

Associated Students, local organizations advocate for immigrant rights

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The UC Santa Barbara Associated Students hosted a "Protect Your Peers" week to raise awareness and provide resources on the rights of undocumented and international communities.

Rapid response training

Associated Students (A.S.) collaborated with 805 UndocuFund, a non-profit organization that supports undocumented communities in the 805 area code, to host a second Immigration and Customs Enforcement (I.C.E.) rapid response training on Jan. 12. The first training was held last November and saw around 100 attendees, while the more recent training saw over 200 attendees.

805 UndocuFund created the 805 Rapid Response Network (RRN) last January and operates across Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo and Ventura counties.

805 RRN organizers Joseph Dobzynski Jr. and Cesar Vasquez presented the training, each speaking on different aspects of the skills and requirements to become a volunteer. Vasquez opened the event by acknowledging attendees' motivations for attending the event, including the Jan. 7 killing of Renee Good — an American citizen — by an I.C.E. agent, as well as the recent rainy weather in the local area.

Vasquez emphasized that there have been a total of 1,430 confirmed detentions by I.C.E. across Ventura, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties in the past 13 months.

Following this, Vasquez and Dobzynski covered the pillars of the organization — mutual aid, community outreach and rapid response — which encompasses the different roles volunteers can take on.



Several events were held during Week 2 of winter quarter to bring awareness and provide resources on the rights of the undocumented and international communities.

For those interested in providing mutual aid, Dobzynski and Vasquez said volunteers can donate to emergency assistance funds and participate in fundraising events.

"Rapid response is so beautiful because it shows us that all we need is each other. When I'm out there patrolling in Santa Barbara, I see more patrollers from the rapid response network than I see mobile law enforcement," Vasquez said. "I see more orange bandanas and I see more orange hats than I do law enforcement. It just shows us how beautiful and how much power our community holds."

Following this, Dobzynski and Vasquez highlighted practices for volunteers in the situation they encounter I.C.E. They specifically emphasized understanding the individuals' rights, including refusing to sign documents or open the door for agents. People may refer to "Know Your Rights" cards for a condensed version of legal rights when encountering I.C.E.

Vasquez concluded the event by sharing his personal experiences since becoming an RRN organizer.

"I've had to comfort fathers to come to terms with the fact that they will

never see their six-year-old daughter, eight-year-old son and pregnant wife because they were all deported," Vasquez said. "Now, the peace and comfort that America has been bred to crave is the reason over 1,430 families have been separated across the Central Coast."

Student attendees said that after attending the training, they felt more empowered in understanding their rights and the skills needed to protect undocumented communities.

"I think I felt a little bit powerless beforehand. I didn't know what to be looking for and what my rights were in that situation," third-year environmental studies major Mya Aldrich said. "It was super helpful to see an actual warrant, and [understand] when you have the right to refuse them."

Third-year biology major Veronica Goetz said she decided to attend the event because she believes that the rights of undocumented communities have "always been a relevant issue." Goetz said she felt especially worried about current events after studying abroad in Australia and taking a course on genetics and biopower.

"The current administration's roll back on rights specifically in California

— targeting those who just look Latino or Latina — it's truly horrifying," Goetz said. "It is just something that, when I was talking about with a professor in the University of Melbourne, who said, 'This is one of the first steps, but one of the strongest steps that we've seen, to move towards a eugenics campaign.'"

Know your rights and legal resources workshop

A.S. hosted a "Know Your Rights & Legal Resources" workshop at the Student Resource Building on Jan. 13. The workshop was presented by the Undocumented Student Services and the Office Of International Students & Scholars (OISS).

The event began with a presentation by Yoxira Espinoza, the UC Immigrant Legal Services Center's staff attorney for UCSB. Espinoza stated that the information provided is for educational purposes only and is not legal advice.

Espinoza began by emphasizing that everyone has rights regardless of citizenship status under the U.S. Constitution. She highlighted the fourth, fifth and sixth amendments.

"You do have the right to refuse to consent to a search of yourself, your car and your home. You have the right to remain silent, and you do have the

right to a lawyer if you're arrested and can ask for one immediately. Regardless of your immigration or citizenship status," Espinoza said.

Espinoza provided context for when it is important to know your rights and clarified what is classified as unconstitutional I.C.E. activity.

She presented the differences between a judicial warrant, which is signed by a judge, and an immigration warrant, which has the authorization to detain an immigrant. She also stressed the importance of differentiating the two.

Espinoza explained that an I.C.E. warrant does not permit an agent to enter a home without consent from someone living in the residence. In workplaces, an agent can only enter areas permitted to the public without a judicial warrant or employer consent.

Espinoza also clarified that the UC's lack the authority to prohibit I.C.E. agents from entering a campus. Therefore, on any UC campus, agents can only enter areas open to the public.

The presentation then shifted focus to action plans. Espinoza explained the "best practices" if an individual is arrested by I.C.E., which includes the right to remain silent.

"They have the burden to establish that you are removable and should be sent back to your country," Espinoza said. "So don't give them any evidence or information."

She also suggested not resisting arrest or running and not to sign anything or make any decisions without an attorney.

Espinoza concluded her presentation by clarifying what happens when someone is detained by I.C.E. She explained that you can find where someone is being held with the I.C.E. Online Detainee Locator System by using their A-number, which is used to identify someone within the immigration system. She also stressed that sometimes people

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A.S. Bike Committee secures funding for ILP bike path

Wynne Bendell
University News Editor

The Associated Students Bike Committee secured approximately \$1.4 million for the construction of a bike path between the Interactive Learning Pavilion and the UC Santa Barbara Library, with a tentative opening of Fall 2026.

The Interactive Learning Pavilion (ILP) opened in spring 2023 and was constructed on top of an existing bike path, leaving the area without one. The ILP's original construction plans included a bike path and a designated bike parking lot, neither of which were built. In order to bike around the ILP, students are currently forced to ride on UCen Road, sharing the road with cars.

Since the ILP opened, the Associated Students Bike Committee (ASBC) has been in numerous conversations with University administrators advocating for a bike path, citing student safety concerns. ASBC Co-Chair and fourth-year geography and sociology double major Anthony Woo said the University agreed to construct the bike path over a year ago, but knew it would be "a really long process to actually make it happen."

In January 2025, the ASBC began designing the ILP bike path and garnering support for the path's construction. The path's design was hand-drawn by Design, Facilities & Safety Services Architect and Program Manager Ernest Knapp and finalized by the Stantec and True Nature Landscape Architecture.

The ASBC is contributing around \$920k to the costs and

the final third is coming from the chancellor's office. The ASBC receives funding from a lock-in fee, which Woo says the committee saves and rolls over specifically for large infrastructure projects, like the bike path.

The path's plan includes two roundabouts, one near the MultiCultural Center and the other by the current ILP bike parking lot. The path will run along the south side of the corridor between the library and ILP where there are currently planters, so the width of the walking path will be unchanged.

While there's no definite timeline, the ASBC is hopeful that construction will begin this summer on June 15 and be open for use on Sept. 15. Once constructed, the ASBC anticipates that thousands of students will utilize the path every weekday.

With funding and construction plans secured, the ASBC is working toward its next big infrastructure project: the construction of a bike path from the upcoming San Benito Housing Project to the Social Sciences & Media Studies building.

Woo said that beyond large infrastructure projects, the ASBC is committed to bike safety education on campus and making sure the demands of students are heard.

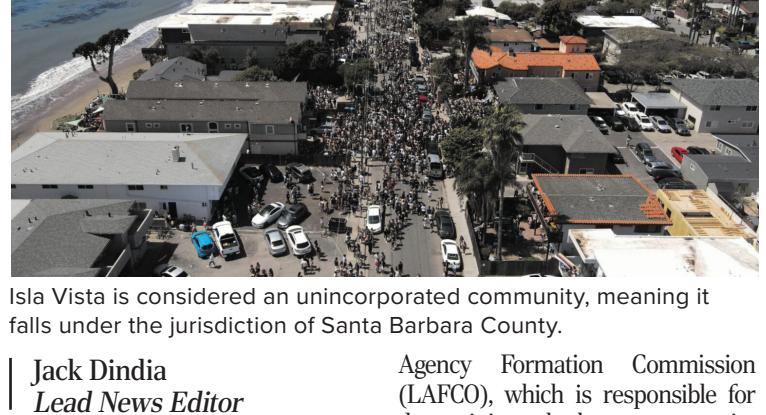
"All we really want is to make sure that the interest of our entire student population is carried forward to the planners and the administrators who come to our meeting so they can carry that forward to whoever they need to," ASBC Education and Outreach Chair and fourth-year geography major Rita Kharadjian said.



COURTESY OF A.S. BIKE COMMITTEE

A preliminary drawing of the ILP bike path.

Isla Vista unincorporated: the community's fight for cityhood



Isla Vista is considered an unincorporated community, meaning it falls under the jurisdiction of Santa Barbara County.

Jack Dindia
Lead News Editor

Given Isla Vista's recent lack of autonomy in the noise ordinance for Deltopia, community members have revived conversations surrounding Isla Vista's status as an unincorporated community. There have been many attempts to achieve cityhood for Isla Vista throughout its history, which some stakeholders believe may be the best option for the community to prosper.

A community is considered "unincorporated" if it does not have a local government. Instead, Isla Vista has the Isla Vista Community Services District (IVCSD), which serves as a form of self-governance where elected members handle basic services provided by the county's government. However, community service districts (CSDs) only have the power to control services such as water, street lighting and sanitation, whereas the county is responsible for policing, zoning and road maintenance, among others.

An uphill battle for self-governance

Residents of IV. have advocated for cityhood for over 50 years. The Local

Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO), which is responsible for determining whether a community can become a city, rejected three separate requests for cityhood election throughout the 1970s and '80s due to insufficient tax revenue to support the costs of running a city.

Self-governance for IV. was once again discussed after Goleta acquired cityhood in 2001. Mark Chaconas, former executive assistant for then LAFCO Commissioner Gail Marshall, believed IV. would grant Goleta greater state funding due to the community's dense population, with a 10-year surplus of \$705 million if IV. was excluded and \$40.13 million if it was included.

However, former LAFCO Staff Executive Officer Bob Braitman said IV. represented a community with a "separate identity and different issues" from Goleta, justifying its exclusion from cityhood. Additionally, many Goleta citizens were against including IV. with Goleta due to its voting power and "broadly liberal base," ultimately resulting in IV. being omitted from Goleta's cityhood.

I.V. unincorporated p.6

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

Jack Dindia
Lead News Editor

Los Curanderos hosts fundraiser
Los Curanderos, a multicultural pre-health program, is hosting a fundraiser on Thursday, Jan. 22, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Lot 22 Lawn.

"Vendors will be displaying their creations in efforts to fundraise for Los Curanderos," the poster reads.

OISS hosts 'English Conversation Club'

The Office of International Students & Scholars (OISS) is hosting "English Conversation Club, Class Meeting with Lisa" on Thursday, Jan. 22, from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Student Resource Building Room 1103.

"Participants have the opportunity to practice and improve their English language skills while gaining insights into American culture through interactive discussions and activities," the Shoreline description read. "Whether through group conversations, cultural exchanges, or community-building activities, this club serves as a vibrant hub for enriching cross-cultural dialogue and building meaningful connections."

TSC hosts 'How to Navigate Student Housing'

The Transfer Student Center (TSC) is hosting "How to Navigate Student Housing" on Thursday, Jan. 22, from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Kerr Hall 1120.

Key topics include reviewing housing resources in Isla Vista, student housing application assistance and information on the Rapid Rehousing Program, according to the Shoreline description.

GSA hosts Karaoke Night

The Graduate Student Association (GSA) is hosting a karaoke night on Thursday, Jan. 22, from 6-9 p.m. at the GSA Lounge on the 2nd floor of the University Center, above the MultiCultural Center.

"Whether you're a shower singer or a rock star, come as you are — just good vibes and good company!" the Shoreline description read.

Food and drinks will be provided for attendees.

RCSGD hosts 'Gender Empowered Mutuals Group'

The Resource Center for Sexual and Gender Diversity (RCSGD) is hosting "Gender Empowered Mutuals (GEMs) Group" on Friday, Jan. 23, from 12-1 p.m.

"Gender exploration & discussion space facilitated by UCSB's Health Equity Advocate & RCSGD's Assistant Director of Student Support & Advocacy!" the Shoreline description read.

Students can register for the event via a Google Form.

Art, Design & Architecture Museum hosts 'Between Refuge and Refuse'

Art, Design & Architecture Museum is hosting "Between Refuge and Refuse: Rethinking Refugee Environments" on Friday, Jan. 23, from 1:30-3 p.m. in the Social Science and Media Studies Room 4315.

"The panelists will discuss our responses to the Tiffany Chung exhibit Indelible Traces (on view at the UCSB ADA Museum), the genesis of the special issue on refugee/refuse, and our questions and reflections on framing new directions for the intersections of critical refugee studies, environmental studies, and Indigenous studies," the Shoreline description read.

Department of Recreation hosts 'Get Home Safe'

The Department of Recreation is hosting "Get Home Safe: Self-Defense and Danger Awareness Workshop" on Saturday, Jan. 24, from 12-1:30 p.m. in the Robertson Gymnasium.

"This comprehensive 90-minute workshop is designed to equip participants with the essential mental and physical skills needed to manage personal safety

proactively. Taught by . . . experienced instructors Amber Paresa and Maurice Moreno, the course moves beyond purely physical techniques to focus on prevention and de-escalation," the Shoreline description read.

The workshop costs \$75 for students and \$80 for non-students.

UCSB Sustainability hosts 'Fairy Garden Workshop'

UCSB Sustainability is hosting "Fairy Garden Workshop" on Sunday, Jan. 25, from 2-3 p.m. at the Methodist Church on 892 Camino Del Sur.

