

# Anatomy of an emergency: behind the library bomb threat

**Paige Francis and Layna Hughes**  
*Editor-In-Chief and Staff Writer*

Cal State Monterey Bay (CSUMB) is known for being a quiet campus, but what happens when the quiet is disturbed? Earlier this semester, CSUMB administration had to utilize emergency procedures when the campus library received a bomb threat to the library.

The threat was called in Feb. 19 and sparked speculation across campus. No bomb was found, but reflecting on the threat two months later, the events of the evening illustrate what happens on campus when there is an emergency.

## The call is received

A student assistant managing the front desk of the Tanimura and Antle Family Library received the phone call saying a bomb was in the library around 9:20 p.m. and relayed the message to the on-duty community service officer, second-year kinesiology major Mahiro Morohoshi shortly after. Community service officers are CSUMB student employees who support campus police Morohoshi does so by providing library security.

Morohoshi said, "I was surprised when I first heard about it, but I immediately went to the library supervisor to talk to her. I then informed the dispatch center via police radio that there was a bomb threat and requested other officers to come to the library."

Library supervisor Jesse Valasquez then used the building's public address system to announce the library would be evacuated. By the time campus police were notified, the front desk received a follow-up call from the same number containing the same threat.

## Evacuation

Madelyn Binsaki, library front desk assistant and second-year psychology major, aided in moving people out of the library. In hindsight, she believes the evacuation went swiftly despite complications.

"The study rooms are not equipped with speakers," Binsaki said. "As a result, the community service officer on duty that night was prompted to clear the study rooms."

Upon notification, the University Police Department's priority was evacuating student residential halls near the library. Interim Police Chief Yvonne Gordon says the usual evacuation point in case of emergencies is the Kelp Bed, the gym located on the northwest end of campus. However, campus police decided a location change was necessary.

"[The OSU] was far enough away but not so far that it [wasn't] really displacing students. It was really fortunate that the OSU was open and available for us to use," Gordon said.

OSU building manager and third-year environmental science student Max Staudenmaier was near the end of his shift when he was notified that a large number of students were headed toward the building. "Most of the students coming in were in their PJs and some brought blankets," said Staudenmaier.

"I came down[stairs] to evaluate the situation. It was unusual given that there are typically only a handful of students remaining in the building that late," he said. "We were told by the students that there was a situation at the library and they had been instructed to vacate their buildings and go to the OSU."

## Communication

A similar email message was sent out via OtterAlert, CSUMB's emergency alert system managed by campus police Emergency Manager Ken Folsom. The first message was sent out at 10:05 p.m., stating "an emergency has occurred at {the library}, police officers are responding. Library has been evacuated. Stay Clear of the area."

