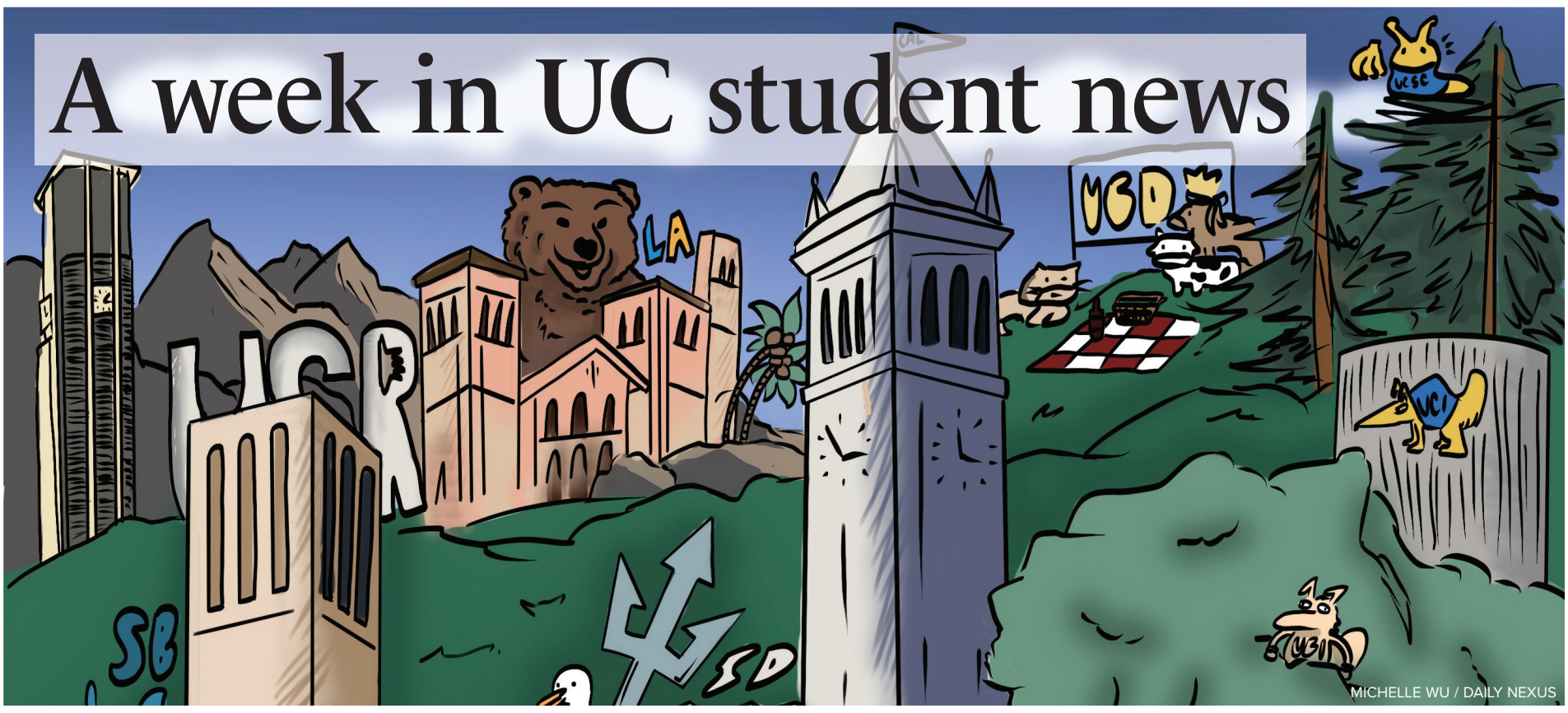
DAILY NEXUS

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A week in UC student news



Wynne Bendell
Lead News Editor

UC Berkeley sued for not disclosing existence of Law Students for Justice in Palestine records

Former UC Berkeley affiliate Robbie Powelson filed a lawsuit against UC Berkeley after he filed a public records request from the University and allegedly did not receive confirmation of the records' existence.

