

## Student side hustles promote creativity and connection



CLAIRE SILVA / DAILY NEXUS

Julia Sanabria  
News Intern

Beyond their academic and extracurricular commitments, several UC Santa Barbara students have started their own businesses. Campus dormitories and Isla Vista apartments house a myriad of nail technicians, crochet connoisseurs and other creative sellers.

First-year psychological & brain sciences major Olivia Perry sells crochet bikini tops, booty shorts and ponchos out of her dorm. Perry explained her business model as crochet items for parties or the beach. Perry said starting her business gave her a way to make money while



COURTESY OF SIDNEY LE

doing her hobby. "I have so much fun doing it, so I figured why not also make money — it's also more of

an excuse to have to participate in my hobby," Perry said.

Third-year psychological & brain sciences major Danalee le Fevre has been a nail artist for about four years and keeps students' financial limitations in mind when determining pricing for her services.

"Now that I am at a place where I am confident in my results, I have student-minded prices to match," Fevre said.

For nail artist Sidney Le, a first-year psychological & brain sciences major, pricing is based on her time and resources spent creating nail sets. Stemming from admiration of her aunts' "beautiful works of art" and her fascination with the process of designing nails, Le taught herself how to do nail art after her friend asked her to do her nails for graduation.

"Money isn't the reason I created this business. It's a way to share my craft and connect with people; I love it," Le said.

Each of the student business owners has had to find ways to balance their creative outlet with their academics and other commitments. Le explained

how she balances schoolwork when time spent on her side hustle can vary greatly.

"As a [Science, Technology, Engineering and Math] major, my time is limited so my nail career depends on my academic schedule," Le said. "Most sets take around two to seven hours, heavily depending on design and experience with specific processes."

Perry balances her work and her growing business by allocating her free time to making more products.

"When I go on break at home or something, I try to crochet a bunch of stuff," Perry said. "So I went home and I crocheted four items, and then I came back, so I guess that's filling in the time that I am not crocheting [in school]."

Le Fevre, who has had more experience managing her clientele and other pursuits, said she is able to put "a roof over [her] head" from her business's revenue. She described this growth as turning her side hustle into not only a source of revenue, but also a way to develop business skills she can apply to her future career. Due to her

consistency and commitment, le Fevre said she has been able "to maintain a fully booked schedule."

"It has definitely taken some trial and error to balance my work life schedule, but it's the best kind of busy," le Fevre said.

Perry hopes to follow a similar path when she moves out of the dorms.

"As we get older and we're no longer first years in the dorms, I know that people are going to be making more money, I would assume, so I can actually put more effort into my clothing and charge more," Perry said.

Ultimately, for le Fevre, her business

provides a way for "connecting to others," flexibility around her school schedule and a creative outlet.



COURTESY OF OLIVIA PERRY

## UCSB organizations celebrate first UCSB Earth Month



CLAIRE SILVA / DAILY NEXUS

Lola Hadley  
News Intern  
Gabriel Welch  
Staff Writer

On Jan. 28, 1969, an offshore drilling rig operated by Union Oil burst due to extreme pressure underwater off the Santa Barbara coast. The subsequent impact on the coastal environment caused UC Santa Barbara students, faculty and environmental activists to help clean up the tarred beaches and injured animals and inspired an environmentalist movement across the United States.

According to the Daily Nexus archives from 1969, about 20,000 gallons of oil were "spewing out of the platform" and moved both inland and south toward Santa Cruz Island.

Earth Day has been celebrated at UCSB for over 50 years, and students at UCSB are known to be particularly environmentally minded. However, this year's initiative is the first time UCSB has hosted a larger-scale Earth Month initiative, shedding light on sustainability and environmental action over a longer period throughout April. Realizing the value in having an extended initiative about these issues across 35 events featuring 27 different local organizations, members within the office of the



Associated Students Office of the President organized Earth Month.

The first Earth Day was celebrated on April 22, 1970, after U.S. Senator from Wisconsin Gaylord Nelson visited the spill site off the Santa Barbara coast and was inspired to protect the environment. The day consisted of groups across the nation, including the Community Environmental Council (CEC), participating in events, rallies and teach-ins that helped lead to national legislation changes.

Throughout April, UCSB Sustainability has hosted a variety of events as part of their Earth Month campaign leading up to Earth Day. Organized through the Associated Students (A.S.) Office of the President's sustainability team, these events featured various on-campus and local environmental organizations including the Zero Waste Committee, Isla Vista Surfrider, UCSB Excursion Club and A.S. Recycling, among others.

Matthew Schoen, fourth-year environmental studies major and commissioner of environmental sustainability within the Office of the President, helped establish Earth Month at UCSB this year in conjunction with two other UCSB Sustainability members.

UCSB Sustainability hosted its kickoff event, the Zero Waste Festival, on April 11 at Little Acorn Park. Along with stands from over 10 different

organizations, there was also live music and a bouncy house obstacle course. Organizers of the event distributed free burritos and Red Bulls to attendees throughout the day. Schoen explained that this event was important in kick-starting the message they were trying to convey this Earth Month.

"I think this festival just definitely embodies what we're trying to do with Earth Month, which is just get everyone across different majors on campus and in Isla Vista involved in learning about the environment [and] getting involved with sustainability," Schoen said.

Third-year environmental studies and geography double major Livia Cherry and fourth-year environmental studies and political science double major Lilly Walsh helped plan and coordinate the events.

"A lot of the reason why we started Earth Month ... was to get a wide range of UCSB students involved in what it means to be an environmentalist," Cherry said. "It doesn't necessarily mean you have to be an environmental studies major to care about the planet."

UCSB Sustainability rounded off its celebrations at the 56th annual Santa Barbara Earth Day festival on April 25 and 26, at Alameda Park in downtown Santa Barbara. Schoen emphasized the importance of environmental activism and taking care of the planet every day.



SHERINE JOHN / DAILY NEXUS

Environmental Affairs Board members table at the Plastics Free Fair.



SHENGYU ZHANG / DAILY NEXUS

UCSB Sustainability hosted its kickoff event, the Zero Waste Festival, on April 11 at Little Acorn Park.



SHERINE JOHN / DAILY NEXUS

Environmental Affairs Board members promote plastic reduction at the Plastics Free Fair on April 9.



BRYGE HUTCHINS / DAILY NEXUS

Make your own cardboard bouquets event with Creative Use for All and Arts and Crafts Club at UCSB.

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

KAYLEE HEARTMAN / DAILY NEXUS

Jack Dindia

Lead News Editor

## TSC hosts 'Coffee & Community'

The Transfer Student Center (TSC) is hosting "Coffee & Community" on Thursday, April 30, from 10:30-11:30 a.m. at Kerr Hall 1120.

"Coffee & Community is a weekly event to bring together first-generation & transfer students to build community over coffee and snacks!" the Shoreline description read.

## A.S. Media Center hosts 'Writing for TV & Film'

Associated Students (A.S.) Media Center, in collaboration with the Creative Media Unit, is hosting "Writing for TV & Film" on Thursday, April 30, from 2-3 p.m. at the Annex Building 434.

"Learn the foundations of a strong screenplay and advance your storytelling," the Shoreline description read.

Snacks, tea and coffee will be provided for attendees.

## RCSGD hosts 'Drag Club Interest Meeting'

The Resource Center for Sexual and Gender Diversity (RCSGD) is hosting "Don't be a Drag, Just be a Queen: A Drag Club Interest Meeting!" on Thursday, April 30, from 5-7 p.m. at the RCSGD Lounge.

"From UCSB stages to the fabulous BARB spotlight, join us at this event to learn about what it takes to be a club member. Whether you sing and dance your heart out, prefer to work your promoter skills backstage, or support your favorite performers from the audience, everyone is welcome to join!" the Shoreline description read.

Food will be provided for attendees.

## IHC hosts screening of 'Scream 7'

The Interdisciplinary Humanities Center (IHC) is hosting a screening of the film "Scream 7" on Thursday, April 30, from 8-10 p.m. at Isla Vista Theater.

"When a new Ghostface killer emerges in the town where Sidney Prescott has built a new life, her darkest fears are realized as her daughter becomes the next target," the Shoreline description read.

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

## UCSB Library hosts 'The Strangers' Case'

The UCSB Library is hosting "The Strangers' Case: The Greatest Shakespearean Speech No One Knows" on Friday, May 1, from 12-1 p.m. at the UCSB Library Mountain Courtyard.

"To mark the anniversary

of the 1517 riots and More's speech, join UCSB Library and the Department of English on May 1 as a few intrepid souls perform 'The Strangers' Case' at a pop-up event in the Library's Mountain Courtyard," the Shoreline description read.

## UCSB Sustainability hosts 'Saturday Morning Live'

UCSB Sustainability, in collaboration with Edible Campus Program, is hosting "Saturday Morning Live" on Saturday, May 2, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Storke Family Student Housing Community Garden.

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

Gardening experience is not necessary to volunteer.

## GSA hosts 'Swing Dance Night'

The Graduate Student Association (GSA) is hosting "Swing Dance Night" on Saturday, May 2, from 7-11 p.m. at the Hub.

"Come join the Grad Swing Dance club as the Spring Quarter is coming to an end for a night of Swing Dancing with live music provided by Sylvia Rodriguez and the Rhythm Boys! Admittance is free for everyone and everyone is welcome to join!" the Shoreline description read.

Introductory lessons will be provided from 7-8 p.m.

## A.S. IVCRC hosts 'Pardall Carnival'

A.S. Isla Vista Community Relations Committee (IVCRC) is hosting "Pardall Carnival" on Sunday, May 3, from 12-5 p.m. on Pardall Road.

"Come enjoy a fun-filled day featuring carnival rides, games, delicious food, live music and so much more!" the Shoreline description read. "We'll also be giving away food vouchers, t-shirts and other goodies so don't miss out! We can't wait to see you there!"

The event is free for all community members, and food will be provided via food vouchers to local restaurants.

## IHC hosts screening of 'My Neighbor Totoro'

IHC is hosting a screening of the film "My Neighbor Totoro" on Monday, May 4, from 8-9:45 p.m. at the Theater and Dance West building, room 1701.

"When two girls move to the country to be near their ailing mother, they have adventures with the wondrous forest spirits who live nearby," the Shoreline description read.

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

# A week in UC student news



Michelle Cisneros  
Lead News Editor

## Two people found deceased near UC Berkeley in two days

A student fell and died outside of a UC Berkeley residence hall on April 21, and a man was found deceased outside an academic building the following day.

According to The Daily Californian, police responded to a report last Tuesday evening regarding a student who fell from Unit 3, an off-campus hall. The student, a theater and performance studies major, was pronounced dead on the scene. UC Police Department (UCPD) Sgt. Jacob Westlie told The Daily Cal in a statement that no foul play is suspected.

"We are saddened by this tragic news and wish to extend our condolences to this person's family and friends," a University spokesperson said in the statement.

On the afternoon of April 22, UCPD responded to a report of a dead body outside of Sproul Hall. Sgt. Westlie told The Daily Cal in a statement that the man does not appear to be affiliated with the University.

## UC Merced found to be sharing license plate data

## with Border Patrol, other government agencies

According to records obtained by the Merced Sun-Star, several federal and out-of-state agencies, including Border Patrol, have access to UC Merced's Police Department's license plate reader data. Per state law, law enforcement cannot share data from automated license plate readers with agencies outside of California.

The Sun-Star obtained the information through a Public Records Act request, which revealed that nine federal agencies and 187 non-California entities have access to the data. Four cameras are located at UC Merced's main entrance.

Automatic license plate readers capture and analyze license plate information and are an investigative tool for law enforcement.

"The use of this technology is intended to be in compliance with California state law on how information is collected, stored, shared, and used," the University's statement to the Sun-Star reads. "We are currently conducting a review of the technology, the associated policies, and prior usage to ensure our practices continue to meet legal requirements and community expectations."

## Senate committee passes \$23 billion bill for scientific research funding

Senate Bill 895, which aims to establish a \$23 billion bond for research, passed the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee on April 14. The bill must still undergo other legislative steps before being placed on the November 2026 primary election ballot.

The bill, authored by Senator Scott Weiner and sponsored by the UC, would establish grants and loans using the state-funded bond. Federal grants were discussed at the bill hearing, possibly alluding to funding disruptions experienced over the past year.

"The federal government has been the financial lifeblood of American scientific research since the 1950s, a model made possible by a broad consensus across the country that federal investment in science improves American lives," UC San Francisco Vice Chancellor for Research Harold Collard said at the hearing.

The bill must go through other state legislative bodies and be signed by Governor Gavin Newsom before appearing on the ballot.

# Biweekly I.C.E. Sighting Report

Lucy Wellons  
Staff Writer

Information is primarily sourced from community alerts from the 805UndocuFund, a local nonprofit that verifies Immigration and Customs Enforcement sightings in the Central Coast. A full map of Immigration and Customs Enforcement sightings reported by 805UndocuFund in Goleta and Santa Barbara can be found on the Daily Nexus website.

## April 15: Santa Barbara jail (6:51 a.m.)

More than six Immigration and Customs Enforcement

(I.C.E.) vehicles were reported in the jail parking lot. No detainments were confirmed.

## April 16: Santa Barbara jail (1:28 p.m.)

Two unmarked I.C.E. vehicles were reported in the jail parking lot. No detainments were confirmed.

## April 17: Santa Barbara jail (8:55 a.m.)

Two unmarked I.C.E. vehicles were reported in the jail parking lot. No detainments were confirmed.

## April 21: Santa Barbara jail (10:24 a.m.)

An unmarked I.C.E. vehicle was reported in the jail parking lot. No detainments

were confirmed.

## April 22: Santa Barbara VA Clinic (2:35 p.m.)

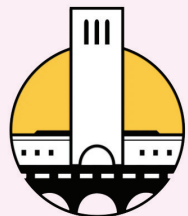
An unmarked I.C.E. vehicle was reported in the Veterans Affairs (VA) Clinic parking lot. No detainments were confirmed.

## April 23: Santa Barbara jail (10:24 a.m.)

An unmarked I.C.E. vehicle was reported near the jail parking lot. No detainments were confirmed.

## April 27: Santa Barbara jail (7:45 a.m.)

Two unmarked I.C.E. vehicles were reported near the jail. No detainments were confirmed.



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"History of blah."

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# A.S. EXEC TERMS IN REVIEW

The Nexus compiled profiles of the 2025-26 Associated Students elected officials to reflect on their past year in office. As they look back on their campaign platforms, we asked our elected officials to tell us about their successes and shortfalls throughout their terms in office. The term in reviews for the other executives can be viewed at [dailynews.com](http://dailynews.com) and/or in our April 30, 2026 print edition.

## A.S. President Le Anh Metzger

Michelle Cisneros  
Lead News Editor



The 2025-26 Associated Students President, Le Anh Metzger, reflected on her and her office's projects throughout the academic year. In particular, Metzger highlighted her outreach initiatives, basic needs projects and improvements to internal functions.

Throughout her term, Metzger instated several recurring initiatives to increase A.S.'s accessibility to students, such as a biweekly "Coffee with the President" and monthly newsletters about A.S. events and resources. Metzger said that throughout this year's tabling efforts, more students have told her they know about A.S. and the services it provides compared to the start of the year.

Given the 2026 Spring Elections ballot deadline was indefinitely extended after failing to meet the minimum participation requirements, Metzger said there is "still a ways to go" as far as A.S. visibility.

Some of the largest projects Metzger worked on during her term were NARCAN boxes in university-owned housing, the partial reinstatement of library hours and Protect Your Peers Week.

Putting NARCAN Nasal Spray cabinets in all university-owned housing was a project that Metzger had been working on since the previous academic year and materialized in the fall. The project was a part of her larger initiatives towards harm reduction, such as Overdose Prevention Week, which she is working to integrate into the A.S. Public and Mental Health Commission. According to Metzger, over 1,000 overdose prevention kits were distributed during this year's Overdose Prevention Week.

