THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2024

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA BARBARA | EST. 1930 | WWW.DAILYNEXUS.COM

UC Regents suspend Opportunity for All for one year



UC Regents Chair Richard Leib proposes the suspension of Policy 4407 to the board.

Asumi Shuda Co-Lead News Editor

The UC Board of Regents voted to suspend Regents Policy 4407 - a policy advocated for by the Opportunity for All campaign that would provide undocumented students with equal access to university employment – for one year at its Jan. 27 meeting.

The vote was split 9-6, with one vote to abstain.

The policy was approved on May 18, 2023, to convene a Regents working group alongside the UC Office of the President (UCOP) to determine the next steps by Nov. 30.

UC President Michael V. Drake commented on the decision in a UCOP press statement, saying the "proposed legal pathway is not viable at this time."

several months, "Over we consulted formally with numerous law firms and legal experts inside and outside the University," the letter read. "We also explored other legal options approaches, including declaratory relief. And we carefully studied the possible, substantial risks."

"After all of this, we have concluded that the proposed legal pathway is not viable at this time, and in fact carries significant risk for the institution and for those we serve. For that reason, it is inadvisable for the University to initiate implementation right

Drake cited various risks as "possible ramifications of our including "criminal

prosecution, deportation," among others.

must protect our institution, which would be subject to civil fines, criminal penalties, debarment from federal contracting if the University is found to be in violation of the federal Immigration Reform and Control Act."

Advocacy for the policy through the Opportunity for All campaign focused on a legal theory that found that federal immigration policy does not prohibit state entities from hiring based on legal status. The campaign spans back to 2022, after several rulings on Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals - the primary pathway for undocumented students to obtain work authorization – barred new applicants from being processed.

Upon the proposition of suspending the policy by UC Board of Regents Chair Richard Leib, UC Regent John Pérez spoke to the board.

"Mr. Chair, members, I can't think of a moment where I've been more disappointed sitting around this board table," Pérez said. "I think we are taking a pause at a crucial moment on an issue that requires our commitment, and quite frankly, I wish I was more surprised."

Pérez emphasized that a yearlong suspension can be "lifealtering" for students who are only on campus for four to five years.

"What message are we sending? What are we doing to the very prospects that our students have?" Pérez said.

Pérez explained that this eliminates suspension most financially viable option for undocumented students employment.

We can fool ourselves into thinking that other options are equivalent to work. They are not. We can fool ourselves into thinking our students are not working. They are. They're working in underground jobs, subjected to inhumane horrific conditions. And the opportunity they have is the opportunity that we afford on our campuses."

UC Regent José Hernández expressed concern that this motion to table the policy eliminates the potential emergence of it in future years.

'[This is] the window of opportunity where we can roll out this program and test it from a legal perspective between now and the end of the year," Hernández said. "My concern is, we kick it a year, and what happens if we have a new administration? I don't think this is going to even be considered to be implemented, to tell you the

State Superintendent of Public Instruction and ex officio Regent Thurmond conveyed hope that there would be "future efforts" in supporting undocumented students.

Student Regent-designate Josiah Beharry urged the board to reconsider the motion.

"I met with all of you, and I know how much you care about

announces new San Benito Housing Complex to unveil in 2027

Sindhu Ananthavel Co-Lead News Editor

UC Santa Barbara plans to construct new student housing, dubbed San Benito Housing, following the dissolution of the Munger Hall housing project.

Construction is set to begin in 2025, with a planned opening in Fall 2027.

The development aims to fulfill the university's obligation to the Long Range Development Plan (LRDP), a contract with Santa Barbara County and the City of Goleta calling for the university to cap enrollment at 25,000 by 2025 and add 5,000 beds for the additional students the University of California mandated each campus enroll by 2025.

The planned development will meet the university's LRDP target of 3,500 beds.

UCSB SPOKESPERSON KIKI REYES

In a statement to the Nexus, UCSB spokesperson Kiki Reyes said the planned development will meet the university's LRDP target of 3,500 beds. Reyes said the university added over 1,500 beds already through the San Joaquin and Sierra Madre Villages, and San Benito Housing will complete the LRDP goal.

The project is split into two phases, with Phase 1 entailing construction of a new building at the corner of Mesa Road and Stadium Road and Phase 2 comprising infill and redevelopment of existing campus housing to add additional beds, according to Opportunity for All p.5 | the UCSB Housing, Dining and

Auxiliary Enterprises website. Phase 1 has a target occupancy of 2,250 undergraduate beds, with no specified numbers for Phase 2.

Facilities Management, Design & Construction Services and Transportation & Parking Services are currently located at the planned building site of Phase 1. According to the housing development website, these services will be relocated to buildings in Cabrillo Business Park throughout the 2023-24 school year.

Phase 2 of the project will occur concurrently with Phase 1. Architecture firms Skidmore, Owings & Merrill of Los Angeles, in association with Mithun of Seattle, were selected to design housing for the planned sites; the planning phase is currently underway, according to Reyes. A building committee, comprised of UCSB faculty and community members, will oversee the planning phase of the project in conjunction with the Academic Senate and Chancellor Henry T. Yang.

The committee met several times this past fall quarter and discussed aspects of the project such as the number of beds, floor plans, amenities and general layout, Reyes said. The student representation on the board is through A.S. President Tessa Veksler and Graduate Student Association Co-President Annjulie Vester. The committee has solicited student feedback through mailing questionnaires to students and inviting students living in campus residence halls to meetings.

"Following the planning and design phase, the campus will seek approval by the UC Board of Regents in order to expedite the construction phase and help the campus meet our long-term housing goals and enhance the quality of academic excellence and student life on our campus," Reyes said in a statement to the Nexus. "The campus has already completed extensive including site and environmental studies at the proposed locations, which will help accelerate the planning phase."

Argument in the office: Math in economics, objectivity or oversimplification?

Devin Gowdy Staff Writer

It's more than math:

I had my first midterm in my Econ 2 class last Friday and one of the questions on the test involved calculating the structural unemployment that would arise from a minimum wage. The math was pretty simple. We were given two linear equations, and calculating the difference between the supply of labor and the demand for workers at the minimum wage was fairly straightforward. But, I do not believe that basic math can accurately capture something as complex as the minimum wage.

I first encountered the relationship between the minimum wage and unemployment in high school when, in my 11th-grade English class, I wrote an 18-page essay on why we should not adopt a

national minimum wage of \$15 an hour. At the core of my essay was the labor market supply and demand graph - the same one that appeared on my Econ 2 midterm and the same one that appears in every introductory economics textbook. I was captivated by its mathematical simplicity. The math removed the subjectivity from the minimum wage debate, and in an attempt to preserve that apparent objectivity, I omitted the contributions of other more subjective disciplines from my essay.

I am telling you this story because my 11th-grade English paper captures the consequences of using math in economics courses like Econ 1 and Econ 2. Math inadvertently paints a picture of economics as an objective physical science, and that couldn't be further

from the truth. to simplify the real world. For starters, economics is

a social science. The use of math gives economics a level of objectivity that elevates it above the other social sciences. In introductory economics courses, that translates to excluding more subjective disciplines like philosophy, psychology, sociology, politics and history. These other disciplines are not just fun side pursuits for econ majors – they are foundational to a full and complete understanding of economics. The use of math in introductory economics has led to the marginalization of these disciplines, which means that economics students are beginning their studies with an incomplete foundation.

This wouldn't be problem if economics was an objective science. But it's not. When modeling economic relationships, economists necessarily make assumptions This is especially problematic in introductory economics courses where the simplicity of the math requires a host of assumptions - most of which go unacknowledged. If given the opportunity, we might choose to reject these assumptions.

The depiction of the minimum wage in economics textbooks perfectly illustrates these consequences. Through the labor market supply and demand graph, most introductory economics textbooks say with absolute certainty that raising the minimum wage will lead to greater unemployment, leading economics students to conclude that we should not raise the minimum wage. They don't mention that the minimum wage debate is highly controversial or that there is no consensus among economists. They don't acknowledge the myriad of assumptions it took to construct the supply and demand model nor do they include the contributions of the neighboring disciplines, all of which would have been beneficial to understanding the true complexity of the minimum wage debate.

I don't doubt that there is a place for math in economics more broadly; indeed, it is absolutely necessary, but so too are philosophy, psychology, history, sociology and politics. While we don't necessarily need to stop using math in courses like Econ 1 and Econ 2, we should at least acknowledge the impact that an emphasis on math has on our understanding of economics.

physically Devin feels nauseous when he sees math in his Econ 2 class, and it's not because he struggles with basic

AITO: Math in Economics p.16

week in UC nev

Sindhu Ananthavel Lead News Editor

Warning: This article contains mentions of sexual harassment and assault

Davis establishes new Underground Scholars Program

UC Davis launched a new Underground Scholars Program in the fall and held an open house on Jan. 24, according to a press release from UC Davis.

Underground Scholars aims to support students who were formerly incarcerated or have been directly impacted by the justice system. The new program

is based on the efforts of and will work in conjunction with the UC Davis Underground Scholars Initiative, a student organization founded in 2019.

The program will provide grants to help students with academic and basic needs, as well as attend professional development and community advocacy conferences. Funding is provided by an annual \$490,000 state allocation over the course of three years.

Joshua Program director Johnson told UC Davis media that the program will help UC Davis students navigate reentry and reintegration and find community on campus. Johnson served over a decade in prison, then earned bachelor's and master's degrees in sociology from Sacramento State.

"An education changes a person's perception of what is possible," Johnson told UC Davis.

Diego San County Supervisor accused retaliation against professor sexual harassment allegations

UC San Diego professor Juli Beth Hinds filed a legal tort former San Diego accusing County Supervisor Nathan Fletcher of retaliation after she filed a Title IX report against him, according to CBS 8.

According to Hinds' tort,

Fletcher terminated contracts the county had with Hinds' consulting firm days after Hinds filed a Title IX claim against him in April 2023. faced Fletcher separate

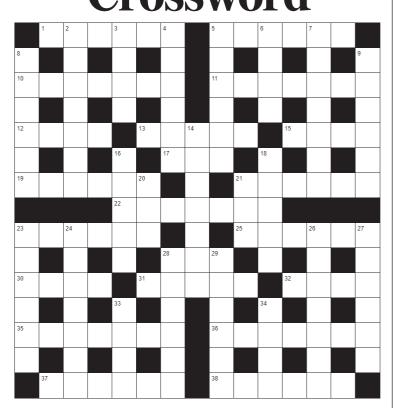
allegations a week prior to Hinds' filing after San Diego Metropolitan Transit System employee Grecia Figueroa filed a lawsuit alleging that Fletcher sexually harassed and assaulted her on multiple occasions while serving as chair of the transit system's board of directors.

Hinds claimed that after this lawsuit was filed, she was approached by a student during her office hours accusing Fletcher of "harassing conduct," according to the tort obtained by CBS 8. After she raised the issue to university administration, she was told to file a Title IX report. Two weeks later, Hinds said the county told her they were discontinuing her contract.

"[T]he county instructed UCSD ... to eliminate [Hinds's contracts] in retaliation for [Hinds's] obligatory filing of a Title IX complaint against Fletcher, the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors for the county, on behalf of her student who reported his harassing conduct," Hinds's claim reads.

Hinds is seeking nearly \$280,000 in lost wages.

The Daily Nexus Crossword



Siddharth Chattoraj Data Editor

ACROSS

1. Comic book publisher owned by Disney

5. To reexamine and change 10. Deviates from what is standard, normal or expected 11. Clothing and lifestyle brand whose logo is red with white text in italics

12. Split first by John Cockcroft Barbara County and Ernest Walton

13. Five-time NBA champions

15. Super Mario

17. Finn McMissile's job 19. Opposite of "nobody"

21. For example, the rule that you have to be home after 9

p.m. on school nights 22. Requirement for eligibility to play NCAA Division I or Division II sports

23. Small, casual eatery

25. Short journey for a specific

28. Grade school association that aims to bring parents and teachers together to improve learning for children (abbr.) 30. Country whose capital is Baghdad

31. Upside-down equilateral triangle traffic sign

32. Octagonal traffic sign 35. The Elder Wand, the Resurrection Stone and the Cloak of Invisibility

36. Colloquial term for prison $37.5 + 6 \div 2 \times 5$

38. Grown people

DOWN 2. Saying "Sorry!"

3. Small container for liquids 4. Basketball shots made near the basket, especially one that rebounds (pl.)

5. Meditative prayer that honors the Virgin Mary 6. Type of electronic cigarette

7. Bill Brown's job in Santa

8. A minion's favorite food 9. Children's playground teeter totter

14. Northern part of a state, especially in New York

16. Trap or drum type 18. To rush

20. Genre of rock music originating in Washington D.C. 21. Signal for lighting or sound change in a play 23. Intelligent

24. Song by Bradley Cooper and Lady Gaga

26. Effort to achieve a task or

27. To leave or exit

28. Outdoor, enclosed space for raising pigs

29. Largest U.S. state by area _ Lennon

34. Famous basketball player who won Sixth Man of the Year while playing for [13 Across]

Crossword answers be found on our website dailynexus.com.

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

Asumi Shuda Co-Lead News Editor

RCSGD hosts rainbow beading circle

The Resource Center for Sexual and Gender Diversity (RCSGD) is hosting a rainbow circle workshop beading for LGBTQIA+ American Indigenous students Thursday, Feb. 1, from 1-3 p.m. at the American Indian and Indigenous Cultural Resource Center.

"Everyone is welcome and supplies will be provided," the Shoreline description read.

Transfer Student Center presents "Coffee & Community: Tote Bag Decorating"

The Transfer Student Center is presenting a tote bag decorating session as part of its Coffee and Community series on Thursday, Feb. 1, from 1-3 p.m. at the Transfer Student Center.

"We invite first gen transfer students to decorate tote bags, enjoy beverages, snacks, and join us for a chill break from classes," the Shoreline description read.

Educational Opportunity Program hosts media law panel series

The Educational Opportunity Program and Communication Association are co-hosting a panel series with media lawyers on Thursday, Feb. 1, from 3-4 p.m.

The first event, in the University Center (UCen) Mission Room, will focus on the internet and free speech.

The second event, in the UCen Lobero Room, will be a general panel and networking event.

The event series is cosponsored by the Educational Opportunity Program UCSB Pre-Law Advising.

Undocumented Student Services hosts workshop about traveling while undocumented

Undocumented Student Services is hosting a workshop on domestic travel for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) students on Thursday, Feb. 1, from 5:30-6:30 p.m. on Zoom. The event is co-hosted by the UC Immigrant Legal Services Center.

"Join this workshop to learn how you can travel domestically and, if you have DACA, we will provide information on how you can travel internationally on Advance Parole," the Shoreline description read.

MCC presents lecture on "Black children and racialized gender identity"

The MultiCultural Center (MCC) is presenting a lecture with California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo Interim Vice President for Diversity and Equity & CDO Dr. Denise Isom. The lecture will take place on Thursday, Feb. 1, from 6-7:30 p.m. at the MCC Theater. The event is titled "Sometimes Rugged, Sometimes Nice, and Sometimes Just Plain Mean."

"We will discuss the meaning making world of African American children, particularly how they expressed their ideas of gender and racial constructions ("Blackness") and the intersections of race and gender-racialized gender identity," Shoreline the description read.

UCSB Sustainability hosts workshop on garden herbs

UCSB Sustainability hosting an event working with garden herbs on Friday, Feb. 2, from 2-3 p.m. at the Manzanita Village picnic tables in front of the Carrillo Dining Commons.

"We will be spotlighting sage and rosemary and talk about their history, benefits and how to use them in your everyday life," the Shoreline description read.

Free seed packets, pots and soil will be provided.

Trans Queer **Commission** presents "Lesbian Lounge" The Associated Students

Trans & Queer Commission is hosting a "Lesbian Lounge: Keychain & Carabiner Makerspace" on Friday, Feb. 2, from 3-4 p.m. at the RCSGD Lounge on the third floor of the Student Resource Building

"Come make carabiners and keychains with us and meet new people in a designated space for the lesbian/sapphic community," the Shoreline description read.

Nikkei Student Union hosts winter festival

Nikkei Student Union is hosting its second annual winter festival on Friday, Feb. 2, from 4-6 p.m. at the SRB front lawn.

"Nikkei Student Union's Winter Festival will have food and games where we have 'matsuri' styled games as well as food such as spam musubi," the Shoreline description read.

Health & Wellness hosts workshop on gumbo and Creole cuisine

Health & Wellness is hosting an event titled, "Creole Cooking: Gumbo Workshop," on Monday, Feb. 5, from 5-7 p.m. at the SRB Multipurpose

The event is co-sponsored by the Food, Nutrition and Basic Needs Program and the African diasporic Cultural Resource Center.

Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion hosts community hours

The Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) is starting its community hours for the winter quarter on Tuesday, Feb. 6, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the DEI Office in Mosher Alumni House.

The hours will run from Week 1-Week 8 on Tuesdays and Wednesdays for students to learn about funding, host office hours for other programs and serve as a study space.

C.A.R.E. hosts healing session

Campus Advocacy, Resources Education (C.A.R.E.) is starting its weekly Sound Healing Session on Tuesday, Feb. 6, from 5-6:30 p.m. at the Gaucho Support

Participants are encouraged to bring a yoga mat or blanket.

MCC presents "Black Campus Life" with UCSB professor The MCC is hosting a

"Black Campus Life" lecture with UCSB Department of Education assistant professor Tichavakunda Antar Tuesday, Feb. 6, from 5-6:30 p.m. at the MCC Theater.

"In lecture, this Tichavakunda will draw from his book to highlight the dynamism, tensions, and joys of Black student life at historically White institutions of higher education," the event description read.

MCC hosts Lunar New Year bingo

The MCC is hosting a Lunar New Year bingo on Wednesday, Feb. 7, from 12-1:30 p.m. at the MCC Lounge.

The event is co-hosted by the Department of Asian American Studies, and participants can win prizes.



WWW.DAILYNEXUS.COM

Managing Editor | Olive Howden **Diversity, Equity & Inclusion** Chairs | Sneha Cheenath,

Editor in Chief | Pricila Flores

Amanda Marroquin Production Editor | Mina Orlic **Asst. Production Editors** Claire Tseng, Anusha Singh Production Interns | Mira

Kaiser, Shayla Prasad Lead News Editors | Sindhu Ananthavel, Asumi Shuda **University News Editor | Alex**

Community Outreach Editor I

Anushka Ghosh Dastidar **Assistant News Editor I Lizzy**

Data Editor I Siddharth Chattoraj Asst. Data Editor | Angelina

La Vista Editor | Mari Villalpando-Ortega La Vista Copy Editor

Angelica Monroy Sports Editors | Preston Espar, Isaiah Ochoa

Artsweek Editors | Lauren Chiou, Stella Mullin On The Menu Editors | Stephanie Gerson, Abigail

Daily Stench Editors | Valerie Fu, Kathleen Santacruz, Faith Talamantez

Science Editor | Emma Holm-Asst. Science Editors | Olivia

Gil de Bernabe Science Interns | Katherine Chi, Kaitlin Lee, Olivia Lohrer **Opinion Editor | Amitha Bhat** **Asst. Opinion Editors** Suryaansh Dongre, Elizabeth

Photo Editor | Maddy Fangio Asst. Photo Editor | Carolyn Li Art Director | Audrey Kenyon Asst. Art Director I Julie Broch Chief Copy Editors | Jesse MacDonald, Grace Liu Copy Editors | Tatum Agnew, Sneha Cheenath, Emily Machado, Samuel Liu, Emily Yoon, Tanisha Raina, Andrew

Tolu, Alicia Siebers Social Media Managers | Abby Wolf, Aidan Dobbins,

Melody Xu Video Editor I Joshua Yepez Martinez

Asst. Video Editor | Citlali Web Editor I lan Wen

The Daily Nexus is an independent, student-run newspaper, published on Thursdays during the academic year, with articles published online daily.

Opinions expressed in the editorial pages, News and other pages do not necessarily reflect those of the Daily Nexus, UC Santa Barbara, its faculty or student body. Advertising printed herein is solely for informational purposes. Such printing is not to be construed as a written or implied sponsorship endorsement or investigation of such commercial enterprises or ventures by the Daily Nexus. **Corrections Policy: To call**

an error to the attention of the editor in chief, send a written statement detailing the correct information to eic@dailynexus. com. The Daily Nexus publishes all corrections of errors.

Readers interested in submitting a piece to the opinion section should do so by emailing opinion@ dailynexus.com with the subject line "Article for Outside Opinions." All op-ed submissions are subject to edits by the editorial staff. Articles should be between 800-1200 words. The Daily Nexus will not publish press releases or pieces that

solely serve to advertise an event or organization, or any submissions from those outside of the UCSB and Isla Vista residential communities. The Daily Nexus follows the University of California's

anti-discrimination codes Inquiries about these policies may be directed to the director and affirmative action officer at UCSB's Office of Equal Opportunity & Discrimination Prevention, via phone at (805)

Printed at the Santa Maria Times printing facility.

"I wake up and I don't check the weather."

Contact Us

News Office: Phone: (805) 893-3828 Email: eic@dailynexus.com **Advertising Office:** Email: meyer-l@ucsb.edu **Phone:** (805) 893-4006

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

Additional contact information for individual sections and editors can be found at www.dailynexus.com.

A.S. Internal Vice President to yield Senate chairship duties

Alex Levin University News Editor

Santa Barbara Associated Students Internal Vice President Sohum Kalia announced at the Jan. 24 Senate meeting that he intends to yield his duty as chair of the Associated Students Senate to his first pro tempore.

Kalia said he plans to attend the beginning of each weekly meeting, call the meeting to session and delegate the duty of chairing the senate to second-year computer science major, first pro tempore and Off-Campus Senator Ephraim Shalunov.

"I will be there 6:30 every Wednesday to call the meeting to order in order for it to be a legal meeting," Kalia said. "After that, I will not be yielding the presiding officership or the presiding office, but I will be delegating some of those chairship authorities to the first pro temp."

Kalia emphasized that he is not resigning and will not relinquish his duty as the presiding officer of the Senate. After calling the meeting to order and yielding his chairship, Kalia intends to be easily accessible, either in the audience or in his office next door.

Associated Students (A.S.) 2023-24 Legal Code states that the Internal Vice President (IVP) should "serve as the Presiding Officer of the Senate."

While the IVP is required to attend Senate Finance and Business Committee meetings, serve as a Senate liaison and be available for clarification after Senate meetings, there is no explicit wording in Legal Code mandating them to be present for the entirety of Senate a chair and the Association meetings.

Kalia acknowledged that it is not his duty to interpret Legal Code but said that he believes relinquishing his Senate chairship duties is legal.

"As of right now, it's my firm opinion that this is totally legal," Kalia said. "And in the case that someone thinks it's not legal, there's clear procedures outlined in Robert's Rules of Order to appeal to me."

"I'm currently conversation with the attorney general about this matter. If it becomes abundantly clear to me that this is a violation of bylaws, constitution, Robert's Rules of Order, anything, I'll pull the plug immediately," he continued. "My intention is not to violate any procedures, rules or anything. It's just to try and find a way to progress with the Association and move forward."

Kalia said that stepping aside as the Senate chair is something he has wanted to do for a while, as he wants the Senate to function autonomously and not solely rely on the IVP for instruction.

"This isn't a new idea that I've just presented all of a sudden," Kalia said. "It's something I've been talking about the entire time I've been in A.S. It was something I was planning to do this quarter."

Kalia said that yielding his chairship duties is not necessarily a permanent move. He called the change "an experiment," affirming that if a problem were to arise with him not being at Senate, he would return as the chair.

"Like everything I do, [this] is truly an attempt to make things better for the student body," Kalia said. "If I feel that it is no longer better for the student body or I was wrong - and I have been wrong in the past a plethora of times, no shame in admitting that - I'll walk it back. I have the

authority to do that." Kalia said the timing of the move, however, was motivated

by various actions within A.S.

"The exact timing of it was influenced by some political movements," Kalia "There's too many things in the Senate that I'm uncomfortable with recently that I don't really want to be associated with, because I believe them to be either illegal, unconstitutional, against any policies and outright procedures or completely immoral."

Shalunov expressed his Kalia's discontent with Senate decision to yield chairship, stating that serving as the senate chair unfairly adds to his workload as a Shalunov senator. added that Kalia did not discuss his decision with him prior to the Jan. 24 Senate meeting and that Kalia's announcement came as a surprise.

"This places a huge extra work burden on me," Shalunov said. "My honorarium is six times less than [Kalia's] for that work that I do, and him giving me essentially the main part of his job, frankly, isn't fair. I didn't run for it. And I don't want it."

Shalunov also said that based on his interpretation of the A.S. Legal Code, he believes that Kalia's decision to yield senate chairship is unconstitutional.

"While the Constitution has a provision for that internal vice president stepping away from chair ships from time to time, one can't simply declare that they are now not going to be fulfilling their constitutional duties because they don't want to," Shalunov said.

Shalunov he will said assume the responsibility of the Senate chairship to ensure functionality within the Senate.

"It's my duty to step up to the plate and chair the senate," he continued. "The senate needs take that on." needs a functioning Senate,

Kalia agreed that serving as a senate chair could cause an increased workload for a senator pro temp.

"Part of the pro temp duties is chairing meetings in some circumstances, but I do agree circumstances don't usually arise as often as I intend for them to arise in the near future," Kalia said. "I haven't actually heard anyone bring that concern to me, as far as workload and honoraria. If they did feel that this was too much work for them, absolutely I would be open to that conversation."

A concern brought up by a senator when Kalia announced his decision at the Jan. 24 senate meeting was the potential for bias within the Senate if a senator is chairing the meetings. Kalia said that in cases where he feels bias could arise, he intends to step in and chair the Senate.

Shalunov said that senators should not be concerned about bias while he or second pro tempore Amelia Rowe serve as the chair of Senate meetings.

"The question is whether senators can trust us to be fair, and the answer is yes," Shalunov said. "Not only have we proven ourselves to that regard, but we will publicly and repeatedly make commitments to that, and we hope to be held accountable for that."

Shalunov emphasized that regardless of who is chairing the Senate, the entity will continue to convene throughout the year.

"There's absolutely risk that the Senate will not be meeting," Shalunov said. "We'll be voting on everything that matters to students, we'll be hearing public forum, we'll be hearing concerns and we'll be continuing to do our jobs so that everyone in A.S. can continue to do theirs. That's a commitment that I can make."

The Nexus will continue to report on this topic as more information becomes available. the Senate and BCUs, as well as

IVCSD launches Open Groove nights, offers rehearsal space for I.V. performers



The Open Groove nights take place weekly on Tuesdays from 8 p.m. to 12 a.m. at the community center.

Alex Levin University News Editor

The Isla Vista Community Services District hosted its inaugural "Open Groove" on Jan. 30, inviting local bands, DJs and performers to use the Isla Vista Community Center as a free rehearsal space.

The Open Groove nights take place weekly on Tuesdays from 8 p.m. to 12 a.m. at the community center. Performers can reserve the space to practice for up to 60 minutes within the four-hour time frame, with more extended rehearsal time slots available upon request.

The Isla Vista Community Services District (IVCSD) plans to post a Google form for performers to sign up every Thursday, according to IVCSD community spaces program manager Myah Mashhadialireza. The form is accessible through the IVCSD Instagram account.

Local and campus performance groups have previously practiced at parking lots on the UC Santa Barbara campus, but reports of noise disturbance and administrative pushback barred groups from continuing to use parking lots as rehearsal space.

"We know that practice space is limited, and we also know that it's hard to find a space where you can be as loud as you want and not get any complaints," Mashhadialireza said. "Because the community center isn't in a residential area it's in the commercial zone – we're

allowed to have music late, and so we want to be able to open that up to the community."

Justinas Memenas, guitarist and singer for local band Eternal Wave, commended IVCSD for considering musicians' needs.

"I applaud [IVCSD] for doing this and undertaking this project because it helps fill a huge need," Memenas said, who graduated from UCSB in 2023. "There are so many bands and to have a space where bands can practice for free is super important and huge, and really gives people an opportunity to express themselves and explore themselves creatively."

"There's a lot of cool history with the bands and the music that has been in Isla Vista, and there's gonna be a lot more to come in the future," he continued. "This helps that happen."

In addition to providing a location for local performers to rehearse, Mashhadialireza said that a principle goal of Open Groove nights is to encourage performers to collaborate and support each other. She hopes inviting bands to practice at the community center will help them gain exposure within the Isla Vista community.

"The goal is to kind of open up the bands to work together, uplift each other, promote each other, support each other," Mashhadialireza said. "The second goal is just to provide exposure [and] get the community involved and excited about it."

"Maybe people walking by

can hear your music and will want to come in and hang out," she continued. "We just want to foster this space where everyone's welcome and everyone is there to enjoy and support each other."

Mashhadialireza added that practicing during the Open Groove nights could potentially lead to opportunities to perform.

"On the back end of this, we're going to be encouraging event organizers, local leaders, events, in general, to come check out these events to maybe scout out some performers for their next gig," Mashhadialireza said.

Memenas pointed out that while collaboration and community are major aspects of the music culture in I.V., some groups might prefer to practice in a private space.

"I know it's like a public thing which is cool, but practice usually wants to be a little more private because you're gonna make mistakes and that's the whole point, to improve your musicianship together," Memenas

Mashhadialireza said that IVCSD initially struggled to get local performers to sign up for time

"Iwould say the biggest challenge is just getting people to sign up,' Mashhadialireza said. "We can tell the bands are interested, we've had people who are excited about it, but we want people to sign up on our Google form so that we can accommodate them and we can create a schedule."

"Also, it's a challenge just that it's new. It's a brand new thing. We're trying something new. Anytime you do something new, something's gonna go wrong," she continued. "We're just trying to be as accommodating, inclusive, open as possible and we'll just see how it goes."

Mashhadialireza said that if the Open Groove nights are successful, she envisions the community center becoming a concert venue in addition to a practice space.

"I see this growing into a social hub for music and for art and culture - that's what we want for the community center," Mashhadialireza said. "We do want this to grow into a concert venue. We want to mount lights, we want to mount speakers, we want to make this a truly fun space to perform, and we start doing that

A.S. Boards, Committees and Units form coalition to foster better communication

Sindhu Ananthavel Co-lead News Editor Anushka Ghosh Dastidar Community Outreach Editor

Boards, Committees and Units under UCSanta Barbara Associated Students formed a coalition to address communication issues and improve transparency within the Association.

Boards, Committees and Units (BCUs) are Associated Students (A.S.) entities that receive funding from A.S. and are under A.S. jurisdiction.

The Coalition has met twice since fall quarter, and issues brought forth by BCUs during its meetings related to lack of information on honoraria, issues with Senate liaisons – Senate members designated as correspondents with BCUs – and a general disconnect from A.S.

Third-year feminist studies and English double major Isabella Mendoza and fourth-year political science major Rebecca Hurtado Fairweather are co-chairs of the Human Rights Board. The pair founded the Coalition in fall quarter due to discontent with the communication between

between BCUs themselves.

"Associated Students is based on community and coalition building, and yet, we have no communication with any other BCUs or didn't necessarily feel like there was a foundation set in place to foster that kind of environment," Fairweather said.

The first meeting on Oct. 13 invited A.S. members and other UCSB students to engage in open discussion about their needs at the university.

Within those meetings, establishing how we wanted to go about fostering that kind of communication. We turned to our board because our board is made up of members who have been within Associated Students for years in different positions but also fresh, fresh individuals who have never heard before joining support," Mendoza said.

The second meeting on Jan. 19 was centered on improvements to the outcome of the first meeting.

"For this most recent meeting, the first hour was designated for BCUs specifically having no senators or elected officials within the meetings to provide a safe space where BCUs don't feel targeted and can air their grievances out without

feeling alienated," Mendoza said.

"Senators [came] to the table in the second hour to come up with solutions, and we heard what our elected officials are doing."

In December, A.S. executives co-signed a statement titled, "A Way Forward," proposing several adjustments to Senate procedure and communication channels to address issues "concerning discrimination and exclusivity."

Mendoza said that the statement did a good job of summarizing the issues within A.S. that were a culmination of many small unaddressed issues built up over

"I would say it does summarize, more or less, the full edit issues that were occurring," Mendoza said. It looks like a lot. But it's mostly just a bunch of little things that have added up to create kind of the situation that we're in, the climate currently of A.S. and Senate specifically."

Fairweather added that she recommends leaders of the BCUs to be consulted in the solutions, rather than solely elected officials.

"I just wanted to make sure that these solutions were also taken into account with other BCU leaders and other conversations had besides elected officials and execs," Fairweather said.

Isla Vista Community Center celebrates two-year anniversary since reopening



The Community Center reopens its doors to the public in January 2022 after being closed for 21 months

Alissa Orozco Staff Writer Yaati Sureka Reporter

The Isla Vista Community Center reflects on its progress amid its two-year anniversary since reopening after the COVID-19 pandemic.

Situated in the middle of the Isla Vista commercial area, the Isla Vista Community Center (IVCC) is a community and recreational space for I.V. community members and local event programming.

The community center

reopened its doors to the public in January 2022 after being closed for 21 months back in

As reported by the Nexus in 2016, the community center's origins date back to a 2012 county initiative to address Isla Vista being the only town in Santa Barbara without a community center since the 1970s. The building was built on the site of an abandoned church building bought by Santa Barbara County in 2012, and the Isla Vista Community Services District (IVCSD) was inducted in the center

thereafter in 2018.

