



UCPD begins bike enforcement program, students to receive \$40 fines

Wynne Bendell
University News Editor

UC Santa Barbara, in partnership with the UC Police Department, has begun enforcing bike restrictions for students biking outside of designated bike paths by stopping bikers and issuing citations with \$40 fines.

This enforcement began at the start of the fall quarter. Students were not informed about the enforcement practices until a university-wide email was sent from the Office of the Vice Chancellor on Oct. 3, around a week after the quarter began. In the email, students were directed to UCSB's bike safety section of the Student Wellbeing website, which includes brief mentions of citations as consequences for breaking campus bike safety rules, but does not mention any information about potential

Enforcement has been most prevalent between the Interactive Learning Pavilion (ILP) and the Davidson Library, where no bike path exists. In the past week,

several UC Police Department (UCPD) officers have been stationed near the ILP to tell students to walk their bikes.

The ILP opened in spring of 2023 as the University's newest building and was constructed on top of an existing bike path. The ILP's original construction plans included a designated bike path and bike parking lot, both of which were never built, forcing students to bike on the street to get around the ILP.

"Relocation of the campus bike path and associated bicycle parking are integrated into the project design to minimize potential conflicts between pedestrians and bicyclists. The design incorporates traffic circles to slow bike traffic, and provides pedestrian refuge areas for crossing the bike path during peak times," the construction plan states.

This raised a safety concern for many students, including the Associated Students Bike Committee (ASBC), a student organization

dedicated to improving campus bike safety. In an Instagram post on Nov. 20, 2024, ASBC shared their concerns with the ILP's construction over a bike path.

“At a time when there are students who really percieve an increase in the risk of being around in I.V., is the thing to invest in really more enforcement of bikes on campus?”

ENRI LALA

"We recognize the significant, bike-related safety issues that have been and are currently being posed to our community due to the outcome of the construction of the ILP, and are aware of the great inconveniences and dangers associated with the current infrastructure in the area," the

post read.

On Jan. 20 ASBC posted an ILP bike path update that said they began the process of designing a replacement bike path between the ILP and the library.

Associated Students (A.S.) Internal Vice President and fourth-year history and global studies double major Enri Lala is working with ASBC and university administration to construct a bike path. Lala says after many months of negotiating, the administration is now listening to bike path demands, and he is now waiting for cost estimates from the Office of Budget & Planning.

Lala said that students are not responsible for the fact that they do not have access to a bike path and that it is a "purely campus administration decision." Lala also does not believe that students should be fined as part of the enforcement measures and that the money from the fines should be deposited in a designated account to fund the bike path.

Lala said he believes that this new bike enforcement is part of a larger issue of a lack of communication between UCPD and the student body. During his three years in the association, Lala stated that he does not remember any instance of a

UCPD representative attending an A.S. Senate meeting, which is section B-2 of every weekly agenda.

"I think the communication has been — at least from my perspective as a senator and the beginning of my executive term — next to non-existent," Lala said. "We hope that not to be the case on this issue specifically, and hopefully that lasts even once we've hopefully resolved it."

Lala also said that Isla Vista feels substantially more dangerous than his freshman year. According to the 2025 UCSB Annual Security & Fire Safety Report, crime in IV. has steadily increased between 2022 and 2024, despite crime rates decreasing nationwide. Lala said he feels that the administration and UCPD should focus their efforts on crime prevention in IV. and not on bike enforcement.

"We all heard of the just unspeakable assaults at the end of summer going into fall this very year. There have been crashes, one that I witnessed myself last night," Lala said. "And this just leaves you to wonder, at a time when there are students who really perceive an increase in the risk of being around in IV., is the thing to invest in really more enforcement of bikes on

SJP holds vigil, honors lives lost in Gaza



Participants were invited to place flowers on a banner that lists the names of the Palestinian lives lost under the Israeli occupation.

Iris Guo
Community Outreach Editor

Speakers who did not disclose their identities are referred to as event organizers in this article.

UC Santa Barbara Students for Justice in Palestine held a vigil on Oct. 7 to honor and remember the lives of Palestinians killed in Gaza. The vigil marks the second anniversary of militant group Hamas' attack on Israel. In response, Israel intensified its military siege of Palestine, which is now recognized as a genocide by a United Nations commission.

During the attack on Oct. 7, 2023, Hamas killed 1,200 Israelis and took 250 hostages to Gaza. Since then, the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) have killed an estimated 67,173 Palestinians — which includes at least 20,179 children.

Before the event began, organizers set up a long banner on the walkway by the Lagoon Lawn that included the

names and ages of Palestinian victims in Gaza. They placed flameless candles around the banner, and a poster next to it that read "every person killed was someone's everything," with flower bouquets atop it.

The vigil began at around 6:10 p.m., and started out with around 60 attendees, with the crowd eventually growing to 80 attendees. Several attendees wore keffiyehs — a traditional Middle Eastern headdress which has come to be viewed as a symbol of Palestinian culture — around their shoulders and heads.

An event organizer began by thanking attendees for showing up and delivering a ground report on recent events that happened before this weekend. These events included the killing of at least 94 Palestinians in Gaza between Oct. 3 and Oct. 5, Israeli drone attacks on humanitarian aid boats heading to Gaza from

Tunisia and the arrests of around 500 pro-Palestinian protestors in London, among others.

The organizer then spoke to the significance of the vigil's date, which they said "marks two years since the violent settler colonial state of Israel, with assistance from Western governments and other colonial imperialist forces, began its height in genocide in Gaza."

The organizer then condemned Israel's military actions in Gaza, as well as "forces around the world that have allowed and enabled these crimes against humanity to continue." They then emphasized the importance of recognizing the extensive hardships that Palestinians have faced since the mid-20th century.

"We must recognize that the genocide of Palestinians did not begin on October 7th," they said. "It has been waged for nearly a century

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SSI holds second vigil remembering victims of Oct. 7 attack



SSI held a vigil in remembrance of the victims of the Oct. 7 attack by Hamas.

Levi Kauffman
Staff Writer

On the lawn below Storke Tower, around 80 people gathered for a vigil marking two years since the attack on Israel by the militant group Hamas on Oct. 7. Organized by Students Supporting Israel, Chabad at UC Santa Barbara, Mishelanu at UCSB and Santa Barbara Hillel, the vigil remembered those lost with eulogies, song and prayer.

On Oct. 7, 2023, Hamas, a Palestinian militant group, attacked a music festival in Israel, killing nearly 1,200 people and taking 251 hostages. Israel responded with airstrikes followed by a ground invasion of the Gaza Strip, displacing most of the 2.3 million population of Gaza and killing over 67,000 Palestinians.

The vigil began around 6:20 p.m. and lasted roughly 40 minutes. A table, covered by a tablecloth with the names of the roughly 1,200 victims, displayed signs with messages such as "Hashem Loves You," and "Let There Be Light," as well as flowers with the names of the remaining 48

hostages held by Hamas.

Before the vigil began, a man riding by on a bike shouted, "You all, you all, you can't hide, you're supporting genocide."

A number of attendees wore metal necklaces decorated with yellow ribbon pins, a symbol calling for the release of hostages, with the message "Bring Them Home" written in English and Hebrew.

First to speak was Shay Probststein, the Israel fellow with Santa Barbara Hillel, who stated, "This evening is about life." Following Probststein, another organizer recited a Bracha, a prayer of faith and unity.

Next, organizers sang "Million Stars," "Shaar Harachamim" and "Ani Ve'ata" and eulogized specific victims of the attacks, some of them friends and family of the speakers. Justin Shirazian, third-year biology major and president of Students Supporting Israel (SSI) at UCSB, shared the story of Maya Bitton and Eliran Mizrahi, who were killed at the Nova Music Festival.

"I believe these incredible souls should not be remembered by how they left, but rather,

should be remembered by how they left the world," Shirazian said. "They lived beautiful lives, giving their hearts to those around them, and even now, their deeds live on thousands of miles from Israel."

Next, second-year English major Maya Kaye read a poem titled "If Tomorrow I Die" by Liran Danino.

"If tomorrow I die, remember not only the pain of my departure, but the blessing of my presence, for love is stronger than death and memory is stronger than silence," Kaye read.

The vigil ended after all the previous speakers gathered together with their arms over each other's shoulders to sing the Hatikvah, the Israeli national anthem. All attendees were then invited to dinner at Chabad.

In an interview with the Nexus, fourth-year physiology major and Mishelanu board member Itai Salomon said the purpose of the vigil was to remember those lost on Oct. 7.

"I've seen, while standing back here, a

SSI Vigil p.6

KAYLEE HEARTMAN / DAILY NEXUS



Jack Dindia
Lead News Editor

Office of International Students & Scholars hosts ‘English Conversation Club, Class Meeting with Lisa’

The Office of International Students & Scholars is hosting “English Conversation Club, Class Meeting with Lisa” on Thursday, Oct. 9, from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the Student Resource Building (SRB) Room 1103.

“Participants have the opportunity to practice and improve their English language skills while gaining insights into American culture through interactive discussions and activities,” the Shoreline description read.

The English Conversation Club (ECC) is open to any UC Santa Barbara international students and their relatives.

RCSGD hosts Fall QT Clothing Swap

The Resource Center for Sexual & Gender Diversity (RCSGD) is hosting a Fall queer and trans (QT) Clothing Swap on Thursday, Oct. 9, from 2-5 p.m. at the SRB lawn.

“Fall is here, and so is our QT Clothing Swap! Check out our offerings and bulk up your wardrobe for winter,” the Shoreline description read.

Attendees can donate clothing at the event. The event “provides accessible and affirming clothing options for queer and trans individuals,” and all students are welcome.

IHC hosts Jordan Thomas’ ‘When It All Burns: The Creation of California’s Wildfire Crisis’

The Interdisciplinary Humanities Center (IHC) is hosting Jordan Thomas’ “When It All Burns: The Creation of California’s Wildfire Crisis” on Thursday, Oct. 9, from 4-6 p.m. at McCune Conference Room 6020 in the Humanities and Social Sciences Building (HSSB).

“This talk offers an on-the-ground perspective from a record-breaking fire season on a California hotshot crew, tracing the sociological, historical, and economic forces that fuel today’s megafires,” the Shoreline description read.

Following the screening, there will be an audience Q&A and a reception.

Arts & Lectures hosts “The Last Class” Documentary Screening and Filmmaker Q&A

UCSB Arts & Lectures is hosting a screening of “The Last Class” with a Q&A from the film’s director, Elliot Kirschner, on Thursday, Oct. 9, from 7-8:30 p.m. at Campbell Hall.

“A love letter to education, The Last Class is a nuanced and deeply personal portrait of former labor secretary Robert Reich as he teaches his final course and reflects on a period of immense personal and global transformation,” the Shoreline description read.

The event is free for all students.

RCSGD hosts Fall Film Fest

The RCSGD is hosting the Fall Film Fest on Thursday, Oct. 9, from 7-9 p.m. at the RCSGD Lounge.

“Come get your spooky fills with weekly movie screenings at the RCSGD lounge! Each Thursday in October (7-9pm) will feature a fall/Halloween classic to enjoy,” the Shoreline description read.

Popcorn and baked treats will be provided for attendees.

UCSB Sustainability hosts ‘At-Home Composting: A Worm Bin Workshop by UCSB Sustainability’

UCSB Sustainability is hosting “At-Home Composting: A Worm Bin Workshop” on Friday, Oct. 10, from 1-2 p.m. at St. Michael’s University Church Community Garden.

“Discover simple ways to compost at home—whether you live in a house, apartment, or dorm. This workshop will cover everything you need to know to get started reducing waste and creating nutrient-rich compost,” the Shoreline description read.

Attendees will also have the opportunity to build their own free worm bin to take home.

C.A.R.E. hosts ‘Ribbons for Relationship Violence Awareness Month’

Campus Advocacy, Resources & Education (C.A.R.E.) is hosting “Ribbons for Relationship Violence Awareness Month” on Saturday, Oct. 11, from 12-1:30 p.m. at the SRB Multipurpose Room (MPR).

“Participants will receive a presentation from CARE where they will learn statistics around relationship violence, its impact on individuals + various communities, recognize signs of healthy/unhealthy relationships, and reflect on what they can do to continue making an impact in their communities,” the Shoreline description read.

