

Alisal Fire Continues To Grow 20 Miles From UCSB

Atmika Iyer
County News Editor

The Alisal Fire – a vegetation fire that began in the ridge above the Alisal Guest Ranch and Resort – has steadily grown to over 15,000 acres with 5% containment as of Oct. 13 at 1 p.m. The fire has been burning since around 2 p.m. on Oct. 11, with unfavorable wind conditions pushing the increasing acreage.

Beginning at 7 p.m. on Oct. 13, a federal Type 1 Incident Command Team (IMT) with 58 leadership positions – greater than the former 12-person team – will be taking over command of the Alisal Fire response, according to a county press conference on Oct. 13.

According to Matthew Farris, the deputy commander of the county's Type 3 IMT, the high wind velocity is preventing the team from responding to the east and west sides of the Alisal Fire. However, when wind conditions are more favorable, the responding teams will be able to engage with them.

"It's going to be a challenge as the wind shifts from the offshore winds ... to this diurnal onshore flow that we can feel here at camp this afternoon," Los Padres National Forest Fire Chief Jimmy Harris said, referencing the Earl Warren Showgrounds where the press conference was held.

"So as the wind shifts, it's actually the most dangerous time, the most critical time of the fire because the fire will

change directions on us. We are well-poised to address those challenges with the team that's come in and the small army of firefighters we've amassed here."

During the press conference, County Fire Chief Mark Hartwig said that this fire will take weeks, if not months, to fully put out.

Third District Supervisor Joan Hartmann assured the public that the "very best people and the very best resources anywhere in the country" are responding to the fire.

"We've been through this many times before. We know how to call people into action, and everyone knows their job and they're all here," Hartmann said.

Hartmann encouraged hypervigilance as California enters its fire season. Though smoke has been clouding the air in Isla Vista, the campus has repeatedly sent emails saying that I.V. is safe from the fires. No evacuation warnings or orders have been issued for I.V.

"UC Santa Barbara officials continue to monitor the Alisal Fire burning approximately 20 miles west of the campus and Isla Vista. Local fire officials continue to advise us that there is no immediate threat to the UC Santa Barbara campus or Isla Vista area. The campus remains open and operational," an Oct. 12 email from the university read.

The Nexus will continue to update its live story and Twitter thread as more information about the fire becomes available.

UC-AFT Lecturers Hold Informational Pickets Across UC Campuses for Better Job Security and Pay

Mark Alfred
Reporter
Holly Rusch
University News Editor
Atmika Iyer
County News Editor

The University Council-American Federation of Teachers is holding informational pickets across all University of California campuses, advocating for better job security and pay.

The University Council-American Federation of Teachers (UC-AFT) is a union that represents the UC's non-tenure-track teachers and librarians. The union has been trying to renegotiate lecturer contracts for over three and a half years, arguing that the lack of job security and low salaries are unfair compared to CSUs' and community colleges' contracts that keep lectures on longer and pay more. The median annual salary of a UC lecturer is \$19,067.

Negotiations between the union and UC management began Jan. 30, 2019. One year later, lecturers' contracts expired during negotiations, and UC lecturers have been working without one ever since. After over a year and a half of negotiations with management and no agreement made, the union voted in May of this year to authorize a strike, giving union leaders the power to call one when they see fit.

"This is an informational picket that is part of our



MARK ALFRED / DAILY NEXUS

Lecturers hold informational picket at Storke Tower to inform public of lack of job security and sufficient pay.

bargaining process to make sure that the campus community understands the stakes involved with our job security and workload issues," Bill Quirk, and the larger community workload issues," Bill Quirk,

executive director of UC-AFT, said at the 10 a.m.-2 p.m. picket at UC Santa Barbara's Storke Tower.

During the informational picket, Quirk added that the purpose of the picket is for the broader community to understand why lecturers are concerned with their job security and workload.

"We are organizing toward a strike in the case that the university does not meet our core demands in bargaining around job security and workload. And the things that we're demanding are basic."

The union concluded its period of mediation and is beginning the process of fact-finding where both sides submit various documents related to their arguments and have the opportunity to request any records they need. This is a step required by the state government, which the union sees as an effort to "delay and even prevent workers from going on strike," according to their website. The union is barred from calling a strike related to this contract dispute until the fact-finding process has ended.

The union is also debating whether or not to strike later this fall regarding multiple unfair labor practice charges they have filed against UC management. The union cites management's refusal to negotiate with the union regarding additional costs that lecturers incurred

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UCSB Student Dies on Sigma Nu Trip; Fraternity Suspended for Holding "Unsanctioned Event"

Holly Rusch
University News Editor
Atmika Iyer
County News Editor

Second-year student and fraternity member Ryan Michalski died from blunt force trauma in an accident during Sigma Nu's unsanctioned trip to Running Springs in San Bernardino County – informally known as the fraternity's annual Big Bear trip – in May 2021.

On May 21, Michalski and his fraternity brothers were in Running Springs when Michalski fell and "sustained severe injuries," according to retired San Bernardino Sheriff's Office Public Information Officer Jodi Miller. Miller said the county fire department transported Michalski to the Loma Linda University Medical Center, where he died on May 25 at 8:45 p.m. from blunt force trauma to his head, according to his death certificate.

There was no homicide investigation into Michalski's death since it was ruled an accident, according to Miller.

The UC Santa Barbara chapter of Sigma Nu has been placed on a yearlong suspension for the unsanctioned trip, according to UCSB spokesperson Andrea Estrada.

"The investigation into Ryan Michalski's death is a law enforcement matter. But the fraternity has been found responsible for holding an



JUSTIN TSE / DAILY NEXUS

The UCSB chapter of Sigma Nu will remain on suspension until June 10, 2022.

unsanctioned event during a time when in-person events were prohibited by the university, and it has been sanctioned accordingly," Estrada said in an Oct. 12 statement to the Nexus.

UCSB Sigma Nu chapter president and fourth-year film and media studies major Emerson Stewart said in a statement to the Nexus, "every member of Sigma Nu is devastated by the loss of Ryan Michalski."

"He was a genuinely kind person, and we are all going to remember and miss him for the rest of our lives. Our hearts go out to his family who have no doubt suffered an unimaginable loss," Stewart said.

"We are working with our nationals and with the school to move forward in a healthy

way that is respectful to both Ryan and his family. One of our goals is to work with the school to eventually create a philanthropy project in Ryan's honor when the appropriate time comes," he continued.

During Michalski's memorial service, friends and family described him as a quiet, thoughtful and bright person who loved the Los Angeles Chargers and participated in many sports including soccer, baseball, lacrosse and tennis. Michalski's brother also praised his chess skills.

Sigma Nu was placed on interim investigatory suspension following Michalski's death, which has now transitioned into a yearlong sanction. The Student Engagement and Leadership website states that

the chapter is suspended until June 10, 2022.

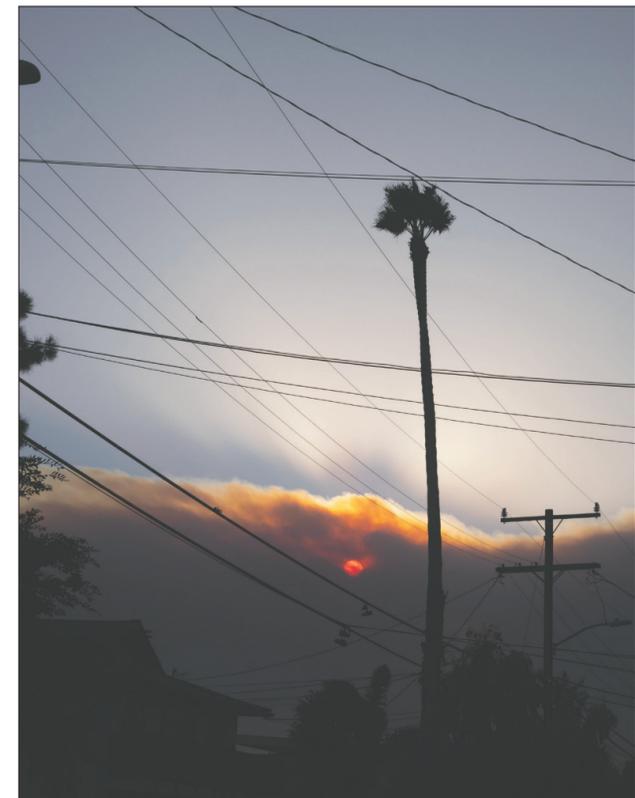
While typically such a suspension involves "prohibition on operating, recruiting or fraternizing with other organizations," Estrada said that the "highly unusual circumstances" might result in allowing limited activities "focused on grieving and healing."

Over the course of the 2020-21 academic year, nine sororities and fraternities were reported for violating public health orders for hosting or participating in large gatherings during a time when in-person events were prohibited by the university.

Of the organizations that were reported for holding unsanctioned events during this time period, repeat offender Alpha Tau Omega was the only one that was sanctioned, eventually resulting in social probation and the loss of its spring 2021 recruitment. All others only received warnings during the 2020-21 school year.

When asked about the differences in sanctions by the Nexus, Estrada said that the university "cannot speak to specifics" and that each investigation is "individualized and conducted on a case-by-case basis."

UCSB's Interfraternity Council did not respond to multiple requests for comment upon time of publication.



SYD HAUPT / DAILY NEXUS



JUSTIN TSE / DAILY NEXUS

Smoke and ash continue to cover the skies over Isla Vista and Goleta.

Design Review Committee Reviews Details on Munger Hall



Courtesy of UCSB Current

Asumi Shuda
Asst. News Editor

UC Santa Barbara's Design Review Committee held a meeting on Oct. 5 to review the details of the Munger Hall Project – an 11-story dorm building that is projected to provide over 5,000 undergraduate students housing by fall 2025.

Munger Hall – named after Charles Munger, UCSB alumni who donated \$200 million for the building – addresses the Long Range Development Plan (LRDP) in which UCSB entered into an agreement with the county to provide adequate housing while increasing student enrollment as mandated by the University of California. Since the creation of the plan in 2010, LRDP plans to house 5,000 more students and include 1,800 new units for faculty through 2025.

A controversy with the construction of Munger Hall are the windows – or lack thereof.

"Many of the bedrooms have windows, and many more do not," Navy Banvard, architect for Munger Hall, said in response to a public commentator's question about the building's windows.

Banvard said that the bedrooms without windows will have a "fresh air supply" coming in and "virtual windows that simulate daylight."

Ventilation requirements mandate rooms must have either chemical ventilation or natural ventilation, according to Dennis McFadden, architect and design consultant for the Design Review Committee. The code also allows for artificial lighting and does not require natural lighting in all spaces. Regardless, many of the bedrooms currently do not have

windows in place.

The project began with a letter to Chancellor Henry T. Yang by Munger, which highlighted six key components of Munger Hall.

Munger first emphasized the dorm building bringing students together and "enhancing the student experience." The dorm would encourage a co-living model through the narrowness of its spaces that "encourage interaction," Banvard said.

"This idea of co-living is very current today," said Greg Otto from Clark Pacific, who is collaborating on the design build of the structure. "[Munger's] idea is really [about] encouraging those relationships amongst suitemates ... and improving the on-campus experience by providing the right amenity mix to really make it a 24/7 campus."

Cost-wise, Munger planned to minimize costs of the building's construction by maximizing the number of beds in a given site – creating eight houses per floor, eight suites per house and eight private bedrooms per suite, along with nine floors of houses.

Each suite also contains a shared study area with a kitchenette, along with two gender neutral restrooms. All suites are connected to the common area of the house through a 7-foot-wide gallery, and the common area includes a large kitchen, laundry room, game room and a few public restrooms.

"I think the goal was to provide a good place for studying and sleeping, but then provide all these ample community spaces outside the bedroom," Banvard said.

The 11th floor of the building, the amenity level – referred to

as the "town in the sky" – will hold a fitness center, gastropub demonstration kitchen, central courtyard and a landscaped courtyard covered in enhanced green fluorescent, transparent and synthetic protein material.

This courtyard will be located outside of the recreation area of the structure and hold a "deconstructed grid of trees" to create an ambiance of spaciousness.

Right above the gastropub kitchen will be a terrace and lawn area, with terrace seating overlooking the lawn and a possible drop-down movie screen.

Much of the construction of Munger Hall will be prefabricated – meaning components of the structure will be made somewhere different from the site itself. First, the precast superstructure facade is coming in fully glazed as a wall panel. The superstructure includes a glass fiber-reinforced-gypsum-utilized ceiling.

In addition, the exterior walls of the building through the 10th floor are precast concrete shear walls, and the windows are commercial-grade, thermally broken aluminum windows with all the glass placed in the front of the building.

Banvard and his team of architects also prioritized repetition within the suites, with the options of a private room dorm and a three-bedroom and two-bathroom dorm, accompanied by a prefabricated multi-disciplinary assembly around the hallways and study rooms.

"The ultimate goal is to realize such a successful student housing project, that it will be recreated on other university campuses," Banvard said.

IVRPD and UCSB Rec Department Offer Free Classes, Events

Holly Rusch
University News Editor

The Isla Vista Recreation and Parks District is hosting weekly pop-up events in collaboration with the UC Santa Barbara Department of Recreation, offering free classes and events for the Isla Vista community.

"The goal is to offer free recreation classes and events that the entire community of Isla Vista can participate in, while activating park space and giving residents an inside look at the various recreation programs

that UCSB Recreation offers for both students and Isla Vista residents," said Luis Valerio, Isla Vista Recreation and Parks District (IVRPD) recreation coordinator, in an email to the Nexus.

Previous events have included an Oct. 2 birding event in Tierra de Fortuna Park – "highlight[ing] the diverse bird population that can be found in IVRPD's two largest parks, Camino Corto Open Space and Del Sol Vernal Pool Reserve" – and a cornhole competition in Little Acorn Park.

"With 25 parks in IVRPD's park system, we targeted parks in various neighborhoods in Isla Vista to showcase the diversity of our park system and highlight the various park amenities available to the public," Valerio said in the email.

