

SIGNED, SEALED, DIVIDED.

Students reflect on a year of the Trump administration, university contentions and the power of community engagement





Jack Dindia
Lead News Editor

ONDAS Student Center hosts 'Matcha on my Mind: Exploring the First-Gen Identity'

Opening New Doors to Accelerating Success (ONDAS) is hosting "Matcha on my Mind: Exploring the First-Gen Identity" on Thursday, Nov. 6, from 1:30-2:30 p.m. at Kerr Hall 1120.

"We'll celebrate how far students have come and offer support for what's ahead. [Educational Opportunity Program] and Christina from Career Services will lead a conversation on shared experiences, questions, and victories," the Shoreline description read.

Free iced matcha will be provided for attendees.

Health & Wellness hosts 'Build a Fruit Cup'

UCSB Health & Wellness is hosting "Build a Fruit Cup & Learn About UCSB Health & Wellness!" on Thursday, Nov. 6, from 3-4 p.m. at the San Miguel Lounge.

"Tired of dining hall food? Come build a fruit cup and learn about UCSB Health & Wellness Resources: cooking classes, community gardens, \$\$ for groceries, food pantries, and more!" the Shoreline description read.

UCSB Sustainability hosts 'Methodist Garden Club'

UCSB Sustainability is hosting "Methodist Garden Club" on Thursday, Nov. 6, from 3:30-4:30 p.m. at the Methodist Community Garden.

"Garden Club is a fun, community-driven way to learn gardening, connect with others, and help grow fresh produce right in Isla Vista. No experience or tools needed — just show up and get your hands in the dirt!" the Shoreline description read.

OISS hosts 'All Languages Language Exchange'

The Office of International Students & Scholars (OISS) is hosting an "All Languages Language Exchange" on Thursday, Nov. 6, from 4-5:30 p.m. at the Student Resource Building (SRB) Third Floor Forum.

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

All languages are welcome, and light snacks and beverages will be provided.

MCC hosts 'Race and Literature: Survival is a Shared Story'

The MultiCultural Center (MCC) is hosting "Race and Literature: Survival is a Shared Story" on Thursday, Nov. 6, from 5-7 p.m. at the MCC Lounge.

"Join us for a writing workshop with doctoral candidate Lexxus Edison as we explore how creative writing and poetry are powerful tools for self-expression. Basing the conversation on the work of Octavia E. Butler, we highlight how works like Fledgling and Parable of the Sower have explored current moments of climate grief, racial injustice, and the ultimate hunger for collective care," the Shoreline description read.

Dinner will be included for attendees.

Arts & Lectures hosts 'Sherrilyn Ifill - Reimagining a New American Democracy'

Arts & Lectures is hosting "Sherrilyn Ifill - Reimagining a New American Democracy" on Thursday, Nov. 6, from 7:30-9 p.m. at Campbell Hall.

"Preeminent civil rights attorney and Howard Law School professor Sherrilyn Ifill shares insights on citizenship and the history of the 14th Amendment, the

importance of local civic engagement, and the role that colleges and universities play in carrying forward the democracy project," the Shoreline description read.

Tickets are free for UCSB students and \$20 for the general public.

IHC hosts 'La La Land' with Trivia

Interdisciplinary Humanities Center (IHC) is hosting a free screening of the film "La La Land" on Thursday, Nov. 6, from 8-10:10 p.m. at Isla Vista Theater.

"When Sebastian, a pianist, and Mia, an actress, follow their passion and achieve success in their respective fields, they find themselves torn between their love for each other and their careers," the Shoreline description read.

The screening is free for all students and includes themed games with a chance to win prizes.

ONDAS hosts 'Sticking Together'

ONDAS is hosting "Sticking Together" on Friday, Nov. 7, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Kerr Hall 1120.

"Celebrate First-Gen Week with a fun, drop-in craft session! Stop by anytime to create your own custom magnet using your favorite campus resource stickers (we'll have plenty, or bring your own!), because the support that sticks matters!" the Shoreline description read.

RCSGD hosts 'Bi Us For Us: Beads & Bracelets!'

The Resource Center for Sexual and Gender Diversity is hosting "Bi Us For Us: Beads & Bracelets!" on Friday, Nov. 7, from 3:30-5 p.m.

"Oh my friendship bracelets! Whether you're looking to make friends, bracelets, or both, this week's event is the place for you. Please join us for scintillating conversation and company this Friday evening!" the Shoreline description read.

Students can register for the event on Shoreline to view its location.

Arts and Crafts at UCSB hosts 'Fall Craft Night'

Arts and Crafts at UCSB is hosting "Fall Craft Night" on Friday, Nov. 7, from 7:30-9:30 p.m. at the SRB Multipurpose Room.

"Join us for a night full of fun fall crafts! We will be offering pumpkin painting, tote bag embroidery/patchwork, and scrapbooking," the Shoreline description read.

Craft materials and food will be provided for attendees.

UCSB Sustainability hosts 'Garden Volunteering Day'

UCSB Sustainability is hosting "Garden Volunteering Day" on Saturday, Nov. 8, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Estero Park Gardens.

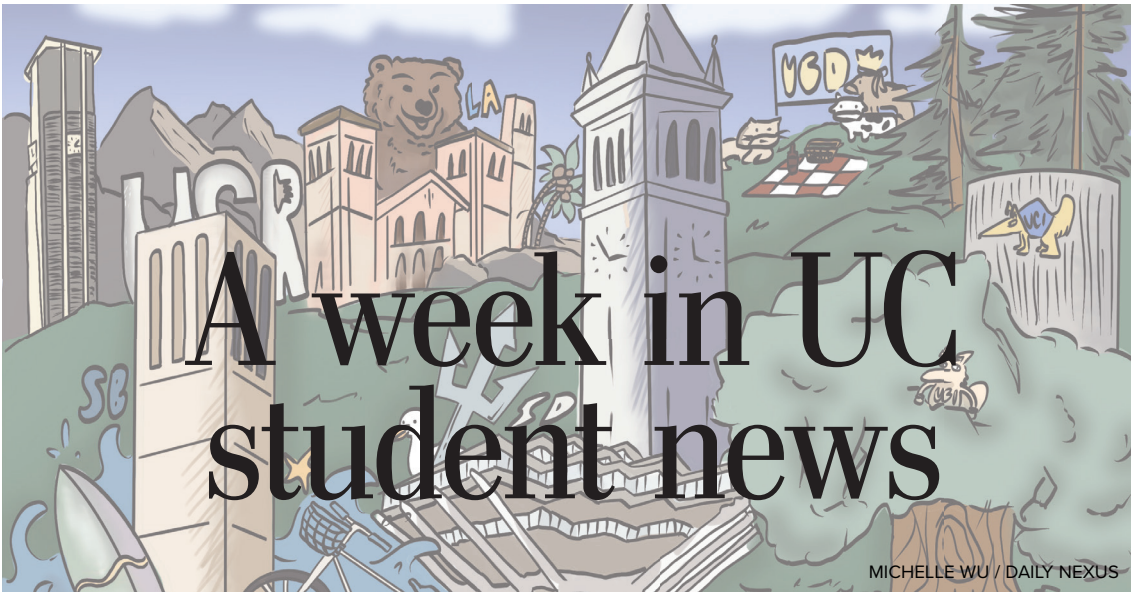
"Let's give the Estero Park Gardens a makeover! Join the UCSB Edible Campus Program and IV Rec and Parks District for a morning full of garden volunteering right in the heart of IV. All majors, experience levels, and ages are welcome!" the Shoreline description read.

Chicanx/Latinx Cultural Resource Center hosts 'Celebracion de la Familia'

The Chicanx/Latinx Cultural Resource Center is hosting "Celebracion de la Familia" on Saturday, Nov. 8, from 1-4 p.m. at Hatlen Theater.

"Join us for a community-centered event for Latine-identifying students and their families to enjoy! Learn about different services and information available to help make campus feel like home. Come connect with fellow Latine students and staff while enjoying traditional food, refreshments, and live performances!" the Shoreline description read.

Food will be provided for attendees.



Michelle Cisneros
Lead News Editor

UC grapples with federal budget cuts

Across virtually all University of California campuses, the impact of federal budget cuts is being felt, according to several campus newspapers.

On Oct. 30, The Daily Californian reported that UC Berkeley paused its college readiness program for disadvantaged youth due to the loss of a \$836,000 annual grant. The program, Educational Talent Search, was part of the federal TRIO program, a group of federal programs designed to aid students in overcoming financial, social and academic barriers to higher education.

The Daily Californian reported on Oct. 23 that the Department of Energy had cut three Berkeley-led research projects since the start of the government shutdown. On that same day, it was reported that Berkeley lost \$1.1 million in grants over the next three years as part of its designation as an Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institution.

City on a Hill Press reported that UC Santa Cruz's programs under its Hispanic-Serving designation will also be impacted

by the loss of federal grants. At this time, the University is unsure which specific programs will be affected.

These are just a few of the most recently reported impacts of federal funding cuts. In early October, UC President James Milliken said in a press release that federal cuts and wide-ranging investigations "may well represent the greatest threat to the University of California in its 157-year history."

UC Berkeley extends housing guarantee to two years

Starting the next academic year, Berkeley will offer incoming freshmen two years of guaranteed housing and one year for transfer students. Before the announcement, one year was guaranteed for freshmen, and transfers were "provided housing priority" if they applied on time.

The extended guarantee was possible due to housing projects that were recently completed, according to The Daily Californian.

"This change reflects the university's ongoing process in increasing housing capacity and providing greater stability for undergraduate students," university spokesperson Lindsey Michels said in an email to The Daily Californian. "The campus can now extend housing

guarantees that better support students' transition to Berkeley and strengthen their sense of belonging in their first years on campus."

Pasadena sues UCLA for allegedly relocating football games to SoFi Stadium

The City of Pasadena and the Rose Bowl Stadium filed a lawsuit against UC Los Angeles on Oct. 29 for allegedly relocating football games to SoFi Stadium. This was done in an effort to preserve its current agreement with the University, which states Bruin football games must stay at the Rose Bowl through 2044.

The lawsuit states that UCLA has allegedly been "unequivocally expressing its intent to abandon the Rose Bowl Stadium and relocate its home football games to SoFi Stadium in Inglewood."

UCLA's football team has played at the Rose Bowl since 1982. According to the Los Angeles Times, the lawsuit argues that taxpayers have invested over \$150 million in stadium renovations.

"While we continue to evaluate the long-term arrangement for UCLA football home games, no decision has been made," Mary Osaka, UCLA vice chancellor for strategic communications, said in a statement to The Los Angeles Times.

The Daily Nexus Crossword

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Sanchita Koppa
Crossword Contributor

Across:

- Road where you pick up Amazon packages
- First-person plural

possessive

- Necessary ingredient for bread and wine
- "___ end," found at the end of a story-book
- Intermediate stage of development between childhood and adolescence, colloquially

Down:

- An object a child plays with
- "You'll ___ the day."
- Angry
- Feminine pronoun
- "Are you from Tennessee? 'Cause you're the only ___ I see."



DAILY NEXUS

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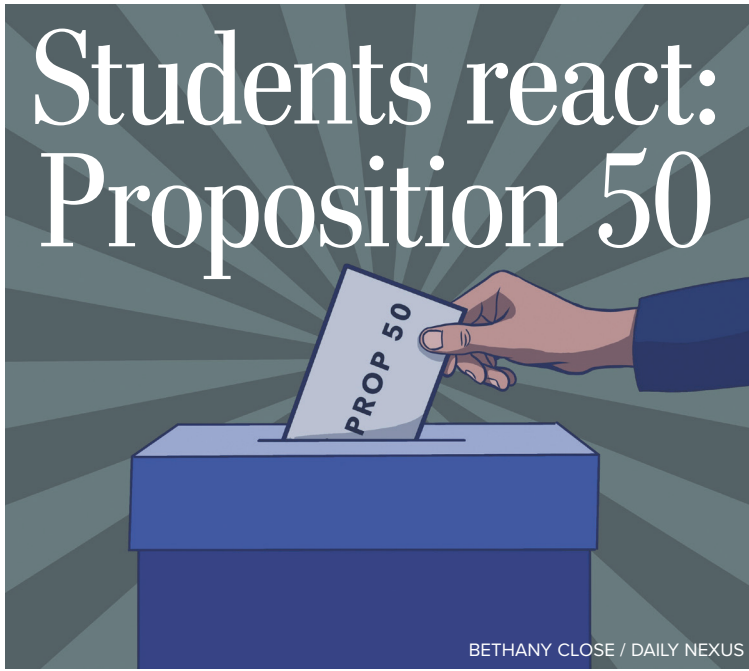
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Jack Dindia
Lead News Editor

With the Nov. 4 special election ballot, voters have decided “yes” on Proposition 50, which changes California’s congressional districts. Also known as the “Election Rigging Response Act,” this proposition aimed to redistrict California’s congressional maps in a non-census year to increase Democratic stronghold districts in the state.

Proposition 50 requires the temporary use of new congressional district maps through 2030. Arguments in support of Prop 50 are that it approves temporary, emergency congressional district maps to counter the Trump administration’s “scheme to rig next year’s congressional election,” affirming California’s “commitment to independent, nonpartisan redistricting after the next census.” Arguments against Prop 50 include that it removes voter protections that ban maps from being designed to favor certain political parties, according to California’s voting guide.

President Trump has been urging many states to redistrict in order to boost chances for Republican candidates in 2026, starting with Texas, Missouri and North Carolina being redistricted. Trump is currently urging Indiana, Kansas and other states to follow.

The Nexus sent out a poll via Instagram to survey students’ reactions and voting plans for the upcoming election, with the majority of students responding that they will be voting “yes.” Despite criticism towards gerrymandering, or the redrawing of electoral constituencies’ boundaries to favor one party, many students believe it is a necessary response to President Trump and Texas politicians who redrew Congressional district lines to gain five more seats in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Third-year history of policy, law and governance major Emma Lenoski said she sees Prop 50 as a “necessary evil.” While she said she’d prefer congressional maps to be drawn by independent commissions,

as California usually does, she believes it’s a “direct response” to Texas’s gerrymandering.

“I’ve been very exhausted by Democrats’ lack of effort to fight against the Trump administration, and this is one of the first tangible, effective proposals to do something,” Lenoski said.

Her only criticism of Prop 50 is its potential to encourage more states to enable partisan map drawing. However, she ultimately blames this trend on Texas Republicans.

First-year mathematics major Pranav Vijay said he will not be voting in this special election as he is registered to vote in Pennsylvania. However, Vijay believes the federal government isn’t doing anything to stop gerrymandering in red states, and therefore it is “essential to keep our democracy functioning.”

“I truly believe there is no reason to vote against Prop 50. It’s temporary. It’s a statement to the powerful people trying to rig the election that they can’t simply destroy our democracy without us putting up a fight,” Vijay said.

First-year computer science major Cameron Davis will be voting “yes” on Prop 50, and while he believes redistricting for more political power is never a good thing, he said it “directly aims to combat election rigging in other states.” He also believes it gives California a “much needed boost in our voting power,” considering it has the largest gross domestic product of any state.

Sven Olea Bailon, a second-year political science major, will be voting “yes” for Prop 50 since he believes it’s the “only option” for Democrats to combat gerrymandering attempts from Republicans, who are using their “supermajority to increase the power of [Immigration and Customs Enforcement], cut [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program] benefits for millions of Americans and delay votes on the Epstein files.”

However, Bailon does feel “very iffy” on gerrymandering, and while he is morally against the concept under “normal circumstances,” he believes this current special election is an exception.



Students waited in line to vote at the Isla Vista Community Center.

Campus supplements S.N.A.P. benefits

Iris Guo
Community Outreach Editor

Due to the federal government shutdown, which began on Oct. 1, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (S.N.A.P.) benefits have been delayed until further notice. UC Santa Barbara students who are CalFresh recipients will still receive benefits for November, but they will not be able to access them until a later date.

A federal judge ordered the Trump administration to pay for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (S.N.A.P.) benefits on Oct. 31, but it is still unclear how much of those funds will be allocated to California, or when they will be distributed.

According to Katie Maynard, the director of Student Sustainability Initiatives at UCSB, the benefits students will receive would be a “partial allocation” of the typical amount, and the timeline to receive this funding is unclear.

“The UCSB CalFresh team is in close contact with the California Department of Social Services, and particularly with our contact in the Santa Barbara County Department of Social Services, to try and understand what this is going to mean for our state and for our students,” Maynard said.

After the government shutdown ends, students can expect to receive the remaining amount of benefits that were not allocated before.

“The full benefits should still go to recipients – we don’t know the timeline for that either,” Maynard said. “There will be some amount of lag time between the government reopening and the benefits earned during the closure being allocated to students.”

According to Maynard, the best alternative options for students are the campus food pantries, including the Associated Students (A.S.) Food Bank located in the University Center (UCen) and the Miramar

Food Pantry located at Sierra Madre Villages.

“What it comes down to is we can feed far more students through a food pantry than any other program,” Maynard said. “The more students can lean into those food pantries, the better off we’re going to be as a whole in being able to support students.”

According to A.S. President and fourth-year global studies, communication and Spanish triple major Le Anh Metzger, the A.S. Food Bank has been trying to increase donations through various University departments, and hopes to receive additional funding to purchase goods for students.

“I’ve been working with the chair of the academic senate to publicize [the need] for donations because I know a lot of faculty are interested in donating,” Metzger said. “I’ve also been publicizing those donations to our alumni association.”

In a statement to the Nexus, A.S. Food Bank Coordinator Crystal Bach said the food bank aims to “stock additional items” during this period when there is increased demand.

“Should we receive adequate funding, we plan to prioritize the purchase of prepared food options as we recognize that students generally gravitate towards those items and may typically rely on S.N.A.P. benefits to purchase prepared food, even when relying on the pantry for their produce and pantry staples,” Bach said in the statement.

This past week, Metzger has been working to gather \$15,000 of A.S. funding to donate to UCSB Basic Needs for grocery vouchers.

“How it works is that certain students can be eligible to receive \$100 worth of grocery gift cards per quarter,” Metzger said. “So [if we] give them \$15,000, we can assist 150 additional students in getting grocery vouchers.”

An additional resource

Metzger highlighted is a soup kitchen project that the A.S. Outreach Committee has been working alongside a catering company. The program will distribute 1,000 containers of soup at Santa Barbara Hillel, located at 781 Embarcadero del Mar in Isla Vista.

“They’ll be providing 500 meals on Saturday [and] 500 meals on Sunday,” Metzger said. “They’ll be doing a pilot program for that for the remainder of the quarter.”

Maynard recommended that students who have the “highest need” visit the Food Security and Basic Needs Advising Center in the UCen to speak with a Basic Needs peer advisor. Available resources include an emergency financial aid program and access to the dining commons.

“It’s really about us being able to sit down with the student and really have a conversation with them about what their needs are, what resources they’re using and really help them to come up with a solution that’s going to work for them,” Maynard said.

One issue that Maynard has noticed recently is that less students have been coming into the Basic Needs office to apply for CalFresh since the federal shutdown began.

“We’ve talked to a number of students who are eligible for CalFresh but are holding off on applying because they say, ‘Oh, well, there’s a federal shutdown right now. I’ll wait and apply when the shutdown starts again,’” Maynard said.

Maynard urged students to continue to apply for CalFresh during the federal government shutdown, as it takes about 30 days for their application to be processed and, once approved, they will be able to earn benefits.

“They can start the process, they can get their application lined up, and they can start earning benefits, so that when the government does turn back on, those benefits will be ready for them,” Maynard said. “We’re really encouraging students to still come in and chat with us.”

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Analyzing one year of DEI statements on department websites

Michelle Cisneros
Lead News Editor
Krithi Saravanan
Asst. Data Editor

Throughout the first year of Donald Trump’s presidency, the federal government has threatened to cut funding for universities if its objectives toward diversity, equity and inclusion programs aren’t adhered to. This has left universities with the decision to comply with federal orders or abandon their current programs. The Nexus compared diversity, equity and inclusion statements on UC Santa Barbara department websites before Trump’s inauguration with their current versions to see whether any changes were made, and found that while most have remained the same, some departments have altered their statements.

On President Trump’s inauguration day, he signed roughly 200 executive actions. Among these was an executive order titled “Ending Radical And Wasteful Government DEI Programs And Preferencing,” which aimed to remove diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) programs from the federal government, and marked the beginning of the federal administration’s commitment to cutting back on DEI initiatives. Roughly a month later, a bill was introduced to the House of Representatives to prohibit federal funding for institutions of higher education that had DEI initiatives. The bill was referred to the House Committee on Education and Workforce and has not progressed since.

The University of California is no exception to feeling the loss of federal funds, with the promise of regaining them by following federal orders against DEI initiatives. This has been most publicly shown through the federal administration’s proposed settlement with UC Los Angeles.

The Trump administration offered UCLA a settlement in response to its revocation of 800 research grants, which federal courts have since reinstated. The settlement included a \$1.2 billion fine and several demands, with one of them being that UCLA would

“maintain” a senior administrative role that would review “policies and programs related to those discrimination policies often identified as diversity, equity, and inclusion.”

UCSB has a DEI program, although its website has been under construction since May, according to the Wayback Machine, a tool created by the Internet Archive that contains both manually-archived and automatically-crawled webpages from specific moments. The website redirected users to the main UCSB website for several weeks before that.

Per the Nexus’ comparison of 71 department, program and service websites before and after the date of the 2025 presidential inauguration using the Wayback Machine, around half of the websites analyzed did not appear to display a diversity statement either before or after the inauguration. In almost 75% of the websites that had a diversity statement on their page either before or after the inauguration, the statements have not changed since their corresponding archive dates, meaning they displayed the same diversity statement before and after the inauguration.

Some departments and programs that did not appear to have a diversity statement on their websites before or after the inauguration, however, have many resources, programs, initiatives and other content promoting diversity, equity and inclusion – for example, the websites for Asian American studies, Black studies, Chicana and Chicano studies, feminist studies and the Educational Opportunity Program, among others.

The full spreadsheet analysis can be found below. For consistency, a diversity statement was included in the before-and-after comparison if the statement was explicitly headed by a title including the term “diversity.” Other content – including department mission statements, diversity committee recruitment pages, resource guides and history of department pages – was not considered for this comparison. If there was no diversity statement found, the home page for the department was

used. In some cases, the diversity statement for a department was listed on its homepage.

Roughly nine departments altered their DEI webpages, whether it was to build on existing information or to remove statements from their home page. The Nexus was unable to confirm the reasoning behind most of these changes. Specific departments are not named within the article to avoid further targeting of DEI committees and initiatives.

One department’s website saw several changes to its diversity page. The sentence “We recognize this position of power and privilege and seek to use this responsibly to help upend systemic racism” was removed from its diversity statement. Aside from the diversity statement, the word “privilege” was removed from the sentence “Be aware of the dynamics of power and privilege, and whether you may be taking advantage of it” listed under their community values, and a statement regarding its investment in training “on anti-racism, inclusive classrooms, and supporting LGBTQIA+ students and colleagues” was changed to “on mutual respect, inclusive classrooms, and supporting students and colleagues with different backgrounds and experiences.”

This department’s diversity page also used to include a commitment to “increasing recruitment of under-represented identities in STEM,” and the sentence “Recruitment and support of diverse faculty has begun to produce more gender balance in our faculty, and we must find ways to also recruit and support more faculty who identify as Black, indigenous, and people of color” was removed. Other language changes were made, as well as the removal of information about its DEI committee.

