

STUDENT STUDY ALLEGES “BLATANT ABUSE” BY LAW ENFORCEMENT DURING DELTOPIA 2025

ALEXA LOPEZ / DAILY NEXUS

Levi Kauffman,
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In the aftermath of Deltopia 2025, two UC Santa Barbara students conducted a survey on interactions with law enforcement during the weekend-long event. The study reports alleged incidents of racial and gender-based targeting, excessive force and a general lack of concern for real safety from law enforcement.

The study was conducted by UCSB alumni Grace Kish and Rya Bonavia in collaboration with former External Vice President for Local Affairs (EVPLA) Owen Myers and Associated Students (A.S.) Office of Attorney General (OAG). The survey collected around 500 anonymous responses from attendees of Deltopia, the yearly unsanctioned street festival that was banned this January. Survey questions asked respondents about their demographics, how they felt about various statements and allowed for written elaboration for certain answers.

Due to the anonymous nature of the survey responses, its findings reflect subjective experiences, not verifiable incidents. Any and all data collected by the survey is based on perceptions, and therefore cannot make definite conclusions about the actions of law enforcement during the event.

In the study, the researchers also noted how negativity bias — the tendency for people who had negative experiences to participate in the survey — may have played a role in the data that they collected. They also acknowledged their own personal biases going into their research.

“As I was writing I tried not to say exactly what I’m feeling as a person, as a woman, as a student in Isla Vista and reading these reports and hearing things. So I definitely think I did have bias against the police interactions,” Kish said. “But I think the way in which I try to channel my writing was as flat as I possibly could.”

Despite the inherent limitations of testimonials, the researchers emphasized the value of their findings.

“But even just the fact that people are saying this without me adding any of my own opinion, it means something,” Kish said. “That these people [are]

feeling these things, that they’re feeling that they’re being discriminated against, that they feel like there’s no safety resources. That is something in itself.”

Across responses, the researchers noted a pattern of IV residents experiencing “blatant abuse ... unnecessary arrests, rude behavior and predatory practices” when interacting with law enforcement.

Several testimonies alleged gender- and race-based targeting by law enforcement. 35% of respondents answered “yes” to the question “Do you believe police disproportionately targeted specific racial or ethnic groups during Deltopia?” with an additional 43% answering “unsure.” The study also noted a theme of aggression from law enforcement, reporting 42% of respondents witnessed or experienced excessive force while 49% did not.

“[People of color were] being mistreated and more aggressively interacted with in all accounts I witnessed than their white counterparts during Deltopia. I witnessed White people with entire bottles of alcohol open in public being calm spoken to while Black and Hispanic students were physically subdued for verbal interactions,” one testimony read.

Following Deltopia 2025, some community members voiced concerns that “women were being targeted by police and arrested disproportionately.” According to the study, when asked, “Do you believe police disproportionately targeted those of a specific gender or sexual orientation?” 22% of respondents answered “yes,” 28% answered “no” and 49% said they were “unsure.”

“I cannot emphasize enough how uncomfortable and terrifying the police’s strategy for creating safety through arresting intoxicated young women is. Even if done with good intentions, the result is abysmal and decreases trust between police officers and women. I can think of better alternatives, such as having officers help intoxicated young women find their friends or sit them down with female community officers that actually increase the safety of young women,” one testimony read.

At a 2025 IV Community Services District (IVCSD) meeting after Deltopia, then IVCSD President Spencer Brandt alleged that IV Foot Patrol (IVFP)

Commander Garrett TeSlaa told him a part of IVFP’s strategy “was to detain women in particular that were suspected of being under the influence.” TeSlaa denied this claim, stating that their strategy was “not just for females, it was for everybody.”

Deltopia has historically seen a spike in emergency medical calls, with 2025 seeing 130 total. One testimony claimed that when officers arrived to help a person collapsed in a driveway, they were not equipped with Narcan. Santa Barbara Sheriff’s Office (SBSO) policy requires personnel to carry Narcan when on patrol.

In a statement to the Nexus, UC Police Department (UCPD) said it has “zero tolerance for misconduct, including rude behavior, mistreatment of others, and excessive force,” and “is committed to providing safety services equally, fairly, objectively, and without discrimination toward any individual or group.” The statement also claimed that while UCPD fully investigates all complaints, it “received no complaints related to the 2025 time period and made no arrests in Isla Vista.”

“In addition to all UCPD officers being professionally certified by California’s Commission on Peace Officer Standards & Training (POST), the UC Santa Barbara Police Department is also an accredited law enforcement agency through the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA),” the statement read. “UCPD personnel are required to complete a robust program that includes trainings on Procedural Justice, Racial Profiling & Diversity, De-escalation Communications, Implicit Bias, Trauma-Informed Interviewing, Crisis Prevention, Cyber Security, and Sexual Harassment.”

SBSO said that while it appreciated the “time and effort” taken to compile the information, it raised concerns about the study’s methodology.

“The report itself acknowledges its key limitations. The findings are anonymous, non-scientific, subjective and based on a voluntary, self-reported survey prone to negative bias,” the statement read. “The Sheriff’s Office holds its personnel to high standards of professionalism. We expect our deputies and allied law enforcement officers to carry out their duties with

integrity, respect, and sound judgment, particularly in dynamic events such as Deltopia. We take any concerns regarding police conduct seriously. The Sheriff’s Office remains committed to continuous constructive dialogue with the community, including students, partner organizations and Isla Vista residents.”

The study also measured respondents’ views on suspending restorative justice during Deltopia weekend. Respondents were asked how they felt about the statement “I believe that the suspension of restorative justice positively impacts safety,” and 42% strongly disagreed, 19% disagreed, 26% were undecided, 9% agreed and 4% strongly agreed.

“The reality is that the people who live in IV and go to UCSB are not the ones causing issues, and I feel like suspending restorative justice has barely any effect at all on limiting citations at Deltopia because people who do not live in IV most likely won’t come back to participate in the program regardless. All it does is punish IV residents by removing a measure for them to make up for a mistake that is most likely small that they didn’t mean to do,” one testimony read.

Data and testimonies also displayed frustrations with a lack of community input on law enforcement policies. When asked if respondents felt their voices were considered in discussions about law enforcement on Deltopia, 43% answered “Never,” while 22% answered “Sometimes” and 3% answered “Always.”

“Though evidence enough to a lack of student participation, what’s even more telling is the 31% of students who said they were unsure. Such ambiguity could point to both an intentional disregard for student voices — i.e. people are unaware because law enforcement does not give them the opportunity to be aware — or a lack of interest on the students’ part,” the study stated. “In any case, it would be beneficial to incorporate students more into future conversations on the topic.”

Many students and student leaders, including A.S. EVPLA E.J. Raad, strongly opposed the 2026 Deltopia noise ordinance, arguing that student input was not sufficiently considered.

Responses also indicated that the large presence of law enforcement

during the weekend “makes, to some extent, students and community members feel unsafe and perhaps targeted.”

“Rather than accurately assess the situation, local authorities appear to anticipate illegal behavior from every and any pedestrian. Officers are thus quick to make skewed assumptions about participants’ behavior, often conflating any form of beverage consumption or impropriety (though not illegality) with the negative perception of Deltopia— leading to a perhaps inflated number of citations, arrests, or general interactions,” the study stated.

To improve law enforcement interactions, the study suggests establishing “Deltopia-specific behavior training,” which Kish said would entail teaching officers to approach interactions with less “harshness and forcefulness.”

The study also called for a “proper balance” between safety services and police numbers. The researchers said that participants called for fewer officers and greater collaboration with student organizations, as well as enhanced access to safety resources such as EMTs, medical tents, water stations and clear communication.

Researchers called upon law enforcement and the community to increase transparency and accountability. It continued by saying that this would allow IV to “balance any celebration with safety,” ensuring that law enforcement “serves the community rather than alienating it.”

The researchers held that their findings were still relevant to students and the community, despite the fact that Deltopia is effectively banned due to the noise ordinance.

“Cancellation does not erase patterns, concerns, or community experiences that were identified. The data reflects broader trends in public safety and community response that extend far past a single event, such as awareness of policy and experiences across demographic groups,” the study stated. “Community feedback provides valuable insight into trust and the effectiveness of current communication. Even in the absence of Deltopia, this information can guide improvements in outreach strategies and long-term safety initiatives.”

May Day rally calls on University to support workers

Levi Kauffman
County News Editor
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Alongside nationwide May Day protests, roughly 75 people gathered around the eternal flame to call on UC Santa Barbara to support campus workers on May 1.

May Day, also known as International Workers’ Day, celebrates the history of the global labor movement. The holiday was officially created in 1889 to commemorate the Haymarket Riot, which fought for the eight-hour work day.

The American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) 3299, the UCSB Student Labor Advocacy Project (SLAP), the UC Student Workers Union (UCSW), Isla Vista Flower, El Congreso, UCSB Young Democratic Socialists of America (YDSA) and UCSB Improving Dreams, Equality, Access and Success (I.D.E.A.S.) hosted the rally at UCSB. Organizers demanded a fair contract for campus workers, more work opportunities for undocumented students and for the University to formally recognize UCSW.

The rally comes two weeks ahead of AFSCME’s open-ended strike starting May 14. The union, which represents over 40,000 University of California (UC) workers, has been negotiating a contract and gone on strike five times since 2024.

Fourth-year English major, UCSB Community Labor Center Student Assistant, External Vice President for Statewide Affairs Office Organizing

Director and SLAP member Antonio Gonzalez-Bradford highlighted the struggles that campus workers who lack labor contracts face, such as long commutes.

“Our campus service workers have been without [a] contract for over two years now,” Gonzalez-Bradford said in an interview with the Nexus. “This means that they’re not getting the proper rights that workers deserve being part of a public sector job, these basic human decencies, and so it’s about fighting for their contract.”

Third-year history of policy, law and governance major Emma Lenoski emphasized the importance of student involvement in advocacy.

“A lot of students on campus aren’t super involved with labor [advocacy] and it’s because there’s a lack of outreach [and] a lack of awareness,” Lenoski said in an interview with the Nexus. “What we’re trying to do here today is spread that attention, spread that awareness, to students on this campus and hopefully inspire people to get involved.”

Gonzalez-Bradford also advocated for California Assembly Bill (AB) 713, which would allow students, regardless of immigration status, to work in the UC, California State Universities or California Community Colleges.

I.D.E.A.S. members also called on the University to offer undocumented students and workers more support. One member, an immigrant herself, shared how her career has been stunted because she had to wait two years for work authorization. Another member of I.D.E.A.S. called on UCSB to protect

students against Immigration and Customs Enforcement (I.C.E.), saying “anything other than loud and dedicated support” was “not acceptable.”

Fourth-year economics major and AFSCME intern Gabriel Barona moderated and helped lead the rally. Between speakers, he called on passersby to join the protest.

“People are dying in our streets. People aren’t getting jobs that they need. People are going hungry. People are dying across the world. Our administration is run by pedophiles and it seems like none of you actually care,” Barona said. “Advocacy is important, but it’s beyond an Instagram post and an Instagram story. That’s not all it is, you should care more than that.”

Barona also highlighted AFSCME’s contract demands, including a \$25 minimum wage that would be retroactive to 2023, annual wage increases to match inflation and \$10 caps on healthcare premiums among other things. He criticized the UC system for failing to provide workers with adequate housing support despite the purchase of a \$78 million residence for the UCSB Chancellor Dennis Assanis.

Next, an El Congreso member shared that Latine advocacy groups have been fighting to protect El Centro, where many of their offices are located, for years. Earlier that day, El Congreso released their open letter to Assanis requesting support for the center.

Lastly, Raíces de mi Tierra performed Folklorico, a style of traditional Mexican dance, which one member explained can act as a form of “artistic resistance.” Dancers then led the rally to Cheadle

Hall, where the UCSB administration works. Along the way, attendees chanted “from Palestine to Mexico, all these walls have got to go,” “money for jobs and education, not for war and deportation” and “Chinga La Migra,” which translates to “Fuck I.C.E.”

At Cheadle Hall, YDSA member and fourth-year sociology major Omar Opeyany further criticized the university administration for their actions regarding labor and I.C.E. He described workers as the “lifeline of the University.”

“The people who cook the food, clean the buildings, teach the classes and work every day just to survive — those are the people who run the University,” Opeyany said. “There will not be administrators or politicians who protect us. It will be us standing together in solidarity that will bring the change we need, and we need it now.”

The next speaker discussed the recent increase in I.C.E. presence around the Santa Barbara County Jail and their use of violence. She claimed that Sheriff Bill Brown has been alerting I.C.E. when an undocumented person is released from jail. The speaker also shared the story of a man beaten so badly by I.C.E. that he ended up in the emergency room.

“The Sheriff’s Office fully complies with California law, including the California Values Act (SB 54), which strictly limits when and how local law enforcement agencies may cooperate with federal immigration authorities,” Brown said in a statement

to the Nexus. “It is important for our community to understand that the Sheriff’s Office does not have any authority over, nor do we coordinate with, federal agencies conducting their own independent immigration enforcement operations. Any suggestion otherwise misrepresents both the law and our practices.”

Representatives of Unión del Barrio (UdB) called on attendees to continue to get involved and leave the rally with a plan to take the “next step.” The crowd yelled toward Cheadle Hall for Assanis — who one UdB member referred to as “ass-anus” — to meet with workers, students and community members.

From Cheadle Hall, the rally marched and chanted on its way to Storke Tower. Once there, a representative of Jewish Voice for Peace briefly discussed the University’s ties to military contractors and war. The rally then concluded following a moment of silence with a call and response to acknowledge various people and groups relevant to the movement.



SHENGYU ZHANG / DAILY NEXUS

A week in UC student news



MICHELLE WU / DAILY NEXUS

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



KAYLEE HEARTMAN / DAILY NEXUS

Wynne Bendell
Lead News Editor

UC Berkeley professor accused of sexual assault
UC Berkeley is investigating associate chemistry professor Kwabena Bediako over multiple sexual assault allegations from former graduate students. The accusations inspired a letter of demands, signed by over 800 students, staff and faculty.

According to Chemistry World, in an open letter to UCB, the graduate student alleged that Bediako initiated "repeated, inappropriate attempts to pursue a romantic relationship" with her. Additionally, another former graduate student accused Bediako of harassment and mistreatment beginning in 2013.

The letter demanded that Bediako be prevented from accepting new employees into his lab without the applicants being notified of the claims made against him. The demands also included a request for UCB chemistry faculty to develop "peer-led, anti-harassment

training" for professors in the department.

UC Merced receives its first AHA Career award

UC Merced bioengineering professor Arian Aghilinejad received the American Heart Association (AHA) Career Development Award for his project, "A Fluid Dynamics Approach to the Development of Next-Generation Left Ventricular Assist Devices." This is the first time UCM has received this award.

According to UCM Newsroom, the prize includes \$231,000 of funding for three years of Aghilinejad's research, which focuses on ways to improve Left Ventricular Devices (LVAD) which treat patients with advanced heart failure.

"While LVADs have significantly improved survival rates, many patients still experience serious complications, including blood clots, stroke and right-heart failure," Aghilinejad said to UCM Newsroom. "My research focuses on understanding the underlying fluid dynamics that contribute to these complications. By achieving a better

understanding of device operation, we aim to reduce risks and improve long-term outcomes for patients."

Faculty and students lobby California representatives to fully fund the UC

Over 100 University of California (UC) faculty, staff and students traveled to Sacramento to participate in UC Day to demand California state representatives to fully fund the UC system on April 29.

These demands come from "federal funding uncertainty" and continuously rising costs of living. Included in the funding request, the UC is urging state representatives to pass SB 895, which aims to establish a \$23 billion bond for research funding.

"If passed, SB 895 would help ensure that critical scientific research continues in California, strengthening the state's resilience through investments in biomedical and health research, climate and environmental science, behavioral health, wildfire resilience and emerging technologies," the press release reads.

Levi Kauffman
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Dylan Vo
Staff Writer

Gacho Graphics hosts 'Spring Fundraiser'

Gacho Graphics is hosting a "Spring Fundraiser" on Thursday, May 7, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Lot 22 Lawn D.

"For 2025-2026, Gacho Graphics is hosting a spring fundraiser selling merchandise designed by our club members, including art magazines, stickers, sticker sheets, prints, and charms! We will be donating the proceeds to the Dahnoun Mutual Aid, an organization focused on supporting families in Gaza," the Shoreline description read.

TSC hosts 'Coffee & Community'

The Transfer Student Center (TSC) is hosting "Coffee & Community" on Thursday, May 7, 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.

RCSGD hosts 'Rainbow Recharge!'

The Resource Center for Sexual and Gender Diversity (RCSGD) is hosting "Rainbow Recharge!" on Thursday, May 7, from 2-3 p.m. at the RCSGD lounge.

"Drop in to meet with RCSGD's Assistant Director of Student Support & Advocacy! Restore yourself with some delicious snacks, relaxation skills, and a calming study space open to all students!" the Shoreline description read.

IHC hosts screening of 'The Bride!'

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

"In 1930s Chicago, Frankenstein asks Dr. Euphronius to help create

a companion. They give life to a murdered woman as the Bride, sparking romance, police interest, and radical social change," the Shoreline description read.

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

RCSGD hosts 'Black QTea Party'

RCSGD, in collaboration with the Office of Black Student Development and Black Square, is hosting a "Black QTea Party" on Friday, May 8, from 12-2 p.m. at the Mosher Alumni House.

"This brunch style tea party will give our Black Queer and Trans students and friends a chance to rejuvenate, come together with community, and have some great food surrounded by scenic views. All are welcome to join us in uplifting Black QT community, identities, and experiences," the Shoreline description read.

Free food will be provided for attendees.

IHC hosts screening of 'The Rocky Horror Picture Show'

IHC is hosting a screening of "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" on Friday, May 8, from 9-11:00 p.m. at Isla Vista Theater.

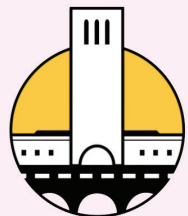
"Part sci-fi parody, part horror tribute, part community ritual, a movie on the edge of sanity," the Shoreline description read.

The screening is \$8 for students.

San Miguel Hall hosts 'Destress with Therapy Dogs and Bunny!'

San Miguel Hall is hosting "Destress with Therapy Dogs and Bunny!" on Saturday, May 9, from 12-2 p.m. at the San Miguel Lawn.

"RA Victoria, RA Chloe, and Community Service Chair Cami invite you to join us to destress from midterms, eat some delightful picnic treats, and pet some therapy animals! We will have two therapy dogs and a therapy bunny!" the Shoreline description read.



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"Somebody say something funny."

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IVCSD annual Pardall Carnival brings festivities to the community

Elijah Obando
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Isla Vista Community Relations Committee held

the annual Pardall Carnival featuring live music, food and games on May 3. Activities at the event were free, making it welcoming to all members of the community. The carnival had a ferris wheel, caricature artists, mechanical bull and more.



JAESA VERDAGUER / DAILY NEXUS

Live music drifts through the crowd, adding an upbeat rhythm to the afternoon.



JAESA VERDAGUER / DAILY NEXUS

A Ferris wheel was brought to the streets of I.V. for attendees to ride.



LANCE SANCHEZ / DAILY NEXUS

Crowds pour into Pardall Carnival, filling the street with steady foot traffic throughout the day.



JAESA VERDAGUER / DAILY NEXUS

Attendees took photos in a retro van converted into a photobooth.

