

The building time forgot and our Fort Ord past



PHOTO COURTESY OF MONTEREY HERALD ARCHIVES

Sean Tubo
Staff Writer

PART 1

Look at a map of Seaside and a story starts to form. At its center, Cal State Monterey Bay (CSUMB), a modern campus still intimately connected to its military past, where a shared experience among many students remains in the reused military barracks they live in during their freshman year.

Not far west from CSUMB, rows of decrepit barracks are still in the process of being torn down, remnants of Fort Ord not lucky enough to be reused. Go east, and an old sign and a series of dead-end roundabouts mark the now mostly defunct University of California Monterey Bay Education, Science, and Technology Center (UC MBEST).

North, the Monterey Institute for Research in Astronomy (MIRA) sits active but odd and out of place in the corner of a vast expanse of concrete, while in the south buildings still bear their original building numbers from when Fort Ord was active.

There is a tension here, an indecision between past and future. Seventy-year-old derelicts standing alongside brand-new developments, one that only now is beginning to be resolved as Seaside grows.

At CSUMB, one building lies at the epicenter of this tension. Small, unassuming, with a weather-beaten porch, flecking roof and a rust-covered mailbox. Labeled building 491 on campus maps, the Oaks Hall Annex sits tucked behind Oaks Hall, barely visible from the street. It is largely a forgotten building, its name or existence not even mentioned on a campus plan from 2007.

Building 491's story begins with Fort Ord, which officially

closed in 1994, after the passing of the 1988 Base Closure and Relocation Act. Intended to shutter or reallocate defunct military installations, Fort Ord would be first on the chopping block. Only a year later in 1995, CSUMB would hold its first classes on the old base.

When Fort Ord was in its prime it had over 600 buildings stretching from 8th Avenue to the coast. Where there is now a Veteran's Association Clinic, a shopping center and vast expanses of dirt once lay something akin to a bustling city, one complete with dentist's offices, theaters, hospitals, chapels and housing for the legions of soldiers stationed there.

In contrast, CSUMB appears to be only a shadow of the vast complex which used to exist. Although many buildings from Fort Ord were originally earmarked for rehabilitation, founding faculty member Qun Wang recalls they discovered it was "cheaper to tear them down."

Barracks, maintenance shops and classrooms were ripped out to clear space for the growing college. CSUMB's Master Plan discusses the process of removal, "The university has been able to reuse 66 military buildings... to date, a substantial amount of time and resources have been spent removing approximately 274 derelict structures on campus, the last of which are currently being demolished."

In this context, it's remarkable that Building 491 survived at all. It is not a permanent concrete construction like many of the buildings still in use by CSUMB, nor does it hold some obvious secondary function like the Meeting House.

Maps stored at the Chamberlin Military Library show 491 was put up sometime between 1978 and 1982 for use by the 127th Signal Battalion. On these maps, it is labeled T-4804, the T standing for temporary. Its recent construction com-

pared to the rest of Fort Ord, most of which was built in the 1940s in response to World War II, saved it from the rot which doomed much of the old fort to destruction.

But 491 might have been torn down anyway if not for another lucky break. Maps show 491 was originally one of four identical buildings, labeled T-4801-4803. Those are gone now, but the lot's unusual crescent shape curves just enough to avoid the building's footprint.

In its current form, 491 is a look into a past slowly being forgotten. As Seaside and Marina expand into the future, much of the history of Fort Ord is becoming buried under new growth, only visible through photos and archival documents.

But its story doesn't end in the past. To discover how it lasted into the modern day requires a look into the Fort Ord Reuse Authority (FORA) and their dream of a new Silicon Valley in the heart of Monterey Bay, read part two in next week's edition.



Oaks Hall Annex, Building 491

PHOTO BY SEAN TUBO

Winter Formal Ball

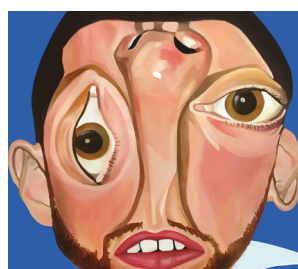
Did you attend the Winter Formal? Read our coverage of the event.



