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UCSB temporarily suspends MCC after students post pro-Palestine, anti-Zionist signage at Center

Asumi Shuda Lead News Editor

Barbara Santa temporarily suspended the MultiCultural Center and its Instagram account after pro-Palestine student activists posted signs during a gathering at the Center, expressing solidarity with Palestine and dissent against university administration, the Associated Students President Tessa Veksler and Zionism on Feb. 26.

The signage garnered polarizing reactions from the campus community, leading to published statements from Students Supporting Israel (SSI) and Alpha Epsilon Pi as well as social media backlash.

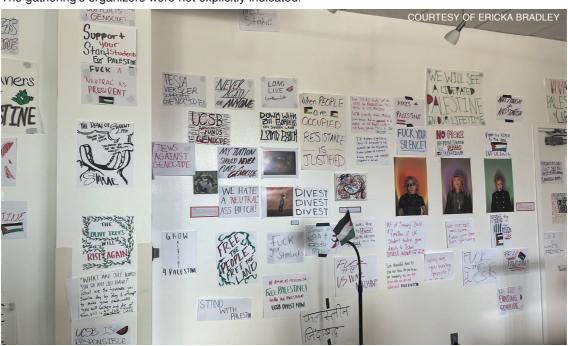
A university-wide email from Chancellor Henry T. Yang and other university administration members condemned the signage posted by pro-Palestine student advocates.

'We were distressed to learn of incidents over the weekend that included offensive social media messages and signage at the MultiCultural Center entrance. Campus offices are reviewing these unauthorized and unofficial messages," the email read.

"The signage has been removed and campus is conducting a bias incident review based on potential discrimination related to protected categories that include religion, citizenship, and national or ethnic origin," the email continued. "The posting of such messages is a violation of our principles of



The gathering's organizers were not explicitly indicated.



Students posted more than 100 signs covering the windows and walls of the room.

community and inclusion."

The decision to temporarily suspend the Center was made following "discussion with student leaders and

[MultiCultural Center] staff," according to university spokesperson Kiki Reyes. The MultiCultural Center (MCC) Instagram account has been

deactivated since the Feb. 26

"The unauthorized posters and social media posts have been removed and we are

conducting a review of the incident," Reyes said in a statement to the Nexus.

Though the signage was not attributed to any specific individual or entity, one of the posters at the gathering was signed by the Jackson Social Justice Legacy Scholarship (Jackson SJ) interns and MCC faculty and student staff.

Jackson SJ interns, the MCC, Veksler and Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) did not respond to requests for comment.

SSI at UCSB published a statement on Instagram in response to the gathering.
"While the MCC prides

itself on dedicating to creating a safe and inclusive space for cultural minorities, this attempt aims to silence, threaten, intimidate, and discriminate against Jewish community," the SSI statement read.

MCC, The Jackson SJ interns nor SJP have published statements in light of Monday's gathering as of Feb. 27.

Monday's collective action reportedly began before 9 a.m., with visible signage on the doors of the Center "Zionists reading, welcome."

Around 11 a.m. in the MCC Lounge, students expressing pro-Palestine sentiment gathered to create posters as students in favor of Israel sat together in protest of the already existing signage.

Discussions around Palestine and Israel began

MCC Suspension p. 7

24th district representative candidates speak on their campaign platforms



Pasquarella's platform points include climate action, equitable education, reducing national debt and, most prominently, reducing military spending.

Sindhu Ananthavel Lead News Editor

The Daily Nexus spoke with 24th district representative candidates Salud Carbajal and Helena Pasquarella ahead of the March 5 election primaries.

Candidate Thomas Cole did not respond to requests for an interview.

Helena Pasquarella

Helena Pasquarella is an Ojai Valley School teacher, UC Santa Barbara alum and Democrat challenger

incumbent Salud Carbajal for the 24th district representative

Pasquarella was previously a private school teacher and event photography business owner and ran for the Ojai Water District but lost the race. Her involvement with her local community escalated when she realized how easy it was to run for office. She said she wants to "change the game."

"It's not that hard to get

24th District Candidates p. 7 | through an unidentified stair

I.V. resident falls off Del Playa balcony during Saturday party, uninjured

Asumi Shuda Lead News Editor

A female Isla Vista resident fell from a balcony off of 6761 Del Playa Drive on Saturday, Feb. 24, at 11:17 p.m. She dropped onto a cliff ledge and was reportedly uninjured, according to Santa Barbara County Fire Department Public Information Officer Scott Safechuck.

The resident was allegedly attending a party at the Del Playa Drive residence and attempted to bypass partygoers by climbing over the railing, slipping and falling in the process.

"The balcony railing is located right at the edge of the cliff," Safechuck said. "When she went over it, there was maybe half a foot or so, but it was unstable - there wasn't a pathway to walk along."

The victim fell 10-15 feet onto a natural ledge formed during the erosion process. Santa Barbara County (SBC) Fire Station 11 raised up the individual from the ledge using

a topside rope system thereafter. "For what reason she decided to do that, I don't have that information," Safechuck said. "But she's very lucky because if that ledge wasn't there, [there is a] high chance that it would have been fatal because of the 50-foot fall into the pounding

surf going against the cliff." Following the fall, three male

neighboring residents worked

their way down to the beach

system in an attempt to rescue the female resident, trapping themselves in the process. SBC Fire Department personnel guided the uninjured individuals back up the bluffs through the Camino Majorca Beach Access.

Safechuck advised community to exercise caution around the bluff patios and balconies at all times and to report any incidents to the SBC Fire Department before they

"We don't want them falling off – there've been 13 deaths associated with the bluffs ... so if you see something, say something," he said. "Keep your fellow classmates and partygoers safe by reminding them that these bluffs are dangerous.

The SBC Fire Department continues communication with District Supervisor Laura regarding cliff safety in Isla Vista.

"It's a partnership between the county, between the students that live out there, between the landlords everyone has to come together, work together, in order to provide and implement a safety plan," Safechuck said.

Safechuck reiterated safety around the bluffs, especially

with party attendees. "If you see something that looks unsafe, say something. Help keep those people who might be intoxicated and may not be making the best decisions safe."



The victim fell 10-15 feet onto a natural ledge formed during the erosion process.

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

Asumi Shuda Lead News Editor

A.S. Human Rights Board presents "Racial Equity in the **Education System'**

Associated Students Human Rights Board is hosting a discussion titled "Racial Equity in the Education System" on Thursday, Feb. 29, from 6:00-7:30 p.m. at the Pardall Center.

The event is in collaboration with Black Women's Health Collaborative, Student Commission on Racial Equity and Pages for Individuals in Prison. The discussion is part of the organization's Human Rights Week from Feb. 26 to March 1.

"How has our education system taught us, or failed to teach us, about the role of race in the criminal justice and incarceration system?" the Shoreline description

Chancellor's Staff Advisory Council hosts National Staff Appreciation Day

The Chancellor's Staff Advisory Council is hosting a National Staff Appreciation Day on Friday, March 1, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Corwin Pavilion Cheadle Plaza.

"Come enjoy a burrito from campus catering and spend some time getting to know your UC Santa Barbara colleagues," the Shoreline description read.

Food will be provided on a firstcome, first-served basis.

A.S. Human Rights Board, CCAJJ presents Political" "Art is

A.S. Human Rights Board is hosting an event in collaboration with the Commission on Culture, Arts, and Joy Justice (CCAJJ) on Friday, March 1, from 12-2 p.m. at Storke Plaza.

"Join us for an afternoon filled with dancing, laughter, including a performance from local Chumash artist, Mia Lopez, celebrating CCAJJ's series, 'Sing a New Song!" the Shoreline description

A.S. C.A.B. hosts technology tutoring at Friendship Manor

The A.S. Community Affairs Board (C.A.B.) is hosting a technology tutoring session at Friendship Manor, an Isla Vista retirement community, on Friday, March 1, from 2-3:30 p.m.

"Help senior citizens at Friendship Manor Retirement Home use their cell phones and tablets," the Shoreline description

Snacks will be provided.

Undocumented Services Student hosts **UndocuGraduate School Exploration Program**

The Undocumented Student Services is hosting a workshop on graduate school exploration for undocumented students on Saturday, March 2, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Dolores Huerta Room in South Hall 1623.

"The UndocuGrad Exploration Program is a full day event focused on providing information through a series of workshops to undergraduate students curious about graduate school," Shoreline description read.

Graduate Student **Association hosts Oscar Party**

Graduate Student Association (GSA) is hosting an Oscar Party on Saturday, March 2, from 6-9 p.m. at the GSA Lounge.

"Come celebrate the award season with us and discuss who you think the winners will be," the Shoreline description read.

Dinner, snacks and beverages will be provided.

Salsa Bachata Kizomba Club hosts midnight masquerade soiree

The Salsa Bachata Kizomba Club is hosting a midnight masquerade soiree in celebration of its seventh anniversary on Saturday, March 2, from 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. at The Hub in the University Center.

"Come by to enjoy free food, dance lessons, amazing performances, and a night of social dancing," the Shoreline description read.

Health & Wellness hosts pop-up study snack station

Health & Wellness is hosting a pop-up study snack station on Monday, March 4, from 1-3 p.m. outside the UCSB Library.

"Grab some free snacks and fuel your academic endeavors with nutritious options," the Shoreline description read.

Office International of Students & Scholars hosts **International Student Day**

The Office of International Students & Scholars is hosting an International Student Day on Tuesday, March 5, from 12-1 p.m. in the SRB MultiPurpose Room.

"This is an opportunity to learn more about cultures from around the world while making new friends," the Shoreline description

Food will be provided.

Mental Health Peers hosts "The Candid Cookie Chat" Mental Health Peers is hosting

"The Candid Cookie Chat (Decorating Cookies & Discussing Sex)" on Tuesday, March 5, from 5-6 p.m. at the Counseling & Psychological Services building, room 1109.

"We will be discussing how your identity, environment, and previous relationship experiences impact your current experience sex," the Shoreline description read. "This is a safe space to learn, ask questions, and share experiences about the connection between mental health and sex.'

There will also be cookie decoration activities, and attendees are encouraged to bring a box home.

Walter H. Capps Center hosts lecture **bookstores**

The Walter H. Capps Center is hosting a lecture on "How Queer Bookstores Shaped the Gay Liberation Movement" with UCSB doctoral candidate Sarah Dunne on Tuesday, March 5, from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Santa Barbara Public Library.

The event is free and open to the public, and light refreshments will be provided. Prospective participants must register to attend.

ONDAS presents "Balancing Advocacy and Academics as a First-Generation Student"

The Opening New Doors to Accelerating Success (ONDAS) Student Center is hosting a workshop on balancing advocacy and academics as a first-generation student on Wednesday, March 6, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Kerr Hall 1150.

The event is in collaboration S.C.O.R.E.; Mujeres Unidas por Justicia, Educación y Revolución; Manua Kea Protectors and El Congreso.

UCSB Library hosts ORCID workshop for graduate

The UCSB Library is hosting a workshop on Open Researcher and Contributor ID (ORCID) for researchers on Wednesday, March 6, from 12-1 p.m. at the Library Instruction & Training Room 1312.

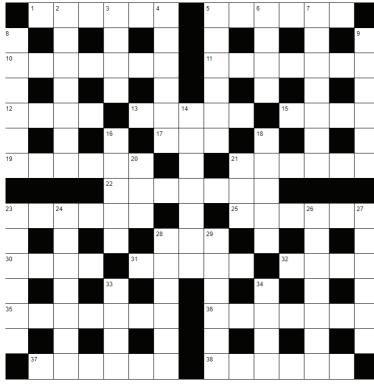
Snacks will be available, and students must register in advance to attend.

MultiCultural Center "Mujer presents sin vergüenza/Woman Without Shame"

The MultiCultural Center (MCC) is hosting a "Mujer sin verguenza/Woman Without Shame" event on Wednesday, March 6, from 5-6:30 p.m. at the MCC Theater.

The conversation will center around a reading by author Sandra Cisneros and a discussion with poet and writer Cherrie

The Daily Nexus Crossword



Siddharth Chattoraj Data Editor

ACROSS

1. Blue Muppet character 5. Video hosting social media platform owned by ByteDance _birds can fly upside down and backward 11. Language traditionally spoken by Ashkenazi Jews

12. Close or within reach 13. Feeling of weariness or dissatisfaction

15. UCSB is home to the California ____Systems Institute

17. Control system that tracks computer file changes

19. Cowboy's cry of joy

21. Unwell or sickly

22. Four-player, tile-based game developed in China

Award recognizing outstanding music achievement 25. The nature of reality in Hinduism and Buddhism

___ Fridays (restaurant

30. The tallest monument in the United States is the Gateway

31. Flower native to Europe, North America and Asia 32. 5 UC's explicitly offer this major field, and 3 others offer related majors

35. Common in the [32 Across] industry

36. Beyond the suburbs

37. One who mends minds or

38. Touch, strong or lean

DOWN

2. Movie starring Dwayne Johnson as Davis Okoye

3. Operator that evaluates an expression and returns an undefined value

Waters (water park) 5. Required to play a competitive sport

6. 1-877-Kars-4-

7. Japanese art of paper folding 8. Traditional folk song sung at sea while working

9. Crowd of people

14. TV show where a team of LEGO ninjas practices Spinjitzu 16. Rays which have the most energy of any electromagnetic waves

18. Illumination source

20. Path or track

21. Common conjunction

23. To take a quick look

24. Collection of old documents 26. Consists of seven colors

27. Nuts high in protein, fiber, antioxidants and fat

28. Generalization of matrices, vectors and scalars

29. Multiple inserts 33. Where Congress convenes 34. To scorch or char

Crossword answers can be found on our website dailynexus.com.

A Week in UC **Student News**

Anushka Ghosh Dastidar Community Outreach Editor

UC Berkeley students honor 1968 Olympics boycott

UC Berkeley students and staff gathered at the Berkeley Alumni House on Feb. 23 for a Black History Month celebration to honor the athletes who protested the National Anthem in solidarity with the Civil Rights movement during the 1968 Mexico City Olympics.

