

the Lutrinae

CSUMB Student-Run Newspaper

Dec. 7, 2020



CSUMB student Mayra Cuevas-Cardenas (left) studies a Monterey County crop with other researchers.

New agriculture major produces student growth to benefit the Salad Bowl

Story by Sydney Brown
Photo courtesy of Elizabeth Mosqueda

Sitting on the edge of California, Monterey County is kissed by breezes of coastal mist and grounded with enriched soil, thus establishing the area as a magnanimous epicenter for agricultural production. Families have migrated to the county for many years to take on farming jobs, raising their children in what is known to be the "Salad Bowl" of the World. After years of planning, California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) developed the Agricultural Plant and Soil Sciences major (APGS) in order to create more growth opportunities for local students interested in the agricultural industry, and students and teachers alike are pleased to see the program begin.

"I think this program is long overdue, especially because local students usually go to agriculture schools such as Fresno State, Cal Poly and UC Davis, so I think it's going to be very beneficial not only to the students but to the community as well," said Julissa Hernandez, who was the first student to enroll in APGS courses in Spring 2020.

Dr. Elizabeth Mosqueda invited Hernandez to join the major after learning about her interest in agriculture through a local scholarship committee. Mosqueda's family immigrated to the Salinas Valley as farmworkers, instilling her with an interest in agriculture from a young age. Mosqueda attended Fresno State to earn her bachelor's and master's degree in plant science as CSUMB did not offer those degrees at the time, then attended the University of Wyoming to receive her PhD. After a journey far from home, she's happy to be working as the Bob & Sue Johnson Assistant Professor of Crop Management.

"It's exciting to be back and be working in my local community especially in this agriculture industry because it's so dynamic and interesting here," Mosqueda said.

Her position was fully funded by a generous donation from Bob Johnson, a retired farmer who worked in the Salinas Valley that now lives in Pacific Grove. When building the program, Mosqueda and her colleagues ensured transfer students residing in Monterey County would have a smooth transition from Hartnell, Monterey Peninsula College or other common CSUMB transfer schools into APGS. Many of what Mosqueda calls "the first cohort" of students have part-time or full-time positions within the agriculture industry already, yet are so passionate about the subject that they desire more in-depth knowledge about it.

"I think that shows the need overall for a program such as this one," she said. "The agriculture industry is one

of the most important industries economically as well as socially to the surrounding CSUMB region, and that of course that extends to our students and their families."

APGS was listed for the first time in the Fall 2020 course catalog, but took several years to come into fruition. Dean of CSUMB's College of Science Andrew Lawson said the major required permission to plan paperwork and a program proposal, each process taking a year to complete and receive approval by the CSU Chancellor's office. As a younger university, CSUMB had to wait for an opportunity to get an agriculture specialization up and running, but the preparation for APGS was worth its due time as interested students need training specific to the Salinas and Pajaro Valley.

Agriculture in Monterey County differs from other regions of the state. "We grow the majority of all of these leafy greens and a lot of vegetables are grown here, and that's quite different than some of the crops that are grown in the Central Valley," Lawson said.

As students prepare to run the agricultural businesses in Monterey County, Mosqueda said they will partake in "economic sustainability and community-driven change," fueling not only their futures, but also the families they will feed as an outcome of their hard work.

Some offered APGS classes include plant physiology, weed science and biotechnology and agriculture. Most classes consist of the same 14 students, making group projects and discussions all the more comfortable and bonding with professors more simple. Hernandez noted that UROC offers space for agricultural research, which is great for dedicated APGS students.

Hernandez said biotechnology, led by professor JP Dundore-Arias, is her favorite course this semester and that he has been an excellent model for students.

"[Biotechnology] is really changing agriculture ... we do have a labor shortage in California and these technologies," automated weeders, for example, save farmers time and money. "To see how much technology has evolved in just these past years is really amazing and I'm learning so much in that class, things I didn't even know about," Hernandez said.

Dundore-Arias started working as the assistant professor of plant pathology at CSUMB after focusing many years of study on agriculture in Costa Rica and Minnesota. As biotechnology and agriculture is a new course, Dundore-Arias created all the materials for lesson plans and coursework, including a project where students developed a business plan for a hypothetical agriculture company who researches and sells biotechnology resources as if they were on an episode of "Shark Tank."

Students proposed groundbreaking biotech inventions such as a Central Coast-originating, plant-based clothes to diminish waste, robots to help harvest strawberries and using fluorescent genes to signify to a weed-pulling tractor with cameras what reads as healthy lettuce versus unwanted weeds. Although he did not force students to list themselves as managers of their proposed businesses, he said "it allowed them to see themselves in upper management positions" as many presented themselves as leaders of those companies.

"I asked [students] to come up with a design of how their company would be managed ... I never said 'you have to be the boss,' but all of them put themselves as CEOs or BPs of their companies," said Dundore-Arias. "They did that, I did not ask them, so I hope they can see themselves in those positions ... because students from underrepresented minorities and first generation students would not necessarily" enlist themselves in those positions.

According to Lawson, CSUMB is now the sixth university to offer an agriculture degree out of the 23 CSU's. This semester, APGS classes consist of the same cohort, filled with local students yearning to learn more about the farming land around them. But this major is just as focused on obtaining new students as it is on producing a quality program, if not more.

"We certainly hope it grows as quickly as it can and we're going to make every effort to make sure it's a really high quality program so that word-of-mouth spreads and we become known as the place in California to focus on fruit and vegetable crops" specific to the county, Lawson said. "(The major) aligns with the values of CSUMB and the region and I hope young people looking for careers in agriculture can think about that and feel really good about a career where they're producing healthy fruits and vegetables - really for the nation."

Hernandez is grateful for the projects and lessons she's experienced so far within the APGS major. "It gives us more opportunities to give us that hands-on experience" which students probably wouldn't get anywhere else "especially because we're local there's also different job opportunities around the region which is really beneficial for all of us." She also highlighted the importance of having a tight-knit cohort.

"How we started, we're going to be ending," said Hernandez.

Inspirational fitness

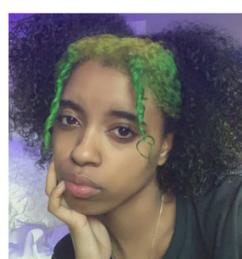
OC3 hosts Feminist Fitness Fridays to educate and inspire students.



