

# the Lutrinae

CSUMB Student-Run Newspaper

April 3, 2023



## Graduating AS president is hopeful for the future

Story by Andrea Valadez  
Photos by Arianna Nalbach

With Associated Students (AS) holding elections two weeks ago to fill next year's board, current president David Ledesma has high hopes for the future of AS at California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB). With his final semester coming to an end, Ledesma is reflecting on his time spent being the voice for students at CSUMB.

"The best part has been the relationships I've built. Not just with the other officers, but with administration and important stakeholders, such as members of the California State University board of trustees," explained Ledesma, a fourth-year global studies major.

Ledesma has worked with AS for just over two years, and started out as the vice president of financial affairs before being elected as president during his last year on campus.

After graduating, Ledesma hopes "to see the administration in its golden years. With the fee referendum that just passed, I think the administration that will follow me will have better access to do greater things for the student body."

According to Ledesma, the referendum will allow AS to collaborate with more campus departments, as well

as having increased student services. "I'm ecstatic for [students] to have an AS administration that has abundant resources," he said.

Campus affairs aren't the only thing Ledesma is well versed in - he also has lots of advice for current and future Otters.

After being a CSUMB student for four years, Ledesma can confidently tell students that "if you want to enjoy your student experience you just have to go out and try new things. As cliché as that sounds, it really is something that can have a profound impact on you."

He went even further and advised students to "be the most genuine version of yourself and do everything in your ability to advance your own interests and those of the people around you."

Ledesma also encourages students to not be afraid to email AS or walk into the office on the second floor of the student union if they have any questions or need help navigating formalities on campus. Students can check the AS page on [csumb.edu](http://csumb.edu) for the office hours of their elected representatives.



Photo courtesy of Associated Students



## AS election results are in

Story by Arianna Nalbach

Six hundred thirty-two California State University, Monterey Bay students voted in the 2023 Associated Students (AS) elections. The elections determine a number of things for the next academic year, including who the next AS officers will be and if the fee referendum will pass.

In previous articles in the Lutrinae, students appeared to have mixed opinions about the fee referendum. The student body still seemed to have conflicting thoughts when it came time to vote. With a 54.75% majority, the AS fee referendum has passed.

This means students can expect to see a \$42 increase per semester in their student fees (which have been \$48 per semester since 2003), totaling out to a \$90 student fee.

The new AS officers have not yet been officially announced.

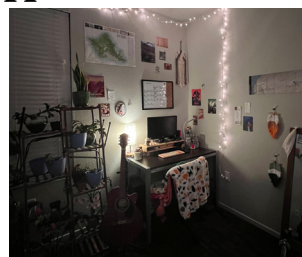
### The Brass Tap

*The Brass Tap celebrates their groundbreaking ceremony in Marina.*



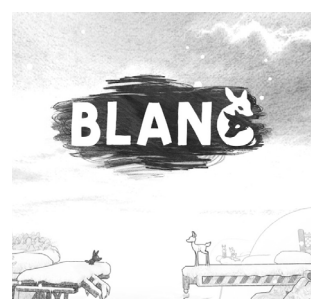
### Minimalism vs maximalism

*Promontory roommates talk about their maximalist apartment decor.*



### 8-Bit

*The world of "Blanc" may look bleak, but is full of life.*



# Students learn how to become a teacher

Story by Oscar Daniel Jimenez Iniguez  
Photo courtesy of MAESTROS Project

Project Manager Margaret Dominguez and Counselor Angela Serrano of the Making Accessible and Effective Systems for Teacher Readiness Outcomes Project, more commonly known as the MAESTROS Project, hosted an information session on March 23, with steps to become a teacher and recommendations for undergraduate students interested in the field.

**Both Dominguez and Serrano spoke about the need for students interested in going into teaching to know they should follow these few steps to guarantee a successful start in their future academic ventures:**

- Inform your advisor about your career goal. Keep your grades up and aim for Bs or higher!
- Service Learning hours with youth (Keep track of your hours' log, course description, grade, etc.)
- Make connections with professors/mentors
- Attend workshops that will support your professional development
- Engage with other future educators

For undergraduate students in Liberal Studies wanting to teach K-6, they recommend first completing a bachelor's degree in the major and applying to a one to four-year credential program.

