

56 days of stress: How students were confused and frustrated with the housing process

Layna Hughes and Hayley Matto

Staff Writers

Amidst the chaos of the final weeks of the semester, many of the members of the residential community at Cal State Monterey Bay have undergone a series of stressful events in the process of applying and securing housing for the 2025-2026 academic year. Although the waiting list has now been cleared, judging from the social media comments of many students, as well as conversations with Lutrinae staff members, this is an issue that's far from being over. It's important to reflect back on how it all began.

March 10, 9 a.m. – Reservation Day applications open

With the housing application process transitioning to a first-come first-serve process, messages from Student Housing and Residential Life (SHRL) stressed the importance of early application, saying it would increase applicant chances of receiving preferred housing.

The self-service website StarRez Housing slowed down dramatically, seeming to freeze as applications opened. Students faced difficulty applying early for priority housing, beginning a series of stressful events for the residential community on campus. According to Director of Student Housing Jeff Cooper, the housing website "got very slow," but never crashed.

In a post to the MyRaft feed, Mhongzoong Yang wrote, "Instead of rebranding and putting \$c7cy2biehf38ejwb into a new logo. Don't y'all think that maybe we should've put that money into working websites? Every year w/o fail housing crashes and then we have to wait the whole morning. Be so serious."

April 14, 9 a.m. – Selection Days opens

The intention of Selection Days was to divide applicants into groups depending on their year and how early they applied during Reservation Days and assign designated time slots for them to choose their preferred housing assignment - the first of which was intended for rising sophomores. However, applicants reported they were allowed access to the website as early as 8 am, before their designated time slot.

Word got out that the time-slot system wasn't working and highly desirable housing like Promontory and East Campus singles were filled quickly by underclassmen. Limited spaces were left for rising upperclassmen whose allotted application times were scheduled two days later.

"We were told 'If you really want Prom[ontory], we can give one of you a double in Prom[ontory], but you have to take it now.' We put in our application for singles, we don't want a double. We were offered an unfurnished double. We were told we could ask for a room change when the semester starts. My time was 11:45, by then my only options were in [East Campus]. I was in [the housing office] at 11:30 and my only options were in [East Campus]," said third-year liberal studies major Maria Quintero.

April 17, noon – Otters For Life statue unveiled

Many students were confused with the creation of the housing waitlist and desired clear communication regarding what their future living situation would look like. However, several administrators were preoccupied attending the unveiling of the Otters for Life statue, a ceremony that included two former CSUMB presidents, as well as current President Vanya Quiñones.

Although the statue was paid for with money donated from campus alumni, several students expressed on social media that they saw it as a manifestation of their tu-



ILLUSTRATION BY ZOE KAPP

ition being used for something they didn't initially want - arguing that it should have gone to housing instead.

Thomas Larsen, a third-year marine science major, posted to MyRaft, "Cool so touching the statue will 'guide you toward connection, community and belonging' but what do I need to touch to guide me toward somewhere to live next semester?"

April 17, 2 p.m. – Housing waitlist created

Upperclassmen opening the housing portal to select their housing assignment reported they were met with a message saying that the website was undergoing a backend audit. This remained for hours before students were placed on a waitlist later that afternoon. Anecdotally, that list had hundreds of students on it.

"This is my first semester at CSUMB, and during orientation, we were told that we have a place here and that we belong. I believe that and would like to continue to [stay here], but it gets harder every day, [as] I watch an unmoving triple-digit waitlist. I did everything I was told to and as early as the housing system would let me. I've enjoyed this semester, but I am feeling more unsure if I will continue to belong here, or if I need to look at other options next semester. I hope I can continue to enjoy being a part of this community," said Larsen.

April 25, 2:30 p.m. – Associated Students meeting

Associated Students (AS) ran their normally scheduled

Friday meeting, where a public comment forum led to a long discussion around the topic of what communications housing did or did not have with students.

AS decided to forward a motion that would create a new student housing branch within AS starting next fall.

The goal of this branch is to avoid miscommunication within housing from happening in the future. By Monday, the Associated Students Senate approved this motion.

April 28 – Otters for Life Statue vandalized

The words "Fix housing" were spray-painted across the Otters for Life statue's base, accompanied by other profane messages about the statue regarding its cost (nearly \$200,000) and housing director Cooper.

Around 8:30 a.m., Quiñones sent an email to the campus community stating that this action doesn't reflect CSUMB's values of respectful communication.

Campus response to the act of protest was mixed. Some thought it was a justified act of student resistance, others saw it as a poor reflection on the student body.

Ashley Clevenger posted to MyRaft, "Noted: quite curious how quickly defacement of our otter statue was both addressed and resolved by our university, yet those who were finally meant to get housing priority for their final year still don't have answers. *Sigh* can we

Continued on Page 2

Science illustration exhibit

Student art from the science illustration master's program on display at the Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History. Learn more about the exhibit!



Congrats grads!

Read about our graduating staff members and what their favorite parts of the Lutrinae were.