Several members of the Association, including Metzger, worked on expanding library hours and finding alternative 24/7 spaces after library hours were reduced over the summer. A.S. funded a significant portion of the money needed to add more hours, however, those funds are set to expire at the end of the academic year. Metzger said the Association is working to secure funds so that the negotiated hours aren't cut, which has put the push for a full reinstatement on pause.

Throughout the year, Metzger and other executives collaborated with local immigrant rights organizations to host rapid response workshops, which taught attendees how to identify United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (I.C.E.) activity. During winter quarter, these efforts culminated in Protect Your Peers Week, which offered legal workshops and other resources for undocumented and international students.

Other projects from her office that focused on students' basic needs include securing \$15,000 for grocery vouchers, \$10,000 towards free Super Cucas burritos for undocumented students and those who use CalFresh, as well as a farmers market in Isla Vista to improve accessibility to fresh produce, among others.

As a former Boards, Committees and Units (BCU) chair, one of Metzger's main platform points was improving communication between BCUs and A.S. leadership. She hoped to achieve this through quarterly "State of the Association" meetings, in which all BCUs delivered reports on their projects and events so that groups across A.S. and the student body are made aware of what others are working on, and making them known to the student body. Metzger says that it's been "a great internal tool" and hopes it gains traction outside of the Association in the coming years.

Although the next president has not been elected yet, Metzger said she will ensure there is a strong transition period. Metzger hopes her successor will finalize some of the projects she started, such as equipment rentals for student musicians.

Metzger said she hopes the next A.S. executives continue the initiatives she created and are "good stewards of student fees." In the future, Metzger hopes to work in the nonprofit sector and possibly earn a master's degree in public policy.

## A.S. IVP Enri Lala

Wynne Bendell  
University News Editor



Associated Students 2025-26 Internal Vice President Enri Lala reflected on his term chairing the 76th Senate, as well as facilitating campus-wide infrastructure and student safety projects.

The Associated Students (A.S.) Internal Vice President (IVP) is responsible for chairing weekly A.S. Senate meetings and handling the Association's internal affairs.

As part of the 75th Senate, fourth-year history and global studies double major Lala often did not leave their meetings that started at 6:30 p.m. until early into the morning of the next day. As IVP, Lala has ensured that this year's Senate meetings have consistently ended at 11:00 p.m.

Lala emphasized that the meetings are "night and day" compared to last year, and have become a "much more structured and predictable place to do impactful work."

While his role is designed to handle A.S. internal affairs, Lala decided early on in his campaign that his office would be project forward. During his campaign, Lala promised to build the Interactive Learning Pavilion (ILP) bike path and reform the Registered Campus Organization (RCO) financial process.

"We as an office have lived up to every promise we made on the campaign trail, every promise we made early in our term and I think we even exceeded them," Lala said.

Lala restructured the RCO travel financing process so that groups can get accommodations directly through the Santa Barbara travel bureau, rather than paying out of pocket and requesting a reimbursement. Lala said this allows RCOs to travel to conferences and other events without having to worry about a lack of funding.

Beyond his promised initiatives, Lala addressed several incidents of student safety, budget cuts and policing on campus as they occurred throughout the year. Lala emphasized the need for student representatives to not wait for staff to respond to issues on campus.

"In this association, we tend to talk about staff a lot or administration a lot," Lala said. "If you don't start the thing yourself, if you don't have a vision for where student leadership will contribute, here's what my staff will do. Forget about it, you have to have your own input on [university issues] and your own vision driving it forward."

At the start of fall quarter, the UC Police Department (UCPD) began enforcing restrictions for students biking off of the designated bike paths, with most enforcement between the Library and the ILP. In response, Lala worked with the A.S. Bike Committee to secure funding to build the ILP bike path, with construction planned to begin this summer.

In October, an attempted sexual assault took place by the lagoon, an area of campus that has been a hotspot for violent crimes, as it remains mostly unlit. Lala, along with Second President Pro Tempore and second-year political science major Evan Sussman, lobbied the California Coastal Commission to get lights installed around the lagoon. Subsequently, the University received a temporary permit to install cameras around the lagoon and plans to install the lights.

Lala also secured \$197,000 from the Senate 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 Lala as a senator to honor a close friend, Michael Ma, an economics student who passed away.

While the next IVP has yet to be elected, Lala hopes his successor will continue to address campus-wide issues and pressure UCSB administrators to address the needs of students.

## A.S. EVPLA E.J. Raad

Jack Dindia  
Lead News Editor



The Associated Students External Vice President for Local Affairs E.J. Raad is nearing the end of his 2025-26 term, where he focused on preventing the Deltopia noise ordinance and addressing housing insecurity.

The External Vice President for Local Affairs (EVPLA) represents the UC Santa Barbara student body regarding Isla Vista affairs by addressing systemic issues such as the housing crisis and food insecurity. They also serve as the liaison between Associated Students (A.S.) and county organizations such as IV. Community Services District (IVCSD) and the Santa Barbara County (SBC) Board of Supervisors.

Raad, a third-year political science major, ran on a platform of addressing housing issues and over-policing in IV. Raad said he "feels good" about what he accomplished during his term, which included lobbying against the Deltopia ordinance, launching the Rate My Landlord website and distributing water filters to IV residents.

Since the launch of the Rate My Landlord website, which allows students to leave reviews on particular landlords and property managers, multiple landlords have been added to the website. Raad hopes the next EVPLA will continue to expand the website, since he considers it a "long-term project" that "builds up" over time.

Raad also expanded the outreach of the sexually transmitted infections (STI) "Screen-A-Thons" at the Pardall Center. Raad estimates they've serviced over 300 students throughout the year, on top of introducing the "Sight-A-Thon," which offered free eye screenings along with a prescription.

Raad also ran on a platform of distributing free water filters to IV residents, which he distributed in winter quarter. According to Raad, his office has an incoming order of 200 water filters, which he hopes will be distributed to students in the following weeks. Raad said the filters will attach directly onto a faucet, opposed to the traditional "Brita style" filters they've given in the past.

In regards to the housing crisis, Raad promised during campaigning to install a lease pre-qualifier program, which would ease the process for UCSB students to sign up for off-campus housing. The program never came to fruition, with Raad explaining that it was "very difficult" to start. While he spoke to a few interested landlords, he struggled on communication with university administration.

During his term, Raad believes he's brought more awareness around the housing crisis via his social media accounts. He's made videos raising awareness towards IV landlord disputes, which he says allowed him to bring awareness towards housing issues "in a way that wasn't done before" as EVPLA.

As the liaison between students and county stakeholders, Raad spoke on his experience working with IV. Foot Patrol (IVFP). Raad said that a "core understanding" for any EVPLA is that the role is "inherently juxtaposed" to IVFP, as "students very regularly clash with police interests."

Following the passing of the Deltopia noise ordinance, which Raad spent the first half of his term lobbying against, he pivoted towards his other goals, such as launching Rate My Landlord and the Sight-A-Thon. Raad commended IVCSD for hosting the Deltopia alternative, Soltopia. However, he believes the festival was "really spread out" and criticized the long lines for food.

With third-year economics and philosophy double major Noah Luken running unopposed as the next EVPLA, Raad believes there will be "less onboarding" for Luken compared to himself due to his pre-existing work with IVCSD. However, Raad plans on providing Luken and every other position within the EVPLA office with a transitional document. Raad advises Luken to spend "a lot of time" during the hiring process for his office, since he believes "you can't do anything without a good team."

## EVPSA Leiya Kadah

Levi Kauffman  
County News Editor



The 2025-26 Associated Students External Vice President for Statewide Affairs Leiya Kadah reflected on her term working on University of California-wide initiatives and advocating for students.

The Associated Students (A.S.) External Vice President for Statewide Affairs (EVPSA) represents UC Santa Barbara students at the state and federal level and is a member of the UC Student Association (UCSA).

Kadah, a fifth-year psychological & brain sciences major, has spent her term working on long-term projects and UCSA campaigns. In February, UCSA introduced Assembly Constitutional Amendment 18, which would add a second voting student regent to the UC Board of Regents, after the first was added in 1974. Kadah called it "ridiculous" that the UC doesn't have more than one student regent.

"If we have more of representation in these governing boards that decide where these funds and where these big decisions go, then hopefully we can see more of that support and resources and funding that students actually deserve," Kadah said.

Given Isla Vista's food desert status, Kadah lobbied for "ACQUIRE," a UCSA campaign to expand food security programs, and partnered with other A.S. executives to provide free food from local restaurants to UCSB students. She has also worked on "Fund The UC," which she said aims to make the UC more affordable in light of rising tuition costs.

For the last few years, Kadah and the EVPSAs preceding her have pursued the creation of a Disability Cultural Center. According to Kadah, efforts have been directed to putting the center in the Student Resource Building. However, there is currently a broken elevator, halting progress.

A primary focus of Kadah's term has been advocating for undocumented students amidst the increase in Immigration and Customs Enforcement (I.C.E.) presence in Santa Barbara. To this end, she has worked to get Senate Bill (SB) 98 — which requires California schools and requests the UC to alert their communities of I.C.E. presence — adopted by the UC Regents.

According to Kadah, in her last meeting with UC President James B. Milliken near the end of winter quarter, he indicated that SB 98 is something that should be implemented UC-wide. She hopes that communication around I.C.E. presence, the speed of alerts and clarification around false reports will improve.

"[Milliken] wanted us to update on how campuses and chancellors are upkeeping that because it is a directive that he's given, which I'm sure it is the work of so many other people, but compared to what our meeting was like in October — our first ever EVP meeting with Milliken — [there] seems to be progress there," Kadah said.

Throughout her term, Kadah has navigated a shifting landscape within the UC due to President Donald Trump's federal cuts to higher education and attacks on diversity, equity and inclusion. To combat this, Kadah focused on cooperation within UCSA and consistently "advocating in every space [she] can."

Kadah has continued to work towards connecting students with campus labor unions such as the local American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) 3299 chapter. She said that members of her office were previously involved with AFSCME and helped create the Student Labor Advocacy Project (S.L.A.P.), which will be having a Mayday protest.

Despite other issues taking priority during Kadah's term, she has continued to advocate for the UC to divest from companies tied to Israeli military operations in Gaza. She hopes to address it at UCSA's last meeting of the year with Milliken. She noted that these efforts have been impeded by the UC-wide ban on student governments boycotting certain companies based on their association with particular countries.

## S.A.G. Sydney Bivins

Iris Guo  
Editor-in-Chief



The Student Advocate General for Associated Students, Sydney Bivins, reflected on her term during the 2025-26 school year, leading initiatives to raise student awareness on campus resources and analyzing changes to university policies relating to student conduct.

The Associated Students (A.S.) 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.

After joining the Office of the Student Advocate (OSA) as a caseworker in 2023, Bivins climbed the ranks and served as former S.A.G. Alvin Wang's chief of staff. During her term, the OSA took on around 50 cases, a slight increase compared to the 42 cases taken on by Wang.

Throughout her term, Bivins led the OSA by supporting caseworker training and development. She gave caseworkers "resource assignments," which entailed researching public information and the OSA's internal documents on various campus offices to create comprehensive resource guides for future caseworkers to reference.

"We had our caseworkers do a very, very deep dive into all of [the University's] policies [and] their contact information," Bivins said. "Then from there, contacting the offices to get an understanding of the nitty-gritty that isn't necessarily publicly available, but it is still information that our caseworkers would need to help students."

Additionally, Bivins has supported the creation of templates for appeals and petitions that allow students to minimize an "overwhelming experience" with the OSA.

According to Bivins, professors across campus have varied approaches to artificial intelligence (AI) usage in the classroom. To support the standardization of AI policies in course syllabi, Bivins connected with the Office of Teaching and Learning to discuss the issue.

Bivins hopes that after establishing a standardized AI usage policy, students can gain clarity on what their professors allow, preventing disagreements or conduct cases involving AI usage.

Throughout her term, Bivins planned various educational workshops for student groups, including international, transfer and disabled students.

"We covered a lot of campus resources, those sort of hidden gems that you wouldn't have otherwise known about," Bivins said.

Among the workshops that Bivins planned, she emphasized that she was most proud of working on A.S.'s Protect Your Peers week, which was held early in winter quarter. The week of events aimed to raise awareness and provide resources on the rights of undocumented and international communities.

"It was a ton of work to put on, but it was unbelievably fulfilling," Bivins said. "This was right in the wake of the deaths of Renee Good and Keith Porter. So I think it was really great to see the campus mobilize for their peers, and [want] to know their rights and get involved in these boots on the ground."

Third-year sociology and history of public policy and law double major Suyan Wang is running unopposed to be the next S.A.G., and Bivins praised her as "unbelievably ready" to take on the role.

Following Bivins' graduation at the end of spring quarter, she will remain in Santa Barbara for a year and plans to help out the OSA as an "unofficial advisor." Looking forward, she hopes to attend graduate school and pursue a career in therapy or social work, and believes that her experiences assisting students through advocacy within the OSA have prepared her for it.

"Sometimes the casework, they're a little bit like therapy sessions in a way, or they're like social work referrals where I'm helping students navigate bureaucracy in a similar way," Bivins said.

# Senate hears BWHC concerns, proposes student housing at Centennial House site

Jack Dindia

Lead News Editor

Wynne Bendell

University News Editor

To remain transparent, Jack Dindia did not write the public forum section as he has a professional relationship with a board member of Black Women's Health Collaborative, along with a speaker during public forum. Additionally, Samantha Dillon serves as the DEI Chair of the Daily Nexus.

The 76th Associated Students Senate heard concerns from the Black Women's Health Collaborative over a significant proposed budget cut and alleged anti-Blackness within the Association.

## Public forum

Several members and supporters of the Associated Students (A.S.) Black Women's Health Collaborative (BWHC) expressed concerns over the finance committee's recent budget proposal for the 2026-27 academic year, which included a 63% decrease in their annual budget. Many members also expressed their frustrations over alleged anti-Blackness within the Association as a whole, due to the proposed cut in combination with an inactive advisor for two quarters.

The BWHC requested a \$124,800 operating budget for next year and received a proposal of \$33,000, only \$9,600 of which was allocated for special projects. As the only A.S. entity that specifically serves Black students on campus, BWHC Co-Chair and third-year communication major Fatoumata Kéré emphasized how many different Black organizations they financially support. With the proposed budget, the BWHC would have to stop funding those groups and significantly cut back on its own events.

"All of the emotions we express here today are real-life struggles that we have been forced to deal with on our own, because we are overlooked as a marginalized organization," Kéré said.

BWHC's Co-Chair and third-year sociology major Queen Allah said the budget proposal was "disrespectful" and would essentially take away the BWHC's power to do any work within A.S.



With the proposed budget, the Black Women's Health Collaborative would have to stop funding those groups and significantly cut back on their own events.

"This is not just a reduction, it's an effective removal of our ability to operate as a [Board, Committee and Unit (BCU)] on this campus," Allah said.

A.S. President and fourth-year Spanish, communication and global studies triple major Le Anh Metzger presented her own budget proposal which included \$99,000 for the BWHC. The Senate will deliberate and approve the official A.S. budget at its Week 5 meeting.

Next, the UC Santa Barbara chapter of the Young Democratic Socialists of America (YDSA) Secretary and third-year feminist studies major Alexandria Ewing presented the Senate with a future funding request of \$500,000 for its sanctuary campus campaign. YDSA is currently in negotiations with the University to implement its demands, but needs external funding for the Dream scholarship and other demands.

Then, A.S. Living History Project Chair and third-year history of policy, law, and governance major Samantha Dillon requested that the Senate consider reinstating its budget, after it was completely cut by the finance committee's proposal. The group was on hiatus for three years but was reinvigorated this year. Dillon emphasized that they need a budget to continue their work of documenting student activism.

## Legislation adopted

First President Pro Tempore and second-year political science major Evan Sussman, Senators fourth-year history of policy, law and governance major Yuchang

Jiang, fourth-year sociology major Mira Than and fourth-year history of policy, law, and governance major Vanessa Manakova introduced a bill to standardize A.S. departments and BCUs. The bill would standardize the internal structure of A.S. by clearly defining departments and BCUs, as well as clearly tracking BCUs' meeting minutes. The Senate went on to adopt the resolution.