During the protest, two San Jose State University alumni, John Carlos and Tommie Smith, stood on the victory podium with their "heads bowed and each with a raised fist - the Black Power salute, during the National Anthem," Fox KTVU

Carlos and Smith spoke to the group about the lasting impacts of the boycott and cited San Jose State sociology professor and creator of the Olympic Project for Human Rights Harry Edwards as their inspiration for the movement.

"We joined together and decided to make a stand, not only a physical stand but an academic stand to lend help to those who believed running was a lifelong message," Smith said. UC Berkeley commended the

actions during the Black History Month gathering. "As athletes, scholars and change agents, you exemplify the spirit of generations," UC Berkeley Chancellor Carol Christ said at the

athletes and commemorated their

UCLA to launch Howard and

Irene Levine Family Center for **Movement Disorders**

Howard and Irene Levine and their family foundation made donations totaling \$10 million to the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA for the establishment of the Howard and Irene Levine Family Center for Movement Disorders, UCLA reported.

The funds support "five new endowments in the department of neurology at the school of medicine: a permanent-appointment chair. three term-appointment chairs and a movement disorders research fund – all of which will support basic science research on Parkinson's disease."

The donations were made in honor of Jeff Bronstein, UCLA's Fred Silton Professor of Movement Disorders and director of the Movement Disorders Program and Clinic, who has maintained close relations with the Levine family and praised their philanthropy.

transformative philanthropy will provide inspiration and funding for many early career physician-scientists who hopefully will bring us closer to cures for neurodegenerative diseases such as Parkinson's," Bronstein said.

Vice Chancellor for Health Sciences and CEO of UCLA Health John Mazziotta expressed excitement for UCLA's opportunity to make progress in the field of movement disorders.

"UCLA is deeply honored to play a significant part in this process, Mazziotta said.



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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)

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"I thought I could defrost my curry."

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A.S. Senate passes bill condemning anti-Blackness



The A.S. Senate convenes weekly on Wednesdays in the University Center Flying A Studios Room.

Alex Levin
University News Editor

The UC Santa Barbara Associated Students Senate passed A Resolution to Condemn Anti-Blackness at its Feb. 21 meeting.

The action follows several claims of anti-Blackness from within Associated Students (A.S.), including an instance where a Black student government officer was a target of hate speech.

The bill calls for A.S. to "acknowledge and strongly condemn Anti-Blackness at UCSB," "encourage holding students, staff, and faculty accountable for words and actions that harm the Black community" and "recognize UCSB's and UCSB Associated Students complacency in not actively addressing and combating all forms of Anti Blackness."

forms of Anti-Blackness."

The bill also asks the association to "acknowledge the current reality of systemic racism and Anti-Blackness in our community," "recognize the struggles and unique experiences of Black students at UCSB" and "ensure safety and comfort in the overall campus climate" at UCSB.

Off-Campus Senator and second-year political science and sociology double major Nayali Broadway co-authored the bill with Senators second-year political science major Micah Littlepage and third-year political science and Latin American and Iberian Studies double major Gabriela Salazar.

"This resolution just kind of serves as an acknowledgment to the Black community and the things that we go through on this campus," Broadway said. "I was very excited that it passed and I'm excited to see what we can do now as a result."

The bill provided multiple definitions and included several examples of anti-Blackness, including instances where members of the A.S. Black Women's Health Collaborative (BWHC) have been subjects of derogatory language.

"This resolution represents a crucial step forward in acknowledging and addressing the systemic racism and discrimination that Black students face on our campus," BWHC said in an emailed statement to the Nexus. "We extend our heartfelt thanks to Senators Salazar, Broadway, and Littlepage for their leadership and dedication in championing this resolution."

Many campus groups inside and outside of A.S. endorsed the bill, including BWHC, the Black Student Union, the A.S. Human Rights Board, members of the Office of the External Vice President for Statewide Affairs, A.S. Commission on Disability Equity and Mauna Kea Protectors, among others.

The bill passed with 15 senators voting yes, one senator voting no and one senator choosing to abstain from voting.

"I wasn't anticipating a whole lot of pushback," Broadway said. "I think there were only two people who had any pushback, and that in itself was just a little bit frustrating, just because this bill was really important."

BWHC said in the statement that the pushback on the resolution was "disheartening" and referenced a senator who questioned the examples of anti-Blackness mentioned in the bill.

"Concerns were raised by a white male senator regarding the validity of the evidence presented by members of the Black Women's Health Collaborative (BWHC)," the statement read. "It is unfortunate that the experiences and testimonies of Black students, including BWHC Co-Chair and a board member of BWHC, were called into question and dismissed as invalid."

Broadway said she plans to introduce another piece of legislation at the Senate's Feb. 28 meeting to create a task force called the Black Empowerment Committee that will look into the Office of Student Conduct code as well as restorative justice policies and how they pertain to anti-Blackness.

The A.S. Senate convenes weekly on Wednesdays in the University Center Flying A Studios Room to pass legislation and discuss campus and student issues.

The Nexus will continue to report on this topic as more information becomes available.

Students for Justice in Palestine hold die-in for Rafah

Sindhu Ananthavel Lead News Editor

UC Santa Barbara Students for Justice in Palestine organized a die-in and march starting at the Arbor and ending at the Engineering Science Building on Feb. 21.

The die-in was held to raise awareness for Rafah, a southern Gaza city where more than 1.4 million people are sheltered following a series of Israeli military airstrikes on the Gaza Strip, Al Jazeera reported. Israel is currently planning an attack on the city, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel said.

"UC students will not stand for the invasion of Rafah. the last so-called 'safe zone' in Gaza. Since October 7th, 30,0000 Palestinians in Gaza and hundreds in the West Bank have been murdered," a UCSB Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) social media post read. "University of California has bankrolled this action with its 2 billion dollar investment in Blackrock and weapons companies - making it just as responsible as the settler colonial entity in this genocide."

Over 50 SJP members and allies rallied before the UCSB library last Wednesday at noon. Many held signs with phrases such as, "End the occupation" and "Ceasefire now."

"We will no longer allow [the



The group marched from the Arbor, through the library, to the Engineering Science Building.

university] to use our money to commit war crimes, and we demand divestment now," an SJP member said before the group.

The group then marched through the library to the Engineering Science Building, reciting chants such as, "No more money for Israel's crimes. Not another nickel, not another dime."

At 12:30 p.m., the group formed a circle at the base

of the Engineering Science Building, and members laid on the floor for the die-in.

SINDHU ANANTHAVEL / DAILY NEXUS

"We call on students from chemical and mechanical engineering to join our movement," an SJP member called out. "Today, we will die as an act of mourning and of solidarity with Palestine and we invite you to join us in our peaceful action strike."

UCSB SJP did not respond to requests for comment.



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YDSA rallies for meal swipe reforms

psychological

& brain sciences major and

YDSA outreach chair Clay

Dau said despite working 15-20

hours a week at Portola Dining

Commons, they live on "the

"I'm forced to ration my

swipes, dreading to run out

of food on the weekends.

My attempts to seek aid in

food banks and the limited

campus resources have proven

inadequate. It's just not enough

for a lot of us to get by," Dau

"UCSB says they care about

marginalized people and they

love to parade marginalized

people around, tokenizing them

and they love to talk about the

second-year

edge of poverty."



UCSB is one of only two UC campuses that doesn't allow meal swipe rollovers or meal swipe sharing.

Lizzy Rager Asst. News Editor

The UC Santa Barbara chapter of the Young Democratic Socialists of America rallied in front of the UC Santa Barbara Campus Dining office on Feb. 23 to advocate for meal swipe rollovers at campus dining commons. The action follows a petition that garnered over 2,200 signatories – 10% of the student population.

The organization campaigning for meal swipe reform across the four campus dining halls, including meal swipe rollovers each week, rather than leftover meal swipes being unusable for the rest of the meal plan period. Currently, UCSB is one of only two UC campuses that doesn't allow meal swipe rollovers or meal swipe sharing.

campaign is The the third documented effort by students to get rollovers, with previous efforts shot down by the university. Previously, the university reasoned that rollovers wouldn't be tenable due to the way meal ratios are calculated to account for missed meals.

The rally began in front of Storke Tower at 11 a.m. with approximately 30 YDSA members and allies attending.

'We are here today because the same reason student workers are paid minimum wage is the same reason workers can't find

affordable housing is the same reason why we go hungry," fourth-year biology major and YDSA internal affairs chair Uma Clemenceau said to the group. "One in two students here are food insecure – what the fuck. This is not an isolated problem. This is a symptom of capitalism and specifically, this is a symptom of the university running as a for-profit institution."

Clemenceau said university has been running an "austerity regime" where "working-class students have to take out loans and work multiple jobs to afford tuition, while the school uses budget cuts, like not allowing meal swipe rollovers, to maximize on their profits."

"The time is now for [UCSB Campus Dining Executive Director] Jill Horst and the university to accept demands and allow for rollover meal swipes in this ongoing effort to fight against austerity and the privatization of public education," she continued.

The group marched to the building, Campus Dining chanting "Hunger poverty, we can't ignore. Roll over now, give students more," "We won't back down, no retreat. Reform meal swipes or face the heat" and "Ain't no power like the power of the people and the power of the people won't stop," among other chants.

In front of the building,

clearly don't give a fuck about us enough to take care of the poor and the working class," they continued.

diversity at the school. But they

They also protested how UCSB removed its meal swipe donation program through the A.S. Food Bank, despite it having "no additional cost to them.

"Nearly 50% of UCSB students face food insecurity according to the university's own statistics. This is a travesty and an affront to our basic human rights," Dau said. "It is time to dismantle the chains of hunger that bind this campus. It is time for radical change: a shift toward a system to prioritizes the wellbeing of its students rather than its profit margins."

Several YDSA members read student testimonies collected in the YDSA petition. The stories described struggles of going hungry because meal swipes didn't roll over, being constricted by a small meal plan and feeling stress from constantly planning and rationing their swipes. Students also expressed they would intentionally limit their meal plans to qualify for CalFresh and other financial aid and that having to ration fueled disordered eating.

"When I was on a meal plan, I had to choose between eating two meals or one meal a day. I was hungry, had no financial support from my family to get more food and didn't qualify for CalFresh," a YDSA member

"I dealt with food insecurity the two years I lived in the dorms due to the food policy that didn't allow meal rollover, even though I paid for each of those meals. I've never been more hungry and malnourished in my life. I feel weak most of the time and I rarely have enough energy to bike to class," another YDSA member read.

Student statements expressed a desire to be able to use all the swipes they paid for, prevent dining hall food waste and donate leftover swipes.

"Why can't I save up meal swipes for the following week at times when I'm too busy to use them all? It doesn't make sense. We pay too much in tuition to have to starve half of the week," a YDSA member read.

"As a student dining worker, I'm continuously frustrated by low pay and poor working conditions. The fact that I have to throw out pounds and pounds of food each shift while I or no one else can't take any food to eat is appalling," they continued. "The food shortage amongst students in the I.V. community is deeply concerning and should've been addressed by the university years ago."

While testimonies being read out, the group wrote messages with chalk on the ground. The messages read: "They have \$\$\$ 4 war not us," "No one should go hungry,"
"Roll over swipes!" and "Feed us," among others.

The rally concluded at 11:45 a.m. Horst was not present.



The rally began in front of Storke Tower at 11 a.m. with approximately 30 YDSA members and allies attending.

UC refuses to recognize UC Santa Barbara Student Dining Hall Labor Union

Lizzy Rager

Asst. News Editor

The University of California refused to recognize the UC Santa Barbara Student Dining Labor Union on Feb. 21, but recommended expansion of the union's bargaining units to a more UC-wide effort, according to a letter obtained by the Nexus.

The Student Dining Labor Union (SDLU) is the firstever UC dining hall union for student workers and gained official union recognition from the Public Employee Relations Board (PERB) last month. Its campaign, which began in April 2022, includes higher wages, safer working conditions and better treatment for UC student employees.

United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 2865 - representing 38,000 academic student employees - filed the petition requesting a bargaining unit specifically for campus dining hall workers. Its current bargaining units include Academic Student Employees, Graduate Student Researchers, Postdoctoral Scholars and Researchers, Academic encompassing over 36,000 workers across the UC.

doubts "The University the appropriateness of the proposed unit and contends it is more appropriately organized as a systemwide unit including all Student Assistant positions, the statement read.

The letter clarified it is not contesting the right to form an undergraduate studentemployee unit.

The University disputed that the petition for a departmentlevel unit was not appropriate

under the Higher Education Employer-Employee Relations Act (HEERA), specifically that SDLU could not have the right to choose the bargaining unit they are placed in. It also contests that HEERA is against splitting classifications in favor of systemwide bargaining groups.

PERB, the University argued, "has long held that bargaining units in the public sector should be the largest reasonably possible." The letter advocated for a systemwide classification, as PERB has recognized 15 systemwide units at the UC, such as Patient Care employees and librarians.

The petition also cited issues with the dining hall workers being classified as Student Assistants. The University said it already had systemwide policies for sexual harassment and violence, anti-discrimination and whistleblower protection, among others, and that the classification of Student Assistant doesn't qualify them for certain employee rights like retirement funds.

Student Assistant 1 is one of four classifications in this occupational group. There are approximately 530 Student Assistant 1s at the four dining commons out of 5,119 total Student Assistant 1s employed by UCSB, the University said. The unit leaves out workers at the University Center's food court, Coral Tree Cafe, the Arbor and other non-dining common food establishments.

"The petition seeks to create a bargaining unit of less than 10% of this occupational group at the UC Santa Barbara campus, and less than 1% of this occupational group systemwide. Further undermining the validity of the petitioned-for unit, it does not even seek to represent all student employees within UC Santa Barbara Campus Dining," the statement read.

Third-year aquatic biology major and student leader of the SDLU Jasmine Rebollar said SDLU took the UC response to require additional efforts before recognition "as the university just resorting back to their usual tactics of not wanting to recognize [SDLU]."

"They are purposely trying to set in steps and barriers and delay and deny our union in the sense that they're making it allencompassing," Rebollar said. "Because at the dining halls, as well as catering concessions, the responsibilities that we have are not similar to someone who is working in any other campus type of job."

Rebollar cited the University response as being similar to the UAW postdoctoral unionization effort in 2008, where they were also asked to make a bigger bargaining unit before the University would

recognize them. "By going bigger, it begins to not apply to the needs of the unit," Rebollar said.

