

# the Lutrinae

CSUMB Student-Run Newspaper

February 12, 2024

# The Green Roof Project: planting seeds with purpose

**Oscar Daniel Jimenez Iniguez**  
Staff Writer

A study group made of environmental studies majors have rolled out a public campaign to gather support from faculty and students on campus, and they believe they now have the research to support implementing a green roof on campus.

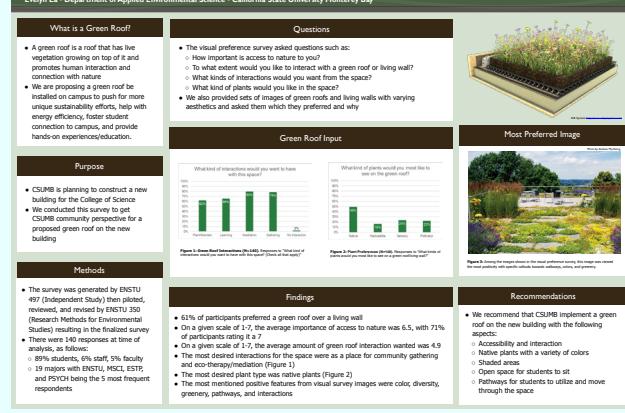
A green roof is covered with a vegetative layer, where local plants and wildlife are given a free and safe space to grow. The Green Roof Project believes green roofs are more than just simple gardens, but are instead a space where humans and nature come together to peacefully coexist in a perfect balance.

In August, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) announced a \$7 million investment plan for the construction of a new science building for the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary located on the California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) campus.

The plan aims to strengthen the NOAA's conservation efforts as well as promoting collaboration between CSUMB and the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

With the development plans still in the works, The Green Roof Project, an independent student study group on campus, is hoping to be involved in those collaboration efforts - with their idea of implementing a green roof at CSUMB already long in the works.

"We don't have a ton of green spaces other than the big patches of lawn, so having the green roof would just show that we are not separate from nature, we are nature," said fourth-year environmental studies major Daniel Bautista. "Nature and humans are meant to coexist together and I think that's a really big reason as to why having a green roof as opposed to telling people to go walk on the golf frisbee areas is important."



The study group was initially formed during a field trip over a year ago when environmental studies students visited the California Academy of Sciences and were inspired by the museum's impressive green roof. With the help of their faculty advisor, Victoria Derr, a professor for the Department of Applied Environmental Science at CSUMB, these students want to create their version of a green roof on campus.

Studies show that green roofs improve mental health, reduce anxiety and stress, along with increasing social connectedness.

An important aspect of The Green Roof Project is the potential mental health benefits the space could bring to students. Third-year Cay Bessey trusts in the science that shows the mental health improvement a green roof can bring.

"Studies consistently demonstrate that nature contact provides positive health benefits. They're doing studies on biophilic design with people in hospitals and prisons, showing when they are immersed in nature, their mental health is getting better and they end up healing faster," said Bessey.

Another member of The Green Roof Project, Janet Garcia, not only highlights improvement of mental health as playing a crucial role in a green roof, but also how it leads to physical improvement.

"There's also a physical aspect to it because it encourages students that really don't typically go outside or immerse themselves with nature, and it gives them that opportunity to get out there more often, find hobbies that they wouldn't typically go for, and it introduces them to a whole different aspect [of] healthy living," said Garcia.

Based on a survey administered last semester, the members of the project have learned that CSUMB students are eager to see a green roof on campus. Most participants desired the green roof as a "method of community gathering and eco-therapy/meditation" according to fourth-year Evelyn La.

Implementing a green roof on campus isn't a new concept according to the study group. They believe with the proper development plans in place, a green roof is more than possible at CSUMB, whether it's on the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary building or not.



ILLUSTRATION BY ZOE KAPP

"People are already doing this. It's happening actually everywhere," said Bessey. "So the infrastructure has already been figured out. I just wanted to make a point of how cool this actually could be. It's already happening in Europe. It's already happening in the state of California."

As development of the new building continues, with no guarantee of a green roof being installed, there is a lot more planning that needs to happen before one is possible at CSUMB. Yet, the folks at The Green Roof Project are hopeful about what the future brings for the idea, and what it could mean for students beyond a green roof.

"I want to see this project succeed not only because of all the great benefits that come with a green roof, but because this whole study is really a labor of love. It shows that when students are passionate about something ... we can get it done," said La. "How cool is it that a group of students can get this whole thing done on a building at school? It shows that we have a voice on campus and what we do and our ideas matter."

