

## Nexus Explained: Long Range Development Plan, Ocean Road Housing and Munger Hall Housing

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Following UC Santa Barbara's housing crisis and the resignation of Munger Hall's architectural consultant Dennis McFadden, local advocacy groups, the city of Goleta and Santa Barbara County have been citing violations of the Long Range Development Plan regarding university housing and student enrollment. The following article is an explanation of the

Long Range Development Plan, the Ocean Road faculty and staff housing project and the Munger Hall student housing project.

Both the Ocean Road project and the Munger Hall project require approval from the University of California Regents and the California Coastal Commission. Both Ocean Road and Munger Hall will need to meet the university's zero-net carbon emissions goal currently set to be met by 2025, which is also the deadline for construction of both housing projects.

### Ocean Road Housing

The Ocean Road faculty and staff housing project that planned to create 540 affordable faculty housing units – 180 for-sale townhome units and 360 rental units – was originally proposed in 2005 and slated for construction in 2007 but was halted in 2009 amongst public outcry, the Nexus reported.

The project garnered controversy for its environmental impact, as it necessitated demolishing the current border between UCSB and the neighboring college town of Isla Vista and tearing down a row of eucalyptus trees that line the street.

In 2019, the Ocean Road faculty housing project was reintroduced during the November UC Regents meeting with promises to present

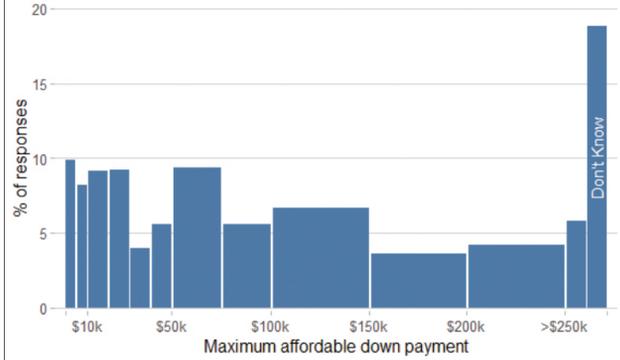


Courtesy of UCSB

regents since its original November 2019 proposal. However, a Nexus Public Records Act request filed in May requested all documents related to Ocean Road, unveiling information regarding both the

### Faculty and Staff Maximum Down Payment on Next Home

Responded to by 1336 faculty and staff members, skipped by 529.



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Of the surveyed faculty and staff members, 46% responded that the maximum down payment they could afford was less than \$50,000; 19% of the respondents marked that they didn't know what their maximum would be.

further information to the regents in 2020.

An updated timeline of the project presented at the meeting confirmed that the regents would be presented with the business terms for the project in the first financial quarter of 2020, along with design plans and "an environmental document pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act [(CEQA)]" in the second or third quarter of 2020.

These informational updates never took place since the project stalled in its planning process.

No public information on the project has been presented to the

financial and environmental aspects of the project.

According to the university's Ocean Road Review for Proposal, the intention behind Ocean Road is "to design, construct, finance, and manage a new mixed-use residential community, which is planned to include up to 540 units of for-sale and rental housing for university faculty and staff, neighborhood retail, open space, parking, and infrastructure improvements to be constructed in two or more phases."

The project site is approximately 16.7 acres of land owned by the university at the western boundary

### Long Range Development Plan

The Long Range Development Plan (LRDP) is a contract between UCSB, Santa Barbara County and the city of Goleta that addresses land use, traffic, recreational facilities, parking structures and most importantly, student enrollment, faculty housing and student housing.

The contract stipulates that the university must cap student enrollment at 25,000 until 2025, build more dormitories for the additional 5,000 students the UC mandated that every campus enroll by 2025 and build 1,800 new units for its faculty and

staff. The university's Academic Plan sets a target for student enrollment at "a rate of about 1 percent a year over the planning horizon to 2024-2025," as stated in the LRDP.

The LRDP stipulates that enrollment will be calculated through a three-quarter average instead of just one individual quarter. UCSB's Fall Quarter 2021 numbers show enrollment at 26,179. According to UCSB spokesperson Andrea Estrada, the three-quarter average sits below 25,000, in compliance with the LRDP.

To stay in compliance with the LRDP, the university must build housing to accommodate the increased number of students and faculty by 2025. For UCSB faculty, the university is planning to build the Ocean Road project; for students, the university is planning to build Munger Hall.

The implementation of the housing and enrollment portions of the LRDP gained attention this quarter as UCSB students grappled with an unprecedented housing shortage.

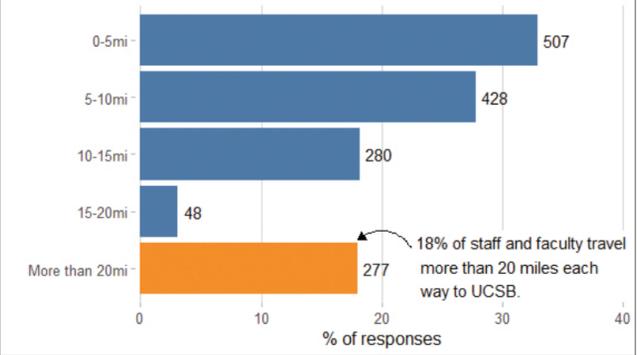
Many students were unable to

find leases in the neighboring area of Isla Vista, descending upon housing Facebook groups and university housing waitlists to find any open spots. Currently, 280 students are being housed in nearby hotels, and UCSB has garnered widespread criticism for the shortage of university housing as a result.

The city of Goleta has announced its intention to sue UCSB for allegedly violating the LRDP and contributing to the housing crisis, although the university maintains that it has not violated the contract.

### How Far Faculty and Staff Members Commute to UCSB

One-way commute distances in miles. Responded to by 1540 faculty and staff members, skipped by 125.



ALEX RUDOLPH / DAILY NEXUS

Of the surveyed faculty and staff members in April 2019, 61% reported that they commuted less than 10 miles each way to UCSB, while 18% reported that they commute more than 20 miles to UCSB.

of UCSB's main campus and the community of Isla Vista. The project itself will be 810,000 gross square feet. According to the Review for Proposal, there will be a potential parking supply of 1,443 spaces – including replacement of existing parking – with a mix of on-street, private garage and structured garage parking.

The university also hopes to dedicate 33,000-50,000 gross square feet of retail space.

The construction of this project will necessitate "significant impacts to vehicular, bicycle, and pedestrian access to important facilities and services on the west side of campus,"

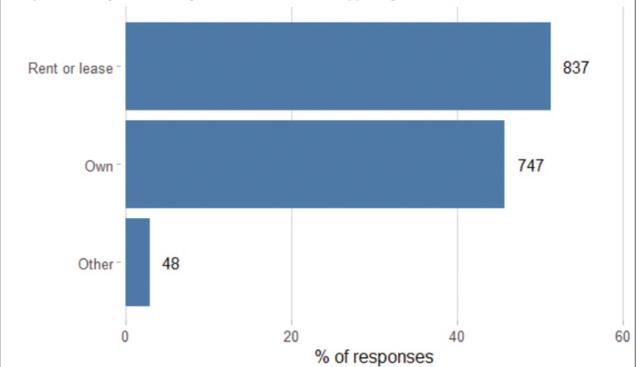
LRDP environmental impact report. The California Coastal Commission will also be required to approve the LRDP amendment and a Notice of Impending Development – which is similar to the CEQA impact report – according to the Review for Proposal.

According to Estrada, plans are not yet in place to schedule submissions to the regents.

"The project is currently in the due diligence period and undergoing studies related to infrastructure for the roadway and new homes. Once completed, we will plan for CEQA submission for review by the Regents," Estrada said in a statement to the Nexus.

### Faculty and Staff Current Housing Status

Responded to by 1632 faculty and staff members, skipped by 33.



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Of the faculty and staff members in this survey, 51% rented their living space, while 46% owned in April 2019. Approximately two-thirds of the space's the Ocean Road project will provide will be available to rent, and the other one-third will be available to purchase.

the Review for Proposal stated.

The university partnered with Greystar Real Estate Partners – an investment, development and management real estate company – in March 2020 for the Ocean Road project. Greystar is also involved in the development of "mixed-use housing" at the University of Maryland and the University of Texas at Austin.

The project faces a few key approval stages before it can begin development.

Continuation of the project will require the UC Regents to approve the CEQA environmental impact report and an addendum to the

The project's current construction plans also require a public hearing because it amends the LRDP.

"The public hearing for the LRDP Amendment is not scheduled yet," Estrada said.

Estrada said that the project – which will theoretically fulfill UCSB's LRDP commitment to establishing 540 new housing units for faculty and staff by 2025 – is still slated to be completed by its deadline.

"The Ocean Road project is being planned for construction with the utilities/infrastructure and initial blocks of homes ahead of 2025," Estrada said.

### Munger Hall Housing

Munger Hall is a planned 11-story dorm building that is poised to host 4,500 students and open by Fall Quarter 2025. The housing plan gained notoriety following the resignation of McFadden for its lack of windows, ventilation and access to the outside world.

Munger Hall – partially funded by billionaire and Berkshire Hathaway Vice Chairman Charles Munger's \$200 million donation – would be located by Harder Stadium off of Mesa Road. UCSB recently constructed a mock-up of the dormitory pods that would make up Munger Hall and plans to make the mock-up available to the campus community for tours.

Like the Ocean Road faculty and staff housing project, Munger Hall must be completed by 2025 in order to provide the required additional housing stipulated by the LRDP.

Currently, the university is preparing the building's CEQA environmental impact report for approval from the UC regents and the California Coastal Commission by spring 2022, according to Estrada.

However, many UCSB students, faculty and community members don't feel that Munger Hall is the appropriate solution to the housing shortage, echoing McFadden's concerns around the complete lack of access to the outside world from inside the building, the eight-person living units being completely "sealed environments with no exterior windows" and the complete dependence on artificial lighting and mechanical ventilation.

Hundreds of students gathered outside the University Library on Nov. 5 to protest the proposed building.

The project was

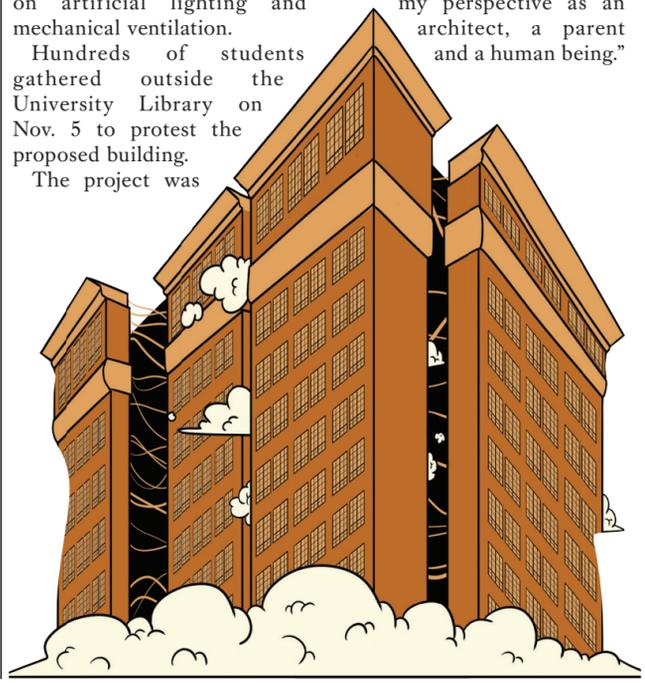
designed predominantly by Munger himself, who has no architectural credentials but has designed and donated money for other architectural projects at University of Michigan and Stanford University.

Though the common conception has been that the university is beholden to Munger's plans as result of his \$200 million donation, during the California State Assembly Education Finance Meeting on Nov. 8, Nathan Brostrom, executive vice president and chief financial officer at the UC Office of the President, clarified that though Munger brought his own ideas for the dormitory, he has no sway over the actual design itself.

"The donor tends to not have much sway. The design is all approved by the regents, it is property of the regents," Brostrom said. "In this case, the donor had some very specific ideas about housing, and he's put them into effect at the University of Michigan, so he has weighed in with the campus architects on that. Whether that is the ultimate design, we'll have to see."

In McFadden's resignation letter, he wrote that the approval process for Munger Hall and the design itself was a cause for great concern.

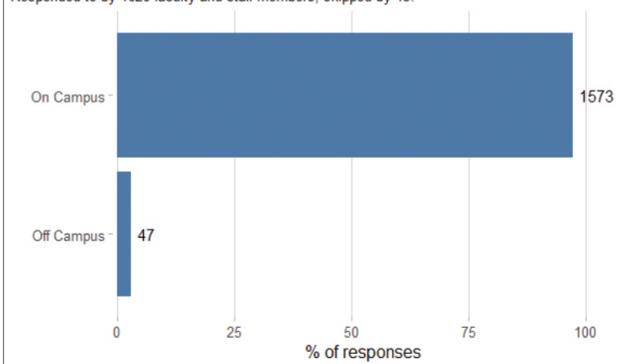
"I was disturbed by both the process and the content of the Munger Hall design presentation," McFadden wrote in his letter of resignation. "The basic concept of Munger Hall as a place for students to live is unsupportable from my perspective as an architect, a parent and a human being."



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### Where Faculty and Staff Members Currently Live

Responded to by 1620 faculty and staff members, skipped by 45.



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As of April 2019, 97% of faculty and staff members in this survey lived off campus, while only 3% lived on campus.

# Texas Court Ruling Puts Future of DACA Program in Jeopardy

Nisha Malley  
Asst. News Editor

A Texas federal judge ruled the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals immigration policy “invalid” in July, ordering the federal government to halt the processing of new applications nationwide. This decision is now affecting Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals-eligible students across the country – including those from UC Santa Barbara.

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), an Obama-era program established through executive action, provided legal protection to eligible youth who came to the United States

without documentation as children, shielding them from deportation or action against them due to their immigration status.

DACA status also qualified Dreamers – a term used to describe program recipients – for certain benefits and resources, some of which are legal work permits, a valid driver’s license, in-state tuition and, sometimes, health insurance if offered through their employer.

