Issue 18

Vol. 7

A



A post-Valentine's Day concert for the ages



Oscar Daniel Jimenez Iniguez Staff Writer

Under the moonlight on Feb. 23, Promontory residents and other students at California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) were invited to a unique Residential Advisor-led event: a concert.

The Heartbreak Show, hosted by RA's and studentperformers Cyan Erdita and Bryan Gutierrez, was self-described as "Prom's 1st Backyard Show," as it was held at the Promontory basketball court. The show was put on to celebrate the heartbreak often associated after Valentine's Day according to Erdita. The concert was also an opportunity to promote student artists and celebrate the music scene on campus.

There were "officially" over 130 students registered for the event, but it looked and felt more like 300.

Heartbreak Show featured The Mystic Souls, Sister Four Eyes (formally known as Sexual Crisis) and was headlined by Pak Joko (Erdita's stage name). From the basketball court to students enjoying the show from above in their apartments, the hype from each of the performing student-artists was felt throughout the night with no dull moment in between.

As Jacob Alfaro, guitarist for Sister Four Eyes put it, "It was a global line-up."

The Mystic Souls, with Gutierrez as the frontman, lived up to their name with a laid-back set filled with mystical-like vibes, putting the audience into a groove akin to what a great opening act should do.

Sister Four Eyes, regardless of no particular set sound, sent the crowd into a craze with an astonishing and total rock star-like performance from lead singer Roxy Ortiz.

The band opened the set with their interpretation of the classic Nickelodeon song "Ripped Pants" by Spongebob Squarepants. It was truly a situation where no girl would want to dance with Squarepants.

With the concert approaching the end, it was only

fitting that Pak Joko would be the one to put the final stamp on a night already filled with fun and community.

Student-band The Mystic Souls opening Heartbreak Show

His rap performance was expected and wellreceived, but Joko surprised the crowd with a new sound. Accompanied by his friends, Joko performed two Mexican corrido songs with students dancing and his fans begging him to do a grito, a yell or cry which shows pure joy.

Gutierrez and Erdita put on Heartbreak Show to show that students could have fun at RA events. With students moshing, singing and dancing with the bands, the two believed they proved themselves right and were glad to host a good time to start the weekend off strong.

"It was fire because I got to see my other RAs and see them be happy," said Erdita. "A lot of people think RA events are just, 'come to the office and make crafts,' ... [but] when it comes to what an RA event can look like, it's super badass."

College Corps Learn how to become a College Corps fellow.



Queer Ascents panel

Read about the first installment in the OC3's rock-climbing series.



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Game Girl Advance

Have you played Helldivers 2 yet?



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CSU student assistants vote to form union



Andrea Valadez

Editor-In-Chief

California State University students have officially created the largest undergraduate student union in U.S. history. The union vote, which ended Feb. 22, passed with 97% approval.

Some 20,000 student assistants across the 23 CSU campuses will now join the CSU Employees Union (CSUEU) and Service Employees International Union (SEIU) as part of CSUEU/SEIU 2579. This joint union currently represents 16,000 CSU support staff and nearly two million SEIU members. The undergraduate union will soon be negotiating for new contracts with the CSU, asking for better pay and affordable parking.

According to the Associated Press, 7,252 students voted during the four-week voting window. Of those, 7,050 voted to join the union.

The vote has been in the works for over a year, stemming from a belief that student assistants should receive benefits similar to what CSU full-time staff are offered considering they are often expected to complete similar tasks.

As new union members, CSU student assistants will "receive training to be more knowledgeable about their rights as workers [and] how to step up as worksite Stewards so they can enforce their contract," according to CSUEU Communications Officer Khanh Weinberg.

The union is preparing for upcoming contract negotiations and is asking student assistants to complete a survey to know what other benefits and issues they would like to see addressed. (https://secure.everyaction.com/DJ6DUwV7qke2FyYs1izKJQ2?ref=8b8b dc25-ab90-4448-96a4-9e758cbca861).

For more information regarding the union vote, read our previous article here (https:// thelutrinae.com/2024/01/csu-student-assistants-prepare-to-unionize/).

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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.

CSUMB students give back with College Corps

Maxwelle Tartaglia Staff Writer



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Editorial

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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.







