



College of Engineering to offer new AI major

Wynne Bendell
University News Editor

The College of Engineering will offer a new Artificial Intelligence major to a selection of incoming computer science students starting fall 2026. The major will be available to all applicants for the 2027-28 academic year.

The major's proposal was submitted in fall 2024 and developed by computer science (CS) professor Tefvik Bultan, CS teaching professor and Department Vice Chair Diba Mirza and CS Department Chair and distinguished professor Divyakant Agrawal. The Academic Senate approved the proposal in January, making UC Santa Barbara the second UC to offer an Artificial Intelligence (AI) major, following UC San Diego.

The new major will consist of interdisciplinary electives, existing CS courses and six new AI-centric courses, including an ethics course. Agrawal emphasized the importance of a required ethics course in the hopes that future AI developers consider their technologies' possible societal impacts.



SARAH CAULDER / DAILY NEXUS
The College of Engineering will offer a new AI major to incoming CS students starting fall 2026.

"The ethics course is important because AI is going to have [an] immediate impact on the societal context, and it is important for the people who are designing the system or developing the system to understand the impact that can happen," Agrawal said.

Future AI students are expected to become proficient in building AI programs and Large Language Models (LLM), a type of AI algorithm. Agrawal emphasized that students will be able to apply their degree in various fields including CS, healthcare and finance.

"We are thinking about training the next generation of technology workforce who are going to be engaged in these technologies," Agrawal said.

Agrawal said the only additional technology they requested for use in new major courses is a Graphics Processing

Unit (GPU) cluster, or a network of interconnected GPUs that work in parallel to execute complex computations.

Additionally, they have requested an increased number of staff advisors for the College of Engineering to support students.

"I think that student advising is one of the most foundational pieces of undergraduate education," Agrawal said.

In recent years, AI has been critiqued by environmental activists for its greenhouse gas emissions and extensive energy consumption. Data centers also use large amounts of water for cooling, with large data centers using up to five million gallons every day.

Agrawal said the "whole point" of training students in AI is to increase the technology's efficiency in hopes of decreasing data center environmental impacts.

"We are going to point out the inefficiencies of the current system and make it more efficient," Agrawal said. "To make these systems more power efficient, so that you don't have ... large-scale environmental consequences."

Understanding the Flock camera near UCSB

JAESA VERDAGUER / DAILY NEXUS



An automated license plate reader managed by Flock Safety has operated in front Santa Catalina Residence Hall for over a year.

Michelle Cisneros
Lead News Editor

An automated license plate reader managed by Flock Safety has operated in front of UC Santa Barbara's Santa Catalina Residence Hall for over a year. According to the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office, the data from these cameras is used for criminal investigations.

Flock Safety is a private company that manufactures security software and hardware, including license plate readers. Automated License Plate Recognition (ALPR) Systems take photos of passing cars and record license plates and identifiable features such as car type and accessories. As suggested by their name, these cameras automatically capture and store the license plates of all passing cars, regardless of whether the driver is actively being investigated.

It is unknown whether UCSB has access to the information gathered by the camera near Santa Catalina. The University did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Recently, motion-censor cameras were installed near the lagoon. According to

second-year political science major Evan Sussman, those cameras are operated by Live View Technologies through a partnership with the UC Police Department.

There are a total of 12 operational Flock cameras in Santa Barbara, and the data is stored for 30 days.

Escalations in immigration enforcement have brought the use of Flock cameras into the limelight. Per reporting by the Santa Barbara Independent, local immigration advocates have questioned the locations of these cameras, with five cameras being located in the Westside of Santa Barbara. The Westside has a larger percentage of undocumented people, roughly 28%, compared to the broader Santa Barbara County (SBC), which sits at about 15%.

According to the Santa Barbara Police Department's contract with Flock, the data collected by these cameras is not given to federal enforcement agencies. Per Senate Bill 34, state law enforcement agencies cannot share data from license plate readers with federal agencies.

In January, Flock released a statement stating that it does not directly share information

with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (I.C.E.). In the last several years, civil liberties groups found that local law enforcement agencies in California have informally conducted license plate searches for I.C.E. and Border Patrol as recently as 2023. Santa Barbara law enforcement entities were not named in the 2024 lawsuit. Other lawsuits have followed in recent years.

According to the SBC Sheriff's Office Public Information Officer Raquel Zick, UC Santa Barbara did not "[play] a role" in installing the camera near Santa Catalina. The second-closest Flock cameras to campus are three located in the Camino Real Marketplace.

According to search audit results from the SBPD, before mid-December 2025, most searches in Santa Barbara disclosed specific reasons such as "Rape Investigation," "possible suspect vehicle" and "hit and run." After that point, all search reasons were labeled as "criminal investigation" and "investigative intel" until early February. Since Feb. 2, search reasons have been labeled as "Withheld By Officer."

The SBD did not immediately respond to requests for comment on the changes.

I.V. waste management updated after 30 years

Levi Kauffman
Assistant News Editor
Lucy Wellons
Staff Writer

While walking down Del Playa Drive, one may notice garbage lining gutters, spilling out of trash cans and blowing out to the Pacific Ocean. To address this, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors unanimously adopted amendments on Feb. 24 to the over 30-year-old ordinance governing waste management in the county's most densely populated community.

While Isla Vista suffers from excessive amounts of trash year round, certain times of the year, such as move-out season in June, generate as much as 1 million pounds of trash within a couple weeks. Fifth-year environmental studies major Fernanda Vasquez Sanchez attested to the prevalence of trash in IV.

"Anywhere I walk on any street in IV, there's always a can of something, or a plastic bottle or clothes for some reason," Vasquez Sanchez said. "I've seen huge piles of trash, especially after move-out, just everywhere on the street. There's random kitchen appliances

and a whole couch and sometimes they stay there for weeks."

Isla Vista Community Services District (IVCSD) Public Works and & Sustainability Director Jenna Norton runs the Isla Vista Beautiful (IVB) program, which coordinates beautification procedures to address issues in IV. These procedures include trash pickup, weed removal, graffiti abatement, streetlight additions and repairs.

Norton rejected the idea that IV tenants are responsible for trash in the streets, stating the issue of litter is due to insufficient trash can sizes and a lack of waste services compared to the number of residents.

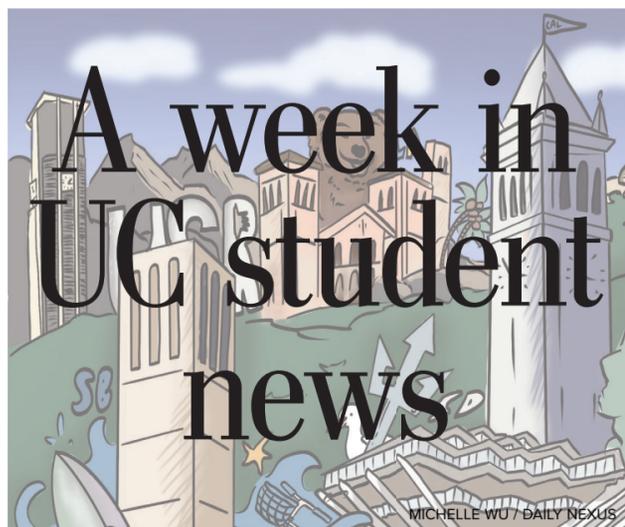
"I think that it's absolutely unacceptable the amount of litter in Isla Vista. It's right near the beach, and it's in a community that really cares about the environment, so it doesn't really make sense initially as to why there's so much litter," Norton said. "I don't think that Isla Vistans are littering as people like to say. I think the trash makes it into the trash can, but it can overflow very quickly."

IV is an unincorporated part of Santa Barbara County (SBC), where waste service is provided solely by

I.V. Waste p.6



Certain times of year, such as Deltopia weekend in April, generate thousands of pounds of trash.



Michelle Cisneros
Lead News Editor

Trump administration sues UC over alleged antisemitism against employees

The Department of Justice (DOJ) filed a lawsuit against the University of California (UC) on Feb. 24 for allegedly allowing a “hostile work environment against Jewish and Israeli faculty and staff” at UC Los Angeles. The lawsuit alleges that the University violated Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, which prohibits employment discrimination based on race, religion and other identities.

According to a DOJ press release, the lawsuit is in response to actions during UCLA’s pro-Palestinian encampment. The lawsuit continues by alleging that antisemitism towards Jewish and Israeli faculty persists on campus.

“Jews were not permitted on portions of the main quad, Jewish professors were assaulted, and swastikas were graffitied on university buildings,” a DOJ press release read. “Jewish and Israeli faculty have been physically threatened, had their classrooms disrupted, and had their workplaces papered with disturbing images.”

In a statement to The New York Times, UCLA Vice Chancellor Mary Osako said the University has “taken concrete and significant steps to strengthen campus safety, enforce policies and combat antisemitism in a systemic and sustained manner.”

The lawsuit comes after the DOJ dropped its appeal against the court order blocking its proposed \$1.2 billion settlement with UCLA on Feb. 11.

All UC campuses agree to send alerts for immigration enforcement activity on campus

According to the Daily Bruin, every UC campus has agreed to implement Senate Bill 98, which requests schools from K-12 to postsecondary institutions to send out alerts of confirmed immigration enforcement activities on campuses.

State Senator Sasha Renée Pérez authored the Sending Alerts to Families in Education (S.A.F.E.) Act, which Newsom signed into law last September. The bill applies to the UC, California State University system and California Community Colleges. According to a bill analysis, the UC can implement these alerts because it is “a public trust with constitutional autonomy.”

Pérez told the Daily Bruin that every UC campus has affirmed it will set up an alert system. At a Jan. 26 meeting, UCLA Associate Vice Chancellor Steve Lurie said the University has created an email system for S.A.F.E. notifications. Notifications will only be sent out after the UC Police Department confirms it is immigration enforcement, meaning there will be no warnings before federal agents

are on campus.

A Feb. 19 meeting at UC Berkeley discussed similar parameters for the notification system. Interim Vice Chancellor for Equity and Inclusion Fabrizio Mejia said the University wants to report sightings without inciting fear and will use several sources to confirm enforcement activity.

President Milliken presents to California State Assembly, discusses importance of state support

UC President James B. Milliken urged the California State Assembly to continue investing in the university at a Feb. 18 meeting. Milliken also thanked Governor Gavin Newsom for including a \$350 million increase to UC funding in his January budget proposal.

Changes in federal funding and policy within the past year were also discussed at the meeting. Despite these changes, the UC reached its largest-ever enrollment during Fall 2025 with a total of 301,093 students. Milliken told the assembly’s Budget Subcommittee on Education Finance that the UC would need more state support to offset the uncertainty caused by these federal developments.

“I stepped into this role last summer a few days earlier than originally planned when the federal government suspended almost \$600 million in research funding from UCLA. Each of our campuses and the UC system as a whole have been the subject of numerous federal investigations and enforcement actions,” Milliken said during his opening remarks. “Given these challenges and opportunities, state support has never been more important.”

Other developments discussed include rising operational costs and the continuation of the 2022 compact between the UC and the state.

UC Berkeley social welfare graduate students continue tuition strike

Last month, graduate students in UCB’s Social Welfare program began a tuition strike after two union lecturers were laid off. According to a letter sent by the striking students, the decision was also related to tuition increases and budget cuts.

The letter also stated the strike is a “last resort” after months of conversations with administrators within the social welfare department. UCB spokesperson Janet Gilmore told the Daily Californian that campus policies regarding non-payment will still apply to the striking students.

Per University policy, its Billing and Payment Services can place a hold on a student’s registration and diploma if they owe \$100 or more 60 days past the due date. Since the strike began on Jan. 19, the last day a student could withdraw without paying tuition, students have until March 20 before the policy takes effect.

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

KAYLEE HEARTMAN / DAILY NEXUS

Jack Dindia
Lead News Editor

Health & Wellness hosts ‘Sustainable Cooking’

Health & Wellness, in collaboration with Associated Students (A.S.) Environmental Justice, is hosting “Sustainable Cooking For A More Just Food System” on Thursday, Feb. 26, from 5-6:30 p.m. at the Student Resource Building (SRB) Multipurpose Room.

“Join FNBS and AS Environmental Justice for a collaboration in cooking a sustainable meal that supports a more just and environmentally friendly food system,” the Shoreline description read.

A.S. Take Back the Night and C.A.B. hosts ‘Hygiene Kit Making!’

A.S. Take Back the Night, in collaboration with the A.S. Community Affairs Board (C.A.B.), is hosting “Hygiene Kit Making!” on Thursday, Feb. 26, from 5-6 p.m. at the C.A.B. office on the second floor of the MultiCultural Center (MCC).

The hygiene kits will be donated to a domestic violence shelter. Students can register via Google form.

IHC hosts free screening of ‘Eternity’

The Interdisciplinary Humanities Center (IHC) is hosting a free screening of the film “Eternity” on Thursday, Feb. 26, from 8-9 p.m. at Isla Vista Theater.

“Joan (Elizabeth Olsen), after she dies, must choose whether she wants to spend forever with her seemingly flawless first husband, Luke (Callum Turner), who died young in the Korean War, or Larry (Miles Teller) the curmudgeonly but devoted man whom she has been married to for over 60 years,” the Shoreline description read.

MCC hosts ‘Trauma-Informed Community Care Workshop’

MCC is hosting “Trauma-Informed Community Care Workshop” on Friday, Feb. 27, from 12-2 p.m. at the MCC Lounge.

“We all want safe communities, but they aren’t created by chance. We need tools and practices that produce deep understanding, intention, and care. Join us for a workshop facilitated by Macala ‘Kala’ Lacy from The Well Healing, where we’ll explore key principles of trauma-informed care and how to use them authentically to cultivate our communities,” the Shoreline description read.

A.S. Media Center hosts

‘LinkedIn Headshot Session’

The A.S. Media Center and Creative Media Unit is hosting a “LinkedIn Headshot Session” on Friday, Feb. 27, from 1-3 p.m. at the Media Center in Annex Building room 434.

“In need of a professional headshot for your LinkedIn or resume? Drop into the Media Center for a free photo to elevate your profile!” the Shoreline description read.

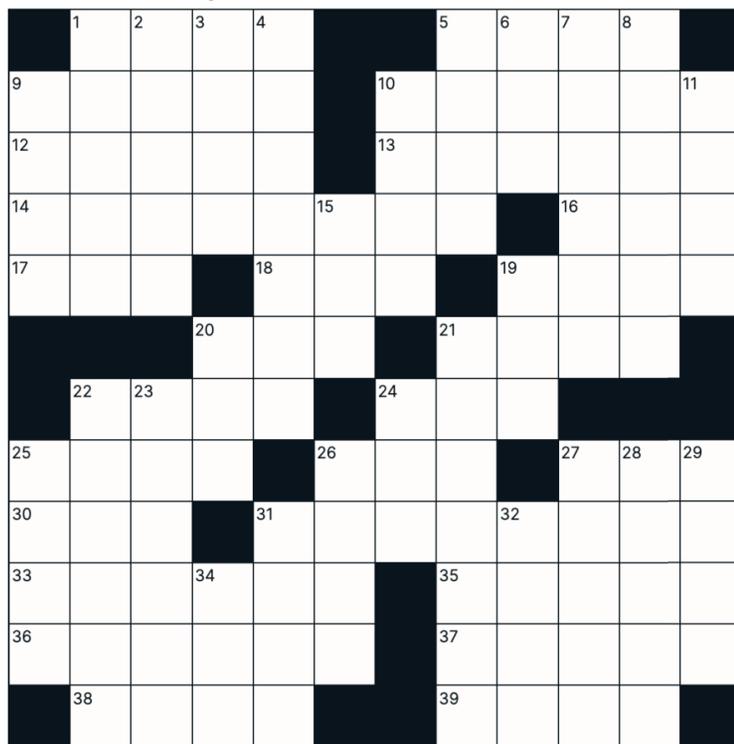
Snacks, tea and coffee will be provided for attendees.

UCSB Sustainability hosts ‘Community Garden Volunteer Day’

UCSB Sustainability, in collaboration with Edible Campus Program, is hosting “Community Garden Volunteer Day” on Friday, Feb. 27, from 2-4 p.m. at the West Campus Family Student Housing Community Garden.

“We will be weeding, mulching, building garden beds/cages, and providing general assistance to the garden. West Campus Garden is a plot based community garden that supports students with dependents in growing their own food and enjoying the natural world with their families,” the Shoreline description read.