The July court decision does not affect people who

already have DACA status or who want a status renewal, which recipients must reapply for every two years. Now, however, new applications can be filed but will not be processed by the

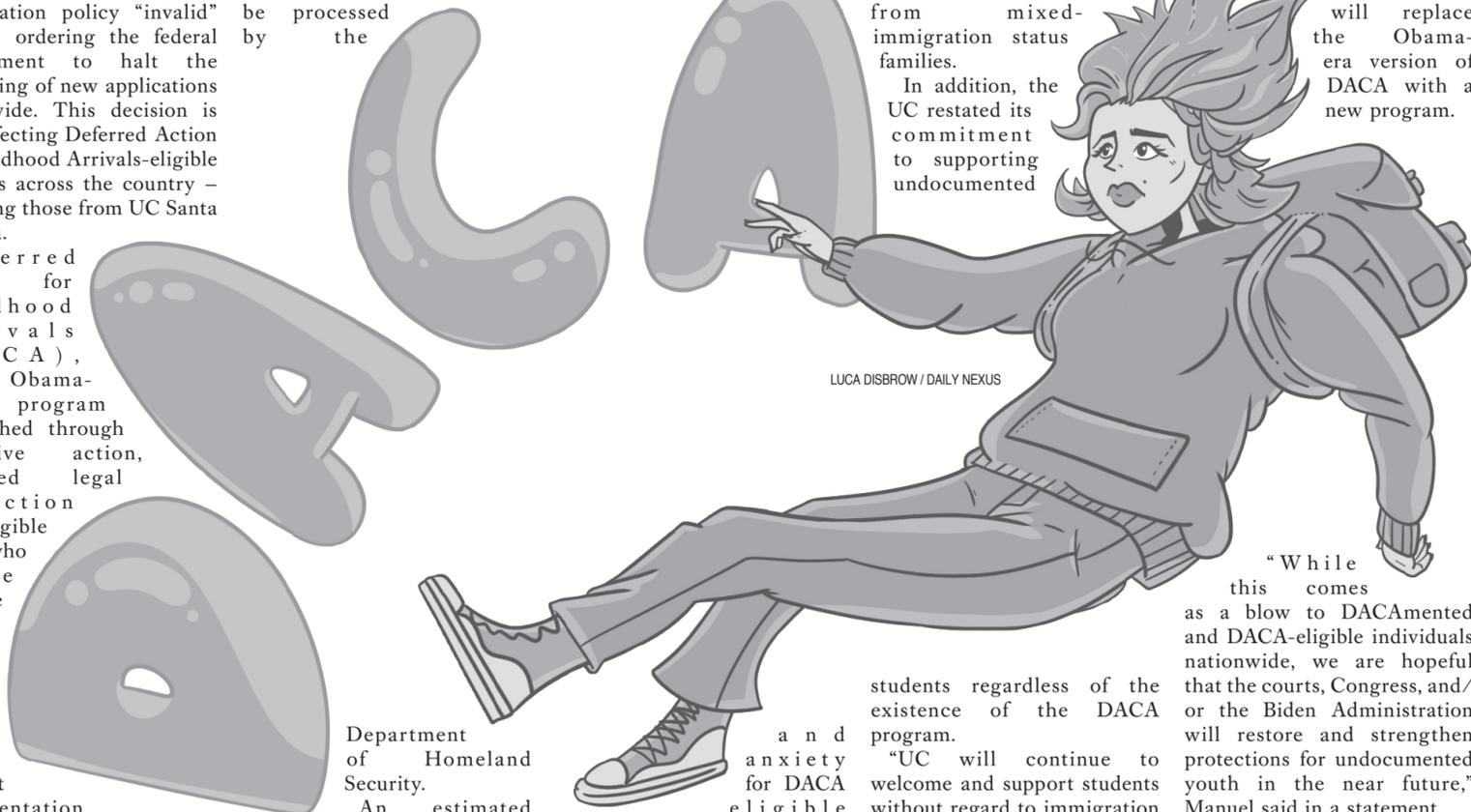
and pursue graduate and professional degrees,” the UC said in a public statement.

The court ruling in Texas creates new levels of doubt

Services Center. The UCSB Undocumented Student Services campus organization is operating remotely to offer resources to undocumented students and students from mixed-immigration status families.

In addition, the UC restated its commitment to supporting undocumented

strategic initiatives coordinator for the UC Immigrant Legal Services Center, affirmed her hope that the Biden administration will replace the Obama-era version of DACA with a new program.



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Department of Homeland Security.

An estimated 4,000 undocumented students are enrolled across UC campuses, according to 2020 data.

“The vast majority of UC’s undocumented students have lived in California for most of their lives and attended high school here. They earned admission to UC based on the same rigorous academic criteria as their classmates. Yet they face challenges many of their peers do not, including the ability to get financial aid, study abroad, work legally,

and anxiety for DACA eligible students.

“Uncertainty about federal immigration policy and the future of programs like DACA – which grants temporary legal status to eligible students who were brought to the U.S. as children – has magnified these challenges,” the statement continued.

In light of the federal level changes to DACA, the university continues to provide free legal guidance to undocumented students in partnership with the UC Immigrant Legal

students regardless of the existence of the DACA program.

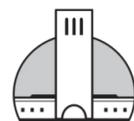
“UC will continue to welcome and support students without regard to immigration status, will not share student information without legal warrant and will not take part in joint efforts with any government agency to carry out federal immigration policy,” the public statement read. “These protections are part of ongoing efforts by the University to provide undocumented students with resources and support to advance their academic success.”

Anna Manuel, staff attorney and UC immigrant and

“While this comes as a blow to DACAmented and DACA-eligible individuals nationwide, we are hopeful that the courts, Congress, and/or the Biden Administration will restore and strengthen protections for undocumented youth in the near future,” Manuel said in a statement.

In September, President Joe Biden appealed the court ruling and, soon after, announced plans to draft a new proposal that would “preserve and fortify” the Obama-era DACA policy.

“The Biden-Harris Administration continues to take action to protect Dreamers and recognize their contributions to this country,” said Alejandro Mayorkas, Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, in a press release.



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“His favorite movie is ‘The Joker,’ that’s a red flag.”

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## Weekly Goings-on in Isla Vista

Atmika Iyer  
County News Editor  
Holly Rusch  
University News Editor

This week’s Vista Point includes events happening throughout December because this will be the last print edition of Fall Quarter 2021.

**UCSB Arts & Lectures Presents “A Very She & Him Christmas Party”**

UCSB Arts & Lectures will host Zoë Deschanel, M. Ward and Pete Lee. The event, held on Dec. 2 at 8 p.m. in the Arlington Theater, is a celebration of “the tenth anniversary of their 2011 album ‘A Very She & Him Christmas.’”

**Isla Vista Recreation and Park District Presents “Lights, Love & Community: A Holiday Lighting Celebration”**

The Isla Vista Recreation and Park District (IVRPD) will host “Lights, Love & Community: A Holiday Lighting Celebration,” a one-night event with live music from Mariachi las Olas, meals from the Kiwanis Club of Santa

Barbara, churros from Fernando’s Churro Truck and beverages from the Isla Vista Foot Patrol.

The one-night event serves as a kick-off for the winter holiday season with lighting of the Honorary Estero Holiday Tree being provided by St. George Youth Center, Estero Red Barn, IVRPD Office and Little Acorn Park.

The event will be held Dec. 3 from 6-8 p.m. at Estero Park and St. George’s Youth Center.

**WORD Magazine Presents Discussion With Pro Photographer, Atarah Atkinson**

WORD Magazine, a quarterly arts and culture magazine published by UCSB students, is hosting Atarah Atkinson, a fashion and fine arts photographer, for a discussion via Zoom on Dec. 3 from 3-5 p.m. Those interested in the event can register on Shoreline for the Zoom link.

### MCC Study Jams

UCSB’s MultiCultural Center (MCC) is hosting study jams during Week 10 for students ahead of finals. Students can head over to the MCC Lounge from 10:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

**UCSB Arts & Lectures Presents “My Bluegrass Heart”**

UCSB Arts & Lectures will present “My Bluegrass Heart,” featuring Béla Fleck, Sam Bush, Jerry Douglas, Stuart Duncan, Edgar Meyer and Bryan Sutton on Dec. 15 at 8 p.m. in the Arlington Theatre.

Fleck, a 15-time Grammy award winning banjo artist, is performing alongside the artists featured in his latest album.

“It’s not a straight bluegrass album, but it’s written for a bluegrass band,” Fleck said in a press release. “I like taking that instrumentation, and seeing what I can do with it – how I can stretch it, what I can take from what I’ve learned from other kinds of music, and what can apply for this combination of musicians, the very particularly ‘bluegrass’ idea of how music works, and what can be accomplished that might be unexpected, but still has deep connections to the origins. That’s what I was going for, though I hadn’t done it in a long, long time.”

# The Nexus Introduces the Community Outreach Beat

Sindhu Anathavel  
Asumi Shuda  
Community Outreach  
Editors

As part of a publication that works as a voice for UC Santa Barbara, the Daily Nexus news team strives to foster connections with and amplify the student body. However, after reflecting on the coverage on student organizations, specifically those centered around specific cultures and identities, in past years of the news section, we've noted the separation between our publication and student organizations on campus. This separation has sometimes given way to distrust between, isolation from and a lack of accessibility to the Nexus from all student organizations, and this barrier is one we hope to eradicate as the new community outreach beat of the news section starting winter quarter.

As the new community outreach editors of the Nexus, we hope to bridge this gap between our publication and the campus community and provide opportunities for campus organizations to feel more personally connected to the Nexus with trust and reliability. We hope to establish a safe, open relationship with all organizations that would like to connect with us to ensure that students feel comfortable in allowing us to foster these relationships.

First, we would like to introduce you to the community outreach team.

My name is Asumi Shuda (she/they), and I'm a second-year political science major who now serves as one of the community outreach editors. I am a Japanese immigrant and an Asian American queer woman. As a student involved in Nikkei Student Union, the Legal Education Association for Diversity and the Daily Nexus, I've had the privilege of witnessing the exciting events, opportunities and missions the student-led groups I'm a part of, as well as the countless other groups on campus, have to offer. I, alongside Sindhu, know that we cannot represent the entirety of the student body, but I hope that this position will create greater accessibility for students to connect with the Nexus and diversify our coverage to include students from all organizations and backgrounds.

My name is Sindhu Ananthavel (she/her). I'm a second-year communication major and a Tamil American woman. I experienced my entire first year at UCSB virtually, and one of the only ways I managed to connect with the UCSB community was through the Nexus. I spoke to so many people from different walks of life and heard so many different perspectives and was a better person for it. Needless to say, forming the community outreach position and having an entire position relegated to having closer ties with student organizations and subsequently the student body was something that thrilled me. I hope that this position is



Photo Courtesy of Sindhu Anathavel



Photo Courtesy of Asumi Shuda

successful in bridging the gap between the Nexus and student organizations and makes way for more meaningful connections between us as a media outlet and the student body.

As community outreach editors, we hope to better represent the student body through this new beat and get a more in-depth, personal understanding of student voices and issues from the perspective of campus organizations themselves, leading to a more expanded, detailed, inclusive breadth in our coverage moving forward.

We also want to acknowledge that we also cannot expect every organization to feel comfortable in interacting and connecting with the Nexus, as some of those relationships may not exist or have been negatively impacted in the past. We know that this position is a two-way street, and we cannot engage without the consent of our campus community in letting us into their space. We want to stress that it is other clubs' prerogative to let us engage with them, and if they choose not to do so, we will respect that decision. For organizations that may be more hesitant to speak with us, we will ensure that we clearly and effectively communicate our intentions with establishing a connection with them and provide enough space and privacy for these organizations

to decide whether they would like to create this contact.

We are also aware that, ultimately, we will not be able to be in contact with every single organization on campus, as we are only a two-person team with limited time and resources. However, we will make a conscious, focused effort to make connections with as many organizations that are interested as possible.

We both enter this position with the intention of creating an avenue for student organizations to interact with us, as well as amplifying student voices and creating a better relationship between the Nexus and student organizations. We hope that student organizations will be open to engaging with us, and we're excited to begin this process.

In the long term, we hope to foster a better relationship between the Nexus and student organizations on campus, and make especially organizations of marginalized students feel like the Nexus is an outlet that will accurately represent them. Through forming meaningful relationships with other organizations, the Nexus's relationship with the student body will be strengthened and our reporting will more accurately reflect perspectives on campus. Through the creation of this beat within the news section, we hope to move past the hesitancy and barriers that organizations often feel with the Nexus due to the lack of coverage we have done on organizations in the past, and build a solid foundation for future community outreach editors to be able to better cover the student body in a personal, accurate, inclusive manner.

Our office hours will be on Mondays and Wednesdays from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. If you are interested in speaking with us, please fill out our interest form, and if you would like to give us feedback, please fill out our feedback form.

# C.A.P.S. Overwhelmed With Students Requests, Students Struggle To Get Services

Holly Rusch  
University News Editor

UC Santa Barbara offers Counseling and Psychological Services as a free resource for any student struggling with their mental health. But for the students who've been employing its services during Fall Quarter 2021, long wait times for services and a lack of clinician diversity can make things difficult, creating uncertainty and anxiety.

During an average year, students usually receive a brief assessment 10 days to two weeks after filing a Counseling and Psychological Services (C.A.P.S.) services request form and see a clinician two to three weeks after their assessment, according to Janet Osimo, an assistant clinical director at C.A.P.S.

This fall quarter, however, C.A.P.S. is booking intakes approximately two months after that initial brief assessment because of an increased student demand for C.A.P.S. services and the limited availability of community providers, Osimo said in a statement to the Nexus.

As of November, the department already had over 1,400 appointments and averages around 200 appointments per week. Ashley Jack, a third-year Chicana and Chicano studies major who has been utilizing C.A.P.S. since late winter 2021, found help and support through the program, bonding with her therapist.

"It's really hard for me to cry," Jack said. "I don't know why, I could want to, I could be so upset, but I just can't do it."

But during one appointment with her therapist, after being asked how she was doing, Jack cried.

"I just cried. And I really don't like crying because I feel like it makes me feel worse," she said. "But it was nice. I was comfortable with him. I could cry. And he was really listening to me ... He wasn't telling me what to do."

Jack, who previously saw her therapist every two to three weeks, noted that he was consistently fully booked and "very busy," so she took a break from C.A.P.S. over the summer. Feeling her mental health declining this quarter, she reached out for help and scheduled an appointment.

"But it's been two weeks," she continued, pausing. "And it was really bad."

For over two weeks, Jack heard nothing from C.A.P.S. and said the waiting period took a toll on her mental health.

"The one time I really, really need them, and they're not there. Like, there's no word. There's no, 'Hey, we don't have any appointments.' There's just nothing. It sucks, because even now, in the next five weeks, I need just someone to talk to," Jack said.

"There's just a point where I'm like, 'OK, I just don't even want to do school anymore.' This is so overwhelming and there's no outlet. I just want to leave," she continued.

The experience has left her disillusioned with the university and the college experience.

"I just feel really burnt out. I'm honestly giving up on being in college. I don't want to do it anymore," she said. "I just want to hurry up and get it finished. All my passion is gone. I'm just kind of doing it for the piece of paper at this point."

For one first-year history of art and architecture major, who declined to share their name for privacy concerns, the long waiting period between filling out the services request form at the beginning of the school year and hearing back from a representative created feelings of uncertainty and anxiety.

"I did not hear back from the C.A.P.S. office until two or three weeks later," they said. "No sort of phone call, no email, no nothing. So I'm just like, 'OK, am I even gonna get support?'"

According to the first-year student, they were told by C.A.P.S. that if they wanted to see a female therapist, they would have to wait until February for

an appointment. While they were comfortable seeing a male therapist, they were still told they would need to wait until mid-November.

"In a perfect world, I'd want a therapist who has or has worked with people of color, queer people, people with disabilities, because I check off all of those boxes," they said.

"I've had therapists in the past not relate to my experience, [and] they don't know how to help me because they don't understand those experiences, or they dismiss my experiences, because they either don't understand or don't care to understand," the first-year student continued.