Powelson filed the request in September for records pertaining to UC Berkeley School of Law's policies that restricted the actions of Law Students for Justice in Palestine (LSJP). Berkeley Law prohibited LSJP from tabling at a Berkeley Law event and from co-sponsoring another event because of the group's bylaws that ban Zionist speakers.

Since Berkeley's alleged antisemitism settlement with the Brandeis Center, Berkeley Law created a policy that barred registered student organizations from having bylaws restricting event speakers. Consequently, Berkeley Law has designated LSJP as an informal student group (ISG) — groups which are not allowed to co-sponsor Berkeley Law events.

However, Berkeley allows a third type of group, non-Berkeley groups, to co-sponsor events. Powelson alleges that there is no clear distinction between ISGs and non-Berkeley groups. This led Powelson to file a public records request for Berkeley Law's new student organization policies and communications related to LSJP and the Brandeis Center settlement.

According to the California Public Records Act, agencies have 10 days from the request date to determine if the records exist and notify the requesting party of their existence. Berkeley's public records office told Powelson that his request "likely does seek disclosable records," which Powelson alleges violated the 10-day window of response because it was not explicitly stated that the records exist.

Former UC Davis equestrian team members file sex-based discrimination lawsuit against the University

19 former UC Davis equestrian team members have filed a lawsuit against the University over allegedly depriving its female athletes of financial aid to which the funds were used to give additional aid to male athletes.

The former members allege UCD has violated Title IX and calls on the University to pay $1.4 million in financial damages for alleged misappropriation of funds from 2023 to 2025. The lawsuit claims that the University has not paid its female athletes equal athletic financial aid since the 2017-18 academic year.

UCD has denied any wrongdoing and stated that it believes it is in compliance with Title IX.

Earlier this year, UCD demoted the NCAA Division I Women's Equestrian program to a campus club sport, citing financial concerns. This decision came after the team won every conference meet of their 2025-26 season and secured their third Eastern College Athletic Conference Championship title.

UCD Athletics used a private consulting group to conduct an independent external assessment of its finances. A Title IX analysis of the consulting report showed a discrepancy in financial aid between men and women, which prompted the lawsuit.

UC scientists win Ernest Orlando Lawrence Awards from the Department of Energy

The Department of Energy (DOE) has awarded the Ernest Orlando Lawrence Award to three UC national laboratory scientists and two former postdoctoral fellows for their research contributions to the DOE missions in science, energy and national security.

The Lawrence Award, created in 1959, honors mid-career scientists and engineers whose research has supported the DOE's mission to advance the national, economic and energy security of the U.S.

Patrick Chain of the Los Alamos National Laboratory and New Mexico Consortium was awarded for his "pioneering work in genomics and microbiome science, including discoveries of new bacterial-fungal interactions and revolutionizing the field by democratizing access to advanced bioinformatics tools."

"His research helps build the scientific foundation we need to anticipate and respond to emerging threats to health, energy and economic security," Laboratory Deputy Director Patrick Fitch said.

Samuel Williams of the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory was honored for performance modeling, hardware/software design optimization and novel computer architecture for high-performance computing. Andrea Kritcher of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory was awarded for the first ever achievement of fusion ignition in the laboratory.

Lijuan Ruan of the Brookhaven National Laboratory was awarded for her leadership in the design, construction and operation of the new detector systems in the S.T.A.R. experiment. Lastly, Eric Schelter was honored for his "fundamental chemical studies of energy-critical metals leading to new methods for their selective and sustainable separations."

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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.

Full house of horrors: Poker Club hosts Halloween-themed tournament

Lillian Buffalo
Reporter

The Poker Club hosted a Halloween-themed poker tournament on Oct. 25, in the Student Resource Building where 65 students played poker with a spooky twist.

The Poker Club hosts tournaments periodically throughout the year, and this quarter's tournament is uniquely Halloween themed.

To enter the raffle to win T-shirts, stickers and other prizes, players were asked to wear Halloween costumes. Although not many players dressed up, the club leaders had strategic tactics regarding their costume choices.

