

Hotter Otters strut their stuff in Performative Male Contest



Student spectators filled the steps outside of the OSU, ready to cheer for their favorite contestant. Kingston Ward (bottom middle) won most performative male and was awarded a feminist literature novel provided by host Ashley Perea (seen bottom left with green hair and a speakerphone).

PHOTOS BY DAISY SANCHEZ

Daisy Sanchez
Staff Writer

If you walked past the Otter Student Union (OSU) the evening of Thursday, Sept. 18 and thought to yourself, “Why am I surrounded by guys with tote bags holding books and matcha?” chances are you were walking through the first ever CSUMB Performative Male Contest.

However, a lot of people might still be wondering, “What is a performative male?”

“I think a performative male is kind of a caricature of a stereotypical guy who is aiming to ultimately get with women. It’s something that I think is very much seen a lot in today’s society of, ‘If I start thinking like her, maybe she’ll start to think of me as a romantic relationship,’ despite it not being their true selves,” said contestant and first-year engineering major Robert Winley.

Contest attendee and first year liberal studies major Tegan Knowles said some of the aspects of a so-called performative male are that, “He pretends to read feminist literature and he knows maybe three chords on the guitar,

and he drinks matcha, but he doesn’t probably really like it.”

The troupe aims to poke fun at people, primarily males, who often pretend to be interested in things that their female love interests enjoy in order to appear more appealing to them, hence the adjective “performative.” The birth of this newfound stereotype has led to numerous “Performative Male Contests” being held by students across college campuses, and last Thursday, CSUMB got a slice of the fun.

More than 200 students filled up the cement steps in front of the OSU as they sat ready to watch the 19 contest participants strut with tote bags, matcha cups and feminist literature books in hand, eager to see which contestant looked and acted the most “performative.” Though the contest title was “Performative Male Contest,” contestants of all genders were able to participate.

The contestants stood in a line and were handed a

megaphone one-by-one by event organizer and fourth-year sociology major Ashley Perea, who asked questions to each contestant, but if their looks and attitudes were not ‘performative’ enough to win over the audiences’ cheers, the contestant was disqualified.

“I honestly thought that there was going to be like 20 people and that there was gonna be like, five participants, and that was gonna be the crowd...just the audience itself was just crazy to me,” said Perea.

The contest was full of gags and jokes all in the name of “performative” fun, from contestants pulling out entire guitars or indie record vinyls from their tote bags, to participant and first-year marine science major Kingston Ward throwing packaged tampons to the women of the audience. Each judge selected one contestant from the non-disqualified bunch to bring into the finals. At the end of the night, Ward took home the title of the most performative male, winning a feminist literature book and a pickle plushie provided by Perea.

Talent show finale

Student contestants who made it to the finale of Otters Got Talent left everything on the OSU Ballroom floor. Keep reading to find out who took home the \$1000 cash prize.

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Sticker Giveaway

Curious as to why over 200 students lined up outside of the OSU for a free sticker? Read ahead to be in on niche campus culture.

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Hayley’s Hot Takes

Keep reading to hear our resident movie review columnist Hayley Matto’s take on the latest movie blockbuster.

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Otter-ly victorious: student Kyan Lee wins \$1000 talent show scholarship



Kyan Lee, as seen next to CSUMB mascot Monte Rey, won first-place and the \$1000 scholarship through his electric choreography.

PHOTO BY ISAAC GONZALEZ-DIAZ

Isaac Gonzalez-Diaz
Contributing Writer

With clever and electric dance moves, third-year computer science major Kyan Lee took the Otter's Got Talent finale by storm, winning first place and the \$1,000 scholarship prize.

Associated Students (AS) also offered a \$500 scholarship to the second-place participant Miss Fortune and a \$250 scholarship to the third-place participant Hannah Rudolph.

"This is kind of a joint project between Student Engagement Leadership Development and Associated Students," said Dan Burfeind - senior coordinator for student engagement and leadership development. "SELD is paying for a lot of the production costs in this space and AS is providing the scholarship money."

Lee said he will use the scholarship money to pay for school expenses.

AS welcomed over 120 students into the OSU Ballroom on Sept. 18 to cheer and watch the finalists show off their best numbers.

"I really love dancing, and I like the ability to dance in

front of people, said Lee. "I love having the opportunity to entertain people, that's what I like to do."

With a total of six performances at the show, from dancing to rapping and from singing to trumpet playing, the crowd was eager to see what each finalist had to offer.

The judges panel to the left of the OSU stage featured three new and some known faces: CSUMB mascot Monte Rey, OSU Director Jeff Rensel and Academic Outreach Specialist of the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Center (UROC) Eric Barajas.