On Tuesday, the C.A.P.S. office let the student know they had an appointment cancellation for this week and were able to book them in. They said they're excited to be seen but apprehensive about what will come next.

"Preferably, I would like to see a therapist at least once every two weeks. I feel like that would be very helpful to me. But it's just like that uncertainty of can they fulfill that? Do they have the resources to fulfill that request for me?"

According to Osimo, C.A.P.S. services are not designed for long-term use.

"C.A.P.S. functions on the brief therapy model, meaning that students are not seen at C.A.P.S. for long-term therapy," Osimo said. "Most students average about four sessions and those sessions are typically spaced out two to three weeks at a time, depending on student and staff availability."

For students desiring long-term care via weekly sessions, Osimo said that a clinical provider outside UCSB could be a better option.

A variety of factors go into the decision, including "if they require regular weekly sessions, if they are looking for a clinician with a particular skill set that we may not provide and if they have insurance that will provide them weekly therapy appointments," Osimo said in the email to the Nexus.

For Brooklyn Garcia-Franco, a third-year political science major, requesting therapists specific to their identity or at least understanding of their identity meant not receiving help until January.

Garcia-Franco, who is trans and requested a therapist who understands LGBTQ+ issues, said that after waiting two weeks to hear back from C.A.P.S., he was told that an appointment wouldn't be available until 2022 and was referred to look for outside therapists.

"When I did that, and I did contact at least, I would say, eight different therapists, everyone was either 'Oh, we don't accept that insurance,' or it was booked," Garcia-Franco said. "It was always something, which is so unfortunate, because, like I said, if it's someone who really needs that help, they would have nowhere else to go."

After extensive research, one therapist that Garcia-Franco previously reached out to had an opening – but he still feels disillusioned with the school's mental health services.

"I just wish they would have prepared more. I wish they would have taken more importance to our mental health. Because Santa Barbara is a really hard school, it's hard to get into. It's hard to be a student here, you know, they have high expectations of you," he said.

Cassidy, a third-year environmental science major who declined to give her last name for privacy concerns, described her experience with the brief assessment as "strange." She had requested a female therapist to help with her gender dysphoria and said that she was told only one C.A.P.S. therapist – a man – was an expert on gender dysphoria and gender issues.

"Of course, I'm going to take the expert – the only expert you have with gender related issues – whether they're male or female, [but it's] the fact that they have one gender-dysphoria or transgender-focused

mental health professional in a school of 25,000 students," she said.

She said that her experience as a student at UCSB has been marked by long periods of waiting anxiously for basic services.

"It's always a deferral with UCSB," she said. "I fear that because C.A.P.S. is out of appointments until January, or they may even be booked through January at this point, I don't know if I'll be able to get a follow up or regular therapy session at C.A.P.S."

Osimo said that presently, 73% of staff members "represent ethnic cultural, religious, LGBTQ+ and international diversity."

According to C.A.P.S. Associate Director Brian Olowude, C.A.P.S. has about 50 people on staff, 28 of whom are mental health providers.

"C.A.P.S. also has a group of seven psychology trainees (doctoral interns and post-docs) who help to serve our students, as well as 10 Mental Health Peers who provide specialized and focused outreach," Olowude said in an email to the Nexus. "C.A.P.S. is pleased to share that the department recently hired six new clinicians who will be able to see students very soon (upon final credentialing approval) and the department also has three open positions under recruitment."

For one fifth-year history major, who declined to share his name citing privacy concerns, his time at C.A.P.S. was marred by similar concerns of long wait times and a lack of diversity.

"It's a huge kind of culture shock coming here, especially being very disconnected from my own community, culturally and everything," he said. "So I went to go see a therapist about that, which really didn't help so much, because there's kind of a struggle with diversity in C.A.P.S."

The fifth-year said that while he was provided a therapist with a similar background on paper, his experiences were very different from their own.

"A white Mexican is not the same as somebody who has Indigenous ancestry, or who is Indigenous, or who is a Black Latino, or an Asian Latino, where we're not a monolith, we're not a race," he said.

"I carry this with me; this is my trauma," he said. "After I got that therapist, I kind of just thought, 'Oh, so this is the kind of response that they're gonna give me, they don't really know about that.' So maybe I should stop expecting so much from them."

He utilized C.A.P.S. services mostly to be medicated for depression until the pandemic, when he took a break from C.A.P.S. Coming back to school and struggling with anxiety, he reached out again for help. After waiting for over a month for an appointment, he was told to reach out to community providers.

"At that point, I mustered up all the energy that I had to reach out to C.A.P.S., I held out for a month and I really did not have the energy to go look for a therapist," he said. "I felt like that was not a viable option. That was not something I could do – and I was desperate."

Out of options, he began to take his mother's prescription medications for anxiety and depression.

"She was basically giving me her medication, so that I could be stable enough to keep going, and to come back to school and be productive, which worked out in the long run," he said. "What really helped me was my family and the medication that my mom gave me, my community – that's what saved me."

But the fifth-year history major worries for others – especially low-income, first generation and marginalized students – who don't have a safety net.

"It breaks a lot of students, because they come in feeling that they have a safety net that doesn't exist. And they're crushed when they find out that nobody's looking out for them," he said. "What has saved us actually is other low-income students, other students of color who have guided us through the ways of UCSB."

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# City of Goleta Pursues Litigation Against UCSB, University Maintains No Wrongdoing

Atmika Iyer  
County News Editor

The city of Goleta announced its intention to sue UC Santa Barbara on Nov. 5 for damages the city has faced as a result of the university's housing crisis. The city attributes these damages to the university violating the Long Range Development Plan – a contract developed in 2010 stating that the university must cap enrollment at 25,000 until 2025, build more dormitories for the additional 5,000 students the UC mandated that every campus enroll and build 1,800 new units for its faculty and staff.

Since the city of Goleta originally announced its intent of litigation, the university still has not seen the lawsuit, according to UC Santa Barbara spokesperson Andrea Estrada.

“Ultimately, the city’s goal is to ensure that UCSB’s growth does not negatively impact the City,” said Kelly Hoover, Goleta’s community relations manager. “In 2010, the City reached an agreement with UCSB to ensure that the pace of UCSB’s growth in student population would be matched by the construction of on-campus housing. While UCSB has increased student enrollment since 2010, it has not kept up pace with providing beds to its students, who end up taking up housing in Goleta. UCSB’s failure to meet its obligation to provide student housing has had the overall effect of exacerbating Goleta’s housing shortage.”

The university, however, maintains that it did not violate the Long Range Development Plan (LRDP). According to Estrada, the



PIA RAMOS / DAILY NEXUS

The university said that it wishes the city of Goleta had not brought this matter to the courts and instead, settled it privately.

terms of the LRDP stipulate that enrollment numbers are determined through a three-quarter average. Estrada added that enrollment during fall quarter is usually higher than all other quarters, but regardless, the three-quarter average falls below 25,000. “Fall enrollment is historically higher than winter and spring quarter enrollment. For the 2021-22 academic year, the campus is projected to fall below the LRDP’s 25,000 enrollment target, as it has every year since 2010-11,” Estrada said in a statement to the Nexus.

Estrada attributed the fall quarter housing crisis to a large number of last-minute college enrollment decisions as a result of the uncertainty around in-person instruction. “Against the backdrop of the pandemic, for Fall Quarter 2021, UC Santa Barbara, along with most other college and university campuses in the country, experienced unprecedented enrollment indecisiveness that led to last-minute housing decisions by many. As a result, some students who had not previously secured

housing were offered placement in local hotels,” Estrada said. Estrada also addressed one of the city of Goleta’s listed damages as a result of the housing crisis: lost revenue from transient occupancy tax. “The University will pay all transient occupancy tax on any hotel rooms in the City that it has rented for students,” Estrada said. Estrada also said that increased enrollment is not a UCSB decision, but rather, a decision handed down from the state legislature. “Although UC Santa Barbara

houses some of its students in triple occupancy units, this practice has largely been in response to a mandate from the state of California to significantly increase resident enrollment,” Estrada said.

“Any unexpected increases in resident enrollment were attributable to requirements imposed by the State Legislature and were beyond the control of UC Santa Barbara, or even of the Regents. These increases met the University’s core public mission of educating as many Californians as possible, which created a need for the additional tripling of units.”

The university said that it wishes the city of Goleta had not brought this matter to the courts and instead, settled it privately.

“UC Santa Barbara has been in extensive discussions with the City of Goleta over housing issues for several years. The University is surprised and deeply disappointed that the City has ended those discussions and chosen to spend public funds on expensive litigation, over ongoing collaboration,” Estrada said.

The city of Goleta, however, said that litigation became the only course of redress.

“The City is greatly concerned about the prolonged effects this negative impact on Goleta’s housing supply has on our workforce and residents. As a result, the City has been forced to seek redress through the courts so that UCSB takes meaningful steps toward meeting its obligations,” Hoover said. “To do so, the initial stages of a lawsuit require the City to file a complaint with the court, to which the University will then need to respond.”

## UC Eliminates Testing Requirement in Admissions

Sindhu Ananthavel  
Community Outreach Editor

The University of California Regents agreed to officially eliminate the testing requirement for UC admissions during their Nov. 17 meeting, without introducing its own alternative standardized test.

The Regents officially decided to suspend the consideration of the SAT and ACT in admissions in May 2020 but left the door open to either modify or create a new standardized test to consider in admissions. During their most recent meeting, the Regents discussed findings from a group studying the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium as a testing option but eventually agreed not to implement any new testing alternative.

“We don’t have an assessment now that we believe we can use effectively,” UC President Michael Drake said during the meeting.

The Smarter Balanced test was reviewed by a UC study group but dropped as an option due to “concerns regarding potential bias, moderate predictive power, and the adverse effects of high-stakes testing,” according to UC Office of the President Communication Strategist Joanna McWilliams. This report was shared with and seconded by Drake in September.

All other admissions criteria will remain, following the dropping of the test requirement. The process of selection for admissions involves criteria set by the UC Academic Senate Committee Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (B.O.A.R.S.).

The criteria set by B.O.A.R.S. is then approved by the UC regents and implemented in admissions.

UC Santa Barbara Director of Admissions Lisa Przekop said that there were 14 approved criteria for admissions, prior to the elimination of testing requirements, and 13 “Comprehensive Review” criteria now remain.

“We’re confident that the remaining 13 [criteria] give us adequate information on which to base our admissions decisions,” Przekop said.

Przekop added that even if SAT/ACT scores are submitted in the application, admission officers will not be able to see the scores.

Drake said during the meeting that if another possible testing option should do “what we believe it should do in a way that we believe it’s effective,” that testing option could be considered. But for the foreseeable future, the requirement is dropped.

“UC will continue to practice test-free admissions now and into the future,” UC Provost Michael Brown said during the meeting.

# Student Researchers Union Votes to Authorize Strike, Union Members Optimistic for Negotiations

Holly Rusch  
University News Editor  
Sindhu Ananthavel  
Community Outreach Editor

Ten thousand student researchers across the University of California voted with a 97.5% majority on Nov. 19 to authorize a strike if the UC continues their refusal to acknowledge their union between Student Researchers United-United Auto Workers.

On May 24, a supermajority of student researchers across the UC filed with California’s Public Employment Relations Board to form Student Researchers United-United Auto Workers

(SRU-UAW), and a Nov. 22 email from the union stated that SRU-UAW now represents over 17,000 student researchers.

According to UC Office of the President spokesperson Ryan King, the university would be willing to acknowledge SRU-UAW as a union but takes issue with the fact that presently, SRU-UAW includes student researchers with no employment relationship with the university – like those who receive academic credit for their research.

The UC’s refusal to acknowledge the union means that student researchers remain unable to enter into collective bargaining – a process in which employees are

able to directly negotiate terms of employment with their employers – on key issues like workplace conditions and protections, SRU-UAW’s website stated.

Rebecca “Becky” Martin, an organizer with SRU-UAW and a first-year electrical and computer engineering doctoral student, said that the union is currently in a state of determining “strike-readiness.”

“There’s a lot of people across campuses that need to coordinate and we need to get ready for a strike, we need to figure out what we want the strike to look like, and we need to figure out how long we intend to strike for, so we’re still very much in the

planning stage,” Martin said.

Despite the UC’s refusal to acknowledge the union, Martin said that the union has made “incredible gains” in negotiating with the institution. A primary issue the union faced was the exclusion of trainees and fellows from the bargaining contract, and Martin said the university is now considering their inclusion.

Martin said that though the vote has been authorized, there is a chance the union may not strike. However, the planning stage is still underway.

“We don’t have a hard date yet, nor do we want to project one because part of this is keeping the UC vigilant for action. We don’t

want them to think we’re done,” Martin said.

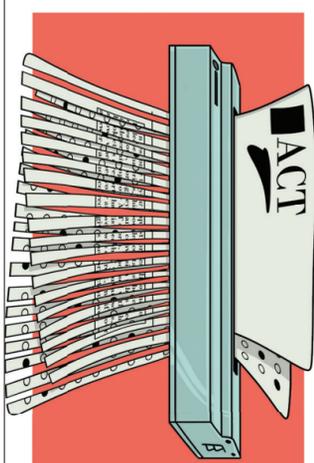
“I think it’s really important to just drive home how much we don’t want to strike. I love my research, and I am so excited at the prospect of my day-to-day work ... we would rather just not be a problem, and we just want to do our work,” she continued.

SRU-UAW has been gaining support across the UC and beyond. On Oct. 28, students and supporters across the UC protested the lack of recognition, and 26 members of the California Congress and 49 California assembly members have also urged the UC to acknowledge the union.



Courtesy of SRU-UAW

Student Resources United-United Auto Workers includes student researchers with no employment relationship with the university – like those who receive academic credit for their research.



LUCA DISBROW / DAILY NEXUS

# Uncertainty and Stress Is the Norm for Hundreds of Students Living in Hotels

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As a result of an ongoing housing shortage impacting UC Santa Barbara and its surrounding communities, the university has negotiated with local hotels – Ramada by Wyndham, Pacifica Suites, Residence Inn by Marriott, Hampton Inn, Sandpiper Lodge, Kimpton Goodland, Extended Stay America and two Best Westerns – to house over 300 students this fall quarter.

Fifth-year anthropology major Sarah Hamidi lives in the Ramada by Wyndham, one of several hotels that is providing housing this fall for students impacted by the UCSB housing crisis.

She described the stress of not knowing where she was going to live in the months leading up to fall quarter.

“I’m freaking out. I’m ready to cry because I’m not sure that I’ll be able to get housing,” she said. “Then, it’s not until a few weeks before the first day of school that I get an email saying they can offer temporary housing in hotels. I get a sigh of relief, but I feel humiliated, embarrassed and ashamed of myself that I can’t find housing.”

Hamidi’s hotel lacks basic amenities, with no kitchen, freezer or clean drinking water, which has been described as off-color and bad tasting, according to multiple students.

The university did not respond to a request for comment regarding the hotel’s living conditions.

