



## UCSB community holds solidarity vigil for those impacted by I.C.E.

Michelle Cisneros  
Lead News Editor

Roughly 140 students, community members and staff gathered at Storke Lawn on Jan. 28 in solidarity with people affected by federal immigration enforcement. Earlier that same day, Immigration and Customs Enforcement conducted a raid in Eastside Santa Barbara, reportedly detaining one person and allegedly pushing and pepper-spraying individuals during an enforcement operation.

As of mid-January, United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (I.C.E.) has detained at least 1,430 people across the Central Coast in the last 13 months. I.C.E. activity has escalated nationwide, with 2025 marking the deadliest year within I.C.E. detention facilities in at least two decades, according to The Guardian.

On Wednesday morning, I.C.E. agents allegedly pushed one individual and pepper-sprayed another, according to a press release from the Santa Barbara Police Department (SBPD). The SBPD took statements from eyewitnesses, provided



SHENGYU ZHANG / DAILY NEXUS

The vigil began at around 4:30 p.m. as organizers distributed candles, traffic control and arranged for medical assistance.

According to the Santa Barbara Independent, witnesses said community members helped the woman who was pepper-sprayed and called for medical assistance first. Several rapid response volunteers who are trained to monitor and document enforcement

operations were present during the encounter.

A community volunteer with SBResiste, a local organization that monitors I.C.E. activity, said she was “disappointed” by the lack of support from local authorities during the incident, a sentiment echoed by another rapid response volunteer at the UC Santa Barbara vigil.

The vigil began at around 4:30 p.m., with attendees carrying Latin American flags and signs which stated “Say their names,” and “El pueblo unido jamás será vencido,” which translates to “The people united will never be divided,” among others.

El Congreso, a student-led activist organization, was the primary organizer of the

vigil, with other organizations delivering speeches throughout the event. Organizers distributed candles before Chicana and Chicano studies professor Ralph Armbruster-Sandoval and a member of El Congreso delivered opening remarks.

“I know many of us are carrying heavy emotions, anger, pain, sadness, hopelessness and fear, but what I see in front of me right now is a community united in the pursuit of justice and peace in the times we are living in,” a spokesperson for El Congreso said.

Following a moment of silence, Armbruster-Sandoval expressed his worry over the killings of Renee Good, Alex Pretti, Keith Porter Jr. and others by government entities. Armbruster-Sandoval highlighted the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis roughly five years prior. He also expressed solidarity with the student organizers before asking attendees to repeat the word “present” or “present” after the names of people who died in an I.C.E. detention center or were killed during an operation were announced.

**I.C.E. vigil p.6**

## OBSD hosts opening ceremony for Black History Month

Malia Guy  
Staff Writer

The UC Santa Barbara Office of Black Student Development hosted its annual opening ceremony for Black History Month on Feb. 2 in the Student Resource Building’s Multipurpose Room.

The ceremony started off with live music from a student band which played throughout the event. The band is led by Dylan Williams, a student intern for the Office of Black Student Development (OBSD).

After attendees got food provided by Country Catering Company, OBSD Coordinator of Black Student Life Julianna Swilley led the attendees in singing the Black National Anthem, “Lift Every Voice and Sing.”

Swilley announced the events that will happen throughout Black History Month before introducing the guest lecturer, Black Studies assistant professor Ingrid Banks. Banks has been at UCSB since 2002. She told two anecdotes relating to important historical figures in the Black community.

In the first story, titled “Jackie Robinson’s Team,” Banks described when she learned that her grandfather referred to the Los Angeles Dodgers as Jackie Robinson’s team. Robinson was the first African American player to integrate Major League Baseball.

“Robinson’s achievement was all of our achievement,” Banks said. “It was an example of Black excellence on and off the baseball field.”

In the second story, titled “Rosa: the tired, old, Black lady,” Banks showed how the story of Rosa Parks differed between her white teacher’s retelling and her grandparents’ retelling, as her teacher downplayed the reasoning behind Parks’ protest.

“My grandparents referred to Rosa Parks as Mrs. Parks, [while] my substitute teacher referred to her only as Rosa,” Banks explained. “The young

perky white substitute teacher erased the history of Rosa Parks’ protests and radicalism in challenging segregation on buses in Montgomery, Alabama.”

Banks then called for attendees to acknowledge the good and the bad parts of Black history.

“We must understand that the triumphs rise out of struggle,” Banks said. “We made it in spite of persistent and stubborn anti-Blackness. Black Gaucho excellence is a thing. It is alive and thriving.”

The last activity in the ceremony before attendees dispersed to mingle was Black trivia. Kabo Moseise, a fourth-year actuarial science major, was one of the students who participated.

“It was fun,” Moseise said. “I wasn’t expecting the trivia to be specific to UCSB, so that kind of threw me off.”

After the trivia, many started working on writing what Swilley labeled “legacy letters.” Swilley explained that these are letters that will be preserved and opened in five years for future Black students at UCSB.

Second-year biology major Essence Tibbs wrote in her letter how she hopes to pursue higher education and “to remember to live with purpose and just be happy.”

Onah Nwapa, a second-year biology major, expressed wanting to be content with herself.

“I just made sure to write how I should be proud of myself for all the hard work I’m going to do over the next five years,” Nwapa said.

Swilley said that she hopes the event and other Black History Month events will encourage attendees to stay connected with their communities while celebrating and acknowledging their history.

“It’s rooted in struggle, but one of the things I think holds true is that we were successful and [that’s] encouraged through community and sticking together,” Swilley said.



OBSD’s Coordinator of Black Student Life Julianna Swilley announced the events that will be happening throughout Black History Month.

## Peaceful Pardall Gardens opens in I.V.



SARA STEVENS / DAILY NEXUS

Local I.V. band The Bad Neighbors played during the grand opening of Pardall Gardens on Jan. 29.

Elle West  
Reporter  
Gabriel Welch  
Reporter

Around 50 community members celebrated the grand opening of the new Pardall Gardens on Jan. 29. The park features a stage, seating and a native plant station.

The park had been under construction since April of 2025 and is along Pardall Road, which connects the town to the UC Santa Barbara campus and is one of the busiest streets in Isla Vista. Organizers celebrated the occasion by offering beverages and snacks from I.V. Drip, coupons from Woodstock’s Pizza, entertainment by the SB Bubble Guy and live music performances.

Proposition 68, which was passed back in 2018, aims to increase state funding for access to safe parks, particularly in areas that lack public green spaces, according to the California Grants Portal website. This measure allocated roughly \$4 billion dollars for projects like this one. I.V. Recreation & Parks District (IVRPD) Assistant General Manager Luis Valerio explained that the garden was funded by two Proposition 68 grants.

“We received \$177,000 from the per capita grant, and then we received \$250,000 from the [Recreational Infrastructure Revenue Enhancement] grant. Both grants focus on environmental

enhancements [and] recreational improvements,” Valerio said.

IVRPD General Manager Kimberly Kiefer, Valerio and a representative from the office of California State Senator Monique Limón spoke about the effort that went into this new addition to the I.V. community over the past five years.

“[I] felt like this park before was basically a vacant lot with one picnic table, in the busiest, thriving part of our community and [it] feels like there’s very limited places for people to sit and enjoy. [The] idea was to activate the space and make it creative for everybody to enjoy it,” Kiefer said.

Kiefer mentioned that the original drafting of the design of the park included a three-month survey to get community feedback on what the park should have.

Valerio, the acting project manager, said the IVRPD designed the park to help support local businesses, provide outdoor dining with bar stools, high top seating, picnic tables and benches. He also wanted it to be a “place where students [can] relax and hang out while coming off and on campus.”

Local I.V. band The Bad Neighbors played during the ceremony. In the future, Valerio hopes to host concerts or fundraisers at the garden.

IVRPD contracted Pacific Coast Land Design, Incorporated, a Ventura-based landscape architecture firm, to design the

park. According to Valerio, project managers were impressed with the firm’s project mock-up and their plant palette.

The project was originally scheduled to be finished in October 2025 but was completed roughly three months after due to various permit requirements, rainstorms and other delays. Valerio explained that the extra time allowed plants to grow, helping them be more adjusted to their new home. According to Kiefer, the park is home to 518 native drought-tolerant plants and eight trees.

The extra months also allowed officials to see how poor weather affected the park. Despite recent historic levels of rainfall in Santa Barbara, Kiefer explained that “all the water had dissipated properly.”

“We have a rain catch basin, so it was able to capture the water, absorb it and the park was unscathed,” Kiefer said.

Marcelo Miller, a UCSB alum, is excited to use the park to “relax [and] have a better view of the sunset instead of just looking at buildings.”

Valerio said he believes the park meets the goals of Proposition 68, prioritizing water conservation and efficiency through the native plants and rain water basin.

The IVRPD hopes that this is just the first in a sequence of projects to enhance the Isla Vista community and has its sights set on a children’s park renovation project in the near future.

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

KAYLEE HEARTMAN / DAILY NEXUS

Jack Dindia  
Lead News Editor

## IHC hosts 'Humanities Decanted: Elana Resnick'

The Interdisciplinary Humanities Center (IHC) is hosting "Humanities Decanted: Elana Resnick" on Thursday, Feb. 5, from 4-5:30 p.m. at the McCune Conference Room on the sixth floor of the Humanities and Social Sciences Building.

"Join us for a dialogue between Elana Resnick (Anthropology) and Charles Hale (Dean of Social Sciences) about Resnick's new book, *Refusing Sustainability: Race and Environmentalism in a Changing Europe*," the Shoreline description read.

Refreshments will be provided for attendees.

## Health & Wellness hosts 'Cooking For Better Sleep'

Health & Wellness is hosting "Cooking For Better Sleep" on Thursday, Feb. 5, from 5-6 p.m. at the Student Resource Building (SRB) Multipurpose Room (MPR).

"Join us for a cooking workshop where students learn about sleep-promoting foods and prepare a bedtime meal designed to support better rest and recovery," the Shoreline description read.

## RCSGD hosts 'Making QT-ies Flowers!'

The Resource Center for Sexual and Gender Diversity (RCSGD) is hosting "Making QT-ies Flowers!" on Thursday, Feb. 5, from 5-6:30 p.m. at the Asian Resource Center on the first floor of the SRB.

"In this Valentine's Day-themed space, we'll be crafting charm bracelets and origami flowers as gifts to the folks whom we like and love," the Shoreline description read.

## IHC hosts screening of 'Arco' and 'Spirited Away'

IHC is hosting a screening of the films "Arco" and "Spirited Away" on Thursday, Feb. 5, from 7-11 p.m. at Isla Vista Theater.

"In 2075, a 10-year-old girl, Iris, sees a mysterious boy wearing a rainbow jumpsuit falling from the sky. It's Arco. He comes from a distant, idyllic future where time travel is possible. Iris takes him in and will do whatever it takes to help him return home," the description for "Arco" read on Shoreline.

"During her family's move to the suburbs, a sullen 10-year-old girl wanders into a world ruled by gods, witches and spirits, and where humans are changed into beasts," the IMDB description for "Spirited Away" read.

## Health & Wellness hosts 'Different Cultures, Same Conversation'

Health & Wellness is hosting "Different Cultures, Same Conversation" on Friday, Feb. 6, from 2:30-4:30 p.m. at the Health & Wellness Community Room in the SRB.

"Join us to discuss how Men's body image shows up across all cultures. We will be uncovering

shared experiences and differences through meaningful and open conversation," the Shoreline description read.

## UCSB Sustainability hosts 'Edible Campus Program'

UCSB Sustainability is hosting "Saturday Morning Live - Edible Campus Program" on Saturday, Feb. 7, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at The Family Student Housing Storke Garden.

"Saturday Morning Live is a garden volunteer event hosted by Edible Campus Program that occurs every Saturday from 11AM - 1PM at gardens and farms in the IV and UCSB community," the Shoreline description read.

## RCSGD hosts 'Card Crafting Night'

RCSGD is hosting "Card Crafting Night" on Saturday, Feb. 7, from 3-5 p.m. at the San Clemente Center.

"Do you have a romantic partner or friend you want to express your affection for? Give them a handcrafted card this Valentine's day! Swing by and craft a certification of your affection," the Shoreline description read.

## Women's Center hosts 'Condoms, Candy, and Consent'

The Women's Center is hosting "Condoms, Candy, and Consent" on Monday, Feb. 9, from 3-4:30 p.m. at the SRB MPR.

"The week of love is approaching and Valentine's Day reminds us how important it is to engage in conversations about sexual health, sex culture, and sexuality. The Women's Center is excited to contribute a space and facilitate those important dialogues on February 9th with Condoms, Candy, and Consent!" the Shoreline description read.

## IHC hosts screening of 'Little Women'

IHC is hosting a free screening of "Little Women" with trivia on Monday, Feb. 9, from 8-10:25 p.m. at the Theater & Dance West building room 1701.

"In the years after the Civil War, Jo March lives in New York and makes her living as a writer, while her sister Amy studies painting in Paris. Amy has a chance encounter with Theodore, a childhood crush who proposed to Jo but was ultimately rejected. Their oldest sibling, Meg, is married to a schoolteacher, while shy sister Beth develops a devastating illness that brings the family back together," the Shoreline description read.

## Health & Wellness hosts 'Flavors of the Diaspora'

Health & Wellness is hosting "Flavors of the Diaspora!" on Tuesday, Feb. 10, from 4-6 p.m. at the SRB MPR.

"Join us for a hands-on cooking workshop in order to celebrate Black History Month and cook food from across the African Diaspora," the Shoreline description read.

# A week in UC student news



MICHELLE WU / DAILY NEXUS

Michelle Cisneros  
Lead News Editor

## UC Berkeley designated as Black-Serving Institution

UC Berkeley announced on Jan. 29 that it is a part of the inaugural group of California institutions to be designated as a Black-Serving Institution (BSI). California Senate Bill 1348, which was signed into law in 2024, established the designation.

"Becoming a Black Serving Institution marks a meaningful step forward for UC Berkeley. What energizes me most is the collective commitment to move beyond symbolism and toward sustained action," Dr. Amber Johnson, Assistant Vice Chancellor and Chief of Staff for the Division of Equity and Inclusion, said in the press release.