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Balloonism review

Read our review of Mac Miller's second posthumous album.



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Poetry

Read poems submitted by CSUMB students.



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Dancing the night away at the Winter Formal Ball

Sean Tubo
Staff Writer

The echo of distant music could be heard across campus last Friday night as students attended the third annual Winter Formal Ball. Inside the ballroom of the Otter Student Union (OSU), the center of the ballroom was packed, with many spilling off of the dance floor, dancing on the surrounding carpet. Others stood or sat by the tables, while some stepped outside to enjoy the night air out in the plaza.

Jeff Rensel, the director of the OSU, confirmed that the dance floor is set to expand in the coming months. “The OSU is very happy that Student Engagement and Leadership Development (SELD) helped to procure a new larger dance floor for events like these,” he said.

This year’s event featured small but notable improvements to the ambiance, including additional glowing lights. Inside the ballroom, a photo booth had a steady flow of students entertained, while an artist drew free caricatures outside.

Students arrived in dresses, suits and ties, taking full advantage of the opportunity to dress up. “I always dress up no matter what, but it’s nice to have a time where it’s socially acceptable,” said Sunny Del La Pena, a fourth-year business major, while waiting in line for the photo booth.

One change at this year’s Winter Formal was the absence of student volunteers traditionally working to take attendance and help run the event. This was an intentional decision by the event organizers, allowing the Winter Formal to be fully accessible to all students.

“[The Winter Formal] is one of the events we get to do that we do for students,” said Dan Burfiend, senior coordinator of student organizations, leadership development and assessment.

Unlike many campus events, the Winter Formal is not hosted by a single organization. Instead, it is a collaborative effort among multiple groups that work to pro-



PHOTO BY ELLIOT ROWE

vide events for students on campus. “It’s a collaboration between all of student life, if you look at the poster it doesn’t say AS (Associated Students) or OSU—it’s all of us,” Burfiend said.

“The Winter Ball is an opportunity for students from all walks to connect,” said Denise Tambasco, director of Student Engagement and Leadership Development (SELD).

Attendance remained high, as it has throughout the event’s three-year history. By 9 p.m., more than 329 students had

checked in at the front desk, well on its way to the attendance numbers the event typically draws. “It’s been pretty consistently big—we’ve been [getting] 400 to 600 [attendees],” Burfiend said.

Mini Monte, the OSU plush mascot, also made an appearance, accompanied by his handler Allyssa Calleros, a third-year communications major. Speaking on mini Monte’s behalf, Calleros confirmed the otter’s enthusiasm for the dance floor, “Yes! Yes, he does [dance] —put on a beat and he’ll get down on it.”

Things to do in Cannery Row besides the aquarium



SCREENSHOTS PROVIDED BY JAELENN AILINA DIOKNO

Keira Silver
Staff Writer

While the most known activity near Cannery Row is the Monterey Bay Aquarium, there are plenty of other downtown places to explore. Here’s a list of cool places for students to visit in downtown Monterey.

Tipsy Putt

Known for its exciting mini golf, Tipsy Putt offers students an array of fun activities for a night of entertainment. Some popular amenities include cornhole, a sports bar, leagues, tournaments and more. It’s a great place to reserve and host a party or event. You have to be 21 and over to attend Tipsy Putt.

Treasure Hunt: The Ride

A cross between Disney’s Toy Story Mania and Pirates of the Caribbean rides, this attraction offers guests a fun and immersive ride setting. Guests will have the chance to explore the caverns under Cannery Row and hear about the legends of Monterey Bay. Inspired by Monterey Bay’s real pirate history, visitors can experience some theme park fun while in the heart of downtown Monterey.

Monterey Mirror Maze

This popular attraction allows guests to challenge themselves in a color-filled maze of lights and sounds. There is also a laser challenge guests can sign up for. Tickets can be purchased online or upon entry.