Those wanting to teach a single subject (math, science, history, Spanish, English, etc.) for middle or high school must first complete the bachelor's degree in the major and a one-year credential program.

Other majors leading to either teaching in K-6 or special education should also complete the bachelor's degree in



the major and a one-year credential program in addition to a multiple subject California Subject Examinations for Teachers (CSET).

According to Dominguez and Serrano, to enter into a credential program, aspiring educators must first take the California Basic Educational Skills Test (CBEST) and CSET, as they are both required before applying.

**They also highlight the following minimum requirements needed for teaching in California:**

- BA degree with 2.67+ GPA
- Valid TB clearance
- Recommendation Letters
- US Constitution Course
- 45 hours with youth
- Certificate of Clearance
- First Aid and CPR Certificate

The CBEST is a test that assesses skills in reading, mathematics, and writing in English. The test is a requirement for earning a teaching credential or the ability to work as a substitute teacher if passed. The test is free for California residents but will cost \$30 per section if otherwise.

**The CSET is used to assess a specific subject matter. The test differs in price for different subject materials, but those in the following major have it waived:**

- Liberal Studies - multiple subject major
- Math Subject Matter major
- Humanities and Communications - English subject matter major
- Social and Behavioral Science - history major
- Japanese major
- Spanish major
- Science major

If accepted into a credential program, an edTPA (teaching performance assessment) will be assigned to train future educators for preparation in the classroom. The Reading Instruction Competence Assessment is an exam given to prospective multiple-subject teachers in K-6 meant to test reading and writing skills.

For more information about the teaching process or general information, contact [maestros@csumb.edu](mailto:maestros@csumb.edu) or through their Instagram [@csumb\\_maestros](https://www.instagram.com/csumb_maestros)



*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 Staff

**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**  
Arianna Nalbach  
[analbach@csumb.edu](mailto:analbach@csumb.edu)

**PRODUCTION MANAGER & WEBMASTER**  
Haley Graham

**ASSISTANT EDITOR**  
Estrella McDaniel

**STAFF WRITERS**  
Ferris Crosby  
Maxwelle Tartaglia  
Max Guerrera  
Andrea Valadez-Angulo  
Oscar Daniel Jimenez Iniguez

**VISUAL EDITOR**  
Malia Savella

**ADVISER**  
David Kellogg  
[dkellogg@csumb.edu](mailto:dkellogg@csumb.edu)

**OPERATIONS MANAGER**  
Monica Conner  
[mconner@csumb.edu](mailto:mconner@csumb.edu)

## Contact

**OFFICE PHONE**  
831.582.4066

**GENERAL INQUIRIES**  
[thelutrinae@csumb.edu](mailto:thelutrinae@csumb.edu)

**ADVERTISING SERVICES**  
[advertising@thelutrinae.com](mailto:advertising@thelutrinae.com)

**MAILING ADDRESS**  
Wave Hall  
100 Campus Center,  
Seaside, CA 93955

**WEBSITE**  
[www.thelutrinae.com](http://www.thelutrinae.com)

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# Feminism and money struggles with Rita Zhang

Story and screenshots by Estrella McDaniel

The emphasis was on defining feminism as Rita Zhang gathered with California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) students on Wednesday, March 22, for a Zoom presentation entitled "Feminism and Money."

Zhang, a financial empowerment educator, facilitator, and coach, led with the question, "what is feminism? And what is not feminism?"