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Guests line up at the stamp rally booth, eager to collect stamps and redeem a free food coupon.

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Guests line up for face painting, choosing bright colors and playful designs.

JAESA VERDAGUER / DAILY NEXUS

Carnival games draw groups of friends, turning simple challenges into spirited competition.

LANCE SANCHEZ / DAILY NEXUS

Local artists sketch quick caricatures of attendees.

JAESA VERDAGUER / DAILY NEXUS

Visitors wait their turn for the Ferris wheel, which allows for a bird's eye view of the event.

C.A.R.E.'s Denim Day event brings SA awareness to UCSB community

Julia Sanabria
News Intern

The Campus, Advocacy, Resources, and Education office hosted its first ever Denim Day fair at the Student Resource Building lawn on April 29. Multiple other organizations and student-run entities such as Isla Vista Community Services District and Associated Students Trans and Queer Commission collaborated on the event.

The origins of Denim Day date back to 1992, when the Italian Supreme Court overturned a rape conviction because of the “jeans alibi,” which stated that because the victim was wearing tight jeans, she must have helped the attacker take them off, thereby implying consent. Women in the Italian parliament then showed up to work wearing jeans in protest, gaining international attention. Since 1999, the last Wednesday of April has been dubbed “Denim Day.”

The Campus, Advocacy, Resources, and Education (C.A.R.E.) office provides confidential and free resources for sexual violence prevention and intervention. Prevention specialist Stephanie Raya described the mission of the fair as increasing awareness and knowledge in order

to promote intervention when harm occurs.

“It’s a national call to combat victim blaming and to raise awareness for survivors and the impact that sexual violence has to our everyday lives, not just in the moment that situation but how it impacts people for the rest of their lives,” Raya said.

The event provided various activities including popping bubbles, painting messages on tote bags and receiving free denim clothing. The Associated Students Trans and Queer Commission (TQC) booth offered attendees a chance to make jewelry ranging from friendship bracelets to earrings.

Halee Scott, a second-year writing and literature major and TQC member, explained that TQC tabled to ensure queer perspectives were represented at the fair and spread awareness about different kinds of sex and intersectionality.

“I feel like wherever we can, we want to make sure that trans and queer folks, they feel seen and heard in many different spaces,” Scott said.

Before talking to one of the C.A.R.E. leaders, first-year economics and accounting major Tobi Olukanmi did not know what Denim Day was. After realizing

the “importance” of Denim Day, she was excited to get her club, the Nigerian Student Association (NSA), involved.

Olukanmi and first-year environmental studies major Praise Akaeze represented the NSA at the event. In addition to raising awareness for sexual assault and tying their efforts back to C.A.R.E.’s mission of supporting survivors, the club was able to introduce people to Nigerian culture by selling Nigerian food.

“Especially because we’re a small club, I think being part of bigger events is good for us,” Olukanmi said.

C.A.R.E. Fair Educator Emily Burke recognized the myriad of collaborators present at this year’s fair but also shared wishes of expanding the event to encompass more organizations. This is the first year an event for Denim Day has been held at this scale, as it is normally commemorated with tabling at the Arbor with a few other organizations.

“I want our collaborators to represent the diversity of our communities, so hopefully we get more diverse collaborators and student groups. We have two A.S. groups, but having more of that support would be really great,” Raya said.



Members of the Nigerian Student Association tabled at the event and introduced attendees to Nigerian culture by selling food.



The event offered various activities including popping bubbles, painting messages on tote bags and receiving free denim clothing.



The Campus, Advocacy, Resources, and Education office hosted their first-ever Denim Day fair at the Student Resource Building lawn on April 29.

TBTN holds annual march against sexual assault

Noura Elkhatib
Staff Writer

Disclaimer: This article contains mentions of sexual assault and interpersonal violence.

The UC Santa Barbara chapter of Take Back the Night held its annual rally and march against sexual violence on April 30.

Take Back the Night (TBTN) is a student organization that is dedicated to ending sexual violence in the Isla Vista community. The previous chair of TBTN and UCSB alum, Kayla Goodin, highlighted how the march is “mirroring historical TBTN marches that have been done since the ‘70s.” The first TBTN rally at UCSB was held in 1979, at a time when the Women’s Center was struggling to get funding and local support. It also echoed marches that were being organized nationally, the first of which occurred in San Francisco, California.

The rally began at 6:30 p.m. with around 60 students that gathered outside the Student Resource Building holding various signs. Some signs read “Believe Survivors” and “Revolution starts in your community.”

“The justice system fails to protect survivors every day, and you are not alone,” Katherine Retzer said, a fourth-year psychological & brain sciences major and TBTN member who took a moment at the rally to share her experiences of sexual assault with the UCSB community.

The crowd then marched through the Pardall Tunnel to Little Acorn Park, chanting, “Survivors unite, take back the night,” and “Rape culture has got to go.”

Goodin highlighted the role of these marches in creating safe spaces for survivors to reclaim their power.

“Rape culture is prevalent everywhere, and in Isla Vista, if anything, more rampant,” Goodin said. “We want to create a culture of consent on campus. Connecting students with resources is one of our major goals.”

TBTN joined UCSB Campus,

Advocacy, Resources, and Education (C.A.R.E.), Standing Together to End Sexual Assault (STESA) and Students for Reproductive Justice (SRJ) in tabling at Little Acorn Park. They provided stickers, pins and other resources while emphasizing the importance of practicing consent.

C.A.R.E.’s office on campus aims to provide 24/7 confidential support to students experiencing sexual violence, dating/domestic relationship violence and stalking, while STESA serves as the wider Santa Barbara rape crisis center. C.A.R.E. staff advocate, Manpreet Kaur, shared that her role as an advocate focuses on one-on-one and direct support.

“We work one-on-one with survivors and loved ones,” Kaur said. “Making [survivors] aware of the different resources available, what their options look like, what their rights are and if they want accompaniment in any processes, I can do that as well.”

C.A.R.E. services can range from assisting with a student’s emotional, housing, safety, medical, financial or academic needs, specifically but not limited to students who have experienced interpersonal violence.

Advocates work to guide students in accessing legal resources or protective orders. According to Kaur, C.A.R.E. cannot make reports on the survivor’s behalf because they are a confidential office.

“We support survivors’ decision not to make a report,” Kaur said.

C.A.R.E. is open to all UCSB students, regardless of if they have experienced the interpersonal violence themselves.

“You don’t have to be a direct survivor yourself [to get support], because we understand that the impacts of the harm can also affect loved ones, friends and family,” Kaur said.

Retzer emphasized that survivors of sexual violence can demonstrate “resistance” in many forms.

“We believe firmly that survivors deserve joy, and survivors deserve to be believed. But we also believe in joy as a form of resistance,” Retzer said.

SBMTD explains proposed bus cuts, IVCS D updates parking program

Elijah Obando
News Intern
Zach Miller
Staff Writer

A representative of the Santa Barbara Metropolitan Transit District discussed proposed bus line service changes that will occur due to a 30% loss of annual federal operating assistance at the Isla Vista Community Services District Board of Directors meeting on April 28.

Hillary Blackerby, the Santa Barbara Metropolitan Transit District (MTD) planning and marketing manager, explained that as a result of population growth in Santa Barbara County (SBC), the MTD lost access to approximately \$3 million of annual incentive-based funding. The loss will result in reduced operating hours, eliminating the last outbound weekday trips or cutting Saturday service hours for certain bus lines.

Line 11, running between UC Santa Barbara, Hollister Street, State Street and the Camino Real Marketplace, is slated to have its 11:30 p.m. departure time removed from the schedule. Blackerby said the change would move the last trip for I.V. riders from 11:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Other I.V. and UCSB bus lines will not be affected. The proposed changes will go into effect on Aug. 17.

Next, Blackerby outlined the future of the Wave Microtransit Service, a flexible, on-demand, curbside-to-curbside service that transports riders for \$3, and \$1.50 for disabled riders and riders over 65. Current service levels are set to be maintained in Goleta and I.V. through the 2026-27



As a result of population growth in Santa Barbara County, the MTD lost access to approximately \$3 million of annual incentive-based funding.

fiscal year. Additionally, the service will be expanded into Carpinteria by mid-September 2026.

Blackerby also highlighted updates to several other transit services. The Downtown-Waterfront Shuttle, traveling between the Goleta Amtrak station, Stern's Wharf and the Santa Barbara Zoo, will operate between May 29 and Sept. 7 this year. The MTD also plans to expand the Amtrak First Mile/Last Mile Service, which operates between UCSB and the Goleta Amtrak Station.

The I.V. Community Services District (IVCS D) also discussed an amendment to the memorandum of understanding between IVCS D and SBC for the Parking Compliance Program. The change would make IVCS D responsible for patrolling the Pardall Solar Parking Lot and

I.V. Community Center and Offices lot, issuing tickets to vehicles that don't have valid parking permits.

Some board members expressed that the amendment represents a conflict of goals for what the parking program is meant to accomplish. IVCS D Director Spencer Brandt voiced his worry about "giving out tickets just to give out tickets."

"I have a real hesitancy [toward the amendment] because the whole goal of doing the enforcement program on the curb is to get people to park in legal spaces," Brandt said. "Now we're being asked to go enforce on legal spaces in a way that seems like it's adding more workload to us without cost recovery."

Brandt also raised concerns on how the amendment may

target electric vehicle (EV) users, since the Pardall Solar Lot is the only parking space in I.V. with EV charging stations. He believes EVs are a "higher and better use for meeting [IVCS D's] transportation goals."

IVCS D adopted the amendment with adjustments to work with the county for a mutually beneficial agreement on the solar lot and revenue sharing of the enforced lots' parking permits.

Subsequently, the Board heard from Kimberly Kiefer and Luis Valerio, general manager and assistant general manager of the I.V. Recreation & Park District (IVRPD), respectively. They discussed updates regarding IVRPD's upcoming Summer Program which will operate between June 15 and Aug. 14 and will offer weekly field

trips and free meals to up to 40 participants.

"We're partnering with the Goleta School District to provide free breakfast and lunch to anyone under the age of 18," Valerio said. "You're not required to be in our summer program to get those meals; they're for the entire community."

IVCS D Community Programs and Engagement Director, Myah Mashhadialireza, also delivered an annual report on their Survivor Resources Hub, a program aimed to "expand awareness of local services for [sexual violence] survivors and reduce accessibility barriers." Mashhadialireza expressed plans to reorganize low attendance events and utilize engagement-forward approaches to community outreach.

Senate finalizes 2026-27 A.S. budget, staff allocated \$3.8 million

Wynne Bendell
Lead News Editor
Zach Miller
Staff Writer

The 76th Associated Students Senate finalized its budget for the 2026-27 academic year, with \$3.8 million designated for staff at its April 29 meeting. The Senate also heard budgetary concerns from several entities and adopted internal reforms.

Reports

Black Women's Health Collaborative (BWHC) Co-Chair and third-year communication major Fatoumata Kéré explained the collaborative's budget request of \$124,000, after the finance committee initially proposed \$33,000. Kéré explained that the BWHC lacked an advisor for six months. She continued, listing over 15 events that the BWHC helped fund and organize despite "neglect" from Associated Students (A.S.)

She finished by requesting \$124,000, which is \$6,000 less than the proposed budget to fund the BWHC's current and future events.

Public Forum

Fourth-year environmental studies and geography double major P.J. Scotting spoke on behalf of the Coastal Fund, explaining financial constraints that will be caused by proposed budget cuts to increase staff wages. Scotting explained that its current budget is insufficient to resolve the approximately \$1 million work it is requested to do annually. She continued, saying that in 2026, the fund had already been tasked with \$377,000 of work, exceeding the \$200,000 it had left available.

Next, third-year writing & literature and history of art and architecture double major Yoyo Huang, chair of



The A.S. Senate heard budgetary concerns from various entities and adopted internal reforms.

the Creative Media Unit and member of the Global Gaucho Commission, addressed the Senate in opposition of a proposed update to Standing Policy 22. If passed, the bill would bar food-related expenditures for boards, committees and units (BCUs) and A.S. branches of government whose meetings last fewer than three hours.

Huang expressed that the bill felt targeted towards BCUs, as it focused on temporal limits rather than budgetary restrictions. She continued, discussing how most BCU meetings take place during dinner hours, making it crucial that members have access to food while participating. She also noted that most BCU meetings finish within three hours, while Senate meetings are known to go on for longer.

Senator and First President Pro Tempore Evan Sussman asserted that the bill was not written with BCUs in mind, but rather to update A.S. legislation in accordance with the UC Office of the President's policy. The bill was referred to the advocacy committee for

further review.

Following this, Raíces de mi Tierra Co-Chair and fourth-year history of policy, law and governance major Toni Valtierra advocated for continued funding from A.S. for her group. They emphasized that their mission statement has been expanded to include undocumented and immigrant students at UCSB, and that they are focussed on increasing multicultural involvement and becoming a resource hub for Latine students.

Subsequently, Ekaterina Osipova commented on the Senate's efficiency and transparency. Osipova condemned the Senate for its lack of public comment on budget modifications, for delays in posting meeting minutes on the Senate website and alleged that several senators had made racist remarks in the previous meeting. Senate members provided her with online resources and assured her that the meeting minutes would be updated soon.

Budget Deliberations
A.S. manages around 80

budgets including Senate subcommittees, BCUs and staff. Deliberations for the 2026-27 budget began with an association-wide budget hearing and a subsequent budget proposal from the A.S. finance committee during Week 2. A.S. President and fourth-year Spanish, communication and global studies triple major Le Anh Metzger then sent out her budget proposal, with rationale for every cut or increase from the previous proposal during Week 4.

To begin its own deliberations, the Senate went into a closed session to discuss the budget for staff salaries and benefits. The Senate decided to allocate \$3.8 million for staff, with the funding coming from 20% of each lock-in BCU budget and 10% of each non-lock-in BCU budget. This \$3.8 million is out of the total \$3.9 million collected from the annual base student fee, which leaves only \$100,000 for remaining A.S. accounts.

After the initial budget proposal and weeks of advocacy from BWHC

requesting the Senate reinstate their full budget, the collaborative received a \$126,000 operating budget for the next academic year. Raíces de mi Tierra was given a budget of \$53,240.

The Senate decided to completely cut the A.S. Environmental Justice Alliance's (EJA) budget, claiming that it has historically spent most of its funding toward honoraria and food. Additionally, Sussman said EJA should combine with the Environmental Affairs Board, as they have similar mission statements.

The official budget with all amounts will be made public after the Week 8 Senate meeting where rollover amounts will be decided.

Legislation Passed

The Senate unanimously adopted Policy 39, which creates a quarterly staff feedback form and outlines the procedures for students reporting concerns within A.S. Senator and fourth-year history of policy, law and governance major Vanessa Manakova cited a "lack of timely communication, lack of clarity regarding staff responsibilities and difficulty obtaining assistance necessary for the effective operation of their entities" for why the form is necessary.

Financial Allocations

The Senate allocated \$1,000 to the A.S. Book Bank to fund the textbook grant program — a program created by Senator and third-year philosophy and economics double major Noah Luken to provide students with financial support when purchasing textbooks.

Next, the Senate reallocated the Community Volunteer Foundation fund to the finance committee's spring quarter funds due to the groups lack of operation and board for several years.

I.V. motorcycles: nuisance to some, community for others

Levi Kauffman
County News Editor

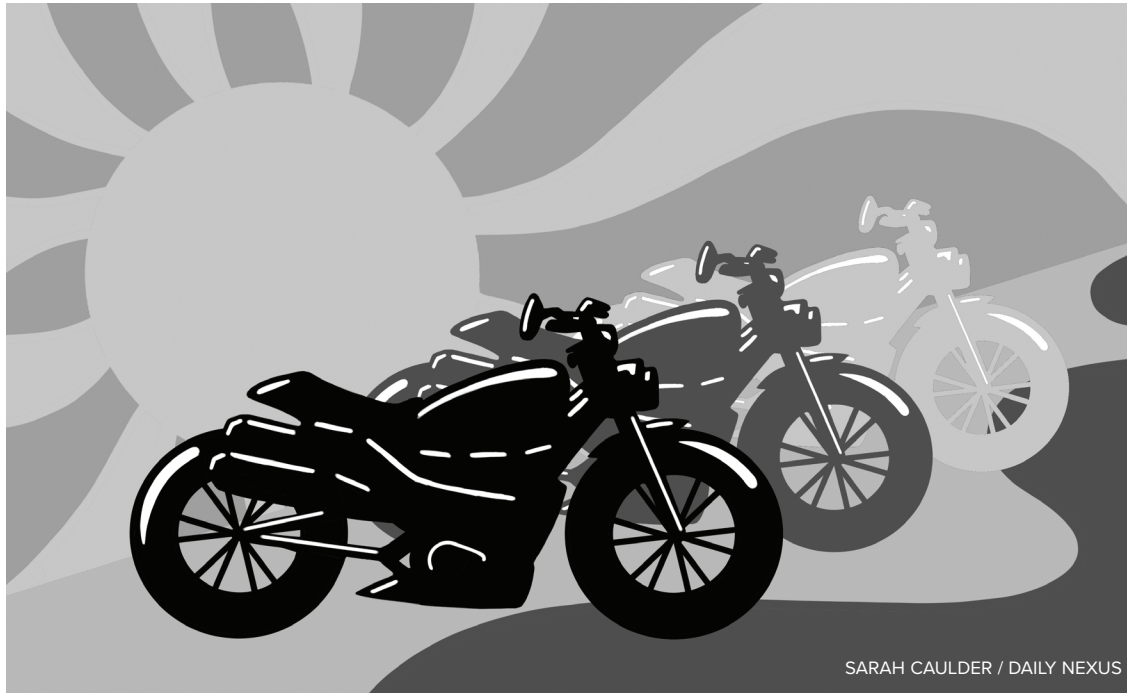
Throughout the week, banging, crackling and popping from loud engines can be heard darting down Isla Vista streets. The frequent source — motorcycles — pose a nuisance to some while offering a community centered on a common interest to others.

Among riders, it is common to install aftermarket exhaust systems and remove mufflers to increase the sound of engines, often exceeding the legal limit of around 80 decibels. According to analysis by the Environmental Protection Agency, loud noise from motorcycles can have detrimental health effects such as “[aggravating] existing heart conditions” and interrupting sleep.

“Typically, every hour or so you’ll hear a really loud motorcycle drive by, or even a car, [and clearly] some people they definitely have modded [them],” second-year computer science and physics double major Hao Guo said. “Even when I’m trying to go to sleep later in the day, I still hear them driving around at night, and it’s a really large annoyance because I wear earbuds and I still can hear them.”

Third-year communication major Sasha Christofi, who rides a Suzuki GSX-R1000, participates in the motorcycle scene around UC Santa Barbara and I.V., attends planned and spontaneous meetups. He estimates that over 80% of bikes in and around I.V. have modified exhausts.

“People like them because it makes a popping, banging sound, or it just sounds better because if not, it would just be really boring and quiet,”



SARAH CAULDER / DAILY NEXUS

Motorcycles can pose a nuisance to some while offering a community centered on a common interest to others.

Christofi said. “My bike is stock exhaust because it doesn’t bring attention to the police. But I remember when I had my other bikes that had aftermarket ones, cops would just be always pulling me over and I got tired of it. So there’s kind of that trade-off.”

Within biker circles, some members argue that “loud pipes save lives,” which holds that louder bikes better alert drivers and wildlife to their presence and help prevent collisions. However, studies have found that this is largely a myth. Christofi said he personally “grew out of that phase.”

