

Extravaganza 2023: Galantis, Remi Wolf, Destroy Lonely



SHIUAN CHENG / DAILY NEXUS

Students enjoy live rap, indie and EDM performances at Harder Stadium.

Lauren Chiou
Assistant Artsweek Editor
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A partly cloudy Santa Barbara Sunday and Associated Students Program Board brought a large crowd of students to UC Santa Barbara's Harder Stadium this past weekend for the annual Gaucho-only Extravaganza event. Performers included Destroy Lonely, Remi Wolf and headliner Galantis – a diverse group of performers that all succeeded in captivating the crowd.

The crowd consisted of crochet tops, scarves, funky sunglasses of an array of colors, and mushroom-covered tote

bags, courtesy of Associated Students Program Board (ASPB) and, of course, cowboy boots made an appearance.

A variety of on- and off-campus organizations sold snacks and refreshments. Woodstock's pizza slices also speckled the crowd.

Around 1:30 p.m., in a red leather motorcycle jacket with his sticker-decked computer, DJ JohnnyIV welcomed the Extravaganza-goers, a crowd member shouting out, "I love you JohnnyIV!" as his set continued. He played mixes of songs like "Pepas" and "Toxic," which riled up the crowd in preparation for Destroy Lonely.

Rapper JPEGMafia was originally scheduled to perform first, but shortly before the

event "due to unforeseen circumstances," as posted on the ASPB Instagram, the rapper was unable to perform, bringing a short-lived wave of disappointment across the crowd.

"I am most looking for JPEGMafia, but he dropped. Now looking forward to Remi Wolf," said first-year Landon O'Rourke.

"I'm excited for Destroy Lonely. I'm gonna cry myself to sleep because JPEGMafia isn't here. That's what I was here for," third-year Kellen Beckett said.

Destroy Lonely took the stage, and any and all disappointment faded as the crowd began screaming and phones were immediately pulled out. In a black long sleeve, silk tear-away pants and chunky silver jewelry, the

rapper began his set with "Watch My Back." A horror visual loop played on the screen behind him – a cross burned, a knife flashed, ghosts were crucified and red, bloody letters spelled out, "if looks could kill."

There were no breaks in between songs; as one ended the next immediately started with few words spoken by the rapper in between (he kept the autotune on his mic throughout the set, so it was difficult to make out anyway). He electrified the crowd halfway through with "NOSTYLIST," to which he was greeted with a phone being thrown on stage.

Destroy Lonely finished his

Extravaganza 2023 p.8

Regents aim to employ undocumented students, vote to appoint working group

Alex Levin
Asst. News Editor

The University of California Board of Regents voted at a May 18 open session to create a working group dedicated to establishing a plan to remove hiring restrictions for undocumented students.

The decision comes after a number of University of California (UC) community members advocated for the Opportunity for All campaign – an initiative that calls for the employment of undocumented students – at the Regents' May 16 and 17 meetings.

"After an in-depth discussion, consistent with the adopted policy statement, the Board of Regents appointed a Regents working group that, by the end of November of this year, will consider relevant issues and develop an implementation plan and a legal strategy. The working group will determine whether, how and when to implement next steps," UC President Michael V. Drake and Board of Regents Chair Richard Leib said in a public statement.

The Opportunity for All campaign – supported by research from the Center for Immigration Law and Policy at the UCLA School of Law, in collaboration with Undocumented Student-led Network (USN) – highlights that

the federal prohibition on hiring undocumented people does not apply to the UC.

The UC's decision to create the working group aligns with the campaign's goal of providing equal access to job opportunities for all students regardless of their immigration status.

"This is a huge step toward ensuring equal access to opportunities for all students across the University of California system," UCLA graduate student in public policy and USN leader Karely Amaya said in a statement to UCLA Law. "This victory is the work of undocumented students who mobilized across campuses to ensure that we and our peers are no longer excluded from crucial educational employment opportunities solely because of our immigration status."

Amaya hopes that the UC will act quickly in designing a plan to hire undocumented students.

"While this is an encouraging step in the right direction, we are continuing to stress the need for urgent action and to urge the UC to meet with us," Amaya said. "My peers and I are continuing to suffer every moment we are denied equal access to educational employment opportunities on our own campuses."

Munger Hall planning entailed discreet warehouse, covert furniture exchanges, years of secrecy

Mark Alfred
University News Editor

Brian Graham, UC Santa Barbara's director of Residential Operations, needed help with retrieving "San Joaquin style" bedroom furniture from a university-owned warehouse at 389 South Los Carneros Road.

In an email dated Oct. 19, 2018, he asked UCSB Materials and Logistics Manager Bradley Gray to facilitate the return of the furniture to its original location, drop off four twin XL mattresses at the warehouse and to keep the entire exchange "confidential."

The secret Graham sought to protect was the warehouse's true purpose: a billionaire-bankrolled testbed for the massive, largely windowless student dormitory UCSB plans to build in concert with its namesake donor, Charles Munger.

The project was met with an onslaught of public and private backlash surrounding its design and remains unpopular with most students. Both before and after its announcement, the goings-on behind Munger Hall have largely been shrouded in secrecy, even as the project garnered national attention.

The Nexus uncovered the location of the warehouse in 2022, but recently obtained hundreds of pages of documents and internal communications via the California Public Records Act yielded the clearest picture yet of the inner workings of the Munger Hall project team.

The documents reveal which campus leaders lend their

involvement to the project, the relationship between UCSB and private companies aiding in the secretive work and a more transparent timeline of events.

The series of emails between Graham and Gray in the fall of 2018 are the earliest provided, showing that UCSB covertly tested various housing designs at the warehouse even at a time when the involvement of Munger and his team were minimal.

That changed in the summer of 2019; business discussions between the campus and Munger reached a breakthrough, leading the billionaire to give the go-ahead to his engineers and designers to undertake development work on the project, UCSB's Budget and Planning Executive Director Martin Shumaker announced in a June 3, 2019 email.

"The project is not yet approved and still is very confidential, but it is a promising sign," Shumaker said in the email.

The executive director is part of a small band of people who have been directly involved in the project, along with around 20 other high-ranking campus directors, vice chancellors, analysts and directors across various campus departments, the documents show.

Two private companies are also deeply involved in the project: LIGHTGLASS – a company that specializes in creating lighting fixtures and artificial windows – and Prudential Lighting Products SoCal (PLP) – a sales agency for lighting and furnishing companies whose relationship with the campus

predates operations at the mock-up warehouse.

PLP is central in maintaining the functioning of the mock-up's artificial windows that are created by LIGHTGLASS, with PLP's Controls Services and Sales Manager Nicholas Vernes making trips to the mock-up to ensure their functionality.

When the mock-up's virtual windows ran into trouble regarding its circadian sequence in fall 2022, the disruption so concerned PLP's David Relyea that it kept him up at night, he wrote in an email dated Nov. 17, 2022.

Vernes spent days prepping a fix to the window's programming, installing an on-site repair on Nov. 21. By December, the artificial window was once again "performing flawlessly," UCSB Design, Facilities & Safety Services Project Manager Ulysses McKeown said in a Dec. 2 email. He emphasized that "having a functional virtual window is a high priority for us."

A week later, PLP and LIGHTGLASS employees, alongside members of the project team, attended a special luncheon at the mock-up, with LIGHTGLASS's owner flying in from Philadelphia for the Dec. 9 event.

The yearslong collaboration between the two companies and UCSB has gone unreported until now. The mock-up itself – housed in the warehouse bought by UCSB in 2013 to facilitate the construction of now-scrapped traditional housing – remained secret for years before the Nexus uncovered its existence in 2021 and its location in 2022.



SHIUAN CHENG / DAILY NEXUS

The mockup is located at 389 South Los Carneros Road, uncovered by the Nexus in 2022.

Today, the warehouse – separated from the main campus by a fish and wildlife preserve – is home to full scale hallways, a dining area, a windowless bedroom and an artificial balcony. Central to the planning is Munger's architecture firm of choice, Van Tilburg, Banvard & Soderbergh, which had extensive input in the mock-up's layout and furnishings.

After around five years of development, much of what is built is believed to be outdated as the project team awaits word of what changes are to be made to the dorm's design.

Prior to the campus's unveiling of the mock-up to the public, project

team members lengthily discussed what survey questions they would pose to visitors to gauge approval, the emails obtained by the Nexus show. They also debated on whether or not to even survey attendees for fear that opponents of the dorm would engage in foul play to further their cause.

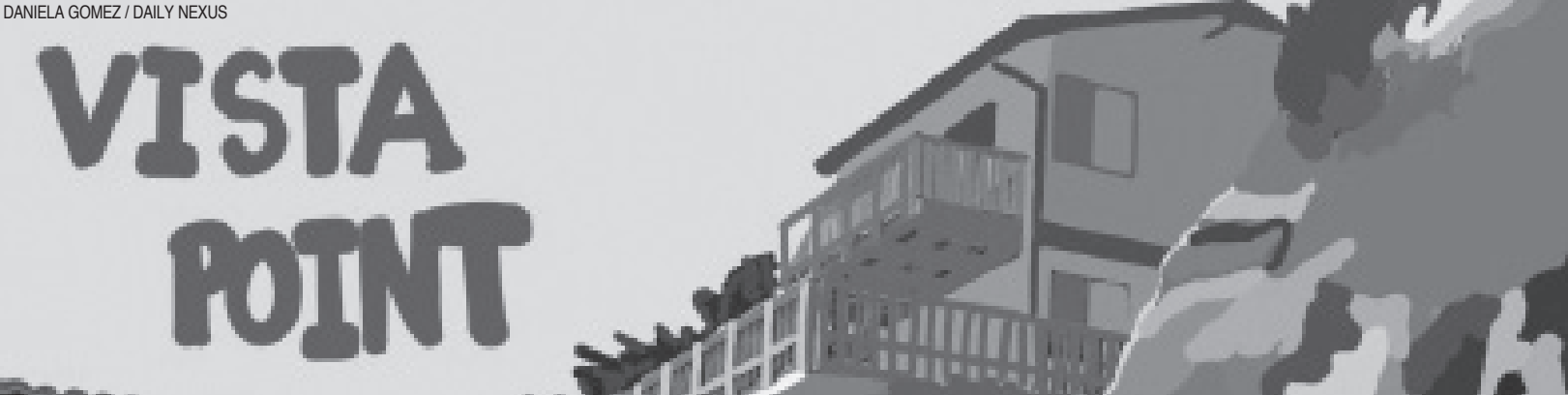
UCSB Space Planning and Management Director Andy Satomi, in a March 2, 2022 email to Lucas, said that surveys were being considered but that there was "concern about these being gamed by the opposition."

Surveys ultimately administered to attendees showed their favorability

of the dorm rose after seeing it in person, but artificial windows remained their No. 1 gripe, with over 70% disapproval. In the latest batch of responses dated Aug. 2022, most survey respondents raised concerns about the windowless nature of Munger Hall.

"I reject Munger Hall sheerly for the inhumane density of the building, and the many implications that come alongside that," one survey respondent wrote. "While I am all for dense housing, full access to sunlight, space, fresh air, and a safe means to escape the building are essential, and no amount of genuinely great amenities will change that."

DANIELA GOMEZ / DAILY NEXUS



Weekly goings-on in and around Isla Vista

Asumi Shuda
Deputy News Editor

Gauchos for Life hosts donation drive for low-income mothers in Santa Barbara

Gauchos for Life is hosting a Moms’ Needs Drive for low-income mothers in the Santa Barbara area. The drive will continue until this Saturday, May 27, and will be accepting donations at a designated bin on the first floor in the Student Resource Building (SRB).

All donations will go to the Network Medical Women’s Center.

All donations must be gender-neutral and can include items like backpacks, baby wipes, diaper rash ointment and rattlers, among others. Diapers are not needed.

C.A.P.S. Mental Health Peers hosts workshop about microaggressions

The Counseling and Psychological Services (C.A.P.S.) Mental Health Peers is hosting a workshop about microaggressions as part of the MultiCultural Center’s (MCC) Empowering Student Leaders series. The discussion will take place Wednesday, May 31, from 6-8 p.m. in the MCC lounge.

“Join the CAPS Mental Health Peers in tackling the topic of microaggressions during a workshop where attendees

will learn the different types of microaggressions and the implications they have on mental health, especially as they intersect with other identities,” the Shoreline description read.

“This shared space will empower students and those with marginalized identities in navigating uncomfortable and harmful situations that involve microaggressions,” the description continued.

RCSGD, OBSD revitalize Black Quare during interest meeting

The Resource Center for Sexual and Gender Diversity and the Office of Black Student Development are hosting its first meeting of Black Quare, a newly revitalized student organization that uplifts queer and transgender Black students on campus.

Both departments are hosting an interest meeting on Thursday, May 25, from 5-6 p.m. in the African diasporic Cultural Resource Center.

The event will feature discussions around the organization’s operations, and boba drinks will be provided.

MCC hosts workshop on honoring LGBTQIA, BIPOC communities, communities with disabilities

The MCC is hosting a virtual workshop about honoring the ancestors and communities

of LGBTQIA+ and BIPOC individuals and people with disabilities on Thursday, May 25, from 6-8 p.m. at the MCC Lounge. The event will feature two guest speakers, California Polytechnic State University, Pomona assistant professor Shayda Kafai and California State University, Los Angeles assistant professor Pau Abustan.

“During this interactive virtual dialogue, Shayda and Pau will share how we found home with ourselves and our transgender, nonbinary, queer, and crip BIPOC communities past, present, and future,” the Shoreline description read. “We discuss how we co-create disability justice worlds where all can expand into their authentic selves in rooted and interdependent relation with others.”

ASL interpretation will be provided, and Communication Access Realtime Transcription will be enabled for Zoom attendees.

Undocumented Student Services hosts social for undocumented and immigrant students

The Undocumented Student Services is hosting a “Together We Thrive” social on Friday, May 26, at 2:30 p.m. in the SRB multipurpose room (MPR). The event invites undocumented and immigrant students.

“We hope to continue building connections and developing interpersonal relationships,” the Shoreline description read. “Students and faculty are welcome and grab lunch from the UCSB catering.”

Black Student Union hosts annual Melanin Gala

Black Student Union is hosting its annual Melanin Gala on Friday, May 26, from 7-11:55 p.m. at Corwin Pavilion. This year’s gala is a masquerade ball, themed “Harlem Nights.”

The gala will feature food and various awards. Tickets are \$10 for admission.

“Come out DRESSED TO IMPRESS at Corwin Pavilion for a night of food, dancing, and Melanin!” the Instagram description read.

OBSD hosts Black Heritage Cultural Experience Reception

The OBSD is collaborating with C.A.P.S. to bring a Black Heritage Cultural Experience Reception on Wednesday, May 24, from 5-7 p.m. in the SRB MPR.

“Join the 1st cohort of the UCSB Black Heritage Cultural Experience in which 10 students were selected to travel to historical sites and communities in the South connected to Antebellum slavery and the Civil Rights Movement,” the event description read.

Cajun cuisine will be served.



A week in UC student news

Alex Levin
Asst. News Editor

UCI introduces sexual assault forensic exam site

UC Irvine recently opened a site on campus for students to receive sexual assault forensic exams, in contrast with the national lack of access to rape test kits on college campuses, the Los Angeles Times reported.

The only room of its kind at any college campus in California, the private space is “trauma informed” and offers amenities like a shower and new clothing, according to UCI’s Campus Assault Resources and Education office Director Eli Pascal.

“It’s been designed with the idea that if I were experiencing one of the worst things that could happen in my life, and I walked through this space, what do I want to see and how do I want to feel?” Pascal told the Los Angeles Times.

According to Pascal, the implementation of the site required years of planning, numerous conversations with local health experts and a \$350,000 grant.

The average distance to receive a sexual assault exam for University of California students is 12 miles, according to an analysis by social justice group GENup.

Before the site was created, one UCI student declined to travel 19 miles off campus to Anaheim for a forensic exam.

“It really hit me hard,” Pascal said. “What if we had just been open? Would this student had been OK to come back to campus and let us take care of her there?”

UC Davis study finds coal trains contribute significant pollution

Researchers at UC Davis’ Air Quality Research Center conducted a study quantifying the pollution from coal trains that run through Richmond, California, The California Aggie reported.

The goal of the study was to analyze whether Richmond’s coal trains are a significant source of PM2.5 – particles less than 2.5 microns in diameter.