Poker Club Vice President and fourth-year physics major Gregory Wade said that he thought his costume was definitely going to help his poker game. Wade wore a "Swedish guy" costume and shared the strategic reasoning behind each aspect of his look.

"The hat is going to keep me focused because it will restrict my peripheral vision and keep me locked in on the game," Wade said.

He also explained that the costume would help with his poker face and throw the other players off.

Poker Club President and third-year computer engineering major Kaden Warner went to the tournament in costume as well, thinking that his costume would help him win.



LILLIAN BUFFALO / DAILY NEXUS

Because the Poker Club is relatively low stakes as it does not involve gambling money, it is hosted to connect people and have a good time.

"People often take [poker] way too seriously, and when they play too seriously they end up making mistakes," Warner said. "Being a little lighthearted and understanding that anything can happen makes it a little better."

Because the Poker Club is relatively low stakes as it does not involve gambling money, it is hosted to connect people and have a good time. Many of the club members shared that they keep coming back because they love the game, the social aspect and the friendships that it brings.

Club member and fourth-year computer science major Sterling Hsu shared that he started playing poker during a summer internship.

"All of the interns would get together in one of the hotel rooms to play, and I got bit by the poker bug ever since," Hsu said.

Eric Stori, a third-year philosophy major and a Poker Club first-timer, said that he usually plays pretty casually and was excited to start playing there because of how welcoming and fun it seemed.

"I want to get better at poker and really hone my skills, but I also really enjoy playing the game," Stori said. "It's really fun and can get pretty tense sometimes, but I like that."

As a science, technology, engineering and math major, Warner shared that the game has helped him get better at data analysis and statistics. In addition, Warner also described how poker has changed his outlook on life in a productive way.

"It helps you not overvalue what you have. Just in daily life, you can feel like you're in a better position than you are, so being able to let go of your losses and go forward is a really good skill to have," Warner said.

Many attendees at the tournament had a connection to how they started playing poker. Whether they were taught by family members when they were young, a friend in high school or a group of coworkers, the common denominator was community.

"I don't think there's any game as social. It gives people an excuse to sit down and play together," Warner said.

An update on Sable Offshore developments

Wynne Bendell
Lead News Editor

In March, the Texas-based oil and gas company Sable Offshore restarted oil production from the Santa Ynez Unit after 11 years of inactivity, following a 2015 rupture that spilled over 100,000 gallons of crude oil near Refugio Beach.

The restart was prompted by Secretary of Energy Chris Wright's statement of approval following President Donald Trump's March 13 executive order that invoked the Defense Production Act because of the war with Iran.

Despite the restart being in violation of an injunction placed on Sable prohibiting the restart of the specific or same oil pipeline, a federal judge ruled this summer it can continue operations.

Federal judge rules Sable Offshore can continue pipeline operations

After months of opposition from local environmental groups, state judges and regulators, federal Judge Stephen Wilson ruled that the Sable pipelines can continue operations and shifted oversight to federal authorities.

As a federal judge, Wilson's order "pre-empt[s] the enforcement of any state law that conflicts with Sable's ability to operate the onshore pipeline." The ruling takes oversight of the consent decree from California's Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's Office of the State Fire Marshal to the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) — a federal agency part of the Department of Transportation. The state agency, PHMSA, will no longer have veto power over the pipeline's operations.

Additionally, Wilson fined Sable $1.5 million for violating the original consent decree without authorization from a state agency to restart the pipeline.

Trump threatens to seize California coastal protections unless state adheres to list of demands

In a document obtained through a public records request by the Los Angeles Times, the Trump administration said it would remove California's authority to protect its coastline unless state regulators agreed to over a dozen "corrective actions" that would benefit close allies of the White House.

The obtained document is a draft of a federal review by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Office for Coastal Management which cites "a pattern of jurisdictional and regulatory overreach" regarding California coastal authorities. The review also states that the coastal authorities displayed "unjustified hostility and political bias against offshore drilling opportunities, oil and gas projects broadly, and SpaceX's launch activities."

According to the LA Times, the review states that future federal funding for the state's coastal management program has been suspended "unless and until the identified deficiencies are satisfactorily addressed."