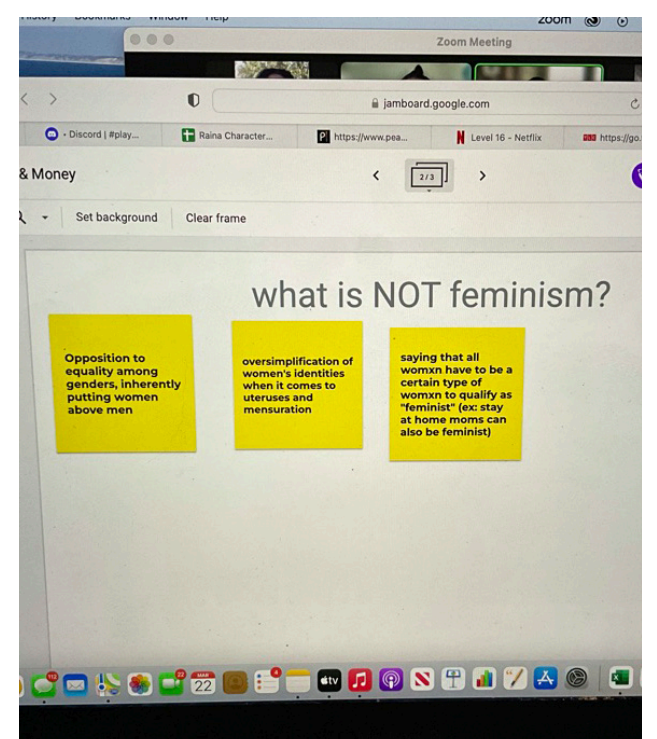
"Feminism is so big that I think having a broad definition of it is to be expected, and it can feel huge to try and cover the whole thing," said Malibu Taylor, a graduate student at CSUMB.

Everyone is entitled to their own definition of feminism due to different experiences and the way specific protests have made it seem.

"When we're thinking about feminism, we also have to think about the other systems that are at play at all times, and the term 'Bell Hooks' uses a lot of systems of domination, but women aren't only experiencing oppression in terms of womanhood, but it's all systems," said Zhang.

Once there's room for things other than gender incorporated into feminism, that leaves more room for others to be involved in the conversation.

Zhang also discussed women's rights and how it correlates with specific financial issues, which can make it hard to survive.



This can lead to its connection with money and specific aspects, making it harder for women to get the same pay as men as well as just living arrangements.

"We live in one of the most expensive states in the country, and it's tough," said Zhang. "We have some of the highest housing costs."

That makes it impossible for us to have equality throughout the housing institution, according to Zhang.

"So even in the example of those who are unhoused when we connect that example of wealth to gender, women of color are disproportionately affected in terms of housing rates."

Feminism can be labeled as something that is still being determined today, seeing as different aspects of it and life experiences can influence people's opinions.

"Capitalism is really hard, and it's really hard to survive on a financial level," said Zhang. "Even how ingrained sexism and patriarchy still are in our society."

# The Brass Tap breaks ground in Marina

Story and photos by Haley Graham

The Brass Tap celebrated a groundbreaking ceremony in Marina, just around the corner from California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) on Thursday, March 23. Karl Waller, The Brass Tap's owner, grew up in Marina and graduated from Seaside High School. After almost 40 years, Waller is returning to his hometown to open a new taphouse.

The Brass Tap is a craft beer bar and restaurant. Unlike many taphouses and breweries in the rapidly evolving market, The Brass Tap does not brew their own brand of beer. This business model allows them to have more flexibility they say, with the beer they offer and the partnerships they build with local and distant breweries.

Waller expressed "the industry as a whole will continue to grow. With California being a leader for a long time, The Brass Tap is poised for growth. The strategy of not being a brewery is the distinguishing factor. Because we don't have our own brand, that allows us the flexibility that as the market changes to go out and seek new distributors."

Developing a sense of community is a crucial component of The Brass Tap's business goals, according to Waller. Building a space where community members, who share common interests and have an admiration of craft beer, creates a sense of connection, belonging and joy.

Not only will constructing a taphouse foster a sense of community among local residents, but also move our town toward becoming more of a college town.

Apart from bringing a new taphouse with fresh beer to Marina, The Brass Tap will provide more than 40 new job opportunities to the community. Waller emphasized supporting youth and educational activities by offering internships and generating employment prospects for CSUMB students.