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Pandemic hair care

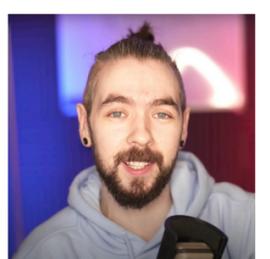
Learn how to take care of your hair without leaving the house.



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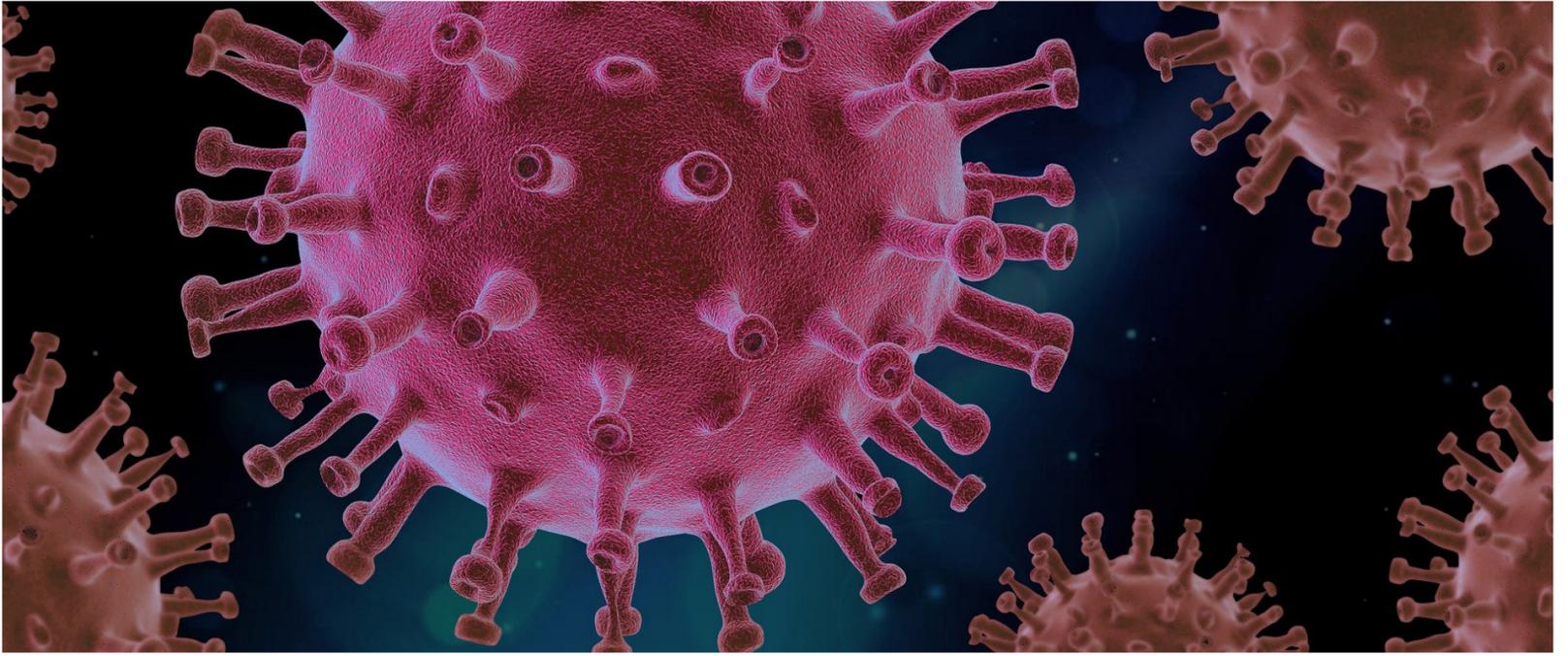
Thankmas 2020

Jacksepticeye raises money for Covid-19 relief efforts in Thankmas.



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Diversity Series tackles AIDS epidemic



Story by Cassidy Ulery
Photo courtesy of PIRO4D on pixabay.com

The College of Health Sciences and Human Services (CHSHS) at California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) partnered with Team Lead Francisco Ruiz of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Dr. Scott Rhodes, a professor at Wake Forest School of Medicine, for a virtual keynote presentation on Dec. 1 discussing AIDS amidst the coronavirus pandemic, as part of CSUMB's Diversity Celebration Series.

The panelists, including dean of CHSHS Dr. Britt Rios-Ellis, spoke on preventative measures, developing an understanding of the disease and provided viewers resources equipped for inclusive health care treatment. Finalizing the Diversity Celebration Series, the keynote took place on World AIDS Day, helping continue a united promise to find resilience and teach impactful lessons.



The Lutrinae is a weekly campus newspaper covering CSUMB and its neighboring areas. Here at *The Lutrinae*, our goal is not only to educate and inform the public, but to entertain, to spark creativity, to encourage diversity of opinion, and to build a sense of community on campus and with the neighboring cities.

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The Lutrinae serves two purposes: It is a training ground for students who wish to develop journalism skills and build their resume, and it is a forum for free expression of campus issues and news. *The Lutrinae* Editorial team will determine what to print and reserves the right to edit for libel, space, or clarity.

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Rhodes began the presentation with background information on himself and his research. Coming from an engineering father and activist mother, Rhodes was taught from an early age how empowering changing other's lives can be. In his college years, Rhodes was prompted to volunteer at an AIDS clinic after receiving a brochure in the mail.

"I saw the ad on the back of the brochure and it spoke to me," Rhodes said. "As a gay man from a liberal activist family, if I was nervous to volunteer, they certainly needed volunteers."

Rhodes was inspired from his time spent at LGBTQ+ clinics and pursued his master's degree to obtain deeper education and training, which lead to on-the-ground research and extensive dedication to fighting AIDS.

"After graduating with my master's, I spent three years in the Peace Corp," Rhodes said. "I went to Guatemala and it's a very special place with very special people."

The community-based work Rhodes dedicated himself to led to a doctoral degree and position at Wake Forest School of Medicine. Rhodes and his team help fight the epidemic by mobilizing social justice networks for Spanish-speaking Latinx men in recreational soccer leagues. Additionally, they provide condoms and HIV testing for Spanish-speaking Latinx gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men (gbMSM) and transgender women.

Ruiz explained how HIV and COVID-19 are closely linked. Working for the CDC's division of AIDS/HIV prevention, Ruiz left viewers with seven factors for applying crucial knowledge in stopping transmission.