Future events include Oct. 16 bouldering and slacklining at Trigo-Pasado Park and an Oct. 23 3v3 Basketball Tournament, according to the Shoreline event calendar where students can pre-register for events. Walk-in participants are also welcome, according to Valerio.



Nexus File Photo

IVCSD Approves Grant Program for Halloween Programming

Atmika Iyer
County News Editor

During the Isla Vista Community Services District's Oct. 12 meeting, the board of directors approved a \$10,000 grant program which will fund Halloween programming in a 6-to-1 vote.

An additional \$3,000 was set aside for community outreach to spread awareness of the pop-up Halloween events.

The grant money will allow local community organizations to enter into a facility-use agreement with Isla Vista Community Services District (IVCSD) to fund its respective Halloween programming and temporarily become a community facility, IVCSD General Manager Jonathan Abboud said during the meeting. IVCSD Director Spencer Brandt came up with the idea of creating a grant program in place of IVCSD solely creating programming itself.

The board of directors engaged in a debate over whether or not sponsoring recreation events is within the scope of IVCSD's powers. Though some directors

disagreed with one another, the 6-to-1 vote ultimately went in favor of holding the pop-up events.

"My legal analysis is that ... these temporary facilities are able to be managed and operated consistent with the district's power," Ross Trindle, the district's legal counsel, said.

Trindle clarified that his analysis is from a legal standpoint, not a policy standpoint.

The criteria to host an event include that the event is open to the public, is a positive, safe and healthy environment, draws people away from private parties and is family-friendly.

The Halloween planning committee – composed of IVCSD Directors Brandt, Catherine Flaherty and Ethan Bertrand – said during its Sept. 28 meeting that in recent years, there has been an "imbalance between the public safety response and the needs of the community." To address the imbalance and provide an alternative to partying, IVCSD is planning at least two pop-up events near Embarcadero Del Mar thus far.

IVCSD is planning to partner with the Isla Vista Food Cooperative to host a costume contest on its patio on Oct. 30. In addition, the St. George Youth Center has offered to work with IVCSD to host a pumpkin carving event on Oct. 31, and the IVCSD will also help fund UC Santa Barbara Associated Students' Haunt the Loop event on Oct. 31.

"I'm really excited about this. The collaboration has been really strong with our partner businesses and organizations," Bertrand said. "We're really excited to have something that is a small step towards our goal of reimagining what Halloween and what a festival weekend is like in Isla Vista."

Flaherty emphasized that the grant programming will allow organizations to plan for a safe Halloween.

"It's been really exciting seeing all of the community conversations. So many different organizations are really hoping to plan in advance for Halloween so it can be safe and enjoyed by all residents so I'm excited to support this," Flaherty said.

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Contact Us

News Office:
Phone: (805) 893-2691
Email: eic@dailynews.com

Advertising Office:
Phone: (805) 893-3828
Fax: (805) 893-2789

University of California, Santa Barbara
PO Box 13402 UCEN
Santa Barbara, CA 93106

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Nexus Photo Team

This photo was taken as a screenshot during the Oct. 12 IVCSD meeting.

Julián Castro Speaks Against Texas Abortion Law at UCSB Arts & Lectures Event

Atmika Iyer
County News Editor
Holly Rusch
University News Editor

Former Democratic presidential candidate and current MSNBC News political analyst Julián Castro spoke against the new Texas abortion law on Oct. 10 at UC Santa Barbara's first in-person Arts & Lectures event since campus closure.

Castro, who was the youngest U.S. housing and urban development secretary under the Obama administration, discussed the ramifications of TX SB8 – a new Texas law restricting abortion six weeks into a pregnancy – as well as his personal experiences with politics, identity and education.

The event – titled “Waking Up From My American Dream” – was the first Arts & Lectures component of the “Justice for All” series, which aims to “[confront] the inequalities that shape our policies, our institutions and our lives.”

Castro began his speech discussing the effects of the pandemic on Americans. He emphasized that the pandemic uprooted many American lives, with many facing obstacles to meet their basic needs, the country confronting systemic racism and attacks on American democracy as seen during the Jan. 6 riots.

“It’s fair to say that these past 18 months that we’ve been through are unlike anything that anybody has ever lived through

before,” Castro said during the event. “Census figures just reminded us a few weeks ago of very powerfully how much our country continues to change and to mature, to evolve in different ways. All of that. All of that in this year, 2021, is enough to make people feel uncertain, feel sometimes disoriented – for some folks, scared.”

The challenge, according to Castro, is to confront the effects of the pandemic, systemic racism and other issues without “giv[ing] it to our worst instincts to peddle division, fears, and bigotry and xenophobia.”

Castro combined humor with political analysis while conveying his frustration with Texas’s new abortion law. Castro added that many states are trying to follow Texas’s example in introducing anti-abortion legislation.

“I wish that I could say that what happens in Texas stays in Texas, like it was Las Vegas,” Castro joked to applause from the crowd. “But you know, we can’t say that. What happens in Texas intimately impacts what happens in other states.”

According to Castro, the solution lies in setting aside divisions and coming together as a community.

“In responding to these times, one path has been this path of fear and division and bigotry,” Castro said. “But there’s also another path. There’s a path that I hope is building on perhaps one of the most fundamental lessons that I hope we have learned or relearned during this pandemic: that all of us are in

this together.”

Castro said that building community begins with policy.

“To me, it starts with treating basic things like health care and housing and education and basic economic opportunity as a human right,” Castro said. “Over the last decade and a half, we’ve come a long way ... I believe that in our country, we need to reach for that kind of possibility when it comes to making sure that somebody has a safe, decent, affordable place to live as well.”

Castro pointed to homelessness in Santa Barbara County as an example of how a national response could help resolve a local issue.

“This city of Santa Barbara in this region has grappled with homelessness. You’ve also seen that you can’t handle it alone as one community, even with good intentions and [with] the resources that are available to you,” Castro said. “It requires a larger national, entire community response ... But that is another path that we can choose in this moment. And I’m hopeful that because of our experience in the last 18 months, there’s more of a coalition of people to accomplish it.”

Castro said that political engagement amongst students is important because they represent a key portion of Americans and play significant roles in activism and advocacy.

“You hear over and over again how much you’re the future. And you hear that because it’s true. You are the future. But you’re also the present. You represent



ATMIKA IYER / DAILY NEXUS

Julián Castro came to UCSB Arts & Lectures to speak about the new Texas law restricting abortions.

a big part of what America is,” he said.

“You’re doing it through your creativity, through your idealism, through your commitment to serving others. You’re doing it through using your voice in different ways.

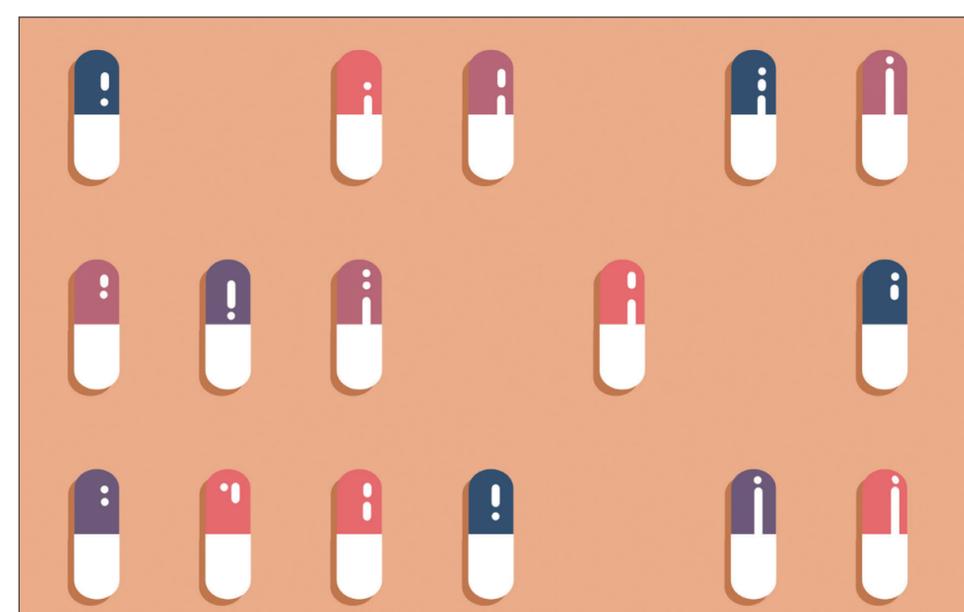
You also represent a generation that is more diverse and more committed to equality,” Castro continued.

“You’re growing up at a time when the fullness of American diversity is on display, I think, in a beautiful way.”

Castro discussed Latinx Heritage Month and the increasing Latinx populations within both Texas and California. Castro said that both Texas and California have Latinx populations at around 40%.

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UCSB Terminates Adjunct Faculty Member, Then Asks Him To Continue Teaching a Seminar Pro-Bono



LUCA DISBROW / DAILY NEXUS

Atmika Iyer
County News Editor

Last February, former adjunct faculty member and local emergency physician Jason Prystowsky was getting ready to prepare for his Underserved Medicine seminar – a seminar he had taught since 2011 – when he was terminated from his position by Interim Dean Mary Hancock.

Hancock cited financial constraints as the reason why UC Santa Barbara terminated his position – a decision which took effect on June 30.

Following his termination, Hancock requested Prystowsky to continue teaching the seminar pro-bono. In an email acquired by the Nexus, Hancock wrote the following to Prystowsky on Feb. 19:

“I write now about your appointment as an Academic Coordinator in the Division of Humanities and Fine Arts. Its current six-month term will conclude on June 30, 2021 and, after careful review, we have decided not to renew your appointment. This was a difficult decision, based on divisional

budget priorities,” the email read.

“We realize that this is a disappointing turn of events, especially in light of the energy and vision you have brought to building the joint certificate program in Medical Humanities ... Please also be aware that terminating the Academic Coordinator appointment has no impact on your continued teaching in PaCE, though you will need to consult with the Dean of Extension Bob York about that possibility.”

Following this email, Prystowsky requested an exit interview with Hancock – but Hancock refused and sent Associate Dean Kathleen Moore in her stead, according to Prystowsky. Prystowsky said that their response to why Hancock would not meet with him was that being an associate interim dean during a pandemic was “stressful.”

Prystowsky – a local emergency physician on the front lines of the pandemic – disagreed with Moore and Hancock’s reasoning, stating, “As an emergency physician who has put probably over 100 patients on a ventilator now, I do not have the capacity to empathize with

you about [Hancock’s stress as a dean] right now.”

Prystowsky added that his termination resulted in the loss of health insurance – while he was still working to save patients during the pandemic.

“I have a family, I’ve been risking my life for the last year and a half. My health insurance went away when UCSB terminated my position,” Prystowsky said.

Even after being asked to teach the class pro-bono after his termination, Prystowsky said he reached out to the university several times to request that the administration meet him halfway and provide more institutional support for the seminar. Prystowsky defined institutional support as having an office to meet with students, a UCSB email, TA support and a parking pass.

In addition, Prystowsky pointed out that not only does he put in at least 20 hours a week for the seminar, but he starts preparing for the annual winter quarter seminar during the previous July.

“The answer [was] if you want to volunteer your time, we will allow you to, and they’re not going to give me any institutional

support,” Prystowsky said. “I need to be supported for what I’m doing – financially and institutionally. I can’t continue to put in 20 hours [of work per] week for a quarter and not get paid for it.”

After his requests were denied, Prystowsky decided not to teach the class pro-bono. Prystowsky expressed frustration that when some students reached out to Hancock asking why the class was no longer being offered, Hancock said Prystowsky chose not to teach the class anymore, according to Prystowsky.

“The formal position from Interim Dean Mary Hancock is that this was Jason’s decision, which is gaslighting, I was fired, told to vacate my office, told to teach for free and then told that this decision was my decision, which is incorrect,” Prystowsky said.

In addition, Prystowsky said that the administration was being hypocritical by propagating a message of equity, but not offering the financial and institutional support to promote classes like Underserved Medicine that promote equity.

“There are a lot of extraordinary faculty members at UCSB who have been involved in equity and really exciting, innovative, applicable programs who are disposed [of]. And I was told the reason my position was terminated was financial,” Prystowsky said.

“I’m being told that teaching programs with equity is a priority at UCSB, [which] is coming from Chancellor Yang’s office. But at the same time, there’s no interest.”

The class itself was equity-based, striving to educate students on the “unique medical needs of vulnerable, underserved populations internationally and locally,” according to the course description. The seminar had guest speakers come in to discuss “refugee health, homelessness, humanitarian aid in conflict zones, care of military veterans, global health development, care of migrant farm workers, and more.”

“I’m tired. COVID has taken a lot out of me. And the fact that we have obstructionist executive leadership is exhausting to battle with them and to do the right thing for students because now students are asking, ‘Why can’t I take this class?’ and I really think the students need to start asking their leadership,” Prystowsky said.

Over 50 students emailed the Nexus to provide a glowing review of both Prystowsky and the Underserved Medicine seminar. In addition to students, many of the seminar’s guest speakers also provided comment.

UCSB alumnus Christian Campat said that the seminar heavily influenced his decision to become a physician.

“I can say, without question, that the Underserved Medicine seminar and the men and women producing it changed who I was as a student and who I will be as a future physician. The impact goes beyond simple medical literacy,” Campat wrote in his statement.

“I know several colleagues who have gone on to complete MA Public Health because of the impact [of] this course. I myself am a year away from completing a dual degree program DO/MA Bioethics ... Having taken this course, you will leave a more considerate and compassionate person better suited for any field, especially medicine.”

UCSB alumna Raquel Romero said that Prystowsky’s course changed her mind about dropping out of college and helped her immensely as she applied to physician assistant schools.

“Each of the schools that I interviewed at told me that they had selected me because they could see I had a true passion for and understanding of working with underserved populations, which I directly credit to this lecture and the opportunities it connected me with,” Romero wrote in her statement.