"Whether it's through education directly in terms of projects that (students) can learn from and we can benefit from, but also looking at job opportunities for students," Waller said. "We'll have a lot of great part-time job opportunities for the students to support themselves as they complete their education at CSUMB."

The groundbreaking event exceeded Waller's expectations and drew a crowd larger than he expected. Its positive reception points towards a promising future for The Brass Tap Marina.

To keep up with the construction of The Brass Tap and find out when job opportunities become available, follow them on Instagram @thebrassapmarina.



# What's the furthest place you've traveled to?

*Otter Chatter* By Andrea Valadez



**Ella King**  
Humanities and Communication  
Third-Year

"Tokyo, Japan. I went in seventh grade on an exchange student trip."



**Calista Gasbarri**  
Humanities and Communication  
Third-Year

"The furthest I've traveled is to Melbourne, Australia. I went the year after I graduated high school. I have a friend who lives there so I went to see her."



**Julian Fortin**  
Computer Science  
Sixth-Year

"Peru. My family lives in Lima, but I also went to Cusco to sightsee with [my] family."

# Minimalism vs. Maximalism: What's the appeal?



Story by Andrea Valadez  
Photos courtesy of Kiely Combs

The way a living space is decorated is something unique and sacred to each individual. However, Gen Z seems to be shifting toward two specific styles: minimalist and maximalist.

Minimalism arose in the late 1950s and started out as an art form. Artists subscribed to a “less is more” mentality when it came to their paintings and sculptures and opted to utilize simple geometric shapes and linework instead of abstract shapes and colors. This trend caught on and eventually found its way into interior design.

A quick scroll through the apartment-tour side of TikTok will reveal that many minimalist homes look almost identical. Minimalist home decor tends to lean toward the same few colors: beige, brown, white and gray. A big appeal to minimalism is the simplicity of it. The thought is that having less clutter in your homes leads to a simple, uncomplicated state of mind and lifestyle.

Maximalism lies on the complete opposite end of the spectrum. A maximalist mindset prioritizes personality and color - maximalists want to show off all of their favorite things at once, even if they don't necessarily match. While some might say maximalism promotes unnecessary consumerism, many of its practitioners thrift and upcycle their furniture and art, in an effort to be more sustainable.

A group of Otters living in Promontory at California State University, Monterey Bay believe they live in the “most maximalist of any housing unit across campus,” according to third-year Kiely Combs.

“We honestly just started collecting pieces not really caring how they fit in with everything else... We wanted a space that we would all enjoy and other people would enjoy and honestly get a good laugh out of,” said Combs.

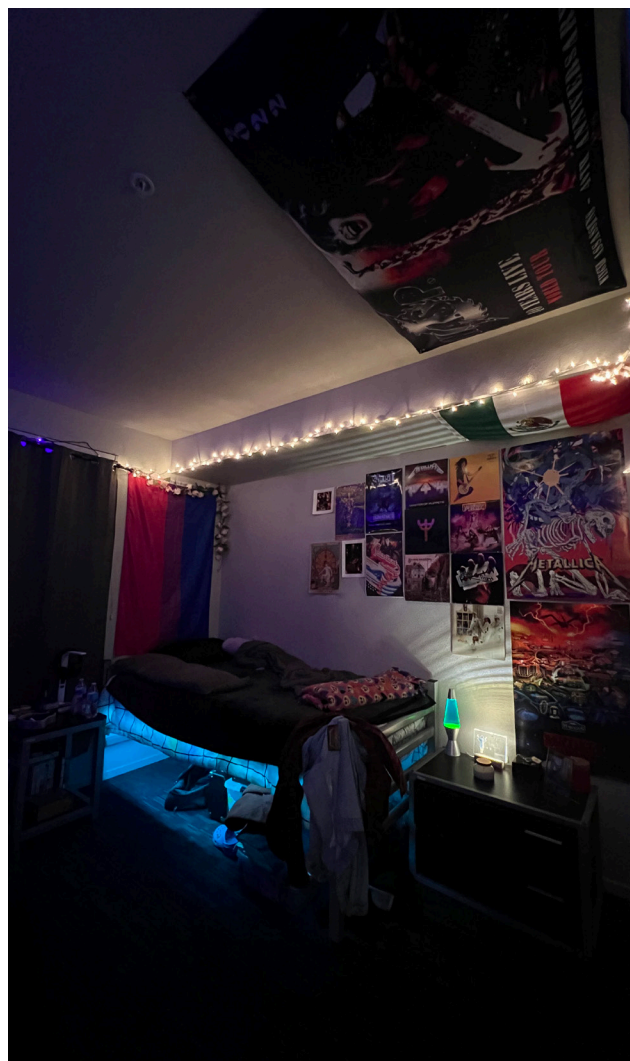
Combs and her two roommates have been collecting art pieces and decor from the Goodwill bins, Facebook Marketplace and even making their own art.

