

# the Lutrinae

CSUMB Student-Run Newspaper

December 4, 2023



Tanimura and Antle  
Family Memorial  
Library

## Poetry and pozole

Otters got a chance to listen to poetry while enjoying this classic Mexican dish.



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## A spotlight on Melanie Mena

Read about a special honor this student received.



Page 3

## Nick's Flicks

Want to watch a new holiday movie? Check out this review on a recently released film!



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# Artists take over the Rookery

Nicholas Zuniga  
Staff Writer

Do you believe in spirit animals? Are you an artist? If you answered “yes” to either of those questions, perhaps you were at the Otter Student Union (OSU) last Thursday evening painting your own alebrije.

At least two dozen students stopped by the Rookery in the OSU on Nov. 30, to put their artistic skills to the test. Attendees were greeted with an abundance of acrylic paints and canvases piled high, and a few artists from Salinas who demonstrated their creative process of illustrating a personalized alebrije.

An alebrije is a brightly colored totem or “spirit animal” which is believed to have a link to an individual's soul in Mexican culture. For example, there are several alebrijes seen in the Disney film “Coco.”

One of the illustrators, Jose Ortiz, mentioned how “we worked with the Otter Cross Cultural Center (OC3) before, and I think it's terrific what this program is doing. Uniting different cultures and different people with diversity, embracing diversity, that's what drawing and painting is all about - it's about showing your beauty.” Ortiz has been illustrating since age 4, and works with kids to connect them with their inner artistic ability.

This event was organized by the OC3, specifically by third-year Moncerat Navarro Carpio.

“I'm an artist... I find [art] to be very therapeutic, so I felt like [painting] would be really helpful for students especially during this really stressful time,” said Carpio. “[This event is] also a way to connect to culture and learn more information about other cultures that you may not be aware of.”

There was an abundance of unique alebrijes brought to life with vibrant colors. There were several birds, reptiles, insects and many more. Despite this being an effort to de-stress students during finals, a couple of students attended for the sake of school work.

First-year Michael Garland said “I was told by my ethnic studies professor [about this event], and I also

have to be here for an assignment that I need to turn in by the end of the semester.”

Another participant, Jarsaid Lopez, mentioned how he attends Hartnell College, and that “I had to [attend] a cultural event for my chicano studies class, so I chose this.” With a pencil in hand, Lopez said, “I like to draw and color, my drawing is a bird, an ehécatl ... the god of wind for the Aztecs.”

Attendees joyfully left the Rookery with a new representation of their spiritual identity in hand, likely having learned something new about their own or their communities' cultural identities. What does your alebrije look like?



Students Sofia Campos and Sydney Gaither showing off their personalized alebrijes.

PHOTOS BY SAMANTHA HUTZ

## 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.

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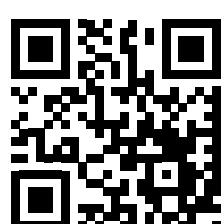
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### Editorial Policy

The Lutrinae is a student-run publication produced for the students of CSUMB. Opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of The Lutrinae, CSUMB administration, faculty, or staff.

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.



LET'S FIND OUT!

## The benefits of taking outdoor lecture-breaks

STUDENT SUBMISSION

### Improved mood

By taking a 10-minute outdoor break without technology during class hours, students experience a better affect (the underlying experience of feelings and emotions such as pride, inspiration, etc.).



### Decreased stress

A 10-minute break can significantly decrease stress and negative affect (feeling upset, irritable, etc.) of students.

