indians.

The Nov 5th event included the screening of a film about a unique Native American instrument: the flute. The “Legacy of the Grandfather Flute” depicts the efforts to preserve the native tradition of hand making and ritualistic playing of the flute. The film is a labor of love of Dennis Johnson, Psychology faculty.
Jasmine Robledo is a 13 year-old ninth grade student from the Wiyot tribe of Northern California. She goes to school in Fresno. She loves coming to powwows with her family because dancing brings healing to the people of her community. Her regalia includes more than 100 little jingles that her mother attached by had to her dress. “When we dance, we also pray, and that makes a lot of good medicine to my family” she says.
Chief Eats
Coffee Mia, Marina

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Coffee Mia is nestled just off Reservation Road in the midst of all the shopping centers. Sun shines through the large north-facing windows, lighting up the tiles on the tables scattered about the cafe’s interior. The Italian atmosphere is enhanced by the green, white, and red flags on the uniforms and the gourmet paninis on the menu. The customers are greeted by name or complimentary comment, and explains that the morning pastries (chocolate croissants, eclairs and more) are made by the Paris Bakery in Monterey. Other items, like the brownies, small cookies, and cake slices, are homemade by his wife. The croissant that graced my table was disappointing. It did not melt in the mouth, or bring to light visions of the busy streets of Italy. It did have the requisite sweetness, but no individual flavors came through. Although previous croissants have been more flavorful, it did fill the stomach. The mocha ordered was sweet and velvety, with the unmistakable aftertaste of coffee.

The cafe had a pleasant, welcoming atmosphere. The walls are a muted yellow, and the specials and menu boards feature a colorful advertisement for ‘meals of the day’. The chairs were made of thin metal, and rickety, thus not very comfortable. Due to the shadeless windows, the seats near approximated sauna conditions. Outside seating was available, however this was not well advertised.

Given these minor drawbacks, Coffee Mia earns a 3 out of 5 on the points scale. Bellisimo!

Coffee Mia is located at 250 Reservation Road in Marina.
Marvel Studios has developed a winning formula for their movies that has proven its success time and time again, and Doctor Strange - starring Benedict Cumberbatch - is no exception. The gravity of the lead character's struggles, the humor, plot development, climax, and resolution are all on point. The visual design of this film is a stunning and almost surrealistic experience, from the beautifully crafted costumes to the mind-bending alternate dimensions Strange frequents on his journey to becoming “Sorcerer Supreme.” Aside from Cumberbatch, critically acclaimed actors Tilda Swinton, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Mads Mikkelsen, Benedict Wong, and Rachel McAdams bring a variety of excellent characters to life. As previously stated, I saw this movie in 3D. Word of warning: if you tend to experience even mild motion-sickness, stick to the standard digital format. The use of 3D in this film was everything we should want out of such a bizarre story, and I very much enjoyed my viewing experience. There was so much to love about this movie, but at the end of the day it was just good fun! I would recommend this film to any Marvel lover, or anybody looking for a good fantasy/sci-fi action piece to sit down to!

Doctor Strange

The commercials for this movie really hyped me up about the story and plot line. However, when the lights dimmed and the movie began to play, I was a little bit disappointed. The beginning suffered because of its poor acting; it wasn’t horrid, it just left some of the first scenes a little bland. This initially created a barrier for the viewer and made it hard to get into the storyline so early on.

The movie then began to catch your attention with the immaculate detail. The plot slowly drags you in with each new thing you learn. In the movie, the children are said to have “peculiars,” which refers to the abilities/qualities that make them different from the average human beings. One thing that kept this movie alive was that every child’s peculiar was not exposed during the first encounter, like the Twins’ peculiar, which was not shown until right at the end.

One thing I found interesting was that some scenes felt very Halloweenish, mostly with the certain peculiar a few children had. My biggest critique would be that the only person of color in the whole film was main antagonist. I would have liked to see more racial diversity, at least with the children. Though the ending did feel somewhat rushed, was still satisfying. Overall, it was a very entertaining film. I would love to see the ending adventure at length, maybe in a sequel.