Going forward, is organizing a "Pin Day" with all dining hall workers. concession workers catering workers to exhibit solidarity and unity.

The Nexus will continue to report on this topic as more information becomes available.



SBC Supervisor Capps hosts meeting about bluff safety, seeks public suggestions

warning signs. Since September

2023, the petition has garnered

as part of their daily existence,"

Capps said. "We are here because

Capps said two points in her

plan have already been completed,

installing public restrooms at

Walter Capps Park immediately

collaboration with IVCSD, raising

fencing in Sea Lookout Park from

4 feet to 6 feet and implementing

director of the Parks Division for

the City of Santa Barbara, said

the Parks Division is currently

working to install signs and

additional lighting along the

fences and walkways. The division

is also continuing to install more

fencing along the Sea Lookout

Park walkways and in Pelican

student, Lindgren said not many

people were aware of the cliff

"There was a year when a group

of San Diego State [University]

of them fell from the bluffs. But

other than that, it really didn't

As a former UC Santa Barbara

Park and Rottapel Park.

safety issue.

Jeff Lindgren, the assistant

Schurmer's death in

we need sensible solutions."

"People are falling off cliffs

11,377 signatures.

a chain link fence.



The gathering's purpose was to also hear from the public about their concerns and other suggested solutions.

Grace Medecki Reporter

Santa Barbara County 2nd District Supervisor Laura Capps held a community gathering at Sea Lookout Park last Saturday afternoon to update Isla Vista and Santa Barbara residents on her eight-step Isla Vista Bluff Safety Plan.

Isla Vista Community Services District (IVCSD), Santa Barbara County Parks Department staff and other community leaders joined Capps to speak on the progress and completed improvements to ensure bluff

Supervisor Capps issued her eight-point plan in September 2023 in an immediate response to the death of Benny Schurmer, a 19-year-old Santa Barbara City College (SBCC) student who fell from the coastal cliffs over Labor Day weekend.

Čapps' eight-point plan includes improvements and installations of the following: fencing, lighting, warning signs, bathrooms, education, horticulture, memorial and enforcement.

Beyond updating the students came here and a couple community on her bluff safety plan, Capps said in her speech that the gathering's purpose was to also hear from the public about their concerns and other suggested solutions.

"We know why we are here," Capps said. "We've had too many tragedies along these cliffs. There have been 13 deaths that we know of, but also too many falls."

Capps said a student-organized petition written by SBCC secondyear theatre arts major Grace Wilson, a student and friend of Schurmer's, impassioned her to improve bluff safety.

The petition – titled "Protect Young Lives in Isla Vista: Enhance Safety Measures at Dangerous Cliffsites - called for the installation of accessible portable restrooms, higher cliffside fencing and advocated for safety and caution through

cross my mind and I don't think any of us really thought about the dangers of being on the bluffs," Lindgren said.

IVCSD General Manager Jonathan Abboud spoke about issuing educational materials to the Isla Vista community to raise awareness about the bluffs.

"We don't have the ability to make rules, but we can advocate and educate," Abboud said.

The IVCSD hosted a town hall meeting in early February to talk about the new bluff safety policies. IVCSD also created an educational pamphlet titled "Isla Vista Cliff Erosion and Safety," which includes details about cliff erosion, cliff safety, balcony and roof safety, as well as emergency resources on cliff safety.

"This is the fastest and most effective I've seen the county be," Abboud said.

As a UCSB alum and former Associated Students president, Abboud said he has personally seen the dangers of cliff safety. Living on Del Playa Drive as a student, he noted that there was a cliff death every year and this contributed to his efforts to create a more responsive government.

"It is sad to hear the people you represent felt like there was no voice," Abboud said.

At the end of the gathering, Supervisor Capps opened the meeting to questions from the public, as well as ideas for other solutions to cliff safety measures and awareness. She also surveyed the audience on how aware I.V. residents were of the problem with cliff falls. One student said that cliff safety "mostly doesn't come up unless someone falls."

Capps said she is continuing to work on and implement the rest of her 8-Point Plan, and there will be another community safety meeting sometime in the near

"I live in daily fear that we are not moving fast enough until we experience another tragedy,"



The Parks Division is currently working to install signs and additional lighting along the fences and walkways.



MSA hosts town hall on Palestine, students speak in solidarity with Palestine

Lizzy Rager Asst. News Editor

Muslim The Student Association hosted a town hall on Palestine on Feb. 20 at 8 p.m. to advocate for Palestinian liberation and in response to an alleged lack of representation in student government and campus Islamophobia, among other issues.

In the discussion, students advocated for ways to work in solidarity with Palestine, speaking to their personal experiences on campus.

"Especially in a campus that has felt so unsafe for anyone who is pro-Palestine, something like this was needed more than ever," Muslim Student Association (MSA) President and fourth-year biology major Maheen Ahmad said. "There are countless amounts of students who have not been adequately represented by their elected student government officials. Some Senators especially seem to put their personal wants above everything else. The time has come where students will not accept this anymore and we will not remain silent."

On Nov. 16, 2023, Associated Students (A.S.) passed a bill condemning the militant group Hamas, following the Oct. 7 attack on Israel. MSA condemned the decision in an Instagram post, citing that the Senate did not include input from MSA in the creation and discussion of the resolution.

Since the November action, MSA has been in talks with the A.S. Senators mentioned in their statement and is "working to create a better, mutual understanding," according to the updates to the post. Senators Alejandra Martinez, Diya Bhandari and Gabriela Salazar were present at the town hall. The Student Commission on Racial Equity (S.C.O.R.E.) extended itself as a resource to students as well.

"We wanted to try and gain insight on how to better use our positions in student government to fully represent your opinions, your concerns or comments, especially as you know how stressful the situation has been on campus and ... how senate has disappointed us before," Martinez said.

has MSA previously collaborated with Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) and the Afghan Student Association (ASA) in campus demonstrations rallying for the liberation of Palestine the UC's divestment from companies funding the occupation in Gaza.

Around 25 students attended the event at the Humanities and Social Sciences Building's McCune Conference Room in person and six students attended online over Zoom. During the meeting, attendees were invited to voice their opinions at a podium facing the audience, which the MSA recorded.

The purpose of the town hall, Ahmad said, was to "bring together a diverse community' and understand "how students are feeling on campus about the current Palestine activism."

Nearly 30,000 Palestinians have died since October 2023, according to the Gaza Health Ministry as of Feb. 26. Half a million displaced Gazans have since retreated to Rafah, the southern tip of the Gaza Strip, where they have been sheltering for weeks.

Students at the Tuesday meeting discussed the need for a united front, spreading education and awareness, their personal experiences and strategies to support Palestinians in Gaza.

5

Several students emphasized the need for the University to publish a ceasefire resolution.

"The discussion of a ceasefire cannot be understated. The cycle of violence and oppression by design partly perpetuates a cycle of despair and destruction. A ceasefire provides a crucial opportunity for humanitarian relief efforts to take place and for the groundwork to be laid toward the next steps to see a free Palestine," a student from Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP)

"We have the power to sow seeds of peace and cooperation that can transcend generations," they continued.

Some students spoke of language surrounding Israel and Palestine not reflecting what is happening in Gaza.

"I think people using words like war, and other specific language doesn't acknowledge disproportion, distribution of power and how certain states have more power than the other," a student said.

One student, who claimed they followed pro-Israel accounts to understand their position, said pro-Palestine students should be able to address topics of the Oct. 7 Hamas attack and how Jewish women are being mistreated in Palestine.

"It's in my opinion, irrelevant to the situation, it's a little bit of a straw man argument. But I think that's one thing often brought up by pro-Israel groups," they said.

Another student said that in an Israeli politics class, one student said borders were immoral in the context of other states, but in Palestine "are a necessity."

"In light of these types of classes, they see it as a safe haven for Jewish people and it detaches Palestine and the topic of Israel and Palestine in the context of other struggles and other places across the world," they said.

Some students spoke of feeling ostracized on campus for their Muslim identity. One student said that one Jewish student said "he had to be really careful and stay away" from Muslim people because "if they found out, they would kill him."

"He turned around, would not look at me, would not make eye contact with me and acted like I did not exist or was not a person," they said.

Many students advocated for low-involvement actions to support Palestinians in Gaza, citing that many students don't have the capacity to commit to certain efforts. Speakers proposed fundraising, social media posting, engaging in educational events and using apps to check if companies are backing Israel's occupation of

The meeting concluded at 9

"We hope that this town hall inspired all leaders to fight more for this cause, knowing how many people are willing to support it. The feedback given by the community will definitely be taken into account by our organization when planning future events related to activism. Knowing we have the community support to back up these efforts is motivating to do more," Ahmad said.

Blum Center holds campus housing forum and Q&A session

Michael Zhang Reporter

The UC Santa Barbara Blum Center on Poverty, Inequality, and Democracy hosted a campus housing forum and Q&A session on Feb. 22, with panelists from several UC Santa Barbara organizations.

The meeting took place in the University Center Flying A Studios Room with approximately 30 attendees. Panelists included representatives from Youth Bridge Housing, Isla Vista Tenants Union, UCSB Graduate Student Association, UC graduate student union Union Auto Workers (UAW) Local 2865, El Congreso de UCSB and UCSB Campus Democrats. Blum Center student leaders Becky Chen, Hari Priya Chipiri, Frannie Fleming and Reilly Wilson introduced the "A People's Guide to UCSB's Student Housing Crisis" and answered questions alongside the representatives.

The panel addressed points raised in the "People's Guide" and tackled housing questions sourced from the community and delivered by moderator, professor and Blum Center Director Alice O'Connor.

Community Labor Project student assistant Cole Gerstle many UCSB students.

opened the event by announcing the Blum Center's Labor Summer program. Then, the discussion dove into the various sections of the "People's Guide." The guide, available online for free, is divided into five primary sections: Current State of the Crisis, Alternative Options, Private Development at UCSB, Central Coast Regional Equity Initiative and California's Housing Crisis.

The "People's Guide" is designed to be a living and regularly updated reference for UCSB housing issues. Chen introduced the objective of the "People's Guide" at the forum.

"It has a comprehensive history, talks about the cancellation of Munger Hall ... it should be easily navigable, should be user friendly – we want this to be the one-stop resource," Chen said.

Presenters of the "People's Guide" critiqued UCSB and the UC system's lack of communication about the Ocean Road and cancellation of the Munger Hall housing project, citing UCSB's inability to secure housing as agreed upon in its 2010 Long Range Development

Chipri discussed how a shortage of available beds for students has adversely affected

"We find ourselves having to make a multitude of sacrifices [when looking for housing]. These houses in Isla Vista are often falling apart - infestations, piping issues, structural issues, you name it," she said.

Criticism was also weighed against the UC's investments into private entities, with particular focus on its 2023 investment of \$4 billion into the Blackstone Real Estate Income Trust. The investment has been met with protest, and the "People's Guide" raises the concern that "the university system's pension fund is at odds with its pledge to provide affordable student housing."

Wilson levied these critiques at the event.

of prioritizing "Instead affordable student housing, the investment arm of the University of California has treated our housing crisis as an opportunity for investment," she said.

Center the Blum student team concluded their presentation, Wilson offered remarks on the long-term goals of the "People's Guide" and its associated programming.

"This is not necessarily 'we have all the answers' or 'here's the solution.' It's about pooling our knowledge in a collective way," she said. "We don't want

this to die with our forum; this is an ongoing conversation that we will continue to have unless we have better for our community."

Student representatives from community groups then presented their organizational efforts to address the housing crisis. Forum members expanded upon points raised in the "People's Guide."
El Congreso de UCSB

representative and fifthyear political science major Andrea Toribio underscored El Congreso's objective to provide a communal space for grassroots social change and solidarity among marginalized groups, emphasizing intersectional inequalities in housing.

"People of color are the front line in the housing crisis, and they're going to be the most affected by this," she said.

Communication student and representative of UAW Local 2865 and UCSB Graduate Student Association Bedlam Oak discussed the shared and particular struggles that graduate students face with housing. They pointed out the adverse effects of financial and time commitments necessary to grapple with housing difficulties for frequently time-crunched and underpaid graduate students.

"People doing the groundwork

of educating – graduate students - have to skip meals, show up to class harried, tired, hungry, confused and still teach section," they said. "The quality of your education is so inextricable from the housing crisis here ... These systemic problems are screwing everybody."

After all student groups presented, the second half of the event ensued: a Q&A forum among the representatives.

O'Connor posed the panelists a variety of questions regarding the university's accountability in the UCSB housing crisis, implementation of transparent communication on university housing, housing as a public good, the interconnectedness of housing and education and other organizations important to the broader discussion of UCSB housing.

Panelists emphasized the lack of communication on housing from the university, discussing regular email updates on UCSB housing and increased student representation in decision making for implementing housing as potential solutions, particularly in light of the upcoming San Benito housing project. They referenced coalition-building and community collaboration as key steps in finding remedies to the housing crisis.

MCC presents queer art exhibition "Finding Joy! In Our Queer Bodies"

Devin Gowdy Staff Writer

The MultiCultural Center and the Resource Center for Sexual and Gender Diversity organized an art exhibition on Feb. 23 titled "Finding Joy! In Our Queer Bodies" as a celebration of the artistic expression of Queer individuals.

Submissions from LGBTQIA+ artists were put on display in the MultiCultural Center (MCC) Lounge. Their works incorporated a variety of mediums including paint, chalk and collage. After participants had time to view the artworks, many of the artists shared their inspiration and artistic processes with the audience.

MCC Program Coordinator Micky Brown said that the event was aimed to challenge the traditional narratives on body image.

"The title of this exhibit is Finding Joy! In our Queer Bodies' because our bodies can be policed, we can have internalized shame about our own bodies and there are just so many rules and regulations about the body that are put on us by society," Brown said.

"For queer people to completely leave that system, it's really powerful, and I wanted to honor that through the artistic expression of our community that I'm genuinely proud to be a part of," Brown said.

Fourth-year biology major and Resource Center for Sexual and Gender Diversity (RCSGD) Programming Assistant Sarah Williams helped organize the event alongside Brown. They drew inspiration from a similar art gallery at the RCSGD from two years ago, Williams said.