The Daily Nexus Crossword



Alison Kumpf
Games Contributor

Across:

- Biblical wise men
- Laundry unit
- Entered quickly
- Great _____ Owl, bird often found near the stables by West Campus
- Switch designation
- Listened to
- Exams typically occurring weeks 4-6 of a quarter
- Grandad, to a Hamburger
- Something stored in a sleeve, idiomatically
- Regret
- Sole
- Fangorn Forest resident
- Cheese byproduct
- Othello antagonist
- Exclamation in a library
- Reverse, as an action

26. Organization enforcing neighborhood policies

27. Japanese city with a one-character name

30. Largest U.S. pharmacy chain

31. Brings something back to its original condition

33. Common place for a piercing

35. Unworldly

36. Witches’ transports

37. Playful river mammal

38. A convertible Firebird, maybe

39. Only a matter of time?

Down:

1. Crazy

2. One end of a battery

3. With 1-Across, “_____ of the _____,” ironic Christmas short story by O. Henry

4. Blazing fire

5. Chucks

6. Hidden gem?

7. “_____ home?”

8. Profoundly

9. Capitale d’Italia

10. Where the heart is?

11. Another name for the Normandy landings

15. Feeling stuck, with “in a”

19. Drawn-out sound of realization

20. Caesar, according to himself?

21. Question after a plan fails

22. Flip inside-out

23. Purchasable promotional space

24. Emergency letters

25. Home of the first Chicano Studies doctoral program in the nation

26. Counterpart to haws

27. Hackneyed

28. George Miller’s “magical number, plus or minus two”

29. Fault of the operator, with “error”

31. Yellow feature of a common winter warbler

32. Something sworn

34. In addition



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“Did anyone care? No.”

Contact Us

News Office:

Phone: (805) 893-3828

Email: eic@dailynexus.com

Advertising Office:

Email: meyer-l@ucsb.edu

Phone: (805) 893-4006

University of California, Santa

Barbara

PO Box 13402 UCEN

Santa Barbara, CA 93106

Additional contact information for individual sections and editors can be found at www.dailynexus.com.

Senate creates mobile food pantry, textbook grant program



The Senate adopted legislation, such as the Mobile Food Pantry Pilot High Impact Project and a textbook grant support.

Wynne Bendell
University News Editor
Maria Basinger
Reporter

The 76th Associated Students Senate adopted legislation creating a mobile food pantry and textbook grant support program at its Feb. 18 meeting. The Senate also discussed support for increased marine protections.

Public Forum

Fourth-year environmental science major Matthew Schoen requested \$10,000 from the Associated Students (A.S.) Trans and Queer Commission's rollover to update the Eternal Flame monument with L.E.D. lights and sign Associated Students (A.S.) on to a letter of support. The Eternal Flame was built in 1963 amidst the height of the civil rights movement, and has been a gathering space for student activism.

Trans and Queer Commission Vice Co-chair and fourth-year sociology major Nayali Broadway explained that replacing the monument's fossil-fuel source with L.E.D. technology would combat the environmental and economic injustices the queer, trans and racial minorities disproportionately face. Schoen stated the request needs Senate approval by mid-March to early April at the latest to move forward with the project.

Next, second-year political science major and California Public Interest Research Group member (CALPIRG)

Alex Borgas shared the Open Textbook Pilot Program, which has expanded open educational resources by funding professors since 2018, and asked the Senate for a letter of support to bring the program to UCSB. The program is expected to save students from eligible institutions nationwide \$250 million in the future. Borgas and several other UCSB students will go to Washington D.C. next week to lobby on the program's behalf.

Speech Forensics President and fourth-year communication and sociology double major Gohan Huynh returned to request approximately \$4,100 to aid the Speech Forensics club with tournament fees, transportation and food for their upcoming regional championship. The Senate previously granted the club \$2,000 for hotel costs, but the team requires further funding to attend the tournament. The Senate did not approve the financial request.

Legislation Passed

The Senate adopted a resolution to establish the Health Education Access Resources and Tools Committee. The student-led initiative, authored by Senator and fourth-year history of policy, law, and governance major Vanessa Manakova, plans to develop a "centralized digital healthcare resource hub" to make healthcare accessible to students.

Next, the Senate adopted a Mobile Food Pantry Pilot High Impact Project (H.I.P.) proposal, authored by Senator and fourth-year history and global

studies double major Neo Harter. The program aims to minimize food insecurity by providing free non-perishable food to UCSB students with a trailer stationed around Isla Vista.

The Senate then adopted a resolution in support of AB 1650 Slam The Brakes On Ice Act, authored by Senator and second-year political science major Erica Sherkin. The act would prohibit rental companies from renting vehicles to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The resolution will send a letter of support for the act to California Assembly member Jessica Caloza.

The Senate also adopted a bill to create a textbook grant support program, authored by Senator and third-year economics and philosophy double major Noah Luken. The program will offer students financial assistance for purchasing textbooks and give the A.S. Book Bank Commission oversight of textbook grant requests.

Legislation Proposed

Senator and fourth-year political science major Keizo Ono proposed a resolution to add a constitutional amendment to A.S. legal code on fee provisions for empty Boards, Commissions and Units (BCU) so that the Senate can pause or cancel fees for inactive BCUs. The resolution defines an inactive BCU as any organization that fails to meet quorum by voting membership for two academic school years.

The resolution was referred to the executive committee, and if fully adopted by the Senate, will be voted on by students in the Spring election.

Senator and third-year biology and political science double major Eemaan Wahidullah proposed a resolution to establish the Language Revitalization Grant Program. This resolution aims to financially support students who want to study languages not currently taught at UCSB. Wahidullah stressed that after the passing of local Chumash elder Ernestine Ygnacio-De Soto, more languages are becoming endangered. The resolution was referred to the advocacy committee.

Next, Wahidullah proposed a

resolution to establish the Santa Barbara City College and UCSB Coastal Cleanup and Monitoring Partnership Program. The volunteer program will host cleanup events in IV, UCSB coastal areas and community spaces. The resolution was referred to the liaison committee.

Sherkin proposed a resolution to endorse expanding marine protected areas in support of CALPIRG's ongoing conservation efforts. Borgas emphasized that UCLA and UCSD have similar resolutions, and with UCSB's history of environmentalism, "getting a resolution passed here is extremely impactful." The resolution was referred to the liaison committee.

A bill to update legal code on BCU autonomy, authored by Harter, was referred to the executive community again after concerns from A.S. President and fourth-year Spanish, communication and global studies triple major Le Ahn Metzger. The bill would give the Senate power to issue binding financial directives to BCUs, as there will be a possible consequence of position removal for noncompliance. Metzger was concerned that this bill is an overreach of the Senate's power and would take away separation of powers within the association.

Reports

Investment Advisory Committee Co-Chair, A.S. Chief Investment Officer and third-year economics major William Fernholz collaborated with A.S. Financial Operations to create an Investment Policy Statement (IPS) binding document concerning changes to UC legal codes. The IPS document sets goals and rules for an external investment manager when potentially investing A.S. reserves.

The IPS advocates for a switch to investing in a diversified multi-asset portfolio, as opposed to the Certificates of Deposit (CD), which have been historically invested in. This change would allow for interest rates of 7% versus the current 3%, bringing in over \$500,000 annually. The statement was referred to the executive committee.

Next, A.S. Take Back the Night (TBTN) Internal Chair and third-year history of policy law and governance

and sociology double major Kayla Goodin gave an update on lagoon safety. TBNT collaborated with the Senate and Internal Vice President (IVP) and fourth-year history and global studies double major Enri Lala to establish environmentally safe lighting around the UCSB lagoon.

The lagoon has been a hotspot of violent crime for decades, leading TBNT, Senate and other entities to conduct a lighting and safety walk around the area with the UCSB Police Department (UCPD). The Coastal Commission recently approved a 90-day emergency permit filed by the UCSB Campus Planning committee to install cameras around the lagoon, which will be followed by a lighting proposal. TBNT will consequently establish a Campus Safety Officer station on the commencement lawn week 1 of spring quarter.

Next, the IVP's Internal Affairs Coordinator and third-year economics and accounting major, Valentina Huynh, presented the IV. Underground H.I.P. proposal requesting \$20,000. The event, which will take place on April 24, will feature performances from several IV. bands, a beer garden, food and other entertainment on the lagoon lawn.

According to Huynh, the event was created to give student bands an opportunity to perform and to compensate them. The proposal was referred to the executive committee.

Lastly, First President Pro Tempore and second-year political science major Evan Sussman proposed a resolution requesting the cancellation of the Commission on Marginalized Genders lock-in fee because the group has been inactive since 2021. The resolution was referred to the executive committee.

Financial Motions

The Senate allocated \$13,500 to the office of the Student Advocate General for general operating costs, \$2,000 less than the request due to concerns about food spending within the association.

The Senate then allocated \$3,295.55 to the office of the IVP for their upcoming winter quarter retreat.

JC does not find IVP negligent in honoraria process

Wynne Bendell
University News Editor

The Associated Students Judicial Council did not find Internal Vice President Enri Lala to be negligent in his duties of overseeing the honoraria or payment process, according to its Feb. 17 decision.

UC Santa Barbara alum and former Associated Students (A.S.) Attorney General (AG) Taylor Iden filed a petition on Dec. 11, 2025, accusing fourth-year history and global studies double major Lala of violating A.S. Legal Code by "failing to fulfill various required duties related to the Association's honoraria procedures."

As outlined in A.S. Legal Code, the Internal Vice President (IVP) is tasked with three honoraria procedures. The Judicial Council (JC) found that Lala failed to create and distribute honoraria forms by Week 7 of fall quarter, convene an honoraria committee meeting to review and investigate honoraria applications and issue an honoraria recommendation to the Senate by Week 9.

Lala stated that he delayed the honoraria process in anticipation of the Bill to Modernize Honoraria passing in the Senate, which would digitize the honoraria process. The Senate adopted the bill at its Jan. 7 meeting.

The main petitioners, Iden and current AG and fourth-year political science major Natalia Pascher, stated three desired remedies for the "negligence." The first was a JC directive requiring immediate distribution of forms and initiation of honoraria procedures if the bill failed. Additionally, they requested a reduction of the IVP's stipend up to 50%, at the JC's discretion. Lastly, they requested a formal apology issued by Lala acknowledging

the impact of these "violations" and probationary status for 10 academic weeks.

While the JC found that Lala did not uphold all his honoraria responsibilities, it clarified that the case did not ask whether the IVP met every requirement of A.S. Legal Code, but whether his actions constituted negligence. Legal code defines negligence as "knowingly failing to fulfill required positional duties as outlined by Legal Code." Negligence does not equal non-compliance, and would require proof that Lala intentionally avoided his responsibilities.

Iden testified that under the previous honoraria system, payments had "not been effectively disbursed" and that "backlogs were commonplace." Lala helped draft the bill to digitize honoraria to make the process more efficient.

Since Lala's decision to delay the honoraria process "arose not out of a deliberate intent to disobey legal code, but out of a desire to prioritize quality of review over timeliness," the JC did not find his actions negligent of his duties.

During the delay, Lala sent out an A.S.-wide email to inform the Association of the reasoning for the honoraria delay, which included an understanding of the "importance of his responsibilities regarding honoraria" to the JC.

Furthermore, legal code states that the AG acts as the chief legal counsel to the Senate, which includes the IVP. The JC alleges that Iden did not inform Lala of his failure to comply with the legal code within 25 days following his failure to distribute honoraria forms by Nov. 10, 2025. Meanwhile, Iden continued to attend meetings where the bill was discussed. The JC stated Lala was given insufficient counsel on his failure to complete his duties.



The A.S. Judicial Council did not find IVP Enri Lala to be negligent in his duties of overseeing the honoraria or payment process.

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Santa Barbara stakeholders share stances on I.C.E.

Jack Dindia
Lead News Editor

Immigration enforcement escalations within the past nine months have propelled local entities to share their stances on Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The Nexus has compiled a list of these statements and actions in an effort to promote transparency for the local community.

Since the start of President Donald Trump's second term, over 1,600 people have been arrested across Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo and Ventura counties.

The increase in United States Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (I.C.E.) activity has led to several escalations across Santa Barbara County (SBC). A local man was taken into custody on Feb. 20. During the encounter, a federal agent pepper-sprayed an 80-year-old attorney. In January, agents pepper-sprayed a woman recording an arrest.

UC Santa Barbara

In January, UC Santa Barbara Chancellor Dennis Assanis stated in a campus-wide message to that state laws Senate Bill (SB) 98 and Assembly Bill (AB) 21 require that the University notify the campus community about policies and procedures in place regarding immigration enforcement.

SB 98 requests schools, from K-12 to postsecondary institutions, to send out alerts of confirmed immigration enforcement on campuses. This applies to the University of California and California State University systems, as well as California Community Colleges.

While Assanis said the University has no indication or reports that I.C.E. activity will occur on campus, if federal immigration activity is confirmed, the University will send an email to all students, staff and faculty. An "SB 98 Notification" message will also be sent to provide information about the time and general location of the enforcement action.

AB 21 requests that California public colleges and universities — including the UCs, CSUs and CCCs — establish policies to protect undocumented students, staff and faculty from federal immigration enforcement. UCSB offers a variety of resources to help undocumented members of the community, such as Undocumented Student Services (USS).

USS assists prospective and current undocumented students



The Co-op has received positive feedback from shoppers who have noticed fuller shelves and friendly staff.

by committing to "fostering a safe, nurturing, and supportive environment." They also offer Immigration Legal Services in collaboration with the UC Immigrant Legal Services Center for currently enrolled students and their immediate family members.

Isla Vista Community Services District

The Isla Vista Community Services District (IVCSD), the sole governing body of Isla Vista, has been vocal against I.C.E. activity in the area. The IVCSD passed a resolution condemning I.C.E., stating the federal agency has created a "climate of intense widespread fear" and has been "undermining the rule of law" and "endangering public safety."

In August 2025, the IVCSD also adopted a resolution requiring a judicial warrant for I.C.E. to gain access and entry to IV. district facilities. The resolution was passed as a clarification of federal policies that require agents to have a judicial warrant to enter non-public areas of district buildings, as well as supporting the California Values Act, which prohibits law enforcement from collaborating with federal immigration enforcement officials.

The IVCSD has a page on its website dedicated to immigration support resources available for community members. While the IVCSD emphasized they are "not aware" of immigration enforcement happening in IV., the page contains a list of "trusted local organizations" which offer legal assistance and emergency

support for undocumented community members.

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors

In October, the SBC Board of Supervisors requested that they be apprised of specifics relating to I.C.E. activities in SBC, which Santa Barbara Sheriff and former President of the Major County Sheriffs of America Bill Brown declined to do, as it could be "constructed as obstruction of justice under federal law."

Second District Supervisor Laura Capps has expressed her concerns with I.C.E. activity in recent board meetings. During their Jan. 27 meeting, Capps highlighted that I.C.E. had removed 350 people in local neighborhoods and streets during public comment, and alleged many were removed without due process. Additionally, Capps announced the Board of Supervisors is working to designate I.C.E.-free zones on county property.

Following the I.C.E. raid which took place at a cannabis farm in Carpinteria, the Board of Supervisors approved \$105,000 in funding for the Immigrant Legal Defense Center and \$240,000 for additional mental health services by those who were affected by the raid.

Capps, in addition to several local elected officials, demanded that Brown speak out against I.C.E. actions and asked the SBC Sheriff's Office (SBSO) to speak in ways to protect the community from immigration enforcement.

Santa Barbara County Sheriff's

Office

In an article written by Brown and published by the SBSO, he argues that regarding immigration enforcement, "two viewpoints can both be valid." He clarified that SBC law enforcement does not enforce or assist in I.C.E. activity, "except as sparingly permitted by state law in our jails." He also emphasized that law enforcement does not have authority over federal agents carrying out deportations in the county.

Brown expressed that the killings of Renee Good and Alex Pretti in Minneapolis by federal agents were "gut-wrenching tragedies," and that "anger at the aggressiveness" of the federal government's immigration enforcement is understandable. However, Brown said while many immigrants are "law-abiding" citizens who have come "in search of a better life," he argued that there have also been "many serious crimes committed by unlawful entrants."

While Brown believes the current law should be changed so that long-term residents who are undocumented could be "properly vetted" and offered an easier pathway to citizenship and work approval, he quoted former presidents Bill Clinton and Barack Obama by saying "we are a nation of immigrants, but we are also a nation of laws."

Brown concluded his article by saying the "key" to meaningful change is to engage in issues with one another respectfully and "seek common ground."

Additionally, Brown expressed that he would not comply with SB 627, which requires I.C.E. agents to wear identification badges and not wear face coverings. He cited previous court cases, which affirm that state and local law enforcement cannot interfere with federal officers while acting in their official capacity.

Associated Students

UCSB Associated Students (A.S.) held its "Protect Your Peers" week in January to provide resources and raise awareness for the rights of undocumented people. These resources included rapid response training and legal workshops.

The 76th A.S. Senate recently unanimously adopted a resolution in support of AB 1650, which helps combat the federal government from "violating the rights of American citizens and residents" by restricting rental car companies from renting vehicles to I.C.E.