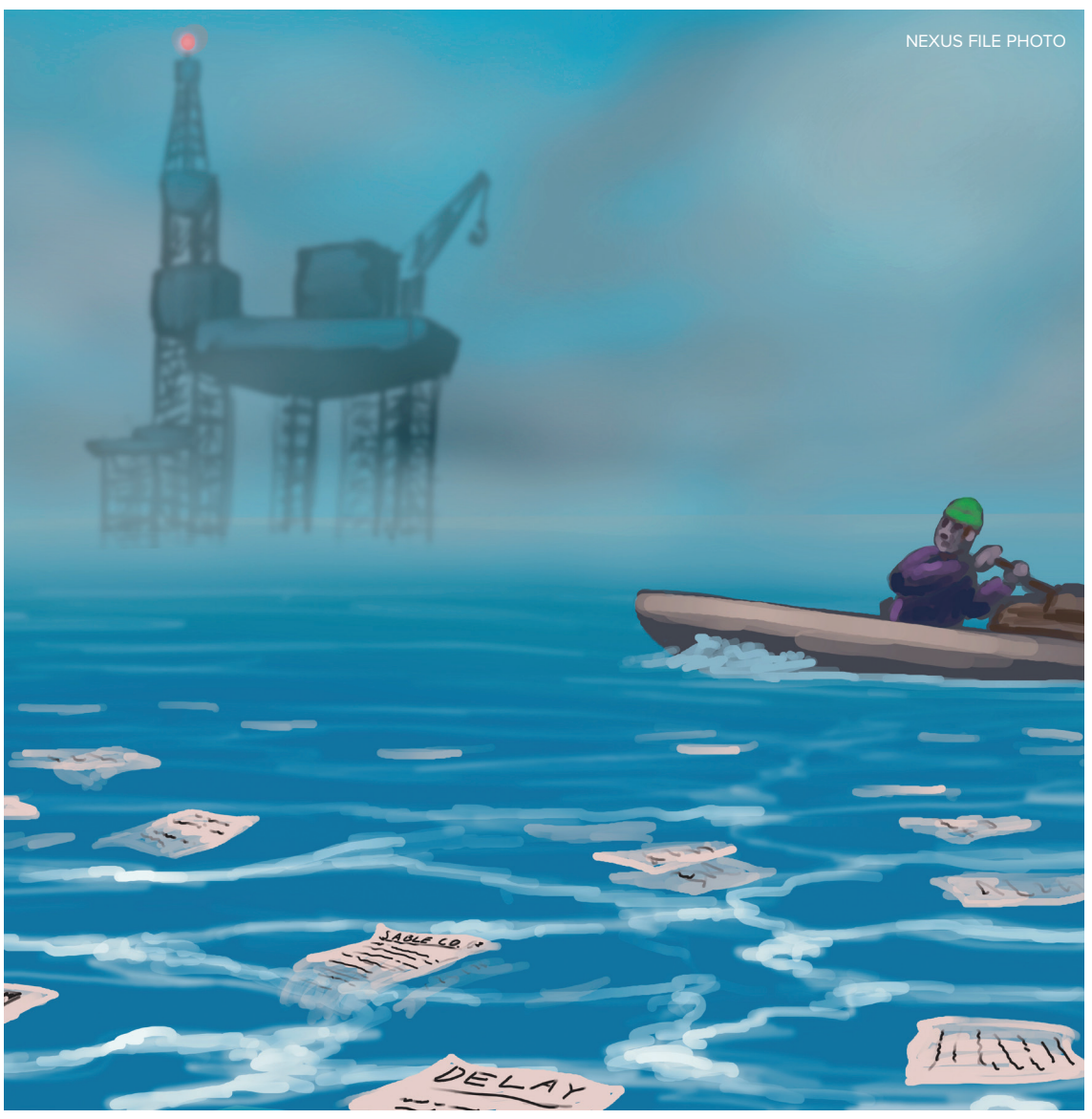
It directs coastal authorities to discuss "any outstanding concerns about regulatory burden and overreach" with Sable. Additionally, the state's leading coastal agency must issue a statement by January pledging that California "will not categorically oppose initiatives led by certain entities, or relating to certain industries, such as oil and gas, or involving certain activities, such as offshore drilling."

