

## SUPERVISORS

# APPROVE DELTOPIA ORDINANCE, ALTERNATIVE EVENT TO COME

Jack Dindia  
Lead News Editor

The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a 72-hour noise ordinance for the first weekend of spring quarter, effectively canceling Deltopia, Isla Vista's annual unsanctioned street festival, at their Jan. 13 board meeting.

The ordinance was initially proposed by Isla Vista Foot Patrol (IVFP) Lieutenant Joe Schmidt in October, citing Deltopia's strain on medical resources and its harmful effects on the area. Since then, IVFP made an amendment to the ordinance to allow Isla Vista Community Services District (IVCSD) to host an alternative, permitted event.

After a presentation from Schmidt and public comments from 23 people, the Board of Supervisors voted in support of the ordinance, mutually agreeing on Deltopia's threat to bluff safety and attraction for non-locals. Schmidt estimated that non-locals

make up about 30-50% of the event's arrests.

Since its initial proposal, there have been several community outreach efforts leading up to the meeting to bring the ordinance to the forefront of UC Santa Barbara students' and Isla Vista residents' attention. Third-year political science major and Associated Students (A.S.) External Vice President for Local Affairs (EVPLA) E.J. Raad, who hosted the Save Deltopia Town Hall in November, spoke at public comment against the ordinance.

While Raad acknowledged the safety concerns of Deltopia, he said the ordinance would be "ineffective" and "completely counterproductive," citing the Halloween noise ordinance placed in 1993, which he said took 21 years to see an actual reduction in crowd sizes.

"Ordinances don't change behavior. They lead to increased tension in the community," Raad said.

As for how the county will ensure the ordinance is successful, Second District Supervisor Laura Capps cited

the creation of IVCSD and their plan for a sanctioned event.

"I love representing Isla Vista, and we just need to make sure that we track how this goes. We're constantly making sure that we make changes to this if need be, and that we have a good dialogue going on so we can change this if we need to," Capps said in an interview with the Nexus.

Prior to the board's vote, Schmidt gave a presentation highlighting the history of the event, which was popularized in 2008 as "Floaptopia." Schmidt highlighted that Deltopia saw an estimated 30,000 people in 2025, which is nearly double the amount of residents of IV. He also said the Santa Barbara County (SBC) Sheriff's Office and Fire Department's overtime payment has exceeded \$1.1 million since 2010, and the city of Goleta currently spends about \$30,000 annually on cleanup.

"This ordinance is not about government control. It's about protecting the people and the

environment and changing the harmful culture of Deltopia to prevent future tragedy. Let's be proactive and affect change now," Schmidt said.

Additionally, Vince Pierucci, director of local emergency medical services, cited a spike in medical calls on Deltopia. According to Pierucci, a normal spring Saturday sees roughly 40 EMS calls in the greater Santa Barbara area, with two of those being in IV. Last Deltopia saw 122 medical calls, with the median age of patients being 19.

Division Chief of Operations for the SBC Fire Department Patrick Byde said extra staffing for Deltopia is at a "non-reimbursed cost to the county," as they have to pull fire engines from surrounding areas.

In the board's deliberations, Capps said she supported the ordinance due to concern for bluff safety.

"We have to move the party to a safer place ... We have to get people off of Del Playa [Drive]. So with that, I'm going to be supporting this ordinance,"

Capps said.

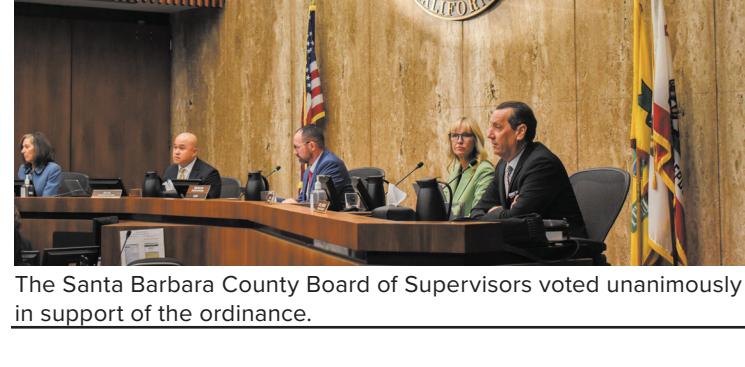
Third District Supervisor Joan Hartmann said IV's party culture and first responders' difficulty in responding to emergencies during Deltopia have inclined her to not "risk another death because we didn't stand up here." Fourth District Supervisor Bob Nelson agreed to the ordinance, as he believes the ordinance and alternative event are "going to be a tool" to solve these issues.

"To do enforcement, we have to have real tools. This is something that I think the sheriff's department's bringing to us, saying this is something that would help them ... and because of that, I'm supportive," Nelson said.

According to Raad, the UCSB A.S. Program Board will be funding \$140,000 toward the alternative event. Additionally, the IVCSD will be hosting a town hall next Tuesday for the community to "share their vision for what they want to see in this event," according to IVCSD President Spencer Brandt.



Deltopia saw an estimated 30,000 people in 2025, which is nearly double the amount of residents in I.V.



The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously in support of the ordinance.

## Six months of I.V. rental inspection program

Levi Kauffman  
Assistant News Editor

Six months into the Isla Vista Rental Housing Inspection Pilot Program, 259 units have been inspected with 69 needing repairs.

The Rental Housing Inspection Pilot Program was unanimously approved by the Santa Barbara County (SBC) Board of Supervisors in May, with inspections beginning in August. The program is funded by the 2024 settlement of a lawsuit SBC brought against UC Santa Barbara for failing to meet the requirements of their 2010 Long Range Development Plan.

According to SBC Second District Supervisor Laura Capps, the program aims to improve the health and safety of I.V. residents. In the year leading up to the program, Capps and community groups publicized the program, encouraging landlords to register their properties with SBC and remedy issues before inspections began.

"The hope was that a lot of issues would be taken care of before the program even started, and so that the program wouldn't be necessary," Capps said in an interview with the Nexus. "The fact that we're not seeing a huge amount of things that need to

be remedied is both good news but also somewhat expected because of what we did on the front end."

According to Capps, around 100 properties had been "closed out," meaning either no violations were found or violations had been remedied. Common issues found by inspectors include mold, exposed wiring and fences below county requirements.

In August, the Isla Vista Rental Property Owners Association sued the county to get a preliminary injunction to stop the program, however it was denied.

According to Capps, some tenants have refused inspections due to misinformation and lease agreements requiring them to deny inspections. Capps cited one instance at a property on the 65 block of Del Playa Drive where tenants who initially refused inspections called the county after recent storms caused severe water damage and a sunken roof.

"The inspector came out [to 65 Del Playa Drive] and did the inspection and worked with the property owner and fixed it," Capps said. "It ended up being a good outcome, but initially they had denied the inspection."

The program will end in June 2026.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ELEANOR GARTNER  
The roof of 6503 Del Playa Drive caved in after recent storms. Tenants had initially refused a county inspection.

## Monique Limón sworn in as Senate president pro tempore, Kamala Harris makes appearance

Lauren Chiou  
Artsweek Editor  
Stella Mullin  
Artsweek Editor

California State Senate President Pro Tempore Monique Limón was honored at a district swearing-in ceremony at Santa Barbara Junior High School on Jan. 9. The event featured an appearance by former United States Vice President Kamala Harris, a visit that was a surprise to all 500 attendees.

Limón was elected in 2020 to represent the 21st Senate District, which includes all of Santa Barbara County and the majority of Ventura County. She is the first Latine and woman of color president pro tempore in the State Senate, and the second-ever woman to serve as Senate leader.

While Limón had already been officially sworn in as senate president on Jan. 5 in Sacramento, the ceremony on Jan. 9 was significant as it took place in Limón's home district and alma mater.

Following performances by youth Latine dance groups to kick off the event, Harris was announced as a special guest speaker — a secret kept from attendees until the day of. The former vice president, who previously served as attorney general of California and U.S. senator representing California, had worked alongside Limón throughout their respective careers.

Amid cheers and a standing ovation, Harris took to the podium to speak about her work with Limón, highlighting the historical nature of Limón's leadership and praising her career.

"I've always just been so admiring of your leadership and that you are now again breaking barriers, making history in such an important way, in a way that is so well earned and deserved," Harris said.

Harris administered the swearing-in oath to Limón, who was joined on stage by her husband, Michael Medel, and 5-year-old daughter Gianna. Before she began, she expressed immense gratitude for Harris' appearance at the ceremony.

LAUREN CHIOU / DAILY NEXUS



Following performances by youth Latine dance groups to kick off the event, Kamala Harris was announced as a special guest speaker.

Limón took a moment to honor the life of Renee Nicole Good, who was fatally shot by an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (I.C.E.) agent in Minneapolis, Minnesota, on Jan. 7.

As the daughter of immigrants and granddaughter of a Bracero laborer, or Mexican workers who provided temporary agricultural labor in the U.S., Limón is an advocate for immigrant rights.

"When fear is used to silence us, we respond by showing up stronger, showing up louder and more united than ever," Limón said.

Limón went on to discuss growing up on the West and East sides of Santa Barbara, where she learned English as her second language. She also thanked her family, specifically her daughter, as well as teachers and community nonprofit organizations.

"Every day, the work I do, I do with keeping you in mind ... Like my parents, I want to create a world where you can achieve the dreams that you could never even imagine," Limón said, facing her daughter.

State Senator Angelique Ashby, California Assembly members Gregg Hart and Dawn Addis and Ventura County Board of Supervisors member Vianey Lopez also spoke, congratulating Limón on her achievements.

Ashby highlighted key milestones in Limón's career, such as serving twice as the vice chair of the California Legislative Women's Caucus, fighting for childcare and equal pay for women, advocating for higher education and leading a multi-billion dollar discussion around cap and trade for

California in 2025.

Ashby also emphasized how, for the first time in California history, both the State Senate president pro tempore and majority leader are women. The Senate's five budget subcommittee chairs are also all women of color.

Lopez, who previously served as the director for Limón's district office, reflected on her time as a staffer and expressed confidence that Limón would be effective in her new position as president.

"I have no doubt our senator pro tem will have people in mind and that whatever decision she makes, whatever action she takes, is thoughtful, intentional and most beneficial for people, especially for those who have the least," Lopez said.

Lopez also thanked the senator for her guidance, saying she's "grateful for her mentorship as a Latina leader."

The ceremony was followed by a reception in the Santa Barbara Junior High School gym, where attendees were invited to socialize. Limón met with community members, local and state politicians and family members while answering questions from the press.

In an interview with the Nexus, Limón encouraged aspiring female and Latine politicians to follow their own path and listen to all voices and backgrounds.

"What you do is just care about your community," Limón said. "Leadership isn't about a title alone, but it is about a process to help our community. And focusing on the things that you feel are moments or types of things that you want to improve is really key."



Michelle Cisneros  
Lead News Editor

#### UC attains enrollment record

The University of California (UC) reached its largest-ever enrollment during fall 2025. There are a total of 301,093 matriculated students, with over 200,000 of them being undergraduates from California, according to a UC press release. This is the 10th consecutive year of growth for in-state enrollment.

"UC's sustained period of California resident enrollment growth demonstrates the University's unwavering commitment to serving the most promising California students and to the budget compact with [Governor Gavin] Newsom and the Legislature," the press release read. "Today's data also highlights that demand for a UC education remains high among students across the state."

Non-California resident enrollment slightly decreased over the past year, adding to a roughly 2% drop in nonresident undergraduates over the past four years. In the past year, graduate student enrollment increased by 0.3%, while the number of doctoral students declined by 2.3%.

Additionally, enrollment for students of color across various racial and ethnic backgrounds increased from the previous year. International student enrollment decreased by about 0.2%.

The number of first-generation students at the UC remained largely unchanged over the past year at 36.1% while the number of Pell Grant recipients decreased by 1.1%.

#### Governor Newsom proposes increase to UC budget

California Governor Gavin Newsom proposed an increase of \$350 million toward the UC in the state's annual budget. Released on Jan. 9, Newsom's proposed allotment for the UC totals \$5.3 billion.

During his State of the State Address, Newsom highlighted the system's five new Nobel laureates and its extensive list of active patents, the most of any system in the world.

"We simply have no peers. And this again, I said it earlier, it's not by chance. It's by design," Newsom said. "You've created, you've nurtured these steps, big and small. They've emanated from these chambers. You have kept the state stable. You've kept it reliable because you've invested in the California

dream."

This proposal differs from last year's, when Newsom proposed a nearly 8% cut for the UC, which was later reduced to 3% and eventually deferred to later years.

"The budget introduced today by Governor Newsom continues to provide critical support for the University and our students," a statement from the UC Office of the President read. "State support is more important than ever, as we face tremendous financial pressures stemming from rising costs and unprecedented federal actions."

#### UC Berkeley lecturer suspended following pro-Palestinian political advocacy in classroom

In early December, UC Berkeley suspended lecturer Peyrin Kao from teaching during the spring semester for his alleged use of the classroom for political advocacy. His suspension follows a recommendation letter from a UCB administrator, which stated Kao violated Regents Policy 2301 – a policy concerning course content.

The letter states that Kao used his computer science lectures to "share and advocate for political views concerning topics" that were not relevant to the course. Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost Benjamin Hermalin, the author of the letter, said he used a recorded lecture, letter of complaint and media coverage for his assessment.

Topics that Kao discussed include Israel's continued siege of the Gaza Strip, an expression of solidarity with protests happening outside of the classroom and informing students of his hunger strike, among other related topics.

According to the Daily Californian, the Berkeley Faculty Association (BFA) and Berkeley Initiative for Freedom of Inquiry issued letters of concern regarding Hermalin's interpretation of Regents Policy 2301.

"We are concerned that Kao is being disciplined for not engaging in advocacy per se, but because his advocacy touched on Gaza and reflected a pro-Palestinian viewpoint," the BFA letter read.

According to a second letter from Hermalin, he will meet with the Academic Senate's Committee on Academic Freedom in late January, as well as the Task Force on Academic Freedom, Free Speech, and Campus Climate in February.



Jack Dindia  
Lead News Editor

#### LGBTQ Staff & Faculty Collective hosts 'Vision Boarding'

The LGBTQ Staff & Faculty Collective is hosting "Vision Boarding: Setting Yearly Intentions" on Thursday, Jan. 15, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Student Resource Building (SRB) Multipurpose Room.

"We will have plenty of magazines, paper, pens, and glue for you to collage and craft from, just bring yourself and your hopes for the future," the Shoreline description read.

#### Transfer Student Center hosts 'Find a Minor Program!'

The Transfer Student Center is hosting "Let the Minors Shine - Find a Minor Program!" on Thursday, Jan. 15, from 4:30-6 p.m. at Kerr Hall, room 1120.

"Have you thought about adding a minor? Join us to learn more about a minor program that could be perfect for you!" the Shoreline description read.

Hot chocolate and cookies will be provided for attendees.

#### A.S. S.A.G. hosts 'Learn from US Immigration History'

The Associated Students (A.S.) Student Advocate General (S.A.G.) is hosting "Learn from US Immigration History" on Thursday, Jan. 15 from 6-7 p.m. as part of A.S.'s "Protect Your Peers" week.

"These efforts are centered around creating a safe and prepared campus for when I.C.E. comes to UCSB. This event will be a Teach-

In, led by [Asian American studies] Professor John Park, that will cover a brief history of immigration in the US and lessons about how figures of the past responded to similar crises to the current political climate," the Shoreline description read.

