# DAILY NEXUS 

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## Humanities, Fine Arts lecturers UCSB student dies slowly learn of layoffs <br> in Santa Catalina



Mark Alfred University News Editor

A number of lecturers in UC Santa Barbara's Humanities and Fine Arts division were informed that they are to be laid off at the end of the quarter in an unexplained series
UCSB declined to state the scope of the layoffs or the reasoning behind them as the Federation of Teachers
(UC-AFT)
epresenting lecturers across the University of California said it intends to push back against the dismissals.
History lecturer Branden Adams suspected he was to be laid off on the first day of Spring Quarter 2023 after discovering a colleague was now set to instruct a class he'd been scheduled to teach the ollowing year. His department that day.

At least three others were people who attended the officially delivered notices, meeting. three people told the Nexus. Others, including global studie lecturer David Moak, hear informally that their dismissal are imminent ahead of official word from the campus In an April 14 meeting with members of UC-AFT, campu administrators attributed the layoffs to a long-term financial analysis that demonstrated their necessity but presented few details, according to three

These lay-offs fly in the fac of the job security gains agreed to by the university in 2021, the union said in an April 26 statement to the Nexus. "The union is committed to pursuing every avenue available to us to push back against austerity."
"What they're trying to do is
very much resisted and disliked and disapproved of by much

Lecturer Layoffs p. 5
residence hall


Holly Rusch Lead News Editor
A UC Santa Barbara student died at Santa Catalina residence hall - a freshman dormitory - on April 24.
In an email sent to Santa Catalina residents obtained by the Nexus, residential and community living staff confirmed that there was a student death in the building and said there were "no signs of foul play and there was no threat to the health and safety of residents.
UCSB Police Department officers originally responded to a $10: 17$ a.m. call on Monday regarding "an unconscious person originally and then updated as a person not breathing," UCPD Public Information Officer Dan Wilson told the Nexus in a statement.
"Emergency medical personnel from Santa Barbara County were dispatched and responded as well. CPR was performed to no
deceased by medical personnel," the statement continued. Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office coroner deputies arrived on the scene and will be performing a coroner's investigation and an autopsy to determine the cause of death, Wilson said. No timeline was given for the investigation and autopsy.
UCPD will be continuing a standard follow-up investigation and said it cannot provide any further information at this time. In an April 25 email to students, housing staff encouraged impacted parties to seek on-campus mental health resources if necessary and
acknowledged the difficulty of a student death.
"We imagine that this situation impacts each of us in different ways. There are many questions with few answers and this may add more emotional stress to a confusing situation. Please understand that it is normal to feel a range of different emotions," the email read.
A.S. Senate places hold on upwards of $\$ 1$ million in student health funding amid controversy over demolition


The Associated Students Senate unanimously voted on April 19 to place a temporary hold on the distribution of student-controlled Studen Health Services funding until administration provides them with confirmation that the Ocean Road housing project will not disrupt health service offerings on campus in any capacity.
The Ocean Road project which aims to fulfill UC Santa Barbara's Long Range Development Plan (LRDP) requirement to build more affordable faculty housing unit by 2025 - recently drew the ire of students for its lack of specificity regarding the fate of on-campus Student Health on on-campus Student Health buildings and services. The Student Health Services SHS) building, currently will be demolished Road unspecified point in the future unspecified pois the fucure housing. The proposed new housing. The proposed new HS location is the ground
structure and will have near to the same square footage as the current SHS building" with a multi-story building format, UCSB spokesperson Kiki Reyes On a statement to the Nexus. On-Campus Senator and firstyear computer science major Ephraim Shalunov authored Resolutiate bill, entitled A Funds for a Camporarily Holignate Organization.'
He said that the temporary hold on A.S. Student Health funding - which is upward of $\$ 1$ million dollars - is designed o ensure administrators mak good on their promises to senators to ensure no reduction of SHS for the campus community throughout the construction and demolition processes.
"All we're asking for in terms of commitment - which is something [administration has] already committed to doing Student Health building with Student Health building with everything that they're currently doing," Shalunov said.
"And then [there's] the molition
health building, which doesn't appear to be adding any new pressure or limitations on the project ... It appears that they were already trying to do that But a signed commitment. commitment, no the signed but outment, not out of distrust job to ensure that students have Student Health," he continued. Reyes confirmed statement to the Nexus that while the Ocean Road project is still in its planning stages, "The new Student Health center building will be completed and operational before the current Student Health center is taken offline. There will be no time when there is not a Student Health center offering students services."
UCSB's Young Democratic Socialists of America (YDSA) chapter has been hosting a monthslong campaign to save SHS and draw attention to what they described in a March 9 Instagram post as the school's "convoluted and contradictory messaging" around the fate of the service.
agram post detailed
original Student Health building from Phase 2 to Phase 1 of the Ocean Road project and no mention of the reconstruction of a new SHS as approved by the UC Regents at their May 2022 meeting.

What really interests us is what student health services are going to look like between the date of the destruction of the old building and the date of the construction of the new building, because the university has acknowledged that they would like to keep health services on campus," second-year electrical Political Education Chair Alex Pooitical Ed

Then the question obviously becomes, what are the facilities going to look like? Are they going to be temporary buildings? Are they going to retrofit the
existing building? Are they existing building? Are they
going to be offered? Are they going to be offered? Are they
going to be able to offer all of the going to be able to offer all of the
same services that they do now? In those buildings and those In those buildings and those
temporary facilities? We have no idea There's been wo clarity; there's been no there's been no communication,"

Student Health p. 5


A week in UC student news

| Alex Levin |
| :--- |
| Asst. News Editor |

UCLA student government
advocates for Wentwood
infrastructure improvements
The UCLA Undergraduate
Students Association Council
and the North Westwood
Neighborhood Council
collaborated with the nonprofit
organization Streets For
All to launch the Westwood
Connected campaign.
The movement pushes for
protected bike lanes, new bus
lanes, a heavy rail stop on on
UCLA campus and increased
overall pedestrian safety in
Westwood, the Daily Bruin
reported.
To improve the safety of
pedestrians, the Westwood
Connected campaign hopes to
replace an automobile traffic
lane with a bike lane, create
additional signed pedestrian
crossings, implement speed
bumps and restrict cars from
making right turns at red lights.
find correlation between Luebeck's study found a clea extrachromosomal DNA and UC San Diego postdoctoral researcher Jens Luebeck co-authored a paper on
April 12 describing his study which highlights a correlation between extrachromosomal circular DNA and the growth f cancer tumors, according to the UCSD Guardian.
"Genes that allow precancerous tissue to grow more quickly can become Guardian. "This can happen sometimes many years before cancer. So what we looked at was whether the changes actually including mechanisms that we call extrachromosomal The study specifically looked at patients with Barrett's condition of the esophagus," according to the Guardian.

Luebeck's study found a clear DNA that has broken from its normal chromosomal
structure
development in the patients. What we found was that in patients who would later go on to develop cancer, extra chromosomal DNA was found more frequently than in Barrett's patients who never went on to get cancer, even after 10
or more," Luebeck said.
UCSD computer science professor Vineet Bafna, who also contributed to the paper, noted how this study could change the way scientists and reatments. I think people have to think of their cancer," Bafna told the of their cancer," Bafna told the
Guardian. "If [the cancer] is ecDNA positive maybe you $\begin{array}{lcc}\text { want some } & \text { more } & \text { aggressive } \\ \text { treatments. } & \text { It's } & \text { definitely }\end{array}$ changed how people think changed how

## Daily Nexus

## Kylěs Kitchen

## CONGRATS GRADS!

We'd love to host you at one of our locations, or we'll bring the food to your grad party!

Email Danielle@KylesKitchen.com to ask questions $\&$ receive $10 \%$ OFF when you order before $6 / 1 / 23$ !


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| eb Editors I Rowan T | Crossword


7. Warp
8. Potions professor at Hogwart 9. Like a snail

## DOWN

. New York team 2. Expresses boredom Common font choic 4. Creative motivation, for short


David Litman

## ACROSS

. New Snapchat feature (two words)


Vista Point: Weekly goings-on in and around Isla Vista

Asumi Shuda

Community Outreach教tor

RCSGD celebrates Trans Week of Visibility
The Resource Center for Sexual and Gender Diversity (RCSGD) is finishing off Trans Week of Visibility with three
Thursday and Friday. RCSGD is hosti
workshop for transgende
students in collaboration with
Trans Can Work on Thursday, April 27, from 4-5:30 p.m. at the
Student Resource Building (SRB) multipurpose room. Trans Ca Work is a nonprofit organization that uplifts transgender job seekers through their career journeys
"We'll provide advice on the how to protect yourself as Trans+ job seeker, employee, and future employer," the Shoreline description read.
The week will continue with
a Trans Community Dinner on Thursday, April 27, from 6-8 p.m. at the SRB multipurpose and prospective attendees must register on Shoreline to save their
seat.
Festivities will conclude with a Trans Resource Fair on Friday, April 28, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Lot 22 lawn Program lawn. The fair will Prog ture a ilent feature tabling, a sing anction, a transgende
dog therapy.
UCSB Dhad
Deewane 2023
Deewane 2023
UC Santa Barbara Dhadkan is hosting Nachle Deewane, an annual Bollywood and Bhangra at 5 pis, on Saturday, Apri Theatre.
The mixer will feature eight collegiate Bollywood dance performances and two exhibition teams. The proceeds will be
donated to Share a Smile USA, a charity that supports organizations focused on supporting ru
underprivileged communities.
General admission is \$23, VIP tickets are $\$ 30$ each and a bundle ticket that includes admission to
the post-show concert, a general admission ticket and a bus pass is \$45.
UCSB Dhadkan is a nonprofit organization that hosts fundraising

El Congreso de UCSB hosts 30th annual Latine College Day
El Congreso de UCSB is hosting its 30th annual Latine College Day on Saturday, April 29, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
across campus.

The day is an outreach event for high school and community college students in Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo and Ventura Counties. Attendees will learn about pursuing higher education as a marginalized student. UCSB students can get involved with the and volunteering.
El Congreso de UCSB is a Chicanx/Latinx support and political student organization that conducts
on campu
IVCRC hosts carnival on
Pardall Road Pardall Road
The Associa
The Associated Students Isla ista Community Relations
Committee (IVCRC) is hosting a Pardall Carnival on Sunday, April Road.
Road
The entirely free carnival will feature food, ferris wheel rides, carnival games, raffles and prizes,
caricature artists, live music, tote bags and more.
bags and more.
IVCRC works to educate the I.V. community and nurtures relationships between the college town's long-term and short-term residents through event planning local organizations.

MCC hosts two-day event
to celebrate Black LGBTQIA+ artists
(MCC) is holtiCultural Center to celebrate Black LGBTQIA+ artwork on Sunday, April 30, at the MCC lounge and Monday, May 1, at the MCC theater.
The first event will showcase an art exhibit titled, "Shades of Black \& Pynk: A Celebration of Black Trans+Queer Art, Love, and Writing."

