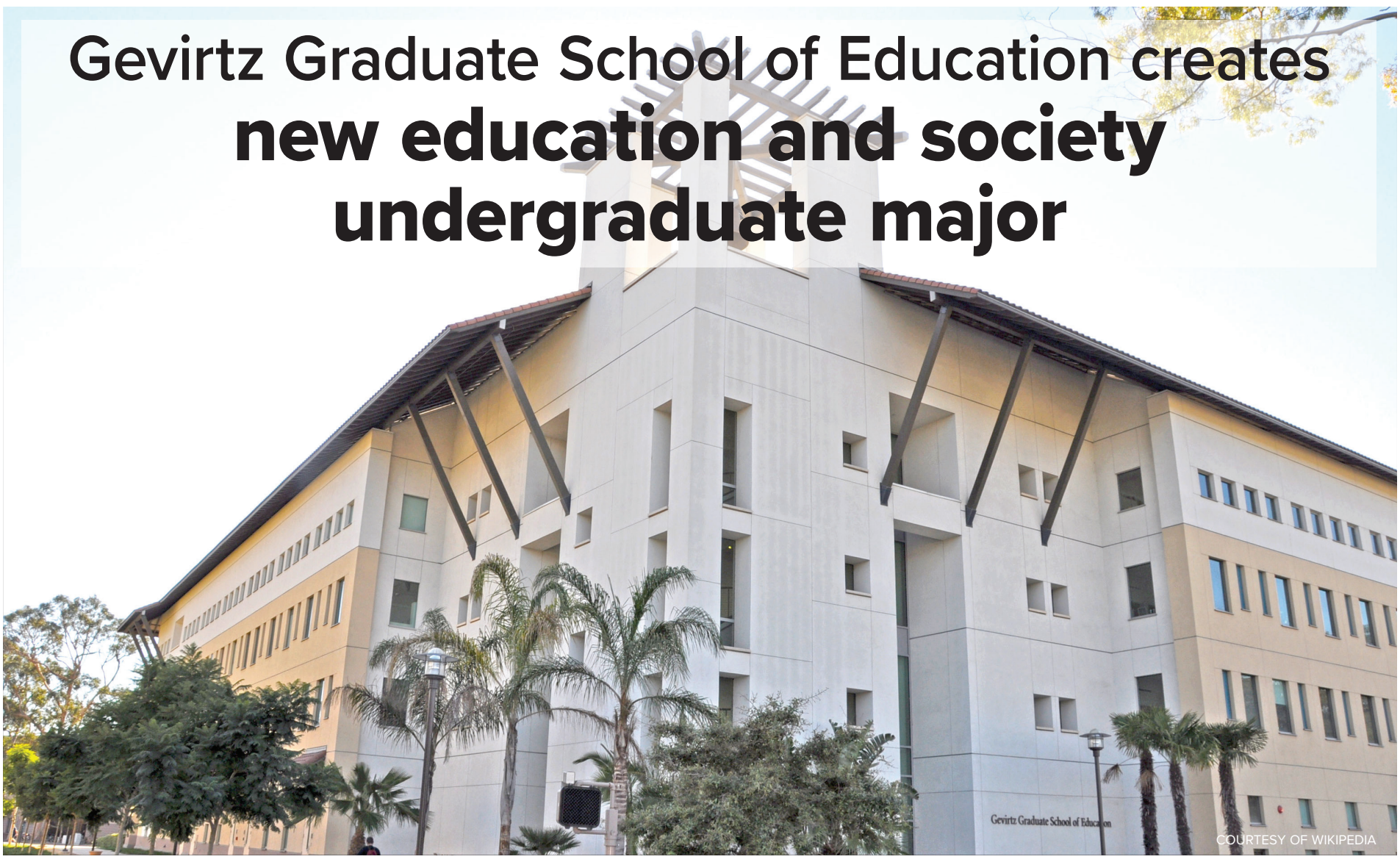
DAILY NEXUS

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2026 | UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA BARBARA | EST. 1930 | WWW.DAILYNEXUS.COM

Gevirtz Graduate School of Education creates new education and society undergraduate major



COURTESY OF WIKIPEDIA

The department expects to admit 75 first-year students in the new major's first cohort and expects to see this quantity grow to a couple hundred over time.

Julia Sanabria
Community Outreach Editor

The Gevirtz Graduate School of Education has formulated a new interdisciplinary undergraduate major: the Bachelor of Arts in education and society. This major will be offered to incoming students in Fall Quarter 2027.

The Gevirtz Graduate School of Education is its own college at UC Santa Barbara and is split into two departments: the Department of Education and the Department of Counseling, Clinical and School Psychology. Approximately five years ago, the two departments collaborated to propose an interdepartmental major which was denied repeatedly.

Last summer, the Department of Education started working on a proposal for a major that would be solely their department. It was worked on all year and proposed in February, before finally being approved in May. Current high school seniors can apply to the Bachelor of Arts in education and society (EDSO) major in this upcoming application cycle.

The department expects to admit 75 first-year students in the new major's first cohort and expects to see this quantity grow to a couple hundred over time. Professor and Undergraduate Faculty Director Jason Duque said the department is still trying to figure out when they will be prepared to offer this path to current students who want to either change their major or double major in EDSO.

"We just want to make sure we [will be able to] serve their needs," Duque said. "So not now, but we are very interested in trying to see how that's gonna work and making sure it's successful."

Even so, current students that are interested in exploring these departments can still apply to the previously existing minors, such as educational studies, applied psychology and science and mathematics education for the foreseeable future.

Duque is a teaching professor as well as the undergraduate faculty director and has been heavily involved in the implementation process of EDSO. He emphasized this major as being a project of their whole faculty.

Duque described the major as having four distinctive features: being interdisciplinary, learning across a lifespan and multiple contexts, practice-based learning and preparation for acquiring employment after graduation.

Being interdisciplinary is a constant feature of their department as they have faculty from hard sciences, social science, humanities and more. Students will be learning from multiple academic perspectives.

Duque views school as just one place where learning occurs rather than the only place. They plan to have a pre-major requirement course covering "learning across a life-span," which introduces students to this unique key aspect of the major.

Practice-based learning takes place inside and outside of the classroom and is a required part of the curriculum. This could involve joining a research team or field-based activities such as working with a local museum or non-profit.

As of now, the preparation for the major requires taking 12 academic units. Meanwhile, the core areas will require 16 units and the advanced pathways will require 24 units total. The advanced pathways include taking 20 units minimum of advanced topic courses and four units minimum of practicum courses and experiences.

According to Duque, there are a variety of interests this major accommodates. Additionally, he believes the major is going to prepare students for not only finding a job but leading a "full and rich life."

Duque said the major's obvious appeal is teaching, and that it would be a good fit for students who want to become elementary or special education teachers. However, those that want to be secondary teachers who specialize in a specific subject should major in that subject.

The department's main goal is to prepare students for various professional tracks.

"Majors that really give you an opportunity to develop these thinking habits and thinking skills and ways of working with others and not just solving problems, but finding good problems to work on. I'd like to think about that as sort of a big part of our subject matter, and that could help you be a scholar," Duque said.

According to Duque, the kinds of thinking this major cultivates in students could lead to career paths in entrepreneurial work, policy, nonprofit work, community support roles and public service.

"Beyond the professional preparation, though, I think UC has a real commitment to preparing people to be not citizens, but also leaders," Duque said. "Education, as a field, provides a really unique focal point for civic engagement."

Duque also mentioned that his personal mission is to prepare students to be good citizens by teaching them how to live with others in a way that acknowledges the "value and promise of diversity."

A.S. Senate condemns Flock cameras in the greater UCSB area

Elijah Obando
University Editor

The 77th Associated Students Senate passed a resolution condemning the use of Flock Safety cameras — automated license plate readers — in and around UC Santa Barbara, during its Sept. 23 meeting.

The resolution calls on Santa Barbara County (SBC) to hold a public hearing on the continued use of Flock cameras in the county, restrict further cameras from being established 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.

The city of Santa Barbara recently discontinued its contract with Flock Safety at the end of August, resulting in the removal of 12 cameras; however, they are still discussing implementing similar, alternative license plate cameras.

Legislation adopted

The resolution was introduced by second-year physics major Senator Alec GeoSimonian and second-year political science major Senator Addy Nguyen to address growing privacy concerns surrounding Flock cameras.

"My goal with this resolution is to both call out what's going on with these cameras and also call on the county, which ultimately has authority over the sheriff's department, to pass clearer ordinances surrounding when these cameras can be used, where the data can be shared [and] the process for putting up a new camera," GeoSimonian said.

GeoSimonian highlighted a Flock camera installed outside of Santa Catalina Residence Hall and touched on the alleged presence of federal agents there, citing it as the most "pressing" reason these cameras need to be addressed.

Nyguen also noted that the Flock cameras located at Camino Real Marketplace pose additional risks to the student body as many UCSB students frequent the shopping plaza.

Rather than following the previous Senate's standing rules of sending the resolution to be reviewed by a committee, the 77th Senate chose to pass the resolution the same day it was discussed.

Public Forum

Third-year computer science major and UCSB Taara Finance Chair, Pratima Nallapareddy, requested $1,992 to cover the Taara dance team's practice space. She explained that the practice space is one of the group's largest recurring expenses.

Because the Associated Students (A.S.) Finance Committee had not yet formally begun meeting for the academic year, senators discussed where the allocation should come from before ultimately deciding to use funds from Senate Unallocated.

Senator and fourth-year economics & accounting major and A.S. Finance Committee Vice Chair Adam Mohareb highlighted that the committee has substantially less money available for allocations compared to the previous year.

"This year we have a lot less money than last year," Mohareb said. "So as a heads up, we might need to request some money from reserves just to keep up with some of the demand. Compared to last year, I think it's almost half of what we had."

The committee is also considering changes to the A.S. Legal Code that would require organizations seeking Senate funding to first bring their requests before the Finance Committee — giving the committee "the first right of refusal." Mohareb said the change would benefit the Senate by allowing the Finance Committee to provide senators with additional context when previously denied requests are brought to them.



NEXUS FILE PHOTO

The Senate noted that the Flock cameras located at Camino Real Marketplace pose additional risks to the student body.

A.S. Executive Summer Updates
page 3-5

A month in UC student news



MICHELLE WU / DAILY NEXUS

Wynne Bendell
Lead News Editor

ACLU claims UC Berkeley has suppressed pro-Palestine student speech

The American Civil Liberties Union published a document on Sept. 23 alleging that dozens of universities nationwide, including UC Berkeley, have suppressed pro-Palestine speech and protests on campus.

The report claims that several universities have had "excessive" responses to campus protests critical of Israel's genocide in Palestine, which is recognized as a genocide by a United Nations commission.

The executive summary of "Student Speech Under Attack: Suppression of Pro-Palestine Speech and Dissent on Campus" states that Berkeley has invoked the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) definition of antisemitism in order to cancel pro-Palestine campus events. The IHRA's definition of antisemitism includes "denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g., by claiming that the existence of a state of Israel is a racist endeavor" and "drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis."

UC Berkeley renewed its consideration of the IHRA antisemitism definition in March following a settlement with the Louis D. Brandeis Center for Human Rights Under Law. After the settlement, the University conducted an investigation into claims of discrimination or harassment against Jewish or Israeli individuals. Students protested the settlement, alleging that it would suppress students' free speech.

Governor Gavin Newsom vetoes bill requesting student feedback and transparency on campus protest protocols

California Governor Gavin Newsom vetoed Assembly Bill 2551, authored by Assemblymember Sade Elhawary, on Sept. 27. The bill would have requested that UC campuses provide annual data on student code of conduct violations during protests broken down by race and gender.

The requested reports would additionally include descriptions of the disciplinary action enforced on students. The bill was written to address reports of University suppression of pro-Palestine student protests and speech condemning the Israeli siege of Palestine.

Additionally, the bill requested that campuses host public forums to obtain student feedback on current time, place and manner policies that impose restrictions on when, where and how protests take place on campuses.

In the veto message, Newsom said that UC campuses already have regularly scheduled meetings where the community can address their respective boards. Furthermore, Newsom states that the UC has established communication channels between their student associations and administration.

"Given the numerous ways that the campus community can already provide perspective to policy leaders, it is unnecessary to require an additional forum outside these established processes," the veto states.

Newsom did not address the bill's request for the breakdown of code of conduct violation data by race and gender.

