DAILY NEXUS

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Alpha Phi members speak out about alleged racism in recruitment process



SHENGYU ZHANG / DAILY NEXUS

Alpha Phi President Alana Nielsen said that she does not expect Internationals to be involved with the chapter's recruitment next year.

Levi Kauffman
County News Editor

One of three Alpha Phi International Fraternity representatives who assisted in the UC Santa Barbara chapter's fall recruitment allegedly discriminated against women of color, according to chapter members. The representative was subsequently removed from her position while the other two remained to assist the chapter as it took control of the recruitment process.

In an interview with the Daily Nexus, Alpha Phi President Alana Nielsen, a fourth-year political science and sociology double major, explained that every year, Alpha Phi International Fraternity, the central governing organization for all Alpha Phi chapters, sends representatives to help the UCSB chapter run its fall recruitment. This year, a volunteer recruitment advisor and two educational leadership consultants (ELCs) aided the chapter.

"There was a very real difference in experience and authority, and we trusted them," Nielsen said.

Director of Primary Recruitment and third-year chemistry major Emerson Novosel noted that the volunteer recruitment advisor is a UCSB Alpha Phi alumna and has helped with chapter recruitment for the past two years.

On Sept. 26, following the first round of recruitment, known as Open House, where potential members (PMs) are introduced to every sorority, Alpha Phi members wrote down how they felt about each PM they met, then gave the papers with their comments and scores to the representatives. At that point, Nielsen said that the representatives told the entire chapter to "go home" while they decided which PMs to invite back for the next round.

According to Nielsen and other members interviewed by the Nexus, they believed at the time that the representatives would only use members' "scoring" of PMs to decide who to invite back.

The next round of recruitment, known as Impact, began on Sept. 27, and "something clearly felt very different and off," Nielsen noted.

"There was a large and noticeably diverse group of women who were missing from the pool of potential new members that had returned," Nielsen said. "Collectively, our members felt this way: that those women did not reflect the women that we had actually scored and wanted to see returned."

Nielsen said this was particularly confusing, as members had been told that a "record breaking" number of PMs, roughly 90%, mutually wanted to return to Alpha Phi.

The representatives also decided which members to place in recruitment groups, known as Bump Groups, that would speak with PMs. Alpha Phi members interviewed by the Nexus said they began noticing that women of color were being left out or placed in fewer rounds compared to white members.

"All of us started to notice," Nielsen said. "It was not just one. It was not just a few. It was not just the women of color. It was all of us."

Alpha Phi member and third-year political science major Sky Achola said she first noticed when her and three other women of color in her "sorority family" weren't placed in almost any Bump Groups while her white "little," another member under her mentorship, was.

"I actually personally was in a state of shock for about three days," Achola said.

Near the end of the Impact round, Nielsen said she approached one of the ELCs to ask for a chapter-wide meeting regarding members' concerns, to which she was told "that was not necessary" and to end on a "happy note."

Following this, Nielsen gathered members, many of whom had been crying upstairs, in the house's chapter room to confront the representatives.

"The recruitment team tried to start the conversation on a happy note," Nielsen said. "The members had reached their limit and it was so clear."

At that point, members stood up to tell the representatives how they felt and demanded transparency.

"Girls [were] standing up screaming," Novosel said. "It [was] like a revolution happening right now. Like standing up, crying, screaming, and I had never felt so empowered."

After trying to stop the meeting, the volunteer recruitment advisor left the room and said that it was "not an appropriate outlet," according to Novosel. Achola said that she viewed the advisor's reaction to the meeting as "a sign of guilt."

Following the chapter room meeting, Novosel and the other director of recruitment met with the ELCs and determined that the advisor was responsible for selecting PMs to invite back and the creation of Bump Groups. The advisor was removed from her position shortly after the meeting.

"It had [become] so disgustingly clear how it was just manipulation, just blatant manipulation to every part of the process with whatever her hidden agenda is," Novosel said.

With the advisor gone, the chapter placed itself in charge of recruitment with help from the ELCs. Novosel said that PMs invited back for the last round of recruitment on Oct. 3 were "blindly paired" with members based on their interests.

On Oct. 1, chapter members released a collective statement on the anonymous Instagram account "voicesofapucsb."

"We have chosen to remain in the recruitment process because we believe that our members have the power to create meaningful change from within," the statement read. "Stepping away would mean giving up our opportunity to advocate for the sisters and future members of this chapter, it would mean silencing our voices, and setting a precedent for being punished for speaking out for change."

Novosel explained that they chose to not release their statement on the official Alpha Phi Instagram account and keep the phrasing "broad" because they were worried Alpha Phi International would send a cease and desist letter.

Although Novosel acknowledged that recruitment last year was "slightly unfair" because some members had more opportunities to speak with PMs, she believes it was "not to the extent that it was this year."

"As our entire chapter has come together ... we've reviewed all of last year and it's clear that that was very much present last year too," Novosel said. "Girls of color have finally had the chance to speak out about it as they didn't last year."

Nielsen said that chapter executives would have done something to prevent the situation, but their trust in the representatives made them decide to not question the process until later. She said that she does not expect Internationals to be involved with the chapter's recruitment next year.

"That's going to be a relationship that's going to take a long time to repair," Nielsen said.

Two representatives with the Alpha Phi International Fraternity Health, Wellness and Accountability Department have since met with Nielsen and attended a chapter meeting on Oct. 5 to discuss the incident. Nielsen said she and the chapter plan to collect members' statements about the situation and send them to Internationals.

Alpha Phi International Fraternity did not return the Nexus' multiple requests for comment.

Going forward, the main way for PMs, who may have been racially discriminated against, to join the chapter is through Continuous Open Bidding (C.O.B.), where PMs informally speak with a member to determine if they would fit the chapter. However, Alpha Phi

See pg.6

Construction begins on ILP bike path, tentative completion in January

Wynne Bendell
Lead News Editor

Construction of the bike path between the Interactive Learning Pavilion and the University Library began last week, with expected completion in January 2027.

After years of advocacy from the Associated Students Bike Committee (ASBC), construction has broken ground on the new bike path. According to ASBC Co-Chair and fourth-year environmental studies and geography double major Kyra Xue, construction is expected to be completed in January; however, the project manager is pushing for an accelerated timeline to avoid heavy rains that are anticipated to impact construction during this year's El Niño.

In the meantime, the construction site is completely closed off with fencing, with a detour route in place. Cyclists are expected to dismount when approaching Parking Lot 3 in front of the Interactive Learning Pavilion (ILP) and walk their bikes when traveling in the corridor between the library and ILP.

The ILP opened in spring 2023 and was constructed on top of an existing bike path. The ILP's original construction plans did include a bike path; however, it was not built. In order to bike around the ILP, students are currently forced to ride on UCEN Road, sharing the road with cars.

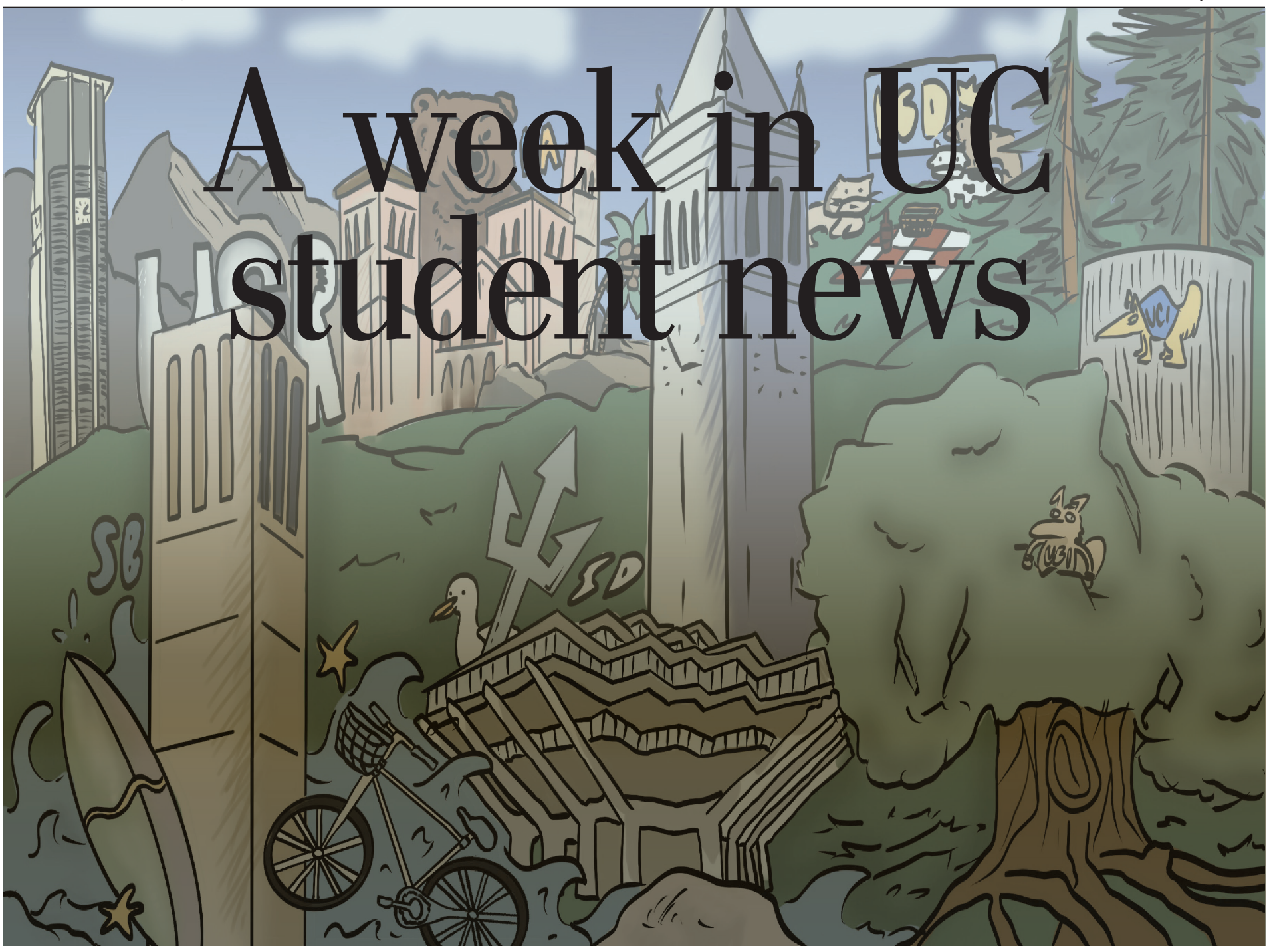
In January 2025, the ASBC began designing the ILP bike path and garnering support for the path's construction, eventually gaining University approval. The path's design was hand-drawn by Design, Facilities and Safety Services Architect and Program Manager Ernest Knapp and finalized by Stantec and True Nature Landscape Architecture.

The ASBC is contributing around $920,000 to the construction costs, and the final third is coming from the chancellor's office. The group will be hosting weekly construction update meetings, open to all students.



SHENGYU ZHANG / DAILY NEXUS

In the meantime, the construction site is completely closed off with fencing, with a detour route in place.



A week in UC student news

Wynne Bendell
Lead News Editor

UC Berkeley students rally for reinstatement of ethnic studies lecturer Lupe Gallegos-Diaz

UC Berkeley lecturer and Chicanx Latinx Student Development Office Director Lupe Gallegos-Diaz was unexpectedly placed on leave in August because of a "lack of professional judgement."

The University's vague responses to inquiries on the suspension of Gallegos-Diaz have left students frustrated with the lack of transparency. Nearly 100 UC Berkeley students rallied on Sept. 30 in support of Gallegos-Diaz, holding signs that read "Reinstate Lupe" and "Lucha 4 Lupe," which translates to "fight 4 Lupe."

Gallegos-Diaz has been described by students and Berkeley community members as a pillar of the campus' Latine community for nearly 30 years.

A campus spokesperson, Janet Gilmore, told the Daily Californian that the campus cannot comment on personnel matters due to University confidentiality policy but that it is "committed to Latinx community and the Chicanx Latinx Student Development office and the important work it provides to [their] students."

Since the suspension, supporters of Gallegos-Diaz have created an Instagram page with over 1,500 followers that asks the question, "Where is Lupe?" and provides a Linktree with a petition demanding transparency with over 2,500 signatures.

"Our community deserves answers, action, and we need Lupe back. Stand in solidarity [with] us, share your testimony, and take action through our Linktree," the Instagram bio states.

Governor Newsom signs UC-sponsored $7.5 billion research investment bill

California SB 895, authored by state Senator Scott Wiener, will place a measure on the March 2028 state ballot to invest $7.5 billion to fund research across California. The bill, signed by California Governor Gavin Newsom, will enact the California Science and Health Research Bond Act if approved by voters.

If the bill is passed, it would preserve research in dozens of different fields, including biomedical research, wildfire resilience and climate science.

This bill comes as the UC has been bombarded with cuts to research funding since President Donald Trump took office for his second term.

UCLA asks judge to dismiss 'antisemitism' lawsuit, claims weaponization of civil rights laws

UC Los Angeles asked a judge to dismiss a Department of Justice (DOJ) lawsuit on Sept. 30 that alleges the University allowed discrimination against Jewish and Israeli students, claiming antisemitism.

In the spring of 2024, students across the nation set up encampments on their college campuses, including at UCLA, demanding divestment from Israel and a call to end Israel's genocide of Palestine. The DOJ filed a lawsuit against the UC in May, alleging that the encampments were antisemetic and excluded Jewish students, furthermore claiming that the encampments blocked Jewish and Israeli students from entering academic buildings, which the DOJ alleges the University did nothing to stop.

Encampment organizers have denied any antisemitism, stating that the encampment included Jewish people and celebrated Jewish holidays. UCLA declared the encampment unlawful on April 30, 2024, and police shut it down May 2, 2024, arresting over 200 people.

UCLA has since accused the federal government of unfairly using civil rights laws to control universities nationwide.

"UCLA has worked tirelessly to foster a safe, secure, and inclusive environment for all students," the filing states. "The federal government's Complaint ignores those substantial efforts— confirming that this lawsuit is not really about ensuring compliance with civil rights laws, but about weaponizing those laws to bring institutions of higher education to heel."



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Senate introduces bill to establish permanent student safety committee

Elijah Obando
University News Editor

The 77th Associated Students Senate introduced a bill that would establish a permanent student safety committee under the Office of the President at its Sept. 30 meeting.

If passed, the committee would advocate for student safety needs to the University and local law enforcement agencies, encourage risk mitigation methods and raise awareness for student safety.

Public Forum

Former Senator and third-year political science and history double major Evan Sussman endorsed the bill during public forum, stressing its necessity. With issues regarding student safety on the UC Santa Barbara campus and in neighboring Isla Vista, he urged the Senate to pass the bill "as soon as possible."

The 76th Senate previously introduced a temporary student safety committee, which Sussman helped author and co-chair, in response to a series of crimes on campus at the time. However, Sussman highlighted that these issues are ongoing, which calls for a permanent committee. He briefly mentioned the alleged rape at Cornell University as an example of the broader context surrounding student safety.

Associated Students (A.S.) President and fourth-year political science major E.J. Raad also endorsed the bill during his executive report.

"There's obviously a huge need for this," Raad said. "It comes at no financial impact for the association, and it will just make it a lot easier for us to work on public safety initiatives. For instance, the lagoon lighting project is getting very close [to completion] ... but that wouldn't have been possible without last year's temporary safety committee."

Last year, A.S. and the student body pushed for the installation of lights and cameras around the lagoon due to a long history of reported crime in the area. As a result of their efforts, UCSB was granted an emergency permit for the cameras and a hearing on a proposal for permanent light fixtures.

The bill to establish a permanent student safety committee under the Office of the President was referred to the advocacy committee.

Legislation Passed

The Senate adopted a bill that grants A.S. Publications and Notetaking the first right of refusal regarding all A.S.-dispursed funds used toward "printing, publishing, and manufacturing services" at third-party entities. Introduced by Senator and second-year physics major Alec GeoSimonian, the bill requires A.S. entities to first attempt getting these services from A.S. Publications and Notetaking.

The use of third-party services will only be permitted in cases where A.S. Publications and Notetaking is unwilling to match the price offered by the third party or refuses the job entirely.

According to GeoSimonian, the goal of the bill is not to prioritize A.S. profits but rather to promote keeping funds "in-house."

The Senate also adopted a bill restructuring the Senate Liaison Committee after unfilled department chair positions prevented the committee from reaching quorum. The bill will exclude unfulfilled positions from quorum until they are nominated and confirmed.

The Senate additionally adopted the Budget Cycle Restructuring Act of 2026, which updates deadlines and procedures surrounding the A.S. budget process.

Proposed Legislation

The Senate introduced a bill to update the legal code of the University of California in Isla Vista (UCIV), "a non-police affiliated volunteer based group" that provides resources to students in I.V. during late Friday and Saturday nights. The bill would establish the positions of treasurer and executive assistant and add one additional board member.

Introduced by GeoSimonian and seconded by third-year applied math major and Senator Luke Lopez, the bill aims to better distribute UCIV's administrative and financial responsibilities. The additional board member would increase UCIV's board membership from 40 to 41 members to reduce the possibility of tied votes.

The bill was referred to the Liaison Committee.



SHENGYU ZHANG / DAILY NEXUS
Former Senator and third-year political science and history double major Evan Sussman endorsed the bill during public forum, stressing its necessity.

El Centro renovation celebration


SHENGYU ZHANG / DAILY NEXUS
Students formed a long line stemming from the front of El Centro to receive free food before the event officially started.

Julia Sanabria
Community Outreach Editor

Students, faculty and community members gathered at newly renovated El Centro on Oct. 1 to celebrate the long-awaited renovation of the historic 78-year-old building. Starting in spring 2022, El Congreso members pressured former UC Santa Barbara Chancellor Henry T. Yang to renovate and expand El Centro, and each year, new students have joined the effort.