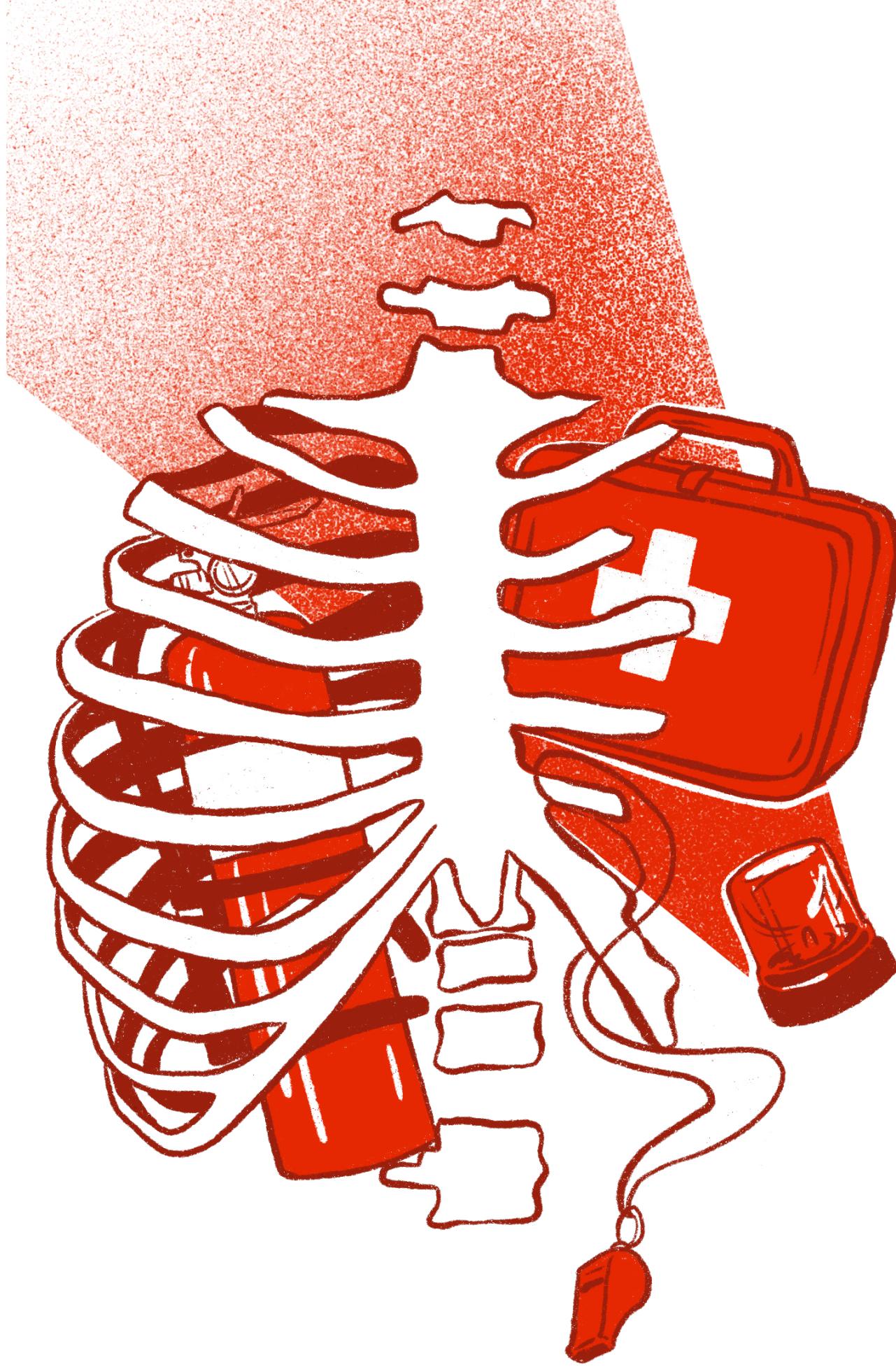


ILLUSTRATION BY ZOE KAPP

According to Gordon, initial messaging sent through OtterAlerts is intentionally non-specific to make the campus community aware of the issue, while avoiding inciting panic.

"We kind of have to manage that to make sure that we're conscientious of, you know, everybody's different levels of and abilities to handle certain information," said Gordon.

## Searching the building

After the library was evacuated, university police and other local law enforcement conducted a search of the building. The Explosives K-9 team of the Sheriff's Office was on site and expedited the process of determining if a bomb was present. Considering students who evacuated had to leave behind their belongings, without the dog, officers would have had to search every bag individually.

While waiting for the bomb-sniffing dog to arrive, perimeter searches of the building were conducted with drones. This search helped officers locate any suspicious boxes or bags left in stairwells or outside the library.

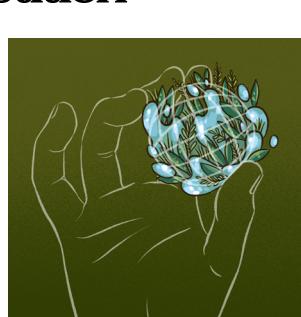
In addition to the Sheriff's Office, coming to the aid of campus police were the Marina Police Department, the California Highway Patrol and the FBI, according to Walter Ryce, university spokesperson.

In the time between the first Otter Alert and the second one sent out at 12:22 a.m., confirming the bomb threat and its investigation, the desire for more information grew – causing rumors to spread quickly across the campus community.

Binsaki said, "While we waited outside [the library], *"Library Bomb Threat" continued on Page 2*

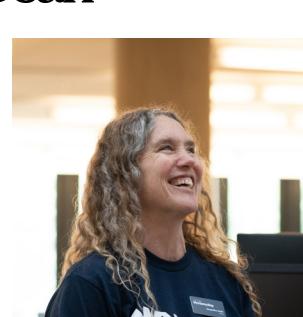
## Energy Competition

Want to win an ice cream social for your residential building? See how to participate in CSUMB's energy conservation competition.



## New Library Dean

Get to know the library's new dean, Jacqueline Grallo!



## "Death of a Unicorn" review

Have you seen A24's latest film starring Paul Rudd? Read what Hayley and Francine thought about the movie.





PHOTO BY SEAN TUBO

### "Library Bomb Threat" continued on Page 2

several students approached me and my coworker with questions, hoping for clarity about the situation. However, we chose not to disclose any information, as it was unclear whether we were authorized to do so."