The release continued by stating the BSI designation, "is not only a recognition, but a responsibility," and that in the coming semesters, the university will "engage in deeper work" to put the designation into practice.

## Union members and students disrupt forum for UC president, demand affordability

Around 70 people rallied outside a public forum on Jan. 29 for University of California (UC) President James B. Milliken, calling for a contract for the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) 3299 that offers livable wages and affordable housing. According to

the Daily Californian, three union members and one UCB student were escorted out of the building after interrupting the event.

AFSCME 3299 represents more than 40,000 workers across the UC. The Commonwealth Club World Affairs of California, a public forum hosting organization, held an event where four protesters delivered statements on the cost of living in San Francisco compared to UC wages.

"I'm a San Francisco native, and I refuse to leave the city that raised me. Life is unaffordable, especially with the salaries that UC pays," one of the protesters said at the event.

Contract negotiations between the UC and AFSCME 3299 will continue in the upcoming weeks. The day before the event, the UC issued a press release with updated contract proposals.

"UC believes the supposal now before AFSCME addresses key priorities while remaining fiscally responsible and sustainable for the University," the press release read.

## UC students across campuses rally against I.C.E., Iranian regime

Throughout the last two weeks, students have rallied against actions by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (I.C.E.) and the Islamic Republic of Iran's regime, according to various student newspapers across the UC.

UC Los Angeles students held two protests and one vigil in

relation to I.C.E. actions between Jan. 28 and Jan. 30. Students also held a rally in solidarity with the people of Iran on Jan. 14 and a vigil on Jan. 22.

Students at UCB held a community gathering over the Iranian internet blackout on Jan. 27 and a rally against I.C.E. on Jan. 28.

On Jan. 23, students at UC Irvine held a protest in solidarity with a labor movement from Minneapolis that was striking against the killing of Renee Good by an I.C.E. agent.

## DOJ aims to join lawsuit against UCLA medical school

The Department of Justice (DOJ) announced on Jan. 28 that it seeks to intervene, meaning to join, a lawsuit against UCLA's David Geffen School of Medicine.

The organization Do No Harm, which focuses on "keeping identity politics out of medical education, research, and clinical practice," first filed the lawsuit last May, according to the Daily Bruin. The lawsuit alleges that the medical school's admission process is discriminatory as it considers race and ethnicity.

The lawsuit alleges that the school's "Anti-racism Roadmap," which is currently unavailable on its website, but included Diversity, Equity and Inclusion initiatives, is discriminatory.

According to the Los Angeles Times, the federal district judge presiding over the case, John Halcomb, must approve the DOJ's request.

# Artsweek Pop Culture Crossword

Lauren Chiou  
Artsweek Editor

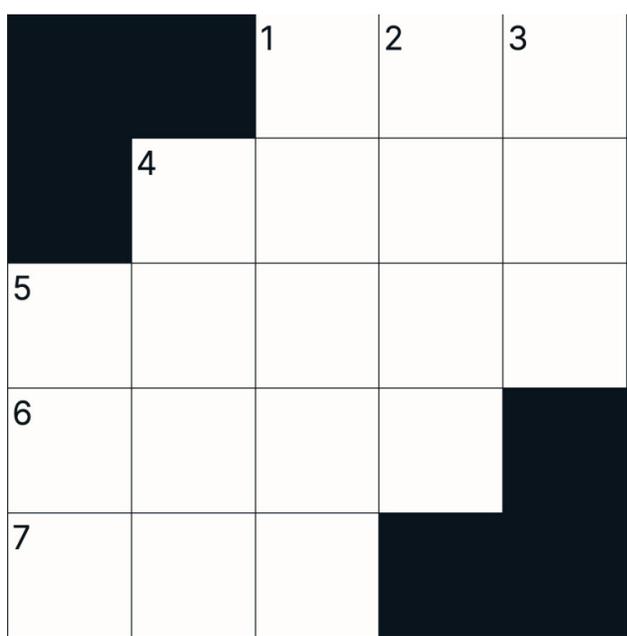
## DOWN

- HBO show starring Bill Hader
- Famous cookie brand
- Hit song by 1980s band A Flock of Seagulls, "I \_\_\_"
- Where Pearl lives in A24s "X" trilogy
- Subreddit for unlimited inquiries

## ACROSS

- Where the "How I Met Your Mother" gang hangs out
- Southern football school, abbreviated
- Theater actor, \_\_\_ Tveit
- Formal addressment of popular radio host
- "\_\_\_ thing Could Happen" by Ellie Goulding, or "\_\_\_ one But You" starring Sydney Sweeney and Glen Powell

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"Chk Chk Boom."

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# IVCSD approves use of facilities for warming centers



FINN THOMAS / DAILY NEXUS  
The protest was promoted via the anonymous social media app YikYak.

**Levi Kauffman**  
Assistant News Editor  
**Noura Elkhatib**  
Staff Writer

The Isla Vista Community Services District Board of Directors unanimously approved the use of the Isla Vista Community Center as a warming center at its Jan. 27 meeting. The centers will be run by the local non-profit Good Samaritan Shelter, offering shelter for homeless individuals during cold and rainy nights.

Under this agreement, the shelter would give Isla Vista Community Services District (IVCSD) a three-day notice before a rainy day that the space will be used as an overnight warming center. From the hours of 6 p.m. to 6 a.m., unhoused community members in Isla Vista would be able to use the space as a shelter to sleep and keep out of the rain and low temperatures.

Community Programs and Engagement Director Myah Mashhadialireza stated that IVCSD would be prioritizing existing paid reservations in the Community Center.

"We are doing the best we can to accommodate with the space that we have without disrupting the people that are paying or already guaranteed the space," Mashhadialireza said.

Third-year anthropology and global studies double major and IVCSD Director Annabelle Sipos and former President Spencer Brandt expressed the importance of having a warming center in Isla Vista.

"This is about long-term health outcomes for people in our community that are experiencing homelessness, and I think it's really a testament to the values of this organization," Brandt said.

The agreement was approved unanimously via general vote.

Additionally, the board unanimously passed a resolution to honor the life and service of Arthur Kennedy, a long-time IV community member. Kennedy, who moved to IV in the 1960s and helped found the IV Food Co-op and Learn Engage Advocate Partner (L.E.A.P.), passed away on Jan. 24. Jeffery Walsh, a friend of Kennedy's, held back tears while thanking the board for recognizing his friend.

"Recognition is not something that [Kennedy] ever sought. He was one of those quiet, 'put your head down, go to work' kind of guys, he never sought acclaim or appreciation," Walsh said. "I just want to express my appreciation to the board for recognizing my friend."

Following the resolution, the board heard a staff report on the Goleta Valley Library's Bookvan, which provides books, audio visual materials and crafts to IV. According to Mashhadialireza, the Bookvan is planning to shrink the number of sites it visits to maximize the time it spends at each site. She also ensured the Bookvan will continue to spend 20 hours a week in IV. However, it will now visit the Community Center twice rather than three times a week.

"[The Goleta Valley Library was] looking at when people were coming most often and trying to find those high-target times in

the areas," Mashhadialireza said. "They identified the Community Center was one of those sites, along with a lot of others in Isla Vista."

Brandt emphasized the importance of having the Bookvan in IV.

"This is just so important because we've never had a branch library in Isla Vista, we've never had a reading room," Brandt said. "I hear from Santa Barbara City College students, I hear from families with teenagers and kids all the time that they really view library services as something that's really valuable for those that have transportation and can make it over to that location."

According to IVCSD General Manager Jonathan Abboud, Santa Barbara County gives Goleta library service funds.

The meeting went back into public comment to hear from two UC Santa Barbara students representing the local chapter of Surfrider, an environmental advocacy group, about a building development on an ecological reserve in Naples, an unincorporated area in Santa Barbara County. The students voiced their opposition to the development and emphasized the importance of protecting local environments.

"There's 16 species of bumblebees and birds and animals that live on this reserve, and their existence is pretty dependent on the fact that this reserve is illegal to develop on. And there are some endangered species. There's two endangered species of bumblebees and one endangered species of bird," fourth-year political science major and IV Surfrider Environmental Policy Committee Co-Chair Katy Fyvie said.

Next, the board discussed the agenda for the IV Safe meeting on Feb. 4. Abboud said that the meeting will focus on two discussions about safety: the actions the sheriff's office will take to enforce the county Deltopia ordinance and IVCSD's Spring Festival, the Board's alternative for Deltopia.

IVCSD Director Kylan Hobart requested the meeting also focus on clarifying the rules in place over Deltopia weekend.

"From what I've seen, at least online, is a lot of people think you're not able to gather when it's more about whether or not there's music playing and things like that," Hobart said. "I think that just being able to really nail that down and let everybody know what's allowed would be helpful."

Hobart also mentioned she had discussed ways Isla Vista Foot Patrol (IVFP) could increase community outreach with IVFP Lieutenant Joe Schmidt. Some ideas included highlighting stories of IVFP "doing good," such as their response to a recent cliff fall, tabling and alternative forms of communication beyond press releases.

Next, the board unanimously approved a \$20,000 contract with Dixon Resources Unlimited, which will help IVCSD with Parking Implementation Support Services from now until June. In this six-month-long proposal, Dixon will provide IVCSD with assistance in parking management, pricing strategy and technology implementation.

# Senate formally condemns antisemitism, proposes constitutional amendments

**Wynne Bendell**  
University News Editor  
**Julia Sanabria**  
Reporter  
**Olek Zurek**  
Reporter

The 76th Associated Students Senate formally condemned antisemitism, proposed constitutional amendments to its legal code and received a report on association spending at its Jan. 28 meeting.

## Legislation passed

The Senate adopted a resolution condemning antisemitism, brought by Senator and fourth-year history and global studies double major Neo Harter. The resolution was written in response to an incident of antisemitic vandalism in Isla Vista on Jan. 10.

"The Associated Students Senate at UCSB is committed to upholding the rights of all students to study and live in a safe environment - free of fear or hatred," the resolution reads.

Next, the Senate adopted a bill that will establish the Associated Students Isla Vista Tenants Union (IVTU) and the Finance Committee Joint Rent Support Program, brought by Senator and second-year chemistry major Nadine Malhis. The program will extend the existing IVTU rent support program that provides students facing financial hardship with a maximum of \$2,500 a quarter in rent support.

## Legislation proposed

Senator and fourth-year history of policy, law and governance major Yuchang Jiang presented a resolution that would introduce an Associated Students (A.S.) legal code amendment to democratize the Boards, Committees and Units (BCU) proposal process. This amendment will be voted on in the spring election if adopted.

The amendment states that any BCU that wants to propose a new lock-in fee will need to obtain 2,000 undergraduate signatures, or 1,000 signatures for a non-lock-in fee proposal. The signatures must be

obtained with an electronic system administered by A.S. staff.

## Public forum

California Public Interest Research Group (CALPIRG) member and second-year political science major Alex Borgas said that the group has obtained around 700 new pledges during its ongoing pledge drive. According to Borgas, CALPIRG must maintain 15% of the student population pledged to the program to remain on the campus. The group funds its campaigns through \$10 quarterly pledges from members.

## Reports

Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Life Suzanne Perkin addressed questions and concerns about the Save Student Services fee initiative and its petitioning process.

Several senators expressed concern over reports of students who were petitioning for the fee initiative and were giving out snacks and other prizes as an incentive to sign the petition, which is not allowed by the A.S. elections board. Perkin clarified that Student Affairs is not under the jurisdiction of the elections board, and it is acceptable to hand out treats and prizes if everyone is allowed to have one, not only the students who sign the petition.

The Senate also raised concerns that the students and staff petitioning were allegedly getting paid for their service. Perkin responded that many of the students who are petitioning are employees of student services and it is reasonable that they get paid for any work they do when they are on the clock.

Next, Chief of Staff for the A.S. Office of the Internal Vice President (IVP) and second-year comparative literature major Casey Carnow gave updates on the San Benito Housing Project and the East Campus Housing project. Carnow announced that the University is currently scheduling tours of mock-up San Benito apartment units.

According to Carnow, the East Campus Housing project will begin

construction after the demolition of Santa Rosa Residence Hall and Ortega Dining Commons, which is planned for the summer of 2026. Ortega will be reconstructed on the bottom floor of a new residence hall and will be temporarily relocated to a tent on the Anacapa Residence Hall lawn during construction.

Carnow also said that students will no longer be able to self-select dorm rooms and rising second-year students will be able to select university apartments on their housing application.

IVP and fourth-year history and global studies double major Enri Lala recounted his recent conversation with Chancellor Dennis Assanis. Lala requested that Assanis consider granting voting rights to the undergraduate and graduate student representatives on the student fee advisory committee.

Lala also reported that Assanis is interested in implementing a whole-class commencement ceremony on the Chemistry Lawn in addition to the existing college and department ceremonies.

Lala encouraged other senators to continue to advocate for increased student housing and not let ideas, such as transforming the Centennial House into student housing, remain as messaging, but to take tangible action.

Next, Chief Compliance Officer and third-year political science and philosophy double major Baden Rosales and Compliance Officer and third-year economics and accounting major Paul Siripintu reported on association spending and budget. The report was designed to look at how much money A.S. entities allocate for internal spending and other expenditures, versus external spending that goes directly back to the student body, which varies from entity to entity.

Lastly, International Senator and second-year mechanical engineering major Qhawe Manala gave his resignation from the Senate.

# IN PHOTOS: A WEEK IN ACTION



WYNNE BENDELL / DAILY NEXUS

Nearly 200 local high school and middle school students joined an I.C.E. press conference.



SHENGYU ZHANG / DAILY NEXUS



SHENGYU ZHANG / DAILY NEXUS

Students lit candles in honor of the lives taken by I.C.E. agents.



SHENGYU ZHANG / DAILY NEXUS



SHENGYU ZHANG / DAILY NEXUS



SHENGYU ZHANG / DAILY NEXUS

Students protested on the same day as an organized national shutdown protesting federal actions nationwide.