"Join us while we create miniature homes at the Methodist Community Garden for our neighborhood fairies, gnomes, and other small magical creatures. This is an event for folks of all ages," the Shoreline description read.

Health & Wellness hosts 'Body Project'

Health & Wellness is hosting "Body Project: Women's & Feminine Experiences" on Monday, Jan. 26, from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

"The Body Project is a 4-week small group body acceptance program that provides a forum for women to confront unrealistic beauty ideals and engage in the development of healthy body image.

This program has been found to improve body satisfaction, reduce the risk for eating disorders, and improve school and social functioning," the Shoreline description read.

Students can register for the event via Shoreline.

ONDAS Student Center hosts 'Pizza and Knowledge'

Opening New Doors to Accelerating Success (ONDAS) is hosting "Pizza and Knowledge: New Year, New You, Navigating Academic Difficulty" on Monday, Jan. 26, from 3-4:30 p.m. at Kerr Hall 1120.

"Join fellow First-Gen Letters & Science Academic Advisor who will provide guidance about Academic Notice, navigating your academic situation, and help you develop a plan for moving forward," the Shoreline description read.

IHC hosts screening of 'Springsteen: Deliver Me From Nowhere'

The Interdisciplinary Humanities Center (IHC) is hosting a screening of "Springsteen: Deliver Me From Nowhere" on Monday, Jan. 26, from 8-10:10 p.m. in Theater and Dance West 1701.

"Bruce Springsteen's journey crafting his 1982 album Nebraska, which emerged as he recorded Born in the USA with the E Street Band. Based on Warren Zanes' book," the Shoreline description read.

The screening is free for students and \$6 for community members.

RCSGD hosts 'Rainbow Recharge'

RCSGD is hosting "Rainbow Recharge" on Tuesday, Jan. 27, from 3-5 p.m. at the RCSGD lounge.

"Drop in to meet with RCSGD's Assistant Director of Student Support & Advocacy! Restore yourself with some delicious snacks, relaxation skills, and a calming study space open to all students!" the Shoreline description read.

ASUCSB Staff hosts 'A.S. Journalism Workshops'

Associated Students (A.S.) UCSB Staff is hosting "A.S. Journalism Workshops: Media Law & Ethics—Holding the Powerful Accountable" on Tuesday, Jan. 27, from 4-5 p.m. in the KCSB Newsroom under Stork Tower.

"Familiarizing yourself with the standards of law and ethics for American journalists is crucial to building the courage to report accountability stories that are essential to any functioning democracy," the Shoreline description read. "You will learn best practices on vetting sources through sound reporting and fact-checking, and how to fight the spread of misinformation."

A week in UC student news

Michelle Cisneros
Lead News Editor

UC workers' unions announce strike vote

Three unions representing workers across the University of California announced an upcoming strike authorization vote on Jan. 12. The United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 4811, Research and Public Service Professionals-UAW and Student Services and Academic Professionals-UAW will vote Feb. 5-13.

A joint Instagram announcement alleged that the UC has "chosen to break the law and commit unfair labor practices" while bargaining for new contracts.

"It's time to show UC management that their unlawful behavior won't be tolerated, and that we're each ready to take collective action to defend our university, our rights, and our future," the post read.

In response, the UC released a statement saying it was "disappointed" by the announcement of the strike vote. The statement also included a new contract proposal, including a visa consultation fund and a wage

proposition that aligns the monthly salary scales for teaching assistants and graduate student researchers.

"We strongly disagree with UAW's characterization that the University is bargaining in bad faith or acting unlawfully, and we remain committed to complying with all legal obligations, bargaining in good faith, and reaching a fair and timely agreement," the statement read.

UCSD researchers aim to reduce liver transplant shortage

A team of specialists at UC San Diego is developing a process to create "made-to-order" livers for transplants. According to a UC press release, the process "could offer a safe, scalable alternative to transplantation" that removes the need for donor organs and anti-rejection drugs.

The 3D-bioprinted livers will be created using the patient's own cells. In 2016, UCSD nanoengineering professor Shaochen Chen and his team created lifelike human liver tissue.

They will soon attempt to bioprint a life-sized transplantable liver. If successful, the process may help patients on the transplant waiting list.

"UC San Diego is uniquely positioned to lead this kind of work," Chen said in the release. "We have a top-ten engineering school and a world-class medical school right across campus. We have a highly collaborative culture, which makes it easy to bring engineers, clinicians and biologists together to tackle a problem of this scale."

Deceased person found near UC Berkeley housing

A body was found near UC Berkeley's Clark Kerr Campus on Jan. 14. According to reporting by the Daily Californian, police are investigating the "unattended death," meaning the body was found alone.

The body was found in the Claremont Canyon Regional Preserve, approximately one mile from the Clark Kerr student housing complex, which is about six blocks from Berkeley's main campus.

At around 8 a.m. that morning, the campus community received an alert to avoid the campus volleyball courts due to police activity. No other information on the investigation was available as of the publishing of the Daily Californian's article.

The Daily Nexus Crossword



Sanchita Koppa
Games Contributor

Across

- Paired with 13 across; maternal unit
- Currently on the fifth edition; diagnostic criteria
- To wow
- Sky security, but not for birds
- Courtesy, but a bow
- Paired with 1 across; paternal unit
- A group; a verb used on the noun (same word)
- To gently be pulled, usually to sleep
- Third syllable in the solfège system
- Long, yet glib, persuasive speeches
- A single chip that is a combination of a CPU and GPU
- An anti-princess legume

23. The baby attached to a tower

27. "Puedo ___ al baño?"

28. Famous villainous Cecaelian sea

witch

29. Landry, of "Heated Rivalry" fame

31. Unincorporated U.S. territory

in the Caribbean; also for media

damage control

32. "Ooh, ___"; about a near miss

34. Bro, reversed

36. ___ Moore, the second Black

woman to win Miss USA

37. Layer underneath turf

38. The state of the Big Apple

6. A highly skilled person in their field

7. Whispers of the heart

8. Slimy snakes

10. "Rolling in the Deep" artist

12. Short for "What's Up"

14. Advertisement on discount and deals, reversed

15. To intensify excitement, potentially in a rivalry

17. Hansen's disease, colloquially

21. Feline motor sounds

24. A magical Selena Gomez's surname

25. Chess rating system

26. Alternatively, a push pin

27. Could be dramatic or tragic, usually a bit humorous

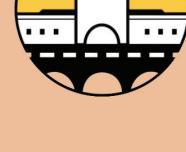
30. A watery third letter

33. Glass in glasses; ___ in lens(es)

35. "Cross your t's, dot your ___"

Down

- ___ Gras
- Zidovudine (a drug used to treat HIV/AIDS), abbreviated
- Many Apple pencils
- Degree after a bachelor's of science (not a PhD)



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Local Crime Updates

Antisemitic vandalism at Jewish fraternity

Levi Kauffman
Assistant News Editor

Alpha Epsilon Pi, a Jewish fraternity in Isla Vista whose members include UC Santa Barbara students, was targeted by an incident of antisemitic vandalism on Jan. 10.

According to reporting by the Jewish News Syndicate, the morning after a "social event," fraternity members discovered a swastika drawn with shaving cream on a bathroom mirror after two individuals broke into a private residence where several fraternity members live. According to a post on X from the Anti-Defamation League, this is at least the fourth time since November that the fraternity chapter and its members have been targeted by antisemitism.

Alpha Epsilon Pi did not respond to requests

for comment.

According to a Jan. 13 campus-wide statement from UCSB Chancellor Dennis Assanis, the incident has been reported to local law enforcement, as well as UCSB's Title IX Compliance & Discrimination and Harassment Prevention Office. Assanis said the University "condemns and stands united against antisemitism and any form of discrimination, intimidation, or harassment."

This incident follows other reports and allegations of antisemitism related to UCSB. In May 2024, a federal civil rights complaint was filed against UCSB for allegedly allowing antisemitic harassment against then Associated Students President Tessa Veksler. Veksler is now suing the University for allegedly failing to protect her from antisemitic attacks.

Isla Vista resident arrested on child sexual abuse material charges

Michelle Cisneros
Lead News Editor

The Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office arrested a 19-year-old Isla Vista resident on a misdemeanor charge related to child sexual abuse material on Jan. 8. According to the sheriff's office, the individual has since been released.

Levi Crabtree was arrested for charges related to the possession and distribution of child sexual abuse material, according to a press release from the Santa Barbara County

Sheriff's Office (SBCSO). The investigation began roughly a month earlier on Dec. 5, after detectives received a tip from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

Detectives identified Crabtree and served search and arrest warrants, eventually taking him into custody and booking him at the Santa Barbara County Main Jail. He was released later that same day on a \$10,000 bail, according to the arrest log.

The Daily Nexus was unable to immediately

confirm with the University if he is a student at UC Santa Barbara. Crabtree's occupation is labeled as "student" in the arrest log, and there is an active UCSB student profile under the name "Levi Crabtree."

The SBCSO press release stated there is no information at this time indicating local victims. It also encouraged anyone with information related to the case to contact sheriff's detectives at 805-681-4150 or 805-681-4171 and SBSheriff.org if you'd prefer to remain anonymous.

IVCSD elects new leadership, discusses plans for Deltopia alternative

Levi Kauffman
Assistant News Editor

The Isla Vista Community Services District Board of Directors elected its new president and vice president for the 2026 calendar year at its Jan. 13 meeting and discussed plans for the alternative event to Deltopia.

The board unanimously elected communication doctoral candidate Katherine Carmichael as president, and third-year political science and environmental studies double major Kylan Hobart as vice president. Former President Spencer Brandt, as well as former Vice President and fourth-year political science major Edward Pilote, will remain as directors for the duration of their terms.

Before the vote, Brandt shared that he felt confident with Carmichael and Hobart leading the board into 2026 and was proud of what was accomplished during his presidency. Directors Kirsten Deshler and Pilote praised Brandt's leadership and mentorship.

"We dove headfirst into parking compliance. We've navigated the Spring Festival and all of the dynamics around that, and advancing transportation and infrastructure improvements with some of our advice to the county and supporting community grocery in Isla Vista," Brandt said. "Moving forward, due to just my own professional commitments and time, I've decided that now is the right time to pass the torch to new board leadership."

Next, the board moved on to board committee selections and voted unanimously to ratify committee assignments.

The board then unanimously approved the calendar for 2026 and will meet on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month except for November



The board discussed IVCSD's plans for an alternative event for Deltopia.

and December, where there will only be one meeting.

Brandt and Hobart then

introduced Resolution 26-7 to oppose new offshore oil leases. Hobart cited the negative impacts that oil drilling has had on Santa Barbara and Isla Vista, such as the environmental damage, public health and marine safety concerns in the aftermath of the 2015 Refugio oil spill.

"There are some very serious risks that are posed by these kinds of operations, and unfortunately, the federal government is going in a direction where they're ignoring those risks," Hobart said.

The board unanimously voted to adopt the resolution.

Next, IVCSD Community Programs and Engagement Director Myah Mashhadialireza laid out the IVCSD's plans for an alternative event for Deltopia, the annual unsanctioned street festival, after the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors adopted a noise ordinance earlier in the day

that effectively canceled the event. Mashhadialireza said she created the working name "Novatopia" for the event, inspired by a nova star that "burns a little extra bright and then goes back to normal," much like I.V. during Deltopia.

According to Mashhadialireza, Novatopia will be a multi-zone event across downtown I.V. featuring live music, art, markets, beer gardens, proper bathrooms, safety resources and decreased police presence according to a verbal promise from Isla Vista Foot Patrol (IVFP). The IVCSD also plans to hire students and "local leaders" as event leads to plan "Entertainment Zones" where different events will take place.

"Deltopia is a community-wide celebration, and so I want the community to be part of the solution," Mashhadialireza said. "Our staff will support funding, distribution, permit application, safety planning, logistics and the temporary staff funding to make this vision possible for the community."

Mashhadialireza recommended distributing 8,000 wristbands for students living in I.V. that will give them special perks, such as being able to skip lines. Students will only be able to get wristbands by registering their address with the IVCSD. However,

wristbands will not be required for entry. The IVCSD anticipates 10,000 total local attendees.

According to Mashhadialireza, funding for Novatopia currently stands at \$250,000 total, with \$110,000 of the IVCSD's existing festival budget and \$140,000 of UC Santa Barbara Associated Students Program Board's (ASPB) co-sponsorship for the Entertainment Zones. The "base need" for the event is \$253,500; however, the "ideal budget" is \$309,000. The Daily Nexus was unable to confirm if ASPB is collaborating on the event.

The IVCSD is exploring sponsorships from the Isla Vista Community Relations Committee, the Associated Students Office of the External Vice President for Local

Affairs and local businesses. If sponsorships are insufficient, Mashhadialireza recommended that the IVCSD add \$30,000 to match ASPB's contribution.

According to Mashhadialireza, the IVCSD has two weeks from the meeting date to turn in an application for the event, calling it a "time crunch." The IVCSD opened applications for event leads on Jan. 14 and held a town hall for the community to provide input on Novatopia on Jan. 20.

One community member objected to the IVCSD hosting an event like Novatopia, citing that they lack the power to host a festival.

"IVCSD has controversially invoked the argument that its spring festivals over the last four years were a safety measure to reduce harm to the crowds that were already attending parties on Del Playa [Drive]. As of the approval of the ordinance amendments by the Board of Supervisors today, this is no longer needed," the community member said. "If you go through with the plans to host a festival on Deltopia weekend, you will effectively be Deltopia."

Before the ordinance passed, IVFP, which originally proposed the ordinance, amended it to allow the IVCSD to hold an alternative event.

