

CAMPUS HSI INITIATIVES PERSIST DESPITE LOSS IN FEDERAL FUNDING

Michelle Cisneros
Lead News Editor

Despite the loss of several federal discretionary grant funds, initiatives under UC Santa Barbara's Hispanic-Serving Institution designation remain steadfast in their commitment to students, according to Hispanic-Serving Institution Director Veronica Fematt.

In September, the Department of Education (ED) ended discretionary funding for several grant programs within Minority-Serving

Institutions, including those that are Hispanic-Serving, such as UCSB. In 2015, the ED designated UCSB as an Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI) according to its criteria of being a non-profit campus with a full-time Hispanic undergraduate population of at least 25%.

According to Fematt, the elimination of these grants will primarily affect two HSI programs: Academy for Community-, Action-, and Use-Inspired Scholarship and Education (A-CAUSE) and Educational eXcellence and Inclusion Training Opportunities (ÉXITO).

A-CAUSE "engages in research, scholarship, and creative inquiry," according to the HSI website, and is based on the idea that participating in undergraduate research and internships helps increase retention rates and campus belonging. ÉXITO provides a pathway for students interested in becoming certified ethnic studies teachers, and is the first

program of its kind within the University of California system, according to the HSI website.

Opening New Doors to

“HSI grants helped us launch impactful programs, but our HSI initiatives extend far beyond funding cycles and serve our entire multicultural community”

VERONICA FEMATT

COURTESY OF PUBLICDOMAINPICTURES

Accelerating Student Success was originally funded by the ED, but when its five-year grant ended, the program was made permanent by the University. The initiative has its own center on campus and is dedicated to helping first-generation, income-eligible students who may be from underrepresented backgrounds.

"The elimination of federal HSI grants will limit the resources available to develop or expand initiatives that advance servingness," Fematt said in an email statement to the Nexus. "These grants have played a crucial role in supporting programs that foster belonging and success for first-generation, income-eligible, and underrepresented students — not just Chicane/Latiné students, which is a common misconception."

However, Fematt emphasized that despite the repeal of these grants, several initiatives and events remain part of the University. Fematt highlighted the summer S.T.E.M.

Equity Institute as a recent initiative that remains on campus.

"As UCSB's inaugural HSI Director, the work I have been leading — largely independent of the campus's HSI grants — will continue," Fematt said. "Over the past academic year, I have organized community-building events, conducted student surveys to better assess needs, coordinated career workshops and alumni panels, and created opportunities for faculty to engage in culturally relevant professional development."

Fematt concluded by reiterating that although the University lost federal funding for these programs, UCSB will remain "deeply committed to servingness."

"HSI grants helped us launch impactful programs, but our HSI initiatives extend far beyond funding cycles and serve our entire multicultural community," Fematt said. "The work to foster belonging, elevate student voices, and support not only Chicane/Latiné students but all first-generation and underrepresented students will continue. Our mission as an HSI is institutional, enduring, and deeply rooted in equity and inclusion."



COURTESY OF SHUTTERSTOCK

John Martinis and Michel Devoret win 2025 Nobel Prize in Physics



UCSB physics professors John Martinis and Michel Devoret were awarded the 2025 Nobel prize in physics for their work in quantum mechanics.

Wynne Bendell
University News Editor

UC Santa Barbara physics professor emeritus John Martinis and UC Santa Barbara physics professor Michel Devoret, along with UC Berkeley physics professor John Clarke, were awarded the 2025 Nobel Prize in physics for their work that demonstrated that quantum mechanics can be made concrete on a macroscopic scale.

Martinis received both his bachelor's degree and doctorate in physics from UC Berkeley in 1980 and 1987, respectively. During his time as a graduate student, he conducted a series of experiments with Devoret and Clarke involving an electronic circuit built of superconductors.

Born in Paris, Devoret graduated as a telecommunications engineer from Télécom Paris in 1975, then received both his graduate degree in quantum optics and doctorate in condensed matter physics in 1982 from the University of Orsay, now called Paris-Saclay University. He currently works as the Chief Scientist of Quantum

Hardware at Google Quantum Artificial Intelligence.

According to the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, their work has laid the foundation for "developing the next generation of quantum technology, including quantum cryptography, quantum computers, and quantum sensors."

Martinis expressed his gratitude for being able to build on his work as a graduate student over several decades.

"It's been something I've done my whole career. It's been a real pleasure to just keep building on something that we thought about very carefully back in the mid-1980s and keep working on that and building it better and better," Martinis said.

Going forward, Martinis wants to expand on his research and said his "professional dream" is building a quantum computer.

Throughout the day, Martinis said he received countless emails and congratulatory phone calls from colleagues and faculty, but said the best part of his day was hearing from former students who had been inspired by his research.

In a letter from UCSB Chancellor Dennis Assanis, read by Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost David Marshall, he congratulated the Nobel laureates and emphasized their importance to the University's legacy of innovation.

"As our campus's seventh and eighth Nobel laureates, you are part of a tremendous legacy here at UC Santa Barbara and a proud culture of interdisciplinary collaboration, innovation and excellence that has been built over decades," Marshall said.

Marshall highlighted their achievement as a testament to the importance of research universities. He emphasized that scientific research is an investment in the future of greater findings.

"It begins with discovery, with enterprise, with experiment, with curiosity, with a desire to figure things out, to solve problems, and only years later do we see the tremendous transformation of society and the improvement of people's lives. But it's only by the investment in science that we ever get those results," Marshall said.

Campus crime rates increasing since 2022

Jack Dindia
Lead News Editor

According to the 2025 Annual Security & Fire Safety Report, there has been an increase in crime on UC Santa Barbara's campus since 2022, with significant increases reflected across sexual assault, burglary, hate crimes and weapon arrests.

The UC Police Department (UCPD) Interim Chief of Police Matthew Bly told the Nexus in a written statement that campus crime increases do "not necessarily indicate a trend," as fluctuations in their yearly campus safety statistics are typical.

The Annual Security & Fire Safety Report (ASFSR) is updated each year on Oct. 1 and contains safety and security-related policy statements and procedures, along with crime statistics from the past three years. In 2024, rape, burglary, motor vehicle theft, dating violence and stalking were at their highest in the past three years.

UCPD arrested 43 people for rape charges in 2024, which is over a 50% increase from the past two years. In 2023, 28 people were arrested for rape, whereas 30 people were arrested in 2022. There have been no charges for statutory rape in the past three years.

There was also an increase in domestic violence, dating violence and stalking in 2024. Thirteen people were arrested for domestic violence in 2024, more than double the amount of six arrests in 2023. Thirty arrests were made for dating violence, compared to 18 and 16 arrests being made in 2023 and 2022, respectively. Stalking also saw a significant increase in arrests, with 60 being made in 2024, compared to 47 arrests in 2023 and 48 arrests in 2022. Fourteen arrests for fondling were made in 2024, which is an increase from the nine arrests made in 2023.

Four robbery-related arrests were made in 2024 and 2022, with no arrests made in 2023. Aggravated assaults were the only crime to see a decrease in 2024, with 19 arrests made compared to 20 arrests in 2023 and 11 arrests in 2022.

There was a significant increase in burglary in 2024, with 59 arrests made, which is over double the 26 arrests made in 2023. Arson has also been steadily increasing in the last three years, with 19 arrests made in 2024, 13 arrests in 2023 and five arrests in 2022. According to a campus-wide email sent on Oct. 10, motor vehicle theft has been steadily increasing in the last two years. Twenty-three arrests were made in 2022, followed by 63 arrests in 2023 and

71 arrests in 2024.

According to Bly, electric bikes and scooters are counted as motor vehicle theft under the Clery Act, which accounts for the higher total in motor vehicle theft in 2024.

"As electric bikes and scooters become more affordable and accessible to a larger portion of our campus community, the number of these mobility devices on campus has increased," Bly said in the statement. "Unfortunately, these items are highly sought after and are prone to theft."

As far as disciplinary referrals, there was an increase in liquor law violation arrests, with 33 arrests made in 2024 compared to 22 arrests in 2023 and six arrests in 2022. Drug law violation arrests also saw an increase at 41 arrests made in 2024, compared to 36 arrests in 2023 and 14 arrests in 2022. Fourteen people were arrested for weapons law violations in 2024, an increase compared to the three arrests made in 2023 and six arrests made in 2022.

In 2024, 27 people were charged for hate crimes on campus, which the report categorized as vandalism characterized by ethnicity, race and religion bias; intimidation characterized by ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, national origin and race bias; and assault characterized by ethnicity and race bias. This is an increase from 10 charges in 2023 and four charges in 2022.

2024 and 2023 saw no murders or non-negligent manslaughter, although one murder occurred in 2022. There haven't been any manslaughter by negligence crimes in the past three years.

Bly said that "safety and crime prevention are top priorities" for UCPD. He emphasized UCPD's efforts to educate the community on the importance of reporting crimes, which may have led to an increase in crimes reported.

"Educational campaigns can also help make our community aware of the importance of reporting specific incidents," Bly said. "This increase in awareness in our community typically leads to higher statistics, but it does not necessarily indicate a change in the actual number of incidents."

In the case of an emergency, UCPD urges community members to call 911. UCPD can also be reached at 805-893-3446 for non-emergencies. For crimes in Isla Vista, community members can contact Isla Vista Foot Patrol at 805-681-4179/4100. For non-urgent incidents on UCSB property, students can file a form on their website.



