

Innovation sparks hesitation as AI settles into the CSU

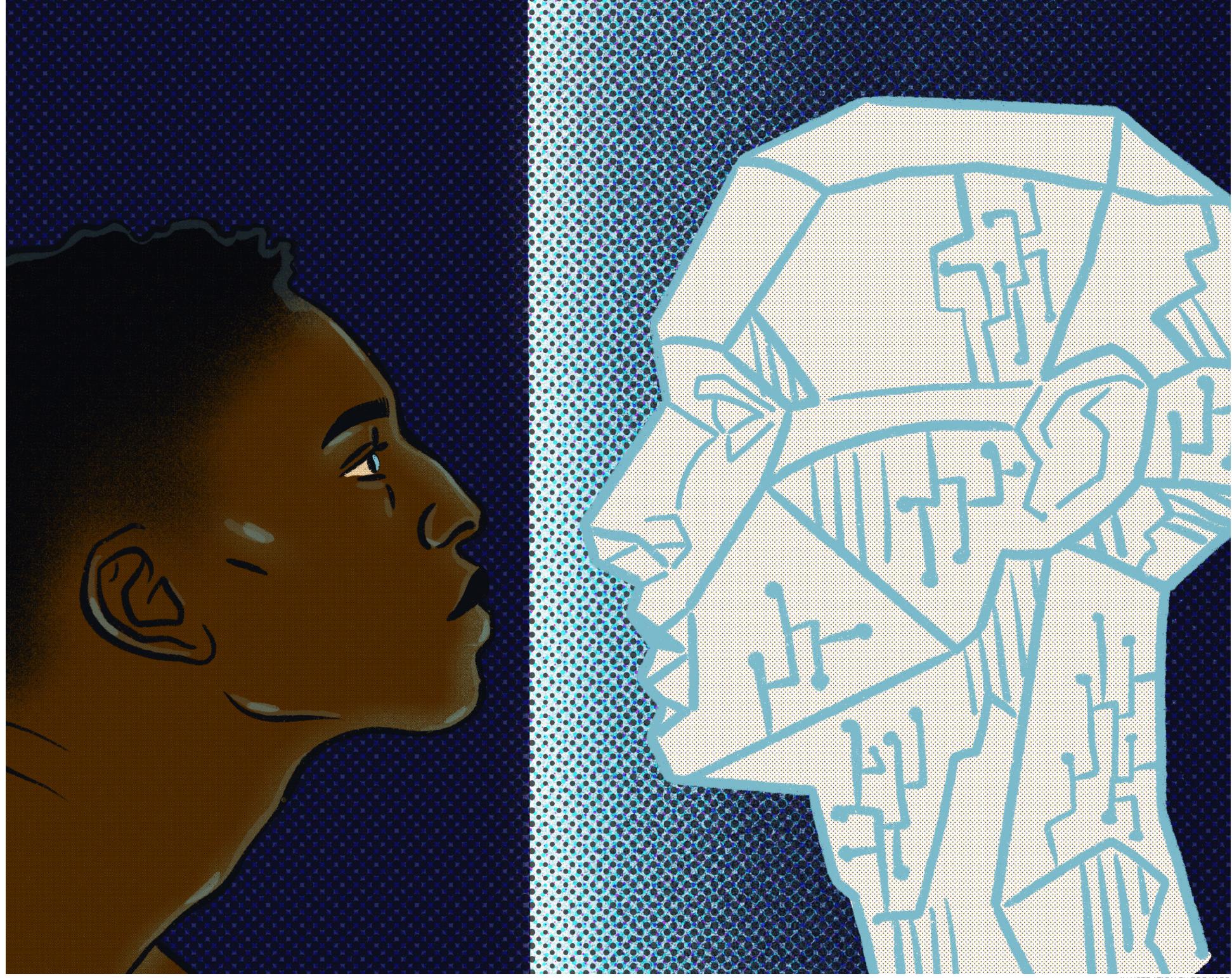


ILLUSTRATION BY ZOE KAPP

Layna Hughes
Staff Writer

Weaving its way into social media, marketing campaigns and movies, artificial intelligence (AI) has found a new home in the Cal State University (CSU) system. With the expansion of AI across California universities, professors at Cal State Monterey Bay (CSUMB) are fighting to fan the flame of student motivation.

A statement from Chancellor Mildred Garcia announced that the CSU would be the first higher education system to embed AI software into its academic program. In collaboration with major tech companies such as Adobe and Alphabet as well as OpenAI, ChatGPT Edu aims to aid research, personalize study guides and create lesson plans - amongst other things. The program will be accessible to students, faculty and staff across all 23 CSU universities.

Doreen Danielson has been a professor for 20 years and a lecturer in humanities and communications (HCOM) at CSUMB for two years. Danielson recognizes the convenience of AI for students and professors and expressed concern about the ease of AI overshadowing the responsibilities of professors.

"As faculty members, overall our academic journey and growth professionally needs to be focused on enhancing student learning experiences," said Danielson. "It should not be focused on only experiencing the latest technology that is trending. I think we're

“Integrity matters, deep thinking matters, we are utilizing our brains to be better humans for our society.”

moving away from that focus."

Kristen La Follette has been a lecturer at CSUMB in the HCOM department for more than a decade but recently has experienced unique complications amidst the rise of AI.

"It's been a bit challenging trying to emphasize to students why developing their own skills is really important," said La Follette. "AI can be an enhancement to that, but not a replacement for it."