Second President Pro Tempore and fourth-year political science major Melanie Jones and Senator and first-year physics major Alec GeoSimonian introduced a bill to establish A.S.'s support for building student housing at the Centennial House site. The bill, which was initially authored by Internal Vice President and fourth-year history and global studies double major Enri Lala, with his Chief of Staff and second-year comparative literature major Casey Carnow, would repurpose previous Chancellor Henry T. Yang's former on-campus home, the Centennial House, into student housing.

Following the purchase of a \$7.8 million chancellor residence by the UC Regents, GeoSimonian argued it is a "no-brainer" to transform the Centennial House space into student housing now that it is vacant. Senator and second-year political science major Erica Sherkin brought up concerns with building housing on this site, considering its proximity to the lagoon and having a construction site near the Research Experience & Education Facility (R.E.E.F.), a prime location for aquatic research.

GeoSimonian responded by saying he doesn't see this as a "barrier," and suggested that the California Coastal Commission won't "make a big deal out of it." Lala also spoke in support of building housing on the site without disturbing research.

"We've sent people around the moon and back ... We can absolutely figure out how to isolate a building site such that it does not disturb people across or people doing research below," Lala said.

## The Senate adopted the bill.

Later in the meeting, Than introduced a resolution to commemorate UCSB's "epic victory royale" in "March Yakness" on the college social media app Yik Yak. After discussion on its timeliness and relevance, the resolution was passed.

Senator and fourth-year political science major Keizo Ono, along with Senator and third-year economics and philosophy double major Noah Luken, introduced a resolution condemning the Save Student Services fee initiative. Ono said the resolution is not an attack on the specific services, but rather represents undergraduate students who may be "burdened" by the fee increase. The Senate adopted the resolution.

GeoSimonian and Sussman introduced a bill to condemn Executive Order 14391, which granted the United States Secretary of Energy the power to invoke the Defense Production Act of 1950, which led to the restart of the Santa Ynez Unit oil pipeline on the Santa Barbara coast. The

Senate adopted the resolution.

## Legislation proposed

Sussman, along with Jones, proposed a bill to formally codify the appointments tracker in legal code. The bill would appoint the Committee on Committees an appointment tracker to prevent "excess burden" being placed onto the Senate. The bill was referred to the executive committee.

Next, Jones and Sussman proposed a bill to reassign the executive swearing-in ceremony to the spring State of the Association, as it would allow the new A.S. executives and the 77th Senate to be within their roles by the Tuesday before the next senate meeting.

GeoSimonian raised constitutional concerns, arguing that the A.S. constitution states the transfer of power begins after the adjournment of the Senate's last meeting. Sussman clarified that the swearing-in would be ceremonial and not an official transfer of power.

The bill was referred to the executive committee after Senator and second-year chemistry major Nadine Malhis recommended reaching out to the elections board to ensure executive candidates are aware of the change.

Senator and fourth-year history and global studies double major Neo Harter proposed a bill in collaboration with second-year applied math major and Secretary of the Outreach Committee Luke Lopez to purchase 12 whiteboards for the UCSB Library.

Harter said he spoke with students who had been affected by the "scarcity of whiteboards" in the library. The bill requests \$15,000 from Senate Unallocated to order 12 LibBoard whiteboards. While Sussman said the idea was "phenomenal," he said the bill would be a "quarter and a half" of the cost toward late-night study, which he said the library is not yet "willing to use [their] money for."

Harter explained that the bill wouldn't give money to the library, but rather gift the whiteboards.

"This whiteboard project doesn't give us significant negotiating power," Harter said. "They're not going to change their position because of this ... the only thing that's going to change is us potentially doing it or not."

The bill was eventually referred to the advocacy committee.

# Student-developed app provides meals at lower costs

Nathan Friedman

Reporter

Marissa Macher

Reporter

Three UC Santa Barbara students developed the OrtegaEats app, which allows students with meal plans to sell their unused swipes and those without meal plans to purchase a meal at a lower cost. The app has been facing various technical difficulties, resulting in students reporting they have not received a refund for their orders.

Ortega Dining Commons is a takeout-style dining hall that offers a variety of food options on a fixed weekly menu. Typically, students with meal plans place orders through the Transact Mobile Ordering App, which generates a QR code they then scan at Ortega's lockers, where they pick up their food. These meals count as a swipe from student meal plans, which range from 10 to 19 swipes per week.

First-year economics and accounting major Josh Gabbay, alongside co-founders first-year computer engineering major Elijah Hargreaves and first-year mechanical engineering major Mark Mashkovich, created OrtegaEats because they saw an opportunity to address a gap in the current dining system.

"We just think the dining hall policy here is dated," Gabbay said. "We thought this would be a good step to increase affordability for students on campus."

The app syncs with Ortega's offerings and updates when items go out of stock. Users can pay a \$7 fee via Apple Pay or credit card. The app then matches the buyer with a student selling a swipe. Once the order is placed, the buyer receives a QR code to pick up their meal.

According to Gabbay, students selling their meal swipes can earn up to \$200 per month through the app, with payments transferred directly through Venmo or Zelle.

The app has encountered some

technical issues, with orders placed through the app not appearing on the Ortega system. One Ortega employee who chose to remain anonymous said that up to 10 students came in over the course of a week expecting meals that had not been processed.

"We discovered the app on a random Wednesday," the employee said. "A customer came up saying they ordered through the app, and it wasn't working. We found their Instagram and then the app on the App Store. We were really just thrown off."

Ortega staff members were not informed about the app's launch, leading to confusion about its legitimacy, especially when students arrived without corresponding orders in the dining system.

Gabbay acknowledged these early challenges, noting that the team is actively working to resolve technical issues.

"There have been little bugs, and we've been ironing them out every single day," Gabbay said. "It's pretty good now. We have five stars on the App Store, and that's organic — people are having a good experience."

However, not all users report positive experiences. Some students say they encountered problems receiving their meals or refunds.

Sanjana Lingham, a third-year philosophy major, first heard about OrtegaEats when the founders were tabling at the Arbor. Lingham alleged that she has not gotten a refund for an unfulfilled meal.

"They told me there had been a little bit of a bug going on, but they're able to refund and I said, 'I'd like a refund.' They then responded by sending an email, which I had already done. I still got no response. And they told me they didn't get my email," Lingham said.

Gabbay and Hargreaves noted that the app was built in roughly a month and ongoing improvements are part of the process. As more students use

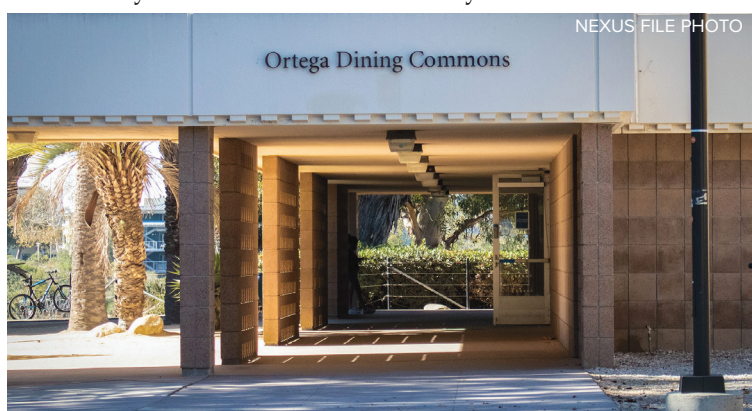
the platform, new challenges have continued to surface.

Although the app is not currently generating profits, the founders say the experience has been valuable for gaining skills in entrepreneurship and marketing. They hope to contribute to a more innovative startup culture at UCSB, drawing inspiration from universities like UC Berkeley.

According to the creators, OrtegaEats represents an effort to support students facing financial challenges. They emphasized that they do not intend to scam users and that any suspicious activity will result in a ban from the platform. They encourage users experiencing issues to contact them via email

and said they aim to respond quickly. Looking ahead, the team hopes to expand the app's reach and continue improving its functionality.

"The three of us are just focused on creating great products that people use and that can really help students' lives," Gabbay said.



Three UCSB students developed the OrtegaEats app, which allows meal plans to be purchased at a lower cost.

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# New 'Barter 4 Better' event in I.V. inspires circular economy

Mavis Holley  
Reporter  
Ramona Jacobson  
Reporter  
Yogita Sharma  
Reporter

Students and community members gathered at Trigo-Pasado Park to share items and knowledge as part of the first-ever "Barter 4 Better" trading event on April 19. The event provided a space for bartering — the direct exchange of goods and services without using money.

About 40 people attended the event, trading a variety of objects and skillsets, including homemade baked goods, palm readings and bicycle repairs. The project was created by second-year feminist studies major Lula Rosenbach and second-year environmental studies and political science double major Juliette Allayaud through UC Santa Barbara's year-long undergraduate Environmental Leadership Incubator (ELI) program, which focuses on creating positive environmental impacts on campus and in the Isla Vista community.

Barter 4 Better aims to find new homes for otherwise discarded items and build community in I.V. The project was developed with mentorship from Myah Mashhadialreza, the Isla Vista Community Services District (IVCSD) community programs and engagement director.

Rosenbach expressed disappointment over how residents leave personal belongings around the streets of I.V.

"We were noticing that people were throwing a lot of things away on the street in I.V., and that was upsetting," Rosenbach said. "There's just not a lot of



"Barter 4 Better" aims to find new homes for otherwise discarded items and build community in I.V.

awareness, for a school that supposedly is so environmental."

Allayud recalled seeing people "dumping their entire houses" on the street. Incoming freshmen commonly purchase the exact items seniors dump, she added.

To reduce the amount of items that end up becoming waste, Rosenbach and Allayaud decided to focus on creating a circular economy, or a system that facilitates the recycling of items and materials to reduce waste, pollution and carbon emissions. Bartering is also an opportunity for students to get involved with a system where money is not exchanged for goods and services.

"We also wanted to encourage people to look at their own skills differently," Allayaud said. "Our idea is that everyone has something to offer, whether it's a skill or something physical."

Although he was not seeking any specific items, first-year computer engineering major Finn Zeugswetter was interested in the social aspect of the event and decided to barter his electronic

repair services.

"I do electronics repairs and work on computers and phones and things like that, [and] music-related electronics," Zeugswetter said. "I heard about [the event] in the Arbor, and I just decided I'd come by and check it out, see what it's like, meet some people."

Similarly, first-year environmental studies and psychological & brain sciences double major Serena Faravardeh chose to offer attendees bass lessons in exchange for another form of lesson — preferably surfing lessons, she said.

"I think this is a pretty unique experience, because you usually don't see a community this intertwined, such as a college campus," Faravardeh said. "Might as well get some cool stuff out of it as well without having to pay."

Longtime I.V. resident Henry Sarria, who previously provided bicycle repairs during Thriftopia and the Fix-It Fair, volunteered bicycle and skateboard repairs at the event. Although he wasn't there to barter anything in exchange, he was happy to offer

his expertise.

Simone Edwards, a second-year writing and literature major who was trading palm readings, shared her personal connection to bartering.

"My parents met at a barter party [in college], and when they had their 25th wedding anniversary, they went to a barter party reunion," Edwards said. "My mom bartered with advice."

Edwards' previously piqued interest in barter events brought her to Barter 4 Better. She has been reading palms for a few years and was happy to share her skill.

For fourth-year film and media studies and comparative literature double major Arlo Piper, the event provided an opportunity to reduce their own waste and gain new items and experiences. As Piper prepares to move away from UCSB, they hoped that they could reduce the amount of clothes they own through bartering. Additionally, they were inspired by the event's waste reduction potential.

"I feel like people have so much

cool stuff here, and are always throwing stuff out just because the turnover here is so high," Piper said. "This is just such a perfect opportunity to decrease waste, but also find some really awesome gems and stuff, because people have cool stuff and skills to trade."

Similarly, third-year biopsychology major Kai Christensen came to the bartering event hoping to offload some underused belongings while socializing with his peers.

"I wanted to get out into the community and just meet people, and I also had some things that I wasn't using that I thought I could trade," Christensen said. "I traded a pair of cowboy boots and a leather jacket, and I got a pair of computer speakers and a piece of banana bread."

Second-year environmental studies and economics double major Maaz Khan was drawn to the event by both the social aspect and its environmental benefits. Although he did not come to the event searching for any items in particular, he said he felt satisfied with the objects and experiences he was able to barter for.

"It's been a lot of fun. I'm really passionate about the circular economy. I think it's a really interesting dynamic, and it's really important to take a look at our own consumption and make it more sustainable," Khan said.

Ideas and perspectives like Khan's are why Rosenbach and Allayaud decided to launch Barter 4 Better — to build a community centered around environmentally conscious consumption. The co-founders envision the event happening at least once a quarter.

"Part of the idea is that it's this thing that's fueling itself," Allayaud said. "I want people to keep bartering and connecting beyond the event."

# Exploring ENGL 106CW, the Catalyst

Malia Guy  
Asst. Data Editor  
Joseph De Filippis  
Reporter

The Catalyst is a contemporary literary arts magazine that is produced top-to-bottom by students in a UC Santa Barbara English class each quarter.

The 36th issue of the Catalyst was themed around movement. For fourth-year English major and Editor-in-Chief Natalie Riley, this aesthetic captured "the physicality of movement," people and places, but also ideas, political movements and how "we perceive the world around us."

"I want to look at more embodiment and interaction with the environment ... It's going to be more clear, or more like a fresh aesthetic," Riley said. "[S]pring is more of a revival."

After a long hiatus, the Catalyst was revived in Spring Quarter 2013 by then fourth-year English major Natalie O'Brien. Her mission, to assemble and publish original work created by and for students, is preserved in ENGL 106CW, taught by professor Brian Donnelly. Since the class began being offered in the fall of 2019, everything from daily lectures to the final print continues to be organized by students, with Donnelly only assisting when necessary.

"I support the editorial team. I get things administratively achieved for them when they need stuff. [Like] equipment, Adobe subscriptions ... [and] room bookings," Donnelly said. "Sometimes the editors will bring stuff to me for my opinion, and I'll say, 'Look, here's what I think.' But ultimately, they make the decision."

To submit to the Catalyst, you do not have to be enrolled in the class. Each quarter, the Catalyst sends a university-wide call for pieces to be sent in. While it is labeled as a literary magazine, the Catalyst accepts poetry, prose and artwork.

"We are a literary arts magazine, so one component of the magazine, obviously, is the writing," Riley said. "But then the magazine aspect [is where]

we're pairing artwork — and that's like any composition, or mode of artwork. So that can be digital art, hand-drawn art, collage, sculpture, photography."

The current editor-in-chief decides the theme each quarter, but pieces submitted do not have to strictly adhere to it. Jero Gomez, a third-year English major, submitted to the Catalyst before enrolling in the class during spring quarter last year.

"I remember first submitting just one poem and I wasn't familiar with the guidelines you have to follow ... It didn't get accepted," Gomez said. "At that point, I decided to keep working on my poetry and then from there I submitted works the following quarter and I was able to get a poem in. Then ever since spring 2024, I was able to get my work selected."

While a majority of students come from an English major background, there are students from other majors who join the class.

"We love it when we get students who are chemical engineering or mathematics, because it's a great outlet for students who may not have that opportunity in their set fields or majors to explore creativity and explore what they can do for writing," Riley said. "It's also a great outlet for community building. The amount of friendships I've seen shaped throughout Catalyst, from my time as being a student, and as an editor, has been amazing."

In the class, writers are sorted into peer review writing groups in which they collaborate with each other and give feedback on each other's work. During the last few weeks of the quarter, they collaborate together to produce zines.

"They have more freedom and autonomy as creatives to work within groups collaborating to make their own smaller-scale magazines that they present as their final project at the end of the quarter," Riley said.

The launch party is the final for the class, where attendees get copies of the latest edition of the Catalyst and have live readings.