California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) students were invited to a Feb. 22 workshop seminar to learn about College Corps, a state service and career development program that provides its fellows with financial support and professional experience.

College Corps is a first of its kind program in partnership with California colleges and universities. Launched by Governor Newsom in 2022, College Corp has three main goals.

- · Addressing societal challenges through serving inareas like climate action, K-12 education, food insecurity, and health.
- Help low income students graduate college with less debt.
- Create a generation of civic-minded leaders with the ability to bridge divides and solve problems.

Otters were given the opportunity to join a College Corps meet and greet session Thursday, where they could ask questions about the program and talk to experienced fellows.

This event was facilitated by College Corp program lead and CSUMB alumna, Sunny Milligan.

Milligan gave a presentation on College Corps, explaining their mission, partners and what exactly becoming a fellow would look like as well as the benefits of the program.

College Corps fellows serve 450 hours of community service over the course of an academic school year. This is split into about 12-15 hours per week and is divided into 90 hours of training and 350 hours of service. Fellows also enroll in certain Service Learning courses at CSUMB which count toward their 90 hours.

"The reason I joined College Corps is to be able to serve my community," said Thalia Hernandez, a College Corps fellow and collaborative health and human services major at CSUMB.

"I am currently serving at Seaside High School. I am helping the newcomer students who have only been in the country for no more than two years," said Hernandez. "I am basically

helping them with their English language skills. Since they only went up to a certain grade in their country I am helping them work with a high school level."

To fulfill College Corps' goal of making college more affordable, fellows are eligible to receive up to \$10,000 in a living allowance and an educational award. This fund is dependent on a student's current financial aid package and is distributed monthly.

College Corp also serves as a networking opportunity for those involved in the program. Through service, fellows build connections within the community that they serve, which can lead to job opportunities and references.

"College Corp has really helped me be involved in the community that I grew up in and give back to individuals and the young children in this community that will eventually have a big impact in our world," said Jennifer Pineda, a College Corp fellow and psychology major at CSUMB.

With a plethora of light-hearted events like Spooky-Movie nights and Game Days, Milligan also noted that College Corps Fellows can expect to cultivate valuable friendships through joining the program.

In order to join, an applicant must be a full-time undergraduate student that meets at least one of the following criteria:

- Qualify for Federal Pell grant
- Qualify for State Cal Grant or Middle Class Scholarship
- Need to work part time and/or borrow student loans to meet educational costs
- Be an AB 540 recipient / Undocumented with or without working authorization.

The College Corps application is currently open to students who fit the criteria. The priority deadline for returning fellows is March 18 and new applicants have until April 1 to apply. Students interested in becoming a fellow can find the application here (https://csumb.edu/service/serviceleadership-students/csumb-college-corps/).

Campus

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Exchanging stories with Book Chats reading group

Chris Hamilton Staff Writer

"When does a war end? When can I say your name and have it mean only your name and not what you *left behind?"*

The room fell silent as a small circle of students reflected on these words by Ocean Vuong.

On Thursday, Feb. 22, students gathered at the Otter Cross Cultural Center (OC3) to read selected passages of Vuong's work from "On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous" and "A Letter to My Mother That She Will Never Read."

The reading group was a part of OC3's Book Chats, a series of reading groups exploring the work of diverse authors in hopes of facilitating conversations about different social justice themes. The latest installation of Book Chats seeks to explore how experiences of trauma, such as war and discrimination, can be passed down through generations.

"Sometimes, I imagine the monarchs fleeing, not winter, but the napalm clouds of your childhood in Vietnam." Vuong is a Vietnamese American writer and poet whose work explores the theme of intergenerational trauma as felt through his mother's experience of growing up in the Vietnam War.

"Unfortunately, every kind of civilization and people have experience [with trauma] or went through some type of war," said Peter Xiong, program coordinator for the OC3. "Sometimes these stories echo the same themes," said Xioung, drawing attention to how these experiences of trauma can be shared across cultures. Xiong was quick to note, however, that these shared experiences are not strictly negative.