Yang set aside $1 million for the renovation and expansion of El Centro after the pressure of these students. The event celebrated the $600,000 that has been spent in order to update the building. Moving forward, $400,000 will be spent towards expanding the space.

Participants filed in to receive the free food as music filled the air and conversations erupted. After people settled in, El Congreso Co-Chairs Damien Pereida, a second-year Chicana and Chicano studies major, and Jasmina Patchell, a fourth-year English major, welcomed and expressed gratitude for all attendees.

They first introduced Marcus Lopez from the Barbareño Chumash Tribal Council, who is also a UCSB alum. He emphasized that he believes El Centro is a "beautiful, welcoming space for community" and shared a few songs with the crowd.

Following Lopez, two danzantes, traditional Mexican dancers, Fabián Pavón and Diego Lazcano Avila, both Chicana and Chicano studies department doctoral candidates, shared a song in an indigenous Mexican language and said the dances they performed were emblematic of cultural tradition.

The group then got everyone in attendance involved and asked for words that they want the space to embody. Participants shouted out "love," "community," "safety," "resilience" and "dignity."

The first speaker was Arturo Casillas, the brother of El Centro's namesake Arnulfo Casillas. Arturo shared his brother's journey to UCSB and what he created once he became a Gaucho.

In 1973, when Arnulfo began attending UCSB, there were two Chicano organizations that were divided. He founded a third group that is now known as El Congreso. His brother believed his efforts were able to bring the Chicana/o community together, in turn enabling the community to have a more uniform voice and become more politically active.

In 1975, Arnulfo organized a takeover of North Hall's computer center in order to demand permanent positions for Chicana/o faculty. He also protested the "Anglos" from other departments, who did not care for Chicana/o studies, that were the administrators and the administration trying to dissolve Chicana/o studies as a whole.

Arnulfo continued to return to UCSB in the years after his graduation in order to continue upholding the activism he fostered.

"Arnulfo was never concerned for receiving recognition for what he did, he was concerned about people, education, culture and giving a voice to those who didn't have one," Arturo said. "He helped students believe that they belong to the places where they had historically been excluded. His activism was not something that was separate from who he was, it was who he was."

Edwin Lopez, a sociology professor at California State University, Fullerton and 1994 UCSB hunger striker, said Arnulfo was the reason he attended UCSB in the first place. He was sitting in a classroom at Glendale Community College when Arnulfo walked in with a UCSB recruiter and encouraged everyone to apply.

The first place Lopez went to after arriving at UCSB was El Centro.

"From the get-go I was introduced to something I had never seen before, it was an electricity of political activism," Lopez said.

Because of the accumulation of institutional racism they faced, nine students went on a hunger strike from April 27 to May 5, 1994.

Grisel Jimenez-Santos, UCSB alum and El Congreso 2023-24 demands co-chair, was invited to speak about her experience organizing for the expansion and renovation of El Centro.

She first emphasized the importance of "third spaces" because of their ability to "foster love and sustain life" and highlighted that the 1994 and 1989 hunger strikes were primarily organized in El Centro.

Jimenez-Santos admitted that their work was not easy, but they were able to persevere because "at the heart of social change is love."

Patchell emphasized Jimenez-Santos' message of love and community.

"El Centro is so much more than just a location on this campus. This place means so many different things to so many different people. Each and every one of you has a different picture of El Centro in your mind and that is the way we want it. We want to reach so many different hearts, so many different minds and so many different souls," Patchell said. "Every inch of this place is a living, breathing, ever evolving testament to strength, to perseverance, to community and most of all to love."

Pereida then called attention to the fact that they invited Chancellor Dennis Assanis to their event, he requested to speak and then left within approximately five minutes before the speeches even began.

"They serve us, never forget that, they serve us — the students [and] the community," Pereida said.

Concluding the evening, the Co-Chairs of the Expansion Committee Marisela Marquez, the retired Associated Students executive director and UCSB alum, and UCSB Chicana and Chicano studies department professor Ralph Armbruster-Sandoval spoke.

"I think for me and Ralph our intention is to call attention to the work over the last four years of this committee that was named to enact this renovation and expansion," Marquez said.

Rosa Alvarado, lead architect for El Centro renovations, was the architect when they first renovated the initial one-story building in 2018 and was called back to complete this second project.

"We put in a safe, accessible staircase, we put in a dumbwaiter inside the building for bringing materials to the second floor, we upgraded the hardware and some painting minor finishes," Alvarado said. "There's a gentleman, he goes by Dr. O, he has a very special office where we did a lot of sound proofing for delicate conversations."

Jimmy Ojeda Pedraza, Educational Opportunity Program counselor and coordinator of the Chicanx/Latinx Cultural Resource Center at El Centro, also mentioned new technology put in the study rooms, new dimming lights and a new AC unit.

Back in 2017, there were plans of demolishing El Centro, but student activists convinced the administration that it is a place that should be honored.

"Because in every fight it may feel like the thing you need is something to fight against, but really, we need something to fight for, and what we're fighting for here is love. We're fighting for a place that has given so much to generations of students, staff, faculty and community members and for generations who deserve to find the same place waiting for them, hopefully bigger once we get expansion," Patchell said. "El Centro is still standing, renovations are done and expansion is on the way."


SHENGYU ZHANG / DAILY NEXUS
Danzantes performed dances emblematic of cultural tradition for the crowd.



SHENGYU ZHANG / DAILY NEXUS
Arturo Casillas described the life and accomplishments of building 406's namesake, his brother, Arnulfo Casillas.

UCSB admit rate increases by 5.3 percentage points

Elijah Obando
University News Editor

UC Santa Barbara admitted around 47% of its 127,382 undergraduate applicants for fall 2026 — a 5.3% increase compared to the previous year.

Overall, UCSB offered admission to 59,336 students, 6,077 more than in fall 2025, despite receiving 1,601 fewer applications. In fall 2025, UCSB admitted 53,259 of its 128,983 applicants, resulting in an approximately 41.3% combined admit rate.

The increase comes as the UC system continues its goal of "expanding access for qualified California residents." In fall 2026, the UC offered admission to a record 102,031 California first-year students, 1,458 more than the previous year. The systemwide admit rate for California first-year applicants also increased from 77% to 78%.

The UC reports admission and enrollment separately. Admission figures represent students who were offered a spot at the University, while enrollment figures represent students who ultimately accepted.

The UC has been attempting to increase in-state enrollment via its UC 2030 capacity plan, a multi-year framework that aims to add over 17,000 undergraduate California residents by 2030. The plan is in accordance with the UC's multi-year compact with the state, an agreement made in May 2022 in which the UC committed to increasing California resident enrollment by 1% every year to receive state funding increases.

In a statement to the Daily Nexus, UCSB's Admissions Executive Director, Cuca Acosta, stated that the increase is meant to help the University meet enrollment goals as students increasingly apply to more universities.

"The acceptance rate has increased at UCSB over the last year as we now see more and more students who apply to over 10 universities," Acosta said. "Our overlap with other universities in California and across the US has made us evaluate how many students we admit to yield a first-year and transfer class which meets enrollment goals."

As UCSB works to meet these enrollment goals, efforts to accommodate the growing student population have coincided with the construction of new on-campus housing. The University is currently constructing the San Benito Student Housing project, which will add 2,224 undergraduate beds and is anticipated to open in fall 2027.



NEXUS FILE PHOTO

The increase comes as the UC system continues its goal of "expanding access for qualified California residents."

UCSB receives $20 million grant to create cloud laboratory

Wynne Bendell
Lead News Editor

The United States National Science Foundation has awarded UC Santa Barbara a $20 million grant to build one of the nation's 20 programmable cloud laboratory nodes.

The four-year grant will fund the creation of a Computation-Optimized Automated Soft materials Technology Programmable Cloud Laboratory (COAST PCL), an automated, centralized research facility that scientists around the country can access remotely. Cloud laboratories have been used in various research fields, including genetic engineering.

Cloud laboratories use machine learning to predict experimental outcomes with AI algorithms that help researchers analyze large sets of data.

UCSB's facility will specifically be used for polymer and soft-materials research. According to The Current, the laboratory will help preserve information that polymer science "routinely loses," which will create a collection of research that scientists around the country can utilize.

UCSB's OASIS laboratory will now be open to research scientists around the country to access its equipment. The OASIS laboratory has operated in Goleta since fall 2025, which includes student researchers. A vetting process is now in place for researchers who apply to work remotely at the facility.

COAST PCL will be built around BioPACIFIC MIP research infrastructure at OASIS. BioPACIFIC MIP is a materials innovation platform funded by the National Science Foundation and led by UCSB and UC Los Angeles. Researchers can apply for access to synthesis and characterization instruments, and then work with staff to plan experiments, operate equipment and interpret results.

This summer, 24th District Congressman Salud Carbajal announced the awarded grant to the Robert Mehrabian College of Engineering faculty, congratulating UCSB by stating, "This is a big freaking deal."

PHOTO COURTESY OF SANTA BARBARA NEWS PRESS



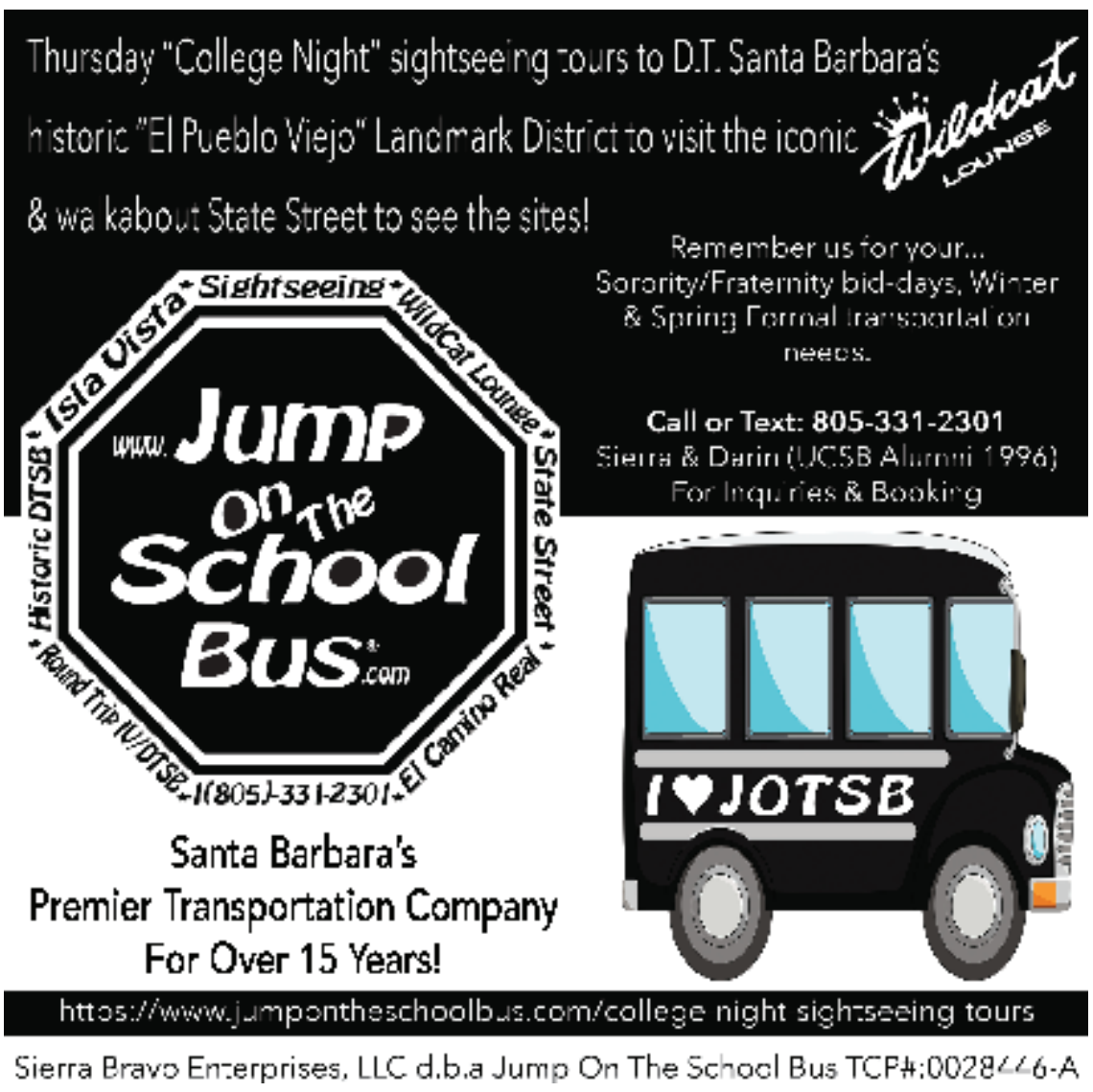
UCSB's OASIS laboratory will now be open to research scientists around the country to access its equipment.



Santa Barbara City ends contract with Flock, A.S. condemns local use


JAESA VERDAGUER / DAILY NEXUS

A Flock camera has been in use in front of UCSB's Santa Catalina Residence Hall for over a year and several cameras are in use around Goleta.



Wynne Bendell
Lead News Editor

The Santa Barbara City Council voted to end their contract with Flock Safety, a manufacturer of automated license plate readers, on Aug. 23.

Flock Safety is a private manufacturer of security software, including automated license plate readers. Automated License Plate Recognition systems take photos of passing cars and store the license plates of all passing cars, regardless of whether the driver is actively being investigated.

Flock cameras have been widely criticized for their contribution to "mass surveillance," especially with high concentrations of the cameras in neighborhoods with large undocumented populations. Local immigration advocates have highlighted that five cameras are located in the Westside neighborhood of Santa Barbara, which has a larger percentage of undocumented people, roughly 28%, compared to the broader Santa Barbara County (SBC), which is about 15%.

According to the Santa Barbara Police Department's contract with Flock, the data collected by these cameras is not given to federal enforcement agencies.

Flock has stated that it does not directly share information with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (I.C.E.). However, civil liberties groups have found that local law enforcement agencies in California have informally conducted license plate searches for I.C.E. and Border Patrol. Santa Barbara law enforcement entities were not named in the 2024 lawsuit.

Following the city council's decision to cut ties with Flock Safety, the Santa Barbara Police Department planned to install Verkada license plate recognition cameras as an alternative, upon city council approval. However, the Santa Barbara City Council has decided to delay implementation of replacement cameras in order to get community feedback.

A Flock camera has been in use in front of UC Santa Barbara's Santa Catalina Residence Hall for over a year and several cameras are in use around Goleta. The University has told the Daily Nexus that it does not have access to the data from the camera.

At a recent meeting, the Associated Students Senate passed a resolution condemning the use of Flock cameras in the area. The resolution calls on SBC to hold a public hearing on the use of Flock cameras in the county, restrict further cameras from being installed by SBC law enforcement agencies without approval and prohibit the spread of data collected by the cameras to other law enforcement agencies without a warrant.

UCSB student Nathaniel Zabala passed away

Wynne Bendell
Lead News Editor

UC Santa Barbara student Nathaniel Zabala passed away in Goleta on Sept. 21 at the age of 21.

Zabala is an alum of Bell High School where he was described as a "key player" of the Bell Eagles football team, which recently made a dedication post on Instagram.

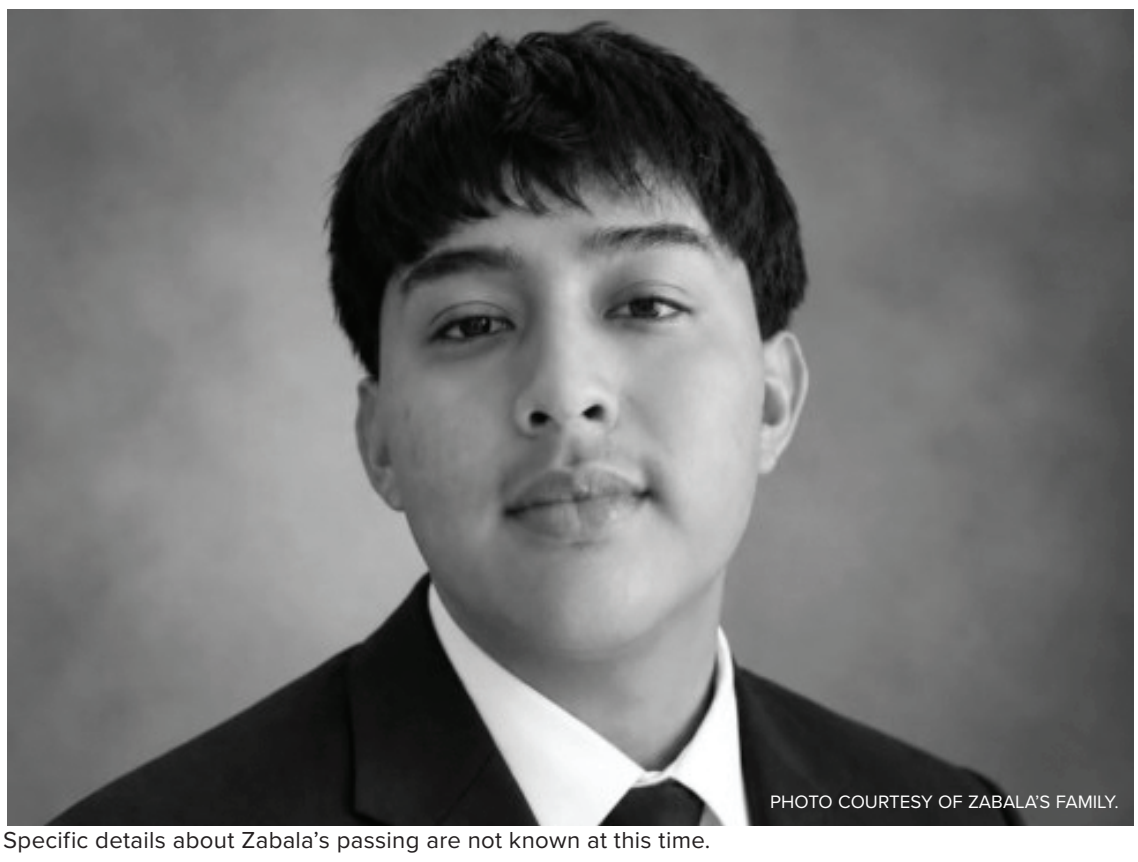
"We are saddened to hear of the passing of Nathaniel Zabala. Football alumni that was taken too soon. Our condolences go to the Zabala family," the post reads. "Nate was one of the leaders that started the change at Bell under Coach Padilla. He was a key player in the semifinal run Bell had his senior year. As you enter the gates of heaven remember you will always be an Eagle."