“I just have a microwave and a mini fridge,” Hamidi said. “So, I had to go buy an Instant Pot and I’m lucky that there are grocery stores around the area, but I know students who have to [use] DoorDash or Uber Eats to get food and as you know, it can come out as very expensive. I do have to buy my own water, otherwise I just drink water from the sink in my hotel room.”

The Isla Vista chapter of Food Not Bombs has delivered fresh food to students living in hotels who might otherwise not have easy access to it.

“In basically every hotel except for the Marriott, people have had very limited access to fresh food,” said fourth-year mathematics major and Food Not Bombs volunteer Philip Axelrod.

“You know, lots of people are subsisting off of ramen and granola bars because without a kitchen, it’s very expensive to get access to fresh food. You can’t eat out every day. That’s



MARK ALFRED / DAILY NEXUS

very prohibitively expensive,” he continued.

Madeline Castro, a fourth-year geography major who lives at Pacifica Suites, said she was initially excited about moving into the hotel until she found the environment was unsustainable for the long term.

“At first I felt kind of excited. I was glad to know that I didn’t have a roommate. I had a big ol’ bed, and I had a balcony – all these little nice things, but then that sort of excitement and relief wore off when I found out how much I was paying out of pocket for housing, and that I didn’t have a kitchen, and I didn’t have laundry,” Castro said.

Without a roommate, Castro said the experience felt lonely. She said that there was a GroupMe for students living at Pacifica Suites, but the chat only had about 20 members and was not very active, making it hard for her to stay optimistic about her situation.

“I have to force myself to be active in that chat and to stay connected because it can get kind of lonely,” Castro explained. “I think it wasn’t until Week 4 or 5 that I even saw so many people face to face ... We were all just so very isolated. We’re all in our own little suites.”

The isolation from campus has also contributed to Castro’s academic stress, leading her to

feel more tired and unmotivated due to the long bus rides and the difficulty of balancing schoolwork with looking for housing.

“The draining of energy that it takes from looking for housing and stressing about housing has made it hard for me to stay motivated,” Castro said. “I can’t even imagine how much better I would be doing in school if I just didn’t have to worry about housing or work.”

According to Student Legal Services Advisor Robin Unander, fewer students are living together in fear of close contact during the COVID-19 pandemic and more non-students have moved into Santa Barbara to work remotely prior to the beginning of the quarter. Both of these factors, she said, have resulted in less housing for students than is typically available.

Both Santa Barbara County and the city of Goleta allege that UCSB admitted too many students, all while not building enough new housing; the city of Goleta is currently suing UCSB over the alleged violation.

“UCSB is out of compliance [with] the terms of the Long Range Development Plan [(LRDP)] based on their self-reported enrollment numbers and has not built required housing to keep up with their pace of enrollment,” said Gina Fischer,

representative for Santa Barbara County Third District Supervisor Joan Hartmann.

The LRDP is a 2010 contract that requires UCSB to limit enrollment to 25,000 students until 2025, build 5,000 more dormitories for students and build 1,800 more units for faculty and staff.

Among students’ complaints is the university administration’s infrequent communication to those living in hotel housing.

“Communicating in general would be great,” fourth-year global studies and art double major Alyssa Gikkas told the Nexus. “They don’t want to tell us anything. I feel like they’re putting it off as much as they can.”

“It’s just hard to balance everything while worrying about where I’m going to be living for the next quarter,” Gikkas said. “I mean, it’d be nice if they could just confirm that we’re staying in the hotels or even online classes, like anything. If they can provide online classes, and I don’t have to be in Santa Barbara, that’s great, that’s fine.”

A week later at a housing crisis town hall hosted by the university on Nov. 16, Mario Muñoz, assistant director of University & Community Housing Services and Resident Placement & Assignment Services, confirmed

the continuation of hotel contracts in response to a student’s question.

“I would say if you’re currently in a hotel and you continue to maintain eligibility ... then you will be either offered campus housing or the option to stay in a hotel,” Muñoz said.

According to Muñoz, 280 students are currently residing in hotels, 169 have requested to be placed in campus housing, 50 students said they will not need university housing for winter quarter and another 50 have yet to respond to the university with their intent. The university charges students about \$26 a day to live in hotels but is charged around \$175 a day by the hotels themselves.

“At this point, we are looking to prioritize moving the students who are in hotels into campus housing,” Muñoz stated.

Chancellor Henry T. Yang spoke briefly at the event and left shortly after without taking questions.

“We know that our process was not perfect and that this was a difficult transition for some of our students,” he said.

Second-year biology and English double major Ladann Kiassat expressed frustrations with the university’s delayed responses to student concerns and overall lack of communication

during the town hall.

“There’s a lot of conversation of, ‘We’re hearing you,’ but there’s definitely a deficit in listening and taking it to heart ... You should not have to have any kind of privilege at a university for people to listen to you so you can get some basic housing needs met,” Kiassat said.

With less than a month to go, the university has yet to officially contact students and let them know they will have housing going into next year.

The university has already begun moving students into housing outside of hotels. According to UCSB spokesperson Andrea Estrada, a number of students in hotels have been offered university housing as more spaces opened up on campus.

“A significant number of students applied for housing only a few weeks before classes started – well after the deadline – and the university wanted to give them additional time to find other housing. Many students originally in the hotels have been moved to available campus housing and others have found other permanent accommodations,” Estrada said in a statement to the Nexus.

In offering support to these students, Estrada said the university has offered online workshops and has helped students apply for housing elsewhere. However, she also said there are no concrete plans about providing hotel accommodations in future school years.

“We are looking into the possibility of extending contracts, but this is not a sustainable option for future years,” Estrada said.

Castro joined a Zoom workshop hosted by the university to receive assistance in applying for winter quarter housing and said she was the only student in attendance, with just her and the host, earning Castro a spot on the priority waitlist for campus apartments.

Castro was ultimately offered a room at Sierra Madre Villages, but said many others did not have the same outcome.

“I’m just eternally fortunate that I was able to get a place at Sierra Madre, and so when I got that spot, I told people [in the GroupMe chat], ‘Hey guys, I’m not gonna be looking for a house anymore. I’m so sorry. I got a spot on campus. Hopefully you guys can find some as well,’” Castro said.

“I was really trying to be more transparent than the school was because they never told us how many students are being moved over or what rooms were [available] or how many, just to make it seem a little more hopeful, but absolutely not, they did not do that.”

## Man Commits Murder-Suicide at Calle Real Best Western, a Hotel Housing UCSB Students

Atmika Iyer  
County News Editor

*Trigger Warning: This article contains graphic content relating to gun violence.*

The Santa Barbara County Sheriff’s Office is currently looking into what investigators have referred to as a “murder-suicide” at the Best Western on Calle Real around 11 a.m. on Thanksgiving morning. The Calle Real Best Western is one of 10 hotels housing students affected by the UC Santa Barbara housing crisis.

Deputies responded to a disturbance around 11:10 a.m. to find two people – a man and a woman – with gunshot wounds in an unannounced location at the hotel. Investigators believe the male to be the perpetrator. Both were transported to a local

hospital. The male suspect died later that morning at 11:44 a.m., and the woman died later that day at 3:40 p.m.

Investigators’ current theory is that the man killed the woman before turning the gun on himself. The names of the deceased and their relationship have not yet been disclosed to the public.

The university is aware of the shooting and has reached out to the students living at the hotel to understand how they were impacted by the shooting, according to UCSB spokesperson Andrea Estrada.

“Staff members in the office of Residential & Community Living (RCL) have called all students living at the Best Western hotel to better understand how each was impacted by the incident. Students who were not



The names of the deceased and their relationship have not yet been disclosed to the public.

CHRIS PUGA / DAILY NEXUS

immediately available by phone received an email informing them of the incident and of the resources available to them. The RCL team is currently

reviewing the responses from students,” Estrada said in a statement to the Nexus.

When asked whether the university still considers the

Best Western a safe location to host students next quarter, Estrada said that the hotel management is eager to continue their relationship.

“The Best Western hotel management has been extremely helpful and is eager to partner with us to assist our students,” Estrada said.

# UCSB Alumnus, IVCSA General Manager Runs for State Assembly in 2022



Courtesy of Jonathan Abboud

The UC Santa Barbara 2014 alumnus is centering his campaign around education, housing, childcare and climate change.

Amitka Iyer  
County News Editor

Isla Vista Community Services District General Manager and Santa Barbara City College Trustee Jonathan Abboud is running for the California State Assembly as a Democratic candidate in 2022.

The UC Santa Barbara 2014 alumnus is centering his campaign around education, housing, childcare and climate change. Presently, he's the first to announce his candidacy.

"I'm passionate about the

central coast and making it a better place for everyone here," Abboud said. "I really want to work on steering us towards a brighter future and doing that through thoughtful, open and respectful communication."

He was formerly UCSB's A.S. president during the 2013-14 school year and is currently the youngest Santa Barbara City College trustee.

Abboud also worked with the former State Assemblymember Das Williams to create a bill that ultimately created the Isla Vista

Community Services District (IVCSA).

"I've never been afraid to take on the hard issues and address them throughout my entire time as a community leader," Abboud said. "That's always been my focus, is taking on the most important issue, the tough issues and the ones that people feel are most important."

If elected, Abboud hopes to increase funding for local public school districts, increase teacher salaries and work to solve the current shortage of substitute

teachers in California.

"We need to fully fund our schools and we need to get back to being in the top, at least top 25%, of the country and funding in per student funding. But we're in the bottom 10 right now," he said. "We used to be, if not number one, in the very top of the country in funding per student for K-12 students. So I would want us to get back to that point."

Abboud also wants to address issues affecting higher education in the central coast.

"I want to get us back to tuition-

free college. I want to get the Cal Grant expanded within the California community college system which, right now, [is] not available to California community college students," Abboud said. "I think a big part of education and housing, it's kind of a dual issue, is student housing because I think the state needs to make bigger investments and more strategic investments in affordable housing."

Abboud added that he wants to streamline the transfer pathway from community colleges to California State Universities (CSU) and Universities of California (UC) and provide adjunct higher education faculty members with more job security.

The Democratic candidate expanded on these improvements and discussed bigger system changes, including changing the way people are appointed to the governing boards of higher education by implementing elections for members instead of operating on an appointment-based system.

"One other idea I'll put out there on the higher education front is reforming the governing boards of the higher education institutions like UC, CSU [and] community colleges, to make them more accountable. Right now, there is a lot of disagreement that the UC regents are not accountable to the public interest and appointment only," Abboud said.

In addition to education, Abboud hopes to improve childcare accessibility, citing the city of Goleta's approach to childcare as an ideal model.

"[The city of Goleta has] actually been a statewide leader on childcare. Council Member James Kyriaco has been working on it, and they're doing things like

making it easier to zone and permit childcare facilities just to increase the number of them," Abboud said. "So, I think something like that on a statewide level would be helpful just to increase the availability of [childcare]."

Abboud also stressed the need to build more housing, both for students and for houseless residents in the central coast.

Abboud's final campaign issue, climate change, centers around improving housing and transportation – he noted that 40% of California's greenhouse gas emissions are transportation-based.

"We've got people who work at UCSB who live as far as Camarillo or Santa Maria or even SLO who are driving down to UCSB to work," he said.

"That's just a clear one where [if] the state invested in workforce housing more for UCSB, that's just a lot of people being taken off the road not needing to commute that far."

With seven years of public service under his belt, Abboud said he wants to center his priorities around the needs of the people living along the central coast.

"I just want to re-emphasize my determination to work for the people here and to get things done on their behalf. Again, that's always been my guiding principle. I want to work on the issues that are important to people here, and not just any issue, but the long standing ones, the tough ones, the ones that we really need to solve to make life better," Abboud said.

"And I will be laser focused on getting those done using the seven years of experience I have, using the energy I have and using the knowledge and connections I've built over the years in the community."

## IVCSA Presents Alternative Deltopia for the First Time



SAM NG / DAILY NEXUS

Asumi Shuda  
Community Outreach Editor

Isla Vista Community Services District presented an alternative event to the annual Deltopia during their board meeting on Nov. 30 – an event set to take place on April 2, 2022.

After hearing public input on Deltopia—an annual, unsanctioned party on the streets of Isla Vista during the first week of spring quarter – Isla Vista Community Services District (IVCSA) began planning for an alternative event in partnership with Lucidity, but the event was canceled in both March 2020 and 2021 due to the

spread of COVID-19.

"Since we've been formed as a district, we've had the call of a safer and fun community events and festivals that makes large weekends safer and healthier for the community," IVCSA General Manager Jonathan Abboud said during the meeting.

Now, with spring quarter fast approaching, IVCSA reconvened its Spring Festival Ad Hoc Committee this year to plan for this alternative event in 2022.

"We've done recent efforts [to promote safe and fun community events], but we've still been building towards our full plan [of the alternative Deltopia]," Abboud

said.

Abboud presented the following objectives in this event proposal: providing safe and fun options for entertainment, promoting community building for IV. – specifically in the sector of arts and culture, celebrating the "positive aspects of the Isla Vista community," supporting local businesses, allowing the college town to "create their own narrative" and emphasizing the locality of the event.

To uphold their emphasis on "keeping things local," IVCSA is planning to organize musical performances with local bands within Isla Vista.

Other objectives presented at the meeting include creating site plans within public spaces to host a variety of events and experiences during the festival. There will also be an emphasis on providing alternative means of public health and safety measures in contrast to traditional law enforcement.

"For example, in the past, we've talked about having a medical tent brought in that could do first aid and other immediate issues that can be taken care of instead of having someone transported out," Abboud said.

IVCSA has allocated \$55,000 for the 2022 festival and \$40,000 remains available for "special projects."

IVCSA listed potential sources of additional funding, including the UCSB's Associated Students, other public agencies with aligned goals, private advertisement and/or sponsorships and the COVID-19 emergency funds reimbursement from the state of California to IVCSA.

"The committee discussed the budget to be \$120,000 to \$150,000 in total, including all these partnerships and funding sources," Abboud said.

## DLG Late Night Cancelled Post-Pandemic



DYLAN MESSINEO / DAILY NEXUS

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Josie Hurwitz  
Staff Writer

UC Santa Barbara's De La Guerra Dining Commons ended its longstanding tradition of offering a "late-night" service and menu starting this fall quarter amid the university's shift back to in-person instruction. In the past, students populated De La Guerra from 9 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. on Monday through Thursday for ice cream, corn dogs and other snack foods.

In place of the late-night dining option, the De La Guerra Dining Commons (DLG) now offers weekday breakfast from 7:15 a.m. to 10 a.m. and longer lunch and dinner times, extended by 30 minutes each.

All dining commons except Ortega Commons currently open at 7:15 a.m. and close at 8:30 p.m.

Collin Hill, a chef in the salad department at DLG, explained that there used to be two full-time cooks involved in the late-night shift who now help with the

dinner shift instead.

"No more late-night has made it overall easier to deal with the workload," Hill said.

Students who frequently attended late-night in the past, however, expressed their sadness to see the termination of the dining option, describing fond memories.

Third-year biology major Felix Mila reminisced on his freshman year memories at late-night. According to Mila, DLG offered a social aspect beyond just serving food and was the place to be at the end of the night after their "themed gatherings" every Tuesday and Thursday.