The Senate passed a resolution last fall that reifies federal, state and UC Regents precedents in "protecting every student's right to education," including undocumented and international students. The resolution passed in a 12-0-3 vote.

Santa Barbara City College

On Dec. 11, I.C.E. and the Federal Bureau of Investigation used a Santa Barbara City College (SBCC) parking lot as a staging ground before conducting an operation in a nearby neighborhood. A week later, SBCC said they were not informed of this in advance and acknowledged the "fear, stress, and anxiety" that community members may have faced due to I.C.E.'s presence.

The following month, the SBCC Board of Trustees discussed the presence of law enforcement on their campus and how they can make community members feel safe from immigration enforcement at their Jan. 22 meeting.

According to SBCC Board of Trustees President Jonathan Abboud, school officials met with members of community defense groups such as 805UndocuFund and SBResiste for input to ensure their "next response is better than [their] last."

Board of Trustees Vice President Kyle Richards called the presence of I.C.E. on the SBCC campus "vile and shameful," and clarified that "I.C.E. is not welcome here." The board then unanimously voted to direct staff to return with a resolution on legal policies to ensure safety for all students on campus.

I.V. Food Co-op sees improved financials following shutdown of downtown store

Iris Guo
Community Outreach
News Editor

The Isla Vista Food Cooperative's board members announced their financial situation has improved following the shutdown of its downtown location at a Feb. 18 board of directors meeting.

The I.V. Food Co-op, a community-owned grocery store, has operated in IV. for over five decades. In the past two years, the store has faced financial hardship due to decreased sales and revenue, leading to extensive fundraising efforts by board directors.

The Co-op's Santa Barbara Downtown Market permanently closed after two years of operations in late December 2025. The location saw high expenses and low sales, putting the entire Co-op's long-term stability at risk. As a result, the Co-op's board of directors decided to shut down the store to dedicate more resources to the IV. location and better address operational and financial challenges.

Board members stated that the IV. Co-op will remain open, so owners should not be concerned about the store shutting down. In order to address financial concerns, Co-op board president Tyler Marton said he reached out to six other co-ops for advice on financial reporting to owners.

Since shutting down the downtown location, the Co-op has focused on improving the IV. location by increasing inventory, hiring additional staff and launching community partnership programs, among other things. According to Co-

op board member and general manager Lisa Oglesby, the Co-op has recently hired two additional staff members, bringing the total staff count to 17.

"We are growing from a very much skeleton crew to less of a skeleton crew," Oglesby said.

Due to these improvements, Oglesby said she believes that customers "feel good" about shopping at the Co-op after receiving positive feedback from shoppers who have noticed fuller shelves and friendly staff. She mentioned that she was "unprepared" for operations "going as good as it's going."

In Jan. 2026, the Co-op saw a 10.8% increase in sales and a decrease in expenses since Jan. 2025. Additionally, the store averaged 434 customers per day with an average basket size of \$18.13. Oglesby said that this is somewhat of an improvement from last year.

"What these key indicators are telling us is that we are on the road to recovery, not just in name, but also in truth," Oglesby said.

Former Co-op board member, Marcelino Sepulveda, said that he believes the Co-op is still in a "precarious situation" due to uncertain financials, which has led Co-op owners to question whether the store will be able to remain open. Sepulveda requested the Co-op board to provide owners with information and transparency.

"Owners care about the Co-op; they show up at board meetings and try to understand what's going on," Sepulveda said. "I spoke with a friend this weekend who said to me, 'I just don't know if the store is going to be there in a

month or two."

The Co-op faced a net loss of approximately \$10,000 in January, which is in part due to additional expenses, including utility bills from the downtown location that had to be paid off.

"Factoring out those expenses, the loss for January was just \$667.82, effectively a rounding error from being profitable," Oglesby said. "This is a 73.5% improvement over the results of January 2025. For members who are concerned that the Co-op is closing in a month or two months — we're okay."

The Co-op's partnership with the Isla Vista Community

Services District (IVCSD) has helped increase sales. IVCSD set aside funding to purchase 166 memberships for local households in order to strengthen local food access. Oglesby noted that there are still around 50 unclaimed memberships and that the program has been "hugely successful" in bringing in student shoppers.

"A lot of people are interacting with the Co-op because of this program, and we're really grateful to our partners at the IVCSD for it," Oglesby said.

Going forward, the Co-op aims to improve its financial performance by continuing to

increase sales and eventually operate without losses, expand staff development and hire a new general manager.

Although the Co-op has not completely recovered from its financial difficulties, Oglesby recognized that "solid" progress has been made, especially considering that the Co-op is a community-owned small business.

"We don't have any outside funding from other major organizations," Oglesby said. "We don't have any sweetheart deals anywhere. We stand on our own two feet, so our recovery is our own."



The Co-op has received positive feedback from shoppers who have noticed fuller shelves and friendly staff.

UCSB Lecturers hold UC-AFT union contract kickoff

Noura Elkhatib
Staff Writer

UC Santa Barbara lecturers affiliated with the University Council-American Federation of Teachers Local 1474 union marked the start of a new bargaining contract with the UC administration on Feb. 19.

The University Council-American Federation of Teachers (UC-AFT) is a group that represents approximately 7,000 teaching members across the UC who constitute between 30%-40% of credit hours at the UC. One thing that the UC-AFT union fights for is recognition for lecturers' professionalism and academic contributions.

The UC-AFT UCSB chapter website states that it represents around 350 lecturers, librarians and supervisors of teacher education at UCSB.

At around 12:00 p.m., union members gathered in front of the library, holding up banners that read "We Teach UC."

"We carry a lot of weight that is not paid or recognized. As our job is getting more precarious, and we are being asked to do more than what we can do, obviously, this is reflecting in our teaching performance to students," Emiko Saldivar, a continuing anthropology lecturer and collective officer of the local chapter of UC-AFT, said. "We are fighting for public education, and that is very important for students to know."

As emcee of the rally, Saldivar began by discussing the cost of education. According to the Office of the Registrar, the average UCSB undergraduate student will pay \$20,876 in total student fees and tuition for the 2025 academic year. The cost of attendance for residents of California who live in the residence halls is \$47,418.

"As a demand of all the money and resources that students bring, they deserve good quality in education," Saldivar said.

Nicholas Jurkowski, a continuing lecturer in the music department, shared that the union demands increased job security, support for the cost of living and the same levels of academic freedom as faculty. He expressed concerns about the current political climate affecting the academic space for lecturers and students.

"Very often, lecturers are considered to be contingent labor and are churned out before they reach continuing status," Jurkowski said. "Especially for non-continuing lecturers, our protections are much lesser than latter faculty. It could potentially be detrimental to our employment prospects."

Saldivar said there is a lack of recognition by the University for the labor that non-faculty take on for students.

"We are one-third of the teachers that you will have, but some of us teach 50% of



UC-AFT represents approximately 7,000 lecturers across the UC and advocates for the recognition of lecturers' professionalism and academic contributions.

the students," Saldivar said.

Saldivar also noted that budget cuts are a major factor currently affecting the job security of lecturers. California Governor Gavin Newsom proposed an 8% reduction in the UC's General Fund allocation, which would result in a \$397 million cut for the 2025-26 school year. After lobbying, Newsom amended his budget to include 3% cuts, only to increase it to 7% in January of 2026. This leaves many lecturers and teachers within the UC uncertain for the future of how the budget

will look.

This uncertainty is coupled with effects of the cuts already showing. According to the UC-AFT website, nearly 100 lecturers across the UC have seen their appointments reduced or eliminated, with many more bracing for further cuts.

Saldivar noted that students are not necessarily aware of the differences between lecturers, teachers and faculty. She encouraged students attending the event to inquire about the status of the people who are teaching them.

Toward the end of the event, UC-AFT members led the crowd of lecturers and supporting students in a march toward Cheadle Hall, a University administration building where the chancellor's office is. At the chancellor's door, they presented their petition, inviting UCSB Chancellor Dennis Assanis to meet with them to negotiate.

Nikola Lapackova, the executive assistant to the chancellor, informed the crowd that Chancellor Assanis was in a meeting and would be unable to talk.

Goleta Water District representatives discuss local water quality, sustainability

Noura Elkhatib
Staff Writer

UC Santa Barbara Sustainability hosted a discussion panel on water safety in Goleta on Feb. 19 in collaboration with the Goleta Water District.

Established in 1944, the Goleta Water District is governed by an elected five-member Board of Directors, with each director representing one of the five water districts in the Goleta Valley. Isla Vista falls within the fourth district.

Principal Policy Analyst Brooke Welch spoke during the event. Her job includes preparing strategic reports, sustainability planning and facilitating projects interdepartmentally.

According to Welch, the Goleta Water District provides water to approximately 87,000 people across 29,000 acres within the Goleta Valley.

"Uses range from residential to commercial to industrial, UCSB, to landscape, irrigation and agriculture," Welch said.

Lake Cachuma is the primary source of water for the Goleta Valley, which includes all five districts. The water is extracted and is brought through the Tecolote Tunnel and lands in the Corona Del Mar Water Treatment Plant to be purified. While small amounts of sodium hypochlorite can be found in tap water in IV., Welch noted that this is used for disinfecting.

Welch also said that while water levels of Lake Cachuma are currently at 100%, the Goleta Valley has a long history of drought.

After the presentation, Outreach and Marketing Coordinator for the Take Back the Tap program and third-year economics and political science double major Bhavya Uniyal asked Welch about the safety of the tap water in Goleta, noting the negative effects of long-term exposure of lead to IV. residents, even in small amounts. She cited her experience with water testing in Goleta as a part of an internship.

"I found that even though the lead is well below the safety levels set by the EPA, it's still present," Uniyal said. She then noted the effects of long-term exposure of IV. residents to lead, even in small amounts.

Welch stated that there is no lead

in the water systems within the district's jurisdiction.

According to the Water Quality page of the Goleta Water District website, the district collected an inventory of pipe material and tested it for lead and copper in the summer of 2024, as per a federal mandate known as the Lead and Copper Rule. This was a nationwide effort to check for lead and copper materials in public water supplies, which can lead to significant health problems.

Welch stated that any trace amounts of lead that can be found in water in IV. are out of the Goleta Water District's jurisdiction.

"The district's pipes and facilities are lead-free up to the point of the meter. What happens on the other side of the meter is the private side, so we don't regulate that," Welch said.

The Goleta Water District is federally required to report the results of tap water quality testing to residents of the Goleta Valley through an annual Consumer Confidence Report. The most recent report available on the Goleta Water District website is from 2024.

Welch said that tap water is "one of the most heavily regulated substances there is." She stated that the water that comes out of any of the sources used by the district, such as Lake Cachuma, is naturally very hard. Water is considered hard when there are naturally occurring minerals, such as magnesium and calcium, dissolved in the water.

According to Welch, at-home water treatments like reverse-osmosis or using a Brita filter don't improve the safety of tap water.

"It doesn't treat it any further, it just makes it taste better. It might remove a couple of extra minerals, but that's it really," Welch said.

In terms of sustainability, Welch presented the recently developed Net Zero Initiative, which aims to produce enough renewable energy to offset the district's baseline annual energy use. This is done through electric vehicles, solar power systems and in-pipe hydro turbines, which generate electricity.

"We're making big strides to really expand the sustainability of the district, and ultimately reducing our reliance on traditional energy sources," Welch said.



The Goleta Water District provides water to approximately 87,000 people across 29,000 acres within the Goleta Valley.

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Students build garden beds for local senior home

Elijah Obando
Staff Writer

Associated Student's Community Affairs Board collaborated with the Edible Campus Program to host "Seniors & Soil" on Feb. 21. Student volunteers spent the afternoon crafting elevated garden beds for residents living at the Friendship Manor retirement community.

The Community Affairs Board (C.A.B.) aims to make gardening accessible for seniors with mobility issues through the creation of elevated garden beds. The new beds were also meant to replace many preexisting ones that were old and damaged.

According to Ben Wollack, a third-year environmental studies major and the senior citizen coordinator for C.A.B., the event was used to rebuild the lost "green space" that occurred

after UC Santa Barbara bought the plot of land that lies between Friendship Manor and Tropicana Gardens.

"This used to be a plot where the Friendship Manor seniors could just hang around outside, and they had garden beds around here," Wollack said. "The seniors didn't really get a say in this choice, so when they heard about [the purchase of the plot of land], they were really upset."

A Friendship Manor newsletter sent out in January clarified that the plot of land was never an official part of Friendship Manor.

Bob Risser, a resident at Friendship Manor, showed his appreciation for the students who volunteered.

"[The students,] that's the best part. They're all good. I'm glad that they all came and showed up because that was a good thing," Risser said.



COURTESY OF BEN WOLLACK

Student volunteers pose with the completed garden beds.



ELIJAH OBANDO / DAILY NEXUS

Student volunteers spent the afternoon crafting elevated garden beds for residents living at the Friendship Manor retirement community.

I.V. WASTE

Continued from p. 1

MarBorg Industries and laws set by a county ordinance, which was created in 1992 and previously amended in 1995. According to Senior Program Specialist with the Resource Recovery and Waste Management Division of SBC Public Works, Mackenzie Forgey, these laws have failed to keep pace with I.V.'s growing population.

"There appear to be more folks living in each residential premises, as well as the general waste produced per capita in California has increased since [1995] as well. People are simply producing more waste than they were doing 30 years ago," Forgey said. "The current minimum required service levels simply don't take into account that increased population and increased per capita waste production since that was last updated in 1995."

To solve the issue of trash in I.V., SBC officials, with input from IVCS, drafted and proposed amendments to Chapter 17 of the SBC Code of Ordinances, which affects waste management in I.V. The SBC Board of Supervisors unanimously passed the amendments at their Feb. 24 meeting, which will go into effect in July.

Forgey helped draft the amendments and said they aim to solve the issue of undersubscription to waste services. The amendments will phase out 32-gallon trash cans for larger carts with attached lids, update required minimum service levels and require landlords or property managers — rather than tenants — to subscribe to service, among other things.

The law currently doesn't require landlords or property managers to subscribe to waste services, meaning the responsibility falls on the tenants in many instances. According to Norton, under the current system, thousands of individual tenant accounts are opened and closed each year, creating inefficiencies and gaps in accountability and resulting in many units in I.V. not having waste services.

Norton emphasized that the revised policy will streamline waste management.

"It's easier to know who to contact about upping service if

need be. And it's also going to make it easier for code enforcement to mandate more service if necessary," Norton said.

Additionally, the amendments will make recycling a mandatory waste service, which Forgey called "a huge win." Under the current law, only trash services are mandated.

"Back in the 90s, recycling wasn't as large of a portion of a household's waste as it is today. So not only are we making sure all residents would have access to recycling service, but hopefully in such a fashion that allows them to divert all their recyclables properly," Forgey said. "It's really important for our waste diversion goals that people have access to the volume of recycling service that they need to divert all that cardboard, paper, metal, etc."

As a long-time I.V. resident, Norton used her experience to lead a community effort that prompted the county to move toward drafting amendments to the ordinance.

"Upon studying the issue myself, as well as talking with other county agencies who care about the same thing, we were really able to identify what the problems were," Norton said. "It's clear that we need additional waste service."

Norton warned that the amendments could result in rent increases as landlords may incorporate the new costs into tenants' monthly payments. However, Norton believes this possibility is worth the cost.

"It's just not acceptable to have this level of litter and poor waste management in a community. I mean, I don't see this anywhere in the surrounding area, and so I don't understand why it has to happen in Isla Vista," Norton said.

In the meantime, Norton encouraged residents to think of their consumption habits as the first line of defense against waste.

Forgey expressed optimism that the amendments will be successful in combating trash in I.V.

"30 years is a long time to have left the current conditions as is," Forgey said. "Isla Vista is one of the most densely populated communities, and it's right next to the Pacific Ocean, so this will hopefully have positive environmental impacts beyond just waste."

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DATA

Trekking through Tequepis Trail

Lance Sanchez
Data Editor

KCSB-FM has been the voice of UC Santa Barbara since 1962, its signal stretching across Santa Barbara from somewhere high above campus. Reaching that source means making the climb to Broadcast Peak, where the station's transmitter stands among the other towering signals that serve the region.

The journey begins with the four-mile stretch of the Tequepis Trail. What starts as a steady ascent quickly turns demanding. Thick clouds drift in and blur the horizon. Gusts of wind sweep across exposed ridgelines. The path narrows in places, with loose gravel shifting underfoot and steep inclines testing every step. The higher the elevation, the quieter the world below feels.

Even after reaching the trail's summit, the climb is not over. An additional mile leads to Broadcast Peak, home to KCSB's radio tower. When the towers finally come into view, rising stark against the sky, the effort takes on new meaning. At the summit, surrounded by steel and silence, it becomes clear how a single signal travels from this mountaintop to speakers and car radios across the county.



Cabins sit at the base of the trail, serving campers and visitors looking to spend time in nature.