"Our mission is really to support queer people on campus in every sense. Queer artists, it's worth supporting them and, also, queer art can be a form of advocacy,' Williams said. "This hits all of our main notes of what we do at the center: advocacy, education, resources and community."

Williams said the goal of the event was to provide a space for queer people to showcase their artistic expression.

"I think queer artists are often overlooked as queer people are oppressed in all realms of life," Williams said. "So having an area to specifically spotlight queer art is really important to help get people's voices out there that might not get out there otherwise."

Fourth-year Chicana Chicano studies major Luis Ledezma submitted two artworks to the gallery titled "Opposite



The event aimed to challenge the traditional narratives on body

Souls." He supplemented his work with a poem titled "Moon and Sun," which he read aloud during the event. His works captured the love between him and his partner, Ledezma said.

"It's a love piece, honestly. I did it for someone really special - my boyfriend. We have come a long way. And the topic was: I was trying to find inner masculinity and how I portray my outside femininity," Ledezma said. "I wanted to show that we are two different individuals. Because of me being closeted half my life and him completely being out."

Second-year English major Rowan Riggs submitted a piece titled "Escapist Daydream." The artwork captures his experience with using fantasy as a method of escapism.

"Growing up, I've always been very into fantasy. As a kid, I got absorbed into books and I would spend hours upon hours upon hours reading just trying to get somewhere where I was finally going to be comfortable because my family has never accepted the

way that I identify. And I felt that there was no better way than to literally depict myself in a scene from a fantasy film," Riggs said.

Brown also submitted two pieces of his own, titled "Meditations on Femininity." In their speech, Brown reflected on how their lived experience inspired their work.

"I'm sure there are people even in this room who see me as a woman, which is false," Brown said. "It's sometimes difficult for me to reconcile that I did grow up as a girl. I had a girlhood and I was treated as a girl. And some of those are really, really precious memories."

Brown explained his process more in his artist statement.

"Exploring the feminine on canvas was an exercise in acceptance and love, but also of grief. Gender euphoria dysphoria. Cherishing my girlhood, lamenting a lost boyhood. My gender, for me, has always been a series of conflicting lines of questioning, conflicting emotions, all reconciled in one body. My body," Brown wrote.

IVRPD celebrates third annual "Forward Ever, Backward Never" event



Vendors participate in "Forward Ever, Backward Never" on Feb. 27.

Anushka Ghosh Dastidar Community Outreach Michelle Cisneros

Staff Writer

The Isla Vista Recreation & Park District held its third annual "Forward Ever, Backward Never" event to commemorate Black History Month on Feb. 27. The event featured art, music, food and poetry, as well as a tribute to poet Sojourner Kincaid Rolle in collaboration with music group the

Joined by UC Santa Barbara Black Student Union (BSU), UCSB African diasporic Cultural Resource Center, UCSB Associated Students Commission on Culture, Arts, and Joy Justice and the Rahkas, the Isla Vista Recreation & Park District (IVRPD) hosted the event at the Isla Vista Community Center as a way to unite the Black community and honor Black culture.

"More than ever, it is important to celebrate Black culture and community. Our district is proud to create safe and inclusive events within the community for meaningful and positive experiences," IVRPD Gen-Manager Kimberly Kiefer said. General

The event began with fourthyear economics major Michelle Ohwobete reciting the Black National Anthem, followed by a children's storytelling session by Betty Bynum and Joshua B. Drummond, authors known for "I'm a Brilliant Little Black Boy!" - a picture book empowering young Black children. Bynum stated her reason for participating in the children's storytime included supporting the Black student

community at UCSB. "I was invited by [Office of Black Student Development Director Elroy Pinks, who is a longtime friend of mine and has known of my company and my books and has always supported me. I absolutely said 'yes' in order to support students and the Black students and the cultural movement that he is doing at UC Santa Barbara," Bynum said.

Pinks said in a press release that the event was held to celebrate Black history while welcoming the future greatness of Black people as a collective.

"We celebrate how far we've come, resonate on all we are doing today and acknowledge the promise of great things to come in the future. We recognize that Black history is American history; it is world history; and it will continue to be so in our collective future!" Pinks said.

Musician and performer Sade Champagne then led a spoken word poetry presentation. Champagne expressed her love for the community and the motivation behind her performance.

"I love being in Isla Vista. I'm also so thankful for everything that all the students and administrators are doing in the community. Anytime I can come and be a part of what's happening, I love to and then what better time than for Black History Month," Champagne said.

Rahkas' singer and one of the co-founders of the "Forward Ever, Backward Never" event Alla McKeon discussed their tribute to Santa Barbara-based "playwright, producer, poet, author, advocate, historian and teacher" Rolle.

"Honoring Sojourner Kincade Rolle through the Native land acknowledgment, the ceremonial drumming and dancing, the delicious soul food and musical entertainment is truly an enriching gift and important cultural event," McKeon said.

Fourth-year dance and global studies double major and BSU President Racheal described how the event has changed from previous years due to student need and their incentive for continuing the event as an annual tradition.

"We have continued to take student responses on ways we can make the event better. Black students are a minority within the community of our school and Isla Vista. It is important that we continue to take up space and celebrate Black people loudly and proudly," Conley said.

24TH DISTRICT CANDIDATES

your name on the ballot. You pay \$1,740 and you can get your name on it, or if you get 2,000 signatures you can get on it for free," Pasquarella said.

she's not a Because politician, Pasquarella said she sees herself as uniquely primed to represent people in

"I'm not going to do business as usual because the way our government has been working isn't working for everybody," Pasquarella said. "It's just working for the multinational companies and corporations and the 1% elite."

platform Pasquarella's points include climate action, equitable education, reducing national debt and, most prominently, reducing military spending.

"[The] \$886 billion of military aid, that's 62% of our nondiscretionary spending, goes to military aid. Why are we doing this? We have so many needs at home," Pasquarella said.

She strongly supports calling on Israel for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and supports Senate Bill 111, the U.S. Department of Peacebuilding Act and HR 77, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Pasquarella said she was recently endorsed by the Council on American-Islamic Relations.

Pasquarella cited experience teaching inner-city schools with high drop-out rates and how that contributed to her passion to redirect military spending to resources like education.

"I had been at a school where it started out with a freshman class of 1500 kids, and by the time they were seniors, there were only 750 kids left. That's a dropout rate of 50%

Pasquarella said.

Ahead March Pasquarella said she is hopeful about the outcome and emphasized "peace" as her number one priority.

"We need to conceive of a world where peace is possible, where we actually care for people," Pasquarella said

Salud Carbajal

Incumbent Congressman Salud Carbajal is running for a fourth term of office in the 24th district representative

Carbajal immigrated to the U.S. when he was young and eventually settled in Oxnard, California with his family, including his father who was a farmworker. He attended UCSB and, after graduating in 1990, went on to serve in the U.S. Marine Corps.

His political career began in 2004, when he was elected to the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors and then ran for the 24th district representative seat in 2015, where he has continued to

"I think it's important that we do everything possible to help our businesses and those in our country to succeed as best as they can and make sure that they are living the American dream," Carbajal

Carbajal is running on a platform of housing, healthcare, childcare and immigration reform.

This January, he co-authored the Decent, Affordable, Safe Housing for All (D.A.S.H.) Act with Congresswoman Val Hoyle to make housing more affordable for working families.

"The D.A.S.H. Act will provide first-time homebuyers with funding to assist them to buy their first home veterans," Carbajal said.

Regarding legislation that will specifically impact students, Carbajal referenced his Degrees Not Debt Act, introduced in May 2022, which seeks to double the Pell Grant maximum to \$13,800 a

"[I want to] make sure more financial aid is available to our students to ensure that they don't have to take out this crushing debt of loans that have become the norm now. That should not happening," Carbajal said.

Carbajal has been an advocate of university-military partnership, and regarding the crisis in Gaza, said that he supports Israel "defending itself" while concurrently providing humanitarian aid to

"There's over 100 hostages that still Hamas has, and we need to make sure those hostages are released," Carbajal said. "The goal is to get to a ceasefire, and I think that's aggressively being worked on right now.

With his legislation, as well as ceasefire discussions, Carbajal said it is key to work with representatives on the other side of the aisle to reach broader solutions.

"I think we need to work together to fund our government and come together on solutions that fund our government and also reduce our national debt,' Carbajal said.

Carbajal said he "optimistic" he will be able to continue representing the 24th district.

"I think my record speaks for itself. I've been an effective legislator and representative in Congress who has fought



COURTESY OF SALUD CARBAJAL Carbajal is running on a platform of housing, healthcare, childcare and immigration reform.

MCC SUSPENSION



Some signage voiced specific dissent against the Associated Students president and Dean of Student Life.

shortly thereafter. Veksler entered the Lounge at around 12:30 p.m. in protest of the signage and to discourse with the gathering's attendees.

Students posted UCSB signage opposing administration and Zionist sentiment throughout the Lounge, with more than 100 signs covering the windows and walls of the room.

The signage carried the following phrases, among others: "Admin not welcome"; "Fuck your neutrality"; "We are not disposable"; "Free the speech, free the people"; "Justice for Palestine"; "Blood on your hands"; "Divestment Now"; "The olive trees will rise again"; and "When people are occupied, resistance is justified".

Some signage also voiced dissent against specific Veksler and Dean of Student Life Katya Armistead.

"Tessa Veksler supports genocide," "Fuck a 'neutral' of Student Life, stop letting people die. Katya's emergency exit," the signage continued.

Veksler took to her personal Instagram following the anti-Zionist signage.

events. I am deeply upset and messaging displayed UCSB's Multicultural Center," the post read.

The gathering began to split down the middle of the MCC Lounge as it continued, with pro-Palestine-leaning students on one side and pro-

Israel-leaning students on the other. Discourse around the ongoing crisis in Gaza, Zionism and antisemitism continued throughout the early afternoon.

The gathering ended at around 3:20 p.m. following conversations escalating from students and university administration present. MCC staff shut its blinds and took down its signage visible to the outside thereafter.

The gathering received negative responses social media platforms like X (formerly Twitter) and Instagram. Various X users doxxed MCC faculty and staff and misattributed them to Monday's gathering, sharing individual contact information in public posts. Instagram users have also left negative comments on departmental accounts like UCSB's African diasporic Cultural Resource Center.

Reves said the University A.S. president" and "Dean is trying to investigate complaints against regarding the MCC gathering and "take appropriate actions, when possible."

"We have shared a guide gathering in opposition to the to respond to doxxing and individualized support," she "I am floored by today's continued. "Creating a safe welcoming by the blatant antisemitic environment on our campus at is a continuous process that requires ongoing engagement with all constituent groups of our community."

The Nexus will continue to report on this topic as more information becomes available.

CLASS ACTION LAWSUIT AGAINST JUMP ON THE SCHOOL BUS

A class action lawsuit has been filed in Santa Barbara Superior Court against "Jump On The School Bus," the black buses that take UCSB students to downtown Santa Barbara on Thursday nights. (Case No. 23CV03927). The lawsuit alleges that, (1) it was illegal to charge an individual fare to students who took the bus, and (2) on some occasions Jump failed to provide the return trip, even though students had paid for it. The lawsuit seeks a court order requiring the return of all fares paid by students in the past four <u>years.</u>

If you rode Jump On The School Bus (the black buses) on Thursday night from IV to SB at any time in the past four years, please call or email us. We'd love to talk to you.

The Law Office of Raymond Chandler, 805-965-1999, rdc@rdclawoffice.com. The Law Office of James L. Hudgens, 805-564-7802, jlh@jlhudgenslaw.com.

A buzzworthy affair: New Solvang museum exhibition celebrates pollinators

Kaitlin Lee Staff Writer

Pollinators, the unsung heroes of nature, are vital to the health of our ecosystems as well as to the diversity of our food sources. The California Nature Art Museum in Solvang and UC Santa Barbara's Cheadle Center for Biodiversity and Ecological Restoration is teaching people all about the birds and the bees.

But not in the way you think. 'The Birds and the Bees and More: Pollinators" exhibition debuts on March 2 and will run until Sept. 2. Four artists whose work celebrates and recognizes the buzzing world of pollinators will be featured.

Toronto artist Ava Roth contributes artworks made from natural honeycomb, fusing its patterns and shapes with other creative materials. Susan McDonnell from Minnesota more unrecognized pollinators such as bats and butterflies in a glowy, radiant Documentary fashion. photographer Elizabeth Weber focuses on the endangered monarch butterfly and raises awareness about the decline of their population, as well as the importance of encouraging homeowners to add native plant species to their gardens. Painter Cynthia James sheds light on the harm that pollinators experience from pesticides and their damaging effects on flora. Her paintings depict flowers that emanate emotions from despair to anger.

The Cheadle Center at UCSB is dedicated to the conservation of bees and other insects, along with preserving local wildlife habitats in the area. In this collaboration, "The Birds and

the Bees and More: Pollinators" exhibition will showcase bee specimens imaged by UCSB student interns at the Cheadle Center. Native bee specimens from the Cheadle Center will be on display, each of which can be inspected by visitors through a magnifying glass. The Cheadle Center is the head of Big-Bee, a national project involving 13 institutions that aims to create over a million 3D images of bee specimens in order to better study bees and how they might react to climate change. Each bee specimen image showcased in the exhibition is part of this project. Matthew Rosen, a UCSB student intern at the Cheadle Center and aspiring biologist and naturalist, photographed the Anthophora curta species for the Big-Bee

"To photograph the bees we used a technique called focal stacking, where a robot moves the camera millimeters at a time and takes hundreds of pictures which are then combined using special software," Rosen explained. "This creates one very high-resolution image with the entirety of the bee in focus, rather than just a part of it."

Sheccid Rivas Trasvina, a recent UCSB graduate, photographed the Triepeolus Melissodes tepidus timberlakei bee species, both of which will also be featured in the exhibit.

"I loved being able to look at the finished pictures of the bees and see how much detail we normally can't when using our eyes and how many variations there are between individuals of the same species," Rivas recalls. "I am excited to have my work be part of this exhibit because I think there is a lot to exchange between the arts and the sciences."