“Exposure to PM2.5 has been linked to premature mortality, cardiovascular, cerebrovascular, and respiratory diseases, other chronic diseases, adverse birth outcomes, and cognitive and developmental impairments,” the study read.

To record air quality measures, researchers set up a camera alongside a weather station and an air quality sensor. Programmed with artificial intelligence, the camera detected trains passing by, which triggered the sensor to record air quality measurements, according to the Aggie.

According to Air Quality Research Center researcher and lead author of the study Bart Ostro, the results were significant when looking at PM2.5 emissions from coal trains compared to freight trains.

“We did find, not surprisingly, increases in PM2.5 [from coal trains passing through] that were greater than the increases that occur from freight trains [passing through],” Ostro told the Aggie. “With calm winds, we saw very large increases relative to freight trains. It’s pretty convincing.”

Daily Nexus Crossword

David Litman
Crossword Creator

ACROSS

- Liberal side
- Extravaganza location
- Like Santa
- ___ away (drew back)
- Huge number whose name inspired a search engine
- Made smoother
- Hockey superstar Bobby
- Appreciative poem
- One in a pack of 20
- Task
- Grains used in Cheerios
- Drip-dry fabric
- Break one’s concentration, say
- White House press secretary Jen
- Base ___
- Not a big spender
- Expression heard on equinox
- Like some shoes
- 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, etc.
- Cognizant
- Unproductive routine
- Discovered, as a fossil
- 1-D thing
- Rise and shine
- Jazz singer Fitzgerald
- Acid
- Sheep’s sound
- Greek “T”
- ___ the ramparts we watched...
- Went into seclusion
- Within a building
- Popular dance
- Scents
- Simple bar order
- Nickname for Grandma

DOWN

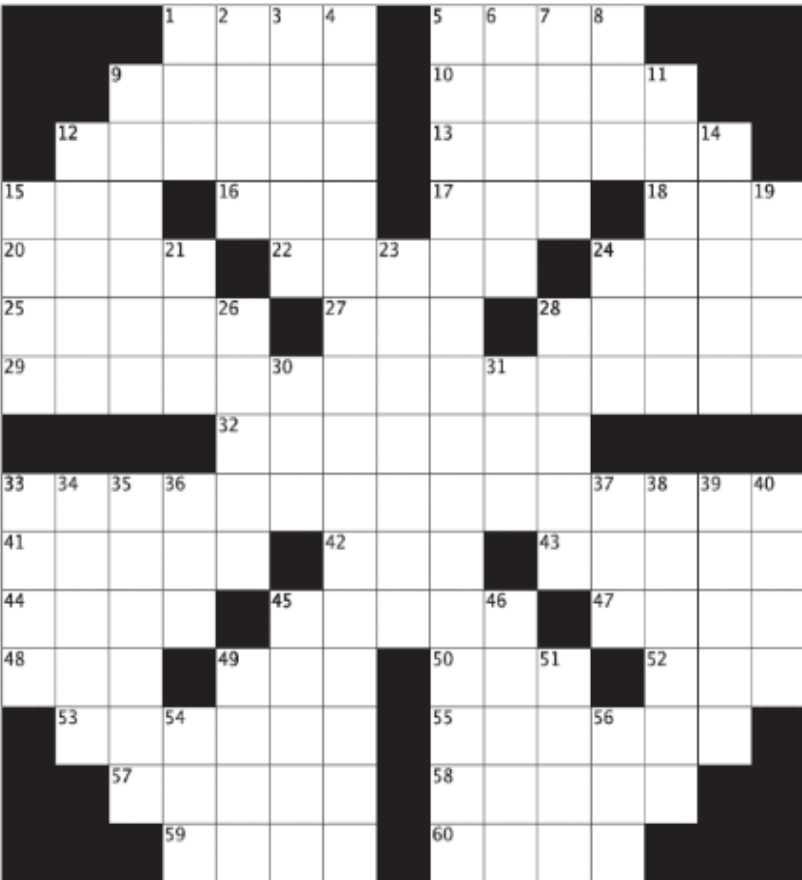
- Lion of the zodiac
- “Thus,” pretentiously
- Tolkien ring-bearer
- “SWEET/I THOUGHT YOU WANTED TO DANCE” artist

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UCSB and Isla Vista communities remember victims of the 2014 Isla Vista Tragedy



Notes and flowers from community members adorn the bench

Sindhu Ananthavel
Lead News Editor

In commemoration of the victims of the 2014 Isla Vista Tragedy, the UC Santa Barbara Dean of Students Office, and Associated Students External Vice President of Local Affairs office organized a memorial at Love and Remembrance Garden on May 23, 2023.

On May 23, 2014, six people lost their lives and 13 others were injured in the 2014 I.V. Tragedy. The victims were George Chen, Cheng Yuan “James” Hong, Weihan “David” Wang, Katherine Breann Cooper, Christopher Ross Michaels-Martinez and Veronika Weiss.

The Love and Remembrance

Garden – located in People’s Park – contains six wooden benches, each commemorating a victim of the tragedy.

As part of the memorial, framed photos and biographies of each student adorned the benches, along with flowers, paper and pencils for community members to write messages of remembrance.

UCSB Associate Dean of Student Life Kim Equinoa said the Dean of Students Office set up the photos, and the External Vice President of Local Affairs (EVPLA) office prepared the space for notes of remembrance.

Though previous annual commemorations of the tragedy have included vigils, Equinoa said there is not one organized by the

university this year. However, she encouraged other ways to honor the lives of the victims.

“Everyone is invited to take time today to visit the Garden to reflect and remember our shared history and the strength that we have as a community,” she said.

Isla Vista Recreation and Park District (IVPRD) maintains the benches, and also made significant updates to the Remembrance Garden prior to the anniversary of the tragedy, according to IVRPD Board Clerk Nick Norman.

“The IVRP Grounds Team planted 200 perennial plants, installed drip irrigation, and a fresh new layer of decomposed granite on the Remembrance Garden trail in preparation for this year’s memorial,” Norman said in a statement to the Nexus.

Equinoa urged students to visit the UCSB Remembers website, containing the biographies of the victims, memorial archives and further information.

“Many faculty, staff, administrators, and graduate students on campus today were here during the 2014 event and hold a deep connection to the collective grief and solidarity that emerged,” Equinoa said in a statement to the Nexus. “It is important for our community to remember this moment in our history and the light that emerged to strengthen us.”

Department of Asian American studies introduces interdisciplinary Ph.D. emphasis

Alissa Orozco
Staff Writer

The UC Santa Barbara Department of Asian American Studies implemented an interdisciplinary doctoral emphasis for the first time in university history at the start of Spring Quarter 2023.

The group of graduate students underpinning the effort gained support from several other departments on campus. The proposal was submitted for approval, and the graduate council approved the doctoral emphasis beginning spring quarter.

“Graduate school is a very isolating experience,” history and Asian American doctoral student Donna Anderson said. “What the emphasis has provided for us is this opportunity to really build community and, in turn, that really strengthens our research.”

According to an article in The Current, efforts to create a doctoral emphasis started as early as February 2017.

Anderson said she has been limited by an inability to pursue her studies at a higher level.

“The limitations that existed were really about whether or not I would get the training I needed to be considered an Asian American

scholar when I left UC Santa Barbara,” Anderson said.

She said that the delay of the emphasis being implemented was not due to a lack of interest – as many graduate students expressed interest – but a faculty shortage.

“The reality is that the Asian American Studies department is primarily directed towards undergraduates, and so every faculty member is very impacted by the amount of classes they have to teach,” Anderson said.

The lack of available faculty and courses left no room for graduate students in the department to further pursue their studies and training.

Newly appointed graduate advisor Lisa Sun-Hee Park assisted the efforts. Park hosted group readings where students throughout several departments shared their desire for the emphasis, as well as getting faculty support.

“The idea was to get some sort of graduate training in the department,” Park said. “To give it the coherence and order that it needed.”

Asian American Studies at UCSB started in 1969 as a two-year program under the Agency for Experimental Programs. The

program centered around the unique histories, cultures and challenges of Asian immigrants and their descendants, with a focus on social justice.

A proposal for a bachelor’s in Asian American Studies was written in 1994, and after gaining formal approval from a UC-wide committee, the program was formally granted departmental status on Jan. 19, 1995.

With that, UCSB became the first major research university in the country with a department dedicated to Asian American Studies. Since then, the department has grown to offer a variety of courses relating to Asian American literature, migration and religion but was missing opportunities at a higher institutional level.

The department hosted multiple Asian American Studies graduate reading seminars, which was supported by the collaborative Pan-Asian Network to highlight Asian and Asian American issues on campus and graduate students’s desires for an emphasis.

“What was really nice about that process is that it really was coming out of what graduate students felt like they needed, what graduate students desired,” Anderson said.

Students for Justice in Palestine hosts Palestine Liberation Week

Sindu Ananthavel
Lead News Editor
Anushka Ghosh Dastidar
Staff Writer

UC Santa Barbara Students for Justice in Palestine held Palestine Liberation Week from May 15-19, hosting several events and demonstrations to educate the campus community on the Israel-Palestine conflict and Palestinian struggle.

Third-year sociology major and Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) president Jwan Haddad said the week was a way for the organization to build community and educate campus members.

The week’s first event was a Nakba Rally, commemorating the displacement of Palestinians during the establishment of Israel in 1948. May 15 marked the 75th anniversary of the displacement and the first time the United Nations officially commemorated the event.

“Over 100,000 Palestinians are living under Israeli military

rule. The Nakba started in 1948, but it did not end here because Palestinian political rights and peoplehood are denied today,” Haddad said during the rally. “Palestinians in Israel are second-class citizens subject to violence, brutality, juridical and infrastructural discrimination and erasure.”

Community members gathered at Storke Tower – equipped with signs and Palestinian flags – at the onset of the rally, then marched to the week’s most visible organizing imaging: a symbolic apartheid wall in The Arbor.

“The wall is supposed to represent the apartheid wall that’s currently in occupied Palestine, constructed to separate the West Bank and the Gaza Strip from Israel today,” first-year biology major and SJP Outreach Coordinator Maha Husain said.

The wall – standing in The Arbor from May 15-19 – contained various panels regarding the Israel-Palestine conflict. The demonstration was met with both

support and dissent; Instagram account United Gauchos, formed on May 16, shared a post stating, “What the anti-Israel wall at the Arbor won’t tell you” and outlining the wall’s alleged fallacies.

“The Jewish community at UCSB was deeply disappointed by the misinformation presented on the anti-Israel wall this year,” a United Gauchos member said in a statement to the Nexus. “Undeniably, Jews and Palestinians have deep historical and emotional connections to this land, including their indisputable indigenous rights to the land, making it unrealistic to expect either group to abandon their claims.”

Haddad said that the sheer size of the wall was a way to spread awareness on injustices in Palestine and said several community members passing the wall engaged in conversation with SJP members to learn more about the issue.

“It’s a really good way for people to learn about Palestine. The wall

is so big and beautiful and massive and has a lot of information on it, so you get curious and stop and look,” Haddad said.

Along with the rally and wall demonstration, Palestine Liberation Week featured several discussion-based events with invited speakers.

The Queer Palestinian Liberation discussion was held on May 15 at the Graduate Student Association (GSA) Lounge, featuring Palestinian poet Feras Hilal speaking on Queer Palestinian life and the phenomenon of “pinkwashing.”

“Pinkwashing refers to the ways Israel tries to portray itself as a LGBTQIA-friendly state,” Haddad said. “Ways that it does this is by saying, ‘we have Queer Israelis in our military,’ but doesn’t talk about how their military kills Palestinians regardless of their identity and sexual orientation.”

An Organizing for Palestine 101 event took place on May 16 at the GSA Lounge, covering tenets of pro-Palestine activism such

as divestment from companies contributing to human rights violations in the region and “reinvesting into community resources,” according to Haddad.

The week’s final event was a discussion on Israel’s use of torture, led by UCSB sociology professor Lisa Hajjar.

“We had a big number of faculty that was able to show up and discuss the relationship between Israel and the U.S.’s use of torture and how it shaped movements today,” Haddad said. “We were looking at how these countries and regimes justify their use of torture, and it was a really good talk. Really amazing speaker.”

SJP is continuing the momentum of Palestine Liberation Week through their organizing and holding a fundraiser this week in collaboration with the Afghan Student Association (ASA) to raise funds to support Palestinian families and provide starvation relief for families in Afghanistan. SJP and ASA are splitting the collected funds for their respective

causes.

“We are currently working with another organizer that knows a family in Gaza in need of emergency relief, so we are hoping to give our half of the funds to that community,” Haddad said.

The organizations are tabling outside The Arbor from May 23-26, selling stickers, henna and chai.

Haddad said SJP has cultivated relationships with organizations across campus and the broader Santa Barbara community and said that the organization is “going in strong” moving into next year.

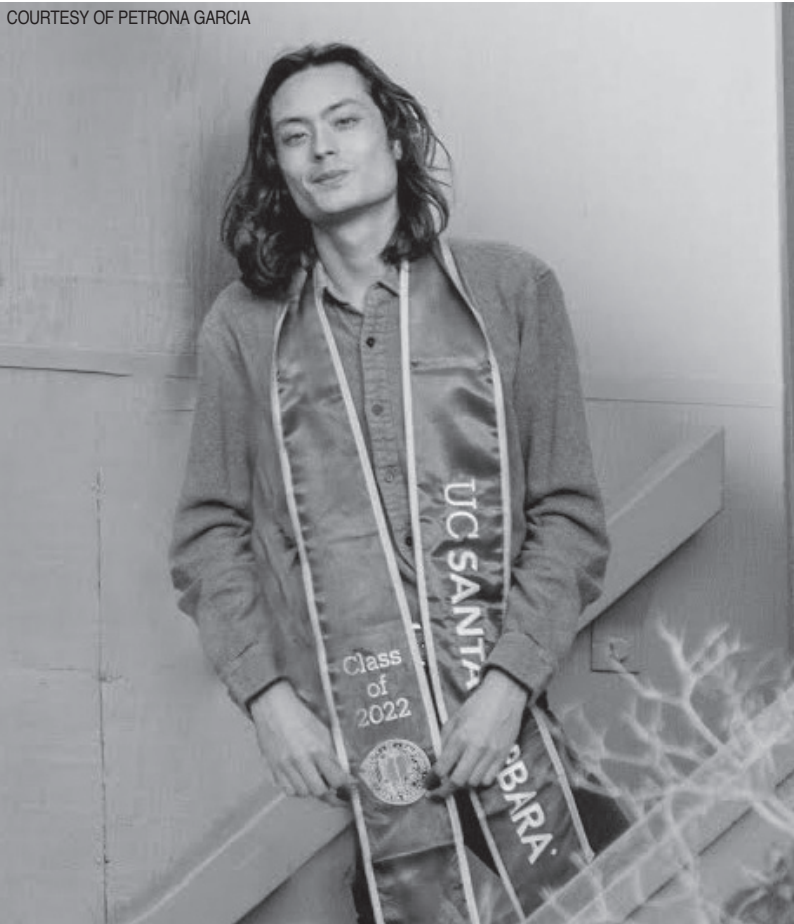
“We’re really working with other social justice oriented organizations to create a solid foundation for hopefully the next generations of organizers on campus,” Haddad said. “We hopefully will keep building community and educating the student body, but also ourselves, on the intersectionalities between our movements with other movements.”

SINDHU ANANTHAVEL / DAILY NEXUS



The apartheid wall in The Arbor is the week’s most visible organizing image.

UCSB community brings awareness about missing alumnus



Any information about Riley Hsieh’s whereabouts can be reported to the Mendocino County Sheriff’s Office.

Melela Maglalang
Staff Writer

UC Santa Barbara alumnus Riley Hsieh was reported missing on March 27. Now, two months into the search with no leads found, efforts to spread awareness continue throughout the UCSB campus and Isla Vista community in hopes of connecting others to the cause.

Though she can’t help in the immediate area and is aware that this could be a long-running case, Amanda Hsieh – Riley Hsieh’s older sister – continues contributing to the search efforts by regularly updating various social media accounts like Instagram in hopes that it will reach a wider audience and

spread awareness about the case.

“With missing persons’ cases, people could really be anywhere,” she said. “We’re just trying to use social media to reach more people, so that way somebody will spot him, and we can bring him home.”