Miss Peregrine’s Home for Peculiar Children

The commercials for this movie really hyped me up about the story and plot line. However, when the lights dimmed and the movie began to play, I was a little bit disappointed. The beginning suffered because of its poor acting; it wasn’t horrid, it just left some of the first scenes a little bland. This initially created a barrier for the viewer and made it hard to get into the storyline so early on.

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**Q** As you gather more stories of the multiple aspects of the experience of Iranian Americans, what has surprised you the most?

All of it is surprising. People who are ‘normal’ to me -- hairdressers, homemakers, grandmothers, etc-- have had astonishing and amazing journeys. On my research trips in the past two years I have encountered many individuals who want to share their stories -- about fleeing on horseback across the border of Turkey; about living four to a single room upon arriving in the US; of being taunted in school; of losing touch with friends and siblings. There have also been simpler stories - of depression, regret, anger, and bitterness. But also joy and triumph. It’s been humbling and amazing and educational. I haven’t had the resources to bring all these stories to the archive, but I will do in the next few years. It will move along slowly. Above all, I was surprised how much people wanted to talk. Some would talk for hours. They wanted their stories told. They needed their stories told as a result of that now I feel I have a responsibility to bring these stories out in a neutral, respectful way, without an agenda or broader narrative. That is what I love about this methodology -- it gives voice to the interviewees. They can share their subjective views, and we have to take that at face value, with all of the assumptions it comes with. My previous work in South Sudan, wherein I interview various people -- guerrilla commanders, politicians, priests, refugees, etc -- involved audio recordings that I then transcribed, and interpreted. That gives the researcher a lot of power over presenting a particular view. This way, my view doesn’t come into it. That is up to the audience.

**Q** What was your personal motivation to create this project as an Iranian American?

After I wrote my book [The State of Post-conflict Reconstruction, in South Sudan], I spent some time thinking about what my next project would be. I knew I wanted to work on diaspora as it is a highly relevant field in African Studies. But I kept coming back to my own diaspora community and realizing that I wanted to bring together my various -- my personal journey, my visual arts background, my love of interviewing and oral history (which was the basis for my fieldwork and scholarly work in South Sudan), my passion for filmmaking, and my technology skills/interest. This film is part of the a larger digital archival project that aims to generate content, or stories from Iranian Americans in a collaborative fashion. The archive that will be launched in 2017 is a collaborative platform facilitating engagement between scholars, educators, artists, filmmakers, and community organizers in the telling of the unique and multi-faceted story of Iranian-Americans.

**Q** What do you expect the audience of the film to take away from it?

I don’t know. And that is the beauty of it, as well as the scariest part!
7 things to remember before adopting a furry friend in college

By Myka Menard

Animal adoption is a wonderful thing. Adoption gives new homes to a precious pet that needs one. When do we know if we are really ready for that commitment? As a college student, before going out and getting a new dog or cat, here are some things to think about.

**Price is key:** Adoption is not free and can cost quite some of change. At the Monterey SPCA, costs range from $150-$300 for a dog and $35-$75 for a cat. Rabbits and Guinea Pigs tend to be less expensive.

**Potty training:** A new dog might already knows it is bad to pee in the house, or it won’t. Cats can be much easier to train, especially with their litter box being inside already. The urine can cause damages to the house if not found or cleaned in time. Getting a crate while you are not home decreases the likelihood of accidents inside.

**Cleaning up:** It is important to keep spaces clean, especially when shared. For a cat, that would mean keeping the litter fresh and the mess taken out. For dogs, outside mess and indoor accidents need to be picked up or maintained. Do not let it accumulate out of respect of the other people living there.

**Discipline:** There will come a time where the pet will need some sort of punishment, usually dogs. The punishments need to be consistent in order to be effective.

**Home Alone:** Some pets do fine home alone, others freak out, thinking that their person is never coming back. Some pets will need to be placed in a kennel or outside when their is no one home, in order to prevent the destruction of walls, blinds, shoes, important paper, and so on.

**Vet Bills:** More money will go into a pet each year. It is necessary to keep shots up to date and have money stored away for the time that the pet needs to go see a vet. It is best to have up to $1,000 saved up in case of emergencies. There are plenty of animal hospitals the area and a holistic clinic in Pacific Grove.