Assistant, working in my Santa Barbara community. This was hands down the most influential and impactful course that I took in my time [at] UCSB.”

All other provided statements similarly praised the class.

Hancock did not respond to a request for comment. The university, however, had the following to say about Prystowsky’s termination.

In a statement to the Nexus, UCSB spokesperson Andrea Estrada said that the university is “limited in what we can share about personnel matters.”

Estrada’s statement continued to say the following: “Before and during his part-time employment, Dr. Prystowsky also taught a two-credit interdisciplinary course, Medicine for Underserved Communities, through the Division of Undergraduate Education. The course, which was proposed and designed by Dr. Prystowsky, was offered on a voluntary basis during the Winter quarters, starting in 2012, and ceased being offered upon the conclusion of Dr. Prystowsky’s administrative position.”

“We are eager to maintain a humanities-infused curriculum for pre-health students, so the campus is developing a Medical and Health Humanities minor. This effort is being led by UC Santa Barbara faculty as part of our broader investment in the medical and health humanities and we hope to debut the program in 2022.”

Despite the university’s emphasis on the new minor, the idea for a minor focused on health care inequities was originally brought up by Prystowsky while he still worked for the school.

Prystowsky said he is currently speaking with other universities and nonprofits to teach Underserved Medicine elsewhere. He also said that any UCSB student interested in taking the class can reach out to him, regardless of where it’s being taught.

SB Grilled Cheesery To Open on Del Playa Drive

Molly Wright
Guest Writer

On Oct. 6, Santa Barbara Grilled Cheesery, a new student-owned pop-up restaurant, held its soft opening on Del Playa Drive.

SB Grilled Cheesery will pop up in different backyards on Del Playa Drive each week on Friday and Saturday nights from 11 p.m. to 2 a.m. The business is partnering with Roger's Tacos, a beloved taco eatery that typically operates on Del Playa Drive, and plans to merge the two menus to feature a range of tacos, grilled cheeses and quesadillas.

Second-year biology major Ben Aronson runs SB Grilled Cheesery on his own and said his passion for cooking combined with the masses of hungry students on Del Playa Drive on weekend nights sparked the business idea.

"A couple years ago, I realized that I had a really good grilled cheese and quesadilla recipe because a lot of my friends would try it and tell me, 'You can sell this,'" Aronson said. "Then I came to UCSB and saw [Del Playa Drive] on Friday and Saturday nights, and I noticed

everybody [was] hungry, but food was far away. I figured I could bridge that gap and sell my grilled cheese by creating my own little business."

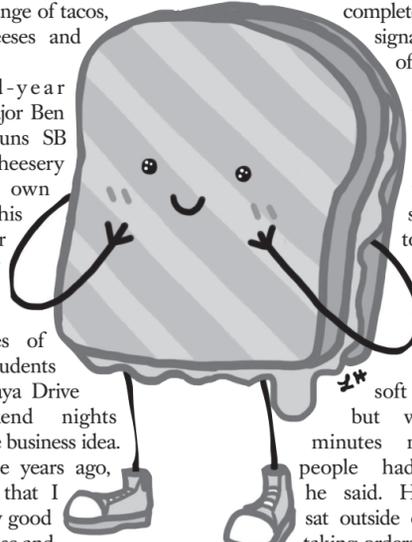
SB Grilled Cheesery's grilled cheeses sell for \$5 and quesadillas go for \$4.

Each order comes with a secret sauce on the side that is made of 13 ingredients, and Aronson revealed two of those ingredients to the Nexus: hot sauce and honey mustard. He uses lots of butter, cheddar cheese and sourdough bread for the grilled cheese and completes it with a signature blend of spices.

Aronson wasn't sure how many people would show up to the SB Grilled

Cheesery soft opening, but within 15 minutes nearly 10 people had arrived, he said. His friends sat outside on a patio taking orders at a table, instructing customers to send their payments via Venmo to @sbgrilledcheesery.

Updates on its location and official opening date will be posted @sbgrilledcheesery on Instagram.



SYD HAUPT / DAILY NEXUS

SB Grilled Cheesery's menu features grilled cheese and quesadillas.

UC Issues Flu Vaccination Requirement for the 2021-22 Year

Sindhu Ananthavel
Asst. News Editor

The University of California issued a systemwide flu vaccination requirement on Oct. 8 for all students, staff and faculty for the 2021-22 academic year. Individuals are required to receive a flu vaccination by Nov. 19.

According to the executive order, those who wish to opt out of the vaccine may submit a signed Vaccine Declination Statement – provided by their "location vaccine authority" – on or before Nov. 19. There are no explicit requirements or qualifications to submit a Vaccine Declination Statement.

Those who opt out of the

requirement must continue wearing masks or face coverings on campus "to the end of the flu season," even if COVID-19 restrictions are loosened, according to the memo regarding the vaccine requirement.

The flu vaccine requirement will go into effect alongside the university's current COVID-19 vaccine mandate.

"With both influenza and SARS-CoV-2 viruses circulating at the same time, vaccination against both is needed to mitigate against overburdening health care systems as well as the threat to the health and safety of the UC community and the public at large," the UC memo regarding the vaccine requirement said.



Courtesy of Freemages.com

Who's Your Daddy: Isla Vista Restaurant Changes Name to Dank Bowl Kitchen

Maura Kelly
Reporter
Melea Magalang
Staff Writer

Near the corner of Embarcadero del Mar and Pardall Road lies an Isla Vista staple and the home of the "Mac Daddy": Dank Bowl Kitchen. Formerly known as "Buddha Bowls," the restaurant has changed its name after eight years of business.

The restaurant is known for serving bread bowls filled with a variety of options for customers to choose from, ranging from macaroni and cheese to restaurant-made curry.

Daniel Dunietz, the owner of the restaurant and UC Santa Barbara alumnus, found it untenable to keep facing customer confusion and toeing the line of cultural appropriation.

Dunietz said he never intended the business to be a vegan or vegetarian restaurant or for it to be inspired by Eastern traditions. "The intention [of Dank Bowl Kitchen] from the get-go was always cannabis," he said.

"In Chicago, we used to use, 'I'm gonna go pack a buddha bowl,' as interchangeable with smoking weed," Dunietz continued.

"The first two years was honestly quite challenging because people would come in and be like, 'What are you guys selling? Do you have vegan food?'"

Dunietz said. "I'm also not Buddhist. I don't have any claim to the religion."

Dunietz had been working on the change for over a year and saw the pandemic as an ideal

opportunity to implement the transformation.

"The reality is, we got a lot of people commenting on Buddha Bowls before, even after being in business for eight years. That's one of the reasons I knew I need to make this change, and it's gotta happen sooner rather than later," Dunietz said.

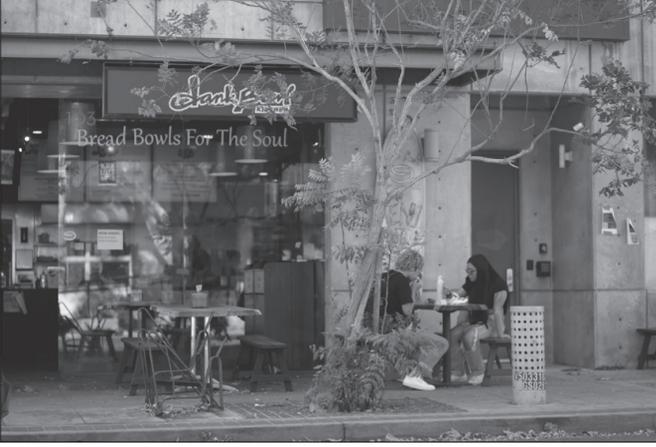
One of the first steps occurred in December 2020, when the restaurant's focus began to transition away from customization. According to Dunietz, only a small percentage of sales consisted of custom bowls, and he decided to revise the menu.

"I did a really strong menu analysis, and 70% of the sales are just mac 'n' cheese, clam chowder, tomato basil – we didn't get rid of that, we just screwed around with some of the other stuff and added some more appealing bowls," Dunietz said.

Many of the ingredients now are made from scratch rather than store-bought, Dunietz said.

"We're no longer just heating up sausage in a pan. We're actually making pulled pork, slow cooking it for hours. It's really quality, quality food that we put in a ton of work."

Dunietz has noticed a



JUSTIN TSE / DAILY NEXUS

The restaurant is known for serving bread bowls filled with a variety of options for customers to choose from.

"mostly positive" response from customers about the rebranding.

"I think most people just want their food; it's not a huge issue," Dunietz said. "I think if you give us a chance – it's just as good, if not better."

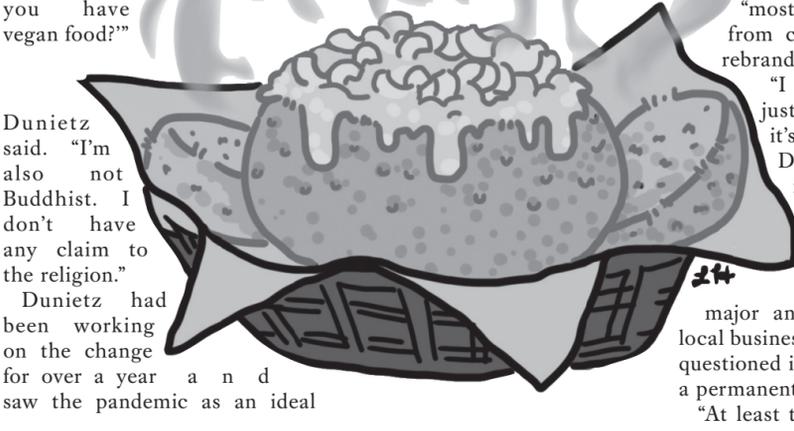
Fourth-year communication major and a regular of the local business Lindsey Terra also questioned if the name would be a permanent change.

"At least the people that have

been in I.V. since the last two or three years aren't going to call it Dank Bowl Kitchen," Terra said. "Dank is a word that is not going to be around for very long. It's very much in our generation, and I don't know how hard it'll stick." Terra said, to her, it'll always be known as "Buddha Bowls."

While the restaurant continues to have its usual level of business, Dunietz hopes customers will learn to accept the change.

"Dank Bowl Kitchen – it just makes sense, it's literally what we do," Dunietz said. "We sell dank bowls, we sell dank food."



Lightning, Thunder Strike South Coast of Santa Barbara County



PABLO VAN DYCK / DAILY NEXUS



PIA RAMOS / DAILY NEXUS



PABLO VAN DYCK / DAILY NEXUS



CHRIS PUGA / DAILY NEXUS



NEESHA PATEL / DAILY NEXUS

Lightning and thunder struck the south coast of Santa Barbara on the night of Oct. 4. The lightning could be seen throughout Isla Vista and the surrounding areas. Many residents were shocked by the storm because lightning and thunder storms are not a common occurrence or experience in Santa Barbara County.

UC Student-Worker Union Hosts Student Labor Organizing Conference

Kellan Gilroy
Staff Writer

AFSCME 3299 – the UC’s largest union – held a Student Labor Organizing Conference from Oct. 5-8, featuring a series of webinars with various speakers.

The labor conference featured workshops from AFSCME 3299 members and interns on how to organize on campus.

“If it weren’t for the thousands of UC workers, this institution would not function,” Joanne Hernandez, an AFSCME 3299 intern at UC Santa Barbara’s campus, wrote to the Nexus. “Through SLOC [Student Labor Organizing Conference], we want to highlight that to students and show them how important student solidarity is.”

As fourth-year history major Jarod Ramirez said in a statement to the Nexus, it’s important now more than ever to be informed about organized labor on campus. In sharing his goals for the SLOC, he took a two-pronged stance.

“The first is to recruit more people to USLAC [United Student Labor Action Coalition] as this year is going to have a lot of labor actions and union agitation. This is the perfect place to not only hear about that, but to find a way to directly get involved,” Ramirez said. “The second is to inform as many people as we can about unions and organizing.”

Together, Hernandez and Ramirez help run the USLAC, which helps inform students about labor issues on campus.

“I always knew I wanted to get involved with labor organizing

but I never knew where to begin,” Hernandez said. “Once I got to UCSB and started to learn about UC worker struggles, AFSCME and the USLAC, I began to take a more active role.”

In addition to the USLAC, two other large unions make up the organizing of labor on UC campuses: the University Council-American Federation of Teachers (UC-AFT), which covers teaching faculty and lecturers, and the United Auto Workers, which consists of grad students. Recently, in an effort to raise awareness for the coming UC-AFT elections, they’ve been partnering with the Young Democratic Socialists of America chapter at the university.

One of the largest parts of their job is connecting with students and other organizations, according to Ramirez. Routine partners include Food Not Bombs Isla Vista, as well as Mesa Directiva and El Centro for events that center on UC workers.

When asked if they had anything that they wished more students knew about organized labor, Hernandez and Ramirez had two things to say.

“I want everyone to know that unless you have Jeff Bezos kind of money, you need a union,” Ramirez said. “No other organization is going to fight for raises, health care, days off or even vacations. The only way you can get these benefits and maintain them is through unions.”

Hernandez took a broader tone, and one echoed by the SLOC.

“We are all, in some way, connected to labor and we are all being hurt by the same system,” she said. “Our power matters and we should use it to fight for a more equitable UC.”



LUCA DISBROW / DAILY NEXUS

The Real Residents of Isla Vista: Mold, Insects and Pests

Alex Rudolph
Data Editor

The Nexus analyzed reports of mold and pests from UC Santa Barbara Housing, Dining & Auxiliary Enterprises, finding that ants made up one-third of the reports and Santa Ynez Apartments had the highest reports for roaches and bed bugs.

Using California's Freedom of Information Act, the Nexus filed a request with UCSB's Public Records Act Office on June 30, asking for reports of mold, insects and pests in campus facilities. The office provided the requested records on Sept. 20.

Since 2016, UCSB Housing, Dining & Auxiliary Enterprises (HDAE) has received 6,004 pest control reports. The majority of these reports are filed in the beginning of the school year, with 35.7% filed in September and October.