The board then unanimously approved the resolution to receive and file the update on the Deltopia alternative plan, approved the job description for event leads and increased the existing spring festival budget to \$140,000.

Lastly, IVCSD Public Works and Sustainability Director Jenna Norton reported on the software to run the Parking Enforcement Program. After "extensive research," Norton and the IVCSD settled on Data Ticket for citation issuance and management.

The board then voted unanimously to approve the contract with Data Ticket.

UCSB fraternity, local organization hosts MLK walk

SHENGYU ZHANG / DAILY NEXUS



The Martin Luther King Jr. Day walk was held to honor the civil rights leader and his wife, and activist Coretta Scott King.

Wynne Bendell
University News Editor

The Martin Luther King Jr. Committee of Santa Barbara and the UC Santa Barbara Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity hosted a Martin Luther King Jr. Day walk on Jan. 15 to honor the civil rights leader and his wife, activist Coretta Scott King. Several Black student organizations spoke on the importance of activism and the presence of Black students in higher education.

The event began at the Eternal Flame monument, which sits between the UCSB library and Ellison Hall. The monument was gifted by the class of 1968 to commemorate the Civil Rights Movement and the establishment of the Black studies department in 1969.

Julianne Swilley, the Office of Black Student Development's coordinator of Black student life, opened the event by singing the Black National Anthem, "Lift Every Voice and Sing," inviting attendees to join in.

UCSB alumna and Alpha Phi Alpha (APA) fraternity member Nebiyu Alemnew highlighted several student organizations, such as the Student Commission on Racial Equity (S.C.O.R.E.), the Black Student Union (BSU) and the Black Women's Health Collective (BWHC) for their resources for Black students.

Alemnew spoke to the importance of the event's location by the Eternal Flame as a "living symbol of commitment."

"It stands as a reminder of the work our community continues to do to keep its message meaningful, relevant and impactful in today's campus culture. As you'll soon hear through our speakers' testimonies, our legacy is rooted deep in resistance," Alemnew said.

Next, President of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority and fourth-year history of policy, law and governance and Black studies double major Alexis Pryor highlighted the importance of serving your community. Pryor also said that, in remembering the legacy of MLK Jr., it is important to honor the impact that Coretta Scott King had on the Civil Rights Movement.

S.C.O.R.E. co-chair and first-year political science and Black studies double major Michiah Woods said that the event celebrates the ongoing fight for freedom. Woods cites federal rollbacks to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) programs as a current threat to Black students.

On Trump's inauguration day, he signed the executive order "Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs And Preferencing," which removes federal funding for DEI programs. According

to Woods, this policy is part of a larger climate where anti-Blackness shows up constantly in classrooms and campus organizations.

"We are navigating classrooms, organizations and systems where anti-Blackness shows up constantly where our pain is questioned and minimized, where our presence is ignored," Woods said. "Many of us feel unseen, unheard, alone as we watch opportunities slip through our hands."

Woods stated that King's messages of courage fuel the fight for a place in higher education for Black students.

"The truth is our presence here is already a resistance," Woods said. "Every Black student who walks this campus, who speaks at meetings, who demands accountability, who refuses to shrink who they are, is bending that arc, even when the administration pushes back, even when the institution feels unjust, and even if it feels no one is listening."

Next, the Martin Luther King Jr. Committee of Santa Barbara president and UCSB alumnus Gregory Freeland recollected on the Isla Vista riots, which he compared to the current protests in Minneapolis against the presence of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (I.C.E.).

"The struggle continues. So today, we gather not only to honor Dr. King, but to reflect on the responsibility we all share to confront injustice ... and to light the way for a better, more inclusive future," Freeland said.

The organizers then led the attendees on a silent walk to North Hall — also known as Malcolm X Hall — in commemoration of the North Hall takeover of 1968. Nathaniel Ilo, APA member, UCSB alumnus and admissions counselor for community engagement, highlighted the importance of the silent walk before a minute of silence.

"It gives us an opportunity to not only just breathe, but then also remember the great work that everyone has done for us today," Ilo said.

Lastly, North Hall Chair Endowed Professor of Sociology Waverly Duck credited the North Hall takeover for his ability to teach at UCSB.

"I am the living embodiment of the work that the Black student demand team has put in place," Duck said. "I'm forever indebted to being invited to this campus, to be in service, but also just to be present for this moment. So I thank you all for making that possible."

The silent walk concluded at the MultiCultural Center with a reception for students and guests.

Former A.S. president sues UCSB for allegedly failing to respond to antisemitic harassment

Michelle Cisneros
Lead News Editor

In early December, former UC Santa Barbara Associated Students President Tessa Veksler issued a lawsuit against the University and the UC Board of Regents for allegedly failing to adequately address the harassment she faced. The lawsuit alleges that during Veksler's term, UCSB was "collaborating with the antisemitic protestors against Tessa" and "failing to protect civil on-campus discourse."

Veksler, the 2023-24 Associated Students (A.S.) president, and attorneys from Ellis George LLP are seeking damages, injunctive relief and a jury trial.

The lawsuit states that after the Oct. 7, 2023 Hamas attack on a music festival in Israel, Veksler posted on social media stating that she stood "with [her] Jewish community/neighbors" and "with the people of Israel." The lawsuit continues by stating Veksler faced harassment in the coming months including "assaults and threats of physical violence, harassment and intimidation, and cyberstalking and defamation."

The lawsuit mentions one particular incident where pro-Palestine students posted pro-Palestine and anti-Zionist signage at the MultiCultural Center (MCC) in February 2024. Several posters concerned Veksler, including "Tessa Veksler supports genocide," "Zionists not welcome" and "Fuck a 'neutral' A.S. president."

The lawsuit alleges that Veksler "pleaded" with UCSB for protection and to act in accordance with its antidiscrimination policy, but UCSB "refused to assist."

The MCC was temporarily suspended following the incident

and UCSB administrators sent out a campus-wide email acknowledging the signage posting.

"These reprehensible incidents are currently under investigation, but as a campus, we must be clear that antisemitism and discrimination of any kind, including any efforts to intimidate, harass, or discriminate against members of our community, will not be tolerated," the email read.

Per previous Nexus coverage, the personal information of MCC staff and student staff was doxxed, or posted online, after the incident. According to the lawsuit, Veksler's phone number was also later doxxed on Instagram.

The lawsuit continues by alleging that when Veksler approached a crowd at the MCC to discuss the incident, a "UCSB representative" wearing a face mask "expressed solidarity with a group of Tessa's antisemitic abusers in the campus MCC."

"That the campus multi-cultural center exists to accommodate the diverse interests of all UCSB students was an irrelevance to the harassers," the lawsuit alleges. "The point was to ostracize and intimidate Tessa."

In March 2024, an anonymous petition to recall Veksler was filed, but it later failed to pass.

"[Veksler] felt devastated by the feeling that so many of her fellow students — those students she represented and for whom she advocated — had such a deep hatred for her, and that she was apparently powerless to change it," the lawsuit read.

Veksler did not respond to a request for comment.

While the University cannot discuss the specifics of individual cases, according to UCSB media spokesperson Kiki Reyes, she



NEXUS FILE PHOTO
In March 2024, a failed petition to recall Veksler was filed.

said the University conducts investigations into reported incidents. Reyes also mentioned UCSB "engages" in outreach and offers support services to affected students. Also, the UCPD develops safety plans with "concerned students who report issues."

"UC Santa Barbara condemns antisemitism in the strongest possible terms. Antisemitism and discrimination, including any efforts to intimidate or harass members of our community, has absolutely no place on our campus," an emailed statement to the Daily Nexus read. "The campus thoroughly investigates all reports of discrimination and harassment and take appropriate actions to hold perpetrators accountable. We will continue to do all we can to prevent and address antisemitism and support students affected."

The lawsuit comes in the midst of several federal legal actions pertaining to alleged antisemitism and Islamophobia across the UC. In 2024, the United States Department of Education Office for Civil Rights reached a voluntary agreement with the UC after receiving complaints of alleged discrimination in relation to UC Davis, UC Los Angeles, UC San Diego, UCSB and UC Santa Cruz.

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Senate condemns Deltopia noise ordinance, discusses ILP bike path

Wynne Bendell
University News Editor

The 76th Associated Student Senate formally condemned the county's passing of the Deltopia noise ordinance and discussed the attainment of funding for the ILP bike path at its Jan. 14 meeting.

The Senate adopted a resolution condemning the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors' decision to approve the 72-hour noise ordinance that would effectively cancel Deltopia – the annual unsanctioned street festival.

"The Association expresses its frustration with the lack of direct input from the citizens of Isla Vista – many of whom are undergraduate students at UCSB – in this decision and its desire to work with the County Board of Supervisors as well as other relevant entities to work towards a long term solution to the root issue of no autonomous, centralized government in Isla Vista," the resolution states.

The Associated Students Bike Committee (ASBC) announced it

has secured funding and finalized construction plans for a bike path between the Interactive Learning Pavilion and the UCSB Library. ASBC will pay two thirds of the total \$1.4 million construction cost, with the Chancellor's office committing to the last third. The path is tentatively set to open on Sept. 15, according to Co-Chair and fourth-year geography and sociology double major Anthony Woo.

UC Police Department (UCPD) Interim Chief of Police Matthew Bly commended ASBC for its work on the bike path and emphasized the collaborative efforts the project took.

Bly reported that UCPD issued 1,590

warnings and 10 citations for off-path bikers since enforcement began at the start of fall quarter, and will continue enforcement until the bike path opens. UCPD will also distribute free bike lights to students to improve bike safety.

Bly also announced that UCPD

will be collaborating with the

Senate to create a temporary

committee on student safety,

following numerous assaults

near the campus lagoon and

student concerns of immigration

enforcement on campus.



The Senate condemned the county's passing of the Deltopia noise ordinance and discussed the attainment of funding for the ILP bike path.

"I feel it's very important for our students to have a direct voice and connection to UCPD when we as a campus are engaged in some of these public safety topics of concern that come up," Bly said.

The Senate adopted a resolution establishing the Student Safety Senate Temporary Committee, brought by First President Pro Tempore and second-year political science major Evan Sussman.

The committee will also collaborate with the office of the External Vice President for Local Affairs (EVPLA), Take Back the Night and the Commission of Student Well-being.

Micah Littlepage, a fourth-year political science major and Veterans Resource Center peer advisor, requested funding for the Mobility Transport Program (MTP).

The MTP provides transportation around campus for students with temporary or permanent mobility challenges,

providing over 2,000 rides during fall quarter.

The program was funded by a student fee advisory committee grant, but is now seeking a permanent source of funding.

As their funds have depleted, MTP has reduced the number

of drivers from 17 to 11 and will

continue to face cuts if it doesn't

find another source of funding.

MTP will continue working with

the Senate to secure funding and

may pursue a lock-in fee.

California Public Interest

Research Group (CALPIRG) member and second-year political

science major Alex Borgas announced that their campaign to

ban plastic bags was successful.

Senate Bill No. 270 took effect on

Jan. 1, which prohibits California

stores from providing customers

with single-use plastic bags,

with exceptions. Borgas said that

CALPIRG is continuing its efforts

on the Stop Sable campaign and

Protect our Oceans campaign.

Vice Chancellor for Student

Affairs Suzanne Perkin shared the

"Save Student Services" fee

initiative, put forth by the

University, which would have

students vote on the Spring

election ballot to increase 18

individual fees for inflation.

Perkin asked the Senate to help publicize

the initiative, as they need around

3,500 undergraduate and 450

graduate student signatures to get

the initiative on the ballot.

Perkin emphasized that the

campus will "continue to lose

services as the fees continue to

lag over time."

The Senate also adopted First

President Pro Tempore and

second-year political science

major Evan Sussman's Bill to

Clean up Legal Code, which will

cut around 80 pages of A.S. legal

code and free up \$40,000. The

bill will correct errors in legal

code and remove inactive roles in

Boards, Chairs and Units.

The Senate then adopted a bill to

institutionalize Rate My Landlord

developers within the office of the

EVPLA. The website will allow

students to leave reviews on IV.

landlords and property managers.

The meeting concluded by

going into a closed session to

discuss "BCU structuring and

Association Spending."

The Nexus was not able to confirm the

details of the conversation.

Student Affairs petitions for 'Save Student Services' fee initiative

Wynne Bendell
University News Editor

To remain transparent, it should be noted that the Daily Nexus is funded through a fee managed by Student Affairs.

UC Santa Barbara Student Affairs is petitioning to get the "Save Student Services" fee on the spring election ballot. If placed on the ballot, students will vote to individually adjust 18 student services fees for inflation, as they are at risk from limited funding.

Over the past year, Student Affairs analyzed the use of student fees and found that 18 fees have not increased with a cost-of-living adjustment since their creation, some of which are over 20 years old.

These fees fund programs including the Children's Center, the Recreation Center, Counseling & Psychological Services and the Educational Opportunity Program.

Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Suzanne Perkin said that without the cost-of-living adjustment attached to these fees, the buying power of the fees has significantly reduced, leaving departments struggling to

fund their services. Perkin emphasized that the services

that students voted for are

"getting harder and harder for the departments to be able to

fulfill."

Using the United States

Bureau of Labor Statistics'

Consumer Price Index for

Southern California, Student

Affairs calculated the

inflationary increase to each

fee, which totals to \$36.49.

The fee initiative also includes

an additional student financial

aid contribution, or return to

aid, which reserves 25% of the

total fees for UCSB grants and

scholarships. This part of the

initiative aims to fully cover

the cost of fees for high-need

students. With the inflationary

increase, return to aid and additional administrative assessment, the total fee increase would be \$81.72.

However, the actual increase would be determined after the election, as students will have the opportunity to vote on each of the 18 fees individually.