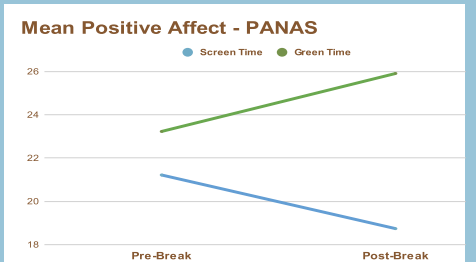
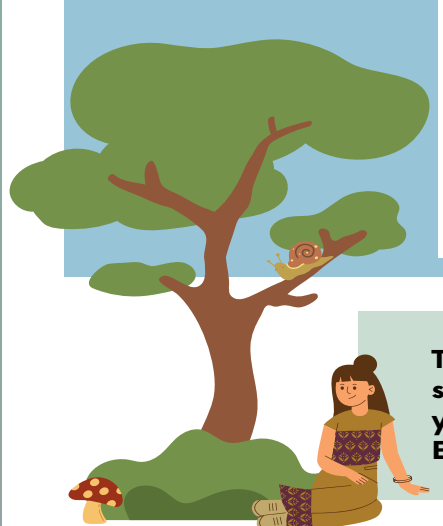
### Mental Health Matters



### Research

An in-class experiment from a psychology course at CSUMB showed that a majority of students spend in-class breaks using technology. After students were instructed to spend their break outside without technology, findings show significant decreases in stress and negative affect, and a significant positive increase of affect (all findings had a large affect size  $>.14$ ).

### Results



This finals season, consider spending time outdoors when you feel the need for a break. Be kind to yourself.

**MENTAL HEALTH IS IMPORTANT!**

# Feeding the body and soul: poetry and pozole

**Nicholas Zuniga**  
Staff Writer

Around two dozen people, mostly students, of California State University, Monterey Bay stopped by El Centro on Thursday, Nov. 30, for a bowl of hot pozole at an event organizers titled “Poetry and Pozole.” Alongside the Mexican soup, a holiday staple for some families, was an abundance of toppings like chopped cabbage, radishes, and onion. There was also chips and guacamole, and refreshments to wash it all down.

Pozole was not the only thing served at this event - there was also a hefty helping of Latinx poetry being played for students to listen to from the comfort of couches, beanbags and stools.

The event was originally pitched by humanities and communication lecturer Rachele Escamilla. Escamilla reached out to El Centro to organize the event as an introduction to poetry for students; unfortunately, she was unable to attend.

“[Rachele Escamilla is] Chicana, she has worked as a poet, she has her own YouTube [channel] where she does her slam poetry and she thought [this event] would be a great break from finals, since everybody’s probably stressing about that,” said Guadalupe Barragan, a third-year student-organizer who serves as the multicultural event planner at El Centro.

“[Escamilla] was my professor last semester, and I wanted to support her and listen to her,” said third-year Hannah Sprotte. “I love pozole, and I love writing, so I wanted to come to a writing event and get some pozole - it all just worked out.”

A majority of students who attended ended up talking amongst themselves, finding new connections within their community and subsequently drowning out the poetry. However, there was still a group of students who joyfully collected together to watch the poetry.

“I really enjoy poetry and the arts,” said third-year Nicole Salinas-Gonzalez. “I have a couple [of] poems myself ... the aspect of pouring yourself inward in a meaningful way and having other people experience that too is really powerful for me.”



Dolores Marquez and Lisa Marin posing with their pozole.

PHOTOS BY SAMANTHA HUTZ

## CAMPUS CLOSEUPS Melanie Mena: Proof that hard work pays off

**Andrea Valadez**  
Editor-In-Chief

For many years, Melanie Mena did not think going to college was an option for her, so she was prepared to make her way as a “starving artist.” Now, in her fourth-year at California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB), she has received the highest honor a CSU student can: the CSU Trustees Award.

Growing up in nearby Gilroy as the daughter of immigrant parents who spoke no English, Mena is no stranger to overcoming hardships. By the age of 9, she had moved 15 times, living with friends or family who could take her family in at the time.

This unstable upbringing has resulted in a “lack of confidence in the way I present myself,” said Mena. “It’s definitely something I’m working on, but I would say through scholarships like [the CSU Trustees Award] I’m able to realize that I do have value.”

The CSU Trustees Award honors a handful of CSU students for their outstanding achievement in academic performance, personal accomplishment and community service. The award consists of a \$7,000 scholarship and an invitation to a formal award ceremony in Long Beach.