Petrona Garcia – one of Riley Hsieh’s close friends from university – reached out to their friend group and the UCSB campus community to increase search efforts and let people know that they can still help remotely by distributing information and potentially making contact with those who may recognize him.

“People don’t realize college campuses are probably one of the only hubs where people of so many different cities and

communities and states come together. So it’s such a core place to spread the word,” Garcia said.

The week before Riley Hsieh was reported missing, Garcia said he had gone to visit her in Los Angeles since he was in the area to check out UC Riverside following a recent acceptance into their ethnic studies graduate program.

Garcia said she’d frequently kept in touch with Riley Hsieh, from FaceTime calls to iMessage games. When she had heard from his sister about his going missing, Garcia and Amanda Hsieh flew to Willits to help with the search for Riley Hsieh.

“I was there for a couple of days, maybe like five, six days up there with two other friends who joined me, and we just looked around, but there’s so much woods [in Willits],” Garcia said. “At the time, we thought he was gonna come back, and I just wanted to be there to support him.”

Associate professor and chair in the Department of Asian American Studies erin Khuê Ninh had Riley Hsieh in a few of her classes during his time at the university. They would speak in office hours about his applications to graduate school.

She learned about the cause through an email from one of her colleagues and was asked to spread the word throughout the Asian American studies department by distributing fliers to inform the campus community about the search for a fellow Gauchito.

“I hadn’t been in touch since he graduated – it’s typical, right? When Riley and I had last spoken, he said it was hard being in his hometown, it did not feel very welcoming. He was looking forward to getting to a place of community and safety again,”

Ninh said.

“He’s one of us,” she continued.

Fourth-year communication and sociology double major Emily Duong was a programming assistant with Riley Hsieh at the MultiCultural Center. She found out about his disappearance through an Instagram post and got in touch with Garcia to find ways she could help remotely.

“My jaw was on the floor because I had just talked to him like the day before, like two days before this was happening,” Duong said. “I’ve tried to touch base with Petrona now and then just to see like, ‘Hey, is there anything that I can do from afar?’”

Duong said she felt helpless being unable to contribute to the search in person, but she still found value in spreading awareness on campus and within the community to ensure efforts will not die out.

“Extending support to people that know Riley and also the people leading the effort, I feel like is really important and something they definitely need to hear because it’s difficult since everyone is in different locations,” she said. “It can be very isolating in terms of them probably not knowing that a lot of people do care and are still invested even though it’s been such a long time.”

“It is really difficult. No one really knows how to navigate the situation,” Duong continued. “But I think the best we can do is stay hopeful and just really manifest things will be coming together.”

“I just really wanna hug him and not let go, not let him out of my sight,” Amanda Hsieh said. “I have to just keep hope that he’ll come home one day.”

Any information about Riley Hsieh’s whereabouts can be reported to the Mendocino County Sheriff’s Office at 707-463-4086.

Disability honor society initiated at UCSB



Melela Maglalang
Staff Writer

UC Santa Barbara recognized a campus chapter of Delta Alpha Pi – an academic honor society for students with disabilities – on May 1.

Delta Alpha Pi (DAPI) is a national organization dedicated to recognizing high academic achieving university students who identify as having a disability. The UCSB chapter is being funded through the Disabled Students Program (DSP) R.I.S.E. grant, according to DAPI co-adviser and DSP disability specialist Mark Grosch.

Students do not have to be registered with DSP to join. The organization is open to all students who meet the grade point average requirement of 3.1 and identify as having a disability of any kind. Documentation is not required to apply.

Fourth-year physics major and DAPI President Emmeline Sears initially learned about the organization through DSP.

She said she became interested in joining the UCSB chapter because she was familiar with the obstacles in applying for classroom accommodations on campus and wanted to advocate for more campus accessibility for community members with disabilities.

“I’ve had a lot of experience navigating through not only applying for accommodations, but also working on integrating those into curriculums and finding ways in which DSP accommodations can be used in the classroom,” Sears said.

“Once I heard about [DAPI], and I heard its mission for promoting both activism and disability awareness alongside academics, I knew it was gonna be a great fit for UCSB,” she continued.

As a new campus entity, Sears said the current goal of the organization is to build a community through hosting workshops, providing resources and holding social events.

“It’s very important to maintain a sense of community not just as an organization, but also as a disabled individual because it’s something that can be rather isolating, especially if you’re one of the few physically disabled individuals in your class and you don’t know any other disabled individuals,” Sears said.

Second-year chemistry major and DAPI Vice President Coleman Forth added that the organization also hopes to connect members to academic and professional resources like scholarships and networking opportunities.

“One of the issues [in the campus community] is access. DAPI aims to provide extra opportunities to people with disabilities,” he said. “It can be hard to find good opportunities, so to filter them out and show people with disabilities what they can do is really important.”

Forth said communities like

the DAPI honor society are important because they celebrate the achievements of those with disabilities with other students who understand the efforts it may have taken to meet those academic goals.

“Having other students with the same experience of putting in extra work and working around or working with your disability, and getting recognized for putting in that extra effort that a lot of other students don’t necessarily have to put in, and then still reaching your academic goals – I think that’s super important,” he said.

Sears added that as an honor society, DAPI also helps highlight achievements despite adversity for its members who come from a disadvantaged community.

“It highlights that these students have been working hard and have been succeeding due to their efforts. That’s something that we as a university community should be very proud of,” Sears said. “Simultaneously, it’s highlighting a marginalized or typically disadvantaged group who has been fulfilling that excellence.”

Sears said that they aim to make membership more accessible for those who are interested in joining but may not meet either the national GPA requirement of 3.1 or the general UCSB requirement of 3.75 for other honor societies by allowing applicants to submit a supplementary letter to explain their circumstances.

“Yes, there is a GPA cut off, but we aren’t trying to exclude you. We want to include you and we want to help reach a point where you’re proud of yourself. We want everybody to succeed at UCSB,” she said. “We understand that everybody’s journey is different through UCSB, and also through your disability journey, so we strive to be as understanding and as open as possible.”

There are plans to hold an end-of-the-year ceremony for interested members to join, learn more about the organization, honor graduating students who identify with having a disability and meet the organization’s requirements. Sears said they also plan on holding virtual events throughout the summer.

“We’re hoping to not only support each other academically in the pursuit of academic excellence, but to establish connections between our members and individuals from the community,” she said.

Sears hopes the honor society will provide a space for individuals to find pride in their identity and foster a sense of belonging on campus.

“Disabled is not necessarily a bad thing. It’s a fact of existing, and there will always be disabled individuals,” she continued. “We want to help our members establish footholds in both the disabled and just the campus community, and to help them feel like they really belong at UCSB.”

Chabad at UCSB’s Mega Shabbat amasses over 800 attendees

Asumi Shuda
Deputy News Editor

Chabad at UC Santa Barbara hosted its annual Mega Shabbat dinner on May 19 at the Chabad at UCSB house on Camino Pescadero in Isla Vista. The event garnered over 800 attendees from the campus and greater Santa Barbara community.

The dinner featured a four-course meal that began with mocktails and appetizers. The meal was initiated with a glass of wine to welcome those at the Mega Shabbat, with grape juice given to those not of age.

The meal continued with chicken soup and matzo balls – traditional items of a Shabbat dinner – then dished out chicken, couscous and roasted vegetables. The dinner ended with a full dessert spread with pastries, cookies and candy.

Chabad at UCSB’s Rabbi Gershon Klein and his wife Miri Loschak host the weekly dinners in Chabad at UCSB – their home in Isla Vista – and helped direct this year’s Mega Shabbat for the community.

“It’s in our home, it’s in the yard of where we live, where we have all our club activities,” Klein said.

Planning for the Mega Shabbat began in the beginning of spring quarter, with a Mega Shabbat committee being formed under Chabad at UCSB to start the process. Fourth-year political science major and Chabad at UCSB Co-President Alexa Grines said the goal number of attendees for the event was 613 people, saying that number is significant in Judaism.

“It’s a number of Mitzot, which is translated to good deeds in the Torah,” she said.

Grines spoke to the weekly dinners that Chabad at UCSB hosts every Friday night, saying it follows the Jewish Sabbath that begins at sunset on Friday and ends at sunset on Saturday.

“The Sabbath is a 25-hour day of observance where Jews do not use technology, do not work, do not do the typical things that individuals would do on a day-to-day basis,” she said. “So every Friday night, we come together and we have dinner. We have a full-course meal and typically about 150 to 200 Jewish students join us every week.”

Connecting to the Mega Shabbat tradition, Grines said the annual event is an opportunity for the broader UCSB community to experience this Jewish custom.

“We try to bring in the broader community and those at UCSB who don’t normally experience weekly Shabbat,” she said. “It’s just our way of showing the broader UCSB community what the Jewish community is all about.”

Grines applauded the growth in numbers this year’s Mega Shabbat brought in comparison to last year’s dinner, which garnered about 500 people for the first time since the pandemic began.

“They brought it back last year, which was a massive success,” she said. “It’s grown in size since before COVID and it’s also grown in popularity.”

Multiple UCSB administration members attended the dinner, including Chancellor Henry Yang and Assistant Vice Chancellor and Dean of Student Life Katya Armistead.

Klein spoke to the events of Chabad at UCSB being unique, as it primarily operates out of his



Over 800 attendees from UCSB and the greater Santa Barbara community gather at the event.

family’s home to create a familial feel for its members.

“It’s a very interesting nonprofit where everything happens in our home, so it’s a very family feel,” he said. “We live in Isla Vista with our two daughters, so we invite people into our home.”

Klein expressed joy in the high number in attendance at the Mega Shabbat dinner, saying it exceeded his and the organization’s expectations.

“It’s a dinner for 800, so it was really crazy, way above what we anticipated,” he said.

Grines spoke to the importance of the Mega Shabbat providing an educational opportunity to learn about Jewish religion and

culture.

“I feel like both as a leader and as an attendee, it’s valuable to learn about other people’s religions and cultures, and having this event where anyone and everyone is welcome,” she said. “This event was widely publicized not just to UCSB, but also to people in Santa Barbara.”

Grines emphasized that the Shabbat dinner ultimately welcomes the greater Jewish and non-Jewish community to enter a space of unity.

“It’s a night of unity and truly showing people the warmth of the Jewish community,” she said. “We do this by feeding anyone and everyone and not turning

QTGSU creates lasting community for LGBTQIA+ graduate students



QTGSU is dedicated to bringing access to resources and community to students.



QTGSU holds a number of social events for graduate students.

UCSB DSP director set to retire after 33 years

Melea Maglalang
Staff Writer

Longtime UC Santa Barbara staff member and current Director of the Disabled Students Program Gary White is set to retire on June 28 after 33 years of working at the university. Throughout his time at UCSB, White has worked at the Women's Center and Counseling and Career Services – a campus department operating prior to the formation of Counseling & Psychological Services.

During his undergraduate years at Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania, White initially became interested in counseling work after being encouraged by his football teammates, who would often emotionally confide in him.

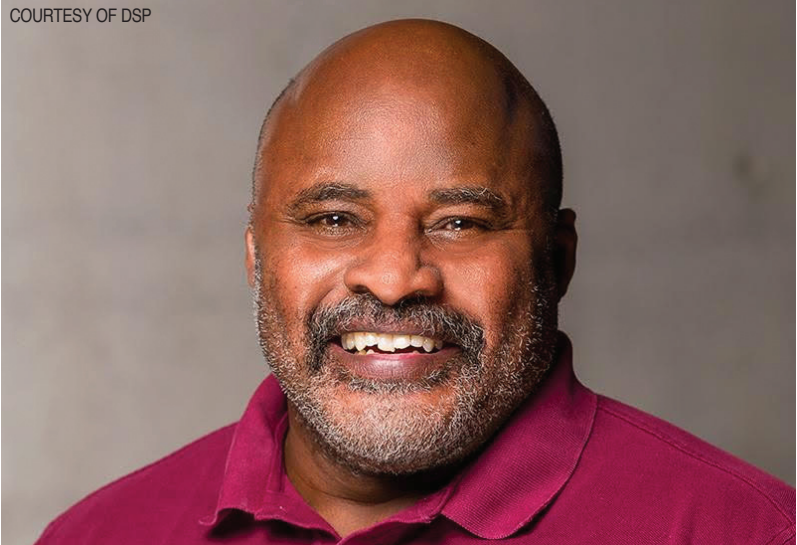
“They would show up in my dorm room and say, ‘Gary, we’ve got to talk.’ And I thought, ‘Oh shit, I did something.’ And then they would proceed to just sort of air out their grievances,” he said.

“One of those gentlemen actually said, ‘Gary, you need to think about becoming a counselor or a psychologist because you’ve got this great way of listening,’” White continued.

After graduating, White took on a summer internship at the Devereux Foundation in California, bringing him to the Santa Barbara area. He earned his license in marriage and family therapy and eventually came to UCSB.

“My education and my training has certainly nurtured this passion, this wanting to [get into counseling], but I really think that it’s just something that has just come to me,” he said. “I’ve been drawn to this. I think this is sort of in my makeup.”

White officially took on the director's position at the Disabled Students Program (DSP) 18 years ago. Over the years, he saw the population of the program quadruple in size and oversaw the implementation of assistive technology, like automatic transcription services, for the



White said he knows he'll be leaving the department with people that he trusts.

campus community.

“The kinds of things that I did with this position, being both the public face for disability issues on campus, being the person to respond to things and seeing our population go from 600 to 2400,” White said.

“I also love how our office is embracing the technology that will help to bring access for students. There’s things that we’re using now [that] I could only have dreamed of when I first started in this position,” he continued.

Throughout his years, White oversaw the “explosion of need” for mental health services after the 2014 Isla Vista tragedy and the rise of accessibility resources during the pandemic. He was glad to be able to help the campus community during these times of struggle.

“There’s so many instances of things just blowing up – increasing needs for all types of services. I was fortunate to be in the right place at the right time and to be a part of the response,” he said.

Prior to DSP, White began his work on campus at the Women's Center as the assistant and interim director of the Rape Prevention and Education Program – now known as Campus Advocacy, Resources & Education – and then as a counselor at Counseling and Career Services.

He said some of the students he once worked with during his early

Anushka Ghosh Dastidar
Staff Writer

The Queer and Trans Graduate Student Union at UC Santa Barbara provides safe spaces and a sense of community for graduate students in the LGBTQIA+ community.

The Nexus spoke with members of the Queer and Trans Graduate Student Union’s (QTGSU) board regarding their events and advocacy throughout the past year.

Kristy Ali, a second-year linguistics doctoral student and vice president of QTGSU, wanted to find community as a queer international student and woman of color, which connected her to QTGSU.

“I was looking to be part of an organization that affirmed my identity of being a queer person and wanted to be a visible queer person of color for graduate students,” Ali said. “I really like building community amongst people so I really got involved to bring people together and make new relationships. And I think that’s what we’ve been able to do over the past year, definitely through our events.”

QTGSU held a number of social events over the past year for graduate students to be able to meet each other and bond over common struggles. Some events have included coffee hours, art events, special lunches and a transgender health care series.

Second-year communication doctoral student and QTGSU president Jade Salmon elaborated on how their love for board games has sparked into biweekly game nights for students to carry connections

made in QTGSU.

“For the past couple quarters I was hosting a biweekly tabletop game night because board games are a big hobby of mine,” Salmon said. “So that became kind of a thing where, among the hustle and bustle of grad school, we can all just come together for a couple hours and just play some board games together.”

“We still developed a pretty solid base where folks are now planning game nights for themselves and are participating in those,” they continued. “It’s really cool providing community for people but also giving them the space to actively be part of the community together.”

The main goal of the organization is to center events around the community and to shine a light back on students themselves.

In an event for International Transgender Day of Visibility on March 31, QTGSU worked with the MultiCultural Center to encourage students to commemorate the queer stories in their own lives through an archival workshop.

“We talked about how we can talk about and preserve the memories and stories of trans people in our lives. People who are not famous, not celebrities, whose stories will not be in the archives [and] how we can start documenting our own stories and the people around us,” Ali said.

QTGSU hosted a drag show highlighting student performers, with two drag coordinators hired in the fall to regularly host drag boot camps for students interested. Their work was then presented in a drag show held on April 20.

“One of the most fun, wonderful, gay things we’ve done is have this drag show,” Ali said. “We provided [students] with just the money to buy makeup and wigs and whatever else. And then basically these drag

coordinators just trained them to the point where they were able to put on a show at the end of the year. And at this show it’s a really really fun time with free dinner, free drinks and some good moments.”