**Pet Deposit/Licence:** An unregistered pet will not be permitted in East Campus. To register a pet, go to the Marina Police Department. If the pet is fixed, registration should only cost about $20. Off-campus costs range depending on where you rent, and is currently $200 in East Campus.
Hello Otters!

Although the weather may not indicate it, we are winding down in our semester with only about four weeks left until winter break. I hope you all are able to find your second wind to keep chugging along and working hard.

In my previous column to you all, I talked to you about the potential tuition increase should we not receive a fully funded CSU from the state. We have a few updates now. The issue with this increase is that the Board of Trustees must decide whether or not to increase tuition before the state budget is finalized. This means that should the increase pass, we the students will have already paid it by the time we know if the CSU will be fully funded by the state of California or not. Chancellor White has given us a promise that if there is an increase and we receive full funding from the state, students will be reimbursed and the increase will be revoked. If you have more questions please don’t hesitate to contact me. You may also go online to tuition.calstatetudents.org for more information.

Rest assured, as your Associated Students it is our duty serve and represent you. We are working hard to advocate for you and we strongly oppose the tuition increase. We have opportunities for you to get involved in this process as well as other projects. Such opportunities are to be involved in the tuition increase discussion, food insecurity discussions, as well as internal discussion around AS finance, internal affairs, and elections. If you are interested, please reach out to me.

Finally, we have two events coming up for you. We have Zumba this upcoming Monday, November 14th, from 6-7pm in the Otter Sports Center. Our last Food Pantry of the semester is also happening on December 1st from 11am-1pm in the West Lounge of the Student Center and will be open to all students, even those with meal plans.

Thanks,
Lauren McClain
president@ascumb.org

Visit AS at: csumb.edu/as or at their office, Student Center, Room 125
Diego Cantu-Gil, a first-semester Human Communication major at CSUMB, takes a sip from his reusable cup made from cork. With the scatter of small shimmering raindrops hitting the window, Peet’s is illuminated in the light of a cloudy glow. Cantu-Gil, wearing a gray collared shirt and green cargo pants, sits and pensively ponders the following: “Do you have a religious or spiritual identity?”

His identity unknown to many, Cantu-Gil identifies as a nihilist. The term, “nihilism,” was first used in the 19th century by German philosopher Friedrich Jacobi to reference rationalist thought, in particular Immanuel Kant’s philosophical perspectives. While there are varying definitions surrounding this nebulous term, Cantu-Gil prefers to describe nihilism, and his way of seeing the world, using explicit terms. As such, this interview draws from his definitions and interpretations of nihilism.

Unlike many belief systems, nihilism doesn’t ascribe inherent meaning to anything in the world around us. Through this perspective, the world is devoid of meaning aside from what we attribute to it. “Instead of having nihilism inform me about the world, I’ve had my view of the world inform me about nihilism,” Cantu-Gil describes as he distinguishes nihilism from other perspectives.

Cantu-Gil was raised in a “semi-traditional Mexican household” with Roman Catholic parents. Raised as a Catholic, Cantu-Gil felt a tugging disconnect between Catholicism and the way he saw the world. After regularly attending catechism courses at his local parish as a youth, Cantu-Gil left his Catholic roots behind him, finding deeper meaning in spending quality time with friends or attending other events, like Shakespearean plays, in place of attending church retreats.

After heavy discernment, Cantu-Gil found nihilism as a way to describe his growing need to put a name to what he was thinking about the nature of our wider universe. As a person who struggled and continues to struggle with depression, Cantu-Gil found a part of himself in this newfound identity, as he has not always been able to reckon or reconcile with these thoughts and feelings about wider human meaning, purpose, and existence. “I’ve been learning a lot about myself in recent years,” Cantu-Gil said. “I’ve sort of learned to start accepting myself for who I am.”

Along with the lack of inherent meaning, nihilism also radically claims no form of absolute morality in our universe. Likewise, nihilism is also thought of as rejecting traditional religious or spiritual morals and values. “There is a reason for why everything happens, but it’s not part of any divine plan,” Cantu-Gil clarifies as he speaks to how this world continues to turn. “Things happen because of cause and effect. If something appears random, we perhaps aren’t looking deep enough.”