Second-year political science major Joseph Horowitz, who rides a 2008 Yamaha V Star 250, expressed sympathy for those affected by the sounds of passing motorcycles. He also said that he believes people may often confuse the sound of a loud car engine with that of a motorcycle.

“If they see it and it is a

motorcycle, I guess it’s an adverse effect. Again, it’s ... the tightness of our group [that] makes it seem like there’s so many more, the noise is so much louder than it actually is,” Horowitz said. “I feel bad for the people who have to experience the noise sometimes. But again, adverse effect.”

Several bikers claimed that motorcycles are more environmentally friendly than cars. However, evidence has shown that despite being more fuel efficient, motorcycles emit more hydrocarbons, nitrogen oxides and carbon monoxide.

Christofi and other bikers have noted an increase in the number of people entering the local biker scene in the last year. According to him, a group chat of local bikers he is in has more than doubled since October 2025, when it had around 30 people. According to the Department of Motor Vehicles, there were over 11,500 motorcycles registered in Santa Barbara

County in 2024.

Fourth-year biochemistry and applied mathematics double major Campbell Cleveland, who rides a 2009 Harley-Davidson CVO Softail Springer, said that while he could not definitively determine that there has been an increase in motorcycles in the area, he has noticed new bikes parked around campus.

To Horowitz, buying a bike in I.V. right now is the “smart decision.” He emphasized the upsides of riding a motorcycle over a car including cheaper entry, gas and insurance costs. He also highlighted the ease of finding parking for a motorcycle in I.V. in comparison to the lack of street parking for cars.

Another aspect of biking important to Christofi, Horowitz and Cleveland is the community. They all described how the local bike scene is largely inviting and inclusive.

“It’s an overall very warm community,” Horowitz said. “Despite being such

a materialistic thing that connects us, a very menial thing — it’s two wheels and an engine — it’s a very strong connector. Because we all have that general feeling of ‘this connects us’ and this is our getaway, our separation from the stresses of school or the stresses of living in general.”

This year, Cleveland and Horowitz helped found a campus motorcycle club, Gaucho Riders. Horowitz explained that anyone interested, regardless of motorcycle ownership, is “more than welcome” to come to meetings. Currently, Gaucho Riders is helping students interested in pursuing their motorcycle license.

“I think it’s a once-in-a-lifetime kind of experience. You should do things when you’re young and have fun and live dangerously, and if you gotta crash, you gotta crash,” Horowitz said. “One of the beautiful parts about life is literally thrill. I’m not saying you gotta drive at 150 miles an hour on the 101, but I definitely think you should get out of your comfort zone.”

Cleveland, who serves as the president of Gaucho Riders, emphasized that the club aims to change perceptions around riders and motorcycle culture. As someone who found his community riding a Harley, Cleveland wanted to recreate that at UCSB and promote safety.

“People who are excessively revving or making a fool of themselves, they’re annoying, I get it, and I just hope that they don’t represent us,” Cleveland said. “So [with the club] we want to put forward a positive image and try to maintain safety and just make it fun.”

Edible Campus Program helps maintain family housing garden



SANJANA LINGAM / DAILY NEXUS

The ECP provides volunteering opportunities to the community and brings together students and community members who have either a well-seasoned green thumb or a fresh interest in gardening.

Sanjana Lingam
Reporter

Hidden in Isla Vista’s Storke Family Student Housing Apartments is a pathway trailed out by a mixture of dried and dense brown dirt that leads to a vibrant community garden — one of many maintained by UC Santa Barbara’s Edible Campus Program.

The Edible Campus Program (ECP) provides volunteering opportunities to the community, bringing together students and community members who have either a well-seasoned green thumb or a fresh interest in gardening. The

ECP’s gardens are home to cacti, herbs, vegetables, fruit trees and bushes, planted in redwood boxes.

ECP hosts Saturday Morning Live every week where volunteers work in gardens around the community on Saturdays from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. ECP does not require any prior gardening experience and is open to the general public.

On May 2, Saturday Morning Live volunteers tended to the community garden where ECP Volunteer Coordinator and third-year psychological & brain sciences major Connor Carpenter found two bunnies resting in the corner

of the shed. Carpenter said that preserving the wildlife of the surrounding nature is an essential part of the program’s goal.

Carpenter stated that the opportunity to collaborate with the ECP enabled him to get more involved around I.V. and build a new community by meeting other volunteers.

ECP Member Coordinator and third-year sociology major Fred Torres and Garden Operations Coordinator and second-year statistics and data science major Siying Zhong work together in making the community garden a place that represents the community within I.V.

Torres mentioned that the community garden is a significant part of the Storke Family Student Housing Apartments, where children living in the housing complex can take a breath with the butterflies in the purple cutleaf lilac bushes.

Zhong added that the volunteers of the garden have been nothing but helpful due to the frequent weather changes in Goleta. They agree that when weather challenges happen, the garden must be continuously maintained and looked over.

While showing a cherry tree freshly planted on one of the plots, Zhong mentioned that the redwood boxes that

are placed for each of the vegetables are to repel the insects.

Torres added that the children’s garden was placed to grab engagement within the UCSB Family Student Housing (FSH) community and to open their minds to learning about the natural habitat. He also mentioned that he wished they had more necessities to maintain the garden.

Volunteer and FSH Resident Nathan Luo, first year master’s student in environmental science and management, hopes to build a nest for hummingbirds because it was his wife’s wish.

IVTU presents renting tips for first-year students

Mavis Holley
Staff Writer

The Associated Students Isla Vista Tenants Union, in collaboration with the First Year Residential Experience, discussed housing strategies for students transitioning from living in the dormitories to Isla Vista in the upcoming school year. The event was hosted in the Santa Cruz Residence Hall main lounge on April 26.

The Associated Students (A.S.) Isla Vista Tenants Union (IVTU) provides legal, educational and financial resources for I.V. tenants. It is responsible for distributing financial resource grants, including emergency rent assistance or security deposit assistance.

20 students attended the presentation led by IVTU Vice Chair and fourth-year political science major Daniel Fourchy and IVTU Outreach Director and third-year history and environmental studies double major Sasha Pantoja.

Fourchy offered advice about renting in I.V., stating that security deposits present challenges among renters. He shared that security deposits may not exceed the amount of one month's rent for landlords who own more than two residential properties, which is "essentially every landlord" in I.V., he noted.

"One of the most important parts of asking for your security deposit back is having documentation of damage before moving in," Fourchy added. When tenants ask for their security deposits back, Fourchy said that landlords

may withhold tenants' security deposits without legitimate damage made to the unit.

"If you're claiming that [the unit] came in a certain condition and you don't have a picture or a video of that, it makes it very hard to make that claim. When you're moving in, document every inch of your property: photos and videos," Fourchy said.

If the unit is damaged before the tenant moves in, they should contact their landlord and notify them of the damage so they're not held liable.

Pantoja advised tenants to get a security deposit from sublessors in case they damage the unit. She highlighted that the master lease — the first lease signed — should include subleasing rules and that tenants should "have an agreement with [their] sub-lease in writing."

When it comes to moving out of a unit, Fourchy recommended that tenants remain attentive to the way their landlords handle their security deposits, noting that 21 days after the move-out date, they must send you an itemized statement for your security deposit. Additionally, Fourchy noted that landlords "cannot deduct from normal wear and tear."

To help navigate renting issues, Fourchy recommended students use A.S. legal resources. The IVTU shares an office with the A.S. Legal Resource Center, where two full-time lawyers work. Fourchy added that they can read your lease and advise you on the next steps.

"You can meet with them at any time for free," Fourchy said.



NEXUS FILE PHOTO

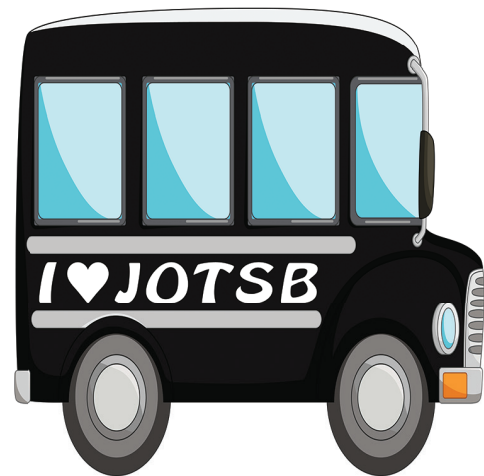
The IVTU provides legal, educational and financial resources for I.V. tenants.

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Gaucha Think Tank brings new street murals to Isla Vista

Lola Hadley
News Intern
Lucy Wellons
News Intern

Gaucha Think Tank, along with other community organizations, will create four new street murals at the Pardall Road and Camino Pescadero intersection in Isla Vista. The artworks celebrate the marine environment of the Channel Islands and local walking and biking culture, as well as draw awareness toward issues of domestic violence and poverty.

The new street murals were pitched to stakeholders by Gaucha Think Tank (GTT), a student-run interdisciplinary think tank that researches local issues and works with the community to implement innovative solutions. The installation is a collaborative project between GTT, Isla Vista Community Services District (IVCSD) and Santa Barbara County (SBC). The murals are projected to be finished by mid-May.

Founder and President of GTT and third-year physics major Sanjit Masanam said the project aims to beautify I.V. and promote safety on the streets.

According to Masanam, funding is coming from both the Valuing Open and Inclusive Conversation and Engagement (V.O.I.C.E.) initiative and the Isla Vista Community Relations Committee

(IVCRC). About \$5,000 was granted to GTT from V.O.I.C.E. and about \$7,000 from IVCRC.

"There's been research on how street art installations can reduce collisions between pedestrians and bikers with vehicle traffic," Masanam said. "It's a low-cost way of hopefully improving the safety of pedestrians and bikers in I.V."

GTT selected local Chumash artist John Khus to design the murals and create a chalk outline of his paintings on the intersection. The four themes for the murals each address personal connections to Khus' life as well as the surrounding I.V. community. While volunteers will complete the bulk of the painting, Khus will complete the finishing touches.

One mural will commemorate the nature of the nearby Channel Islands. Khus emphasized the importance of protecting the aquatic environment and spoke of his connection to the ocean due to his Chumash heritage.

"There's different aspects in the [ocean] design in particular. [I] wanted to make sure I highlighted the kelp forests, which are being damaged a lot and are in danger. And those [kelp forests] are really important for all the aquatic life," Khus said.

Another mural will draw awareness to the issue of domestic violence, which Khus said is an important theme for his art and the first he chose. This section of the mural will depict a mother and a child.

"I have had a connection in one way or another my whole entire life with domestic violence. It's impacted how I've grown up. It's impacted people that I care about and love in different ways. That's a theme and a subject that I feel is extremely important, and making sure that we don't silence — that we don't just sweep it under the rug," Khus said.

The third mural's theme centers on the walking and biking culture of I.V. Khus drew inspiration from memories of growing up in I.V. with his

mother while she attended UC Santa Barbara.

"We spent a lot of time in the area, and my connection with that is from early childhood. And so that formed a lot of my affinity and affection for Isla Vista in particular. And I think the walking and biking part of it," Khus said.

The focus of the final mural is poverty, which will depict a hand "dropping individual coins down" to another hand.

"There's definitely a nod to something that I grew up with being told, which is the trickle-down theory," Khus said. "None of the money is going to the child below. I highlighted that there's ribs [in the mural design] too, kind of [to] emphasize that this child is in need of food but even being denied."

SBC is providing supplemental funding for protective delineator poles that will surround the mural, and IVCSD is responsible for informing neighboring properties about street closures and other forms of community outreach about the project.

According to IVCSD Public Works & Sustainability Director Jenna Norton, the project is a precursor to a larger initiative to create better biking and mobility infrastructure in I.V. The future project, which is set to be completed in 2028, is a \$9 million state-funded grant project that will build sidewalks, curb extensions, high-visibility crosswalks and concrete bulb-outs in various intersections. Bulb-outs prevent cars from parking too close to the intersection, allowing for more visibility to see who is crossing the street.

"We hope that it'll have a traffic calming effect. Hopefully people will slow down and be more aware of their surroundings. It'll help with sight lines and visibility and it'll add some beauty to the neighborhood," Norton said.

According to Norton, the street mural project is a temporary installation intended to eventually be removed when the construction in 2028 begins. The

protective delineator poles that will surround the

street murals will aim to create an effect similar to what the future project aims to achieve. Norton explained that at the time of the future project's completion, the murals will likely be paved over or covered up. However, they do plan to preserve the murals for as long as possible.

SBC Public Works Mobility Manager Mark Friedlander focuses on bike, pedestrian and transit projects for "non-motorized modes of travel." According to Friedlander, the Pardall and Camino Pescadero intersection was a focus that GTT presented to SBC and IVCSD. "[GTT] looked at some previous planning documents that have been done, including the IVCSD mobility plan, and it had a heat map that showed different collisions involving pedestrians and bicyclists. And this intersection had sort of one of our highest incident traffic collision intersections in Isla Vista," Friedlander said.

According to Friedlander, infrastructure like curbs and sidewalks is extremely expensive, and the murals are a temporary solution for safety in the meantime.

"With something like this, you

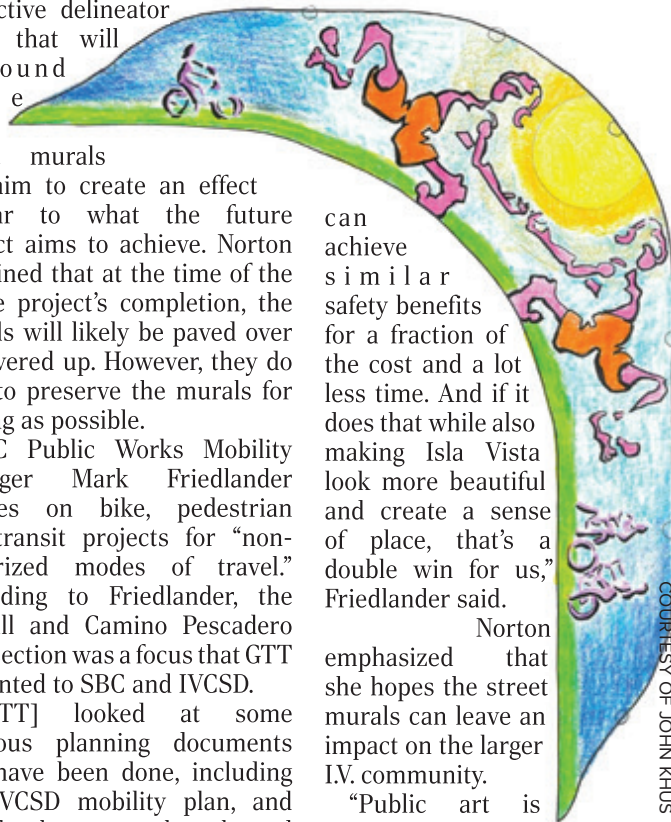
can achieve similar safety benefits for a fraction of the cost and a lot less time. And if it does that while also making Isla Vista look more beautiful and create a sense of place, that's a double win for us," Friedlander said.

Norton emphasized that she hopes the street murals can leave an impact on the larger I.V. community.

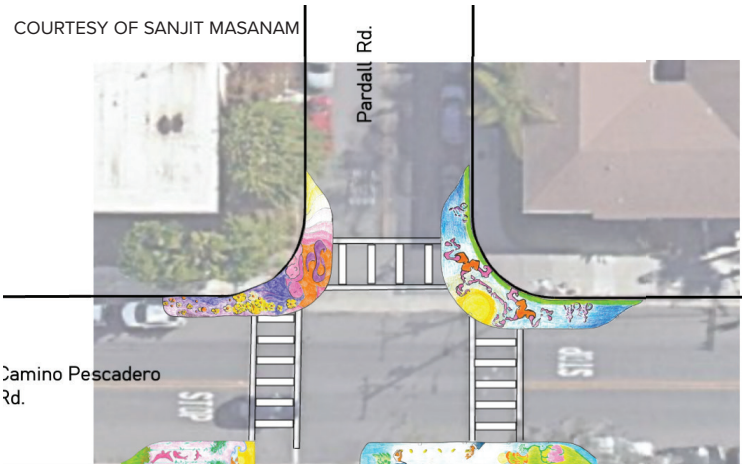
"Public art is something a lot of people want to see more of, and [it] encourages respect and a sense of responsibility for one's community," Norton said. "Because we know that when we take care of our community and when we implement meaningful, thoughtful projects, especially coming from someone who has such deep ties to the community, it helps to gain other residents' respect and causes them to care more for their community."



COURTESY OF JOHN KHUS



COURTESY OF JOHN KHUS



Gaucha Think Tank, along with other community organizations, will create four new street murals at the Pardall Road and Camino Pescadero intersection in I.V.

SRJ's "Abortion Access Now!" educates attendees on abortion access

Sanjana Lingam
Staff Writer

UC Santa Barbara's Students for Reproductive Justice held an abortion access informational event at the Student Resource Building on May 4. The event supplied free Plan B pills, condoms, pregnancy tests, dental dams and cup caps.

The event, titled "Abortion Access Now!", offered a space where conversations about abortion policies were put into a national context, in particular educating attendees on how to be an active and effective advocate.

The Co-Chairs of Students for Reproductive Justice (SRJ) hosted the event to bring sexual health education, specifically around abortion, to campus. Third-year psychological & brain sciences major Kaavya Saini and third-year history and biology double major Samantha Heinz were the main organizers behind the event. Heinz mentioned that they promoted organization activity during spring quarter by providing condom ferries to drop free contraceptives around IV.



SRJ hosted "Abortion Access Now" to open conversations about abortion, provide resources and educate UCSB students.

Saini's main goal in hosting this event was to continue SRJ's mission to "globally reach out for giving access to abortion, but locally we aim to bring accessible free menstrual and contraceptive products for college students."

"Another thing [SRJ]

had done was restore the reproductive justice fund to where if you do receive either a free pregnancy test or a STI test at the Student Health Center, the record will not show," Heinz said

Heinz clarified that this includes products students

receive from the pharmacy that will show up as "Student Health Pharmacy" on their BARC account.

Saini explains the recently passed abortion policy, Assembly Bill (AB) 2540, provides California Community College students with

accessible abortion resources.

SRJ board members presented the two main types of abortions, using medication or a surgical procedure, both of which are physician approved. They added that the UC Student Health Insurance Plan enables UCSB students to have safe and secure abortion accessibility. The presentation highlighted other resources including Planned Parenthood.

SRJ members mentioned that the topic of abortion needs to be approached with empathy on opposing sides to bring people together. Saini and Heinz both urged attendees to continue engaging and educating themselves on this topic during a sensitive time.

At the end of the event, an attendee who chose to remain anonymous emphasized the importance of groups like SRJ staying active to provide students with reproductive health resources.

"I hope that the organization continues to grow and stay active on campus because sexual health resources are a need especially in our current political climate," the attendee said.

ACC hosts its 17th Annual Top Rope Climbing Competition

Yogita Sharma
Staff Writer

The Adventure Climbing Center hosted its 17th annual Top Rope Climbing Competition at the Multi-Activity Court, drawing 50 participants across four divisions for a day-long event on May 2.

The competition featured beginner, intermediate, advanced and open divisions with most categories separated into men's, women's and nonbinary groups, while the open division was co-ed. A total of 20 climbers competed in advanced, 17 in intermediate, nine in open and four in beginner. All competitors received five raffle tickets and a one-topping pizza coupon to Woodstock's Pizza.

