

the Lutrinae

CSUMB Student-Run Newspaper

Feb. 22, 2021

Vaccines now eligible to CSUMB faculty

Story by Sydney Brown
Illustration by Malia Savella

Battling the high demand for the COVID-19 vaccine, the Monterey County Health Department made progress in flattening the curve when announcing certain locals aged 65 or older are now eligible to schedule an appointment to receive their round of the vaccine.

These individuals included agricultural workers, education and childcare workers, emergency service workers and those with high levels of need in the age range of 65 or above. The Monterey County Health Department also said all education and childcare workers, regardless of their age, can schedule vaccination appointments starting on March 3.

The announcement benefits employees of California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB), who can now receive the mRNA vaccine if they choose to do so.

CSUMB's campus communication department sent all the university's employees an email relaying the announcement as requested by the Monterey County Health Department on Feb. 12. According to the department's website, this puts the county in Phase 1B of its current vaccination schedule and roughly 54,000 vaccines have been shipped to medical facilities in the area.

The CSUMB email disclosed that for one to schedule a vaccination appointment, that individual must live in a zip code that resides in

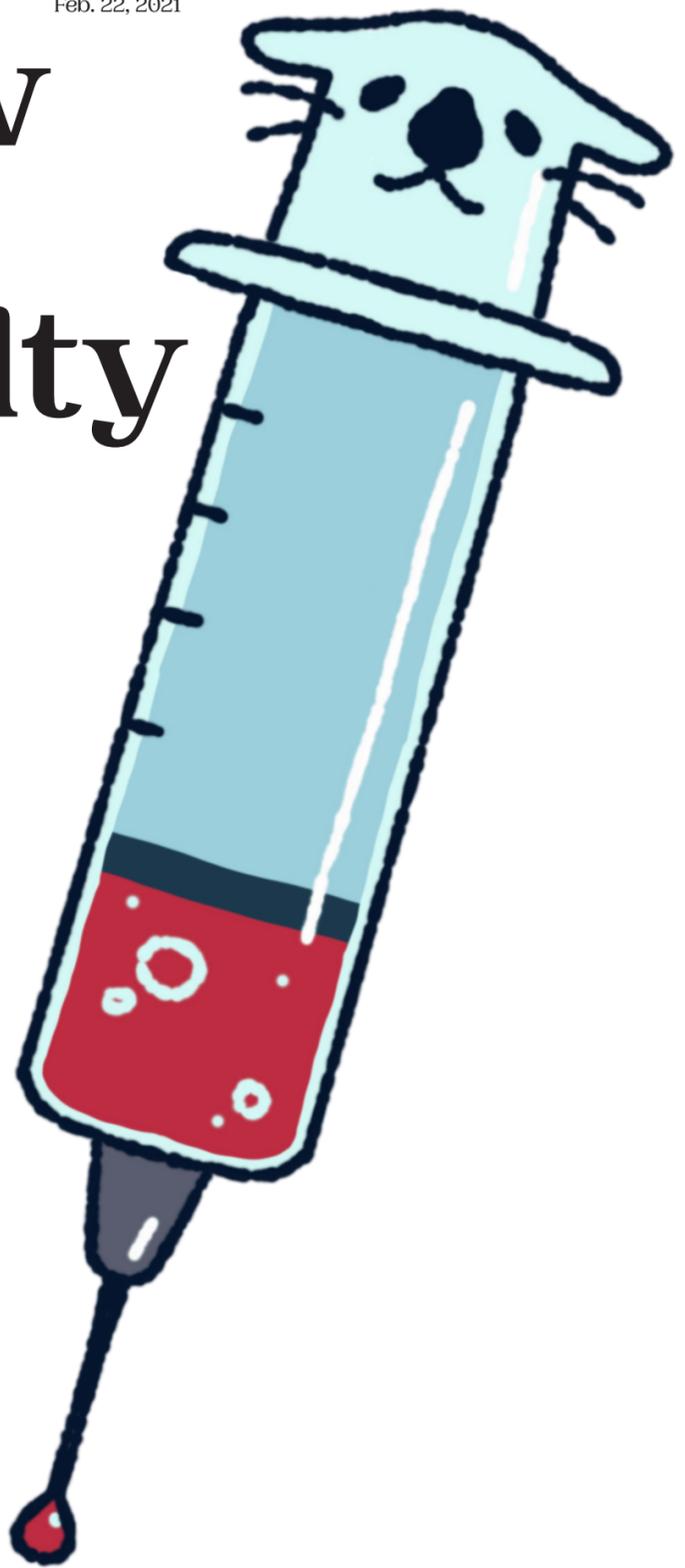
North County, Peninsula and Big Sur, Salinas or South county as well as meet the age and industry requirements.

"CSUMB works with the Monterey County Health Department to communicate vaccine phase progression and promote their website," said Public Information Officer of CSUMB Walter Ryce. "The decisions related to the phased approach and vaccine availability are outside of the control of CSUMB."

As CSUMB's next semester is set to run in-person, community accessibility to the mRNA vaccine is indeed a plus. The faculty, staff and students who will potentially return to campus in Fall 2021 may feel comforted knowing the two organizations have a healthy partnership.