"Many times when you treat one individual, you are treating the entire household," Ruiz said.

Recognizing how social and economic factors contribute to the spread, leading with cultural strengths and having bilingual staff are some of the lessons Ruiz hoped would resonate with the audience. "We are often survivors and not just resilient," Ruiz said. "There is a difference between surviving and showing resilience."

Political climates greatly influence social networks, whether they be hostile or good. Ruiz noted the fear of deportation, harsh attitudes towards immigration and the activist doings of the Black Lives Matter movement are all positive and negative contributions to efforts of combating AIDS.

Concluding his presentation with the advice of utilizing holistic help and building local capacity to help with sustainability, Ruiz highlighted the importance of developing comfortable and acceptable migration methods.

"We make sure that our programs and guidelines are based on true-lived experiences," Ruiz said. "We can't end the HIV epidemic without the community."

CSUMB allows credit/no credit system

Story by Sydney Brown
Photo by Arianna Nalbach

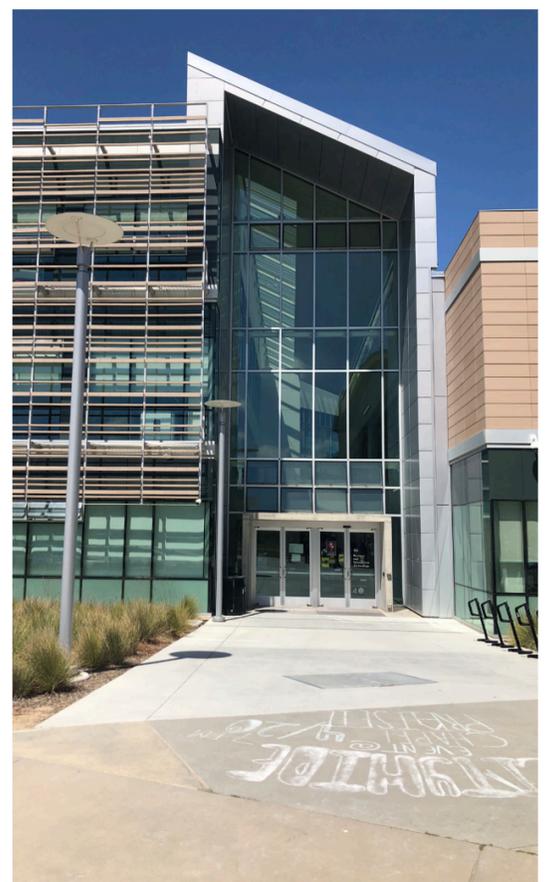
To assist students on their educational pathway during the unforeseen breakout of COVID-19, the California State University, Monterey Bay provost announced an alternative grade mode selection for the Fall 2020 semester.

The provost sent an email to all students on Dec. 2 declaring students now have the option to change the typical letter grade system to a credit or no credit if they desire. This matches last semester's grading mode, offering students worried about their GPA dropping points the opportunity to opt in for credit or no credit, which won't tarnish their transcript as much as a low letter grade.

"CSUMB faculty and staff support you and are here to help you succeed," read the email. The email also said the provost "listened to [student] concerns" and decided it was in the best interest to bring the grade system back.

A credit grade replaces an undergraduate A+ through C- or a graduate A+ through B- and a no credit grade replaces an undergraduate D+ through F or graduate C+ through F.

Students must change their grade mode on OASIS from Dec. 8 to 18 in order to have courses graded as credit or no credit.



Otter Cross Cultural Center provides educational and inspirational fitness

Story and screenshot by Anna Stubler
Photo courtesy of Lorie Shaull on Flickr

For students at California State, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) looking for a different kind of workout class, look no further than to Feminist Fitness Fridays put on by the Otter Cross Cultural Center (OC3) at CSUMB. The program starts with a 10-minute discussion on a feminist icon, theory or topic. This is followed by a 50-minute workout where participants follow a dance video.

Each week the event has a different theme pertaining to feminism. The theme on Dec. 4 was Indigenous Feminism, which was particularly timely following Indigenous History month in November.

Coordinator for OC3 Bianca Zamora highlighted some of the main issues facing Indigenous women and the causes Indigenous feminists fight for. The talk centered around gender equity and decolonization. According to Zamora, it is important to understand that Indigenous women today are affected by patriarchal and colonial violence.

She noted the murder rates for Indigenous womxn are extremely high and concerned feminists highlight this violence by painting a red hand on their faces at women's marches and using the hashtag #MMIWG (Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls).

Indigenous feminists are rising up to make their voices heard and receive liberation. Zamora discussed the portrayal of Indigenous people in the media. An example she presented was non-Native people appropriating

Indigenous culture on Halloween as costumes. Other issues, according to Zamora, are misrepresentation, #NativeWomensEqualPayDay, climate change and sovereignty. Zamora referenced the Dakota Pipeline across Native lands as an example of climate change and sovereignty.

Zamora finished her talk by encouraging participants to research these issues further to become more informed. "We find it important to offer social justice education that is accessible and to create a space for community building and fun," Zamora said. "There can be a stigma around feminism and we want to provide a space to explore various feminist movements, leaders, and theories."

"We see feminism including self-care, joy and body positivity," Zamora said.

For students looking for an educational workout in a friendly and welcoming environment, they can check out Feminist Fitness Fridays biweekly next semester beginning Feb. 12.



CBSS presents “dream BIG” with Nate Cameron

Story by Cassidy Ulery

The Center for Black Student Success (CBSS) at California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) hosted a virtual panel discussion on Dec. 3, as part of the Black Professional Series. Humanities and Communication Professor Umi Vaughan led the conversation with Nate Cameron - New Orleans-based musician and manager - on guiding viewers with helpful tips for making successful career choices and finding your passion.

"New Orleans is one of the most challenged cities," Vaughan said. "When we talk about economics, politics and such."

Vaughan, similar to Cameron, has family roots in New Orleans, which prompted Vaughan to inquire about his upbringing and inspirations.

"In school, I was in the performing arts program," Cameron said. "I had some teachers that saw I had exceptional skills."

Cameron credits his Baptist Church background and parents singing around the house for his musical

knowledge and interest. At 7 years old, Cameron was receiving private instruction to advance his lyrical abilities, however his talent in performing comes from his own natural skill and connection to the city.

"Being from New Orleans is a cultural art lesson in itself," Cameron said.