Third year accounting major Skylar Walters, best known by her stage name Miss Fortune, engaged the crowd with her creative and unique singing and rapping rhymes - scoring her second-place.

"It's pretty much like being able to honor my ancestors, talking about where I am from, and who I am as an artist and being able to show the audience that," said Walters.

Another favorite performance from the night was first

year music major and third-place finisher Hannah Rudolph, who serenaded the crowd with her shiny and beautiful voice backed by an instrumental version of "Rolling in the Deep" by Adele.

"I'm surprised that I made it. I was very nervous the entire time, so I am very grateful that I made it," said Rudolph.

After a performance from the Foggy Otter Pep Band, a five-minute intermission was held for the judges to choose their top three. Judges brought the finalists onto the OSU Stage for a final ruling, to give the winners trophies and to award scholarships.

Annika Altman, fourth-year liberal studies major and event assistant, hopes the talent show becomes a recurring event on campus.

"I think it is really good for campus spirit, and I think that it is really fun to see all of our Otters perform," said Altman. "It is really fun to see everyone's special skills."

the Lutrinae

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

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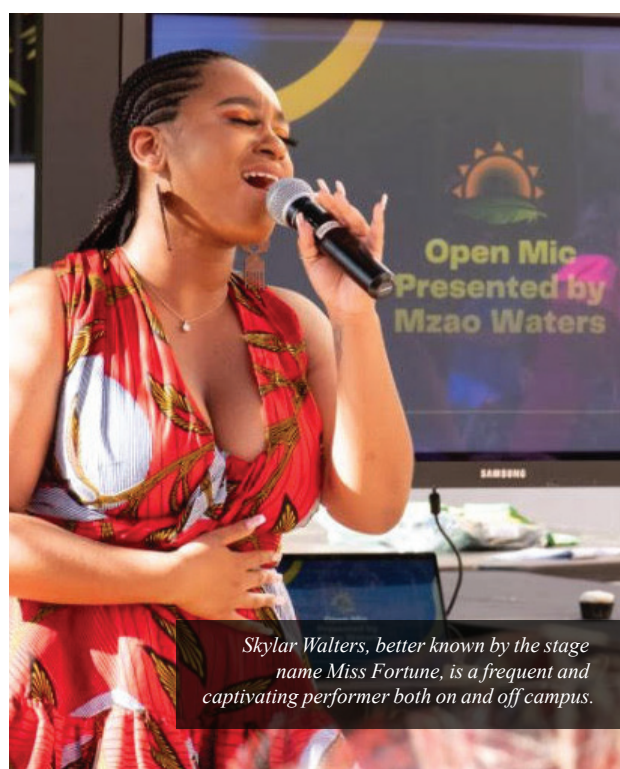
The Lutrinae serves two purposes: It is a training ground for students who wish to develop journalism skills and build their resume, and it is a forum for free expression of campus issues and news. *The Lutrinae* Editorial team will determine what to print and reserves the right to edit for libel, space, or clarity.

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@thelutrinae

Miss Fortune takes the stage



Skylar Walters, better known by the stage name Miss Fortune, is a frequent and captivating performer both on and off campus.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MISS FORTUNE

Hayley Matto
Staff Writer

Miss Fortune, a third year accounting major with a minor in music, recently placed second at this semester's Otters Got Talent competition. However, her journey with performing started long before her time at Cal State Monterey Bay (CSUMB). Miss Fortune has been a performer ever since the age of two, where she can remember snatching the microphone from her cousins and singing at her great-grandmother's 80th birthday.

"I genuinely just love being on stage, performing for my family and just being in front of a crowd. That's just something that's always been in me. I'm from Louisiana, the birthplace of jazz and music, and my grandfather was also a band teacher for 30 years. He always had oldies playing in the car, Earth Wind and Fire, Rick James and Jimi Hendrix, those were the only options."

Reflecting on how her family played a major role in feeding her talents and keeping her dream alive Miss Fortune said, "I'm not self made, I am fortified by the strength of my ancestors, grandpa and mom who

genuinely have been pouring into me for so long."

"My mom really introduced me to all different types of music, Sean Paul, Caribbean music, rock, Avril Lavigne, Evenessence, gospel music in church." In her elementary years she shares, "I was also in choir and theater, basically anything creative that I could get into I did." It wasn't until middle school that her grandfather snuck her a cellphone so that she could download apps like Garage Band and Sound Trap to start mixing and creating her own music. "My mom got me a Macbook at 17, and at 18 my grandfather bought me the program Logic and I have been working on that ever since."