During CSUMB's most recent staff and faculty town hall meeting, the university's President Eduardo Ochoa announced he has received the first round of the vaccine. He also wrote in an email sent to CSUMB faculty and staff that "most university employees presently performing duties in remote modality should continue this practice and expect a repopulation date no earlier than Aug. 1, 2021" with only select employees returning sooner to prepare for the return of students.

To address concerns about the anticipated return to in-person classes, Ryce said the university invites all students to attend President Ochoa's office hours on March 2 at 12:30 p.m on Zoom and Facebook "where they may learn more about the university's Fall 2021 semester plans."



CHESS conference continues (virtually)

Story by Sydney Brown

Under the pressures of the ongoing pandemic, a 26-year-old educational advocacy conference was forced to move from the California Capitol building to a video call. Every year, the Cal State Student Association invites attendees from all 23 California State University campuses to train with state legislators on government affairs annually in the California Higher Education Student Summit, otherwise known as CHESS.

The CHESS website stated when students attend CHESS they "participate in various training sessions on state governance, higher education and public policy and conduct lobby visits in preparation for Advocacy Day at the Capitol."

The conference usually lasts for two days, but now plans to have one mandatory day to adjust to its online modality on March 7. Afterwards, from March 8 to 12, participants will have the opportunity to meet state legislators online in Advocacy Week. Speakers at this year's CHESS will include Chancellor Castro and several leaders from the Cal State Student Association. Students must apply to participate in the process by Feb. 24 at noon.

Applications for California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) students are overseen by Associated Students (AS). AS's senior coordinator of governance and operations Joanna Iwata said a strong application for

CHESS should showcase a high level of interest in civics.

"How students express their interests in civic engagement and why it's important for them to participate in the conference to support their own growth and understanding of what it requires to be an effective student advocate, along with how they could apply this at CSUMB would be important for [application reviewers] to know," she said.

Iwata noted one of the bigger changes in this year's CHESS is its shift from an advocacy day to an advocacy week. This grants participants more opportunity to speak with legislators. Iwata also stated CSUMB students will have the chance to meet officials working in the Central Coast "whom they can address critical issues with."

Since CHESS brings in folks from 23 different universities, attendees can meet others interested in civic engagement that they otherwise might not run into anywhere else. In the past, participants drove in with people from their home universities, and May Her said that experience helped her learn more about CSUMB's students and staff.

Her is a collaborative health and human services major and attended the conference last year. "I honestly never knew what lobbying was and because of this experience," said Her, "I now know how to better advocate for what is needed in my community."

Her won't be applying for this year's CHESS because she wants to leave room for another student who has never attended before. She said the biggest highlight of the conference was lobbying, where she was able to vouch to make FAFSA more accessible, which "gave [her] a greater sense of confidence." She said other CSUMB students should apply for CHESS to get out of their comfort zone and learn lobbying tools.

"I myself was not sure what I was getting myself into, but I'm glad I didn't because there is so much to the world that we aren't sure about and it isn't until you throw yourself into it, then we truly can understand it," she said.

Iwata agreed, saying CHESS offers students a great learning experience that emphasizes using their voice as an advocate and not just a classmate.

"Oftentimes, students may be curious about how their concerns are addressed at the state level by our state legislators, and this is a perfect opportunity for them to learn more about how we can address such issues," like tuition and fees, basic needs, financial aid, graduation requirements and more, "through effective lobbying (students) learn more about state government and public policy," Iwata said.

CSUMB students can apply for CHESS at csumb.edu/as/chess for a chance to learn more about state and local government by Feb. 24.

Cooking with CSUMB

Basic Needs teaches students to make veggie stir-fry.



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Black History Month

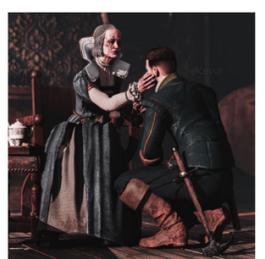
"Judas and the Black Messiah" is pointed as a great Black history movie.



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8-Bit

"Greedfall" is a beautiful fantasy RPG that shouldn't be ignored.



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The struggle to say no

Story by Nikki Dodd

California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) and the Student Engagement and Leadership Development team presented a Student Knowledge In Life, Leadership Series (SKILLS) workshop entitled When to say no: Self-Empowerment on Feb. 17. Headed by Dan Burfeind and Mckinley Wright, they delved into the word empowerment and its meaning.

There are many definitions and interpretations of the word “empowerment,” but SKILLS speakers explained what it really means. According to the Oxford dictionary, empowerment is “the authority or power given to someone to do something.” Speakers then pondered the question: are individuals empowered when they say “no” and choose not to do something? Burfeind and Wright assert the answer is “yes,” depending on the person and situation.

Defining empowerment, the word authority was brought to attention, due to its association with a negative connotation. Putting “self” in front of authority changes the delivery and intent. Then one is empowering themselves to make their own decisions. There can be tremendous power and confidence in saying “no.”

SKILLS speakers discussed why it is so hard to say “no.” Depending on the person, individuals may feel more inclined to appease them, despite it bringing on stress.