"It feels rewarding reciting [my poetry] in front of people

so they understand how I'm feeling," Gomez said.

After spending at least a quarter as a Catalyst writer, students can be considered for the editorial team. Fourth-year English major Jack Buschow, managing editor for the 2025-26 academic year, explained what led them to apply for their position.

"I looked up to the [previous] managing editors," Buschow said. "Also, I just have that kind of brain where I'm pretty organized."

Buschow explained how "it's great" working with the other editors and that everyone got the roles "they were meant to be" in.

Riley applied for editor-in-chief because it allows a combination of "critical" and "creative" practices.

"You're thinking really methodically and intentionally about the choices you are

choosing," Riley said. "Why are we accepting this piece? What is it? Why does it fit the aesthetic well? What is it doing for the reader?"

For students continuing next year, there is still time to participate in the Catalyst, whether that be by submitting

MALIA GUY / DAILY NEXUS



The 36th issue of the Catalyst was themed around movement.

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# A.S. hosts local bands for students

Elijah Obando  
News Intern

The Office of the Associated Students Internal Vice President held Isla Vista Underground, a community-focused event that brought local bands to the University Center lawn on April 23. Bands including Monkfish, The Radar, Dielectric and Corkscrew Michael performed during the event, which featured a beer garden and merchandise.

According to the Associated Students (A.S.) Internal Vice President Enri Lala, a fourth-year history and global studies double major, I.V. Underground is a part of the Associated Students' goal of utilizing student funds to create events geared toward community-building.

"[For] students who have nothing to do with the Association, here are the sources we're providing," Lala said. "Here's how we [Associated Students] want to be present in your lives, and we hope this is one small cultural representation of that."

Attendees sat on the lawn chatting and studying while the performances played on stage. The singer of the band Monkfish, third-year aquatic biology major Emma Oric, expressed how she was



SHENGYU ZHANG / DAILY NEXUS

Attendees were sitting on the lawn chatting and studying while the live performances played on the stage.

grateful for the opportunity to perform at the event.

"I feel live music is a lot of people's interest, especially here. So any chance we [as a community] can get to be outside, I think it brings out a really special part of people — a social part," Oric said.

A.S. Internal Affairs Coordinator Valentina Huynh,

a third-year economics and accounting major, highlighted the importance of their decision to use local bands at the event rather than mainstream artists.

"We have Extravaganza where we bring in outside artists, but I think band culture is a really important part of any campus life," Huynh said.

"It's encouraging [I.V. bands] to come out and play but also giving them compensation for doing this for the community."

Mary Hoffman, a third-year political science major and A.S. deputy chief of staff, expressed her hope for I.V. Underground to become an annual event, even after their current office has graduated.

"We're really excited about this event, and we hope that it continues into years that outlive us," Hoffman said. "We want to give I.V. bands an opportunity to be funded by the school because we have so many student dollars that go unspent each year, so we wanted to put it into a community building event."

## Student club brings laughs to campus



SHENGYU ZHANG / DAILY NEXUS

UCSB's club Laughology hosted an event featuring Saturday Night Live's newest comic, Kam Patterson.

Gabriel Welch  
Staff Writer

UC Santa Barbara's comedy club, Laughology, hosted its largest show of the year at Campbell Hall on April 19. The student-led group organized a two-hour event featuring multiple comedians including one of Saturday Night Live's newest comics, Kam Patterson.

The show was hosted by comedian Johana Coca, who was followed by performances from fellow comics Chris Riney, Jarri Knows and Laughology President and third-year English major Sahara Oberoi. Following the openers, Patterson took the stage for his hour-long set.

Patterson grew up in Orlando, Florida, and first began performing on a more high-profile scale after becoming a regular on Kill Tony, a stand-up comedy podcast. He got his big break last fall, joining SNL as a featured player for their 51st season. In an interview with the Nexus, Patterson explained that his approach to comedy is through storytelling and praised the UCSB audience for its attentiveness.

"Man, a lot of my crowds are very rowdy, and this [was] listening [and] paying attention. I appreciate that a little more because you can get into more stuff," Patterson said. "I tell stories and stuff like that a little bit easier when people are listening ... So [it was] super dope."

Laughology has been actively performing at UCSB since before 2011, being formerly known as I.V. Stand Up Comedy. In addition to student performances, the club regularly hosts popular comics such as Peyton Ruddy, Nick Thune and Maddi Mays, who all performed at the club's events during this last calendar year. Oberoi explained her role in helping Laughology bring bigger acts to UCSB.

"From a leadership standpoint, I am working on reaching out to comics with an opportunity to

headline, proposing funding from the school and responding to any emails from those respective headliners," Oberoi said.

Club meetings are held every Friday, during which members develop jokes, plan future shows and work through stage fright. They also host weekly open mic nights at 8:30 p.m. on Mondays at I.V. Pizza Pub, where up-and-coming comics can test their material while getting in front of a real audience.

Oberoi also spoke about Laughology's benefits for club members and what she wished more people would know about it.

"I wish more people knew how easy it is to judge someone who goes up on the mic versus how hard it is to gather the courage to even give it a try," Oberoi said. "I encourage anyone, literally anyone, to give comedy a try. I think so many wonderful people have the potential to turn their humor into something greater, and the reward is definitely worth it."

These sentiments were echoed by Patterson as well, who discussed his efforts to make it as a comedian.

"Do it every single day. That's the most cliché thing anybody could say, but every single day. When I first started, there wasn't a day where I wasn't on stage," Patterson said. "My biggest thing is just staying on stage. I think if you stay on stage, it'll make you such a better comic. Any time you don't want to do it, or any time you just feel tired — get on stage. That's the best thing anybody could do."

Laughology's regular shows take place at Embarcadero Hall on Saturdays at 8 p.m., with their next show scheduled for May 2. Looking onwards, Oberoi expressed her hopes and visions for the future of the club.

"I hope we continue to impact UCSB students for the better, giving them a sanctuary to laugh, decompress and share cherished memories with their friends," Oberoi said.

## Roger's Tacos rents food truck, resumes service in I.V.

Elijah Obando  
News Intern  
Sanjana Lingam  
Reporter

**Disclaimer: The quotes in the following article have been translated from Spanish to English.**

After being prohibited from holding public fundraisers by the county health department earlier this year, Roger's Tacos is continuing service in Isla Vista through a newly rented food truck.

In January, local Mexican food vendor Roger's Tacos was prohibited by the Santa Barbara County (SBC) Public Health Department from selling food in their I.V. pop-up restaurant, since they prepared it at another location. The owner, Rogelio Ines Jiménez, then looked at different business models that would allow him to stay in the area and decided to rent a food truck.

Jiménez said he enjoyed the pop-up style of his business because students were able to customize their meals by making their own plate. Although the food truck would be different from what he's used to, Jiménez said he has ideas to keep the business as

interactive as before.

"What I liked most about how I was selling food before was being able to interact with the students who were buying," Jiménez said. "I'm teaching someone how to cook the food so I can take orders in the front."

Recently, Jiménez hired a chef and is currently training him to cook the recipes. By hiring new employees, Jiménez hopes to train them to interact with customers while preserving the same flavor.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, students helped market Roger's Tacos on social media and continued to purchase food. Since Roger's Tacos collaborates with campus organizations for fundraisers, Jiménez explained that students helped him stay in business in the first place.

Jiménez hopes to gain sufficient funding during the food truck's six-month contract so that Roger's Tacos can continue bringing food to I.V.



NEXUS FILE PHOTO

Roger's Tacos is continuing service in Isla Vista through a newly rented food truck.

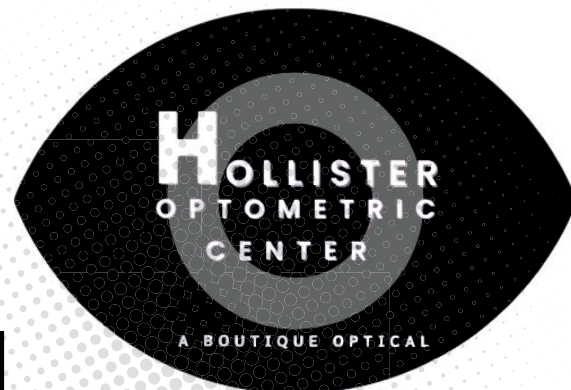
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# TASA's annual night market promotes community for all



TASA is annually held at Storke Tower.



Several organizations participated in TASA, including the Hong Kong Student Association.



Throughout the market, student organizations sold art, taught Asian board games including mahjong and performed dances.

**Julia Sanabria**  
News Intern

The Taiwanese American Student Association held its annual Night Market on April 24 in collaboration with the Associated Students Program Board, the Center for Taiwan Studies and the Residential Housing Association.

Taking place at the Corwin Pavilion, this was the 19th annual Night Market hosted by the Taiwanese American Student Association (TASA). Night Markets are microcosms of Taiwanese life. They offer opportunities for entrepreneurship and date back hundreds of years to temple fairs. These markets evolved into a phenomenon due to xiaochi (roughly translated to small eats) and the unique and alluring atmosphere.

"It's cool because I think this is the only group of clubs that actually get together and throw bigger things. It's cool that there's a bunch of them [clubs] brought together and there's so many people," third-year art major attendee Angelina Valdez noticed while taking in the atmosphere of TASA's night market.

Third-year biology major Dilara Oner, who has been an active member of TASA since her first year, took on the responsibility of publicizing the event. Oner explained the immense effort that went toward the night.

"We start planning [the] night market really early. We start talking about it the very end of winter quarter actually," Oner said. "We have to get all the foods and vendors and organize all the different organizations."

This annual event is normally held at Storke Plaza. Oner said that one of the reasons for the event's location was changed was because of the forecasted rain and therefore the need for access to a large indoor space.

"One of our biggest worries about switching it to Corwin was that normally it's in the plaza, so anyone who is walking by to the

UCEN can just wander in if they see it," Oner said.

However, this inconvenience did not prove detrimental to the event's success. Oner was pleasantly surprised with the turnout, especially at the very beginning of the event.

"There was a line all the way out the arch earlier. Normally it starts slow, but it's already packed right now," Oner said.

Multiple attendees told the Nexus that food was a key part of their experience. For first-year electrical engineering major Andrew Jeong, the cultural dishes were his favorite part of the event, including those from Korean and Taiwanese cuisines.

Iris Robidoux, a third-year biology major, said she enjoyed the diversity in cultures at the event. Robidoux appreciated learning from the various cultures present at the event, especially about the foods being served and their cultural significance.

"It's just so nice to be able to speak to everyone about their different cultures and then just see how happy everyone is. I think it's just a really eye-opening event," Robidoux said.

Throughout the market, student organizations sold art, taught Asian board games including mahjong and performed dances. Being in an indoor space with a raised platform was described by Oner as providing a more intimate and personal feel that added to the ambience of performances.

"It's really nice to feel represented, like our cultures being represented throughout," performer and third-year computer science major Krystelle Baluyot said.

Oner emphasized that she believes the event brought the culture that she missed from home to campus.

"When you get to college, it's kind of hard to find a community without clubs and I kind of missed all the cultural events and stuff back home. So finding a group of friends was really nice," Oner said.

# Students take a midterm break at Chi-Chella

**Sanjana Lingam**  
Reporter

The Residential Housing Association Council of San Miguel, San Nicolas, Santa Cruz, Anacapa and Santa Rosa halls came together to host their annual Chi-Chella event on April 25, 2026.

Chi-Chella is hosted annually during midterm season for students living in residence halls, where students can relieve stress by celebrating the upcoming spring season. Attendees were offered a variety of food such as macaroni salad, beef brisket with gravy, katsu-styled eggplant and soda. This year's event was hosted on the San Nicolas and San Miguel lawn.

Student Leadership Program Advisor, Matt Ortega, said Chi-Chella is an "ongoing tradition" which helps form community and increases involvement on campus.

His colleague, Assistant Resident Director Leo Ayala, said the festival was present when he was a freshman at UCSB in 2021. He hopes the weather will be better for next year and that more student bands are involved in future Chi-Chellas.

Resident Assistants (RAs) volunteered to get pied by dorm residents. Second-year San Nicolas RA and psychological & brain sciences major Jack Hubschmitt said he had "a blast."

"Getting pied is completely voluntary and gets the residents to come out to get their undeserved justice," Hubschmitt said.

Fellow RAs, second-year biochemistry and applied mathematics double major Campbell Cleveland and fourth-year political science major Decker O'Steen, were pied by their residents. The event also had a photobooth, cotton candy and popcorn station.

The drizzle and cold weather did not stop any of the housing residents from coming out and showing support for their friends on the lawn. First-year computer

engineering major Kartik Rai said he appreciated the event for bringing positivity to the midterm season.

"I heard the music, and there was nothing much going on for me on a Saturday, but this event [lightened] the mood with midterm season going on," Rai said.

First-year biology major Vivia Troncoso explained how the weather didn't hinder her enjoyment of the event.

"I love the entertainment, it's a bummer that the weather turned out to be colder, but the hall council truly worked hard to keep the event entertaining and fun for everyone," Troncoso said.

There were many members involved within the Santa Barbara community who showed up to support the students, including Maria and Israel Galindo, who went to support their son in one of Isla Vista's bands, playing "Dreams" by Fleetwood Mac.

The event included live performances from campus a cappella groups Brothas From Otha Mothas (BFOM) and Ravaani, as well as local Isla Vista bands.

Michael Ang, third-year English



RAs volunteered to get pied by dorm residents.

major and president of BFOM, an all-inclusive male a cappella group, mentioned that the club started in 2003 and hopes to gain more members in the upcoming years. Similarly, Ravaani, a South Asian fusion a cappella group, performed at the event in hopes of recruiting new members.

"We love choosing any opportunity to perform on campus to get the name out, which is technically good for recruitment because everyone on our team feels like family because of how close we all are to each other," fourth-year biology major and Ravaani member Aditii Srinivasan said.

To celebrate the spirit of a carnival, the hall councils brought a vaudevillian to perform for students. Alex Bistrevsky, the vaudevillian for the festival, felt that the circus tricks eased up many individuals' stressors and tensions that were floating around.

"Many people can be intimidated by being first-years with making friends on campus and finding their own way independently," Bistrevsky said. "For me, the circus was an accident, but I do love spreading joy and passion as they're infectious."



Alex Bistrevsky felt that the circus tricks eased tensions of students during midterms.

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# SPORTS

## Colin Beazizo's steady rise within UCSB baseball

Roxy Padilla  
Sports Reporter

For UC Santa Barbara junior outfielder Colin Beazizo, baseball has been a constant in his life long before the intensity of college baseball.

Beazizo was first introduced to the game at a young age by his father, who would set up a tee for him to practice and subsequently "nap in the yard." For Beazizo, these small moments are what sparked his career in baseball.

What started as a casual game with his dad turned into something more serious. By the time Beazizo entered high school, he began to envision a future for himself in baseball.

That sense of determination was reinforced by the people around him, particularly those who helped shape his growth beyond just performance. When asked about the most influential figure in his career, Beazizo mentioned his summer

ball coach, Wade Perkins, without hesitation, calling him "100%" the biggest influence. For Beazizo, Perkins was more than just a coach, but "a major mentor as a ballplayer and as a man" who left a lasting impact on his development.

Now in his junior season with the Gauchos, Beazizo has translated those early experiences into consistent production.

After playing 29 games, he is batting .325 with 25 hits, 13 RBIs and a .449 on base percentage, providing a steady presence in the line up. His ability to deliver in key moments has stood out throughout the season, including a 3-hit performance against UC Irvine on April 19, where he recorded a double, a triple and 2 runs scored. The following day he added a home run against California Baptist University further highlighting his ability to contribute across multiple games.

Beazizo has also shown flashes

of impact in other moments of the season, including a 2-RBI performance against the University of California and several multi-hit games that have helped maintain offensive momentum. In the field, he has remained reliable, recording 38 putouts with a .927 fielding percentage.

While his approach on the field is defined by consistency and focus, Beazizo's personality still comes through in subtle ways. Each time he steps to the plate, with his walk up song "Smooth Operator," a fitting choice that adds a sense of confidence to his batting.