Oscar’s Playground

This establishment offers guests a place to put their gam-

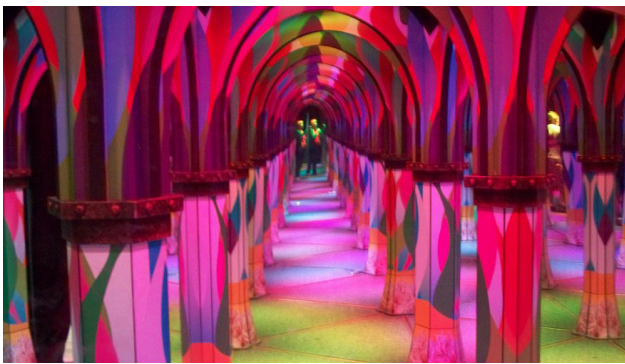
ing skills to the test. The arcade features many gaming stations and arcade games to try. Some of the games include skee ball, hoops and pinball. The arcade also includes a series of escape rooms.

Escape Room 831

This escape room in downtown Monterey is a fun chance to solve puzzles, hang out with friends and explore the local area. There are several different games to try, such as Time Machine, The Terminal and The Gate. There are also three different locations in the area, including some escape rooms at Oscar’s Playground. There is additionally a mobile escape room option.

The Break Room 831

As Monterey’s only rage cage, this attraction allows guests to feel the adrenaline rush while breaking an entire room of objects. There is also cornhole and Foosball offered at the site. Rooms can be booked online.



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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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.

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Best and worst films of 2024: A year of highs and lows



Hayley Matto and Francine Pamplona
Staff Writers

From potential Oscar-winning films to undeniable disappointments, 2024 delivered some unforgettable cinematic moments – a mix of films we’ll eagerly rewatch and others we’d rather forget. Here’s a look back at the films that defined our year.

Let’s start where we agree: “Wicked” was pure magic! With heartfelt characters and an enchanting soundtrack we’ll be humming long until part two is released, it’s no surprise this musical adaptation made both our top lists.

In my opinion (Francine), “Challengers” and “The Substance” were among the best films of the year. “Challengers” had captivating storytelling, the angstiest soundtrack and remarkable lead performances from Zendaya, Mike Faist and Josh O’Connor. Director Luca Guadagnino captured the drama on and off the tennis court of a 13-year-long love triangle between main characters Tashi, Art and Patrick.

Recently, “The Substance” became a favorite. Demi Moore stars as a fading celebrity who takes a black-market drug to create a younger version of herself. Campy, gory and a real nail-biter, the film offered commentary on the societal pressures of women aging.

For me (Hayley), the best films were the ones that made me cry. “We Live in Time” delivered incredibly raw, realistic storytelling, making viewers deeply invested in the couple’s journey. “My Old Ass,” starring Aubrey Plaza, also stood out, offering a fresh take on the coming-of-age genre that will resonate with generations to come.

However, not every movie hit the mark. “Madame Web” felt like another unnecessary superhero movie, and while “Speak No Evil” was an improvement from the original, it was far from memorable.

Hayley here – I think it’s fair to say the horror really fell flat in 2024. “Tarot” was one of the most laughable films, relying heavily on stereotypical tropes, the rise in tarot culture online and excessive gore. It failed to be even remotely fear-inducing.

Another group of flops for us was all the sequels! “Smile 2” was a poorly written horror flick that failed to live up to its predecessor. Meanwhile, “Beetlejuice Beetlejuice” did tickle everyone’s nostalgia bone, but it didn’t live up to the buildup we all had hoped for in returning to the whimsical world of The Afterlife. The practical effects recaptured some viewers right back to the original’s charm, but the storyline itself felt messy, as if too many plots were crammed together.