Vaughan showed the audience one of Cameron's songs called "The 504," demonstrating the smooth, funky tunes Cameron produces. "The 504," pays homage to his hometown, but also describes the struggles facing the streets and community.

Because the music scene was interrupted by the coronavirus pandemic, Cameron is currently soaking up quality time with family. After spending two years on the road with his band "Tank and the Bangas," incorporating downtime with loved ones is something necessary and missed by Cameron.

Touring might not be in the foreseeable future, however Cameron remains optimistic by still creating music in the safety and comfort of his home. "Music is where you can express yourself," Cameron said. "I think that's where

people can look inside themselves and receive what they need."

Since personal gatherings are restricted, Cameron informed the audience that listening to music allows for cultural connection when the community can't celebrate together. Reminiscing on his past tour experiences, Cameron explained that his opportunities to explore countries like Austria, Finland and Germany have opened his eyes to the global Black population.

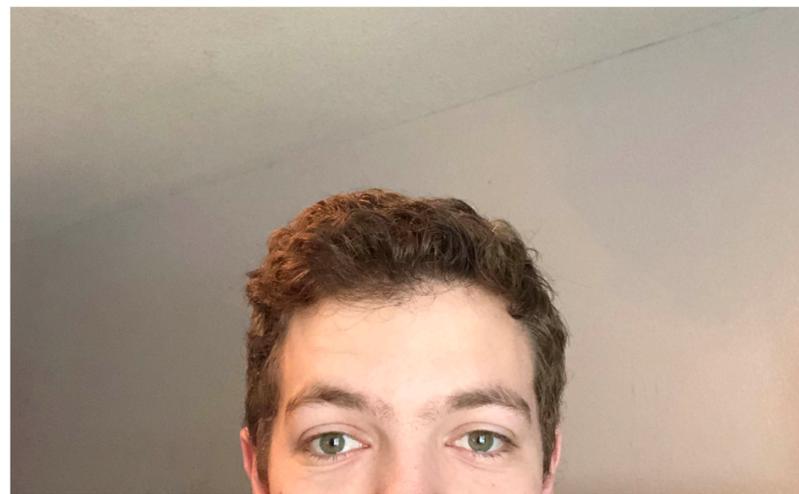
"There are beautiful Black people everywhere," Cameron said. "It was encouraging to see these Black folks living freely and enjoying themselves, but also creating and owning businesses."

The discussion concluded with Cameron reminding the audience that knowing who you are is "an ongoing thing," but is essential to making successful and introspective decisions. Having a community of blood family and friends, he states as "finding your village." Making the best of things, staying open to new ideas and putting your trust and faith in opportunities is where the creative process starts.

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Dos, don'ts & disasters with caring for hair during a pandemic



Story by Anna Stubler
Photos courtesy of Jiya Day and Calvin Norwood

Looking at YouTube, it's clear: people are seeking ways to change up their hairstyle at home during quarantine. Wading through the thousands of videos one thing stands out, home hairstyles fall into three categories: successes, failures and extreme disasters. The students of California State, Monterey Bay (CSUMB), represent different points of this scale.

Starting with short and simple haircuts, fourth-year Calvin Norwood says he has cut his own hair twice since the pandemic began.

"I was pretty nervous when I cut my hair," Norwood said. "I always hear about bad experiences when people try cutting their own hair, but I figured now would be a good time to try it since I'm not going out much this year."

When doing his own haircut, Norwood said it took a lot longer than if he were to go to a salon, however the added perks included no wait time or smalltalk. "My strategy was to cut my hair bit-by-bit until everything seemed even," Norwood said. "As it went on, I felt more and more sure that I would end up cutting until there would be nothing left."

"I was also concerned about the back of my head, but I figured people would mainly just see my hair from the front on Zoom," Norwood said.

While he was pleased at how his hair turned out, he wouldn't rush to do anything too complicated without a trained hairdresser. "I'd need a good reason to do anything crazy to my hair at home," Norwood said.

Third-year Jiya Day is a little more adventurous with her at-home hairdos. She has been coloring her own hair since long before the pandemic began. "I initially got my hair dyed for the first time when I was 13 and my mom did it," Day said. "From that moment on, the colors and styles got crazier and crazier."

The first time she dyed her own hair was when she moved away to college. "I was so used to my hair changing so much at that point so I wasn't nervous at all," Day said.

While Day might not have been nervous about adventurous hairstyles, she is no stranger to dye jobs gone wrong. "I

went blonde once and that was a big fat no." Currently, Day sports a bright green hairstyle which she said is the craziest one yet, due to its bold and unusual color.

"I don't really have a process of picking a new color," Day said. "It's really just what I'm feeling at the moment."

Day prefers to do her own hair because of cost and comfort, but offered some advice to students who want to do their hair at home. "Stay away from box dye! Box dye will ruin your hair quicker," Day said.

Throughout the pandemic, many hairdressers on social media have advised against doing at-home hair. Johnathan Van Ness from the popular Netflix show "Queer Eye," said on his Instagram "Don't try new 'lewks' during quarantine."

"The Late Late Show," on CBS even did a bit about their staff cutting their hair called "Late Late Staffers Give Themselves Quarantine Haircuts," where staff showed their at-home hairdos with mixed results. If students are wondering if they want to change up their hairstyle or simply manage their mane during quarantine, here are some tips to follow:

Students Should

- Use sharp scissors, preferably haircutting ones
- Have a quarantine buddy check the back of their haircut or lend a hand
- Try temporary hair coloring first, if they have never used it
- Look for tips from professional hairdressers online
- Finish the whole haircut and brush, wash, and blowdry it before they decide it looks awful.

Students Shouldn't

- Use dull scissors not made for hair
- Wing the back of their haircut and hope it looks ok
- Decide they are suddenly going to color their hair bright purple without doing a strand test or looking at tutorials
- Follow random tik tok hair tutorials
- Give up halfway through the haircut. Sometimes it looks weird when it is halfway cut.

The best time to try a new haircut is this winter. If students end up with a disaster haircut, beanies are in season. No matter the result, they should remember they are beautiful on the inside and it will grow back soon.

Become an emotionally intelligent leader

Story by Nikki Dodd

California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) offered a leadership meeting touching upon the topic of emotionally intelligent leaders through Otter Be Involved on Dec. 2. It was led by Dan Burfeind, the coordinator of Student Engagement, Leadership & Development (SELD).