“I didn’t even know the award amount when I applied,” said Mena. “I didn’t know what I actually received until after the ceremony. I was just like ‘Oh, they’re highlighting me for having academic success.’” Being recognized by the CSU has helped Mena realize that “there are things that I’m doing that are powerful and have an impact on the people around me.”

Mena is also a Pay It Forward scholarship recipient, which is a main reason why she has been able to attend CSUMB as a Visual Public Arts (VPA) major.

“The only way I was going to go to school was if I got that [Pay It Forward] scholarship because it was going to cover almost everything. Otherwise, I

probably was going to try to go into art and see how I would survive off of that,” said Mena.

Pay It Forward, a scholarship founded by Mike and Linda Dorn in 2008, provides low-income and first-generation college students with a \$20,000 scholarship throughout their four-year education.



Fourth-year Melanie Mena photographed for her CSU Trustees Award bio.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MELANIE MENA

Recipients also benefit from a mentoring program where they have the ability to work closely with professionals in their desired field, as well as mentor a younger student, in the spirit of paying it forward.

The VPA major is another part of CSUMB Mena holds dear.

“There’s a pretty strong community in the VPA

department even though it’s small. I feel like I know everyone here,” said Mena.

“I think it’s so fun to connect with my teachers. It makes going to class not a challenge ... It was a really good choice to come to CSUMB. I’m not sure I’d be where I am now if I didn’t,” she said.

On top of a rigorous course load, Mena also works four jobs.

As the project manager for Arts Habitat in Monterey County, Mena is responsible for “getting the community together and participating and showing their art,” she said. “We do anything from providing resources [for artists], to spotlights on artists around here. I’m specifically in charge of the annual artist studio tour,” said Mena.

Mena is also proud to have volunteered at the 2021 You Will Rise Project, an anti-bullying art workshop. You Will Rise provides students who have experienced bullying with an outlet through art.

She will graduate in the spring semester and is applying to San Jose State University’s guidance and counseling master’s degree program. She hopes to one day become a guidance counselor for high school students.

“I’ve kind of pivoted from being an art teacher to helping with deeper issues in students because I felt that had more of an impact on me,” she said.

“I think [first-gen students] tend to doubt ourselves so much and it stops us from doing things that we want,” said Mena. “But just work hard and believe that you can do what you want because five years ago, maybe even two years ago, I wouldn’t have believed I’d be here today or have any career.”

She continued, “There’s this intrinsic ability in me to just be like, ‘yeah, I want that. So I’m going to go get it.’”

# Palestine/Israel teach-in

## More layers than meets the media

Chris Hamilton and Helene Marie Kristensen  
Contributing Writers



ILLUSTRATION BY ZOE KAPP

To understand the Palestine-Israeli conflict, it's important to understand the historical context and nuances of the region according to Sara Salazar-Hughes, an associate professor of Global Studies at California State University Monterey Bay.

" Hamas cannot be used interchangeably with Palestinians or with Muslims," said Salazar-Hughes. She also rejects "the claim that criticism of Israeli state policies and actions is anti-Semitic."

"It's very clear that neither Hamas nor Israel have a long term plan for how this ends beyond trying to eliminate one another. And that doesn't work, [it] just leads to more violence."

About 75 students tuned in Nov. 17 to Salazar-Hughes' Zoom "teach-in" on the conflict. Salazar-Hughes worked in Palestine for over a decade, primarily studying Israeli occupation in the West Bank. Her doctoral degree is in cultural and political geography from the University of California Los Angeles.

While she recognizes that the creation of Israel in 1948 "was trying to make up for the horrors that Jewish people had faced in Europe ... they were doing it at the expense of people who had nothing to do with [those horrors]."

Instead, "the establishment of Israel created the largest refugee population in the world, 80% of Palestine's population." This, Salazar-Hughes said,

is "the context of the attack on Oct. 7 and is how Hamas understood that attack. Which again, is not a justification, but is important to understand."

Though many are quick to cite Hamas' Islamic ideology as a motivation for its attack, Salazar-Hughes maintained "it is not a religious conflict ... this is a conflict over land. It's a story of settler colonialism and resistance to it."