Danielson has been experiencing similar problems cultivating student motivation. Recently, she met with one of her students as they discussed the overwhelming nature of artificial intelligence.

"I heard this from a second-year student in person, 'What is the point of me coming to these classes? What is the point of this education at this point?'" Danielson said. "Students are seeing how easily AI is responding

to everything, why do they have to write this essay? Why do they have to take these classes?"

Student tutor and fourth-year Japanese language and culture major Levi Mahler has been feeling a similar sense of hopelessness noticing her professors rely more on AI.

"Some of them have kind of given up on trying to explain things thoroughly and they're like, 'if we do something wrong we should use ChatGPT to try to figure out what would sound better or look better,'" Mahler said. "Why am I even in college? If a lot of my learning is going to be based on the usage of AI, why am I paying all this money to be taught by someone who is an expert and then be told how to do something by something I wouldn't have to pay thousands of dollars to have access to?"

Noticing students' disillusionment with higher education - in part - by AI, Danielson begs the question, "Is education now as valuable to today's CSU freshman or overall students as it used to be?"

Danielson suggests the success of AI in academia is dependent on professors and how it's implemented in their classrooms. "This is the future, they're going to be using it anyway, but we're not necessarily teaching students how AI should not replace their human creativity, problem-solving and thinking."

"Integrity matters, deep thinking matters, we are utilizing our brains to be better humans for our society."

AS Presidential candidates

Get to know the AS president candidates and their goals if elected.



Lion Dance Club

Read about the club making a comeback on campus and how to get involved in lion dancing!

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“The Monkey”

Have you seen the latest film in the Stephen King universe? Read what Takes Two to Review thought about it.

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5.8 million ROOTS grant for student-teacher residency is terminated

Keira Silver
Staff Writer

Cal State Monterey Bay's student-teacher residency program project titled ROOTS will lose out on the \$5.8 million grant it had previously acquired from the federal government. The termination of the grant was decided by the federal government recently in response to the U.S. Department of Education's cutbacks by the current administration.

The program would have provided scholarships over a five-year period to 15 students pursuing their teaching credentials and master's degrees in education. In return, participating students would have had the opportunity to shadow teachers in three local school districts: Salinas Union High, Alisal Union (in East Salinas) and Greenfield Union School District. Once the program's participants graduate, they agree to teach in one of the school districts for three years. One of the program's objectives was to help relieve the teacher shortage problem Monterey County schools have had for many years.

"Cal State Monterey Bay's University Corporation received notification that the federal Department of Education terminated the Teacher Quality Partnership grant two weeks ago," said Walter Ryce, Cal State Monterey Bay's public information officer. "We are still determining the full impact of the loss of the grant on our campus.... Local school districts and teacher candidates at Cal State Monterey Bay may therefore incur additional costs during this important phase of teacher preparation."

"Cal State Monterey Bay remains committed to teacher education and building a strong pipeline of educators to support our region and state. The university and the CSU system continue to advocate at both the state and federal levels for funding that supports our students, faculty and staff, and ensures our ability to provide skilled and compassionate graduates who will lead our regional industries and communities."

To read more about the program read the *Lutrinæ*'s story at <https://thelutrinæ.com/2024/09/csumb-receives-5-8-million-grant-for-student-teacher-residency-program/>.