At the moment, the center offers free, public, weekly events such as mothering classes, guitar lessons and yoga classes - programming that works to remove financial and social barriers against community members.

Taylor Slauson, who has been a yoga instructor for over two years for the community center says her passion is what brings her back for the weekly classes at the center.

"I have a really strong passion for yoga and think it really makes a big difference in my

personal life, so being able to share that with other people is something that inspires me and I think it's really important to have in a community," she said.

The center also provides space for free K-12 tutoring by UC Santa Barbara students to encourage accessible education for local residents.

"Over the past year, it has been amazing to see the growth of our program and the passion our tutors have for helping out our local community," Co-Coordinator of the Family Literacy Program Arnold Johnson said in a statement to the Nexus.

Although the majority of the students that come to tutoring sessions are in elementary school, tutoring sessions are open to any K-12 students who need help, according to

"We are working on finding good contacts within the local school systems to share information about our free tutoring sessions," Johnson said. "It is my dream to have the I.V. Community Center full of students and tutors."

The program holds tutoring sessions twice weekly at the IVCC throughout the school year, welcoming any local families with children who need easy access to tutoring to come by.

In the last year, the IVCSD has doubled their number of events, from 700 to 1,500. Events range from quarterly community festivals and art galleries to recreational classes, with more programs in the making. Currently, the center is available to any non-profit

organization, club or group who would like to reserve the space.

IVCSD Community Manager Spaces Myah Mashhadialireza said she is excited to open up the community center to the I.V. music scene.

"I want to make sure that no matter what, there's always a space for musicians and artists to collaborate and connect," Mashhadialireza said. "That really is the goal of these spaces, to promote the parts of Isla Vista that we should be proud of."

The IVCC also works to support and tackle social stigmas against homelessness, according to IVCSD General Manager Jonathan Abboud. The center runs a weekly support center, serves free lunches on Tuesdays and hosts coffee hour on Fridays for locals experiencing homelessness.

"Space was transitioned to be a tiny homes location, people experiencing homelessness, run by the County, not by us, in 2021. We didn't take over operations until the end of 2021 again," Abboud said.

Looking forward, Abboud said the center is looking to establish a private rental system for people to host private events and create a maintenance system, among other goals.

"We're wanting to establish a private rental system for the community center so people could have private events, before it was mainly focused on community wide events," Abboud said.

UCSB MCC presents Indo-Persian performance Chahar Bagh: "Fourfold Garden"

Michelle Cisneros Reporter

Indo-Persian musical group Chahar Bagh performed at the MultiCultural Center Theater on Jan. 26, exploring musical narratives through the "Fourfold Garden."

Chahar Bagh multicultural musical project that fuses Indo-Persian style santoor and sitar instrumentals and percussion, according to the show's description.

"In our repertoire, we showcase original compositions that seamlessly blend melodies, rhythms and improvisations from the musical traditions of Iran and India," performer Ehsan Matoori said.

Alongside santoor player and composer Ehsan Matoori, the band consists of sitar player and composer Rajib Karmakar, cello player Aidin Ahmadinejad and percussion player Randy Gloss. They were also accompanied by guest vocalist Maliheh Moradi.

The project's name stems from a Farsi phrase that translates to "four gardens."

Introduced to Persia in the sixth century, Chahar Bagh is a garden layout meant to promote harmony with nature.

"It refers to a specific garden design characterized by a quadrilateral layout, divided into four highly structured sections, highlighting balance and harmony," Matoori said. "These four divisions may symbolize various elements such as the four rivers of paradise, the four seasons or the four stages of life."

show began with Chumash land acknowledgment and expanded as an interactive experience that spans multiple concentrations.

"Beyond presenting musical pieces, we explore the historical and cultural contexts, aiming for a deeper understanding and connection with the audience," Matoori said.

The concept of four gardens was a thematic centerpiece for the show. Each section was preceded by an explanation of its concept and contained two songs. The pieces were accompanied by corresponding

lighting in red, green, purple

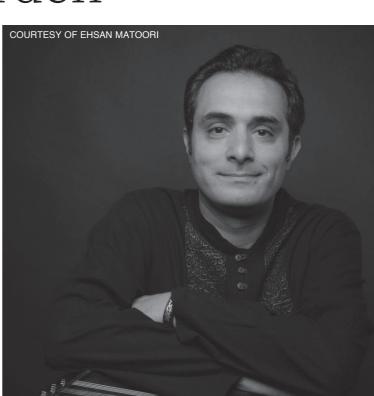
and blue. As described on Matoori's website, the third movement, "Garden of Humanity," integrates different cultural elements to "capture the essence of unity." The "Fourfold Garden" featured the songs "Brahma" and "Untouched." Garden of Love hosted "Dela" and "Chashm-e Bimar" and featured melodies to "emphasize emotions of love, romance and connection,"

according to the website. Every piece in the show was composed by Matoori During Karmakar. intermissions, the duo discussed

their composition process. Karmakar, development of a piece is an intricate process.

"Collaboration is a process that involves breaking free of one's comfort zone and attempting to view things from a different perspective. Once this is done, the artist can return to their own work and evaluate what fits with the current flow

of the project," he said. The second half of the show



Ehsan Matoori is the santoor player and composer of Chahar Bagh.

commenced with "Garden of Wisdom." Inviting reflection, the section consisted of pieces "Chahar Bagh" and "Isfahan Istanbul." The show concluded with the Garden of Freedom and consisted of, "The Call" and "Freedom Story" to evoke, "a sense of liberation, empowerment and openness," according to the website.

According to MultiCultural Center (MCC) Program Coordinator Micky Brown, Chahar Bagh aligned with the center's mission.

"It was a joyful example of the connections between Persian, Iranian and Indian cultures. The santoor represents Persia and the sitar represents India. Together, their harmony almost makes it sound like they were meant to be together," Brown said. "The mission of the MCC is to build solidarity between communities, and this performance demonstrated how that can be done through creative and musical

endeavors." The performance interactive through encouragement of dance and cheers.

favorite "My were when the performers, particularly Ehsan Matoori and Rajib Karmakar, were smiling, laughing and clearly having fun on stage. It was infectious, and I'm sure the crowd felt it, too," Brown said.

Brown described the show as unique due to its production size and technicality.

"In my time at the MCC, we have not put on a concert of this scale, with five performers on stage all playing different instruments. This is a technical and logistical challenge, but as event organizers, we plan for this with a lengthy and thorough sound check. The performers arrived more than four hours before the start of the performance so that we could get everything perfect," Brown said.

The performance was met with a standing ovation at its final song, "The Garden of Freedom."

"The last movement, the 'Garden of Freedom,' was very beautiful and moving, especially when the guest singer, Maliheh Moradi, joined in," Brown said.



Rajib Karmakar is the sitar player and composer of Chahar Bagh.

Student organizations hold rally for Palestine

Sindhu Ananthavel Co-Lead News Editor Asumi Shuda Co-Lead News Editor

UC Santa Barbara student organizations hosted a Rally for Palestine on Jan. 25 at the Arbor to advocate for Palestinian liberation. The event attracted around 50 students, faculty and staff as participants and observers.

The rally was held in response to Palestinian social media journalist Bisan Owda, who called for a global week of strike, according to UCSB Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP). Flyers for the rally called for "No school, no work, no shopping." Free food was distributed at the rally.

"We have passed over 100 days of murder, displacement, and ethnic cleansing of the Palestinian people by the US-armed Zionist entity without calls for a permanent ceasefire," SJP said in a statement to the Nexus. "We must keep Palestine at the forefront of our minds."

representatives participants created a circular barrier around the group using bikes and banners. The attendees formed a ring inside the barrier, hoisting pro-Palestinian flags and signs.

The signs included phrases like, "Stop genocide in Gaza," "End the occupation," "From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free," among others. A larger cloth banner, held by two SJP representatives, showcased red handprints and the message "UCSB Kills."

The rally then began at noon with chants led by an SJP representative.

'Gaza, Gaza, don't you cry, we will never let you die," the chants rang. "Justice is our demand, no peace on stolen

Representatives then played recorded audio from Owda's social media livestreams to the crowd.

Members of the newly



A larger cloth banner showcases red handprints and a message of "UCSB Kills."

formed UCSB Jewish Voice for Peace addressed the crowd, acknowledging the significance of the day of the rally as Tu BiShvat, the Jewish holiday of celebrating trees.

"However, on this day we cannot say we are celebrating BiShvat acknowledging that Israel has uprooted 70% of Gaza's trees," the speaker said.

They emphasized the ability of being both Jewish and anti-Zionist and that Judaism is separate from Zionism.

"We reject the idea that you must support Israel to keep Jews safe. Jews do not need a nation-state that is occupying land and ethnically cleansing people," the speaker said.

UCSB Muslim Student Association (MSA) members shared at the rally common misconceptions of Islam as a religion, such as the religion being "sexist" because women wear hijabs, and emphasized that the values of the religion place importance upon advocating for Palestinian liberation.

"Our religion teaches us to stand up for injustice, and when we see things that aren't right, to speak up," an MSA member said.

SJP said in the statement to the Nexus that the rally was a testament to the continued call for Palestine's liberation.

"Our rally shows that UCSB has not given up," statement read. here answering calls of Indigenous peoples everywhere and we will continue to fight for justice and liberation."

Opportunity for All

this institution and the students ... but you have an opportunity right now to prove it to [the students]," Beharry said.

"I implore you all to think about the decision you're making today and know that these people may leave this public room today, but I'll be here on this board for another year," Beharry said. "You have to think about the decision, of your actions, every time I come to this meeting. I want you to know that they have to live it, so please, please consider that."

UC Regent Greg Sarris echoed Beharry's sentiment, observing the board's concern about "risk" in this policy when the lives of undocumented students are marked with risk.

"As a leader of an American Indian nation, for us to sit here and be so concerned and keep talking about risk when the students and their families have gone through so much risk just to get here, only can strike me as patronizing,' Sarris said. "The bottom line is the students, their families have come to take a chance with risk. They are here waiting to take a chance. I will take that chance with them and vote 'no"."

UC Regent Joel Raznick was concerned with perceived risk in implementing Policy 4407.

"For what it is worth, I want to say how highly considered this decision has been and how highly explored it has been," Raznick said. "What I am seeing is that there's substantial and consequential risk, but risk to the extent that it impacts the functioning potentiality of the university."

Leib closed the discussion before the motions began.

"I went into this with the absolute determination to get something done, and I'm just very disappointed that we were not able to find the pathway that we wanted to," Leib said. "I feel like we are not ready at this moment. I'm going to pledge myself to help get this resolved, I just don't feel like I can do it right now."

Following the suspension of Regents Policy 4407, an audience member shouted at the board amidst cries from others in the crowd.

"I hope you live with this for the rest of your life. I earned my right here. I chose you over Harvard, and for what? For you to do this to me? For you to do this to us? I'm starving, I've been starving for so long because of you," the audience member said.

"I want you to look me in the eye, and tell me you're not cowards. Each and every one of you are cowards. I hope you live with this for the rest of your life. Your parents will be ashamed. Your children will be ashamed. You are worthless, and you are worthless to be sitting at that bench."

Second-year sociology major and External Vice President for Statewide Affairs (EVPSA) Undocumented Student Representative Daniela Ortiz Mendez said the final decision was "disappointing" but "not surprising."

"We heard a lot of things about how the UCs didn't want to damage their reputation, especially since it seemed like the Biden administration was also pushing against it," Mendez said in an interview with the Nexus.

Mendez urged undocumented student community to "not lose hope" in face of this decision, saying the EVPSA office will continue to advocate for the livelihood of undocumented students.

"I know that it's really hard, especially for those that can't work, especially for those that are struggling right now," Mendez said. "Regardless of that, we still got to the University."

"We're still here, and we'll continue to be here and fight for the undocumented students."

The Undocumented Student-Led Network published a statement in response on Jan. 29, condemning the decision by the UC Regents.

"Opportunity for All represented a simple, foundational step for the University of California to prove its long-stated commitments to us and all of their undocumented students," the statement read. "The UC may have taken a step back in its duty to undocumented students, but we have taken the five steps forward in mobilizing and liberating our community."

"Our movement is just beginning; we urge the world to get ready."

IVCSD approves library services plan for Isla Vista, wants to be decision-making authority

Lizzy Rager Asst. News Editor

Isla Vista Community Services District Board of Directors approved a library services plan for Isla Vista at a Jan. 23 meeting, opting for a self-governance model in a

contentious move. The proposal stipulated three library service options for Isla Vista Community Services District (IVCSD) to explore. The first option – recommended by IVCSD – is to create a new library zone split between Isla Vista and UC Santa Barbara, allocating between \$170,000 and \$226,000 from Santa Barbara County (SBC) funding while being directly responsible for library services. IVCSD would either contract services to an existing library or directly take on all the library costs using per capita funding. Per capita funding is funding allocated by SBC based on the library population

The two other options involve preparing a recommended scope of work for the county to vote on or maintaining the status quo as part of Goleta's library administration zone. A possible new countywide tax to support library services in

Goleta was also mentioned.. This past June, IVCSD asked the SBC Board of Supervisors to consider creating a separate library administration zone for Isla Vista, and in September, the SBC board made a move to explore the possibility. Since then – with the county community services department and the city of Goleta – IVCSD has been in discussions of different library

service options for I.V.

The board passed a motion observing

The library services discussion questions.

"The counties never provided per capita or created a new zone without an existing physical library being in place," Watkins

Isla Vista is currently within Library Zone 4 under the city of Goleta. This model means any new effort in library services must involve both the city of Goleta governance and SBC. Watkins cited how Goleta already had a physical space before beginning negotiations for library services.

"Creating a new zone might be a challenge for the board to support," Watkins said.

She also raised concerns about the quality of library services decreasing with a new

IVCSD General Manager

Jonathan Abboud noted that

its preference for option 1 in a 5-0 vote, withstanding two absent directors. If the county goes for option 1 or 2 in its upcoming negotiations, residents of Isla Vista could directly access library services, beyond the Goleta Valley Bookvan, for the first time by this summer.

was the primary subject of the Jan. 23 meeting. Attendees representatives Goleta City Manager Robert Nisbet, County of Santa Barbara replace with Division Chief of Sustainablity & Libraries Community Services Department Director Ashley Watkins and Goleta Director of Neighborhood Services Jaime Valdez. The representatives raised respective concerns over the project and answered board

while IVCSD currently lacks a dedicated collection of staff for the library service, option one would allow I.V. to have more "decision-making power" and demonstrate its ambitions to have a future I.V. library.

IVCSD Director Jay Freeman expressed discontent with the current model, citing how IVCSD has to negotiate with Goleta and the county board on their respective schedules, slowing down progress.

"I feel like once you get three entities involved, it becomes really difficult to coordinate all of its scheduling and all that negotiation in a way where we actually are able to easily get what we want," Freeman said. "I think it's even sometimes been to everyone's kind of political disadvantage ... there

are a lot of hard feelings that have occurred due to prior relationships that we've had."

A commonly held concern by the representatives was the lack of a physical building for the library services and dedicated staff. IVCSD Director Kirsten Deshler also raised concerns about the proposal not being thought out enough.

"If it's something that the Board is considering, it would be good to plan it out over probably multiple years, maybe two or three," Valdez said.

In response, Freeman said much of the process involves "contracting power" but agreed the original document of the

proposal was confusing. "It's something where we would take it and contract immediately back with the entity that's already doing it. This is the same kind of thought process in that there's a certain amount of money that the county has that the county is currently paying Goleta in order to provide library service for us," Freeman said. "And the idea is that instead of the county providing the money directly to Goleta, the county will provide the money to us and then we would provide the money to Goleta."

President Marcos Aguilar also argued option 1 might be cheaper for every entity involved because there would be fewer negotiations with the county, meaning fewer meetings.

The action concluded with an un-objected motion for the board to advocate for option 1.



The proposal stipulates three library service options for Isla Vista Community Services District to

Highlights of Regents' January 2024 meeting



The UC Regents convenes at UC San Francisco to discuss agenda items concerning the UC community.

News Editorial Board

The UC Regents convened from Jan. 23 to 25 at UC San Francisco to discuss agenda items concerning the UC community including usage of university websites, seismic safety and accommodations for students with disabilities, among others.

UCSB Director of Athletics, Chancellor present overview of campus athletics to Regents

UC Santa Barbara Director of Athletics Kelly Barsky and Chancellor Henry T. Yang presented a strategic overview on UCSB Athletics to the Regents' Special Committee on Athletics on Jan. 23.

Yang started the presentation by highlighting the importance of athletics at UCSB.