Although this may appear bleak to some people, this approach to seeing reality doesn’t exclude the drive or desire to make this world a better place. For Cantu-Gil, an inerrant religious or spiritual moral framework isn’t necessary in diminishing the abundance of hardship in this world. “I personally think we can all do something to work against suffering in the world,” Cantu-Gil remarked, explaining that any person might be able to hold a space for empathy towards other humans deep in the struggle. “Suffering in the world sucks. Let’s figure out how to suffer less.”

As a person who is passionate about working to help others, Cantu-Gil recalls a time in his life where he placed the needs of others over his own. To this day, his constant struggle is to ensure that he honors his own needs before drastically neglecting them in order to assist people. “If you believe that you as an individual must bear the burden of the world, you also must ask that of other people. That’s the opposite of what we need to do right now,” Cantu-Gil expanded. “We need to get support [for ourselves] that works and learn that everyone is going through a struggle and has a personal story. We need to lean and rely on each other a little more and recognize our interdependence.”

Cantu-Gil suggests reading widely about nihilism by searching for answers both in books or on the internet, as the landscape of defining and describing nihilism is not only vast but relatively uncentralized; he posits that he sometimes wishes there was a nearby resource or information center available for people to come bearing questions on nihilism and life’s ultimate purpose. Regardless, Cantu-Gil begs readers to keep asking questions and to find meaning and explanation for life in a way that serves to enrich your own. “It may be true that nothing matters, but we have to work past nothing mattering,” Cantu-Gil wishes you luck as you continue your search.

**Do you have a compelling and underrepresented religious and/or spiritual identity? Please contact Alex Jensen at rojensen@csumb.edu.**
Thanks, BUT NO THANKS

What do we really have to be grateful for?

Carolyn Hinman
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Ask most Americans what Thanksgiving means to them, and the response will likely describe some rambling amalgamation of mashed potatoes, oyster dressing, pilgrims, Native Americans, turkey legs, and pumpkin pie. Oh yeah, and they’re thankful for it too. Thanksgiving is a free pass for second and third helpings, too. Thanksgiving is a free pass yeah, and they’re thankful for it. Turkey legs, and pumpkin pie. Oh mashed potatoes, oyster dressing. The annual fee-for-admission collected around an overflowing cornucopia of festive feasting has become a mere annoyance, an eye roll. Acknowledging the bounty we have received is the buzzing fly in the eye of the American horse, an unavoidable pest we swat at lazily to keep up appearances and pay lip service to the expectation that we be grateful for something. So we trolley out the old standbys, donning our trite platitudes like the ugly Christmas sweater Aunt Gertrude knitted for us when we were eight and were forced to wear every moment, and really experience the sights, smells, and feels of the holiday. “My challenge this Thanksgiving is to quiet my mind, appreciate the moment, and really experience the sights, smells, and feels of the holiday.”

Yuletide so as not to offend. “I’m grateful for my family, I’m grateful for this food, I’m grateful for my friends.” But are we really?

The trivial, superficial thanks I am capable of giving on this day of excess does not even come close to approximating the level of gratitude I should be expressing on a daily basis. One day in which I opine on the luxury of snuggling into a soft bed under a watertight roof does not atone for the fact that I have, through no virtue of my own, been so fortunate as to have been born in a place where I do not live in constant fear of deadly airstrikes. There is no sense of wonder when I turn on the tap and the water runs clear. I live in a country whose citizens can afford, with impunity, to chuck 40% of their food straight into the garbage. Like frogs in a pot of boiling water, we grow increasingly accustomed to our creature comforts and modern conveniences. Tethered to the umbilical cords of our mobile devices and social media, we have the luxury of lambasting coffee chains for omitting Christmas greetings from their disposable cups (perish the thought we should tote our own reusable mugs upon which any sort of Hallmark-endorsed sentiment could be scrawled. It’s just too damn easy to throw the paper one away and never think about it again). We can take to the Twitterverse to angrily tap out a tirade in 140 characters or less, basking in the smug satisfaction of “speaking” out against the injustice du jour without the hassle of pulling on pants. It’s a lot easier to complain than it is to praise, and we are more ready to scowl than we are to smile. I can easily get bogged down in a guilt trap, cycling endlessly between merciful self-flagellation for being a deplorable ingrate and bitter resentment for living such a mediocre life.