One of the closest competitions occurred in the men's intermediate division, when fourth-year economics and data science double major Kevin Zhang beat second-year psychological & brain sciences major Jack Hubschmitt in a timed tiebreaker. Both climbers attempted the same route, with Zhang securing first place after reaching the top the fastest as spectators cheered from below.

Other divisions also came down to narrow last-second tiebreakers. According to an event staff member, fourth-year psychological & brain sciences major Breanna Elman, the advanced women's category required a tiebreaker on a "high-point climb" in the open division, where the winner was determined by who could reach the highest point on the route.

Event organizers grouped divisions together throughout

the day to manage any overlap within route difficulty to reduce wait times.

"We grouped these categories together because a lot of the beginner climbs that are higher difficulty are going to be the easier levels for our intermediates, so there's that overlap," Elman said. "We would have people waiting in line for the same climbs, and it would be too long of a wait time."

The competition was supported by Adventure Climbing Center (ACC) staff and volunteers who designed the climbs and ensured safety throughout the event. Parker Inglis, a third-year environmental studies major and head route setter, said the role involves managing both logistics and creativity.

"There's a lot of organizing [and] budgeting," Inglis said. "Putting up holds on the wall and establishing what difficulty they are."

Zaina Barclay Hamir, a second-year statistics and data science and philosophy double major and ACC staff member, described working the event as "very much like being a vertical lifeguard."

"I set a climb for this competition, and the employees who set climbs can't compete, so I was really excited to be on the other side," Hamir said.

She added that while climbing can often feel individual, competitions highlight a broader sense of community.

"Rock climbing is inherently a bit of a solitary sport, so the experience at competition is that it's one of the best ways to showcase the community," Hamir said.

Participants said that the sense of community was a defining feature of the event. Brayden Nickerson, a UC Santa Barbara alum and the first-place winner in the co-ed open category, said despite being competitors, they often support one another.

"Even though you're competing against people, you're still working with those same people," Nickerson said. "Some of my biggest competitors, all encouraging each other and sharing strategies for the climbs. It's a win if anyone gets to the top."

Elias Sabbagh, a second-year mechanical engineering major who placed third in advanced men's, said he did not expect to place.

"I really like the community here, it's what keeps me coming

back," Sabbagh said. "I showed up just for fun, tried my best and I ended up getting third place."

For some climbers, the event marked personal milestones. First-year mechanical engineering major Hannah Grinblat, who began climbing at the start of the school year, won first place in the women's intermediate division and also received the event's largest raffle prize: a climbing rope. She said the supportive environment stood out even during competition.

"It's a great way to destress and have fun. I've worked my way up to now being able to win intermediate," Grinblat said. "Everyone's really nice, we're competing against each other but you wouldn't think that. People are giving other people

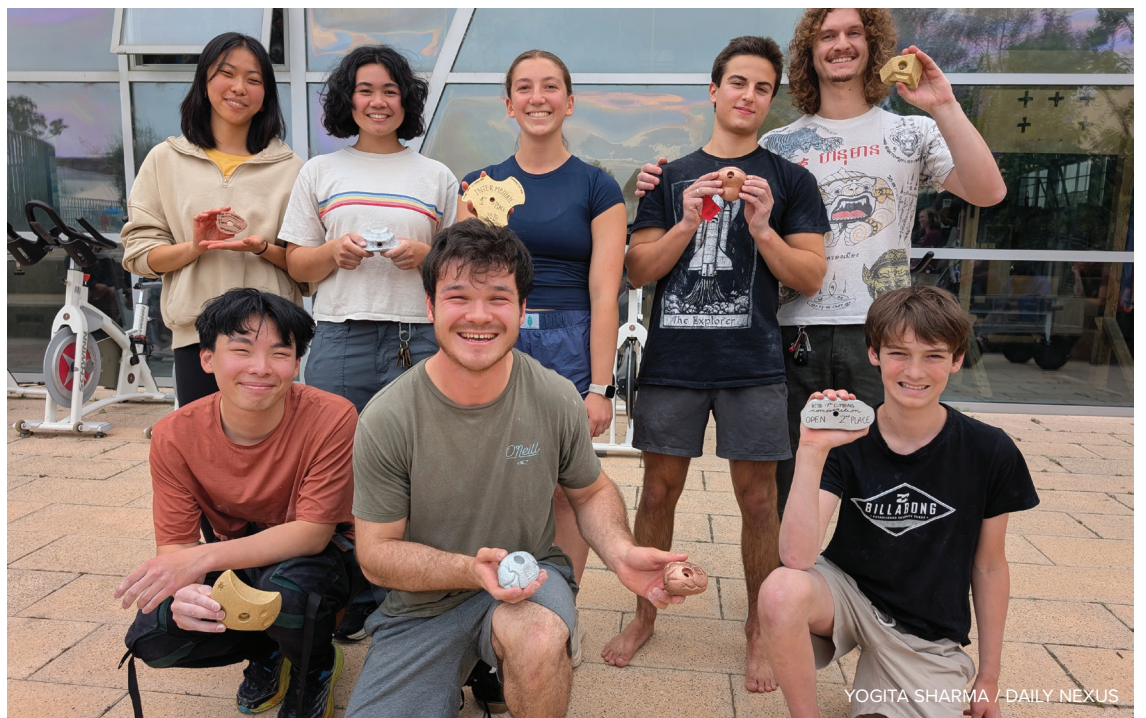
advice – trying to help out."

Spectators also described a similar atmosphere. Second-year environmental studies and cell and developmental biology double major Summer Baars said the event made it easy to connect with others.

"It's a very open community so it's very easy to talk to everyone," Baars said. "I've talked to more people here today than I feel like I do in my classes."

Second-year graduate student Nadav Kempinski said he appreciated both the route setting and the persistence of competitors.

"I keep on seeing people come back to the same route they keep falling on," Kempinski said. "It's really cool to see the tenacity people are bringing to this."



Winners for co-ed open, women and men's intermediate divisions.

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COLUMNISTS

sex and the community



JULIET BECKER / DAILY NEXUS

Diana Paradise
Sexpert

A few years back, a man ran up to me in the streets of Isla Vista after spotting me walking by from inside Dublin's. He asked for my number and gave me only his first name – he was an out-of-towner that frequented Santa Barbara and clearly had a vested interest in me. We scheduled a date for the next day.

I was wrecked with nerves. Unable to “stalk” him online, I then thought to myself: This is how dating was – and has been – up until about 10 years ago.

Match.com, eharmony, OkCupid, Bumble, Tinder and now, the fan-favorite, Hinge. These offer the exact opposite of the experience that I had with Dublin's guy: People present the most curated and likable versions of themselves, you vet each other online (frequently on Instagram) before meeting and you can't know your tangible chemistry with someone until you've already established that you want to go on a date.

Let me clarify: I am not a complete and total dating app hater. My sister, whose wedding I will attend as maid of honor in less than three weeks, met her soon-to-be husband on Hinge. When you move somewhere new, are in a precarious situation or don't have a large dating pool easily at your disposal, I can see how they are helpful to meet people.

However, I am a firm believer that Isla Vista might be the worst possible place to be on dating apps. Are the people hot? Yes. Are they all close to you? Yes. These solve two of the most common problems plaguing dating apps in other places.

But, IV. has one of the most abundant party, social, hookup and

Hedonism, humiliation, Hinge: How dating apps have ruined connections

dating cultures in the country. People here love to have fun, socialize and meet new people. At all colleges, but especially at UC Santa Barbara, it is easier than anywhere else to go on dates, hookup with someone at a party or even pursue a relationship.

So, why do people here use dating apps? For one, I think that swiping on an app fulfills a psychological need that we have developed through years on social media. We scroll on funny reels on Instagram, pin aesthetic photos on Pinterest, peruse interesting posts on X and swipe on hot people on Tinder. Dating has become a social media network, just like any other.

When you get out of a relationship, the worst feeling in the world is being hung up on your ex until you find someone else. Even in IV., people don't always immediately jump your pants the second you're single. When you get dumped, it can be comforting to feel “wanted” by people.

Dating apps are fun, and it's no accident. Fortnite loot chests, slot machines and dating apps all rely on the same psychological phenomenon: the hope that the next game, the next spin or the next refresh will lead to success. Faith, in other words.

This is not beneficial or healthy for dating, though. Dating, sex and making connections with people are not gambling. There is no “winning” in dating. There is not an unlimited amount of spins or loot chests.

I approach dating with a very free-spirited mindset: You should never stay in a relationship in which you don't want to be for even a moment, especially based on the premise that “there is no one else out there” for you. The world is massive and full

of people who can influence your personality, your life's path and your happiness. Especially when we are young, there is no reason to feel that the dating pool is finite.

Nevertheless, part of what makes dating so fulfilling is that it can often push you out of your comfort zone. Socializing, rejection, dating and sex are muscles that need to be exercised to grow. You can't learn how to be a good friend from watching “Friends,” you can't learn to be good at sex from watching porn and you can't become better at dating from sending hearts to people on Hinge.

I've been rejected when I approach guys. I've gone on awkward first dates. I've had failed talking stages. These are important experiences to get to know what one wants in dating, what they look for in a partner and how comfortable one is with themselves.

When you are reluctant to approach someone because you know that you can just scroll and find someone else on your phone, you feel less connected to your dates because you can find their replacement with a swipe and you treat the apps as more of a game or social media than seeking a connection, you know that dating apps have corrupted the natural order of dating.

You will likely never live in a place where you can meet people – for any kind of purpose or relationship – as easily as you can in IV. Live your college years authentically, boldly and without Hinge. Besides, the rush you get from successfully approaching someone is way more of a high than sending them a like.

Diana Paradise thinks it's these damn phones.

put me on AUX

JULIET BECKER / DAILY NEXUS



Siobhan Stewart
Beat Reporter

Beyond the algorithm: Why Bruce Springsteen is more than a song on TikTok

The sun was shining through the windows as I looked out at the passing landscape on the train to Los Angeles. I put my headphones on and played Johnny Cash. There is something specific about the combination of motion, distance and a comforting voice that sounds like it has weathered many journeys. Cash has that quality, and so does the artist I have not been able to stop listening to: Bruce Springsteen.

Some of you may only know about him from your dad. Or have heard that one popular up-beat song that is trending, “I'm on Fire.” There is more to his artistry besides a popular TikTok audio. Springsteen has resurfaced in the conversation for our generation. This is great, but if “I'm on Fire” is where your Springsteen journey begins and ends, you need to rethink and dive into his discography.

Bruce Springsteen is not a one-song proposition. He is a pioneer, one of the architects of a sound that nobody had quite made before him, where rock and folk collapse into each other and the result feels less like a playlist and more like a novel. But you won't understand that from “I'm on Fire” alone. You have to go deeper.

Take “My Hometown.” On the surface it is a quiet song, almost understated for someone with Springsteen's reputation for stadium anthems. But it hits hard; the choice of lyrics, the details he decides to talk about and the way he executes the emotional yearning with his unique, raspy voice. It is about growing up and reminiscing on his childhood and, of course, his hometown.

As a student in college, away from San Francisco, where I grew up all my life, it provides me with a relief and comfort that others can also relate to with the transitions of stages in life – especially leaving home for the first time. It is about inheritance, what a place gives and what it takes. He sings it like someone who has wrestled with it for decades, and you can feel every year of it. His raw emotion and talent translate directly to the audience.

“Secret Garden” might be the best example. It is romantic without being saccharine. The soft saxophone and easy lyrics can sound like a typical romantic song. However, once sitting with it, it begins to reveal its complexities. The song emphasizes the originality of individuals and that no matter how intimate, there is a place in people's souls that will remain untouched by others. That is the Springsteen move: the surface is accessible, almost plain, and then something underneath it catches you off guard.

Then, there is “Born in the U.S.A.,” a song with a massively misunderstood

students approach style in general. There's less interest in looking overly done and more emphasis on looking effortless, even if that effortlessness is carefully constructed. Athleisure gives the impression of ease while still allowing for some control.

Of course, not all athleisure works. There's a difference between intentional and unconsidered. A matching set with clean lines and balanced proportions reads as styled. Random gym clothes thrown together at the last minute don't. Worn-out leggings, stretched fabrics and completely mismatched pieces lose the effect entirely.

Like anything else, it comes down to composition.

The best athleisure outfits still think about silhouette. Oversized hoodies paired with fitted shorts.

message. Its loud chorus and big presence of percussion make people think it is a patriotic anthem. People only hear the loud moments but aren't listening to what he is saying.

His message is a criticism of America and a protest about the painful return of Vietnam veterans, neglect they face from the government and disillusionment of the “American Dream.” His songs wield so much power and his effect on the American working class needs to be studied. He reaches the targeted audience, elevating his platform to unseen heights.

There is an intentionality to everything Springsteen does. The anthems are loud because working-class anger deserves to be loud. The love songs are soft because intimacy requires it. He does not stumble into the right sound – he chooses it every time.

Springsteen is frequently filed under classic rock, which is not wrong, but it is incomplete. There is a folk and soul current running through a significant portion of his work, a storytelling tradition built on something deeply introspective. He does not just observe the world around him – he turns inward, sitting with uncomfortable questions about identity, belonging and what America actually owes to the people who believe in it.

It feels human. He sings about jobs and broken-down cars and complicated relationships that make it easy to connect with. He is writing fiction that feels like memoir – one of the harder things to do in any form. Along with his artistry, his introspection is what makes his songs relatable and his messages effective.

The reason I keep coming back to him, and the reason I think he belongs in the conversation for anyone who found their way to him through “I'm on Fire,” is that he offers something that is genuinely hard to find: music that feels like it was made by someone who has actually lived, felt and wants to share.

Not a curated persona around aesthetic choices, but real experience accumulated and put into the work. The yearning in his music is not decorative. It is the kind of raw emotion that reminds us we are humans.

The best music, the kind that actually stays with you, tends to come from somewhere more complicated than one genre. Springsteen is that. He has been that for 50 years. The algorithm found one song and handed it to us; the least we can do is go find the rest.

Siobhan thinks you should listen beyond TikTok audios.

Leggings balanced with structured outerwear. Simple pieces elevated with small details – simple jewelry, big sunglasses and a good pair of sneakers.

Athleisure sits in a very liminal space, between effort and effortlessness, fashion and function. It challenges the idea that looking fashionable has to mean being uncomfortable, or that casual means careless.

Maybe that's why we keep wearing it.

Because at a certain point, the question isn't whether athleisure is stylish. It's whether the definition of “getting dressed” has changed entirely.

Arna Churiwala believes comfort can still be curated.

what we keep wearing: Athleisure

JULIET BECKER / DAILY NEXUS



Arna Churiwala
Fashionista

Lately, it's hard to tell who's actually going to the Recreation Center and who's just going to class.

On any given day, campus is full of matching workout sets, oversized hoodies, leggings paired with slicked-back buns and sneakers that look like they've never touched a treadmill. Someone walks into a lecture in head-to-toe athletic wear, water bottle in their hand, and sits down for an hour and fifteen minutes without moving.

Somewhere along the way, getting dressed and getting ready for a workout became the same thing.

Athleisure, at its core, is simple: clothing designed for exercise, worn for everything else. But on campus, it's not just about comfort – it's about the aesthetic. The right set, the right silhouette and the right level of effortlessness. It's not random, but curated.

And it comes in distinct forms.

There's the polished version: matching Lululemon sets in muted tones, perfectly fitted and paired with clean sneakers. Hair slicked back,

minimal jewelry and everything intentional. It's less “I just worked out” and more “I could work out if I wanted to.”

Then there's the Y2K revival: low-rise sweats, baby tees and vintage Juicy Couture and Victoria's Secret velour tracksuits that feel pulled straight from a 2005 paparazzi photo. It's brightly-colored and nostalgic.

The effortless campus version sits somewhere in between. Oversized Brandy Melville sweatsets or tiny shorts under baggy hoodies – outfits that look thrown together but somehow still work. It's the uniform of early lectures and late-night library runs.

Sometimes it leans minimalist – black leggings, a fitted tank and dainty gold jewelry – but still grounded in the same idea: comfort, styled with purpose.

All of these versions fall under the same category, but they don't feel the same. That's what makes athleisure interesting. It's not one look, but a spectrum.

It also didn't appear out of nowhere. Athleisure has been building for decades. In the 1980s and '90s, workout culture started bleeding into everyday style. Leotards, leggings and the influence of fitness icons throughout the years made loungewear chic. By the early 2000s, Juicy Couture tracksuits turned comfort into a status symbol.

The 2010s pushed it further. Leggings became acceptable as pants, sneakers replaced heels and the “model-off-duty” style took over. Then the pandemic erased whatever boundaries were left. Sweatpants became daily wear, and once that shift

happened, there was no going back.

Now, comfort isn't a fallback – it's the baseline.

Still, athleisure remains oddly controversial.

There's a lingering idea that it's lazy. That wearing leggings and a hoodie doesn't count as “getting dressed.” That it lacks intention or effort.

But that argument doesn't really hold up anymore.

Because athleisure isn't low-effort, just a different kind of effort. The focus shifts. Instead of complicated outfits, the attention goes to fit, fabric and styling. Hair is done. Skin is glowing. The set is perfectly matching. Nothing about the “clean-girl” aesthetic is accidental, even if it looks like it is.

High fashion has recognized that shift, too.

Designers have spent years incorporating athletic elements into their collections. Miu Miu plays with sporty silhouettes and low-rise shapes. Balenciaga exaggerated athleisure into something almost ironic, with oversized hoodies and hyper-casual proportions.

Athleisure is no longer outside of fashion – it's been fully absorbed into it.