Page 4



Summer watchlist

In the final Takes Two to Review, Hayley and Francine share some of their favorite summer films.

Page 5



Continued from Page 1

do better together, please?"

May 1, 9:47 a.m. – Waitlist movement

Waitlisted students receive an email from SHRL informing them that they "have been able to identify spaces for a significant number of students on the waitlist who will be contacted within the coming weeks." In the days following, more students receive a follow-up email with their housing assignment.

What was intended to be a stress-free solution stirred up perclassmen, as some received notice that they would be spending their next (or last) academic year in freshman dorms.

"I lived in dorms in my community college. I lived in dorms for two years. I thought I was done with that," said third-year kinesiology major Bailey Costa.

"I love working on campus and I love working at the OSU and I love working for orientation leadership. And I would love to live on campus because, I mean if I'm working here, I might as well live here, and usually people who work here get to live here."

May 1, noon – Housing protest

An Instagram post calling for students to protest in front of the housing office is reposted by the well-known CSUMB student media account @crumbuniversity, gaining nearly 600 likes.

Coinciding with the start of Otter Thursday, a small group of roughly a dozen students gathered with signs expressing their discontent, one of which reading, "Don't make false promises! Stop promoting housing you don't have."

Quiñones tries to speak to some students but appears to be waved off. A member of the campus communications staff speaks with individual students in protest, trying to document their concerns.

May 5 – Last town hall meeting of the year

Cooper makes his first appearance since the applications first opened a few weeks prior at the final AS Town Hall Senate meeting of the year. Students' questions are regarding where the additional beds that emptied the waiting list came from, if the beds were taken from other students, if if Student Disability and Accessibility Center (SDAC)

I think a lot of people in administration are under the assumption that if students don't get housing they will just move back home with their parents, or they will just figure it out, it's not their responsibility to house us.

I moved out here with everything I own and no family nearby. So I assumed being a transfer and seeing how empty Prom[ontory] was this year, continuing my housing here wouldn't be an issue. Communication on the higher enrollment prior to us turning in our applications would have been great.

Amanda Ramsier

Third-year humanities and communication major

accommodations would be met and who to communicate with if issues remain unanswered.

In response, Cooper states, "We spent time over the last weeks analyzing spaces we had and were ultimately just able to find the space. We are doing our best to make sure everyone is supported. Students declining [their housing assignment] will be on a holding list and after new students are resolved, those on the holding list will be taken care of afterwards." The question around how the

remainder of the waitlist is being dealt with was met by some surprise as Cooper expressed he believed all students on the waitlist had been assigned. Cooper emphasized the idea that obtaining housing was never a guarantee for returning students, an idea he's surprised isn't widely known and accepted by the campus community.

"There is something leading students to perceive that, but we have never guaranteed that. In the past we have been able to do this, however enrollment is increasing and it is not possible. Enrollment increasing is good and adds value to your degree. We are facing a significant increase from before and especially during and right after COVID... [to shrink the miscommunication we plan to] casually reinforce how that works through things like tours and orientation."

He closed out his time by encouraging students to reach out to him and SHRL via email for further communication.

Looking to the future

Students are not just struggling with housing in the fall. Students waiting to hear back about their summer housing placements are scrambling to find out if they need to move urgently or if they can live at school this summer.

"I'm still waiting to find out what is happening for summer housing. I made sure to apply the first day it was available back in February, and have yet to hear back. Other than to be told that there is a two-week window we all must move out between this semester and summer, and that the extension request is already closed," shared Amanda Ramsier, a third-year humanities and communication major.

"I work in sustainability and as an [orientation leader], so I'm hoping I can rent an AirBnB, because I still have to work here [on campus] or if all else fails, I guess sleep in my car? It is what it is. It's definitely been stressful, I feel like the school is putting the students in a position of homelessness. Not just for these few weeks of summer but next semester too," said Ramsier.

"I think a lot of people in administration are under the assumption that if students don't get housing they will just move back home with their parents, or they will just figure it out, it's not their responsibility to house us. I moved out here with everything I own and no family nearby. So I assumed being a transfer and seeing how empty Prom[ontory] was this year, continuing my housing here wouldn't be an issue. Communication on the higher enrollment prior to us turning in our applications would have been great."

Associated Students boosts scholarship funding with budget increase

Scholarships

Associated Students offers several different types of scholarships for current students enrolled at CSUMB to apply for each semester:

- Otter Raft Scholars Award
- AS Commuter Scholarship
- AS Housing Scholarship
- AS Legacy Scholarship - Nomination required
- Book Scholarship - Fall only
- Capstone Grants - Spring only

Scholarship amounts can range from \$200 to \$4200 depending on the scholarship.

Please check back mid Fall 2025 for new scholarship information.

For questions related to our AS scholarships, please contact gltorres@csumb.edu or jiwata@csumb.edu.

SCREENSHOT PROVIDED BY SEAN TUBO

Sean Tubo

Staff Writer

Associated Students have awarded 26 scholarships this spring—an award rate of just 0.07%, but a notable increase over previous semesters.