Michelle Cisneros
Lead News Editor

Five UC faculty, alum win Nobel Prizes across three days

In the span of three days, five faculty members of the University of California (UC) and an alum won a Nobel Prize. According to a UC press release, it's the first time in Nobel Foundation history that four faculty members from the same institution have won the award in a single year.

UC San Diego and UC Los Angeles alum Frederick J. Ramsdell, alongside other collaborators from Seattle and Japan, won the Nobel Prize in medicine on Oct. 6. Ramsdell and his colleagues researched regulatory T cells that prevent the immune system from harming body tissue. Within the press release, UCLA Chancellor Julio Frenk said their research is being used to better understand autoimmune diseases and develop treatments for several conditions.

The following day, UC Berkeley Professor Emeritus John Clarke, UC Santa Barbara Professor Emeritus John Martinis and UCSB professor Michel Devoret won the prize in physics for research that is helping develop quantum computers. On Oct. 8, UC Berkeley professor Omar Yaghi, along with scientists in Japan and Australia, won the chemistry prize for creating a molecular architecture that can clean pollutants in the atmosphere and gather drinking water from desert air.

UC faculty have won 75 Nobel Prizes overall, according to the press release. The release also highlighted that this research was made possible with federal funding, amidst attempts by the federal government to revoke research grants from the UC.

"Throughout 2025, the federal government has canceled or delayed thousands of research grants to hundreds of U.S. universities," the

press release read. "While funding for many of UC's projects has been restored, the interruptions and uncertainty have plagued research that is poised to deliver vital new knowledge, including studies of aging, addiction, obesity, maternal and fetal health and Alzheimer's disease."

FDA approves clinical trial for UCLA heart regeneration drug

Last week, the Food and Drug Administration approved Phase 1 clinical trials for a new tissue repair drug called AD-NP1. According to a press release from the UC, federal and state grants funded the development process entirely.

In 2021, UCLA cardiovascular scientist Arjun Deb discovered that heart tissue from mice and humans taken after a heart attack had increased levels of the protein ENPPI. Deb's group went on to develop AD-NP1, a monoclonal antibody that stops ENPPI from functioning and helps repair tissue

from the heart and other organs.

According to the press release, this research is a "rare instance" of a drug being entirely developed in the same university laboratory, as most drugs are developed with the help of private companies. Deb chose this approach because it lowers costs, potentially shortens development time and allows for "intellectual freedom."

"I have not taken a cent from any private donor or company to develop this drug. I hope this will form a model for future drug development at UCLA," Deb said in the press release.

UCSD introduces artificial intelligence major

Starting this academic year, UCSD first-year students can pursue a Bachelor of Science in artificial intelligence (AI). Housed within the computer science and engineering department, the major is designed to teach students how to build AI systems and evaluate their impact.

The major will consist of an introductory course, mathematical and programming fundamentals and elective courses. According to The Guardian, students are also mandated to take an ethics course.

"For instance, when students study large language models, they might also examine questions of copyright and training data; when they explore recommendation systems, they may consider issues of algorithmic bias and its real-world impact," UCSD professor Trevor Bonjour, who will teach courses in the major, told The Guardian. "Students will learn not only how to build AI systems, but also how to evaluate their consequences carefully: who benefits, who might be harmed and how to design responsibly."

Although there are other UCs with AI concentrations and graduate programs, UCSD is the first to have an undergraduate major.

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

Jack Dindia
Lead News Editor

MultiCultural Center hosts 'Spiritual Care Club'

The MultiCultural Center (MCC) is hosting "Spiritual Care Club" on Thursday, Oct. 16, from 12-1:30 p.m. at the MCC lounge.

"Spiritual Care Club is a recurring space where members will learn how to use and trust divine and intuitive tools for their healing and care, identity development, and dreams and goals formation. It will be an intentional space where we can experience personal and collective growth, joy, and care in a safe and encouraging environment," the Shoreline description read.

The event will take place on Thursdays, Oct. 16 and 23, and Nov. 13 and 20.

Office of DEI hosts 'La Feria de Bienvenida'

The Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) is hosting "La Feria de Bienvenida" on Thursday, Oct. 16, from 2-4 p.m.

"The HSI Initiatives and DEI Office is excited to announce our 2025-2026 HSI Welcome for our incoming and continuing scholars, and the vibrant community that supports them," the Shoreline description read.

Music, food and "plenty of opportunity to connect" will be provided. Students can register for the event to see its location.

OISS hosts 'All Languages Language Exchange'

The Office of International Students & Scholars (OISS) is hosting an "All Languages Language Exchange" on Thursday, Oct. 16, from 4-5:30 p.m. at the third floor of the Student Resource Building.

"Students, Staff and Faculty

are welcome to join UCSB's All Languages Language Exchange to meet fellow linguaphiles and practice your language(s) of choice at this bi-monthly cultural exchange event," the Shoreline description read.

All languages are welcome at the event. Snacks and beverages will be provided.

IHC hosts free screening of 'Materialists'

The Interdisciplinary Humanities Center is hosting a screening of director Celine Song's film "Materialists" on Thursday, Oct. 16, from 8-10:10 p.m. at Isla Vista Theater.

"A young, ambitious New York City matchmaker finds herself torn between the perfect match and her imperfect ex," the Shoreline description read.

The screening is free for students and \$5 for community members, and will feature a "special speed dating" game before the screening.

Women's Center hosts 'Women & Wheels'

The Women's Center is hosting "Women & Wheels" on Saturday, Oct. 18, from 1-2 p.m.

"We know that going in to get your bike fixed can be intimidating so we are offering this workshop in partnership with the A.S Bike Shop to alleviate some of those fears and empower you to feel confident to fix your bike by yourself!" the Shoreline description read.

Students can register for the event to see its location.

Arts & Lectures hosts 'Noam Pikelnny and Friends'

Arts & Lectures is hosting "Noam Pikelnny and Friends" on Saturday, Oct. 18, from 7:30-9 p.m. at Campbell Hall.

"Grammy-winning banjo innovator and Punch Brothers co-founder Noam

Pikelnny leads a powerhouse acoustic quintet for a night of bold, genre-bending string music," the Shoreline description read.

The event will cost \$15 for UCSB students and \$44-59 for the general public.

Environmental Justice Club at Bren School hosts screening of 'Earth's Greatest Enemy'

The Environmental Justice Club at Bren School, in partnership with Veterans for Peace (VFP), are hosting a screening of the film "Earth's Greatest Enemy" by Abby Martin on Sunday, Oct. 19, from 5-8 p.m. at Isla Vista Theater.

"The Bren Environmental Justice Club is supporting [VFP] with their upcoming tour stop in Santa Barbara for the Wake Up to Climate Crisis & NO MAS (No Military Air Shows) Tour. The tour is stopping at multiple military air shows and university campuses, raising awareness for the U.S. military's devastating impacts on the climate crisis," the Shoreline description read.

The event is free, and doors will open at 4:45 p.m. Donations are welcome.

Health & Wellness hosts 'UCSB Safer Sex Peers'

Health & Wellness is hosting "UCSB Safer Sex Peers" on Monday, Oct. 20, from 5:30-6:45 p.m.

"In this 4-part certification series, learn accurate and comprehensive holistic sexual health including STIs, contraception, communication, anatomy, self-agency, and more. Be a non-judgmental resource for peers to help make informed and thoughtful decisions about their physical, emotional, and social well-being," the Shoreline description read.

Students can register for the event to see its location.

The Daily Nexus Crossword

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5				
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Sanchita Koppa
Crossword Creator

Across:
1. To hit someone?
5. Of 10,000, a common goal
6. Makes a guitar louder
7. Amusing
8. A philosopher of the cards

Down:
1. "Don't you know it's rude to ___?"
2. Leaves a sour taste in the mouth
3. Keeps the doctor away
4. A common fall drink, abbr. (in circled boxes)

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Kapatirang Pilipino holds Barrio Fiesta

Kyla Chambers
Reporter

UC Santa Barbara's Kapatirang Pilipino chapter collaborated with Isla Vista Small Artists Cooperative on Oct. 10 to celebrate Filipino American History Month by hosting a Filipino market.

Titled "Barrio Fiesta," the event was held at the Isla Vista Community Center (IVCC), where vendors sold clothes, art and essential oils. Around 50 attendees could be seen browsing, chatting and watching live music performed by Maiya Mendoza, stage name Mai, a Filipinx singer-songwriter.

Kapatirang Pilipino (KP) is one of the largest Asian student

organizations on campus, with over 200 members, according to Ruby Novero, a third-year film and media studies major and KP's chairperson. In addition to cultural events, the organization also promotes social activities and mentorship programs for its members.

Novero expressed the importance of creating spaces for Filipino cultural representation at UCSB and of sharing those spaces with the local community.

"We just wanted to, you know, shed light on our creatives here and give them that space where they feel represented," Novero explained.

KP also worked with the Isla Vista Small Artists Cooperative,

which assisted in securing vendors for the event's guests. Although KP has held similar markets in the past, it had never reached the scale of Friday's Barrio Fiesta.

Novero said that she felt the event was "a big stepping stone" for KP, and hopes to continue holding Filipino market events.

"We've done marketplaces in the past but nothing to this extent — nothing this big — so I think this is really great," Novero said.

According to KP treasurer and second-year actuarial science major Jaimie Mendoza, KP worked in collaboration with IVCC in distributing information about the event, with a focus on digital ads, flyers and word of mouth. Organizers said they were

satisfied with the turnout.