In order to get the initiative on the ballot, Student Affairs must collect signatures from 15% of undergraduate students and 15% of graduate students, amounting to around 3,500 and 450 signatures, respectively. Alternatively, Student Affairs can and plans to ask the Graduate Student Association (GSA) to approve putting the initiative on the graduate student ballot.

Perkin reports that the Children's Center, which provides on-campus childcare, was able to pay its expenses and employ around 100 undergraduate teaching assistants for the year with its \$3 fee passed in 2006. Now, the center is struggling to cover salaries for one quarter and has had to reduce the number of assistants it employs.

Student Affairs wants to

give students the opportunity

to have control over their fees,

Perkin said.

"Over the years, students

have been really generous in

what they've wanted to fund,

but they've also benefited

hugely from it," Perkin said.

Perkin emphasized that if this initiative does not make it onto the ballot, or if students do not vote to pass any of the fee increases, student services will be at risk.

"I think the outcome is over

time you'll start to see your

services stagnate as well.

We're already seeing that. I

think the staff on campus have

worked so hard to still be able to

provide everything they

can provide on a shoestring

budget, but we're at kind of a

a breaking point right now,"

Perkin said.



NEXUS FILE PHOTO

These fees fund programs including the Children's Center, the Recreation Center, Counseling & Psychological Services and the Educational Opportunity Program.

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!

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I.V. UNINCORPORATED

Continued from p. 1

Prior to the formation of the IVCSD in 2017, I.V. was dependent on its redevelopment agency (RDA), which was responsible for maintaining the community's expenses, providing affordable housing and reducing crime, until former California Governor Jerry Brown dissolved all RDAs in the state in 2012, leaving the I.V. Recreation & Park District (IVRPD) as I.V.'s sole governing body.

The beginning of the IVCSD

Following the dissolution of I.V.'s RDA, in the summer of 2013 a group of UC Santa Barbara students researched the creation of the IVCSD, but were initially met with "disinterest and/or pessimism," according to General Manager and IVCSD founding member Jonathan Abboud in his chapter in "Isla Vista: A Citizens History." However, following the spring of 2014, which saw incidents such as the Deltopia riot and a mass shooting, conversations of a CSD began to reemerge.

In the summer of 2014, UCSB's Associated Students (A.S.) formed the UCSB Foundation Board of Trustees Advisory Committee on Isla Vista Strategies in order to improve issues within the community such as crime and housing. During conversations with stakeholders such as LAFCO, the committee discovered they could "pass special State legislation to create a customized form of a CSD tailored to Isla Vista's needs."

Throughout the next year, many town halls were held to discuss self-governance options, with the CSD receiving "the most and resounding support" compared to other options. On Dec. 2, 2014, Assembly Bill 3 (AB 3) was introduced by former Santa Barbara County (SBC) Supervisor Das Williams, which authorized the establishment of a CSD in I.V. Brown signed AB 3 into law on Oct. 7, 2015, which allowed I.V. residents to vote on creating their first multi-service local government.

During the following year, stakeholders engaged in community outreach to determine the best course of action to form a CSD. In April 2016, LAFCO commissioners voted to place the IVCSD on the November 2016 ballot through Measure E, which passed unanimously. IVCSD officially formed on March 1, 2017, and has been I.V.'s centralized government since.

Self-governance of today

Since 2017, the IVCSD has expanded in many ways, including the passing of Measure R in 2018 which placed a utility users tax on I.V. Residents, the formation of its Rental Housing Mediation Program, Community Service Organizations in collaboration with the UCSB Police Department and the Spring Festival, the IVCSD's alternative event to Deltopia.

According to former IVCSD President and founding member Spencer Brandt, the 2015 assessment for I.V. to be a city failed as the community needs to be "revenue neutral," which I.V. wasn't since it "lack[s] a strong commercial tax base." California Proposition 13, which limits the amount of property tax and property tax reassessments, also contributed to the failing of the assessment, as well as a high crime rate. However, there has been a "growth in property tax," along with a 50% decrease in crime since 2015,

according to Brandt.

Brandt believes the conversation of whether I.V. will become incorporated, either by being absorbed into Goleta or becoming an independent city, is "premature until we get a better idea of the financial feasibility of the incorporation."

"What the right pathway is, whether it's a good idea at all to pursue incorporation, really just depends on, 'will this save taxpayers money? Is this financially feasible?' And we just don't know that at this point, we would need to actually undertake the work of doing the analysis and the funding study to find that out," Brandt said.

Support from Associated Students

A.S. External Vice President for Local Affairs and third-year political science major E.J. Raad believes that the recent noise ordinance cancelling Deltopia wouldn't have "ever happened" if I.V. were a city, since it would have autonomy from SBC. According to Raad, the ordinance was "imposed on us by the [SBC] Sheriff's Office," which I.V. can't prevent since it doesn't have its "own governance structure to make decisions about our community."

"The whole point is representation with your taxation; you're supposed to be able to have a say in how where you live is run, and we don't really have that. We don't completely have that because we're not a city, and we don't have that autonomy from the county. And so that's the long-term solution that I'd be really interested in pursuing," Raad said.

Members of the 76th A.S. Senate have begun outlining plans to incorporate I.V. According to Senators fourth-year history and global studies double major Neo Harter and third-year economics and philosophy double major Noah Luken, A.S. is commissioning a study on the living conditions of I.V. to help garner support for cityhood, which will begin during Week 3, or Week 4 at the latest.

Luken and Harter are also working to establish a party within A.S. titled "Save Isla Vista," which will be centered around creating a city government for I.V. Additionally, Luken said A.S. can provide funding to support the progress towards cityhood, such as funding the preliminary LAFCO test.

Will Isla Vista become incorporated?

Whether I.V. will become an incorporated territory has yet to be determined. However, progress to make I.V. a better, safer community will continue with or without cityhood. According to Brandt, the Isla Vista Master Plan, a comprehensive planning effort from the IVCSD and SBC aimed at addressing housing, parking and other issues, may be easier to implement if I.V. were a city.

"The community put together the Isla Vista Master Plan that has never fully been implemented because we haven't been able to solve the parking problem. We are now working on solving parking by beginning to do a compliance program. And so, I wonder if in the future, a city would be best equipped to be able to actually implement that master plan, and that would certainly mean changes, especially when it comes to the amount of housing in the community," Brandt said.

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Whether I.V. will become an incorporated territory has yet to be determined. However, progress to make I.V. a better, safer community will continue with or without cityhood. According to Brandt, the Isla Vista Master Plan, a comprehensive planning effort from the IVCSD and SBC aimed at addressing housing, parking and other issues, may be easier to implement if I.V. were a city.

"The community put together the Isla Vista Master Plan that has never fully been implemented because we haven't been able to solve the parking problem. We are now working on solving parking by beginning to do a compliance program. And so, I wonder if in the future, a city would be best equipped to be able to actually implement that master plan, and that would certainly mean changes, especially when it comes to the amount of housing in the community," Brandt said.

According to former IVCSD President and founding member Spencer Brandt, the 2015 assessment for I.V. to be a city failed as the community needs to be "revenue neutral," which I.V. wasn't since it "lack[s] a strong commercial tax base." California Proposition 13, which limits the amount of property tax and property tax reassessments, also contributed to the failing of the assessment, as well as a high crime rate. However, there has been a "growth in property tax," along with a 50% decrease in crime since 2015,

according to Brandt.

Brandt believes the conversation of whether I.V. will become incorporated, either by being absorbed into Goleta or becoming an independent city, is "premature until we get a better idea of the financial feasibility of the incorporation."

"What the right pathway is, whether it's a good idea at all to pursue incorporation, really just depends on, 'will this save taxpayers money? Is this financially feasible?' And we just don't know that at this point, we would need to actually undertake the work of doing the analysis and the funding study to find that out," Brandt said.

"The whole point is representation with your taxation; you're supposed to be able to have a say in how where you live is run, and we don't really have that. We don't completely have that because we're not a city, and we don't have that autonomy from the county. And so that's the long-term solution that I'd be really interested in pursuing," Raad said.

Members of the 76th A.S. Senate have begun outlining plans to incorporate I.V. According to Senators fourth-year history and global studies double major Neo Harter and third-year economics and philosophy double major Noah Luken, A.S. is commissioning a study on the living conditions of I.V. to help garner support for cityhood, which will begin during Week 3, or Week 4 at the latest.

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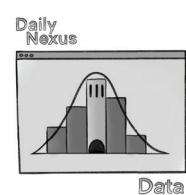
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DATA



Nexus reader spending survey

In 2008, the Nexus surveyed readers to see how they spend money on food, electronics and personal care. This new 10-question survey revisits some of the questions from the 2008 survey while also capturing new data about other ways readers spend their money.

Readers are encouraged to participate by scanning the QR code below.



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LA VISTA



Ni de aquí, ni de allá

Sofia Benitez
Editora para La Vista

A veces siento que vivo entre dos mundos: uno que dejé atrás y que parece haberse olvidado de mí, y otro que no termina de aceptarme.

Si hay algo que me define es mi resiliencia, y parte de ella significa ser valiente y no temerle a los cambios.

Esa fue la filosofía que me trajo hasta este país en primer lugar.

Hace dos semanas, durante el descanso por el Día de Acción de Gracias, realicé un viaje a España.

Mientras en Estados Unidos esta festividad tiene tanta importancia, para mí no significa nada.

Desde que emigré de México hace cinco años, este día ha pasado sin pena ni gloria para mi familia, excepto por aquella vez, hace tres años, cuando mi mamá preparó un pavo y puré de papa en un intento de tener una cena tradicional de acción de gracias. El pavo estuvo delicioso, pero no fue suficiente para ocultar la sensación incómoda de estar pretendiendo, de sentirme una impostora.

Nunca compartí este pensamiento con ellos, pero siempre asumí que mi familia lo sintió igual, especialmente porque aquella cena nunca se volvió a repetir.

Para alguien como yo, que llegó a este país recientemente, es difícil adoptar tradiciones que no existen en mi lugar de origen.

Siempre pensé que, aunque ahora mi familia y yo no las celebremos, tal vez algún día mis hijos o los hijos de sus hijos lo harán.

Y en ese futuro esa tradición se sentirá verdaderamente suya. Pero no es mía, ni es de mis padres.

Siempre he tenido un conflicto con el término "primera generación".

¿Puedo considerarme primera generación? Tengo un documento que certifica que soy ciudadana de los Estados Unidos, pero mi acento al hablar inglés me delata como inmigrante.

A veces todavía me siento una turista en la ciudad donde vivo. Me quedo sin palabras cuando la gente me pregunta qué hice para el Día de Acción de Gracias o el 5 de mayo y ni se diga cuando me preguntan de dónde soy.

¿Lo hacen porque escucharon mi acento? ¿Debería decir que soy de Los Ángeles porque ahí viven mis padres?

Mi mamá siempre me hizo pensar que la asimilación sí era posible para mí, pero que ya era demasiado tarde para ella.

Con su amor incondicional, siempre ha puesto mis intereses antes que los suyos.

Cuando se enfrenta a una diferencia cultural, simplemente dice: "Así son las cosas aquí",

Guerra Mundial, los chinos americanos durante la pandemia de COVID-19, los afroamericanos desde inicios de la esclavitud han enfrentado racismo institucional, y hasta la fecha lidian con las secuelas.

Ahora durante el "reinado" de Trump, nosotros los inmigrantes, especialmente los latinos, así como los nativos americanos han salido perjudicados sin siquiera ser inmigrantes.

Soy consciente de que cada

que pertenezco y que voy a poder perdonar a toda la gente que votó por esta administración.

Surgió la oportunidad de visitar España para visitar a uno de mis amigos que está estudiando allá y que afirma que no quiere regresar a los Estados Unidos, lo cual me causa intriga, especialmente en estos momentos oscuros y de incertidumbre por el futuro de mi familia.

Seme presentó una oportunidad de desconectarme de mi retorcida realidad por un momento fugaz y escapar a un lugar donde mi realidad no es su realidad.

Este viaje a España fue, de alguna manera, un respiro y una ventana hacia nuevos horizontes.

Me permitió fantasear con una vida mejor para mí y para mi familia: una vida con la seguridad de Estados Unidos, pero en un país donde mis papás pueden hablar y ser entendidos en su idioma nativo, el español.

Verlos aquí luchando con la barrera del lenguaje me llena de pesar, y estar lejos de casa sin poder traducir para ellos me causa una angustia constante.

Solo me queda rezar para que quienes los rodean tengan paciencia y los traten con respeto.

Estar en España me dio esperanza; me hizo cuestionar por qué debo aferrarme a un país donde el "sueño americano" no existe para familias como la mía.

¿Cómo puedo considerar hogar a un país que nos etiqueta como "aliens"?

España se sintió como un oasis en medio de un desierto. Me recordó lo que es la libertad: un país donde mi papá no tiene miedo de las camionetas blancas estacionadas afuera de su trabajo, donde no teme acercarse a un aeropuerto, donde puede

encontrar empleo sin vivir bajo la sombra de un número de seguro social que no tiene.

Aunque yo sea ciudadana, las restricciones que enfrenta mi papá por su estatus migratorio también me afectan a mí y me impiden llevar una vida normal.

Uno de mis mayores deseos es cumplir el sueño de mi papá de conocer Francia.

Pero en este momento es imposible: si él saliera del país, no podría volver a poner pie, ni reunirse con el resto de nuestra familia.

No puedo contener las lágrimas al recordar que, cuando mi

abuelito falleció en México, mi papá no pudo despedirse dignamente.

En esos momentos pienso en el niño que alguna vez fue, un niño que merecía darle un último adiós a su papá.

Las limitaciones impuestas a los inmigrantes indocumentados son un peso que acaba cargando toda la familia.