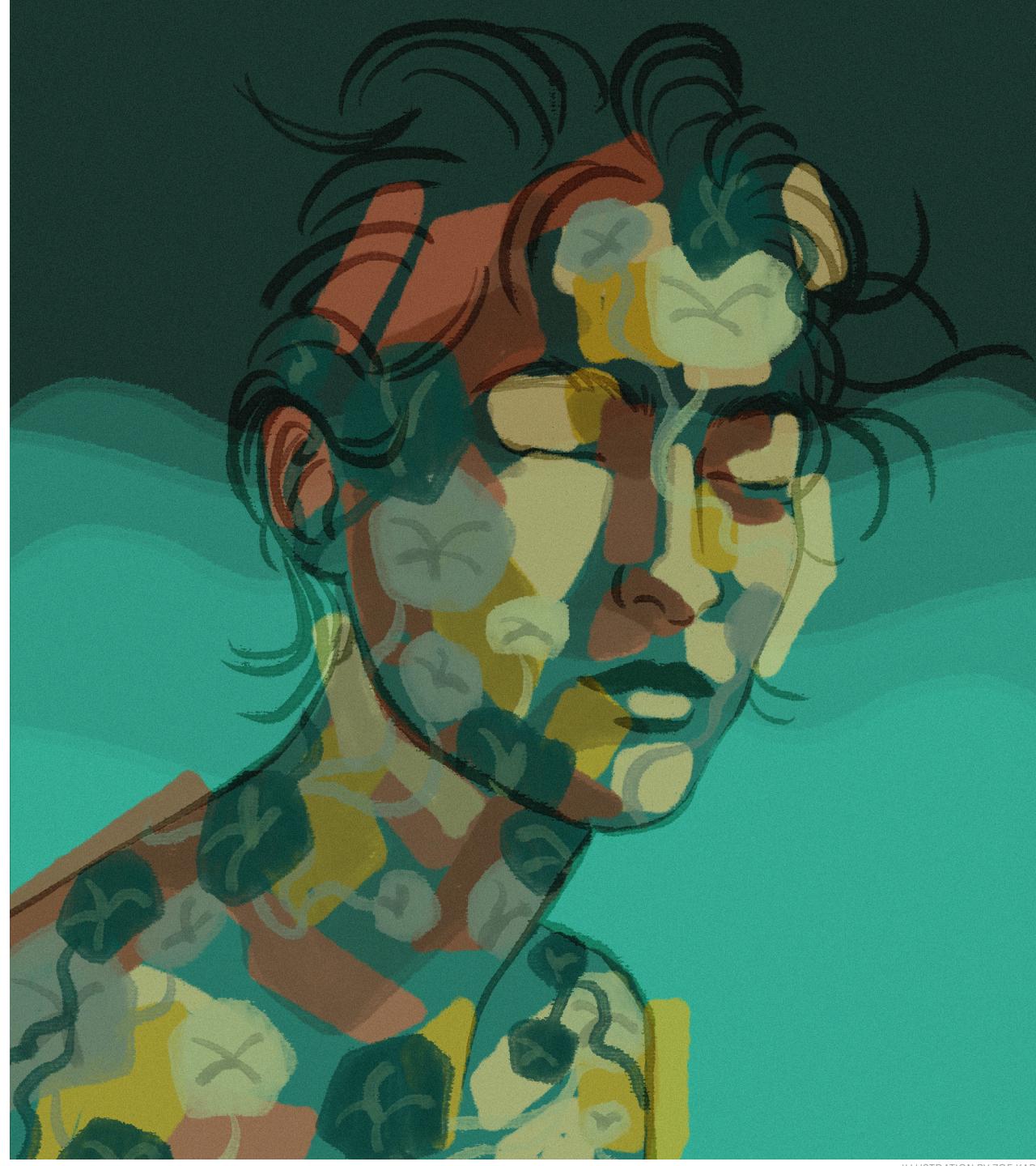


ILLUSTRATION BY ZOE KAPP

the Lutrinæ

The Lutrinæ is a weekly campus newspaper covering CSUMB and its neighboring areas. Here at *The Lutrinæ*, 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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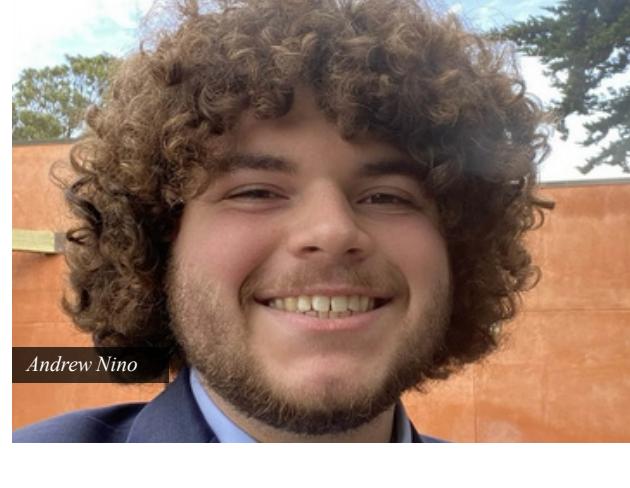
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Meet your candidates for the 2025-2026 Associated Students presidential election



Sean Tubo
Staff Writer

The *Lutrinæ* 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 *Lutrinæ* Editorial team will determine what to print and reserves the right to edit for libel, space, or clarity.

Advertising revenue supports *The Lutrinæ* publication and events. Letter to the Editors should include first and last name and should be submitted via email. *The Lutrinæ* reserves the right to reject any Letter to the Editor for any reason, and anonymous letters will not be published.

Who are you?

Andrew Nino: I am a business administration major with a concentration in accounting. I'm a junior and I plan on graduating in the spring of 2026. Fun fact: I collect gnomes. I currently have over 20 of them.

Natalie Navarro: Hi, I'm Natalie Navarro. I'm currently majoring in psychology with a minor in pre-law. A fun fact about me is I play for the women's rugby team here at Cal State Monterey Bay (CSUMB).

Why run for president?

Nino: I believe that I can make a real change for all students here on campus. College is incredibly expensive and students should be able to look up to us for support. I will dedicate myself to ensuring all students receive support and feel seen on campus.

Navarro: After a few discussions with my friends and community members, we concluded that there's a gap in



higher-level representation, especially in AS. Combined with a strong passion for advocacy and leadership skills, I think I'm a qualified candidate.

What is your No. 1 priority for the next academic year?

Nino: My top priority is making colleges as accessible as possible for all students. I want to make sure that all students have access to necessities like food, toiletries and services, regardless of the state of the country. Lately, I've been focusing on Basic Needs. I'd like to work with them to ensure that they are able to provide nutritious, quality items for all students, especially students who might have families. Right now, sometimes you'll go in there and the only things you can find are food and bread.

Navarro: My No. 1 priority would be putting my time, energy and resources into the California State Student Association (CSSA), which has successfully fought for our community at the state level. I would focus on just lobbying for bills and ideas that benefit us.

Why should students care who the Associated Students president is?

Nino: The AS president is the most powerful advocate for all students, faculty and community members.

Navarro: The president is responsible for directly voicing the needs and concerns of students. It is super important for students to be aware of who is in their corner and who they're granting this power to.

'Dress to Impress!' at CSUMB



Students fashionably danced the night away at the Dress to Impress rave.