When asked what inspires her to keep growing her talents, Miss Fortune expressed that she grows inspiration from a few different areas of her life. "Anger, when I was growing up I needed a place to use my voice, to express myself. So music was my escape." She continues, "My boyfriend - our love really inspires me - past relationships, other people's stories. I really try to bring empowerment to those that don't have a voice. I also want to show my younger siblings this is what Black success can look like."

She opened for artist Amara last year at Otterlands, sang the Black National Anthem for Black Grad (an affinity ceremony that celebrates Black graduates) and this year she walked away as one of the winners of the Otters Got Talent showcase. Within the community surrounding CSUMB, Miss Fortune has partnered many times performing at Old Capitol Books. Including most recently a sold out show on Friday, Sept. 19. She also has been expanding "The Miss Fortune experience" to collaborate with unique locally owned businesses, to host meditations and yoga on the beach and work with Black-owned businesses to create products like body butter and candles.

Looking toward the future, Miss Fortune plans to perform at Monte Mash hosted by Otter Media Oct. 31. In November she plans to take a little break to recharge and reset, be with her family and lock in for finals. However she urges those interested in following her journey to stay tuned for December. She has some plans in the works for more performances, the best way to keep in the know is to follow her instagram @missfortuneebby_. Or if you are interested in her collaborations with local Black-owned companies to buy candles, body butters, stickers, and T-shirts, be sure to check out her LinkTree.

The Makerspace is back!



ILLUSTRATION BY AMANDA RICHMAN

Hayley Matto
Staff Writer

Makerspace reopened its doors to an eager crowd of returning students and plenty of new faces Monday, Sept. 15. This year Alissa Lund, the Makerspace coordinator, sat with us to share what to expect this year as far as goals and events that the space is helping to curate.

Currently the space is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from noon to 4 p.m. This may change next semester depending on both Lund's schedule and her student assistants. "The students really love working here, it's a valuable work experience that allows them to mesh together their personal hobbies and passions while also cultivating a skillset in the work world."

Lund herself also teaches on campus a Liberal Studies course Art in the School and Community. She also used to be an elementary school teacher joking, "compared to that, college students know how to clean up after themselves just a little bit better."

Lund shares that none of this would be possible without her student assistants, "We have community minded staff that really love and respect this place, I'm constantly learning from them, also students teaching one another is such a fun thing to witness."

She also expressed major gratitude toward the Student Fee Advisory Committee (SFAC) for their support in keeping the space alive. "Labor is paid through the SFAC funding, so that funding is essential for us to be able to compensate the student workers and purchase supplies. We are incredibly grateful that they have been able to fund us so generously."

"We do also take donations, so if students or clubs have a bunch of extra supplies after an event we will happily take them, or if someone's grandma has some spare yarn hiding in a box in the garage we'd be grateful for it!"

Their opening week was very successful with the first two days already showing a lot of fresh faces. "Since Monday we've had 173 people come in. So thank you so much to the RAs and all the others that appreciate the Makerspace and have mentioned it to the new students as a place that is safe, where you can find community, inspiration, innovation and a sense of belonging."

Events in the future include campus sports teams, team building by creating crafts like matching bag tags for their gear, while clubs like In the Ords and Lit Match

have an open mic at the end of October.

Community through crafting is really what the Makerspace is all about. "I think of the Makerspace as the hub of a wheel and the spokes are made up of the students, clubs, sports teams, the faculty that bring their classes here and the staff council," Lund said.

As they inch closer to October they have already begun to see an influx of students coming in to create Renaissance Fair and Halloween costumes. Lund suggests students check out clothes in Basic Needs and bring them here to alter for fun costumes on a budget.

Lund concluded the interview by sharing, "Yes this is a place where you can come to learn a new skill and make a craft but it's also a place where you can come and make a new friend."

For more information on the Makerspace and hosting events there email is makerspace@csumb.edu

Sustainability makes a splash with Second Wave Supplies Store

Daisy Sanchez
Staff Writer

The Second Wave Supplies Store is a thrift-styled shop on campus where Cal State Monterey Bay (CSUMB) students can grab free items such as textbooks, pencils, paper and other goods in the name of sustainability.

"We receive all of our items completely donated from different departments on campus and business within the county area. Everything that is in here would have been given to either Goodwill, donated or to a landfill," said Sustainability Office student assistant Amanda Ramsier who runs the store.

Ramsier explained that The Second Wave Supplies Store was originally known as the Reuse Store before taking on its new name and location in the library. The store's mission as a second-hand supplies store is one that reflects both the Sustainability Office's values but CSUMB's as well.

Ramsier said, "Our main mission in sustainability is zero waste, to plant trees and to lower the carbon footprint on campus, so this is definitely a way that we tie into our three major goals for sustainability throughout CSUMB."