Discussing a workplace scenario, speakers said being firm with limitations and communicating with superiors can prove challenging. In avoidance of certain reactions - sadness, disappointment or anger - saying yes seems like the easiest option. However, saying no sets boundaries and creates a respectable understanding with the person.

The answer to knowing when to say “no” is situational. Most times, it is almost instinctive to reply, if one does not wish to do something that is asked of them. Saying yes takes more of a deliberation because it requires future thought processes of how it might affect an individual at a later time.

When saying “no,” initial feelings of relief or guilt are common. Remember, everyone has the right to turn

someone down, whether it be to have a day to oneself, not going to work or taking a night off from socializing to study.

SKILLS speakers said folks should recognize people in their life to reach out to when they need advice or a pick-me-up, especially those who have cheered them on throughout life. Speakers also said individuals can

recall the times someone has turned to them to feel an empowerment boost when deciding who to ask for advice.

Individuals can realize what they can and cannot control in life. Above all, SKILLS speakers said an individual should know themselves, be honest and know their limitations and how far they are willing to push their comfort level before saying yes.



Theater and culture collide

Story by Cassidy Ulery

California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) and the Otter Cross Cultural Center (OC3) hosted a virtual live presentation and discussion with Kunoichi Productions on Feb. 18 - part of the Writers from the Edge series - highlighting Japanese cinema and philosophy.

Founders of the group include Japanese-born playwright and poet Ai Aida, actor, designer and co-writer Keiko Shimosato Carrerio and actor, director and singer Nick Ishimaru. The trio hoped to inspire audiences with comedy while infusing Western and Eastern theatrical elements.

Humanities and Communication professor Kristen LaFollette led the discussion, asking questions on the origins of Kunoichi, the traditional story of Princess Kaguya and expectations in theater, such as gender norms.

“As a company, Kunoichi Productions was officially founded last February in 2020,” Aida said. “But we have a history together, so it was more like, three friends, three theater makers and three like-minded people getting together and collaborating.”

Aida and Carrerio share similar passions: puppets and Japanese theater. Ishimaru, who has an extensive background in Japanese theater, joined forces with Aida and Carrerio on a 2019 Puppet Show put on by Aida, beginning the blossoming of a beautiful work relationship. Then fast forwarding to 2020, a PlayGround Innovator Incubator opportunity arose. PlayGround Innovator Incubator is a program that advances and launches theatrical companies. The group jumped at the opportunity with the program and Kunoichi broke ground.

Reflecting on childhood memories and experiences growing up, and how those influenced their approaches to storytelling, Carrerio found it hard to identify with both Japanese and American traditions, but learned to embrace each culture. Third-generation Japanese American

Ishimaru was surprised to find out there was an English word for soy sauce and not every home contained rice cookers. He felt a disconnect from his native culture until he studied Japanese folklore and theater.

“As I’ve gotten older, I’ve discovered more and more that I don’t really know the traditional Japanese stories,” Ishimaru said. “I grew up with American fairytales and Western European tales.”

Kunoichi Productions has created their own tale of Princess Kaguya. Throughout the event, interactive videos were shown from the theatrical play. Adapting to technological disadvantages and social distancing guidelines, filming over Zoom proved to be challenging, as actors’ lines would be overpowered by background music or noise.

Despite the setbacks, Kunoichi discovered Open Broadcaster Software (OBS) and was able to move forward with recording and live streaming, enabling them to utilize advanced graphics and leaving the team with valuable lessons on improvising and accommodating script changes.

“When you are editing or rereading your script, if you are saying an action the audience can see, cut it,” Aida said. “You don’t need to have your character say things that have been seen by the audience.”

LaFollette asked a final question for guidance on how to stay creative during a pandemic. Carrerio suggested having a trusted group of advisors who you don’t feel afraid to share your work with, Ishimaru encouraged viewers to find a platform to express and promote their projects and Aida enforced the importance of a finishing date to stay motivated and inspire thoughtful, read worthy material.

“Try to create something and try to find some kind of deadline,” Aida said. “Work with your friends, share your work and enjoy the process.”

the
Lutrinae

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.

Vol. 4, Issue 15

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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.

Advertising revenue supports *The Lutrinae* publication and events. Letter to the Editors should include first and last name and should be submitted via email. *The Lutrinae* reserves the right to reject any Letter to the Editor for any reason, and anonymous letters will not be published.

Loba uproots herb knowledge

Story by Breanna Peterson

Illustration by Arianna Nalbach

Having strong skills in agricultural cultivation is a sure way for an individual to have an abundant food source, but gardening can be used for healing too. La Loba Loca is a queer educator and herbalist working on various issues, including herbal medicine cultivation. Going by the pronouns Loba or them, California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) virtually hosted Loba for the Plant Your Intentions workshop on Feb. 17.

Aimed at sharing their vast knowledge of traditional Andean and Latin American plant medicines and practices, Loba's background on the subject comes from ancestral knowledge passed through family lineage. Hailing from Arequipa, Peru, their family has been growing plants and passing down spiritual plant knowledge for generations.