Katja Seltmann, entomologist and director of the Cheadle Center, is the lead of the Big-Bee project, and her work concentrates on the ecology and conservation of bee biodiversity. Her efforts involve gathering bee image and trait datasets to be accessible through a designated "Bee Library." Imaging bees to create a large data set would allow researchers to investigate traits such as hairiness and whether they indicate more or less resilience to climate change.

"Bees are declining in numbers and species. My lab and the Cheadle Center are working to help these and other insects by studying their declines from a biodiversity and trait perspective," Seltmann said. "If we know why our wild bees are declining then we can do something to help."

Richard Merrill, a UCSB alum who completed his doctorate degree researching biodynamics of ecosystems, will be present for a lecture at the California Nature Art Museum on March 10, 2024. Merrill's work at UCSB involved crafting landscapes that would nurture and offer shelter to pollinators and insects alike. His talk will cover pollination ecology and the importance of the California landscape to the attraction of pollinators.

Offering many insights on pollinators and facilitating the intersection of arts and sciences, "The Birds and the Bees and More: Pollinators" exhibition celebrates the work pollinators and the researchers and artists that advocate for them.

Sewage spill in **Goleta Slough leads** to beach closure



Goleta Beach closed to the public following sewage spill; signs warn of contaminated water.

Lauryn Cummins Reporter

Over the course of four days, more than 1,000,000 gallons of untreated sewage spilled into the Goleta Slough during the rainstorms earlier this month. The Santa Barbara County Public Health Department estimates that a hole in the main sewer line next to the Santa Barbara Airport released approximately 1 million gallons of sewage beginning on Feb. 17. As it traveled all the way to the beach, the sewage necessitated a closure which was enacted on Feb. 22.

This follows a spill that closed Miramar Beach on Feb. 20 after around 2,500 gallons of sewage leaked into Oak Creek next to Sinaloa Drive.

A statement issued by the Goleta Sanitary District (GSD) on Feb. 22 revealed that the Goleta West Sanitary District reached out to GSD on the morning of Feb. 17 regarding assistance needed for the force main sewer line.

Crews brought resources to help immediately, offering examination and cleanup

assistance. Substantial equipment and water quality analysis were utilized to investigate the source of the spill, for which rainwater was apparently responsible.

According to GSD, rainwater invades the sewage systems at an overwhelming volume, usually causing these contamination events.

The resulting sewage contamination also prompted public health advisories. The Goleta West Sanitary District said there is increased vulnerability from contact with sewage-infected water that can cause various illnesses, including rashes, chills, ear infections, diarrhea, fever and vomiting.

Signs were posted along Goleta Beach advising the public to avoid all contact with the water pending further results from water samples.

The Goleta Slough spill is the largest to occur in the last 10 years, and over 40 times bigger than the previous record.

While the exact timeline is unknown, Goleta Beach is expected to remain closed until water test results come back clean and bacterial levels return to normal.

Research in Review: Cancer therapy, sea otter ecology and archaeological dating

Cassie Cavallo

Reporter

Rac2 **Boosts** Cancer Therapy:

In a remarkable breakthrough, researchers from UC Santa Barbara's Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology department have cracked a 25-year-old cellular mystery, connecting the gene Rac2 to a rare human immunodeficiency disorder.

This groundbreaking research, led by distinguished professors Denise Montell and Meghan Morrissey, not only sheds light on the intricate workings of cell biology but also presents promising avenues for advancing cancer therapies.

The focal point of the study is the Rac2 gene, a vital component in cell biology. Rac proteins, including Rac2, play a pivotal role in constructing a cell's cytoskeleton, the structural framework crucial for maintaining cell shape. Montell's team began their research by studying fruit flies, where hyperactive Rac proteins were found to induce cannibalistic behavior in cells, leading to the destruction of entire tissues.

The research took unexpected turn when the researchers learned of a study involving patients with a Rac2 mutation that resulted in a mysterious immunodeficiency disorder.

By connecting the dots between fruit fly observations and the patient study, the team discovered that macrophages with active Rac2 were consuming T cells, providing a crucial clue to the immunodeficiency mystery.

The implications of this reach discovery beyond immunodeficiency, extending into

the realm of cancer treatment.

Collaborating with Morrissey, assistant professor of molecular, cellular, developmental biology at UCSB, the team explored the potential of enhancing a novel cancer treatment called CAR-M.

integrating activated Rac2 into the mix, researchers observed a significant boost in macrophages' ability to consume cancer cells, laying the foundation for a groundbreaking cancer

The proposed cancer treatment, named RaceCAR-M, involves finely manipulating macrophages to selectively target and consume cancerous cells. The team has filed a provisional patent for this innovative technique and is actively seeking collaborations with biotech companies for further development.

Montell expressed enthusiasm. "This is my favorite paper so far. We had this 25-yearold cold case in fruit flies, and we solved it," Montell said. "And that helped us solve the mystery of an unexplained human immunodeficiency. And then we harnessed that knowledge to enhance potential cancer immunotherapy."

researchers continue to delve into the molecular intricacies, the future holds promising developments at the intersection of basic cell biology and therapeutic innovation.

Otters Restore

Ecosystems:

Sea otters are playing a vital role in the ecological restoration of Central California's wetlands, particularly in the Elkhorn Slough, according to a pioneering study led by researchers at UCSB. Published in Nature, the research highlights the remarkable impact of sea otter recolonization on the

region's landscape.

The study reveals a notable 69% reduction in the erosion of creek banks after the sea otter population fully recovered, defying expectations given factors such as rising sea levels and stronger tidal

Marsh and streamside vegetation have also rebounded, offering increased resilience flooding and wave against surges. The key driver behind this rejuvenation is the sea otters' voracious appetite for herbivorous marsh crabs, as explained by co-author Kathryn Beheshti, an assistant researcher at UCSB's Marine Science Institute.

Lead author Brent Hughes, an associate professor of biology at Sonoma State University, emphasized the significance of the sea otters' role.

"Our study underscores the farreaching benefits that can cascade through an ecosystem when a top predator is reintroduced," Hughes

The sea otters' return to Elkhorn Slough in the mid-1980s and their subsequent expansion into salt marshes have led to the stabilization of salt marshes and creek banks, countering decades of erosion caused by an overpopulation of crabs.

Senior author Brian Silliman, a distinguished professor of marine conservation biology at Duke University, posed an intriguing question: "In how many other ecosystems worldwide could the reintroduction of a former top predator yield similar benefits?"

The study's insights challenge the traditional understanding coastal geomorphology, highlighting the crucial role predators play in shaping tidal creeks. The research, combining field experiments, modeling and before-and-after measurements,

provides a compelling case for the far-reaching impacts of reintroducing top predators into ecosystems.

The sea otters' role in stabilizing wetlands offers an effective and cost-efficient tool for conservation efforts, allowing natural restoration to occur without extensive human intervention. As the study opens new avenues of exploration, researchers are initiating further projects to understand and enhance the sea otters' impact on ecosystem restoration.

Comet Research in Wakulla Springs:

In the heart of Wakulla Springs, one of the world's largest and deepest freshwater springs, a team led by UCSB Professor Emeritus James Kennett has unearthed a cosmic time capsule hidden in the aftermath of a fragmented comet's collision with Earth's atmosphere some 13,000 years ago.

While the celestial event is already linked to global repercussions such as burning, impact winter and megafauna extinction, it has now emerged as an invaluable tool for dating stone artifacts. Published in the prestigious Nature journal, the study introduces a novel approach centered around the Younger Dryas Boundary (YDB) layer, formed during the cosmic impact. This layer, distinguished by materials forged at temperatures surpassing 2,000 degrees Celsius, is globally distributed, spanning the Americas, Western Europe and the Middle East. Wakulla Springs in northern Florida, a site with a rich history of human habitation, posed unique challenges due to its sandy soils and continuous complicating occupation, conventional dating methods

"The Florida sites have a certain archaeological sequence of stone tools with only generally known cultural ages," Kennett elaborated. "The idea was to try and see if we could use the 12,800-year-old YDB to more clearly define the cultural ages and their sequence represented in these sites."

Addressing these challenges, the researchers employed an approach that integrated platinum granulometry, geochemistry, optically stimulated luminescence (OSL) dating and dating of stone artifacts.

Despite the limitations of OSL dating, the team identified ironrich microspherules and high platinum concentrations around a meter below the surface at each site - distinctive markers of the YDB layer.

"The layer containing platinum and microspherules is well-dated to 12,000 years ago at many other sites, therefore, it provides a very useful age level for correlation and dating between the sequences at Wakulla," Kennett said.

breakthrough This only ensures precise dating of archaeological sequences but also facilitates correlation across multiple sites, offering a better understanding of the paleohistory of the area. By amalgamating OSL data, the YDB layer and artifact presence, the researchers successfully established relative ages of stone tools pre- and post-YDB formation.

"A lot of archaeological sequences are difficult to date with accuracy, and hence the identification of the YDB layer presents a significant advance," Kennett said.

This cosmic time capsule not only sheds light on ancient events but also pioneers a new frontier in archaeological methodology, unraveling the intricate tapestry human history through meticulous dating and correlation techniques.

VIST

La historia de la bachata: La música como resistencia

Caitlin Scialla Escritora para La Vista

Todos nosotros conocemos la bachata, un estilo de música y baile que se ha convertido muy popular durante las últimas algunas décadas por artistas famosos como Romeo Santos y Prince Royce.

Pero están menos familiarizados con la historia e importancia cultural de la bachata.

Esuna lástima porque, mientras la bachata es muy divertida por sus ritmos pegadizos y pasos de baile impresionantes, también refleja la identidad dominicana y promociona conversaciones sobre temas difíciles que plagan nuestra sociedad.

Es decir, la bachata provee un comentario social necesitamos reconocer.

La bachata nació durante los sesentas, en el campo en la República Dominicana.

Aunque la bachata fue fuertemente influenciada por el bolero, es una mezcla de muchos géneros distintos.

Más que una nueva versión, del bolero, la bachata combina merengue música de

en el campo.

Esta conexión con el campo causaba la bachata ser descartada como grosera y vulgar. Rafael Trujillo, el dictador en la República Dominicana durante esa época, famosamente odiaba la bachata y promocionaba la idea que la bachata fue relacionada con el crimen, la pobreza, la prostitución, y, en general, el atraso de las zonas rurales en la República Domincana. No solo criticaba la bachata. . . Trujillo prohibió la bachata. La bachata no fue permitida tocarse en el radio o en la televisión.

La censura sólo aumentó la estigmatización de la bachata. Durante el reinado de Trujillo, la bachata se convirtió en sinónimo con la delincuencia. La élite rechazaba bachata como no realmente arte. Sin embargo, la bachata permaneció querida por muchos y, después de la muerte de Trujillo, migró desde el campo a Santo Domingo.

Aunque la bachata se considera

alcoholismo y la frialdad de la vida. Calderón repite "Luego la muerte que venga/ Y me encuentre borracho de amor".

Estas canciones muestran que, desde el principio, la bachata ha incluido un elemento de la narración de cuentos. Y que los cuentos frecuentemente son serios, reflejando la vida real de la gente en el campo de la República Dominicana. Así la bachata sirve como un espacio para discutir la adversidad y provocar conversaciones

Podría decirse que este enfoque en el dolor del pueblo, más que las melodías intoxicantes, ha permitido la popularidad duradera de la bachata. Todas pueden entender estos temas.

Las letras nos conectan de una manera emocional. Al mismo tiempo, letras nos dan

indicio

como

forma

En "Qué Será de Mí", Calderón nos recuerda "Sin embargo/ Hay un Dios tan justiciero/ Que nos mira desde el cielo/ Y nos tiene que cuidar/ Y si él juzga que debemos de querernos/ Algún día, vida mía/ Él nos tiene que

Comunica la idea que, a pesar

de todo, hay música y hay amor y siempre podemos continuar La bachata actúa

la

de

resistencia más pura, enviando el mensaje que no vamos a romper, no seremos silenciados (por una censura o por nada), no vamos a detener contar nuestras historias y forjar nuestras propias identidades.

Las oleadas de inmigración desde la República Dominicana durante los ochentas y noventas han permitido a la bachata ir más allá de las fronteras de su país de origen.

Hemos visto la transformación de bachata, como ha sido introducida a espacios de baile y fiestas en los Estados Unidos y en

todo el mundo. asumido elementos de hip-hop y R & B, sobreviviendo y evolucionando por los años.

Como la bachata sigue floreciendo, no hay duda que millones de oyentes van a seguir abrazar los mensajes

detrás de la música. Y millones de

diferentes partes del mundo, incluyendo España, África, y comunidades indígenas del Caribe, como el Taino. Este rango de influencias diversas imita la diversidad de la ascendencia de la República Dominicana.

inmediatamente, la bachata fue asociada con la clase baja, incluso fue referido al "bolero campesino". En muchas maneras, la bachata fue una oda a la vida en el campo. Por ejemplo, la palabra "bachata" se refería a una fiesta espontánea en las calles del campo, una celebración animada con mucha música y baile.

También, la bachata incluye más guitarra que otros tipos de música Latinoamericana, como el bolero y el merengue.

Y la guitarra y música que usa mucha guitarra fue muy popular

como un tipo de música muy sensual, las letras de una canción de bachata no siempre han expresado historias de amor.

Originalmente la bachata fue descrita como amarga y trágica, con letras que explican las experiencias de la clase trabajadora y enfatizan las dificultades y el sufrimiento.

Considere las dos canciones 'Qué Será de Mí" y "Borracho de amor" de José Manuel Calderón, reconocidas como las primeras dos canciones grabadas de la bachata. Técnicamente, ambas son canciones de amor.

Pero, analizando las letras más cerca, es evidente que los mensajes son más profundos. Por ejemplo, "Qué Será de Mí" habla sobre sentimientos de desesperanza y desesperación. Calderón canta "Qué será de mí/ Con tantas penas en mi pobre vida/ Qué será de mí/ Mis esperanzas ya están perdidas."

"Borracho De Amor" es tan sombrío como "Qué Será de Mí", con una selección de palabras que implican un amor no correspondido pero, también,

oyentes dominicanos y dominicanas americanos van a seguir abrazando la cultura identidad de su patría.

Esta mezcla música, baile, historia. emoción, cultura, y poder es tan increíble. La bachata es más que un género de música; es un movimiento.