The websites for two academic departments used to include links to faculty within their respective DEI committees, but the information has since been removed. Four departments either removed their DEI statements from their home page or the link to the webpage can no longer be found.

One department removed a statement that said it led the push

for campus guidelines regarding faculty candidates preparing diversity statements. Although unconfirmed, a possible reason for the change may be that the UC stopped requiring faculty applicants to submit statements on how they have or would contribute to campus diversity last March.

Another department added a “History and Guidelines” portion to its diversity page alongside a new mission statement and action plan.

Although not directly under DEI, the Career Services website no longer has information for LGBTQIA+, students of color, undocumented and womxn students under its “Communities” section. Information for students with disabilities and international, transfer, formerly incarcerated and military students remains, with a tab for out-of-state students being added. According to USCB media

spokesperson Kiki Reyes, the changes were because of “ongoing maintenance of the website” due to recent staff turnover.

“Access to career advising by these communities is a top priority of the Career Services staff, Student Affairs, and the campus,” a statement from Student Affairs read. “While the reposting of this content has been delayed, we anticipate these webpages will be updated by the end of the quarter. Again, please rest assured that this marks no change in Career Services’ dedication to the career development and success of our students and the department’s preparation and dedication in serving all students, inclusive of their identities, backgrounds, and experiences.”

The Nexus did not receive a response regarding other department website changes at the time of this article’s publication.



KRITHI SARAVANAN & SIDDHARTH CHATTORAJ / DAILY NEXUS

The Wayback Machine was used to retrieve older versions of department, graduate program and service websites. Each archived page has a date and time stamp, indicating when its contents were archived. The archive date is the most recent date prior to the 2025 presidential inauguration when the page was crawled by the Wayback Machine. An entry of “N/A” in the “Change to statement?” column indicates that there was no statement seen before or after the 2025 presidential inauguration, or there was no page available on the Wayback Machine before the 2025 inauguration. A change to a statement does not necessarily indicate that the statement was removed.

A note from the Daily Nexus DEI team

Kaavya Saini
DEI Chair
Samantha Dillon
DEI Chair

The Daily Nexus’ DEI team remains committed to the principles of diversity, equity and inclusion not as buzzwords, but as essential values guiding our work and the work of any publication. In the wake of attacks from the Trump administration targeting diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) initiatives, we recognize the fear many may feel in publicly associating with these values, and we want to underscore that these principles are foundational to a just and thriving community.

While the administration has framed the push against DEI as a call for “merit-based” policies, the

demonization of these programs directly contradicts that rationale. DEI exists to counter political and social forces that seek to reverse progress toward a more just and inclusive society. DEI is about equity, not simply equality. While equality assumes everyone is privileged enough to start from the same place, equity acknowledges the reality that our country’s history of systemic injustices have set certain groups back. Through this understanding, our commitment to DEI is not just an effort for equality but instead a conscious effort to confront the historical barriers that have made fair representation across media coverage inaccessible.

We also recognize that many organizations have had to adopt workarounds, using alternative

terminology or avoiding explicit DEI language, due to very real risks of political or financial backlash – ranging from the freezing of federally-funded research initiatives to media scapegoating. Still, we believe it is crucial to stay true to our ideals: diversity values the richness of human difference, equity ensures fair access and opportunity and inclusion creates belonging where all voices matter. To uphold DEI is to affirm that collective progress depends not on sameness, but on the full empowerment of every kind of mind, background and experience. At the Nexus, this extends beyond uplifting the underrepresented stories of our community. Our work is also about honoring how intersectionality, historical injustice and systemic discrimination have

shaped the ways our student body navigates their lives and the media they consume. We aim to honor this by holding our paper to the standard of publishing about our community with accurate and truthful language. As an independent, student-run publication serving the communities of UC Santa Barbara and Isla Vista at large, the Daily Nexus is in a unique position to do just that.

Our DEI team will continue to use and defend the language of diversity, equity and inclusion in our reporting, analysis and editorial work. Each year, we pursue numerous team projects with our DEI initiatives in mind to make our commitment to these principles tangible. Beyond external projects like our annual Demographic Report and DEI Report published each fall quarter,

as well as the Nexus’ Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (I.C.E.) Sighting Tracker, we are focused on internal growth as well. The DEI and editorial teams have developed several comprehensive resources to ensure both accountability and transparency, including a DEI Archive covering reporting on sensitive topics ranging from disability to campus activism, a specialized dictionary of terms and conflict of interest forms for editorial staff members. These internal resources seek to help our staff navigate bias, language and ethics with more cohesion and clarity. Upholding these values is not only a reflection of who we are, but a necessary act of resistance against efforts to undermine a fair and inclusive society.

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805 UndocuFund supports immigrant communities facing crises

Wynne Bendell
University News Editor
Iris Guo
Community Outreach Editor

805 UndocuFund is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting undocumented communities in the 805 area code, which covers Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo and Ventura counties. The organization offers financial assistance to undocumented immigrants and mixed-status families, and has responded to Immigration and Customs Enforcement sightings since President Donald Trump took office in January.

In December 2017, the Thomas Fire and Montecito Mudslides caused thousands of Santa Barbara and Ventura County residents to lose their homes and jobs. State and federal disaster aid was inaccessible to undocumented residents — around 10% of the population of these counties at the time. 805 UndocuFund was founded in January 2018 in response, and has since raised and donated millions of dollars for undocumented victims.

Since then, the organization has continued to focus on financial support for undocumented communities, but they have also evolved to form a rapid response network that focuses on urgently informing communities of immigration enforcement actions.

According to Joseph Dobzynski, an 805 UndocuFund rapid response organizer for southern Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties, the organization focuses on three pillars — rapid response, community outreach and mutual aid — to address crises faced by undocumented communities. He said this includes natural disasters and “man-made disasters like being separated by [Immigration and Customs Enforcement] or dealing with COVID infections.”

In January, the organization took over a rapid response line, which responds to reports of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (I.C.E.) activity, serving as an alert service.

“Our organization has evolved to try to prevent the crisis from happening in the first place through all legal means possible,” Dobzynski said. “So mostly through our First Amendment and California state rights, we are now monitoring I.C.E. activity and reporting on that in all legal ways.”

Since Trump took office in January for his second term, I.C.E. has deported 200,000 undocumented immigrants, according to CNN’s most recent counts. At the Axios Future of Defense Summit on Oct. 22, Trump’s border czar Tom Homan said I.C.E. expects to deport over 600,000 undocumented immigrants by the end of 2025.

In response to the uptick in I.C.E. raids, the Daily Nexus created an I.C.E. Sighting Tracker, which has currently tracked 27 confirmed sightings as of Nov. 4 in Goleta and Santa Barbara.

The steep spike in deportations is due to Trump’s One Big Beautiful Bill Act’s unprecedented budget increases for immigration services. The bill’s budget allocated \$299 billion toward I.C.E. enforcement, tripling its annual budget. Additionally, over the next three years, the immigration detention budget will increase by \$45 billion, a 265% increase from its previous budget.

Dobzynski highlighted that previous presidential administrations, both Democratic and Republican, have directed mass deportations of undocumented immigrants, but stressed that Trump has “gone well above and beyond what any previous administration has done.”

“They have kind of shredded the Constitution when it comes to the rights that immigrants should have. They do not follow the law,” Dobzynski said.

There have been several incidents since Trump took office of I.C.E. agents detaining United States citizens, which Dobzynski said is causing “less and less of a line between citizen and noncitizen” for I.C.E. enforcement. According to ProPublica, over 170 U.S. citizens have been detained by I.C.E. since Trump’s term began in January.

“There’s been a serious uptick in

citizens being detained by I.C.E. and being put through processing to the point where they end up spending days to weeks in jail waiting to just prove that they’re a citizen all in violation of due process rights,” Dobzynski said.

805 UndocuFund volunteers often deal with I.C.E. raids that they learn about through their rapid response network.

“We show up, and if we can prevent an abduction through checking rights and making sure that everything’s being followed correctly, that’s our goal,” Dobzynski said. “If not, we’re there to document what’s happening so that we have evidence later on to show that someone was or was not — especially I.C.E. — following the rules, and if they weren’t, exactly how they were not.”

One particular event that Dobzynski responded to was the I.C.E. raid at Glass House Farms in Oxnard, which he described as the one that impacted him the most. At the raid, I.C.E. arrested 361 people, and one worker died after falling from a greenhouse roof.

“Watching the folks that didn’t get picked up by the feds, running for their lives out of the glass house, trying to get to their cars to go away,” Dobzynski said. “In that moment, I realized what it must be like ... to be someone who didn’t speak the language well, didn’t really know what was going on when things happened and just being fearful about what they had to do just to survive.”

The next day, after standing in the sun for hours directing traffic as farmworkers came back for their abandoned cars, a stranger pulled their car up next to him and handed him an ice cold bottle of water and simply said, “Thank you.”

“I actually went home and cried after that because they were so grateful that there are people out there helping them against an enemy that’s so well armed and given carte blanche to do basically whatever they want with these families. And it also made me realize that we can win as long as

we stick together,” Dobzynski said.

While most of the local community has been supportive of their efforts, Dobzynski said 805 UndocuFund has faced some pushback as some organizers have been harassed and counter protests have formed during their rallies.

According to Dobzynski, larger opposition has come from law enforcement who often side with I.C.E. in conflicts with the community. He said that, when 805 UndocuFund organizers follow I.C.E. vehicles, police officers will pull them over, causing the organizers to lose sight of the I.C.E. vehicle.

The organization’s second pillar, community outreach, involves connecting with immigrant communities for educational, informational and organizational purposes. According to Dobzynski, volunteers also work in advocacy in public forums, including city council and county board meetings.

805 UndocuFund’s last pillar, mutual aid, involves food, clothing and shoe drives, as well as various

funds that individuals can apply for to receive financial assistance. These funds include a COVID-19 relief fund, natural disaster funds and an I.C.E. separation fund.

“Our main source of support right now directly is a \$1,000 check per family that’s been affected by I.C.E. separation,” Dobzynski said. “The families call our hotline, and we verify that they have someone within the I.C.E. system that has been affected.”

The funds that 805 UndocuFund distributes come from donors, which include city and county funds, community fundraisers and private donations. Dobzynski said that the best way for community members to support the organization is through donations.

“The easy way is money, but I know college students don’t generally have a lot of money to spare, especially with tuition and fees rising all the time,” Dobzynski said. “The best thing that students can do is to stay informed on what’s going on in the migrant [and] immigrant communities.”



The organization offers financial assistance to undocumented immigrant and mixed-status families who have been separated from family members in I.C.E. deportations.

Campus contends with budget reductions

Michelle Cisneros
Lead News Editor
Jack Dindia
Lead News Editor

In March, former Chancellor Henry T. Yang announced that UC Santa Barbara departments would be seeking permanent budget reductions. Since then, several cuts have become apparent on campus, although the full effects of the reductions remain to be seen.

According to the announcement, 10-12.95% reductions from the previous year would be proposed across University units and departments due to state and federal budget cuts, alongside rising operational costs. Yang mentioned that these are longstanding circumstances, since all University of California (UC) campuses have been “working to ensure long-term financial stability to address budgetary challenges” since the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We have taken a number of prudent, short-term actions as part of a multi-year plan to minimize the impact to divisions, departments, and services,” Yang said in the announcement.

The Nexus asked nearly all academic departments and several units for student resources about how budget cuts were affecting them. Based on the information the Nexus gathered, some academic departments are still unsure of how they will be affected. Departments that rely on direct federal funding for research have dealt with the unpredictability of federal grants for several months. Regarding student services, several programs are reducing their budgets while aiming to preserve resources.

A department chair who wished to remain anonymous said that faculty and staff are “anxious” about the cuts. According to the chair, it is generally unknown when or how these cuts will affect specific departments at this time.

“There are a lot of uncertainties as to how severe the impact will be, ranging from impacts on student services to lecturer layoffs and cuts in TA positions for incoming grad students,” the department chair shared with the Nexus.

Lisa Blanco, business officer for the sociology department, said that “there’s been a [budget] pinch on campus for a really pretty long time.” Since sociology enrollment is fairly high, it has access to more resources compared to smaller departments.

Blanco said that, in anticipation of

these cuts, the department hired four new faculty members. She said that funding cuts to academic departments may lead to less faculty in specialized areas and larger class sizes, although at this time the tangible effects remain uncertain.

“Campus wise, you’re going to have less faculty in these specialized areas, and students won’t be able to take as many classes that are unique, kind of nuanced. It’ll be more just the ones that get you the requirements and get you through and things like that,” Blanco, who graduated from the University in 1999 and has been working at UCSB since, said.

In March, former UC President Michael V. Drake announced a hiring freeze in light of federal and state budget cuts.

Blanco also pointed toward the loss of research grants and how that may decrease internship opportunities for students. In terms of how tighter budgets affect faculty and staff, Blanco said training and professional development could be impacted.

“Staff success is tied and linked with student success,” Blanco said. “When students have the support of different counselors and different advisors and all these different team players from the person who serves your meal in the dorm to your groundskeeper to the person who processes your meal to the person who processes your degree, you want all of that to be running smoothly.”

According to Noozhawk, the University reduced custodial and groundskeeping services. Daily litter pickups were decreased to three times a week, but the service changes did not cause hour reductions for employees or terminations.

Piyusha Lotlikar, a doctoral candidate in organic chemistry at the Max Wilson Research Lab, focuses on treating diseases such as heart attacks and strokes with ruthenium-based compounds. She considers the United States to be a “research powerhouse” and said she was “shocked” by the cuts to federal research funding. She said that in order to cure cancer, research in all kinds of drug development is crucial.

“I think there’s a lot of speculation about what these silly scientists do in their labs every day on these seemingly silly sounding projects. But if you zoom out, I think there’s an application for almost every single one of those,” Lotlikar said.

While Lotlikar wasn’t able to provide specifics on the federal funding cuts, she said the “vast majority” of researchers and labs she

knows are getting “a lot more scared to spend money” and do large-scale research.

Lotlikar said for her own projects, they’ve started taking measures to minimize costs. For example, when her lab purifies compounds, they collect pure material in test tubes, which she says are “pretty cheap” but are now being reused more often. She said this causes extra time and stress when having to clean the test tubes, which she equates to doing “an extra two hours of dish washing” every week.

“For the first time ever in my PhD, I started getting more and more questions about like, ‘Well, how much will this cost? What’s the cost estimate on this?’ Whereas before, we were

SARAH CAULDER / DAILY NEXUS



kind of able to innovate more freely, and it was easier to get things done,” Lotlikar said.

Lotlikar said she’s known many international students who were unable to finish the projects they came to UCSB to do and therefore have left the country. She says she is “hopeful” that these budget cuts will serve as a “wake-up call” for people to realize that doctoral students are valuable members of the U.S. workforce.

“Putting our jobs at risk is really detrimental to the overall functioning of the University, especially on the teaching end. If students aren’t able to be employed as TAs for some amount of time, it puts a strain on the teaching resources of the University, which have also come under fire recently with some budget cuts,” Lotlikar said.

Lotlikar said there’s a lot of “uncertainty” regarding whether the funds will be released back to departments. While the Max Wilson Lab collected its annual disbursement and therefore can continue to work, she’s unsure whether this will continue next year. While she never planned to work in academia, she’s seen many of her colleagues struggling to find jobs post-graduation and are considering returning a postdoc, which she

describes as a “not very viable option right now.”

“One of the fallback plans for people that wanted to go into the industry but couldn’t get a job immediately was to do a postdoc, and that option just does not seem very viable right now, which then does make me nervous, because if I’m unable to find a job anywhere in the U.S., then I would go look for postdoc, and that will inevitably be more competitive,” Lotlikar said.

Lotlikar hopes to see the University show more support for graduate students who find themselves without proper funding. She emphasized the importance of graduate students to ensure future generations are “academically competent” and have a quality education, which she says

facing these challenges head-on while staying true to our mission and our commitment to our programs, our staff, and especially our students’ success and well-being,” Burke said in a statement to the Nexus. “We’re working hard to limit disruptions, but some changes to services may be unavoidable.”

The Nexus has been reporting on budget reductions since the summer, with the first instance being when the physical therapy department closed in August. At the time, UCSB media spokesperson Kiki Reyes said that Student Health reviewed its services and determined local providers could provide those services.

In early September, the UCSB Library announced it would no longer be open 24/7, and would be closed from 1-8 a.m., as well as on University holidays due to the permanent budget reductions. Since then, the hours have been extended and other 24/7 spaces were introduced.

According to the UCSB Library’s announcement, administration and library leadership conducted a comprehensive analysis of its collections, programs and services to preserve library resources that are “most used by and most useful to the campus community.”

While many budgetary issues come from internally and at the federal level, many programs are being directly defunded at the federal level. The Department of Education ended discretionary funding for several grant programs within Minority-Serving Institutions, including Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSI) such as UCSB. UCSB was designated as a HSI in 2015, as it’s a non-profit campus with a full-time Hispanic undergraduate population of at least 25%.

At the time, Hispanic-Serving Institution Director Veronica Fematt said the elimination of these grants will primarily affect two HSI programs: Academy for Community-, Action-, and Use-Inspired Scholarship and Education (A-CAUSE) and Educational eXcellence and Inclusion Training Opportunities (EXITO).

UCSB’s CalFresh outreach program, which helps students apply for food assistance through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (S.N.A.P.), is facing a \$178,219 budget cut for 2026, which is an approximate 60% reduction from their expected amount of \$297,275.

Further budget cuts remain to be seen; the Nexus will continue to report on this topic as more information becomes available.

Senate passes \$20,000 in funding toward Library Late Night Study, proposes S.N.A.P. alternatives



Senate votes to pass \$20,000 in funding to expand Library Late Night Study hours.

Wynne Bendell
University News Editor

The 76th Associated Students Senate passed \$20,000 in funding to partially reinstate the UC Santa Barbara Library’s Late Night Study hours at its Oct. 29 meeting. The Senate also discussed additional programs for students losing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits for November (S.N.A.P.).

In September, the UCSB Library cut its hours of operation from being open 24/7 to closing from 1-8 a.m. This was the result of budget reductions due to state and federal budget cuts and rising operational costs across the University of California system.

After over a month of negotiations between Associated Students (A.S.) senators and executives with University departments, the library will open at 7 a.m. every day of the week, and Late Night Study hours have been extended from 1-3 a.m. from Sunday to Thursday.

During the meeting, the Senate approved the Memorandum of Understanding that extended library hours and allocated \$20,000 from the A.S. Senate Unallocated Fund to partially pay for the costs of operation.

Following this, A.S. President and fourth-year global studies, communication and Spanish triple major Le Anh Metzger announced she is working on plans to address student food insecurity as it is uncertain if S.N.A.P. benefits will be distributed in November.

While President Donald Trump says he will withhold S.N.A.P. benefits until the government shutdown ends, he has the legal power to pay the benefits during the shutdown. Karoline Leavitt said the White House will comply with the orders to distribute the benefits, however this compliance remains uncertain.

According to Metzger, over 5,400 UCSB students receive S.N.A.P. benefits monthly and “there is not the money to provide them all with \$300, but we can at least do something to address the issue in the interim,” Metzger said.

Metzger said she is working with the Basic Needs office to come up with ways to provide food for students, including conversations with local restaurants to potentially offer students free meals if they show their S.N.A.P. Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card. In

Ezra Klein talks ‘failures’ of the Democratic party, proposes strategies to take back power



Klein partly attributed the current state of the Democratic Party to digital politics for failing to teach how to engage in disagreement.

Wynne Bendell
University News Editor
Levi Kauffman
Staff Writer

Liberal political commentator, journalist and author Ezra Klein spoke at the Arlington Theatre on Nov. 4 to a crowd of over 2,000 UC Santa Barbara students and community members. Klein spoke about his thoughts on how the Democratic Party should oppose the Trump administration.

The night began with Klein walking on stage and saying, “Happy election night, y’all.”

Throughout the night, Klein expressed many criticisms of the current Democratic Party, particularly their loss of power in rural America as, according to him, the “Democratic map [has] shrunk.” He highlighted that since 2000, two Democratic presidential candidates have lost because of the electoral college and not the popular vote.

“Liberalism’s problem right now is that it does not compete in enough places. And I use places very specifically in American politics. Power is a function of place. Power is apportioned by geography,” Klein said.

Klein then spoke to California’s Proposition 50, which will redistrict California’s congressional map to increase Democratic strongholds in response to Republican gerrymandering efforts in Texas. As Prop 50 passed that night, Klein acknowledged the need for the proposition to fight the Trump administration, but he ultimately condemned the undemocratic nature of gerrymandering legislation.

“Here in California, there’s a ballot initiative to sort of counter gerrymandering to Texas, and the fact that this has to be done at all is an embarrassment to our nation,” Klein said. “But that’ll probably pass. And hopefully we will sort of see a back and forth that eventually makes this country want to write, create its districts in a fair way all across the land, not just occasionally.”

Klein stressed that the “nationalization of media” has completely changed the way people interact with and form their political beliefs. He said that Americans no longer look to their local media outlets for political opinions, highlighting the New York Times being the biggest newspaper by subscriptions in California.

Additionally, Klein expressed his

how he believes Democrats can overcome this challenge by broadening what the party stands for and opening up to internal debate.

“There’s been this big debate in the Democratic Party about does it need to moderate or does it need to become more economically populist or be more abundance-oriented,” Klein said. “But I think that’s actually the first thing it needs to do. It needs to be all of those things and more. And that requires actually finding energy again in the habits of being a citizen again.”

Continuing his argument, Klein explained that by adhering to the principle of liberality, or an “ethic of generosity towards your fellow citizens,” liberals could bridge the gap with rural voters they had lost. He added that rural voters also may have left the Democratic Party because the party failed to protect their economic interests.

“In the places liberals govern, life became unaffordable for the people we say we are governing on behalf of,” Klein said. “You cannot say you are the party of the working class if you neither win the working class in elections, nor are able to keep them in the states where you govern them.”

Klein said Democrats’ failures to keep life affordable for rural voters stemmed from bureaucratic gridlock. He highlighted that many projects funded by bills passed under the Biden administration have fallen behind schedule, leaving rural voters without the infrastructure Democrats promised them.

“If you are [of] the philosophy that says ‘government can help you, it can make your life better,’ and then you can’t seem to deliver for people, they will lose faith in you,” Klein said. “If you cannot deliver at the speed the public can feel what you have done for them, then people will not know who to thank.”

Klein continued, saying that Democrats need to see the speed at which they can implement the legislation they pass as a “progressive value.” He criticized the party for “defending institutions” rather than “making them work.”

“When you become the party that defends the institutions, you begin to lose the loyalty, you begin to lose the trust of people for whom the institutions are not working for them,” Klein said. “It is dangerous in a populous age to be the party of the institutions.”

Klein then summarized what he had discussed, stating that he thought that efficiency and productivity was all “common sense” and that liberals should do what they say they will.

“[The Democratic Party] should be the party that it says it is, which is the party that believes that government can work because it is the party that makes government work,” Klein said.

Klein concluded his talk by criticizing the Trump administration and again outlining the way forward for liberals.

“Right now the Trump administration is just bluntly fucking up left and right,” Klein said. “But all of that is political opportunity and its opportunity for a party, for a movement, for a philosophy that is able to represent many kinds of people.”

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BRYCE HUTCHINS / DAILY NEXUS

Library holds Día de los Muertos ofrenda presentation

Kyla Chambers
Reporter

The UC Santa Barbara Library presented a display of ofrendas, traditional altars set up to honor the deceased, created by students and staff on Oct. 29. The event was hosted in celebration of Día de los Muertos, a November holiday celebrated across Mexico and other Latin American countries.