“We didn't want our apartment to look like a prison cell, especially since we spend so much time in it. We don't get many guests so everyone who does come over needs to know that we're cool,” said third-year Ashley Rawlins.

Combs, Rawlins and their roommate Celeste Barahona began collecting colorful art pieces without knowing what maximalism was. Once they heard the term, they realized that was the vibe they wanted to achieve in their apartment.

“We need some personality in the place we're going to be spending a lot of time in,” said Barahona, a third-year visual and public art major, who made some of the artwork on display in the unit.

Combs, Rawlins and Barahona believe “your space should be a safe space for you and somewhere that reflects your style,” according to Combs. This definitely comes through in their apartment. It is full of color, personality and fun - the epitome of maximalism.



## Upcoming Events

### Flower Power

**Tuesday April 4** Let your creativity flow while decorating your own vase and choosing flowers that empower you. Join the Personal Growth and Counseling Center, Otter Cross and the MakerSpace from 3 to 5 p.m. in the Main Quad to participate.

### Agribusiness Club Guest Speaker

**Tuesday April 4** The Agribusiness Club is inviting Lorri Koster for a conversation about her experience in the agriculture industry at 4 p.m. Join on Zoom with the ID 823 4421 9006 or in-person. Sign up on MyRaft for more information.

### Star Wars Trivia Night

**Wednesday April 5** Test your Star Wars knowledge in Associate Student's bi-weekly trivia night. Head to the Otter Express from 6 - 8 p.m. for the chance to win a Star Wars Lego set if you win.

### PD Series: Classroom Management Strategies

**Friday April 7** Join the MAESTROs project in a Zoom workshop from 3 - 4 p.m. about different classroom management strategies, led by Associate Professor Scott Ross. Head to MyRaft to register.

## “John Wick: Chapter 4” delivers an action packed adventure

Story and trailer screenshots  
by Oscar Daniel Jimenez Iniguez

Nothing in life is certain except for death, taxes and John Wick’s rampage on those who dare to cross him.

Following the events of “John Wick: Chapter 3 - Parabellum,” Wick now finds himself continuing to fight against the High Table, the franchise’s all-powerful nefarious global organization, eliminating hordes of their assassins, this time, spanning the world.

Keanu Reeves returns for the final time to the John Wick franchise in “John Wick: Chapter 4,” an action-filled love letter to the art of stunt work.

Reeves’ portrayal of the deadly yet soft-spoken hitman shines through as he continues to eliminate hordes of enemies, all beautifully choreographed with vicious grace and style.

This is partly thanks to director Chad Stahelski, who once again continues to bring his renowned action and stunt work expertise, elevating the franchise’s new installment to greater and bolder heights.

For fans of eastern martial arts and action movies, the film introduces legendary martial artist actors Hiroyuki Sanada from “Ninja in the Dragon’s Den” and Donnie Yen from the “Ip Man” film series, who give the already spectacular action-packed film an even more reputable foot to stand on.