Mai took over for the DJ at around 5 p.m., having traveled from the San Fernando Valley, and was accompanied onstage simply by their guitar, microphone and an amplifier. She had heard of the event through one of her bandmates, who is a student at UCSB and thought Mai may have an interest in performing at the market as a Filipina American.

The band Clever Girl plays both covers and original material for a variety of audiences. Mai explained in an interview that she takes inspiration from a range of artists, citing Rufus Wainwright and Chappell Roan while describing her process in constructing lyrics that reflect

her identity as a lesbian Filipina. Their songs explore themes around romance and finding one's place in their sexual identity.

The musician expressed interest in playing community events, having performed at a similar show at California State University, Northridge. Although Mai has grown up in Filipino communities in the Los Angeles area and plays shows in the Historic Filipinotown of Los Angeles, or Hi-Fi, she expressed her desire to discover more queer Filipino spaces.

"I'm gonna see people there who look like me and who can celebrate the same culture as me, which I think is super cool," Mai said.



Kapatirang Pilipino chapter collaborated with Isla Vista Small Artists Cooperative on the event to celebrate Filipinx American History Month.



The Isla Vista Small Artists Cooperative assisted in securing vendors who sold items including clothes, art and essential oils.



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Mesa Pizza has served slices in Santa Barbara’s Mesa neighborhood for three decades and blends flavors from Italian, South African and Indian cuisines.

Iris Guo
Community Outreach Editor

Located at 6576 Trigo Road, Mesa Pizza opened its doors on Saturday, Oct. 4, bringing a distinctive take on the neighborhood pizza parlor to Isla Vista. The restaurant is a long-established family business that has served slices in Santa Barbara’s Mesa neighborhood for three decades.

Owned and operated by Virandra Singh and his sons, Vir Singh and Visha Singh, Mesa Pizza specializes in pies that blend flavors and spices from Italian, South African and Indian cuisines.

“We are of South African origin and of Indian ethnicity with some French,” Virandra said. “We brought those backgrounds of spices in our food, and together with my brother Raj and my wife Rekha, we took our Italian spices and blended it with our bread.”

The Singh family has owned the building on Trigo Road since 1998, but have not used it as a retail space for about 20 years.

“Originally, my brother Suresh and his then wife opened a South

African Indian restaurant at that location and called it Cafe Nirvana,” Virandra said. “After a few years, it closed due to various circumstances.”

Before the Singhs purchased the property, from 1968 to 1981, the building was home to Sun and Earth Natural Foods Garden Restaurant, a vegetarian restaurant and grocery store owned by UC Santa Barbara alum Bob McDonald and Santa Barbara City College alum Ric Smith. The establishment had a particular appeal to the hippie counterculture of the time.

According to Virandra, various culturally significant individuals spent time at Sun and Earth, including Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, a propagator of transcendental meditation.

“Yoga, as the West knows it, was brought into the U.S. in the late 60s, early 70s, by a person by the name of Maharishi Mahesh Yogi,” Virandra said. “He lived in El Colegio, and through him, yoga became big in the U.S. He used to visit the Sun and Earth store very often.”

Other prominent visitors of the Sun and Earth store included Santa Barbara native Edie Sedgwick — an actress, model and socialite — and Andy Warhol, known today as a leading figure in the pop art movement of the mid-20th century.

“You may have heard of Andy Warhol,” Virandra said. “Well, Andy Warhol was dating Edie Sedgwick from Santa Barbara, and they would meet at the Sun and Earth also. So the building has got a lot of incredible history, and we’re hoping to make great new historical memories also.”

Today, Mesa Pizza pays homage to Sun and Earth with an outdoor seating area that emulates a zen-like garden, complete with gazebos, greenery and a fountain. Virandra said that he wanted to create an environment that reflected his interest in Buddhism, as well as his Hindu and Sikh faith.

“Buddha was actually of Indian Hindu origin, and that’s prompted us to always be part of the Buddhist community,” he said. “Buddhism is one path that the whole world identifies with

because they promote peace and the answers found upon self reflection. That concept of thinking is what attracted me to the zen-like Buddhist philosophy.”

He also said that he wanted the store to serve the community as an “all for one and one for all” space, so he invited religious leaders to the opening night to perform informal blessings.

“We had a pastor, a rabbi, an imam and a Tibetan lama — all interfaith people — coming in there to start off this place because it’s going to be used by all different religious and cultural communities and organizations to come showcase the beauty of each of their cultures and religions,” Virandra said.

For Vir and Visha, both UCSB alumni, the goal for Mesa Pizza was to create an “elevated, food hangout experience.”

“We wanted it to be everything that we would have wanted to have while we were students here,” Vir said.

Beyond the location’s history, Virandra said that Mesa Pizza stands out from competitors

because of fresh ingredients and flavor that make them high quality.

“We are using 100% pure mozzarella cheese, sauces that are not made from concentrate. We cut our meats and buy our veggies locally as much as possible,” Virandra said.

Additionally, Vir cited the unique flavors offered as an advantage over other local pizza places.

“You cannot get pizzas that we sell anywhere else because of our sauces that we make and just the type of food that we present,” Vir said. “So although it’s pizza, the flavor is so unique to us that that’s what differentiates us.”

Overall, the Singhs hope that Mesa Pizza will become a place where the UCSB and Isla Vista community can come together to enjoy food and connect.

“It is a place for the local community, the lecturers, the undergraduates and the [graduate] students alike to come to a safe, beautiful, serene, peaceful environment to have a glass of wine or a pizza and enjoy it in all its beauty and serenity,” Virandra said.

Investigation continues into stabbing on Del Playa

Jack Dindia
Lead News Editor

A fight took place on the 6700 block of Del Playa Drive on Oct. 4, leading to two men being stabbed. According to a Santa Barbara County Sheriff’s Office press release, the men were taken to the hospital for treatment, where both are expected to recover.

The incident occurred after a UC Santa Barbara Jort Club party, according to a post on the club’s Instagram story. The post, made at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 4, clarified that the suspects are not associated with the club. Later that night, they made another story post stating that those injured “will not have long

term injuries.”

“If anyone has videos of the fight, please [direct message] it to [@ucsbjortclub] and we will get it to the police,” the Instagram story read.

Detectives believe several suspects were involved with the incident and multiple people may have witnessed the fight, according to the Santa Barbara County Sheriff’s Office (SBCSO).

SBCSO is seeking any photos or videos that will aid the investigation. Anyone who may have information is asked to contact sheriff’s detectives at (805) 681-4150, and those wishing to remain anonymous can call the tip line at (805) 681-4171 or submit information via their website.



A fight took place after a UCSB Jort Club party on the 6700 block of Del Playa Drive, which led to two men being stabbed.

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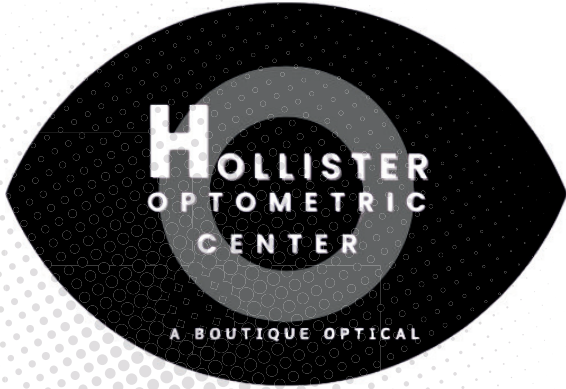
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UCPD says bike safety initiatives aim to be ‘education efforts versus enforcement’

Wynne Bendell
University News Editor

The 76th Associated Students Senate heard from UC Police Department Interim Chief of Police Matthew Bly and several administrators in response to increasing student concern over the new bike enforcement program on Oct. 8. Administration confirms plans to construct a replacement bike path.

At the start of the academic year, the UC Police Department (UCPD) began stationing officers between the Interactive Learning Pavilion (ILP) and the Davidson Library to deter students from biking where no bike path exists, as a previous bike path was covered in the construction of the ILP. Officers have warned students to get off their bikes and have issued four citations as of Oct. 8 with \$40 fines.

UCPD officers have also been seen issuing warnings at several different locations on campus.

While enforcement began with the start of the academic term, an email notifying students of this program was not sent out until a week later. With concerns from senators and students across social platforms over a lack of communication between UCPD and the student body, Associated Students (A.S.) Internal Vice President and fourth-year history and global studies double major Enri Lala invited UCPD to send a representative to the senate meeting.

Bly clarified that the bike enforcement is part of a larger initiative to educate students on bike safety protocols.

“So that’s what we’re trying to do, is create a safer environment, and we’re trying to do our best through education efforts versus enforcement,” Bly said.

Bly also said that if a student is issued a citation, they can opt out of the fine by completing an online bike safety course that was created in collaboration with the A.S. Bike Committee Co-Chair, or appear in court to contest the citation.

Off-Campus Senator and third-year psychological & brain sciences and sociology double major Victoria Ly raised concerns over a lack of communication and questioned why the bike enforcement announcement was sent a week after the school year started. In response, Bly acknowledged that the UCPD’s communication efforts have been “inadequate” and is committed to working with student groups, including A.S., to disseminate bike safety information more effectively.

UCSB Director of Capital and Physical Planning Josh Rohmer announced that the University is committed to providing students with a new bike path, and an ILP bike path plan will be completed in about a month. The timeline of construction has not yet been announced, as it is contingent on cost estimates and sources of funding, which are not yet

solidified.

During public forum, A.S. Bike Committee Co-Chair and fourth-year geography and sociology double major Anthony Woo said that the committee has been working on bike path plans since the ILP’s construction and has been working with administration to put the construction in motion. He says that securing funding will be the next major hurdle and hopes that the Senate is willing to help with the costs.