Hace poco tuve un momento de lucidez en el que entendí que la realidad que he llegado a normalizar no es normal. Esto no es vida.

No es normal vivir con miedo a ser acechado en tu propio trabajo. No es normal temer a acercarse a los aeropuertos.

No es normal sentir que mi acento o mi apariencia podría ser motivo suficiente para que un agente de ICE me detenga bajo la suposición de que soy indocumentada.

No puedo evitar recordar cómo eran las cosas hace algunos años. La vida no era perfecta, pero no me sentía tan sofocada como ahora.

Hoy me siento como un pájaro en una jaula de oro: mi estatus migratorio crea la ilusión de que soy libre, de que tengo acceso a todos los privilegios de ser ciudadana.

Puedo viajar fuera del país y regresar cuando quiera, recibir apoyo del gobierno para terminar mis estudios, tener seguro de salud y postular a cualquier trabajo.

Pero mientras más lo pienso, más me doy cuenta de que estos no son privilegios ni lujo: son derechos humanos básicos.

Son condiciones que deberían acompañar simplemente el hecho de existir y poder vivir una vida normal.

Me duele ver el trato que mi comunidad ha estado recibiendo durante esta administración.

Ningún ser humano merece este trato, se nos está arrebatado nuestra dignidad y estamos siendo deshumanizados.

¿Por qué sólo los indocumentados no son considerados merecedores de algo que debería darse por hecho para todos? Ser indocumentado no vuelve a alguien menos humano.

Mientras mi familia no tenga acceso a estas experiencias que deberían ser accesibles para cualquier ser humano este país nunca será mi hogar.



SOFIA BENITEZ / EL NEXO DIARIO

aceptando que este es un país distinto con una cultura distinta.

Sé que hace el esfuerzo por mí, pero puedo notar que también se siente como una "invitada" en este país.

Desde que llegué, imaginé mi vida en este país: terminar la universidad, conseguir un trabajo y darle una mejor vida a mis padres.

Cuando por fin empezaba a sentirme cómoda y a creer que pertenecía aquí, apareció el presidente Donald Trump para recordarme que no pertenezco y que no soy bienvenida.

Estados Unidos tiene un historial complejo de opresión y marginación de distintas minorías, cada una ha pasado por estallidos de opresión durante la historia: los japoneses americanos durante la Segunda

una de estas comunidades enfrentó retos únicos y vivió formas particulares de violencia, discriminación y exclusión, todas las minorías seguimos lidiando con el racismo hasta hoy.

Lo que señalo es que, en esos momentos históricos, el racismo fue institucional; respaldado y aplicado abiertamente por el gobierno, de una manera que parecía ensañarse con una minoría específica en turnos distintos de la historia de este país.

Como lo que está sucediendo ahora con la administración actual.

En medio de este caos, mientras trataba de convencerme que las cosas no están tan mal, tratando de recuperar la fe de que las cosas van a mejorar en el futuro, que tal vez en unos años voy a sentir

que la gente aprecie el valor real de una pieza hecha a mano. No es algo que encuentres fácilmente, ni algo que cualquiera pueda hacer."

A pesar de esto, el neón mantiene una presencia importante en la estética actual, especialmente en colores clásicos como el rojo, el favorito de la mayoría. "El rojo es el color original del neón.

Los demás se consideran vidrios de colores, pero el neón auténtico siempre ha sido rojo."

Aunque las tecnologías cambian, los CEOs tienen una visión clara sobre el futuro del diseño luminoso: "Es un negocio que nunca va a desaparecer.

El marketing visual es parte de la columna vertebral de cualquier negocio.

Siempre habrá necesidad de algo que llame la atención, que ilumine y que cuente una historia."

Su taller, entonces, no solo produce letreros: preserva una tradición que mantiene viva una forma de arte única dentro del mundo de la publicidad.

Cuando se les pregunta qué

mensaje les darían a estudiantes de UCSB que quieren emprender, responden sin dudar: "Primero, sigan su pasión. Aprendan todo lo que puedan para ofrecer un buen producto. Sean disciplinados, creativos y perseverantes. Y nunca —nunca— descuiden los detalles. Un negocio se sostiene cuando uno hace las cosas bien desde el principio."

Para ellos, esa filosofía ha sido clave: cada letrero que han producido representa no solo trabajo, sino orgullo.

Y ese orgullo es, sin duda, lo más gratificante de dirigir el taller.

"Lo mejor es ver terminado cada letrero que nos proponemos hacer. Cada uno es un logro."

En un mundo donde lo digital avanza rápido, su negocio se ha convertido en un recordatorio brillante —literalmente— de que el arte tradicional aún tiene un lugar irremplazable.

Y mientras el neón siga iluminando calles, negocios y hogares, habrá personas como ellos dedicando su vida a mantener su luz encendida.



ALUÉ OTIURA / EL NEXO DIARIO

Arik Otiura y Alfredo Sandoval

El arte que no muere: el regreso de el neón de vidrio y el negocio que lo mantiene vivo

Alué Otiura
Escritora

En una era dominada por pantallas LED, anuncios digitales y diseños generados por computadora, pocos oficios tradicionales sobreviven con la misma fuerza y dedicación que los letreros de neón hechos a mano.

Para muchos, el neón es simplemente un símbolo vintage de épocas pasadas, para otros una estética que ha vuelto de moda gracias a Instagram y la cultura pop.

Pero para los CEOs detrás de neos usa, Arik Otiura y Alfredo Sandoval es algo mucho más profundo: es un arte que merece ser valorado y preservado.

"Siempre he admirado la luz y la imagen que emite el neón", explica Arik Otiura. "Hay algo mágico en saber que detrás de cada pieza hay un artesano que dedicó años de práctica para dominar el vidrio."

Es un trabajo de precisión y paciencia que hoy en día está desapareciendo poco a poco". Para ellos, trabajar con neon original (fabricado con vidrio tradicional) no solo mantiene viva una técnica antigua, sino que también rescata el respeto hacia los oficios que formaron parte de la historia visual de las ciudades.

El negocio nació a partir de un sueño aparentemente simple: crear un logo de un auto fabricado completamente en vidrio de neón.

Sin embargo, pronto descubrieron que encontrar artesanos capaces de producirlo era muy difícil.

"Un día se nos ocurrió la idea de poder crear un logo, pero lograr encontrar un artesano era muy difícil así que salimos a la búsqueda por diferentes lugares hasta que encontramos la persona indicada.

El letrero quedó espectacular así que pensamos: ¿Por qué no crear un taller, contratar artesanos, aprender las diferentes técnicas y producir nuestros propios letreros?"

Ese pensamiento fue el punto de partida.

A partir de una conversación con su amigo Alfredo Sandoval, comenzaron a trabajar en su primer letrero juntos con su taller y artesanos.

El proceso tomó 60 días de pruebas, errores, aprendizajes y descubrimientos.

Pero terminaron la pieza. Y después de ese inicio, el negocio dejó de ser un hobby para convertirse en un proyecto formal.

Hoy, después de mucha práctica y ya con un taller establecido, producen alrededor de 8 letreros mensuales, cada uno con un diseño único y elaborado cien por ciento a mano.

Cuando un cliente llega pidiendo un letrero, el proceso es meticuloso.

Todo inicia con una simple pregunta: ¿tiene un logo o un diseño que quiera replicar?

A partir de ahí se definen colores, medidas y el espacio donde irá colocado.

Luego llega la parte técnica: crear un plano o vector, determinar la cantidad de vidrio

necesaria y comenzar el doblado, la etapa más desafiante.

"El doblado del vidrio es lo más difícil," explican. "Tienes que literalmente derretirlo y darle forma siguiendo el diseño exacto.

Cualquier error, cualquier movimiento mínimo, puede arruinar toda la pieza."

Después del doblado, los tubos se llenan de mercurio y se hace un vacío interno para permitir que el gas circule de manera uniforme.

Los electrodos se colocan uno por uno, luego, el vidrio se monta cuidadosamente sobre una caja o gabinete construido a la medida.

Finalmente, se hace el cableado y se instalan los transformadores correspondientes.

Una vez armado, el letrero se prueba durante 48 horas para asegurarse de que el gas circule homogéneamente y el brillo sea uniforme.

"Es un proceso largo, delicado y muy técnico", afirman. "Por eso el neón original es tan valioso. No es solo un anuncio: es una pieza artesanal."

Hoy en día, quedan menos de 20 personas en todo Estados Unidos que siguen dominando la técnica tradicional de doblar vidrio para neones.

Esta escasez ha hecho que el trabajo del taller sea especialmente valioso, no solo para negocios sino para coleccionistas que buscan piezas auténticas.

Uno de los mayores retos del negocio, dicen los CEOs, es que mucha gente no comprende la cantidad de habilidad detrás de cada letrero. "A veces toma tiempo

ARTSWEEK



Looking East looks forward

Local Goleta band releases first album

Stella Mullin
Artsweek Editor

I met Daniel Kearney at the Old Town Coffee in Goleta looking like a natural Californian — baseball cap, flip-flops, sunglasses — so it was to my surprise that he is actually a West Coast transplant. A homage to Jackson Browne and a way for Kearney to face home, Kearney and his musical partner, Drew Gonzales, dubbed their alternative reggae studio project "Looking East." And, after the recent passing of Kearney's father, who greatly admired Browne's songwriting, Looking East was hard to ignore.

"When I had the idea for that as a name, that is a perfect encapsulation of everything I've done and built to this point," Kearney said.

Looking East is under two years old, but Kearney is nowhere near new to the industry. What does it all lead back to? A birthday present.

"What's the most expensive thing I could think of? An electric guitar," Kearney said, reminiscing on his 12th birthday. To his surprise, he unwrapped none other than a guitar and began playing throughout high school and college before moving to California to intern at Playback Recording Studio in Los Angeles.

Kearney jumped from interning at Playback while waiting tables to being an audio engineer for the studio and then moving to Sonos in 2015. Then, finally, he had the luxury of quitting a corporate job to go on tour.

Kearney's previous band,

Cydeways, toured six to eight months a year across a span of four years and Kearney came prepared: dried beans and rice to eat in the parking lot. He quickly realized that was not the way things worked on the road, and he fell right into the learning curve all touring musicians must undergo.

"The first couple tours, it's just such a trip. It's hard to get used to ... but you adjust to it and grow to like it. To the point where when you're back at home, after a couple weeks, you get a little stir crazy. You just want to go back on the road," he said.

To set up a timeline: In 2020, Kearney, like the rest of the world, experienced a global pandemic. But while most people's lives became stagnant, Kearney's only became more chaotic. In 2021, he lost his dad and immediately after, Cydeways toured with bands like Matisyahu and Iration. Cydeways and Matisyahu had the same manager, so not only did they open for hip-hop-reggae artist, but they also acted as his backup band. And then this entire world of touring and moving from city to city without fully being able to take a breath of air came to a screeching halt in 2024 when he and his partner had a daughter. Kearney quickly shifted gears to become a stay-at-home dad, but the music still continued, and with the birth of his daughter came the birth of Looking East. Perhaps you could call them twins.

Kearney had known Gonzales in the past, playing in different bands in the same scene, but it was not until 2024 when Looking East was fully

underway. They had made partial demos before then, and this new quiet in Kearney's life was the perfect time to start the project.

"It still feels like the beginning," Kearney said.

Like all writers say, writing is a way to understand their worlds — Kearney is no exception. While he rarely wrote in his previous bands, Looking East gave him a new creative outlet.

"Writing is how I make sense of the world and how I am seeing it," Kearney said. "Writing music helped me channel a lot of my feelings and thoughts on what I'd been through into something that I understood in a way I could say it."

His writing process, though, is a different story: "I'm still trying to figure that one out."

His (and probably "the") creative process: toying around with different sounds and different instruments over hours and hours, only to realize that he hated what he created. And so, he walks away from his work, leaves his home studio and repeats everything again the next day. After writing and recording and rewriting

and rerecording and finding something he likes, he sends it to Gonzales, who currently lives in Los Osos, and Gonzales will add vocals to the track.

"We're in a flow at this point where there is minimal feedback," Kearney said when asked if not living in the same place creates a lag in communication. The only downside, it seems, is that a majority of the writing process is done in solitude.

"I started to go a little crazy," he said.

The process seems long, but Looking East is already in the process of recording their third album. Their first album, "Break of the Day," is set to drop on Jan. 23. A fitting name, knowing the sun rises in the east. While a majority of the album has already been released as singles, three new songs will be joining.

"I hadn't never really sat down and leaned in to creating a cohesive work of art," Kearney said.

Still not even at toddler age, Looking East has gained widespread popularity, notably on Spotify with one of their songs, "My Way Out," nearing 200,000 streams.

The secret, according to Kearney, is collaborations. In an age where music is driven less by sound and more by algorithms, Kearney knew getting already established bands to feature on Looking East's songs would cause the algorithm to notice them.

Secrets two and three: releasing the songs as singles first (the albums can follow) and keeping in mind what people will actually listen to.

The everlasting internal struggle: "Are they going to turn this on when they're driving in the car and sing along to the lyrics? Or are they going to put it on at a barbecue in the background?" Kearney expressed.

Struggle, though, might be the wrong word. It seems Looking East has found its groove.

"The definition of success is a moving goal post. I'm always going to write and I'm always going to release music — that's just how I process the world," Kearney said.

Be sure to check out Looking East and "Break of the Day" on Friday, and for more updates on the alternative reggae duo, visit [@lookingeastmusic](https://www.instagram.com/lookingeastmusic) on Instagram.

COURTESY OF LOOKING EAST



Powerful pianists: Beethoven marathon at Granada Theatre

Carly Rattner
Reporter

The Santa Barbara Symphony performed a weekend-long marathon of all five of Beethoven's piano concertos at the Granada Theatre from Jan. 17-18. The concertos were conducted by the symphony's 10-year Music and Artistic Director Nir Kabaretti, with each arrangement accompanied by a different piano competition medalist.