With the film being in its fourth installment, the series continues to outperform itself movie after movie, with this film combining the best qualities of thrilling action, incredible stunt work and stunning cinematography, with a simple, yet effective story from the franchise all into one.

If realism in your action movies is what you are expecting, unfortunately, look away as you won’t be satisfied.



Throughout the film, there are several moments where Wick appears to have infinite ammo as he tears through foes without reloading his weapons, along with instances where Wick should have been seriously injured and even killed.

However, if realism is of no concern to you in your action movies, you will surely feast on what can only be described as almost three hours of nonstop action that defies all logic and reasoning.

“John Wick: Chapter 4” is an overall breath of fresh air for the action genre as it is a delightful addition to the already definitive action film series, cementing it as potentially one and if not, the best action film series of all time.

If you are not willing or available to watch the first three films of the installment before you watch this new film; fear not, as there are multiple short videos recapping all three available on YouTube.



The Lutrinae  
wants to hear  
your voices

Want to showcase your work in the student newspaper? Email [analbach@csumb.edu](mailto:analbach@csumb.edu) to have your work considered for our next issue.

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

Story and trailer screenshot by Maxwelle Tartaglia

“Skinamarink” is a 2022 Canadian experimental supernatural horror film written and directed by Kyle Edward Ball that promises a new horror experience different from what typical horror audiences are accustomed to.

The film’s premise, about two children waking up to find their father missing and all the windows and doors in their home vanished, offers the potential for a unique and intriguing plot — however the experimental style of the film results in the story being almost impossible to follow.

The pacing is slow and tedious, with long stretches of nothing happening, leaving the audience bored and uninterested in what is happening on screen.

The film drags on for two hours, making it feel like an eternity. Most of the film is spent slowly looking over the walls and ceiling of each room in the house.

The lack of action and tension combined with the plodding pacing means that even the most die-hard horror fans will be checking their watches by the halfway point.

There is minimal acting throughout the movie. The cast, including Jaime Hill, Dali Rose Tetreault, Lucas Paul and Ross Paul, deliver solid performances, but their

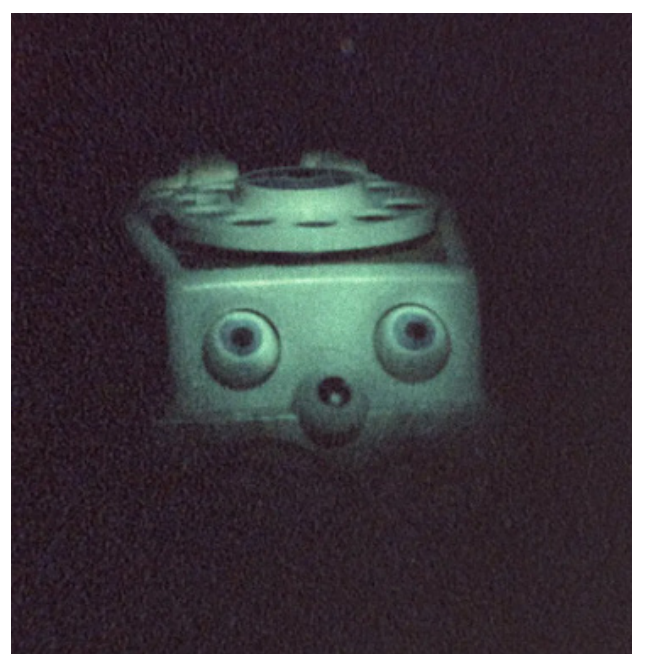
## Skinamarink: A new take on horror

characters are one-dimensional and fail to connect with the audience. The audience can expect to see only the backs of their heads and feet in most scenes.

Fans of horror may be familiar with the style that Ball brings with “Skinamarink” from niche horror videos made and uploaded by solo content creators on Youtube.

Before directing “Skinamarink,” Ball ran a YouTube channel where he would upload videos based on nightmares recounted by commenters. While this style is trendy and works well with the short horror films uploaded onto Youtube, it does not translate well to a movie format.

