

'With all that, there will be no singles on East Campus' AS senate meeting addresses raising housing concerns



If this is too low quality, I included a picture in this story's google folder of the email sent out saying east campus singles wouldn't be available next year. We could try a mixture of that and this photo, or potentially an old housing visual?

PHOTOS BY ELI HECK

By Eli Heck
Assistant Editor

During an AS Senate meeting this week, originally scheduled to address the Department of Homeland Security's presence on campus, much of the discussion shifted toward long-standing student concerns about housing availability, the removal of singles in East Campus and ongoing miscommunication between Student Housing and Residential Life (SHRL), the Student Disability and Accessibility Center (SDAC) and university administration.

AS Vice President of Internal Affairs Jasmine Torres clarified that single room housing in East Campus will be phased out.

"Where it is right now, all singles other than family units will be turned into doubles in East Campus," she said, adding that, "with all that, there will be no singles on East Campus."

Torres also emphasized that while students may receive approved accommodations, those accommodations do not guarantee a single room.

"The only way you can get a single on campus period is through an accommodation," she said, "but just because you have an accommodation does not guarantee you a single."

Students attending the meeting voiced frustration over the lack of representation and transparency in housing decisions.

"I come in with units, so I'm in classes with students who have been here for multiple semesters on end," one student noted, "and housing has always been a concern, and I know that this kinda just adds more fuel to the fire. It just seems more concerning."

"It kind of feels like, where do the students get representation in it?"

Another student noted that housing issues have persisted for years, pointing to increased enrollment without a proportional expansion of housing options.

AS Vice President of Financial Affairs Andrew Nino described recent housing efforts as insufficient for the scale of the problem. "Gavilan Hall is a short-term solution to a long-term problem right now," Nino said. While the project is expected to add approximately 180 beds, he acknowledged that, "the problem is substantially more than 180 beds."

AS President Natalie Navarro added that attempts to formalize student involvement in housing decisions have stalled. Referring to a proposed housing committee, Navarro said Director of Housing Crystal Lay responded with "not right now."

Navarro said Lay expressed a preference for moving concerns through other channels. "I think her main thing was that she doesn't want to get yelled at," Navarro said. "She doesn't want it to be a committee where students

come and share their experiences, I think it might be something more written."

When asked about the miscommunication between housing and SDAC, and what students can do when accommodations are not met Torres said that there definitely is an issue there.

"I have that barrier, where I followed up around family housing and the moving and what it means to be in a disabled unit that has accommodations. It's a very prevalent issue."

Torres described the situation as a "ping-pong" effect between SDAC, SHRL and Greystar, noting that students with approved accommodations often face barriers in implementation.

"I think it's hard for students to understand sometimes that getting accommodations does not mean the implementation of accommodations which does create this barrier of my doctor telling me I need this and the school is not providing this."

Torres added that East Campus presents a unique situation for students as housing there is operated externally. "When you are a student in East Campus you are in a unique situation that puts you in student housing under a corporation, which is Greystar."

Students speak out

Small but mighty, a group of students protest in response to recent actions by Immigrations and Customs Enforcement.



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Otterlands highlights student artists and the importance of live music.



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Valentine's flicks

Ditch the romcoms and dig into Hayley's list of wonderfully unconventional Valentine's Day films.



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'ICE OUT!' CSUMB community fights back with student-led protest



Across buildings to the OSU front steps, student activists made their cause known throughout campus.

PHOTO BY ELLIOT ROWE AND ALLIE FONSECA

Tom Nolan
Staff Writer

Dozens of Cal State Monterey Bay (CSUMB) students and faculty met at the Otter Student Union Friday to protest the actions of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) under the Trump administration.

Organized by a handful of CSUMB underclassmen through Sunrise Monterey Bay – the student-led local chapter of a national advocacy group – the protest opened with a march across campus that lasted about 45 minutes. Student activists led call-and-response chants that were taken up by attendees and cheering onlookers alike: “F*ck ICE!” “ICE out!” “Say their names: Renee Good!” Good was shot and killed by ICE agents in Minneapolis on Jan. 7, sparking national outcry. She was 37.

The conversation surrounding ICE is personal for many students at CSUMB, where around 46% of students were Latino as of 2023. “I am actually a daughter of immigrants. I am Mexican American, and this is really impacting my life,” said Brianna, a first-year Biology major at CSUMB. Given the subject of the protest, her last name has been omitted for the safety of her family. “It’s [scary for] my family, even my family who is legal... They’re scared sometimes to go out, just because ICE doesn’t care anymore. They’ll just detain you without a warrant, without anything.”