There was also a rumor that "a student had unleashed a swarm of thousands of bees in the library," said Staudenmaier, listening to students in the OSU talk about what could've happened. "I appreciate whoever spread the bees rumor because it certainly improved the mood."

While students displaced from their housing waited for more information, the OSU remained open until almost 1 a.m. when the all clear was issued. Building staff had opened The Rookery and several conference rooms upon realizing students would be there longer than anticipated.

### Speed vs. accuracy in communication

Reflecting on campus communication that night, Gordon found herself conflicted between delivering information quickly while also providing accuracy.

"It's frustrating for students, I know, because those things take time to get those resources in place and they're just like, 'Well, what are you doing?'" said Gordon. "Everything is just so instant, and so minutes seem like it's hours, right? And as we're doing our work, it seems like the minutes are going by so fast."

Gordon explained that there is a balance between conducting an investigation and determining what information is factual and able to go out to the campus community. The next day, around 11 a.m., the university sent out an email to explain what happened at the library.

A message was not initially going to be sent out, according to Ryce. "The University Police Department worked with University Communications on drafting a media holding statement in preparation for media inquiries, but this was not intended to be a campus communication," he said.

"The leadership team approved a message to go out the morning following the incident to alert the community that no threat was found and to share support services, if needed."

"[University Communications] took our statement that we had prepped and used, and just you know, they did a little more crafting to it, [wanting] to include some of the help information and things like that," said Folsom.

As for the investigation of the threat, Gordon said, "The investigation is progressing and there may be a resolution to it in the near future, hopefully." The FBI is actively involved in the investigation due to the phone number used in the threat being used in a few other parts of the country.

Gordon's main priorities have been bridging the gap of communication between campus police and students as well as increasing campus awareness of emergency protocol. The department plans on doing so by displaying flip charts across the university detailing important information in case of an emergency. Gordon also wants to create an app that would make it easier for students to communicate with campus police.

Gordon said, "I think that if we could have something that students are able to report to us information that would maybe pinpoint something, I think that would be really awesome."

## Competing toward sustainability: Earth Month Energy Competition



ILLUSTRATION BY ZOE KAPP

### Eli Heck Contributing Writer

With students and faculty leading efforts to embrace sustainable living, Cal State Monterey Bay (CSUMB) has launched its annual Earth Month Energy Competition—a campus-wide initiative aimed at inspiring eco-friendly habits and reducing the university's environmental footprint through more efficient energy use and reduction.

Earth Month is observed nationally every April as a time to raise environmental awareness, promote sustainable practices, and inspire action to protect our planet. The month culminates with Earth Day on April 22, a global celebration for environmental stewardship.

Throughout April, all CSUMB resident students are encouraged to reduce their electricity use. The residence hall that shows the greatest percentage reduction will be rewarded with an ice cream social.

Students are offered a range of suggestions to cut back on energy use. Tips include using natural sunlight instead of electric lighting, spending more time outside of dorm rooms to minimize energy consumption, and using natural ventilation by opening and closing windows rather than running fans. Students are also encouraged to hang

dry clothes instead of using a dryer and to clean lint traps in drying machines.

Additional suggestions include adjusting devices to enter sleep mode after shorter periods of inactivity, bundling up in warm clothing and blankets instead of using space heaters, and being mindful of unplugging devices when not in use.

These and more energy-saving tips can be found in the Student Involvement Sustainability section of the CSUMB website. The resource provides students with tools to take simple, practical steps toward greener living.

CSUMB has a longstanding commitment to sustainability and is continually working towards a cleaner, more energy-conscious future. From hosting educational events to launching energy competitions, the university encourages the campus community to consider their impact on the environment and take daily actions that contribute to a healthier planet.

Participating in the Earth Month Energy Competition is one way students can make a difference. By reducing energy consumption and adopting sustainable habits, students not only contribute to a greener campus but also become part of a larger movement toward environmental responsibility.

## the Lutrinae

*The Lutrinae* is a weekly campus newspaper covering CSUMB and its neighboring areas. Here at *The Lutrinae*, our goal is not only to educate and inform the public, but to entertain, to spark creativity, to encourage diversity of opinion, and to build a sense of community on campus and with the neighboring cities.

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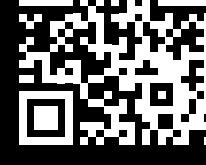
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# Light, lens and latitude: A Study Abroad photo exhibition



Students who studied abroad got to show off their photography in this dedicated exhibition.