"UC Santa Barbara takes great pride in our athletics department, which plays a pivotal role in energizing all campus life of students, faculty and staff," Yang

then presented of the numbers athletics programs on campus: UCSB sponsors 20 Division I sports with approximately 460 student athletes, 98% of whom are undergraduates and 74% of whom receive some form of athletic scholarship.

Barsky also presented the racial makeup of UCSB Division I athletes: 59% of student athletes are white, while 13% are two or more races, 9% are Hispanic and 9% are Black.

Barsky then described the available resources and student services for student athletes on campus. Resources include academic advising and tutoring, priority registration for classes, career development, housing support and mental health coordination, among others.

"UC Santa Barbara provides student athletes with a robust program of student services to enhance their academic, athletic and holistic experience," Barsky

Barsky broke down the \$27.8 million budget for UCSB Athletics, describing the most costly aspects of the department and emphasizing the challenges of staying within the budget.

"It is an ongoing challenge to keep pace with the steadily rising costs," Barsky said. "Our top investments currently are student-athlete scholarships and staffing, along with team travel and other expenses."

Following Barsky and Yang's presentation, Regent Richard Sherman asked how name, image and likeness (NIL) – which refers to the means in which athletes can receive financial compensation outside of scholarships – fits in at UCSB.

Barsky said that UCSB does have students who engage in NIL, describing the topic as "something we are learning and

growing into." "[UCSB Athletics is] working through the opportunity and

making sure the students have the opportunity to engage in NIL in the right way but also [trying] to have the right conversations with our community – students, coaches, staff and on campus - if we see any flags or concerns, she

Regent Lark Park pointed out that the racial diversity of UCSB student athletes - particularly the percentage of white student athletes – does not align with the racial diversity of the university's overall student population.

"We are interested in being more inclusive and having that overall reflect our campus," Barsky said. "We have been working on our campus with staff, with coaches and we have a DEI group within our department evaluating and tracking on the data and then trying to dive into the information and understanding it."

Regent José Hernández, the chair of the Special Committee on Athletics, said that he would like to follow up with UCSB Athletics in one year about the diversity of the department.

presents **UCOP** Advisory Workgroup report on students with disabilities

The UC Office of the President presented its final report of the Systemwide Advisory Workgroup on Students with Disabilities to the Academic and Student Affairs Committee during its Jan. 24

Launched in 2021 by UC Executive Vice President Michael Brown, the Systemwide Advisory Workgroup on Students with Disabilities (SDWG) worked to advise the UC Office of President (UCOP) on recommendations for "a more robust and inclusive approach to supporting students with disabilities," the discussion item

"To achieve this, we examined multiple data sources and engaged in collecting and aggregating student financial data across all 10 campuses," UC Davis Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Pablo Reguerín said during the meeting. "We took a holistic approach and examined multiple dimensions in and outside of the classroom ... so we recognize the rich diversity within the student

disability community." "We also used population averages because we know not all students who may have a disability are sufficiently diagnosed or have the resources and have gone through the process," he continued.

The funding to implement the outlined recommendations will be allocated from the \$1.4 million set aside by the state budget "justice issues," alongside \$8 million set aside by the UC system budget.

The outlined recommendations are academic accommodations like assistive technology, physical accommodations in on-campus housing, classrooms, laboratories and other facilities, greater accessibility and inclusivity in

campus life and policy changes.

The report recommended the Board of Regents to revise Regents Policy 4400, a policy on the UC diversity statement, to "more emphatically position disability access as a diversity issue."

The document recommended university leaders a number of action items, including making Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) coordinators full-time positions, confirming the accessibility standards of university media segments, developing student services strategic plans to accommodate students with disabilities and creating a disability-inclusive emergency evacuation plan.

For faculty, the report recommended making inclusive courses accessible earlier, improving communication between faculty, disabled student services and teaching and learning centers and reviewing Academic Senate regulations to ensure students with disabilities aren't disproportionately impacted by incomplete grades and academic standing.

UC Merced alum Regent Keith Ellis remarked on the lack of a housing proposal on the final

"We heard time and time again from students, we do have a housing problem and doing a priority system wouldn't fix that, but it would at least give us a tool for trying to prioritize what finite housing we have," Ellis said.

Ellis also questioned effectiveness of one recommendation provided to university leaders - to appoint UC chief accessibility officers to oversee disability services - saying that such an implementation would require, first and foremost, for the officer to be respected.

Regents discuss proposed policy limiting usage of university websites

The Regents' Academic and Student Affairs Committee and the Compliance and Audit Committee held a joint meeting on Jan. 24 to discuss the usage of university websites and online channels of communication.

The discussion focused on a proposed policy that would limit the usage of university websites and communication channels to pertain specifically to university business.

"We are deliberately not describing what is not permitted, but we are describing what is permitted. What is permitted is information that relates to the official business of the university," UC General Counsel Charles Robinson said.

This policy would primarily limit usage of departmental landing pages to display opinions of faculty or any other entity, according to the policy's Designated university spokespeople would be exempt from the policy in order to to

"comment on matters of the University or public import."

Some faculty see the proposed policy as a way to silence faculty opinion on issues pertaining to Palestine, according to EdSource. UC Santa Cruz's Critical Race & Ethnic Studies website displays a statement from Faculty for Justice in Palestine in support of Palestinian liberation. UC San Diego's Ethnic Studies website includes a page displaying a pro-Palestinian statement from the UCSD Ethnic Studies community.

UC Board of Regents Chair Richard Leib said the policy is meant to target political statements on "either side of the aisle," and is not aimed at any specific issue.

"Faculty have academic freedom to express a broad range of views, [but] they can't express those views in a way that confuses people about whether they are speaking for the institution or just speaking on their own behalf," UC Irvine Chancellor and author of the policy Howard Gillman

UCSD Chancellor Pradeep suggested Khosla more clarification of academic freedoms faculty are provided through the policy and the addition of "opinion" web pages on university sites. Several other Regents supported the addition of opinion web pages to separately express personal views of faculty or departments.

UC Student Regent-designate Josiah Beharry said he thought the policy was "restrictive" and "reactive" with a limiting perspective on what constitutes opinion when faculty share information through university

"If scientists who generate new knowledge in their laboratories and share those findings are not merely expressing personal viewpoints, similarly, when programs like ethnic studies factually rely on research, theory and data to highlight systemic racism, sexism or draw comparisons of past and present, [their] expressions are not rooted in subjective opinions," Beharry

Several Regents voiced dissent on the structuring of the policy, including who is defined under university spokespeople, and how university business is defined.

The vote on the policy was tabled to the Regents' next meeting in March following discussion and debate.

Academic and Student Affairs Committee discusses future for online courses

The Academic and Student Affairs Committee discussed the potential expansion of UC Online, formerly known as the Innovative Learning Technology Initiative, in accordance with post-pandemic online class enrollment at its Jan. 24 meeting.

"The University of California is going to need to innovate, to continue innovating, to remain the global destination for the most talented and diverse people to thrive," Provost and Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs of the University of California Katherine Newman said. "Online education is part of that ecosystem and it represents a powerful platform for expanding the university's capacity to deliver undergrad and grad degree programs at a scale that's adapted to today's needs."

Guest presenters UC Online Executive Director Rolin Moe, Vice Provost for Teaching and Learning of UC Irvine Michael Dennin and Associate Vice Chancellor for Educational Innovation of UCSD Carlos Jensen presented data on postpandemic trends for online classes and discussed possibilities for continuing and expanding UC Online.

Newman opened the discussion with remarks on the history of UC Online, which had transitioned in its goal and former name - the Innovative Learning Technology Initiative (ILTI). In 2013, ILTI spearheaded a campus-wide online course program toward degree completion, using a \$10 million state allocation from then governor Jerry Brown.

"Rather than originate or fund courses it has instead shifted to policy guidance, technical assistance and support for systemwide initiatives," Newman

In the presentation, Moe discussed new data and argued that online course programs through the UC can be just as robust as in-person courses. A multi-year compact aiming to double UC Online course offerings by 2030, he said, had already been reached in 2023. In the 2022-23 academic year, at least 40% of UC students had taken at least one online course, an uptick from 18% in the 2019-2020 academic year.

"We all have an interest in ensuring the quality of what we deliver remains high and continues to evolve as more faculty engage and digital tools improve," Moe said.

He cited a UC Santa Cruz study that found online courses "developed at a level consistent with the expectations of a UC education are as robust as inperson courses in terms of student success measures."

Dennin continued presentation and conveyed that UC Online can help the UC with its critical needs, including developing a culture and infrastructure for shared resources and supporting professional development for faculty particularly in terms of protecting intellectual property and what the best models are for sharing online

"If we don't figure out that problem and solve it, I think we're not gonna solve our accessibility, Iensen then

funding and access," Dennin said. presented information on UC San Diego

that had the fewest offerings of online courses pre-pandemic. In Fall 2023, 11% of its students took one or more online classes and in Summer 2023, 60% of enrollments were online. Particularly, the largest waitlists were associated with online courses.

UC San Diego has begun prioritizing classes for online "where they can bring the biggest impact." It has developed a priority filter with equity and high DFW at the top.

closed Newman presentation by noting that a task force presentation in late spring 2024 will be recommending quality standards and investments necessary to ensure online programs are as interactive and valuable as online courses.

"I think the Congress will really bring this into the light at our 10 campuses," Newman said.

Regent Greg Sarris expressed concern over technology and pedagogy being incompatible and that some data points show graduation rates being lower in online degree programs.

Dennin said data – that was pre-pandemic and when online courses were available in summer from UCI showed those who took online courses had faster graduation rates.

Newman added that said studies do not take into consideration "selection effects." When data is taken from outside the UC system, that usually takes the "lowest-qualified," poorest students, it isn't comparable to UCs. She said it was important to separate selection effects from modality effects.

Jensen said that online courses are being added where the subject matter makes sense to do online.

"A lot of our students who are seeking online courses are trying to balance other life commitments," Jensen said.

about Beharry asked accessibility initiatives being included in the UC Online, to which Moe said there would be more movement.

Regent Steinrager Chair of the Academic Senate James Steintrager raised concerns that students may potentially use online courses since they are easier and can boost GPA and asked if there was data to compare online to in-person quality.

"It is very hard to maintain any poor level of quality for any length of time given that most of our students demand high quality. Even if a few are looking for courses that are 'easy," Dennin

Jensen also said the online ourses are taught by the same faculty as in-person but noted it was difficult to compare online courses to in-person, as most current data on quality outcomes has been online.

Regent Joel Raznick noted excitement for the project and working group.

"This is an opportunity for the UC to leapfrog the category. We are UC. It's really about revisioning and rethinking," Raznick said.

Yang asked about the kind of incentives UC Online could give for students to enroll.

Jensen and Moe said that students would be making savings in time and that data points to a desire for online modality, not geography, as students who attend in-person take online courses.

Chair Lark Park wrapped up the discussion by saying she wants the ILTI funds to be used to provide the highest value and recommended UCPath come back to the committee with a strategic plan.

UC Regents present updates to Seismic Safety Policy

The UC Regents Finance and Capital Strategies Committee discussed updates to the University's Integrated Capital Asset Management Program and Seismic Safety Program during their Jan. 24 meeting.

University's Through the Capital Integrated Asset Management Program (ICAMP), the UC has been able to compile a comprehensive list of all of assets and buildings both owned and leased to evaluate safety standards of seismic regulation.

"We inspected nearly every building that UC owns and assessed all major components, roofs, electrical systems, HV equipment and infrastructure. [We] cataloged these conditions and estimated the costs and risks associated with each of them in a centralized database," UC Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Nathan Brostrom said.

This database of information is evaluated against the UC Seismic Safety Policy, first created in 1975 after California's increased precautionary standards for earthquake safety in 1971, according to UC Associate Vice President for Energy and Sustainability David Phillips. The policy has since been updated several times, most recently in

"California's approach earthquake safety changed dramatically following 1971 earthquake which killed 65 people, most of whom died when the San Fernando Veterans Administration Hospital collapsed," Phillips said.

The ÚC voluntary Seismic Safety Program standards are upheld to a higher degree than California state law requires in order to reduce the risks to the UC community, according to Phillips.

From the catalog of UC assets, each building is given a seismic performance rating (SPR) based on the location, construction characteristics and risk factors to the building. The higher the SPR rating, the more unsafe a building would be in the case of an earthquake.

By current UC standards, an SPR rating of four or less would entail that the building is up to date in terms of safety precautions, which currently accounts for 70% of university assets. About 30% of assets have a rating of five or six, meaning the building would need to be renovated to abide by UC regulations safety requirements.

"California's building codes don't mandate that we retrofit these buildings, but our 2017 policy requires us to take action to upgrade these facilities or vacate them by 2030," Phillips said. "This progress was achieved by completing 30 retrofits of existing buildings, demolishing 25 others and reclassifying buildings as compliant after completing more detailed assessments."

An SPR score of seven or higher would mean that the building would have to be immediately vacated until updated.

"In total, about 30% of our space or 43 million square feet is not currently compliant with UC seismic safety standards and policy. We have 10 projects in construction to retrofit, 170 buildings that are planned for demolition and about 24 more projects approved for construction," Phillips said.

Some examples of buildings recently renovated to fit UC Seismic Safety Policy standards include UCLA's Nimoy Theater, originally built in 1940 and now restored with new structural grade beams and a reinforced roof diaphragm, and the Luskin School of Public Affairs, which had existing rebar exposed and removed as well as a seismic damper installed.

Phillips said in many cases, the most effective safety precaution is evaluating the existing condition of a building, even if it is just to confirm the building's compliance with safety standards.

"Sometimes we don't need to take any action other than perform a more detailed tier two/ three seismic evaluation. These assessments allow us to better assess the risks and often show a building is in fact compliant with policy," Phillips said. "This is a hugely cost-effective strategy. To date we spend \$0.70 per square foot to do the reassessments and remove that space from our backlog."

Phillips said the main issues that arise with abiding by Seismic Safety Policy standards are potential disruptions to university affairs in updating old buildings, as well as the lack of funding available to complete these updates.

The UC estimates that the cost for upgrading university assets is \$14 billion, and the total cost including completing all other building renewal needs is \$20 billion. The state has failed to give the UC one-time funding to cover all updates prompting individual universities to self-fund improvement projects totaling about \$650 million in the last nine

The state's lack of funding, coupled with increasing inflation rates, leaves the 2030 completion date for seismic safety updates unlikely. Going forward, the UC has plans to adjust the seismic safety plan to center around consistent progress rather than a hard deadline.

"Due to limited funding sources, the campuses and locations are challenged in meeting that deadline, as such, we're currently in the process of revising the Seismic Safety Policy to better prioritize actions and deadlines given the massive gap in funding required for us to do this work," Phillips said.

WANT TO SEE YOUR ADVERTISEMENT HERE OR ON OUR WEBSITE?



Contact meyer-l@ucsb.edu for more information



UC SANTA BARBARA

The Gevirtz School

Do you need counseling? We can help!

CONTACT US

hosford@ucsb.edu 805-893-8064

education.ucsb.edu/hosford-clinic

The Hosford Counseling and Psychological Services Clinic at UCSB offers affordable counseling and assessment to children, adolescents, adults, couples, and families.

- Discounts for UCSB & SBCC students
- Services in person or remotely
- Spanish-speaking clinicians available



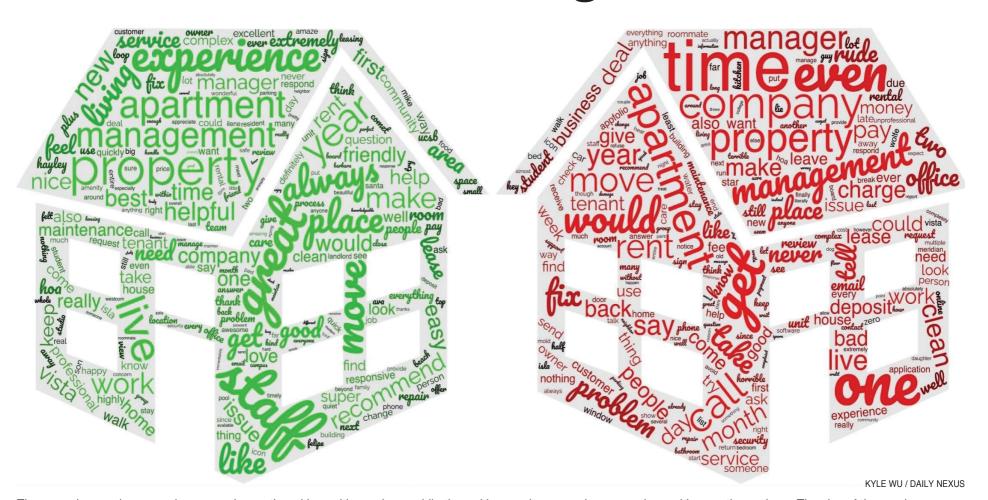




Michael Bolton, MD **Harvard-Trained** Board Certified Psychiatrist Specializing in ADHD Become Your Authentic Self. Com



UCSB's lodging labyrinth: The hunt for housing in Isla Vista



The green house shows words commonly mentioned in positive reviews, while the red house shows words commonly used in negative reviews. The size of the words corresponds to how frequently those words are used.