UC Davis dean and professor missing after Nepal-Tibet flood

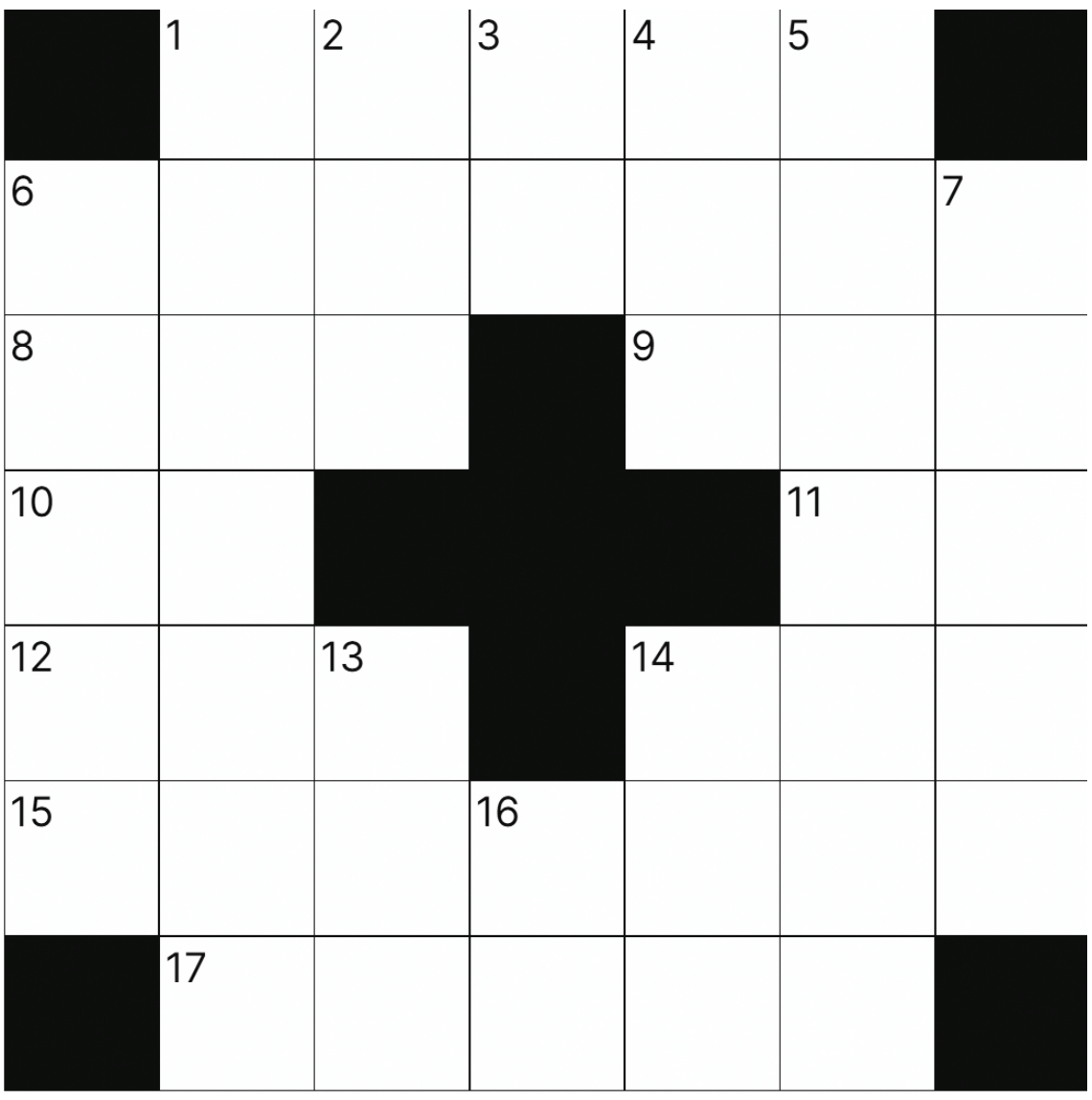
The former UC Davis Dean of the Graduate School of Management Rao Unnava and adjunct associate professor at the Graduate School of Management Vasu Unnava, husband and wife, are among the thousands of individuals still missing following the Nepal-Tibet flash flood in August.

On July 1, Rao stepped down as dean to go on sabbatical leave for a year to work with the Innovation Institute for Food and Health. He was supposed to return to UCD as a professor of marketing in 2027.

To celebrate his retirement, Rao and Unnava went on a trip to Mount Kailash on the border of China, after which the couple planned to spend two months in India with family. On Aug. 26, the Unnavas were staying at Hotel Kailash in Timure, Nepal when the flash flood struck through the China-Nepal border, which buried and destroyed the hotel.

The Unnavas have not been heard from or located since the flood. Search and rescue efforts for the couple and other victims of the flood are currently underway.

The Daily Nexus Crossword



Sanchita Koppa
Games Contributor

Across
1. First Monday in September
6. Type of bag
8. Rave music, often
9. A poem of praise
10. Before lord or lady
11. SF, LA, SD
12. Tech giant that developed the PC in 1981
14. Sound of electricity, in comics
15. Before falls
17. Secure community

Down
1. Cat Noir's partner
2. Easy money access
3. AD and ___
4. "Look what I found!"
5. Ejection from the soccer field
6. Type of trucks
7. "___ and bounds," often improvement
13. Combination of fights, abbr.
14. Sound of the last letter
16. Everest or Kilimanjaro, abbr.

DAILY NEXUS
WWW.DAILYNEXUS.COM

Editors in Chief | Iris Guo
Managing Editor | Andrew Tolu
Diversity Chairs | Kalyssa Chu, Meher Indoliya
Production Editors | Parker Inglis, Claire Silva
Production Asst. | Anya Melton, Sophie Waxberg
Lead News Editor | Wynne Bendell
County News Editor | Levi Kauffman
Asst. News Editors | Lola Hadley
La Vista Editors | Azucena Sanchez, Jeannie Gutierrez Rubi, Alue Otiura
Artsweek Editors | Kendra Martinez, Jake Turner
Sports Editor | Arianna Doan
On The Menu Editors | Sahasra Hanumiahgari, Francesca Gasparini
Nexustentialism Editor | Madeline Bryce
Asst. Nexustentialism Editor | Nicholas Throgmorton
Science Editors | Roxanna Reid, Saanvi Tiwary
Opinion Editors | Dylan Hunter, Narineh Madikians
Data Editors | Krithi Saravanan, Lance Sanchez
Asst. Data Editor | Malia Guy
Games Developer | Sanchita Koppa
Photo Editors | Sherine John, Shengyu Zhang
Art Director | Brooke Pollock
Chief Copy Editors | Alyssa Dabney, Tanisha Raina
Copy Editors | Carlisle Hawks, Elizabeth Katz, Hayden Mexiner, Cole Nakata, Olivia Talley, Hayley Wilson, Kiana Woods
Directors of Social Media Strategy | Cariona Cho, Sofia Eden
Social Media Manager | Addison Woods
Video Editors | Luca Chiera Sciammas, Tyler Small
Web Editors | Jeffrey Keem, Aiden Shi

The Daily Nexus is an independent, student-run newspaper, published on Thursdays during the academic year, with articles published online daily. Opinions expressed in the editorial pages, News and other pages do not necessarily reflect those of the Daily Nexus, UC Santa Barbara, its faculty or student body. Advertising printed herein is solely for informational purposes. Such printing is not to be construed as a written or implied sponsorship, endorsement or investigation of such commercial enterprises or ventures by the Daily Nexus.

Corrections Policy: To call an error to the attention of the editor in chief, send a written statement detailing the correct information to eic@dailynexus.com. The Daily Nexus publishes all corrections of errors.

Readers interested in submitting a piece to the opinion section should do so by emailing opinion@dailynexus.com with the subject line "Article for Outside Opinions." All op-ed submissions are subject to edits by the editorial staff. Articles should be between 800-1200 words. The Daily Nexus will not publish press releases or pieces that solely serve to advertise an event or organization, or any submissions from those outside of the UCSB and Isla Vista residential communities.

The Daily Nexus follows the University of California's anti-discrimination codes. Inquiries about these policies may be directed to the director and affirmative action officer at UCSB's Office of Equal Opportunity & Discrimination Prevention, via phone at (805) 893-2701.

Printed at the Santa Maria Times printing facility.

"Quack... meow...moo..."

Contact Us

News Office:
Phone: (805) 893-3828
Email: eic@dailynexus.com
Advertising Office:
Email: meyer-l@ucsb.edu
Phone: (805) 893-4006

University of California, Santa Barbara
PO Box 13402 UCEN

Additional contact information for individual sections and editors can be found at www.dailynexus.com.

A.S. President E.J. Raad summer update

Wynne Bendell
Lead News Editor

This summer, Associated Students 2026-27 President E.J. Raad staffed his office and prepared for the academic year in which he hopes to expand basic needs, reinstate 24/7 library hours and advocate for students to senior administrators.

As president, Raad is responsible for serving as the official Associated Students (A.S.) representative to all entities and making all Boards, Committees and Units (BCU) appointments, among other duties.

Raad, a fourth-year political science major, previously served as the A.S. 2025-26 External Vice President of Local Affairs (EVPLA), acting as the liaison between students and governing bodies in Isla Vista and Santa Barbara. Raad noted the transition to the A.S. presidency has come with a broader scope of responsibilities; now he not only manages his own office, but manages his cabinet and makes association-wide appointments.

Raad also noted having more communication with senior administration as president, including with Chancellor Dennis Assanis. Despite the role change, Raad believes his prior executive experience has made the transition manageable.

One of Raad's main goals this year is to continue advocating for the restoration of 24/7 library hours, a persisting struggle from last year. On Sept. 4, 2025 the UC Santa Barbara Library announced that it would be reducing its hours, no longer providing around-the-clock access to students. A.S. was able to fund extended hours, which Raad said will continue this year via Give Day donations. While Raad highlighted the work A.S. has done to extend library hours, he hopes to continue negotiations with administration until the Library is open 24/7 again.

Raad also announced his new initiative "EBT Everywhere" which aims to expand the amount of on-campus food vendors who accept Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT). He said that currently the Arbor is the only University-owned vendor to accept EBT payment, but aims to get Coral Tree Cafe, The Store at Buchanan and Summit Cafe EBT certified to expand affordable food options for students.

"I think it'll just make so many students' lives so much easier to be able to have more access to using your CalFresh on campus. I'm really excited about that," Raad said.

As EVPLA, Raad's communication with local law enforcement was primarily with the I.V. Foot Patrol (IVFP), who has jurisdiction over the unincorporated area. Now, Raad is tasked with communication with the UCSB Police Department (UCPD), but he hopes to continue communication with IVFP while supporting the current EVPLA: fourth-year philosophy and economics double major Noah Luken. Raad said he is committed to giving the other executive offices autonomy.

Raad is currently working on new safety measures with UCPD, specifically regarding the area around the lagoon. He hopes to continue supporting ongoing initiatives to install lights in the area.

Additionally, Raad hopes to foster collaboration with the other executive offices and support them any way he can. He will continue to partner with the Student Advocate General and the External Vice President for Statewide Affairs to host the "Protect Your Peers" week, an initiative that began last year to educate the campus on resources for undocumented students.


SHERINE JOHN / DAILY NEXUS

Raad announced his new initiative "EBT Everywhere" which aims to expand the amount of on-campus food vendors who accept EBT.

During campaigning, Raad promised to not increase the A.S. base student fee during his term, but on top of that he hopes to lay the groundwork to eventually lower the fee by reinvesting student fees and generating revenue. His office is currently working on a merch design contest to start selling A.S. merchandise. Raad also mentioned the idea of an A.S.-run coffee cart on campus.

To expand A.S. outreach, Raad hopes to centralize A.S. social media to make it easier for BCUs and other A.S. entities to promote their events on the main A.S. Instagram account.

Raad also has plans to continue hosting events raising money for local charities and non-profit organizations, like the charity basketball game he hosted last year raising funds for 805UndocuFund.

Ultimately, Raad hopes to continue building trust between A.S. and the student body by providing resources and proving to students that their fees are being used in their best interests.

"I'm of the opinion that the best way to improve A.S.'s reputation is just to do good work, to provide good services and provide good events that students care about and they want to go to," Raad said. "That should be the entire mission of us as an organization."

A.S. IVP Victoria Ly summer update

Elijah Obando
University News Editor

During the summer, Associated Students 2026-27 Internal Vice President Victoria Ly has been streamlining internal senate communication systems and developing plans to connect Associated Students with the larger student body.

The role of the Internal Vice President (IVP) is to oversee the Associated Students (A.S.) Senate and chair its weekly meetings. Ly, a fourth-year sociology and psychological & brain sciences double major, was a senator on the 76th Senate. She served on the Liaison Committee — a role that facilitates communication between the Senate and Boards, Committees and Units (BCUs). She described her new position as IVP being "an extension of that role."

Ly has begun implementing communication channels that improve how BCUs advertise their events and initiatives through A.S. Ly explained that before when BCUs wanted to create advertisements, they had to go through three separate channels: fill out a form for a social media post, compile a newsletter and create a graphic.

To streamline the BCU advertising process, Ly has been working with A.S. career staff to consolidate these forms into one system, improving efficiency for both parties.

"Improving our communication system, both internally [and externally], is better for the team and A.S. and the people involved, but also for the broader student body," Ly said. "With all the information in one spot, [students] don't have to go searching for it."

Communication between the Senate and BCUs was a frequent point of concern during the previous Senate's term; in an attempt to improve these relationships, Ly has been prioritizing communication between A.S. entities and highlighting the Senate as a resource to BCUs.

"I feel like sometimes last year [BCUs] were undersupported, and because they were undersupported, they failed to do some of their duties and that's connected to Senate," Ly said. "So I think providing the resources that both groups need to succeed and be able to do their jobs is already step one, and then step two is how do we communicate with each other."

Ly expressed that the Senate's relations with BCUs have started off positively, crediting the time they spent in the summer to retrain officials and ensuring BCUs had all the necessary information they needed.

Another issue Ly has been tackling is campus safety. Over the summer, she has been supporting the Senate advocacy chair in pursuing safety initiative integration within A.S. and keeping the conversation about safety present.

With the lack of a permanent A.S. entity focused on campus safety, Ly mentioned the possibility of the Senate introducing a new BCU or reviving the Public Safety Commission. Nonetheless, Ly plans to focus on collaborating with existing groups with similar goals in the meantime.

