



## SBIFF 2026:

# Michael B. Jordan talks legacy and career, receives Outstanding Performer Award

**Michelle Cisneros**  
Lead News Editor  
**Jack Dindia**  
Lead News Editor

Before entering the Arlington Theatre to receive the 2026 Outstanding Performer of the Year Award, fans of all ages swarmed around Michael B. Jordan in hopes of meeting him.

"He talked to us!" a group of young fans exclaimed as they held an American flag with his photo.

Members of the official Michael B. Jordan fan club were also present at the event, highlighting Jordan's widespread appeal. Jordan's influence on young people and relentless pursuit of complex roles were highlighted at the Feb. 12 Outstanding Performer Award ceremony, which is given to actors "whose role in a film has exceeded greatness."

Jordan was honored for his dual performance as twin brothers Smoke and Stack in "Sinners," for which he received critical acclaim and a nomination for Best Actor at the upcoming Academy Awards.

The event began with an introduction by Santa Barbara International Film Festival (SBIFF) Executive Director Roger Durling.

"I have admired Michael's commitment to portraying the African American male with nuance, with truth and dignity and without compromise," Durling said. "I cannot emphasize enough that this remarkable actor, this remarkable person, has advanced Black cultural presence while succeeding within mainstream Hollywood."

Cheers erupted as Jordan made his way onstage and told Durling that his family was in the crowd.

"For me to be having this much success and this much love in some cool places, and meeting all these people and getting this response, this feedback, to have [my family] feel that and be a part of that journey with me, it makes it complete," Jordan said.

Durling started the on-stage interview by asking Jordan how his acting career began and how his early roles shaped his mindset when it came to acting. Jordan recalled enrolling in tap classes as a child and venturing

into modeling, which became his introduction to the entertainment industry.

"At 11, I think I was working on my discipline. That was part of my work ethic training, so to speak, of picking up a hobby," Jordan said.

Jordan went on to describe his acting process and how he keeps journals for characters he's playing. Jordan said that his "Red Tails" co-star Nate Parker introduced him to the practice.

"[Parker] really stressed the importance of journal work and arching out a character with no cards ... it clicked for me and made sense, I've been doing it ever since," Jordan said.

Jordan explained that as his career progressed, he began to think deeper into the roles he was playing and move away from the stereotypical roles he was limited to in his youth.

"I think you're defined by what you say no to," Jordan said. "Fantastic 4 is probably the role that was very intentional."

Clips of Jordan's roles played throughout the event, highlighting his vast filmography. Durling added that Jordan

has pushed the types of roles available to young Black actors and has triumphed in telling stories he believes need to be told.

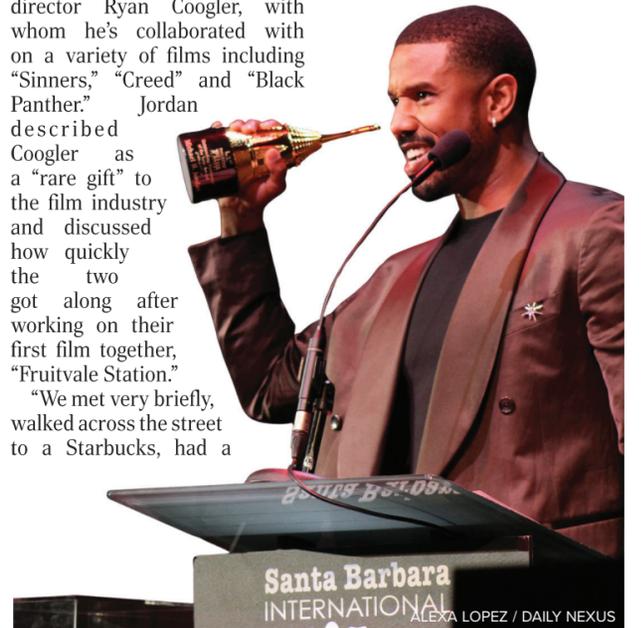
Jordan also discussed his professional relationship with director Ryan Coogler, with whom he's collaborated with on a variety of films including "Sinners," "Creed" and "Black Panther."

Jordan described Coogler as a "rare gift" to the film industry and discussed how quickly the two got along after working on their first film together, "Fruitvale Station."

"We met very briefly, walked across the street to a Starbucks, had a

conversation ... he pitched 'Creed' to me maybe the next week," Jordan said. "So before we even shot one frame of ['Fruitvale Station'], he already pitched to me the 'Creed' franchise."

**Michael B. Jordan p.10**



Michael B. Jordan at the Arlington Theatre on Feb. 12th.

## Students disrupt class, stage citizens arrest as form of 'political theater'



Four students entered the class yelling in protest of the presence of immigrants and LGBTQIA+ people on campus.

**Jack Dindia**  
Lead News Editor

30 minutes into what seemed to be a normal Introduction to Communication lecture on Feb. 12, four students masked in bandanas and donning "Make America Great Again" hats entered the Lotte Lehmann Concert Hall yelling in protest of the presence of immigrants and LGBTQIA+ people on campus.

The students then performed a mock citizen's arrest on a student, which prompted another student to stage an altercation, before all four students involved left the building. After the incident was posted on the anonymous social media platform YikYak, it quickly became clear to students that the events were staged.

Professor and Communication Department Chair Tamara Afifi sent an email to all communication undergraduate students later that day stating that the disruption was done by a group of "politically progressive" students trying to engage in anti Immigration and Customs Enforcement (I.C.E.) and pro-transgender "political theater."

"They feel really bad about it and clearly did not think through the ramifications," Afifi's email read. "That doesn't make it right or acceptable. This hurt a lot of people who are already suffering right now. Obviously this went horribly wrong and it was a really, really bad idea."

Throughout the day, students continued to post their thoughts on YikYak, which included captions such as "if you're so proud of your stance why wear a mask?" and "I hope they are embarrassed."

First-year communication major

Mia Houg said she was "right next to them" when the students started yelling. She said by the time she saw the four of them run away with each other, "everyone knew this [was] probably a performance that [was] trying to promote activism."

Houg also heard rumors circulating about the students, with some students recognizing their voices as people in activist spaces.

"It was just kind of shocking. I was just like, out of nowhere, you choose a comm class to convey this message?" Houg said.

Houg said that while she understands the students aimed to promote their activism, which should involve being "outspoken," she felt that a class disruption wasn't optimal due to safety concerns.

"I was talking to a few people about this, and ... their first [instinct] when someone starts yelling is, 'Is this something related to a school shooting? Is something about to happen? Are we about to be endangered?'" Houg said.

Another first-year communication major who was present during the disruption, Milla Sgambelluri, said her first thought when the students entered was whether or not they were armed with a weapon.

"At first I was really scared, because there's been lots of school shootings and just a lot of violence recently," Sgambelluri said. "I was like, 'Is this really happening to our class, out of all the classes, out of all the schools, it's happening right now?'"

According to Afifi's email, the instructor of the course contacted the UC Police Department, who are currently investigating the incident.



NEXUS FILE PHOTO

## MSA supports Muslim community members during Ramadan

**Iris Guo**  
Community Outreach  
News Editor

The UC Santa Barbara Muslim Student Association has planned meals and prayers to build community among Muslim students as they observe Ramadan, which began on Feb. 18 and will end around March 19.

Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar and is observed by Muslims through fasting, reflection, charity and prayer. During the month, adherents will fast during daylight hours — entailing abstinence from eating, drinking, smoking and sexual relations — to achieve greater consciousness of Allah.

The Muslim Student Association (MSA) aims to create a safe space for Muslim students to build community on campus while finding spiritual and social growth. During Ramadan, the MSA has planned various events to help students observe Ramadan while at school.

According to MSA outreach chair and second-year computer science major Saqif Ayaan Sudheer, their main goal during Ramadan is to support Muslim students as they fast. Sudheer mentioned that one difficulty Muslim students face during Ramadan is a lack of accessibility to food, as dining halls have set schedules which make it difficult for fasting students to get food upon breaking their fast at sunset.

"For a lot of people — especially freshmen — it might be their first year practicing Ramadan away from the family," Sudheer said. "It can be very tough to be able to get food, especially if they don't have a dining plan. They can't

even eat in dining halls."

In order to address this issue while building community, the MSA will host on-campus iftars, the fast-breaking evening meal, on Monday through Thursday. The location of each iftar will be announced weekly on MSA's Instagram page.

According to Sudheer, the MSA will serve attendees at the iftars with catered food from local restaurants as well as food prepared and donated by community members from the Islamic Society of Santa Barbara (ISSB), a mosque in Goleta. Sudheer mentioned that the MSA is funding these iftars with donations, proceeds from fundraisers and funding from Associated Students (A.S.).

Although the MSA is prioritizing community members who are fasting, Sudheer said that non-Muslims are also welcome to attend iftars.

"We do prioritize people fasting, because obviously they haven't eaten at all, so we want to let them break their fast. But non-Muslims and people who are not fasting can also pull up, get some food and we will have a communal dinner," Sudheer said.

In addition to hosting iftars, MSA will also be coordinating a carpool system to participate in Taraweeh — a night prayer observed during Ramadan, which promotes community and spirituality — at the ISSB.

"These prayers are every night of Ramadan, and so what the MSA does is we usually organize rides so that Muslims who want to come to the mosque and pray these extra prayers in the night can do so," Sudheer said. "People who wanted to go to the mosque could go to the

mosque and pray, and then they would get dropped back home."

Outside of Ramadan, the MSA also holds Jum'ah every Friday, a congregational prayer held around 2 p.m. During Jum'ah, an MSA member delivers a 30-minute khutbah, an Islamic sermon, followed by a five to 10 minute prayer.

In the later parts of Ramadan, the MSA will also be having qiyam nights, during which members will pray and spend the night at the ISSB.

"The board will be there and the members want to come to organize rides and then we'll go spend a night at the mosque," Sudheer said. "Meaning that until sunrise, we'll be at the mosque and we'll also pray in congregation then [have] breakfast before sunrise to commence the fast."

According to Sudheer, the MSA has 40 recurring members which make up a "tight-knit community" but expect to see between 100 to 150 Muslim community members observing Ramadan with them.

"It's beautiful. We have a lot of Muslims come out who may not come to the general MSA meetings but want to have that community to break their fast with," Sudheer said.

As a second-year student who joined MSA's board this school year, Sudheer said that he has experienced and enjoyed MSA's Ramadan activities as an attendee.

"This year is going to be a very different experience, and I'm very excited for it," Sudheer said. "This time I'll be at the delivering end, and so I'll be the one serving the food, so it's going to be super exciting."



Jack Dindia  
Lead News Editor

### LGBTQ Staff hosts 'Queer Book Club'

The LGBTQ Staff & Faculty Collective is hosting "Queer Book Club" on Thursday, Feb. 19, from 12-1 p.m. at the Student Engagement & Leadership Conference Room 2293 in the Student Resource Building.

"Queer Book Club is a chance for staff and faculty to read, chat, and celebrate queer stories together," the Shoreline description read. "Our February book is 'The Price of Salt, a 1952 lesbian romance novel by Patricia Highsmith."

### A.S. Media Center hosts 'Photography 101'

The Associated Students (A.S.) Media Center and Creative Media Unit is hosting "Photography 101" on Thursday, Feb. 19, from 2-3 p.m. at the A.S. Media Center Building 434 in room 141.

"This one-hour session will cover the basic setup of the camera, understanding aperture, shutter speed, and ISO, as well as tips for shooting indoors and outdoors. Please feel free to share your unique photography interests," the Shoreline description read.

Snacks, tea and coffee will be provided for attendees.

### UCSB Sustainability hosts panel on Goleta Water Safety

UCSB Sustainability is hosting the "Discussion Panel on Goleta Water Safety" on Thursday, Feb. 19, from 3-4 p.m. at the A.S. Media Center Building 434 in room 121.

"Join us at a discussion panel with the members of the Goleta Water District to have all your questions answered about the behind the scenes process of water treatment in Goleta!" the Shoreline description read.

### Arts & Lectures hosts 'Jlin + Third Coast Percussion'

Arts & Lectures is hosting "Jlin + Third Coast Percussion" on Thursday, Feb. 19, from 8-9:30 p.m. at Campbell Hall.

"Jlin and Third Coast Percussion join forces for a boundary-breaking collaboration that fuses cutting-edge electronics with virtuosic acoustic percussion," the Shoreline description read.

### IHC hosts free screening of 'Five Nights at Freddy's 2'

The Interdisciplinary Humanities Center (IHC) is hosting a free screening of "Five Nights at Freddy's 2" on Thursday, Feb. 19, from 8-10 p.m. at Isla Vista Theater.

"One year has passed since the supernatural nightmare at Freddy Fazbear's Pizza. Former security guard Mike has kept the truth from his 11-year-old sister, Abby, concerning the fate of her animatronic friends. When Abby sneaks out to reconnect with Freddy, Bonnie, Chica and Foxy, she sets into motion a terrifying series of events that reveal dark secrets about the true origin of Freddy's," the Shoreline description read.

### RCSGD hosts 'QT Winter Carnival'

The Resource Center for Sexual and Gender Diversity (RCSGD) is hosting "QT Winter Carnival" on Friday, Feb. 20, from 12-3 p.m. at the Lot 22 lawn.

"Meet and support the QT-centered organization of QTLC, play carnival-style games, and build community! Whether you are looking to get involved, seeking resources, or looking for a good time, all are welcome to attend the event," the post read.

### RHA hosts 'Lunar New Year: Fortune and Crafts'

The Residential Housing Association (RHA) is hosting "Lunar New Year: Fortune and Crafts" on Friday, Feb. 20, from 4-6 p.m.

"The event focuses on creativity, cultural appreciation, and community connection through hands-on activities, light educational materials, and traditional symbolic treats," the Shoreline description read.

### Walter H. Capps Center hosts 'Catherine L. Albanese and American Religious History'

The Walter H. Capps Center is hosting "Catherine L. Albanese and American Religious History: A Symposium" on Saturday, Feb. 21, from 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the McCune Conference Room at the Humanities and Social Sciences Building room 6020.

"Albanese joined UCSB's Department of Religious Studies in 1987 and retired in 2010. Her research on American metaphysical spirituality has reshaped the field of American religious history. She is past president of the American Academy of Religion and a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences," the Shoreline description read.

### Women's Center hosts 'Women and Wheels'

The Women's Center is hosting "Women and Wheels" on Saturday, Feb. 21, from 12-2 p.m. at the A.S. Bike Shop.

"Join us for a hands-on workshop on bicycle repair! Open to all skill levels!" the Shoreline description read.

Students can register via a Google form.

### VSA hosts 'Phở King 2026'

The Vietnamese Student Association (VSA) is hosting "Fast and Phở King Furious" on Saturday, Feb. 21, from 5-9 p.m. at Campbell Hall.

"Phở King is an annual male pageant hosted by UCSB's Vietnamese Student Association since 2002. The original purpose of the Phở King was to present an image of Asian males that did not coincide with common stereotypes of Asian Americans in mainstream media," the Shoreline description read.

### Department of Recreation hosts 'Women's Climbing Night'

The Department of Recreation is hosting "Women's Climbing Night" on Saturday, Feb. 21, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Recreation Center Climbing Wall.

"Join our climbing center staff for a night of climbing and socializing at the UCSB climbing wall! This event is designed to welcome women who want to get into climbing, as well as for anyone who already climbs and is looking for a fun night of socializing and beta swapping!" the Shoreline description read.

### TSC hosts 'It's Not a Major Deal'

The Transfer Student Center (TSC) is hosting "It's Not a Major Deal" on Monday, Feb. 23, from 12-1 p.m. at Kerr Hall 1120.

"Join us for an open discussion with faculty and advisors from four different major programs. Learn to pivot your mindset and leave with a strategy that works towards your goals!" the Shoreline description read.

### IHC hosts screening of 'Little Women'

IHC is hosting a screening of the film "Little Women" with trivia on Monday, Feb. 23, from 8-10:45 p.m. at the Theater & Dance West building.

"[Greta Gerwig] revives Little Women as a coming-of-age movie, a marriage comedy, a sibling-rivalry drama – and perhaps most interestingly of all, an autofictional manifesto for writing your own life," the Shoreline description read.