Roughly one week before the event, the Museum of Contemporary Art Santa Barbara canceled its Día de los Muertos celebrations due to fears of Immigration and Customs Enforcement raids. According to Noozhawk, other local organizations maintained their scheduled events, as well as several UCSB organizations.

The presentation was hosted by UCSB Library staff and consisted of 10 altars created at two prior workshops held in the

library’s Makerspace. During these workshops, participants were encouraged to bring photos of loved ones and other items for the altars. Around 20 guests were present, including some who had participated in the altar-making workshops.

Angel Diaz, a UCSB Library curator and subject librarian for Chicana/o studies, began the event by presenting information about Día de los Muertos. She explained the traditional significance of various aspects of the ofrenda display and described different traditions associated with Día de los Muertos.

Diaz organized a similar event in 2023 with UCSB’s Las Maestras Center, creating an ofrenda workshop inspired by Self Help Graphics & Art’s archive, as well as Chicana/o organizations such as Galería de la Raza in San Francisco. Diaz said she organizes Día de los Muertos ofrenda displays to

celebrate her Chicana heritage and to provide a celebration for UCSB students.

“Culturally for me it’s something that I identify with. Although I didn’t grow up making ofrendas in this way, it’s something that I’ve learned a lot about growing up and in school, and I just think it’s a beautiful tradition,” Diaz said.

Angela Retamoza, a financial coordinator at the Art, Design & Architecture Museum at UCSB, said that although she also did not grow up making ofrendas, it has become a tradition she embraces every year. Her altar displayed pictures of her late father, along with representations of his favorite foods and logos of his favorite baseball team, the Los Angeles Dodgers.

“My dad was so proud of being Mexican, I just know he’d love being part of something like this,” Retamoza said. “I thought of him while I put

every piece on”.

Valentina Chavez, a UCSB alum who works as a special collections assistant at the UCSB Library, created two altars. One honored the late David Lynch after the

filmmaker’s passing earlier this year, and the other honored Chavez’s two grandmothers, who she said were close friends.

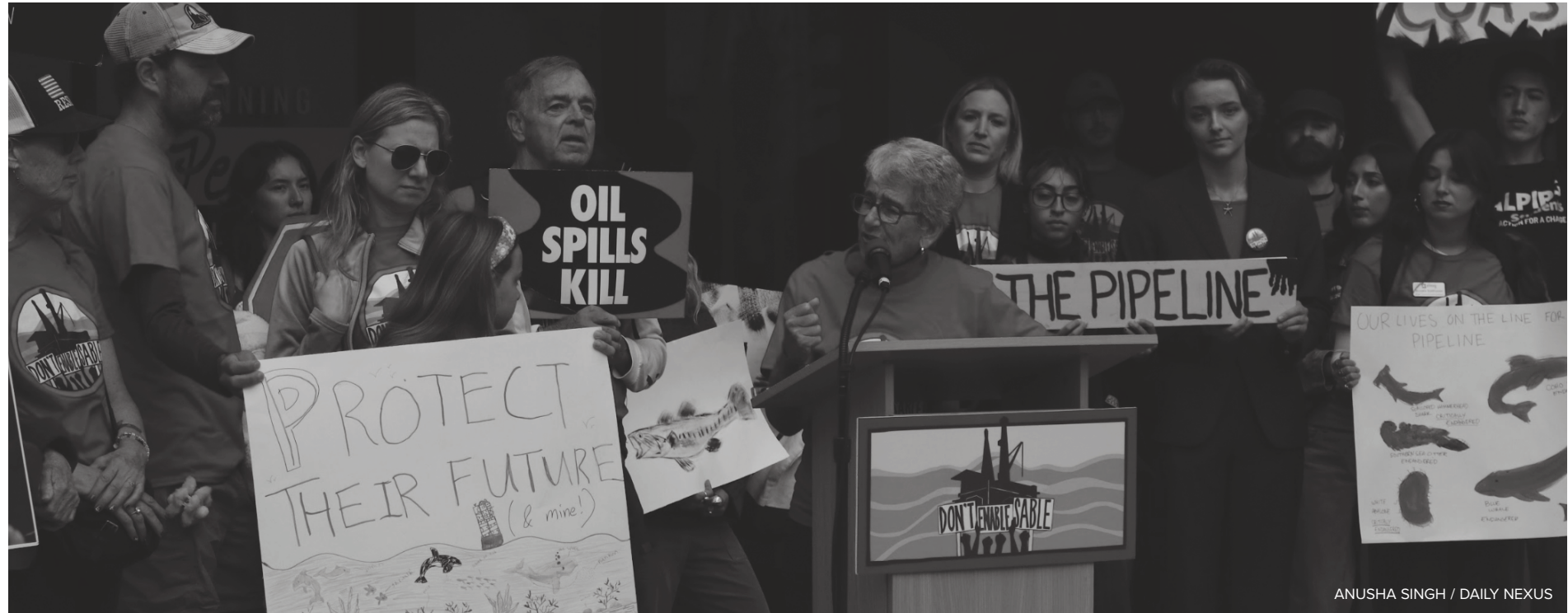
“I included them together, thinking they could be with one another again,” Chavez said.



BRYCE HUTCHINS / DAILY NEXUS

Ofrendas are traditional altars set up to honor the deceased during Día de los Muertos, a November holiday celebrated across Mexico and other Latin American countries.

Board of Supervisors denies permit transfer to Sable



ANUSHA SINGH / DAILY NEXUS

The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors denied transfers of county permits for the Las Flores Pipeline from ExxonMobil to Sable Offshore in a 4-1 vote.

Jack Dindia
Lead News Editor
Iris Guo
Community Outreach Editor

The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors denied the transfer of county permits for the Las Flores Pipeline from ExxonMobil to Sable Offshore in a 4-1 vote on Nov. 4.

In February, the Board of Supervisors deadlocked on the transfer of county permits in a 2-2 vote. No action was taken at that time to approve or deny the transfer, after Third District Supervisor Joan Hartmann recused herself since the pipeline runs near her property. Hartmann gained clearance from the California Fair Political Practices Commission to vote at this meeting.

The Santa Barbara County (SBC) Board of Supervisors discussed the transfer during the meeting, with Supervisors Laura Capps, Steve Lavagnino, Roy Lee and Hartmann voting to continue the item and prepare for the rejection of the permit transfer.

Prior to the hearing, members of the Environmental Defense Center (EDC), Santa Barbara Channelkeeper and UC Santa Barbara Stop Sable held a rally during which various speakers delivered speeches on the importance of the hearing and why the supervisors should not approve the permit.

Tara Rengifo, a senior attorney at the EDC, cited the legal trouble that Sable is currently in as a reason why the permit should not be transferred. In September, the SBC District Attorney’s Office charged Sable with 21 criminal charges, which included five felony counts. Additionally, the California Attorney General’s (AG) Office filed a lawsuit in October against Sable for violations during pipeline repair work

and pollution of waterways.

“The AG describes Sable as having placed profits over environmental protection and calls its management misinformed, incompetent and incorrect at best,” Rengifo said. “Why should our county think Sable would act any differently here?”

Paasha Mahdavi, an associate professor in UCSB’s Department of Political Science, emphasized that his research shows that Sable’s operations will not lower gasoline prices, a reason that proponents have cited as a positive aspect of the company’s operations.

The rally concluded with a speech from Hannah-Beth Jackson, a former member of the California State Senate who served from 2012 to 2020. Jackson argued that Sable is a “scofflaw” that has been “following the Donald Trump playbook of ignoring the law.”

Following the rally, attendees entered the County Administration Building, where the hearing took place. The board hearing room was at capacity, filled with Sable employees and community members in opposition to Sable, many of whom were dressed in red to show solidarity in opposition to restarting the pipeline.

Once the hearing began, the supervisors introduced the permit transfer request and heard from representatives from Sable, ExxonMobil, the EDC and the Center for Biological Diversity.

During public comment, 96 individuals — including some UCSB students — spoke about their opinions on the matter and why they were either in opposition to or in favor of the transfer of permits.

Third-year environmental studies major Lila Werland said they oppose the restart of the pipeline because of Sable’s “consistent disregard” for due process in restarting the pipeline. She mentioned that community members are worried about how “oil companies

aren’t held responsible for cleaning up properly,” and cited the 2015 Refugio oil spill — which resulted in over 100,000 gallons of oil spilling into the ocean — as an example.

The Director of UCSB Coal Oil Point Reserve on the Goleta Coast, Christina Sandoval, discussed her role in educating the public on the preservation of the coastline. She spoke on the effects that the 2015 Refugio oil spill had on the wildlife, and claimed Sable isn’t paying “sufficiently for the damages they cause.”

“I do not support the renewal of the oil exploration on our coast based on this recent history of negligence and this regard for the environment, and because the direction we need it to go is renewable energy,” Sandoval said.

Second-year economics and environmental studies double major Sneha Namboodiri said that she believes Sable “threatens” the future of her health and safety and that oil spills bring a “devastating toll” to the environment.

Fifth-year environmental studies and communication double major and Associated Students Environmental Affairs Board co-chair and Stop Sable co-founder Jenna McGovern urged the supervisors to halt the transfer of permits to Sable.

“This utter disregard and disrespect is just a glimpse into what our future would look like if Sable takes over,” McGovern said. “The County’s decision today will mark whether we’re going to progress as a community or destroy our own home.”

Santa Barbara resident Mike Caldwell showed support for Sable, saying that he has been working with Sable for the last two years, helping with repairs. He said he believes there’s “no question whatsoever” they’d be able to operate the pipeline.

“I’ve been in the business myself for 40 years now. I’ve worked with a lot of



ANUSHA SINGH / DAILY NEXUS

Prior to the hearing, at 8 a.m., members of the EDC, Santa Barbara Channelkeeper and UCSB Stop Sable held a rally.

different companies, but we strongly believe they’re capable of running the facility. Without a doubt, we’re in favor of them doing the work,” Caldwell said.

Santa Barbara resident and Sable employee Pascual Morales has worked on the Santa Ynez Unit and urged the county not to divide Sable employees from Santa Barbara.

“Let Santa Barbara be known as a place where we’ve learned from the past, where we’ve taken every precaution since 2015 and shown our mistakes don’t define us, how we learn from them does,” Morales said.

During deliberations from the board, Fifth District Supervisor Lavagnino, who originally voted for the transfer in February, said he could no longer support the transfer since he couldn’t agree that “Sable has the skills, training and resources to operate the facility in compliance with the permit and all applicable county codes.”

Hartmann also voted against Sable, as she was concerned about whether the company has the proper resources for any potential oil spills. She emphasized the county’s duty to

protect local resources and suggested hiring consultants to analyze the insurance policies if a spill were to occur.

Fourth District Supervisor Bob Nelson was the only supervisor to vote in favor of transferring the permits. He said that ongoing prosecutions from the Santa Barbara District Attorney’s Office don’t “hold right” with him, acknowledging that SBC has, also made environmental mistakes, such as sewage spills. Nelson went on to describe the meeting as “political theater” due to discussing Sable in “bad faith.”

“It’s interesting how some will pick and choose their outrage. I feel bad for the public and my colleagues. The public has been led to believe this denial today will somehow stop the restart,” Nelson said. “I believe it will not.”

Following deliberations, the board will continue to discuss the topic until Dec. 16, when county staff will draft a rejection of the permit transfer. They then voted on the motion, which was approved in a 4-1 vote.

IVTU offers resources for student tenants in I.V.



Jack Dindia
Lead News Editor

Given the ongoing housing crisis at UC Santa Barbara and Isla Vista, many students begin looking for next year’s lease during fall quarter, often being first-time renters. The Isla Vista Tenants Union provides housing-related services, such as educating tenants on their rights and acting as a liaison when housing issues arise, to students who are Isla Vista residents.

Many I.V. residents deal with various housing issues, including mold, bluff safety and legal disputes.

Fourth-year sociology major and Chair of the Isla Vista Tenants Union (IVTU) Makeila Wilson said the IVTU began about 40 years ago as an advocacy group, until it was eventually absorbed by Associated Students (A.S.).

The services that the IVTU provides includes comparing off-campus housing options, their 23 “Tenant Associations” across several social media platforms, helping students reach out to the Legal Resource Center (LRC) and working with other organizations to help fulfill students’ financial housing needs.

According to the IVTU Guide for First-Time Tenants, the average age of an I.V. resident is about 20.6 years old. In addition, the roughly 1.85 square-mile town houses about 20,000 residents, creating a high population density. This manifests itself in crowded living situations.

Per previous Nexus reporting, the cost of renting a two-bedroom apartment increased by approximately 34% from 2015 to 2021. In 2022, the median cost of rent in Isla Vista for two-bedroom units of any housing type was higher than for any other locality in Santa Barbara.

Students can directly ask the

IVTU housing-related questions via its website, and receive answers within three to five business days. Wilson said that she receives many questions regarding how to break a lease, whether it be for roommate disputes or other extenuating circumstances.

“The apartments in Isla Vista are pretty old. They’re not well-maintained, and I just remind them that this is what you can do. You are within your right to hold rent if it gets pretty bad, or ask for compensation if you don’t have hot water or your [air conditioner] or your heaters are not working,” Wilson said.

The average home in Isla Vista was built in 1973, according to Best Neighborhood, a website that collects residential data.

In order to avoid interpersonal conflict, Wilson recommended tenants have “honest conversations” with their roommates in order to avoid building resentment, which can lead to a “toxic household.” She also personally advised against moving in with one’s significant other to have your own “personal, intense space.”

Last year, the IVTU purchased and provided \$5,000 worth of mold kits to I.V. residents, and will continue to distribute them when the rainy season begins in January. According to Wilson, the IVTU also provides a \$6,000 grant to the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP), which allows students to receive money if they have any pressing housing issues such as an eviction notice, overdraft, unemployment or other circumstances.

Wilson said the IVTU has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the A.S. Finance and Business Committee to allow shared funds to be used for housing-related projects that align with the IVTU’s mission.

“If they have any housing-related projects that they wanted to work on, they could ask us, and we have to mutually agree to use that money,” Wilson said. “But I think it works fine. They pretty much love all the ideas and how we use our money.”

“**In 2022, the median cost of rent in Isla Vista for two-bedroom units of any housing type was higher than for any other locality in Santa Barbara.**”

As far as any legal disputes, Wilson clarified that the IVTU tries not to give any legal counseling, but rather advises residents in the right direction. IVTU’s Legal Chair and fourth-year political science major Evan Floisand said they also provide templates for tenants to use when reaching out to landlords.

Floisand said the IVTU is working on a service to compile information on leasing companies in I.V., including the dates their applications open and what services different companies offer. He said this resource will hopefully be available sometime this fall.

Wilson advises tenants dealing with housing issues to consult

the A.S. LRC, which provides students with free legal counseling. The LRC provides students with information, referrals or anything that “can assist you in identifying and resolving your legal problems.”

Wilson also spoke on the IVTU’s “Drinking Water Quality Report,” which was a collaboration with Engineers Without Borders (EWB), which compiled 20 drinking water tests collected in Goleta and I.V. in July and will be public sometime soon. The results were compared to California Title 22, which establishes standards for health and social services, including water quality.

In this report, they found that across 20 household drinking water samples, none of the parameters exceeded California’s primary health-based maximum contaminant level (MCL). The main issues observed were that several samples had elevated heterotrophic plate counts, indicating a higher bacteria presence, and a handful exceeded secondary recommended levels for total dissolved solids. While the water has “ascetic, taste, and odor problems,” the findings indicate “no acute safety concerns” at the time of the sampling.

As far as certain conditions first-time renters should avoid in I.V., Wilson advises tenants to avoid living in conditions such as overcrowded apartments or garages. As a solution, Wilson believes that the University building more residence halls will provide more students with adequate living conditions.

“I obviously would avoid [these conditions], just because I think your home is your safe space, and you should have a space to come home and relax. I acknowledge that that’s not everyone can get, and that’s unfortunate,” Wilson said.

The San Benito Student Housing project will add 2,224 beds and is scheduled for completion by fall 2027. The University also plans to add housing for 1,275 students on the east side of campus as part of Phase Two of its housing project.

The IVTU is also collaborating with Isla Vista Community Services District (IVCSD) to build a bench in memory of victims who have fallen from the Del Playa Drive bluffs, with the intention of bringing awareness to bluff safety.

“So just kind of supporting [bluff safety], and showing that we know it’s dangerous, and raising awareness for that,” Wilson said. “There’s nothing really to commemorate [the victims], which I think is pretty sad, just because they were students just like us, and they were victims of the unsafety of the cliffs.”

Wilson advises students to “stay positive” when struggling with housing issues and urges students to advocate for their housing needs.

“I really want students to get involved and tell us what [the IVTU] should be doing,” Wilson said “So I encourage them to just reach out and whatever they need, just let us know, and we’ll see if we can make it happen.”

Michelle Cisneros contributed reporting to this article.

See our video interview with an Isla Vista tenant below



The rental inspection program is a recent housing initiative that aims to address substandard housing conditions in Isla Vista by conducting proactive unit inspections.

Letter from the Artsweek Editor: Stop defunding the arts

Stella Mullin
Artsweek Editor

My dad owns too many guitars. I am lucky enough to say that I grew up in a house where weekends were not for sleeping in, but far from it. My Saturday mornings were filled with pop music wafting in from outside, where my mom was practicing her dance routine, and the methodic strumming of my dad playing yet another Wilco song. During the COVID-19 pandemic, when I had far too much time on my hands, I picked up the guitar. It was short lived, but I still proudly say I know “G, C, D.”

While my career as a musician was not promising, my future as a writer was solidified in third grade. For the past 10+ years, books have been my best friends. There was a time when I was the kid who sat in a corner during recess, happily content with my nose between the pages. That 8-year-old girl would be terrified to learn what the future of the arts looks like now.

On Feb. 10, 2025, President Donald Trump appointed himself board chair of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts – a surprising move given that, during his first term, he refused to attend the annual Kennedy Center Honors ceremonies. Additionally, historically, presidents have had little direct involvement with the center since it opened in 1971. The Kennedy Center is a national performing arts institution in Washington, D.C. that puts on performances in ballet, theater, opera, dance and orchestra. As a result of Trump’s interference, the Kennedy Center has a chairman who has no interest in their core values. At the time of his self-appointment, Trump had never even been to a show at the Kennedy Center.

In an interview with National Public Radio’s (NPR) “Consider This,” Deborah Rutter, previous president of the Kennedy Center, expressed her sadness over the change in leadership.

“The Kennedy Center is meant to be a beacon for the arts in all of America across the country,” Rutter said. “And we have worked so hard and accomplished so much over this last decade to really broaden the programming, to invite all manner of arts and artists to our stages, and we’ve expanded our audience as a result. I pray that that can be sustained, but that’s my biggest concern.”

The Kennedy Center hosts over 2,000 performances for 2 million audience members every year. Some artists and performers have already left the center in response to Trump’s values – for instance, he posted on social media platform

Truth Social that he aims to stop all shows featuring drag performers, making “the Kennedy Center in Washington

D.C., GREAT AGAIN.”

In a recent press release, Qommittee, a national community of drag artists, responded to Trump’s intent to eradicate drag artists from the center.

“This is about who gets to exist in public spaces and whose stories get to be told on America’s stage,” they wrote. “Banning an entire art form is censorship, plain and simple. Americans don’t have to agree on everything, but we should be able to speak our minds and perform our art without bans, retaliation, or intimidation.”

I am from the Castro District in San Francisco, a historically LGBTQ+ neighborhood donning rainbow striped sidewalks and flags, complete with a bakery named Hot Cookie that sells both genitalia-shaped desserts and underwear with their logo on it. For as long as I can remember, people in drag walked the same streets I walked to school. My weekly donut runs with my mom and sister wouldn’t have been complete without sitting next to drag artists gearing up for another weekend festival. Drag is woven into the fabric of the Castro, and I cannot imagine growing up without it.

Trump’s takeover of the Kennedy Center and his attack on drag does not even begin to describe his threat to the arts. Dating back to his first term as president, he has consistently attempted to defund the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, which supports media outlets like the Public Broadcasting Service and NPR.

In Trump’s previous presidency, I would hear countless people saying that the decisions he was implementing did not directly affect their lives, so they did not feel the urge to pay attention. Trump’s attempts to defund programs like NPR affect the lives of every American. Journalism is commonly regarded as the fourth pillar of the United States government, a hopeful check on not only the president, but also on the Supreme Court and Congress.

While no measures aimed at harming the NEA, NEH or Corporation for Public Broadcasting were passed during his first term, his second term has seen massive cuts. The Trump administration has started cancelling NEA grants, even going so far as to proposing a complete elimination of the NEA.

When I was in elementary school, I remember learning that arts programs are usually the first targets of funding cuts. I really loved American Girl Dolls, and one of my favorite

stories was Saige, who fought to save her school’s art program after it had been cut. It was hard for me, someone who grew up in a family who put the arts before anything else, to understand why people would willingly take away creative outlets.

In a society focused on technology and, now, on developing better AI programs, creativity is one of the only things that cannot be replicated by a computer. Creativity



Me playing the piano in my childhood home. My dad played guitar and I played the piano during COVID-19.



Me with a copy of one of my favorite books “Just Kids.” Author Patti Smith is both an artist and activist who regularly speaks out against President Trump.

is human.

Although the NEA is the largest funder of the arts in the United States, it is also one of the smallest federal agencies. Americans for the Arts, another program supporting creatives across the country, expressed concern for the future of the NEA.

“The NEA plays a vital role in the lives of millions of Americans and the thousands of nonprofit and governmental arts and cultural organizations that bring America’s story to life,” Erin Harkey, CEO of Americans for the Arts, said in a May 2025 statement.

American Federation of Musicians (AFM) Local 802, New York City’s musicians union, also spoke out against Trump’s attempt to eventually eliminate the NEA.

“This is a dark day for the independence of the arts and musicians across the country – and it is an attack on American excellence and creativity,” Bob Suttman, president of AFM Local 802, said in a May 2025 statement. The surge in statements can only mean one thing: people will fight back against this defunding. An Open Letter Rejecting Presidential Attacks on Nonprofit Organizations is just one of the many ways people are combating Trump’s defunding. The letter, signed by over 3,000 organizations, aims to protect and advocate for charitable organizations across the country, including those in the arts.

To the Isla Vista residents reading this: We are lucky to live in such

a creative community. Take a second to look at the murals on campus, enjoy a band show, take advantage of the pottery classes the Recreation Center offers or any of the performances put on by student groups. The little girl who read books by herself in the playground corner now

reads books on the library lawn; listens to KCSB-FM 91.9, UC Santa Barbara’s radio station; goes to as many live shows as she can and takes creative writing classes offered by the University. Take advantage of the arts while you still can. And go hug an artist!

Artsweek’s protest picks

Beginning in the late 18th century and rooted in the Revolutionary War, protest music gained popularity during the Civil Rights Movement and Vietnam War. The Artsweek Staff has compiled a playlist of their favorite protest songs, including pop culture times.