Outside of her work as IVP, Ly has worked with fourth-year political science major and A.S. President E.J. Raad and fourth-year economics and philosophy double major and External Vice President for Local Affairs Noah Luken to solidify the University library hours, a goal that was set by the previous IVP and alum Enri Lala. As a result of their efforts, it now opens at 7 a.m. instead of 8 a.m., and late night study has been extended until 3 a.m.

"We have been continuing to talk to the library, seeing what we can do, what students need," Ly said. "I don't think 24 hours will be back on the table anytime soon, but depending on what students need, [we'll be] advocating for that."

Ly also hopes to develop a Gaucho mentorship program, in which students can connect with alumni in their field of study, who can serve as mentors. Ly believes it is "essential to have programs that are working on professional development" for students.

Despite not having concrete plans yet, Ly has been thinking about ways to improve UC Santa Barbara's campus pride. She explained when visiting other UC campuses that she noticed a difference in the way students represent their school.

"It's like when you go to those campuses, they're screaming at you what school they are and it's hard not to feel a sense of pride for being there," Ly said. "[The pride is] everywhere telling you, 'This is my school,' and I feel like UCSB doesn't really have that as much ... I want to help things that foster a sense of belonging and pride."

Before developing more detailed plans for her personal projects, Ly said her immediate priority is strengthening A.S.'s internal communication systems and improving transparency and coordination between its entities.


SHENGYU ZHANG / DAILY NEXUS

Ly said her immediate priority is strengthening A.S.'s internal communication systems and improving transparency and coordination between its entities.



A.S. EVPLA Noah Luken summer update

Levi Kauffman
County News Editor

This summer, Associated Students 2026-27 External Vice President for Local Affairs Noah Luken was appointed to the Isla Vista Community Services District and developed a survey to analyze living conditions in Isla Vista, while preparing for the academic year.

The External Vice President for Local Affairs (EVPLA), a position unique to UC Santa Barbara, serves as a liaison between the Associated Students (A.S.), the Santa Barbara County (SBC) Board of Supervisors and other local governing bodies, such as the I.V. Community Services District (IVCSD). The EVPLA also represents the student body on local issues such as housing and safety resources.

In August, Luken, a fourth-year economics and philosophy double major, was appointed to the IVCSD Board of Directors, which he will serve on until December 2028. While he has yet to attend a board meeting, Luken said he has been oriented to IVCSD and spoken with other board members, creating channels for greater "continuity" between IVCSD and A.S.

"It's already increased my access to just the Board of Directors and all of their expertise in the community," Luken said. "It's informed a lot of my thinking about how we can approach issues, and [it's] already began to highlight for me how ... this kind of coordination between IVCSD and A.S. is going to just give us so much more room to breathe in terms of our approach to solving issues in I.V."

During his campaign, Luken stated one of his main goals is the pursuit of I.V. cityhood. Currently, IVCSD is working on a financial feasibility study of I.V. cityhood and is waiting on data from SBC, according to Luken.

In regards to reducing police presence in I.V., Luken said that it has "in-part resolved itself" since the I.V. police headquarters have moved farther away. I.V. police has begun operating out of the Goleta Valley Bureau, rather than the I.V. Foot Patrol station. His office has also continued to work with the University of California in I.V., a non-police affiliated student organization, securing permits for weekend safety stations from the I.V. Recreation & Park District and are discussing possibly adding another station.

As an outspoken critic of the 72-hour Deltopia noise ordinance, Luken said he and IVCSD have been looking into repealing the ordinance and trying to understand how it will be implemented in 2027 given the changes in I.V. policing.

"Ideally, it's just bringing the decision making back into the community's hands, which would be to get rid of the noise ordinance," Luken said. "Should that not be the case, [then] working to ensure that police presence is minimized and then that there is alternate programming that is fun."

One of the main things Luken's office has been working on this summer is creating a survey of living conditions in I.V. He said that it is designed to be statistically significant and that they are currently finalizing questions.

The survey will be "comprehensive," asking questions about rent and the number of tenants to a room, as well as give those surveyed the option to allow for follow-up mold and water tests.

"Hopefully by the end of fall, or as soon as possible, we can then start using those results, comparing what we find to national baselines, to state baselines, to other communities [and] start to draw a picture of what living conditions really look like in I.V. rather than just the anecdotal stories that we all hear," Luken said.

Luken also highlighted the A.S. Rate My Landlord website for I.V. renters, created by the former EVPLA's office, and there are currently discussions to expand it to better direct renters to available resources.

Another one of Luken's goals is to make A.S. an enterprise with revenue sources that may one day allow for the elimination of student fees. This summer, he said he has discussed the logistics of enterprising within his office and with A.S. staff.

Additionally, Luken mentioned that he and other A.S. executives have ensured that the library will be open from 7 a.m. to 3 a.m., and that students will have access to two 24-hour study rooms in the Humanities & Social Sciences Building room 1203 and Phelps Hall room 1521.



SHENGYU ZHANG / DAILY NEXUS

Luken said he has been oriented to IVCSD and spoken with other board members, creating channels for greater "continuity" between IVCSD and A.S.

A.S. EVPSA Jasmine Hsieh summer update

Julia Sanabria
Community Outreach Editor

Throughout the summer, the 2026-27 Associated Students External Vice President for Statewide Affairs Jasmine Hsieh has been preparing for the upcoming academic year by attending statewide meetings, hiring core staff and forming her top priorities.

The External Vice President for Statewide Affairs's (EVPSA) role is to represent UC Santa Barbara students by advocating for them primarily through the UC Board of Regents and UC Student Association (UCSA).

Hsieh, a third-year biology major, began her summer work by meeting with UCSA along with the other undergraduate UC EVPs at their yearly organizing summit to decide the five major campaigns they will be prioritizing this year. These priorities include increasing access to basic needs, such as ensuring students have access to EBT and continuing to implement more rapid alerts for when Immigration and Customs Enforcement (I.C.E.) or the Department of Homeland Security are on UC campuses.

Following the summit, she participated in the UC Office of the President (UCOP) meeting along with the rest of UCSA and the Graduate and Professional Council from each UC school. Hsieh reported a highlight from the conference was being able to be in discussion with UCOP alongside other student representatives regarding time, place and manner policies.

"Overall, I think the gold part of this experience was being able to interact with all the other student representatives from the UC and realize that the issues at UCSB are not limited to our campus, but it's actually really widespread. And being able to be in this room with a bunch of other representatives, makes me feel a lot more empowered," Hsieh said.

Hsieh noted that the UC Regents are considering bringing back standardized testing as an application requirement. Hsieh raised concerns over this, since standardized testing has been shown to provide betting insight into a student's socioeconomic background rather than their preparedness for higher education.

As well as asking for the $20 million from UCOP that was recently allocated to the UCs specifically to fund disability and basic needs services, UCSA lobbied for this money when they learned the Disabled Students' Program funding was going to run out by spring 2026.

Additionally, Hsieh promoted a campaign focused on incomplete notation specifically to help Disabled Students Program (DSP) students. Many of these students graduate with an asterisk that labels a class as incomplete even if they did complete it. For example, a student might not complete a class or final by the end of the quarter because they had to reschedule a test due to something out of their control such as a health flare up. This could then affect graduation or employment opportunities due to the asterisk not being removed when the class was completed by the student.

Hsieh also mentioned UCOP placing new restrictions and regulations on student initiative programs (S.I.P.) that make it difficult for student-run organizations to obtain funding and autonomy. UCOP has also barred these organizations from collecting demographic data on who they are serving in an effort to promote equality, although Hsieh stated that this comes at the cost of equity because the primary focus of these programs is to serve underserved communities.

"It's kind of counterintuitive that they're placing all this regulation on demographic data and also putting more institutional purview over where the money is going and having more control of that when S.I.P. programs are literally a result of student advocacy," Hsieh said.

Another priority for Hsieh is supporting international students. She believes that they have been heavily targeted in the past year by the new regulation that prohibits international students from getting American internships unless that internship is a graduation requirement. Considering very few UCs have majors that require internships to graduate, this makes it difficult for international students to get these opportunities.

Hsieh also highlighted the four-year limit on international students' duration of stay to complete an education which she believes is unfair because transfer students, nontraditional students and especially doctoral candidates take longer than four years to finish their education.

Later in the summer, Hsieh gave a public comment at a Santa Barbara City Council meeting against the continuation of Santa Barbara County's contract with Flock Safety surveillance cameras and the prospective contract with similarly focused Verkada automated license plate reader cameras.

"Although [the Santa Barbara Police Department] may not be using it in an irresponsible manner, this is an online database; any data is hackable," Hsieh said.

In the end, the city council meeting concluded with leaving room for more community voices to be heard in the following 30 to 60 day public comment period and plan to revisit this topic at a later date.

In campus specific news, Hsieh said Associated Students' (A.S.) "Protect Your Peers" initiative is going to continue this year. It will see some changes, including a reduction to two days instead of a week-long event with more incentives for students to participate and learn how to advocate for each other.

"Protect Your Peers" was created last year in order to combat the rise in U.S. I.C.E. presence.

Hsieh has also been focused on helping UC student workers gain representation and increased labor rights. She wants to start this change within UCSB and potentially build up to the statewide level.

Hsieh is also advocating against the closure of the UC Los Angeles Early Care and Education Krieger Center because it could set a precedent for other UCs and lead them to close fundamental services.

At UC Berkeley, a beloved faculty member, Lupe Gallegos-Diaz, was abruptly placed on administrative leave in August. Gallegos-Diaz directed the Chicanx Latinx Student Development office and was said to have "changed lives" by supporting many kids who had come from underserved backgrounds and was described to be a pillar for the UC Berkeley Latine community.

"It also is a testament of what the UC priorities are, and that combined with the new UCOP regulations and the childcare center closing, are all earlier symptoms of what the UC is really prioritizing, who UC really cares about," Hsieh said.

For UCSB campus specific goals for fall quarter, Hsieh aims to hold "Protect Your Peers" early on in the quarter, work on getting on campus parking fees waived for those with a disabled parking placard issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles and continue staffing her office.

The EVPSA office is structured with three divisions, with each having a residing member in charge of their department's hiring. The division heads will sort through all of the Google Form applications, determine which ones stand out and then hold an interview. From there, they pick the strongest candidates and Hsieh will conduct her own interview, to find out more about the applicants and see how they will work productively as part of their team environment.

"We're a little bit more removed from A.S., but I think we are the cream of the crop, and honestly, it's mostly because of the amount of attention we take on onboarding and choosing people who really are in it for the passion of it," Hsieh said. "It's more about, 'this is how I was brought up' and 'this is why I care so much' and 'this is why I want to advocate for others'."

Lastly, Hsieh mentioned her long-term goal of building stronger relationships with campus and student organizations. She wants to prioritize not just reaching out when she needs their help mobilizing a campaign but opening her office as a resource for these organizations and allowing for more consistent communication, as well as forming partnerships with organizations that are interested in being better advocates for themselves and others.

"We're in constant contact, not constant, but a lot more contact with our admin, with the regents and with other legislators, than the [registered campus organizations] are, and how are we gonna be good advocates for these communities that we say that we advocate for if we're not in communication with them," Hsieh said.



SHENGYU ZHANG // DAILY NEXUS

Hsieh is working on getting on campus parking fees waived for those with a disabled parking placards.

A.S. S.A.G. Suyan Wang summer update

Iris Guo
Editor-in-Chief

The 2026-27 Associated Students Student Advocate General Suyan Wang spoke with the Nexus regarding the work she completed over the summer in preparation for the academic year, including a major Office of the Student Advocate website update.

Having joined the Office of the Student Advocate (OSA) as a caseworker in 2023, fourth-year sociology and history of public policy and law double major Suyan Wang is now serving her fourth year in the office. As Associated Students (A.S.) Student Advocate General (S.A.G.), Wang's main responsibilities include advocating to administration on behalf of students, providing confidential support and educating the student body about university resources.

This summer, Wang's efforts were primarily focused on first planning for fall quarter and then the overall 2026-27 academic year. Around the end of the last spring quarter, which commenced Wang's term, she finished recruiting and onboarding the OSA's staff of 26 members. Throughout the summer, Wang held biweekly staff meetings to check in with their progress.

Wang's planning included establishing new casework training procedures and evaluation procedures to ensure efficiency, and working alongside OSA Head of Staff and third-year feminist studies and history of public policy and law double major Chloe Norton to update OSA's casework archive. Additionally, Wang worked to set an agenda for the entirety of Fall Quarter 2026. Wang hopes that these efforts can ensure that caseworkers are "ready to go" and take on student casework for the fall.

Over the summer, Wang and her staff worked on 14 cases in total, which she described to be "pretty complex" in nature. While Wang personally worked on four of these cases, the remaining cases were reviewed by OSA's Internal Chief of Staff and second-year political science major Evelyn Liao. Wang expressed that this was an increase in the quantity of cases the OSA typically handles over the summer, and that she hopes this growth will continue.

"We've been more active online through the past year. In addition to that, we've been advertising ourselves through the different offices. So students are made more aware of us, especially for summer cases," Wang said. "I think this is the effort of last year and the goal is to kind of double that for next year."

While the OSA takes the majority of its student casework on campus, Wang aims to expand the OSA's presence into Isla Vista. To achieve this, Wang partnered with the A.S. Legal Resource Center to add a casework intake space in the Pardall Center.

A major initiative that Wang worked on throughout the summer was an update to the OSA's website, which the office collaborated with A.S. web developer Alex Herbaugh. The update includes various new features which Wang expressed she "wanted for a very long time," one of which being a language translation feature.