Participants will tie purple ribbons with safety pins to be distributed throughout the month at the Arbor.

UCSB Library hosts ‘SBCAP x SBMA Community Archiving Day’

The UCSB Library is hosting Santa Barbara Community Archive Project (SBCAP) and Santa Barbara Museum of Art (SBMA) “Community Archiving Day” on Sunday, Oct. 12, from 12-4 p.m. in the Art Learning Lab at the Santa Barbara Museum of Art.

“Join the Santa Barbara Community Archives Project in preserving local history at Free Second Sunday for community members at the Santa Barbara Museum of Art!” the Shoreline description read.

Attendees are encouraged to bring cherished family photographs, where they will be turned into free digital copies.

UCSB Library hosts ‘Unyielding Voices: Global Resistance and the Black Radical Tradition’

The UCSB Library is hosting “Unyielding Voices: Global Resistance and the Black Radical Tradition” on Monday, Oct. 13, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the UCSB Library.

“This initiative aims to establish a living archive at UCSB centered on the Black Radical Tradition and the broader field of Black Studies. The Robinson Archive serves as an important anchor for the larger project, and will enable global research, teaching, scholarship, and sociopolitical and cultural activism for future generations,” the Shoreline description read.

UCSB librarian Yolanda Blue curated the exhibition in collaboration with New York University and UCSB Library staff.

MICHELLE WU / DAILY NEXUS



Michelle Cisneros
Lead News Editor

Governor Newsom requests “independent review” into the UC for sharing names with the Office for Civil Rights

According to The Daily Californian, California Governor Gavin Newsom is requesting an “independent review” into the University of California for sharing names of Berkeley community members with the Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights.

In August, Berkeley provided the names of roughly 160 students and faculty members to the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) as part of an investigation into the University for allegedly failing to adequately respond to reports of antisemitism. During a press conference at UC Berkeley on Oct. 3, Newsom said he was “unaware” of the incident until he read about it, but is refraining from sharing his opinion until the investigation is finalized.

“Once I have that information [from the independent review], I’ll be able to make a judgment as to whether or not it was consistent with past practices or whether or not it should be adjusted in terms of policy moving forward,” Newsom said at the press conference.

Newsom continued by saying he has an “extraordinarily good working relationship” with UC President James B. Milliken and the UC Regents, and has been working with them for several weeks. Milliken shared a statement later that same day, stating that universities across the country, including UC campuses, have complied with federal requests for decades in accordance with federal civil rights laws. He expressed that the unredacted files were shared as a “last resort” after the OCR rejected the redacted files.

“Notably, these statutory and regulatory requirements are intended

to ensure that universities fulfill their legal obligations to respond adequately to complaints of discrimination and harassment — not to investigate underlying individual employee or student conduct,” Milliken’s statement read.

The day before the conference, Newsom reacted to the Trump administration’s proposal to nine American universities. According to The New York Times, the proposal, or “compact” is a statement of the administration’s educational goals. If universities sign on, they will receive “multiple positive benefits,” according to a letter sent alongside the compact. The University of Southern California is the only California university that received the proposal.

“California universities that bend to the will of Donald Trump and sign this insane ‘compact’ will lose billions in state funding — IMMEDIATELY,” Newsom’s X post in reaction to the “compact” read. “California will not bankroll schools that sign away academic freedom.”

UCLA regains almost all research grants suspended over the summer

A federal judge ordered the Trump administration on Sept. 22 to restore nearly 500 grants that the National Institutes of Health (NIH) had allocated to UC Los Angeles. In late July, the Trump administration suspended 800 total grants over allegedly using race-based admissions, allowing transgender women to compete in women’s sports and failing to promote an environment free of antisemitism and bias.

The NIH has restored all but nine grants or less, according to a court-mandated update from Department of Justice attorneys.

A judge ordered the administration to restore the other 300 grants from the National Science Foundation in

August. The previously suspended research grants amounted to \$584 million in total.

According to CalMatters, these grants fund research into life-saving drugs, dementia, individuals with heart disease in rural areas and many other science and health-related inquiries.

‘Mystery cat graffiti person’ at UC Davis ordered to pay \$32,000

The California Aggie reported that a UC Davis student known as @happycatshrooms on social media has been ordered to pay the university \$32,000 in restitution for spray painting cats around campus.

From her first year until the summer before her fourth year, @happycatshrooms spray painted cats around campus infrastructure — including dormitories, bike tunnels and other campus buildings — to the delight of many students.

“Going online and seeing the excitement about the pink cats was always cute,” third-year political science major at Davis, Samantha Wang, told the Aggie. “It felt like a bonding experience for UC Davis students — like a unique part of the town and campus culture.”

Police officers caught her spray painting a cat over the summer and arrested her. After several court dates, a judge charged her with a misdemeanor and ordered her to pay for the damages.

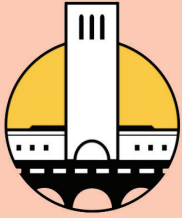
“I understand that what I did was wrong,” @happycatshrooms told the Aggie. “But I also don’t want it to get lost that this is a very harsh punishment for what it was — and I haven’t spoken to a single person who disagrees.”

The graffiti artist said that a retail employer rescinded her job offer after she failed a background check, despite the retailer being an equal access employer. She is now selling stickers and hats with the graffiti cat, with sales going towards restitution payments.

The Daily Nexus Sudoku

Andrew Wang
Games Developer

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			5	4		3		2
		4				6	3	
					6			4
		7				1		
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“Hurt people, hurt people.”

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Campus organization set to host ‘Future Makers’ workshops for local students

Michelle Cisneros
Lead News Editor

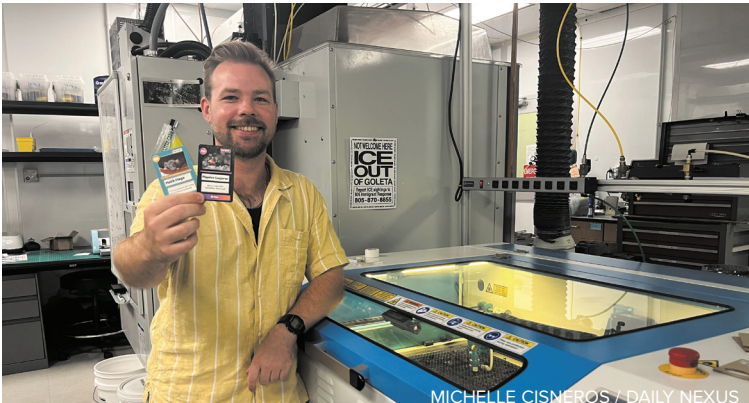
Los Ingenieros, a UC Santa Barbara student-led organization, and UCSB’s California NanoSystems Institute are collaborating on a program to host local elementary and middle school students from underrepresented communities. Visiting students will have the opportunity to work with campus technology and receive mentorship from Los Ingenieros.

Under the “Future Makers” program, these workshops will expose students from northern Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties to S.T.E.M.-related opportunities. Students will also gain hands-on experience with 3D printers, microscopes, laser cutters and more.

Founded in 1978, Los Ingenieros has a longstanding goal of forming a community amongst underrepresented UCSB students – primarily those who identify as Latine – in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. To help inspire the next generation of S.T.E.M. college graduates, the organization hosts events for local K-12 students throughout the academic year.

“We try to build a community for our members so they can have a place on campus that feels like home,” fourth-year computer engineering major and Los Ingenieros Community Outreach Director Andrew Yanez, who’s taken on the project on behalf of the organization, said.

Uplift Central Coast, a coalition that promotes a “diverse, inclusive economy” built by locals, awarded its \$50,000 Catalyst Predevelopment Grant to California NanoSystems Institute’s (CNSI) “Future Makers” program in February. However, the program has been nearly a year in the making as Brian Dincau, CNSI’s innovation workshop manager,



Brian Dincau said he reached out to Los Ingenieros after receiving the grant because the organizations’ missions aligned.

applied for the grant last October. Dincau said he reached out to Los Ingenieros after receiving the grant because the organizations’ missions aligned.

“I’m trying to bring in mostly students from a demographic that’s historically pretty underserved,” Dincau, who received a doctorate in mechanical engineering from UCSB in 2022, said.

Approximately 60% of students in the Santa Barbara Unified School District are Hispanic/Latino, according to U.S. News & World Report. Yanez echoed Dincau’s sentiment and emphasized that many members of Los Ingenieros can relate to visiting students.

“Some of the kids that we have ... they’re non-traditional learners. A lot of [Los Ingenieros] members have kind of similar backgrounds, so we want to show them that other people like them succeeded,” Yanez said.

Overall, the program will host 30 students across nine field trips, amounting to roughly 270 visiting students throughout the academic year. Notably, “Future Makers” will host students within the Santa Maria migrant education program during a future field trip.

“For all of these students [in the

migrant education program], for the most part, their parents pick fruit and vegetables. And they move from place to place,” Dincau said. “It’s hard to imagine a future outside of what your parents do. And a lot of these students, they’re fairly shy, and they have limited English skills. ... Los Ingenieros are bilingual in a way that’s very helpful for some of this technical stuff ... [and] are kind of key for this, for the students to sort of see themselves in Los Ingenieros.”

The first workshop will be held in November at the Research Experience & Education Facility (R.E.E.F.), UCSB’s teaching aquarium. Students will create a personalized Pokémon card with the aforementioned campus technology.

“The students will get a chance to do all that, which is really cool, because not even us students really have access to tools like these,” Yanez said.

Los Ingenieros will give visiting students a tour of the campus, which Dincau said he was initially going to omit from the field trip.

“I actually wasn’t going to include a campus tour in their field trip, because I thought that was a little basic,” Dincau said. “But the teachers were like, no, definitely show them the campus, because none of our kids tour college campuses. And that’s like, that’s the first step in thinking about college, right?”

Dincau said that undergraduate workers at CNSI have been working to develop the technology that makes printing the Pokémon cards possible, including a card recipe for the 3D printer and label templates.

“We’ve spent a lot of time developing it, but I just know that for something to be memorable for kids, it has to be really fun and cool,” Dincau said.

The R.E.E.F. trip will be a proof of concept for the program, with more workshops set to come in the coming months. The program hopes to secure additional funding in the coming months.

“If it goes well, then we can use this [workshop] to make this a more concrete thing, something that we can keep doing and have a space on campus just dedicated to this [program],” Yanez said.

UCSB welcomes Mony’s Taquería



From classic style street tacos on corn tortillas to a large flour tortilla burrito, Mony’s goal was to create a menu for students and faculty that is quick and efficient.

Lauren Solway
Reporter

Mony’s Taquería, a Mexican restaurant local to Santa Barbara’s Funk Zone district, recently opened a new location on UC Santa Barbara’s campus in the University Center with a variety of bowls, burritos and tacos.

Mony’s is on the first floor of the University Center, in The Hub and sits next to Root Burger and Panda Express. Carlos Diaz, the son of the owners, currently works as the owner and operator of the UCSB location. Mony’s is currently open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

“I have worked here pretty much since the inception in about 2001, but of course I would roll with them throughout the summers in my childhood on the food truck. But I officially started working with them in 2013 when they opened up the store,” Diaz said.

The original restaurant location opened in 2013 and was created by Monica “Mony” Diaz, who wanted to offer authentic Mexican food from her hometown of Colima, Mexico. Beginning as a small food truck offering family recipes, they have continued to grow and are now bringing their comfort food to UCSB students.

The biggest selling point for Mony’s is that they are the only establishment on campus that will sell alcoholic beverages. Mony’s hopes to obtain a beer license in the next two to three weeks to start selling beer and wants to remain open on Saturdays.

“We are hoping to activate the space, especially when there are concerts and dances, as well as selling [alcohol] throughout the day when we are open and of course, for

those concerts we will have a special designated area for beers,” Diaz said.

The menu consists of five options of meat to choose from, as well as a vegetarian option. Rajas con queso is their style of fajita veggies which includes shredded poblanos, grilled onions, tomatoes and cheese. From classic-style street tacos on corn tortillas to a large flour tortilla burrito, Mony’s goal was to create a menu for students and faculty that is quick and efficient.

Fourth-year communication major Molly Ford grabbed a burrito for lunch at Mony’s. “You have to get the avocado salsa, it perfectly ties it together,” Ford said.