"When you set out as a settler population to establish a state, and the establishment of that state necessitates the forced removal and elimination of people who are already living in that territory, structurally, that is settler colonialism," she explained.

According to Salazar-Hughes, it was these dire circumstances, rather than religious extremism, that fueled the latest attack. "There is no military solution to this conflict. There has to be a political solution that entails liberation for Palestinian people."

A commonly suggested resolution to the conflict is the two-state solution, in which two sovereign, autonomous states are created. Salazar-Hughes points out, however, that this solution is problematic given the fragmented nature of Palestinian territories created by current Israeli settlements.

"When anyone talks about a two-state solution, that means that Israel gets to annex parts of the West Bank that are settled by Israelis. The Palestinian state that

would be created in such a solution would be made up of disconnected spots in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

"I don't think a two-state solution is a realistic way forward," she clarified. "Most Palestinians that I talked to think that the only way forward is one binational state that includes both Israelis and Palestinians as equal citizens.."

"We have to get out of this mindset that only one of these two people can be free. We can't roll back history. We can't roll back time," said Salazar-Hughes.

"Gaza has been under blockade by Israel for 30 years and has been under a complete aerial land and sea siege for 16 years. Half of Gaza's 2.3 million Palestinians are children, most of them under 16, so they've lived their entire life under an Israeli siege with really just the bare minimum of things that people need to survive and sometimes not even that," she said.

While it is hard to find a solution, she says that "if we want to change the cycle of violence, we have to change the underlying conditions. We can't just attack Hamas."

"The fact that the United States sends so much aid to Israel is a big part of what maintains the ongoing violence and the cyclical nature of this conflict ... the U.S. is funding this conflict and maintaining this occupation."

If students are interested in this topic and want to listen to the entire teach-in, it is now published as a podcast on the CSUMB Otter Pod website. You can access it through <https://digitalcommons.csumb.edu/otterpod/17/>.



Professor Salazar-Hughes has taught in the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences since 2019.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY CSUMB

The Lutrinae  
wants to hear  
your voices

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

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

## Meiomi - A taste of California you can bring home for the holidays



Helene's Vineyard

**Helene Marie Kristensen**

*Contributing Writer*

*Disclaimer: Don't drink if you're under 21, don't buy alcohol for minors and always drink responsibly.*

The holidays are here and if you are looking to celebrate, this week's wine will bring you a taste of what great wines California has to offer.

Meiomi is a pinot noir from Sonoma County. While Sonoma is arguably most known for its white wine, this red wine offers a perfect blend between a traditional California pinot and a Sonoma chardonnay.

The flavor is smooth and buttery with a hint of nuttiness, rich cherry flavor and hints of raspberry and strawberry. The aromas coming out of the glass are dark red fruits, fresh berries and mocha.

Meiomi offers an interesting flavor profile, and combined with its medium to full body, it pairs well with turkey, salmon or beef dishes. Meiomi is also a wine that would suit people who are new to the world of red wines, but also those who are well versed in reds.

While Meiomi would pair well with an array of different dishes, it also works beautifully by itself.

As with many of the recommendations in this vineyard, you can get this at Total Wine & More in Sand City for only \$17.97, which is a good price for the quality. You can also get it at your local Target, but for a few dollars more at \$19.99.

Sonoma County is known for its wines, and their first planted grapes were by Russian colonists in 1812. Some 6% of the land in Sonoma has a vineyard, and it takes about three years from when a vineyard is planted until the first crop emerges.

There are over 60 grape varieties grown in Sonoma County, and in 2021 over 202 tons of grapes were harvested, according to Sonoma Wine's website.

Since this is the last column before the holidays, I've created a list of my top three favorite wines that are almost guaranteed to be a success during the winter break.