"Students can now translate the website into more than 10 languages. We based this off of the most commonly used languages in California and the U.S.," Wang said.

Additional updates include a search bar, which Wang believes makes the website easier for students to navigate. A major feature Wang came up with is the Student Conduct Deadline Calculator, which she describes as "completely original to OSA" and useful for students undergoing disputes with the University.

In order to use this feature, students can input information about their charge letter onto the page, which will then inform students on the quantity of days remaining before they must take action.

"We have a new UCSB student conduct framework that just went into effect July 1. We understand that this is going to be hard to navigate for UCSB students. So I worked with [Herbaugh] to come up with this calculator," Wang said.

Wang also collaborated with the A.S. Creative Media Unit on an outreach initiative to reach new students and educate them on A.S. through video content included within online orientation modules.

"I think this is the first time in A.S. history that A.S. has been introduced and integrated into the orientation module," Wang said.

In order to keep updated with various university office policies, Wang met with representatives from UCSB Campus Housing, the Title IX Compliance and Discrimination and Harassment Prevention Office and the Office of the Ombuds to share updates on student policy. These efforts culminated in the establishment of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the OSA and the Title IX office.

"Previously, we've already been working with [the Title IX office] for a very long time, but we're establishing this MOU to secure this partnership for the long run for future S.A.G. offices as well," Wang said.

In addition to preparation for the academic year, Wang also held meetings with S.A.G.s at UC Berkeley and UC Davis in order to discuss casework, office management and UC systemwide policy updates.

Wang stated that one of her primary focuses during the academic year will be to focus on enhancing the OSA's outreach, including through tabling weekly and maintaining a social media presence. She also plans to collaborate with other A.S. executives to host another "Protect Your Peers" initiative, which was held for the first time last year.

"Outreaching to different groups; that's something we're very excited about, is to really enhance our entire outreach this whole school year," Wang said.



COURTESY OF SUYAN WANG

While the OSA takes the majority of its student casework on campus, Wang aims to expand the OSA's presence into Isla Vista.





COLUMNISTS

Nexites abroad:

Choosing Cairo

Levi Kauffman
County News Editor

What makes studying abroad worth it?

This is the question I kept turning over in my head while deciding if I wanted to go to Sydney, Australia or Cairo, Egypt, two places that couldn't be more different than each other.

On one hand, the beautiful beaches, perfect weather and world-class surf of Sydney seemed like my perfect match. I imagined it would be something like Isla Vista on steroids.

Compared to that, Cairo appeared as a far less enticing choice for my California blood. A city of over 10 million in the heart of the Arab-world at first seemed like it would be too much of a culture shock.

But the longer I thought about it, the more I realized that the reasons I was hesitant to choose Cairo was exactly why I had to go.

To answer my own question, what makes studying abroad worth it, at least to me, is the opportunity to go somewhere drastically different from anywhere else you've ever lived; to hear perspectives you might only be able to get in that one place; to try immersing yourself in a culture unlike any you've ever experienced before.

To put it another way, I see studying abroad as a chance to push yourself outside of your comfort zone and expand your understanding of the world, both on a human level and academically. While studying at a university in Sydney would have been an amazing time, I think it would also have been quite similar to UC Santa Barbara.

Now at The American University in Cairo, I've been able to take courses like "Histories of Palestine" and "Is America Still a Superpower," which cover content likely difficult to find in American universities. I've met people from across the globe and experienced hospitality from Egyptians that I couldn't dream of back home. And, oh my god, the food is amazing.

So I call on anyone considering studying abroad, ask yourself, what will make it worth it for you and where can you go that will change how you see the world.

Levi Kauffman has nothing against Australia and students that choose to study there.



COURTESY OF SASAKI

Studying abroad at The American University in Cairo is an oppurtunity available to students through the University of California Education Abroad Program.



COURTESY OF EGYPT TOURS PORTAL

Upon entering the recently opened Grand Egyptian Museum, I was greeted by the towering statue of Ramesses II.

daily nexus



CONNECT WITH THE NEXUS

@dailynexus

meet us at orientation on oct. 7, 8, 12, 15
webb hall 1100
6:30pm

COLUMNISTS



What we keep wearing:

the babydoll

Arna Churiwala
Fashionista

There is something about the first week of school that makes everyone want to dress like the best version of themselves.

Suddenly, campus is full of freshly washed hair, new shoes, jeans without any coffee stains and outfits that have clearly been planned at least three days in advance. Everyone looks a little more put together than usual. Maybe it is the promise of a new quarter, or maybe we just like having an excuse to wear the new shirt we have been saving.

Lately, I keep noticing the same silhouette: the babydoll.

Fitted through the chest and flaring out from a high empire waist, the babydoll top has a way of making even the most ordinary outfit feel intentional. Pair a patterned one with low-rise jeans and ballet flats, throw on some tiny sunglasses and a huge bag, and suddenly you look like you have somewhere important to be — even if that somewhere is your 9 a.m. lecture.

The babydoll dress does the same thing. Short, floaty and undeniably girly, it can be worn with Mary Janes, tall brown boots or worn-in sneakers. Add a Peter Pan collar and some puffed sleeves and you could rock a more vintage look.

Maybe that is why the silhouette keeps coming back.

The babydoll has been associated with youth and femininity for decades, but its history is more complicated than its sweet appearance suggests. The silhouette became particularly popular in the 1960s alongside the rise of the mini dress, when changing ideas about women's fashion and independence were reshaping what could be worn in public. It could look innocent, but could also feel rebellious because it was so different from the structured clothing that came before it.

By the 2000s, the babydoll had become something much more familiar: the girl-at-school uniform. It appeared on cotton tees, lacy camisoles and little dresses, usually paired with some form of low-rise denim. Think "Lizzie McGuire," "The Vampire Diaries" or an old Hollister catalog.

Now, the runway is giving the silhouette another life.

For spring 2026, babydoll shapes have appeared alongside the season's fascination with romantic, youthful dressing. Miu Miu has played with embellished versions of the silhouette, while Cecilie Bahnsen continues to explore voluminous feminine dresses with schoolgirl details. Peter Pan collars — another detail almost inseparable from the babydoll's Lolita aesthetic — have also appeared at Prada and Chanel.

And then there are the iconic girls actually wearing them.

Olivia Rodrigo has become one of the most recognizable faces in the current babydoll revival, repeatedly appearing on stage in floaty tops and dresses that lean into a hazy, teenage femininity. Sabrina Carpenter has taken the silhouette in a more glamorous direction, performing in sheer and embellished versions that feel closer to vintage lingerie.

The appeal is not about recreating the 2000s exactly. It is about taking the visuality of girlhood and making it feel current.

Which is exactly what makes the babydoll so fun to wear now.

You do not have to style it head-to-toe sweet. In fact, it's probably more interesting when you don't.

A babydoll top with bootcut jeans feels unmistakably Y2K. With a pleated mini skirt, it leans schoolgirl. With tiny shorts, it becomes playful and summery. A pair of work slacks or a longer skirt makes it feel more grown-up. And layering a few necklaces adds just enough messiness to keep the outfit from looking too precious.

Layering is half the fun. Wear a white lace camisole underneath. Throw a cardigan over a flowy dress. Let the hem of a tank or slip peek out. Pair something frilly with chunky boots or stacks of bangles. These additions can add the contrast which makes an outfit feel modern and fresh.

That might be why the silhouette has survived so many versions of femininity. It can be romantic or rebellious, polished or messy, nostalgic or completely current. The same basic shape can look entirely different depending on how you style it.

And there is something especially fitting about that at the beginning of a school year.

Getting dressed for the first day is inherently performative. You want people to notice, but you definitely do not want them to know how long you spent deciding what to wear. I, like most other people, want to look effortlessly put together, and I believe the babydoll achieves just that.

It says cute without requiring much effort. It gives an outfit shape without making it feel formal. Most importantly, it carries just enough nostalgia to make you feel like you are stepping into a version of yourself you remember — or maybe one you wish you had been.

Because every fall quarter comes with the possibility of reinvention.

New classes. New friends. New routines. New clothes. We clean out our bags and we reorganize our closets. We put together an outfit that makes us feel like the person we want to be this school year.

The babydoll practically goes hand in hand with trying to reach Rory Gilmore levels of academia: a stack of books, an iced coffee and the delusion that this quarter you will actually romanticize every reading assignment. Somehow, the outfit makes studying in the library feel less like schoolwork and more like participating in your own fall coming-of-age movie.

If we are going to spend another quarter pretending we have our lives together, we might as well dress the part.

Arna Churiwala believes the start of the school year deserves a little sweetness.



COURTESY OF BRITISH VOGUE

put me on aux:

Jazz, people and music



Siobhan Stewart
Beat Reporter

A warm glow flickered and drew me in, alongside the soft murmur of conversation as the band began to play. The walls were covered in old newspapers and bottles of alcohol peeked out between the CDs behind the bar. The vibes were immaculate. My friends and I took our seats, unaware we were about to have one of the best nights of our lives.

The band moved effortlessly between upbeat songs and slower numbers, and every song fit the mood perfectly. My favorite moment was when the music turned into a conversation with the crowd. The band sang a low "come on back" and the audience answered, matching the pace of every call. The music seemed to improvise, react and adapt in real time, becoming a living thing that we were all a part of. Smiles spread across the room. Strangers hugged mid-chorus. Soon the whole crowd was singing the same words, and no differences in age, background or language mattered. By the last chorus, no one in the room was a stranger.

This beautiful human who sat next to my friend and me soon became one of our closest friends of the night. We had little in common beyond our enjoyment of jazz, yet we couldn't stop talking. He was 21, lived in Madrid and had grown up with the performers on stage. He even taught us some Spanish phrases and was full of kindness and curiosity.

As the music softened, the room's conversationsww softened with it. I looked to my left and saw my other friends talking to an older couple from the American South on their first trip after retirement. They were warm and had so many questions about what we were doing there.

People from all over the world had gathered in this tiny jazz bar. Here, the music gave us a reason to stop and see each other. The world felt small and close. Jazz did what it does best: it brought people together.

After the show, we congratulated the band and the conversation turned into an invitation to their favorite rock 'n' roll bar. Two of the members of the band were Irish, now living in Madrid. They shared their story and introduced us to other young people at the new music bar.

The night started as a search for live music and ended with a Spanish lesson, a retired couple's road-trip stories and a rock 'n' roll bar full of new friends. None of it was planned.

So go to that random jazz bar. Go to that band party you heard about from a friend. Find the music, wherever it's playing.

Especially at jazz bars.

Siobhan wants everyone to hit the jazz bars.



COURTESY OF O'BON PARIS

SPORTS

GAMES THIS WEEK

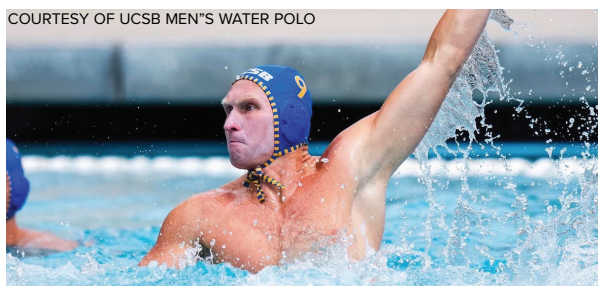
Women's Volleyball
at Utah Valley


COURTESY OF UCSB ATHLETICS

Gabi Martinez celebrates after a set.

UCSB Women's Volleyball heads to Orem, Utah to face Utah Valley University in a Big West match on Oct. 1. The Gauchos enter the match 6-7 overall and 2-0 in conference play after sweeping Cal State Bakersfield on Sept. 26. Utah Valley is 4-10 overall and 2-0 in Big West play after earning conference wins over UC Riverside and California Baptist.

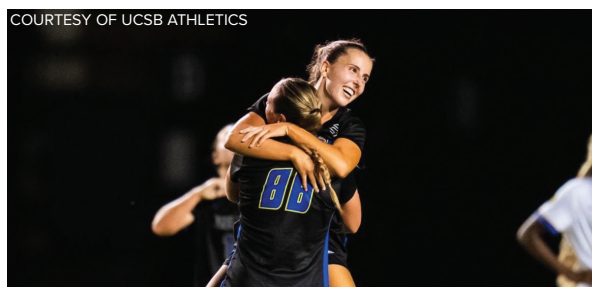
Men's Water Polo
at San Jose State


COURTESY OF UCSB MEN"S WATER POLO

Finn Genc in the water.

No. 14 UCSB Men's Water Polo will travel to San Jose on Oct. 3 for the Big West-WCC Clash, where it will face San Jose State at 9 a.m. The Gauchos are coming off a strong weekend at the Rare Air Challenge, winning four straight games, including a program-record 35-8 victory over Occidental. UCSB will also face Saint Mary's later that day at 3 p.m.

Women's Soccer
at California Baptist


COURTESY OF UCSB ATHLETICS

Gauchos celebrate after a goal.

UCSB Women's Soccer will travel to Riverside on Oct. 3 for a rematch with California Baptist University. The Gauchos previously fell 0-2 to the Lancers on Aug. 27 and enter the matchup after opening conference play with a 0-2 draw against Long Beach State and a 1-0 win over Sacramento State. California Baptist is 6-1-1 overall and also enters the match following a win over UC Riverside.

Women's Soccer opens final Big West season undefeated

Arianna Doan
Sports Editor

The UC Santa Barbara women's soccer team opened its final Big West season with a 2-2 draw against California State University, Long Beach on Wednesday and a 1-0 win over California State University, Sacramento on Saturday Sept. 26 at Harder Stadium.