"Big groups of people would go after parties and get burgers, grilled cheese, fries, brownies and cereal. All the late-night munchies," Mila said. "The kids that lived close to DLG in Santa Cruz, Santa Rosa, Anacapa and San Nicolas residence halls would use late-night all the time."

Third-year College of Creative Studies physics and mathematics double major Montu Ganesh and fourth-year math major Jap Singh

said they miss the convenience of late-night for study purposes as well.

"Sometimes, people have work to do, they're busy and some people just like to eat dinner later. So having an earlier time sometimes isn't convenient," Ganesh said.

Singh also said he enjoyed the flexibility that late-night gave him.

"It allows you to be more flexible with your schedule ... if it were open longer, that would help out in terms of my ability to study not late at night. Instead, I could just eat later. Not just study late," Singh said.

Still, students who never had the opportunity to try late-night, such as third-year political science major Tony Zepeda, wish for the option to eat later after studying remained available.

"I just think in general, the dining commons should be open later. We're all college students, and we're all studying late at night. They close way too early, so I think that needs to be changed, honestly," Zepeda said.

## Armchair QB



This week, it is Mac Jones and the New England Patriots who are the team to beat in the AFC. The Pats have won 6 in a row and have sole possession of the No. 2 seed in the conference.

# SPORTS

## UCSB Athletics

Men's basketball suffered a bad home loss against UT Arlington. The Gauchos were favored by 12 points but lost by 8. UCSB will need to win these games if they want to return to the NCAA Tournament.

## Men's Basketball Loses First Game at T-Dome Since 2019

Preston Espar  
Sports Editor

The UC Santa Barbara men's basketball team saw their 2-game win streak come to an end on Monday night with a 70-62 defeat against the University of Texas Arlington Mavericks. The loss also ended the Gauchos' 20-game win streak at the Thundersdome and was UCSB's first defeat at home since 2019.

Senior forward Amadou Sow continued his strong start to the season with a game-high 23 points while shooting an efficient 66.7% from the field. In addition, Sow was able to grab 7 rebounds, and junior guard Josh Pierre-Louis had a game-high 11 rebounds. While Sow was the only UCSB starter to score in the double digits, three Mavericks starters scored 10 or more points. Two UCSB players off the bench, junior guard Calvin Wishart and graduate forward Robinson Idehen, scored 10 and 11 points, respectively. Idehen also totaled 2 blocks for the Gauchos.

The Gauchos struggled shooting the ball all night. UCSB was only able to capitalize on 11 of the 22 free throws they were awarded, while they shot a below-average 21.4% from behind the 3-point line.

UCSB played a sloppy first half that saw the lead go back and forth. The Gauchos were unable to retake the lead consistently due to their ability to draw fouls and slow the pace of play. However, a late run by UT Arlington saw the Gauchos down by 7 with little time left in the first half. UCSB took advantage of the time remaining and cut the Mavericks' lead to 2 when the halftime buzzer sounded.

The Gauchos came out slow again in the second half with a scoring drought that lasted 4 minutes. During this drought, UCSB allowed UT Arlington to extend the lead to double digits. As the half progressed, the Gauchos increased their defensive intensity. They were able to hold the Mavericks to a shooting clip of just 39.1%

for the half. However, these recurring stops did not translate to success on the offensive side of the court. The Gauchos committed 10 turnovers in the second half and had 18 total turnovers at the end of the game. Fortunately, the Mavericks were only able to score 9 points off these Gaucho turnovers, so even with the offensive errors, UCSB was able to stay in the game. Consistent stops and timely buckets saw the Gauchos cut the lead down to 5 points with 2 minutes to go. However, UT Arlington was able to force the Gauchos into more turnovers which led to the go-ahead bucket for the Mavericks.

UCSB will look to start a new winning streak at home this week as they close this streak of home games. On Friday night, the Gauchos will take on the Pepperdine Waves, while they will play the Cal Lutheran Kingsmen on Sunday. After these games, UCSB will travel to Moraga, California, to match up against the Saint Mary's Gaels.



PABLO VAN DYCK / DAILY NEXUS

## UCSB Men's Soccer Comes to a Close After a Successful Bid Into the NCAA Tournament

Garret Harcourt  
Sports Editor

By winning both the Big West Regular Season Title and the conference tournament, the Gauchos were poised for an NCAA tournament appearance.

The first-round matchup was all we were able to see as the talented UCLA men's soccer team was able to beat the Gauchos by a score of 2-1.

The Bruins were riding high coming into the matchup being No. 22 in the nation and on a 3-game winning streak, beating the top-ranked Oregon State team.

This game was a back-and-forth affair for each side as the game ended up going into a golden goal format in the second overtime.

The first half was an even affair as the Gauchos managed to get 1 shot on goal while the Bruins didn't get a save from the UC Santa Barbara sophomore goalkeeper, Leroy Zeller.

Zeller got to work in the second half, however, managing 5 saves. The first breakthrough of the second half came with a goal from freshman attacker

Ramses Martinez in the 54th minute.

With Zeller providing outstanding goalkeeping, UCSB thought they had it all but won. With 5 minutes remaining, freshman forward Jose Contell equalized for the Bruins, forcing the game to go into overtime.

In the first overtime, there wasn't much action as there was only 1 shot on target from each side and no goals to show for it.

Unfortunately, in the second overtime, the Gauchos conceded a goal to the Bruins, and the golden goal rule insinuates it's the first goal to score wins.

Although this goal ended the Gauchos' season, there were many standout performers for the team this season.

Sophomore forward Finn Ballard McBride led the way for the Gauchos this season, having a team-high 9 goals and also a team-leading 7 assists.

Junior forward Thaabit Baartman was second in each of those categories with 7 goals and 5 assists.

Zeller had an outstanding season in the net, completing 9 shutouts while having a .804 save percentage on the season

and an even more impressive .810 save percentage in league play.

In league play, freshman forward Salvador Aguilar and senior forward Ameyawu Muntari provided the spark up front, having a team-high 6 goals apiece.

All in all, although the Gauchos came up short nationally, they still had an outstanding season finishing both the regular season and the conference tournament on top.



PIA RAMOS / DAILY NEXUS

## Women's Soccer Comes up Short in Big West Tournament

Garret Harcourt  
Sports Editor

The Gauchos battled throughout the season only to come up short, losing to the top-seeded Big West team, UC Irvine, 0-1.

Leading up to the contest, the Gauchos were in a tough stretch of games as they started October with a draw, then a 3-game win streak. From that point on, they lost to their rival Cal Poly, then to UCI, and bounced back in a shaky win over Long Beach State leading into the Big West Tournament. By the end of the month, the Gauchos were placed as the No. 4 seed.

Due to the shaky month of October, the Gauchos as the No. 4 seed were placed against the top seed, UCI, who they had previously just lost to.

The semifinal match between the Anteaters and

the Gauchos had some stat lines you don't see too often.

The only goal of the match came from a penalty kick goal by junior midfielder Scarlett Camberos of UCI, with the goalie of UC Santa Barbara picking up the yellow for the foul in the box.

The Gauchos outshot the Anteaters in the second half, forcing 2 saves from Irvine sophomore goalkeeper Glo Hinojosa.

In the end, the Gauchos could not convert their chances in the second half, leading to the loss and a late yellow card which forced a red card to the Gauchos' junior goalkeeper, Evann Smith.

Looking at the end of the season's statistics for the Gauchos, one standout performer was senior defender Emma Vanderhyden who led the Gauchos with 3 goals, 4 assists and 10 points.

Two freshman standouts

were defenders Shaye Douglas and Alyssa O'Brien, with Douglas picking up 7 points with 3 assists and O'Brien having 6 points with 2 goals and assists apiece.

Overall, the UCSB women's team had 10 players with a shot-on-goal percentage at or above .500 %, so it was a matter of finishing chances for the Gauchos.

Although the Gauchos' goalies managed 7 shutouts, the defense was a bit of an issue throughout the season, forcing over 4 saves a game from the goalie.

On the season, the Gauchos finished with 8 wins, 9 losses and 3 ties, while having 6 wins, 3 losses and 1 tie in conference play. Although they did not perform their best in conference play, the Gauchos still managed to put together a successful turnaround to make it into the Big West Tournament.



JOSHUA YEPEZ MARTINEZ / DAILY NEXUS



PIA RAMOS / DAILY NEXUS

# SCIENCE & TECH

## NASA and SpaceX Launch Mission To Crash Spacecraft Into Asteroid From California Coast

Mark Alfred  
Staff Writer

Can humans escape the fate of the dinosaurs? NASA and SpaceX seek to find out with their Double Asteroid Redirection Test, launched from the SLC-4E launch site at Vandenberg Space Force Base in Santa Barbara County.

By crashing the Double Asteroid Redirection Test (D.A.R.T.) spacecraft into an asteroid at 15,000 miles per hour, and measuring the ensuing change in velocity, the agencies will determine if humanity has the power to change the path of such space debris or if Earth remains entirely vulnerable to

interplanetary threats.

The refrigerator-sized spacecraft, constructed by the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory, features a DRACO camera, two solar arrays and a NEXT-C ion thruster. D.A.R.T.'s sole goal is to navigate interplanetary space, identify its target and speed into it at 6.7 km/s. The \$324 million mission is a departure from NASA's usual role of space exploration to that of a planetary defender.

Next October, after nearly a year of coasting, D.A.R.T. will intersect with a pair of asteroids in interplanetary space, Didymos and its moonlet Dimorphos, which were both discovered

in April 1996 by the Kitt Peak National Observatory.

Dimorphos will serve as the bullseye for D.A.R.T., with scientists expecting the collision to alter its 12-hour orbit by 10 minutes. Scientists will measure the change in Dimorphos' orbit around its larger counterpart from telescopes on Earth to test the effectiveness of D.A.R.T. changing its orbit.

The spacecraft launched successfully on Nov. 23 at 10:21 p.m., traveling aboard the twice-used Falcon 9 B1063 rocket, which successfully landed itself off the coast of Baja California on the drone ship "Of Course I Still Love You." This is the same Falcon 9 that launched the Sentinel-6 Michael Freilich mission a year ago this month. The two faring halves that shielded the spacecraft from atmospheric damage at liftoff were also recovered from the Pacific Ocean.

Actor Bruce Willis was invited to the launch by NASA but was unable to make it, according to The Washington Post. "We didn't want to miss that connection," NASA Administrator Bill Nelson said, referencing Willis' role in the film "Armageddon" which centered around humans' attempts to redirect an asteroid headed toward Earth.



CHRIS PUGA / DAILY NEXUS

Next October, after nearly a year of coasting, D.A.R.T. will intersect with a pair of asteroids in interplanetary space, Didymos and its moonlet Dimorphos.

Elon Musk, the CEO of SpaceX and the richest human on Earth, advertised the historic mission on Twitter with a meme depicting dinosaurs wearing Apple AirPods labeled, "Dinosaurs watch out for the asteroid! Oh no! They're wearing AirPods. They can't hear

us." This mission marks the first time SpaceX will make contact with an interplanetary object, an important milestone as the company develops its Starship program in Boca Chica, Texas, which aims to land humans on

the moon and Mars in the coming years.

"This will be really important one day," Musk said on Twitter. "Earth has been and will be smashed super hard by meteors over time. Not a question of if, just when."



MARK ALFRED / DAILY NEXUS

The spacecraft launched successfully on Nov. 23 at 10:21 p.m., traveling aboard the twice-used Falcon 9 B1063 rocket.

## UCSB Earth Science Researchers Map Fossil History in Ediacaran Era

Anaya Khan  
Science Writer

Have you ever wondered how life as we know it developed? How living organisms extended beyond the constraints of the microscopic realm?

The Ediacaran Period, the era directly preceding the Cambrian explosion, ranging from 635 to 539 million years ago, witnessed a massive evolution of macroscopic life. This rapid development in fossil production led to the rise of Darwin's dilemma and the seeming inability of his theory of gradual evolution to address this large shift in biological life.

In November 2021, researchers Daniel J. Condon, Xian-Hua Li, Dmitriy V. Grazhdankin, Fred T. Bowyer, Francis A. MacDonald, Chuan Yang, Alan D. Rooney and Maoyan Zhu from UC Santa Barbara's Department of Earth Science shared their efforts in closing the gap of knowledge that surrounds the period with research published in Science.

An interview with MacDonald revealed that prior to the development of macroscopic organisms, the beings existing on Earth were overwhelmingly microscopic and soft-bodied.

"There's actually quite a rich record there but it's mostly micro and it's mostly soft-bodied, and the micro stuff in the soft-bodied material does not preserve as well [in] the geological record," MacDonald said.

an incomplete model of the fossil records.

MacDonald and his colleagues joined together to map an accurate time-calibrated model of the Ediacaran Period through the use of new methods to date and analyze sediment.

In the past, it was difficult to obtain radioisotopic age constraints, given that specific material created from volcanoes was needed in order to accurately retrieve information.

Unfortunately, the sediment created from the eruptions was not always present when important changes to evolution occurred.

MacDonald stated that many of the most important successions – changes in the composition of the sediment – "may have things like fossils on them, [but] they don't happen to have a volcano going in there all the time."

Fortunately, through the research project, MacDonald and Rooney were able to extract accurate dates from the use of a rhenium-osmium chronometer.

In the interview, MacDonald explained the processes by which this form of dating functions. "The rhenium is actually trapped within carrageen and organic matter. And then, if that is trapped, you can actually count the rhenium and count the daughter osmium and actually get a date on a sediment."

Rooney and MacDonald experimented in southern China and were able to accurately extract dates from

the sediment.

"We've been kind of calibrating it and a lot of different successions," MacDonald noted, "and it's been proving to be at least accurate ... What we did here is we found successions."

With the new data, the researchers are a step closer in creating a full model of the Ediacaran Period.

"These changes to the carbon cycle that we're seeing in carbon isotopes ... [make us] reassess what the real record is and what the relationships are between perturbations in the carbon cycle and turnovers of these major fossil groups."

This research is only the beginning, according to MacDonald.

"[The project] is coming at the beginning of a large, international drilling project that we're involved with ... we are drilling sedimentary cores in several regions around the world through this interval, going into the Cambrian explosion to try to create ... a modern age model," he said.

While progress has been made, scientists continue their pursuit in mapping out Earth's biological history. The answers to all scientific questions remain unknown, and in MacDonald's words, the uncertainty is alright.

"The beauty of the scientific method is that we can keep exploring these details," he said. "We don't have it all solved and that's OK. We still haven't sorted out Darwin's dilemma ... we are, I think, making progress."

## SIMPLY STATED

### What Is the Best Form of Caffeine?

Audrey Moeller  
Science Writer

With the approach of finals, caffeine is the official sponsor of late-night studying. So, what should you be drinking to stay fueled and focused?