"Intergenerational experiences are not just tied to trauma, but also to healing, like gifts that were passed down to you from each generation," Xiong said. This sharing of stories and experiences is what led the OC3 to create their series of Book Chats. "The thought was to provide more spaces for folks to be able to be with other folks who read ... it's just like



The impact of these conversations was made clear by the personal connections participants made with the readings. "I think [Book Chats] are really cool, you're hearing different points of view. You can sit back, relax and just listen," said fourth-year John Meyers.

"I think I needed it," said third-year Moncerat Navarro Carpio, speaking on the value of connecting with the stories of others through reading groups such as Book Chats. "I always say that stories are meant to be held and when I share my stories with others I always say 'hold them with grace and hold them with care.""

02.26.24

Career fair: what employers look for

Chris Hamilton Staff Writer

For students looking to pursue a career in education, Feb. 22 was filled with opportunity, as representatives from more than 35 different school districts and educational programs came looking for potential candidates for a variety of positions.

The Teacher and Education Career Fair was put on by the California State University, Monterey Bay's (CSUMB) Career Services in the University Center. Tables set up by each organization filled the room, each one covered in flyers, business cards and the resumes of hopeful applicants. Educational organizations of all varieties were in attendance, from traditional K-12 schools, to schools for neurodiverse students, to the Peace Corps educational outreach.

For some lucky students, eager employers arranged interviews on the spot. Lucky as these students may have been, there was a palpable sense of nervousness around the room. It seemed that for both recruiters and applicants, the question of the day was the same: "what qualities make a successful educator?"

"I think for me, honestly, we know that a lot of the people here don't have experience. They're new graduates coming into the industry," said Gracie Alvarez, career services manager for Ed Theory, an educational hiring firm. "So we don't necessarily expect you to have a resume with 10 years of experience. I don't think professional experience can be better than having that personal experience."

According to Alvarez, she can often tell who will make a good educator before even speaking to them. "I'm always people-watching and looking around ... how they walk around, " said Alvarez.

For Ashton Plett of Chartwell School for neurodiverse students, it's not quite as easy to tell who will be a successful teacher. "At first glance, I probably can't tell. [Instead] I look at them on campus. Are they getting down to their level or are they jumping into a game? Are they getting down on the floor and playing Legos with a kid?" said Plett.

Despite the differences in their answers, these educators reflected a common sentiment among employers: that more important than a neat resume or a well-fitting suit, is the character and life experience of the applicant. "I'm always looking for energy. I'm always looking for passion ... those personal skills that they're going to be able to [use to] connect to kids," added Molly Parks,

assistant superintendent of Human Resources at Santa Cruz City Schools.

For future educators, the best preparation seemed to be having the hands-on experience of working with children, and the ability to connect with them on a closer level. Applicants that had these "soft skills" were able to bring their full confidence to the hiring table.

"I like working with students because I can see a lot of the potential in them. With a little bit of help, a little bit of support, they are able to reach their potential," said Jianshan Chen Khalsa, a master's student in school psychology. Khalsa believes confidence is key in these situations because it allows her to "feel I'm prepared based on my performance and my work experience."

Aspiring elementary school teacher and CSUMB student, Sam Swanson, echoed this statement saying, "I think a lot of it is confidence and knowing that I know what I'm doing as a teacher and letting [employers] know that," he said.

The career fair was a hit for many students like Swanson. who "already found a few potential opportunities and have some interviews lined up."



Campus

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The intersection between rock climbing and the queer community

Chris Hamilton Staff Writer

State University, Monterey Bay's (CSUMB) Otter Cross Cultural Center (OC3) for a panel discussion with Queer Ascents on queer representation and inclusion in climbing culture.

Queer Ascents is an organization based in San Luis Obispo focussed on bringing members of the LGBTQIA+ community into the outdoors through the sport of rock climbing. Queer Ascents seeks to create a welcoming space for people of diverse backgrounds within a sport dominated mainly by cisgender, heterosexual, white men.

"We don't really see as much diverse representation in the climbing world," said Mackenzie Shuman, president and founder of Queer Ascents. "But there's a lot of queer climbers out there ... we're out there, we're climbing hard, and we're doing really cool stuff."

Since founding the organization last year, Queer Ascents has been wildly successful in bringing more people into the sport. According to Shuman, the organization has regular meet-ups and over 100 people on its email list.