PHOTOS BY MADDIE HONOMICHL

Sean Tubo
Staff Writer

Students are constantly bombarded with information. The Dress to Impress Rave on Thursday drew 184 students and rave reviews. The theme, Dress to Impress, was based on a popular game where users compete to craft the best outfit. The game has experienced a recent cultural resurgence.

Attendees were given cards at the beginning of the night and star stickers which they could give to other students to put on their cards, mirroring the outfit rating system of the game. At the end of the night, students could turn in their cards at check in to compete for the grand prize. The three students with the most stars walked (or strutted) away from the evening with Bluetooth karaoke mics.

Available at the check-in desk as well as scattered across the ballroom were fashion-themed accessories like feather boas, tiaras and plastic rings students could accessorize themselves with. Complementing this fashion-forward event was a photo booth in the corner.

"It's really cool to see CSUMB put on something so fun and different – I'm living for it to be honest," said third-

year environmental studies major Raul Deju.

The ballroom was also complete with a large projector and gaming station where students could line up to take turns playing Dress to Impress on the big screen.

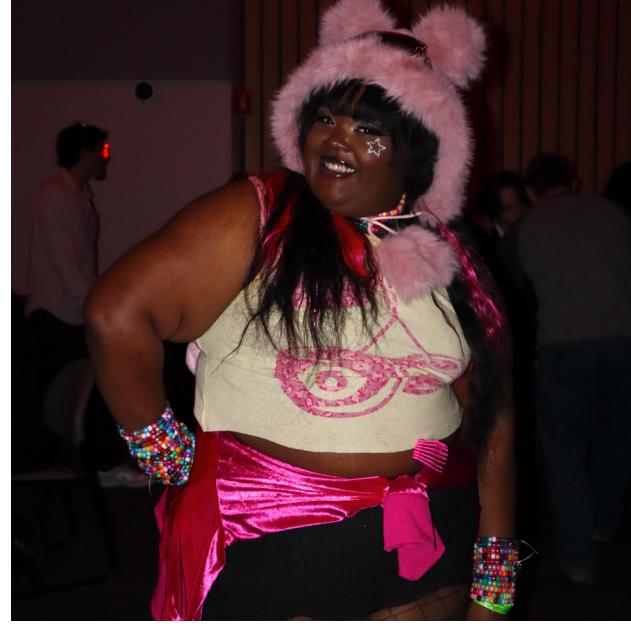
Commanding the dance floor was a psychedelic DJ booth brought by professional DJ Dan Utica. For the first two hours, the booth had a large screen with graphics to match the music and whirling neon lights – until the excess power draw blew a breaker in the Otter Student Union.

For the last hour, students danced under a moderate amount of neon, which did nothing to kill their excitement. "It was probably one of our favorite crowds, the students showed up, they wanted to party," said Utica, the emcee for the evening. Regular raver and science illustration graduate student Natalie Chan threw up five fingers on each hand to rate the rave out of 10.

The event was equally loved by the team that planned it, a new type of on-campus event in the lineage of the Shrek Rave last spring.

"This is the best themed, all-around event we've ever done," said Dan Burfiend, senior coordinator of student organizations, leadership development and assessment.

Hope Reis, business major and programming specialist for Associated Students said, "We wanna continue our raves but we wanna keep switching the themes so no one gets bored, I think for next year we're thinking neon lights."



Project Rebound & healing frequencies

Eli Heck
Contributing Writer

Project Rebound hosted a sound bath on Wednesday, welcoming all students to experience the soothing vibrations of crystal singing bowls.

Project Rebound is a program on campus with the goal of supporting the success of formerly incarcerated individuals, helping them transform their lives through higher education.

Wednesday's event aimed to create a safe space for students to experience healing and mental rest through crystal sound therapy. According to Project Rebound, "Sound healing works by guiding the body into a meditative state, where sound frequencies interact with the mind and body to reduce stress, balance energy and foster emotional well-being."

Students assembled in Building 98, toward the edge of campus, briefly stretching before lying down on the floor with their heads directed toward Valarie Maestas and her crystal bowls. Some students closed their eyes, while others shifted to their sides or stomachs throughout the experience. Regardless of personal preference, all were offered a place of silence and a space to refocus.

According to Maestas, there are other sound bath workshops similar to this one that are done in the community, but the cost to attend can be upwards of \$70 per person. Project Rebound wanted to offer that experience to students for free.

"For me, there is just a lot of trauma and a lot of stress and this provides a lot of healing," Maestas said. "So I wanted to make sure since I am able, to bring it to students."



Valarie Maestas lead the sound bath session.

PHOTO BY ELLIOT ROWE

"It's also important to our community that there is more awareness raised about Project Rebound, and that we are also in community with others," she added.

Maestas also mentioned research done on the electromagnetic frequencies in the body and talked about how

sound baths aid in stress relief and help calm the central nervous system through those frequencies.

Project Rebound plans to continue hosting monthly sound baths in Building 98, creating a space for students to relax, recenter and experience the healing power of sound.

Awakening the lion: the return of CSUMB's Lion Dance Club

Francine Pamplona
Staff Writer

The Chinese Lion Dance Club at Cal State Monterey Bay (CSUMB) is reestablishing itself as a space for students to learn and practice the traditional art of lion dance. After a hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the club has returned with a focus on cultural appreciation and community engagement.

The club was discontinued during the pandemic but current club president Philip Yang, a fourth-year marine science major, worked to bring it back.