Ludwig van Beethoven, considered to be one of the greatest composers in history, wrote his piano concertos in three movements. All five of these concertos are known for bridging a path from classicism to romanticism, and are regarded as masterpieces of his newly created transitional genre. The Santa Barbara Symphony perfectly replicated Beethoven's timeless sound through the beautiful notes played on their wind and string instruments.

On the afternoon of Sunday, Jan. 18 — the second and last day of the marathon — a crowd gathered to witness the excellence of medalists Dmitry Shishkin, Angie Zhang and Jonathan Mamora as they performed Beethoven's piano concertos No. 1, 2 and 5.

Dmitry Shishkin began with the delicate sound of "Concerto No. 1." The Geneva International Music Competition winner has been commended for his unique approach to music, and this was easily recognizable throughout his time on stage. His fingers soared across the piano as he played each note of the three movements of this piece. He sophisticatedly transitioned the soft sound to a rather bold one as conductor Kabaretti used powerful movements to guide the orchestra.

To end the third movement, Shishkin executed the final piano solo carrying the intensity of the original piece. The audience roared into a standing ovation as his electrifying movements made the finale of the concerto a striking one. As Shishkin left the stage after his well-deserved applause, Angie Zhang appeared in his place to perform "Concerto No. 2."

Zhang is a prizewinner of multiple



The marathon was conducted by the symphony's 10-year Music and Artistic Director Nir Kabaretti

competitions, but most notably a three-time winner of the Juilliard Concerto Competition. She is praised for her individual interpretations of historical pieces, which has led to her extensive career as a piano orchestra soloist. Her talents were no secret to her Santa Barbara audience as she moved with elegance playing the second concerto.

The first movement consisted of a melody reminiscing a gala it swayed with enchanting sounds. Zhang reflected this elegance not only in her beautiful cerulean gown, but also in the gestures used. She put her whole body into the performance — from the first movement with her solo to the last movement's intensity. She synchronized her body with the notes, oscillating her head — unintentionally making the concerto a magical viewing experience.

Beethoven's original warmth of the second concerto was heard with

delight through Zhang and the Santa Barbara Symphony. Beethoven had written this at a fairly young age, and his playful youth is apparent throughout the piece. The listening experience left the audience with smiles on their faces as the violins played a positive tune.

As Zhang completed "Concerto No. 2," the audience, yet again, rose to their feet with a proud standing ovation. With that intermission approached and the audience refueled for the finishing of the marathon, "Concerto No. 5."

Jonathan Mamora was the final pianist of the late afternoon. Known for his positively uplifting performances, Mamora is the proud winner of the Palm Springs International Piano Competition — the perfect individual to complete this impressive concerto.

Beethoven's "Concerto No. 5," consists of more fast-paced, intense

sound in comparison with No. 1 and 2. Though, the intensity is not throughout the whole concerto since the piano portions bring delicacy to each movement. Mamora specifically performed this with a sense of ease, moving his head with his hands as they play across the piano. Additionally, it is not a mystery to the audience how much Mamora enjoyed this performance. His facial expressions said it all — he felt the emotions throughout his whole performance.

With the second movement being particularly emotional, the facial expressions given by Mamora assured the audience of the complexity of Beethoven's piece. Unsurprisingly, Mamora was given a round of applause — prematurely, however, as he continued playing when the claps arose.

As the third movement continued, the audience was left surprised

with the continuous beauty. The third movement is a reminder of the excellence of Beethoven's composition. It is fascinating that after 200 years, his music still gets played consistently. Specifically, having these three talented pianists playing his work indicates the everlasting impact classical music has on human beings. A momentous figure like Beethoven inspires well-rounded musicians like Shishkin, Zhang and Mamora.

As Mamora concluded the final performance of the weekend-long marathon, a respectful celebration of Beethoven had also been concluded, as the audience gasped with awe when the final note of the piano was played. Unsurprisingly, the whole theatre was brought to their feet for the final time of the late afternoon. An endless ovation from the audience's part as the pianists, conductor and symphony musicians bowed with gratitude.

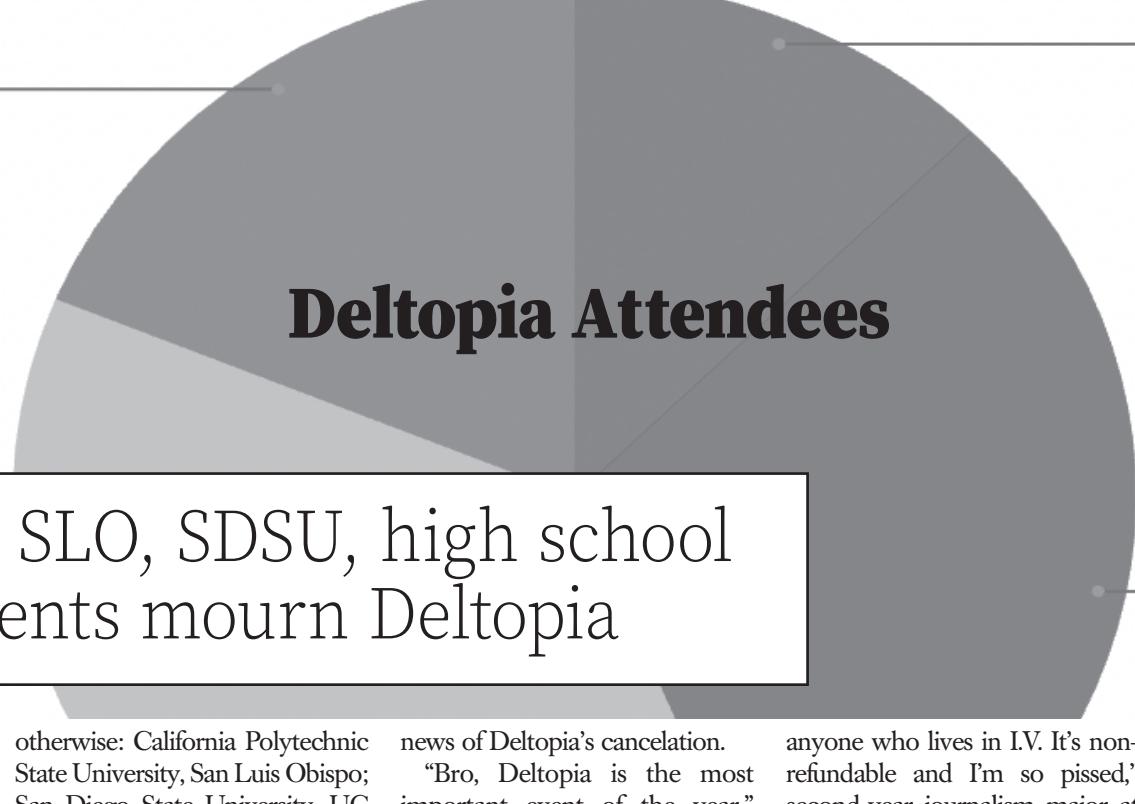


NEXUSTENTIALISM

It's Satire, Stupid.

Aztecs

18.8%



Cal Poly SLO, SDSU, high school students mourn Deltopia

Joseph R. Biden
17-year-old

Last week, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors voted to implement a 72-hour noise ordinance in Isla Vista on the weekend of April 4. This put an end to Del Playa Drive's annual block party, Deltopia, which takes place on spring quarter's inaugural weekend.

While many expected the UC Santa Barbara student body to be most saddened by the news, our meta-analysis of social media posts over the last week revealed

otherwise: California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo; San Diego State University, UC Los Angeles and local high school students caused the most uproar.

The discovery of this information prompted further investigation. Using Palantir's citizen-tracking technology, we analyzed the crowd at Deltopia in 2025. Apparently, UCSB students made up just 11% of attendees, with the rest coming from other, more lame universities.

We reached out to these visitors to gauge their reactions to the

news of Deltopia's cancellation.

"Bro, Deltopia is the most important event of the year," Santa Barbara High School senior and boy's water polo captain Ryan Nguyen said. "Last year my mom dropped me and my friends off and picked us up later, it was so nice."

Some students who anticipated coming to Deltopia expressed frustration at the noise ordinance since they had already made arrangements to come.

"My eight friends and I already booked a hotel room in Goleta because we don't know

anyone who lives in IV. It's non-refundable and I'm so pissed," second-year journalism major at Cal Poly Elena Majora said.

A select few UCSB students decided to weigh in on the topic of Deltopia and visitors.

"It's so stupid how many visitors ruin Deltopia—it's a sacred practice! Like this is the only party we have all year, and instead of being full of wasted UCSB students who can really appreciate the art of Deltopia, it's full of basically the same people from the same hometowns who go to college two hours from

JULIET BECKER / DAILY NEXUS

here," third-year psychological & brain sciences major Hannah Nunez said.

Students from other schools who anticipated this year's Deltopia have been organizing support services for their peers on their home campuses. At SDSU there will be a candlelight vigil on Thursday evening, and at Cal Poly they will have a moment of silence at the next event for whatever they do (rodeo??).

Joseph R. Biden wants an excuse to walk around basically naked.



Top 10 ways to ace that interview

Serrano Ham
HR

Internship recruiting and the summer job search are in full swing, and you might be wondering how to make the job yours. Never fear, the ultimate guide to interviewing is here at the tip of your fingers, complete with 10 tried and true methods.

1. Be late

Don't be such an eager beaver. If men are any indication, the more you show your desire, the less likely you are to get what you want. Keep the interviewers waiting, anticipating your arrival, and don't apologize. Let them wonder what you have going on in your life, and let them imagine what their lives will be like if you join the company.

2. Dress casually

What's with companies asking for business formal dress? I say show up in your most casual state, to show your future employers what they'll really be getting. If they don't want you in your most natural form, they don't want you at all.

3. Ask what the company can do for YOU

Forget trying to explain what you can do for the company, it's high time you start asking what's in it for YOU. At the end of the day, this is the job that you will be spending a significant part of your life doing, so you need to make sure it's the right fit. If they don't accommodate your two-hour lunch break or understand the need for a mental health cigarette break in the office, you don't need to waste your time.

4. Pick up that phone call

Nothing will make employers want you more than knowing

other people want you, too. Picking up a phone call in the middle of the interview will show them that you are an individual in high demand, and will encourage them to hire you right in the moment.

5. Use ChatGPT

With today's modern technology, there's no reason why you should be stumped by a question in an interview. Instead, just whip out your phone or computer and pull up ChatGPT, which we all know is bookmarked anyway. Ask Chat why you want the job, what some of your passions are or what you're looking for in the role you're pursuing. Employers will love watching you navigate such a complex technological platform, and they will appreciate your ability to outsource help.

6. Bring your childhood stuffed animal

Let's be real, interviews can be scary and it can be hard to focus when your legs are shaking and your palms are sweaty. But, if you bring your comfort stuffed animal, you'll be able to control your emotions and give the interview your full effort. Just place your teddy bear on the desk, or better yet, in a chair next to you, and let your childhood friend watch you adult.

7. Fake a medical emergency

Worried the interview is getting away from you? Bring attention back to you by pretending to have an emergency. Pity points are definitely going to get you far with the interviewers, and are

a great way to ensure any bad answer is forgotten.

8. Talk about "Heated Rivalry"

Interviews can be so serious for no reason! The interviewers are people, too. And all people ever have watched "Heated Rivalry." Instead of talking, calculating the market size of disposable diapers or analyzing market trends, ask the interviewer whether they prefer the sensual tones of a Canadian bottom or the guttural yet tender growls of a Russian top.

9. Trauma dump

Similar to the pity points gained from the fake medical emergency, trauma dumping is a sure way to get the interviewers on your side. Not only will they know you are resilient and able to withstand the trials of life, they'll feel totally guilty about not giving you the job. There's no shame in knowing that you were hired solely because you're completely unstable.

10. Phone a friend

If you're confused, feeling stupid or even hungover, just phone a friend. ChatGPT can't be there for you all the time, but your friends can. If the interviewer asks for life experiences or about the time you've overcome a challenge, call your friend and have them describe the time you single-handedly dragged her drunken body from Del Playa Drive back to San Miguel Residence Hall. The employers will be convinced your character is a perfect fit for their company.

Serrano Ham loves to help!

RBK
Film critic critic

It's common knowledge that dating in Isla Vista is constant warfare for most horny college students, but last Thursday night, one brave soldier faced an especially taxing battle: her relationship created a Letterboxd account.

Second-year UC Santa Barbara student and Delta Sigma soror Stella Moore, who agreed to speak on the condition of anonymity, recalled her (now former) low-commitment relationship beginning on a rather positive note.

"I met Parker two months ago at a frat[ernity] party," Moore said, citing the beginning of her non-committal engagement with Parker Varon, a fifth-year economics major and Sigma Delta head of hazing.

"The theme was 'Boats and Hoes,'" Moore continued, "and he was wearing an unbuttoned linen shirt with a Hugh Hefner hat. I knew then he was the one—for this quarter at least."

Some of Moore's friends recalled meeting Varon.

"Honestly we all thought he was chopped but Stella always has the worst taste in men. That's why we weren't surprised when Stella told us about what she went through," her friends published in a joint public statement.

Things were going well with Varon and Moore until one fateful evening when Varon revealed his betrayal to Moore through a text message. As a legal precaution, we must advise viewer discretion when reading the following text.

"Friend me on Letterboxd. @ SheLuvParker"

The rest, according to Moore, was a blur.

According to a 2025 survey done by UCSB men to determine the biggest poser in

IV, a staggering 37% of men who identify as "different" have recently downloaded Letterboxd and created accounts.