Overall, “Skinamarink” falls short of its potential and ultimately feels like a missed opportunity. While it offers the promise of something new and exciting, it ultimately succumbs to cliché and monotony, dragging on for far too long and failing to deliver a truly satisfying story.



04.03.23

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# A 'Blanc' world, but full of life

## 8-Bit

Story and screenshots by Arianna Nalbach

For those looking for a short game to play with a friend, look no further than French indie game studio Casus Ludi's "Blanc," which was released on Feb. 14 to the Nintendo Switch and Windows computers.

"Blanc" tells a story of two unlikely friends – a wolf cub and a fawn – helping each other find their way back to their families. Over the course of roughly two hours, players will traverse the snowy landscape, complete minor puzzles and make new furry friends along the way.

At first, the fawn and cub seem weary of each other, but the duo quickly become friends after realizing they share a similar motive of wanting to be reunited with their families.

While the gameplay is simple, "Blanc" still captivates the player with stunning visuals, a heartfelt story, and loveable characters.

The puzzles are typically easy to solve, but they are adorable. As the wolf cub and fawn become more familiar with one another, they learn new ways to help each other get past an obstacle, whether it be from the deer using itself as a sort of stepping stool for the wolf to jump onto places they otherwise couldn't reach or the wolf using its sharp teeth to cut a rope to release something for the deer.

"Blanc" can be played by only one person. However, it is at its best playing with a friend, whether they are joining through online co-op play or local co-op on the same console. Playing "Blanc" alone, you must control both the wolf cub and fawn characters and it can get a bit finicky.



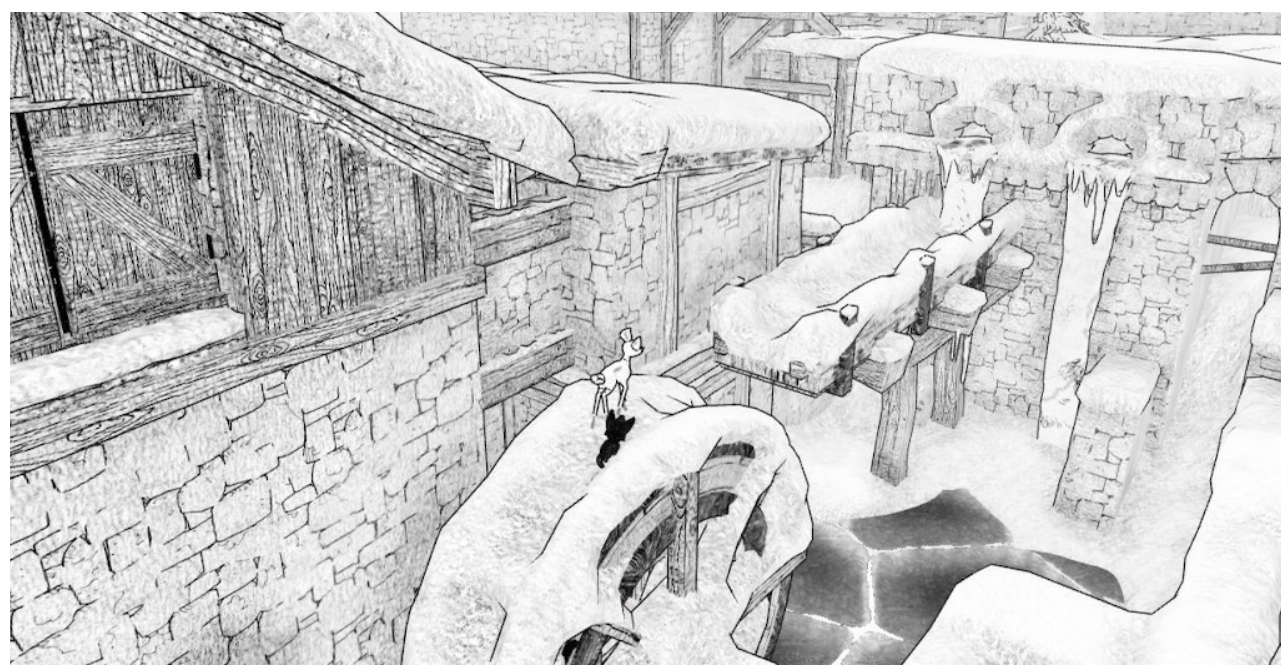
The storytelling in "Blanc" is well done, for the most part. Even though there is no dialogue throughout the game, it is still easy to become attached to the wolf, deer and the animal friends they meet along the way.