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SHENGYU ZHANG / DAILY NEXUS

Protestors carried Latin American flags and signs in opposition to I.C.E.

# Board of Supervisors honors UCSB Nobel laureates

Iris Guo

Community Outreach Editor

The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution at its Feb. 3 meeting to commend UC Santa Barbara physics professor emeritus John Martinis and physics professor Michel Devoret for their 2025 Nobel Prize in physics.

Martinis, Devoret and UC Berkeley physics professor John Clarke were awarded the Nobel Prize for their research showing how quantum mechanical behavior works in electrical circuits.

The resolution was sponsored by Second District Supervisor Laura Capps and recognizes the technological significance of Martinis and Devoret's research, which has practical applications in the development of quantum computers.

Capps described the moment as "making some history" for the Board of Supervisors. She mentioned that when the Board decided to honor the pair, they weren't sure if they would actually show up in person due to "global demand" for their time.

The resolution also recognized the positive impact that the prestige of a Nobel Prize brings to UCSB and Santa Barbara County as a whole, facilitating international recognition of the entire community's commitment to research and innovation.

Capps emphasized that she and other community members are "so immensely proud" of Martinis and Devoret's achievements.

"It was so clear the many ways in which your award has this ripple effect on the campus environment and the county environment," Capps said. "The ways in which it attracts more professors, more research, more jobs — it's a ripple effect."

As the resolution was read aloud, Martinis and Devoret received a standing ovation from the boardroom's audience.

Martinis thanked the University of California system as a whole for hiring him in 2004 and quipped that he "assumed [this] was a good decision" for

the UC. He also expressed his gratitude to the UC for their understanding and support when his research was transferred to Google. In 2014, Google hired Martinis and other researchers to build a quantum computer utilizing superconducting qubits.

"I'm actually very proud that when we did that move, in the end, Google has been able to have a big program in Santa Barbara with high-tech jobs — really well-paid jobs — which I think is good for the county and for UC Santa Barbara," Martinis said.

Martinis left Google in April 2020 and founded his own quantum computing startup company, QoLab, in 2022. He stated that he hopes to open a satellite office in Santa Barbara and bring more jobs to the community.

Devoret expressed his gratitude to the county for the resolution and said that he has felt welcomed as a newer member of the community, having moved from the East Coast three years ago, where he was a physics professor at Yale University for around two decades.

"I have found the welcoming atmosphere here really wonderful. I would like to thank, of course, the University of California for giving me the opportunity to start a new lab, which will be the continuation of the work that John and I have done," Devoret said. "It will partner with Google, where I am a chief scientist for the building of a quantum computer."

Capps recalled a moment she witnessed at a celebration in an "overpacked room" at UCSB when it was first announced that Martinis and Devoret received the Nobel Prize. She said that she was struck by the number of students who were present and described seeing students speak about their experiences with the professors.

"I can only imagine what that means to them to have had office hours with you — Nobel laureates — and what that means to their work, going forward, and that what that means to their children, that they can then talk about the fact that [their parents] studied with Nobel laureates, so thank you for your research," Capps said.

# Students protest I.C.E. operations amid national shutdown

FINN THOMAS / DAILY NEXUS



The protest was promoted via the anonymous social media app YikYak.

Jack Dindia

Lead News Editor

A user on the social media platform YikYak promoted a protest urging people to "get a crowd together, bring signs and make some noise against ICE" on Jan. 29. The next day, a crowd of roughly 40 students met at Storke Tower to protest recent escalations of Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

The protest was held on the same day as an organized national shutdown protesting federal actions in Minneapolis and nationwide. In early January, over 2,000 federal agents were sent into Minneapolis to carry out the "largest immigration operation ever," according to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (I.C.E.) Acting Director Todd Lyons. Since then, I.C.E. has detained an estimated 3,000 people in the city and killed three American citizens: Renee Good, Alex Pretti and Keith Porter Jr.

The protesters met in front of Storke Tower at 12:45 p.m. before walking into Isla Vista, going down Pardall Road, down the Embarcadero del Mar loop and back toward campus, ending at the UCSB Library. No one at the Daily Nexus spoke to at the protest knew who made the initial post promoting the protest.

Protestors held signs reading "No one is illegal on stolen land," "Undocumented hands feed you. They are workers not criminals" and "Sí se

puede," which translates to "yes we can" in English. They also chanted "No fear, no hate, no I.C.E. in our state," "Up with education, down with deportation" and "No justice, no peace, no I.C.E. in our streets." As they marched through IV, passing vehicles honked in support of the protest.

First-year political science major Samuel Medina, who directed the crowd, initially joined the protest after seeing people gather in front of Storke Tower. He spoke on the strength of community gathering during moments of crisis.

"I think we have to acknowledge that sometimes we don't have the political or the economic power, but what we do have is the solidarity of the community, and what we'll always have is that our strength is found in the numbers, not in the power," Medina said. "When you have a bunch of people come together in a community, then you start to create real power that can bring real change."

In regard to the national shutdown, Medina said he supports local businesses as many of them are "created by immigrants."

"Many of these businesses are created by immigrants, and we're just trying to say that participating in this national shutdown [is] a one-day loss of income [that] can be justified by the great help that we can do to the country," Medina said.

First-year economics major Diana Avelar said she found it "concerning"

that I.C.E. activity isn't widely discussed across the university community. She said she believes the economic shutdown is an "effective strategy" but was disappointed by the protest's turnout.

"I think it's great to know that some people are aware, and I feel like everyone else has to wake up. I know we all have our things to do with school, but we have to stay aware of what's going on," Avelar said.

Once the protestors reached the UCSB Library, students began sharing personal stories and beliefs on immigration enforcement. One speaker said, "Everyone should be actively against I.C.E. at all times" and that I.C.E. is "kidnapping on the streets" and "history [is] repeating itself."

"This is the Holocaust all over again, and if you don't see that, you're being blinded, and it's a privilege to ignore what's going on in this country right now. So just remember that what you're doing right now is what you would have been doing however many years ago in history," they said.

Another speaker thanked the community for showing support, as "we live in scary times."

"Thank you all for using your voices and showing love and giving me hope, giving the people around you hope. This shit matters. You're all incredible for being here. You are brave, keep fighting and thank you all so much," she said.

# Community members, stakeholders demand I.C.E. out of the 805

Wynne Bendell

University News Editor

Some speakers requested to be referred to by their first name for their safety.

Local elected officials, non-profit organizations, faith leaders and students united at the Santa Barbara Courthouse on Jan. 30 to demand that Immigration and Customs Enforcement leave the 805 area.

President Donald Trump's second term has seen significant escalations in immigration enforcement nationwide; 2025 marked the deadliest year in Immigration and Customs Enforcement (I.C.E.) detention facilities in over two decades, with at least 20 individuals dying in custody nationwide. As of Jan. 21, there have been 1,430 confirmed I.C.E. detentions across the Central Coast in the past 13 months.

On Jan. 28, an I.C.E. officer was recorded pushing and pepper spraying Santa Barbara residents during an enforcement operation in Eastside Santa Barbara. Following this incident, community members and UC Santa Barbara students held protests and vigils to honor the people affected by immigration enforcement.

As community members gathered outside of the courthouse, Ethan Bertrand, the district director for California 37th District Assembly Member Gregg Hart, began by stating that the purpose of the press conference was to "stand up to the Trump administration."

"You will hear from all of our incredible speakers about where our community stands at this moment, how we are showing up for our neighbors and how we are demanding change," Bertrand said.

Hart then took to the podium, but before he could finish his statement, nearly 200 local high school and middle school students joined the crowd holding signs that read, "Fight ignorance not immigrants" and "Abolish ICE" while chanting, "What do we want? Justice! When do we want it? Now!"

Hart thanked the students for

showing up. "We're talking specifically for your generation, for the future of our country, to take back our American rights and to put our country on the right track," he said. Hart went on to say that the community has had "enough of the cruelty" following the recent killings in Minneapolis of American citizens Alex Pretti and Renee Good by federal immigration enforcement officers.

"Our neighbors are not safe from state-sanctioned violence, and our civil liberties are being trampled by our own federal government," Hart said.

Hart highlighted his work on the implementation of the No Secret Police Act, the Family Preparedness Act and the Forensic Accountability, Custodial Transparency, and Safety Act as part of his efforts to keep immigration enforcement accountable in California. Hart also demanded that Santa Barbara County Sheriff and President of Major County Sheriffs of America Bill Brown cease all collaboration and compliance with I.C.E.

Next, Santa Barbara County (SBC) Second District Supervisor Laura Capps emphasized the "decimating" nature of I.C.E. by sharing that it has violated nearly 100 court orders this month in Minnesota. Capps announced that the SBC Board of Supervisors is working to designate I.C.E.-free zones on county property.

"The tide is going to turn. We are a county of immigrants. We are a nation of immigrants. Immigrants are absolutely what's best about America, not what's bad," Capps said. "Armed, terrorizing federal agents are what's bad, and it must stop. I.C.E. must stop."

Santa Barbara Immigrant Legal Defense Center (ILDC) Chair Victoria Greene said that the ILDC's legal team has encountered unlawful arrests, coercive enforcement actions and "deadly" detention conditions. The ILDC is a nonprofit agency that aims to provide equal access to due process by providing pro bono legal services to immigrants in deportation proceedings and legal education.

Greene demanded action from local

elected officials and law enforcement, emphasizing that immigration enforcement is detrimental to the safety of everyone, not just immigrants.

"We are demanding I.C.E. out of our neighborhoods. We are demanding an end to local law enforcement cooperation and resource sharing. We are demanding that local and state leaders draw a clear line and refuse to be part of abusive immigration enforcement," Greene said.

After, Primitiva Hernandez, the executive director of 805 UndocuFund a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting undocumented communities through financial assistance for immigrant and mixed-status families — commended the work of rapid response teams nationwide. Since Trump took office, the organization created a rapid response network to identify and inform community members of I.C.E. activity.

"These are the people that are showing up when it's dangerous, when it's uncomfortable and when it matters most," Hernandez said.

Hernandez reminded the crowd that in June 2025, she stood at the same courthouse with "tears in [her] eyes," calling for collective action against I.C.E., and was ignored. A month later, I.C.E. raided Glass House Farms in Oxnard, where they arrested 361 people and where one worker died after falling from a greenhouse roof.

"This did not happen over time. It happened while warnings were being ignored, and do not ignore my words when I say the worst is yet to come," Hernandez said.

Santa Maria Council Member and Executive Director of Future Leaders of America Gloria Soto and Santa Barbara Councilmember Wendy Santamaria also demanded that I.C.E. leave the 805 area, stressing that this escalation in enforcement is the work of fascism.

"Just two days ago, we saw the brutalization of our community members on the east side. It's not a matter of when or if fascism gets here. It's here. It's now," Santamaria said.

Alexis, a local student, organized the



The SBC Board of Supervisors is working to designate I.C.E.-free zones on county property.

student walkout to show solidarity with the communities impacted by I.C.E.

"We are teenagers, and people often say we are too young to understand what's happening in this world, but we do understand fear, we understand injustice and we understand what it means to watch our friends, neighbors and classmates every day be worried that their families could be torn apart," Alexis said.

Next, local faith leaders joined at the stand where Reverend Deacon for St. Michael's Episcopal Church in Isla Vista, Kathleen Moore, said, "in our varied and united faith traditions, loving our neighbor is not an option. It is a mandate."

President of the Santa Barbara Interfaith Sanctuary Alliance Muhammad Khan shared his reaction to one of the students' signs that read "We shouldn't be here demanding our equal rights."

"Children should be preparing for their dream, for their occupation. You saw kids carrying the backpacks for their books, now in fear they can't pursue the dream," Khan said. "God doesn't want broken homes and broken lives. Anyone who believes in God knows the truth is God is love, peace, serenity."

Santa Barbara City College (SBCC) Board of Trustees President Jonathan Abboud announced that the board is working to ban I.C.E. from SBCC following activity on the West Campus in December.

"They came without authorization

or notice. They came in the dark of night and unmarked rented cars, and they terrorized our students during finals week. Our board has spoken loud and clear that we do not stand for this," Abboud said.

SBCC Board of Trustees member Charlotte Gullap-Moore argued that I.C.E. and the Department of Homeland Security under Trump "represent the modern evolution of slave patrols."

"They operate under a different name and a different uniform and [in] a different century, yet with a similar mission, enforcing rigid social and racial hierarchy under the banner of law and order," Gallup-Moore said. "Naming these parallels is not provocation. It is an act of historical accountability and warning about the consequences of repeating patterns we have never fully dismantled."

The press conference ended with another local student, Evelin, who participated in the walkout despite her mom's request for her not to protest that day to protect her safety.

"I said, 'Mom, what future do I have when they take me away from you? What future do I have when they take away my family support? They take away my everything,'" Evelin said. "I can't sit down in a class doing nothing. I want to fight. I want to fight against what is going on in our country. I want my community to feel safe. I don't want them to feel fear just because of the color of their skin."

# Pardall Center, EVPLA host Sight-A-Thon



SHENGYU ZHANG / DAILY NEXUS

The event offered students free eye screenings, prescriptions and follow-up comprehensive eye exams.

**Dylan Vo**  
Staff Writer

The Pardall Center and the Associated Students Office of the External Vice President for Local Affairs hosted their first-ever "Sight-A-Thon" on Jan. 22. The event offered students free eye screenings, prescriptions and follow-up comprehensive eye exams.

The event was funded and supported by Johnson & Johnson,

Alcon and the Women's Fund of Santa Barbara. It was created to aid low-income families who lack insurance. Close to 100 people attended the event, according to External Vice President for Local Affairs and third-year political science major E.J. Raad.

Connie Rodriguez, the Surgical Eye Expeditions (S.E.E.) International Local and Domestic Programs Coordinator, was responsible for setting up the event and assigning jobs.

Rodriguez said she was satisfied with how the event went.

"I was actually pretty excited because I feel like a lot of the college and high school kids tend to get overlooked when it comes to vision and screenings, so I'm super glad that the outcome was positive," Rodriguez said. "We have a lot of new patients, so I'm excited to see new faces in the clinic."