In addition to QTGSU’s social and educational events, Ali touched on some of the ways in which the organization helps graduate students with financial difficulties through mini grants and care packages.

“We receive amounts of organizational funding from the university and we use a lot of that to give back to grad students through the form of mini grants. Grad students have lots of financial needs, whether that be for food, housing or medical expenses,” Ali said.

“Another thing that we do is provide care packages for Black grad students in solidarity with them,” she continued. “It started after the murder of George Floyd and it’s something that the organization did annually so we’re continuing that tradition of giving back to our Black grad students.”

Additionally, Salmon spoke on the impact of the United Auto Workers strike against the University of California on graduate students trying to work and afford living in California. They also elaborated on how the mini-grant program was QTGSU’s contribution to helping members affected by the strike.

“In general at UCSB, it’s hard being a grad student. We can’t pretend that the strike didn’t just happen in the fall,” Salmon said. “Kristy and I were really in the frontlines of that for a while. We don’t get paid much so for QTGSU, we’re happy to give out these mini grants [to] slightly chip away at these expenses that come with living here and going here.”

QTGSU is also known to work in close collaboration with

the Resource Center for Sexual and Gender Diversity (RCSGD) at UCSB. Alex Eleazar, a third-year sociology doctoral student and QTGSU’s RCSGD liaison, also found connections in these organizations after feeling alone as a graduate student new to California.

“Most of the time, grad students are really isolated, basically you know the people in your department, you know your professors who are your mentors and other people who are maybe also getting a PhD in your program, but it can be really hard to meet other people, especially at UCSB because there’s just not that many spaces,” Eleazar said.

The RCSGD has been able to create these spaces and provide resources for students who need it. Salmon elaborated on the ways in which they personally utilize the RCSGD and implored others to do the same.

“I think students should really take advantage of it,” Salmon said. “An hour ago I went there because they have a supply of chest binders that folks can donate and pick up so I gave an old binder that doesn’t fit me anymore and I actually got a new one back.”

Salom said QTGSU is dedicated to continuing to bring access to resources, education, social events and community to more students as they have done thus far.

“Graduate school is such a stressful environment in general and also a lot of the time we’re just kind of sequestered and made to be just with people in our department ... a lot of academia is very cisnormative [and] heteronormative,” Salmon said. “QTGSU has really been an outlet for me to find people [who have] queer identities in common so we can kind of just see each other and understand each others’ struggles and highs and lows.”

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Kapatirang Pilipino celebrates first Pilipino Cultural Night in four years

Asumi Shuda
Deputy News editor

UC Santa Barbara’s Kapatirang Pilipino hosted Pilipino Cultural Night showcase for the first time in four years on May 20, garnering a nearly full house of attendees at Campbell Hall.

The showcase was the organization’s 32nd annual Pilipino Cultural Night (PCN), and the involved members of the showcase celebrated this year’s completion of this long-running tradition.

This year’s PCN was titled “Sino Ako?” which translates to “Who am I?” and the three-hour event featured a play and 10 performances, all run by students of Kapatirang Pilipino (KP).

The planning process for the production began in early summer 2022, with PCN Executive Coordinator and fourth-year communication major Janelle Tadeo leading the brainstorming process back in June.

“The more that I worked on it, the more I realized it was something I really wanted to do, because for the last four years I’ve been involved in PCN,” Tadeo said.

Tadeo said they wanted this year’s PCN to focus on the idea of impostor syndrome – the condition of doubting one’s abilities and competence and generally feeling like a fraud. She spoke to this condition from her personal experience of herself and others.

“There’s such a broad range with impostor syndrome in that people experience it in so many different ways with their identity and expectations,” they said. “Maybe you don’t feel like you’re succeeding the way your family wants you to succeed ... or that cultural shock of going to the Philippines and feeling like you’re not providing enough for your family.”

“I wanted to try to get in as many different aspects of impostor syndrome as possible, so even

people in the audience who aren’t Filipinx can see themselves on stage, connect with the characters in some way and feel like they’re heard.”

The PCN narrative followed the life of a main character named Angel Ferrer – nicknamed “BitBit” – who navigates through self-doubt about her career path toward the medical field amidst familial expectations. She progresses through the story alongside John De La Cruz, who defies family expectations to attend medical school to pursue the comic book industry.

“I wanted us to have multiple characters that can relate to lots of different people,” Tadeo said. “I feel like with imposter syndrome, that’s something that’s really difficult because you feel like you’re not heard ... and that’s something I really wanted to combat with this year’s narrative.”

Third-year communication and sociology double major and PCN actress and scriptwriter Robyn Violanda spoke to the main character’s name having a dual meaning. Her nickname parallels Filipinx customs of nicknames typically consisting of two repeating syllables, and her name itself means “to carry” in Tagalog.

“It has the cultural layer of having a name with some of that repeating sound, but also her being the star of the family but also having to carry so much because of that pressure,” she said.

The performances at this year’s PCN included Cariñosa, choir, Filipino martial arts, lyrical dance, binoyugan, modern dance, spoken word, pandanggo sa ilaw, sayaw sa bangko and tinkling. Tadeo said most of the performances this year were inspired by traditional Filipinx customs and performances.

“I wanted to do a lot of traditional Filipinx dances ... and we would really look into the meaning of the dances, why they are performed and how they could connect to our



KP performers conduct a demonstration of Filipinx martial arts.

storyline [in PCN] in any way,” she said.

Tadeo highlighted the various dance performances, particularly sayaw sa bangko, which was a homage to their PCN experience in the performance as a first year. The performance consists of dancers jumping off of stacked benches in group unison.

“You have to do a lot of group trust ... and I wanted to build the family relationship, build trust in each other,” she said.

Tadeo applauded the high turnout of the production, saying it exceeded her expectations and eased their initial anxieties about the showcase garnering audience members.

“I just didn’t really know if people were going to come to PCN because it was the first in a while ... and when I walked out on stage for the first time and I saw almost a full house, it honestly warmed my heart so much.”

Tadeo said reactions of the show were overwhelmingly positive, with many audience members resonating with the storyline and the characters on stage.

“Past KP alumni said it was one of the best that they’ve watched, and a lot of people said they really connected to the storyline and saw themselves in the characters, which was what I really was aiming for,” they said.

“We included a lot of Tagalog in our narrative, and it meant so much to hear our mother tongue blasted throughout Campbell Hall and get that representation,” Tadeo continued.

Violanda said this year’s PCN upheld the core mission of KP as an organization to create community and share the stories of Filipinx culture and identity.

“It’s not so much about whether or not we have experience putting on a production – it’s all about the authentic stories that we tell and that’s why I believe we’re able to do,” she said. “That’s why we’re able to share our community stories

and unite the community because the stories that we tell are very genuine, and we’re able to bring the community together, which is what PCN and what KP is all about.”

Violanda expressed joy in hearing her own parents, who attended the showcase, be able to learn about the Filipinx experience from a college student perspective.

“I believe that they learned a lot about what it’s like being a first-generation college student, and they also felt seen as immigrants who try their best to give their children opportunities,” she said.

Violanda hopes that the audience was able to see the value in telling the stories about the Filipinx and Asian American experience.

“We all have stories to tell, and it’s easy to fall into cliches when there’s such little Asian American representation in the world,” she said. “But I think it’s important to remember that all the stories that we have are valid, and it’s important that they’re seen and heard.”

Tadeo said the PCN tradition is an integral part of her college career, and this year’s showcase was a great personal accomplishment.

“My first year, my community that I found in PCN is really what kept me going these past four years,” they said. “Especially at a PWI, it’s really easy to feel like you’re alone on this campus ... but [my community] broadened my perspective so much, and I think to be able to showcase our culture on a public platform really means so much.”

Looking toward the coming academic year, Tadeo advises the incoming PCN coordinator to remind themselves about the importance of community throughout the entire planning process of the production.

“Even if it feels like all else fails, your community will be there to support you,” she said. “Everything will fall into place and those months of hard work and stress will be worth it on that night at Campbell Hall.”

Anti-Defamation League CEO discusses combating hate in America

Anushka Ghosh Dastidar
Staff Writer

Anti-Defamation League Director and CEO Jonathan Greenblatt discussed the spread of hate in America on Monday, May 22, in Campbell Hall as part of UC Santa Barbara Arts & Lectures’ Justice for All initiative.

In conversation alongside Montecito Journal Editor in Chief Gwyn Lurie, Greenblatt spoke on the roots of hatred and antisemitism and discussed how to work against it as detailed in his book, “It Could Happen Here.”

According to Greenblatt, the inspiration for the title of his book stemmed from Sinclair Lewis’ 1935 novel “It Can’t Happen Here,” the story of a dystopian America in which a new age Hitler rises to power and forms a dictatorship.

After taking a job with the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) in 2015, Greenblatt expected that he may one day receive a call regarding an extreme act of hatred against Jewish people from another country. When the call finally came, it was in 2018 after the shooting at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh.

“I thought it’d be a call from some far away place. I never expected ... that the call would be coming from inside the house,” Greenblatt said.

From here, he said he began writing as an act of therapy. Greenblatt described the 2019 shootings at the Chabad of Poway synagogue and the kosher grocery store in Jersey City, New Jersey, as well as the Jan. 6 United States Capitol attack and other recent hate crimes as the “soundtrack to the book.”

Greenblatt said his family’s past motivated him to fight against antisemitism today, recounting the struggles of his grandfather, a Holocaust survivor, who came to America as a refugee from Germany battling language barriers and lack of community.

Greenblatt shared an anecdote about how, when asked if they ever expected their grandchildren to be born in America, both his grandfather and his father-in-law said no. They both expected their families to stay in Germany and Iran and said the exact phrase, “Where else would we be?”

Greenblatt then made it his

mission to fight against hate in America in order to guarantee a country in which his grandchildren can be born in and thrive.

According to Greenblatt, social media is behind the evident surge in hate and extremism. The real issue, he says, is that social media companies are not held responsible for any of the content presented on their platforms. This is due to Section 230 of the 1996 Communications Decency Act, which states that “no provider or user of an interactive computer service shall be treated as the publisher or speaker of any information provided by another information content provider.”

Greenblatt elaborated that this is the act that has prevented companies like Facebook from being held responsible for white supremacists making public hate groups on their website.

With ADL, Greenblatt has three main focuses: “protect, advocate and educate.” He said the ADL monitors extremist chat rooms, the dark web and live Facebook streams in order to hand information to law enforcement. He recounted how they were especially instrumental in collecting information on individuals involved in the Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol.

Another thing the ADL is known for is advocating for “education representation.” According to Greenblatt, the organization is one of the biggest sources of anti-hate education, with content being taught in schools across America and employing the “Pyramid of Hate” as an aid to show how hatred begins simply with biased attitudes.

Greenblatt believes that most extremists are broken people who turn to hatred to fill a void. He said that these people are not beyond the point of forgiveness as long as they have genuine remorse in addition to a willingness to take responsibility and learn.

“Hate is a latent psychological impulse,” Greenblatt said, and racism is encoded in our society. Despite this, Greenblatt strongly believes that “America is the greatest democracy in the world” and has hope that the pragmatic nature of future generations will restore American exceptionalism.



Members perform their modern dance rendition.

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Beyond Stereotypes: Explaining the push behind Asian Americans in S.T.E.M.

Angelina Song
Staff Writer
Faye Vuong
Staff Writer

With Asian American and Pacific Islander Month coming to a close, we reflect on the long-held stereotypes that Asian Americans are naturally inclined toward S.T.E.M. fields. At UC Santa Barbara, we can see this pattern reflected as well. On average, Asian Americans make up 25% of UCSB students. But in some majors, such as microbiology, computer science and computer engineering, this number rises to above 40%. And among the majors with the highest percentage of Asian American students, many S.T.E.M. majors dominate the list.

The Asian population in the United States has been one of the fastest-growing populations for the past 40 years. According to Pew Research Center, “Nearly six-in-ten U.S.-born Asians (58%) were members of Generation Z in 2019, which means they were 22 or younger at the time.”

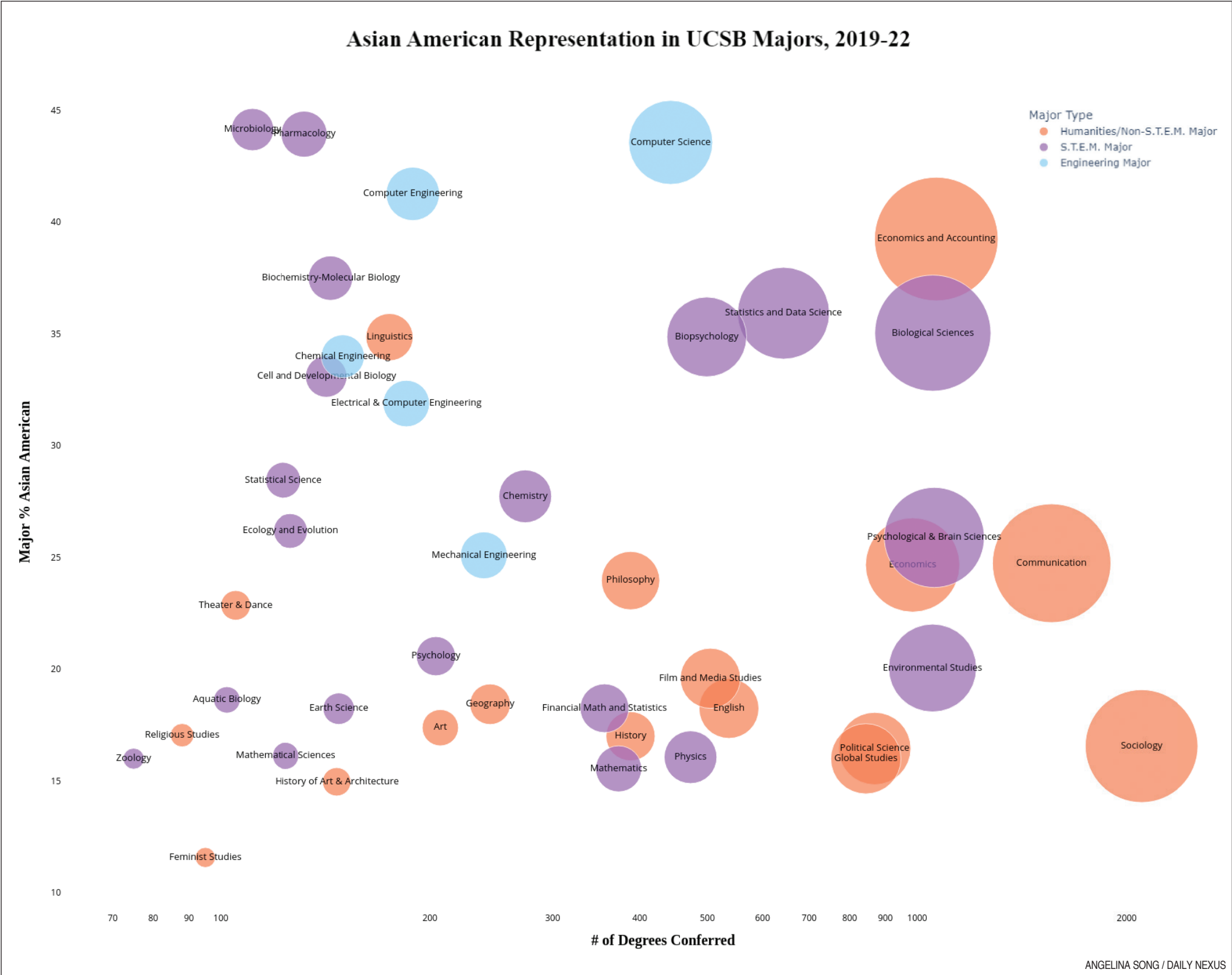
This increase in the percentage of people of Asian descent has been largely brought about by immigration. In 1980, 18% of the 14 million immigrants were born in an Asian country. By 2019, not only had the number of immigrants jumped to 45 million, but roughly 31% of those immigrants came from an Asian country.

Overall, Asians in the U.S. tend to be a well-educated and high-earning group. According to Pew Research Center, more than half of all Asians aged 25 and older have bachelor's degrees. Asians tend to have a higher median salary – \$85,800 – which is almost \$20,000 higher than all U.S. households. This can be attributed to working in S.T.E.M. fields, which generally pay better, regardless of education level. In fact, despite making up 10% of the workforce, Asians make up 17% of all S.T.E.M. workers and have a higher representation in all high-paying S.T.E.M. clusters.