### **#1 Meiomi - California Pinot Noir**

**This is a good wine that could be suitable for an American Christmas dinner whether you eat turkey or roast beef. It also gains a plus for working nicely by itself, and it's very likely a wine that everyone in the family will enjoy.**

### **#2 Tommasi Rafael Valpolicella Classico Superiore - Italy Valpolicella**

**I named this as an excellent all-around wine, which is why it comes in second place. This isn't a bad choice if you want something that would pair well with pork dishes, spicy sausages, white meat or lamb.**

### **#3 Caliveda - California Pinot Noir**

**I couldn't make a list like this without including the number one wine of 2023 at Total Wine & More. It offers a nice, mellow taste of a good California pinot noir, yet at the same time is a good introduction to the world of red wines. This would pair with food, but might be best to enjoy in good company.**

Cheers, and Happy Holidays!



PHOTO BY HELENE MARIE KRISTENSEN

# Cyberpunk 2077 makes the comeback of the century

**Samantha Hutz**

*Staff Photographer*

The holiday season is upon us once again, and along with it, the hype for Cyberpunk 2077. After years of hype starting in 2012, several major release delays and a historic garbage fire of an initial release, three years of post-launch support has finally brought CD Projekt Red's Cyberpunk 2077 to its current state: a game actually worth the \$60 price tag.

Following the game's debut in late 2020, the Lutrinae published a review in Arianna Nalbach's 8 Bit column. Nalbach chronicled when Cyberpunk was functionally unplayable on last gen consoles and Night City was home to an uncountable number of bugs.

Cyberpunk's redemption began in September 2022 with the release of the animated series "Cyberpunk Edgerunners" by Studio Trigger. The show's popularity drove attention back to the franchise and the subsequent Update 1.6 promised considerable improvements. Flash forward one year, and the release of Update 2.0 and the Phantom Liberty expansion has massively overhauled key mechanics, added hours of extra content and discontinued support for last gen consoles.

The most significant change has been the updated skill progression system. In the past, leveling up netted only marginal improvements to specific skills. The new system unlocks abilities that can expand the tools at your disposal and fundamentally change your playstyle. This is made even better by the ability to reallocate your skill points anytime, allowing for experimentation with different builds without the need to start a new campaign.

Another major addition is Phantom Liberty. The new expansion storyline places our protagonist in the center of a conspiracy involving the president of the new United States, a hacker of questionable loyalty and a veteran secret agent voiced by actor Idris



ARTWORK PROVIDED BY SAMANTHA HUTZ

Elba. While the Mission Impossible-esque story and gameplay is thrilling, Phantom Liberty introduces a problem: progression to higher levels happens too early.

By reaching level 45 before half of the game's content, the sense of progression plateaus as you approach the end. The novelty of becoming the baddest merc in Night City wears off in time for later missions to feel like a chore. As of now, the best solution to this problem is simply to play on a higher difficulty setting.

Visually, Cyberpunk 2077 is easily one of the most beautiful games I've ever played, when playing on the right hardware. Ray tracing and NVIDIA's AI powered DLSS 3.5 ray reconstruction and upscaling technology make the game feel more cinematic than ever. Even on current consoles and similar PCs,

Cyberpunk is still a marvel of design and artistry.

By discontinuing last gen console support and focusing on current hardware, the developers have managed to eliminate a majority of the technical issues that came with the limitations of the PS4 and Xbox One. Some bugs persist, but certainly no more than one would encounter in similar games like Grand Theft Auto or just about any Bethesda title. Further updates have been announced as recently as Dec. 1, with update 2.1 bringing new vehicles, replayable street races, visual and gameplay accessibility functions and much more.

Previous statements have also acknowledged that work has begun on a sequel - perhaps Cyberpunk 2078? Keep an eye out for the Ultimate Edition releasing on Dec. 5; give the game another shot and become a Night City Legend.

12.04.23

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# Celebrating the holidays with 'The Holdovers'



**Nicholas Zuniga**  
Staff Writer

At this time in the semester, many students are getting ready to pack their suitcases for their trip back home this winter break. However, not every student will be going home. For those who will be sticking around campus, or for anyone who is settling into the holiday spirit, consider watching "The Holdovers."

The film is set in Massachusetts during the 1970s and follows a group of high school students and two school faculty members who are staying at their school over winter break. In a shocking turn of events, all but one of the students gets to leave the school via helicopter. The single student who was left behind, Angus, is now faced with the bitter reality of spending Christmas with his infamously disliked history teacher and the kind cafeteria worker.