Unlike police and other law enforcement agencies that typically require orders signed by a judge, ICE has sweeping authority under current law to enter private property and execute arrests through the use of administrative warrants, internal documents that are themselves written and signed by ICE officers. This is one of several points that congressional Democrats are seeking to negotiate ahead of a Feb. 13 deadline for government funding, alongside stricter use-of-force standards and an end to racial profiling.

Eager, they say, to do their part in reining in the Trump administration, CSUMB students founded the Sunrise Movement’s local chapter last semester. Grace Sloca, a second-year environmental science major, was one of those students.

“Sunrise Movement is a student-led youth movement, and we are national... We have a bunch in L.A., we have some in the Bay Area, San Francisco, but they’re everywhere,” she said. “Originally, it was the climate crisis that we were aiming for, but now we took a shift toward authoritarianism, ‘cause you can’t fight the climate crisis with authoritarianism.”

CSUMB students weren’t alone in speaking out against ICE on Friday. They were joined by several faculty members, including marine science lecturer Robin

Pelc. “I really want to support this movement. I want to support the students who want to see a more just community,” she said.

The modest yet passionate crowd, about 30-40 strong, began to disperse after about an hour. As a new – and as of yet, unofficial – organization on campus, Sunrise Monterey Bay’s ability to reach and rally would-be protesters is limited. Engagement from more established groups, students and faculty that share Sunrise’s goals may help grow their platform and support energized events.

“I think it’s very important what’s going on,” said Matthew Flinders, a first-year biology major. “I wish more people showed up, but this was still a big turnout.”

Going forward, Sunrise Monterey Bay plans to continue fighting against ICE and the Trump administration’s agenda. They’ll be joining local advocacy groups, including Monterey Palestine Solidarity and Unite Monterey County, for the “March 4 Democracy” on March 4. Planned to begin at popular Monterey park and protest destination Window on the Bay, more information on that event will be coming soon; interested students can follow Sunrise Monterey Bay on Instagram for updates or get involved directly by filling out the Sunrise Monterey Bay Interest Form.

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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Gift something with love, not convenience



Hailey McConnell
Staff Writer

Love is in the air and it is important to make yourself and those you love feel special. Nothing screams I care about you as much as something made by hand. In a world where convenience is prioritized, challenge yourself this Valentine’s Day to break away from that cycle and spend some time on valentine crafts.

Valentine’s Day is meant to celebrate love, gifts are a central aspect of that for many people. As the day gets closer, consumers are swept up in the wave of “corporate profit-driven” stores, peddling everything from heart shaped chocolates to obnoxious looking teddy bears. They are a convenient buy for the time being, but are rarely kept and cherished.

For a holiday about love, there can be a lot of loveless gifts being handed out that only cause more waste at the end of the day. Instead, let’s use the time that you were going to spend shopping at stores or scrolling on Amazon to break out the paper and scissors!

Valentine’s Day cards are comparably simple to other crafts, but I genuinely believe that they are low risk and high reward because of the customability and emotional value. Making it specific to the loved one, holds more weight than any store bought card.

However, you are giving a part of yourself away through creating these and it can be a difficult brainstorming process. To stop yourself from giving up before you start, look for inspiration; I recommend checking out @byrakna on TikTok to start the process. They showcase simple step by step tutorials on creating a variety of different Valentine cards that can be easily adaptable.

While creating, keep in mind who you are creating for and their interests to decipher what is going to mean the most to them.

Additionally, this is a gift that does not have to be made for someone you are romantically involved with, I do not want you to stop yourself from trying because you feel you have no one to give it to. A valentine could be an expression of platonic love or familial love, there are countless people in my life that I know who could use some appreciation and extra love, who will definitely be getting a card from me this year.



ILLUSTRATION BY AMANDA RICHMAN

Another staple gift of Valentine’s Day is flowers. Real flowers, as lovely as they are, eventually die. It is an unfortunate reality, but there is a way to replicate that beauty for much longer and that is through crafting paper flowers.

This craft is quite versatile, there are so many different flowers that can be created and diverse materials that can be used when making them, so it can be difficult to make a decision. I recommend starting with the Youtube channel @BeingArtistic, they have multiple videos that give step by step tutorials to make different flowers that are reasonably paced and display the materials needed for each one before starting the project. Pick out a flower, either your favorite or a loved one’s, and start learning. It will be a lengthy process but the end product is a beautiful gift.