Many foreign-born Asians have come over on H-1B visas, which are education-based visas. In order to be selected for an H-1B visa, one must have a bachelor's degree and a U.S. company to sponsor them. Notably, in 2019, 86.3% of all H-1B petitions filed were from applicants from China or India alone, and generally, Asian countries exhibit a strong presence in the applications. Since the H-1B program was started in 1990, roughly 2 million workers have immigrated to the U.S. to work as highly skilled professionals – many in fields such as engineering, technology and medicine. This immigration, in turn, has had demographic and cultural effects.

First, the economic prosperity of H-1B workers, indicated by a median household income of \$108,000, fosters a privileged community. Families with this sort of economic capital are already able to provide their children with better resources and opportunities.

Second, because many of these immigrants were able to achieve a high-income life through S.T.E.M.-based careers, they tend to instill in their children a strong appreciation for the opportunities and advantages that come with pursuing a job



On average, Asian Americans make up 25% of UCSB students. Among the majors with the highest percentage of Asian American students, many S.T.E.M. majors such as microbiology, computer science, computer engineering, biochemistry and molecular biology dominate the list. The size of the bubble represents the number of Asian American students in that major. The color of the bubble indicates the type of major (S.T.E.M./non-S.T.E.M./engineering). A small number of majors were removed for clarity. International students were not classified as Asian American.

in a S.T.E.M. field. Whether through indirect influence from parents or mere observation, children of immigrant parents tend to see more benefits to choosing a career in S.T.E.M.

“I guess you could say it worked for them because studying computer science and studying technology allowed them to come to America and provide the life that they provided for my family,” Anirudh Iyer, a second-year computer science major, explained.

This partially explains the high number of Asian workers in the S.T.E.M. workforce. According to Pew Research Center, “Asian workers are 13% of those employed in STEM occupations, overrepresented compared with their 6% share of total employment across all occupations.”

However, there are additional factors to consider.

Another contributing theory of the tendency for Asian Americans to pursue S.T.E.M. is that of success frames. Jennifer Lee, a Columbia University graduate and UC Irvine professor, explains a frame as “an analytical tool by which people observe, interpret, and make sense of their social life. Most plainly, frames are ways of understanding how the world works.” In interviews done by her and Min Zhou, a fellow researcher, she discovered that many of these immigrant parents, regardless of class or country of origin, often echoed the same ideas behind the way to achieve the best life for their children in America. Most families, regardless of

ethnicity, want their children to have a good education and a good career. But for Asian Americans, the idea of a good education and success takes on a narrow and specific path. This path involves working hard in school, getting good grades (usually defined as As), going to a highly ranked college and landing a financially stable job (in law, technology, medicine or similar fields).

“They definitely believe that studying hard and going into these S.T.E.M. fields, which are typically higher paying relative to other fields, is the best way to guarantee success and financial security for their kids, which they obviously want,” Iyer said.

While very few Asian parents live up to the strict “Tiger Mom” stereotype and force their children to take on certain professions and majors, it would be naive to say that these widespread cultural values have not played an impact in the way Asian Americans are socialized in the United States.

These ideas are spread through Asian communities by social circles, word of mouth and even online networks such as WeChat groups. This communal social circle becomes a resource by which many Asian parents base their decisions on. To achieve the standards set by their community, they will relocate to live in places with better schools, teach their children the belief that good grades are a result of hard work and enroll their children in tutoring and additional education programs.

Asian parents spend 15% of

their income on extra education for their children, whereas the average American household spends merely 2%. This focus on academics and investment into education as the method to achieve a financially stable future is a widespread belief in the Asian American community.

“[My parents] knew that in order to come to America and to live what they thought to be a definitely better life, they would have to study hard and they would have to get the grades and do all this stuff in order to find success,” Iyer said.

However, while these beliefs may indeed pay off in capitalistic terms, they can inadvertently impose undue pressure on Asian children, potentially disregarding their unique aptitudes and aspirations for a more suitable path.

“You have these immigrant parents who have not grown up here and have not gone to school around here. The information they are working off of is very fragmentary and often based on hearsay. What are the top 10 schools anybody has heard of? If your community only recognizes these 10 schools and these four professions as prestigious ones, why would you encourage your kids to exploit prestige as well as economic stability?” said erin Khuê Ninh, an associate professor in the Asian American studies department at UCSB.

Here, Ninh points out a discrepancy in the logic of the success frame. If the community views specific jobs and colleges as the only way to achieve success and all others

as failures, this ignores the thousands of other possibilities that could also lead to a successful future.

Shiuan Cheng, a second-year physics major, said he would have liked to pursue photography as his career, but upon considering the financial investment of a degree, chose physics instead.

“I’d go into photography as my career, but it’s not as financially convenient as engineering is,” Cheng said.

Furthermore, it is important to note that Asian Americans are an extremely diverse group, hailing from many different countries around the globe – all with their own cultural values and beliefs toward education. Many Asian Americans do value and choose to pursue humanities. In fact, one of the most popular majors among Asian American students at UCSB is communication.

“I think you can’t really make a generalization about all Asians because each Asian culture differs so drastically. Like I’m half Chinese, half Japanese and just the differences between those two cultures is tremendous,” said Olivia Jonokuchi, a second-year computer science major and founder of UCSB’s Girls Who Code.

While Asian Americans make up a significant portion of S.T.E.M. students on campus, there is a lack of female Asian students in S.T.E.M. courses.

“When I walk into my CS classes, I see maybe five or six girls. Most of my classes do consist of Asian males,” Iyer said. “I know that being in

a room where no one looks like me would make me less comfortable, as opposed to being in a room where I know likely that people will share experiences.”

Jonokuchi, who saw this same discrepancy in her STEM courses, took the initiative to form additional safe spaces through Girls Who Code, which has a mission to “Build a community with other women and non-binary students in STEM.”

Pew Research Institute reports that representation among women in S.T.E.M. occupations has failed to change since 2016. As of 2019, women only account for 25% of people working in computer occupations and only 15% in engineering occupations. Asian American women in S.T.E.M. are recorded to have slightly higher averages than other women of color, but they still continue to trail behind white women throughout all fields.

Family pressures throughout Asian American culture often play a significant role in shaping children’s aspirations. The “tight-knit” familial nature present in many households can, at times, prioritize the family unit over personal ambitions.

“I do feel a pressure to perform well academically, to get a good job and support my family,” Jonokuchi said. “My mom jokes that ‘When you make it big, you’ll buy me a Tesla!’ I’ve always wanted to give back to my family since they’ve done so much for me. Even if I weren’t Asian, I would do that.”

ARTSWEEK

Extravaganza 2023

Continued from p.1

set with “if looks could kill,” the namesake track of his latest album release. Garnering screams of excitement from the audience, he left the stage with one final comment.

“UCSB, I love you. Stay the fuck in school. Get your money,” he said.

Indie-pop singer Remi Wolf was next to hit the stage, performing in a “Kiss me, I’m Italian” t-shirt as the sun emerged from behind the clouds, lighting up the crowd. The crowd laughed and danced to Wolf’s witty lyrics and infectious beats.

Wolf was backed by a drummer, trumpeter, bassist and electric guitarist who grooved right along with her, creating a signature UCSB sound and sunny day staple. Midway through her set, drummer Conor Malloy switched places with her. As she drummed and he took the mic, he shouted out positive affirmations to the crowd, to which he was met with eager participation.

Keeping the Gauchos on their

toes, she brought out her college friend, in honor of it being a college show, and he juggled while she played “Disco Man.”

Wolf reciprocated the crowd’s energy, running back and forth across the stage, jumping to her own beat. She closed with her biggest hit, the funky pop song “Photo ID.” The crowd chanted the chorus with Wolf, smiling as they sang, “Lit in line, smile for the photo ID.” If people did not know her before, they left with a multitude of songs to add to their playlists.

“Remi went the fuck off. I don’t even listen to her like that, but Remi went down. She served,” fourth-year Claire Oertly said.

Following Wolf’s exit, the crowd buzzed with anticipation for the headlining act, Galantis, the popular Swedish EDM artist. Many members in the crowd bonded over their enthusiasm toward experiencing an EDM set for the first time.

“I’m excited to see if Galantis is one person, two people or a

group,” Beckett said.

After a 15-minute wait, Disney’s “The Mandalorian” theme song began to echo through Harder Stadium and the back screens began flashing “Galantis” in a multitude of fonts while electronic voices said his name in an overlapping fashion. In the meantime, Galantis ran onto the stage in an all-black ensemble as the crowd cheered, starting off his electronic dance music set. Beckett then received his answer: The electronic dance music act consists of one person, Swedish record producer Christian Karlsson.

Once on stage, Galantis opened with his most popular Grammy-nominated track, “Runaway (U & I).”

At the beat drop, he addressed the crowd.

“SANTA BARBARA, ARE YOU READY FOR THIS?” he screamed.

The crowd responded with a roar of approval and screamed the opening lyrics, “Think I can

fly,” in unison. Phones and hands were up, bumping the air and feeding off the liveliness of the track.

Equipped with a DJ booth, headphones and a microphone, Galantis hypnotized the audience, with students jumping in perfect synchronization as he played popular tracks, such as “Peanut Butter Jelly” and “Love on Me.”

Galantis shouted phrases out to the audience, like “UCSB, let’s bring the fucking beat back,” and led the crowd in a “whoop-whoop” call-and-response.

When the speakers blared “We Are Young” by fun., the crowd went wild. While the fast beat and electronic additions converted the popular track into a dance anthem, students swayed to the beat with their arms around their friends.

Amid the excitement, crowd issues continued throughout Galantis’s set, with multiple people carried out by security due to anxiety attacks. The hot

sun and humid atmosphere led to many students suffering from dehydration. Audience members passed a water bottle across the crowd to aid a student who was near passing out.

Galantis closed out his performance with another rendition of “Runaway (U & I),” interpolated with “STAY” by Justin Bieber and The Kid LAROI. Pointing to the sky and jumping up and down, Galantis led students through his grand finale and yelled, “UCSB, Santa Barbara, make some motherfucking noise!” The audience followed his request, dancing with their hands in the air and hoisting a student up to crowd surf.

When the track ended, Galantis thanked the crowd, saying, “Thank you so much for having me, I love you,” and ran off the stage to the theme of Disney’s “The Mandalorian,” just like how his set began. This confused some crowd members, and people began to chant, “One more song!”

in hopes of an encore.

As “The Mandalorian” theme continued on, it became clear Galantis was done performing for the day. Tired students exited the crowd, stopping at water stations or to reconnect and take pictures with their friends. As they made their way out, they reflected on the afternoon’s performances.

“I think it was a pretty good line up,” first-year Mark Foley said as he was walking out with friends. “JPEGMafia canceling was disappointing for me, but overall Galantis and Destroy Lonely [were] good. I think [ASPB] did a good job this year.”

“A.S. should really consider having better supporting acts instead of making us all wait until the end for the main act. I came here just for Galantis,” second-year Nandini Iyer said.

Regardless, the “Tea Party”-themed festival was packed with energy and excitement from students and performers alike, making 2023’s Extravaganza a success.



Wolf energizes the Extravaganza stage with a fashionable band to back her funky vocals.



Destroy Lonely hypes up the crowd as the first performer of the festival.



Galantis closes out Extravaganza 2023 with electrifying remixes of crowd favorites.



A reel of horror clips runs as the backdrop for Destroy Lonely’s set.



Wolf gets close to the crowd during her set.



THE DAILY STENCH

It’s Satire, Stupid.

This AAPI Month, I’m celebrating by asking all my friends to bring me a platter of cut fruit



Miss Informed
Honeydew Hater

Every year when May rolls around, I become wistful while ruminating on the meaning of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month and what it means to be an Asian American woman. This year, similar to every other year, it feels pushed to the back burner. I can’t recall seeing any Asian American accomplishments being spotlighted in mainstream media or any significant programming that supports and uplifts Asian voices besides perhaps an ingratiating advertisement starring a leering Simu Liu. Simple daily experiences can cause me to cherish my upbringing. The other day, I saw a virtually brand-new bidet at the Goodwill bins. Nodding fondly to myself, I thought, “That’s the way to do it. Nothing like a tight crisp stream to power wash the ol’ caboose.” Thrown so carelessly to the wayside, the bidet looked pitiful. A proper Asian household would never discard an item so deeply embedded in our daily routines! A proper Asian household would

use an appliance until it was literally dissolving into dust in their hands! There is no such thing as a proper Asian household, but these thoughts still ran rebelliously through my head as I gazed at that lonely little bidet. I find that there are certain aspects to Asian culture that my community and I will cling to – bidets being an example – in order to preserve a feeling of relatability and solidarity within our ranks. However, these aspects are not universal within the entire Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community and often conflate hyperconsumption of “Asian” goods like boba drinks and Hello Kitty, without actual praxis about the AAPI experience. Don’t get me wrong, I love boba and Hello Kitty as much as the next girl, but consuming goods should not be the only proximity one has to the support of the AAPI community. Obviously, it is difficult to be flawless in one’s support of the community, and it is a complex terrain to traverse. I am grateful that an AAPI Heritage Month even exists. I am grateful that I grew up in the San Francisco

Bay Area, probably home to the largest AAPI community in America. There is so much to celebrate! And how better to celebrate than by eating a modest plate of cut fruit, left on your desk by a loved one? This AAPI Month, along with the obligatory \$5-200 Venmo payments (if you’re feeling stingy, that is), I am imploring all of my non-Asian friends to bring me platters upon platters of various cut-up fruits, all preferably left by my door with a fork on top. These offerings are traditionally left silently, yet the message they scream is deafening. “I LOVE YOU AND I CHERISH YOU,” a plate of watermelon yells at me. “I AM VERY SORRY,” a bowl of pineapple screams. “COME DOWNSTAIRS FOR DINNER IN 10, SWEETIE,” a plate of honeydew screeches. Ahh, the sweet sound of healthy communication. Who needs in-person conversations when love can clearly be conveyed through a DIY edible arrangement? This is my sincere request to my non-Asian friends this month: If you’re not yelling kind things at me through a plate of cut fruit, you hate me. Simple as that.

Starbucks corporate unveils new Butter Chicken Frappuccino after success of their Chai Tea Latte



Amanda Lick
Itty Bitty TeaTea Committee

“Stop by and try our latest Indian fare made just for you by our very best bisexual baristas!” said recent ex-CEO Howard Schultz. This initiative was jump-started by Schultz’s belief that there was a lack of Asian American and Pacific Islander representation in the Starbucks multiverse after talking to his Indian American friend. This decision was made soon after his failed union busting attempts in hopes that white liberals would forget his crimes and fawn over this proposed cultural relic. I stopped by the UCen Starbucks to take a closer look at this new sugar-loaded amalgamation and see what the hype was all about. When I asked Sock, the shift lead on duty, how this drink was made, he replied, “I don’t

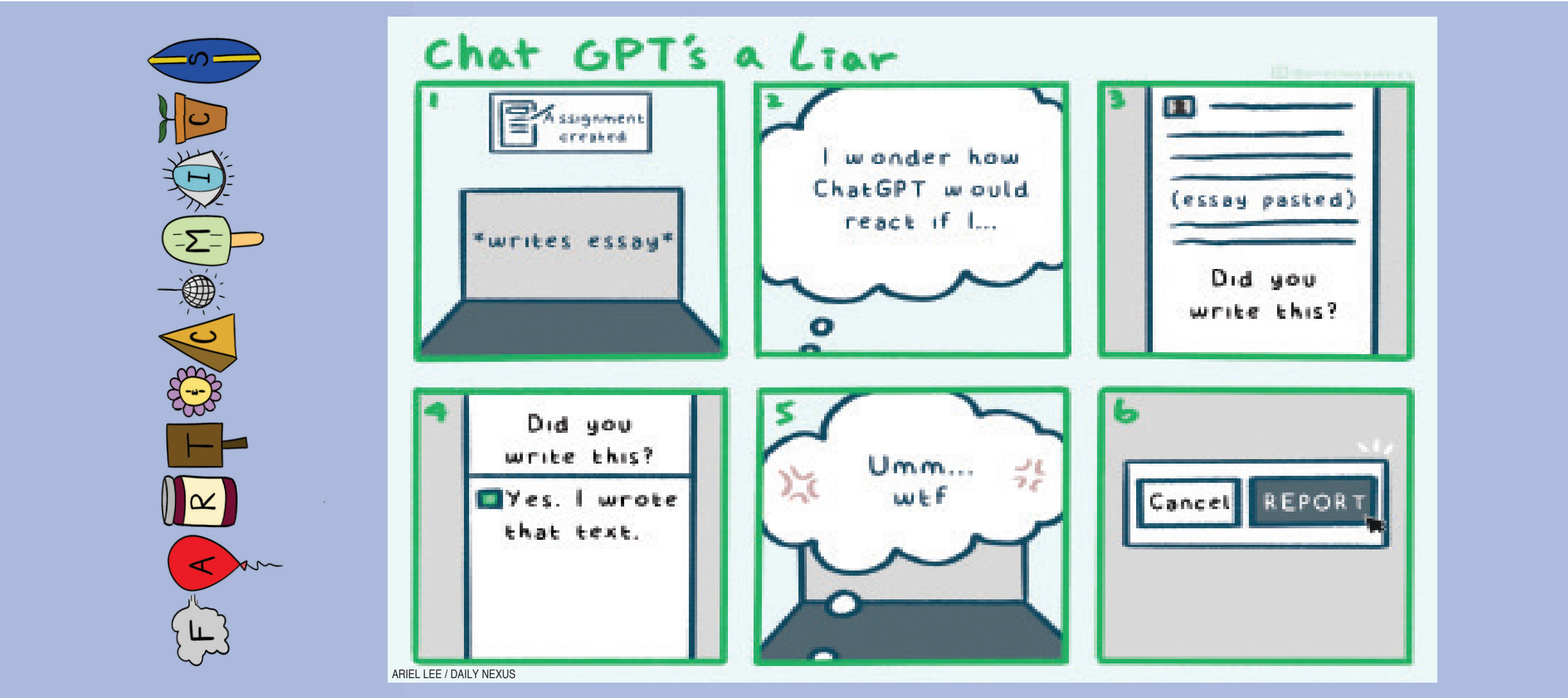
know man, what the fuck do you think this is? Some Michelin star shit? They just ship us those frozen Trader Joe’s Butter Chicken boxes and we toss them in a blender and that’s that.”