Before reaching the trailhead, hikers cross a shallow creek by stepping across rocks.



Broadcast Peak is visible early in the hike, offering a clear view of the destination ahead.



Broadcast Peak becomes visible again for the first time since beginning the hike.



Cloudy weather makes it difficult to tell how much elevation has been gained.



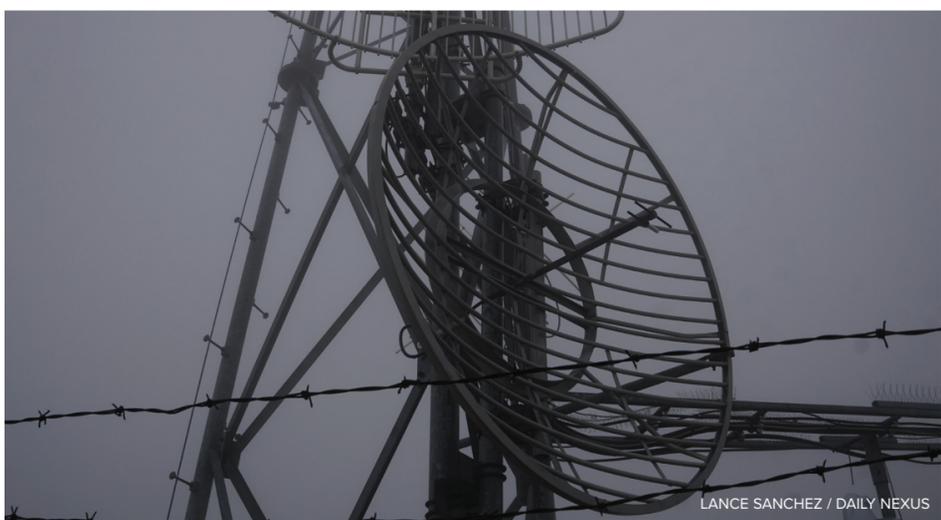
Looking back down the trail, Lake Cachuma can be seen through the clouds.



KCSB's tower sits farther down the path, separated from the other radio towers.



A single rock marks the summit of the Tequepis Trail, leaving one more mile to reach Broadcast Peak.



KCSB's dish is angled toward UCSB, directing its signal back to campus.



Tanks graffitied with "805CORE" appear along the outskirts of Broadcast Peak.



SPORTS

RED-HOT MATADORS RUN WILD AT THUNDERDOME, TAKE OT WIN FROM GAUCHOS' GRASP

Owen Jones
Staff Writer

The UC Santa Barbara men's basketball team fought down to the wire on Feb. 19 against the California State University, Northridge Matadors, but ultimately fell 85-83 in overtime after a rollercoaster game with 11 lead changes, a bevy of clutch buckets and several technical fouls.

CSU Northridge entered the Thunderdome sporting a five-game win streak, but a meager 4-7 record in away games on the year. The Gauchos took momentum early, with junior guard Marvin McGhee IV making an instant impact with a 3-pointer quickly after subbing into the game with five minutes gone in the first half. The lead grew to 17-8 at the 11-minute mark of the half, but the Matadors had it tied up after run where

the Gauchos had no answer for senior guard Joshua O'Garro, who scored 7 straight points for his team.

The first half ended with the Gauchos trailing 32-27, but senior guard Aidan Mahaney, who was held to just 3 points in the first half, quickly caught fire for his team. Back-to-back 3-pointers from Mahaney gave the Gauchos the spark they needed to go on another run, and Mahaney and Matador senior forward Grady Lewis traded technical fouls at the 15:20 mark after jawing with each other after Mahaney's second consecutive 3 restored the Gaucho's lead. The lead continued to grow, getting as big as 55-42 with 9:22 to play in the game.

The Matadors hung around, though, with their primary scoring coming from an unexpected source. Senior guard Larry Hughes II was held to just 12 points in 39 minutes, well short of his usual 19 points per game. His backcourt running mate,

senior guard Josiah Davis, took over the game in his place, putting up career highs of 31 points, 14 rebounds and 7 assists. Davis' aggression in getting downhill and knack for drawing fouls gave Northridge the fire they needed to stay in the game — with just over a minute remaining, Davis' free throws drew the Matadors level at 69 points apiece.

Freshman guard CJ Shaw hit a huge 3-pointer with 47 seconds remaining to put the Gauchos back up by 3 points, and Mahaney's two free throws a possession later looked to have sealed the win. However, Hughes delivered when it mattered with a big 3 coming out of a timeout, and the Gauchos were sent to the line immediately after the inbound to preserve precious seconds on the clock.

Mahaney knocked down two more free throws, but O'Garro hit a layup with 14 seconds remaining to draw the Matadors back into a one-possession game at 76-74. A costly turnover by

Shaw under the Matadors' basket saw Lewis get a wide open layup for his first points of the night, tying the game at 76. Mahaney had a chance to win the game, but a controversial no-call as he hit the deck on a fadeaway jumper sent the game to overtime.

The Gauchos couldn't find any rhythm in the bonus period, with a Mahaney 3-pointer being the only field goal the home team could muster. Davis added 5 points to his tally for the Matadors, and sophomore guard Zion Sensley couldn't score a game winning 3 as the final buzzer sounded, eliciting a storming of the court from the Northridge bench.

Shaw led the way on offense for the Gauchos, scoring 22 to go with 4 rebounds and 5 assists. Mahaney scored 19, with all 5 of his field goals coming from beyond the arc, while junior forward Colin Smith and McGhee added 16 and 13 points, respectively. Sensley's cold 2-for-11 night from the field (1-for-9

from 3-point range) nullified one of Head Coach Joe Pasternack's most reliable scorers on a night he was desperately needed to combat one of the Big West's conference's premier offensive teams.

The Gauchos drop to fourth in the Big West as Northridge leapfrogs them for the third seed as the season winds down. The Matadors are the second team to sweep the regular season series with Santa Barbara, joining UC Davis on a list of teams that could prove to be a worrying opponent in the Big West playoffs come March.

Pasternack and his squad will return home to face UC Riverside on Feb. 26 back at the Thunderdome, with a win desperately needed against the 4-12 Highlanders to enhance their chances at clawing back a first-round bye in the Big West tournament.

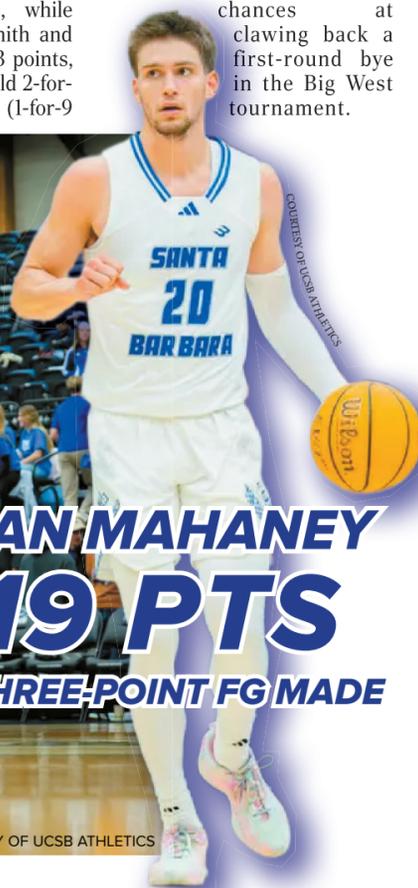


COURTESY OF UCSB ATHLETICS

CJ SHAW
22 PTS
4 REBOUNDS, 5 ASSISTS



The Gauchos huddle up for a pre-game pep talk.



COURTESY OF UCSB ATHLETICS

AIDAN MAHANEY
19 PTS
5 THREE-POINT FG MADE

COURTESY OF UCSB ATHLETICS

UCSB WOMEN'S BASKETBALL FALTERS AGAINST THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Samia Agarwal
Staff Writer

The UC Santa Barbara women's basketball team dropped a key game against the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Rainbow Wāhine on Saturday, Feb. 21, in a heartbreaking 58-52 loss. The Gauchos have now found themselves at sixth place in the Big West Conference, having

switched with the University of Hawai'i due to the loss.

Three-point shooting was the story of this game as the Gauchos, who are averaging 33.5% shooting from beyond the arc on about 27 attempts per game, shot 41 total threes and only managed to hit on 24% of them.

"We got wide open shots. I don't think we knew we were gonna take

40, but we thought we'd make some, which would open up lanes and we'd get good stuff to the rim," Head Coach Renee Jimenez said after the game.

Unfortunately for the Gauchos, there was very little available for them under the basket, with the 6'4" Hawai'i senior forward Imani Perez locking down the paint. Perez put on a show in the Thunderdome,

totaling 14 points in 34 minutes of play. She was aided by 6-foot senior forward Saniyah Neverson, who added 12 total rebounds, and the Gauchos had no answer for their size and dominance.

The three-point shooting felt off from the start, with the Gauchos shooting five straight 3s to open the game and missing all of them, going scoreless in the first three minutes.

They finally landed one with a wing 3 from senior guard Skylar Burke with 6:12 left, but Burke would turn out to be the only bright spot of the game. She totaled 16 points on 50% from 3, but it simply wasn't enough.

Despite the shooting woes, the Gauchos managed to stay competitive with the Rainbow Wāhine through three quarters. The momentum swung back and forth, with contributions from Gaucho junior guard Maddie Naro rebounding and tight defense forcing turnovers alongside bad shots and missed 3s. UCSB would go into the half down 27-25, as they forced back-to-back turnovers in the final minute of the first half to send the crowd roaring.

However, the Gauchos stumbled in the third quarter, going scoreless until junior forward Zoe Borter managed to hit on an early shot clock 3 with 5:29 left. UCSB simply could not find any rhythm, as all attempts to drive to the basket were halted at the line. The Gauchos stayed in it through the end of the quarter with strong man-to-man defense, but Hawai'i would eventually pull away after freshman guard Bailey Flavell put Hawai'i up 50-39 after a barrage of cutting layups and 3s. Though the Gauchos only lost by six, the fourth quarter felt completely out of reach.

The Gauchos now move into the final leg of their season, directionless as they look to play No. 1 ranked UC Irvine and No. 2 ranked UC San Diego for their final two games. Before that, though, they will travel to face the UC Riverside Highlanders next on Thursday, Feb. 26 at 6 p.m.



COURTESY OF UCSB ATHLETICS

Senior guard Skylar Burke looks for a pass past two defenders.

SCIENCE & TECH



From liftoff to touchdown: UCSB Gaucho Rocket Project sets its sights on landable rockets



COURTESY OF ANTONIO RUELAS

Rebecca Raymond
Staff Writer

Launching rockets may seem like a lofty goal achieved only at major companies like NASA and SpaceX, yet UC Santa Barbara students in the Gaucho Rocket Project turn their passion for rocketry into a reality by designing, building and launching rockets from scratch.

Members of the group worked diligently to achieve their first successful launch in Fall Quarter 2025: “We’ve been able to successfully launch our first liquid rocket – Altaris – which went about a mile high over the Mojave Desert,” Antonio Ruelas, chief operations officer for the project stated. Since then, the team has launched several rockets and aims to go further, with the project’s primary goal being to be the first North American collegiate team to successfully launch and land a landable rocket.

“We have our landable rocket project, Halo, with a GNC platform called Halo Junior,” Eddie Barajas, the founder and president, said while describing the range of projects that the group is currently working on. “We have a continuation of our last year’s project called Telluris, a solid, landable rocket and we have Sonus which will go Mach 1, creating a sonic boom, and is expected to go around two miles high.”

Gaucho Rocket Project designs each rocket with a mission objective in mind. For example, some rockets are built to ascend as high as possible, whereas landable rockets are designed to travel at a lower elevation while the group focuses on maintaining full control. The team offers frequent “onboarding projects” to give new members an opportunity to work on lower-stakes designs, traveling to the desert biweekly to launch these rockets.

The journey to building successful rockets from the ground up was far from easy and required extensive research by the Gaucho Rocket Project

members. Ruelas outlined the hard work involved in getting the first project off the ground: “Over the summer, we wanted to get started with the liquid rocket and we had a few members really look into the science behind how to get a liquid rocket to work. We started ordering materials towards the end of the summer and building the rocket, launching it in Week 7 of fall quarter.”

While the fluid mechanics and propulsion mechanics required to get the rocket up in the air are well established in theory, bringing the design into reality was an extensive and difficult process.

“It starts with selecting what parameters we’re going to be designing around,” propulsion co-lead Casey Strattan shared, providing an overview of a rocket’s early design choices. “This includes selecting the thrust of the engine and what conditions the rocket will be flying in: near the ground, or at high altitude. What fuel we will use has to do with the energy density of the propellants and the availability.”

While most established companies use liquid oxygen as their oxidizer – the source of oxygen that causes the fuel to combust – it is difficult to handle as it must be held at very low temperatures. During the rocket launch and propagation, the oxygen must be continually vented to keep the rocket from exploding. The Gaucho Rocket Project team uses nitrous oxide as a reliable and readily available alternative.

It’s one thing to know the general steps and considerations that go into making a rocket, but when it comes to the actual building process “It’s easy to get lost in the details,” Strattan explained. “For example, if you’re making a valve, you need to decide what parts to pick, where to buy it, how to ensure it can rotate, how to mount it ... the textbooks tell you what you need, but the practical details are the hardest part.”

Strattan added, “There’s no set textbook that will provide a

step-by-step guide [on how to build a rocket] as the process varies each time depending on the varying parameters in your particular design. So we pull information from many different sources and often have to adapt it for our own purposes.”

In addition to launching rockets successfully, the group consistently ensures they are taking necessary safety precautions: “The only time the rocket is fueled is when it’s far away in the desert,” Barajas, explains “we also do tests before true launches.” These rocket tests include cold flow tests which involves running water through the system to ensure there are no leaks, running inert gas through the system to check pressure and hot fire tests, during which rockets are fired at full power while remaining fixed to the ground to ensure that the engines work and the components can withstand the stress.

Building rockets to propel high above the ground is an incredible achievement that the Gaucho Rocket Project has mastered repeatedly. However, their main goal of engineering a landable rocket offers many more challenges.

“Rockets are fairly unstable objects,” Barajas explained as to why landable rockets are so difficult. “They are naturally going to go sideways as they travel, not vertically, so you need to find a way to keep it upright ... you have to find some way to control it and change direction, essentially like controlling a beast,” Barajas added.

This ambitious project is pursued at top spaceflight companies: SpaceX is able to land its rocket boosters – components of the rocket that provide thrust to propel it into space before disconnecting from the rocket’s body and falling back down to Earth – demonstrated in the successful landing of the Falcon 9 rocket in 2015. Since then, companies like Blue Origin and Landspace are also developing and testing methods to land their boosters. SpaceX is currently working on

landing both the boosters and main “starship” together.

“We’re trying to land the whole rocket,” Strattan confirmed, but “another motivation is to achieve the last ‘hop’ milestone of the lander challenge” – a competition for collegiate teams to submit their rocket projects.

Development of landable rockets would be extremely beneficial to the space industry since they can be reused for multiple launches. Far less new material is required, significantly reducing costs per launch as well as environmental damage associated with their production. Mastering reusable rockets is projected

to reduce space flight costs tenfold, enabling more frequent missions to space and more rapid scientific progress.

“Landing a rocket is one of the most difficult things to do, and that’s why we’ve taken it on,” Barajas explained the overall motivation behind the team’s hard work, “I don’t think there’s anything that could better prepare our group for whatever task or idea they want to take on in the future.” The group has been designing the landable Halo rocket for around six months, and will soon be ready to order and test individual components, making definitive steps towards their goal.



COURTESY OF EDDIE BARAJAS

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OPINION



The real pioneers: “Cowboy Carter” and country music

Andrew Olmos
Reporter

With Beyoncé Knowles-Carter gearing up for a new album cycle and bringing the era of her 2024 album “Cowboy Carter” to a close, it’s critical to fully dissect what the media skewed and misunderstood about the momentous album for Beyoncé and other Black artists. “Cowboy Carter” is not only a country album, but an album that discusses the appropriation of country music. It was not just another award added to Beyoncé’s shelf, but instead a win for all of the lost African American music history. But to understand the historical complexity of Beyoncé’s win, we first must understand the complexity of the racism embedded in country music.

When accepting her Grammy award for Album of the Year, Beyoncé dedicated her win to Linda Martell, who is also mentioned several times throughout “Cowboy Carter” in the form of short features. But who is Martell and how does she fit into the thesis of Beyoncé’s album?

With a background in R&B and blues, American singer Linda Martell was fresh out of a trio group when she took on her next musical project. In a 12-hour recording session blending R&B and country, she created her 1970 album “Color Me Country.”

The album was a success, but her challenges as a musician would only just begin. Being a Black woman in country music was almost impossible — and that was by design. After legal battles with music executives, difficulty getting gigs due to prejudices of promoters and vocal pushback on systematic racism, Martell was ostracized and forced to retire in 1970. Nevertheless, Martell would hold the record for being the highest charting Black female country artist, reaching No. 22 on the country charts, until 2024 with Beyoncé’s “Cowboy Carter.”

It took 54 years for another Black female artist to beat Martell’s record of 22nd place on Billboard’s Hot Country Songs chart. Given the historic influence of Black music on the country genre, one can’t help but wonder about this disconnect.

Like most roads in America, it leads back to colonialism. The Country Music Hall of Fame frames the banjo as the most recognizable country instrument. Yet, the instrument comes from West African culture and

was traditionally a West African instrument, until the slave trade when enslaved peoples brought it over and colonizers repurposed it for personal gain. At first, the banjo was used in minstrel shows for comedic effect to portray African Americans as unintellectual and inferior, to later being used for country and folk music. Even who we credit for being pioneers of country music didn’t do so by their own creativity.

Based in Virginia, the family band Carter Family entered the music scene around 1927, and are often labeled the foundation of country music, setting the building blocks for the genre. The Carters were even credited as innovators by contemporary country

mainstream success. Holly G., founder of Black Opry, told NPR in 2023 that in the past 20 years, only 1% of Black country artists have been played on the radio. These margins are extremely low, considering that country music is one of the last genres to rely on radio station play in the age of streaming. The lack of radio time Black country artists get restricts their success, pushing them to the backburner.

Rock is another genre that lies in the heart of western music and also has roots in African American culture. This genre stems from R&B and country music. African American artists such as Chuck Berry, Little Richard and Ike & Tina Turner are

for themselves, often leaving them broke. This inescapable cycle made Black artists’ mark on music history easily erasable, despite their everlasting impact.

Contemporary Black artists, such as Beyoncé, SZA and Kendrick Lamar, are able to ride the waves created by earlier Black artists and ascend their career farther than what was once possible. Nevertheless, we still see the effects of colonialism and racism in today’s music. Today we often see Black artists boxed into “Black” categories of music, especially hip-hop, R&B and afrobeats. For instance, at the 2017 Grammy Awards, Drake won “Best Rap Song” and “Best Rap/Sung Performance” for “Hotline Bling” — a pop song. The nomination and win highlighted how Black artists, even megastars like Drake, are othered by the music industry and still sectioned off, even though Black people are the foundation of popular western music.

Beyoncé coming out with “Cowboy Carter” was her retaliation to the past and current racism that Black people face in the music industry. Through blending all types of contemporary genres with country, she is reclaiming sounds that have been appropriated. From “AMERICAN REQUIEM” to the final track “AMEN,” Beyoncé discusses her experience with racism within the

music industry, and her personal experiences being outcast from the country scene, despite the fact that she is a southern woman born and raised in the often idealized Houston, Texas. Beyoncé’s success at the Grammys is major progress for Black artists in music. By taking back what was stolen and giving credit to the real designers of country music, Beyoncé is uncovering lost history and giving credit to the real pioneers.

But just like those that came before Beyoncé, her win will allow other Black artists to win categories that have been otherwise appropriated. We are already seeing this in action, as more Black artists are entering the contemporary country sphere, such as Shaboozey. Although the industry has a long way to go, calling out industries and systems that have stunted the success of Black artists will open doors to the generations that follow us.

Andrew Olmos is obsessed with Beyoncé Knowles-Carter.



SARAH CAULDER / DAILY NEXUS

artist Megan Moroney at the American Music Awards. Although this is not a complete fabrication, the Carter Family has more layers than a family of talented musicians. As reported, North Carolinian Lesley Riddle was a talented Black guitarist, and when “A.P. Carter, patriarch of the famous Carter [F]amily, first heard Riddle play and sing in Kingsport,” Carter asked Riddle to help him and his family turn the gears in their success. The two would visit “African American communities and churches throughout Appalachian Tennessee, Virginia and North Carolina to find new songs for the Carter Family band.”

Although the Carters may have had some form of talent, their legacy relies on the backs of African American culture and communities. This history is rarely spoken about when we discuss country music. Audiences may perceive country music as a genre pioneered only by white musicians. But in reality, despite their many contributions, Black artists struggle to achieve

pioneers in the genre for embedding new sounds of electric guitar to these pre-existing genres to create a new sound. However, many audiences often think of white artists such as The Beatles, Elvis Presley and Pat Boone for being trailblazers in the genre.

Even electronic dance music, originally coming from Detroit and Chicago, comes from Black innovators. According to NPR, gay Black and brown artists created the subgenre of EDM, titled “house.” We now see the genre becoming popular within, and increasingly associated with, white fraternity boys aspiring to become DJs. This shift in the genre washes away the history and importance the genre had on these individuals as they faced discrimination by our government and sought relief and freedom in the music.

The struggle for Black artists to make a profit on their music in the early-to-mid-90s due to racism in the music industry made it nearly impossible for these artists to make big names

HOROSCOPES

The signs as former Album of the Year winners

ARIES

MARCH 21 - APRIL 19

“24K Magic” by Bruno Mars

TAURUS

APRIL 20 - MAY 20

“folklore” by Taylor Swift

GEMINI

MAY 21 - JUNE 20

“Jagged Little Pill” by Alanis Morissette

CANCER

JUNE 21 - JULY 22

“Graceland” by Paul Simon

LEO

JULY 23 - AUGUST 22

“25” by Adele

VIRGO

AUGUST 23 - SEPTEMBER 22

“The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill” by Lauryn Hill

LIBRA

SEPTEMBER 23 - OCTOBER 22

“WHEN WE ALL FALL ASLEEP, WHERE DO WE GO?” by Billie Eilish

SCORPIO

OCTOBER 23 - NOVEMBER 21

“Falling into You” by Celine Dion

SAGITTARIUS

NOVEMBER 22 - DECEMBER 21

“Harry’s House” by Harry Styles

CAPRICORN

DECEMBER 22 - JANUARY 19

“Babel” by Mumford & Sons

AQUARIUS

JANUARY 20 - FEBRUARY 18

“Random Access Memories” by Daft Punk

PISCES

FEBRUARY 19 - MARCH 20

“Golden Hour” by Kacey Musgraves

OPINION



#BenitoBowl: Bad Bunny's halftime show & the power of joy as resistance



ERICA JOHNSON / DAILY NEXUS

Anusha Singh
Editor in Chief

On Feb. 8, Benito Antonio Martínez Ocasio, otherwise known as Bad Bunny, made history in Santa Clara, California as the first-ever artist to perform a Super Bowl halftime show entirely in Spanish.

Bad Bunny didn't arrive at the Super Bowl as a novelty act. He arrived at the peak of sustained cultural dominance.

"DeBí TIRAR Más FOTOS" has defined 2025. Three of my top five songs last year came from that album alone. It lives in my headphones as I walk to class, in my living room TV as I cook and lounge around my home, in my car as I drive to the grocery store.

And his historic Album of the Year win at the Grammy Awards cemented what fans already knew: Spanish-language music is not a "global" side category. It is the main stage.

"Happy Bad Bunny day"

I woke up that Sunday morning to a text from my mom — a woman who has never once cared about American football — that read: "Happy Bad Bunny day."

By 2 p.m., my apartment was chaos. I had somehow gone overboard at Costco — a family-sized taco tray, cookie platter, chicken alfredo (do not shop at Costco while hungry), chicken wings, homemade guacamole and more — and yet by the end of the night, there were no leftovers. Friends from every corner of my life packed into my living room. We rolled in a second TV so no one would miss a second of the show. When the lights finally dimmed, the room went quiet.

And then my phone started exploding — friends, family, group chats that had seen no action in months. Notifications from across not just the country, but the world (especially on WhatsApp). Everyone was freaking out over Benito.

The most American stage — in Spanish

The performance was jam-packed with symbolism — layered, intentional and deeply rooted in history. Cultural breakdowns from Rolling Stone noted that

nearly every visual choice carried weight. But what struck me most was how seamlessly those references were embedded into celebration. Nothing felt like a lecture. Everything felt lived-in.

The show began with a shot of people working on a sugar cane field — a nod to Puerto Rico's agricultural history and its entanglement with colonial economies. Sugar cane is not neutral. It is sweetness built on labor and plantation history.

I am Fijian. My ancestors were indentured laborers brought by the British Empire to work sugar cane plantations in Fiji. Puerto Rico's history is not Fiji's history, but sugar cane is a shared language of diaspora. A reminder that so many of our communities were shaped by extraction — by land worked under someone else's rule. The symbol of sugar cane was reframed not as quiet suffering but as cultural memory. The history was acknowledged. And then we danced anyway.

Another moment that lingered was the appearance of the sapo concho, the Puerto Rican crested toad that has become a symbol of preservation and displacement. In the broader context of "DeBí TIRAR Más FOTOS," it connects to themes of land loss and gentrification — ideas Bad Bunny has explored beyond music, including in his short film accompanying the album. I watched that weeks ago and unexpectedly teared up. It reminded me of my grandmother. For so many children and grandchildren of immigrants, culture is not abstract. It lives in our grandparents' accents, their gardens, their recipes. Gentrification is often discussed in economic terms, but for diaspora families it can feel like watching the physical backdrop of your elders' lives slowly disappear. Seeing the sapo concho wasn't just environmental symbolism. It was ancestral symbolism.

Then there was the moment that made me scream: Ricky Martin joining Bad Bunny to perform "LO QUE LE PASÓ A HAWAII," arguably the most politicized track on "DeBí TIRAR Más FOTOS." The song draws parallels between Puerto Rico and Hawai'i, highlighting tourism,

displacement and the slow erosion of local control. Seeing Ricky Martin — an artist who broke Latin pop into the American mainstream decades ago — share that stage felt like generational alignment. A reminder that Latin artists have long navigated American visibility under pressure to translate themselves.

And when flags from across the Americas filled the screen during the show's finale, I swear I thought I saw Fiji's flag for a split second. Maybe I imagined it, maybe I didn't, but I screamed anyway. Representation is funny like that — sometimes the possibility alone is enough to scream. Those flags weren't framed as foreign additions. They were woven into the performance as if to suggest that America is not singular. It is layered, migratory, multilingual. For children of diaspora, that visual mattered.

"I thought he was going to say more"

The morning after, my dad called.

"I thought he was going to say more," he told me, disappointment edging his voice.

I paused before answering. "Why are we looking to Bad Bunny to solve our country's problems?" I asked him.

It's a question I haven't stopped thinking about.

In a political climate thick with anti-immigrant rhetoric, border panic and debates over belonging, some viewers expected a speech. A rebuke. A viral moment of defiance.

But Benito chose something else.

"Joy is resistance"

In the middle of the show, my phone buzzed again. A text from one of my dearest friends:

"Joy is resistance" I reread it three times. Joy is resistance.

In a media ecosystem that often flattens immigrant communities into statistics, threats or crises, joy disrupts the narrative. It refuses victimhood. It refuses shame. It refuses to perform pain for legitimacy.

There is power in protest. There is power in calling out injustice. But there is also power in refusing

to let oppression define the full story.

Performing entirely in Spanish on the most American stage in sports is not apolitical. It is declarative. It is cultural insistence without apology.

Rather than scold America, Benito reminded it of something deeper: that its sound, its rhythm, its flavor have always been multilingual. Joy, in that context, becomes subversive.

Because it says: We are not just surviving here. We are thriving. We are dancing.

Language

I grew up in a multicultural, multilingual household. Spanish was the language of the kitchen, of laughter, of arguments shouted across rooms and apologies whispered afterward. It was music blasting on Saturday mornings while the house was cleaned. It was recipes passed down without measurements.

But outside of home, English was safety. I remember lowering my voice in grocery store aisles when my grandmother spoke Spanish or Hindi too loudly. I remember answering her in English, even when she addressed me in another language, as if I needed to signal something to the people around us. As if fluency in English was proof of belonging.

Assimilation is rarely announced outright. It creeps in quietly — in corrected pronunciations, in shortened names, in the subtle fear of standing out.

On Sunday night, Spanish filled the stadium. Spanish filled the broadcast. Spanish filled my living room. And no one asked for subtitles.

Centering culture and presence

My dad's disappointment still lingers in my mind.

"I thought he was going to say more."

But maybe he did. Not in a speech, not in a slogan, but in presence.

There is a long-standing expectation that artists of color use massive platforms to educate, to correct, to explain injustice in digestible soundbites. And while many have done so powerfully,

that expectation can become its own burden.

Bad Bunny understood something sharper. In a moment where immigrant communities are discussed in tones of fear, scarcity and suspicion, the most radical act may not be confrontation — it may be celebration.

He didn't perform trauma, he didn't center struggle. He centered culture. And culture, when celebrated unapologetically, destabilizes narratives that rely on dehumanization.

When I think of my cultures

When I think of my cultures, I think of dancing.

I think of family spinning each other in crowded living rooms. I think of music that demands movement. I think of laughter that carries across walls. I think of food that takes hours to prepare and seconds to disappear. I think of joy.

That is not the image that dominates headlines right now. Turn on the news, open any social media and you'll hear crisis, threat, influx, burden.

On Sunday, Benito didn't deny hardship. He didn't pretend politics doesn't exist. He simply refused to let them be the only lens through which Latino identity is viewed. He turned the Super Bowl into a dance floor. He turned assimilation on its head. He made Spanish unavoidable, undeniable, untranslatable.

And in doing so, he reminded millions of us that we do not have to shrink to belong.

When I hung up with my dad, I sat for a while thinking about expectations — the weight we place on public figures, the hunger for someone to articulate what we feel.

But maybe articulation isn't always verbal. Maybe sometimes it's a bassline vibrating through a stadium. Maybe sometimes it's 100 million viewers hearing Spanish at full volume. Maybe sometimes resistance looks like a second TV rolled into a living room, Costco snacks disappearing too quickly, phones lighting up across time zones.

Joy is resistance. And on that Sunday night, joy won.

Anusha Singh has watched the halftime show on YouTube at least once a day since Feb. 8.

Does Netflix need to make another Jane Austen adaptation?

Sophia Benito
Reporter

I have no interest in watching Netflix's 2022 adaptation of "Persuasion," which infamously stars Dakota Johnson as the reserved and intelligent Anne Elliot. When it was first released, my online feed was full of outrage at the proliferation of then-trending one-liners throughout the film, the most egregious "He's a 10 but ..." (multiple times, apparently). It appeared so absurdly dated from 2022, mostly through its updated dialogue, (yes, Anne calls herself an empath), that I vowed never to watch it. If the movie were made a year or two later, I would not put it past the creators to describe Captain Wentworth's return as Anne's "Roman Empire."

Modern adaptations often sacrifice the strength of Jane Austen's original language and

storytelling, cutting lines from the novel and adding trendy quips to make it more "interesting" for a modern audience. Language and wit are characteristic of Austen's novels. The way characters interact and develop relationships, subtle conflicts and dalliances with each other through a blend of narrative and clever dialogue. I'm obviously a fan, but there's a reason there continues to be a subtle accumulation of remakes each year. There is no universally acknowledged number of Austen adaptations; there are well over 30, not including the number of reimaginings, like "Clueless" (1995) or "Bridget Jones's Diary" (2001).

Two new adaptations are set to be released in 2026. The first, a Focus Features film adaptation of "Sense and Sensibility" (my favorite Austen novel) starring Daisy Edgar-Jones as Elinor Dashwood. The second is a "Pride and Prejudice" ("P&P") six-part

limited series with Emma Corrin as Elizabeth (Lizzy) Bennet and Jack Lowden taking on the role of Mr. Darcy. It has an interesting and definitely talented cast; however, there's an unease about Netflix's creative decision-making, especially in reference to their last Austen adaptation, the flea-bag mess that was "Persuasion." The screenplay for the new "P&P" series was written by bestselling author Dolly Alderton, known for the 2018 memoir "Everything I Know About Love," which I have not read. It's unclear which direction Alderton will take the adaptation, but regardless I don't understand the point. Why are we getting another adaptation?

There appears to be a longstanding belief in the film industry that every generation needs its own contemporary adaptation. But why? Is "Pride and Prejudice" (2005) for us, even if it was released 20-plus years ago? Despite a considerable

number of re-watches, it never gets old, and the story continues to feel fresh and new. It is, however, not without flaw — there were significant departures from the novel.

For one, the costuming isn't entirely accurate. It's beautiful, yes, but there was an emphasis on cinematic feel over accuracy. The 2005 version had extra scenes and lines that diverge from the original story. "You have bewitched me, body and soul," was written specifically for the film. Another famous line, "I'm half agony, half hope," is taken from Captain Wentworth, from Austen's novel "Persuasion."

Casting choices are not as important as the writing and creative decisions, which ultimately can make or break an adaptation. No adaptation is perfect. There is always some minor detail overlooked or an extra scene added (for better or worse), and neither side will be

happy. The classic 1995 vs. 2005 "Pride and Prejudice" debate. Who is the better Mr. Darcy: Matthew MacFadyen or Colin Firth? Which better encapsulates Darcy's longing desire (and deep-rooted pride) and Elizabeth's obstinate prejudice? I, personally, oscillate between the two.

I do however think it's too early for a "generational" remake of "P&P" and I don't trust Netflix taking on creative control, but it will be different from previous adaptations and have strengths and weaknesses like the previous ones. I understand that for the sake of the plot and continuity, some original language is necessary, but I hope this new Netflix adaptation tries to honor Austen's legacy in a way that "Persuasion" (2022) failed to do.

Sophia Benito, English major and Austenite, does not see the point in continuous Jane Austen movie adaptations.



LA VISTA



La vida no es una carrera... pero todos corremos

Ana Ramirez Cermeno
Escritora para La Vista

No recuerdo exactamente desde cuándo empecé a sentir que iba tarde.

Tarde para decidir qué quería hacer con mi vida.

Tarde para tener claro mi futuro.

Tarde para alcanzar metas que, honestamente, ni siquiera sé si son mías o si solo las estoy persiguiendo porque siento que debería hacerlo.

En algún momento, sin darme cuenta, empecé a compararme.

Y cuando uno se compara con otras personas, casi siempre parece que vamos detrás.

Que no estamos haciendo las cosas bien.

Que estamos fracasando.

Hoy en día vivimos con la sensación constante de que la vida es una carrera.

Que existen metas invisibles que todos conocen, menos nosotros.

Que hay un ritmo correcto, una edad correcta, un camino correcto.

Y si te desvías, si cambias de opinión, si sientes miedo, preocupación o dudas, entonces parece que estás perdiendo.

Lo curioso es que nadie nos da un cronómetro para calcular nuestro tiempo.

Nadie nos entrega un mapa

oficial que sea fácil de seguir.

Sin embargo, todos corremos como si alguien estuviera contando los segundos.

Corremos para terminar nuestros estudios.

Corremos para conseguir oportunidades antes que otros.

Corremos para demostrar que estamos avanzando.

Corremos para no quedarnos atrás.

Y en esa prisa constante, a veces olvidamos preguntarnos algo simple: ¿hacia dónde estoy corriendo y por qué?

Las redes sociales no ayudan muchas veces.

Abrimos una aplicación y vemos anuncios de logros: personas lanzando negocios, viajando por el mundo, comprometiéndose, comprando cosas, "teniendo su vida resuelta".

Es fácil mirar esas imágenes y pensar que todo avanza más rápido que tú, que todos tienen claridad mientras tú apenas estás intentando entenderte.

Pero lo que casi nunca vemos es el proceso.

Las dudas. Los errores. Los cambios de dirección. Las pausas necesarias.

No todos empezamos desde el mismo lugar.

No todos tenemos las mismas oportunidades, los mismos recursos o las mismas circunstancias.

Y aun así, nos medimos con la misma vara.

Yo también he sentido esa presión. La presión de tener un plan perfecto. De no equivocarme. De no perder tiempo. De hacer que cada decisión cuente.

Como si la vida fuera una competencia donde solo gana quien llega primero.

Pero ¿primero a qué?

A veces pienso que la verdadera pérdida no es ir más lento.

Es no disfrutar el camino por estar obsesionados con la meta.

Es tomar decisiones basadas en el miedo a quedarnos atrás, en lugar de en lo que realmente queremos.

La vida no es una carrera.

No hay medallas por terminar antes.

No hay premios por estar más cansados.

No hay trofeos por compararnos constantemente.

Sin embargo, seguimos corriendo.

Quizás porque nos enseñaron que avanzar significa producir. Que descansar es perder tiempo. Que dudar es debilidad.

Pero crecer también implica explorar, equivocarse y cambiar de opinión.

Tal vez ir más despacio no es fracasar. Tal vez es escucharnos.

No todos tenemos que seguir el mismo ritmo.

No todos tenemos que querer

las mismas cosas.

Y no todos vamos a descubrir nuestro camino al mismo tiempo.

Eso no significa que estemos perdidos. Significa que estamos viviendo.

Si hoy sientes que vas atrás, quiero decirte algo que yo misma estoy aprendiendo: no hay un "atraso" cuando el camino es tuyo.

Puedes cambiar de dirección.

Puedes empezar de nuevo.

Puedes tomarte una pausa.

Puedes no tener todas las respuestas.

La vida no es una carrera.

Y tal vez el verdadero acto de valentía no es correr más rápido, sino atrevernos a caminar a nuestro propio ritmo, nunca nos comparemos porque cada uno de nosotros somos únicos.

La vida no se trata de correr, la vida se trata de disfrutar y hacer lo que más nos gusta hacer sin tener que pensar que si estamos fracasando o estamos perdidos.



ANA RAMIREZ CERMEÑO / EL NEXO DIARIO

Un informe recién publicado afirma que una estudiante de primer año de UCSB cayó tres pisos desde una residencia estudiantil

Sofía Benitez
Editora para La Vista

El hombre quien fue visto por última vez con Liz Hamel, la estudiante de UC Santa Bárbara quien falleció tras una caída desde balcón el año pasado, afirmó que la vio treparse a la barandilla de la residencia San Rafael y caer tres pisos, según un informe de la Oficina Forense del Condado de Santa Bárbara obtenido por News-Press.

El 14 de febrero del 2025, Hamel fue encontrada inconsciente fuera de San Rafael con heridas de gravedad.

Siete días después, fue declarada muerta a los 18 años.

El 15 de diciembre, el Departamento de Policía de la Universidad de California por sus siglas en inglés (UCPD) emitió un comunicado señalando que después de una "investigación exhaustiva", habían concluido que fue una "caída accidental".

El artículo de News-Press también mencionó que la portavoz de la oficina del Sheriff del Condado de Santa Bárbara, Raquel Zick, dijo que su oficina

considera "el caso cerrado".

Siguiendo la declaración del UCPD (por sus siglas en inglés), una declaración en conjunto de parte del abogado de la familia Hamel, Tyrone Maho, y el investigador privado Michael Claytor, expresó su desacuerdo con "puede hacerse una conclusión en conexión con la muerte de la señorita Hamel" y que ellos continuarán con su investigación independiente.

La noche del incidente, Hamel fue vista saliendo con un hombre joven en el restaurante Lao Wang en Isla Vista.

Según Maho, ella fue vista con él "por una gran parte de la tarde", y fue vista saliendo de Lao Wang con él. 21 minutos después, fue encontrada inconsciente fuera de la residencia San Rafael.

El nombre del hombre nunca ha sido revelado por las autoridades.

De acuerdo con News-Press, que obtuvo el informe de la oficina del forense, un oficial del UCPD le dijo al investigador forense que la había visto subirse a la barandilla y caerse.

El reporte declaró que

"su muerte no podía ser definitivamente resultado de un accidente, intencional o debido a los actos de un tercero".

Detalles adicionales fueron sacados a la luz del reporte que incluye las unas de los dedos de Hamel viéndose "sucias y dañadas", acompañado un reporte toxicológico que mostraba una concentración de alcohol en la sangre de 0.246.

De acuerdo a una declaración de Maho adquirida por el periodista John Palminteri, Maho reiteró que él considera la investigación de este caso como un "inherente conflicto de interés".

La declaración continuó afirmando que Maho cree que el incidente debe investigarse más a fondo.

"¿Alguien que estuvo con Liz y afirma haber sido simplemente testigo de su caída no llama al 911, sino que huye del lugar?"

Claramente, es necesaria una investigación más profunda y exhaustiva por parte de las autoridades", dice la declaración.

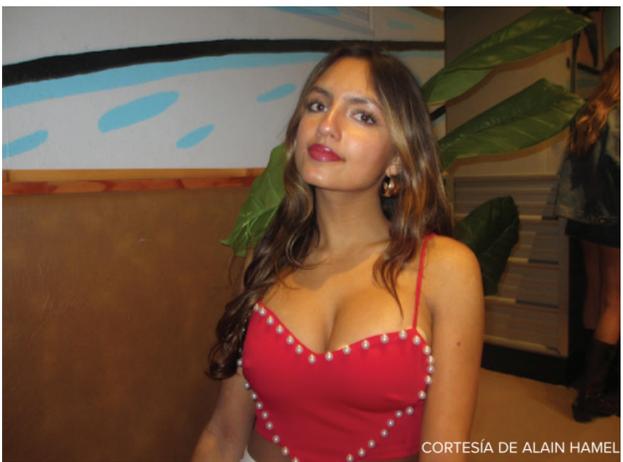
"Como abogado civil, estoy limitado en lo que puedo hacer en

el ámbito civil, y la familia Hamel necesita desesperadamente respuestas".

La declaración de Maho concluyó instando a cualquier persona que conozca al individuo que estuvo por última vez con Hamel a "dar un paso al frente y ayudar a la familia Hamel" comunicándose con Claytor al (805) 335-3851.

El artículo del News-Press también mencionó que la portavoz de la Oficina del Sheriff del Condado de Santa Bárbara, Raquel Zick, dijo que su oficina considera "el caso cerrado".

Una versión de este artículo apareció en la página 5 de la edición del 12 de febrero de 2026 del Daily Nexus



Liz Hamel fotografiada en Lao Wang el 14 de febrero aproximadamente una hora antes de ser encontrada inconsciente afuera de la Residencia San Rafael.

La persona que fui, la que soy y la que quiero ser

Ana Ramirez Cermeno
Escritora para La Vista

Hubo un tiempo en mi vida en el que tenía miedo.

Miedo a intentar algo nuevo, miedo a equivocarme, miedo a perder.

Vivía pensando que era mejor

no arriesgarme para no fallar.

Muchas oportunidades pasaron frente a mí y yo las dejé ir porque el miedo hablaba más fuerte que mis sueños.

Dejé ir muchas de esas oportunidades porque sobre pensaba demasiado: me preguntaba si lo que iba a hacer

saldría bien o no, me hacía miles de preguntas y siento que eso no me dejaba ver más allá.

Ese era el peso que no me permitía abrirme a nuevas experiencias o intentar cosas diferentes.

La persona que fui antes se conformaba con mirar desde lejos, deseando cosas que sentía imposibles.

Caminaba con dudas, con inseguridades, con la sensación constante de que no estaba hecha para grandes cosas.

Ese miedo me detenía... hasta que un día entendí que también me estaba apagando.

Me estaba perdiendo de experiencias que iban a marcar mi vida, historias que algún día quería compartir con mi familia o mis amigos.

Pero hoy soy diferente.

Hoy soy una mujer que sabe lo que quiere, que tiene metas claras y sueños que ya no esconde.

Una mujer que ha logrado cosas que antes no me hubiera atrevido ni a imaginar.

Y lo más importante: soy una mujer orgullosa de sí misma.

Me siento demasiado orgullosa porque ahora puedo decir que he hecho lo que siempre había

querido hacer; porque me siento feliz de que muchas cosas me hayan salido bien; y porque incluso cuando algo no salió como esperaba, hoy puedo decir que me siento en paz, porque lo intenté, y eso jamás me hizo sentir fracasada.

No llegué aquí sola.

Dios me dio fuerza cuando yo creía no tenerla.

Me dio claridad, valor y paz en los momentos en que más lo necesitaba.

Él me enseñó que el miedo no viene de Él, que fui creada para crecer, avanzar y confiar.

Y mi familia... ellos fueron mi sostén, mi impulso y mi hogar.

Con su amor, su apoyo y su fe en mí, pude convertirme en la persona que hoy soy.

Estoy profundamente agradecida con ellos porque siempre están para apoyarme, animarme y para recordarme que nunca debo darme por vencida.

Pero este artículo no es solo sobre mí.

Es para quien lo lea y se sienta como yo me sentía antes: con miedo de empezar, con miedo de perder, con miedo de no ser suficiente.

Quiero decirte algo con todo mi

corazón: no dejes de intentarlo.

No te abandones.

No le entregues tu vida al miedo.

El miedo no desaparece, pero tú puedes aprender a caminar con él sin que te detenga.

Cada sueño que no intentas es una victoria para la duda.

Y cada paso valiente, por pequeño que sea, es una victoria para ti.

La persona que fui demuestra que el miedo puede frenarte.

La persona que soy demuestra que puedes superarlo.

Y la persona que quiero ser demuestra que el futuro es más grande que cualquier temor.

Si yo pude, tú también puedes.

No te conformes con ver la vida desde afuera.

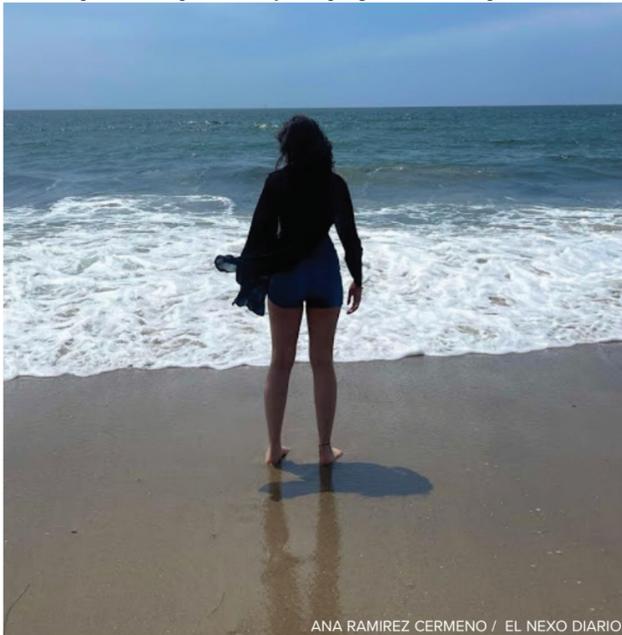
Entrégate, arriesga, sueña, confía.

Porque muchas veces, lo único que está entre tú y tu mejor versión... es el miedo.

Y créeme: no vale la pena dejar que gane.

No dejemos que nuestros miedos o inseguridades nos controlen. Seamos fuertes, demos el paso, confiemos.

El futuro siempre recompensa a quienes se atreven.



ANA RAMIREZ CERMEÑO / EL NEXO DIARIO

ON THE MENU



American supermarkets through the eyes of a Brit



Special shoutout to my favorite American Supermarket: Trader Joe's.

Polly Symes
Reporter

Since arriving in the United States a month and a half ago, one of the most interesting things for me to observe – as someone born and raised in the United Kingdom – has been the differences in how Americans eat. When you guys eat, where you eat, how you cook and, most importantly, where you shop.

The strange thing is that everything feels so familiar here, despite this being my first time in the country.

Born in a small English town called Kettering in 2005, I was raised on American teenagers' YouTube videos of Target hauls and trips to In-N-Out Burger, to the extent that I feel I know these places without ever having visited them.

During my six weeks here, I have (so far) been to four different supermarkets, or as you say here, "grocery stores."

It still pains me to say, "I need groceries" instead of "I need to go on a shop." Having said that, there are some things you "Yanks" are clearly getting right.

Trader Joe's

Yes, this is basic, but Trader Joe's has been my No. 1 grocery store so far.

I went for the first time a couple of days ago and was immediately entranced by the small size of the shop, the vintage labels on everything and the friendly cashiers. In the UK, you're in luck if you get a "hello." At Trader Joe's, you think the employees are making moves on you (turns out they are paid to be friendly). Also, there are no stressful conveyor belts when you go to pay, just simple wooden tables.

In the meat section, all the different types of ham had pieces of advice on how to prepare them. For example, the prosciutto said, "try on a

charcuterie board" and the mortadella said, "enjoy in a focaccia sandwich."

Also, they had a tasting section – I got to try a cheesy cracker ... for free!

So, I am officially a Trader Joe's superfan and am contemplating buying the tote bag (but I'm trying to resist).

P.S. They had crumpets.

P.P.S. Is an English cucumber not just a cucumber?

Albertsons

Before my discovery of Trader Joe's, Albertsons was my No. 1 supermarket.

It feels like the American version of Lidl: not big enough to be overwhelming, each aisle is labeled and everything is on sale. That being said, when everything is on sale, it does feel like nothing is on sale; somehow, I still managed to spend £70 on one week's food shop (just under \$100) – the California cost of living crisis is very real.

Target

On the day that I first arrived in Santa Barbara, it was pouring with rain.

I had no bedding to put on my bunk bed and knew approximately zero people at UC Santa Barbara.

The first place I could think of to buy bedding was Target, so I Google Maps-ed my way to the bus stop, drew stick figures on the condensation-laden windows on the bus and thought about all the "back-to-school Target haul" videos I had consumed in my adolescent years.

To get to the shop from the bus-stop required crossing a road. It was my first time crossing an American road and I couldn't see the pedestrian area, so I just sprinted through all the honking traffic.

Once (mostly) safe on the other side, I took a tourist photo of the Target logo just as a rainbow was appearing in the sky.

Don't get me wrong, Target is a fascinating place.

It is simultaneously a

supermarket, pharmacy, clothes shop, homeware shop, electronics shop and beauty shop. Have I missed anything?

While, on Jan. 4, having a one-stop-shop was exactly what I needed, I've since come to find it somewhat overwhelming. Looking for one thing becomes a quest into Narnia.

Also, stocking everything means that very little of everything is stocked. Get it?

Costco

Coming in last place is Costco.

This is not because I don't see that this supermarket would be amazing for families. When there were six members of my family stuck in our home for six months during lockdown, we really could have done with a Costco.

Think of Costco as a shop with IKEA dimensions but for food. Everything is jumbo sized: you can get jars of mayonnaise the size of your torso and bags of rice the size of a person.

My favorite things were the free samples and the hot dog and drink for \$1.50 (I think I have eaten more fast food here in six weeks than I have in 20 years of being in the UK).

However, I won't be going again, as when you are only shopping for one or two people, it becomes impossible to buy anything (unless you are stocking up for a nuclear attack).

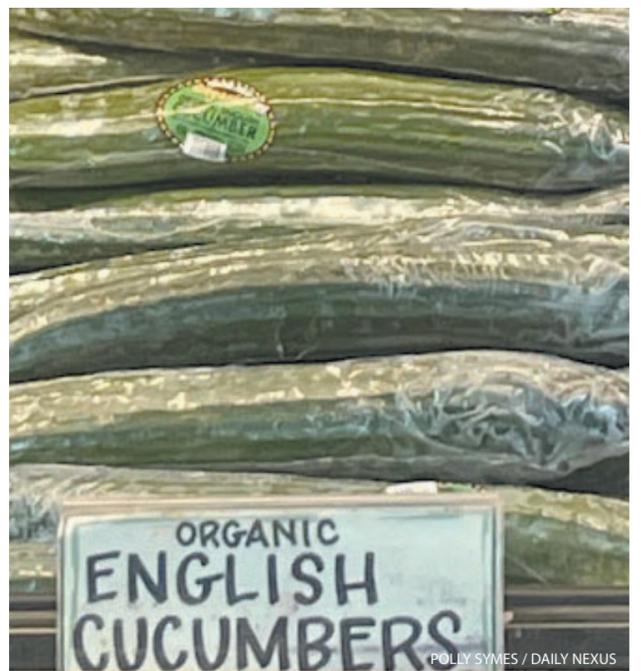
Plus, I couldn't find bok choy. Boo.

Final Remarks ...

To round off, my ritual of trying a new supermarket most weekends has been an immensely amusing experience.

I love taking my silly little photos outside of each establishment, and the way the cashiers never quite understand what I am saying.

Thank you to my kind flatmates Nakaylah and Linnea for driving me to all these places.



Still unsure of what Trader Joe's means by "English cucumbers".



As a single college student, Costco did not live up to the hype.

My visit to Sweet Hustle: new bakery in Isla Vista perfect for late nights

Isabel Laezman
Reporter

Sweet Hustle, a bakery specializing in cookies, opened in Isla Vista in early November of last year. It is advantageously located on the 65 block of Trigo Road, across from I.V. Theater. Though Sweet Hustle was originally just a cookie shop, they have recently expanded their menu to include cheesecake, brownies and other tempting desserts, in addition to their wide variety of cookies. After hearing much praise about Sweet Hustle, my friend and I took the opportunity to try it whilst taking a break from a late-night study session, thanks to Sweet Hustle's later hours.

Upon walking in, I was greeted by a clean environment, wherein you can even see some of the food being made behind the

counter. The employees were very friendly and are available to take your order or answer any questions you may end up having. The menu consists of a variety of cookie flavors, ranging from classic flavors such as chocolate chip to more unique flavors like white chocolate raspberry. In addition to the many different cookie options, the menu also includes cakes, cheesecakes and bars, which all come in a variety of flavors. The menu is also inclusive of customers with special dietary needs, and includes vegan, gluten-free or dairy-free cookies.

After much consideration, we opted to pick from one of the bundle options, which offers a combination of either two or three different items at a reduced price. The bundle we picked came with a chocolate chunk brownie and a chocolate chunk manifesto cookie.

Both desserts were very rich and flavorful. The manifesto cookie was a good mix of sweet and savory, since it came with pretzels inside. However, my personal favorite out of the two was the brownie, as it was very moist and chocolatey. My friend and I were impressed with the portion sizes of both desserts; despite their reasonable price, both were large enough to split between two people and still enjoy a good amount.

Sweet Hustle is not just a good place for desserts, it is also unique in the way that it caters to pop culture and student life. Upon entering, it is evident that Sweet Hustle adopted the theme of hip-hop music for their business. The walls are lined with artwork containing music related imagery, such as headphones, speakers, records or portraits of different well-known music artists.

Additionally, according to their website, Sweet Hustle operates from 4 p.m. - 12:30 a.m. on Friday and Saturday, Sunday 4 p.m. - 12:00 a.m. and 4 p.m.-11 p.m. the rest of the week. These later hours combined with its location in I.V., only a short walk from campus, make Sweet Hustle a prime spot

for college students who are studying late into the night or those who are looking for a sweet snack after a night out.

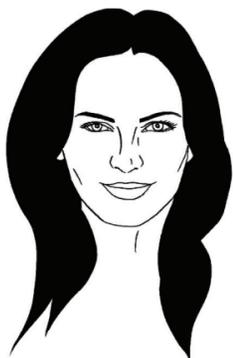
Overall, my first experience with Sweet Hustle was good, and I would recommend it to anybody who enjoys a late-night sweet treat.



Their S'mores cookie is a customer favorite.

COLUMNISTS

sex and the community



JULIET BECKER / DAILY NEXUS

Diana Paradise
Sexpert

At the risk of sounding cliché, this story begins at a Parisian café, where I sat with a man over a bottle of white and a pack of cigarettes. Our second date was going quite well until the dreaded topic arose: sexual past.

When he asked me my “body count” (God, I hate that term), I said my favorite response: “Guess.” I should have known that I was in trouble when he overestimated the number of people I’d slept with by over double the real number. I asked him the same question.

“Actually, I don’t know — but I think 120 something,” he responded. My eyes nearly fell out of my head. 120 something? I don’t even think I could name 120 people whose company I’ve remotely enjoyed.

I was shocked, and — for the sake of not becoming number 130 — immediately decided not to sleep with him. But then, I started to ponder why I made this decision.

Why was I so bothered by this number? I’m a sex-positive person (duh) who believes in unserious hookups, exploration and the abolition of purity culture. I had always thought to myself that body count didn’t matter to me — and I haven’t exactly been the Virgin Mary,

Body counts: *Relic of purity culture or necessary warning?*

either.

Is there such a thing as sleeping with “too many” people? What is the “right” amount of people to sleep with? What’s the wrong number?

First of all, there are many conditions that affect how one’s “body count” is perceived. The most obvious may be gender. In our little Isla Vista bubble, overt misogyny is certainly prevalent. I can’t tell you how many times I’ve heard girls who’ve slept with fewer people than I called “hoes,” “bops” and my personal favorite, “ferda.”

However, many young men’s double standards for women manifest in a more Madonna-whore-esque framework. In a college dating context, men don’t consciously sort women based on the “Madonna” or “whore” criteria — that’s the point. Instead, they view women who they know have slept around as “not serious” or “not wife material” by default. Yet, they will still sleep with her.

Both the “Madonna” and the “whore” are punished in this scenario, with neither finding love or respect. Women are either hoers or prudes, and almost any body count seems to be the “wrong” one in this scenario.

The second factor to consider is one’s age. The only reason that Mr. 120-something’s body count made any kind of sense is because he was over 10 years my senior (a topic for another day).

I can’t speak to the entire experience that is one’s twenties; but, as I don’t plan on settling down anytime soon and I hope to continue my worldwide exploration of sex, my body count likely won’t be countable on two hands by the time I’m that guy’s age.

So, should I pass judgement upon someone who I could one day become? I mean, if you divide 120 people by (let’s say) 15 years of sexual activity, that doesn’t exactly add up to jumping into bed with a different person every night.

The third factor at play is what “counts” as a body. I’ve had “one night stands” where nobody had an orgasm, it lasted 20 seconds or something went wrong that I choose not to remember. Do these count?

Part of why we presumably care about our partners’ body counts are because of the intimacy that sex brings. Yet, if you and someone give each other head and spend the night cuddling naked together, that “technically” isn’t a body — but it’s practically as intimate and meaningful as sex.

Also, five random hookups with different people across the span of a year is certainly less intimate and sexual than a long-term relationship over the same time span — yet, five random bodies is “worse.” Someone who has received head from 20 different people can have the same body count as someone who has never had

their first kiss, but their sexual experiences are vastly different.

Some believe that your body count resets at the new year. Some believe it can be whatever you want it to be. Even if you’re not satisfied with the number of people you’ve slept with, what’s stopping you from just lying about it?

In the same cadence as a tree falling in the forest without anyone watching: If you have meaningless sex that you never tell anyone about, does it really matter?

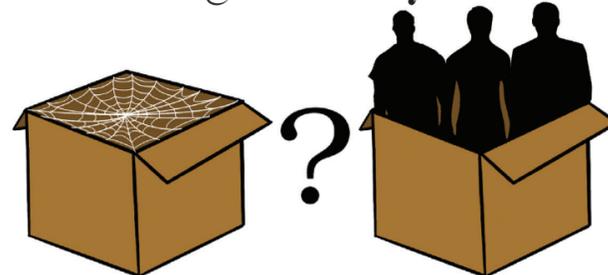
I hereby coin the term “Schrödinger’s body count”: your body count is some strange amalgamation of all of your sexual experiences that only materializes when you verbalize it. Your number of bodies is different before you say it, but you saying it is what makes it real.

really need to be honest with our partners about how many people we’ve slept with? What is the point in even lying about it?

Personally, I’ve never lied about my body count. However, I think that it would be difficult to lie about being a more wholesome and perfect virgin girl, only for a guy to be into that whole thing. Hundreds of years ago, when my body count was actually low, a few too many men were interested in that fact. At least I was telling the truth.

I think that the best way to handle the topic of body counts is to avoid talking about them. I mean, has anything good ever come from that conversation? It’s one thing to talk about it with a partner with whom you’re considering getting serious, but otherwise, keep it a mystery. Besides, I think it’s sexy to pretend you and your random

Schrödinger’s body count



JULIET BECKER / DAILY NEXUS

To invoke the topic of my first installment, the only people from my sexual past that affect my daily life are the ones that I have to see. My “I.V. body count” is three, because I’ve only slept with three guys here that I run into out and about. My “abroad” body count is zero because they don’t have the same “counting” culture there: every person was an experience!

This is where we run into the issue of honesty. Do we

hookup are the only two people you’ve ever been with.

Most of all, do not let your body count define you in the strange culture in which we live that is somehow at the intersection of hookup and purity culture. Your future spouse shouldn’t care about your past and, if they’re your sexual equal, their number won’t be far off.

Diana Paradise’s body count is zero ;)

What we keep wearing:

Arna Churiwala
Fashionista

Lately, campus has been noisier than usual, and not just because of daye season or the release of midterm grades.

You hear it before you see it. The soft clink of metal during a lecture. The subtle clash of stacked cuffs when someone pushes their sleeve up to check the time. Sculptural gold and silver flashing under fluorescent classroom lights. Jewelry that doesn’t sit quietly.

The bangle is back — and it’s louder than ever.

On campus, the vibe sits somewhere between boho revival and early-2000s pop star maximalism. One girl might layer chunky silver cuffs over a long-sleeve black top. Someone else stacks thin bangles up their arm like they’re headed to a wedding, instead of section.

Chunky wristwear has a way of elevating even the simplest outfit. A plain white tank and jeans can suddenly feel sophisticated and intentional with a thick sculptural cuff. A monochrome look becomes architectural when paired with stacked metal. It’s minimal effort, but maximum impact.

But bangles didn’t begin as an accessory trend cycle.

For centuries, bangles have held cultural and ceremonial weight, particularly across

South Asia. Gold wasn’t just decorative, but instead symbolized prosperity, celebration and family. Bangles were worn daily, stacked for weddings, gifted and inherited. They made sound and signaled arrival.

Over time, Western fashion flattened that context. By the 1970s and ‘80s, “bohemian” style borrowed heavily from South Asian traditions, reframing ornate bangles through a Western lens as “exotic” embellishment. Sacred or ceremonial pieces became shorthand for “hippie,” stripped of context and repackaged as carefree Western aesthetic. What had once marked ritual and identity became aesthetic mood board material.

Still, the silhouette endured, reshaped by each decade that adopted it.

In the 1930s and ‘40s, bangles took on a new life in the form of Bakelite. One of the earliest synthetic plastics, Bakelite allowed jewelry to be bold, colorful and affordable. Thick, carved bangles in marbled butterscotch and deep jewel tones became staples of Art Deco glamour. Unlike gold, Bakelite was industrial, modern and distinctly twentieth century.

The 2000s revived it in a different way: metallic cuffs, armfuls of acrylic bangles, dramatic sparkle. Think early-2000s Beyoncé, metal flashing on her wrists during the Destiny’s Child era. Paparazzi-era Britney Spears stacked bangles with low-rise denim and oversized sunglasses. The wrist was carefully choreographed. It caught stage lights and camera flashes, completing the look.

Now, high fashion has refined

“Boho” bangles

the bangle once again.

At Alaïa’s Fall 2022 presentation, the opening look was striking: a sleek, long-sleeve black turtleneck, amplified by four sculptural metal cuffs stacked tightly on one arm. The clothing was quiet and restrained, while the wristwear made a statement.

In their Spring 2024 collection, Carolina Herrera accented black evening separates with hypnotizing gold bangles, doubled and deliberate against clean silhouettes. And at Chloé, cuffs molded into the shape of calla lily petals complemented ruched dresses, turning wrists into focal points. Many models sported asymmetrical stacks, creating an intentional imbalance.

Off the runway, resin and acrylic have become an affordable version of the trend.

Thick, translucent bangles in amber, cherry red, milky white. Glossy plastic cuffs stacked to complement simple flowy dresses. Jelly-like finishes that feel pulled straight from a 2000s mall accessory store. Unlike solid metallics, resin feels playful and accessible. It can be thrifted, swapped with a roommate or impulse-bought before a night out.

In many ways, the current resin trend echoes Bakelite’s earlier promise: boldness without exclusivity.

The modern bangle, whether metal or acrylic, feels different from its past. It’s sleeker and almost minimalist. Even when it’s chunky or colorful, these bracelets seem intentional

rather than effortless. Less jangling excess, more architectural precision.

Fashion icons have embraced this shift. At the 2022 Vanity Fair Oscars afterparty, Hailey Bieber sported thick stacks of golden cuffs and bracelets on both wrists. Zara Larsson fully embraces maximalist stacks, often incorporating resin bangles into fun Y2K-inspired looks. Models like Elsa Hosk pair flowy bohemian outfits with heavy cuff stacks, blurring lines between vintage and modern polish.

What makes bangles especially compelling on campus is that they’re impossible to ignore.

Unlike dainty chain necklaces or tiny gold studs, bangles announce themselves. Every movement becomes audible. Every raised hand, every sip of coffee, every page turned in lecture carries a soft metallic echo or a hollow acrylic knock. Sound becomes part of the fashion.

There’s something powerful about that, especially in spaces where young women are constantly negotiating visibility. Bangles take up space. They make presence tangible.

Yet, they can also be deeply personal.

For some, stacking gold feels nostalgic and cultural — reminiscent of mothers, aunts, weddings and family. For others, it’s purely aesthetic: resin against knitwear, sculptural silver over a long sleeve, shiny red plastic against denim. You can go full maximalist, layering

JULIET BECKER / DAILY NEXUS



up your forearm or keep it sleek with a single oversized cuff.

Mix metals intentionally. Alternate chunky silver and gold with a monochrome black outfit. Let something shiny peek out from under a hoodie sleeve. Wear one twisty upper-arm cuff with a slip skirt and sneakers. Chunky wristwear can turn a basic campus outfit into something composed.

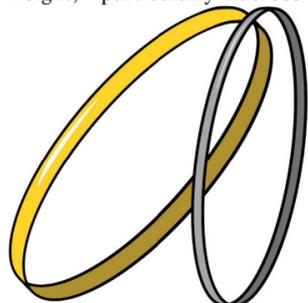
In an era dominated by minimalist hoops and layers of delicate gold chains, the return of the bangle feels almost subversive.

And yet at the same time, while Western fashion treats the bangle as something to rediscover every few decades, it has never disappeared from South Asian life. Across the diaspora, bangles have remained a daily essential for millions of women for generations.

Whether inspired by Desi wedding stacks, 2000s pop-star spectacle or runway refinement, bangles continue to evolve without disappearing. They’ve been ceremonial, bohemian, maximalist, sculptural, plastic and precious. They’ve been borrowed, reframed and reimagined.

Still, we keep wearing them. Because sometimes fashion isn’t about blending in. Sometimes it’s about making a little noise.

Arna Churiwala thinks that jewelry should never sit quietly.



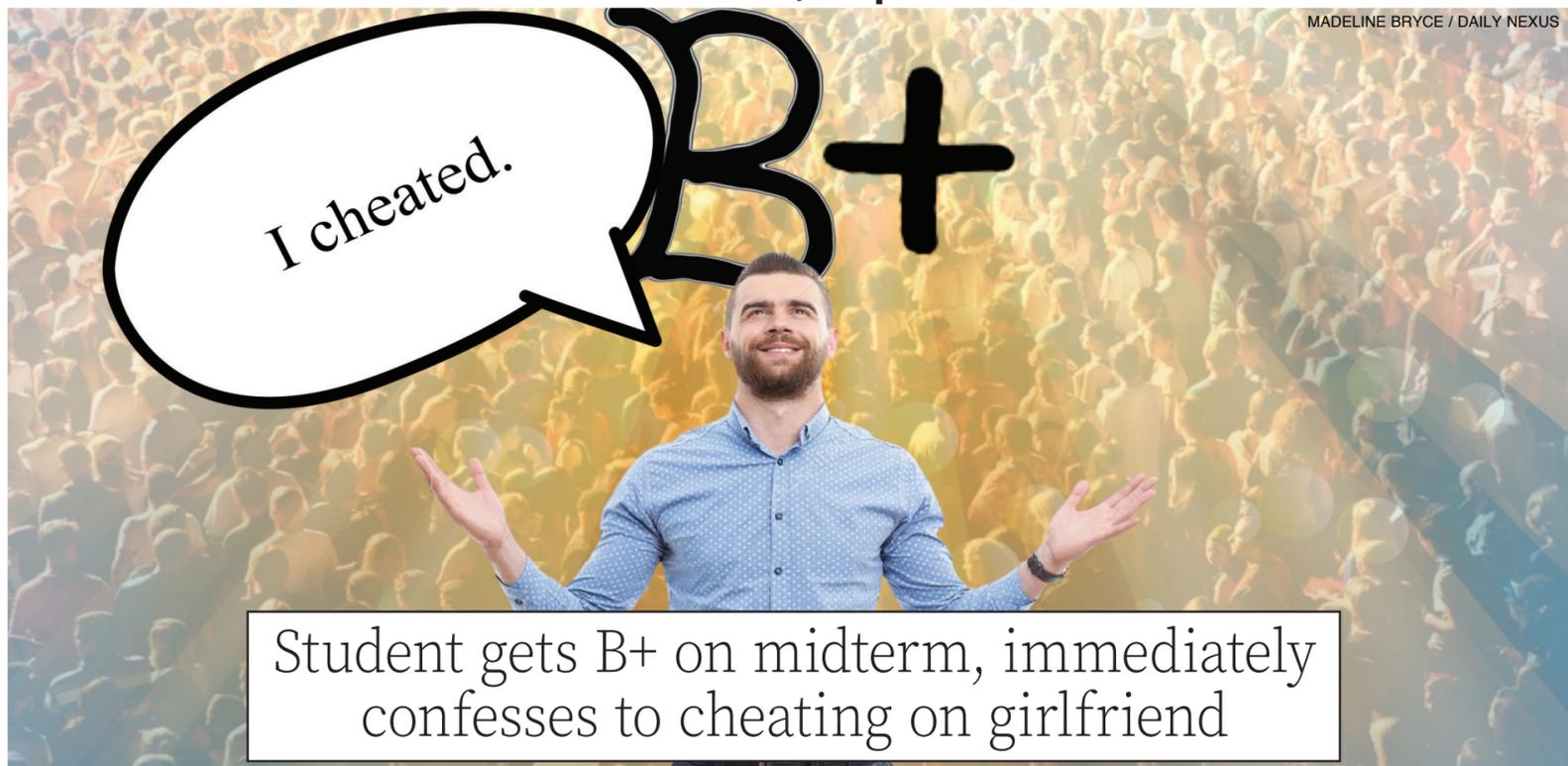
JULIET BECKER / DAILY NEXUS



NEXUSTENTIALISM

It's Satire, Stupid.

MADELINE BRYCE / DAILY NEXUS



Student gets B+ on midterm, immediately confesses to cheating on girlfriend

Ivanna Doomscroll
Honest

In an incident that has left life science students shaken to their core and the rest of the student body virtually unsurprised, a student interrupted an EEMB 2 lecture on Monday to make an unexpected, jarring confession.

"I cheated on my girlfriend," the student, second-year biology major Stanley Holm Longshot, announced to the shocked silence of his peers. "I'm so, so sorry. Please take me back, babe."

According to other students in the class, midterm scores had been released the night prior. The professor was conducting a

discussion on common errors, interrupted only by the occasional sob from an overwhelmed pre-med.

Video footage that has since recirculated multiple times reveals that Longshot then walked to the front of the lecture and began to deliver his speech.

In the footage, he is seen striding to the front of the room and grabbing the lectern with both hands, pushing the professor out of the way. He then proceeded to speak on his undying love for his ex-girlfriend and claimed that he had already informed her of his behavior. He finished out the spectacle by falling to his knees

and performing a rendition of "Homewrecker" by Sombr, only to be drowned out by his classmates' booing.

Luckily, Longshot responded to Nexustentialism's request for comment, citing his need to "tell his side of the story" and make up for extreme levels of "aura loss."

"Midterms are, like, the Olympics of Big Bio," Longshot explained, referring to the class by its colloquial name. "I thought I'd failed, so when I realized I got a B+, I dunno, I felt like I had to use that platform and that power to make things right again."

Shunned by his peers, parents and mentors, Longshot turned

to his only remaining source of support: ChatGPT. Longshot provided a transcript of the conversation.

"You are not alone. You are not broken," the chatbot stated. "You confessed in front of a crowded lecture — that proves you care. That proves that you're an empath. And honestly? That's icon behavior."

Biology department advisor Anna Tommé also commented.

"At first, I thought it was just a piece of performance art to protest infidelity," she said. "Imagine my surprise when I found out it was actually real. I can say with confidence that this will negatively

impact his ability to get into medical school."

Although Nexustentialism was unable to confirm the identity of Longshot's ex-girlfriend, Yik Yak users report that her Instagram story deviated greatly from its usual content. "In my revenge era," reads a screenshot, presumably from her page, on a post with 800 upvotes.

When asked about what he wants his ex to know, Longshot sighed. "I love you so much," he said. "I only confessed because I care."

Ivanna Doomscroll will bring popcorn to her next lecture.



NICOLAS BROWN-CORRADA / DAILY NEXUS



JULIET BECKER / DAILY NEXUS

ASPB announces Deltopia alternative event: Bouncy house

Joseph R. Biden
Bouncy

The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors voted to impose a 72-hour noise ordinance the weekend of Deltopia, the — formerly — largest annual college party in the country. After backlash from students, UC Santa Barbara promised to provide an "alternate event" to provide disappointed Deltopia-goers with a fun weekend, regardless.

The Associated Students Program Board (ASPB) announced via an Instagram post this last Friday that the alternative event will be "even better" than Deltopia. It will reportedly feature a bouncy house, an open soda bar and even an entire Costco sheet cake.

According to the Canva graphic posted on ASPB's Instagram account, "Bouncetopia" will take place in the I.V. Deli Mart parking lot the Saturday following Week 1 of spring quarter. In observance of the county noise ordinance, the event will not allow music or outside voices.

ASPB Director and fourth-year environmental studies major Alana Weenis boasted about the hard work that went into planning such a riot.

"Bouncetopia wasn't built in a day. Planning this took minutes of deliberation, dozens of dollars and a whopping six phone calls to businesses in the area," Weenis said. "Deltopia is a hard

act to follow, and I think we're gonna nail it."

Some students were flabbergasted by the magnitude of Bouncetopia and had a hard time believing that UCSB would provide them with such an extravagant event.

"I didn't even really care about Deltopia that much, but now that it's Bouncetopia, I'm so fucking excited. I mean, a whole Costco cake is insane! I'm gonna get such a sugar high at the soda bar," second-year film and media studies major Charlie Chen said.

A significant feature of Deltopia was visitors from other schools coming to UCSB to party. Bouncetopia predicts similar results.

"I'm trying to get as many people as possible together to split a hotel room for Bouncetopia," San Diego State University second-year student Jake Jack said. "I wasn't even gonna go to Deltopia, but this has really kicked things up a notch. Everyone in San Diego is trying to go."

With the rising hype for Bouncetopia, ASPB is reportedly planning to include even more amenities in its event of the year. Rumors have begun circulating of a temporary tattoo station, one (1) free taco per attendee and a raffle for one free hour of kayak rentals.

Joseph R. Biden will reportedly make an appearance at Bouncetopia.

Inspired! Frat boy shoves his dirty fingers in my mouth

Don Juan Tenorio
Wet

Last weekend in Isla Vista was like a movie. And by movie I mean "Wuthering Heights" (2026).

It started as most of my nights do. I was sitting by my window, silently projecting my bodice-ripper fantasies onto innocent passersby. But this weekend was different. Emerald Fennell's adaptation of Emily Brontë's 1847 classic "Wuthering Heights" had hit the streets.

The men of Isla Vista stood no chance.

At once, I set out to find my very own Heathcliff. Roaming Del Playa Drive, I closed my eyes and imagined the filth-lined streets of 19th-century Liverpool; then, I realized DP looks like that anyway.

Quickly, a man stood out to me. He was the spitting image of the Heathcliff I had always imagined: a tall frat guy with blue eyes, blond hair and a 2021 Cooper Kupp jersey.

I knew then that we were destined to be. I would be his Cathy and he would be my Heathcliff. In his arms I'd be safe, and my every need would be met, just like in the novel.

Now, dear readers, you might be tempted to ask: what about Heathcliff's racial ambiguity? The lifetime of abuse he suffers as a result of the rigid British class system? The violent acts he commits as a result?

To that I say: What are you even talking about lol?? Like uhh I'm trying to get my rocks off here idrc about that weird stuff. Lowkey, I like the movie more anyway because Jacob Elordi and Margot Robbie are

wayyyy hotter. Like fuck let a girl fantasize.

Anyway, back to my Heathcliff. He took me to his remote manor on the blustery English moors (the chapter house on Embarcadero). Together we shared a beautiful night of passion. I could taste the Cool Mint Zyn and stale beer on his breath and fingers. The northern mists that crept through the windows refreshed us as we unwound, and in the morning the servants (pledges) prepared us a lovely feast of ramen and burnt eggs. I had never felt so fulfilled.

There are Heathcliffs everywhere for those with eyes to see them. So, if you need to live out your gothic fantasies, go find a frat house.

Don Juan Tenorio is waiting at your window, and it's cold.

JULIET BECKER / DAILY NEXUS

5k 100cm race
help us raise money to buy cocaine
2/29 @ 2:30 a.m.
business sexual attire
pls we r pore n ran out of blow

ARTSWEEK



What are your professors listening to?

Maya Schwartz
Staff Writer

Your history professor blasts RuPaul on their commute to work at the Interactive Learning Pavillion, your biology professor is an ex-raver who dances at her standing desk in the Life Sciences Building and your environmental studies professor is DJing a book launch party in March.

Steps away from campus, music similarly coats Isla Vista, seeping into the cracks of Isla Vista Theater and flowing out with the tide at Devereux Beach, a centerpiece in our lovely college town by the ocean. While we as students hear the sounds of UC Santa Barbara each day, the soundtrack that guides our professors' lives often goes unheard. So, what do our professors listen to?

As a UCSB history professor and avid pop listener, Jarett Henderson lives to a constant soundtrack of pure fun.

"Oh, God, I always have music on," he said.

In all facets, in almost every setting, music is a humming throughline in Henderson's vibrant, bustling life. Heading into Henderson's office, Britney Spears and Serena Ryder's melodic pop could be heard drifting all the way through the history wing of the Humanities and Social Sciences Building.

"You walked in my office and it was on, right? It's just on, at the gym, it's on here, it's on just hanging at home," Henderson said.

Growing up in a town in Manitoba, Canada, music has fueled Henderson's Canadian pride. Moving to the United States with his partner to teach at UCSB, Henderson finds himself reaching for Canadian pop classics now more than ever.

"My No. 1 rock was Tate McRae, like good old Canadian content. I felt this sort of soulmate, kindredness with her," he said.

Henderson's Canadian favorites go beyond just pop however, spanning from the Stars' rock classics to the queen of power ballads, Celine Dion.

In general, the name of the music game for Henderson is unadulterated enjoyment.

"For me, music is just fun. I spend a lot of time in my life intellectualizing things, and I like my music like I like my TV, kind of fun and easy to enjoy and doesn't require a lot of

thinking," Henderson said.

For environmental studies professor and climate activist David Pellow, music represents childhood wonder and a sense of calm. For him, music was formative in his childhood.

"My dad would always be playing music on an old stereo in the living room when I was a kid. I'm totally a reggae fan, and that's because of him," he recalled.

Pellow's best friend in college, a huge Peter Tosh and Bob Marley enthusiast, was ecstatic when he found out that reggae was the sound of Pellow's childhood.

"He just flipped out. He goes, 'Your dad's into this? He's so cool.' So that gave me a reevaluation, a reappraisal of my dad's level of coolness and the music that he played," Pellow said.

Aside from the nostalgic dad music of his childhood, Pellow loves an array of genres and artists spanning from Vivaldi's classical "The Four Seasons" to Alexandra Stan's "Mr. Saxobeat."

While his taste is wide and expansive, when prepping for lectures or doing research, Pellow is a "total monk." He's tried studying in cafes or listening to light synths in the background, but inevitably just "can't do it."

While he usually does work in dead silence, in general, listening to music is a place to relax and reflect for him. His favorite song at the moment isn't even a song at all — it's a Buddhist meditation chant.

"So O, M, then the next word is T, A, R, E, and they do such a great job. Just mellow out meditation. Put me on an even keel. Om tare, amazing," Pellow said.

With a combination of nostalgia and calm, dance tunes and piano, Pellow may just put you on to your new favorite classic, or even a meditation subliminal.

In stark contrast, ecology, evolution, and marine biology professor Jackie Shay listens to music to gain a sense of the collective, a space to move, shake it out and reset.

"Dancing and movement and embodying music is the thing that grounds me, it's the thing that I always come back to when I need a mental health

reset. I have a standing desk, and I'll put my desk up and just start dancing and grooving in my office," she said.

For Shay, her rich experiences with music were heightened during her time in the Peace Corps.

"The Peace Corps was such an isolating, lonely, long experience. And music was the thing that was my friend. And so I would dance, I would put on these Bose headphones and I would go up to the roof of the building of this little cement house that I was living in, and I would just dance in the middle of the night on this roof under the stars, for hours up there, sweating," Shay said.

In those Bose headphones of hers, she was often listening to a combination of all forms of EDM music, jungle, dubstep and trance house.

While Shay, like many of us, finds solitude and comfort in dancing to her favorite songs alone, she also loves the sense of a collective that music festivals bring.

"I was a raver back in the day, and I love going to music festivals. I love the energy. I love the shared community values; people at a music festival feel like a big, giant family. It's absolutely helped me restore my faith and sense of humanity," she said.

Shay's experiences reflect many of ours — music as a companion in the loneliest of places and a community in the most connected ones.

Whatever your reason for music, for the soundtrack that guides your day, music has an unparalleled ability to bend boundaries and bind us together. The next time you walk into a lecture hall,

just know your professor was likely blasting their playlist on the way there, and honestly, it might just have been better than yours.

Jarett Henderson's playlist

"Circle of the Sun" — Serena Ryder

"Toxic" — Britney Spears

"Fishin' in the Dark" — Nitty Gritty Dirt Band

"How Bad Do U Want Me" — Lady Gaga

"Diet Pepsi" — Addison Rae

David Pellow's playlist

"Believe" — Cher

"One Love" — Bob Marley

"Mr. Saxobeat" — Alexandra Stan

"Hold On, I'm Comin'" — Sam & Dave

"The Four Seasons" — Antonio Vivaldi

Om Tare — Buddhist chant/song

Jackie Shay's playlist

"When I Grow Up (Bassnectar Remix)" — Fever Ray

"I Remember" — Kaskade and deadmau5

"Window Seat" — Bassnectar

"Bloom" — Know Good and INDIETHUG\$

"Echoes" — Pink Floyd

"Children" — Robert Miles



(L to R): Professors Jarett Henderson, David Pellow and Jackie Shay shared their playlists.

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