

## “WE ARE TIRED!”: Black Student Union reaffirms demands for accountability with petition



VISUAL BY AMANDA RICHMAN

By Sean Tubo  
Staff Writer

The Black Student Union (BSU) held an emergency meeting last Thursday to reaffirm demands made to the administration last semester after multiple incidents involving racist graffiti on black students' dorms. The meeting was held in the wake of concerns about treatment of their decorations and the quality of food following a cultural collaboration with the dining hall.

The Black Student Union says that they did not receive clear communication as to when and how to remove the decoration they put up for the collaboration. When they went to take them down, the decorations were returned to them in a trash bag. BSU members say the action feels disrespectful and disheartening.

With that comes two new demands for “extensive cultural research and respect with dining take-overs” and “respect and research in any and all events surrounding black culture.” A full list of demands can be found on their petition.

“Exhaustion” was the watchword of the emergency

meeting, with many students expressing a lack of energy to take action after what feels like repeated failures to respond from campus.

That message resonates in the simple call to action at the end of the petition, “Black students at CSU Monterey Bay have experienced racial discrimination on a continuous basis and WE ARE TIRED!”

Among the full list of demands were biweekly updates on security measures, a zero-tolerance policy for instances of racial discrimination, an African/Black Studies Department, more transparency in campus emails regarding incidents of racism, and improved security cameras in the dorms.

The petition also lists three key demands which the BSU says were never followed up on.

Discrimination to be addressed more directly.

RAs to enforce no whiteboards on doors, if that is

not possible, a written section located in community standards.

Update fire safety alarms on doors.

Recently, the university announced the first steps in an initiative to improve campus security, directly referencing a recent incident of graffiti found in the loading dock area of the OSU. The plan includes a three-phase upgrade and replacement of cameras in the residence halls.

A university spokesman was able to confirm this decision was made with input from the Black Student Union and Associated Students.

“In addition to the ongoing investigation, we are strengthening prevention and response efforts across campus. Actions underway include expanded education and training, enhancements to security camera coverage where appropriate, and increased oversight and monitoring in impacted areas,” said an email from campus officials.

### MCHA scholarship

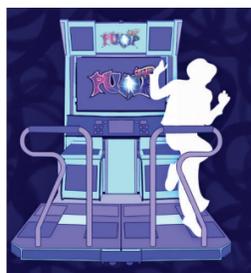
Learn about the Monterey County Hospitality Association's scholarship before the deadline!



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### Pump It Up Club profile

The party of the OSU Rookery, learn more about the Pump It Up Club here.



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### Opinion piece (Daisy)

Read ahead to hear our staff writer's opinions on the importance of third spaces.



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# Two professors, two departments, two perspectives on AI

Sean Tubo  
Staff Writer

“I know this is a thing I want, but this, I think, would ruin my interactions with people,” was computer science professor Sam Ogden’s take away after a 30-minute interview about the role of AI in college and teaching.

Sam Ogden is a computer science professor currently teaching advanced machine learning; Mridula Mascarenhas is a Humanities and Communications professor teaching the capstone class Being Human in an AI driven world.

For both teachers, AI is already playing a role in the classroom.

## Where can AI go wrong in the learning process?

Mascarenhas: If students don't use [AI] intelligently enough, then what they might be using it for is answering a prompt in a very general way. If I get submissions that don't look like they've gone in depth, particularly with respect to course material that we've talked about or discussions we've had in class, then that tells me that this was written by somebody that wasn't necessarily present in class and thinking about our coursework particularly.

Ogden: [Computer Science] is kind of taking the stuff that you've learned previously, and every year we kind of roll back another layer. AI can add a level of confusion to it. It'll give the way-too-deep answer, or it'll give the way-too-shallow answer.

## How do you feel about the use of AI in assisting research?

Mascarenhas: I don't know the architecture underlying [AI searches], and that's what makes me hesitant. But you know, the computer science professor, for example, might say ‘well, those five articles are coming up precisely because it's trolling the internet really well.’ What I will say about old school research, or at least the joy of it, was when you are the person going down



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CAL STATE MONTEREY BAY

the rabbit hole. There's also something about rolling yourself around in the literature, as opposed to getting it thrown up.