To make this process even easier and cheaper, students can and should use the Makerspace, a room that has loads of crafting supplies, free of charge. It is located on the third floor of the Tananamura & Antle Family Memorial Library and is open 12 to 4 p.m. on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

Disclaimer: I can not be held responsible for any broken hearts. Putting yourself out there like this can be emotional, especially in a romantic sense, but the time and effort that you put into the ones you love should matter. Do not let yourself fall victim of convenience, create something that will leave a lasting impression on someone - even if that someone is just you.

Crystal Lay on changing the narrative of on-campus living

Daisy Sanchez
Staff Writer

With housing being one of the most frequent topics of discussion amongst students at Cal State Monterey Bay (CSUMB), the news of a brand new housing director entering the school's sphere may leave some students feeling skeptical and resistant to the change, especially when looking at previous semesters' housing practices and directors who left students feeling unseen. Now, Dr. Crystal Lay is taking on the senior housing position with care, precision and optimism.

"Reading some of the things that had happened here prior, I was like, 'I think I can come in and really help this team grow and move forward.' So, what I read didn't scare me, it just intrigued me."

Lay began her position as Senior Director for Student Housing and Residential Life in the middle of October back in 2025, and is bringing years worth of both professional and educational experience along with her.

Born and raised in the city of Chicago, Lay earned her bachelor's degree in both English literature as well as broadcast communication from North Central College in Naperville Illinois, then went on to get her master's degree from Eastern Illinois University. Lay spoke on her robust undergraduate experience. Participating in everything from clubs to campus radio shows, Lay credits her ambition to try new things during her college years to her identity of being a first generation college student. "I was a DJ, I was a part of a duo that created the first hip-hop show at our campus radio station... I made homecoming court, I had work studies so I worked in admissions my first two years. I did a lot of community service... And then I was a president and vice president of black student association. so I was involved in everything possible, and first gen college student, and so I just wanted to try everything in undergrad." As far as professional experience goes,

Lay is bringing years worth of experience working within university housing and beyond, taking on roles as assistant housing director at Sonoma State, University of California, Berkeley, University of Colorado, Boulder, Northern Arizona University and many more. "I've been at every campus for three to four years, but my hope and goal is to be here long term because I believe in this program, and people have been really kind, and I see a lot of potential and growth and opportunity here at CSUMB."

Lay shared a handful of new changes coming to housing that her team and her are actively working on, including a new, full time position in housing dedicated to assisting students navigate the search for off campus housing.

Lay also listed details regarding the new student housing to take over Gavilan Hall. "It's about 240 beds, triples, and then folks get to, you know, that triple will have their own bathroom, and I think it's going to be a really neat experience for our sophomores who apply to live there." While the Gavilan Hall reconstruction project began prior to her arrival to campus and not being a part of the project's planning team, Lay is hopeful that the hall will be ready to house students by August 2026 if all construction goes according to plan. "With any campus and any construction project, you cross your fingers, right? Like, the weather, materials getting here, we stay on timeline, but the goal is to open for fall '26."

The soonest change that students will be able to see with housing this semester under Lay is the rebranding of what were previously known as "Reservation Days" for continuing students applying for on campus housing. "My understanding is that based on previous years, maybe more so last year, the term or the name of 'Reservation Days' just really holds, you know, some ill feelings, right?" The new name for the continuing



PHOTO COURTESY OF CRYSTAL LAY

students' student application will be "Settle in the Kelp," and Lay shared some of the differences between this semester's application versus previous years. "We have been working with our software company that we use to make sure that the application works better, that we hopefully will not have waitlists, and that your assigned time will be your assigned time." Lay further shared that additional application support will be available during the application process for students to utilize. "We're also flying out the team, and will have dedicated support to our office to ensure that we won't have any application failures, so I'm really excited about that, we have really put in a lot of time and money and resources to make sure that this process runs smoothly this year."

CSUMB's track record housing wise has been noted by students to be unresponsive and un-accommodating to students' needs over many years. Lay says that she is aware of the narration that exists in students' heads when they think of housing, and says it doesn't deter her from her goal of making housing better.

Rockin' Otters jam out at spring music festival Otterlands



The OSU ballroom buzzed with excitement for openers and headliners alike.