From playing tee with his dad to competing at the NCAA Division I level, Beazizo's path has been shaped by steady growth, strong mentorship and a clear commitment to the game. As his junior season continues, that foundation remains evident in both his performance and presence on the field.



Outfielder Colin Beazizo swings for the fences.

## Gauchos emerge victorious, bring home Big West Title

Izabella Nickerson  
Staff Writer

After winning the Big West regular-season championship earlier this month, the UC Santa Barbara women's tennis team headed into the Big West tournament as the No. 1 seed. UCSB beat both California State University, Long Beach in the semifinals and California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo in the championship match.

Traveling to San Diego, the Gauchos were moved immediately to the semifinals. Ranked No. 50 with a 17-8 overall record and 9-0 Big West, the Gauchos began the weekend against CSU Long Beach (14-11, 5-4 Big West) on Friday, April 24, at Barnes Tennis Center.

**April 24:** Off to a slow start in the doubles matches, the Gauchos narrowly lost the doubles point. Finishing first, sophomore Lily Pradkin and graduate student Shanelle Iaconi defeated the Beach 6-4. Sophomore Emma Tutoveanu and freshman My-Anh Holmes followed, losing 3-6. With the doubles point on the line, junior Ekua Youri and freshman Caroline Beard played a close match, losing 6-7, sending the match to a tiebreaker, which they lost 3-7.

Heading into the singles matches, the Beach led 1-0. Finishing first, Iaconi shifted the

momentum, dominating on court six where she scored a 7-5, 6-0 victory.

However, the Beach regained the lead and took another victory against sophomore Raphaelle Leroux, who lost 2-6, 4-6. Trailing, the Gauchos came back in on courts four and one. Pradkin dominated 6-1, 6-3, and Youri narrowly clinched the match 7-5, 6-4.

With a Gaucho 3-2 advantage, the Beach closed in. Forcing a 3-3 tie on court three, Tutoveanu lost 5-7, came back to win the second set 7-6 (7-2), yet lost the third set 3-6.

With a spot in the finals on the line, all eyes turned to court two, where freshman Isabella Wong rallied back after losing the first set 2-6. Staying strong, she won the next two sets 6-4 and 7-6 (7-4).

Ending in a close victory, the Gauchos beat the Beach 4-3 and prepared for the finale on Saturday, April 25, against Cal Poly.

**April 25:** Saturday's match against Cal Poly (13-10, 7-2 Big West) featured a 4-3 win from the Gauchos.

The Gauchos dominated early, securing the doubles point. First, and Holmes and Youri won at 6-1. Iaconi followed

Tutoveanu secured Pradkin and with a loss of 3-6. Youri

and Beard finished it off with a 6-4 win on court one.

With an early 1-0 advantage, the singles matches were a give-and-take battle for the championship title. Youri began with a win on court one, 6-3, 6-1. Leading 2-0, Cal Poly fought back with a win on court two against Wong, who lost 4-6, 1-6.

Ahead by one, Tutoveanu reclaimed Gaucho dominance. Winning the first set 6-4, she fell short in the second 2-6 but regained momentum, winning the third 6-1.

Leading 3-1, attention turned to court four, where Pradkin fought hard but lost the match 3-6, 6-7 (1-7) in a second-set tiebreaker. With confidence dwindling, Holmes fought hard on court five, pushing the match to three sets, yet couldn't pull out the win at 3-6, 6-3 and 2-6.

With a 3-all tie and reigning Mustang momentum, the victory was determined by Leroux on court six. With all eyes on her court, Leroux conceded the first set 4-6 but climbed back up to deliver a powerful 6-2 and 6-1 victory.

Marking the end of the 2025-26 UCSB women's tennis season, they delivered a final blow against the rival Mustangs and pulled through with a tough 4-3 championship victory.

The Gauchos' last championship was won in 2022, where they beat Cal Poly 4-1.



COURTESY OF UCSB ATHLETICS

## TICKETS PUNCHED



**UCSB men's tennis will face No. 15 seed University of San Diego in the first round of the 2026 NCAA Men's Tennis Championship.**

**UCSB women's tennis will face No. 11 seed Pepperdine University in the first round of the 2026 NCAA Women's Tennis Championship.**

COURTESY OF UCSB ATHLETICS

## Gauchos eliminated by Tritons in Big West Championship opener

Izabella Nickerson  
Staff Writer

During their final tournament of the season, No. 4 seed UC Santa Barbara men's volleyball headed to UC Irvine's Bren Events Center on Thursday, April 23, to face No. 5 seed UC San Diego in the first round of the 2026 Big West Men's Volleyball Championship. The Gauchos fought hard but fell, losing 0-3.

This past season, the Gauchos have faced the Tritons twice, on March 6 and April 18, winning both matches 3-2.

Off to a rough start, the Gauchos trailed 2-10 early in the first set. Digging deep, they climbed back to within five at 15-20 but could not

overcome the deficit, losing 19-25. Notably, sophomore outside hitter Ethan Saint hit a set high of 5 kills.

Entering the second set, the Gauchos regained their confidence with a 4-0 lead fueled by kills from Saint, junior middle blocker Josh Aruya and sophomore outside hitter George Bruening. The Tritons resurfaced and tied the game at 13-13. Trading points, the Gauchos held on until the Tritons took a 19-17 lead.

The Gauchos came back to claim the next 4 points with Bruening at the service line, hitting 2 aces. Ahead 21-19, the Tritons pulled away on a 5-0 streak. With the Tritons reaching set point at 24-21, the Gauchos pushed back with a

kill by Bruening. Down 22-24, the Tritons took the victory with a kill, claiming the set 25-22. On a roll, Saint finished the second set with a combined total of 11 kills.

With a spot in the semifinals on the line, the third set began with the Gauchos and Tritons neck-and-neck. Tied until 9-9, the Tritons went on a 4-point streak. Behind 13-16, the Gauchos came back to lead 17-16 with kills by Saint, Bruening and Aruya. Tied again at 17-17, the Tritons fought back, fueling another winning streak. Behind 17-20, the Gauchos fought to gain momentum. With the match on the line, the Gauchos closed in at 21-22 and 22-23 with help from a kill by junior setter Cole Schobel. Winning

the next 2 points, the Tritons earned their ticket to the semifinals with a service ace.

The Tritons then moved on to the second round and lost to No. 1 seed University of Hawai'i 1-3 on Friday, April 24.

In their final match of the season, Saint led with 13 kills, followed by 9 from Bruening and 6 from Aruya. Schobel reached 9 digs and 25 assists, and sophomore outside hitter Riggs Guy contributed 19 service receptions.

Despite a tough closing match against the Tritons, the UCSB men's volleyball team showed its durability during the 2025-26 season in a 3-2 win against No. 5 UC Irvine on March 13.

COURTESY OF UCSB ATHLETICS



# COLUMNISTS

## sex and the community



JULIET BECKER / DAILY NEXUS

Diana Paradise  
Sexpert

Any true lover of sex knows that the location matters not. The bed, the couch, the ZBT bathroom – the world truly is your oyster (or your clam, I should say).

Despite the stereotype that college is the best place for sexual exploration, Isla Vista life poses many challenges to crazy sex that do not occur so frequently in the adult world: roommates, non-functional door locks and, worst of all, twin beds. Many Gauchos have the privilege of graduating to a double bed once they move out of the dorms and into IV., but it may surprise you to discover that yours truly sleeps (in every sense of the word) on a twin XL.

As someone who has enjoyed the spoils of sleeping on a king bed in my childhood bedroom, the downgrade to my dorm-level bed is obvious: worse sleep, worse dreams and worse sex. Even more treacherous was my bed in my San Miguel triple freshman year that was about six inches away from the ceiling and constantly on the verge of falling apart.

However, do not let your bed limit your greatest sexual years. Whether you live in a dorm, apartment complex, house or garage, you can still get the greatest dick of your life.

### 1. Different positions for different places

This might be most important for my dorm lifers. Your bed is likely squeaky, impossible to

## How to have California king-level sex on a twin XL

sit up in and five feet off the ground. It depends on your dorm and your setup, but in my room, it was practically impossible to have sex in any position other than missionary and a very close prone.

My greatest advice is as follows: if you want to do anything actually interesting, you have to get creative. The dorm bed ladder can actually be shockingly convenient (plenty to grab onto). Throwing your comforter on the floor can create a makeshift bed with more space. Besides, it's easier to ride on the floor when you don't have to deal with pushing into the mattress.

Even the dreaded anti-suicide chairs present a range of possibilities. If you're lucky enough to live in a room with space, you might even have a cute bean bag or a stylish Target chair or some bullshit.

Don't feel confined to the bed! If you want intimate missionary, that's the place to have it. But bring the craziness elsewhere.

### 2. Stand the fuck up

For those of us who have access to the luxury of a stand-alone bed, standing up is an underrated tool for maximizing your space and sexual pleasure. Standing missionary, if that's the right word for it, is frequently better than the normal thing. Same with standing doggy.

Also, standing head is an underrated sexual act that can

happen literally anywhere. The norms of sex are so lying-down centric, but standing completely changes the game. You also don't have to deal with so much space negotiation.

### 3. Get creative with toys

An "Inside Out"-level core memory of mine was with my male Instagram baddie influencer Parisian sneaky link when he told me, "Une entreprise m'a envoyé une boîte à jouets," or "a brand sent me a toy box." As it was one month away from Christmas, he then proceeded to bring out a PR package: the famous sex toy advent calendar. The cherry on top of this situation was "Careless Whisper" playing on the TV.

While this man did not sleep on a twin XL, the array of sex toys offered a lot of creativity that didn't require much space. When you're crammed into your tiny bed that's six inches away from the ceiling, activities like oral can be more logistically difficult. More options = more options!

All in all, it will be difficult to recreate honeymoon-level California king insanity in your dorm or on your shitty Amazon twin bedframe. You need to have creativity, patience and willingness to experiment in your relationship ... or with many different people.

*Diana Paradise thinks that size isn't that important.*

## put me on aux

JULIET BECKER / DAILY NEXUS



Siobhan Stewart  
Beat Reporter

## Bring back UNCTIONS

The Isla Vista music scene is nothing but consistent. You walk down the block and you're bound to hear house music, rap music, "2010" throwbacks, surf rock, reggae or country music. No matter where the night takes you – Del Playa, a frat, a house party, a casual stroll, one thing that is certain: the aux and the stage belong to college students. The bubble of IV's music scene is small, predictable and needs to be popped.

On Friday, April 24, I went to a band party and instead of seeing the average young adult performing, I found myself in front of the saxophonist Dr. Todd Forman of Sublime. He was performing with a group of older guys in a band called Peter Sellers. A refreshing change.

They were playing an infusion of country and rock, the type of culture and history that comes from people older than 20. Beyond their talent, their collective knowledge on music produces a magical, rich sound. Watching someone who actually lived the history of the music they were playing, surrounded by a crowd of Gen Z, felt like a glitch in the UC Santa Barbara simulation. It wasn't just a party; it was a "unction" – an unc-function. And honestly? We need to bring them back.

IV. has a real visibility problem. We are trapped in a bubble where the "oldest" person you see is a 23-year-old super senior or the occasional professor biking to campus. The "unction" breaks this bubble. There is a specific kind of soul and technical mastery that comes with age, like seeing a saxophone player who has been touring since before we were born.

Dr. Todd was not performing to try and impress some record company or some producer. This was someone who already found it, lost it, rediscovered it and made peace with a long way. That kind of artistry has a gravitational pull that is different from any college band, no matter how talented.

This is not a dig at student musicians. IV. is full of talented young artists from all kinds of backgrounds. However, talent alone does not equal depth. The storytelling, the nuance, the ability to make every note feel like it carries weight – that only comes from a lifetime of experiences we are still accumulating.

It is exactly what is missing from our music scene. When every performer is around the same age, with the same cultural references, you get the same kind of noise: familiar, comfortable and ultimately predictable. The kind that starts to

echo one another in different forms. The same sound, weekend after weekend.

The "unction" breaks that cycle. It rewrites the script entirely. It makes things feel new and exciting. When older musicians show up in IV. spaces, they show how it's done without lecturing. They simply play from experience and shift the energy in the room. They become something rare in Isla Vista: real, living models for the aspiring artists in the crowd.

Not a coach or a lesson from a micro-influencer, but someone standing right in front of you proving what dedication to a craft looks like over a lifetime. There is an intergenerational electricity that happens when someone on stage has lived a life that the audience is only just beginning to imagine. They open people's eyes to what could be.

That Friday night was proof of it. Standing with a crowd of college students and everyone genuinely present in the moment. Whether they were listening with a beer in their hand or dancing with their friends, everyone was living in the "now." The music they were hearing could possibly be found online but the experience of the band, the performers and the fresh atmosphere could never be replicated.

This being said, Isla Vista should continue to foster its abundance of young artists. The parties, the frats and the student bands should not be abandoned. There will always be the usual Zach Bryan, Bob Marley and FISHER on aux. They are part of the IV. culture and they are not going anywhere.

However, there is so much room to explore and expand. Our music scene could be so much bigger if we looked outside of our predicted performers. Inviting older musicians into our spaces creates cross-generational events that don't just change the playlist, they change the culture.

Most of us spend four years in this bubble, and most of us graduate having only ever been entertained by people our own age. The unction reminds us that there is a whole world of music, experience and artistry on the other side of the bubble that should be let in. Dr. Todd was only here for one night, but what he left behind was something worth thinking about: What are we missing by only ever listening to ourselves?

*Siobhan Stewart believes aux is a privilege, not a right.*

## what we keep wearing: Capris

JULIET BECKER / DAILY NEXUS



Arna Churiwala  
Fashionista

There are few clothing items more capable of starting an argument than capri pants.

Mention them in a group chat and someone will immediately call them unflattering. Someone else will insist they belong exclusively to suburban moms at Target. Another person will bring up Ashley Tisdale in 2007, wearing low-rise white capris with a chunky belt and a giant handbag, as if that alone should end the conversation forever.

And yet – despite all of that – they're back.

Lately, capri pants have quietly returned to campus, just in time for spring. Black cigarette capris paired with ballet flats on the walk to lecture. Slim white cropped pants with kitten heels and oversized sunglasses that make someone look like they're headed to the South of France instead of section. Low-rise stretch capris with tiny tanks, styled somewhere between pilates instructor and early-2000s pop star.

Somehow, the most divisive pants in fashion are chic again.

Capris have always lived in an

awkward middle ground. The hem cuts off at mid-calf, a place fashion has long treated with suspicion. People love to argue that they "shorten the leg" or hit the least flattering point possible.

They're also undeniably a spring pant. Too transitional for winter, too structured for summer. Capris thrive in that specific stretch when everyone is dressing for sun but still carrying a cardigan. They're perfect for the season of drinking iced coffee, studying outdoors and romanticizing your walk to class.

Capri pants first rose to prominence in the 1950s, named after the Italian island of Capri, where they became associated with effortless European glamour. Think Audrey Hepburn in slim black cropped pants and ballet flats. Brigitte Bardot on the French Riviera. Grace Kelly in polished, tailored silhouettes that made capris feel elegant rather than practical.

They weren't casual – they were refined. A cigarette pant for vacation girls and women who looked impossibly put together at all times.

Then the 2000s got involved.

Capris lost some of that sleek sophistication and took on a louder, stranger life. Suddenly they were low-rise, stretchy, bedazzled and paired with halter tops and an alarming amount of chunky jewelry. Pop culture embraced them fully. Practically every paparazzi photo from 2004 to 2008 treated capris like a wardrobe necessity.

By the 2010s, skinny jeans took

over and capris were pushed aside. They became the kind of thing people joked about never wearing again, filed somewhere between plumeur tops and infinity scarves.

But fashion loves a comeback, especially when everyone swears something is dead.

Now, designers have brought capris back with far better PR.