Loba began the workshop discussing how capitalism and city lifestyles point as unsustainable ways of living, attributing many issues brought up by the COVID-19 pandemic to capitalism, including the impending climate catastrophe. Loba introduced the term "chacrita," which is a Quechua word meaning "little farm." Quechua is an Indigenous language spoken by the Quechua people of Peru.

Chacritas hold a deep and complex connection of people, land and plant work. They emphasize for many Indigenous people, trauma associated with tending to land because of colonialism is keeping many Indigenous people from their traditional practices. Modern day gardening continues to perpetuate colonialism in various ways, including centering non-Native people during discussions about Native flora and seed kidnapping.

"Historically, so many terrible things have been done to land and people," Loba said. "Subsistence farmers are struggling to grow in their ancestral lands."

Loba also introduced Pachamama - a goddess revered by the Andean people - known as the Earth mother. People from the Andean region offer her pagos a la tierra or "payments to the earth." Pagos take the form of offerings, giving thanks for what she provides. Loba mentioned the term and concept has become increasingly co-opted by non-Native people who don't share this heritage.

Loba then provided tips and insights about urban farming. They formerly lived in Los Angeles where they had a small garden, but the soil had the consistency of cat litter

and, thus, was unsatisfactory to grow. But this did not deter Loba.

"We have a tendency to only view gardening abilities in rural areas," Loba said. "But you don't have to have a huge piece of land."

Gardening is possible anywhere one has a little bit of extra space. Loba shared pictures of their backyard covered in what they called "container gardens." One can fill up an old tire with soil and use it as a planter.

"There's a lot of death that comes with growing plants," Loba said. "If you plant, eventually things start growing."

Loba currently lives in New Mexico, learning how to cultivate in desert soil. The planet is facing severe weather patterns and desertification, and Loba pointed out that "climate change is going to be chaotic."

Despite climate concerns, Loba mentioned life is plentiful in the desert. "Our sustenance is linked to big corporations who have no care about regenerating the soil," Loba said.

Growing their own food to decrease dependence on government and corporations, Loba shared another good way to limit dependence is investing in mutual aid funds. Mutual aid funds are secured through community members to community members, directly helping

vulnerable people. Queer, Black and Indigenous people are historically more vulnerable to harsh effects of climate change, creating an increasing necessity for the funds.

Loba shared how mushrooms can be used for a multitude of purposes, including regenerating soil. Clarifying the difference between tea and a fusion, Loba states that teas are typically a single ingredient while fusions contain more than one ingredient or plant. Herbal medicines can be made into tinctures, such as baths and footbaths, perfect for those looking to conserve water.

Urging participants to invest in their own health, Loba views food as medicine. Spices, such as black pepper, aid in digestion, whereas lemon balm is good to calm down nerves. Loba shared some of their favorite plants which include: rose, chamomile, cacao and coca leaves.

One of the biggest takeaways, Loba shared, is one can plant anywhere with whatever resources they have available to them. Their main mission is to reclaim "abuelita knowledge," or knowledge passed down from the ancestors.

Their Instagram is @lalobalocashares and more information, as well as links to their patreon and various classes they offer, can be found at lalobaloca.com.



What brings you comfort when pandemic life becomes overbearing?

Otter Chatter by Sydney Brown



Gina Guzman

Kinesiology
Fourth-year

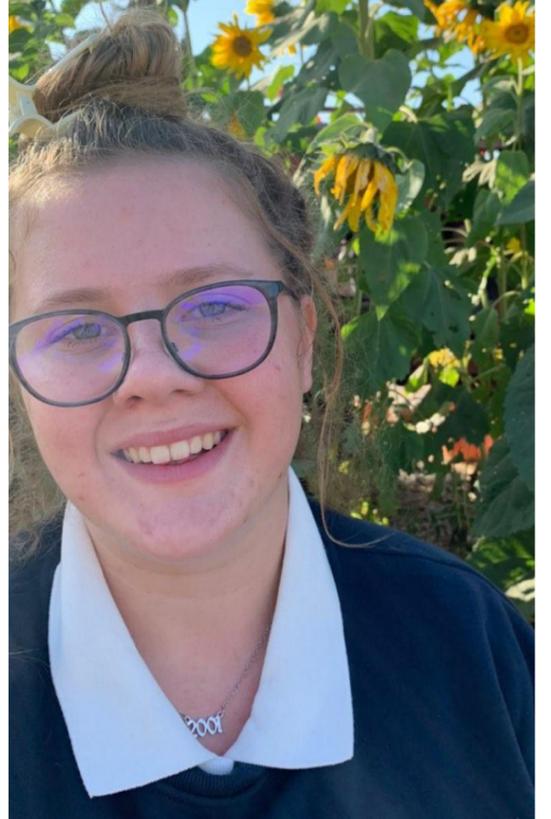
"My doggos."



Calista Dykes

HCOM
First-year

"Doing some self-care and activities for mindfulness."



Emilia England

CHHS
Second-year

"Going for a drive."

Talk about tofu: vegan stir-fry



Story and screenshot by Cassidy Ulery

California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) and the Basic Needs Initiative program virtually hosted their weekly cooking demonstration show Cooking with CSUMB on Feb. 18. Boasting faculty and staff recipes that feature budget-friendly ingredients, this week's episode was led by Basic Needs intern Misha Arnold, who sizzled up some skillet tri-color quinoa with veggie stir-fry.