Alexandra Chan Reporter Benjamin Montastyrsky Reporter Kyle Wu Staff Writer Winston Zuo Reporter

As UC Santa Barbara's winter quarter reaches the halfway mark, students are finding themselves in the hunt for housing. They enter a

housing market characterized by rising rent prices, limited unit availability and intense competition.

Since its inauguration as a University of California in the 1940s, UC Santa Barbara has struggled to maintain enough housing for its growing student population. Like many other Universities of California (UCs), enrollment sizes have continuously increased since the school's founding. In the period since the 2014-15

school year alone, UCSB saw student enrollment increase by more than 3,000. The current student population sits at over 26,000 students as of the fall quarter of the 2023-2024 school year.

Dorms like San Miguel, Santa Rosa, Anacapa and Santa Cruz were constructed to keep up with increased demand. However, unlike other large land-grant universities like UC Santa Cruz and UC San Diego, which have sought to increase

the amount of on-campus housing, UCSB allowed private development interests to take the lead, creating what is now Isla Vista.

The scramble for housing has intensified, and more students are compelled to search for housing off-campus.

"There's just not enough housing, and the timeline is really difficult. And also it's inaccessible to find a lot of places," Matthew Mucha, the SBCC Relations chair of the Isla Vista Tenants Union, said.
In the past few decades,
UC Santa Barbara's housing
availability has grown

stagnant while the number of students has only grown, with San Joaquin, completed in 2017, being the most recent construction project.

According to Richard Flacks, a retired sociology professor from UCSB and director of the Sustainable University Now coalition, "As more people try to inhabit existing space, they're saving some money by doubling and tripling up where they are. But that leads to the stress of overcrowding."

For many students, this often arduous search can become an enormous source of stress.

"I think that, negatively, it was very stressful. Definitely, like, I feel like the process is a lot to adjust to, like coming from knowing nothing about it," Jemma Tolley, a first-year history major said

biology major, said.

Reviews are often left by renters in Isla Vista on websites such as Yelp, Google Reviews, Facebook and Reddit. Of the total number of reviews analyzed, 1207 (50.4%) were considered "negative" or a complaint. Notable words of the most frequent complaints were "Management," "Rent," "Deposit" and "Fix."

The ratio of negative reviews to positive reviews appears to peak during July – typically

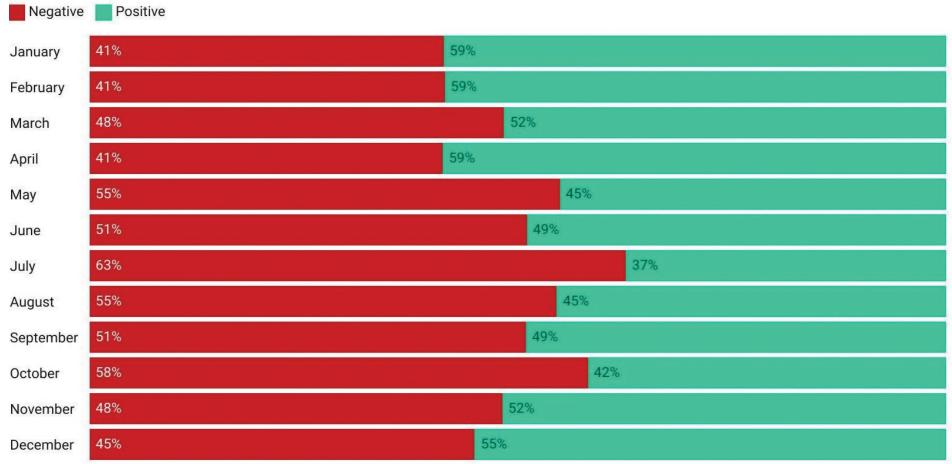
Commonly mentioned words in reviews (2001-2023)

614	354
545	206
326	55
300	118
257	81

KYLE WU / DAILY NEXUS

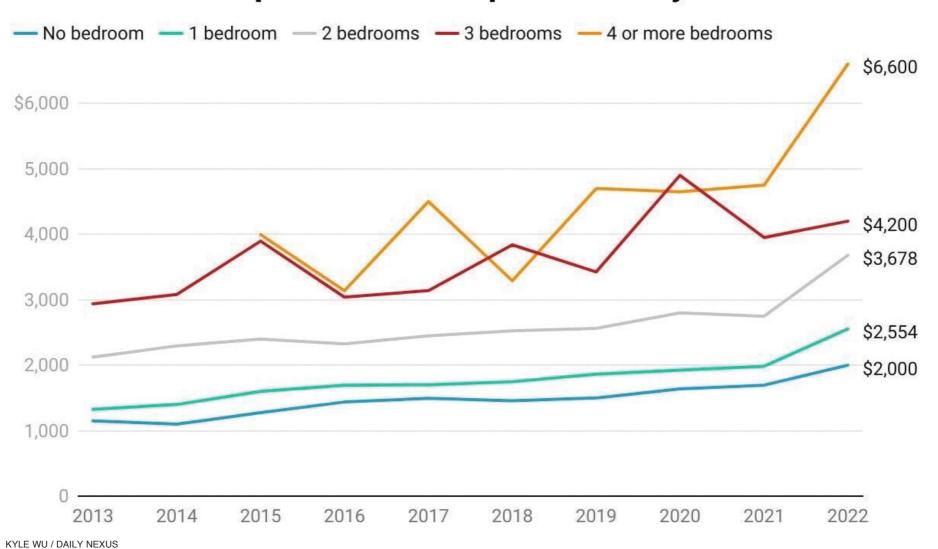
Many of the commonly mentioned words in reviews were regarding some form of service related to property management companies. Deposit is related to security deposits, with that specific phrase occurring 174 times among the sampled reviews.

Negative vs positive sentiment for housing by month (2001-2023)



KYLE WU / DAILY NEXUS

Santa Barbara apartment rents per month by bedrooms



In the last decade, Santa Barbara has seen a consistent increase in the cost of rentals. Regardless of the number of bedrooms, apartments have seen significant price increases. 2 and 3-bedroom apartments saw price increases of \$1,564 and \$1,262 respectively.

1.7 negative reviews for every positive review.

The rent costs of units have continued to increase as demand for off-campus housing has surged. From 2015 to 2021, the cost of renting 2-bedroom apartment increased by approximately

Both the prices students have had to pay over the last decade and the relative cost of housing in Isla Vista compared to some of the surrounding areas of Santa Barbara have increased. According to the City of Santa Barbara, the highest median price for 2-bedroom units of any housing type in 2022 in the Santa Barbara area was \$5,750 for Isla Vista. The next closest locality was Montecito, where the median rental price of

2-bedroom units was \$5,300. One possible reason for increased housing prices is the cost of land, according to Flacks. "With housing built on university land, it's much cheaper to build, because the cost of the land is not part of the cost of the housing. Whereas private developed land is much more expensive for housing developers to

In addition to students and faculty, other long-term residents also call Isla Vista

when leases end - at about increased rents and the lack of housing affect the entire community. Earlier this year, the new owner of CBC & the Sweeps evicted all their tenants in the middle of their leases, driving many to conduct unexpected housing

attempt to educate themselves on an often confusing topic.

"I was honestly clueless. Nobody ever told me about how to lease or anything. So my group of me and my friends had to do a lot of research on what was going on. I feel like we were not prepared," Tolley said.

I was honestly clueless. Nobody ever told me about how to lease or anything. So my group of me and my friends had to do a lot of research on what was going on.

JEMMA TOLLEY

students often Many have little to no real-world experience with legal contracts.

"A lot of students just don't know how to read a lease at all. They will read through it and think they know what's legal and what's not," Mucha said.

This lack of experience also often adds to the burden their home. The issues of felt by students of having to Plan (LRDP), with stated goals

The school has long been aware of the perennial housing crisis and has previously taken steps in an attempt to alleviate the problem. In fact, over a decade ago, the school developed a plan that, if executed on time, would have provided significant housing relief for the community.

In 2010, UCSB released its Long Range Development aimed at providing up to 5,000 additional student beds by 2025 and providing housing for an additional 1,600 faculty

As of the publication of this piece, nearly 14 years after the original plans were made public, the university has encountered setbacks in realizing its vision, particularly evident in previous delays constructing faculty housing through the Ocean Road project. Through the construction of San Joaquin and Sierra Madre villages, the university has built housing for 1,500 of the promised 5.000 student beds under the LRDP.

To provide the previously promised housing solution on time, UCSB turned to outside sources for solutions, most notably through the conceptualization of Munger Hall - partially funded by the late billionaire Charlie Munger.

Munger Hall was initially envisioned as an 11-story, 4,536 bed, mostly windowless dorm spanning over 1.68 million square feet which would have made it the largest dormitory in United States history. However, faced with significant backlash from the community, these plans were quietly scrapped in August 2023 in favor of a call for a more traditional housing

solution on two separate sites that would provide up to 3,500 additional beds.

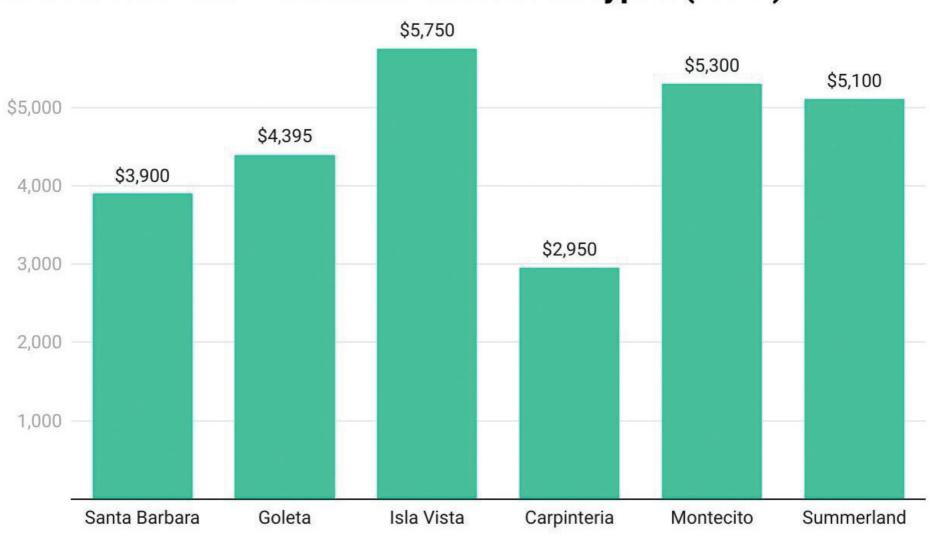
"A committee consisting of faculty members, housing and dining staff, and administrators reviewed proposals selected two architectural firms. Skidmore, Owings, & Merrill (SOM) of Los Angeles, in association with Mithun of Seattle, have been chosen to design housing on the campus sites identified in the LRDP. The new residences will include dining facilities and common area amenities and will address pedestrian/ vehicular circulation." Kiki Reyes, the university spokesperson, stated.

The expected completion date of these new projects is now Fall 2027 with the hope that these new dormitories will be a step towards easing the housing crisis for the UCSB community as a whole.

Flacks encouraged current UCSB students to stay active and vocal about the current and future state of housing.

"This is a direct interest of students in their daily life, the housing question, and I would hope that students would be really engaged in learning about it and not just thinking it's an individual problem for them individually, but a problem they all share. And that can be changed by their

Median rent for 2-bedroom units of all types (2022)



10

SCIENCE & TECH

SIMPLY STATED

Olivia Lohrer Staff Writer

A series of TikTok videos went viral in December, showing Target shoppers aggressively running towards and grabbing Stanley's newly-released, limited edition "Cosmo Pink" and "Target Red" 40 ounce "Quenchers."

These tumblers have become the newest, in-vogue version of the ongoing transition to reusable drinkware. Marketed as a sustainable way to stay hydrated, the Stanley's hype has begun to contradict the environmentallyminded premise of purchasing a reusable water bottle: limiting unnecessary consumption.

Although Stanley has been creating drinkware for over 100 years, the company can credit TikTok with its recent rise to fame

In the past few months, these tumblers have become a collector's item and, according to Business Insider, Stanley's annual sales rose from \$94 million in 2020 to \$750 million in 2023. Furthermore, the Quencher was the single most popular gift teens received for Christmas in 2023. Now, people no longer need just one reusable cup. Many of the viral videos, typically made popular through the algorithmic power of "#watertok" showcase people showing off their extensive

Stanley Cup collection, often

consisting of dozens of tumblers.

The cups can be purchased online for \$45, however, many of the most sought-after models such as those part of their collaboration with Starbucks - are being resold for prices nearing \$300. The desirability of these tumblers has raised other questions in the name of sustainability, namely: who needs that many water bottles if you can only drink from one at a time? In response to the recent craze, TikTok commenters and environmentalists have begun to question whether this is more of the same for our throw-away society.

"At Stanley, we believe that through invention and originality we create a more sustainable, less disposable life and world," Stanley's online statement on sustainability reads. Additionally, it highlights the company's four principles of sustainability. They offer a "built for life" warranty, they are committed to making at least 50% of their stainless steel products from "recycled materials" by 2025, they are committed to "sustainable packaging" by 2025 and they utilize "values-led manufacturing."

Still, trend analysts hypothesize that, like every other fad that has come and gone, we are in the height of the Stanley Cup's popularity and they will inevitably be cast aside for another reusable water container. And when they do, the options for recycling them are limited. The vast majority of disposed Stanleys are predicted

How sustainable is the Stanley cup?

to end up in landfills. According to a New York Times article on green drinkware, "producing that 300-gram stainless steel bottle requires seven times as much fossil fuel, releases 14 times more greenhouse gases, demands the extraction of hundreds of times more metal resources and causes hundreds of times more toxic risk to people and ecosystems than making a 32-gram plastic bottle." Between the resources required in production, the carbon footprint associated with distribution, their relatively short life span as a microtrend and their final disposal, most Stanley cups will not be kept on shelves long enough to see their existence reach the breakeven point when they become more environmentally viable than plastic water bottles.

From an environmental point of view – and arguably from a financial one as well – buying another Stanley that will sit in your cupboard as a 'collector's item' is just not worth it.

Still, owning one reusable water bottle – whether it is a Stanley, a Hydro Flask or a YETI – and using it for an extended period (multiple years) has never been the issue; in fact, it is a big part of the solution to our growing plastic crisis.

The issue arises when society turns everyday items initially intended to be a more sustainable option into the newest coveted craze in the greater culture of mass consumption.

The most sustainable thing that you can do is to learn to be content with less. One Stanley cup should suffice your hydration needs!



Research in Review: groundwater decline, metabolic imaging, shark fishing mortality

| Kaitlin Lee | Staff Writer

Global groundwater decline

UC Santa Barbara Assistant Professors Scott Jasechko and Debra Perrone recently published a paper analyzing data from 170,000 monitoring wells and 1,693 aquifer systems across over 40 countries, showing that globally, there is extensive and rapid groundwater level decline, particularly in dry regions with large-scale croplands.

The researchers compiled groundwater level data by delineating aquifer systems across the globe and performing a literature review of local published studies. Statistical analyses of groundwater level trends included Theil-Sen regression slopes, which estimate the slope of linear relationships between two variables. This type of regression was ideal because it is not sensitive to outliers and allowed the team to compare trends between the late 20th and early 21st centuries from a large data set. They found that, compared to 1980 to 2000, about 30% of aquifer systems had experienced accelerated groundwater-level declines between 2000 and 2022. Despite many previous publications discussing groundwater scarcity and unsustainable groundwater withdrawals, few touch on the potential for aquifer recovery. The

study highlighted the recovery of depleted aquifers, finding that in about half of the analyzed aquifer groundwater-level systems, declines have slowed and show potential for aquifer recovery. This research suggests that aquifer depletion is not necessarily inevitable and can be reversed, despite the fact that rapidly rising groundwater levels are rare. The study also acknowledged its various limitations such as data availability; analysis can only be done on areas from which existing data is available. In addition, results are based on annual averages, while groundwater levels can vary between seasons. Climate variability is another factor that can influence recent groundwater levels compared to the late twentieth century. Another question the researchers are currently investigating is climate change affects groundwater levels and subsequently how to predict groundwater levels in certain areas.