With the fall semester now in full swing, you might not be needing school supplies anymore, but you might be on the hunt for a spooky Halloween costume.

"We are also going to be accepting Halloween decor and costumes in the next couple weeks so that if you need a costume, or if you'd like to donate old ones, we're going to have that set up for you all too," Ramsier noted.

The store is currently open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 2 - 4 p.m. ready to give students sustainable and budget-friendly access to the things they need.

"Giving Supplies a Second Wave"

Free Supplies from One Otter to Another
Pens, paper, binders, folders, tech accessories, decor and more

Library,
Room #1150
Tuesday - Thursday
2-4PM

PHOTO COURTESY OF SECOND WAVE SUPPLIES STORE

Artist Henry Zhou brightens students' day with free custom made stickers

Daisy Sanchez and Sean Tubo
Staff Writers

Hundreds of students lined up from the corner of the Otter Student Union (OSU) plaza onto the access road by Cypress Hall last Otter Thursday for a chance to get their hands on a limited edition sticker from popular artist and influencer Henry Zhou (@stickerzoodesigns).

Henry Zhou is the artist behind stickerzoodesigns, with his art account having over 33,000 followers on Instagram. Zhou is known for his free sticker giveaways on college campuses, and on Sep.18, Zhou shared his stickers with the students of CSUMB. This was his second visit to the campus.

Zhou is currently on a sticker giveaway tour, landing at every California State University to hand out custom, hand made stickers inspired by each school's mascot.

"I came out to do a thing where I wanted to make mascot designs of every CSU and UC school," said Zhou. "I've come to a few campuses before to give away free stickers, and this is the first time I'm doing a full tour where I was giving stickers to everyone."

Telling the story of the beginning of his artistic journey, Zhou said, "I graduated two years ago from UC Irvine, and I decided to pursue art because I didn't have confidence in my mechanical engineering degree. I really wanted to pursue something I was passionate about," said Zhou.

When asked about his motivation to share his art for free with college students, Zhou cited that his desire to give back to the community is his reason for the sticker giveaways he's known for.

"This is my way of giving back to the college communities, and I also just wanted to create something that people could remember, which is why I do these sticker jobs."

Even before Zhou arrived at noon, a long line of students had formed, wrapping around the OSU



On his tour, artist Henry Zhou (@stickerzoodesigns) plans to visit every CSU to giveaway 200 free stickers inspired by each campus mascot.

PHOTOS BY DAISY SANCHEZ AND SEAN TUBO

Starbucks and past Cypress Hall. According to OSU Director Jeff Rensel, Zhou's popularity led to them reaching out ahead of time to offer him a table at Otter Thursday in front of the OSU.

"At 11:20 the table was there, I went into Starbucks, got a drink, by the time I turned around the line was already moving," said third-year kinesiology major David Santizo.

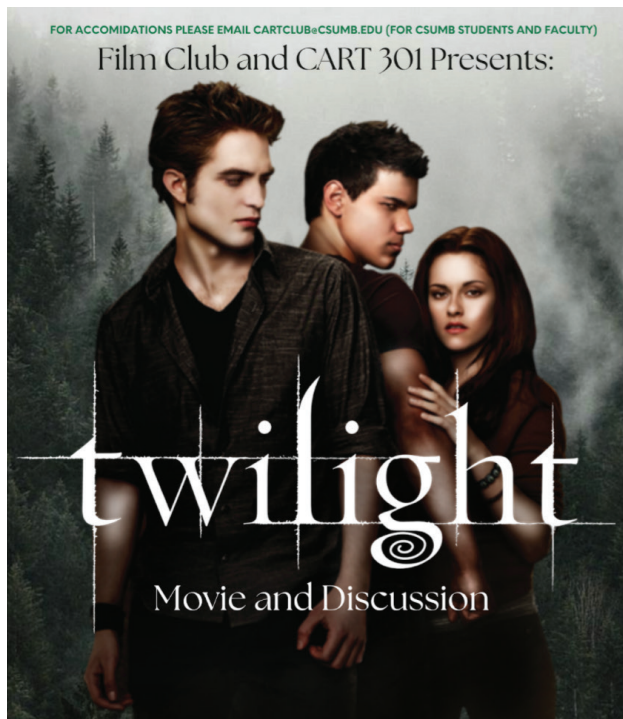
Liberal studies major Helen Paola Perez-Santos was one of over 200 students waiting in line to get a sticker from Zhou, and explained how his appearance on campus didn't just mean free stickers, but a chance for CSUMB to finally be seen. "I honestly think that we get left out on a lot of stuff being such

a small campus or not very well known, or only being known in just marine biology kind of stuff," said Santos. "Participating in this kind of event is actually, I think, really meaningful and kind of impactful for CSUs in general to actually get that voice out that we're another CSU that's as big as any other."