Feb. 23 around a dozen students gathered at California "I wanted to join a climbing group in general and there was nothing in San Luis Obispo that existed at the time. Being queer myself, I really wanted more community in San Luis Obispo anyway, so why not just create it myself?" Shuman said.

> "Climbing in and of itself is a very community oriented sport. You go to the [climbing] gym and you spend half your time just talking to your friends," said Shuman, noting that this provides a unique outlet for the LGBTQIA+ community which has traditionally been centered around nightlife and other urban activities.

Shuman recalled a moment at one of Queer Ascents earlier meet-ups when, "somebody came up to me after and said 'that's the first time I've ever seen that many gay men in San Luis Obispo outside of a bar setting.""

Some of the panel audience wondered, "What would it take to bring this to CSUMB?"

"You just need somebody to initiate it," said Jesse Cabacungan, Queer Ascents's incoming president.



"You just have to create something to give people that sense of belonging," Cabacungan remarked, noting that many members of the LGBTQIA+ community can feel intimidated when first joining a sport such as rock climbing.

In hopes of creating this sort of community and inclusivity at CSUMB, OC3 and CSUMB's Recreation Department have partnered with Sanctuary Climbing (https://www.rockgym.com/) and Fitness in Seaside to host a climbing meetup for Black, Indigenous and people of color on March 1.

The meetup is designed to welcome new climbers from diverse backgrounds to the sport, covering the costs of gear rentals and gym passes.

Karen Maldonado, student coordinator for OC3, noted that while climbing can be an expensive and sometimes daunting activity to become involved with, its potential for creating close connections is unparalleled as, "it's a very vulnerable sport."

Though a lot of people might not know much about rock climbing, Maldonado envisions a future of inclusivity, diversity, equity and making it more accessible for everyone of all communities."



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Dura Mater By Micah Rodriguez

Loving way too fast

Another way to lie-My lack of last Moments run by Chains I've torn from seven miles deep

I feel alright. I'll be alright.

Next stories to be told

And forty days go by-I lost my mind

Feelings feeling cold Way too old for younger doors

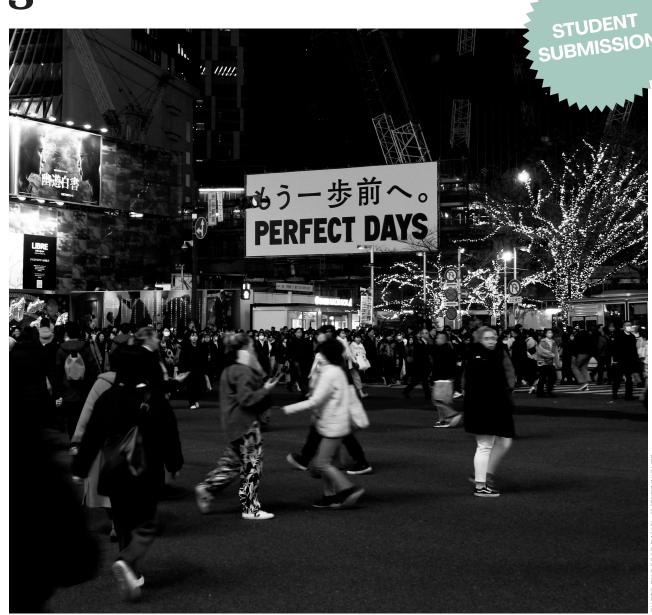
And nothing new. There's nothing new.

My compass always spins

Spin n' spin-When will it be?

Will I be dead? Living the dream? I live in my head. How could I north? I've always been south. Couldn't do west, but never the less-

My life is a map, my mind is the test.



Columns

thelutrinae.com

Helldivers 2: Why your boyfriend isn't answering his phone

Samantha Hutz Staff Photographer

Rest assured girlfriends everywhere, it's not another woman, your boyfriend has just joined a fake military in his new favorite video game. Arrowhead Studios and Sony Interactive Entertainment have called to arms both Playstation and PC gamers alike to join the fight for "Managed Democracy" and defend Super Earth's way of life in Helldivers 2.

Helldivers as an intellectual property borrows heavily from the premise of Paul Verhoeven's 1997 film, "Starship Troopers." The film satirically presents the hypothetical propaganda a spacefaring fascist hegemony might produce by loosely adapting Robert Heinlein's 1959 pro-fascist scifi novel of the same name.