Food will be provided for attendees.

#### IHC hosts free screening of 'Bugonia'

Interdisciplinary Humanities Center (IHC) is hosting a free screening of the film "Bugonia" on Thursday, Jan. 14, from 8-10:10 p.m. at Isla Vista Theater.

"Two conspiracy-obsessed young men kidnap the high-powered CEO of a major company, convinced that she is an alien intent on destroying planet Earth," the Shoreline description read.

#### UCSB Sustainability hosts 'Intro to Gardening'

UCSB Sustainability is hosting "IV. Green-Intro to Gardening Workshop Series" on Friday, Jan. 16 at 1 p.m.

"Join us for a free gardening workshop series designed specifically for college students. Whether you're hoping to grow fresh herbs on your windowsill or start your own garden plot in Isla Vista, you'll learn the basics of planting, caring for, and harvesting your own produce. All skill levels welcome!" the Shoreline description read.

#### RCSGD hosts 'Sapphic Scrapbooking'

The Resource Center for Sexual and Gender Diversity is hosting "Sapphic Scrapbooking - Astrology!" on Friday, Jan. 16, from 2:30 to 4 p.m.

"Are you looking for a sapphic

community space? Do you have a habit of collecting ticket stubs, polaroids, or stickers? Believe the hype, it's the return of Sapphic Scrapbooking!!" the Shoreline description read.

#### Art, Design & Architecture Museum hosts 'Tiffany Chung'

Art, Design & Architecture Museum is hosting "Tiffany Chung: indelible traces Opening Reception" on Saturday, Jan. 17, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Art, Design & Architecture Museum.

"Please join us ... to celebrate the opening of Tiffany Chung: indelible traces, the first comprehensive museum survey of Vietnamese American artist and UCSB Alumna Tiffany Chung. The exhibition brings together more than 70 artworks that showcase the extraordinary breadth of the artist's 25-year career," the Shoreline description read.

Light refreshments will be provided for attendees.

#### ONDAS Student Center hosts 'Real Talk'

Opening New Doors to Accelerating Success (ONDAS) is hosting "Real Talk" to "build community, craft, chat, and learn about campus resources" on Tuesday, Jan. 20, from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Kerr Hall, room 1120.

"Stop by the ONDAS Student Center on Tuesday mornings to build community, chat, and learn about campus resources with other students interested in the first-gen experience & Peer Mentors," the Shoreline description read.

Coffee, tea, hot chocolate and donuts will be provided for attendees.

## The Daily Nexus Sudoku

Sanchita Koppa  
Games Contributor

			2		1		6	
				3		9		1
3					9			
	5				2			
		8						
	9				7	1		
			4					5
4				8	1		2	3
	8					7		4



## DAILY NEXUS

WWW.DAILYNEXUS.COM

#### Editors in Chief

Shayla Prasad, Anusha Singh

#### Managing Editor

Andrew Tolu

#### Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

Chairs | Samantha Dillon,

Kaavya Saini

#### Production Editor

Mira Kaiser

#### Asst. Production Editors

Anyia Melton, Claire Silva

#### Production Interns

Parker Inglis, Sophie Waxberg

#### Lead News Editors

Michelle Cisneros, Jack Dindia

#### Community Outreach Editor

Iris Guo

#### University News Editor

Wynne Bendell

#### Asst. News Editor

| Levi Kauffman

#### La Vista Editor

| Azucena Sanchez

#### La Vista Copy Editor

| Sofia Benitez

#### Artsweek Editors

| Lauren Chiou, Kendra Martinez, Stella Mullin

#### Sports Editor

| Haiden Rogers

#### Asst. Sports Editors

| Arianna Doan, Emily Hobbs, Shravan Sundaram

#### Sports Social Media Manager

| Makenna Flores

#### On The Menu Editors

| Piper Cheney, Pihu Jain

#### Nexustentialism Editors

| Juliet Becker, Madeline Bryce

#### Science Editors

| Roxanna Reid, Saanvi Tiwary

#### Opinion Editors

| Lucy Dixon, Kira Logan

#### Asst. Opinion Editor

| Nina Rossi

#### Data Editors

| Siddharth Chattoraj, Lance Sanchez, Krithi Saravanan

#### Web Editors

| Jeffrey Keem, Aiden Shi

#### Games Developer

| Andrew

#### Wang

#### Photo Editors

| Wesley Haver, Sherine John

#### Asst. Photo Editor

| Shengyu Zhang

#### Art Directors

| Kaylee Heartman, Michelle Wu

#### Chief Copy Editor

| Alicia Siebers

#### Copy Editors

| Alyssa Dabney, Carlisle Hawks, Elizabeth Katz, Samuel Liu, Hayden Meixner, Cole Nakata, Tanisha Raina, Olivia Talley, Andrew Tolu, Hayley Wilson, Kiana Woods

#### Directors of Social Media

| Sofia Eden, Shawn Wilke

#### Social Media Managers

| Carina Cho, Addison Woods

#### Social Media Intern

| Parker Inglis

#### Video Editors

| Tornike Bortsadze, Madeline Koenigsacker

#### Asst. Video Editor

| Tyler Small

#### Web Editors

| Jeffrey Keem, Aiden Shi

#### Games Developer

# Roger's Tacos prohibited from public pop-ups, expresses hopes to restart

NEXUS FILE PHOTO



Roger's Tacos, a family-owned pop-up restaurant in I.V., has been prohibited by the SBC Public Health Department from holding public fundraising events.

Iris Guo  
Community Outreach  
News Editor

Disclaimer: The quotes in the following article have been translated from Spanish to English.

Roger's Tacos, a family-owned pop-up restaurant in Isla Vista, has been prohibited by the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department from continuing to hold public fundraising events due to policies that prohibit the business from preparing food in one location and selling it elsewhere.

Roger's Tacos, owned and operated by Rogelio Ines Jiménez, typically collaborates with UC Santa Barbara student groups to organize pop-up fundraising events several times a month at various locations around Isla Vista. Jiménez is looking into solutions to continue bringing Roger's Tacos to I.V.

The business began in 2019 and has become a popular spot where students line up to order a variety of Mexican dishes, including tacos, quesadillas, mullitas and fresas con crema.

"Everything started at a graduation celebration for someone I knew. At that time, I worked in Los Angeles at a taco stand – a food truck," Jiménez said. "I asked for permission at my job so I could make tacos for the person who was graduating that year."

After the celebration, Jiménez had a lot of leftover meat and brought it to the home of an acquaintance in I.V., where he was able to sell the rest to community members.

"They gave me permission to offer the tacos to people because I didn't want to go back with all the meat," Jiménez said. "A young woman asked me if it was okay to post it on Facebook or Instagram so people could come. I said yes."

Afterward, Jiménez was contacted by the young woman to return the following week, during which everything he brought sold out again. After seeing how popular his food was with community members, he was motivated to continue.

"When we tried to return later, the pandemic had started, and the students noticed that the girl who had graduated was no longer there," Jiménez said. "It was on Del Playa, in one of the first or second houses. Someone told me, 'You can come and sell here once a week.' I started going, and basically, everything we brought would sell. We did that about once a week."

Jiménez's pop-ups soon became a full-fledged family business. He credits UCSB students with helping him set up shop by creating social media accounts, designing a logo, finding student

organizations to collaborate with and even naming the business.

"They asked what I wanted to name the business. At that time, we were three friends, but that didn't work out either," Jiménez said. "They asked what my name was, and I said Rogelio. They said, 'That's Roger in English.' So we named it Roger's Tacos, and it worked perfectly."

Later on, an inspector from the Santa Barbara County (SBC) Public Health Department visited one of the business's pop-up events. The inspector assisted Jiménez in

obtaining certificates, as well as registering Roger's Tacos properly, paying sales taxes and finding a kitchen to legally prepare food.

In September 2025, the kitchen where Roger's Tacos prepared its food changed ownership, leaving the business without a kitchen. Afterward, Jiménez had to search for a new kitchen, but had difficulty doing so.

"It's hard to find a kitchen because I don't use it every day," Jiménez said. "The inspection issue happened in mid-September. They renewed my permit only for three months – September through December."

Eventually, when Jiménez went to renew the business's permits again, he was informed by the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department that cooking in one place and selling it elsewhere is no longer allowed. The Daily Nexus was unable to confirm the specific policies applicable to the situation.

Since Jiménez announced this update on social media, he said he has received numerous messages from customers who hope to see Roger's Tacos return to I.V.

"I receive these messages daily. They make me sad, but I keep looking for ways to move forward," Jiménez said.

The solutions that were presented to Jiménez – including purchasing a food truck and obtaining a relevant permit – were not financially sustainable due to the business being a part-time venture for him.

However, Jiménez expressed hope for the future of his business and aims to continue to bring Roger's Tacos to I.V. He is currently in talks with the Isla Vista Community Center, where he plans to host private pop-up events twice a month.

"I love what I do. I love seeing students come together. This is not just a business, it's something I do with love for the community," Jiménez said. "I am grateful for the support I received during the pandemic, and I want to thank all the students for their support. I will find a way to continue doing this."

# Senate modernizes payment system, appoints new attorney general

Wynne Bendell  
University News Editor

The 76th Associated Students Senate modernized its payment system and appointed a new attorney general at its first meeting of winter quarter on Jan. 7.

Associated Students (A.S.) External Vice President for Local Affairs (EVPLA) and third-year political science major E.J. Raad discussed the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors meeting. The supervisors voted on Jan. 13 on the Isla Vista Foot Patrol's proposed noise ordinance that will effectively cancel Deltopia, the yearly unsanctioned street festival.

Raad said he was told by Fourth District Supervisor Bob Nelson that a monetary commitment from A.S. to cover Deltopia's law enforcement and medical costs may flip his vote to be against the ordinance.

In response, the Senate took an email vote to make an "official commitment towards providing significant financial support to relevant Santa Barbara County entities," to cover some of Deltopia's costs. The email vote did not reach quorum and therefore did not pass.

A.S. President and fourth-year Spanish, communication and global studies triple major Le Anh Metzger announced that her office, in partnership with the Office of the Student Advocate General, will be hosting a Protect Your Peers week from Jan. 12-15. The week is in response to federal escalations of immigration enforcement and features Immigration and Customs Enforcement (I.C.E.) rapid response training and other workshops centered around immigrant advocacy.

Metzger also announced that the UC Santa Barbara Police Department (UCPD) has finalists for the next chief of police, a position currently filled by Interim Chief of Police Matthew Bly. UCPD will be hosting a panel for A.S. executives to meet the finalists in the near future.

A.S. Internal Vice President (IVP)



The A.S. Senate appointed a new attorney general at its first meeting of winter quarter.

and fourth-year global studies and history major Enri Lala swore in first-year physics major Alec GeoSimonian as a new senator. Throughout winter quarter, Senate leadership will continue to fill the remaining Senate vacancies.

During public forum, first-year electrical engineering and economics double major and IVP Internal Compliance Officer Matthew Nelson, and first-year political science major and EVPLA Events Coordinator Tashvi Ratnani, requested \$1,347.95 for A.S. merchandise. This would fund 100 shirts to be distributed at the upcoming basketball game against California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo on Jan. 22. The Senate granted up to \$1,400 for the request.

Next, Speech Forensics President and fourth-year communication and sociology double major Gohan Huynh requested funding for the UCSB Speech and Debate team for tournament costs. The Senate allocated \$10,759 for a tournament in Athens, Greece and \$4,781.68 for a tournament in Los Angeles.

Then, the Senate granted a \$9,209.19 funding request for the A.S. Living History Project. The Living History Project aims to archive the history of UCSB student activism.

The Senate then adopted A Bill to Modernize Honoraria, brought by First President Pro Tempore and second-year political science

major Evan Sussman and Second President Pro Tempore and fourth-year political science and history double major Melanie Jones. This legislation will expedite the payment process for A.S. members by creating a digital honoraria system.

Senator and third-year political science and biology double major Eemaan Wahidullah presented a new Board, Committees and Units (BCU) and liaison matchmaking system that will pair up senators with BCUs.

Wahidullah created this system to pair senators with BCUs based on shared interests to bridge the "gap of communication and accountability" between the Senate and student organizations.

The Senate then referred A Bill to Establish the A.S. Isla Vista Tenants Union and Finance Committee Joint Rent Support Program, brought by Senator and second-year chemistry major Nadine Malhis.

To the advocacy committee. This bill will build off the existing rent support program to provide students facing financial hardship with a maximum of \$2,500 a quarter for rent support.

Next, the Senate adopted the fall quarterly Omnibus Bill to Update Legal Code, brought by Senator and fourth-year sociology major Mira Than, that will address amendments and updates to BCU legal code.

The meeting concluded after appointing former senator and fourth-year political science major Natalia Pascher as A.S. Attorney General.

**BAGEL** *Cafe*

**you want 'em, we got 'em!**

**hot**

**fresh**

**bagels!**

**Winner of Best Bagels in Isla Vista, two years and counting.**

**We also do fundraisers!**  
Contact us at [support@ivbagelcafe.com](mailto:support@ivbagelcafe.com).

**Visit us at 6551 Trigo Rd #1**  
**or order online at [ivbagelcafe.com](http://ivbagelcafe.com).**

# A.S. Executives

## A.S. President mid-year check-in

Le Anh Metzger



Michelle Cisneros  
Lead News Editor

Associated Students President and fourth-year global studies, communication and Spanish triple major Le Anh Metzger focused on outreach and hosting community events during fall quarter. During the rest of her term, Metzger aims to prioritize basic needs resources and continue pushing for 24/7 library hours.

To improve the organization's visibility, Metzger's office hosted various events, such as the Associated Students (A.S.) Kick-Off Fair, a farmer's market series and a biweekly "Coffee with the President."

"I've been able to just talk to a lot of people about what A.S. is and what we can do for them, and also how they can get involved," Metzger said.

In addition, cabinets containing NARCAN Nasal Spray, which Metzger has been working to implement in all University-owned housing, were installed last quarter. Metzger also mentioned that the A.S. Living History Project, which aims to preserve the history of student activism at UC Santa Barbara, has been revived and is now fully staffed.

Another objective Metzger has been working toward is improving transparency both within and surrounding A.S. She has been sending out campus-wide emails containing a monthly newsletter with information about upcoming events and other updates.

Regarding internal transparency initiatives, the first quarterly State of the Association was held in the fall, which Metzger said "went really well."

The new meeting replaces Boards, Committees and Units' (BCU) quarterly reports during Senate meetings. The A.S. Senate approved the new meeting and made it mandatory for all BCUs last quarter.

"I got really good feedback afterwards of people saying they actually really enjoyed hearing everybody else's reports, which obviously was never a requirement before, and they thought the environment was a lot better than Senate meetings," Metzger said.

She hopes to increase publicity for future State of the Association meetings to encourage the larger campus community to learn about what BCUs have to offer. Metzger also mentioned she'd like to ensure all BCUs and senators are present at future meetings. The point of low Senate turnout was previously mentioned at a Senate meeting.

"The reason why I created [the State of the Association] was because so many people in A.S. don't actually know what other people in A.S. do," Metzger said. "One of the things a few people told me after that event was that 'I had no idea that this other group did this,' and I actually already reached out to them to collaborate on something because I have a similar idea." So I think that was really good to hear."

Metzger said she would continue her internal improvement efforts by updating the A.S. main office space and hiring the next executive director.