According to Diaz, Mony’s is famous for its spiced salsas, offering three classic flavors at their campus location – red, green and avocado.

Third year biopsychology major Jean Kalaw had never been to Mony’s before and grabbed a breakfast burrito before class. Kalaw said, “I don’t think it’s worth the price of \$12 for a burrito.”

The street tacos are \$3.50 and the burritos and bowls range from \$9-\$13. They offer sides of rice, beans, chips, avocado and guacamole for an additional price. Mony’s is currently hiring students for its on-campus location.

Diaz said the aim of Mony’s is to create a welcoming atmosphere.

“Since my family and I decided to start Mony’s, it has always been surrounded by moms cooking. We hope that within the flavors, even the basics like beans and the rice you can see, feel and sense that this is a mom or family member cooking this meal. If we focus on the food, we know it carries over to the service,” Diaz said.



To help inspire the next generation of S.T.E.M. college graduates, Los Ingenieros hosts events for local K-12 students throughout the academic year.

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

\$52.50 – valid through June 30, 2026.

One permit per registered student; vehicle must be linked to permit.



**Order online today!
Deadline to order is Oct 22nd!**

SJP VIGIL

Continued from p. 1



SJP held a vigil in honor of two years of genocide on the two year anniversary of the Oct. 7 attack.

with the presence of the settler colonial state first emerging in Palestinian land in the 1948 Nakba, and that land continues to be seized today through the establishment of illegal settlements.”

The organizer concluded the introduction of the vigil by expressing their hopes for the future of Palestine.

“Palestine will be free one day, and it will be freed in our lifetime by Palestinians and those who continue to resist,” they said.

Following this, three organizers read the poems “If I Must Die” by Refaat Alareer, “Hole in the World” by Anthony Alessandrini and “We Deserve a Better Death” by Mosab Abu Toha.

The organizers then invited five members

from Academics for Justice in Palestine and Jewish Voice for Peace to the front, who read off various quotes from an Oct. 7 New York Times (NYT) article. The article included recent quotes from civilians in Gaza whom the NYT had interviewed over the past two years.

“[The NYT] tried to reach out to the people living in Gaza who they have interviewed over the last two years to ask them how their lives are now. Did they find their missing relatives? Are their homes still standing? Were they able to bury their dead? Were they forced to flee again? And were they even still alive? And this is what they said,” one speaker said.

The group concluded by

reading a poem from a collection titled “[...]” by Fady Joudah.

A student then spoke about dealing with feelings of grief, how their faith has supported them through difficult times and shared verses from the Quran that they felt encouraged by.

“I’ve lost one by one many things that I love very much. This is what I never imagined would happen,” they said.

Following this, the event organizers encouraged attendees to grab flowers from the provided bouquets and scatter them along the banner of names and encouraged attendees to write down names of individuals who were “lost to this genocide” on the banners.

SSI VIGIL

Continued from p. 1



Many SSI members read eulogies, poems and sang songs to honor the victims.

lot of people just riding around, riding on the bike, and just listening and joining maybe,” Salomon said. “I want all of them to kind of grasp all the stories and remember the people we love, and remember that this vigil was not about politics as much as it was about honoring lives.”

Fourth-year biology major and President of Chabad, Yael Pasternak, said she felt Oct. 7 had strengthened and united the Jewish community.

“I think it took that defining moment to bring us back together and to make us such a big community again,” Pasternak said. “I think the more hate we get, the stronger we are and the closer we are to one another.”

Santa Barbara City College student Guy Kedem, who has cousins in Israel, similarly felt the attacks were a unifying event for the Jewish community.

“[Oct. 7 was] a horrible, traumatic terror, but at the same time, what that does is [it] brings people together,” Kedem said. “I think even as awful as it is, it has brought the community together more, and that’s what you’re seeing today.”

In March, both the Department of Justice and the Department of Education began investigations into complaints of antisemitism at UCSB and other schools. Shirazian said a friend of his was the victim of antisemitism when someone left a trail of pennies outside his doorway. Despite instances like this, Shirazian said he still feels UCSB is much better compared to many other campuses.

“When I go on the news and I see college campuses around the world, I’m very thankful for the community we have at UCSB,” Shirazian said. “I’m very happy that the majority of students here at UCSB are very kind to us and very warm-hearted, and they see no boundaries. We just see students.”

The nearby “Vigil For Our Martyrs,” held by UCSB Students for Justice in Palestine at the same time as the Oct. 7 vigil, elicited mixed emotions from attendees like Kedem, who felt it could have been held on another day.

“I have a lot of compassion for the Palestinians and for everything that’s happened to them. On the other hand, I think they could have done it on any other day,” Kedem said.

Shirazian said he hopes attendees sympathize with the stories of the victims and continue to stand against antisemitism.

“I hope they connected with any of the stories we talked about,” Shirazian said. “I hope that they understand that antisemitism is real and that we can’t forget this tragedy, because then when we do forget it, it’s bound to happen again.”



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Nonbinary Asian students at UCSB report mixed experiences of respect and inclusion

Lance Sanchez
Data Editor

Every two years, undergraduate students across the University of California system complete the UC Undergraduate Experience Survey, which measures perceptions of campus climate, belonging and respect. The survey captures how students of diverse races, ethnicities, genders and sexual identities experience university life across all UC campuses, providing a more inclusive and comprehensive picture of student experiences. Within this context, Asian students — who make up 28% of UC Santa Barbara’s undergraduate student body, the third largest ethnic group on campus, and 36.3% of undergraduate students systemwide, the largest across the UC system — offer an important lens for examining how campus climate and inclusion are experienced in practice.

Systemwide results from the 2024 UC Undergraduate Experience Survey show that while most undergraduate Asian students report feeling respected on UC campuses, nonbinary students displayed a slightly more varied level of agreement. This disparity is more pronounced at UCSB, where the distribution of responses mirrors this UC-wide pattern, with some campus-specific variation.

Across the UC system, Asian students generally report feeling respected by peers and faculty, reflecting a positive campus climate in terms of identities, beliefs and personal backgrounds. However, among nonbinary Asian respondents, experiences of respect — especially regarding gender identity — are more varied, highlighting areas where the campus climate may not feel fully inclusive.

For some students, these differences are reflected less in direct negative experiences with peers and more in subtle variations in how they experience campus life.

“Most students have a neutral stance on my identity, but in a way that makes me feel like I’m more so being ‘tolerated’ than actually respected,” third-year psychological & brain sciences major Mina Chao said. “I don’t fit the image of a stereotypically white nonbinary person. People typically let themselves ignore important aspects of my identity.”

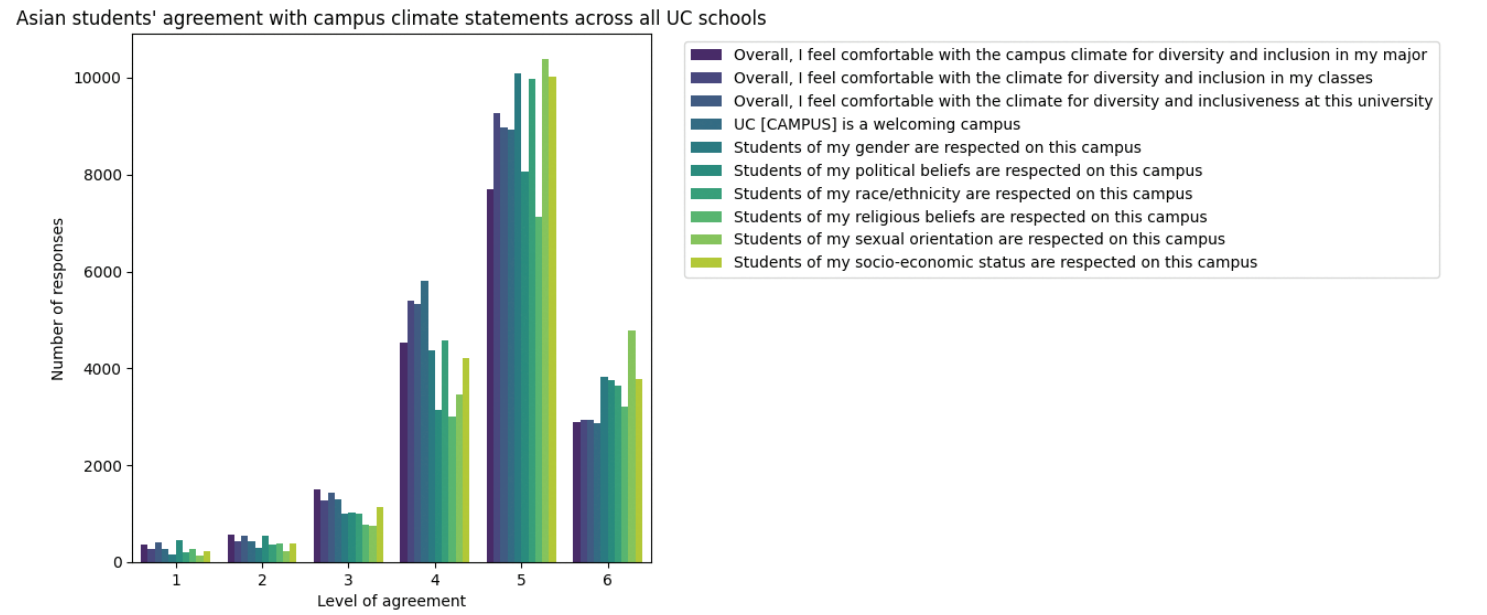
Chao explained that their experiences differ depending on the setting. Classroom environments varied by professor and housing choices created challenges during their first year. To seek affirmation, they sought out organizations made up of queer students of color.

“I chose to not do gender-inclusive housing in my first year and had a lot of trouble thinking about how my identity would make other people feel in terms of comfort,” Chao said. “It just felt really isolating in general. As for campus orgs, I’ve made an effort to specifically be a part of a lot of organizations that are made up of majority queer [persons of color] for my own comfort.”

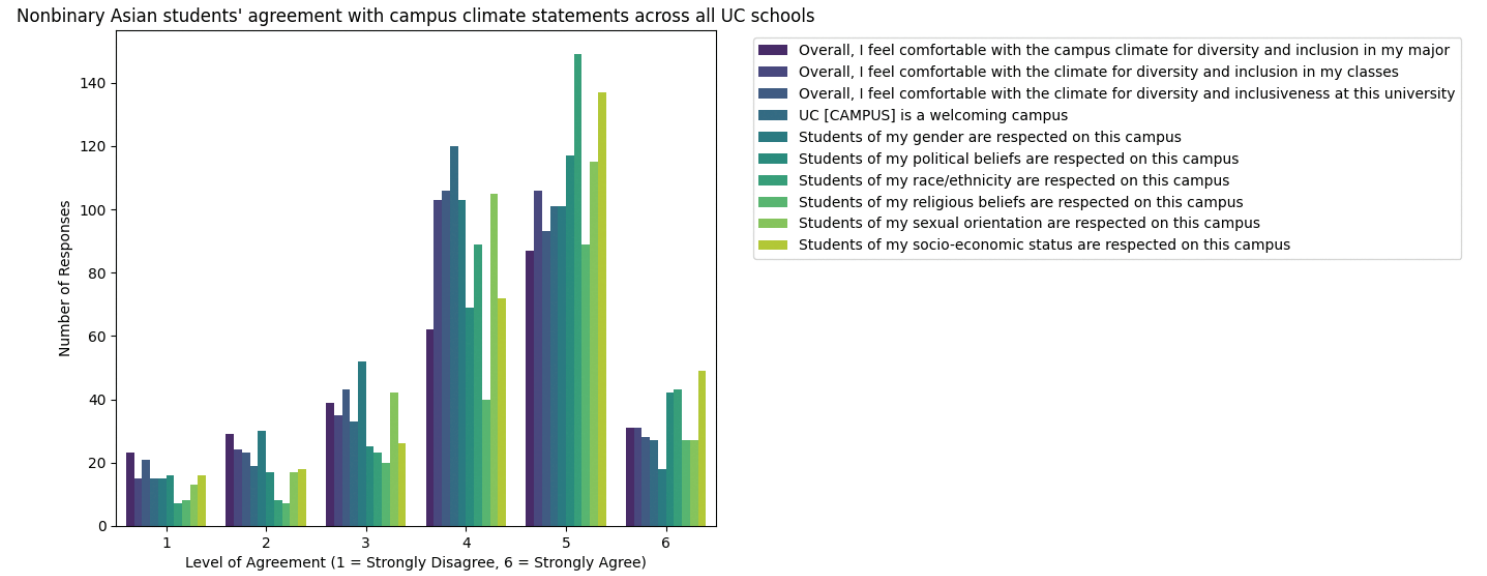
Fourth-year psychological & brain sciences and sociology double major Mo Ouk pointed to gender-neutral restrooms and the use of pronouns in classrooms as ways the campus has acknowledged gender diversity.