The Gauchos entered conference play with high expectations after getting picked to tie for first with California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo in the Big West preseason coaches' poll. Both teams received 100 points, with UCSB receiving four first-place votes. The Gauchos also entered the conference schedule on a five-game undefeated streak after finishing non-conference play 5-1-3.

UCSB began the week against Cal State Long Beach, which was also picked to finish near the top of the conference. The Gauchos struck first in the 13th minute when junior forward Chayse Yu found sophomore defender Hailey Tyacke, who put UCSB ahead 1-0.

Cal State Long Beach responded five minutes later, but the Gauchos regained the lead right before halftime. Freshman forward Alondra Talamantes broke through the Beach backline to score her first career goal with 47 seconds remaining in the half.

"I was feeling so grateful that my team was there and supporting me," Talamantes said. "My first reaction was to hug all of them because at the end of the day I'm doing it for them. I was just really happy, and I felt blessed."

Long Beach eventually tied the game in the 71st minute, but senior goalkeeper Maddie Buckley had already come up with a big save. After Cal State Long Beach was awarded a penalty kick in the 65th minute, Buckley guessed correctly to keep the Gauchos ahead.

Cal State Long Beach outshot UCSB 18-8 and put 10 shots on goal, but Buckley made seven saves to help the Gauchos hold on for the 2-2 draw. The result extended UCSB's home undefeated streak to 10 matches and its overall undefeated streak to six.

"I think on the real positive side of things, we defended very well and we scored multiple goals on a very talented team," Head Coach Paul Stumpf said postgame.

Three days later, the Gauchos returned to Harder Stadium to face Sacramento State in their second conference game.

UCSB outshot the Hornets 8-5 in the first half and earned three corner kicks, but neither team was able to score before halftime. The Gauchos continued to create chances early in the second half, and in the 58th minute, senior defender Emily Caughey converted a penalty kick to give UCSB a 1-0 lead.

Sacramento State had several opportunities to score, including a shot that hit the crossbar in the 51st minute, but Buckley made three saves to keep the Hornets scoreless. UCSB held onto their 1-0 lead through the final whistle to earn its first conference victory.

The win also gave the Gauchos their first shutout since Aug. 23, when they defeated the California State University, Fresno Bulldogs 4-0.

Now 6-1-4 overall and 1-0-1 in Big West play, the Gauchos will travel to face California State University, Bakersfield on Wednesday.


COURTESY OF UCSB WOMEN'S SOCCER

Alondra Talamantes celebrates after scoring first career goal.


COURTESY OF UCSB WOMEN'S SOCCER

Gauchos go into the half down.


COURTESY OF UCSB WOMEN'S SOCCER

Gauchos celebrate after a win.

Gauchos defeated 1-3 during welcome weekend by the Beavers


COURTESY OF UCSB MEN'S SOCCER

Viggo Gustavsson clears the ball from the backfield.

Izabella Nickerson
Asst. Sports Editor

Welcoming students back to UC Santa Barbara's campus, the men's soccer team (4-3-2 overall) took on Oregon State University (3-1-3 overall) and fell 1-3 on Sunday, Sept. 20.

Hoping to start the school year off strong, the Gauchos were caught short Sunday night, committing several pivotal missteps that led to two easy goals for the Beavers.

Kicking off the match, the Beavers capitalized on a Gaucho defensive error, scoring in the fourth minute. This sent the Beavers up 1-0 in just one pass and minutes into the match.

Climbing back, the Gauchos dominated for a majority of the first half, and during the ninth minute, junior defender Peleg Brown fired home a goal from long range, pulling the crowd of nearly 4,000 people to their feet. However, the celebration was short-lived as the Beavers challenged the play, and the goal was overturned with a Gaucho offside.

Losing momentum, the Gauchos faulted again with another defensive blunder that led to a second Beaver goal in the 32nd minute, allowing the visitors to lead 2-1 at halftime.

Ultimately, the Gauchos' fate was settled in the 54th minute, when the Beavers gained possession around 30 yards from the goal, dribbled into space and found the back of the net in the top corner.

Unable to claim the home victory, UCSB's Men's Soccer head coach Tim Vom Steeg was frustrated about the match and commented on the team's mistakes.

"The other two goals, just huge mistakes, really bad mistakes. You can't win Division I college games giving up one bad mistake, much less two," he said.

Notably, sophomore midfielder Steinar Bjornsson elicited a standing ovation, performing a bicycle kick in the 64th minute; however, it was ultimately blocked by the Beavers' goalkeeper. Similarly, during the 76th minute, freshman defender Jakob Methvin struck the ball to the near post, forcing another save.

The Gauchos will face Sacramento State University next on Wednesday, Sept. 30 at 7 p.m. at Harder Stadium.

THE DIVERSITY HIRE

The 'war against woke': discussing DEI's real mission

Meher Indoliya
DEI Chair

The past few years have been marked by a shift — one encapsulated, albeit a bit simplistically, by the declaration that "woke is dead." This sentiment, often echoed by prominent conservative figures like Piers Morgan, is used to signal a perceived triumph over a proclaimed bygone era of progressive movements and initiatives. In the midst of this rallying call, the question arises of how exactly this "anti-woke" movement manifests in our present culture.

It is certainly true that ideas of what is seen as "socially acceptable" language and behavior seem to have changed to reflect this movement, from the mass followings surrounding alt-right and alt-right adjacent streamers like Nick Fuentes and Clavicular to the normalization of the r-slur in casual conversation. Not least of all, this cultural shift has resulted in the spread of ideas that reduce initiatives such as diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) and affirmative action to "unfair" programs, accusing them of pandering, spreading prejudice and failing to promote merit-based decisions.

One of the most popular misconceptions surrounding DEI is that it provides an unfair advantage to certain communities. This is exacerbated by the casual use of terms such as "diversity pick" or "diversity hire," which have diffused in conversations surrounding university campuses and workplaces, even earning a central spot in discussions about national politics. On the surface, this term represents an offhand comment suggesting that someone hasn't earned their place somewhere, or a snarky diss against what critics deem the era of "woke."

However, the increased usage of these terms has desensitized many to its far-reaching implications and detrimental consequences. These terms carry an inherent suggestion that the individual in question was only chosen because of identity traits such as race or gender identity to meet a quota, rather than based on their skills or abilities.

Invalidating merit in this manner is harmful in a myriad of ways — not only could it negatively affect the self-esteem and mental health of individuals being labeled as "diversity picks," it also cements myths about DEI arbitrarily providing advantages to the undeserving rather than evaluating merit. The normalization and weaponization of these simplistic terms and subsequent circulation of these derogatory implications distort and leave DEI programs vulnerable to misguided attacks by those who fail to see the value in these initiatives.

These attacks on DEI are not limited to online discourse or offhand comments; they extend to the highest levels of government and are identifiable in tangible and meaningful policy decisions. One such example is Executive Order 14151, issued by President Donald Trump in January 2025 and titled "Ending Radical And Wasteful Government DEI Programs And Preferencing," which largely terminated DEI-related activities across federal agencies. Another executive order issued by President Trump in January of 2025, Executive Order 14173 or "Ending Illegal Discrimination And Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity," prohibited federal contractors and subcontractors from using affirmative action plans, ordered agencies to largely terminate DEI mandates and put pressure across the private sector to eliminate DEI programs.

Feeding into rhetoric that diminishes the significance of DEI initiatives means contributing to this trend of "anti-woke" that often finds its voice in national politics. The aforementioned policy decisions are often justified by the Trump administration by painting a one-dimensional picture of DEI as unfair and discriminatory. This is the same distorted and incomplete story perpetuated by the use of simplistic terms like "diversity hire."

The reality is much more nuanced. DEI initiatives don't perpetuate discrimination by unfairly advantaging some groups over others — rather, they work to account for historic and systemic disadvantages that limit opportunities or representation for certain groups. To understand DEI fully is to acknowledge biases hiding in plain sight — whether they be racial, religious or based on any other identity factor — and take these into account when seeking to uplift all voices.

Amidst the widespread political weaponization of terms like "diversity pick," initiatives working to ensure equitable outcomes and fair representation are more important than ever. Here at the Nexus, we work to ensure that coverage reflects the unique variety of voices on campus and accurately represents groups across the community. At its core, this mission comes with the recognition that our community contains a diverse array of perspectives and stories, and the responsibility to embrace a more holistic view of the world. By making the conscious decision to integrate critical thinking and reflection into what the Nexus reports on, we hope to leave our readers with a simple message: inclusion and honest representation are not optional elements in our publication process.

As a new year starts on campus, the Daily Nexus continues to strive to highlight the stories that readers need to hear: the ones that have been sidelined for far too long by the mainstream. After all, the first step of resisting a status quo that has systemically disenfranchised certain voices is critically evaluating the messages and rhetoric that we unconsciously circulate and asking ourselves how we can more candidly represent our diverse community.

Meet the Daily Nexus DEI Chairs...

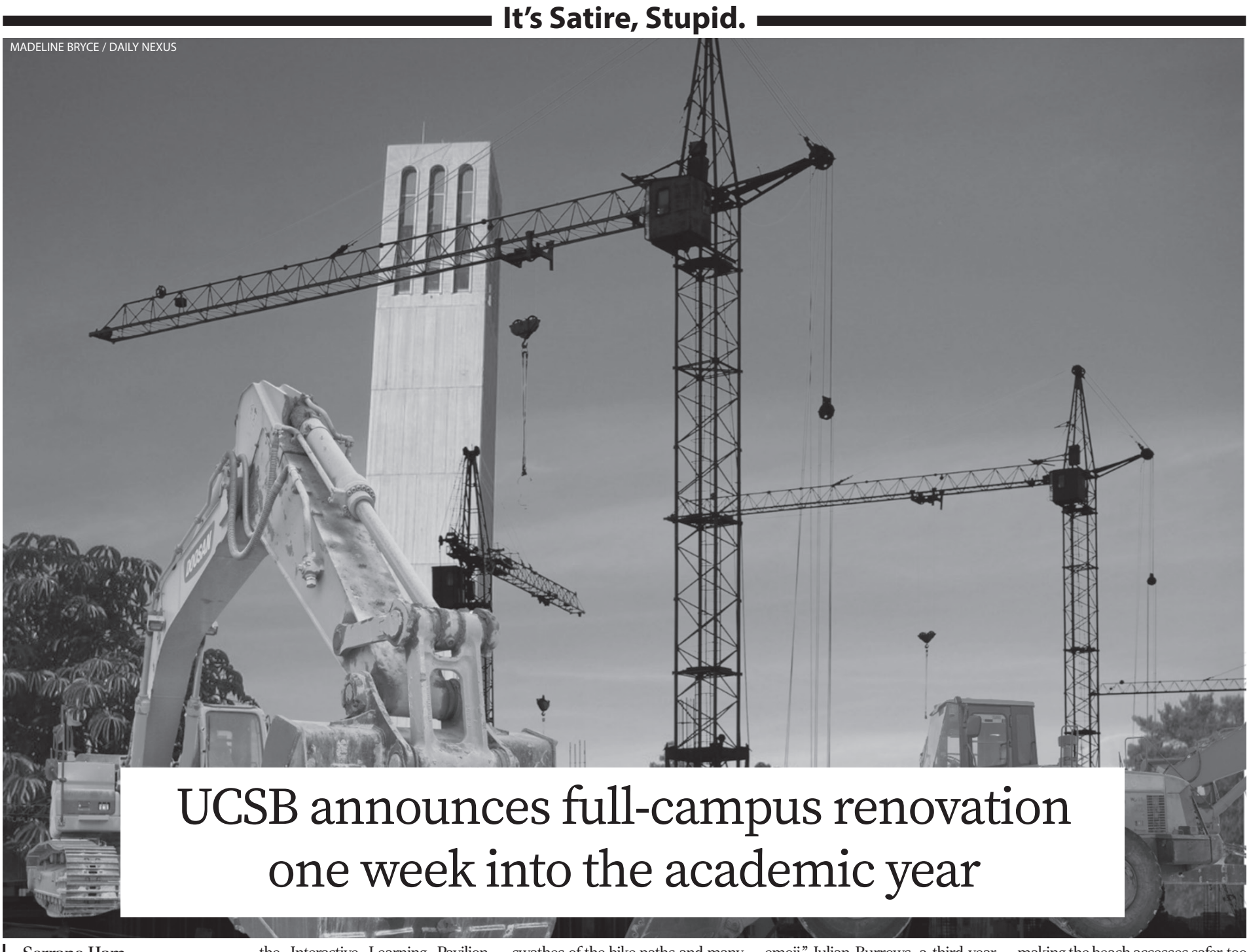






NEXUSTENTIALISM

It's Satire, Stupid.



MADELINE BRYCE / DAILY NEXUS

UCSB announces full-campus renovation one week into the academic year

Serrano Ham
Bulldozed

On Sept. 31, UC Santa Barbara released unexpected campus construction plans that will commence immediately. The plans detail an incredibly lengthy and complex renovation of almost all buildings and infrastructure. These plans have been kept under tight wraps, with Chancellor Dennis Assanis being advised to wait until classes started to ensure there is sufficient funding for this undertaking.

Students at UCSB will have noticed the smaller construction projects happening simultaneously around the campus throughout their first week of classes; the demolition of Santa Rosa Residence Hall kicked off the overhaul, followed by the shutdown of the bike path by the Interactive Learning Pavilion. However, no one was anticipating the scope of these projects expanding to such an overwhelming extent.