The Zabala family is currently taking donations for funeral arrangements, which will be held at Rose Hills Memorial Park - SkyRose Chapel on Oct. 16 from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

UCSB Media Spokesperson Kiki Reyes offered condolences on behalf of the University, providing campus resources such as Counseling & Psychological Services.

"We extend our deepest sympathies and most heartfelt condolences to family, friends, and loved ones during this difficult time. Losing a member of our UC Santa Barbara community is heartbreaking," the statement read.

Specific details about Zabala's passing are not known at this time. The Nexus will continue to report on this issue as more information becomes available.


PHOTO COURTESY OF ZABALA'S FAMILY.

Specific details about Zabala's passing are not known at this time.

JUMP

Continued from p. 1

does not know how many C.O.B. spots they will have because it is determined by UCSB Panhellenic, the governing body for campus sororities, based on how many spots in the chapter are left unfilled after recruitment.

Novosel noted that, because the chapter has filled its quota of spots this year, it may not be able to offer C.O.B., but they have collected a list of PMs members "loved" that were not invited back and she hopes to offer spots to as many as possible. Nielsen added that if Alpha Phi is eligible for C.O.B., UCSB Panhellenic will reach out to every PM that did not receive a bid or an invitation to join a sorority.

Alpha Phi members interviewed acknowledged that sororities and fraternities have extensive histories of racism and exclusion, and this year's recruitment highlights larger systemic issues.

"The sorority system started on a system of systemic racism, and to pretend like it didn't would be like brushing [it] off," Nielsen said. "We're still so far from perfect, and our goal in this is to ultimately empower others to look inwards and see how they can change their systems in one way or another."

According to Nielsen, UCSB Panhellenic wanted Alpha Phi to pull itself out of recruitment following the allegations of racial discrimination. She extended an apology to all PMs that may have been discriminated against and said she is committed to changing how recruitment is done moving forward, but she feels her sorority shouldn't be punished.

"You hear a sorority name and you hear racism attached to it and you only think the worst of the worst," Nielsen said. "And of course, you would think, 'Well, punishment needs to be done.' But if you were to sit down and talk to one of our members and hear exactly what the full story of what happened ... I think you would think differently and your mind would change."

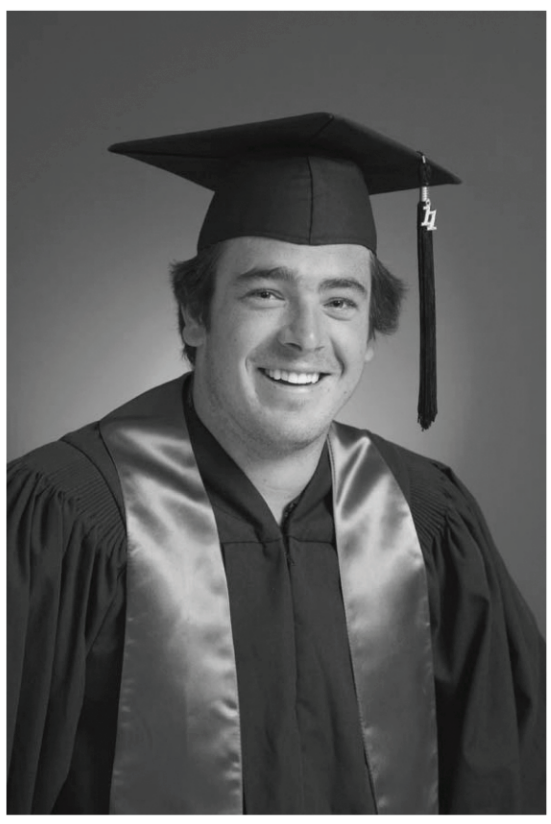
Achola emphasized the pain she and other women of color in the chapter felt throughout recruitment.

"We were extremely hurt by this entire thing. We were discriminated against. We were tokenized. We were used," Achola said. "I just want people to remember to have grace. Take things one at a time, don't necessarily just believe rumors. We are trying. We are trying to make a difference."



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UCSB SCHOOL PASSWORD: GAUCHOS

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UCSB Parking Information

Halloween 2026

- **Registered UCSB Students** with an Annual Night & Weekend parking permit can park in designated lots on campus beginning at 9am on Friday, October 30th until 7:30am on Monday, November 2nd
- Designated lots for night and weekend holders are in Structure 22, and Mesa 18. All other campus lots are subject to closure.
- **Apply/purchase online by going to tps.ucsb.edu/epermits.** Permit verification can take up to three days, so purchase by October 22nd.

No Overnight Visitor Parking is allowed on the UCSB Campus on Friday October 30th and Saturday October 31st

$52.50 – valid through June 30, 2027.

One permit per registered student; vehicle must be linked to permit.

TPS

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DATA

Diversity, equity and inclusion within the 2025-26 Daily Nexus editorial staff

Kalyssa Chu
DEI Chair

The Daily Nexus conducted an annual demographic survey of our editorial board for the 2025-26 academic year to gauge whether the diversity of our staff reflects the Daily Nexus' diversity, equity and inclusion goals.

The commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) within the Daily Nexus traces back to the establishment of the Daily Nexus' Diversity Task Force in 2020. The Diversity Task Force originally consisted of 15 editorial staff members who dedicated time beyond their primary roles to integrating DEI initiatives within the Daily Nexus newsroom. They sought to better consider the ways in which the Daily Nexus serves the communities of UC Santa Barbara, Isla Vista and surrounding areas.

The Diversity Task Force summarized its mission with the following pillars:

1. Ensure that our editorial and general staff reflect the diversity of the UCSB community.
2. Strengthen representation in our coverage by improving relationships with the campus and community.
3. Provide DEI training for all Daily Nexus staff, including writers, editors, content creators, artists and collaborators.

In the over half decade since its establishment, the Diversity Task Force has evolved into a dedicated DEI section led by DEI co-chairs. The DEI team's core responsibilities are reviewing identity and representation-based content to ensure faithful coverage and leading internal staff training on incorporating DEI practices into newsroom procedures. Alongside these core commitments, the DEI team continues to build upon its predecessors' goals by implementing and maintaining evolving DEI initiatives — including continuing the annual DEI content report and staff demographic survey, a practice that began in conjunction with Data in 2023.

This article is a companion piece to our annual DEI content audit and report. The DEI content report, published with Data, highlights content, language use and representation in pieces published by the Daily Nexus during the 2025-26 year.

This year, 37 out of 56 individuals within the Daily Nexus' editorial staff responded to an anonymous survey administered May 2026. Survey questions focused on staff demographics and identity. Respondents were able to select multiple responses or provide their own response if more than one response, or none of the responses, reflected their background or identity.

In this article, the Daily Nexus compares staff data with data from the general UCSB undergraduate population, based on the UCSB Office of Budget & Planning's Campus Profile. We also analyze trends emerging from previous years' data.

Through this assessment, we seek to aid in the following:

1. Guiding future Daily Nexus recruitment efforts aimed at ensuring the voices of our student body are reflected in our newsroom staff.
2. Tracking the progress and impact of past DEI initiatives or newsroom procedural changes.
3. Informing the DEI team of organizational equity gaps to be addressed and achievements to be built upon.
4. Promoting transparency with our readership.

Geography

Editorial staff at the Daily Nexus come to UCSB from a variety of hometowns. However, 95% of surveyed editors reported being from California. Of the surveyed editors from California, 51% are from the Bay Area.

The remaining 5% of editors from outside California are from other states within the United States. No respondents reported being from a hometown outside of the United States.

Of all UCSB undergraduate students, 83% — a similarly large majority — are from California. However, 8% and 9% of all undergraduates hail from other states or countries, respectively.

Transfer students

While around 1 in 5 UCSB undergraduate students are transfer students, 100% of survey respondents are non-transfer students, having joined UCSB as freshmen.

First-generation students

UCSB defines first-generation students as students whose parents did not complete a four-year college degree. At UCSB, around 1 in 3 undergraduate students are classified as first generation. Among our staff respondents, 24% reported being first-generation students.

Major and minor

Continuing the trend from the past two staff reports in 2023-24 and 2024-25, communication is the most common major among the Daily Nexus editorial staff. 32% of respondents are communication majors. Political science and economics are the second and third-most common majors, at 24% and 16%, respectively.

The majority of respondents' majors were within the College of Letters & Science, where 90% of all UCSB undergraduates study.

Among respondents who are also completing a minor to accompany their majors, professional writing is the most popular, accounting for 28% of minors taken.

Work and journalism experience

Alongside pursuing degrees at UCSB, a majority of the Daily Nexus editors work paid jobs and internships in addition to their time commitment to the Daily Nexus. Aside from working at the Daily Nexus, 59% of surveyed editors have an additional paid internship or job. 22% of respondents had two or more jobs or internships outside the Daily Nexus.

Prior to joining the Daily Nexus, our staff had varying levels of journalism experience. 57% of respondents reported having no prior journalism experience, while 43% did.

Race

Of surveyed editors, 47% identified as Asian, 44% as white, 14% as Hispanic or Latino, 8% as Black and 6% as Middle Eastern. Racial demographic data for respondents who identified with more than one race was double counted, in line with how UCSB reports its own demographic data. Of our 37 respondents, 19% identified with more than one race.

For survey respondents at the Daily Nexus, the racial categories of Asian, white and Black were higher than the overall UCSB demographics. The categories of Hispanic or Latino and American Indian/Alaskan were underrepresented.

Language

Among the 37 surveyed staff members, 10 unique languages including English are spoken. 25% of surveyed editors speak Spanish in addition to English.

Gender and sexuality

Beginning last year, the DEI team began including questions related to gender identity and sexual orientation in our staff survey to better understand the diversity of the Daily Nexus editorial board.

Reflecting national trends, UCSB maintains around a 60/40 split of female to male undergraduate students. Comparatively, the Daily Nexus holds a more female-prominent staff, with 68% of surveyed editors being female and 27% male.

One respondent to the demographic survey is nonbinary, and four respondents use gender nonconforming pronouns.

Among 32 respondents who opted to share their sexual orientation, 63% identified as straight and 38% identified as LGBTQIA+.

The DEI team believes balanced representation is essential to maintaining diverse, equitable and inclusive journalism at the Daily Nexus — which involves who our main contributors are.

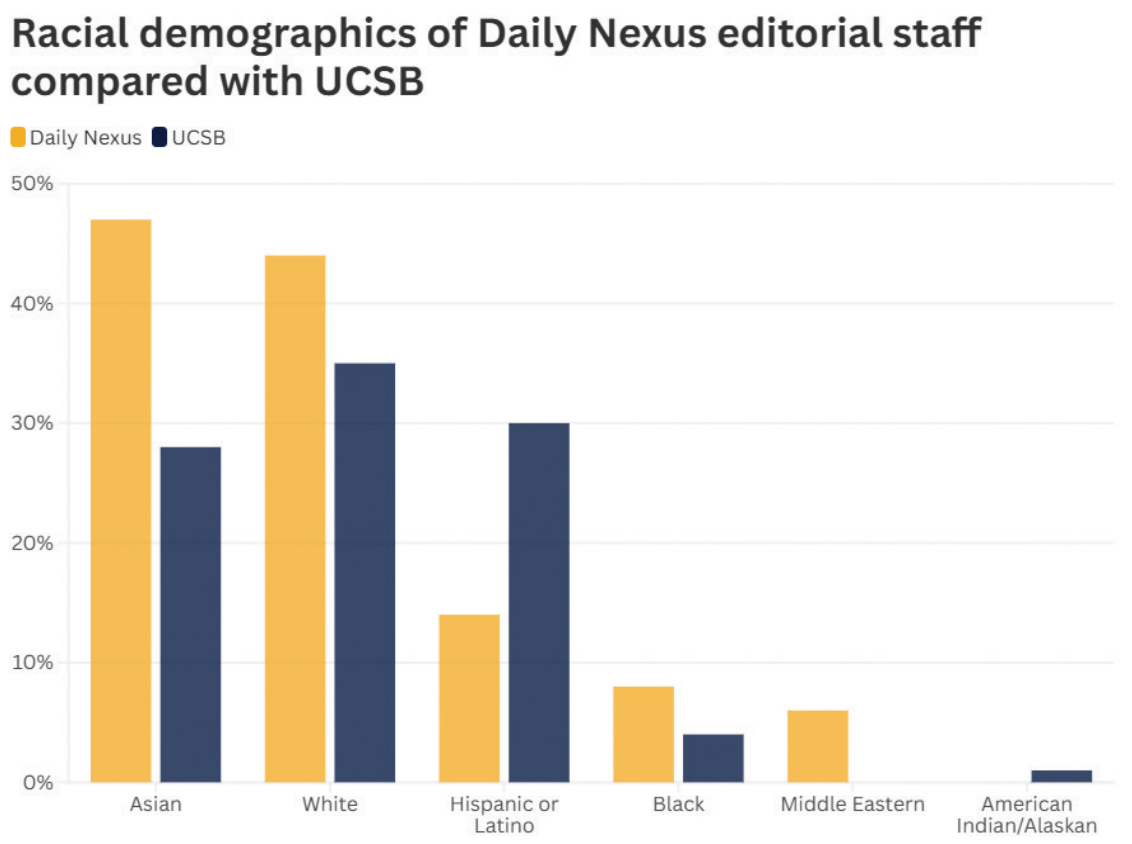
Looking at the data, the Daily Nexus has both strengths and shortcomings in the relative diversity of our staff. Addressing existing representation gaps within our editorial staff is a high priority for the Daily Nexus and our readership as a whole. Building a staff that more closely reflects UCSB's diversity can help Daily Nexus leadership offer a better representation of the perspectives and experiences of our campus communities, which will inevitably lead to more diversity in content, opinion and coverage throughout the newsroom.

Though the DEI team has made attempts to bridge representation gaps throughout the years, including the creation of the Daily Nexus' Spanish-language section, La Vista, in 2022, we acknowledge that much more can be done in specifically improving progress in staff diversity.

Looking ahead, the 2026-27 DEI team at the Daily Nexus aims to develop a focused initiative on promoting a more diverse staff cohort to better reflect the composition of UCSB's undergraduate student population — a focus point that we have not yet majorly addressed. Specifically, we want to prioritize addressing gaps in transfer, international and Hispanic/Latino student representation, which show some of the most significant discrepancies between Daily Nexus and UCSB undergraduate representation.

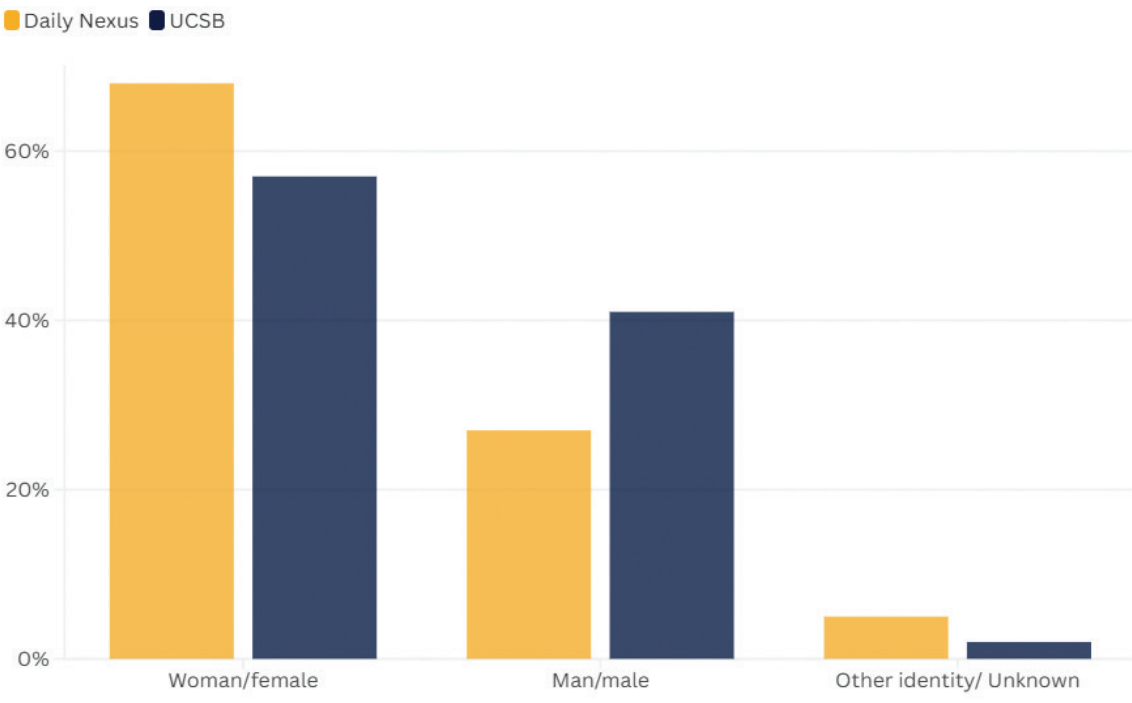
Conducting these yearly staff demographic surveys is a crucial first step in this effort, helping our team maintain transparency with our readership, acknowledge gaps in staff representation and hold ourselves accountable as we plan for the future of the Daily Nexus.