She also set up various food security initiatives such as funding for UCSB Basic

Needs grocery vouchers and free Super Cucas burritos for those who receive CalFresh benefits. Metzger said that basic needs initiatives are something she hopes to continue through the rest of her term.

Over the summer, Metzger mentioned she would be looking into providing additional food grants for undocumented students. Since then, she has spoken to Undocumented Student Services to help fund its monthly food grants

and meal swipe scholarship program.

Continuing her advocacy for marginalized communities in 2026 is another goal of Metzger's, as stated in her January newsletter. This week, Metzger and other members of the Association are holding "Protect Your Peers" week to advocate for immigrant rights.

Another large initiative Metzger hopes to complete during her term is the reinstatement of 24/7 library hours.

After several negotiations between A.S. and University departments, the library expanded its hours and offered alternative 24/7 spaces with the condition that the topic of the 24/7 library would be revisited.

"The library Late Night Study is also an ongoing conversation, and I've just kind of been working throughout the year to facilitate those conversations and making sure things keep moving forward," Metzger said. "I'd really like to get the 24/7 library back before I graduate. We'll see what happens."

Other projects Metzger will be working on include Overdose Prevention Week and ensuring it's passed on to future students, and creating further collaborations with local organizations.

Speaking about her term, Metzger said that the "presidency goes by really fast" and that she is working toward fulfilling her platform points before the end of her term.

"I'm trying to make the most of each week and trying to do just as much as I possibly can, while also maintaining my grades and my mental health," Metzger said. "I'm really proud of what my office was able to accomplish last year, and I'm really hopeful for the things that we'll be able to do for the rest of the year, and I'm always open to feedback and suggestions and collaborations."

## A.S. EVPLA mid-year check-in

E.J. Raad



Jack Dindia  
Lead News Editor

Associated Students 2025-26 External Vice President of Local Affairs E.J. Raad has spent his fall quarter advocating against the proposed Deltopia noise ordinance, finishing the Associated Students' Rate My Landlord website and improving basic needs for students.

Raad, a third-year political science major, had a busy quarter given the announcement of the weekend-long noise ordinance, which is effectively cancelling Isla Vista's annual unsanctioned street festival, Deltopia. Since then, Raad has been campaigning against the ordinance via social media and a town hall meeting in preparation for a Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors meeting, where the board voted unanimously on the ordinance.

Since the ordinance passed, Raad said A.S. will make the alternative, sanctioned event "as great as it possibly can be." While he's worried increased law enforcement during the ordinance could result in more citations for students, he hopes the alternative event will be able to "quell that a little bit."

According to Raad, the Rate My Landlord website – which would allow students to leave reviews for I.V. landlords and property managers – is similar to Rate My Professor and should be available by mid-winter quarter.

If the noise ordinance hadn't passed, Raad said his office would have funded additional medical services to "ease some of that financial burden" on the county. He also planned to ask the Finance Committee for additional funding for harm reduction efforts, such as NARCAN and fentanyl testing strips.

"The number one priority is, 'how much can we invest into medical resources,' if [Deltopia] does end up happening," Raad said.

During his summer check-in, Raad said he would expand the Pardall Center by including a recurring "immunization clinic" where students could receive vaccinations. His team ultimately decided against the clinic as it would be costly and student health already provides vaccinations for free. Rather, Raad said the Pardall Center will be hosting a "sight-a-thon," where students can come and get their vision tested for prescription glasses and contacts.

"Essentially, instead of having to do the traditional [vision] test... you go into a mobile clinic. You come in, it scans your eyes in like 10 seconds, and it can tell

what type of problems you may have, if you're nearsighted, farsighted," Raad said.

According to Raad, vision tests and glasses will be free for students who have insurance, including university coverage. Additionally, Raad said he and his team are looking into providing dental cleanings for students. He said that "it might be a little difficult," and chose to prioritize vision tests as they are "completely free" if you have insurance.

Raad also said he and his team have been working on their lease pre-qualifier program, which would make it easier for UCSB students to sign up for housing and apply for multiple units with the same application. He said his office has been trying to get the University involved with the program and get "all the stakeholders together to delve more into it."

Since 48% of UCSB students reported being food insecure, and CalFresh benefits were paused in November, Raad has also been working on food security initiatives. Raad said he's currently working on providing coupons for food businesses subsidized by A.S., as well as establishing a CalFresh "enrollment fair" to bring visibility to student resources.

During his campaign, one of Raad's platform points was to provide water filters to I.V. renters, which he plans to incorporate into the promotion of the Rate My Landlord website. Raad said that water filters were something he "didn't get around to" this quarter due to the Deltopia noise ordinance taking "a huge amount of our attention."

In regard to why advocating against the noise ordinance was a priority for his team, he said he believes this ordinance is an example of how policies are being "enforced on" Isla Vista as opposed to being able to "create our own solutions for our community."

"It's people who are not in our community imposing what they think is how [Isla Vista] should be run, and this is how it's going to be done. So it's about fighting for our autonomy and our right to choose what we want with where we live, which I think is the core of the EVPLA rule," Raad said.

Raad believes that he's "done a strong job" in his role, specifically with his efforts against the proposed noise ordinance and his progress on the Rate My Landlord website, which he said has been in discussion for years. Considering Raad is a third-year, he said he is "strongly considering" running for re-election, but is not ready to make a "concrete statement" on whether or not he will.

**NEED AN  
EYE EXAM?  
WE GOT YOU!**

**WE ACCEPT  
U-SHIP INSURANCE!**

**Fast & easy online booking**

**Huge eyewear selection**

**Designer & Budget options**

**Close to UCSB & on the bus route!**

**SCHEDULE  
ONLINE  
TODAY!**

**hollistervision.com**



# Mid-Year Check-Ins

## A.S. IVP mid-year check-in

Enri Lala



## A.S. S.A.G. mid-year check-in

Sydney Bivins



Wynne Bendel  
University News Editor

Associated Students Internal Vice President and fourth-year history and global studies double major Enri Lala spent his fall quarter advocating for bike path construction, lagoon safety and managing the Senate.

At the start of fall quarter, the UC Police Department (UCPD) began enforcing restrictions for students biking off the designated paths, with most enforcement between the UC Santa Barbara Library and the Interactive Learning Pavilion. Enforcement efforts included citations, with some students receiving a \$40 fine which they could opt out of by completing an online bike safety course created by the Associated Students (A.S.) Bike Committee.

Since enforcement began, Lala has been working with the Bike Committee and several University departments to start construction of the bike path. Lala will continue his work on the bike path and hopes that both the funding plan and construction timeline will be finalized this quarter. Lala also shared that the chancellor's office will cover one third of the construction costs, per the Bike Committee's request.

Lala also spent his fall quarter advocating for increased lagoon safety, particularly the addition of more lights following an attempted sexual assault that took place near the lagoon on Oct. 19. Lala and A.S. First President Pro Tempore and second-year political science major Evan Sussman testified before the California Coastal Commission arguing for the necessity of new lights around the lagoon, citing the history of sexual violence in the area.

While Lala is unsure of the timeline of lagoon lighting, he said that UCSB's Director of Capital and Physical Planning, Josh Rohmer, is working with his team to create a lighting construction plan to submit to the coastal commission.

Lala will continue to advocate for student and campus safety for the rest of his term as he said there is "a legitimate chance that, God forbid, this can happen again," and that inaction is "not something we can live with."

One of Lala's long-term projects he started when he

was a senator is The Micheal Ma Service to Economics Students Act, which would bring Bloomberg Terminals – professional business and economics data tools – to campus. Lala started this project to honor a close friend, Micheal Ma, an economics student who passed away in a car accident.

Lala said he is in contact with Bloomberg representatives, investment groups and University departments to see this project come into fruition by the end of the academic term.

One of the Internal Vice President's (IVP) responsibilities is to oversee the A.S. budget, including honoraria, the payment for all association members. The Senate passed A Bill to Modernize Honoraria by converting it into an online system at its Jan. 7 meeting.

Lala hopes this bill will allow people to get paid "one time and reliably," and incentivize students to be "more willing to serve the campus."

Student housing has long been a priority for Lala, with his work on the San Benito Housing Project and Ocean Road Housing Project. This past fall quarter, he worked alongside External Vice President for Local Affairs (EVPLA) and third-year political science major E.J. Raad to institutionalize the Rate My Landlord project into A.S. Lala also expressed hope that legislation will soon pass in the Senate and will continue to put pressure on campus administration to improve student housing.

"We have to be involved as an association, tooth and nail, in every housing project that is currently ongoing or potential on campus," Lala said.

In another collaboration with the EVPLA's office, Lala's team is working to create A.S. merchandise to pass out at a UCSB men's basketball game on Jan. 22. This is part of a larger effort to increase student engagement with A.S.

Finally, Lala highlighted the Isla Vista Green Project, a collaboration between his office, the EVPLA's office and the Edible Campus Project, which hosts a weekly gardening workshop series. The series aims to address food insecurity in I.V. and teach students valuable gardening skills.

Iris Guo  
Community Outreach News Editor

The 2025-26 Associated Students Student Advocate General spoke with the Daily Nexus regarding her work supporting vulnerable student populations during fall quarter.

Fourth-year sociology major Sydney Bivins worked in the Office of the Student Advocate (OSA) for two years before becoming the Student Advocate General (S.A.G.). Bivins is responsible for facilitating communications between students and the University in matters of dispute, as well as educating students on issues that affect them.

This past fall quarter, Bivins and OSA caseworkers took on 11 cases, which she described as "much slower" than she had anticipated. However, her office has seen a significant increase in new cases for the winter quarter, which she credits to marketing efforts.

In addition to working on student cases, Bivins has also dedicated time to mediating interpersonal conflicts within Associated Students (A.S.) before they reach the Conduct and Ethics Committee, which conducts investigations and recommends remedies for policy violations.

"If somebody were to feel that they are facing abusive conduct and bullying, or somebody they know is, they can report that to me," Bivins said. "I act as a mediator in conversations or at least give some alternative options for association members to access."

One of the largest projects Bivins has been working on is the A.S. "Protect Your Peers" initiative, involving various events and resources raising awareness on protections for undocumented and international students.

"We wanted basically as many students and community members within [UC Santa Barbara] and also the general [Isla Vista] area to be educated about how they can protect the people around them as soon as possible," Bivins said.

The first event in this initiative was held during Week 8 of fall quarter, which was an Immigration and

Customs Enforcement rapid response training hosted by 805 UndocuFund, a local non-profit organization that supports mixed-status families and undocumented communities.

After this event saw around 115 attendees, Bivins and other A.S. members felt compelled to plan additional events.

"We really had the student safety and comfort in mind so that they don't feel like they're walking into this very daunting, very overwhelming issue alone," Bivins said. "We also will have campus security at two of our major events to make sure that students feel safe going to these events."

One of the events Bivins coordinated for Week 2 of winter quarter was a teach-in presented by Asian American Studies Professor John Park. Bivins invited Park to do the event after hearing him speak at a different event.

"I definitely wanted it to take it into consideration when trying to figure out how we would support these vulnerable populations this academic year," Bivins said. "Even outside of the 'Protect Your Peers' week, he's been a great [resource] and he just knows so much about U.S. immigration policy and the arguments being made on a federal level."

Beyond focusing on raising awareness for undocumented student rights, Bivins has also been advocating for international students, who make up 9% of the student body.

"We also know that international students have really been monitoring U.S. policy, California policy and seeing what's going on across the country, knowing that their ability to post on social media about the things that they care about may be limited," Bivins said. "A lot of them are worried about their safety. What happens if their I-20 gets randomly terminated? There's a lot of possibilities."

During fall quarter, Bivins invited representatives from the Office of International Students & Scholars to speak with OSA caseworkers on the process that international students undergo to matriculate at UCSB.

Bivins hopes to work alongside the Global Gaucho

Commission, which has planned workshops to help international students learn more about self-advocacy and navigating bureaucratic processes.

Bivins has also been overseeing updates to GoGaucho – a mobile and web application developed by OSA's sub-technology committee. According to Bivins, the application has "around 10,000 users and growing." A new feature introduced on the application is "fuzzy search," allowing users to look up courses through related keywords and a new resource page.

One of the planned changes to GoGaucho is updating systems between the iOS, Android and website versions of the application to be identical. Additionally, developers are working to add a feature that would automatically transfer users' class schedules to Google Calendar, as well as including a dining hall rating system, allowing users to review dining hall menu items.

During her summer check-in interview, Bivins mentioned that she aimed to seek transparency from the Disabled Students Program. However, Bivins stated she did not have updates on this goal but she aims to prioritize it in the future.

Another initiative that Bivins mentioned in a previous interview was having professors explicitly state their artificial intelligence (AI) usage policies in their syllabi. According to Bivins, it has been difficult to contact professors and have them comply with this. Bivins said that student AI usage is a "multi-part issue" that the OSA has been working on.

"Our office has been seeking clarity about [student AI usage]. We have a meeting and a training coming up with the Office of Student Conduct to get a better understanding of how this actually will work for students moving forward," Bivins said.

According to Bivins, OSA has been "flooded with casework" that relates to students facing allegations of academic misconduct potentially related to AI usage. In order to address this issue, Bivins hopes to plan an event engaging students on AI's role in education.

*Love what you're reading?*



**DAILY NEXUS**

**Join us for winter orientation on January 21 & 22 at 6:30 p.m.**

# Student Fee Choice initiative aims to make A.S. fees optional



The Student Fee Choice initiative aims to make the \$1,600 annual Associated Students fee optional.

Wynne Bendell  
University News Editor

The Student Fee Choice initiative aims to make the \$1,600 annual Associated Students fee optional. The student fees fund all Associated Students entities, including student-led groups within the association, and Senate and staff salaries. Due to legal code, the initiative will not have a tangible impact on student fees.

Sam Safahi, a third-year economics and accounting major, created the initiative in fall quarter. In an interview with the Nexus, Safahi said he feels they are "a big line of expense" for students' expenditures.

He believes students often do not make use of the expenses funded by these fees and that Associated Students (A.S.) is ineffective in its use of student fees.

"They just don't care. They don't try. They don't want to," Safahi said. "It's really easy to take money from students and then give it to the University and say you're a senator or to pass a bill taking money from students and giving it to some commission that gives it to some staff, but it's harder to actually do something meaningful to help students."

On Oct. 31, 2025, A.S. Elections Board Chair and fourth-year political science major Caleb Hanson sent an email to Safahi telling him to stop collecting signatures for his petition. Hanson's reasoning was that Safahi was "acting outside the legal period for signature collection."

In response, Safahi alleged Hanson was in violation of A.S. legal code, specifically obstruction of a constitutional right, which protects the ability for students to gather signatures for constitutional amendments year-round. The Judicial Council (JC) received the petition for the case on Nov. 4, 2025.

To get a Constitutional Amendment added to a student election ballot, the petition must receive signatures amounting to at least 50% of the total number of voters who voted for an A.S. President in the last Spring Quarter General Election.

If that amount is achieved, the Senate would submit the amendment to be voted on during the next general or special election ballot.

The JC found that Hanson was acting outside his authority as Constitutional Amendments become an election procedure "after the petition has been submitted to the Senate and its signature verified." Therefore, Hanson could not order Safahi to stop collecting signatures for his initiative.

In order for petition signatures to be valid, they must be collected in a way that "complies with all relevant UCSB and UC policies, along with state and federal law." This includes The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act training to collect the signatures.