Next, former Senator for the 75th Senate and fourth-year computer science major Aryaman Singh presented his summer project of building a questions and answers website for A.S. The website is still in development, but he hopes that it will make A.S. and its legal code more accessible to everyone in the association.

First-year Crystal Gonzales then raised their concerns about the recent decrease in library late-night study hours, expressing a fear of safety for students. They said that the library acts as a “safe zone” for students who need a place to study late at night and is an “important resource.” Off-Campus Senator and fourth-year political science major Natalia Pascher reaffirmed the Senate’s commitment to the library’s 24/7 hours of operation being “brought back” and said that there are ongoing discussions with administration to address this concern.

First President Pro Tempore and second-year political science

major Evan Sussman presented his summer-long project, A Bill to Clean Up Legal Code. Sussman took on this project to cut around 80 pages of A.S. legal code and free up to \$40,000 because he said that legal code was full of contradictions that made it inaccessible and inaccurate. The bill corrects errors in legal code and removes outdated, inactive roles and Boards, Committees and Units.

Sussman said that A.S. is not “respected, trusted or recognized by the student body” because they have overextended their responsibilities, leading to confusing and inaccessible bureaucratic practices that “no one follows because they are just too confusing to even read.”

“We spread ourselves too thin and [have] gotten entangled in solving interpersonal and international conflicts, created layers of bureaucracy without reason and written rules,” Sussman said.

Sussman said that he took on this initiative in order to promote increased accountability within the Senate. After several senators praised Sussman for his work on this bill, it was referred to the liaison committee for the next three weeks before the Senate could vote on it.

“It is a reminder that as legislators of an organization with a nearly \$16 million budget, we have a lot of power,” Sussman said. “And if that power isn’t regularly checked, refined or grounded in

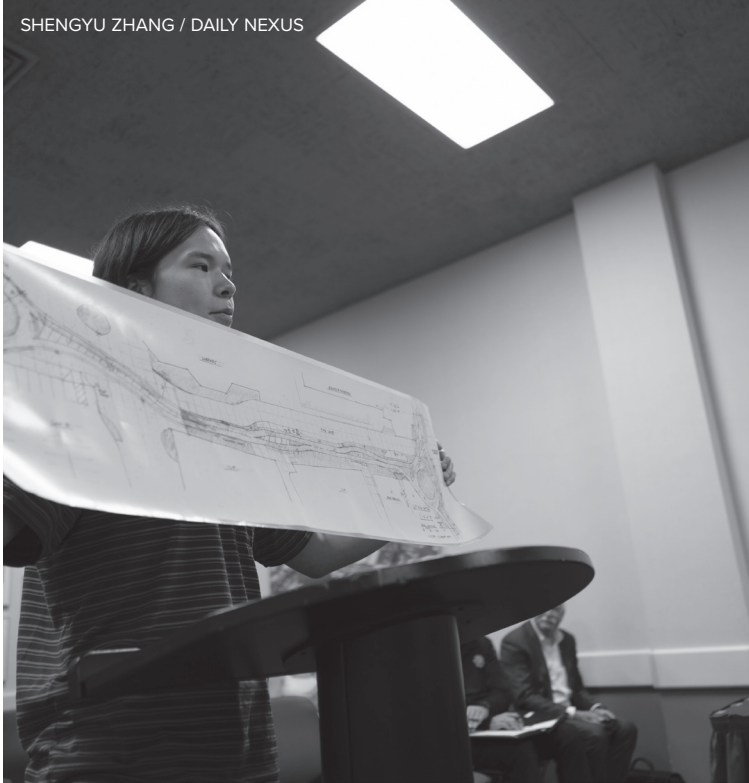
purpose, we lose sight of why we were elected in the first place.”

Following a recent incident of an alleged Immigration and Customs Enforcement officer attempting to identify a student at Santa Catalina Residence Hall, Collegiate Senator and fourth-year political science major Caleb Claro presented A Resolution to Affirm Membership Rights in the Association.

The resolution would “reify federal, state, and UC Regents precedents in protecting every students’ right to education, which includes Undocumented Students and international students within the Associations constituencies, who have been under considerable scrutiny under the current federal administration.”

The Senate then moved into a closed session to discuss the finance committee’s Oct. 6 meeting minutes.

After the closed session discussion, the Senate opened the Oct. 6 finance committee meeting minutes to strike out the motion to “partially fund UCSB library for \$15,000 from Program Board [Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)], upon Program Board’s completion and approval of the MOU via hand vote.” They then struck the voting record of the previously mentioned motion and closed the meeting minutes. Since it was a closed session, the Nexus was not able to confirm why the motion and voting record was stricken from the meeting minutes.



A.S. Bike Committee Co-Chair Anthony Woo presenting the committee's bike path plans.



UCPD officers have been seen issuing warnings at several different locations on campus.

UCSB Parking Information

Halloween 2025

- **Registered UCSB Students** with an Annual Night & Weekend parking permit can park in designated lots on campus beginning at 9am on Friday, October 24th until 7:30am on Monday, October 27th and again 9am Friday, October 31st until 7:30am on Monday, November 2nd.
- Designated lots for night and weekend holders are in Structure 22, and Mesa 18. All other campus lots are subject to closure.
- **Apply/purchase online by going to tps.ucsb.edu/epermits.** Permit verification can take up to three days, so purchase by October 22nd.

No Overnight Visitor Parking is allowed on the UCSB Campus on

Friday October 24th, Saturday October 25th, Friday October 31st and Saturday November 1st

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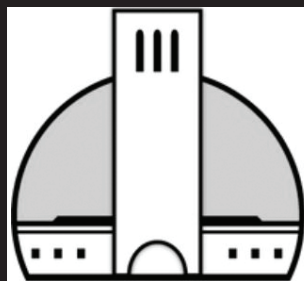
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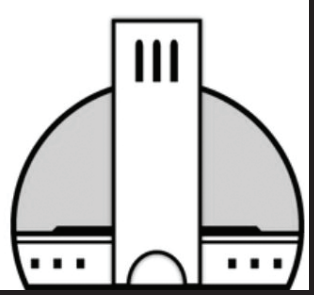
Contributors: Shayla Prasad, Anusha Singh, Andrew Wang

1. What is the largest student-run, independent newspaper on campus?
2. What is the only section allowed to cuss?
3. What section interviews celebrities on the red carpet for the Santa Barbara Film Festival?
4. What section has an ongoing map of restaurants around the world?
5. What section runs the Grades Search?
6. What section hates the Oxford comma?
7. What section designs all of the Nexus stickers?
8. What section is responsible for designing the newspaper?
9. What is our only Spanish-speaking section?
10. What section gets press passes to all sports games and Santa Barbara events?
11. What section has a total of five games and puzzles?
12. Under which structure is the Nexus office located?



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SCIENCE & TECH

SIMPLY STATED

Why your weather app can't figure out UCSB



COURTESY OF UC SANTA BARBARA

Saanvi Tiwary
Science Editor

As I look at the weather tab on my computer right now, it says 65 degrees Fahrenheit and foggy. But as I sit outside, I see no cloud in sight with a warm breeze hitting my face. This is not a one-time occurrence, as you have probably experienced a similar situation: The forecast says 75 degrees and sunny, but you end up shivering through the fog, walking along the bike path. It promises “clear skies,” yet the mountains disappear behind a white haze. You leave your jacket at home because the app says it’s warm – and instantly regret it the moment the coastal wind kicks in. So what gives? Why is the weather app so inaccurate, especially around the UC Santa Barbara campus, when it seems to be predicting the weather just fine a couple miles inland? The answer lies in a myriad of geography, microclimate dynamics and the limits of modern weather modeling.

The microclimate: If you have not already noticed, our campus is surrounded by the beautiful Pacific Ocean on one side, commonly referred to as the “ocean side”, while the Santa Ynez Mountains, also known as the “mountain side”, lie just opposite. This can create a meteorological nightmare, as our campus occupies a

transition zone where oceanic and continental airmasses collide. This collision produces microclimates, small and localized weather systems that can behave completely differently from nearby regions. In the space of a single bike ride, you can move from sun to fog to gusty wind and back again. How exactly does this work? The Pacific Ocean moderates temperature, keeping the coast cooler during the day and warmer at night. The Santa Ynez Mountains, only a few miles north, block and redirect airflow, trapping warm air inland while pulling cool, marine air southward. The marine layer, a blanket of cool and moist air capped by warmer air aloft, often slides in overnight covering UCSB and Isla Vista in dense morning fog. By late morning, sunlight usually burns it off, revealing blue skies. But the timing of the fog lifting can vary from hour to hour, and weather apps are often not used to capturing that kind of hyper local volatility.

The marine layer: The biggest culprit behind UCSB’s mystery weather is the marine layer – that gray, misty cloud deck that drifts in from the Pacific. On satellite images, it looks like a soft blanket hugging the coast. The marine layer forms when cool ocean air meets the warmer air above it, creating a temperature inversion that captures moisture close to the

surface. During calm nights, it creeps inland, coating coastal areas like UCSB with fog and low clouds. When the sun rises, heat from the surface begins to erode the inversion, causing the marine layer to “burn off,” which can sometimes be as early as 9 a.m. or, in other cases, not until 12 p.m. or even later in the afternoon. To a forecaster, predicting that burn-off time is almost like predicting the perfect time your morning coffee will be cooled off to your liking. It depends on dozens of small, interacting factors such as wind speed, humidity, ocean surface temperature and even the previous day’s weather. Apps tend to average conditions over larger grid zones, so you might still see Goleta’s inland sunshine while biking through the coastal fog.