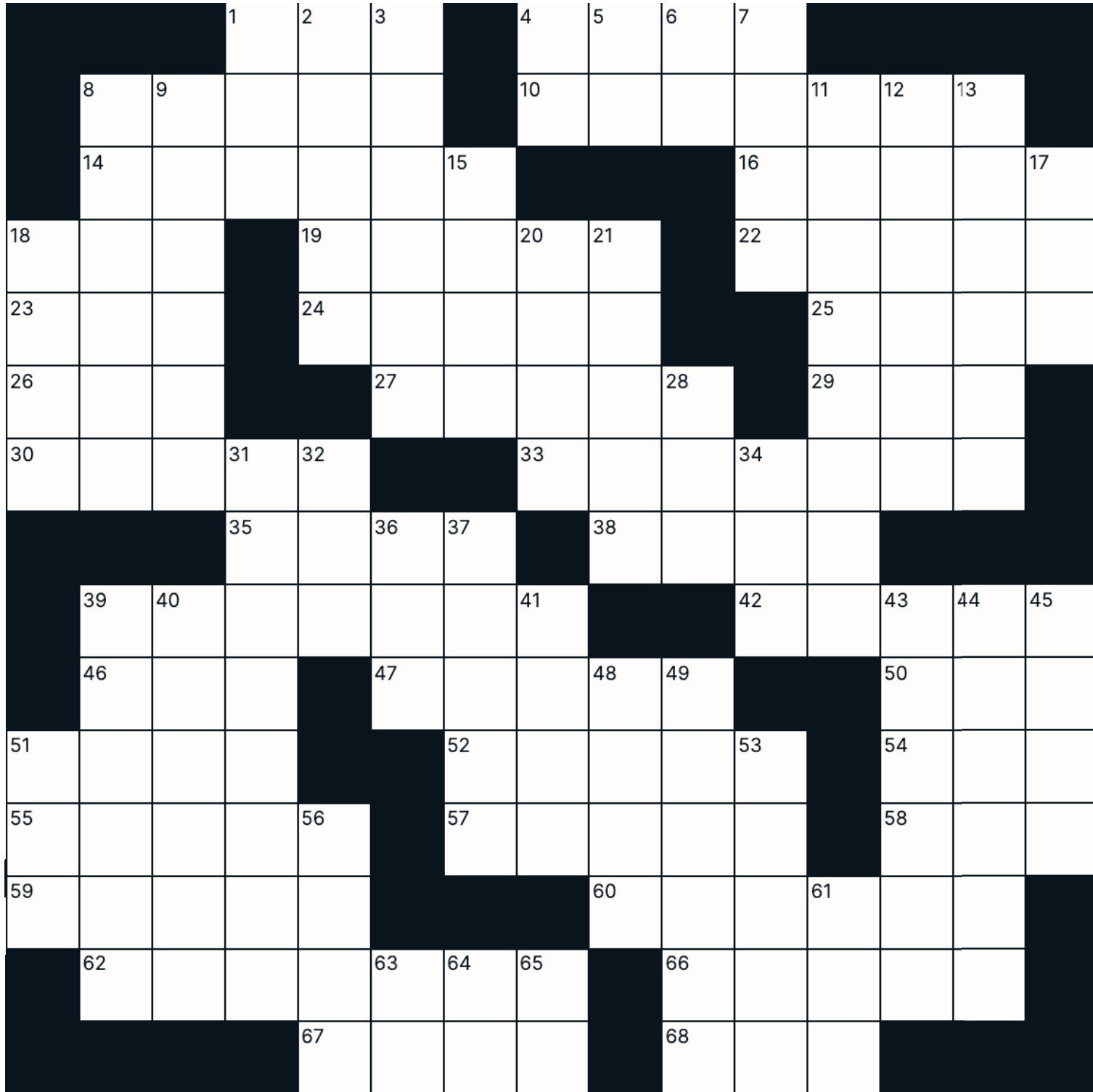
And on a college campus, its takeover makes perfect sense.

Students need clothes that can move with them. From class to the library to a quick coffee run, maybe even to a pilates class if motivation hits. There's no time for full outfit changes. Athleisure fills that gap. It's functional, flexible and socially acceptable in almost every setting.

It also reflects how college

GAMES

The Daily Nexus crossword: Puck drop!



2026 Winter Olympics
62. Quickly, in music
66. Historically rigid foundation garment, similar to a corset
67. Dropped at the start of a hockey game
68. Sometimes confused with a tbsp

Down:
1. Friend in Paris and Quebec
2. Private seating areas in theaters
3. Largest island in French Polynesia
4. ___/else, in code
5. Scared off with an apple, abbr.
6. Host of the 2028 Summer Olympics, abbr.
7. Wednesday's roommate, in the show
8. Rolls of yarn
9. Ilya Rozanov's brother's name, in the books
11. You can do it!
12. Malkin, of the Pittsburgh Penguins
13. P.W.H.L. counterpart, part 3
15. Group of players
17. Customizable feed, in short
18. Finger millet (a type of grain), in Hindi
20. A notable star
21. Phrase expressing exasperation, in Yiddish
28. Also known as an electronic control module, abbr.
31. With 13 down, part 1
32. Measure of wellbeing, abbr.
34. An ethnic group in Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire
36. Agreement before using a service, abbr.
37. An unannounced exit
39. Mistaken with Alysa (Liu)
40. To revoke
43. With 13 and 31 down, part 2
44. Crosses a threshold
45. Depend
48. The real name of the Phantom in "The Phantom of the Opera" novel
49. Superlative for Athena
51. ___ chi
53. Matted wools
56. A traditional domed straw hive
61. Around the rink
63. Eileen ___, the most decorated Olympic freestyle skier
64. Toy car with a controller, abbr.
65. Sure

Sanchita Koppa
Assistant Games Editor

Across:
1. Not mainstream
4. Inactive
8. Island country in Polynesia
10. "Green Monster" in the Boston Fleet
14. "Captain America" in the Seattle Torrent

16. Never have ___
18. Top of the rainbow
19. Farm vowels
22. French Impressionist artist, often painting ballerinas
23. Nice to breathe
24. Phineas and Ferb's older sister
25. Turned to tune a violin
26. Alternative measure to GDP, abbr.
27. Change of location, present tense

29. Nickname for Anushree
30. A musical sentence; rhymes with a cake topping
33. Common suit accessory
35. Against
38. "___ on Ice"
39. Paintings and photographs
42. King Arthur's father, in myth
46. Around your neck at graduation
47. Bone and muscle connector
50. "The ___ and only"

51. Underlined in red
52. Georgia and Garamond
54. Alternate shortcut for control
55. ___ player in Ottawa, briefly
57. First ever first overall draft pick selected by the Minnesota Frost
58. Mistakenly pressed in 51 across
59. ___ Presley, actor playing Ethan Diaz in "Stuck in the Middle"
60. Scored the golden goal in the

The Daily Nexus Sudoku

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| | 9 | | | | 8 | | 2 | |
| 7 | 1 | | | | | | 9 | |
| 8 | | | 5 | | | | | |
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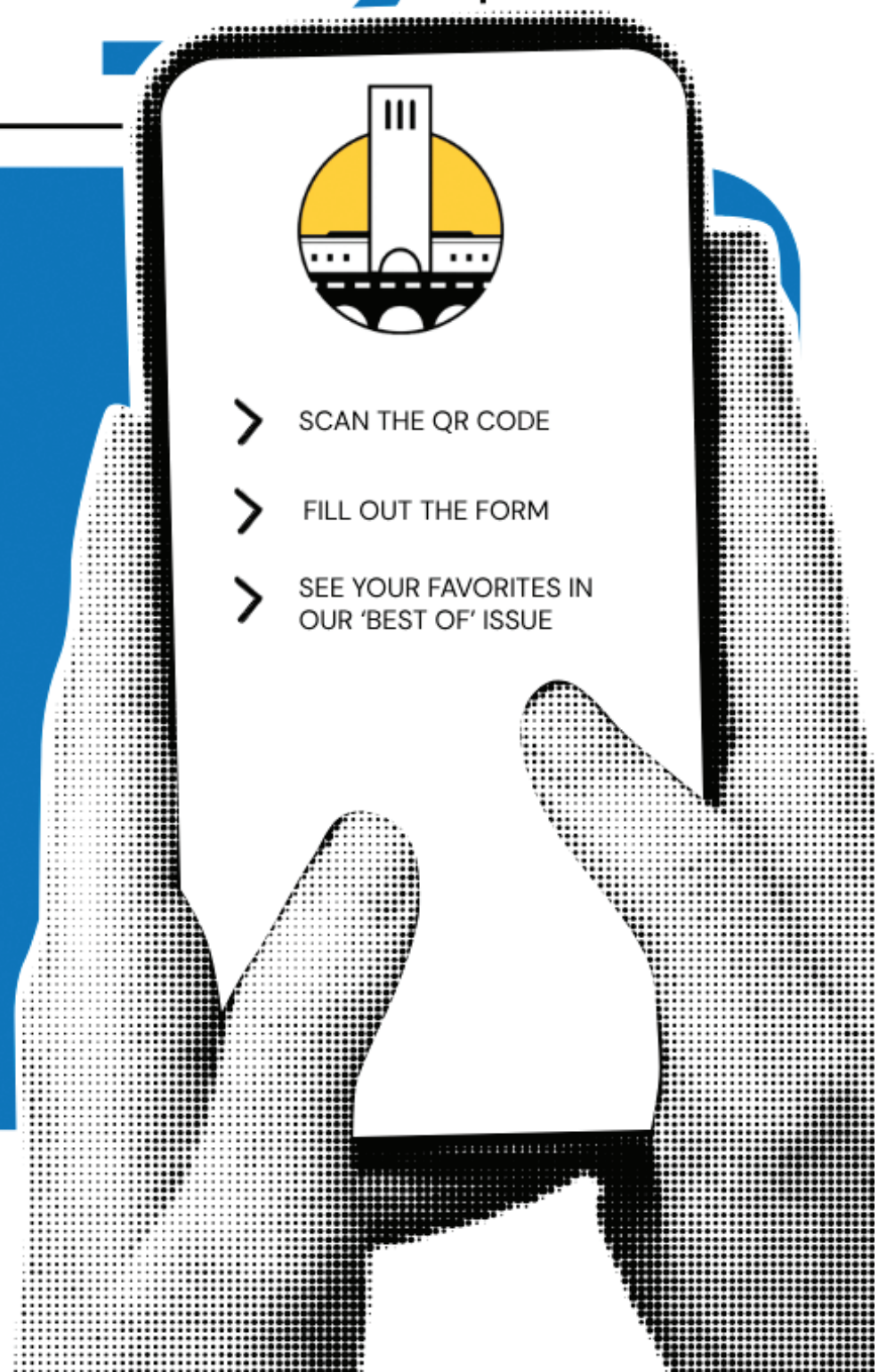
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ON THE MENU



CRISPY RICE SALAD



PIPER CHENEY / DAILY NEXUS

This crispy rice salad is proof that cooking at home can be simple, affordable and, most importantly, delicious.



PIPER CHENEY / DAILY NEXUS

This salad is best enjoyed with a nice beach view and good company.

Piper Cheney On The Menu Editor

The best kinds of nights are the ones composed of something delicious set in the center of the table ready to be shared. This crispy rice salad is exactly that kind of dish. It can be a casual weeknight dinner or served as a side dish for a dinner party that'll impress your friends.

As finals season approaches, it's nice to have a big batch of food waiting for you when you get back from the library. Prep this recipe on a chill Sunday or on a night off for a stress-free week of eating. There's nothing better than coming home to a big plate of food after a full day of studying.

Although the dish looks impressive, the process is simple. All you need is some leftover rice, a bit of time to chop fresh herbs and veggies and a quick crisp in the oven to make the rice golden and crunchy. Mixing together these ingredients leaves you with a creamy, crispy bowl that you'll want leftovers of for the rest of the week – good thing it keeps well in the fridge!

Crispy rice salad

Servings: 6

Time: 1 hour

Ingredients:

- 2 cups of cooked white rice
- 5 chicken thighs
- 1 English cucumber

- 1 avocado
- ½ cup edamame, deshelled
- ¼ cup green onion
- 1 clove garlic, finely diced
- ¼ cup soy sauce
- 3 tablespoons sesame oil
- 3 tablespoons chili oil
- ¼ cup spicy mayo
- Sesame seeds to garnish

Instructions:

1. Place cooled and cooked rice into a large bowl. Add the diced garlic, soy sauce, sesame oil and chili oil into the bowl and mix.
2. Spread rice evenly onto a baking sheet and place in a 400-degree preheated oven for 40 minutes, flipping the rice every

3. While the rice cooks, sear the chicken on medium-high for 10 minutes, flipping halfway through. Season the chicken with seasoning of your choice.
4. Once chicken is cooked thoroughly, dice into pieces. Continue to dice the cucumber, green onion and avocado into the same size as the chicken.
5. When the rice is crispy, let cool for 15 minutes.
6. Place the diced chicken, veggies, edamame and rice into a large bowl and mix.
7. Top with spicy mayo and sesame seeds.

Meals, especially in college, don't have to feel like a chore or a source of stress. This crispy rice salad is proof that cooking at home can be simple, affordable and, most importantly, delicious. The salad is also completely customizable; add carrots for another crunch or tofu for some more protein. Homemade dinners like this are something to look forward to after a long day on campus. It turns basic ingredients into a meal that makes me feel like a chef who has it all together. Hopefully this recipe makes you all feel a little more on top of things and gives you some time to eat with friends as finals season approaches.

A SOLVANG MORNING



PIHU JAIN / DAILY NEXUS

At first glance, the aebleskivers look exactly as described: covered in chocolate syrup, a warm, pancake-esque aroma drifting up from them.

Pihu Jain On The Menu Editor

Of all the places to set up a small Danish town, our coastal locale of Santa Barbara might seem to be an odd choice. Why not on the East Coast, where most European settlers made their mark? For Benedict Nordentoft, Jens Møller Gregersen and Peder Pedersen Hornsyld, Santa Barbara was the perfect choice. In 1911, they founded Solvang ("sunny field" in Danish) to preserve Danish culture. Now, more than a hundred years since its founding, the preservation of Danish culture has withstood the test of time, especially present in the local delicacies.

Whenever my friends from out of town visit, I can't help but take

them to Solvang. Not only does the scenic drive serve a glittering coastline and hills full of goats and cows, the roughly 45-minute drive provides a transformative space wherein you find yourself transported from the energetic, saltine air of Isla Vista to the sweet, sunshiny fields of Solvang.

I'm not the biggest fan of sweets, but my boyfriend certainly is. When he visited, I knew there was only one thing to do: try the infamous aebleskiver, a traditional Danish stuffed pancake ball dessert served at Æbleskivehuset. At first glance, the aebleskivers look exactly as described: covered in chocolate syrup, a warm, pancake-esque aroma drifting up from them. They are larger than

you might expect, roughly the size of a tennis ball. The first bite is a warm, soft and chocolatey surprise, with a certainly large kick of cardamom and herbs that I was not expecting. I was not the biggest fan, as the sweetness got overwhelming after a few bites, but my boyfriend was more than happy to finish them off.

For me, the sweet treat that's hard to beat in Solvang is the Danish Mill Bakery's Danish princess cake. My roommate introduced me to it earlier this year, and its creamy, delicious taste is something I now crave day in, day out. The cake has a very sweet, thin and chewy exterior that yields a massive amount of deliciously fresh cream, all on top of a base of soft

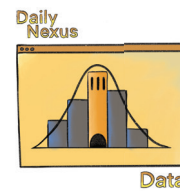
and sweet cake. It's an incredibly light dessert, unlike any I've ever had, and I highly recommend you try as soon as possible, especially in Solvang.

The novelty of Solvang never gets old. The colorful buggies, Danish style cottages, warm aromas drifting from the local bakeries, delicious wines and the most refreshing gelato I've ever tasted always keep me coming back for more. As I finish out my time at UC Santa Barbara, my trips to Solvang are some of the most memorable moments I've had here.

Visiting that town, first in my freshman year and now as a senior, I am brought back to the hope I first felt moving to the West Coast, how inventive and

amazing I found Santa Barbara to be. A city full of history, yet still fresh in its youthful energy and invigorating seascapes. I still feel that way, and though it's sad that my time here is ending, I am more overwhelmingly grateful for the experiences I've had here. Solvang, just like my experience here at UCSB, has been wonderful and is something that will continue to stand the test of time in my life. If you're bored on a random morning, have a car with a full tank or battery and nothing better to do, hit the road to Solvang and try the delicious treats it has to offer immediately. You won't regret it, and will certainly walk away with a clear mind, a bounce in your step and a desire to return.

DATA



The University of California's OSHA violations over the past decade, only one at UCSB

Malia Guy
Assistant Data Editor

OSHA incident type in UC system from 2016-2026

The University of California system had 115 Occupational Safety and Health Administration incidents and received 142 violations from 2016-2026. UC Santa Barbara received one violation during this period.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) is an agency within the United States Department of Labor and serves as a workplace safety and health enforcement program. OSHA was established in the early 1970s with the stated goal of ensuring that "America's workers have safe and healthful working conditions free from unlawful retaliation."

Those at UC Santa Barbara who have an OSHA-related problem can contact Environmental Health & Safety (EHS). UCSB Media Relations Manager Kiki Reyes explained EHS's purpose in a statement to the Nexus.

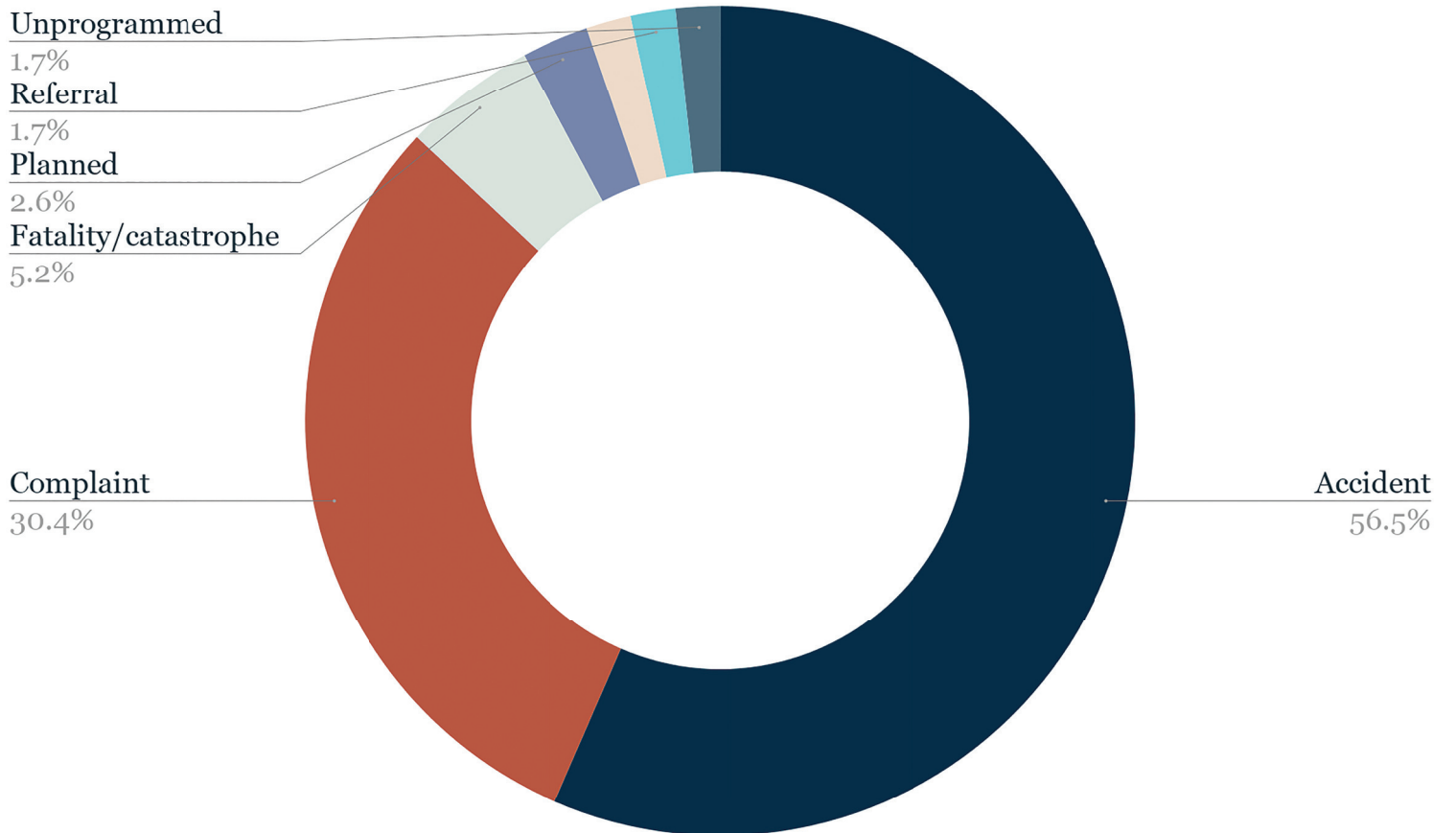
"The EHS team is the primary point of contact for OSHA-related matters, including onsite inspections," Reyes wrote. "[They] typically escort the OSHA officer conducting the inspection, work with stakeholders to provide any requested information and documentation as part of the inspection, and, if deficiencies are noted during the inspection, collaborate with the involved unit to address any concerns."