"We restarted the club as a way to increase participation in this underrepresented art form," Yang said.

Since its relaunch, the club has sought to expand student participation in lion dance, a traditional Chinese performance art that involves both dance and percussion.

The club is open to all students, regardless of prior experience. Members can participate in both the dance and drumming aspects of the performance.

"Our club involves both dance and percussion, so there is a role for everyone," Yang explained. "We try to keep the club accessible to all students and staff. Members can expect a welcoming, casual practice environment where you can learn at your own pace."

Meetings are held biweekly at the Otter Student Union, with details available on MyRaft. The club also holds practice sessions at the Japanese American Citizens League, where members refine their skills and rehearse for performances off campus.

"New members should expect a welcoming environment and getting straight into learning," said Cable Bronte, a second-year mechatronics major and the club's treasurer. "Once they show up to one practice, they get to start learning the dances and beats immediately. If they don't know squat beforehand, that's completely fine."



CSUMB's Lion Dance club is making a post-pandemic comeback.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CHINESE LION DANCE CLUB

Members of the club recently performed at First Night Monterey 2025, a New Year's Eve community arts celebration in downtown Monterey, as part of the Monterey Bay Lion Dance Team. The club plans to continue performing at campus and community events.

Looking ahead, the leadership is working on acquiring a new lion for performances and aims to grow the club's presence on campus.

Additionally, the club has long-term aspirations of compet-

ing in lion dance competitions, though this would require expanding the team and acquiring specialized training.

"Our future goal is to be good enough to do lion dance competitions. Currently, we're too small to compete and we'd have to make some pretty big investments to learn competition routines," Bronte added.

Students interested in joining or collaborating with the Chinese Lion Dance Club can attend a meeting or reach out via Instagram @chineseliondance_csumb.

CSUMB faculty connect undocumented students to resources

Max English
Contributing Writer

Students had the chance to hear from local immigration experts this past Friday in the Alumni and Visitors Center main room at Cal State Monterey Bay (CSUMB).

The panel hosted attorneys and lawmakers from the Monterey Bay region to inform and connect undocumented students on the resources available to them.

Assistant Professor Kaili Hun and Professor Angie Tran, who hosted the event, were both immigrants, which they say was formative to their lives and academic careers. This event was meant to help others in similar situations move forward academically.

Addressing 40 in-person attendees and 36 online, the two professors opened the event to connect undocumented students with the resources available to them, both from CSUMB as well as locally.

Nationally, immigration policies have been under scrutiny. The panel aimed to provide confidence to affected students and guide them in how to navigate the legal and legislative process.

"We sometimes don't know the keys we give to others," said Alex Mares, a Monterey County public defender who specializes in immigration.

Mares used his time on the panel advising on how to navigate the potential ways in which immigration officers might approach undocumented immigrants, discerning the legality of certain scenarios. "Be mindful

and stay on it," said Mares.

Sponsored by the Personal Growth and Counseling Center (PGCC) at CSUMB, another key idea from the panel addressed was the mental health aspect of navigating higher education as an undocumented immigrant. Addressed were the added stressors that may arise from being under the microscope of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

The PGCC made clear that undocumented students have communities to turn to. Pamphlets in the event's lobby showed a multitude of support groups, each matching with different backgrounds so that students could find familiarity.

Attorney Lizett Rodriguez Pena outlined the complicated status many undocumented immigrants find themselves in. Forms of legalization are often slow, for example, visas can take upwards of 20 years to finish filing.

"U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services still has a backlog from COVID-19," said Pena.

In the latter half of the panel Rep. Jimmy Panetta (D-Carmel Valley), shared how the congressional government is working to maintain these resources for undocumented immigrants.

Federal courts have filed injunctions against certain executive orders from the Trump Administration. Panetta maintained that individuals need to contribute as well.

"Although our rights are self-evident," Panetta said, "they are not self-executed."