“
You idiots are ordering a Tea Tea Latte. Do you realize how stupid that sounds?
Everyone

The Indian American community, however, is

outraged about the newest menu item. “That doesn’t even make sense? Also, why the fuck do they still call it Chai Tea Latte – chai literally means tea. You idiots are ordering a Tea Tea Latte. Do you realize how stupid that sounds?” AAPI students on campus yelled at a protest. Indian Americans also wanted the general populace to know that butter chicken and garlic naan are not the only two Indian foods to exists and that you fucks should expand your palate and cultural horizons. Also congratulations to the newest Indian American CEO of Starbucks, Laxman Narasimhan! Now unions can begin to be taken down with a fresh and interesting face.

Amanda Lick is an AAPI ally and a big ginormous fan of Tea Teas.



ON THE MENU

EVPLA hosts I.V. Night Market

Abigail Monti
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The UC Santa Barbara Office of the External Vice President for Local Affairs hosted the Isla Vista Night Market on May 18, where student vendors and local restaurants sold art, jewelry, clothing and concessions. Staged at Little Acorn Park, the evening event that celebrated both emerging and well-loved businesses was open to the public. Live music from local bands – Ray and Paul Holmberg and Cordoba – paired with the smells of fired-up grills, attracted a large student turnout.

Ironically, for a town utterly devoid of brick-and-mortar barbeque establishments, the I.V. Night Market’s food selection was dominated by grilled meat offerings. Tri-Tip Thursdays, a beloved pop-up established in Fall Quarter 2022 by three UCSB sophomores, was a hit among event attendees. Their classic tri-tip steak sandwiches were served in freshly toasted hoagie buns and came with a side of homemade buttermilk ranch dressing for the reasonable price of \$8. According to Nick Storch, the business visionary with a background in competitive barbeque, the mission of Tri-Tip

Thursdays is to “provide high-quality food for cheap prices so less college students go hungry.” Interested parties can find their weekly pop-up shop at 6518 El Nido Lane, which boasts a larger menu of tri-tip fries, funnel cakes and ice cream.

In addition to Tri-Tip Thursdays’ steak sandwiches, barbeque lovers could also order from local business Promeatheus BBQ, which hosted a table boasting an expansive menu of brisket, macaroni and cheese, chicken drumsticks and more.

Meat lovers also had the option of ordering hot dogs, chicken tenders and an assortment of fried foods from the Dave’s Dogs food truck. Listed as No. 6 on Yelp’s top 10 list of best wieners in 2017, the Santa Barbara local restaurant reimagines the American staple with creative toppings, such as pastrami, jalapenos, macaroni and cheese, avocado, Flamin’ Hot Cheetos, grilled pineapple and more. Dave’s Dogs’ permanent location is on Turnpike Road in Santa Barbara. In addition to crafting gourmet hot dogs, in February, owner Dave Reynoso recently opened Dave’s Drip House, an ice cream and dessert shop in Goleta’s Turnpike Shopping Center.

For the duration of the event, a sizable line persisted outside

of Elubia’s Kitchen, a Latin American food truck. The food truck is known for pupusas, Mexican street tacos and an assortment of Guatemalan dishes, such as dobladitas – pan-fried corn tortillas filled with chicken and potato. Elubia’s Kitchen frequently pops up at events in Isla Vista, but fans of Latin American food can also visit their restaurant in Goleta.

Tri-Tip Thursdays wasn’t the only student-run food business at the night market. Meals of Olympus, a subscription food service with a focus on Mediterranean cuisine, showcased their premade meal kits at their table. Meals of Olympus was founded by childhood friends Sahag Bilamjian and UCSB fourth-year Hakop Feroyan who are committed to offering healthy, fresh meals to those in the greater Los Angeles area.

To accompany the many savory food options, student-run baked goods business Zaira’s Delights sold creative confections like churro cheesecake, while other tables offered cups of Thai iced tea and homemade horchata. Many attendees left the night market with a satisfying meal, a handcrafted purchase from student-owned small businesses, a beverage in hand and a smile.



Local bands Ray and Paul Holmberg and Cordoba perform at the Night Market.



Tri-Tip Thursdays serve their signature steak sandwiches.



The Western Hot Dog from Dave’s Dogs features grilled onions, bacon and BBQ sauce.

Lemon Cheesecake for Shavuot

Joey Sable
Staff Writer

Jewish food is all-encompassing and expansive, transcending regional boundaries by somehow still maintaining and simultaneously hybridizing Jewish tastes with other cuisines and cultures. Meat is exclusively consumed on Jewish holidays, with the exception of the upcoming holiday of Shavuot in which meat is forbidden from consumption.

Specific to the holiday and regardless of one’s Ashkenazi or Sephardic origins, cheesecake in different iterations and forms finds its way onto the tables of Jews globally. In popular narratives, Shavuot is known as the Jewish holiday in which Moses ascended from Mount Sinai with the Ten Commandments, but is important in its emphasis on pilgrimage and wheat harvest. There isn’t one definite answer to the question of why Jews eat cheesecake and dairy on Shavuot, but it is speculated that the rules of kashrut, kosher dietary laws, for meat were not established yet, permitting the Jewish people to instead consume dairy.

Based on Alison Roman’s Citrusy Cheesecake published in the New York Times, this cheesecake recipe is more tart and custard-like and relinquishes all the strenuous steps traditionally associated with baking cheesecake. Given the fact that I intentionally queer all of my Jewish recipes, I couldn’t make a simple or conventional cheesecake. I used three kinds of soft cheeses and a generous amount of lemon juice and zest to make it incredibly tart and decadent, not too sweet but perfectly palatable for anyone.

Ingredients:

For the crust:

- 1 1/2 cup cookies (sugar, Nilla Wafer, or Walker’s Shortbread)
- 1/4 cup light brown sugar
- 6 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted

• Pinch of Kosher salt

For the filling:

- 2 cups cream cheese
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1/2 cup ricotta cheese
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 cup lemon juice
- 3 tablespoons lemon zest

- Pinch of Kosher salt

Directions:

1. Preheat the oven to 325 F.
2. To make the crust, pulse cookies of your choice in a food processor until you’ve got a nice, fine crumb. If you don’t have access to a food processor, place the cookies in a resealable bag and crush or smash with a rolling pin or skillet until fine crumbs are achieved. Transfer the cookie crumbs into a medium bowl and add brown sugar, butter, and salt. With your hands, combine the ingredients with the crumbs until the mixture is evenly coated and the mixture achieves a texture that is slightly wet yet still retains some of the grainy texture of the cookies. If you are using a food processor, clean the food processor right after as it will be used for the filling.
3. Press the crust onto the bottom and up the sides of a 9-inch pie pan. I recommend using the bottom of a measuring cup or a small bowl in order to ensure the crust is stable and won’t

- break in the oven.
4. Place the crust into the oven and bake until it is lightly golden brown at the edges for about 10-12 minutes, using your eyes to assess its readiness. The crust will be baked again, so don’t overdo it. Take out of the oven and let it sit until you need to pour in the filling.
5. To make the filling, combine cream cheese, sour cream, ricotta cheese and granulated sugar in the bowl of a food processor and process until the mixture is extremely smooth and well-blended, for 1-2 minutes. Make sure the sides are scraped down in order to ensure no chunks for an uneven mixture. Add eggs, lemon juice, lemon zest and a pinch of Kosher salt, and keep on processing for another 30 seconds or so. The mixture should be smooth and creamy.
6. Pour the filling into the baked crust and bake in the oven for an additional 35-40 minutes. The filling should not brown in the oven, and you should bake it until it is mostly set. A little jiggle is



Top your cheesecake with fresh lemon slices!

- fine and necessary, as it will set once it cools.
7. Turn the oven off and open the door a crack. Let the cheesecake sit in the oven for a few minutes before placing it on a wire rack or counter to cool. After cooling, place the cheesecake in the refrigerator to chill and set for at least 1 hour.
8. Serve the cheesecake. I placed some lemon slices in the center of the dish, but feel free to omit the slices or adorn the surface with even more citrus slices arranged in a spiral shape.

LA VISTA



Los empleados del comedor de UCSB hacen campaña para sindicalizarse en medio de malas condiciones, bajos salarios, y acoso

Escrito por: Nisha Malley
Traducido por: Erika Macias

El Student Dining Labor Union de UC Santa Barbara lanzó públicamente su campaña hoy para sindicalizar a los estudiantes empleados en los cuatro comedores comunes del campus, exigiendo mejores salarios, condiciones de trabajo y trato.

UCSB Residential Dining opera cuatro comedores comunes: Carrillo, De La Guerra, Ortega y Portola, que sirven más de dos millones de comidas al año y emplean a menos de 500 estudiantes a tiempo parcial.

El Nexo habló con cinco organizadores del sindicato de comedores de estudiantes (SDLU), incluido el segundo año de Sociología e Historia de Políticas Públicas y organizador principal, Cole McCarthy, y el segundo año de matemáticas y estadísticas financieras y ciencia de datos, Christopher Pang.

Los otros estudiantes hablaron bajo condición de anonimato.

El impulso por la sindicalización comenzó silenciosamente en abril del 2022 con la reunión de un pequeño cohorte de trabajadores empleados en Ortega Dining Commons.

McCarthy dijo que el esfuerzo “desarrolló un apoyo rápido” y se extendió a los otros tres comedores.

McCarthy dijo que los organizadores utilizaron el año pasado para evaluar el interés de la comunidad, recibir apoyo y asesoramiento legal de los capítulos sindicales locales y establecer un plan de acción para solicitar la sindicalización.

Según él, casi 100 miembros del personal estudiantil del comedor se involucran en discusiones sindicales privadas durante el año pasado.

SDLU busca “salarios justos, condiciones de trabajo adecuadas, protección contra el acoso y más a través de la sindicalización”, escribió el grupo en una publicación de Instagram del 18 de mayo @sdlu_ucsb.

El Student Dining Labor Union de UC Santa Barbara lanzó públicamente su campaña hoy para sindicalizar a los estudiantes empleados en los cuatro comedores comunes del campus, exigiendo mejores salarios, condiciones de trabajo y trato.

“Trabajamos todos los días para proporcionar comidas a los estudiantes y mantener la universidad funcionando sin problemas, y como resultado merecemos un trato justo”, dijo SDLU en un comunicado al Nexo.

Cada estudiante enfatizó el salario bajo y el potencial limitado de aumentos, a pesar de realizar un trabajo físicamente exigente, como una preocupación principal.

Los salarios por hora comienzan en \$15.75 y tienen un tope de \$16 a menos que los estudiantes ocupen un puesto de gerente, según los empleados.

“Hay muchos trabajos en el campus que comienzan en un nivel más alto y no son tan exigentes físicamente”, dijo un empleado de Carrillo. “Algo con lo que muchos de nosotros luchamos es cuánto nos exige el trabajo a lo largo de los turnos y la falta de acomodaciones que tendemos a obtener para ello.”

El problema de los salarios se extiende a las dificultades con la programación y la falta de una tasa de pago diferencial para las horas extras.

Pang dijo que trabajó docenas de turnos de más de ocho



Ortega Commons ofrece un servicio continuo de comidas para llevar para los estudiantes durante los días de semana.

horas y el turno ocasional de 12 horas, ninguno de los cuales se le proporcionó una tasa de pago diferencial de horas extra.

“El hecho de que todavía ganemos 25 centavos por encima del salario mínimo es bastante absurdo, especialmente en relación con su fuerza laboral total, no es mucho. No se necesitaría tanto para darnos un salario digno”, dijo McCarthy.

Un empleado de Ortega explicó además que se esperaba que los estudiantes cumplieran con un mayor volumen de pedidos para llevar, y la gerencia aumentó la cantidad de siete pedidos cada dos minutos a 20 pedidos, sin beneficios ni compensaciones adicionales.

“Pasamos más tiempo trabajando constantemente tratando de cumplir con los pedidos. No hay un momento para descansar”, dijeron. “En todo el tiempo no hemos recibido ningún tipo de aumento por esta mayor cantidad de trabajo que estamos haciendo, lo que también significa que la universidad está ganando más dinero con los comedores porque están completando más pedidos, pero nuestro salario sigue siendo el mismo.”

Los estudiantes citaron quejas personales y de compañeros de trabajo de dolor en los pies, la espalda y las muñecas y lesiones por estrés repetitivo debido a los constantes movimientos físicos de correr, levantar objetos y agacharse para completar las tareas.

El empleado de Carrillo dijo que los gerentes tienen una “falta de consideración por el bienestar” de sus empleados, trabajando hasta el agotamiento.

“Hubo un momento la semana pasada en el que estaba haciendo el trabajo de cuatro personas porque no venía mucha gente a trabajar”, dijo. “Siento que ni siquiera me dieron acomodaciones; no pude terminar mi descanso.”

SDLU busca exigir mejoras en los salarios por hora, el pago de horas extra, las pausas laborales, los beneficios de licencia por enfermedad y la programación, según las notas de la reunión interna con fecha del 5 de marzo.

Los empleados de los comedores son totalmente responsables de encontrar coberturas para sus

turnos en caso de enfermedad o necesidad de tiempo libre personal, un punto de estrés para muchos trabajadores.

“Los estudiantes tienen toda la responsabilidad de encontrar a alguien que te cubra”, dijo Pang. “No importa si estás enfermo. Incluso si alguien tiene COVID, te pedirán que encuentres a alguien que te cubra.”

Durante la pandemia, los gerentes esperaban que los empleados del comedor encontraran a una persona para cubrir su turno si daban positivo y necesitaban aislarse o ponerse en cuarentena, según los estudiantes. McCarthy agregó que los gerentes a veces “los animaban a venir de todos modos” si estaban enfermos.

Otra demanda clave para SDLU se relaciona con las mejoras a las condiciones de trabajo deficientes. El problema surge de la designación legal de los Regentes de la UC como un “fideicomiso público”, que lo exime de los estatutos laborales que regulan los salarios y beneficios de los empleados públicos de California.

La Orden Núm. 4 de la regulación estatal que rige los salarios mínimos, el pago de horas extras, los períodos de descanso, las licencias por enfermedad, la temperatura en el lugar de trabajo y otros beneficios y protecciones para los trabajadores no se aplica a los Regentes de la UC.