The top three listed pests specified in the requests were ants, with 1,732 reports; roaches, with 276 reports; and bed bugs, with 239 reports since 2016.

San Nicolas had the highest number of reported bed bugs with 60 cases since 2016. San Rafael and Manzanita Village, which are located on the western side of the main campus, had the second-

and third-highest reports of bedbugs, with 44 and 28 cases, respectively.

Santa Ynez Apartments had the greatest number of reports for roaches, with 84 since 2016, making up 30% of all reports for roaches.

Storke Apartments had the most reports in total with 967 reports, West Campus Apartments were second with 777 reports and Santa Ynez Apartments was third with 664 reports. For on-campus housing, Manzanita had the most reports with 524, followed by Anacapa with 307 reports.

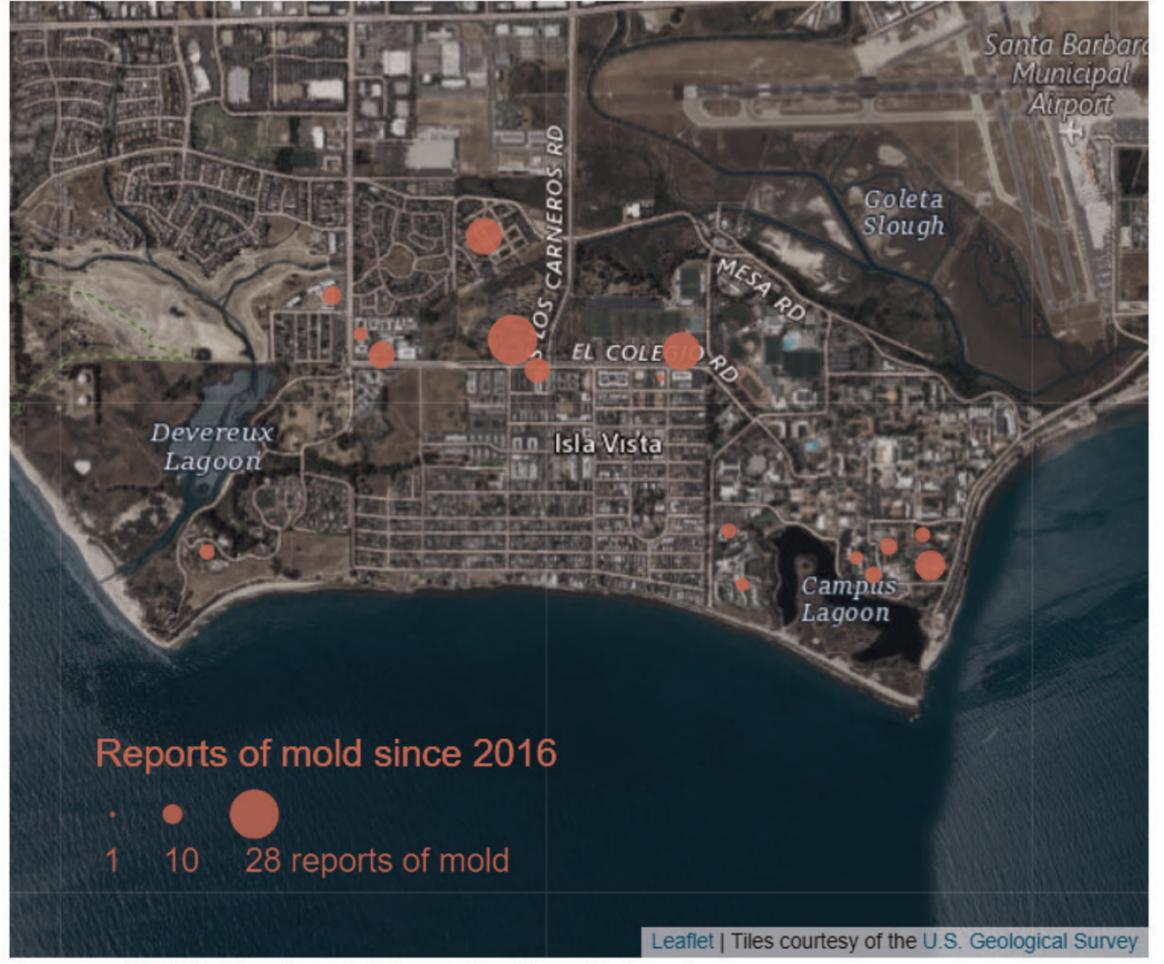
Since 2016, 17 pest reports have been made regarding the dining halls. De La Guerra had 15 reports filed, while Carrillo and Ortega each had one and Portola had none.

HDAE has also received 213 reports of mold since 2016. Only 16 of these reports have been since January 2020.

Santa Ynez Apartments had the greatest number of reports for mold with 28 reports, followed by San Clemente Villages with 21 reports and Storke Apartments with 20. Santa Cruz was the dorm with 16 requests followed by Santa Catalina with 14 reports.

Eleven of the reports for mold describe black mold in the request, the last of which was in October 2019.

Mold Reports in UCSB Housing



Source: UCSB Housing, Dining & Auxiliary Enterprises

ALEX RUDOLPH / DAILY NEXUS

Discord Introduces New Student Hubs to UC Santa Barbara

Melea Maglalang
Staff Writer

On Oct. 9, Cajé in Isla Vista partnered with the instant messaging platform Discord to give out free lattes and bagels to students who had joined the UC Santa Barbara Student Hub on the online platform.

The event was open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and all students who presented their membership to the Student Hub were eligible for a free latte and bagel. A quick response code was also available to invite those who were not yet registered to the Student Hub.

Matthew Dupree, a UCSB doctoral student, said he planned to attend the event a little early, hoping to get there before the crowd formed. However, when he arrived at Cajé, people were already lined up and being served. "I arrived and there was already a line out to the sidewalk," Dupree said. "But I was glad that they were serving the early people early so that I was able to get in before the line was going all the way around the corner."

Dupree had expected there to be

a lot of people regardless, having seen the event advertised on multiple platforms like Facebook and Reddit. He found the event posted in a channel within the UCSB Discord server.

"I saw that it had got on the UCSB Reddit, I saw that it had got to one of the larger UCSB Discord servers, and so I figured it had had some relatively wide distribution in advertisement, and people aren't ones to turn down free [food]."

Discord is a free voice, talk and text platform where many communities can gather and talk to each other. Student Hubs are a newly added feature on the app, serving as a place for students to meet and connect with classmates from their school. The Student Hub is a collection of student-run servers, allowing a user to find campus community servers on one platform.

UCSB's Student Hub currently has over 100 registered servers, including clubs, classes and study groups. Students are also able to add their own servers to the list.

Sharon Coone, product manager at Discord and UCSB alumna, said the Student Hub is an "exclusive

place" for meeting and spending time with classmates.

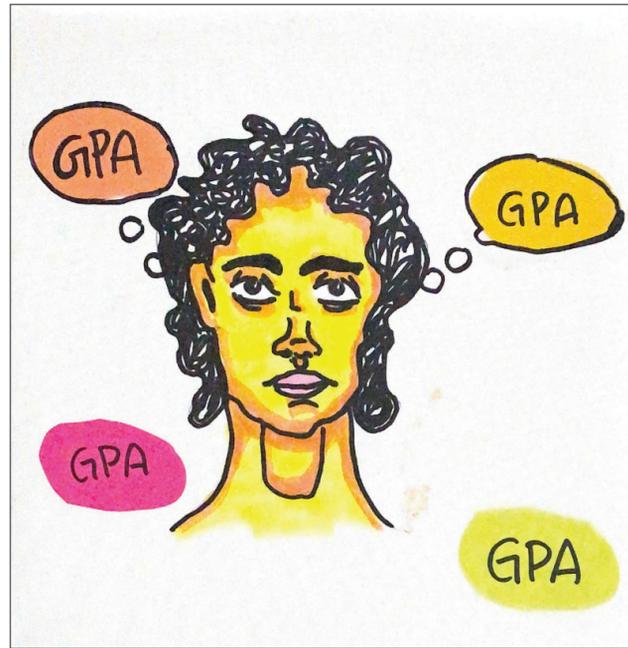
According to Coone, Student Hubs are available at every UC campus and have been gradually rolling out to other colleges throughout the United States and Canada – as well as other parts of the world – since September 2020.

There will be other events similar to the one at Cajé happening for other campuses across the country, Coone said in a statement to the Nexus.

"Our ambassador team is dedicated to helping all kinds of organizations set up safe and engaging servers, and we're hosting a small number of events for college students to help them find their home in Student Hubs," Coone said.

"Students fill the Hub with all kinds of communities, from organizations like cooking clubs, to LGBTQ+ alliances, to servers for classes and getting advice in your major," Coone said. "But what's really special about Discord Hubs has been all of the laid-back places where people can just be near other students and feel like a part of the community."

Pass/No Pass No Longer an Option for Major Requirement Courses



ANNABELLE DOUD / DAILY NEXUS

Ellah Foster
Staff Writer

UC Santa Barbara major requirement classes once again can only be taken for a letter grade beginning Fall Quarter 2021, despite a pass/no pass option having been offered for some major classes – depending on the department – from Spring Quarter 2020 to Summer Quarter 2021 due to remote learning.

The Academic Senate's University Committee on Educational Policy (UCEP) released general recommendations regarding grading flexibility when the COVID-19 pandemic hit in spring 2020, according to last year's committee chair and current UC Davis plant sciences professor Daniel Potter.

This included several university departments permitting major requirement classes to be taken pass/no pass (P/NP).

However, with UC campuses returning to in-person instruction this fall, the grading flexibilities installed under remote instruction are now being removed.

Several students felt that the information on changing the grading policy could have been announced to the student body earlier. Current Chief of Staff

for the UCSB Associated Students (A.S.) Internal Vice President and sixth-year earth science major Shva Star expressed a need for better communication and transparency from the Academic Senate regarding issues that directly affect students.

"Something I was disappointed about in my tenure as a senator was the Academic Senate's lack of planning," Star said. "I'm a sixth-year, so I have been here through pretty much everything: the fires, the mudslides, COVID, and the Academic Senate always seems to be making last-minute decisions."

The Academic Senate was criticized for their delayed decision on extending the P/NP option last fall quarter, as it was announced during Week 9.

Following the delay, a resolution was created by A.S. Senate to address the need for flexibility in grading during remote learning and support actions such as extending the P/NP option to major requirement classes and solidifying grading plans earlier in the quarter.

The resolution specifically addressed remote learning, which no longer applies now that in-person instruction has resumed.

Through the return to in-person learning, many students are facing

the same problems that were present under remote instruction, whether that be financial, personal or health-related COVID-19 struggles. A.S. President Chief of Staff and third-year political science and philosophy double major Gurleen Pabla was involved with the resolution and continues to advocate for students.

"I've been working with the administration and also the Academic Senate because we had a lot of concerns about the ongoing housing crisis and how that would affect students, as it seems like administration's not budging on everything being completely in person," Pabla explained. "But in general, it seems like they are not really planning on changing any of the decisions that they've made so far."

Major requirement classes were allowed a P/NP option after the resolution was proposed in December 2020, contrary to the initial decision by the Academic Senate due to the "serious academic consequences for a student's program of study, standing and future options," according to a statement by Academic Senate Chair Mary Gauvain.

"There's always going to be some extenuating circumstances and if we think that in-person instruction is really doing the best job we can as far as instruction, then we should probably go back to the accompanying [rules]," Potter said. "With that said, I would hope and expect that everyone is continuing to be empathetic and supportive of students."

While there haven't been any organized student efforts expressing concern about major classes being unavailable for P/NP, student grievances expressed about the grading change may have the power to be recognized by the Academic Senate, according to Pabla.

"I think that if there is something that a lot of students start to bring up as a viable concern, then the office of the president and other representatives of the students would totally be willing to band together to push administration to make a decision on that," Pabla said. "In the past, it has worked. It's not completely out of the picture."



Nexus File Photo

There will be other events similar to the one at Cajé happening for other campuses across the country, Discord Product Manager and UCSB alumna Sharon Coone said.

Students Discuss the Correct Usage of Hispanic, Latino/a and Latinx

Pricila Flores
Diversity & Inclusion Chair

As National Hispanic Heritage Month comes to a close, the Nexus spoke to the UC Santa Barbara community on the correct usage and implications of the terms Hispanic and Latino/a and how they feel about the “x” in Latinx.

Sept. 15 to Oct. 15 marks National Hispanic Heritage Month, and during this time period, this pressing question has been discussed at UCSB – spurring pieces like “What’s the difference between Hispanic, Latino and Latinx?” This conversation is also occurring in the greater Santa Barbara community, where the Santa Barbara Unified School District recognized Latino/a/x Heritage month and National Hispanic Heritage Month on Sept. 14.

The terms Hispanic, Latino and Latinx are often used interchangeably. The term Hispanic refers to people from Spanish-speaking countries and also relates to Spaniards. This term, coined by the government in 1980, was used primarily in government

documents. The term, according to some, was problematic because it included people from Spain.

Ethnicity labels, such as Latino, Latinx and Hispanic, are a topic of discussion amongst people in various ethnic groups as the language changes.

The emergence of the term Latinx began in the late 1990s. The “x” in Latinx represents gender fluidity and allows people who identify as non-binary a sense of flexibility.

According to UCSB linguistic professor Jesús Olguín Martínez, the controversial language change can be attributed to the fluctuation in socio-cultural factors.

“Given that language is constantly changing because of different socio-cultural factors, this use of ‘x’ [in Latinx] does not surprise me. Instead, it corroborates my idea that socio-cultural factors shape and constrain human language evolution,” he said.

The emergence of this new term, Martínez said, has created controversy in Mexico.

“From a prescriptive perspective, many people in Mexico are criticizing the use of ‘x.’ This stems

from the fact that Spanish is a language with a clear grammatical distinction of gender,” Martínez said.