Michelle Cisneros  
Lead News Editor

### Federal government drops appeal of court order blocking UCLA settlement

The Trump administration dropped its appeal against a court order that blocked its \$1.2 billion settlement against UC Los Angeles. According to the Los Angeles Times, Department of Justice (DOJ) lawyers filed to dismiss their appeal on Feb. 11.

In the past year, the federal government has been investigating UCLA for allegedly using race as an admissions factor, recognizing the gender identities of transgender people and failing to respond to antisemitism adequately, among other reasons. The DOJ originally issued several demands alongside the settlement in August.

In response, a cohort of University of California employees filed a lawsuit in September, arguing the government's settlement demands were an "unlawful threat."

Other investigations across the UC for similar allegations involving antisemitism and diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives continue to play out in court.

### UC obtains more patents than any other university in the world last year

In 2025, researchers and employees across the UC were granted 571 patents, making it the university that was granted the most patents in the world last year. According to a Feb. 12 press release, the UC has over 6,800 active patents overall.

The University has been at the top of the list for 11 of the past 12 years since the National Academy of Inventors began tracking in 2013. The release highlighted the fact that the federal government funds over half of the research conducted at the UC. This comes in light of the federal administration's cuts to research grants throughout the last year.

From 1996 to 2020, UC patents generated \$1.9 trillion in economic output and created 6.5

million jobs.

### Missing UC Berkeley student found dead in Lake Anza

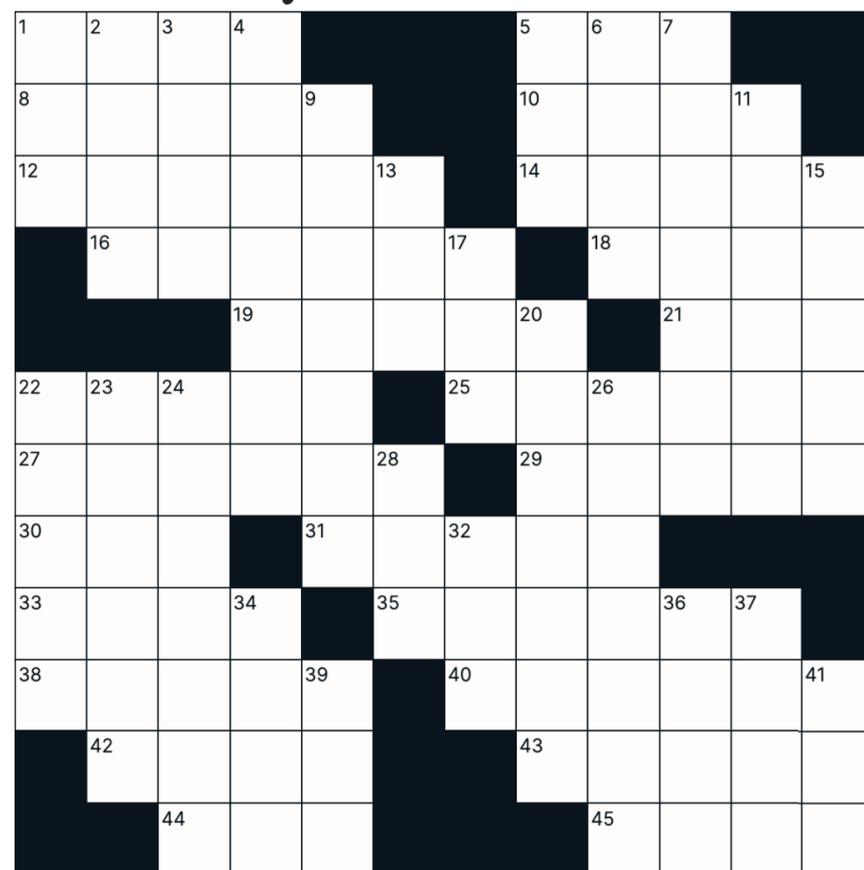
Saketh Sreenivasaiah, a UC Berkeley graduate student, was found dead at 22 years old on Feb. 14. According to the Daily Californian, Sreenivasaiah was an international student from India who was pursuing a master's degree in chemical and biomolecular engineering.

Sreenivasaiah was last seen on Feb. 10. He was found in Lake Anza in Tilden Regional Park and was identified by the Coroner's Division of the Contra Costa County Office of the Sheriff on Feb. 16.

Sreenivasaiah's official cause of death was not included in the Daily Cal article. His roommate, Baneet Singh, stated in a LinkedIn post that Sreenivasaiah had been struggling with his mental health prior to his death.

"Take this as a reminder to please reach out to your loved ones and make sure they're okay," the post read.

## The Daily Nexus Crossword



Alison Kumpf  
Games Developer

#### Across:

- Google alternative to Zoom
- "And ... done!"
- Support for an attitude?
- "It's a shame"
- Suppose
- Main artery
- Worked for a short period of time
- List-ending abbr.
- First episode of a season
- Mid-afternoon, to a gladiator, perhaps
- Hero prefix
- Expresses distaste, maybe
- Like the states of America
- German artist Max

- Make a mistake
- Mixture of greens
- Letter opener?
- Sahara \_\_\_\_\_, redundantly
- Have leftovers, say
- "Too true"
- Display, for short
- Have to, informally
- Mr. Burns' is 000-00-0002
- June 6, 1944, for short

#### Down:

- Degree for entrepreneurs, maybe
- Isla Vista to Storke Tower direction
- Erin's language?
- Instrument akin to a certain swan's call
- Noise ewes make
- Soothing plant

- Certain extraterrestrial
- Rome and Greece, once
- Disgraces, as a reputation
- Slippery fish
- Best of Hollywood
- Man's best friend
- Betraying one's country
- Soft material from the underside of animal hides
- Email filter category
- Apt. anagram for sea trip?
- Asked for a coffee, perhaps
- Pop, maybe
- French article
- Salted parts of margaritas
- One of two in an oboe
- Magician's flourish
- Existent beginning?
- Set, as groundwork



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"Does anyone have a bobby pin?"

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# IVCSD condemns I.C.E., gives updates on Deltopia alternative

**Levi Kauffman**  
Assistant News Editor  
Zach Miller  
Reporter

The Isla Vista Community Services District Board of Directors voted to support immigrant communities and condemn Immigration and Customs Enforcement at their Feb. 10 meeting. The board also discussed updated plans for their Deltopia alternative event to be held in April.

United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (I.C.E.) has arrested over 380,000 people since the start of President Donald Trump's second term, prompting criticism for employing terror tactics such as racial profiling, excessive use of force and attempts to enter homes without judicial warrants. Many community members have protested I.C.E. across Santa Barbara County (SBC), including a recent protest organized by the Isla Vista chapter of activist group Indivisible.

Isla Vista Community Services District (IVCSD) President Katherine Carmichael and IVCSD Vice President and third-year political science and environmental studies double major Kylan Hobart introduced a resolution condemning I.C.E. for "creating a climate of intense, widespread fear," "undermining the rule of law" and "endangering public safety," among other things. The resolution also called for the abolition of I.C.E. and for SBC Sheriff and former president of Major County Sheriffs of America, Bill Brown, to use his platform to advocate for I.C.E.'s abolition.

IVCSD Director Spencer Brandt shared his support for the resolution and the abolition of I.C.E.

"This type of immigration enforcement and I.C.E. is new in American history. I.C.E. was only created in our lifetimes and there is no reason why the resources of the federal government need to be focused on tearing communities

apart," Brandt said.

The resolution passed with six votes for and one abstention from IVCSD Director Kirsten Deshler. Deshler said that, as the representative of UC Santa Barbara, she must abstain because the UC has not yet taken a stance on I.C.E.

During public comment, students with Indivisible IV. expressed support for the resolution and asked what "concrete action" the IVCSD will take going forward. Brandt said that the challenge for the IVCSD is that IV. isn't a city, and the power to address I.C.E. activity lies with the SBC Sheriff's Office.

Next, the board discussed amendments to SBC Code of Ordinances Chapter 17, affecting waste management. Some of the amendments included requiring property owners to subscribe to waste service and increasing the minimum trash container size for multiple-unit dwellings and large single-unit dwellings. According to IVCSD General Manager Jonathan Abboud, the ordinances have not been updated since 1995.

IVCSD Public Works and Sustainability Director Jenna Norton presented the amendments and urged the board to approve a letter of support. Norton said that she and her team studied the root causes of litter in IV. and found that the issues were systematic rather than people simply throwing trash on the street. According to SBC ReSource Center Manager Carlyle Johnston, the main issue with IV. waste management is an undersubscription to services.

"Anytime you have a high population density, a high turnover and low home ownership rate, you're gonna have undersubscription," Johnston said. "You could be [not subscribing to waste services] to save money. You could be doing it to preserve parking ... Residents also can just make a mistake and they might not know that they have to sign up for trash service."

The board then unanimously voted in favor of the amendments and approved the letter of support.

Next, the board shifted focus to



The IVCSD Board of Directors voted to condemn I.C.E. and discussed plans for their upcoming Deltopia alternative event at their Feb. 10 meeting.

the upcoming Deltopia alternative event. Since the Deltopia noise ordinance was passed by the SBC Board of Supervisors, effectively cancelling the street festival, the IVCSD and UCSB's Associated Students have been working with community officials to organize a sanctioned replacement.

The board first discussed the Feb. 4 IV. Safe Meeting that was held with the Sheriff's Office to discuss safety protocols during the alternative event. IVCSD Director and fourth-year political science major Edward Pilotte, along with Brandt, attended the meeting and shared key insights.

Brandt said that Isla Vista Foot Patrol (IVFP) plans to keep law enforcement presence the same as last year. He was then questioned about whether there would be an expressed focus on noise level enforcement as opposed to minor alcoholic crimes and other infractions. According to Brandt, ordinance violations are going to be handled "equally" by law enforcement.

Pilotte elaborated on IVFP's enforcement plans, saying that while music inside homes will be allowed, if it can be heard from the property line then IVFP will enforce the ordinance. Brandt clarified

that commercial areas where the upcoming event is planned to be held will be exempt from the noise ordinance.

Hobart then questioned whether the IVFP and Sheriff's Office's communication strategies will involve more than posting information on their websites. Brandt responded that IVFP would primarily use door hangers that will go out to IV. and UCSB residents, as well as posting information on their websites.

Next, IVCSD Community Programs and Engagement Director Myah Mashhadialireza, the primary event coordinator for the alternative event, provided updates regarding the festival itself. Wristbands for the event will be distributed both in IV. and on campus. Although they will give wearers special perks, such as the ability to skip lines, Mashhadialireza explained that they will not be required to attend.

According to Mashhadialireza, the event will have 80 bathrooms, four first aid stations, four safety stations, three DJ stages, three band stages and at least 50 security guards. Additionally, there will be a beer garden run and stocked by M Special Brewing Company, with all proceeds going to an eligible nonprofit.

"We want to make sure that people understand that, while [IV.] is going to have 300 police officers, our site is going to be a safe space," Mashhadialireza said.

The event will be held in association with nine event leads, 11 local business partners and multiple free food vendors.

Mashhadialireza then discussed the name of the new event.

"[There were] two names that our event leads came up with that were pretty good. One is Soltopia, taking more influence from some of the Spanish names and culture in Isla Vista. The other one, which has no '-topia' in it at all, is Sound Wave Fest. I thought that was also pretty clever — a little play on the fact that sound waves are the big tension point of the event this year," Mashhadialireza said.

Pilotte expressed support for the name Sound Wave Fest because it makes the event distinct from Deltopia.

"I think it would be good to distance [ourselves] from the '-topia' name, just because we don't want to set those kinds of expectations. We want to continuously distance it [from Deltopia], so that people go in with no expectations, as opposed to hoping it's going to be like Deltopia," Pilotte said.

# Senate hears from Indivisible IV., allocates funding to IV. cityhood initiative

**Iris Guo**  
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Elijah Obando  
Staff Writer

The 76th Associated Students Senate heard from the newly formed Isla Vista chapter of activist organization Indivisible at its Feb. 11 meeting. The Senate allocated \$10,000 of funding to the Isla Vista Community Services District for their initiative to make Isla Vista a city.

## Public forum

Indivisible Isla Vista introduced their new chapter in IV. The presentation was made by Indivisible IV. President and second-year political science and philosophy double major Tallula Boreman, secretary and second-year geography major Kira Valles-Knoll and second-year political science and philosophy double major Julianna Johnson. The group

explained that Indivisible IV. is an organization that advocates for social justice and human rights by giving students a voice to speak up about issues they believe in.

The chapter's first demonstration was a protest against Immigration and Customs Enforcement (I.C.E.) on Feb. 11. Johnson explained that Indivisible IV. is working toward recalling Santa Barbara County's Sheriff and former president of Major County Sheriffs of America, Bill Brown, from his position. Johnson alleged that Brown has failed to make a statement or comply with state law regarding I.C.E. in Santa Barbara.

The group is currently collecting signatures from students to mass-send letters to Brown's office in Lompoc to demand an official denouncement of I.C.E. and to comply with California legislature. The legislature states, per the No Secret Police Act and No Vigilantes Act signed in September 2025,

that I.C.E. agents are banned from wearing face coverings and must wear identification while working.

Brown made a public statement regarding the community's reaction to his response to local I.C.E. activity on Feb. 17.

"With our nation split in half on the issue of immigration enforcement, there is plenty of contention on both sides. Even though we are polarized, we are all part of the same democratic republic. Again, listening to one another is important. Each side has valid points to make, and both sides matter," Brown's statement read.

Gohan Huynh, a fourth-year communication and sociology double major and president of UC Santa Barbara's Speech Forensics team, requested \$6,176 for hotel accommodations for the upcoming regional championship competition.

Lastly, Cotlali Sanchez, a third-

year biology major and internal vice chair of Raíces de mi Tierra, requested \$6,745 to fund a three-day cultural educational festival and conference. Senator and fourth-year history of public policy and law major Vanessa Manakova clarified that the Finance Committee almost fully funded the event and only needs to be reaffirmed by the Office of the External Vice President for Statewide Affairs.

## Legislation proposed

Manakova proposed a resolution to establish the Health Education Access Resources and Tools Committee (H.E.A.R.T.), a student-led initiative that plans to develop a "centralized digital healthcare resource hub." The goal is to make healthcare accessible for all UCSB students. The resolution was referred to the Advocacy Committee.

Next, Senator and fourth-year history and global studies double major Neo Harter proposed a bill to create "The Harter-Mirroknian Future Leaders in Governance Fellowship," which aims to provide opportunities for students interested in politics. The bill was referred to the Executive Committee.

Harter and Senator and fourth-year political science major Keizo Ono proposed a temporary Mobile Food Pantry Pilot program. According to Harter, the program aims to minimize food insecurity in light of the recent government shutdowns by providing free food to UCSB students. A trailer would station around IV. offering non-perishable foods such as cereal and other boxed food items. The proposal was referred to the Advocacy Committee.

Senator and second-year

political science major Evan Sussman proposed a bill to standardize A.S. Departments and Boards, Committees and Units (BCUs). The bill aims to standardize governance practices across all BCUs with the goal of promoting equitable usage of student fees. The bill was referred to the Executive Committee.

## Legislation passed

A proposal authored by former Senator Taylor Iden was motioned onto the floor by Senator and third-year economics and philosophy double major Noah Luken. It aimed to cancel the United States Student Association (USSA) lock-in fee. The proposal claims that the USSA has been inactive for around six years.

According to Sussman and Iden, the fee is a "waste of student funds," as the funds are not currently being used for the USSA's mission statement. The proposal was adopted, which will request Chancellor Dennis Assanis to cancel the fee.

## Funding allocations

The Senate passed a motion to allocate \$10,000 to the Isla Vista Community Services District (IVCSD), which would use these funds for their IV. Cityhood Fiscal Analysis Initiative. The initiative will analyze whether it is feasible for IV. to become an independent city.

Harter stated that he believes students support IV. becoming an independent city. The Senate noted that the IVCSD wants a total of \$25,000 of funding for their initiative.

Additionally, the Senate passed a motion to allocate \$2,000 to Speech Forensics at UCSB for their upcoming Spring Championships tournament.



The founders of Indivisible IV. presented during public forum to introduce their newly founded organization.

# Sexual Responsibility Fair combats sex stigma



Resources such as the Campus Advocacy Resources and Education Center provide resources related to sexual health.