Overall, 2024 was a strange year for film, with a few diamonds among a lot of rough. Most would agree this was not the year for horror, remakes and sequels. But if you were into romance, tear-jerkers or the type of films that have you leaving the theater on the cusp of an existential crisis, then this was the year for you.

Looking ahead to 2025, we’re excited for “Companion,” “Mickey 17,” “Frankenstein,” “How to Train Your Dragon” and of course “Wicked: Part Two.” Stay tuned for the next review!



SCREENSHOT PROVIDED BY HAYLEY MATTO AND FRANCINE PAMPLONA

Floating to ‘Balloonerism’ by Mac Miller



SCREENSHOTS PROVIDED BY KARZELL MCMILLIAN

Karzell McMillian
Contributing Writer

Mac Miller, best known for his jazz-inspired style and laid-back flow, was a fan favorite throughout the 2010s. While his music often had a relaxed feel, his lyrics centered around deeply personal themes, including struggles with mental health and substance abuse.

In 2018, only a month after releasing his Grammy-nominated album “Swimming,” he unfortunately died after an accidental overdose at age 26. His death was felt throughout the music industry and his dedicated fanbase, who had followed his evolution from a teenage rapper to a multifaceted artist.

Seven years after his untimely passing, Miller’s team has released his second posthumous album, “Balloonerism.” The album’s announcement came as a surprise during Tyler, the Creator’s annual music festival, Camp Flog Gnaw, where a visual teaser hinted at its imminent release. Fans were ecstatic to learn that new music from Miller was on the way, reigniting the appreciation for his artistry.

Although “Ballonerism” is a new release, it was a project that Miller began early in his career but was put on hold so he could focus on other albums. The album’s sound is reminiscent of his 2014 mixtape “Faces,” which he made

around the same time as “Balloonerism.” Over the years, unfinished versions of “Balloonerism” have been leaked, leaving fans wondering if the album would ever be an official release.

Now, hearing the completed songs evokes a wave of emotions bridging the past and the present. Listening to this album feels like being the little silhouette on the cover, floating in the sky.

Standout tracks include “Funny Papers,” “Rick’s Piano” and “Tomorrow Will Never.” These tracks encapsulate the essence of Miller’s early sound and highlight the effort put into completing this project without damaging the integrity of Miller’s work. The production remains true to his signature style, incorporating jazzy instrumentals, smooth transitions and thought-provoking lyrics that reflect his creativity. As his second posthumous release– and hopefully not the last– it offers hope that more authentic Mac Miller music may still be on the horizon, allowing new listeners to discover his serene yet tragic sound.

I encourage everyone to listen to “Balloonerism” and dive into the rest of Miller’s discography, especially if you haven’t yet experienced his music. His legacy lives on through his work, and this album is yet another testament to the lasting influence of Mac Miller.



Lulu smiling while I rub her belly

Amaraa Ononiwu
Photo of the Week Winner

Lulu, an absolute sweetheart yet so naughty.



Photo of the Week

Looking to showcase your photography? Enter our ongoing photo contest throughout Volume 8 for a chance to have your work featured in our weekly issues. Check out our Instagram [@thelutrinae](#) for more details!



To Blossom

Elijah Garza
Student Submission

If I were a flower, I’d be a sunflower,
turning my face to the light each hour.
My growth fueled by the sun’s warm kiss,
roots in the earth, my anchor, my bliss.
This is new growth, reaching for the sky,
but also deepening roots, where truths lie. The storm may bend
me, the wind may call, but I rise again—steadfast, tall.

If I were a flower, I’d crave the rain,
its tender rhythm, its soothing refrain.
Each drop a promise, each cloud a guide, nourishing the spark I
hold inside.

My petals stretch wide, golden, and bold,
embracing each story, both new and old.
The garden around me, a vibrant embrace, teaches me strength
and grants me grace.

Through seasons that challenge, through frost and fire, I bloom
with a quiet, unyielding desire.
For growth is a journey, both tender and wild, a dance of renewal,
both wise and child.