The limits of your weather app: Most weather apps rely on numerical weather prediction models, which are powerful computer simulations that divide the atmosphere into a 3D grid and calculate how air, moisture and heat will move over time. The problem is resolution: these models can only zoom in so far. Typical app-based weather forecasts (like Apple’s Weather or The Weather Channel) use global or national models with a lower kilometer radius. That means your forecast for UCSB might actually be based on data averaged over the entire Santa Barbara Airport area or

even parts of Goleta. Within that grid cell, the model sees an average elevation, temperature and wind, however UCSB’s coastal cliffs, ocean breezes and lagoon microclimate can differ drastically from even a mile inland. Higher resolution models can capture more detail, but consumer apps rarely use them because they’re data-heavy and update less frequently.

Wind, ocean and topography: UCSB’s weather is not just about the fog and sun. Local wind patterns make things even trickier. In the afternoon, as the inland valleys heat up, they draw in the cool ocean air, creating the familiar sea breeze that hits campus by midday. But because UCSB juts out on a coastal bluff, the wind there can be about 5-10 mph stronger than just a mile inland. This wind also cools the surface temperature, which means even if your app says 73 degrees Fahrenheit, it can feel more like 65 degrees Fahrenheit with the chill from the onshore flow. Meanwhile, ocean currents and sea surface temperature anomalies (like those caused by El Niño) can subtly alter local air temperatures. These small scale variations influence fog formation and coastal wind direction, again far below the scale that most weather apps can detect. While no app can always predict UCSB weather, you can learn to read the local

cues: **Look at the mountains:** If you can’t see them in the morning, the marine layer is thick – expect fog until the late morning. **Watch the sunset:** A fiery, red sky often means that the marine layer will reappear overnight, creating more fog the next days. **Use local sensors:** Websites like Weather Underground and Windy allow you to view readings from nearby personal weather stations, often far more accurate than the generic app data. The struggle to forecast UCSB’s weather is not simply a local inconvenience; it’s a small-scale example of the challenges meteorologists face in modeling a changing climate. As the planet warms, atmospheric stability, ocean temperature gradients and wind patterns are shifting, making coastal microclimates even harder to predict. However for students and researchers, it can be an opportunity. This campus and the phenomenon that surrounds it is a living classroom for understanding the dynamic between the ocean, atmosphere and land, and how data and human observation can come together to tell the real story of the weather. So the next time your weather app says “80 and sunny” while you are biking, don’t curse the forecast, remind yourself that you are experiencing something far richer.

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SPORTS

GAMES OF THE WEEK



3-1
vs. *Hawai'i*
The UC Santa Barbara women's volleyball team beat the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa 3-1. Junior outside hitter Kiersten Schmitt led the Gauchos with a career-high 13 kills.



11-10
vs. *UCSD*
The UC Santa Barbara men's water polo team beat No. 6 UC San Diego 11-10 in their Big West opener. Senior attacker Brock Zamanian and sophomore attacker Danilo Drakovic both had 3 goals.



0-0
vs. *UCD*
The UC Santa Barbara men's soccer team tied with UC Davis 0-0. After this game, the Gauchos remained undefeated in their last six matches.

UCSB soccer battles for first in Big West Conference play

UCSB DOWNS CSUF TO SNAG THE NO. 1 SPOT

Haiden Rogers
Sports Editor

The UC Santa Barbara women's soccer team played against the undefeated Big West Conference leaders, California State University, Fullerton on Thursday, Oct. 9. The match resulted in a 1-0 win for the Gauchos, breaking the Titans' undefeated streak and putting UC Santa Barbara at the top of the conference.

The Titans' offense and defense came out aggressive on all fronts, totaling 11 fouls in the first half while the Gauchos only totaled 1. This approach from the Titans was easily shaken off by the Gauchos' offense as they

struck first in minute 31. The opportunity arose on a cross from freshman forward Natalie Sheffey, which was well finished by sophomore forward Isabella Ong. At the end of the first half, UCSB took a 1-0 lead.

In the second half, the Gauchos came out and matched the intensity that the Titans had in the first half. UCSB was given 5 fouls in the second half, with 4 of them resulting in yellow cards. Two of the four yellow cards were given to sophomore defender Mya Delaney, resulting in a red card in minute 56. With Delaney out, the Gauchos would have to play the remainder of the game with 10 players, up against the Titans' traditional 11.

The remaining 30 minutes of the second half consisted of a strong defensive performance from UCSB, who were fighting to hold on to the 1-0 lead. Game-clinching saves were made by junior goalkeeper Maddie Buckley, who totaled 5 saves in this match. This performance from Buckley named her the Big West Defensive Player of the Week. The final whistle blew, making the final score 1-0 for the UCSB Gauchos, beating the daunting previous conference leaders, the CSUF Titans.

The UC Santa Barbara women's soccer team is set to take on UC Irvine in an away game taking place on Thursday, Oct. 16 at 6 p.m.



GAUCHOS STAY ON TOP IN DRAW WITH ROADRUNNERS

Haiden Rogers
Sports Editor

The UC Santa Barbara men's soccer team faced off against California State University, Bakersfield on Saturday, Oct. 11. This match resulted in a 1-1 tie, keeping the Gauchos on top in the Big West Conference.

The Gauchos opened up the first half with a plan to hold possession and create opportunities, and they did just that. Not only did UCSB maintain 62% of the possession, but they also had 4 shots on goal in the first half that all came close but were either blocked or just missed. Though opportunities were made, none were capitalized on, and the first half whistle blew with a score of 0-0.

To open the first half, the Gauchos maintained their

aggressiveness. This paid off when, in minute 51, graduate forward Buba Fofanah got the ball off of a corner kick and began to make his way through multiple Roadrunner defenders. Fofanah was able to find space away from the defenders and shoot the ball through the legs of the CSUB keeper and into the back of the net. This made the score 1-0 in favor of UCSB.

After the Gauchos scored, the CSUB Roadrunners picked up the pace with the goal of an equalizer. Freshman goalkeeper Owen Beninga — who was on an impressive shutout streak, not allowing a single goal in the last four games — did well to defend, making three impressive saves into the late minutes of the second half.

The Gauchos stood firm against the Roadrunners, who were hungry to tie this game

until minute 80, when a CSUB player found the back of the net off of a header from a free kick. This goal tied the game up 1-1, and neither side was able to put together a game — winning goal in the remaining minutes of the second half.

"You know, up until now, one goal has been good enough," UCSB Head Coach Tim Vom Steeg said. "We just got tired. We had a really hard game [at UC Davis], and our bus broke down so we had to stay the night and didn't get in until the next day. It was just a tired group ... We got the goal and then we just ran out of defenders."

The UC Santa Barbara men's soccer team is set to face off in an away game against their rivals, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo on Saturday, Oct. 18 at 4 p.m.



The crowd cheering on the Gauchos at Harder stadium.

ARTSWEEK

Daily Nexus

Artsweek

‘One Battle After Another’ is a defining work, but is it truly revolutionary?

Jake Turner

Staff Writer

“We failed, but maybe you will not.”

This line, uttered at the conclusion of “One Battle After Another” by fiery revolutionary Perfidia Beverly Hills (Teyana Taylor), reflects both the melancholy and hope central to the film. Loosely based on the Thomas Pynchon novel “Vineland,” “One Battle After Another” transplants Pynchon’s 1980s-set exploration of aging revolutionaries into the modern day. It’s the newest movie from writer and director Paul Thomas Anderson (known for films such as “Boogie Nights” and “There Will Be Blood”), who arose during the independent cinema boom of the 1990s and is now regarded as one of the greatest working American filmmakers.

“One Battle After Another” follows washed-up revolutionary Bob Ferguson (Leonardo DiCaprio), who is pulled back into action when his daughter, Willa Ferguson (Chase Infiniti), goes missing. A cursory Google search reveals the near-universal acclaim this movie has received. Finding a review not proclaiming “One Battle After Another” is a masterwork is more difficult than finding one that does. Some have even gone as far as to brand Anderson’s work a revolutionary statement, a sort of call to action in our current political climate. As a film, there’s absolutely no denying the mastery on display.

As a revolutionary text, however, a bit more scrutiny is required. Both are worth discussion.

What separates the great filmmakers from the true visionaries? The answer is twofold. First, the masters possess an instinctual, almost supernatural sense of rhythm. Where to place the camera, how to regulate pacing and when to deploy a musical cue — these things are a sixth sense as much as learned technical prowess. Second is the ability to filter the real world through the wholly unique lens of the artist into a movie world and use the latter to critique the former. Their commentary is sometimes subtle, sometimes on the nose, but always incisive. Many directors usually have one gift or the other; the best of the best have both. With “One Battle After Another,” Anderson joins that league.

Nowhere is that rhythmic ability more apparent than in the film’s construction. The gorgeous VistaVision cinematography lends a thrillingly tactile feeling to mesmerizing action sequences. Anderson’s ever-moving camera and trademark “oners” are astonishing but never showy — a clear evolution from his early work. Jonny Greenwood’s phenomenal score balances a traditional orchestral sound with off-kilter, discordant piano keys (reminiscent of the music in Anderson’s “Punch-Drunk Love”). Editor Andy Jurgensen, a UC Santa Barbara alum, injects the film with energy

and kinetic pacing. The sound design and musical needledrops are similarly on point. Most impressive, however, is Anderson’s use of space. The final set piece employs the distinctive geographic qualities of its setting to depict a car chase unlike anything on screen before. Simply put, “One Battle After Another” is blockbuster filmmaking in top form.