"Let's show students we are still awarding a proportionate amount of scholarships to our operating budget, that we are truly student-focused and that we are aware of their current struggles and doing all we can to help," Sen. Alyssa Walter said during a recent Finance Board meeting.

The Committee of Colleges under Associated Students offers scholarships each fall and spring, funded directly by student fees. The awards go to the students determined to have the highest need. Due to budget limitations, the group typically distributes a small amount – just over \$32,000 across both semesters this year.

However, an increase in enrollment led to a higher pool of student fees and a one-time funding boost. The committee successfully requested an additional \$17,500 from the Associated Students' discretionary budget to expand this semester's awards.

"Specifically, we asked to triple the number of housing and commuter scholarships because those were our most ap-

plied-to categories," Walter said. "We really wanted to address the needs students were voicing and give them support, especially in housing."

The extra funds allowed for a wider reach, but Walter emphasized that this increase won't happen every semester.

"We are very grateful we were able to provide those extra funds towards scholarships this semester, but we won't be able to do it all the time," she said.

To create long-term stability, the Associated Students recently voted to designate a fixed percentage of its annual budget for scholarships moving forward. Starting this year, 3.5% of the organization's annual budget—estimated at roughly \$1 million—will be reserved for student scholarships.

"There is now a set percentage of the Associated Students' annual budget that will go straight to scholarships," said Walter. "So the amount of money we have to give out to students is a direct percentage of what our total budget is from now on."

The committee hopes the move will ensure scholarship availability remains tied to the organization's financial capacity, with continued emphasis on supporting students' most pressing needs.

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.

The Staff Editorial Policy

Editor-In-Chief

Paige Francis
pfrancis@csumb.edu

Production Manager

Jaelynn Ailina Diokno
jdiokno@csumb.edu

Webmaster

Skye Harrop
sharrop@csumb.edu

Assistant Editor

Aislynne Chappell
achappell@csumb.edu

Photographers

Maddie Honomichi
mhonomichi@csumb.edu

Elliot Rowe
erowe@csumb.edu

Visual Editor

Zoe Kapp
zkapp@csumb.edu

Staff Writers

Layna Hughes
mehughes@csumb.edu

Hayley Matto
hmatto@csumb.edu

Francine Pamplona
fpamplona@csumb.edu

Keira Silver
ksilver@csumb.edu

Sean Tubo
stubo@csumb.edu

Adviser

David Kellogg
dkellogg@csumb.edu

Operations Manager

Monica Conner
mconner@csumb.edu

Contact

Office Phone

831.582.4066

General Inquiries

thelutrinae@csumb.edu

Advertising Services

advertising@thelutrinae.com

Mailing Address

Wave Hall

100 Campus Center,
Seaside, CA 93955

Website

www.thelutrinae.com



@thelutrinae

'Illustrating Nature' exhibit features CSUMB master's students



The "Illustrating Nature" exhibit will be on display until June 15.

PHOTO BY ZOE KAPP

Zoe Kapp
Visual Editor

Cal State Monterey Bay (CSUMB) science illustration master's students' artwork is currently being displayed at the Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History. "Illustrating Nature" features detailed illustrations of various creatures and organisms.

Framed illustrations are displayed in a salon style, offering museum visitors a full-scale view of students' original works. Ranging from Canyon Wrens delicately sitting on vibrant manzanita branches to a trophic cascade housing animals in their natural habitats. The exhibit offers lively and colorful illustrations of all kinds of nature, both alive and dead.

Jacob Bettencourt, a student in the illustration program displaying "Bird, Poop, Snail" (gouache on cold press), says, "Science illustration differs from other art processes as there's usually an emphasis on accuracy and research."

These accurate depictions of nature combine art and science to create observations of nature. "A huge part of the creative process for me involves researching a lot about the subject. I tend to learn a lot of information about the organism(s) that won't even make it into the actual artwork, but it's all a part of the process," Bettencourt said.

Yet, not all the art featured in the exhibit can be referred to as scientific illustrations. Bettencourt uses the term

"sci-art" to describe the combination of scientific illustrations that take creative liberties within the subject or composition. "Isolation" (ink on paper) by Rushi Twade features a tiger with an unnaturally arched back that is disrupted by a paved road through its midsection. The piece comments on how deforestation and pollution affect wildlife through its jarring composition.

See all these amazing illustrations and more at the Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History, located on 165 Forest Ave. The "Illustrating Nature" exhibit will be held until June 15.

The museum is free for Monterey County residents, so make sure to bring your student ID or driver's license.

Otter's who thrift—Is it a trend to be sustainable?

Alison Erisman
Student Submission

Gen Z continues to shop at thrift stores despite not fully understanding the environmental impacts. But why? Cal State Monterey Bay (CSUMB) students revealed the top reasons they shop second-hand—and it's not to save the planet.

Thrift, an eco-friendly alternative to modern consumerism, is a practice that has become a staple among many college-aged students. While sorting through a sea of donated goods may sound tedious, for thrusters, it is well worth the wait. Not only does it save a few bucks, but the thrill of the hunt counteracts the negative consequences of trend cycles and fast fashion.