The plans, per the released statement, include making the Buchanan Hall rows of seats closer, making Storke Tower "more imposing," moving Embarcadero Hall farther away from campus and expanding the University Center's game room.

"We are so excited to provide students with the top-quality classrooms and amenities they deserve," University administrators wrote in a statement to the student body. "UCSB is a top-ranking institution and these updates will ensure the carpet matches the drapes."

All these projects will occur at the same time to maximize the efficiency of work. Overnight, huge swathes of the bike paths and many lecture halls have been cordoned off in preparation for next steps. Students will now have to navigate the few sections of the campus not undergoing renovation, which is harder than it seems.

Michael St. Gregor, a first-year economics major, is one of the students impacted by these plans.

"This is actually absurd. I turned down Harvard to come here and now I can't even walk on the damn sidewalk without being sideswiped by a bike," St. Gregor complained.

Students are a little nervous as they try to anticipate how their lives will be impacted in the coming days.

"I emailed the administration saying that my dorm is in the middle of the construction site and there won't be a way for me to leave the building, and all they did was reply saying 'Sorry' with a sad-face emoji," Julian Burrows, a third-year economics major, said.

In addition to dodgy living situations, students have also realized that their ability to go to class will be negatively impacted.

Second-year geography major Melanie Cruz seemed particularly disturbed.

"They've already put fencing up around Buchanan Hall, but I still have a class there. Genuinely what am I supposed to do?" they said.

In contrast, some students are either completely unaware of the unveiled plans or are choosing to look on the bright side of things.

"What?" fifth-year communication major Keith Baron said when asked about his thoughts on the renovation of Storke Tower.

Ursula Von Leif, a third-year art major, seemed a little more informed and optimistic. "I thought they were making the beach accesses safer, too. That's good right?"

When the Daily Nexus clarified that making the beach accesses "safer" meant closing them down entirely, Von Leif amended her statement.

"I know my rights and I don't think they can legally do that."

Many students are feeling outraged and have been left wondering what their thousands of dollars are really paying for — a quality education or a vanity project for the UC system. Unfortunately, the question will most likely be left unanswered, and with no time to drop out, students will just need to suck it up and say a prayer.

Serrano Ham is stranded in the middle of the Santa Rosa construction site. Please send help.



MADELINE BRYCE / DAILY NEXUS

Shocking: "Freshman 15" revealed to be psyop by Big Lettuce

Ivanna Doomscroll
Huge

In a revelation that has shocked college freshmen and still-bitter post-grads across the nation, the notorious "freshman 15" has been revealed to be a myth constructed by Big Lettuce in order to sell more salads.

This shocking truth became known to the public after private messages between executives at International Lettuce Inc. leaked on X. The messages include incriminating statements such as "you gotta sell green to make green" and "they dont know im buying a yacht with their lunch money."

After a thorough analysis of the leaked messages, the Daily Nexus was able to piece together the history of this decades-long psychological operation targeting innocent students.

The term "freshman 15" refers to the alleged 15 additional pounds of weight that college students gain over the course of their first year after being tasked with the new responsibility of feeding themselves. The term originated in a Seventeen magazine article and since then has been thought to be a harmless pop-culture alliteration — that is until the leaked messages revealed its truly insidious purpose.

In reality, the article was paid for by International Lettuce Inc. As the term spread, millions of adolescents were tricked into believing that a healthy diet was necessary in order to prevent weight gain with college freshmen turning to fresh, lettuce-laden salad as a solution.

Multiple students had strong opinions about UC Santa Barbara's role in this scandal, given that the university sells salads in multiple places, from campus cafés to the Arbor.

"We are complicit," third-year comparative literature major Moralee Supérieure said. "If you've ever eaten a salad, shame on you. You are contributing to a growing mental health crisis and environmental destruction." Supérieure also mentioned that she will be toilet-papering De La Guerra in solidarity with those impacted by the diarrhea-causing cyclospora outbreak.

While those living in Isla Vista and in off-campus accommodations tend to scoff at lowly underclassmen who buy into obvious myths like freshman 15, many first-years feel blindsided by this newfound information. Those rushing fraternities and sororities for the first time felt particularly impacted.

"When I pledged Delta Smellta, they told me I'd get kicked out if I gained the 15," first-year communication major Chad Chuddister said. "I literally told my mom to sign me up for the 45 meals/week plan so I could have unlimited salad bar access."

While inexperienced freshmen like Chuddister continue to suffer, those with graduation around the corner take a more nonchalant approach.

"This is such a non-issue. Why would you eat a salad when you could have Wingstop and Jell-O shots instead?" fourth-year economics major Nazz Daq asked. "Anyway. Just know that when International Lettuce Inc. goes public, I'm going to be making bank."

Ivanna Doomscroll apologizes for her continued support of the salad industrial complex.

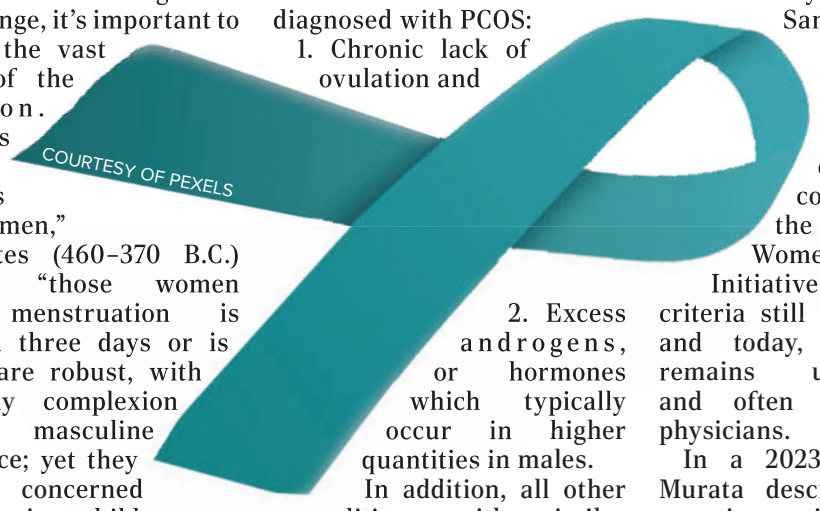
SCIENCE & TECH

Why changing polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) to polyendocrine metabolic ovarian syndrome (PMOS) matters

Preksha Koushik
Assistant Science Editor

In May, The Lancet, a renowned peer-reviewed medical journal, put forth a change to the name of the condition formerly known as polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS), a decision that "took 14 years of global collaboration," according to the Endocrine Society. More than 50 organizations, including the American Society for Reproductive Medicine, contributed to the effort to rename the condition polyendocrine metabolic ovarian syndrome (PMOS). Professor Helena Teede, director of Monash University's Monash Centre for Health Research and Implementation and an endocrinologist, was one of the driving forces behind the change. She reasoned that the previous term was inaccurate, as it focused on ovarian cysts while "obscuring diverse endocrine and metabolic features." Teede believes this contributed to "delayed diagnosis, fragmented care, and stigma, while curtailing research and policy framing." Since the condition affects roughly one in 10 women and those assigned female at birth, delayed or incorrect diagnosis could have affected millions.

To understand the magnitude and meaning of the name change, it's important to consider the vast history of the condition. In his treatise "Diseases of Women," Hippocrates (460–370 B.C.) observed "those women whose menstruation is less than three days or is meagre, are robust, with a healthy complexion and a masculine appearance; yet they are not concerned about bearing children nor do they become pregnant." This description resembled features later incorporated into diagnostic criteria. In 1884, French physician Dr. Achille Chereau wrote about ovaries "with smooth and shiny surface[s], containing many small cysts," a description that, like many others in that time, focused on macroscopic features.



Enter Drs. Irving Stein and Michael Leventhal, whose 1935 report titled "Amenorrhea associated with bilateral polycystic ovaries" would go on to be described as a "a remarkably lasting and influential publication," having been thought to have led to exponential increase in related research. Stein and Leventhal coined the term "polycystic ovary syndrome," one of several names used to describe the condition, including "polycystic ovarian syndrome," "polycystic ovary disease" and "Stein-Leventhal syndrome."

In 1990, the first formal diagnostic criteria for the condition were established by the National Institutes of Health during a sponsored conference on PCOS. Individuals were required to exhibit both criteria to be diagnosed with PCOS:

1. Chronic lack of ovulation and
2. Excess androgens, or hormones which typically occur in higher quantities in males and
3. Polycystic ovaries.

Once again, physicians had to first rule out other conditions with similar symptoms such as "congenital adrenal hyperplasia, androgen-secreting tumors" and "Cushing's syndrome."

> **"Since the beginning of time, women's pain and women's bodies have not been taken seriously"**
>
> ELLE MURATA

According to Elle Murata, a University of California, Santa Barbara neuroscience doctoral candidate and the director of science communication at the Ann S. Bowers Women's Brain Health Initiative, the Rotterdam criteria still had limitations, and today, the condition remains underresearched and often overlooked by physicians.

In a 2023 TEDx Talk, Murata described her own experience with the condition, which took two years to be diagnosed. She explained that a typical timeline of diagnosis could be anywhere from "two to five years," meaning that "it can take up to half a decade to diagnose a disorder that impacts one in 10 women." She also outlined how her experience was one of many examples of mistreatment at the hands of medical professionals that individuals assigned female at birth often experience. Murata's personal experience, along with her background in women's brain health, led her to examine "how PCOS and endometriosis affect brain structure and function" at UCSB.

"Since the beginning of time, women's pain and women's bodies have not been taken seriously," Murata said of her perspective on existing PCOS diagnosis practices. These efforts, along with the name change, can lead to an increase in the general public's understanding of the condition.

Reducing the emphasis on ovarian cysts and shifting toward a broader focus on a range of metabolic, endocrine and physical symptoms through evidence-based international guidelines also could mean an increase in accurate diagnoses.

Today, physicians may ask patients about their symptoms, and could recommend a pelvic exam, blood tests or an ultrasound for further testing, instead of relying solely on standard diagnostic criteria.

The name change also reflects a wider initiative for advancing women's health research. Correcting outdated or misleading names for conditions is an important first step in order to advocate for research on the conditions themselves; a longitudinal study of healthcare professionals and individuals with PMOS by professor Teede's team analyzed the potential benefits of the name change, where a name change was expected to "enhance awareness, diagnosis, care quality, research coherence, and patient experience, strengthening policy, advocacy, and health outcomes globally."

The name change could also contribute to a broader movement to challenge outdated healthcare beliefs and increase awareness of other conditions within women's health.

One such condition is endometriosis. According to Loughborough University medical sociology professor Dr. Nicky Hudson, the "ambiguity" regarding endometriosis, often described as the "missed disease," is "a result of structural, cultural and political processes and forces" that have long existed.

Endometriosis, she elaborates, exemplifies "undone science," or areas of research that are underfunded and unrecognized. Hudson asserts that endometriosis lacks research funding and government policy in comparison to other "long-term conditions such as diabetes and asthma," which could be due to "the association of endometriosis with historically specific constructions of menstruation and women's pain" that are outdated and harmful. Ultimately, the name change to PMOS could draw attention to research gaps and examples of undone science, challenge scientists to consider other inaccuracies and work towards correcting outdated constructs regarding women's health.



Daily Nexus La Vista

LA VISTA

La anciana Maricarmen es desalojada a los 87 años de su vivienda en España

Alue Otiura
Editora para La Vista



CORTESIA DE EL CONSTITUCIONAL

Maricarmen Abascal, una mujer de 87 años, fue desalojada el pasado 23 de septiembre de la vivienda en la que llevaba viviendo aproximadamente 70 años, en el barrio de Retiro, en el centro de Madrid.

El desahucio puso fin a un largo proceso judicial relacionado con su antiguo contrato de alquiler y provocó una movilización de vecinos y colectivos en defensa de la inquilina.

Maricarmen, que tiene reconocida una discapacidad del 50 % y presenta una movilidad muy reducida, tuvo que abandonar el edificio en camilla.

Posteriormente fue trasladada al Hospital Gregorio Marañón para ser examinada por los servicios médicos.

Tras recibir atención, decidió alojarse temporalmente con familiares.

Durante las horas previas al desalojo, decenas de personas se concentraron frente al edificio para intentar impedir el desalojamiento y mostrar su apoyo a Maricarmen.

Las protestas también sirvieron para poner sobre la mesa la creciente preocupación por el precio de los alquileres y las dificultades que encuentran muchas personas para acceder a una vivienda en Madrid.

El caso ha vuelto a centrar la atención sobre los llamados contratos de renta antigua, acuerdos de alquiler firmados hace varias décadas y sujetos a normas diferentes de las actuales.

Estos contratos podían establecer rentas muy inferiores a los precios actuales y contemplaban determinadas condiciones para que familiares pudieran continuar con el alquiler tras el fallecimiento del titular.

En el caso de Maricarmen, una de las cuestiones principales del conflicto judicial fue precisamente la posibilidad de mantener el contrato mediante una subrogación familiar.

Finalmente, los tribunales determinaron que no podía continuar en la vivienda bajo esas condiciones, lo que permitió ejecutar el desahucio.

La situación de Maricarmen ha convertido un conflicto particular en un nuevo ejemplo del complejo debate sobre la vivienda en España.

Por un lado, se encuentra la protección de los inquilinos, especialmente de las personas mayores y en situación de vulnerabilidad; por otro, los derechos de los propietarios y las condiciones establecidas por los contratos y la legislación vigente.

