



# SOLTOPIA

## SEES LARGE POLICE PRESENCE, TEPID TURNOUT

Jack Dindia  
Lead News Editor

During the initial planning stages of “Soltopia,” the Isla Vista Community Services District envisioned a multi-zone event across Isla Vista featuring live music, art, safety resources and free food. They also planned for a decreased police presence, verbally promised by Isla Vista Foot Patrol. The result was “Soltopia,” which conceptually matched the original vision for the festival, although there was a noticeable police presence.

In January, the Santa Barbara County (SBC) Board of Supervisors passed a 72-hour noise ordinance that effectively canceled Deltopia, the annual unsanctioned street festival, which saw an estimated 25,000 people last year. The event has historically strained law enforcement and medical resources with last year resulting in 84 arrests, 485 citations, 130 medical calls and 300 deputies and officers.

The noise ordinance prohibited any amplified music beyond a residential or commercial property line. An amendment was made to

the initial ordinance, allowing Isla Vista Community Services District (IVCSD) to host an alternative sanctioned event. IVCSD members asked law enforcement to remain outside of the festival since a large police presence was a point of contention for several community members during town halls.

“Soltopia,” held on April 4 from 12-6 p.m., was held across multiple sections between Embarcadero del Mar and Embarcadero del Norte, and was estimated to have 12,000 attendees. IVCSD distributed all 8,000 wristbands the week prior, which gave attendees special perks, such as free food and the ability to skip lines. Additionally, 0 arrests or citations were issued on festival grounds, according to IVCSD Community Programs and Engagement Director Myah Mashhadialireza.

The total funding for the festival was \$280,000 – half of which came from IVCSD’s existing Spring festival budget and the other from UC Santa Barbara’s Associated Students Program Board. The festival featured a variety of venues showcasing local artists, including Katy Plane, Dislocated and Big Hungry. It also had 11 different vendors offering free food for

wristband holders, a 21+ beer garden, with proceeds funding the nonprofit organization Standing Together to End Sexual Assault and three medical tents.

Mashhadialireza was the primary organizer of the festival, and emphasized that a festival at this scale would typically need “at least six to 12 months of planning” compared to the three months IVCSD was given to prepare after the passing of the noise ordinance. They initially gathered community input through different town halls, which made it clear to Mashhadialireza to focus on local artists and businesses, while still being able to embrace standard Deltopia traditions.

“People wanted music. They wanted to support their local artists. They wanted to dance with their friends in

the sunshine, and they wanted to be together. They wanted that community and that autonomy to be able to facilitate that on their own,” Mashhadialireza said.

Mashhadialireza was supported by 13 different event leads, most of whom were students, who helped guide the creative direction of the festival. She said given the unforeseen circumstances of the festival, she “could not be more proud of them.”

Participants shared positive reactions towards the variety of musical performances. Third-year biopsychology major Colin King said the bands were “playing some really cool music.” Additionally, third-year English major Cassie Giner-Martin described seeing live music as the “highlight” of the festival.

“I went to Birchwood with my friends, which was the

one thing I was like, ‘We’re all gonna meet here,’ and it was super fun and great and a good time. And I saw a couple other bands too,” Giner-Martin said. “I think that just being with all my friends was the highlight.”

Ethan Stuman, a third-year cellular biology major, said he enjoyed Soltopia because it offered a more organized structure compared to Deltopia.

“I think it’s cool the community’s putting in some effort to organize a safer approach to Deltopia, despite the downsides,” Stuman said. “There’s a central gathering right now, whereas previously it was just a stream, which was awesome seeing everyone celebrating, but having a centralized point is pretty cool.”

Multiple vendors sold out of food during the



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# DISMANTLING DELTOPIA

Levi Kauffman  
County News Editor

The typical jam-packed streets, loud music and hundreds of citations seen at Deltopia celebrations in years past were noticeably absent from Del Playa Drive on April 4. Instead, 300 law enforcement officers from across California helped enforce the Isla Vista Foot Patrol’s 72-hour noise ordinance, resulting in an over 90% decrease in medical calls, citations and arrests.

In January, the Santa Barbara County (SBC) Board of Supervisors unanimously adopted Isla Vista Foot Patrol’s (IVFP) proposed ordinance banning amplified music during the first weekend of spring quarter. IVFP employed the same number of officers as last year to enforce the ordinance during the weekend in case crowds remained the same.

Deltopia, the yearly

unsanctioned street festival, has drawn thousands of attendees in years past. Over the last four years, Deltopia’s citations and arrests increased, with 2025 seeing a record 130 medical calls, 485 citations and 84 arrests among an estimated 25,000 attendees.

In contrast, celebrations this year resulted in seven medical calls, 42 citations and six arrests, according to a county press release. Roughly 12,000 people attended Isla Vista Community Services District’s (IVCSD) alternative event, Soltopia, from 12-6 p.m.

IV. beaches were closed for the whole weekend and vehicles were unable to enter Sabado Tarde Road and Del Playa Drive until after 8 p.m. on Saturday. Additionally, the Restorative Justice Program, which allows people to waive certain citations after completion of classes and community service, was suspended. Individuals who

received citations can contact the Associated Students (A.S.) Legal Resource Center for free legal consultation.

At a special meeting of the SBC Board of Supervisors on April 7, Second District Supervisor Laura Capps commended IVFP and the Sheriff’s Department for their handling of the weekend.

“There were so many people that were there for the health and safety of young people that call Isla Vista home, and it was remarkable to see,” Capps said. “I want to note that [law enforcement] teams were out there, many of whom on a holiday weekend for them – Easter weekend – and that’s a sacrifice.”

A.S. External Vice President for Local Affairs (EVPLA) and third-year political science major E.J. Raad strongly advocated against the ordinance before its passage and said his opinion hasn’t changed.

“There was such a disproportionate amount of police officers to students and there’s obviously a lot more police officers than EMT or medical services,” Raad said. “One of my biggest concerns was that this was just going to increase police power here in a way that didn’t exist before, where we now have a mechanism where they can shut down a weekend and then also move the ordinance.”

University of California Isla Vista, an organization under the EVPLA’s office, set up tents along Del Playa Drive and at the Pardall Center on Saturday. While these tents have been a heavily utilized resource during past Deltopia weekends by providing food,

water and escort services, Raad said that they had “pretty minimal interactions” on Del Playa.

Raad said that the suspension of restorative justice and the “disproportionate” police presence show that the ordinance is “just a way to make it easier for [law enforcement] to deploy those resources in a punitive way.” He also highlighted that having the same number of law enforcement as last year goes against the goal of reducing Deltopia costs, unless IVFP commits to their promise of scaling down in the future.

Fourth-year history major Molly Vestal currently lives on Del Playa Drive and found the massive police presence “a bit jarring.” She said she felt forced to find a coworker to cover her Saturday

shift because of the barricades stopping her from reentering Del Playa until after 8 p.m.

“I’m used to seeing cops on [Del Playa]. I think that’s just a normal part of life here, but it was an influx of just giant groups of 10 walking together at a time, looking for something to do, and I felt scared,” Vestal said. “I was just walking down the street with a bag in my hand and I was like, ‘Wait, are they gonna think that this is alcohol? I’m super clumsy, and if I trip in front of them are they gonna think that I’m drunk and arrest me?’”

Vestal and her housemate, Santa Barbara City College student Miranda Bohlen, felt that communication around parking was confusing. Bohlen said that the

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SHENGYU ZHANG / DAILY NEXUS

Citations, arrests and medical calls were down over 90% compared to during 2025 Deltopia celebrations.



SHENGYU ZHANG / DAILY NEXUS

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

KAYLEE HEARTMAN / DAILY NEXUS

Jack Dindia

Lead News Editor

## UCSB Library hosts 'AI in Action'

The UC Santa Barbara Library is hosting "AI in Action" with Fabian Offert and Eric Wang on Thursday, April 9, from 4-5 p.m. at the UCSB Library Instruction & Training Room 1312.

"Join us for the second event in UCSB Library's new speaker series, AI in Action Conversations with UCSB Researchers. The event features short presentations by Fabian Offert (Center for the Humanities and Machine Learning) and Eric Wang (Center for Responsible Machine Learning) on innovative applications of AI in their research, followed by a 30-minute discussion on broader trends, challenges, and ethical considerations," the Shoreline description read.

## S.E.A. Club hosts 'Seizure First Aid Certification'

Supporting Epilepsy Awareness (S.E.A.) Club is hosting "Seizure First Aid Certification" on Thursday, April 9, from 6-8:30 p.m. at Phelps Hall 1425.

"Learn how to care for someone having a seizure, what the different types of seizures are, signs and symptoms of a seizure, the difference between epilepsy and seizure, and how you can make an impact in the epilepsy community here in Santa Barbara," the Shoreline description read.

Attendees are advised to bring their own personal computer and headphones, and can sign up via a Google form.

## Santa Cruz Residence Hall hosts 'Feria de Primavera'

Santa Cruz Residence Hall is hosting "Feria de Primavera" on Friday, April 10, from 1-3 p.m. at the Santa Cruz Hall basketball courts.

"Join us as we host Latine-serving campus organizations, resources, speakers, and more! Enjoy a free lunch while supplies last," the Shoreline description read.

## RCSGD hosts 'Sapphic Scrapbooking - Sapphic Visibility Day!'

The Resource Center for Sexual and Gender Diversity (RCSGD) is hosting "Sapphic Scrapbooking - Sapphic Visibility Day!" on Friday, April 10, from 2:30-4 p.m. at the Student Resource Building 1st Floor Conference Room.

"Come celebrate Sapphic Visibility Day in community!" the Shoreline description read.

## RBG Dance Crew hosts 'Team RBG x Seoul'd Out Dance Showcase'

Ready Beat Go! (RBG) Dance Crew is hosting "Team RBG x Seoul'd Out Dance Showcase" on Friday, April 10, from 5-8 p.m. at Givertz Hall 1004.

"This event is a K-pop-themed showcase and social gathering designed to bring students together through music, performance, and interactive activities. The program features live performances, games, and time for socializing with food, creating a fun and welcoming environment for attendees," the Shoreline description read.

## IHC and Magic Lantern hosts a Netflix preview of 'Roommates'

The Interdisciplinary Humanities Center (IHC), in collaboration with

Magic Lantern, is hosting a preview of the Netflix film "Roommates" followed by a Q&A with select cast on Friday, April 10, from 7:30-10:40 p.m. at Isla Vista Theater.

"A quintessential college comedic set-up: 'When shy college freshman Devon asks cool-girl Celeste to be her roommate, a blossoming friendship quickly spirals into a war of passive aggression.' Netflix is sharing with UCSB's students an exclusive sneak-peak. Best of all, there's a live Q and A with select members of the cast!" the Shoreline description read.

Popcorn and soda will be available for attendees.

## UCSB Library hosts 'Open House Scavenger Hunt and Activities'

The UCSB Library is hosting "Open House Scavenger Hunt and Activities" on Saturday, April 11, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the UCSB Library.

"Explore your future library today with our interactive scavenger hunt. By visiting our mystery locations, you'll be entered to win one of our \$25 Amazon Gift Cards," the Shoreline description read.

Participants can get a digital map at the services desk in Library Paseo.

## Arts & Lectures hosts 'Emmet Cohen Quintet - Miles and Coltrane at 100'

Arts & Lectures is hosting "Emmet Cohen Quintet - Miles and Coltrane at 100" on Sunday, April 12, from 7-8:30 p.m. at Campbell Hall.

"An all-star quintet led by pianist Emmet Cohen celebrates the centennial of Miles Davis and John Coltrane with a bold, reimagined experience of the music that forever changed the course of jazz," the Shoreline description read.

## A.S. Take Back the Night hosts talk with Stephen Mills and Anthony Edwards

Associated Students (A.S.) Take Back the Night is hosting "Talk with Stephen Mills and Anthony Edwards" on Monday, April 13, from 5-6 p.m. at the Student Resource Building MultiPurpose Room.

"Conversation about the effects of interpersonal violence with author Stephen Mills and actor Anthony Edwards," the Shoreline description read.

## IHC hosts screening of 'Sentimental Value'

The IHC is hosting a screening of the film "Sentimental Value" on Monday, April 13, from 8-10:15 p.m. at Theater and Dance West 1701.

"An intimate exploration of family, memories, and the reconciliatory power of art," the Shoreline description read.

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

## RCSGD hosts 'Free HRT Injection Supplies Distribution'

The RCSGD is hosting a free Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT) injection supplies distribution on Tuesday, April 14, from 3-5 p.m. at the Embarcadero Hall Sidewalk.

"Need free needles, syringes, or alcohol wipes? Need to drop off a full sharps container or grab a new one? Join our Health Equity Team outside of Embarcadero Hall from 3-5 pm to grab some free supplies," the Shoreline description read.

The distribution is also available on May 12 and June 2. If students are unable to make the dates, they can email [equity@sa.ucsb.edu](mailto:equity@sa.ucsb.edu) for supplies and info.

# A week in UC student news

MICHELLE WU / DAILY NEXUS

Michelle Cisneros  
Lead News Editor

TW: This article contains mentions of sexual assault.

## UC continues plan to extend online language courses amid cuts to in-person resources

This year, the University of California (UC) system began implementing its online language program. Known as the UC Global Language Network (GLN), the program is being implemented in three phases and is focused on offering less commonly taught languages.

"The GLN initiative seeks to increase the number of UC undergraduates studying foreign languages," the program description reads. "By expanding access and sustaining programs, GLN is opening doors to global citizenship, giving students a powerful linguistic skill set, deepening cultural understanding, and offering academic pathways that might otherwise remain out of reach."

While the GLN is not meant to replace in-person programs, its final phase entails scaling the program to "support long-term systemwide goals." In recent years, campuses across the UC have cut academic staff and courses within various language programs.

Developed by humanities deans across the UC, GLN courses are funded by individual campus language budgets, the UC Office of the

President and UC Online. Language personnel from various campuses said they were not involved in the GLN's development in interviews with the Daily Bruin.

According to the Daily Bruin, UC Los Angeles has cut language programs due to budget constraints in recent years. In the fall, UC Santa Cruz cut its German and Persian programs. Over the past year, UC Santa Barbara has decreased the number of French and Italian courses available and laid off lecturers.

Spring quarter marks Phase II of the GLN, which expanded the list of languages offered to include some that weren't previously available on UC Online.

## UC and UAW reach contract agreement

UC administrators and the United Auto Workers (UAW) 4811 union reached contract agreements on March 14 for academic and staff employees. Since then, union members have voted to ratify the contracts.

UAW 4811 represents about 48,000 academic student employees and other academic staff. The agreements include a legal consultation fund for international workers, a unified pay scale for unified employees, raises and increased childcare reimbursements, among others.

"We are grateful to achieve agreements that mutually benefit the University's academic student

employees and new staff units," Missy Matella, associate vice president for Systemwide Employee and Labor Relations for the UC Office of the President, said in a press release.

The agreement occurred a day after union members across the UC system held a "Last Chance" rally.

## UCLA removes César E. Chávez from Chicana/o studies department name

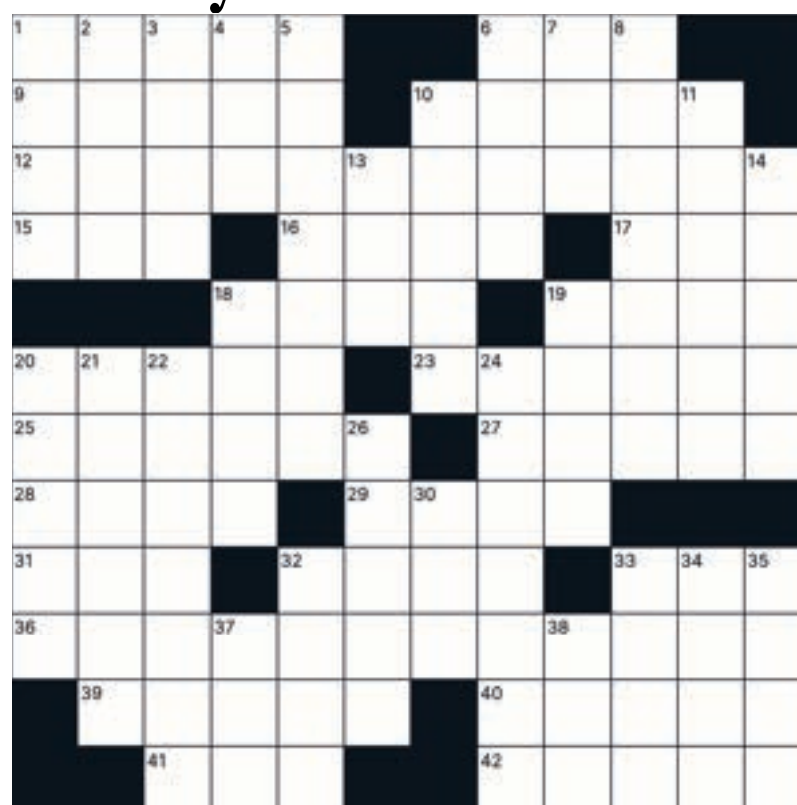
The UCLA Chicana/o studies department voted to remove labor activist César E. Chávez's name from its name on March 18. The decision came after an investigation by the New York Times (NYT) found that Chavez reportedly sexually abused women and minors working alongside him.