David Santizo, a second-year kinesiology major, was quick to voice the two reasons he shops second-hand—for style and affordability. Santizo wore thrifted pants he purchased for roughly \$15 from the popular retailer Goodwill.

With confidence, he argued sustainable fashion is a trend gone mainstream for Gen Z and claimed most would agree. "Word spreads," he sighed, "then it becomes a fashion thing. They're not thinking about the environmental impacts."

In a recent report by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the total amount of textile waste landfilled reached a record high of 11.3 million tons in 2018. The EPA estimated the recycling rate of clothing and footwear was merely 13 percent of all textiles generated.

According to the 2023 ThredUp Resale Report, thrifted wardrobes reduce carbon emissions by an average of 25 percent. For each clothing item bought second-hand instead of brand new, 23 billion gallons of water and over 2 billion pounds of carbon dioxide can be saved annually.

The interest in having a thrifted closet is largest among Gen Z, as about 83% plan to shop second-hand or express interest too, says Capital One. This estimation is 10.7% higher than other age groups. On average, 2 out of 5 items in Gen Z's closet are thrifted.

For students at CSUMB, thrifting is a coveted way to express personal style on a budget—but could it simply be another trend taking the internet by storm?



SPCA Benefit Shop Monterey County

PHOTO BY ALISON ERISMAN

Hanna Smith, a third-year cinematic arts and technology major, sported a fully thrifted outfit with pieces from Goodwill and CSUMB's own Basic Needs. Smith said she thrifts for fun and to find unique clothes at a cheap price.

When asked about Gen Z's motivation to thrift, she replied, "I think it's definitely a fad." She also felt that "post-COVID, it became a really big thing." Today, "it's kind of a weird elitist thing," Smith said with concern.

While students briefly acknowledged thrifting's positive environmental impacts, sustainability struggled to earn a spot as a top incentive for this Gen Z fashion craze. As a cultural obsession, students said thrifting has also resulted in negative implications.

Jadelynn Capron, a first-year liberal studies major, described how "once thrifting got really popular, all the thrift stores started bumping everything up."

She believed trend-followers "narrow down the options for people that are looking to thrift for the right reasons." Capron, wearing a sweater from Goodwill, explained she thrifts for cheaper options that are still true to her personal style.

Some thrift stores have increased prices and experienced

gentrification due to consumer demand. However, the SPCA Benefit Shop Monterey County has kept fair and competitive prices for all items, according to its Vice President of Marketing and Communications, Beth Brookhouser. "We do very, very little advertising for our shop," she said and pointed out how the non-profit has kept growing every year.

"We have customers who come every single morning because they don't want to miss out on an item. That's how quickly things move through our shop," said Brookhouser.

As Smith indicated, 2020 was a transformative year for thrifting. Brookhouser commented on the impact of this shift – "I think it's been all positive." With customers and donated items coming in at a surplus, the shop has flourished thanks to Gen Z.

The connection between thrifting and sustainability is not as evident nor important to young adults as one would hope. Now, it has become a matter of how long thrifted fashion will be a trend before it becomes another thing of the past.

There will always be a need for sustainable practices, such as thrifting, in our lives. With increased education for thrifting's largest audience, Gen Z can make this trend a lasting habit.

Bidding farewell to our Lutrinae graduates



PHOTO BY MADDIE HONOMICHL

Layna Hughes
Staff Writer

Our newsroom faces various challenges reporting campus news, but those difficulties pale in comparison to saying goodbye to our graduating staff members and contributing writers.

Although we hate to see them go, we jump at the opportunity to celebrate their academic accomplishments, the time they have spent with us and the lasting impact they've had on the newsroom.



Jaelynn Diokno - Production Designer

If you have interacted with any published or posted Lutrinae content, then you have seen Jaelynn Diokno's work. Facilitating the production of more than 40 issues, Diokno's contributions to the Lutrinae can not be understated.

Starting as a contributor, Diokno found her footing making visuals per suggestion of faculty advisor Dave Kellogg upon hearing she was a communication design major. Diokno recalls seeing her first project published with the Lutrinae, a visual for Dia de los Muertos: "I felt very accomplished and I was like, 'OK, I could totally do this for the next two years.'" She has been the production manager since fall 2023.

"Going into the paper, I didn't think I would have such a connection with journalism and student voices," said Diokno. "Before joining the Lutrinae, I didn't really try to learn from the community here. Being a part of it and just talking to everyone and hearing, like, when we're in the newsroom and we just talk, I think that's something really special. I really like designing for a community like that and just working with people like you guys, it's very sweet."

Through her time as production designer, Diokno learned to trust her artistic intuition. "[I] try not to be too in my head as a designer, like maybe it's not the craziest visual that I'm putting together, but it means a lot to people," Diokno said.

"I'm definitely going to miss the newsroom and just the dynamic that we all have. I think every semester and every year it's, you know, there's new people or there's the same people, but every year it's a little bit different, and I just love working with everyone."