Malia Guy contributed data collection and visualization to this article.

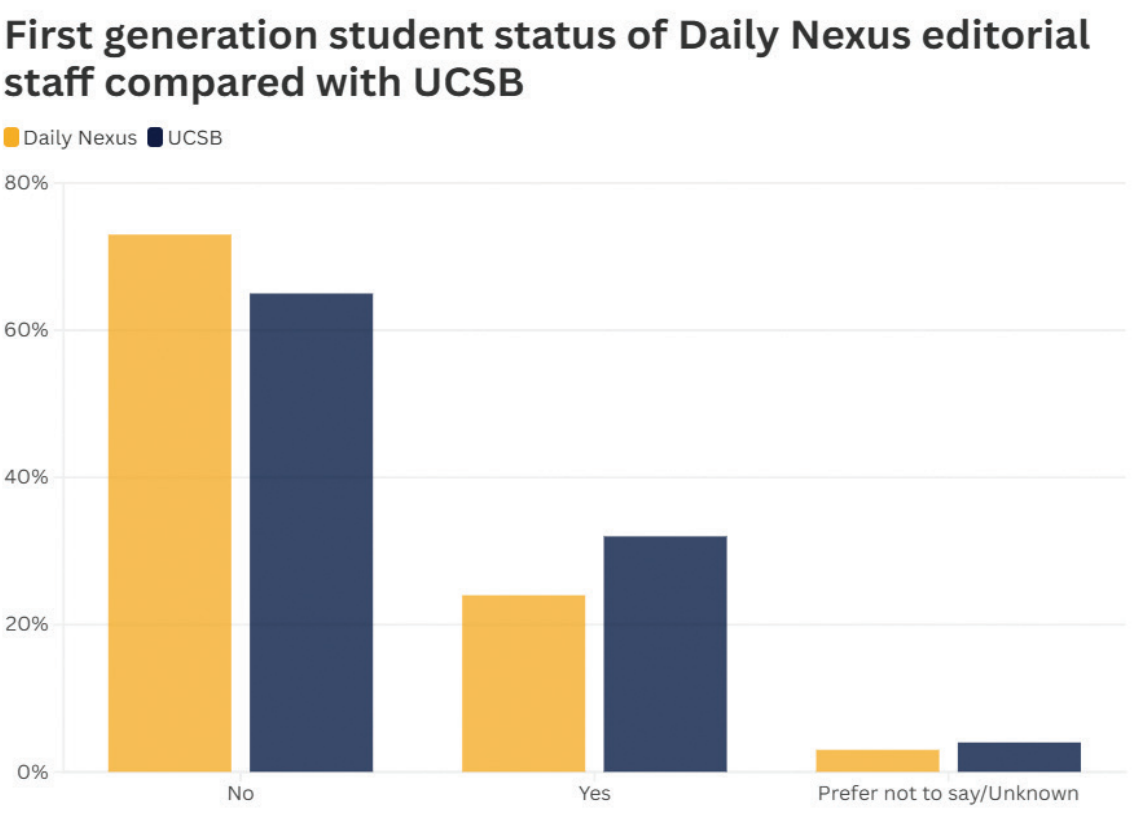


Note: UCSB uses the "Chicano/Latino" label while the Nexus' survey uses the "Hispanic or Latino" label. Additionally, UCSB doesn't count "Middle Eastern" as a separate category.

MALIA GUY / DAILY NEXUS



MALIA GUY / DAILY NEXUS

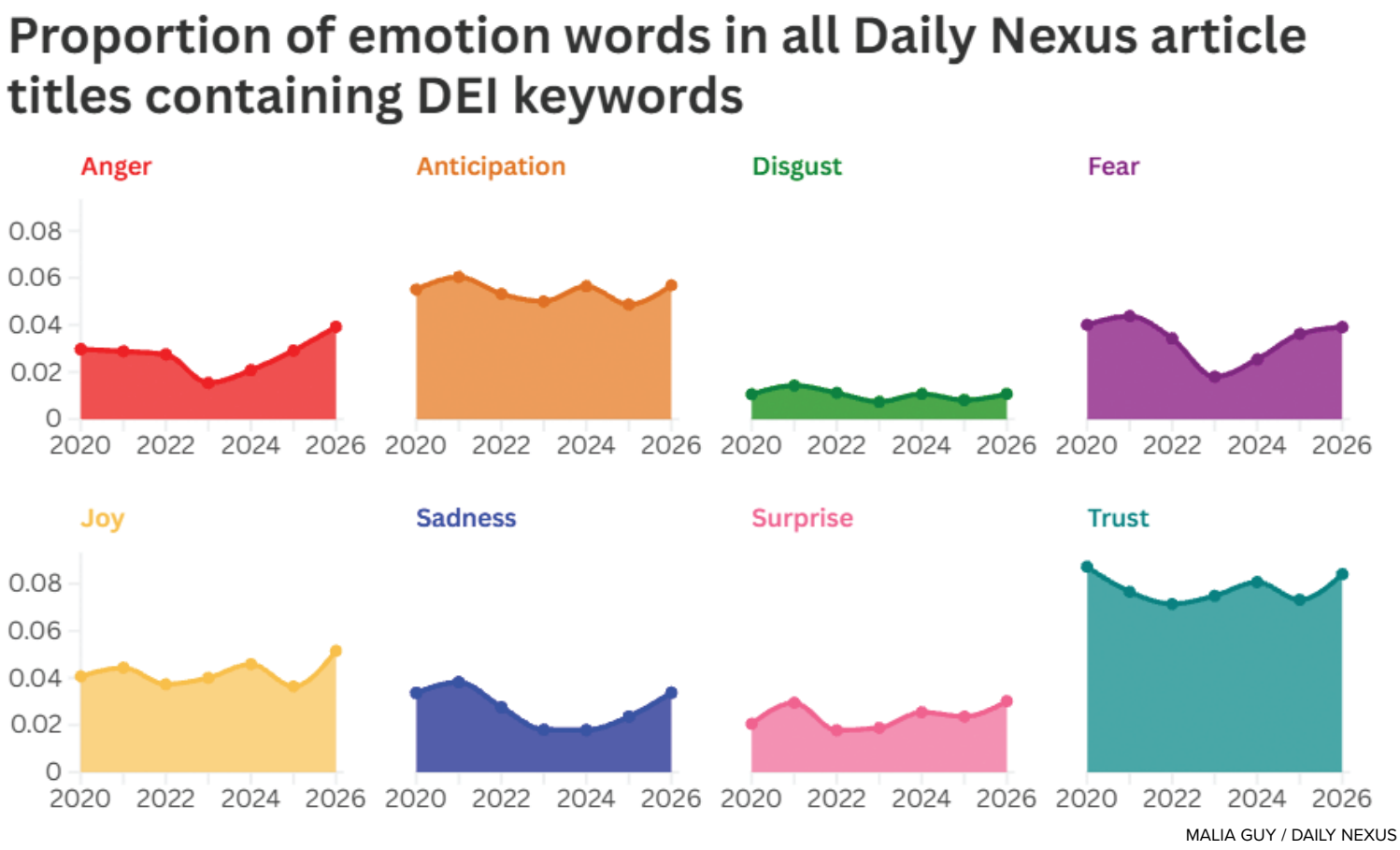


MALIA GUY / DAILY NEXUS

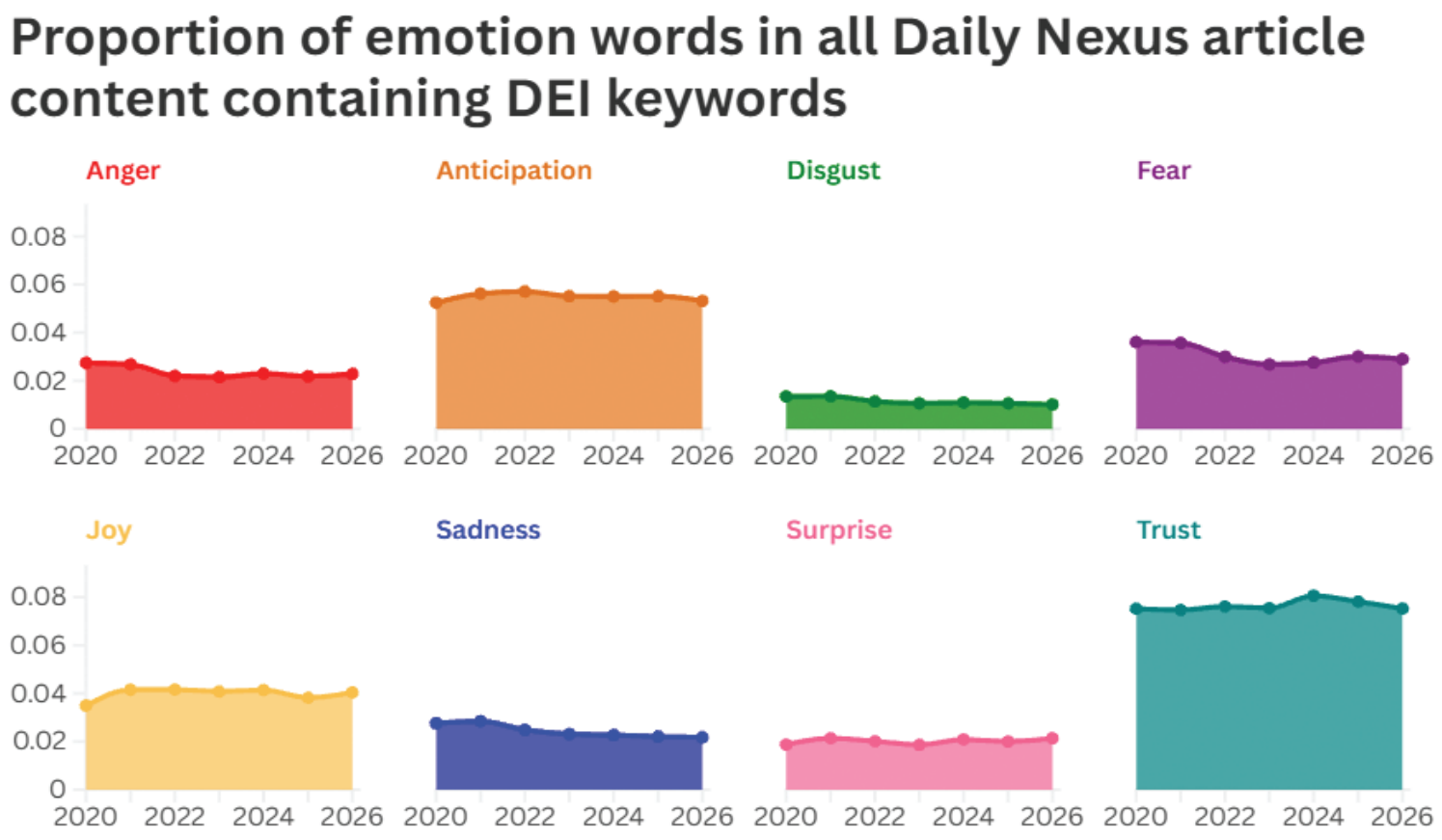
DATA

Diversity, equity and inclusion within the 2025-26 Daily Nexus content

Meher Indolya
DEI Chair



MALIA GUY / DAILY NEXUS



MALIA GUY / DAILY NEXUS

The Daily Nexus remains fully committed to the values of diversity, equity and inclusion as a cornerstone of our coverage. We initiated our first diversity, equity and inclusion survey in 2018, and have continued to expand these initiatives in the following years. This report has been annually published since 2023 and serves to analyze and reflect on the Nexus' efforts and coverage over the past academic year as well as highlight potential areas of improvement. By publishing this data, we aim to make our activity available to the public for the sake of transparency and as a way to hold the Nexus accountable in our journalistic practices and decisions.

The Diversity Task Force was established at the Nexus in 2020 with three core tenets:

1. Ensure that our editorial and general staff reflect the diversity of the UC Santa Barbara community.
2. Strengthen representation in our coverage by improving relationships with the campus and community.
3. Provide training on diversity and inclusion for all Nexus staff, including writers, editors, content creators, artists and collaborators.

Since this initial incorporation of a diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) team into the Nexus and its subsequent evolution into its own section, we have made considerable progress in intentionally integrating key components of DEI values into the newsroom. The DEI team's recent work includes collaborating with the Data section to conduct this annual report, reviewing and editing articles that pertain to this section to accurately represent various communities and holding workshops to present suggestions and guidelines for how staff should handle coverage in relevant areas.

Looking further back, one of DEI's most prominent accomplishments was the creation of the Daily Nexus' Spanish language section, La Vista, in 2022. Additionally, the creation of internal style guides designed for the Nexus' writers over the past couple years in combination with the 2021 addition of the Community Outreach Beat within our News coverage marks significant milestones in DEI's efforts at the Daily Nexus.

This article is a companion piece to our report on DEI within the 2025-26 Daily Nexus staff, which highlights the demographic breakdown of the editorial staff in our newsroom.

To measure the prevalence of DEI-related coverage from 2020 through 2026, the Nexus filtered articles through a list of relevant keywords and tracked their annual frequency per calendar year. Articles that included at least one keyword were classified as DEI-related coverage. This follows the same process implemented in last year's analysis, ensuring consistency and comparability across years.

These keywords were carefully selected to reflect the wide range of language frequently used when discussing matters related to DEI and social justice. They included direct references to historically marginalized communities, terms denoting broader discourse surrounding DEI initiatives, terms associated with global conflicts and human rights and terms related to healthcare and justice.

The Nexus conducted a sentiment analysis of article headlines and content to better understand the tone and emotional impact of our reporting. Content from the Photo, Video and Nexustentialism sections were excluded; the latter section was not considered due to the fact that some standard sentiment analysis tools struggle to detect satire. To analyze headlines, we used the Natural Language Toolkit's Valence Aware Dictionary and Sentiment Reasoner (VADER). VADER is optimal for evaluating short-form content because it evaluates polarity (positive/negative), intensity (strength) and nuance of sentiment. By assigning each word a score and aggregating the results into a compound score, VADER classifies the text as positive, negative or neutral.

Title sentiment analysis

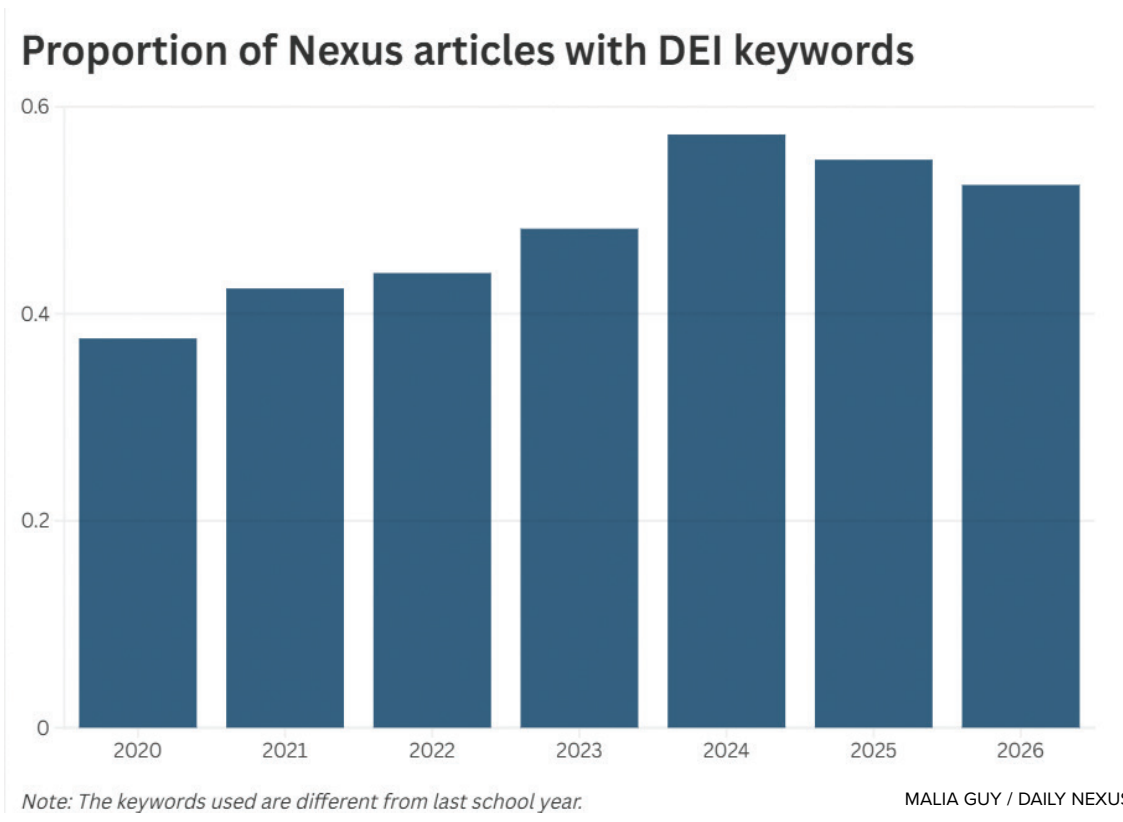
It is important to note that this sentiment analysis is influenced both by the subject matter of events covered and editorial framing choices. Sentiment analysis can misinterpret specific context or nuance, but produces a reliable overview of emotional trends across the articles.

Between 2020 and 2026, the sentiment of Daily Nexus article headlines generally leaned neutral, with a modest tendency toward positive sentiment. Examining specifically DEI-related articles in 2026, headlines equally reflected positive and negative sentiments as the primary tones.

This pattern may suggest that the Daily Nexus's headlines when covering DEI-related topics may reflect events that are more emotionally charged or events that may be more often framed in either of these tones.