PHOTO BY MADDIE HONOMICHI

**Aubrey Amila**  
*Contributing Writer*

Spotlighting the talents and experiences of students who previously studied abroad for a semester, the department of World Languages and Cultures held a study abroad photo contest. Entries were exhibited and winners were announced at the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Gallery on Tuesday, April 8.

Attendees of the event enjoyed popcorn, cookies, and refreshments while they gazed upon the beauty of foreign artistic compositions and their captions. Student photographers such as Xi Wen, Levi Mahler, Amado Ruiz, Ajani Wade-Patillo were among the attendees and had the opportunity to explain the thought processes of their photographs.

“This self portrait in Kyoto is very significant to me because it was [taken] when I started traveling on my own. I found that solo traveling is interesting—like you have so much freedom and explore what you can do,” said Xi

Wen, a fourth-year Japanese language and culture major, who chose to study abroad in Japan in early 2024.

“It is interesting to learn about new cultures and getting to know more places and what stories they represent,” said Alexandra Aguilar, a fourth-year Spanish language and culture major.

What began as a single event at 6 p.m. blossomed into a celebration of twofold joy. Attendees were invited to room 1401 as the WLC recognized about 43 students from lower and upper division classes. They were awarded with global competence and seal of biliteracy in the language they chose to learn based on how well they perform on their Language Assessment/ AVANT STAMP Test.

“It’s cool to see and learn about the study abroad experience. I haven’t gone abroad yet, but I am going to go [to Japan] after this semester,” said Cameron Hiura, a third-year Japanese language and culture student, who earned a gold-level seal of biliteracy and is excited to be part of the next study abroad photo contest.

As the event drew to a close, Dustin Wright, chair of the Department of World Languages and Cultures at CSUMB, took the stage to announce the winners of the study abroad photography contest. The photos were judged by professors at CSUMB who enjoy photography as a hobby and some as a profession.

Amado Ruiz, a fourth-year Japanese language and culture major, won the best photography award for his photo of Mount Fuji while he was in a modernized rural village. In his caption, he shares a captivating story his bus driver told him about Mount Fuji, the shy goddess. His work and attention to detail earned latitudes of applause from the audience.

“Studying abroad is beneficial. We know to come back and have the opportunity to reflect on that experience rather than just kind of jump back into your daily life. It is encouraged to reflect on what that experience meant and how you saw it for your own lens and your mental lens,” said Dustin Wright.

## Giving a voice to identity, visibility and community at this year’s Poet Laureate event

**Hayley Matto**  
*Staff Writer*

Cal State Monterey Bay (CSUMB) students gathered for “Poetry and Pupusas,” a cultural and creative celebration hosted in partnership by Monterey County Poet Laureate Rachelle Escamilla and El Centro in the Tanimura & Antle Family Memorial Library.

Held Thursday, April 10, the event welcomed 60 students. Writers from all across campus were brought together to get inspired by readings performed by acclaimed poets, Lourdes Figueroa, Darrell Dela Cruz and MK Chavez. Escamilla, a CSUMB poetry professor, opened the night by reflecting on the theme of the night: “Being a poet is all about finding your community.”

Darrel Dela Cruz, a San Jose State alumnus with a master’s of Fine Arts and Poetry, a former colleague of Escamilla and a member of Voices of Our Nations Arts, was first to perform. Reading pieces from his debut poetry collection “This is a Love Story Listen,” touched on an array of vulnerable topics, from body image, queer romance, and familial hardships. Twisting memory into metaphor with pieces like “Buddha’s Wardrobe” and “Targeted ads” where he takes vulnerable and raw deep dives into his journey through discovering his autonomy and exploring queer spaces.

Heather Carlos, a psychology major, and Jose Guzman, a humanities and communication major concentrating on creative writing and social action, both took to the floor to read their own original works. Each received roars of cheers in support from fellow classmates.

Lourdes Figueroa, an oral poet who writes from their lived experiences and received the 2021 Nomadic Press Literary Award, read for the crowd next. Sharing personal pieces reflecting deeply into not only their journey but their family’s, their roots and heritage.

“At first it was intimidating, being back in a classroom full of people, but in the end it was fun and went really well,” revealed Figueroa, after the event came to a close. “I was very



Local and student poets presented their work to the audience.

PHOTO BY ELLIOT ROWE

happy to see plenty of people of color in attendance. Hoping to inspire them to continue creating spaces like this.”