Aislynne Chappell - Assistant Editor

Aislynne Chappell has been in charge of producing Otter Chatter, our weekly newsletter, since August, and it certainly won't be the same without her.

"It's been great, everyone's super open and it's a great creative space to just share your ideas and also just like, you know what's going on around campus," said Chappell.

Being a psychology major with a double minor in business and statistics, she appreciates indulging in the creativity of student work and enjoys editing unique articles that have a touch of personal flair.

"Throwing in some personality and making it yours rather than just like clear cut, I think that's super important - especially in academics," said Chappell.

"I feel like it can get super boring, so just finding ways to apply that creativity in everyday assignments and in life."

A self-described "type A" kind of girl, Chappell knows exactly what she's doing after graduating. Chappell plans to move to San Diego, work as a psychology research assistant and apply for a master's in neuroscience.

"I think the Lutrinae prepared me for that in the sense of you need to slow down and reread [your work] a couple times and utilize those resources to really make sure that it's where you want it to be because people are going to see it and your name is on it and you want that to represent who you are."



Karzell McMillian - Contributing Writer

Having initially joined the Lutrinae two years ago to accompany his girlfriend and previous editor-in-chief Andrea Valadez, McMillian stayed for the community and collaboration.

"It was very welcoming, I know it's a small kind of space, but I think that adds to the whole feel," said McMillian. "You have all these people that are sitting around this table, despite the minimal space, everyone enjoys their time there and it gives that feel of a close, intimate team where everyone gets along."

Graduating with a degree in business administration, he enjoys writing music reviews as a way to escape from his daily workload. McMillian also values the conversations and insight he's received from Kellogg, describing him as a mentor.

He said, "I think people should contribute more. Even if you don't get paid as a staff writer, I think you should contribute anyway because it's just a great feeling to see your work published. It's also a great way to destress and not focus on the various assignments we have to do every week."

To our graduating staff, best wishes in your next endeavors. Every one of us at the Lutrinae is rooting for your success and is excited for you to carry the same positive energy you brought to us wherever you go next. You will always have a place in the newsroom.

Letter from the Editor

Paige Francis
Editor-In-Chief

I have had an incredible experience serving as the Lutrinae's editor-in-chief this school year. I have continued to learn so much about the amazing world of journalism and what it is like to lead a newsroom. I have also learned a lot about myself and will take these lessons with me in every future job and experience of my career and life.

I want to thank my amazing staff this year – you all have truly made an impact on this paper and will have legacies to be remembered! It has been so wonderful to see you all grow and fall in love with our newsroom. I hope I have been the editor you needed me to be. I can't wait to see what you all do in the future! I've had such a blast working with you all.

Thank you to our faculty advisor, Dave Kellogg – your mentorship to us all does not go unnoticed, and I am very grateful for your guidance these past two years.

This has been a valuable year of work for the Lutrinae (although I may be inserting some bias here!). We have done a great job of staying on top of breaking news from the library bomb threat to the housing crisis and covering issues impacting students to the best of our ability. We have 12 paid staff members and five to eight contributing writers (who don't get paid). We have seen an increase in participation in our newsroom and are only continuing to grow. We work tirelessly to cover as much of campus as possible. I hope our readers have appreciated our reporting and, as a result, feel more informed about campus issues and have a deeper connection to their campus community.

We could not see our immense growth without our readers. Thank you for reading, liking, sharing and commenting on our stories. Our newsroom is relatively small and your support means a lot. Continuing to support us will help our newsroom grow and our capacity to cover more issues will increase.

I am also, again, so proud of this team for winning three awards at the California College Media Association conference – Best Feature Story, Best Infographic and second place for Best Non-Breaking News Story. We went up against some schools with much larger enrollments and resources than ours, so it meant a lot to celebrate this accomplishment.

The future of the Lutrinae is in good hands with Layna Hughes, one of our staff writers, who will be stepping into the editor role next semester. I am excited to join the team as a senior staff writer for my last semester here. Stay tuned to read about what will be impacting students next semester, as we know the university is rapidly changing.

Thank you to everyone who has supported me and the Lutrinae. Volume 8 will have a special place in my heart!

Yours truly,
Paige Francis
Editor-in-chief of the Lutrinae



Our summer lovin' watchlist



Hayley Matto and Francine Pamplona
Staff Writers

Francine and Hayley here – one more time to share our favorite flicks to throw on this summer or to celebrate the end of finals! We've had a blast this year reviewing all the latest releases—some incredible, others...not so much. But before we sign off, we wanted to leave you with some of our all-time favorite go-to movies for the summer season.

This summer, Hayley is watching...



"My Old Ass"

Likely the newest film on our list, "My Old Ass" hit theaters early September 2024 and easily became a film I knew I'd revisit again and again. Starring Aubrey Plaza and Maisey Stella as Elliot LaBrant – at age 39 and 18, respectively – the film follows a coming-of-age tale as young Elliot navigates her sexuality, first love, friendships and family dynamics. The twist? She receives secret advice from her future self, whom she can suddenly connect with after a wild night of partying on her 18th birthday. Surprisingly deep and refreshingly raw – a modern tale told in a creative, heartfelt way.