My challenge this Thanksgiving is to quiet my mind, appreciate the moment, and really experience the sights, smells, and feels of the holiday. It is so easy to get caught up in research papers, studying for exams, and attending club meetings, that these activities we CHOOSE to be involved with become the bane of our existence. I GET to go to school. I am a woman who can be in a public place with exposed skin, and feel relatively confident that my life will not be threatened because of it. I have the PRIVILEGE of going grocery shopping every week. I can get into my car, and DRIVE the monotonous three hours to Clovis to visit dear old Dad. There is a beach less than a mile from the CSUMB campus. I didn’t even know it existed until this morning, and as I stood there on the dunes of Fort Ord, looking at the sea glass waves breaking on the ancient sand, I thought I might drown in the overwhelming awe I felt staring at the Pacific Ocean. Most days I forget it is even there. I am ALIVE, and it’s no small feat I’ve made it this far. And for that, I can honestly say, I am sincerely grateful.
Cheaters: A Blessing in Disguise

Kaitlyn Faris
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One of the worst feelings in the world is being cheated on. You devote so much of your life to this person, come to find out they have been having an affair behind your back. Some one you envisioned spending the rest of your life with has betrayed you in the worse way possible. Devastation sinks in and the thought of never finding love again emerges.

My friend Lily went through that exact devastation. Lily and her boyfriend Ryan were together for 7 years. They fell in love when they were 16 and were inseparable at first. After their 5th year of being together, they finally moved in together, but Ryan became distant. He would not let Lily touch his phone and would not show her as much affection. The only social media Ryan had was snapchat and Lily wondered why he never posted pictures of her. He always had an excuse why Lily could not touch his phone or why he would never posted her on social media.

As anyone would feel in Lily’s situation, she started to feel insecure in her relationship. She felt like Ryan was seeing someone else. It would explain his refusal to let her see his phone or put her on his snapchat. Lily’s insecurities led her to questioning Ryan and his response was that she was insecure and she needed to figure herself out. He packed his stuff and moved out.

They still stayed together, but Ryan became even more distant and Lily began to question him even more. Lily’s friends and family were all telling Lily that Ryan was cheating on her which fueled Lily’s insecurities even more. Ryan would tell her that she is crazy and that he is not cheating on her.

Ryan eventually got so fed up with Lily constantly questioning him that he blocked her from Snapchat and from his phone but didn’t break up with her. He explained to her that he just needed sometime because her insecurities pushed him away. Lily could not understand how someone she’s been with for so long could do this to her, and she began to feel depressed and have intense anxiety.

After a few days of not talking to Ryan, Lily gets a text from his cousin saying she need to talk to her. She explains to Lily, “Ryan is with another girl right now and he is posting her on his snapchat as we speak.” Hilary gave Lily her username and password for snap chat so Lily could see for herself. There it was clear as day. The girl Ryan was with posted a selfie on his snap chat captioned “ taken by me! I love my man”. Lily’s heart sank as soon as she saw that picture.

Lilly cried and cried for weeks because the man she envisioned having kids with betrayed her in the worse way possible. I assured her every time we spoke that there is someone out there, someone amazing who won’t treat her the way Ryan treated her. She would ask me if this pain would ever go away and I told her over time it most definitely will.

It has been about three months since Lilys heartbreak, and she got through it like a champ. She is now dating an amazing guy and I have never seen her so happy in the 9 years I have known her. She told me that what Ryan did was a blessing, and that it is true... there is other people out for her who will treat her amazingly.

If it is one thing to take away from Lily’s story, it’s that if you are going through a breakup or have been cheated on, just know that time heals everything and there is more out there!

Do not ever settle for someone treating you bad, because there are plenty of people who would treat you amazing. And if you are ever cheated on, just know that it could be a blessing in disguise.
Ain’t Nothin’ but a Number

Kimberly Haley
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A classmate of mine told me that her parents were coming out to visit over Thanksgiving, but she was nervous; this would be the first time they met her boyfriend. She is worried that her parents will judge her, or think that there is something unhealthy about their relationship. It isn’t that he isn’t a good fit for my friend, and he treats her well, but he happens to be nine years older than her.