MK Chavez closed out the event, introduced by Escamilla as “an art monster, writer, educator, whose work expands across mixed race identity, social justice, environmental resilience, horror, cinema, magic, rituals and the creative process. Her work has been recognized by the PEN Oakland-Josephine Miles Award, the San Francisco Foundation Nomadic Press Literary award and the Ruth Weiss Maverick award.”

Chavez captured the audience with impactful lines of prose from her horror series, exploring how “horror gives trauma an alternative ending.”

Having watched 400 horror films before embarking on this horror-filled poetic journey, Chavez began visual-

izing herself as a monster. “I was a mixed-race zombie. I wasn’t born a relentless creature of resurrection... once I was so invisible that I ate my way into existence.”

Chavez was unafraid to express her battles with growing up in this world as a mixed-race individual. “There is a slipperiness to capturing identity. The most terrifying part of the movie is never what you think. What if zombies are just misunderstood?”

“The world is the biggest dumpster fire right now” concluded Chavez before giving a final call to action. “There have been moments where I have felt so strange about reading and writing poetry, but I’ve also come to the decision again and again that we need to keep writing. Because our histories, our experiences are not the ones that end up in the history books. Not in totality, so we need to write our words.”

# As education changes Library Dean Jacqueline Grallo prepares

**Maxfield English**  
Contributing Writer

Since Vivienne McClendon departed Cal State Monterey Bay (CSUMB) in January 2021, the position of dean of the University Library has been in flux. As of March 6, Jacqueline Grallo is the new dean after having served as the interim twice already, and with it will come new direction.

Originally struck by “the role that information plays in a democratic society,” Grallo entered into a communications track at Fort Lewis College in Colorado, studying censorship, information literacy and learner-centered teaching. It eventually led to her becoming a librarian.

Having started with CSUMB in 2007 as an instructional technology librarian, Grallo’s role was unique at the time. “They wanted someone that could set up a service that was technology based like instant messaging. I implemented an open source software product, which made it very easy for the librarians to create guides to the research,” said Grallo.

The program allowed users to browse the catalogue of sources the university has more efficiently. Since its implementation, a large portion of Grallo’s work has been to further the user’s ability to interact with databases. Now as the dean of the University Library, her responsibilities lie with understanding the needs of the library’s visitors as education changes.

Recently the role of artificial intelligence in education and academia has been questioned. Grallo, now as dean, oversees the integration of artificial intelligence as a tool for information technology at CSUMB. As of March, the library’s database has the capacity for indexing its catalogue by key terms appointed by faculty who manage it. There is the potential this could change greatly with the

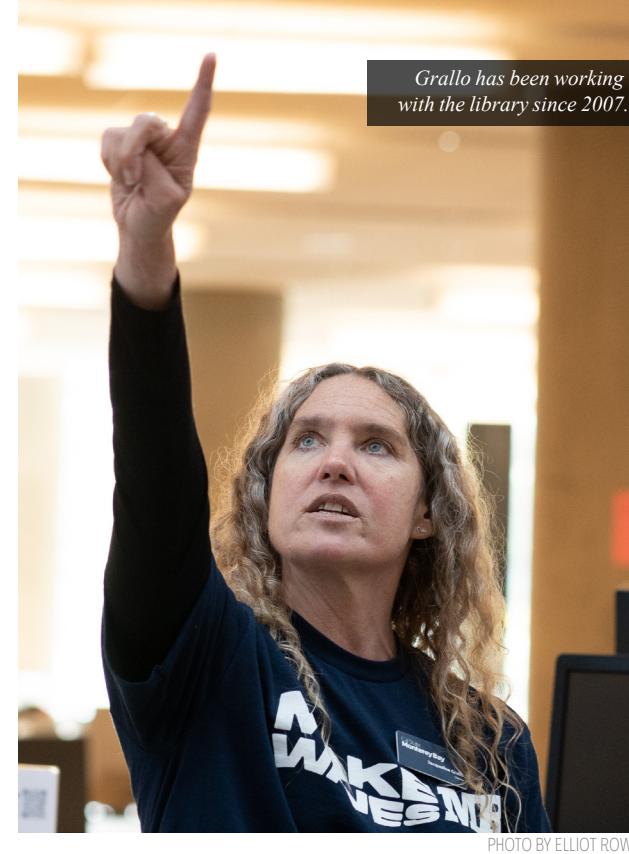


PHOTO BY ELLIOT ROWE

implementation of artificial intelligence.

“There are A.I. research assistants popping up all over the place. We know that students are using them and so we want to help students learn how to use them effectively, ethically and think critically about the information that they’re finding,” said Grallo.