Additionally, all signatures must be verifiable through the collection of student names and perm numbers. The signatures must be checked for duplicates, so it's preferred if students use a secure online system that has them log in using their NetID to sign the petition. Any student can be provided a "suitable" system for collecting signatures from A.S. staff, the same system used for the campus elections.

According to JC Chair and fourth-year political science, philosophy and Germanic and Slavic studies triple major Josie Penix, Google Forms cannot be used to collect signatures. This is because the results of a Google Form can be transferred to a Google Sheet, which can then be edited by the owner of the document, therefore making the signatures unverifiable.

Safahi has been collecting signatures for his petition using a Google Form. Therefore, the signatures he has collected thus far are unverifiable and invalid.

Also, according to Penix, neither students nor A.S. are in direct control of student fees, other than fee reaffirmations that get voted on during general elections. Students cannot make student fees optional through a Constitutional Amendment. If the amendment is passed, it would simply change legal code, not the actual student fees.

According to the 1993 Superior Court of Alameda County case *Smith v. Regents of University of California*, a student who has a conflicting political opinion to a student organization that receives funding from student fees may be eligible to receive a refund from the University.

# Legal battle continues over local pipeline

NATHAN VILLASEÑOR / DAILY NEXUS



Various stakeholders will be working towards their next steps in the coming weeks and months.

Michelle Cisneros  
Lead News Editor

Throughout the last month, several legal rulings have been made regarding local offshore oil pipelines, which Sable Offshore is trying to restart. As of early January, oil has not been flowing through the pipeline system, and several cases and proceedings are ongoing.

Sable, a Texas-based oil and gas company, was founded with the purpose of restarting the Santa Ynez Unit (SYU) in 2020.

However, that is just a piece of a larger legal puzzle. In mid-December, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisor officially denied the transfer of permits from ExxonMobil to Sable.

During previous county meetings, Sable has long held that the county permits weren't necessary to restart the pipeline, while environmental groups have argued that they are.

Sable also argued that its onshore pipeline is an interstate pipeline facility, deeming it within federal oversight.

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) then approved the company's restart plan in late December.

Following the PHMSA's approval, several environmental groups, including the Environmental Defense Center (EDC) and the Center for Biological Diversity, filed an emergency lawsuit against the federal administration to prevent the immediate restart of the pipeline.

Most recently, a Santa Barbara County (SBC) judge maintained an injunction against an immediate restart on Jan. 7.

During the hearing, Sable also confirmed that there is no oil flowing through the pipelines.

During previous county meetings, Sable has long held that the county permits weren't necessary to restart the pipeline, while environmental groups have argued that they are.

Sable also argued that its onshore pipeline is an interstate pipeline facility, deeming it within federal oversight.

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) then approved the company's restart plan in late December.

Following the PHMSA's approval, several environmental groups, including the Environmental Defense Center (EDC) and the Center for Biological Diversity, filed an emergency lawsuit against the federal administration to prevent the immediate restart of the pipeline.

Most recently, a Santa Barbara County (SBC) judge maintained an injunction against an immediate restart on Jan. 7.

During the hearing, Sable also confirmed that there is no oil flowing through the pipelines.

"It's kind of complicated, because there's so many pieces to this case," EDC staff attorney Jeremy Frankel said in an interview with the Nexus.

The battle for oil drilling off the Central Coast aligns with the federal administration's push for increased oil and gas drilling, both domestically and abroad. Oil and gas drilling permits have increased by 55% in the first year of President Donald Trump's term.

Frankel said the judge's decision ordered an expedited briefing alongside the denial, which will be held in the coming months.

"Our case is still continuing without the stay in place," Frankel said.

Various stakeholders, including the county, environmental groups and Sable, will be working towards their next steps in the coming weeks and months.

County supervisors held a closed session last Monday to discuss potential legal avenues, but no actions were publicly announced.

According to District Representative and Communications Director for SBC Eleanor Gartner, the board anticipates additional closed sessions.

Thursday "College Night" sightseeing tours to D.T. Santa Barbara's

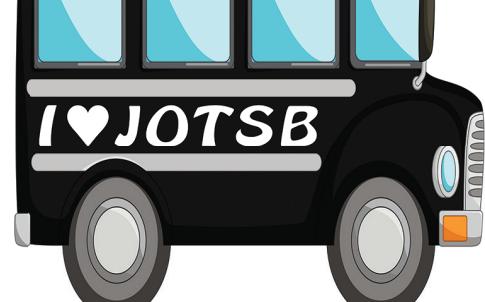
historic "El Pueblo Viejo" Landmark District to visit the iconic

*Wildcat Lounge*

& walkabout State Street to see the sites!

Remember us for your...  
Sorority/Fraternity bid-days, Winter  
& Spring Formal transportation  
needs.

Call or Text: 805-331-2301  
Sierra & Darin (UCSB Alumni 1996)  
For Inquiries & Booking



<https://www.jumpontheschoolbus.com/college-night-sightseeing-tours>

Sierra Bravo Enterprises, LLC d.b.a Jump On The School Bus TCP#:0028446-A

# Analyzing six months of I.C.E. presence, community response in Santa Barbara

Michelle Cisneros  
Lead News Editor  
Anusha Singh  
Editor in Chief

Over the summer, the federal government significantly expanded its deportation efforts nationwide, affecting the Santa Barbara community and the Central Coast as a whole. After six months of increased immigration enforcement in the county, the Daily Nexus has found that most sightings continue to occur in predominantly Latine areas early in the day. Local institutions and organizations have acknowledged the increase in enforcement at varying degrees.

The Nexus has documented Immigration and Customs Enforcement (I.C.E.) sightings in Santa Barbara, confirmed by the 805UndocuFund, a local organization that verifies sightings and alerts community members.

According to a press release from the 805UndocuFund, I.C.E. sightings and detainments increased significantly in the final weeks of 2025.

"These are not isolated incidents," 805UndocuFund Executive Director Primitiva Hernandez said in the press release. "What we are witnessing is the indiscriminate racial profiling of communities of color. Families are being ripped apart, workers are disappearing from job sites, and fear is being used as a weapon. The harm will have devastating consequences for people's well-being and for the economic stability of our region and we must take action today."

**Spatial and temporal patterns**

The majority of I.C.E. sightings

have occurred in Santa Barbara, specifically in the Milpas and Eastside neighborhoods. Over half of the sightings took place on roads or highways, followed by businesses, schools and private residences. Almost two thirds of the sightings took place between 6 and 9 a.m. These statistics do not include the I.C.E. impersonation attempt.

Differentiated from the Nexus's one month of I.C.E. presence in Santa Barbara analysis, a location category of "School" was added to this analysis. I.C.E. agents were seen twice at Santa Barbara City College (SBCC), and once near Franklin Elementary School in Eastside Santa Barbara.

## Detainment Patterns

As of Jan. 13, 36 sightings have been confirmed in Santa Barbara and Goleta. I.C.E. has detained over 300 people in Santa Barbara County overall, and over 1,000 people on the Central Coast. I.C.E. does not provide detention information by state or by county on its website but is mandated by Congress to release biweekly detention statistics.

Since June 8, 805UndocuFund has confirmed approximately 35 detainments and missing person reports in the Goleta and Santa Barbara area. This number is based on information sent out in 805UndocuFund text alerts and is likely less than the true number of detainments made.

Several organizations have adopted the terminology "kidnapping" to describe detainments due to the tactics used by I.C.E. and the alleged bypass of due process when conducting arrests.

Most recently, several

vehicles believed to belong to I.C.E. and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) agents

were stationed at SBCC on Dec. According to the Santa Barbara Independent, SBCC sent out an alert informing students and staff about the nearby I.C.E. presence. The next day, SBCC sent out a statement to clarify that federal agencies had not notified the college of its actions. The 805UndocuFund had reported several other sightings throughout the week.

There has been no confirmed I.C.E. presence at the UC Santa Barbara at the time of publishing. In early October, staff members at the Santa Catalina Residence Hall said they were approached by federal agents requesting information about an individual on a student visa. In accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, staff members did not share any information with the agents.

According to the investigation conducted by the UC Police Department, the individuals are not believed to be I.C.E. agents,

but another government agency which remains unknown. At the time, university media spokesperson Kiki Reyes said that "while it's not a common occurrence, the government has conducted similar checks on student visas in the past."

**Population demographics**

23 out of 30 I.C.E. sightings took place in areas where the population is predominantly Hispanic or Latine.

The remaining seven I.C.E.

sightings took place in areas where the population is predominantly White, although two of the remaining seven

sightings rest on the border of predominantly Hispanic and

Latine census tracts.

## Poverty status variables

22 out of 30 I.C.E. sightings

took place in areas where the percentage of the population whose income in the past 12 months is below the poverty level is at or above the national average.

## Education attainment variables

26 out of 30 I.C.E. sightings took place in areas where the percentage of the population 25 years and older whose highest education completed is less than high school is over 20% (compared to the national average of 11%).

## Community response

In response to the increased presence of immigration agents in the area, the Museum of Contemporary Art Santa Barbara canceled its annual Día de los Muertos parade in October and the Santa Barbara Eastside Society canceled its Milpas Street Holiday Parade earlier this month.

Local organizations including but not limited to the 805UndocuFund, La Casa de la Raza and the Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy have ramped up their fundraising, workshops and organizing efforts.

Through fundraising shows, markets and supply drives, local businesses and volunteers have given their time and resources to aid the local immigrant community.

As noted by Joseph Dobzynski, an 805UndocuFund rapid response organizer the Nexus spoke to in November, volunteers have been attempting to prevent or document detainments.

"We show up, and if we can prevent an abduction through

checking rights and making

sure that everything's being

followed correctly, that's our

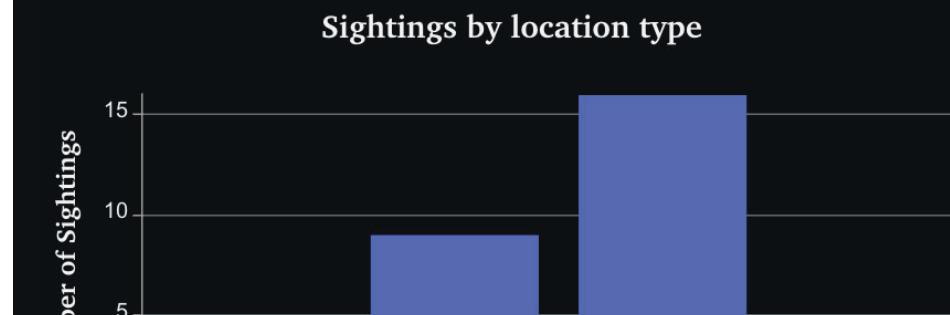
goal," Dobzynski said at the time. "If not, we're there to document what's happening so that we have evidence later on to show that someone was or was not – especially I.C.E. – following the rules, and if they weren't, exactly how they were not."

Organizations are also advocating at the local level during board and council meetings. In June, Second District Supervisor Laura Capps requested \$240,000 to fund mental health services provided by the Immigrant Legal Defense Center, which the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors passed. Roughly two months later, the board voiced its support for bills that mandated increased transparency and accountability for I.C.E. agents.

In October, Santa Barbara County Sheriff Bill Brown notified the board of supervisors he would not fulfill their request to be updated on I.C.E. activity in the county.

The Isla Vista Community Services District (IVCSD) split \$10,000 evenly between the 805UndocuFund and the Immigrant Legal Defense Center in August. The board also expressed support for several immigration-related bills regarding accountability for I.C.E. agents and mandated notifications for I.C.E. near campus.

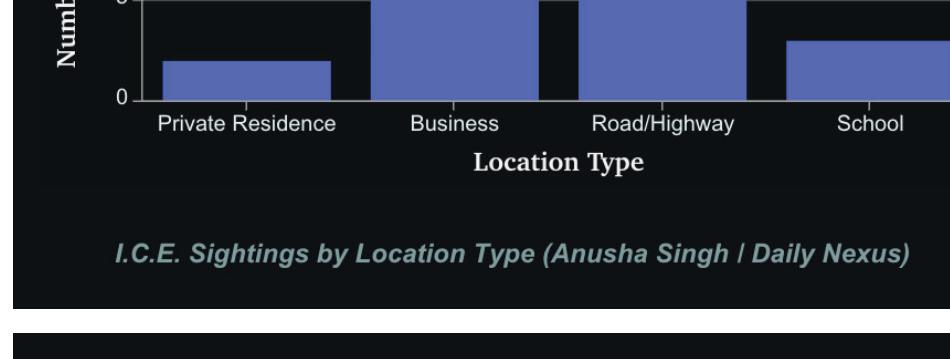
UCSB students and staff have been maintaining ongoing resources such as Undocumented Student Services while expanding aid and rapid response workshops. Several offices within Associated Students are collaborating with local organizations and university departments to host Protect Your Peers week during winter quarter.



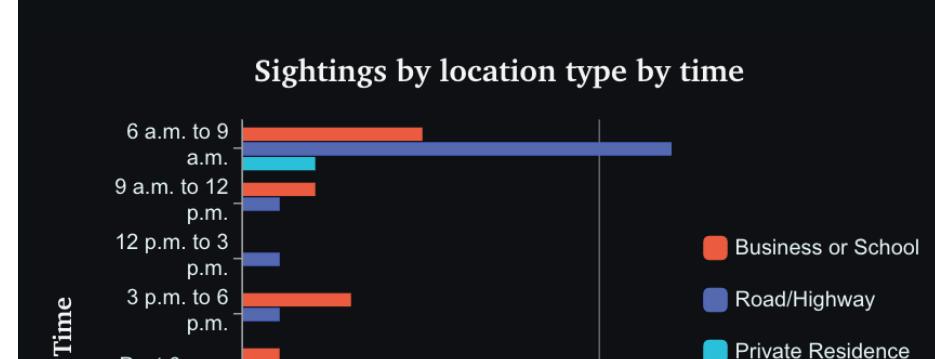
I.C.E. Sightings by Location Type (Anusha Singh / Daily Nexus)



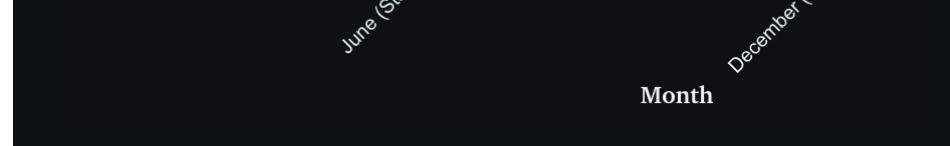
Sightings by Santa Barbara neighborhood (Anusha Singh / Daily Nexus)



Confirmed detainments or reported disappearances by month (Anusha Singh / Daily Nexus)



Sightings by Location Type by Time (Anusha Singh / Daily Nexus)





# SPORTS

## USWNT ROSTER REVEALED AHEAD OF HARDER STADIUM MATCH

The U.S. women's national soccer team is coming to Harder Stadium on Jan. 27 at 7 p.m. to face off against Chile in their first ever international game on the Central Coast. The 26-player roster has been revealed by Head Coach Emma Hayes. The reveal is highlighted by many new faces and the return of Trinity Rodman who will join the team for the first time since April 2025.

**GOALKEEPERS:** Claudia Dickey, Mandy McGlynn, Jordan Silkowitz

**DEFENDERS:** Jordyn Bugg, Avery Patterson, Izzy Rodriguez, Tara Rudd, Emily Sams, Gisele Thompson, Kennedy Wesley, Kate Wiesner

**MIDFIELDERS:** Croix Bethune, Hal Hershfelt, Claire Hutton, Riley Jackson, Lo'eau LaBonta, Sally Menti, Sam Meza, Olivia Moultrie

**FORWARDS:** Maddie Dahlien, Jameese Joseph, Trinity Rodman, Yazmeen Ryan, Emma Sears, Ally Sentnor, Reilyn Turner



COURTESY OF WIKIPEDIA



Four-time world champions huddled up before kickoff.