"Wet Hot American Summer"

Part summer camp comedy, part cult classic, "Wet Hot American Summer" originally flopped at the box office in 2001 but later gained a dedicated following – and even a reboot series in 2015. It's a must-watch for all '90s and early 2000s kids, capturing all the awkward, nostalgic moments of teen summers, camp crushes and the looming stress of adulthood. The comedy is wild and absurd—think Saturday Night Live vibes, which makes sense given many of the cast members went on to sketch comedy fame. It's the perfect campy (no pun intended) film that is a must-watch, perfect

post-BBQ or hangout film when you just want to laugh and unwind.



"Dude, Where's My Car?"

Starring a young Ashton Kutcher and Seann William Scott, this film falls closely to the humor of other beloved movies such as "Good Burger" and "Harold and Kumar Go to White Castle." It follows two clueless roommates piecing together the chaotic events of the previous night. Imagine "The Hangover" but with even more chaos and early 2000s charm. A feel-good, full belly laugh film that is sure to be a hit at any event this summer!

This summer, Francine's watching...



"Moonrise Kingdom"

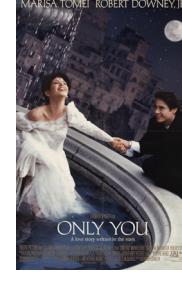
Set in the summer of 1965, "Moonrise Kingdom" follows two misfit kids, Suzy and Sam, who fall in love and run away together into the wilderness, prompting a quirky search party to find them. This is one of my favorite Wes Anderson films – his vibrant color palettes and whimsical style instantly evoke a carefree summer mood. With tents, endless beach forests and the sweetness of first love, this film captures nostalgic childhood summer adventure perfectly. It's summer in a bottle – best enjoyed near a campfire under the stars.



"Aftersun"

Twenty years after a holiday in Turkey with her father, Sophie reflects on the innocent joy and quiet melancholy of that summer. Through old camcorder footage and fading memories, she begins to confront everything she didn't fully grasp back then. Paul Mescal delivers a deeply moving portrayal of mental health struggles, while his young co-star Frankie Corio rep-

resents the childhood innocence and hardship of loving someone on the other end. "Aftersun" isn't about a grand summer adventure, but instead follows the tender moments that reveal the complexities of their bond and the unsettling process of uncovering childhood truths. It's a beautiful watch for the summer for those drawn to bittersweet, emotional, introspective stories.



"Only You"

Ten days before her wedding, Faith embarks on a spontaneous journey to find the man a childhood psychic once said she'd marry. Enter '90s-era Robert Downey Jr. and Marisa Tomei, whose sizzling chemistry fuels this dreamy Italian-set romance. Though filled with undeniable clichés like a runaway bride and airport chases, watching Faith race through cobblestone streets in kitten heels and red lipstick is peak European summer fantasy. "Only You" may be of its time, but its charm and warmth make it a perfect escape for anyone wishing for a cliche summer romance.

Thanks for watching (and reading) along – this marks my (Francine's) final piece for "Takes Two to Review." It's been such a joy sharing weekly movie picks with you alongside my wonderful writing partner, Hayley. Here's to more films, more friendships and an unforgettable summer ahead!



SCREENSHOTS PROVIDED BY HAYLEY MATTO

Resources for finding off-campus housing

Keira Silver
Staff Writer

With the increase in student admission and limitations to on campus resources, many CSUMB students are searching for alternative off campus housing options. Here's our list of where to find housing off campus:

Furnished Finder

With over 300,000 listings across the United States, Furnished Finder provides students with the opportunity to find fully furnished homes or apartments. The company offers more than 30-day leases for those looking to stay for a shorter period of time. Students can use the filter tool to search for listings specifically along the Monterey Peninsula. You can learn more here: <https://www.furnishedfinder.com/>.

Apartments.com

This popular apartment hub features the latest apartment listings for either sale or rent in the area. Students can apply the filter features to specify which neighborhoods they are looking in or their exact rental price range. You can find more information here: <https://www.apartments.com/>.

Zillow

Zillow has always been a reliable source for homeowners or renters looking to find listings. With thousands of available sites, students can find affordable options throughout the Monterey area. You can find more information here: <https://www.zillow.com/>.

Realtor.com

Using your location, Realtor.com instantly finds the up-



PHOTO COURTESY OF ADOBE STOCK

dated and current listings in your exact area. With over 500,000 listings nationwide, this website shows you the most affordable listings. You can filter your preferences by price, square footage and more. You can find more information here: <https://www.realtor.com/>.

Local Real Estate Websites

Another great housing resource is to search for local real estate listings in the Monterey Bay area. Companies such as Coldwell Banker, Compass Real Estate and Monterey Coast Realty all have affordable listings with real estate agents ready to assist you.

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

SUMMER MOCKTAILS!



Non Alcoholic Aperol Spritz Mocktail

INGREDIENTS

3 oz non alcoholic sparkling wine
2 oz Aperol replacement
1 oz soda water

INSTRUCTIONS

Fill your glass with ice. Add sparkling wine, Aperol replacement and soda water. Stir gently and add your orange slice and/or edible flowers. Serve immediately.



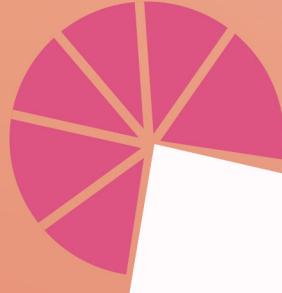
Watermelon Agua Fresca

INGREDIENTS

4 cups cubed watermelon
2 cups water
1/4 cup lime juice
Your choice of mint, lime or watermelon wedges for garnish
Sweetener options - use your choice of:
1-3 tablespoons honey (or sugar)

INSTRUCTIONS

Place watermelon, sweetener and 1 cup of water into a high speed blender. Blend well. Using a teaspoon, test the sweetness. Add more if you prefer, then blend again. Strain liquid into your pitcher and add the remaining 1 cup of water. Add ice to your glasses and pour the agua fresca over the top. Add some fresh lime juice to each glass and stir. Taste and add more lime if needed. Garnish with your choice of lime wheels, mint or watermelon wedges.



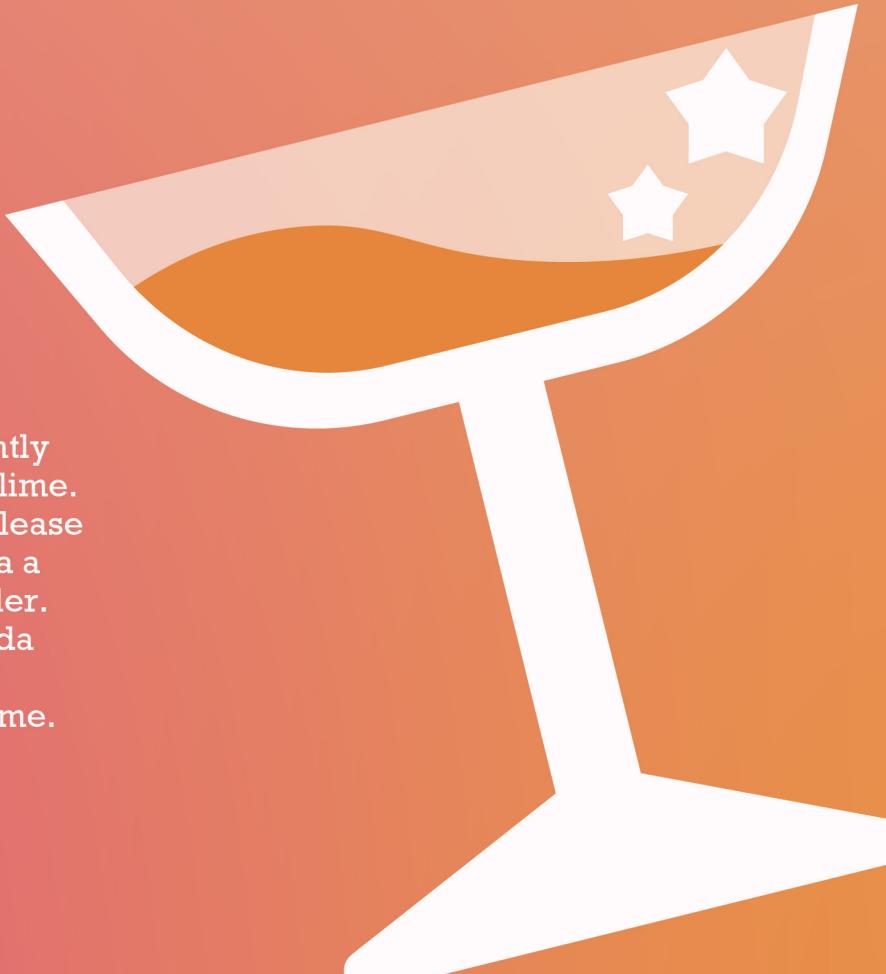
Pomegranate Mocktails

INGREDIENTS

1/4 cup pomegranate juice
Half lime (cut in wedges)
6-8 mint leaves
1 cup soda water or ginger ale
Non-alcoholic rum to taste
Sweetener to taste