“The socio-cultural impact has been negative in various parts of Mexico. Prescriptive people are criticizing the use of this word on the grounds that this is destroying the purity of Spanish.”

“I don’t think there is a proper term to use since I feel like everyone has the right to use whatever they feel comfortable with identifying themselves,” said fourth-year psychological and brain sciences major Jocelyn Lemus-Valle. “However, I also believe that these terms shouldn’t be used as a way to [generalize] large groups of people.”

Second-year pre-psychological and brain sciences major Alexa Jimenez believes some of the terms can be synonymous with each other.

“They can be used interchangeably. For example, Latino and Latina when referring to genders and Latinx is more of a gender-neutral reference,” Jimenez said.

Martínez echoes Jimenez’s belief. “My impression is that Latinx is in the process of being

conventionalized to mean Hispanic and Latino/a.” Martínez said.

Jimenez reflected on how other people label her and said she believed that the differences in meaning do not matter that much. She uses the labels interchangeably.

“When people refer to me, they usually say Latina, Hispanic or Mexican. They aren’t wrong since this is how I identify myself,” Jimenez said.

Due to these terms being used interchangeably in mainstream media, some people feel confused about which term is appropriate in various contexts.

“I believe that [Hispanic and Latino] are being used to mean one thing,” Lemus-Valle said. “This is also shown when there are surveys, and the only option I usually see where I feel comfortable identifying is as ‘Hispanic.’ I think other students like myself who identify as Latino end up feeling like they have to choose Hispanic because, in their perspective, it either means the same or almost the same as Latino.”

Lemus-Valle believes each term is different and urges people not to confuse them or use them



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interchangeably as it can lead to diminishing backgrounds.

“I don’t think the words Hispanic, Latino and Latinx should be used interchangeably because although they can sound similar, it combines

groups of people who come from different backgrounds,” Lemus-Valle said. “I think that using these

terms interchangeably can lead to commodification and even diminish backgrounds.”

Julián Castro Lecture

Continued from p.3

“The destiny of this nation is intertwined with the destiny of the Latinx community. That’s not solely the case with the Latinx community but with other communities as well,” Castro said to the audience. “So the opportunity that you have, those of you who are students, is to forge your own path, to build on the success that you’ve already had in your own lives, to ensure that others can have that same kind of success.”

Castro emphasized the importance of taking initiative in education as well, telling a story from his own time as a substitute teacher.

“I turned around to write something on the blackboard – this long ago we were still using chalk on a blackboard – and somebody from the back of the room rolled up a paper ball ... and threw it in the back of my head,” he said. “I didn’t know whether to turn around and act in trying to figure out who had done it or to act like nothing had happened and save my dignity.”

Castro said that, while he chose to pretend nothing had happened to preserve his dignity at the time, the situation was reflective of his unpreparedness in the classroom, something he hopes to encourage other students to change.

“Always be prepared. Whether it’s something as simple as making sure that you do the assignment, leading ahead, being there all the time. Always be prepared for what you’re doing. And don’t be afraid to fail or to lose. And then to try again,” he said.

Castro also shared his family history, detailing how his grandmother arrived in the U.S. in 1922 as a 6- or 7-year-old orphan, and how his mother was a Chicana activist.

“Think about that; just two generations after my grandmother got to this country, her only two grandchildren, my brother was working in the United States Congress and I was running for president of the United States,” Castro said.

After Castro shared his own story about education and his family, UCSB Associate Dean of Social Sciences Aida Hurtado began asking Castro questions about his book and political experience as well as pre-approved questions from graduate students.

“What are some approaches you have to making higher education more attainable and affordable to students like myself, including loan-forgiveness initiatives?” was one

pre-approved question from a UCSB graduate student.

Castro said that student loan debt “limit[s] people’s potential so much,” as many face financial difficulties while trying to procure a degree.

“Free community college and public universities. In addition to that, a significant loan forgiveness along the lines of Senator Warren’s that I believe would transform the ability of especially low-income families to be able to have their kids go to college and get a good education,” Castro said.

Following the pre-approved question-and-answer session, UCSB students were allowed to stay behind to ask Castro questions on the spot.

During the student question-and-answer portion, a Nexus reporter asked Castro, “A lot of times, we hear calls from politicians speaking to students about how they’re going to come forward and change the game when they get into politics. Unfortunately, a lot of POC students – and women of color specifically – face a lot of internalized racism and imposter syndrome that prevents them from pursuing certain opportunities. Could you speak to your own experiences in dealing with such things and how students should go about facing them when looking to go into this career?”

According to Castro, the solution lies in finding guidance from the people who have been in the industry for a long time and knowing that everyone has a unique perspective to offer.

“I agree with you that people coming from disadvantaged backgrounds, historically sidelined or cut out, underrepresented in certain positions, not having a background in their family of people having done those things before – that can cause this imposter syndrome and self-doubt of whether you belong,” Castro said.

“My advice is to find somebody around that table or in that orbit, whoever you think is the best candidate for that, that will help guide you,” he continued. “I think you raise a very important question that a lot of people feel. There is nobody else like you; nobody else thinks exactly like you. Nobody else in the history of the world has put together exactly the same thoughts or experiences that you have. And so whenever you’re in a room, always believe that you have something unique to offer, because you do.”

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UC-AFT Lecturers Hold Informational Pickets

Continued from p.1

beginning in March 2020 as the pandemic forced lectures online. Remote instruction led to accrued costs from buying webcams, upgrading their home internet – and in some cases – having to buy entirely new computers to run class.

However, the union clarified that any strike occurring this fall would be over unfair labor practice claims, and would not be correlated with their contract negotiations regarding pay and job security, for which the picket was organized.

Despite the distinction, Quirk said that “the way they treat us at one bargaining table is inseparable from the way they treat us at other bargaining tables.”

For lecturers attending the informational picket, frustration stems from the lack of connection between work performance and employment. Lecturers are hired on a yearly or quarterly basis, according to Quirk. Tenured professors, however, do not run the risks associated with job insecurity and have a higher pay.

“[This is] in the hopes that if lecturers who are in positions longer are good teachers, [and] if our students get some value out of taking our classes that that be recognized,” said Chase Hobbs-Morgan, a lecturer in the political science department.

“The big outcome that on a personal level, I would love, would be to move toward longer term contracts and security of employment for lecturers.”

For Hobbs-Morgan – whose partner’s tenured job at UCSB allows them to continue living in the area – the differences between tenure-track faculty and non-tenure-track lecturers can create an uncomfortable working environment.

“There’s a division between tenure-track faculty and non-tenure-track lecturers that makes it so we don’t quite feel like we’re part of one community. And that, I suppose, – again, to

put it sort of plainly – it just is awkward,” they said.

“It is awkward working in a place where someone in my position is not quite sure where or how we fit into a department. We don’t feel like part of the same group of people who work ... and yet we teach all the same students.”

Nick Jurkowski, a lecturer in the music department, said that the lack of job security is a yearly source of stress.

“There’s just no job security at all, and it’s very easy for us to kind of fall between the cracks,” he said. “For example, I very frequently will get into summer and still have no idea what my employment status will be in the fall, which is fairly stressful having two little kids at home.”

“The way that the system has evolved, which really relies on lecturers, has not kept pace with the realities on the ground for us and trying to have stable employment and being appropriately compensated.”

Jurkowski hopes that students will understand just how many of their classes are taught and run by non-tenured teachers.

“I’m mostly hoping that they understand just how much the university relies on us and really, the realities we live under in order to do what we love, which is to teach undergraduates,” he said.

While the prospect of a contract-related strike remains months on the horizon as the union sifts its way through the administrative process, there is still the possibility that the unfair labor practice claims made by the union could result in a strike as soon as this quarter.

“It’s going to be really important for our members to understand that if we strike this fall that it’s about the unfair labor practice; it’s also about the overarching sort of disrespect and refusal to negotiate by the university, like that’s the main frame,” Quirk said.



MEIRU HAN / DAILY NEXUS



MARK ALFRED / DAILY NEXUS



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MARK ALFRED / DAILY NEXUS



MARK ALFRED / DAILY NEXUS

Halloween 2021 Parking Information

Isla Vista Parking



Parking in Isla Vista will be subject to potential closures beginning at 4pm on Friday 10/29/21. The Santa Barbara County Sheriff’s Department advises you to relocate your vehicle from the following locations:

- 6500-6700 Blocks of Del Playa
- Camino Del Sur between Del Playa and Trigo
- Camino Pescadero residents between Del Playa and Trigo
- El Embarcadero residents between Del Playa and the top of Loop
- Camino Majorca between Del Playa and Pasado
- **Trigo Road residents living in the 6500 block will need to relocate their vehicles parked on the street. Signs will be posted notifying residents (SBSO 805-681-4179).**

UCSB Campus Parking

No Overnight Visitor Parking is allowed on the UCSB Campus on Friday October 29th and Saturday October 30th

- **Registered UCSB Students** with an Annual Night & Weekend parking permit can park in designated lots on campus beginning at 9am Friday, October 29th until 7:30am on Monday, November 1st. **Parking is allowed only in Structure 22, and parking lot 30.** All other campus lots are subject to closure.
- **Apply/purchase online by going to tps.ucsb.edu/epermits.** Permit verification can take up to four days, so purchase by October 25th.

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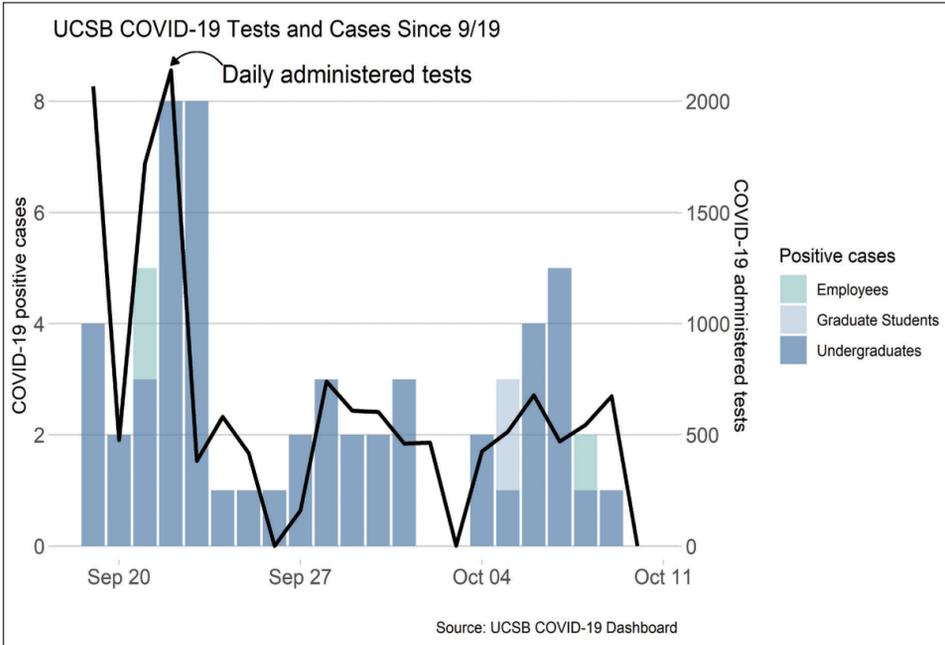
Cost of the N&W Permit is \$52.50– valid through June 30, 2021.

One permit per registered student; vehicle must be linked to permit.

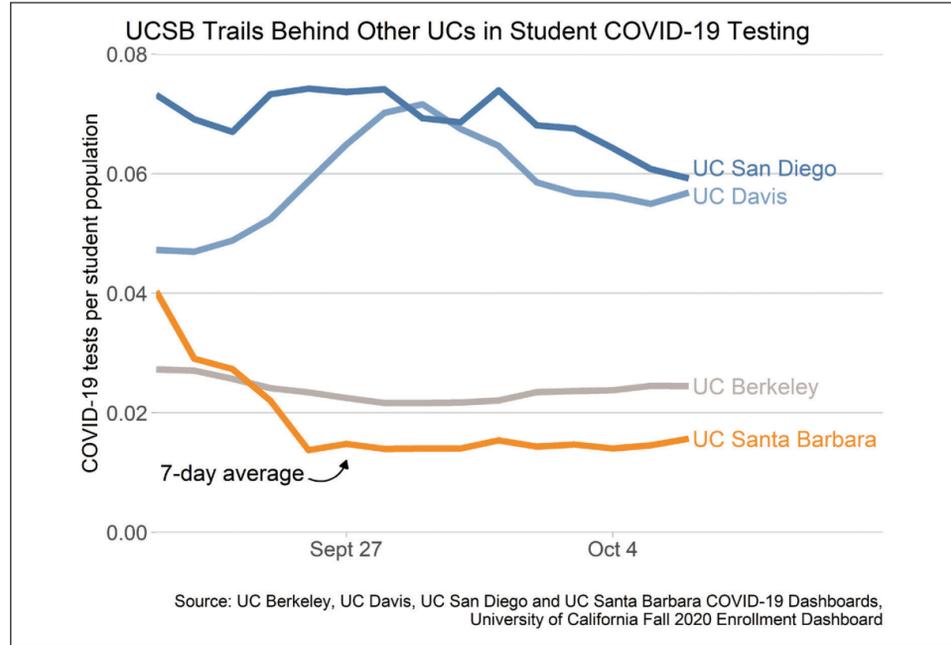


<http://www.tps.ucsb.edu>

Isla Vista's COVID-19 Numbers Remain Low After Students Move Back for In-Person Instruction



ALEX RUDOLPH / DAILY NEXUS



ALEX RUDOLPH / DAILY NEXUS

Atmika Iyer
County News Editor
Alex Rudolph
Data Editor

After 18 months of remote instruction due to the COVID-19 pandemic, thousands of students moved back to Isla Vista and its surrounding areas for Fall Quarter 2021. Despite the surge in population, IV's COVID-19 case

numbers have remained fairly consistent with pre-move-in levels. For the week of Oct. 12, IV. has the second-lowest case rate in the county at four cases per 100,000 people.