SELD serves to educate and help students develop academic and individual success. Burfeind encouraged those core values when he started the meeting with an open discussion amongst himself and students present.

Students were first asked, "what is leadership?" and "what comes to mind when you think of emotionally intelligent leaders?" When people think of leaders, they may not necessarily associate emotions with their success, whether it be seeing themselves or others as leaders.

One reason for this may be the constant ingraining of society to have to be strong and focused when in a higher position or leading a team. The definition of leadership is open to interpretation. A leader could be someone who

keeps others in check, someone who takes charge of tasks and duties, who is goal oriented or who stands up for others when needed.

Burfeind provided the definition of an emotionally intelligent leader as being able to monitor one's and other's feelings as well as emotions. That way students are able to use such information to guide one's thoughts and actions.

Other people's behaviors can affect the people around them in a particular setting. A good leader can identify that. To put that statement into perspective, think of the work setting, school or even home life dynamic. At work, there are leads, supervisors, managers and more. At school, students think of group projects or even teachers and how they lead a class. At home, think of the head of the household and everyone's roles to contribute. There is always someone in each setting that is there to take charge, but how it is done varies.

There were three core principles touched upon for emotionally intelligent leaders: consciousness of self, consciousness of others and consciousness of context.

Leaders must be aware of their own actions, actions of others and of the circumstances in said situation. Leaders must also let others and themselves make mistakes and be okay with that, thus in turn learning from it.

There is no clear answer of what a good leader is, let alone a truly emotionally intelligent one. There are key elements to what one can embody, but above all one must be in touch with themselves to be able to be aware of their surroundings and other individuals. They should have the confidence and self-esteem to be aware of their strengths and their weaknesses as well, to fully be able to provide the support for those around them regardless of the setting. Remembering that, everyone is continuously growing and learning everyday.

SELD's contact information is listed on the school website's directory along with Burfeind's, should any students want to reach out and join the various leaderships and opportunities for community engagement.

What does it mean to be CSUMB alumni?

Story by Victoria Green

This question has crossed my mind multiple times within the past month. As graduation approaches my timeline next semester, I seem to ponder the crazy idea that I will soon be an alumna of California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB).

I have worked for the Alumni Relations office for about a year now and I have witnessed behind the scenes of the endless generosity that alumni give, so that both current and future students are presented with an extraordinary opportunity that they once had. Many scholarships are often funded by alumni and are set up for the purpose of aiding students on their road to success. In addition to the many gifts that are provided by our very own alumni, there are many other ways in which alumni contribute to CSUMB.

Being an alumnus or alumna, you hold truth to the credibility of the university. I have seen a plethora of alumni make use of their degrees and turn it into an initiative for creating an impact on our society. Oftentimes, I read articles written of their doing and they always touch on how CSUMB paved the way to their success. An alumnus's recommendation carries rich and powerful substance when promoting the university to others. For myself, seeing the variety of work and the impact that alumni actively bring to the table in their area of expertise, only encourages and aids in my journey.

As a part of Alumni Relations, I see firsthand the networking and sense of community that takes place as an alumni member of CSUMB. It is sometimes mistakenly taken for granted or seen as small, but do not

underestimate it. Our alumni community is more than what meets the eye; it is the quality that surpasses the quantity.

So, I ask, what does it mean to be an alumnus or alumna? Is it the mere fact that I will be donating to my university every chance I can? Why yes, but it is so much more than that. The common themes that I have noted will be a part of my identity once I graduate and will stay with me forever. As the countdown continues till I am soon named an alumna of CSUMB, I am pleased with the idea of having a long-life connection and influence with my alma mater.

I May Never Read Again

By Gloria Rose

Photo by Arianna Nalbach

This morning I sat down for my regimented skim. Today, The New Yorker, December 7th issue, The Talk of the Town. How I'd landed on this particular article, I can't remember, for within a few paragraphs I was abruptly affronted by a rather offensive stream of questions: How much was my life worth? How much were the lives worth of those around me? How would such a value even be postulated? And what was worse than these assailant questions, no answers! Nobody told me how much someone would pay to keep me alive. How much a stranger or a friend or the government would be willing to cough up. Well! That was just insulting! No one had bothered to jot down a number. Send it via post. Put it in my Facebook comments-nothing.

So I wondered to myself, as the half read article had insinuated, was there room for debate? Here I paused to stare out the window, a misty Monterey morning, the sun creeping over the horizon. My day ahead pressing upon me, just as arbitrary as the one before. Chipping away at my degree, a few afternoon errands on the agenda, my cat reminding me quite loudly that her bowl was empty. My daily life. To whom was it concerned and commodified? My gaze was then interrupted by another wandering thought; What was meant by my potential? Would it be more appropriate to measure me in the years I had not yet lived or those of which I already had?

And another thing! Who was to decide? Would there be a hearing? Did I have the right to a lawyer or was I expected to represent myself? Good gracious, I was dreadfully unprepared.

Between sips of coffee, I wrestled with these besieging questions The most bothersome of which being who's name to curse for soiling such a fine morning. The New Yorker author? The Professor who's lecture had inspired her article? Or perhaps the anonymous student she'd featured who had guessed that my life might be worth "twenty-four thousand"? No wonder they didn't want their name in the print.

I pondered and sipped, pondered and sipped. Finally I consulted my cat, "Ruby, are we more than the sum of our parts?" She must have been just as dumbfounded as I, Shooting an annoyed look towards her foodless bowl and refusing to indulge in such philosophical matters before 8am. I respected her wise detachment, besides I'd better hurry up, lest I be late again to my zoom I lecture, in the next room.



The Lutrinae
wants to hear
your voices

Want to showcase your work in the student newspaper? Email sybrown@csumb.edu to have your work considered for our next issue.

We love to see your:
illustrations • short stories • poems

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Thankmas raises money for charity in COVID-19 pandemic 8-Bit



Sean McLoughlin, better known as Jacksepticeye, explains his goals for #Thankmas2020 in his video "Ending 2020 the RIGHT WAY."

Story and screenshot by Arianna Nalbach

Every year in December, the popular YouTuber Sean McLoughlin, better known by his channel name Jacksepticeye, hosts a charity event called Thankmas. This year is no different and McLoughlin is going above and beyond, making Thankmas bigger than ever before.

The COVID-19 pandemic has been incredibly tough on many people "2020. The year that has absolutely made the world hell for quite a while," stated McLoughlin in his video "Ending 2020 the RIGHT WAY."