ILLUSTRATION BY ZOE KAPP

Character

John McDonough
Student Submission

Hey lead,
I apologize for the inconvenience,
But give me \$1,000,
Or else an action thriller will ensue.
The plot will surface,
And your son’s life threatened—
Kept locked in my cellar
Unless the money is received.
Fist fights will occur,
Gunshots fired,
Yet all of our hearing
Will remain intact.
Your number one concern,
The colossal weight on your shoulders,
Is getting your daughter back safely.
But don't look at me—
The writers came up with this.
I’m just a character,
And so are you.

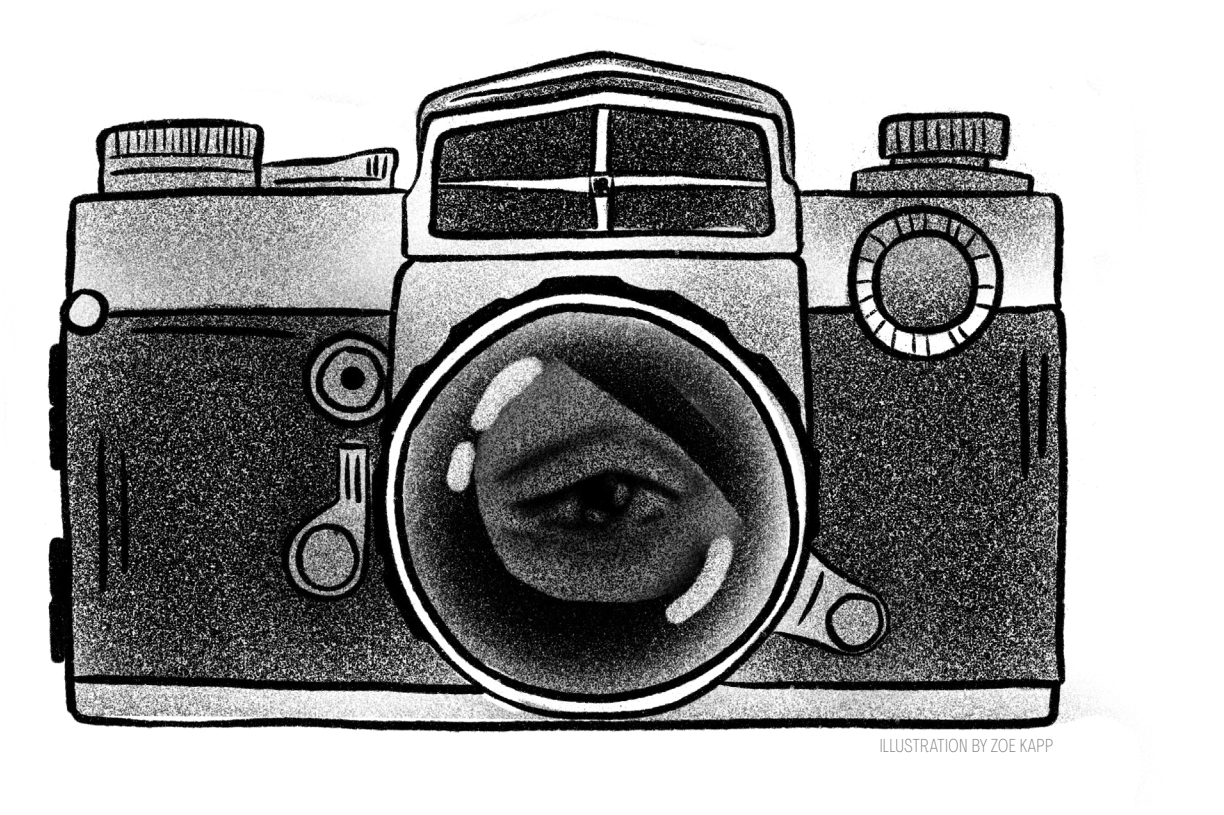


ILLUSTRATION BY ZOE KAPP

The Lutrinae
wants to hear
your voices!