Helldivers adapts the film's satirical ethos to its new medium somewhat poorly. Where Verhoeven, using cinema, parodied fascist films like Leni Riefenstahl's "Triumph of the Will," Helldivers could do more to parody peers in the gaming industry like the Call of Duty franchise, which has historically been used as a recruitment tool for the US military. One point in Helldivers' favor is that it can at times be genuinely funny, such as allowing players freedom to name their starships what they like; I went with the "SES Legislator of Family Values."

As for the gameplay, Helldivers 2 is a major departure from its predecessor, moving away from the top-down twin-stick shooter to a third-person over-the-shoulder shooter. This second installment takes many cues from Hideo Kojima's Metal Gear Solid V: The Phantom Pain (MGSV).

Entering an open zone with primary and secondary mission objectives along with tactically deploying orbitally dropped munitions and supplies are just a few core mechanics shared between the two games. Managing resources to upgrade your starship and gear between operations are also central to the core gameplay loop. During a firefight, combat can feel remarkably similar to MGSV's Fox Engine, dramatically diving into the prone position, toggling iron sights, and navigating ordinance deployment without pausing the surrounding carnage.



From a starship, players select a planet within contested sectors and deploy to fight in what is currently a two-front war against both the insectoid Terminids and the robotic Automatons. Each planet displays a "Liberation" percentage, which will increase as more players successfully complete missions on said planet. A particular planet that has become the subject of endless memes is Malevelon Creek, home to particularly difficult missions and Automaton forces.

Future content rollout could include a third front to the war against the "Illuminates," an aquatic interstellar alien civilization that appeared in Helldivers 1. The game's galactic war map also seems to include additional unutilized space for what could be a fourth enemy faction.

Arrowhead Studios and Sony unfortunately did not anticipate the level of interest the game has garnered since its release, and even now several weeks post-launch, little

has been done to alleviate the problem of insufficient server support. Launching into the game typically greets the player with a screen stating "Error: Servers at capacity. Please try again later."

Once, while sitting on this screen, I received an invite to join a friend's game and after accepting it, caused my whole computer to crash. This anecdote is just one instance of the many bugs players are forced to contend with (pun intended).

Johan Pliestedt, CEO of Arrowhead Studios has recently stated that for those who want to play the game, it would be "worth waiting until the servers can support the capacity." Hopefully, in time, these issues will be addressed and we can get our soldiers back on the front lines fighting for our planet and spreading freedom throughout the galaxy. Until then, I'll be doing my part, waiting on the error screen with my comrades.

On the road with the Drive Away

02.26.24

Nicholas Zuniga Staff Writer

Two girlfriends on a roadtrip to Tallahassee, Florida, what could go wrong?

Released on Feb. 23, "Drive-Away Dolls" brings its audience on a wild ride with twists, turns and lesbians at every corner. The film follows Marian and Jamie, who embark on an odyssey of sorts; Marian is seeking a getaway to ease the stress of her nine-to-five office job, while Jamie is trying to have fun - and get Marian laid along the way.

The two purchase a drive-away (a single-use vehicle that is driven from one location to another), but they unknowingly rent a car that holds a top-secret suitcase in its trunk. The "sensitive information" they had was meant to be received by a pair of mafia-style goons, a comical Tom-and-Jerry duo who would hunt down the vehicle and the two girls who possess it.

What I liked about Marian and Jamie's relationship was their very contrasting personalities. At first I called them Bert and Ernie, but there are many other comparisons that

could be made.

The two were very similar to Sandra Bullock and Melissa McCarthy in "The Heat," one being professional while the other was unhinged. Or, they can be seen as a modern-day "Thelma & Louise," fighting against all odds until the bitter end. Another observation of mine is the recurring theme of lesbian-based comedy in theaters recently; this comedy was adjacent to "Bottoms," a hilarious comedy about lesbian high schoolers released last August.

The film starred Geraldine Viswanathan as Marian and Margaret Qualley as Jamie. Qualley recently played a character in "Poor Things," and did a great job in both roles. Other stars like Matt Damon, Colman Domingo, Pedro Pascal and Miley Cyrus made appearances throughout the film.