Arnold started her mouthwatering, vegan-friendly entree by preparing the quinoa in a rice cooker. Adding one cup of quinoa, followed by enough vegetable broth to rim the top of the quinoa, she quickly pressed a button - and done! For stovetop cooking, use one cup of rice to two cups of liquid. Noting that seasoning will be incorporated towards the end, Arnold started slicing and dicing a sweet yellow onion into medium pieces.

"The hardest part about doing any recipe is making sure everything is ready at the same time," Arnold said.

Caramelizing the onion in a skillet by itself, Arnold instructed viewers on how to prepare a sodium and oil free meal. Using a firm block of tofu, Arnold divided strips and squares of tofu onto a parchment lined baking

sheet, placing in the oven at 425 degrees for 20 minutes before flipping and roasting for an additional five to ten minutes, until golden brown.

"Baking things is a cooking hack for when you don't want to use oil," Arnold said.

Suggesting viewers use their desired preference of garlic, Arnold tossed some chopped cloves in with the caramelizing onions and informed viewers of a quirky, nutritional fact.

"When you cook and combine onions and garlic with a grain or legume, your body's absorption of zinc and iron increases by 50% to 70%," Arnold said.

Using a sodium-free, petite diced tomato can, Arnold stirred the fragrant stovetop ingredients together and began infusing the cooked quinoa with cumin, Italian seasoning, onion powder, garlic powder, pepper and turmeric. Four fresh roma tomatoes can be supplemented in place of the diced tomatoes and red pepper flakes for spice.

Incorporating a bag of frozen California blend vegetables, a ½ cup of frozen peas, 3 tablespoons of tomato paste and nutritional yeast, Arnold mixed the stir-fry, poured

in one cup of vegetable broth, covered it with a lid and simmered for approximately 20 minutes, stirring occasionally. Once fully cooked, Arnold said chefs can top and season the dish to taste with seasonings used for flavoring quinoa.

"It's good to keep your vegetables covered to get the maximum nutrition out of them," Arnold said. "When you have it uncovered, the vitamins and nutrients are steaming off and being released into the air."

After the tofu has goldened, remove it from the oven and baking sheet. Throw it in with the stir-fry, give it a whirl, cover, let simmer together for five minutes and serve. A personal preference, Arnold enjoys dashing some spices on the bottom of her bowl, followed by veggies and quinoa, and topped with more nutritional yeast, allowing for a continuous, healthy, vibrant bite.

Join Cooking with CSUMB on Feb. 25 for a Southeast Asian Red Curry (Kapoon) hosted by Sabrina Lee. Otters who tune in for the entire program have the opportunity to win a \$25 gift card, applicable towards groceries and other prizes. Basic Needs is hosting a CalFresh Outreach event on Feb. 25, helping students gain knowledge on the program, as well as review benefits and eligibility.

**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

Black History Month revelation

Judas and the Black Messiah



Story by Breanna Peterson
Screenshot from HBO Max by Breanna Peterson

HBO Max released Shaka King's "Judas and the Black Messiah" on Feb. 12. The film is a biographical depiction of events leading up to the betrayal and murder of Fred Hampton. Hampton, Chairman of the Illinois chapter of the Black Panther Party (BPP), is played by British actor Daniel Kaluuya, of Jordan Peele's "Get Out."

Kaluuya brought Hampton's command, contagious and hopefulness to life, encapsulating Hampton's charismatic way of speaking. Lakeith Stanfield plays Bill O'Neal, an enigma of sorts. O'Neal is contracted by the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) as an informant against the BPP, specifically Hampton. O'Neal experienced the same type of victimization as Hampton, mercilessly at the hands of white supremacy.

While viewers desire to paint O'Neal as villain, and although he did commit heinous acts against the cause, both characters share similar violent storylines revealing the systematic racism BPP fought hard against.

O'Neal is a complex character. His interaction with the FBI was motivated by self-preservation, and Stanfield brings a timidness to the character, fearing that his undercover persona will be made. The movie provides an unexpected sympathetic view of O'Neal. Living a life of crime at the young age of 17, prior to FBI involvement, O'Neal is portrayed in the film as being unaware of the myriad complexities within the Black Liberation Movement.

The film opens up with montage footage of BPP and related organizations. Providing context for those unfamiliar with the history of the BPP is beneficial for the many who are unaware of BPP instituting community survival programs, benefiting communities and fighting for self-determination.

In the film's setting of Chicago, Hampton stated the BPP Free Breakfast Program fed over 3,000 children weekly. They also hosted free medical clinics testing for sickle cell anemia - a disease that predominantly affects the Black community - which previously was not taken seriously by the U.S. government. Providing some contrast, the movie also illustrated the paranoia and demonization of the BPP and Black leaders that ran rampant throughout the government and law enforcement agencies.

The cinematography and styling of the film displays the aesthetics of the late 1960s. While the FBI is villainizing Hampton, Hampton is reaching out to other community members. He walks into the lion's den of a white organization which hangs a confederate flag on the wall. Speaking with them, it becomes evident this organization also experiences mistreatment by the police.