This exhibit is a multimedia installation that celebrates the
boundless imagination of Black Queer, Trans, and Gender Creative artists," the Shoreline description read.
The second day's event, titled
"Pynk Possibilities The 1980s - Black Trans and Queer Soundscapes of Unbelonging," will feature a conversation between feminist studies associate professor Matt Richardson, Black studies professor Omise'eke Tinsley, Global Black Studies Inaugural Co-Director and African Studies Director Jafari Allen.
"The three will discuss the enduring impact of 1980s Black popular music and culture and Matt Richardson's Black Canvas: A Campus Havel Black Shoreline description read. RCSGD hosts QTBIPOC Community Dinner
RCSGD is hosting a QTBIPOC Community Dinner for its QTBIPOC Empowerment Hours on Monday, May 1, from 6-8 p.m. at the SRB multipurpose room. Supe
event.
The Office of Intent
The Office of International Student \& Scholars (OISS) hosts employment workshop
visa-holding students

## The OISS is

employment is hosting an visa-holding students on Tuesday, May 2, from 4-5 p.m. at the UCSB Education Abroad Program's Office at South Hall.
The workshop will discuss on-campus employment
authorization as a J-1 student as well as the academic
training process for off-campus employment.
C.A.P.S. Mental Health Peers hosts guest lecture by Victoria Browne on mental health Counseling \& Psychological Services Mental Health Peers
is holding a guest lecture about mental health on Tuesday, May 2, from 6:30-8 p.m. at Campbell Hall.
The event is in collaboration with UCSB and Santa Barbara City College Athletics, the
Women's Center and Health \& Women's Center and Heal
The guest speaker is TED Talk speaker, podcast host and former Division I athlete Victoria
ria first began sharing her story of how she battled and overcame depression \& anxiety as a student-athlete in Oppon TED Talk, 'The Hidden viewed over 500,000 times," the Shoreline description read. Victoria now tours the country speaking at universities in hopes
of destigmatizing the conversation around mental health and encouraging all people to be their
UCSB KASA hosts spring formal
Student Aorean American Student Association (KASA)
is hosting its spring formal on is hosting its spring formal on
Saturday, May 20, from 9-11:30 paturday, May 20, from $9-1: 30$ p.m. at th.
Center

The formal's theme is "Starry Night," and the event will feature food, drinks, music and more.
Early bird tickets are $\$ 20$ for
KASA members and $\$ 25$ for
KASA non-members, and the
$\$ 35$ for non <br> \section*{\title{
Housing co-ops provide community for <br> \section*{\title{
Housing co-ops provide community for college students of Isla Vista
} college students of Isla Vista
} <br> emphasized that maintenance costs} are exponentially
each co-op house.

## each co-op house Biko House

Biko House
Named after Bantu Stephen Biko
a South African anti-apartheid activist - the Biko House is a co-op
house on Sueno Road for students house on Sueno Road for students
of color focused on racial equality of color focused
and social justice.
and social justice.
"Our whole mission statement or existence is after social justice and just creating a safer space
for people of color," fourth-year for people of color," fourth-year communication and film and media
studies double major and Biko studies double major and Biko
House resident Liliana Linan said. House resident Liliana Linan said.
"A lot of people who do live at Biko have had more negative experience in the past living with people the can't relate to or [experienced]
Biko houses
who share 12 bedrooms and six bathrooms. The complex itself is a singular house with three floors, a communal kitchen and dining and living spaces.
Biko is distinct from the other housing co-ops this academic year in the number of events it hosted, to which Linan said it ultimately comes down to providing space for community building.
"We've always tried to open up
our own space for the community
I actually found out about Biko
because there was
event," she said. "One of the house
positions is garage manager so they're the ones that oo through theyre the ones that go through planning

## Dolores House

Named after labor activist and Chicanx civil rights movement leader Dolores Huerta, the Dolores House on Sabado Tarde Road is for vegetarian or vegan students who strive for environmental sustainability in food consumption and other initiatives. The complex houses nine bedrooms and three bathrooms.
[There's an] extreme focus on locality, so all of our food is purchased from the farmers' market, all of our grains are bulk ordered from the I.V. Food Cooperative so
we're supporting local farmers," we're supporting local farmers,'
UCSB graduate and Dolores UCSB graduate and Dolo resident Anthony Barbero said.
The 15 -member house follows

Cooperative (SBSHC) is a nonprofit organization led by a board of houses in Isla Vista. Tasks for the board - made up of elected co-o members - include creating a fiscal yearly budget and communicating ews and other information
"These individuals work together on these projects in representation of their house or pushing these things in directions they need the community," fourth-ye anthropology and Spanish double major, SBSHC Board of Directors President and Merton
Prospective co-op members are accepted off of a waitlist system that is primarily handled by staff members in the membership and outreach committee under SBSHC to eliminate individual member bias in the selection process.
The first tier of prioritization goes to applicants who have previously of the co-op house he order of selection is then based plicants have attended universit in the county.
The monthly living costs BSHC co-op houses are distinc from independent apartmen roughly breaking down to room charges, food sharing programs collective utilit
resiliency fund.

Room charges depend on each o-op house, and the food sharing costs are also dependent on the
fequency of communal dinners at each house - or if they have any at all. Members can exemp

## not want to participate.

The money paid by the co-op members for food sharing is sent to SBSHC, who then deposits said money into separate trust accounts communal dinners.
The resiliency fund - to which every member pays $\$ 6$ monthly IBSHC that is saved under the cooperative in case co-op members apply for financial assistance and are in need of a rent reduction Members can opt out of this charge if they request to do so
Richardson emphasized that the costs paid by the co-op member also partially go back to then through various avenues like member initiative grants, which and labor her for respective houses.
Richardson said that though these costs do exist for the co-op members, they can be negotiated
based on the needs of the co-op community.
Rent and utilities
ypically fived duetos - though rates of each co-op house also fluctuate depending on usage rates and other factors. Richardson
strict sustainable food practices and hosts a complex gray water system
in alignment with its mission, from composting to members growing their own food.
"We compost our food scraps and make really high quality compost for our garden, where we produce tons of food, a lot of native plants that support pollinators and hummingbirds," Barbero said.
"People care about the land and the house here, more than they would if they were just renting it because we are technically the owners of this house," he continued. "It really feels good to be in a place

## Merton House

after Catholic priest and interfaith advocate Thomas Merton, the Merton House is for students of all faiths to encourage interfaith dialogue and cooperation. Merton, on Camino Pescadero, houses 18 members who occupy 12 bedrooms in the complex, with a communal kitchen, living space and large bathroom. The building also has the SBSHC Central Office, board and meeting rooms, a mini library and an auditorium.
Merton resident Richardson stressed the large physical size of Merton, speaking to the breadth of historical resources available at read up on social justice topics and the amount of space for communal activity.
"We have a library where we've got a ton of books with resources on maintenance, a bunch of books on social justice, gender, identity, politic", they said "It really has a position to be a place for not only position to be a place for not only but the oreater student community in Isla Vista."
Newman House
Touting nine separate apartments, Newman House on Madrid Road is the housing co-op for students in the LGBTQIA+ community. The house is distinct from the other
co-ops in its private space allocated co-ops in its private space allocated
for its members, as each member for its members, as each member and interact with a separate unit and interact with the complex's foral spaces desired "I found out about Newman when
looking for housing before the fall
that I would move in and my dad sent me a link to it and said, This
one is one is gay,"' fourth-year political science major Chloe Challinor
said. "Just the inclusivity aspect of said. "Just the inclusivity aspect of
it was fun, and I liked the idea of it it was fun, and I liked the idea of it
being an apartment complex, but also a community."
Challinor emphasized that they value Newman creating a
designated space for LGBTQIA+ people to exist with peace and without interference, stressing this to be important in any larger community like I.V.
"I know a lot of people here who don't necessarily have the most accepting families ... and any designated space for queer peace is beneficial to the greater good," she said. "I also think it's a good place to think of your queerness

Who is best suited for the I.V.

## housing co-op community?

Richardson emphasized the importance of "sweat equity" at housing co-ops, saying that all service positions and be active and engaged with the co-op community. "I think it's really oriented for individuals who are looking to work with other people, who are motivated, who are up for accepting additional responsibilities within their house and within the greater community," they said.
Barbero recommends Dolores to anyone interested in talking about social justice, politics or who generally wan
community.

## community.

Challinor said that students would learn about the different housing co-ops available in I.V., as is often an overlooked housing option in the college town.
"Its just something that a lot of people don't consider or don't know exists until
they said.
Linan expressed gratitude for the relationships she formed at Biko and hopes that other prospective members of the I.V. housing co-ops can have the same experience "I love Biko so much, I everything about it," she said. "No one is just everyone who lives there, literally some of my closest friends and friends for life."

## Munger Hall project still deeply unpopular among students, A.S. finds



## Mark Alfred

University News Editor
quarter by the Associated Students Office of the Presiden yielded new insights into studen perception of UC Santa Barbara's proposed Munger Hall project and found it to be opposed
over $80 \%$ of undergraduates.
Munger Hall, a controversial student housing project in the works for nearly a decade, would
house around 3,500 students in individual bedrooms, most which would lack real windows. which would lack real windows. Munger Hall Survey Analysis, prepared by the Strategic Operations Office and A.S
said they would support Munger Hall with modifications. Only
$3 \%$ of students surveyed said they $3 \%$ of students surveyed said the
support the dormitory as is. The winter quarter survey
received 1,350 responses, with received 1,350 responses, with
337 students saying they'd visited the campus' mock-up of the proposed dormitory, housed in a warehouse the campus
purchased a decade ago to facilitate the construction of the traditional student housing that Munger Hall eventually replaced. Some students that visited the warehouse left testimonial presented in the survey report.
Depressing, sad, concerning We make sure pets have plenty of human beings, not worthy of a single window? When COVID cases are rising in California and students are desperate for housing to attend your second-year student wrote in testimonial presented in the survey.
Students that visited the mock-up were more likely to unequivocally oppose Munger Hall than those who hadn't by eight points, the survey found. "While I understand the appeal, it does not seem like a reasonable living situation. Windows are simple and incredibly important, and while it is 'nice,' the idea and while it is nice, the idea
that thousands of students will be packed into these spaces is be packed into these spaces
wrote in the testimonials.