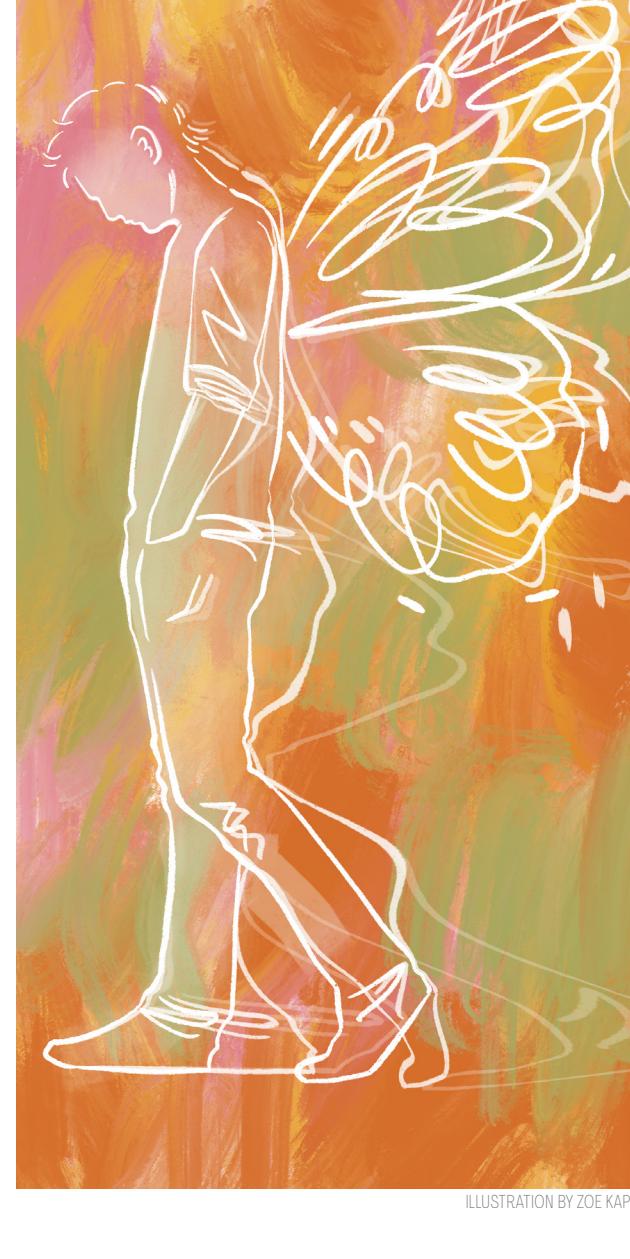


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The Lutrinae wants to hear your voices!

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

Playing to the beat of his own drum: Oz Perkins' take on 'The Monkey'



SCREENSHOT PROVIDED BY HAYLEY MATTO

Hayley Matto and Francine Pamplona

Staff Writers

In a new-age adaptation of a Stephen King short story, director Oz Perkins brings to life the horror-comedy, "The Monkey." This film never loses pace and takes the audience on a chaotic journey of laughs, cringes and questions. Adaptations of King's other stories are better understood if the viewer is in the know of his work, however, this one didn't sit quite right with us here at Takes Two to Review— and that's not just because of the gruesome gore that the film definitely didn't hold back on.

Hayley here – and I tend to be the horror fanatic but something about this one left me feeling let down and out of the loop. Perkins is known most recently for directing "Longlegs" last year which also met the box office with some mixed reviews. This film, however, loosely followed King's 30-page short story, with a few obvious differences.

Hal in the original story is married with two sons, but in the movie only has one and isn't married. The twin brothers Hal and Bill's entire childhood storyline, which took up a large portion of the film, was a major rewrite to work as a driving point for the plot. Lastly, the details around the origin of the monkey and his instrument of



destruction were different. In the film, it was a little drum that he played to an unsettling circus tune, whereas in the short story, he brandishes a set of metal cymbals.

Despite the differences between the film and the original work, it became clear that this movie was Perkins' attempt to pay homage to many of King's stories, not just this short story. This is something that I wish I had been made aware of in the trailer before going to see the film.

Francine jumping in – I completely agree with Hayley! The movie is filled with Easter eggs and nods to King's broader horror universe. For die-hard fans, this might be a fun film to dissect and connect back to his older work. However, for anyone not fluent in King's multiverse, these references feel more like random plot points than meaningful connections.

This approach alienates general audiences – myself included – who are left to navigate a story that feels disjointed and confusing. If the trailer hinted at this film being more of a homage to King as well as leaning toward the campy, comedy aspect of horror, my experience

might have been more enjoyable. Instead, the film feels like a narrative puzzle that I have no idea what picture I'm trying to piece together.

The only redeeming factor for me (Hayley) in this film was the acting. Theo James plays the adult versions of both twin brothers Hal and Bill, while Christian Convery plays the twins as children. James does a great job of this task, really leaning into the traits of each brother's personality. Despite his incredible acting, I feel it was young Convery who really stole the show with his abilities to play the brothers so convincingly different that there would be no way to know he played them both until the credits roll, showing an incredible range of talent in such a young actor.

As for me, Francine, I can appreciate Perkins' passion for King's horror universe – it's clear he put a lot of thought into his references and greatly admires his work, but the execution felt uneven. It's a movie that tries to be everything at once: a tribute, a comedy and a horror. In the end, it becomes none of those things completely.

Watch this film if you're a die-hard Stephen King fan, otherwise, prepare to watch armed with a deep understanding of King's universe to fully enjoy it. As for our rating... (drumroll please from "The Monkey")...2 out of 5 stars.