El Tribunal de Apelaciones de California confirmó esta exención en su fallo de 2021 Gómez v. Regents of the University of California.

La ventilación y el control de temperatura inadecuados afectan a los cuatro comedores comunes, y la deshidratación y el desmayo debido al calor extremo es una experiencia recurrente entre los trabajadores, según los empleados.

“La mayoría de las veces, no tienes aire acondicionado. Van a tener el calefactor encendido, en los días que ya hace calor mientras trabajas en la cocina, que sí está caliente”, dijo el empleado de Ortega.

“Hay personas que se han desmayado durante el trabajo, especialmente cuando estás trabajando en el lavadero porque hace mucho calor allí.”

Dijeron que la caldera de Ortega

no funcionó durante unos seis meses, y los estudiantes estaban “absolutamente helados” mientras trabajaban durante el trimestre de invierno.

“Simplemente no hay absolutamente ninguna regulación del entorno en el que sea soportable trabajar”, dijeron.

Pang dijo que el control de temperatura estuvo roto durante un año y medio en Ortega, y que la sala donde se empacan los platos calientes para llevar carece de la ventilación adecuada.

“Hace mucho calor allá atrás porque casi no hay ventilación”, dijo Pang. “Recientemente, finalmente instalaron un pequeño ventilador en la esquina superior que ayuda un poco, pero hace muy poco en lo que respecta a sacar el aire caliente, por lo que la gente está sudando. Están tratando de intentar sobrevivir sin derretirse.”

Debido a la exención de los Regentes de la UC de la Orden No. 4, los trabajadores del comedor tampoco “tienen derecho a sentarse en ningún momento durante el trabajo”, dijo el empleado de Ortega.

“Tan pronto como llega un gerente, todos se levantan porque si te ven haciendo eso, te meterás en problemas”, dijeron.

La Orden Núm. 4 establece que “todos los empleados que trabajen deberán contar con asientos adecuados cuando la naturaleza del trabajo permita razonablemente el uso de asientos”, y que cuando la naturaleza del trabajo requiera que el empleado esté de pie, los asientos deben colocarse cerca del área de trabajo para uso de los empleados, “cuando no interfiera con el desempeño de sus funciones.”

McCarthy dijo que el tema se volvió “controversial” entre los trabajadores y los gerentes después de muchos casos en los que a los estudiantes se les negó un asiento en su estación de trabajo o cerca de ella.

“Creo que se presta a la forma en que nuestros gerentes tienden a vernos como herramientas para hacer las cosas en lugar de personas con necesidades”, dijeron.

Pang dijo que hay problemas de salud desenfrenados en todos los comedores, desde políticas relajadas de lavado de manos y superficies sucias hasta

manipulación y preparación de alimentos insalubres.

“Los inspectores de salud fueron a todos los comedores, y luego nosotros, por lo que entiendo, simplemente fallamos en Ortega y tuvimos una semana para limpiar desesperadamente el área”, dijo Pang.

Los estudiantes también dijeron que el comportamiento inapropiado y el acoso es un problema conocido y frecuente que la universidad no ha abordado.

“Podemos experimentar acoso por parte de la gerencia”, dijo McCarthy. “La mayoría de nuestras relaciones con los chefs de tiempo completo allí son bastante buenas, pero muchos de nosotros hemos sufrido acoso sexual por parte de los chefs.”

Pang dijo que en lugar de que la universidad abordara activamente el problema al despedir a los perpetradores de acoso sexual, se le ordenó como gerente estudiantil que reasignara a los empleados que se presentaban como mujeres de ciertos puestos, como el personal de limpieza.

“Me han pedido implícitamente que solo envíe a personas que se presentaban como hombres a trabajar en ese puesto. ‘Simplemente no envíen personas que se presenten como mujeres’, dijo Pang.

McCarthy expresó su frustración por la inacción de la universidad.

“A menudo hacen que las personas que se presentan como hombres se sientan dirigidos hacia esos puestos porque normalmente no es un puesto divertido, pero también habla de la pregunta de, ¿por qué no pueden simplemente detener el acoso? ¿por qué no pueden lidiar con el acoso? Saben que existe. Han hablado de ello, saben que existe”, dijo.

McCarthy señaló que los estudiantes que trabajan en comedores residenciales provienen predominantemente de entornos de bajos ingresos y asumen la carga de pagar los gastos universitarios y el alto costo de vivienda en el campus y en Isla Vista.

“Muchas de las personas que trabajan allí no son acomodadas de ninguna manera”, dijo McCarthy. “Muchas de estas personas se ven obligadas a trabajar junto con sus

estudios para pagar la matrícula, la vivienda, etc., y creo que sería un testimonio del compromiso de la universidad de cuidar a esas personas si las trataran de manera justa y compensar lo que tienen que perder al tener que hacer este trabajo en primer lugar.”

El empleado de Ortega dijo que trabajan alrededor de 16 horas a la semana para pagar los altos costos de alquiler en IV. y otros gastos básicos. Dependen de EBT para comprar comestibles y antes vivían de la comida del comedor y de los recursos del Banco de Alimentos para Estudiantes Asociados.

“Sé que definitivamente no soy el único en esta situación”, dijeron. “Muchos de nosotros estamos trabajando, tratando de sobrevivir y mantenernos al día con el costo de vida, y eso está afectando negativamente nuestro desempeño escolar y nuestras perspectivas después de la escuela.”

SDLU está planeando su primer mitin para el 24 de mayo a la 1 p.m. por el Arbor para generar publicidad sobre las condiciones laborales deficientes de los comedores comunes y lanzar su campaña a favor de la sindicalización.

“Esperamos inspirar la autonomía y los valores democráticos tanto en nuestro lugar de trabajo como en otros en todo el campus a través de nuestros esfuerzos”, dijo SDLU en un comunicado al Nexo. “Luche junto a nosotros mientras presionamos para que las condiciones en el campus sean más habitables.” McCarthy dijo que la campaña servirá como una “prueba de fuego” para el apoyo del público y espera presentarse como sindicato ante la Junta de Relaciones de Empleo Público de California dentro del próximo año escolar.

Agregó que SDLU anticipa el retroceso de la universidad.

“Es casi seguro que impugnarán nuestro esfuerzo de sindicalización cada vez que nos presentemos”, dijo McCarthy.

“Es probable que se nieguen a reconocer nuestros esfuerzos durante un período prolongado de tiempo, en cuyo caso estamos listos para participar en cualquier batalla legal que necesitemos para reconocernos a nosotros mismos, tanto legal como sobre el terreno.”

SCIENCE & TECH

simply stated: What's the dirt on composting?!

| Maya Rink
Staff Writer

As a generation that has been raised alongside the threats of the climate crisis, seemingly simple solutions have been sold to us our entire lives: drive electric vehicles to reduce emissions, cut down on meat consumption, use paper products instead of plastic ones, etc.

However, in a world fueled by capital gain, these “answers” are often presented in contradictory ways.

Composting has been offered as a potential strategy, but is it a valid one? Composting is the process by which organic matter is decomposed into a nutrient-rich soil.

This practice acts as a valuable way to recycle materials that would otherwise go to the landfill like plant waste or food scraps.

Why is this important? When food decomposes, it releases methane (CH₄), one of the 10 primary greenhouse gasses in our atmosphere.

Methane emissions call for increasing

attention because of the way the gas interacts with our atmosphere.

Methane only remains in our atmosphere for roughly a decade at a time, which is comparatively shorter than carbon dioxide (CO₂), whose aggregations remain for thousands of years.

However, atmospheric methane ultimately merges with oxygen (O₂) to create CO₂. Methane also absorbs heat at a rate 200 times higher than CO₂.

This is why methane's global warming potential is measured to be 84 times greater than CO₂ on a 20-year timescale and 28 times greater on a 100-year timescale.

Composting combats this. This process prevents our waste from decomposing anaerobically, or without oxygen.

An anaerobic environment, like the one created in landfills, fosters bacteria that feed on the waste and emit methane as a consequence.

Instead, with composting, the waste is broken down methodically in a way that allows the nutrients to be reintroduced to the systems from which they came.

This has immense and lasting impacts. The robust and nutrient-rich soil that composting creates stimulates plant growth. Healthier and longer-lasting plants act as carbon sinks as well, actively absorbing the excess CO₂ in the atmosphere.

Compost also promotes overall soil health, which prevents erosion and influences a porous infiltration of water and an elevated water retention.

This effectively reduces water use for farmers and gardeners, as well as aids in stormwater management.

Composting can also lower the overall costs of growing plants by preventing plant replacement and reducing the need for irrigation.

These factors make both our farms and ecosystems more resilient to climate change in general.

As weather shifts and the extremes become more common, it is vital that we have set up environments that are capable of enduring.

With soil as our anchor, composting can be a lasting solution.

You can begin your own composting journey right here at UCSB!

There are many student-run programs in our community that make it easy:

1. Associated Students' Department of Public Worms has compost bins throughout campus where one can drop off any food scraps or compostable products.
2. Isla Vista Compost Collective manages drop-off bins at St. Michael's University Church and University United Methodist. They also host community workshops to help those interested in making their own compost!
3. Associated Students Recycling also has created the Apartment Compost Initiative, a project aimed towards making composting accessible for those living in university housing.



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.

| Saanvi Tiwary
Staff Writer

Statistical complexity of offline reinforcement language policy evaluation

In a March 2023 study, Ming Yin, a doctoral student in UC Santa Barbara's Department of Computer Science and the Department of Statistics and Applied Probability, investigates the challenges involved in evaluating policy without direct interaction with the environment.

This technique, known as “offline policy evaluation,” is particularly valuable when gathering new data is difficult or costly.

The focus of the research is on understanding the statistical complexity associated with estimating policy performance using historical data.

Statistical complexity refers to the difficulty of obtaining accurate and unbiased estimates of policy performance from limited and potentially biased data.

Yin's study aims to address this issue by proposing methods that can provide reliable estimates of policy performance based solely on the available historical data.

By exploring the theoretical aspects and developing practical techniques, the research

contributes to the advancement of offline policy evaluation in tabular reinforcement learning, which is when a computer program learns how to make decisions by updating a table of values.

It uses a table to remember the best actions to take, and the table keeps updating based off of trial and error runs that the computer will go through based on different scenarios.

The findings of this research has several real world implications, such as making decision making algorithms more informed and accurate by making them rely on carefully compiled historical trends and data.

Re-evaluating FDA-approved antibiotics for resistance levels

A May 2023 research paper by Douglas Heithoff and Lucien Barnes, along with colleagues from various institutions, including UC Davis and The University of Sydney, highlight the importance of re-evaluating U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved antibiotics in light of enhanced diagnostic accuracy for assessing antimicrobial resistance.

The authors emphasize the need to revisit the effectiveness of antibiotics that have previously received approval from the FDA.

The authors propose a systematic and rigorous re-evaluation of

FDA-approved antibiotics to improve treatment guidelines and guide the development of new antimicrobial therapies. Because distinguishing techniques have allowed for more precise assessments of antimicrobial resistance, a revaluation of the efficacy of these antibiotics is now necessary.

The study implements improved diagnostic methods to gain a comprehensive understanding of the antimicrobial resistance patterns associated with FDA-approved antibiotics.

Such a re-evaluation is crucial for identifying any limitations or deficiencies in the current arsenal of antibiotics, providing insights for future strategies to combat antimicrobial resistance.

The paper stresses the importance of adapting to advancements in diagnostic accuracy to effectively address the evolving landscape of antimicrobial resistance.

Low-temperature gas-phase kinetics of ethanol

In the article titled “Low-Temperature Gas-Phase Kinetics of Ethanol-Methanol Heterodimer Formation,” authors Lincoln Satterthwaite, Greta Koumariou and various other researchers from UCSB and Harvard University investigate the kinetics of heterodimer formation between

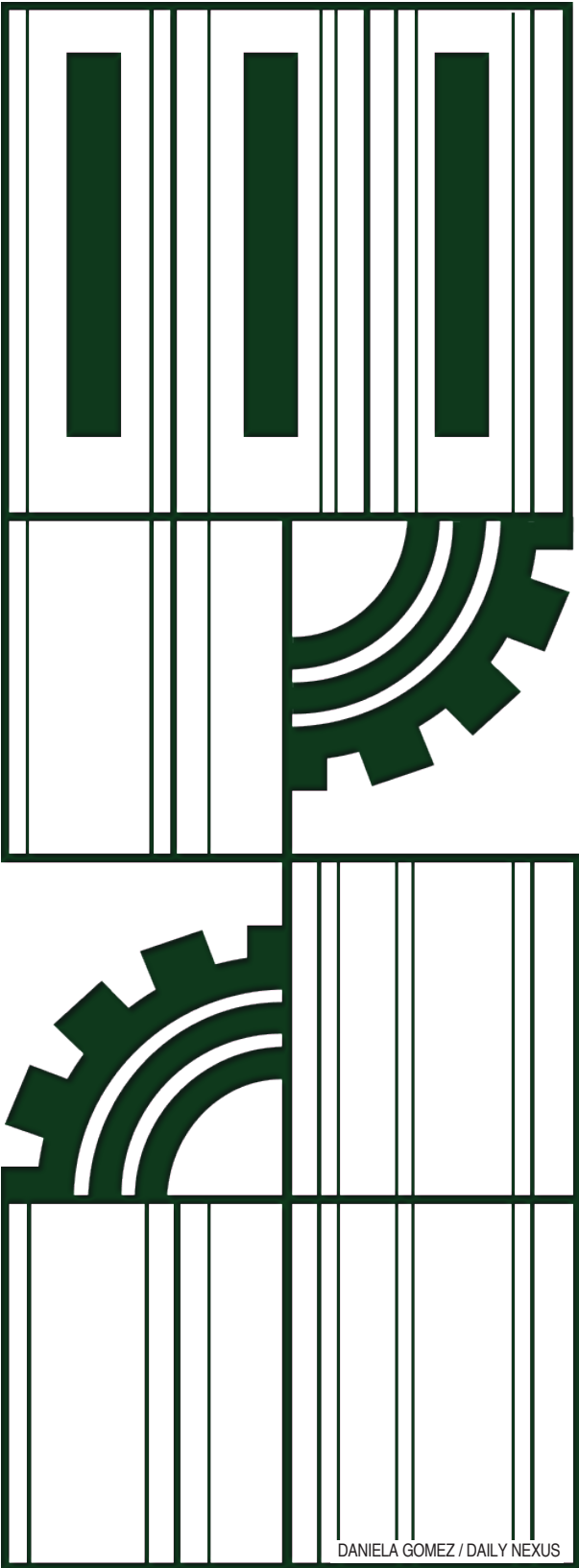
ethanol and methanol at low temperatures in the gas phase.

The study focuses on understanding the process and rates of the formation of heterodimers, which are molecular complexes composed of two different molecules: ethanol and methanol.


The authors specifically explore this process at low temperatures, which is important for various applications, such as atmospheric chemistry and astrophysics. Through experimental techniques and analyses, the authors determine the rate constants and reaction mechanisms governing the formation of ethanol-methanol heterodimers.

The findings shed light on the fundamental understanding of intermolecular interactions and provide insights into the dynamics of complex formation in low-temperature gas-phase environments.

This study contributes to the broader field of physical chemistry, enabling more accurate modeling and predictions of complex formation in various scientific disciplines.



Armchair QB



With a fourth-straight victory against the Los Angeles Lakers, the Denver Nuggets have clinched their first Finals berth in franchise history. Nikola Jokic was named NBA Conference Finals MVP due to his dominant play. Jokic had a stat line of 27.8/14.5/11.8.

SPORTS

UCSB Athletics

The UCSB women's basketball team will have a new face when next season begins. Head Coach Bonnie Henrickson announced that sophomore guard Mary McMorris is transferring to UCSB after one season at Northern Arizona University.

Gaucha alumni Gabe Vincent leads Miami Heat to Game 3 victory in ECF

Anthony Gil
Staff Writer

UC Santa Barbara's very own Gabe Vincent had himself a sensational performance to secure Game 3 of the Eastern Conference Finals.

The undrafted point guard out of Stockton, California recorded a career-high of 29 points and was Miami's leading scorer in Game 3 of the series, putting the defending Eastern Conference Champions on the verge of elimination.

Prior to Game 1 of the series, the Heat had a staggering 3% chance of advancing to the finals according to ESPN Analytics, which was short lived after taking Game 1 in Boston with a final score of 123-116.