Sable Offshore digs up 12 sites to check for pipeline corrosion

Sable's attorneys have notified county officials that they need county clearance to dig up 12 lengths of pipeline to determine levels of corrosion. If these 12 sites show 40% or more corrosion into the wall of the steel pipeline, the company is required to repair the damage.

PHMSA requires that Sable conducts two corrosion inspections over 200 miles of pipeline twice a year for the first two years of operation, after which only one yearly test will be required.

An inspection revealed possible erosion in 12 lengths of pipeline where Sable has begun "validation digs" since Sept. 8, despite not yet receiving clearance by the county. Sable informed the county that the current validation sites are not located in the same locations that were repaired in 2017.



NEXUS FILE PHOTO

Despite the restart violating an injunction prohibiting the use of the same oil pipeline, a federal judge ruled Sable can continue operations.



Measure E2026 proposes utility tax increase

Wynne Bendell
Lead News Editor

Measure E2026 is a proposed utility tax increase for Isla Vista residents that will be on the primary election ballot on Nov. 3. The measure proposes a tax increase of 7% on methane and 6% on trash, sewage, water and electric.

The I.V. Community Services District (IVCSD) proposed the measure in order to generate approximately $1.2 million in annual revenue to fund improvements to housing services, community-based public safety and transportation, among other community-based initiatives.

Measure E would add onto the already existing 8% tax on gas, water, electricity, sewage and garbage disposal service created by Measure R-2018, which would raise the total tax on water, electric, sewage and trash to 14% and 15% for methane. This tax is significantly higher than the typical utility tax rate — Santa Barbara has a utility tax rate of 6%.

IVCSD Director Spencer Brandt said Measure E is "about the future of Isla Vista" as it will help fund local resources and contribute to the fight for cityhood. The Local Agency Formation Commission is currently conducting a comprehensive fiscal analysis of I.V. to determine if it is financially viable to become a city. According to Brandt, the last analysis from 2015 found that a hypothetical city of I.V. would have a $3 million deficit.

"We have seen, as a community, over the past year that our voices have not always been taken seriously. I talk to students [and] long-term residents, that both feel the same way, and Measure E is about providing the locally-controlled revenue for us to enact more local control," Brandt said.

IVCSD estimates that if the measure passes, it will amount to around a $5 per person per month increase. Brandt believes the collective contribution of the tax increase will help address issues impacting most residents.

"Cityhood will allow us to address the housing affordability crisis," Brandt said. "We have no mechanism to be able to affect things like the price of housing and to be able to address the ways that landlords are price gouging students and non-students to renters like myself."

Brandt believes that I.V. cityhood is a necessity and that "Isla Vista is at best an afterthought to the powers that be."

"We're not in a situation where the status quo is working, and so we need to try something else," Brandt said. "And that means empowering the people that actually live here to be the ones to make the decisions under the county's political structure."

Brandt said that Measure E would help permanently fund community-based safety programs like the Guardian Team — a harm reduction-oriented security resource — to address issues like violent crime, rather than minor crimes.

> **"We need our public safety officers focused on the things that matter."**
> SPENCER BRANDT

"We need our public safety officers, our law enforcement officers, focused on the things that matter: addressing sexual violence [and] addressing violent crime," Brandt said. "Right now, under the status quo, there's a lot of focus on tickets for minor crimes, things like open containers."

IVCSD will also use Measure E revenue to expand local public transportation access to I.V. residents. Brandt proposed the possibility of subsidizing train tickets.

Brandt said that if Measure E doesn't pass, I.V.'s public safety efforts and resources could be at risk.

"If we pass Measure E, we'll have the funding to be able to really take bold action on the things that people care about, like housing affordability, better models of public safety, more local control," Brandt said. "If we don't pass Measure E, then a lot of these efforts and a lot of the services are at risk in the future."

IV primary election voter guide

Elle West
Staff Writer

The 2026 midterm elections will take place on Tuesday, Nov. 3. Ballots include a variety of local, statewide and national elections, including contentious California propositions such as Proposition 40, known as the "billionaire's tax."