roller derby girl

Alex Mendez

Student Submission

the way you carve your skates so effortlessly

backwards into eternity

inertia of the weight of your gaze pushes me

into my own groove

i'm too scared to look directly at you

i fear the shakiness of my own gravity

will pull you down too

roller derby girl

i think you're mad cool

the floor is full of people

but you bob and weave as if you molded them

into your very own skate track

i want to be as fast

as smooth

as confident

as you are

but i honestly rather just watch you

from behind my own mediocre pumps

as i turn the corner

hoping i don't fall on my ass

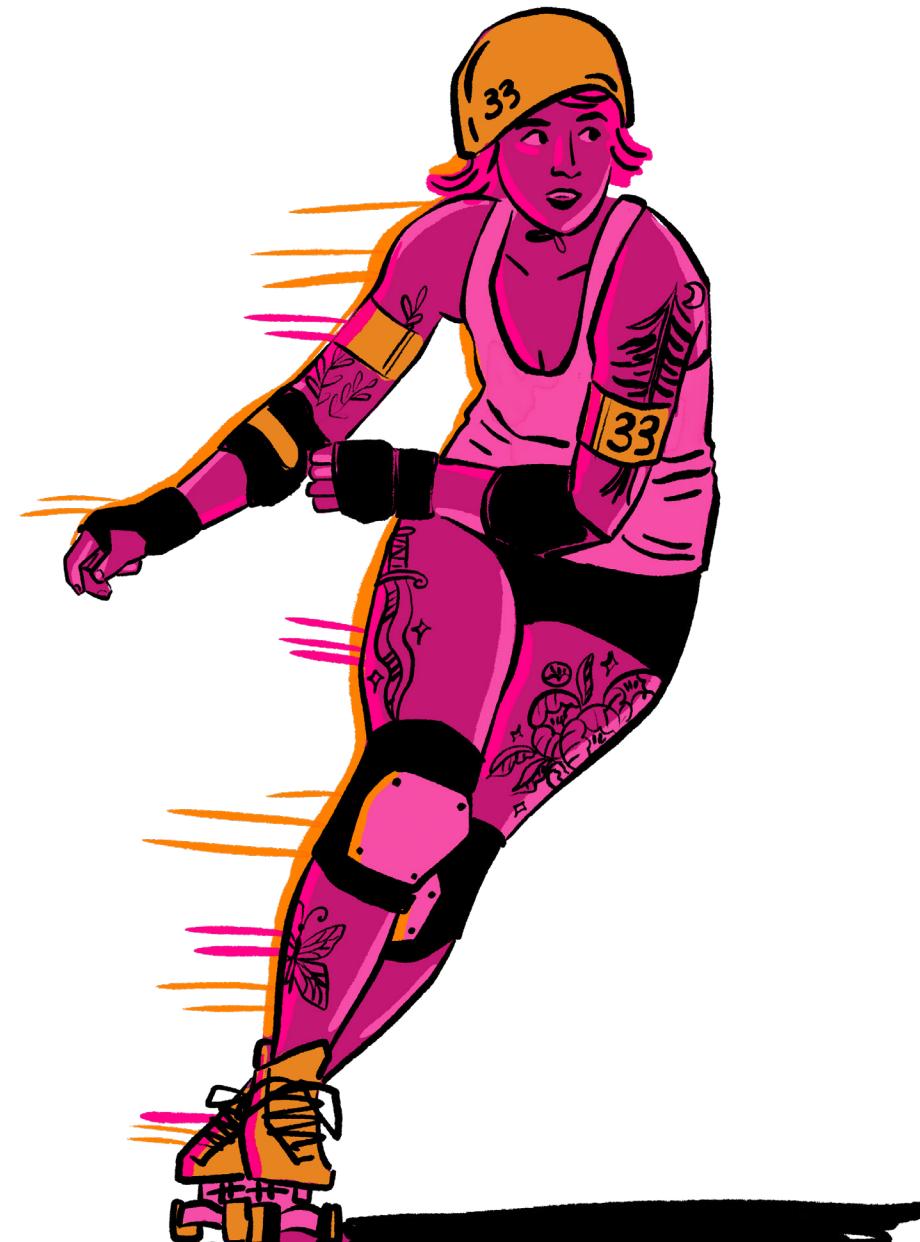
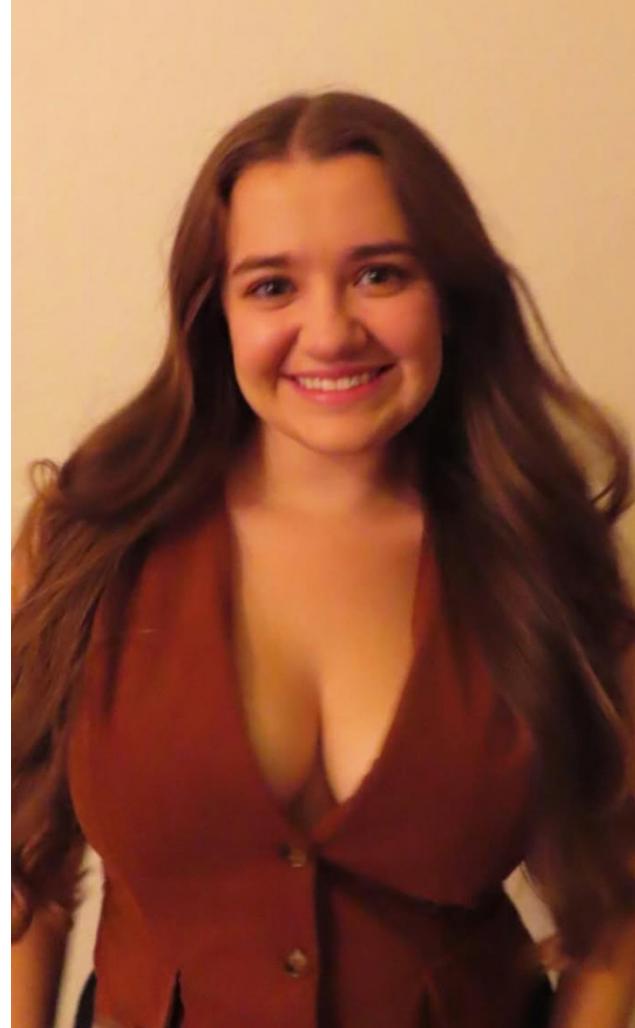


ILLUSTRATION BY ZOE KAPP

What was your 2024 Best Picture?



Layna Hughes
Staff Writer



Jaseth Olmedo-Perez

Fourth-year journalism and media studies major

“I think the best movie in 2024 was definitely ‘Challengers.’ Honestly, I loved everything about it.”