Throughout his time on YouTube, McLoughlin has always promoted positivity and given back to his community and the world. He has hosted numerous charity events outside of Thankmas. Back in April, he did a campaign called #HopeFromHomeback, which raised

more than \$1.9 million dollars for COVID-19 relief efforts.

In the past, McLoughlin has hosted Thankmas on his own channel, but this year, he partnered with Tiltify allowing for anybody to participate in his event.

McLoughlin will be streaming on his own channel on Dec. 13 to raise money for Red Nose Day. Red Nose Day is working on COVID-19 relief in regards to food scarcity.

"Food is something that should be available for everybody, it's something that a lot of us take for granted and it's not something that we consider a luxury product that many of us don't even have so I want to try and help out those people that are facing that issue at the end of the year," McLoughlin said.

Tiltify created a website that will allow users to create their own campaign, while helping raise money to the same goal and go towards the same global total all together. In his video, McLoughlin explained they have a matching donor of up to \$1.5 million. This means if Thankmas 2020 raises \$1.5 million, it will be doubled.

McLoughlin called to action from his viewers, stating "I'm just one man. I'm just one guy out here trying to raise awareness for this and trying to do a good thing but I can't do all of this on my own, so I'm going to have to ask for your help."

For anyone interested in participating or interested in learning more about it, please click on the following link: <https://bit.ly/thankmas2020info>

Natural history of plankton and climate change ¡Verde!

Story by Timothy Patrick Randazzo

When you think of the ocean, I'm sure you imagine dolphins, whales, killer sharks, etc. Now take a drop of ocean water, just one drop. That one drop contains an entire ecosystem filled with life. The cute dolphins or whales or fish only represent 2% of the ocean's living organisms. The other 98% contain a plethora of microorganisms, generally labeled plankton (deriving from the latin root "Planktos," meaning drifter/wanderer).

What do you think of when you hear plankton? A tiny diabolical copepod who roams the depths of the ocean in search of a Krabby Patty formula? Or maybe you think of a whale's favorite snack? Okay, maybe both of those are technically correct. What if I told you that plankton is much more than that, that plankton is a key to the functionality of Earth, that without these tiny creatures the human race would disappear; if I told you this, you might think we better be aware of what happens to them; more importantly, what we do to them.

To give you quick visualization to the importance of plankton, think of a human cell. The cell is a microscopic thing you cannot see that contains the code to your DNA and dictates the entire function of your body, and with a simple mutation to the cell, the entire system can crash.

Plankton are the equivalence to the functionality of Earth.

Plankton are fascinating organisms. From antiquity, plankton have directly affected the structure of Earth. When plankton die, they sink into the ocean sediment. With time, the accumulated sediments form rocks like

limestone, chalk, opal, and cleverly named, radiolarian chert. Around the globe, we can find geological formations containing billions of these microorganisms. Ranging from the Franciscan Assemblage of the California Coast, to the white cliffs of Dover, England. This sedimentation has also been taken by humans to fuel westernization and industrialization, fossil fuels.

Not only do plankton rule over the fabrication of Earth, they also have depicted what life exists on Earth, including us. At the beginning of life on Earth, these tiny opportunistic organisms were the first to learn how to take CO₂ out of the atmosphere and metabolize it into the fuel for life, O₂; this was how O₂ originated on the planet, this is what allowed for the creation of complex forms of life, us.

In nature, when a species becomes dominant, nature finds a way to eliminate it. Humankind is the one exception to this law. We are largely dominant and dependent on the Earth, to very destructive degrees; yet, nature hasn't found a way to eliminate. Instead, we are eliminating ourselves through our burning of fossil fuels and overall pollution. Plankton plays two very vital roles to the health of the human race. Firstly, plankton form the basis of the food chain; providing food to the fish we eat, they are irrefutably the most critical part of the entire food web. Secondly, they generate approximately 50% of O₂ on the planet by removing the CO₂ we emit into the atmosphere. This actively benefits the entirety of Earth and all of its species by alleviating the threat of climate change; however, the grand effort plankton make to remove CO₂ is but a tiny fraction to the amount of CO₂ we emit.

An emerging threat to the lifecycle and food chain are the increased presence of Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) species, eutrophication, and now, microplastics. As we continue large scale farming, emitting greenhouse gases, and discarding plastic, we are only suffocating the oxygen supply and poisoning the food supply.

Now that all of your jaws have dropped, your hearts are wrenched, and you may feel hopeless, remember this feeling. This feeling you feel at this moment. It's a beautiful feeling even if you don't see it. This feeling means that you are human, that you care, that if you could end climate change and erase the pollution on Earth, you would. This feeling you feel will fuel change if you choose to keep it in mind. We are usually quick to forget the feeling, because it is easy, and because it hurts. But what do we know from hurt.... We learn.

So what can you do?

Know that humans are on Earth for a reason. Remember that through paleogenic destruction, there has been restoration and conservation: take a look at the entire Monterey Bay. Educate yourself, and educate others by starting conversations. ACTUALLY advocate and support organizations and politicians that align with your views. Use your social media platforms to promote something bigger than yourself. Volunteer with organizations like Clean Oceans International and Save Our Shores. Reduce your plastic usage on a daily basis. Take care of the earth as if it was your body, and most importantly, foster a love for our natural environment, and everything within it.

Queer dating in the time of COVID-19

Story by Breanna Peterson

Dating as a queer person can at times be particularly challenging. Dating as a queer person in a conservative town during a pandemic? Even more so.

Many folks live in environments that are not welcoming or are even toxic to their mental health. The pandemic has trapped a lot of people in precarious situations, and this can be particularly harmful for people who identify as LGBTQ+. The need for connection to other queer people is necessary and often life-saving.

During this pandemic, LGBTQ+ folks have had to get creative with how to access the love and support of the community. Dating apps can be one solution, but in an increasingly fast-paced, disposable world, the instant gratification from getting matches is overshadowed by the radio silence of a ghosting. People sometimes face harm from dating apps as well.

Though the LGBTQ+ community has made strides towards inclusivity, there is still a lot of anti-Blackness, fatphobia, transphobia, misogyny, ableism and a host of other problematic ideals that can make dating difficult, and sometimes dangerous. Virtual events are another way to seek out queer comfort and content. With a little bit of research, people can find virtual panels, podcasts, drag shows and more that can help ease the loneliness. Another fun way to connect is to join a speed dating event.