**Lola Hadley**  
Reporter

At the end of Sexual Responsibility Week, UC Santa Barbara students and community groups gathered to provide testing for sexually transmitted diseases. The event was held on Feb. 13 and provided resources and sexual education to students.

While there is a clear recognition that college students may be engaging in many sexual activities, the importance is to understand ways to be safe and healthy for everyone involved. According to the National Library of Medicine, “Only about 40% of sexually active individuals in the [18-19] age group report consistent and correct contraceptive use.”

“College students are engaging in a lot of sex. Sex education is something that not a lot of people get,” fourth-year

communication major working with Health Equity Advocacy (HEA) Jey Jersue said. HEA is a support system on campus to help navigate healthcare access, insurance and health equity concerns.

Jersue said that sex education is an important first step to reduce the stigmas that revolve around sexual interactions, sex education and sexual health.

“As a society, most people are taught that sex is a taboo topic. People are taught to keep it inside, which can be very harmful not just for mental health but also for physical health,” Jersue said.

Eva Bretado, the manager of the mobile unit at Santa Barbara Neighborhood Clinic (SBNC), attended the fair to administer sexually transmitted infection (STI) and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) tests. The SBNC works to provide and mobilize healthcare

that is accessible and affordable within Isla Vista.

“What we’re doing here is to reach out to the community and make it accessible,” Bretado said.

According to the Connecticut Orthopedic Institute, one in four college students has a sexually transmitted disease (STD).

“We are focusing on sexual reproduction and safety,” Bertado said. “There is a stigma. Sometimes people don’t want to come to us, and we want to change that.”

Elsa Grandos, the executive director at Standing Together to End Sexual Assault (STESA), tabled to bring awareness for sexual violence and assault survivors, as well as their loved ones.

“It’s really important to extend [STESA] services to as many people in the community as we can because in order for us to end sexual assault, we need

everyone involved,” Grandos said. “The other reason we want to raise awareness in the community is because we know that there are survivors out there who haven’t sought help.”

Grandos continued, saying sexual violence and assault “doesn’t discriminate by any demographic.” According to her, there are many myths about the causes of sexual violence.

“For instance, people think that sexual assault is caused by people wearing short skirts or tight shirts or that if someone drinks too much, they invite sexual assault,” Grandos said. “We want to make sure that when people talk about sex and sexual interaction and contact, they do so in an accurate way.”

According to Grandos, getting active consent, which is a conscious, voluntary, honest and unpressured ‘yes,’ is the first step to a safe sexual encounter.

“It’s not just about assuming someone’s silence means yes. It is actually giving active consent,” Grandos said. “When you’re having that kind of interaction with someone, you want someone who’s enthusiastic about having that interaction with you.”

Emily Burke, a fourth-year communication major with Campus Advocacy, Resources & Education (C.A.R.E.), an on-campus free, confidential center offering health services and support for survivors of interpersonal violence, emphasized the importance of consent and the support her organization offers. Part of prevention education through C.A.R.E. is teaching students what makes a healthy

relationship.

“A healthy relationship would have all of these: consent, communication, respect, trust and support, honesty and accountability, self-confidence and personal growth,” Burke said.

According to the National Sexual Violence Resource Center, roughly one in five undergraduate women and roughly one in 16 undergraduate men experience sexual assault or rape while in college.

“I don’t want to belittle women’s experiences at all because they’re as important, but I feel like for men, there’s a stigma around interpersonal violence,” Tores said. “While the ratio of women who experience sexual assault in college is higher, there are still a significant number of men who experience the same things.”

Kim Tores, a fourth-year sociology and feminist studies double major, tabled for Associated Students (A.S.) Take Back the Night, a student organization that hosts and attends events to raise awareness around assault and violence, as well as their repercussions. Tores explained that organizations such as Take Back the Night are important for making support systems accessible.

“A.S. Take Back the Night and the [C.A.R.E. Center] office are a perfect alternative because calling the cops sometimes is more traumatizing,” Tores said. “Coming to university and having resources where they’re so open about it makes me feel so much better and like my voice is heard.”

# Mobility Transport Program seeks permanent student fee

**Michelle Cisneros**  
Lead News Editor  
**Wynne Bendell**  
University News Editor

The Mobility Transport Program, which provides campus transportation for students with temporary and permanent disabilities, is seeking a permanent student fee to fund the program. The program has faced budgetary challenges over the past year, and its initial grant will expire soon.

Student staff members started a fee initiative with the goal of putting it on the upcoming spring election ballot. The petition, which is requesting \$3.50 per quarter from each student, needs 1,500 signatures to be placed on the ballot. According to the petition, the funds will be used to cover student driver salaries, a program manager and other fees.

The program began in 2022 after a veteran transfer student with a permanent mobility limitation asked campus Veterans and Military Services (VMS) for transportation accommodations. VMS Director Mike Fogelsonger, alongside the student who identified the issue, looked into ways to fund a program that could transport students.

The program was then established to operate under VMS Veteran groups on campus, such as the UC Santa Barbara Student Veterans of America (SVA) chapter, continue to support the program.

“[The Mobility Transport Program (MTP)] is more than just golf carts transporting students across campus — it is about dignity, access and equity,” SVA President Enrique Medina said in a statement to the Daily Nexus. “It ensures that students with permanent or temporary mobility limitations are able to attend class, access campus resources, participate in workshops, maintain campus employment and remain fully engaged in their education without being limited by physical barriers.”

For the past few years, the MTP has been funded by a grant from the Student Fee Advisory Committee and Associated Students. The students behind the ballot initiative said they’re seeking a permanent undergraduate student fee since roughly 95.7% of rides are for undergraduate students. They said they are also seeking additional funds from the Graduate Student Association and a faculty group since

they would like to expand their services to faculty members.

“Since undergraduates make up a vast majority of the rides, we felt like that was the right place to start,” fourth-year political science major and Veterans Resource Center Peer Advisor Micah Littlepage said.

Starting with one rider in 2022, the program has grown to 106 riders in 2025, with the number of carts having increased with demand from one to five. During the last fall quarter, MTP provided 2,124 rides.

Fourth-year psychological and brain sciences major and MTP student worker Samantha Quezada said she has seen the value of the program by interacting with students.

“I think of some of the students I see in some of my classes ... come late because they have mobility limitations,” Quezada said.

Quezada added that “you never know what [can] happen” in regard to personal injury and believes that having an established campus program is necessary, even if an individual doesn’t currently need it.

According to MTP driver and fourth-year sociology major Tiffany Jordan, they have had to significantly cut back on the flexibility in transportation services due to the decreased budget. Jordan schedules rides and said when the program started, MTP was able to drive students to office hours or stop by the Arbor if the rider requested. Now, MTP drivers can only provide transportation to and from class.

During the last academic year, MTP faced budget cuts that reduced its operational hours and capabilities. Without adequate funding, Jordan said they are no longer able to have drivers on standby for unscheduled rides. Jordan said one time they were so understaffed that MTP Program Manager Tracie Eymann had to give a ride.

For students considering signing the petition, Jordan emphasized the necessity of the MTP due to the possibility that any student may need their services.

“But in the long run, what is preventing you from needing the service one day? You might actually trip on one of these crazy sidewalks out here and twist your ankle, and then you will be in that situation,” Jordan said. “To have that as an option there, even if you don’t require it or don’t need it [now], in the event it is a necessity, it is going to be there for you.”



During the last fall quarter, MTP provided 2,124 rides.

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# Campus organizations host Lunar New Year celebration

Noura Elkhatib  
Staff Writer

Students gathered outside the Student Resource Building for a Lunar New Year celebration hosted by the Educational Opportunity Program on Feb. 11.

The event was held in collaboration with the Department of Asian American Studies and the Associated Students (A.S.) Office of the President. It aimed to teach students about the holiday and provide a place for those who celebrate away from home.

Also known as Chinese New Year or Spring Festival, Lunar New Year marks the start of a new Zodiac cycle based on the 12-zodiac Chinese tradition. The 2026 Lunar New Year falls on Feb. 17, with this year's zodiac being the Fire Horse. It's the seventh animal in the cycle, symbolizing adventure, vitality and momentum.

At check-in, students were offered a red envelope with gold accents. Red symbolizes good luck, joy and protection going into the new year, according to Chinese tradition. These envelopes are typically filled with money and given to loved ones. The presentation of the envelopes was followed by a raffle for gift cards to SloDoCo and Kin Bakeshop.

Students were then directed outside where they gathered over trays of orange chicken, fried rice and chow mein catered from China King in Goleta.

The A.S. Office of the President provided boba from Mojo Asian Fusion Cafe. A.S. President Le Anh Metzger, a fourth-year global studies, communication and Spanish triple major, expressed the importance of A.S. and the Educational Opportunity Program's (EOP) collaboration for this event.

"EOP is such an important department on campus, but they're facing a lot of budget constraints, so I think it's important for A.S. to help support them and be able to support their programming when possible," Metzger said.

Representatives from EOP, the Resource Center for Sexual & Gender Diversity (RCSGD), Counseling & Psychological Services (C.A.P.S.), A.S. Office of the President and Department of Asian American Studies tabled inside the Student Resource Building (SRB) Multipurpose Room, allowing students to connect with university resources.

EOP helps fund the Asian Resource Center (A.R.C.), which is located on the first floor of the SRB and provides cultural resources such as peer counseling and community events like Lunar New Year.

Justin Luong, a third-year environmental studies and communication double major and peer mentor at the A.R.C. shared that he and other EOP peer mentors work to bridge the gap between the University and the student body by prioritizing student needs.

After facing major cuts, the 2025-26 A.R.C. budget is \$300, with \$100 being granted every quarter. Luong said these funds have only been used for emergencies and maintenance of the space, making community building difficult.

"The lack of budget is really affecting our ability to pull the community together," Luong said.

Fourth-year Asian American studies and sociology double major Kaleb Baladez highlighted the value of students utilizing the EOP's resources and attending community events like Lunar New Year.

"There's a lot of departments that are not utilized, and I think that's part of why they face budget cuts, because people don't capitalize on them being here when they are fully funded. People only find out when they start struggling, and I think that's the issue," Baladez said. "With everything that's going on in the world, it feels like the world is against you, and it's a necessity for these opportunities to be in existence."



NOURA ELKHATIB / DAILY NEXUS

Attendees were served orange chicken, fried rice and chow mein catered from China King in Goleta.

# A.S. launches 'Rate My Landlord' website



NEXUS FILE PHOTO

Reviews are 100% anonymous and are calculated via a five-star rating system.

Jack Dindia  
Lead News Editor

Associated Students launched their Rate My Landlord website on Feb. 6, allowing users to anonymously leave reviews for landlords in Isla Vista. Users can rate their landlords on various criteria, including pricing, responsiveness and cleanliness, among others.

Reviews on the website are 100% anonymous and allow users to leave reviews on landlords, property managers and individual properties within I.V. Reviews are calculated via a five-star rating system, with the option of leaving a written review. Users can also leave specific tags on a property or independent landlord, with descriptors like "clean" or "responsive."

The website is akin to Rate My Professors, which allows students to leave reviews on particular professors across different colleges. According to Associated Students (A.S.) External Vice President for Local Affairs and third-year political science major E.J. Raad, whose office conceptualized the website, the project has been in discussion since "at least post-COVID."

The website was primarily developed by three students, fourth-year computer engineering

major Bruce Huang and Stanley Guo and fourth-year applied mathematics major Daniel Sanchez. Raad said they created a "very well-made website" and have been easy to work with.

Raad added that there is a council that oversees the website, composed of the three developers, Raad and his housing coordinator, fourth-year political science major Shane Stewart. Since the developers will be graduating this coming year, A.S. is looking to fill the council with additional members who will have autonomy over the website in the following years.

Users must register via email to submit a review and can only submit a particular number of reviews in a limited time frame to prevent spam reviews. There are also precautions to prevent private or sensitive information from being revealed, with reviews including the specific unit of an address, personal contact information or tenant names being taken down.

Raad said these precautions are in place in order to protect tenants from repercussions, such as landlords refusing to extend a lease.

As far as the reviews currently on the website, Raad described them as a "pretty good mix." He said issues include "typical

I.V. things" such as mold, poor maintenance or lack of responsiveness from landlords.

Regarding features that may be added in the future, Raad said he'd be interested in allowing users to respond to reviews. Additionally, they've discussed adding reviews for individual landlords who work for specific leasing companies for increased transparency.

In order to market the website, Raad's office will be holding a water filter distribution drive, where students can receive a free water filter if they leave a review on the website.

Raad said he hopes the website will give residents a resource that "has not existed before" by allowing tenants to be informed on their landlord before signing a lease.

Additionally, Raad hopes this website will "apply pressure on landlords in a way that hasn't been previously." He elaborated by saying there hasn't been a platform where landlords are held "directly accountable," and that by having negative feedback, they may be encouraged to improve their units' conditions.

"I think long term, as we pick up users, it's going to be a really, really valuable tool for not just [UC Santa Barbara] students, but Isla Vista residents," Raad concluded.

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# I.V. Green aims to bring food security to the community



COURTESY OF ISLA VISTA GREEN

A.S. and ECP partnered to create a "food security program where they could offer free gardening classes for students."

Lola Hadley  
Reporter

The Isla Vista Green Project, a seven-part gardening workshop series designed to combat food insecurity and to promote sustainability and community, was created by UC Santa Barbara's Edible Campus Program and Associated Students. It ultimately aims to bring UC Santa Barbara students together through environmental and edible education.

The Edible Campus Program's (ECP) Neighborhood Engagement Coordinator and third-year communication and political science double major Elizabeth Lane has worked on the I.V. Green Project with her colleagues to provide a space for students to learn about gardening and food stability.

"It gives people the agency to realize that growing your own food is relatively easy," Lane said.

According to Lane, Associated Students (A.S.) and ECP partnered to create a "food security program where they could offer free gardening classes for students." The two programs merged with funding from A.S. to create the workshop series.

"Outside of this, we do a bunch of different workshops every week," Lane said. "We are very interested in continuing the partnership

because [A.S.] funding helped a lot."

The importance of environmental and gardening education is a core foundation of ECP.

"We operate community gardens in Isla Vista that grow free produce for the community. I think that's important because people know where their food is coming from," Lane said.

The workshop is also a way for students to connect with each other outside of an academic setting. In addition, the program and workshops are open to any major.

"I think also just bringing people together," Lane said in relation to the importance of the program. "You would think that it would be a lot of environmental studies people but it's really not."

The ECP started in 2015 with the Urban Orchard project, which planted citrus trees in Storke Plaza, according to UCSB Sustainability. There are now 14 gardens and farms in I.V. and UCSB.

"Before I started working for the Edible Campus Program, I didn't know anything about gardening, and that's a core mission of ours, to demystify that," Lane said.

I.V. Green has four more free workshops that are designed for students to grow their own food at home and learn how to garden. The ECP also hosts many workshops throughout the week.

# Office of Ombuds provides confidential consultation in a range of difficult situations

Iris Guo  
Community Outreach  
News Editor

The UC Santa Barbara Office of the Ombuds provides confidential consultation services to all campus community members on issues related to the University. The office can assist in a range of matters, including interpersonal conflicts, academic concerns, workplace issues and other campus-related concerns.

Located in Girvetz Hall, the office was established in 1970 and aims to maintain fairness for the university community by providing confidential and informal consultation for problems that students and faculty may encounter on campus.

The concept of an ombuds originated in Scandinavia during the early 18th century, when Charles XII of Sweden established the role of the High Ombudsman, someone who investigated issues relating to governance and ensured that civil servants were lawfully following their duties. Today, ombuds offices are present in a variety of systems, including university, health care and government settings.

Lana Smith-Hale is an assistant ombuds in the UCSB Office of the Ombuds and serves as the office's undergraduate student contact. Her office is committed to providing conflict resolution and helping students navigate situations when they are unsure about where to turn.

Smith-Hale describes her office as a "confidential, informal place" where students can receive consultation on challenges, concerns or uncomfortable situations relating to their experience at the University. According to her, students don't need to be in a serious situation to reach out to the office, but can reach out in any situation they may need advice on.

"We help students talk through situations. We help them understand what their options are. Sometimes we do coaching to help them navigate difficult conversations," Smith-Hale said.