- | | |
|--|--|
|  Imagine
John Lennon |  We the People...
A Tribe Called Quest |
|  Ohio
Crosby, Stills Nash & Young |  Mr. President
Janelle Monae |
|  Big Yellow Taxi
Joni Mitchell |  Bring Them Home
Pete Seeger |
|  Tiny Hands
Fiona Apple |  The Talking Leaves
Johnny Cash |
|  Throwing Stones
Grateful Dead |  Let's Dance
David Bowie |
|  American Idiot
Green Day |  Let the Sunshine In
Galt MacDermot |
|  This Land is Your Land
Woody Guthrie |  Hood Poltics
Kendrick Lamar |
|  Born in the USA
Bruce Springsteen |  Time Will Tell
Bob Marley |
|  Masters of War
Bob Dylan |  Fortunate Son
Creedence Clearwater Revival |
|  What's Going On
Marvin Gaye |  Peace Train
Yusuf / Cat Stevens |
|  Mississippi Goddam
Nina Simone |  Rock the Casbah
The Clash |
|  Respect
Aretha Franklin |  Get Back
The Beatles |



KAYLEE HEARTMAN / DAILY NEXUS



NIH funding cuts disrupt UCSB research and graduate work, despite later reinstatements

Benjamin Ancho
Staff Writer
Grace Mundaden
Staff Writer

Since taking office, the Trump administration has made it a goal to cut federal spending, focusing on what they have labeled as “wasteful” initiatives. However, funding cuts by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) have been disproportionately targeting research related to marginalized communities: LGBTQIA+; Chicano/a populations; women of color; diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) programs and more.

The University of California system is a major grant recipient for the NIH – with UC Los Angeles, UC San Francisco and UC San Diego being the top three UCs that receive NIH funding. Notable UC research funded by the NIH includes research for the first flu vaccine, the first radiation treatment for a wide variety of cancers and more.

Miya Barnett, a licensed clinical psychologist as well as an associate professor and director of clinical training in the Department of Counseling, Clinical & School Psychology at UCSB, mentioned that, although UC Santa Barbara is not one of the major recipients of NIH grants among the UCs, the university still benefits from millions of dollars of grants funding research. The most notable departments at UCSB that receive funding are biochemistry, chemistry and all engineering departments, with biochemistry receiving the most. From 1985 to 2024, researchers from UCSB received a total of \$532,529,494 from NIH, according to NIH RePORTER.

Barnett explained the role of principal investigators (PIs) in academic research and how collaborative funding structures often extend beyond a single institution. According to Barnett, sometimes there are multiple PIs, which means they share funding. In her case, she was the primary recipient of the grant, but the funding was split with a colleague from a university. This shows how the NIH grants don’t showcase the indirect funding of other universities.

Barnett added that, even when examining NIH funding data, it is difficult to

understand the full scope of research collaborations. “Even just looking at NIH data and seeing where their funding was and wasn’t cut, it doesn’t even begin to show the little subprojects and collaborations between universities because academia is very collaborative,” Barnett said.

Barnett explained that UCSB has one of the lowest amounts of NIH funding because it lacks a medical school.

Barnett said that NIH grants are important to researchers because the money invested in research ultimately comes back in the form of better public health.

“Grants really provide us the way to support our participants and all of the effort it takes to be able to administer, run studies and make sure that they’re provided [and] shared with the whole community. So [for] research, the NIH actually has a huge return on investment,” Barnett said. “The health of the nation comes back to it, and it’s really important to continue.”

While faculty researchers like Barnett navigate funding uncertainties, graduate students are also experiencing the effects. Michael Keith, a doctoral candidate in mathematics at UCSB, studies the complex structures within viruses and relies on grant-funded programs for support.

“I work on modeling the interactions between DNA and ions inside of a virus, so in the particular bias, you look at the bacteriophage, though it’s a virus that infects bacteria. We’re trying to understand how different ionic concentrations affect the confirmation of the DNA inside,” Keith said.

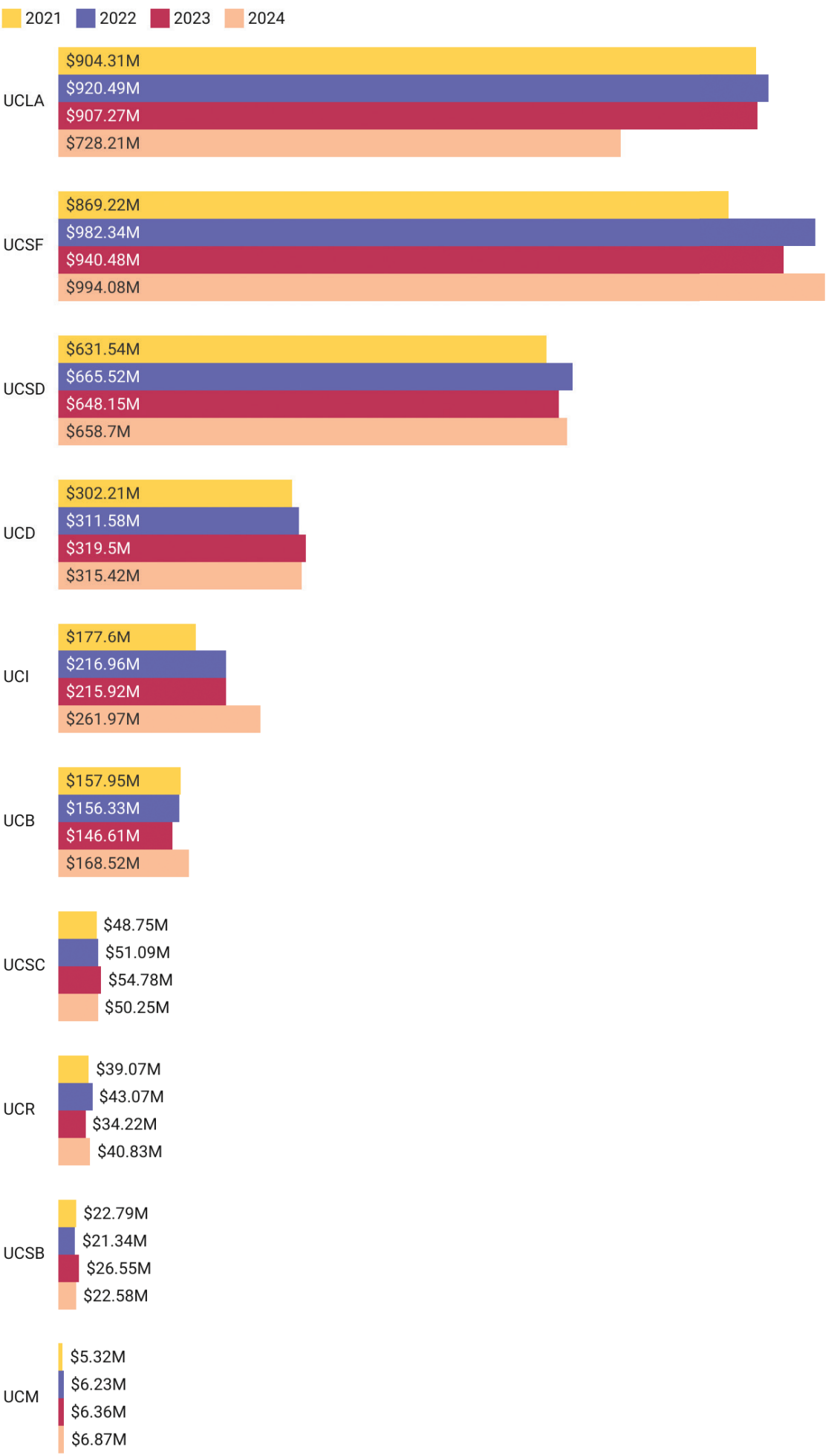
By supporting graduate researchers like Keith, NIH grants help foster breakthroughs that contribute to broader scientific knowledge and innovation.

“These are large advances in knowledge, and I think that that’s, in and of itself, very important on its own. But, it also leads us to new discoveries in other areas that are going to help us figure out cures for different diseases or different ways of thinking about how the universe works,” Keith said.

With many ongoing

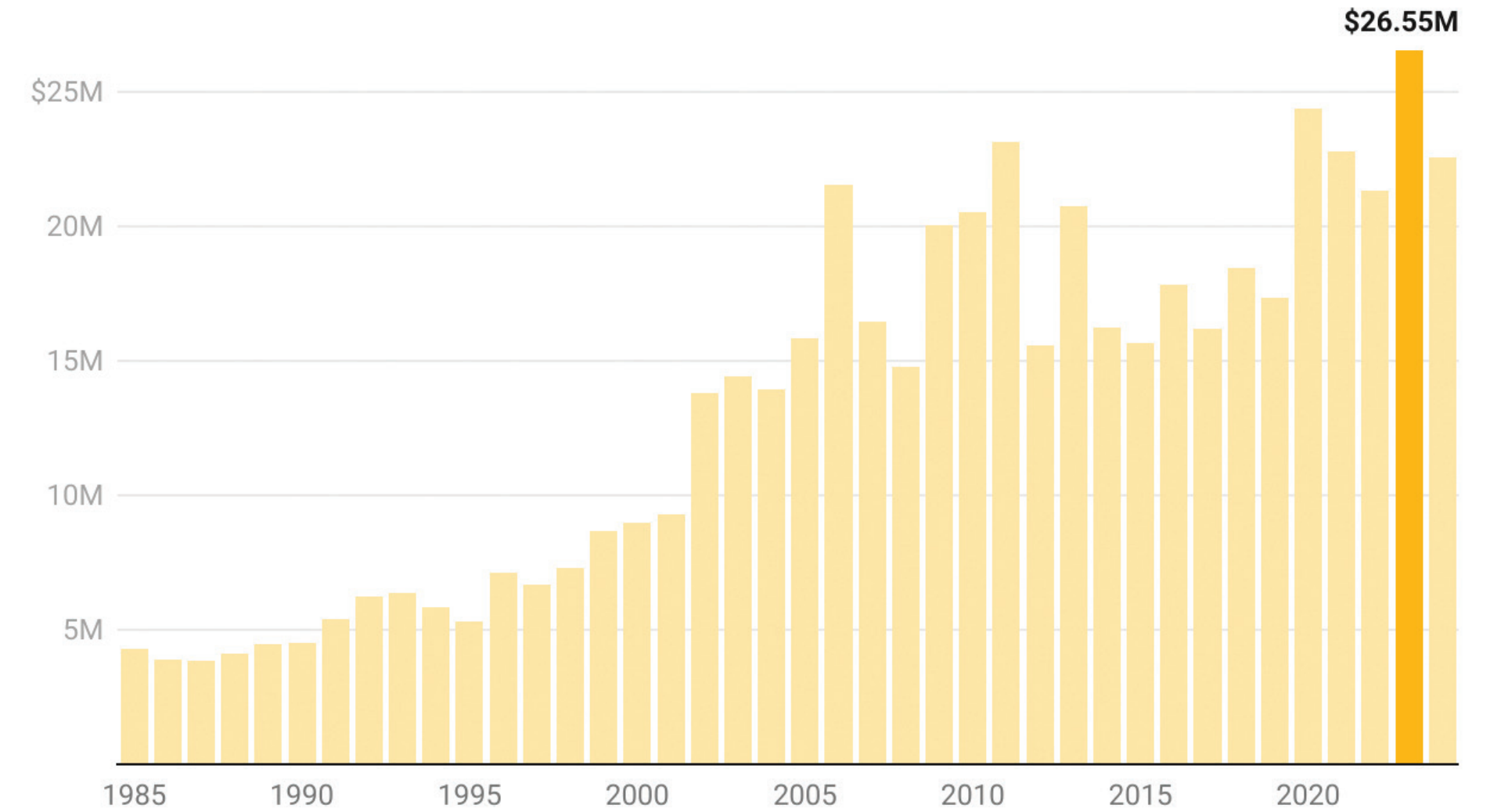
court cases against the administration, including *Thakur v. Trump*, a class action lawsuit representing UC researchers whose grants were suspended or terminated, many of the affected research grants are now being reinstated. As of Oct. 31, 2025, a majority of the NIH grants that were cut have been reinstated, but the

NIH funding for UCs from 2021–2024



SOURCE: NIH
GRACE MUNDADEN & BENJAMIN ANCHO / DAILY NEXUS
UCLA and UCSF received the most amount of funding from NIH, while UCM received the least amount. UCSB was the second-least funded UC by NIH.

UCSB NIH funding from 1995–2024



SOURCE: NIH
GRACE MUNDADEN & BENJAMIN ANCHO / DAILY NEXUS
Since 1985, UCSB has received millions of dollars in direct NIH funding, reflecting the university’s expanding research profile. Data shown excludes secondary funding from NIH grants administered by other institutions. The analysis for this data was done with all the project titles that were terminated by the NIH and all UC grants from fiscal year 2021-24 that were not terminated.

DATA

remaining grants are being held until the government has appropriate funds for the next year. 5,464 grants currently are still affected, while 2,860 have been reinstated across the country as of Nov. 3, 2025.

Grants with project titles that contain terms related to DEI, such as “Sexual minority,” “Minority men” and “Gender affirming,” had a high likelihood of being terminated.

Out of the 19 times that the words “minority men” were in the project title, all 19 had their project titles cut.

Barnett said that she had never seen grants cut due to the presence of specific terms of topics.

“This is completely unprecedented. NIH never has taken away grants for ideological reasons in the past. And it’s very, very, very rare that anyone would ever lose the grant ... These are definitely scary and unprecedented times,” Barnett said.

During April, the NIH had approximately \$40 million terminated. However, after many lawsuits against the administration, roughly \$38 million of those grants have been restored, leaving only 5% of the previously \$40 million still frozen. However, most of the remaining funds are still under review for reinstatement.

For graduate researchers like Keith, whose work often depends on these grants indirectly through teaching or departmental funding, many have to look toward other means of funding.

“[Researchers] usually have funding from [the National Science Foundation (NSF)] or NIH, but there were some issues with that this past year because of the cuts of the funding, so they’ve been working on applying for other grants,” Keith said.

Barnett said that the consequences of the NIH funding cuts are wide-ranging, influencing faculty research, student training and community engagement.

“I think it’s hard to quantify how much UCSB stands to lose. I mean, we lost, on our grant, close to half a million dollars ... With every grant cut, we also lose time for the faculty who spent, you know, sometimes years writing the grant, the training opportunities for the graduate students and the impact that it can make on our community,” Barnett said. “So I think that the cost to UCSB is greater even than the amount of money that’s being lost.”

Keith explained that grant funding directly impacts how much time graduate students can dedicate to research versus teaching.

“How it works is that we have to [work as a teaching assistant (TA)], and that pays us money. But it also takes a large amount of time out of the week and throughout the academic year, and if

you have funding that pays for the tuition and also that pays for your stipend or your salary, then that means you don’t have to teach during that academic year. So then it essentially buys out your responsibilities as being a TA,” Keith said.

Keith’s experience reflects the uncertainty many graduate students are feeling with the changing research funding. Barnett offers a message of encouragement for current and future graduate students navigating this period of instability.

“This hopefully is just a temporary phase in research, and there’s been other times where certain topics have been censored in the past and ... the research has continued forward. I think that it’s important for students to remember that, at the end of this time, we’re going to need people who are bright and excited and willing to bring science back,” Barnett said.

Following the reinstatement of the majority of NIH grants for UCs over the summer, the Daily Nexus spoke to Barnett about the reinstatement process and its effects on her research.

“The grant was fully reinstated and activities resumed as of August, so we have been able to have access to our funds and continue research activities,” Barnett said.

Barnett added that, despite the funding’s return, the disruption had slowed her research progress.

“We had three months without our funding, and we had to do all of the administrative work to stop the grant and then also restart it. So it’s definitely been burdensome, but we’re grateful that the work continues.”

When asked whether she fears future cuts, Barnett emphasized that there is still uncertainty surrounding federal funding.

“It feels like anything could be happening as we run this grant. We are just trying to stay true to the mission of what we want to do ... making sure we’re supporting our participants as much as we can and planning for the future but recognizing that [the administration is] at this point [defunding research]. It does not ever feel like there’s a guarantee on what will happen next,” Barnett said.

Keith shared concerns about the future of graduate students under ongoing funding uncertainty and worrying about how it could impact job prospects.

“Definitely the word ‘uncertain’ comes to mind because if they’re cutting these things, then what does that mean for job prospects in the future?” Keith said. “So certainly it makes you wonder how long these things are going to last, how difficult it will be like getting a job later on and then also finding the resources to be able to conduct the research that we’re trying to do,” Keith said.

Keith questioned whether cutting funding is truly worth the cost when it results in stifled innovation and wasted potential.

“It’s just really sad to see all this creativity and this knowledge being sort of pushed aside because of some financial reason. How much money is it saving the government that we have to have these funding cuts?” Keith said. “It sucks to see that people who have the talent and the skills can’t utilize them effectively because of these funding cuts.”

Barnett said that she maintains concerns about how funding cuts could limit opportunities for future graduate students.

“Less Ph.D students being hired and having their Ph.D programs funded? Certainly. There’s a lot of concerns about funding Ph.D students and training programs and different opportunities across different institutes around how to fund them, so that is something that we have

continued concerns about,” Barnett said.

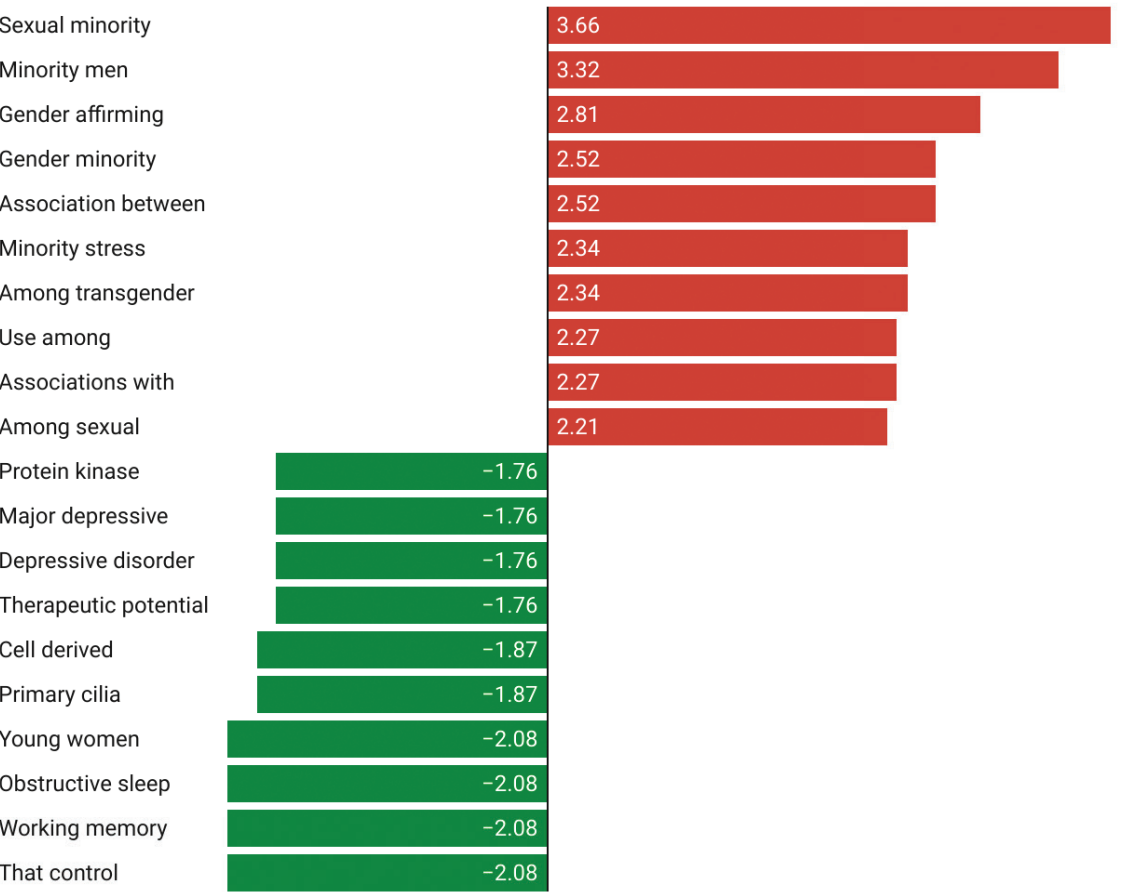
However, Barnett said that she remains hopeful for science, education and the resilience of researchers.

“I think that the fact that these grants got reinstated

is just a testimony that there still are reasons to continue to do the work and to be dedicated to health equity and recognize that things can change,” Barnett said. “It’s still important to recognize what your values are related

to scientific rigor, [DEI], and continue to work towards those things. Even if you’re being hated on, scrutinized for what you’re researching, just know that it’s good that your research is doing good and you’re helping society.”

Words associated with NIH grant termination and non-termination



SOURCE: GRANT WITNESS

BENJAMIN ANCHO / DAILY NEXUS

Higher log-odd ratio means a greater likelihood with having NIH grants cut while lower a log-odd ratio means a lower likelihood with having NIH grants cut. For example, grants with the words in conjunction “Sexual minority” in their project titles have a 3.66 times more of a likelihood of being in grants with their NIH grants terminated than non-terminated cases.

Top ten pair of words with the highest likelihood of termination

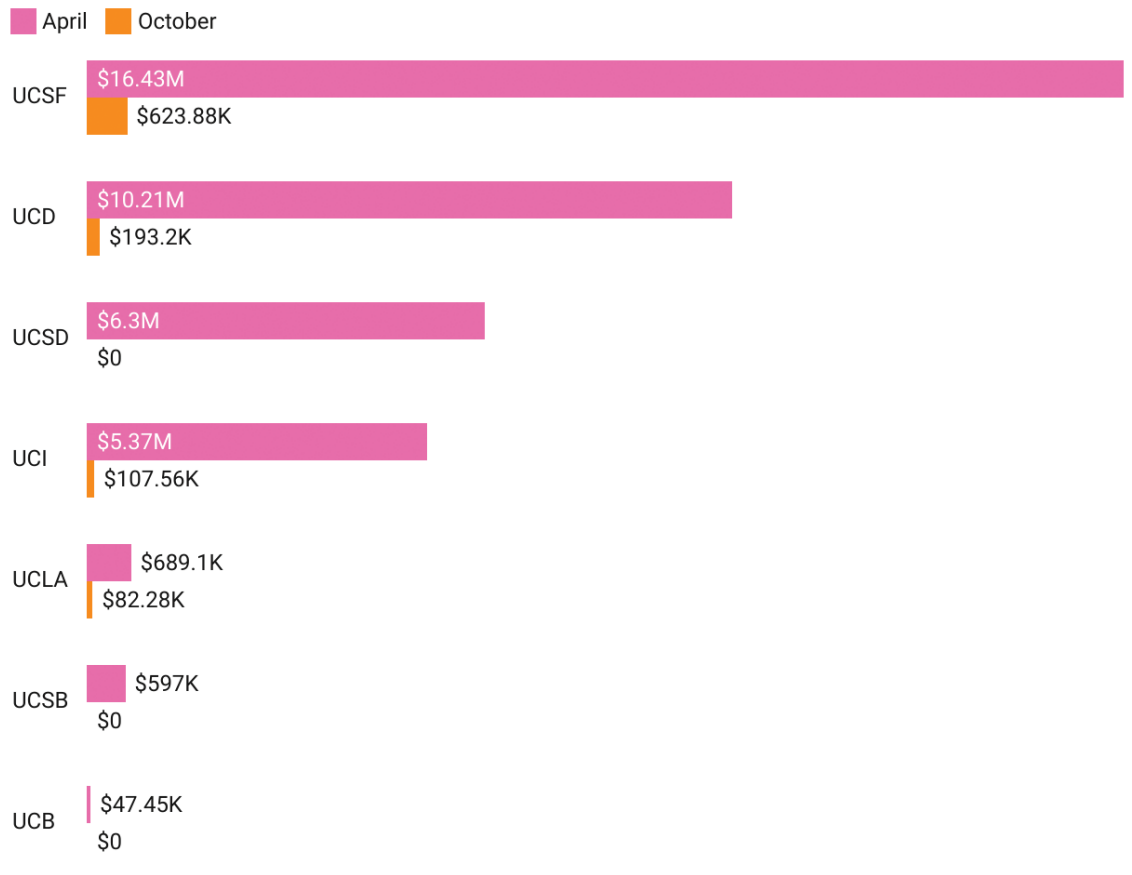
Bigram	Terminated Count	Not Terminated Count	▼ Percentage Terminated	Log Odds
Minority men	19	0	100%	3.32
Gender affirming	11	0	100%	2.81
Association between	8	0	100%	2.52
Associations with	6	0	100%	2.27
Sexual minority	55	1	98.2%	3.66
Minority stress	14	1	93.3%	2.34
Among transgender	14	1	93.3%	2.34
Gender minority	35	3	92.1%	2.52
Use among	20	2	90.9%	2.27
Among sexual	32	4	88.9%	2.21

SOURCE: GRANT WITNESS

BENJAMIN ANCHO / DAILY NEXUS

“Minority men,” “gender affirming,” “association between” and “associations with” had a 100% termination rate, meaning that when these phrases appeared in a project title, every single time it meant that the project had its NIH grant cut. The analysis for this data was done with all the project titles that were terminated by the NIH and all UC grants from fiscal year 2021-24 that were not terminated.

NIH cuts: April vs. October



SOURCE: NIH

GRACE MUNDADEN & BENJAMIN ANCHO / DAILY NEXUS

While NIH funding cuts recently occurred in April, many were later reversed over the summer, though several remain contested in court. UCSC, UCM and UCR data was not available for April.

“

I think that it’s important for students to remember that, at the end of this time, we’re going to need people who are bright and excited and willing to bring science back.”

MIYA BARNETT



UCSB reels from federal research cuts as scholars and unions fight back

Calais Waring
Staff Writer

Winston Zuo
Staff Writer

The Trump administration has cut billions of dollars in research funding nearing Donald Trump’s first 290 days in office of his second term. These disruptions to federal research funding have impacted research activity at UC Santa Barbara as millions of dollars in grants have, at one point or another, been revoked from researchers and faculty at UCSB.

UCSB history professor Juan Cobo Betancourt was one of those directly affected by the cuts to research funding. The work affected by funding cuts mainly concerns the digital humanities, in particular the digitizing of important collections and materials from Latin American institutions.

“By the time we got the green light to begin work, we got the award letter on April 1 of this year. On April 2, we received a letter saying that our grant had been terminated,” Cobo Betancourt said. “This was part of the broader attack on the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) by the Department of Government Efficiency, in which they basically went in and closed a whole series of offices, including the Office of Digital Humanities, shut down a long list of programs and placed a lot of people who worked for the NEH on furlough.”

In the face of these cuts, academic associations have responded with lawsuits interdicting the cuts and restoring their funding, at least for now. For example, funding cuts from the NEH have been put on hold after the Authors Guild and several NEH grantees filed a lawsuit challenging the Trump Administration’s mass termination of their grants. A federal judge temporarily blocked the cancellations, but the grant money has not yet been paid out while the case remains in litigation.

However, other grants have now been permanently cut by the federal government. For example, professors whose projects were funded by grants from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) have been forced to abandon their projects due to stop-work orders from the federal government. Stop-work orders are notices from the government that require a temporary halt to all or part of a project’s activities.

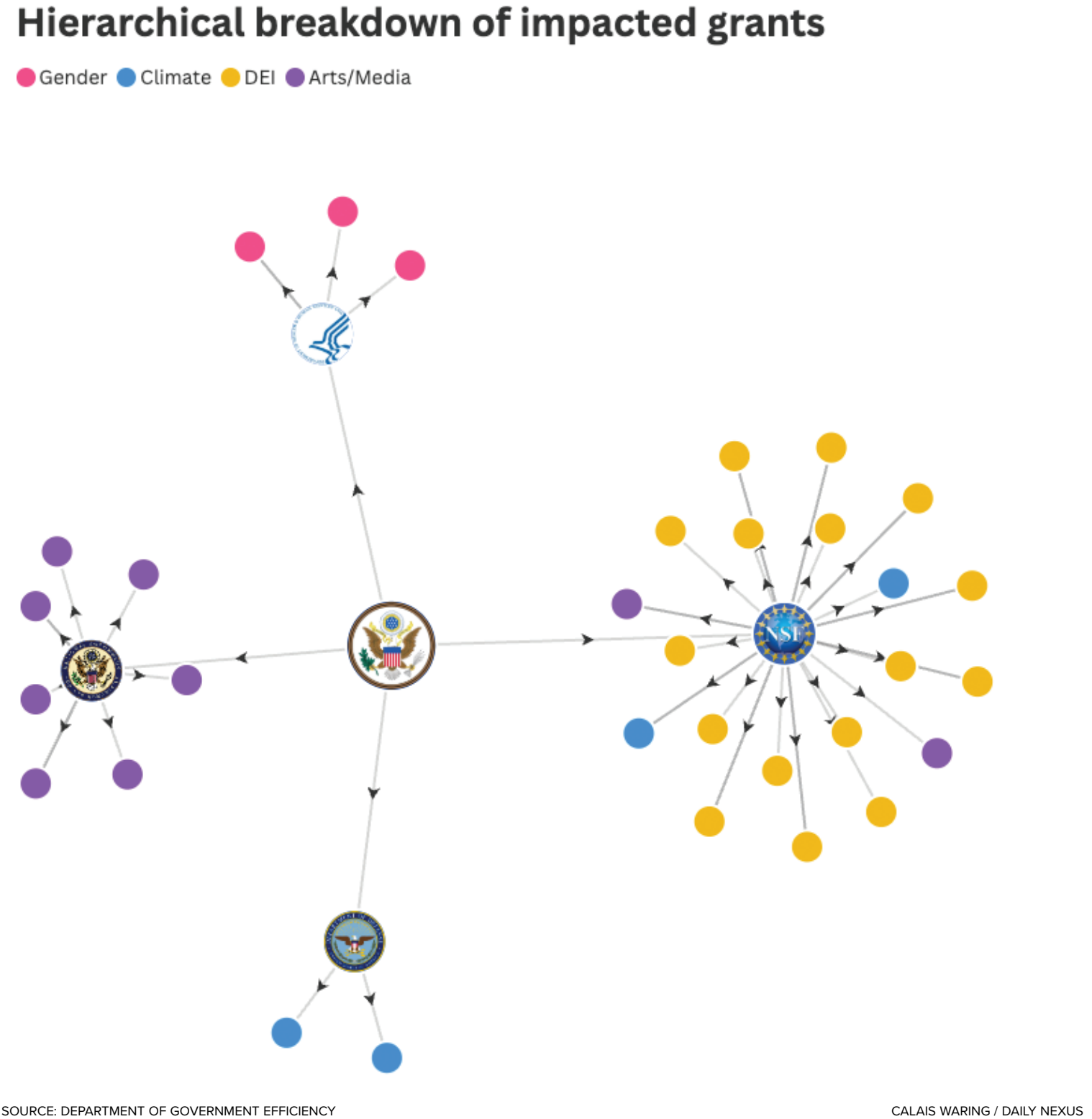
Professor Mark Buntaine of the UCSB Bren School of Environmental Science & Management was one such beneficiary from USAID funding. Buntaine conducted research in improving soil quality in Malawi and reducing farmers’ reliance on coca production in Peru with funds from USAID. However, earlier this year, he received stop-work orders from the federal government and the projects, especially in Malawi, were enormously disrupted.

“Malawi is one of the poorest countries in the world, certainly in the bottom 10 countries in terms of per capita income,” Buntaine said. “People were promised modest but significant payments for keeping trees alive [for] over two years, and those payments are to this point not able to be met because we don’t have the funds in place with the cancellation of this award.”

In Peru, Buntaine’s work may continue at a smaller scale with limited university support. “In terms of the work in Peru, we were able to find some limited support on campus to continue with the research work and hire a graduate student for one quarter to help us continue with the analysis, but it did slow us down significantly.”

Beyond the immediate loss of individual projects, the cuts pose a threat to the structure of academic research, particularly the pipeline of doctoral education.

“The federal government has been a major supporter of doctoral education across the country,” Buntaine said. “As that support diminishes, I think there



SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY

CALAIS WARING / DAILY NEXUS

This chart displays a hierarchical breakdown of the federal government agencies and resulting grant areas at UCSB impacted by funding cuts, according to data obtained from the Department of Government Efficiency as of Oct. 2, 2025. The Nexus analyzed each cut grant and classified its projection descriptions into four subgroups: gender, climate, DEI, and arts/media. Most of the grants impacted at UCSB are tied to the National Science Foundation, and most of the grants are DEI related.

are a number of challenges facing doctoral programs around the country.”

Without the consistent funding of federal grants, which typically pay for a doctoral student’s tuition, stipend and benefits – a cost that can approach \$100,000 per year – universities are struggling with how to sustain their programs.

“You are seeing programs grapple with what doctoral education looks like when there is less funding available from the federal government,” he explained, noting that many institutions are already “cutting the sizes of their doctoral classes.”

Private donors, though willing to sponsor some projects, are not able to fill the role previously occupied by the federal government.

“The other thing that is challenging is that private donors, in my experience so far, are less willing to sign up for the bargain of funding graduate students and doctoral students in particular,” Buntaine said.

For faculty, the loss of these research grants means losing the very engines of their research: the graduate students and post-doctoral scholars who dedicate blocks of time to data management, analysis and execution. As a result, faculty are being forced to shift their programs. Professors like Buntaine have reduced the scope of their projects and began focusing on new, domestic projects like climate adaptation.

“I have shifted some of my research focus to other areas, recognizing that there are going to be fewer opportunities to do research on our foreign aid programs that have supported environmental management activities around the world. And so I’ve taken up and tried to build out projects related to climate impacts and climate adaptation, some of which are actually local,” Buntaine said. “People, like myself, are going to need to broaden what it is that they do with their time.”

The Gevirtz Graduate School of Education (GGSE), having lost grants targeted toward improving bilingual and mental health education, has worked to contort

itself to the standards of the new administration.

“[Many grants] have to do with expanding the ability of educators and mental health practitioners to support all students ... [DEI has] kind of become a synonym for, we’re going to do something just for this group of students. And we’re going to do something just for this group of students which is against the intent,” Jill Sharkey, associate dean for research and outreach at the GGSE, said. “The current administration sees that as potentially being biased and serving only certain communities. So we’re trying to reframe the work to make it clear that it’s inclusive.”

Moreover, GGSE is also grappling with how to maintain its programs with limited university support.

“We are going to get recommendations from the [UCSB] Graduate Division on how many students we can support with the block grants they’ll allocate. And then we have to look and analyze our available TAs and make a little logic puzzle of ‘How many students can we support?’ So we’ve already kind of shrunk our grad student population,” Sharkey said. “The thing that the campus is going to ensure is that the funding for our current graduate students is not impacted. Whatever it takes, we’re dedicated to that.”

The UAW 4811 union, which represents postdocs and other academic workers in the UC system, has been on the front lines, fighting cuts through legal action, state-level lobbying and local organizing. Tessa Cookmeyer, who serves as the unit chair for UCSB postdocs, described the union’s multi-pronged strategy.

On the legal front, the union has joined lawsuits against the termination of grants.

“Across the UC system and other interested parties have filed lawsuits that our union has joined onto and individual postdocs have joined as plaintiffs to these lawsuits. So we’re trying to pursue getting that grant funding restored in court through supporting these lawsuits,” Cookmeyer said.

According to Cookmeyer, to combat the federal gap, the union has focused heavily on the state level. “[Y]ou may have heard that the governor’s office, Governor Newsom, proposed cutting the UC budget by 8%. And our union was one of the interested parties that lobbied really hard to get that reversed,” Cookmeyer said.

“We’re really trying to secure the future of California research ... through supporting this bond initiative to create this California science research agency that would fund research in the state,” Cookmeyer said. The bond is expected to go before voters next year.

Furthermore, the union is pushing the university to protect international academic workers, who face specific threats under the current administration.

“Our union circulated a petition and had more than 10,000 people sign on to it ... The first is that we want a legal defense fund for international workers who lose their job or have threats to their immigration status, so that’s to help them get legal counsel so that they can pursue the remedies in court. We also want them to provide financial support to workers who lose their jobs

due to visa-related issues. If the Trump administration decides to revoke some particular person’s visa, we don’t want that person to not be able to continue to live,” Cookmeyer said.

“And then we want them to not allow [Immigration and Customs Enforcement] and other federal agents onto campus without judicial warrants ... And then the last one is affirming and defending the rights of international workers and students [to] free speech and academic freedom.”

While the full extent of federal funding cuts and their ramifications remains undecided as the government remains shut down, the moves made by the Trump administration so far have rattled the foundations of academia within and outside UCSB. The future of research remains uncertain.

According to Cookmeyer, the message from organized labor is one of resolve.

“Our union is fighting back against these cuts in a variety of different ways. And a lot of our efforts have been successful in the short term, and we’re hopeful they’ll be successful in the long term. We’re not giving in. We’re fighting back,” Cookmeyer said.



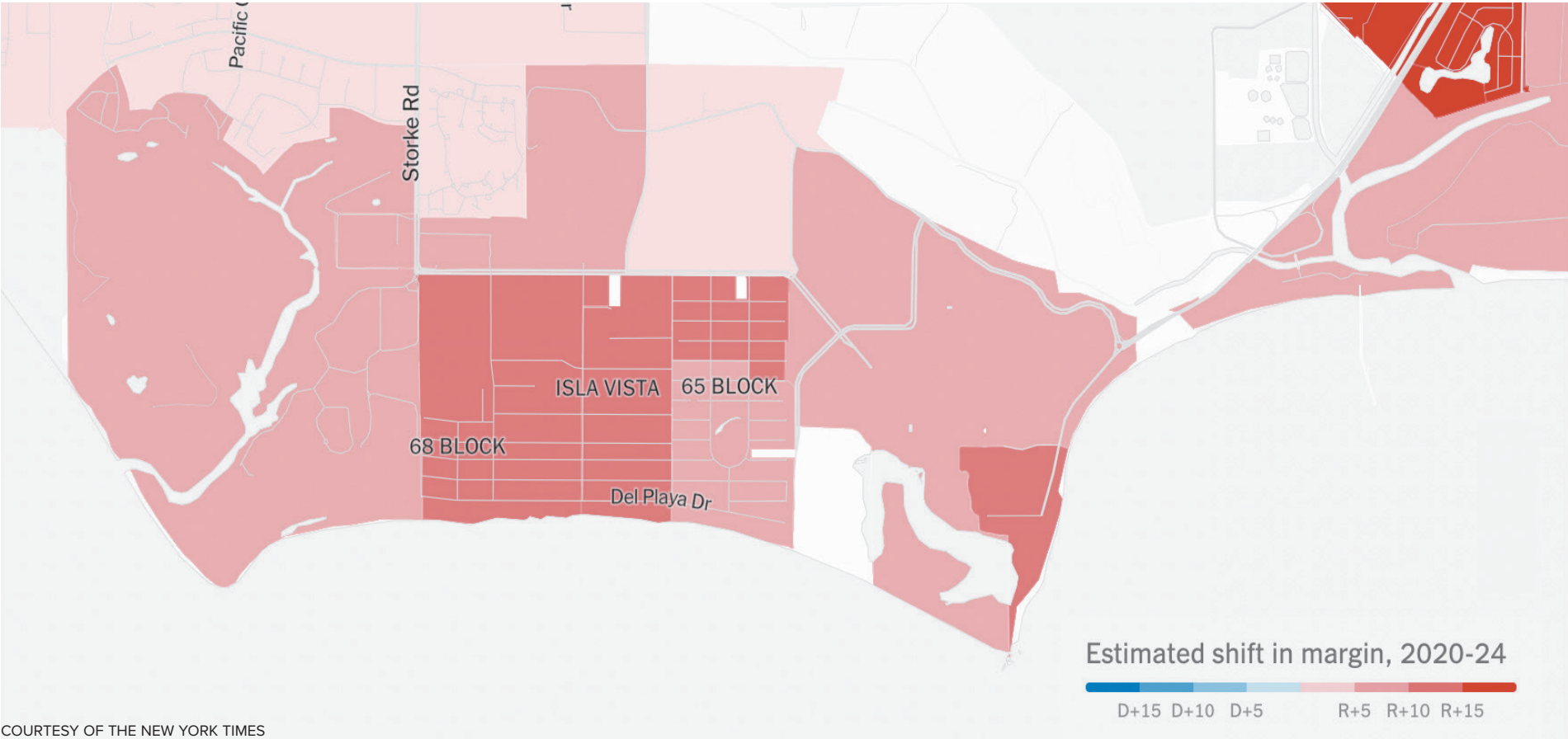
Scan the QR code above to explore the interactive hierarchical breakdown of impacted grants. Click each dot to learn more.

OPINION

The Trumpiest part of Isla Vista:

Subtle shifts right reflect national shift

among young voters in 2024



COURTESY OF THE NEW YORK TIMES

This map, pulled from New York Times precinct-level results from the 2024 Election, estimates the shift in margin between the 2020 and 2024 elections in Isla Vista. Block-by-block analysis shows subtle shifts right across Isla Vista.

Micah Littlepage
Reporter

Donald Trump was elected back into the White House in 2024 as a result of increased support from traditionally Democratic voter groups, including young people. According to Tufts University's CIRCLE poll, former U.S. President Joe Biden won voters aged 18-29 nationally by 25% in 2020. Four years later, former Vice President Kamala Harris dropped to only around a 4% lead (51% to 47%) among the same age group. The roughly 21 percentage point decrease in youth Democratic support could likely be reflective of both a decline in overall Democratic turnout and Trump's growing appeal to younger men, especially those who cited economic frustrations as a priority. Although the precincts in Isla Vista and UC Santa Barbara remain overwhelmingly Democratic, election results from the last two presidential elections indicate a slight softening in support for the party among younger voters. In 2020, voters in precincts across UCSB and Isla Vista gave Joe Biden around 92% of their votes or 6,165 ballots, compared to Trump's 553 votes. In 2024, voters in precincts across UCSB and I.V. gave 6,686 votes to Kamala Harris (around 88%) to Trump's 918 votes (around 12%). This shows a small four percentage point shift to the right in Isla Vista — practically matching the average 5.5% shift right in counties with a high 18-34 year old population. In 2020, Trump failed to gain more than 9% of the vote in any Isla Vista precinct, with his best performance being in the 65/66 block of Isla Vista. Meanwhile in 2024, Trump managed to beat this margin in almost every I.V. precinct with his best performance being in the 67/68 blocks. Noticeably, Harris saw a decline in her margins for every I.V. precinct. Trump's success in the 66/67/68 blocks in particular could be attributed to the fact that these blocks are not only populated by students, but also long-term residents of Isla Vista, homeowners and families. Trump also increased his margin in the precinct covering the Santa Rosa, Anacapa and Santa Cruz dorms, pointing to a potential strength among the new subset of youngest voters. Harris performed best in student-dominated precincts,

Precincts where each candidate performed best (2024)

Trump's strongest precincts	Harris's strongest precincts
67/68 Blocks of I.V. (15% - 197 votes)	San Rafael/Manzanita dorms (91% - 598 votes)
66 Block of I.V. (15% - 163 votes)	San Clemente Villages (89% - 193 votes)
Northern 65 Block of I.V. (14% - 89 votes)	San Miguel/San Nicolas (87% - 295 votes)
Santa Rosa, Anacapa, Santa Cruz dorms (13% - 70 votes)	West Campus Graduate Housing (87% - 452 votes)
Southern 65 Block of Isla Vista (11% - 144 votes)	San Joaquin/Santa Ynez/West Family Housing (86% - 1094 votes)

MICAH LITTLEPAGE / DAILY NEXUS

Block-by-block analysis shows Trump performed the best in the 67/68 blocks of Isla Vista. Harris performed the best in the San Rafael/Manzanita dorms.

like those covering the graduate and undergraduate housing. The precinct where San Rafael and Manzanita residence halls are located gave her over 91% of votes, the only precinct to do so in the 2024 election. While the results are not yet reflective of a long-term political realignment, Harris's declining margin in I.V. could reflect a nationwide disconnect between the Democratic Party and its youngest supporters. Young voters remain enthusiastic for politically progressive causes like universal healthcare, yet they often fail to find that same enthusiasm among their elected officials, leading to growing distrust and declining voter turnout. Re-engaging these voters requires not just messaging but material progress as well. While college towns like I.V. still remain deep blue, their shift right reflects how quickly disillusionment can take root when young people stop believing their values and priorities can be translated into policy. All precinct-level results were compiled by the New York Times, which standardized election data from local jurisdictions using geographic precinct maps. It's important to note this data and analysis only reflects voters registered at an I.V. address, and does not include students who vote at home or in another location. The Times' full methodology can be read online.

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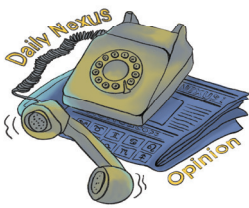
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OPINION

The star-spangled elephant in the room

Emma Bogna
Reporter

During the 2024 presidential election, I had the privilege of being out of the country. While my anxieties about election result hostility were quelled by the sizable ocean between myself and America, I was terrified of sticking out at one of the top universities in the world as an uneducated American. The week of Nov. 5th, I was distinctively American, but nobody hated me for it the way that I anticipated.

On election night, my darling flatmate Clementine and I threw a small party for our American friends in the building. We figured out how to get ballots mailed to a temporary address overseas (no voter fraud accusations here, please and thank you). We wanted to be patriots. We got a cake, we did our part.



KAYLEE HEARTMAN / DAILY NEXUS

Clementine came into my room the next morning, and we hugged in the doorway, unsure if words could convey the full depth of emotion we were feeling. I took down the already falling blue banner hung precariously in our windowless kitchen, which now felt darker, more cramped. What was left of our mysterious blue beverage went down the drain and the cake from Tesco, which cost me a whole five pounds, was thrown in the dumpster — all before 8 a.m.

The morning of Nov. 6th, I donned as much blue garb as I had in my small closet. I pursed my lips and shook my head in indignation every time someone said the word “election.” “I’m not like other Americans,” I wanted to say, “I’m different.” If anyone asked, I was from California, not America. I couldn’t yet care about what the results meant for my country; I was instead too concerned with what the rest of the world thought about my existence as a woman whose country elected a man with more sexual assault allegations than I could count on my fingers and toes, about my existence as an American. Turns out, it wouldn’t matter what the Europeans thought of me,

thought of my thoughts. Whether I was happy or sad about the results, they were the results, and everyone on that college campus pitied me. They pitied my friends, they pitied my country. They even pitied the people who voted for him. They weren’t angry at America, they were scared for her.

Every time I walked into a room, I felt like everyone was staring at me. I was gawky and awkward and American, and everybody knew what I fell asleep next to the night before (Anderson Cooper streaming on my laptop). In every class I attended, I felt it: heavy on my chest, keeping me quiet. The star spangled elephant loomed large, and, without fail, each professor started class with a sigh, a nod and an awkward “wow” before addressing the large, wrinkly and orange creature. I was only eight hours ahead of my hometown, but it felt like my country was 50 years behind where I stood. I thought everyone would hate me for it, and I was ready to hide myself. I was ready to take a vow of silence so as not to out myself as an American, not to associate myself with the poster boy of my country — but nobody was hateful. The men at the ice cream shop on South College Street smiled knowingly when they heard us speak. It was a good night for business. They were expecting us. “What happened?” they asked, incredulous, throwing an extra scoop of rocky road in there.