A majority of the story is spent focusing on the

story of this triangle, but an even greater emphasis is placed on the relationship between Angus and his teacher Mr. Hunham. The unlikely companionship that develops between these two characters drives the plot. It allows the audience to see a sense of comradery and compassion that comes out during the holiday season.

I thoroughly enjoyed this film. The cinematography was beautiful, it was well-written and I felt very satisfied leaving the theater. Does it compete with other more iconic Christmas movies? No. As I see it, this film would be very hit-or-miss depending on the audience.

One aspect of the film that I enjoyed was the acting. Paul Giamatti, who played history teacher Mr. Hunham, did a fantastic job at portraying a dislikable

teacher who is also genuine and caring. The student Angus was played by Dominic Sessa; this was Sessa's first role in a film and he acted incredibly. I would not be surprised to see him in future films based on this performance.

Last but not least, Mary Lamb (the cafeteria worker) was played by Da'Vine Joy Randolph. Randolph played the role of a grieving mother who recently lost her son, experiencing this while she is taking care of the two boys stuck at the school with her. She did an excellent job with this role and acted as a comfort character that I enjoyed watching.

Overall, I'd give "The Holdovers" three and a half out of five stars (on top of a Christmas tree). Watching the film made me feel more connected to the holiday spirit, and I am grateful for a new holiday movie.



SCREENSHOTS BY NICHOLAS ZUNIGA

# The story of 'Renaissance: A Film by Beyoncé'

**Nicholas Zuniga**  
Staff Writer

Beyoncé has once again proved, she is that girl. "Renaissance: A Film by Beyoncé," has been on my mind ever since its announcement back in early October. Let me tell you, it was worth the wait.

The documentary-style film is a retelling of the many performances by Queen B during her Renaissance world tour. Plus, audiences get to see behind the curtain of what goes into producing a show as grand as hers.

Between clips of Beyoncé and her background singers/dancers performing, the audience listens to Beyoncé narrating the process of designing her stage, picking outfits and encountering conflicts that arose in the process of producing the tour.

There were also many clips of her audience in awe of what was happening on stage. Many attendees were seen wearing extravagant silver getups with fringe, sequins and cowboy hats.

Beyoncé was not the only celebrity performer who was seen in the film. Her daughter, Blue Ivy, performed alongside her, tuning her dancing skills for the opportunity to perform in front of the beehive

(Beyoncé's fans). Kendrick Lamar made an appearance for his rendition of Beyoncé's song "AMERICA HAS A PROBLEM." Diana Ross also graced the stage by singing "Happy Birthday" to Beyoncé. Last, but certainly not least, Megan Thee Stallion performed her and Beyoncé's "Savage Remix," while performing in Houston (the hometown of both performers).

One rather cathartic moment from the film was when Beyoncé revisited her childhood home and surrounding community in Houston. It is apparent that she takes great pride in being from Houston, that being the town where she began her singing career as a child. As an audience member, I interpreted this as Beyoncé reminding her audience to be grateful for your beginnings.

Beyoncé mentions that this tour is her moment for gratitude, relishing in her accomplishments and reflecting on the hard work she's done to achieve the stardom she possesses today.

One crucial aspect of "Renaissance" is the importance of acceptance. Beyoncé says she wanted the Renaissance tour to be a place of safety and community, where everyone felt welcomed and loved for who they

are. This is evident in the beats and inspirations within the album.

The album and concert pulls lots of inspiration from queer ballroom culture, which is a place of radical acceptance for those who are generally misunderstood by society. By ballroom culture, I do not mean the type with poofy gowns and tuxedos. This ballroom is the type that plays house music, embraces over-the-top dancing with drops and dips and 360 flips and highlights the talent of queer people of color.

Beyoncé also pays homage to her late uncle Johnny, who is referenced in her song "HEATED." She says her uncle was a great inspiration to her, helping her find an appreciation for music and supporting her in every aspect he could throughout her career. She acknowledged how he must have struggled greatly in his life as a gay black man.