Since then, Chavez's name has been removed from the department's website, according to the Daily Bruin.

"UCLA is aware of the serious allegations that have been reported and is deeply troubled by them," a UCLA spokesperson said in a statement to the Daily Bruin. "We stand with survivors of sexual assault."

Chancellor Julio Frenk and UC President James B. Milliken must approve the name change for it to become official. The department is currently considering adding labor activist Dolores Huerta to its name. In the aftermath of the NYT investigation, Huerta revealed that she was also sexually abused by Chavez and had two children following the assaults.

# The Daily Nexus Crossword



Kendrick Lam  
Crossword Contributor

Across

- Tolerate patiently
- \_\_\_ Hisaishi, Japanese composer
- \_\_\_ Luxury watch brand
- Bamboo lover
- Like many high school seniors touring campuses
- Photo \_\_\_
- Pool sticks
- Alternative to the University of California system, abbreviated
- Two ways to pronounce-call this family member
- Crow calls
- On the damp side
- Group of seven
- "The Star-Spangled Banner," for example
- Request to a database, in tech speak

28. Pottery material

29. Magnum \_\_\_

31. To be sick

32. Taiwanese beverage Drink drank with a wide straw

33. Reactions to adorable pets

36. Country set to host the 2028 Summer Olympics

39. "The \_\_\_ bird gets the worm"

40. "Darn!"

41. A divider in court

42. Endangers

Down

1. West Coast gas brand

2. Playful sound made when poking a pet's nose

3. Misfortunes

4. Shared word in four Isla Vista streets

5. Carry out

6. Quick hits

7. Musician Yoko \_\_\_

8. To teach

10. Bay Area-founded coffee chain

11. Essay, for an essay question

13. Jump the \_\_\_

14. Dirty, in a way

18. Like a used fireplace and dry skin

19. PC "brains"

20. The "Las Vegas" of Asian gambling hub

21. Where webinars occur

22. Language in Bologna

24. Longest circle of latitude

26. Temperamental

30. Network supported by "Viewers Like You"

32. Found after "seat" and "asteroid"

33. Common spaces for withdrawals?

34. Dim, as a light

35. Nine-digit IDs

37. Three, in 22-Down

38. Poke bowl tuna



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Printed at the Santa Maria Times printing facility.

"County boyzzzz"

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# Chancellor Assanis discusses plans for the University, budget cuts

Michelle Cisneros  
Lead News Editor

UC Santa Barbara Chancellor Dennis Assanis spoke with the Daily Nexus in an exclusive interview about a range of topics including his goals for the University, budget reductions, the recent sanctuary campus petition and the purchase of the new chancellor home.

Assanis was announced as chancellor last July, following the end of former chancellor Henry T. Yang's 31-year tenure. Prior to his appointment, he was the president of the University of Delaware for nine years. Speaking on his decision to come to the University, Assanis said he had several conversations with former University of California (UC) President Michael V. Drake, and views UCSB as "an amazing institution."

"I see so much potential to think about our future," Assanis said. "Maybe we can talk more about it in new ways, develop a strategic vision for the next 10 to 15 years. Think about our campus in different ways. What should be the campus of the future? Who do we want to educate? What do we want to teach them? That we thought, is an amazing opportunity."

As far as goals for the University, Assanis said he would like to see UCSB climb in national rankings as well as expand UCSB's "impact and the way we educate our students."

"We focused over the years on our campus here in the peninsula in Goleta, but obviously, the world's a bigger place, and I think we have an opportunity to take our message and our story out to the world," he said.

In October, UCSB physics professor emeritus John Martinis and physics professor Michel Devoret were awarded the 2025 Nobel Prize in physics for their research in quantum mechanics. Assanis said the University has a "great foundation" from prior administration and that he looks forward to building upon it.

"We've had eight Nobel Prize winners over the years and in fact, two of those have been added in my first month here. So it's a testimony to the fantastic work that our previous chancellor did for a very long time, obviously, to build academic excellence and steward it over the years," he said.

Assanis joined the University at an uncertain time for higher education, with UCSB facing similar federal actions as many other universities across the country. Over the past two years, the federal government has attempted to cut research funding and has been investigating the University over alleged antisemitism, which remains ongoing.

## Budget Cuts

New initiatives must contend with the permanent budget reductions announced a year ago. The announcement cited federal and state funding cuts as well as rising operational costs as the reasons for their necessity. At the start of Assanis' tenure, several of these cuts came into effect, impacting library hours, the physical therapy department and general departmental budgets. According to him, several decisions

as to where the cuts would manifest, including library hours, had been made before he arrived.

It is unknown how each cut is determined. The initial announcement for the library hour reductions stated that the decision was made after a cost-benefit analysis conducted by library leadership and campus administration. At the time of the physical therapy department's closure, the University said Student Health determined local providers could facilitate the same services.

Assanis said that the University's post-pandemic revenue has not kept pace with operational costs. Combined with the desire to "keep tuition as low as we can," there has been a "gap" in funding.

"I can tell you that when you have to make very difficult decisions and trade-offs, it's always challenging, and it's going to have an impact on people," Assanis said. "I think in those cases, you want to listen and learn."

Following student feedback on the end of 24/7 library hours, Assanis spoke with leadership within the Associated Students and University departments to propose alternative spaces and expanded hours. Regarding how the University will continue to grow while maintaining adequate student programs and amenities, Assanis said he plans to expand what the University offers, possibly through new academic programs.

"You can never make your way into excellence by cutting, cutting, cutting programs and resources," Assanis said. "In fact, you want to add more. Those who know me, they know me more as a builder and somebody who likes to think out of the box and bring new resources as a result to the institution."

Recently, the University announced it will begin offering a major in artificial intelligence as well as an online master's degree in technology management. Assanis said he's looking to continue these initiatives as a way of bringing in new demographics of students.

"Expanding your reach can be defined in different ways, but for the longest period in our history, we focused on educating 18 to 22-year-olds. And absolutely, we need to do that. We need to do it as best we can. But what happens when you're 22, right? Aren't you hungry to keep learning?" Assanis said.

## Federal Investigation

Speaking on the Justice Department's ongoing investigation into the UC's alleged violations of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, and his role as the University representative for larger institutions, Assanis said he prioritizes student safety.

"Student success and being here for the students and our faculty staff is my number one priority. The security and safety of our students is extremely important," Assanis said. "Everybody on campus, we have to comply with the law. But sometimes our interpretation of the law and a given government's interpretation of the law may differ. It's all about interpretations, and thank God there is a judicial system where one can go, and if you have different interpretations, both sides present

their arguments, and the judge decides."

He also commended the collaboration between the UC Board of Regents and the cohort of UC chancellors when mediating federal demands.

"Academic freedom for us is non-negotiable. People cannot tell us what to teach and what to learn, right?" Assanis said. "We want to be compliant with the law, but the law always gives some latitude in terms of the interpretation, and we have been pursuing [that] through the court system, to make sure that our perspective is heard."

Assanis said that he understands there might be instances when the University would "want to be compliant when something makes sense." He said that when the 2024 investigation into alleged antisemitism began, the University wasn't "doing well with that."

"My wife and I made the priority here to go in the community, to reach out, to meet with students, to talk with people, to talk with faculty-appointed committees to advise on antisemitism, but also [to] advise on anti-Palestinian, anti-Arab bias and all that," Assanis said.

In March, the Anti-Defamation League, a Jewish advocacy organization, raised UCSB's grade from a D to a B on its Campus Antisemitism Report Card. The grading criteria for administrative actions include a process for reporting antisemitic incidents, an official position against the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement, public condemnation of antisemitic attacks and partnerships with Israeli institutions, among others.

In regard to countering discrimination against other identities, Assanis said he and his wife, Eleni Assanis, are "working to do more outreach to other groups." He also mentioned the importance of maintaining the University's cultural centers.

"I think it is important to elevate the role of our MultiCultural Center and our Student Resource Building. In fact, I'd love to build another student resource building, because that's a place where we celebrate our community, and we do have a lot of perspectives," Assanis said. "I think we all belong here, and that's what I'd love to see, a campus where perspectives are heard, we can have difficult conversations and there should be a civil discourse no matter what."

## Housing Initiatives

UCSB and Isla Vista have a longstanding housing shortage, with limited spaces and rising costs for both on and off-campus options. Assanis said that housing is "among [his] highest priorities." Housing projects, including the San Benito apartments and East Campus Housing, have been in the works for several years and will soon add approximately 3,500 beds in the following academic years.

"One of our first things was to proceed with the construction of those new 3,500 beds. That's a \$1.1 billion investment," Assanis said. "Sometimes people say, 'show me your budget,' and then I know what



SHENGYU ZHANG / DAILY NEXUS  
Chancellor Dennis Assanis officially assumed the role in September.

your priorities and your strategic plan is, and so that's clearly a statement."

## Newly Purchased Chancellor's Home

Last October, the UC Board of Regents approved the purchase of a \$7.8 million home for UCSB chancellors, which was funded by University donors. Regents Policy 7708 mandates that UC chancellors live in University-provided housing as a condition of the role, requiring their approval for alternatives when needed. The new home's announcement followed a March 2025 independent engineering assessment of the current UCSB University House, which found that it needed an estimated \$8.4 million in upgrades.

Seeing as it is located 10 minutes from campus, the new house is a departure from most UC chancellor residences, which are on campus. Amidst cuts to the University's budget, community responses to the chancellor's home have generally been critical, especially within online forums regarding cuts and protests connected to the cost of living.

When asked whether he had a say in the purchase of the new home, Assanis said he "did not have any role in the decision."

"Quite frankly, I would have rather seen that done and addressed long before I started, because I could hit the ground running. But I'm grateful that it has been resolved and it's behind us," Assanis said.

Regarding his thoughts on the criticism about the new chancellor's home, Assanis cited the ongoing housing projects.

"For our students, we're going to add 3,500 beds over the next several years, \$1.1 billion expansion," Assanis said. "To look at it in perspective, to take the numbers, 8 million versus 1.1 billion. So we're talking about investment in the future, in our students."

According to Assanis, the former chancellor's home may become another type of building in the future, such as additional student housing. Assanis also said the Regents made the decision based on its value.

"The Regents made the decision that they'd rather add an asset to their portfolio that has a commercial value, which can actually increase over time," Assanis said. "From a business perspective, it's a savvy economic decision versus an asset that doesn't have any purchase in the future, [the former chancellor's home] doesn't have any value."

## YDSA Sanctuary Campus

## Petition

Over the past year, national escalations in Immigration and Customs Enforcement (I.C.E.) activity have sparked students organizing across universities. In March, the Young Democratic Socialists of America delivered a petition to the chancellor's office demanding that UCSB become a sanctuary campus, meaning increased protection for undocumented students and protection against I.C.E.

One of the demands was complying with Senate Bill No. 98, which requires learning institutions to notify students, parents and staff of confirmed I.C.E. presence on campus. In January, Assanis released a statement affirming the University would release a notification in the event that it occurred. Regarding legal warrants, Assanis said the University has an "obligation to comply with the law."

"We'll do everything we can always to make sure that nobody enters our campus illegally," Assanis said. "Now, if some authority with a lawful warrant comes into campus, then I mean, we're not inviting them, but if they're coming to campus, we have to comply with the law. That's the reality of it."

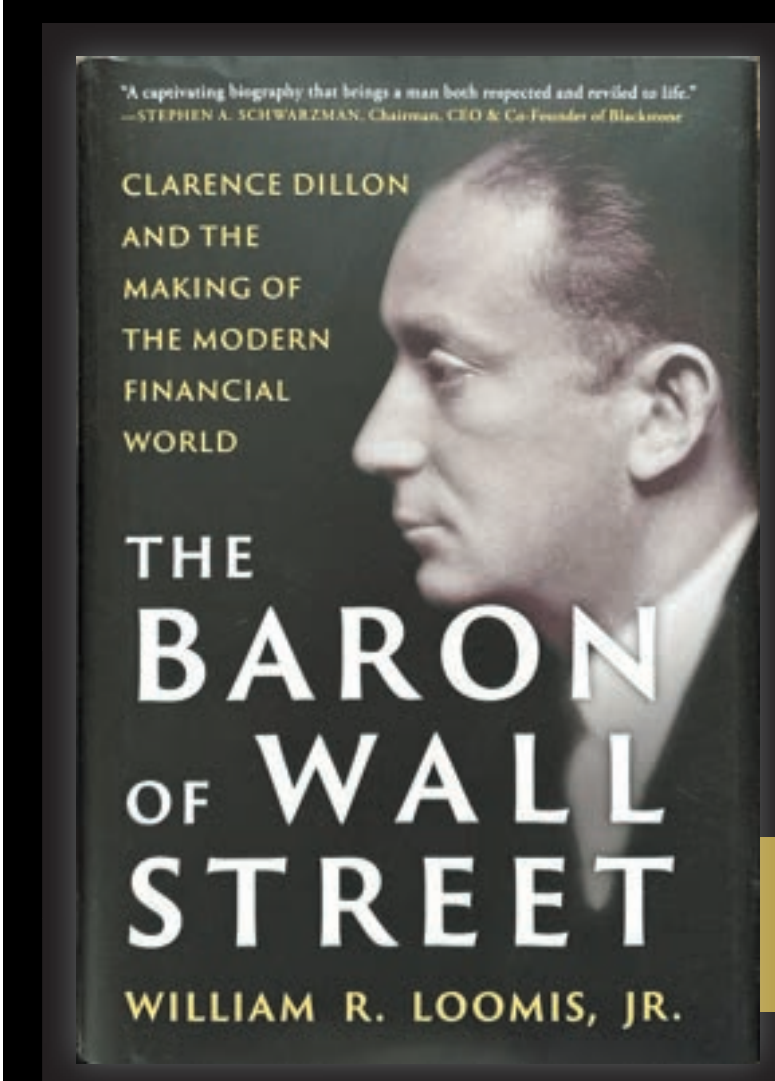
To support undocumented students, Assanis said the University is doing the "quiet work."

"[The quiet work refers to] reaching out [to] people, understanding the issues and trying to address and help them out, versus vocal, very strong statements that elicit all the eyes to come and focus on you, and then ultimately you have an outcome that is completely the opposite from what you were intending to do," Assanis said. "This is the time, I think, to be very judicious and smart with the way you approach situations."

## Looking Ahead

Assanis concluded by saying he recently started a student advisory group, which he says the University did not have before. He said he and his wife will have dinner with the student group every quarter to discuss student life and garner feedback.

"We want our students to know we both, myself and my wife, are here for them, and we love to see an environment that feels like home, their extended home away from home," Assanis said. "The young people will still grow and mature and develop relationships that last a lifetime. And we want this experience to be the best possible and safe for everyone."



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Written by local author William R. Loomis Jr., former chief executive of Lazard, a graduate of Harvard Business School and a former student of UCSB graduate studies in History.

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# UCSB contends with proposed systemwide shift to online language courses



A transition to online learning could significantly deter students from taking language courses through the UC.

Iris Guo  
Community Outreach Editor

University of California administrators are looking to cut campus-based foreign language courses and aim to outsource language teaching to an online system. This transition — which does not yet have a concrete timeline — may have an unprecedented impact on language instructors across the university system, and could also affect student enrollment within language courses.

This initiative, known as the UC Global Language Network (GLN), was created by a coalition of University of California (UC) Humanities deans with the goal of expanding undergraduate access to a diverse world language education. The proposed timeline for the GLN features three phases, with the last phase aiming to scale online language instruction across the entire UC system.