At Miu Miu, slim cropped trousers feel sharp and slightly provocative, often paired with tiny knits and low heels that make the awkward hemline feel intentional. Ralph Lauren leans into quiet luxury with fitted black capris styled so minimally they look expensive by default.

The 2026 capri isn't trying to be cute. It's trying to be cool.

Instead of loud prints and excessive layering, the modern version works best when it feels clean. Less chaos, more control.

That's exactly why college students have picked them up again.

Capris fit into campus life in a strangely perfect way. They feed into the "model off-duty" look everyone is quietly trying to achieve while pretending they're not trying at all.

There's also something refreshing about a trend that isn't trying too hard to be sexy. Capri pants are feminine, but not in an obvious way. They're polished without being formal. Slightly conservative, slightly flirtatious and somehow practical and dramatic at once.

Capris suggest you have plans after class. That you might be going

to lunch, or on a study date or boarding a Vespa to nowhere in particular.

Of course, not all capris are created equal.

There's a version that works: slim black cigarette capris with a white tank and kitten heels. A soft linen pair with an oversized sweater and Mary Janes. Low-rise fitted capris with a baby tee and sunglasses that tie the whole look together.

And then there's the dangerous territory: shapeless athletic capris from middle school gym class. Cargo capris with too many pockets. Too-stiff material that makes the outfit feel like an accident.

The line between chic and suburban is thin.

That's part of what makes capris

so controversial. They require precision. Unlike jeans, they don't let you hide behind effortlessness. The wrong shoe ruins everything. The wrong length makes the silhouette collapse.

Fashion rarely rewards the universally flattering option. It rewards confidence, proportion and the willingness to wear something initially hate[[hated]]. The low-rise jeans filling your closet had the same comeback, at some point.

Capri pants are not forgiving. But maybe that's why they're interesting.

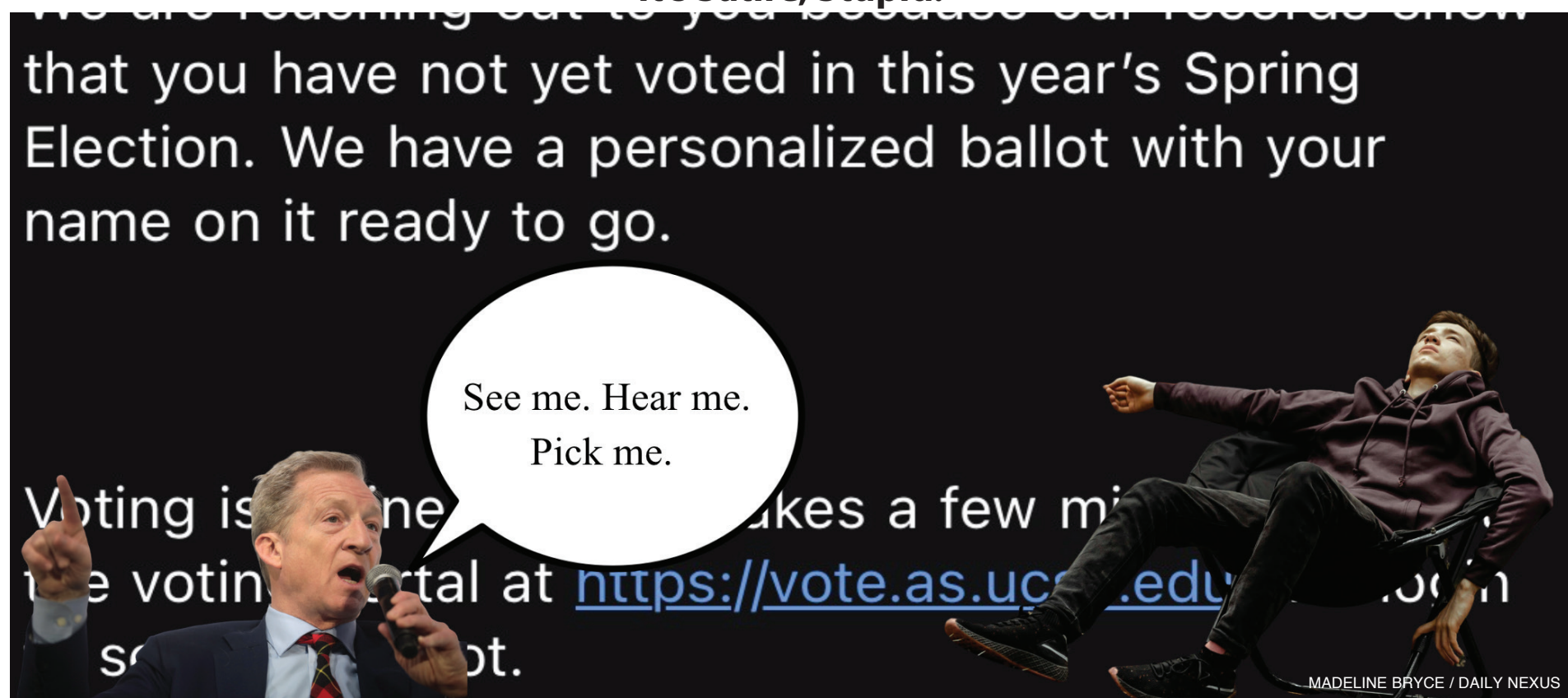
Sometimes the chicest thing you can wear is the piece everyone else insists they hate.

*Arna Churiwala will always defend a good pair of capris.*



# NEXUSTENTIALISM

It's Satire, Stupid.



## A.S. election, California gubernatorial race compete for irrelevancy

Joseph R. Biden  
*Political analyst*

The UC Santa Barbara spring election was supposed to close this past Thursday but was extended due to low voter turnout, with items on the ballot such as Associated Students offices and nothing else that anyone can name. As political discourse on campus surrounding the election is seemingly quieter than ever, it parallels a larger, but no more relevant, statewide race for the governor's seat.

The front-runner for the California governor's office was now-disgraced former Representative Eric Swalwell — thankfully, this country always takes sexual assault allegations very seriously, and he resigned from his position and ended his campaign.

Community members weighed in about who they think might be the next most-viable candidate

for the position.

"What?" second-year environmental studies major Nathan Perez said.

Not only were students passionate about the gubernatorial race and eager to talk about it, but high-profile political scholars are also debating fiercely about the topic.

"I really don't know. I haven't thought about it," distinguished professor and Department of Political Science Chair Susan Pandey said.

In order to generate voter turnout for the UCSB spring election, Associated Students (A.S.) senators threw a "Pizza and Politics" party in Storke Plaza on Monday. Almost the entire A.S. Senate was in attendance, along with several A.S. officers and other ambiguous nerds.

"We really hope this event will allow us to answer some questions that undecided voters have. We assume that

most people haven't voted because they're unsure about our policies, which are really complex and important to the student body. I can't wait to meet potential voters and get voter turnout up," second-year global studies major and College of Engineering Senator Catherine Stewart said.

Pizza and Politics ended up being the most successful A.S. event of the entire 2025-26 school year, garnering 12 attendees. The event featured two (2) Costco pizzas, some balloons, a "spin-to-win" wheel from which attendees could receive a free Jolly Rancher and three times more A.S. officials than attendees themselves.

Despite the event's smashing success, rumors on the ground suggest that the whopping 12 attendees may have been staged.

"I heard that the senators just told their friends to come. Senator Walker's situationship

was here earlier, but I think that she dumped him in the corner after seeing how boring it was," first-year biochemistry major and event onlooker Joshua Christian said.

Along with the A.S. event, alleged gubernatorial frontrunner Tom Steyer visited Santa Barbara recently for a town hall at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. With a crowd of around 300 people, the political engagement was higher than any recent event in Santa Barbara history.

"I liked him," Goleta community member John Chiou said. "I attended today because my wife wanted to."

When asked about Steyer's competition in the race, Chiou failed to name another candidate.

In order to get a young voter's perspective, we put out a search for sources on students with opinions on Steyer as a candidate. One student, third-

year English major Ethan Lane, responded.

"Is Tom Steyer the guy running for A.S. president? I'm not really sure about his position on I.V. cityhood," Lane said.

As students seemed torn about which election to care about less, we published a poll on Instagram where followers could vote for the race about which they cared the most. With over 800 views on the story, only six viewers voted in the poll. Three voted for the gubernatorial race, one voted for the UCSB spring election and two responded "neither."

Future events to generate voter engagement are allegedly on the horizon, including the "Tom Steyer for EVPLA Taco Tuesday" party this coming Friday. Stay tuned for more information.

*Joseph R. Biden only knows about the A.S.S. election.*

MADELINE BRYCE / DAILY NEXUS



## Top 5 most underrated UCSB eats

Mikaela St. James  
*Eater*

Are you tired of eating food from the same restaurants over and over again in Isla Vista? Look no further! While Isla Vista has limited restaurant options, there still are hidden gems waiting to be discovered. These are the most underrated restaurants only a handful of UC Santa Barbara students know about.

### 1. Wingstop

If you're looking for affordable wings, this is the place for you! Wingstop is a locally-owned restaurant hidden away in a low-key part of I.V. It has fast service times and consistently exceptional meals. It's such a shame that it isn't more popular!

### 2. Deja Vu Cafe

Deja Vu has a variety of food options and so many of them are really healthy for you. It would be such a great restaurant to go to when you're drunk, but it closes really early on weekends. This is

probably the reason why it's so underrated. While the food hits when you're drunk, it's actually the BEST when you're 100% sober.

### 3. Woodstock's Pizza

Everyone goes to Domino's Pizza in Isla Vista, but they never visit Woodstock's Pizza. The pizza is so fresh and always hits, but it's such a ghost town inside. Also, Domino's is the most expensive pizza place in Isla Vista. Woodstock's is so cheap you could feed families of 10 for less than \$10. You should highly consider taking 20 people to Woodstock's and offering to pay for everyone.

### 4. De La Guerra Dining Commons

You might be thinking to yourself, "Why is a dining hall on this list?" Well it serves food, doesn't it? It's also considered a restaurant on Google Maps. Despite it technically being a dining hall for students, it's heavily underrated and highly exclusive — you need to swipe your student ID card to get in.

It's basically as prestigious as Nobu and those other fancy niche restaurants in Los Angeles. DLG never has people in it and it has a variety of options. Ever yday, you have a cheese burrito, a chicken burrito AND a cheese and chicken burrito. What more could you ask for?

### 5. Freebirds

Freebirds is arguably the MOST underrated restaurant on this list. You should gatekeep it with your LIFE. They serve the cheapest and most delectable Mexican food ever, but NOBODY knows about it. It's almost like it doesn't even exist! If you ask anyone if they know what Freebirds is, they would tell you "no" without a doubt. If more people knew about Freebirds, it would be #1 on the most popular UCSB eats list. That will never happen though.

*Mikaela St. James has never been to any of these restaurants.*

MADELINE BRYCE / DAILY NEXUS



## Spoiled! Sugar daddy buys me granola on EBT

High Value Female  
*Hungry*

I know you guys just read the headline and are jealous. It's okay, you can just live vicariously through me.

Let me start at the beginning. Last week, I was swiping on Hinge in lecture when I matched with this 25-year-old Santa Barbara City College guy named Jaxon. I thought he would just be another moid on my roster, so I set up an FB (Freebirds) date later on that week.

Frankly, at first I thought he was a bit of a bum. There were strange yellow stains on his shirt, he had dusty feet in his flip flops and his knees were ash. Despite this, I did not walk out on our date. Instead, I waited in the FB line for 30 minutes to get my \$27 burrito.

That's when I saw it: that beautiful card adorned with the California coast. As he reached into his wallet, I saw it peeking out, begging to be used. It was hard to contain myself; my hands were shaking

as I paid for my own food. This guy had money.

"Fuck I'm so hungryyy ... like I have nothing at home. I spend so much on rent ... I have like no food in my house ..." I bemoaned, hoping he would pick up on what I was putting down.

"Oh like if you want I could get you something with my EBT type shit," my dreamy prince said back.

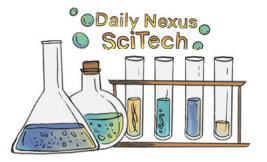
At once we made off to Isla Vista Market, my hand in his chalky grip. As we danced the aisles, I settled upon the Takis Fiesta Size bag, but he redirected me to a healthier option (always looking out for me): a bag of honey oat granola. We checked out, and I knew in my heart that he was the one.

"So like, what do I get for the granola type shit haha?" he asked.

Everything, Jaxon. Everything.

*High Value Female hopes you find a love like hers one day.*

# SCIENCE & TECH



## The efficiency trap: When assistive AI values the worker over the human



COURTESY OF SOULPAGE IT SOLUTIONS

Sophia DeMoe  
Reporter

From artificial intelligence-enhanced mobile aides to real-time American Sign Language translation, artificial intelligence innovations can improve the quality of life of disabled individuals by increasing their independence.

Artificial Intelligence powered exoskeletons now use simultaneous localization and mapping to navigate complex crowds, predictive text models can now describe tone and slang and apps can be trained to identify personal objects such as keys, medication bottles and remotes.

These technological advancements have made substantial impacts on the disabled community, as they support autonomy and reduce the labor required to navigate a society that does not prioritize accessibility.

Research shows that AI is integrating into the Assistive Technologies (AT) field at a rapid rate along a growing commercial market, gaining increased attention from tech companies, activist scholars and investment firms alike.

According to the World Economic Forum, the market for global assistive technology is expected to be worth \$31.22 billion by 2030, a massive increase from \$22.43 billion

in 2025. While this rapid growth signals significant technological innovation with the ability to immensely improve people's lives, it also positions technological progress as a lucrative commercial opportunity. The question then lies, who is benefiting?

In a multi-billion dollar industry, the pressure to be "first to market" often ignores the value of true, individualized, inclusive design. Through this process, developers rely on datasets to train AI on standardized movements, speech and behavioral patterns. Since datasets prioritize dominant patterns of speech, movement and interaction, they ultimately

fail to capture the diverse range of ways people communicate and move through the world, trading unique ways of expression for standardization.

Furthermore, development priorities increasingly reflect the values of efficiency and commercial viability. Assistive tech is more likely to get funded if it relies on the promise of increased productivity.

There is a disproportionate investment in technologies aiming to "fix" the individual for the sake of the workplace, rather than technologies that give greater access to joy, community and creativity, the very things that let people express their humanity.

This is not to say that AI has no place in assistive technology. When these products are developed correctly and intentionally, they serve as vital resources to access a world that is disproportionately inaccessible for those with disabilities.

However, we need to integrate technology that adapts to the person, not people that adapt to standardized assistive technology.

Our current system prioritizes efficiency, productivity and innovation at the expense of personal autonomy, user privacy and the real experience of the people these advancements are meant to serve.

## To smoke weed or not to smoke weed, that is the question

Chase Stevens-Scanlan  
Reporter

Legendary rapper and prolific smoker Snoop Dogg once said "The more medicated, the more dedicated." But how does weed really affect us and how can we navigate its use in a safe way? Here at UC Santa Barbara, it's safe to assume that most students have stumbled upon kush at some point or another. However, with the sweeping national legalization of the drug, the trend is reaching more Americans than ever.

According to The New York Times, 42% of U.S. adults under 30 reported that they used marijuana in 2024, although some surveys report higher. That number was 29% for people ages 35-50. Despite these relatively high numbers of use of the drug, there are all sorts of speculations on its effects. The spectrum of opinion stretches from it being demonic (the "devil's lettuce") to it having health and well-being benefits; so, where along that spectrum is the truth?

To understand weed's potential risks, it's important to first understand what is actually happening within the human body when the drug is smoked or ingested. The main psychoactive compound in cannabis is tetrahydrocannabinol – often abbreviated as THC – which acts on CBI cannabinoid receptors that are abundant in the brain. These receptors play a role in the pathways that regulate cognition, emotional responses, reward, pain processing and motivation. Acute THC exposure causes dopamine release in that reward pathway. When it comes to excessive use, dopamine signaling is weakened and reward processing is altered, meaning the brain becomes less responsive to normal rewards and more tuned to drug-related cues.