Content sentiment analysis

For a more in-depth sentiment analysis of content, the Nexus used the National Research Council Canada's (NRC) Word-Emotion Association Lexicon. The lexicon consists of approximately 10,000 commonly used English words and their strengths of association with certain emotions. The eight emotions chosen include anger, anticipation, disgust, fear, joy, sadness, surprise and trust.



MALIA GUY / DAILY NEXUS

The most commonly evoked emotions in the NRC's lexicon are anticipation, trust and joy.

The Nexus calculated the average proportion of the total number of words associated with each emotion in each article and its title to the total word count of said article. Following the trend from the past two years of conducting this analysis, words associated with anticipation and trust were the most common throughout Daily Nexus content, regardless of whether titles and articles contained DEI-related keywords or not.

Moving forward into the 2026-27 academic year

As a new academic year begins on campus, the Daily Nexus continues to stand firmly dedicated to DEI values in the newsroom.

The past few years have seen pushback against DEI throughout the nation, attacks on journalistic integrity and targeting of marginalized communities.

Amidst these challenges, the Nexus remains committed to keeping our publication an open and safe space where every voice can be heard and where coverage is both sensitive and representative of the different communities we serve.

We also recognize the anxiety and uncertainty many in our community are facing due to increased Immigration and Customs Enforcement (I.C.E.) activity and the targeting of Latine, immigrant and undocumented individuals. Last year, the Daily Nexus launched the I.C.E. Sighting Tracker. This resource, created by former Editor-in-Chief Anusha Singh and former Lead News Editor Michelle Cisneros, aims to provide up-to-date and reliable information on relevant I.C.E. activity in Goleta and the Santa Barbara area and can be found on the Daily Nexus website. Additionally, the Daily Nexus will continue to publish biweekly updates on I.C.E sightings in the area.

By publishing this report, we hope our readers will be informed of newsroom processes, especially our efforts in providing fair and accurate coverage. In remaining transparent and reflecting on areas of achievement and shortcoming, we aspire for a year full of growth and careful consideration of how to ensure we can best represent and serve our diverse community.

Malia Guy contributed data collection and visualization to this article.

OPINION

Don't be sorry that I'm single



COURTESTY OF NARINEH MADIKIANS

Narineh Madikians
Opinion Editor

When I turned 21, I thought the only question I would have to worry about answering would be "hey, can I see your ID?" The one that every new 21-year-old waits eagerly to be asked so they can proudly display the little card tucked in the leathery folds of their wallets. However, turning 21, the question I thought waited on my horizon very quickly morphed into something entirely different.

My age soon became a marker for a relationship status, an expectation I did not realize existed. Immediately after turning 21, it felt like I had a big sign on my forehead emblazoned with "ASK ME WHO I AM DATING."

Family members, friends, acquaintances all swarmed to ask, "are you dating anyone?" to which I would always reply, "No." And although they tried to hide it, they could not stop their mouths from exhaling, "oh, that's alright." I could hear their voices tainted with pity as they looked at me — they were truly sorry that I was single. The pattern persisted so much that before they could even express their pity, I would begin overexplaining how I liked my life the way it was. This almost always invited more questions rather than extinguishing them.

The reason why I am single is much less complicated than my interrogators want to believe. It is not because I am averse to relationships nor that I am so emotionally distressed over a past relationship that I cannot move on to the next. The truth is that my status as a single individual never crosses my mind. I do not consistently desire wanting to be in a relationship nor do I feel unfulfilled because I do not have one.

I am not saying that my vision for the future will never include a partner. It's just that, right now, being single makes me happier than if I wasn't. I understand how it can be shocking when I tell people that my relationship status is something I don't necessarily want to change. However, I know that this shock stems from foundational teachings that associate the meaning of life with finding someone to share that life with. Society has long held the belief that single people cannot be happy, and that when they are, they're simply deluding themselves. Especially as we get older, this belief begins to seep deeper into our communities' mindsets, and with that, sympathy grows for those of us who continue to be single.

face this phenomena as the push to find a partner is rooted in antiquated trends revolving around their "biological clocks." The older a woman gets, the more interested people become in their relationship status because of how tightly associated it is with starting a family. Now, this is not what I am saying people actively think about when discussing my relationship status. However, I cannot ignore that the pattern grew significantly after my 21st birthday. On the brink of a milestone that signifies adulthood and with college graduation in less than a year, people subconsciously begin to wonder when a relationship will become my priority.



COURTESTY OF NARINEH MADIKIANS

Beyond this antiquated extreme exists the perception that I cannot possibly reach the peak of my happiness without pursuing it through a relationship. And let me get one thing straight: If you are seeking a relationship, that does not make you desperate, unfulfilled or unhappy. As social beings, our innate nature is to connect with others. We actively seek interaction in all forms, and a majority of those interactions can be romantic. The issue I take with this is when that desire stems from trying to save oneself from an abyss of loneliness. Instead of seeking a relationship for the purpose of not being able to be alone, or out of a cycle of self pity, we need to find the strengths we have as an individual. Growing my confidence in who I am as a person, separate from anyone else, is part of why I enjoy being single.

Taylor Swift's 2025 song "The Fate of Ophelia" sparked online debate with this issue. Her song expresses a sense of relief at being saved by her romantic partner and now-husband Travis Kelce. Swift shared in an iHeart Radio interview that the song was meant to show the peace you feel once you find a partner that is truly supportive and what it is like to be saved when "driven mad by love" in a positive way. Others debate that it tows the line of promoting codependency. These critics argue that the song adds to discourse that women need to be saved from madness by a man or a relationship.

Personally, I have always enjoyed the song and found it to be romantic. But, I believe the way it is written can disregard the complex struggles that women face with the ups and downs of relationships.

Regardless of what Swift meant to convey, the criticism around the song demonstrates a desire to change the damsel in distress narrative. Women can want a relationship without wanting to be 'saved' from singleness. Being single has never been a burden on my chest or fueled a sense of isolation within me. It is not something that I need to be consoled about, because there are many other interesting parts about me other than which guy I could be dating, if I want to be dating and whether or not I should be dating.

Instead of asking me who I am dating, I wish that the focus fell on things I actively cared about. I am



COURTESTY OF NARINEH MADIKIANS

For my birthday my cousin gifted me a giftcard to Godmothers in Summerland and when I arrived I found all the company I needed in my blind date with a book.

HOROSCOPES

The signs as songs about loving being single

ARIES
MARCH 21 - APRIL 19
"Touch The Sky" - Kanye West

TAURUS
APRIL 20 - MAY 20
"Flowers" - Miley Cyrus

GEMINI
MAY 21 - JUNE 20
"My Love Mine all Mine" - Mitski

CANCER
JUNE 21 - JULY 22
"Needed Me" - Rihanna

LEO
JULY 23 - AUGUST 22
"Me, Myself and I" - Beyoncé

VIRGO
AUGUST 23 - SEPTEMBER 22
"Ridin' Solo" - Jason Derulo

LIBRA
SEPTEMBER 23 - OCTOBER 22
"You're Not The Only One I Know" - The Sundays

SCORPIO
OCTOBER 23 - NOVEMBER 21
"WHERE I BE " - LUCKI

SAGITTARIUS
NOVEMBER 22 - DECEMBER 21
"Finally Alone " - Mac DeMarco

CAPRICORN
DECEMBER 22 - JANUARY 19
"No Scrubs " - TLC

AQUARIUS
JANUARY 20 - FEBRUARY 18
"It Ain't Me Babe " - Bob Dylan

PISCES
FEBRUARY 19 - MARCH 20
"Yes I'm Changing " - Tame Impala

OPINION


COURTESTY OF NARINEH MADIKIANS

a first-generation college student navigating graduate school applications in an age where artificial intelligence is threatening to significantly reduce entry-level jobs. Ask me about that. I like watching stupid movies that have bad acting. Ask me about that. I like finding new music and sharing it with my friends. Ask me about that. I like reading books where fictional characters navigate their own complicated lives. Ask me about that.

It is not like I want to avoid the topic of conversation, I am just tired of the endless pity and the downturned smiles when my response is not what they expected to hear. I am tired of hearing that being single is just for now and that I will find the right person accompanied with, "Don't worry, nobody finds their husband in college." For me, being single is not something I view as temporary, permanent or conditional. It is simply what I am. I am single and I am happy that way. But for my interrogators who still do not believe me, let me explain some more.

When I blew out the candles atop my birthday cake in July, my thoughts did not immediately shift to a timer that was running out. Instead, I decided that getting older did not need to focus on a ticking clock. The more I did that, the faster life seemed to pass me by. My 21st birthday did not jumpstart a new vision for adult life, and it especially did not make me start thinking about who would be standing at the end of my wedding aisle. It made me start thinking about my last year at UC Santa Barbara and how I'm going to spend it making the most out of my time with the people who are already so integral in my life.

Growing up, my siblings were my best friends and moving away from them was one of the hardest things I've ever had to do. I had just broken up with my high school boyfriend four months prior, and moved away from the only place I ever knew into a triple in Santa Catalina Hall. I never thought that I would move past the sense of heartbreak and loss that I felt in that first year. But that breakup taught me that I needed to learn who I was without having a romantic connection with somebody else. I was lucky enough to navigate that in the most beautiful place I have ever lived: Isla Vista. I will admit, when I first moved in, I did not find anything special about the view of the dumpsters from my third-floor triple. But behind the houses teetering off cliffs on Del Playa, the plain buildings on campus and the cramped dorms, I found what makes this place like nothing else in the world: the people.

This past summer, I moved into a house on the 65 block of Del Playa Drive with nine of my best friends. I might still sleep in a twin bed at the ripe age of 21, but I would take our little house on the water over a queen-size bed anyday. Every morning, I get woken up to the sounds of waves crashing at the base of the cliff and laughter outside my door. The air that once felt so suffocating clears my lungs every morning when I step onto our patio. When I walk through the house, nine of my housemates each greet me with, "good morning!" So, I promise, I do not need to wake up to good morning texts from any boy; I'm settled in that department.


COURTESTY OF NARINEH MADIKIANS

Me and my best friends at date party. Spoiler alert! We didn't have dates and we still had the best time.

I can sit here and try to convince you that my single status does not bother me because I am so focused on finding a job after graduation, or that I just love being by myself all the time, or even that I am just waiting for the right person to come along. The truth is my female friendships are so fulfilling that there simply is just not enough space in my life for anyone else. Sorry to my endless line of suitors that I know are lining up somewhere; maybe try again next year!

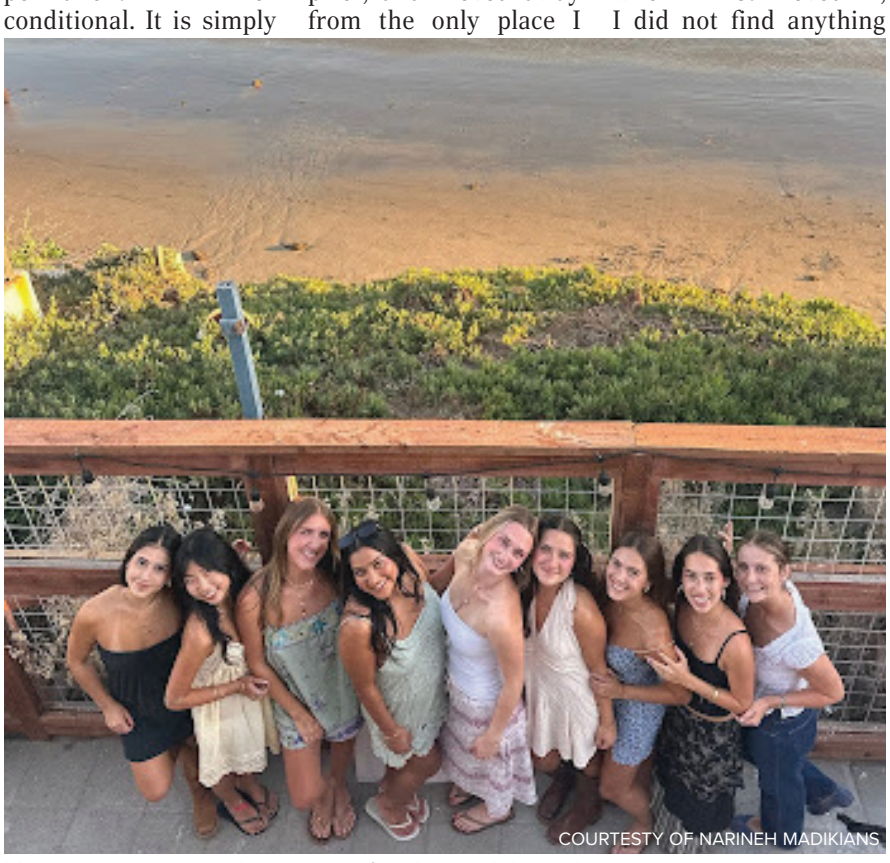
The love I feel both for and from my friends feeds my soul in a way that a man never could. It does not bring stress into my life, but in fact eliminates it. Who else is going to sing karaoke with me, laugh at my jokes when they are not funny or cook me dinner when I get home from work too late? My roommates have filled every role I could have ever seen myself wanting a relationship for. And it's not about having these things done for me — it's the fact that we do them together.

Yes, I like being alone. Yes, I like having the ability to focus my attention on school. Yes, I like being able to think about where I will be living postgrad without the thought of having to leave someone behind or bring them with me. But most of all, I like being single because any leftover energy I have gets to be poured into the friends that pour so much into me and would drop anything to be by my side.

I know that not everyone has the privilege of having friends this great, which is why I consider myself so lucky. But to anyone else out there that might feel sorry to be single, take a look around at the life you live. Do what might seem scary: start getting more comfortable being alone. Whether that means finding a new hobby, taking yourself out to dinner or going on a solo road trip down the California coast, I promise there is so much purpose to be found in life, regardless of if it involves a significant other.

To my interrogators that might still be skeptical if I am happy or not to be single, I will never pass up a chance to talk about how much my people, career and life mean to me. So as much as I might have resisted, please keep asking away, because even if you still leave feeling sorry for me, I will never and have never felt sorry for myself.

Narineh Madikians wants people to ask what book she's reading, not what guy she's dating.


COURTESTY OF NARINEH MADIKIANS

My nine roomates and I in our perfect house. We might not have much space but at least we have each other.

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HOROSCOPES

The signs as songs about loving being single

ARIES
MARCH 21 - APRIL 19
"Touch The Sky" - Kanye West

TAURUS
APRIL 20 - MAY 20
"Flowers" - Miley Cyrus

GEMINI
MAY 21 - JUNE 20
"My Love Mine All Mine" - Mitski

CANCER
JUNE 21 - JULY 22
"Needed Me" - Rihanna

LEO
JULY 23 - AUGUST 22
"Me, Myself and I" - Beyoncé

VIRGO
AUGUST 23 - SEPTEMBER 22
"Ridin' Solo" - Jason Derulo

LIBRA
SEPTEMBER 23 - OCTOBER 22
"You're Not The Only One I Know" - The Sundays

SCORPIO
OCTOBER 23 - NOVEMBER 21
"WHERE I BE " - LUCKI

SAGITTARIUS
NOVEMBER 22 - DECEMBER 21
"Finally Alone " - Mac DeMarco

CAPRICORN
DECEMBER 22 - JANUARY 19
"No Scrubs " - TLC

AQUARIUS
JANUARY 20 - FEBRUARY 18
"It Ain't Me Babe " - Bob Dylan

PISCES
FEBRUARY 19 - MARCH 20
"Yes I'm Changing " - Tame Impala

ON THE MENU

An homage to my mother's kitchen

Sahasra Hanumiahgari
On The Menu Editor

Usually when someone asks me a question about my favorite "something," it takes me a second to think about it before I can answer. My favorite animal, my favorite class, my favorite drink? Shoot, I don't know, you're going to have to give me a second. But ask me what's my favorite food, I'll answer before you even finish your sentence.

Hyderabadi chicken dum biryani; spicy chicken layered with fluffy rice and fried onions, slow cooked over low heat, melting the flavors together. The seasonings and marinade from the chicken soak into the rice, which is also topped with a saffron mixture — flavor on flavor on flavor. What makes this cooking technique different from others is the fact that once you put the lid on, you can't take it off until it's done cooking. It's truly a skill; I'm not exaggerating when I say it's one of my missions in life to perfect this dum (pronounced like duhm, with a "th" sound, rhyming with plum) technique for cooking. Traditionally, this dish is made in a clay pot and sealed with a layer of dough, however, this step isn't something I grew up with but is something seen in resturaunts.

Now, I may be slightly biased, but my mom makes the best biryani in the entire world. If making biryani was an art, my mom would be Picasso. We've had family and friends travel decently long distances just to eat some of Suchi's biryani. My mom has even catered events — she really is just that good. She makes her own seasoning blend, unlike any other biryani masalas I've ever tried.

Biryani is a labor of love. It's an extensive process that is incredibly worth it, resulting in a warm, decadent meal often served at special occasions. My mom swears biryani is the easiest thing to learn how to cook, and you know what, I really wish that were the case. They say practice makes perfect. Hopefully that applies to making biryani.

Growing up, this was my dad's favorite food and my mom's favorite recipe, leading to weekly gatherings of family and friends centered around a big pot of biryani. I remember Friday afternoons at the butcher, then coming home where my dad would clean the chicken and my mom would begin the marination. I watched as she poured in the masalas, measuring with her heart. The next night, I watched as she fried onions and layered the meat and rice. Thirty minutes later, our home would be full of family and the smell of cardamom. Watching everyone gather around the massive pot, eating to their hearts' content, laughing and conversing, I would sleep with a full stomach and a full heart.

Biryani was never just chicken and rice. It was a physical manifestation of my parents' teamwork and love for each other. My dad cleaned the raw chicken because he knew how my mom hated it, and my mom would always adjust her recipe to my dad's liking and current spice tolerance. Each pot was a symbol of community. Despite Hyderabad being 8,000 miles and two oceans away, Saturday nights always felt like a glimpse of India, like a small taste of home, as we ate and cheersed mango juice and beer.