Ogden: Retrieval assisted generation or augmented generation, where it's going to go off and look in a database for specific things. It's great, but getting the systems to actually go off and query the database is a lot harder than you think it would be. For our school-specific information, say we had a bunch of information on CSUMB, getting it to pull from just that, it's not going to often do that.

## What difference have you noticed in students before and after AI?

Ogden: I don't see individual students code all that much. But what I do tend to see is on exams, I have a lot of open-ended short answer questions. And I will definitely see that there is a difference between how students who seem to have really grappled with the material will write the answers to questions and the ones who are just kind of like ‘I know this stuff’ and then the ones where there's a total disconnect.

Mascarenhas: I'm noticing across the board is

something that makes me wonder if students are relying on this more than they have in the past. Because I used to, as I mentioned in class, hear students' voices in their submissions, because everyone's got a unique way of speaking, a unique way of writing, particularly with students who are still formulating their academic voice. There used to be much more diversity. And when I see that uniqueness erased and very generic language, then that's usually a tip off.

## What can AI not do?

Mascarenhas: AI cannot teach you in that sense how to be a better thinker personally, or how to develop a life philosophy that is more profound than what you have right now, right? That's what universities do, that's what classrooms have done for a very long time.

Ogden: Sure, they can do very technically proficient things, but there's a difference between technically proficient and actually creating something artistic. And that's where it's the, I don't know where that line is because everyone else in my family is good at that. It's not me. But it seems to be something of that introspection, reflection and thinking about how to push back on the world a bit.

## 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**  
Layna Hughes  
mhughes@csumb.edu

**Production Manager**  
Zoe Kapp  
zkapp@csumb.edu

**Webmaster**  
Liam Willey  
lwilley@csumb.edu

**Assistant Editor**  
Eli Heck  
heck@csumb.edu

**Photographers**  
Elliot Rowe  
erowe@csumb.edu

**Social Media Manager**  
Lindsey Ruiz  
linruiz@csumb.edu

**Visual Editor**  
Amanda Richman  
arichman@csumb.edu

**Staff Writers**  
Jocelyn Corona  
jocccorona@csumb.edu  
Hailey McConnell  
hmcconnell@csumb.edu  
Tom Nolan  
tonolan@csumb.edu  
Daisy Sanchez  
daisanchez@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

The Lutrinae is a student-run publication produced for the students of CSUMB. Opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of The Lutrinae, CSUMB administration, faculty, or staff.

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.

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



@thelutrinae



# “You have the passion, we have the cash”: Applications still open for hospitality scholarship

Tom Nolan  
Staff Writer

Scholarships worth at least \$2,500 will be awarded to hospitality students this summer through the Monterey County Hospitality Association (MCHA). Applications close March 15, and recipients will be announced in May.

The scholarship is open to undergraduate students majoring in hospitality or related fields. Preference is given to California residents – particularly those in Monterey County, including Cal State Monterey Bay (CSUMB) students.

“Our hope is to keep the funds local – for the future leaders of our hospitality industry,” said Kirsten Horton, executive director of the MCHA, in a prepared statement.

The MCHA has offered the scholarship annually since 1995 as part of its partnership with the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation. The foundation, whose scholarships webpage declares that “you have the passion, we have the cash,” funds the MCHA program through an endowment that grows annually. They’ve awarded hospitality students over \$27 million total since 1987, including \$80,000 through the MCHA scholarship alone.

Hospitality is a diverse industry that includes hotels, restaurants and visitor attractions like aquariums and theme parks. Among its strengths, Horton says, is the career flexibility the field offers.

“The wonderful thing about the hospitality industry is that there is great opportunity for career growth, and the ability to shift based on needs and interest. Many current general managers in our local industry have been involved in various areas of hospitality over the years,” said Horton.

The scholarship is far from the only opportunity the MCHA offers students looking to start a career in hospitality. “We welcome volunteers at our events and have several students that are currently involved,” said Horton. “It is a wonderful way to network and get a better understanding of the type of work and people in

the industry.”