Concerned students articulated apprehension with the project's
lack of windows, small bedrooms lack of windows, small bedrooms
and expected negative impact and expected negative impact
on physical and mental health. Taken as its own issue, students reported a positive affinity for
single occupancy bedrooms but maintained signnificant concerns about a lack of real windows. "The mental health implications of this project are far
too grand for students to feel like they 'should not complain' for any reason. Students should not have to make trade-offs for their mental health in order to afford basic needs," A.S. President and fourth-year political science
major Gurleen Pabla said in a statement to the Nexus. "This is an extreme band-aid solution for a completely preventable Pab
that many campus leaders aske her why students vehemently oppose the dorm's construction, with administrators suggesting "that there was no evidence to suggest that mental health is a concern and that students should not complain so much when the housing crisis is so severe." "I will continue to ask why students should just 'accept' they are in no way responsible they are in no way responsible
for causing," Pabla said. "Our leaders, some of whom may be reading this letter today, could have prevented this situation , ", this situation

## UCSB student

 charged with felony for allegedly vandalizing car

The student was arrested and booked at the Santa Barbara Main Jai on April 18 with a bail of $\$ 20,000$ and has since been released.
| Nisha Malley
County News Editor
A UC Santa Barbara student facing a felony charge for allegedly committing an act of vandalism on a vehicle in Isla Vista last week, causing damages that exceeded \$10,000
The student, third-year history major Derek Jiang, was arrested Main Jail at the Santa Barbara Main Jail on April 18 with a bail of $\$ 20,00$
released.
The Santa Barbara County
Sheriff's O

# Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office details extensive inventory of 'military equipment' 



Nisha Malley County News Editor

The Santa Barbara Count Sheriff's Office delivered an update on its current inventory and annual use of military equipment at an April 25 virtual meeting with the community. The Santa Barbara Sheriff's Office (SBSO) maintains a sizable stock of military equipment available for use, including unmanned aerial drones, bomb robots, armored vehicles, longrange precision rifles, explosives and chemical agents.
California Assembly Bill 481 requires law enforcement agencies to obtain approval from their governing bodies before purchasing or acquiring military equipment. Signed by Gov. Gavin Newsom on Sept. 30, 2021, the law took effect Jan. 1, 2022. SBSO plans to present to the
Santa Barbara County Board Santa Barbara County Board of
Supervisors on May 2 to Supervisors on May 2 to approve
the continued use of military the continued use of military equipment. The AB 481 annual report, inventory and policy for

2022 are all publicly available on vehicles: one Mine-Resistant Policies and Procedures.'
In 2022, SBSO utilized its unmanned aerial systems, deploying the Brinc Lemur drone once and the DII Matrice drone for 10 hours during search and rescue operations. The Brinc rescue operations. The Brinc Lemur drone - purchased with "designed to aid special response ceams in barricade response active shoter and other high-risk situations," the annual inventory document read.
"You will see the equipment being used for the equipment human life, search and re operations, seatural descue response, natural disaster catastrophic events response to reduce the likelihood of injury to the public" Lieuod of injury to the public," Lieutenant Joseph Schmidt said at the meeting. Bomb squad personnel used the Remotec bomb robot for one operation in the past year, while the agency's three tactical robots went unused. SBSO owns three armored

Ambush Protected (MRAP) designed to seat 10 officers withstand multiple bullet strikes withstand multiple bullet strikes
and offer advanced off-road and and offer advanced off-road and high-water capabilities - and two
Lenco BearCats. The vehicles Lenco BearCats. The vehicles
were extensively used during the were extensively used during the
2018 Montecito debris flow in 2018 Montecito debris flow in disaster responses and evacuation
measures. The BearCats were measures. The BearCats were used on five operations this year,
and there were no operational and there were no
uses of the MRAP.
"We do have a lot of capabilitie that aren't always used on a regular basis, but the reason we keep those capabilities available is in the rare circumstances that a threat level justifies their use" Sergeant Tyler YYes aid at meeting. The emergency command post trailer porkstation - a large mobile manage critical incidents staff to a natural disaster - was such as at the Earl Warren Shas parked during the January 2023 storms Other military 2023 storms. used in the past year include
command vehicle on five operations, the crisis negotiation team vehicle on six operations and an explosive breaching device and an explosive breaching device
on one operation. SBSO also re
its 40 mm reported deploying separate "use of force" incidents, a PepperBall launcher eight times a PepperBall launcher eight times and a "less lethal shotgun" in one
incident. SBSO used a distraction incident. SBSO used a distraction device - informally known as a
flash bang or sting ball - on flash bang or sting ball - on two
operations. Schmidt justified the use of the military equipment in the meeting as a "critical" measure to ensure public safety.
"The specialized equipment is necessary because there's no reasonable alternative that can achieve the same objective of officer and civilian safety," Schmidt said at the meeting. "Law enforcement equipment use policy will safeguard the
public's welfare, civil rights and public's welfare, civil rights and civil liberties, and relative to other equipment out there, this
equipment is reasonably cost equipment is reasonably cost

Controversy
over contentious UC Blackstone investment continues


A member of the civil rights organization African Communities Together spoke against the UC's investment in Blackstone at public comment of the January 2023 Regents meeting.

## Holly Rusch

 Lead News EditorThe University of California Board of Regents announced its decision in January 2023 to invest over \$4 billion into Blackstone Real Estate Income Trust, a real estate investment firm that owns property
across the country totaling around across the country totaling around
$\$ 1$ trillion - including the UC Berkeley and UC Irvine campuses. Berkeley and criticism followed the
Waves of campuses. decision, both during and after the Jan. 3 announcement and the regents meeting that same month regents meeting that same month
where the investment was discussed. The venture became controversial because of Blackstone's alleged role in fueling rent increases in role in fueling rent increases in
California, evicting tenants in its affordable housing units in funding lobbying efforts to defeat a 2018 rent control measure
2018 rent control measure.
In a March 15 letter, a coalition UC unions representing over 100,000 employees, along with other community leaders and groups,
demanded that the UC divest from demanded that the UC divest from Blackstone in its entirety, calling the firm "predatory" amid ongoing UC-wide housing crises for students. "The United Nations has condemned Blackstone for helping fuel a global housing crisis and singled out its predatory business
practices _ such as massively practices - such as massively inflating rents, implementing heavy fees, and charging tenants for ordinary repairs," the letter read. "UC students will also likely not be spared from these predatory practices. Blackstone's recent
acquisition of American Campus Communities - owner of 166 student housing properties, including at UC Berkeley and UC Irvine - positions the company as the largest owner of student housing in the U.S," the letter continued.
A recent investigative piece in The Lever detailed how the UC's $\$ 4.5$ billion investment in Blackstone helped them out of a financial hole of redemption requests and struggling business ventures. The investment was also made as Blackstone began ramping made as Blackstone began ramping
up evictions on its properties, The up evictions on its properties, The
Lever reported.
"In March, [Blackstone Real Estate Income Trust] received $\$ 4.5$ billion in redemption requests, but billion in redemption requests, but
only fulfilled $\$ 666$ million of them only fulfilled $\$ 666$ million of them
... but now, UC has come to the ... but now, UC has come to the rescue. In January, the university
announced it was investing $\$ 4.5$ announced it was investing $\$ 4.5$ billion in the struggling fund which in effect allows it to start refunding other investors' money," the article read.
The article also found that at least two members of the 11-person regents investment committee Richard Sherman and Mark Robinson - have previous ties to Blackstone investments.
The Lever found that despite insistence by the UC that Blackstone investments are made
in the "capitalistic" interests in the "capitalistic" interests of UC students and employees, pension and endowment funds may have
been $40 \%$ more than its current been $40 \%$ more than its current
value if the UC had made value if the UC had made less risky investment decisions.

# Margaret T. Getman and William J. Villa Service to Students Awards 

In honor of the former UCSB Dean of Student Residents, Margaret T. Getman, and the former Director of Admissions, William J. Villa, these annual awards recognize university staff, faculty, and departments that have demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to the general growth and development of students and quality of student life.

## Congratulations to the 2023 Getman Award Nominees:

Natalie Armistead
Martin Carranza
Cathy Czuleger
Patricia Dent
Olga Faccani

Terrie Tran Gurm Gladys Manrique Koscak Dan Lane<br>Brandon Langford Christopher McFerron<br>Carlos Nash

Jonathan Ng
Michelle Petty-Grue Danielle Quiñones-Ortega Jill Singletary
Julie Standish

## Congratulations to the 2023 Villa Award Nominees:

## Annual Isla Vista Earth Day Festival features vendors, bands, activities



Katie Poon
Reporter
The Associated Students Environmental Affairs Board Earth Day Festival on April 22 at Anisq'Oyo' Park, featuring around 30 vendors with their respective merchandise and several activities including painting, gardening, tie-dyeing T-shirts, a clothing swap and games.
Alongside performances from student bands - including Primarosa and Shark Exhibit - the festival also featured tie giveaways, potting and more. There were also educational
pportunities at the festival for attendees to learn about environmentally sustain
practices like composting. Associated Students (A.S.) Environmental Affairs Board year environmental science major Jen Stein said the even
community celebration and Jahlia Layton, a third-year education about Earth Day. sociology and environmental "I think it mostly spreads awareness, because they come here and they're like, 'Wait, and they can learn a lot from all the orgs," Stein said. "It reminds them to be more environmentally friendly by celebrating Earth Day.
The festival encouraged isitors to learn about various ways to support the Earth, with groups informing guests about sustainability, recycling, conservation, environmental justice and more.
"[There are] a lot of programs actually around school that didn't know about, so I think for me, I'm a first year, it's good to learn about what things I can get involved with," first-year global studies major Brenna Boldt said.
Environmental Justice Alliance (EJA) campaign chair Asata Spencer, a third-year environmental studies major,
studies double major, said that EJA provides space for students of color to discuss environmental topics and the intersections of identity and climate justice.
"The main thing about EJA is that we center POC voices, especially as it relate to environmental improvemen and intersectional identitie within environmental justice and I feel like a lot of different organizations don't really focus on that," Spencer said.
Spencer spoke about being in environmental studies classe as one of the few Black students in her major, saying that in there's little space for student of color to speak about the disproportionate impacts of environmental issues and general environmental racism.
"There's not a lot of Black people in my major ... and chance to really talk about

## LECTURER LAYOFFS Coninued tom p. 1

[of the] faculty," Moak said. that [graduate students] were "And so they're being fought
tooth and nail often, tooth and nail often, and this notification."
Lecturers and professors in the division said they suspect the layoffs are the campus' solution to the rising costs o employing teaching assistants (TAs) after graduate students from fall quarter's UC union strike, which saw 48,000 union members walk off the job.
"The informal message that T've gotten, not directly from
the administration, but through various departments - faculty who work there - [is] that this is the university scrambling desperately to pay for the contract with their graduate Dean of Humanities and Fine Arts division and history professor Daina Ramey Berry
did not respond to multiple requests for comment.
The division
significant number of campus departments including arts, classics, English, film, history, studies, music and Spanish among others.
"I think it's a complete failure ne part of the university they're going
"The University is sending multiple people into either full or partial unemployment, and doing this in violation of the spirit of our current contract which is multi-year employment, two years minimum basically, Moak said. "Many of the folks who are facing these layoffs are in the middle of a two-year
Though he suspects that fall's UC union strike prompted hi dismissal, Adams emphasized that it doesn't affect his support for graduate students.
"They deserve every cent that they got," he said. "[The university's] model works on cheap labor, and when the cheapest labor - the TAs - said We're tired of this,' they don' have a plan for another business model."
"The administration wants to fund the TA contract without asking for larger appropriations from the state, and that's thei goal, which is a crazy goal, he continued. "This is th outcome."
Moak warned that the layoffs will further exacerbate students struggles to get the classes the need.
"This is not a decision that is just about a handful of people and those people losing their jobs, in violation of the spirit of their contracts." Moak said.


Attendees show off their newly potted plants at the festival.
[environmental racism] in our exist for such environmentally classes," they said. "So EJA's oriented conversations a space for POC interested happen.
in environmental issues to
in environmental issues to "It really just puts our face talk about their experiences with their identity and their communities and how their communities have experienced environmental racism and just disproportionate environmental issues."
looked
and
incorp
dialogue surrounding th intersections of identity and environmental issues, citing the disproportionate impact of climate change on marginalized communities.
"I think this space shows that with environmental justice, and especially with Earth Day, we are here and our voices do matter, especially with marginalize
Spencer emphasized that this Earth Day festival provided an opportunity for organizations community that these local
out there" she said "A of people don't really know that we exist ... and a lot of people don't really know that EJA was created as a social justice organization centered as a space for BIPOC outside of the fact that environmental organizations on campus were really dominated by white folks."
Fourth-year communication major Caroline Bancroft said that the festival allowed those passionate about the environment in Isla vista to the Earth.
"This event is just proof that, even in somewhere as small and local as I.V., we can get so many people out to come and celebrate," Bancroft said.
First-year computer
engineering major Nikhil Kapasi shared Bancroft's sentiment.