Though Zhou ran out of his 200 custom otter stickers only about halfway through the line, no otter went home empty handed, as Zhou whipped out custom squirrel stickers and gave them to those in line who did not get an otter sticker.

"I think everyone should indulge in their creative passion, and staying hydrated is the most important thing as I've learned throughout this journey, you gotta stay hydrated," said Zhou.

Fans flock to Film Club's 'Twilight' screening



"Twihards" and ironic enjoyers alike gathered for a viewing of the cult classic film "Twilight" in celebration of the incoming fall season.

PHOTO BY MADDIE HONOMICHL

Tom Nolan
Contributing Writer

Longtime fans, or "Twihards," joined casual and ironic enjoyers to laugh and cry - but mostly, in this case, to laugh - at the iconic 2008 film "Twilight," screened by the Film Club to a crowd of CSUMB students Tuesday.

Just in time for the end of summer and the start of Halloween festivities, the mood at the event was both upbeat and deeply unserious. Dakota Draper, a third-year cinematic arts major and Film Club president, seemed to fully understand the cheesy camp appeal that would bring many to Tuesday's movie night: "Everything's so funny...watching it in front of other people, hearing their reactions. It's so cringey."

The reactions that Draper mentions were a highlight of the event, revealing how certain aspects of the film have aged over the years.

Robert Pattinson's deliberately stilted and off-putting acting as vampire heartthrob Edward, for example, was a frequent source of howling laughter throughout the screening. One very seriously written scene in which he confesses to stalking main character Bella was met with a mix of gasps, groans and more laughter.

"I'm Team Edward, mainly just because I think they're

more compatible. But, like, Team no one honestly. It's so creepy," said Draper.

These responses to the 17 year-old film may be related to shifting generational perspectives. After all, its reception in 2008 was dominated by fans of the hit book series who may have viewed it as more of a legitimate love story and overlooked some of its cheesier elements. Many attendees of Tuesday's screening, however, were too young to experience the movie when it first hit theaters; instead, they discovered it years later.

Yetzarely Gaspar, a psychology major who attended the event, is a part of this new generation of "Twilight" fans. "I [first] watched it, probably during COVID. They were on Prime and they were all free. So me and my cousin were like, let's just watch the whole thing," she said.

Draper, too, has fond memories of discovering the film with family after missing out on the original release: "I was like 8, so Twilight was big for all the teenagers, but I hadn't hit it yet...And then my dad and I just started binge watching them because, I don't know, we think they're super funny, so we watch them every year together."

In any case, with over 130 people having registered for the event, it's clear that "Twilight" still holds an undeniable appeal to young people.

According to Draper, the event's success may be attributed in part to a Pacific Northwestern vibe students may feel at CSUMB: "I think here, specifically, a lot of people come because it looks very Twilight-y...I remember talking to someone my freshman year, like, 'oh my God, yeah, this is so Twilight.' And she was like, 'I literally chose this school because of Twilight.' I'm like, 'real.'"

"Twilight" takes place in the real-world town of Forks, Washington, although the movies were mostly filmed in Vernonia, Oregon. Often featuring cloudy skies, lush forests and layers of fog, it's not hard to see the connection between the setting of the films and what many experience as far south as Monterey Bay.

Gaspar, meanwhile, has her own theories on what it is about "Twilight" that really resonates with fans: "I feel like it's because of the whole, like, love triangle thing. I feel like everybody loves that. And also because they're all hot."

El Centro aims to heal hardships through art



Those who partook in El Centro's "Colores Que Curan" event enjoyed a peaceful escape from class, using the time to paint or draw instead.

PHOTOS BY HAILEY MCCONNELL

Hailey McConnell
Contributing Writer

Although they didn't plan it this way, El Centro hosted "Colores Que Curan/Colors that Heal" last week, an event that seemed to be a perfect response to federal threats of funding cuts to Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs).

At a time where Hispanic and Latino communities are being attacked, El Centro organizers aim to create a stress free environment to foster self expression and connection to one's culture or community through creativity.

Highlighting the strength that art gives to marginalized communities, Joshelyn Martin - the associate director for El Centro and the Undocu Success Center - said, "Being able to utilize creativity through art is often the way that I have been able to build relationships with others." She has worked at CSUMB since May and has taken on the task of organizing this recurring event.

El Centro hosts craft events with similar themes of healing every HSI week. Although they differ each year on art pieces or artists, the intention stays the same. "We know that students enjoy expressing themselves through the arts," Martin said.

At the event, there was a table to sign in that was covered with materials commemorating the event, such as coloring sheets based on Brazilian artist Beatriz Mihazes. Her work features vibrant colors and lively shapes, which create striking pieces.