Now, in my Isla Vista kitchen, I've learned my mom's recipe and have made it a few times. While it never does her recipe justice, I'll invite my friends over for biryani and as I step back and see them sitting around my living room, eating and laughing, I see my past meeting my future over a pot of chicken and rice.

I swear, I'll have a recipe coming soon but unfortunately, this editor has not nearly perfected her biryani masala or technique and needs to call her mom ASAP. Hey Amma, if you're reading this, I miss you and I love you. Also, can you please make me some of your masala next time I'm home?



SAHASRA HANUMIAHGARI / DAILY NEXUS

My first attempt at making biryani in college. Not the best, but definitely not the worst either.



SAHASRA HANUMIAHGARI / DAILY NEXUS

Now, I may be slightly biased, but my mom makes the best biryani in the entire world. If making biryani was an art, my mom would be Picasso.



SAHASRA HANUMIAHGARI / DAILY NEXUS

Good food should be enjoyed with even better company.

SCIENCE & TECH

Simply Stated: Why does UCSB have an ant problem?

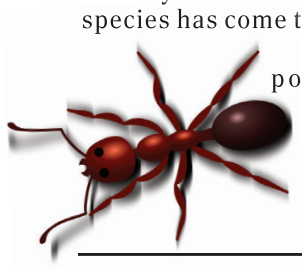


SARAH CAULDER / DAILY NEXUS

Olivia Lohrer
Lead Science Editor

If you're just coming back to campus or Isla Vista after the summer, you may have noticed the presence of a new, unwelcome roommate. Perhaps dozens of them traverse your kitchen counter, your bathroom floor or maybe even your pillow at night. It's easy to put the blame on your messy housemate who leaves their dishes in the sink overnight or drops their crumbs on the couch, but the ant problem in your apartment may be part of a much bigger phenomenon stretching across California.

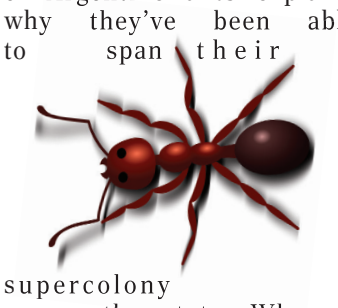
UC Santa Barbara's campus sits on top of a 560-mile long "supercolony" of Argentine ants, an invasive species believed to have arrived in California from South America in the late 19th century. Ever since then, the species has come to dominate local ant populations and terrorize California renters and homeowners.



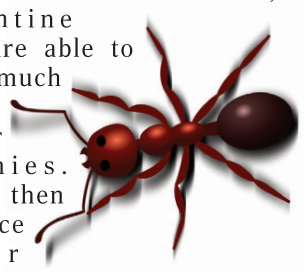
The supercolony stretches up and down the California coast, with Argentine ants being found in coastal towns of Humboldt County down to the United States-Mexico border.

The supercolony also stretches inland; Argentine ants are pervasive in the Sacramento Delta region as well. These ants particularly thrive in urban and agricultural areas that have already been heavily impacted by human activity.

According to a PBS SoCal article, a "behavioral quirk" of Argentine ants explains why they've been able to span their supercolony across the state. Whereas most ant species are adapted to sense the differing pheromones of neighboring colonies of ants — including those of the same species — and enter in conflict with them, Argentine ants lack this tendency toward "intraspecific aggression." Instead, an Argentine ant originating from one colony would be welcomed by the local population of another because of the species' low genetic diversity that allows them to recognize each other as kin.



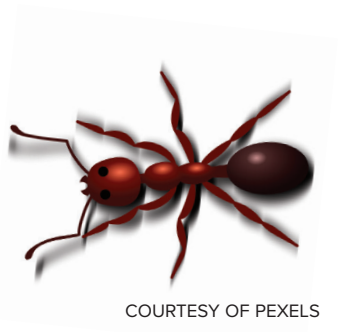
Due to this harmonious inclination with one another, Argentine ants are able to build much larger, denser colonies. They then displace other ant species by outcompeting them for resources or by simply attacking them.



The presence of Argentine ants can be detrimental not only to other ant populations, but to the native biodiversity of California's coast, a phenomenon known as a trophic cascade. One of the species that is most affected by their presence is the coastal horned lizard, which have declined by at least 50 percent in areas with an abundance of Argentine ants. According to research by UC Davis Conservation Biologist Andrew Suarez, the much smaller Argentine ants don't provide enough nutrition to sustain the horned lizards, who are accustomed to a diet of the larger, native ants that have been displaced.



While the presence of Argentine ants may be less consequential to California's human residents than their horned lizard counterparts, dealing with these tiny intruders can be incredibly frustrating. Due to their unique social dynamics and the extent of their supercolony, eliminating the ants visible on your kitchen counter does little to affect the much larger network of ants outside, where multiple queens can continually replenish the colony.


COURTESY OF PEXELS

UCSB and I.V. can offer a favorable habitat for these invaders due to dense development and an abundance of food sources. Additionally, the ants become particularly aggressive during the late summer and early fall when water availability becomes scarce, driving them inside toward kitchens and bathrooms. As a result of this year's particularly warm early fall — with temperatures this week reaching 90° Fahrenheit in Goleta — UCSB students and Isla Vista residents can expect to see quite a few of these uninvited houseguests over the next couple of weeks.

GAUCHOS,
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NEXUSTENTIALISM

It's Satire, Stupid.



MADELINE BRYCE / DAILY NEXUS

DP frat house really thinks it will survive El Niño

Jesse Joint
Frat Perceiver

As fall quarter at UC Santa Barbara commences, many students are now cast in the shadow of the ominous El Niño, a climate event beginning to shake not only the foundation of the coast, but Isla Vista's most equestrian-friendly frat, Kappa Epsilon Tau.

Located on Del Playa (DP), the now-Kappa Epsilon Tau (KET)-controlled satellite house which overlooks the ocean has hosted both ragers and daygers under many owners for decades, but might have now met its match with the incoming storms.

Students who walk the beaches along DP report that the beams supporting the ground beneath the house appear to be actively deteriorating into the ocean. In order to prevent further damage, the brothers of KET propped up kegs balanced on top of each other in order to act as structural support.

After these reports came in, the Daily Nexus questioned KET spokesperson and fourth-year economics major Dwight Powder about his fraternity's concerns with El Niño. The Daily Nexus was surprised by the extreme nonchalance Powder exhibited.

"It really should be no biggie," Powder quipped. "I've got the pledges attaching life rafts outside of the house as we speak, our full brothers have been taping their beer cans into rafts since last spring, trust big dog, we will be ready."

Powder then revealed the frat's full contingency plan for if (or when) the house detaches, including a map of how they'll navigate the flooded I.V. streets on their new flotilla.

"We bank straight for Woodstock's because they have the best meat-lovers pizza for this meat-lover. Then we circle back to Lao's for pitchers before we set sail for our new home, Sands Beach. There we will make sure those cute-ass plovers survive. And that is our plan when El Niño arrives," Powder said.

As he spoke, another KET member, second-year applied math major Benny Branco, chimed in.

"Oh sick! Wait, when is El Niño coming again? I can't wait to meet him, he seems like a chiller," Branco said earnestly.

Dwight put his face in his hands, indicating this wasn't the first time this exchange has occurred.

"Dude, I think I've heard about him on the news and stuff, I didn't know he had pulled like that," Branco said.

Other KET members stood around looking at each other confused before Branco continued, "I mean he's got to be a ride or die. He's not even your boy, he's like, 'The Boy.' That's aura."

Judging from KET's preparation and subpar knowledge of climate phenomena and the Spanish language, the Daily Nexus hopes for the best as KET heads into the arduous El Niño season. In the meantime, KET will return to their horse-like habits and continue to enjoy their DP house while it is still attached to the ground, for now.

Jesse Joint is renting on the raft.



MADELINE BRYCE / DAILY NEXUS

UCSB announces three new sororities for girls who hate sororities

Kitty Funk
Not Like Other Girls

If traditional sorority life isn't for you, rest assured: UC Santa Barbara just announced three new chapters coming winter quarter that might finally fit your niche.

Please give a warm welcome to the Anti-Sorority Sorority (A.S.S.).

The women of A.S.S. unite in rebellion against the conventionality of sorority life. Recruitment is a quick 10 days during which potential members are expected to rush the chapter with nothing but pessimism, so please — don't come with a smile. All prospective new members must own a pair of wired earbuds and have had Radiohead on their Spotify Wrapped for the past five years to qualify for registration.

A.S.S. also has some strict rules intended to maintain the mystery behind its members. Private social media accounts are enforced, no profile pictures are allowed and accounts cannot surpass 920 followers. Please refrain from questioning any aspect of the recruitment process; the recruitment team has carefully crafted it to ensure their sisterhood is unlike all the other sisterhoods.

The Bruh-Girl Sorority (BGS) has also touched down at UCSB.

BGS does not follow traditional recruitment practices. Instead, prospective new members are expected to arrive with good vibes — and a Coors Light to shotgun at the door. Members must have a sub-four-second shotgun time to be considered for rush, so practicing is highly encouraged before attending open house.

Prospective new members will chat with initiated homegirls while they feel y'all out, after which they'll receive a DM if the chapter wants them back. The chapter describes the process less as recruitment and more as a kickback, referring to prospective new members as pledges throughout the process.

The pledge class will also participate in a few bonding "rituals" because, as the chapter states, that's just the "name of the game." The sorority veers away from all that "traditional sisterhood" stuff, describing itself as basically a fraternity with better branding. Ultimately, the chapter says it wants its incoming broth — I mean, homegirls — to remember that nothing is ever that deep. Unless you can't take a joke, in which case, maybe this isn't the chapter for you.

Weekly chapter meetings will be held on Sunday evenings so members can tune into Sunday Night Football, though they note that members are expected to bring a 30 rack.

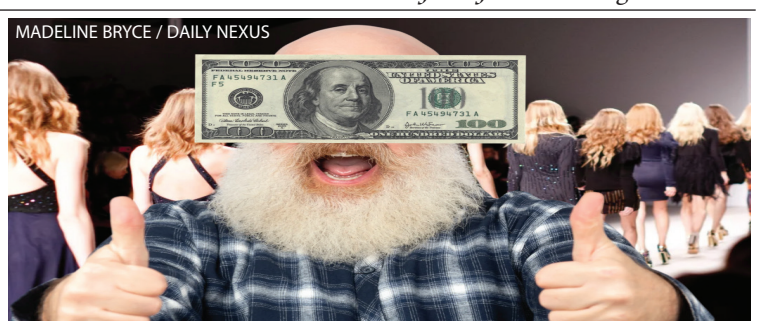
The Digital Detox Sorority (DDS) is the newest chapter coming to campus.

This chapter's mission is to encourage members to disconnect and instead reconnect IRL, challenging the dominance of a chronically online culture. To achieve this, weekly competitions will be held to see which members can resist posting the longest. The winner receives a free pass to post the following week and a shoutout on the chapter's Insta story, @ucsb.digitaldetox.

In addition, one sister per week will be nominated to post a "day in my life" documenting what an unplugged lifestyle looks like, inspiring others to overcome their social media addictions and reminding them that they are never alone in their fight.

I hope one of these chapters resonated with you.

Kitty Funk is still concussed from the Sig Chi mechanical bull, so the legitimacy of these chapters remains in question. Updates soon ...



MADELINE BRYCE / DAILY NEXUS

Fashion-foward I.V. landlord doesn't want to fix plumbing

High Value Female
Fashion Police

As Paris Fashion Week comes to a close, multiple brands have left quite an impression on their viewers. Matières Fécales — which literally translates to fecal matter — is a fashion house that has risen to prominence for their avant-garde aesthetics. In Isla Vista, a particular landlord has also been enamored by the maison de couture, though his tenants are not fond of his high-fashion mindset.

Richard Branston, the CEO of Palm Tree Properties, received complaints from tenants earlier this week about a distinctly pungent smell emanating from the toilets on his properties. Instead of dispatching a plumber to solve the issue, he wrote back via the renter's portal: "it's called eau de toilette read a fucking book."

"After my bitch son made me watch 'Ratatouille' with him, I found a new sense of appreciation for French culture," Branston said. "By the time Paris Fashion Week rolled around, I had already started chain-smoking those skinny European cigarettes! It was perfect timing!"

He added that while he was keeping up with all the fashion shows being put on, he stumbled across Matières Fécales's viral show featuring their spring/summer 2027 collection, "THE NINETY NINE PERCENT," which included pregnant models, representing motherhood.

"In one word? Hot," Branston said.

As Branston dove deeper into the brand, he discovered their previous collections, particularly their fall/winter 2026 show centering around the rich elite.

"It was just so nice seeing people like me represented on the runway; usually we aren't the target audience for high fashion," Branston reflected.

Residents at Palm Tree Properties have since reported that Branston now enters their apartments for inspections and repairs with a $100 bill taped over his eyes.

"Matières Fécales means fecal matter in English. They use that name so no one buys their clothes for the brand name alone, but rather for the actual look of the clothes. That's called integrity," Branston said.

Branston also expressed that he resonates with their message, but his tenants don't appreciate the way he interprets it.

"I resonate with fecal matter as well, because if your house doesn't smell like poop, then you don't know the triumphs and defeats, the epic highs and lows of Del Playa living. That's also integrity."

Branston is now involved in several lawsuits over the habitability of his properties.

High Value Female is happy I.V. is so fashionable.

DIDN'T REALIZE THIS WAS SATIRE, STUPID???

Come fight us at the
first official Stench meeting of the quarter.
DM @nexustentialism for address.
10/9 @ 12 p.m.

Bring: sense of humor, $10 (for entrance fee)
Not allowed: anyone over 90 lbs., water bottles

MADELINE BRYCE / DAILY NEXUS

COLUMNISTS

What we keep wearing: Cardigans



Arna Churiwala
Fashionista

There is a very specific period of the year when getting dressed becomes a guessing game.

You leave the house in a tank top because it is sunny, immediately regret it when you step outside and spend the rest of the day carrying around a jacket you refuse to actually put on. At noon, you are sweating, but by 7 p.m., you might be shivering.

Welcome to cardigan season.

The cardigan is the perfect solution to October weather that cannot seem to make up its mind. It is cozy enough for a chilly morning, light enough for a sunny afternoon and easy enough to throw into your tote bag when you inevitably start overheating halfway through class.

But lately, the cardigan has become more than a transitional layer. It has become an outfit in itself.

There is something about a cardigan that makes even a basic outfit feel intentional. Button a cropped one over a lace tank and pair it with oversized jeans. Wear an oversized knit one with tiny shorts and tall boots. Button one all the way up and wear it like a shirt. Leave three buttons undone and pretend that was also intentional.

Suddenly, you look like you tried — even if you got dressed five minutes before leaving for your morning lecture.

Of course, the cardigan is hardly a new invention. Named after the seventh Earl of Cardigan, the knitted button-front sweater became a staple of 20th-century wardrobes. By the middle of the century, it was closely associated with polished, ladylike dressing — think Grace Kelly in soft knits, paired with full skirts and perfectly coiffed hair. The cardigan looked proper, practical and impossibly put together.

Then, as fashion tends to do, it got a little messier.

In the 1990s, the cardigan became part of a more minimal wardrobe, worn fitted with trousers or casually draped over the shoulders. By the early 2000s, the tiny cardigan had become a teenage staple, usually paired with low-rise denim, camisoles and short skirts.

If you spend any time shopping at Brandy Melville during the peak of the Y2K revival, you probably know exactly the cardigan I mean: cropped, fitted, sometimes striped, sometimes covered in tiny pearly buttons and usually just small enough to make you question whether it is a sweater or simply a long-sleeved top.

That same cardigan can be found everywhere from contemporary retailers to vintage stores and thrift shops. Thrifting is particularly suited to the cardigan. Unlike many trendy pieces that look best brand new, a cardigan can actually get better with age. A slightly faded color, weird vintage button or worn-in texture can make it feel more personal.

You might find the perfect shrunken 1990s knit tucked between old sweaters or a chunky grandpa cardigan in the men's section. The latter is especially appealing if you want to look like you have a literary boyfriend, a record collection and strong opinions about French cinema.

The runways have played with both ends of the spectrum.

Miu Miu has repeatedly shrunk the cardigan down, making it feel flirtier and more youthful, while looser versions have become just as important. For spring 2026, designers experimented with everything from oversized cardigans to creative ways of draping knitwear around the body.

And that versatility is really the cardigan's greatest trick. With a pleated skirt and Mary Janes, it becomes schoolgirl. With black trousers, it suddenly has a Linkedin account. Throw it over a tiny dress with boots and it becomes a little more downtown.

A classic black or gray cardigan is the fashion equivalent of having your life together. Throw it over work slacks and you are immediately respectable. Pastel pink or butter yellow can take things in a softer, coquette direction, especially when paired with ballet flats.

Then there are the colors for people who want to add a pop to their fall wardrobe. Cherry red or vibrant blue can make the cardigan the entire outfit. Suddenly your sweater is doing all the work.

The silhouette changes the mood, too. Cropped and fitted cardigans lean into a sexy librarian look, while oversized knits feel more relaxed and effortless. And lately, the wrap cardigan is having a major moment. With its overlapping front and adjustable tie, it feels a little more delicate and "balletcore" than the traditional button-up.

Maybe that is why the cardigan is so appealing: it can be sweet without being innocent.

The cardigan can be prim or flirtatious depending on how much — or how little — you button.

And I think there is something genuinely fun about that tension. Fashion has spent so much time treating "sexy" as synonymous with showing more skin, but the cardigan proves that covering up can be its own kind of flirtation.

Contradiction is why the cardigan is especially popular right now.

We are not quite ready for jackets. We are not ready to give up tank tops either. We still want to wear our summer clothes, but we want them to look like they belong in October.