Local Isla Vista ballot measures:

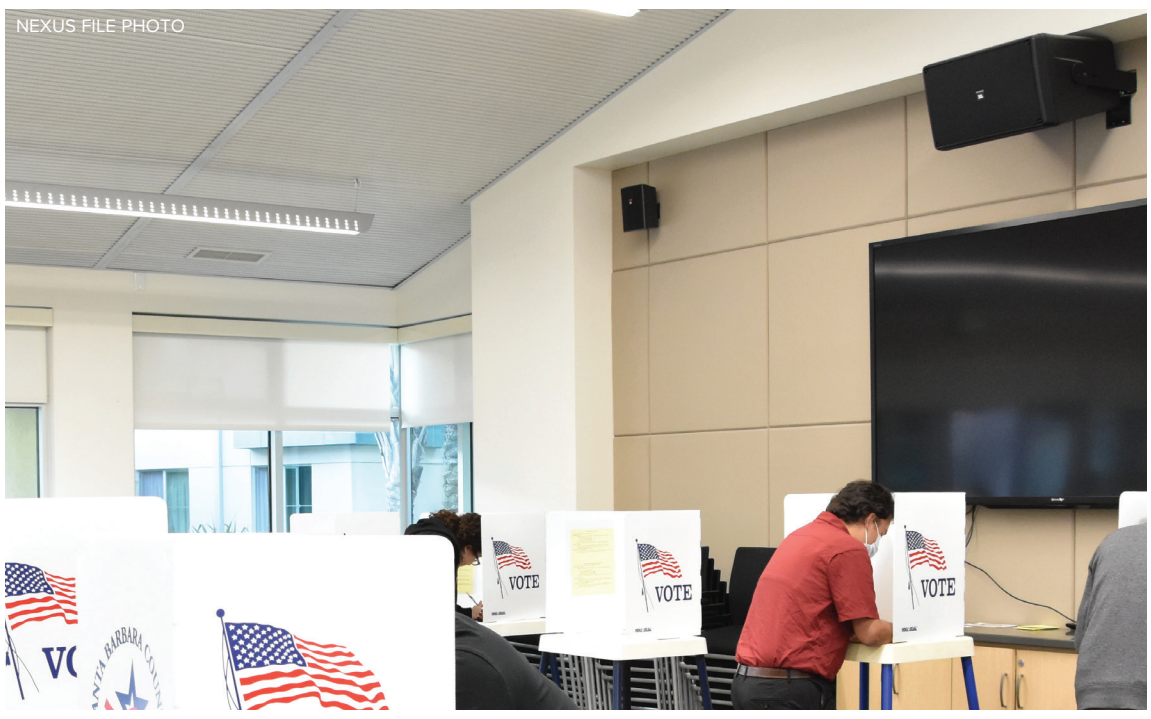
Measure E2026 would increase Isla Vista residents' taxes by 6% for utility usage on trash, sewage, water and electricity and 7% on methane. According to the measure, it is estimated to generate an additional $1.2 million annually and would fund local improvements, including community-based public safety transportation, parking and public transit.

Measure F2026 would establish an appropriations limit, the amount of tax revenue state and local governments can collect each year. In I.V., it would set a limit of $3.5 million per fiscal year.

California governor candidates

The Democratic candidate — Xavier Becerra — has served on the California State Assembly and the United States House of Representatives, as well as attorney general of California and the U.S. secretary of health and human services. Becerra's platform highlights strengthening state-sponsored healthcare benefit programs, transitioning California to greener energy goals and opposing the Trump administration. He is backed by Kamala Harris, Gavin Newsom, Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California and the California Teachers Association.

The Republican candidate — Steve Hilton — is originally from the United Kingdom and moved to Silicon Valley in 2012. He is an active political commentator, appearing on platforms such as Fox News. His platform includes cutting state income taxes, capping vehicle registration costs and lowering gas prices to $3 per gallon. Hilton is endorsed by President Donald Trump and the California Republican Party.