Hampton appeals to their sense of ostracization, helping them realize they need class solidarity. Reaching out to activist group Young Lords - who were fighting for Puerto Rican and Latinx civil rights - together joined forces and formed the Rainbow Coalition. Providing background knowledge of events leaves the audience with an enriching viewing experience.

The film exemplifies the corrupt FBI operations that followed leaders of the Black Liberation Movement. In one instance, there is a framing and murder of a panther Alex Rakley at the hands of a fellow panther George Sams, who was believed to be an FBI informant. The FBI falsely equates the activities of the BPP to the Ku Klux Klan (KKK). BPP was an organization created to dismantle the systemic oppression and subjugation of Black and marginalized people. On the hand, the KKK was founded to enforce terror and support maintenance of white supremacy.

Moments of the film captured the community and their bonds amongst revolutionaries. The film provides scenes of inspiration and power. Hampton was a beloved figure in the fight for liberation. When he returned home from being incarcerated, he was met with a congregation of BPP, Rainbow Coalition and others, including a drum beat.

An entire generation of Black leadership was wiped out, targeted by the police and other white supremacist vigilantes. But the power of the movement could never be snuffed out. As Black History Month draws to an end, this film provides context for an interesting and important moment in history, as well as providing hope that a better world is possible, if we support and defend each other.

"You can murder a revolutionary, but you can't murder a revolution," Hampton said. "You can murder a freedom fighter, but you can't murder freedom."

Upcoming Events

Fighting White Supremacy

Feb. 22 The librarians Sophia Leung, a first-generation Chinese American and Jennifer Ferretti, a first-generation American Latina/Mestiza will host a discussion about building intersectional coalitions to dismantle white supremacy at noon.

Rape Crisis Center Training

Feb. 23 The Personal Growth and Counseling Center acknowledges human trafficking exists in the communities surrounding CSUMB and is hosting a seminar to teach folks how to address human trafficking at 1 p.m. To join the event, RSVP at csumb.edu/pgcc/monterey-county-rape-crisis-center-training-human-trafficking-happens-here.

Quick Takes: Black Excellence

Feb. 24 Associated Students will discuss Black Excellence, leadership and empowerment during an Instagram live at 5 p.m. Head to @AS_CSUMB to engage in their conversation with Student Engagement & Leadership Development Director Artemas (Marco) Dowell.

National Eating Disorder Awareness

Feb. 25 In honor of Eating Disorder Awareness Week, the Personal Growth and Counseling Center is hosting a conversation about powering through a disorder at noon. They will be partnering with Alsana: An Eating Recovery Community and will talk about eating disorders, body image and how to help oneself and others. Attendees will have the chance to win several items.

CSU Budget Advocacy Party

Feb. 25 Starting at 2 p.m., Lobby Corps of Associated Students will teach attendees of this party how to advocate for full funding of the CSU. Participants will receive a template letter to help get in contact with legislators.

CalFresh 101

Feb. 25 In honor of CalFresh Outreach Week, members of CSUMB's Basic Needs will teach participants about using CalFresh at 2 p.m. Applying for CalFresh can help students fight food insecurity and grant them access to nutritious meals.

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thelutrinae.com

A diamond in the rough RPG: “Greedfall”

8-Bit



Story and screenshots by Arianna Nalbach

Despite releasing in September of 2019, “Greedfall” has recently repopularized itself after becoming a free game for Playstation Plus members in January. “Greedfall” was developed by a smaller French company, Spiders, and seemed to slip through the cracks as it did not receive much traction upon its initial release.

In “Greedfall” gamers play as De Sardet, the newly appointed legate of the Merchant Congregation after traveling to the newly-settled island, Teer Fradee. The world in “Greedfall” resembles 18th century Europe. Players are able to play as either a male or female De Sardet and while the character creation is fairly simple, you can still create a nice looking character.

Upon starting the game, players are greeted with the plague-ridden city of Serene. One of the first scenes in the game is De Sardet saying a somber goodbye to their mother before leaving for Teer Fradee.

While exploring Serene and completing the prologue, players will find plague doctors throughout the city and people who have succumbed to the plague, called The Malichor. De Sardet leaves Serene in hopes of finding a cure for the plague destroying their home.

Once players complete the prologue and choose to leave Serene, De Sardet will set sail for Teer Fradee and the main campaign begins.

Teer Fradee is fairly large and there are plenty of new areas for players to explore as they go on their journey. “Greedfall” manages to keep an almost whimsical feel to its world while staying grounded in reality. There is a nice mix of larger, built up cities and small camps occupied to the Natives of the island.

One of the central conflicts and persistent themes in “Greedfall” is the new settlers taking over the land. The Natives are forced into a new way of life and have to face the Inquisitors, who try to “enlighten” them from their pagan practices. This helps to create a sense of reality in “Greedfall,” despite it being a fantasy game.

As players continue searching for a cure to the Malichor, they will meet a variety of different characters. Some characters will become De Sardet’s companions and will

accompany you on your journey. Each of the companions has a unique fighting style and will occasionally chime in with a comment during quest cutscenes.