Want to showcase your work in the student newspaper?
Email pfrancis@csumb.edu to have your work considered for our
next issue.
We love to see your:
illustrations • short stories • poems • opinions

What do you think about the TikTok ban?



Hayley Matto
Contributing Writer



Cece Nepacena
Third-year business and accounting major

“I was at work and found out about the ban from one of my coworkers. She mentioned having transferred to RedNote, as I’ve now learned many others had. I have to admit I was glad to hear about the cultural exchange many people described occurring but as an Asian American, I noticed many were treating the experience like ‘seeing Chinese people in their natural habitat.’ Ultimately, I find it super interesting that TikTok’s brief ban seemed to cause an emotional burst, reflecting how massive the history of the app’s prior life and relationship with its users was. I’ll be keeping a close eye on how the app’s patterns change now that it’s returned.”



Raelly Barbosa
Second-year psychology major

“There are so many layers to this situation. For the short time that it was gone, I felt a sense of acceptance that this was the new reality, it wasn’t a good or bad thing—it just was. People are resilient and immensely creative so without TikTok life would continue moving forward but that is not to discount the struggle that would occur during the time before a viable solution was set into place. The notion that so many creators could lose their livelihood and so many people are being actively ignored is incredibly disheartening. It’s the kind of disrespect that makes you question if you are being listened to at all. The immediate reinstallation of the app went to show that we are merely pawns in a much grander scheme and while nobody knows exactly what is going on there is a bitter taste left in my mouth and an uneasiness throughout my whole body that undeniably states now is the time to be concerned for the future.”



John McDonough
Fourth-year cinematic arts major

“Although I haven’t kept track of the number of jobs at risk, I can imagine it’s a number larger than the price of college housing. The 12-hour snooze was a joke. Granted, I was able to use Instagram, and even Twitter and Facebook as alternatives, as well as actually talking to my family in person, but for that to happen in less than a day was absurd. In general, this ‘goal’ to ban the app is due to the fact that many accounts are showing what’s really going on in the world. So to see the truth right on our little screens will expose quite a lot. I’m not too sure if this charade will happen again. But if it does, you know people will be talking about it. Personally, I still use the app. I heard it may have been sold or will be, but I’m not gonna let that possibility ruin my fun.”

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, Jan. 28

The Inter-Club Council and the RPG Club are hosting Gaming with the Clubs from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in The Rookery. They will be having a Mario Kart Tournament.

Wednesday, Jan. 29

Want to join a student organization this semester? Check out the Otter Showcase from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Main Quad to check out clubs to join.

Wednesday, Jan. 29

Are you in a service learning class this semester? Community partners will be in the Main Quad from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. (same as Otter Showcase). Students will have the opportunity to visit different organizations and learn about being a service learner at their organization.

Wednesday, Jan. 29

Join the Otter Student Union (OSU) for a movie night with a showing of “Deadpool & Wolverine.” The event starts at 7 p.m. in the OSU Ballroom. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own blankets for comfortable viewing and dress up as their favorite Marvel characters. Food will be provided.

Thursday, Jan. 30

CSUMB’s men’s and women’s basketball teams are taking on San Francisco State this week. Entry to the game is free, along with pizza and CSUMB gear. The women’s game is at 5:30 p.m. and the men’s game is at 7:30 p.m. in the Otter Sports Center.

Friday, Jan. 31

Head over to the Otter Express at 6 p.m. for Chalk and Talk, a community connecting event. Chalk will be provided for participants to decorate the sidewalk and get to know orientation leaders and make new friends.

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.

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

WORD SCRAMBLE

Can you unscramble these sweet treat-related words?

abob

cmaath

rwobeni

cie meacr

olacetohc

eltat

ypsart

istnrcoas

nuotd

koeoic

ANSWERS:

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

Cookie

Pastry, Croissant, Donut,

Cream, Chocolate, Latte,

Bobaboba, Matcha, Brownie, Ice

Volume 8

Spring 2025