"The vaccination mandate at UCSB has proven to be very effective. IV has less community transmission than most of the rest of the county," Jackie Ruiz, Santa Barbara County Public Health

Department public information officer, wrote in a statement to the Nexus. "This is proof that high vaccine uptake works in getting the pandemic under control."

Ruiz added that though UC Santa Barbara has a high vaccination rate, pockets of Isla Vista's non-student population are still vaccine hesitant.

"There are still pockets of vaccine hesitancy in the non-

UCSB IV population," Ruiz said. "Zip code 93117 – with a total of 53,000 residents including Goleta/IV, but also Gaviota, Naples, Capitan etc. – has the highest percentage of the eligible unvaccinated persons in the county and the lowest percent of partially vaccinated which could indicate a high level of continuing vaccine hesitancy. It is difficult to know with certainty how Isla

Vista is faring within this rather large zip code, however."

In comparison with the other UC schools, UCSB's tests per total number of students falls behind UC Berkeley, UC Davis – which mandates vaccinated students to get tested once every two weeks – and UC San Diego, which mandates vaccinated students to get tested every week for the first four weeks. UCSB's seven-day

average number of cases has been between 360 and 410 since the beginning of October.

UCSB has reported 57 positive COVID-19 cases since Sept. 19. Three of these cases have been from UCSB employees, two from graduate students and the remaining 52 cases were from undergraduates. There were 29 positive cases in the first week as there were 7,787 tests.

"Plan Bee" Creates Pollinator Gardens In Isla Vista To Save Native Bee Species

Aaron Wells
Reporter

The Greenhouse and Garden Project, Plan Bee and the Cheadle Center for Biodiversity and Ecological Restoration began creating a pollinator garden on UC Santa Barbara grounds on Oct. 9 to support native bee populations in Isla Vista and promote the growth of native plants.

The pollinator garden is located on the north side of Lot 38 near Harder Stadium and is still under construction. When finished, it will be open to the public and students will be able to visit.

Isla Vista is home to 71 native bee species, but the population of

these species has recently been dwindling due to the lack of native plants, according to Alyssa Jain, a third-year environmental studies major and member of Plan Bee – an organization made up of students who previously participated in the Environmental Leadership Incubator Program at UCSB.

"The garden ... is a Plan Bee and GHGP [Greenhouse and Garden Project] project ... both Plan Bee and the GHGP are UCSB-based organizations," Jain said.

The introduction and spread of invasive species has been destructive for native plants from the region, resulting in the removal of natural habitats for IV. bee species. The main goals of

this pollinator garden is to create a place for these bee species to congregate, to reintroduce these native IV. plants and to reform their habitats, Jain said.

The pollinator garden will include multiple types of plants, including coffeeberry, elderberry, Buckley's Quill shrub, tar plants, spiny bitter gooseberry and more.

"Native bees are essential because they pollinate almost all the flowering plants in the local community, which, in turn, produces the fresh and healthy food we eat everyday," the UCSB Bee Campus USA page stated.

Education on these native species is another key goal of this project, according to Jain. As the garden

continues to develop, they plan to add information signs on the various plants for visitors to read. In addition, they want to possibly identify the multiple bee species that will visit the garden.

The Plan Bee group – made up of Jain, second-year computer science major Isabella Puchkova and environmental studies lecturer Katja Seltmann – had previously created a pollinator garden in the St. Michaels University Church garden, which was finished on June 15.

Once the first pollinator garden was finished, they began the process of planning the next pollinator garden two months later in August.

The current pollinator garden being made is supported by a grant given by the Coastal Fund, a student initiative whose mission is "allocating funds to programs that celebrate, explore, and protect the coastal ecosystems in and around the University of California, Santa Barbara."

While Plan Bee and the pollinator garden are still early in development, they have big plans for the future – they're currently applying to be a Bee Campus USA affiliate so they can create a Bee Campus USA committee at UCSB. This committee will include a group of faculty and students to improve the campus and make it native-pollinator friendly, according to the

Bee Campus USA website.

"Plan Bee will last for the next few months, probably – the end goal with Plan Bee is to set up a Bee Campus USA committee ... that will oversee pollinator/native insect activities like the pollinator gardens, volunteer events, internships, etc. So once that happens, all of Plan Bee's responsibilities can shift over to the committee which will continue to advance native bee habitat and education for the future," Jain said.

In addition to signing up for this committee, Plan Bee wants to create more pollinator gardens across IV. in the near future as well as improve gardens they have previously made.



RUHIKA NANDY / DAILY NEXUS

Armchair QB

A Super Bowl hangover may be a reality for the Kansas City Chiefs. After losing to the Buffalo Bills on Sunday Night Football, Kansas City is now 2-3 and last in the AFC West for the first time in recent memory.



SPORTS

UCSB Athletics

The UCSB women's soccer team is on a hot streak. They have won five of their last seven games and find themselves in second place in the Big West standings. After months of offensive struggles, UCSB is playing their best ball of the season.

Men's Soccer Jumps to First in Big West With Two Wins

Jacob Davis
Staff Writer

The UC Santa Barbara men's soccer team now sits at the top of the Big West table with 10 points following their last two home games against the UC Irvine Anteaters and CSU Bakersfield Roadrunners. The rival Cal Poly Mustangs trail behind in second with 7 points.

Last Wednesday, the Anteaters traveled to Santa Barbara looking to put a blemish on the Gauchos' undefeated start. Only, the Gauchos contested the goal in the first 10 minutes with shots from sophomore forward Finn Ballard McBride and freshman forward Salvador Aguilar.

The first goal came early in the 11th minute on a volley from Thaabit Baartman – who now has 6 goals in 13 games – off an assist from Ameyawu Muntari across the face of the goal.

The remainder of the game resulted in a deadlock between the teams until

the 90th minute, when the Anteaters' Jake Means scored a header in the center of the box from a long ball about 30 yards out.

The Gauchos were sent into their 6th double overtime of the season after failing to convert in the first half of overtime. Both teams finished the match with 18 shots and the split of shots between the halves was exactly the same. Each team netted 7 shots in the first half, 6 shots in the second half, 2 in overtime and 3 in double overtime.

The Anteaters did outnumber the Gauchos in shots on goal – 8 to 7 – requiring sophomore goalkeeper Leroy Zeller to make 7 saves on the night.

The Gauchos remained at Harder Stadium for their next game against the Roadrunners, who were hoping to return to their winning ways. The teams contributed 5 shots together – none on goal – in the first 20 minutes of play.

The 21st minute saw 2 goals scored by the Gauchos

with only 24 seconds of play between them. Muntari scored the first to reach 5 goals on the season and Aguilar – the previous week's Big West Offensive Player and Freshman of the Week – netted the second for 4 goals this season.

McBride added another goal to his impressive season just before the half. McBride has now been involved in 12 goals in 13 games – 7 goals, 5 assists. The team was able to score 3 goals on their 4 shots on goal.

The Roadrunners were 1 short of the Gauchos in total shots and shots on goal, but Zeller and the defense were able to comfortably handle their attack and get their fourth clean sheet this season.

The Cal Poly Mustangs lost to UC Irvine to allow the Gauchos to hold the top spot alone.

The Gauchos will play their next match at UC San Diego on Wednesday, Oct. 13, where they will fight to remain undefeated and the sole leaders of the conference.



PIA RAMOS / DAILY NEXUS

Women's Soccer Heating Up Weeks Before Postseason



NEXUS FILE PHOTO

Preston Espar
Sports Editor

With two huge 2-0 victories against Big West rivals, the UC Santa Barbara women's soccer team was able to skyrocket to second place in the conference. The Gauchos have now won five of their last seven matches and are peaking just in time for the Big West Tournament.

The Gauchos began the weekend on Thursday night as they took on the California State University, Northridge Matadors at Harder Stadium. In recent games, the Gauchos struggled to create offensive pressure.

However, UCSB came out blazing against the Matadors. A third-minute goal from senior midfielder Lauren Moss put the Gauchos up 1-0 early. The goal came from a set piece as a freekick from defender Emma Vanderhyden sent the ball into the penalty area, where it then bounced off freshman defender Shaye Douglas' head to Moss' head. Moss had the perfect angle to head the goal in and give UCSB the advantage.

Vanderhyden continued to make an impact for the Gauchos.

In the 66th minute, another set piece, this time a corner kick, rocketed off Vanderhyden's foot right to freshman defender Alyssa O'Brien who was able to head the ball into the upper corner of the goal and into the back of

the net.

The 2-0 victory marked the Gauchos' third straight game with no goals conceded.

"There's a team spirit about us – when things go badly, there seems to be no hesitation and they get back to work collectively," said UCSB Head Coach Paul Stumpf, according to ucsbgauchos.com. "I think that's been a big part of our defensive run. Obviously, you have Evann [Smith] and our centerbacks Emma [Vanderhyden] and Gia [Cimring], and [outside backs] Elise [Ziem] and Alyssa [O'Brien] have been tirelessly working, but there seems to be a collective about the defensive side of the ball that's really good."

The Gauchos' momentum carried over into their next match against the California State University, Bakersfield Roadrunners.

UCSB's early scoring continued in this match, as Douglas headed a ball into the net from a cross by junior forward Elise Ziem in only the 15th minute. The Gauchos doubled their lead in the second half when a goal in the 78th minute from Vanderhyden beat the Roadrunner goalkeeper Flavia Burrell.

CSU Bakersfield had no luck on the offensive side of the ball, as none of their 3 shots tested UCSB goalkeeper Evann Smith. In contrast, the Gauchos were able to get 4 shots on goal.

The shutout extended the Gauchos' clean sheet streak to four. The Gauchos have not given up a goal in the last 6 hours, 44 minutes, and 35 seconds of play.

With the goals from Vanderhyden and Douglas, there is now a four-way tie for the team-lead in goals scored. The defeat for CSU Bakersfield keeps them in last place in the conference, where they are still looking for their first win in conference play with only a few games left to play.

Now sitting at second place in the Big West, the Gauchos will have four more opportunities to surpass Cal Poly and take the first seed into the Big West Tournament.

UCSB will look to keep that goal alive on Thursday against UC San Diego when they travel to Triton Stadium.



NEXUS FILE PHOTO

UCSB Women's Volleyball Stays Perfect in Conference Play

Garret Harcourt
Sports Editor

Over the weekend, the UC Santa Barbara women's volleyball team continued their winning streak and stayed perfect in conference play, sweeping Cal State Fullerton and Long Beach State in a dominant 3-0 fashion.

On Friday, the Gauchos opened the weekend set against their conference opponent, Long Beach State.

In the opening set of the match, the Gauchos had a .176 kill percentage as opposed to a .357 kill percentage by Long Beach State. They narrowly

won the set 26-24 due to a couple of serving aces and serve errors by Long Beach State.

UCSB handily won the next set due to Long Beach State committing as many errors as kills with 10 apiece. Although the Gauchos also had a low .148 kill percentage, it was enough to win the second set.

In the final set, the Gauchos picked a good time to play to their potential, earning a .333 kill percentage compared to Long Beach State's .226 kill percentage.

The overall numbers favored the Gauchos as they had a .23 kill percentage in the match,

5 blocks and 6 more aces than Long Beach State.

The standout performers for the Gauchos were sophomore right side Tallulah Frolley with a team-high 9 kills, senior middle blocker Rowan Ennis with 4 blocks, sophomore libero Macall Peed with 9 digs and freshman outside hitter Michelle Ohwobete with an impressive 4 serve aces.

Moving to the Saturday game, it was another dominant win by the Gauchos over Cal State Fullerton.

The Gauchos wasted no time attacking Fullerton, as they won the first set 25-13, having 20 kills and only 2

errors in the set.

In the following set, the Gauchos once again jumped out in front, winning the set 25-16 with 18 kills and 4 errors.

In the final set, the Gauchos had yet another easy path to the sweep, racking up 20 kills while making just 4 mistakes.

By the numbers, the Titans were outclassed in every aspect. The Gauchos had a .466 hitting percentage as compared to the Titans' .151 hitting percentage, and the Titans had 19 fewer digs than the Gauchos.

Some big-time performers from this game included Ohwobete with 13 kills, Ennis with 4 blocks and Peed with 15 digs.

In the coming week, the Gauchos will go on to face UC Riverside and UC Davis while looking to stay on their six-game winning streak.

These two opponents share a combined record of 1-11 in conference play, so the Gauchos should aim to move to 8-0.

Although these teams look like easy opponents, the Gauchos should try to dominate as they did against Cal State Fullerton, because if they were to make the NCAA tournament, they would be paired against the top teams in the nation.



NEXUS FILE PHOTO



NEXUS FILE PHOTO

Storybook Franchises Claim Their Places Against Two Unlikely One Seeds

Garret Harcourt
Sports Editor

What a way to start the postseason. Two classic rivalries, one between the longtime rivals, New York Yankees and Boston Red Sox, the other between playoff foes, St. Louis Cardinals and Los Angeles Dodgers.

In the wildcard round, the Yankees got shut down by the Red Sox pitching as Boston's starter Nathan Eovaldi went 5 innings, striking out 8 while only allowing 4 hits.

On the other hand, the Yankees' 300-million-dollar man, pitcher Gerrit Cole, was expected to be the ace to pitch them to victory. However, Cole disappointed as he went a mere 2 innings, giving up 3 runs in the process.

The Yankees went on to lose the game 6-2 and the Red Sox moved on to face the Tampa Bay Rays in the American League Division Series.

In the other wild card game, the Cardinals and Dodgers produced one of the best games of the year.

Cardinals' pitcher Adam Wainwright and Dodgers' pitcher Max Scherzer each gave up 1 run before handing the ball over to their excellent bullpens that kept the game tied until the bottom of the ninth inning.

At this crucial moment, the

Cardinals brought on their closer pitcher, Alex Reyes, to face shortstop Chris Taylor, who was a late-game substitute for the Dodgers. On the fourth pitch of

the at-bat, Taylor launched a walk-off home run to move the Dodgers onto the San Francisco Giants.