Westmont College nursing students Chloe Clayton and

Morgan Gallagher volunteered to give screenings at the Sight-A-Thon. Both said how essential it is that the Sight-A-Thon helps the financially disadvantaged.

"I think it's a great way to help people, especially students who maybe don't have jobs at the moment and are in need of an exam," Clayton said. "It's free, and it's a good way to spread the word too, by being on a college campus."

Gallagher similarly highlights

how the Sight-A-Thon can increase accessibility to those with low incomes.

"I think the Sight-A-Thon is a great way to push out more access to students who are not in the financial capability of going in and getting a vision exam," Gallagher said.

This also marks S.E.E. International's second time running the Sight-A-Thon, and Rodriguez, Clayton and Gallagher's first time.

## I.C.E. vigil

Continued from p. 1

operation were announced.

"Renee Good and all the other people we're going to mention right now, every single one has gotten into my bloodstream, and immediately I feel like, 'Gosh darn it, let's get together with people,'" Armbruster-Sandoval said. "We need to hold space to be with one another in these moments where we're traumatized."

Organizers encouraged attendees to call out the names of people or communities they know who have been impacted by immigration enforcement. The callouts included "our queer and trans siblings who have passed on the way here," "our undocumented mothers and fathers" and "farm workers," among others.

Attendees then began a silent march to El Centro, a campus building that provides space for multiple Latine and multicultural student groups. The El Congreso spokesperson explained that the silent march was to "emphasize the mourning and the grief that we are struggling [with] within our community, especially with what happened this morning in Santa Barbara."

Upon arriving at El Centro, attendees gathered around an ofrenda, a traditional altar which honors the deceased. Organizers

at the front held signs and photos of individuals killed or detained by I.C.E. Speakers from several organizations proceeded to deliver speeches expressing solidarity with attendees.

One speaker shared their experience in a detention center. They described one of the center's rules, which states that you can only wear one layer of clothing. They said they witnessed agents confiscate two of the three blankets a mother had placed on her child.

"It was the coldest night of my life. [To] their faces, I said this was not about basic protocol, but to make sure we knew that they had the power to do whatever they wanted," the speaker said. "Despite experiencing all of this, I say to those fortunate enough that do not relate to any of this, educate yourself and the community around you."

A spokesperson for UCSB Students for Justice in Palestine and others for Academics for Justice in Palestine discussed their "joint struggles."

"We must demand from our administration, some of whom, I think are still here, to end contracts with any companies that contribute to the actions of I.C.E.," the spokesperson for Academics for Justice in Palestine said. "More broadly, we must divest. Let's be loud



SHENGYU ZHANG / DAILY NEXUS

The silent march passed by the UCSB Library and ended at El Centro.

and clear, divestment now."

A rapid responder with SBResiste proceeded to recap the morning's events, saying local law enforcement has allegedly "been protecting" I.C.E. during enforcement operations.

Next, board members of Comunidad Latinx Graduación (CLG), a student-led graduation celebration based on Latine culture, expressed solidarity with the Latine and immigrant communities.

"We express our deepest condolences to everyone who has been affected," a CLG board member said. "We share their frustration with the campus administration's failure to recognize the injustices happening within our community and demand they listen to us."

The event then opened up to attendee participation, encouraging people to share their experiences and feelings with the audience.

"The Declaration of Independence is a very beautiful document. It starts with [the statement] that every human person deserves the right to

life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness," an attendee said. "Today, we see that they first took away the pursuit of happiness, then they took away liberty. At this moment, as we know, they took away the right of life. But let me tell you, they can take many rights away from us, but they can never [and] will never take away the right to have hope."

Another attendee read a poem about their experiences moving to the U.S. and missing their father's funeral in Mexico because of their legal status.

"A kid couldn't be with his dad because of your grown-up politics. But this kid will not rest until he makes a change, and this kid will grow up learning how to transform his rage," the speaker read.

Another attendee became emotional when discussing the recent arrest of 5-year-old Liam Conejo Ramos in Minneapolis.

"I have a 4-year-old niece, and she's scared of bees, and she comes running up to me, and I can't imagine how scared that child and every other single child in the detention centers are," the attendee said.

Other attendees discussed direct actions that people can take to inform themselves on rapid response networks and how to continue the conversation after the vigil.

At the end, organizers thanked attendees for coming and invited them to eat pastries from Cristino's Bakery and coffee from Dart Coffee Co. One organizer mentioned that both businesses gave El Congreso the food for free upon learning what it was for.

On Friday, local elected officials will hold a press conference at the Santa Barbara County Courthouse to call upon the Trump administration to de-escalate immigration enforcement.

"Give yourself permission to take it in and then use it tomorrow, because today's been a long day, but tomorrow we get to wake up," an attendee said. "The sun comes out every day, we can meet it with love, with joy and remembering and knowing that there's strength in every action that we take to stay around and move through this time."



SHENGYU ZHANG / DAILY NEXUS

The vigil ended at El Centro, where organizers encouraged attendees to speak about their perspectives.



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# SPORTS

## Gauchos vanquish Titans, extend win streak to six

Owen Jones  
Staff Writer

UC Santa Barbara men's basketball is starting to string together wins when it matters, with their 83-69 win over the California State University, Fullerton Titans on Saturday, Jan. 31 giving them their sixth consecutive victory. The Gauchos never trailed against an uncharacteristically sloppy Titans team, and several players hit double digits once again on their way to a comfortable victory.

Junior guard Miro Little scored the first 4 points for the Gauchos as they tried to find a flow on offense, but the level of play was sloppy for both sides as they combined for 7 turnovers in the first six minutes of the first half. One of the difference-makers for the Gauchos was the versatile junior guard Marvin McGhee IV, who is increasingly coming into his own in Head Coach Joe Pasternack's system. After not playing much the last couple games, McGhee made an instant impact in his first few minutes of action against Fullerton, registering a steal,

block and 5 quick points to give the Gauchos a 19-9 lead at the 11-minute mark of the first half.

"The last two games I barely played, I don't get mad at nobody, I'm just ready," McGhee said when asked about finding consistency this season. "I stay ready. I keep doing what I do everyday, like being in the gym, getting shots up, stretching, all the small things, I just do it everyday no matter what."

The Gauchos finished the half strong, taking a 38-29 lead into the second period. With both teams finding their shooting strokes, the second half was played with more pace. Fullerton shot better from the field overall than the first half but regressed from beyond the arc, hitting

just two 3s compared to 7 in the opening frame. The Gauchos continued to capitalize off of the slew of turnovers the Titans gave up; entering the game, the Titans led the Big West Conference with a 140 assist-to-turnover ratio, but the Gauchos snagged 15 takeaways from Fullerton Head Coach Dedrique Taylor's men, scoring 25 points off of them on the other end.

The Gauchos stayed vigilant in the second half, with defensive stops at crucial moments halting any Fullerton comeback attempts. The lead was kept until the final buzzer, and the 83-69 win left the crowd satisfied with the team's improvement from their 11-point loss to the Titans on New Year's Day.

Pasternack's squad won the

rebound battle by a landslide, 40-26, with sophomore guard Zion Sensley getting his sixth double-digit rebound game of the season with 10 boards to go, along with 9 points and a steal. Freshman guard CJ Shaw led the team with 17 points and 3 steals, while McGhee put up 14 points with 9 boards. Junior forward Colin Smith and Little chipped in with 13 and 12 points, respectively, with Smith cashing in every shot he took on the night.

"Colin [Smith] is becoming a versatile player, not just a 3-point shooter. We want him attacking, and he's doing a great job at that," Pasternack said after the game.

It speaks to the team's strengths that the four players who put up double

digits during the game, Shaw, McGhee, Smith and Little, did not include the team's leading scorer, senior guard Aidan Mahaney. This is a good sign for the team as the season wears on, with Pasternack stating in a postgame interview that the team is currently gaining depth. Having a balanced attack that can be supplemented by different players on different nights will be one of the keys to ending the season at the top of the Big West.

The Gauchos will now travel to UC Davis to take on the Aggies on Thursday, Feb. 5. The Aggies sport a 6-5 conference record, good for fourth in the Big West as they trail Santa Barbara by two games.

The Gauchos have vaulted back up the Big West standings after their three-game losing streak to start the month and now find themselves in a tie with the University of Hawai'i at Manoa for second in the conference. They trail leaders UC Irvine, who they will play back home this Saturday in what is shaping up to be the game of the season so far for this Gauchos team.



COURTESY OF UCSB ATHLETICS



Junior forward Colin Smith splashes in a three.

## UCSB women's basketball drops thriller against UCSD in defensive back-and-forth battle

Samia Agarwal  
Staff Writer

The UC Santa Barbara women's basketball team fell to the UC San Diego Tritons on Thursday, Jan. 29, in a 52-49 low-scoring nail-biter. Both teams played stifling defense all game, but the Gauchos fell just short and now find themselves fifth in the Big West Conference standings, with UCSD at No. 1.

The first two minutes were scoreless before star sophomore forward Olivia Bradley started things off with an impressive hesi layup to put the Gauchos on the board. Bradley was one of only two Gauchos who found

any momentum on offense, ending the night with 15 points on 38% shooting from the field and 50% from 3. Due to the Gauchos' tight help defense in the paint, the Tritons struggled to find success outside of fast breaks and 3-pointers, of which they only made 24% of their attempts despite an average of 31% 3-point shooting on the year.

In the second quarter, Bradley once again made her mark by opening the quarter with a 3 to put the Gauchos up 15-13. Senior Triton guard Sabrina Ma and junior Gauchos guard Maddie Naro traded 3s with 8:45 to go in the half, and it became clear

that made buckets were in short supply for anyone other than Bradley. However, freshman guard Chauncey Andersen would soon add her name to that list for UCSB, coming alive in the second quarter with a spin shot to extend the Gauchos lead to 7 points with 2:30 left in the half. The Gauchos would stumble a bit, though, as back-to-back Triton 3-pointers in the last minute brought UCSD within 1 at the break with a score of 28-27.

The third quarter saw very little production from the Gauchos, as they only scored 6 total points in the 10-minute period. Junior Triton guard

Dymonique Maxie was able to capitalize on the Gauchos' lack of firepower, scoring 5 points of her own in the period to bring the score to 39-34, UCSD, before the final period.

In the final quarter the energy shot way up as Andersen began to flourish. She would score 9 points in just the first four minutes of the period, bringing the Gauchos up 6 with 6:16 to go. She ended the night with a team high of 17 points in just 26 minutes and 13 rebounds to boot. However, the Tritons just would not go away, with back-to-back turnovers within 3 minutes that smothered the Gauchos' momentum and opened the

door for a late UCSD comeback.

It all culminated in a tense final 24 seconds, with the Tritons having possession tied at 49. UCSD senior guard Makayla Rose would emerge the hero of this one, driving to the basket and scoring a tough layup plus the and-1 with just 6 seconds left to put UCSD up 3. The Gauchos had no answer.

After falling short to California State University, Fullerton as well on Saturday, the Gauchos have now dropped three spots in the standings since before their game against UCSD. Their next visitor will be the UC Davis Aggies on Feb. 5 at 6 p.m. in the Thunderdome.



Sophomore forward Olivia Bradley stands tall against San Diego's offense.

# ARTSWEEK



MADDY BRYCE / DAILY NEXUS

## The Army, The Navy and the perfect evening



The duo consists of childhood friends Maia Ciambriello and Sasha Goldberg, who have been performing together as The Army, The Navy since 2022.

**Alicia Siebers**  
*Chief Copy Editor*

Whimsical folk-pop duo The Army, The Navy fostered a night of relaxation and love in Isla Vista in the midst of midterm season, playing their first show of 2026 in Anisq'Oyo Park on Jan. 30. The concert was put on by UC Santa Barbara's Associated Students Program Board as part of their free Park Show series, bringing artists to Isla Vista's outdoor stage.

Maia Ciambriello and Sasha Goldberg (aka The Army, The Navy) took to the stage just before 5:30 p.m., accompanied by multi-instrumentalist Jess Kallen in the pale beginnings of sunset. They paused for a moment to briefly look out upon the audience, an eclectic sea of brown boots, lace tops with flowy skirts and a patchwork of picnic blankets covering the grassy hill under warm string lights.

The duo, with their fiery scarlet wolf cut (Ciambriello) and bold blue eyeliner (Goldberg), opened with "Gentle Hellraiser," a tangle of oxymoronic lyrics on love and sacrifice. They continued to dance lightly into "Rocket," another song highlighting the effortless, playful blending of Ciambriello and Goldberg's voices.

This sort of harmony stems from a deep connection that the pair has certainly achieved. Childhood friends from Northern California turned college classmates at Loyola University New Orleans and then roommates in Los Angeles, Ciambriello and Goldberg have built their unique sound on a lifetime of friendship.

"I love when they do dissonance on stage when they're singing a note right next to each other," third-year biology major Nicky Gulizia said. "It sounds wrong, but when you do it right, it's so right and they've executed it perfectly."

After their opening selection of songs from 2024 albums "Fruit For Flies" and "Sugar For Bugs," The Army, The Navy had exciting news to share.

"We are currently sitting on a mountain of unreleased music," Goldberg said, announcing for the first time ever the band's upcoming third album.

The duo then played a couple songs from their upcoming album, including "Cling," which will be released on March 6.

The band returned to a few familiar songs, including "Little Bug." While Ciambriello strummed the guitar and Kallen accompanied on the keyboard, Goldberg's hands

were free to make mesmerizing hand gestures which mimicked butterflies and blooming flowers, mirroring the lyrics "So my / Favorite flowers would bloom in your lawn / Live by the water where sirens alarm / Send me a daughter to chase the little bugs."

Following this, Goldberg briefly acknowledged the "National Shutdown" happening across the United States on the same day, where thousands of demonstrators abstained from going to school and work, as well as shopping, demanding "justice for ... all victims of [Immigration and Customs Enforcement] terror" and an end to the Trump administration's immigration crackdowns.