David Moak, a UC Santa Barbara lecturer in French studies and comparative literature, said that there has been a significant lack of transparency from UC administrators regarding the GLN as a whole.

“There’s been no information about which languages. There’s been no information about the timeline. There’s been no information about what these classes are going to look like,” Moak said.

Moak mentioned that the information that has circulated about the GLN is limited even to department chairs, and that much of what staff currently know about it is “indirect information through various channels.”

The decision to outsource to the GLN has significantly impacted the number of language courses offered and the number of faculty employed as lecturers by language departments within the UC.

According to Marion Labatut, a lecturer in French, the number of courses offered by the French and Italian department at UCSB has decreased significantly over the past year. While the department used to offer 36 French courses per academic year, it is now offering 18 courses for the 2025-26 academic year. Additionally, Labatut said that the department will offer 13 courses in the next academic year.

“It is not optimal at all, as we have students who now have to wait for a whole quarter, two quarters or even a whole year before they can enroll in the class they need,” Labatut said in a statement to the Nexus.

Moak said that this reduction has resulted in many students who are either interested in learning a new language or are required to do so under their major or minor requirements reaching out with concerns about whether they would be able to graduate on time.

According to Moak, the administrative decisions relating to the GLN stem from “catastrophic” budget cuts which have resulted in language departments across UCSB needing to lay off faculty and replace them with “computer programs or robots.”

“They want to lay people off. They want to get rid of faculty,” Moak said. “For example, in French, two people were laid off last year who have not been brought back to teach this year. I myself am losing my job at the end of this academic year.”

During the 2025-26 academic year, the UC faced a \$30 million, or 0.3%, decrease in state funding. In March 2025, UCSB was projected to face a \$24 million permanent reduction in state funding, alongside an expected \$45 million increase in costs.

While the French department employed seven lecturers in language instruction in the 2024-25 academic year, three lecturers will remain by the 2026-27 academic year. Despite these layoffs, Moak mentioned that university administrators are simultaneously hiring developers to build the software for the GLN, signaling a “clear shift in priority to a digital interface.”

While Moak acknowledges that online learning has certain benefits, including flexibility for students, he believes that this transition could have detrimental impacts on student learning, including enabling cheating through artificial intelligence and online translators.

“It is exceptionally easy to cheat when you’re doing a class online,” Moak said. “If anything, what we should be doing is a kind of more old-school model of being in-person, doing assignments with pen and paper so that we can actually be testing the knowledge of students.”

First-year biology major Melanie Vincent took an intermediate French course during winter quarter, and said that learning in-person fostered a collaborative environment that allowed her to get a “full immersion” of the language. She believes that learning in person from an instructor who is a native speaker or has an academic background in a language enables students to receive a more enriching learning experience.

“It just felt like you could feel the cultural enrichment in the classroom and actually being able to ask them cultural questions, things that you really wouldn’t be able to get from an online platform,” Vincent said. “There’s just certain things that you pick up on by living in a country that speaks that language or by having family that speaks that language.”

Interdepartmental Graduate Program in Marine Science student Dexter Davis shared a similar experience taking French 5 with Labatut, and said that being able to learn vocabulary, grammar and sentence structure while asking clarifying questions made him feel more comfortable learning French.

Davis believes the online language resources would not provide students with the same experience as an in-person course, as they wouldn’t be able to discuss the nuances of language while engaging in conversations about culture and pop culture.

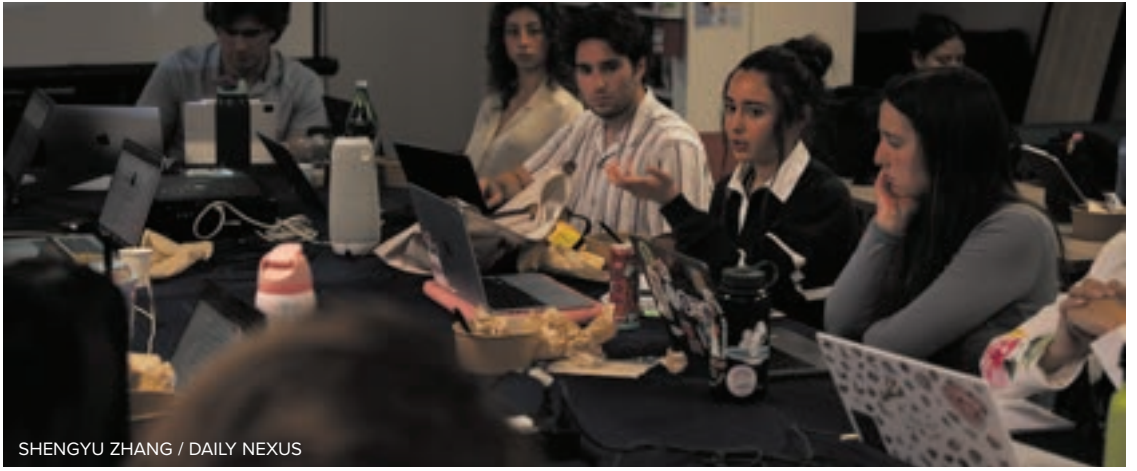
As a result, both Vincent and Davis said they would not choose to continue their French education at UCSB if their only option was online courses.

“I know there’s language resources online already that I don’t necessarily need to go through the University for,” Davis said. “The resource that I want is access to a person who speaks that language that is engaged with the culture.”

Moak said that he hopes that university administrators will listen to student feedback before making concrete decisions on the GLN, because a transition to online learning could significantly deter students from taking language courses through the UC and result in further decreases in the number of students pursuing higher language education.

“I’m sorry to the students. I think that this is not something that ultimately is going to serve them and their interests,” Moak said. “I would hope that the University would listen to the causes for concern that students have. We are here to serve students and that needs to be the priority. I wish I could have the power to change things myself, but alas, I do not.”

# Senate discusses use for new University property, announces new safety app



SHENGYU ZHANG / DAILY NEXUS

The Senate discussed how UCSB administration should use recently purchased property located at 410 State Street.

Wynne Bendell  
University News Editor

The 76th Associated Students Senate discussed how UC Santa Barbara administration should use recently purchased property at its first meeting of the quarter on April 1. It also announced a new app focused on campus safety to address student concerns, titled “Safe Zone.”

## Reports

Interim Associated Students (A.S.) Executive Director Sean Lieberman announced that UCSB purchased a property located at 410 State Street in January 2026 and is seeking community input on how to use the space. Lieberman urged senators to consider the needs of students and to propose productive ideas about the space’s purpose with administration.

Next, First President Pro Tempore and second-year political science major Evan Sussman announced that the committee on student safety is working with the campus to implement a campus safety app, “Safe Zone,” to replace the current safety alert system. According to Sussman, the app would allow students to request escorted walks home and have direct contact with the police, among other safety measures.

## Public Forum

Interim Director for Campus Learning Assistance Services (CLAS) Emma Cristofani-Iran requested

funding for productivity pods, presenting several different packages ranging from around \$48k to \$94k. If funded, the pods would be installed on the third floor of the Student Resource Building and would offer a private and quiet location students could use for various activities, including Zoom calls and interviews.

The pods were later proposed by Second President Pro Tempore and fourth-year political science major Melanie Jones as a High Impact Project, which was referred to the advocacy committee. Jones argued in favor of funding the productivity pods as campus study spots are often at full capacity, especially with cuts to library late-night study hours.

## Legislation proposed

Sussman proposed a bill to end the Outstanding Boards, Committees and Units (BCU) awards that are given to select BCUs with monetary prizes at the end of each quarter. Sussman argued that it is not appropriate to use student fees to award work within A.S. when the funding could be used for student projects and activities.

“Principally, using student fees for addressing the most pressing student body concerns should be the forefront of this Association, not paying student members who are already paid for their efforts,” Sussman said.

Senator and fourth-year global studies and history double major Neo Harter argued that the Senate

could keep giving out the award, just without the monetary prize. The bill was referred to the liaison committee.

## Legislation Passed

Next, the Senate passed a resolution formally supporting campus adoption of the student-made automated FAQ website, Mapache. Developed by former Senator and fourth-year computer science major Aryaman Singh, Mapache is designed to provide students with information on campus resources and A.S. procedures. While this bill does not officially adopt the program, the support opens up further conversations for Singh with A.S. staff and University administrators for future adoption and implementation.

## Closed Session

The meeting then went into closed session to discuss the appointment and confirmation of the new A.S. executive director. A.S. President and fourth-year Spanish, communication and global studies triple major Le Ahn Metzger has been leading the executive director search for months, following the retirement of former director Marisela Marquez.

Out of closed session, the Senate voted to recommend “without reservations” that the Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Life, Suzanne Perkin, hire Interim Executive Director Lieberman for the Executive Director position.

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# University, A.S. address campus safety concerns with cameras, new app

Wynne Bendell  
University News Editor

In response to several incidents of violent crimes on campus, University administrators and Associated Students have collaborated to implement several campus safety initiatives. These include installing additional cameras, lights and a new crime prevention and alert app, Safe Zone, in an effort to deter local crime.

The UC Santa Barbara campus has decades of reported cases of violent crime, with the lagoon being a particular hotspot, where large areas remain mostly unlit. Last October, an attempted sexual assault took place by the lagoon, which led to campus-wide efforts to make the area safer for students.

One of these efforts was a campus lighting and safety walk led by the University of California Police Department (UCPD) to document where community members felt installing lights was necessary.

In collaboration with the Associated Students (A.S.) temporary committee on student safety and university administration, the University received an emergency 90-day permit from the California Coastal Commission. This permit enabled the University to install cameras by the lagoon to document any violent crime and tentatively approved permanent lighting installations around the area.

The 180-degree cameras are part of mobile security units (MSUs) made by LiveView Technologies, which also include floodlights, spotlights and speakers. UCPD has placed three MSUs by the lagoon, one

in the west campus area and one by Portola Dining Commons, to deter bike theft.

According to a press release from the safety committee, UCPD does not surveil the area at all times. Rather, the MSUs use a loitering alert system where the department is notified if human presence is detected for more than around 60 seconds. This is when dispatch will review the footage, and if a crime is in progress, they will dispatch officers. They are also able to remotely turn on the flood lights and talk to individuals through the speaker system.

UCPD has also stated that the cameras should not be used for the "sole purpose" of enforcing alcohol or drug offenses, and were specifically installed to deter and intervene with violent crime. However, if a violent crime does take place, footage of illegal drug or alcohol use may be used as evidence in an investigation.

Additionally, UCPD has confirmed that footage collected by the cameras will not be shared with any federal agencies or third parties without the written approval of the chief of police.

UCPD is also considering adopting and implementing a new campus alert system for crimes that occur on and around campus. The Safe Zone app is used on college campuses globally and sends campus-wide alert messages when crimes take place. It also allows students to request escorted walks home and direct communication with emergency services, among other safety measures.

The department is still considering other alert systems, and the earliest a new program would be implemented is Fall 2027.



The 180-degree cameras are part of mobile security units, which also include floodlights, spotlights and speakers.

# Sexual assaults reported on bus routes near UCSB

Michelle Cisneros  
Lead News Editor

An individual was sexually assaulted on a bus going toward the North Hall Bus Loop on April 4. This follows a similar incident that occurred on Jan. 20.

According to a timely warning sent on April 7, the same day the incident was reported to the UCSB Police Department (UCPD), the suspect is a male in his 30s. No other descriptors were given. Last Saturday, the suspect sat next to the survivor and placed a backpack on his lap. He then proceeded to rub the survivor's thigh.

Once the bus arrived at the bus loop and the survivor exited, the suspect continued to follow them. The survivor alerted people nearby, which caused the suspect to walk away. The survivor did not know the suspect previously.

During the January incident, a different survivor was on the same route to the bus loop when the suspect carried out the same actions and touched the survivor's private body parts. The timely warning did not specify whether it was the same suspect as in the first incident.

The January suspect was described as a male in his 20s to 30s wearing a gray beanie and an all-black outfit, including a t-shirt, sweatpants, shoes and a backpack. He is described as about 5 feet 6 inches to 5 feet 8 inches tall and roughly 220 pounds. The survivor also did not know the suspect previously.

The UCPD is currently investigating these incidents. Those with information can contact authorities at 805-893-3446 or report information anonymously via an online form.

# I.V. Asian-owned businesses allege Soltopia exclusion, IVCSA asserts time constraint issues

Michelle Cisneros  
Lead News Editor  
Iris Guo  
Community Outreach Editor

Several Asian-owned businesses in Isla Vista claim to have been excluded from the list of vendors chosen for the sanctioned Deltopia alternative, Soltopia. The Isla Vista Community Services District, which planned the event, said it contacted these businesses but was unable to conduct multiple follow-ups due to the limited planning time.

On the day of Soltopia, April 4, Asia 101, Lao Wang Noodle Bar and Poke Theory published a joint post that stated "IVCSA: Asian Businesses are not welcome." The post continued by saying that about 40% of businesses in IV are Asian-owned and asked for transparency from the Isla Vista Community Services District (IVCSA). The Daily Nexus could not confirm exactly how many businesses were contacted or how many can be categorized as Asian-owned businesses.

"If public money is being spent in Isla Vista, Asian-owned businesses should not be invisible," the post's caption read.

According to IVCSA, several of these businesses were contacted. However, attempts to contact them were missed.

Owner of Asia 101 Boxi Wang said he realized there were no Asian-owned businesses when he looked through the post announcing participating businesses offering free food. Wang said he checked his email inbox and found "nothing" about participating in Soltopia except for road closure information.

"I checked my inbox, because normally [IVCSA does] send routine newsletters every couple weeks. So I just want to make sure that I was reached out for it, but maybe I didn't see it," Boxi Wang said. "But I found nothing about Soltopia."

He proceeded to contact other Asian-owned businesses and non-Asian-owned businesses, who said they weren't aware of Soltopia. This sparked Boxi Wang's inquiry into how businesses were chosen for the event.

He said he does not intend to "benefit" from bringing awareness to the decision-making process, as he is retiring next year. However, he hopes that these conversations encourage greater exposure for local Asian-owned businesses, especially considering that May is Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

"What I actually want from this is more exposure for Asian businesses in future events, not only limited to Deltopia, but also like Pardall Carnival and other stuff like that," Boxi Wang said.

In an interview with the Daily Nexus, IVCSA staff members Jonathan Abboud and Myah Mashhadialireza said they reached out to many businesses in IV, including some of those included in the post. The board contacted businesses through business involvement packets and phone calls. According to them, there was also an online form that businesses could fill out.

Abboud and Mashhadialireza also mentioned that the board had roughly three months to plan the event since the Board of Supervisors passed the 72-hour noise ordinance in January, limiting the number of times they could follow up with each business.

"It was the tightest timeline humanly possible to plan any event, let alone [an] event of this magnitude, because we were working on the timeline of the County



Due to Soltopia vendors offering attendees with free food, businesses saw significantly less business than in previous years.

Board of Supervisors and the ordinance that was approved to restrict music on that day," Abboud said.

Board members also said they left physical involvement packets at businesses, which the Nexus has viewed. Some businesses were closed during the initial packet distribution, which is when IVCSA called several businesses. In screenshots obtained by the Nexus, an IVCSA member called Lao Wang on Dec. 17 and left a voicemail about Soltopia.

"If we had more time, we could have done five follow-ups instead of two, right? If we had more time, we could have deployed more people and made sure we had every business physically twice. If we had more time, we would have had a bigger budget to fund more businesses, because we were also constrained by a budget that we all had to scrape together at the last minute," Abboud said.

According to Mashhadialireza and Abboud, a lot of the outreach occurred during winter break since that's when the noise ordinance seemed likely to pass and business was slower due to students being gone.

"When we did do that outreach, it was during winter break. And so we knew that some businesses were closed, but we also knew that it was a good time to maybe talk to business owners, considering that it was a slower time for actual business," Mashhadialireza said.

According to the board members, IVCSA was initially seeking businesses that could be venues for the various festival zones, such as those with adjacent parking lots. Abboud said that the business involvement form stated that businesses that could not be venues could be involved in other ways.

"I just want to make it really clear that there was no discrimination in our process. It was an open-access process, along with us looking at certain businesses who had venue space for an event," Abboud said.

Theodore Lee, the owner of Teddy Rice, said that he believes IVCSA failed to offer Asian-owned businesses an opportunity to be vendors at Soltopia, and that there should have been an "open dialogue" to offer local businesses the opportunity to cater.