"Art in itself is healing, but through her vibrancy, it almost amplifies the healing process," said Martin about why it was so important to have the event inspired by her pieces.

The other materials were memorabilia from El Centro to take before or after the event. Passing the sign-in desk, the wide room was filled with tables.

Of the tables in the room, three tables featured a variety of coloring supplies that ranged from paints to crayons. Everyone in attendance could pick through the supplies as they saw fit and use it on either paper or canvas.

There were seven attendees that filled two of the tables designated for the event. Throughout the hour a variety of art pieces were in the works, some created originals while others colored in the given sheets.

Working at one of the tables was Michelle Hernandez, a third year liberal arts major. She said, "I just came with a friend, but now that I started painting, you're just focused on staying in the lines, it really does help with de-stressing."

Those in attendance worked for the entire hour that the event was held, and in the end had colorful pieces that signified a moment of solace in their day.

Letter to the Editor To expand student service

Dear Editor,

Students: in 2026, CSUMB will invest in our campus, expanding and improving our student services. There are many improvements, which could be made to the Otter Raft. But it isn't free.

A mandatory fee will be equal to \$467 per semester. For two semesters, it will total \$934 because it's billed each semester. Yet CSUMB expects 75% of its students won't feel the difference. Financial aid or tuition assistance programs will pay for mandatory student fees. However, students will notice the increased availability of student services like Disabilities Counseling, or like Telehealth. Our leadership has decided to fund services in three broad categories: Essential Student Life & Engagement, Learning Support & Career Advancement & Engagement and Vital Student Support Services.

Seven years ago in 2018, CSUMB adjusted student fees; but since then, our situation has changed. We know the prices of both goods and services increase over time. Especially, during 2022 and 2023, the rate of increase (the rate at which the prices of core services increased) has been great. In other words, services, like health services, got more expensive; and it happened fast! Of course, budgets should be revised whenever a need arises. Still, rapid changes of price are another incentive to review, making adjustments if a need is identified. A fee increase will begin in 2026, continuing for a year at least.

If we, the students, talk about fees, we'll use the student services that our fees pay for. CSUMB leadership, since August, has been reminding students about a fee increase, emailing announcements and holding forums (e.g. Sept. 22, 2025, 3 to 4 p.m., CAHSS 1401). Salience incentivizes action; more than that, our investment plan incentivizes participation, being well aligned with our interests. We want to succeed; we want success, well, at least I do.

To understand what will change, I looked for the organizations that I know online and asked myself questions. What do I want in return for my money? What services will help me? And, if Redwood Hall will be open earlier, well, what will its new hours be?

— Noah Soria Keyv
(instructional science and technology major, grad-student)

A great big beautiful disappointment: “Great Big Beautiful Life” book review

SPOILERS AHEAD



Eli Heck
Staff Writer



With a title like “Great Big Beautiful Life,” I expected fireworks coming into this book, but was disappointed when I got only a few sparks.

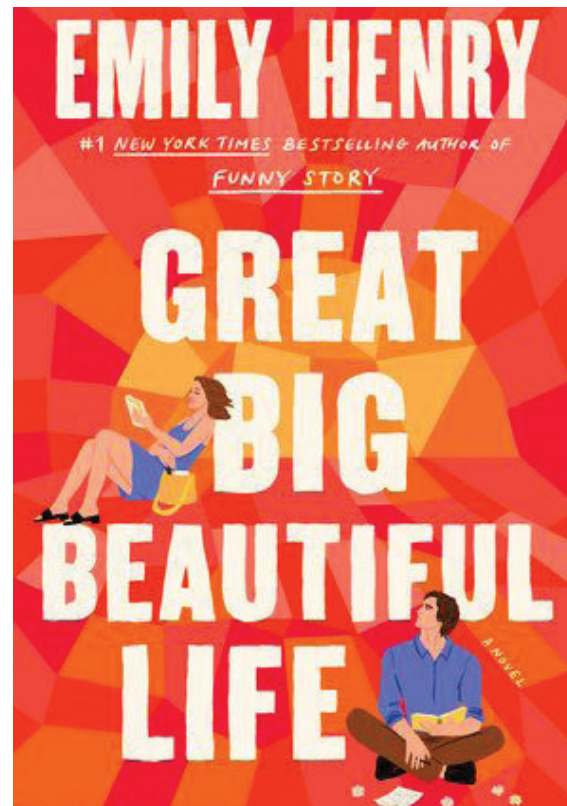
Emily Henry is a current staple of the romance novel world, with her bibliography containing multiple #1 bestsellers and Goodreads Choice Award winners. Her latest book, “Great Big Beautiful Life,” was a long-awaited read by many, myself included. Sadly, this book left a lot to be desired.