In the United States, 85% of adults consume caffeine daily, with an average intake of 135 milligrams per day or 1.5 standard cups of coffee (1 standard cup is 8 fluid ounces or 235 milliliters). Your body is able to absorb up to 99% of the caffeine found in coffee, enabling the compound to reach peak blood concentration levels as soon as 15 minutes after consumption. Once absorbed, caffeine crosses the blood-brain barrier and blocks the inhibitory neurotransmitter adenosine, promoting alertness and providing your body with an instant energy boost.

Not only can a daily cup of coffee make you feel more energized, but it also burns fat, improves physical performance and lowers the risk of several diseases, such as Type 2 diabetes, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease and cancer. Studies suggest that coffee may even boost longevity – two large, observational studies reported by Healthline Media revealed that drinking coffee was associated with a reduced risk of death of 20% in men and 26% in women of ages 18-24.

But coffee has a strong competitor: caffeinated tea. We'll look at two popular tea-based coffee alternatives, starting with matcha. Coffee contains about 90-95 milligrams of caffeine per 8-ounce cup, while matcha contains 38-88 milligrams of caffeine per 2-ounce serving.

Although matcha has less caffeine, it lasts much longer in the body. The small amounts

of caffeine in this concentrated green tea take longer to enter the bloodstream and can last as long as six hours. As a result, the "crash" that people experience an hour or two after drinking coffee doesn't happen with matcha.

The leading explanation for this revolves around the amino acid L-theanine, which acts with other antioxidants, flavonoids and phytonutrients to slow down the body's absorption of caffeine, resulting in a gentle introduction of caffeine into the system and a lengthened period of wakefulness.

L-theanine also stimulates the production of serotonin, a feel-good neurotransmitter that can reduce stress and boost your mood by lowering blood pressure, reducing cortisol levels and increasing alpha waves in your brain.

Abundant in the phytochemical EGCG, matcha has strong thermogenic properties that increase fat metabolism and help promote weight loss. Unlike coffee, matcha contains antibacterial properties that leave you with a fresh mouth and clean teeth.

The yerba mate herbal tea infusion, one of the most popular drinks at UC Santa Barbara, is another tea-based coffee alternative.

At 85 milligrams of caffeine per cup, yerba

mate contains less caffeine than coffee but more than a cup of tea. Similar to matcha, yerba mate is slower to introduce caffeine into your system but lasts longer and helps you avoid the jitters and crashes from coffee.

Referred to as "the drink of the gods," yerba mate is packed with antioxidants; while coffee and matcha are both also known for being high in antioxidants, yerba mate beats both with 24 different vitamins and minerals, 15 amino acids with antioxidants and 196 volatile chemicals.

Preliminary studies have shown that yerba mate can help stimulate fat oxidation and feelings of fullness, leading to weight loss. Its anti-inflammatory compounds reduce inflammation markers and help to prevent colon cancer, urinary tract infections and kidney stones.

Caffeine, no matter the form, should be taken in moderation for the best effect. For a quick boost, coffee is your best option. However, alternatives such as matcha or yerba mate are better for sustained energy throughout the day.

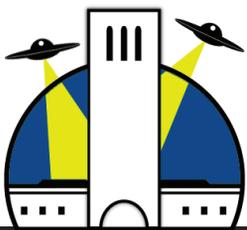
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LUCA DISBROW / DAILY NEXUS



# NEXUSTENTIALISM

It's Satire, Stupid.

## Wow! Horoscope Close Enough

Sam Franzini  
*Dirty Little Virgo Slut*

In what is surely a cosmic turn of events, an alignment of the stars, a blessing from above, second-year Hailey Bailey's daily horoscope was close enough for her to continue believing in astrology.

"I was just scrolling through Instagram when it caught my eye: a pastel-colored list of the signs and what would lie ahead of them that day," Bailey explained. After she swiped to the Sagittarius page, she started reading her daily plan, which was laid out for her. "It said that a friend would make an appearance, I'd have some good news come my way and that I'd come to a shocking realization."

And the events that led her to fling herself head-first into the star-gazing pseudoscience? "First," Bailey said, counting on her fingers, "I kept scrolling on Instagram. And you know what? I kept seeing my friends! Like, ALL over my feed. It was like they were posting for me or something." When asked if this day's feed full of acquaintances was different from any other's, she countered, "You don't get it. It SAID it would happen today. And it did."

Afterward, Bailey received her good news. "My parents called and told me that our family cat, who was like a billion years old, just died."

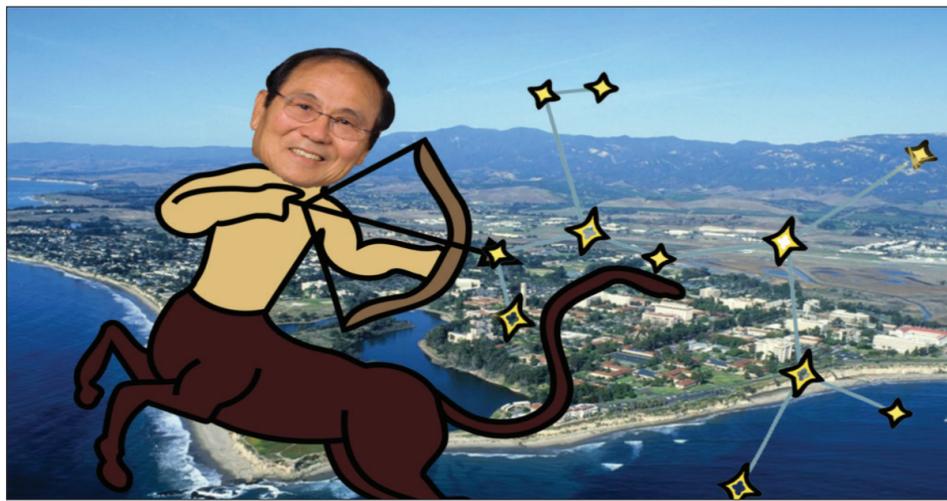
But, Bailey pressed, this was actually a blessing in disguise. "Now that he's gone, we can get a little kitty that will be so much cuter! Since I basically predicted this happening, I told them I wanted to name her Amanda." Getting ready, she put on Megan Thee Stallion's 2020 album "Good News." "Then I was like, wow," Bailey said, eyes wide open in disbelief. "The good news literally came to me in music form. I thought, 'This is getting wild.'"

And then, the shocking realization. "Horoscology [sic] is my passion," Bailey explained, undoubtedly passionately. "This day has gone exactly how @astroqueenie on Instagram had set out for me. It's like I'm traveling on a pre-ordained path through life." Bailey's plans after her truly not-coincidence-filled day include dropping out, immediately ignoring the concept of free will and moving to Sedona, Arizona, to go look at some crystals.

"Under the powers that be, I'll know exactly how my days will be going." What's in the big picture for Bailey? "Who knows where my newfound spiritual awakening will guide me. Maybe I'll write a book. Maybe I'll run for president. If @astroqueenie predicts it, anything is possible."

*Sam Franzini reluctantly believes in astrology because he is a neat-freak perfectionist Virgo.*

## Horrifying! Chancellor Yang Is a Sagittarius - Here Are Our Top Three Predictions for Sag Season



Sierra Vakili  
Ass. Editor

PASADO ROAD, ISLA VISTA - A soft wash of silence fell over the houses on the 66 block of Pasado Road last Sunday. "Finally," sophomore Capri Khorn let out with a sigh, propping her feet up atop her coffee table. "Scorpio season is over!" Indeed, the past month has been a rough one for Gauchos - midterms, Munger Hall and a shitbag ex's birthday seemed to plague us at every opportunity possible. At least it's over, right?

Wrong. Just when Khorn thought the university might finally let her free from its jaws, it dawned on her. It's Sagittarius season. And Chancellor Yang ... is a Sagittarius.

But it's just a silly zodiac, right? Astrology doesn't actually mean anything, does it? Wrong and wrong again. After swirling rumors that the recent lightning storm was caused by Chancellor Yang's personal quest for immortality, Nexustentialism began investigating other mythical endeavors in which our beloved chancellor-turned-wizard may potentially be engaging this December.

**1. Building another smaller Munger Hall atop the original Munger Hall and then another even smaller Munger Hall atop that one to make a Munger Hall Snowman.**

What a festive kickoff to the holiday season! Amidst community outcry that, "We like the beach," and "Why the fuck is it snowing?" we predict Yang's response to be along the lines of "Fuck it! Fuck you! I want snow, so let there be snow! Go back to your fucking hotel, poors!" Typical Sagittarius! The snowman will continue

to smile, standing at the height of approximately 2.75 Storke Towers! Wow! Additionally, the nose of the snowman will be made of the world's largest carrot, measuring a whopping 20 feet! The \$1.4 billion purchase will be made after big savings following the firing of 98.6% of teaching staff, reducing the student population to 13 and whittling down the number of majors to one (CCS computing). What a treat!

**2. Start using they/them pronouns in an uneducated but good-willed attempt to be more inclusive.**

Diversity win? Upon noticing the minority of students at UCSB who use they/them pronouns to affirm their gender identity (or lack thereof), Chancellor Yang will strive to increase representation by changing their own pronouns to they/them. Impulsive and adventurous, Sagittarius often act before thinking, leading to some rash decisions; in this case, however, Chancellor Yang's team will beg and plead for him not to "come out" in this way. "Please, Chancellor!" they will cry, "Think of the children!" But big H.T. will only respond, "Silence, bigots!" and will proceed to make history.

**3. Not reciprocating oral.**

A classic Sagittarius move! All that pent-up fire sign energy has been brewing since Leo season in August, and it's going straight to the groin. Sagittarius season holds for Chancellor Yang an orgasm so powerful that it strikes them straight down into the throes of slumber, with not a crumb left for Dilling. Pitiful!

*Sierra Vakili is walking in a winter Mungerland.*

## Keg N Bottle Patron Revealed To Be Three Freshmen in a Trench Coat

Varun Iyer  
*Not a Narc*

*Disclaimer: This is a real news story, and any similarity or relationship to fictional persons, monsters, fairies or deities living or dead is a mere coincidence.*

ISLA VISTA, CALIF. - Late last Friday night, CSO Detective Etienne "Ets" Craiyonne apprehended three of the most heinous criminals of the 2021-22 school year: McKayla Enany, Mikayla Strong and Macailagh Connor (also referred to as M&M&M). The three have been charged with: misdemeanor for improper use of a trench coat, federal felony fraud charges under RICO and MIPs.

Their crime? Purchasing alcohol, allegedly.

The plan had all the makings of a Hollywood heist movie: A dedicated team, months of planning and a shadowy sponsor with deep pockets.

**The team:** M&M&M were a carefully selected group of freshmen, each with unique talents. They share a triple

in San Nicolas despite all requesting doubles, and they all slightly resent each other because of it.

**The plan:** Three critical steps, each more complex than the last. First, purchase a trench coat, a bucket hat, sunglasses and a fake mustache from Sweet Jane. Second, practice sitting on each others' shoulders and walking around. Mikayla was always the base, because she was the least liked, while McKayla and Macailagh regularly switched off between the middle and the top. And, finally, enter Keg N Bottle stacked underneath the trenchcoat, with the topmost person wearing the bucket hat, sunglasses and mustache to conceal their youthful face.

**The sponsor:** Some guy from across the hall's grandfather had just died, so he had received a few thousand dollars "for tuition." He promised to pay double the price for any purchased alcohol and bankrolled investments in training, disguise and snacks.

**The execution:** According

to Macailagh, the plan began without a hitch - as all plans do. In their disguise, they made their way from the park across the liquor store and hobbled across the street, thanks to the grace and braking abilities of two different oncoming cars. They entered K&B, grabbed a handle of peach New Am and a White Claw sampler pack and headed for checkout. The cashier, observing that the mysterious patron in the trench coat was clearly of age and privacy-mindful, decided not to ask for ID. So far, so good.

**The mistake:** The crucial moment came as the trio attempted to exit the store, where Mikayla (described in unprintable language by her fellow conspirators) tripped over the threshold, spilling the other two into the street.

**The capture:** Our intrepid hero, Etienne Craiyonne, happened to be hard at work patrolling the area when they observed the imposters fall apart in the street. Craiyonne immediately observed fraud at play in the situation and

informed the group that they were under arrest. After ensuring that the three were in CSO custody, Craiyonne offered them free water bottles and masks, which they politely refused.

**The fallout:** All three were

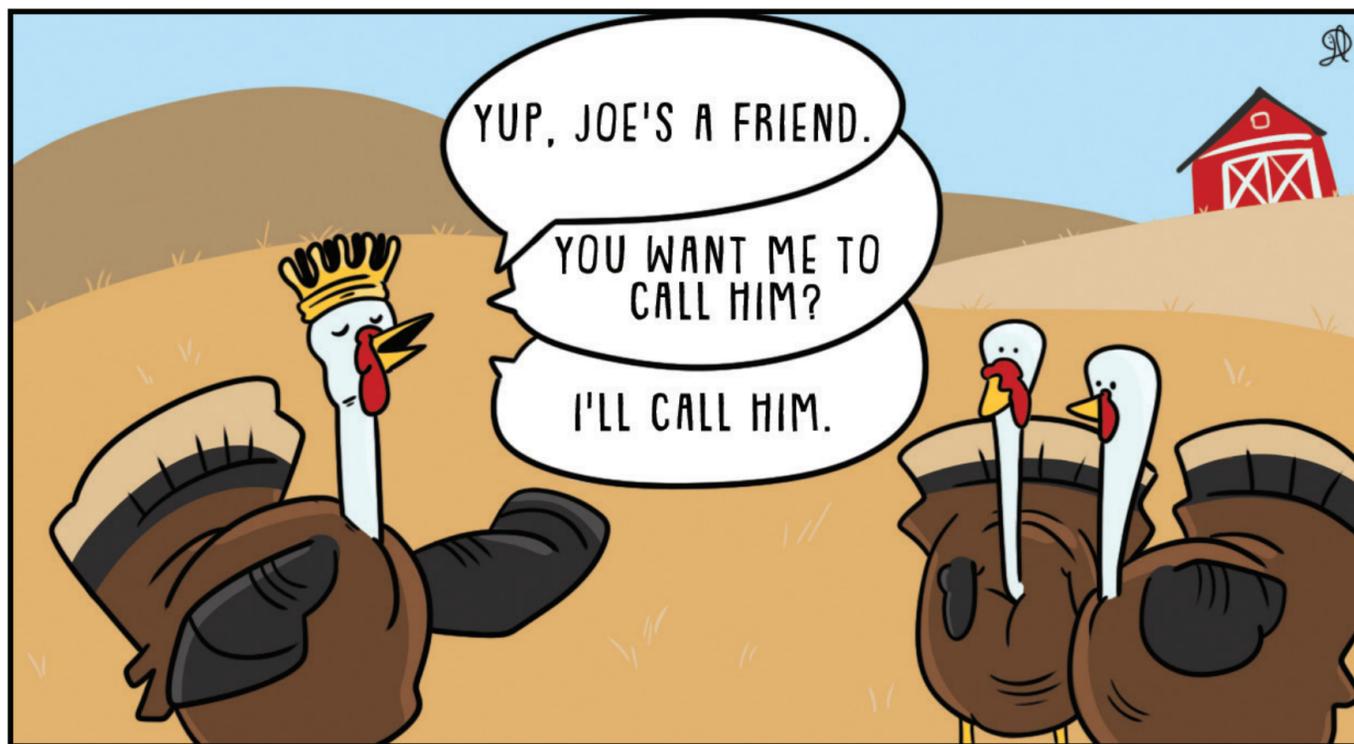
booked into the I.V. Foot Patrol's Foot Lock-up for the night before being turned over to federal law enforcement in the morning. They will be tried together on Nov. 31 in the District Court for California's 69th district. Meanwhile, I.V.

liquor store owners are being told to keep an eye out for more hijinks, shenanigans and all-around capers perpetrated by the seemingly innocent fresh faces around campus.