An employee can file a complaint if there is a hazard or if OSHA rules are not being complied with at their place of employment. However, complaints aren't the only types of cases. Other case types include accidents, fatalities/catastrophes, planned, unprogrammed related, referrals and follow-ups.

Among Health & Safety cases across University of California (UC) entities, around 40% are health-related and 60% are safety-related. Health cases usually involve illness while safety cases typically involve a physical injury.

According to Reyes, methods of prevention can vary for different incident types.

"In general, safety hazard prevention is primarily focused on preventing acute injuries, such as those related to falls, contact with energized equipment, etc.," Reyes said. "Health hazard prevention focuses on the recognition, evaluation, control, and confirmation of environmental factors or stresses that may cause illness or impaired health



MALIA GUY / DAILY NEXUS

The most common type of incident is accidents, constituting over 50% of the cases. Accidents deal with serious injury or illness and have to be reported by the employer.

(examples include respiratory exposures, needlestick injuries, and repetitive trauma.)"

UCSB is legally required to inform employees, including student workers, of their safety rights, responsibilities and resources. This is accomplished through the University's assigned employee trainings, including the Injury & Illness Prevention plan.

Third-year economics major Aleezay Raheel has worked as a desk attendant at the De Anza Resource Center for three years. Raheel explained the extent of the trainings she has completed for her job.

"[I] had online trainings," Raheel said. "There were at least five, and some of them did overlap with the ones that you have to do as a student, like illness and safety and disease prevention."

A rule Raheel recalls from her training is to wear closed-toed shoes "at all times" in case she needs to "immediately get somewhere."

"I think the training that I received, I've really built on it in all my years here," Raheel said. "All the training that I do receive I think is very pertinent to my job, and I use it everyday."

Sometimes, OSHA doesn't have jurisdiction to pursue a case. In 2019, a UC Los Angeles

student received burns at a campus chemical laboratory, but because the affected individual was a student, OSHA concluded that they could not pursue the case.

The state of California has its own enforcement program called California OSHA (Cal/OSHA). It serves as a state-administered plan and retains most of the same rules as OSHA. It has unique standards in regards to areas like agriculture and noise exposure. Anything unaddressed in Cal/OSHA's plan is handled by federal OSHA.

Katherine Wzorek, a public information officer for the Department of Industrial Relations, which Cal/OSHA falls under, explained who the agency covers in a statement to the Nexus.

"Cal/OSHA regulations cover almost all employees and workplaces in California, including private-sector and public-sector employers and workers," Wzorek wrote. "Coverage applies wherever there is an employer-employee relationship. Individuals who are not employees, such as students, volunteers, or independent contractors are generally not covered unless they meet the legal definition of an employee."

Even though students who are not employed by the University

aren't eligible to file with OSHA, they are still protected by OSHA policies.

"[The Department of EHS] is focused on the health and well-being of everyone on campus, including staff, faculty, students, guests, and visitors," Reyes said. "For example, laboratory safety requirements such as personal protective equipment, training, etc., extend to anyone working in that laboratory."

Some cases have no violations, while other cases can have several. According to OSHA, a violation occurs when an employer willfully or constantly neglects their duties outlined in the OSH Act of 1970. There are four types of violations: willful, serious, repeated and other-than-serious.

Only one of the 142 violations received by the UC system between 2016-2026 has occurred at UCSB. The incident happened in 2017, and the only record available indicates it was a safety-related accident. The penalty was an \$18,000 fine paid by the employer, which in this case is the university.

Fourth-year English major Skylar Roberts-Vermillo has worked at the MultiCultural Center for two years and spoke about his job.

"It's not hard to believe that, at least specifically where I work,

there hasn't been a single OSHA violation in years," Roberts-Vermillo said. "I would like to say that we are very mindful and conscious of everybody's well-being and health as workers but also for the people, the students and the community we serve on campus."

Cases can span years depending on if appeals are submitted. For example, there is an active case from UC San Diego Health which took place in 2018. Currently, the UC system has 22 open cases.

"The length of a Cal/OSHA case depends on the complexity of the investigation," Wzorek wrote. "Cal/OSHA generally has up to six months to complete an inspection and issue citations."

In total, the current penalties for all the UCs amount to \$439,756. These fines are paid by the university that received the violation, but are separate from payment to impacted employees through worker's compensation.

"Worker's Compensation provides oversight to the state-mandated insurance plan designed to provide benefits and assistance to all workers who are injured as a result of their employment or who develop job-related illnesses," Reyes said.

Resources for reporting an OSHA-related incident can be found on the EHS website.

OSHA incidents and violations in the UC system from 2016-2026



MALIA GUY / DAILY NEXUS

From 2016 to 2026, the University of California (UC) system saw 115 cases and 142 violations, with peaks in violations in 2020 and 2024. Out of the 14 incidents that took place in 2020, six were COVID-19 related. In the past 10 years, only three years have had more incidents than violations; however 2025 and 2026 still have pending cases. On average, there are 10 cases and 13 violations per year.



NEXUSTENTIALISM

It's Satire, Stupid.



MADLINE BRYCE / DAILY NEXUS

Irritated by cigarettes' "mainstream" popularity, indie man smokes pipe

Joseph R. Biden
Political analyst

Second-year political science major Jake Bertrand made waves in the Isla Vista community this past Wednesday at Pint Night when he was spotted smoking an 1800s-era tobacco pipe outside of Woodstock's.

Tobacco seems to have been making a comeback in the last few years, perhaps in response to the popularity of vaping in the 2010s. In the early 2020s, cigarette smoking was an activity for sensitive artists, anorexics and Europeans. Unfortunately, normies have hijacked cigarette-smoking culture, especially when drunk.

Bertrand's choice to use a pipe was intentional: He chose to separate himself from the masses. His use of the pipe was noted by multiple onlookers.

"I was having the time of my

life, standing in the street here listening to a groundbreaking cover of 'You Get What You Give' when I saw him," third-year statistics and data science major Ella Borovikov said. "It was so bizarre, it was like Teddy Roosevelt was at Woodstock's or something."

While many strangers noticed Bertrand's indie behavior, his friends gave special insight into his habits and behavior.

"Jake is the coolest person I know. He's always putting me onto the coolest indie shit. Last week, he showed me this movie called 'Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind.' He does the most cutting-edge stuff, it doesn't surprise me that he was over cigs," second-year sociology major Nicholas Park said.

Bertrand himself commented on why he departed from cigarette culture.

"Back in the day, when you went to take a smoke break, only the chilliest people were out there. Musicians, writers - visionaries, really," Bertrand said. "Now, everyone and their mothers are out there. If you take out a cig, everyone will jump down your throat to get one. Like, who am I supposed to talk to about the American military-industrial complex?"

Bertrand detailed the process that he took to distance himself from cigarette smokers.

"Vaping is so ran-through. ZYNs are just not cool because people can't really see when you're doing them. I needed to do something completely different. When I was home last weekend, my dad was showing me my grandpa's old stuff, and that's when I saw the pipe. I knew it would be perfect for Pint Night," Bertrand said.

After fellow Pint Night attendees noticed Bertrand's unique smoking device, some were intrigued.

"I went up to him and asked for a hit. He said, 'Name three songs from Blonde.' I didn't know what he was talking about and when I didn't answer fast enough, he rolled his eyes and turned around. The fuck?" fourth-year biology major Sierra Muller said.

However, envy struck some other members of the indie male community. Third-year environmental studies major and esteemed Depop seller Ethan Phan saw Bertrand, sparking outrage.

"I thought that I was gonna attract the most attention smoking outside Pint Night with my French Vogue cigarettes. But then I look over and see this motherfucker with a pipe,"

Phan said. "How am I supposed to compete with that? Bring a bong and hit tobacco out of that?"

After much community upset over Bertrand's pipe, he took to Instagram to explain himself. He shared the following message via the "Create" feature on Instagram stories to his 722 followers.

"if you wanna hit the pipe you cant. its my gasp. but if you bad swipe up n maybe we can make a deal."

Later that week, Bertrand was spotted outside of the library donning a Stüssy hoodie, smoking the pipe again. His brave choice to smoke a pipe indicates a coming increase in innovation and forward thinking from indie men across IV.

Joseph R. Biden wants to be piped.



MADLINE BRYCE / DAILY NEXUS

Top 5 places to shit on campus

Lady Dr. Big Naturalz
Shitter

There comes a time in every Gauch's life when taking a shit on campus is absolutely necessary. Maybe you're egregiously hungover from your housemate's "Wine Wednesday," or maybe your Arbor coffee went straight to your asshole.

Maybe you've been constipated since Monday of Week 2, and your colon decides it's time for The Big One in the middle of your geological catastrophes midterm. Either way, we've all been there. When that demonic gurgle escapes your stomach, you have no choice but to put your tiny heinie on federal government property.

I'm a lady, so I don't poop. But I've conducted extensive house-boots-on-the-ground research into the best shitters on campus, compiling the following list of the top five best places to shit on UC Santa Barbara's campus:

5. The Music Building

gender-neutral bathroom

Brand-spanking new and underutilized, the Music Building's gender-neutral bathroom is exquisite. Listen to the sounds of music majors playing "Hot Cross Buns" and settle your buns in the serene tranquility of this single-stall beauty.

4. Theater & Dance West first-floor bathroom

Relax that asshole and lose yourself in the moody, ambient lighting of the Theater & Dance West bathrooms. The best part about this bathroom? Nobody gives a fuck about the arts - you're almost guaranteed an empty bathroom for your dump.

3. Embarcadero Hall

Similar to Theater & Dance, Embarcadero Hall provides a blanket of anonymity with an abundance of perfectly eligible stalls to choose from. If you need to blow up the bathroom in the middle of lecture, the chances of a stall-to-sink run-in are low.

2. The first-floor ILP

bathroom

Shitters love the Interactive Learning Pavilion bathroom for a few reasons, but the best one is seeing your bitchass TA in the endless line that accrues during passing period. See these putrid green fumes wafting out of the stall behind me, Piers? I did that! Just like you shit on my midterm that I didn't study for.

1. The Arbor

Have you ever been rushing from the Chemistry building to the Humanities and Social Sciences Building to make a class and haven't had the time to stop and shit? Let me introduce the most economical way to shit on campus: popping a squat in the middle of the Arbor. Trust me when I say that everyone will respect your daring, inventive way of shitting. And if you're lucky, the CALPIRG table will use your shit to compost.

Lady Dr. Big Naturalz, Ph.D., J.D., M.D., B.A. knows her shit doesn't stink.

CLASSIFIEDS

LUCY DIXON / DAILY NEXUS

HELP WANTED!

I will be going out of town next week and will need someone to feed my sneaky link. Please contact me if you would be interested in checking in on him this Saturday night between the hours of 12 a.m. and 2 a.m. at this email: mamasboy@ucsb.edu

FOR SALE:

AIR FORCE ONES, SIZE 8, FAIRLY WORN: Vintage 2018 air force ones with a bit of wear and tear. They were originally white but I dyed them blue after my boyfriend spilled a Four Loko pitcher from Lao Wang's on them. Please contact me at: freeher@ucsb.edu

HELP WANTED!

Can someone please tell me when Deltopia is? please@ucsb.edu

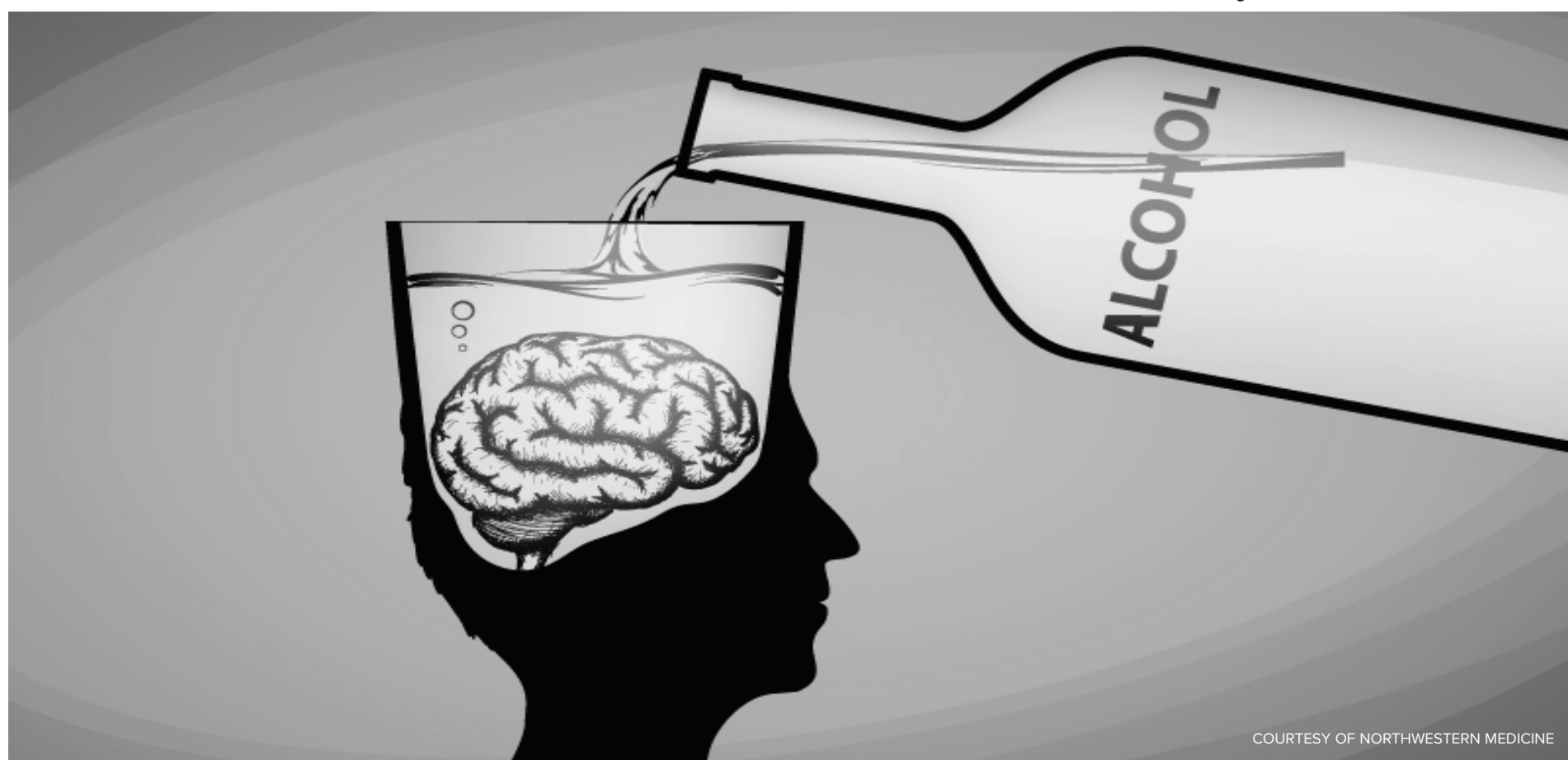
FOR SALE:

2004 TOYOTA CAMRY, GRAY, FEATURING DREAM CATCHER AND (FAINT) WEED SMELL: Gray 2004 Toyota Camry that has been with my family for 21 years. I let my roommate take the car to a mountain rave a couple of weeks ago and strangers were fucking in there. I can't look at her anymore. downdiva@ucsb.edu

SCIENCE & TECH



NeuroNews: Dr. Karen Szumlinski on alcohol, Adderall, addiction and anxiety



COURTESY OF NORTHWESTERN MEDICINE

Chase Stevens-Scanlan
Reporter

Disclaimer: This article contains mentions of addiction and relapse.

Last Tuesday I had the pleasure of sitting down with Karen Szumlinski, a professor within UC Santa Barbara's Department of Psychological & Brain Sciences. We got to talking about her work studying the biochemical mechanisms that underpin the brain's response to drugs and alcohol. Today we're answering the real questions that might come up at the nation's No. 1 party school — although Szumlinski disputes the validity of this title — relating to the brain on substances.

To start with, I asked about Szumlinski's path that led her where she is now and what topics she's currently interested in researching. In high school, Szumlinski worked with children on the autism spectrum, and initially she found herself interested in pediatrics.

Once she got to college, a romantic relationship changed her avocations. Her boyfriend at the time, recovering from drug addiction, ended up relapsing and spending a night high on what she said was an enormous dose of peyote, a hallucinogenic cactus. Over the course of the night, Szumlinski saw parallels between her boyfriend's drug-induced behavior and those characteristic

to the children she worked with in high school. Fascinated, she asked her neuropharmacology professor about it and, lo and behold, the neuropsychiatric symptoms of psychedelics and Autism Spectrum Disorder have some overlap.

Szumlinski was hooked and ended up joining that very professor's lab as a research assistant. Her interest in the effects of drugs on the brain ultimately led her to pursue a doctorate at Albany Medical College. There, she often witnessed older adults on porches drinking alcohol out of paper bags on her long, early morning walks to campus, solidifying her decision to study addiction.

So, what is Szumlinski working on today that might be of interest to a college student like you and me? The project she's most excited about is one that focuses on the addiction recovery cycle. In the first month of recovery, baseline craving for a substance falls. Essentially, you wake up with less unprompted cravings as the month goes on and eventually lose the feeling altogether (for the most part). However, as the month draws to a close, cue-prompted cravings become drastically more intense. If you're attempting to quit nicotine, this might mean a Marlboro ad makes you feel like you desperately need a cigarette. This heightened cue sensitivity lasts for about six months. Szumlinski's lab

attributes this to over-expression of an enzyme called mTOR kinase in the prefrontal cortex. She thinks if we can target this, we can target cue-prompted craving. Luckily, mTOR kinase inhibitors already exist for arthritis, psoriasis and some cancers — now it's a matter of bringing it to trial for addiction.

Another project Szumlinski was eager to tell me about was her research on the comorbidity of binge eating and binge drinking. She told me that people, especially women, who display early signs of eating disorders have higher rates of binge drinking disorders later in life. Szumlinski's lab is taking this to rat models to study biological evidence. Female and male rats were split into two groups — one made to binge eat for two weeks and one made to eat normally. When then offered alcohol, only the female rats who binge ate went on to also binge drink. She's now looking for more funding from the National Institutes of Health to explore the neurobiological reasoning for this and ways to target this cross-sensitization.

Speaking of chronic alcohol use disorders, I found myself curious about the overlap between alcohol use disorder and increases in anxiety. As students, we're already juggling a seemingly endless supply of anxieties, so how can we approach alcohol consumption in a way that limits spiking our stress?

Szumlinski had three pieces of advice. First, pace yourself. The enzymes in your liver can break down one drink, or 1-1.5 ounces of liquor, an hour. Past this, your blood alcohol level rises and takes your stress levels with it. Second, drink on a full stomach. Food slows your body's absorption of alcohol. Third, don't drive. Or bike, or Lime scooter for that matter. As Szumlinski puts it: "Stay away from anything with wheels. Walk. On the sidewalk."

Szumlinski is particularly focused on psychomotor stimulants. With this in mind, I wanted to hear her take on college students' reputation of using unprescribed stimulants such as Adderall under academic pressure. Her response shed serious light on use of the drug, beginning with establishing the serious nature of the conversation.

"People say 'Oh it's just Adderall.' Look at the name on the box, it's an amphetamine," Szumlinski said.

So how does Adderall actually work?