Since the beginning of my young adult life, I have joked about finding myself a sugar daddy - an older man who would give me money for being in a relationship with him. I’m a little more pragmatic about love and dating ever since my main high school relationship ended rather poorly after three and a half years, two of which were tumultuous. I know, I know, I’m too young to be so dejected about one boyfriend during adolescence and that high school sweethearts rarely work out in the end. “The One” will come along at some point and nothing will be the same.

I’m not sure if I’ve found “The One,” but I have found someone. He makes me laugh, makes me think, and makes me moan in abundant quantities. It’s as good as I thought things could get, given my romantic pessimism.

We met on campus a little over a year ago because we had evening classes in the same hall at the same time. He is a transfer student working on the same degree as I am, just as a transfer student instead of an incoming freshman. We became friends-lovers shortly after. I do care about him very much, and I believe that he cares about me. He just happens to be a few years older than me.

“I do care about him very much, and I believe that he cares about me. He just happens to be a few years older than me.”

We are both very busy in our lives, between school and work and all the other obligations that go along with life. This can make it difficult to see each other as often as we would like. However, we do make a conscious effort to spend some time together at least once a week. The relationship isn’t exclusive, and I have been on dates with other people while still seeing him. We aren’t attached at the hip by any means, and because of our short time together, most of my friends haven’t met him and might never get the chance.

Foundational factors that should be in all relationships are there, though. There is trust and communication, which is especially important when you are sexually active in an open relationship. If there was anything that could affect my health or wellness, I believe that he would tell me, and I would certainly tell him. The chemistry is definitely there as well; there’s definitely something positive to be said about sleeping with someone more experienced than yourself. There is certainly something to be said for being in relationships with a partner who has gotten to spend enough time learning who they are as a person, and what their own needs are.

Sadly, my dream of having a sugar daddy has yet to be fulfilled, since the time with him is all pro bono. In spite of the age gap, I am happy with whatever love affair I have with him, and I can only hope that he is happy with it too. Any time that my friend brings up her older man, it sounds like a similar story, which is why I can only hope her nervousness about the holiday meet and greet is misplaced.

Two consenting adults is what matters, not age. In the end, as long as your relationship is healthy and makes you happy, that’s the important part. I just can’t promise that Thanksgiving with his family will be simple.

Does a wider age gap matter during college-age relationships?
**Fun-ish Games**

Find the answers and more at otterrealm.com!

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**Across**
1. The international journalist who visited CSUMB on Oct. 27
2. The Native American home tribe of the Monterey Region, and the E in OCEN
3. This Women’s CSUMB sports team faced Santa Clara University on Nov. 5
4. Protest the possible CSU tuition increase with #______
5. ___________ students shared their stories on Page 18’s infographic
6. CSUMB’s safety report was revised on October
7. The holiday (and break) we can all be grateful for
8. Miss Peregrine’s home is open to these types of children
9. AS is hosting this fun fitness class on Nov. 14!
10. ‘Through this perspective, the world is devoid of meaning aside from what we attribute to it.’
11. The nearby city where Coffee Mia is located
12. Pride Club & LGBT and Allied Advocates present Rainbow ______

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**Down**
2. ________ students shared their stories on Page 18’s infographic
**What does Thanksgiving mean to you?**

**Rukiyah Walker  
Freshman, Mathematics**

Coming together and celebrating everything you are thankful for with your family.

**Antonio Villagomez  
Junior, Computer Science**

Family time. Break from work and school, definitely school.

**Danny Denicola  
Senior, Human Communication**

To me thanksgiving means having gratitude for things that you take for granted, you know. Like giving thanks to everythings; your friends, the music you listen to, being able to go to the store and buy food whenever you want and not having to struggle for food. Being thankful for everything that you have.

**Briana Del Anda  
Freshman, Human Communication**

Spending time with your family and being thankful for everything you have.

**Jody Huber  
Freshman, Liberal Studies**

It means family coming together, for being thankful for everything that you have, and spending time together.

**Josh Brown  
Sophomore, Kinesiology**

Enjoying fellowship with family and friends, and depending on who you are with, enjoying fellowship with god or fellowship just in general.