Queer in Oakland hosted a Femme4Femme Speed dating event meant to bring together queer femmes and those who love them on Dec. 3. The event was free, with a suggested donation.

Queer in Oakland, created by Gabrielle Hooks, is an organization that seeks to match queer people in the bay area with events throughout the community. Hooks

self-identifies as a queer, Black femme. The organization was created “by Oakland’s queers, for Oakland’s queers.” Though Queer in Oakland is made to highlight events in Oakland and the surrounding area, the transition to a virtual modality has made the events accessible to people around the world.

There were people from many states in attendance. Femme4Femme speed dating began on a site called Icebreaker, with a chill main chat room where participants were able to chat with Hooks and each other, answering typical ice breaker questions as well as some more scandalous ones.

Hooks began the event with some general housekeeping, informing the participants that this was a safe and inclusive space. This meant no anti-Blackness, fatphobia, ableism, transphobia was allowed. It calmed the participants' nerves to know that there were moderators ready to remove agitators and people who were not aligning with the event's values.

Once a good amount of the participants had arrived, everyone was split into one-on-one rooms for four minutes, armed with flashcard questions to break the ice, so to speak. People were matched 10 times, and at the end of the event folks had the opportunity to message each of their matches through Icebreaker. Many participants noted how lovely it was to be communicating with queer people back to back to back. Some folks were sheltering in areas that are not LGBTQ+ friendly, so the virtual event was a tiny safe haven carved out of an otherwise tumultuous environment.

There was, of course, a prompt about zodiac signs and which one was best, which led to some gentle teasing and many declarations that Scorpios ruled them all. Some questions were earnest, such as “What do you look for in a partner?” while others were made to make one blush,

such as “What’s your kissing style.” All in all, the event was a fun way to unwind and make connections with other femme queers.

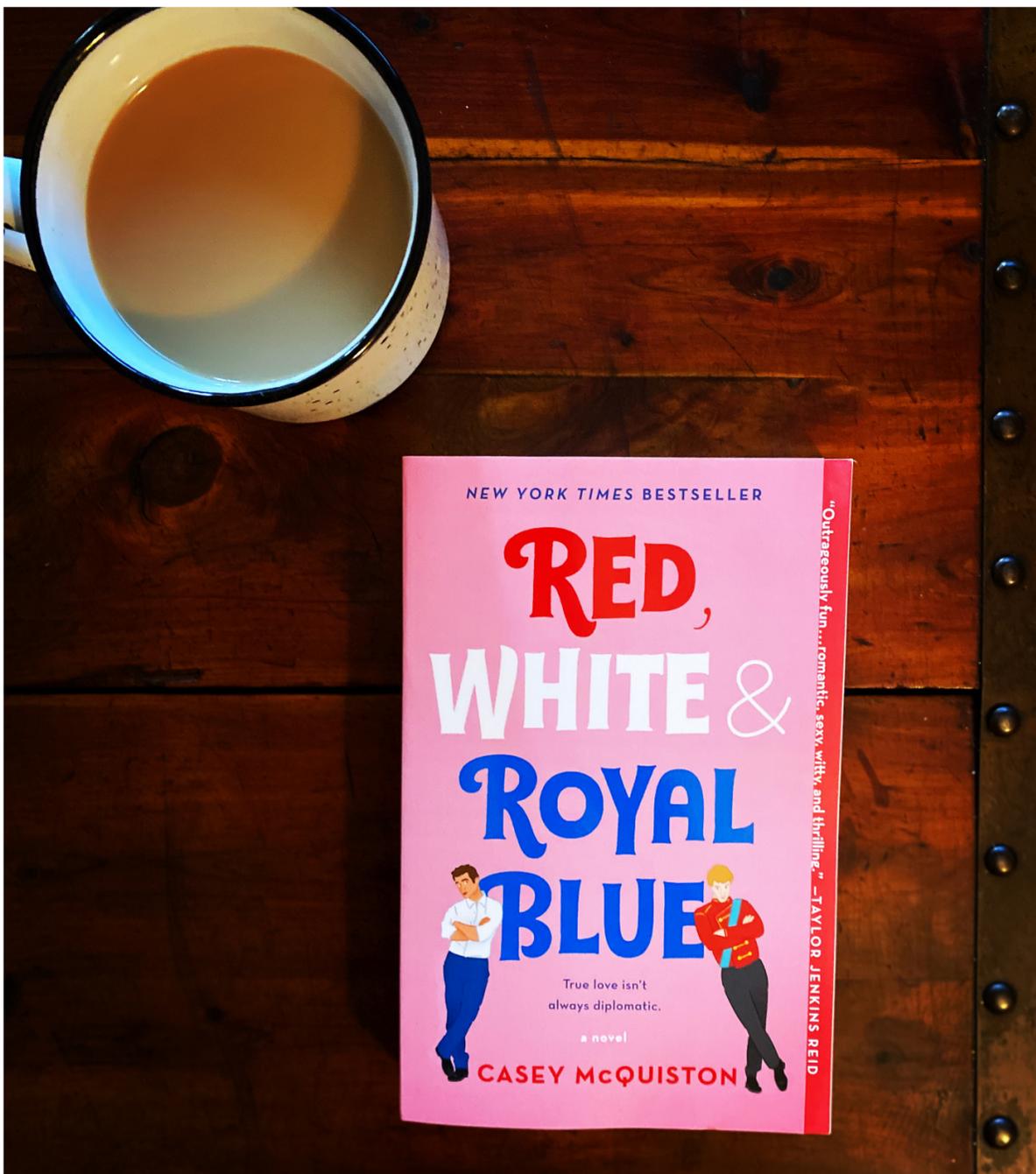
This event centered around femmes because oftentimes, dating in real life can be difficult for femmes. The term itself can be open ended, as some people can present themselves as feminine, but have a gender identity that doesn’t stereotypically align with that presentation. The event was open to all people, inclusive to all gender identities.

It can be difficult dating as a femme because other queer people might not necessarily pick up on the fact that we’re queer. Sometimes, people struggle with living too much in the binary and not opening up to the fact that just because a person looks a certain way, does not necessarily dictate any part of their identity. Some of us take to decorating ourselves with rainbow apparel, Tegan and Sarah merch or constant references to shows like “The L Word” or “Vida” in order to signal to other queer people that we are a part of the community. Events like Femme4Femme speed dating are helpful to bridge that gap and provide queer femmes with an opportunity to meet others who love and appreciate the myriad of queer femme identities that can exist.