"I just want to say that Maia [Ciambriello] and I stand in solidarity with everyone out there today, protesting, fighting the good fight," Goldberg said. "No human is illegal on planet Earth, right? Right."

The crowd, majority of whom were UCSB students, responded with applause and whistles of approval. On campus, many instructors chose to cancel Friday classes in light of the protest.

As the sky grew dark and a breeze rolled through the park, The Army, The Navy performed some of their more popular tracks. For

"40%," they asked the audience to "use [their] imagination[s]" and pretend they had a full band up on stage. This invigorated attendees to stand up, the cool feeling of grass underfoot as they danced around.

They kept the momentum going with several more tracks, including "Dirty Laundry," "Alexandra" and "Persimmon," the last of which prompted a wave of cheers from the crowd on the hill.

The Army, The Navy continued to sing through the cool evening, sharing story crumbs of their songwriting inspirations. After the last strums from Ciambriello and Kallen on "Vienna (In Memoriam)," Goldberg shared that the lyrics are much more literal than listeners may have thought.

Lines like "Looks like the cat did a number on you, Vienna" and "She runs across the wooden fence in the yard / Looking for Vienna" reflect the story of a rat infestation that Ciambriello and Goldberg experienced while in New Orleans, where they named a rat (that saw an unfortunate demise at the claws of a cat) Vienna Sausage.

It is this quirky storytelling, a mix of poetic articulations and silly college anecdotes, that gives The Army, The Navy another layer of charm that fans adore. Ciambriello

and Goldberg cultivate this whimsy within themselves — in a post-show interview with the Nexus, when asked what "fruit for a fly" (in reference to their debut album) they would be, they chose a little pomegranate seed and a kiwi, respectively, to embody themselves.

To close out the night of whispery consonance, The Army, The Navy played "Wild Again," swapping the lyrics "Santa Rosa, California" — near where Ciambriello and Goldberg grew up together in the Northern California — for "Santa Barbara, California," which elicited excitement from the crowd.

The free concert seemed to be just what many students needed on a Friday evening in the face of mid-quarter stress. With an outdoor venue and intimate atmosphere, the approximately 250 attendees (an estimate by Goldberg herself) were welcome to snuggle up with friends, stretch their legs out in the grass or dance atop the hill.

"The show was very grounding, and I felt very in the present moment, which I really loved, especially around midterms," second-year history of public policy and law major Lizzie Teeter said.

"With a small band, they've really hit it out of the park, so this was a perfect show in I.V.," Gulizia added.

## Artsweek pop culture crosswords

Lauren Chiou, *Artsweek Editor*

1	2	3		
4			5	
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		9		

**Down**

- \_\_\_-AFTRA, actor union group
- Norwegian city and namesake of Director Joachim Trier's film trilogy
- Fincher film starring Morgan Freeman and Brad Pitt, en español
- Recurring motif representing intimate or scandalous conversations, "\_\_\_ a \_\_\_"
- Variations of acronyms for "okay" (two versions)

**Across**

- Call for help, or disco song by Swedish group ABBA
- Harry Styles' single, "\_\_\_ Was"
- Fandom name for 2009-15 jukebox comedy musical television series
- Tom Hanks is a man called this
- Name of animated purple cat from the 1990s. Or: expression of fear or nervousness

1	2	3		
4				
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**Down**

- The Ryan of "I'll have what she's having"
- Internet personality known for plastic surgery and UK city last name
- La-\_\_-[8 down]
- What people are checking in fashion and OOTD TikToks
- Funk song by The 1975. Also: expression of disgust
- La-[3 down]-\_\_

**Across**

- Profession of Alex Consani, Gigi Hadid
- Younger Manning of NFL fame
- Joe or Jane action figures
- Pointed insult text shorthand. Can be used as a clean alternative for "Forget You" by CeeLo Green
- What children in 2003 Disney movie "Holes" are forced to do
- Grapes of this place (hint: Steinbeck)

# SCIENCE & TECH



## SIMPLY STATED :

### Retail therapy or neural trap: The science behind shopping addictions



COURTESY OF TALKSPACE

Saanvi Tiwary  
Science Editor

It starts with one tap of your card. You justify it as a reward for surviving a long week of work or acing a midterm. For days, you eagerly track the package, waiting for the rush of finally holding it in your hands. When it arrives, you race to the mailbox, tear it open ... and just like that, it's over.

The excitement fades. There's nothing left to look forward to. So you log onto your computer or wander into the mall "just to browse." Before you know it, you're walking out with your hands full and your wallet empty. You promise yourself it won't happen again, yet you find yourself trapped in the same cycle, wondering: How did I get here in the first place?

You might blame yourself for this cycle, but it is not entirely your fault. It isn't just a matter of poor self-discipline, it is rooted in the brain's reward system, particularly the role of dopamine. Dopamine is a chemical messenger created in the brain that functions as

both a neurotransmitter and a hormone in the body. It is a crucial part of what gives us motivation, movement and pleasure. Dopamine is often thought of as being released while doing the things we enjoy. However, studies show that dopamine is also active during the anticipation in addition to the reward.

A well-known set of experiments by Stanford Neuroscientist Robert Sapolsky helps explain why shopping can feel so compelling and further supports the rush of dopamine we get during anticipation. In his research, Sapolsky trained monkeys to press a button after a visual signal in order to receive a food reward. By measuring dopamine levels in their brains, he discovered that dopamine was not released when the reward was received, but as soon as the signal appeared, during the period of anticipation. This dopamine surge motivated the monkeys to keep pressing the button until the reward arrived.

Sapolsky then altered the experiment so that the reward

was no longer guaranteed. When the monkeys received the treat only 50% of the time, dopamine levels nearly doubled. Interestingly, when the reward was given 25% or 75% of the time, dopamine release was lower and roughly equal in both cases. The highest dopamine response occurred under conditions of maximum unpredictability, demonstrating that uncertainty intensifies anticipation and strengthens the brain's reward response.

This study surprisingly mimics what happens in someone's brain when they have a shopping addiction. The act of going to stores, browsing, trying on items or ordering online and having to wait for a package to arrive naturally creates anticipation within us. This delay, combined with uncertainty and excitement, heightens dopamine release and emotional engagement.

Once the purchase is complete and the item arrives, dopamine levels drop sharply. The brain has received what it had been anticipating, and the sense of excitement quickly

fades. This explains why the emotional high of buying something new is often brief and why feelings of emptiness, disappointment or guilt can follow. In response, the brain begins searching for the next opportunity to recreate that feeling, pushing the individual back into browsing, clicking and spending.

Over time, repeated exposure to this pattern can rewire neural pathways involved in impulse control and emotional regulation. Shopping becomes associated not just with acquiring goods, but with stress relief, distraction or validation. During moments of anxiety, boredom or low self-esteem, the brain recalls shopping as a reliable, though temporary, source of comfort. This makes resisting the urge increasingly difficult, even when the person is aware of the negative financial or emotional consequences.

Modern retail environments further intensify this cycle. Online shopping platforms are deliberately designed to exploit the brain's reward system through personalized

recommendations, limited-time offers, countdown timers and one-click purchasing. These features reduce the time between desire and reward, making impulsive decisions easier and more frequent. Social media compounds the issue by constantly exposing users to curated lifestyles and influencer marketing, subtly reinforcing the idea that happiness, confidence or success can be bought.

For some individuals, this pattern escalates into compulsive buying behavior, sometimes referred to as shopping addiction. In these cases, the act of purchasing becomes less about need or enjoyment and more about emotional regulation. The relief shopping provides is short-lived, but the habit persists, driven by the brain's learned expectation of dopamine release.

Understanding the neurological and psychological mechanisms behind this behavior is a crucial step in recognizing why shopping addiction is so powerful and why breaking the cycle can be so challenging.

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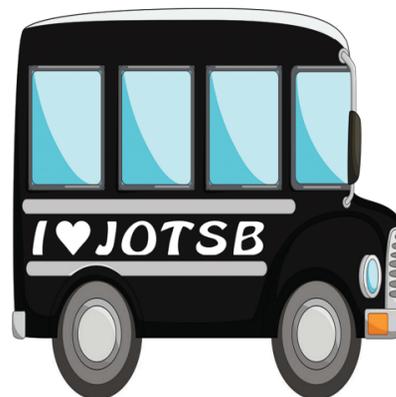
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# NEXUSTENTIALISM

It's Satire, Stupid.

## New UCSB Foodie Club called "GLP-None"

Barbara Broccoli  
Eating Expert

The rise in usage of Ozempic and other GLP-1 medications to curb appetite and lose weight has led to an unprecedented decrease in meals consumed across not only the elites, but in the greater food-eating population at large.

This has been seen as an attack on "eater-culture" as food enjoyers worldwide have reported fellow "eaters" suddenly dropping off the map and subsequently dropping out of their local foodie festivities, leaving farmer's markets and state fairs ghost towns.

As a reaction to this growing epidemic of denied gluttony, UC Santa Barbara's new food-first club "GLP-None" has risen with the bold claim: "Don't eat to live, LIVE to EAT!" The club proudly hosts catered buffets, pro-consumption seminars, and even support groups for so-called "GLP defectors" who are trying to shift back to a lifestyle that once again includes menus.

Bringing back those who have lost their eating ways is the club's priority since many started Ozempic to indulge their gourmet desires before

finding it only enhanced their ability to push food around the plate. Meanwhile those who once would forget to eat all day, now would forget to eat at all.

GLP-None's Queer Correspondent, Alfredo Fromage, a second-year art history major, addressed the intersectionality of this issue.

"We've seen so many users change so dramatically that they tragically shifted out of their own tribe within the community. My own partner has gone from a classic proud and burly bear down to a skinny slinky medium-sized otter. If he drops down to twink, I ... I don't know what I'll do," Fromage said.

Despite hearing similar sorrowful stories across the support groups, the growing power, prevalence and sheer weight of the "GLP-None" club shows hope for the future of eaters across the globe.

Although the fight against Ozempic is far from over, this bold new group offers support, a good slice of pie and the simple recurring request of "Please, eat".

Barbara Broccoli can be found devouring D.L.G.

## New I.V. film festival announced: "SPLIFF"

Calico Critter  
Tobacctor

Beginning on Feb. 4, the Santa Barbara International Film Festival (SBIFF) will overtake State Street for 11 days. Active since 1986, the festival features independent and international films, hosting award-winning celebrity tributes and educational industry panels, for both aspiring filmmakers and actors alike.

Here at UC Santa Barbara, students have taken inspiration and created their own version: SPLIFF. Entitled after the practice of rolling a joint mixed with cannabis and tobacco, SPLIFF embodies the students and culture in Isla Vista.

Created by Mary Jane, a third-year film and media studies major and rolling minor, SPLIFF will be held for one day only on Feb. 15. Held at Devereux Beach, SPLIFF will feature films from aspiring artists in I.V. from sunrise to sunset.

Jane explained to the Daily Nexus that the name SPLIFF is more than an allusion to the joint. She stated that SPLIFF stands for: 'Stoned Project Lights Isla Vista Film Festival.' Capturing the creativity of Jane and her peers, SPLIFF highlights the

lifestyle of students thriving for artistic recognition. In tandem, the smokers and scant filmmakers will hope their indie films prove better, and different, than the next.

One parent of a film and media studies student who wished to remain anonymous hesitantly confessed their concern.

"I'm worried about the sustainability of this major. I mean, I'm paying thousands of dollars for my kid to receive a 'good' education about filmmaking, and this is what they come up with? A festival promoting substances while watching 30 minute long alternative films that are, quite frankly, terrible?"

The parent expressed guilt for not wanting to support their child, but ultimately shared that they couldn't bear to see the festival in person.

Jane hasn't let a lack of parental involvement or support affect her, though. SPLIFF planning has continued exponentially and is rapidly gaining traction. With posters and social media posts, the word has spread throughout campus and community.

Jane's tactics have included handing out free spliffs while tabling as an incentive for viewers. Although this was quickly banned while on

JULIET BECKER / DAILY NEXUS



campus in the Arbor walkway, she continues on Del Playa Drive.

"Having the support of my peers means the world to me. Whether it's those in my film classes, or stoners looking for a good time, I feel the love," Jane said.

Though no celebrities are expected to appear at SPLIFF, circulating rumors claim that UCSB Chancellor, Dennis Assanis, will make an appearance. Possibly hoping to appeal to his demographic of students, Assanis' arrival would be a shock to many; it may prove beneficial to his popularity.

Calico Critter admittedly interviewed Mary Jane for said free spliff. However, an appearance may be made at the film festival ... if more free substances are promised.

NICOLAS BROWN-CORRADA / DAILY NEXUS

## UCSB students start temperance movement, only drink on weekends



Don Juan Tenorio  
Organizer

Waves are being made today in Isla Vista, California as some of UC Santa Barbara's most debauchorous delinquents have publicly announced their decision to restrict their alcohol consumption to the weekends.

Andrew Volstead, a fifth-year communication major and President of the Gauchos Teetotalers Association (GTA), explained the rationale behind his groundbreaking decision.

"Contrary to popular belief, UCSB is a school, not just a place to get drunk. We have an academic reputation to uphold here," Volstead stated at a rally on Del Playa Drive yesterday afternoon. "I know this is a big decision, and I don't expect everyone to follow our lead. But we have to take a stand, and that starts today."

Several students raised concerns as to the feasibility of only drinking on weekends. In an attempt to assuage their fears, GTA Board Member and

second-year religious studies major Frances Willard laid out a simple program to help remind Gauchos when they can and can't drink.

"What we're asking for here is a gargantuan task, and it will take a concerted effort," she said. "If you are to be a part of this movement, you can only drink on the weekends. That means Saturday and Sunday. You can also drink on Friday, since that's basically the weekend. And Thursday night counts too, since that's like Friday night for Friday. Plus, you can have a little bit as a pick-me-up on Monday if you really need it."

Critics claimed that the GTA's definition of the weekend was far too strict, and that it would be impossible to survive the long periods of sobriety in between. In response, Willard further clarified the association's stance.

"Like I said, there will be ABSOLUTELY NO DRINKING on Tuesday or Wednesday," she continued, "unless it's like a really special occasion,

maybe your birthday or your mom's birthday or like a fun mixer or something like that."

Some experts have called it a sign of the rise in conservatism among the younger generation.

Much of the UCSB community has expressed support for the movement. Most vocal among these have been the I.V. Wingstop employees and TAs for Thursday afternoon sections.

The main opponents of the GTA have been UCSB's first-year students. An astonishing 69.67% of the first-years surveyed declared that the Teetotaler's demands are unreasonable and unrealistic. Other groups that have voiced opposition are the Associated Student Government of Santa Barbara City College and Snag Delivery drivers.

Stay tuned to Nexustentialism for more live updates on this unprecedented movement.

Don Juan Tenorio is suffering from alcohol withdrawals, which is normal.

## Old boys club prevails: Court judge revealed to be University of Pennsylvania alum

León Guisti  
Legal analyst

After nearly a year of deliberations and attempts at indicting Luigi Mangione, a recent hearing in the New York State Court saw Judge Tucker Johnson dismiss two charges, one including a charge of capital punishment, the judge citing that he could "never cross a brother like that."

What does he mean? In fact, Luigi Mangione and Judge Johnson are both alumni members of the same professional law frat, Phi Alpha Delta, at the University of Pennsylvania. Federal prosecutors have been working on an indictment for the greater part of the past year. However, the possibility of appealing the judge's decision seems improbable, given that many sympathize with their fellow brother Mangione.

A statement from Mangione reads: "I'm very relieved by the judge's decision. I was worried how he was going to approach the conflict, whether he would recognize my brotherhood or if he may have forgotten the time we briefly met at an alumni mixer my junior year, where I first expressed my interest in pursuing law. We connected on LinkedIn and I even got to shotgun a beer with him. In the end, I'm just so psyched this connection has paid off."

The judge released a statement last week expressing a similar sentiment.

"The past months, I've been racking my head over this trial. Although I don't remember ever meeting the kid before the case, I keep thinking about a certain guidebook I had to memorize during my own initiation into the fraternity. One of the rules read: 'As Gentleman of the University of Pennsylvania, we shall never seek legal action against one another, over any

predicament whatsoever."

"I've asked myself many times, 'How can I charge my own brother with capital punishment?' I mean for God's sake he may have even slept in the same bedroom at the frat house!"

Phi Alpha Delta alumni and brothers across the country, including Co-founder and CEO of Facebook Mark Zuckerberg and CFO of UnitedHealth Group Incorporated Wayne S. DeVeydt (a close associate and friend of Brian Thompson), have expressed their support and solidarity with Mangione.

"Though I'm appalled and disgusted at the act of political violence against a well-intentioned, good-standing executive," Zuckerberg said, "I too could not bear the conscience of condemning a brother to capital punishment. You just can't do that."

United States Attorney General Pam Bondi has strongly communicated her indignation with the judge's decision against the charge of capital punishment.

"I think it's utterly impertinent and childish how Judge Johnson has justified his decision. I've got an entire administration up my ass trying to put this killer away, meanwhile I have to deal with a pair of sentimental and principled frat boys," Bondi said.

Mangione remains hopeful about a positive outcome. Mangione's father has also taken action into his own hands and invited the judge to visit the family's country clubs in Maryland.

"Nothing beats a couple brews and holes with some brothers. I'm thinking I can get the judge down to 20 years, maximum," he said.

León Guisti lives by the tenant: "The boys above all."

# ON THE MENU



## Baked cauliflower, easy & cheesy



PIHU JAIN / DAILY NEXUS

The pillowy bites of cauliflower are cut by the burnt earthiness of the tomato, creating a mind-numbingly delicious dinner for two or three.

**Pihu Jain**  
*On The Menu Editor*

Ovens have been a point of contention throughout my culinary exploits. I shudder to bake or broil, often sticking to the Pillsbury easy-bake chocolate chip cookies or assembling the dish for others to bake and test for themselves. It wasn't until this baked cauliflower experiment two years ago that I finally broke free of my fears and could enjoy my oven to the max. This is the only recipe I will brave the oven for, and the only one in my opinion deserving of the risk. The risk, mind you, is very little compared to the reward of cheesy, soft cauliflower goodness. It is too good to pass up and too easy to make. The pillowy bites of cauliflower are

cut by the burnt earthiness of the tomato, creating a mind-numbingly delicious dinner for two or three. I'm prone to now buying three to four cauliflowers and heaps of cherry tomatoes, to easily throw them together on any of the tiring nights of the week I'm used to, as I finish up school. This recipe is rich in vitamins C, K and fiber, provides the health benefits of extra virgin olive oil and features a delicious spice mix.

### Baked cauliflower

Yield: 3-4 servings  
Duration: ~1 hour

### Ingredients:

- 1 large cauliflower
- ½ pack of cherry tomatoes
- 1 cup feta cheese
- Cheddar cheese

- ¾ cup extra virgin olive oil
- 2 tablespoons smoked paprika
- 2 tablespoons onion powder
- 2 tablespoons garlic powder
- 1 tablespoon salt
- 1 tablespoon chipotle powder
- 1 baking dish
- 1 small bowl

### Instructions:

1. Wash your cauliflower, remove the stem and slice into even steaks.
2. Place pieces next to each other in a baking dish.
3. Mix spices and olive oil together with a fork in a small bowl, then pour evenly onto cauliflower pieces.
4. Use hands or other

utensils to coat pieces evenly in marinade.

5. Add cherry tomatoes evenly into basking dish.
6. Squeeze feta pieces in between cauliflower slices
7. Place dish into oven (preheated at 450-500 degrees Fahrenheit) and bake 30-45 minutes, or until you can poke into softened cauliflower with ease.
8. Take dish out, and sprinkle cheddar cheese on while hot.
9. Let cool for a moment, then serve and enjoy!

The amount of cheese in this dish certainly feels alarming, but trust in the process and you'll see how perfectly everything comes together in the end. I recommend

experimenting with this dish to find your footing; the spices and vegetables can be altered. I've been looking forward to adding broccolini, onions, mushrooms and other vegetables that might elevate the taste and nutritional profile of the dish.

Be mindful of coating everything evenly in olive oil, even the tomatoes, as they may burn and crisp beyond repair if not treated right. You can also leave the dish in the oven for a longer or shorter period of time depending on how you want your cauliflower. Leave it in longer for a more smoky, burnt taste (though be careful not to blacken it all together!) or shorten the baking time for a lighter and more refreshing profile.

No matter what route you choose, you can't go wrong with this cheesy dish.

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# LA VISTA



## Cientos se manifiestan en Leadbetter Beach para protestar contra la actividad de ICE en Santa Bárbara

Néstor Manzanares  
Editor para La Vista

Alrededor de 400 personas se reunieron el pasado viernes 30 de enero en la curva de Leadbetter Beach en el centro de Santa Bárbara para protestar contra el Servicio de Inmigración y Control de Aduanas (I.C.E., por sus siglas en inglés) y el reciente aumento de la actividad de I.C.E. en la comunidad de Santa Bárbara.

Con pancartas que decían “I.C.E. no es bienvenido aquí” y “Manos fuera de nuestros vecinos, compañeros de trabajo y amigos”, los manifestantes corearon “¡I.C.E. fuera!” y celebraron mientras autos, motocicletas y camiones que pasaban tocaban el claxon en señal de apoyo.

La protesta se da en medio de múltiples avistamientos de I.C.E. y encuentros reportados en distintas zonas del condado de Santa Bárbara en las últimas semanas— como el incidente de un agente de I.C.E. arrojando spray de pimienta a una residente— lo que ha generado preocupación entre grupos defensores de los derechos de las personas inmigrantes y residentes.

A medida que han aumentado las tensiones, el condado de Santa Bárbara se sumó el viernes 30 de enero al “National Shutdown”, una acción nacional de protesta.

La historia de organización contra I.C.E. en Santa Bárbara se remonta al 31 de enero de 2025, cuando miembros de la comunidad realizaron la primera protesta de la ciudad contra la agencia, pocos días después de que el presidente Donald Trump asumiera el cargo.

Los organizadores señalaron que esa manifestación inicial marcó el inicio de una resistencia local sostenida contra la aplicación federal de las leyes migratorias.

El “National Shutdown” es un paro económico de 24 horas que busca protestar contra I.C.E.

y las políticas federales más amplias de control migratorio.

Se alienta a las personas participantes a abstenerse de trabajar, comprar y realizar actividades económicas no esenciales como forma de resistencia colectiva.

“Estar en comunidad es fundamental para construir un movimiento”, dijo Ana García, voluntaria de SBResiste y

los cuales dijeron haber sido afectados personalmente por I.C.E..

“Estoy asustada. Agentes de I.C.E. han estado en el lugar de trabajo de mi abuela”, dijo Celeste Castillo, estudiante de primer año en San Marcos High School.

Castillo señaló que su familia se ha visto afectada por la actividad de I.C.E. en Santa

agentes federales se vayan de nuestra comunidad y que dejen de aterrorizar a nuestros ciudadanos y a nuestros vecinos”.

Algunos manifestantes también hicieron referencia a incidentes recientes relacionados con I.C.E. en Minnesota, que involucraron los tiroteos de los ciudadanos estadounidenses Renee Good y

citando preocupaciones sobre tecnologías de vigilancia. Miembros de la comunidad apoyaron a los manifestantes proporcionando agua, café, naranjas y otros suministros para ayudarles a mantenerse hidratados bajo el sol intenso.

García señaló que la mayoría de quienes aportaron los suministros eran voluntarios y residentes locales.

Varios voluntarios instalaron carpas y mesas para distribuir comida, bebidas y otros artículos necesarios.

Negocios locales y miembros de la comunidad también contribuyeron con alimentos y bebidas. Get Hooked proporcionó ceviche, mientras que Dark Coffee donó café frío (cold brew).

Otras personas llevaron alimentos sellados para compartir y donar a una despensa comunitaria.

Los organizadores dijeron que se planean protestas y acciones adicionales en los próximos días, mientras comunidades de todo el país continúan manifestándose en solidaridad con las personas inmigrantes.

Miembros de la comunidad apoyaron a los manifestantes proporcionando agua, café, naranjas y otros suministros para ayudarles a mantenerse hidratados bajo el sol intenso.

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Otras personas llevaron alimentos sellados para compartir y donar a una despensa comunitaria.

No hubo presencia policial durante todo el día.

NÉSTOR MANZANARES / EL NEXO DIARIO



Brian Hoison y su prometida sostienen sus pancartas en Leadbetter Beach durante la protesta contra las acciones de ICE en el área de Santa Bárbara.

organizadora de la protesta. “Queremos que se sumen. Queremos que sepan que hay un espacio para las personas indocumentadas dentro de esta resistencia”.

El evento comenzó a las 11 a.m. y concluyó a las 4 p.m., con una asistencia que fue creciendo de manera constante a lo largo del día.

Entre los asistentes hubo estudiantes de San Marcos High School, Dos Pueblos High School y Santa Bárbara High School, así como residentes locales de Santa Bárbara, algunos de

Bárbara desde el año pasado.

“Espero que la comunidad inmigrante esté escuchando y sepa que la respaldamos”, dijo Castillo. “Si pasa algo, estamos aquí para apoyarlos”.

El residente de Santa Bárbara Brian Hoison también expresó su apoyo a la comunidad inmigrante. Sosteniendo un cartel que decía “Abolir ICE”, Hoison criticó las prácticas federales de control migratorio.

“Lo que está pasando en nuestro país no es lo que representa Estados Unidos”, dijo Hoison. “Quiero que los

Alex Pretti.

“Nadie está a salvo”, dijo Saray Madrigal, egresada de la Universidad de California en Santa Bárbara.

“Si crees que por ser ciudadano estadounidense no estás en riesgo, Renee Good y Alex Pretti son ejemplos desafortunados de que incluso nosotros estamos en peligro. El mensaje aquí es hacerle saber a ICE y a esta administración que no los queremos aquí”.

García también hizo un llamado a la comunidad para cancelar sus suscripciones

## Resiliencia: “Aquí estamos, siempre estamos, no nos fuimos, no nos vamos”

Azucena Sanchez  
Editora para La Vista

La existencia de los latinos, especialmente los latinos de piel morena, se ve amenazada por la existencia del odio.

De pequeña nunca entendí el concepto del odio.

Lo veía como un simple disgusto; no me gustaba el helado ni las habichuelas.

Era una visión inocente de la palabra “odio”.

Luego aprendí que el odio es más que un simple disgusto, y que el odio causa daño, dolor y tristeza a millones de personas en todo el mundo.

Los inmigrantes son de diferentes colores y tienen diferentes rasgos, pero parece que existe un estereotipo que vincula la palabra “inmigrante” con los latinos morenos.

Se nos criminaliza por haber nacido bajo el sol, por nuestra piel que ha sido tocada por el calor y los rayos dorados, que se considera asquerosa y sucia.

Cuando, en realidad, nuestra piel está hecha para soportar cualquier clima.

No importa el frío, no importa el calor, nuestra piel morena nos protege.

Nuestro idioma, aunque nos lo trajeron los colonizadores españoles, es hermoso, una forma en la que nos comunicamos entre nosotros, una forma en la que entendemos y existimos en este mundo.

Nuestros ojos, a veces marrones, tienen un pigmento que ayuda a absorber y dispersar la luz, reduciendo el resplandor y protegiéndolos del daño solar al absorber la radiación UV.

El color de nuestro cabello, café oscuro, casi negro, habla de la fuerza y la resistencia que nos transmitieron nuestros antepasados.

Esta descripción física de mí misma, y de millones de personas más, es hermosa, porque es parecida a la de nuestras madres, nuestros padres, nuestros antepasados y nuestros descendientes.

No me odio a mí misma, pero mi existencia física es suficiente para ser odiada por millones de personas.

No es algo que me alegre comprender o saber, es simplemente algo que sé al despertarme cada mañana.

Los inmigrantes construyeron el país en el que vivimos actualmente, y no es algo que haya sido fundado por el hombre blanco, después de todo, parte de los Estados Unidos pertenecía a México.

Diez estados para ser exactos: California, Nevada, Utah, Nuevo México, Arizona, Colorado, Wyoming, Oklahoma y Kansas, así como parte de Texas.

Sin embargo, hoy en día, estos estados y muchos más están cubiertos por el odio, el dolor y un sinfín de personas que temen lo que

no comprenden. Este odio ha sido la causa de innumerables muertes de inmigrantes en centros de detención, de manifestantes inocentes asesinados a plena luz del día, de niños a los que se les ha lanzado gas lacrimógeno, de niños utilizados como cebo contra sus propios padres y de muchas otras cosas, lo que ha obligado a millones de personas a esconderse.

A sentir vergüenza y miedo por su decisión de venir a Estados Unidos en busca de una vida mejor.

Me duele saber que mi propia gente se ve obligada a vivir con miedo, que las risas y la alegría que antes se oían por todas partes ahora han sido sustituidas por el silencio y los susurros.

Sigo esperando que superemos estos tiempos difíciles, después de todo, llevamos aquí más de cientos de años.

Seguiremos dejando nuestra huella en el mundo y, aunque a muchos les duela oírlo, nunca nos iremos.

Y aún así, aunque a muchos les duela saberlo, todos somos descendientes de inmigrantes.

Los verdaderos habitantes de los Estados Unidos son los indígenas, las personas que pertenecían a esta tierra antes de que fuera tomada por la fuerza por los españoles, porque cuando ellos llegaron, nosotros ya habíamos dejado nuestras huellas en ella.

CORTESÍA DE WIKIMEDIA COMMONS



# DATA

## Class times and locations at UCSB are shaped by capacity, policy and demand

Henry Ding  
Reporter

When planning each quarter at UC Santa Barbara, the process of scheduling undergraduate courses begins months in advance.

Anthony Schmid, the university registrar, said in an email statement to the Nexus that the scheduling process begins with departments providing a proposed list of the courses they intend to teach, along with its desired enrollment capacities and meeting times. For courses that require unique equipment, the department can request special features, such as theater seating or larger rooms.

“Staff in the Office of the Registrar use an application called Astra Schedule to optimize the placement of courses into the available General Assignment spaces. The system will always try to place classes that best match the capacity and feature requirements and will prioritize courses that better fill a space,” Schmid said.

With the help of dedicated applications such as Astra Schedule, each class is organized based on special criteria to optimize their location and time. In three months, the proposed schedule of classes is officialized through its release on Gaucho On-Line Data (G.O.L.D.).

The Interactive Learning Pavilion (ILP) is home to 15% of all lectures during the quarter. Consisting of five tiered lecture halls, three active learning classrooms and 20 classrooms, the ILP has the largest capacity on campus, providing 2,030 seats of classroom space. Since its opening in spring 2023, the ILP has increased the University’s classroom capacity by 35%.

Phelps Hall, the Humanities and Social Sciences Building and Girvetz Hall come behind the ILP in holding the most lectures, with maximum capacities of 1362, 1182 and 750 seats, respectively.

Often, a majority of classes are held in buildings named for the department they are offered through. For example, 92% of classes offered by the Department of Education have classes in the Education Building, 92% of classes offered by the Department of Music have classes in the Music Building and 77% of classes offered by the College of Creative Studies (CCS) have classes in the CCS building.

65% of the Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry classes are held in both Physical Sciences Buildings, which have access to laboratory equipment. Similarly, 69% of the Department of Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology classes meet at the Biological Sciences Instructional Facility and Life Sciences Building.

In contrast, none of the psychology classes in Winter Quarter 2026 are held in the Psychology Building. Shannon Rivard, the business officer for the Department of Psychological & Brain Sciences, explained in an email statement to the Nexus that the classrooms in the Psychology Building are too small for undergraduate courses because it is only one floor.

“The classrooms in our buildings are used for smaller classes, lab meetings, seminars, grad classes etc.,” Rivard said.

Additionally, enrollment for psychology classes are large and cannot be adequately handled at the Psychology Building.

“For undergraduates, the largest functional classroom we control barely holds 30 students. Our classes typically enroll no fewer than 75 students, average closer to 125 students and can be as large as 800,” Christopher McFerron, the students affairs manager for the Department of Psychological & Brain Sciences, added.

The UCSB Classroom Inventory gives an overview of the available classrooms, as well as the department that has priority over the classroom, when planning courses. When no department has priority over the classroom, it is considered a “general assignment” space. The ILP falls under the “general assignment” title, which allows any department to schedule classes and leads to greater variability among the classes held inside it.

Most classes offered in Winter Quarter 2026 start at 11 a.m on

Wednesdays. This period can be explained by the intersection of Monday-Wednesday, Wednesday-Friday and Monday-Wednesday-Friday classes during “prime-time,” which is defined by the UCSB classroom scheduling policy as 10 a.m to 1:50 p.m.

The policy continues that “academic departments are encouraged to limit the number of their undergraduate primary courses offered during prime-time to 60% of the 50, 75, and 110 minute undergraduate primary courses offered by that department.”

In this case, the policy describes primary courses as those that appear separately on a student’s transcript. Secondary courses are labs and discussion sections that are part of each primary course.

Notably, 50% of music performance laboratory classes start after 5 p.m. Olivia Mendoza, the undergraduate advisor for the Department of Music, said in an email to the Nexus that this trend is consistent every quarter, allowing the music performance ensembles to practice effectively.

“Our performance course offerings are scheduled in the evenings because the Lotte Lehmann Concert Hall is unavailable to the Music Department until after 2:00 p.m. each day as it is used as a lecture hall, and the concert hall provides the special equipment needed for our courses,” Mendoza said.

Similarly, 30% of the Department of Art classes are held on Mondays at 1 p.m. Hannah Vainstein, the undergraduate advisor and academic program manager for the Department of Art, explained this in an email.

“Many professors request the 1:00 p.m. time slot and so we always have classes scheduled then. Our faculty meetings usually take place on Tuesdays and so the Monday/Wednesday schedule is probably the busiest,” Vainstein said. “Also, lectures with sections are also scheduled on Mondays so there is as much time as possible to schedule the sections throughout the week.”

Over half of undergraduate classes at UCSB are offered in 75-minute lectures, which have been the standard from as early as 1985. However, there are still substantial amounts of 50-minute lectures, along with 110-minute lectures. Ultimately, it comes down to each department to decide those durations.

“Historically only Tuesday/Thursday courses were offered in the 75 minute lecture blocks and almost all Monday/Wednesday/Friday courses were offered in 50 minute blocks. That has changed over the last 20 years as faculty requested more courses in the 75 minute meeting pattern,” Schmid said.

This change can be highlighted in the Department of Mathematics, where Chris Ograin, the undergraduate vice chair for the department, said in an email statement to the Nexus that they only began switching to different blocks this year.

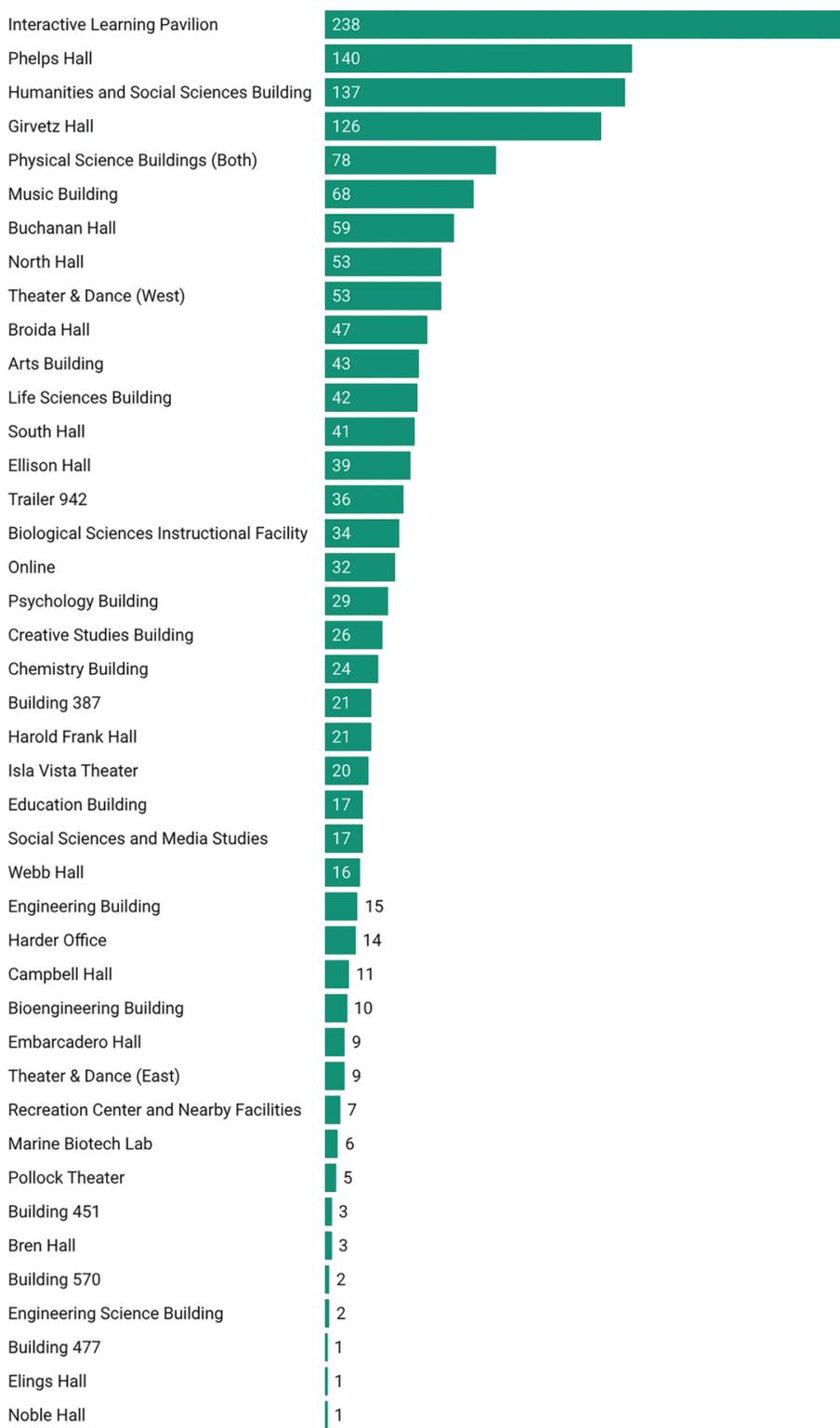
“It used to be the case that we only offered the 75-75 schedule on [Tuesday-Thursday] or the 50-50-50 schedule on [Monday-Wednesday-Friday]. We switched this year (starting in 2025-26 academic year) to courses offered 75-75 on [Monday-Wednesday] as well since this seemed to be popular with our faculty,” Ograin said.

The shift toward longer, less frequent lectures paves the way for meaningful opportunities to connect with other students. In that sense, classes must also receive adequate resources and time to optimize learning within the classroom.

Every quarter, courses start from a proposed draft to a finalized schedule of classes. Prior to this, dedicated individuals—including the Office of the Registrar, department advisors and professors – work together in order to fit each course into an optimal location, reasonable time and appropriate length.

“Our classes are scheduled taking into consideration both upper-division and lower-division classes trying to accommodate and make sure students will have as much access to these classes as possible,” Vainstein said.

### Distribution of lecture classrooms for Winter Quarter 2026

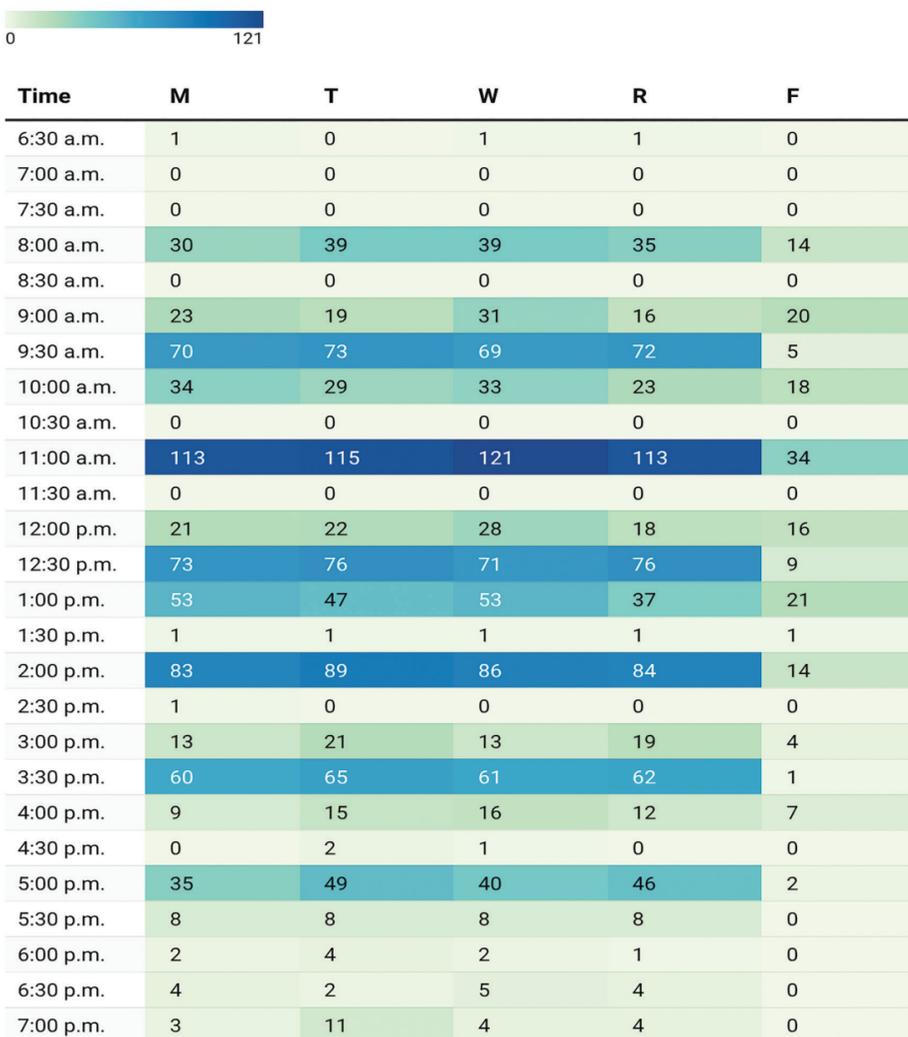


SOURCE: UCSB REGISTRAR

HENRY DING / DAILY NEXUS

Distribution of undergraduate lecture classrooms for Winter Quarter 2026. Each subject area has a dropdown, which shows the number of classes held at each classroom in decreasing order. The Interactive Learning Pavilion holds the most classes at 238, while Phelps Hall comes in second with 140 classes.

### Distribution of lecture times for Winter Quarter 2026



SOURCE: UCSB REGISTRAR

HENRY DING / DAILY NEXUS

Distribution of undergraduate lecture times for Winter Quarter 2026. Each subject area has a dropdown, which shows the number of classes held at each time during the week. The earliest possible start time is 6:30 a.m., while the latest possible start time is 7 p.m. The start time with the most classes is Wednesday at 11 a.m.

# OPINION



## El Partido de Bad Bunny: how Bad Bunny can introduce Latin culture to America

Caleb Chao  
Reporter

Surprisingly, I'm not a very big football guy. I know, I know ... shocker right? Football is a cornerstone of American culture, but I could never really get into it. When I was younger, I would watch football on one day and one day only: the Super Bowl. For better or for worse, I would always boot up the old TV and watch the biggest game of the year — even if I didn't know all the rules.

One year, I was terribly sick. I vividly remember that moment: It was Chinese New Year, so my entire family went to a Chinese restaurant and ate to their hearts' content. Lucky for me, my mom decided to stay at home and keep me company, while watching the Super Bowl. From that moment, my family and I would try to make watching the Super Bowl a tradition; we could both have family time and see what teams were battling it out on the field.

Out of everything, I've always remembered the Super Bowl halftime show the most. I remember many different halftime shows, ranging from The Weeknd running around in a glittery maze, to last year, watching Kendrick Lamar diss Drake on national TV.

Going into this season, I was stoked to see one of my favorite Latin performers, Bad Bunny, take the big stage. But when I opened up the news, I saw that there was more controversy than I expected surrounding his upcoming performance, with many people saying outright that they should re-pick a performer.

Overall, I was a little confused by the hate, but I slowly realized that many people weren't giving Bad Bunny a fair chance and that their prejudice ultimately limited them from getting to know a completely different culture. With more and more music coming from overseas, I think Americans complaining about Bad Bunny's performance need to broaden their horizons and accept that music is not cookie cutter. It's not meant for one particular group of people.

Bad Bunny, or Benito Antonio Martínez Ocasio, is a Puerto Rican rapper and singer that gained notable popularity throughout Latin America and the United States. Over time, he was able to work with many famous artists including Drake and Cardi B, spreading his name to a wider audience.

I personally really like his style of music, because he blends R&B and trap with Latin influences to create a unique sound. One of my favorite songs is called "Ojitos Lindos," where his production on the track stands out alongside his singing with Bomba Estéreo, a band from Colombia.

In the past few years, Bad Bunny has become a powerhouse in the music industry — racking in billions of streams and critical acclaim. In particular, Bad Bunny's most recent project, "DeBí TIRAR Más FOTOS," gained national attention for how he emphasized the sound and culture of Puerto Rico. Throughout his life, Bad Bunny has always been an advocate for the Latin American community, even speaking out during the

controversial Immigration and Customs Enforcement (I.C.E.) raids under President Donald Trump's administration.

Overall, the general population has had mixed responses to the announcement of Bad Bunny's Super Bowl halftime performance. Don't get me wrong, many people were still excited for Bad Bunny to perform, ready to hear how he puts his own Latin spin on the show. However, other people were less than thrilled to see him set to perform, complaining about how he only sings in Spanish for most of his songs and how he canceled his tour in the United States because of the I.C.E. raids. Many of these critics don't want to give him a chance, with the organization Turning Point USA even deciding to create a new Super Bowl halftime show on their own channel.

The backlash towards this announcement disheartens me, because many people are jumping to conclusions before even giving Bad Bunny a chance to prove himself. If people were to step out of their comfort zones and listen to something new, they could be pleasantly surprised and even find some new music that they really like. But to a larger point, this reaction shows a deeper problem in America's psyche toward music in different languages and arguably different cultures.

Americans have become petty on certain issues in music. The language divide is one of the biggest things that comes up with the discussion of Bad Bunny's performance. However, I believe music is relatively intercultural; it

can be played almost anywhere, by anyone. In these past few years, we have seen a drastic rise in Americans listening to new global music.

Alongside Bad Bunny and Latin music, one of the newly introduced genres is K-pop. This past summer, "KPop Demon Hunters," one of the most influential movies of the year, took the U.S. by storm, with their music being the main attraction. Songs like "Golden" and "Takedown" climbed the Billboard charts with "Golden" achieving number one in Aug. 2025 for eight non-consecutive weeks. I also started to see the rise of K-pop in my own life. In fact, when I was a lifeguard, I remember playing the song "Golden" into the sound system and the kids immediately recognizing it and belting out the lyrics.

Just how "KPop Demon Hunters" helped introduce a whole new audience to K-pop, Bad Bunny has the same opportunity; he can help people get to know Latin music. From attracting a new audience to the game of football, to setting a new halftime show that is unique from the rest, Bad Bunny has the chance to make his impact on what Americans think of Latinos in a time where Latinos are heavily discriminated against. And for some Americans, I feel like they should be a little more open minded and supportive of giving Bad Bunny the floor on the biggest stage in America.

*Caleb Chao breaks down Bad Bunny's upcoming Super Bowl performance and how it will be unBAILE INOLVIDABLE for everyone in America.*

## ASK AJ: Super Bowl predictions

Kira Logan  
Opinion Editor

### Who is going to win the Super Bowl?

The regular football season has ended, most people's favorite teams (including mine) are out of contention, half of the league has fired and re-hired new head coaches and the final two teams' fans' egos are at an all-time high.

The Super Bowl is the one night a year when everyone pretends they've been watching football all season long, and the National Football League (NFL), who has exhausted their viewers emotionally, now asks them to care deeply about one more game. Lucky for them, I've watched this season as closely as Cris Collinsworth watches quarterback (QB) Patrick Mahomes' every move.

For those who don't know, here's a mini history lesson: This is the 60th annual Super Bowl, which is the biggest football game of the year. Only two out of the 32 NFL teams have succeeded to play each other. This year, it's the Seattle Seahawks against the New England Patriots.

The New England Patriots have mixed responses. Famously, Patriots Hall of Famer and arguably the best football player of all time, Tom Brady, played for the Patriots for 20 seasons. He led them to six Super Bowl victories before signing with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in March 2020.

On the other side, the Seattle Seahawks have one Super Bowl victory in their franchise history, back in 2014. They have reached the championship game three times and lost to the Patriots in 2015. These teams have seen each other here before.

Unfortunately, my answer to this question is a no-brainer, as much as it pains me to say: The Seattle Seahawks are going home with the Vince Lombardi Trophy this upcoming Sunday.

Odds makers across sportsbooks have Seattle as the outright favorite to win, with both the moneyline and spread strongly leaning toward them. The spread has Seahawks at -4.5 and the moneyline set at -235. The general over/under for points is 45.5, the lowest line since 2016 due to strong defensive matchups. Despite this, Seattle seems to be

avored by a field goal and a half, with most bets implying they're most likely champions.

I resent the Seahawks as much as the next person; the intense historical rivalry from 1977-2001, when my team, the Las Vegas Raiders and the Seattle Seahawks were American Football Conference (AFC) West divisional foes, has scarred me for a lifetime (despite not being alive to see it). I definitely don't feel joy when they succeed. The ego of their fans is repellent enough to actually root against them in the playoffs. However, respect is due when they factually have the edge over the other team.

They've been one of the best teams in the league and haven't tailed off in the playoffs. Their dynamic playmakers — a top wide receiver in Jaxon Smith-Njigba, a lofty running game with running back Kenneth Walker III and a defense that makes life miserable for any QB they play — have all created the perfect concoction to dominate the league.

They looked awfully strong in their 41-6 National Football Conference (NFC) divisional round game last month against the San Francisco 49ers, with wide receiver Rashid Shaheed returning the opening kickoff for a touchdown and using that momentum the rest of the game. Similarly, Seattle secured their trip to the Super Bowl in 31-27 NFC Championship victory against the Los Angeles Rams, primarily because of their explosive offense. Recently, watching the Seahawks has looked like an inevitable win; it's been more than just taking big shots in Hail Marys down the field — from run-pass marriage to personnel usage to play design, the overall cohesion of the offense is impossible to miss.

However, it's football. As avid football fans understand, it's "Any Given Sunday." The truth is, the Super Bowl is unlike any other game in the season: there's always a turnover, a blown coverage or a moment that seems to turn the script upside down. That's why I have to pace around the TV the entire game.

Could the Patriots win? Sure. I love their starting QB, Drake Maye, and his newfound favoritism online, with the catchy nickname: "Drake 'Drake Maye' Maye." Maye is likeable, and he's broken records in

the New England Patriots franchise that were previously held by Brady while also establishing new team highs in accuracy and efficiency. He has the most wins by a rookie and sophomore QB at 17 wins, the most games with 100+ passer rating at 13 games and the highest single-season completion percentage at 72%.

He's definitely earned his spot at Levi's Stadium and on America's televisions this Sunday, although the Patriots' schedule was the softest road to the Super Bowl with minimal hard competition. It's also hard to have faith in Maye, knowing how strong Seattle's defense has consistently been.

I would not be upset to see Maye take home the Lombardi Trophy, as I believe he should be considered for Most Valuable Player with the outstanding season he's had. Yet, I would not be surprised to see Seattle's QB Sam Darnold and his offense sweep the stage.

### Who did you wish to see in the Super Bowl?

I'm not mad at this matchup, per se, but I'm not thrilled at it. Thankfully I don't have to see the Kansas City Chiefs monopolize my screen another year, as I will never hate another football team as much as I hate the Chiefs — but that's a conversation for another time.

To put it plainly, this matchup is safe. The Super Bowl is at its peak when it feels like fan bases couldn't handle the outcome between either team or when fans are shocked at the matchup. This, however, feels like a performance review. A Buffalo Bills appearance would've meant collective catharsis. A Detroit Lions run would've felt biblical. Even a 49ers appearance would've come with chaos and spite, especially in their home stadium.

Instead, this feels reasonable. This feels like it's been done before (and has). I could've called a Seattle and New England matchup from miles away.

### Why is this NFL season unorthodox?

In short terms, none of the league's usual rules applied this year. For years, the NFL has been organized around a clear QB class system, but this season blurred that line. Established players looked conventional, backup-level QBs went on legitimate runs and teams

stopped pretending that a single arm could carry structural flaws. This season, we saw QBs winning games by not losing them, making the league harder to predict and far less star-driven than usual.

The "best team" also changed every week — somewhat alarming, as there's usually a consensus by the midseason. Two or three teams typically separate themselves and sports analysts can clearly see where the season is going. This year, that never really happened. Top teams, like the Indianapolis Colts at the time, lost to a bottom-tier opponent in the Jacksonville Jaguars. The Colts even being considered a top-10 team in the first place this season had its own shock factor.

The playoff field also felt off. Even once the postseason picture was set, it still didn't feel right. Familiar contenders, like the Chiefs, were eliminated early. Unexpected teams, like the Chicago Bears, hung around the playoffs for longer than expected.

I can't complain, though. It's differences in the league, like these, that make the week-by-week games so interesting to tune into.

### Who is your NFL team?

I'm sad to say, the Las Vegas Raiders. This is not something I'm necessarily proud of. This is a confession.

Being a Raiders fan is less about winning and losing, and more about character development. For the more important reason, the why, I was unfortunately born into my fate. I've seen them play at the Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum and shed my fair share of tears when they moved to Las Vegas. If this doesn't prove my loyalty to things that treat me like shit, I don't know what will.

Despite their awful play calling, team management and overall decision making, I believe in them and our chances at being a playoff team in less than five years. It's because my team is so quickly eliminated from playoff contention that I have enough time to analyze the actual potential Super Bowl contenders. So, thank you for being bad at football, Raiders.

I love the Raiders, I just don't trust them. Both things can be true. *Kira Logan is currently spending all of her savings account on Super Bowl bets right now.*

## HOROSCOPES

The signs as Super Bowl  
halftime shows

### ARIES

MARCH 21 – APRIL 19

Michael Jackson,  
Super Bowl XXVI

### TAURUS

APRIL 20 – MAY 20

Bruno Mars, Super  
Bowl XLVIII

### GEMINI

MAY 21 – JUNE 20

Prince, Super Bowl  
XLI

### CANCER

JUNE 21 – JULY 22

Rihanna, Super Bowl  
LVII

### LEO

JULY 23 – AUGUST 22

Katy Perry, Super  
Bowl XLIX

### VIRGO

AUGUST 23 – SEPTEMBER 22

Kendrick Lamar,  
Super Bowl LIX

### LIBRA

SEPTEMBER 23 – OCTOBER 22

Usher, Super Bowl  
LVIII

### SCORPIO

OCTOBER 23 – NOVEMBER 21

The Weeknd, Super  
Bowl LV

### SAGITTARIUS

NOVEMBER 22 – DECEMBER 21

Beyoncé, Super Bowl  
XLVII

### CAPRICORN

DECEMBER 22 – JANUARY 19

Madonna, Super  
Bowl XLVI

### AQUARIUS

JANUARY 20 – FEBRUARY 18

Justin Timberlake,  
Super Bowl LII

### PISCES

FEBRUARY 19 – MARCH 20

Shakira, Super Bowl  
LIV