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) reports that chronic marijuana usage is associated with dysfunction in the brain's prefrontal cortex and connected striatal circuits. These regions are responsible for impulse control, planning,

decision-making and regulating behavior. This raises concerns for control over craving or destructive behavior. Another area of the brain that long-term cannabis use has been observed to affect is the amygdala, where stress-related neurocircuits are housed.

Changes from sustained exposure include increased negative affect, anxiety and irritability. So, marijuana doesn't just affect the reward system, but also emotional regulation circuits. The takeaway from the neurological profile is that the risks are definitely there in terms of emotional and mental dysregulation, but they are primarily associated with sustained and frequent use rather than occasional recreational use.

So what's up with this sustained and frequent use situation? It is often thrown around

that marijuana is non-addictive, in contrast to objectively dangerous illicit substances like cocaine or heroin.

However, the NIH concluded that cannabis produces a clinically recognizable addictive disorder and fits into established neurobiological models of addiction. Cannabis Use Disorder (CUD) operates on the classic three-stage addiction model driven by changes in brain structure: binge/intoxication, withdrawal/negative and preoccupation/anticipation.

Withdrawal symptoms include irritability, anxiety, sleep problems and reduced appetite. So, CUD

should be a genuine concern when indulging.

Still, everything is relative. It's important to note when discussing addiction that the concept isn't limited to stereotypical illicit drugs. Caffeine and sugar are addictive substances that can have negative effects when abused as

well, so labeling marijuana as addictive doesn't necessarily make it comparable to heroin. Rather, the possibility of becoming addicted to marijuana is simply another factor to consider when making choices about frequency of use. In terms of long-term effects, the glaring American conclusion is that marijuana is not as harmful as sustained tobacco or alcohol use. This fallacy excusing marijuana use actually has quite a bit of merit. Sustained tobacco or alcohol use is proven to be directly correlated with physical disease, neurological disease and mortality.

Marijuana, on the other hand, is linked to potential neurodevelopmental and mental health issues like mood and anxiety disorders when regularly used longitudinally. This harm-profile is notably different. While there are objectively negative effects of smoking weed, from a physical health standpoint it is generally considered to be a safer guilty pleasure.

Where we should draw the lines, though, is with adolescents. While weed's risks are for the most part limited to CUD complications, the risks are much more consistent and serious for adolescents. A study at the University of Buffalo followed adolescents over time and found that marijuana usage between the ages 12 to 14 significantly predicted lower attentional control later in life and found a correlation with poorer inhibitory control in late adolescence.

These results are likely due to the vulnerable period for cognitive development during the early teens, as the impulsive and emotional limbic system matures more rapidly than rational regions of the brain like the prefrontal cortex. A review by the Laboratory for Applications of Remote Sensing (LARS) Research Institute and George Mason University reported that youth marijuana use is associated with cognitive impairment, poorer psychosocial adjustment and increased likelihood of later substance abuse or psychiatric disorders.

Ultimately, the public's cautious but relatively permissive attitude towards the effects of weed reflects the uncertainty embedded in its current research. In a field plagued by both alarmism and casual dismissal, the best choice is to understand the nuanced science and recognize the limitations of your own body and brain before you decide to hit the joint.



COURTESY OF SPOTIFY



# LA VISTA



## Conectados, pero comparándonos: el impacto de las redes sociales

Ana Ramirez  
Escritora para La Vista

Hoy en día, las redes sociales forman parte de nuestra vida diaria.

Plataformas como Instagram o TikTok nos permiten compartir momentos, expresarnos y mantenernos conectados con otras personas.

No estoy diciendo que sean malas, porque yo también uso las redes sociales, pero siento que están afectando a muchas personas tanto mental como emocionalmente.

Uno de los mayores problemas es la comparación constante.

Muchas veces vemos a personas que crean contenido y muestran una vida aparentemente perfecta: viajes, logros, felicidad y éxito.

Sin darnos cuenta, comenzamos a compararnos con ellos y a pensar que nuestra vida no es suficiente o que deberíamos ser diferentes.

Sin embargo, lo que vemos en redes sociales no es la realidad completa.

La mayoría de las personas

solo comparte lo mejor de su vida, pero no muestran los momentos difíciles, los errores o las luchas personales.

Esto crea una imagen irreal que puede hacernos sentir inseguros o presionados por alcanzar algo que no siempre es real.

He escuchado a muchas personas decir que quieren verse o vivir como alguien más en redes sociales.

Pero eso puede generar estrés innecesario.

Cada persona es diferente, con su propia historia, sus propios tiempos y sus propias metas.

No tiene sentido compararnos, porque nadie está viviendo exactamente la misma vida.

Además, esta comparación puede hacernos perder el enfoque en lo que realmente importa.

En lugar de valorar lo que tenemos o lo que hemos logrado, nos enfocamos en lo que nos falta y siento que eso no está bien porque se están haciendo daño.

Esto puede afectar nuestra

autoestima y nuestra forma de vernos a nosotros mismos.

El uso constante de redes sociales también puede generar ansiedad, estrés y sentimientos de insuficiencia, ya que muchas personas sienten presión por encajar en ciertos estándares de belleza o éxito.

Con el tiempo, esto puede influir negativamente en la salud mental, haciendo que las personas se sientan tristes,

inseguras o insatisfechas con su vida. Creo que es importante aprender a usar las redes sociales con equilibrio.

No se trata de dejar de usarlas, sino de entender que lo que vemos en las redes sociales no define nuestra realidad.

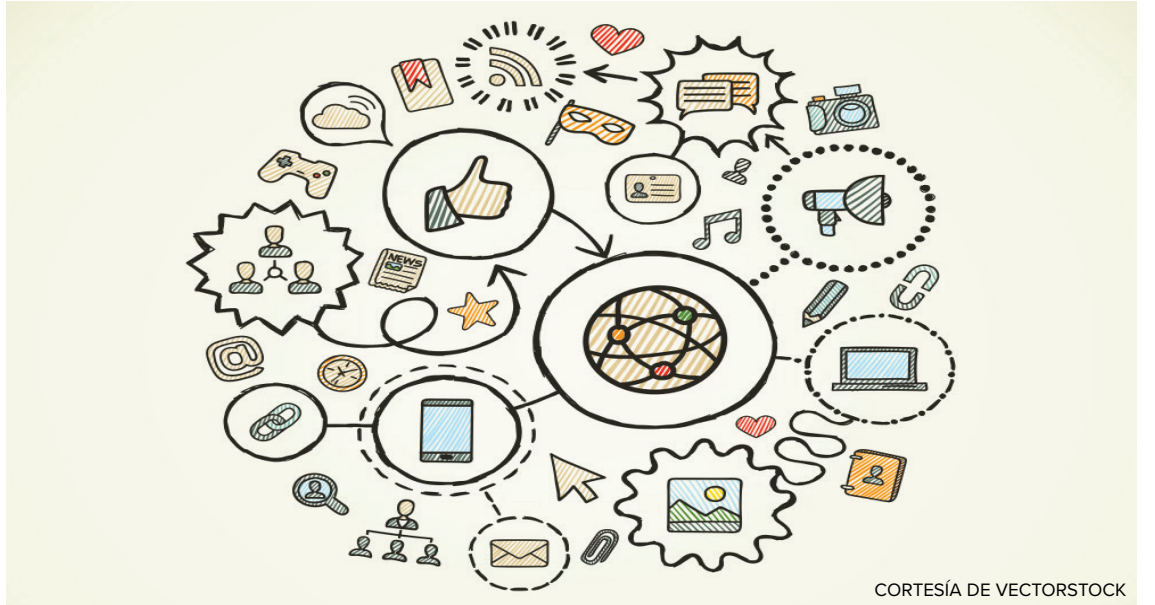
También es importante recordar que no necesitamos ser como los demás para ser valiosos.

En lugar de compararnos,

deberíamos enfocarnos en ser nosotros mismos. Aceptar quiénes somos, valorar nuestro proceso y entender que cada vida es única.

Al final del día, lo más importante no es tener una vida perfecta en redes sociales, sino sentirnos bien con quiénes somos en la vida real.

No pensar que queremos ser como otras personas, porque cada uno de nosotros es único.



CORTESÍA DE VECTORSTOCK

## El eterno retorno: *ad infinitum*

Azucena Sanchez  
Editora para La Vista

Nunca planeo mis días.

Ni siquiera tengo alarmas para mis clases ni un calendario para la semana.

Mis días se desarrollan tal y como yo decido.

Así que, si elijo ir a clase o salir con mis amigos, no es porque lo tengo apuntado en mi agenda, sino porque así lo he decidido.

Así que, en realidad, tengo una opción.

Pero lo interesante de esta opción es que, pase lo que pase, mi decisión nunca fue realmente mía desde el principio.

Tengo la mentalidad de que pueden pasar muchas cosas en el espacio de un minuto, que todo es posible en esos sesenta segundos.

O puede que no pase nada en absoluto.

Esos sesenta segundos quedarán en nada, vacíos en el sentido de que no sucederá nada grandioso en ese tiempo.

Sin embargo, algo grandioso puede suceder más adelante.

En un año.

O en un mes.

O en una semana.

O en una tarde cualquiera de jueves.

No puedo anticipar ese momento.

En mi mente, no existe.

No puedo evocar ese gran momento.

En mi mente, lo único que existe es el presente.

El ahora.

Para mí, el pasado fue hace unos segundos, pero eso

también fue el presente para mí, y el ahora es también el futuro.

Así que, en realidad, el tiempo, a mi modo de ver, no tiene sentido.

Puede doblarse y moldearse como decidamos, pero pase lo que pase, seguirá avanzando.

No el tiempo en sí mismo, sino nosotros.

Este universo en su conjunto.

Sin embargo, creo que solo existimos en el tiempo, así que sin tiempo, no existimos.

Pero al mismo tiempo, ¿es el tiempo solo la forma en que experimentamos la existencia, y no la razón de ella?

Puede sonar contradictorio, pero en realidad, todo es contradictorio.

Por ejemplo, Albert Einstein, físico y activista de origen alemán, creía en un momento que el universo era estático.

Y no fue hasta 1931, con el descubrimiento del científico Edwin Hubble de que las galaxias se alejaban de nosotros, lo que sugería que el universo se está expandiendo, que Einstein abandonó su teoría anterior.

Así que, en realidad, todo en la vida es bastante contradictorio.

Una de las cosas que me preocupan de esto es que, sin importar lo que piense sobre el tiempo, sigo volviendo y, por desgracia, siempre volveré a la idea del Eterno Retorno.

Ese "tarde o temprano" ya está escrito en las estrellas.

Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche, filósofo y escritor alemán, dio vida a la noción de que la vida es un ciclo, una repetición eterna.

Nietzsche no fue exactamente el creador de esta idea, ya

que la idea de que la vida es cíclica se había introducido anteriormente en el mundo antiguo, no sólo por filósofos orientales, sino también por pensadores griegos como Empédocles y los estoicos.

Sin embargo, él tenía una perspectiva diferente sobre la teoría: postuló que cada parte de la historia sería idéntica, que la vida nunca puede cambiar.

Ni siquiera el más mínimo de los cambios puede causar un cambio en la existencia ya establecida de la vida.

Esta idea me sumerge constantemente en una desesperación eterna.

No dejo de dar vueltas a los pensamientos sobre el libre albedrío y el destino.

Ya no sé cuál es el sentido de mi vida.

Ni siquiera sé si tengo un propósito en esta vida.

Y esta idea en sí misma capta mi atención una y otra vez.

Es una plaga de pensamientos que no logran abandonar mi mente ya atormentada.

Que no importa lo que haga, lo que deseo cambiar, no tengo libertad de voluntad real.

Puede que te parezca un poco desalentador y que pienses que esto es bastante triste.

Que estoy preso de mi propia mente, y tal vez tengas razón.

Pero aún así aprecio esta idea porque no tengo preocupaciones reales.

Si soy sincera, aunque me atormenta la teoría del eterno retorno, sigo sintiéndome satisfecha al saber que mi vida sigue un guión preestablecido.

Y no lo veo precisamente

como algo negativo; a veces sí, después de todo la contradicción forma parte de la vida, pero lo veo más bien como que soy "afortunada".

Tengo la mentalidad de que, pase lo que pase, mi futuro estará bien.

Que yo estaré bien.

Que, haga lo que haga, nunca me sucederá nada malo.

¿Estoy seguro de que este ciclo mio terminará con éxito?

No, no exactamente.

¿Esto también me lleva a caer en una espiral de muchas preguntas para las que, desafortunadamente, no tengo respuesta?

Sí, absolutamente.

Por un lado, permito que mi propia vida esté escrita en las estrellas.

Mi vida, mi persona misma, puede estar destinada al fracaso o al éxito.

Puedo experimentar la misma vida una y otra vez, por toda la eternidad.

Pero también, esto me asusta.

Siento como si estuviera atrapado en un ciclo que nunca pedí y eso también me asusta, porque la idea de un Eterno Retorno no es solo para los individuos, sino también para el universo.

Que de la misma manera exacta en que hubo un Big Bang, habrá un colapso.

Y esto se llama el Big Crunch, una teoría cosmológica sobre el fin del universo.

Una teoría en la que creen los astrofísicos: que la expansión del universo acabará por reducirse, hasta el punto de que comience a revertirse debido a

las fuerzas de la gravedad.

Toda la materia del universo volverá a acumularse, pasando una vez más por el ciclo del Big Bang, justo donde todo comenzó.

Todo el proceso de la vida humana se repetirá.

Esto contradice la idea del existencialismo, que sostiene que los individuos son totalmente libres y responsables de crear su propio significado y propósito en un universo que, de otro modo, carecería de sentido y sería indiferente.

Así que, aunque no planifique mis días ni programe mis reuniones, sigo despertándome y terminando mis días sabiendo lo que tengo que hacer.

Y claro, a veces tengo momentos de déjalo, y me quedo pensando si ya he pasado por exactamente lo mismo antes.

Eso también me lleva a pensar que tal vez realmente sólo estamos pasando por los ciclos constantes de nuestra vida.

Ahora bien, sin importar lo que piense sobre el tiempo, siempre volveré a la idea de que es una ilusión, y aunque tenga múltiples crisis existenciales, seguiré pensando en cómo el tiempo es infinito y se repite constantemente.

¿Seguiré creyendo en esta teoría?

Quizás no, pero quién sabe.

Todo es contradictorio; y si Einstein puede cambiar de opinión sobre el universo, yo puedo cambiar de opinión sobre una vida infinita.



CORTESÍA DE SHUTTERSTOCK

# ON THE MENU



## Lessons beyond the kitchen



COURTESY OF SAHASRA HANUMIAHGARI

A recent recipe I made, chili chicken, reminds me of how far I've come in my cooking journey.



COURTESY OF SAHASRA HANUMIAHGARI

The orange chicken that started it all!



COURTESY OF SAHASRA HANUMIAHGARI

It's comforting to know that while I'm here at school, cooking dinner for myself, so far from my family, my mom and grandma are thousands of miles away doing the same.

**Sahasra Hanumiahgari**  
Staff Writer

I used to wake up most mornings with a sinking feeling in my stomach, a premonition of something awful yet to come. I was constantly knocking on wood, watching out for every crack in the sidewalk and feeling overwhelmed by the chaos and uncertainty that surrounded me. It was once I discovered my passion for cooking that I found safety amongst aromatics and herbs, where I was shielded from external anxieties. It was there that I found my own chaos which I was able to control.

As a little girl, I refused to learn how to cook. My grandfather was always telling me that I had to learn how to cook, asserting that it was something "I had to know" as I would one day be a

wife responsible for cooking for my husband (a weird thing to be saying to a child, I realize now). I was terrified that by willingly cooking, I would confine myself to a life in the kitchen and simplify myself to the role of a wife, unable to pursue my own dreams.

Then in 2020, the pandemic hit and I was stuck at home, running out of hobbies. My mother, the best chef in the world, would tell me about all kinds of fancy, experimental recipes she wanted to try but didn't have the time for. I, on the other hand, had nothing but time. When my dad's birthday came around, I decided I would surprise him and cook dinner for our family. I planned to make orange chicken and fried rice.