A white lacy tank that felt summery in August can turn autumnal under a chunky knit. A little slip dress can survive another few weeks with a cardigan and boots.

It is fashion's version of compromise.

And maybe that is why the cardigan keeps finding its way back into our closets. Unlike so many trend pieces, it does not require you to commit to one particular version of yourself. It can be preppy, romantic, sexy, grungy or minimalist depending on the day.

So as the weather gets colder — slowly, inconsistently and at the most inconvenient of times — there is no need to commit to fall just yet.

Keep the tank top. Keep the mini skirt. Keep pretending you are not cold.

Just bring a cardigan.

Arna Churiwala believes the best outfits, like the best seasons, exist somewhere in between.

put me on aux:

Where the music never stops



Siobhan Stewart
Beat Reporter

Usually, when I'm headed back to my hotel on vacation, there's a soft, uplifting melody drifting through the lobby. Not here. Here, speakers blasted EDM around the pool, across the lobby and into every corner in between. I didn't need to see a sign telling me where I was. I could hear it. I was in Ibiza.

The music didn't start once we were at the clubs, it began before we even made it past baggage claim. It was 8 a.m., the sun was barely over the horizon and our Uber driver already had house music pounding through the car speakers. It suddenly felt like the sun was no longer awake and I was getting ready for a night out.

That was my first lesson about the island: in Ibiza, time works differently. Morning, noon and midnight blur into one long, glowing stretch of sound.

Ibiza is a magical place, and it feels like a dream you don't want to wake from. Your favorite DJs play casually at some of the biggest and best-known clubs in Europe, just down the street from where you're staying. The locals treat it like nothing special. A random Tuesday night in Ibiza would be the event of the year anywhere else.

Nothing proved it more than walking into a hotel and seeing Calvin Harris on the decks. His set took me straight back to 2016, to the songs that soundtracked my summers and road trips when I was in fifth grade.

The production was unreal. Streams of blinding light, sweeping lasers and bursts of fire pierced the air, illuminating a sea of people with their hands up, moving as one massive, synchronized wave of energy. The sheer atmosphere was electric. It was one of the best live sets I've experienced — and the wildest part was, I wasn't even at a festival.

What makes the island truly remarkable, though, isn't just the sheer volume of music — it's the incredible range of environments packed into a single square mile. Electronic music here isn't a monolith; it's a dynamic spectrum tailored to every mood and setting. There were beach clubs with more ambient house music and electronic blends designed specifically to complement the daylight. But step inside a superclub like Hï Ibiza or Unvrs at 2:00 a.m., and you walk into an entirely different planet.

In a single venue, you can wander out of a main room drenched in euphoria with pumping electronic music to other rooms that have Spanish music or sing-along pop music remixes, nothing below the tempo of 135 beats per minute. Silence simply had nowhere to hide; even the bathrooms were bumping, complete with their own DJs spinning live sets for the line. No matter where you stood, the sound was inescapable. It completely consumed the landscape and everything in it, until we weren't just listening to Ibiza's soundtrack — we were a part of it.

Back home, seeing a headliner of Calvin Harris' caliber requires months of meticulous planning. You arrange travel to a remote festival ground, stand in endless security lines and double-check that your gear strictly complies with a clear-bag policy. There are so many steps to take and rules to follow. It feels like a major production with consequences if you don't do something the right way. Here, my friends and I walked from our place to the hotel venue, showed our tickets and waltzed right in.

In Ibiza, it seems that world-class DJ sets aren't rare, carefully planned experiences — they're just a normal Tuesday afternoon. You can wander in after tanning on the beach in your swimsuit, dance alongside thousands of strangers from every corner of the globe and wander back along the coastline as the sky turns pastel shades. That total effortlessness is what makes the experience feel so natural, yet simultaneously surreal.

Ibiza works like a single open-air soundstage. The island doesn't just host electronic music; its environment shapes how the genre is produced, mixed and experienced. The sunsets, the sea, the heat and the sense of freedom all seem to leave their mark on the sound.

Here, dance music isn't treated as a night-only genre. It is the fundamental language of the island, and it spans every mood and tempo. In the morning, house music is pulsing from DJ booths by the poolside and by evening it has built into something bigger. The line between performance space and everyday life disappears. You don't attend a DJ set in Ibiza so much as live inside one, and it doesn't end until your flight leaves the tarmac.

If you love to party, and if EDM is more than just background noise to you, there is no better place in the world than Ibiza. It isn't just a destination with great nightlife. It's a place where music is part of the air, and where, for a few days, you get to live inside it.

Siobhan thinks you haven't been on vacation unless you have been to IBEEFA.



LA VISTA

Baja California Sur se prepara para la llegada del huracán Polo entre lluvias intensas y riesgo de inundaciones

Alue Otiura
Editora para La Vista

Los habitantes de Baja California Sur se preparan para enfrentar los efectos del huracán Polo, un fenómeno meteorológico que amenaza con provocar lluvias intensas, fuertes vientos, oleaje elevado e inundaciones en diferentes zonas del estado. Ante la aproximación del ciclón, las autoridades han reforzado las medidas de prevención y han llamado a la población a mantenerse atenta a los avisos oficiales.

La llegada de Polo representa una preocupación especialmente para las comunidades ubicadas en zonas bajas y cercanas a arroyos, debido a que las fuertes precipitaciones pueden ocasionar inundaciones repentinas y aumentar el riesgo de deslaves. Las autoridades de Protección Civil han recomendado a los habitantes tomar precauciones y evitar desplazamientos innecesarios mientras las condiciones meteorológicas empeoran. El fenómeno ha obligado a las autoridades estatales y municipales a mantenerse en alerta y coordinar acciones para proteger a la población. Entre las medidas adoptadas se encuentra la preparación de refugios temporales para aquellas personas que necesiten abandonar sus viviendas, particularmente quienes viven en áreas consideradas de mayor riesgo.

Uno de los puntos de mayor atención es el municipio de Comondú, donde se han concentrado diversas acciones preventivas. También se mantiene vigilancia en otros municipios de Baja California Sur, ya que las bandas de lluvia asociadas con el huracán pueden extenderse a zonas alejadas del centro del sistema.Aunque los fuertes vientos de un huracán pueden provocar daños importantes en viviendas, árboles, postes y líneas eléctricas, uno de los mayores peligros relacionados con Polo son las lluvias que acompañan al sistema.

Las precipitaciones intensas pueden hacer que los arroyos aumenten rápidamente su caudal y generar corrientes de agua peligrosas en calles y carreteras. En cuestión de minutos, algunas zonas pueden quedar inundadas, dificultando el tránsito y poniendo en riesgo a las personas que intenten cruzar caminos o cauces.

Por esta razón, las autoridades han insistido en que la población no debe intentar atravesar zonas inundadas ni acercarse a arroyos durante las lluvias.

Una corriente que aparentemente parece poco profunda puede tener suficiente fuerza para arrastrar vehículos e incluso personas.

También existe preocupación por posibles deslaves en áreas donde el terreno pueda reblandecerse debido a las precipitaciones.

Las comunidades ubicadas cerca de laderas y zonas montañosas deben permanecer especialmente atentas a cualquier indicación de evacuación. Ante la amenaza del huracán, numerosas familias comenzaron a tomar medidas para proteger sus viviendas y abastecerse de productos básicos.

Entre las recomendaciones se encuentran asegurar puertas y ventanas, retirar objetos que puedan ser levantados por el viento y contar con suficiente agua potable, alimentos, medicamentos, lámparas y baterías. Las autoridades también han pedido a los habitantes mantenerse informados a través de fuentes oficiales y no confiar en rumores o información no verificada difundida en redes sociales.

En las zonas donde existe riesgo de inundación, la recomendación es tener identificada una ruta de evacuación y conocer la ubicación de los refugios temporales. Las personas que viven en viviendas vulnerables deben estar preparadas para trasladarse a un sitio seguro si las autoridades lo solicitan.

El transporte y las actividades al aire libre también pueden verse afectados conforme aumenten las lluvias y los vientos. Por ello, se ha pedido a la población reducir los desplazamientos y evitar acercarse a las costas durante el periodo de mayor peligro.

El huracán Polo llegó a presentar vientos máximos sostenidos de gran intensidad, además de rachas todavía mayores.

Estas condiciones pueden ocasionar daños en la infraestructura y provocar interrupciones en los servicios de electricidad y comunicaciones. El oleaje elevado constituye otro riesgo para las comunidades costeras.

Las autoridades han recomendado mantenerse alejados de playas, muelles y zonas expuestas al mar, ya que las condiciones pueden cambiar rápidamente.

La presencia del huracán también ha generado preocupación entre pescadores y personas que dependen de las actividades marítimas.

Las condiciones de viento y oleaje pueden hacer peligrosa la navegación, por lo que se han emitido recomendaciones para evitar salir al mar mientras persista la amenaza.

Las autoridades han reiterado que la población debe tomar en serio las recomendaciones de seguridad y permanecer atenta a la evolución del sistema. Aunque la trayectoria y la intensidad de un huracán pueden cambiar, sus efectos pueden sentirse incluso lejos del centro de circulación.

La preparación resulta especialmente importante en una región como Baja California Sur, donde muchas comunidades se encuentran expuestas a fenómenos tropicales durante la temporada de huracanes.

La experiencia de años anteriores ha demostrado que las lluvias pueden ocasionar problemas incluso cuando los vientos más fuertes no afectan directamente a una localidad.

Mientras Polo se aproxima, el llamado de las autoridades es claro: mantener la calma, prepararse con anticipación y seguir únicamente la información proporcionada por las instituciones encargadas de la protección de la población.



CORTESIA DE UNIVISION





CORTESIA DE CHRISTIAN RUANO, REUTERS

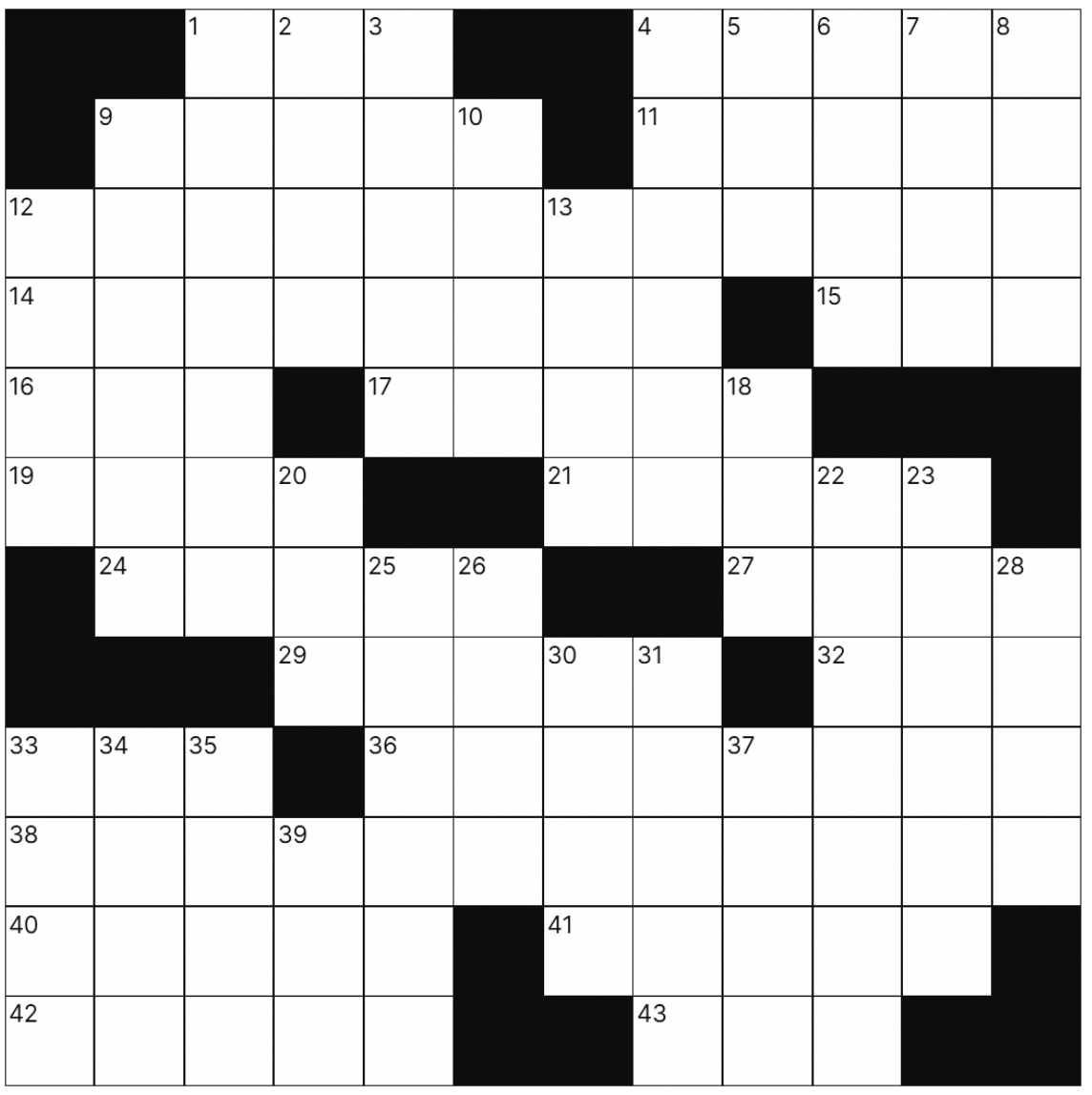
GAMES

The Daily Nexus Crossword

Kendrick Lam
Games Contributor

Down
1. Like UCSB's location
2. "As seen ___"
3. Shooting sport with clay targets
4. "That makes more sense than before"
5. Mouse chaser
6. Shallowest Great Lake
7. Orangutans, for example
8. Market on Wall St.
9. Add the final touches
10. "Why isn't this working?"
12. Nepal is the only country with a non-rectangular one
13. "I suppose it is tempting, if the only tool you have is a hammer, to treat everything as if it were a ___," said Abraham Maslow
18. Relatives, slangily
20. Grade worth a 2.0
22. A cul-de-sac is one
23. Nexustentialism's genre in the Daily Nexus
25. Button pressed with F4 in a common prank
26. Genre for Aretha Franklin
28. Camera part
30. Get ready for a test, casually
31. Join, as with a raffle
33. Characters coming before QIA+
34. Opera solo
35. ___ diagram
37. Sicilian volcano
39. Scrambled food

Across
1. Trigonometry function for adjacent over hypotenuse (Abbr.)
4. What most of Earth's surface is
9. Chocolatier in Roald Dahl's writing
11. Half-human, half-bird creature from mythology
12. Kappa Sigma and Zeta Psi, for example
14. City with "The Strip"
15. Suffix for many languages
16. Unit often listed by its bedrooms and bathrooms (Abbr.)
17. Porch pirate, for one
19. Green chip dip, for short
21. Directs, as a campus tour guide might
24. Emotional appeals
27. Dining hall offering
29. Run away to marry
32. Had a 27-Across
33. Restroom, briefly
36. Submitted on Gradescope, say
38. Kappa, sigma, zeta and psi, for example
40. Watch a whole season of a show in a day, say
41. Tube-shaped pasta
42. How many citrus fruits taste
43. "Awesome bro!"



Personality Quiz: First-year fumbles

It's that time of year again when the campus gets an influx of new students. We've all been first-years before, so what fumble did you make? Take this quiz to reminisce.

Malia Guy
Assistant Data Editor

What year are you?
A) First year
B) Third year, but transferred
C) Second year
D) Third year
E) Fourth year

What's one of the first things you did when you initially moved to this area?
A) Tried to find the buildings where my classes were
B) Tried to figure out the bike paths
C) Tried one of the dining halls
D) Tried taking the bus
E) Tried looking for new housing

What's something about UC Santa Barbara that sticks out to you?
A) The academic opportunities
B) The bike theft
C) The local wildlife
D) The party culture
E) The housing crisis

Have you tried to join any clubs?
A) Yes, I'm now an officer for a club
B) Yes, I regularly go to meetings
C) Yes, but I rarely go to meetings
D) I've tried, but haven't found one I like
E) I've never joined a club

How good are you with directions?
A) Amazing, I practically know where everything is
B) Great, I only look up directions in unfamiliar areas
C) Okay, I only look up directions occasionally
D) Bad, I need to look up where my house is
E) Abysmal, I can hardly tell where I am right now

Results:

If you chose mostly A:
Went to the wrong class or section

A tragic blunder. You try to be responsible and actually go to class, but it's not your class. You probably got to the right building, but you were not in the right room.

If you chose mostly B:
Forgot to lock your bike or your bike was stolen

One moment your bike is there, the next moment it's gone. That's how quick bike theft happens at UCSB, so not locking your bike is a terrible mistake.

If you chose mostly C:
Walking in the skateboard lane

It might be hard when you first get to campus to know what the huge yellow line on the ground is for. However, once you dodge a skateboarder and almost get hit by a Mobility Transportation Program golf cart, you'll realize that you're not supposed to be there.

If you chose mostly D:
Taking the wrong bus

You don't have to be a first year to do this. Maybe you got on the wrong number. Maybe you got on the right number, but it goes in the opposite direction. All you know is that when you keep looking at Google Maps, you keep getting further from your destination. Hopefully you'll get on the right bus back.

If you chose mostly E:
Dorming at FT

You heard guaranteed housing and thought, "I'd rather get something than nothing." Then you saw your only option was Santa Catalina. You now either have to walk, bike or take the bus just to get to that class you hate. Whatever method you choose to get to campus will motivate you to find better housing next year.

If you didn't choose one letter in particular:
Just coming to UCSB in general

The biggest fumble you had was coming to UCSB at all. Maybe it doesn't have a good program for your major. Maybe the rent is too high for you to be able to afford. Maybe you just don't like the campus. Don't worry, you could always transfer out or pick a different graduate school.