*Varun Iyer is blissfully 21.*

## DAILY NEXUS ART & COMICS

### PARDONED TURKEY LETS IT GO TO HIS HEAD



LUCA DISBROW / DAILY NEXUS

# ON THE MENU

## Yellow Chicken Curry



ALICE BILYK / DAILY NEXUS

Alice Bilyk  
Staff Writer

- 1/4 teaspoon smoked paprika
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Cilantro leaves to garnish

For anyone who's wondered how curry's made, it tends to be pretty simple! You make a curry paste and then fry it with your vegetables and a little coconut milk! This recipe for curry paste (and curry dish) is intended as a low-FODMAPS alternative, since more traditional curry pastes tend to have lots of onion and garlic in them, potentially along with other alliums like shallots and green onions. Despite the substitutions, this curry paste is every bit as warm, aromatic and umami-hitting as a regular curry – not to mention the nutty flavor of the black rice and the sweetness of the squash! This is another very fall-esque recipe to curl up in bed and forget about midterms with.

### Ingredients:

- 1 red chili pepper
- 4 stalks spring onion (only the green part) or 1 stalk celery
- 1 tablespoon chopped lemongrass or 1 teaspoon ground lemongrass powder
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh ginger
- 1 teaspoon ground white or black pepper
- 2 teaspoons yellow curry powder
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 2 teaspoons turmeric
- 2 tablespoons garlic-infused oil or normal neutral oil
- 5 to 6 stalks of fresh cilantro leaves
- 3 teaspoons fish sauce
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- 1/2 large carrot
- 3 teaspoons smoked paprika
- 1/4 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1/2 teaspoon garam masala (optional)
- Pinch of salt
- 1 cup black rice
- 2 chicken thighs
- 1/2 carrot
- 1/2 small squash
- 1/2 zucchini
- 1 stalk celery
- 3 to 4 tablespoons curry paste
- 1 cup coconut cream
- 2 tablespoons water
- 1 lime

### Directions:

1. Cut all the fresh ingredients for the curry paste into half-inch pieces (if using a mortar and pestle, cut smaller so that there's less work to do when grinding). Blend in a blender or grind with a mortar and pestle. Add the spices, oil, fish sauce and sugar, and stir to combine. If it is too dry, add more oil or water.
2. Cut the carrot, zucchini and celery into thin slices. Cut the squash into rough cubes.
3. Add the rice into a small pot with 1 3/4 cups of water or the amount listed on the bag.
4. Fry the chicken thighs in a medium saute pan until golden but not cooked all the way through and set aside. In the same pan, add the celery. Fry until fragrant.
5. Add the squash cubes and fry for approximately 5 minutes or until they start to turn golden brown in some areas.
6. Add the zucchini and carrots, and fry for approximately 2 to 3 minutes (or until also lightly golden).
7. Cut the undercooked chicken thighs into cubes and add them to the pan.
8. Add the curry paste and combine it with the vegetables and chicken in the pan. Let it fry for a minute or two before you add in the coconut cream and water. If you feel that the ratio between the two isn't to your liking, feel free to adjust the amount of either one. Freeze the unused curry paste for another time.
9. Simmer until the chicken is cooked through and the squash is tender. Turn off the heat and squeeze half a lime into the pan.
10. Add paprika, salt and pepper to taste. Stir to combine.
11. Plate with the black rice and garnish with the second half of the lime and a little paprika (optional).

I hope you enjoy this recipe! It's not too difficult, though the ingredients list can look a little daunting.

## Fig Butter Cinnamon Rolls

Celine Pun  
Staff Writer

This autumn, I found the most stunning spread at Trader Joe's: fig butter. If fig butter was a person, I imagine she would be a classy grandma beating everyone at bingo – heavenly sweet and witty, with an indescribable depth. This recipe highlights exactly what she's capable of.

### Ingredients:

#### Dough:

- 1 cup unsweetened milk of choice (I used oat milk)
- 2 1/2 teaspoons instant dry yeast
- 1/3 cup butter (melted and cooled at room temperature)
- 2 eggs (room temperature)
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 4 cups all-purpose flour

#### Filling:

- 1/2 cup butter (partially melted)
- 1 jar Trader Joe's Fig Butter
- 1/4 cup brown sugar
- 3 teaspoons cinnamon

### Directions:

1. Microwave your milk until warm to the touch (about 30 seconds) and a wispy, not aggressive, steam forms. If it is screaming hot, pour out (or save and drink later) part of your milk and substitute it with cold milk. We do not want to kill our yeast.
2. Stir in a pinch of sugar and instant dry yeast. The sugar helps the yeast activate, giving it something to fart from. Set aside to let it proof and grow foamy for about 5 minutes or until your cup looks like a beer pint.
3. With a spatula (or in a stand mixer with a dough hook attachment), mix the yeast mixture with the melted butter and eggs. Try not to get any egg shells in or your rolls might come out crunchy.
4. Fold in the sugar, salt and flour (1 at a time to avoid any "poof cloud") until the

dough comes together. If you oil your hands, the dough will not cling to them as dramatically. If you do not have a stand mixer, on a floured surface, use your elbow grease and knead the dough until it is smooth, shiny and elastic for fluffier rolls.

5. Cover the dough with cling wrap and/or a clean kitchen cloth and let it rest for an hour. Put it near a warm surface (like in an oven that is not on or on top of an oven that is on) to proof. If your dough is in a chilly environment, it will not fluff up as quickly.
6. Meanwhile, in a small bowl, mix the partially melted butter with the fig butter until smooth, and set it in the fridge to thicken.
7. In another small bowl, mix the brown sugar and cinnamon.
8. On a floured surface, roll the dough baby into a super thin rectangle that's 1/4 inch thick.
9. Using a pastry brush or the back of a spoon, brush the fig butter evenly on the rectangle, making sure to get the edges.
10. Sprinkle the cinnamon brown sugar mixture evenly and, if you want, use the pastry brush or the back of the spoon to smooth it out more.
11. Gently roll the dough with the longer side. To prevent the filling from coming out, lift and tug the roll upward when you roll.
12. With a sharp and clean knife, cut into one-inch slices. You can re-roll the cinnamon rolls to tighten the roll at this stage.
13. Place the cinnamon rolls in a greased pan. Space them an inch apart. Cover the cinnamon rolls with the same cling film and/or cloth and let rise for 30 minutes.
14. Preheat the oven to 375 F and bake for 15 to 20 minutes, depending on how thick your rolls are and how many you put in the oven at once.

Enjoy with coffee or tea on busy school mornings. You are welcome to add the frosting of your choice, but it's sweet enough without!



CELINE PUN / DAILY NEXUS

## Éléphante Review

Jill Ridens  
Staff Writer

Los Angeles is a hustling and bustling city with so much to do. One of my favorite places in LA is Santa Monica; it has the beach, great shopping, amazing views and the best restaurants. One of my favorites in particular is Éléphante, a coastal-casual restaurant with ocean views and a beach-house vibe.

Éléphante is decked out with wicker, wood and stone, which transports guests to the southern Mediterranean region. To be immersed into this tropical oasis, guests must take an elevator to the third floor. The patio outside is small but probably has the best view. However, every spot in the restaurant is great, as it is so bright and airy, making for

great lighting for photos.

To the good stuff: food and drinks. What makes Éléphante unique is their extensive wine list. Our waitress was very knowledgeable and happy to recommend wines that would go well with our food. Their wines feature mostly Italian brands, with over 30 options. As drinks were delivered to other tables, I couldn't help but notice the beautiful cocktails that were coming out from the bar! All the cocktails were bright and fun, incorporating that tropical beach-house vibe.

My party of two ordered the fried calamari, vodka sauce pasta and gemelli pasta. The vodka sauce pasta was to die for! It was so creamy, perfectly cooked and definitely worth going back for. The gemelli pasta was definitely one of the most unique pastas I've

had. The pasta has squid ink, Dungeness crab, tomato butter and chili. When the black-colored pasta came out, I was shocked and scared to try it, but it ended up being super delicious. Italian Angelino Zach DeSanto said, "The only time I have seen squid ink pasta was when I lived in Italy, and seeing it in the States was really cool. I would definitely return for the food and the upbeat vibe."

Overall, Éléphante has a great vibe. It's definitely hard to make a reservation because it's so popular, but you just have to plan ahead. It's a little pricey for the average college student, as the average entree goes for about \$30. Definitely check out Éléphante if you are in LA or want to make the trip down from SB for a fun night out.



JILL RIDENS / DAILY NEXUS

# ARTS WEEK

## UCSB Alumnus THREEZERO Releases Debut Album

Marisol Cruz  
Asst. Artsweek Editor

With a newly released album, "SEEING DOUBLE," Santa Barbara musician THREEZERO is making strides with an ever-evolving sound since his first single "FALLING" was released three years ago.

Behind THREEZERO is Nathan Russell, a 2021 economics graduate of UC Santa Barbara.

"It's sort of a tribute name," Russell said about his alias. "I had an uncle who used to play professional sports and he always wore the number 30. He passed [away] when I was young, and I played a lot of sports when I was younger, so I always adopted the number 30 when I could."

"I felt like nothing really suited me more than using something that had to do with the number 30 because of what it represented already in my life. I felt like it was an easy transition," Russell added.

The UCSB alum's musical origin story began when he was around 11 years old when he started playing the violin.

Born and raised in St. Louis, Mo., Russell played violin in an orchestra from middle school to high school, and when he moved to Chicago in high school, he was immersed in the slam poetry scene.

Participating in these competitions encouraged Russell to put writing and music together and understand aspects like tone and inflection.

"Writing was one of my favorite things to do but making that translate to the microphone is something that takes time ... doing spoken word helped me get to that point where I felt comfortable delivering the lines I was writing," Russell said.

While these tracks can't be found on any streaming platforms anymore, Russell was also in a rap collective with his friends in high school. His current sound has followed a different path – "an alternative sound" – a factor that conflicted with his new album.

"I do want to make a sincere point that a lot of artists – specifically white artists – will capitalize off of hip-hop and once they get successful or once they find their sound, they'll just dismiss it as if it wasn't a big stepping stone for their music. So, I don't want to say I no longer make hip-hop because my music is very influenced by rap and the same sounds I was creating years ago," Russell said.



Courtesy of Nathan Russell

Pictured above is the cover artwork for Russell's debut album, "SEEING DOUBLE."

This fluid sound pulls influence from the music played around Russell's house – "house of class rock, bluesy rock." In particular, he listed lead singer of Pearl Jam Eddie Vedder and Radiohead frontman Thom Yorke as musicians who have influenced his performances. Russell also cites producer-rappers MF DOOM (who Russell dressed up as for Halloween with the iconic Doctor Doom mask) and Kanye West as inspirations. He described how trailblazer MF DOOM in particular pushed him to attempt both songwriting and producing, which would allow him to have full control over the creative process.

Russell continued his music journey as both a producer and songwriter when he came to UCSB, branching out from his collective and making music on his own.

In 2019, Russell's junior year at UCSB, the singer-songwriter released his first single from "SEEING DOUBLE," a track called "FALLING."

Russell shared that the beat for "FALLING" was originally created for a beat battle on Twitch hosted by producer Kenny Beats. Russell knew, however, that more could evolve from the instrumental and ultimately crafted a saccharine, summery love song.

The song was accompanied by a visualizer that was directed and edited by Nidhi Khanolkar, a 2021 UCSB communication and film graduate.

Khanolkar and Russell's creative partnership has roots at

the Anacapa dorm, when one of Khanolkar's friends went on a date with Russell. As one does, they immediately looked up Russell on social media.

"We saw that he made music so we were like, 'OMG, we have a friend dating a rapper, he's gonna be big,'" Khanolkar said.

Khanolkar's and Russell's years at Santa Barbara passed, and they remained simply as "a friend of a friend," but the two creatives did follow each other on social media.

"I saw the stuff she was posting; [she had taken] sick pictures and post[ed] cool videos. I thought her aesthetic was really cool so I hit her up knowing that she knew of me. I felt pretty confident we might be able to make something," Russell said about the inception of their collaboration.

"I always loved music videos. Every quarter, I would make a music video about all the parties me and my friends went to in I.V. ... it would be really fun and heartwarming," Khanolkar said.

The two creatives connected to create a video to accompany the track. During the last week of Spring Quarter 2021 – and their last week as college students – Russell's I.V. house was converted into an amateur production set.

As a film student, Khanolkar had made documentaries, but this was her first time heading a creative project without a crew.

"That was a big learning experience ... you have to be realistic and practical but also have a vision about it and not be basic," Khanolkar said.

The duo were not too sure what

they wanted to make, but they did know they wanted to do some cloning.

Russell shared that a major reference point for the visualizer was Tyler, the Creator's "Who Dat Boy" music video. During the final moments of the video, different versions of Tyler are singing and dancing along to his track "911 / Mr. Lonely" in a scenic, natural background.

At his I.V. house, surrounded by housemates and friends of housemates, Russell would run in and out of the house to throw on outfits while Khanolkar recorded him.

The "FALLING" visualizer features eight different versions of the musician donning different outfits backdropped by the greenery in his front yard.

Khanolkar shared that the morning of shooting, she had to look up how to clone on Adobe Premiere Pro, a fact that Russell learned three years later.

"You could've fooled me, you looked mad confident," Russell cheekily said to Khanolkar.

"The [videos] we make now are a bit more planned out, but there is an element of improvisation to it, and I think that's what makes it intimate and lively," Khanolkar said.

Russell recently traveled to Foster City, where Khanolkar currently lives, to visually collaborate for "SEEING DOUBLE." Together they produced a series of visuals, from short clips to use for promotion to a music video for a track to extra B-roll footage.

The two artists agreed that their recent collaboration feels more personal as friends.

"I came in with some ideas visually but at some point, when you have someone who is so

trustworthy, you gotta just say, 'I trust you to do what you can with this and make something out of it,'" Russell said about their creative process.

THREEZERO's debut album, "SEEING DOUBLE," was released last month on Nov. 5, and the album hosts 10 short but captivating tracks that are all under two minutes long.

"[I was] going for a more abrupt style ... an album that does not overstay its welcome," Russell said about the album and track lengths. Beginning in July 2020, the musician would bust out his home setup – speakers, a microphone and a keyboard – and record whenever he could.

"Making this album in the pandemic meant that I was really trying to find the emotional spaces that I couldn't find physically anymore. Music was the best way for me to tap into all the emotions – good or bad – over this course of a life that I knew was going to change forever because of [the pandemic]," Russell said about the album process.