"There is a dopamine sweet spot for cognition ... think about [the spectrum] like an upside-down U," Szumlinski said.

Low dopamine levels are often associated with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). If you're not diagnosed with ADHD, you likely naturally have dopamine levels right around this "sweet spot." When you take unprescribed stimulants, you're pushing your

dopamine levels well past it and into the much higher levels that cause hyperfixation. Ironically, this is terrible for optimizing your cognition. Even though you're incredibly focused, you can't grasp big ideas, make connections or retain large amounts of information. Szumlinski gave this advice for maximizing brain power or staying focused well into the night: Drink another cup of coffee, and stay hydrated to retain its effects.

My last question was a more general one: What do you wish the public understood better about the brain? Szumlinski ultimately settled on warning me of the fallacy that everything from the natural world is safe.

"There's this idea, especially in California, that if it comes from the Earth it's safe or safer than synthetic alternatives, and that's not always true ... Nature fights back to protect what's hers," Szumlinski said.

She also wanted to stress to me, though less directly about neuroscience, that resources for harm reduction and addiction recovery at UCSB are abundant and incredibly useful, particularly within the Alcohol & Drug Program. If you or someone you know is struggling with substance use, reach out to Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's national help hotline at 1-800-662-4357.

Crowd psychology: How do we get influenced by the people around us?

Tanya Sharma
Reporter

Oftentimes when we find ourselves in distinct environments, a realization sets in: The way we act among a certain group can be somewhat different from how we act with another. One friend group gets access to your more articulate side while the other might be familiar with a slightly sillier one. The same person we know who can make a less than ideal decision while going out with a specific crowd, the very next day, acts with the utmost seriousness while attending a lecture surrounded by focused peers. These subtle — and sometimes not so subtle — ways the people in our "ingroups" affect us is called crowd psychology.

This is a social psychology that has evolved immensely over time. Let's talk about the three phases of the theoretical approaches to the psychology of crowd behavior that encapsulate this evolution.

First came the classic crowd psychology, which emphasized the negative influences that the crowd has on the individual, particularly pertaining to intelligence and self-restraint.

Second, intersectionist group psychology, which made efforts to explain meaningful patterns of behavior observed in both nonviolent and violent crowds.

These patterns were said to be the result of new norms, but this approach failed at explaining how these norms came to be and why some behaviors became norms while others didn't.

Third, the social identity approach says that besides personal identities, individuals also have several social identities that come from the groups that they are members of. This is the contemporary psychological approach which has led us to understand how crowds work with more nuance.

How do we see this pan out in real life? This is where the idea of the three transformations comes in. Think of this as an overarching framework on how an individual is influenced and integrated into a group identity.

The first transformation is the cognitive shift from personal to group identity. This leads to group members seeing each other through ingroup and outgroup terms. People are influenced by ideas that uphold ingroup norms and help them experience the success of their group as their own success, even if it often costs them individually.

The person's second transformation is relational. Now it's not just the individual perceiving themselves in a certain category but also believing their peers see them as a trusted group

member. This leads to greater intimacy among the ingroup which means increased trust, expectations of support, feelings of safety and reduced disgust. Case in point: sharing food and drinks with your friends, even if it means the realistic risk of getting sick during midterms. Basically, you see others as part of a common extended self.

Finally, our third transformation is called affective, which results from the former transformations working together. This empowering support from one's ingroup members enables participants in a crowd to act in ways and embrace parts of their identities which they normally cannot do. When not experienced in a violent or negative crowd this process is called self-realization, which can feel immensely positive. Think of your favorite event, like Deltopia (rest in peace), surrounded by your friends in fun outfits and spring in bloom, or coming together to support a cause you believe in. These crowds, under ideal scenarios, can help bring out the best qualities in us.

Let's look at the other side of this, the one that was the initial focus of this field: crowds that are up to no good at all. We see and hear about the regulation of events and crowds throughout history



COURTESY OF SEATGEEK

as well as in the present because of the anxiety that surrounds this topic, so we'll take a peek into its psychology.

While the phenomenon of crowds acting violently holds true in some cases, newer research indicates it's more than just "big crowds = bad." Stephen Reicher, an expert in group psychology, explains the gray area when it comes to anticipating behaviors of a group.

"So it's not that you lose identity and lose control. You shift control to the norms and values of the group," Reicher said during the APA podcast episode.

According to Reicher, it is not

about crowds being "mindless" as much as it is about what they think is the rational way to implement their values through action, regardless of those values being deemed good to some or bad to others.

Not everyone is influenced by crowds in the same capacity. The intersectionality of the individual and group identity can often be unpredictable and complex, and can lead to great movements or unfortunate escalations. With more appreciation for the advantages of this influence, and more awareness of the downsides, we can navigate social situations more effectively and thoughtfully.



LA VISTA

Cada quien vive su propia historia

Ana Ramirez Cermeno
Escritora para La Vista

Todas las personas vivimos de maneras diferentes.

Cada uno tiene su propio estilo de vida, sus propias experiencias y su propia forma de ver el mundo.

A veces, es fácil caer en la idea de que debemos vivir como los demás o seguir el mismo camino, pero la realidad es que no existe una sola forma correcta de vivir.

He aprendido que está bien tener un estilo de vida diferente al de otras personas.

No todos tenemos las mismas metas, ni los mismos tiempos, ni las mismas prioridades.

Sin embargo, muchas veces la sociedad o incluso las redes sociales nos hacen sentir que deberíamos compararnos.

Vemos cómo viven otros y empezamos a cuestionar nuestra propia vida.

Pero compararnos solo nos aleja de valorar lo que tenemos.

Cada persona tiene su propia historia, y no tiene

sentido compararla con la de alguien más.

Lo que funciona para otros no siempre es lo mejor para nosotros.

Y eso está bien.

Personalmente, he aprendido a sentirme feliz con mi estilo de vida. No es perfecto, pero es mío.

Cada día lo veo como un regalo, como una nueva oportunidad para hacer algo diferente, aprender algo nuevo o simplemente agradecer por lo que tengo.

Para mí, cada día es un milagro.

También he entendido que la felicidad no viene de compararse con los demás, sino de aceptar quién eres y cómo vives tu vida.

Cuando dejamos de mirar lo que otros tienen y empezamos a enfocarnos en lo nuestro, cambiamos nuestra forma de pensar. Nos sentimos más tranquilos, más seguros y más agradecidos.

Quiero que otras personas también entiendan esto: no necesitas vivir como los demás para ser feliz.

No necesitas cumplir con expectativas que no son tuyas.

Lo más importante es que tú te sientas bien con la vida que estás viviendo.

Cada quien tiene su propio camino, y eso es lo que hace

la vida interesante y especial.

No hay una sola historia, hay billones, y cada uno tiene su propio valor.

No te compares con los demás. Vive tu vida de la manera que te haga feliz,

valora lo que tienes y agradece cada día.

Porque al final, lo más importante no es cómo viven los demás, sino cómo te sientes tú con tu propia historia.



CORTESÍA DE ADOBE STOCK

No somos lo que vivimos, sino también lo que recordamos

Azucena Sanchez
Editora para La Vista

Me llevó un tiempo darme cuenta de que el pasado realmente me define.

En realidad, no es algo malo; si soy sincera, me permite mirar atrás y ver lo que he hecho, cómo me ha moldeado y cómo ese molde ha cambiado hoy en día.

Hablando de forma realista, si no fuera por el pasado, no entenderíamos ni el presente ni el futuro.

Es el pasado el que crea nuestro futuro.

Cada vez que cierro los ojos y me digo a mí mismo que me voy a dormir, un recuerdo me despierta – es tan vívido – y siempre es algo vergonzoso que hice o dije hace años.

Es decir, a veces cierro los ojos y me veo a mí misma a los 5 años haciendo las cosas más horribles en tercera persona.

Es como si literalmente me estuviera viendo hacer esa cosa horrible como si fuera una espectadora y no la persona que realmente la está haciendo.

Esto me mantiene despierta durante largos periodos de tiempo.

Lo analizo en exceso y me digo: "Si pudiera retroceder en el tiempo, cambiaría eso".

Pero si retrocediera en el tiempo cada vez que digo eso, entonces mi pasado sería completamente diferente y, por lo tanto, mi futuro

también lo sería. Sin embargo, el pasado y los recuerdos no son los mejores indicadores del carácter de las personas.

El pasado se distorsiona, se convierte en fragmentos de lo que una vez fue.

No todo es real.

Quién sabe, tal vez mi mente me esté jugando una mala pasada y en realidad no le di en la nuca al Sr. Reyes con un balón de fútbol.

¿Quién sabe?

Entonces, si el pasado no es algo en lo que se deba creer por completo, ¿en qué podemos confiar?

Es decir, si ni siquiera puedo confiar en mis propios recuerdos, los momentos literales de la vida que he vivido, ¿en qué puedo confiar?

La respuesta está en, bueno, en ti mismo.

Incluso con los recuerdos revueltos.

Esos recuerdos son, en realidad, la clave que sostiene el futuro.

Si tuviera que ponerme un poco más histórico, diría, al igual que muchos, que el pasado es el futuro.

La historia, tarde o temprano, se repetirá.

Así que, en realidad, para comprender plenamente el futuro deberíamos consultar los libros de historia.

Adentrarnos en los patrones que conforman los surcos de nuestro cerebro y recoger las piezas que encajan entre sí.

Esos patrones nos

mostrarían exactamente qué hacer.

Ahora que tengo la clave, las piezas del rompecabezas que aún me faltaban por encajar encajan a la perfección.

Sin las experiencias del pasado, el futuro seguiría siendo una incógnita.

Si no fuera por los apuntes que he tomado en mis clases, no tendría una guía adecuada que me ayudara a estudiar para los exámenes.

Y no, no son solo los apuntes, sino el pizarrón y el tono exacto que usó el profesor lo que me ayuda a recordar el contenido.

Si no fuera porque fui a clase y presté atención a la clase, el yo del futuro estaría confundido.

Esta es una idea sencilla de cómo el pasado se utiliza para comprender el futuro.

Ahora bien, si quisiera expresarlo de forma más poética, o al menos más filosófica, diría que la vida solo se puede entender mirando hacia atrás, pero hay que vivirla mirando hacia adelante.

Si no fuera por las decisiones que tomé en el pasado, la persona que seré en el futuro no las estaría haciendo.

¿Tiene sentido?

Es como que, gracias a las experiencias pasadas, yo, como el presente, como el futuro, podré aceptar y entender plenamente el pasado que se me ha dado.

Y sí, me perdí muchas cosas debido a que mi yo del pasado dejó pasar muchas oportunidades y sí, tal vez eso me quita un poco más el sueño por las noches que las experiencias vergonzosas del pasado, pero, bueno, ¿qué puedo hacer al respecto?

Además, tengo esta idea de que tal vez hay una yo, en algún lugar ahí fuera en el universo, que ha hecho todo lo que yo aún no he hecho, y yo estoy aquí, en esta Tierra, haciendo lo que ella no ha hecho, o ha dejado pasar.

Y, en realidad, el pasado no es solo historia.

No es algo que ya haya sucedido, no está grabado en piedra ni escrito y ocupando por completo una página.

El pasado es lo que crea ese grabado, lo que da forma a la página.

Es gracias al pasado, a los errores, a las pruebas y los tropiezos, que el futuro tiene sentido.

O sea, piénsalo; si no fuera por el pasado, no habría sabido que el punto va fuera de los paréntesis, pero solo si hay algún comentario relacionado pero innecesario.

Ves, si te enseñan cosas si estudias inglés.

Pero no es solo en ese pasado en el que estoy pensando.

También estoy pensando en las olas embravecidas, los vientos crueles, los momentos en el tiempo que pasaron con

nubes oscuras y que han llevado a los días que vivo ahora, con días soleados y aire agradable.

Los momentos del pasado no se definen sólo por lo que más te llama la atención; no son solo los momentos que has pasado con caras doloridas por sonreír demasiado, o los que están llenos de risas y dolor de panza, sino también los días que te han causado más dolor.

Los momentos que uno desea reprimir.

También son los días que se pasan en silencio.

En la comodidad de tus propias respiraciones.

El tiempo no cura todas las heridas, ni borra los momentos dolorosos y vergonzosos, y a veces, el tiempo realmente no ayuda en nada.

Pero puede ayudarnos a comprender el ahora, el aquí, este preciso instante.

Si miráramos al pasado, veríamos el futuro que tenemos ahora.

Y no, el pasado no es un solo momento, sino más bien momentos, una colección de vidas que has vivido y que te han llevado a este momento en el espacio.

Si no fuera por el pasado, el futuro no sería comprensible.

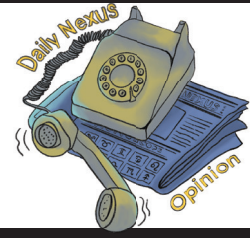
Es gracias a todo lo que hemos vivido que entendemos quiénes somos ahora.

Y tal vez el pasado sí me define, porque, bueno, estoy hecho de recuerdos.



CORTESÍA DE SHUTTERSTOCK

OPINION



Which superhero is the most culturally relevant?

ELLA CHAMIE / DAILY NEXUS

Jack Dindia

Outgoing Lead News Editor

Everyone loves a hero. They represent all the best parts of the human character: their selfless bravery, with nothing to gain except making the world a better place.

This is the reason they've been cemented as icons of popular culture in the past century. Regardless of their interests, most people had a favorite superhero growing up. Of course, a lot of superhero media appeals to kids, but oftentimes they serve as a sense of social commentary. The heroes themselves, along with the villains they face, serve as mirrors for society, reflecting the world we live in.

Therefore, which superhero is the most "culturally relevant" has become a frequently debated topic among fans. Out of curiosity and my own passion, I want to answer this question based on two different criteria: assessing the character's popularity, as well as their stories' relevance to the modern day.

Superman

It seems like a no brainer to start with the first ever superhero with powers, Superman. Debuting in "Action Comics #1," the highest valued comic book ever, Superman was introduced during a time of desperation in the United States. Amidst the Great Depression in 1938, Superman's first appearance launched superheroes into the pop culture behemoths they are today.

Choosing Superman as the most culturally relevant superhero seems like the easy pick. He shaped the modern-day archetype of what we know as a superhero, and his 1970s film series created the blueprint for superhero representation on the silver screen.

On top of this, Superman can serve as a representation of the "American Dream," whatever that means. He's literally an alien from another planet, who immigrates to the United States at a young age and adopts the identity of Clark Kent, a farm-grown journalist who's secretly his city's greatest defender. While this parallel may seem like a new-age perspective, his creators were the sons of Jewish immigrants, meaning that subtext may be more intentional than one may think.

He also serves as a commentary of the moral responsibility of power. But rather than use his powers for personal gain, he chooses to save the world, never leaving one casualty behind.

Superman has taken a variety of shapes based on the societal context of the time he was being represented. During the Great Depression, he was a working-class hero, and during World War II, he was a patriotic symbol. The Cold War saw him

as a righteous anti-communist, and even today with his 2025 film, there is abundantly clear commentary on how Superman's character would defy the government to save people.

Batman

Aren't you tired of every young male you know saying that he's Batman? Well, there's clearly a reason for that: he resonates heavily with a large audience. Batman is an incredibly nuanced character — growing up in a city embroiled in crime, he witnessed the death of his parents, which serves as the catalyst for his shift into fighting for justice.

Depictions of Batman have evolved significantly throughout his history. He began as a "creature of the night," and transitioned to a friendlier, cartoonish character with the addition of his sidekick, Robin. His color scheme changes as well — sometimes blue and gray, other times a pure black, until eventually landing on a more gothic look in the '70s which has been his most consistent appearance since.

I'm going to be blunt here: Batman has the best movies. Tim Burton's 1989 film adaptation began this motion, but it wasn't fully realized until the Christopher Nolan films in the 2000s. Nowadays, Batman has even taken a more emotional approach, with "The Batman" directed by Matt Reeves dawning a much moodier take on the character.

Batman himself, and his famous rogue gallery, serve as a form of political commentary about justice. Bruce Wayne is the watchdog of the watchdogs, and represents a positive oligarch, which seems completely unrealistic from today's standards. The Joker represents pure chaos — someone who causes terror for no gain other than wanting to watch the world burn, and tests citizens on their own moral judgement, such as the iconic boat dilemma scene in "The Dark Knight."

Another villain, Two-Face, represents political and moral dissent. He begins as Harvey Dent, Gotham City's ideal mayoral candidate, who transforms into Two-Face after being punished by the system he once benefited from, resulting in his ideology that everything is up to chance — even one's life. Other villains like the Riddler represent intellectual superiority, and the Penguin represents the corruption of the elite that Bruce Wayne avoids.

Wonder Woman

Wonder Woman is generally considered the first prominent female superhero, debuting in 1941 to serve as a feminist symbol among the still male-dominated superhero archetype. She fits

that description well, and has become engrained into pop culture to stand among many other iconic superheroes.

Wonder Woman, at least in my opinion, isn't nearly as relevant as she once was. I blame this on bad movies, which can make or break a superhero's identity for younger generations. Her past movies have gotten measly reviews, but this shouldn't take away from her symbol of femininity in the comic book world, as well as her own social commentary.

Her 2017 film goes against the common male-centered superhero stories. Throughout the film, she is constantly being told "no" by men regarding her approach to protecting people, representing how women can often feel silenced by their male colleagues when trying to bring innovation. Additionally, she's purely motivated by honor and morality, without being skewed by the male gaze.

While Wonder Woman is by no doubt iconic, she's unfortunately overshadowed by other superheroes, and has been rarely given proper media representation. Maybe this is commentary itself: Women are constantly being overlooked as contributors to our society, and that's unfortunately reflected in Wonder Woman's box office success.

Spider-Man

If you don't like Spider-Man, I don't like you. No seriously, this is a major red flag, because what is there not to like about Spider-Man?

He's noble, courageous and extremely witty. He's also one of the first superheroes to be depicted with real-world problems, which is amplified by the character of Peter Parker, who serves as a representative of the idea that "anyone can wear that mask."

Spider-Man is just like any normal person. He's broke, he constantly has relationship problems, he's intelligent but often too overworked by saving the world to put full effort into his career. According to his creator Stan Lee, the best part of his character was his costume design, which allows any reader to imagine themselves as the hero.

This sentiment has been furthered even more by the recent "Spider-Verse" movies. Now, there's several different characters who don the mask apart from Peter Parker, from the equally-witty Miles Morales to Gwen Stacy as "Ghost-Spider." Any person, regardless of race or gender, has a Spider-Man they can look up to in their own personalized way, without the compromise of bad character development.

While the "Spider-Verse" opinions are generally received as great movies, the rest of the Spider-Man movies are just alright. I'm severely biased, since I grew up watching the

original Sam Raimi trilogy starring Tobey Maguire and love those films with all my heart, but I can be objective and understand his movies don't have the commentary that a Batman film does.

However, Spider-Man doesn't need the best movies. What he represents as a character, that anyone can step up to the occasion and be a hero for someone else, is a tale that doesn't need Oscar-winning filmmakers and actors to resonate with a crowd.

Iron Man and Captain America

Iron Man and Captain America have become the face of the superhero name in recent memory due to the booming success of the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU). With "Avengers: Endgame" being the second highest-grossing film of all time, many people nowadays associate superheroes with film, and therefore the two leads of the Avengers.

While Iron Man wasn't nearly as popular before the MCU, Robert Downey Jr.'s iconic performance catapulted him into being one of the most recognized superheroes out there. Tony Stark, who's an ego-driven billionaire, reflects the dynamic of technological innovation and personal gain, which Stark combats with his heroic tendencies.