The main premise of “The Great Big Beautiful Life” revolves around the main character, Alice, reporting on and trying to tell the life story of the eccentric Margaret Ives. Alice and Hayden are reporters for different companies competing to be chosen by Margaret to write her story. Margaret is the last living member of the Ives family, a prolific multi-million dollar family, who amassed most of their fortune on a monopoly of several newspapers. She has a hidden past rooted in family death, betrayal and even a mysterious cult involving Margaret’s sister.

The mystery aspect of the novel left a lot to be desired. Toward the end of the book, when a plot twist is revealed between two characters, I was thrown off guard. Not because it was a surprising and gripping reveal, but because it made no sense and felt much more like a plot point tacked on at the end. It didn’t really add much substance to the story, since we hardly saw the two characters the twist revolved around interact with each other.

Throughout the book, Alice often feels more like a plot device than a character. A story which, while interesting, felt a lot more like the breakdown of a family tree. Spending entire chapters on great-grandparents who, later in the story, only add to a growing list of names to keep track of that muddle the details of the story. What could have been summed up in a few sentences or one chapter took several.

While Alice is written as a vehicle to tell Margaret’s story, the male main character, Hayden, feels much more like a sidekick than a romantic lead. That said, Henry’s talent for snappy, heartfelt dialogue does shine through at times. One of the most memorable exchanges comes when Hayden remarks to Alice:



“It’s yours,” he offers.

I laugh. “Oh? I can have the world?”

“Mine,” he says. “Yeah. You can have mine.”

Moments like this remind me of Henry’s usual magic, small sparks of intimacy tucked into ordinary conversation, even if they were too few and far between here.

The problem isn’t so much the lack of romantic moments; it’s that the romance was marketed as the heart of the story, but is consistently sidelined in favor of Margaret’s history. Alice and Hayden’s relationship often takes a back seat to endless recounting of family lineage and mystery threads. Instead of driving the narrative, the romance is treated almost like a subplot, surfacing only in scattered moments. For readers expecting Henry’s usual balance of emotional depth and swoony connection, this shift feels less like a creative choice and more like a bait-and-switch.

With the issue of sidelining their relationship, Alice and Hayden go from seemingly mortal enemies to instant lovers at an almost breakneck pace. Hayden was not given much time to develop as a character beyond the usual brooding and tall character traits. He goes from glowering and moody to in love with her in a matter of pages. While I am a sucker for any good enemies-to-lovers, it just felt unrealistic. It never felt clear what their attraction is based on, aside from being the only young people within a 10-mile radius.

Overall, I would give the premise of the book five stars. Two writers are competing to write the story of a lifetime about an eccentric and reclusive heiress, only recently out of hiding, with NDA’s and forced proximity on a small island. However, the execution of that plot deserves little over one and a half stars. The story got so bogged down in Margaret Ives and her family’s drama that the entire romance plotline between Alice and Hayden became background noise.

I think the book was misleadingly marketed as a romance. If Emily Henry had leaned more into the romance, or more toward the literary fiction or mystery, it could have been a better story. With the way she tried fitting it all together, it came out a bit jumbled and messy. In the end, I give the book 2.5 stars.

One door shuts and another opens...to ‘A Big Bold Beautiful Journey’

Hayley Matto
Staff Writer



“A Big Bold Beautiful Journey” debuted in theaters Friday, Sept. 19. Directed by Kogonada and written by Seith Reiss, it stars Colin Farrell as David and Margot Robbie as Sarah, a pair of singles seemingly destined to meet as guests at a wedding. It’s not until they end up stuck in a rented 1994 GM Saturn, with a magical GPS system (voiced by Jodie Turner-Smith) that everything takes a turn. Embarking on a road trip away from home, they open doors into their past lives, sharing and exposing each of their hidden secrets and unearthed traumas.

A whimsical, fantastical-comedy-romance, that to me felt like a mash up of Robert Zemeckis’s “Here” and Damien Chazelle’s “La La Land.” Similar to “La La Land,” the film is unafraid to run with the whimsy. Bending reality to a more dreamlike fantasy land where the characters question the magic, but don’t push to have answers as to how or why it’s happening - quickly getting the audience on board to accept the reality of this world within minutes of the film’s opening. Comparing it to Zemeckis’s “Here,” it shares similar themes of tracing history back for not only the couple, but their parents and other individuals they have met along the way that helped shape who they are today. A real deep dive into the idea of generational trauma and understanding how our biggest insecurities and flaws aren’t as unique as they may seem.