Moving on to the American League Division Series, the

Houston Astros proved to be the MLB team that even after the cheating scandals, they are still a top-tier baseball team.

The Astros pulled off the 3-1 series victory against a very young Chicago White Sox lineup that should be around for many years to come.

On paper, the pitching rotation of the White Sox's Carlos Rodón, Dylan Cease and Lance Lynn should have dominated most teams. These pitchers are all fastball pitchers, which is why the Astros managed to score 31 runs across four games.

On Tuesday, the Red Sox finished off the Rays in a dramatic fashion, with second baseman Enrique "Kike" Hernández hitting a walk-off flyout against the Rays.

After getting shut out by the American League regular-season champions, the Red Sox had their backs up against a wall. They responded with a comeback victory amounting to a victory of 14-6.

The following game, the Rays looked poised to take the lead, but a controversial play went the way of the Red Sox, leading to a walk-off home run by Boston. Then, another nail-biting match in game four led to the Kike Hernández win setting up a Red Sox versus Astros American League Championship Series.

In the National League, the Dodgers are in a same predicament, being behind 2-1 with their ace, Walker Buehler, pitching for them.

Buehler will head into the Dodgers game on short rest but with the ultimate confidence backed by a 2.53 postseason earned-run average.

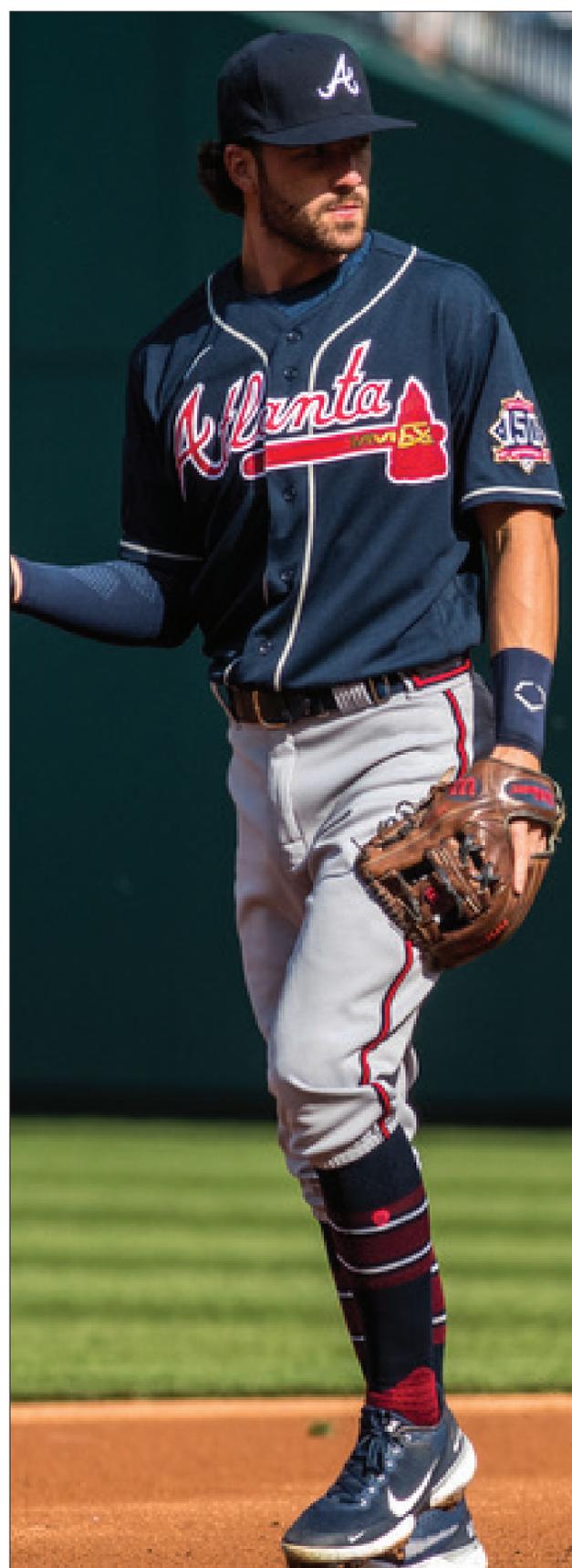
Pitcher Charlie Morton will be on the mound for the Braves as they look to clinch a spot from a talented Brewers pitching staff, consisting of two Cy Young Award hopefuls – pitchers Corbin Burnes and Brandon Woodruff – and the presumed National League Reliever of the year, pitcher Josh Hader.

The Giants back an impressive pitching staff as well, headlined by Game 1 pitcher Logan Webb and submarine pitcher Tyler Rogers.

The Dodgers will be looking to stay alive this postseason while the Braves have booked their place in the National League Championship to play either the Giants or Dodgers.



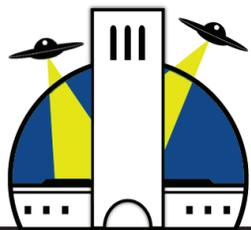
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NEXUSTENTIALISM

It's Satire, Stupid.

UCSB Library Adds Two New Sides: Tree and Rock

Kathleen Santacruz
Staff Writer

In a continuation of their efforts to keep students on their toes amid a pandemic and a university-sponsored housing crisis, UC Santa Barbara has decided to add two new sides to the library. The new sides, entitled Tree and Rock, will be joining Ocean and Mountain in an effort to create balance between the elements within the University Library. Now shaped as a hexagon, the library offers new additions that hold a lot in store for students at UCSB who were perfectly fine with the way it was before.

Dedicated to that one rock by the Arbor and some tree that looks like all of the other trees on campus, the new sides of the library have already made an impact on student life. With more space for the cultivation of a harmonious existence between library frequenters, such as people pretending to do work and those trying to escape from their roommates, the library has come closer to achieving equilibrium among students than ever before. This was disrupted, though,

when the additional decorative features to the new sides of the library were removed following complaints from urgent care about people tripping over rocks in the middle of the hallways.

With the additions being the university's newest effort to promote itself as a top university for diversity and inclusion, Chancellor Henry T. Yang has stated that the significance of the new Tree and Rock sections was to promote the well-being of students who found themselves existing as a part of the marginalized community that doesn't enjoy the ocean or the mountains, having therefore chosen to attend UCSB for reasons such as rejection from UCLA or because of some science program or something. "These students are now having their experiences acknowledged and appreciated through the provision of excellent views of trees and rocks," Yang stated. "You can't get much better than that."

Kathleen Santacruz prefers to study in the Rock section of the library because she knows what it feels like to have nothing to offer.

Guy Alex Confused as to Why S.T.E.M. Majors Think He Is So Hard All the Time

Raaghav Thatte
Staff Writer

Regular campus guy Alex is getting mildly frustrated after hearing multiple S.T.E.M. majors making false accusations about his boner count.

"I first noticed it about halfway through Week 2," a slightly distraught Alex said. "I was walking through the dining hall when I heard some girl tell her friend, 'Ugh, Alex is so hard.' I checked and double-checked my pants. Nothing there."

The situation only got more complicated from there. "Later that week, I was talking to a group of guys that said they couldn't go out that weekend because they were too busy doing Alex," he said, a tear slowly sliding down his cheek. "So I cleared my schedule and everything and they never showed up. They said something about homework. Happened with girls, too."

Unaware that the Aleks they were referring to is a common homework platform for chemistry, Alex, a first-year classics major, continued.

"People say they're doing Alex all the time. Who the hell is this Alex? And how is he

so good at getting it? Because they sure as hell aren't talking about me!" Alex cried, basically sobbing at this point. "I know it's a common name, but GOD. It's like I'm being led on by the entire campus." Alex nervously mentioned off the record that he has been taking free condoms from the Safe Sex tables outside the library and is growing increasingly disheartened that he has repeatedly almost found uses for them.

Despite all this, what upsets Alex the most are the repeated attacks on his character and references to his genitals. "They always say I'm hard. It's never anything nice about me. Never, 'Oh, Alex is so sweet, I would love to get to know him better.' Never, 'Oh, Alex is such a great guy to be around!' Never, 'I'm so glad to have Alex in my life!' Nope. It's always that I'm hard," he said, flipping the table we were using for the interview. "I haven't gotten a boner in years!"

At this point, Alex was deemed unfit to continue with the interview. He left the room, as expected, fully flaccid. Probably.

Amon Gus first hopped on the scene when he first hopped on the scene and has been hopping on said scene since.

The Official Nexustentialism Guide for the Bike Path



LUCA DISBROW / DAILY NEXUS

Sam Franzini
Captive of Gorgoth

Welcome back, UCSB! Boy, oh boy, are there a lot of rules in regard to coming back safely, especially since there are so many new people here. Lecture time is almost over, but hear me out, the bike path is one of the most integral parts of the UCSB campus, so it's important to navigate it correctly! If you're a new freshman, Nexustentialism has you covered with the only guide you'll need to get to your classes in no time.

Oopsie! Don't walk there! Many make the mistake of walking on the bike path due to its nice asphalt and pretty yellow lines, but watch out! It's just for bikes!

Tricycles always have the right of way. Because they're so little and adorable, UCSB students always let the gaggle of toddlers who ride their tricycles go by first since they have to go home from day care. Don't want Starbucks mommies to punish their tardy tots!

The bike paths are closed every day due to maintenance from 5-5:30 a.m., which impacts practically nobody except sickos who workout in the wee hours of the morning just to say they can.

Do not attempt the loop-de-loop.

One time there was this student attempting an art project on the bike path, trying to make it a metaphor for our commercialized society and how we're always in a rush or something. Someone got mad and they ran into her, and she went flying so far into space she made national headlines because no one has ever done an art project in space before. UCSB dedicated

a memorial tombstone in her memory, so when you see it on the way to Girvetz, say "Hi Shelby!" This isn't a rule or anything, new students should just learn their history.

Sunday is Twin Day! If you aren't riding alongside someone, the bike patrol can and will push you off.

If you see Gorgoth the Bike Gremlin, don't follow him into his lair. It looks cool, but many new students have perished trying to enter his slimy abode. He will lure you. But you need to play it cool, remember that you have many T-shirts at home, you do not need one more, and then calmly bike past.

If you do mistakenly enter Gorgoth's lair, he has dinner from 4:30-9 p.m. everyday. (What a fatty, am I right? But he feasts on young students for sustenance. Best not to mention his abundance of food, he's quite self-conscious about his weight still.) This is your chance to quietly sneak out of the sludge-drenched cavern and escape. And if you have two months to spare, you can wait for an appointment with UCSB Counseling & Psychological Services to get through your trauma.

Don't look at your phone on the bike path! Social media use has been proven to increase loneliness, anxiety and depression in teens. Instead, choose a healthy option like reading a book or preparing a delicious salad while you ride to class.

We hope these tips will help you during your travels this year! Best to print this out and stick it in a notebook somewhere to remember.

Sam Franzini doesn't remember people being this dumb two years ago.

DAILY NEXUS ART & COMICS

TYPES OF CYCLISTS



- JUST ENJOYING LIFE
- PROBABLY THINKING ABOUT FOOD



- HAVEN'T SLEPT IN DAYS
- THEY NEED THIS



- SOMETHING JUST PASSED YOU
- IT COULDN'T HAVE BEEN A PERSON
- UNLESS...?

LUCA DISBROW / DAILY NEXUS

ARTSWEEK

Coco & Clair Clair Bring Their Pop-Rap Sound To Storke Plaza

Eleuthera Wang
Staff Writer

This past Saturday on Oct. 9, rising Atlanta pop-rap duo Coco & Clair Clair electrified Storke Plaza for the first in-person concert at UC Santa Barbara since before the pandemic.

Coco & Clair Clair, who met through mutual followers on Twitter and have generated buzz with their feature on the viral TikTok track "RACECAR" as well as their singles "Pretty" and "Pop Star," stopped by UCSB while on their U.S. concert tour, and their performance drew more than one hundred students to the base of Storke Tower. Though the two friends hail from Atlanta, Georgia, they felt "close to home" in Santa Barbara, remarking that the beach reminded them of the shores of Florida.

Coco, born Taylor Nave, comes from a family of musicians, which includes her great-aunt and namesake, two-time Grammy award nominee Taylor Dayne. She remarked that it was a "natural thing" to pursue music, and she encouraged her friend Claire Toothill to form the duo Coco & Clair Clair with her. The pair first broke into their local scene in 2017 with the release of their songs "Pretty" and "Crushcrushcrush" and have continued to gain momentum in recent years with the release of their 2020 EP "Treat Like Gold" and single "Pop Star," as well as their brand new single "TBTF" which dropped on Sept. 17.

On a small stage set up in Storke Plaza with two mic stands and a table decked out with a MacBook and a handle of liquor (what more do you need, really), Los Angeles-based DJ Kim Hu, also known as

Hu Dat, opened the concert a little after 8 p.m. She spun a rousing set of diverse music ranging from viral hits such as "SANTANNY" by Bktherula to throwback 2010 hits like "Work" by Rihanna to timeless rap classics like "Itty Bitty Piggy" by Nicki Minaj. Hu Dat, recognized by her eclectic music taste and Supreme-branded hats, has also opened for superstar female artists like Doja Cat and Megan Thee Stallion.

After Hu Dat's DJ set, Coco & Clair Clair took the stage to raucous applause from the audience gathered just below the stage, kicking things off with a short performance of their feature on "RACECAR," Deaton Chris Anthony's viral TikTok tune, before transitioning into their song "French Tings," followed by "Bugs."

The pair then moved on to some of the more popular songs in their discography, such as "Treat Like Gold," "Crushcrushcrush" and their new single "TBTF," which stands for "The Back, The Front," a self-confident track with an intoxicating beat and memorable lyrics like "Chloe Sevigny, I'm the new it girl" and "Some girlies wanna flex with no spinal column." Speaking on "TBTF," they mentioned that the production process was spontaneous ("we were really drunk and decided to make a song") and that the music video, basically a slideshow of selfies, was inspired by rapper Soulja Boy. In addition to the music video for "TBTF," the music videos for each song in their set — which included mildly disturbing images of cartoon bugs — were projected onto a screen above the stage.