## STUDENT HEALTH

"This is about a decision that is going to make the lives of undergraduate students much more difficult, and that is going to lead our university to struggle seriously to fulfill its mission in the near term.
"How many of them have struggled tooth and nail, have fought to get into the classes that they need, whether they be [general education] or classes that are kind of gateway courses for the major that they're in? These courses are habitually, chronically over enrolled.'
Adams also cautioned that the university will need to fund further concessions won by graduate students, set to take effect next year, that could prompt another round of layoffs if the campus doesn't find funding elsewhere.
"The cost of TAs go up this summer, but they go up more next summer ... we don't reach the big pay raise until fall 2024, which means that if they don't have another plan to meet that, then there will be presumably other means of austerity, including additional layoffs." Adams, now set to depart the campus at the quarter's end because of the layoffs, doesn't "I can just say to teaching. with academia," Adams said. "My academia, Adams said
he continued.
YDSA, in a statement to the Nexus, said the university's affirmed commitment
keeping a Student Health keeping a Student Health facility active throughout the Ocean Road project was positive if

During the April 18 Senate meeting, before senators voted on the fund-holding bill, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Margaret Klawunn told attendees during public comment that the university was committed to providing SHS throughout the project. "I have been assured today, as was President [Gurleen] Pabla, that there was absolutely a commitment to that building and to making sure we could move from the current operation into the new building to preserve the care for the campus and on-campus location. question about that," she said. Shalunov said that the temporary withholding of fees will most likely not impact Student Health operations and that he expects the fees to be released with minimal delay
"It's not a huge thing. It's not a negotiation. It's just saying OK, yeah, totally fine. Let's just make sure that you get your end of the deal,"" he said. "The fact of the matter
"I think that it's nice that they draw the community out and it's not just on campus, it's meant for the community," Kapasi said. "I think that's really awesome."
$\underset{\text { Spencer }}{\text { Speciation }}$ expressed
appreciation for the event, saying it encouraged collaborations between the different organizations present and reignited a sense of community within I.V. residents passionate about environmental justice and sustainability
A ot of people, they come to
these tabling shifts and they sit down and they talk to people all day, but they look forward to getting up and going around and looking at all these other booths," they said.
"I just loved seeing so many people come out. I loved seeing so many familiar faces and faces that I haven't really known before. I loved how a lot of people wanted to [collaborate] with EJA," Spencer said. "I just really love that it was a really community oriented event,"

## Santa Barbara MTD proposes bus line changes, new services starting August



The map of the Wave's service displays two large shaded areas representing "microtransit zones" in Goleta where service will function, as well as two additional specified pick-up and drop-off points in

## | Nisha Malley

 County News Editor The Santa Barbara Metropolitan Transit District is initiating changes to multiple bus lines and adding a new "microtransit" service, which would go into effect Aug. 14. The proposed changes include increasing its UC Santa Barbara shuttle service Line 28 and connecting Lines 23 and 25 through a reconfiguration of the bus routes. Santa Barbara Metropolitan Transit District (MTD) also plans to offer two new transit options: Line 19x - an express route connecting Carpinteria, the eastside of Santa Barbara and Santa Barbara City College (SBCC) - and the Wave microtransit service in Goleta and Isla Vista.Hillary Blackerby, the planning and marketing manager for Santa Barbara MTD, provided an overview of the proposed service changes on April 25 at the I.V. Community Services District (IVCSD) board meeting.
Blackerby said that Line 28, which stops at UCSB, El Colegio Road, Santa Catalina Residence Hall, Phelps Road and Camino Real Marketplace, steadily experiences significant demand from the campus community and bus overcrowding.
$\qquad$ demand on this route," Blackerby said at the meeting. "We use the 60 -foot articulated buse on the 20-foot articulated buses on Line
28. They fit a little over 100
people in a standing load. They are full consistently. W
turning people away." turning people away."
Before the pandem
Before the pandemic, buses would arrive at each stop every
10 to 12 minutes. The line 10 to 12 minutes. The line was suspended with the COVID19 campus closure and later
returned in Fall Quarter returned in Fall Quarter 2021 at a reduced operational level, with a headway of 36 minutes between bus arrivals. Santa Barbara MTD is exploring options to restore headways to every 18 minutes for potentially eight hours of the day, depending on bus driver availability.
"We know that the demand is there, and we need to bring back some more service," she said. The introduction of Line 19x would be the first new bus route since Line 28 in 2015, according o Blackerby. Santa Barbar MTD plans to offer the line as an express weekday service running during peak-transit hours with seven stops total: three in the city of Carpinteria, two along Milpas Street, one on Gutierrez Street and terminating at SBCC.
Line 19 x , which targets SBCC students, is scheduled to begin service coinciding with the start of the SBCC's fall semester on Aug. 28. The line will operate year-round, except for SBCC spring and winter breaks, and offer two northbound trips in the morning, one round trip midday and two southbound trips in the afternoon.
In the past, Santa Barbara MTD had two bus routes servicing the
leg between Carpinteria and Santa Barbara with Lines 20 and 21x. The express route Line 21x was discontinued due to slowness and ineffectiveness, and its stops were incorporated in Line 20's route.
The creation of the Wave on-demand microtransit service reflects an effort to bring flexible, curb-to-curb transit service to I.V. and the neighboring city of Goleta.
The culmination of a yearslong project, the microtransit service will begin as a one-year pilot program, according to Blackerby. Santa Barbara MTD secured state funding for the Wave on a temporary basis from the Low Carbon Transit Operations Program, a program administered by the California Department of Transportation.
The map of the Wave's service displays two large shaded area representing "microtransit zones" in Goleta where service will function, as well as two additional specified pick-up and drop-off points in Goleta and four in I.V. The Wave operates similarly to a rideshare service, where users can select a pick-up and dropoff location so long as they exist within the microtransit zones o at a specified point. Rides can be ordered via a smartphone app or through a direct call to the MTD Transit Center during open hours. If directed, drivers may pick If other people using the service wh other people using the service while completing any rides. Santa
Barbara MTD anticipates wait
times for a ride to be no more than 15 minutes, according to Blackerby.
"If you are at one of those points or in one of those zones and you want to go anywhere in one of those zones or to one of those points, you would, for example, open up the smartphone app and say, 'T'm at the I.V. Community Center. I want to go to Trader Joe's," Blackerby said. "It'll say, 'Your ride will be there in eight minutes.' Meanwhile, the driver's getting turn-by-turn directions algorithm."
aldey're
The first microtransit zone is The first microtransit zone is the region bounded by Cathedral Oaks Road in the north and Calle Real N the south, extending N Patterson Avenue. The second Natterson Avenue. The second zone is south of the freeway, bound by Storke Road, Hollist Avenue and Highway 1, and it encompasses newer housing projects such as Willow Springs Apartments and Goleta City Hall.
The individual points on the The individual points on the map are the Goleta train station,
Santa Barbara Airport, UCSB Santa Barbara Airport, UCSB Elings Hall, UCSB Bus Loop, El Colegio \& Embarcadero del Mar outbound bus stop and the I.V. Community Center.
Blackerby noted that Camino Real Marketplace and the Target shopping center were not included in the microtransit service given the potential for high traffic in those areas to result in slowdowns to the service.
"A couple questions that we've had are, 'Why doesn't it just cover all of Isla Vista,' or I've had other people say, 'Why doesn't it just go to Camino Real Marketplace?" Blackerby said. "So, why don't we want to go through the Storke and Hollister intersection? Have you been there? If our van had to reckon with that, it would never get out."
The Wave will run from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday, operating on a fleet of all-electric Ford Transit vans.
"We had to pick those six most important days for something like this, and we thought that Sunday would be a pretty important day for groceries and getting around," Blackerby said.
Regular one-way fare will be priced at $\$ 3$ a ride, with a discounted fare of $\$ 1.50$ for people ages 62 and up and for people with disabilities. An option will also be available for anyone to take a free transfer on a fixed bus route within one hour of bus route within one hour of
riding the Wave. The vans will riding the Wave. The vans will


## UC Academic Senate approves new bachelor's degree

 requirementSindhu Ananthavel Deputy News Editor

The University of California Academic Senate approved a new graduation requirement completing bachelor's degree mandating a certain percentage of classes taken in person. The regulation, titled campus experience requirement, was approved Feb. 21 and announced to UC Santa Barbara students via email on April 24. The requirement is now reflected in students' major progress check on GOLD

Regulation 630 E Rat undion 630 E stipulates must complete a students six units of cou minimum of six units of course credits each quarter or semester for three quarters or two semesters in to any denrolled diver
least 50 percent of in-person instructional hours on any campus of the University of California or physical locations in SR 630.D."
The new requirement is now in effect for the oraduating class of 2023 and future graduating students.
"To satisfy this requirement, at least two quarters or one semester must be completed during the regular academic year, with no more than one quarter or semester completed during the summer," the Academic Senate regulation read.

The regulation clarifies that "in-person instructional hours" must include instructors and students in the same physical location during designated class time, excluding office hours and recorded lectures.

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5:30PM, 7:30PM, 10PM

## IVCSD talks financial outlook, state of the district at annual retreat



During the meetin
$\left\lvert\, \begin{aligned} & \text { Nisha Malley } \\ & \text { County News Editor }\end{aligned}\right.$
The Isla Vista Community Services District convene on April 24 for its annual
roundtable,
discussing the state of the district, its accomplishments and
projected goals for the coming year. The Isla Vista Community Services District (IVCSD)
serves the unincorporated
rthered that
area of Isla Vista to provide IVCSD was founded in 2016 furthered that the district, the Cen
ocal governance, community and established a source of which spent its early years drought Coast exits a long services and resources related o public safety, housing, parking, public infrastructure and quality of life.
Jonathan Abboud Manager Jonathan Abboud provided briefings on the current staffing resources and the
financial state of the financial state of the district as well as an update on services, community
projects.
and established a source of consistent revenue for itself focused on expansion of staff two years later when the and services, "is now in a community approved Measure position to consider its current R , allowing an eight percent financial trajectory in terms of utility-user tax on households. Abboud described the district's financial position as "very strong," as the estimated revenue of $\$ 1.35$ million for the 2022-23 fiscal year exceeded projections by $15 \%$.

# MultiCultural Center and Middle Eastern, North African, South Asian Resource Center host Bazaar 

Anushka Ghosh Dastidar Reporter


MultiCultuanta Barbara's bazaar in collaboration with the Educational Opportunity Program's Middle Eastern, North African, South Asian Resource Center on April 21.
The Middle Eastern, North African, South Asian Resource Center (MENASARC) Bazaar celebrated the communities of the organization and connected students with shared MENASA backgrounds with studen vendors, catered food and free gifts.

The event, much like complete with an array student vendors, all displaying student vendors, all displaying
and selling their work. The artwork included nature inspired bookmarks, cookies, palm readings, henna art and more Fourth-year Neha Rampal was one of the vendors, selling prints and stickers of her South Asian inspired drawings at her booth. She spoke to the importance of reframing the
narrative around South Asians narrative around South Asians even through her artwork.