## Personal statement workshop

The CLC hosted a workshop to help students craft personal statements.



## What I Think

Read Max's thoughts on how concert crowds have changed for the worse.

Page 4

## Happy Lunar New Year

Check out this infographic to learn more about the year of the Dragon.



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# Perfecting your personal statement

**Nicholas Zuniga**

Staff Writer

Personal statements can be challenging to create - trying to fit an entire identity into a 1,000-word essay may be hard for many students. To combat this challenge, staff from around campus gathered to instruct and inform students on the do's and don'ts of creating an effective personal statement.

At least three dozen students joined select staff members in the student center (building 12) for the annual personal statement workshop and free hot lunch.

Looking around, there were notepads being filled and fast fingers typing notes. "I am trying to get into graduate school and join a master's program in social work," said Liliana Agudo, a third-year transfer student majoring in social and behavioral science.

Although this event was for any personal statement inquiries, the primary focus was writing a statement for the 2024-2025 California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) scholarship. This scholarship is due on March 30, and requires a personal statement. In previous years, the application required a letter of recommendation but this requirement has since been removed.

I came for "lunch, but also I had been meaning to apply for the scholarship. Me and my classmate thought that this would be very helpful for us ... my brain is already going crazy thinking about what I can put in my application," said Jessica Hernandez, a third-year liberal studies student.

The event was a collaborative effort between the Cooperative Learning Center (CLC), University Research Opportunities Center, Otter Cross-Cultural Center, transfer center and career services.

At the CLC, located in the Tanimura & Antle Family Memorial Library on the second floor, students can stop by for writing support. Students may schedule one-on-one meetings, for whatever academic reason, in-person and on Zoom. There are also drop-in tutoring hours every Thursday from 5 to 5:50 p.m. - this is for in-person students and does not require an appointment.

Nanda Warren, the writing coordinator at the CLC, said "I don't think that [faculty and staff] can just assume that people know how to pursue things like scholarships. It's not enough just to say 'we have scholarship money out there,' we also have to help people figure out how to go for it."

Warren shared that the purpose of this annual workshop is "to let people know what resources are available so that they don't feel like they have to do this all on their own."



UROC associate Natasha Oehlman facilitating the workshop.

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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# ‘Lisa Frankenstein’ – she’s alive!

Nicholas Zuniga

Staff Writer

An electrifying love story just in time for Valentine's Day - "Lisa Frankenstein." This comedic rendition of the "Frankenstein" story was well-written and scarily romantic, something that Mary Shelly could probably get behind.

Set in the late 1980s, this film follows the metamorphosis of Lisa Swallows into Lisa Frankenstein. Lisa is a girl who enjoys sewing, crimped hair, horror films and spending time at an abandoned cemetery. When she's not reading near a tombstone, Lisa navigates high school boy troubles and a personal plight after the death of her mother. Enter her newfound friend, Mr. Frankenstein. Lisa taps into a new side of herself that is ruthless and unapologetic.

Both "Lisa Frankenstein," and "Jennifer's Body," are produced by Diablo Cody (among others), and could possibly get another installment in their cinematic universe. Additionally, this film was directed by Zelda Williams, daughter of Robin Williams. The film was Williams' feature-length directorial debut.

Lisa's room is adorned with several horror film posters, but one, in particular, stood out; "A Trip to the Moon," a sci-fi/fantasy film from 1902 that many consider to be the first scary movie because of its eerie undertones. Writers and producers clearly did their homework on classic horror before embarking on "Lisa Frankenstein."

The original "Frankenstein" movie sparked conversation about the idea of a "mad scientist," and this film adds to that narrative. Little by little, Lisa falls deeper into her madness and experimentation with her undead accomplice. By the end of the movie, Lisa faces death in one of her final "experiments," a moment that truly qualifies Lisa as a mad scientist by her own means.

Lisa is played by Kathryn Newton, and Newton does a great job of embodying the complex character. I recognized Newton from her role in "The Society," a Netflix series that (in my opinion) needs a sequel. Mr. Frankenstein was played by Cole Sprouse, a popular

childhood actor from "The Sweet Life of Zack and Cody." Despite only having two - maybe three - lines at the very end of the film, Sprouse gave life to his role as an undead hopeless romantic.