Hours in the kitchen and a

sink full of dirty dishes later, I set the table and had everything ready to go. My wonderful parents kept insisting that it was delicious and they were so proud of me for cooking, but to say it was edible even was too high a compliment. Just being honest, it was not a good meal (sorry Dad!). The sauce for the chicken was clumpy and oversalted and the rice was overcooked — nothing went the way it should have. Not to mention, the mess I made in the process was just awful, start to finish.

However, that disgusting chicken didn't discourage me. I felt energized — like a switch flipped — I was absolutely determined to understand what I messed up. I looked at many orange chicken recipes to figure

out what I did wrong. I took notes, learned about different techniques and flavors and I tried again. And when I tried again, the food came out ... not terrible?

From then on, I was hooked on experimenting with seasonings, ingredients and cultures. I was obsessed and I couldn't help it — amongst the chaos I felt safe. Six years later this obsession still persists. In my whirlwind of a kitchen, I am in charge. This chaos is my chaos. Wholly mine. Cooking has not only made me feel more secure in myself, but has also served as a way for me to express my love. It has morphed into something that makes me feel closer to my culture and family. It's comforting to know that while I'm here at school,

cooking dinner for myself, so far from my family, my mom and grandma are hundreds and thousands of miles away in their homes doing the same. We often call to gab about what we've been cooking, and that's when they teach me recipes which have passed through generations of our family.

If I could go back, I would love to show my younger self that we are capable of complexity, to show her that I am not shackled by any societal norms, that I can enjoy learning how to cook while simultaneously working towards a double major at an incredible university and pursuing a career. Besides, I don't think little Sahasra would have any complaints if she knew just how good she became at cooking!

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

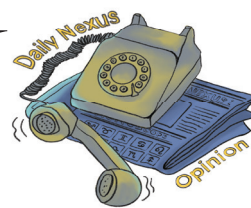


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# OPINION



## Curiosity is the contemporary revolution



LUCY DIXON / DAILY NEXUS

Ethan Griffin  
Reporter

There is much dialogue over the role of artificial intelligence in countless areas of society: privacy, security, healthcare, the arts, employment ... the list goes on and on. In the realm of education, I expect that many of my peers have come across arguments against its pervasion. The use of artificial intelligence reduces authenticity in college applications, abuses the privilege of education when employed to write and submit coursework and presents a threatening image of the future when those who depended on ChatGPT, Gemini, etc. to pass their college classes enter the workforce. Therefore, there's no need for me to continue laboring over this recurring discourse. Instead, I hope to make a case against the use of artificial intelligence in everything from Canvas discussion posts to research papers for a more significant reason – when we relinquish our right to create, we hinder our ability to make the world a better place.

As aphoristic, dramatic and corny as that is, I believe that when students use artificial intelligence (AI) as a substitute for their creative voice, they are actively conditioning themselves to be complacent with society as it stands today. I hope that I do not need to make explicit the many issues that plague our world. However, even if you are comfortable with the world's status, you should be disturbed by the idea that you are willing to give up the very words you use to communicate your unique thoughts and personality to not only someone, but something, that is not you.

Of course, I am not talking about the generated AI summaries that appear upon a Google search, automatic spelling and grammar corrections, nor even asking Gemini to help refine a sentence's structure, produce ideas about an unfamiliar topic or provide guidance on how to understand a newfound complexity. Even if many of these are seemingly inevitable aspects of academic culture, I do think that these are effective ways to utilize AI. However, it is a tragedy that instead of giving more energy to AI's capacities to assist in more tedious tasks – folding laundry, doing taxes, cleaning dishes, reducing traffic – we use it to poison artistic expression with cheap “AI slop.”

We as a society are grossly obsessed with optimization and productive capacity. Therefore, I find it extremely concerning that using AI has already established itself as a quick and easy alternative to producing authentic, creative work.

Why wouldn't we want to use AI for the quotidian engagements of humanity, so that more individuals have the chance to assist in resolving the injustices that harm billions of people around the world? So that more people can give their time to being an artist, a writer, a musician, a scientist, a dancer and paramour, a lover and defender of humanity?

If you are a student at UC Santa Barbara and reading this article, I am obligated to inform you that you have won the “genetic lottery,” a term coined by Kathryn Paige Harden. This is not to disregard or invalidate your traumatic experiences and past challenges, but merely to further emphasize the wondrous opportunities that we are afforded through our privilege of being here. I digress, but I do not intend to paint myself as infallible. During my four years at UCSB, I have ignored assigned readings, skipped classes because I was hungover and lazily used AI to suggest synonyms or organize a bibliography. However, I have never surrendered my individual voice, and I will continue advocating for the importance of creative authenticity throughout my further studies and lifetime. It's also vital to note that learning does not have to be confined to the formal academic environment. Allow me to indulge in an anecdote regarding a fascinating article I read recently by anthropologist Emily Martin.

In her article, she argues that the language used by biological texts and frameworks regarding the egg, sperm and fertilization overtly perpetuate stereotypes about gender norms. Not only is this narrative apocryphal – new research has revealed that the egg plays a far more active and mutually significant role in the fertilization process – but this language has ingrained society's dictation of women as passive, incomplete, “waiting” entities, and by extension, serves as the justification for women's subjugation throughout history and in the contemporary era. It was a brilliantly insightful read, and I urge you all to explore it yourselves, but what's also important about this tangent is where I discovered this article: TikTok.

An automatic, programmed algorithm brought Martin's article to my attention. As a result, it has generated a new dimension of thought and inspired the beginnings of a doctoral dissertation within me. My intention here is to show that I am not ignorant of AI's possible benefits, even if they are unintentional, as it allowed me to come across a piece that I would not have encountered in my formal

studies. Furthermore, I propose that maintaining one's creative individualism is more than choosing – what is seen as the “high road” – to not give in to the fanaticism surrounding AI, as we must also continue to nurture our innate, human desire to learn more about our passions.

Education provides us with all the social, intellectual and moral mobility to rise above society's imposing stratifications and ask “why?”

It's a garden to imagine possibilities absent from our current reality; upon enacting these potentialities we give rise to a more accepting, loving future. I commit to continue championing learning's paramount importance, particularly in an era that defies conformity and efficiency. It is humanity's obligation to learn. How can we collectively progress if we fail to comprehend the injustice pervading our society today?

It is painfully ironic that we have more information at our fingertips than any generation before us, yet the increasing reliance on AI to generate creative or academic work suggests that we are suffering from a period of intellectual regression. As debilitating, challenging and stressful as college can be, we must never abandon our curiosity, especially when society tries to convince us that optimization is the hallmark of success and the temptation of convenience is just seven presses on a keyboard away. The introduction of AI into the world may be irreversible, but how we choose to employ it is not set in stone. I implore you to not forsake your right to read, to learn and to better understand the beautiful chaos of the planet we call home. If not for yourself, then for someone on the other side of the world who is just as full of potential, but was unfortunately, and arbitrarily, not granted the same uplifting learning environment we have.

When we use AI to undermine the purpose of education, we take for granted the immense privilege of being here. Worse, we cruelly patronize millions of people just like us who face far greater challenges than a five-page essay. How lucky are we that our typical concerns are meeting that paper deadline, studying for that exam or getting that summer internship rather than where we will sleep, what we will eat or if the sounds of warfare will be louder when we wake up tomorrow morning?

If you have found this article dramatic, then I consider myself partially successful, for I will gladly be labeled as excessive or emotional if I have at least brought awareness

to the graveness of our circumstances. Electing to rely on AI to write and learn entails giving up one's unique voice, hindering possibilities for one's future success and a disturbing acceptance of negative peace that blinds us to the devastation of millions of people.

Language's vastness is unparalleled – it is a medium that encompasses our entire ability to express love and meaning. Therefore, if we surrender our language to AI, we also surrender our ability to express the infinite beauty and peculiarity that exists within us all. Furthermore, giving up our right for unique expression weakens our capacities to deviate and be different, and by extension, our power to resist oppression, corruption and tyranny. Coupled with contemporary society's zeitgeist of optimization, the ramifications of AI's popularity become disturbingly clear. Giving up our right to learn limits our ability to write and speak authentically, and in turn weakens us to fight against inequality. For how can we protest wrongdoing when subscribing to productivity's supremacy comes at the cost of losing the language necessary to identify immorality?

However, in a hopeful contrast, resisting the propaganda to use AI can be seen as an act of revolution. Rebellion is defined as “opposition to one in authority or dominance.” Cultural developments and proponents of artificial intelligence indicate that AI's pervasive advancement, if left unchecked, will dominate nearly every major industry in our lifetime. This impending uniformity should concern us all, and while I understand how easy it can be to copy and paste a prompt to generate an essay for that inconsequential general education class, we cannot be accomplices to the diminishment of our individualism. I urge us all to be rebellious.

Do not waste your education, but take advantage of it to leave a legacy that is uniquely your own and not the voice of a bodiless entity, devoid of emotion and lacking humanity's singularity. To me, part of freedom is patience. This period in our lives and the environment that we find ourselves in grants us the marvelous gift of having the time to reflect, and it is our duty to use this privilege to wonder and ask why to liberate those who don't always have the luxury of pensiveness. So, be a rebel, be authentic, be a deviant and tenaciously defend your right to be unapologetically curious.

*Ethan Griffin hopes that this article won't put him on the most-wanted list if AI takes over.*

## HOROSCOPES

The signs during an AI apocalypse

### ARIES

MARCH 21 – APRIL 19

Hire an AI chatbot to become their personal assistant

### TAURUS

APRIL 20 – MAY 20

Stash all their books in a locked safe

### GEMINI

MAY 21 – JUNE 20

Never write their own email again

### CANCER

JUNE 21 – JULY 22

Buy out all the toilet paper from Target

### LEO

JULY 23 – AUGUST 22

Delete all their negative text messages about AI

### VIRGO

AUGUST 23 – SEPTEMBER 22

Side with their Snapchat AI bot

### LIBRA

SEPTEMBER 23 – OCTOBER 22

Start posting ads for an AI significant other

### SCORPIO

OCTOBER 23 – NOVEMBER 21

Move to the middle of nowhere

### SAGITTARIUS

NOVEMBER 22 – DECEMBER 21

Smash all computers in close proximity

### CAPRICORN

DECEMBER 22 – JANUARY 19

Try to befriend AI bots

### AQUARIUS

JANUARY 20 – FEBRUARY 18

Complete purge from technology

### PISCES

FEBRUARY 19 – MARCH 20

Start calling all of their loved ones

# ARTSWEEK



LANCE SANCHEZ / DAILY NEXUS

## Charlie Puth just wants 'Attention' at Santa Barbara Bowl



LANCE SANCHEZ / DAILY NEXUS

Ally Salort's stripped back performance eases the audience into the evening.

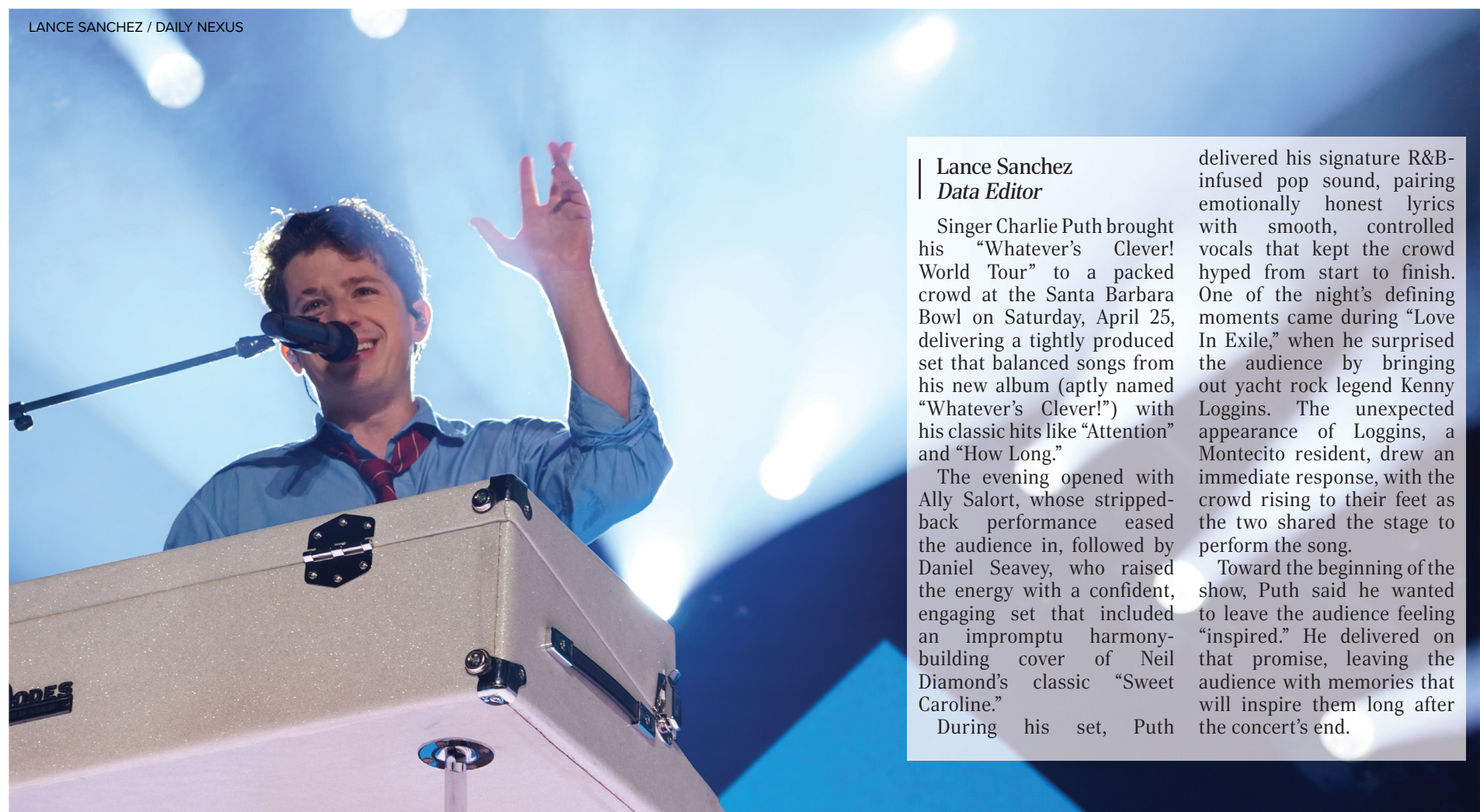


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LANCE SANCHEZ / DAILY NEXUS

Daniel Seavey raises the audience's energy with a confident, engaging set.



LANCE SANCHEZ / DAILY NEXUS

### Lance Sanchez Data Editor

Singer Charlie Puth brought his "Whatever's Clever! World Tour" to a packed crowd at the Santa Barbara Bowl on Saturday, April 25, delivering a tightly produced set that balanced songs from his new album (aptly named "Whatever's Clever!") with his classic hits like "Attention" and "How Long."

The evening opened with Ally Salort, whose stripped-back performance eased the audience in, followed by Daniel Seavey, who raised the energy with a confident, engaging set that included an impromptu harmony-building cover of Neil Diamond's classic "Sweet Caroline."

During his set, Puth

delivered his signature R&B-infused pop sound, pairing emotionally honest lyrics with smooth, controlled vocals that kept the crowd hyped from start to finish. One of the night's defining moments came during "Love In Exile," when he surprised the audience by bringing out yacht rock legend Kenny Loggins. The unexpected appearance of Loggins, a Montecito resident, drew an immediate response, with the crowd rising to their feet as the two shared the stage to perform the song.

Toward the beginning of the show, Puth said he wanted to leave the audience feeling "inspired." He delivered on that promise, leaving the audience with memories that will inspire them long after the concert's end.

◆ Google Gemini

# NOTES TO NAILED IT

Create a practice quiz covering the fall of the Roman Empire based on my class notes



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