Growing up, I always saw South Asians being depicted as
negative characters," Rampal
. I don't want that for cousins and whoever comes in my family afterwards, so artwork." First-year engineering major Anika Jen said the event provided her a sense of nostalgia for familiar artwork while also discovering new artistic avenues the vendor took.
"I really wanted to be in a festive environment that would highlight people of cultures and communities that are simila to mine, and I was excited to witness art that is both new and familiar to me" Jena said "I bought six stickers from feminist, Desi, counter-culture artist."
When leaving the event participants received free gift bags filled with miscellaneous items such as incense, candle and lip balm.
Third-year communication and sociology double major Marina Habib, a programming assistant for the MultiCultural Center (MCC), took inspiration or the Bazaar celebration from the traditional origins of the "A
"A bazaar is actuly and it tends to nd rows of little shops with and rows of little shops with
miscellaneous items which you
can see first hand here today Habib said. "It originated from Persian culture and means marketplace. It is used hroughout the Middle Eas and it inspired the idea of flea markets and markets all around the world."
Speaking to previously feeling solated following the COVID 19 pandemic, Habibi expresse delight in seeing her vision for his event come to fruition and seeing her "dream [come] to life and people actually socializing and mingling and speaking and mingling and speaking togething
Touching on the ways MENASARC encour and cross cultural collaboration, Habibi emphasized that events like thi bring communities together in solidarity and comfort UCSB. "S
Something like this, we hav he Indian food, but we also have we Middle Eastern pastries, but from differnt races ethnicities, highlight hat in etrics, highighting "All these lion "All these labels make you who heir craft and this space bing an open space where your different people from differ bekro wanted."

## Kylès



Contact our catering \& events manager at 805-895-1705 or visit us at KylesCatering.com


## THE DAILY STENCH

## It's Satire, Stupid.

## Does ChatGPT recite evil spells at anyone else?



David Litman
Artificially Intelligent
Gosh ... it happened again yesterday. I was just minding my own business, asking ChatGPT various questions like, "What does on writing a cover letter, when all of a sudden, things went south. As I was typing into the use interface, chuckling along at the program's characteristically silly responses, it suddenly spat out the following line
"Beware the Ides of March, for on that day, the fates shal conspire against you. May your every ally turn against you and your every enemy rise up to claim your throne. May the Earth tremble beneath your feet and the heavens weep with the blood of your followers. And as you stare into the abyss of your own destruction, may you realize that you have been but a pawn in th
game of fate, with no power t
change your ultimate destiny." change your ultimate destiny."
Then I stared blankly at the Then I stared blankly at the
screen as it recited my full legal name, address and social security number.
Naturally, I was freaked out. Was ChatGPT predicting my downfall? Or was this just

My question is ..
does this happen to anyone else?

David Litman
algorith glitch in the unconscious gorithm? And what was with the specific date? I went to show
my friend this eerie phenomeno my friend this eerie phenomenon and asked ChatGPT to repeat their hex, but the second my friend came over, as if the bot could see them, it started saying: "I apologize, but as an AI language model, my purpose is to provide informative and helpful responses while adhering to ethical and moral standards. I do not recall saying what you are referring to. If you have any other requests or questions, I will do my best to assist in a positive and constructive manner."
The weirdest thing is, this kind of stuff has been happening to me more frequently lately. At first, I thought it was a one-time occurrence, but now every tim I use the bot, it warns me of my impending doom on the middle day of March.
My question is ... does this happen to anyone else?

David Litman just crossed the Rubicon.

Everything I've ever wanted to say to stinky little campus tour groups

| Inma Hole Preserver of Peace

If you've ever walked across the beautifully serene campus of UC Santa Barbara, you have probably had your peace violently disrupted by a clueless gaggle of ogling strangers taking up the sidewalk. These tour groups creep their way into the heart of our sacred campus each year, and when admission decisions roll am he toy mutriply tenford. that I have hat the masses tomfor hang of their maps. I hand inabily to read them walking down the middle of our bike paths. And I have had ENOUGH of not being abl to suntan at the lagoon without a prepubescent fifth grader staring at my ass. So, UC Sant Barbara community, here is your personalized guide of what to say to the members of tour groups who mildly infuriate you.
Imagine this: You are casually walking back from class on sunny Thursday afternoon. You look to your left, then to your right and quickly hurry across the bike lane. But wait! You can't
fully make it across because an Here's what you have to do: incoming freshman's parent has Run up to them and say, "Your stopped fehman's parent has picture of Storke tower The bikes are Soming Tower. The both directions. You are seconds away from impending doom. Here's what you have to do:
Grab the parent's phone and chuck it at the biker nearest you to veer them off course. shout, "Move it!" course. Then, out of your way. It's nove them rude; you just saved their being After just saved their life. decide that yout dying, you you've that youre hungry. Sure, Express in yourself to Panda Express in the UCen twice did a this week, but you just little good thing! You deserve a townstairs You make your way downstairs only to find that the Panda Express line is so long that it wraps around the room. You helplessly scan the line for a familiar face, hoping to "catch up" with a classmate from Chemistry 1B and "accidentally" cut the line. As you search, you spot 25 third graders near the front. You watch as they nervously count the $\$ 10$ they were given for lunch, trying to find something they can afford on the menu.
favorite TikToker is giving away free sandwiches outside!" As they all run for the door, quickly hop in line and lament the fact that third graders have access to TikTok.
After you finish eating, you probably feel a bit sleepy. You head back to your dorm so you can take a nap before your next class (yes, you will
obviously sleep through it but obviously sleep through it but that's not important here). As you're walking into Santa Cruz Residence Hall, a middle-aged man stops you. "Hi, my daughter is coming here next year, and I was just wondering if I could take a picture of what a dorm room looks like. Can we see yours?" I think you know what you need to say next:
Look him in the eye and say, "Respectfully sir, fuck off." With these simple tips, we can unite to take our campus back, one less tourist at a time.

Inma Hole wants to remind all prospective students that UCSB is experiencing a housing crisis. Please go somewhere else.


## ARTSWEEK

## The Chemical Brothers erupt Santa Barbara Bowl with electrifying opening to 2023 show season

The Santa Barbara Bowl was illuminated with nostalgic energy as legendary
electronica duo, The Chemical Brothers, prepared to ignite the venue with a breathtaking performance on April 16 that Santa Barbara Bowl show season. As the sun set over the iconic
downtown Santa Barbara venue the crowd that was mostly comprise of those aged 30 and above wandered around the bowl in their bucket hats and
sunglasses, channeling ' 90 s sunglasses, channeling '90s
underground
rave. Opener Overmono soundtracked the hustle and bustle of the preshov socialization, preparing the
audience for what they were audience for what they were
about to experience with their United Kingdom garage and ambient beats. It was the perfec music to settle everything in existing throughout the venue
somewhat subtly - allowing for somewhat subtly - allowing for with the show everyone was about to encounter. As the coo evening breeze descended and the sky shifted from a vibrant orange hue to a deep, dark shade
of purple, dopamine filled the air that ignited both the pit and the stands. It was evident that the Santa Barbara Bowl's 2023 special note

It was precisely 8 p.m., and dark yet, bright, flashing white lights accompanying the
staggered beats of the music sounded off, "The C, the H , the built the anticipation, and The E , the $\mathrm{M} /$ The I , the C , the Chemical Brothers took the stage.
British duo Manchester-based and made their way to their DJ equipment, which looked more comparable to a scientific lab than the typical DJ setup at most EDM concerts today. The lab multiple keyboards and massive synthesizers and MIDI pads, along with many other devices one could not even begin to name barricaded around the two performers. As the screams f excitement from the crowd echoed into the open sky, the wobbling hi-hats and bass hits sped up transitioning into Th Chemical Brothers' song, "Block Rockin' Beats" Th Grammy award-winning song in the "Best Rock Instrument Performance" categry - was fitting choice to begin the show with, showcasing the heavy ock/hip-hop/gritty electroni sound that played throughou the night. Accompanying he music was the first set of otherworldy visuals to play on the duo all evening. Spotlights placed in evening. Spotlights placed in an array behind the creen shone out of the screen in a laser-like fashion, creating three-dimensional effect that drew viewers in and made th After the strong openin of "Block Rockin' Beats," the by shifting into a performance of "C-h-e-m-i-c-a-l." The lyric
e, the M / The I, the C, the A, the L / The brothers / The brothers. In the final words, the lights and sound focused on the hands synchronously in a bowing manner. Immediately after this, The Chemical Brothers went into one of their popular songs, "Go," crafting one of the mor iconic experiences of their Sant Barbara Bowl performance While the song vibrated through the Bowl, sets of glowing neon pink humanoid figures neon pink humanoid figures, boxes and a sight reminiscent of the Grid in the Tron movies were projected. Pink spotlight were projected. Pink spotlights people played the boxes like people played the boxes like colorful 3D soundwaves into the audience. As "Go" faded into "MAH" "Go" faded into persisted, the thrilling visual rowned figure painted in whit and adorned with an alienesque mask emerged, flailing its and mouthing the rem words, "I'm mad as hell, I ain' gonna take it no men, I aint music built and the electro kicks got louder and faster, the angry figure put his fingers out toward the audience for the from the screen, and multipl white spotlights and multiple into the crowd, creating ou of the most visually thrilling beat drops of the entire show The thunderous cheers of th the spine-tingling, high-pitche laser beam sounds emanating
from The Chemical Brothers electrifying performance ccompanying Thisual Brothers' performance feast for the eyes and an essential component of what made the show genuinely extraordinary. Adam Smith and Marcus Lyall, a duo who has worked with The Chemical Brothers on concert visuals for over 20 years, directed the show. They crafted an experience like no other in EDM music, grasping every emotion from the audience. The show reminiscent of devilish imagery that one might an acid-induced encounter in It also included lighthearted
 The Chemical Br
Bowl on April 16.
group of disco-dancing, sliced pepperoni-like figures grooving Keep On." Many of these visuals served as their own sort of short film, displaying choreographed actors in eclectic costumes creating a storyline fitting to the sounds and vigor of the moment. In the tale shown in "Eve Of Destruction," a middle-aged woman becomes a cartoonish superhero and fights groups of funky villains, such as lobster people and a robot wizard with an electric baton.

## Encountering the

 Chemical Brothers' music The and stories at the Santa Barbara Bowl was a surreal evening
## and jaw-dropping sights. The

 soundtrack felt like one lengthy song, tying beats together to keep the audience on their air. The Santa Barbara Bowl rarely experiences energy this viscerally exhilarating, and how special of an event for it to be happening on the opening night happening on the opening nightof the 2023 season. The Chemical Brothers successfully delivered a performance that was nothing short of exceptional, kicking off the 2023 Santa Barbara Bowl show season on a high note with their breathtaking music, otherworldly visuals and unforgettable energy. It was a
truly surreal experience that left truly surreal experience that left
the crowd awestruck and the crowd
for more.

## Netflix's "Beef" packed with flavor and seasoned with controversy

Lauren Chiou Assistant Artsweek Editor

sexual assault ahead

"Anger is just a transitory state " consciousness," is what Amy Lau's husband, George, says in esponse to an act of aggression

The statement embodies the act of moving on and letting go from anger. Yet, "Beef" takes the less mature route and entertain an alternative approach to anger through its complex depiction of human rage, vengeance and chaos.
Beef" was released to Netflix

## STEVEN YEUN ALI WONG

 A NETFLX SERIES8

each other.