## UCSB MEN'S VOLLEYBALL OPENS SEASON UNDEFEATED

Shravan Sundaram  
Asst. Sports Editor

The UC Santa Barbara men's volleyball team closed out the final round of the 61st ASICS Invitational with a 3-1 victory over Harvard University last Saturday.

UCSB has hosted the three-day ASICS Invitational tournament since 1965, with the exception of 2021's cancellation. This year, the Gauchos welcomed five teams, including UC Irvine; California State University, Northridge; Kentucky State University; Maryville University and of course, Harvard. Currently, the Gauchos remain undefeated this season after also outplaying Kentucky State last Thursday

with a 3-0 victory, as well as Maryville last weekend with a score of 3-1.

Santa Barbara started off with a bleak first set, as Harvard opened the gate with a 25-22 victory. Their celebration, however, was short-lived, as the Gauchos nearly drew level with Harvard during the second set before bringing it home with a 6-point scoring run that secured them a second-set victory of 25-18. Their hitting percentage improved remarkably from the first set, rising to 57%, and remained consistent throughout the rest of the match.

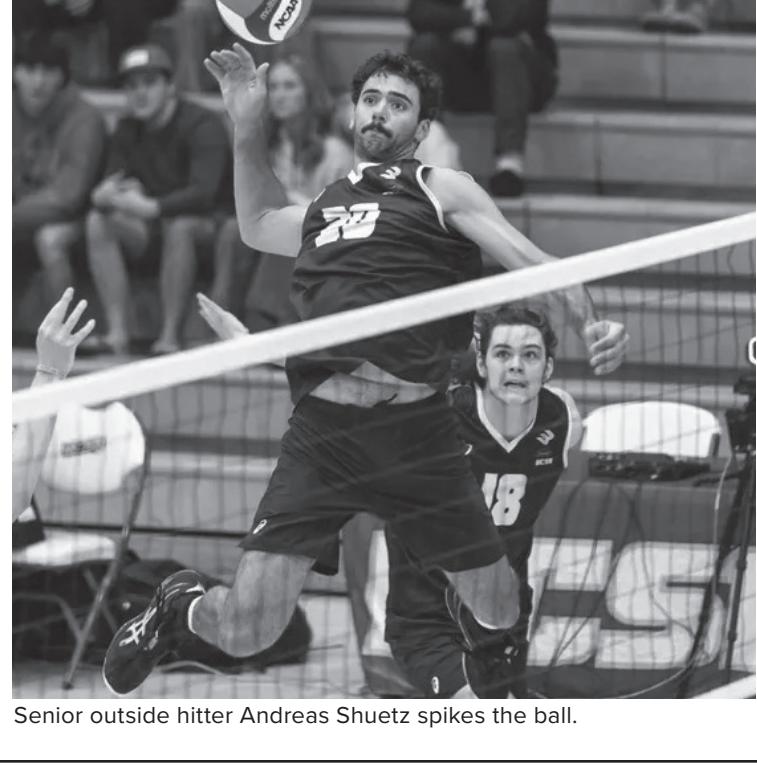
The Gauchos entered the third set confident and motivated with a 7-2 head start, and maintained at least a 3-point difference

throughout the set. Senior outside hitter Owen Loncar's service ace won them the set with a score of 25-14.

The Gauchos managed to secure the fourth and final set 25-19, barely trailing ahead of the Crimson before springing ahead toward the end. Notably, sophomore outside hitter George Bruening scored 10 kills in the last set alone, tying his career record in kills. Freshman middle blocker Dylan Pilkvist also led the team in block assists with 5, and sophomore outside hitter Riggs Guy got a career-best 6 assists.

The Gauchos will host their next match this Friday, Jan. 16 at 7 p.m. against The Master's University in the Thunderdome.

COURTESY OF UCSB ATHLETICS



Senior outside hitter Andreas Shuetz spikes the ball.

## GAUCHOS OUTLAST THE AGGIES IN CONFERENCE WIN

Haiden Rogers  
Sports Editor

The UC Santa Barbara women's basketball team earned their 12th win of the season on Thursday, Jan. 8, beating UC Davis 55-47 on the road in the University Credit Union Center. This win over the Aggies marks Head Coach Renee Jimenez's 300th career win and 29th overall with the Gauchos.

"Davis is always a tough place to win, they are a good team and well coached, we knew this was going to be a grind it out type game ... We stayed together, trusted the game plan, and made plays when it mattered," Jimenez said.

The game started with both teams trading blows and the Gauchos leading scorer, junior forward Zoe Borter, leading the way with three layups to even out the game at the end of the

first quarter with a score of 13-13. This back-and-forth game style continued throughout the second quarter with UCSB keeping a slight offensive edge over UCD. The score going into halftime was 29-24.

The third quarter proved to be a defensive showdown between both teams, as it was the lowest-scoring period of the game. The Gauchos scored 11 points in this quarter, with the standout score being a 3-point shot from sophomore guard Zoe Shaw. The third quarter came to a close with a score of 40-31. The consistency on offense and dominance on defense for the Gauchos continued into the fourth quarter, where they totaled 15 points and secured a 55-47 win over the Aggies.

An important part of this game was the Gauchos' defensive showing with the team totaling 44 rebounds and 4 steals at the

end of the fourth quarter. Borter was a large contributor in this showdown, totaling 17 points as the Gauchos' highest scorer of the day. Jimenez marked the importance of this in a post-game interview.

"I'm proud of our guys for how they responded, especially on the glass and on the defensive end ... We talked all week about rebounding, finishing possessions and playing with physicality, and the players took that personally. They were communicating and trusting each other. When we defend and rebound like that, it gives us a chance to be really good and win a lot of games," Jimenez said.

The Gauchos will be back home in the Thunderdome on Jan. 15 at 6 p.m., where they will host the California State University, Bakersfield Roadrunners.



Sophomore guard Zoe Shaw forces her way past a defender.



# LA VISTA



## Miss Universo y el gran negocio de la belleza (viva Bosch)

Janise Fernandez  
Escritora para La Vista

Adentrándonos ya a más de un mes de su reinado, la nativa tabasqueña Fátima Bosch, así como sus antecesoras, revela el gran poder del mercado de la belleza femenil a nivel mundial.

Entre lujos a mil, sonrisas deslumbrantes y grandes intelectos, es fácil distraerse del verdadero negocio que los certámenes de belleza convocan.

Lo que comenzó como una simple tendencia a organizar competencias estéticas se ha convertido en un fenómeno internacional, llamando la atención de múltiples inversores y beneficiarios que vienen en busca de la corona.

La organización de Miss Universo (MUO) ha llegado a más de un billón de espectadores en 190 países a través de su certamen televisado.

Enfrentándose a críticas por la superficialidad del concurso, Miss Universo ha logrado prosperar gracias a la transformación del programa en una organización filantrópica que busca el bien humanitario y su reparto monetario lo refleja.

Más allá del premio inicial de 250,000 USD, MUO destaca por otorgar un sueldo mensual de 50,000 USD a la

reina para poder así fungir la labor social que se le asigna (asimismo cubriendo cualquier costo externo de alto perfil en transporte, logística, bienestar, asesoría

oficiales del Servicio de Impuestos Internos (IRS), los patrocinadores de estos certámenes son los fanáticos en sí, negocios y corporaciones, grupos

que sirve para impulsar el profesionalismo de cada ganadora.

Aunque las recompensas son altas, también lo es el costo de participar.

la competencia procede a ser más una inversión a largo plazo que un deseo de la adquisición de bienes materiales.

Un buen ejemplo de esta ley en práctica puede ser observado en el emprendimiento de Fátima: una marca de ropa sustentable que busca poner adelante su activismo y estilo que se volvió objeto público a través de MUO y que, con buena gestión, puede verse comercializada a un mayor nivel.

A pesar de la incesable disputa de si los certámenes de belleza son todo lo que aseguran ser y proclaman, su método para acaparar la atención de millones, generar aprovechamiento económico e impulsar la carrera de mujeres participantes tiene suficiente respaldo como modelo empresarial.

Aunque todavía se comparten críticas en cuanto a la dispensación de dinero y la subjetividad del atractivo humano, no cabe duda de que los ejemplos hegemónicos de mujeres determinadas, confiadas y sumamente elegantes, así como nuestra misma ganadora, posan un buen ejemplo a seguir para aquellas más jóvenes.

Sirven como emblema anual que proyecta que el sexo femenino puede alcanzar los límites y más y, como siempre, con mucho glamour de sobra.



CORTESÍA DE HEUTE.AT

de imagen, etc.)

En el caso de Bosch, ella espera usar este año y sus recursos para impulsar la visibilidad de su propia batalla contra el déficit de atención y la dislexia, a fin de promover causas sociales.

Todos estos esfuerzos y gastos cierran con un gran broche de oro (de forma literal) que es la corona del reinado universal, valorada en más de cinco millones de dólares estadounidenses.

¿Pero de dónde provienen estos ingresos? De acuerdo con documentos

cívicos, fundaciones y universidades.

Su apoyo por parte de organizaciones de renombre, tanto académicas como humanitarias, se debe mayormente a otro aspecto de la nueva recepción de los certámenes, ahora siendo reconocidos como promotores de un arte interdisciplinario.

Asimismo, se reconoce el valor intrínseco de su modelo de negocios, como expresaron académicos en una convención con la Miss Universo Rosaline Luo,

entre consejeros, maquillistas, diseñadores y vestimenta que bien puede sobrepasar los 4 mil dólares por prenda—como el vestido típico de Bosch estimado entre los 150 mil pesos mexicanos—la batalla por la victoria resulta ser más costosa de lo esperado.

Sin embargo, muchas veces no es el tesoro monetario que buscan estas candidatas sino el mismo prestigio de la organización y el debut de estas para forjar conexiones y cumplir metas profesionales. En realidad,

entre consejeros, maquillistas, diseñadores y vestimenta que bien puede sobrepasar los 4 mil dólares por prenda—como el vestido típico de Bosch estimado entre los 150 mil pesos mexicanos—la batalla por la victoria resulta ser más costosa de lo esperado.

Sin embargo, muchas veces no es el tesoro monetario que buscan estas candidatas sino el mismo prestigio de la organización y el debut de estas para forjar conexiones y cumplir metas profesionales. En realidad,

entre consejeros, maquillistas, diseñadores y vestimenta que bien puede sobrepasar los 4 mil dólares por prenda—como el vestido típico de Bosch estimado entre los 150 mil pesos mexicanos—la batalla por la victoria resulta ser más costosa de lo esperado.

Sirven como emblema anual que proyecta que el sexo femenino puede alcanzar los límites y más y, como siempre, con mucho glamour de sobra.

## Cuando la memoria se vuelve oro

Alué Otiura  
Escritora para La Vista

En los últimos meses, los precios de las memorias RAM (Memoria de acceso aleatorio) han subido exageradamente, lo cual está afectando a los consumidores, ensambladores de PCs y fabricantes de dispositivos electrónicos en todo el mundo.

Lo que antes era un componente relativamente barato ahora puede costar 2-5 veces más que hace solo unos meses.

El principal motivo detrás de este aumento es la demanda masiva de memoria por parte de empresas de inteligencia artificial y grandes centros de datos, que necesitan cantidades enormes de RAM para entrenar modelos y procesar información a gran escala.

Esto deja menos módulos disponibles para consumidores y fabricantes de equipos tradicionales.

A esto se suma la escasez de los minerales necesarios para producir RAM, como el silicio de alta pureza, el litio y el cobalto.

La extracción de estos materiales es compleja y limitada, lo que encarece los chips y dificulta mantener un suministro constante.

Además de la alta demanda y la escasez de materiales, otro factor que influye en el aumento de precios es la priorización de la producción de memoria especializada para la industria de la

disponibilidad de DDR4 y DDR5 convencionales para el mercado minorista, elevando su precio aún más.

Además, la creciente popularidad de las granjas de criptomonedas ha generado

demanda de consumidores y fabricantes de equipos tradicionales.

Esta presión adicional sobre el mercado contribuye de manera importante a la subida de precios y a

de lado en gran medida la producción de módulos convencionales para PC y laptops.

Esta decisión, motivada por la rentabilidad y la demanda de sectores industriales de alto consumo, ha reducido significativamente la oferta disponible para los consumidores comunes, quienes ahora enfrentan menos opciones y precios considerablemente más altos.

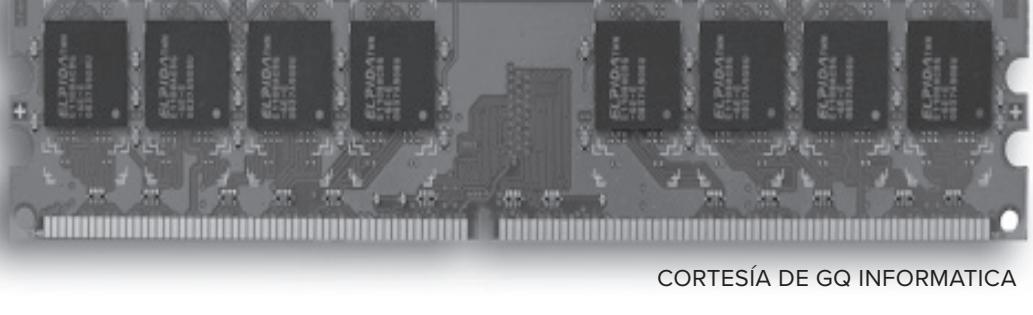
En conjunto, estos factores crean un escenario en el que la RAM se ha convertido en un bien escaso costos y de nicho, afectando tanto a usuarios individuales como a empresas que dependen de equipos electrónicos para su funcionamiento diario.

La situación podría mantenerse e incluso agravarse en los próximos meses si la demanda tecnológica continúa creciendo sin que la producción y el suministro de materias primas logren ponerse al día.

Mientras los recursos naturales sigan siendo limitados y la presión del mercado por dispositivos de alto rendimiento se mantenga, los consumidores deberán acostumbrarse a un panorama de precios elevados, disponibilidad restringida y limitada.



CORTESÍA DE GQ INFORMATICA



inteligencia artificial.

Fabricantes como Samsung, Micron y SK Hynix están destinando una parte importante de sus líneas de producción a módulos de alto rendimiento y memoria HBM (High Bandwidth Memory)

un aumento significativo en la demanda de componentes de alto rendimiento, incluyendo memoria RAM y tarjetas gráficas.

Estos centros de procesamiento requieren módulos de alta capacidad y velocidad para funcionar de manera eficiente, lo que compite directamente con la

escasez de productos disponibles en tiendas y distribuidores.

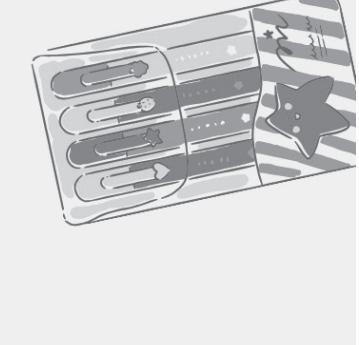
Por otro lado, los fabricantes de memoria han adoptado estrategias que priorizan la producción de módulos destinados a servidores, centros de datos y dispositivos especializados, dejando

¿Te interesa escribir sobre política, opinión, arte, música, ciencia y mucho más, en español?