PHOTO BY ELLIOT ROWE

Daisy Sanchez
Staff Writer

Oldies tunes, hip-hop tracks and other serenading sounds filled the Otter Student Union (OSU) Thursday night at the annual Cal State Monterey Bay (CSUMB) music festival, Otterlands. Attendees gathered in the student union ballroom and quad, ready for a night of live music, crafts and community. The festival's lineup highlighted three student artists who warmed up the OSU audience leading up to the R&B headliner, Jordan Ward.

Both a play on words and an ode to the famous San Francisco music festival "Outside Lands," Otterlands is CSUMB's own spring music festival that brings together music loving students from all across campus. The event is a collaborative effort between Associated Students, Otter Media and Student Housing and Residential life. Although the event's main attraction is the live music, the student union quad was filled with art stations and other stands that allowed students to partake in vinyl record painting, T-shirt stamping and tie-dyeing, caricature art and more, all working together to keep the good vibes going even outside of the ballroom.

Second-year environmental science major and

Otter Media member Patrick Schmitt spoke on the importance of the pre-show artists being CSUMB students.

"A lot of bands play off campus, or like a lot of these bands, their only chances to play are here, which is really really cool. So it kind of brings them into the light, you know, in our kind of fast moving campus," said Schmitt.

Once attendees stocked up on snacks and made their crafts, concert-goers made their way inside the OSU ballroom.

Each artist had about an hour's worth of stage time to perform, with student artist Miss Fortune taking the stage first. No stranger to CSUMB stages, Miss Fortune serenaded the crowd with her witty lyricism and passionate vocal performance.

The next performers were The Mystic Souls, a Chicano-rock band and familiar face to the 831 music scene, led by frontman and CSUMB hospitality student Bryan Gutierrez. Their Otterlands performance skillfully handled genres the same

way Gutierrez juggled instruments, as he handed off his guitar for a flute and trumpet throughout their performance.

The third and final opening act was Devere, who returned to the Otterlands stage after performing at last year's festival. Devere's raps and rhymes warmed up the crowd for the artist that the crowd was buzzing to see: Jordan Ward.

Ward had the audience crowding the stage's barricade and dancing to his versatile songs and catchy beats. Ward danced up and down the stage, referring back to his days as a backup dancer for artists like Beyonce and Justin Bieber.

Fourth-year kinesiology major Andrew Ylanan said that his takeaway from Otterlands wasn't just the music, but the community and togetherness present at the event. "I'd recommend it to all years, you know, it's not just like [for] certain grades or something like that, like everyone should go to it"

"It's definitely a good way to make new friends and just have fun in general. Like just let loose."

Kelp black and white

Photo by Max Johnston Gomez



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!





D.I.Y. PAPER HEART CHAIN

SUPPLIES

- Craft Paper (two or more colors)
- Scissors
- Stapler or Glue

STEP 1.

Cut the paper into .5 inch thick strips along the short edge of the paper.

STEP 2.

Fold the strips of paper in half width-wise.

STEP 3.

Pull the two short edges towards the center fold and staple or glue them together.

STEP 4.

Thread another strip of paper through the paper heart and repeat step 3.

STEP 5.

Repeat step 4 until chain is desired length.

STEP 6.

Hang up with push pins, tape, or staples, and enjoy a festive Paper Heart Chain!



Upcoming Events

Mon, Feb. 9

In collaboration with Access Support Network, Undocu-Success Center and the Rainbow Raft are providing free HIV and hepatitis C rapid testing from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Know your status, see MyRaft for more information on how to reserve a time slot.

Tue, Feb. 10

Partake in on-campus women's social mixer Galentine's, This Valentine's from 5 to 7 p.m. in OSU 210. Featuring keynote speaker Dr. Shannon Snapp, this women's leadership initiative will focus on practicing self-love.

Thurs, Feb. 12

Join the Personal Growth and Counseling Center for a special edition of Let's Talk, focused on supporting undocumented students. This safe space for casual conversation will take place in Bldg 12 Rm 125 from 12 to 1:30 p.m.

Sat, Feb. 14

Come to the OSU Rookery on Valentine's Day for slam poetry, speed dating and valentine making. Join in on the festive fun at Single Super Slam Sesh from 12 to 2 p.m.

Puzzles

WORD SCRAMBLE

Love is in the air, Otters. Get in the Valentine's Day spirit with this festive word scramble.

cclthaooe

cipud

essro

irvlbeosd

ovel ttrete

ompe

omcorm

hatre

rninde

lswefor

ANSWERS:

lswefor
rninde, cipud, irvlbeosd, ompe, hate,
Cclthaooe, essro, ovel ttrete, omcorm,