“I believe that as a nonbinary Asian student at UCSB, the inclusion of gender neutrality assists in my sense of identity on campus. From the [gender-neutral] restrooms to procedures with instructors implementing pronouns into introductions, I generally feel included,” Ouk said. “It is difficult to state my experience as people see me as a feminine student anyway, so I usually get included into that binary when meshed with other Asian students. Older buildings lack [gender-neutral] restrooms.”

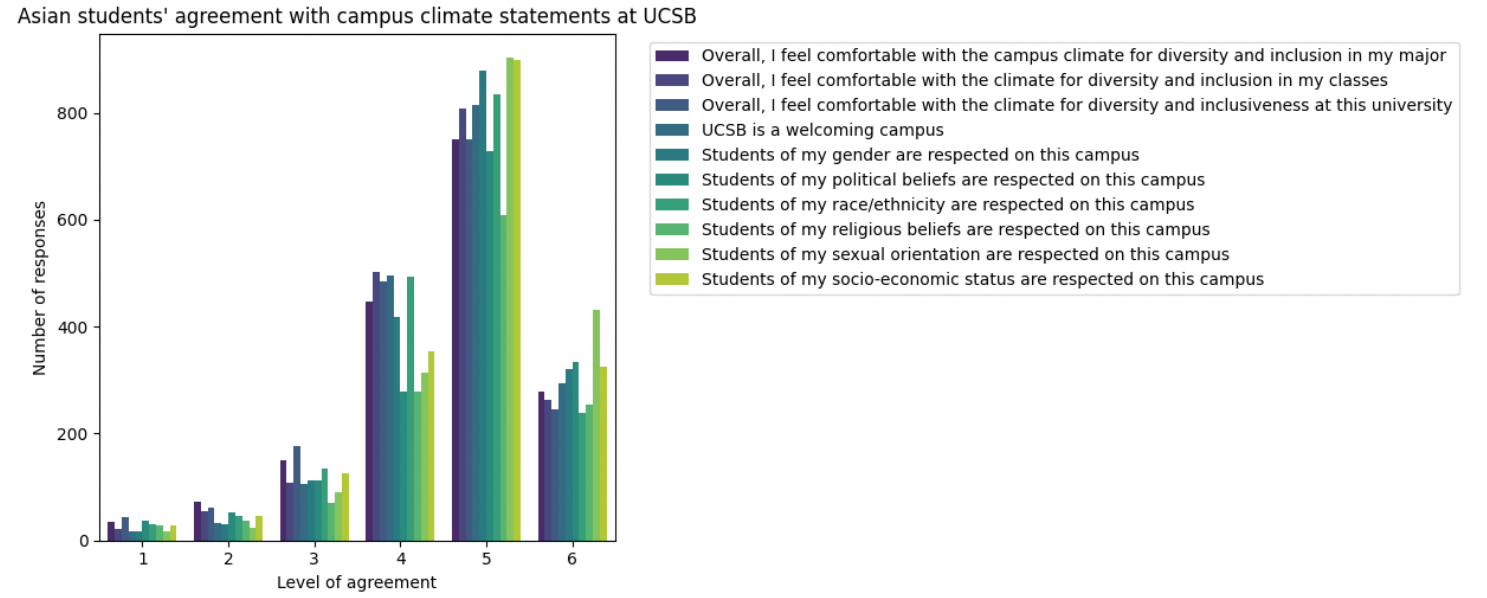
Ouk noted that while some diversity initiatives exist, their



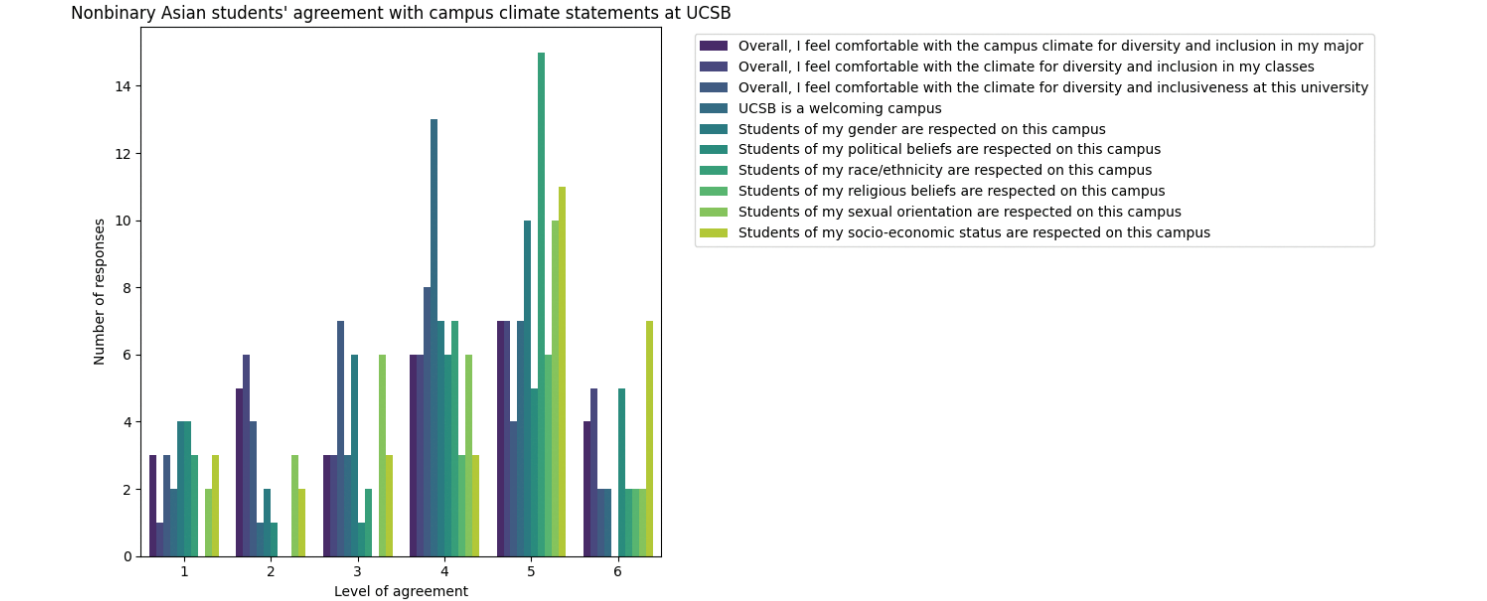
Most Asian students across UC campuses report positive campus climate experiences, with the majority expressing agreement (levels 4–6) that their identities and beliefs are respected.



Nonbinary Asian students across the UC system display similar positive campus climate experiences, though their distribution shows more variability than the overall Asian student population.



At UCSB, Asian students generally report more positive campus climate experiences, with the majority selecting agreement levels 4–6, especially on inclusiveness in classes and respect for race/ethnicity.



At UCSB, nonbinary Asian students report mixed campus climate experiences. While many responses cluster at agreement levels 4–5, the distribution is more variable and shows greater disagreement at lower levels compared to the broader UC-wide nonbinary Asian student population, suggesting a less consistent sense of inclusion on this campus.

impact can feel limited.

“I do feel [diversity initiatives] make some impact, but due to their voluntary nature, they generally feel like symbolic gestures. Students who already care will attend, unlike students who are neutral or against all-inclusive spaces,” Ouk said.

For UCSB, the challenge moving forward is turning diversity from policy into practice — so that every student, across every identity, feels not just tolerated but truly respected.

“Because we are in an era of change, continuing to produce and perpetuate gender neutrality will assist in normalizing its existence,” Ouk said.

“Most students have a neutral stance on my identity, but in a way that makes me feel like I’m more so being ‘tolerated’ than actually respected.”

MINA CHAO

ON THE MENU



Quick and easy peanut noodles



A steaming bowl of peanut noodles is the perfect fall meal.

Pihu Jain
On The Menu Editor

Peanut noodles are an obsession of mine that I continue to come back to (aka most days of the week). I've previously shared a recipe for fiery-peanut noodles, but sometimes I crave a more subtle peanut flavor without the assault of spice that I typically enjoy. I modified my original recipe so that I'd have to do little to no cooking, perfect for when you're low on those extra little ingredients and on time (which, as a senior, is starting to happen more often than I'd like). Even though fall quarter is arguably the busiest time of year for students (adjusting to school hours after rotting in bed for months, planning out the year, et cetera), I still believe we deserve a delicious, low-stakes meal that

gives more than it takes.

I made this recipe for the first time ever last week, and since then, I've already had it about four times. There are two things that make this dish so addicting: how easy it is to make and how delicious it tastes. In the time it took me to rewatch the infamous casino episode of "The Office" (who needs spice in this recipe anyway when you can watch Jim and Pam?), I was already one bite deep into my bowl of creamy, piping hot peanut noodles. When there's little to no energy in your body and you're craving something warm and filling, these noodles are hard to beat.

Peanut noodles
Servings: 1
Time: 20 minutes

Ingredients:

- 2-3 tablespoons creamy peanut butter
- 1 teaspoon chili oil/crisp
- 4-5 tablespoons soy sauce
- 1 tablespoon sesame oil
- 2 tablespoons hot pasta water
- 1 serving spaghetti noodles
- 1 medium-sized pot
- 1 spring onion

Instructions:

1. Place spaghetti noodles into the boiling pot of water. Cook on high heat for roughly 10 minutes.
2. Meanwhile, in a medium-sized bowl, mix together peanut butter, soy sauce, chili oil and sesame oil.
3. Once pasta is prepared, take 2 tablespoons of hot pasta water out and mix

in the bowl with sauce.

4. Place pasta into the bowl and mix thoroughly so the sauce is evenly distributed.
5. Cut spring onion for garnish, sprinkle on top and enjoy!

For this recipe, I would not recommend storing it away as leftovers because the flavor is lost once the noodles get cold. Also, the noodles take on a chalkier texture as a result of the peanut butter hardening, so having them fresh and hot is best (that's how all food should be eaten). And anyway, these peanut noodles don't require much effort to whip up, so you can give yourself a treat even between classes (versus making a large batch and storing for multiple meals). This recipe can be dressed

up too with a light menagerie of assisting ingredients like mushroom, crushed peanuts, fresh garlic or onions and much more. I especially can see a protein component working tremendously with this recipe, like some fried and soy-marinated tofu. Don't be afraid to experiment and embrace trial and error!

By cooking dishes like this, I've found that recipes with certain key ingredients can be whipped up easily. For me, the staples featured in this recipe are soy sauce, sesame oil and chili oil/crisp. With these three, the world is my oyster. I've mixed them in rice, noodles, pasta, soup and so much more. If you don't already have these in your pantry, I recommend securing them as soon as possible.

Happy cooking, Gauchos!

Happy Oktoberfest!



The changing leaf colors symbolizes the beginning of fall celebration.

Piper Cheney
On The Menu Editor

When October is around the corner, my feed overflows with people decked out in German-style dresses and others accessorized with suspenders and feathered hats. They're most likely gripping onto a liter-sized beer in a comically large glass mug. The occasion is widely known as Oktoberfest! Though the roots of Oktoberfest lie in modern Germany, the festivities have spread across the rest of the world, America included.

The history behind the Bavarian folk costumes runs deep, tracing back to the early 1800s. Oktoberfest stems from the royal wedding between King

Ludwig I and Princess Therese of Saxe-Hildburghausen. The wedding was celebrated for five days with an elaborate horse race and beer — though the beer played only a minor role back then. As celebrations continued annually, the state realized they could capitalize off the event and in the late 1880s, Oktoberfest began forming into what we're familiar with today: breweries, carousels and music.