Su desalojo ha vuelto a poner en primer plano una cuestión que afecta a miles de personas: cómo encontrar un equilibrio entre el derecho a la vivienda, la protección de los inquilinos ..y los derechos de quienes son propietarios de los inmuebles.

Está lloviendo peces en Honduras

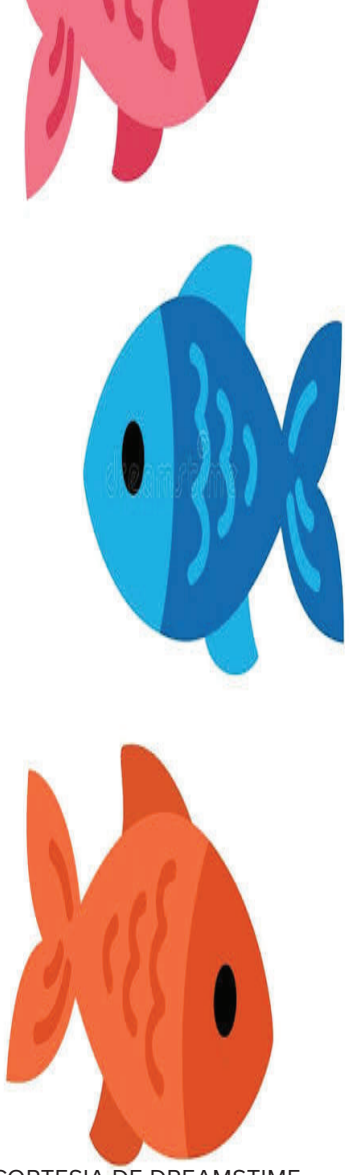
Jeannie Gutierrez Rubi
Editora para la Vista

Cada año, entre mayo y julio, los habitantes de las aldeas del Departamento de Yoro, Honduras, esperan un fenómeno famoso: la lluvia de peces.

Según Canal 8 Honduras, el fenómeno ocurre después de fuertes tormentas que suelen durar toda la noche.

Cuando la lluvia termina, los aldeanos salen de sus casas y encuentran pequeños peces sobre el suelo y entre las milpas.

Lo curioso es que, según testimonio de los habitantes, nadie parece ver los peces caer del cielo, simplemente aparecen después de la tormenta.



CORTESIA DE DREAMSTIME

Aún no se sabe exactamente cómo llegan los peces hasta las aldeas de Yoro.

Una de las teorías más conocidas es que las trombas marinas pueden levantar peces pequeños, como los que aparecen después de la lluvia, de otros cuerpos de agua y llevarlos hasta tierra.

Pero otra teoría plantea que las lluvias hacen que el nivel del agua de las corrientes subterráneas aumente, haciendo que los peces que viven en corrientes subterráneas salgan a la superficie.

Esto podría explicar por qué nunca se ha registrado que los peces caigan del cielo.

Varios de los yoreños que han sido testigos de la lluvia anual de peces afirman que el fenómeno viene de un milagro religioso.

En su reportaje del fenómeno en 2017, Kirk Semple del New York Times entrevistó a varios campesinos que habían visto aparecer los peces después de las tormentas.

Uno de ellos, Lucio Pérez, lo describió como «un milagro».

Para él, lo que ocurrió en Yoro es sencillo de explicar:

«Es un milagro. Lo vemos como una bendición de Dios».

La historia del milagro está relacionada con el padre Manuel de Jesús Subirana, un sacerdote español que estuvo en Yoro durante el siglo XIX.

Según la tradición, Subirana vio la pobreza y el hambre que sufrían los Yoreños y rezó hasta que empezó a llover.

Los restos del santo querido por el pueblo quedan hoy en la iglesia principal en la plaza central de Yoro.

No cabe duda de que la lluvia anual de los peces se ha convertido en una ocurrencia central a la identidad de la comunidad. Cada año, los aldeanos de Yoro festejan un festival celebrando la lluvia con platos hechos de los pequeños peces.



CORTESIA DE EL INTERNATIONAL LATINO CULTURAL



ON THE MENU

The art of a shared fridge

Sahasra Hanumiahgari
On The Menu Editor

September has finally come to an end, and it's become that time of year — school is officially in full swing. Isla Vista is returning to its usual liveliness, and with it, all those that live within these few square blocks.

As everyone is moving into their apartments, we remember just how central the kitchen and meals are to our lives. Not to sound corny, but the kitchen really is the heart of a home. Every day, I look forward to running into my roommates cooking their meals, eager to steal a bite or two.

However, that's not to say sharing a kitchen is always sunshine and rainbows. Admittedly, sharing a fridge amongst multiple adults, each with their own tastes and preferences is never going to be easy. My fridge is shared between myself and four other people, and figuring out how to divide the (very limited) space definitely took some trial and error. We've figured out a system that works for us, eventually deciding to split it so each room gets a shelf in the fridge.

Every time I look in our fridge, it's like an insight into the individual lives of the housemates. On the top shelf we have C and W, who can always be counted on to have some kind of non-dairy milk. As the resident vegetarians, it's always interesting seeing what new plant-based protein they have (currently stocked with hickory smoked tofurkey). Whenever I want to try a new item from Trader Joe's, it's usually already there.

In the middle, we have M, who has recently been the number one advocate for the Associated Students Food Bank. She spams me every time she sees my location near the University Center (UCen) to go check out the food bank. I can see why; the food bank provides "free fresh produce, pantry staples, and basic care products" to undergrad and grad students at UCSB and "aims to tackle food insecurity on campus while continually raising awareness on issues surrounding food, sustainability, and social justice." Located on the second floor of the UCen through the Ortega side, it's incredibly easy to access and has an assortment of produce and pantry staples available. Students may go up to once a day at no additional cost; go take advantage of your student fees!



What it looks like when you cram five people's groceries into one refrigerator.

Last, maybe even best, is mine and T's shelf. Self-proclaimed gym bros, we are always stocked with a jarring amount of eggs (shoutout Costco!) and Oikos Triple Zero yogurts. It's always a safe bet that T has a Yerba Madre in the fridge, whereas I like to start my day with a coffee flavored Nurri protein shake. Usually when our groceries are more stocked, there's tupperwares full of meal prep we share. Cooking food for the people you love is truly its own love language — it's definitely how T and I show it. After a long day where either of us have been out all day, not home until way past dinner time, we can count on each other for a yummy, warm meal.

Sharing a fridge with someone is a surprisingly intimate way to get to know each other. I get to see how intense their day might be depending on whether there's a Celsius or a Yerba Madre in the fridge, see the dates they've been going on and coffee shops they've been frequenting from their leftovers. I can note their current drink of choice (almost always Diet Coke for C and I, Pepsi for M and Yerba Madre for T and W). Our fridge is a physical representation of the blend of cultures in our home, seen in the various condiments and ingredients we have. A representation of the likes and dislikes of us.

Creaminal Ice Cream: the Asian-inspired dessert spot hidden in Your Choice Restaurant



Rocky's Matcha, Thai Tea Oreo and Kathy's Dream.

Francesca Gasparini
On The Menu Editor

There is no telling how Santa Barbara's most inventive ice cream shop has slipped past my radar thus far, but after stumbling into Your Choice Restaurant for a friend's last-minute birthday celebration, I was shocked to see a mouthwatering list of Asian-inspired ice cream flavors plastered on the entryway wall. What otherwise looks to be a quaint, old-school Thai spot is contrasted by the vibrant, hipster signage and merchandise of Creaminal Ice Cream, a separate ice cream concept operating within the family-owned restaurant. Their menu features unique flavors that take inspiration from various Asian cuisines using ingredients like ube, thai tea, matcha and coconut with additional mix-ins to level up their pints.

Piti Sukavivatanachai and his wife, Kathy Dao, stumbled upon the idea for Creaminal somewhat accidentally. In 2014, Sukavivatanachai made the difficult decision to temporarily leave behind his career as an EMT in Los Angeles to move back to Santa Barbara and help his parents run their struggling family-owned Thai restaurant, Your Choice.

After watching his mom prepare the simple coconut-flavored ice cream that adorned their limited dessert menu, Sukavivatanachai and Dao decided to take over the ice cream operation, experimenting with different flavor combinations representative of their Asian-American upbringing. After recieving some publicity about their new operation, word hit the street about the restaurant's new killer flavor lineup, and their fanbase quickly grew. Not long after, the couple started Creaminal as a separate concept operating under the same roof as their family's restaurant.

Creaminal is now known not only for its delicious scoops and pints, but also for its weekly event, No Sad Sundaes, which features a rotating sundae menu served only on Saturdays after 8 p.m. Offerings have included flavors like the Mango Sticky Rice sundae (mango ice cream, warm coconut sticky rice, salted coconut cream and crispy puffed rice), Peach Oolong Shorty (oolong milk tea ice cream, peach caramel, shortbread crumble and vanilla whipped cream) and the Banana Turon sundae (charred banana and jackfruit ice cream, brown sugar caramel and crispy turon crunch).

Sadly, my friends and I picked the wrong day of the week and were unable to get our hands on their sundaes, but lucky for us, the restaurant also serves Creaminal ice cream and we were able to try three flavors right before closing: Thai Tea Oreo, Kathy's Dream and Rocky's Matcha.

As soon as the bowls arrived at our table, my friends and I were clanking spoons, fighting for bites of the delicious flavors. The Thai Tea Oreo tasted like it was fresh out of your favorite boba shop, with that signature vibrant orange color and hearty chunks of crumbled Oreo. Kathy's Dream was a delight, with a sweet, nutty base of malted ube ice cream, ribbons of marshmallow fluff and bits of Biscoff cookies mixed throughout.

I was exceptionally ecstatic about their matcha flavor because if you are a matcha enthusiast like myself, you know Rocky's Matcha. The craze surrounding this particular matcha brand has taken over the internet, making it exceptionally difficult to get your hands on it to confirm its raving reviews. To my surprise, in addition to Creaminal's designated ice cream flavors, Your Choice Restaurant also serves matcha lattes using this high-quality, ceremonial-grade matcha. They also sell Rocky's Matcha and hojicha powders by the can, and offer a Rocky's Hojicha ice cream flavor, which I hope to return to try.

While I still need to attend one of their No Sad Sundaes events to get the full Creaminal experience, I can definitively say that it is some of the best ice cream I've tried in Santa Barbara, and I will definitely be back to try more of what they have to offer.

OPINION

A UCSB student's guide to public transit



SHENGYU ZHANG / PHOTO EDITOR

A SBMTD articulated bus on line 28 ("UCSB Shuttle") leaving UCSB and headed towards Camino Real Market

Shengyu Zhang
Photo Editor

Due to the recent policy from UC Santa Barbara prohibiting on-campus parking permits for first-year students, many incoming students may be left puzzled about how to commute to campus, stores or any other places their hearts may desire. But within all students' access cards hides the ability to go many places around UCSB for free and without contributing to Uber's exceedingly high revenue. We'll take a look at all the buses, Uber-like microtransit (The Wave) and more options for long-distance travel.

Short-distance travel

Tips on riding the bus for newcomers

Most of us are familiar with driving before coming to UCSB. But once you ride the bus for the first time, you'll find it to be a very convenient way to get around. To begin, you'll want to arrive at a bus stop, which usually has an ocean blue sign with the Santa Barbara Metropolitan Transit District (SBMTD) logo printed on it. Aim to arrive some time earlier than the time stated on your app or schedule. Make sure that the bus travels in the correct direction. After the bus arrives, you can board at the front door and tap your access card on the contactless indicator on the top of the farebox and wait for it to turn green.

Right after passing the bus stop that comes before your destination stop, make a firm pull of the yellow cord to give drivers adequate time to prepare for a stop. Exit the bus toward the rear door(s) and go from there!

There's a couple bus stops that will be helpful to most UCSB students and can be reached via all bus lines running through UCSB (unless otherwise noted):

UCSB North Hall: Commonly known as the "bus loop," this is the central transportation hub of UCSB. This connects to all of the local buses mentioned in this article and is the best stop for access to nearly all of UCSB. The bus loop is split into two main sections: the portion with the wooden bus shelter is the westbound stop (towards Downtown Santa Barbara) and the portion that has no shelter and is closest to the Old Gymnasium is the eastbound stop (towards I.V and Goleta).

Seville & Embarcadero Del Mar (27 only): A favorite for visiting I.V while on campus, this stop brings access to many local businesses in I.V.

Storke & Hollister / Storke & Marketplace: If you're seeking creature comforts of visiting Target or McDonald's, going to SloDoCo for refuge from the often-crowded library or even more, this is the stop for you.

Santa Felicia & Marketplace (24X (select), 27 and 28 only): This stop offers the best access to Albertsons, Costco and other nearby locations.

Ocean & Sabado Tarde (27 only): Not only is this a good stop for San Rafael and Manzanita residents to get to Campbell Hall in style, this stop provides access to both the Student Resource Building (SRB) and Carrillo Dining Commons.

UCSB Elings Hall (11 and 24X only): If you need to visit one of the engineering buildings, going to this stop might help shorten your walk. It's great for accessing the Santa Cruz beach and a nearby coastline trail too.

How to utilize each individual bus line

If you're curious to learn about how to utilize each individual bus line as a UCSB student, here's my rough outline for how to use them:

Line 11: Although the eastbound 11 may have Downtown SB as its final destination, UCSB students should use it for traveling to the engineering side of campus (Elings Hall), the airport, Old Town Goleta or the cluster of medical facilities on Hollister Ave (in case you did become a heap of bones from riding Line 11 all the way to/from downtown).