Grallo’s task is to understand these tools and how they can

be used to help students in the context of CSUMB’s outcome-based education.

“That information environment is constantly changing. So it’s important that we constantly be thinking about our learning outcomes,” said Grallo.

The university library does not only operate to help students understand their information environment though. Academic purposes are the first of two roles the library serves, the second being what Grallo describes as “to support belonging.”

Culminating in programs such as “Welcome to Finals Week” and the Makerspace, the library aims to cater to that feeling of belonging.

“[The library] is definitely a place that students are going, finding their people and developing relationships ... I guess it’s very nice to have an activity to do on the side and then just have a conversation,” said Grallo.

The Makerspace has certain amenities it alone provides. In 2019 the space was opened as an aside from the library’s usual thoroughfare to provide certain tools, both fabrication and artistic, that might not be available to students otherwise. “Everyone and anyone can come in and just make something without any training or prior knowledge,” said Grallo.

Grallo’s mission going forward is to continue this accessibility and provide greater opportunities to the library’s users.

“We’re trying to find ways to design our spaces so that they meet the needs of the widest possible variety of library users,” said Grallo.

## Cloudy Monterey Bay

**Julianne Porter**  
Photo of the Week Winner

Sailor Rainbow



## 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!



# Seeing ourselves in the system: 'Poverty, by America'

Eli Heck  
Contributing Writer

BOOK REVIEW

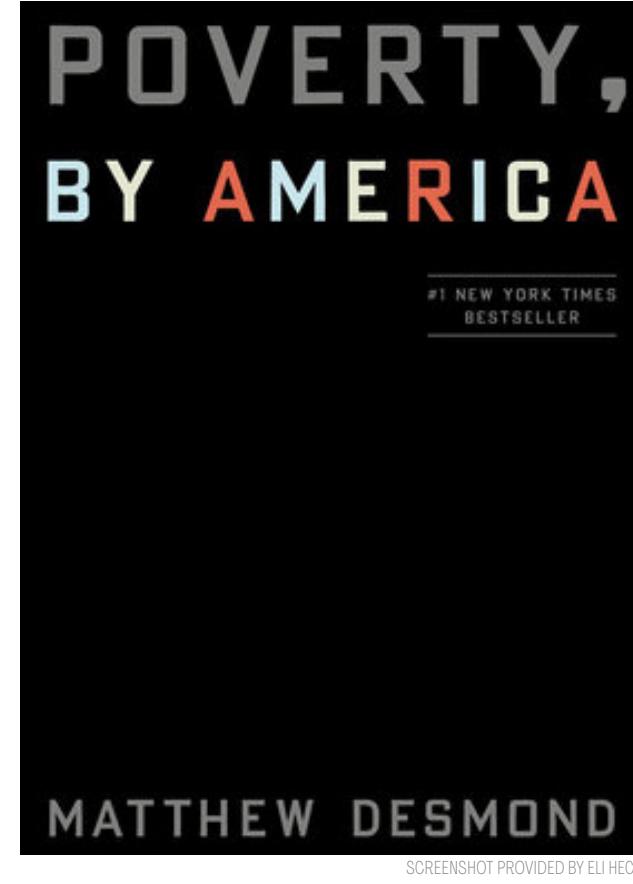
You may not expect a book about poverty to feel personal, but that is exactly what Matthew Desmond manages to do in "Poverty, by America," published in 2023.

"Poverty, by America" draws on Desmond's extensive research into the American economic system. Through this work, he attempts to answer a deceptively simple question: why does poverty persist in one of the wealthiest nations on Earth?

Desmond is a sociologist and bestselling author. "Poverty, by America" follows his 2017 Pulitzer Prize-winning work of nonfiction "Evicted." His latest work tackles poverty as a system in America. Digging into the roots of the issue, and uprooting every weed. In his research, he turns the mirror on the rest of us, not just the people struggling and suffering, but also those who benefit from their struggle.

The core argument of the book is that poverty exists not because of resource scarcity, but because of the choices made by those who benefit from the system. Desmond dives into topics about what poverty is. "Poverty isn't simply the condition of not having enough money. It's the condition of not having enough choice and being taken advantage of because of it," said Desmond.

Throughout the book, Desmond exposes how systems like housing, labor, and health care are structured to serve the most comfortable, often at the expense of those most vulnerable and in need of those systems. He discusses govern-



SCREENSHOT PROVIDED BY ELI HECK

ment subsidies, tax breaks, and policies that quietly prop up the wealthy while deepening inequality. Rather than focusing solely on the poor, he shifts the lens to implicate the middle and upper classes as well, those who, knowingly

or not, help sustain a system that allows poverty to persist. Desmond argues that complicity in this system isn't limited to the wealthy and even the middle class often benefits in subtle ways, sometimes without realizing how their comfort is made possible by the struggle of others.