In my opinion, the highlight of any festival is always the food and drink. Oktoberfest wouldn't be complete without an overflowing stein of Märzen, the amber lager brewed especially for the event. Originally, Bavarian brewers prepared Märzen in March, storing it in

cool cellars to be enjoyed once autumn arrived. Its malty flavor and smooth finish made it the perfect companion to a long day of celebration.

To balance out the beer, hearty, carby Bavarian dishes are consumed in masses. Pretzels (or Brezel in Bavaria) trace back to priests in 610 AD, their knot shape symbolizing arms folded in prayer, an ode to Germany's Protestant past. At Oktoberfest, the pretzels are baked huge, golden and salty, often paired with mustard or cheese dip. In Munich, the cheese spread is called Obatzder, a melted concoction of Camembert cheese, butter and onion. The rich cheese and soft bread soaks up the Märzen in your stomach

after a long day of drinking.

Then there's Bratwurst, a sausage link grilled to perfection and served in flaky rolls, like a large pig-in-a-blanket. The name originates from Nuremberg and is widely known as the "farmers' sausage." Mainly made up of pork and veal, it's a classic street food favorite that dates back to medieval German markets. Bratwursts are a hit every year, commonly one of the most sold dishes at Oktoberfest alongside the Brezel.

One of the oldest dishes in Germany — Hendl, a roast chicken — became popular at Oktoberfest in the 19th century. Over 800,000 rotisserie chickens are roasted and sold every October for the festival.

When ordered, half of a rotisserie is served, skin and all. It's juicy while simultaneously salty enough to buy another beer. The chicken is devoured at wooden tables under large tents with folk music serenading the scene.

What began as a royal celebration has transformed into a timeless tradition that invites millions to join together with drink and food. Together, these dishes are so much more than festival food; they're cultural artifacts. Each bite tells the story of Germany's long standing royalty, history and love for celebration. Oktoberfest unites communities not just across Germany, but around the world.



SPORTS

GAMES OF THE WEEK



3-2
vs. **UCSD**

The UC Santa Barbara women's volleyball team beat UC San Diego 3-2 to remain undefeated all-time against the Tritons. Senior middle blocker Grace Wuischpard put up a great performance with a season high 8 kills. Senior middle blocker Layanna Green had 9 block assists and the Gauchos had a total of 16 blocks.



13-12
vs. **No. 6 San Jose State**

The No. 16 UC Santa Barbara men's water polo team upset No. 6 San Jose State in a tight 13-12 match. This was the Gauchos highest-ranked win of the season. Senior attacker Brock Zamanian had a total of 5 goals in this match to give the Gauchos the edge in this win.



1st of 30
Cross country meet

The UC Santa Barbara women's cross country team placed first in the Charles Bowles invite in Oregon. The men's cross country team placed third for an overall podium finish for the Gauchos in this Pacific Northwest showdown.

UCSB shuts out UCR with a 3-goal performance

Haiden Rogers
Sports Editor

The UC Santa Barbara men's soccer team faced off with UC Riverside on Saturday, Oct. 4. UCSB dominated on both sides of the ball, resulting in a 3-0 win for the Gauchos. UCSB is now unbeaten in their last five games and unbeaten in Big West Conference play.

In the first half of the game, UCSB wasted no time when freshman forward Steinar Bjornsson passed the ball off to graduate forward Buba Fofanah, who took a touch and then placed a shot to the bottom of the goal in only the 4th minute of the game. Only nine minutes later, the Gauchos struck again starting with a through ball from Fofanah that senior midfielder Ramses Martinez was able to catch up to. Ramses then played a pass to the goal where sophomore forward Zac Siebenlist was positioned and did well to finish, putting the Gauchos up by 2. The Gauchos finished the first half in control with 65% of the overall possession and 12 total shots, but they knew they were going to need to make some second half adjustments.

"I don't know if two [wins] give you momentum, but I

think three or four does ... We kind of knew what they were going to do, and we took advantage on those first two goals, especially on that right-hand side," UCSB Head Coach Tim Vom Steeg said. "We took advantage of that, and then the problem is, you go up 2-0, they came out at halftime and of course they're going to adjust, and at that point we talked about, 'Look, we're going to have to weather the storm for 15, 20 minutes.' We said, if we can just get even two goals, that's more than we've been scoring all year."

To start the second half, the UC Riverside Highlanders

came out aggressive with many shot opportunities. However, the Gauchos did well to defend with a saving block from senior midfielder Eddie Villeda and great saves from freshman goalkeeper Owen Beninga.

After standing strong defensively, the Gauchos had their final strike of the night — a free kick taken by junior midfielder Kaden Standish — in the 74th minute. Standish took the shot from the sideline, and it was one that the UCR goalkeeper could not handle. This goal effectively sealed the deal for the Gauchos, putting them up over the Highlanders with a final score of 3-0.

"Our emphasis going forward all year is going to be our defense. I was really happy with how we played offensively, finally got going a bit, but we also had two or three chances to score in the second half and we didn't hit frame," Vom Steeg said.

The UCSB men's soccer team will look to continue their success as they face off with the California State University, Bakersfield Roadrunners at Harder Stadium on Oct. 11.



Gauchos win in Big West Championship rematch

Haiden Rogers
Sports Editor

On Sunday, Oct. 5, the UC Santa Barbara women's soccer team had a Big West Conference Championship rematch with California State University, Bakersfield. This match resulted in a 1-0 win for UCSB, who remains undefeated in the Big West Conference season with a record of 2-0-2.

To start the first half, the

Gauchos came out strong offensively and did well to keep the ball from the CSUB Roadrunners and out of harm's way. The Gauchos had maintained possession for 65% of the first half and kept the ball on the Roadrunners' side of the field with a total of four corner kicks.

UCSB had a total of 8 shots in the first half including 3 from senior forward Haley Phillips, who found the back of

the net on her final shot of the half in the 41st minute assisted by sophomore midfielder Ava Jarolimek. This goal put the Gauchos up 1-0 at the halftime whistle. The goal was Phillips' third of her strong start to the 2025 season as the last came against Cal Poly SLO in a 3-1 win.

In the second half, UCSB had to shift the gameplan to be more defensively focused as Bakersfield was noticeably

picking up the pace in search of an equalizer. CSUB had totaled 11 shots in only the second half. 5 of those shots were on target and saved by junior goalkeeper Maddie Buckley. Even though the Roadrunners were playing aggressively, the Gauchos still managed to find opportunities in the second half of the game; at the final whistle, they had a total of 13 shots in this game with 5 of those being on target. UCSB was able to hold on to the very end

to give themselves the 1-0 win against the Roadrunners.

With this win, UCSB now sits at third in the Big West Conference with a 9-2-3 overall record. The Gauchos look to use this momentum as they head into even more conference matchups.

The UCSB women's soccer team will next play against CSU Fullerton, also undefeated, on Thursday, Oct. 9 at 7 p.m. in a tough matchup.



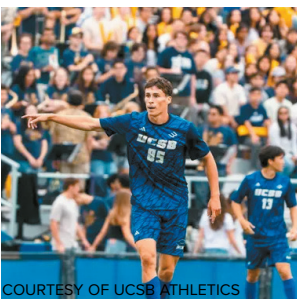
The Gauchos celebrate a goal from senior forward Haley Phillips.

GAMES TO WATCH



Men's Water Polo
vs. **No. 7 UCSD**

The UC Santa Barbara men's water polo team plays the No. 7 ranked UC San Diego Tritons on Saturday, Oct. 11, at 10:30 a.m.



Men's Soccer
vs. **CSU Bakersfield**

The UC Santa Barbara men's soccer team plays Cal State Bakersfield on Saturday, Oct. 11, at 7 p.m.



Women's Volleyball
vs. **Hawai'i**

The UC Santa Barbara women's volleyball team plays the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa on Sunday, Oct. 12, at 8 p.m.



Agente de inmigración no confirmado intenta identificar a residente de Santa Catalina

Escrito por Michelle Cisneros
Editora para Noticias

Traducido por Sofia Benitez
Editora para La Vista

Según miembros del personal, un supuesto agente de inmigración ingresó a la residencia Santa Catalina el 2 de octubre.

El agente no confirmado buscaba a una persona específica, pero el personal no compartió ninguna información.

En este momento, la Universidad no cree que se haya tratado de un agente de Immigration and Customs Enforcement (I.C.E.).

Alrededor de las 10:30 a.m., un individuo que mostró una placa a un asistente de recepción ingresó a la residencia Santa Catalina, comúnmente conocida como FT.

El asistente refirió al

supuesto agente a un miembro del personal de FT, quien prefirió permanecer anónimo para proteger su empleo.

Según la portavoz de medios de UC Santa Barbara, Kiki Reyes, la Universidad está investigando el incidente y, por el momento, no cree que se haya tratado de un agente de Immigration and Customs Enforcement (I.C.E.).

“La universidad está investigando un informe sobre individuos que se identificaron como representantes federales y que ingresaron al vestíbulo de una de nuestras residencias estudiantiles para solicitar hablar con una persona sobre el estado migratorio vencido de un estudiante internacional”, dijo Reyes.

“De acuerdo con la política universitaria y conforme a la Ley de Derechos Educativos y Privacidad Familiar (FERPA,

por sus siglas en inglés), la universidad no divulgó ninguna información y se les negó el acceso a la residencia.

En este momento, el campus no cree que esas personas fueran agentes de Immigration and Customs Enforcement.”

El miembro del personal dijo al Nexus que cree que el supuesto agente pudo haber accedido al edificio FT cuando un residente entraba o salía, ya que se necesita una llave electrónica para ingresar.

El agente no confirmado mostró al miembro del personal un archivo con información de una persona con una dirección en FT.

Se desconoce si esa persona actualmente vive en la residencia o cómo el agente obtuvo su dirección.

Ninguno de los miembros del personal divulgó información sobre los residentes, actuales

o antiguos, conforme a la Ley FERPA, que establece que la información personal de los expedientes educativos no puede compartirse sin el consentimiento del estudiante.

Según el miembro del personal, el agente no confirmado abandonó el edificio tras una conversación de aproximadamente cinco minutos.

No se sabe si permaneció en el área después del encuentro.

Más temprano ese mismo día, la organización 805 Immigrant Coalition, una red local de defensa de los derechos de inmigrantes, reportó que cuatro personas fueron detenidas cerca del Santa Barbara City College.

Desde principios de julio, 805 Immigrant Coalition ha registrado aproximadamente 22 avistamientos de I.C.E. en Santa Bárbara, los cuales el Nexus ha

añadido a su rastreador.

Reyes compartió recursos, incluyendo los servicios del UC Immigrant Legal Service Center y una tarjeta de “Conozca sus derechos” de la UC.

También compartió una sección de preguntas y respuestas sobre posibles acciones de aplicación federal en propiedades universitarias.

Según este documento, la Universidad de California no tiene autoridad para impedir que agentes de I.C.E. ingresen al campus.

Sin embargo, la política de la UC establece que los oficiales de policía universitarios no colaborarán con los agentes para detener o deportar a personas, ya que esto no está dentro de su jurisdicción.

El Nexus continuará informando sobre este tema a medida que haya más información disponible.

El I.C.E busca crear un equipo de vigilancia las 24 horas del día, los siete días de la semana

Azucena Sanchez
Editora para La Vista

Spyware: Software malicioso que se infiltra en la computadora de un usuario, colecta datos del dispositivo y del usuario, y los envía a terceros sin su consentimiento.

Este mismo software se está utilizando contra residentes de los Estados Unidos, independientemente de su estatus migratorio.

Según WIRED, una revista y página web conocida por cubrir la forma en que la tecnología, la ciencia y la cultura están cambiando el mundo, ha obtenido y revisado documentos federales.

Estos documentos demuestran que el Servicio de Inmigración y Control de Aduanas (I.C.E.) tiene planeado contratar a 30 contratistas para escanear y revisar las redes sociales de millones de personas.

Ya sea por TikTok, Instagram, Facebook, X, etc., y examinar sus publicaciones, fotos, mensajes o cualquier otro material en bruto, para luego enviarlo a los agentes del I.C.E. con el objetivo de ayudar en las deportaciones y redadas.