INSTRUCTIONS

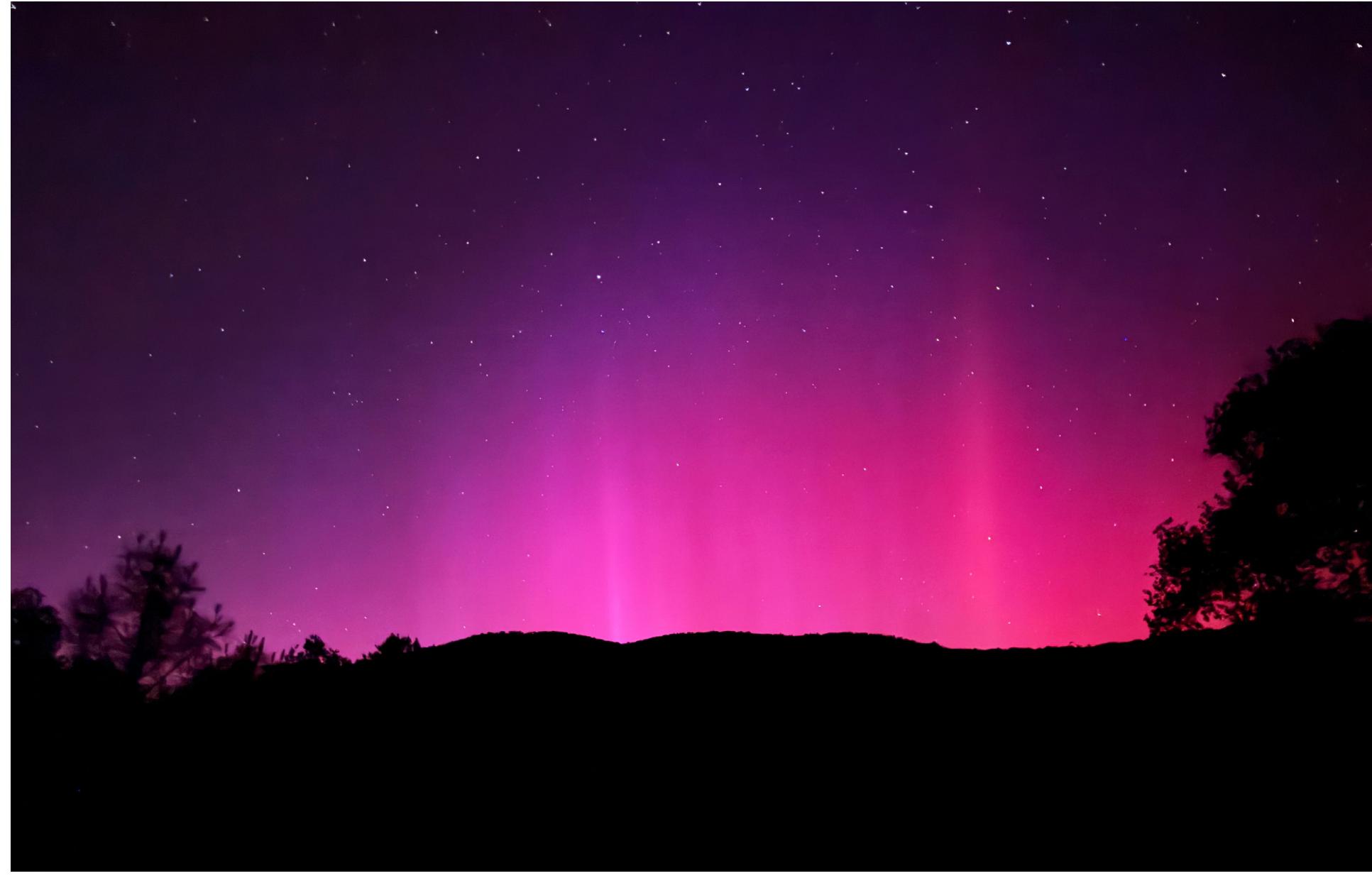
Place lime wedges, sweetener (if using) and pomegranate juice in a tall glass. Muddle gently until all the juice has been pressed out of the lime. Clap mint leaves together in your hands to release the scent and add to the glass. Give the mint a gentle press a couple of times with the muddler. Add plenty of ice to the glass and top with soda water or ginger ale. Stir well. Garnish with pomegranate seeds, mint and lime.



Northern Lights at Pinnacles

Eduardo Cazarez
Photo of the Week Winner

Purple competes with red in a stunning display of natural beauty!



Upcoming Events

Monday, May 12

Need to get out some of that finals stress? Associated Students is hosting a mobile rage room. The room will be open from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Monday, May 12

El Centro is hosting an end-of-the-year celebration at noon. Join them for tamales, horchata, lemonade, music and activities. La Despedida will be in Building 12, room 125.

Thursday, May 15

Social sciences, global studies and sociology students will be presenting their Capstone projects. Presentations will start at 10 a.m. in the CAHSS building.

Thursday, May 15

Humanities and communications students will be presenting their Capstone projects from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Head to the CAHSS building, room 1401 auditorium to watch.

Friday, May 16

Computer science and communication design students will be showcasing their Capstone projects at 10 a.m. Projects will be on display in the BIT building, first floor. Opening remarks will be in CAHSS room 1401 at 9 a.m.

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.

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

WORD SCRAMBLE

Can you unscramble these summer-related words?

gsmiwnmi

iipcnco

vtarlgenei

ubrabcae

thae

nsuyn

tnavcioa

odelmnea

caheb

turfi

ANSWERS:

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

fruit
sunny, lemonade,
picnic, barbecue,
heat, vacation, beach,
swimming, traveling,