Line 15X: While Line 15X primarily serves students studying at Santa Barbara City College (hence the nickname "SBCC shuttle"), there are also some useful cases for UCSB students. The 15X provides access to Santa Barbara Amtrak station, the Harbor (plus the rest of waterfront) and SBCC.

Line 24X: If you're heading east toward Downtown Santa Barbara, the 24X is your best bet as it travels down the highway to arrive downtown — saving around 30 minutes compared to riding on Line 11. This line can change its route depending on the bus you're on, so check your navigation app or the SBMTD website to avoid any last-minute surprises if you're traveling toward Target or the Marketplace.



SHENGYU ZHANG / PHOTO EDITOR

Line 27: Also known as the I.V Shuttle, this shuttle (and the 28) runs exclusively between the bus loop, I.V., Santa Catalina Residence Hall and the Goleta shopping district.

Line 28: Nicknamed as the UCSB Shuttle, the 28's primary purpose is to provide additional high frequency and high capacity service between the bus loop, Santa Catalina and the surrounding apartments.

Catching ... The Wave?

While at the bus loop, you may catch sight of brightly painted vans as part of "The Wave." They operate as a microtransit service, similar to a rideshare or taxi that might pick up more people along the way and for which only $3 is needed per ride (in contrast to the exorbitant costs required for an Uber). There are limited pickup/dropoff points, but it is very well suited for UCSB students seeking to travel around Goleta.

Long-distance travel

Already homesick or seeking more places to visit? With some planning, a trip can be easily in reach. We'll talk about the Pacific Surfliner and other options for going outside of Santa Barbara.

Amtrak Pacific Surfliner and SBMTD Line 91

The best way to get to Los Angeles, Orange County, San Diego and San Luis Obispo, these trains can help connect you to stations over all three regions (where you can get picked up from there). They also allow you to transfer to other transportation options to get you even closer to home, including Metrolink.

A brief list of other transportation options for going beyond Santa Barbara

FlixBus: As a large network of long-distance buses, this is a good place to check for any trip that may be hard to find options for otherwise.

Santa Barbara Airbus: This is a coach bus that operates directly to Los Angeles International Airport. Although getting to/from the Goleta pickup point can be difficult via public transportation alone, these shuttles will drop you off at terminals of LAX and will do so while being cheaper than taking an Uber directly there, even with an Uber to the Airbus' Goleta pickup point.

VCTC Intercity (Coastal Express): With stops at the bus loop, you can often see these large blue VCTC coaches parked there during your commute to classes. VCTC's Coastal Express is primarily good for going to Ventura County, with closer access to downtown Ventura compared to the Pacific Surfliner's Ventura station.

Clean Air Express: For the select few that want to go for a ride to Lompoc, Santa Maria or Buellon, take one of the Camino Real Marketplace-bound SBMTD buses to reach a stop served by Clean Air Express buses and go from there!

Amtrak Route 10: For those longing for the experience of getting baked like pastry in Bakersfield (due to the extremely high temperatures), Amtrak's Route 10 coaches depart from the bus loop and can bring you there and to Las Vegas, too.



SHENGYU ZHANG / PHOTO EDITOR

Frank can't wait to ascend to the skies on a San Francisco cable car before taking a Caltrain to escape the fate of being tortured by AI ads for all of eternity.

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

HOROSCOPES

The signs as classic Week 1 mistakes

ARIES
MARCH 21 - APRIL 19
Responding to all the people in the Arbor walkway

TAURUS
APRIL 20 - MAY 20
Not reading the syllabus for a difficult class

GEMINI
MAY 21 - JUNE 20
Going to section after the professor emailed it was canceled

CANCER
JUNE 21 - JULY 22
Walking in the skateboard lane

LEO
JULY 23 - AUGUST 22
Doing forgotten homework assignments during a pregame

VIRGO
AUGUST 23 - SEPTEMBER 22
Realizing you shouldn't have picked your acquaintance from high school as a roomate

LIBRA
SEPTEMBER 23 - OCTOBER 22
Aimlessly looking for parties on DP

SCORPIO
OCTOBER 23 - NOVEMBER 21
Using your fake at Woodstock's and ending up on the wall

SAGITTARIUS
NOVEMBER 22 - DECEMBER 21
Getting into a bike accident during peak traffic hours

CAPRICORN
DECEMBER 22 - JANUARY 19
Using all your meal swipes before they can refresh

AQUARIUS
JANUARY 20 - FEBRUARY 18
Walking into the wrong class and being too embarrassed to leave

PISCES
FEBRUARY 19 - MARCH 20
Boarding the 24x by accident and taking it downtown

ARTSWEEK

BabyChiefDoIt welcomes students back with energetic performance



EDWIN BALLESTEROS / DAILY NEXUS

BabyChiefDoIt performed for ASPB's Welcome Back Concert in the Hub. He is most known for his songs "Rollin'," "WENT WEST" and "Ghetto Love Story," which have all earned spotson Billboard charts.

Edwin Ballesteros
Photographer

For this year's Welcome Back concert, UC Santa Barbara's Associated Students Program Board treated students to a performance by Chicago rapper BabyChiefDoIt, whose energetic drill beats filled the University Center Hub with energy last Friday, Sept. 25.

It was marked by significant audience interactivity, with the charismatic artist — whose real name is Jayden Whitter Jones — often gesturing to and speaking with the crowd, bathed in neon red by the stage lights. Jones' stage presence was beyond his years, having only recently turned 18. Yet, it was also his youthful exuberance that powered the show.

Highlights of the event included Jones' hit songs "Ghetto Love Story," "WENT WEST" and "The Viper." Overall, it was a highly kinetic way to kick off the year, and for many students, their college experience.



EDWIN BALLESTEROS / DAILY NEXUS

BabyChiefDoIt is a Chicago rapper who rose to fame on TikTok before landing a contract with his record label.

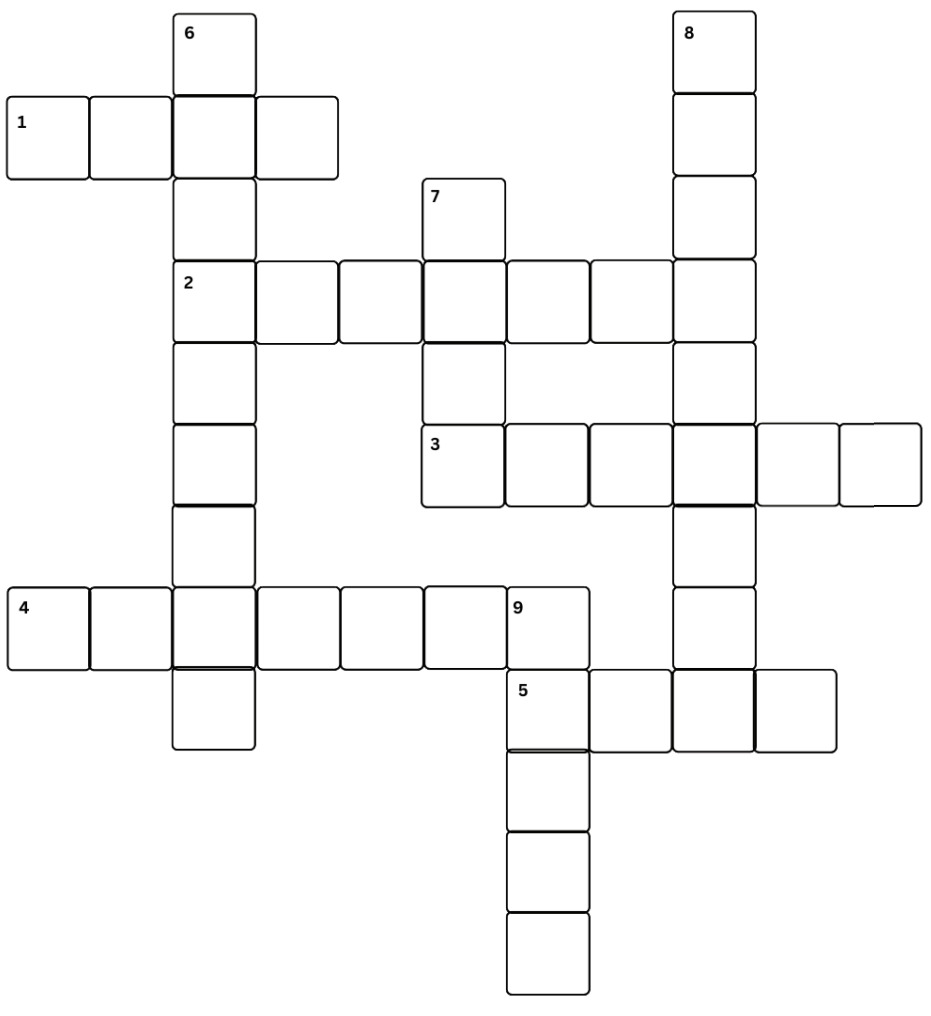


EDWIN BALLESTEROS / DAILY NEXUS

Students enjoy BabyChiefDoIt's performance in the Hub to kickstart the new school year.

Artsweek Crossword

Kendra Martinez
Artsweek Editor

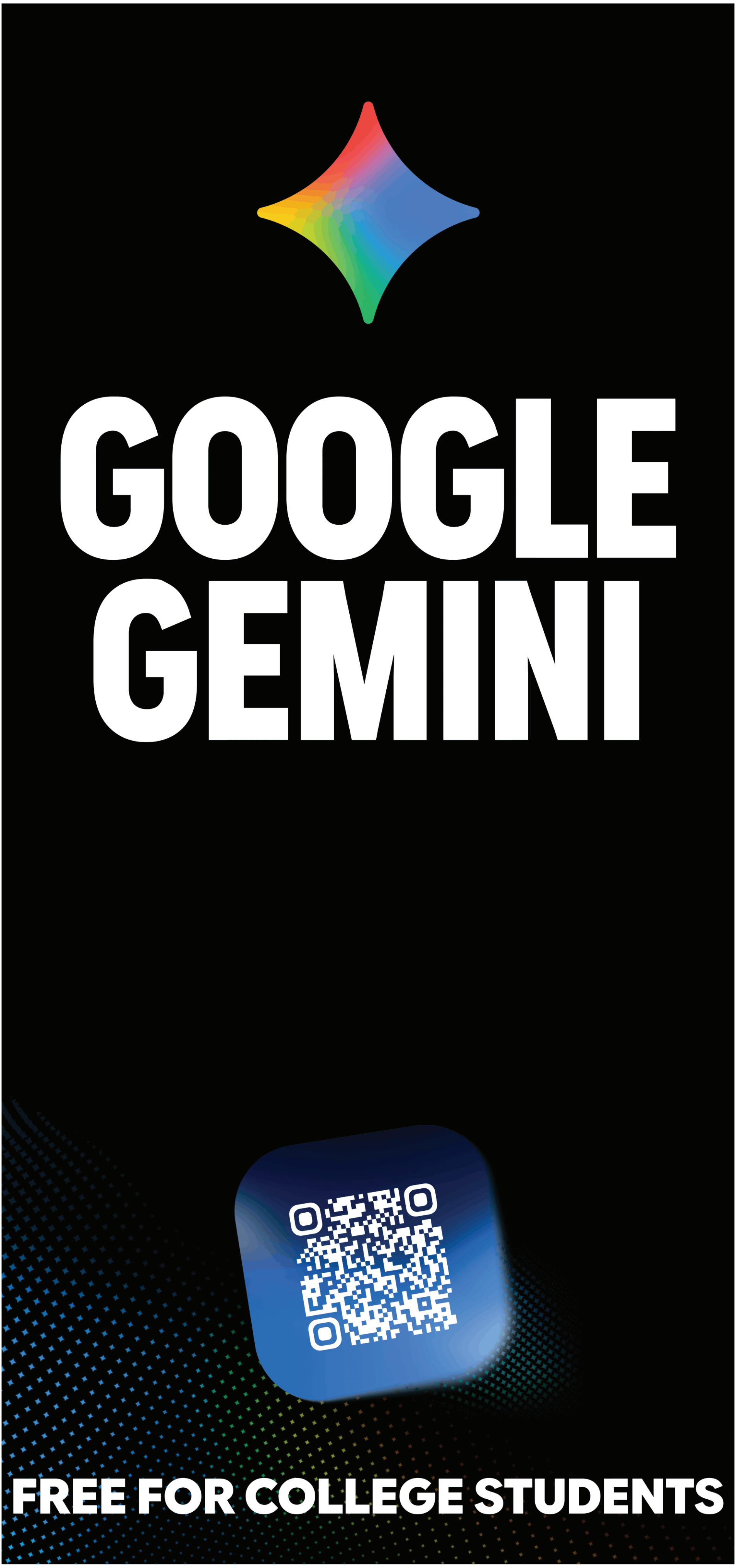


Across

1. Latter half of Taylor Swift's newest single or first patient infected during an outbreak
2. Pop icon who won Artist of the Year at the VMAs
3. _____ Dan
4. UC Santa Barbara's 46th Annual Extravaganza headliner
5. Love Island's hurricane

Down

6. Film starring Batman and boygenius bandmate
7. The latter half of 6's lead single for her new album or Peter Pan's crew
8. Name of Olivia Rodrigo's tour that began in Hartford, Connecticut
9. Tucker Pillsbury's newest alter ego or the name of a popular Converse shoe


GOOGLE
GEMINI
FREE FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS