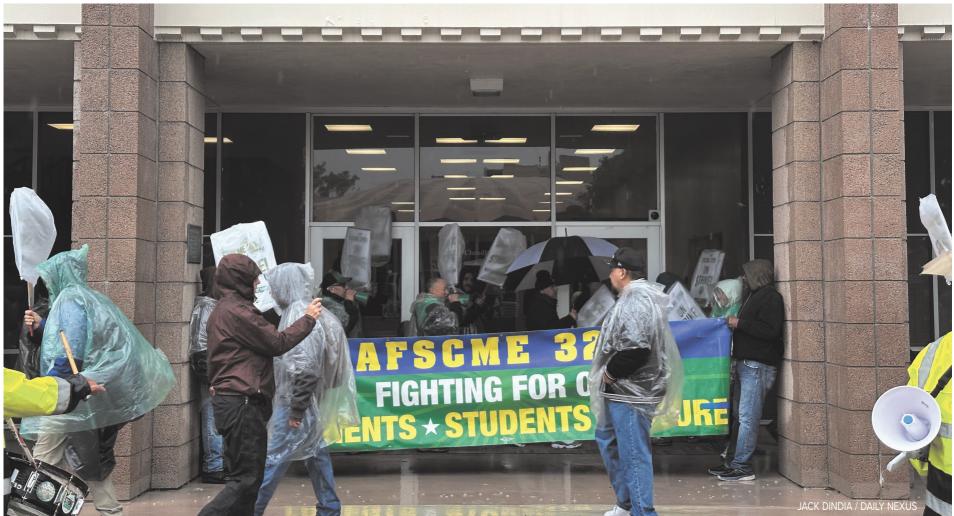
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2025

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA BARBARA

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## \*AFSCME GOES ON STRIKE \*



Workers went up to the fifth floor of Cheadle Hall, where the Office of the Chancellor is located.

Jack Dindia Lead News Editor Iris Guo Community Outreach Editor

The American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees went on strike on Nov. 17 and 18, picketing at various locations across the UC Santa Barbara campus. The strike is in response to a two-year-long contract negotiation, alleging that the University of California is engaging in bad faith bargaining.

The American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) 3299 is the University of California's (UC) largest employee union, representing around 86,000 service and patient care workers. Their demands include "livable" wages to "attract and retain staff," affordable healthcare, housing benefits that "high earners already receive" and secure staffing.

According to their website, they are "striking because UC has failed to address the unaffordability of life." Additionally, they said that they are concerned about inequality in regard to how the

UC "gives out raises and housing benefits to a bloated layer of top administrators at the expense of its lowest-paid workers."

The UC released a statement on Nov. 14, where they said they implemented key terms from "its last, best, and final offer" to ensure adequate working conditions. These terms include AFSCME-represented employees earning at least \$25 an hour and receiving up to \$1,500 per year in health care.

The UC also claimed AFSCME has "not presented any substantive counterproposals since April 2025."

"Absent AFSCME's the engagement, cannot engage in meaningful negotiations for this critical workforce. Nonetheless, we remain hopeful and committed to working towards a fair and sustainable agreement that supports our employees and the advances University's mission of service, education, and research," the statement read.

Approximately 146 UCSB service workers halted their work and stationed themselves at Storke Tower from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. both days of the strike. They rallied multiple times, passing

through the Arbor walkway, the Visitor Center and Cheadle Hall.

Despite rainy conditions, AFSCME 3299 started rallying across campus at 8 a.m. on Monday, Nov. 17. The strikers made their way to Cheadle Hall and eventually entered the building where AFSCME executive board member and groundskeeper at UCSB, Serafin Zamora, instructed workers not to use bells or megaphones, as he said remaining respectful was a "good chance" to show UCSB's new chancellor, Dennis Assanis, "why [AFSCME 3299] is here."

Workers then made their way to the fifth floor of Cheadle Hall, where the Office of the Chancellor is located. Workers circled around the floor chanting, "Whose university? Our university," "We fight it up, can't take it no more" and "UC UC you're no good, treat your workers like you should."

Zamora then clarified outside of the Office of the Chancellor that AFSCME is asking for "fair housing," specifying that they'd like assistance in purchasing homes. Zamora also highlighted that the UC Board of Regents recently approved a \$7.8 million house for UCSB chancellors, fully funded by University donors.

"Just remember, this person right here, the Chancellor, [has] power. He is a new chancellor, but he's making almost about [\$900,000]," Zamora said. "Now UCSB [provided] a loan of [\$7.8 million] to buy a house, when you and me [have] to commute every day."

Afterward, they went on to rally at the Visitor Center, where they took a break due to weather conditions. Once they migrated back to their base at Storke Tower, several guest speakers delivered speeches including Jeremy Goldberg, the executive director of the Central Coast Labor Council and a representative from the Santa Barbara Tenants Union.

Goldberg said the reason he came to speak to AFSCME 3299 is that he claimed the University "doesn't respect [AFSCME] enough." He continued by emphasizing the importance of labor unions standing up for their demands

"One of these days, we're gonna stop having to come out and do this every year, multiple times a year," Goldberg said. "But for now, we just have one choice, and that's to stand together and be as loud as we can, stand in solidarity

across the entire labor movement to make sure you get the respect that you have earned through the work that you do here every day."

Next, a representative from Santa Barbara Tenants Union spoke on how UCSB should be meeting the housing demands of AFSCME 3299, considering that there's currently a housing affordability crisis.

"Our county currently has about 2000 units that are currently not being rented. So building, building, building is not going to solve the problem," they said. "What's going to solve the problem is people being able to afford the units that are vacant. And how do we afford those units? By having livable wages, by having housing support."

She then spoke about the approval of the new residence for UCSB chancellors and the increasing wage for chancellors, which she considers "unacceptable" given the increasing budget cuts to the UC.

On Tuesday, the rally began at 8 a.m. and looped all across campus. The strikers picketed from Storke Tower to Henley Gate before heading back around

AFSCME p.7

# UC Regents approve purchase of \$7.8 million UCSB chancellor residence

Current and future chancellors will utilize the recently purchased property.

#### Michelle Cisneros Lead News Editor

The University of California Board of Regents approved the purchase of a \$7.8 million residence for UC Santa Barbara chancellors during a closed session on Oct. 23. The property is off campus, straying from the majority of UCs, which have chancellor residences on campus.

According to The Current, the property is located 10 minutes from UCSB and is fully funded by University donors. Regents Policy 7708 mandates that UC chancellors live in University-

provided housing as a condition of the role, requiring their approval for alternatives when needed.

In March 2025, an independent engineering assessment of the current UCSB University House, where former Chancellor Henry T. Yang resided, found that it needed an estimated \$8.4 million in upgrades and code compliance upgrades. Construction would take an estimated two years and included reinforcements for earthquakes and the "modernization" of its plumbing and electrical systems.

of its plumbing and electrical systems.

The address will not be made public, according to Stett Holbrook,

the associate director of strategic & critical communications for the UC Office of the President. Local news outlet Noozhawk reported that the UC Regents purchased a property at 4672 Via Roblada in Santa Barbara's Hope Ranch community on Oct. 28.

"The new property also provides the chancellor a venue for extending official hospitality to important visitors and guests in conjunction with official functions and fundraising activities," the Current article read. "Going forward, the campus will be exploring other possible uses for the existing University House site."

## 21-year-old falls from Isla Vista bluffs, sustains moderate injuries

#### Jack Dindia *Lead News Editor*

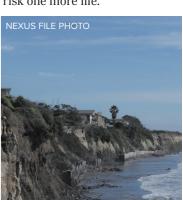
A 21-year-old male fell from a cliff on the 6700 block of Del Playa Drive in Isla Vista on Saturday around 2 a.m. He sustained moderate injuries and is currently recovering at Cottage Hospital, according to the Santa Barbara County Fire Department.

The cliff fall was reported via an X post from Santa Barbara County Fire Department's Public Information Officer account. His name and further details on his condition are not known at this time. The Nexus was unable to determine if the victim was a student.

In response to the incident, Second District Supervisor of Santa Barbara County Laura Capps released a statement on

social media.
"I am praying for this person's full recovery. My gratitude goes

to the first responders who acted swiftly and with great care. We all feel the pain and trauma of these all-too-common cliff falls," the statement read. "I met with [UC Santa Barbara's] new Chancellor [Dennis Assanis] just yesterday to discuss this very issue. He is in full agreement that we cannot risk one more life."



The victim sustained moderate injuries and is currently recovering at Cottage Hospital.



Jack Dindia Lead News Editor

#### RCSGD hosts 'An Intro to **Talking About Your Identity** with Family'

The Resource Center for Sexual and Gender Diversity (RCSGD) is hosting "How to Talk to Your Uncles/Tíos/Titos: An Intro to Talking About Your Identity with Family" on Thursday, Nov. 20, from 2-3:15 p.m.

"In this space, you'll learn how to explore navigating your identities and different approaches you can use to talk to your parents and families about them," the Shoreline description read.

Pizza will be provided for attendees. Students can register via Shoreline to view the event's location.

#### Rapid Rehousing hosts 'Preventing Housing FOMO'

Rapid Rehousing is hosting "Preventing Housing FOMO: A Guide for Continuing Students" on Thursday, Nov. 20, from 3-4 p.m. at the main lounge in Santa Cruz Residence Hall.

"Learn how to kickstart your housing search and stay updated with the latest information from University and Community Housing Services. Discover useful tools, resources, and tips to make your housing journey easier and less stressful," the Shoreline description read.

Attendees will be able to talk with a "Housing Navigator," and free snacks will be provided.

#### TSC hosts 'Make Thankful'

Student The Transfer Center (TSC), in collaboration with Opening New Doors to Academic Success (ONDAS), is hosting "Make it Thankful" on Thursday, Nov. 20, from 3:30-4:30 p.m. at Kerr Hall 1120.

"Come by and create thank you cards, one to a faculty member and one to whoever you'd like," the Shoreline description read.

Snacks and pies will be provided for attendees.

#### A.S. Take Back the Night hosts 'Hygiene Kit Making!'

Associated Students (A.S.) Take Back the Night is hosting "Hygiene Kit Making!" on Thursday, Nov. 20, from 5-6:30 p.m. at the Community Affairs Board (C.A.B.) office on the second floor of the University Center

Attendees will be able to create hygiene kits for a domestic violence shelter. can contact as-Students cabspecialprojects@ucsb.edu with any questions.

#### RCSGD hosts 'Bi Us For Us: Community Dinner'

The Resource Center for Sexual and Gender Diversity is hosting "Bi Us For Us: Community Dinner" on Friday, Nov. 21, from 5-7 p.m.

"FREE FOOD??? delightful company? Yes, bi+ baddies. We are indeed serving and serving you a delicious catered meal by Panda Express as we reflect on the fun times we've had or are looking forward to this year," the Shoreline description read.

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

#### A.S. Media Center and Creative Media Unit hosts 'Intro to your Camera!'

The A.S. Media Center and Creative Media Unit are hosting "Intro to your Camera! Photography workshop with UC [Santa Barbara] Photography Club" on Friday, Nov. 21, from 5-6 p.m. at the Media Center in Annex Building 434.

"DSLR and mirrorless cameras provided on a firstcome-first-served basis, [p] lease feel free to bring your own cameras. This one-hour session will cover the basic setup of camera, understanding aperture, shutter speed, and ISO, as well as tips for shooting indoors and outdoors," the Shoreline description read.

#### **InterVals A Cappella hosts** 'InterVals Fall Concert'

InterVals A Cappella is hosting the "InterVals Fall Concert" on Friday, Nov. 21, from 8-10 p.m. at Girvetz Hall

"A performance put on by InterVals A Cappella, a coed undergraduate a cappella group at UCSB, which features songs arranged by our own members. There will be additional performances from other a cappella groups on campus along with skits/games prepared by the InterVals A Cappella members,"

Shoreline description read. The event is open and free to all community members.

#### **Edible Campus and Nature** Wellbeing Programs hosts 'The Power of Pause'

Edible Campus and Nature Wellbeing Programs are hosting "The Power of Pause: Learning to Build Patience" on Friday, Nov. 21, from 10-11 a.m. at Methodist Community Church.

"In a world that is constantly moving, learning to be patient is needed. This mindfulness workshop invites you to slow down and experience the beauty of waiting. Through guided mindful exercises and activities like drying herbs, you'll explore how patience and delayed gratification can reduce stress, increase joy, and help you feel more grounded in the present moment," the event's description read.

Students can register for the event via a Google Form.



Michelle Cisneros Lead News Editor

#### halts federal Judge administration from cutting funding or fining UC over alleged discrimination

A San Francisco judge issued a preliminary injunction on Nov. 14 effectively barring the Trump administration from cutting funding or fining the University of California over alleged discrimination.

According to the National Public Radio, the ruling states the federal government cannot disrupt funding over claims that the University of California (UC) allows antisemitism and other civil rights violations without certain legal requirements. These requirements include notices to impacted faculty and a hearing.

U.S. District Judge Rita Lin, who issued the ruling, said labor unions representing UC employees and other groups representing faculty and students provided evidence that the federal government "engaged in a concerted campaign to purge 'woke,' 'left,' and 'socialist' viewpoints from our country's leading universities."

The federal government has been investigating several UCs for allegedly failing to respond adequately to antisemitism on its campuses. Over the summer, the federal government suspended about 800 grants meant for research at UC Los Angeles because the University allegedly engaged in "race discrimination including in its admissions process, and in other areas of student life, as well as failing to promote a research environment free of antisemitism and bias."

"Agency officials, as well as the President and Vice President, have repeatedly and publicly announced a playbook of initiating civil rights investigations of preeminent universities to justify cutting off federal funding, with the goal of bringing universities to their knees and forcing them to change their ideological tune," Lin said in her ruling against immediate funding cuts. "It is undisputed that this precise playbook is now being executed at the University of California."

#### UCI to open America's first all-electric acute care hospital in **December**

UC Irvine will open the country's first all-electric acute care hospital on Dec. 10. According to New University, the facility aims to provide "stateof-the-art" care while contributing to UC's goal of achieving carbon neutrality.

The hospital, named the Irvine Campus Medical Complex, will be used for cancer treatment and research as well as inpatient and outpatient care. The \$1.2 billion complex will have 144 beds and employ nearly 1,000 staff members.

Director of UCI Health Joe Brothman told LAist that "the operation of this campus will have no emissions." Its electricity will be generated by alternative energy such as solar and wind.

"It is absolutely beautiful. We don't ever get snow. The weather here never really gets into the triple digits too often," Brothman said about the hospital's location in Orange County. "In that sense, this was the perfect location to build this all-electric facility because it's the perfect tempered

climate for this location."

#### Math skills on the decline for **UCSD** freshmen

Students are matriculating at UC San Diego with declining mathematics skills. Writing and language skills are also on the decline, although to a lesser degree.

According to an internal report recently released by UCSD's Senate-Administration Workgroup, number of students whose math skills are below middle-school level increased almost 30 times over between 2020 and 2025.

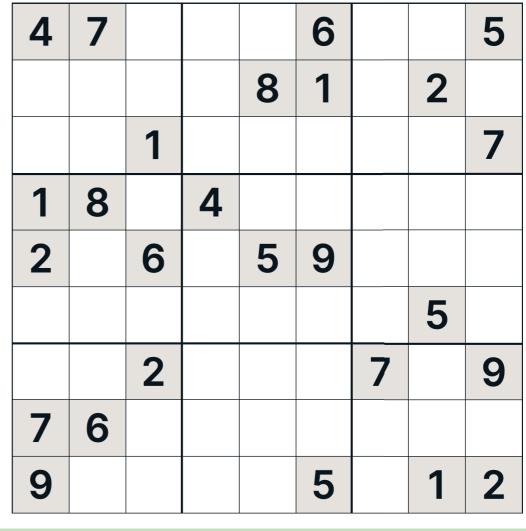
"This deterioration coincided with the COVID-19 pandemic and its effects on education, the elimination of standardized testing, grade inflation, and the expansion of admissions from under-resourced high schools," the report read. "The combination of these factors has produced an incoming class increasingly unprepared for the quantitative and analytical rigor expected at UC San Diego."

Per the report, the UCSD admissions team implemented several remedies for its 2025 cohort including a "math-GPA cutoff," which was utilized for applicants with a firstchoice major that required certain math courses. As a future measure, the report recommended a "Math Index" as a way of evaluating how well a student may do in their chosen major compared to their math skills at time of admission.

The report concluded by stating that more research is needed to assess the issue of declining writing and language skills, especially in the age of "widespread use of artificial intelligence tools."

## The Daily Nexus Sudoku

**Andrew Wang** Games Editor





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"I just don't know if #MomTok will survive

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# Senate proposes AI policy, urges UC President to meet with student leaders



The Senate debriefed last week's Save Deltopia Town Hall.

#### Wynne Bendell University News Editor

The 76th Associated Students Senate proposed a resolution that would allow Artificial Intelligence usage within the association with restrictions at its Nov. 17 meeting. The Senate also proposed a resolution urging University of California President James Milliken to reinstate the longstanding tradition of meeting with undergraduate student leaders.

Associated Students (A.S.) Internal Vice President (IVP) and fourth-year history and global studies double major Enri Lala began his executive report by commending the success of the Save Deltopia Town Hall. Organized by External Vice President for Local Affairs (EVPLA) and third-year political science major E.J. Raad, the event aimed to garner community feedback on the proposed Deltopia noise ordinance.

"It was sort of beautifully symbolic how the line wrapped up from [Isla Vista] Theater itself and into the I.V. Foot Patrol building at the end of that street," Lala said. "The work remains with us student leaders ... to remain engaged, but a huge first step was laid by the hundreds of students who were present there and those who spoke."

The Senate passed its first High Impact Project (H.I.P.) as a pilot program to provide sustainable laundry detergent sheets in University laundry rooms. This project was initially proposed by fourth-year economics and environmental studies double major Leo Brown in collaboration with the environmental justice

startup Generation Conscious.

Senator and second-year history of policy, law and governance major Romi Riss proposed A Bill to Revitalize the Academic Focus of the Internal Vice President's Office. The bill will replace the role of Internal Compliance Officer with Director of Academic Affairs within the IVP's office.

During public forum, A.S. Chief Compliance Officer and third-year political science and philosophy double major Baden Rosales said he supports this bill because there is no current role that has the power to support the academic interests of students, such as changing academic policy or creating a new major. He believes that the change to Director of Academic Affairs will fill in those gaps in responsibility.

Then, Senator and fourth-year political science major Natalia Pascher proposed A Resolution to Establish Standing Policy 44: Use of Artificial Intelligence and Large Language Models in ASUCSB. Pascher believes it is important for the Senate to create a set of guidelines for artificial intelligence use within the Association as it becomes "increasingly more involved in our day-to-day lives as students [and] legislative makers."

"Let it be the position of the Associated Students that it is acceptable to use AI, so long as the individual can clearly justify their usage and ethical responsibilities," the resolution reads.

While First President Pro Tempore and second-year political science major Evan Sussman was generally in favor of the resolution, he suggested that the policy should prohibit the use of AI in interpreting A.S. legal code. Sussman said that the use of AI can lead to a "slippery slope" of mistakes in interpreting legal code.

Next, Senator and fourthyear sociology major Mira Than presented the fall quarterly Omnibus Bill to Update Legal Code to address amendments and updates to Boards, Committees and Units (BCU) legal code. The bill was referred to the A.S. Advocacy Committee.

and third-year Senator economics and philosophy double major Noah Luken proposed A Resolution Calling on UC President James Milliken to Reinstate Recurring Meetings with Student Leaders. According to the resolution, for the past 12 years, the UC president has met quarterly with various undergraduate student leaders, including student body presidents. It continues to state that Milliken has not confirmed any meetings with the council of undergraduate student body presidents and has not planned quarterly meetings for the rest of the academic year.

"In a shared governance structure such as the UC, students are a vital stakeholder, impacted by almost every aspect of university culture and environment, precisely why administration must meet regularly with students to discuss and tackle timely and long term concerns and to ensure that policy is accurately addressing student needs," the resolution reads.

Then, Senator and second-year chemistry major Nadine Malhis presented A Bill to Establish Joint Oversight of the United States Student Association (USSA) Fund. The USSA fund was created to finance A.S. participation in statewide and national student advocacy initiatives. According to the bill, the Office of the External Vice President for Statewide Affairs (EVPSA) and the A.S. Finance and Business Committee have historically collaborated in managing the fund. However, the current fund's language required organizations to come to the EVPSA's office first for requests.

The legislation aims to recognize the EVPSA's office and the finance committee as having equal authority. The Senate passed the adoption of the bill.

Senators Eemaan Wahidullah, a third-year biology and political science double major, and Neo Harter, a fourth-year history and global studies double major, proposed A Resolution to Establish the Language Revitalization Grant Program. This resolution aims to financially support students who want to study languages not currently taught at UCSB, and was discharged to the senate floor after weeks in the A.S. Advocacy Committee. Many senators raised concerns over the resolution's finances. The resolution did not pass with the recommendation that it be rewritten to fix structural and financial errors.

The Senate then allocated \$3,000 each to the advocacy, liaison and outreach committees to be spent on "impactful student-facing projects in line with its mission statement."

Lastly, the Senate allocated \$7,000 to Speech Forensics at UCSB out of the A.S. Finance and Business Committee's Fall 2025 budget with the stipulation that the club is officially Shoreline-approved and has an A.S. account number.

# Former student employees sue ICON Apartments supervisors, alleging sexual assaults and discrimination

Iris Guo Community Outreach News Editor

Trigger Warning: The following article discusses sexual assault.

Two anonymous plaintiffs have filed civil lawsuits against Article Student Living, a student housing company that operates the ICON Apartment buildings in Isla Vista, as well as supervisors employed there. Both plaintiffs were students attending UC Santa Barbara and also resided in the complex during the alleged incidents.

The plaintiffs allege harassment, discrimination and sexual assaults by supervisors employed at ICON Apartments. Both cases were submitted to the Superior Court of California for the County of Santa Barbara and are requesting jury trials.

The first lawsuit was filed on Feb. 25 and names Article Student Living, Brett Williams — a property manager and supervisor at ICON Apartments — as well as other unidentified individuals as defendants.

According to the first lawsuit, the first plaintiff was employed by Article Student Living as a Community Assistant starting in April 2023 and resigned from her position in November 2024. She alleges that Williams made various inappropriate advances and comments towards her throughout her period of employment — including trying to kiss her without consent — even after she made it clear that "she wanted their relationship to be purely professional."

She also alleges that Williams would "routinely" enter her and her coworker's apartments without consent with his universal key. The plaintiff was also aware that Williams "frequently did this to one of her coworkers and coerced her into having sexual encounters with him."

According to the lawsuit, the plaintiff and five other female employees submitted a complaint to Human Resources in September

2023. Additionally, it states that Article Student Living was made aware of William's "history of misconduct," as he had been terminated from his previous place of employment due to "harassment allegations against him," but continued to employ him, thereby "allowing him" to harass the plaintiffs.

The second lawsuit was filed on Oct. 20 and names Article Student Living, Williams and Javier Romero—a leasing manager and supervisor at ICON Apartments—as well as other unidentified individuals as defendants.

According to the second lawsuit, the second plaintiff was employed by Article Student Living as a Community Assistant starting in August 2023 and resigned from her position in December 2023.

The plaintiff alleges that throughout the course of her employment, Williams would exhibit inappropriate and unwanted behavior toward her, including discussing "his sex life," asking her for "nude photos" and telling her that "he masturbated to her after her interview." He continued this sexual harassment despite her request to maintain a professional relationship.

According to the lawsuit, Williams would "let himself into [the plaintiff's] room while she was changing," and sexually assaulted her numerous times.

The plaintiff alleges that Williams recorded her "performing oral sex on him and sent it to another male employee" without consent. After, Romero entered the room and "watched [the plaintiff] perform oral sex" on Williams. The plaintiff alleges that Williams then pressured her into

performing a sexual act on Romero and that both men assaulted her by touching her without consent.

In addition, she alleges that Williams physically restrained her during the assault and later attempted anal sex despite her objections. The plaintiff told Williams afterward that she was extremely distressed by what had occurred.

According to the filing, the plaintiff also alleges that she entered Romero's apartment to tell "him that she felt coercedintohavingsex with Defendant Williams," and he "proceeded to kiss [the plaintiff], throw her on his bed, sexually assault her, and told her not to tell anyone about it."

Both lawsuits allege that beyond sexual assaults and harassment, Williams made racially discriminatory comments towards the plaintiffs and other employees. According to the filing, Williams allegedly made racially degrading comments about the plaintiffs and would also use various racial slurs when referring to employees and other individuals.

The lawsuits also state that because of the defendants' misconduct, the plaintiffs "suffered severe emotional distress" and other psychological issues like severe anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorder.

Both plaintiffs ultimately resigned from their positions, alleging that their working conditions were "so intolerable" due to harassment based on race and sex that "a reasonable person" in their positions would have no choice but to resign.

Article Student Living did not respond to the Nexus's request for comment.



Two anonymous plaintiffs have filed civil lawsuits against Article Student Living.



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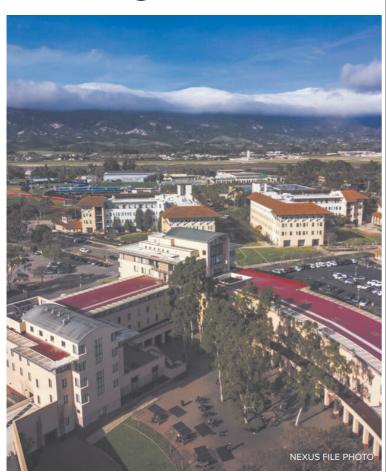
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## UC faculty resists discontinuation of diversity hiring initiative



The President's Postdoctoral Fellowship Program was established in 1984 to offer postdoctoral research fellowships, professional development and faculty mentoring.

#### Jack Dindia Lead News Editor

According to various faculty members, the University of California thought discontinuing salaries faculty from the President's Postdoctoral Fellowship Program, competitive fellowship that encourages diverse Ph.D. holders to pursue careers in academia. On Tuesday night, UC President James B. Milliken announced the initiative will not be discontinued after consultation with campus administrators and the systemwide Academic Senate leadership.

UC's President's Postdoctoral Fellowship (PPFP) Program was established in 1984 to offer postdoctoral research fellowships, professional development and faculty mentoring to "advance the research excellence and public service missions of the UC, according to the initiative's website.

In late October, UC Santa Office of the Barbara's Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost allegedly informed department chairs that the UC Office of the President (UCOP) had discontinued the program. Fellows are selected through an open search process, determined through peer review by a UC-wide committee of faculty.

According to UCSB English professor and former PPFP member advisorv board Julie Carlson, the program has an acceptance rate of approximately 4%. She said that the fellowship was initially understood as a pipeline for underrepresented faculty to be employed through the UC.

However, after California passed Proposition 209 in 1996, which prohibits state and local governments from considering race, sex or ethnicity in employment, the program's focus shifted to "trying to bring the faculty demographics more in alignment with California demographics."

"It's been a fantastic program. Many other schools either are affiliated now with the [PPFP] or model themselves on it. We share resources and so on, but [the UC] started [PPFP]," Carlson said.

Whether or not discontinuation of the PPFP came from pressure from the federal or state level, Carlson said, "no one really knows." However, she said the "attack on higher education" and diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) initiatives from the Trump

administration may have foreshadowed the decision.

Despite this, believes the PPFP was "highly successful" and that there was "no indication this is a fringe program."

"It was thriving. And it is also touted across the country, but also by UCOP, because it's one of the very few successful programs in terms of helping interdisciplinary and creative work get understood departments that can sometimes be more hidebound and into their own little ways of doing things," Carlson said.

finalize the discontinuation of the program, UC faculty were "mobilizing pressure" Milliken and other administrators to defend the program. Faculty crafted a toolkit demanding Milliken "restore and protect" the initiative.

In the toolkit, faculty called on administration to reaffirm the UC's "core values of excellence, integrity, equity, diversity, and inclusion" according to Regents Policy 4400, which states the UC "must seek to achieve diversity, inclusion, and accessibility among students and faculty.

The toolkit also asked the UC to "respect shared governance," as they claimed preemptive changes to the PPFP by UC Provost and Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs Katherine Newman without senate consultation was a "clear violation of shared governance" and was a "direct challenge to the integrity of the UC system."

In addition, the toolkit argued that the PPFP's faculty hiring incentive and waivers of open recruitment strategically position UC campuses to "hire exceptional scholars" in areas of "emergent needs."

"It is financially irresponsible to undermine an effective UC program that hires and retains top talent at the University of California," the toolkit reads.

While Carlson acknowledges that the UC is amidst a "budget crisis," she argues that the PPFP, which she said costs less than 1% of the UC budget, is in the University's "best budgetary interest" due to the outcomes of the program.

"The faculty who were former postdocs do better," Carlson said. "Their tenure rates are higher, and their engagement with the life of the University, or in their specific expertise in what we need now in order to teach better, but also run a university where it cares about its students and it thinks about its students as minds [and] bodies that need to be fostered."

## 805 UndocuFund hosts I.C.E. rapid response training

Levi Kauffman Staff Writer

The 805 UndocuFund hosted a training for around 100 community members interested in learning more about its Immigrant Rapid Response Network on Nov. 17. The training discussed the risks of preventing detainments by Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the different roles within the network.

Since the Trump administration increased funding for United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (I.C.E.) by over \$850 million in October, they have begun implementing the president's "mass removal campaign" of undocumented immigrants. I.C.E. agents have targeted immigrant communities nationwide, resulting in over 527,000 deportations according to an October U.S. Department of Homeland Security press release.

The campaign has resulted in instances of immigrants being rushed through immigration courts without due process. Additionally, there have been instances in which American citizens and legal residents were detained, and even deported, as well as an increase in I.C.E. using terror tactics such as excessive force, and separating

The 805 Immigrant Rapid Response Network (RRN) was created in January and operates across Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo and Ventura counties. The network sends trained volunteers to respond to reports of I.C.E. activity, observe legal proceedings and offer assistance to affected individuals. They regularly hold training sessions and encourage people to get involved with other groups such as Carpenteria Sin Fronteras, SB Resiste and Unión del

The training began at 5 p.m. at Campbell Hall with Associated Students (A.S.) President and fourthyear communication, Spanish and global studies triple major Le Anh Metzger welcoming attendees and emphasizing the importance of supporting immigrant communities. Metzger acknowledged the stress and fear many immigrants have felt because of recent I.C.E. activity.

805 Immigrant RRN organizers Joseph Dobzynski Jr. and Cesar Vasquez then introduced themselves. Vasquez, who's been organizing since Since Milliken had yet to he was 12 years old and recently graduated from high school, shared that he had planned to attend San Diego State University before I.C.E. activity increased and called him to help his community.

Vasquez then asked attendees to introduce themselves to those around them. Once attendees finished speaking to each other, Vasquez put into perspective the current situation faced by immigrant communities, particularly "Brown" individuals who are visa holders, green card holders or undocumented.

"If every single person in this room filled one of those boxes, this room would disappear in 10 days," Vasquez said. "In 10 days, every single person that you just said hi to, every name you learned would be gone, would be in a detention center in California, across the US, where [they] would

be deported to [their] home country within 10 days.

Following this, Vasquez described circumstances that local immigrants, many living within a couple of miles of campus, have faced due to I.C.E activity. Vasquez emphasized that 1,009 people have been "kidnapped" by I.C.E. on the Central Coast as of Nov. 17, with 58 in November alone.

Dobzynski also explained why 805 UndocuFund has changed its main goals from charity and donation to advocacy and reporting.

"[The 805 UndocuFund] stopped just being a charity organization for the immigrant community because they don't need charity, they need empowerment," Dobzynski said. "Our goal went from just being 'here's some cash and luck' to being something that allows them to thrive, that we actually advocate for immigrants to be recognized in the community for their contributions, that immigrants are here to do the work that nobody else seems to be willing to do, and that they deserve a path to citizenship of some

According to Dobzynski, across the Central Coast the RRN has documented over 60 I.C.E. vehicles and 100 license plates, which they often switch out. Defining characteristics of I.C.E. vehicles include heavily tinted windows, missing license plates, depersonalized exteriors and "suspicious" driving. Dobzynski also clarified for attendees that vehicles with "CA EXEMPT" license plates are not I.C.E.

Vasquez then explained rights that community members have when interacting with I.C.E., such as the right to remain silent, the right to refuse entry, the right to an attorney and the right to record in public. He also stressed that attendees should keep in mind that many I.C.E. agents may not respect these rights.

"When I cover the constitutional rights that you all have, I want you all to think about the fact that right now we're living in a time where this area is very, very murky," Vasquez said. "I am here to tell you all that a lot of these things that you were told don't apply in this day and age. These constitutional laws, these legal laws that we were taught to uphold, to live by, do not matter to these I.C.E. agents."

Vasquez and Dobzynski also explained the different roles within the network from "least risk" to "most risk," with some roles like legal observer, dispatcher and hotline operator requiring further training. Other roles included mutual aid, community outreach, accompaniment, community patrols and responders. Vasquez emphasized that even the roles that may not put volunteers in physical risk, like phone operators, may still be mentally taxing.

Vasquez added that, because of the mass publicization of I.C.E. activities, he would "never allow someone to give [him] an excuse on why [they] cannot get involved" to protect at-risk communities. He emphasized that this was because he believes "we are living in a time that genuinely feels like we're living through different war crimes on a daily basis."

"In 15-20 years, the people who

didn't get involved, that's because they were complicit," Vasquez said. "That is because they agreed. That is because they allowed for the horrible things to

Next, Vasquez outlined what happens after someone is detained by I.C.E. He explained they will first be taken to a detention center before being given the choice between seeking a lawyer, self-deporting or applying for asylum. However, according to Vasquez, many people have been immediately deported from I.C.E. detention facilities without being given due process.

Vasquez described the conditions in detention centers as "really harsh" due to a lack of proper food, water and medication. This has resulted in people dying and getting sick, as well as at least 20 deaths in detention centers this year. Because of this information "getting out," Vasquez said that many families have chosen to self-deport, or leave the country on their own accord.

Vasquez concluded the training by sharing a speech about how "everything is political," encouraging attendees to "fight for the unfree" in order to "step towards liberation and freedom for all."

"I am not here to tell you all that you all are not doing enough, but the reality is, if the world doesn't realize our lives are political, we will all be equally responsible for every single other kidnapping I have to witness, for every single other kid that has lost a parent or parent that has lost a kid," Vasquez

The training then opened up for audience questions. One attendee asked what detained people should carry with them to help relatives find them. Vasquez explained that it is safest to have relatives keep identification documents, rather than the detained

Second-year psychological & brain sciences major Jordan Camacho attended the training and plans to join the RRN. He shared that increased I.C.E. activity has made a family member of his feel "paranoid" for his safety, considering he is undocumented and living in the U.S.

"When Trump first got in, first term, it was kinda whatever, I feel like it was kind of all bark no bite. But the second term is ramped up a lot." Camacho said. "[A family member] doesn't drive a car because he's scared that he would get identified, but it's even scary for him biking around because he knows that they still have checkpoints and they'll still look at you even if you're brown skin[ned]."

Camacho said the training made him feel empowered and proud of the community.

"I find it amazing how connected everybody that's passionate about this is, and there is a community out there and people that are willing to help and ways you can get involved," Camacho said. "I feel like it's undermined, people don't really realize it, but there [are] a lot of ways you can help, even if you think it's minor; it helps in the grand scheme of things a lot."

Potential I.C.E. sightings can be reported to the RRN by calling 805-870-8855. The Nexus records I.C.E. sightings in Santa Barbara County







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# Indus, Dhadkan host Diwali celebration



Many attendees were dressed in traditional clothing such as kurtas, sarees and lehengas

#### Michelle Cisneros Lead News Editor

Despite the rainy conditions, UC Santa Barbara student groups Indus and Dhadkan hosted a Diwali celebration on Nov. 14. Over 400 people attended the event amid music and vibrant decor at the Corwin Pavilion.

Diwali is a religious festival observed in Hinduism, Jainism and Sikhism that lasts five days, usually between October and November. The festival celebrates the triumph of light over darkness or good over evil, and is celebrated in India and by the Indian diaspora worldwide.

The South Asian student organizations Indus and Dhadkan have a longstanding tradition of cohosting a campus Diwali celebration for community members who may be unable to attend festivities at home or are interested in experiencing the tradition, according to event organizers. This year, the Associated Students Student Commission on Racial Equity also collaborated on the event.

Third-year statistics and data science and economics and accounting double major, Shashin Gupta, said he enjoys celebrating Diwali and that the event is meant "for people to get a cultural output."

"I personally loved celebrating Diwali as a child growing up, and unfortunately, now I don't get the opportunity to celebrate with my family, just because the day that Diwali rolls around, unfortunately, [I have] midterms and all those other exams," Dhadkan copresident Shashin Gupta said.

president Shashin Gupta said.

Around 7 p.m., attendees dined on food catered from Masala Spice Indian Cuisine. The menu included vegetable samosas, paneer curry, pilau rice, chana masala and others, as well as desserts such as mango lassi and gulab jamun. Although dinner is usually served in the courtyard outside the pavilion, it was moved to the MultiCultural Center, where attendees sought shelter from the rain.

"[The rain is] not ideal, but it did make it feel a little bit more homely," fourth-year computer engineering major and Indus copresident Rushil Gupta said. "I remember events like this back home; we would have people just kind of sitting wherever they could make themselves comfortable and eat their food. So it made it feel like a slice of home."

Many attendees were dressed in traditional clothing such as kurtas, sarees and lehengas. Third-year statistics and data science major Prisha Bobde said she enjoyed the catered dinner.

"It's a great chance to celebrate with our friends and dress up. Also, having Indian food is really nice once in a while. You know, a taste from home," Bobde said.

An hour later, the dance floor opened up for Garba, a traditional folk dance that originated in Gujarat, according to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. Dandiya sticks were given to attendees to be used during the dance. A photo booth was also available for the night.

"[Garba] is a very huge community-building practice, or just a fun activity for people to do, just dancing with your friends all in one circle. You're all doing the same thing. There's so much room for mistakes ... you're gonna have fun," Rushil Gupta said.

Third-year computer science major Spriha Pandey said the food was "pretty good" and that she and her friends attend the event annually.

"This is an annual thing that we always look forward to. We always pack our dresses like every time we move in [for a new academic year]. We're super happy to be here," Pandey said. "It's a good way to reconnect with our culture and get together with the community and the music."

The event then transitioned into music by DJ Shay, where attendees danced to Bollywood music. Event organizers emphasized that the event was open to all and aimed to showcase South Asian culture.

"[This part of the celebration] is more of that fun, free-flowing feel that you would get if you went to a Bollywood event," Shashin Gupta said. "We create this opportunity for all South Asian and non-South Asian students as well, to explore Indian culture and embrace our identity."



Around 7 p.m., attendees dined on food catered from Masala Spice Indian Cuisine.



The event eventually transitioned into music by DJ Shay, where attendees danced to Bollywood music.

## Caribbean Student Association brings back 'Black Wednesdays'

Iris Guo Community Outreach News Editor

The UC Santa Barbara Caribbean Student Association has brought back "Black Wednesdays," an event that began in the mid-1980s, which aims to raise awareness on the presence of the Black community on campus.

The event has been held twice this quarter, on Oct. 22 and Nov. 5 by the Arbor walkway, where the Caribbean Student Association (CSA) board members spoke to passersby and created and sold bracelets for fundraising purposes.

The Black Student Union (BSU) began to organize Black Wednesdays in 1985, which would take place every Wednesday at 12 p.m. The event facilitated bonding between Black students and faculty on campus, allowing attendees to build relationships and connections. It also served as a "political space" where community members could deliver political addresses and host rallies.

The co-presidents of CSA — fourth-year history of public policy and law major Nyela Nesbeth and fourth-year Black studies major Faith Kingsbury — learned about the history of the event after speaking to Black administrators and alumni.

"We found out through connecting with some of our Black alumni who discussed how prosperous and joyful the Black community was in the past at UCSB, and they motivated us to continue this tradition, noting that they have no idea why it died out," Nesbeth said

According to Nesbeth and Kingsbury, the alumni they spoke to described UCSB as "a place where the Black community was unified" when Black Wednesdays first started, which the



CSA aims to host Black Wednesdays weekly in order to raise awareness on Black community's presence on campus.

alumni described as a "heyday" for the community. During this time, the community would work on proposals and statements, as well as promote collective action for the Black community.

Nesbeth and Kingsbury said that they feel like there have been various challenges affecting the Black community at UCSB, including changes within the Office of Black Student Development (OBSD), and a lack of a "proper director [at the OBSD] for years on end."

They also said that instances of anti-Black racism, inappropriate comments from students, issues within the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) and the "initial removal of the [African diasporic Cultural Resource Center] director's position and role collaborating with students" were issues that they have observed.

Due to these issues, Nesbeth and Kingsbury felt compelled to revitalize the event.

"We really felt like there was a time to create unity now more than ever," Nesbeth said. "Because it really seems like many people throughout the school and the UC system are trying to break down Black students, as you can see, with the levels of retention that Black students have at the school."

Nesbeth and Kingsbury hope that

the event will be able to promote unity within the Black community on campus.

"We just decided that we wanted to bring it back because we noticed that Black students aren't very unionized when it comes to a lot of events," Kingsbury said. "We want it to be showcased that we are collaborating together — we're all here."

Additionally, Nesbeth and Kingsbury said they hope that by hosting Black Wednesdays, they can raise awareness for the political and social issues that affect the Black diaspora. The issues they cited include detainments by immigration enforcement without due process, the evaluation of the diversity, equity and inclusion programs and current events within American politics.

CSA aims to host Black Wednesdays every Wednesday, but is starting out by hosting it every other Wednesday. Nesbeth said that CSA's small size has made it difficult to round up the manpower to host the event weekly.

In the future, CSA will try to collaborate on Black Wednesdays alongside the Black Student Union and the Black Women's Health Collaborative

the Black Women's Health Collaborative.

"We would like to have their organizations table and be there to support all of us, as well as [to] take up that space that we so desperately need to," Kingsbury said.





## Community weighs in on proposed Deltopia ordinance

Jack Dindia Lead News Editor

With students and community members lined up all the way down the block, the Associated Students External Vice President for Local Affairs, in collaboration with other community stakeholders, held the "Save Deltopia Town Hall" to a crowd of roughly 400 people in the Isla Vista Theater on Wednesday, Nov. 12

Deltopia is an unsanctioned street festival that is held annually on the first weekend of spring quarter. With the festival seeing a growing need for resources due to the number of attendees, many of whom are visiting from out of town, Isla Vista Foot Patrol (IVFP) is proposing a 72-hour festival ordinance on Deltopia weekend, effectively cancelling the event.

The event had catered Chickfil-A for attendees, the majority of whom were students, with a group of long-term I.V. residents sitting toward the front. Students were mostly opposed to the ordinance, arguing for the festival's place in I.V. culture and opposing its proposal without community input. Longterm residents who opposed "outof-towners" negatively affecting the community largely agreed with the ordinance or increased control of the event to prevent a strain on county resources from affecting local taxpayers.

The town hall was moderated by UC Santa Barbara Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Life Suzanne Perkin, and panelists included the Associated Students (A.S.) Executive Vice President for Local Affairs (EVPLA) E.J. Raad, IVFP Lieutenant Joe Schmidt and Isla Vista Community Services District (IVCSD) Community Programs and Engagement Director Myah Mashhadialireza. No other UCSB administration spoke at the town hall

The meeting began with IVCSD General Manager Jonathan Abboud sharing a brief history of Deltopia and crime statistics since the first major "Floatopia" in 2008. He cited the 2013 Deltopia as the first with "major harm" to safety, resulting in an enforced festival ordinance in 2014 which led to a riot. Since 2023, Deltopia has seen a rise in attendees, which has resulted in increased police presence and a higher number of arrests and citations.

Afterward, the panelists introduced themselves. Raad

clarified that A.S. does not endorse the proposed ordinance, as they don't believe it will be an "effective solution." He clarified that, while IVFP presented the ordinance for A.S. to review, the foot patrol made it "very clear" they would bring it to the Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors regardless of disapproval from the association.

"[The ordinance] was made in the I.V. Foot Patrol's office and then presented to us to look at, but they made it very clear they would be going to have it voted on regardless, so community input was not taken into consideration," Raad said.

Raad also said he believes the ordinance will encourage students to hold Deltopia at another time, which he considers "even less safe" since it will give medical resources less time to prepare. Schmidt clarified IVFP can adopt an urgency ordinance in the event the ordinance is passed and Deltopia is moved to a different date.

"That also creates a lot of issues because there isn't a clearly defined probable cause of when they think Deltopia is happening," Raad said. "My understanding is they'll have a private investigator who collects evidence on that, but that's pretty vague and so they can also move that ordinance unlimited times."

Raad concluded his introduction by emphasizing that the county should stop trying to "control" I.V. and instead work with the community, garnering cheers from the crowd.

Schmidt then introduced himself, reminding the audience he has worked for the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office for 21 years and graduated from UCSB in 2001. Since his time here, Schmidt says he's seen numerous harmful impacts to I.V. and its neighboring communities because of Deltopia due to its strain on law enforcement and medical resources, which comes at an "exponential cost" to taxpayers.

According to Schmidt, 84 people were arrested last year, as well as 57 patients treated at a medical tent and 25 patients transported to a hospital. Schmidt clarified that IVFP is not trying to "kill Deltopia" but rather rebrand it into a sanctioned and "less harmful"

"What we're trying to do is not cancel this event; we want to keep the celebratory spirit up, but we need to do better," Schmidt said. "We need to do better by having a permanent event that is attractive



Henry Sarria believes the promotion of Deltopia has led to non-locals "damaging the community."

to the student community, that can reduce the out of town crowds from all the harm that's occurred the last 16 years."

Mashhadialireza then introduced herself on behalf of IVCSD. She emphasized IVCSD's goal of prioritizing harm reduction and increasing access to local safety resources while providing events such as its Spring Festival. This year, IVCSD is suggesting an alternative event for students in collaboration with local businesses, as well as a popular performing artist.

Following introductions, the town hall went into public comment. First to speak was A.S. President and fourth-year global studies, Spanish and communication triple major Le Anh Metzger, who considered the ordinance being proposed without community involvement "abhorrent." While she agreed Deltopia has "historically been a dangerous event," she believes the ordinance will cause "widespread civil unrest."

"Look around, this is just a small fraction of the number of students who care deeply about Deltopia, our traditions as a community and our freedoms as human beings. We've seen how ordinances without community involvement can backfire, like the 2014 Deltopia riots, which occurred due to confusion about a proposed noise ordinance," Metzger said.

Next, the owner of the newly opened Mesa Pizza, Virandra Singh, said that the ordinance will not solve the strain on local resources. Singh suggested a controlled and sanctioned event run by local governance as a solution, as he believes "pushing for abstinence from partying isn't realistic."

"By turning Deltopia into a

legitimate, sanctioned event, you can set expectations, reduce incidents and build a strong relationship between students and law enforcement, creating a safer, more positive community experience for everyone," Singh said.

Henry Sarria, who's lived in I.V. since 1987 and attended the first-ever Deltopia, said the event was initially "great" due to the lack of out-of-towners. He believes the promotion of Deltopia has led to non-locals "damaging the community."

"Have you ever had to hold a crying young woman that was sexually assaulted? Have you ever had to do that? I did. Have you ever had to fight off an attacker from a young woman who was in the process of being sexually assaulted? I had to do that. It was an out-of-towner in both cases. I'm sorry, but I can't support out-of-towners coming in and ruining our community," Sarria said.

Next, an I.V. resident spoke on her experience with Deltopia in the past three years. She said college students need to be more aware of the fact that I.V. is not exclusive to them, especially considering the children who live here.

"My husband and I will live in Isla Vista through at least this decade. We would like to put down roots, buy a home and start a family, but we're apprehensive because, despite the beautiful beaches, the large parks and excellent schools, Isla Vista is not a place I feel comfortable bringing a child into," she said. "I want to raise my child in a community that values education and reputation, not one that prioritizes a rager over health and safety."

Fourth-year biology major and president of UCSB Panhellenic, Lexi Kinne, spoke on her concerns regarding the community outreach prior to the ordinance. She said while Panhellenic had been "part of this conversation" to collaborate on next steps for the ordinance, IVFP's outreach was not "mirrored" to other campus communities.

Ethan Bertrand, an 11-year resident who represents I.V. on the Goleta Union School District Board of Education, said he believes Deltopia "ruins the relationship" between the community and law enforcement due to its increased police presence. He also believes landlords are a part of the problem since they allow tenants to host "out of control parties" on their

properties

Third-year UCSB student Sarah spoke against Schmidt's main arguments for the ordinance, specifically that Deltopia comes at a cost to taxpayers. She said that UCSB students are the "backbone" of the county's economy since many students work jobs and bring service to businesses.

"We are what drives this economy, and just reducing [or] canceling Deltopia to taxpayers makes it seem like our contributions to this economy are not important. Therefore, I believe that we need to be represented with our tax dollars," she said.

Another resident who has lived in I.V. since 1998 but did not identify herself spoke on the "enormous property taxes" that come with owning a house in the area. She urged students to listen to long-term residents as "eventually, many of [them] will leave" and that their opinions need to be balanced with other members of the community.

"Just think about your parents, wherever it is that they live, or your grandparents, wherever they live, and how what you do impacts our community," she said.

Third-year applied math and statistics and data science double major Lang Liu spoke on his experience as a music producer who actively promotes and "enables" parties in I.V. He said he chose to attend UCSB because of its "one of a kind" party culture and music scene, and he questioned how he and others like him can work with the community and law enforcement when planning parties.

In response, Mashhadialireza instructed those hosting events in I.V. to be mindful of the number of people in a space and whether there are enough bathrooms or water stations to accommodate them. She also emphasized the importance of adequate safety measures, such as easily recognizable exits.

Following the town hall, Raad said he felt the event went "amazing," and said they ran out of all catered food, which was enough for "well over 300 people." Raad said he still remains unconvinced as far as the ordinance's effectiveness, and while he understands the concerns from longtime residents, he does not believe the ordinance will lead to a "safer, more well-organized Deltopia."

The SB Board of Supervisors will vote on the proposed ordinance during its Jan. 13 meeting.



Students were mostly opposed to the ordinance, arguing for the festival's place in I.V. culture and opposing its proposal without community input.

## Gaucho Gaming hosts annual Game-a-thon

Elijah Obando Staff Writer

UC Santa Barbara's Gaucho Gaming club hosted its annual "Game-a-thon" on Nov. 15 and 16. The event included a series of raffles, board games, video games, tournaments and pizza.

The event had an assortment of gaming-related prizes. Attendees played the triviabased game Kahoot! to test their gaming knowledge and to compete for a Corsair Mouse. The questions consisted of gaming trivia from a variety of game genres, from first-person shooter games like Valorant and life simulator games like The Sims.

The Game-a-thon was a 12-hour event made possible by their staff and contributing sponsors, according to fourth-year film and media studies and psychological & brain sciences double major and Gaucho Gaming President Katie Elliott.

Elliott said the purpose of hosting these big events is to

bring a community together with a passion for gaming.

"I love making new friends and that's kind of my goal with this. Just to make it so that people who have maybe never met each other before are able to kind of come and chat," Elliott said.

Gaucho Gaming's community engagement team set the rules for all the tournaments, such as the Super Smash Bros. Tournament, which was open to players of all skill levels.

There were attendees who don't attend UCSB at the event as well.

Holden Klingel, a first-year computer science major at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo said he wouldn't have heard about the event if it weren't for the Super Smash Bros. Tournament.

"I heard it from some people in the SLO [San Luis Obispo] Smash group chat. [They] told me that there was a big event here tomorrow," Klingel said.

Elliott expressed how they didn't receive as many sponsors as they would've liked.

"This year, it was a little bit less than we would have liked, but that's the name of the game," Elliott said. "I just really love when people come by and sometimes with our other events, they're a lot smaller, so there's less pull to go. There's not all these big prizes, there's not always free food."

Although Gaucho Gaming is centered around video games, Elliott explained that the organization is more than just gaming. They expressed that when everyone gets busy with work, it's hard to find time to play video games. However, the club has been able to form a community around it.

"I feel like for me, [gaming is] more of an umbrella where it's this hobby that I love even though I don't always participate in it, and now it's become a community of people that I think are usually chill," Elliott said.



Gaucho Gaming's community engagement team set the rules for all the tournaments.

### **AFSCME**

Continued from p. 1

the roundabout. They then picketed along the walkway by the Chemistry Lawn.

After the rally, many individuals held signs and banners reading "fighting for patients, students, futures" by the lawn next to Storke Tower, directly in front of bikers and passersby on the bike paths and walkway.

According to AFSCME organizing intern and second-year sociology major Meadows Stevens, striking is the "last option" that unions choose when "UC or the administration isn't taking them seriously."

"Our chancellor should not be receiving a pay of \$421 an hour while our workers are barely fighting for \$25 an hour while they're putting in hard labor working, coming in as early as 4 a.m.," Stevens said. "Which is not just if they're not being paid the correct wages that they are owed."

In regard to collaborating with other activist groups, Stevens said it's important to acknowledge that "the root of all these social justice causes is the corruption in our government."

"We are the ones who are leading this movement, and we are the ones continuously who will be out here, because UC will not understand how they should treat their workers on their own, and that is very sad and is very unfortunate," Stevens said.

Fourth-year economics major Gabriel Barona, who is training to become an AFSCME intern, highlighted the importance of intersectionality across marginalized communities, as they are ultimately fighting the "same fight." He also spoke about the University's budgetary priorities and how they're representative of "where their interests are really at."

"Workers are out there

struggling, struggling to pay their bills, struggling to pay for health care, struggling just to survive, and the school obviously has the money. Not only did they pay \$8 million for this chancellor's home, but they're also sitting on billions of dollars of unused funds that they could use to pay for these things," Barona said.

Stevens stressed the importance of students being informed and involved regarding labor union strikes.

"It is really our duty as students when we have the capacity to come out, not only to strike, but to also educate one another and realize that we're all in this together," Stevens said.

Senior Lead of the Facilities and Planning at UCSB Francisco Garcia, who has been employed at UCSB for 29 years, said the University should "already know" that workers need proper healthcare and raises. He said the UC hasn't negotiated with AFSCME 3299 since April, and that "it's time they come back to the table and give us what we deserve."

Garcia said that the UC's funding of the chancellor's new home doesn't "line up," considering they claim they don't have the funds to build homes for workers.

"How does that work? Like you really don't have the money? They're buying hospitals throughout the state, not just in Santa Barbara or Los Angeles or San Diego; it's throughout the whole state, and that equals to billions of dollars. So I just think that they have the money. They have the money, definitely," Garcia said.

Fifth-year psychological & brain studies major and External Vice President for Statewide Affairs Leiya Kadah emphasized the importance of workers in the



Approximately 146 UC Santa Barbara service workers halted their work and stationed themselves at Storke Tower.

operation of UC campuses. She said that, if all labor workers were to leave, the UC would have "24 to 48 hours before they had to shut down."

"If people can't afford to live and work and just generally live in the university areas, then the University doesn't run. It's not even a question of whether they can or can't go and find the money and proper budgets for these workers. It's [that] they have to, or else they're going to see [a shutdown]," Kadah said.

Professor Ralph Armbruster-Sandoval of the Department of Chicana and Chicano Studies brought around 100 of his students from his "Introduction to Chicano History" course to the rally. In class, Armbruster-Sandoval had been lecturing about activist moments where "people crossed the line to step up and stand up for the right thing" and invited students to

come witness the strike.

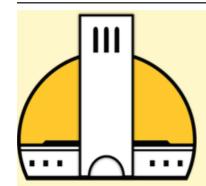
"We've been talking about labor issues all along in class, and particularly labor issues by Chicano, Mexican, Latino folks," Armbruster-Sandoval said. "So it's kind of an outgrowth of our class. We've been talking about this, and it gave us an opportunity to put into action what we've been learning about."

According to Armbruster-Sandoval, students should be concerned about the demands that AFSCME is advocating for because the strike could have a potential effect on their family members and other people they care about. Armbruster-Sandoval said that he has met and spoken to many of his students, who are "Chicano Latinos" and have parents who work in the service industry to support their families.

"Alot of students, they're coming from those kinds of backgrounds — they have strong moms, they have strong grandmas — and they've been supporting them all along in their educational journey," Armbruster-Sandoval said. "They're like, 'How can I not be out here? It'd be like disrespecting my parents by not joining the strike."

Armbruster-Sandoval says that he believes that University administration should listen and respond to demands in order to meet workers' needs.

"Somebody in Cheadle Hall should come out here and talk to the workers and find out what they're experiencing, listen to them [respectfully], start negotiating and start getting a good contract," Armbruster-Sandoval said. "Make sure that these workers don't leave because some of them have been working here for 10, 15, 20 years, and they want to stay here. They love working here if they're treated properly."



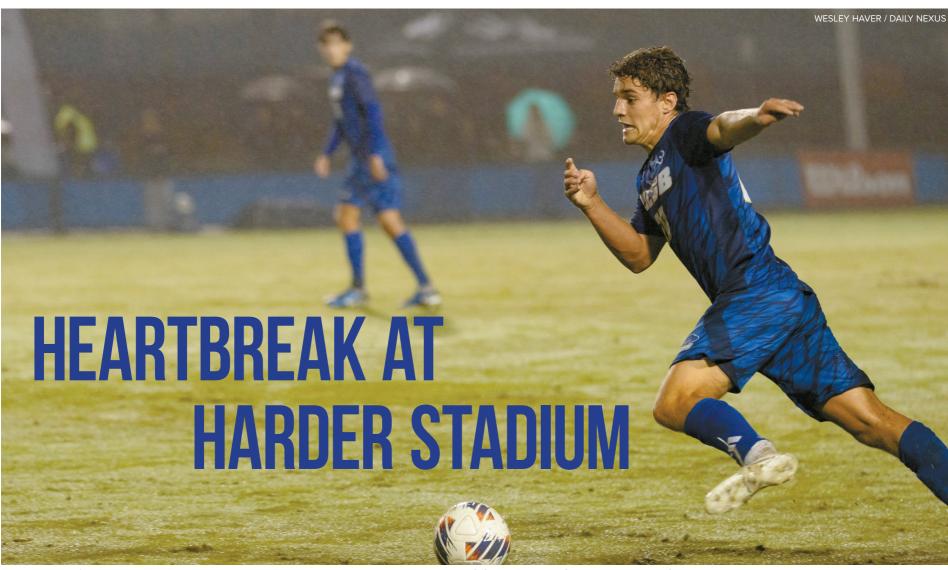
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## SPORTS



Freshman midfielder Jack Middleton moves the ball during a tight game between the UC Santa Barbara Gauchos and the UC Irvine Anteaters.

#### Owen Jones Staff Writer

On an uncharacteristically rainy Nov. 14 night in Santa Barbara, the UC Santa Barbara Gauchos faced off with the increasingly familiar UC Irvine Anteaters in the Men's Soccer Big West Championship game for the second time in the past five seasons. Back in 2021, the high-octane Gauchos offense absolutely shredded the Anteaters, winning 4-0 in a rout that was over early in the second half. This time around, as the rain drizzled down upon Harder Stadium, it was a chippy affair all the way to the final whistle.

Head Coach Tim Vom Steeg shook up his starting lineup for the championship game, starting freshman defender Colby Renton over usual starter graduate defender Haruki Utsumi, who had previously started in all 19 games he appeared in this season. Freshman midfielder Jack Middleton also earned the starting nod, his seventh of the season in just nine appearances.

Santa Barbara dominated the oossession in the first 15 minutes of play, as Irvine sat back on defense and let the Gauchos come to them in attack. As the Anteaters settled into the game, the field conditions were deteriorating quickly. Nearly every attack saw a player hit the turf, with most being due to a combination of physical defense and slippery field underfoot.

As the clock hit the 20th minute, momentum had fully shifted to Irvine. Attacks by the Gauchos were losing their potency, and the Anteaters were quick on the counter, especially down their right wing. Middleton took some frustration out on Irvine in the 22nd minute, resulting in a yellow card from the referee, the first booking of the match. The free kick

for the Anteaters was about 15 yards past the 18-yard box, and senior right back Travis Babineau soared a free kick high and right of the goal, but not by much.

Just a few moments later, disaster struck when a promising Irvine attack was halted by sophomore defender Calle Mollerberg and junior defender Drew Kamienski at the very edge of the box. The referee immediately assigned a red card to Kamienski, to the crowd's great dismay, but it was reversed to a yellow card after the referee was called to assess the foul again on video replay. The replay also confirmed the foul was committed outside the box, giving the Anteaters a free kick rather than a coveted penalty. Babineau wasn't deterred. however, and he rocketed a shot to the top right corner of the net past freshman goalkeeper Owen Beninga's outstretched arms

to give Irvine a 1-0 lead in the

26th minute. Both coaches made substitutions to get some fresh legs on the pitch as the halt wore but the score remained the same up until halftime. Kamienski had a late shot right before the first half buzzer, but luck wasn't on the Gauchos' side as it flew just left of the target. There were a combined 16 fouls in the first half, but only Santa Barbara players had received cards

As the second half whistle blew, expectations were high as Gaucho fans predicted another second half comeback in the works, just like they had done against UC Davis in the Big West semifinal the previous weekend. Unfortunately for Vom Steeg and his men, Irvine had other ideas, netting their second goal just 40 seconds into the second period. Hunny Yoo, junior midfielder, pushed the ball past Beninga as the young keeper came off his line too soon; Babineau was credited with the assist to go with his earlier goal for the Anteaters.

The Gauchos tried to respond by opening up the game, stretching the field to their advantage like they had against the Aggies in their last game, but an Irvine player was always at the

receiving end of a cross

into the

box or a long ball intended to go over the top of the backline.

Graduate forward Buba Fofanah did capture a moment of magic for the Gauchos in the 65th minute, weaving the ball through traffic on the right hand side of the box and slotting it past sophomore goalkeeper Joe O'Shaughnessy to pull his team closer to a comeback.

Irvine kept pressure on the Gauchos defense too, however, and it came solely down to Beninga to keep the game from becoming a blowout. Beninga had three otherworldly saves in a five-minute span starting in the 69th minute, deflecting shots out of the top right corner, bottom right corner and a chip shot off a defender's deflection that he barely punched clear of the crossbar straight over the top of his head.

Standout junior midfielder Kaden Standish had a quieter night than against Davis, and his night looked like it would

be ending abruptly when

he was forced to exit the game after a head injury in the 69th minute. However, he made a heroic return in the 78th minute as the Gauchos still sought a equalizer. late Unfortunately, his return to the pitch was mitigated by more questionable officiating by the much-maligned head referee. After avoiding a sending off earlier in the game, Kamienski

the Gauchos had to complete their comeback with just 10 men remaining in their lineup.

This downturn in fortune for the Gauchos was overshadowed for the crowd, as two fans made their way onto the pitch before being chased off by security. The crowd urged them on as they hopped the fence before being seized by the guards tailing them across the field, cheering at the thrilling escape as the on-pitch situation was spiraling for Santa Barbara.

Beninga made two more impressive back-to-back saves in the 86th minute, raising his total in the game to seven, with six in the second half alone. Sophomore forward Zac Siebenlist had the last chance for the Gauchos in the 87th minute when he got on the end of a cross straight in front of the goal, but he couldn't guide it below the crossbar as it sailed mere feet over the goal.

As the final buzzer sounded, Santa Barbara fans were already heading to the exits, soaked to the bone, as Irvine fans rushed to the fences lining the field to celebrate with their team in victory. It was a bitter defeat for the Gauchos, who have now lost two Big West Championship games in a row on their home field.

While some players will leave, many integral pieces will return for Vom Steeg next year, as they try to avoid another disappointing end to an excellent season. The team went on a 13-game unbeaten run up until the championship game, which is a record under Vom Steeg and the second longest in the history of the program. It was also the team's third-ever unbeaten campaign in conference play, which can be a stepping stone for next year's squad as they look to overcome their playoff demons and clinch their first Big West Conference title since 2021.



Samia Agarwal Staff Writer

The UC Santa Barbara women's basketball team delivered a clutch victory over the Grand Canyon University Lopes on Saturday, Nov. 15, winning 72-70 in the Thunderdome. All 40 minutes of playing time were jam-packed with with

squads

lead

action, the two trading the back and forth. In the end, it would be the Gauchos standing

victorious, now fourth in the Big West Conference.

The Gauchos began strong, with junior Maddie Naro running the offense at point guard through star sophomore forward Olivia Bradley, who scored two quick left-handed layups through

the Grand Canyon University (GCU) paint. However, the Lopes defense soon began to tire the Gauchos out, as their full-court press and quick feet had multiple Gauchos leaving their shots short in the first quarter.

In the second quarter, the Gauchos continued to shoot at a high field goal percentage, but sloppy transition

defense turnovers left the point differential within singledigits. Senior guard Skylar Burke was forced to sit after being called for fouls two less in than three minutes, prompting the Gauchos to turn to Bradley for an offensive spark. She certainly delivered, totaling 16 points, and

7 rebounds blocks on 64% shooting on the game. U C S B 's momentumstayed steady through the second period and the score at the half showed 36-30 in favor of the Gauchos.

In the third quarter, Burke rested immediately made her presence felt with a layup, block 3-pointer and in back-to-back possessions. The Gauchos continued to shoot more efficiently than the Lopes, but their 15 fouls and 13 turnovers to GCU's 9 and 8, respectively, held them back, causing them to go into the final period tied. fourth quarter, the

In the crowd was on the edge of their seats, as each basket drew loud and gasps. roars

The Gauchos led consistently until **GCU** senior forward Anisa Jeffries gave the Lopes

a 1-point lead with about three minutes left, though it was immediately followed by a Naro 3-pointer.

In the final 30 seconds, the Gauchos had a 1-point lead and possession but turned it over, helpless as Jeffries sprinted to the rim and scored to give GCU the lead back. With 16 seconds left, Gaucho junior forward Zoe Borter drove in for a contested floater and hit to give UCSB the lead, with sophomore guard Zoe Shaw forcing a turnover on the other end to seal the win. The game-winner would be Borter's only points of the afternoon.

UCSB now moves to 3-1 for the season, cementing themselves in the top 2 in the Big West Conference for field goal, 3-point and free throw percentage. It was this efficiency that allowed the Gauchos to win on Saturday, despite 19 total turnovers and 11 less shots than the Lopes. They will now travel to face the California Baptist University Lancers on Nov. 28 at 12 p.m.



## ARISWI



## One day you'll be "Uncool": Cameron Crowe's new memoir

Stella Mullin Artsweek Editor

Sometime in the spring of my junior year of high school, my dad was driving me to my friend's house where we would do online school together, attempting a semblance of high school life from her kitchen. Probably for the third time that morning, I played Elton John's "Tiny Dancer" over the car speakers — my hyperfixation song at the time — and hummed along. My dad paused the song and asked if I had ever seen the film "Almost Famous." I said no.

I walked into my friend's kitchen still humming Elton John, to which my friend then asked me if I had ever heard of Penny Lane — a lead character in "Almost Famous" claiming that I am reminiscent of her (I've grown to learn that Penny Lane's lifestyle is actually not one to be copied).

After two mentions of the film in one morning, I sat down to watch it that night. I watched the two-hour movie in one sitting, eyes and ears glued to the screen. It was the best music I had ever heard. The Allman Brothers Band's "Eat a Peach," which I heard for the first time in that movie, is still my favorite album.

The aftermath of "Almost Famous" was a record player and a new hunger for music. Vinyls from Simon & Garfunkel, The Allman Brothers Band, The Who, Joni Mitchell, The Beach Boys, Bob Dylan, Jimi Hendrix and Elton John swarmed my room. While this musical discovery was a great gift from a single movie, an even bigger gift was a career discovery. The film, written by Cameron Crowe, was about Crowe's life as a 15-year-old writing for Rolling Stone magazine. I believed maybe I could also write about music like him.

Lhave seen "Almost Famous" over 10 times now, and the "Tiny Dancer" bus scene is still one of my favorites. I became obsessed with the film, even dressing up as Penny Lane for Halloween not once, but three times over the past four years. You can imagine my excitement when I learned Crowe was releasing his memoir in the fall of 2025.

Crowe's "The Uncool" hit the shelves on Oct. 28, 2025, and I had the orange-sleeved book in my hands that morning. In an attempt to place the reader into the rockstar-studded world that was the 1960s and '70s, Crowe refrained from using the words "I remember." He succeeded.

Crowe's musical journey began in 1964 at 7 years old when he and his mother saw Bob Dylan, then a folk musician, play at a college gym. Just a few years later, he began writing for the San Diego Door, an underground paper which sought to combat Richard Nixon by publishing political articles.

Discussing "The would not be complete without a preliminary mention of Lester Bangs, the California-born rock critic famously fired from Rolling Stone for a bad review on the band Canned Heat. Although not a leading character in every aspect of the book, his presence is there, driving Crowe toward bigger and better stories.

The memoir flows from big band to big band and Crowe's stories about interviewing each one of them. And he didn't just interview them, he traveled with them inside green rooms, afterparties, limos, tour buses. Starting at 15 and feeling washed up in his late teens, Crowe was underage for all of it.

His first cover story for Rolling Stone involved convincing Gregg Allman, leading man of the Allman Brothers, to agree to an interview after the unfortunate timing of the death of his brother and a bad review in the same week. Allman agreed. Next was Jimmy Page of Led Zeppelin, another interviewopposed musician who Crowe broke through to. And the greatest of all, David Bowie, a notorious antiinterview musician who agreed to let Crowe shadow him for the next 18 months. Crowe was reunited with Bowie years later, but Bowie seemed to have blocked out his entire Thin White Duke persona. He told Crowe those 18 months were a dark, drug-filled time in his

Every journalist knows that music and journalism are not exactly a match made in heaven. A recurring line in "Almost Famous" refers to a young Crowe as "the enemy," and that is not left out of the book. While not labeled as an enemy in his memoir, Bangs reminds Crowe to not make friends with the rock stars. Except, that is exactly what Crowe does. How could you not, after following one around for 18 months? Crowe befriended not just Bowie, but also Ronnie Wood from the Rolling Stones, Red Dog with the Allman Brothers Band and, of course, Pennie Trumbull, or, as she goes by, Pennie Lane. There is a real Pennie Lane after all.

"The Uncool" captures what it feels like to be the youngest and most naive in the room. Crowe held off from the drugs and alcohol inevitably offered to him and recounts a moment when Allman took his being underage as a sign he was with the FBI. But Crowe still earned his place in the room and was the youngest writer for Rolling

At 15 years old, Crowe's mother,

Alice Crowe, had dreams for her son. She hoped he would follow the path of his grandfather by becoming the youngest lawyer in the country. In an attempt to solidify this future, Alice Crowe skipped her son ahead by two grades. Instead, he became one of the youngest music journalists in the country. And his washed-up feeling at the ripe age of 18 still was not enough to push him to law school. Instead, he dove headfirst into the film industry, writing and producing films such as "Fast Times at Ridgemont High," "Say Anything" and "Jerry Maguire." Despite being told by Jann Wenner, co-founder of Rolling Stone, that he was not a "real writer," urging him to read Joan Didion's "Slouching Towards Bethlehem" to see what he meant, Crowe never gave up. "The Uncool" begins and ends

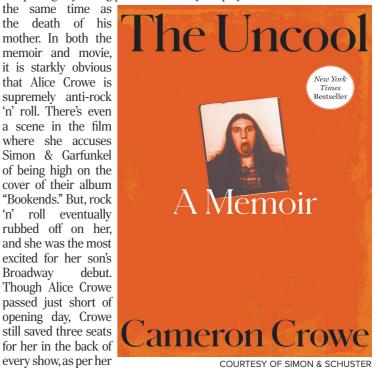
with "Almost Famous: The Musical," its opening day taking place around the same time as the death of his mother. In both the memoir and movie, it is starkly obvious that Alice Crowe is supremely anti-rock 'n' roll. There's even a scene in the film where she accuses Simon & Garfunkel of being high on the cover of their album "Bookends." But, rock 'n' roll eventually rubbed off on her, and she was the most excited for her son's Broadway debut. Though Alice Crowe passed just short of opening day, Crowe still saved three seats

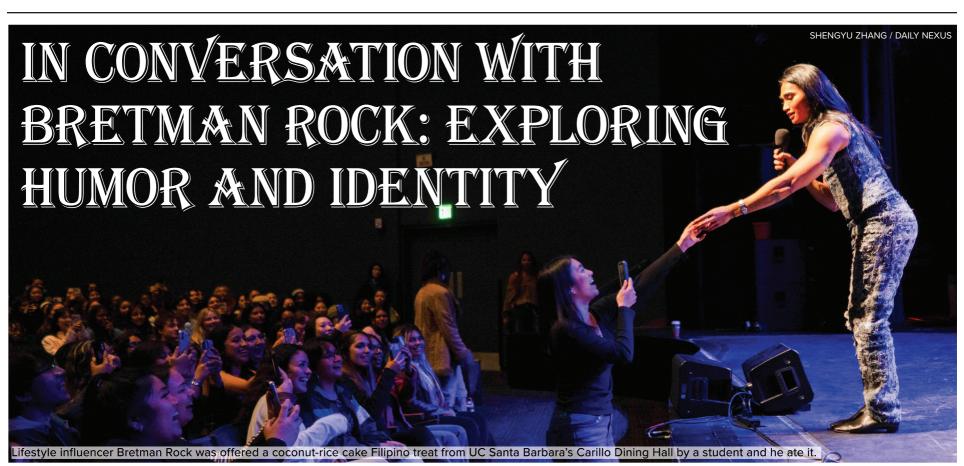
every show, as per her

request. Joni Mitchell sat in those seats for one of them.

I can credit Crowe with the entirety of my young adult life Without watching "Almost Famous," the world of music writing would have never landed in my lap. The most exciting part of my days at UC Santa Barbara is thinking of the next local band I get to interview, or the next show I get to review.

I am still reading Crowe articles that I discover daily, and I keep a screenshot of Crowe's Allman Brothers story on my home screen, reminding me of who I want to be when I grow up. I hope to keep a part of the Crowe that lives within me for the rest of my life. For a glimpse into the golden age of rock and roll and into the mind of a writing protegee, grab "The Uncool" and indulge. Perhaps you will find a song or two to add to your playlist.





#### Megan Rodriguez Reporter

At the risk of ruining a fresh blowout thanks to a week of pouring rain, beauty guru and social media personality Bretman Rock graced the mainland with his presence in a packed Campbell Hall on Nov. 14. The Filipino-American comedian and LGBTQ+ icon drew in an enthusiastic crowd for a lively evening of humorous banter.

The show, "In Conversation with Bretman Rock," was announced by the Associated Students Program Board (ASPB) on Nov. 10 and sold out a few days later. The comment section of the Instagram post announcing the event was filled with GIF comments featuring quippy quotes from Rock, effortlessly speaking to his prevalence in internet humor and the excitement surrounding his appearance at UC Santa Barbara.

The night consisted of an interview-style exchange that prompted Rock to divulge many amusing storytimes, followed by a Q&A session with the audience.

Originally rising to online popularity at the age of 16 when his satirical contouring tutorial went viral in 2015, Rock has maintained a uniquely entertaining virtual platform by being unapologetically

himself. Building off his start on YouTube and Vine, Rock is an author, actor, podcast host and lifestyle and beauty influencer on Tiktok. When asked if he had any more accomplishments to add to that list,

Rock responded with: "Gay." The dedication of his supporters could be seen in the turnout before doors opened, with a line extending to Cheadle Hall across the way - eagerly armed with umbrellas, raincoats and a few Filipino flags.

"He's authentically himself. He's been through so many different eras and keeps showing up [as he is]," film and media studies alum Callie Hurley said.

"I'm Filipino and in the queer community ... It's just about relating to him and his whole experience," fellow alum Reggie Rojas added. Hurley and Rojas were visiting in support of the Filipino club on campus Kapatirang Pilipino's (KP) mentorship pairing reveal event.

"Y'all really sat the Filipinos in the front," Rock commented as the event began. However, it was clear when the house lights came on that the Filipino student population showed up and showed out in the whole lecture hall, beaming with pride.

"I know when they turn these lights on, half of ya'll are gonna look like me. I can just tell by the way you're laughing so loud," Rock

Rock is effortlessly funny - he has a signature style and attitude that seeps through his replies to each question ASPB had prepared. The conversation covered all his niches, from fabulous hair true to his Leo identity, the assortment of fruits and animals that live on his farm with him in Hawai'i and his official exit from the beauty industry. Rock admitted that he has developed such a great audience that "now people will just watch [him] do anything."

Now posting about his pink chicken and rainbows in his backyard, he expressed that it took a lot of the pressure off rushing to be the first beauty influencer to post a video about the newest product.

"We were all fighting about who [would get to] post the first review. It became very catty and competitive in that sense," he said.

Rock confessed that stepping away did him well.

"It reminded me that sometimes, my interests are what make me

interesting," he continued. Representation and relatability of Rock's ethnic, sexual and gender

identities were also major topics of the night. "For the most part, I think my personality is just so, so, so Filipino ...

I'm just a Bakla at the end of the day,"

Rock said with a knowing smirk.

The audience broke into "oohs" and cheers, as Bakla is a Tagalog term for a person assigned male at birth who has a feminine gender expression, and has become a reclaimed celebratory term for being

While most of the evening was filled with lighthearted anecdotes, Rock also discussed growing up as an immigrant in the United States after moving from the Philippines to Hawai'i at the age of 8 in a more serious shift.

"There were so many Brown kids that I never felt different ... I know as an immigrant person, that's very privileged of me to say," Rock explained.

He also said he felt lucky to retain his native tongue despite pressures to assimilate.

"I say all this because I recognize that I'm very privileged as an immigrant child who had parents that instilled so much Filipinoness in me ... I don't want to say it was easy, but girl, I ate it up!"

Later in the Q&A session, Rock also told the audience that he was

always accepted by his family and didn't ever have to come out to them. "I think for me, the pressure was truly that I have to make my American dream come true," he

success, that is.

Becoming a mainstream

The night came to an end after Rock shouted out a few audience members (he revealed that he does read his DMs) and tried a Bibingka, a coconut-rice cake Filipino treat, from campus' very own Carillo Dining Commons. Rock affirmed that it was "not really good, but good," which is probably on par with student ratings.

Rock embodies the evolving landscape of representation in media. A manifestation of what it means to grow up surrounded by acceptance and cultural pride: the ability to just "be."

He repeatedly asserts that he's always just being himself, and that is what his audience loves about him so much. As a reminder that authenticity can be its own kind of revolution, Rock is an icon of a generation that grew up alongside the digital space, who had the opportunity to flourish in acceptance.

His journey shows that success isn't something you inherit, but build on your own terms - and success can look like joy.

For every student looking to see themselves represented, or dreaming of creating something - art, media, a community - Rock encapsulated the night into a short piece of advice: "You've got to just post it ... Sometimes you've got to start the channel yourself."

## NEXUSTENTIALISM



#### Serrano Ham **Dropping Out**

With Pass 1 of course registration having concluded this past week, devastated students, especially freshmen, have been left in its wake. UC Santa Barbara has been experiencing unprecedented rates of drop outs as freshmen freak out over not getting critical major classes. Officials have been scrambling for solutions to solve this crisis, none of which involve adding more available slots to lectures or making multiple professors teach the same course.

First-year medieval studies major, Finbar O'Flanagan, is the latest victim of the class shortage at UCSB and has recently announced the end of his

academic career. In a statement issued to the entirety of the school via a Gmail chain, O'Flanagan decried the school and expressed his shock about the situation.

"I don't know how I can go on it's mathematically impossible for me to graduate in less than seven years!" O'Flanagan wrote.

His panic has been espoused by hundreds of other students who have expressed regret about picking UCSB over other schools. Faculty have attempted to calm students – with limited success. One chemistry professor, who asked to remain anonymous, "because my RateMyProfessors score can't take another hit," insisted that the class crisis was overblown.

"Back in my day, we camped outside of Broida Hall or followed our professors home until they gave us the add code to a class we needed. Kids are just too weak these days," said the anonymous professor.

Even upperclassmen aren't immune to the far-reaching effects of the Pass 1 debacle. Fourth-year political science major Kiki Lee described the frantic atmosphere.

"Freshmen keep asking me for advice, and what am I supposed to do? Manifest an open seat? Ask Dennis Assanis? Pray to the GOLD gods? We're all suffering here. I'm one class away from being able to graduate and it's a time slot that literally doesn't exist. I mean, 4:58 to 6:13 p.m. Are we serious?" Lee commented.

The UCSB subreddit has been extremely active following Pass 1, with anonymous users

not holding back their disgust. @celeryButEmotional posted a very vulnerable message on Reddit, showing the dark side of the class scramble at the school.

"I did the calculation — getting my chemistry lab was 2.3% probable, and I'm 87% less likely to graduate because I wasn't able to get the last lecture spot. I chopped my finger off, I was so angry."

@3AMExistentialNugget also on Reddit simply had this to say: "Crash the course? More like crash my head into a wall because I go to school in these conditions!"

Despite the chaos, campus officials maintain a hopeful tone.

"Everything is working exactly as intended. Class registration is always a dynamic, evolving ecosystem. Like our very own Isla Vista cliffs, it involves patience, adaptability and occasionally, a total collapse."

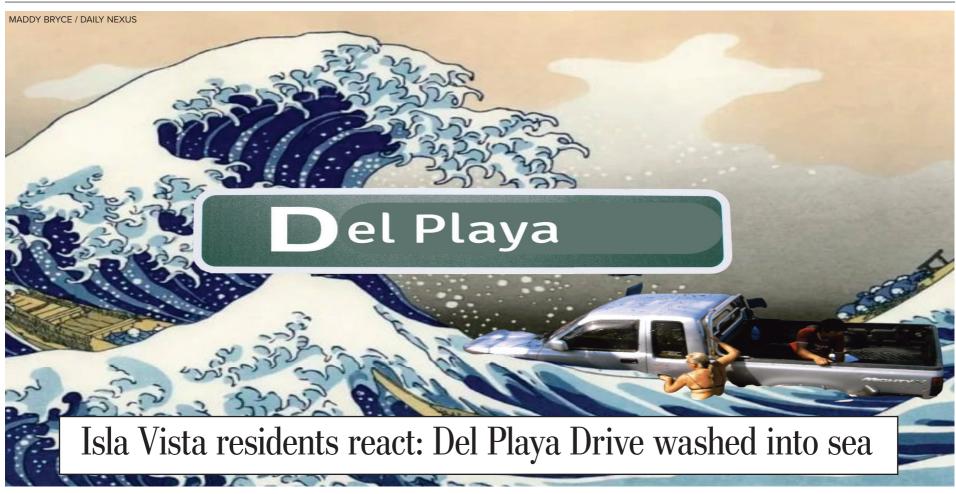
As for O'Flanagan, he remains firm in his decision to drop out of UCSB following his inability to get a single class in a department he claims "literally only has two other students."

He wrote a follow-up email sent to 23,458 UCSB students.

"In my newfound free time, I'll become a wandering bard — I'll finally learn how to play the lute and live the life of my dreams."

UCSB has declined to comment on his departure, saying only, "We don't negotiate with freshmen."

Serrano Ham would love to rage quit school one of these days.



#### Don Juan Tenorio Soaking Wet

After a week of heavy rainstorms and high winds around Southern California, very few communities were impacted more than Isla Vista, California. UC Santa Barbara's iconic Del Playa Drive was washed away out to sea on Nov. 15, along with hundreds of shattered glass bottles, four dozen

ridden fraternity satellite houses. The Daily Nexus has spoken to several affected community members to gauge the morale in I.V. after the massive storm.

Chet Rager, a third-year communication major and member of the Sigma Alpha Kappa fraternity, was one of those impacted. His house, along with several of his fraternity brothers, was swept away in the storm.

not having a beer wall anymore. I finished a 12 pack earlier and legit I almost cried when I threw away the packaging." Rager said on Nov. 16.

Rager did not comment on his eight missing fraternity brothers.

The Daily Nexus also reached out to an I.V. landlord for his thoughts, who wished to remain anonymous. His name is Robbert Bourgeois.

on DP, so I'm pretty happy. I'm increasing rent by ~\$300 a month because of the lack of competition, and now all my houses are closer to the beach! A win for me on all accounts."

Bourgeois also did not comment on the missing students.

Former UCSB Chancellor Henry T. Yang personally reached out to the Daily Nexus with the following statement:

thankful for the rains in Isla Vista. There is now one less road for me to lose control of my car on."

Yang also did not comment on the missing students.

For more breaking news on the emerging storm situation, stay tuned to Daily Nexus.

Don Juan Tenorio is going to party on Sabado Tarde from now



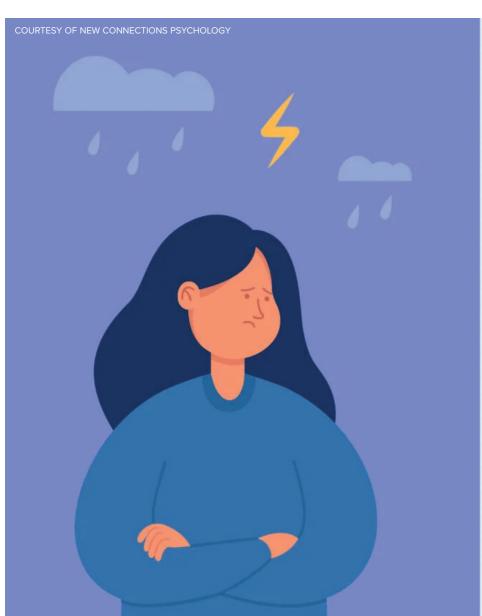
## SCIENCE & TECH



11

## SIMPLY STATED

## Why UCSB students feel seasonal depression differently





#### Aria Khaitan *Reporter*

With winter quarter quickly approaching and the weather changing from bright, warm days to rainy, cloudy grays, students are beginning to feel the pressure of navigating school, adjusting to campus life and fighting seasonal depression. Fortunately, seasonal depression looks a little different for UC Santa Barbara students.

Seasonal Affective Disorder (S.A.D.) is a recognized form of depression that typically starts in the fall or winter and improves in the sunnier days of spring and summer. It can be especially overwhelming for students who grew up in warmer climates and have to endure the abrupt transition to snowy, wet and, let's be honest, gloomy weather. This is not to say that students attending California colleges do not also feel the effects of the change in seasons with academic stress and colder temperatures impacting mental well-being. UCSB students just tend to feel

such changes differently.

The clocks turned back one hour, and sunny Santa Barbara is dark as early as 5 p.m. Studies, like Dr. Jesse Bracamonte's, have shown that reduced light during the winter induces neurochemical changes in the brain, which increase fatigue. Melatonin is a hormone that is secreted in response to darkness by the enigmatic pineal glandis. This hormone induces sleep, which can help to explain why we feel more tired in the winter seasons as the days are shorter and the sun sets earlier. Daylight saving can further affect our bodies' serotonin levels, causing our moods, sleep cycles and general attitudes to fluctuate. Research explains that when sunlight enters your eyes, it activates receptors in the retina that signal the brain to make serotonin. This chemical helps manage mood, emotional balance, appetite and digestion. This helps to explain why depression can be caused by an imbalance of neurotransmitters many and antidepressant medications are selective

serotonin reuptake inhibitors, which prevent serotonin from being reabsorbed after the body uses it. With students' daily sunlight intake depleting, it is understandable for moods to be lower and general anxiety to increase, only adding to the consistent stress of classes, homework and midterms

homework and midterms. Further, the University of California functions on the quarter system, posing UCSB students with the unique challenge of completing what others have months to master in a small, 10-week period. This academic stress is felt strongly by students across the UC schools as they race to ace midterms every three weeks and prepare for next quarter's classes at a demanding and rigorous pace. Adjusting to this lifestyle while fighting seasonal depression can be very challenging for students; recent reports show that the percentage of UC students seeking mental health services has increased three times faster than enrollment growth over the last 10 years, rising by 78%.

However, UCSB, the school by the Pacific, offers a few perks that can help alleviate the anxieties of academics and the depression associated with changing seasons. It has been observed that the color blue is associated with feelings of calmness, creativity and peacefulness. According to some analyses, fixing your gaze on the ocean horizon can induce a mild meditative state by shifting the frequency of our brainwaves towards theta wavelengths. Negative ions from the air given from an extra electron in oxygen atoms in places near the ocean contribute to this chemical change in the brain. The noise of the waves can help to activate our parasympathetic nervous system, which is proven to slow our brains down and put us in a more relaxed mood.

Lastly, UCSB's bustling campus culture and social life is a promising anecdote for seasonal depression. According to Harvard Health, social connections can help regulate the nervous system: The trust and support characteristic

meaningful friendships help reduce blood pressure and stress hormones to their baseline levels. Instead of being on edge and living in your mind of daily stressors and negative thoughts, friends and social outings can help to regulate the chemicals in your brain, leading you to feel more at ease and boost your mood. Whether it be for a Blenders In The Grass date, a band show in Isla Vista or a group hangout in your dorm, UCSB's roaring social life can actually help fight the depression that accompanies the changing seasons.

While seasonal depression is a very real mental health issue that affects students in states from New Jersey to California, thanks to the neurological benefits of sunshine, ocean and community, UCSB students have a strong network of available resources for support. So as winter quarter approaches and temperatures dip, stay connected, seek sunlight when you can and take care of your mental well-being — brighter days are ahead, Gauchos!

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## ONTHE MENU



## Meals with friends: How food creates community



Lily, Kendra and Alicia (left to right) made delicious chicken and tofu tacos for a friendly cooking competition that brought about new friendships.

Kendra Martinez Artsweek Editor, Lucy Dixon Opinion Editor

Throughout the past year, we (Kendra and Lucy) have discovered the joy of bringing our friends together for meals. As we've perfected the art of communal eating, we wanted to share some of our stories, tips and tricks to crafting the perfect meals with friends.

Kendra:

"The Fishbowl" — the name that has been given to my apartment due to me and my housemates' aversion to closing the blinds, allowing all of our neighbors to peek into our living room at any point in the day. While normally they might find Alicia doing her homework on the couch with Spotify playing from the TV or me taking a nap on the beanbag, on special days they might see friendships flourishing through various brunch and dinner gatherings.

It all started in the Trader Joe's on Camino Real when I was buying the ingredients for the final installment of a year-long cooking competition. Since I'm no longer living in the dorms, I was finally able to cook for my friends, Simon, Kyle and Haiden — my dish being the last one to be judged.

While it was a competition among the four of us, I decided that including my housemates Lily and Alicia would be a great way for them to meet and get to know my buddies; I also desperately needed their help to chop up all the ingredients for my chicken and tofu tacos. The recipe only includes instructions for chicken tacos, but we just followed the same steps for the tofu to accommodate our vegetarian, Alicia. Notably, we were short on some lemon juice for the salsa and we might have used a bit too much onion, but it was delicious nonetheless.

After two hours of chopping and tofu pressing, we finally had some deliciously cheesy and flavorful tacos to enjoy while we played Mario Kart 8 on Haiden's Switch 2. The tacos earned a 9.67/10 from Simon and a 9.68/10 from Haiden. Kyle did not provide a rating.

We ended the night with some Peaches & Cream Tarte, which was the most delicious dessert I have ever put in my mouth. Alica, Lily and I were devastated to find out it was only seasonally available at Trader Joe's.

Taco night was a success and I, for one, was thrilled that two important groups in my life had enjoyed a pleasant evening filled with food and rage baiting. Now, we sometimes all climb together and Simon, Kyle and Haiden come over to bake in our kitchen (they have a fully functioning oven in their apartment).

When I saw the Pumpkin Brioche Twist in the bread aisle of Trader Joe's, inspiration struck for more than just dinner ingredients. Back at home, I was no stranger to making french toast in the mornings for my family, so why not continue that tradition for my friends? Originally, the idea was only to make french toast for the residents of The Fishbowl, until we decided to extend the invitation to our lovely friends. And so, a Canva flyer was created by the Canva master herself, Alicia, and was sent to multiple group chats.

While the showstopper of these french toast brunches were the pumpkin french toast slices, we had to outsource more bread the morning of since we hadn't planned on inviting as many people as we did. Ultimately, we used buttermilk bread to make more french toast, and it was all right, just very thin. I will say, the pumpkin flavor in the Pumpkin Brioche Twist is very subtle. A french toast brunch wouldn't be complete without strawberries, bananas, maple syrup and powdered sugar of course. Trust,



The most perfect charcuterie boards must have at least three kinds of cheese (don't forget the cranberry goat cheese).

The Fishbowl hosts made sure to provide all the necessary toppings (even if it meant Lily had to make a quick grocery run before guests showed up).

There have been three installments of these French toast-filled mornings, and the latest one was the most successful yet. We finally have perfected the set up for these morning gettogethers: buffet style, everyone prepares their own dish with all the toppings laid out on our dining table. Then, we all gather around our kitchen island and chat.

Six of our dearest friends showed up, including Lucy and Emily, who was visiting for the weekend. Martin, a new friend this quarter, made an appearance, and it was amazing seeing him quickly join the cheerleading team for Alicia's romantic pursuits — a team everyone else in attendance was already a part of. It truly is a beautiful thing to watch friends from different areas of your life share a meal together so naturally.

In my experience, the key to curing a Saturday morning hangover is brunch with your neighbors. Each weekend, my neighbors Riley and Katelyn crawl out of their warm beds to use my coveted De'Longhi espresso machine, while I fry up some turkey bacon or hash browns. Eventually, we'll meander over to their house for cinnamon pancakes, drenched in syrup and topped with fresh strawberries.

There are many beautiful things about our Saturday morning ritual — from our conversations in my kitchen recapping the night before to our unique ability to maximize what we have on hand, apple sauce in place of oil and heavy whipping cream instead of milk. One morning when the pancake mix had run out, Riley made us Dutch babies: fluffy, eggy pancakes that her mom makes on Christmas. The key to the Dutch baby is to eat it as quickly as possible (so

it's still warm) with a sprinkle of powdered sugar and lemon juice, topped with raspberry jam.

Making food for your friends is one of the best ways to share both your familial and ethnic culture with them — from Riley's Dutch babies to my mom's favorite Paula Deen corn salad, which I've replicated for my friends three times now. The salad is a childhood favorite of mine; It's bright and summery, with bursting cherry tomatoes, sweet white corn and tangy red onion, avocado and cilantro keeping the vegetables clumped and lime juice tying it all together.

The Paula Deen corn salad became my go-to dish when I barbecued for my friends one Sunday evening last spring quarter. I had never barbecued before, and it took us forever to figure out how to configure the coals. While my friends waited hours for the hot dogs, they enjoyed corn salad, fresh fruit and the various other dishes they had each spent time preparing. In the absence of the main course, the side dishes and camaraderie made up for more than a helping.

Potluck-style meals are my favorite way of sharing with friends. Each person brings something different to the table, contributing their own flair and style to the experience of a shared meal. I love to try what each person made, taking comfort in the knowledge that they took the time to prepare (or at least, buy) something for everyone to share. It's almost biblical, an ancient ritual of breaking bread with the people you love.

Ever since that first potluck, my housemate Sara has taken over on the grilling. Now, hot dogs are typically done in 20 minutes, rather than two hours.

As college students, learning to cook can feel daunting. In my first apartment sophomore year, my cooking skills were limited to boiled pasta and frozen chicken

nuggets. But as I've grown (both in skill and in kitchen size), cooking has become something I cherish. I love standing over my stove while Fleetwood Mac plays on the TV, and sitting on the couch with my roommates and a bowl of my latest soup. I've become proud of my cooking, even if it's pretty average.

And like how Sara's specialty is behind the grill, I've found my own cooking niches. Recently, my friends and I threw what we deemed a "bread party," where each invitee was required to bring a different type of bread. Our feast starred garlic herb focaccia, cream cheese-filled bagel bites, homemade pita bread, fluffy, sweet rolls, a pumpkin loaf and monkey bread. And while my friends may be talented bakers, I knew my skills would be better suited elsewhere: making a fabulous cheeseboard.

I piled prosciutto and salami between slices of Brie and Gouda, placed my favorite Trader Joe's cranberry goat cheese delicately between rows of crackers and garnished with salted cashews and a bowl of pomegranate seeds. And even though I didn't technically "make" anything, I still got to share a bit of home with my friends. Cheeseboards are a Thanksgiving essential in my family. They're at the center of the hustle and bustle in the kitchen - my grandma sucks on unpitted olives while making stuffing with three sticks of butter, while my aunts and I trade jamcheese-cracker combinations, my dad sneaking by us all for a slice of salami. My perfect bite? Brie and prosciutto with Trader Joe's pepper jelly on a baguette.

Potlucks, dinners and brunches are all great activities that can be inexpensive and so incredibly fun, especially for the holiday season. But beyond the holidays, we've learned that food is one of the best ways to bring people together, all year round.

## Untraditional Thanksgiving traditions



Sizzling asparagus and thick cut NY-strip steaks grilled up by my brother.



My sister and me curled up on my Isla Vista couch post-Thanksgiving feast.

#### Piper Cheney On the Menu Editor

My family has always treated holiday planning like a spontaneous sport. Everything eventually works out, but not before we pay double for flights we could have booked weeks earlier in advance. At least my dad can rack up his Delta Airline credit card points (sorry dad). This year was no different; last week our family group chat texts went from planning an extended family reunion in D.C. to a frat house Thanksgiving break in San Diego. One chaotic group FaceTime later, my twin brother, older sister, dad and I finally settled on a destination for the holiday: the rocky mountains of Denver. My older sister lives in the heart of the city, seconds from the Rockies' stadium and a half an hour from the mountains. I dream of being curled up in her indigoflowered sheets with her calico kitty, Cleo, purring on top of my stomach.

Last Thanksgiving, the reunion came to my stomping grounds of Santa Barbara. I hosted the holiday in my cramped Isla Vista house, with my brother on the couch, my sister in my bed and my dad – uninterested in reliving his college years — choosing the comforts of a hotel in Goleta. Like most families, we have traditions. Unlike most families, however, none of ours involve a turkey. Half of us can't stand stuffing, and the smell of gravy makes my brother sick. Past Thanksgiving spreads have consisted of tacos, pizza and even Chinese takeout. We prefer it this way; the low-stakes dinner paired with personal conversation instead of the shallow chatter that comes along when talking to your second cousin that you don't really know.

In the spirit of keeping it classy (as classy as a college house can be) we decided on serving steak. Naturally, we waited until the night before Thanksgiving to go grocery shopping. Trader Joe's was thoroughly ransacked - the neighboring Albertsons wasn't much better. Lucky for us, turkey and cranberry sauce weren't on the list anyway. By checkout, our shopping cart looked like a student's fever dream of a holiday dinner: steaks, potatoes, bowtie pasta (the only shape left for mac and cheese) and four bottles of liquor. We looked at the desolate cart, sighed and threw in another bottle of wine for safety measures.

The meal itself, like almost every dinner the four of us have ever shared, ended up perfect in its own unruly way. My brother took care of the steaks, my dad made

some rich cocktails and I whipped up the potatoes and mac. My sister sprawled out on the couch, occasionally asking if she could help, but she's much better at providing entertainment while we cook. Her perfectly curated Spotify playlist got us through the bulk of the cooking. The rest of the time was filled with my brother and dad watching the NFL (my sister and I allowed an hour or two of it being on in the living room). After a few glasses of wine and picking at a generously assembled charcuterie board, suddenly everything tasted elevated. Maybe it was the buzz, maybe the comfort of familiar company, but the steak was seared just right, the potatoes pillowy and the bowtie mac n' cheese was as good as a bowtie mac can be. We huddled around my worn-out couch with the overflowing plates of

food and we had previously labored

on for hours. We ate and laughed and drank until we couldn't anymore. That Thursday was probably one of my favorite nights that I've shared with my family.

At the end of the day it didn't

At the end of the day, it didn't matter that our traditions were untraditional or that the planning was last-minute, as always. I have a good feeling this Thanksgiving will be no different. I'm sure we'll pile on top of each other in my sister's two-bedroom apartment and run to her local grocery store at 10 p.m. Wednesday night. I'm even more sure that our stomachs will hurt more from laughing with each other than the homemade meal we managed to throw together. What matters is that familiar, chaotic rhythm of being together. It's messy, it's improvised and, somehow, it always manages to feel a lot like



## Opinión: ¿Por qué tener un novio es vergonzoso?

Sofia Benitez Editora de Copia

La semana pasada se popularizó un artículo de Vogue que fue escrito por Chante Joseph y publicado el 29 de octubre del 2025. Este artículo titulado ¿Es vergonzoso tener novio ahora? explica que tener novio se vuelve "vergonzoso" cuando las mujeres dejan que su vida entera gire en torno a su pareja.

La autora sostiene que un novio no te define como persona: es solo un complemento en tu vida. También señala que presumir a un hombre en redes sociales se ha vuelto vergonzoso, porque nunca sabes en qué momento podría decepcionarte.

El artículo de Vogue fue bastante superficial cuando trata de explicar los motivos por el cual las mujeres consideran que tener un novio no te concede algún tipo de "prestigio" sobre otras mujeres.

Al contrario, tener un novio en estos tiempos puede ser motivo de vergüenza en algunos casos.

Hay varios factores que fueron pasados por alto, tanto políticos como sociales que pueden estar jugando un papel más relevante en este fenómeno.

Pero, ¿cuál es la verdadera razón detrás del fenómeno de este polémico artículo? Bueno, últimamente el panorama de las citas se ha transformado.

Las mujeres nos hemos abierto camino en la sociedad y los privilegios que tener un novio/esposo conllevaba como el estatus social o la solvencia económica son cosa del pasado.

Por supuesto, esto no aplica a las mujeres que están con hombres deconstruidos, que se consideran feministas y lo reafirma con sus acciones.

Aquellas con parejas que comprenden el valor intrínseco de las mujeres, reconociendo no solo su capacidad de crear y dar vida, sino también su importancia y contribución en todos los ámbitos, sin cuestionar constantemente "y tú, qué ofreces".

En esta era moderna las mujeres en Estados Unidos tienen más opciones que las que nuestras abuelas, bisabuelas y tatarabuelas no tuvieron.

Por lo tanto, tener una pareja se ha convertido en algo meramente opcional y dejó de ser esencial. Las mujeres han redefinido el significado de "éxito" y "plenitud". Antes, esos conceptos solían estar ligados casi exclusivamente al matrimonio o a la maternidad.

Hoy en día muchas mujeres encuentran realización personal y profesional en otros ámbitos, como la educación, la carrera laboral, el arte, la independencia económica o el activismo social. Esta diversidad de caminos refleja una evolución cultural donde el valor y la identidad de la mujer ya no dependen de los roles tradicionales, sino de sus propias metas y decisiones.

Este progreso en el feminismo ha quitado protagonismo a las relaciones románticas, las cuales quedaron en un segundo plano. Actualmente está de moda romantizar nuestras vidas ya sea solteros o en pareja.

Entonces, ¿por qué es vergonzoso tener un novio específicamente?

Bueno, considero que esta percepción es la suma de varios factores sociales y políticos, uno siendo la brecha educativa entre hombres y mujeres.

Hubo un momento en el año 1995 en el que mujeres y hombres teníamos las mismas probabilidades de tener una licenciatura en los Estados Unidos. En comparación con el principal obstáculo para pagar una colegiatura universitaria.

No se trata de afirmar que el nivel educativo determine el valor de una persona, pero en el mercado laboral actual las credenciales académicas juegan un papel crucial.

En un contexto de devaluación educativa, donde una licenciatura ya no garantiza un salario digno ni estabilidad laboral, las exigencias se han elevado: obtener una maestría u otros estudios de posgrado se ha convertido en una forma de destacar y mantenerse competitivo.

igualdad, terminan beneficiando más a los hombres.

La sociedad sigue otorgándole al hombre el poder simbólico de "elegir" a la afortunada con la que se casará, como si el matrimonio fuera un privilegio que él otorga. Mientras tanto, las mujeres son juzgadas y hasta humilladas cuando pasan años en una relación sin recibir un anillo, como si su valor dependiera de ser escogidas. Este relato romántico oculta un acuerdo silencioso en el que los hombres conservan el control y terminan

verlo como una pérdida, los hombres deberían reconocer que este proceso de equidad beneficia a todos, porque que una sociedad más justa y balanceada no solo libera a las mujeres de las rga. cargas históricas, sino también a

el privilegio masculino. En lugar de

los hombres de los estereotipos que

reflejan una masculinidad tóxica.

El contexto político puede estar influyendo en la percepción de lo que esta percepción negativa sobre tener un novio. En las últimas elecciones, un mayor número de hombres apoyó a Trump, alcanzando un 55% frente al 50% registrado en 2020. No hace falta profundizar demasiado: salir con un hombre que votó por Trump puede resultar problemático o una bandera roja para muchas mujeres, especialmente considerando

desmantelación de Roe v. Wade. Limitando la autonomía corporal y el derecho a la salud reproductiva de miles de mujeres en los Estados

que su administración impulsó la

Sin mencionar que Trump no es necesariamente un icono feminista con su historial de comentarios misóginos. Muchas mujeres han decidido no mantener relaciones románticas con hombres, a pesar de que esta decisión a menudo es juzgada debido a la arraigada idea de que el matrimonio y la maternidad son los hitos más importantes de la vida, incluso más que graduarse de la universidad.

El estado por defecto es la soltería y las relaciones románticas son opcionales. La popularización del "50/50" en las relaciones, tan comentada en redes sociales, resulta irónica, porque en la práctica rara vez se cumple.

La carga adicional de las tareas domésticas, la maternidad y la falta de empatía de algunos hombres hacia la salud reproductiva de las mujeres evidencia que muchas veces el privilegio dentro de la pareja sigue favoreciendo al hombre.

El artículo de Vogue ha marcado un hito al darle un giro a la vieja narrativa, y escribir una nueva donde la soltería es un signo de empoderamiento y amor propio, reflejando cambios más amplios en los contextos sociales y políticos.

Por todas estas razones, sí, tener novio puede ser realmente vergonzoso, especialmente cuando la relación lo beneficia principalmente a él. Y se vuelve aún peor cuando él toma decisiones que perjudican directa o indirectamente los intereses y el bienestar de la mujer, mientras afirma amar a su novia.

Los hombres deben deconstruir su concepto de lo que la masculinidad representa, reflexionar en sus sistema de valores, y dejar su misoginia.

Así como exigir más de sí mismos y de sus contrapartes con el fin de ser mejores. Para poder evolucionar y estar a la altura de los estándares de la mujer moderna, quien continúa creciendo, adaptándos ey prosperando en la sociedad actual, dejando de conformarse con la mediocridad en nombre del "amor".



los resultados del 2024 que indican que un 47% de mujeres tienen una licenciatura en contraste con un 37% de hombres.

Este desequilibrio implica que, estadísticamente, no todas las mujeres con educación universitaria podrán encontrar una pareja con un nivel académico equivalente, lo que modifica las dinámicas tradicionales de correspondencia educativa entre géneros.

Esta brecha educativa resulta especialmente interesante si consideramos que vivimos en un sistema patriarcal que históricamente ha otorgado ventajas a los hombres, ventajas que, paradójicamente, muchos no están aprovechando.

Según una encuesta realizada en 2021, cuando se les preguntó a los participantes por qué decidieron no obtener una licenciatura, las respuestas reflejaron una clara diferencia de género.

Los hombres eran más propensos a afirmar que no continuaron sus estudios simplemente porque no querían hacerlo, mientras que las mujeres señalaron, en mayor medida, la falta de recursos económicos como Como resultado, las posibilidades de las mujeres siendo las principales proveedoras del hogar sería más alto comparado con sus parejas, ya que usualmente las licenciaturas ofrecen la posibilidad de un trabajo mejor remunerado.

Sin embargo, algunos hombres se rehúsan a desafiar los roles tradicionales de género y las responsabilidades en el hogar y maternidad terminan recayendo mayormente en las mujeres. Independientemente de quién sea el proveedor primario en el hogar.

Los estudios indican que las mujeres dedican el doble de tiempo en las tareas domésticas, con un promedio de 4.6 horas frente al 1.9 por semana de los hombres. Posiblemente esta cifra subestima la realidad y que, en la práctica, la desigualdad es aún mayor.

En contraste, ciertos esposos trabajan aproximadamente tres horas más por semana que sus esposas, y aun así disfrutan de tres horas adicionales de tiempo libre.

Esto demuestra que incluso los llamados "matrimonios igualitarios", que se supone están basados en la

siendo los principales beneficiados, mientras muchas mujeres, al final, terminan desempeñando el papel de trabajadoras domésticas sin paga para sus propios esposos.

Otra razón por la que tener novio puede resultar vergonzoso proviene de estudios recientes que muestran que tanto las mujeres como los hombres de la Generación Z son menos progresistas que las generaciones anteriores, siendo los hombres quienes encabezan esta tendencia.

Un estudio reveló que seis de cada diez hombres de la Generación Z creen que la sociedad ha ido al extremo opuesto, otorgándoles a las mujeres una ventaja y dejando a los hombres en desventaja. Siendo esto una estadística mayor a la de generaciones pasadas.

Hoy, al comenzar a perder esos privilegios heredados del patriarcado, muchos confunden la igualdad con la opresión. Lo que perciben como una "desventaja" no es más que la consecuencia natural de una sociedad que empieza a equilibrar la balanza.

Esta resistencia al cambio revela lo profundamente arraigado que está

## El Tiempo: ¿Ilusión o absoluto?

Azucena Sanchez Editora para La Vista

Lo único que me parece extraño de nuestro universo es que, aunque todos hemos mirado a la misma Luna, lo único que nos separa es el tiempo

La Luna tiene 4530 millones de años, lo que significa que Cleopatra, Da Vinci, Edgar Allan Poe y Descartes han dormido bajo la misma luz por la noche. Sin embargo, cada uno de ellos está separado por años, sino siglos.

Lo que me lleva a preguntarme:

Lo que me lleva a preguntarme: ¿cómo funciona exactamente el tiempo? Es decir, tiene que haber existido incluso antes que los humanos, y la única razón por la que tiene una definición concreta es porque fue construido por los humanos para comprender el pasado, el presente y el futuro.

Pero aun así, si miras las estrellas durante una noche oscura, o desde un lugar que no tiene contaminación lumínica, entonces la luz que llega a tus ojos, esas mismas estrellas, puede ser más antigua que la humanidad.

Quiero decir, algunas de las estrellas que se ven en un cielo oscuro han enviado sus fotones antes incluso de que existieran los humanos.

Así que, en realidad, con o sin humanos, el universo seguiría moviéndose por eones hacia la eternidad. No se registraría nada, pero aun así, el tiempo continuaría. Lo que lleva a la idea de que tal vez el tiempo sea simplemente una ilusión, una que el cerebro utiliza para organizar el cambio.

Y, siendo realistas, los humanos hemos inventado nuestras propias versiones del tiempo desde la prehistoria, por lo que, técnicamente, aunque pueda existir o no, puede que no funcione de la manera en que creemos.

De todos modos, eso es solo un problema humano. Después de todo, parece que solo los humanos tenemos emociones sentimentales hacia el universo, lo suficiente como para crear múltiples ideas que respondan a nuestras preguntas sin fin.

O sea, los griegos crearon deidades para explicar las tormentas, las estaciones y los estilos de vida domésticos, al igual que los romanos, los egipcios, etc. Estas fueron creaciones humanas, porque independientemente de la cultura, necesitamos explicaciones para el mundo natural.

Esencialmente, los humanos crearon a Dios para explicar este mundo inexplicable en el que vivimos.

Por ejemplo, la Biblia es una creación humana: supuestamente, dado que no se registró, se dice que 40 hombres han escrito y reescrito la

misma Biblia a lo largo de 1500 años. Y aunque se dice que Dios escribió la Biblia a través de estos 40 hombres, sigo pensando que gran parte de su contenido se estableció para reflejar las condiciones actuales de su época.

Y aunque no estoy de acuerdo con casi nada de lo que dice la Biblia, me recuerda cómo se conecta con lo que algunos físicos han mencionado sobre nuestro universo y el tiempo en sí.

En Génesis 3:19, el versículo, "pues polvo eres, y al polvo volverás," nos recuerda nuestra existencia. Cada átomo que forma parte de nuestro cuerpo, de nuestro ser, ha sido creado por una estrella que explotó.

Como dijo Lawrence M. Krauss, físicoteórico y cosmólogo canadiense-estadounidense: "No estarías aquí si las estrellas no hubieran explotado, porque los elementos —el carbono, el nitrógeno, el oxígeno, el hierro, todo lo que importa para la evolución y la vida— no se crearon al principio de los tiempos.

Se crearon en los hornos nucleares de las estrellas, y la única forma de que llegaran a tu cuerpo es que esas estrellas tuvieran la amabilidad de

Y para que esa estrella explote, el núcleo de la estrella tiene que quedarse sin combustible, y entonces su tiempo en el universo llegará a su fin. Algo similar a la vida humana: nuestro primer aliento marca nuestra existencia, y nuestro último aliento marca nuestro final.

Sin embargo, nuestra vida, o lo que nos hace humanos, es simplemente materia y energía, y ninguna de las dos cosas muere.

Después de todo, la primera ley de la termodinámica nos dice que la energía nunca se crea ni se destruye, solo se transforma.

Entonces, la esencia de tu energía, que no es lo mismo que tu conciencia real, seguirá resonando por todo el espacio hasta el fin de los tiempos. Lo cual, desafortunadamente, me recuerda que la paradoja de la identidad está relacionada con el difícil problema de la conciencia.

Por lo tanto, es difícil sacar conclusiones sobre nuestra existencia. Especialmente cuando, en este momento y en este espacio, hay mucho más por descubrir que por conocer.

Y, independientemente de si el tiempo existe o no, tras escribir este artículo he llegado a la conclusión de que el universo es infinito o finito, y aunque ambas posibilidades son aterradoras, el universo podría llegar a su fin algún día, y eso en sí mismo hace que todo tenga sentido y, al mismo tiempo, que no tenga sentido.



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## ()PINI()





Around 13,000 Santa Barbara locals gathered downtown at Alameda Park on Oct. 18 for the "No Kings" protest.

#### Reemo Hooper Reporter

A few weeks ago, I joined millions who gathered across the country to protest the Trump administration and its constant violation of the constitution. Despite record turnout, the Santa Barbara "No Kings" rally showed me that Democratic Party is still making the same mistakes.

45th and 47th President Donald Trump made inroads with nearly every demographic group and won all seven swing states. The resounding defeat shows that the problems faced by Democrats are deeper than one candidate or election cycle. A Democratic Party with a chance of winning has to face its errors and take responsibility for its failures. I arrived early to Alameda Park on Oct. 18, the day of the most recent "No Kings" protest, with my former journalism professor, hoping to see that happen.

Since Kamala Harris' loss, I have been upset at the Democrats for their refusal to stand for something. President Trump lied when he said he would lower prices and end wars. Since taking office, he has attacked Iran, Yemen and small

regime is raising prices across the board while disrupting long established supply chains. He has also participated brazen cryptocurrency schemes through World Liberty Financial, a finance platform run by his family and allies. Still, he offered something to believe in - compared with Harris, who promised to be more of the same.

At the rally, a little past noon, Congressman Salud Carbajal spoke. He loudly condemned "kings, authoritarians, dictators and fascists," with little else to say. This alone began to deflate my sense of hope in the Democrats. Condemnations alone can not build a political movement and Carbajal did not show himself or his party as a strong alternative.

Assemblyman Gregg Hart followed. He devoted the first minute or so of his speech to State Senator Monique Limón before aiming more criticism at Washington D.C. He criticized their gridlock while working people are being "squeezed." Then, he lauded California's ability to uplift its citizens

without the federal government. I liked that Hart mentioned working people and their struggles, but acknowledging offering a solution. In their lack of vision and commitments to new policy goals, Hart and Carbajal both echo the empty speaking style of Harris, Hakeem Jeffries and Chuck Schumer. Like these figures, Carbajal and Hart engage with voters as if it's still 2002. They use lots of words and conventional political phrases to say little to nothing at all. They "stand with working people" and "fight for healthcare" while never saying exactly what that means.

The Democratic establishment has struggled to adjust to the new decentralized media environment its effects on politics. They question voters' changing concerns rather than their own inflexible leadership.

The Uncommitted National former Movement urged President Joe Biden to stop Israel's genocide of Palestinians in Gaza - they were ignored and campuses were raided to silence them further. Pro-Palestine demonstrations constantly disrupted Harris' rallies and speeches; they were ignored as well.

Polling on consumer confidence showed the deep anxiety about high prices, but these concerns were dismissed fade with time. Any fast food worker, student, teacher, Uber driver, Amazon worker or cashier in the country would have confirmed that the high prices were real, affecting every part of their lives.

The Harris campaign hardly attempted to address these issues and millions of voters chose to stay home or vote for Trump as a result. Even with this sweeping loss, Democrats have failed to reckon with their own poor leadership and the need for a new vision.

Instead of building a political platform that meets voters' needs, party leaders look for communities to abandon in the never-ending pursuit of white suburban moderates. New York Times Columnist Ezra Klein, who is very influential in Democratic circles, suggested as recently as Nov. 2 that Democrats should compromise on issues like abortion and immigration in order to win in predominantly red states. While his view comes from a sincere place, it is typical of Democratic leaders to shed policies that they believe cost support instead of adopting positions that gain support.

Ultimately, Democrats lost the last election because of boats near Venezuela. His tariff a problem isn't the same as as a "vibecession" that would this incompetent strategy. As more than oppose Trump.

Trump has shown twice now, voters are choosing someone who is strong and wrong over the Democrats and their weak, meek approach. Trump has a movement of passionate supporters, whereas Democrats want to fight back with memes and a Joe Rogan of their own.

Politics is about distributing resources, not distributing likes and comments. I wanted to hear Democrats talk about what type of society we could build together. I wanted to know how we could make sure everyone has healthcare, how we could fix our corrupt campaign system, or really anything of substance. Little was on display at the rally.

The tragedy of the "No Kings" rallies is the ineptitude at the top of the Democratic Party. Even with millions of people in the street, they don't offer a new message for voters to believe in. Without serious reflection about what Democrats are willing to offer and deliver for their base, they will continue to lose and with them, all of the vulnerable people targeted by right wing politics.

Reemo Hooper believes that if Democrats want to ever win another election, they must do

## What you may not know about Prop 50

#### Noah Balough Reporter

On Tuesday, Nov. 4, California easily approved Proposition 50, a ballot measure that will redraw the state's congressional maps starting in 2026 to give Democrats more seats in the House of Representatives. Under the redistricting, it's likely that up to five current GOP-held seats could be flipped in next year's midterm elections.

California Governor Gavin Newsom (Democrat) proposed Prop 50 in response to Texas gerrymandering their congressional maps at President Donald Trump's request. Their effort, done through the Republican-majority legislature, would most likely grant the Republican Party (GOP) a similar additional five seats in 2026.

The nationwide reaction has already begun. Indiana is the latest state to set a congressional special session to redistrict their maps, joining North Carolina and Florida on the Republican side and Illinois, New York, Maryland, New Jersey and New Hampshire as Democratic states considering similar proposals. Missouri and Ohio already redrew their maps in September and October, respectively, prospectively adding a total of three more Republican seats altogether.

In addition, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), spearheaded by Attorney General Pam Bondi, is filing a lawsuit against California over Prop 50, alleging racially drawn congressional districts, a violation of the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment. Whether the newly explicitly

partisan DOJ is aware of the hypocrisy or simply doesn't care, considering Prop 50 was voted on by California citizens - as opposed to the GOP states redistricting directly from their legislature - it is actually the most democratic of all recent gerrymandering measures.

It's due to this seeming transparency, along with voters feeling the need to fight Trump's fire with fire (a sentiment Gov. Newsom has embraced wholeheartedly in recent months, looking to expand his national profile) and the supposed temporariness of the measure, that Prop 50 passed so easily. But that doesn't make it a good idea in

the long run. Gerrymandering is a zerosum game. What is gained by adding House seats to the majority party is lost in the decrease of competitive districts, exclusion of minority-party voters within both state and national politics and overall increased political polarization. Simply put, American republican democracy is undermined with gerrymandered districts and states. A state that voted 40% by population for the minority party, but has egregiously gerrymandered districts, is giving that 40% very little to no sway in their representatives' legislative thought process and decision making process in Washington.

In the 1970s, Richard Fenno and David Mayhew pioneered research into congressional representatives' time their home districts and in D.C., respectively. They both established that congresspeople's primary goal is to be re-elected

above all, a doctrine that has since become political science law. Under this premise, gerrymandered districts push their representatives to ignore voters of the minority party. Prop 50 represents an acceleration of an already increasing trend: From 2010 to 2020, gerrymandering, combined with shifts in political geography, caused a 25% decrease in highly competitive house districts.

As districts become more one-sided, representatives' only challenge to their seat comes from the primary level, a system that rewards radicalism. Essentially, incumbents are incentivized to move toward the preferences of those who vote in their primary - towards the left in safe Democratic districts and towards the right in safe Republican districts. Primary challengers also often position themselves as more extreme left or right than the incumbent in order to combat this incumbent advantage. It's clear how this cycle contributes to the polarization and absence of bipartisan cooperation present in

modern Congress. Proponents of Prop 50 as gerrymandering necessary will argue that the process described above can be blamed entirely on the primary system, and they're not entirely wrong. Primaries, both at the state and federal level, are in dire need of reform. But congressional gerrymandering only exacerbates these problems. The more it happens, the less competitive districts and the more extreme the two sides become. Not only are minority-party voters being discounted state-wide because they've been siphoned off into small components of each district, they're being additionally discriminated against because representatives are being driven further in the majority-party direction due to the primary system.

Americans know how bad gerrymandering is: Polling shows that nearly 9 in 10 oppose it, a nearly unanimous consensus never found in politics these days. And what's especially disappointing about Prop 50 is how much of a leader California was in districting maps prior to its enactment. Its maps were highly venerated by antigerrymandering advocates the because independent commission's members come from both parties and are citizens rather than elected officials.

Now, we're in a race to the bottom. The aforementioned group of eight states that are considering redistricting are in addition to the two that have already enacted new maps, and of course, California and Texas are leading the way. And as for the promise that Prop 50 will hand over the maps back to the independent commission to draw in time for the 2032 election, there is serious reason to be skeptical. Will California Democrats really relinquish the power they worked so hard to get? Especially if all states with significant numbers of House seats gerrymandered in suit, the national Democratic party leadership would have zero incentive to not pressure California to simply reinstate

The Golden State's left-leaning voters' urge to fight fire with fire is not only understandable, it's timely. Congressional Democrats, led by the uninspired Chuck Schumer in the Senate - who is now facing calls for replacement by his own party - and Hakeem Jeffries in the House, aren't rising to the moment. This sentiment is only echoed after their recent caving to the GOP to end the government shutdown without securing the extension of Obamacare (ACA) subsidies that was their reason for the standoff in the first place. House representatives currently showing the most meaningful pushback to President Trump and his authoritarian, scandal-ridden and overwhelmingly unpopular first 300 days have recently been from his own party (see Rep. Thomas Massie's, Republican-Kentucky, discharge petition to release the Epstein files).

However, California voters must also be wary of Gov. Newsom's own interests in advancing Proposition 50. He is seizing the moment amidst a relatively empty Democratic national field for 2028 by combating President Trump at every step of the way. His newly formed X page, where he imitates the President's rambling and incoherent Truth Social posts, is an example of his efforts to seek the national spotlight. But while social media posts represent a largely harmless, yet effective way to undermine Trump's conduct by reminding Americans just how out of touch he is, Proposition 50 has real-world consequences that will last for generations to come.

Noah Balough may have forgotten to register to vote in time.