The strengths of the book lie in Desmond's writing, which is powerful, accessible, and emotionally relevant. He takes complex economics and political systems and makes them readable, without simplifying the information given. Often relying on a mix of complex data, experiences, and personal anecdotes to keep the reader grounded.

One of the most effective aspects of the book is how Desmond balances his telling of personal stories with a broader critique of the system. The people he interviews provide a sense of depth and relatability to a story and system that often feels so impossibly out of reach. He uses this face-to-face human interaction, balanced with statistics and other real-world examples, to show how economic policies impact lives in a specific, measurable way. His call to action of asking readers to become "poverty abolitionists" is both inspiring and uncomfortable, and that's the point. He doesn't just want readers to care; he wants them to act.

Though the book totals 304 pages, much of that is dedicated to sources and notes at the end, making the main content even more focused and easily accessible for readers. If you want to uncover a normally complicated and convoluted system of economics and understand the widespread poverty in America, Matthew Desmond achieves this expertly in his book.

## The price of magic in 'Death of a Unicorn'



Hayley Matto and Francine Pamplona  
Staff Writers

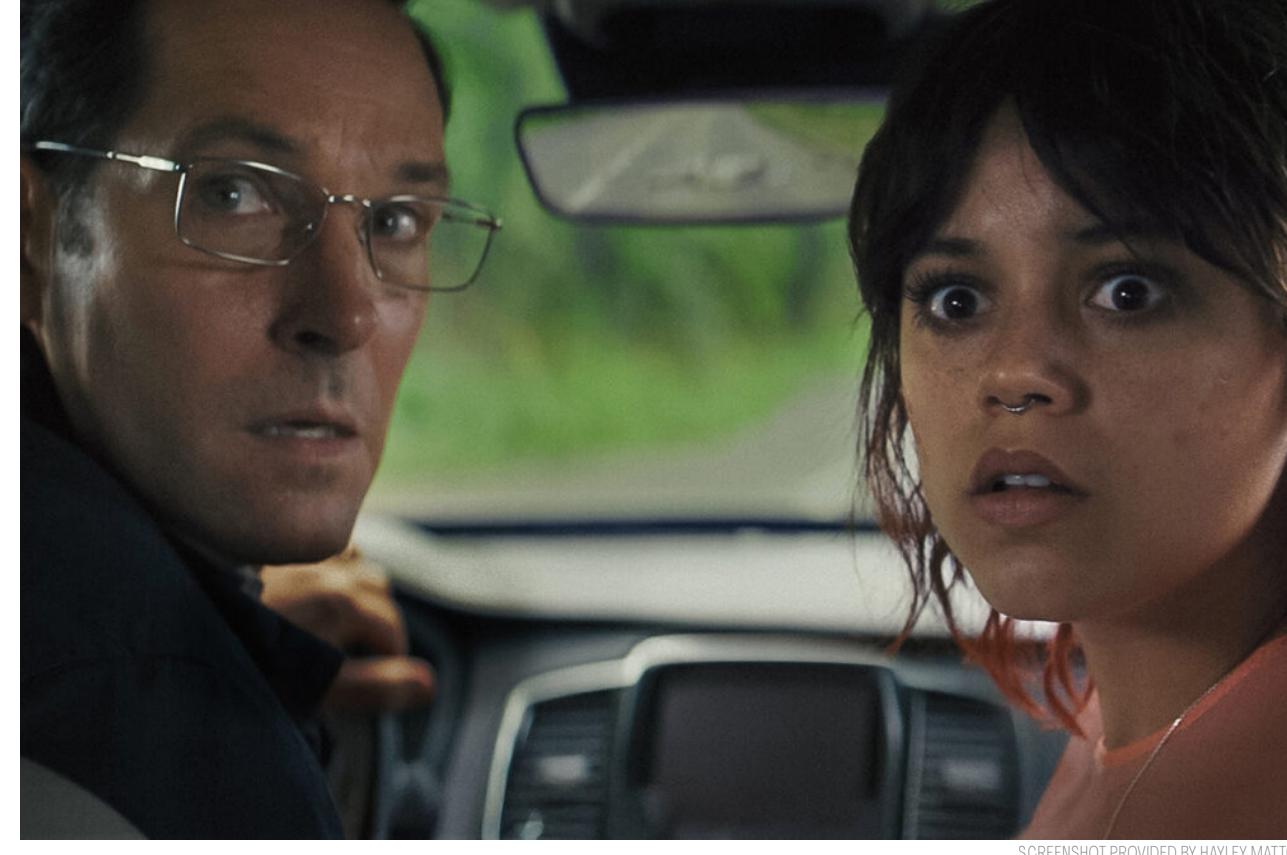
A24 Productions does it again, combining comedy and gore to produce a story critiquing current social injustices in its latest film, "Death of a Unicorn." Starring Paul Rudd, Jenna Ortega, Richard E. Grant, Téa Leoni and Will Poulter, this film does not lack familiar faces, predictable jumpscare or laughs.