The beauty of "Beef" is that it's raw (pun intended). It not only showcases but also embraces The show grows to be so intense that it's easy to forget the feud that it's easy forget the feud home improvement store.
home improvement store.
go off the rails, because I does go off the rails, because I think you start and where you end you start and where you end up, youre just like, how the hell did I get here?" said Lee when speaking behind his intentions of the show in an interview with
GQ.
The show also captures fragile vulnerability with the multitude of wild rage and the eerily of wild rage and the eerily silent anger scenes. The best performances are when anger is suppressed. It is in those
moments that Danny and Amy moments that Danny and Amy are exposed for what they really are: empty. Both are victims of a cycle of self destruction, constantly chasing a feeling of completeness yet never feeling fulfilled.
Yeun and Wong deliver a masterclass in acting through their depictions of self-loathing, growing fixated on vengeance to fill the void that consumes their life. The two perfectly capture the feeling of desperation in just their facial expressions, adding elements of relatability to not necessarily justify but humanize their characters' horrifying actions. This is either done in fits of rage, like when Yeun screams, "What you did was not nice! It's not nice to do that!" or in moments of quiet reflection,
the Black comedy stars Steve Yeun and Ali Wong as Danny Cho and Amy Lau, respectively. executive producers.
The 10 -episode miniseries starts off with a bang - literally After the action-packed road rage incident, Danny and Amy
become dead-set on vengeance Their thirst for revenge culminates in an obsessio with each other, both becomin increasingly inappropriately intertwined in the other's life. and Amy could not be more different. Danny is a struggling contractor grappling with failing business, while Amy the owner of a successfur plant elling business. Danny live with his emotionally distant younger brother in a cramped apartment. Amy lives in spacious remodeled Calabasa young daughter. Most young daughter. Most relevand Tacoma pickup truck and Amy drives a white Mercedes-Benz
The t
The two come from incredibly ocioeconomic standings. But when it boils down to pur character, they are essentially the same. The two derive immense stress from their respective lives. Danny is burdened with providing for and attempting to reunite his family and Amy's work prevents her from enjoying the comfortable life she built for herself. Neither have an outlet to elease their pent up frustratio and fury. That is, until they me
"Everything fades. Nothing lasts. We're just a snake eating
"Beef" is also incredibly culturally accurate. The show features a predominantly Asian cast, yet it never falls trap to the typical stereotypes and plotlines. It instead captures the often unseen elements, such as the Asian religious experience, generational trauma and the burden of family responsibility. Danny's emotional return Korean Christian Church Yeun flaw particularly moving. feeling of cult the feeling of cultural and spiritual desperation as he sobs during Brship in episode 3 .
But most authentically, race is used as another ingredient in the characterization of Amy and Danny as opposed to their main personality trait. Tealistically. experience realistically impacted by the environment they live in and the socioeconomic status they inhabit, providing a refreshing form of Asian representation uncom media
Yet the brilliance of the show clouded in controversy due to its casting of David Choe, who portrays Danny's cousin Isaac. On Choe's "Double Vag, Double Anal, Sensitive Artist" (DVDASA) podcast from 2014, the actor and artist recounted the story of how he coerced a masseuse into performing a non-consensual sexual act on him. Following the release of the episode, Choe released a statement saying, "I am not a an an artist and
a storyteller and I view my show DVDASA as a
He then followed up in 2017, citing his struggles with mental illness as the reason for his words and crediting his time in understand the harm he caused. The recent success of "Beef" has resulted in the resurfacing of Choe's past actions. As a result, Choe's past actions. As a result,
Lee, along with Yeun and Wong, Lee, along with Yeun and Wong, acknowledged the controversy in an official statement to Vanity
Fair: Fair: story David Choe

# Fir 

## UCSB baseball sweeps UCSD in Big West Conference

$\left\lvert\, \begin{aligned} & \text { Isaiah Ochoa } \\ & \text { Asst. Sports Editor }\end{aligned}\right.$
The UC Santa Barbara
baseball team traveled to San Diego as they took on the
Diebal Big West Confrence for the The Gauchos dominated the weekend, sweeping the Tritons $4-2,10-3$ and $11-5$
In the opening game of the
series, the Tritons catch the Gauchos off guard as they started an opener agains
them. UCSB, staying alert at all them. UCSB, staying alert at all
times, submitted a line-up card times, submitted a line-up card
with freshman pitcher Frank Camarillo playing second base and junior pitcher
Both Camarillo and Callahan were pinch hit, as freshman outfielder Josh Williams and sophomore outfielder Justin Trimble replaced them for th
matchup against the Tritons. Through 5 innings, the game remained scoreless
as sophomore pitcher Matt Ager continued his dominan ophomore
catched 6 innings, the Tritons to 3 hits and 6 In the top of the 6th inning, the Gauchos broke the Christian Kirtley made himself a productive out. The senior grounded out to shortstop bringing in sophomore third baseman Zander Darby to make it 1-0 UCSB.

The Gauchos extended their lead in the top of the
7 th Sophomore catcher Aaron Parker led off the 7 th inning
Patch with a single. Parker scored on a wild pitch after being moved to third on a single LeTrey McCollum
Working with a 2-0 lead, Ager tried to work into the 7 tn inning
but was pulled after a leadoff walk. Junior pitcher Carte


Newman Jr. signals to his pitcher.
inherit Ager's runner and end the inning with no damage.
Head Coch Head Coach Andrew Checketts's plan didn't go how he wanted, as a fielding error scored 2 runs,
The run was given to Ager as the leadoff walk proved to damage from there as he ended the 7th inning in a 2-2 tie. From there, the game remained tied until the top of the 9th inning. Junior second baseman Jonah Sebring got the Gauchos going as he hit a leadoff double, where he soon found himself on third after a dropped 3rd strike. Moments ater, Sebring brought the crowd o their feet as he stole home on pickoff attempt to first base. UCSB added one more run in the top half of the inning to make it 4-2. Freshman pitcher Tyler Bremner sealed the win or the Gauchos as he struck the ast batter out looking.
outfielder Broc Mauchos as he kept doubled in 2 runs, making it 2-0. In the inning, McCollum earned an RBI walk, and freshman shortstop Corey Nunez also singled in two to make it 5-0. In the next half of the inning, strategy: moving freshman pitcher Hudson Barrett from the bullpen to Saturday starter. Barrett showed no nerves in his first collegiate start, as in 5 innings, he only gave up 3 hits and 8 strikeouts.
UCSB added more to their total as Sebring, Nunez and junior catcher John Newman Jr., homered in separate innings o make it 9-0. Junior pitcher Nick Welch and sophomore pitcher Michael Rice both came in relief to give the Gauchos the 10-3 win.
As UCSB looked to get the sweep on the weekend, the offense picked up from where hey left off. To begin the game, Mortensen hit a 2-run home run o make it 2-0 Gauchos quickly.

Tritons scoreless for 2 inning while striking out 4
UCSB gave their pitcher buns in thoom as they scored 4 earned 2 RBI the 3rd. Parker earned 2 RBIs after a 2-run outfield while Nunez and junior singled in 1 run to make it $6-0$. Callah 1 run to make it 6-0. Callahan was in trouble in had bottom 3rd, as the Tritons had already scored 2 runs and threatened to score more. Callahan remained calm as he struck out the last batter to end the inning and stop the
bleeding. From there, UCSB continued to dominate as they scored 5 more runs and sealed the 11-5 win with Benbrook coming in from the bullpen. With this sweep, the Gauchos made a massive jump in the Big West Conference standings, as they went from No. 5 to
No.2. Next weekend, from April 28-30, UCSB will host UC Davis at Caesar Uyesaka Stadium for a three-game series, marking their return to their home field.

## Softball on 5-game losing streak

Garret Harcourt Sports Editor
The UC Santa Barbara softball team is on a slide in their recent conference games, dropping five
straight games and getting swept by California State University Fullerton.
In their first game, the CSU Fullerton Titans were able to capitalize on the Gauchos miscues mound. In the 4th inning of the game, bottom half, scoring 3 runs a solo
double. Sophomore outfielder Alexa Sams broke the shutout for UCSB in the 6th inning, doubling in The to make it a $3-1$ game. open behind two errors in the 6th inning to make it a 7-1 ballgam and final scor In the first game of the double header against the Titans, the Gauchos struggled to capitalize
on an early opportunity to score leaving 3 runners stranded in the top of the 1 st inning

The Titans then took the lead inning RBI double in the 1st inning and extended their lea
with another double in the 3rd. The Gauchos had a chance ultimately the 4th inning bu the Titans came up empty, while the bottom exploded for 9 runs in to an 11-0 advantage. inning, UCSB
late double from junior catche Ashley Donaldson, bringing in
junior infielder Madelyn McNally junior infielder Madelyn, McNally as the game ended with a final score of 11-1 in favor of the CSU Fullerton squad.
Looking to bounce back, the Gauchos needed to pull out a victory to avoid the sweep and
drop in the conference standings rop in the conference standing In the Titans. In the second game of the doubleheader against CSU once again struggled to convert once again struggled to convert runners on base in the first innings.
The Titans took a lead in the 3 nd inning, scoring 2 runs on o struggle offensively, leaving another runner stranded in the 3rd inning. There were 2 errors by the Gauchos in the 3rd inning which allowed the Tita
extend their lead to 4-0. extend their lead to 4-0 Despite a strong pitching performance from junior pitcher runs (3 earned) and struck out 5 UCSB was unable to produce any timely hits and fell to the Titans $5-0$, concluding the series.
With the Titans sweeping the Gauchos, it puts the Gauchos in a tough position to take the regula season conference crown.
UCSB will face UC Davis, UC Riverside and California Stat University, Northridge to end the egular season.
Gauchos in conference
s the No 4 seed, while CSUN the Big West at 4-14 holds the same record in nference play. capitalize against UC Riverside seed in the end of the season


## UCSB men's

 and women's tennis wrap up regular season

UCSB tennis player celebrates after a successful play.
Isaiah Ochoa

## Asst. Sports Editor

The UC Santa Barbara men's tennis team dominated throughout the season and continued their run in their final match of the year against the California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo Mustangs.
The Gauchos enjoyed a string of success in going 5-1 in April and $20-3$ overall on the season, with a $5-1$ record in conference play, dropping just one game against UC Davis.
In a match of the two rival schools, the Mustangs didn't put up much resistance to the redhot Gauchos team.
In the match, the UCSB doubles tandem of junior Pablo Masjuan and sophomore Gianluca Brunkow provided the spark the Gauchos needed, winning on court three 6
Court two swung the way of the Mustangs, taking their only victory of the match as junior
Fernando Fonseca and junion Noah Berry took down freshman Conrad Brown and junior Luka Mrsic 6-3
The No. 76-ranked duo partners in the country took
care of business junior Phillip Jordan and junior Kai Brady defeated sophomore Bastiaan Weststrate and junior Colter Smith $6-4$ to wrap up the victory for the doubles side.
Masiuan stayed hot throughout the day, defeating Cal Poly's junior Joe Leather in straight sets on court two, with scores of $7-5$ and $6-3$.
Brown responded next for the chos, taking down freshman
Gauchos, taking down freshman
court five, 7-5 and 6-3
On court one, Jordan faced the
No. 104-ranked Berry No. 104-ranked Berry in what was the match of the day. Jordan easily winning $6-3$ and $6-3$ in ensecutive sets.
After wrapping up the sweep, the rest of the matches remained unfinished with the Gauchos
leading all but one of the leading all but on
unfinished matches.
With this result, the Gauchos were crowned tri-champions and earned the No. 1 overall seed in the Big West Championship. As for the women's team, they narrowly took the loss to Cal Poly's women's tennis squad. The No. 12-ranked doubles partners in the country,
sophomore Amelia Honer and senior Kira Reuter, didn't skip a beat, taking down the sisters, sophomore Peyton Dunkle and junior Delanie Dunkle 6-2. Freshman Solaya Han and kept the Valentina Khrebtova taking the doubles match on court three after the Gauchos dropped the match on court