"One thing that happens with students talking with us is that



NEXUS FILE PHOTO

The Office of the Ombuds provides confidential consultation services on issues relating to the University.

they feel more confident taking [the] next steps."

Smith-Hale mentioned that the most common issues she sees include concerns with grading and issues with academic integrity, such as when a student has been accused of cheating. Additionally, the office can help address interpersonal concerns involving faculty, such as situations where students have observed problematic behavior.

Some other serious issues Smith-Hale has consulted students on include criminal offenses, such as receiving a driving under the influence (DUI) charge. In such situations, the office can help students understand whether it will be reported to the University and what next steps they should take.

The office provides complete confidentiality in its consultations, except in instances of imminent harm to a student or someone else. Everything students share with an ombuds stays private and does not trigger a report or other action. Additionally, the office will deliver non-identifying feedback to the University.

"Students will sometimes give us permission to share, and that's if they want us to maybe do mediation or to find out more

information," Smith-Hale said. "If you give us permission to share certain aspects of your situation, then we will."

Beyond confidentiality, the office's consultations are also informal, meaning that students can explore options but are not required to commit to formal processes like filing official grievances or Title IX complaints.

"We are independent. So we're separate from academic departments and conduct office administration," Smith-Hale said. "We are impartial, which means we are neutral. We are not advocates and we don't take sides. Putting it another way, students take control of their decisions."

Smith-Hale emphasized that she believes students can turn to her office in any situation and hopes to reassure them that they have somebody to speak to.

"I want students to know that they're not alone. We don't all have to know the right answers," Smith-Hale said. "It's nice to be able to talk to a person at the University in a very bureaucratic setting. We are actually a human that you can talk to or have a Zoom call with, and speak with that can hear your side and not tell you what to do, but help you understand what exists."



COURTESY OF ISLA VISTA GREEN

I.V. Green has four more free workshops that are designed for students to grow their own food at home and learn how to garden.

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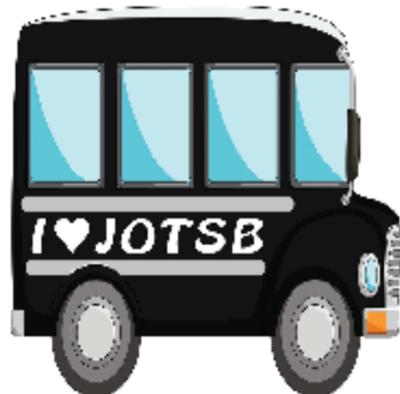


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# SCIENCE & TECH



## SIMPLY STATED:

### The benefits of saving sunscreen for a rainy day



COURTESY OF FREEPIK

Ceora Tan  
Reporter

Throughout this school year, UC Santa Barbara students have experienced numerous rainy days, some of which were intense downpours that took the campus by storm (no pun intended). As students prone to California's sunny weather trying to brave the campus in drenched clothes and wet hair, applying sunscreen is probably the last thing on our minds.

Why would we need sunscreen in the rain, when there is literally no sun to be found?

A common, although understandable, misconception about sunscreen is that it only needs to be applied on days when the sun is shining. However, sunscreen should be worn all day, every day, no matter the conditions. Rain or sunshine, sunscreen should be applied.

Skin cancer is one of the most common types of cancer in the United States, with about 40-50% of Americans getting diagnosed with skin cancer at some point in their lives. Skin cancer is usually caused by the sun as UV radiation changes the DNA in the skin cells, leading to the development of cancer cells. DNA gives the cells certain instructions, telling them when to grow and when to die. However, the warped DNA in cancer cells instructs them to grow and grow, overtaking healthy cells and potentially spreading to other parts of the body.

Too much UV exposure also causes premature aging of the skin, called photoaging. Unlike normal skin aging, photoaging occurs from high amounts of UV exposure and can manifest on the skin as early as your teenage years. UV rays damage the epidermis, which is the skin's outermost layer,

as well as the dermis layer (the layer below the epidermis) which produces collagen and elastin to preserve the skin's elasticity and youthful appearance.

“Wearing sunscreen is one of the best ways to prevent photoaging and protect yourself from skin cancer.”

Ceora Tan

Some signs of photoaging are wrinkles, hyperpigmentation and redness. Scientists have found that 90% of skin changes can be attributed to the accumulation of UV exposure throughout our lifetime.

In 2012, a picture was published in The New England Journal of Medicine of a truck driver's face which acquired extreme sun damage after 28 years on the road. The image displayed the difference between the right side of his face and the left side of his face. The left side, which had direct exposure to the sun from the driver's side window, was significantly more aged with prominent wrinkles and red spots.

Wearing sunscreen is one of the best ways to prevent photoaging and protect yourself from skin cancer as it will shield your skin from UV rays. Sunscreen contains SPF, which is a measure of how

much protection it will give your skin. Dermatologists say sunscreen with SPF 30 or more as well as broad-spectrum SPFs give the best protection. The sun emits two types of UV rays: UVB and UVA rays. UVB rays cause sunburns while UVA rays promote skin aging and tanning; both, however, cause some sort of skin damage and increase the risk of skin cancer. SPF is only a measure of protection against UVB rays while broad-spectrum sunscreens also provide protection against UVA rays.

Sunscreen should be worn no matter the weather, even when it's cloudy or rainy as over 80% of UV rays can penetrate cloud cover and create damage to the skin.

As you're preparing for the rainy weather (especially this week), along with your raincoat and umbrella, sunscreen should be a part of your rain survival kit.

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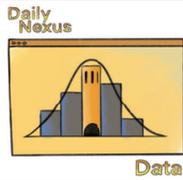
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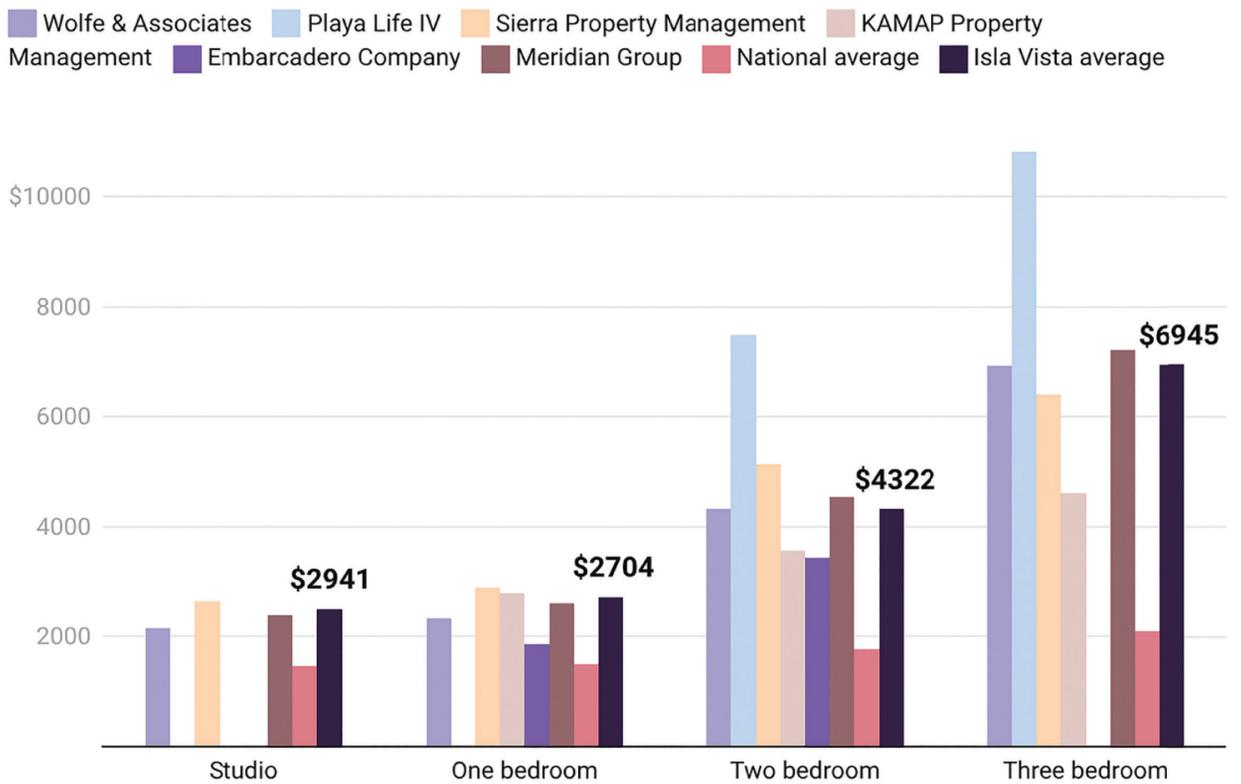


# DATA

## Exploring the cost of renting in Isla Vista

Benjamin Ancho  
Staff Writer  
Malia Guy  
Data Intern

### Average rent comparison



BENJAMIN ANCHO / DAILY NEXUS

Santa Barbara and Isla Vista average rent prices are higher than the national average for one-bedroom, two-bedroom and three-bedroom units. Embarcadero Company has the cheapest average rent, being 24% below the average rent in Santa Barbara for one-bedroom units and 25% below the average rent in Isla Vista for 2025.

Santa Barbara and Isla Vista have higher average rents compared to both the national and California state averages. So, how much more expensive is it to live in Isla Vista? To answer this question, rental listings were collected from units that were available at the time. By examining 789 unique units for rent during January 2026, a clearer picture of housing costs in Isla Vista emerges. Comparisons to other locations using rental data from major rental websites further illustrate the cost of living in Isla Vista.

This data was collected from a variety of websites including Sierra Property Management, Apartments.com, RentCafe, KAMAP Property Management, Zillow, Embarcadero Company, Beach Town Rentals, the UC Santa Barbara Office of Financial Aid, UCSB Housing, Isla Vista Rent List, Meridian Group and the Santa Barbara Student Housing Cooperative.

Companies included in the "Other" category include leasing companies such as Embarcadero Company, which give perspective on how smaller landlords operate and rent their houses rather than single units.

Around 42% of all UC Santa Barbara students, graduate and undergraduate, live in I.V., while 39% live in University-owned housing. However, in the percentage of those that live in University-owned housing, only 20% are continuing students.

Second-year sociology major Sara Rodriguez shared her experience in trying to apply for university housing.

"I didn't get a housing contract for this upcoming year, which I'm pretty upset about," Rodriguez said. "And then also when it comes to finding housing in I.V., it's pretty hectic. And also, super expensive. It's insane, so I'm still looking."

Undergraduate apartments are limited to juniors and seniors. Students who rented in I.V. in their second year may apply for UCSB undergraduate apartment housing rather than a private rental company. However, students who do not

end up being offered a housing contract through UCSB have to wrestle for the limited options available in I.V. since the majority of leases have already been signed.

These average per-tenant prices do not account for how different leasing companies handle utilities and security deposits. Undergraduate apartments provided by UCSB don't require students to co-sign, pay utilities or pay for Wi-Fi, further highlighting how much cheaper UCSB housing is compared to private leasing companies.

The city of Santa Barbara has been fighting for affordable housing for a long time, with multiple measures and policies in place in order to build more affordable housing. As an unincorporated community, Isla Vista doesn't have as much power to create policy to address affordability, a fact that many students understand on a personal level.

Amanda Schoen, a third-year communication major, gave her thoughts on pricing in I.V.

"I think part of [the reason for current housing costs] is that we do live in Santa Barbara on the water, but also the landlords and leasing companies do take advantage of the fact that they know people really want to live in these houses," Schoen said.

Sierra Property Management and Wolfe & Associates Property Services are two major leasing companies who published their maximum occupancy for each unit. With these leasing companies holding a large portion of properties in Isla Vista, their pricing influences the market.

Legislation such as California Civil Code (§1947.12) has been passed statewide to limit increases. Rent cannot increase more than 5% plus the percentage change in the cost of living, or 10%, whichever is lower, of the lowest rent charged for that apartment during the

12 months prior to the effective date of the increase.

However, with this legislation students still feel pressure when rent increases. Fourth-year biology major Evan Itow highlighted this tension between leasing companies and tenants.

"The reason [my housemates and I] didn't re-lease [our] house was because they bumped it up in price by so much," Itow said. "They increased the total rent of the place by \$1,200. It was a \$200 increase per person, which I just thought was outrageous."

Embarcadero Company was the cheapest leasing company to rent from when examining the average rent, including free parking and other amenities that other leasing companies did not offer.

Knowledge about which houses are cheaper than others is not always readily available. Annabell Guinan, a first-year global studies major, talked

about her own hunt for housing.

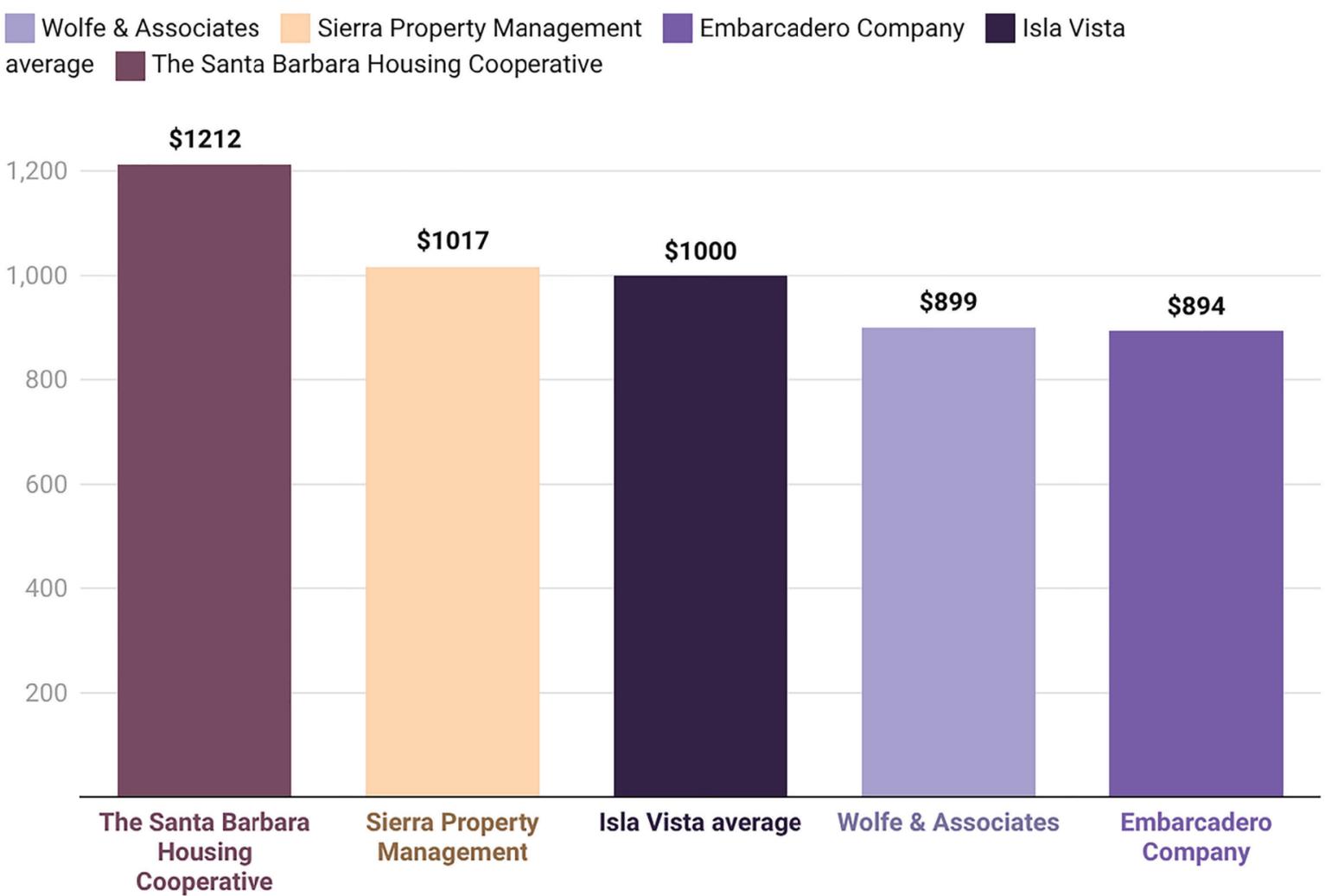
"I was looking [for leases] so early, I had alerts set up on my computer with emails of housing availability," Guinan said. "I just kind of signed the lease to make sure I had somewhere to live next year. [We had] a day to sign it and [it was] just stressful."

This pressure to secure housing can be felt from year to year. Itow explained some of the complications he faced in his third year when trying to look for housing.

"I had like a group of seven and we tried to start really early to look for I.V. housing," Itow said. "There were not a lot of choices in I.V. that kind of catered to that amount of people. We had to look pretty hard and we eventually almost settled on a place at the end. The price was not that great."

Balancing the right amount of bedrooms for the preferred number of people, as well as working with a price budget, is

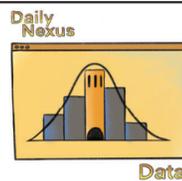
### Average per-tenant price for leasing companies



BENJAMIN ANCHO / DAILY NEXUS

The Santa Barbara Housing Cooperative had the highest average per-tenant cost. However, this may have been because food and other services are included in their rent. Sierra Property Management was the only leasing company whose average per-tenant cost exceeded the Isla Vista average, by \$17. Embarcadero Company had the lowest cost, at \$106 below the Isla Vista average per-tenant cost.

# DATA



difficult for many. This balance is only exacerbated by the price differences between each leasing company.

Each leasing company is different, some specialize in managing apartment complexes and other houses. For instance, Beach Town Rentals and Playa Life IV only lease houses. These specializations influence each company's respective average rent and can inflate its average rent in comparison to others.

Other factors that many students need to consider is distance from campus and how close they want to be to the beach and other social activities in I.V.

Schoen revealed how her housing on Del Playa Drive (DP) was luckier than many others.

"I felt grateful for that property because it's on [DP] and I know a lot of other doubles charge a lot more. Obviously it is a lot, but for beachfront property, I feel like it's a pretty good value," Schoen said.

The cost of housing is a large portion of the living costs associated with attending UCSB. Thus, options that a student has to live in I.V. are limited to what they can afford. The majority of students at UCSB receive some form of financial aid, which is based on the financial aid office's determination of what it costs to attend UCSB.

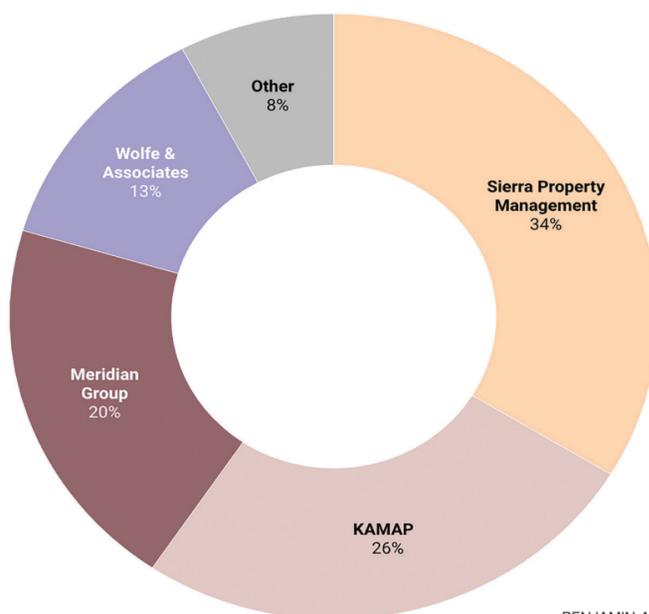
For undergraduate students in 2025-26, UCSB budgets \$1,936 for monthly living expenses which include housing, utilities, food and more. Students who go over this limit are able to negotiate for a higher cost of living.

For many, finding housing in I.V. is stressful. There are many factors that one must consider, and a lot of factors that feel time-based.

"I would just say you almost have to kind of look at it like a job. You almost have the network. I feel like just trying to find people that like leaving," Itow said. "Get started as early as possible."

## Data set composition

Sierra Property Management KAMAP Meridian Group Wolfe & Associates Other



BENJAMIN ANCHO / DAILY NEXUS

Sierra Property Management had the largest slice of data, which influences average rent data in Isla Vista to skew toward Sierra's pricing structure. Playa Life IV contributed a significant portion of data on larger properties with more bedrooms, particularly those located on Del Playa.

## UCSB undergraduate apartment per-tenant cost



BENJAMIN ANCHO / DAILY NEXUS

Westgate is the only UCSB undergraduate apartment complex with a higher per-tenant cost than the Isla Vista average, exceeding it by \$279. Notably, Westgate is also the only undergraduate apartment that offers singles.

## Average tenant and rent based on streets

Street	Average per-tenant	Average rent
Sabado Tarde Road	\$1343	\$4376
Del Playa Drive	\$1275	\$8265
Madrid Road	\$1250	\$3308
Picasso Road	\$1209	\$4195
Trigo Road	\$1201	\$4998
Pasado Road	\$1150	\$5984
Segovia Road	\$1030	\$3063
Isla Vista average	\$1000	\$4440
Camino Pescadero	\$992	\$2924
Embarcadero Del Norte	\$937	\$3300
Camino Del Sur	\$917	\$4887
Seville Road	\$917	\$5500
El Greco Road	\$780	\$3776

BENJAMIN ANCHO / DAILY NEXUS

A majority of average rent costs in streets found in the data set are above the average per-tenant rent cost. The highest average rents are concentrated on streets closest to the beach: Sabado Tarde Road, Del Playa Drive and Trigo Road. While some streets have higher rents, their occupancy rates make them more affordable on a per-tenant basis. For example, Del Playa has the highest average rent but ranks only second in per-tenant cost.

# ARTS WEEK



## SBIFF 2026: Old friends reunite at Outstanding Directors of the Year Award



SARA STEVENS / DAILY NEXUS

(L to R) Joachim Trier, Josh Safdie, Chloe Zhao and Ryan Coogler are all nominated for an Academy Award for Best Director.

Lucy Dixon  
Opinion Editor  
Kira Logan  
Opinion Editor

As rain nearly flooded the red carpet of Arlington Theatre, the Santa Barbara International Film Festival welcomed four of this year's Academy Award-nominated directors for the Outstanding Directors of the Year Award. Since 2009, the festival has invited the year's best and brightest directors to share the stage and celebrate their films.

2026's honorees directed the season's biggest and critically acclaimed films. Ryan Coogler's "Sinners" took the world by storm and received a record-breaking 16 Academy Award nominations. Chloé Zhao's "Hamnet" shattered hearts across the globe. Josh Safdie's "Marty Supreme" became A24's highest-grossing worldwide release. Joachim Trier's "Sentimental Value" also made history, as the first Norwegian film to ever be nominated for Best Picture at the Academy Awards.

Audience members filed past the rain-soaked red carpet and into the warm Arlington Theatre on Feb. 10, filling seats with devout film fans ready to hear from the minds of their favorite directors.

Santa Barbara International Film Festival (SBIFF) Executive Director Roger Durling opened the ceremony by introducing moderator Scott Feinberg, who serves as executive editor of awards at the Hollywood Reporter.

Feinberg welcomed the first honoree, Zhao, to the stage. Zhao is no stranger to SBIFF, having attended the festival in 2021 when she was honored with the Outstanding Directors Award for her film "Nomadland." A month after her first appearance at SBIFF, she won the Academy Award for Best Director, becoming the first woman of color to do so. She returned to Santa Barbara this year with "Hamnet," a film adaptation of Maggie O'Farrell's 2020 book of the same name. The story follows Agnes Hathaway and William Shakespeare, and their grief after losing their beloved son Hamnet to the bubonic plague.

The film is Zhao's first since 2021's "Eternals," a four-year stretch that

Zhao referred to as a "midlife crisis" in an interview with the New York Times. Feinberg asked about this period, and how "Hamnet" brought her back to film.

"I learned very humbly that there are four seasons to a person's life, to a day, to a creative cycle. And I didn't understand the importance of winter," Zhao said. Recalling the years before her break she continued, "[directing] started to feel very unnatural, both internally and externally."

Zhao spent the next four years learning how to "winter," a process she described as slowing down and letting things die.

"[It's] a really uncomfortable feeling, and then also sitting in the process of the compost, the chrysalis," she said. Zhao's period of inactivity ultimately prepared her for the seed of "Hamnet."

"By the time when a little bird dropped a seed ... into that soil, it was growing with the energy, the fertility that I was missing," Zhao said.

In a red carpet interview with the Daily Nexus, Zhao discussed the emotional aspects of directing such a heartwrenching film.

"I think the hardest for me was when it triggered something in me, and I feel my own sadness," Zhao said.

She continued, emphasizing that vulnerability is what allowed for the emotional story of "Hamnet" to take flight.

"Sometimes it's important that I keep that to myself ... and other times it's important for me to share so that I can receive holding from my cast and crew, so that they know it's okay to be vulnerable," she said.

Next came Trier, whose film "Sentimental Value" is a story defined by fraught familial tension and generational trauma within the entertainment industry.

Feinberg began the conversation by asking if the film was inspired by Trier's own life, given Trier's familial filmmaking legacy. Trier credited his family for creating an environment that allowed him to dream and create his art.

"You have a word for this ... 'nepo baby?'" Trier joked, which was met with laughter from the crowd.

Feinberg dug deeper later on in the interview, discussing the aspects of generational trauma in the film as they related to Trier's own experiences.

"I was interested in that there was some trauma that percolated through people that grew up ... being children of people who didn't allow themselves to have language about the trauma of the war," Trier said. This culture of silence was a cycle Trier wanted to not only break, but explore through the film.

"I really wanted to make a film with some hope. That even in the most difficult family, there is some sense that maybe there is an unspoken space to get closer to each other," he said.

After Trier's spotlight interview, Safdie took the stage. When Feinberg asked if the "Marty Supreme" director liked Santa Barbara, Safdie responded, "Everyone told me the weather is amazing," poking fun at the stormy weather.

When asked where Safdie got the inspiration for "Marty Supreme" — a high-energy sports drama about an overly ambitious table tennis player — he shared that the film is a love letter to his hometown of New York City.

"You encounter all walks of life," Safdie said. "The pace of the city, obviously, a lot of characters, I had flawed people around me as a kid ... I tried to see the best in people and be as empathetic as I could."

Safdie also spoke about his collaboration with lead actor Timothée Chalamet, revealing that he wrote "Marty Supreme" specifically with him in mind.

"He can't stand still, and he's just got this hungry energy, [an] intense dream. Like his dream, you could feel other people believed in it. That's how powerful it was ... he was Timmy Supreme," Safdie said, grinning.

Last but not least, Coogler — appearing both grateful and grounded — took the stage to a standing ovation and acknowledged the record-breaking success of "Sinners."

"I'm trying to find a healthy balance of enjoying it but not acknowledging it too much, because I'm not sure what it all means," he said.

Rather than focus on accolades, Coogler emphasized the collaborators who brought the film to life.

"I'm really proud of all my collaborators ... I think they did some of their best work," Coogler said. "Seeing what they gave to the movie, and seeing it up close, I was incredibly impressed."

Known for balancing blockbuster

spectacle with intimate storytelling, Coogler described feeling a sense of urgency to reveal more of himself through his work.

"We went through the strikes, we went through the pandemic and I kind of got scared that I hadn't shown that side of myself to the audience, and I felt like a little bit of chicken shit," Coogler said candidly.

One of the film's most talked-about sequences — a surreal montage connecting past, present and future generations — was born from that vulnerability.

"And that was kind of where the idea of, 'Wouldn't it be cool if they could experience just spending some time with the ancestors and their descendants that wouldn't be condemned to a life of sharecropping, you know, and just party?'" Coogler explained.

Feinberg moved into the panel portion of the evening, the audience erupting in applause as Trier and Zhao entered the stage arm-in-arm, with Safdie and Coogler just moments behind.

While past years have showcased directors from completely different sides of the film industry, this year's panel felt like old friends coming together for a fireside chat.

Feinberg asked about their shared history, and Coogler explained that he, Zhao and Trier met at the 2012 Sundance Screenwriters Lab, where Trier served as an advisor for the program. Trier mentioned feeling unqualified for the position, but he emphasized the collective spirit of the experience.

"What the hell did I teach you?" Trier joked. "But as we've learned through the years, it's a collegial thing. We all learn all the time, and we share stuff."

Safdie did not attend the 2012 Sundance Screenwriters Lab, but he and Zhao attended the New York University's Tisch School of the Arts around the same time. Zhao was familiar with his work.

"You were too cool for our parties," she joked.

"You say that but ... I would have gone to the parties," Safdie retorted.

When asked about whose opinion they care about the most, Safdie answered easily: "I would say my wife, she's a producer on the film, and she's

just, she's nasty. She gives it to you."

Zhao's answer had a little more humor. "I care about my Letterboxd curve. Yeah. I mean, I also care about Rotten Tomato[es], but I know I shouldn't."

Coogler offered a bit more humility, favoring the opinions of the people of Clarksdale, Mississippi. "Sinners" was inspired by Coogler's family's experiences living in Jim Crow-era Clarksdale, but there were no theaters in Clarksdale that could show the movie.

"Warner Brothers set up a big theater in Clarksdale in the community center ... and they opened it up for about a week there. When I heard that people in the community were going back a second or third or fourth time because they like it, that made me feel pretty nice," Coogler said.

Durling came out to conclude the ceremony. He thanked the directors for their time and their work, before welcoming painter and filmmaker Julian Schnabel to the stage.

Durling and Schnabel handed out the small Arlington Theatre-shaped trophies to the directors before turning to speak.

"Everybody that's sitting over there is so radically different, but that one in one way, they're all the same. They all want to make work. They want to make something," Schnabel said.

As the evening drew to a close, Feinberg gathered all four directors back onstage. Though their films span centuries, continents and genres, each director spoke of storytelling as an act of empathy: a way to confront silence, process grief, honor ancestry or capture the electric momentum of a city street.

Inside the Arlington Theatre, the mood was warm: celebratory yet reflective. Old friends reunited, new milestones marked and four filmmakers at very different seasons of their lives paused, if only briefly, to take it all in.

With the Academy Awards just weeks away, the night felt less like a competition and more like a conversation.

*The 98th Academy Awards will take place on March 15, where Coogler, Safdie, Trier and Zhao are nominated for Best Directing. Each of their respective films is nominated for Best Picture.*

## Michael B. Jordan

Continued from p. 1

Jordan spoke about his experience working with the late actor Chadwick Boseman for "Black Panther." He described Boseman as "very wordly," and said they both created "two forces that would continually meet on set" as they stayed in character while the cameras were off.

When asked if Jordan felt Boseman's presence during the filming of "Sinners," Jordan said Coogler asked him "what would Chad do?" while he was struggling to get into character.

"I knew exactly what he meant. I was like, 'Say no more,'" Jordan said. "And that propelled and pushed me, you know. He's always with me, but definitely on 'Sinners' as well."

Jordan also spoke about simultaneously playing the two lead roles in "Sinners," Smoke and Stack. He said he created an ongoing banter between the characters that didn't appear in the film, in order to keep them in a constant "relationship with themselves."

"There's things like that, that I had to create to kind of give them this kind

of back-and-forth banter and feeling of this a conversation, it's a relationship that's been there forever. And that was extremely helpful," Jordan said.

When asked whether he's been able to "digest" his impact on young people, Jordan said he understands the position he is in.

"I know how important representation is and having an example. So if I'm lucky enough and fortunate enough to be that for people, yeah, let's keep that going," Jordan said.

Following Jordan's conversation with Sterling, he was presented with the Outstanding Performer of the Year Award by actor and "Sinners" co-star Delroy Lindo. Lindo described Jordan and Coogler's professional relationship as a "new paradigm" of what it means to be a "creative worker and to impact the world."

"What I've learned about Mike B that has been enhanced this evening is just the extent to which you're just spreading your wings and you're taking extraordinary agency over what you do and you are impacting so many

people," Lindo said.

Lindo continued by saying that due to their shared commitment to the film, developing a relationship between Smoke and Stack and his character, Delta Slim was "effortless."

"It was very simple and very complex. One fine actor committing to the work that he had to do in this narrative and I committed to what I had to do, and we came together and we made the work and neither one of us talked about it. We didn't have to talk about it. We did our jobs," Lindo said.

After receiving the award, Jordan spoke about the unique experience of playing two characters at once. He described it as disappearing "twice in the same frame," and spoke about differentiating the two characters to make them both feel authentic by building "two complete human beings from scratch."

"The challenge wasn't making them look different, it was making them feel different, so that when you're watching, you forget that you're seeing

the same person," Jordan said.

Jordan also recognized his mother's influence in helping him become an actor. He said she was the first person to tell him that acting was about "living your truth and that character's truth."

Jordan concluded by saying he looks forward to seeing up-and-coming talent from Santa Barbara.



ALEXA LOPEZ / DAILY NEXUS

Michael B. Jordan received the Outstanding Performer Award for his role in Ryan Coogler's "Sinners."

# ARTS WEEK



## SBIFF 2026: Arlington Artist of the Year Kate Hudson joined by Gwyneth Paltrow

Stella Mullin  
Artsweek Editor

In the late 1990s, actress Kate Hudson was set to attend New York University's Tisch School of the Arts but deferred a year due to an acceptance at another university: "The University of Cameron Crowe," as she called it.

That university — the set of the 1970s-era film "Almost Famous" — launched Hudson's career as an actress and secured her a spot in the Best Supporting Actress category at the 2001 Academy Awards. Now, 25 years later, Hudson is nominated for another Academy Award — this time Best Actress — for her role in "Song Sung Blue," another film with music at the heart.

It is her performance as singer Claire Sardina, along with her prolific career in entertainment, that earned her the Arlington Artist of the Year Award at the Santa Barbara International Film Festival (SBIFF). On Feb. 13, Hudson sat down with Hollywood Reporter Executive Editor of Awards Scott Feinberg to reflect on her career.

In a red carpet interview with the Daily Nexus, Hudson spoke about her relationship with music, especially in light of her recent endeavors as a singer-songwriter.

"Music does become a soundtrack of our lives. For me, it's been the most defining thing. Music in cinema is so important and I never want people to lose sight of that," Hudson said.

Hudson grew up on movie sets, so there was never any hesitation to follow in her parents' footsteps. For her, movie sets were places to be respected — they weren't fancy or different, it was just where her parents worked.

"I was able to fall in love with film by actually watching the magic of how it is executed, not necessarily the dream of what it is on the screen. [It was] definitely a different perspective," Hudson said.

While Hudson had acted in a few films prior, "Almost Famous" and her performance as Penny Lane was her breakthrough role. She wasn't always supposed to be the magnanimous

"Band-Aid" though: she was originally cast as the sister.

After convincing writer and director Crowe to let her audition for Lane, she gave "the most confident performance by nobody I've ever seen," according to Walter Parkes, previous Head of Motion Pictures at Dreamworks. Crowe shared this quote with Feinberg ahead of the tribute event.

"Working with Cameron Crowe that young is like a masterclass of writer-director relationships. His writing is so specific to his tone," Hudson said. "And so making Cameron's writing feel effortless is actually very challenging. They're like lyrics," she continued.

Hudson has since been in serious relationships with three musicians, so perhaps she was always meant to play Lane.

After the whirlwind of "Almost Famous" and her first Academy Award nomination, Hudson remembered her mom telling her to soak it all in rather than jumping to the next role, despite Hudson wanting to take anything that came her way.

"My mom was always about purpose ... Mom's purpose, right? Like why, what's the why? I love that about my mom, it's very specific," Hudson shared. Her mom's mantra was the reason why she took three years to relish in "Almost Famous" before her next big role: "How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days."

Romantic comedies are hard to get right, Hudson explained. While typically written off in comparison to dramas, romantic comedies are the films that audiences will always rewatch, and the ones that stay in people's hearts longer — Andie Anderson and her yellow dress and "You're So Vain" always come back.

"My thing with [romantic comedies] is that the great ones are the ones that are watched and rewatched. They're the warm blankets. They're the ones we go back to," Hudson said. The same can be said about her 2004 film, "Raising Helen," the first film where Hudson was directed by Garry Marshall, who also directed her mom.

Hudson is most known for her career as an actress, but she told the

audience that music has always been her first love.

"I always thought music would be something that I would do, but then I was like, 'Okay, don't fix what's not broken.' This idea of crossover careers could have been a kiss of death and you're sort of warned against it," Hudson shared.

Hudson had dabbled in singing in some of her past work, notably "Glee" and "Nine," but never in the exact way she wanted. She wanted to write an album, but once she got married and had children, the idea began to fade. And then, when she, along with everyone else, was locked inside during the pandemic, her songwriting career bloomed and she wrote her first album, "Glorious."

On her first true musical role in "Nine," directed by Rob Marshall, and her first experience getting to sing and dance alongside acting, Hudson said, "When you have people who champion you, Rob Marshall is one of those people, it sort of gives you that boost of confidence. It does take having people believe in you to get there."

Hudson's newly emerged musicianship led her to roles in films like Sia's "Music" and most recently, "Song Sung Blue," where she plays one half of the Milwaukee-based Neil Diamond tribute band "Lightning & Thunder," based on a true story.

Hudson was cast as Sardina after Hugh Jackman, who plays the other half of the Diamond duo, saw her on CBS Mornings talking about "Glorious" and recommended her to director and producer Craig Brewer. It was an immediate yes from Hudson.

Sardina and Hudson lived two very different lives, but their love of and passion for music fused them together in an unbreakable bond. Both being moms pursuing their true love later in life, their spirits are identical.

"When you have to make music or you have to sing, it eats away at you if you're not doing it. I know what that feels like. I also know the joy that I feel when I'm singing," Hudson said. "Watching [Sardina] is my favorite thing. She loves it so much and she sings with every ounce, every thing in



Actress and singer-songwriter Kate Hudson was honored for her performance in "Song Sung Blue."

her body... I can definitely relate to that part," Hudson continued.

There is a video of the two of them talking on set, in director's chairs, both of their heads thrown back in laughter. Hudson shared that seeing that video felt like seeing a mirror image of herself.

"I was clearly playing this girl in a movie," Hudson laughed.

Following the discussion with Feinberg, Hudson's longtime friend and fellow actress Gwyneth Paltrow presented the award.

In true Lane fashion, Hudson and Paltrow became friends in the early 2000s at Hudson's "rockstar husbands" show. Paltrow remembers Kate with her curly blonde hair dotting lace and cutoffs, the starting point to the rest of their lives alongside each other.

"Kate is an extraordinary mother. Her kids are these beautiful, hilarious, very much themselves people. They're really in their own skin and confident and kind and that's the greatest gift you can give your children. That does not happen by accident," Paltrow said.

Throughout the evening, it was clear Hudson's children were at the center. Her first son traveled the world

with her, and is now set to graduate from her would-have-been alma mater, NYU Tisch, in the spring. When she had her second son, she shared that everything got slightly more challenging, and Hudson wanted to be home as much as possible.

In her acceptance speech to the audience, Hudson thanked her children first and their patience for this whirlwind time in her life. She thanked the Santa Barbara community for its warm embrace of the arts and joked that all of her friends have moved to the area, so she might be next. She also thanked Sardina for living an extraordinary life.

Finally, Hudson thanked her parents — the reason why she does what she does.

"They instilled real confidence in me as a young woman. I think for young girls, especially when you're self-assured and have confidence, people try to dim your light. They really taught me that my joy is a super power and that my optimism isn't a weakness," Hudson finished.

*The 98th Academy Awards will take place on March 15, where Hudson is currently nominated for Best Actress.*

## SBIFF 2026: Honored with Montecito Award, Stellan Skarsgård delighted in night of humor and humility

Wynne Bendell  
University News Editor  
Zack Kramer  
Staff Writer

Prolific actor and star of "Sentimental Value" Stellan Skarsgård was presented the Montecito Award at the Santa Barbara International Film Festival on Feb. 11 for his great contribution to film. Skarsgård's "Dune" co-star Josh Brolin presented the illustrious award to the film legend.

Skarsgård is nominated for Best Supporting Actor at the Academy Awards for his role as Gustav Borg in "Sentimental Value." He is the favorite to win the award, which would mark the first Academy Award in his multi-decade career.

Prior to the event, fans lined the barricades outside the Arlington Theatre as the actor arrived at the venue. After taking photos with the crowd, Skarsgård merrily walked the red carpet for the ceremony.

On the carpet, he revealed it was the director of "Sentimental Value," Joachim Trier, who drew him to the project.

"I've seen [Trier's] films, I've seen him develop, and he is exceptional," Skarsgård said in an interview with the Daily Nexus.

After the carpet buzz, patrons, fans and press alike meandered inside the Arlington Theatre and all found their seats before the ceremony properly began.

Walking out with a martini in hand, Roger Durling, the Executive Director of the Santa Barbara International Film Festival (SBIFF), earned many rounds of applause. He gave praise to Skarsgård as he described the night as a "victory lap" for the veteran actor.

Before he left the podium, Durling introduced the moderator for the evening, Anne Thompson. Thompson, the Editor at Large for IndieWire, gave quick remarks on Skarsgård's various and outstanding performances. Discussing his ability to perform brilliantly as vastly different characters she remarked how Skarsgård is able to "move freely" between the roles.

After a montage highlighting Skarsgård's career and notable performances, the Swedish-born actor took the stage to thunderous applause from an enthusiastic audience.

Thompson touched on Skarsgård's illustrious filmography. "We can't look at all the movies you've done," she told the honoree.

"Well most of them I haven't seen in years. I'm really old!" Skarsgård replied, which gained a laugh with the audience.

The star showed his clear love for the profession. Skarsgård began acting at 16, becoming popular in Sweden when he starred in the 1968 miniseries "Bombi Bitt och jag."

"[Acting] was a new freedom I found," he said.

Skarsgård credited 1996's "Breaking the Waves" as his film breakout role. The film, directed by Lars von Trier, won the Grand Prix at the 1996 Cannes Film Festival.

"It was for a bigger audience, and gave me more jobs here in America," Skarsgård said.

The actor also took time to praise von Trier. "He gives you so much room to play ... to release something in the actor that is unplanable," Skarsgård said.

Skarsgård has often been praised for his ability to feel natural in any role, shapeshifting into the character he plays and making the reality of the world he acts in come alive on the screen. The actor explained that his ability to do this didn't come from "his tools" from years of acting and learning, but from his ability to hide them from the audience.

Showcasing his genre-spanning range, Skarsgård talked about his work on the movie musical "Mamma Mia!" where he plays a potential father of Amanda Seyfried's character.

Discussing his role in the ABBA jukebox musical, Skarsgård joked, "I was really scared ... they called me to do a musical? I can't sing, I can't dance."

Skarsgård described the consistent ABBA-filled rehearsals and filming as a kind of torture.

"Can you imagine a month and a half working everyday to 'Voulez-Vous?'" he asked the audience. "You wake up in the middle of the night

Voulez-Vous!"

Contrasting the lighthearted fun of "Mamma Mia!," Skarsgård spoke on his performance in David Fincher's "The Girl with a Dragon Tattoo," an action-thriller. Skarsgård said he enjoyed David Fincher's directorial style of filming each scene at least 20 times on the set of the film, as it gives the actor time for his performance to become more "believable."

"To make a turn of a feeling takes time if you're not used to it. So you have to oil it up. You become much more agile in terms of emotions and much lighter and it becomes much better," Skarsgård said.

The discussion highlighted Skarsgård's extensive television career by showing two clips from "Chernobyl" and "Andor." Skarsgård reflected on what he learned about human nature during his time working on "Chernobyl" which recounts the events of the nuclear power plant disaster in Ukraine in 1986.

"We are very adoptable to authoritarian regimes and we compromise very quickly with everything, even facts don't matter anymore, just because we think that the power wants us to think a certain way," Skarsgård said.

Skarsgård also revealed a recent hardship during his acting career — between working on Denis Villeneuve's first and second "Dune" movies, the actor suffered a stroke, making it difficult to remember his lines. During the filming of "Dune 2," Skarsgård had to wear an ear piece feeding him the lines. Despite the stroke, both directors he was working with at the time were happy to make accommodations for Skarsgård.

"I called Tony Gilroy from "Andor" and I called Denis Villeneuve and I said this has happened and we might not be able to do it, and both of them said, 'Come in, we make it work,'" Skarsgård said.

The conversation concluded with discussing "Sentimental Value," where Skarsgård plays Gustav Borg,

a successful director who is trying to reconcile his relationships with his daughter after the death of his ex-wife. As Skarsgård describes, Borg is "dumsy" when expressing himself to his daughters; he consistently says and does the wrong thing. The film explores the messiness of family relationships through subtle, yet heavy performances.

Skarsgård said this mirrors a lot of the directors and artists he has worked with because they find "refuge" in their art as they can control every aspect of the world they are creating.

"It's more difficult to control the emotional life of a family, and that's what scares them," Skarsgård said.

Brolin then presented Skarsgård with the Montecito Award with a speech illustrating his immense career of performances that truly move audiences.

"Stellan Skarsgård continues to remind us what happens when a performance creeps into your psyche and stays with you, churning wet clay inside of you, changing slightly your perception of how you indeed might view the world, or at least your little bubble differently," Brolin said.

"A real actor, I think they call it. They are few and far between," he added.

Brolin went on to praise Skarsgård's mastery of restraint for his performance in "Sentimental Value."

"The job of Stellan's was so difficult. The restraint, the having to desensitize, the knowing as an actor that you're the problem on the set and then to be sensitive within all that is incredible," Brolin said. "That's the toughest role, and a role that Stellan navigated with true mastery."

Ending the night with nothing else to say, Skarsgård simply accepted the award with a "Thank you," walking off the Arlington Theatre stage to applause from the audience.

*The 98th Academy Awards will take place on March 15, where Skarsgård is currently nominated for Best Supporting Actor.*



Stellan Skarsgård posing on the red carpet ahead of accepting the Montecito Award.



# LA VISTA



## El oro azteca regresa nuevamente a las tierras de Colón

Janise L. Fernandez  
Escritora para La Vista

La Pinta, La Niña y la Santa María vuelven a realizar otro recorrido intercontinental tras casi seis siglos de inactividad.

Sin embargo, esta vez, en lugar de llevar consigo una tripulación de exploradores, regresan al mundo ibérico con el oro latino de la era contemporánea, el PIB mexicano, desarrollo económico por parte de la clase alta e inversiones en bienes y raíces.

Es un caso de inmigración jamás antes registrado en la cantidad de personas latinas (sobre todo mexicanas) que han descubierto la nueva destinación de la élite, un lugar de habla hispana y un santuario para los amantes de las compras de alto rango.

Pero de momento, existen varios factores y argumentos que luchan por explicar el verdadero incentivo de este éxodo.

La inmigración hacia España por parte de paisanos ha sido un tema de conversación ya abordado antes; no obstante, una publicación de Forbes México generó una gran reacción en redes tras listar los números que este traslado contempla.

En este artículo se detalló que en solo el año pasado, a tres meses de concluir el 2025, más de 28 mil mexicanos ya habían tramitado residencia legal española (añadiéndole a esa suma unas 9 mil residencias portuguesas).

Asimismo, se compartieron estadísticas impactantes, como la encuesta de De las Heras

Demotecnia que estima que alrededor de un 52 por ciento de los empresarios mexicanos (con un patrimonio de más de 10 millones de dólares estadounidenses) buscan emigrar a sus familias del país antes de la siguiente elección presidencial.

Se buscó dar una explicación

fue justamente observado hace menos de 2 semanas en la zona Hipódromo Agua Caliente en Tijuana, Baja California.

Un incidente en el que residentes de la colonia, reconocida por sus ingresos de clase media-alta a alta, fueron saqueados por supuestos integrantes de la misma Guardia

tienen suficientes bases para contribuir al discurso.

La creciente búsqueda de una mejor educación en el extranjero, ha posicionado a México en décimo puesto de estudiantes que dejan el país para continuar sus estudios con cifras de más de 16,700 alumnos internacionales.

asentarse en un nuevo país con mejor índice de vivienda.

Por otro lado, hay perspectivas más oportunistas que interpretan este cambio como el instinto empresarial latino que pretende aprovechar el precio relativamente barato de las empresas españolas.

Del mismo modo, existen aquellos que lo describen como una estrategia de imagen y posición global en la que las corporaciones de México pretenden diversificar su valor e invertir en distintas industrias (como ya se ha visto en lo automotriz, aeronáutico, en finanzas y salud).

Estas tendencias migratorias, aunque representan fuertes golpes hacia la economía latinoamericana, en el sentido de que el talento profesional ha encontrado nuevos horizontes, despliegan una gran ventaja y desarrollo profesional para los habitantes españoles.

Entre estas preeminencias, destacan las mejores y numerosas inversiones de extranjeros que sin duda abrirán más puertas en un país que comienza a orbitar una tasa de paro inferior al 10 por ciento.

Aun así, cada venta viene con un costo, que en este caso sería el rápido ascenso de precios para los locales de ciudades clave (como Madrid y Barcelona) y la disolución de la cultura tradicional que obtendrá un aire cada vez más corporativo y urbano.

Es un mestizaje económico de doble cara que queda a cada economista e inversor por interpretar.



a estas observaciones que se resumen en la decadente seguridad en México que ataca principalmente a las personas de ingresos elevados, las áreas de oportunidad en la educación nacional y la mejor vivienda promovida en el país europeo.

De estas razones, la que suele generar más ruido es la inseguridad que se vive en estos momentos.

Un ejemplo que bien ilustra el estado de violencia del país

Nacional Mexicana.

Incitando el miedo entre otros bajacalifornianos que en este 2025 han presenciado el retiro de más de 50 elementos de la policía bajo sospechas de crimen organizado.

Dejando claro a la nación entera que ni la paz (obligación del gobierno) está garantizada para aquellos que pueden pagar el precio.

No obstante, las otras razones detrás de este flujo migratorio

Asimismo, los estudiantes mexicanos son los que han generado listas de espera que sobrepasan los dos años en escuelas británicas y estadounidenses internacionales y se ha empezado a considerar la integración de sedes en España por parte de universidades mexicanas (como el Tecnológico de Monterrey) para avanzar el desarrollo profesional.

Todo esto con el fin de

## Hijos de la Madre Tierra: amor y destrucción

Azucena Sanchez  
Escritora para La Vista

Los humanos me parecen bastante interesantes; no en sentido negativo, pero no puedo evitar pensar que a veces somos criaturas sin alma que flotan por un planeta que no aspira a nada más que a mantenernos con vida.

Hemos creado historias, cientos de miles de ellas, para explicar nuestra existencia a nuestros hijos.

Que una cigüeña construyó un nido, y en ese nido dejó a un bebé, y ese bebé eras tú. Hecho a la perfección, para aquellos que te amarán.

O tal vez, hay un dios en el cielo. Y él está a cargo del clima. Cuando llueve, él está llorando.

Y cuando hace sol, está sonriendo, feliz y alegre. O que una mujer nació de la espuma del mar, y era tan hermosa que se convirtió en la encarnación de la belleza.

Que las estrellas son cosas propias, tal vez criaturas, o almas que contienen historia: el futuro, el presente y el pasado se encuentran en esas estrellas.

Existen miles de vidas en esas estrellas, y así, nosotros también existimos.

La tierra, amiga del cielo, que fue creada para comunicarse a través del susurro de los árboles y los movimientos del mar.

O cómo estos dos seres, la encarnación de la tierra y los cielos, han dado origen a las miles de ideas y formas humanas que hemos adoptado.

O las historias que los corazones románticos han transmitido de generación en generación sobre la luna y el sol, amantes prohibidos, destinados a salir y ponerse juntos, pero nunca al mismo tiempo.

Esta naturaleza humana que tenemos, de crear belleza con todo lo que nos rodea y encontrar significado en todo lo que vemos, es algo bastante solitario.

No podemos existir simplemente por existir. No, en cambio, parece ser parte de la

naturaleza humana el querer estar en contacto con todo lo que hay en este mundo.

Para demostrarnos a nosotros mismos que no estamos solos en este reino, en este universo que parece infinito y sin respuestas.

Es parte de la naturaleza humana desear la conexión.

Hemos estudiado nuestras lunas en busca de formas de vida; hemos enviado robots a explorar Marte, como también hemos enviado una nave espacial robótica llamada Juice

para buscar en Júpiter y sus tres lunas más grandes señales de posibles habitantes.

O cómo la mayoría de las misiones que se asignan a los humanos y a los no humanos relacionadas con el espacio están relacionadas con la exploración de planetas habitables.

Y si no es por planetas habitables, entonces por "vidas inteligentes".

Sin embargo, nos hemos concentrado demasiado en

lo que está lejos de nuestro alcance y nos hemos olvidado de nuestro propio planeta, que acaricia nuestros pies.

Estamos en la Tierra, con los pies sumergidos ligeramente en el mar, disfrutando de los rayos del sol, y en lugar de estar agradecidos por el oxígeno que tan amablemente nos da, dañamos los océanos, calentamos nuestra atmósfera y destruimos los árboles.

Nos centramos demasiado en lo desconocido, que nos

olvidamos de mirar lo que ya conocemos.

Nuestras aguas están envenenadas, nuestro aire está contaminado, nuestros árboles están muriendo, nuestros animales se están desapareciendo.

Ninguna especie en la Tierra existe sin necesitar a otra.

Todos estamos conectados, desde la cabeza hasta la punta de los pies, y la extinción de una especie provoca un efecto dominó.

En cuanto una especie se extingue, el ecosistema al que pertenecía comienza a desmoronarse.

Y los humanos, bueno, somos la causa actual de la sexta extinción masiva.

Y aunque admiro a los humanos por ser criaturas llenas de curiosidad y amor, he llegado a la conclusión de que la mente humana es algo peligroso.

Somos animales, pequeñas criaturas egoístas que matan por placer, que observan cómo nuestro planeta se calienta hasta el punto de que nuestros glaciares se derriten, y regresan a sus hogares con aire acondicionado.

Aunque se nos dio un corazón antes que un cerebro, es nuestra carne la que nos recuerda nuestra humanidad.

Si no fuera por nuestro cuerpo, o nuestra carne, nos pareceríamos a cualquier otra criatura, simplemente por tener un corazón.

Nuestra carne y sangre, un recordatorio de aquellos que caminaron por la Tierra antes que nosotros, se han convertido en el símbolo de los recuerdos que han borrado el amor que esta misma Tierra nos profesa.

Se ha vuelto muy obvio que los humanos somos una anomalía en este planeta.

Hemos impactado la propia composición de la Tierra, desde el gas que rodea nuestro planeta hasta las profundidades del océano, y aún así, no logramos comprender que no podemos comer dinero.



# ON THE MENU



## Prosperity, good fortune and dumplings: Culinary hallmarks of the Lunar New Year

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

This past Tuesday marked the 2026 Lunar New Year, a transition from the 2025 year of the Snake to the current year of the Fire Horse. The Lunar (or Chinese) New Year celebrations typically last 15-16 days, culminating in a Lantern Festival on March 3. It's celebrated across multiple cultures, but today, we'll focus on primarily Chinese traditions. As you might guess, 16 days of celebration warrant 16 days of delicious, heart warming traditional foods that bring families together and help ring in another year of luck, prosperity and good fortune.

Let's take a look at some of the dishes that are traditionally cooked during the Lunar New Year festivities:

### Fish

In Mandarin Chinese, the word for fish (yú) sounds like the word for "abundance" and is one of the foods served to both end the previous year on a good note and start the new one afresh. Typically, the whole fish is served, from

head to tail, to signify carrying something to completion for an entire year. The fish is typically served steamed, and having leftovers is deemed auspicious as it signifies carrying a surplus into the new year.

### Longevity Noodles (Chang Shu Mian)

Longevity noodles are often served as a whole noodle and cannot be cut in order to ensure the longevity of the eater. Though they are often eaten slightly more cut in the modern day, the meaning behind eating them for the Lunar New Year is the same. They are often served with simple ingredients like scallions and garlic, seasoned with red chili powder, soy sauce and vinegar. There are many different ways of making them, but the noodles are typically long, wide and flat.

### Dumplings (Jiaozi)

Dumplings are a food that families often come together to wrap, a combined effort to ensure the blessings of the new year and to end the previous one on a good note. Dumplings are such an ancient Chinese tradition that they have been found in archaeological

digs in almost perfect preservation (inedible though, unfortunately) dating back to the Six Dynasties period (220-589 B.C.). Many types of dumplings resemble ancient Chinese gold/silver ingots (yuanbao) that were once used as currency, and eating them now in this shape symbolizes the wealth and abundance incoming in the new year. Many say that the more you eat during the New Year, the wealthier you'll become in the next!

### Spring Rolls (Chun Juan)

The name of this dish comes from the word for the spring season in Mandarin Chinese. Spring rolls are eaten year round but take on special significance during the Lunar New Year. Their shape, in particular, resemble gold bars and thus takes on the role of ushering in wealth and good fortune for the new year. This dish is perhaps the most internationally recognized Chinese dish, especially in the United States where it took on a more prominent role in American Chinese food and takeout during the 1980-90s. It is typically made fried with a variety of vegetables and meat within, though it was

first made with thin pancakes and fresh herbs.

### Sweet Rice Balls (Tangyuan)

Tangyuan are chewy rice balls with a delicious sweet center, typically that of black sesame seeds. The smooth exterior of the tangyuan symbolizes the smoothness of the year ahead for the family sharing the bowl and brings them together in unity for the incoming year. It's no surprise that the name for 'reunion' in Chinese, tuányuán, sounds almost identical to this dish. Records of tangyuan date back more than 1,100 years ago and was first popularly known as 'yuanxiao,' in honor of the first full moon of the Yuanxiao (lantern) festival, which it is still called in many regions of China today. The white shining rice balls are thus aptly named and swim in a sweet delicious broth of ginger and brown sugar. Though they are bought and sold year round, families still get together every Lunar New Year to freshly roll, fill and prepare them.

### Nian Gao

Nian Gao is a sticky cake served throughout China but varies greatly region by region, made from

glutinous rice flour, yellow rice, noodles and more. The name of this dish is particularly interesting, in that it is a homograph that can be read as "year high," signifying the dish's role during the Lunar New Year of allowing the one who eats it to achieve their higher aspirations. I found it fascinating how the dish not only has varying origin stories, but also that it can carry the same name while tasting drastically different. The varying ways this dish is made reflects the rich regional diversity of China and the unity experienced by the nation during the Lunar New Year.

In the United States, those who celebrate the Lunar New Year have traditions of their own, eating dishes that have a common significance to them and taking the time to cook dishes that they love together, regardless of the history. Though the dishes I've mentioned above are classic staples of the Lunar New Year, they do not define the festive table or the family who makes them: luck for the new year comes from celebrating it with the ones you love, eating the foods you love and sharing in each other's warmth.



American Chinese traditions are less strict and place emphasis on having family together.



Regional diversity in China is reflected in a variety of dishes during the Lunar New Year.

## The dreamiest cinnamon bites

**Piper Cheney**  
*On The Menu Editor*

There's nothing better than the smell of warm cinnamon drifting through the kitchen, especially when it means a fresh batch of these soft, flaky cinnamon bites is on the way. These bites are all things good: sugary, doughy and buttery. If I ever ask my roommates what I should bake today, they'll without a doubt request this dish. These cinnamon bites are a crowd pleaser — get them fast because they are always the first thing to disappear at my house.

Time: 3.5 hours

Servings: 25 bites  
Ingredients:  
2 ¾ cups flour  
1 package instant rise yeast  
½ cup cane sugar (half for dough and half for sugar mix)  
½ teaspoon salt  
¾ cup warm milk  
1 egg  
½ cup melted butter  
¼ cup brown sugar  
1 tablespoon cinnamon  
½ teaspoon olive oil

Directions:  
Add the package of yeast into a bowl of milk until fully dissolved.  
Combine all dry ingredients in

another bowl: flour, ¼ cup of cane sugar and salt.

Combine wet ingredients into dry ingredients: half of the melted butter, egg and yeast-milk mixture, until fully combined.

Knead dough with hands or mixer for five to 10 minutes. Add more flour if the dough is too sticky to form into a smooth ball.

Coat a bowl in olive oil and place dough into the bowl. Cover the bowl in a towel and let it rise until doubled in size (about an hour and a half).

While the dough rises, create the cinnamon sugar coating by combining the rest of the cane sugar, brown

sugar and cinnamon in a bowl. In a separate bowl, melt the other half of the butter.

Once dough is doubled in size, roll out the dough until about an inch thick.

Cut the dough into even squares — should form anywhere from 20-30 squares.

Roll each square of dough into a small, smooth bun.

Take each bun and dip it into the bowl of butter, then into the bowl of the sugar mixture until evenly coated.

Place the buns side-by-side in a baking pan.

Let the buns rise for another hour

and a half.

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit and bake for 20 minutes.

What makes these cinnamon bites so special is their perfect balance of softness and sweetness, with just the right hint of caramelized brown sugar and cinnamon in every bite. They pull apart effortlessly, which makes them a perfect dessert dish to serve during a party or just to have around the house. The scent of them brings all the roommates into the kitchen, eagerly waiting for that first warm, cinnamon bite. They're a labor of love but always worth it — even if they're gone within an hour.



The cinnamon bites after their second rise, before being placed into the oven.



The final result! Half of the pan was gone after only ten minutes.



# SPORTS

## ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

**Cade Goldstein**

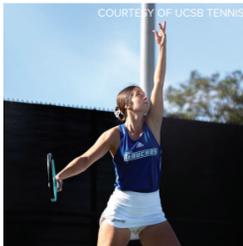
COURTESY OF UCSB BASEBALL



The Big West Conference named Cade Goldstein, freshman second baseman, player of the week on Monday. During Sunday's game against Southern Mississippi University, Goldstein scored his first career home run, on top of a critical two-run shot that tied the game 4-4.

**Shachf Liebermann**

COURTESY OF UCSB TENNIS



Junior Shachf Liebermann was named Big West Conference player of the week after putting on a tenacious performance against three top 25 teams last weekend. She delivered the first point of the Gauchos' unbelievable comeback, energizing the Gauchos to an eventual 4-3 victory.

**Jackson Flora**

COURTESY OF UCSB BASEBALL



Gauchos ace right-handed pitcher Jackson Flora was named Big West Conference pitcher of the week Monday after striking out five hitters and allowing only three hits across six shutout innings in Santa Barbara's opening day victory. Flora also touched 100mph during his start.

# UCSB women's basketball delivers Valentine's Day win against Cal Poly

Samia Agarwal  
Staff Writer

The UC Santa Barbara women's basketball team knocked off the California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo Mustangs on Saturday, Feb. 14, in a well-rounded 63-54 win. The Gauchos, who had lost four of their last five games, desperately needed the momentum – and they certainly delivered.

"There's little things individually that we need some of these guys to bring to the table that would make it a lot easier for us. We're just trying to find ways to build a confidence back up and make them believe again," Head Coach Renee Jimenez said after the game.

And find a way to build confidence back up they did, delivering a statement performance against UCSB's longtime rival. It was a Zoe Borter masterpiece, as the junior Gaucho forward had a game-high 18 points on 45% from the field, 50% from three and 100% from the free throw line.

The Gauchos started off strong and the Mustangs simply couldn't stop them. Sophomore guard Zoe Shaw put UCSB on the board

first with a wing 3-pointer followed by Cal Poly's answer in the form of a layup from freshman forward Dulci Vail. From there the Gauchos stepped on the gas, going on a strong 11-4 run in six and a half minutes, capped off by freshman guard Chauncey Andersen's 3-pointer, drawing cheers from the crowd.

UCSB would shoot 28 total threes to Cal Poly's 13 and, though they shot a little under their 3-point average of 34%, Cal Poly simply had no answer for the volume shooting. On the year, the Gauchos rank second in both 3-point percentage and in 3-point field goals made.

The second quarter saw steady production from UCSB, with contributions from Borter, star sophomore forward Olivia Bradley and junior guard Maddie Naro, pushing UCSB's lead to 36-22 at the half.

The Mustangs opened the third quarter with a rejuvenated push, calving the Gauchos' 16-point lead to just 8 points halfway through the quarter. Cal Poly freshman forward Charish Thompson led the charge, scoring 8 unanswered points alone in just three and a half minutes. UCSB turned to

Borter and Bradley to stop the bleeding, but poor shot selection and fouls kept them from completely rebuilding the lead.

The fourth quarter once again saw a scare for UCSB, as Cal Poly managed to pull within 3 points of the Gauchos, but would never take the lead. With 3:23 left, a UCSB defensive foul led to a side-out-of-bounds layup for Mustang sophomore guard Vanessa McManus followed by a Vail 3-pointer to bring the score to 52-49, Gauchos. However, a Gaucho team effort staved off the comeback attempt, with Borter dropping in two free throws to ice the game with 22 seconds left.

The Gauchos now head into the last five games of the season at fifth place in the Big West Conference standings. They'll want to continue this momentum as they look to secure favorable playoff seeding. They will travel to face California State University, Northridge next on Thursday, Feb. 19 at 6 p.m.



# SPORTS TRIVIA

More questions and answers can be found at [dailynexus.com/games](http://dailynexus.com/games)

Emily Hobbs  
Asst. Sports Editor

**Which MLB team has won the most World Series championships?**  
New York Yankees, Los Angeles Dodgers, Seattle Mariners, San Francisco Giants, Atlanta Braves

**Which UCSB sport won the spring 2025 Big West Championship?**  
Softball, baseball, lacrosse, tennis, volleyball

**What college basketball tournament is coming up?**  
March Madness, College World Series, College Cup, Basketball Brawl

**Which country holds the all time record for Olympic gold medals?**  
USA, Japan, China, Russia, Germany

**When and where is the next summer Olympics being held?**  
Los Angeles 2028, Milan 2028, Paris 2026, Salt Lake City 2030, Beijing 2028

**Where are the 2026 Winter Olympics currently being held?**  
Milan, Los Angeles, Salt Lake City, Tokyo, Paris

**When was the last time UCSB had a football team?**  
1992, 1980, 1956, 2000, 1997

**What national sport was recently played at UCSB?**  
Soccer, hockey, baseball, basketball, football



# NEXUSTENTIALISM

It's Satire, Stupid.



MADELINE BRYCE / DAILY NEXUS

## New Year Part II: Chinese New Year offers resolution do-over

Serrano Ham  
*Re-started*

Chinese New Year fell on Tuesday, Feb. 17 and offered people around the world the chance to start the year anew. In the face of failed resolutions only two months into 2026, many people have jumped at the chance to create some new goals – ones that are perhaps more realistic and attainable. If you are looking for some new goals yourself, the following list is the perfect guide to get you started.

### 1. Work less

In this economy, working harder doesn't mean anything, so why bother? Isn't it better to protect your peace and work only as much as you want, to feel as fulfilled as you want? 2026 is no time to let people tell you what to do, and you need to start by telling them to back off. Your time is not their money.

### 2. Hold grudges

People these days are out of control. They walk slowly, say

stupid things and act selfishly. You honestly owe it to yourself to hold grudges, so don't let undeserving people get too close to you. Boundaries are important in 2026, and grudges are the perfect things to build them.

### 3. Live in the past

The way things are moving, the past is looking nicer every single day. They say look for the silver lining and what if that was 2016, when we were living the high life with no real stakes? The future is bleak: expensive, hot, crowded and loveless – it's okay to look back and yearn, especially this year.

### 4. Send more drunk texts

They say drunk words are sober thoughts, so let's go with it! Sometimes you just need that extra push, and so what if that extra push is being completely inebriated? The worst outcome is you completely embarrass yourself, but at least you'll always have a story to tell come Monday. There's no reason things need to be so serious all the time. So,

take that shot and press send to all the Jacks, Arthurs and Marks in your life.

### 5. Compare yourself more

People are so out of touch with things these days, and it's important for you to avoid that by keeping yourself in check via other people. Anyone who said you shouldn't compare yourself clearly didn't have to live through the competitive job and dating landscape we must now endure. If that girl Anika has one more internship and two more extracurricular activities than you on her resume, you might be screwed. Make 2026 yours by seeing what other people have going for them and doing what you need to take it from them.

### 6. Break no contact

Maybe you had it right the first time. Or they're not that bad after all. Food for thought.

### 7. Spend less time with your family

Unfortunately, unless your family is offering you a nepotism-steeped internship or

job, there is no time for you to be fraternizing with them. You need to focus on the people that will benefit you in the long run, those people with influence and experience that will be the star of your LinkedIn page. 2026 is the year of the lock in, and family just doesn't make the cut.

### 8. Reduce stress by ignoring everything in your life

Enough with all the self-care or therapy BS. Nip the stress in the bud by cutting it out of your life entirely. Your friends stressing you out: they're done, goodbye. School gives you stress: drop out, problem solved. Your lack of job prospects gives you gray hairs: forget it, who needs to be employed anyway? This strategy is not only super easy, it's cost effective as well. No need to worry about buying face masks or paying the water bill after copious baths. It's a win-win!

### 9. Increase screen time

We live in a digital world, people. Being on our phones is us

just checking in with our digital neighbors, our digital friends and our digital responsibilities. No one can really socialize in-person anymore, anyway, and 2026 is supposed to be the year of laughter and connection. So, check out Instagram, see what people are up to. Doomscroll TikTok, and scroll, scroll, scroll some more. You'll always know what's happening in the world and you'll stay in the know, even as the years pass by.

### 10. Be unhappier

Sometimes you wake up and there's nothing to look forward to, and that's perfectly okay. 2026 can be the time for you to lean into your angry grandma mindset, where everyone has wronged you and where you feel consumed by bitterness. Smiling and seeing the positive in everything is so boring and overdone. Be the black sheep and provide some variation with your year-long unhappiness.

*Serrano Ham wants an envelope full of money.*



JULIET BECKER / DAILY NEXUS

## Thank God! Fatties silenced

Joseph R. Biden  
*Anti-activist*

After years of promoting realistic body standards, combating toxic diet culture and planting like three size-six women in Hollywood, the world order has finally been returned: early 2000s-style skinny culture is back.

If you thought that it is okay and perfectly human to have over 10% body fat, eat your favorite foods and not need to be runway-ready as a random person, you thought wrong. Those cringe millennials tried to make body positivity happen, but we knew better. Skinny is the most

important thing that you can be!

Being skinny now is easier than ever – there are so many new low-calorie food options. Before, you would have to eat a lot of fruits and vegetables to stay full while eating low-cal. Now, you can have Protein Ultra Skinny Sweet (P.U.S.S.) desserts of all kinds. They are super good for you and taste just like real dessert.

Working out culture is also very important to the skinny renaissance. Throughout the 2010s, we heard slogans such as “balance is key” and weightlifting for women took off as a way to build muscle, strength and confidence. Thank God that's

over.

Pilates buzzwords such as “toned” and “lean” catalyzed the return to working out for one purpose only: skinniness. Back in the 2000s, they just had to pay 20 bucks per month for a gym membership to run endlessly on the treadmill. But Gen Z isn't cut out for that ghetto lifestyle. You can now pay over \$200 for the same results in “yoga” classes. Lucky you!

Another crucial aspect of this wave of skinniness is the ongoing importance of having boobs and a perfectly round, plump ass. If you think that it is difficult to have these at the same time as a thigh gap, protruding pelvic

bones and visible sternum, don't worry.

Breast implants are back, too! And, thankfully, the 2010s perfected the art of Brazilian Butt Lifts (BBLs). In the 2000s, mostly only famous people who got paid for their appearances got work done. Now, boob jobs, BBLs, botox and filler are for everyone!

Don't let anyone tell you that unless you're a model or in some equivalent level of money-for-looks industry, your appearance truly doesn't matter. Any day, you could blow up on TikTok for being skinnier and more balanced facially than everyone else.

Paying for ridiculously

expensive workout classes, filler, botox and plastic surgery isn't wasting money: it's an investment. You are investing in the potential career that panopticon-esque social media standards have convinced you that you might have. Girl math!

Why spend your time strengthening your relationships, consuming interesting media, exploring the world or meeting new people when you could instead spend it on becoming skinnier? Why be anything else when you could be skinny?

*Joseph R. Biden is a Skinnymaxxing Girl Math professor.*

# OPINION



## AI is making a hypocrite of us all

Isabella Leon  
Reporter

It's 11:48 p.m. on a Tuesday night. You have class at 9:30 a.m. the next morning but decide to ultimately stay up anyway. Scrolling on your phone watching any short-form content site, you laugh and snide at every few videos you decide to watch all the way through.

It's a ritual at this point to neglect any sort of physical well-being just to enjoy a few minutes (but what ends up turning into an hour) of doomscrolling. No matter how you feel about social media usage, laughing at the endless assortment of absurd content that our generation has created is a genuinely fun activity to engage in.

However, when the rise of Artificial Intelligence (AI) began to creep into the social media landscape that we know and love, things have only gotten more surreal; whether that is for better or for worse is up for discussion.

As a 20-year-old Gen Z-er, it's eerie to see this rise in faux humanity posed by AI. And as an artist and creative, I feel incredibly hypocritical.

Make no mistake that I am against Generative AI being mass-produced, or rather produced at all. It's causing thousands of Americans living next to data centers to go without clean water. With Elon Musk's Grok generating nude images of women and children without their consent, it seems that AI will only continue to be a problem against all of humanity.

With this in mind, there is a growing trend of young people – Gen Z and Gen Alpha – finding humor in AI, even while knowing how detrimental it is. Scrolling on TikTok, Instagram Reels or other platforms is now loaded with AI content.

Months before writing this, I began to take note of this trend through videos of fruits eating tiny versions of themselves. At

first glance, I thought an artist had taken the time to create a weird visual for people to gawk at until I opened the comment section and saw users note that AI was being used.

This experience had me in disillusionment. Not because of the AI use, but because I saw friends of mine who are artists themselves actively engage in this content. Friends of mine, who, before, would actively state that they do not engage in AI-generated content, eventually would due to its unique humor. And how could they not? It is funny.

From my perspective, this is just the beginning of AI becoming more normalized in our society. Yes, people are still actively against the use of AI by companies and people using it under the guise of "art," but nevertheless, we still laugh. And it's not because it's so bad, it's laughable, but because it is genuinely funny in the surrealist Gen Z sense.

Even more recently, the meme that took hold of social media weeks ago was the AI baby holding in its laugh. It was the perfect placeholder for a Gen Z meme: surreal, imitable and humorous. But it was extremely uncomfortable for me to grasp. I loved it, I found it funny, but I would find myself feeling an extreme hypocritical burden when I would scroll onto the next video.

It's as if I'm seeing the future in real time. That AI is replacing human-made images (in this case, memes)

and branding them as its own. It's where I am laughing at AI-generated images, even though they pose a real threat to my future and career as a creative.

I, and many others like myself, are laughing at our own demise in human ingenuity.

With the added fact that AI is selling us on humor and we're inputting our dopamine toward engaging with this content, it becomes disconcerting how AI can easily wedge itself into meme spaces. By it being humorous, we will only normalize it more as time goes on, and soon have it be integrated into everyday life if it isn't already. If AI can make us laugh and can replicate the weird nature of viral memes, what's next?

In the case of the AI baby meme, the image of the baby was created by artist Dallas Rayburn under the title, "Droool." This image was then rotoscoped onto the Chinese media influencer, Xiucui. Rayburn's artistic image becoming viral yet not being compensated or credited for it is one thing, but for it to be used in AI is another. It remains unclear whether Rayburn gave his consent for his artwork to be used in AI; no one but him knows.

With each passing day, there's more and more news about the future of Generative AI. OpenAI's Sora 2, Google's Nano Banana and other Generative AI models are

broadening the scope of what AI most recently was. Now, it's more realistic than ever before. I can't tell the difference between what's real and what's robotic anymore. What I see now is an extremely human-looking person, looking back at me, an extremely human-looking person.

Despite this, I can only remain optimistic about what is at stake. Is the AI bubble popping? Maybe. But over the holidays, when I would see my siblings and my family who celebrate art and encourage me to reach for my passions, I would also see Generative AI in the decor of their homes.

Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner were in high spirits, but when I would look down at my plate, I would see noticeable AI designs on the placemats. When I would interact with my sister, she would state how she uses ChatGPT for everything, saying "Chat this," and "Chat that." When I would shop with friends, they'd consider buying AI-generated designs on stickers.

The people who have supported me and have supported the arts are seemingly downplaying the situation at hand due to the newfound aesthetically pleasing nature of AI.

With all of this confronting me, I still can't help but find AI-generated content funny. I can't help but smile at it and I can't help but laugh at it. But under the guise of my smile, I also can't help but fear it taking over my livelihood.

While all of this may sound extremely cynical and disheartening, I still think human ingenuity will persist. Accompanying these AI trends are also artists redrawing them, making them their own. And while I do still agree that there is definite hypocrisy involved with finding an AI-generated meme funny, it's nice to see human creativity adapt and persevere.

Isabella Leon is scared of IJBOLing at AI memes.

**“I, and many others like myself, are laughing at our own demise in human ingenuity.”**

## What should assessment look like in an 'AI' integrated world?

Justus Swan  
Reporter

Have you ever heard the statement "You can lead a horse to water, but can't make it drink"?

For me, this statement encapsulates the modern dilemma of education, even in an ideal world. We can give students the "tools" we think they need to succeed: surrounding them with educated teachers, providing access to technology other parts of the world could only dream of having, etc. Yet, even with those resources, students still aren't engaging. In fact, quite the opposite! Many of them are using artificial intelligence (AI) instead. Why is this the case?

I believe the answer arises when we look at the ideology schools perpetuate in today's society, in combination with the societal ramifications young people are living through.

In K-12 education, public schools have multiple incentives to graduate as many students as possible. These include publicly displayed graduation rates, which determine where parents send their children, as well as other factors like burdens to the taxpayer at the tune of \$18 billion a year. There is also a lack of funding to hold

kids longer than the four years, specifically in special education cases, according to the National Education Policy Center and state budget analysis.

All of these pressures attract the ideology of grade inflation, which both pushes faculty to pass students that don't deserve it, while also pressuring students to pass their classes at all costs, which in some cases involves cheating. There is no love of learning fostered here, unless a specific teacher goes out of their way to show you their passion. You can see that energy and fall in love with it, but this requires a teacher that can motivate you. They don't force you to drink the water, rather they inspire you to.

So, why isn't the love of

learning fostered? Once the formative years of education have passed, it is extremely difficult to catch a student up on the years of repetition one must go through to build that desire. The same muscle memory concept can also be applied to the way that students internalize wanting to get good grades and pass the class, rather than bring and express their own unique selves in the assignment. But at the same time, neither assignments nor the grading system as a whole are set up in a way for this process to occur.

Rather, we must start designing assignments that have the goal of sharing a student's original thinking and ideas. It must get them invested in the subject and make them proud to be learning, rather than a bore for a grade. This means more flexible assignments that leave

the possibility for students to pursue fields that are interesting to them. This also helps teachers and students build better relationships, as they will get to know more about each other. That's what education is all about.

Teaching methods themselves must also change. The concept of information dumping through lecturing is simply out of touch with the interests and attention spans of today's students. Instead, we should bring students into the conversation rather than pretend like they don't know how they learn best. Working on examples for next year's class and critiquing the assignment itself with the professor are practical ways to get a student involved in the class, while also futureproofing assignments. But there is only so much we can do at the university level. The complete comprehensive approach to these problems also requires us to address the lack of love for learning.

Only from a solid base of knowledge and critical thinking skills will we be able to think critically about how to best use AI in class, and more importantly, if that's even a rabbit hole worth going down.

Justus Swan still thinks we're totally doomed, but maybe some high quality sublimation will come out of it.

**“I believe the answer arises when we look at the ideology schools perpetuate in today's society, in combination with the societal ramifications young people are living through.”**

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## HOROSCOPES

The signs as AI applications

ARIES

MARCH 21 - APRIL 19

Otter.ai

TAURUS

APRIL 20 - MAY 20

Amazon Alexa

GEMINI

MAY 21 - JUNE 20

None, doesn't know what AI is

CANCER

JUNE 21 - JULY 22

Sora AI

LEO

JULY 23 - AUGUST 22

Snapchat AI

VRGO

AUGUST 23 - SEPTEMBER 22

ChatGPT

LIBRA

SEPTEMBER 23 - OCTOBER 22

Grok

SCORPIO

OCTOBER 23 - NOVEMBER 21

Siri

SAGITTARIUS

NOVEMBER 22 - DECEMBER 21

Google Gemini

CAPRICORN

DECEMBER 22 - JANUARY 19

Instagram Meta AI

AQUARIUS

JANUARY 20 - FEBRUARY 18

Canva AI

PISCES

FEBRUARY 19 - MARCH 20

Amazon Rufus