In September 2022, The Film Magazine published “Capturing Modernity: The Challenge of Portraying the Contemporary World”. In the influential piece, author Noah Sparkes notes that, by sticking to period pieces or simply ignoring the presence of the internet in their films, many current directors are failing to engage with modernity. He posits a crucial question: “[W]here then is the seminal modernist satire for the 21st Century?” “One Battle After Another” is the answer.

From the Martin Scorsese-esque plot structure of “Boogie Nights” to the Robert Altman-inspired ensemble drama “Magnolia,” Anderson has always worn his cinematic influences on his sleeve. Out of its many inspirations (including a fun, full-circle nod to “Terminator 2: Judgment Day”), “One Battle After Another” aligns most closely with the work of another iconic director: Stanley Kubrick. Anderson possesses the rare Kubrickian ability (see “Dr. Strangelove”) to locate the themes of the current political moment and translate them into satire

that both rings true and exposes the ridiculousness of it all. The character of Colonel Lockjaw (Sean Penn) and his burning desire to join the The Christmas Adventurers Club represents a modern white nationalist archetype in an ingenious, absurdist way.

The script of “One Battle After Another” deftly balances its strong emotional core with raucously hilarious and instantly quotable dialogue, memorable characterization and an unpredictable cat-and-mouse plot. The variety of tones and characters somehow cohere into a unified whole, all while retaining the personal perspective of the auteur (those familiar with both Anderson’s work and personal history will find resonances all over this movie).

Key to establishing the various tones of “One Battle After Another” is its fantastic cast. Anderson juxtaposes the more stylized performances (Sean Penn’s extremely mannered transformation) against the more restrained (Regina Hall’s understated interiority) to electrifying effect. Teyana Taylor and Chase Infiniti deliver star-making turns, and Benicio del Toro’s cool-as-a-cucumber demeanor makes for perhaps the best character in the ensemble. Finally, Leonardo DiCaprio’s “Big Lebowski”-esque depiction of revolutionary-turned-stoner Bob Ferguson is yet another home run from the superstar. Every small part is perfectly

performed, yet another testament to Anderson’s direction and eye for casting.

With its merits now thoroughly enumerated, the larger question remains: To what extent, if any, is “One Battle After Another” revolutionary? That question anticipates a larger one: Can any Hollywood movie truly be revolutionary? It may be true that the film ends on a satisfying note of youthful activism, but that doesn’t validate the intensely hyperbolic strain of discourse that has materialized. As a product of a massive corporation intending to make a return on their investment, the obvious answer is no. That answer resides even within the text of the movie, where lines of Gil Scott-Heron’s poem “The Revolution Will Not Be Televised” are used as a secret code between protagonists. Scott-Heron’s 1971 poem argues that revolution does not happen through screens. Instead, it must take place on the streets, in person. By referencing that song, Anderson acknowledges the limitations of his own art within the larger structures that produced it.

Ultimately, “One Battle After Another” may not be a rebellious call to action, but it’s impossible to refute its status as one of the defining works of art of the 2020s. It’s the rare instant classic and a movie that will certainly be talked about for years to come.

¡Viva la revolución!
10/10



“One Battle After Another,” starring Leonardo DiCaprio, is a testament to director Paul Anderson’s genius, but should not be regarded as a call-to-action movie.

‘Sweater Weather’

Tracks by Artsweek

Isla Vista fall is tanning on the beach, basking on the library lawn or digging out a raincoat you haven’t worn in eight months and then subsequently trading it for jean shorts and flip flops not even three hours later. But if you’re ready to bring your winter clothes back into the rotation, pop in those retro wired headphones and take a listen to Artsweek’s “Sweater Weather” (or more like t-shirt) tracks this fall.

“We’re Going to Be Friends”

White Stripes

▶

“So Much Wine”

Phoebe Bridgers

▶

“Julia”

Mt. Joy

▶

“The Daily Mail”

Radiohead

▶

“Fade Into You”

Mazzy Star

▶

“Where You Lead I Will Follow”

Carole King

▶

“Lover, You Should’ve Come Over”

Jeff Buckley

▶

“Go Your Own Way”

Fleetwood Mac

▶

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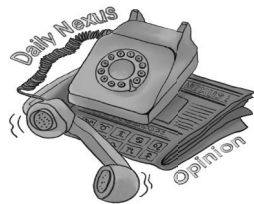
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OPINION



SEETHA RU / DAILY NEXUS



Unpacking the irrationality of disgust



Sneha Cheenath
Staff Writer

On the final day of my freshman year feminist studies class, my professor led us in a discussion that I think about at least three times a week. She explained that often, the reason we find things gross is simply because it’s “matter out of place.” She had the class shout out examples, and people pointed out that touching food on your plate isn’t gross, but once you place it in the sink it is. Or how touching someone’s hair when it’s on their head is totally fine, but it becomes icky as soon as it falls out. Even though these things aren’t unhygienic in any way, they gross us out.

I’m fascinated by disgust. I’m fascinated by what makes us feel clean or dirty, and how little it has to do with what makes us healthy or unhealthy. I’ve brought this up to many people over the years as a fun fact, a silly little human quirk. But I honestly think it’s so much more important than that. I believe disgust is a key motivation for so much bigotry. Many things that inspire hatred are simply “matter out of place” — a phenomenon most clearly exemplified by the completely irrational moral outrage caused by people taking on aesthetics that don’t conform to gender norms, like a woman with body hair. I’m not saying that if doing dishes grosses you out then you’re probably a bigot. But I do think they’re related reactions, and finding peace with what disgusts you is a key part of becoming an open-minded, accepting person.

The term “matter out of place” has ambiguous origins, but was popularized by British anthropologist Mary Douglas. In her essay “Pollution,” contained in her 1975 book “Implicit Meanings: Essays in Anthropology,” Douglas wrote that we consider something

dirty when “a system of values which is habitually expressed in a given arrangement of things has been violated.” Many kinds of bigotry — like homophobia, transphobia, xenophobia — fit neatly into this definition.

As Logan Casey argues in his University of Michigan doctoral thesis on how disgust impacts opinion on LGBTQIA+ people and policy, we assume our disgust is natural, which leads us to believe that disgust is indicative of the truth. This is what makes bigotry based in disgust so difficult to combat: “disgust is associated with harsher moral judgments, avoidant and distancing behavior, and ‘resistance to rational argument.’”

There are, admittedly, many things we find disgusting in any context — it doesn’t really matter if it’s “in place” or not. But even in those cases, our actions and feelings are often unrelated to actual health outcomes. My favorite example of this is disposable toilet seat covers. Even though they’re incredibly common across California public restrooms, they have almost no purpose for two reasons: the paper is thin enough for bacteria to travel through, and you aren’t really at risk of contracting infectious disease from a toilet seat anyway. In most parts of the world, toilet seat covers are hardly in use, and it has absolutely no effect on the health of the population. The only concrete difference is that people are more likely to hover if there are no toilet seat covers, which increases the chance of missing the bowl and getting the seat wet — which, to me, indicates that unlearning our disgust can help us reach a more hygienic world, not the opposite.

I’m not trying to deny that it’s gross to put your bare ass on a public seat toilet. When I go abroad and remember that toilet seat covers are a luxury limited to a very small portion of the world, I am indeed a little disappointed. But finding something disgusting doesn’t make it necessary to change it. At the end of the day, our cleansing rituals vary widely across cultures. Unless there’s real science that proves a legitimate health concern, there’s no reason to hold up some cleansing rituals as more important than others.

As Douglas continued, “In some communities menstrual pollution is gravely feared and in others not at all; in some, pollution by contact with the dead is feared, in others pollution by food or blood. Since our common human condition does not give rise to a common

pattern of pollution observances, the differences become interesting as an index of different cultural patterning.”

In other words, humans as a species are not aligned on what we find disgusting. Which proves that our idea of disgust is largely socially constructed, not completely innate or necessarily based in harm we’re biologically tuned to avoid. Therefore, it can and must be examined and deconstructed. Especially because people often use these differences to argue that one culture is more advanced or civilized than another.

When I told my friends I wanted to write an article about disgust and hygiene, they said that an Indian girl writing something like that will set our people back. They were partly joking, but it’s honestly a perspective I take very seriously, and one that kept me from writing an article like this for a long time. However, my Indianness is a huge reason why I feel like I need to write this: I have a front row seat to how disgust is so often weaponized as a tool for racism. The recent “controversy” about Zohran Mamdani eating biriyani with his hands comes to mind.

I’ve seen this issue play out over and over, and the progressive response I see most often is that the outrage is hypocritical because it’s accepted in western culture to eat burgers, pizza, etc. with their hands. Honestly, I think that’s a bit of a false equivalency. Those are all dry foods, where you wouldn’t have anything to wash off after your meal. I can’t think of any food like biriyani that would be eaten by hand in western culture. Does that mean it’s unhygienic to do so, or that Indian culture is less civilized? Absolutely not. Does it mean that it’s disgusting? Well, that’s relative. I understand why people argue that eating with your hands isn’t disgusting, and obviously I don’t think it is. But I think the truer argument is that disgust is a completely irrational emotion, and we prescribe it far too much importance in the way we judge the moral value of an action.