Other pleasing aspects to the film were the cinematography, shot choices, motifs and colors. Robbie is seen in red almost throughout the entirety of the movie, while Farrell is in cooler tones of blue -

adding a layer of unspoken dialogue between these two characters. The world around them is also color blocked mainly in vibrant primary colors, with symmetrical shots that frame the characters similarly to how one may choose to paint a portrait or landscape. Adding to that dreamy, otherworldly feeling.

A big reason these colors and shots were executed so well is because of Benjamin Loeb, the cinematography director. His choices in angles paired with colors not only mirrored those you would find in artwork and paintings, but also worked in tandem with the emotional stakes at any given moment on screen. The closeup shots emphasized the intimacy and heaviness portrayed, while other shots helped the audience feel just as encapsulated in the dreamy reality.

Lastly, the soundtrack of this film really acted as the icing on an already beautiful cake. Singer songwriter Laufey, who covers three songs and debuts a brand new song that she wrote for the movie: “The Risk.” Her jazzy romantic style that’s not afraid to flirt with dissonance fits perfectly as the backdrop to the vibrant dream of emotional exploration this film creates. Other well known tracks include “Dream Team” by Monsters and Men as well as “Bug Like An Angel” by Mitski and “Let My Love Open The Door” by Pete Townsend, covered by Mitski.

I am happy to report that this “Big Bold Beautiful Journey” served up exactly that, surpassing my expectations and refreshing my hopes for future

fantastical romcoms to come. This film earns a full five out of five, serving up a surreal spicy flare to a romantic story we all can relate to - if not now, surely by looking back into our own closet of secrets. Revisiting our pasts and embracing that our choices make us the person we are today, ready to open the door onto tomorrow’s next opportunity.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SONY PICTURES

Photo of the Week



Looking to showcase your photography? Enter our ongoing photo contest throughout Volume 9 for a chance to have your work featured in our weekly issues. Check out our Instagram @thelutrinae for more details!

Maple in Carmel

Eduardo Cazarez

Photo caption : Maple sits idly along Carmel stunning coastline



Are you Team Conrad or Team Jeremiah?



Maddie Honomichl

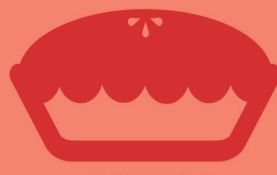
Social Media Manager

Are you a fan of “The Summer I Turned Pretty?”
Curious to see which Fisher brother is most beloved
by your fellow Otters? Stay tuned on our Instagram
@thelutrinae!

APPLES



PINK LADY



BAKING



SNACKING



SAUCE

FUJI



BAKING



SNACKING



SAUCE



RED DELICIOUS



BAKING



SNACKING



SAUCE

HONEY CRISP



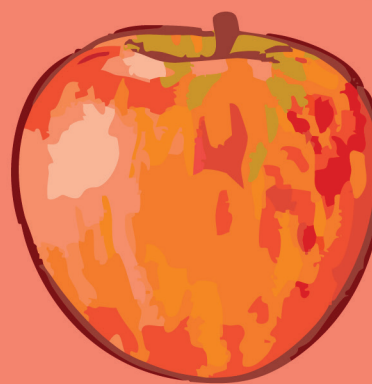
BAKING



SNACKING



SAUCE



GRANNY SMITH



BAKING



SNACKING



SAUCE

Upcoming Events

Monday, Sept. 22

Catch an afternoon flick at the Rainbow Raft's first Queer Social Hour of the year. Enjoy snacks, comfort and community from noon to 1:30 p.m in the Rainbow Raft Pride Center (Building 12).

Monday, Sept. 22

Rein in the fall equinox with the MeteOtters Stargazing Club! Stargaze under a new moon from 8 to 9 p.m. at the Campus Center.

Wednesday, Sept. 24

The American Red Cross will be on campus hosting a blood drive in Redwood Hall. Donate from the comfort of your campus from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 26

Who doesn't love free clothes and community? Join the Helen Rucker Center as they host Sister Swap, a clothes exchange, in Building 12 Room 120. Swing buy to swap from 3 to 5 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 26

Enjoy a free, family-friendly movie screening of Disney Pixar's "Elio" in the OSU Ballroom. Refreshments and fun activities will be provided; doors open at 5:30 p.m. and the movie will start at 6 p.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.

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

WORD SCRAMBLE

Let's see if you were paying attention, can you unscramble the list of words related to this week's issue?

sochlhropsi

tfcyra

thmaca

uctl siaslcc

rnoutfe

igntianp

skceisrt

remcona

eastlisuanb

ilacmwhis

ANSWERS:

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

scholarship, matcha, fortune, stickers, sustainable, crafty, cult classic, painting, romance, whimsical