¡ÚNETE A LA VISTA!



Contáctanos:  
lavista@dailynexus.com



Síguenos nos en  
Instagram:  
@lavistadeucsb



# NEXUSTENTIALISM

It's Satire, Stupid.



## Trump buys Solvang

MADELINE BRYCE / DAILY NEXUS

Serrano Ham  
Geostrategist

The nation has been rocked by the news of President Donald Trump's recent territorial acquisition, which the administration claims is part of his latest bid to increase the national security of the United States.

Earlier this week, the Trump administration announced that Solvang, a Danish-style town in California's Santa Ynez Valley, is now officially "under U.S. control" and will be added to what officials call "the strong legacy of U.S. strength and democracy."

This announcement immediately raised widespread confusion, as Solvang is

located in California, which is itself already part of the United States.

"I've done it. Denmark didn't stand a chance. This is the most important acquisition in the entire history of America. No president before me has ever gotten such an important territory," Trump reportedly said while unveiling a large map of California with Solvang circled in red marker.

Reports emerging from the White House suggest that Trump decided to pursue Solvang after seeing images of the town's iconic windmills, half-timbered buildings and bakeries filled with Æbleskiver. Multiple White House correspondents suspect the president believed

he was viewing pictures of Greenland, and became frustrated when he was unable to find a listed purchase price.

On his Truth Social page, Trump vented this frustration.

"Where are the Zillow pages for countries? How are GLORIOUS nations that are very WEALTHY supposed to buy MORE land to make it all GREAT AGAIN? But, I am VERY smart and found LAND that DENMARK, sweet little Denmark, can't CONTROL because they are very WEAK," Trump posted.

One senior official couldn't resist admiring Trump for his success.

"Solvang didn't put up a fight at all; they accepted America as its true leader

and they couldn't wait to be part of our democracy. No U.S. president in history has gotten land for free, no one has ever been a businessman like him before," the official said.

Administration officials echoed the president's enthusiasm for the acquisition.

"I mean, I think this news speaks for itself and demonstrates the glory and power of our president. This is the first new territory added to the U.S. since the Marshall Islands, but no territory has been so crucial to our national defense," the official said.

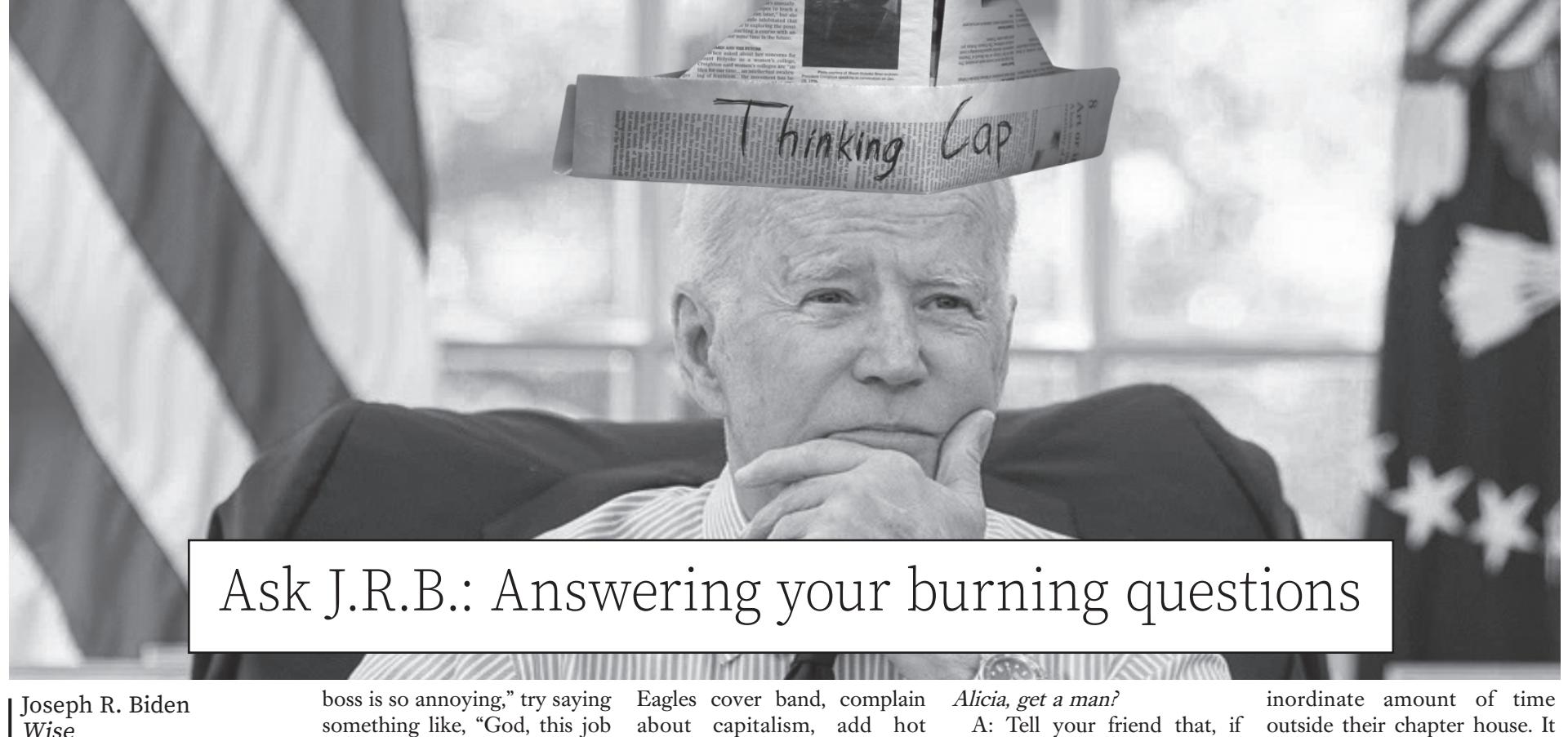
Members of the Solvang community have also commented on this takeover, and the perception that

they weren't previously part of America. Marcus Lee, a business owner that has been living in Solvang for 27 years gave a comment.

"I was born in Santa Barbara. I just sell pastries. The only real security initiative you can take in Solvang is protecting the ostriches from avian flu," Lee said.

The latest news emerging from the White House hints that Trump is said to be "taking a serious look" at Epcot's Norway Pavilion, which he has reportedly described as "probably Scandinavia's capital."

*Serrano Ham congratulates the president on his latest success.*



MADELINE BRYCE / DAILY NEXUS

## Ask J.R.B.: Answering your burning questions

Joseph R. Biden  
Wise

On our Instagram (8.2M followers, btw) we asked you if you needed any advice. As a California state-licensed therapist, bikini model and former U.S. President, who better to answer than I?

*Q: How do I seduce my coworker?*

A: The best way to seduce a coworker is to bond over your common trait: work. However, you must add a never-before-seen twist to complaining about work so that your coworker sees you as more than just a colleague.

Instead of saying, "ugh, our

boss is so annoying," try saying something like, "God, this job is so boring, I just want to kill you in cold blood and then myself." This will definitely get their attention and evoke a Romeo and Juliet-esque romantic tone.

*Q: What should I do post-grad?*

A: Some view post-grad as a time to take what they learned in college and get out into the world. Yet, a little known secret is that you can simply reincarnate as a freshman, just without the stress of classes.

Some activities that you can do as a post-grad in Isla Vista are as follows: move into a frat satellite house, start an

Eagles cover band, complain about capitalism, add hot freshmen on Snap and become a DoorDash driver.

When I.V. has everything you could ever want, why leave?

*Q: Where is the clit?*

A: Up the ass. Deep.

*Q: What should I have for lunch?*

A: Following the Center for Disease Control's new food pyramid guidelines, you should prioritize red meat in your lunch. Maybe you can copy what I had for lunch: one pound of lean ground beef, six scrambled egg whites, 12 ounces of raw milk and a fat cigarette.

*Q: How can my friend,*

*Alicia, get a man?*

A: Tell your friend that, if she wants a man, she must abide by the traditional norms of femininity. Everyone knows that men don't like women who talk too much, so tell her to quiet down.

She should take up hobbies such as cleaning up at parties in front of everyone before it's over for some reason, bragging about how she doesn't lift heavy at the gym and performatively drinking Miller Lite.

If that doesn't work, just go up to guys and grab their balls.

*Q: How do I date a DG girl?*

A: The best way to meet and court a lovely lady of Delta Gamma is to spend an

inordinate amount of time outside their chapter house. It would be ideal if you could get a job there, such as an arborist or window washer.

Some bored girl is bound to look out her window and watch you at work. Your mysterious work ethic will likely intrigue her and encourage her to ask you out.

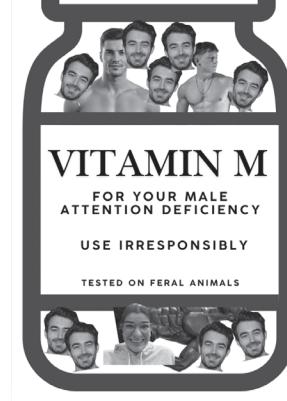
Also, take up looksmassing. Women these days, especially desirable ones, are really into guys who inject themselves with random peptides and obsess over their appearance.

*Joseph R. Biden is available for therapy booking sessions: \$700 per session.*

**Come to orientation**

**Jan. 21 & 22  
@6:30 p.m.**

**under Storke tower to join our staff!**



**HAS YOUR BED BEEN FEELING COLD RECENTLY?**



TAKE VITAMIN M FOR THE MALE ATTENTION MISSING IN YOUR LIFE.



SPONSORED BY UCSB WEALTH AND WELLNESS  
MADELINE BRYCE / DAILY NEXUS

**Sad about Deltopia being canceled?**

worry not,

**Deltopia in my bedroom tonigghtt!!**

When: dusk 'til dawn

Where: my room at 6769 El Nudo Ln

What: find out ;)

No one over 102 lbs, please.

# ON THE MENU



## The best cookie in I.V.: Sweet Pete's Treats



Pete pictured with one of his favorite cookies: s'mores.

Piper Cheney  
On The Menu Editor

Pete Smith, better known as "Sweet Pete" by Isla Vista locals, opened up a cookie shop in Sept. 2024. The shop is tucked inside one of I.V.'s most beloved restaurants: Sam's To Go. If you can't see it from the street, you can definitely smell it. Caramelizing brown sugar and sweet vanilla waft from Pete's oven down Pardall Road, luring in all who pass by.

Over a glass of beer and the noise of a football game blasting from the Sam's To Go TV, I asked Pete how he had ended up in I.V. His answer stretched back nearly 40 years. Although born and raised in San Jose, California, Pete considers Santa Barbara home. He attended UC Santa Barbara in 1987 and has thrived in the warm, intellectually stimulating environment ever since. He found his people on the I.V. cliffs; one of them being

Mehrdad Homayouni — the owner of Sam's To Go.

During his sophomore year, Pete worked as a delivery boy for Pacífico beer. One Halloweekend (one of the busiest weekends for I.V. businesses), he followed his routine drop-off of beer at Sam's To Go. The store was packed with thirsty college students. Mehrdad asked Pete to pour a few beers in return for a sandwich. As a college student, how could he refuse? Pete kept coming back to Sam's, drawn by Mehrdad's company and the free sandwiches. Pete went on to help Mehrdad organize invoices and accounting in his messy back office of the restaurant. The duo, 20-year-old Pete and 28-year-old Mehrdad, became friends quickly; they spent weekends together skiing in Mammoth and partying in Los Angeles. Pete was even around when Mehrdad met his wife and later attended their wedding. Nearly 40 years later, Pete's shop in Mehrdad's

storefront tells the story of their friendship.

Pete has not always been a baker. After graduating with an economics degree from UCSB, he went into real estate. Pete began baking around

**"Baking is something easy to do that creates a product everyone enjoys."**

PETE SMITH

this time, making mass amounts of cookies for work events. As Pete put it, "Baking is something easy to do that creates a product everyone enjoys." His coworkers loved the cookies, begging

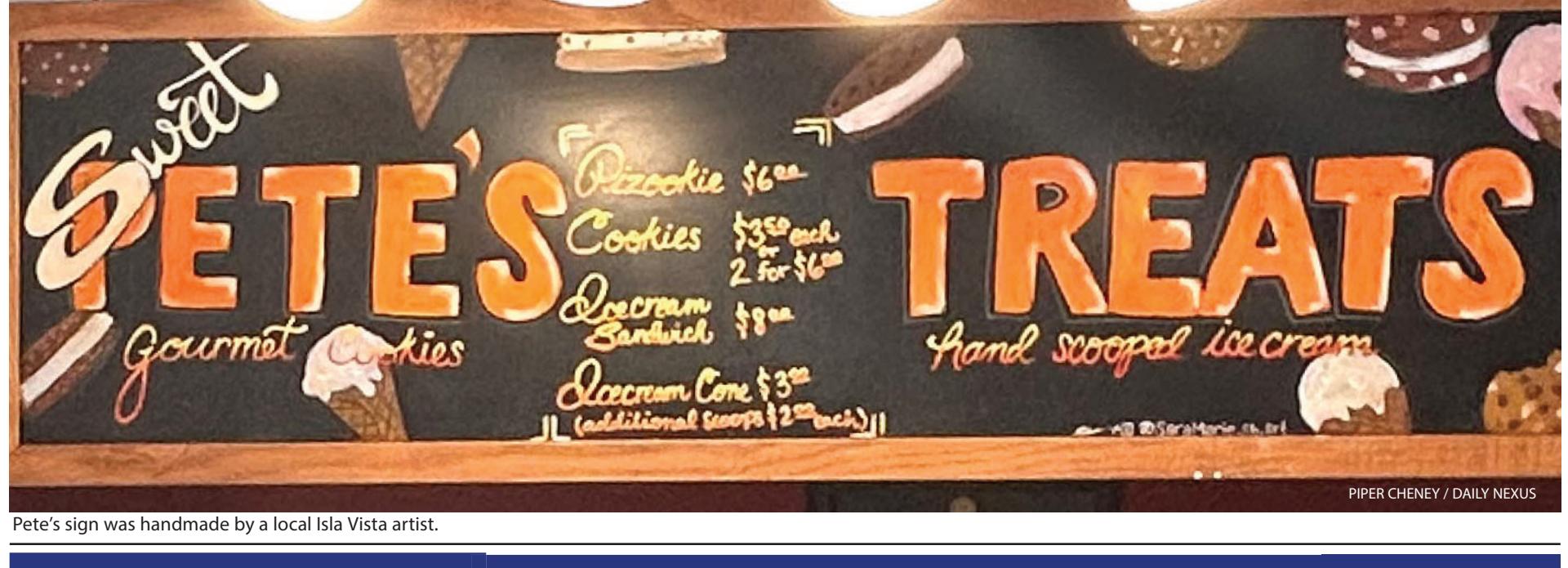
for more and requesting different flavors. So, after many evenings spent in his own kitchen and hundreds of cookie-flavor requests later, Pete officially ventured into the cookie business.

His shop, Sweet Pete's Treats, is best known for his unique flavors of cookies. Ranging from Mexican coffee to an Elvis-themed cookie (peanut butter, jelly and bacon), there's not much that Pete can't or won't do when it comes to experimenting with different flavors. You could come to his shop every day and never eat the same cookie twice — that's how often his flavors rotate. Don't be mistaken though, he can whip up a simple cookie with just as much talent. His classic chocolate chip and snickerdoodle cookies are some of his best-sellers.

Pete bakes his cookies throughout the day, everyday. He hand scoops each cookie with care, ensuring that each flavor can be noted and enjoyed by the customer. He

uses the highest quality butter and sugar, and never touches high fructose corn syrup or preservatives. The cookies are big: scooped at 3.5 ounces, and coming fresh out of the oven about 4 inches wide and 2 inches thick. Each cookie costs \$3, and adding a scoop of ice cream to make it a pizookie is just \$2 more. If that's not enough for your sweet tooth, order an ice cream sandwich: two warm cookies with a heaping amount of ice cream in between them.

Pete's end goal is to not only have the best cookie in I.V., but to help foster the student community in the neighborhood. He is still very involved in UCSB life; if he's not baking cookies in the shop, he's probably refereeing a UCSB basketball or volleyball game, or taking his nightly sunset walk down Del Playa. The next time you're walking home from class, follow the smell down Pardall Road for a cookie and stay for a conversation with Pete.



Pete's sign was handmade by a local Isla Vista artist.

## SANTA BARBARA AIRBUS

PREPAID FARES:  
\$55 EACH WAY  
REGULAR: \$65 EACH WAY



YOUR CONNECTION TO  
LAX



WWW.SBAIRBUS.COM

805-964-7759

### OPERATING SAFE AND CLEAN SERVICE

- MASKS REQUIRED -
- FILTERED AND TREATED AIR -
- INCREASED SANITIZATION -

### 16 TRIPS TO/FROM LAX DAILY

(PICK UP/DROP OFF STOPS IN GOLETA, SANTA BARBARA, AND CARP. TIMES BELOW SHOW GOLETA DEPARTURE)

**TO LAX:** 3:30AM, 5:30AM, 7AM, 8:30AM, 10AM, 12PM, 2:30PM, 6PM  
**FROM LAX:** 8AM, 10:30AM, 12:30PM, 2PM, 3:30PM, 5:30PM, 7:30PM, 10PM



# SCIENCE & TECH



## Accelerating into the new year: UCSB Sherwin Group's groundbreaking physics research



Courtesy of the Sherwin group

Graduate student Alex Giovannone from the Sherwin Group in front of particle accelerator housed at UC Santa Barbara

Rebecca Raymond  
Staff Writer

The physics department at UC Santa Barbara houses its own powerful particle accelerator that accelerates electrons to 99.4% of the speed of light. The roughly 10-meter tall accelerator is part of a free-electron laser (FEL) that produces powerful, terahertz pulses of light that the Sherwin Group uses to probe matter at its most fundamental level.

The UCSB research group has several ongoing projects testing current understanding of fundamental quantum physics in materials, as well as the dynamics of proteins at the molecular level. Their work has applications in quantum computing, biophysics, chemistry and future electronics technologies. The Sherwin Group's ability to produce short and powerful pulses in the terahertz range – a low frequency region of the electromagnetic spectrum – with their FEL sets their research apart and is instrumental to their ability to probe unique properties of materials.

A typical day of data taking

begins by starting up the FEL, using computers to remotely monitor its status until it is running optimally at the right power and frequency. Once the electrons are accelerated, they enter a part of the FEL called the laser cavity, where they are directed through a network of mirrors and magnets. As the electrons pass through strong magnetic fields, they oscillate back and forth generating powerful radiation in the terahertz frequency range.

"There are so many different factors that affect the components of the FEL," Juan Gaitan, a graduate student in the group, says, describing the typical process of setting up the FEL. "We need to tune it every day and every time, ensuring the power is correct, and depending on the experiment, we sometimes do cavity dumping." Cavity dumping is a way to let the power build up inside the laser cavity, rather than continually leaking out of the laser, and then releasing it to produce short, powerful pulses.

The powerful pulses allow the group to perform electron paramagnetic resonance spectroscopy, a method to probe electron spin properties. "We

are able to look at the magnetic moment of the electron," Alex Giovannone explains, another graduate student in the lab able to probe states with high resolution. Detecting signals from nuclear spin states is an established technology used in hospital MRI scans, however, detecting and understanding the signal from electron spin states is far more novel and not well understood: "Electrons are much more interactive with each other and with the environment, travelling together in clouds," Giovannone explains. "One of the things we want to do is study these complicated electronic states." The group already uses an extremely strong 12.5 Tesla magnet to probe these interesting states, and their new setup will go up to 16 Tesla, more efficiently making use of the FEL's capabilities.

The FEL's extremely rapid pulses also allow the group to measure electron excitations with "nanosecond lifetimes," which has important applications to quantum computing. A qubit – a fundamental unit of quantum information – must exist in a quantum state, exhibiting properties of superposition and

entanglement simultaneously, and maintain that state long enough to perform calculations. The time that a system is able to maintain quantum state is referred to as its lifetime, so measuring the "lifetime of excitations" in materials allows the group to meaningfully assess candidates for quantum computers.

One novel candidate is quantum spin liquids – spinons, which the group hopes to measure with their new spectrometer. "Not only is it a really interesting quantum state inside a material, it's also something whose lifetime has never been measured before," Gaitan clarifies. "Thanks to the FEL we are one of the only people in the world that could measure that once the spectrometer is built and ready."

Another important project the group is working on is high order sideband generation (HSG), which is a method to figure out how electrons behave in semiconductors. One laser is used to excite an electron, such that it moves from the valence band, where the electrons are still bonded – leaving an anti-electron hole in its place – to the higher energy conduction

band where electrons are free to move and conduct electricity. They can then "hit" the electron with a pulse from the FEL, giving the electron a high amount of energy and causing it to shoot in a trajectory along the conduction band. Once the electron loses energy, it returns to its original place in the valence band, annihilating with its antiparticle and producing light.

One unique ability of the Sherwin Group is to differentiate between the dynamics of the electron when it is excited versus when it is driven. "We use one laser to excite them, and one laser to drive them, so we can see specifically what the driving dynamics is," Gaitan shares, explaining the aspects of their HSG experiment that make it unique.

The superposition of paths the electron can take manifests as a spectrum of light emitted when the electron de-excites, separated by twice the terahertz frequency. "Each single emission is one different superposition of paths the electron took." They are able to tell the dynamics of the electron from its wavefunction as well as the time evolution of the system. "We are starting to do this in unknown materials, where you don't really know what the electron is going to do," Gaitan explains, suggesting the broader applications of HSG. "We are also able to tell how long electrons stay coherent. There are devices that manipulate these electron-hole pairs to do quantum computation, so measuring how long these electrons stay coherent tells us whether the material can be used."

The work of the Sherwin Group uniquely explores fundamental properties of materials, and their experiments and technology have the potential to be applied to a variety of disciplines, including quantum computing and biophysics. With the incredible power of the FEL, the Sherwin Group has a rare ability to probe fundamental properties of materials, advancing the current understanding of the theory behind electrons and matter at small scales.

Follow our

Instagram:

@dailynexusscitech



ETERNAL FLAME 2026

Honoring the Legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. & Coretta Scott King

MLK DAY

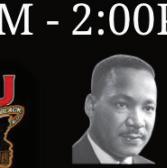
WALK

Hosted by the MLKSB Committee  
Organized by UCSB Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity

Meet at UCSB - Buchanan Hall Lawn

Thursday, Jan 15

12:00PM - 2:00PM



# ARTSWEEK



## geese: what is all the honking about?

Stella Mullin  
Artsweek Editor  
Jack Dindia  
Lead News Editor

### The formation of the flock

Geese: "a. Flock of Geese organized by Basketcase. b. Live in Los Angeles," so says my Geese baseball tee I got for Christmas. And not to be confused with the band, Goose.

It was a Friday night in Isla Vista, and my friends and I were at our first band show of the year. The Geese mania that has since taken over our college town were mere whisperings on that September evening, and after the show we hung around to talk to our friends in the band.

"Have you ever heard of Geese?" I remember someone asking. I wrote off the question pretty quickly — I knew their front man was Cameron Winter and his groovely voice, which I had given a try in the past, wasn't my favorite. And then two days later, my dad texted me telling me to listen to a band on the verge of exploding: Geese. So I caved and skipped through their most recent album, "Getting Killed" (released in late September 2025), until I found a song I liked. From that day on, I listened to "Au Pays du Cocaine" at every chance I got.

Winter (vocals), Emily Green (guitar), Max Bassin (drums) and Dominic DiGesu (bass) started playing together in 2016 as just another Brooklyn high school band rudely interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Before the world paused, and by the time they were 16, Geese had already independently released their first EP on Soundcloud (the album, "A Beautiful Memory" was taken off streaming platforms in 2020). Hoping to release another album before graduation and their predetermined dissolution and departure to college, the band wrote demos for "Projector" in late 2019 and early 2020.

Much darker than their earlier releases, "Projector" caught the eye, or in fact, ear, of Willie Upbin, an expectant graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and a soon-to-be scout for Atlantic Records. Upbin sent "Projector" to a lawyer who essentially guaranteed a record deal.

And from that, a bidding war began, popping Geese's private school bubble.

Winter told GQ magazine that he had the best April 2020 out of everyone. After signing with Partisan Records, "Projector" was officially released on Oct. 29, 2021, becoming the band's debut LP and establishing their indie, basement rock sound.

While they were on track to break up and go their separate, collegiate ways, Geese evidently stayed together and went on to release "3D Country" in June 2023, with a much lighter sound than "Projector." While "Projector" seemed to sink in the sea of Brooklyn post-punk bands, "3D Country" swam.

Following the story of a cowboy on psychedelics wandering through the desert, Geese completely pivots their sound to groovy beats with the favorite track being "Cowboy Nudes." It's hard to not hum the lyrics "Be my warrior/ just you and I" and scream "New York City/ Underwater" alone in the car.

"3D Country" flows through what seems to be an LSD trip, beginning with ridiculous lyrics, goofy, but catchy riffs and a lot of screaming. In the most simple description, the first four songs are chaotic. Toward the middle and end of the album, the tracks slow and long jams emerge, perhaps symbolic of a drug comedown.

While "3D Country" sparked attention, it was 2025's "Getting Killed" that skyrocketed the band into popularity — and is the likely reason for IV's next big obsession. It's an album that returns to this melting pot of genres — post-punk and art rock (a genre that blends rock with more classical music) — with youthful vocals and, again, chaos, earning them the title of "Gen Z's first great American rock band." It isn't hard to see that the album overflows with influences of The Velvet Underground, Pavement and Radiohead, especially in tracks like "Cobra" and "Au Pays du Cocaine."

"Getting Killed" was at the top of multiple best album lists of 2025 and would be a strong contender for the Grammy Album of the Year award, if only it had made the mid-2025 cutoff. Ultimately, it was the lyrics that

If the momentum continues, it has a shot at the 2026 Grammy cycle.

But, with all great bands on the rise, not everyone loves their sound. In an interview with Zane Lowe, Winter described his dad expressing concern over "Getting Killed," saying some tracks were assaulting the audience. I can only assume this was a nod toward the song "Trinidad," a four-minute song that screams "There's a bomb in my car."

In an online poll posted by the Daily Nexus, anonymous students voiced their opinions on the band. While the campus as a whole seems abuzz with the new musicians, none of the individual responses were positive.

"I don't understand the hype. The instrumentals are great but dear lord the vocals sound the same on every song: scratchy, too breathy, a bit incoherent at times. Giving male manipulator Taylor Swift. Nothing amazing, nothing new," one UCSB student said.

The fan base can be another issue, especially Geese's entanglement with the new "performative male" trope. Geese is now just another addition to the virality of men in Dr. Marten's, wearing cord headphones and carrying feminist books in canvas tote bags.

"Fans are annoying as hell. Cameron, I respect however," another UCSB student said.

### Are we thinking the same thing about Cameron Winter?

When Cameron Winter's solo album "Heavy Metal" released, my curiosity did not get the best of me. From my perspective, it was yet another sad and potentially nepotistic singer-songwriter coming from an indie band, and I immediately dismissed it as I figured it wouldn't offer anything unique.

Then, I heard the song "Drinking Age." I was immediately captivated by a lot of elements of the song, like the simple yet dramatic piano. But I wouldn't have stayed if it weren't for his voice: skilled enough to resemble Jeff Buckley, stylized enough to resemble Julian Casablancas, but unique enough to compare him to Tom Waits, or even Bob Dylan.

Ultimately, it was the lyrics that

made this song scratch me to my soul and made me meet who I was going to be: a Cameron Winter fan.

"Drinking Age" was a close second as my top played song of 2025. First place was Winter's most popular song, "Love Takes Miles," which speaks to my soul in a million ways. The song describes Winter feeling "Lonely as hell, walking around," looking for a lover to "make her watch the wind all night" and needing "somebody sent down from the sun that talks to me like you used to."

"Love Takes Miles" is the best example of what separates Winter's solo career from Geese; while it has traits that a Geese song would have (like a catchy melody), Winter's solo songs are noticeably more vulnerable, with lyrics that prioritize specific feelings opposed to telling a story.

The intro track, "The Rolling Stones," is the perfect opener to the album, both instrumentally and lyrically. At first, it doesn't make apparent sense: "I will keep breaking cups until my left hand looks raw / until my miracle drugs write the miracle song / Until the conga line behind me is a thousand chickens long."

My favorite part of the song is near the end, where he says "we will stand here / where we can see the pianos are landing on me and you," as he continues to repeat the simple yet romantic phrase, "me and you."

"The Rolling Stones" perfectly captures the essence of the album. The instrumentals are calm and folksy, the lyrics are profound yet abstract and, best of all, his singing is both soulful and distinctively unique.

Winter's songwriting gets the most ambitious on the later half of the album with the song "Nina + Field of Cops." This song has a lot going on; the piano is hectic, Winter is belting as always and while the lyrics can be

perceived as rambling, they set a scene of pure chaos. Certain nonsensical lines on the song, such as "tomatoes in the missing barrels all have met many-handed boys with laughing brains and know gorilla-fingered yapping dogs" could be confused with an abstract rapper such as MF DOOM, and lyrics like "motorcycle made of rocks eat this hotel key

and ride away" may turn away the average listener since it doesn't seem to make any sense.

However, I believe the nonsensical writing is one of Winter's strong suits. His voice is inherently gatekeep — anyone who is able to work past that likely already has a tolerance toward his more zany songwriting approach.

If I had to say one song that perfectly captures Winter's ability, I'd have to choose "Cancer of the Skull." While the track is sonically beautiful and showcases some of Winter's best singing, the lyrics continue to be a highlight. Lines such as "I buckled up for the fatal crash / took a bullet through the bulletproof glass" capture a distinct image which can still be up to interpretation.

A prevalent theme throughout "Heavy Metal," along with all of Winter's output, is theology. The song "\$0" is a prime example, where he wails at the climax of the song "God is real / I'm not kidding this time / God is actually real / I wouldn't joke about it / I'm not kidding this time." Winter has delved even further into this with his unreleased songs, with the songs "If You Turn Back Now," discussing the devil, and "LSD," where he makes one of his bolder religious statements: "Let's find the Lord and beat out everything that fucking bastard knows." Whether or not Winter is religious himself is up to interpretation. Winter has a lot on his plate. So far, he's been attached to two of the most critically acclaimed albums of the decade, and is currently on an unprecedented run of high-brow outputs, such as performing at Carnegie Hall and working with film director Paul Thomas Anderson. Whether he'll exceed these expectations is yet to be seen, but if Winter's proven anything, he's clearly got the ambition to become one of the great songwriters of our generation.

Winter was parodied on Saturday Night Live in early Dec. 2025 as part of their "Random Duet Christmas Spectacular," alongside skits of Bob Dylan, Katy Perry, Yoko Ono and Benson Boone. Geese is also set to appear on the weekend sketch comedy show on Jan. 24. Getting mocked on SNL — that has to be a sign they've made it.



SEETHA RAO / DAILY NEXUS

## 'MARTY SUPREME': a supreme contender in this year's award season

Tanner Perez  
Reporter

Despite being marketed as a ping-pong based, run-of-the-mill, "reach for the stars and fulfill your dreams" sports drama, "Marty Supreme" took audiences by surprise on Christmas Day when it turned out to be anything but, taking a more grounded yet exciting approach to a man's obsessive dream.

Directed by Josh Safdie in his solo directorial debut, after his split from his brother Benny (who directed this year's "The Smashing Machine"), the film and its thrilling narrative structure were no surprise to those already familiar with the Safdies.

The film can be seen as a spiritual successor to the Safdie Brothers' previous films, "Good Time" (2017) and "Uncut Gems" (2019). It follows the chaotic, sporadic, adrenaline-filled yet wildly entertaining downfall of a man, morally-questionable protagonist, whose only goal is to help himself. "Marty Supreme" can be seen as Safdie's magnum opus, following the ambitious dreams of a hustling ping-pong player who will stop at nothing to accomplish his obsessive goal of becoming a world famous table-tennis champion.

The film is loosely

based on the real-life story of Marty Reisman, a late 1950s table-tennis champion. Safdie, who received a copy of Reisman's autobiography as a gift from his wife, used the book as an inspiration, though it is important to note that the film is not a traditional biopic. Aside from the main character's name, passion and the use of the 1950s as a backdrop, "Marty Supreme" is an otherwise complete work of fiction.

Timothée Chalamet portrays Marty Mauser. Through his performance as the titular character, Chalamet delivers what might be his best performance, alongside his work in "Beautiful Boy" (2018). His extraordinary portrayal of the sneaky and conniving Marty Mauser is what pulls the entirety of "Marty Supreme" together.

Throughout its many narrative twists and turns, the film does not work without this masterclass of a performance that will surely earn Chalamet his third Academy Award nomination. However, the film and its chaotic energy does not work without Chalamet's supporting ensemble cast.

Odessa A'Zion plays Rachel Mizler, one of Chalamet's love interests and sidekick, a very complex character who makes catastrophic decisions that are just as integral to the plot as Mauser's, especially in the film's climax. Grammy Award winner Tyler, the Creator (Tyler Okonma) plays Wally, one of Mauser's friends. Despite being depicted as a lead in the trailers, Okonma actually has a relatively minor role in the film. Regardless, he is fun

to watch and delivers a fantastic film debut performance — his character crucial to the film's shocking progression.

Gwyneth Paltrow's portrayal of Kay Stone, a retired movie star from the 1930s and another one of Mauser's romantic interests, is one more of the film's notable highlights. She successfully captures the radiant energy of an Old Hollywood movie star, putting on a charming and breathtaking performance that reminds the audience of why we so needed Paltrow back in the (non-Marvel) movies after her own break from acting in 2019.

businessman and "Shark Tank" star Kevin O'Leary, who plays antagonistic Milton Rockwell. O'Leary portrays Paltrow's husband in the film, and a sort of nemesis to Marty. While O'Leary plays an imposing millionaire that may seem similar to his real-life self, for his feature film debut, he creates an incredibly intimidating villain.

As previously mentioned, "Marty Supreme" is not a success story; instead, it is simply about the pursuit of greatness and the gritty and unflinching exploration of obsession it takes to get there. We see Mauser go through complete and utter chaos for nearly two hours after the film's slow, albeit much needed, prologue. Yet after it all, Mauser still wants to follow this dream of his that nobody (not even his mother, played by Fran Drescher in a glorified cameo role) respects or encourages. We see how much this dream haunts him, and how he's willing to scheme to obtain the money that he needs to fulfill it, even if it means hurting those he seemingly cares about.

Through this aforementioned exploration of the cunning Marty Mauser and the film's superb pacing, Safdie creates an anxiety-driven take on 1950s New York through his

signature direction that is constantly throwing twists at the audience to keep them on their toes. This film is constructed through numerous subplots that don't have much connection to one another, each one reflecting a horrible decision made by Mauser that leads into the next.

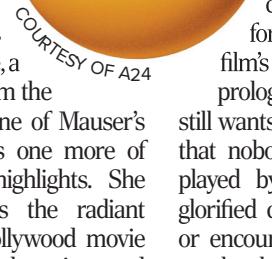
If you aren't a fan of Safdie's previous works, or his style of storytelling, or protagonists that commit heinous acts and are motivated solely by their own self gain, then "Marty Supreme" is likely not for you. It is not a story that should be reflective of your morals, nor should it be to function as amusement; instead, it's entertaining, and also quite thought-provoking from a step back.

The film is a chaotic blast from beginning to end. "Marty Supreme" is a fun, thrilling and nerve-wrecking time that makes for an incredible cinematic experience.

Rating: 10/10



COURTESY OF REUTHERS



COURTESY OF A24



COURTESY OF DEEPY PHOTO

# OPINION



## In defense of the performative male

Lucy Miller  
Reporter

A wired earbud set here, an unnecessarily annotated copy of "The Bell Jar" intentionally perched atop a coffee shop table there and maybe even a Letterboxd account — all tell-tale signs that an individual is what the internet has dubbed "performative." A couple trend cycles ago, all of these objects and actions would have been genuinely unique and maybe even a little bit cool. But now to many, they are just a repurposed and repackaged copy of someone else's individualism.

It's understandable why these characters receive some not-so-stellar comments online. We are all trying to develop a genuine, but cool and unique version of ourselves organically, and to see someone try to replicate what we like and use it to be "posers" can be upsetting. Especially when that usage is just to attract girls, as is the case for many of the "performative males" who practice this strategy, in my opinion. Although being performative sounds negative, even down to the connotation of the word, this trend has spurred an increase in unapologetic self expression and comfortability in presenting against social norms. It feels like society is moving miles away from acceptance and tolerance across the board, but being able to be performative serves as an anchor for unique gender expression and going against the status quo.

There's no clear definition for what makes one "performative," but the umbrella trait to look for is doing activities and interests loudly in public and online for attention. "Performative-ness"

can be found in the person who boasts about thrifting or listening to a niche artist with a small monthly listener count on Spotify. In a sillier — and more relevant example — a performative individual may be someone who owned a Labubu, or specifically those who brag about their interest in artists with predominantly female-leaning audiences like Clairo or beabadoobee.

These individuals' attempts at garnering attention may have been

of identity, intention, and cultural signaling." It has unintentionally redefined what would once be an embarrassing practice in masculine culture as normal — at least if it's in the pursuit of women. It has normalized those practices outside of romantic "wooing" as well!

This epidemic has done good in other spheres as well, normalizing traditionally masculine traits for women. It can be seen in the "performative masc" lesbian competitions that took college



MICHELLE WU / DAILY NEXUS

successful at first, but now have been universally mocked. Upon further examination though, this annoying joke and trend is normalizing traditionally feminine traits and activities to a masculine audience. Almost everything that makes a man performative is related to femininity: the aforementioned pastel-colored Labubus used as bag charms tie them to femininity. The fact that these traits are being intentionally practiced by men online, albeit sometimes ironically and as a joke, further normalizes those traits and helps shift culture away from the hyper-masculine and regressive streak it has been down recently.

Luxury personal stylist Amanda Massi called the trend "a fascinating intersection

campuses by storm for a significant amount of time. Entire events and contests being formed around uniqueness and going against the norm promote normalization and excitement for those traits.

For these major reasons and also for giving myself and many others a laugh along the way, this trend seems to have been a net positive, even if it caused some unnecessary discourse between the "real fans" and "performatives." However, it's an uncomfortable possibility that for traits out of the norm to be accepted, they had to be hailed as a joke first. In this political and cultural climate, this isn't a shock at all.

Radical conservatism is on the rise in young men, aided by

shock value and controversial figures online and in the media. A shift that was undoubtedly aided as well by the election of the Trump administration. Hyper-conservative groups, like the "Groypers" and other contingents online, that promise they are even more nationalistic than President Donald Trump are in direct opposition to the kind of progressive expression that this trend has spurred. Young men have been made to feel that expressing femininity or even emotion mark them as weak, and the rhetoric that

young women are inferior to men has been more common than ever.

Social media, the same space where alternative and progressive groups have been able to be validated through this trend, has also become starkly more conservative evident by a 4,600% increase in mentions of the terms "your body, my choice" and "get back in the kitchen" on X in response to a tweet made by the "Groypers" leader Nick Fuentes. This movement has recently become even more outspoken following the death of Charlie Kirk.

It is evident more than ever that modern rhetoric and regressiveness is taking a toll on young people and this, admittedly silly, trend has fought a hard battle against the status quo that seems undefeatable to many. Something as "stupid" or "annoying" as flexing your passion for matcha or hosting fun competitions that reward those who are the most different can serve as shelter for the community and tolerance that is so under fire.

*Lucy Miller thinks everything online is deeper than it seems when viewed with a trained, chronically-online eye.*

## Sleep or study, and the big "If?"

Vida Wisham  
Reporter

My eyes started to flutter with a heavy weight as the clock kept ticking next to me. I scribbled as fast as I could, trying to complete a few more problems before I went to bed so that I'd be ready for my test the next day. My mom would come into my room if she knew that I was up late, and she would tell me that it wasn't worth studying unless I went to bed soon. But, I always would have that small thought in the back of my head — if I stayed awake just a little longer, I would be more prepared. Little did I know, those few minutes to even hours that I used to spend studying would be for nothing if I didn't get enough sleep.

If you aren't aware of the current or past hours of the library, UC Santa Barbara's Library used to be open 24/7. However, on Sept. 25, the UCSB Library announced cuts would be made to library hours due to "significant, permanent budget reductions," moving hours of operation to being from 8 a.m. to 1 a.m.

On Oct. 24, 2025, however, the hours were extended to 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. on weekdays, and 10 p.m. to 3 a.m. for UCSB students and faculty only from Sunday to Thursday. In addition, the Associated Students Senate has allocated funds to keep the library open 24/7 during finals week and "dead week," probably the most important time to have that resource.

At the moment, I've seen a lot of uproar coming from students on social media about the updated hours of the library this year. The hours went from being open 24 hours to reduced hours, to revised extended hours, and it seems that with these changes, the school is still not completely settled on how long the library should stay open. Though I

sometimes do really need a late-night study sesh, reduced library hours could be a good idea, as it will potentially help people prioritize sleep over late-night studying. The extra extension to 3 a.m. should be plenty of time for students, as it makes sure that people are not out studying all through the night. Not only that, but it could also decrease procrastination for getting work done.

We often don't prioritize sleep enough as we should. Whether it comes to being up late and studying, or even staying up to just watch a movie, that time taken out of your sleep schedule impacts you. Sleep helps your brain form or maintain pathways that allow you to create new memories and learn, but when you don't have enough sleep, it's a lot harder to concentrate and form quick responses. This essentially means you lose some key skills when you go about your day on minimal sleep, especially while in school.

There have been many different studies done to see the connection between sleep and academic performance, including the study: "Should I study or should I go (to sleep)?" It explored how the number of hours spent sleeping the night before a test influences a student's academic performance. The results from both samples in this study indicate that sleep duration relates to test scores. In general, it has been found that sleep is also related to a student's mental health, overall affecting their well-being.

Comparably, psychologists at Kent State University Marissa K Hartwig and John Dunlosky, used a survey to find if "self-testing and scheduling are related to achievement." They found that more than half of the participants often cram all their studying in a short period of time right before the test, usually

forgoing sleep with generally no benefits to how they performed on the test.

I am no stranger to giving up sleep in order to study more for a test. However, I have learned that when I do this, the next day I have a harder time focusing and even remembering what I had learned the night before. Now, I'll always be an advocate for briefly looking over materials before bed — a nice little skim I can sleep on — a method ensuring that I'll have a full night's rest.

Unless it's a certain instance of knowing absolutely nothing for the test the next day, which can happen every once in a while, I think that putting sleep first will overall be the most beneficial choice for students. It may be hard with the thoughts of "if I just stay up a little longer," but when students stay up just a little longer, they are potentially doing more harm than good.

Because of this important emphasis on sleep, I believe that the new library hours are perfect. Even if you do have to stay up studying later or want to wake up earlier to study, I think that 7 a.m. to 3 a.m. should be plenty of time for you to get your studying done, while also getting more rest. The library being open 24/7 promotes the idea of studying all throughout the night if needed, but does not send the message that students should be prioritizing their sleep over study.

Not only this, but I am probably not the only victim to the constant procrastination of homework and studies; I am even writing this right now instead of working on my sociology reading. However, closing the library earlier will help students, including myself, make sure that they start working earlier so students don't end up without time to work. An earlier closing

would subconsciously tell me: "Okay, maybe it's time for bed," which is overall beneficial for two reasons — I hold off on procrastinating and I can get to bed earlier.

When the library is open all day and night, it allows students to procrastinate until the last possible minute. That can be okay on occasion, but it very quickly can become a recurrence and a habit. In an article from Deconstructing Stigma, "Why We Procrastinate: The Psychology of Putting Things Off," it talks about how people often procrastinate because they think it will make them feel better in the short term. However, it often actually gives a person more stress in the long term. "Should I study or should I go (to sleep)?" also highlights how people aren't getting enough sleep not only because they're staying up late studying, but also from stress.

So, imagine the added stress of having both procrastinated studying for a test, and then also having a little amount of time to sleep. Hopefully, having to go home to rest earlier, because the library is closed, will put an end to both of these problems.

Many people may argue against the library closing because those late-night study sessions can feel beneficial. But my question is, is it actually benefiting you? The occasional late-night study may be okay, but when you have that option every day it can become a bad habit. Full 24/7 access to the library during finals is probably the most important time in the school year to have it, and that hasn't been taken away. All in all, these new hours are still convenient, if not even more beneficial in the long run.

*Vida Wisham loves a nice long snooze the night before an exam and will not be caught in the library past 1 a.m.*

## HOROSCOPES

The signs as performative accessories

ARIES

MARCH 21 - APRIL 19

Pretending to play the guitar

TAURUS

APRIL 20 - MAY 20

Labubu on a carabiner

GEMINI

MAY 21 - JUNE 20

Listening to Clairo

CANCER

JUNE 21 - JULY 22

Quarterzips

LEO

JULY 23 - AUGUST 22

Posting your Spotify Wrapped on your Instagram story

VIRGO

AUGUST 23 - SEPTEMBER 22

Wired headphones

LIBRA

SEPTEMBER 23 - OCTOBER 22

Tote bags

SCORPIO

OCTOBER 23 - NOVEMBER 21

Matcha from Community Goods

SAGITTARIUS

NOVEMBER 22 - DECEMBER 21

Reading a book on public transit

CAPRICORN

DECEMBER 22 - JANUARY 19

Tattoos and nose ring combination

AQUARIUS

JANUARY 20 - FEBRUARY 18

Doc Martens and ruffle socks

PISCES

FEBRUARY 19 - MARCH 20

Arc'teryx beanie