Metabolic imaging

When studying metabolism-related diseases, it is critical to use metabolic imaging to understand and study "metabolic heterogeneity," or the differences between metabolic activities among cells. Metabolic heterogeneity can affect many aspects of human health and plays a role in diseases such as neurodegenerative disorders,

diabetes and cancer. Although much progress has been made to study these processes, current imaging methods have limitations and are often used to study model organisms that lack practical significance to humans. To address this, UCSB researchers at the Kosik Lab developed an imaging platform that involves the mapping of lipid metabolism in human-derived cultures at the single-cell level. Optical photothermal infrared (O-PTIR) microscopy, as it is called, features high resolution and is compatible

with fluorescence imaging. In the study, researchers utilized an azide-tagged infrared probe to detect newly synthesized lipids. Experiments involving humanrelevant model systems such as human-induced pluripotent stem cells and human brain organoids - artificially grown organ tissue - were performed. Lipid metabolism was observed in various cell types and mutations, over time and with differentiation stages. Findings suggested that neurons in brain organoids had a considerable reduction in lipid metabolism function in comparison to astrocytes, a type of non-neural central nervous system cell. The researchers compared the O-PTIR method with other single-cell metabolic imaging methods such as optical imaging (OMI). metabolic Compared to O-PTIR, OMI is more challenging to adapt to other metabolic pathways such as that of cholesterol. In further research, the team intends to improve the O-PTIR platform system, including by performing experiments with a greater number of cells to detect more subtle heterogeneity.

Shark fishing mortality

Overfishing has long posed a threat to many aquatic species, including sharks, whose populations have steadily declined over the past decade. Researchers at UCSB recently co-published a paper discussing mortality rates of sharks across the globe even after widespread protective legislation has been put in place. This legislation intended to reduce shark bycatch from pelagic tuna fisheries and prevent shark finning, a lucrative practice in which sharks' fins are removed before the animals are released back into the ocean. The study of spatial and temporal trends in shark fishing mortality and its link to legislative regulation had not been done before. The researchers found that between 2012 and 2019, total shark fishing mortality increased from at least 76 to 80 million sharks. In addition, the mortality of sharks in coastal waters increased by 4% whereas mortality decreased by 7% in pelagic fisheries.

In this study the researchers took a synthetic approach by compiling available data published or reported by fisheries, countries and regional fishery management organizations (RFMOs). Specifically, they studied global patterns of shark fishing mortality and compared them to regulations put in place at that time. Areas of high shark fishing mortality were shown to be in coastal environments including the Atlantic coast, West Africa, the North Indian Ocean and the Coral Triangle. A decrease in mortality in pelagic fisheries was related to the introduction of RFMO regulations which banned the retention, or harvesting, of certain threatened species. Although finning regulations have been adopted, they have not been shown to reduce shark mortality. The findings suggest that instead of finning, shark fishing has become more concentrated on small coastal species that are not protected by regulations. However, some regional shark fishing and retention bans, such as the RFMO regulations, have shown success. Nevertheless, the researchers provide evidence that shark fishing regulations need to be expanded and that efforts should conservation be pursued to protect these threatened species.

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

SANTA BARBARA AIRBUS

LAX Shuttle - Charter- Daytrip Tours
16 TRIPS TO/FROM LAX DAILY



YOUR CONNECTION BETWEEN LAX AND SANTA BARBARA.

EASY, CONVENIENT, CLEAN AND AFFORDABLE!



WWW.SBAIRBUS.COM 805-964-7759

(3) [0]



LAVISTA

La extraña historia detrás del Día de San Valentín

Caitlin Scialla Reportera

año, vemos los Cada espectáculos que acompañan el Día de San Valentín. Es un torbellino de actividad, un día lleno de flores, chocolates, tarjetas, cupidos, y más. Para mucha gente, está tradición es muy esperada porque es una buena oportunidad para celebrar a las personas que aman. Con el tiempo se ha transformado en un día que no solo reconoce el amor romántico pero, también, conmemora amistad y familia. Es un día para todos.

Pero la ĥistoria detrás del Día de San Valentín no es muy conocida. ¿Cómo llegó este día de fiesta? ¿Siempre ha sido una festividad de amor? ¿Cómo se ha convertido tan popular?

La respuesta no es simple. El Día de San Valentín, como lo conocemos en los Estados Unidos, es el producto de una mezcla de influencias romanas y cristianas. Parece que el Día de San Valentín viene del festival romano llamado Lupercalia, que fue celebrado durante el medio de febrero y tenía asociaciones con la fertilidad y el amor.

Los detalles de Lupercalia son. . . interesantes. Fue un festival muy distinto de lo que estamos acostumbrados ahora. Para Lupercalia, un grupo de sacerdotes sacrificaban un par de cabras y usaban su piel para golpear a las mujeres que estaban participando. Según la tradición, esta acción aumentó la fertilidad de las mujeres. Luego, los hombres y las mujeres formaron parejas y pasaron el resto del festival juntos. Si fueran una buena pareja. . . bueno pasarían la noche juntos.

Lupercalia incluía mucho alcohol, mucha desnudez, y, al parecer, mucha diversión.

parecer, mucha diversión.

Lupercalia se convirtió en algo más apacible y menos violenta con el paso del tiempo. Además, cuando el cristianismo ganó popularidad en el Imperio

romano, el Papa Gelasius decidió poner el Día de San Valentín en el mismo día que Lupercalia. Muchos especulan que fue una decisión de la Iglesia para expulsar los festivales "paganos." Todavía un día sobre fertilidad y amor, este nuevo Día de San Valentín reemplazó las actividades escandalosas que había marcado Lupercalia.

Y à quién es San Valentín? De nuevo, nadie está seguro de verdad. Existieron mártires múltiples llamados Valentín. Incluso hubo varios San Valentines que fueron asesinados el 14 de febrero.



un montón de teorías que

intentan crear una conexión entre uno de estos San Valentines y el romance que muchos de nosotros asociamos con el Día de San Valentín.

Uno de estos mitos dice que San Valentín vivió durante una época cuando el matrimonio fue prohibido bajo el Imperio romano.

A pesar de esto, San Valentín se casó con muchas parejas en secreto. ¿El resultado? Fue descubierto y asesinado, en el nombre del amor.

Otro mito sugiere que San Valentín pasó notas entre amantes cristianos que estaban encarcelados en una cárcel romana, lo que explicaría la tradición moderna de intercambiar tarjetas de San Valentín.

Sin embargo, la mayoría de los historiadores creen que la conexión entre San Valentín y el romance no apareció hasta la Edad Media, gracias a eruditos y escritores como Chaucer y Shakespeare. Como resultado San Valentín y su día se convirtieron en un símbolo de amor y romance.

La popularidad del Día de San Valentín aumentó durante la Edad Media y solo incrementó más durante la Revolución Industrial, que introdujo la producción en masa de tarjetas y dulces. Desde luego, hemos visto una explosión en la comercialización y escalación del Día de San Valentín.

Obviamente, el Día de San Valentín tiene una historia muy larga y complicada. Esta historia es una lección en la construcción de prácticas sociales, incluyendo nuestros días de fiesta. Es increíble ver como un festival como Lupercalia se ha convertido en un día asociado con cajitas de chocolates, pétalos de rosas, y líneas largas afuera de restaurantes.

Nos dice que el Día de San Valentín es completamente nuestra creación y, por eso, no es muy serio.

Puede ser es un buen recordatorio para gente que sienta presión cuando el Día de San Valentín llega, presión para tener una pareja o planes muy elaborados. Estás expectaciones solo son culturales. Es divertido celebrar si así lo quieres, sin embargo está completamente bien si no quieres hacer nada o si quieres hacer algo muy simple.

Parece cliché decir, pero no deberíamos celebrar amor solo un día del año. Así, esta presión que rodea el Día de San Valentín es tonta.

No obstante, puede ser un evento muy divertido si cambiar celebrarlo.

Para todos ustedes que se están celebrando, iespero que tengan un muy feliz Día de San Valentín!

Receta de la semana: Caldo de pollo

Angelica Monroy Editora de Copia de La Vista

En esta temporada de invierno los cambios de temperatura atraen enfermedades respiratorias que desafortunadamente pueden dejarte fuera de servicio por unos días.

Pero cuando eres un estudiante con ensayos que escribir, trabajos que entregar y clases que atender, estar reposando mucho tiempo puede dejarte en desventaja.

Una de las recetas que mi familia hace cuando alguien empieza a sentir ese dolorcito en la garganta es el caldo de pollo. Hay muchas maneras de poder hacer tu caldo, puedes llevar diferentes verduras, con pierna, pechuga y hasta muslo de pollo.

La versatilidad de cocinar este caldo es una de mis cosas favoritas de esta receta. No solo tiene un sabor muy delicioso pero también gracias a las vitaminas y nutrientes de las verduras y el pollo te reforzará tu cuerpo un poquito más para esta temporada de temperaturas bajas.

Caldo de Pollo Tiempo: 1 hora Sirve: 3 platos

on ve. o piacos

- Ingredientes:1 taza de arroz
- 1 rama de cilantro
- 1/4 de cebollaMedia pechuga de pollo

(o cualquier pieza de pollo)

- 3 papas picadas er cuadros
- 1 lata de garbanzos al
- Sal y pimienta al gusto

Preparacion:

- 1. En una olla grande vas a poner a hervir 2 litros de
- 2. Ya que empieza a hervir vas a echar el pollo, junto con la cebolla, sal y una pizca de pimienta. Tienes que echarle un ojo a tu olla porque seguramente el agua empieza a burbujear mucho y se puede salir.
- 3. Después de alrededor de 40 minutos vas a echar las papas picadas y los garbanzos y vas a esperar a que la papa se empieze a suavizar.
- 4. Espera 10 minutos despues para poner el arroz crudo.
- 5. Ya que veas que el arroz se empieza a inflar le pones las ramas de cilantro para el sabor y está listo para servir.

Puedes crear esta receta con cualquier verdura que tengas en tu refrigerador: papas, zanahorias, ejotes, elotes, calabaza entre otras más. Toma esta receta como inspiración para crear tu propio caldo, no solo para reforzar tu sistema inmune pero también para tener un pedazito de casa contigo.



IVCSD implementará una máquina expendedora de tiras reactivas de Narcán y Fentanilo en el centro comunitario de Isla Vista

Escrito por Lizzy Rager Traducido por Erick Ruvalcaba

El Distrito de Servicios Comunitarios de Isla Vista está trabajando para implementar una máquina expendedora de productos de salud en el Centro Comunitario de Isla Vista luego de la aprobación en su reunión de la junta del 12 de diciembre.

La máquina expendedora va incluir insumos de reducción de daños cómo naloxona, tiras de prueba de fentanilo.

La máquina estará disponible gratuitamente las 24 horas del día y 7 días de la semana- el primer servicio de reducción de daños de este tipo en Isla Vista.

El gerente eneral del Distrito de Servicios Comunitarios de Isla Vista (IVCSD), Jonathan Abboud dijo que la máquina va a "ayudar con la crisis de fentanilo", citando la muerte de un estudiante quien sufrió una sobredosis de fentanilo el año pasado en Deltopia.

Según la Oficina del Sheriff del Condado de Santa Bárbara hubo un total de 118 muertes por sobredosis en 2023, de las

cuales 63 de esas muertes tienen relación con el fentanilo.

"Hay una necesidad. Cuando el narcan estuvo disponible sin receta, estábamos viendo qué podíamos hacer con eso. Pero la distribución siempre fue la pregunta: '¿cómo lo hacemos de manera eficiente?' Así que la máquina expendedora llegó en el momento perfecto para las ideas que ya teníamos", dijo Abboud.

Aegis, un centro de tratamiento de adicción a opiáceos en Santa Bárbara, financiará la máquina y sus suministros. Aegis tiene una máquina disponible gracias a subvenciones.

El IVCSD cubrirá los costos de energía, mantenimiento y suscripción del software de la máquina.

Abboud dijo que ha determinado la ubicación de la máquina en una junta en noviembre que estuviera afuera del Centro Comunitario de I.V., ya que era la única propiedad a la que tenía acceso.

UCSB Gaúchos para Recuperación actualmente ofrece kits gratuitos de prevención de sobredosis, incluido narcan, el genérico para tiras reactivas de naloxona y fentanilo, a los estudiantes de UCSB. Sin embargo, el 30% de I.V. Los residentes que no asisten a UCSB no tienen acceso a este servicio y solo está disponible en ciertos horarios, dijo Abboud.

La directora Jaquelina Kurta del Programa de Alcohol y Drogas de UCSB, dijo que la disponibilidad de estos suministros las 24 horas del día, los 7 días de la semana, contribuye a la "seguridad de la comunidad de Isla Vista" y que "es una adición necesaria a los servicios de prevención de sobredosis que ya se brindan a los estudiantes y a los estudiantes de UCSB y residente de I.V."

"Creo que (reducirá) el estigma al hacerlo fácil y accesible para obtener este tipo de cosas de forma prácticamente anónima. No tienes que interactuar con un humano para conseguirlo", dijo Abboud. "Si todo el mundo pudiera conseguir uno, cada vez que la gente vea a sus amigos usándolos... el boca a boca se correrá y ellos también irán a



programa de servicio de jeringa para la máquina.

conseguir uno."

Un problema potencial para la máquina, señaló Abboud, es el abuso de su servicio gratuito e ilimitado. Él dice que la máquina actualmente no tiene límites para las tomas descartadas, pero su servicio de software puede ajustarse en el futuro para incluir una base de datos de usuarios con funciones de inicio de sesión.

La Fundación Orgullo del Pacífico también está trabajando para proporcionar un programa de servicio de jeringas para la máquina, dijo Abboud.

"Los miembros de la comunidad deben comunicarse con nosotros si hay algún otro elemento de salud y seguridad que les gustaría ver en la máquina expendedora. Lo estudiaremos y lo incluiremos en nuestro presupuesto el próximo año para asegurarnos de tener suficientes suministros para mantenerlos abastecidos durante todo el año", dijo Abboud.



Armchair QB Super Bowl LVIII will be a rematch of Super Bowl LIV after the Kansas

City Chiefs and San Francisco 49ers won their respective conferences. Whether or not the 49ers can get revenge remains to be seen

UCSB Athletics

After a bad home loss to CSU Fullerton, the men's basketball team was able get on a five-hour flight to Honolulu and leave with a win over Hawai'i. This continues an inconsistent trend for the

Gauchos who sit in 4th in the Big West.

Women's basketball beats Hawai'i in first meeting since Big West title



Senior forward Alexis Whitfield and sophomore guard Jessica Grant push the ball up the court.

Preston Espar Sports Editor

The UC Santa Barbara women's basketball team avenged last season's Big West Championship finals loss by defeating the University of Hawai'i at Manoa Rainbow Wahine 65-53. Last year, the UC Santa Barbara Gauchos lost to the Rainbow Wahine 61-59 after leading by as much as 15 points. This year, the Gauchos held onto their double-digit lead after playing winning basketball for extended periods of game time. UCSB was led by senior forward Alexis Whitfield, who scored 23 points and grabbed 19 rebounds, and senior guard Alyssa Marin, who scored 12 points, dished out 3 assists and stole the ball twice.

At the start of the match, the Gauchos came out with the same pace they played with in the championship game that was 10 months prior. The team jumped out to a 12-4 firstquarter lead led by Whitfield and Marin as the Rainbow Wahine struggled from the field. The Rainbow Wahine were only able to shoot the ball 9 times in the quarter, hitting 3 of them. On the opposite side, UCSB was efficient on the offensive side of the ball as they shot 8 for 12 from the field. Both teams made 2 shots from behind the threepoint line. After 10 minutes, the score was 22-9 in favor of the Gauchos.

"It was a very tough loss last year, and when you go through that it puts a chip on your shoulder," Whitfield said. "Today was all about the energy. From the jump, we had a ton of energy. That energy is infectious, and it isn't so much living off the past, but today we came as a unit, and it was the best energy we have had in a long time."

While the second quarter was more even than the first, the UCSB offense was still effective. The team shot 44.4% from the field and hit half of their three-point shots. However, the Rainbow Wahine were able to keep up with the Gauchos in this period. UCSB was only able to outscore their opponent by 1 point in the quarter. The team entered halftime with a 14-point lead.

"I thought we were patient [with our three-point shot selection]," Head Coach Bonnie Henrickson said. "Once we got the ball moving and got them to chase us a little bit and Whit[field] got downfield, it was wide open. [Senior guard] Anya [Choice] was penetrating and kicking and giving everyone threes."

The third quarter was mostly as even as the second. However, this meant that the Gauchos continued holding on to their double-digit lead. They were able to hold their advantage because of their solid scoring attack. In this quarter, UCSB shot 50% from the field while hitting 1 three-point shot. The Rainbow Wahine only made 1 less shot than the Gauchos, but their 0 for 7 three-point shooting was disappointing for their comeback attempt. At the end of the quarter, UCSB once again went on a run to extend their lead to 20 points. Whitfield took over the game in this time frame, as she scored over half her points in the third quarter.