Del mismo modo, en una declaración de objetivos de 15 páginas, el I.C.E. afirmó que está buscando una empresa que pueda abrir el código fuente de las bases de datos en línea, la dark web y la deep web para encontrar posibles amenazas e identificarlas para la agencia utilizando la geolocalización, la elaboración de perfiles

psicológicos, la tecnología de reconocimiento facial y mucho más.

(FBI) presentó una solicitud de propuestas similar con la misma idea, en la que buscaba

Esto preocupa a muchos residentes, ya que ahora se está utilizando no solo para investigar a los inmigrantes indocumentados, sino también a cualquier persona que critique o haga comentarios negativos sobre el personal o las instalaciones del I.C.E.

Esto significa que cualquier persona que haga comentarios negativos sobre el I.C.E puede ser vigilada por la agencia gubernamental.

¿Las consecuencias? Aún son desconocidas.

En 2020 durante la primera presidencia de Trump, la Oficina Federal de Investigaciones

empresas que pudieran vigilar las redes sociales en busca de ciertos tipos de amenazas.

El I.C.E. ya ha estado vigilando las publicaciones en las redes sociales a través del contratista Giant Oak, que fue contratado durante la primera administración del presidente Trump.

Sin embargo, el objetivo de este nuevo contrato es centrarse más en las amenazas contra los dirigentes, los agentes, las instalaciones y las operaciones del I.C.E.

Del mismo modo, Forbes encontró registros contractuales que muestran que I.C.E. compró

casi un millón de dólares en “vehículos simuladores de estaciones base” en mayo de

este año, lo que significa que está haciendo que la herramienta de vigilancia sea totalmente móvil.

La herramienta, conocida como Stingray, está diseñada para hacer creer a un teléfono que se está conectando a una torre de telefonía móvil.

Así, cuando el dispositivo de un sospechoso se conecta a dicha torre, la policía puede rastrear su ubicación. Sin embargo, su uso es controvertido, ya que cualquier persona que se encuentre en la misma zona que el objetivo corre el riesgo de que su información quede expuesta.

Además, según los documentos revisados por 404 media, el

I.C.E. ahora tiene acceso a una plataforma de vigilancia privada que se actualiza diariamente con miles de millones de datos de ubicación.

Estos datos de ubicación se obtenían de forma secreta a partir de las aplicaciones de los teléfonos móviles, ya sean juegos o aplicaciones meteorológicas, y luego se vendían a corredores de datos.

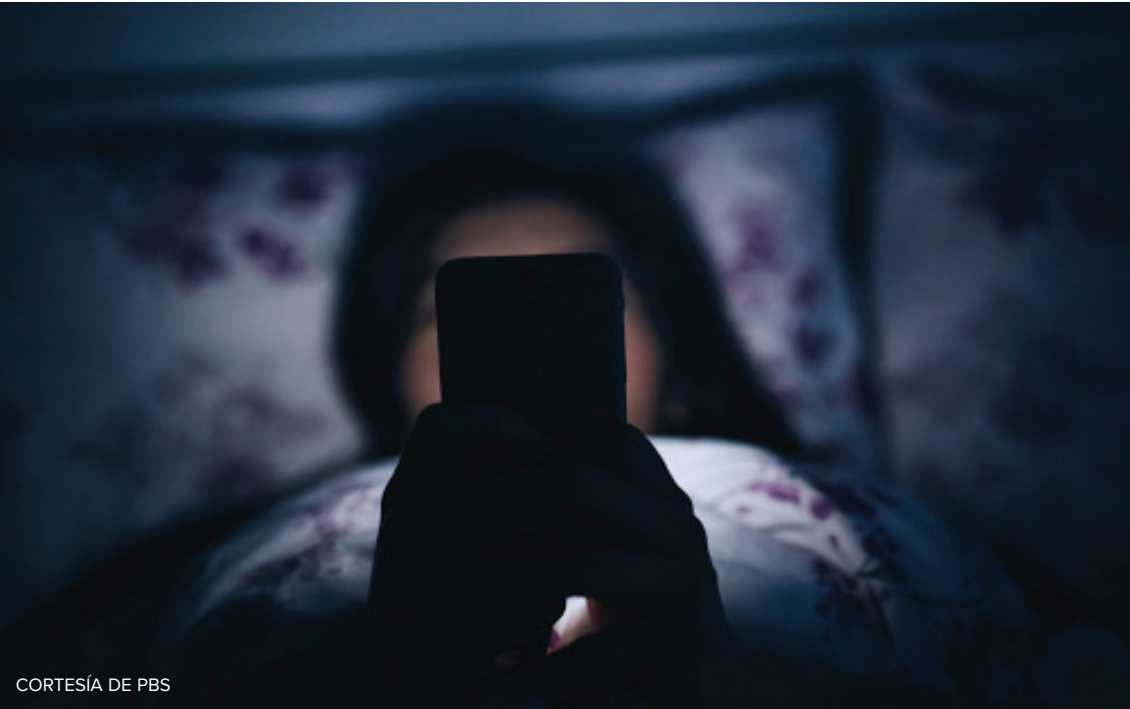
Ahora, esta información está en manos del I.C.E. Los documentos, tal y como menciona 404 media, afirman que la herramienta puede procesar miles de millones de señales diarias de cientos de millones de personas.

El gobierno fue descubierto haciendo esto de forma ilegal en 2023, sin embargo, el Inspector General Joseph V. Cuffari, lo declaró ilegal, así que I.C.E. lo detuvo brevemente.

No obstante, los documentos muestran además que I.C.E. planea volver a utilizar los datos de ubicación recolectados de forma remota de los teléfonos inteligentes de las personas, después de haber afirmado anteriormente que había dejado de hacerlo.

En resumen, el futuro de la privacidad que se presenta aquí es uno de vigilancia total, en el que las acciones en línea y fuera de línea son constantemente vigiladas, analizadas y conservadas por el gobierno.

Esto no solo amenaza los derechos individuales a la privacidad y la libertad de expresión, sino que también altera el equilibrio de poder en una sociedad democrática.



SCIENCE & TECH

SIMPLY STATED

The ecology of UCSB's beaches



COURTESY OF UC SANTA BARBARA BIOLOGY

Roxanna Reid
Science Editor

Envision your first week at UC Santa Barbara. After a summer spent counting down the days until tropical paradise, the first beach trip with your floormates has finally arrived. Move-in is behind you, and the long-awaited sunset dip is here — in a herd of wide-eyed, flip-flopped freshmen, you dash down the stairs to Devereux Beach, eager to find your footing in your new home. Instead, your feet are swallowed by a glutinous lump of black tar and grazed by gelatinous kelp.

To become truly comfortable on our campus, Gauchos must embrace all UCSB has to offer. Doing so requires an understanding and appreciation of the good, the bad and the ugly of Isla Vista's ecology. From bioluminescence and dolphin sightings to oil spills and the Lagoon's signature stench, here's a scientific overview of our shared landscape.

Wildlife

The California Coast hosts an extraordinary variety of wildlife, and Santa Barbara is among the most diverse marine habitats in the West. Animal enthusiasts are dually fortunate at UCSB, with frequent visitors from the Channel Islands. Common sightings from Campus Point include pinnipeds — carnivorous marine mammals, such as Pacific harbor seals and California sea lions — as well as pods of dolphins and the occasional whale.

Yet Isla Vista's marine diversity is not limited to mammals. According to UCSB's Marine Science Institute, Santa Barbara reefs are home to over 160 species of seaweeds, invertebrates and fish, collectively. The beauty of certain marine residents is more obvious than others. Leopard sharks and purple-striped jellyfish allure crowds

of tourists — meanwhile, Campus Lagoon inhabitants like the Longjaw mudsucker fish are overshadowed by the habitat's distinctive sulfurous odor, caused by decaying algae and low-oxygen bacteria, which release smelly hydrogen sulfide.

Despite what the lagoon's stench suggests, some bacterial species in Isla Vista's ecosystem contribute to its beauty. The Oakley Evolution Lab studies how chemical reactions in bioluminescent bacteria can



COURTESY OF UC SANTA BARBARA

emit enchanting blue light and brighten our beaches. Sporadically, bioluminescence is observable at Devereux Beach in Isla Vista.

Kelp forests
Much of our marine diversity



COURTESY OF UC SANTA BARBARA

is attributed to the abundance of kelp along the coast of Goleta. Kelp forests are home to a wide variety of plants and animals: the dense foliage creates shade, reduces the strength of waves and currents and creates a physical surface for marine life to inhabit in an otherwise vast ocean landscape. According to UCSB marine science researcher Kyle Emery, these effects are so significant that proximity to kelp forests can indicate biodiversity hotspots.

The benefits of kelp continue: these primary producers are the foundation for food webs, reduce ocean acidification by absorbing oceanic carbon dioxide and provide a home for microbes to grow on. This microbial slime supports the kelp's regrowth and, therefore, their ability to remove carbon from the water and raise oceanic pH. In spite of its unappealing and slightly mucousy appearance, we owe the kelp on our shores considerable gratitude.

Tar and oil spills

Tar puddles are another notable characteristic of UCSB's campus beaches. Their presence was especially noticeable during fall quarter's recent Week 0 (sorry, freshmen!), but the sludge is nothing new.

The Santa Barbara coast hosts over 1,200 natural oil



COURTESY OF NOAA

seeps, where hydrocarbons escape through fractures and sediments above petroleum reservoirs. In the Coal Oil Point reserve offshore Goleta, between 4,200 to 25,000 gallons of oil seep into the ocean every day. As a result, tar has been prominent in Goleta since 500 AD, with Chumash communities incorporating it into the construction of canoes, woven water bottles and sewing string.

The natural resource was first capitalized off of in 1929 with the installation of oil tanks and processing plants. When crude oil extracted for profit emerges to float on the ocean's surface, its lighter components evaporate and remnants form thick, sticky emulsions. In synthesis with natural and anthropogenic oils, Goleta became infamous for its marine tar.

Over time, Goleta's oil drills gave rise to two devastating spills: 4 million gallons of crude oil spilled into the ocean after a platform blow out in 1969, and over 100,000 gallons in 2015. In response to the 1969 spill, faculty united to establish "The Friends of the Human Habitat," a coalition which later evolved into UCSB's Environmental Studies Program. Over five decades old today, the program remains a landmark in sustainability efforts and the largest program of its type in

the country.

Together with the Environmental Affairs Board, Environmental Justice Alliance and UCSB Sustainability, UCSB continues to pioneer in undergraduate environmental activism and action.

Sunsets

No tar puddles or kelp piles can spoil a sunset in I.V. As winter approaches, our sunsets will only grow more beautiful due to lower humidity and cleaner air — plus, Earth's 23.5 degree axis means the northern hemisphere tilts away from the sun, and it lies lower on the horizon, meaning twilight lingers for longer. As rays of sunlight pass through air, refracted by particles of water and dusk, sunlight bends as if through a prism.

With a Mediterranean climate, 300 or more days of sun and upwards of 91% clear skies, our view of this prismatic effect is unobstructed. Facing west towards the Channel Islands, there's nothing to block our view of the horizon.

Isla Vista's unique geography, diverse marine life and even tendency towards oily sludge is what breathes life into our campus. The clear view of the landscape before you is a reminder that we are as much a part of UCSB's dynamic environment as the ocean we look out upon.

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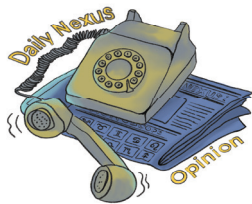
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OPINION



The flop of a showgirl: in defense of the critic

Lauren Chiou
Artsweek Editor

I’ve built a reputation for writing about American singer-songwriter Taylor Swift extensively for the Daily Nexus (pun intended). Every time Swift releases an album or music video or is even just photographed crossing the street, people look to me for my thoughts and opinions. Swift was actually one of the reasons why I was interested in journalism in the first place – I’ve always been fascinated by her career and influence in popular culture. The idea of contributing to the world of music through journalism was something deeply important to me.

In reviews, I called “Speak Now (Taylor’s Version)” a “powerhouse” in her discography. I heralded “1989 (Taylor’s Version)” as an affirmation of Swift’s well-deserved pop-star status, and a testament to her commitment to artistry.

But I’m not always so kind. On the other side of the critical spectrum, I described “The Tortured Poets Department” as “word vomit, a string of discombobulated thoughts, late night notes app poetry or delirious diary entries attempting to hit a word count.” I still stand by what I said.