I thoroughly enjoyed this film, more so than "Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour." It brought me back to when I attended the Renaissance tour in Los Angeles last September. In theaters, I got a much better view of the elaborate visuals and performances that took place on stage. "Renaissance: A Film by Beyoncé" gets five out of five silver stars from me!

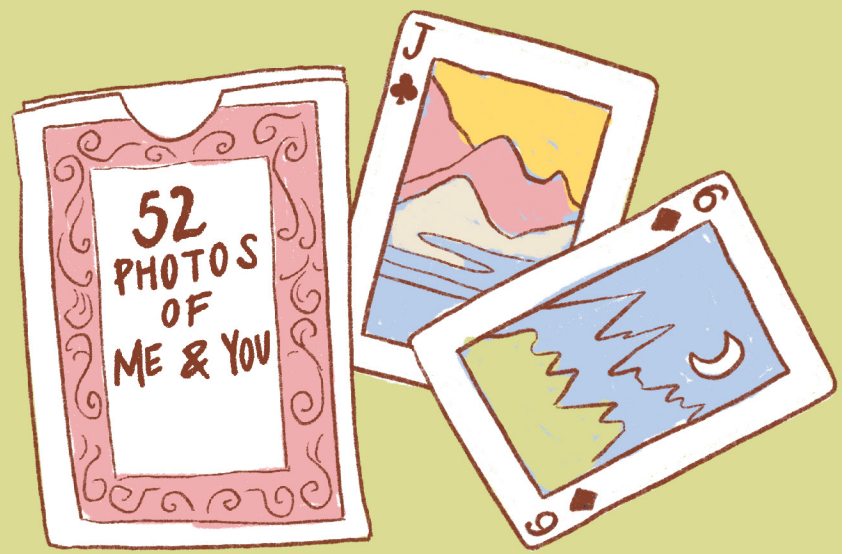


SCREENSHOTS BY NICHOLAS ZUNIGA

## H O M E M A D E H O L I D A Y



paint a tote bag



custom playing cards



paint cute coasters



mini picnic box

# December Horoscopes

Maxwelle Tartaglia  
Staff Writer



ILLUSTRATION BY ARIANNA NALBACH

## Aries (March 21 - April 19)

Aries! Prepare for a surge of energy and opportunity in your professional sphere. The month suggests that collaborations may bring unexpected success, propelling you towards recognition within your career or academics. Keep a keen eye on your goals, and consider taking the opportunity to put in extra effort toward making them a reality.

## Leo (July 23 - Aug. 22)

In the month of December, Leo, you may feel a period of heightened creativity and self-expression. Embrace artistic endeavors or explore new pursuits that fuel your passion, fostering joy and fulfillment. This month has the potential to fully take advantage of your own creativity, potentially sparking admiration and inspiration from others.

## Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)

Sagittarius, you may feel like this period is a time for self-reflection and personal growth. You may feel encouraged to rethink your current goals and aspirations, paving the way for a renewed sense of purpose. Embrace introspection, and a clearer path toward fulfillment may become clear to you.

## Taurus (April 20 - May 20)

This December, Taurus, you may expect to experience a period of personal growth and self-discovery. Ventures in education or travel may hold transformative potential, broadening your horizons. Embrace new perspectives, and an enlightening journey may await.

## Virgo (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)

Virgo, December highlights matters of home and family. Be wary and consider prioritizing harmony within your home life by fostering open communication and cultivating understanding within your household. Approach family matters with care and a foundation of stability in your personal life may gracefully unfold.

## Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)

Capricorn, this is a social time for you! December emphasizes social connections and community involvement. Consider engaging more with your peers and embracing collaboration during this period. However, be wary of maintaining a healthy balance between personal ambitions and the strength from a newfound supportive network.

## Gemini (May 21 - June 20)

Gemini, December suggests a focus on shared responsibilities and partnerships, urging careful financial considerations. Navigate shared financial issues with care, as joint endeavors may lead to both challenges and rewards. A strategic approach may pave the way for stability and prosperity.