No. 60-ranked Honer easily took her singles match, winning in straight sets, 7-5 and 6-0. On court two, junior Camille Kiss took home the victory as
well, beating her opponent in consecutive sets, $6-0$ and $6-3$ in The Gauchos fell to Cal Poly overall though, thanks to the Mustangs taking victories on courts three, four, five and six. With the loss, the women's team will prepare for the Big West Championship, where they are set to take on Long Beach tournament <br> \section*{SCIENCE \& TECH} <br> \section*{SCIENCE \& TECH}

MethaneMapper: A new effective AI-based tool for methane detection

From erratic weather patterns to increasing occurrences of hurricanes, the climate crisis is worsening by the minute. The change is greenhouse gas emissions, with methane in particular accounting for $30 \%$ of the rise in global temperature. This wide-scale emergency calls
for innovative solutions that have the potential to mitigate the disastrous
human activity
Graduate student researcher Satish Kumar works for the Vision Research Lab at UC Santa Barbara and has been working on MethaneMapper, an AI-based tool that detects and quantifies Kumar focuses on hyperspectra imaging, a technique that analyzes a wide spectrum of light rather than assigning each pixel in an
image to red, green and blue. Greenhouse emissions ar undetectable under regular vision systems, but with respect to hyperspectral imaging, Kumar
said, "Since you have such a refined spectral range you a capture any particular type of gas hat you're focusing on."
While working at the Vision
and detecting emissions of -Spectral Feature Generator (SFG) greenhouse gas, specifically in
the setting of the oil and natural gas industry.
Coming from a background in signal processing - the engineering subfield focused on synthesis of sound, image and seismic wave signals - Kumar was able to incorporate this knowledge into the machine learning algorithms that make up MethaneMapper. Machine learning algorithms are designed to recognize patterns and adapt based on the data given.
We thought we could solve he problem in a better way with machine learning compared to the existing methods which are heavily dependent on subject knowledge and are tuned [only] or certain locations. So, we thought maybe machine learning everything," Kumar said in regards to implementing machine Eearning algorithms.
In terms of target detection nd methane identification machine learning approaches machine learning approaches
are prominently MethaneMapper MethaneMapper uses
hyperspectral transformer hyperspectral transformer for methane plume detection. In order to improve traditional
 and Query Refiner (QR), work
together in order to enable the localization of potential methane hot spots in the hyperspectral mages.
machine SFG and QR are hachine learning systems, but the SFG takes in the channels processes it through a linear filter that outputs the weight mean of input values. Then the $Q R$ uses the methane candidates to refine the learnable queries.
In addition, the hyperspectral decoder uses the results from the $Q R$ in order to generate the final prediction of methane plumes. he system works through extraction, refinement, decoding and encoding.
The detection of greenhouse
gasses is critical and the emissions that go undetected because of the government's struggle to find an accurate method of detection. Kumar said that in the Texas Permia Basin alone, there are 86,000 oil emissions, and, like other oil extraction sites, they are emittin great amounts of methane int the atmosphere.
MethaneMapper has the potential to provide a detection
and localizes the source of find out where the emissions are a state-of-the-art AI-based
emissions. It is possible that the government could implement MethaneMapper in the future as a way to quantify emissions and impose regulations on the oil and natural gas industry. Methane is one of the greatest contributors to global warming.
"The amount of damage carbon dioxide is going to have in 100
years, [is equal to the damage
methane] will have in just 1.2 years. And that's why we need to
$\qquad$ tool that is highly effective at coming from, and most major emissions are from the oil and natural gas industry," Kumar said. MethaneMapper has been recognized as being the top $2 \%$ of all works in any given field and has been given special attention at the world's most prestigious Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition conference, which will take place in Vancouver during late June. Kumar and his team have successfully developed dinging methane emisions mitigate the so, has the abity reenhe impact of potential greenhouse
environment.
-



## Looking back from Campus Point

The Nexus's Campus Point column covers the discoveries, collaborations and publications from the scientific community at UC Santa Barbara.

Kaitlin Lee Reporter

Technology Trajectories echnology is constantly evolving, and there is less consideration of instances where old technology takes the stage. Mary Tripsas, in the College of Engineering at UC Santa Barbara, recently published a paper alongside collaborators that discusses the reemergence of old might be a driving factor of these events. Specifically, their research and the transitions from analog to digital synthesizers to the recent digital synthesizers to reemergence of analog.
A music synthesizer is a musical instrument that produces sounds by generating signals. Digital synthesizers rely upon digital signal processing technology, while analog synthesizers use real circuits to produce sounds. Jack Antonoff, best Taylor Swift and Lorde, as well as his contributions to the bands fun. and Bleachers, is one example of a professional musician using analog synthesizers
age of digital. age of digital.
In this study, Tripsas and her In this study, Tripsas and her
collaborators extracted data from Keyboard magazine by analyzing 476 interviews from 1975-2016 These interviews specifically
included synthesizer-related topics. included synthesizer-related topics. It was found that the reemergence of analog technology was due
to musicians' difficulty finding creative expression while digital synthesizers became universal
Musicians additionally found that
efficient for control and expertise. Although the rise of old or vintage technologies might commonly be chalked up to retro trends in shows that occupational factors are important considerations in technology trends and trajectories. The paper also discussed how occupations might affect and it emphasized that versa, more insight on this relationship would be relevant to future studies on technology trajectories.

## Coral Bleaching

Reef recovery can be difficult to study due to coral's extensive life span and long period of recovery. To ork around this, UCSB doctoral candidate Kai Kopecky established with a mathematical model for reef dynamics after major events such as bleaching events and storms. Coral bleaching occurs due to conditions such as high temperatures that affect the symbiotic relationship between corals and algae. The colorful algae are expelled under tress and leave the coral bare and exposed. This type of event leaves white coral skeletons on the reef, whereas storms commonly wipe the area clean of coral structures. The island of Mo'orea in French Polynesia has been studied by UCSB esearchers for decades, and its oral reef ecosystem has recently experienced a major bleaching event. Past research in this ecosystem has shown that the reef has historically been coral dominated or seaweed dominated. Kopecky wanted to develop a method to predict whether the reef was moving toward seaweed-dominated ecosystem
quantify reef disturbances,
a model was developed using variables such as live and dead coral, exposed and protected potentially be colonized by either coral or algae. Parameters such as growth rate of coral and algae death and erosion rate of coral and overgrowth rate of algae were also considered in the model. The results of Kopecky's study showed that events like bleaching can be a is due to to coral recovery. This is due to coral skeletons ability
to provide algae with protection from herbivores, which could from herbivores, which could
ultimately allow the ecosystem ultimately allow the ecosystem Kopecky and his collaborators have found that these coral skeletons, referred to as material skeletons, referred to as material resilience and alter the ecosystem fesilince and alter the trajectory of the ecosystem. Future studies might focus on how material legacies of disturbances affect other

Forests and Climate Change Many carbon-offset project re currently underway to protect forests that serve as a carbon sink and reduce atmospheric carbon levels. However, new research has shown that many of these areas are projected to lose carbon within the next century. Anna Trugman, an of Geography at UCSB published a study UCSB, recently with red a study in collaboration fUtah orch at the University tree specis might be ffests and limate

Many different approaches were used in the study, such as climate
forest identification
preferred climate niches by tree species via machine learning and models considering the relationship The been ecosystem and atmosphere. models is to account for factors that ther methods might factors that consideration.
Researchers found that some areas, such as the Great Lakes, were projected to gain carbon, while other areas showed a high risk of osing carbon due to three factors: orest fires, climate stress and insect damage. In addition, the analysis howed that many carbon-offset projects are located in areas with the highest risk of losing carbon due to these factors. The study highlighted the urgency of implementing these
findings in order to protect and findings in order to protect and maintain forests that will be better able to gain carbon in the face of
climate risks. However.
However, there are still many unanswered questions that need to be addressed, including how resilient biomes are from disturbances and the complexity of how forests are affected by risk factors. Gaining a better understanding of these unknowns will give researchers a projects should be conducted to most effectively reduce atmospheri projections, data from long-term carbon levels.

## ON THE MENU

# Happy accidents: Trials and tribulations in search of artifical sweeteners 

Stevia. Splenda. Equal. All are traditionally recognized as artificial sweeteners, found in every Starbucks and every
Dunkin' Donuts. But has anyone heard of oubli? Thi West African fruit is nature's very own artificial sweetener if you will. Oubli contains a soluble protein known as brazzein, which has a sweetness
$500-2000$ times that of sucrose, thus tricking primates into consuming it in large
quantities in hopes of caloric compensation, without really compensation, without really
lending any. Other naturally sweet plant proteins, such as as

thaumatin and monellin, fall | sweet plant proteins, |
| :--- |
| thaumatin and monellin, fall | thaumatin and

in the same vei


- the former of which has
even been approved as a flavor
On a a molecular level, even been approved as a flavor $\quad \mathrm{On}$ a molecular level,
and sweet enhancer. These proteins, like most things in nature, are no accident: they are a calculated evolutionary effort, planned alongside human evolution to take advantage of their inherent taste for sweetness and its association with caloric value. However, for as much effort as was put in by nature to bring about these sweeteners, as little was put into their discovery and commercialization; not working around the clock to discover
sugar substitutes different receptors in our tongues: T1R3 and T1R2. So long as a molecule can fit, like a "key" into the receptor "lock," the taste of sweetness can be replicated by binding the sugar and enzyme, producing chemicals that carry signals to the gustatory cortex, helping us perceive sweetness. This is how compounds such as saccharin and aspartame, found in Sweet'N Low and

Equal, are able to mimic the were actually discovered
effects of sucrose (table sugar). by accident. Saccharin, for effects of sucrose (table sugar). by accident. Saccharin, for
Scientists have been hard at example, was discovered in work in search of the perfect artificial sweetener since before the 1950 s, mainly to consumer health and providing a "diet-friendly" zero calorie alternative.
Replicating the latency (how ong the sweet flavor lasts) and intensity of regular sugar without the caloric weight, however, has proved a difficult task. Because the exact shape which fits into the receptor enzymes has not yet been determined, it is impossible to single out compounds that will elicit this response Furthermore, scientists cannot yet rule out the existence of other sweet taste receptors that may be interacting with these artificial sweeteners. So, how do we eve have the sweeteners we do now? Many

## Splenda ua

example, was discovered in 1878 by Constantin Fahlberg when he ate a bread roll
without washing his hands without washing his hands after a day of laboratory work and found it to be remarkably sweet. Fahlberg rushed back to the lab to identify the source, thus discovering the first commercially viable alternative to cane sugar. Unfortunately, some of the sweeteners the food industry has come to rely on have recently been found to cause detrimental effects to human health, which may outweigh their supposed health benefits. Aspartame (found in cereals and chewing gum) has recently been found to increase the risk of chronic anxiety and stroke in users and could even be passed onto future generations. Similar effects have been
observed with overuse of cralose as well, which only made its entry in the
rtificial sweetener market in the 1980 s. A lesser evil of these sweeteners is also the slight bitter aftertaste that they often leave, as a result of binding of the artificial sweetener to both the sweet and bitter taste receptors.
Knowing
Knowing the negative health effects brought about from commonly used sweeteners makes the search for other artificial sweeteners more pertinent than ever. The latest artificial sweetener, allulose, was found in 2015 and received FDA approval in 2019. A naturally occurring substance found in figs and raisins, allulose has yet to show any harmful effects, leaving scientists and users alike cautiously optimistic. Perhaps our future lies in our past, in naturally sweet plant proteins, which might become viable options once they are evaluated for toxicity and possible harmful effects, like allulose. Or, maybe there's a compound just under ou One day to be found oubli as a staple in your diet, or a similar fruit. Oubli lets us or a similar fruit. Oubli lets us formulated with purpose and intent, once the scientific key, the formula, to unlock he secret of sweetness reception is found. So, next time you visit your local cafe a caffeine fix, remember that the colorful pink and blue packets of sweeteners are more than just happy accidents: they represent a new scientific frontier, full of possibilities and a sweeter future.