I want to emphasize that I said truer argument, not better. I’m not sure if it’s good political strategy to respond to racist comments like “if you refuse to adopt Western customs, go back to the Third World” with something like “disgust is relative, so you should try to decolonize your mind.”

Whenever I argue with this kind of logic in real life, people tend to get concerned about where “the line” is — if you can’t shame someone based on an innate sense of disgust, how can people determine which perspectives on hygiene should and shouldn’t be accepted in society? And in these conversations, I always respond that that line should be decided by science. Questions about hygiene can usually be empirically tested for, and we should act accordingly. But now that I’m discussing this in the long form, I realize that’s a bit of a cop-out answer. Scientific fact is fact; I would never try to debate that. But sometimes real life introduces other complexities that are also worth considering and possible to account for.

I think a good example of this is washing chicken. The scientific opinion is resounding: Washing poultry is a more dangerous choice

because it spreads bacteria around the kitchen, which puts you more at risk of illness. However, many many people still wash their chicken, and the divide is extremely cultural.

Here’s what the research misses. People don’t necessarily wash chicken because they fear the bacteria. Rather, they wash it because people didn’t always get chicken from an industrial supermarket, so there was physical dirt or blood on the meat that had to go. Belizean-Nigerian food writer Carolyn Desalu wrote about her cousin’s experience growing up in Belize City for Food52: “Outside of extremely wealthy people, most bought their food, raw meat, fish, fruit, vegetables and seasonings, at the market. Beef was hung up and you told the person—he wasn’t a butcher; he could have been a farmer or a man there to just sell meat—what part you wanted, and he chopped it off and gave it to you.”

People who didn’t buy expertly butchered and industrially processed meat had to clean it themselves. They passed that tradition onto their children, and it’s now an embedded cultural practice. As Desalu wrote, “I can’t bear not washing meat. In my family, washing meat is the start to well-prepared food and something my parents, sister, cousins, and so forth do. To us, it’s a ritual, a mandate. We care equally about cleaning, eating, and communing.”

I’m not a microbiologist — I’ve never even cooked chicken before — so I’m not going to debate whether or not the preservation of cultural practices is important enough to offset whatever health risk comes from washing meat or if a carefully managed kitchen can remove the risk. But it’s undoubtedly a complicating factor, which makes me question my hardline stance that we should ignore our disgust and look only to science.

I don’t really support a culture of shame, but I agree that we have a responsibility to be hygienic and should hold each other accountable for legitimately dangerous behavior. However, science can only tell us so much about what behavior is legitimately dangerous. It’s not realistic for humans to be constantly optimizing their health outcomes. Even if an action or habit tips the scale for better or worse, the magnitude of the impact is going to be accounted for differently by each individual. The United States Department of Agriculture seems to recognize this flexibility with their headline “Washing Raw Poultry: Our Science, Your Choice.”

So I must agree, the line can get blurry. But I don’t think that weakens my point. Rather, these complexities are characteristic of my argument. A society’s disgust culture is built to answer these ambiguities, and in the modern world where cultures are constantly clashing and developing, it’s bound to create tension. The only way to overcome that tension is if everyone respects what disgusts them. I don’t know exactly when a behavior becomes so unhygienic that it warrants broad societal pushback. But I don’t think it really matters because regardless, I believe that pushback should be based on genuine concern and empathy, not disgust or judgment.

The range of human condition is vast and people live on its margins — sometimes by choice, sometimes by nature. Someone having a look, smell or sound that grosses you out doesn’t mean they aren’t worthy of your respect and care. Truly embracing that attitude is the first step to rewiring your brain. As Douglas said in her 1966 book, “There are several ways of treating anomalies. Negatively, we can ignore, just not perceive them, or perceiving we can condemn. Positively we can deliberately confront the anomaly and try to create a new pattern of reality in which it has a place.”

We live in a world full of anomalies. Our instinct of disgust tells us that’s something to run away from, but we’re intelligent creatures that are stronger than our instincts. I hope that you want to live in a world where anomalies have their place, and I hope you realize that the first barrier to creating that sort of world is in your own mind.

Sneha Cheenath talks a lot about moral reasoning for someone who’s never formally studied ethics.

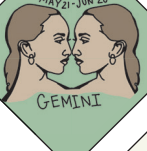
Aries
CSOs at the frats


ARIES

Taurus
Barefooter anywhere but 68 block


TAURUS

Gemini
Senior at De La Guerra Dining Commons


GEMINI


CANCER

Cancer
Sober on a Lime scooter


LEO

Leo
A condom in a frat house


VIRGO

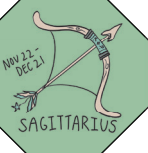
Virgo
I.V. bands playing songs the crowd knows


LIBRA

Libra
Electronic Dance Music at 9 a.m.


SCORPIO

Scorpio
The sun during June gloom


SAGITTARIUS

Sagittarius
Your ex at Thanksgiving dinner

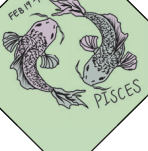
Capricorn
A black bear in South Hall


CAPRICORN

Aquarius
Chancellor Yang at Sunday Funday


AQUARIUS

Pisces
Surfer at their 8 a.m.


PISCES

HOROSCOPES

The signs as matter out of place

ART BY

Kaylee Heartman / Daily Nexus
Michelle Wu / Daily Nexus

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ON THE MENU

TAP Thai: Goleta’s ultimate dinner destination



The TAP Thai drunken noodles and tom yum soup are hard to beat!

Pihu Jain
On The Menu Editor

When it came time to catch up with a friend I hadn’t seen in months, there was no doubt in my mind about where we should eat.

TAP Thai Cuisine, located on Hollister Avenue, is warm and welcoming from the moment you step foot inside. With its low lighting, intimate seating and aromatic atmosphere, you’ll find yourself gravitating toward a booth in a trance. The menu is short and to the point, with no hidden surprises other than the ones you’ll later discover in the delicious flavors in your meal.

Every memory of mine at TAP Thai is tinged with whimsy and delight, from dinner dates

to hungover tea-spill sessions to stress-busting power meals during finals week. There has never been a place more uplifting for both mind and body than TAP Thai for me.

At TAP, quality and consistency are never compromised on, regardless of what modifications you request. As a vegetarian, I especially appreciate the ease and welcoming of substitutions offered. Most menu items explicitly state fish sauce as an ingredient and allow for removal without hassle, which I find to be an obstacle at times in Thai restaurants since fish sauce can be an integral ingredient. The servers at TAP Thai especially are the pinnacle of the entire experience, always familiar,



My friend Janani and me enjoying a TAP Thai lunch circa March 2025 (thanks BeReal).

friendly and flexible with the menu, often offering great advice on what to order (don’t be afraid to ask them about their favorite dishes).

When the food arrives (as fast as possible), your anticipation will be at its height. Steaming, delicious plates of noodles, rice, curry and soups are arranged before you in a decadent scene that’ll make you feel like Princess Belle watching the cutlery dance.

My personal favorite entrée, the drunken noodles, are a warm symphony of fresh vegetables, chewy rice noodles, sweet basil in almost every bite and bamboo shoots to tie it all together. Another classic in my books, the tom yum soup, contains white pillowy tofu you wish you could

slip into and sleep your worries away, swirling in a warm broth of lemongrass and galangal that can heal all. I also often enjoy a refreshing Thai tea between bites, which surprised my sweet-averse tongue with its soft yet commanding herbal notes.

TAP Thai is a pocket universe, a place where time slows to a stop and the world starts and ends between your first and last bites of the most delicious Thai food ever. Though my friend and I chowed down within the hour, I could’ve sworn I watched the seasons change outside (though, that may be my itch of Christmas thawing).

After dinner, we spontaneously found ourselves at Haskell’s Beach (located adjacent to

the Ritz Carlton Bacara, Santa Barbara, open to all!), basking in the waves of warmth emanating from multiple bonfires, the moon brighter than I’d ever seen before. Out there, with endless stars strewn across the sky, I wondered how many more evenings like this I have left, to be able to meander from my favorite restaurant to my favorite beach with my favorite people.

The evening was perfect (as they tend to be here), your heart and your belly are quite pleased with your mind, and you drive home, passing the glittering jewels of the Santa Barbara Channel, rounding the sandy corners to the place you’ll always call home.



Post-TAP Thai walk on the beach is a must, especially as the sun goes down and the stars come out.