"I thought only the indie men who wore bell bottoms and crop tops used Letterboxd. It's easy to avoid the indie men because I have asthma so I could literally die around those smokers," Moore digresses, "but frat[ernity] guys?! No one is safe anymore," she warns.

After doing some digging, our research team came upon Varon's actual Letterboxd account. Five movies sat, each review so shitty it was offensive. Varon's five-star ratings were for cult classics like "The Wolf of Wall Street," which Varon complimented on its true reflection on "ripping bag."

His one critique was towards Margot Robbie's exposing scene, commenting on the lack of "poonshow."

Not cool, Parker. His only one-star review regarded Greta Gerwig's 2019 rendition of "Little Women," his complaints arguing, "those bitches need to stop complaining and that one dude is a SIMP."

Neither Varon nor Letterboxd responded when we reached out and asked for a comment. However, after some heated arguments in their TikTok's comment section, they have released an apology.

"To all women who have been recently victimized by a college-aged, Tarantino-obsessed man creating a Letterboxd account, forcing others to follow his Letterboxd or seen a Letterboxd account linked in a man's bio, we would like to vehemently apologize for all trauma caused. We are listening and learning."

RBK strives everyday to reach unprecedented levels of misandry.



Trigger warning: Man creates LetterBoxd account

ON THE MENU



This two-ingredient Japanese cheesecake recipe is nothing to Bi-scoff at



PIHU JAIN / DAILY NEXUS

It may not look much like a cheesecake, but don't be fooled by visual aesthetics, it tastes like one.

Pihu Jain
On The Menu Editor

When it comes to cooking, I am often a creature of simple mind: I see a viral, low-effort, low-stakes recipe, I go ahead and try it. This inclination has led me to some of the best (tanghulu, oh my) and worst (frozen Sprite gummies, not for the faint of heart or teeth) snacks of my early 20s. While these recipes advertise themselves as being "life-changing" and incredibly close to the real version of what they are mimicking, they often fall short. Like mug cakes, viral recipes often scratch at the surface of the real thing but can never come close. That's what I thought for the longest time, until a few days ago.

I never thought I would eat my words as quickly as I ate the two-ingredient Japanese cheesecake I'm about to talk you into trying.

This weekend, my Instagram feed was bursting at the seams with videos on the two-ingredient Japanese cheesecake, seemingly out of nowhere (though I suspect it has something to do with my sister and I having an in-depth discussion near my phone about the Japanese Soufflé Cheesecakes we had just purchased at Trader Joe's that morning). I couldn't believe that a dessert could be so easy to make, but countless swipes on Instagram couldn't rid me of the recipe, so I decided to pop into my kitchen and put it to the test. Thankfully, my parents had just bought a lifetime supply of Biscoff cookies from Costco and, with a leftover container of yogurt, I went to work. Two minutes later, my budding creation safe in the cool arms of refrigeration, I went to bed, eager to see if the myth of the two-ingredient cheesecake was true.

What greeted me the next morning was nothing short of a dessert miracle. I, who had burned almost every batch of cookies I touched, had somehow created a delicious cheesecake-esque snack. Every bite was less and less believable, how could it just be biscuits and yogurt? Well, ladies and gents, let me be

the first reputable Gaucho foodie to tell you: This is not a drill, the two-ingredient Japanese cheesecake is real and easily within your reach.

With a rich fluffy texture and all the cinnamon-y, comforting goodness of a Biscoff biscuit, this recipe is not only easy to make but delicious with every bite. See for yourself:

Two-ingredient Japanese Cheesecake

Servings: 2
Duration: ~12 hours

Ingredients:

- 2 cups whole milk yogurt (I used Chobani Greek Whole Milk Yogurt, but any will do)
- 1 pack Biscoff cookies (or any you'd like to try in this recipe)

Instructions:

1. Place your yogurt into a medium-sized bowl, ensuring even distribution across the top
2. Stuff in as many biscuits as you desire, ensuring they are mostly submerged in yogurt
3. You can place the biscuits sideways or vertically, as long as they fit! Breaking them in half seems to also do the trick.
4. Leave overnight or at least 12 hours, then take out and enjoy!

Maybe it's the ease with which it came so close to a cheesecake that has left me in awe, and perhaps after the sugar coma wears off I'll come to my senses, but for now I'll remain willfully ignorant and declare this the easiest dessert hack of the year (I don't care that the year has just begun, this recipe, like "Marty Supreme," has blown all the other competition out of the water). For me, this plain version has been the best so far because I particularly enjoy the creamy sweet-tartness of a New York cheesecake, which I think this recipe comes close to emulating. I know it's supposed to mimic a Japanese

cheesecake, which it certainly did in texture (light and fluffy), but for me the flavor was more traditional. It likely depends on the yogurt you use.

If you like a more adventurous flavor profile, you don't have to stop with just these ingredients. I saw so many different variations of this recipe incorporating Oreos, pistachios, and mixing the yogurt with espresso and dusting with cocoa powder to get a tiramisu cheesecake flavor. This is the only one I've tried thus far, but I'm ready to make a strawberry cheesecake next. You could even use a yogurt with a higher protein content and enjoy the dessert as a post-workout reward. Whatever floats your boat, this recipe is "shore" to ferry you with minimal cost and time to that dessert heaven that seems so far away on a busy day.



PIHU JAIN / DAILY NEXUS



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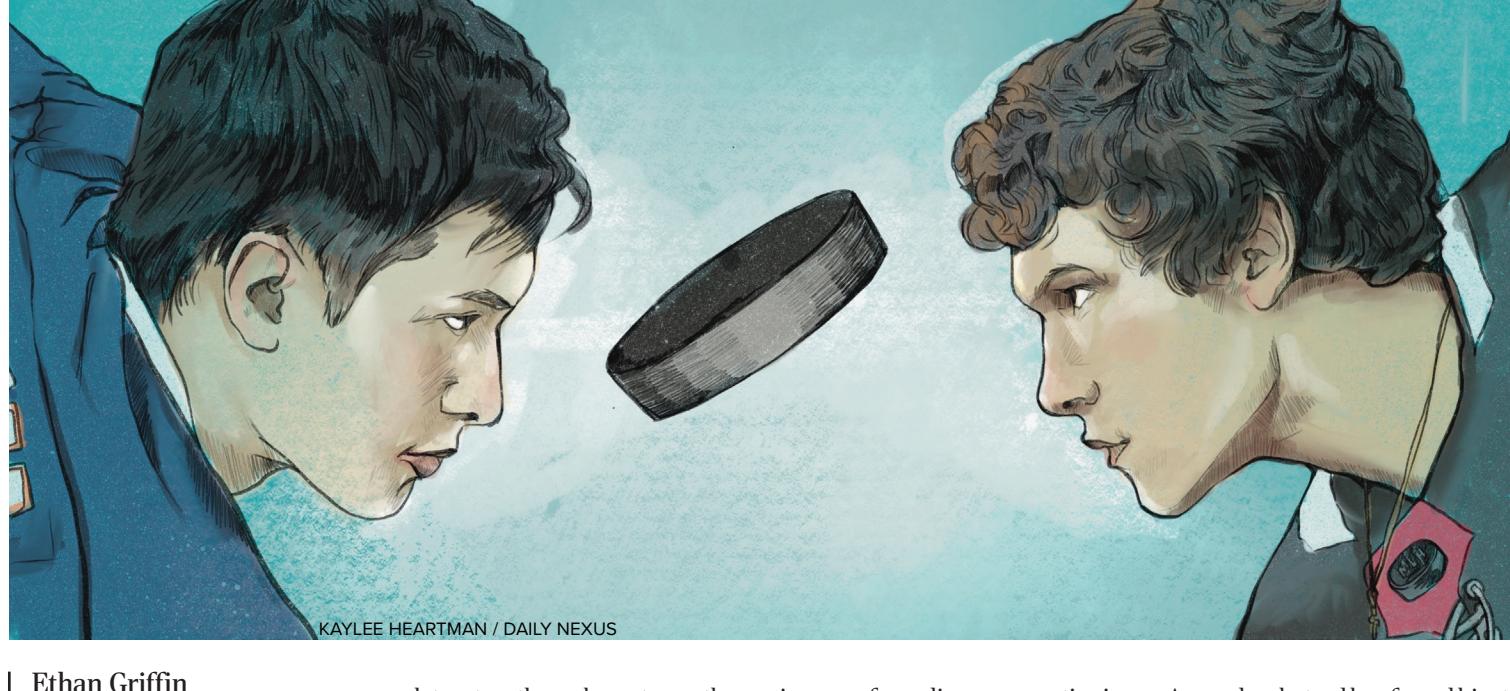
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OPINION

The witch hunt for authenticity in modern media



KAYLEE HEARTMAN / DAILY NEXUS

Ethan Griffin
Reporter

In contemporary media and entertainment, the surge of queer characters and stories throughout movies, television shows, literature and other mediums in recent years symbolizes a triumph in the context of the broader movement for queer liberation. Not only are we seeing a greater prevalence of diverse stories in mainstream media — beyond queerness, the intersectionality of a character's race, gender, social status, etc. — but the narratives granted to these characters similarly exhibit a deviation from heteronormative society and traditional storytelling and tropes. This is not intended to besmirch or discredit classic queer works such as "Brokeback Mountain," "Desert Hearts" or "Maurice" but simply to commend the admirable work of all creatives working to depict the remarkable vastness of queer identities and relationships. Contemporary media has expanded the narratives of queer characters, no longer relying on harmful stereotyping or confining queer romance to tragedy. Despite this, the expansion of queer representation in mainstream media in recent years has also introduced several concerning challenges to both creators and consumers of media involving queerness. Most prominently, there has been an overwhelming, even disturbing obsession with the private lives and romantic pursuits of actors and actresses who play these roles.

Much can be said about the nuances and difficulties of the general population's parasocial relationships with celebrities, but with the massive success of HBO Max's new series "Heated Rivalry," the aforementioned issue of audiences preoccupying themselves with the sexual identity of the people who play these roles has become harshly illuminated. On X (formerly Twitter), TikTok and other social media platforms, I've seen hundreds of invasive, ruthless and blatantly hurtful comments and posts regarding the personal lives of the show's leads, Hudson Williams and Connor Storrie, and most recently their co-star François Arnaud.

"Are they really gay? Who are they dating? If they're that comfortable on screen, why don't they just 'come out' in real life?" The last of these cliché audience demands is of particular interest, as it encapsulates the radical hypocrisy of these remarks. While the show and its actors have received tremendous praise for their electrifying chemistry and passionate commitment during filming, this acclamation feels somewhat hollow, as though it's been applauded as one of the program's greatest strengths, it's also the primary source of its ridicule. It's painfully ironic that we as an audience are happy to consume the raw, passionate story of main characters Shane and Ilya's romance on screen, but are in the same breath critiquing and diminishing the power of their performance for the same reason that it has received such adulation. I understand and commiserate with the desire of queer audiences to know that actors playing the narratives of our real lives can

relate to the characters they embody on a personal level, but it's also imperative that we consequently recognize the very palpable concerns and fears these actors may have about being scrutinized, labeled or pressured to reveal facets of their identity, whether or not those assumptions are accurate. If we fail to do so, we submit these real people — regardless of their profession — to the very challenges and perils that the characters in the shows we love to watch face, transforming an artistic narrative into a personal reality. Consumers of queer media cannot be complicit in perpetrating the norms heteronormative society demands, specifically by forcing these individuals to "come out" for the sole purpose of eliciting judgment or approval. In light of the probing questions and derisive remarks made against the cast of "Heated Rivalry," it feels reminiscent of two other queer celebrities faced with similar attacks to their personal lives: Kit Connor and Billie Eilish.

Connor, a 21-year-old British actor noted for his prominent rise to fame after his role in Netflix's hit series "Heartstopper," experienced a disconcertingly similar treatment from audiences due to his portrayal as Nick Nelson, a bisexual teenager coming to terms with his sexuality as new feelings develop for his friend Charlie Spring, played by Joe Locke. While Locke was exempt from the majority of harassment and aggression from audiences, Connor — only 18 at the time — was subject to enormous pressure and scorn from audiences who questioned his personal sexual orientation and claimed he was personally "queerbaiting," defined as "a marketing technique involving intentional homoeroticism or suggestions of LGBTQ+ themes intended to draw in an LGBTQ+ audience, without explicit inclusion of openly LGBTQ+ relationships, characters or people." This term in and of itself is quite layered (and seems to be a new favorite pop culture buzzword among X users and internet trolls alike), yet regardless, the young actor suffered immense contempt from consumers of the show. In October 2022, Connor tweeted:

"I'm bi. Congrats for forcing an 18-year-old to out himself. I think some of you missed the point of the show."

The post, though blunt, exemplifies the central issues concerning these witch hunts for authenticating an actor's own sexual orientation: by coercing actors to share the deepest aspects of their personality, we not only deny them the right of their agency over their identity, but more dishearteningly, demonstrate that we failed to understand the very purpose of the media we consume.

Similarly, Eilish — though not primarily acknowledged for her acting — experienced tribulations comparable to those of Connor and the "Heated Rivalry" cast after the release of her "Lost Cause" music video in June 2021. Eilish, only 20 years old at the time, received an unforeseeable onslaught of backlash and accusations from fans who confidently proclaimed that her music video was rife with "queerbaiting" behavior. Beyond the conspicuous and prevalent

issue of audiences continuing to pressure celebrities into conformity through an invasive level of access to their personal lives, the harassment from audiences exposed another problem with the obsessions with the personal lives of celebrities: the presumption of heterosexuality. Eilish captioned the post promoting her video with "i love girls;" a blatant statement, yet the intense critiques she received from the public highlight the paradoxical foolishness of audiences who demand unrestricted access to a celebrity's sexual orientation. Even when presented with unfiltered honesty from the individual themselves, the norms of heteronormative society inherently dilute audiences' perspectives — what Eilish said or did not say was inconsequential in a society whose own rubric for the authenticity of an actor's sexuality rests upon heteronormative standards. In a later interview conducted in 2023, Eilish even stated, "I kind of thought, wasn't it obvious? ... I just didn't realize people didn't know."