The duo entertained the audience not only with performances of their songs but also with humorous and



IDA KAZERANI / DAILY NEXUS

well-received quips like, "So far you guys have been better than Berkeley," "Remember COVID? We can't take shots of vodka" and "I wanna get into another K-hole tonight," earning applause and laughter from the crowd. Audience members also got a chance to sing into the mic, and Coco & Clair Clair frequently interacted with students in the crowd, asking questions about afterparties and requesting suggestions for songs that they should perform next.

Besides their "pure bimbo bangers," Coco & Clair Clair also performed more emotionally rocky songs such as "Sims 2." Before the bridge, they told the dancing crowd, "This part's kinda emotional, you don't have to mosh anymore." After "Sims 2," they performed more of their hits like "Wishy Washy," "Pop Star" and "Pretty."

The pair closed their performance with a cover of Minaj's anthem "Did It On'em" and spent several minutes talking to fans before leaving the

stage.

The duo cited Grimes, Drake and "everyone that would play in Urban Outfitters" as musical inspirations for their "demon-glam rock" sound. They are reportedly releasing a highly anticipated full-length album by spring of 2022 and said that all the songs for the album have been written, but they still "need time to sit still and record."

Although the pair have sold out their U.S. tour, Coco & Clair

Clair will be touring Europe in May of 2022, stopping by Brussels, London, Paris and many other large cities. They also plan to "sell out stadiums" in the future and "play only massive venues so no one complains about tickets again," so be sure not to miss out on any future concerts from Coco & Clair Clair! Their music can be streamed on Spotify, YouTube, Apple Music and everywhere else music is found.

Artsweek on Spotify: New Tracks To Add to Your Playlist This Fall Season

Lorna Kruesel
Reporter

"Winter Lady" by Leonard Cohen

Listening to renowned soft-rock singer Leonard Cohen has always been a melancholic yet soothing experience for me. Cohen's raw, emotional voice feels so familiar, and I always seem to find myself gravitating toward his albums when the weather outside starts to cool down. Playing Cohen's records while looking out the window at the snow falling is habitual — dare I say, customary — for me back in my home state of Minnesota. Cohen's best album, in my opinion, is his 1967 "Songs Of Leonard Cohen," featuring the standout track "Winter Lady." My favorite line from this track is, "You chose your journey long before / You came upon this highway." The first time that I listened to this track was a little over a year ago when I had no idea where to apply to college. I found immense comfort in this line. Perhaps I would figure out where I wanted to apply before I had to start typing those monotonous details of my high school career into the ominous Common App. I was hoping I'd choose my journey before coming upon the highway.

"The Biggest Lie" by Elliott Smith

I would argue that the entirety of late American singer-songwriter Elliott Smith's self-titled album has a distinctly autumnal feeling to it, but the essence of the closing track, "The Biggest Lie," strikes me as the most autumnal



DANIELA GOMEZ / DAILY NEXUS

song of them all. Smith is one of my favorite singers of all time, mainly because his songs convey so many intimate and profound emotions but also because they remind me of cooler temperatures and seasonal changes (if you can't tell after reading this article, my favorite season is winter, more specifically the change from autumn to winter). My favorite line from this track is, "The subway that only goes one way / The stupid thing that'll come to pull us apart / And make everybody late." I'll be honest in saying that the hopeless romantic in me adores this album, especially this track. I've always been intrigued by the idea of a relationship blossoming in the frosty, sometimes bitter

winter months; do those in the relationship find emotional warmth existing between them, even when they are apart?

"Blue Light" by Mazzy Star

Mazzy Star's "So Tonight That I Might See" is another go-to album in my collection that always makes a reappearance every time the leaves start falling outside. The beginning of the track "Blue Light" feels numb; the noise is almost ambient, as Hope Sandoval, the lead singer of Mazzy Star, fills my ears with her spine-chilling yet cloudy voice. The "blue light" that she sings about reminds me of those quintessential dark winter nights in Minnesota when I'd

walk around in my puffy coat with my headphones plugged into my ears. My favorite line from this track is, "There's a world / Outside my doorstep / Flames over / Everyone's hot." Last winter, I listened to this album an unhealthy amount. If you're familiar with this Mazzy Star record, you will definitely get what I mean when I say that this album is more or less painful to listen to. Last November was, to put it lightly, an awful month for me personally, hence the ever-present magnetic force between this album and me, the depressed listener with too much time on their hands. This lyric brought me a sense of consolation. There is a world outside, a world with flames and happiness.

"Savior Complex" by Phoebe Bridgers

I think it's fair to say that indie musician Phoebe Bridgers' second studio album "Punisher" is an essential "cold-weather album," even if "cold" in California is 60 F while "cold" in Minnesota is 15 F. Regardless, "Savior Complex" always brings about an icy feeling in my heart. This song describes the pitfalls of a toxic relationship over a dark and moody yet sensual beat to create a hauntingly beautiful song. My favorite line from this track is, "All the bad dreams that you hide / Show me yours, I'll show you mine." There's something so powerful about being vulnerable with someone you have feelings for, especially if that vulnerability is hard for yourself to reconcile with. To reveal your flaws to someone who likely sees you as the most perfect version of yourself is, quite frankly, terrifying to me. So until my fear of intimacy ceases to exist, I will enjoy listening to this track amidst the cool winds and early sunsets of winter.

"Pink Frosty Demo" by Fugazi

American punk-rock band Fugazi's 1999 "Instrument Soundtrack" is a masterpiece in so many ways. The record's opening track, "Pink Frosty Demo," is a beautifully orchestrated instrumental with a guitar interlude that strums in the background at various points in the song to keep the listener on their toes. Every time I listen to this track, I find myself inexplicably tapping my foot on the ground and bobbing my head along

to the chords. "Pink Frosty Demo," as well as the rest of "Instrument Soundtrack," is a perfect listen for the chilly treks around campus during the cooler autumn months.

"Wheat Kings" by The Tragically Hip

The 10th track on the Canadian rock band's 1992 album "Fully Completely" reminds me of car drives with my dad in the fall when I was in high school. Inspired by the true story of the wrongful conviction of a 16-year-old boy named David Milgaard, the track "Wheat Kings" is one of my dad's favorite songs, and so it has also become one of my favorites, too. "Wheat Kings" consists of a simple strumming pattern, and the gentle voices singing over the guitar are very relaxing and the ideal addition to any autumn-inspired playlist. My favorite line from this track is, "There's a dream he dreams where the high school's dead and stark / It's a museum and we're all locked up in it after dark." As I mentioned earlier, my dad and I loved listening to this song together when he'd drive me to and from my high school, hence my enjoyment of that set of lyrics. To be frank, I am extremely homesick. I miss those little moments I'd experience every day with my parents, moments that I definitely took for granted now that I'm 2,000 miles away from them. So for me, listening to this song brings me much comfort because I am reminded of my home in Minnesota and the small but happy moments I shared with my parents.

OPINION

HOROSCOPES

The Signs as Different Features of Your Hot Professor

ARIES

MARCH 21 - APRIL 19

Their bolo tie

TAURUS

APRIL 20 - MAY 20

Their brain

GEMINI

MAY 21 - JUNE 20

Their khaki pants with at least six pockets

CANCER

JUNE 21 - JULY 22

Their fully zipped Patagonia vest

LEO

JULY 23 - AUGUST 22

Their technological ineptitude

VIRGO

AUGUST 23 - SEPTEMBER 22

Their heart-print underwear

LIBRA

SEPTEMBER 23 - OCTOBER 22

Their slowly fading will to live after grading your exam

SCORPIO

OCTOBER 23 - NOVEMBER 21

Their mommy milkers

SAGITTARIUS

NOVEMBER 22 - DECEMBER 21

Their three strategically placed strands of grey hair

CAPRICORN

DECEMBER 22 - JANUARY 19

Their mistimed jokes that flop at every lecture

AQUARIUS

JANUARY 20 - FEBRUARY 18

When they tell you there is no such thing as a stupid question

PISCES

FEBRUARY 19 - MARCH 20

Their illegible handwriting

The Troubling Commodification and Appropriation of Spirituality

Maggie Modovsky
Staff Writer

Have you gained a new interest or hobby through seeing others doing it online? For many of us Gen Zers, the combination of TikTok and the crushing isolation from the COVID-19 pandemic has influenced a lot of new trends that are beginning to define us. Many trends have come and gone during the last year, but the most baffling by far has been the appropriation, commodification and disrespect of spirituality. There are no inherent problems with exploring one's spirituality and learning from others on social media platforms, but with this mass curiosity comes the inevitability of multiple issues: cultural appropriation, exploitation, commodification and ignorance.

Spirituality has a pretty loose definition to begin with; there are no single belief systems encompassed by this term, and according to the Oxford English Dictionary, it generally means, "the quality of being concerned with the human spirit or soul as opposed to material or physical things." Prior to the popularity of TikTok, spirituality largely marked the personal journey one took to understand themselves and the world around them. However, when you look up the spirituality tag on TikTok, you find a random melting pot of stolen rituals, closed practices and misinformation.

A prime instance of spirituality becoming a trend is the evil eye symbol. Even the name shows a basic misunderstanding of the concept; there are many

different uses and words for this symbol, but it is most commonly known by its Arabic name, nazar. The nazar is a blue and white symbol that is typically worn or placed around the house to protect from the "evil eye," or a curse given by a glare from someone with bad intentions. The amulet itself is not the evil eye, but the symbol is being spread as though it were, thus furthering the spread of misinformation. The use of the nazar dates back to 6th century BCE Greece and has been used in a multitude of Middle Eastern, Hispanic and Asian cultures. The mal de ojo is another name for the symbol in both Spain and Latin America, and it is generally believed that babies are more susceptible to the evil eye. Specific to the Yucatán Peninsula, babies are typically given a red string bracelet that can also have a seed sewn in for protection. Like with the nazar and the red bracelets of Mexico, Judaism and Islam utilize the hamsa hand as a talisman to protect against the evil eye.

Despite centuries of tradition, there has been a sudden increase in the popularity of the evil eye in the past year; most of its recognition can be attributed to the growing "trend" of spirituality on TikTok.

Large corporations have noticed this rise in "TikTok spirituality" and have profited off of misinformed teens who are trying to keep up with the trends. When these teens catch wind of a new trend, they will hop on it as quickly as possible. Unfortunately, this means that, oftentimes, the products are not ethically

made or sourced. A quick Google search for "evil eye jewelry" reveals a plethora of questionable pieces being sold from shops such as Nordstrom, Forever 21, Walmart and Free People. Items donning the nazar have even appeared on notorious fast fashion websites like SHEIN and AliExpress for an average price of less than \$5. This mass manufacturing has resulted in the nazar being slapped onto everything from pillows to welcome mats in a manner that makes the symbol out to be nothing more than a decorative element. In many of the cultures that utilize different forms of the nazar, the symbol is intended to be gifted to the recipient, and the idea of mass manufacturing in and of itself contradicts the intention behind it.

One Twitter user, @impennybtw, shared her thoughts on a nazar carpet that is being promoted on TikTok. She wrote, "tiktok making the evil eye a[n] aesthetic is so annoying, like if they knew its used for protection of ones energy they would understand making it into a rug & stepping on it is so disrespectful."

Furthermore, this new "TikTok spirituality" has been popularized mainly by white people. While people of color have been practicing these religions or spiritual paths for centuries – and faced criticism and oppression for their beliefs – white people cherry-pick what fits their "aesthetic" from these cultures without having to face the burden of belonging to an oppressed group. When pieces of different belief systems are taken and glamorized for the sake of making a video, the actual practices are oftentimes

done incorrectly or changed to fit a more idealized and trendy narrative of spirituality.

For instance, Vodou, or voodoo, is a general term for Afrocentric syncretic spirituality stemming from traditional African religions and Catholicism, and there are people on platforms such as TikTok promoting the practice without understanding it. A common concern with this, beyond it being a closed practice, is that people are carrying out advanced rituals that are seen as dangerous if done incorrectly. In Haitian Vodou, which is the most widely known of these diasporic religions, there are certain deities that are often called upon for help or "invoked" through a very meticulous ceremony. These ceremonies often involve some form of spiritual possession in which a deity can communicate through a member of the congregation. However, with their rising popularity in online culture, there have been instances of TikTokers, especially white TikTokers, performing these same rituals with the intention of calling upon their ancestors. Vodouists have expressed their concern over such unfamiliar practitioners tapping into spirits which may or may not be helpful to them.

Beyond the dangerous spiritual aspect, Haitian Vodou has a very solid process through which all new members are initiated and learn about the different rituals; when people try these rituals for a day or just adopt it as part of their own personality, they are stealing from a closed practice and disrespecting generations of practitioners. It

is incredibly troubling that the same people, as well as the media, have taken part in the demonization of Vodou and other African spiritualities and are now using them for their own gain.

I don't believe that the meanings of these spiritual practices and symbols are being taken away, but there is an entirely new wave of misinformation on spirituality being spread. Devoted practitioners of Haitian Vodou will not, and should not, stop practicing their beliefs, as they themselves know their practice has a greater meaning than what is being presented by the misinformed mass media. Just as the nazar is becoming popularized as a decoration, spirituality is continuously being harmed by misinformed people presenting aspects of different traditions or religions as idealized versions of what they are without any context or history of their origins.

Spirituality is a wonderful way to discover more about yourself and how exactly the world fits together with you in it – I would be lying if I said that spirituality hasn't changed my life. I do not want to discourage anyone from exploring their own spirituality or finding new belief systems, but I do implore you to be respectful and considerate. Seek out materials that come from established practitioners of the system you are interested in and try as much as possible to avoid TikTok for anything more than a starting point for further research.

Maggie Modovsky fervently believes that spirituality and all of the culture around it should be respected as more than just a trend.



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