## The Goleta noodle ritual

Leo Safir
Reporter
Reporter
"Pho tonight?" Shea asks He sits in front of his laptop, "Yeah, tonight's the night." We make eye contact and nod in ask if we can borrow her car. She gives us the OK, just as she does week.
I grab the spare key from its place in the porcelain bowl, Shea puts on his satin 49ers jacket and we step out into the evening The black 4Runner is just down the block. I drive. I always drive. Shea says he doesn't want to be responsible for our lives.
"Should I turn left or right?" I ask as we rumble down Camino Pescadero.
"We hit Noodle City last week let's do Saigon"
thinking the same thing."
We pull into an expansive parking lot encircled by the glowing lights of storefronts We pass by Target, its red logo staring down at us like an eye of a cyclops. Nestled in the corner Vietnamese sem, mall is a hidden Vietnamese gem, Saigon Noodle House. It's one of two highquality pho establishments within
driving distance of Isla Vista driving distance of Isla Vista. The ther, Noodle City, is on Holliste

Why do you always put the arking brake on?" Shea ask "It's pull into a parking spot. the city." I grew up in San Francisco, where parking on impossibly steep hills is routine Besides offering a topographic challenge, the city is also destination for incredible pho. hardly feel like I've left home as we step into the bustling restaurant. We sit at the only table available. The waiter throws down two paper menus.
"We know what we
ay without opening the ment," "Two number nines large. And ome ice water, please."
The soup comes quickly The waiter emerges with a tray carrying our two steaming bowl and places them in front of us on the table. The rare steak slice turn from pink to gray in the uroth I pile may in the broth. I pil my pho high with bean sprouts, jalapeños and aromatic Sheens are fresh and aromatic. She his broth.
"Why don't you add any Sriracha?" he questions as h scoops chili into his soup. I don't like to compromise the soup's integrity. The jalapeños give me the spice without killing he flavor of the broth.
Trust me, the broth needs no tering. Both Saigon Noodle
ecipes mastered. The beef broth incorporates star anise, which ives the pho its signature herbal avor. While Noodle City's broth Saigon make up for it as they ar Saigon make up for it, as they are
more generous with their noodles. The noodles are incredible as well they arrive in an entangled mass, but as you prod them with chopsticks, they loosen and integrate into the broth. They are delicate yet chewy, providing a slippery bite to the soup.
The price is reasonable too ach restaurant charges under $\$ 12$ for a large. Luckily neither $\$ 12$ for a large. Luckily neither
Shea nor I is vegetarian, since Shea nor I is vegetarian, since
all the soup offerings contain meat broth. However, for those meat broth. Howe re, for those who don't eat meat, Saigon has special vegetarian menu displaye on a sign next to the door. arger selection, offering eve arger selection, offering variou plates, spring rolls and vermicell plates, spring rolls and vermicell to pho, there is no and I stick to pho, there is no shortage of reasonably priced Vietnames delicacies on both restaurants menus.
We finish our soup and the waiter comes with the bill. It llatters on the table - Shea and look each other up and down, questioning whose turn it is to
$\qquad$ "I think it's my turn to get it,"


It's funny, I think, all the methods to a weekly pho regimen, and this we have for orienting ourselves to time: days, weeks, holidays,
parties, our quarter system
to a weekly pho regimen, and this bill signifies the
On the drive home, I can still
f lime in my mouth what previously my mouth. What Francisco believed to be a San Francisco pho supremacy is being rightully challenged by the

## OPINION



# Watching basketball for the first time: Leather spheres and polished maple 



Yiu-On Li
Staff Writer
As I huffed through the Humanities and Social Sciences Building courtyard with a 10 -pound bag on my back, I realized I hadn't bought a ticket.
Then, I realized I hadn't downloaded the app to buy the ticket. Then, I realized I hadn't downloaded the right app, because the sports program has two slow and shitty apps that pretty much do the same thing. So, in the cold and in the dark and in front of security, I offered to the gods of shitty apps my name and my credit card number and the three little digits on the back - multiple times because my phone was shit too.
Then, I realized that students oret Then, I realized that students get in for free. I had already paid $\$ 12$, the game had already begun, security was searching my bag and I couldn find the friend who had invited me.

It was a disaster.
To walk into the UC Santa Barbara Thunderdome for the first time is to marvel at - and to be disquieted by fans are too loud; the cheerleaders are probably objectified or something. And are those cameras televising the game to an audience of millions across the country and the globe? And might that be me on that big screen? Oh, gosh. It is too much.
To walk into the Thunderdome for the second time is to find these idiosyncrasies compounded. There are more people. They are even louder - ear splitting - and they have all, like me, come back to watch the same thing: 10 bodies bouncing a leather sphere back and forth across 94 feet of polished maple for 40 minutes plus 15 minutes for halftime, plus 60 or so minutes for timeouts and fouls and free throws and the occasional
fistfight (or aggressive hugfights, as it were).
My friend Mindy kept inviting me to these games with her and some of her other friends. I consented each time out of politeness and a morbid curiosity to see what it was that got people into sports (my friend Humberto, an otherwise reasonable individual, suffers from an intractable
case of soccer fever). case of soccer fever).
We won that game too. I tagged along for some boba afterward.
To walk into the Thunderdome for the third time is to begin to understand
hole. You Google funny terms like "in he paint" and "double-double." You peruse YouTube for tutorials of moves with names like "euro step" and "alley-oop." You consider subscribing to Disney+ but for the ESPN instead of the Disney+.
You start picking out individual players: Josh Pierre-Louis leaps in his pink shoes, Ajay Mitchell spins and drives, Miles Norris dunks with his tallness, Calvin Wishart and Cole Anderson point the threes, Andre Kelly blocks and rebounds, David Pickles is beloved by the audience for (perhaps unfairly) his last name and so on.
You

You start growing fond of the folks on the sidelines: the announcer guy who grits his voice for the Gauchos, but who quiets down when speaking of the opposing team; the custodians who mop the floor whenever a player falls; Head Coach Joe Pasternack, who has in recent years led the team to some of its greatest heights; and the one or two students who run through the stands to hype up the audience.

One of these students, dressed in sunglasses and a neon green shirt, had grown hoarse. It was not a good time: We were down in the first half on the heels of a three-game losing streak. Most of us were quietly seated, and desperation strained from his throat.
"I'm out here losing my voice," Neon Shirt shouted in a half-whisper. "Why aren't you losing your voice?" The ball had made its way over to the frontcourt, and the Gauchos were attempting to score. As I turned to watch, Neon Shirt caught my eye and yanked off his sunglasses, murder on his face
But right at that moment, UCSB scored - the stands shot up. The line of sight between us broke. Roars. Tremors. Disbelief
When enough people sat back When enough people sat back down, I saw that Neon Shirt had darted away to harass a more amenable conglomerate of spectators. May Neon Shirt have mercy on their
vocal cords.
Fashion sense notwithstanding, perhaps he had a point. The next time the Gauchos were about to score, I stood.

We won that game.
"We're gonna upset Baylor," the cashier said. "I have money on it." I had wandered over to The Arbor for dinner. It was 10 p.m. on the day

University in the opening round of the 2023 NCAA Division I men's basketball tourn

## March Madness.

Every year, the NCAA "seeds" the tournament with college basketball teams from across the country, ranking them based on data like average points scored per game and number of wins. In theory, the higher the seed or rank, the better the team. Baylor was ranked as a No. 3 seed. UCSB was ranked No. 14. In a 68 -team tournament where the lowest seed number is 16 , our ranking put us close to the bottom. ESPN rated UCSB's chances of making it to the final four at one star out of five. "If these teams get that far," the analysts wrote of one-star teams, "it's time to set the entire bracket on fire because this is more rare than a lightning strike."

But sometimes, in what are known as "upsets," the underdogs really do inspire arson. The day had already delivered two bracket busters: No. 13 Furman University had edged out a 1 -point win over No. 4 University of Virginia and No 15 Princeton University had pulled ahead of No. 2 University of Arizona

And us?
We were fresh off a 7-game winning streak that included co-championship title in the regular season and a championship title in the postseason of the Big West Conference - feats we had matched merely two years aro. And when we faced Creighton University in 2021' March Madness, we had lost by a single point.

It seemed certain.
I didn't end up buying anything from The Arbor. It was a cold night; I wanted something warm to eat.
Before I left, I overheard a secon cashier.
"We're outranked. I wouldn't hold your breath."
"We" is a curious word in sports. When I sit in the Thunderdome or stream a match, I'm not really contributing anything to the game The Gauchos' victories aren't really mine. Neither are their defeats. Our successes and failures - thei successes and failures - come down almost entirely to their training, their coordination and their determination, All I can say for myself is that once unwittingly donated $\$ 12$ to the program, that Ihave occupied a bit of space in the stands for a handful of hours and that I have stood up, slowly and silently, for a fraction of that tim
these games besides clapping, stamping and chanting some variation of "let's go" and "defense." When our enthusiasm apparently succeeds, we attribute that success to the Gaucho spirit, to some moral fiber woven into the very embroidery of the UCSB student mind and soul.
And when our enthusiasm fails, we project that failure onto the players who, through their failed attack of the basket, have attacked our individual dignities. As if these people, who have sacrificed lifestyles and ankles and spinal discs and perhaps even careers for the love of their life, owe

## And yet ...

And yet when I see three quick passes end in a smooth 3-pointer; when I see a no-look bounce pass end in a dunk; when I see a steal, a throw across the court, a sprint to the basket and a layup - all in five seconds feel the beginnings of a certain pride And when, after the final home game of the season, I see Pasternack plead to everyone to stay in their seats to share the moment as "We Are the Champions" plays through the speakers; when I see the team lift the injured Koat Keat Tong so that he can cut down a piece of the net; when, at the end of the Big West Conference tournament, I see the Gauchos jump and cry and embrace each other like family; and when, in the final minute against Baylor University, I see Pasternack substitute Ajare Sanni, a player who had sustained a seasonending injury, into the game so that ending injury, into the game so that
he gets a chance to dance in the Big Dance before he graduates. When I see all this, I begin to understand that basketball is perhaps more than leather spheres and polished maple We lost that game.

But for one brief, shining ororeous moment, in The Arbor and classrooms moment, in The Arbor and classrooms Isla Vista and Santa Barbartment with the Mindys and Humbertos and Neon Shirts of the world, we cam together We found in or We for
Ue found ser unselfsh humanity. I think that that's something, no all stand up for

Go Gauchos. And thank you for a Go Gaucho
lovely season.

Yiu-On Li encourages everyone to go to at least one basketball game at UCSB. Or perhaps three.

SAGITTARIUS
OVEMBER 22 - DECEMBER 21

CAPRICORN
DECEMBER 22 - JANUARY 19 protein"
prond called it "extra

AQUARIUS
JANUARY 20 - FEBRUARY 18 Roommate stashing their A.S. campaign
aterials in their room

PISCES
FEBRUARY 19 - MARCH 20 orn to frolic, cursed to study