According to Horton, the MCHA’s student volunteers are overseen by Paige Viren, executive director of the sustainable hospitality management program at CSUMB. The two also collaborate to offer internships, training and development opportunities. Horton encourages students interested in MCHA programs to contact Viren.

“MCHA hosts a spring Hospitality Job Fair and partners with CSUMB on a Fall Hospitality Career Fair. Both are open to students and a great way to get in front of employers.”

Some opportunities, like the scholarship, are competitive and may not be available to every student. Overall, MCHA’s main goal seems to be enabling especially motivated students to achieve excellence. An article published on their website last year demonstrated this by highlighting the achievements of Carson Meachim, a 2023 CSUMB alum now working in management at the Sanctuary Beach Resort.

“Carson’s story is a great example of how CSUMB prepares students to lead with purpose. He’s now applying what he learned in class directly to his role at one of Monterey’s top hotels—and showing future students what’s possible when you combine education with passion and community engagement,” said Enya Koo, the MCHA intern and CSUMB hospitality student who wrote the article. “His journey proves that local schools like CSUMB are essential for developing skilled professionals who care about sustainability and their communities.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF CAL STATE MONTEREY BAY

# Mold concerns plague students new to the Central Coast

**Tom Nolan**  
Staff Writer

Concerns over mold in housing on and off campus have prompted reports by students at Cal State Monterey Bay (CSUMB). The issue of mold plagues many coastal communities, including Monterey County, particularly during wet months.

The looming threat of mold may come as a surprise to students moving to the Central Coast from drier climates. Occasional, contained cases can be common and are typically no cause for concern, provided residents address them immediately. Untreated outbreaks or those involving black mold (*Stachybotrys chartarum*), however, can pose serious health risks, especially for those with respiratory conditions or illnesses.

A CSUMB spokesperson reported that the school received 38 work orders related to mold concerns in the last year. “We encourage any student who is experiencing an issue with mold to immediately report the issue to a resident advisor who will file a maintenance request, and who can assist them if a move is required,” they said in an email.

The spokesperson also maintains that none of those 38 reports “were mold upon inspection.” The spokesperson did not speculate on what could be prompting the dozens of reports if not mold, nor did they speak on the procedures leading up to an inspection.

In an article the *Lutrinae* published in May 2024, public information officer Walter Ryce discussed the outcome of the 17 mold reports filed that spring. “At least three of these cases were minimal with mold on shower curtains that were cleaned or replaced,” Ryce said at the time. “In cases that were more extensive, external vendors were called in to test for mold, clean the space and repair any damaged surfaces.”

Mold outbreaks, which typically occur around windows or in bathrooms, are most frequent during the wet season. In Monterey, that typically aligns with winter months but can extend through the end of April, according to a 2025 See Monterey article. The area receives as much as four inches of rain each month during that time. This creates an ideal environment for mold, which thrives in humid conditions, in and around heated buildings.



ILLUSTRATION BY AMANDA RICHMAN

Effectively treating a mold outbreak requires swift, thorough cleaning and careful steps to protect the health of those involved. The Monterey County Health Department recommends scrubbing affected areas with household cleaner, disinfecting with a mix of bleach and water and air drying for 1-2 days. Never mix bleach and ammonia, as the resulting fumes can be toxic. Gloves should also be worn throughout mold cleanup, and those with asthma or other respiratory conditions should not participate.

Efforts to curb mold problems in coastal housing continue at both local and national levels. U.S. Rep. Jimmy Panetta, whose district includes CSUMB and the entire coastline of Monterey Bay, introduced the Military Occupancy Living Defense MOLD Act last month, aiming to enforce health standards for mold outbreaks in privatized military housing. The CSUMB campus, built around the decommissioned Fort Ord in 1994, is not covered by the bill and will need to find its own pathway to protections for students.

## Why should we be aware about exploring our relationship with food and body?

**Isaac Gonzalez Diaz**  
Contributing Writer

Registered dietitian Lisa McGlothlin and Carissa Surace, a therapist with 10 years of experience, hosted “Exploring Relationships with Food and Body,” a talk space during National Eating Disorder Awareness Week. The event aimed to pull focus away from food restriction and shame, and toward awareness, curiosity and compassion.

“Usually most people don’t have a great relationship with their body. Sometimes they also feel a little good when they’re engaging in any sort of behavior, because it can be relieving some of the anxiety and stress,” said Surace, “but typically the relationship with their body is not. There is a lot of shame that is underlined, a lot of shame around their bodies and themselves.”

“I would say an eating disorder is also a factor to cope with stress, trauma, other trauma or other sort of just really difficult feelings that might impact what people choose to eat,” said Surace.

There isn’t one single disordered eating habit. Some eating disorders are restrictive while others are relative to bingeing and purging food.

“If we don’t eat enough throughout the day, it affects our sleep and our digestion, but also can be the opposite if we eat a lot. Really, eating a lot really close to bed can impact our digestion and make it hard to sleep too,” said McGlothlin.

Another factor that can lead to changing eating habits and body perception is social media.

“It is presented like it can be attainable if anybody follows this particular diet routine, like if they did this or ‘if you buy my supplement or if you do my exercise routine’ you can look like whoever,” said McGlothlin.



VISUAL COURTESY OF CSUMB HEALTH AND WELLNESS SERVICES

“It can really damage people’s perception of themselves and relationship to their body,” said Surace.

Cultural aspects also interfere with eating habits and body perception. Within a culture, we are taught customs on how, how much, when and when not to eat.

“If we might realize oh my family doesn’t eat sugar ever and other families do or my friends family doesn’t have

any bread in the house and my family does. So, I think it can really reshape how we start,” said McGlothlin.

Surace claims that it is important to have a healthy relationship with our image and the food we consume.

“It means getting to have whatever food you want,” said Surace. “Consider nutrition, but also joy and health and connection,” said Surace.

# Pump It Up Club: the hidden gem of the OSU Rookery!

Hayley Matto  
Staff Writer

Tucked away in the back corner of the Otter Student Union Rookery, unbeknownst to many students, is likely the fifth best kept Pump It Up dance machine in all of the U.S.

Robert Redoble, an alumni from Cal State San Luis Obispo and longtime coach of the game, has been working hard to keep the machine refurbished and in tip top shape, almost as hard as he has worked on being an excellent coach to the students who now run the Pump It Up Club.

“I did compete nationally for 15 years, but now I’m more in mentor mode. I still like to use the game to stay in shape, but I really just enjoy helping the students learn it to up their fitness and self confidence,” said Redoble. “Oftentimes in rhythm game communities, things can be very toxic, but this club started with 40 plus people pre-COVID and since making a comeback, the community has been very welcoming and inclusive. It’s great to see, I haven’t ever seen anything like it, this campus community is definitely an exception to the typical toxic attitudes.”

“This is a great machine to start off on, the pads are very well maintained. In America, arcades are in really bad shape, everything usually is in terrible condition,” said Redoble. He is the whole reason this machine is in such good condition, paying out of pocket to take care of it, adjust the sensors, keep things level, keeping it as pristine as possible for students.

“This is one of the only universities that keeps this machine on freeplay mode for the students to use for free. Other universities will charge students a dollar or two to play per-round,” said Redoble.

Gilberto Villicana, a second year mechatronics engineering major and president of Pump It Up Club, is

ILLUSTRATION BY AMANDA RICHMAN

eager to open the game up to the community of Cal State Monterey Bay. “The club is all about being a safe place for people to be able to learn and play the game, pick their own challenges, have friendly rivalry, grow their skills, that sort of thing,” said Villicana.

“Robert basically taught me basically everything I know about the game. After he got me interested in the game, I

semester at CSUMB in 2022, and hasn’t stopped since.

“There were plans to recreate the previous club that had interested me for a long time, but Gilbert actually took the reins and made it a reality again,” said Alcaraz. “The franchise is older than most students on campus, with media coverage dating back to 2005. Look up videos like ‘Pump It Up Freestyle,’ or ‘Pump It Up tournaments.’ There is a world of talented players who do not necessarily know how to ‘dance’ while still having a blast on the machine.”

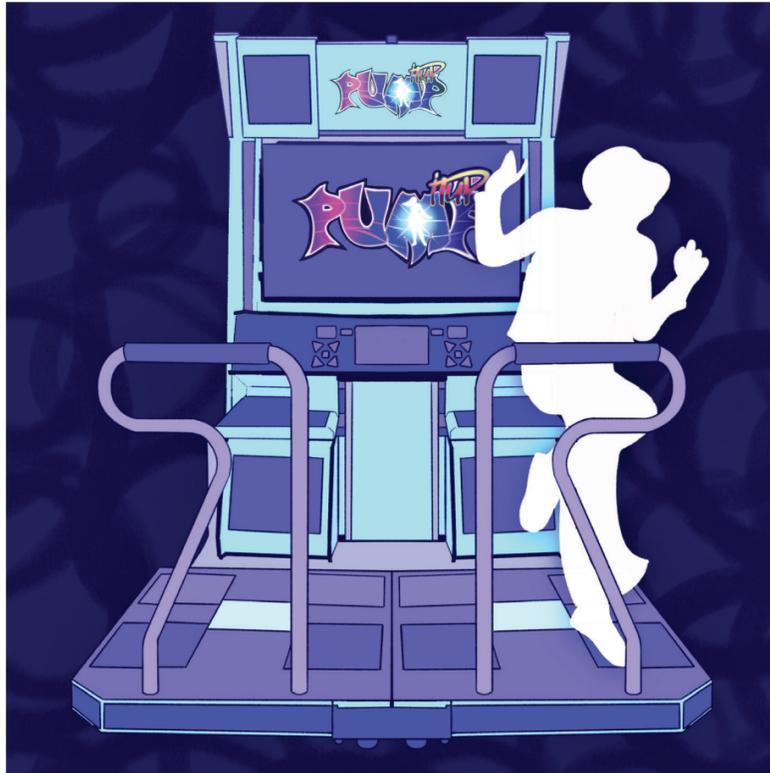
For anyone feeling nervous about trying it out, Alcaraz offers some tips.

“We teach everything players need to know about levels and difficulties in the game itself, because some charts are from older games where Level 8s could be Level 10s, and so on. We have a lot of fun teaching players how to hone their skills on the machine and play to the best of their abilities! It’s honestly just a good workout once you get to the more challenging levels, which we happily train our members to do!”

The club tries to meet twice a month on Thursdays, but is subject to change based on the Rookery’s availability. “We want to host another Dance After Dark, where we can hopefully get the Rookery at OSU for the evening and turn the lights low so the machine can really shine, much like our players! We are also hoping to plan Round 1 Salinas trips, Tournaments for fun prizes and gift cards, and fundraisers to save up for the next edition of Pump It Up!” said Alcaraz.

To keep up on when they meet and when future events take place follow them at [piu.csUMB](https://www.instagram.com/piu.csUMB) on instagram.

“Healthy small competition really grows the friendship circle,” says Villicana.



wanted to encourage others to play as well and experience the same thing I did.”

Nadia Alcaraz, a fourth-year business major and vice president of the club, said she’s been playing since her first

# ‘Scream 7’ fails to make a killing at the box office

Hayley Matto  
Staff Writer



Horror fans paraded into theaters to see “Scream 7” excited to see their favorite characters one last time in the franchise’s newest film. Unfortunately many fans, including myself, left the theater having had more laughs and sighs than screams.

The movie opens with a couple on vacation staying at a Scream Killer-themed vacation rental full of murder memorabilia, including motion-activated animatronics with the ability to track you while moving in a stabbing motion. This was a great start that immediately felt like the 1980’s gore, suspense-filled-horror fans of this genre love to see. However, after this scene played out, the audience was tossed into the original storyline of Sydney and her daughter and the horror hit a wall. The jumpscare and plot were predictable, and unfortunately the rest of the film felt poorly strung together; serving only to dish out familiar faces from the franchise.

These familiar faces being Neve Campbell and Courtney Cox reprising their roles as final-girl Sydney Prescott and news reporter Gale Weathers. The supporting cast included Joel McHale as Mark Evans, Isabel May as Tatum Evans, a surprise appearance from growing scream queen Mackenna Grace (coming off of her role in “Five Nights at Freddy’s”) and a much anticipated cameo from Matthew Lillard as Stu Machard.

While this casting sounds phenomenal, I feel the writing failed them. Lillard’s screentime amounted to well under five minutes, with Stu’s cameo speculated to be an AI generated by in-universe Ghostface fanatics, not as the iconic villain we know him to be. The reach to be modern and realistic to our current time hurt this movie far more than it helped. It took away from the fear and just made the entire thing funny.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PARAMOUNT PICTURES

Sometimes relatable doesn’t work well, especially when watching horror movies. We’d rather be scared by the unimaginable, instead of unimpressed by the predictable.

After watching “Send Help” last week and being disappointed with the gore in that film, I was really hopeful for a redemption watch for the horror fans, this was simply not that. With kills happening that felt so forced the story was unchanged by the murders, slow pacing and dialogue that even felt flat, lacking fresh humor and failing to provide any sort of redemption to the story as a whole, I am starting to wonder if the entire genre should be left to the Halloween season and

stay out of the rest of the year.

It’s safe to say that the fandom felt spoon fed with this one, it feels wrong to even give this a single pepper on the spicy scale. Let this be a lesson to future franchises, maybe end the score three or four films in. Sometimes too much is possible and the reason we love to watch and rewatch is because we are left wishing we had more.

We are taking a brief break next week, but stay tuned as in the next few weeks I will be diving into the Oscar nominations, and then ending out the month of March with an out of this world collaboration with Eli comparing the book to the film, “Project Hail Mary.”

# Why maintaining third spaces should be our first priority

**Opinion**

Dear Students,

In a world of AI slop, chat bot friends and digital echo chambers, social spaces are depleting almost as fast as our drinking water. Gen Z are some of the first to witness the mass absence of “third spaces,” places that are not work or school made for gathering and assembly. However, with online shopping strangling in-person stores and urban development dwindling city parks, younger generations are left with an unfortunate ultimatum: hide out in their room and sink into the social media abyss, or do nothing. Though this may sound pessimistic, I have hope. Young people have found salvation and refuge in unlikely places for decades. Places like 6th Avenue Studios invite people to loosen up and spend time in the presence of others rather than wasting it in isolation with a phone in their hand. Before its closure in 2020, The Black Box Cabaret theater was a third space so close that students could walk to it from their dorm rooms. When the doors of the venue closed, so did a world of third spaces for thousands of students. Its reopening is exactly what we need during times like these. Hopefully, this will inspire the opening of more and more spaces dedicated to gathering, community and connection.

From,  
Daisy Sanchez  
*Staff Writer*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "daisy" followed by a stylized flourish.

## Window Shopping

By Cj Clark



## 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!



# Upcoming Events

## Monday, Mar. 2

Destress at Clay and Chill with the Active Minds club from 5 to 7 p.m. (Bldg 100, Campus Center).

## Tuesday, Mar. 3

Come to the OSU Game Room from 6:30 to 8 p.m. for Hanging with the Clubs. Spend time gaming or getting creative with campus organizations.

## Wednesday, Mar. 4

Main Quad will be hosting an opportunity fair from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Meet with campus advisors and learn how to build your portfolio at Networked, Not Overworked.

## Wednesday, Mar. 4

Come to the OSU Ballroom from 2 to 4 p.m. to support small, women-owned businesses at the Art is Liberation, Femme is Resistance art market.

# Puzzles

## WORD SCRAMBLE

Celebrate National Banana Cream Pie Day, March 2, with a themed word scramble.

ragsu

butrte

nanaab

mkli

lnvalai

rmahag reacrsck

ggse

rsefwa

ehdipwp amrce

rcstuad

### ANSWERS:

ragsu, nanaab, lnvalai, ggse, ehdipwp amrce, butrte, mkli, rmahag reacrsck, rsefwa, rcstuad

# Word Search