"The fact is they didn't consult us. There were no Asian restaurants that were chosen," Lee said. "They never came and approached us to talk about it. If you just look at all of the restaurants that were open, it was all just tacos and bagels."

Wesley Wang, the owner of Lao Wang Noodle Bar — a Chinese restaurant that has been operating in IV for nine years — was also dissatisfied with the IVCSA's lack of communication with local businesses regarding their plans for Soltopia. When Wesley Wang initially saw a poster for Soltopia, he believed that the businesses providing free food were volunteering to do so for marketing purposes, and that it

was "unfair" that other businesses were not informed that it was actually a paid opportunity for vendors.

"We can say no, but nobody [from IVCSA] contacted us, and I don't even know how they decided the vendors," Wesley Wang said.

According to Lee, since opening Teddy Rice's doors two years ago, he has been able to witness the difference in business between Deltopia last year and Soltopia this year. Lee said that, during Deltopia, his business earned five times more than they typically do, while during Soltopia, it was five times less than a typical day.

In preparation for Soltopia, both Lee and Wesley Wang prepared extra food and scheduled additional employees to work in anticipation of high numbers of customers. However, because of the Soltopia vendors, they had significantly less business than in previous years.

"They're giving out free food so all the students are going to the free places, and you can't compete with that. It's literally impossible," Lee said. "So obviously no one really came into our restaurant, but there [were] lines down the block for the free places."

Wesley Wang shared a similar experience and claimed that the IVCSA's planning of Soltopia resulted in poor sales for businesses that were not chosen to be vendors.

"They dumped a lot of money on those [vendors so] the kids get free food and then that affects our business on the busiest day of the year. Our sales dropped down 90%," Wesley Wang said.

As a result, Lee said that he believes that Soltopia "completely destroys the small business community" in IV due to taking away from businesses that aren't chosen as vendors. He said he feels that the Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors's decision to enact a noise ordinance banning Deltopia has had a negative impact on local small businesses.

"What they're doing is replicating what happened to Halloween. As a struggling small business, Halloween was a huge business day for the small businesses, and they took that away. Then now, with Deltopia, that was a huge business day for us," Lee said.

In the aftermath of Soltopia, IVCSA has met with several of these businesses to mediate the situation. During the meeting between IVCSA and Wesley Wang, they clarified that they had made efforts to reach out to businesses, but there were communication issues. According to Wesley Wang, Abboud said the IVCSA plans to "do better" when planning future events to include local businesses.

Abboud said these businesses have been invited to be a part of the next Soltopia as well as collaborate on a more regular basis. To improve communication between IVCSA and local businesses, these discussions included a possible IV business association to streamline announcements.

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## SOLTOPIA

Continued from p. 1

festival, including Yetz's Bagels and M Special, which provided the beverages for the beer garden.

"Gauchos did well. We drank an insane amount of beer," Carmichael said.

However, a frequent critique was that there was a large wait time to get food. While fourth-year English major Jade Corona enjoyed the festival, her largest issue with the event was the lines for food. She said she was expecting to get "a lot of free food," but was disappointed when certain vendors ran out of food.

"I liked the vendors too, that was nice, but I was expecting getting a lot of free food. I thought I was gonna grub, I was like, 'I'm gonna be a big back today,' and then that did not happen. So I think for me, that was the biggest disappointment," Corona said.

Carmichael blames the long wait times on the short timeline IVCS D had to organize the festival, which led to them being "pleasantly overwhelmed" by the

large crowds. She hopes to resolve this issue by having more vendors in the following years, and having more activities so people can have a more "entertaining experience than waiting in line."

Across IV., there were six arrests, 42 citations and seven medical calls throughout the weekend, with the same number of officers on Saturday as last year. Carmichael said IVCS D views these statistics as "quite successful," and she's optimistic this could lead to a decrease in police presence in the following years.

"Nobody wants [a high police presence], that makes our residents feel really uncomfortable. It is a huge strain on county resources to have that many cops out here. So our eventual goal is just to have a normal number of cops that you have on [an] average Saturday," Carmichael said.

However, many participants reported feeling uncomfortable with the high police presence. Despite Isla Vista Foot Patrol's

(IVFP) verbal promise to have officers operate at the "lowest level possible," attendees noticed that there was a significant police presence on festival grounds. Mashhadialireza clarified that her original vision for the festival was minimal police presence as possible, and while there were two sheriff safety tables, officers entering the festival "were not part of [the] event."

Giner-Martin said she felt the increased police presence made her "anxious," especially after being under the impression that the presence was supposed to be reduced at the festival.

"I feel like I definitely noticed them in the streets. I understand their purpose for safety in some ways, but I also think it makes an atmosphere that's not the best. It made me a little bit more anxious, I don't like to be out and seeing all the police officers," Giner-Martin said.

Fourth-year English major Riley Schmahd argued it would've been

ideal to increase the presence of other emergency responders, such as paramedics, given the "state of the world right now."

"I don't think there is a need for that many police to be there, especially with the state of the world right now. It is fearful for a lot of people, and probably a lot of people were turned off by that and didn't want to go or went back home because they were scared," Schmahd said.

Concerning the large police presence within the festival, Carmichael cited the lack of a centralized government in IV., meaning officers were dispatched and controlled by the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office. Both Carmichael and Mashhadialireza suspected that the high quantity of unoccupied police on Del Playa Drive may have led officers to start "roaming and wandering."

"I think there [were] just so many police on [Del Playa] with not a lot to do that some of them just kind

of started roaming and wandering, going around seeing where the people were," Carmichael said. "Going forward for next year, that is a really big conversation that we want to continue to have with our Sheriff, 'how can we reduce police presence?'"

Moving forward, IVCS D said they want to promote greater community engagement while planning future festivals. Carmichael said their main goal with Soltopia is to allow residents to "celebrate Isla Vista culture," and to achieve this, they will gather greater community input.

"We proved to ourselves that we can throw an event that has very, very little medical calls, very little formal interaction with law enforcement," Carmichael said. "We're not here to police your behavior. We're not here to tell you what to do, we're here to give you the resources to do exactly what you want, safely, with your neighbors in a way that celebrates Isla Vista culture."

## DELTOPIA

Continued from p. 1

information she got from people around her made it unclear whether Del Playa and Sabado Tarde residents would be allowed to park on the street and leave and come back. Similar to Vestal, she felt that the large police presence was "nerve-racking."

"They canceled Deltopia and did all the ordinances for the wrong reasons. They just want to have control over us basically instead of really caring about anything else," Bohlen said. "It sounds silly, but I feel like they really just don't want us to have fun instead of caring about us personally."

Going forward, Raad thinks there should be continued pushback against the ordinance and over-policing in IV.

"I think that's something that's worth probably a future EVPLA advocating for," Raad said. "I'm nearing the end of my term, but that is a long-term project that I think is worth pursuing for sure. We just have to see how things proceed from here, but obviously this first year, it's exactly what we said was going to happen. It was just like they didn't save any money or any resources."

The Daily Nexus was unable to contact IVFP for comment.



SHENGYU ZHANG / DAILY NEXUS

Residents were unable to reenter Sabado Tarde Road or Del Playa Drive until after 8 p.m. on Saturday. Bohlen felt that communication around parking was confusing.

# Rori's Artisanal Creamery opens Goleta location in Storke Plaza

Dalia Puchalt  
Reporter

Rori's Artisanal Creamery celebrated the opening of its new Goleta location in Storke Plaza on April 3, welcoming customers with free scoops of ice cream throughout the day. The store is located at 270 Storke Road, adjacent to Rusty's Pizza Parlor and plans to offer discounts to local university students.

Founder and trained chef Rori Trovato, who develops each of Rori's signature flavors, launched the franchise in 2011 with a commitment to quality and "allow[ing] the ingredients to speak for themselves," according to their website. The shop produces small-batch ice cream made with locally sourced ingredients, offering a variety of flavors including Black Pepper Pistachio, Serious Dark Chocolate and Milk and Cookies. In addition to house-made cones and cups, Rori's carries ice cream sandwiches, drumsticks, pints and a Pup Cup option for visiting pets.

A line of customers stretched through the plaza from noon until closing at 9:30 p.m. Rori's Director of Retail Operations, Edith Vargas, was thrilled by the turnout.

"We opened at 12, but I've been here since early in the morning, and just seeing the line form and the excitement from everyone has just been so fun," Vargas said. "It's been a long time coming."

Goleta is the newest of eight Rori's locations in California, joining stores in Santa Monica, Camarillo, Ventura, Carpinteria, Santa Barbara Public Market, Montecito and Arroyo Grande. The franchise signed the lease for the new property in September 2025, fulfilling Trovato's longtime dream of

expanding into Goleta. Trovato explained how Rori's investment in the community is reflected in their support of local sports teams.

"We sponsor a bunch of the little leagues, the Goleta Little League and the Dos Pueblos Little League, and some soccer teams as well," Trovato said. "We've been wanting [to open in] Goleta forever because our demographic is family. That, and there's no ice cream here."

The store features an outdoor patio with shaded picnic tables, and the physical layout mirrors their Ventura location, a decision Trovato hoped would help create a smooth flow for customers and a welcoming atmosphere.

Staff at Rori's Goleta location will wear T-shirts in UC Santa Barbara's school colors of blue and gold for the University. Rori's also announced plans for a weekly "UCSB Day" where students will receive discounts.

Trovato, who was on site for the opening, emphasized the importance of local engagement.

"We like to interact with the community on a give-back basis with all the schools, so we hope we form that relationship here. People come from Girsh Park after the game and go have Rusty's [pizza], and I hope they become our regulars too," Trovato said.

The Rori's team visited downtown Santa Barbara, UCSB's campus, Santa Barbara City College and Butterfly Beach to promote the store's opening, creating content for their social media. Marketing Manager Tess Henderson led the campaign, generating buzz from the community online.

Customers of all ages lined up to get their free ice cream, including third-year sociology major Nora Ismael and preschooler Georgia Weiss.

Ismael is Vice President of Projects for the UCSB American Marketing Association, which will be consulting for Rori's this quarter.

"It's going to be good to learn about the actual ice cream itself and the team as we begin our project," Ismael said.

Weiss enjoyed a scoop of Rori's signature Peanut Butter Chocolate Candy Swirl. When asked if she was enjoying her ice cream, she responded with an enthusiastic thumbs-up.

"I want to come back!" Weiss said.



DALIA PUCHALT / DAILY NEXUS

Rori's Artisanal Creamery celebrated the opening of its new Goleta location, welcoming customers with free scoops of ice cream.

Thursday "College Night" sightseeing tours to D.T. Santa Barbara's historic "El Pueblo Viejo" Landmark District to visit the iconic **Wildcat LOUNGE** & walkabout State Street to see the sites!

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# SPORTS

## Gauchos complete Blue-Green Rivalry sweep

Haiden Rogers  
Sports Editor

UC Santa Barbara men's baseball delivered a dominant weekend showing against rival Cal Poly, sweeping the three-game Blue-Green Rivalry series.

April 2: The Gauchos set the tone for the weekend in Thursday's opener with a shutout 6-0 win, led by ace junior pitcher Jackson Flora. Flora continues to dominate Cal Poly, throwing a complete game shutout while striking out nine. Flora extended his scoreless streak to 34 innings and lowered his ERA to 0.69, further building his case as one of the top pitchers in the nation. After this showing, Flora was named Big West National Pitcher of the Week and DIBaseball and the Golden Spikes Award named him their National Player of the Week. On the offensive side of the ball, UCSB ran away with the game in a five-run fourth

inning highlighted by multiple contributions throughout the lineup, including a double from senior infielder Corey Nunez to make the score 6-0.

April 3: Friday's game provided more adversity for the Gauchos as they fell behind 2-0 in the fifth inning. However, UCSB put together a response with a run in the sixth and two sacrifice flies from freshman infielder Ryan Severns and sophomore outfielder Rowan Kelly in the seventh, making the score 3-2. Coming out of the bullpen, junior left-hander Cole Tryba dominated, allowing zero runs from the Mustangs in the final three innings, only giving up a single. Using this momentum, the Gauchos added another run in the top of the 8th, making the final score 4-2 in favor of UCSB.

April 4: With the Gauchos already taking the series, they completed the sweep on Saturday afternoon, defeating Cal Poly 12-4. Redshirt junior

infielder Xavier Esquer led the offense with an early home run blast to deep left field – this was Esquer's first of the season. Severns continued his breakout weekend with multiple RBIs. The Gauchos steadily built their lead before erupting for five runs in the ninth inning to put the game out of reach. Severns and Esquer each finished with three RBIs, while several Gauchos contributed multi-hit performances in an all around offensive focused effort.

Across the three-game series, Santa Barbara outscored Cal Poly 22-6, combining dominant pitching performances with plenty of offense to back it up. This was the first Blue-Green Rivalry series sweep since 2022 and reinforced the Gauchos' position as a contender in the Big West. The Gauchos are set to play at home tomorrow night, April 10, in a Friday night showdown against UC San Diego.



Sophomore Liam Barrett slides into base safely.

## UCSB soccer enters new era with Pac-12 partnership



COURTESY OF UCSB MEN'S SOCCER

UCSB men's soccer at the forefront of the Big West-Pac-12 partnership.

Haiden Rogers  
Sports Editor

As conference realignment has emerged as a common event that continues to change college athletics, a new partnership between the Big West Conference and the Pac-12 Conference is set to make a sure impact on the West Coast and the UC Santa Barbara men's soccer team's competition.

Announced on Monday, March 30, the collaboration will begin in the 2026-27 season and aims to strengthen Division I men's soccer on the West Coast.

"By working together, our conferences are ensuring stability for men's soccer programs across the region and maintaining strong competitive opportunities and postseason access for our student-athletes," Pac-12 Commissioner Teresa Gould said.

Under this agreement, UCSB will continue to compete in the Big West Conference alongside familiar conference opponents such as UC Irvine and Cal State Fullerton. The path to the

postseason will also remain the same for the Gauchos with a goal of winning the Big West title and getting an automatic bid to the NCAA tournament.

However, the most anticipated changes for the Gauchos that come from this agreement are the adjustments to scheduling that will introduce new competition. The partnership established a series of crossover matches between Big West and Pac-12 teams. This means UCSB will be introduced to potential matchups against teams like Oregon State, Gonzaga and San Diego State. With these conference changes, programs that will be headed to the Pac-12 include California Baptist, Cal Poly, UC Riverside and UC San Diego. This collaboration with the Big West ensures both conferences can continue the sport at a competitive level.

"This partnership represents what can happen when conferences work together with purpose ... Our shared goal has been clear – protect opportunities for student-athletes, preserve Division I

men's soccer in the West, and ensure our institutions continue to have meaningful access to NCAA championship pathways. This collaborative approach reflects the strength of our partnership with the Pac-12 and our collective commitment to the future of the sport," Big West Commissioner Dan Butterly said.

For UCSB, the change presents a significant opportunity. Increased exposure to new opponents could improve the team's postseason resume, particularly in securing at-large bids to the NCAA tournament. Strength of schedule has been a factor in tournament selection, and additional matches against Pac-12 competition may give the Gauchos an edge.

While UCSB is not changing conferences, the program stands to benefit from an expanded schedule. As the 2026-27 season approaches, the Gauchos will find themselves at the center of a collaborative effort aimed at sustaining men's soccer on the West Coast, one that could shape the future of the sport in Santa Barbara for years to come.

## UC Santa Barbara triumphs against Cal State Northridge

Izabella Nickerson  
Sports Reporter

UC Santa Barbara men's volleyball defeated California State University, Northridge Matadors in a 3-0 win on Thursday, April 2. The UC Santa Barbara men's volleyball team is currently ranked No. 8 in The Big West Conference, while the California State University, Northridge team is ranked No. 18.

UCSB collects their third win in The Big West Conference with an overall record of 3-3. With a couple matches left in the season, this was a crucial match for the Gauchos.

After trading points in the beginning of the first set, the Gauchos took the lead of 9-5 with a kill from sophomore outside hitter George Bruening.

Losing the next 3 points, CSUN came near a tie, with the Gauchos leading 10-9. With the Gauchos leading, CSUN regained momentum with 3 points in a row, although still behind 19-23. UCSB finished strong with a kill by sophomore outside hitter Ethan Saint and an error by CSUN. UCSB won the first set 25-19 and led the entire set.

The second set began with CSUN's first tie of the match at 1-1 and 6-6. Pulling away, UCSB gained a lead of 12-9. With a win on the line, a kill by sophomore outside hitter Riggs Guy broke the 2-point winning streak of the Matadors giving the Gauchos a 22-18 lead. Continuing their momentum, junior middle blocker Josh Aruya finished it out with an ace. Again, the Gauchos won the

second set 25-19.

With one set needed to sweep the Matadors, the Gauchos began the third set exchanging points. They gained the lead at 6-3 from a kill from junior outside hitter Ben Pearson. Pushing back, the Matadors achieved their first lead of the match at 20-19. Regaining momentum, the Gauchos quickly won the next 3 points, regaining the lead at 22-20. With the set on the line, Bruening delivered a kill, ending the game at 25-22.

Notably, Bruening led the team with 12 kills, hitting his 16th double-digit kills of the season. Guy followed with eight kills and junior setter Cole Schobel reached 30 assists.

The Gauchos' next match will take place on Friday, April 10 in Long Beach, at 7pm.



COURTESY OF UCSB MEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Junior Ben Pearson spikes the volleyball as teammates watch in anticipation.



# LA VISTA

## Compra de aviones Estadounidenses para la fuerza aérea peruana

Alué Otiura

Escritora para La Vista

A finales de Marzo del 2026, el Perú ha dado un gran paso haciendo crecer su inventario en aviones para la fuerza aérea.

La inversión de \$3.500 millones por 24 naves, todavía no se ha concretado sin embargo, los fondos para la compra ya están resguardados por el gobierno peruano y se está esperando solo la firma y transportación de los aviones.

Más allá del poderío militar, la incorporación de estos aviones será un factor determinante en la ofensiva contra el narcotráfico y el crimen organizado.

Equipados con radares AESA de última generación, los F-16 permiten detectar con extrema precisión las aeronaves ligeras que operan de forma clandestina en regiones críticas como el VRAEM, punto crítico de máxima exportación de cocaína del país.

Esta capacidad de interdicción aérea es vital para cortar los

puentes logísticos que las mafias utilizan para exportar droga hacia el norte del continente,

estos cazas facilita la vigilancia constante de pistas de aterrizaje ilegales y la supervisión de

el Perú no solo adquiere equipo, sino que se integra en una red de inteligencia y logística

fronteras y posicionarse como un aliado sólido en la lucha por la seguridad hemisférica.

Sin embargo, el impacto real de esta inversión dependerá no solo de la adquisición de tecnología, sino también de la capacidad del Estado para sostener políticas integrales que incluyan desarrollo social, presencia institucional en zonas vulnerables y alternativas económicas para las poblaciones afectadas.

Solo así el fortalecimiento militar podrá traducirse en una reducción sostenible del narcotráfico y del crimen organizado.

En conjunto, esta adquisición marca un punto de inflexión en la política de defensa del país, abriendo una etapa donde la seguridad nacional se redefine bajo estándares tecnológicos más altos y una mayor integración internacional, con el objetivo de consolidar la estabilidad interna y proyectar al Perú como un actor más activo en la seguridad regional.



CORTESÍA DE LA NACIÓN

fortaleciendo así la colaboración estratégica con los Estados Unidos en la desarticulación de rutas transnacionales.

Así mismo, la versatilidad de

zonas afectadas por la minería informal.

Al compartir la misma plataforma tecnológica que la Fuerza Aérea estadounidense,

compartida que potencia los resultados de las operaciones conjuntas.

Con este paso, el país busca recuperar el control total de sus

## El poder económico del 'Mencho' y lo que su salida propicia

Janise L. Fernandez

Escritora para La Vista

Dejando vilmente atrás al infamo 'Culiacanazo' de Sinaloa (aún potente y presente), México se encuentra una vez más enredado en las garras de un nuevo conflicto bélico.

Sin embargo, en esta ocasión, se contempla un riesgo único y cuasi nacional—una pelea que podría bien marcar la revancha por el poder en México entre grupos delictivos y atentar a la paz.

El abatimiento y asesinato posterior de Nemesio Oseguera Cervantes, alias 'El Mencho', ha generado una cadena de estallidos violentos por toda la república, mas no es el presente estado de toque de queda que aterra a la población, sino la posible etapa a seguir.

Oseguera es reconocido públicamente como el líder del Cártel Jalisco Nueva Generación, un grupo de trata de mercancías ilícitas, popularmente considerado el más influyente a nivel nacional (sobrepasando a antecesores antiguos como el Cártel de Sinaloa).

Su control sobre la región de Jalisco, 27 estados de la república y su alcance en más de 40 países se debe en su totalidad a su acceso a vastos recursos financieros y políticos, derivados de la misma trata de sustancias y negocios por de lado.

Fuera de la fabricación, tráfico y distribución de fentanilo, metanfetamina y cocaína, el CJNG añade a su oficio el robo de gasolina ('huachicol'), la extorsión y fraudes en compra, venta y alquiler de propiedades.

En este 2025, se observaron varios ejemplos de este tipo de actividad, uno de los casos más mediáticos siendo la detención del alcalde del municipio de Tequila, Jalisco, Diego Rivera Navarro, por la presunta red de corrupción en la que se extorsionaba a negocios tequileros de la región.

Se le atribuyen a esta red vínculos con el CJNG y se estima que su beneficio monetario orbitaba los 40 millones de pesos anuales.

Asimismo, datos del Buró Federal de Investigación (FBI, por sus siglas en inglés), apuntan que en el transcurso de tan solo cinco años, seis mil turistas estadounidenses han denunciado pérdidas cerca de 300 millones de dólares debido a fraude por parte de cárteles en México (Jalisco Nueva Gen. llevando la delantera).

Fuera de esta entrada a gran escala de dinero, el poder económico del cártel puede también ser analizado a través de sus dispensaciones en gastos.

Tras la filtración de documentos con cuentas del grupo delictivo, se descubrió que alrededor de 2.9 mil dólares estadounidenses fueron apartados para pagar los servicios

de 20 'halcones' (vigilantes urbanos para el narco) y 6.03 mil dólares para los 'muchachos de choke' (pistoleros), añadiendo a estas cantidades otros gastos menores que nos llevan a un total de 16.9 mil dólares aislados para el presupuesto de solo un día de 'labor' (enfrentamiento).

Se expuso que en tan solo el diciembre de 2025, la venta independiente de estupefacientes generó ganancias superiores a los 500 mil dólares.

Con todos estos montos concentrados a la disposición de un único individuo más sus aliados es posible ver cómo esto indica una señal de alarma.

Puesto a que se trata de una posición de poder altamente codiciada que podría llevar a choques entre facciones ilegales y dejar el control regional a la discreción de las manos equivocadas.

Sobre todo, esta situación revela una alta vulnerabilidad para comercios locales que fueron las primeras víctimas de los ataques post mortem del Mencho, donde se vieron afectados más de 1 millón de negocios con 4.8 millones de trabajadores.

Aunque las cifras permanecen tentativas, se estima las pérdidas económicas entre mil 500 y 2 mil millones de pesos.

Asimismo, un sector de la población que puede verse desmesuradamente perjudicado

es la juventud que, más allá de ver potenciales suspensiones de clases y labor a futuro, se ha convertido en un blanco lucrativo para este tipo de organizaciones.

La Oficina de Asuntos Laborales Internacionales en Estados Unidos ha declarado que alrededor de 30 mil niños forman parte de algún tipo de grupo criminal en México.

Además, se espera que el número de niños en peligro de ser reclutados para este negocio se eleve a 200 mil.

Con crecientes disputas entre bandos y ataques por defender al líder de los jaliscienses, el incremento de ayuda sería indispensable para estas congregaciones.

El narcotráfico en México continúa siendo uno de los

máximos poderes al mando para el control civil y desvío monetario a nivel nacional y con la salida del Mencho, las circunstancias se intensifican a través de la república.

Sin embargo, existen opiniones que pronostican que la violencia llegará a su cima pronto y regresará a lo vivido antes, mientras que otros aseguran que este conflicto podría resultar en la debilitación de estructuras delictivas, reduciendo el número de casos de extorsión entre un 10 y 20 por ciento—representando 18 mil 645 millones de pesos anuales.

No obstante, los pasos a seguir permanecen casi impredecibles para el país, pero se pueden esperar altos impactos económicos inicialmente decadentes y con futuro ambiguo.



CORTESÍA DE PEXELS

## Lo que nadie te cuenta de ser estudiante universitario

Ana Ramirez Cermeno

Escritora para La Vista

Muchos estudiantes llegan a la universidad con la idea de que esta será una de las mejores etapas de su vida.

Se habla constantemente de la libertad, las nuevas experiencias, las amistades y la independencia.

Además, las redes sociales refuerzan esta imagen: fotos en la playa, salidas con amigos y momentos llenos de diversión.

Desde afuera, parece que la universidad es un lugar donde todo es fácil y donde uno puede disfrutar sin preocupaciones.

Sin embargo, lo que no siempre se muestra es la realidad detrás de esa imagen.

Ser estudiante universitario implica mucho más que asistir a clases y socializar.

Detrás de cada publicación hay largas horas de estudio, noches sin dormir bien y una carga constante de responsabilidades.

Exámenes, tareas, proyectos y fechas límite se acumulan, creando un ritmo de vida que puede llegar a ser abrumador.

Muchas veces, los estudiantes

no logran descansar lo suficiente.

Las horas de sueño se reducen por quedarse estudiando hasta tarde o tratando de cumplir con múltiples obligaciones.

La alimentación también puede verse afectada por la falta de tiempo.

Con el paso del tiempo, esto impacta no solo el rendimiento académico, sino también el bienestar físico y emocional.

Además, existe una presión constante por mantenerse al día.

No se trata solo de aprobar clases, sino de hacerlo bien, cumplir expectativas y no quedarse atrás en comparación con otros.

Esta presión puede generar estrés, ansiedad y sentimientos de insuficiencia.

Hay momentos en los que el cansancio es tan grande que uno

quiere rendirse, y en los que encontrar un equilibrio entre la vida personal y académica parece imposible.

A pesar de todo esto, los estudiantes continúan avanzando. Cada examen aprobado, cada proyecto completado y cada pequeño logro representa un paso importante.

La universidad no solo exige esfuerzo, también

ayuda a desarrollar disciplina, responsabilidad y resiliencia.

Es importante reconocer que la experiencia universitaria no es perfecta.

Mostrar sólo los aspectos positivos da una visión incompleta.

Hablar también de las dificultades no le quita valor a esta etapa; al contrario, la hace más honesta y realista.

Al final, ser estudiante universitario es un proceso de crecimiento.

Aunque sea difícil, cada esfuerzo vale la pena, porque todo forma parte de un camino que construye no solo un futuro profesional, sino también una versión más fuerte de uno mismo.

No es fácil pero debemos de seguir luchando porque todo el esfuerzo y sacrificio que estamos haciendo al final tendrá una gran recompensa y nos ayudará en nuestro futuro a encontrar buenos trabajos.

Yo les puedo decir que no es fácil pero que nunca nos rindamos, que luchemos por las metas que queremos cumplir. Lo estamos haciendo muy bien!



CORTESÍA DE SHUTTERSHOCK



# NEXUSTENTIALISM

It's Satire, Stupid.



MADELINE BRYCE / DAILY NEXUS

## UCSB wins March Yakness, gains nationwide recognition

Ivanna Doomscroll  
Yakker

In a development that has changed the lives of the chronically online and proved as yet another loss for the productive, UC Santa Barbara gained global notoriety and prestige after emerging victorious in the 2026 March Yakness tournament.

In March Yakness, players launch mini basketballs into red cups and progress through levels to earn points and contribute to their school's total score. The tournament functions much like its namesake, March Madness, with winning schools advancing through the bracket and facing off

against other skilled opponents.

To win, the Gauchos had to defeat Cornell, Brown, Oregon State and finally, the other big party school, Florida State. In the days after the tournament's results were released, many from the aforementioned schools expressed disappointment in their university's performance.

"Until that moment, I thought we were invincible," second-year Cornell student Scarlett Redd confessed. "Now I wanna transfer to UCSB. Isla Vista, here I come!" U.S. News & World Report editor Ray Tingkollej also provided his input.

"This victory will greatly impact UCSB's ranking in future years,"

Tingkollej explained. "I foresee this fine institution surpassing its competitors at the top of the chain. Perhaps this will be the impetus for the formation of an Ivy League 2.0 – the IV. League, perhaps?" He then proceeded to guffaw uproariously at his own joke.

Despite Tingkollej's headache-inducing sense of humor, his claims are not without reason. According to a recent poll conducted by the University of California Board of Regents, current high school sophomores and juniors are 78% more likely to apply to UCSB over UC Los Angeles or UC Berkeley, a historic and unprecedented record. Various online sources also claim that UCSB is planning

on establishing a formal mobile gaming and e-sports division, although Nexustentialism was unable to confirm.

However, not all the newfound attention on UCSB has been positive. In light of two negative comments underneath an Associated Students (A.S.) Instagram post and an unrelated incident in which a Yakness player collided with a cyclist on the street, A.S. is considering a 72-hour Yik Yak ban when March Yakness rolls around in 2027.

"This is just to ensure that our student body is safe and that we don't use up valuable school resources, such as Wi-Fi," Melanie Stickler, A.S. spokesperson and

fourth-year political science major, said. Stickler went on to explain that although plans are still being finalized, the ban will most likely be enforced on campus and across Isla Vista, with increased police presence to ensure that students are not accessing the forbidden app.

"We may not be the No. 1 party school anymore, but we certainly are the No. 1 chronically online school!" third-year economics major Nazz Daq said when asked for his thoughts. "Ah, shit, I probably jinxed it, didn't I?"

*Ivanna Doomscroll will enjoy her three months of free Yik Yak+.*

JULIET BECKER / DAILY NEXUS

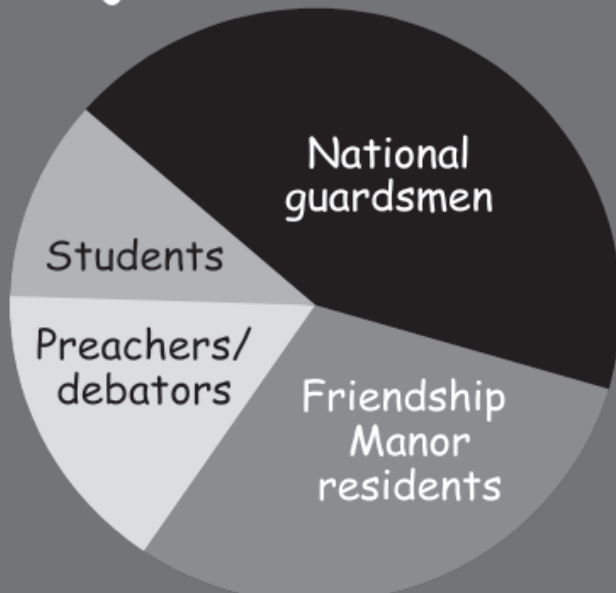
# Dulltopia: Coming 2027

Free cop interaction



Free porta-potty use

Projected attendees



Dulltopia will perfectly capture the spirit of UCI. I mean UCSB.

Expected cost: \$4,789,000

Dulltopia Organizer  
Stikkid Uppmaiass



MADELINE BRYCE / DAILY NEXUS

## What your leasing company says about you ...

Lucille My Balls  
Land Lady

By the time spring quarter rolls around, most microtrends hanging in your closet are out of fashion, meaning you need to find a new aesthetic to base your personality off of for the next few months. We all know coquette is out for 2026 and the 2016 trends came and went faster than your first boyfriend.

So how will you know what to overconsume until you get bored if no one is telling you what's cool? Well look no further, because we are here to help. Forget about trends and find your true self through this simple test.

**Playa Life IV.:** Classic Isla Vista bum. Probably in a frat and keeps Snag in business getting ZYNs delivered. Doesn't let his girlfriend stop him from finding his next girlfriend. Coke addiction optional.

**Harwin & Co.:** Mom of the friend group, but kinda a shitty mom. The kind of mom that forgets to pick up her kids from school and wears Cookie Monster pajama pants. Minivan smells like menthol cigarettes and McDonald's. Kids are fed, good job mamas!

**IV Properties:** Daddy's money. Enjoys the luxuries of black mold-free bathrooms and renovated parking spots. Probably paying out-of-state tuition. First head on the guillotine once IV. gains class consciousness.

KAMAP

**Management:** Reddit moderator. Probably has never set foot in a party and prefers hopping on Discord. Hey, no judgement, not everyone can be a PogChamp!

**Sierra Property Management:** Total granola girl. Probably has a fridge full of overnight oats and chia pudding. Climbed Half Dome for spring break and wears a CamelBak to class. Body is a temple except for the occasional IPA. You go, girl!

**Campus 880:** Probably a Santa Barbara City College student larping as a Gaucho. If not, probably a Gaucho larping as a SBCC student. Go to class.

**St. George & Associates:** Fifth-year economics major. Probably dating a freshman. Sheets haven't been washed since year three and lives on a diet of Super Cucas and six packs from Six Pak Shop. Perpetually unemployed.

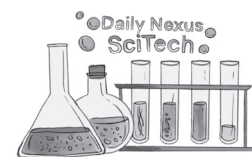
**Wolfe & Associates:** One hell of a woman. Probably sexy, gorgeous and smart. Life of the party and always does her dishes. Marry me please.

**On Campus:** Freshman noob. Probably jerks off in the showers (valid) while spreading five strains of frat flu through saliva swapping. Focus on passing CHEMIB and spend less time at Sharkeez. Don't take it personally though, it's a right of passage.

*Lucille My Balls spends her days judging books by covers and her nights crying herself to sleep.*

Property

# SCIENCE & TECH



## Carry-on, carry-all: The psychology of overpacking, spring cleaning & sentimental value

Roxanna Reid  
Science Editor

On the last Friday of spring break, I drove up from Anaheim to the San Fernando Valley to spend 24 hours with my best friends. Our trip was delineated to a strict schedule: an evening eating hot pot, an hour-long morning line for matcha, a “Mamma Mia!”-themed 20th birthday party and a carpool straight back to Isla Vista.

Not a minute of our day was left to the hands of fate, yet on Friday morning I arrived on my friend Claire’s doorstep armed with enough luggage to survive a winter backpacking uncharted wilderness.

Packing light has never been my personal strength. Ask my friends from high school who laughed at my Jansport backpack stuffed constantly beyond capacity, or my freshman-year roommate who helped me repeatedly unjam my overflowing desk drawers.

I once believed this overpreparedness would resolve itself after beginning college; that a year spent in a Manzanita small double dorm would impose upon me a sense of practicality or an inclination toward minimalism. But the objects I’ve accumulated since freshman year have an elevated sentimentality. I collect ticket stubs, wristbands, seashells, souvenir T-shirts and tennis shoes like invaluable artifacts of my fleeting youth and find it increasingly difficult to separate essentials from junk.

When objects become representative of the environments we’ve shed and the people we hope to become, our belongings can grow into extensions of ourselves. Materialism, a socially abundant belief system linking consumption to success and happiness, develops in childhood and peaks at middle adolescence in association with low self-esteem. We’re constantly purchasing material possessions

in pursuit of happiness, but investing in experiential purchases is consistently linked to more enduring pleasure and satisfaction. Even when new material purchases provide a fading sense of joy, consumers find themselves stuck on a “hedonic treadmill” in which they quickly return to a baseline level of happiness.

In spite of this downfall, the objects we accumulate throughout each season of life can carry extreme sentimental significance. This effect is most significant for objects that represent a link to memory or relationship. According to researcher Guy Fletcher, these representations are amplified by certain extrinsic factors such as inheritance or gifting. Other objects only acquire sentimental association after the passage of time, even or especially as their functionality degrades.

Spring is a season of reflection, in which these material objects can feel even more sentimental

than usual. But it’s also a season of renewal and, as we return to campus for a new quarter, decluttering is more important than ever.

There’s a sharp negative correlation between environmental clutter and emotional well-being. It imposes a visual distraction that increases cognitive overload and reduces information processing, as well as increasing cortisol levels.

Clearing unnecessary objects from one’s space is demonstrated to increase focus and productivity, and there’s no better time to do so than spring. As days lengthen and weather brightens, our levels of serotonin increase while melatonin levels decrease, resulting in elevated mood and motivation. This biological urge, paired with spring’s significance as a temporal landmark, contribute to a “fresh start effect” in which we separate ourselves from past imperfections and gravitate toward new goals. As a result, “spring cleaning” has

emerged as a culturally convergent annual tradition endured across centuries.

Finally, spring is a season marked by movement. As 1.5 million college students across America return to campus from spring break, overpackers like myself are forced to confront their fatal flaws and condense our lives into a carry-on suitcase. Overpacking can offer emotional comfort and a sense of self-defense against uncertainty, but deferring decision making and trying to squeeze a bursting bag into an airplane’s overhead compartment will ultimately only aggravate your travel anxiety.

In clearing your desk, dorm or suitcase from an excess of sentiment this spring, we can create space in our lives for new experiences and clarity – but don’t be embarrassed to hold on to a handful of objects that remind you of the people and places you call home.

## Research in Review: Vernal pool restoration, infant edibility expectations, mind wandering effects on recent memory

Yumiko Florando  
Staff Writer

### Restoration of vernal pools

A recent paper authored by UC Santa Barbara doctoral student alum Joanna Tang and professor Carla D’Antonio in the Ecology, Evolution, and Marine Biology department, focuses on studying the interactions between native and exotic species in vernal pool wetlands.

Vernal pools are temporary bodies of water that are created due to indentations in the ground, where water accumulates for short periods of time throughout the year.

These areas are often widely composed of non-native exotic grasses that die and accumulate as “thatch.” This thatch can create greater fire hazards, perpetuate cycles of greater density of non-native grasses and suppress the growth of native plants.

The researchers conducted a five-year study at vernal pools in the Del Sol Vernal Pool Preserve and Camino Corto Open Space in Isla Vista. They sought to test different methods of thatch removal and disturbance to measure its effect on native plant species.

Three conditions were tested: raking and removal of thatch, raking without removal (disturbance) of thatch and a control with no disturbance. Additionally, the treatment groups were seeded with native plants.

Researchers utilized community-based support to help with the physical work of this project, with over 40 undergraduate students participating.

While removal did help decrease the amount of thatch buildup, the growth of native plants seemed to mainly depend on other factors such as rainfall, seeding and environmental conditions.

While there was an increase in native plant diversity four years into the project, the researchers were unable to determine if this was the result of heavy rainfall or continued thatch removal and native seeding.

Either way, these findings highlight that restoration

projects may require multiple attempts over years for environmental conditions to be optimal for successful restoration.

### Infants expect plants to be edible

An article co-authored by Camille Rioux and UCSB Psychological and Brain Sciences assistant professor Annie Wertz recently published findings on a study exploring infants’ expectations around edibility.

Researchers set up three experiments to determine whether 6-month-old infants spend more time looking at adult actors who consume expected versus unexpected objects.

Both experiments included two models: edible fruit presented on a realistic fake plant and edible fruit presented on an “artifact” constructed of materials like wire and paper in a shape vaguely resembling a tree.

In the first experiment, an actor ate a piece of fruit from either the realistic fake tree or the artifact model.

A control condition was also included, in which the actor placed the fruit from either the realistic plant or the artifact behind their ear instead of eating it.

Infants looked at the actor for longer when they ate the fruit from the artifact, suggesting a greater sense of surprise.

There was no significant difference between the time the infants looked at the plant versus the artifact in the behind the ear control condition, indicating that it was not an interest in the artifact that led to the greater time.

This suggests that 6-month-old infants might have an established belief that plants are more likely to be edible than artificial objects.

In the second experiment, researchers were trying to determine if it was the leaves or fruit specifically that the infants expected to be edible by separating them into different conditions.

For the fruit, the time the infants looked at the fruit picked off a regular vine or artifact vine led the researchers



COURTESY OF UCSB LILAC

The UCSB LILAC research team within the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences explores infant’s perceptions of edibility.

to report inconclusive results. The infants’ did not have clear expectations of either being more likely to be edible. There was no difference between the time infants looked at actors eating the artifact bundle of leaves or the real leaves.

In a third experiment, researchers tried another variation to study if infants expected specifically the leaves or the fruit to be edible.

They did this by picking fruit or leaves respectively from a bigger plant and plant-like artifact and measuring differences in duration of infant gaze. The results of this experiment also showed no significant difference between the two conditions.

Overall, findings suggest that infants are more likely to expect food to come from plants than artificial synthetic objects. However, researchers did not find evidence that the infants were more likely to anticipate specific parts of the plants to be edible, such as leaves or fruit.

Based on these results, the researchers concluded that most eating habits and cues are not innate.

However, the expectation that food was more likely to come from plants than their artificial counterparts may indicate that evolutionary plant foraging diets may have shaped developing infants’

knowledge of food.

### Mind wandering affects memory encoding

A recent paper published by Shivang Shelat, a graduate student in the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences, studies the effects of mind wandering or task-unrelated thoughts (TUTs) on memory.

Researchers presented participants with a series of images that had been pre-established to have either high or low memorability.

As each image was presented, researchers placed probes designed to assess task-unrelated thoughts by asking participants to reflect on whether they were focused on the image or thinking about their personal worries, daydreams, everyday tasks, their state of being, the external environment or another category not listed.

Findings revealed that both the low memorability images and task-unrelated thoughts were associated with participants being less likely to recall images. However these factors appeared independent of each other, indicating that these two processes may be distinct from one another when it comes to memory coding.

In a follow-up experiment, researchers tested free recall, which they defined as the

number of objects they drew from memory relative to the number of objects they drew when copying the scene directly.

Participants were shown a new series of images divided equally between low and high memorability. In between prompts, a probe question asked how focused participants were during each image. Participants were later instructed to draw scenes they’d been presented from memory.

Finally, they were provided with the image again to copy in order to provide a control on how the participant perceived the scene.

Similar results were found with TUTs decreasing free recall, as well as greater memory associated with the high memorability images. However, this second experiment also demonstrated that TUTs seemed to decrease free recall for the highly memorable scenes, but not the low ones.

This study provides further research into memory encoding and the effects of distractions during this process.

As memory is an essential part of human cognition and functioning, this study provides more insight into the potential detriment of task-unrelated thoughts and distractions in everyday life.

# ON THE MENU



## SPRING BREAK: A CULINARY DIARY



POLLY SYMES / DAILY NEXUS

Nothing will top this dinner view: The Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco.

**Polly Symes**  
Reporter

For many, I am sure that spring break flew by and the adjustment to spring quarter feels abrupt. While I was journaling about what I did during the holiday, I found that I kept returning to food. What follows is a cultural and culinary journey around a few special spots in California, written by a Brit who's always on the hunt to experience new flavors.

### **Alhambra, Los Angeles County:** **Iced lattes, cookies and grapes**

My spring break began with the noon train from Goleta, Santa Barbara to Union Station, Los Angeles to stay with Cassandra, a friend of mine who lives in Alhambra. After a 3.5-hour train, followed by a drive from the station to her home (during which I fell asleep), I was tired and rather hot. It was lovely to be greeted by Cassandra's mother, who had laid out gooey yet crispy chocolate cookies from Bristol Farms, together with cold, crunchy green grapes. We enjoyed the snacks together with cinnamon-honey iced lattes on the sofa, and I was soon revived. As a British person accustomed to European styles of coffee (espresso, cappuccino, macchiato, etc.), I logically know that the California style is less coffee and more milkshake. However, it is a cold, sweet and energizing drink that hits the spot on a 35 celsius (95°F) day in LA county. N.B. A wonderful café in LA for this type of drink is Salted Butter Company in Pasadena ... the beverages (and baked goods) there are as good as they sound.

### **Eagle Rock, Los Angeles:** **Mexican food at Xécora**

After our coffee stop, I was reenergised and ready to explore. We jumped in the car and immediately put "24K Magic" by Bruno Mars on speaker before driving into the mountains and halfway up to the radio tower to admire LA under the setting sun. I was struck by the

natural beauty. After that, we stopped at a retro video store in Eagle Rock, ducking into a photo booth to pose for goofy photo strips. By this point, it was 8 p.m. and I was ready to eat. We found Xécora via Apple Maps, and were swayed by the brilliant reviews. On arrival, Cassandra ordered us two horchatas, which came in pint-sized glasses, and, not for the first time, I was grateful for large American portions. Lost for choice, I ordered the Taco Trio, which consisted of one quesabirria (beef) taco, one al pastor (pork and pineapple) and one gobernador (shrimp, cabbage and pico de gallo). Absolutely to die for. We enjoyed our meal alongside the sounds of a guitar strumming acoustic covers, and I felt joyful to be with Cassandra in LA eating the best Mexican food I've ever tasted.

### **Somewhere on the road** **between Los Angeles and Santa** **Barbara: Whole Foods**

On the drive back to Santa Barbara (thank you to lovely Arjun for driving), I was keen for a fresh and healthy lunch. Whole Foods seemed like the perfect place. After browsing the numerous aisles, I gathered an orange juice, a pesto and artichoke pasta salad, a small punnet of raspberries and a box of mini chocolate cookies to bring to the self-checkout. Somebody tell me why that cost \$26.45?! Long live the Tesco (a supermarket in the United Kingdom) meal deal where you can buy a drink, a main and a snack for £3.50 (\$4.62). Of course, everything tasted good for a supermarket meal, but my bank account was left a little bereft.

### **Danville, Contra Costa County:** **Homemade Indian dinner**

On Wednesday night, I was lucky enough to enjoy a homemade dinner in the Indian-American home of Arjun, someone I hold dear. The meal consisted of aloo (potato curry), poori (deep-fried bread), chutney and a spiced yogurt sauce. As a British person, I grew up eating Indian food

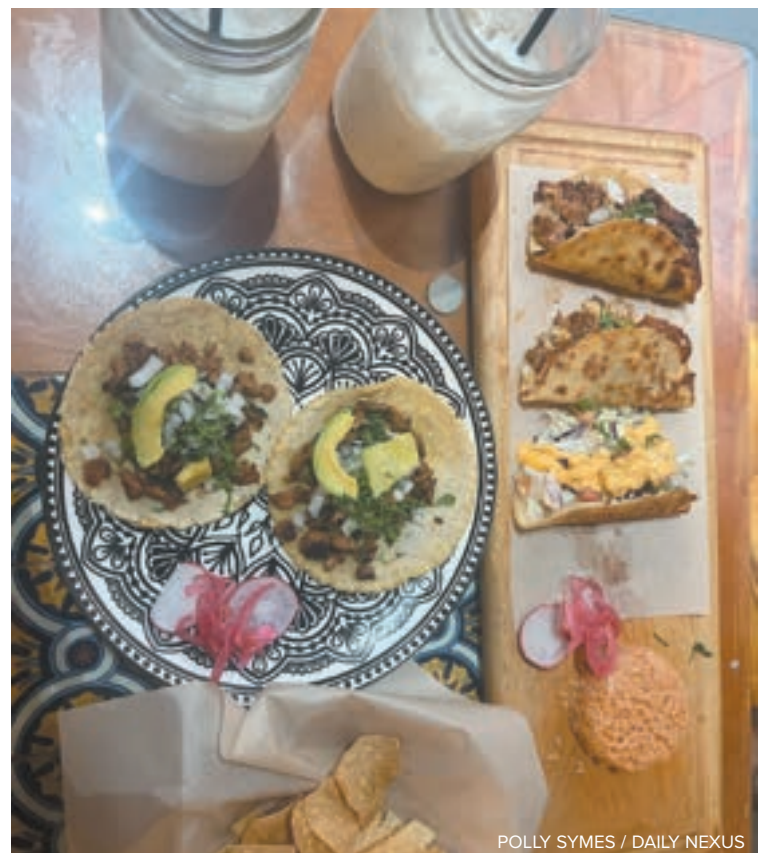
(our national dish is chicken tikka masala). However, the poori was new to me, and the unique texture was exciting. Ashamedly, I did find the aloo rather spicy, but it was delicious all the same. I hope to learn how to recreate a milder version myself.

### **Fort Mason, San Francisco:** **Bavarian food at Radhaus**

I spent an afternoon with Arjun wandering along the Golden Gate Bridge, into anarchist bookshops and local coffee shops in Haight-Ashbury and around the Palace of Fine Arts. Our last stop was Radhaus, a Bavarian-style beer hall located in a former U.S. Army machine shop. As the sun began to set, Arjun sipped at Weihenstephaner "Vitus" (an award-winning golden wheat bock beer) whilst I enjoyed a sweeter ginger beer. To eat, he chose a döner kebab: pita bread, tzatziki sauce, hot sauce, pickled shallots and roast lamb. This is a dish commonly ordered in the United Kingdom after one has been "on the lash!" I ordered the die käsigsten Käsespätzle (dumpling noodles) which warmed me as a breeze began to blow through the outdoor tables. The dish consisted of dumpling noodles, caramelised onions, gruyere, emmental, muenster, jarslberg, shallots and a parsley-chive oil, to which I added bacon. I am British but also Swiss, and the four cheeses that went into this dish were 100% Swiss-person-approved.

### **Onto spring quarter:**

As I write, it is Monday and the first day of my last quarter at UC Santa Barbara. The skies are grey in typical English fashion, and my dinner plans are somewhat less exciting than a romantic date by the San Francisco pier. But I remind myself to be grateful for the incredible people I have met here so far, whose lives have touched mine in irrevocable ways, as well as the opportunity to share food with the people whom I love and to taste my way around a state that will forever hold a piece of my heart.



POLLY SYMES / DAILY NEXUS

Mine and Cassandra's meals at Xécora. My Taco Trio is on the right.

POLLY SYMES / DAILY NEXUS



The view from the summit of Mount Diablo, a 3,848ft mountain in Contra Costa County that I hiked up with Arjun.

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SANTA BARBARA, AND CARP. TIMES  
BELOW SHOW GOLETA DEPARTURE)

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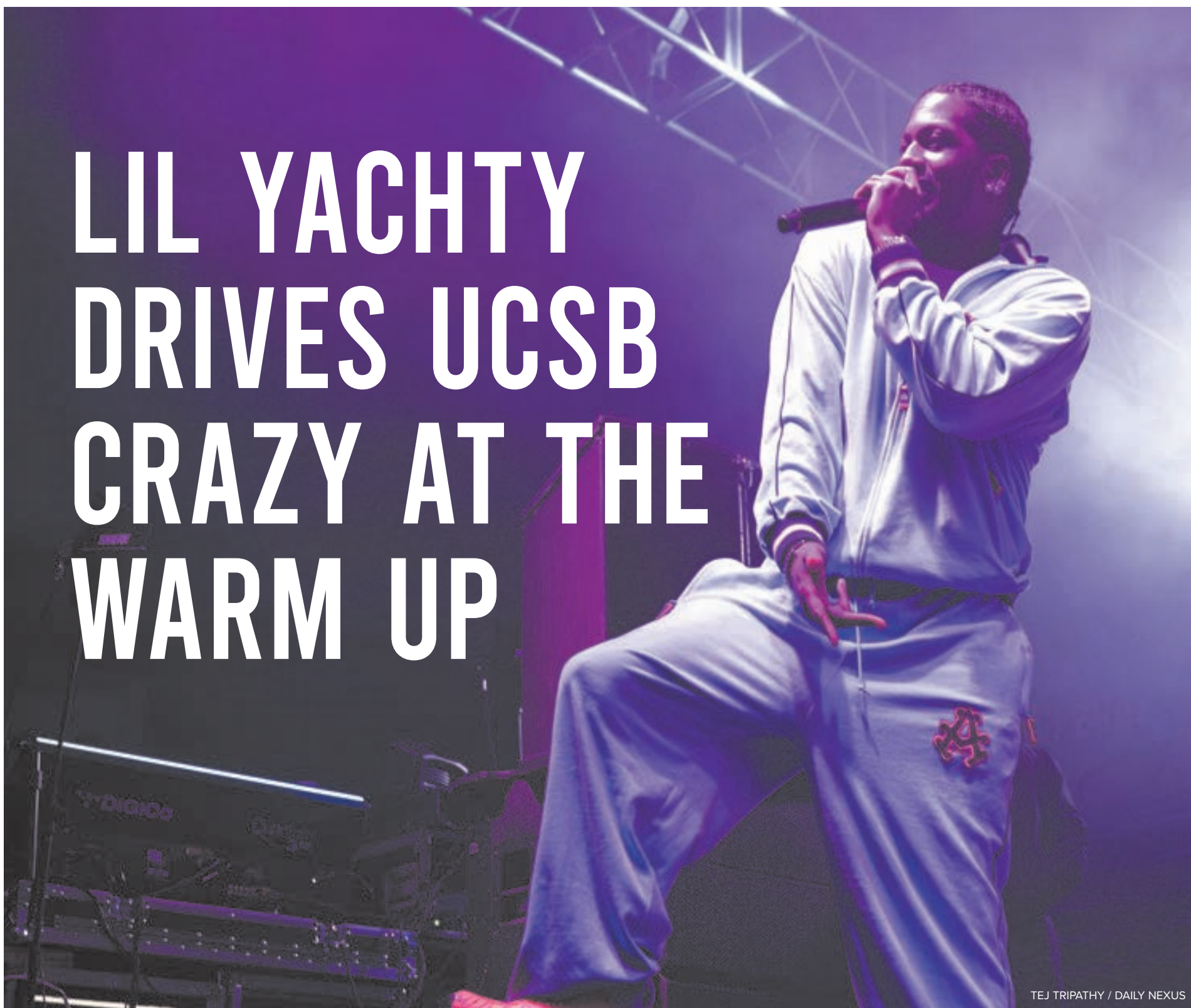
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## ARTSWEEK



# LIL YACHTY DRIVES UCSB CRAZY AT THE WARM UP



TEJ TRIPATHY / DAILY NEXUS

Lil Yachty making his Thunderdome debut to the Gaucho-only crowd.

Lauren Chiou  
Artsweek Editor

Rapper Lil Yachty made his high-powered debut at the 11th iteration of The Warm Up, one of the annual campus concerts put on by the Associated Students Program Board. With record-breaking attendance and an exceptionally rowdy student-only crowd, Lil Yachty brought the heat to UC Santa Barbara's Thunderdome.

Lil Yachty (real name Miles Parks McCollum) emerged onto the rap scene in 2015 and is known for his versatile sound and experimental approach to the rap genre. He was joined by R&B singer Destin Conrad and Associated Students Program Board (ASPB) Battle of the Bands winner Faux Fur at the April 4 campus concert.

According to ASPB Special Events Coordinator and third-year sociology major Sariya Dyson, ASPB chose Lil Yachty because of his universal appeal to the UCSB student body.

"[Lil] Yachty is versatile and universal ... his area of rap and his area of music is not just typical rap or typically what you would think of as a rapper," Dyson said. "He is someone that matters to students."

Since its inception in 2015, The Warm Up concert annually takes place on the evening of Deltopia, an unsanctioned Isla Vista street festival at the start of spring quarter. The concert is designed to serve as an alternative to the hectic daytime festival, offering students a campus event instead.

Following the January 2026 Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors ruling that effectively banned Deltopia from taking place, eyes were turned toward the ASPB campus concert. Disappointment surrounding the cancellation and the emergence of Soltopia (Isla Vista Community Services District's Deltopia alternative) lended itself toward the mass interest in the concert.

"The moment we found out Deltopia was actually cancelled, [ASPB] had to pivot our ideas of what we wanted The Warm Up to look like," Dyson said. "This has to be something that's going to make students want to stay and also be worth it for Deltopia being canceled."

Unlike previous years of The Warm Up, which tends to have lower attendance due to its shared date with Deltopia, 2026's concert brought in a large crowd of over 3,000 attendees, making it one of the biggest evenings in the concert's history. According to Dyson, 2026's

Warm Up was the first time the concert had sold out of tickets in years.

"I think people were more incentivized to come to The Warm Up once Deltopia was canceled because people didn't really seem like people had plans outside of Soltopia," Dyson added.

As students filed into the Thunderdome around 8 p.m., Faux Fur took to the stage to welcome in the crowd. The rock band won ASPB's Battle of the Bands on Feb. 27, securing them the opening slot at The Warm Up.

Opening act Destin Conrad brought R&B to the Thunderdome stage, serenading the crowd with songs like "BAD BITCHES" and "IN THE AIR." During his set, Conrad danced across the stage, often pointing to and shouting out crowd members that caught his eye.

"UCSB, I'm not gonna lie ... I see a lot of bad bitches here," Conrad said between songs, which received cheers from the crowd.

As he ended his set, Conrad recorded a selfie video with the student crowd, which he later posted to his Instagram story.

The Thunderdome audience grew antsy waiting for Lil Yachty to take the stage. Crowd members began to chant "Yachty, Yachty, Yachty," in anticipation for the rapper and voiced frustrations at the prolonged intermission.

At around 10 p.m., Lil Yachty's DJ, Rio Amor, took to the stage to prepare the crowd for the rapper's performance, asking the crowd to jump during her DJ set.

"Are y'all ready for Lil Yachty?!" she yelled out.

The rapper then emerged onstage, showing off a UCSB shirt to the crowd as students roared with excitement. He was joined onstage by Camo!, a member of Lil Yachty's rap collective Concrete Boys. Together, Lil Yachty and Camo! hyped the crowd up with the opening song "POINT ME TO IT."

"What's up, how y'all motherfucking feeling tonight?" Lil Yachty asked the crowd. "I just got off the motherfucking plane from Atlanta, Georgia to come kick it with y'all, make some motherfucking noise!"

He then introduced himself, Rio Amor and Camo! to the crowd, referring to the latter as his "little brother" in reference to the pair's artistic collaborations.

Decked out in a light blue track suit, Lil Yachty rapped across the Thunderdome stage, nodding and jumping to the beat of the song while adlibbing.

Mid-set, the rapper paused and

asked the crowd to ramp up their energy, commenting on the low-energy crowd and encouraging a more unruly environment. "Turn up the motherfucking energy in this bitch ... flip this bitch upside down, this bitch a little low right now. Open up a motherfucking mosh pit!"

The crowd obeyed, forming a mosh pit and upping the audience's energy. However, while the rowdiness was welcomed and carried out by the student crowd, others expressed concerns over the lack of crowd control and protections. Multiple students requested to be lifted out of the pit by concert security due to the increasingly aggressive crowd, while some relocated to avoid the mosh.

"[The concert] was really, really packed ... at first [I was in] the front, and then [a] mosh pit started happening, and I got crushed. So I went to the back," second-year anthropology and Spanish major Lily Hartwick said, recounting her experience.

Despite the unruly crowd, students were still in for a good time. The rapper made sure to include popular tracks that he is featured on, such as "Broccoli" and "iSpy," and the crowd chanted along to the lyrics.

The rapper concluded his set with his viral hit "drive ME crazy!" The experimental, neo-soul track marked a departure from Lil Yachty's typical high-energy rap sound and had the crowd swaying and singing along. Lil Yachty looked out at the crowd singing the lyrics back to him, nodding with approval.

Following his solo verse, Lil Yachty thanked the crowd, blowing kisses and holding his heart before heading backstage. While initially confused by his sudden exit, the students cheered for the rapper and danced as the outro of the song played.

Reception to the concert was positive. Third-year economics major Richard Ahn described the concert as "fire" and expressed a desire for a longer performance from the headliner.

"[Lil] Yachty performed really well; it was a little short, but it was still pretty fire," Ahn said.

From the ASPB side, the concert was a massive success.

"[ASPB is] really happy," Dyson said. "And we're still in shock of how great of a turnout it was."

However, Hartwick highlighted a need for crowd control at future campus concerts, saying, "If there's anything to prevent getting short people squished, that would be nice."



TEJ TRIPATHY / DAILY NEXUS

Destin Conrad warming the crowd as the opening act, with songs like "BAD BITCHES" and "IN THE AIR."



TEJ TRIPATHY / DAILY NEXUS

Lil Yachty leading the crowd in a mosh pit.

# COLUMNISTS

## sex and the community



JULIET BECKER / DAILY NEXUS

Diana Paradise  
*Sexpert*

Condoms: they come in all shapes, sizes, colors, textures and flavors. Pre-lubricated, ribbed, banana-flavored, extra long – most importantly, they are necessary to any sexual activity involving a penis.

Not all condoms are created equal and, depending on the brand and style, it can make or break your sexual experience. While I am a firm believer in keeping condoms in my purse in case a man doesn't have one, the one with the dick should be in charge of wrapping it.

As someone who has explored many men (and their dicks), I would consider myself an expert on the topic of “condom horoscopes”: the condom that a man chooses to use can tell you a lot about his sexual history, personality and mindset.

### 1. Colored/anything that looks free

If a man has the audacity to pull a green condom out of his wallet that looks like he got it from the Student Resource Building bathroom, you're dealing with a virgin. Not only

## A condom is worth 1,000 words: *What a man's preferred rubber says about him*

will this man likely have no idea what he's doing, the condom isn't helping the situation either.

These have no lube, rip easily and are generally a pain in the ass (pun intended). Plus, if a guy can't even make the effort to go out and buy a box of condoms, do you think he'll put in the effort necessary to please you?

Inexperienced, cheap, unoriginal, low-effort: nothing that comes from these condoms indicates a good time. Run while you can!

### 2. Durex

If you've had the pleasure of fucking your way through a semester in Europe, you have likely encountered the dreaded Durex. More popular abroad than here in the United States, a Durex can mean one of two things: you've found either an economically-smart and somewhat sexually-experienced man or a virgin.

While some may purchase Durex at the pharmacy, it unfortunately is found in similar settings to the colored condoms: bins that read “stay safe!”, leftovers from high school health class handouts and stolen from your roommate in emergency situations.

Some of the worst sex I've had was with a Durex – not because of the condom, but because of the man. They're

not particularly offensive on their own: they're okay quality, somewhat lubricated and generally unproblematic.

Condoms are like sports equipment: if you play golf every day, you're likely going to invest in a nice set of expensive irons. If you rarely play, you'll be fine renting, borrowing and slapping a set together from Facebook Marketplace.

Despite Durex's tolerable quality, the man inside of it is likely inexperienced. Proceed with caution.

### 3. Ribbed/twisted/whatever the fuck

What is there to say about these? If you've ever had the displeasure of the Trojan “Pleasure Pack” you know that it is never something you try twice.

Have you ever wondered what it's like to fuck a tree branch? Or maybe a cylindrical roll of sandpaper? Then ribbed condoms are perfect for you. They are unpleasant, painful and will dry you up faster than a guy asking “Have you seen ‘Interstellar?’”

Not only the condoms themselves are terrible, but whoever wields them is to be feared. The only thing worse than a virgin is a virgin who thinks that a ribbed condom will somehow make up for his poor sexual performance. What's always missing from sex with inexperienced guys is vaginal abra-

sion, right?

Beware of the man who dons the textured condom. He has definitely never had a serious relationship, doesn't eat real meals and will likely choke you without your consent. You won't be able to tell if your burning vagina is a result of condom-induced microabrasions or some new strain of gonorrhea that he invented.

### 4. Trojan Ultra Thin

America's condom. A classic for a reason. If the Trojan Ultra Thin were a hookup personified, he would take you to a nice dinner, give you 10 good minutes of missionary and buy you a coffee in the morning.

The condoms themselves are perfect for one-time or short-term use. They're high quality with the right amount of lube and, in all my years, one has never broken on me. Their one flaw is that they are made of latex which, if used frequently, can throw off your vagina's pH levels.

A man who stocks Ultra Thins is likely to have a level head on his shoulders. He eats the same breakfast every day, has a healthy relationship with his parents and probably had to take off his quarter zip to have sex with you.

Hopefully, the reason you stop using these condoms is because you reach exclusive relationship-level status with

this man. If any condom says “boyfriend material,” it's this one. Keep this man close or release him for the rest of us to enjoy.

### 5. SKYN

The Rolls Royce of condoms. Latex-free, silky and like \$30 for a box: these are it. Their lack of latex means good things for your vaginal health, they're perfectly lubricated and don't leave a rubbery taste on the dick when you're done.

If you're ever getting into it with a man and he pulls out a SKYN, you're in for either the best or worst sex of your life. Personally, I have slept with three men who stocked these: two of them couldn't last more than a minute, and the other one was the most godly dick to ever grace the planet.

A man who uses SKYN is definitely a whore, but whoring around can lead to two different outcomes: you've either improved with your experiences or spent too much time bouncing from person to person to ever learn anything from them.

Be warned against using a SKYN condom prematurely. Wearing a SKYN and being bad in bed is like taking your driving test in a Lamborghini and failing. Graduate to this level only when you are worthy.

*Diana Paradise refuses to discuss Magnums.*



JULIET BECKER / DAILY NEXUS



## What we keep wearing:

Arna Churiwala  
*Fashionista*

Lately, it feels like half of our campus is wearing the same thing.

Not the same outfit, exactly, but the same color. Black hoodies in lecture halls. Black slacks in discussion sections. Black tank tops, black boots, black handbags slung over shoulders. An entire row of students dressed in variations of the same shade, differentiated only by silhouette.

It's easy to understand why. Black goes with everything. It's slimming, effortless and reliable. First date? Black. Concert? Black. Finals week? Black. Internship interview? Black. Black always has your back – and it looks good doing it.

Dressing in black works for almost everything you need to do on campus – and then some. But here's the question that every fashion-forward campus dweller eventually asks: Is wearing all black inherently chic, or does it sometimes tip into something ... bleak?

The answer, as with most things in fashion, is both.

Black hasn't always meant minimalism. Historically, it carried weight. In the 19th century, mourning dress made black synonymous with grief and respectability, popularized in part by Queen Victoria, who wore black for decades after the death of her husband. It was a color of discipline, modesty and

social signaling.

By the 20th century, designers transformed it. Coco Chanel introduces the little black dress as the ultimate modern, essential, simple and versatile piece. Later, designers like Yves Saint Laurent refined black tailoring, turning all-black into something sleek and serious without ever feeling boring.

Then came the avant-garde. Designers like Rei Kawakubo of Comme des Garçons and Yohji Yamamoto embraced black as something intellectual. Their designs rejected traditional ideas of beauty, using black to distort silhouette and challenge expectation. Wearing black became less about simplicity and more about subversion.

Black is synonymous with a certain kind of elegant cool. Fashion icons have long relied on it as a signature.

Audrey Hepburn's little black dress in “Breakfast at Tiffany's” remains one of the most recognizable looks in fashion history. Kate Moss made all-black feel undone and messy-chic in the 1990s – slip dresses, skinny jeans, leather jackets. More recently, Kim Kardashian has leaned into monochrome black as a form of sleek, controlled minimalism, often styling it head-to-toe.

Of course, subcultures claimed it too. Punk, goth and emo aesthetics all relied on black as a visual shorthand for rebellion, angst and resistance. Band tees, ripped

## All black

jeans, smudged eyeliner and a Hot Topic haul of accessories transformed black into mood and attitude.

Today, wearing all black sits somewhere between these extremes.

On the runway, black is still king. Designers like Rick Owens turn black into something sculptural and almost dystopian, with exaggerated proportions and dramatic layering. The Row leans into quiet luxury, offering head-to-toe black looks that feel understated but impossibly refined. At Saint Laurent, black is sharp and precise – tailored blazers, sheer blouses, sleek silhouettes that feel classic yet current.

Here's the secret those designers know: black isn't chic by itself. It becomes chic through construction. Hair, makeup and accessories all play a role: a glossy bun or sleek ponytail can elevate casual black jeans, while a smoky eye or bold lip adds drama to a minimalist dress. Black is easy to wear, but hard to master.

On campus, that distinction is everything.

There's a version of all black that feels deliberate. Long-sleeve tops ending right above slim low-rise work slacks. Baggy black jeans paired with the perfect tank and a studded black belt. A classic slip dress finished with boots or ballet flats. Even something as simple

as black Adidas Samba sneakers can look intentional when styled right.

In these outfits, texture does the work. Cotton against leather. Knit against satin. Matte against shine. The eye moves, even without a single color. Black becomes a canvas rather than a default.

And then there's the other version.

The oversized hoodie thrown over leggings. The same shade of black from head to toe, no variation in fabric or shape. Worn sneakers, slouched posture. Baggy paired with baggier with nothing to break up the silhouette. It's not bad – it's just unconsidered.

The difference isn't the color. It's the composition.

For college students, that distinction can feel especially blurred. Black is safe. It reads as mature and put-together, even when you haven't put much thought into what you're wearing. It toes the line between elegant and effortless.

In that sense, black attire functions almost like armor. It allows you to move through spaces without drawing too much attention, while still feeling polished. But that same neutrality can slip into invisibility if everything else – fit, texture and styling – is ignored.

The “chic” version of wearing all-black is filled



JULIET BECKER / DAILY NEXUS

with intention. It plays with proportion, contrasts fabrics and understands that black has depth despite being a single color.

Black doesn't have to be flat – it can be bold, playful and sexy. Mix materials. Layer a structured jacket over a loose dress. Let silver jewelry break up the darkness. Even something as small as switching your beloved sneakers for Mary Janes or kitten heels can shift the vibe entirely.

Black is versatile, chic and a little bit mysterious – exactly what college life demands. It can be polished, effortless, professional or party-ready. It's a color that works for literally everything, which is why we keep reaching for it.

On a campus where so many people default to it, wearing all black well becomes a kind of statement. It shows attention to detail and confidence.

Because ultimately, black isn't bleak. It's a blank canvas. What you do with it is where the magic happens.

*Arna Churiwala believes wearing black is never basic.*

# OPINION



A Soltopia sign hangs on the corner of Embarcadero del Norte and Madrid Road.

## Opinion Staff

It was an eerily quiet first Saturday of spring quarter. In past years, one could not wander Isla Vista's streets on this day without the cacophonous noise of celebration. From the pregame stylings of artists ranging from Bad Bunny to MGMT, to the chatter of brunch and the battle cries accompanying a close game of beer pong. If you follow the noise you'll find friends embracing, sharing sunscreen and sweat beneath the spring sun, droves of college students in festival wear parading down Del Playa Drive covered in glitter — the heart and soul of Isla Vista, bottled up and promptly shotgunned.

Soltopia — Deltopia's new, supposedly improved and sanctioned sister, proved to be a Twilight Zone-esque version of the age-old tradition. Quiet streets led residents to the business corridor of Isla Vista, where Soltopia boasted multiple stages, long lines and a mid-size turnout. While I'd argue that the music and organization of the various stages were the best part of the festival, the various benefits that the Isla Vista Community Services District (IVCSD) and Associated Students (A.S.) boasted online were largely inaccessible. Attendees waited in hours-long, sometimes un-shaded lines for small portion sizes, and were often forced to choose between waiting for their free food or listening to the music. Various activities were also afflicted with line syndrome, from the three

separate beer garden lines to the bathrooms.

This being said, we have to remember that Deltopia was also born from adaptation. When Floatopia beach parties became dangerous and environmentally unfriendly, the students took to Del Playa Drive. Soltopia may just be the next step in this evolution. Although the logistics of this year's festival weren't perfect, I don't see any reason why IVCSD and A.S. wouldn't be able to improve Soltopia for years to come. But for the time being, I'll mourn Deltopia weekend like a long lost lover — it was good while it lasted, but forever gone.

### By Lucy Dixon

Being a first-year student at UC Santa Barbara means I have heard my fair share of Deltopia stories. One of the reasons I picked UCSB was for the social life, so Deltopia was an exciting thing to look forward to — especially as it is a week before my birthday, a UCSB birthday gift you could say.

When hearing the plans for a noise ordinance, I was extremely disappointed. Determined to save the event, I went to the community meetings to show my support, but it ultimately was canceled. In my opinion, Soltopia was a good alternative — as I have nothing to compare it to. I really enjoy band shows, so having a festival-like atmosphere was enjoyable. Being with my group of friends enjoying the music and each other was great. Although, the food lines were insane and the heat did not make it better! When finally getting to the front of the line, I was

shocked to see a taco with a tortilla the diameter of an orange. But I do have to say, in the end, as a first-year I'm glad to have had some sort of Deltopia.

### By Carly Rattner

Honestly, Soltopia did everything I expected it to do. Are we in an age where young adults don't have the freedom to express the fact that they are young and free in a way universally acknowledged as the best way (partying)? Yes, we very much are. However, what Soltopia showed me is that young people will do everything in their power to have community. And music is always at the center of that.

No matter if it's Thriftopia or if it's Deltopia or Soltopia — music will always bring people (especially young people who don't have the nerve or the words) to say what they want, together. It is universally (and critically, legally) acknowledged as an important part of culture, in which everyone deserves to be a part of. So, whether young adults must deal with the smell of horse manure as dozens of cops patrol the same parties they attempted to get into some 20 years ago or whether they must publicly hold their festival in a "Loop" of surrounding apartment buildings and businesses, they will somehow find a way to communally listen to and enjoy music — no matter what.

### By Juliana Chandler

My experience at Soltopia was primarily food-based. I was able to get a wristband the day before the event, which meant I was eligible for all of the free food that was being distributed. Unfortunately,

the line to get Roger's Tacos was extremely long; my friend and I waited an hour, but most people waited even longer. I genuinely liked the concept of getting the vendors involved in the event, but the heat combined with the long lines caused some issues. Overall, the event was a success in a vacuum, but not as a replacement for Deltopia. Deltopia had a more organic, block-party style while this event felt contrived. Overall, I think part of the reason for the noise ordinance and cancellation of Deltopia is part of an effort to distance UCSB from the "party school" moniker and promote it as a "serious" school on par with UC Berkeley. Crime is obviously an issue, but I think there was an ulterior motive here.

### By Shivum Ganesh

I'll be blunt — Soltopia is a deplorable, hollow parody of what the first weekend of spring quarter used to be. This is not a pessimistic, petty complaint from a senior who wasn't able to "party hard," but a fervent denouncement of law enforcement's despicable behaviors and hypocrisy. At the town hall meeting concerning Deltopia's future in January, Isla Vista Foot Patrol Lieutenant Joe Schmidt claimed one of Deltopia's greatest detriments was its excessive waste of police resources. Interestingly, my friends and I commented that we had never seen this many officers in I.V. However, Saturday exposed more than the dismal reality that there were still excessive law enforcement personnel present at Soltopia — the cherished tradition

of Gauchos for generations has been perverted into a pathetic, commercialized money grab to benefit a community that we aren't even granted representation in.

While I of course enjoyed the time spent with my friends, Soltopia's events were a weak consolation for the police state we were subjected to. Lines were outrageously long, free incentives quickly depleted — at the beer garden I was told they ran out of beer, and complementary bagels from Yetz's or IV Bagel Cafe were a fool's errand. Street closures prevented residents from parking (let alone entering) their own homes. Moreover, watching officers stroll languorously through desolate roads and enjoying a paid day of applying sunscreen and indulging in refreshments was infuriating. Paramountly, however, I was consumed by a totalizing melancholy; I reminisced on Deltopia's glory and fun in my past three years and felt sorrow for the underclassmen and incoming freshman who won't experience its unforgettable splendor.

Ultimately, I mourn the fall of Deltopia, and hope that if it doesn't one day return, Isla Vista's embattled residents will vindicate themselves. Not simply as a superficial longing for a weekend of unabashed frivolity, but a hope that my neighbors and future students will regain their narrative agency.

### By Ethan Griffin

*The Daily Nexus Opinion Staff is apprehensive about the future of Soltopia.*

## Are ballet and opera really dead?

### Narineh Madikians Reporter

Timothée Chalamet has proclaimed that no one cares about ballet and opera, effectively making everyone care about ballet and opera. While on the press tour for his new movie "Marty Supreme," Chalamet attempted to share his love for cinema by saying: "I don't want to be working in ballet or opera, where it's like, 'Keep this thing alive,' even though nobody cares anymore." His comment received major backlash and filled social media comment sections with debates about whether people truly do care about ballet and opera.

I am an active film lover. Every weekend I watch at least three movies with my roommates and consistently attend theatres when movies that interest me are released. I have never bought tickets to see the opera, nor have I ever bought tickets to see a ballet without the motive of supporting a friend. Knowing this about myself, I should have begun to see that Chalamet has a point.

In terms of pop culture, Chalamet is right. Most chronically online citizens do not care about ballet and opera — unless you're Misty Copeland or Andrea Bocelli. Although, just because something is not trending on TikTok or flooding our feeds, does not make it any less meaningful. In fact, its detachment from that world might just be what makes it special.

Ballet and opera date back to the 14th and 15th centuries, evolving through history and carrying pieces of tradition with them. Ballet originated as a form of entertainment, emerging in royal

courts as the "noble dance." Soon, it converged with opera — the two worked in tandem to formulate pieces that could not survive without each other. Both of these were initially only open to royalty and wealthy elites, classifying its prestige from the beginning. However, with time, these art forms soon opened to the public, with lower-priced seats to support artists, as well as private box seats that reinforced the social hierarchy.

Just like other industries, there are ballet and opera performances where ticket prices can hit the \$500 mark, but there are also smaller local performances priced as low as \$10. Despite these industries' circumscription to elite spaces, individuals have worked tirelessly to break down economic and social barriers within them. For example, Copeland is widely known not just for her incredible talent, but also because she was the first African American female principal dancer of the American Ballet Theatre. Individuals like Copeland have not immediately solved the countless social barriers that exist within these spheres, but their dedication illustrates the evolution of these traditionally "noble" art forms into accessible performances with the ability to move all people.

Film captured much of the public's attention with nickelodeons that offered cheap screenings for the cost of a nickel. In comparison to ballet and opera, cinemas today still provide that same sense of accessibility. To see a highly acclaimed opera or ballet, ticket prices can start at as much as \$200. Whereas to see a highly acclaimed movie, tickets only go up to about \$28 — or less, if you lie and say you are a child (like I do). Point

being, movies are fundamental in pop culture because they are more affordable. In addition to their affordability, their association to the digital world continues to appeal to a wider and younger audience.

This digital revolution shifted our society in ways we did not think was possible. We can stream songs and watch movies anytime and anywhere we want. We have even gained the ability to watch live performances without having to physically be there. Social platforms have broken down barriers to connect with mass groups at once and surpass geographical boundaries. Along with breaking down these barriers, platforms have played an important role in deciding what should be popular and what should not be. The 15-year-old scrolling on TikTok is most likely not watching opera and ballet because the culture that has been open to them has always been digital. Simultaneously, these digital evolutions have created more opportunities for individuals to self isolate and disconnect from face-to-face interactions.

Artificial intelligence (AI) has only further blurred the lines between the physical and digital worlds; we now have the ability to create images, stories, music and videos that are frighteningly close to human-generated content. It has begun to invade creative spaces that were always praised for human talent that could not be replicated.

Last year, Adrien Brody was awarded Best Male Actor at the Oscars, causing an uproar over the fact that the film used AI to perfect Brody's accent. An area of

art that had always been reserved to showcase human emotion and celebrate individuals' talent had been tainted in the public's eyes. Film holds an incredible ability to communicate messages, provide representation for real life experiences, as well as serve as an escape from reality. But with the rise of AI and the digital aspects of film, movies can become a self-isolating experience. Especially with the evolution of platforms like Netflix and Hulu, where you no longer need to attend a public theatre to experience a film. Instead, you can watch from the comfort of your home, alone. On the contrary, ballet and opera will always be a collective experience that does not rely on a screen to facilitate it.

Human beings will always search for face-to-face connection, as it has been proven to be essential to our emotional and physical well-being. Ballet and opera can serve as an outlet for these connections. Last quarter, I attended the UC Santa Barbara Dance Company showcase: "Convergence: into the center." The first piece was a ballet performance. My eyes carefully traced every line the dancers made, accompanied by the sound of their breaths and their feet swiftly leaving and returning to the stage floor. I could physically and audibly experience the work that was being put into each step in live time. There were no do-overs or ability to cut and edit out any imperfections. What I witnessed was something that only I and the people in that room got to experience. It could never be recreated.

In film, actors have the ability to reshoot, editors can retouch and

cut anything that feels outplace. The members in the audience that attend a cinema will watch the same exact scene as those that will come after them. Live performances, on the other hand, are not always perfect — but they are always original. They afford the audience a connection to not just each other, but to the performers themselves as well. Ballet and opera might not matter in pop culture, but Chalamet's comment changed that. Ballet and opera are included in the conversation now more than ever all in spite of an acerbic remark. It was not that people did not care about ballet and opera; instead it did not fit the category of "celebrity aura" that pop culture revolves around.

In a world riddled with screens and chat bots that act like humans, we are in search of something real, something tangible. When you can see the sweat on a dancer's brow or hear the breath of a singer on stage, there is a new appreciation that is ignited. It is not only impressive, but it is untouched by the grasps of the digital age. It reminds us of the creativity and talent that the human body can achieve. Film is not an art that should be labeled as another invasive digital tool disrupting humanity; however, it should not be pitted against art forms that preserve our connection to each other either. Actors like Chalamet will continue to grace our screens and the covers of our favorite magazines, but when we finally need a break from a digitally infested world, live performances like ballet and opera will be what we turn to.

*Narineh Madikians won't be digging graves for ballet and opera anytime soon.*