SPORTS

UCSB Men's Water Polo takes down two ranked opponents in San Jose

Arianna Doan
Sports Editor

No. 13 UC Santa Barbara Men's Water Polo defeated No. 9 San Jose State University 13-12 in overtime and No. 20 Saint Mary's College of California 14-8 on Saturday, Oct. 3, in San Jose, extending their win streak to six games and improving to 16-8 on the season. The Gauchos' two ranked wins came just days after they set a program record with 35 goals in a 35-8 win over Occidental College on Sept. 27.

UCSB started their Saturday against San Jose State and quickly established a lead. They scored the first two goals before building a 4-1 advantage inside the opening six minutes.

Freshman attacker Luigi Canepa scored twice during the early run, while sophomore attacker Charlie Johnson and freshman utility Sloan Brown also found the back of the net. San Jose State cut into the lead before the end of the first quarter and scored the opening goal of the second quarter, but UCSB responded with two more goals to take a 6-3 lead into halftime.

The Spartans came out strong after halftime, tying the game during the opening minutes of the third quarter. Canepa and freshman attacker Dash D'Ambrosia answered for the Gauchos, putting them back up by two.

San Jose State continued to pressure UCSB and tied the game again before the end of the third quarter. Canepa scored again to put the Gauchos back in front, but the Spartans eventually took their first lead of the game at 10-9 with just over three minutes remaining.

UCSB responded with the next two goals. Johnson tied the game before senior attacker Finn Genc gave the Gauchos an 11-10 lead with 25 seconds left in regulation. However, San Jose State scored with three seconds left in regulation, forcing overtime.

In overtime, fifth-year goalkeeper Wyatt Pieretti and the UCSB defense held San Jose State scoreless through the first three minutes of the extra period, while Johnson gave the Gauchos the lead.

The Spartans tied the game again with 50 seconds remaining, but Johnson responded once more, scoring with 35 seconds left to put the Gauchos ahead 13-12.

Pieretti and the Gaucho defense held San Jose State scoreless for the remainder of overtime, securing arguably their best win of the season.

Canepa led UCSB with five goals, while Johnson finished with four. Pieretti recorded 13 saves.

The Gauchos returned to the pool later that day for their second game against Saint Mary's College.

UCSB again opened strong, scoring the first four goals. Genc, freshman center Hayden Tully, Canepa and freshman attacker Noah Loo each scored during the opening run.



COURTESY OF UCSB MEN'S WATER POLO
Gauchos cheer their teamates on.


COURTESY OF UCSB MEN'S WATER POLO
Gauchos celebrate in the pool.

Saint Mary's responded in the second quarter, cutting the Gauchos' lead to one. However, UCSB regained some separation before halftime, with junior center Camren Simoncelli and senior utility Landon Lassahn scoring to help Santa Barbara take a 7-5 lead into the break.

After halftime, the Gauchos took complete control, outscoring the Gaels 5-1 in the third quarter.

Johnson scored twice during the period, while junior center Kai Ross, Simoncelli and junior attacker Tyler Roller each added a goal. UCSB entered the fourth quarter with a 12-6 advantage.

Saint Mary's scored three goals in the final period, but the Gauchos matched the Gaels' offensive output to maintain their lead. Lassahn completed his hat trick, and Brown scored UCSB's final goal of the afternoon to give the Gauchos a 14-8 victory.

Johnson and Canepa both finished the day with six goals across the two games. The Gauchos will now turn their attention to Big West play, opening conference competition against California Baptist University — the conference's newest member — on Saturday, Oct 10.

UCSB Women's Volleyball starts the Big West Conference season undefeated



COURTESY OF UCSB WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL
Selah Wadsworth goes up for the serve.

Izabella Nickerson
Asst. Sports Editor

The UC Santa Barbara Women's Volleyball team (8-4, 4-0 Big West) has remained undefeated in conference play after wins against Utah Valley University (4-12, 2-2 Big West) and Sacramento State University (7-8, 2-2 Big West). The Gauchos swept the Wolverines 3-0 and then beat the Hornets 3-1.

The Gauchos opened October with a sweep of the Utah Valley Wolverines on Thursday, Oct. 1, with the victory marking UCSB's first win against Utah Valley since 2018.

The first set was tight until 7-7, when the Wolverines took the lead at 14-8. Fighting back, the Gauchos went on a kill streak aided by sophomore outside hitter Gabi Martinez, senior outside hitter Auburn Tomkinson, senior middle blocker Bella Mathis and junior outside hitter Sophia Wendlick, recovering and taking the lead at 19-16. The teams traded points until 23-20, and the Gauchos closed the set with two more kills for a 25-20 win.

The second set began with another 7-7 tie, before the Gauchos pulled ahead 14-10. However, the Wolverines fought back to tie the set at 14-14. Capitalizing on service and attack errors, the Gauchos stayed ahead for the rest of the set and closed it out 25-19 on a Tomkinson kill.

With the match on the line, Utah Valley fought back in the third set, where the Gauchos led until 16-14, when the Wolverines took over at 18-16. Crucial kills by Wendlick gave the Gauchos a one-point lead at 22-21. However, the Wolverines rallied back to tie the set at 24-24 before Martinez delivered the final kill to close the match at 26-24.

On Saturday, Oct. 3, the Gauchos beat the Sacramento State Hornets in four sets. The Gauchos are now 4-0 in the Big West and sit behind their rival and the 2025 conference champions, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo.

The first set was the most contested of the match, with the Gauchos and Hornets going neck and neck. Sacramento State led 10-7, but UCSB tied it at 11-1. The Gauchos frequently trailed by one point but caught up during the next play. After fending off two set points, the Gauchos tied the set at 24-24 and again at 26-26 before a kill by senior outside hitter Emma McDermott and a Hornet attack error ended it at 28-26.

Up 1-0, the Gauchos stumbled into the second set, falling behind 0-7 to start. Unable to gain momentum, they trailed by 15 points at 22-7 and lost the set at 25-10.

Tied 1-1, the Gauchos found their footing in the third set, opening on a 14-0 run and winning 25-10. The set was fueled by the Gauchos' seven kills, two blocks and three Hornet errors.

Leading 2-1, UCSB took a 7-5 lead in the fourth set before the Hornets had their final tie of the night at 8-8. Surging forward, the Gauchos then led 15-12 and 20-18, before ending the match at 25-20 with kills from middle blocker Sandrea Thomas and Mathis.

Notably, Martinez hit 15 kills, and Tomkinson also hit double digits with 11.

Next up, the Gauchos head to California State University, Long Beach on Friday, Oct. 9, and California State University, Fullerton on Saturday, Oct. 10.



COURTESY OF UCSB WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL
PERSON / DAILY NEXUS
Emma McDermott and Milan Rex during the break.

ARTSWEEK

Daily Nexus Artsweek

LOS JAVIS TALK "LA BOLA NEGRA" AT THE RIVIERA THEATRE



COURTESY OF IMDB

"La bola negra" was selected as Spain's official nomination for Best International Film at the 99th Academy Awards. The Riviera Theatre hosted a screening of the film followed by a Q&A with the writers and directors.

Tanner Perez
Staff Writer

The Review

Santa Barbara's Riviera Theatre hosted an early screening of Spain's official selection for Best International Feature at the 99th Academy Awards, "La bola negra," on Oct. 2, ahead of its theatrical release in the U.S. The film was followed by a Q&A conversation with Santa Barbara International Film Festival Executive Director Roger Durling and the writers and directors of "La bola negra," Javier Calvo and Javier Ambrossi, jointly known as "Los Javis."

"La bola negra" tells the story of three separate queer men across three seemingly separate time periods: 1932, 1937 and 2017. Carlos (Milo Quifes), a young man living in 1932 Granada, is blackballed from joining a prestigious social club because of his rumored homosexuality, with each of the members using a black ball ("La bola negra") to cast their vote against him.

This section of the narrative is based upon a real incomplete Spanish play from the 1930s by Federico García Lorca, also called "La bola negra," which contained only four pages. Not only did these four pages inspire the film's directors to build upon this story, but it also plays a crucial role within the film itself.

In the 1937 time period, as the Spanish Civil War takes place, a young trumpeter Sebastián manages to survive an attack on his village by Italian forces. Portrayed by Spanish singer Guitarricadelafuente in his acting debut, Sebastián not only finds himself being forced into the Spanish Nationalist army to survive, but also finds himself quietly falling in love with the prisoner he has been assigned to watch, Rafael (Miguel Bernardeau).

Guitarricadelafuente delivers one of the most authentic and heartbreaking performances of the year. Sebastián holds a very particular sense of sorrow to him as he is unable to love the man that he loves, with Guitarricadelafuente encapsulating a quiet sadness and regret nearly every time he is on screen. Bernardeau also manages to imbue his mostly restrained performance with layered subtlety and near-silent emotion. The relationship between these two characters is the true heart of "La bola negra."

Nené Romero, an extravagant cuplétista and dancer entertaining the Spanish troops, is portrayed brilliantly by Penélope Cruz. The character welcomes a lighthearted burst of theatrical fun, while also paving way for the personal journey of Sebastián and his identity.

Cruz previously won the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress in 2009 for her film "Vicky Cristina Barcelona" and is now receiving major critical acclaim for her performance in "La bola negra," despite appearing in only three brief, yet crucial, scenes. This sequence serves the purpose of shifting away from the film's darker tones, allowing the audience to be caught within the mesmerizing spectacle of Cruz for a few short moments. However, Cruz and the film as a whole are ultimately pulled back into a tragic reality as the Nationalist soldiers she has sought to entertain begin to lose control of themselves. It's a short role, but a memorable one, with Cruz making every second count as she essentially embodies the nature of "La bola negra."



COURTESY OF IMDB

"La bola negra" is a film about queer love with political and societal commentary.

Carlos González leads the 2017 timeline portraying Alberto, a gay historian and playwright who is constantly at odds with his mentally troubled, drug-addicted mother Teresa, who is beautifully and thoughtfully portrayed by Lola Dueñas. When the maternal grandfather he never knew dies, Alberto goes on an ultimately self-reflective journey to uncover what has been left to him. With the help of Isabelle Durand (Glenn Close), he learns about and unveils the hidden truth of what he has inherited.

"La bola negra" employs masterful editing with all three timelines working together, each unfolding in a nonlinear fashion side-by-side. The frequent transitions feel both seamless and startling, with flawless production design, impeccable sound design and breathtaking cinematography aiding in the visual creation of three narrative "worlds" that are each distinct and unique.



COURTESY OF IMDB

Academy Award winner Penelope Cruz delivered a memeroable performance during her short appearence as Nené Romero.

The handling of filmic temporality in a nonlinear fashion as well as the colossal scope of the story is part of what makes it such a grandiose, larger-than-life epic; while the narrative reveals itself slowly, there is never a dull or unremarkable moment. Once the "separate" timelines become interconnected with one another, they reveal how the past reverberates through the present and shapes the individual characters' identities, pain and inheritance. It is an excavation of queer history that has quite literally been hidden away and lost to time.

"La bola negra" is not only a politically and socially poignant film full of love from all filmmakers involved, but it is also a completely original and unforgettable experience that offers the viewer a profound sense of catharsis.



COURTESY OF SBIFFF

Directors and writers Javier Calvo and Javier Ambrossi discussed the making of "La bola negra" with SBIFF Director Robert Durling.

The Interview

As the film came to a close, Durling introduced Calvo and Ambrossi. They were greeted with a standing ovation from the crowd, which Durling referred to as the "longest in Riviera Theatre's history."

Calvo and Ambrossi, who jointly won the Cannes Film Festival Award for Best Director in May, discussed the film's source material: the synonymous, unfinished play. Ambrossi elaborated on the process of trying to learn more about the incomplete manuscript, feeling as though he was operating as a "detective": analyzing letters and getting to look at the real four pages of "La bola negra" to try and uncover what they could.

The director duo explained how the first two pages were simply sheets of characters meant to be in the story and how that influenced them when writing the film. One character listed in the artifact was "the snow." As a result, the snow (or "la nieve") is a major thematic element within the movie, serving as a motif in Carlos' story, representing what has been lost.

The film was not only inspired by the play of the same name, but another Spanish theatrical piece titled "La piedra oscura." This unrelated play featured the story of Sebastián and Rafael, but Calvo stated that it lacked any of the homoeroticism that is portrayed in the film. "La piedra oscura" was written by Alberto Conejero, who co-wrote "La bola negra" with Los Javis.

When discussing Cruz's involvement in the film, Calvo explained that her scenes contained some authenticity to them; no rehearsals were held with Cruz and the background actors in the sequence (most were not told who would be playing Nené's character) so that they would be unaware of her sudden appearance on set. The shock and delight of the spectating extras were real reactions as they were unexpectedly greeted by Penélope Cruz.

Ambrossi recalled telling Cruz that she could slap one of the extras for the scene despite not rehearsing with the actor. When Cruz hesitated, he assured her that the actor she would be striking had already stated beforehand that "it would be an honor" to be slapped by her.

In regards to the film's ensemble that is made up entirely by undeniably perfect casting choices that feel so authentic to the characters, Los Javis discussed their commitment to hiring real queer actors to play queer characters. Calvo discussed his own past experiences as a gay actor and how it was difficult to find work.

"Straight actors want to play gay characters, and I get that because they are actors," Ambrossi said, "but not in my movies."

When Durling asked what the directors wanted the audience to take away from "La bola negra," Calvo took a second to think of an answer. "You know the feeling when you get into the movie, and you feel something collectively, and like something has changed," he began. "So, if you feel a little bit changed by this movie, then I guess that our gay magic is done here."

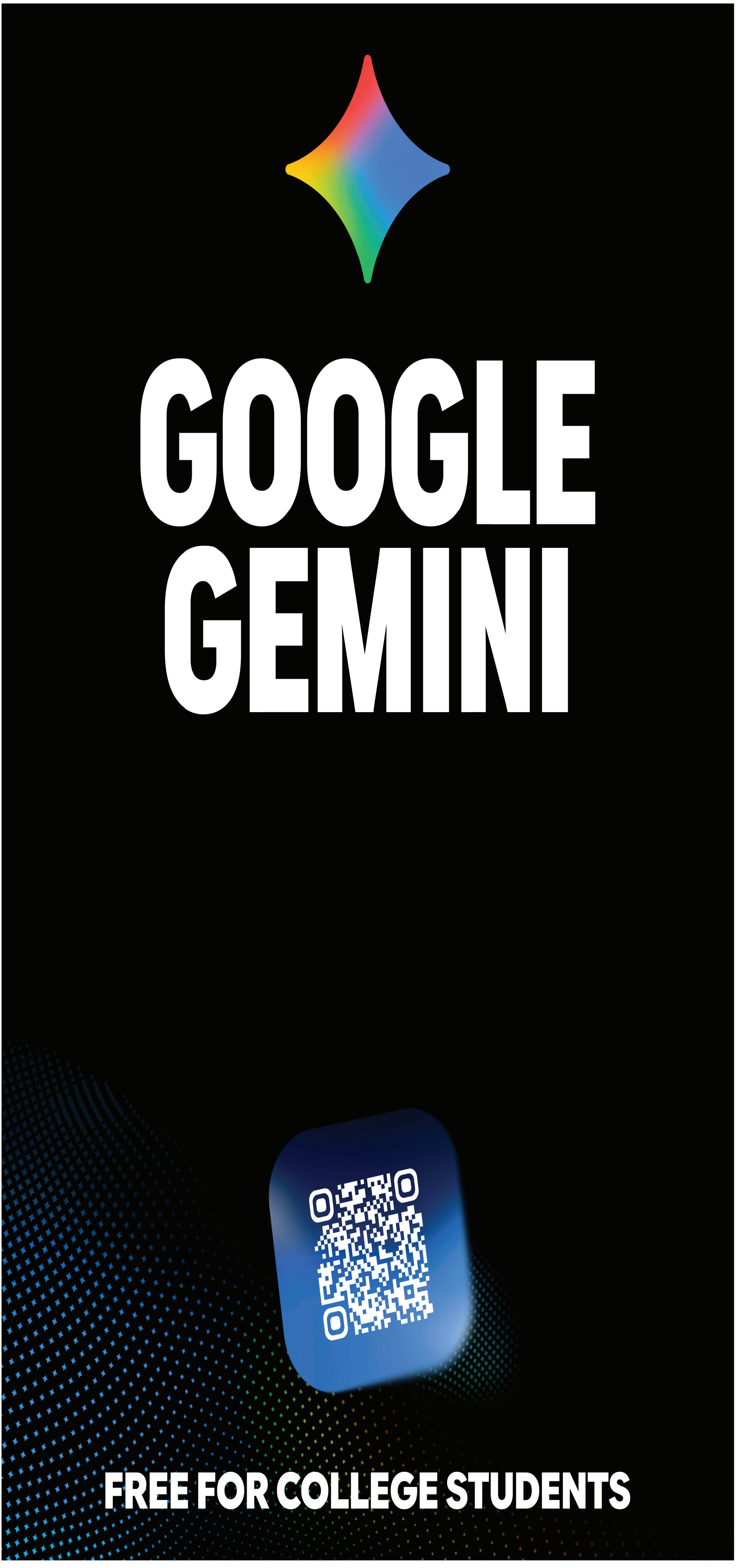
"I want people to have the feeling that we are all the same. [...] We are part of the same experience," Ambrossi answered. "Hopefully we understand that, and embrace that."

They have certainly achieved that. The emotionally honest and deeply personal story gives the film a universal resonance.

Calvo and Ambrossi's work is worthy of all the critical acclaim that they have already received. It's thoughtful, heartfelt work and without them at the helm, "La bola negra" certainly would not have become the movie it became. Through their work, they have created a film that will ripple through the panels of cinema history for years to come.

Rating: 10/10.

"La bola negra" will begin screening at SBIFF's Film Center starting Oct. 30. After a brief theatrical run, the film will be released on Netflix on Dec. 2, 2026.


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