In the final quarter, the Gaucho offense began to slow down. The team shot a dismal 2-11 from the field while the Rainbow Wahine began to claw back. The Rainbow Wahine were able to get the advantage down to 12 points. However, the UCSB defense clamped down and did not allow the Rainbow Wahine a serious comeback attempt. As the Rainbow Wahine decreased the lead, sophomore guard Mary McMorris made

a huge three-point play by hitting a shot she was fouled on. Momentum swung back in the Gauchos' favor after that play as they were able to secure the victory. In the final 3 1/2 minutes of the game, the Rainbow Wahine were held

"I thought defensively we were scrappy and tough," Henrickson said. "We didn't get a lot of shots in rhythm and some double clutches there was a lot of contact at the rim too."

With the victory, the Gauchos are now in a threeway tie for first place in the Big West with the UC Irvine Anteaters and the University of Hawai'i. UCSB's first opportunity to separate themselves from the rest of the pack will be on Feb. 1, when the team travels to Davis to take on the 10-9 UC Davis Aggies. Tipoff is at 6 p.m., and the game will be available to stream on ESPN+.

Women's waterpolo goes undefeated at Lancers Joust Tournament

Isaiah Ochoa Sports Editor

The UC Santa Barbara Gauchos matched against the San Jose State University Spartans and the Biola University Eagles in the Lancers Joust Tournament on Jan. 27 in Riverside, California. The Gauchos won both games, defeating the Spartans 10-9 and the Eagles 20-5.

In the first game against the Spartans, the first quarter

quarter as no one put up any goals in the first 4 minutes. San Jose State University (SJSU) soon broke the scoreless tie by scoring the first goal with 3:56 left in the first quarter. Shortly after, the Spartans scored again, making it 2-0.

Heading into the second quarter, the Gauchos hit the board as they scored in the first 30 seconds to cut the deficit to 1. A minute later, junior utility Annie Kuester evened it at two by hitting the

The quarter proved offensive as the Spartans scored one of their own to retake the 3-2 lead. Kuester tied it back up 2 minutes later, but SISU retook the lead 1 minute after Kuester's second goal.

In the final 20 seconds of the quarter, the Gauchos and Spartans each scored, scoring 5-4 in favor of the Spartans heading into halftime.

The Spartans extended their lead to start the third quarter,

5 minutes left. Junior utility Jojo Scheer joined the goalscoring, bringing the Gauchos within one by recording a goal

to make it 6-5 Spartans. The Spartans scored once more in the quarter to retake their 2-goal lead, but Kuester cut the deficit back to 1 and recorded a hat trick by scoring her third goal of the game.

Kuester did not stop scoring as she scored twice in the fourth quarter to help bring a Gaucho win over SJSU.

also contributed significantly to the 10-9 win as she scored a hat trick. Combined, Amaral and Kuester contributed 8 goals.

In the final game of the Lancers Joust, the Gauchos dominated Biola. Freshman attacker Isabel Valaika got the scoring early as she scored on the first possession of the game. Valaika scored once more in the quarter, but not before her teammates had followed up her goal. After one-quarter of play, the Gauchos lead 5-2.

UCSB continued to put on an offensive clinic as in the second and third quarters; the Gauchos outscored the Eagles 10 to 3. The Gauchos completely shut down Biola in the fourth quarter as the latter did not score, letting the game end 20-5 in favor of UCSB.

Valaika finished with a hat trick as she scored four goals. Valaika was not the only Gaucho with a hat trick in the game, as junior center Imani Clemons and junior attacker Christina Mullane finished with 3 goals.

UCSB is set to participate in the Triton Invitational at UC San Diego in La Jolla next weekend, from Feb. 2-4. Placed in Group A alongside No. 1, University of Southern California Trojans (USC); No. 11, University of Michigan and Concordia University Irvine, the Gauchos will kick off the weekend with an 8 a.m. faceoff against the Wolverines on Friday, Feb 2.



Daily Nexus The Daily Stench Thursday, February 1, 2024



THE DAILY STENCH

It's Satire, Stupid. —



Highly uncomfortable

cuffing season! It seems like every girl nowadays has finally tamed a similar type of guy. He's blond, super energetic and with golden retriever playful, and sometimes tan. He's always lightening refused to leave her alone, the mood and making you laugh but, also is loyal and him. Though Purdy shared protective - the "golden that she doesn't wear any retriever" boyfriend.

"No!" third-year student conditioner,

Anika Purdy said, pushing a golden retriever boyfriend down off her leg. "No! Get down! Your goddamn boyfriend won't stop humping my leg!!!!"

Purdy has been struggling boyfriend Jake, as he has despite her not claiming kind of scented shampoo, soap

perfume, it seems as though Jake just couldn't resist her.

"You need to be more firm with him. Jake, STOP!" Jennifer Welter, Jake's selfproclaimed owner, shouted. "He just needs to listen to me. Jake - "

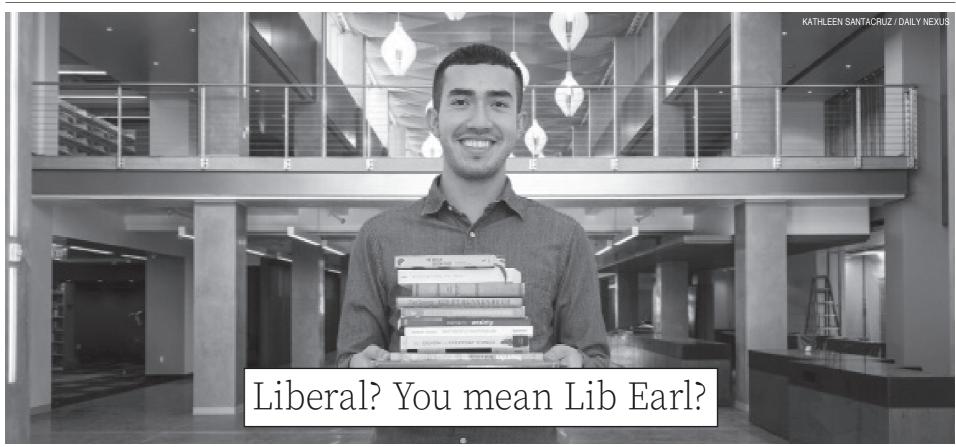
Even when offered alternatives, like listening to Baby Keem and Kendrick "family Lamar's or playing Spikeball, he refused to leave Purdy's side, constantly climbing up

her leg. This is a singular instance of the problem that Isla Vista is facing, but it is more widespread than you are led to believe. Golden retriever boyfriends are running amuck, refusing to listen to their owners and bothering anyone who will give them the chance.

Gauchos, if you spot a golden retriever boyfriend with the zoomies, be sure to stop him, build trust and then assert dominance.

Oftentimes, giving them a little spritz from a spray bottle with water will teach them their lesson; it's time to start teaching them right from wrong. Though it is a frustrating battle, those free from the clutches of their "cuteness" can step in to help with training, ultimately helping all of Isla Vista.

Fart Tent does not FUCK with men.



Meel F. Lover Snowflake

Do you ever feel sick and tired of hearing about those goddamn liberals all the time? Well, you shouldn't. I only know one Lib Earl and he is a very nice man.

I met Lib Earl for the first time as I was walking into the ladies' room one late night on the fourth floor. Instead of immediately diverting my gaze as I glanced at him, he smiled at me kindly, as if I had just lit up his day, in a completely non-creepy and totally appreciative way. It takes a special kind of guy to

achieve something like that. Even when I was done doing my business, having tooted my own metaphorical horn that was in my butt after a particularly unfortunate runin with Hana Kitchen, Lib Earl was courteous enough to glance up nonchalantly and smile again before getting back to his work, as if he had heard none of the events that had transpired five feet away from his sacred study space. His Lib Earl mannerisms, or Lib Earlisms, are so admirable. What a gentleman!

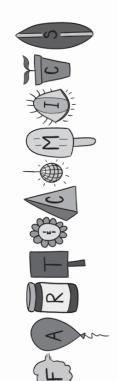
Poor Lib Earl does not deserve all of the slander he gets. All he wants to do is go to the library every day, at all hours of the day and be the humbly unemployed, dedicated college student that he is as his back bends in a perfect U-arch over his biology homework. Go Lib Earl! Yet day after day, he is forced to endure the slander that people say in passing about other Lib Earls and "how they refuse to make any progressive change in this country because they're just fine with the status quo!" Lib Earl is not fine with the status quo! Lib Earl, too, wants to uproot our oppressive systems! Yet no

one ever gives him a chance to defend himself. Once when he tried to argue that he did not just want handouts in order to get ahead of a group of offensively straight white men, they yelled "Let's go, Brandon," at him, to which his response was to gently remind them that his name was Earl. Lib Earl is trying

his best. You can always see Lib Earl in the same spot on the fourth floor, the personable man that he is, studying away to the both neutral and unassuming beats of Lofi Girl. Campus Democrats could have told you that, though, as one of

their representatives can always be seen within a few yards of Lib Earl. It's unclear whether they operate as protection services for their self-proclaimed mascot, or solely to snap sneaky photos of him for undetermined uses. If I were Lib Earl, I would appreciate some free advertising on behalf of Camp Dems. Getting to know some Lib Earl better is beyond overdue - the people want what they want!

Meel F. Lover longs for the day she can finally meet the other Lib Earls everyone is always talking about.



MIDTERM WEEK PRIORITIES AT UCSB







ZOE GONZALES / DAILY NEXUS

ARTSWEEK

The beat behind The Doors: In conversation with John Densmore

Stella Mullin Co-Artsweek Editor

"Did you ever hang out in Isla Vista?" a girl asked in the audience.

"We burned the bank down!" replied John Densmore, drummer of 1960's rock band The Doors. The beat behind rock and roll legend Jim Morrison, Densmore, now has three "selfcentered" books (according to Densmore himself), two being about The Doors, his newest called "The Doors Unhinged: Jim Morrison's Legacy Goes on Trial."

The book brought him to the Santa Barbara Museum of Art on Jan. 28. In conversation with novelist and colleague Andrew Winer, Densmore shared bits about his time in The Doors, his views on commercializing music, excerpts from his books and, of course, songs.

Sporting psychedelic pinstripe pants, a purple button up, bolo tie and Vans - typical of California, and more specifically Southern California, fashion -Densmore walked into the 200 person auditorium to a round of applause and excited faces anticipating the anecdotes he may soon share.

He started his talk reading an excerpt from his first book "Riders on the Storm," where he played the drum beats for each song off his first album "The Doors" leading up to playing "The End." It was incredibly special to watch a rock and roll Hall of Famer play simply a Moroccan drum complemented with a foot tambourine.

To set the scene ... when The Doors were first getting off the ground and moving closer to becoming a very successful band, Morrison proposed a never-before-seen dynamic between the four bandmates. Ray Manzarek (keyboardist), Robby Krieger (guitarist), Morrison and Densmore would have an equal share in the band, all lyrics by "The Doors" and each had veto power.

In 1968, Buick asked to use

an advertisement, turning the lyrics into the slogan "Come on, Buick, Light My Fire." Morrison vetoed, claiming that their music should be kept as art and not used for money. The rest of The Doors' music stayed this way, which led to their falling out in the spring of 2003.

In the early 2000s, Cadillac wanted to use "Light My Fire" and in the spirit of now late Morrison (who passed in 1971), Densmore vetoed, much to the disappointment of Manzarek and Krieger. And in 2002, Manzarek and Krieger went on tour as "The Doors of the 21st Century," except "of the 21st Century" was so finely printed that fans simply thought that "The Doors" were going on tour again.

Densmore sued Manzarek and Krieger for misusing the name (The Doors were not The Doors without Morrison) and was met with a countersuit for more than they had made in their entire careers combined. Densmore, along with the Jim Morrison estate, won the case, but only after a bitter battle that, according to Densmore, "knocked The Doors off their hinges."

Although the event was to speak about his book, Densmore also spoke of his musical inspirations and of "his ancestor," Jim Morrison.

When Winer asked about Morrison, all Densmore first said was "what a guy."

As for who he looked up to, Elvin Jones, the drummer behind jazz musician John Coltrane, was it for him. In 1965, at the Manne Hole jazz club in L.A, Jones smiled at a 16-year-old Densmore as he was walking out of the bathroom. That was

"The Beatles hadn't hit yet and Elvin was my muse," he said while using jazz brushes on his Middle Eastern doumbek

Before the Q&A session to round out the hour, Densmore spoke about writing letters as a literary technique. He their song "Light My Fire" as finished with a letter to his

"musical brothers" that touched on apologies for how things ended between the three of them (Morrison not included), and what he loved about both of them, ending with "we can be remembered as even more 'special' if we don't pollute our gold, and if we remember to be generous with the fruits."

THE

with In Conversation **Densmore**

I had the privilege of calling Densmore a few days before his book reading.

I asked him if, had Morrison not taken such a strong stance against using their songs in commercials, he would have taken up that same mindset eventually.

"We were tempted by the money... and he [Morrison] went nuts. Boy, I hope I would have not wanted [to use] 'Light My Fire' to sell cars."

As Densmore went to California public universities and was surrounded by UCLA and UCSB alumnis he had advice for fellow products of the California public school system.

"It's such a blessing being able to make a living at something you love. Even if it's collecting trash, you feel like you're helping people, then you've got the key. Money is energy – it's not evil, it can be used for good or bad. Follow your intuitions as much as possible in the college route," he said.

Although The Doors were unique in the sense that they were part of the very few bands that get to that level of fame, Densmore and I spoke slightly about the I.V. music and band scene. He looked back on his time in the band and admitted that if it came down to money, then sell the songs. But if you were to become more successful. keep them as art.

"Maybe in the long run the songs are worth more, even though in the short term they would have gotten a bunch of money up front. Maybe they're more valuable because they're not polluted," said Densmore.

Along with many UCSB college. I told him I went surfing



"John Densmore is not for sale, and that is his gift to us."



students, Densmore is an environmental activist and expressed concern for inequalities that come with environmentalism. He spoke about the privileges of living near the ocean, but also touched on the fact that it's much more expensive and not attainable for everybody.

"Just everybody do what they can," he said. Whether that means not flying on airplanes or using reusable water bottles, he expressed hope for UCSB students to make it a team effort. Growing up in L.A, he would feel himself wheezing on bad smog days and was made aware of such a pressing issue – even in the '50s it was apparent.

He also told me he used to surf at Coal Oil Point while in

there that morning.

There is a rumor that the Sands' oil rig inspired The Doors' song "The Crystal Ship." They say its sparkling lights at night bear a resemblance to a crystal ship. Densmore stopped this rumor, once and for all, saying that the song is merely a product of poetry and rock n'

To finish this story, here are five albums ('albums' being used vaguely) Densmore would take with him to a deserted island: "Blue" by Miles Davis, Beethoven's "Symphony No. 9," something salsa or cumbia, something with African drumming and anything by Willie Nelson.

And for any drummers reading this, his advice to you is "practice."

Davy Knowles wows at SOhO



Knowles sets the stage for an intimate show.

Paris Huynh Reporter

SOhO Restaurant and Music Club was graced with a raw, soulful performance by Davy Knowles on Wednesday, Sept. 17, in an emotionally-charged evening of poetic lyricism, charming anecdotes incredible music.

The Manx musician first burst onto the scene with his band Back Door Slam, sparking new life into the musical world of blues-rock. Since then, Knowles has explored beyond his signature electrifying music reminiscent of classic rock with his latest album, "If I Should Wander." Here, Knowles seems to embark on a journey and strings together this beautiful narrative through poetic lyricism and folk tunes. This watershed piece of his, brims with rich emotion marking a point of profound maturity in the artist's life and art. Knowles' newfound sound set the tone for his performance at SOhO.

Accompanied by his acoustic guitar, Knowles hit the stage, kicking off with a performance of "Only Son," the first song from "If I Should Wander." A soft, warm melody filled the room with this deeply emotional piece. The song grapples with the weight of maturity, along with fear and internal conflict. For a song that felt so deeply personal, Knowles managed to capture universal emotions and experiences that resonated with the audience.

Launching through years of songwriting, Knowles had the crowd embark on a journey with him, experiencing the vast range of his work. The artist rolled through a vast collection of his songs, along with some special, unreleased pieces as well, stirring up some excitement in the crowd.

Recent releases like "If I Should Wander," a piece he dedicated to his wife, Amber Knowles, and beloved older songs such as "Country Girl," a song written about his sister, Holly Knowles, and the pain she felt being so far away from the comforts of their home, made heartfelt appearances that evening.

With a setlist ranging from heartfelt, folk pieces to his rowdy, electrifying works, Knowles demonstrated his incredible versatility. Armed with his octave mandolin, Knowles began to switch up the mood, serving up his more playful, lively songs such as "Bridal Veil Falls." Here, the artist strung along to quick paced, impassioned songs that jolted the audience into a joyful frenzy. His fingers cut through the notes and danced so rapidly along his strings, the audience could not help but sit in awe.

Perhaps the most powerful performance of the night was of "If I Ever Meet My Maker," an ode to Knowles' late father from his 2021 album "What Happens Next." Guided by soft,

melancholic tunes, listeners accompanied Knowles on his journey of grief and the challenges of coming to terms with the loss of a loved one.

"There was just this little feeling constantly of 'Dad, I wish you could see this," Knowles revealed as he opened up to the audience about the time his father had sadly passed away. Expressing vulnerability in both his songwriting and performance, the artist allowed listeners to peer into his internal world, forging a connection with them.

Building on this connection with the audience, Knowles' performance felt deeply intimate and personal. Lulled into a trance, the audience hung onto his every word, completely captivated by his music and raw

As he charmed the crowd by cracking jokes and telling the stories behind his songs, the audience became increasingly impassioned and immersed in his performance.

Mirroring his latest album, the show was minimalistic and all acoustic, yet had such a profound impact that left the crowd in awe.

Knowles typically accompanied by a band and electric guitars. However, that evening he put on a simple performance of just a man and his acoustics, an impressive feat. The simplicity of his show was key to showcasing the raw emotion and poetic quality of his songs.

"To do some old band songs in a new way" was how Knowles described what he sought out to do that evening, as he tested out this stripped back sound. This newly emerged spirit of Knowles paired with a beautiful evening compelled the audience to erupt in applause as the night came to an end.



Knowles played an acoustic version of a song off his 2023 album "If I Should Wander."

ON THE MENU

I açaí you! Oakberry serves up healthy, flavor-packed Brazilian delights for all



The rich taste of the peanut butter and the added crunch of coconut and granola complimented the light, fruity flavor of the açaí.



Oakberry's interior features vibrant murals that represent the flora of Brazil as well as comfortable seating for customers.

Josh Rhodes Reporter

Tucked away at the edge of Isla Vista's commercial avenue, Pardall Road, lies the town's newest hidden gem. The hit chain, Oakberry, originates from Brazil and has stores across the globe. Their December opening offers Isla Vista residents a taste of the country's culture and a healthy fast food option, which I knew I had to go taste and review as soon as possible.

Oakberry was founded in 2016 by Georgios Frangulis and Renato Hairdar, who dreamt of changing the fast food landscape and its unhealthy perception; their menu offers robust, delicious fast food with its customer's wellbeing and lifestyle in mind. The chain quickly spread around its native homeland of Brazil after the açaí formula is 100% natural açaí phenomena took the storm and quickly opened over 100 stores domestically before expanding abroad in 2018 to the United States and Europe.

The açaí berry is a delicious purple fruit originating from South America more specifically, from the marsh and swamp lands in Brazil. Tasting similar to an infusion of blueberry and grape, the berry has been a staple in the diets of riverbased communities along the unique taste of the country that other foods can seldom

hope to contend with. The fruit grows naturally on the Açaízeiro palm tree native to the forest and is harvested by locals and sold around the country. The açaí production cycle is core to the economic sustainability of Indigenous riverside communities along the Amazon - like the Kambeba tribe - and helps protect the rainforest from deforestation as the trees do not need to be cut down in order for the fruit to be harvested. Rightly so, the açaí tree has gained the nickname the "Amazon Guardian."

Oakberry purchases their açaí berries from local harvesters in the northern river community of Brazil known as Santa Izabel do Pará, where they go through several sanitation treatments and quality selections in order to guarantee their delicious taste and texture. Oakberry's and doesn't feature dyes, sugar syrups, as it seeks to preserve the natural taste and benefits of the açaí. In addition, their product can be enjoyed by anyone with dietary restrictions as it is certified by the Food and Drug Administration and United States Department of Agriculture, organic, vegan, dairy-free, halal, gluten-free and Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point-certified.

The morning after a night out on the town, I wanted Amazon River and offers a a refreshing delicious treat to help me perk up and get ready for my day. I was delighted by my glimpse into Oakberry as I was greeted by two hanging rattan chairs by the doorway which my butt would later fall in love with and randomly ran into some friends. Already regulars to Isla Vista's Oakberry installment despite the store opening in December, we all placed our orders and sat down, eagerly awaiting our

My friends and I describe the açaí taste as similar to a bag of frozen mixed berries from the store with an extra helping of ice: a delicious sorbet-like treat.

The menu mainly features smoothies, bowls, snacks and drinks with a few other products not listed on the menu available for purchase. Bowls and smoothies come in three sizes: classic (12 ounces), the works (16 ounces) and the Oak (24 ounces) and can cost between \$10 to \$20, including unlimited free toppings. I purchased a works açaí bowl for \$13.50 with banana, strawberry, blueberry, granola, coconut, chia seeds, peanut butter and cacao nibs and an Oakberry passion fruit-açaí kombucha. The brand makes their own unique flavor of kombucha using their signature açaí berries that I felt obligated to

The colors of the different ingredients and the signature deep purple of the açaí immediately struck me as I got my first glance of my order. As I sunk into the first spoonful, I was greeted by an amalgamation of different fruity flavors and more crunchy bites from the granola and cacao nibs. My friends and I describe the açaí taste as similar to a bag of frozen mixed berries from the store with an extra helping of ice: a delicious sorbet-like treat. I especially enjoyed the rich taste from the peanut butter, granola and coconut after I mixed my bowl's ingredients together, which highlighted the light fruity taste of the fruit extremely well. I can't help but agree with one of my friends' offhanded comments about the flavor of her bowl, which she happily described as an "explosion in my mouth." While I deeply enjoyed my works bowl, I wasn't immediately impressed by the taste of my Oakberry kombucha. The

drink was more carbonated than I expected, and while the taste eventually grew on me, I don't think mixing the fruity flavor of the drink with my açaí bowl was the best duo. However, I am not an avid consumer of kombucha, so some might like the combination of the bubbly taste with the fruit. I definitely would not knock off trying it at least once since I did enjoy the drink eventually.

All in all, I really enjoyed my first taste and visit to Oakberry. The açaí bowl was delicious and hit the exact sweet yet rich and proteinfull meal I was craving after a night out. However, I did feel a little unsatisfied by how much I ended up paying after my first visit. While the unlimited free toppings - featuring additions like granola, cacao nibs, whey protein, peanut and almond butter, fruit and more and the organic and freshly imported açaí from Brazil did help me explain the pricing to myself, I definitely did not need a drink to complement my bowl and in the future, I will bring my own water instead. Also, If I could change my order, I would add sweetened condensed milk to my bowl - a secret menu topping - which my Brazilian friend told me is how many in her country like to eat it. I am giving Oakberry a solid 8/10 rating, and would absolutely recommend visiting Isla Vista's newest food destination as soon as you can!

Sunshine, tacos and Bruce Lee: A day at Hana Kitchen

Katelyn Waters

Staff Writer Westward from campus, cycling through Pardall Road, are familiar names like Starbucks and The Habit Burger Grill, unflinchingly standing and bustling with Gauchos. But amidst these popular eateries, Hana Kitchen, though somewhat enigmatic in its decor, stands out. The minimalist interior features a cryptic message, "Do you remember when ... " and a looming Bruce Lee portrait, creating an atmosphere both intriguing and perplexing.

Despite my assumptions of Hana Kitchen being a standalone establishment, the intrigue was reason enough to explore further. Raised in South Korea, I, like many of my Asian peers, approach the concept of "Asian fusion" with skepticism. Often, the addition of soy sauce to a dish does not justify the label. Setting aside preconceived notions, Hana Kitchen's teriyaki mango taco became the focus of my

culinary exploration, priced at grilled chicken. Its savory-

I'm not a fervent enthusiast of mango, even in its artificial form. Because of this, the prospect of pairing it with teriyaki sauce left me cautiously optimistic. I enlisted the company of a good friend, Mimi Mogen, for a Friday lunch, unsure if I could conquer the taco solo.

As Mimi indulged in their best-selling chicken bowl, served with a grilled chicken leg on a bed of white rice, broccoli, cabbage and carrots, we patiently waited for our orders. The teriyaki mango taco, presented on a corn tortilla adorned with tomato, onion and cilantro, offered a visual and aromatic spectacle.

The initial bites revealed cilantro as the dominant flavor, generously sprinkled as the final touch; those averse to cilantro should take note. To my relief, the mango wasn't overpowering in any capacity. The true star of the dish, Mimi and I unanimously agreed, was the impeccably marinated

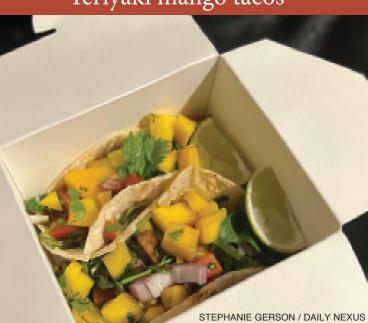
sweet profile complemented the other ingredients, creating a satisfactory blend of flavors and textures.

The teriyaki mango taco turned out to be a delightful surprise, with the mango exhibiting a more neutral taste than anticipated. Each ingredient played its role without overshadowing the others. Do be warned that the tortilla doesn't hold for long under the weight of the taco. Without a fork and a to-go box, there wouldn't have been a way to eat without a mess. After getting halfway through the taco, it's easier to consume as a teriyaki mango salad.

It is vital to note that Hana Kitchen does a 2-for-1 special for Taco Tuesdays. Future visits are on the horizon to take advantage of this deal and reevaluate this intriguing Asian fusion dish. I recommend visiting on a sunny day like I did to fully appreciate the outdoor seating and ponder the significance of the cryptic wall messages.



Teriyaki mango tacos



Each ingredient in Hana Kitchen's teriyaki mango tacos played its role without overshadowing the others.

)PIN()

AITO: MATH IN ECONOMICS Continued from p.1 URMI MANDAL / DAILY NEXUS

Suryaansh Dongre Co-Asst. Editor

The Data Science double major has thoughts too:

\$6 is a lot for a coffee. For some people. For me, it's a Saturday morning. But why are some people willing to pay more? What does it say about society? How do we represent this? And, most importantly, how does this affect the pricing of a Cajé mocha?

At first glance, it's easy. I like coffee more, so I'm willing to pay more for it. More questions arise, though. Why do I like Cajé as opposed to KOZY? Is it the beans? The ambiance? The corps of baristas that seem to have been hired from IMG models? Ultimately, questions in this vein (i.e, economics) seems to always lead to more questions. Economics ultimately the study of choice, and asking questions about basic human behavior that would usually have basic answers.

The question then arises: How should we answer these questions? My answer: math. Some qualifications: math has a

lot more use in macroeconomic analysis as opposed to modeling individual choice, and math in lower division economics classes at UC Santa Barbara isn't taught well. However, quantitative analysis is central to understanding the world around us and provides the happy middle ground of a definitive answer within a more nuanced context.

Let's start with the lower division economics courses at UCSB. I take issue with Econ 1 and 2 specifically (not because AP credits don't count. Definitely not.) because of the very basic mathematical models they introduce to model a very complex situation. The math in 1 and 2 is designed to be done in about two minutes on a multiple choice exam, which is an incredibly poor way of modeling entire markets or even someone's demand for coffee. Everything in 1 and 2 is straight lines at 45 degree angles, and it can be demoralizing to think that your major consists of basic algebra and disappointed frat bros for the next four years.

However, 1 and 2 aren't

accurate representations of real economic research, much less real people. None of your professors are using the firstorder conditions or basic supply and demand graphs in their research papers. It's important to recognize Econ 1 and 2 for what they are: the basics. The intros. Take those classes with a grain of salt and know that upper divisions will be infinitely more complex and interesting. Classes like "Using Big Data to Solve Societal Problems" use more complex mathematical analyses to directly support qualitative solutions to social inequities and externalities caused by the flawed system we operate under. Being an economics major isn't the same as being a math major. But it does mean being able to use math to support more theoretical perspectives of the world. Economics is a social science, and implies having to balance a lot of differing ideals (including the gap between statistics and theory) to create impact and innovate in the field. As for the larger role of

mathematical modeling in

economics: I'd like to point to this article as a great example. Raj Chetty (the accurately named Beyoncé of economics) used a dataset from Facebook with 81 billion data points to understand why social mobility varies across the country. This is the type of mathematical model I support in economics, especially with the accessibility of increased computing power. With datasets that large and the capacity to process them and draw out these insights, economic research has entered a new mode: understanding the economic system that the country currently operates on and understanding how we can work within those systems to guarantee the best outcomes for everybody. Basic algebra is not economics. But neither is contained, philosophical, impotent ivory-tower debating. Mathematics brings economics to the real world, and enables it to make real change.

Sury Dongre thinks that even the most complex statistical model is probably easier to understand than whatever goes on in Econ 1.

In recent years, there

in diversity, equity and

inclusion initiatives within

the journalism industry,

an

increase

been

has

HOROSCOPES

The signs as finance bro sayings

ARIES

MARCH 21 - APRIL 19

"Self-interest is the best interest, bro."

TAURUS

APRIL 20 - MAY 20

"Have you heard of blockchain, bro?"

GEMINI

MAY 21 - JUNE 20

"I'm socially liberal but fiscally conservative, bro."

CANCER

JUNE 21 - JULY 22

"Diversify your portfolio, bro."

LE0

JULY 23 - AUGUST 22

"You should watch 'Wolf of Wall Street' for the 'investment advice,' bro."

VIRGO

AUGUST 23 - SEPTEMBER 22

"Humans have built pyramids for thousands of years, what's another pyramid scheme, bro?""

LIBRA

SEPTEMBER 23 - OCTOBER 22 "Bro, I just made an app

to balance my checkbook in Excel."

SCORPIO

OCTOBER 23 - NOVEMBER 21

"Thomas Malthus was kinda based, bro."

SAGITTARIUS

NOVEMBER 22 - DECEMBER 21

"No babe, we can't just print more money."

CAPRICORN

DECEMBER 22 - JANUARY 19

"No worries, bro, we're in a vibe-cession."

AQUARIUS

JANUARY 20 - FEBRUARY 18

"My favorite fintwt account got taken down, bro!"

PISCES

FEBRUARY 19 - MARCH 20

"The Fed's gonna make a soft landing happen, bro."

DIVERSITY HIRE: THE DIVERSITY FIRES

Amanda Marroqiun

DEI Co-Chair After a long battle with

finances, the Los Angeles Times newsroom has made significant cuts, primarily laying off around a quarter of their journalists on Jan. 23. Those laid off were notified

during a mass human resources webinar and not given a chance for any utterance according to the LA Times Guild. These cuts have specifically hit recently hired writers of color in the newsroom and writers for De Los, LA Times' section for covering the Latine community in Los Angeles.

"The company has reneged on its promises to diversify ranks since young journalists of color have been disproportionately affected," the Guild said in a statement.

While LA Times owner Patrick Soon-Shiong has heralded the newspaper's commitment to diversifying its workforce, the cuts have caused "the Black, AAPI, and Latino Caucuses devastating losses,"

according to the Guild, for the sake of finances despite having the option to offer voluntary buyouts instead.

The layoffs may be attributed to the changing form of informationreceiving popular like platforms TikTok continue to popularize shift journalism's form. Whether out of a lack of readership or a big billionaire corporate buyout in 2018, these cuts are a misstep in the advancement of diversification efforts.

The United States Census Bureau confirms that the Latine community makes up 49% of the population in Los Angeles County, yet Latine journalists have been hit hard this year, with the Times layoffs being most recent offense. Univision's layoff of around 200 journalists occurred a week before the layoffs at the LA Times. Together, these actions have impacted Latine journalism in the city through its dissemination of representation in the newsrooms covering the stories within the community. Though optimistically coverage of the Latine community will remain the same in quality and quantity, community editor of Latino Initiatives at the LA Times Jessica Perez notes the tragedy of it all in a recent tweet: "For many, working here was THE dream job; others, uprooted their lives. For all of us, it's a privilege to tell stories that reflect our communities."

Despite the backlash that Soon-Shiong has received in regards to the layoffs, he has moved forward in placing Terry Tang as the interim executive editor after the recent resignation of Kevin Merida. In doing so, Tang is the first female executive editor the LA Times has had since its creation in 1881. This milestone for female journalists has been a silver lining in the cloud of chaos that has been rampant in the LA Times newsroom recently and is, hopefully, indicative of progress even after the devastation that has taken place.

evident in the number of new hires and distribution of leadership positions. Unfortunately, we are now witnessing a reversal. As there is a lack of seniority in being a new hire, they are inevitably going to be the first to go when it comes to consolidation. As a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Chair of the Daily Nexus, I believe that diversifying the newsroom is key to creating tangible change in what is being chosen as important for coverage, and what communities are being covered. I believe this was partly a choice since there was an option for buyouts. Unless there are stronger initiatives put in place to prevent a future loss that "disproportionately" affects writers of color, I firmly believe that this remains a disservice to the commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion.