



## 2026 Spring Election Endorsements

During every Associated Students election cycle, the Daily Nexus issues endorsements for all executive positions: President, Internal Vice President, External Vice President for Statewide Affairs, External Vice President for Local Affairs and Student Advocate General.

The Nexus conducted extensive interviews with candidates about their experiences, qualifications, ideas and goals to come to a decision on endorsements. Endorsements are written

by the Daily Nexus News Team.

Voting began April 20 and is set to end April 23, with a required 20% of the undergraduate student body to participate in the election. The election also includes senate candidates, student fee initiatives and constitutional amendments. Students can vote on Gaucho On-Line Data (G.O.L.D.).

Please see [dailynews.com](http://dailynews.com) for more information about the Associated Students spring election and the full versions of each endorsement article.



## California gubernatorial candidate Tom Steyer hosts town hall

Reemo Hooper  
Reporter

California gubernatorial candidate Tom Steyer brought heavy pockets and progressive policies to Santa Barbara in a town hall on April 15. The billionaire promised to pass single-payer health care, build homes and fight corporate interests if elected as governor.

Hundreds were in attendance at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History to hear the campaign's message of "shared prosperity." A hundred more people were turned away at the door as the venue reached capacity.

Steyer spoke to the overflowing crowd standing on a bench. He spoke against corporate spending in the race and President Donald Trump's recent comments about him before heading inside, promising "bigger venues" in the future.

Indoors, Texan influencer Carlos Eduardo Espina and local Assemblymember Gregg Hart spoke in support of Steyer. Espina shared his previous skepticism of Steyer and what brought him to his current support.

"I started talking to him and I realized, this is a guy who can be doing literally anything with his life. He could be in the Caribbean, he could be traveling all over the world, he could be comfortable at home, but his life mission is to serve others," Espina said.

As a billionaire, Steyer has drawn criticism for representing the very inequality he says he will address. Steyer's billions come from the Bay Area hedge fund Farallon Capital, which he founded and managed before selling his shares in 2012. A year later, he started a progressive Political Action Committee (PAC), and in 2019, he ran for the Democratic presidential nomination.

Critics have also questioned the sincerity of his positions, pointing to Farallon Capital's investments in fossil fuels and the private prison industry, which plays a crucial role in Immigration and Customs

Enforcement (I.C.E.) detention.

In his opening remarks, Steyer doubled down on his progressive message, criticizing inequality and the high cost of living in the state, the Trump administration and corporate control of politics. He also spoke about his family history of giving back to the community.

"We need change in California for working people and we're gonna have to take on the interests that are profiting from the status quo," Steyer said. "We can create the greatest state right now, right here, in the history of the planet Earth, if actually we get shared prosperity."

Steyer is leading in a number of polls, following the withdrawal of now former California Congressman Eric Swalwell. Swalwell was leading the crowded field until accusations of rape and sexual misconduct led him to withdraw his candidacy.

Steyer is facing seven other Democratic candidates and two Republicans in the primary. Trump-endorsed candidate and Fox News

contributor Steve Hilton, has led Republicans in polling with 18% of likely voters compared to Steyer's 21% according to a SurveyUSA poll. The race is still taking shape, with another 18% of voters undecided.

Microphones were passed around the audience as Steyer fielded questions on a variety of topics including housing, climate change and artificial intelligence (AI) policy. One attendee asked Steyer how he would protect in-home care and child care from constant cuts.

"The kind of inflation in health care that we've seen and we continue to see ... it's just gonna chew us up, and that's why I'm for single payer," Steyer said. "Californians have changed the world a bunch of times. We have to get over the idea that we can't make change."

Another attendee asked, "As governor ... what can you do to help us stop the kidnappings of our neighbors," referring to federal immigration policy under the Trump administration.

Steyer responded by calling I.C.E. a "criminal, violent,

corrupt" organization that should be abolished. He also pledged to make racial profiling illegal in California and arrest those who violate the law, including Santa Barbara County Sheriff Bill Brown who has been collaborating with federal agents.

Some asked about U.S. foreign policy, which is beyond the scope of a governor. A younger attendee mentioned leftist political commentator Hasan Piker before asking Steyer to clarify his position on ending all military aid to Israel, which the attendee views as a "litmus test" for progressive candidates.

Piker, who has a large audience of young viewers, has been making waves in political circles. A number of moderate Democrats have condemned candidates like Zohran Mamdani and Abdul El-Sayed who appear on his platform. Steyer was interviewed by Piker in March.

Steyer responded to the question by condemning Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government and supporting a two-state solution. He does not support

ending all military aid.

Finally, a recent college graduate asked the billionaire what he would do to help college graduates find employment and build their adult lives.

Steyer responded by pointing to the impact of AI on the entry-level jobs that typically attract recent graduates, "nobody else running for Governor, if you can believe it, has a policy about [AI]. That is nuts," Steyer said.

He pledged to tax AI companies on each calculation and protect workers from being replaced.

"We own the beach, we need to own this," Steyer said as he described AI companies taking the "experience, knowledge and data" from workers to train their AI replacements.

After the final question, Steyer shook hands with attendees.

"Californians have changed the world a bunch of times," Steyer said. "We have to get over the idea that we can't make change. We're gonna have to make change or we're gonna go bust."



Tom Steyer is running for California governor in the 2026 gubernatorial election.

SHERINE JOHN / DAILY NEXUS

# A week in UC student news



MICHELLE WU / DAILY NEXUS

Michelle Cisneros  
Lead News Editor

## AFSCME announces open-ended strike

The American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Local 3299 announced it will begin an open-ended strike on May 14. According to a press release, the union filed two Unfair Labor Practices (ULPs) against the University of California (UC).

AFSCME 3299, which represents over 40,000 workers across the UC, has been negotiating its contract for over two years. Since then, the union has gone on strike five times.

The two ULPs accuse the UC of an “unlawful imposition” on health care cost increases and a “refusal” to negotiate housing benefits.

“UC workers deserve better than second-class treatment from UC. UC continues to break the law, making it impossible for workers to get the contract that they deserve,” the release read.

In early April, the UC revised its contract proposal, which included a 32% wage increase throughout the contract’s length and a 7.5% health care cap. In a press release, the UC said it was “disappointed” by AFSCME’s strike announcement.

“Given the progress, we believe an open-ended strike is unnecessary and risks disruption for patients, students, and campus operations,” the press release read.

As of April 21, the strike is still set to occur.

## UC Davis student dies following bike collision

Lincoln Sabini, a UC Davis student, died after a bike collision with a car near campus housing on April 13. An investigation into the incident remains ongoing.

According to the California Aggie, the collision occurred just before 3 p.m. Sabini was an agricultural student and a laboratory aide, according to his LinkedIn.

The University issued a statement the following day with counseling resources for community members.

“Our thoughts are with the student’s family, friends and all who are affected by this tragic loss,” the statement read.

## Historical Native American remains found at UC Berkeley construction site

Historical remains of Native American individuals were found at a construction site at UC Berkeley on April 15. According to the Daily Californian, the Alameda County coroner’s office determined the remains are not connected to a crime.

The remains were found while building a beach volleyball court. The next day, a university spokesperson said UC Berkeley’s Governmental and Community Relations office is coordinating with the California Native American Heritage Commission for the ensuing steps.

Since then, it was announced that the Confederated Villages of Lisjan will work with the University to care for the remains.

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



KAYLEE HEARTMAN / DAILY NEXUS

Jack Dindia  
Lead News Editor

## RCSGD hosts ‘QT API-SSWANA Community Building’

The Resource Center for Sexual and Gender Diversity (RCSGD) is hosting “QT Asian Pacific Islander, South, Southwest Asian, North African (API-SSWANA) Community Building” on Thursday, April 23, from 4-5 p.m. at the RCSGD Lounge.

“Held in collaboration with EOP Peer Mentor, Justin, and the RCSGD, this space aims to bring students across the intersection of lived experiences and identities of the QT API-SSWANA community for connection, engagement, and conversation,” the event’s poster read.

## RCSGD hosts ‘TRANScended Spotlight Social’

RCSGD is hosting “TRANScended Spotlight Social | T4T Speed Dating” on Thursday, April 23, from 6-8 p.m. at the Student Resource Building (SRB) Mountainside Lawn.

“Meet other trans, non-binary and gender non-conforming students, build new relationships,” the Shoreline description read. “This event is open to any and all students who seek to uplift gender expansive identities!”

Pizza will be provided for attendees.

## IHC hosts screening of ‘Wuthering Heights’

The Interdisciplinary Humanities Center (IHC) is hosting a screening of the film “Wuthering Heights” on Thursday, April 23, from 8-10:35 p.m. at Isla Vista Theater.

“A passionate and tumultuous love story set against the backdrop of the Yorkshire moors, exploring the intense and destructive relationship between Heathcliff and Catherine Earnshaw,” the Shoreline description read.

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

## MCC hosts ‘Building Accountable Communities’

The MultiCultural Center (MCC) is hosting “Building Accountable Communities with Creativity IRL” on Friday, April 24, from 2-6 p.m. at the MCC Theater & Lounge as a part of its “Resilient Love” series.

“Watch SONGS FROM THE

HOLE, the Netflix Original award-winning visual album-documentary composed in prison. Enjoy live music by the film’s writer, music artist, and main character, JJ ‘88. Then join discussion circles hosted by Richie Reseda and JJ ‘88, where they will discuss practicing real-life tools to build self-accountability and accountable communities, without relying on shame or punishment,” the Shoreline description read.

## UCSB Sustainability hosts ‘Soil Studio’

UCSB Sustainability is hosting “Soil Studio: Housing For Your Plants” on Saturday, April 25, from 9-11 a.m.

“Join us for a hands-on workshop where we learn and build a protective cage for our raised garden beds and get educated on practical strategies to protect our crops from squirrels, gophers, and rabbits. Participants will leave with tools and knowledge to confidently protect their own gardens,” the Shoreline description read.

## UCSB Library hosts ‘Connectivity: Grand Theft Hamlet’

The UCSB Library is hosting “Connectivity: Grand Theft Hamlet” on Saturday, April 25, from 2-3:30 at the Pollock Theater.

“Directed by Sam Crane and Pinny Grylls, the documentary is comprised entirely of in-game footage, with all of the subjects depicted by their online avatars. The film chronicles the challenges of mounting theater in an unconventional space — from scouting locations and coordinating auditions with players around the globe to navigating rehearsal conflicts — while also capturing unexpected moments of connection during a period of global isolation,” the Shoreline description read.

## IHC and Isla Vista Arts hosts ‘Skating in Paradise’

IHC and Isla Vista Arts are hosting “Skating in Paradise”-Skate your worries away” on Sunday, April 26, from 4-6 p.m. at the Ice in Paradise ice skating rink.

The event offers free skate rentals to all UCSB students. Hot cocoa and “sweet treats” will be provided.

## UCSB Sustainability hosts ‘Pastabilities: Cooking with Care’

UCSB Sustainability is hosting “Pastabilities: Cooking

with Care” on Monday, April 27, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Methodist Community Garden.

“Together we’ll make a fresh Pasta Primavera using herbs and vegetables straight from the garden. This event is all about slowing down, connecting with community, and enjoying the process of cooking together. As we chop, stir, and taste, we’ll practice simple mindfulness by noticing the colors, smells, and flavors of the ingredients,” the Shoreline description read.

## IVTU hosts ‘A Renters’ Rundown’

The Isla Vista Tenants Union (IVTU) is hosting “A Renters’ Rundown” on Monday, April 27, from 6-7 p.m. at the Santa Cruz Residence Hall Main Lounge.

“Are you thinking about or planning to live in Isla Vista next year? Well we’ve got an event for you! Come join RA Decker and the [IVTU], an affiliated campus organization with Associated Students, for a discussion on your legal and personal rights as a prospective renter in IV and helpful information such as managing payments and navigating negotiations with landlords,” the Shoreline description read.

## IHC hosts screening of ‘The Secret Agent’

IHC is hosting a screening of the film “The Secret Agent” on Monday, April 27, from 8-10:45 p.m. in the Theater and Dance West building room 1701.

“Amid the political turmoil of 1977 Brazil, a technology expert is forced into hiding and seeks help from the underground resistance as he tries to flee the country with his young son,” the Shoreline description read.

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

## A.S. Take Back the Night hosts self defense class

Associated Students (A.S.) Take Back the Night is hosting a self defense class on Tuesday, April 28, from 6-7 p.m. at the Corwin Pavilion.

“Join us for a day of self-advocacy as Asian American Studies professor and Empowerment Self Defense (ESD) instructor Erin Ninh guides us through strategies to defend our physical and emotional personhood,” the Shoreline description read.

This event is “specifically for women-identifying individuals,” however, they will be hosting another event in May open to all students.



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“SP Kid and Nushdog out. #shoutoutJP”

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# Senate hears proposal for campus-wide security cameras

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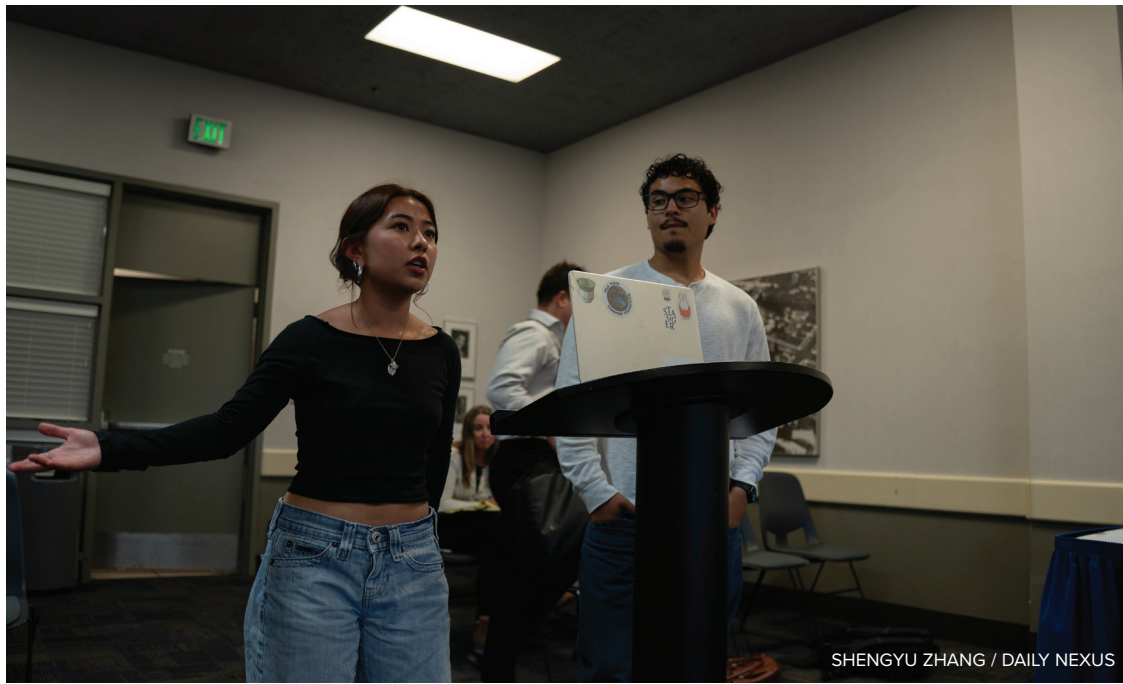
The 76th Associated Students Senate considered a proposal to install security cameras across campus at its April 15 meeting.

## Public forum

Second-year psychological & brain sciences majors and caseworkers in the Associated Students (A.S.) Office of the Attorney General (AG), Alex Kim and Oliver Ramirez Carrera, discussed upcoming plans to install security cameras at bike racks across campus. Multiple senators raised the concerns they have heard from students about privacy and enforcement implications surrounding cameras on campus.

“The main concerns are typically protections for undocumented students, infringing on privacy and use for minor drug infractions,” Senator and second-year history of policy, law, and governance major Romi Riss said.

The caseworkers asserted that the cameras would be used solely to deter bike theft. Kim further stated that security cameras have already been installed around Santa Catalina Residence Hall as a pilot program, but will soon be removed. She requested that the Senate provide funding



Attorney General caseworkers discussed plans to install security cameras around campus to deter bike theft.

for the campus-wide project.

Carrera went on to discuss other AG initiatives, including updating the dispute process on Gaucho On-Line Data (G.O.L.D.), creating a standalone G.O.L.D. app and conducting an audit of the Recreation Center.

Next, fourth-year sociology major Molly Mascal spoke out against a proposed amendment to Article X of A.S. Legal Code, governing Boards, Commissions, and Units (BCUs) Autonomy. The proposed amendment

requires a two-thirds majority vote and would grant the Senate the authority to issue binding financial and operational directives to BCUs, irrespective of BCU approval. Mascal argued that the change would undermine BCU autonomy and grant the Senate excessive authority. The bill was later rejected in a 3-12 vote with one abstention.

## Legislation proposed

Senator and fourth-year sociology major Mira Than proposed a bill to update A.S.

Standing Policy 22, which outlines clear procedures for food expenditures to combat overspending within the Association. The bill was referred to the liaison committee.

Next, Senator and fourth-year history of policy, law, and governance major Vanessa Manakova proposed a bill to establish Standing Policy 39 to create a quarterly staff feedback form and establish student concern reporting procedures. Each BCU is assigned a staff

advisor to help assist them during meetings and other A.S. procedures. With this form, BCU members will be able to give feedback on their advisor. The bill was referred to the liaison committee.

## Legislation passed

The Senate approved placing a new constitutional amendment on A.S. fee provisions for empty BCUs on the spring election ballot. If passed, the amendment will pause fees for BCUs that have had an entirely unfilled board for two years, and cancel them if unfilled for four years. Voting began Monday and is set to end on Thursday, April 23.

Next, the Senate adopted a bill to create the A.S. Future Leaders in Governance Fellowship, which will train fellows in A.S. policies and procedures while connecting students with California elected officials.

## Financial motions

The Senate approved the allocation of \$197,000 to fund the Michael Ma Bloomberg Terminal Project, which will bring professional business and economics data tools to UC Santa Barbara. The project was originally introduced by Internal Vice President and fourth-year global studies and history double major Enri Lala to honor a close friend, Michael Ma, an economics student who passed away in a car accident.

# BWHC alleges discriminatory budget proposal, absent A.S. advisor

Wynne Bendell  
University News Editor

The Associated Students Finance Committee gave its budget recommendation on April 6 to every Board, Committee and Unit for the 2026-27 academic year, to which the Black Women's Health Collaborative saw a 63% decrease in its annual budget. A Daily Nexus investigation found that delayed funding procedures, coupled with an inactive advisor, led to the proposed budget decrease.

The next day, the Collaborative posted a statement on Instagram alleging anti-Blackness within the Association regarding the budget cut and being left without an active staff advisor for two quarters.

At the beginning of spring quarter, the Associated Students (A.S.) Finance Committee began the annual budget cycle by giving its budget recommendation to every A.S. entity based on each organization's respective meeting minutes – which track financial motions throughout the year. Without Senate-approved meeting minutes, the finance committee claims it has no way of confirming how much a Board, Committee and Unit (BCU) has spent of its budget.

The Nexus obtained confirmation through the Google drive that contains all A.S. meeting minutes that the BWHC had not submitted meeting minutes the entire year, until after the budget recommendations were handed out. The Nexus also confirmed that other BCUs that received proposed budget cuts of over 10% had submitted meeting minutes, and the proposed cut was unique to each organization.

The BWHC has a \$90,000 budget for the 2025-26 academic year and requested \$124,800 for the 2026-27 academic year, which includes funding for honoraria, travel and special projects among other things. The finance committee recommended a budget of \$33,000 – \$20,400 of which was solely allocated for honoraria, with the remaining \$9,600 for special projects.

BWHC Co-Chair and third-year communication major Fatoumata Kéré said that a project budget of \$9,600 would barely cover their most popular event – the Black Beauty Expo – which costs around \$10,000 to host.

Notably, the A.S. Finance Committee's recommendations are not the final budget, as they'll be sent to the A.S. President and fourth-year Spanish, global studies and communication triple major Le Anh Metzger for her deliberation.

Metzger will then present her budget recommendation to the A.S. Senate for approval, likely during Week 5. The BWHC budget is still subject to change, as with all other A.S. entities.

Kéré said it has been difficult for the BWHC to navigate the bureaucratic systems of A.S., as they claimed to have not had an active staff advisor for the fall and winter quarters. Every BCU is assigned a staff advisor who assists students within each organization. Despite A.S. staff advisor Marissa Valdez Reynoso being assigned to the BWHC, Kéré noted she made no effort to contact the collaborative and did not attend any board meetings.

Reynoso confirmed she made a single attempt to contact BWHC and never met with the group before taking medical leave during winter quarter.

According to Kéré, she made multiple attempts to communicate her concerns over not having an active advisor at both the A.S. retreat at the beginning of the year and the winter quarterly State of the Association. Following these events, Kéré said the Collaborative received minimal assistance from A.S. members.

The Collaborative now has a different advisor, Assistant Director of Human Resources Lili Hartounian, whom Kéré said is “amazing,” but highlights this experience has left their relationship with A.S. “rocky,” with support from the Senate being “non-existent.”

“It's been harming us a lot this year, just because we're the main source of support and funding for the overall Black community on this campus, because we're the only Black BCU and Black organization who has the means,” Kéré said.

Taken together, the BWHC alleges these incidents reflect a broader pattern of anti-Blackness within the Association which they emphasized in their Instagram statement.

“It is evident that A.S. has no issue with using Black culture as entertainment as seen by last weekend's ‘The Warm-Up’ concert, and countless other UCSB events, yet they have struggled and failed to support the Black students that are a part of this school, this community, and this campus,” the statement read.

The BWHC will attend the April 22 senate meeting to voice their concerns during public forum.

The Nexus will continue to report on this topic as more information becomes available.



The Black Women's Health Collaborative has a \$90,000 budget for the 2025-26 academic year and requested \$124,800 for the 2026-27 academic year.

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# ENDORSEMENTS

Continued from p. 1

## E.J. Raad for President

The Daily Nexus endorses third-year political science major E.J. Raad as the 2026-27 Associated Students President.

The Associated Students (A.S.) President is the primary representative of the UC Santa Barbara undergraduate student body. The president enacts executive orders, participates in University and A.S. committees, appoints chairs of A.S. entities and Boards, Committees and Units (BCU), and sets the strategic vision of A.S. for the academic year.

The Nexus believes Raad's tangible ideas regarding University improvements, strong public persona and prior A.S. executive experience best qualifies him for the position.

As the current External Vice President for Local Affairs (EVPLA), Raad believes he's gained sufficient experience to "take that same level of advocacy" to the University level as president. He is running on a platform of advocating for students at the administrative level and distributing student fees toward student services.

As EVPLA, Raad spent the first half of the academic year lobbying against the Deltopia noise ordinance. While the fruits of his labor were unsuccessful in preventing the ordinance, the Nexus believes in his commitment to "fighting for students," which he aims to continue by reinstating 24/7 Library hours and progressing toward UCSB becoming a sanctuary campus.

Raad is running against two other candidates, current Senator and third-year biology and political science double major Eemaan Wahidullah and fourth-year economics major Alex Esparza. Wahidullah is another viable candidate for the position — with similar ambitions of advocating for students using her pre-existing A.S. experience — however the Nexus believes Raad's more focused vision may better benefit the student body.

While there was a partial reinstatement of UCSB Library hours, Raad plans on negotiating with administration for a full reinstatement of it being open 24/7. Raad also highlighted his ambition to fight for undocumented students on campus, citing UCSB's Young Democratic Socialists of America (YDSA) chapter's sanctuary campus petition, which would increase protections against Immigration and Customs Enforcement (I.C.E.) activity on University grounds. Raad was the only executive candidate to mention the petition and its demands by name.

In order to secure UCSB as a sanctuary campus, Raad said it would have to be a system-wide effort in which representatives from all UC campuses lobbied the UC Office of the President.

According to Raad, there's around \$13.5 million in rollover fees. Raad believes this amount of rollover fees is "too large to ignore" and "unfair" to students as they are not getting their "return on investment." He hopes to reinvest these funds into student services and on-campus businesses, which could generate A.S. revenue and eventually reduce the current \$44.74 A.S. base fee that is charged to students.

Raad promised to not increase the current A.S. base fee during his term, as he believes it's inappropriate given the large amount of rollover funds.

Raad is in full support of Isla Vista cityhood, which the Nexus believes is an idea worth exploring. He demonstrated an understanding of the process, such as requiring signatures to approve a Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) fiscal analysis to determine if cityhood is viable.

According to Raad, cityhood would eliminate preexisting issues with Isla Vista Foot Patrol (IVFP). By having an I.V. city council, and in turn its own police force, Raad believes students would have more autonomy over local decisions.

As EVPLA, Raad served on the UC Police Department (UCPD) Chief of Police search committee, giving him familiarity with UCPD. While he was critical of UCPD's bike path enforcement earlier in the year, he appreciated them for pulling back to extend bike path education and taking accountability.

In order to promote

transparency with the student body, Raad emphasized his presence on social media by theorizing ways to break down complicated A.S. topics via digestible content. Throughout his term as EVPLA, Raad has consistently posted content on Instagram and TikTok that educates students on issues that may affect them.

The Nexus believes that Raad's forward-facing attitude makes him easily accessible to students, and we hope he continues this outreach if elected as president.

## Victoria Ly for Internal Vice President

The Daily Nexus endorses third-year sociology and psychological & brain sciences double major Victoria Ly as the next Associated Students Internal Vice President.

The A.S. Internal Vice President (IVP) chairs the weekly Senate meetings and acts as the association's representative for all internal affairs. Given Ly's experience as a senator and positions in various campus organizations, the Nexus believes she would promote efficiency and student-focused projects as the leader of the 77th A.S. Senate.

Ly said she has observed a large disconnect between A.S. and the student body throughout her time serving in the Senate. As IVP, Ly said she aims to bridge that gap and expand the Association's public outreach so students know how to access and utilize A.S. resources. To facilitate this relationship, Ly proposed increasing tabling to distribute resource cards and holding association-wide events to promote community, such as a multicultural fair.

Over the last year, Ly has served on the Senate Liaison Committee, tasked with the responsibility of facilitating communication between BCUs and the Senate. In recent years, the relationship between BCUs and the Senate has been a point of contention in the Association, with a significant lack of communication on both ends. The Nexus hopes Ly will use her liaison experience as IVP to strengthen this relationship.

Ly specifically notes that the Senate has had a "passive" role in supporting marginalized groups on campus and hopes she can actively support such groups as IVP by sharing institutional knowledge and equitable financial support.

Ly also served as a member of the temporary student safety committee, where she advocated for improved campus safety measures in conversation with the UCPD Chief of Police and other University officials. The Nexus believes Ly's experience in communicating with upper-level University administrators will lend itself well to the IVP's responsibilities of advocating on behalf of the student body.

As IVP, Ly said she will continue communicating with UCPD to pursue increased campus safety, specifically analyzing areas of campus with high levels of bike theft to improve them and deter crime.

The Nexus believes Ly displayed exemplary initiative in the Senate when she created a Senate voting tracker to document every financial or legislative vote on the Senate floor — which has significantly increased the Senate's efficiency. Given that the IVP's main responsibility is chairing the Senate, the Nexus believes Ly's initiative highlights her ability to effectively lead the next Senate.

The Senate floor can often become heated as senators deliberate over politically contentious legislation and having an IVP that facilitates productive and respectful conversation is key. Ly emphasized that one of her greatest strengths is being "level headed" and that as IVP she would "make sure everyone's voices are heard and that they're supported, but also that it's a respectful and welcoming space."

Ly's commitment to building a stronger, united association, her composure and experience in various leadership positions on campus make her the best candidate for IVP. The Nexus is confident in Ly's ability to make tangible and positive changes to the internal operations of A.S.

## Noah Luken for External Vice President for Local Affairs

The Daily Nexus endorses unopposed third-year economics

and philosophy double major Noah Luken for External Vice President for Local Affairs.

The External Vice President for Local Affairs (EVPLA) serves as a liaison between the A.S. and local governing bodies, such as the Isla Vista Community Services District (IVCSD) and the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors. Additionally, the EVPLA represents the student body on local issues such as housing and safety resources. The position does not exist at any other University of California campus.

The Nexus endorses Luken for his strong support for Isla Vista cityhood, tangible plans to improve housing conditions in I.V. and his experience as part of the A.S. Senate.

Luken is running as the sole candidate of the Save Isla Vista Party, which he created to advocate for cityhood, an idea the Nexus believes is worth considering. He has also attended IVCSD meetings to further this goal by offering a student perspective. He believes cityhood would allow I.V. to be more effectively governed and attentive to residents' needs.

The Nexus appreciated that Luken demonstrated a clear understanding of the LAFCO financial viability process, which will be beneficial for an EVPLA pursuing cityhood. He also emphasized his commitment to decreasing police presence in I.V. and continuing the current EVPLA and third-year political science major E.J. Raad's opposition to the 72-hour Deltopia weekend noise ordinance.

Despite Luken's admirable resolve, I.V. cityhood is a long-term project that will likely extend beyond his term. The Nexus hopes that he will not neglect other relevant projects during his term as EVPLA.

Luken has exemplified his ability to follow through with tangible projects through his work in the A.S. Senate. Luken authored a bill creating a textbook grant support program, began implementing Generation Conscious sustainable laundry detergent dispensers and advocated to administration on behalf of students when library hours were cut last year. The Nexus believes Luken's experience as a senator and member of the Outreach Committee further qualifies him for the role of EVPLA.

While Luken is running unopposed, the Nexus still views him as a strong candidate for EVPLA because of his commitment to I.V. cityhood, leadership experience and the tangible benefits for students his legislation has accomplished.

## Jasmine Hsieh for External Vice President for Statewide Affairs

EVPSA candidate Alexander Avina did not respond to requests for an interview and thus was not included in the Nexus' endorsement process.

The Daily Nexus endorses second-year biology major Jasmine Hsieh for External Vice President for Statewide Affairs.

The External Vice President for Statewide Affairs (EVPSA) works alongside their office to advocate and represent the interests of UC Santa Barbara students at the state and federal levels, as well as to the UC Regents. Many of these campaigns are done through the UC Student Association (UCSA), the official lobbying and legislative advocacy organization for UC students.

Hsieh has been part of the EVPSA office for nearly two years and is the 2025-26 chief of staff, providing her with extensive knowledge of the office's internal workings and projects. During her endorsement interview, Hsieh mentioned that she has proxied for current EVPSA, fifth-year psychological & brain sciences major Leiya Kadhah, during meetings. Given the federal government's ongoing threats to cut funding and increase its oversight over higher education, it is imperative that our next EVPSA has the momentum to quickly acclimate to the role and begin advocating for students.

Hsieh is running on two main platform points, which amount to advocating for both marginalized communities and student

workers through tangible initiatives. Hsieh said she would lobby for Assembly Bill 713, which would prohibit the UC, the California State University (CSU) system or California Community Colleges from disqualifying undocumented students from on-campus jobs because of their federal work authorization status.

To assist student workers, Hsieh is looking to support their efforts to unionize. This is a longstanding campaign at UCSB, which the UC has not officially recognized, citing it should be a more system-wide effort. As a residence hall desk assistant, Hsieh said she has personal experience with how lack of representation impacts students' work practices.

"We're one of the only laboring groups that do not have representation [within the UC]. And that results in a lot of complaints," she said. "I have talked with a lot of other student workers ... students who are mistreated in our university, and a lot of it is the wages are way too low for the amount of work that [they] do, then also the hours and also sick leave."

Hsieh highlighted her intersectional identities as a second-generation queer disabled Taiwanese American as a reason why she is passionate about advocating for various groups. The Nexus believes that Hsieh's personal experience navigating the UC with these identities will be helpful in advocating for marginalized students' needs on a higher platform, such as UCSA. Both before and after her interview, the Nexus observed Hsieh strike up conversations with students outside of the office. The Nexus believes this is a great habit for an advocate to have.

"All of these identities have allowed me to understand what it's like to live in a system that doesn't support you and that is kind of not built for us," Hsieh said.

The Nexus would like to recognize that Hsieh's opponent, second-year history of public policy and law major Romi Riss, is running on a platform of advocating for low-income students as one herself. This is an extremely important goal, given the rising cost of living and higher education.

Riss is a current off-campus senator who is running on improving housing and student safety through localized solutions. During her endorsement interview, she said she would also bring these issues to UCSA and state legislators to enact systemwide reforms.

"I really feel that there's a disconnect between the decisions that our policymakers are making and the lived reality of students as someone who has to work jobs and who keeps herself busy," Riss said. "I want to do the most in my power to make student lives better, especially advancing the needs and accessibility of UCSB students."

Riss also mentioned her support for Isla Vista cityhood and how that could help students have a larger say in their community moving forward.

The Nexus recognizes that these are pertinent issues at UCSB and the UC at large. However, the EVPSA role is specifically designed to advocate for students at a statewide level, and so several of Riss' initiatives are better suited for other positions within Associated Students that focus on local issues.

Regarding other projects by Kadhah, Riss said she would continue her labor initiatives as well as support Protect Your Peers events, which are designed to educate students on immigrant rights. Riss also mentioned increasing accessibility but did not specifically mention the Disability Cultural Center (DCC).

When asked whether Hsieh would continue Kadhah's initiatives, she did not mention Protect Your Peers, which is hosted by multiple executives, by name. The Nexus hopes that

both candidates keep the DCC and Protect Your Peers events in mind when either one steps into the role.

To expand student input within the Regents, Hsieh said she would lobby for Assembly Constitutional Amendment 18, which would increase the student vote from one to two within the 26-member board. The Nexus believes this a substantial goal that could increase the student voice in the Regents for generations to come.

Ultimately, both candidates hold strong positions that the Nexus believes are needed in our next EVPSA. The Nexus endorses Hsieh for her prior experience, which will facilitate her transition into the role and her knowledge on existing legislation that she can help enact.

## Suyan Wang for Student Advocate General

The Daily Nexus endorses unopposed third-year sociology and history of public policy and law double major Suyan Wang for Student Advocate General.

The Student Advocate General (S.A.G.) serves as a liaison between the University and the student body. The nonpartisan role advocates to administration on behalf of students, provides confidential support and educates the student body about university resources. The S.A.G. also works with the Office of the Student Advocate (OSA) to handle student casework typically relating to academics and finances.

The Nexus believes that Wang's current role as the OSA's chief of staff and nearly three years of experience within the office provide her with the skills to succeed as S.A.G., including managing over 20 team members and maintaining a passion for public interest work.

"I started exploring what public interest really means to me — I just got really interested. I think it's something that truly aligns with my passion," Wang said. "I love people. I love talking to people, and I definitely love advocating for people as well. I love advocating for myself, and that kind of branched out to advocating for everyone."

Wang aims to expedite communication with University departments while handling issues that may concern students and casework. In the past year, Wang has repeatedly requested meetings with the Office of Student Conduct to discuss student misconduct cases dealing with artificial intelligence (AI).

"We were defending students who were accused of violating AI policy when there's no AI policy. So I actually asked for their AI advisor, the officer that actually has jurisdiction on this," Wang said.

An additional goal Wang has is to increase transparency around the University's policy updates and resources by publishing new information on the OSA's website and social media.

Wang also hopes to prioritize defending student rights through the OSA and hopes to improve the office so that UCSB students can have the "best student advocate office" in the UC system.

Another objective Wang aims to achieve as S.A.G. is to implement a uniform AI policy reflected across all class syllabi. She mentioned that she is currently researching the policies professors have already implemented but recognizes this goal may be difficult due to differences in opinions that professors have on AI, depending on their field of study.

Wang emphasized that as S.A.G. she will ensure that every student has access to suitable representation and hopes students recognize the resources available to them through the OSA.

"No student tuition goes to waste. That's a big overarching goal for me. I want everyone to understand that their tuition is not going to waste and they can actually utilize this service whenever they want to," Wang said.

# IVCSD debriefs Soltopia, previews I.V. Safe meeting

Levi Kauffman  
County News Editor

Lucy Wellons  
Staff Writer

The Isla Vista Community Services District debriefed the Soltopia music festival and discussed plans for their upcoming Isla Vista Safe meeting at its April 14 meeting.

On April 5, the Isla Vista Community Services District (IVCSD) hosted Soltopia, a free music festival created for Isla Vista residents after the Isla Vista Foot Patrol's (IVFP) 72-hour noise ordinance effectively banned the annual unsanctioned street festival Deltopia. IVCSD Community Programs and Engagement Director Myah Mashhadialireza began the debrief with a presentation and shared that she was "super proud" of how Soltopia turned out.

"Obviously, it wasn't perfect, but this is year one, and I think this helps us adjust our expectations moving forward and also just continue to build upon something," Mashhadialireza said. "When I was there, I saw thousands of smiling faces, people having a really fun time with their friends and at the core, that's what we want to do, is we want to provide those faces and make sure people can do them safely."

Mashhadialireza discussed the IVCSD's community engagement strategies leading up to Soltopia, as well as ways she seeks to improve communication going forward. She highlighted the "record-breaking" reach that the IVCSD's social media has had recently, including 1.3 million views and 948 new followers on its Instagram between March 10 and April 8. Their outreach strategy focused on building excitement, collaborating with other organizations and posting on social media.

All 8,000 Soltopia wristbands



IVCSD debriefed Soltopia, saying it was "proof of concept" that IVCSD can do "an essential job" in Isla Vista.

were distributed to I.V. residents, which granted them access to free food. One of the biggest successes of Soltopia for Mashhadialireza was the zero arrests and citations within festival grounds. She also brought up the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office's verbal commitment to deploy fewer law enforcement officers next year.

With only about three months to plan Soltopia, Mashhadialireza is optimistic that the event will be improved next year with more time. She said she wants to involve all "communities in Isla Vista" and improve the free food system. Mashhadialireza also verbalized the IVCSD's commitment to include more local businesses.

IVCSD General Manager Jonathan Abboud praised Mashhadialireza for her work on Soltopia and celebrated the event's success.

"Every time they do the noise ordinance or the banning, it creates problems. And this time there was a noise ban and there was nothing but good because of what we did," Abboud said. "This is a proof of concept that the [IV] CSD can do an essential job for the community."

The Board then turned to the agenda for the upcoming April 24 meeting for I.V. Safe, a

community task force devoted to addressing public safety issues of gun violence, sexual assault and substance and drug use. Directors briefly discussed how they would address the rollout of the upcoming I.V. parking compliance program with the rest of the group.

"We want to make sure that everybody is on the same page with how to work with us as we move forward with parking compliance," Abboud said.

Board members then outlined the priorities in their Deltopia debrief at the I.V. Safe meeting. Abboud emphasized the need to talk through policing during Soltopia and across Isla Vista, as well as what the Deltopia weekend will look like in the future.

IVCSD Vice President and third-year environmental studies and political science double major Kylan Hobart raised the idea of eliminating beach closures in Isla Vista for Deltopia weekend due to the event's significant changes.

"I just think it's really frustrating not being able to access the beach, and it's not just day of. I mean, it's several days stuck off the beach," Hobart said. "Especially if you already have a noise ordinance in the entire city and there's nothing to do, the one thing that you can do that's relatively peaceful is go to

the beach."

Additionally, Hobart raised concerns about the presence of equestrian officers as a part of the police force on Deltopia. During the event, attendees observed that the horses left waste around I.V. streets. IVCSD Director Spencer Brandt noted that he reached out to the sheriff's office ahead of the weekend to request that they manage the waste from the horses if they insisted on bringing them, but he was told that the police were "not able to do that."

"I think that's so frustrating to see just such a massive police presence and to see them just not cleaning up after the animals that they insist on bringing to the community," Hobart said. "I think it's disrespectful to the community to not take care of that."

Finally, the board expressed its desire to "do more with less" by advocating for a lower police presence in I.V. for future Deltopia weekends. They hope to incorporate this approach into upcoming budget discussions, as the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors considers extensive budget cuts for the 2026-27 fiscal year.

"We have here an opportunity where we have a version of harm reduction and public safety

that is significantly cheaper and significantly more effective and more popular with the community," IVCSD President Katherine Carmichael said. "From my perspective, it's kind of a no-brainer."

The IVCSD's discussion signaled their interest in shifting toward community-based safety strategies rather than heavy police presence. Board members pointed to the success of Soltopia as a model for future events and evidence that Isla Vista can govern itself, even with fewer resources.

"I really think that this is hopefully the beginning of a new era of public safety in I.V. that is turning away from police measures and towards community safety approaches, like we saw two weekends ago with Soltopia," Carmichael said.

Earlier, the board began by honoring fourth-year sociology and Asian American studies double major Kaleb Baladez, who has worked for the IVCSD since his first year at UC Santa Barbara. The resolution highlighted Baladez's work doing trash removal, graffiti abatement and maintenance.

Lastly, IVCSD Assistant General Manager Sydney Castaneda presented the Internal Operations Annual Report. For the 2026 fiscal year, the IVCSD will spend \$610,000 on operations, with about \$38,000 going to annual fees.

According to Castaneda, the IVCSD has already completed two of its seven goals — evaluating the compost collective program and initiating the Utility User Tax audit — and is actively working on the other five, including a cityhood study and continuing to evaluate revenue strategies. Additionally, Castaneda identified "key risks" that the IVCSD faces, including its small staff and reliance on coordination with UCSB, the County and the Isla Vista Recreation and Parks District.

## IVCSD ramps up parking compliance program

Levi Kauffman  
County News Editor  
Elijah Obando  
News Intern

Over the last couple of months, informational faux-tickets have been appearing on Isla Vista residents' windshields informing them of coming changes to parking enforcement. Since February, two new Isla Vista Community Services District parking compliance ambassadors have begun patrolling local streets.

The Isla Vista Community Services District (IVCSD) deployed two parking compliance ambassadors, third-year environmental studies major Isaac Dugan and UC Santa Barbara alum Kaci Bardel, to distribute warnings before issuing citations, according to IVCSD Public Works & Sustainability Director Jenna Norton. Dugan and Bardel will distribute resources and directly engage with community members as part of the program.

"I was really interested in this job because of the safety issue I see [with] parking being in the community," Bardel said. "I want to give people a chance to correct their behavior. I don't want to be sitting there giving out tickets — no warning — if they're already trying to move their car out of a red zone. I want people to feel comfortable talking to me and just having a good conversation."

In the months leading up to enforcement, IVCSD led an outreach campaign which included placing "fake tickets" on windshields with information about parking laws, tabling and social media posts.

When citations are issued, they will follow Santa Barbara County's (SBC) bail schedule, and appeals will go through IVCSD. Jonathan Abboud, the IVCSD general manager, said that the ambassadors will not



Issued citations will follow Santa Barbara County's bail schedule, and appeals will go through IVCSD.

have a quota on the number of citations they are expected to write and that IVCSD's goal is to write zero tickets. He added that Dugan and Bardel would be working on a "dynamic schedule."

Norton emphasized the need for an I.V. parking enforcement agency as I.V. Foot Patrol (IVFP) could "spend all day writing tickets in Isla Vista if they wanted to." According to Abboud, IVFP hired Julie Dixon, a UCSB alum and founder of Dixon Resources Unlimited, to deal with parking enforcement in the 1990s. However, the position was cut in the early 2000s. The ambassadors will take over at least some of the IVFP's enforcement duties.

The IVFP did not respond to the Nexus' request for comment.

The program aims to give parking enforcement a "more localized touch," according to Abboud. Norton said they plan to have ambassadors interact with the community by distributing NARCAN, fentanyl test strips, food vouchers and drinks.

"This is such a local program and we're just trying to make it as nuanced and special as it possibly can be. We hope that this will be the most community-oriented parking program in history," Norton said.

Abboud clarified that vehicles committing "egregious violations" would still be ticketed, while those committing more common violations, such as being slightly in a red zone, would initially receive warnings. He highlighted that I.V. has painted every curb in compliance with the state Daylighting Law, which became effective in 2025 and prohibits vehicles from parking or stopping within 20 feet of a crosswalk.

Beyond the two new ambassadors, IVCSD has created other parking resources. On the Off-Street Parking Marketplace, Norton compiled a list of apartment complexes and property owners willing to rent parking spaces. Additionally, the IVCSD website provides information on parking

compliance and alternative methods of transportation.

In 2023, IVCSD hired Dixon Resources Unlimited to conduct a study on parking in Isla Vista. Abboud said that the study found there are at least 1,000 unused off-street parking spaces and on-street parking is at 102% capacity.

"There's already an invisible parking structure in I.V. that's not being used with all these off-street parking spots. So we want to make sure that we fully utilize what we have," Abboud said.

In 2003, SBC created the "I.V. Master Plan," which included a parking program. The planning document was a framework focused on fixing long-term issues in I.V. and was co-sponsored by UCSB and the Isla Vista Recreation and Parks District.

The "I.V. Master Plan" was never implemented because it did not get certified by the California Coastal Commission (CCC). The original parking program aimed to prioritize street parking for I.V. residents by limiting the hours non-residents were able to park.

The CCC opposed the program, as it feared it would limit coastal access to the public.

In 2016, an updated version of the "I.V. Master Plan" was proposed. However, SBC officials delayed its approval, and it was eventually abandoned. The CCC was not the only issue that contributed to the plan being dropped — in 2012, California Governor Jerry Brown passed the ABX126 bill, dissolving all redevelopment agencies (RDAs) in the state. This directly impacted funding for the project because prior to the formation of IVCSD, I.V. was dependent on its RDA to maintain expenses for the area. Without an RDA, the financial responsibility of implementing the plan would have fallen largely on SBC.

I.V. would not see any plans to implement a parking program until 2022, when UCSB was sued by SBC. The terms of the settlement included a \$3.7 million payment from UCSB so that the county could fund "direct community-facing projects." \$82,000 of it went toward funding IVCSD's most recent parking study by Dixon Resources Unlimited.

Abboud explained that because parking in I.V. has worsened due to lack of enforcement of "basic rules," IVCSD hopes to first reach a "baseline" level of compliance. He and the IVCSD hope that once this is accomplished, other improvements such as more sidewalks, bike lanes and bus services will be possible.

"It's like squeezing a balloon, and then you see where the cars go. Do we enforce parking and they stay there and nothing changes? Do we enforce parking and some disappear? Do we enforce parking and some move on to the off-street parking spots? We need to see what happens so that we can make smarter decisions in the future," Abboud said.

# A.S. Bike Shop initiative aims to use tires as sustainable energy



NEXUS FILE PHOTO

T.R.E.A.D. aims to cut the amount of tires that would otherwise end up in landfills.

**Dalia Puchalt**  
Staff Writer  
**Gabriel Welch**  
Staff Writer

UC Santa Barbara is well known for its thriving bike culture, and with the large number of bikes comes an even larger amount of tires. This motivated second-year environmental studies major Virginia Such and second-year psychological & brain sciences and environmental studies double major Sophia Long to address the pressing issue of how to go about recycling them.

More than 10,000 people bike to the University on a daily basis, according to UC Santa Barbara's magazine. Their solution is the Tire Recovery Education and Diversion program (T.R.E.A.D.) – a tire-recycling initiative working in partnership with the Associated Students (A.S.) Bike Shop. The initiative aims to cut the amount of tires that would otherwise end up in landfills.

Such and Long first formulated the idea for T.R.E.A.D. through UCSB's Environmental Leadership Incubator (ELI). ELI is a program that supplies undergraduate students with project-development skills such as navigating project funding applications and conducting project impact analysis, enabling them to spearhead their own environmental stewardship efforts.

Through ELI, the two students partnered with A.S. Assistant Director of Student Engagement and A.S. Bike Shop Manager Adam Jahnke as a "mentor" and point of contact.

Such initially applied to ELI with a proposal to repurpose used bike tires as flip-flops. After partnering with Long in fall of 2025 and realizing there weren't any resources available for the project, they redirected their focus to a broader campus tire recycling program.

"We interviewed a ton of people on campus management ... we talked to A.S. Recycling, all these people to just kind of figure

out what was going on with our bike tires in the shop," Such said. "And then we started looking at local bike shops [like] Trek in Goleta, and we found out that they had a relationship with a recycling company called Liberty Tires."

Liberty collects boxes of discarded tires from its clients, bringing them back to its facility in Los Angeles for shredding and processing. The company processes 30,000 tons of bike tires annually, producing over 4.7 billion pounds of reclaimed rubber. The final products are small rubber bits that can be used in construction projects such as playgrounds or tire-derived fuel, an energy-rich and more sustainable alternative to oil or coal.

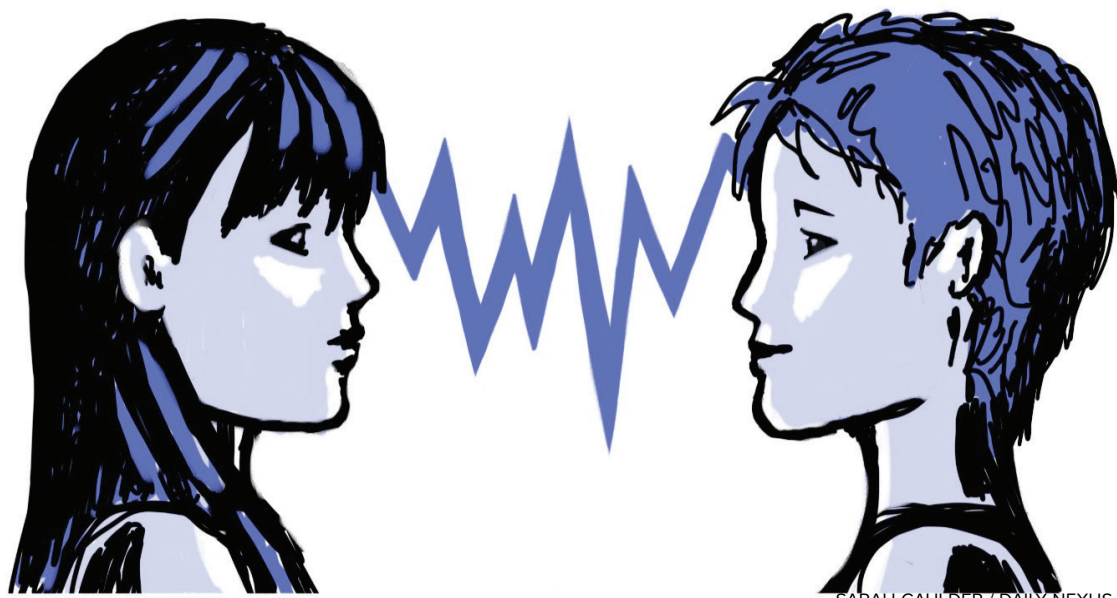
"We met with [Liberty's] executive members and they were like, 'Yeah, we onboard small mom-and-pop shops and big corporations all the time.' They probably take a trip to the Ventura [and] Santa Barbara area once a day," Long said. "So it was a lot simpler than we thought to just add them on as a stop and then be able to bring our tires."

In January, Long and Such were awarded a grant for T.R.E.A.D. to cover Liberty's pickup service fee of \$25 per box. However, they anticipate that more funding will be needed to sustain the program in the long run.

T.R.E.A.D. coordinated its first pickup with Liberty during spring break, and future pickups will be arranged as needed. Such and Long are scheduled to showcase their project in a capstone presentation at Bren Hall during Week 9 of spring quarter. Looking forward, the two hope to expand the program to other campuses in the University of California system.

"UCSB has such a community that cares so much about sustainability, so it's kind of shocking that there [was] nothing going on in the bike shop," Such said. "Anything we can do to help UCSB stay a beautiful campus and promote sustainability is amazing."

# Students find their missed connections with automated website



SARAH CAULDER / DAILY NEXUS

IV Missed Connections was created in an attempt to help UC students find their missed connections.

**Iris Guo**  
Community Outreach News Editor

Missed connections can happen every day, whether it be riding on public transit, waiting in a check-out line or studying at the library. Conversations can end before contact information is exchanged, leaving people replaying the moment and wishing they had asked for a name and number.

Fourth-year computer engineering major John Lins developed IV Missed Connections in an attempt to resolve this issue for students at UC Santa Barbara and locals in the Isla Vista area. On the website, users can post about missed encounters, upvote submissions, send direct messages (DMs) and view a map of all posts.

IV Missed Connections was initially launched last spring quarter as a website. Since then, it has been updated to include an app version, which allows users to enable location tracking and automatically check for posts in their proximity that match their description.

According to Lins, the website has slowly grown in popularity through word of mouth, with viewership especially increasing over this past quarter. Currently, it gets 4,000 to 10,000 views daily and has reached a total of around 400,000 views.

Since its launch, it has been updated to include the entire University of California system,

where students can make posts for their respective campuses.

The website uses an artificial intelligence (AI) system to filter out inappropriate comments that include surnames or content that is illegal, threatening or overtly sexual.

To support the website and app, Lins created a corresponding automated Instagram page with over 3,000 followers, which automatically posts the most upvoted missed connection as a post every three days.

Although IV Missed Connections is digital, Lins said he believes it brings human interaction "closer to in-person" because it is grounded in situations that occur in real life.

"It could be as a friend, it could be romantically, it could be anything," Lins said. "You want to find them again and there might be a chance that you could get a second chance to see them again."

Lins was inspired to create his website by an Instagram account, UCSB Missed Connections, that was popular among students three years ago. Users could send DMs to the account's administrators and have a post created to reach out to a missed connection.

"The people who were running the account probably graduated, so it's not [active]. The last post was two or three years ago," Lins said. "So I thought it would be kind of interesting to make an automated system that just did everything automatically."

Lins emphasized that he believes IV Missed Connections is an upgrade of the Instagram account he took inspiration from due to its automated features.

"My goal is to make it as automated as possible. That old Instagram account that someone was managing was manual, but people get busy and then it dies and everyone's disappointed," Lins said. "In this case, if I get busy and I can't work on it, it's still online and people can still use it."

According to Lins, he has seen instances in which users of the website have actually found a missed connection.

"There were some people that commented their Instagram, which is reasonable, and then there's some people [who] put their Discord," Lins said. "I remember there was someone who put their number. I was like, 'Wait, that's kind of crazy' because you need it to be anonymous on both sides."

Although Lins is about to graduate, he aims to continue working on the website and has plans to continue developing features and creating marketing ideas. IV Missed Connections is just one of the projects that Lins has developed since he began programming in middle school, and he emphasized that he has many other ideas for future projects.

"My goal is just to get rich enough where I don't have to work a job and just do my projects all day," Lins said.

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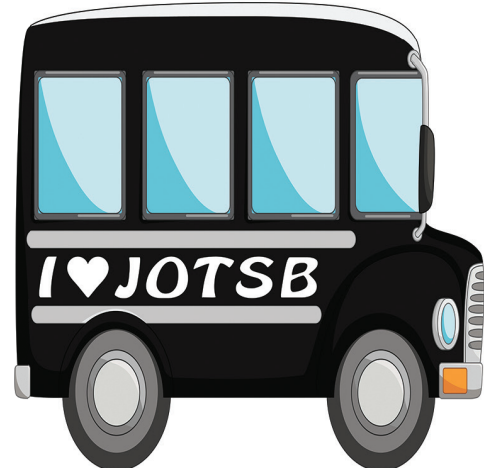
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# Students react: Save Student Services



Save Student Services plans to increase student fees that have not been adjusted for inflation.

Samuel Liu  
Copy Editor

As part of the 2026 Associated Students spring election, UC Santa Barbara students are voting on the Save Student Services fee initiative. The initiative aims to increase 18 student fees that have not received inflationary adjustments, some for over 20 years. While students value student services, many also expressed concern around the proposed fee increase.

Petitioning began in January to collect signatures to secure the initiative on the ballot. During the month-long petitioning effort, various entities in Student Affairs promoted and educated students on the fee initiative. While the campaign encompasses 18 fees totaling to an increase of \$85.71 per quarter, each fee is voted on separately.

Student workers like second-year psychological & brain sciences and linguistics double major and MultiCultural Center (MCC) student worker Zoey Tran were often asked to promote and educate the campaign to their peers.

"I first heard about it online. I saw an Instagram post about student services going down, XYZ. And I was like, 'Oh, this is not good. Like, we need to do something.' Then I hear about it at my job, and I was like, 'Oh, it's really serious now,'" Tran said. "Me and all my coworkers are trying to collect signatures to even put it on the ballot."

The referendums that pass will begin an annual Cost of Living Adjustment (C.O.L.A.) and join other referenda throughout the UC schools that include annual inflation adjustments.

Mental Health Peer and third-year psychological & brain sciences major Elle Romine said their student jobs have helped build a better understanding of how staffing and capacity constraints affect services at Counseling & Psychological Services (C.A.P.S.).

"As a Mental Health Peer at C.A.P.S., there's been wage cuts, hour cuts and definitely demand from the students that we can't meet because we don't have enough staff, or because we don't have enough hours to go around," Romine said. "So at least from our end, we've seen it in that way ... the idea of having to turn students away or not having enough support to support the students, that definitely does suck."

The petition eventually surpassed the 3,500-signature threshold to appear on the undergraduate general ballot. For students unfamiliar with student services and budget forecasts, the campaign came as a surprise.

"At first, hearing 'Save Student Services,' I'm like, 'Oh my God, are they going away?'" first-year English major Avery Gibbs said. "I don't always use a lot of them that are open to me, but it's nice to know that I could use them, if I needed something like C.A.P.S. or [Campus Learning Assistance Services]. Just having the option to have that to fall back on."

Third-year English major Mary Kearns said she understood the reasoning

behind certain fee increases — including to address buying power for student services — but expressed that she felt the budgetary issues were unexpected.

"They've been able to carry on with these services so far," Kearns said. "So, I think the steep cost hike is where I feel apprehensive, because there's a disconnect between increasing these fees all at once and not seeing any outward signs in my own life as a student that tell me that these services are in danger."

When asked what it meant to vote on these referendums, students responded with varying perspectives.

"Hopefully, there's not gonna be any voting decisions that are gonna come out of a greater cost to a certain community," first-year biology major Kaleigh Farmer said. "Naturally, I'm gonna want to vote and lean towards things that are gonna help me out. But just because I haven't used a certain service, it doesn't mean it doesn't matter. That could be very important just to anybody else on this campus, and who am I to speak for everybody's experience just based on what's important to me?"

For Kearns, their limited awareness of the budgetary context adds pressure to the binding results of the vote. She mentioned that she feels uncomfortable "telling other students where their fees" should be allocated.

"It's a big responsibility to choose how most students' tuition is going to be divvied up for student services. And I don't know if I'm informed enough to make that decision in a way where I can stand by [it]," Kearns said. "I think that's why I'm kind of hesitant to vote at all, because I can see a world where student services need a way bigger budget. I don't know if I feel comfortable making decisions for future students as well."

Although all campus-based fees return 25% of revenue to financial aid through a mechanism called return to aid (RTA), some students expressed concern about the rising cost of higher education.

"Coming from such a low-income household ... it puts you in a weird position because I'm already struggling [financially], but if there's any more costs being put on my tuition, that money can not only go to help me, but also go to help other students," Farmer said. "It can feel like a bit of a jab in the gut because it's like, 'Damn — where am I gonna come up with some of this extra money from?'"

Second-year psychological & brain sciences major Cameron Leung expressed willingness to "chip in" to continue funding the services because he sees their value, but he believes other students may be hesitant to do the same.

"The first thing a lot of students hear is that we're gonna have to pay more money, we're gonna increase our tuition in order to save these services," Leung said. "That's a little unfair, because when you consider these services, they're incredibly valuable and it's worth so much more to how much you would chip in."

# Science Communication Club aims to combat climate anxiety



The Science Communication Club was founded last year, with the purpose of merging communication with a scientific approach.

Lola Hadley  
News Intern

Members of the Science Communication Club at UC Santa Barbara gathered at the Career Center to discuss climate anxiety and courses of action on April 14.

First-year biochemistry major and club vice president, Inji Hamdoun, began the event with a presentation and collaborative project to discuss climate anxiety. The gathering was held as part of the Associated Students (A.S.) Earth Month at UCSB.

The Science Communication Club was founded during the 2024-25 school year by current president and fourth-year communication and environmental science double major Melody Pederson, alongside Jasmine Ravel Schwam, UCSB alum.

"We are just really passionate about being a space for people of all majors, [science, technology, engineering and math] and social sciences, to come and make science more actionable, accessible and engaging because we really believe that science is for everyone," Pederson said.

The purpose of science communication, according to Hamdoun, is to merge the

emotional and personal aspects of communication with a scientific approach. According to Hamdoun, this is the link between information and human connections.

"It is intended to help people in a friendly environment talk specifically on how climate anxiety can be turned into a popular form of science communication," Hamdoun said.

According to Hamdoun's presentation, climate anxiety is a personal feeling of hopelessness that can sometimes be "conscious" or "in the back of your head." Pederson connected the feeling of climate anxiety to the club's mission.

"Because climate change can be so daunting and almost paralyzing with how fearful and scary it is, science communication is a really great tool to bring people in and bring people together so that nervous energy can be transformed into action and tangible steps," Pederson said.

Attendees shared the reasons why they experience climate anxiety. One attendee said they have blocked out a lot of their climate anxiety, with another mentioning politicians and corporate executives who deny climate change making matters "substantially worse."

"[Going] to new restaurants,

buying new clothes and traveling bring me joy, but I am reminded of the negative environmental impacts of those things; it can be hard to enjoy them," Pederson said. "Something I try to focus on is still enjoying and trying to be present in the moment and areas where I can make improvements."

The presentation outlined four ways to incorporate effective communication during informed conversations on climate change. First, to make proactive statements, second, to focus on wider patterns, third, to find common ground and finally, to impact data.

"It can be through actions themselves, and I think that is the most powerful form of communication: showing that a response to climate change is possible by doing it directly," Hamdoun said.

The Science Communication Club's general consensus was that the climate crisis is not going away.

"But because the end goal is just to have a tool to communicate, I think the hope is that people will use this communication and apply it and then the people that they're communicating with will be able to either pick that up indirectly or start a conversation," Hamdoun said.

# I.V. Surfrider hosts first annual Environmental Short Film Festival

Noura Elkhatib  
Staff Writer

The Isla Vista chapter of Surfrider's Rise Against Plastics committee hosted its first annual environmental short film festival on April 14. The festival was part of Earth Month, an initiative hosted by the Associated Students.

The Surfrider Foundation fights for increased marine protection, plastic reduction, improved beach access and clean water on the coasts. The local I.V. chapter focuses on encouraging students to be more environmentally focused, according to fourth-year environmental studies major and I.V. Surfrider member Sarah Webber.

"Today is really a celebration of Isla Vista students and their commitment to environmental messaging and sustainability through film," Webber said.

Local vendors such as Island View Outfitters, UCSB Edible Campus Program, Print Club and various independent artists tabled outside the stage.

The films shown, which are available to watch on YouTube, include "Hydra On the Horizon," "How's Dev's?", "quwa," "The Salt on Our Skin" and "The Bear Beneath."

Many of the films tackled topics such as underwater



Many of the films tackled topics such as underwater oil drilling and its effects on the quality of the water along the California coast.

oil drilling and its effects on the quality of the water along the California coast. More specifically, the Santa Barbara community's pushback against restarting the Sable pipeline, which was shut down after the 2015 Refugio

Beach oil spill.

Other common themes included the Land Back movement. The Land Back movement is a historically Indigenous-led movement that focuses on restoring Indigenous sovereignty by

reclaiming lands that were stolen through colonization.

The film "quwa" discussed the colonization of the Santa Barbara coast and how it disrupted existing Indigenous communities. "Salt on Our Skin" portrayed the Chumash

communities' difficulties with living on their land due to continued colonization. Specifically, the Santa Barbara Airport's continued pollution of the Goleta Slough, which hinders daily life for Chumash communities.

Webber emphasized the importance of having more discussions about UCSB's presence on Chumash land, especially in fields that are commonly dominated by non-Indigenous people and non-people of color.

"I think it's really powerful some of the themes that are being discussed tonight, for example, our presence on Chumash land as an environmental organization and what that looks like," Webber said.

Reese Raygoza, co-producer and co-director of "Salt on Our Skin," is a third-year environmental studies major and the Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Chair of I.V. Surfrider. She stated that UCSB students should remember that outdoor spaces like our oceans are meant to be open to all.

"I think the ocean is for everyone, and it has been that rule for time immemorial. There is a lot of restriction on these [Indigenous] communities to be able to recreate freely," Raygoza said.

## Sable continues legal battle against local entities

Michelle Cisneros  
Lead News Editor

In the last several days, Sable Offshore's legal battle to continue extracting oil off the Santa Barbara coast has intensified. Most recently, a county judge upheld an injunction against the pipeline restart, with Sable subsequently announcing a separate lawsuit against Santa Barbara County for \$100 million.

Texas-based oil and gas company Sable Offshore has been trying to restart a set of oil platforms known as the Santa Ynez Unit (SYU) since 2024. The company has been seeking the Trump administration's help to carry out the restart.

In March, Sable restarted oil production after Secretary of Energy Chris Wright issued a statement of approval. Wright's statement was sparked by President Donald Trump's March 13 executive order that invoked the Defense Production Act in light of the ongoing war with Iran. The SYU had previously been inactive since 2015, when a pipeline within the unit ruptured and spilled over 100,000 gallons of crude oil near Refugio Beach.

On April 20, Sable announced it is seeking over \$100 million from Santa Barbara County (SBC) for alleged financial damages. The company alleged the County is "unlawfully withholding" county permits.

Last November, the SBC Board of Supervisors denied the transfer of county permits from the SYU's previous owner, ExxonMobil, to Sable. The supervisors who voted against the restart cited the Refugio Beach oil spill and uncertainty with the company's ability to safely operate the facility as the reasons behind their decision.

Within the same announcement, Sable said it was suing the California Coastal Commission, a state entity that must also give its approval for the restart, for at least \$347 million.

As of the end of 2025, Sable is approximately

\$94 million in debt. It is currently seeking various avenues to improve its financial position, including refinancing one of its loans, and is in "active discussion" with the federal government on possible federal credit support.

"Sable is pleased to update its stakeholders on our tremendous progress following the invocation of the Defense Production Act," Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Jim Flores said in the statement. "We are working tirelessly to provide American oil from American soil to consumers in California and the U.S. military and are proud to have produced over 1 million barrels from the Santa Ynez Unit to date."

Local environmental groups have maintained that Sable is not fiscally equipped to handle the pipeline's operations and that the SYU, which was constructed in the 1980s, is too old to safely process oil.

Last Friday, SBC Superior Court Judge Donna Geck upheld an injunction presented by several groups that was supposed to stop Sable from restarting the pipeline without the proper county and state approvals. The decision rejected Sable's argument that the federal order supersedes the state permits that are still needed or the court's previous decisions against the restart.

"The President does not have the power to just waive state laws or judicial orders to benefit his friends in the oil industry," Linda Krop, chief counsel for the Environmental Defense Center, said in a press release. "Sable has undeniably and blatantly violated Judge Geck's injunction by starting up the pipeline, and they have continued to operate it in violation of critical public safety and environmental laws."

As of this week, Sable is continuing its operations at the SYU. Another hearing is set for May 22 to determine whether Sable is in contempt of the court's injunction order.



On April 20, Sable announced it is seeking over \$100 million from SBC for alleged financial damages.

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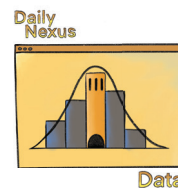
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# DATA

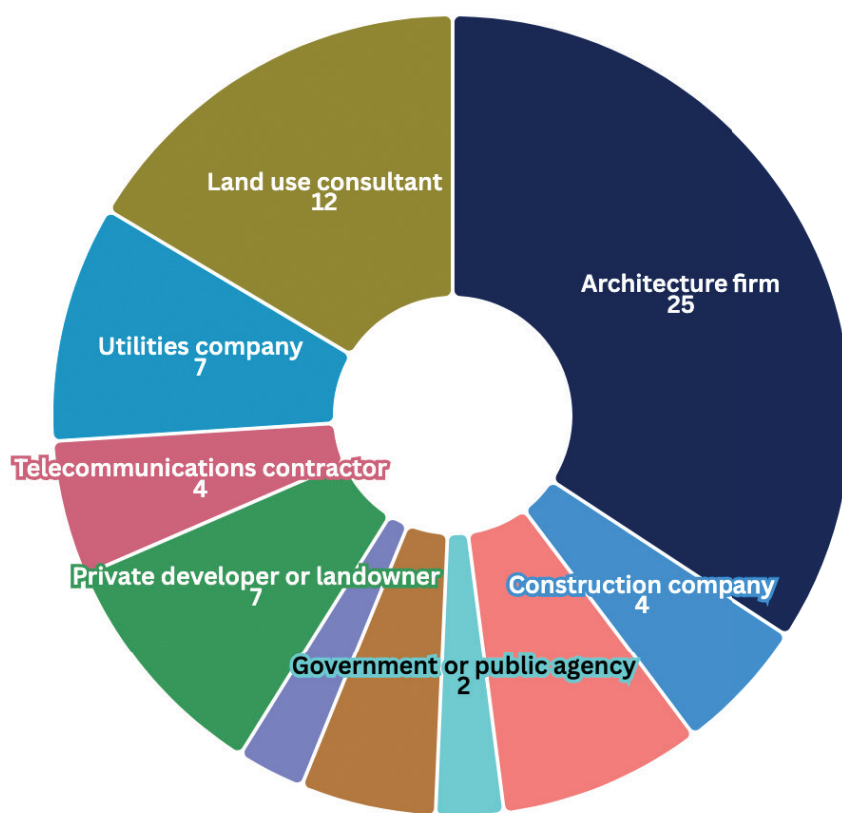


## Housing development drives planning permit activity in Isla Vista

Onwanya Padungsak  
Reporter  
Luyi Chen  
Reporter

### Permit requests by organization type from Oct. 2024 to Oct. 2025 in Santa Barbara County

- Architecture firm
- Construction company
- Engineering consultant
- Government or public agency
- Law firm
- Nonprofit organization
- Private developer or landowner
- Telecommunications contractor
- Utilities company
- Land use consultant



ONWANYA PADUNGSAK / DAILY NEXUS

Out of 73 entities that submitted planning permit requests from October 2024 to October 2025, 37 were submitted by architecture firms or land use consultants rather than by private developers.

While permit activity in Santa Barbara County has remained steady in recent years, a cluster of planning permit applications in Isla Vista, along with a recent shift toward multifamily housing projects, reflect continued housing pressure in the area and fuel concerns about crowding and congestion in Isla Vista.

Santa Barbara County's (SBC) Planning & Development department oversees the permitting process, which is necessary for the development of any new land usage and construction. The type of permits issued for a development can vary based on the building types, and some developments may require more than one permit.

Planning permits in SBC cover a range of projects, including housing and commercial developments. Travis Seawards, Deputy Director of the Development Review Division for Planning & Development, explained that permit applicants typically work with different outside professionals to navigate the process.

"[Applicants] usually hire ... a contractor or a planning consultant, and they help people get through our process and then it gets assigned to a staff," Seawards said. "We review the application and process it, depending on the size and the level of permits. Sometimes, it's just a staff-level approval. Sometimes, projects need approval by the planning commission, so it just depends on the project type, but everybody applies through our online permit process."

The majority of the permits requested between October 2024 and October 2025 in SBC were for developments in I.V.: out of 49 locations for which permits were requested, 33 were in I.V. While the number of overall planning permit applications has not increased in recent years, Joseph Dargel, a supervising planner of the Planning & Development in SBC, said that their composition has shifted, with multifamily housing planning permits now making up a larger proportion of application types throughout the county. According to Dargel, housing development is the predominant reason for permit applications.

"We have large multifamily housing projects all over the county, but there's more in the Goleta and Isla Vista area," Dargel said. According to Dargel, current multifamily applications in I.V. include approximately 258 new

units.

Any residence that houses multiple households — such as an apartment complex — can be classified as a multifamily housing unit; hence, many student housing properties in I.V. fall into this category.

"The multifamily housing projects are significantly helping the County reach our Regional Housing Needs Assessment pursuant to state housing law," Dargel said.

Eleanor Gartner, an SBC district representative and the Communications Director for Supervisor Laura Capps, noted that developers are trying to respond to a demand for housing in I.V.

"Developers are going through the permitting process to build more," Gartner said. "[I.V.] is also the densest part of Santa Barbara County. [The development helps] address the really large population that lives in a geographically pretty small area in the county."

Despite efforts to accommodate more residents in I.V.'s dense community, students like Mimi Nguyen, a third-year economics major, still experience the strain and crowded conditions of I.V. housing.

"It's very hard to find housing in I.V. It's very cramped, too, and it's overly expensive, and I do not

enjoy living here," Nguyen said. "I have friends living in Goleta, like Hollister Village. For the same price of housing, the places that they're living [in] are much more modern, spacious and just newer."

In addition to multifamily housing developments, Gartner noted a growing number of requests for developing Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) — additional living spaces, such as garages or basements, within existing housing spaces — in I.V.

Nicolas Amore, a fourth-year statistics and data science major, described his experience living in an ADU in I.V. as "fortunate," noting that navigating the housing search in I.V. is generally difficult for students.

"This woman built a bunch of small ... ADU units in her backyard," Amore said. "Everyone gets their own room."

Amore, who commuted from Goleta to UC Santa Barbara until last September, acknowledged that typical housing in I.V. can be unappealing to students seeking more private or less congested spaces.

"I just kind of got lucky with a Facebook Marketplace booking, and I found a really good spot," Amore said. "I might be an anomaly, but I got a good deal."

On Jan. 27, the SBC Board of Supervisors approved a series

of ordinance amendments that, according to Gartner, is meant to streamline the permit application process. The amendments aim to make the overall application process clearer and more efficient to developers.

"The approved amendments ... include important updates that support housing goals identified in the County's recently adopted Housing Element," the press release for the amendments' approval reads. "These changes modernize commercial zones to allow more mixed-use development and adjust standards in multifamily zones—such as height, setbacks, and open space requirements—to better support housing at planned densities."

"[The amendments can] make it just an easier process to [get] decisions made by county staff who need to sign off on the various parts of the permit. [Supervisor Capps] thinks it's a great start, and she also believes that more can be done to make things even easier and for people to make decisions faster," Gartner said.

While efforts to develop housing have increased the number of units that can house I.V. residents, I.V. resident Pegeen Soutar claimed in an opinion piece for the Santa Barbara Independent that legislation that has sought to streamline approval processes for

housing development may have significantly accelerated the pace at which new units have been constructed in I.V. at the cost of street parking space.

"The number of cars in Isla Vista already exceeds the number of legal parking spaces on a regular basis," Soutar wrote. "Visibility has become difficult for drivers, unable to see pedestrians and bicyclists ... There is no overall plan for managing this massive amount of new growth in this highly populated and congested area."

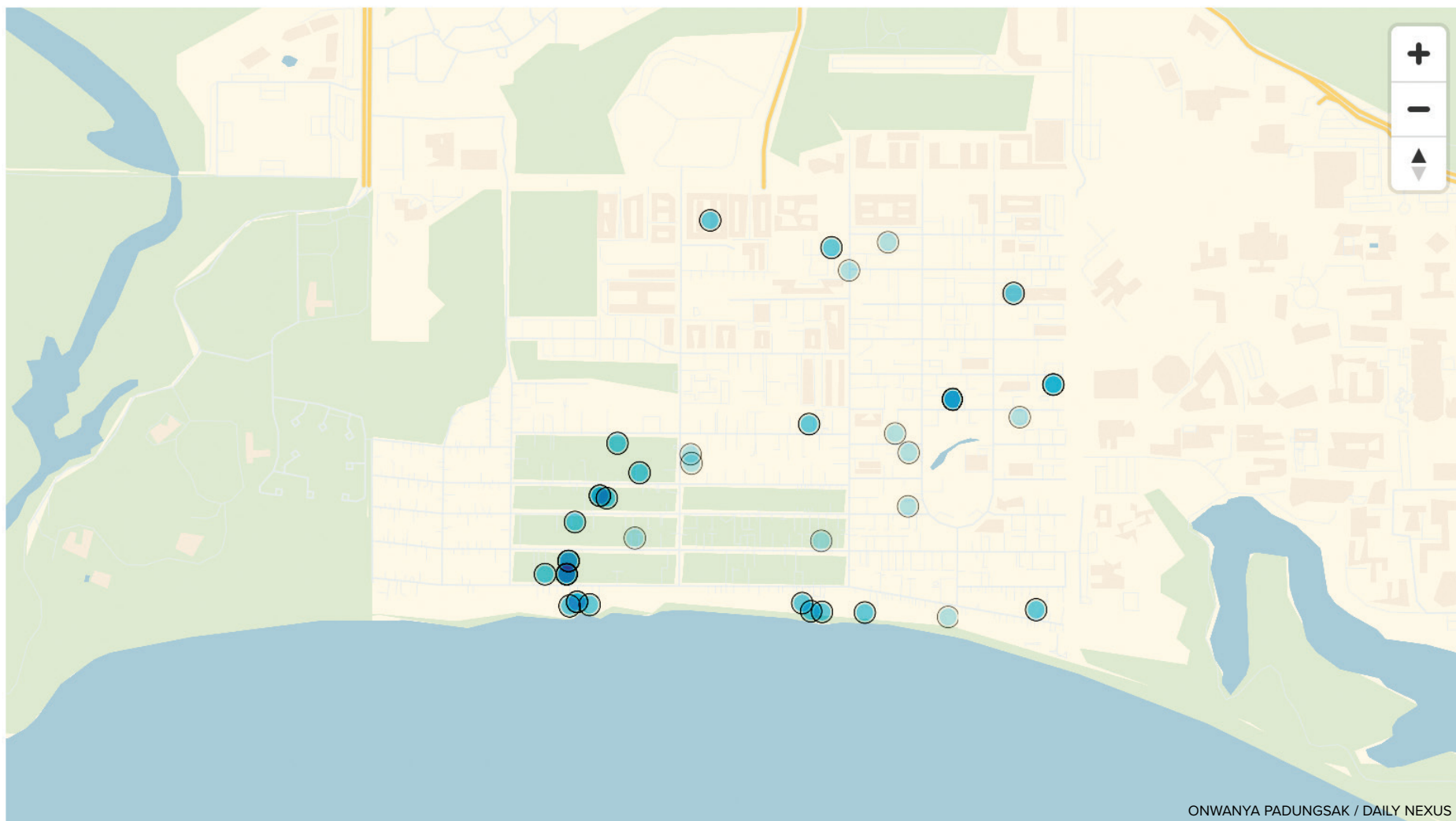
Nguyen attested to Soutar's concerns about street parking and noted how the shortage has affected many students.

"I don't have a car, but a lot of my friends have cars," Nguyen said. "When they try to find street parking, sometimes it's impossible."

Such challenges reflect broader pressures on housing in I.V., and efforts to develop multifamily housing, ADUs and other units in I.V. are illustrative of both state- and county-wide responses to widespread housing crises.

"There's a high demand for units, and the population growth has already occurred," Dargel said. "The population is already here and needs housing units, so that's why the legislature has [responded] to that need."

### Locations for planning permit applications in I.V. from Oct. 2024 to Oct. 2025



ONWANYA PADUNGSAK / DAILY NEXUS

Most permits requested from October 2024 to October 2025 were for locations in I.V., with a particularly high concentration in its western region, which is the student residential zone.



# SPORTS

## UCSB Women's Tennis clinches Big West regular season championship title

Izabella Nickerson  
Staff Writer

UC Santa Barbara's No. 48-ranked Women's Tennis team faced No. 73 California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo at Ronca Tennis Center on Saturday, April 18. In a blue-green rivalry match, UCSB delivered a 4-0 sweep.

Ending the regular season with back-to-back matches, UCSB carried the momentum from their match on Friday, April 17, where they defeated California State University, Northridge 4-0 on the Gauchos' home turf.

The Gauchos dominated the Big West conference this season, sweeping UC Riverside in a 7-0 win, University of Hawai'i at Manoa 7-0 and both CSUN and Cal Poly 4-0. The team ended the season undefeated in the Big West Conference, going 15-8 overall (9-0 Big West), claiming the regular-season Big West

championship title. Their opponents for Saturday's match, Cal Poly, went 12-9 overall and 7-2 in the Big West.

The match started off strong on courts one and two. The No. 2 doubles, sophomore Lily Pradkin and graduate student Shanelle Laconi, who dominated the court in a 6-1 victory. No. 1 doubles junior Ekuia Youri and freshman Caroline Beard followed, beating the Mustangs 7-6 with a 7-3 tiebreaker win.

Going 1-0 over the Mustangs, the single matches secured the Gauchos with a 4-0 sweep. All singles matches were completed in straight sets. Finishing first, singles sophomore Emma Tutoveanu won 6-2 and 6-1. Following up, singles sophomore Raphaëlle Leroux continued the Gauchos' dominance with a 6-1 and 6-3 win.

With the championship at stake, No. 4 singles Pradkin

shut out the Mustangs with a 6-2 and 7-6 win with a 7-3 tiebreaker. This victory earned the Gauchos the Big West regular-season championship title for the 2025-26 season.

With the results secured, singles No. 1, 2 and 5 were not finished.

The only loss of the day was No. 3 doubles, sophomore Emma Tutoveanu and freshman My-Anh Holmes, who were defeated 6-2 by the Mustangs.

The Gauchos clinched the top seed in the Big West Championship, which will take place at Barnes Tennis Center in San Diego, April 22-25. Securing the top seed pushes the Gauchos to a semifinals spot on April 24 at 10 a.m.



COURTESY OF UCSB ATHLETICS

COURTESY OF UCSB ATHLETICS

## Gauchos triumph against UC San Diego, pushing the game to five sets

Izabella Nickerson  
Staff Writer

No. 9 UC Santa Barbara beat No. 11 UC San Diego in a 3-2 match Saturday, April 10, in La Jolla. This secured the Gauchos the No. 4 seed in the 2026 Outrigger Big West Men's Volleyball Championship at UC Irvine, April 23-25.

The Gauchos now hold two victories over the Tritons this season, following their 3-2 victory in March.

This victory was a comeback for the Gauchos, who lost two straight matches against California State University, Long Beach earlier this month.

The Tritons dominated the first set, quickly defeating the Gauchos. During this set, the Tritons went on a 7-point run beginning at 7-12 and ending with a service error at 8-18. Afterward, the Gauchos were able to trade points with the Tritons, but lost the set at 12-25.

The second set featured a Gaucho comeback. Trading side-outs throughout the set, the Gauchos faced a near-second-set loss at 23-24. They rallied through with a kill by sophomore outside hitter Riggs Guy, who tied the set at 24-24. Consistently one point behind the Tritons until the score reached 29-29, the Gauchos narrowly claimed the set at 31-29.

Tied 1-1 after a heated second set, the third featured another Gaucho victory. The set was close until 16-16, when the Gauchos jumped ahead. Making nine of the next 11 points, sophomore outside hitter George Bruening finished the set with a service ace at 25-18. Remarkably, Bruening, Guy, junior middle blocker Josh Aruya and sophomore outside hitter Ethan Saint each contributed 3 kills.

The fourth set began with a Triton 7-0 scoring run, where they led 7-2. A 6-point streak allowed the Gauchos to climb back from 17-22, eventually

tying the game at 22-22, 23-23 and 24-24. Down to the wire, the Tritons eventually closed the set. Service and attack errors by the Gauchos led the Tritons to close the set 26-24.

With the match tied 2-2, the Gauchos and Tritons headed into their fifth and final set of the night. Exchanging points until 4-3, the Gauchos pulled ahead with 5 straight points, leading 8-4 with help from Guy's efficient serving and a kill by Saint. Staying on top, the Gauchos swiftly defeated the Tritons 15-9.

Bruening led the match with 16 kills, Saint with 15 and Guy with 14. Notably, Guy had a match season high with 4 aces. His career high is 5 aces, which was also against the Tritons earlier this season. Additionally, junior setter Cole Schobel led with 10 digs.

With the No. seed clinched, the Gauchos will face the Tritons once again at 5 p.m. on Thursday, April 23, in Irvine's Bren Events Center.

COURTESY OF UCSB ATHLETICS



Outside hitter Ben Pearson celebrates after a point.

## Gauchos upset No. 1 UCLA

Haider Rogers  
Sports Editor

The UC Santa Barbara men's baseball team stunned No. 1-ranked UC Los Angeles on April 14. The Gauchos shut out the Bruins 4-0 on their home field, snapping a 27-game win streak and delivering one of the biggest upsets of the season.

"You see a lot of upsets that happen, but our guys played well and that's a good team. I think we've got a good team, and it's not very often you get to play the No. 1-ranked team in the country at their place and win," Head Coach Andrew Checketts said.

UCSB's pitching staff set the tone for this game with junior starting pitcher Calvin Proskoy working through immediate trouble in a bases-loaded jam in the bottom of the first. The Gauchos escaped this early trouble with the help of junior outfielder Colin Beazizo, who made a play on a 111 mph line drive to left field, diving to catch the ball and end the inning unscathed.

The Gauchos' offense did not stay quiet for long; in the third inning, senior infielder Cole Kosciusko reached on an infield single, followed by a double from junior infielder Xavier Esquer to put runners in scoring position. Sophomore outfielder Rowan

Kelly stepped up to the plate and drove two runs in with a single into left center field, making it 2-0 at the end of the third.

Junior relieving pitchers AJ Krudel and Cole Tryba handled the rest, combining to limit UCLA's intimidating lineup to just 5 hits. Krudel took care of the middle innings, while Tryba handled the late game pressure and shut down the Bruins. Tryba helped to escape another bases-loaded jam in the seventh, and both struck out projected top MLB Draft pick Roch Cholowsky in their outings.

The Gauchos added two insurance runs in the eighth starting with an opposite field RBI double by senior infielder William Vasseur, making it 3-0. This was followed by an RBI single from Beazizo who helped the Gauchos out of trouble earlier in the game. Tryba finished the game pitching with little trouble, making the final score 4-0 in favor of the Gauchos.

This win is the Gauchos first over the nation's No. 1 team since March 2020, when they beat UCLA 8-5 at Caesar Uyesaka Stadium. The Gauchos are set to start a three-game home series against California State University, Fullerton on Friday, April 24.



COURTESY OF UCSB ATHLETICS

## UCSB baseball falls to UCI

Samia Agarwal  
Staff Writer

The UC Santa Barbara men's baseball team dropped a back-and-forth affair with the UC Irvine Anteaters on Saturday, April 18, 6-3 in the loss. The Gauchos, ranked No. 1 in the Big West Conference standings, have now split the series and will head back to the Anteater Ballpark to decide the series on Sunday.

In the first game on Friday, April 17, the Gauchos beat UCI 7-3 in a dominant offensive showing. Both teams came out swinging early, with 5 runs scored total in the first inning.

Conversely, junior starting pitcher Jackson Flora started off cold and ended hot, giving up two runs to make it 3-2, Gauchos, in the bottom of the first inning before shutting down the UCI hitters for the rest of his time on the mound. The Gauchos rode contributions from junior outfielder Colin Beazizo, senior catcher Nate Vargas and tight relief pitching — among others — to secure the well-rounded victory.

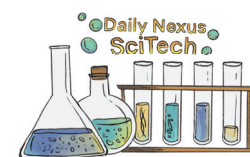
In the second game the Gauchos had less such luck, delivering a scoreless first inning and petering out late

in the game. Vargas stood out for UCSB, posting a double and two runs off a single from sophomore outfielder Rowan Kelly followed by a passed ball in the first and a single from junior infielder Jonathan Mendez in the fourth.

However, the Anteater offense delivered a gut-punch that the Gauchos couldn't recover from in the form of a four-run third inning. Sophomore pitcher Nathan Aceves gave up a single, hit-by-pitch and walk in the first three at-bats of the inning before a triple from UCI junior outfielder Tommy Farmer sent three Anteaters home to put UCI up 3-1, no outs. Farmer would eventually score. Though the Gauchos rallied in the fourth inning with a Vargas run off a Mendez single and a score from senior infielder Corey Nunez off a double to cut the deficit to one, they went the last five innings scoreless.

This loss will see UCSB cement their place at No. 1, neck-in-neck with UC San Diego (12-6 Big West) and California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo (12-6 Big West), though they have more overall wins than any team in the conference at 26. They will begin their next series at the California State University, Fullerton on Friday, April 24.

# SCIENCE & TECH



## (Back) to the moon and beyond: Artemis lifts off



COURTESY OF NASA

Anvi Murarka  
Reporter

As Disney's Buzz Lightyear famously declared, the goal of space travel is "to infinity and beyond." NASA's Artemis program is a serious attempt to make this a reality. Named after the Greek goddess of the moon and hunt, Artemis honors the legacy of NASA's Apollo program that first carried astronauts to the moon in 1969, while charting an ambitious new course. While Apollo made history with a race to the moon, Artemis is designed for a more enduring mission to create a sustained human presence in space along with a deliberate path toward Mars.

Unlike the brief surface visits of the Apollo era, Artemis is laying

the groundwork for a lasting human presence on and around the moon. Central to this effort is the Lunar Gateway, a small space station that will orbit the moon and serve as a staging point for surface missions and future journeys beyond.

Complementing the Gateway are plans for reusable lunar landers and surface habitats, which will enable extended stays (even up to three months!) and ongoing scientific research in areas such as space weather and solar radiation in ways that simply were not possible before.

Artemis unfolds as a sequenced series of missions, each increasingly ambitious. The first, Artemis I, was launched in November 2022 and sent the uncrewed Orion spacecraft on a

journey around the moon and back. After traveling nearly 1.4 million miles over 25 days, Orion made a dramatic return to Earth, enduring temperatures approaching 5,000 degrees Fahrenheit during reentry before splashing down safely in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of Baja California. It was a triumphant conclusion to a mission that proved NASA's Space Launch System and Orion spacecraft are ready for the demands of deep-space travel.

Artemis II carried that achievement further, placing astronauts aboard Orion for the same trajectory and marking the first time humans have ventured beyond the moon since the Apollo era. Its crew members helped validate the life-support systems and operational procedures that deep-space travel demands,

such as EVA suit leak checks and manual piloting. Artemis II concluded on April 10, 2026, when the Orion capsule splashed down in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of San Diego – carrying Commander Reid Wiseman, Pilot Victor Glover, Mission Specialist Christina Koch and Mission Specialist Jeremy Hansen safely home after a nine-day mission that set a new record for the farthest distance humans have ever traveled from Earth. The crew also proposed naming two newly observed lunar craters. The crew suggested "Carroll" in honor of Wiseman's late wife who passed away from cancer, and "Integrity" to honor their Orion spacecraft.

The program's most celebrated milestone, Artemis III, will land astronauts near the moon's South Pole, a region of exceptional

scientific interest due to the presence of ice in its permanently shadowed craters. This mission will also make history by landing the first woman and the first person of color on the lunar surface, a meaningful reflection of NASA's commitment to a more inclusive future for space exploration.

The Artemis mission delivers significant scientific promise. With the right technology, the ice discovered could even be converted into oxygen and hydrogen, supporting human life on the surface and even serving as fuel for missions reaching further into space. From fresh lunar samples, detailed geological surveys and even an in-depth study of the moon's South Pole, the mission can reshape our understanding of how the moon (and Earth) came to be.

## Opinion: How creatives bring light to environmental issues

Makenna Eggiman  
Staff Writer

Advocacy can come in so many different forms of human expression. Subtly or intensely, ongoing or in bursts, making a change in the world starts with being heard. The entertainment industry has often found that sweet spot for attracting audiences while guiding them to a deeper understanding. Where science meets art, filmmaking is one creative strategy to share a voice and tackle important local topics about the world around us.

Surfrider Foundation and Associated Students Earth Day hosted their first ever Environmental Film Festival at sunset on April 14 at Anisq'Oyo Park, featuring five student-made short films debunking topics related to the local environment, ecology and cultures. The Surfrider Foundation's mission aims to protect our oceans for the benefit of the Earth and the people to enjoy it. What started as a small group of surfers in Malibu has turned into an expansion of over 200 student organizations along the coast, campaigning against local issues and fighting for beach restoration and preservation.

With Earth Day just around the corner, UC Santa Barbara is promoting a series of events locally to focus on celebration and awareness for keeping our Earth well cared for. This poses the question for students to think about on a personal level: What does Earth Day mean to you?

Before the film screenings, the venue offered several pop-up booths promoting sustainable activities and merchandise for Earth Day. These included free block printing, hand-made jewelry and art, thrifting and local photography. All of this was entertained by live music, vocals and acoustic guitar, as people began crowding the outdoor venue in the grass.

Sustainable practices are critical to combat the constant rise of overconsumption and waste, so filling the area with vendors sharing the same values these films were created to represent was intentionally impactful.

The first short film presented was created by Talia Frank, titled "Hydra on the Horizon," a documentary-style film about Sable Offshore and their drilling practices, a legal battle that has continued to be fought for decades. This film features videography from 1969, 2015 and present day, showing the recurring struggles of oil drilling practices completely disregarding our oceans and the impending threat of an oil spill reoccurring. It was crazy to see the varying sources interviewed, ranging from college-aged students to older generations of locals who were there to witness the Refugio oil spill so many years ago. This film is especially relevant today with the re-opening of the controversial oil pipeline as of this past March that has resumed operations. While the increase of oil production might be good for the economy, its possibility for leakage poses a huge threat to the ocean and all the animals inhabiting the area.

The next film, "The Salt on Our Skin," was directed by Alessandra Puig-Santana and covered the cultural relationship between the tides and diverse communities. She highlighted the many people who have firsthand felt the struggles of racism in their local surf spots and are working to reclaim what is rightfully theirs: inclusivity and identity. While this film centered around coastal communities in Southern California, its themes run much deeper as there are communities fighting for beaches, mountains, forests and all sorts of environments everywhere. Nature and culture should be commemorated together, and the makers of this film merged

compelling visuals with real human stories that encapsulated that need for that belonging and celebration of identity.

The following screening was "quwa," directed by Jonathan Coronado, Ryan Grant, Jade Ipiña and Catherine Scanlon. This film brought light to the small island most people probably didn't even know was an island, right beneath the Santa Barbara Airport. Surrounded by marsh, this sanctioned property is originally home to the Chumash who were kicked from their land and have made numerous peaceful but unsuccessful attempts to share it. They aim to bring biodiversity and culture back to its grounds. Once again, while this issue is local and borders our own campus, the film addresses the global issues of Indigenous populations being forcibly removed from their ancestral homelands. Just because these once biodiverse lands have been turned to state-owned properties and businesses does not mean that it's too late to keep fighting for restoration.

The next screening presented was "The Bear Beneath," directed by Olivia Hille and dedicated to uncovering the near-extinction of grizzly bears and the human tendency to destroy the things that scare them. The film beautifully painted grizzly bears as the gentle creatures they are rather than the scary predator humans have convinced themselves to fear. This film was very touching on an emotional level and perfectly conveys the conflict of man versus nature. The antagonistic characterization of bears and harassment against their species is heartbreaking, but this film sparks hope for the return of their species in California through sanctuaries and education efforts.

The final film to conclude the night was "How's Devs?" directed by Piers Nicklin, this screening dove into the topic of surf culture within Isla Vista's



Students watch short films at the Environmental Film Festival in Isla Vista

tight-knit community. Its purpose catered to a specific audience but promoted the surf community as welcoming to all skill levels. This film was a light-hearted and uplifting end to the night with feel-good vibes and beautiful videography of our local waves at Devereux Beach. As someone with a surfboard collecting dust in my backyard, I actually felt more inspired to put myself out there and hit the waves. No judgement, no rules. The first step is just getting out in nature and having fun.

At the end of the night, the audience voted on their favorites. "quwa" was nominated as the most informative film, and "The Bear Beneath" took home two titles as the most visually appealing and an overall favorite. All short films screened that night were well applauded, and directors received certificates for their participation in the showing.

"I didn't need people to agree with this," Hille, graduate film student and creator of "The Bear Beneath," said. "I think it's really important that we face environmental issues with an open mind." She shared her experiences working on this project for a class at UCSB centered around environmental

filmmaking. "There's so many different ways to make a change. This medium [filmmaking] is very powerful because you get to see their emotion; you get to hear their emotion; there's so many aspects."

Through the intense production of sound, visuals, and technology, this blended craft of filmmaking has so many capabilities for making an impact on the environment and the world around us. Films among so many other forms of art and human expression have the ability to plant a seed into the minds of viewers, ones that would not normally be sought out for but have raised awareness that sparks difficult conversations and inspires initiative.

Attending the Environmental Film Festival felt like being sent back in time in the most cliché way possible. Seeing people gathered around in blankets surrounded by human-made art, music and a beautifully lush field from the recent rainfall was very grounding to nature and one's surroundings. To just take a step back and enjoy this moment, one that isn't monetized or serious; just art made by humans, for humans. To me, that's what Earth Day is about.

# ON THE MENU



## Bring back dinner parties



With the smell of sea salt wafting over all of I.V., you can build an ocean ambience anywhere.



My go-to main dish is always pasta, because who doesn't love pasta?

### Piper Cheney On The Menu Editor

There's simply nothing better than a night with good food, good people and a few bottles of wine. This feels like a lost art in Isla Vista, among frats and dayges and band shows. Any excuse to host a dinner party is a good excuse. Maybe it's for someone's birthday, or just because you love your friends or maybe you want to show off your cooking skills. Hosting a dinner party might seem intimidating, but it really just comes down to a few thoughtful details that make the whole night feel so special.

#### Scenery

Most college students don't have the luxury of a beach in their backyard, but in I.V., we do! It's time for us to take advantage of our scenery. A sunset dinner by the water instantly elevates the entire experience. If you're not blessed with an ocean view, don't stress. With the smell of sea salt wafting over all of I.V., you can build this ocean ambience anywhere. All you need is a large table, a simple tablecloth (or a spare sheet will suffice) and, my personal favorite, flowers. Flowers bring life into any space. Arrange them in vases or scatter them casually along the table between dishes. If you can eat outside, do it (again, make the most of the views of your college town). If not, a cozy living room setup works just as well with the right lighting and effort.

#### Music

Music is the backbone of any good gathering. It sets the tone before anyone says their hellos and takes their first bite. As the host,

you control the vibe of the party. A speaker or TV setup is all you need. If you're stuck, Spotify has plenty of dinner party playlists to fall back on or make a jam with all of your guests. Maybe it's soft jazz for an elegant feel or an indie mix for something relaxed and intimate. It doesn't really matter what's playing — the right music should feel effortless. You know you're doing a good job when the music progressively gets louder and by the end of the night everyone is singing along.

#### Drinks

A drink, alcoholic or not, is essential for every dinner party. Wine is always a safe and easy choice. Red or white can depend on your meal, but having both ensures everyone's happy (tip: Costco sells large bottles for \$10). If you're really feeling fancy, set up a simple self-serve bar with ingredients for your group's favorite cocktail, maybe a mojito or Aperol bar. Drinks spark conversation and make the food taste even better. There's a reason everything feels a little more enjoyable after a glass of wine.

#### Side courses

Keep your sides simple. Don't use up all your cooking skills and time on the sides — save that for the main course. A fresh salad, buttery rolls and a charcuterie board are always a winning combination. Store-bought is fine, but homemade adds a personal touch if you have the time (check out my rolls recipe on our website if you need a hand). A charcuterie board, while time-consuming, requires zero cooking. They just require a bit of creativity and presentation. These sides should complement your main

course and keep the guests excited for what's next.

#### Main course

The most anticipated part of the night: the main dish. My go-to is pasta, because who doesn't love pasta? It's comforting, customizable and perfect for feeding a group. Whether it's a classic marinara, a creamy vodka sauce or a simple garlic and olive oil base, pasta feels both elevated and effortless. Pair it with fresh parmesan, maybe some grilled vegetables or protein, and you've got a dish that feels restaurant-worthy. There are plenty of pasta recipes on our website to follow or to just get inspired.

#### Dessert

Never skip dessert, unless you want angry dinner guests. It doesn't have to be complicated, a store-bought cake or cookies will do the trick. If you want something a little more elevated, fresh fruit with whipped cream or chocolate drizzle feels more fancy than it actually is. This gives everyone a reason to linger at the table a little longer and satisfies a sweet tooth after the savory courses.

#### The intangibles

What people remember from your dinner party isn't necessarily the food itself, it's how you made your guests feel. Friends are the best part of school — better than the beach, the drinks and the music. Savor these friendships, you probably won't live on the beach again. Light a few candles, pour the wine, play good music and let the night unfold naturally. A light buzz and a plate full of homemade food does wonders for the soul.



The key to a great dinner party is making your guests feel special.

## Krunchy kale chips



These chips can be stored, but I recommend eating them fresh out of the oven for the most enjoyable, crunchy experience.

### Pihu Jain On The Menu Editor

From the ages of 10 to 18, I was subject to the whims of my health-crazed father (sorry, Dad). This involved daily smoothies of the almond-saffron persuasion, kale-dandelion-bee pollen smoothies in the afternoons and a lunch that ranged from an apple and a cucumber with yogurt to a DIY sandwich kit. The kale smoothies were, by far, my least favorite. I didn't understand the appeal of such a bitter vegetable, one that lacked flexibility in both flavor and texture. Once I was freed from the shackles of kale, I thought I'd never look back, and I didn't for the longest time — until this past week. I stumbled upon

my old enemy in the leafy greens aisle of Trader Joe's and for some reason felt my competitive spirit reignite. I was not going to let this vegetable get the best of me, and I'd be damned if I missed out on the incredible health benefits kale had to offer just because I was too chicken to attempt a transformation of its bitter taste into something more palatable.

Based on the size and width of the shredded kale leaves, I remembered that the easiest thing you can ever do with a vegetable is to make chips out of it, and that's exactly what I did here. In less than 20 minutes, and with the help of my good friend's garlic salt and parmesan, I transformed an old foe into a friendly ally — a snack to get

me through the day and curb my chip cravings.

#### Krunchy Kale Chips

Yield: 3 servings  
Duration: 15-30 mins

#### Ingredients:

- 1 bag shredded kale (I recommend the one sold at Trader Joe's)
- 1-2 tablespoons garlic salt
- 1-2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1-2 tablespoons shredded parmesan cheese

#### Instructions:

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees Fahrenheit
2. After washing shredded kale, spread out evenly

3. Drizzle kale with olive oil, followed by garlic salt and parmesan cheese
4. Once preheated, place dish into oven and allow pieces to bake until crispy, which takes roughly 15-20 minutes (more or less depending on the oven and temperature; you can use a lower temperature for a longer, more even cooking time or a higher one for faster results)
5. Take chips out of the oven and enjoy!

As with any chip, you can really customize the flavor profile of these kale chips. If you're looking for something with more of a kick, a teaspoon of cayenne pepper powder or red chili powder can take you a long way. If you want something that has a slight sweetness to it, a sprinkle of sugar would be nice. These chips can also be stored, but I recommend eating them fresh out of the oven for the most enjoyable crunchy experience. You can also try making chips out of other leafy greens, so long as they have a bit of body to them (don't go for something skinny like spinach, I tried and ended up having to scrape stuck spinach out of my baking tray for a half-hour).



# NEXUSTENTIALISM

It's Satire, Stupid.

NICOLAS BROWN-CORRADA / DAILY NEXUS

Wait dude I'm like so high right now



Don Juan Tenorio  
Veteran stoner

Ok waitttt my friend gave me a 5 mg edible dude im like actually so high it's crazy like literally i cant even feel my face dude holy shit. Im totally zoinked dude its like not funny.

Like for real im so high dude i was walking home and literally i tripped on like a crack in the sidewalk because i was so high and i legit almost fell dude like holy shit like i was walking hella slow and everything lmao.

And like dude when i got

home i went like straight to the fridgeeeee y'all already know i had the munchies like thats how high i was i was literally hungry like for some junk food lmaoooo. I was eating like ramen and i DoorDashed Wingstop dude such a stoner move lol i had like two different foods. Like thats way more foods than usual. Because i was so highhhh lol.

Oh dude and then i started watching "Euphoria" even though i legit already watched that like whatttt was i doing dude and i was lowkey laughing. Like at everything bruh i was so highhh

like i was probably waking up my roommates and shit because i was actually giggling dude it was so funny. At a show I already watched too like dude i was actually tweakingggg. Like who even watches tv they already saw like whattt so stoner.

Wait like have you seen that meme of like Snoop Dogg and hes like smoking hella weed dude thats what I feel like rn. Like lowkey its still hitting its been like seven hours dude my eyes are probably so red rn omg. Noooo dont take a picture

dude i probably look so blazed lmaooo like noo.

Wait send me that send me that pic plsssss actually. No like it needs to go on my spam lmaoo like or my cf or something dude itll be so funny. Omg and im gonna put like pass the dutchie on the story its gonna be so fucking funny dudee bc like its close to 4/20 and eveything. Waittttt no itll be the last slide on my spring quarter post like the funny one at the end lmaooo. No yeah ill tag you ofc.

Dudee im like such a stoner actually lmaooo UCSB is getting

to mee. Like i literally got drunk last night and then tonight one day after im high asf lollll wait im so unhinged. Like im like so I.V. core wait this is so perfect. Like you cant take me anywhereee lol.

Actually dude im like soo blazed lowkey i need to sleep lmaooo like im just gonna wrap myself up in my blanket and keep watching tv i think lol. Wait like that was so fun thoou we need to get high again!

Don Juan Tenorio prefers coke.

MADLINE BRYCE / DAILY NEXUS



Gay off that J: "I get so gay off that sativa"

Jesse Joint  
Smoking specialist

As the annual celebration of 4/20 in UC Santa Barbara rears its smoky head once again, it came with the inevitable uptick in reports of fuzzy romantic feelings of the homosexual variety.

As many boys began to smoke up this Monday after sitting down with their munchies of choice, they may have found the tastier snack to be their friend sitting cozily next to them. The startling realization that at the slightest moment of relaxation intense gay feelings have risen to the surface may be a shock to the system of the average frat boy, but that is no reason to fear as it is startlingly common.

We spoke with fourth-year business major and pledge master Fred Flowers to get more information on the phenomenon.

"Yeah lots of guys start

getting a bit queer around the holiday and it usually means we have to adjust plans. Usually we make these guys do gay stuff as punishment, but when they start getting a little too excited about being forced to swap spit, we have to switch up the consequences. Like with Jamie over there, after one 4/20 he didn't really ever stop kissing guys, but nah I'm sure he's not gay," Flowers said.

Following this comment, third-year economics major Jamie Ober responded.

"I've had a boyfriend for two years now, Fred. Get with the program," Ober said.

We then spoke with Justin Bloys, a second-year economics major and fraternity brother who had recently been afflicted with the queering clouds of the holiday. He mentioned how the symptoms came on suddenly and persisted.

"It all started when I hit the J for the first time and immediately felt the violent

need to make out with my friend Andrew on the couch. Just something about his cute ass face and how he was so sweet and giggly made me want to just devour his face," Bloys said. "Now it just happens every time I see him, I wonder when this weed stuff starts wearing off?"

As more and more men begin to discover the romantic clarity of the powerful plant this lovely 4/20, I implore those feelings to be allowed and respected. Mostly because every fellow frat boy sitting around you is feeling the exact same panic about how they can't stop staring at their handsome bro and his perky peccs.

At least it can be an easy switch from "big" and "pledge" to "top" and "bottom."

With that sage guidance, we hope you enjoyed your 4/20 carefully, considerately and queerly.

Jesse Joint kissed boys and blunts this 4/20.

MADLINE BRYCE / DAILY NEXUS



Girl takes first rip of bong, immediately reaches nirvana

Serrano Ham  
Religiously bud-ist

A local UC Santa Barbara second-year purity studies major Madonna Phelps has made headlines this week for reaching a state of nirvana, previously only talked about in religious texts. This past Monday, 4/20, people all over California participated in the unofficial marijuana holiday, and Phelps was no exception.

According to bystanders who were there to witness the entire thing, Phelps used a bong, already considered a risky move for a first-timer, and proceeded to take an "ambitious first hit." She was later seen levitating cross-legged approximately two inches above her towel, illuminated by the sun setting at Devs.

Friend and third-year undeclared major, Karlie Dross, described the scene as being pretty standard, at least in the beginning.

"I knew that she hadn't smoked before so I tried to take precautions by getting a milder strain. She coughed for like a minute straight which, like, checks out. But then she opened her eyes and they were glowing, and I thought, uh oh, maybe I shouldn't have trusted our other friend, Beebo, to get the weed," Dross said.

Witnesses also smoking at Devs claim that Phelps later gave a 26-minute monologue on the interconnectedness of all things, including but not limited to:

tandem bikes, the dorm bunk beds, the sixth floor of the library and that one guy who is always tabling by The Arbor.

"Honestly, it was incredibly enlightening. I've never experienced such clarity before," Brody Smith, a local Isla Vista resident, claimed. "She was like giving Dalai Lama or something. If that's, like, not offensive to the Buddhists or whatever."

"I had so many realizations, it was like my mind was unlocked. I saw my syllabus in my head, and I wasn't afraid anymore. It's all just a construct," said Phelps, who at the time of her interview, was still floating cross-legged.

Phelps was last seen giving unsolicited advice to very afraid freshmen near the koi pond in Storke Plaza, many of whom reported they were "just trying to find the library" before being told, "You are the library." A loose spiritual collective has also formed around Phelps, with followers drawn to her serene demeanor amongst the chaos.

Meanwhile, employees at Pharmacy report a surge in customers requesting, "Whatever turns you into that girl by the pond." Staff have clarified multiple times that enlightenment is "not strain-specific," though that has not stopped a line from forming out the door and down the block.

Serrano Ham wonders if you can reach half-nirvana from a contact high.

JULIET BECKER / DAILY NEXUS



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# GAMES

## The Daily Nexus Crosswords

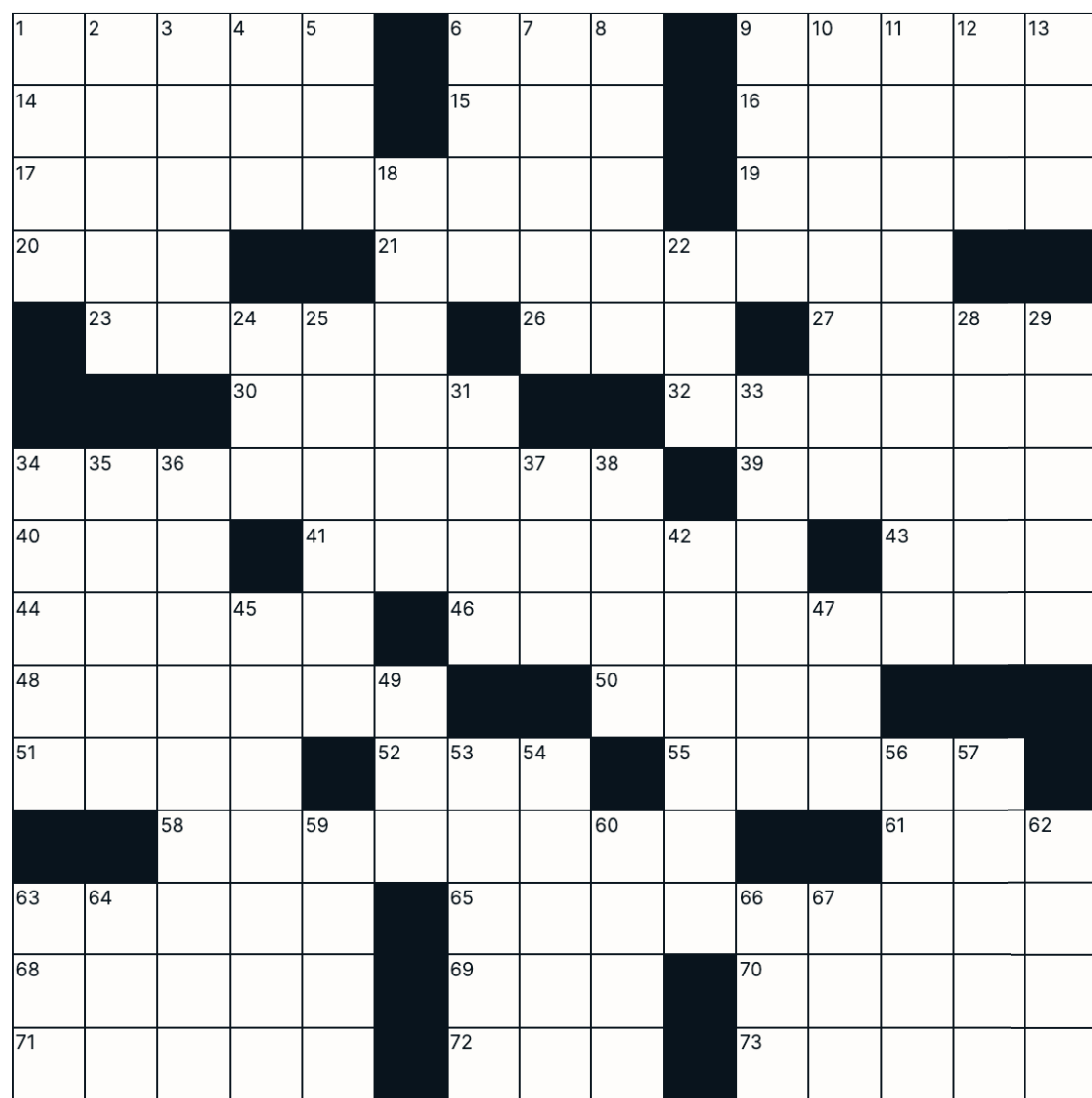
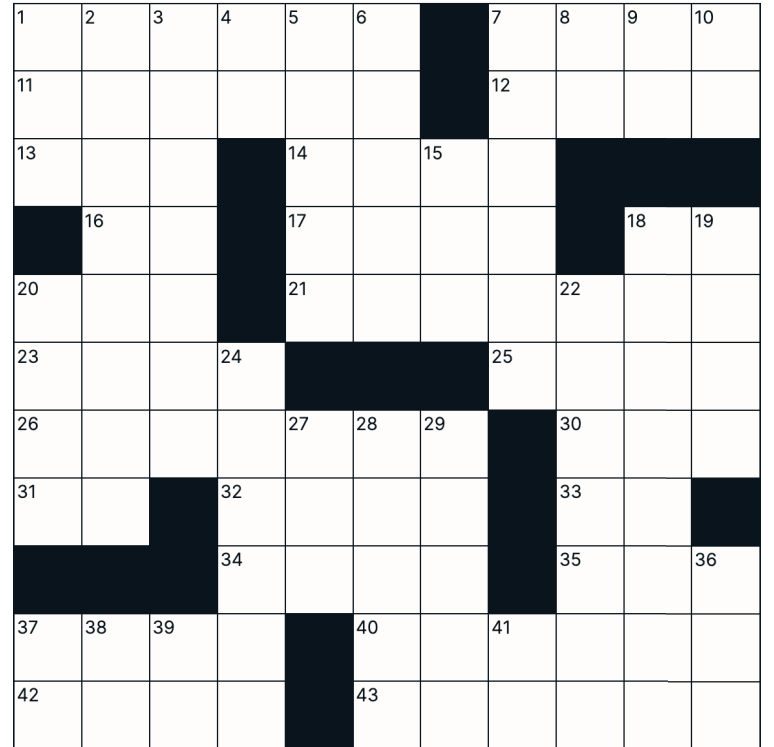
Sanchita Koppa  
Assistant Games Editor

- Across
- Roman salad
  - Party game command
  - Horse-like
  - Famous for 10A
  - Product, quotient, difference, \_\_\_
  - Frequently paired with chips, casually
  - Commonly mistaken with "e.g."
  - Used before feminine nouns, in Spanish
  - A useful department for 22 down
  - National Football Conference counterpart, abbr.
  - With 6 down and 40 across, part three
  - Green building certification, in short
  - A second chance for prospective residents, briefly

- Famous children's author and illustrator
- Neurological condition with chronic visible static, abbr.
- "It \_\_\_ what it \_\_\_"
- Prefix for seven
- "Phone home," famously
- Great Lake, first alphabetically
- To tease
- A slow market
- With 6 down and 21 across, part one
- To slant, in a rhyme
- To pass

- Down
- These or those, in French
  - Natural underground reservoirs
  - Genus that includes several African to Middle Eastern skink species
  - Oui, in Spanish
  - Red character in "Inside Out"

- Common 3-prong slogan about sustainability, part two
- Breaks down
- Cool in the summer, abbr.
- Reverse osmosis, in short
- Shorter than an em-dash
- Belay device
- Materials unnaturally found in every ecosystem on the planet
- Sets and \_\_\_\_, in a gym
- Quarter for your cart?
- A hiding of the facts
- Commonly mistaken for a sweet treat
- Forum for exploring abandoned structures, abbr.
- The point of a church
- To prepare mentally
- Busy \_\_\_
- Boston University's hockey rival, in short
- Federal equivalent of a CPA
- Indefinite article before a vowel sound
- County prosecutor, in short



- Plant, maybe
- Belgrader, for example
- Dorm assignment
- Possible response from a clueless person
- Entitled, say
- Female horses
- Nice friend?
- Fix, as an issue
- One of many for a multi-tool
- Creep along
- Local matches
- Leader in fake science?
- (In a) jiffy
- Anon
- Where to find the meaning of life, for short?
- Shapes snakes slither in ... or what this clue has 7 of
- Some luxury fabric
- Impress
- Like things brought by the Easter Bunny
- Given too much hype, as a film
- The sky in a world of possibilities, it's said
- Word after bow ... or make, as a bow
- Epic poem by Homer
- Things thrown into the basket behind the UCen
- \_\_\_ Owl, the smallest raptor in the world
- Small-minded

- slang
- Clothe
  - Ergo
  - 27-Across, e.g.
  - What might help you let go of the past?
  - Common percussion instrument
  - Specialized, as committees, with "ad"
  - Like the name Melody for a musician, maybe
  - Apple product requiring juice?
  - Alternative to rent
  - "Roses \_\_\_ red..."
  - Flew
  - Man whose legacy is in Pieces?
  - Corners of a diamond?
  - Bangers and \_\_\_\_, British dish
  - Final Greek letters
  - Sounds of shock
  - "Why \_\_\_..." (start to some introspective questions)
  - Some recorders, for short
  - Cry over spilled milk?
  - Stately trees
  - Thin coating of wood
  - Crazy person
  - Psych. and Chem., for two
  - Counterpart to "ahh"
  - Express anger, maybe
  - "Speak of the \_\_\_"
  - Fall on one's face, colloquially
  - Workout by-product
  - Tennis units
  - The \_\_\_\_, home of UCSB's octogenarian lobster Boris
  - Small whirlpool
  - Getting on in years
  - Cleopatra \_\_\_\_, the last active Ancient Egyptian pharaoh
  - Generic epitaph abbr.
  - It's on tap!

Alison Kumpf  
Games Contributor

- Across:
- April \_\_\_ Day, celebrated on March 32nd – just kidding!
  - Anti-discrimination act passed in 1990

- One of the Obamas
- "\_\_\_ #116042026 has been delivered to Ortega Takeout Gold Lockers"
- Final resting place, for some
- Iconic part of the original alphabet song

- Not wanted
- Something put on by a performer
- Common poke bowl topping
- Holiday with a Seder
- What is stored in Bigbelly bins around campus

- Down:
- Numeral found in Isla Vista?
  - Words between "to be"s, in "the question"
  - More peculiar
  - Martial artist and actor Bruce
  - Graduating high schoolers, for short
  - Something "farmed," in

## Personality Quiz: Which campus bird are you?

Nicolás Brown-Corrada  
Games Contributor

Spring has sprung, and new birds are popping up around our beautiful campus. Which bird do you think you're most like? Take this quiz to find out.

- Spring quarter is finally here! What's your schedule looking like?**
  - A bunch of GEs in packed lecture halls
  - Some really interesting major classes!
  - I just picked what seemed cool
  - Way too busy – I'm gonna be tired all day!

- Doesn't matter, I'll be skipping class
- Migration time! How are you going to get to class?**
    - The bus
    - Biking
    - Driving
    - Walking
    - Electric scooter
  - You have an hour to kill between classes. What are you doing?**
    - Meeting up with some friends
    - Getting a quick bite to eat
    - Reading my book
    - Getting some work done
    - Going to explore campus
  - Spring quarter means good weather! What outdoor**

- activity sounds the best?**
- Tanning at the beach
  - Going on a hike with a buddy
  - Having a picnic
  - Fishing
  - Going to a dayge
- It also means spring showers. What rainy day activity sounds the best?**
    - Inviting my friends over for a kickback
    - A cozy day with someone I love
    - Working on my art
    - Rainy days are for introspection
    - I'll go outside, weather be damned
  - Which of these springtime**

- sports are your favorite?**
- Baseball
  - Basketball
  - I don't care for sports
  - Volleyball
  - Track and Field
- We're having a potluck! What are you bringing?**
    - A crowd pleaser, like chips and guac
    - A good vegetarian option
    - An elaborate dish that took six hours to cook
    - I'll ask the host what they need
    - Whatever I can grab from the store on the way
  - Spring is also the mating season for birds. What sounds like the ideal date**

- to you?**
- A candlelit dinner at a fancy restaurant
  - Coffee with someone from Hinge
  - A trip to a beautiful museum
  - A long hike with a view
  - Going home with someone after a party
- And finally, pick your favorite thing about spring quarter!**
- More excuses to have fun with friends!
  - The weather is just so nice
  - The sounds and sights of nature
  - It's another step closer to my degree
  - It's almost summertime!

### Results

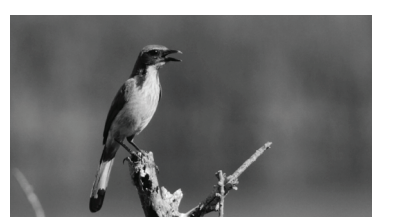
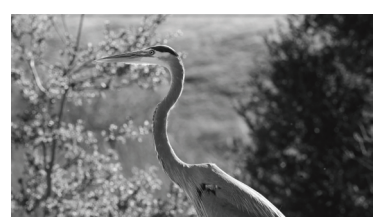
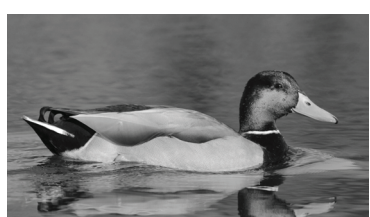
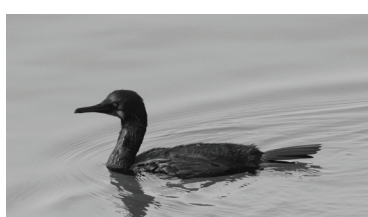
**Mostly As: Brandt's Cormorant**  
The Brandt's cormorant is a very social seabird that you'll see in huge flocks out at Campus Point. Like the cormorant, you love people more than anything. You're always with your friends, whether that's on campus, at home or at a party. Your community is very valuable to you, and you always have your friends' backs.

**Mostly Bs: Mallard**  
The mallard is a green-headed dabbling duck that you can see anywhere there is water on campus. Like the mallard, you value your peace and having control. You choose your friends wisely. You probably don't do things you don't want to do and tend to stand up for yourself in times of conflict.

**Mostly Cs: Black Phoebe**  
The black phoebe is a small flycatcher that you can spot wagging its tail while perched on fences and lampposts around campus. Like the phoebe, you're hard to pin down. You value creativity, freedom and beauty, and are always trying to learn more about the world. You appreciate the small things in life.

**Mostly Ds: Great Blue Heron**  
The great blue heron is a huge wading bird that you'll find hunting for fish at the lagoon. Like the heron, you are diligent and hard-working. You appreciate a job well done, and you like to take care of business before it ever gets difficult. People like you for your ability to stay cool and figure things out.

**Mostly Es: California Scrub Jay**  
The California scrub jay is a bright blue corvid you'll hear squawking from various trees and bushes around campus. Like the scrub jay, you always make yourself known. When you walk into a room, all eyes are on you. You are unashamedly you, and everyone loves you for it. People see you as the life of the party.



# LA VISTA

## Lo que he aprendido de mi día a día

Ana Ramirez  
Escritora para La Vista

En mi vida he aprendido que nada de lo que ocurre en el día es una casualidad.

Todo tiene un propósito y para mí, muchas de las cosas que vivimos cada día son parte de un plan más grande que viene de Dios.

Siento que cada día es una nueva oportunidad que Él nos da para aprender, crecer y seguir adelante.

Cada día tiene su propia historia, como si fuera un capítulo diferente de nuestra vida.

No todos los capítulos son iguales.

Hay días en los que todo parece salir bien, en los que nos sentimos felices, tranquilos y en paz.

Pero también hay otros días en los que las cosas no salen como esperamos, en los que nos sentimos tristes, cansados o frustrados.

Sin embargo, eso no significa que esos días sean malos o que no tengan valor.

Al contrario, he aprendido

que en cada experiencia siempre hay una lección.

Incluso en los momentos difíciles, podemos crecer y volvernos más fuertes.

A veces no entendemos en el momento por qué pasan ciertas cosas, pero con el tiempo nos damos cuenta de que todo nos ayuda a madurar y a ver la vida de una manera diferente.

Cada día nos enseña algo nuevo.

Nos enseña a tener paciencia, a ser más fuertes, a valorar lo que tenemos y a no rendirnos fácilmente.

Por eso, creo que es importante vivir cada día al máximo, sin quedarnos solo con lo negativo, sino buscando también lo positivo en cada situación.

También he aprendido a disfrutar más de las bendiciones de Dios.

A veces no nos damos cuenta de todo lo bueno que tenemos porque estamos enfocados en lo que nos falta o en lo que no salió bien.

Pero cuando empezamos a reconocer lo que Dios nos da cada día, nuestra forma de ver

la vida cambia.

Para mí, cada día es un regalo.

Es como un “pan perfecto” que Dios nos prepara, lleno de nuevas oportunidades, aprendizajes y momentos que

nos ayudan a seguir adelante.

No todos los días serán perfectos, pero todos tienen algo importante que enseñarnos.

Lo que he aprendido de mi día a día es que la vida no se trata de evitar los problemas,

sino de aprender de ellos.

Cada día es una nueva oportunidad para crecer, agradecer y confiar en que todo tiene un propósito.

Y sobre todo, para vivir con fe, esperanza y gratitud.



CORTESÍA DE ISTOCK

## Cultura queer en el campus: una semana del Orgullo

Traducido por Sofia Benitez  
Editora para La Vista

Elijah Obando  
Escritor para Noticias

Isabella Le  
Escritora para Noticias

La Comisión Trans y Queer de Associated Students llevó a cabo su Semana del Orgullo anual del 5 al 11 de abril con el objetivo de celebrar la cultura queer en UC Santa Barbara.

La Semana del Orgullo de este año, con el tema “El Orgullo está en Flor”, presentó múltiples eventos con figuras queer destacadas, incluyendo un panel de investigación y un espectáculo de drag.

Aunque el Mes del Orgullo a nivel nacional es en junio, la Comisión Trans y Queer (TQC) organiza la Semana del Orgullo antes para evitar conflictos con los exámenes finales.

Esto permite que los estudiantes asistan sin el estrés de los exámenes y otros compromisos académicos.

**Panel de Investigación Queer**

TQC organizó un “Panel de Investigación Queer” en el Student Resource Building (SRB) el 6 de abril.

El evento contó con profesores investigadores queer de UCSB que compartieron sus experiencias navegando sus identidades en el contexto académico.

Entre los profesores estuvieron la profesora de escritura y literatura Michelle Petty, la profesora de sociología Dana Kornberg, la profesora de estudios ambientales An Bui y la profesora de ecología Jackie

Shay. Theo Jiang, estudiante de cuarto año de biología, moderó el panel y planteó preguntas enviadas por miembros del público.

La primera pregunta abordó cómo los profesores mantienen el orgullo en sus identidades dentro de la investigación.

Shay explicó que su investigación se enfoca actualmente en la alegría dentro de aulas grandes de ciencias.

Ella cree que la alegría no resta rigor a un curso, sino que crea un sentido de inclusión.

“Esa [alegría] me abrió la puerta para poder realmente abrazar la ciencia como parte de quién soy”, dijo la Dra. Shay. “Encuentro que la alegría es un espacio donde veo cómo entra en juego mi identidad — mi identidad queer — porque crea un ambiente donde todos pueden ser ellos mismos..”

Hadley Simmons, estudiante de segundo año de escritura y literatura, compartió cómo su identidad queer ha influido en su formación académica.

“Escribo mucho sobre lo queer y la identidad... y he permitido que la teoría queer, la teoría trans y distintos tipos de identidades interseccionales informen mi investigación y las preguntas que hago”, dijo Simmons.

**Noche de Comedia con Dwayne Perkins**

El martes, el comediante y actor nominado al Emmy Dwayne Perkins fue invitado a The Hub para presentar un espectáculo de stand-up gratuito para estudiantes.

El show, titulado “¿Cómo ser negro y gay me hizo mejor que tui?”, incluyó rutinas sobre errores en la escuela, crecer y



ALEXA LOPEZ / EL NEXO DIARIO

La drag queen Alaska Thunderfuck actuando en el espectáculo de drag del 11 de abril.

aceptar la identidad queer.

Finnick Gonzalez, estudiante de tercer año con doble especialización en ciencias psicológicas y del cerebro e inglés, organizó el evento y se mostró satisfecho de contar con financiamiento para traer figuras más reconocidas este año.

Explicó que la comunidad queer suele usar el humor para crear conexión y esperaba que el show provocara risas entre los asistentes.

Perkins relató una experiencia en la que era acosado por su identidad y, cansado del hostigamiento, decidió defenderse físicamente.

Dijo que ese momento fue decisivo en su vida.

“[Después de golpear a mi acosador] empecé a llorar más que él. Estaba tan enojado porque me sentía mal por haber sido malo... Fue en ese momento que me di cuenta de que no quería lastimar a la gente”, dijo Perkins. “Solo quería que dejaran de lastimarme.”

El espectáculo concluyó con una sesión de preguntas y respuestas, donde Perkins

habló sobre su vida personal y aspiraciones profesionales, incluyendo su trabajo con la comediante Tiffany Haddish.

**Feria de Cuidado Trans**

El 8 de abril, TQC organizó su segunda Feria de Cuidado Trans frente al SRB, en colaboración con organizaciones como Black Quare y Marginalized Genders in Gaming.

El objetivo fue incluir un evento específicamente dirigido a personas transgénero.

Laura Ballard-Arellano, estudiante de tercer año de ciencias psicológicas y del cerebro, destacó la importancia de los espacios trans dentro de la comunidad LGBTQIA+: “La ‘T’ está ahí. La ‘T’ se queda ahí.”

La feria se centró en educación y recursos, incluyendo información sobre salud sexual y prevención de enfermedades de transmisión sexual, así como asesoría legal sobre cambios de nombre y becas.

**Festival de Cine Estudiantil**

Esa misma noche, TQC organizó un festival de cine en Anisq’Oyo’ Park en Isla Vista.

Se proyectaron dos cortometrajes estudiantiles: “Queer”, de Anastasia Rose Wang, y “Opera Box”, de Rishika Pandrala, animado por S.J. Ly.

También se proyectó la película de 2022 “Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe”, una historia romántica de crecimiento sobre dos adolescentes mexicanoamericanos.

Summer Tucker, organizadora del evento, explicó que buscaban promover a cineastas estudiantiles y resaltar la representación queer en el cine.

“Espero que todos los que vean la película puedan verse reflejados en la pantalla y sentirse menos solos”, dijo Tucker.

**Desfile de Moda**

El 9 de abril, TQC organizó un desfile de moda junto con el Drag Club de UCSB en The Hub.

El evento fue conducido por la drag queen profesional y

exalumna Cherry Von Illa.

Von Illa enfatizó que la moda permite a las personas queer expresarse libremente.

“Para las personas queer, la moda es una de las mejores formas de expresar identidad, personalidad, género y sexualidad”, dijo.

El evento incluyó categorías creativas como “Identidad Queer Performativa” y actividades interactivas como una batalla de lip-sync. Finalizó con la temática “Madre Tierra”, alineada con el tema general de la semana.

**Baile Queer**

El 10 de abril, TQC organizó el “Baile Queer” en The Hub, con el objetivo de ofrecer un espacio inclusivo donde los asistentes pudieran reinventar su experiencia de baile escolar.

Kai Houlihan, estudiante de segundo año de ciencias de la computación, destacó que el evento le permitió expresarse libremente como persona trans.

Karina Martinez, estudiante de primer año, subrayó la importancia de la comunidad en el contexto político actual.

**Queer Fest y Espectáculo de Drag**

El último día, el 11 de abril, TQC organizó “Queer Fest” en Anisq’Oyo’ Park, con arte, música en vivo y vendedores locales, seguido de un espectáculo de drag en Campbell Hall con reconocidas artistas, varias de ellas participantes de RuPaul’s Drag Race.

Vincent Calvillo, organizador del evento, destacó el éxito de la semana y la importancia de mantener estos espacios comunitarios.

“Creo que no solo es importante... sino que también es importante, especialmente ahora, tener un espacio donde podamos reunirnos y ser felices juntos”, dijo Calvillo.

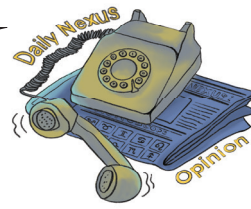
Una versión de este artículo apareció en la página 5 de la edición impresa del 16 de abril del Daily Nexus.



SHENGYU ZHANG / EL NEXO DIARIO

El 9 de abril, TQC organizó un desfile de moda en colaboración con el Club de Drag de la UCSB.

# OPINION



## CTRL, ALT, DELETE your privacy

Lucy Miller  
Reporter

Outside of the illogical fear that it will blow up in your sleep while it sits two inches from your face or expose you to some unknown form of cancer, having a phone is slightly unsettling. It's known and almost accepted that smartphones and their apps watch and harvest data on us all the time, through sources like TikTok and Instagram, specifically. With the recent acquisition of TikTok by American conglomerates, many users have even expressed that they miss their "Chinese spy," who hypothetically tailored their "For You" page via their data and did it better than whichever American is now tasked with it. It's a funny joke, and I do miss my "Chinese spy" as well, but the acceptance of this surveillance — especially in the hands of who maintains it now — may be the downfall of privacy, giving rise to the exploitation and stalking of our fellow Americans with malicious intent.

TikTok being "under new ownership" is one of the changes that hits close to home for many. Following its transfer from the Chinese company ByteDance to majority American ownership under a new TikTok USDS Joint Venture LLC (held by notable tech companies like Oracle and Silver Lake), many privacy policy changes were implemented. These changes included new permissions, such as precise location tracking through GPS rather than the more simplistic data found through your SIM card and IP address, and the utilization of data on users from outside the app to influence ad placement. Although the changes have been positioned as benign, ad-based changes, it has been theorized that these overreaching policies are part of a growing underground censorship plan that is repressing content about controversial

topics like the Epstein files and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (I.C.E.) shootings.

These accusations have been denied by U.S. owners, citing power outages at a major Oracle data center for the slow loading times and wonky algorithm. But there is still an undeniable shift in TikTok that undermines this reasoning, and California Governor Gavin Newsom has announced an investigation into these claims. If found to be true, these changes strategically target certain views and silence first-hand accounts and evidence. If your phone and TikTok, can see what you say and silence you, what else can it do? The better question is, what can be hidden from or found about you without your phone?

The most blatant exercise of this desire to harvest data is the U.S. government's massive grants and cooperation with the controversial tech giant Palantir. Since President Trump took office, Palantir has experienced its most successful year to date due to \$570 million in government contracts with the Department of Defense and the Department of Homeland Security. In addition, Palantir has been contracted by I.C.E. with engineering a database dubbed ImmigrationOS that would compile information on immigrants to track their movements. I.C.E. has been documented pulling location and background information on individuals even through far-fetched means like the ads that come up when you browse a website or play an online game.

13 former Palantir employees have signed a letter urging the company to leave these contracts, but it seems the company is happy to aid in harvesting this data as CEO Alex Karp called these projects "some of the most interesting intricate, unusual, operations that the US government has been involved in — many of which we can't comment on — but were the

highlight of last year and highly motivating to all of us at Palantir." Comments by both the current administration and Palantir may allude to a future where all Americans are highly surveilled by these kinds of programs that could be used, for example, to document or suppress those who participate in protests. A much worse outcome than just repressing their TikTok algorithms.

Surveillance outside of an immigration context is already here. Anyone who steps into certain Target stores, especially upon engaging with the self-checkout kiosks, has unknowingly given biometric data like facial scans to the company. Target has been documented using this infrastructure to build up cases on repeat shoplifters, noting every product value that is stolen until they can be prosecuted for larceny, an actual felony. Outside of these criminal cases, Target concedes that it uses specific data from product views and interaction online to customize advertisements. The combination of these facial recognition cameras and in-depth documentation of purchases is indicative of a natural progression toward the company employing data found on its cameras of an individual, maybe looking at a specific product, to more intensely advertise it.

Even the collection of this biometric data, let alone the misuse of it, is illegal. In 2024, a class-action lawsuit was filed against Target for violating the Illinois Biometric Information Privacy Act, which protects individuals from having data like facial scans and fingerprints taken without full disclosure of what that data is being used for. Seeing as how most Americans are not aware of this practice, it is clear that Target is negligently stealing consumers' data.

Targeted surveillance of social media activity is benign

until used to build up a profile on an individual and censor or take legal action against them, in the case of TikTok and Palantir. Similarly, Target's robust facial recognition system is benign until used to adversely affect the customer. A future where companies like Target can strategically use this data to hypothetically charge consumers more may be at hand as Walmart, Kroger and Whole Foods roll out new digital price tags that can be changed in an instant.

The tags have been pitched as a more efficient way to change items to clearance, but many lawmakers cite them as additional vessels to gouge customers. Senators Elizabeth Warren and Bob Casey wrote to Kroger arguing that "widespread adoption of digital price tags appears poised to enable large grocery stores to squeeze consumers to increase profits."

At the center of all of these concerning circumstances is data. The silly and useless data like which TikToks you like and what you buy at Target is mirrored by the same data collection that is silencing whistleblowers and stalking individuals. The right to privacy is a human right, and it's one that is dwindling faster than it is being noticed.

The scariest part, though, is that this collection is no longer an opt-in program. If you did not want records of your locations or purchases, you could just leave your phone out of the equation. But the threat of excessive surveillance is no longer contained to our phones. It is outside in traffic cameras and grocery stores, and once it has moved from only tracking shoplifters and I.C.E. victims, it may be a cornerstone for all of the policies that hinder and overcharge the people.

*Lucy Miller fears declining cookies and wearing a tinfoil hat isn't enough anymore.*



EMILY YOON / DAILY NEXUS

Lucy Dixon  
Opinion Editor

The first time I crashed my bike as a freshman was before classes had even started.

This is an embarrassing story for me — one of the stories that I whispered to my mom on FaceTime and then tried not to speak of again. So bear with my overexplanation.

It was a bright, sunny first day of fall quarter, and while I was nervous, I was primarily excited. How could I not be? I had moved into my seaside dorm just over a week before (which meant I was an Official Adult) and everything was new. I spent Week 0 on the beach and was actually excited for the first week of school. I decided to take my cute rusty yellow and blue beach cruiser (you know the one) into Isla Vista for coffee before heading to my first class.

I left Anacapa Residence Hall without incident, turning onto the bike path by the MultiCultural Center and going on my merry way. It was the roundabout that gave me issue — not because I

don't know how a roundabout works (I promise), but because I wasn't used to the traffic. While I had practiced biking to I.V. and around campus, I was wholly unprepared for the sheer number of bikes that seemed to appear around me in the roundabout. It was like I was just one in a legion of bikes at the starting line of a triathlon or charging forth on a battlefield.

Scared of running into someone, I did exactly that — the front wheel of my bike locked with the bike in front of me, sending us both crashing down. My keys went flying out of my basket, and I immediately began apologizing profusely to the man with the Schwinn bicycle, whom I had so inelegantly unseated. He moved on without a word, but the girl behind me pulled off to the side to help me move my bike out of the way. I picked up my keys, and she handed me my bike. With her infinite wisdom, the kind stranger looked me in the eyes and said, "Don't worry. It's happened to everyone."

You might be saying, Lucy, this

is not that bad of a story. But as a brittle, insecure freshman, it was mortifying. I never really rode my beach cruiser again after that. For one, the accident had caused my tire to go flat — the bike was at least 15 years old after all. And I couldn't seem to get over the humiliation of it, despite the stranger's kind words. Plus, I lived in Anacapa freshman year, so it's not like biking was essential to my survival here. So I became a walker.

Four years later, I now believe walking is the best way to experience I.V. in all of her glory.

As I reflect on my time here, I can't help but think about walking — how my green Adidas sneakers have touched every path and street of our one-square-mile paradise. They've taken me from Anacapa to the whimsical serenity of Fortuna Lane. Past the campus stables and to the sticky tar of Devereux Beach. I've walked the entire length of Abrego Road and back in flip-flops, sand rubbing the tops of my feet until they're blistered red.

While a bike can get you places

faster, it also blurs the edges of our quaint town. Walking affords time for observation in a way that biking doesn't. When I walk, I bear witness to first dates, games of die and beer ball, groups of friends exactly like mine chasing the last bits of sunset. I feel the temporality of my time here, and I know that come June, I will be gone, and someone else will walk these streets as I did. Just like all of the others who came before me.

When I walk, I see collective effervescence — from games of pickup basketball at Estero Park to friends singing on their porch. Community surges through the streets, on shared Lime scooters and tandem bicycles.

We're known for being a bike school — this I cannot deny. But next time, when you're debating biking or walking to the sunset or to class, take a walk. Stop and smell the bougainvillea.

I walk through I.V. because I crashed my bike. And I can't help but be grateful.

*Lucy Dixon loves these roads where the houses don't change.*

## HOROSCOPES

The signs as freshman year canon events

### ARIES

MARCH 21 - APRIL 19

Walking on Del Playa Drive trying to find a party on Week 0

### TAURUS

APRIL 20 - MAY 20

Sitting on the curb, subsequently getting your first MIP

### GEMINI

MAY 21 - JUNE 20

Snagging alcohol to your dorm door

### CANCER

JUNE 21 - JULY 22

Blacking out on your first Isla Vista Halloween

### LEO

JULY 23 - AUGUST 22

Breaking up with your high school significant other

### VIRGO

AUGUST 23 - SEPTEMBER 22

Crashing your bike

### LIBRA

SEPTEMBER 23 - OCTOBER 22

Brunch debrief at Carrillo Dining Commons

### SCORPIO

OCTOBER 23 - NOVEMBER 21

Failing your first fall quarter midterm

### SAGITTARIUS

NOVEMBER 22 - DECEMBER 21

Hooking up in the communal study room

### CAPRICORN

DECEMBER 22 - JANUARY 19

Discovering the energy of the 4th floor library

### AQUARIUS

JANUARY 20 - FEBRUARY 18

Getting your bike stolen during syllabus week

### PISCES

FEBRUARY 19 - MARCH 20

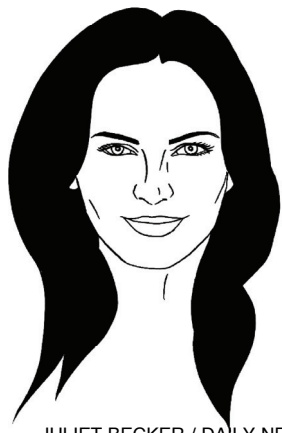
Getting sex-iled by your roommate

VIEWES EXPRESSED ON THE OPINION PAGE DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THOSE OF THE DAILY NEXUS OR UCSB. OPINIONS ARE SUBMITTED PRIMARILY BY STUDENTS.

# COLUMNISTS

## sex and the community

### Making your porn history public? *The problem with men's Instagram "following" list*



JULIET BECKER / DAILY NEXUS

Diana Paradise  
Sexpert

It has become almost a rite of passage in any talking stage to do the dreaded stalk: who your current infatuation is following on Instagram. After many failed talking stages and first dates, I feel as if I've seen it all: hot ex-girlfriends, Instagram models, OnlyFans baddies, charliekirk1776 — the list goes on.

Recently, I went on a couple of dates with a witty, charming and smart man whose company I enjoyed thoroughly. I made the mistake of combing through his 1,400-account-long "following" list, only to find such atrocities as I previously mentioned, most notably a lot of ass-shaking.

In the sixth episode of "Sex and the City," Miranda had to raid her date's apartment to find out that he was into being spanked by finding a porn DVD hidden in his underwear drawer — how vintage! Yet, today's men will follow accounts that post (practically) porn on their main account.

Now, I am obviously no prude (or porn-shamer, for that matter). I mean, porn's obvious anti-feminism could be its own topic, but that's a discussion for another day.

What you do with your private time is your own business. But, if you let all of your Instagram followers have access to what and who you're into, how is that different from walking around with a sign hanging off of you that says, "I jerk off to Daisy Keech's ass"?

I can already hear the anti-stalking community knocking down my door — some (men) may find it ridiculous to investigate who someone follows, especially when the list is hundreds or thousands of accounts long.

But is it really "stalking" if you follow these baddies from an account under your full name that anyone can find? I mean, it doesn't exactly take advanced hacking skills to access this information.

Real stalkers know that if you want to keep up with a potentially suspicious account on Instagram, you make a second account and keep all the people with whom you want to keep up in your "recently searched" log.

I don't mean to generalize here, but men usually do not recognize the repercussions of lurking because they don't do it themselves. They don't understand the parasocial relationship that exists between you and the girl that your boyfriend called hot in 2019 when he was in ninth grade.

As a self-proclaimed all-time great of internet stalking, I have practically gone to the dark web for information about a guy that I once saw at the Recreation Center — and your main

Instagram account's "following" list requires nowhere near that level of expertise.

But does the phenomenon of men following their guilty pleasures on Instagram signal something larger? Back in the day, teenage boys had to hide Playboy magazines under their beds so that their moms wouldn't find it. Now, they follow their moms and Livvy Dunne from the same account.

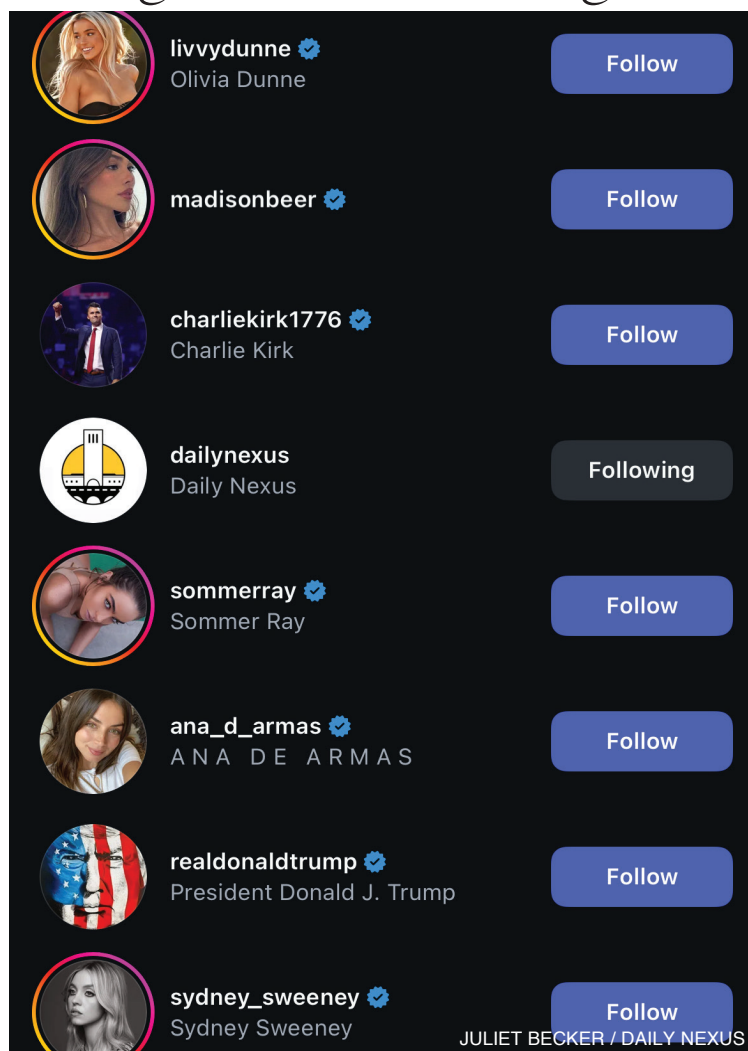
While feminism has advanced to unprecedented levels, men objectify women more publicly than ever. I don't mean to sound boomer-esque, but young men these days could at least put in the effort to type "pornhub.com" into the search bar.

Above all, following a bunch of porn-adjacent accounts on Instagram only makes you look bad. Everyone knows that content to get off to is readily available on the internet, so why do you have to follow it? So it can find you on your feed, rather than the other way around?

Men, girls do look at your following list. So do their friends. And their friends' friends. Girls you've never even heard of know that you are horny for random women on the internet because the word spreads.

I have had friends whose boyfriends followed some truly atrocious accounts on Instagram. When they recount their fights about this topic to me, men frequently cite the same points:

1) They won't ever actually meet these women, so it doesn't



JULIET BECKER / DAILY NEXUS

matter. 2) They followed the accounts before the relationship began and they forgot/didn't care to unfollow. 3) They like her work in other industries.

Look, I've had a celebrity crush or two. I like to look at hot people. In fact, I would say it is one of my greatest passions. Yet, I understand that it would be off-putting to potential romantic partners to publicly display that I can't look away

from abs or biceps. It also just would make me look like an out of control horndog to put my reputation at risk for the sake of seeing hot people in my feed, constantly.

Open your phone, get on Instagram and get unfollowing! You will get laid more, I promise.

*Diana Paradise wants to follow you on Instagram.*

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## What we keep wearing: Mixed metals

Arna Churiwala  
Fashionista

I've always been a silver girl. There was never really a debate about it. Silver felt cooler and cleaner — like it belonged to me. Gold always seemed a little too warm, like it required a happier version of myself I hadn't fully stepped into yet. My jewelry box was a one-metal system: silver hoops, silver rings and silver necklaces stacked without question.

It felt like a system that worked, like I had already figured out my version of jewelry and didn't need to revisit it.

But recently, I've been experimenting. A gold ring here. A mixed chain there. Not abandoning silver, just letting it sit next to something it's not "supposed" to go with. Slowly, I've started to understand the appeal. Mixing metals doesn't feel like a fashion faux pas anymore — it feels styled.

On campus, that shift is everywhere.

You start to notice it in small contradictions. Gold hoops paired with silver rings. A silver watch stacked next to gold bangles. Necklaces that layer both tones without apology. It's no longer about choosing a side — gold or silver — but about letting both exist at once.

For a long time, that would've been a controversial mistake. Jewelry was supposed to match. Gold with gold. Silver with silver. The logic was control: Cohesion equals elegance, and anything else looked unfinished.

Matching wasn't just about jewelry — it was about discipline. A visual sense that everything had to belong to the same "family" to feel put together. Even getting dressed carried that logic.

That thinking shaped a whole era of styling. The 2010s were built on polish, with coordinated accessories, curated tones and the idea that your "aesthetic" should be visually consistent from head to toe. Even the "clean girl" look reinforced it: delicate gold chains, gold hoops, minimal stacking and everything perfectly aligned in tone and intention.

Mixing metals disrupted that order. It looked accidental. Like you got dressed in the dark.

But fashion has been loosening that rule.

On the runway, the change is clear. Layered chains often combine gold and silver in the same look, styled like they were always meant to coexist. Jewelry that doesn't try to unify an outfit, but instead punctuates it. Saint Laurent plays with contrast constantly — sharp tailoring paired with both silver hardware and gold jewelry, letting the tension between tones sharpen the overall silhouette.

Designers like Bottega Veneta take it even further, turning jewelry into sculptural objects where mixed metals feel intentional rather than decorative. And at Jennifer Fisher, industrial-inspired pieces often combine silver and gold finishes within the same accessory, blurring the line between mismatch and couture.

Mixing metals often happens first by accident. You forget to take something off. You stop caring if it "goes." And then, at some point, it starts to look right.

What used to be considered "wrong" is now built into the object itself. Even jewelry brands are leaning into it — creating two-toned pieces on purpose. Mixed-metal rings, dual-tone hoops and necklaces that transition from gold to silver mid-chain. The idea of purity in jewelry has been replaced with contrast.

At David Yurman, mixed metals have long been part of the brand. Their signature cable bracelets, often combining sterling silver with gold accents, practically rely on contrast as design. Two-tone is now the defining feature, instead of an exception. The jewelry does the mixing for you.

The result is a kind of controlled imbalance. Nothing is perfectly matched, but nothing feels random either.

Most of us aren't styling runway jewelry, but we're building the same effect piece by piece. A thrifted silver chain layered with a gold pendant from a different era. Rings collected over time, never designed to match but worn together anyway. A watch you never take off sitting next to bracelets you rotate depending on the day.

College style is inherently mixed already — not just in metals, but in time, price point and intention. That's probably why this trend fits so naturally here.

The key difference now is that mixing metals is no longer an accident. It's a choice.

The styling rules have shifted too. Designers and stylists often build mixed-metal looks around anchor pieces, like a two-tone watch or a layered necklace that already combines metals. From there, repetition matters more than matching: Gold should echo somewhere else in the

look, silver should reappear in a different form.

Texture and weight become more important than color. A chunky gold ring can sit next to a heavy silver cuff if they feel equal in presence. Delicate chains work best when layered with other delicate chains, even if the tones differ.

Sometimes the easiest way to mix metals is to stop overthinking it entirely. If something feels like it belongs, it probably does.

Mixing metals reflects something bigger than jewelry. It mirrors the way style itself has changed — less about fixed categories, more about blending. Silver or gold. Minimal or maximal. Warm or cool. Those binaries don't feel as rigid anymore.

On a campus full of people still figuring out their personal style, that flexibility feels right.

You can be a silver girl who wears gold. A gold girl who wears silver. Or, like most of us, somewhere in between — stacking, layering and experimenting until it feels like yours.

Style, at its best, isn't about choosing between two versions of yourself. It's about letting things overlap without needing to resolve them.

Because maybe the point isn't to match at all.

Maybe it's to let things sit next to each other until they start to make sense.

*Arna Churiwala believes silver and gold look best when they stop competing.*



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# ARTSWEEK



## MEDUSA'S MUSICAL TRAGEDY: "A LEGACY OF STONE" AT LOTTE LEHMANN CONCERT HALL

Carly Rattner  
Staff Writer

Third-year College of Creative Studies music composition major Cam Hastings performed "A Legacy of Stone" in the Lotte Lehmann Concert Hall on April 19.

The musical was a three-year-long dream of Hastings', reimagining the Greek myth of Medusa's origin story. Due to time restraint, the original show had to be cut down to two acts with 15 original songs – a runtime of an hour and a half instead of its original two and a half hours. Yet, with the help of choreographer Lena Wessel, vocal director Z. Giovanini, live orchestra musicians and a talented cast, Hastings brought together a groundbreaking performance.

In the past, Hastings has told the Daily Nexus how much they enjoy working with a live orchestra as it gives them "more control" over the production as "humans can follow humans" rather than a backtrack. Considering the music was written by Hastings, it was evident to the audience that using a live orchestra would bring the show to fruition – and it did just that.

"A Legacy of Stone" brought to life a story of Medusa that you should've heard according to the final musical number. The story was told through the narration of Medusa's two sisters, Euryale and Stheno (Reagan Acosta & Z. Giovanini), who spoke the tragic story solemnly while advising content warnings. The voices of Acosta and Giovanini were spectacular, with mellow tones to match each scene they carried.

After the introduction conducted by the sisters, the musical presented the story of Medusa (Lena Wessel) – originally a priestess for Athena (Ashley Habchi), goddess of wisdom. Hastings wrote a musical showing the truthful and dark aspects of Greek mythology. To get revenge on Athena for unrelated matters, Poseidon (Benjamin Maman) disguises himself as a man named "Vasilias" and has Medusa fall in love with him. As a priestess, Medusa is voluntarily celibate, yet Poseidon forces himself upon her.

In the scene where he commits the horrid act, his anger for Medusa's refusal of consent is reflected through the stage lighting. The stage became darkly lit with red flicking lights, indicating the troubling scene. This left the audience on edge as it happened right before the alluded assault, causing gasps from shock. Before this, Maman had portrayed the character as a loving boyfriend to Medusa, but after this scene he became unredeemable.

Athena, finding out Medusa broke her celibacy, curses her with snakes for hair that turn people into stone. In the curse-casting scene, Habchi sings "Become What You Despise" to conclude Act I. Habchi's powerful and authoritative vocals pair perfectly with the tone of the scene, as she disapproves of Medusa's involuntary actions. Wessel let out a loud wail as Medusa, leaving the audience in silence, feeling the character's sadness and hopelessness. Wessel and Habchi transformed Hastings' original writing into an eye-catching performance that stood out as the most emotional

scene of the musical.

On the contrary, Hermes (John Sylvester) showed a strikingly different tone and character. Hastings wrote a quality to the character that engaged the audience completely. It may have been his rap in "Hermes Comes to Sarpedon" or his British accent, but Hermes commanded each scene he was in. He brought humor to a play that tackled sensitive themes, bringing lightness to a dark subject. Hermes broke the fourth wall when grabbing a popcorn bucket from an orchestra member, which left chuckles across the whole audience. Sylvester's performance made the character of Hermes delectable, even if his morals were questionable.

After turning Medusa into a monster, Hermes was hired by Athena to guide someone to kill Medusa as she had gone into hiding to avoid turning more into stone. In her solo stage song "Your Queen," Athena sings about her power and intelligence. Habchi's strong vocals are highlighted more through this song, creating an intense atmosphere. After her song concluded, Perseus (Lemon Taylor) – a rather childish character – is chosen to behead Medusa.

To show the humor and immaturity of Perseus, a small worn-around-

the-shoulders prop boat was brought into the scene called "SS Perseus" to represent his journey across sea. In the scene, Taylor sings a happy-toned "Adventure!" about the excitement to fulfill a quest given by a god. Although, when ultimately killing Medusa, Perseus' can-do attitude transforms into sadness when he realizes she was cursed and not a true monster. The ending is bitter with the tragedy playing out fully. Hastings' writing left the audience upset as Medusa laid covered with a white blanket, presumably beheaded. As the musical concluded, the audience rose to

their feet to give a standing ovation. It was a show that dove deep into the true horrors that Greek mythology has to offer and educated an audience of the complexities of life. Hastings transformed the stage of Lotte Lehmann Concert Hall into an unforgettable musical experience. As the cast and crew took their final bows, the audience screamed in approving delight.

"A Legacy of Stone" hopes to perform the full script in the future and wants the UC Santa Barbara community to keep an eye out for that showing in the future.



UCSB student Cam Hastings performed their musical, "A Legacy of Stone," on April 19.

## "THE DRAMA" COMES SO CLOSE TO BEING TRULY GREAT

Isabella Seechan  
Reporter

\*Warning: the article contains mentions of gun violence

A24's most recent film, "The Drama," written and directed by Norwegian filmmaker Kristoffer Borgli, has sparked divisive discourse among movie watchers. While some found the film an offensive failure, others found it a thought-provoking masterpiece. Two things can be true at once.

"The Drama" follows a couple, Emma (Zendaya) and Charlie (Robert Pattinson), a week before their wedding day. What starts as a blissful and exciting week turns into a nightmare when Emma reveals new information about her past.

While tasting dishes to finalize their wedding menu, Emma and Charlie are joined by their friends Mike (Mamoudou Athie) and Rachel (Alana Haim). The conversation takes a turn when Rachel reveals that, before her own wedding, she and Mike shared the "worst thing" they had ever done as a way to start their marriage with a clean slate. After some convincing from Rachel, they all agree to share the worst thing they have ever done.

Mike, for example, used his ex-girlfriend as a human shield against an aggressive dog. Rachel locked her neighbor – implied to be a mentally disabled boy – in a closet inside an abandoned cabin in the woods and left him there without telling anyone. Charlie cyberbullied a kid who may or may not have moved out of town as a result. Emma planned a

school shooting when she was a teenager but did not see it through.

Audiences, myself included, were thrown off-kilter by Emma's answer, and understandably so. From the film's promotional content, "The Drama" seemed like another run-of-the-mill romance movie. However, the film's real subject matter is darker and heavier than anyone could have ever imagined.

The film relies on flashbacks that help us understand Emma and Charlie's relationship before it unravels, as well as Emma's character arc. The flashbacks are fast bursts of content, so quick that audiences do not have enough time to process the information thrown at them, much like the characters in the film.

The flashbacks to Emma's childhood were where the comedy happened. The stark contrast between what was happening in the present day and Emma's childhood, paired with the bluntness of young Emma's words, was so unexpected that it elicited a laugh out of audiences. Yet, guilt crept up when viewers remembered the film's true subject matter.

In the middle of the film, Charlie poses an important question: How many people have we come across who, like Emma, had those thoughts and planned but never executed? He remains adamant about understanding the why behind Emma's violent thoughts. He even defends her by highlighting the distinction between thought and action. However, whether he defended

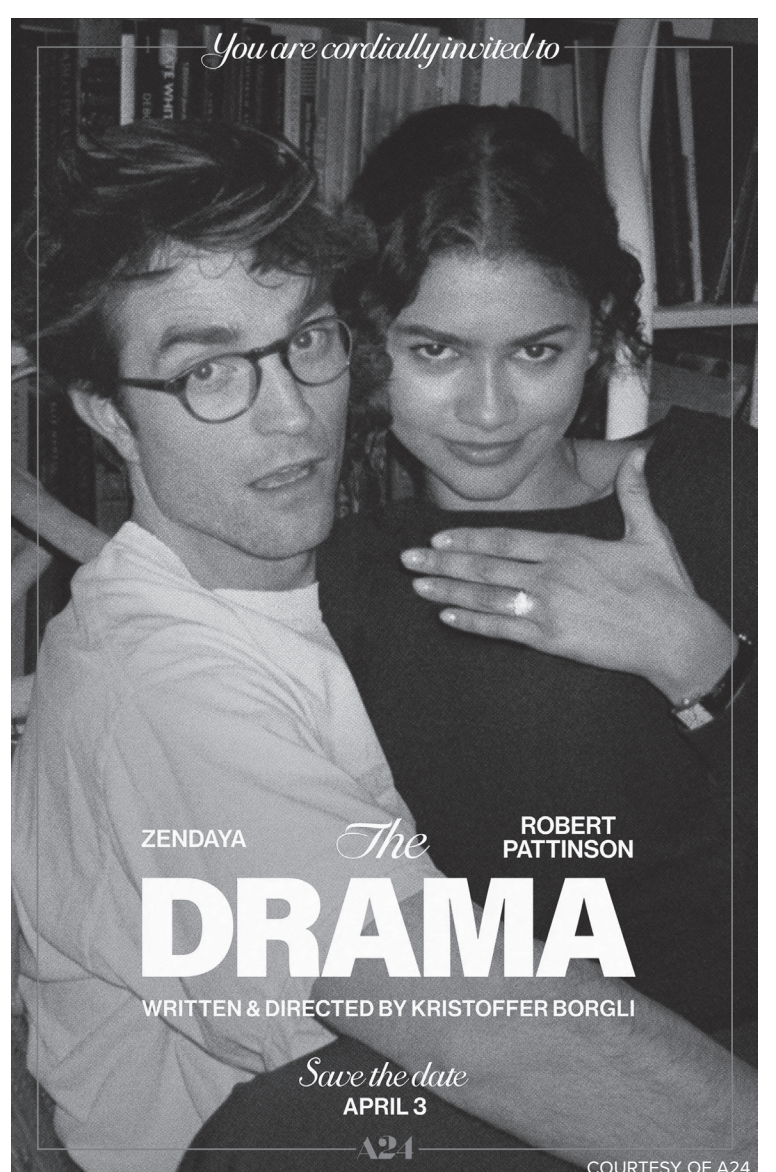
Emma because he believed she was innocent or to preserve his own image is unclear. Yet, is the latter a bad reason?

Although Charlie contemplates much about Emma's past, he devotes even more time to thinking about himself. I understand why: We are partly defined by our relationships. Yet, we are also defined by our actions and Emma did not take any action, but Charlie, Rachel and Mike did.

It is important to note that these violent thoughts of Emma's were not only the result of mental health issues and bullying, but also American media and culture in which guns play a big part. She admits she liked the aesthetics associated with weapons – the power she could gain from them.

Additionally, to communicate how much guns permeate American media and culture, we see Charlie flipping through a book of models holding guns. The juxtaposition of the two subjects, the girl and the gun, is jarring. The feminine, beautiful, dainty model transforms into a masculine, scary, tough object holding the weapon. It raises a chilling question: What does it say about our world when power or agency is only given to someone through the barrel of a gun?

The film produces all of these questions but fails to deliver a final point. In some instances, ambiguity is a good thing, but in this one, ambiguity feels like a cop out. It felt like Kristoffer Borgli wanted to write a movie about the limits of love and empathy and used gun violence



(L to R): Robert Pattinson and Zendaya star as a troubled couple in Norwegian auteur Kristoffer Borgli's shockingly-subversive romcom.

only as a shock factor. Instead of making a statement about gun violence, he completely discards it and focuses on the love story.

"The Drama" pulls us into a messy, whirlwind of a movie, but

by refusing to take a real stand, it flirts with controversy rather than actually saying something meaningful.

7/10

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