> ESMÉ PUZIO / EL NEXO DIARIO

Consejos para el amor de profesores de sexualidad humana de UCSB



Los profesores John y Janice Baldwin enseñan el curso SOC 152A, un curso de sexualidad humana.

Lauryn Cummins Escritora para Ciencias y Tecnología Mari Villalpando-Ortega Editora de La Vista

La historia amorosa de los profesores de sociología de UC Santa Barbara Janice Baldwin y John Baldwin empezó con un giro del destino inesperado una cita a ciegas, lo que ellos tiernamente llaman una "cita a ciegas arreglada." Ambos son de Ohio y sus caminos se cruzaron por la noche en un paseo romántico en un barco en

"Iba a la Universidad de Miami para escuela de verano," Janice dijo, "y fuimos a una cita a ciegas en un barco de pesca, sobre los arrecife coralino." Admitieron que la chispa era instantánea, y John bromeó, "No atrapamos nada - en cuanto a pescado, pero nosotros nos atrapamos. Fue la mejor captura."

Recordando amor creciente, John recordó lo tanto que quiso llevar a Janice por una cita. "Me invente una cita segunda," el dijo, "que fue simplemente... para morirse.. en una de las famosas playas de buceo en Florida." En menos

de un año, ambos supieron que encontraron su pareja perfecta; John le pidió la mano en matrimonio mientras nadaban por las Florida Keys en una escapada romántica.

Enseñando sexualidad humana, una de las clases sociología en UCSB, fortificado su amor. Janice describió como sus conversaciones estimulantes que a menudo se quedan despiertos tras la noche, lo cual John coincide. "Lees un montón de libros y acumulas perspectivas diferentes y de eso hablas por horas," él dijo.

Aprendiendo de sexualidad humana tuvo una parte en el éxito de su relación por lo que ellos pudieron definir procesos profundos, incluyendo la teoría de intercambios sociales. "[La teoría] nos dio la estructura para saber lo que queremos mientras. intercambiamos porque el intercambio social se trata de los intercambios constantes que ocurren entre las personas,"

John dijo. Tras discusiones sobre la teoría del intercambio social y conocimientos de filósofos como Walter Kaufman, la pareja mantuvo metas asombrosas para una relación exitosa, en contraste al dolor que presenciaron en la relación de sus padres. Al identificar las claves para una relación feliz, brillaron pura honestidad,

amabilidad y confianza. Tomando un no-tradicional día de San Valentín, Janice explicó que cada día debería ser especial. "Trayendo una tarieta a una persona simplemente porque hoy es muy lindo, John también me ha escrito poesía y eso es muy especial," ella dijo. "Pero son las cosas pequeñas que componen la vida. Son las cosas pequeñas de la vida diaria."

La fortaleza de su conexión es palpable. "Sabes que es verdadero después de estar casados por el tiempo que estamos casados, sabes que cada día tiene el potencial de ser fabuloso," John dijo. "Así que cada día es lo que queremos hacer."



El curso de los Baldwins es una de las clases más populares en

ARTSWEE

ASPB presents Battle of the Bands

Kendra Martinez Staff Writer

UC Santa Barbara's Associated Students Program Board hosted the annual Battle of the Bands in The Hub, located underneath the University Center on Feb. 22. This year's bands - Dislocated, The Radar and Soul Tide were selected to perform by the Associated Students Program Board after auditioning via submitting a video recording of a performance through an online form. A small crowd formed in front of the stage as more students slowly trickled in.

In a last-minute set change, Dislocated took the stage first with their performance "Daffodil." Lead vocalist and guitarist and second-year economics major Tate Cerasoli energized the crowd with his lively stage presence. Cerasoli accidentally told the crowd to follow their Discord instead of their Instagram, which rippled a laugh among crowd members (the band does not have a Discord for fans to keep up with ... yet). Dislocated performed a set list consisting of primarily original songs, including "Dead In A Week," which had audience members jiving and feeling the beat.

"Their originals were very creative," attendee and secondyear statistics and data science major Maya Hoffstaft said. Second-year sociology major Emma Herbst agreed, saying, "The lyrics were very relatable."

Dislocated formed in February 2023, marking this performance as the band's one-year anniversary.

The group exudes rock 'n' roll confidence when performing, completely leaning into their rock aesthetic. Drummer and UCSB alum Matt Barger could be seen headbanging along to his beat in the back of the stage while Cerasoli moved around on stage during his guitar features. Bassist and second-year sociology major Noah Friedman rated their performance a solid 8.5/10.

Cerasoli, Friedman and guitarist second-year computer science major Tanner Berman argued over their favorite song on the set list, before agreeing on "the cigarette song."

"We can't say the actual name of the song ... it seems inappropriate to say to a newspaper," Cerasoli said. Barger disagreed with them since his favorite song was the last one in the set, "Tar."

During their post-performance interview, Dislocated excitedly shared that their new single will be released in April.

The next band to take the stage was The Radar. The band was originally a two-member group, consisting of the lead vocalist and second-year political science major Om Angarkar and guitarist and second-year physics and mathematics double major Rusty Strauss. The two eventually recruited second-year ecology and evolution and aquatic biology double major Franklin Chen on guitar, second-year cell and developmental biology major Nate Tadros on bass and secondyear computer engineering major June Mack on the drums.

Angarkar had a talent for hyping up his bandmates and amping up the crowd, exuding

presence and crowd control. This was especially clear during the band's cover of "Kilby Girl" by The Backstreet Lovers. A couple of audience members made their way closer to the stage and began jumping along to the song as Angarkar spread his infectious energy through his onstage presence.

"I felt my bones vibrate throughout my body," secondyear biopsychology major Finn Griffiths said about The Radar's performance.

In the midst of his energetic performance, one of Chen's guitar strings snapped.

"I gotta play this without an E-string!" Chen exclaimed, holding up his guitar to show the crowd. Despite this, the band kept up their engaging performance and kept the crowd hooked.

Strauss described the crowd's energy in one word: groovin'!

"We love them, and we think they're on the road to stardom," audience member and secondyear biology major Aimy Do said. "They're the next One Direction," second-year economics major Liem Do added.

"It was electric," second-year biopsychology major Lauren Pearson said.

The Radar's new single "Dreams" will be coming out soon on an unspecified date.

Soul Tide was the final band to perform. Dressed in The Beatles-esque outfits with dress shirts and ties, the band consists of fourth-year communication major Steven Bizzoco on lead vocals and bass, fourth-year communication major David Sun on guitar, second-year political science major Jacob Robledo on guitar and UCSB alum Connor McIntosh on the drums.

Soul Tide kicked off their performance with "Sunny," an original song. Bizzoco, Sun and Robledo exuded on-stage energy, which was infectious as the crowd grew energetic as well.

Audience excitement exploded during the performance of "Lose Control," another original. Several audience members began dancing together and moving to the rhythm of the band.

One of those audience members was fourth-year statistics and data science major Joseph Powers. He continued to dance throughout the entire set, at one point participating in a dance-off with The Radar's guitarist, Chen.

"I thought it was amazing. Me, personally, I like high energy and upbeat [music]," Powers said about Soul Tide's set. "They brought the energy, and I love to dance."

The band came together in

February 2023. Bizzoco and Sun attended last year's Battle of the Bands and thought it would be a cool opportunity to compete. Their original "Surfin On A Cloud" is the band's favorite song to perform.

[The] most fun we've ever had," Sun commented on their Battle of the Bands experience. "We really got to talk to the other bands. It was really cool getting to know them more."

After Soul Tide left the stage, it came time for the winner to be announced. The audience and bands eagerly awaited the judges' decision and, ultimately, Soul Tide was announced as the champions of this year's Battle of the Bands.

"Feels good, but it was never about winning. It was always just about playing the show," Bizzoco remarked after the band's victory.

Despite the small crowd, all three bands put on energetic sets and properly engaged the crowd, making 2024's Battle of the Bands electrifying.



UCSB's 2024 Battle of the Bands winner, Soul Tide. (L to R: Steve Bizzoco, Connor McIntosh, David Sun and Jacob Robledo)

Tracks of the Mont February

I Artsweek Staff

Need some new music for your playlist? Here are Artsweek Staff's top tracks from February.

"Deeper Well" by Kacey Musgraves

Kacey Musgraves teased the March 15 release of her sixth studio album, "Deeper Well," at the 66th annual Grammy Awards on Feb. 4. Though quickly overshadowed by Taylor Swift's own album announcement, Musgraves released the lead single on Feb. 8. Title track "Deeper Well," a quiet and introspective song, unearths a new side of the country artist. It leans into the acoustic aspects of country music, with complex fingerpicking patterns playing over melodies. The lyrics are written by Musgraves and tell a tale of selfdiscovery and self-care through the metaphor of a well. Her voice. unique in its ability to make the listener feel like they are listening to warm honey, combined with the lyricism and instrumentation creates a track that is unassuming in its greatness. From her critically acclaimed 2018 album "Golden Hour" to her chart-topping collaborations, Musgraves has been continually influential for female country music in the modern era. And, yet, it seems that with this album, Musgraves may have found her deeper well. Lucy Dixon

"Older" by Lizzy McAlpine

Lizzy McAlpine became Generation Z's patron saint of yearning in 2022 with her standout single "ceilings," a soaring, cinematic number that cemented McAlpine's prowess as a storyteller. On the title track and opening single for her highly anticipated upcoming album "Older," the Berklee-educated singer-songwriter delivers somber, meandering melody about the uncertainties of growing out of, growing up and growing old. On "Older," McAlpine comments on the cyclical nature of time and anxiety as she sings, "Sick to my stomach, can't find the ground / Stuck in a loop, watch the curtain come down," her voice imparting a gentle frankness that perfectly cradles the lyrics' wrought emotions. The piano ballad is a testament to both her maturity and consistency as an artist: gone are the bedroom-pop instrumentals and youthful naivete

present on her most recent album "five seconds flat." What remains, however, is McAlpine's ability to deliver deceptively simple, biting lyrics atop a memorably melancholy refrain, earning her yet another spot on the playlists of countless listeners - and undoubtedly, many accolades in

the near future. - Emily Yoon

"Mulholland's Dinner and Wine" by Declan McKenna

British singer-songwriter Declan McKenna released his third studio album "What Happened to the Beach?" featuring the standout song "Mulholland's Dinner and Wine." "Mulholland's Dinner and Wine" encapsulates the eccentric mix of indie rock and psychedelia that defines the sound of McKenna's new album. While clearly an ode to the time that McKenna has spent writing in Los Angeles, "Mulholland's Dinner and Wine" also weaves in numerous references to his hometown London. With lyrics like "I got a boring apartment and all of the drugs/ I'm f*cking dangerous, I get what I want," McKenna seems to imply that making it big and acquiring wealth has not made him happy. Rather, he has "found love for the little things in life." In both this song and the album in general, McKenna steps away from explicitly political songs, his forté, instead centering on his personal experiences and journey to self-

acceptance. - Caitlin Scialla

"Forever" by Noah Kahan

Grammy nominee and folk star Noah Kahan premiered the newest track on his "Stick Season (Forever)" album, titled "Forever," on Feb. 9. Kahan's "Forever" is a beautiful love ballad, emulating feelings of warmth and connection. The song portrays the belief that he will be able to find a genuine relationship and beautifully describes the feeling of being completely enthralled by the person you love. The chorus is an immediate ear-catcher as boat for when the river gets high summer – heat, waves and passion song echoes, "So, when I hold her close / I might loosen my grip, but I won't ever let her go / I won't ever let her go." Here, Kahan is

Kahan belts, "I won't be alone for the rest of my life / I'll build a / And I'll meet a girl in the heat of July." Kahan uses the imagery of - to portray an idyllic scene of meeting someone who could become your soulmate. One of the most prominent lines from the

PEYTON STOTELMYRE / DAILY NEXUS

not singing to an audience, but

directly to the love of his life as he

tells her that they will be together

forever. This passionate folk

ballad is a must-listen that blends

seamlessly into the rest of Kahan's

"TEXAS HOLD 'EM" by

During the 2024 Super Bowl,

culture icon Beyoncé teased

new music in an advertisement

for Verizon, before announcing

that she would be releasing an

album tentatively titled "Act II" on

March 29 via Instagram. The first

single, "TEXAS HOLD 'EM,"

was released as the Super Bowl

continued, marking a stark genre

shift for the previously pop and

R&B artist. The track is country

at its finest - set to a southern-

esque instrumental with lyrics like

"Stick Season (Forever)."

singer-songwriter and

Avery Stanley

Beyoncé

"It's a real-life boogie and a reallife hoedown / Don't be a bitch, come take it to the floor now." Not only is it an incredibly catchy tune, but the track also pays homage to Beyoncé's hometown of Houston, reconnecting the singer with her roots and fully committing to the country influences sprinkled in her past music. "TEXAS HOLD 'EM" also hit No. 1 on Billboard's Hot Country Songs list, which makes Beyoncé the first Black woman in history to do so.

Lauren Chiou

"ONE SPARK" by TWICE

TWICE released their long-

awaited mini album "With YOU-th" on Feb. 23. with the track "ONE SPARK." The album deeply resonates with TWICE and their fans as it documents the growth of the members through their nineyear-long journey to achieving global fame. In contrast to the pre-released English track, "I GOT YOU," which celebrated TWICE's friendship with an ambient

sound, the song "ONE SPARK" is a passionate drum-and-bass track with a dynamic beat and catchy tune. The song mirrors TWICE's everlasting "spark" as they have reached peak after peak with their music career and

draws nostalgic references to their past releases, cementing their place in K-pop as timeless icons. – Na Huang

"Kirkland" by Max Leone

Portland native and indie music artist Max Leone released his new single "Kirkland" on Feb. 9. The single is about his childhood memories of his hometown. It's emotional and nostalgic, providing a flashback to the early 2000s. As the song progresses, Leone talks about how the town has changed so much from when he was a kid and now he doesn't know his way around anymore: "Used to do it with my eyes closed / And now I can't find my way

home." With lyrics like "And they got rid of the pawnshop / And now everything is Kirkland," it's a song that discusses urbanization and how it ruins a city and the memories stored in it. Through this song, Leone once again provides nostalgic and relatable lyrics for college students and their relationships with their hometowns.

Diana Mateescu

"HISS" by Megan Thee Stallion

If you have been off the grid, it's understandable if you haven't heard of Megan Thee Stallion's new song "HISS." But anyone with access to eduroam on campus should be aware of the bombshell single and related drama. Causing a stir with just the line "These hoes don't be mad at Megan, these hoes mad at Megan's Law" and a subsequent feud with fellow rapper Nicki Minaj, "HISS" represents the artist at her most fiery and venomous yet. With powerful bars and a vicious, unceasing flow, "HISS" cements Thee Stallion as a prominent figure in rap and an artist to keep an eye on. However, this is more than a simple diss track. It represents an artist pulling themselves back up and coming back stronger than ever, making it a must-listen. Striking like a snake as seen on her cover, the threetime Grammy Awards winner bites back at all those she views did her wrong.

– Zachery Kramer

"Strawberry Sweet" **Sydney DeFranco**

Sydney DeFranco's latest single "Strawberry Sweet" dropped on Feb. 14 - a fitting release date for the heartwarming love song. DeFranco's dulcet voice accompanied by the jazzy, laidback beat captures the theme of a soft, simple and gentle love. The lyrics from the chorus, "You bring me higher when I'm feeling down / I hope you understand / You got my heart in your hands" truly encapsulates the feeling of being utterly in love with someone. The sweet, melodic tone of DeFranco's February release is sonically reminiscent of her other singles, which are great listens for jazz fans and music lovers alike. With only a few tracks under her belt, it will be exciting to see what other music DeFranco releases in the future.

Kendra Martinez

Daily Nexus Daily Stench Thursday, February 29, 2024



THE DAILY STENCH

It's Satire, Stupid. —



Venmore! Black man makes hundreds off white friends for Black History Month

Fart Tent Venmoer

Have you given your Black friends \$5 for Black History Month yet? If not, you are FAR behind schedule and third-year student Morris Martin is not afraid to let it be known.

"Give a Black person \$5, \$10 if you are really serious. It's Black History Month. It's the least you can do. These Instagram charity chains can only get us so far. Give your

money to a real person, who is right here in front of you. Give me \$5!" Martin said.

Black History Month is an important time to really express your love and gratitude for your Black friends and Black people, and one of the best ways to do that is simply by giving them a bit of money. Martin received hundreds of donations after simply sharing his Venmo on different social media platforms, posting it around campus and pasting it

in his apartment window.

He explained that the first people to see the QR code in the window felt especially guilty because they saw him cooking ramen for dinner. They came back an hour later with a home-cooked meal and made sure to Venmo him so he could get a sweet treat the next day. Now, he stirs the same old ramen every night around dinner, doing his best to look sad in the window.

"My mom is kind of

suspicious of me now, she's been asking where I got all this money to eat out. I told her people just love me," Martin said, showing us his mom's texts. "She's happy she doesn't have to send me money now, at least."

As Black History Month comes to a close, Martin finds himself budgeting his new profits for the month ahead, working to make the money last. He plans on eating out at least three times every week,

thanks to the non-Black allies of UCSB. As the last couple of donations trickle in, it's clear that Martin will remember 2024's February for a long time.

"It's that one extra day! I swear it makes this month that much better. Happy Black History Month and if you haven't already, you are running out of time. Send me \$5 right now," Morris said.

Fart Tent will Venmo you



Joseph R. Biden Deranged tradwife

Left on delivered? Your TA is plotting against you? Last night you performed a half-assed table dance and everyone saw up your skirt? Worry not! Gone are the days of inner turmoil. After the success of the campus library's contraceptive vending machine, it will now offer a new service: lobotomies.

Now, you may be wondering: "How does a vending machine perform surgery?"

"It's really quite simple," vending machine engineer Jordan Hobbes said. "All you need to do is pay \$25, then you just stick your head in the slot at the bottom and BOOM! The ice pick gets you."

The stigma of lobotomies may scare potential customers away - however, their benefits can be plentiful. The stress brought upon by avoiding your RA when you're lighting up in your dorm can be easily relieved. The fact that you haven't figured out your

housing situation for next year can simply disappear from your

Think about your current self-aware, lucid, concerned about the state America's crumbling democracy. Isn't it hell? After just one quick trip to the library's second floor, you can begin to embody the mindset (or lack thereof) of those shirtless white men who play die in their yards in the middle

Your new vegetable brain will

make you so ditsy and unaware that men may actually like you. Your lack of an ability to make decisions will make them go crazy for you. The days of "crazy bitch" and saying "no" are over. Tap into your ultimate girl brain! Once your frontal lobe is blended into a nice pulp, all you need is a big, strong

man to lead you around. Now, you may ask, "Why don't men get lobotomies?"

"Men are actually born naturally lobotomized," psychological & brain sciences professor Lena Khan said. "Their frontal lobe essentially stops developing after age 6. Lobotomies simply don't change anything performed on men."

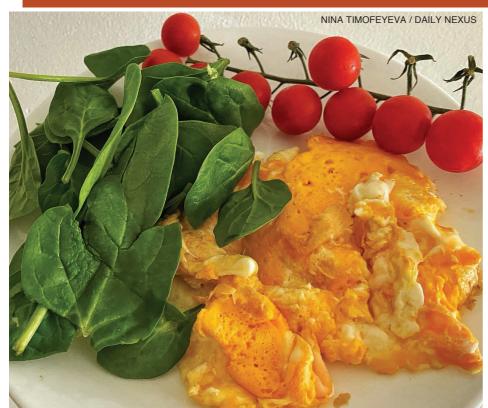
As we approach midterms, the upcoming election and bikini season, your head may be riddled with anxiety, feminism and other nasty ideas. Check out campus' newest resource to ease yourself of these worries!

Joseph R. Biden thinks women be crazy!

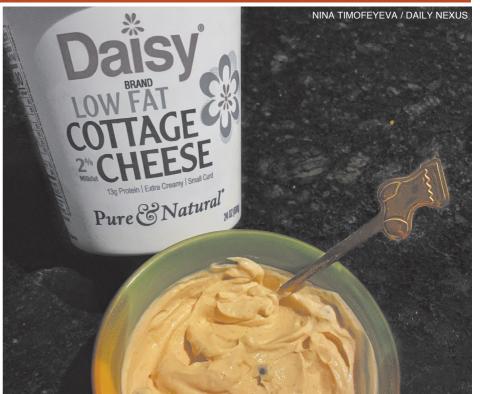




An ode to cottage cheese



Adding cottage cheese to scrambled eggs makes a protein-dense, fluffy breakfast.



Blending cottage cheese eliminates its curd-like texture, leaving it smooth and creamy.

Nina Timofeyeva Asst. OTM Editor

Whether it's the texture, the taste or the debate of whether it should be considered cheese, cottage cheese often elicits polarizing responses on both ends of the spectrum. But despite its lack of prominent marketing and general tendency to get put on the back shelf, cottage cheese has recently started to gain popularity.

The main reason driving cottage cheese to its social media "trendiness" is its impressive nutritional profile. A 100 gram serving contains around 11 grams of protein - more than an egg! It's also a great source of calcium, phosphorus, potassium, selenium and sodium. Adding into consideration its probiotic traits, it may as well be declared a "superfood."

Cottage cheese has always been this nutritious, yet it has only begun to gain popularity recently. A good guess as to cottage cheese into a sweet why this is happening is that people are now discovering new ways to incorporate cottage cheese into meals as a protein supplement. Some recipes transform it to such

know it was even there.

For those who have never tried cottage cheese before, the taste of it can be compared to that of less tart plain yogurt but perhaps a bit more salty. The exact flavor varies by brand but, overall, think of it as a milder plain yogurt with added texture.

So whether you're looking to add some protein to your diet or you're just a true and loyal fan of cottage cheese, give these recipes a try, and perhaps you'll be impressed by this humble cheese.

The first time I saw cottage cheese stepping into the spotlight was no other place than TikTok. Here, cottage cheese was transformed into a high-protein ice cream which could be customized to be any flavor. The cooking blog, Eating Bird Food, explains how to make a peanut butter chocolate chip cottage cheese "ice cream" without an ice cream maker.

Another way to turn treat is by blending it into a smoothie. This makes the smoothie creamier and gets rid of the texture of cottage cheese if that's been throwing you off from trying it. Similar an extent that you'd never to the ice cream, you can

pick whichever flavor you want for your smoothie for example, a recipe for a raspberry banana smoothie can be found on the same blog.

For the already devoted appreciators of cottage cheese, here is a recipe that does not attempt to hide it but allows you to enjoy it in all its glory: a pineapple chia with cottage cheese breakfast bowl from Skinny Taste. Pineapple can be switched out for your fruit of preference and making this meal in a to-go container makes a perfect breakfast for a busy morning.

A more savory take on cottage cheese also presents itself in the breakfast category, but more subtly. Try Skinny Taste's scrambled eggs with cottage cheese, and you'll be feeling like Superman with the amount of protein you will be getting (over 17 grams per serving!).

To elevate cottage cheese to a more sophisticated level, cottage cheese can be incorporated into lasagna roll ups, another recipe provided by Skinny Taste, which presents an opportunity to enjoy cottage cheese for lunch or dinner. This recipe is vegetarian and takes less than an hour to prepare.

These recipes show the versatility of cottage cheese and how easy it is to incorporate into everyday meals. However, it is important to consider the texture you want for each recipe. For the ice cream, it is recommended that a full-fat cottage cheese is used to ensure creaminess and prevent the ice cream from freezing solid. Some cottage cheese brands have more moist and tender consistencies, while others can be very thick, almost like Greek yogurt. The size of curds also varies from very small to large.

make may apprehensive to buy a full tub without knowing the texture and then ending up with something you don't enjoy. From the brands I have found in nearby grocery stores, here are the descriptions I would give each one:

Good Culture is my absolute favorite. It is more on the thicker side with seemingly almost no moisture. They have varieties of fat content, small containers of plain cottage cheese and small containers of fruit-flavored

cottage cheese. The curds are medium sized and vary in each batch. Even the lowfat version is pretty creamy, and this is the brand I've seen used most frequently for the ice cream recipe.

My next shoutout goes to Daisy cottage cheese. This one is quite the opposite of Good Culture; it has a lot of moisture and every kernel is identically shaped. They also have versions of varying fat content, and I would recommend this one if you want to eat cottage cheese plain or in a bowl with toppings.

Knudsen's cottage cheese (which can actually be found in huge tubs at Costco) is an in-between. It has moisture, curds of different shapes and sizes and decent creaminess. It does have other ingredients apart from just cottage cheese, which I find give it a distinct flavor. Their small containers with fruit jam on the side make a great to-go snack!

So next time vou're in the dairy aisle, don't pass by cottage cheese without considering the possibilities of how it could contribute to your recipes, snacks and nutrition.

Food bank finds: potato medley home fries



Turn your home fries into a complete meal by adding bacon, sausage, bell peppers or a fried egg.

Abigail Monti OTM Editor

In my experience, there are two types of breakfast-eaters in this world: those who opt for savory flavors and those who opt for sweet. (No, I will not be acknowledging those who don't like breakfast. Your opinion is not valid here.) Personally, I fall into the former category – there's nothing better than waking up to a huge meal of eggs, sausage and melted cheese on toast. But if you are growing increasingly bored of the same old breakfast sandwich

I combination, highly recommend introducing potatoes into your rotation.

Oh potatoes, how do I love thee? Let me count the ways. Tater tots, hash browns, roasted potatoes ... the list goes on and on. Yet the most underrated potato option in breakfast diners everywhere might just take the top spot in my heart: home fries. A heaping, warm mixture of potatoes, onions, garlic and savory seasonings is hearty, nostalgic and satisfying. Plus, they're an ideal vessel for extra toppings. Try adding bacon or sausage for a meaty flavor, or

bell peppers for a pop of color and crunch. You can also top off your home fries with a scrambled egg and shredded cheese for a complete meal that will keep you full all morning long.

But if you still aren't convinced, maybe this will help: All the ingredients you need for basic home fries are available for free for UC Santa Barbara students at the Associated Students (A.S.) Food Bank. As a college student who is chronically low on cash, no meal tastes better than a free meal.

Even seasonal produce rotates through the A.S. Food Bank located in the back corner of the University Center's main floor, you can usually count on some variety of potatoes being in stock. Potatoes, a pantry staple renowned for their versatility and affordability, are traditionally harvested between late summer and mid-fall. However, thanks to modern-day technology and strategic crop rotation, potatoes in proper storage will stay in good condition for up to seven or eight months after harvesting. Thus, potatoes stay on grocery shelves all year long.

During the week of Feb. 19, the A.S. Food Bank offered russet potatoes, red potatoes, Garnet sweet potatoes and jewel sweet potatoes. In a pinch, you can turn any variety of potatoes into home fries. However, the starchier the potato is, the better it'll crisp up in the pan. Keep an eye out for russet potatoes, Yukon Gold potatoes and Garnet sweet potatoes for the best results. I chose to mix together three kinds of potatoes for color and variety, but feel free to opt for just one.

Potato medley home fries Duration: 25 minutes Yield: 2-3 servings

Ingredients:

- 2 cups potatoes, diced 1 cup yellow onion,
- diced 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 clove garlic, minced 1 tablespoon paprika
- Salt and pepper

Optional:

- cup bell pepper,
- chopped Sausage bacon,
- chopped Shredded cheese

- Directions: 1. In a large skillet, heat the oil over medium-high temperature.
- Add the potatoes and stir to coat. Cover the skillet with a lid and cook for 10 minutes, stirring occasionally or until the potatoes are slightly softened.
- Remove the lid, then add the onion and garlic. Stir fry for another 5 minutes then sprinkle with the paprika, salt and pepper. Optional: Add the bell pepper and/or sausage with the onion and garlic.
- Continue frying uncovered until the potatoes and onions are tender and can be pierced with a fork. Optional: Scramble an egg in the pan and top with shredded cheese!

If you're itching for more flavor, consider adding other seasonings like crushed red pepper, Italian seasoning or cumin. Whether you're a savory breakfast lover or just looking for a new way to enjoy potatoes, this recipe is sure to become a favorite in your breakfast rotation. And with the availability of ingredients at the A.S. Food Bank, you can enjoy this delicious meal without breaking the bank.