When I walked into the theater, my expectations were on the floor. I thought it would be a corny attempt at modernizing the story of Frankenstein, but it shined because of its unique story and ability to keep me laughing.

I would give "Lisa Frankenstein" four and a half lightning bolts out of five. "Lisa Frankenstein" will definitely be featured on my watch list for this upcoming Halloween.

This film would also be a perfect date-night movie! Instead of buying your Valentine a cheesy card or a new blouse, consider buying two movie tickets (or four for a double date). If you decide to do this, perhaps sneak in that heart-shaped box of chocolates under a sweater.



SCREENSHOTS PROVIDED BY NICHOLAS ZUNIGA

# Like a Dragon 8 arrives in the aloha state

Samantha Hutz

Staff Photographer

Ryu Ga Gotoku Studio returns to the Like a Dragon series with its eighth installment: Infinite Wealth. Four years after Ichiban Kasuga's introduction, replacing original protagonist Kazuma Kiryu, our two heroes team up in the Hawaiian capital of Honolulu to investigate the disappearance of Ichiban's long-lost mother. This review will not contain major story spoilers.

Understanding Like a Dragon: Infinite Wealth necessitates comparison to preceding titles. Although much praise was given to the 2020 "Yakuza: Like a Dragon," the majority of critique was centered on how combat systems hinged on strategic positioning but character movement was done without player input. Infinite Wealth finally unlocks the abilities to move your party members around the battlefield and visualize areas of effect. Attacks can also reposition enemies, pushing them into one another, objects, or allies and dealing additional damage.

Kiryu's unique character class, "Dragon of Dojima," lightly adapts his classic playstyle. He possesses three unique types of basic attack, inspired by his different fighting styles: Brawler, Rush and Beast. His storyline picks up from the 2023 "Like a Dragon Gaiden: The Man Who Erased His Name," now an agent of the mysterious Daidoji spy organization. He joins Ichiban in the search for his mother and it seems the Daidoji have taken an interest in her as well.

With Infinite Wealth, the franchise continues to excel at interweaving setting with theme. Hawaii is presented as an epicenter of wealth disparity. Its depiction of Honolulu struggles to support an ever-growing homeless population as the local economy pushes native Hawaiians and other residents underfoot, unable to pay for basic necessities or afford shelter. Meanwhile, the tourism and luxury goods industries continually exploit such people to cater to hordes of blissfully ignorant tourists.

Kasuga's new companions provide additional depth to these problems. Chitose, the estranged heiress to a rich Japanese family, explores how their wealth can do more



harm than good; she examines this through exploitative industry and how it prevents her from forming a connection with her family. Tomizawa, a resident of Hawaii and the only United States citizen in the game, often translates when dealing with the English speakers of the island. His story touches on the injustice of plea bargains and the incentive for Hawaiian police to keep up an appearance of vigilance.

Of course, Infinite Wealth has its share of wacky side content. RGG Studio and Sega parody Nintendo with two major minigames: "Sujimon League," and "Dondonko Island Resort." The former has Ichiban collect the strange and violent enemies encountered in the open world and enlist them in bloodsport, to ultimately become the "Sujimon Master." "Dondonko Island," meanwhile parodies "Animal Crossing," as Ichiban partners with the owners of a failed resort turned illegal dumping site to revitalize their

business and restore the island's beauty. Infinite Wealth also incorporates one of Sega's properties with the "Crazy Delivery" minigame, mashing up the high-octane "Crazy Taxi" with the rather mundane nature of food delivery gig work.

As for the substories, Infinite Wealth may rely too heavily on returning characters from "Yakuza: Like a Dragon." Fan-favorite weirdos like Mr. Gondwara and his diaper-clad goons, Dr. Okita and his giant robot vacuum cleaner Sojimaru and more return. The coincidence that such people would travel to Honolulu at once strains suspension of disbelief, but such criticism might not hold much water in a franchise home to these characters in the first place. Overall, Like a Dragon's eighth installment and commitment to its new JRPG genre and turn-based system solidifies it as a franchise people ought to keep their eyes on for years to come.

# Crowds are killing concerts

Max Guerrera

Staff Writer



The crowd at the 2023 Otterlands performance.

PHOTO BY OSCAR DANIEL JIMENEZ/INGLUE

When I saw Paramore on their This Is Why tour in July 2023, Hayley Williams reminded the crowd who a concert really belongs to. "This is your show, so be present for it. It is also the person next to you's show. So look out for them, OK?" From the band to the audience, we all have a role in contributing to the energy of the show, regardless of the venue.