## Libra (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22)

December may bring an emphasis on communication and networking for you, Libra. Use this opportunity to engage in meaningful conversations and collaborations, as opportunities may arise from unexpected connections. Navigate social interactions with grace, and the month may unfold with promising exchanges.

## Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 19)

This December, Aquarius, you may find yourself making big strides within your career. Seize opportunities to showcase your skills and take on leadership roles, as professional advancements may be on the horizon. Consider applying for jobs during this period. Navigate your career path with determination, and the month may unfold with significant achievements.

## Cancer (June 21 - July 22)

This December, Cancer, you may experience a sudden shift in your relationships and emotional dynamics. Nurturing connections with loved ones is important during this time, as you may experience many challenges that test these relationships this month. Approach interpersonal matters with patience, and a harmonious resolution can be reached.

## Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)

Scorpio, this December brings financial matters and resource management into the spotlight. Prudent budgeting and strategic planning may lead to increased stability and security. This month suggests the opportunity for potential financial gains through disciplined efforts and careful decision-making.

## Pisces (Feb. 20 - March 20)

Pisces! This month, you may feel an urge towards exploration and expanding your horizons. Whether it be through travel or intellectual pursuits, embrace new experiences that broaden your perspective. These new experiences may open doors to exciting opportunities for you.



# How old were you when you found out Santa isn't real? How did you find out?

**Otter Chatter**

**Jose Guzman**  
Contributing Writer



**Teresa English**  
Humanities and Communication  
Third-year

"I think I was ten or twelve years old and I remember my dad was sitting at our back table and he just looked at me and said 'Yeah, Santa isn't real.'"



**Noah Sherwood**  
Marine Science  
Third-year

"It was a while ago, maybe [when I was] eight or nine years old, I camped out in the living room and found my dad eating the cookie[s]. I was pretty distraught."



**Betsy Ruiz**  
Computer Science  
Fourth-year

"I think I was like six, because I remember it happening when my uncle tried to dress up like Santa, like this creepy Santa. So I probably thought 'This wasn't real.'"

## Upcoming Events

### Tuesday, December 5

Professor Christine Rosales and her students are hosting an informational financial literacy session with help from El Centro. Come out to El Centro, located in room 125 of building 12, from 4-5:20 p.m. to learn more about housing, financial aid, dining plans and more.

### Tuesday, December 5

Are you interested in performing in a talent show? Sign up for Otter Got Talent, hosted by Black Students United and South Asian Student Association from 6-9 p.m.! Compete for prizes and enjoy a fun night with fellow performers. Register on MyRaft.

### Wednesday, December 6

Join the Otter Cross Cultural Center (OC3) in making Filipino parols - lanterns that symbolize overcoming darkness. Come out to room 210 of the Otter Student Union (OSU) from 4-7 p.m. to participate!

### Thursday, December 7

El Centro is hosting a traditional Latine posada, where groups of people move from place to place, telling the story of Christmas and receiving offerings from others. Come out to El Centro from 10-1 p.m. to join the posada, ending with a gathering of food and drinks!

### Thursday, December 7

Come out to the first annual Winter Night Market from 4-8 p.m. in the OSU Ballroom! Hosted by Associated Students, the market will feature a variety of vendors and items such as handcrafted jewelry, artisanal candles, gourmet treats and artwork.

### Thursday, December 7

Join the MAESTROS project in a gingerbreadhouse-making competition! Come out from 12-2 p.m. and create your own masterpiece; registration on MyRaft is required.

## Puzzles

### SUDOKU

In order to complete this Sudoku puzzle, you must fill in the square so that each row and column contain the numbers 1 - 9, with no repetitions within the 9x9 grid and outlined 3x3 grid.

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

### WORD SCRAMBLE

Can you unscramble these holiday-related words to uncover their true meaning?

tnesrep

sleitn

eredinre

eivsetf

ghisle

ogngge

etoeltsmi

anmowns

dynac eanc

nteamnor

**ANSWERS:**

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

Present, Eggnog, Tinsel,  
Mistletoe, Reindeer,  
Snowman, Festive, Candy  
cane, Sleigh, Ornament