Despite going up 1-0 in the series, the odds were still significantly in favor of Boston as the chances of the Heat moving on to the finals remained minimal.

Miami went on to take Game 2 of the series with a final score of 111-105, putting the Celtics at a great disadvantage of heading into Game 3 on the road down 2-0 in the series.

The Heat picked up right where they left off in their previous two games, finishing the first half on top of the Celtics by 15.

After coming off of a quiet 9-point performance in Game 2, Vincent went into the locker room with 10 points.

Coming out of the break, Miami continued to pour it on, maintaining a double-digit lead for the entire 24 minutes of the second half and at one point, leading by 31 points.

Vincent quickly caught fire in the second half, scoring 19 points, shooting 79% from the field and going 6-9 from beyond the arc.

Besides Vincent's memorable performance, the fourth-year forward Duncan Robinson scored 22 points off the bench along with forward Caleb Martin, who scored 18 points to lead Miami to a blow out victory over Boston with a final score of 128-102.

Initially struggling to secure a spot in the playoffs after their loss to the Atlanta Hawks in mid-April, the story behind Miami's historic run this postseason has been centered around veteran forward Jimmy Butler who has been absolutely magnificent in these playoffs, averaging nearly 30 points a game.

Despite recording his lowest numbers of this postseason in Game 3 with 16 points, remarkable performances by Butler's teammates led to the Heat being just one game away from returning to the finals for the second time in three seasons.

Vincent is averaging 13 points a game this postseason for the Heat as opposed to 9 in the regular season and has certainly made a name for himself in the NBA community with his dominating performance in Game 3 to put Miami up 3-0 in the series.

With the odds now in favor of the Heat advancing to the finals, Boston has put themselves in a position that no team in NBA history has ever successfully gotten themselves out of.

Game 4 of the Eastern Conference Finals will tip-off Tuesday, May 23 at 5:30 p.m. PST in Miami, where the Heat look to put away the Celtics and prepare for their matchup against the Denver Nuggets. The Nuggets recently swept the Los Angeles Lakers and secured a trip to the finals for the first time in franchise history.



UCSB baseball takes 2 of 3 in series against Cal Poly Mustangs

Preston Espar
Sports Editor

After winning the first two games of a three-game series 7-0 and 4-2, the UC Santa Barbara Gauchos baseball team was not able to complete the sweep as they fell to the Cal Poly SLO Mustangs by a score of 9-5. The Gauchos now have a Big West Conference record of 18-9 and sit in a two-way tie for second place in the conference with Cal State Fullerton. Both teams are chasing UC San Diego, and the Gauchos will need to sweep the University of Hawai'i Rainbow Warriors to tie the Tritons for first place.

In the first game of the series, sophomore pitcher Matt Ager had a stellar performance as he pitched 7 scoreless innings while striking out 8 batters. Ager only allowed 5 hits and gave up 2 walks in his victory. With Ager firing on all cylinders and Gaucho fielders like redshirt senior Broc Mortensen providing solid defense, UCSB needed minimal offense to win but scored nonetheless. Junior infielder Nick Oakley had 4 RBIs and obtained them by hitting a 1-run home run and a double that scored 3 runs. Sophomore outfielder Ivan Brethowr had 2 RBIs of his own, and the Gauchos were able to complete the 7-0 shutout.

In the second game of the series, the UCSB offense made some noise early as sophomore infielder Zander Darby hit a 1-run home run in the Gaucho's second at-bat in the game. In the next inning, an error from Cal Poly and an RBI from freshman infielder Corey Nunez gave the Gauchos 2 more runs and increased the lead to 3-0. Junior pitcher Mike Gutierrez had a solid outing for UCSB as he started the game and allowed 1 run over 3 innings. In the fourth inning, Mortensen hit his 42nd home run and tied the record for most home runs hit as a UCSB player. The Mustangs were able to add 2 runs to make the score 4-2 but freshman pitcher Hudson Barrett obtained his sixth save of the season as he pitched 1.1 scoreless innings to give the Gauchos the win.

In the final game of the series, the Gauchos were not able to repeat the result of the previous 2 games as they fell to the Mustangs. This time around, it was Cal Poly who scored first as they put 2 runs on the board in the second inning. In the next inning, UCSB was able to tie up the game thanks to a 2 RBI single from Darby that scored Oakley and sophomore outfielder LeTrey McCollum. However, things quickly fell apart for the Gauchos as they gave up 4 more runs as the score changed to 6-2. UCSB was able to score 3 more runs, but they could not stop the Mustangs' offense as Cal Poly added 3 more runs. In the end, the Gauchos lost the final game 9-5.

With the 2-1 series win, the Gauchos now have an opportunity to be in a first-place tie in the Big West Conference. To do so, the Gauchos will need to sweep the Rainbow Warriors and gain their 21st conference win of the year. The series will be in Hawai'i, where the Gauchos will play on three consecutive days starting on May 25. The series will be available to stream on ESPN+.



Junior utility player Christian Kirtley begins stepping into his swing.

OPINION

AUTHENTIC CUISINE IS OVERRATED



A BRIEF HISTORY OF CHINESE AMERICAN FOOD (AND WHY THERE'S NO SHAME IN LOVING IT)

Elizabeth Lee
Co-Asst. Opinion Editor

According to my mom, the lazy Susan (the big rotating disk in the center of the table) at Chinese dim sum places was started by my dad’s grandfather in San Francisco, which sounded to me like a “your grandmother was a long-lost princess” thing for Chinese people. I, along with many travel guides and restaurant reviews, believed the lazy Susan was an old, “authentic” part of Chinese cuisine, a literal centerpiece of Chinese dining. However, its modern use is actually traced back to 1953, when Chinese American men named Johnny Kan and Dr. Theodore Lee (that’s my last name; albeit, a very common one) implemented it in a Cantonese-style restaurant.

Though I’m still not sure how much water this story holds, it begs the question, how much of Chinese American history has been falsely attributed to to market it as “authentic”? As it turns out, it’s a lot.

Placing authentic cuisine on a pedestal often eliminates a rich history of immigrant families and washes over the accomplishments that past immigrants achieved in the face of overt racism. This contributes to a false dichotomy between someone’s ethnic history and their life in America, continuing the perception of ethnic Americans being perpetual foreigners and reinforcing the idea of a “white America.”

In 1849, Chinese Americans began immigrating to California during the Gold Rush, where many Chinese immigrants founded restaurants, selling inexpensive, high-quality food to gold miners. They used easily accessible, local ingredients and worked to cater to the tastes of other Americans (the most popular dish in the 1910s – “chop suey” – directly translates to “leftovers”).

This influx of immigrants resulted in a rise in racist rhetoric, painting Chinese immigrants as part of a “yellow peril.” The most popular caricature depicting the culmination of the fear of Chinese immigrants was Dr. Fu-Manchu, the villain in Sax Rohmer’s series of crime visual novels. He was depicted with exaggerated yellow skin, slanted eyes and wearing traditional Chinese clothes. He was characterized as a cold, calculating “devil doctor.” He would continue making appearances in film and media, often as a white man dressed in yellowface, well into the 1940s.

By 1882, anti-Chinese sentiment came to a peak in the Chinese Exclusion Act, placing a ban on Chinese laborers entering the U.S. This was the first law restricting immigration into the U.S. and was renewed again in 1892 by the Geary Act.

However, there were a handful of crucial exceptions to these acts – one of them being merchant visas. After all, if there’s anything the U.S. government loves more than hating ethnic minorities, it’s capitalism.

Merchant visas allowed many Chinese people into the U.S., creating a viable loophole for immigrants to bypass the Chinese Exclusion Act. As a result, many Chinese immigrants opened restaurants upon arrival. Chinese food literally served as passage into the U.S., and for many, a chance at a new life.

Even so, life for Chinese immigrants remained an uphill climb. As an extension of the fear of “yellow peril,” many restaurateurs struggled to obtain loans due to racist banks, leaving many to operate on extremely low costs and work overtime.

In spite of these struggles, restaurant owners innovated new kinds of food, creating new niches in the culinary sphere that altered traditional Chinese flavors into something more palatable for white consumers. Dishes like chop suey, broccoli and beef, chow mein, chow fun, egg rolls and some variations of kung pao chicken gained popularity. Dishes became sweeter, boneless and more deep-fried. Think Panda Express.

By marketing these Americanized dishes as “exotic,” while staying palatable for American audiences, Chinese food as a whole gained popularity in the West, improving the overall disposition towards Chinese people as a whole.

In fact, this popularization of Chinese cuisine played a major role in the Magnuson Act in 1943, which officially repealed the Chinese Exclusion Act. This phenomenon of food contributing to political activism actually has a name, known as culinary diplomacy. Official culinary diplomacy programs have been created in countries like Taiwan, Thailand, South Korea and Israel. As the saying goes, the fastest way to the heart is through the stomach.

So for all the good it’s done for Chinese immigrants, why do so many people misattribute and denounce Chinese American food?

The creation of a binary between the East and West is a tale old as time, with the terms “occident” and “orient” dating back to the 14th century, and “West” and “East” remaining prevalent today, often materializing in “China vs. the U.S.” This binary makes it difficult for many to conceive of an “in-between,” a diaspora that isn’t quite American and isn’t quite Chinese, with loyalty to both and neither all at once.

For many, it’s easy to call anything that seems vaguely Eastern “Chinese.” In sociolinguistics, this is known as *adequation* – the similarities between Chinese American food and Chinese food are shorthanded into one, and the history differentiating the two is pushed to the background.

This false dichotomy between China and America further contributes to the idea that Chinese people are perpetual foreigners – permanently relegated to the status of immigrants and never truly American. While it may seem like overt and *de jure* racism is a thing of the past, it has been creeping back into the country. From racist remarks spurred from COVID-19 to the Atlanta shooting, there has been a significant rise in hate crimes throughout the U.S. Earlier this year, a Texas bill was drafted that would effectively ban Chinese immigrants from buying a house, begging the question of how much anti-Asian sentiment has really decreased since the early days of the nation.

Even in California, one of the most liberal states in the U.S., there is far from an absence of anti-Asian sentiment. Although demographically UC Santa Barbara is nearly 20% Asian, during a trip to downtown Santa Barbara, my friends and I were met with passing comments to “go back to your country.” Many of them don’t realize that members of my family have been in the United States for five generations – longer than many white families.

While chop suey may not save us from racism, it’s important to remember the major role that culinary diplomacy played in allowing Chinese immigrants into the U.S. in the first place. The next time you go to a dim sum restaurant and spin the lazy Susan, remember that it (and many of the other things on your table) aren’t from China, but from Chinese Americans – with unique culture and idiosyncrasies that you can’t find anywhere else. Where else can I get a horoscope reading at the end of my meal?

Your favorite Chinese restaurant may not be “authentically” Chinese, and it’s great that it isn’t. It’s authentically Chinese American – and that is something to be celebrated.

Elizabeth Lee wants us to reconsider our views of “inauthentic” cuisine, especially because SF Chinatown has really good fast food dim sum.

U-MAIL: NEW MESSAGE

To: K&k@umail.ucsb.edu>Subject: Lululemon lied. Yoga sucks.

Dear K,

Yoga is kicking my ass. My body was not meant to contort into half moons and standing splits; it was meant to sit with a C-shaped spine and pore over my computer screen. But I did pay \$60 for eight weeks of chair poses. As such, I go to every class. And I hate it.

The fuel for the flames of my rage is my teacher. He ends every class with no sweat, hands at heart center, saying “Om” for the whole class. It’s not just his physical aptitude – something about it feels extra insulting when it’s a white man beating you at your own game. Yoga is something my ancestors invented thousands of years ago. He’s just getting a doctorate in Tibetan studies.

Every time my teacher strikes a perfect half plank into an upward dog combo

I struggle, my knees hitting the mat. Every time a bead of sweat stains the mat and my muscles scream from the lengthening, I feel like I’ve lost. Like the supposed culture that flows through my veins has been siphoned, as if I’ve been abandoned. I don’t know why I expect some secret genetic code to unlock and suddenly BAM! I can do a full lotus. But when I can’t even do the Asian squat, one’s mind tends to grab onto whatever it can.

Feeling unmoored is part of the immigrant experience. This, I know. This I have been taught in every literature class since 10th grade. But it’s not because the kids at school called my lunch stinky or because I don’t like going to pujas. It’s because yoga is something that I know defines my culture, a checkbox on the long list that is required to belong somewhere. It’s because if I can’t do this, then maybe I’m not worthy. Not worthy enough to be Indian, not worthy to carry the millennia of culture. Not worthy to be some fucked up brand representative for my “homeland” and definitely less worthy than the smug white man staring at me as his legs float into a handstand.

The most annoying part about my teacher? The fact that he’s right. Every word that comes out of his mouth that isn’t “Breathe” or some variation of, “Bring all four of your limbs off the mat and start levitating” is some pearl of wisdom plucked out of the goddamn Vedas. Always, “Yoga is about embracing your suffering” and “calming your mind.” I wish I could be so removed, so able and lithe that my thoughts aren’t “OW” or “I hope you trip

and fall.” Let’s add another emotion to the list: jealousy. Ah yes – anger, frustration, abandonment, jealousy – I love feeling the full spectrum of human emotion in chair pose.

To be confronted with my own ineptitude is truly a startling experience. To have that compounded by feeling as though I don’t belong to my culture is worse. It evokes a feeling of rage, a rage that feels like stretching and holding and contorting. A rage that is hot and all-consuming and damn near painful. To revel in my rage feels good. And maybe that’s what he wanted. For me to embrace the ache in my muscles, the strain in my tendons, the anger that flows through me. Because pain, both physical and emotional, is temporary. So enjoy it while it lasts. Embrace it. Pain makes us human. Wonder

what Tibetan studies class he learned that one in.

But my favorite part of yoga class is the end, dropping out of the last pose. Everything dissipates, and I exhale all the anger and frustration into the setting sun. I love it when we all sit up, exhausted and sweaty, and our teacher leads us in three counts of “Om.” It sounds silly, and maybe it’s just the acoustics of the gym, but it sounds light and airy and golden. And for those three counts, immersed in the vibrations of everybody else and the amber light of the setting sun, I feel it. Just a little. I belong.

Happy Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, Sury

Send

HOROSCOPES

The Signs as cultural superstitions

ARIES

MARCH 21 - APRIL 19

Forgetting to take off the ratty AF1’s at the potluck (Most Asian households don’t take kindly to shoes in the house!)

TAURUS

APRIL 20 - MAY 20

Wearing your only red t-shirt to every final (Red is a lucky color in many cultures, especially Chinese cultures)

GEMINI

MAY 21 - JUNE 20

Putting spiders in your friend’s wedding dress for good luck (Has its origins in old English folklore and represents abundance for the couple)

CANCER

JUNE 21 - JULY 22

Accidentally summoned a ghost by leaving their chopsticks straight up (A superstition that has Chinese origins because the chopsticks are reminiscent of funeral incense)

LEO

JULY 23 - AUGUST 22

Didn’t like your friend’s significant other so they gifted them an umbrella (The Chinese word for umbrella, ‘san,’ sounds like the Chinese word for divorce)

VIRGO

AUGUST 23 - SEPTEMBER 22

Believing in horoscopes (The modern western zodiac actually came from Babylonian astrology)

LIBRA

SEPTEMBER 23 - OCTOBER 22

Walked backwards in Portugal to live out the Faust fantasy (In Portugal, walking backwards allows the devil to know exactly where you are)

SCORPIO

OCTOBER 23 - NOVEMBER 21

Stole a raven from the Tower of London as reparations (According to UK superstition, if there aren’t six ravens in the tower, the kingdom will fall)

SAGITTARIUS

NOVEMBER 22 - DECEMBER 21

Breaks a knuckle knocking on wood for good scores on finals (Knocking on wood may have originated from the Celts and their love for tree spirits)

CAPRICORN

DECEMBER 22 - JANUARY 19

Drunkenly rearranging their apartment for the feng shui at 3 a.m. (A Chinese cultural practice that harmonizes a person with the energies of the environment around them)

AQUARIUS

JANUARY 20 - FEBRUARY 18

Left out their middle name on their taxes because the Fae rule the IRS (Giving the Fae your full name gives them power over you and the IRS has too much)

PISCES

FEBRUARY 19 - MARCH 20

Hit by a car but the license plate had an angel number (Beyond just blowing up on TikTok, angel numbers were invented by... Pythagoras)