What Williams said stuck with me because I've noticed that being part of the crowd at a concert is a different experience than it used to be. I expect a concert to be a place where people who enjoy the same music come together to celebrate it. Unfortunately, some of the shows I've been to recently have disappointed me; not because of the performer, but because of the crowd.

It seems like there's always a phone in my face, or the energy in the room is dead and the crowd is stiff. While it takes a great performer to excite a crowd, they feed off of the vibrations of the audience just as much as we do.

Alternatively, I've also attended shows where some members of the audience don't respect others' personal space. While the punk rock scene has a bad reputation for violent crowds with dangerous

mosh pits, punk shows have had some of the most respectful crowds I've been a part of. I encountered some of the most inconsiderate fans at The 1975 concert of all places.

The auditorium was packed. People in front of my friend and I were complaining because we were standing too close to them. I was conscious of my surroundings and doing my best to respect others' personal space, but that didn't soften the tension. I tried to put myself in their shoes to reflect on my actions, but I concluded that coming to a concert expecting not to touch strangers is delusional. I'm not going to keep my head down and stop dancing because someone doesn't understand how a concert works.

Part of the point of conflict in this situation was a lack of communication. These people in front of us were very obviously badmouthing my friend and me, but couldn't turn around to express their concern civilly.

Social media has already taken over our generation's method of communication, but this doesn't go without its consequences. It seems like being locked up with our phones for years during a pandemic has

made us forget how to share live music with others and be present.

At intimate shows I've been to, concert etiquette isn't a thing of the past. But in bigger crowds, it's even more important that we look after each other. Some pits are rowdier than others, and it's understandable if some members of the crowd would rather chill in their own space than be pushed around. While those moshing have a responsibility to be aware of their surroundings and avoid shoving, those who would rather have a more laid-back experience should be aware of the risks involved in entering a pit.

When I saw Pity Party (Girls Club) at Bottom of the Hill in San Francisco, almost everyone was on the same page when it came to moshing. Naturally, most of the energy shifted toward the stage where the pit formed. I noticed some girls standing next to the stage looking at the rest of the crowd in disbelief, like they couldn't fathom that we dared to mosh near them.

While I understand not wanting to be touched or shoved, that can be part of the concert experience, especially when the band encourages moshing. Of course, safety and respect should be a priority, and the most respectful way to mosh is to form a border, which the crowd at this show did.

Those of us who would rather not participate in this are always free to move to a more relaxed part of the crowd, but expecting people to act like they're at church instead of a concert screams entitlement.

The golden rule of a mosh pit is if you see someone fall, you help them back up, and that's what this crowd did. This show was special because people were looking out for each other. By the time the concert ended, I felt a bond with the crowd because we shared an experience that had come and gone, and most of us had fun living in the moment.

At the end of the day, we all go to concerts for the same reasons; to enjoy music and have fun. Some of us have fun in different ways and that's fine, but we have to set ourselves up to have the experience that we want to have.



## Olema Pinot Noir - a decent choice but their chardonnay is better

Helene Marie Kristensen  
Contributing Writer

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

I went into this week's wine nearly blind. Some 95% of the time, my choices are based on what Total Wine & More is offering during their sampling hours. I grab what tastes good, is somewhat local and intrigues me. I have heard of Olema winery and they make a fantastic chardonnay that I brought home to Norway this past summer. My dad, who had recently fallen in love with white wine after a trip to Italy, was very glad.

Anyway, this week's vineyard is about Olema pinot noir. I chose it kind of on a whim because it was recommended by one of the workers, and I loved the chardonnay they produced. Upon opening the bottle and letting it air for half an hour, I was a little surprised. It is a little bit untraditional compared to many of the other California pinot noirs I have reviewed. While the taste is good it's almost a bit anonymous.

The aromas are easy to catch and produce scents like flowers and strawberries with a hint of citrus. This gave me great hope but as I tasted it, there was not much going on. It's pleasant and tastes good, but there's no taste that stands out. This is usually an indication that the wine pairs better with food. After my taste test, I had some food with a slightly spicy

and acidic tomato-based sauce and I noticed a change. Something changed in the wine, there was a little more going on despite it still being fairly anonymous. The more acidic aftertaste came through, along with subtle notes of spices and cherries, which mix better with food.

It's a good choice as a semi-locally produced pinot to drink, but I'm afraid it's not going to be all that memorable. Therefore, this would best be paired with food such as beef, pork and chicken to really get the most out of the wine.

Olema is a winery based in Sonoma County and known for its chardonnays which I can confidently say are delicious. I will save more information on that for a later review.

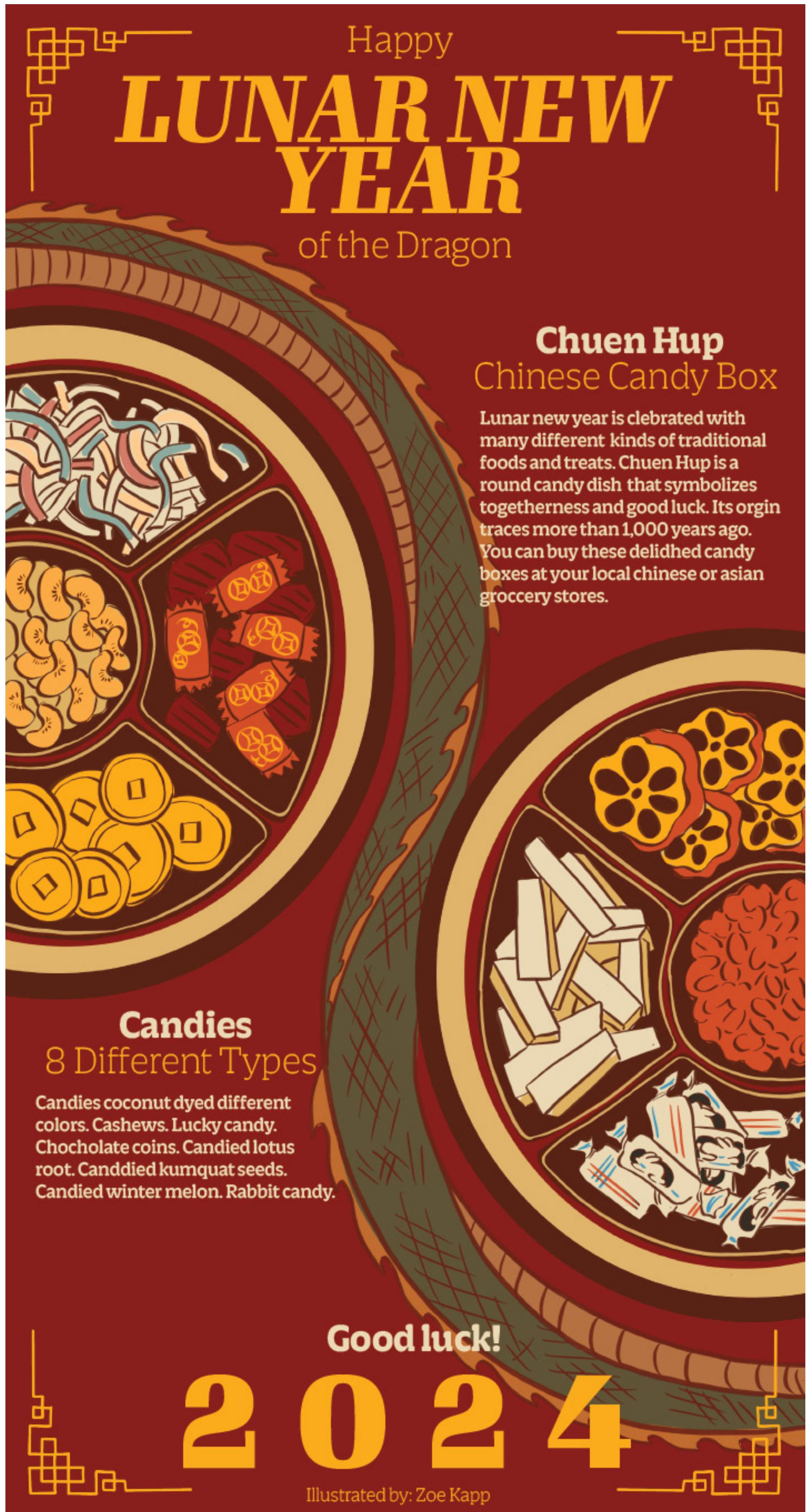
This wine was voted a top pick at Total Wine & More and sells for \$21.99. Despite it being labeled as a top pick, it's not my first choice to buy again. Which is perfectly fine because thankfully we are all different, and while it wasn't my favorite, it might be yours.

I would encourage you to try something new, and who knows, you might disagree entirely with my review this week.

Cheers!



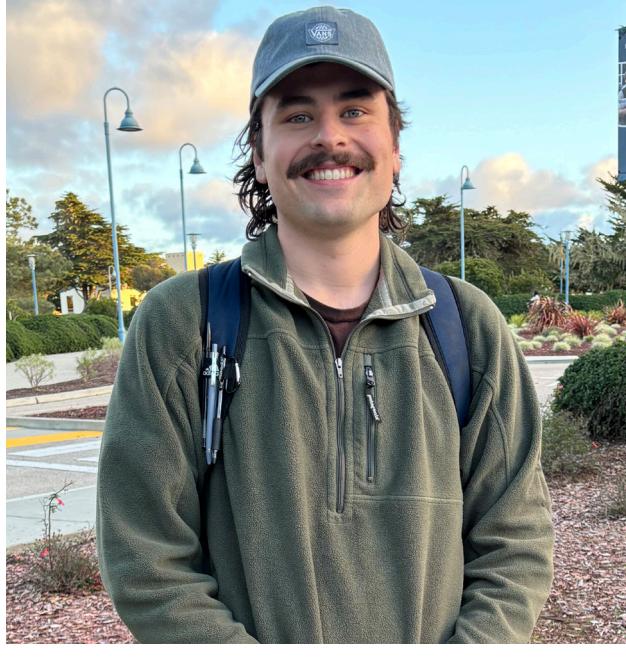
PHOTO BY HELENE MARIE KRISTENSEN



# What is your favorite rainy day activity?

Otter Chatter

Jose Guzman  
Contributing Writer



## Zachary Theodore

Agriculture Plant Science

Third-year

"I like riding the bus when it rains because of the scenery, it looks nice."

## Corey Yamamoto

Master's in Education

Fifth-year

"I would probably like to read and drink coffee."

## Mariah Cedillo

Master's in Education

Fifth-year

"Watching movies at home and drinking hot chocolate."

## Upcoming Events

### Tuesday, February 13

Need help setting up your LinkedIn account? Career Services is hosting an online workshop with Career Advisor Thomas Rodgers to give students helpful tips on how to join the networking site. Registration on MyRaft required.

### Tuesday, February 13

Startup Monterey Bay Connect is hosting its monthly meeting in the CAHSS building, room 1204 from 5:30-7 p.m. Stop by to hear from entrepreneurs in the area about how their businesses have developed. Register on MyRaft.

### Tuesday, February 13

The Inter-Club Council is partnering with In The Ords Literary Arts Journal to host a Crafting with the Clubs event! From 6:30-8 p.m., students are welcomed to combine poetry with collaging! Registration on MyRaft is required.

### Wednesday, February 14

The Food Bank of Monterey County Produce Truck is back on campus this week! Located behind the Otter Express from 12-2 p.m., students can stop by and grab a free bag of fresh, local and organic produce. Staff and faculty are welcome to come by from 1-2 p.m.

### Thursday, February 15

Career Services is hosting a career and internship fair from 1-3 p.m. in the University Center! The fair is in partnership with local agriculture companies, so students interested in sustainability, agriculture, marketing and HR are encouraged to stop by. While the focus is agriculture, all majors are welcome to attend.

### Thursday, February 15

In partnership with the International Student and Scholar Services program, the Habitat Stewardship Project will be planting trees around campus from 2:30-4:30 p.m. This planting is part of the University's goal to plant 2,030 trees on campus by 2030. Registration on MyRaft required.

### Thursday, February 15

Women's (5:30 p.m.) and men's basketball (7:30 p.m.) are playing against Chico State in back-to-back games! Stop by to support your fellow Otters and maybe even win some fun prizes! Otter Athletics is hosting a spirit contest, with winners being selected at each game during halftime.

### Friday, February 16

El Centro is launching Mariposa Mentorship! Stop by El Centro in building 12, room 125 from 1-2:30 p.m. for some snacks and a chance to learn about this new mentorship program on campus.

## 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.

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

### WORD SCRAMBLE

Can you unscramble these Valentine's Day-related words to uncover their true meaning?

tealcohoc

eadt hgitn

evlo

ipshinotlaer

nydac

noosalbl

serwofl

dpicu

nioctefaf

ayrruebf

### ANSWERS:

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

Chocolate, date night,  
love, relationships, candy,  
balloons, flowers, cupid,  
affection, February