With the recent release of Swift’s 12th studio album “The Life of a Showgirl,” I contemplated continuing

my streak of Nexus album reviews. But as a journalist and (perhaps more relevantly) Swift specialist, I found I was less interested in writing another review and more interested in the concerning trend of responses to already-published criticism.

Following the album’s release, critics for publications such as the New Yorker, the Atlantic, the Guardian and Slate penned not-so-dazzling reviews. The Atlantic’s Spencer Kornhaber described it as “the sound of an overworked entertainer reaching the mountaintop to find something worse than disappointment: burnout.” Alexis Petridis wrote “it’s just nowhere near as good as it should be given Swift’s talents, and it leaves you wondering why” in the Guardian.

And the Swifties were not happy. While reading comments and social media responses to said reviews, I observed a common theme of fans not only expressing their disagreement with the review, but attacking the work of the journalists and the existence of their relatively fair criticism as a whole.

I’ll put it plain and simple: Every artist is subject to criticism, even the greatest showgirl. And the moment we forget that – the moment someone is idolized above the

craft of art itself – is when the integrity of art and journalism is put at risk.

Two things can be true at once. Swift can be a pop culture icon, someone who creates art that is deep

“It’s one thing to disagree with a review. It’s another thing to disagree with the existence of criticism entirely.”

Lauren Chiou

and meaningful to a wide audience. She can be someone that young people look up to, a star that many relate to and a person who, at the end of the day, loves to create and share music.

And she can also be an artist that’s capable of missing the mark and making an album that isn’t universally loved.

I can’t help but respect the Swifties. I admire their continued support for her stardom. At times, when I’m not wearing my critic hat, I am a Swiftie as well. I take issue when the fearless defense of Swift sours from a simple difference in opinion to a disregard for the craft of music criticism.

The review, as a style of writing, is one that is meant to spark conversation. By publishing one’s opinion

on an album/movie/play/etcetera, it forces the reader to consider their own opinion on the subject. Good criticism offers a different viewpoint on a piece of art, ultimately strengthening the influence of the work and cementing it as part of the cultural zeitgeist.

And at the end of the day, the existence of music journalism is a testament to music as a shared experience. Engaging in discourse and expressing opinions on an album or track enriches the world of music. It’s not meant to be objective, nor is it solely meant to convince the reader of a certain perspective.

It’s one thing to disagree with a review. It’s another thing to disagree with the existence of criticism entirely.

At the risk of making mountains out of molehills, I can’t help but connect this to a larger phenomenon. Journalism and opinion, in all forms, are under attack right now. We’re seeing journalists being laid off left and right, whether it’s due to a lack of funding or for expressing their beliefs. Political leaders and billionaires are using their power to silence the freedom of speech. And while hating on the journalists covering the new Swift album might seem small and trivial in the grand scheme of things, discrediting the merit of critique opens

the door for any and all forms of criticism to be possibly eradicated.

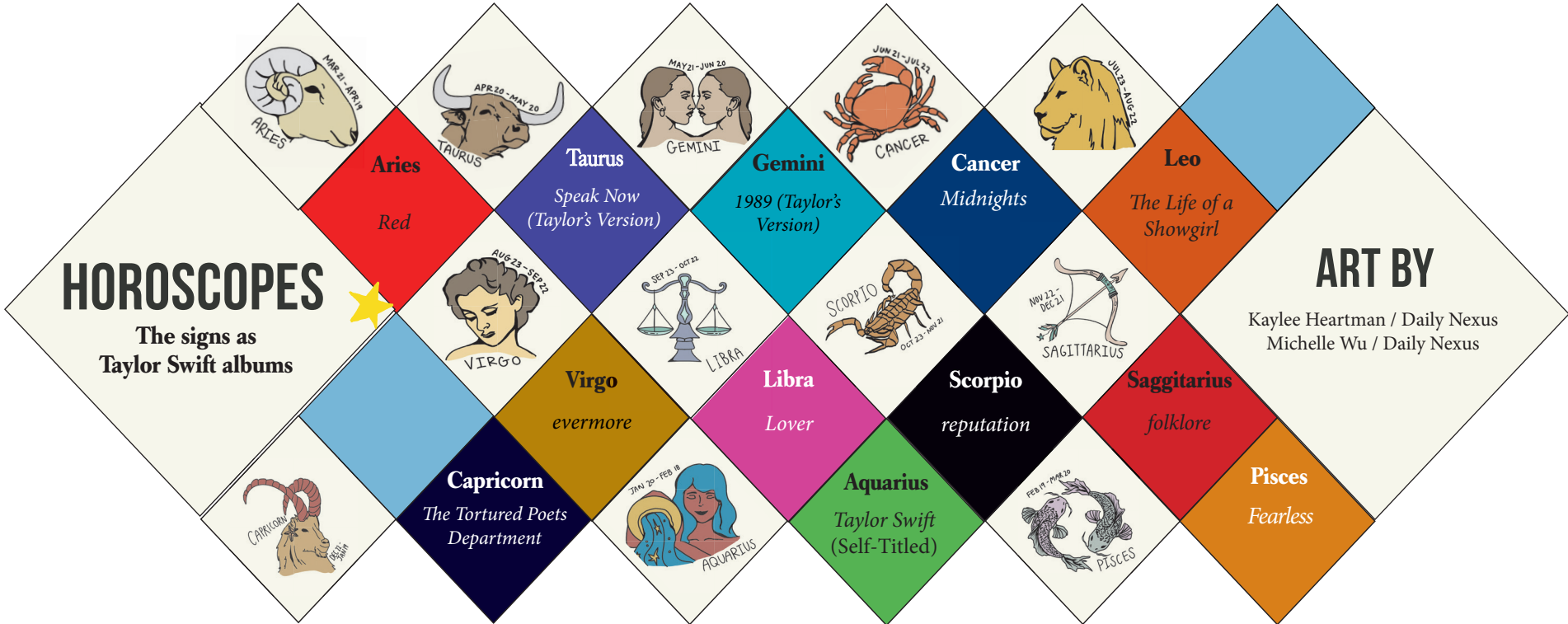
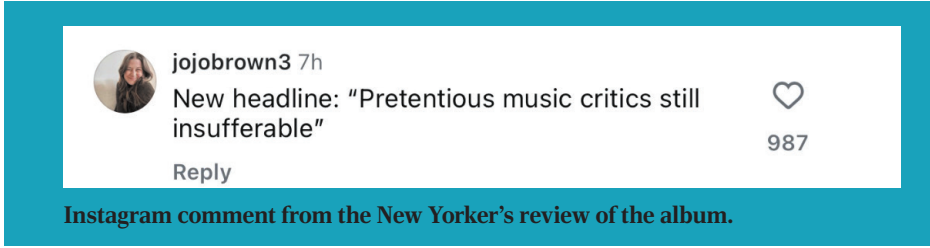
For those feeling personally victimized by negative “Life of a Showgirl” reviews, I can reassure you that Swift will recover. I suspect that throughout her highly-publicized life-spanning career, she’s made peace with the fact that her music isn’t for everyone. Swift is so uber successful, she can afford to occasionally miss her mark. And at the end of the day, her fan base will always support her.

I’m worried that the art of critique and existence of music journalism doesn’t have the same steadfast, undying backing Swifties offer their leader.

I’m incredibly concerned about the instant vilification of journalists expressing an unpopular opinion, the inability to accept a different perspective and what that means for the future of critical reviews.

I’m hesitant to label music critics as “haters,” but in the words of Swift: “haters gonna hate, hate, hate, hate, hate.” And if you care about the health and integrity of arts journalism as much as I do, it might be in all of our best interest to let the haters keep hating.

Lauren Chiou is kindly asking fellow Swifties to hear her out. She would like to remind them that she owns a signed copy of “folklore” and went to the Eras Tour twice.



ARTSWEEK

Daily Nexus



Kendra Martinez
Artsweek Editor

Taylor Swift released her 12th studio album “The Life of a Showgirl” on Oct. 3 and made it clear that her artistry is no longer a top priority.

Following the end of her two-year run of the Eras Tour — which grossed about \$2 billion — Swift announced the new album on an episode of her fiancé and Kansas City Chiefs tight end Travis Kelce’s podcast, “New Heights.” This was the first step in a new direction that Swift decided to take with the album, and it was not a good precursor to its release.

In the announcement, Swift said the album would still have the incredible storytelling aspect of “folklore,” but the lyrics would be put to fun beats, turning the songs into “infectious anthems.” Ultimately, this set her up for failure and led her fans to be severely disappointed when the album finally dropped.

The first half of “The Life of a Showgirl” is the strongest part of the album, albeit it’s not all that great. “The Fate of Ophelia” has one redeeming quality, and it is that the chorus and beat are catchy enough to warrant multiple listens. However, the song only became likable after a few listens of ignoring the lyrics.

Arguably, the most fun track on the album by far is track three, “Opalite.” The song is dance-worthy and fun, and is one of the only songs that feels like what Swift was promoting the entire album to be — it’s glittery and theatrical.

“Father Figure,” “Eldest Daughter” and “Ruin the Friendship” all share the catchy melodies that Swift talked about in her announcement, yet they all have lyrics that fall flat. Although Swift said the goal of this album was not to showcase the

lyrical genius apparent in her past albums, she claimed the songs would naturally contain great lyrics since it’s her talent. However, the storytelling and lyrics of most of the tracks on the album are just plain and unimaginative — a major disappointment considering Swift has proven to have the capability to write fun, catchy pop songs with amazing lyrics (i.e., “1989”).

The seventh track, “Actually Romantic” has been the center of discourse around the album for being a potential diss track directed at pop star Charli XCX. While some might consider it mean, it actually feels like a breath of fresh air on an album that is drowning in boredom. If anything, it makes for a fun drama between two mega-successful artists.

A severely tone-deaf and strangely worded song is track eight, “Wi\$H Li\$t.” Swift rambles for three minutes about wanting to live in suburbia with people who look just like her. While she may be singing about finally getting the life and family she has always dreamed about, it comes at a time when too many anti-diversity and traditional agendas are being pushed by the current administration for her to even put out a song whose message could be misconstrued.

Tracks nine through 11 highlight the terrible songwriting on this album and are ridden with too many

strange buzz words for any listener to enjoy the song without being taken aback. For instance, “Wood” is a 2:30-minute ode to Kelce and quite frankly lacks any creative innovation.

“CANCELLED!” specifically leaves a bad taste in the mouth when you consider the current political climate of the country and who Swift has been seen hanging out with the past couple of months, including but not limited to known Trump supporter Brittany Mahomes. It is another song that is completely tone-deaf and comes off as a MAGA-sympathetic track, which has not gone unnoticed by Swift’s fans.

Finally, the closing and title track, “The Life of a Showgirl (feat. Sabrina Carpenter)” should not have been a duet, but redeemed the album ever so slightly. It’s the song that aligns the closest with the marketing of the album — it has jazzy and theatrical themes that the rest of the record lacks.

The only issue with it is that Carpenter is a much better singer than Swift and that is far too apparent on this song. Carpenter simply has more emotion and range, and her verse is a stark difference from the rest of the track.

After my initial listen to “The Life of a Showgirl,” I had decided that it was my least favorite album Swift has put out. Now that a week has passed, nothing has changed. The record is missing the most important aspect of any Swift album: Swift’s lyricism.

Many fans have taken to online platforms to defend Swift’s corny writing on this record with excuses that she has always had a few cringey songs make it onto her albums. Examples of this would be “ME!” from “Lover” or “Look What You Made Me Do” from “Reputation.” Arguably, while those songs are cringe worthy, they are redeemed by the production and cohesiveness of the rest of their respective albums.

“The Life of a Showgirl” is made up of multiple tracks that are corny, out of touch and flat out weird — the bad writing isn’t an anomaly, it’s a consistent theme throughout the album.

For someone who prides herself with being a great lyricist and “English teacher” to her fans, Swift made no genuine effort to highlight those skills on this album, despite claiming to do so.

Even the work of award-winning producers Max

Martin and Shellback was not enough to make this album a hit. Both Martin and Shellback have worked with Swift on successful albums before: “Red,” “1989” and “Reputation.” They are no strangers to making absolute bangers and award-winning tracks. While their influence is definitely present in the upbeat and pop nature of the album, it falls flat when combined with Swift’s lack of voice and emotion throughout the record.