Rudd and Ortega play an incredibly believable father-daughter duo, despite falling into roles we've seen them in time and time again. The film opens with Elliot (Rudd), a single father, embarking on a European business trip with his daughter, Ridley (Ortega). His goal? To impress his boss, Odel (Grant), and secure a business partnership. However, once there, Rudd and Ortega find themselves in a mess of mythology and moral dilemmas.

The story poses big questions: How far is a single dad willing to go to provide for his family? Or how diabolical and deceitful are the rich playing puppet masters with a hand in the health care system? "Death of a Unicorn" ventures to answer all that and more, while also causing the audience to question their own moral integrity, and what may be happening in our own healthcare industry.

Hayley here, despite the predictability of a story that we are all too familiar with, this film manages to still feel fresh and entertaining. Rudd and Ortega play their signature typecast characters incredibly well, with a father-daughter chemistry that translated impressively on the screen. Meanwhile, Grant, Leoni and Poulter played another family dynamic that unabashedly brought the humor and harsh reality to this story. Every line from Poulter's character, Shepard, the nepotism baby of Odel and Belinda (Leoni), is a comedic knockout.

Other than the humor, the hard lean into the campy and whimsical elements within production, for me, felt needed. I appreciated the extent they went with CGI and horror stunts to serve up moral forewarnings in a way we haven't seen unashamedly done before. Had the filmmakers pulled back on these elements, the experience might not have been as entertaining.



SCREENSHOT PROVIDED BY HAYLEY MATTO



Francine here, and the extent of the horror and gore really made this a captivating film for me. While the premise sounds silly on paper, those unicorns were genuinely terrifying! A Jurassic Park-esque use of looming shadows and heart-racing chase scenes landed like classic jumpscare in a way I never expected from unicorns. Some of the death scenes were so graphic they bordered on unbearable—in the best, most A24 kind of way.

I also really appreciated the folklore aspect, especially through the tapestry motifs and world-building details scattered throughout the secluded, vintage estate. It gave

the story a layer of ancient, almost cursed energy—like the unicorn wasn't just magical, but part of something darker that has lasted far beyond the history books say. I do wish the film had explored Ridley's mother's ties to the folklore a bit more, especially considering how much they teased that connection, but maybe the ambiguity and mystery were intentional on the writers' part.

Ultimately, "Death of a Unicorn" works because it doesn't shy away from showing how human greed can corrupt even the most magical things into something monstrous. It's beautiful, it's grotesque, it's thoughtful—and somehow, it all works perfectly together. A fairytale corrupted by bloodshed and corporate greed? Surprisingly captivating to watch. This unicorn's death may have been tragic, but as far as movies go—it was worth it. 3.5 out of 5 stars!

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your voices!

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

# Upcoming Dates For Graduates

By Taelynn Ailina Diokno

Infographic by Zoe Kapp

*Save the date!*

# April

## 14

**10 a.m.**

Graduates who attended Spring GradFest on Apr. 9-10, 2025, may begin claiming tickets.

## 16

**10 a.m.**

Graduates who attended Spring GradFest on Apr. 9-10, 2025, may begin claiming tickets.

## 30

**12 p.m.**

Last day to claim Commencement tickets for all graduates.

# May

## 17

**8 a.m.**

Graduates will check in and gather at Rabobank Stadium at the Salinas Sports Complex, and will proceed together into the California Rodeo Arena.

## 17

**10 a.m.**

Commencement ceremony begins at the Salinas Sports Complex.

For any questions or concerns regarding Commencement 2025, check out the CSUMB Commencement webpage (<https://csumb.edu/commencement/>), email [commencement@csumb.edu](mailto:commencement@csumb.edu), or ask Monte the Grad AI Chatbot by texting "Hi" to 1-866-761-0581.