It was directed, written and produced by Ethan Coen, who has made several other films (none that I have seen). Although Coen has reached many notable accomplishments, evident by his 13 Academy Award nominations, this film

felt like a short-coming of his talent as a film-maker.

Comparing "Get-Away Dolls" to a similar film like "Bottoms," I have some thoughts. "Bottoms" was directed and written by a woman, and had much greater success. "Drive-Away Dolls" had a 65% tomatometer score as of Feb. 24, and "Bottoms" had a 95% tomatometer score on Sept. 1, shortly after its release. I wonder if women-driven films are best-received when created by women - some food for thought.

The film contains lots of sex and violence, but I think it could have done better with some more subtlety.

Some things I really liked about this film were the musical score and the abnormal transitions. Transitioning between scenes was comical, and at times psychedelic. This aspect of the film is difficult to describe, so perhaps find out for yourself!

I enjoyed "Drive-Away Dolls," and would likely watch it again. I'd give it three and a half stars out of five.





Columns

thelutrinae.com

The 'Stillness' in Between By Jose Guzman

Contributing Writer

Wind silently whispering Special melodies, Carefully listening Gently calling me.

The sun's strong rays Golden glistening warmth, True jealousy Evidently clear now.

The sparrow's special song Plays throughout the land. It's music strong and willful Present to the few.

> Strong and steady Are the wind's qualities. Bright and jealous Are the sun's qualities. Two siblings, Each fight for attention An endless game Infinitely, no end...

Have you ever had a celebrity encounter?

6



Jose Guzman Contributing Writer



Annie Marina Liberal Studies

Second-year

"I met Maná, [the experience] was fine."



Kiera Lyons Kinesiology

Second-year

"I met Steph Curry at the celebrity golf tournament in Lake Tahoe. It was very cool to meet a professional athlete."



Valeria Lomeli Psychology Third-year

"[I met] Jenny Rivera's dad and it was cool. I was more excited than I thought I would be."

Upcoming Events

Monday, February 26

El Centro is hosting "Tacos & Taxes," an opportunity for students to hear tax-filing advice from Professor Mary Anne Majadillas. Come out to El Centro from 12-1:30 p.m. to learn about the best way to file your taxes, and enjoy a free lunch at the same time!

Tuesday, February 27

The Education and Leadership program and El Centro are partnering to host a panel discussion surrounding civic engagement and the power of students' votes. Students can attend the panel in the University Center from 4-6 p.m. and hear from various panelists such as Monterey District 3 Supervisor Chris Lopez, and President of the NAACP Monterey County, Lyndon Tarver. Register on MyRaft.

Tuesday, February 27

Do you need help preparing for an upcoming interview? Career Services Advisors Lauren Knottek and Jenny Martinez are hosting a Zoom workshop from 5-5:50 p.m. to provide interviewing tips to students. Registration on MyRaft required.

Wednesday, February 28

Students and staff/faculty are welcome to stop by the Monterey County Food Bank Produce Truck from 12-2 p.m. to grab free, fresh produce. The truck is located behind the Otter Express and is on campus every two weeks.

Wednesday, February 28

Are you interested in continuing your higher education at California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB)? Stop by the graduate career fair from 12-2 p.m. to learn more about CSUMB's various Master's degree programs. Register on MyRaft.

Wednesday, February 28

The Otter Cross Cultural Center (OC3) is hosting an open-mic night from 4-5:30 p.m. in the Otter Student Union Rookery. Stop by and enjoy free food and performances from your fellow Otters.

Thursday, February 29

Stop by the Associated Students Farmers Market from 2-6 p.m in lot 71 to enjoy produce from local vendors and support small businesses!

Friday, March 1

Join the OC3 and CSUMB Recreation for a Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) indoor rock-climbing event! From 4-8 p.m., BIPOC are encouraged to come by Sanctuary Climbing and Fitness in Seaside to experience the community-building activity. Registration on MyRaft is required.



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.

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

WORD SCRAMBLE

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

dwoema	mtesysceo				
laflteraw	rfalo				
fieldlwi	gmnilobo				
dnasil	nfunaa				
nteonmverin	nycnoa				
ANSWERS:					
$ \begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	Volume 7 Spring 2024				