Once again, we recognize that when we are preoccupied with this desperation for veracity, we not only constrain queer celebrities into harmful, reductive narratives, but simultaneously hinder the possibilities for our own acceptance and understanding when our favorite TV stars or music icons are brave enough to share their personal stories.

While it's no surprise that the crusade for authenticity has continued against the "Heated Rivalry" cast, specifically Williams, Storrie and most recently Arnaud, director Jacob Tierney has valiantly positioned himself at the foreground of their defense. In a recent interview with Variety, Tierney claimed that "the real-life sexualities of his stars are irrelevant compared to the enthusiasm and willingness" they bring to HBO's new queer, sports drama series.

He furthered his protection of the rising stars with the calm yet comprehensive statement, "I don't think there's any reason to get into that stuff." By redirecting questions concerning the sexuality of the actors and transforming them into compliments toward the dedication and passion of Williams and Storrie, Tierney provides an appropriate, respectable foundation for discussions surrounding the personal lives of the show's actors.

While Tierney's, as well as Williams and Storrie's interviewing campaigns have proved moderately effective in placating the aggressive prying of audiences, recent developments concerning French actor Arnaud have reinstated the harm caused by the intrusive questioning of the actor's sexual identity. After pictures were released of Arnaud and Storrie at media events and at the same airport last week, the 40-year-old actor was plagued by nasty comments, online harassment and even menacing, homophobic threats via the internet and in person. Consequently, the actor — who came out in 2020 as bisexual in an interview with Andy Cohen — mass unfollowed other individuals associated with "Heated Rivalry." Not only does my heart go out to



HOROSCOPES

The signs as queer media

ARIES

MARCH 21 - APRIL 19

"Call Me by Your Name"

TAURUS

APRIL 20 - MAY 20

"Overcompensating"

GEMINI

MAY 21 - JUNE 20

"The Miseducation of Cameron Post"

CANCER

JUNE 21 - JULY 22

"Portrait of a Lady on Fire"

LEO

JULY 23 - AUGUST 22

"Heated Rivalry"

VIRGO

AUGUST 23 - SEPTEMBER 22

"Dress" by Taylor Swift

LIBRA

SEPTEMBER 23 - OCTOBER 22

"LUNCH" by Billie Eilish

SCORPIO

OCTOBER 23 - NOVEMBER 21

"Brokeback Mountain"

SAGITTARIUS

NOVEMBER 22 - DECEMBER 21

"Pushing it Down and Praying" by Lizzy McAlpine

CAPRICORN

DECEMBER 22 - JANUARY 19

"Sunburn" by Chloe Michelle Howarth

AQUARIUS

JANUARY 20 - FEBRUARY 18

"Heartstopper"

PISCES

FEBRUARY 19 - MARCH 20

"But I'm a Cheerleader"

SCIENCE & TECH



SIMPLY STATED :

Upside Down physics – The science behind “Stranger Things”



COURTESY OF TUDUM

Aria Khaitan
Reporter

For the past decade, Netflix's hit show "Stranger Things" has captivated viewers hooked to the relationships, characters and most importantly, the interdimensional sci-fi background of the narrative. In an epic three-part finale that aired at the end of 2025, the questions, plot holes and twists finally came together. While the idea of Demogorgons and flesh-made mind-flaying monsters may be a stretch from reality, the foundation of physics and parallel universe theories are actually grounded in real scientific thought.

Quantum mechanics governs much of the show, including the presence of the Upside Down and eventually Dimension X, or The Abyss. The Upside Down is an alternate realm that the characters uncover throughout the show - identical to their town but filled with monsters, toxic air and deadly vines. In the fifth season, it is revealed that the Upside Down is in fact a bridge to another

dimension entirely, which the characters refer to as The Abyss. Quantum rules have baffled scientists and theorists for years, as they disobey all means of logic by telling us that a particle can be in two places at once. If you have heard of the famous Schrödinger equation, a wave equation that predicts the probability of a particle being in a specific place at a specific time, then you know that physicist Erwin Schrödinger had an influential role in understanding quantum mechanics. Schrödinger was uncomfortable with the idea of the wave function collapse – the notion that a quantum system suddenly changes state upon measurement – and instead hoped that the wave function would evolve smoothly according to Schrödinger's equation, without being altered by observation. He illustrated the problem with this idea through Schrödinger's cat experiment, which highlights the paradox that, if a system can exist in multiple possible states at the same time, a cat could be both alive and dead until

observed. Later interpretations propose that all these outcomes happen simultaneously in separate, non-interacting versions of reality.

Years later, physicist Hugh Everett proposed the "many-worlds theory," which introduced the concept of the universe splitting into different versions of itself. In an effort to avoid confusion about the metaphysics of our universe: It is as if every quantum choice rips apart our world into opposing dimensions of itself. Sound familiar?

The first four seasons of "Stranger Things" operated on this idea that there was an identical, opposite universe, or "Upside Down," mirroring Hawkins, Indiana. The actual science behind alternative universes and multiple simultaneous outcomes of life and death almost makes the show more terrifying and unsettling – the show presents the idea that something similar could be brewing in real life. Imagining a dimension where everything is the same, yet different, and the universe

splits at every quantum state, makes one question: what is truly real? In reality, however, quantum physics does not allow the possibility for anything in our dimension to reach another one, much less rip open portals and go on a casual stroll. It's safe to say that we do not need to worry about the Upside Down.

In the fifth and final season, the characters unearth the truth about wormholes and the bridge between their world and The Abyss. This new dimension completely changes everything previously known about the Upside Down. In "Stranger Things," the universe is a wormhole, a theory based on physicist Albert Einstein's general theory of relativity. This concept states that the universe consists of a space-time continuum and has the ability to form a bridge connecting two distant worlds – an Einstein-Rosen bridge. It is revealed that a large mass of exotic matter with negative energy existed in the Upside Down's Hawkins Lab. This exotic matter stabilized the

Upside Down, acting as a bridge between dimensions. Eventually, the characters plan to blow up the exotic matter, therefore crumbling the bridge and destroying the Upside Down, sealing their dimension indefinitely.

Foundations in science and physics exist at the very core of this hit show. The plot intricacies, shocking twists and grand reveals would be meaningless if not backed by very real concepts. Perhaps, this is part of the reason why the show can be so terrifying. It reminds us how little we know about our universe and the intangible laws that govern the matter surrounding us. Particles existing in two places at the same time, worlds colliding and splitting instantaneously and bridges connecting dimensions is not all fiction, but are backed by the theories and ideas that physicists have pondered upon and studied for centuries.

Our universe may be "stranger" than we care to admit. That is, if there is only one universe...

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5:30PM, 7:30PM, 10PM



SPORTS

FROM UCSB TO USWNT: AARON HEIFETZ'S FULL-CIRCLE RETURN TO SANTA BARBARA

Haiden Rogers
Sports Editor

When the United States women's national soccer team faces off against Chile at UC Santa Barbara on Jan. 27, the match will mean much more than an international friendly in Harder Stadium. For Aaron Heifetz, the U.S. women's national team director of communications and a UCSB alum, the game represents a return to the place where his career in sports media began: first in the Daily Nexus newsroom, and then as an assistant coach of the UCSB women's soccer team.

Heifetz's path to the national level did not begin in the newsroom, though, it began with soccer. Originally transferring to UCSB with hopes of playing soccer, Heifetz found himself searching for another outlet when that opportunity didn't materialize. He later tried out for the newly returned UCSB football program in 1987, earning a spot on the roster as a kicker. But when his athletic ambitions at UCSB stalled, Heifetz made a decision to change course, one that would ultimately define his career.

"I walked into the Daily Nexus and into the sports editors' office and I said 'Hey, I'd like to cover your men's soccer team' ... in a sentence that changed my life, he said, 'Well, we have someone covering men's soccer, how would you like to cover women's soccer?'" Heifetz said.



Press conference featuring Aaron Heifetz and current USA coach Emma Hayes.

Heifetz accepted this offer, and in doing so he unknowingly set off a chain reaction that would shape the rest of his life. While covering the UCSB women's soccer team for the Nexus, Heifetz developed a close relationship with Head Coach Tad Bobak, bonding over their shared passion for the game. This bond continued past Heifetz's graduation from UCSB.

After graduating, Bobak offered Heifetz a position on the team as an assistant head coach.

Heifetz accepted this offer, becoming the assistant head coach for the UCSB women's soccer team from 1989-94. It was during his time in this position

that another door opened.

In 1991, Bobak came up with the idea to bring the USWNT to Santa Barbara. The visit included a training camp and two exhibition matches, one against UCSB and another against a Southern California all-star team.

"Because that match in 1991, opened a door, which opened another door, which opened another door, it's very special to come back," Heifetz said.

Two years later, when the U.S. men's national team (USMNT) played Romania at UCSB, Heifetz crossed paths with U.S. Soccer Press Officer Dean Linke. Linke invited Heifetz to assist with communications duties and travel with the team for matches in Southern California.

While traveling with the team, Heifetz began to write game stories and assisted Linke with press operations. That experience led to an offer for a position as the assistant press officer for the USMNT. In 1995, with the experience of writing and performing press officer duties for the men's world cup

team in his belt, U.S. Soccer

offered Heifetz a position as the director of communications for the USWNT. As a result of a chain reaction that started with the Daily Nexus, Heifetz has been with the team in that same position since.

"The Nexus played a big role in where I am today, and I'm very fond of that," Heifetz said.

Now, as the director of communication for the USWNT, Heifetz oversees the messaging and media that surrounds one of the most influential teams in sports.

"I deal with all of the media that surrounds the USWNT – all the interviews for all the players, the broadcasts, a lot of public relations, our content team – basically making sure what we are putting out to the public mirrors the themes that we want as U.S. soccer, that is real and true to who we are and who the players are," Heifetz said.

Heifetz's role carries a lot of responsibility, given the large influence and cultural impacts of the USWNT.

"This team and these players, they mean a lot to a lot of people. That's why I call myself a professional reminder ... I remind them that they need to do interviews, I remind them that they need to keep pushing ... if you can do something in your life that you feel has positively impacted sports culture, which these women definitely have, then you can feel pretty proud at the end of the day," Heifetz said.

Over the span of Heifetz's career with the USWNT, the media atmosphere surrounding women's sports has changed drastically.

"Massively. Like night and day," Heifetz said. "That kind of growth is just remarkable, and I give the players a lot of credit because they are the ones through all of the years that kept pushing and kept doing the work, the interviews and the winning ... it's massively different and it's awesome."

The evolution of the USWNT makes the return to UCSB on Jan. 27 against Chile, Heifetz, who can trace many memories, opportunities and turning points back to Santa Barbara.

"It means a lot ... you always have a soft spot for your college and the program there ... it's definitely full circle," Heifetz said.

As the USWNT prepares to take the field at Harder Stadium on Jan. 27 against Chile, Heifetz's return serves as a reminder of UCSB's lasting influence on its students, not just on the athletes also but on the storytellers who help shape how sports are remembered.

"It's a special place, there is always something going on, there is always a good energy there, whether you're in I.V. or on campus," Heifetz said.

"Yeah, people should be full of gratitude that they get to go to school in such a beautiful place."



Aaron Heifetz as the assistant coach of the 1990 UCSB women's soccer team.

GAUCHOS BASKETBALL SECURES CONFERENCE WIN AGAINST HAWAII'

Emily Hobbs
Asst. Sports Editor

The UC Santa Barbara men's basketball team delivered one of the most impressive performances of their season so far on Saturday, Jan. 17 at the Thunderdome against the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. Using a dominant first half and relentless defense, Head Coach Joe Pasternack's Gauchos were able to defeat the former Big West Conference leaders 77-62. This victory marked UCSB's eighth consecutive win over the Rainbow Warriors and their ninth consecutive win at home.

The Gauchos gained the lead against Hawai'i early and did not let go. UCSB shot 54.7% overall and 38.9% from the 3-point line – marks that Hawai'i did not reach. The Gauchos started the game with a 7-0 run, with all

three baskets made by different players.

On the other side, Hawai'i missed the first seven consecutive shots and did not score a single basket until over halfway through the first half, at the 15:47 mark. The Rainbow Warriors finally scored with 3 from the free throw line, but UCSB answered immediately with a 3-pointer from senior guard Aidan Mahaney, keeping the momentum going. By the end of the first quarter, Hawai'i had shot just 1 for 10, with the Gauchos leading 19-5.

Although Hawai'i was able to shorten the gap by the end of the first half, cutting UCSB's lead to only 10, the Gauchos bounced back thanks to 6 consecutive points from junior forward Colin Smith, allowing them to close the half on a 7-point run, ending the half at 41-20.

The Rainbow Warriors were able to start the second half off strong, with a 9-point run to start, but this did not go unanswered. UCSB was able to bounce back with a 7-point run of their own, regaining their 17-point lead. The Rainbow Warriors attempted to chip away at the lead throughout the second half, and had successfully mowed down the lead to only 7 points. A 3-pointer by junior guard Miro Little sparked the scoring again, leading to another scoring run by the Gauchos, allowing them to end the game with a 15-point lead.

The Gauchos remain at home for the upcoming week, hosting California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo in the Thunderdome on Thursday, Jan. 22 at 6 p.m. in the first edition of the Blue-Green Rivalry for the 2025-2026 season.

COURTESY OF UCSB ATHLETICS



Junior forward Colin Smith scoring one of his 6 consecutive points.