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Armchair QB

The 2024 NFL Scouting Combine is here! With much anticipated talent looking to put on a show, whose draft stock will rise the most?

SPORTS

UCSB Athletics

Junior utility Justin Trimble earned Big West Player of the Week, batting a .455 average, an on base of .538 and a slugging of 1.091. The junior had 2 home runs and a team-high 6 RBIs on the weekend.

Men's basketball loses big on the road against UCI



Sophomore guard Ben Shtolzberg drives into the paint while being fouled.

Isaiah Ochoa Sports Editor

The UC Santa Barbara men's basketball team went on the road on Feb. 22 to face the top team in the Big West Conference, UC Irvine. After a dominant first half from the Anteaters, their lead was too large of a gap for the Gauchos as UCI took the 81-69 win.

After beating the University of Hawai'i on Feb. 17, UCSB looked to get a winning streak going as they lost their previous 3 matchups, one being UC Irvine (UCI) at home.

The Gauchos won the tip and struck first as junior guard Cole Anderson hit a 3-pointer

to get the Gauchos going early. Both teams went point-forpoint, as the score was tied at various points in the half.

In the 11th minute of the half, the Anteaters took the lead and started to build on it. After 2 unanswered jump shots from UCI, the Anteaters were in the lead 20-17.

UCSB looked to cut down the lead, but UCI took advantage of some missed jump shots from the Gauchos as they established a 9-point lead with 6 minutes left. The Anteaters continued their offensive push as their lead grew to as much as 14 points with a score of 41-27.

As the first half was closing

out, the Gauchos tried to chip away at the lead, but nothing fell as the Anteaters kept taking advantage of their misses, growing the lead to 17 points and heading into the locker room with a score of 46-29.

Coming out for the second half, the Gauchos didn't get off to the start they wanted as UCI continued putting on an offensive clinic, extending their lead to 22 points.

As it felt as if all hope was lost for UCSB, freshman guard Jason Fontenet II scored 9 unanswered points for the Gauchos. Senior guard Ajay Mitchell joined in on the fun as he knocked down both free throws and came back down the court after a missed jump shot to make a 3-pointer. After 8 minutes of play, the Gauchos found themselves down 9, scoring 56-47 in favor of UCI.

UCI followed Mitchell's 3-pointer with a 3 of their own, taking back their double-digit lead. The Anteaters looked to keep UCSB out of the game by maintaining their strong lead.

The Gauchos cut the lead down to as much as 6 points as Mitchell hit a 3-pointer to make it 75-69 with 47 seconds left. That's all the Gauchos scored in the game's closing seconds as UCI swept the Gauchos in conference play. Fontenet II tied his career high in points by scoring 10 points while recording a career-high 4 steals.

With the loss, the Gauchos fell to No. 8 in the Big West Conference standings. This is the lowest UCSB has ever been since the 2016-17 season, where they finished No. 9.

The Gauchos are set for a week-long break before they head back to the Thunderdome for what promises to be an electrifying matchup in the Blue-Green rivalry. UCSB and California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo are slated to go head-to-head on Thursday, Feb. 29, with tipoff at 7 p.m. The game will be broadcast live on ESPN+.

Women's basketball starts slow in loss to UCI

Preston Espar Sports Editor

After traveling out of state and losing to the University of Hawai'i, the UC Santa Barbara women's basketball team returned to the Thunderdome to take on the UC Irvine Anteaters. After a slow start, the Gauchos were able to start a valiant comeback that could not be completed. The Gauchos lost by a score of 54-46 as their Big West Conference record fell to 10-6. This was the first conference home loss of the season for the team after winning their previous 7 games.

The Anteaters dominated the first quarter. The Gauchos 14 before they could score any points. As a team, UCSB scored 5 total points in the entire quarter. Over half of these points came from free throws, as the team shot 3 for 6 from the charity stripe. From the field, the Gauchos hit just 1 of their 6 attempts while missing their only 3-point attempt. UCI shot 6/19 from the field in the quarter while hitting 1 of their 4 3-pointers. At the end of their dominant first quarter, the Anteaters were up 16-5.

In the second quarter, things improved for UCSB. The offense looked much better, as they were able to score 13 points in the period. However,

found themselves down by UCI was able to keep up the pace by scoring 12 points of their own. The Gauchos' shooting improved as they hit 5 of their 14 attempts. The team was still unable to make a 3-pointer. At the end of the half, the Anteaters got the last laugh as they hit a buzzerbeater to extend the lead to 10. The Gauchos entered the locker room at halftime down 28-18.

> The Anteaters were able to extend their lead even further at the start of the second half. The UCI advantage ballooned to 17 points before Head Coach Bonnie Henrickson called a timeout. Even with the muchneeded break, the team was unable to get anything going.

UCSB could not even muster a small run and entered the final quarter down by 17.

In this final quarter, the Gauchos were finally able to find success. Scrappy defense and fluid offense allowed UCSB to cut the lead down to 8. However, the UCI effort suddenly picked up again and UCSB went back to their scoring woes. The Gauchos would be unable to decrease the lead any further as the Anteaters held on as the final

buzzer sounded. In the match, the Gauchos were led by junior center Flora Goed and senior guard Alyssa Marin. Goed scored 10 points and grabbed 3 rebounds while Marin scored 9 and shot 75% from the free-throw line. Additionally, senior forward Alexis Whitfield scored 7 points, dished out 7 assists and

grabbed 12 boards. The UCI victory over UCSB clinched a season sweep for the Anteaters over the Gauchos. For their next match, UCSB women's basketball will travel to San Luis Obispo to take on the California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo Mustangs. In the Gauchos' first match against the Mustangs, Henrickson and her team escaped the Thunderdome with a 65-64 overtime victory. The game is scheduled to tip-off at 6 p.m. on Feb. 29 and will be available



Senior guard Alyssa Marin leads the UCSB women's basketball team back to the bench.

P1 N I()

IN DEFENSE OF BIMBO FEMINISM:

A WOMAN'S RIGHT TO MEDIOCRITY

Elizabeth Lee Asst. Opinion Editor

As a girl who likes to dress like a fantasy video game character whenever possible, I dread the day I go to the mechanic. In all my years, I've never felt like less of a feminist than when I'm dressed hyperfemininely and staring blankly at someone who just asked me what the make and model of my car is.

I feel like the stereotype the airheaded, overdressed girl who doesn't know the first thing about cars. The worst part is that I don't even have a witty comeback, a "Legally Blonde" "gotcha" moment where I prove myself competent. I feel like, as the kids say, a bimbo.

For those of you who aren't chronically online, the traditional definition of a bimbo is a derogatory term, referring to a girl who is hyperfeminine, hypersexual and unintelligent. Bimbo feminism, therefore, is the idea that it's okay to be a bimbo.

Recently, we've seen a rise in trends like "explaining things for the girls" (inflation is when, like, if all the girls get diamond rings for free, diamond rings aren't all that special anymore), "girl math" (I spent \$15 on groceries for the week, which is cheaper than eating out, so I can buy a coffee today and it's basically free!) and "I'm just a girl" (yes, my top streamed song last year is "Karma" by Taylor Swift featuring Ice Spice and, what about it? I'm literally just a girl).

For the vast majority of people, that's pretty much it: passing jokes here and there that poke fun at one's own leaps in logic, odd mistakes and lack of knowledge in a subject. For the past few months, these jokes have infiltrated the language of my friend group.

However, this general trend has been under plenty of criticism for the infantilization of women, reinforcing stereotypes, being another form choice feminism, being antiintellectualist and so on and so forth. Some of this is, perhaps, well-deserved, but the discourse is almost overwhelmingly one-sided. If this is the case, why am I, and so many other people, so drawn to it?

While far from perfect, I think bimbo feminism has a lot more nuance to it than people give it credit for. Touting the hyperfeminine aesthetics and pinks of the early 2000s, bimbo feminism struck a chord with a population of women who are experiencing incredible pressure while moving into historically male-dominated spaces because it grants them a place in feminism to make mistakes - to be loud and wrong - and still be okay. No, not just okay, iconic.

For a woman to be taken seriously in a maledominated field, she doesn't just have to perform as well as her male counterparts, she has to perform better.

women are still working more and being paid less, even after accounting for factors like job choices and hours worked. In fact, as soon as a field becomes more female-dominated, the average pay drops. For every man who gets applauded for having a favorite philosopher ("you know, I like all of them"), there's a girl who read Voltaire in the original French and still has to pull out her philosophy degree for people to believe her.

For many women, mediocrity is not an option. To be respected, you must be, without a doubt, the absolute best. Insert "Barbie" movie monologue here.

Suddenly, the performance of my gender is stifling. I cannot be feminine and taken seriously if I am not also forcibly the smartest person in every room I walk into that day. There is little place for expression of femininity in academics unless you're the Elle Woods archetype.

Bimbo feminism is a complete 180. It throws any sort of expectation of perfection in favor of unabashed confidence, regardless actual qualifications.

for infantilizing women, implying that they aren't capable of understanding higher-level, professional language.

But no one is capable of that immediately. Using simple metaphors is an invaluable tool in education alongside mnemonic devices and flowcharts. We compare the kinetics of a chemical reaction to a food assembly line and compare biological enzymes to staplers. We use stereotypically masculine metaphors, too. I hear football metaphors left and right. So what's wrong with using stereotypically feminine metaphors toward a stereotypically feminine audience? Why do we suddenly reject different methods of education as soon as they're targeted toward women?

In linguistics, one of the fundamental ideas is that no language, dialect or even slang is superior to another; no language indicates higher intelligence than another. Historically, people who use languages like Creole dialects, African American vernacular English regional accents - especially those that originate from the working class - are taken less seriously



It alleviates some of the intense shame that comes with failing to prove yourself. The major appeal of bimboism is not in its stupidity, it's the freedom to be loud and wrong. If the patriarchy is an unstoppable force, bimboism is the immovable object.

Now, I'm not actively encouraging people to show up to their 8 a.m. section in a bikini (though, if you wanted to, this would be the school to do it), but I am saying that feminine gender expression should not feel like it comes along with an even higher standard to prove yourself to. Bimbo feminism gives people the breathing room to escape a pressing need for professional perfection.

Take "explaining things for the girls," a trend Study after study shows that that is heavily criticized

than those who speak the "standard" English.

I argue that the valley girl accent - and the image of the hyperfeminine woman as a whole – is no different. If you understand a concept, why does it matter what metaphor you used to get there? Why does it matter the language you express it

Without realizing it, many of us feel an instinctual disgust toward the hyperfeminine because they are the stereotypes we spent so long fighting in the academic space. To pull from psychologist Carl Jung, we hate in others what we hate - and have tried to

bury - in ourselves. The rhetoric that those speak "standard" who

English are more intelligent

than others has been used for centuries to dismiss women and people of color and deny them higher education and positions of power. By listening to that knee-jerk reaction and automatically rejecting the image of the valley girl giving an upperdivision economics lecture, we are doing the same thing. We are pushing people who learn from simpler, feminine metaphors - metaphors targeted toward women out of a space that they have already been historically excluded from. This method of learning tells the girls of average intelligence that they are capable of understanding difficult topics. Simplicity is not the enemy of academia.

Obviously, there's a line here. We should not explain centuries-long geopolitical and oppression with a makeup metaphor sandwiched between two sponsored Temu ads. Using metaphors - of any kind runs the risk of losing nuance and downplaying the weight of a subject. There's a time and place.

But when I'm sitting with my female friends in a library study room midnight trying understand inductive electron withdrawal using a frat party metaphor, it feels freeing. I'm not weighed down by jargon and a need for an air of professionalism anymore. It's just me, a friend and way too many chemical mechanisms to memorize by Monday.

So, yes, girl math is differential geometry and, yes, women can understand jargon and, yes, women are really smart. But women are not going to be perfect at everything, and should not have to be.

There's an overarching desire here - wanting to go back to blissful innocence and ignorance. Coquette fashion, bows, Sanriocharacters, the list goes on. The collective turned toward bimbo feminism for a reason, not just the pinks and designer bags. From childhood, girls are thrust high-responsibility roles because they "mature faster" than boys. If "boys will be boys" from ages 3 to 30, why can't I just be a girl for a little while longer?

Bimbo feminism should not be the be-all-end-all of someone's feminism, but perhaps an addendum. A little voice to yourself that, yes, I just embarrassed myself by spending \$200 to get my oil changed at the mechanic and everyone there thinks I'm stupid, but honestly? Iconic.

Elle Woods and Barbie show us we can be feminine and just as intelligent as any man, but Karen Smith and bimbo feminism tell us that we can be feminine and stupid and still be loved. There is - and must be - a place in feminism for women to be mediocre.

Elizabeth Lee thinks we should all ask stupid things in class.

HOROSCOPES

The signs as "I'm just a girl" moments

ARIES

MARCH 21 - APRIL 19

Tripping on the Mosher Alumni House steps in your Dr. Martens

TAURUS

APRIL 20 - MAY 20

Refusing to cash in your filled-in Arbor punch card

GEMINI

MAY 21 - JUNE 20

Failing two problem sets in the same day

CANCER

JUNE 21 - JULY 22

Drunk crying at the beach while listening to "Apocalypse"

LE0

JULY 23 - AUGUST 22

Almost dropping your phone while waving to your neighbors' cats

VIRGO

AUGUST 23 - SEPTEMBER 22

Insisting on using a \$90 fountain pen that cramps your hand

LIBRA SEPTEMBER 23 - OCTOBER 22

Stalking your friends' bad dates for future reference

SCORPIO

OCTOBER 23 - NOVEMBER 21

Taking a break from your meeting to go to your other meeting

SAGITTARIUS

NOVEMBER 22 - DECEMBER 21

Tried to pet the moray eel at the R.E.E.F. and ends up missing a finger

CAPRICORN

DECEMBER 22 - JANUARY 19

Grinding to "The Social Network" soundtrack and embodying Mark Zuckerberg

AQUARIUS

JANUARY 20 - FEBRUARY 18

Watching a Sims 4 streamer and crying because the game is giving you anxiety

PISCES

FEBRUARY 19 - MARCH 20

Saying that you're going to jump into the lagoon and a passing stranger yells "Do it!"