Captain America also rose in popularity through the MCU, but his presence was always known. He serves as a representation of American ideals; not explicitly representing the government, but rather the idea that our country was (supposedly) founded off of honesty and opportunity.

These two characters are certainly some of the most notable characters in the superhero realm. However, due to their popularity being relatively new in the grand scheme of superhero franchises, I have a hard time saying they're the most relevant. It's also important to mention their fame primarily comes from the "Avengers" films, and while their own individual films have been successful, the characters still rely on the multi-superhero concept to bring a prevalent modern interest.

Black Panther

Black Panther is another superhero who's been around for many decades, but has gotten a recent boost in popularity through the MCU. He serves as the king of the fictional African nation Wakanda, who guards their technological innovations.

Black Panther similarly brings concepts of responsibility to the forefront of his character. Amidst his character's struggle with both serving his nation as a king and being their primary protector, Black Panther also serves as a post-colonialism commentary

on the sovereignty of African nations, exploring the duality of self-sufficiency and outside interference.

Additionally, both of his MCU films have been critical and commercial successes, with the second film including the shift of the Black Panther mantle following Chadwick Boseman's passing. The character is not only objectively cool with amazing costume design, but also serves as a more direct social commentary than other superheroes I've mentioned. Yes, every hero says something about our society — but Black Panther does so in a way that is clearly implied, not subtly.

However, Black Panther's recent significance is a product of the MCU's success. Before the MCU, he was not a widely known superhero, therefore he has missed out on shaping popular culture that other heroes have had. Nevertheless, I am optimistic that his recent success could allow future iterations of the character to stand tall against other heroes' cultural relevance.

So who's the most culturally relevant?

After assessing each of the superheroes above, I've decided that it's between Superman, Batman or Spider-Man.

Superman is the hero of all heroes: his symbol is almost as iconic as the American flag, and is the go-to reference for anything heroic in pop culture. However, while we may be entering a Superman renaissance, he's always been more of a representation of superheroes rather than one that actually resonates with audiences.

Batman, on the other hand, has stayed very consistent with relevance. As I mentioned earlier, he has, in my opinion, the best movies, which can really impact how people perceive his character, as well as real-world relevance. Despite this, I think he fits too much into a box: his grittiness isn't an accurate representation of the superhero concept, and although it's extremely popular, it's not quite the superhero I imagine when I think of the most "culturally relevant."

Therefore, I think the most culturally relevant superhero is Spider-Man. Maybe it's my nostalgia speaking, but I believe his nuanced character of having to deal with real-world issues like the rest of us, on top of anyone being able to put their own identity into the character, makes him one of the most important throughout history. Maybe he's not your favorite, but his friendly and funny attitude, quality media representation and relatability make him a clear front runner.

Jack Dindia considers himself a superhero fan, until you start quizzing him on the comics.



SPORTS

UCSB baseball takes first two games of road series against Cal State Bakersfield

Samia Agarwal
Staff Writer

The UC Santa Barbara men's baseball team picked up a close one against the California State University, Bakersfield Roadrunners on Saturday, May 2, 4-3 in the win.

They avoided a late scare from CSUB to place the first two games of the series in the win column. The Gauchos, ranked No. 2 in the Big West Conference standings, will look to continue this momentum into Game 3.

In the first game on Friday, May 1, the Gauchos beat CSUB 18-1 in an absolutely dominant performance,

with 18 runs on 18 hits. The Gauchos began with an early barrage, scoring five runs in the first inning alone. Sophomore left-fielder Liam Barrett showed out in the win, logging four hits and three runs on five at-bats. Junior starting pitcher Jackson Flora also shined, pitching five scoreless innings to boost UCSB's offensive explosion. The Gauchos capped off their avalanche with a double from senior catcher Nate Vargas leading into unearned runs for Barrett and senior shortstop Corey Nunez. This would end a 5-run top of the sixth inning to

put the Gauchos up 16-0. The Roadrunners had no response.

The second game was much closer, as the Gauchos found less luck hitting and tumultuous relief pitching from junior Cole Tryba.

Vargas stood out once again in this one, sending a double to left center field that brought Barrett home and scoring himself off a bunt to put UCSB up 2-0 after just half an inning. CSUB responded in the form of a solo home run from senior first-baseman Evan Cloyd, but quality infielding from the Gauchos held the lead to 1 after the

fifth. Nunez posted an impressive statline at one run, three hits and three RBIs on five at-bats. Tryba had a quick scare in the form of a two RBI double from Roadrunner senior shortstop Elijah Pelayo to make the score 4-3, but junior pitcher Chase Hoover came out and rode the Gauchos' defense to the tight victory.

These wins provide UCSB with some wiggle room as they fight for first place in the Big West Conference. They hosted Pepperdine University on Tuesday, May 5, before traveling to the California State University, Northridge for their next weekend series.



SHENGYU ZHANG/DAILY NEXUS

Gauchos conclude 2026 season with Big West Titles and an NCAA appearance

Izabella Nickerson
Staff Writer

UC Santa Barbara's women's tennis closed its 2025-26 season at Ralphs-Straus Tennis Center in Malibu, California, on Friday, May 1. Facing tough competition, No. 11 Pepperdine University, the Gauchos fell short at 0-4 in the opening round of the NCAA tournament.

Despite the loss, the Gauchos, with a 17-9 overall record, have celebrated big wins this season, including the Big West tournament and regular-season championship in April.

More recently, the Big West annual all-conference honors awards highlighted the women's tennis team's success. Notably, Head Coach Simon Thibodeau received the Big West Coach of the Year award. Thibodeau has now led the Gauchos to six Big West Championships.

Gaining awards across the board, junior Ekua Youri was named Big West Player of the Year after dominating at the top of the Gaucho lineup all season.

Further acknowledgements were given to junior Shachli Libermann and sophomore Emma Tutoveanu, who received singles All-Big West Second Team honors. Honorable Mentions were given to freshman Isabella Wong and doubles players freshman My-Anh Holmes and Tutoveanu.

After an accomplished season for the Gauchos, they headed into Friday's NCAA tournament as Big West Champions for the second straight season. They were paired against the regional hosts,

Pepperdine.

Undefeated in the Big West conference this season and 17-9 overall, the Gauchos entered the championships with a nine-match win streak after an exhilarating 4-3 win over California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo in April.

The Gauchos have reached the NCAA championships for the third time in the last five years. Last year, they triumphed over No. 39 Rice University in the first round but fell short to No. 2 Texas A&M University.

The doubles point opened with the point secured by the Waves. Sophomore Lily Pradkin and graduate student Shanelle Iaconi finished first, losing the match 1-6. Holmes and Tutoveanu followed, dropping the set at 4-6. The top court was left unfinished, with the point decided.

Singles play began with a loss on courts four and six. Pradkin was defeated 3-6, 1-6, and Iaconi 1-6, 5-7.

Down 0-3, the victory was decided on court three, where Tutoveanu lost the match, 3-6, 6-7 (5-7).

With the win finalized, the remaining matches ended unfinished. Notably, Wong prevailed in a tiebreaker set 7-6, (7-5). Youri dominated the second set of her match 7-5, and sophomore Raphaelle Leroux came back from a deficit and was battling in a second-set tiebreaker when the defeat was decided.

Despite ending their season on a loss, the Gauchos went undefeated, 9-0 in the Big West, demonstrating widespread domination all season long.

Izabella Nickerson
Staff Writer

UC Santa Barbara's men's tennis team wrapped up its season in the first round of the National Collegiate Athletic Association championships at the Skip and Cindy Hogan Tennis Center in San Diego.

No. 35 Gauchos lost to No. 17 University of San Diego in a single-elimination match on Friday, May 1. Despite falling short 2-4 to the Toreros, the Gauchos have many accomplishments to celebrate this season, including the Big West regular and championship titles.

Off to an unpromising start, the Gauchos were unable to secure the doubles point after losses on courts one and three. Facing a tough matchup against the Toreros No. 34 doubles pair, UCSB's No. 67 junior Miguel Avendano and senior Lucca Liu lost 2-6. Court three followed, ending in a 4-6 defeat of freshman Lorenzo Brunkow and senior Diogo Morais. With the point secured by the Toreros, court two was unfinished.

Entering the singles matches, the Gauchos remained behind with a loss on court six, where junior Carson Lee was defeated 1-6, 3-6.

Behind 0-2, the Gauchos gained momentum with a powerful comeback on court two. After falling the first set 1-6, Morais stormed back to take the next sets 6-1, 6-1.

Hoping to tie the match, Liu lost a tight battle on court one 3-6, 4-6.

With the Gauchos

behind 1-3 and the match on the line, Avendano gained the Gauchos their second victory of the day. Pushing back on court four, he lost the first set 4-6 but climbed back, defeating the Toreros 6-2 and 6-4.

Down 2-3, the match was decided on court five, where sophomore Charlie Underwood went down in three sets. Rallying back, Underwood lost the first set 3-6, won the second 6-4, but couldn't clinch the third and lost 4-6.

With the match decided, court three was left unfinished during a tight third set.

Despite exiting the NCAA tournament early, the Gauchos finished their 2026 season with a spectacular 18-8 overall and 5-1 Big West records.

Impressively, their only Big West loss was to California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo in a tight match, 3-4, in April.

Distinguished victories include a 4-1 win over then-No. 10 UC Los Angeles during the ITA kickoff weekend in January.

The end of the 2026 season marks a transition for the Gauchos. The program will compete in its last Big West conference season next year and face new competition in 2027. Leaving the Big West conference, the Gauchos will join the West Coast conference as the 12th member on July 1, 2027.



COURTESY OF UCSB ATHLETICS



COURTESY OF UCSB ATHLETICS

Gauchos split doubleheader with Titans before dropping regular season finale

Sunita Zapata
Sports Reporter

UC Santa Barbara women's softball closed the regular season on a bittersweet note, dominating California State University, Fullerton in the opener of a Friday doubleheader before dropping the next two games. The Gauchos did, however, earn the No. 3 seed in the Big West Championship.

Friday, May 1

Game 1: Gauchos 8, Titans 0

The Gauchos wasted no time in Game 1, putting up eight runs and shutting out Fullerton entirely to close it out in five innings.

Senior pitcher Malaya Johnson went the full five innings, giving up seven hits and recording one strikeout while needing just 64 pitches to get through the Titans.

The big swing came in the third inning. Sophomore outfielder Giselle Mejia got things started with a single, and a Titan fielding error allowed runners to advance. Senior third baseman Bella Fuentes followed with a two-run single, and senior second baseman Jazzy Santos hit

a three-run homer to left field to push the lead to 5-0.

UCSB added three more in the fifth on RBI singles from sophomore catcher Delaina Ma'ae and freshman utility player Jaelyn Toledo, with Mejia capping the scoring with a single up the middle to end it early.

The victory ended with UCSB winning 8-0 and bringing their winning streak against the Titans to six games.

Game 2: Gauchos 6, Titans 7

UCSB picked up right where they left off from Game 1, with junior infielder Tehya Banks launching a solo home run to left field. Ma'ae came through with a walk to bring in freshman pitcher/utility player Ella Myers and put the Gauchos up 2-0 at the end of the first inning.

The Titans flipped the script in the fourth, sending five runs across the plate and taking their first lead of the game. Myers stepped up with a three-run triple to right, scoring Banks, freshman infielder Dani Rauscher and Toledo to even things up.

Freshman pitcher Sophia Clark held Fullerton hitless through

three innings before being relieved by Myers. Myers shut the Titans down in the fifth, but Fullerton added two more in the sixth, reclaiming their spot in front.

Fuentes walked with the bases loaded, scoring Rauscher, but the Gauchos headed to the seventh inning down 7-6.

Johnson kept the Titans down in the seventh, and though Ma'ae doubled to open the inning, UCSB couldn't score, losing 6-7.

Saturday, May 2

Game 3: Gauchos 1, Titans 3

In Saturday's rubber match, the Titans struck first with a home run in the second inning. Junior utility player Emily Carr answered with a solo shot to the right center to level the score at 1-1.

The score stayed level until the fifth, when Titan Ava Arce doubled to left-center to score two runs and give Fullerton a 3-1 lead.

The Gauchos had a chance in the seventh with Mejia doubling to lead off, but couldn't bring it home, concluding with a 3-1 Titan victory.



COURTESY OF UCSB SOFTBALL

Gauchos celebrate after a successful out.

ARTS WEEK



SHABANG 2026 IN PHOTOS



LAUREN CHIOU / DAILY NEXUS

Isla Vista band Birchwood performed on the Cuesta Ridge stage at the San Luis Obispo music festival on Sunday, May 3.



LAUREN CHIOU / DAILY NEXUS

Audience members dancing to Birchwood's folksy music.



LAUREN CHIOU / DAILY NEXUS

Shabang has been around since 2014, founded by Cal Poly San Luis Obispo students.



LAUREN CHIOU / DAILY NEXUS

Festival attendees participating in a live art installation between sets, painting on a once blank canvas.

Tracks of the Month: April 2026

| Artsweek Staff

“End of August” by Noah Kahan

“End of August” by Noah Kahan is melancholic, an ode to a New England late summer breeze, wishing for time to slow, even if just for a moment. Released as the opening track of his highly anticipated senior album, “End of August” sets the tone for Kahan’s most resonant work yet, a snapshot into growing older and relishing in the newness of the future. The beginning of the song hinges on soft, melodic keys, with lyrics including “Late August angst and a pointless night / Oh, and the feelin’ of being alive / For the first time in a long time” continuing into Kahan’s signature belt. Earnest, sincere and introspective, “End of August” begs the listener to be transported back to a brisk summer night, porch swings, fireflies and all.

-Maya Schwarz, Staff Writer

“First Light” by Lana Del Rey

Lana Del Rey’s “First Light,” released as a standalone track in April 2026, serves as the official theme song for the soon-to-be-released James Bond video game “007: First Light.” Del Rey is often regarded as having her own genre, one that merges hyper-feminine Americana with a melancholic longing for love and nostalgia. This song is no different, as her anticipatory and striking beat plays before the chorus, making the song unfold as an intense and theatrical production of an old Hollywood romance. It reflects a cyclical pattern of striving for improvement only to be sunk back into one’s old ways. This tension is captured through lines such as “Like a moth to a flame” and “Promise you’ll never change.” The song encompasses the bittersweet sensation of leaving a lover for personal liberation and a movement toward the “light.”

-Daisy Hernandez, Reporter

“Planting Tomatoes” by Lucy Dacus

Lucy Dacus is back following her 2025 album “Forever is a Feeling” with her newest single “Planting Tomatoes,” released on April 24. The song opens with an upbeat tempo as Dacus’ velvety voice laments about the grief of past losses and the weight of knowing more loss is to come in the future. Yet, despite the undertone of sadness evident in the lyrics and powerful base track, Dacus takes an optimistic approach, singing that “But before then, I’ve got some ideas” in reference to her celebration of the present despite the grief of past and future. With a sprinkling of reverb amidst a crunchy guitar sound, “Planting Tomatoes” is funky, fresh and full of heart. Balancing grief and a grounded appreciation for the present, Dacus crafts the perfect listen for chronic overthinkers and existentialists everywhere.

-Gianna Dossa, Reporter

“Up Out & Gone” by Ne-Yo

Ne-Yo takes us back to early 2000s R&B with his new release “Up Out & Gone.” A record about living in the moment, housed in a night that should never be forgotten. The R&B legend revisits his magic from “Champagne Life” and uses it here in this slinky production of pop-country vibes. With a guitar-lead instrumental and Ne-Yo’s smooth trademarked voice, he really does create a tune that vocalizes the power of the moonlight in ascending freedom. This song enhances any sanctuary of ecstasy – whether you’re on a late night drive, a steamy night with a lover or dancing in the eye of club lights, this song is perfect for shaking off all burdens and opening up your wild side.

-Rachel Mitchell, Reporter

“I Feel So Free” by Madonna

Making her comeback with her newest album, “Confessions II,” Madonna released her album opener, “I Feel So Free.” Out on April 18, 2026, it quickly charted #1 on the Billboard Dance Song Sales chart. The song uses styles such as electric pop and dance. Madonna references her past lyrics from “Into the Groove” and uses samples from Donna Summer’s “I Feel Love.” Although these references are made, they aren’t overbearing and feel original. As a

n

album

of emotional longing with an infectious upbeat melody. The song captures the awkward and conflicting experience of seeing someone you care about in public and choosing to turn around and go in the opposite direction, both out of love and fear. The chord progression of the bass and repetitive drumming builds up tension that gives the chorus the sensation of a powerful emotional release, working hand in hand with the lyrical narrative. Todd makes you feel like you’re in a 2000s movie, only you’re not the star and there’s no happy ending. It’s spunky, addictive and a punch to the gut to all yearners who wish their life was more like the movies.

-Kelsey Perillo, Reporter

“Madwoman” by Laufey

Laufey’s “Madwoman” track encapsulates how intense and irrational love can be – which has been featured in her discography previously. Love for a person can be so deeply rooted, leading to attachment, which is highlighted when she sings “but still, I want you like a mad, mad woman.” Her music video furthers this idea, as one of her friends seemingly disapproves of her idealized love for a man while others support her delusions. The video brings together what netizens have dubbed the Wasian avengers: Olympic gold medalist Alysa Liu, actress Lola Tung, girl group member Megan Skiendiel and heartthrob Hudson Williams. Throughout the video, Laufey innocently falls in love with Williams but by the end, an eerie turn is made as everyone turns robotic. The twist reinforces the idea of an unrealistic love that appears when emotions grow too strong. The last scene shows Williams waiting for Laufey in a mysterious house, indicating that

some may not be as they appear and that love can cloud judgement.

-Carly Rattner, Staff Writer

“BROKE BITCH FREESTYLE” by Slayyyter

Riding off the high from her legendary Coachella performance, Slayyyter surprise dropped her “BROKE BITCH FREESTYLE.” The track seems to follow the formula that “CRANK” and “YES GODDD” succeeded with from her recent record, “WORST GIRL IN AMERICA,” which is influenced by industrial hip-hop and electro industrial. The high bass, energy production and BPM paired with the loud, gritty vocals make the single sound like a demo adaptation of the two songs. It is clear that the “BROKE BITCH FREESTYLE” is for the fans with its fun, nonsensical lyrics that are laced with western imagery of poverty. The single is a rambunctious and light hearted track to add to the next pregame playlist.

-Andrew Olmos, Reporter

“SAME LA” by Tiffany Day

There is a beauty to realization in Tiffany Day’s “SAME LA,” the third track from her latest album “HALO.” “Cause if only you could know who I am in an instant,” Day sings to a friend, longing for a connection – for a crush to be mutual. Despite the melancholic feeling, the track is somehow as warm as a sunny day along the 101. The lyrics convey the immediate feeling – the shock of unrequited love – whereas the synthwork feels like a reflection of the freedom that comes from letting go. It’s powerful. A go-to cry and dance club track, akin to Robyn’s “Dancing On My Own” or Lady Gaga’s “Dance in the Dark.” It’ll have you questioning your own life after the party, but while listening all you will want to do is dance. Infectiously fun, the vocals, production and lyrics are superb, making it endlessly relistenable. Give it a listen, and give the album a chance too. Day is someone to watch.

-Zack Kramer, Staff Writer



PEYTON STOTELMYRE / DAILY NEXUS

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NOTES TO NAILED IT

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