It is also extremely beneficial that Queer in Oakland is very strict about the core values of their events. This helps provide a feeling of security, allowing folks to let their guard down and simply enjoy the night.

Queer in Oakland has tickets to their events on Eventbrite. To check out some upcoming events, including speed dating that centers queer and trans People of Color, check out @queerinoakland on Instagram, or give them a follow on Eventbrite. For those looking for queer community in a time of unprecedented loneliness, be sure to check out these events.

Book review of “Red, White & Royal Blue”



Vivlio Talks

Story and photo by Cassidy Ulery

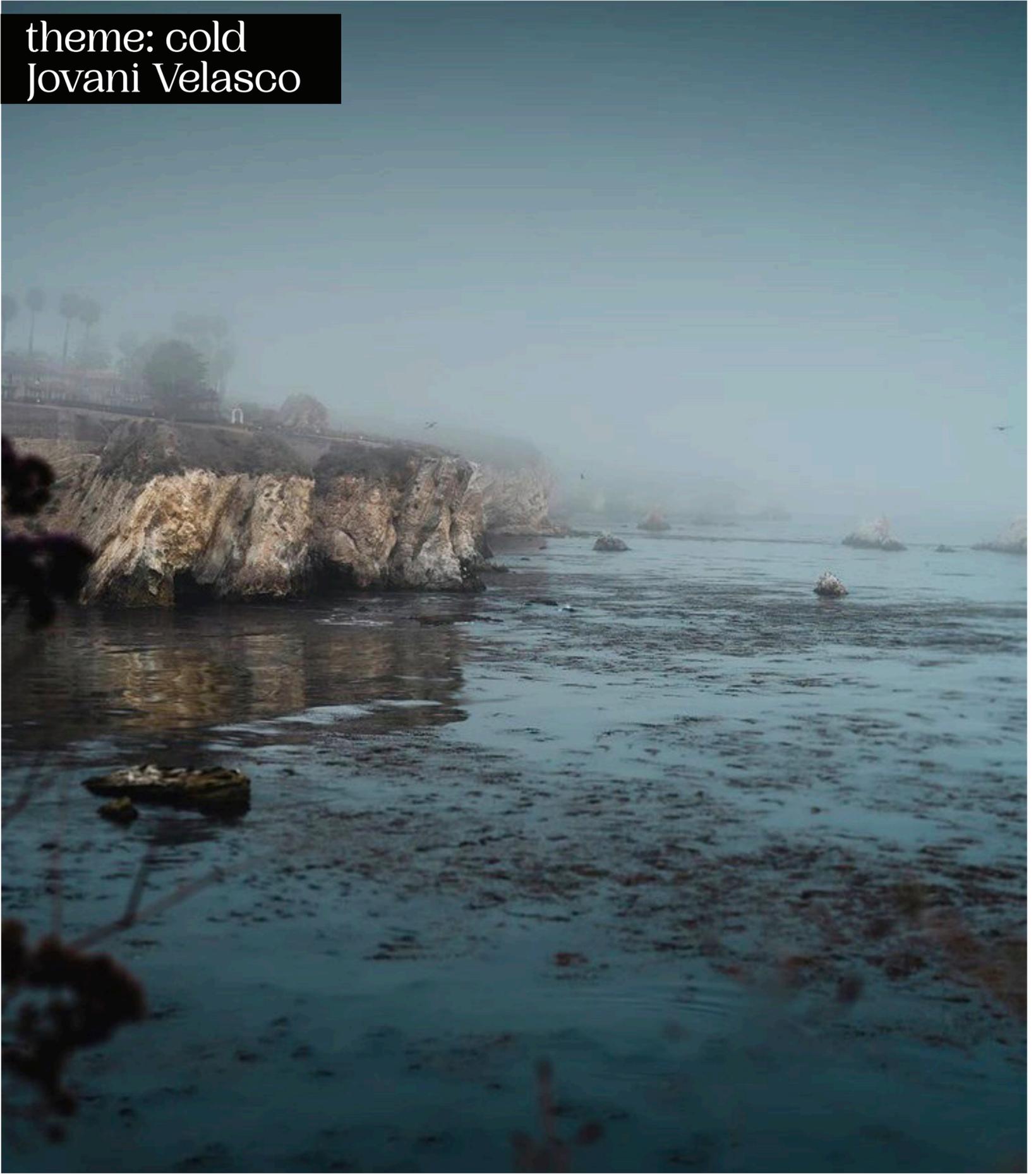
“Red, White & Royal Blue,” is a 2019 Rom-Com novel written by New York Times bestselling author Casey McQuiston. The novel follows a LGBTQ+ romance between two powerful political figures - Alex Claremont-Diaz and Prince Henry - and gives off a fluffy, humorous tone throughout most of the read.

The book screams happy. Seriously. Mixing politics and heartfelt romance, McQuiston’s literary performance radiates positive insight to the election year. She deliciously mixes together drama, angst, excitement and hope. It’s an overall feel-good young adult fiction that can be a joyful break to indulge in, leaving behind the stress of finals and holidays.

While some critics highly praised McQuiston’s novel-debut as a page-turner, others felt the book was lackluster in developing a serious attitude towards LGBTQ+ relationships. Considering McQuiston is a straight woman, this is a lighthearted book that provokes smiles but doesn’t necessarily deliver in promoting authentic experiences and perspectives.

Photo contest winner!

theme: cold
Jovani Velasco



Can you unscramble these cooking-related words to reveal their true meaning?

eur _____
lickep _____

tause _____
ribne _____

denlb _____
toasr _____

natemair _____
mismers _____

fits _____
loib _____

	9	4		3		1		
8	1	2	7				9	6
3			1	9				
	3		9		4	6		
		8	6	1	3		4	9
		6	2					1
4		3	5					8
5				2		7		
	6				8	4	1	5

Answers:

2	6	9	3	7	8	4	1	5
5	8	1	4	2	9	7	6	3
4	7	3	5	6	1	9	2	8
9	4	6	2	5	7	8	3	1
7	2	8	6	1	3	5	4	9
1	3	5	9	8	4	6	7	2
3	5	7	1	9	6	2	8	4
8	1	2	7	4	5	3	9	6
6	9	4	8	3	2	1	5	7

reue, saute, blend,
marinate, sift, pickle,
brine, roast, simmer,
boil