Isabella Viera

Third-year English major

“The best movie from 2024 is ‘Despicable Me 4.’ So good, just nostalgic.”

Destiny Gonzalez

Third-year creative writing major

“My favorite movie of 2024 has to be ‘The Wild Robot.’ It made me cry a lot, but it was really good.”

More than just shopping: Four things to try at The Dunes

Eli Heck
Contributing Writer

The Dunes On Monterey Bay-Retail Center in Marina is one of the closest places for Cal State Monterey Bay (CSUMB) students to get off campus for a while. Whether it is shopping for school and dorm supplies at Target, or the newly opened Trader Joe's for food and snacks. However, The Dunes also offers much more for a student to experience during an off-campus excursion.

Food:

The Dunes offers many options for a lunch date, a casual hangout with friends or even a solo meal. Offering a mix of locally owned and familiar chains, there's something for everyone. Damestra Fresh Mediterranean offers a delicious dine-in or take-out experience. With sandwiches like gyros, shawarma and falafel to build-your-own meals, they are a great lunch option. Deli Delicious is another well-known spot among CSUMB students which offers a wide selection of sandwiches and other classic deli specialties. Whether it's with a group or on your own, The Dunes offers plenty of great choices for an off-campus meal.

Ice Cream:

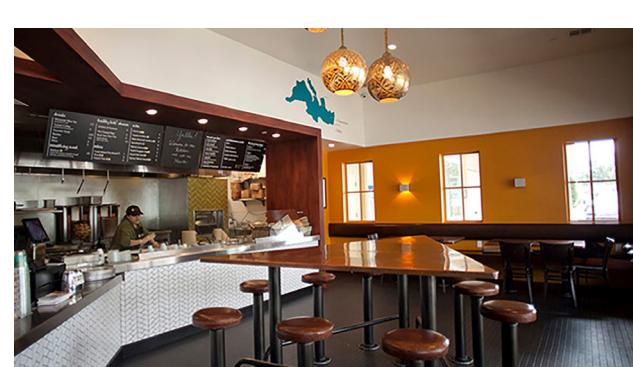
After a good meal or a hot day, nothing hits the spot like ice cream, and MoonScoops is a great way to satisfy that craving. MoonScoops serves house-made ice cream with a rotation of classic and special flavors. From artisanal organic soft serve ice cream to freshly baked cookies, homemade sorbets and Italian ice. MoonScoops is the perfect place for a treat after a long day and Monday through Saturday is open from 2 to 9 p.m., and 2 to 8 p.m. on Sundays, perfect for an afternoon treat or a late-night dessert.

Movie Theater:

The shopping center is also home to the Cinemark Century Marina and XD, a great option if you want that movie theater experience to take a break from streaming from your laptop or phone. With options for 3D viewing, standard format and XD for a more immersive experience. If you are a CSUMB student looking to go to the movies make sure to stop by the AS Box Office located in the Otter Student Union, Room 304, to get discounted tickets.

The Brass Tap:

If you are 21+, The Brass Tap has drinks, a wide selection of craft brews and a variety of frequent community events. From Tuesday Trivia Nights to Wednesday at the Mic (karaoke), you can also relax on the weekend after a hard week of classes or hang out with friends and have a drink and enjoy yummy food. Whether it's community events or their selection of drinks and welcoming atmosphere, Brass Tap draws in locals from CSUMB and the surrounding area to create another great addition to the Dunes On Monterey Bay-Retail Center.



SCREENSHOTS PROVIDED BY ELI HECK

Cars and Coffee at Woodhouse

Rives Wessling
Photo of the Week Winner

Porsche 911 SC & Porsche 911T.



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!



Upcoming Events

Tuesday, March 4

The Swifties Club is hosting Karaoke with the Clubs this week. The karaoke party will be from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in the Rookery.

Wednesday, March 5

The Undocu-Success Program is hosting an informational session on building community power. Attendees will learn how to support undocumented folks, prepare for potential ICE encounters and how to document ICE activity. The session will be in the Otter Student Union, room 310 from noon to 2 p.m.

Wednesday, March 5

Join Second Year Experience for De-Stress & Craft to create safety pin bag charms. The crafting session will be in the Makerspace from 2 to 4 p.m.

Wednesday, March 5

In need of a movie night? Head to the Otter Student Union Ballroom at 7 p.m. for a showing of "Pitch Perfect."

Friday, March 7

Want to take on the high ropes course? Head to the course behind the library between noon and 2 p.m. No experience or gear is required.

Friday, March 7

In honor of International Womxn's Day, "Gurl's Night Dance Party" will be a celebratory dance party for womxn, non-binary individuals, and all femme people. The dance party will feature DJ Baby Dizzle and Gabi Bravo. Dancing is from 7 to 10 p.m. in the Otter Student Union Ballroom.

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

WORD SCRAMBLE

Can you unscramble these best picture-nominated film names?

het sbrutlait

mi iltls ehre

iiamel zeper

ndeu tapr wto

roaan

vocaenlc

knilce obsy

diwkec

a pmcetloe wnuknno

eth ubtnescas

ANSWERS:

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

The Brutalist, Emilia Pe-
rez, Aurora, Nickel Boys, A-
Conclave, Widowed, The-
Still Here, Dune: Part Two,
Complete Unknown, I'm
Substance
Conclave, Widowed, The-
Still Here, Dune: Part Two,
Complete Unknown, I'm
Substance