There are also four different romance options in “Greedfall.” If you choose your dialogue options right while completing their side quests, you will have four potential romance options depending on the gender of De Sardet.

While the romances in “Greedfall,” are nothing spectacular and don’t add much to the game, it is still a nice addition. If players succeed in romancing one of their companions, there will be a short cutscene and the companion will use a different nickname for De Sardet for the remainder of the game. Additionally, there will be a little bit of extra dialogue at the end of the game.

As “Greedfall” was developed by a smaller game studio, there are some areas it definitely shows. The interiors of all the buildings are the same, with only a few different options, depending on what type of building it is. The world is technically open, however there are lots of paths with invisible walls on either side and the travel system is a bit weird.

To keep the game running smoothly, the whole map doesn’t load in once, rather only the area you are in. Whenever a player wants to go somewhere not loaded in, they have to go through a loading screen and then enter a travel break where they can arrange their team, buy and sell items, or put items into storage. Once a player is done in the travel pause and the next area has loaded, they must sit through another loading screen.

At times, the quests can feel a bit slow, with lots of running back and forth between characters, but the overarching story of “Greedfall” is well done and interesting to watch unfold. There are cutscenes with tender moments right from the start and the game tries to always make players feel something.

Some of the voice acting does feel a bit weird, but the cast did an amazing job overall. Both the voice actors for male and female De Sardet were able to capture a large range of emotions in line delivery, along with the rest of the cast.

However, some lines get cut short while the character is speaking. They will cut themselves off and it will skip to the next line early. There are also typos in some subtitles and other characters will refer to female De Sardet as a male occasionally, which can become distracting.

The mechanics don’t feel overly clunky and the combat system is smooth with a ton of customization for keybinds. There is a tactical pause which allows players to go through everything in their arsenal or just take a minute to think of a plan.

“Greedfall” does have flaws and is by no means a perfect game, however Spiders clearly put a ton of effort into it and this should not go unnoticed. This was their most ambitious project to date and it paid off. For being developed by a small game studio, it really doesn’t show.

Spiders created a charming game with an interesting story, beautiful graphics and incredible characters. “Greedfall” is an RPG experience like no other and is truly a diamond in the rough.



February Horoscopes



Story by Anna Stubler
Illustration by Arianna Nalbach

Aries (March 20 – April 19):

February is bringing Rams lots of new energy. This is your year. Take pride in your achievements, but don't forget to stay humble.

Nurture your old relationships instead of seeking new ones. Venus is in your eleventh house for most of the month. Take advantage of this by appreciating all the joy your relationships bring you.

Taurus (April 19 – May 20):

Hey Bulls! Harness the power of Mars this month. You are a champion. Don't be afraid to try new things and take on challenges.

Don't forget to practice self-care as you pursue your goals and conquer your to do list for the month. Fuel yourself with healthy food and relationships in order to capitalize on this motivation.

Gemini (May 20 – June 20):

You might be feeling extra tired this month. Take advantage of that and re-charge. Don't push yourself too hard. You deserve a break.

You might also feel emotionally drained this month. Step back and work on nurturing yourself and practice self-development. You may discover a newfound talent if you take the time to relax and allow your creativity to flow.

Cancer (June 20 – July 22):

Mars is in your solar eleventh house giving you an enthusiasm and extrovertedness you may not be used to. Use this to form new professional and personal relationships. Make new friends and connect with old ones.

Your temper might cause you trouble this month. Keep a level head and try not to react in the moment. This restraint could save you from making a mistake.

Leo (July 22 – August 22):

Mars is traveling through your solar tenth house of achievement, Leo! Expect some huge achievements if you put effort into that project you are working on. The new moon brings new changes and may affect your mood so take advantage of the success this month.

Look to the Virgo in your life for support in your goals. Be sure to focus because this month you are prone to distraction.

Virgo (August 22 – September 22):

Like Leo this month could be a productive month for you Virgo. Partner with the Leo in your life to achieve your goals together.

This month could bring a huge amount of growth for you if you take advantage of your productivity. Don't be afraid to fail and accept your flaws. Focus on learning not the results and you could achieve great success.

Libra (September 22 – October 22):

February is the time for you to pursue your professional and personal goals with a renewed energy. Look for strength in new friendships.

Venus is in your solar fifth house of romance and creativity. Follow your heart not your head. Utilize the creative energy to improve your work and personal life.

Scorpio (October 22 – November 21):

This month you might feel unsettled for no specific reason. February might not be your month. Take time for yourself. Reset for March.

You may be prone to frustration. Try to find productive ways to release anger and frustration. Be careful not to separate yourself from your family and friends this month.

Sagittarius (November 21 – December 21):

February is a great time to take careful risks. You are feeling extra confident and not letting anything hold you back. Take advantage of this!

Mix up your daily routine and you could find new success and even more courage to pursue new projects. Don't push yourself just let your intuition guide you to new opportunities.

Capricorn (December 21 – January 19):

You might find yourself overly concerned with appearances this month. Try not to let that get in your way. Reflect on your success.

If you give into insecurity you may weaken some of your relationships. Instead surround yourself with people who boost your confidence and find opportunities to work on this insecurity.

Aquarius (January 19 – February 19):

You might find many opportunities this month. Don't let this distract you. Focus on one and don't try to split your attention. If you allow yourself to become distracted your work could suffer.

Your distraction is also in your personal life. Focus on the relationships you do have instead of trying to pursue new ones. Otherwise, you might lose on all accounts.

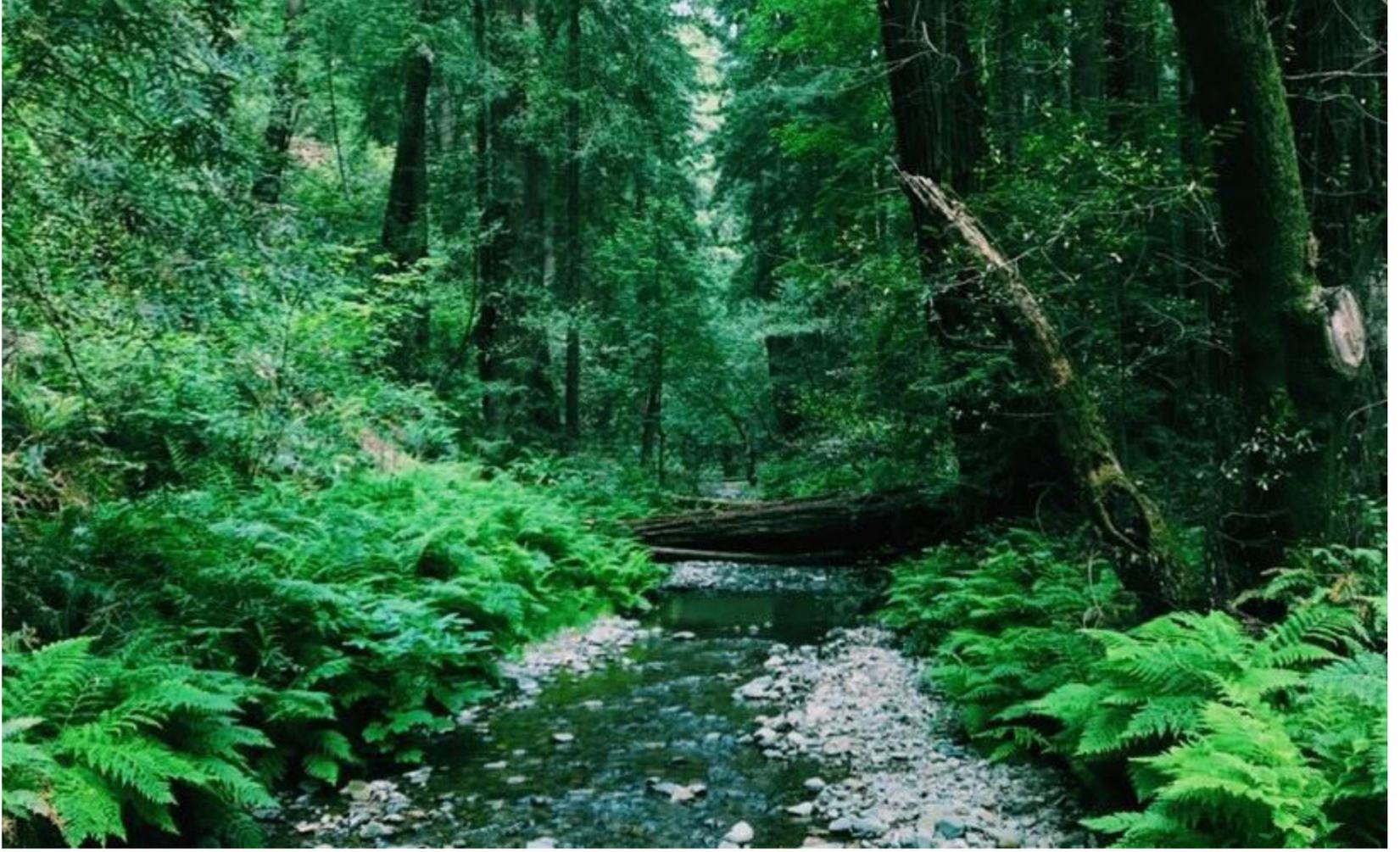
Pisces (February 19 – March 20):

Pisces, you might find yourself getting into small arguments easily. Try to think carefully and avoid unnecessary conflict. This might mean small sacrifices on your part. Let go of your ego.

Lay low this month and don't take any unnecessary risks. Focus on your priorities and don't get entangled in unnecessary arguments.

Photo contest winner!

theme: green — Zack Urango



Introducing Otter Mail, the new pen pal program, brought to you by The Lutrinae and AS!

Otter Mail is a fun, easy and vintage way to make friends - get paired with your pal today!

Join now by clicking the link in The Lutrinae's Instagram bio @thelutrinae.

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

sasptorp

tineriary

nelap

sewiv

uretclu

momerseis

tej gal

perexience

kettic

buyeat

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

Answers:

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

passport, plane,
culture, jet lag,
ticket, itinerary,
views, memories,
experience, beauty