In creating music, Russell shared that he usually begins with instrumentals.

"As a producer who sends out beats to other artists, I know I'll keep something for myself if I immediately start humming a melody – which is how most of [my songs] start, not really with lyrics in mind but some kind of melody," Russell said.

His creative process is not rigid, however, and for his track "THE TOWER," Russell had actually begun with the lyrics, having written the hook a year prior. Later, once he created an instrumental, he was reminded of the lyrics and intertwined the two parts to create the longing track.

The alternative genre can be

seen in the variety of influences in the album. Standout track "ON SIGHT" delves into the hip-hop sounds that Russell got his start in music making with, while "LIGHT SPEED" has indie-pop influences and features airy R&B type vocals from Russell's high school friend Simone Gabrielle.

As the process leading up to tracks such as these was remote, Russell shared that he would often FaceTime his mixer, Liam McGhie. Yet, these conversations would often circle back to how each of the creatives were doing, allowing them to keep up with each other during the isolating pandemic.

These creative and personal connections "inform the music a lot, to break down barriers with the people you're working with," Russell said.

Looking toward the future, Khanolkar shared that she is "hoping to make more content of [her] own and collaborate with people ... working with other people teaches you about the artist you are ... [and allows you to] stretch your own horizon."

Russell plans on "working outside the project narrative." In creating long-form projects – such as "SEEING DOUBLE" and his previous EP, "The Many Faces You Wear" – he focused on producing songs that needed to fit cohesively into a project. Producing songs freely will allow him to be consistent with releasing music.

In 2022, we can hope to see a "barrage of singles here and there then I'll dip off the face of earth until I have [my next album]," Russell said.

You can listen to "SEEING DOUBLE" on Apple Music, iTunes, Spotify, SoundCloud and YouTube.



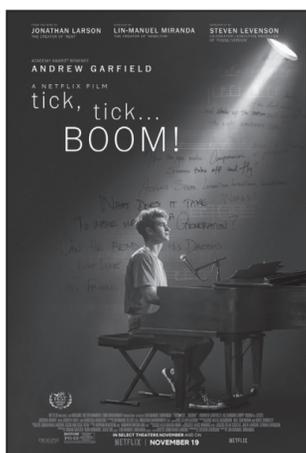
Courtesy of Nathan Russell

## In Review: "Tick, Tick... Boom" Is a Love Letter to Jonathan Larson and All Creatives

Amitha Bhat  
Staff Writer

"In The Heights" producer Lin-Manuel Miranda made his directorial debut with "Tick, Tick... Boom," a biographical film adaptation of the musical that was released on Netflix on Nov. 12. The film, set in 1990, follows Jonathan Larson – played by Andrew Garfield – an American composer who is most notably known as the creator of the musical "Rent." The plot centers on Larson on the brink of his 30th birthday as he struggles to find a producer for a musical that he's been writing for the past eight years, all while working his day job at a diner. Miranda's apt position as director has allowed him to deliver a creatively inspiring, stunningly raw and humorously relatable portrayal of Larson.

Who better to direct "Tick, Tick... Boom" than Miranda? The connection between the



Courtesy of Deadline

two playwrights' careers is undeniable. Not only are both of them star-studded musical theatre royalty, but they've also experienced similar journeys in the field, and Miranda has consistently cited Larson as a source of inspiration throughout the years. Both Larson and Miranda paved the way for the future of musical theatre –

Larson with "Rent" and Miranda with "Hamilton" – and tirelessly worked on their passion projects while working mundane day jobs like waitering and jingle-writing. Furthermore, both composers tenaciously continued pursuing their dreams despite concerns that they wouldn't "make it."

In fact, Miranda actually applied for the Jonathan Larson Grant for "In the Heights" but ironically did not receive it. Regardless, he did exactly what he'd stated in his essay application for the grant: "Quite frankly, I want to change the landscape of American Musical Theatre." This statement is uncannily similar to an iconic line Larson delivers in the film, when he states, "I'm the future of musical theater, Scott."

Steven Levenson, who wrote the book for the musical "Dear Evan Hansen," writes the screenplay non-linearly, artfully interspersing events in Larson's life with scenes and musical numbers from an in-film performance of the production. By offering the

audience the unique opportunity of watching the musical performed on a stage while viewing the moment it's inspired from, Levenson strategically employs a stronger connection to the source material while also accentuating and underscoring parts of the film.

The performance of "Therapy" is woven into an argument scene between Jonathan and another character named Susan, effectively lightening the otherwise gut-wrenching tension between the two characters. This is not to say that the film rejects sincerity, as there do exist intimately emotional moments throughout the production that don't rely on the alleviation of music.

Some musical numbers function as the opposite of "Therapy." Instead of showcasing the on-stage production to highlight the moment, they do so through a fantastical performance within the moment itself. In "Sunday," Jonathan is overwhelmed by the Sunday brunch rush and transitions into song where he

envisioned the Moondance Diner sign being replaced by a Broadway-style musical title: "Sunday, music and lyrics by Jonathan Larson."

The movie is riddled with enough musical cameos to turn a movie night into trivia night – one of the most impressive of which is the late Stephen Sondheim (who Larson idealized), who composed music for "Into the Woods" amongst many other classic musicals. Though the actor in the film is not actually Sondheim, the composer does speak in a voiceover to Larson's character in the movie. After the movie was screened for him, Sondheim actually asked to rewrite the voicemail so that it would be more authentic to what he would say to Larson.

Garfield beautifully captures Larson's unwavering creative spirit. He took singing lessons for a year in order to embody Larson, pleasantly surprising Miranda who prior to filming,

wasn't actually sure if Garfield could sing. He charmingly captivates the audience with his emotional transparency, allowing them to viscerally experience what Jonathan is feeling at any given part of the film. Garfield emulates Larson's true artistry, a focus on his craft ingrained so deeply in his person that nothing can tear it away.

"Tick, Tick... Boom" tackles the ongoing battle that all artists face: relentlessly pursuing one's dream or taking the commercial route, the route that guarantees a comfortable life. As a creator, the "starving artist" stereotype appears closer and closer with each missed opportunity, and it may seem more prudent to simply keep one's dream as a hobby while taking a job that pays well. "Tick, Tick... Boom" revitalizes one's creative nature, validates the idea of pursuing your passion and urges the audience not to give up just yet: There's more to come.

Rating: 9.5/10

# OPINION

## Letter From a Former Editor: Bittersweet Revelations

Activism has been a passion of mine my whole life. Through my college experience, I feel like I am slowly starting to understand all of the implications that are associated with change that have a profound impact. Coming into this role amid a pandemic that is more likely to kill and disrupt the well-being of communities that I am a part of ignited a new kind of introspection for myself. So much so that I don't think I even realized how much change had occurred within myself until I made the decision to terminate my relationship with and position at the Nexus. The pandemic and my studies have transformed the way I view the world at large and how we as individuals participate and enable systems that are rooted in exploitation and exclusion. Although the pandemic encouraged myself and others to critically challenge the world that we live in, I was naive to believe that everyone shared the same dedication toward systemic change.

And with this revelation lies the bittersweet truth of how we, as individuals, are so brainwashed into hyper-individualism that we cannot breach the surface toward liberation for those who suffer at the hands of institutions that thrive on power dynamics.

Bittersweet? Truly that sounds more bitter than sweet. But in order to strive toward "radical" (in quotations because there is nothing radical about activism rooted in compassion) change, the solution to our problems is rooted in the acceptance of our reality. In that acceptance are our sweet starting points – uncomfortable conversations that will begin to peel back the surface of our fear-driven exteriors. In order to understand the kind of activism that is needed to uproot systemic issues, those that perpetuate these systems have to ask themselves why they are so threatened by the idea of community. How do fear and ego play a role

in hyper-individualism, and how do they contribute to a lack of a desperately needed collectivism?

Through my experience at the Nexus, I saw firsthand how these factors can overimpose and derail from the greater good, specifically when individual interests are able to thrive in hierarchical spaces. Coming into this position, I was eager to have a platform in UCSB media that had great potential to resolve issues surrounding accurate and representative coverage for marginalized

community whose survival is rarely and usually never under attack by the system itself.

In addition, the most frustrating part of my experience was the pushback that we received from management, and a few others, when creating a workshop utilizing primary examples from the Nexus regarding rhetoric and internal practices. It felt particularly undermining considering we were encouraged to formulate our own job descriptions and take measures we

a space of learning and were often driven by fear of the Nexus reputation being jeopardized.

What is concerning is that the Nexus created these positions to dive deeper into diversity and inclusion but was unable to trust that those they hired were capable of doing their jobs adequately.

Furthermore, pushback against efforts for critical introspection derails from the opportunity to be transparent and understand how to operate within one's allyship. Endeavors

critical introspection to become better allies in terms of their media presence and within their everyday lives. Unfortunately, I believe that the Nexus and its ability to be a safe space for marginalized communities will continue to be jeopardized unless management follows suit with the rest of their editorial staff.

What I learned from being in this position is that activism naturally generates emotional tolls, especially when you understand the power it has to affect communities that you reside in. The experience was humbling in the sense that I had to come to terms with my own ego and my relationship to activism. I am very much a person who throws themselves into their work.

Through this experience, I learned that in terms of activism, no one person – or duo, in this case – has the power to dismantle systemic issues on their own, specifically within an organization that has trouble understanding how power dynamics play a role in systemic concerns. The reality of the Nexus newsroom as it currently stands is more bitter than it is sweet.

Dismantling systemic issues is a job for the united collective and moves beyond the individual and their abilities. My own acceptance of this has facilitated the alleviation of pressure that I had subconsciously put on myself.

Activism with goals of meaningful change values the collective good over the individual, is rooted in equitable measures, resists hierarchical attitudes and is often generated among community members motivated by achieving their own liberation. Moving forward for myself, I hope to engage and work within my own communities and in collaboration with others who share the same dedication to the activism I've described and aspire toward.

Maya Pacheco  
*Former Diversity and Inclusion Co-Chair*



**Dismantling systemic issues is a job for the united collective and moves beyond the individual and their abilities.**

communities. My co-chair Pricila and I worked diligently to uncover concerns among the general editorial staff. We soon came to realize that the Nexus' understanding of marginalized communities was limited because of the role of identity.

What we uncovered is that due to individuals' personal identities and demographics prevalent within the Nexus, a large disconnect exists between marginalized community experiences and the ability to engage with them without coming across as tone deaf. As hyper-individualism runs rampant in our social conditioning, it leaves little room for compassion, particularly when coming from a

deemed necessary, as Nexus management was unsure where to start in terms of diversity and inclusion. Our abilities to remain professional when talking about matters of race and other marginalized identities were questioned with the intense insistence of being notified of every single detail of our presentations and intentions. We even had a meeting where decisions were already made for us without the effort of creating some sort of dialogue between D&I and Nexus management. Only with heavy persistence and backing from another editor were we allowed to proceed as planned.

These actions are counterintuitive to creating

aimed at cultivating social restorative balance require the acknowledgment of hierarchical structures that enable the imbalance of power. Consequently, the overall efforts to police and silence the position are what have led me to my resignation.

Despite my concerns with management and a few others, I was able to enjoy great conversations with editors at large. Their enthusiasm and willingness to collaborate with Pricila and I are what kept me in this position for so long. Many editors were extremely receptive to our internal efforts aimed at improving external production. I hope that these editors can continue to engage in their own

## Letter From the Opinion Editors: Moving Forward

The opinion section has historically been a grab bag of miscellaneous topics and eye-catching headlines. But beyond flashy titles and catchy hooks lies the potential for thought-provoking conversations. Indeed, this safe space for deep dialogue is the opinion section that we, as editors, hope to cultivate.

As the opinion section of a newspaper, we are in a unique position, both as editors and in terms of our content. We must balance free speech regarding expressed opinions with wanting to keep the Nexus and UC Santa Barbara as a whole a safe space to enter two-way dialogues.

In order to truly cultivate a space for comfortable and safe dialogue, it

is imperative that we prioritize diversity not just in content but in who is writing said content. As editors, our individual experiences limit our critical lens and, therefore, our published content. Consequently, diversifying the voices contributing to our section is imperative in widening the scope of our coverage.

However, safe and diverse spaces are earned, not declared. In the past, our organization's reporting styles, phrasing and overall atmosphere have alienated various UCSB communities and organizations. Part of the student body simply does not trust the Nexus to represent their views or opinions.

We do not at all

expect members of these communities to feel safe starting a dialogue with any of our sections. As long as the Nexus as a whole is not perceived as a safe space, our newsroom will not properly represent the diversity of our campus. This applies to all sections, including us here at opinion.

In the past, this section's commitment to free speech has often contradicted this effort to cultivate safe spaces. When articles are repeatedly given consideration despite their potential to directly or indirectly alienate communities in the name of free speech, we fail as a section and a publication as a whole.

Pieces that directly infringe on the safety or

sense of security of any individual or group do not have a place in our section.

There's only so much we can do as opinion editors to make the whole Nexus a safe space for people of all communities and identities.

We can, and will, work hard on making our section a place for diverse dialogue in collaboration with our continuing and future diversity and inclusion chairs. We encourage our fellow editors and sections to take a critical (and potentially uncomfortable) internal look at themselves in the process of improving the Nexus' reporting and editing practices.

Moving forward, we recognize the

responsibility that accompanies being editors for one of the most prominent campus and community publications and are actively making the effort to be more thoughtful in publishing pieces.

While we still value being a platform for varying perspectives, we want to ensure that pieces differ in their views while keeping our values of upholding diversity and creating safe spaces for dialogue intact.

Emily Kocis  
*Opinion Co-Editor*

Toni Shindler-Ruberg  
*Opinion Co-Editor*

*We want to hear your opinions. Reach out to us at [opinion@daily nexus.com](mailto:opinion@daily nexus.com).*

# HOROSCOPES

The Signs as Things To Do Over Winter Break

ARIES

MARCH 21 - APRIL 19

Long sleep

TAURUS

APRIL 20 - MAY 20

Get a another tattoo to hide from your parents

GEMINI

MAY 21 - JUNE 20

Conduct inhumane experiments alone in your childhood bedroom (like Victor Frankenstein)

CANCER

JUNE 21 - JULY 22

Visit places you used to hang out at in high school and feel different

LEO

JULY 23 - AUGUST 22

Read all the books you didn't read for your fall classes

VIRGO

AUGUST 23 - SEPTEMBER 22

Bake cookies and immediately eat them all

LIBRA

SEPTEMBER 23 - OCTOBER 22

Binge watch a whole entire TV show in your childhood bedroom

SCORPIO

OCTOBER 23 - NOVEMBER 21

Crochet yourself a new mortal vessel

SAGITTARIUS

NOVEMBER 22 - DECEMBER 21

Cook 5 gallons of soup

CAPRICORN

DECEMBER 22 - JANUARY 19

Date Pete Davidson

AQUARIUS

JANUARY 20 - FEBRUARY 18

Run for mayor of your hometown

PISCES

FEBRUARY 19 - MARCH 20

Reflect on the passage of time