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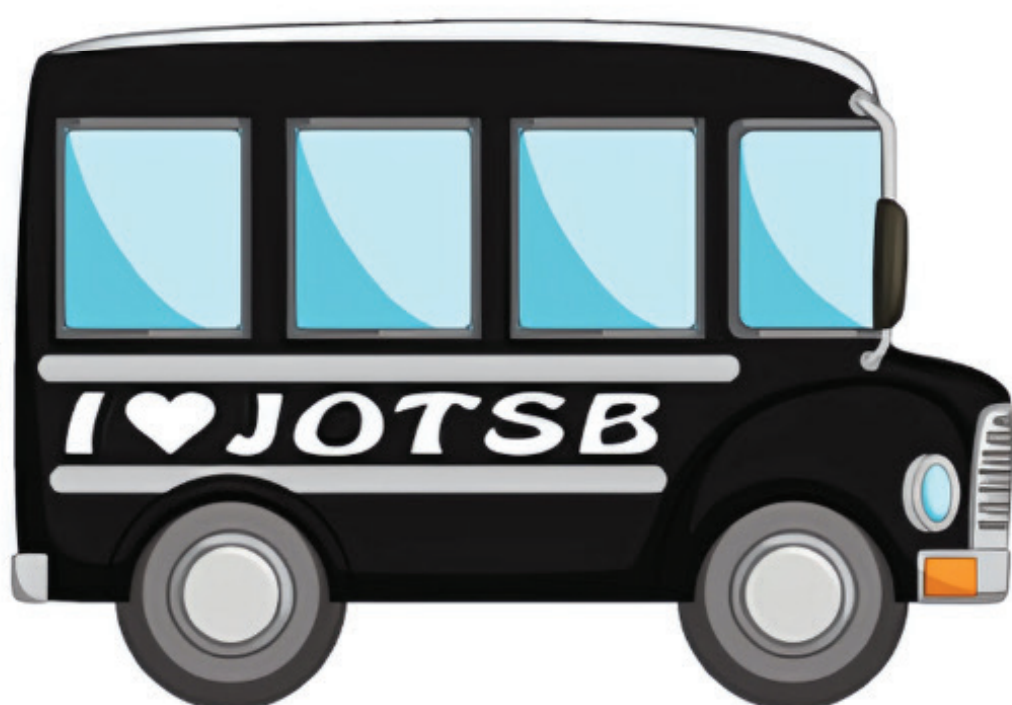




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LA VISTA



Entre ruedas y reclamos: el paro de transportistas en Perú

Alué Otiura
Escritora para La Vista

Perú enfrenta actualmente una crisis de seguridad que ha tenido un impacto directo en el sector del transporte público. Diversas regiones del país, incluyendo Lima y Callao, han experimentado paralizaciones significativas debido al paro de transportistas, quienes exigen medidas concretas para protegerse de la violencia, inseguridad, extorsión y asesinatos perpetrados por organizaciones criminales. Las protestas han provocado largas filas de pasajeros en las calles, caos en la movilidad urbana y un debate nacional sobre la seguridad y la gestión del gobierno. El paro de transportistas tiene raíces profundas en la violencia que enfrentan los conductores diariamente. Según datos oficiales del diario “El país”, en 2025 al menos 180 conductores de autobuses fueron asesinados por negarse a pagar extorsiones. Además, hasta septiembre de este año se habían reportado más de 18,000 denuncias por extorsión. La comunidad de transportistas han solicitado la derogación de la Ley N.º 32108, que limita las sanciones a organizaciones criminales al restringir la definición de los delitos, y han pedido la implementación de un estado

de emergencia en el sector de transporte público. La falta de acción efectiva del gobierno ha generado

orden, pero muchos peruanos enfrentan retrasos, mayor gasto en transporte privado y dificultades para llegar a sus

Mientras tanto, las calles muestran un contraste evidente: largas colas de pasajeros, transporte alternativo

Por su parte, los conductores mantienen firme su reclamo, resaltando que la violencia y la extorsión son problemas que afectan no solo a los transportistas, sino a toda la comunidad. El paro de transportistas en Perú ha generado impactos visibles en la movilidad urbana y ha puesto en evidencia la preocupación social por la seguridad en el sector del transporte. La situación ha dado lugar a un debate amplio entre transportistas, ciudadanos y autoridades sobre cómo abordar los problemas de violencia y extorsión. Mientras tanto, la protesta continúa siendo un reflejo de la compleja interacción entre seguridad, política y economía que caracteriza la realidad del transporte público en Perú. La situación política del país también se vio afectada, ya que Dina Boluarte fue destituida de la presidencia pocos días después debido a múltiples escándalos, incluyendo investigaciones por corrupción y enriquecimiento ilícito, así como críticas por su manejo ineficaz de la seguridad y la protección de los transportistas. Su salida generó un cambio en el liderazgo del país, con Jose Jeri asumiendo la presidencia interina, y subrayó la gravedad de la crisis política y social que atraviesa Perú.



CORTESÍA DE EL ORIENTE

frustración y ha motivado a los transportistas a recurrir a un paro como forma de protesta. El paro ha afectado a millones de ciudadanos, quienes han tenido que buscar alternativas de transporte ante la falta de buses. Las autoridades han desplegado fuerzas de seguridad para controlar el

lugares de trabajo o estudio. Además, el paro ha generado un debate sobre las soluciones propuestas por los transportistas, que incluyen portar armas o contratar seguridad privada. Especialistas advierten que estas medidas podrían ser riesgosas y poner en tensión la seguridad ciudadana.

improvisado y la preocupación constante por la violencia en el sector. El gobierno de Dina Boluarte ha sido criticado por su respuesta lenta y la falta de medidas preventivas. Los ciudadanos demandan acciones claras para proteger a los transportistas y garantizar la seguridad en las calles.

Chocolate Ibarra: una joya del cacao mexicano

Janise L. Fernandez
Escritora para La Vista

Cuando nos referimos a un emblema comercial altamente reconocido en la comunidad mexicana (y latina como tal), la estrella de cada noche de invierno y el ingrediente fundamental en cada alacena mexicana, es muy probable que pensemos primero en el Chocolate Abuelita. Puesto a que actualmente, se estima que 8 de cada 10 tazas de chocolate caliente en México son de esta misma marca que genera alrededor de 25,000 toneladas de producto anual—de lo cual un 40% es exportado a Estados Unidos. Sin embargo, aún y con la popularidad que abarca el Chocolate Abuelita, pocos saben que en realidad no se trata de un negocio familiar mexicano. Sino una compañía multimillonaria extranjera: Nestlé. Entonces nos adentramos en el siguiente dilema... ¿Dónde podemos encontrar el verdadero chocolate mexicano? Alrededor de 1925, poco antes de los inicios de Chocolate Abuelita, una familia originaria de Guadalajara, Jalisco, empezó un pequeño emprendimiento de chocolate ahora conocido como Chocolate Ibarra. Doña María Ruiz solía confeccionar barras de chocolate caliente para regalar a su familia y amigos, quienes nunca fallaban en demostrar lo mucho que disfrutaban estos obsequios. Fue este apoyo lo que la llevaría a desarrollar su propio negocio junto a su

esposo Don Camilo Gómez Ibarra. A través de los años, el negocio se desarrolló e industrializó para convertirse de un comercio local a una empresa familiar con un alcance internacional—llegando a países como Estados Unidos, Canadá, Australia y múltiples naciones europeas. A pesar de los altibajos enfrentados a lo largo de más de cien años desde su fundación, la marca ha perseverado gracias a su balance entre la tradición mexicana y la innovación. Fieles a mantener la más alta calidad de chocolate, Ibarra reconoce la importancia de este ingrediente en la cocina mexicana; desde un buen plato de mole a un dulce champurrado, es este ingrediente el que nos une a los mexicanos en cada festividad y celebración. Este mismo aprecio a la tradición es lo que los ha llevado a buscar nuevas formas de refinar su producto y presentación. Comenzando con versiones más prácticas (como el Choco Choco en polvo y jarabe) y saludables (como el chocolate con azúcar reducido). La empresa Ibarra le rinde un gran honor al pensamiento empresarial mexicano—un modelo que no solo busca poner adelante el producto y la innovación latinoamericana, sino que distingue el valor histórico y cultural de la gastronomía. Han logrado resguardar la herencia y el papel cultural del cacao en México, recobrando desde sus orígenes

prehispánicos, al seguir impulsando su producción para llegar a cada hogar en la nación. Una misión que marcó la infancia de muchos y sigue evocando el mismo sentimiento familiar mexicano que diferencia al chocolate como algo más allá del sabor.

En estos momentos en los que la globalización económica ha alcanzado números jamás antes vistos, es fundamental también saber ceder atención al desarrollo local. A fin de cuentas, son estos mismos casos de éxito mexicano que inspiran e impulsan el crecimiento de negocios de

las generaciones de ahora. Es importante reconocer que el escoger chocolate mexicano conlleva más que solo una venta, sino la búsqueda de la independencia económica y la preservación de una rica cultura de ingenio, tradición y mucho sabor.



CORTESÍA DE MEXICRATE

La investigación continúa sobre el apuñalamiento en Del Playa

Jack Dindia
Editor para Noticias

Traducido por Sofia Benitez
Editora para La Vista

El 4 de octubre ocurrió una pelea en la cuadra 6700 de Del Playa Drive, que resultó en dos hombres apuñalados. Según un comunicado de prensa de la Oficina del Sheriff del Condado de Santa Bárbara, los hombres fueron trasladados al hospital para recibir tratamiento y se espera que ambos se recuperen. El incidente ocurrió después de una fiesta del Club de Jorts

de UC Santa Bárbara, según una publicación en la historia de Instagram del club. La publicación, realizada a las 2 p.m. del sábado, aclaró que los sospechosos no están asociados con el club. Más tarde esa noche, hicieron otra historia afirmando que los heridos “no tendrán lesiones a largo plazo”. “Si alguien tiene videos de la pelea, por favor envíenlos por mensaje directo a [@ucsbjortclub] y nosotros los haremos llegar a la policía”, decía la historia de Instagram. Según la Oficina del Sheriff del Condado de Santa Bárbara (SBCSO), los detectives creen

que varios sospechosos estuvieron involucrados en el incidente y que múltiples personas pudieron haber presenciado la pelea. La SBCSO está buscando fotos o videos que puedan ayudar con la investigación. Cualquier persona que tenga información puede comunicarse con los detectives del sheriff al (805) 681-4150, y quienes deseen permanecer en el anonimato pueden llamar a la línea de denuncias al (805) 681-4171 o enviar información a través de su sitio web. El Nexus continuará informando sobre este tema a medida que se disponga de más información.



FOTO DEL ARCHIVO