One of my classmates, a kind and intelligent true blue Scot, told me all about her flatmate’s election party. One was dressed as Bill Clinton, another was

dressed as a coconut tree. All stages of American politics (the founding fathers, Watergate, Charli XCX) were represented in a university apartment in Edinburgh. She told me that they stayed up until 3 a.m. watching the election. “It was rather interesting,” she said. Myself and the four other Americans I knew in my building stayed up until 4 a.m., not out of interest but out of necessity, compulsively refreshing the CNN live election polls, because maybe, just maybe, Georgia would flip.

It was, to some degree, a spectacle to them. They could watch that video of George W. Bush getting shoes lobbed at his head on loop for hours, and still turn the telly off at the end of the night, puzzling about how bizarre American politics were. I wanted to be in on the joke, not be part of the joke. At some point though, it wasn’t even a spectacle for them. It was a point of deep concern about the values that the modern world held.

I was unable to feel concern for myself until I looked around at people who this election would not impact, at least, not as deeply. It was one thing to cry with Clementine in defeat, it was another for my professor from Aberdeen to say we would take the class to reconnect with nature because there were more important things going on outside the classroom. The people of Scotland were not thinking about 45th and 47th President Donald Trump in the same way I was, nor were they preparing themselves to lose access to food benefits the same way I was. They were not hiding behind blue scarves and blue mittens and blue hair bows

the same way I was, ashamed that even the color of embarrassment on my face was red. They were just sad, in a way that nobody in my country seemed to be. The lament of people who would probably never step foot in my country told me that the America I was promised as a child didn’t really exist.

A year later, I have to wonder what the Europeans think. I have to wonder if they think about our country at all. For their sake, I hope they don’t have the New York Times push notifications on. Frankly, I wonder if they’re tired of hearing about the newest United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (I.C.E.) witchhunt, about Matt Gaetz, the signature on Jeffrey Epstein’s birthday card (but he swears he didn’t sign that guys, and if he says he didn’t do it then he didn’t, because our honest country wouldn’t elect a liar, right?). I wonder if they’re tired of watching our toddler president, who recently graduated to unrestricted iPad access, who posts artificial intelligence videos to Twitter or X or whatever the hell people call it now. I wish I could offer a solution, but I’m not sure there is one. Perhaps the solution is running away, back to Europe, remembering when I used to be gawky and awkward. Perhaps the solution is riding it out, speaking up, using whatever platform will amplify my voice the loudest. I don’t know. All I know is that people outside of America aren’t laughing at us. They aren’t really laughing at all.

Emma Bogna is searching Expedia for one-way flights to anywhere.

My role model is a Trump supporter

Isabella Leon
Reporter

My dad is one of my favorite people in the world. From when I was an angsty preteen to a depressed high schooler, he’d always have my back — whether I liked it or not. And while he and I have struggled in the past, we continue to have a great father-daughter relationship. When thinking about myself and who I’ve become, I can’t help but link my passions to my dad: he put me on to film and music and pushed me to be the best person I can be. Despite this, there is a dark underbelly to the friend-to-everyone person my dad appears to be. My dad is a fervent Trump supporter and has applauded his actions and attitudes since the 2016 election.

I understand that families will have their political disagreements. This is not unheard of in the entire 250 years our country has been established. But with the 45th and 47th President of the United States, Donald Trump, what it means to be a Republican or a disseminator of Democratic values has turned up on its head.

In my 20 years of living, I’ve never identified as a Republican, nor will I ever. Even before Trump took office, I never saw myself as someone identifying with the morals or principles of an average Republican. In “Make America Great Again” terms, I’m what you’d call a “woke liberal.” But before I had any sort of understanding of American politics, I would identify myself with whatever my dad stood behind.

It’s a childish thing to do, but it’s something that almost everyone has presumably done. If your mom says she went to a specific college, then you grow up dreaming of following in her footsteps. When your dad has you listen to Depeche Mode and Pet Shop Boys, well, you’re going to be obsessed with them through association (and because they’re amazing). It follows that, when your dad tells you he’s a Trump supporter before you fully understand what that even means, you’re also going to say you support him.

One morning on my elementary school’s playground in sixth grade, I overheard peers of mine discussing the 2016 election. Some were saying they were pro-Hillary Clinton, while a few others discussed Trump. When it was my turn, I adamantly said that I liked Trump because my dad does. He must be a good, qualified president if my dad thinks so, I thought to myself. My opinion quickly changed when my classmate dropped the three words I could not yet comprehend but knew the gravity of: “Trump’s a racist.”

While my mind at 11 years old wasn’t as sharp as it is today, I knew from that moment that I would not be supporting a man like Trump. I only needed that one statement for me to dive deep into various articles discussing and critiquing everything about the newly elected president, Trump. My attitude toward my dad started to change then and there.

Right now, it’s nearing the end of Trump’s first year of his second term, and things could not be more bizarre. With Trump’s immigration policies and United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (I.C.E.) expanding into every corner of the United States — kidnapping people, even citizens, left and right — one has to take notice of the apparent rise of fascism. The silencing of free speech, the egregious display of wealth with the construction of the ballroom at the White House and the erasure of queer and racial history in this country are all contributing to this rise. The people around us — our dads, our mothers, our friends and family — who may support Trump’s rhetoric are, in a way, becoming the very same fascists we all read about in our grade school classrooms.

My father rescued me from an extremely dangerous household. When he and my mother divorced, I was in the midst of a split custody situation where one side was peace and the other was absolute chaos. My mother is and was a bipolar force to be reckoned with, who’d leave her child alone about 12 hours a day. The house was a mess, I’d be met with screams over any little thing that I did and I

left with an anxiety disorder that I struggle with to this day.

At the cusp of my preteen adolescence, my dad and stepmom engaged in a custody battle that severely affected my mental well-being. While I was now at my dad’s full-time and safe from constant anger, I myself became a volatile teenager.

I’d lock myself in my room and would scroll endlessly on Tumblr all day, engaging in areas of the internet that would only damage my mental health even more. All the while, my dad would try to help me — no matter how much I fought back.

I think it’s the fact that my dad has a skewed perception of women and emotions that makes me appreciate him trying to help. He was raised in a machismo, first-generation, Peruvian-American household where all things military and Republican were fundamental. He followed my grandfather’s footsteps in joining the Air Force and flourished in that career.

As I grew older and developed a passion for drawing and art, he’d go on to remark to all his friends on how talented I was. When I got awards in school for my grades, he’d brag about how smart his daughter was. And when I got accepted into UC Santa Barbara, he exclaimed with so much joy and hugged me tightly in the Costco checkout line, already bragging to the cashier about my latest achievement.

He always tells me about the endless potential I have. Whenever I go to him with overthinking thoughts on whether or not I’d turn out like my mom, he quickly reassures me the opposite. Whenever I vent to him about my worries for the future and if I’ll be successful, he tells me again that I’ll be just fine. Whether these are to hush my anxious thoughts or not, it helps me tremendously with my own self-esteem.

His other ego also shines through, sometimes. When I tell him that I’m feeling anxious, he’ll brush it aside, saying that I’m feeling this way “because I’m a woman” before reassuring me. Whenever we’re in public and someone happens to look different from his perceived norm, he’ll

quickly point out his judgments — despite teaching me never to point and judge people in public.

When he would drop me off at school — no matter what grade — he’d spot a young man walking and state how “gay he is” and how “he needs to man up.” But when I would introduce him to queer friends of mine, he would treat them with the same amount of respect and kindness he does to his family and friends.

He’s known for being an avid “foodie” who knows where to eat around the world. With his background as a nurse in the Air Force, he would travel to Germany, Japan and Afghanistan. He’d instantly find the best restaurants or holes-in-the-wall to eat at and could recommend countless places no matter where you traveled. He loves talking to locals and learning about their cultures and practices, but when discussing communities of color in private, he’ll use deeply offensive slurs.

No matter what I’ve said or done to tell him his behavior is terrible, he won’t listen. He’s like an old dog that won’t learn new tricks. He’s stubborn in his thinking, and with the rest of our family thinking just like him, there’s excessive groupthink all around. Now, in Trump’s second term, things have gotten more bizarre, to say the least.

When I visit home, no matter what time of day, Fox News is blasting from the living room television into his bedroom. He scrolls on Facebook about eight hours a day, constantly looking at far-right Instagram Reels and livestreams. He’ll repost 30 posts a day, all attacking “lib-tards” or messages with outwardly racist and homophobic tones.

With him raising a young woman, I wonder if he’s ever had a stance on abortion. I don’t exactly know how he feels. When I got on birth control at a young age, he didn’t mind, and when a friend of mine was raped, he leaped to tell me that if anything were to happen to her or any girl friend of mine, he’d help. I think about that a lot.

But when I got into an argument with him and told him that he voted twice for a man who was taking away my rights — that there

are girls in the country who are exactly like me, dealing with far worse outcomes — he didn’t seem to care. “They can go across state borders to get one!” he replied in defense.

When the Jan. 6 insurrection happened, I wondered again if his stance on Trump would change. Instead, he told me Antifa was dressed up as MAGA Republicans to slander their name. That statement then and there showed me his cultlike worship he has toward Trump.

With Trump’s second term centering around I.C.E. occupation and the silencing of free speech, it is becoming increasingly obvious that this is a fascist takeover. Now, with the loud whispering of Trump planning to run a third term, it seems that’s where we’re headed.

Hispanics and Latines are in detention centers, and media companies have to talk positively about Trump lest they’re met with multiple billion-dollar lawsuits. I.C.E. occupation has reached the threshold of my hometown, and all I see are local residents cheering on these kidnappings — my dad included.

In times like these, it seems infantile to justify my relationship with him on the basis of him being a good father. But this is my loved one, who I believe is brainwashed and has been taken advantage of by far-right propaganda. The father I knew years ago would not have aligned himself this much with Trump, but perhaps my perception of him has always been wrong.

When I hear my peers talk about similar instances with their grandparents or family members, it’s all in the same gray area. These people have been nothing but great to those around them, but their political affiliations teeter on fascism and are reminiscent of Nazi rhetoric. Is this what the current state of our country is now? Seeing these role models in our lives turn towards far-right nationalism? Me and others can only try to disparage them, but unfortunately we’re a stubborn country.

Isabella Leon reflects on how great a father her dad is — that is, until he opens his mouth and discusses his personal politics.

SCIENCE & TECH

SIMPLY STATED

: Should we trust Tylenol?



Preksha Koushik
Reporter

Amidst falling trust in federal health agencies, President Donald Trump’s second administration claims to be working toward restoring trust and transparency within science and health care while continuing to make baseless claims about vaccines, acetaminophen and their correlation to autism.

In February 2025, Robert F. Kennedy Jr., a known anti-vaccination activist, was named Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Kennedy has since pushed for research linking vaccinations and autism, a claim debunked by decades of research. Kennedy has also cut \$500 million in funding for mRNA vaccine development. Despite the Commonwealth Fund reporting that mRNA vaccines saved around \$1 trillion in medical costs and millions of lives during the COVID-19 pandemic, Kennedy

claimed that those vaccines “fail to protect effectively against upper respiratory infections like COVID and flu.” Trump has also questioned vaccines, particularly the measles, mumps and rubella vaccine. Though it’s easy for many people to consult medical professionals and find research that has been supported, it’s worrying that some parents may still be hesitant to vaccinate their children because of such statements, especially as it could lead to outbreaks of measles and polio, which are making a comeback.

Autism seems to be a large focus of Kennedy’s research. In April 2025, he pledged “a massive testing and research effort,” claiming that he would determine the cause of autism in five months. Though he described how “hundreds of scientists from around the world” would be involved in the research, he did not elaborate on the nature of the research or how much funding it would require. The Autism Society of America asserted that autism is “a

complex developmental disability shaped by genetic, biological, and environmental factors,” and that Kennedy’s statements about autism being an “epidemic” or contagion are “harmful, misleading, and unrealistic.”

Vaccines aren’t the only thing Trump’s second administration has tried to link to autism. Trump’s war on Tylenol first started in September 2025, when Kennedy claimed that acetaminophen, a key component of Tylenol, is linked to increased risk of autism when taken during pregnancy. Several sources, including a Johns Hopkins University study cited by a White House article and the HHS, acknowledge the “lack of clear causal evidence” between acetaminophen intake and autism. Despite this, Trump took to social media platform Truth Social and told pregnant women to not use Tylenol “unless absolutely necessary” and added an additional order without providing any reasoning or evidence: “Don’t give Tylenol to your young child for

virtually any reason.” In the very same week, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton sued the makers of Tylenol for hiding the link between acetaminophen and autism, while Kennedy conceded that the association “is not sufficient to say it definitely cause[s] autism,” though he claimed the data “is very suggestive.”

Considering that Tylenol is one of very few medications deemed generally safe to take during pregnancy, Trump’s unsupported claims are worrying for many. The Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine described how a lack of treatment for fevers “increases the risk of miscarriage [and] birth defects,” particularly within the first trimester, and “untreated pain can lead to maternal depression, anxiety, and high blood pressure.” As a result, hesitancy to use Tylenol – which, according to the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, is “one of the few options available to pregnant patients to treat pain and fever” – can be life-altering.

It is true that few studies have observed an association between acetaminophen intake during pregnancy and autism in children: In 2024, a Swedish study that analyzed the records of nearly two million children originally found a small link between acetaminophen and autism. However, when those same researchers accounted for the effects of genes on autism by comparing siblings who had been exposed to acetaminophen with those who had not, the link disappeared. Though some studies have found an association between acetaminophen and autism, no studies have determined a causal relationship – that is, it is completely unsupported to say that Tylenol and acetaminophen cause autism.

These instances of misinformation and fearmongering over vaccines and medication serve as a reminder to trust supported research and medical professionals over someone who had difficulty pronouncing the word “acetaminophen.”

American AI: Speed over safety in Trump’s second term



Robyn Gargan
Reporter

“Whoever becomes the leader in this sphere will become the ruler of the world.” – Vladimir Putin

Donald Trump’s approach to artificial intelligence (AI) is using a world-defining technology like a prop for culture war. By prioritizing deregulation, speed of development and viral AI “memes” to score political points over responsibility and the law, the U.S. could be speeding toward chaos in no time. Success in AI gives America the chance to shape what the world will look like in the future, but without a framework to manage AI’s risks, this success could come at a high cost.

Artificial intelligence is set to change the world as we know it across all aspects of society including healthcare, national security and employment. Some

experts warn that AI could eliminate 50% of all entry-level white-collar jobs within the next 5 years.

The AI revolution is being framed by the Trump administration as a race between the superpowers of the U.S. and China that will determine who leads the world into the future. Trump’s key stance is simple: America must win. According to the official White House website, “Winning the AI race will usher in a new golden age of human flourishing, economic competitiveness, and national security for the American people.” Trump’s approach marks a decisive shift in U.S. policy: Where the Biden administration stressed ethical safeguards and global cooperation, Trump is focused on American dominance and fast-paced innovation.

By “American AI,” the administration refers to the U.S.-

developed AI systems, data centers and algorithms designed, funded or hosted by U.S. companies. The policy removes regulations in order to fast-track a massive expansion of new data centers and the export of American AI globally.

This is a complete U-turn from the Biden-era AI policy, which focused on balancing the potential benefits of AI with the societal and environmental impact it will have. In 2023, Biden signed an executive order requiring companies developing large-scale AI models to rigorously test their safety and security and share results with the federal government before models could be released to the public, as well as mandating federal agencies to implement AI risk frameworks. On his first day in office, Trump explicitly overturned this order before issuing a series of his own, directing agencies to revise or rescind actions that were seen to

hinder AI innovation.

Winning the AI race may usher in a new era of American dominance, but not if it comes without a legal framework to protect those who will be impacted. Misinformation is a key concern. There have been significant improvements in generative AI in a short timeframe. Only last year, AI-generated content was easy to detect, but many photos and videos produced now are nearly indistinguishable from reality.

This presents a new political challenge. According to a YouGov poll, 58% of Americans are very concerned about misinformation being spread through AI, while over half fear it will be used for political propaganda.

Instead of easing these anxieties, the Trump administration appears to be stoking the flames. By posting deepfake videos ranging from “Trump Gaza,” a video depicting the war-torn Gaza

Strip as a Dubai-style paradise featuring golden statues of Trump, to another showing him dropping what appeared to be feces on the heads of protesters, this administration is undermining the office of the presidency, along with any effort to treat generative AI as the serious issue it is.

The AI race presents a huge opportunity to ensure American superiority in technology, defense and finance. However, it will transform the world in ways we cannot yet fully understand, and winning this race is not enough. In order to secure America’s future, the Trump administration must acknowledge the seriousness of this challenge and work to implement a legal AI framework. AI memes may play well with the MAGA voting base, but AI-driven disruption and unemployment will not. Simply put, the White House should stop posting and start legislating.

SCIENCE & TECH

Sable Offshore is just one battle

in a larger fight for environmental justice



Before the Nov. 4 Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors meetings, various organizations rallied outside the Santa Barbara Administration Building.

Anusha Singh
Editor in Chief

The Santa Barbara County Planning Commission approved the restart of the Las Flores Pipeline System — the same pipeline that caused the largest oil spill on the Pacific Coast — to upstream oil company Sable Offshore on Oct. 30, 2024.

What ensued was a plethora of legal battles, county hearings and community and student organizing that continue into this very moment and will likely continue into the foreseeable future.

The cause to stop Sable is a pursuit of sustainability — if restarted, the pipeline could double Santa Barbara County’s greenhouse gas emissions and likely result in an oil spill every two years. However, the question remains — is the cause just?

The phenomena of separating sustainability from justice is not new — only in the past few decades have environmental scholars begun recognizing the links between sustainability and environmental inequality. While significant progress has been made in these years, we are now seeing a federal shift in attitude toward environmental justice (EJ) that questions its very legitimacy as a guiding principle of environmental policy.

In March, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) administrator Lee Zeldin eliminated all environmental justice offices and positions within the organization, placing nearly 200 people across 10 EPA regional offices on administrative leave.

“Our goal at the EPA is going to be

to remediate these environmental issues directly,” Zeldin claimed to the press. “We’re not going to discriminate.”

This rollback is not just the product of a Trump-era rejection of so-called “woke politics.” It is a wake-up call — a reflection of how deeply environmental justice remains misunderstood across the political spectrum.

Environmental justice, as defined by the EPA itself before these eliminations, is the “fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people — regardless of race, color, national origin, or income — in the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws and policies.”

The EJ movement first gained traction in the early 1980s when residents of Warren County, North Carolina, a predominantly Black community, protested the state’s decision to dump toxic polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) waste in their county. Their resistance marked one of the first moments in United States history when environmental policy was recognized as a civil rights issue.

What became clear from the ordeal in Warren County and from the decades of organizing that followed was that the traditional notion of “the environment” as wilderness — something distant, green and untouched — was no longer enough. EJ scholar Robert Bullard, often regarded as the father of environmental justice, wrote:

“The environment is everything: where we live, work, play, go to school, as well as the physical and natural world. And so we can’t

separate the physical environment from the cultural environment. We have to talk about making sure that justice is integrated throughout all of the stuff that we do.”

In a place like Santa Barbara, especially on a college campus, we

“The environment is not just the coastline we rally to save; it is also the refineries, the pipelines, the job sites and the communities that exist alongside them.”

pride ourselves on being stewards of the environment. We march for climate action and brand ourselves as champions of sustainability. But as Bullard reminds us, the environment is not just the coastline we rally to save; it is also the refineries, the pipelines, the job sites and the communities that exist alongside

them. It is the community members who live downwind, who clock in at dawn and whose livelihoods depend on the very industries we often vilify from a comfortable distance.

At the countless Sable hearings that have taken place this past year, that disconnect is impossible to ignore. The workers who fill one side of the room — many of them wearing company jackets, sitting quietly in rows — stand in stark contrast to the faces of students and residents who speak out against the project.

“I’d like to remind everyone that we live here too. We care about our coast,” José Crespo, a Sable employee, said at the Nov. 4 Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors meeting. “We can protect the environment and support working families at the same time.”

While Crespo rallied in full support of continuing Sable’s work on the Santa Barbara coast, his sentiment and the sentiment of several other Sable employees should not be ignored. His words complicated a narrative that had felt clear-cut: Shutting down Sable equals saving the coast. Yet his plea revealed another truth — that environmental protection cannot be separated from economic survival.

At that same meeting, another Sable worker, Pascual Morales, echoed Crespo’s sentiment.

“For me, this isn’t just a job. This is part of my life ... Please don’t separate us from the community. We live here too. We’re your neighbors, we’re your family,” he said.

In a county that celebrates environmentalism, this tension exposes an uncomfortable truth: We have built an image of sustainability

that too often leaves justice out of the picture. We have learned to defend nature but not always the people whose labor sustains it.

This disconnect hasn’t gone unnoticed by the Board of Supervisors.

“I’m not here to put people out of jobs. I want [Sable employees] to transition from a different industry to a new one, where [they] can continue to provide for their families,” Santa Barbara County Supervisor Roy Lee said at the Oct. 21 Board of Supervisors meeting.

Lee’s comment points toward what true sustainability should look like — a just sustainability. If we shut down Sable without addressing the economic inequities that could follow, we risk reinforcing the same cycles of injustice that environmentalism is supposed to challenge.

During the Nov. 4 meeting, the Board of Supervisors voted 4-1 in favor of denying the transfer of a series of permits to Sable, preventing further work on the Las Flores Pipeline System. Although this decision is not definitive nor permanent, it is a step in the right direction.

However, without a just transition that provides new jobs, retraining and community investment, it’s an incomplete one. Environmental justice demands that we hold two truths at once: Fossil fuel infrastructure must end, and the people whose livelihoods depend on it deserve to move forward with dignity.

Because preventing one environmental injustice without creating a just solution isn’t progress — it’s repetition.



The workers who fill one side of the room stand in stark contrast to the faces of students and residents who speak out against the project.



During the Nov. 4 meeting, the Board of Supervisors voted 4-1 in favor of denying the transfer of a series of permits to Sable.



Thursday
 “College Night”
 sightseeing tours
 to downtown
 Santa Barbara’s
 historic “El
 Pueblo Viejo”
 landmark district
 to visit the iconic
 Wildcat Lounge,
 and walkabout
 State Street to
 see the sights!



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SPORTS

GAMES OF THE WEEK



COURTESY OF UCSB ATHLETICS

80-44
vs. **CSUMB**

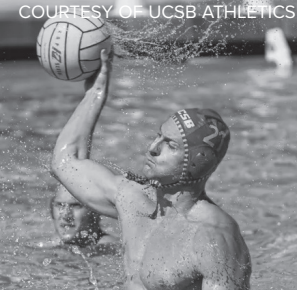
The UC Santa Barbara women's basketball team defeated California State University, Monterey Bay on Monday. Freshman forward Olivia Bradley scored a career-high 19 points.



COURTESY OF UCSB ATHLETICS

3-0
vs. **CSUB**

The UC Santa Barbara women's volleyball team secured a 3-0 victory over California State University, Bakersfield. The team earned it with 37 kills and 17 block assists.



COURTESY OF UCSB ATHLETICS

16-13
vs. **UCD**

The UC Santa Barbara men's water polo team defeated the UCD last Saturday. The Gauchos will pay a visit to the University of Southern California on Saturday.

UCSB SOCCER ADVANCES TO THE BIG WEST TOURNAMENT SEMIFINALS



Junior defender Emily Caughey dribbles the ball.

WOMEN'S SOCCER WINS AND ADVANCES TO SEMIS

Haiden Rogers
Sports Editor

The UC Santa Barbara women's soccer team, which ranks fifth in the Big West onference standings, faced off against UC Irvine, which ranks fourth, in the first round of the Big West Championship tournament on Sunday, Nov. 2. Though it was a difficult matchup for the Gauchos, they came out on top with a final score of 1-0 to advance into the semifinals.

"UC Irvine is one of the toughest teams to play in the Big West. They put a lot of pressure on the ball, which makes them a very difficult team to play. We did a very good job tonight dealing with the pressure and then broke through in the second half," UCSB Head Coach

Paul Stumpf said.

In the first half of the game, both teams fought equally for possession of the ball. This battle extended throughout the entirety of the first half with 3 shots each from the Gauchos and the Anteaters. Though neither team could find the back of the net, the Gauchos' defense stayed strong with junior goalkeeper Maddie Buckley making key saves, including one in minute 10. The halftime whistle blew, and the match remained scoreless.

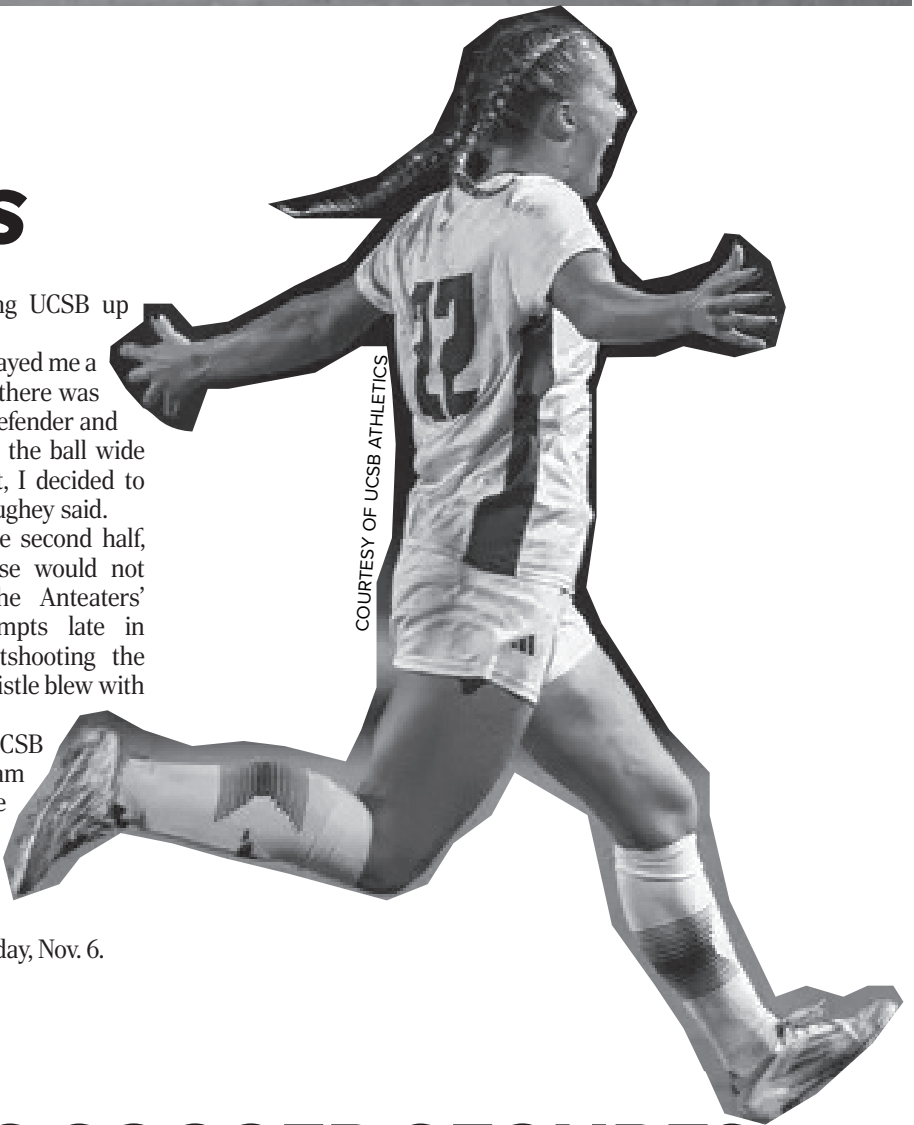
After the halftime break, the energy picked up for the Gauchos, and the deciding moment that sent them to the semifinals struck in minute 51. Junior defender Emily Caughey scored with an assist from sophomore defender

Mya Delaney, putting UCSB up 1-0.

"Mya [Delaney] played me a great ball and I saw there was space between the defender and the ball. When I got the ball wide open at the far post, I decided to take my chance," Caughey said.

For the rest of the second half, the Gauchos' defense would not give in. Despite the Anteaters' multiple shot attempts late in the match and outshooting the Gauchos 12-7, the whistle blew with a final score of 1-0.

The No. 4 UCSB women's soccer team is set to face the No. 1 California State University, Northridge Matadors in the semifinals on Thursday, Nov. 6.



MEN'S SOCCER SECURES NO. 1 SEED IN BIG WEST

Haiden Rogers
Sports Editor

While the UC Santa Barbara women's soccer team moved on in the Big West Championship tournament, the UCSB men's soccer team was fighting for the number one spot in their last regular season conference match against California State University, Northridge on Saturday, Nov 1. The Gauchos tied in an intense match with a final score of 1-1.

The first half of this match was one to forget for the Gauchos, as the hosting Matadors dominated possession of the ball and opportunities on goal. CSUN had a total of eight shots in the first half. While freshman goalkeeper Owen Beninga and the defense did well to fight off the Matadors, they struck first in minute 40 after an unfortunate series of events for the Gauchos. The opportunity for

the Matadors came off of a free kick that was awarded to them after sophomore midfielder Jack Middleton had a late tackle that got him his second yellow card , ultimately sending him off the field and out of the game. This meant the Gauchos had to play down a man for the remainder of the match. CSUN then capitalized off of the rewarded free kick, putting the Matadors up 1-0 to end the half.

In the second half, the Gauchos came out fired up to find an equalizer as this would be all they needed to clinch a number one seed and immediate ticket to the semifinals in the Big West conference tournament. They did not have to wait long as the tying goal came in minute 53 from sophomore forward Zac Siebenlist. The assist came from senior midfielder Ramses Martinez who played a well-

timed ball into the penalty box. Siebenlist knew just what to do with it as he chipped the ball over the oncoming CSUN goalkeeper and into the back of the net. This made the score 1-1.

Knowing that this goal was all they needed, the Gauchos shifted to a more defensive-minded play style. This did nwot put a stop to the rowdiness in this match that led to a final combined total of 43 fouls. The Gauchos backline held firm until the very end, the final whistle blew and the Gauchos secured the No.1 seed with a final score of 1-1. This left the Gauchos undefeated in their conference matchups this season.

The Gauchos are set to play next in the Big West Championship tournament in the semifinals on Saturday, Nov. 8. They will be playing against either UC Davis or California State University, Fullerton.

Daily Nexus

Stench

NEXUSTENTIALISM

It's Satire, Stupid.



Gone sexual? 5 strange things Gavin Newsom has texted me

Don Juan Tenorio
Aroused

With California's special election approaching, state Democrats have gone on the campaign trail to pass Proposition 50 into law. Chief among these politicians has been California's governor and full-time daddy Gavin Newsom, whose text campaign has ranged from annoyingly political to downright lascivious. Listed here are just five of the countless lewd texts the governor has inundated us with, all collected from my own personal cell phone.

Gavin Newsom here. Can I count on you to vote YES on Prop 50?

This one is pretty self explanatory. As governor, Newsom is supposed to pass and uphold laws in the state of California, and he does often try to push the populace to vote on propositions that will further his agenda as a Democrat. This text actually got to me at a really

good time; I was watching Fox News and Sean Hannity was being extremely convincing. But when Newsom hit my line, I knew that my vote on Prop 50 was going to be a definite yes. Like I always say in regards to hot governors: whatever daddy wants, daddy gets.

Hey, it's Gavin Newsom again. Can I count on you to GET COFFEE WITH ME on November 1st at 10:00 am?

I was a little confused with this one at first, but I guess it does make sense. After all, a governor should try to get to know his people, right? So, I went to the coffee shop at 9:55 to be extra punctual, but Newsom was already there. I tried to make small talk, but the whole time he was giving this insane death stare to a homeless guy chilling across the street. At one point, he even dragged his thumb across his throat and mouthed "I'm gonna kill you," but when I asked him about it he tried to change the subject to "holding Trump accountable."

We kissed afterwards, but his breath smelled like coffee and he used too much tongue; 6/10 overall though, because he paid.

Gavin here, you up?

He sent me this one at 2 a.m., right after I finished my nightly JRE listen. I was surprised because I was under the impression that he was a busy man that would be on top of his sleep schedule, but I suppose not. I indulged him and responded pretty quickly, but he only really wanted to talk about some new idea for an ad where he "mogs" Trump or whatever, so I just pretended to fall asleep. It was at this point when I started to think that he might be taking things a little too far in this governor/citizen relationship, but I'm sure lots of other Californians enjoyed these late night Newsom chats.

i want you

At first, I was honestly flattered. The governor wants me? And so we started to talk a little dirty or whatever. But then,

I realized he probably texted this to all the other residents of California, and I felt so stupid. Why did I even think I was special? I know for a fact that all the rest of you received this text and probably didn't even think anything of it. Gavin is like that to everyone, but I guess I'm just naive, right? I know all of you saw this and were like, "Classic Gavin!" but I've just been so lonely for so long that I fell for the first tall silver fox that showed any interest in me, even though THIS IS WHAT HE SAYS TO EVERY SINGLE ONE OF YOU BITCHES, BUT I WAS THE DUMB ONE WHO FELL FOR IT. Sorry.

Sorry I ghosted for a little lol it's Gavin here. I just wanted to ask what are we really? What do you want out of this?

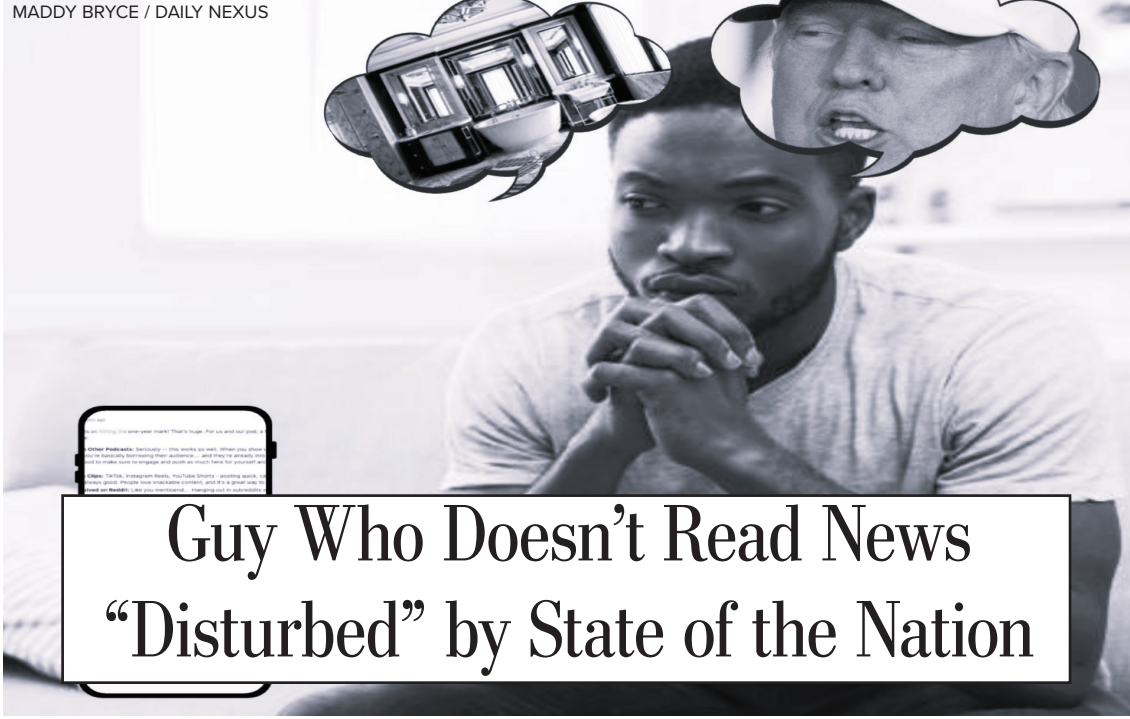
Seriously, after a WEEK of not texting, he sent me this. Like, somehow he thought I forgot everything and this would all blow over or something? He really thought that I would still

want to be talking to him? So, I said, "No, Gavin, I'm not gonna let you walk all over me like you do with all your other citizens, no matter how sexy you are. I know you only wanted me for my electoral power because all you care about is Prop 50. I'm more than just a vote you know. And I'm TIRED of letting you treat me like this. We're done Gavin. Don't fucking text me again. You can't count on me to vote YES on anything, ok? Leave me alone. I can't believe I even fell for your shit in the first place."

Many Californians have voiced complaints about the persistence of these messages from Governor Newsom. The five texts displayed above are only a few of the thousands that I know every single one of you has received. Stay tuned to Nexustentialism for more special election coverage.

Don Juan Tenorio would like the governor to make a campaign stop in his bedroom.

MADDY BRYCE / DAILY NEXUS



Serrano Ham
Politically Inactive

Commemorating the one-year anniversary of the presidential election, local UC Santa Barbara student and third-year doomscroll studies major Evan Ignorami announced on Oct. 28 that he was "deeply unsettled by the direction of the country," despite not having read a single piece of news since the Logan Paul and Mike Tyson fight.

Ignorami, who receives all current news updates from conversations overheard in the Panda Express line at the University Center and the occasional TikTok caption, was shocked to learn that things actually happened after the election last year.

"I thought voting was like those 'would you rather' quizzes. I had no idea things were actually implemented. That's just kinda insane to me," Ignorami said.

Since this realization, friends of Ignorami noted that his political involvement saw a rare peak after he posted an

Instagram story slide reading, "go vote besties <3."

However, the Daily Nexus has received reports that the link to his story actually took viewers to a Dress To Impress poll instead of anything related to the California special election. Regardless, Ignorami has expressed a genuine interest in becoming more informed about current events.

Ignorami has begun his enlightenment journey with what he calls "ambient news," which includes headlines skimmed while deleting Apple News notifications, a clip of a senator yelling during a 10-second YouTube ad and conversations his stoned roommates have about "the debt ceilings or something."

People close to Ignorami have noticed that, in recent weeks, he has also begun expressing feelings of being "overwhelmed" and "disillusioned."

"I'm really sensitive to negative things, and I'm detecting a lot of stress in the online world, which is really getting to me. People are just mad and upset about ... things.

And I am too," Ignorami said.

When asked what specifically bothers Ignorami most about the current political state of the world, Ignorami was quick to weigh in about the most pressing issues.

"Well, watching an Instagram Reel about the Lincoln bathroom renovation was horrific. The texture on the marble is just awful and doesn't in any way match the shade of gold used on the hardware," Ignorami commented.

Ignorami has vowed to address the issues he has with politics these days and has plans to start a non-profit organization aimed at supporting students who have been asked, "Have you voted?"

Construction for a "no guilt zone" is awaiting the permit approval process. Ignorami promises to spread awareness when he remembers.

"I'm taking action. I'll make sure to vote if someone texts me a link telling me how, or if I see a reminder on someone's close friends' story."

Serrano Ham wishes to be this ignorant.



MADDY BRYCE / DAILY NEXUS

Benjamin Epstein
Ally

In accordance with the wishes of our beloved well-endowed president, UCSB has renovated its curriculum, replacing all the ugly WOKENESS with PATRIOTIC teachings. Here is a list of our beloved leader's proposed changes:

Feminist studies is to be replaced with white men studies, where students learn about how hard it is to be a white man and how much they're OPPRESSED by SOCIETY.

The previously WOKE anatomy and health science department has been replaced with an RFK-approved anatomy and health science department which offers classes such as Introduction to Phrenology, Giving Lobotomies for Beginners and Curing Illnesses With Essential Oils and Crystals 101.

All of the filthy DEMOCRATIC blue paint has been taken away from the Art Department and replaced with honest REPUBLICAN red paint.

The English Department is no longer allowed to feature the

following WOKE books: "Animal Farm," the Constitution, "Grammar For Beginners," "Horton Hears a Who!" and "The Martha Stewart Cookbook." Instead, they will only be teaching PATRIOTIC and AMERICAN works such as the Bible, "The Art of the Deal" and "Green Eggs and Ham." And when we say the Bible, we only mean the GOOD, SAFE BOOKS, like the Book of Judges and the Book of Ezekiel, and not THE WOKE DEI PARTS like the Book of Exodus.

There will be MANDATORY makeup classes for all women because our glorious leader is tired of seeing UGLY PEOPLE everywhere. If you are not sufficiently HOT enough, then you're NOT ALLOWED TO GRADUATE. AND, if a man so much as THINKS about applying FOR A MAKEUP CLASS, WE'RE SHUTTING THE WHOLE STINKING COLLEGE DOWN AND REPLACING IT WITH A GOLF COURSE.

The English Department can't teach students what pronouns are.

By Benjamin Epstein

ON THE MENU

Cal Benefits are low, but this hearty minestrone soup will raise your spirits



ERICA JOHNSON / DAILY NEXUS

Pihu Jain
On The Menu Editor

The current U.S. federal government shutdown, which began on Oct. 1 of this year, is now the longest government shutdown in U.S. history (surpassing the 35 day shutdown also under Donald Trump's term in 2019). It is unfortunate that, just as I find my application for a Cal Benefits Electronic Benefit Transfer card approved, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits are being withdrawn.

For those of you who are unfamiliar, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (S.N.A.P.) is a federal program that provides food benefits to low income families to supplement their grocery budget. While this is disheartening news, my heart aches far more for the families in California and across the nation whose lives may be irrevocably changed by lack of governmental accountability. California is a beautiful state, and after three years here, I have come to find it a second home. Neighbors here are like family and you will never find yourself far from a kind smile or a helping hand. It is this resilient Californian spirit that gives me hope for the future, especially in the coming months

where thousands of Californians experiencing food insecurity will be looking to one another for alternate food resources and programs.

In the local Santa Barbara area there are many programs, like the Foodbank of Santa Barbara County (foodbanksbc.org), which are working with local farms and other food banks and kitchens to provide food to those in need. I encourage you to also check the Santa Barbara Parks & Recreation website, which includes a list of food distribution locations and scheduling for when said distributions will occur. These programs bring fresh food and produce to those in need, hopefully reducing some of the financial food burden locals face.

Now, just as important as it is to have access to the right resources, it is crucial to know what to do with them. What can you do when funds are low to feed yourself and your loved ones, without compromising on nutrition and overall health?

To answer this question, I went to Trader Joe's and modified a classic recipe that packs a nutritious punch without deflating your wallet: hearty minestrone soup. I focused on including the six essential

nutrients, which, as a reminder, are, proteins, carbohydrates, fats, vitamins, minerals and water. My ingredients are from Trader Joe's (for those of you looking to follow a simple blueprint), but you can find them at the aforementioned food banks and other local grocers and farms as they suit your budget. The bill adds up to roughly \$20, and this recipe will last you several meals (three to four days in the fridge) and can even be frozen for months and thawed at will. If you still have access to your EBT funds (i.e. if your October balance rolled over into November), this recipe is a resourceful way to use those funds. Now, more than ever, it's important to plan meals and stretch a dollar wherever possible, and minestrone soup is a great way to get started.

Minestrone soup recipe
Yield: 5-6 servings
Duration: 40 minutes

- Ingredients:
- 1 container organic mirepoix (mix of onion, carrot and celery) (nutrients: vitamins A, K and fiber)
 - 1 carton organic low sodium vegetable broth (nutrients: sodium and

- potassium)
- 1 can Italian whole peeled tomatoes with basil leaf (nutrients: vitamin C and lycopene, an antioxidant)
- 2 cups organic square rigatoni pasta (nutrients: complex carbohydrates, B vitamins and fiber)
- ½ package steamed lentils (nutrients: protein, iron and zinc)
- 1 can kidney beans (nutrients: fiber and protein)
- 1 ½ cups Trader Joe's Ready Veggies (nutrients: vitamins A, C and folate)
- ½ bag baby spinach (nutrients: vitamin K, iron and folate)
- 1 tablespoon oil (olive oil preferred, but any should do)
- Salt/pepper to taste

Instructions:

- In a large pot, heat oil over medium heat, then add mirepoix and cook until fragrant (5-6 minutes)
- Then, add vegetable broth, diced tomato (with juice) and mixed vegetables until boiling
- Follow this with beans, lentils and pasta; allow to simmer for 12-15 minutes

until pasta is to your liking (I prefer al dente, so 12-ish minutes)

- Add spinach and cook until wilted (1-2 minutes)
- Finish with seasoning (salt and pepper) or any other flavors you'd like to add
- Serve in your favorite mug/bowl and enjoy!

While I sourced my ingredients from Trader Joe's, I am sure these essential ingredients can be found at any local grocery store and if you find them cheaper, don't hesitate to use them instead. Even on a lower budget, this recipe packs a hearty, flavorful punch. There shouldn't have to be a compromise between price and flavor, and I hope you find that to be true with this recipe. I am deeply disappointed in the current administration's lack of support for families and individuals experiencing food insecurity, but the hole that S.N.A.P. benefits have left is slowly being patched with the love and care of generous Americans coming together to support one another. My thoughts and prayers are with every family adversely affected by withdrawal of S.N.A.P. benefits, and I know we will get through this together.

What's on the 2026 American menu?



PIPER CHENEY / DAILY NEXUS

Peach Canyon Winery, a vineyard producing internationally-exported wine, is located just above San Luis Obispo.

Piper Cheney
On The Menu Editor

As this election season arrives, it's worth reflecting on a major decision made in America a year ago. Just one year into Donald Trump's second presidential term, he has issued various threats that could have lasting consequences on the nation's food supply.

The United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) will undergo a pivotal review in July 2026, six years after its implementation. What was once expected to be a routine check-in now appears likely to become a contentious renegotiation. The Trump administration seeks new concessions from Mexico and Canada on long-standing trade disputes dating back to the North American Treaty Organization (NATO) and also ties to broader issues such as immigration, drug-trafficking

and national security.

The review carries major economic implications: the U.S., Mexico and Canada share highly integrated supply chains in manufacturing and agriculture, and any disruption could raise costs, weaken competitiveness and threaten food security across the region. The renegotiation offers opportunities to modernize the agreement through greater cooperation on technology, climate adaptation and trade efficiency, potentially strengthening North America's economic resilience for decades to come.

Renewing the USMCA and reducing trade threats is important for maintaining good relations with our closest trading partners. A large chunk of U.S. agricultural exports are shipped to Canada and Mexico, making them reliable partners under the USMCA and vital to American agricultural workers. According to United States

Department of Agriculture, the U.S. generated \$40.1 billion in 2019 from Canada and Mexico just from U.S. agricultural exports. Additionally, the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative states 325,000 American jobs are reliant on these agricultural exports. Major food and agricultural interest groups have called for the renewal of the USMCA in a joint letter to the administration. The letter argues that an agreement has made the agricultural sector more efficient by cutting costs for American farmers, producers and ranchers.

If the USMCA is not renewed or renegotiated and President Trump decides to cut the deal with Canada and Mexico, there will be nationwide effects on our food supply. Fresh, seasonal crops will be more difficult to import and more expensive for consumers to buy at their neighborhood grocery stores. Mexico provides a complementary agricultural

cycle that ensures a steady flow of produce to American grocers. Interestingly enough, after threats made directly by the president to their own sector, rural farmers are a base of support for President Trump. In 2024, 77% of farming-dependent counties voted for Donald Trump. Canada has responded to the tariffs (that go against the USMCA) and threats on items such as wine by sourcing their imports from other countries, like European nations, effectively hitting our home state, California. Shannon Douglass, president of the California Farm Bureau, stated, "Strengthening and enforcing provisions of trade agreements like USMCA, expanding export markets and ensuring fair competition through diplomatic discussions would likely protect California farmers without triggering unnecessary retaliation." It is unclear what gain many American farmers believe they

will receive from backing the current president, yet, their support has been unwavering. It appears that protecting the USMCA would be in their best interest to continue employment and exports.

As the 2026 USMCA review approaches, the U.S. stands at a crossroads in its agricultural and trade policy. The decisions made in the coming months will determine not only the stability of North America's food supply but also the livelihoods of hundreds of thousands of American farmers and workers who depend on trade with our neighbors. Preserving and strengthening the USMCA is an investment in economic security, food affordability and regional cooperation. If the administration prioritizes collaboration over war, it can secure lasting prosperity for America's agricultural sector and reaffirm the nation's role as a trusted leader in North American trade.



La complejidad del votante latino

Sofía Benitez
Editora de Copia

En las elecciones pasadas del 2 de noviembre, quedó claro que los latinos jugaron un papel relevante en la victoria electoral de Donald Trump, candidato del Partido Republicano, sobre Kamala Harris, candidata demócrata.

Este cambio en los patrones de votación entre los latinos sorprendió a muchos, ya que históricamente habían sido votantes leales al Partido Demócrata.

Este fenómeno ha generado confusión y numerosas preguntas sobre los motivos detrás de esta transformación.

Según reportó la BBC, basándose en encuestas a pie de urna, aproximadamente un 45% de los votantes latinos apoyaron a Trump.

Dentro de estas cifras, se observó un fenómeno histórico: una brecha de género significativa entre los votantes latinos republicanos, donde un 53% de los hombres latinos votaron por Trump, en comparación con sólo un 37% de las mujeres latinas.

Visto desde ese contexto histórico, alcanzó la mayor participación del voto latino a nivel nacional que haya logrado un candidato presidencial republicano en la era moderna.

No hay una sola respuesta a la pregunta que muchos han estado haciendo sobre el porqué la comunidad latina apoyó al candidato republicano de manera significativa en las pasadas elecciones.

La comunidad latina ha enfrentado una serie de desafíos económicos significativos: los costos de energía y de vivienda digna se han vuelto casi inalcanzables, y el precio de la canasta básica ha aumentado considerablemente, afectando especialmente a la clase trabajadora.

Estos problemas generaron frustración entre los votantes, quienes

esperaban que los demócratas los aboradaran.

Sin embargo, las respuestas del partido demócrata, basadas en métricas de éxito económico que no reflejaban la realidad, provocaron desilusión en la comunidad latina. Muchos sintieron que el partido había perdido conexión con las necesidades de la clase trabajadora y no estaba escuchando sus preocupaciones.

En este contexto de descontento, los discursos de Trump que destacaban la economía como el principal problema de Estados Unidos resonaron fuertemente con la comunidad latina, al enfocarse en problemas inmediatos y tangibles que afectaban su vida diaria.

Otro de los factores que resultaron en la popularidad de Trump entre los Latinos fue la crisis en la frontera.

Según las estadísticas, aproximadamente un 75% de los latinos percibe el creciente número de migrantes que buscan asilo como un problema importante, y una proporción similar considera que el gobierno está manejando mal esta situación.

Asimismo, la actitud descarada, cínica e imprudente de Trump es admirada por muchos Latinos quien a su vez no ven un problema en los insultos, comentarios derogatorios y racistas porque no se sienten pertenecientes al público al que esto va dirigido.

Se ha discutido cómo los demócratas tienden a asumir que merecen el voto de las minorías, sin hacer realmente el esfuerzo por ganarse el apoyo de estos grupos. Carlos Suárez, profesor de la Universidad de Florida en el departamento de Estudios Latinoamericanos, considera que los hombres latinos son igual de susceptibles a las actitudes misóginas y arrogantes de Trump que cualquier otro grupo racial de hombres. El

profesor declaró: “Si los hombres blancos consideran a Trump un candidato apto, ¿por qué no lo harían los hombres latinos?” quien interpreta esto como una forma de asimilación cultural por parte de los hombres latinos.

La táctica de Trump al describir a los inmigrantes como “criminales” o “violadores” no solo busca generar miedo, sino también división dentro de la propia comunidad inmigrante. Algunos apoyan a Trump como una manera de diferenciarse de “los otros” señalados como peligrosos o indeseables.

Esto margina a los inmigrantes ante la sociedad y fragmenta internamente las comunidades, creando una jerarquía simbólica donde quienes adoptan las ideas del trumpismo se perciben como “buenos inmigrantes”, más cercanos a la ciudadanía blanca y “respetable”.

Muchos inmigrantes que ya han alcanzado cierta estabilidad económica o legal tienden a distanciarse de los recién llegados, adoptando actitudes y prejuicios de la sociedad dominante en busca de validación.

Sin embargo, esta dinámica perpetúa la desigualdad dentro de la comunidad latina y debilita los lazos de solidaridad que podrían servir como fuerza colectiva frente a la discriminación estructural. La sensación de superioridad que esto genera es falsa, ya que refuerza las mismas estructuras racistas y xenófobas que los oprimen.

Uno de los muchos motivos de este fenómeno electoral proviene del creciente resentimiento de los votantes Latinos hacia las nuevas olas de migrantes, específicamente de los que buscan asilo político provenientes de Venezuela, Nicaragua y Cuba. Especialmente con los cubanos que son considerados como “privilegiados” en comparación con

otros inmigrantes.

Desde hace más de sesenta años, Estados Unidos ha otorgado a los inmigrantes cubanos privilegios especiales, como acceso al trabajo, asistencia social y ciudadanía, mientras que otros inmigrantes indocumentados enfrentan detención, deportación y la negación de derechos legales.

Resultando en este rechazo por parte de otros latinos que a pesar de llevar muchos años ilegalmente en el país, trabajando y pagando taxes viven en la incertidumbre, ya que todavía no cuentan con un camino claro hacia la ciudadanía.

Por otro lado, existe una dinámica interesante entre los recién llegados y los inmigrantes que ya llevan varios años en el país. Se ha observado una especie de actitud “nativista”. Se puede decir que, cada generación de inmigrantes intentó cerrarles el paso o dificultarles el camino a quienes llegan después.

Esta idea se asemeja al dicho popular “el peor enemigo de un mexicano es otro mexicano”,

que refleja cómo, dentro de la misma comunidad latina, pueden surgir divisiones marcadas por la competencia, el deseo de diferenciación y la búsqueda de aceptación en la sociedad estadounidense.

El apoyo de una parte de la comunidad latina a Trump no es necesariamente una contradicción, sino el reflejo de la diversidad interna del electorado latino. Bajo la etiqueta de “votante latino” conviven múltiples identidades, historias y perspectivas. Aunque muchos comparten una lengua y ciertos lazos culturales, sus valores y motivaciones políticas están profundamente marcados por experiencias personales y familiares que varían según el país de origen, la clase social o el proceso migratorio.

Reducir el voto latino a una sola narrativa es ignorar su complejidad. Los partidos que realmente deseen conectar con esta comunidad deben reconocer su pluralidad y entender que no existe un solo “votante latino”, sino una amplia gama de voces y realidades.



Opinión: Los hombres latinos se inclinan hacia la derecha, lo que tiene un impacto negativo en las comunidades latinas

Azucena Sanchez
Editora para La Vista

Los informes de las encuestas mostraron que la mayoría de los votantes del Partido Republicano durante la carrera presidencial de 2024-25 eran hombres latinos. Estos resultados fueron sorprendentes, pero, sinceramente, tenían sentido.

Sin embargo, al votar por un partido que habla su idioma cultural, los hombres latinos han socavado su bienestar económico, su salud y la estructura misma de su comunidad.

La relevancia cultural del mensaje republicano, como su profundo énfasis en la masculinidad tradicional, la fe y la familia nuclear, conecta directamente con el machismo latino. Y aunque esa palabra tiene connotaciones negativas, es un concepto que a veces se entiende como un código para la masculinidad tradicional centrada en los deberes de proveedor, protector y patriarca moral. El énfasis del partido en los roles de género tradicionales, los derechos de la Segunda Enmienda y un líder nacional fuerte resuena profundamente con este rol masculino idealizado.

Del mismo modo, la influencia de la fe, especialmente dentro de la comunidad cristiana, hace que los hombres latinos se inclinen hacia la derecha. Estas instituciones, que constituyen el núcleo de la vida social y cultural, enmarcan las creencias políticas hacia la comunidad.

Cuando los pastores predicán sobre el aborto o ciertos temas LGBTQ+, no solo están ofreciendo opiniones políticas ocultas tras la Biblia, sino que están definiendo batallas sagradas.

Y para un hombre latino devoto, votar por los republicanos se convierte en un acto de protección de la fe y el bienestar de su familia. Esta lucha contra las ideologías «woke» en las escuelas y la sociedad se considera una batalla para preservar los valores de sus hijos.

Sin embargo, aunque los hombres latinos son aplaudidos en los rallies por su fe y sus valores tradicionales, la agenda republicana va en contra de sus intereses.

La implacable presión del

partido para reducir los impuestos, que beneficia enormemente a los más ricos, hace muy poco por los propietarios de tiendas o contratistas latinos. En lugar de ayudarlos, priva al público de los fondos para las mismas infraestructuras, ya sean carreteras o servicios públicos, de las que dependen sus negocios.

Su voto a favor de la desregulación provoca un debilitamiento de las normas de seguridad en el lugar de trabajo, lo que pone en mayor riesgo la vida de innumerables hombres latinos que trabajan en la construcción y el mantenimiento. Lo que, lamentablemente, significa que, aunque

votaron por el partido de las pequeñas empresas, en realidad dieron poder al partido de la oligarquía corporativa.

Ahora bien, este daño no solo afecta a la economía de sus familias, sino también a su salud. La oposición del Partido Republicano a la ampliación de Medicaid ha tenido un enorme impacto negativo en las comunidades latinas. Al votar a los republicanos, los hombres latinos han apoyado a quienes privaron del seguro médico a millones de personas, incluidas sus propias familias.

Además, la retórica antiinmigrante que el partido puede respaldar como justa tiene un efecto cruel. Alimenta un entorno que permite la discriminación y los estereotipos racistas, no solo contra la comunidad indocumentada, sino contra cualquier estadounidense que parezca o suene “latino”.

El mismo partido que estos hombres apoyan da poder a las autoridades federales como el ICE para operar con un mandato amplio que a menudo borra la línea entre los inmigrantes indocumentados y los residentes legales.

Esto genera un mundo en el que sus padres, que pueden ser residentes permanentes legales, sus parejas con estatus de protección temporal y sus propios hijos ciudadanos nacidos en Estados Unidos pueden ser vistos con sospecha, sometidos a controles “aleatorios” o vivir con el temor de que una parada de tráfico rutinaria pueda separar a su familia mediante la detención y la deportación. Al buscar

un partido que prometa «seguridad», han respaldado un aparato que activa hace que sus propias comunidades sean menos seguras, más temerosas e inherentemente menos libres, lo que socava fundamentalmente la dignidad y la seguridad que buscan proporcionar.

Además, al alinearse con un partido que niega la magnitud del cambio climático, los hombres latinos están votando en contra del futuro de sus propios hijos y nietos.

Las comunidades latinas suelen estar en primera línea de la crisis climática, enfrentándose a calor extremo, mala calidad del aire y mucho más. Y la negación del Partido Republicano a actuar y cambiar las cosas supone una amenaza directa para la salud y la supervivencia

económica de sus descendientes.

Puede que hayan votado por un partido que se ajusta a sus valores culturales, pero al hacerlo, perjudican sus posibilidades de alcanzar el sueño americano que persiguen con tanta determinación. Buscaban un partido que los considerara patriotas y proveedores, y a cambio obtuvieron uno que los trata como un simple grupo demográfico.

Debemos educar y enseñar a las comunidades marginadas a desarrollar su alfabetización mediática. El uso como arma de la ansiedad cultural, de no saber a qué o a quién se está votando, se basa en el hecho de que las personas no están plenamente educadas y no tienen acceso a información sobre los políticos.

La única forma de cambiar esta situación es a través de esfuerzos para financiar y promover una educación que empodere a los votantes para que puedan analizar

la retórica política y trazar la línea que va desde una promesa electoral hasta el resultado de una política.

No se trata de decirle a la gente cómo votar, sino de darles las herramientas para que se pregunten: “¿Cómo me afecta esta política? ¿A mi familia? ¿A nuestra salud? ¿A nuestro futuro?”. El objetivo es crear un electorado que no sea tan fácil de manipular, que exija sustancia en lugar de apariencia y que haga responsables a todos los líderes de garantizar la seguridad, las oportunidades y la dignidad que todas las familias, sin importar su origen, merecen por derecho.

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HOPE IN THE TIME OF THE

Coast to coast: America, organizing

Kaavya Saini
DEI Chair

Across the country, people are refusing despair and choosing to build. From millions taking to the street to say “No Kings” to young activists defending both democracy and the planet, resistance has taken on a new shape: creative, communal and fiercely hopeful. Across campuses and city blocks nationwide, people are reclaiming what politics mean: collective power and the courage to imagine something better. We highlight these events and movements in cities ranging from our nation’s capital to Santa Barbara itself because together they capture the creativity and courage defining today’s resistance. From mass mobilization and grassroots leadership to community defense and artistic protest, each reflects a different way people are reclaiming democracy and reimagining what shared power can look like.

Nationwide “No Kings” protests

Santa Barbara, CA
On June 14 this summer, what many called impossible happened. Millions of Americans mobilized under the banner “No Kings,” challenging the authoritarian actions of the Trump administration. In a second wave of similar protests on Oct. 18, over seven million people participated in more than 2,700 events across all 50 states, with a turnout of around 13,000 community members in Santa Barbara alone. As “No Kings” organizers put it, “No Kings” is more than just a

slogan; it is the foundation our nation was built upon.”

From city streets to rural town squares, the movement has grown into a show of sustained, peaceful resistance in numbers, highlighting the importance of collective power in challenging tyranny.

The meteoric rise of Zohran Mamdani

New York City, NY
Over on the East Coast, Assemblymember Zohran Mamdani’s rapid political rise and recent victory in the New York City mayoral election has become a symbol of what grassroots democracy can look like. The son of Ugandan and Indian immigrants, Mamdani built his campaign around affordable housing, public transit and social safety nets, powered by hundreds of neighborhood volunteers and canvassers. His movement has extended far beyond the five New York City boroughs, instilling increasingly disillusioned young voters with hope and reaching millions more on social media. Commenters from Florida to France have rallied behind mayor-elect Mamdani and, at a time when faith in American government feels scarce, Mamdani’s success offers a different kind of political story. It’s one grounded in door-knocking and the belief that representation can serve the working class, not just the powerful few.

Los Angeles anti-I.C.E. protests

Los Angeles, CA
In neighborhoods across Los Angeles, residents transformed outrage at federal immigration

raids this June into sustained networks of protest and protection. Holding rallies and blocking freeways in response to increased Immigration and Customs Enforcement (I.C.E.) activity in the city, Los Angeles showed up to display how collective action can turn fear into connection, ensuring that families, students and immigrants feel supported in the face of federal intimidation. Volunteers, grassroots networks and advocacy groups now warn communities of impending raids, provide legal and housing support and organize rapid response teams, often putting themselves at personal risk. Their message is clear: we keep us safe — a sentiment echoed in cities nationwide, including by 805 UndocuFund and the 805 Immigrant Coalition in Santa Barbara, which fight for short-term financial relief and immigrant rights. In Los Angeles, however, this movement carries particular weight: The city has been a repeated target of aggressive federal immigration enforcement under the Trump administration, which has deployed heightened I.C.E. operations and even illegally mobilized the National Guard to intimidate the city’s “sanctuary” status. By focusing on Los Angeles, we see federal power and community resistance collide, revealing not just an organized local reaction, but also a national flashpoint.

The Sunrise Movement takes on authoritarianism

Washington, D.C.
Once known primarily for climate activism, youth-led political organization the

Sunrise Movement expanded its fight this year, linking environmental justice with the defense of democracy itself. As authoritarian currents strengthened nationwide, Sunrise Movement organizers recognized the shared roots of ecological collapse and political decay: greed, extraction and inequality. They launched “How to End an Oligarchy” teach-ins and are taking on oil billionaires for both the planet and the people, stating that “fascism runs on Big Oil.” Their shift signaled the urgency of this political moment: Saving the Earth means saving democracy, too. From classrooms to capitol, young activists are proving that the fight for a sustainable future is also a fight for a free one.

Operation Inflation adds color to protests

Portland, OR
Operation Inflation is a Portland-based initiative providing free inflatable costumes to protesters, especially those demonstrating in response to I.C.E. activities. Aside from providing a sense of absurdist

humor at protests, Operation Inflation counters narratives portraying demonstrators as violent — such as President Trump’s characterization of the city as a “war zone” — and additionally helps to protect protesters’ identities. The idea originated after viral news coverage showed a protester in a frog costume being pepper sprayed by I.C.E. agents, inspiring successful fundraising efforts to distribute costumes like frogs, unicorns and more.

Global protests against authoritarianism

On the day of Trump’s inauguration, people across the globe took to the streets to voice opposition to authoritarianism and defend democratic values. From London to Manila, protesters held rallies, marches and vigils, showing that resistance to cruelty and corruption extends far beyond borders. These demonstrations underscored a shared worldwide commitment to justice, fundamental human rights and the idea that power belongs to the people — not to rulers or elites.



COURTESY OF ZOHRANFORNYC



The second wave of ‘No Kings’ protests on Oct. 18 drew a crowd of around 13,000 Santa Barbara locals.



A protestor in an inflatable frog costume faces off with federal officers outside the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (I.C.E.) building in Portland.

SAMANTHA DILLON & KAAVYA SAINI / DAILY NEXUS



THE DIVERSITY HIRE

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION



The difference between a Food Bank and Food Pantry

A food bank collects, stores and distributes food and other essential goods for local organizations that serve the community, such as the Associated Students Food Bank here on campus. In contrast, food pantries tend to work directly with individuals and families. They usually provide food and support through on-site distribution and outreach efforts, often receiving their supplies from food banks.

Federally Funded vs. local welfare programs

Federal funding provides the majority of financial support for welfare programs nationwide, typically via grants to states. Many such programs in California are dual-funded by both state and federal grants, like the Foodbank of Santa Barbara County. While local resources may be affected by a federal government shutdown or funding cuts, many will continue reduced operations by relying on alternative funding sources and community support.

Where to turn when the government shuts down

Samantha Dillon

DEI Chair

As of Nov. 2, 2025, the federal government has been shut down for 32 days. In the midst of this shutdown, millions of Americans — including thousands in California — face the threat of losing their social welfare benefits. According to the California Poverty Measure, Santa Barbara’s poverty rate averaged 17.7% from 2021 to 2023, one of the highest in the state. At UC Santa Barbara, many students rely on basic needs assistance and federal grant programs to afford food, housing and tuition. The potential collapse of federal funding this November could have devastating effects on our state and local community. Yet, even in a crisis, there remains hope.

California’s first step in preparing for funding failure has been to supplement federal programs with state resources. Governor Gavin Newsom, seeking to support food banks across the state, has deployed the California National Guard and California Volunteers to assist with logistics and distribution.

Additionally, he has announced plans to fast-track upward of \$80 million in state support to offset federal funding delays.

While Newsom’s actions primarily target federally funded resources, it is important to remember that many programs in California and Santa Barbara County also receive state and local support. This means that although federal cuts will create a strain on many essential services, they will continue to operate, sustained by state grants, private donors and community volunteers. UCSB students still have access to vital resources made possible by the ongoing efforts of volunteers, faculty, staff, students and local organizations.

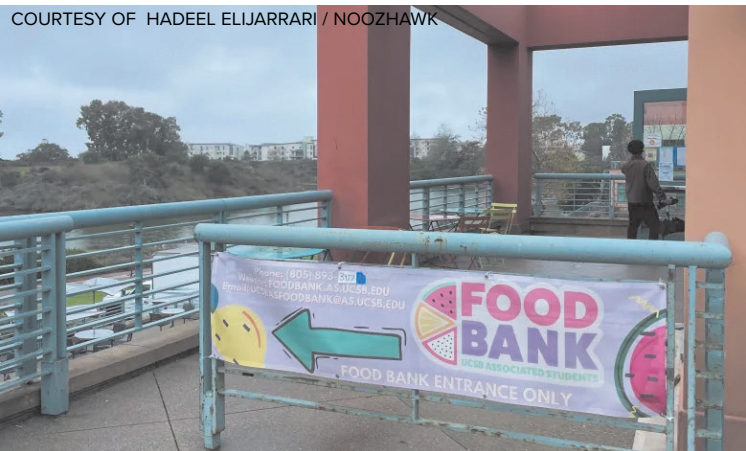
Foodbank of Santa Barbara County

While they rely in part on federal grants, the Foodbank of Santa Barbara County also draws from a network of private donors, foundations and local and state funding. In preparation for an expected \$1.5 million loss in federal support, the food bank has issued a call to action for community members to volunteer, donate and support one another through this crisis. Every Saturday, the food bank

distributes food across Santa Barbara County. The closest locations to UCSB— as of Oct. 27, 2025 — are Grace Shepherd Pantry at 380 N. Fairview Ave. on the first Saturday of each month and Bermant Development Parking Lot at 5425 Hollister Ave. on the second Saturday of each month, both located in Goleta.

California Food Assistance Program

The California Food Assistance Program (CFAP) mirrors many of the benefits of CalFresh, offering food assistance to individuals who are ineligible for CalFresh due to citizenship status. Applicants who are denied CalFresh benefits must be automatically evaluated for CFAP eligibility before being rejected entirely. As of Oct. 1, 2025, the CFAP has expanded eligibility to include individuals aged 55 or older regardless of immigration status. This means that undocumented residents, including UCSB community members or their family members, may now qualify for vital food assistance through CFAP. To apply, simply fill out the same application for CalFresh and you will automatically be evaluated.



The A.S. Food Bank remains accessible despite government shutdown; located in the University Center.



FoodBank Santa Barbara prepares for an influx of people in light of government shutdown.





Roughly 300 people gathered at the Milpas Street roundabout in downtown Santa Barbara to protest against Immigration and Customs Enforcement operations on Feb. 4.



Protestors gathered at 5 p.m. on Milpas Street, carrying Mexican and other Latin American flags.



Over 250 people gathered on campus on Feb. 6 to protest Trump's immigration policies and Immigration and Customs Enforcement activities.



The 50501 protest, hosted in front of the library on Feb. 5 and organized by UCSB students, protested President Trump and his policies — including Elon Musk's role in the cabinet and Project 2025.



Around 13,000 Santa Barbara locals gathered downtown at Alameda Park on Oct. 18 for the second “No Kings” protest, organized by local activist organization Indivisible Santa Barbara.