Many people were already skeptical about Swift’s career taking a turn after the release of “The Tortured Poets Department” in 2024 — an album that despite all the backlash still won multiple awards and had five Acadamey Award nominations — but this album really begs the question on whether or not Swift should have given herself more time after wrapping up the Eras Tour before releasing any new music.

Swift has said that the album was written while she was still touring, and that is far too apparent. Rehearsing and performing a three-hour show, three nights every week for two years does not leave a lot of room nor bandwidth for a person to write a solid, good album. “The Life of a Showgirl” proves that. With more than half of the album sounding like first drafts, the album feels like a mediocre attempt to try to ride the coattail success of the Eras Tour — a few more months in the studio would have been beneficial.

During its debut week, “The Life of a Showgirl” has charted fairly well, but with a good amount of those numbers stemming from pre-sale purchases, it will be interesting to see what the future trajectory of the album will be. So far, the album has fallen nothing short of mediocre for longtime Swift fans and only time will tell if that holds true.

Samara Joy brings ‘No More Blues’ to Santa Barbara’s Jazz Series

Halee Scott
Reporter

Acclaimed jazz vocalist Samara Joy McLendon received a boisterous welcome from the Granada Theatre’s full house for her dazzling set on Oct. 2. Opening UC Santa Barbara Arts & Lectures’ Jazz Series (sponsored by the Manitou Fund), Joy’s return to Santa Barbara after her 2023 “A Joyful Holiday” show brought more insight into her astounding sound as a developing writer and bandleader.

Just 25 years old with five Academy Awards and a host of accolades, Joy is recognized as a timeless jazz icon of the new generation. The Bronx native insisted to the crowd that her upbringing amid gospel singers and her family’s jazz background informed her musical identity and the pursuit of her craft.

With the stage on Thursday draped in a deep indigo, Joy’s presence brought a fresh glow to the theater — her tangerine dress shimmering as her hands guided the start of the night. Her melodic jumps in the first striking chords of “Round Midnight” hushed the theater’s loud reception and shifted into a lively rendition of Thelonious Monk’s standard.

Connor Rohrer on piano, Conway Campbell on bass and Evan Sherman on the drums held down the beating heart of Joy’s covers and compositions, which remained as tributes to her heroines. Her cover of Betty Carter’s “Beware My Heart” featured fast-paced solos by Alexandra Ridout on

the trumpet and David Mason on the flute and alto saxophone, both accompanying the operatic registers Joy fled to with a full tone. The octet, also comprising Kendric McCallister on the tenor saxophone and Donavan Austin on the trombone, had formed over the last two years in an effort to create a space for creativity and — what Joy called — a sound “inspired by many musicians and their creative journeys,” but one uniquely their own.

The culmination of their talents was Joy’s latest album release titled “Portrait” (2024), which showcases what she called “cultivating a sound.”

“I’m a little biased, but it is my favorite [album] thus far,” Joy said.

Within the “Portrait” landscape was her performance of “Three Little Words,” a single she released a week prior, featuring grumbling bebop and excited declarations of love. Following as a light open breeze, “You Stepped Out Of A Dream,” the lead song on the album, had the brass flourishing around Joy’s playful vocals beside the saxophone melody. Joy crowned in a sweet tenor to “A Fool in Love (Is Called A Clown),” an original composition by trombonist

Austin, and then expressed her gratitude for the support she received in “making this dream of [hers], to do this, come true.”

Joy then strayed from her album with a rendition of Carmen McRae’s “It’s The Little Things That Mean So Much.”

“The title of this song — it’s a fact of life,” she noted earnestly, before allowing Campbell to jump into a cutting bass line that turned irregularly into a heavy stomp. Sherman’s rhythm on drums accompanied McCallister in a ripping tenor saxophone solo that spanned nearly four minutes, his fast-scaling riffs eliciting laughs and exclamations of disbelief from the crowd. By no means was the audience faint: Shouts of enthusiasm — whoops, whistles, ‘yeahs,’ ‘all rights’ and ‘mmms’ — erupted recurrently throughout the set, giving Joy the silence to find her dynamics and the appreciation to run with her expertly controlled riffs. The band was clean-cut corners but jam-packed with expression.

To calm the air, Joy swept the crowd with “Come Sunday” by Duke Ellington, a sacred composition that emphasized her gospel roots, with brass notes like bells tolling. Her storytelling continued to pull the audience with her cover of Billie Holiday’s “Left Alone,” a haunting tune that suited Joy’s silky, maroon voice.

Joy rounded out the set with “No More Blues” from “Portrait,” a sunny, joyful piece near the end of her

album that celebrates the heart being home all along, emphasizing the familial influences in her music and indicating that her growth is only just beginning. She traveled easily into different realms of her voice, from a dreamy falsetto to a sweet whistle, back down to her sonorous chest sound.

Joy received a lengthy standing ovation that brought her back onstage for an encore.

“Just one more,” she said with a grin lending itself to her voice. With the band talking to each other in a bluesy swing cover of Smokin’ Joe Kubek & Bnois King’s “Buzz Me Baby,” Joy traded giggles with the crowd, singing cheeky lyrics like, “if you forgot the number, come over and you won’t have to call at all.” Her final flourish aroused another standing ovation, and her lively presence remained buzzing in the theater even after she took her last bow. As one audience member reflected, it is easy to be astounded even before Joy sings a note.

Artists like Joy are bringing classic standards to new ways of thinking and have cast their spell on younger generations. Joy and her evolving voice honor the merit of the living texts of jazz, a challenge that makes every choice and the little things mean so much.

Joy’s tour will continue down the west coast toward Los Angeles before taking the international stage, returning to North America in November.



Samara Joy performed a joyful jazz set at the Granada Theatre on Oct. 2.

Dear Daily Nexus reader,

Welcome to the 2025–26 school year — a year already marked by transformation, both on our campus and across the nation. UC Santa Barbara has welcomed a new chancellor and a record-breaking class of students, while beyond Isla Vista, the political landscape is shifting in ways that test the very freedoms we rely on as journalists. But first, let us officially introduce ourselves as the 2025-26 co-editors in chief of the Daily Nexus. We'd like to each share a bit about what the Nexus means to us — and what it means to lead at this moment.

SHAYLA'S STORY

I first joined the Nexus as a production intern in the fall of my sophomore year and have collaborated with many sections, helping create the crossword, design infographics, write articles and more. I'm a fourth-year psychological & brain sciences and sociology double major from Fairfield, California, who's always had a passion for journalism.

The Daily Nexus is composed of creative, passionate and driven individuals who share common interests and goals — and I am so grateful to have become part of the Nexus family. I've made some of the most amazing friends, helped shape campus life and supported the

Santa Barbara community in many ways. With my experience on the production team, I truly learned the value of teamwork, consistently brainstorming, problem-solving, organizing and shaping the layout of the newspaper.

As Anusha and I were elected as the 2025-26 co-editors in chief of the Nexus in April, we took on great responsibilities, helping to orchestrate the functions of the largest, student-run newspaper on campus. Seeing as Anusha and I now review the quality, content, production and perception of the Daily Nexus, we take pride in how far we've come as individuals. From working behind the scenes (and screens) to leading the Nexus throughout this school year, Anusha and I will continue to advocate for our community while editing, writing, reporting or reviewing — ensuring that we accurately and efficiently inform the UCSB student body and surrounding community.

As college students and leaders on campus, we will continue to uphold our responsibilities to strengthen our community, advocate for marginalized groups and promote transparency across the 805 area.

ANUSHA'S STORY

The hum of printers, the clatter of keyboards and the low buzz of conversation long after midnight — that's how I first came to know the Daily Nexus. I'm a fourth-year



SAMANTHA DILLON / DAILY NEXUS

environmental studies major who grew up between St. Louis, Missouri, and Loma Linda, California — two places that taught me to see how environment and community shape one another. Back then, the title “editor in chief” felt impossibly far away — meant for someone louder, more certain, more sure of their place in the newsroom. But as the years went on, I realized leadership here isn't about having the last word. It's about listening — to our writers, our readers and the community that shapes every story we tell.

The Nexus has always reflected the heartbeat of UC Santa Barbara: restless, thoughtful and alive. It's a place where students come to make sense of the world beyond the cliffs of Isla Vista, to hold institutions accountable and to tell the quieter stories that define life on this campus. Whether it's late-night edits that stretch past 3 a.m. or staff meetings filled with ideas and laughter, this paper has reminded me that journalism, at its core, is an act of care.

We're reporting in a moment when trust in the media feels fragile, and misinformation moves faster than truth. Across the country, journalism is being tested — not just in its accuracy, but in its capacity for empathy. That challenge is our opportunity. As student journalists, we get to model what dialogue can look like when it's grounded in curiosity rather than certainty, and in conversation rather than conflict.

At the Nexus, that means telling stories that stretch beyond what we already know. It means reporting on the environmental stakes of Sable Offshore, the presence of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (I.C.E.) in our neighboring communities and the quieter issues that shape daily life in Isla Vista — all with the same care and curiosity. My hope for this year is to build a newsroom that welcomes disagreement without hostility

and engagement without judgment — a space where truth feels like a shared pursuit.

STUDENT JOURNALISM IN THE FACE OF A FAILING FIRST AMENDMENT

As we reaffirm the ideals of the Nexus, we can't ignore the challenges confronting journalism beyond our newsroom walls. Across the country, the same freedoms that allow us to report, critique and question are being tested — and their effects are felt even here at UCSB.

In January of this year, Donald Trump became the 47th President of the United States, striking fear and uncertainty across communities. A number of policies outlined in Project 2025 have been enacted by his 209 executive orders signed to date.

During Trump's first term in 2017, he signed two executive orders, 13767 and 13768, specifically targeting the Latine and undocumented population. UCSB is not only home to a diverse community, but is also a Hispanic-Serving Institution, surrounded by predominantly-Latine communities in Goleta and Santa Barbara. While Governor Gavin Newsom is resisting immigration crackdowns in California, I.C.E. sightings are still prevalent and ever-increasing. This past summer, we launched the Daily Nexus I.C.E. Sighting Tracker in response to increased I.C.E. activity in the Goleta and Santa Barbara area. We aim to keep the tracker updated daily throughout this year.

Focusing on the recent attacks on the press, including National Public Radio (NPR) and the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS), Executive Order 14290 aims to “fund only fair, accurate, unbiased, and nonpartisan news coverage.” As Jimmy Kimmel's late-night show was recently canceled indefinitely for airing comments

about conservative activist Charlie Kirk's assassination, First Amendment rights were threatened. While Kimmel's show is now back on the air, in a time when talk-show hosts, journalists and Americans were once protected while expressing their five freedoms, we are now consistently censored and scrutinized for sharing opposing views.

In addition to attacks on the press, copious payment requirements for H-IB and Gold Card visas detrimentally impact international students. Not to mention the proposed defunding of essential programs within scientific research, the restricted federal funding of Planned Parenthood and attempts to ban transgender athletes from collegiate athletics heavily impact all corners of our community.

In times of fear, frustration, uncertainty and turmoil, we must remain strong and committed to our values, serving our community with transparency and understanding. In the face of such blatant attacks on fundamental freedoms, leading a nearly century-old student-run, independent newspaper seems daunting. We feel the great responsibility of not only providing unbiased, timely and relevant news to every member of our community, but also the responsibility of highlighting all student voices, perspectives and opinions. In a time where freedom of speech and freedom of the press are being infringed on at every level, the Daily Nexus is committed to these values now more than ever.

In the months ahead, our newsroom will continue to evolve — shaped by new writers, new challenges and a shared belief in the power of truth-telling. We're proud to lead this paper through uncertainty, knowing that every story we tell is a small act of resistance against silence.

Thank you for reading, questioning and engaging. Together, we'll keep building a community where every voice matters and where the pursuit of truth remains our strongest form of freedom.

SHAYLA PRASAD / DAILY NEXUS



— Shayla Prasad & Anusha Singh
Co-Editors in Chief, Daily Nexus

Shayla Prasad

Anusha Singh*

Letter from the editors:

DIALOGUE IN A TIME OF DIVISION