The beginning of "Blanc" is a masterclass in visual storytelling, but the cracks start to show in the game's last few chapters. "Blanc" is composed of 10 chapters, and after completing chapter seven and loading into chapter eight, the duo is found falling out of a pipe – seemingly somewhere they had taken shelter from a massive snowstorm.

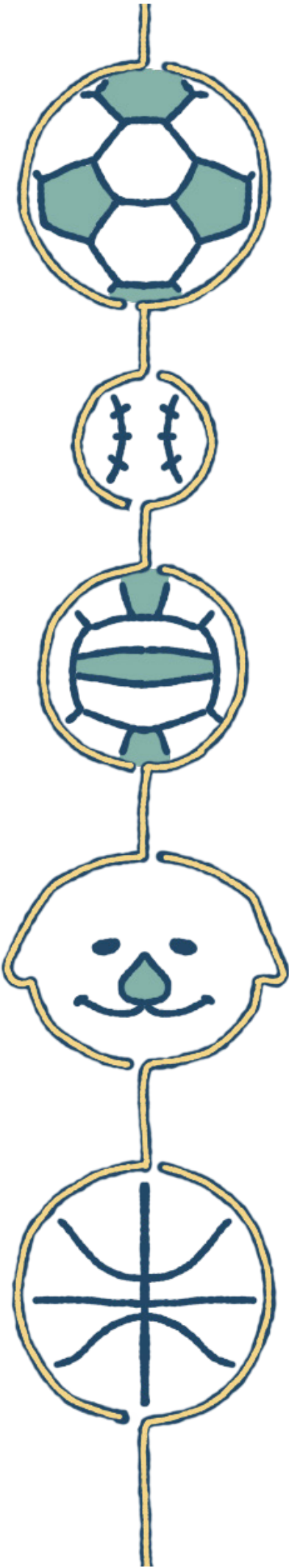
This feels like a massive jump in the story and like a level may have been cut from the game. While it is only speculation, all the other chapters had a flow between them that made sense. We were never left wondering how the wolf and deer got to a new location. This sense of fluidity is missing in the intro cutscene of chapter eight.

The final two chapters also feel a bit shorter and more rushed than some of the earlier levels. While this certainly isn't a dealbreaker, and "Blanc" was still a joy to play, it is still a bit disappointing to imagine what might have been cut from the game.

"Blanc" isn't a perfect game. It has a few flaws and aspects to it that feel unpolished, but the pros still easily outweigh the cons, and for \$14.99, it is worth picking up. It is a short but enjoyable experience and is a clear passion project from Casus Ludi.



# Game Results



## Baseball

March 26 @ Cal State East Bay

W 4-1

## Men's Golf

March 27 @ Hanny Stanislaus Invitational

7 out of 16 teams

## Softball at the Tournament of Champions

March 30 vs Azusa Pacific

L 2-4

March 31 vs Northwest Nazarene

L 0-1

March 31 vs Hawaii Pacific

W 2-1 (8 INN)

April 2 vs Simon Fraser University

L 7-8

April 2 vs Holy Names University

W 4-0

## Women's Golf

March 31 & April 2 @ Palm Valley Classic

11 out of 23 teams

## Women's Water Polo

April 2 @ Fresno Pacific University

L 3-9

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

riadnochtomi    ensunb urnreb

strymirch    toryraobla

akerbe    chraeesr

oglyobi    cssiphy

oymnata    stet ubet

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

Answers:

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

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Laboratory, Research,  
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