NEXUS FILE PHOTO

Measure F2026 would establish an appropriations limit, the amount of tax revenue state and local governments can collect each year.

California propositions

Proposition 1 would allow the state of California to sell bonds amounting in $11.25 billion to fund affordable housing efforts, such as veteran housing, tribal housing and affordable student housing. It is supported by Governor Gavin Newsom and the California Democratic Party.

Proposition 2 would increase California's "rainy day fund" from the current 10% of tax revenue threshold to 20%. The "rainy day fund" budget stabilization account is a reserve that is set aside for emergencies, such as financial recessions and climate emergencies. It is supported by the California Democratic Party and opposed by legislative Republicans.

Proposition 3 would make an income tax rate on higher earners permanent. Originally established by voters in 2012 and set to expire in 2031, it taxes earners who make over $360,000 a year. The revenue generated from the tax goes mainly to public education. Prop 3 is supported by California State Parent Teacher Association and Planned Parenthood. It is opposed by organizations such as the California Taxpayers Association.

Proposition 4 would allow state and local governments to publicly fund campaigns. In 1988, California voters approved Proposition 73, which banned the use of public funds for campaign financing. Prop 4 would effectively overturn Prop 73. Prop 4 is supported by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Southern California and the California Democratic Party, and is opposed by the California Taxpayers Association.

Proposition 5 would delay replacing recalled state officials. When an elected official is recalled, current state laws require an immediate election to replace them, but Prop 5 would leave the office vacant. Instead of one singular recall election, it would create two separate elections. Additionally, it would modify the law to allow the recalled officer to re-run for the office.

Proposition 37 would create a second mortgage homebuyer program, spending up to $25 billion in bonds to help middle-income citizens be able to afford down payments on homes. Gubernatorial candidate Becerra supports Prop 37, while Reform California opposes it.

Proposition 38 would authorize $8.4 billion in general obligation bonds to research immunotherapy and immunology. 50% would go to select public universities and nonprofits, and the other 50% would go to a research organization affiliated with the University of California. Supporters, including the California Democratic Party, argue that this proposition would fill the gap in funding lost with Trump's "Big Beautiful Bill." The League of Women Voters opposes Prop 38.

Proposition 39 regards a highly controversial "voter ID law," which would require voters to show government-issued identification when voting. Currently, 36 states require an ID when voting, but California does not. Proponents of voter ID requirements often cite concerns regarding potential voter fraud, while critics often express concerns that the laws are based in racial discrimination. The Latino American Political Association supports Prop 39, while the ACLU of California opposes it.

Often labeled a "billionaire tax," Proposition 40 imposes a one-time 5% tax on individuals with assets over $1 billion who were California residents as of Jan. 1, 2026. It is meant to address the loss of funding California has experienced as a result of Trump's "Big Beautiful Bill." The proposition is supported by Senator Bernie Sanders, Representative Ro Khanna and California Democratic Socialists of America.

Proposition 41 would effectively make Prop 40 null by requiring the California State Auditor to review tax proposals. It would require new tax proposals to stay under California's spending limit. Building a Better California, a billionaire-sponsored political action committee, is a large supporter of the proposition.

Proposition 42 would reverse Prop 40 by prohibiting new taxes on assets and personal property and is backed by Building a Better California.

Proposition 43 is requiring two-thirds voter approval, as opposed to 50%, to approve special taxes. This would make it significantly harder for the states to impose increased taxes.

Proposition 44 would require health centers for low-income patients to spend at least 90% of their revenue on advancing patient health care. The California Democratic Party opposes Prop 44, while Service Employees International Union-United Healthcare Workers West supports it.

Proposition 45 would set deadlines and limit the amount of time agencies can take to review environmental impacts. The proposition highlights tension between pro-development groups and environmental advocacy groups. In 1970, California passed the California Environmental Quality Act, requiring public agencies to disclose and avoid any possible environmental harm when building and developing. Pro-development groups argue that this process of approval slows down housing and building efforts. Opponents of Prop 45 include environmental advocates such as the ACLU of Southern California and the California Democratic Party. Those who support it include the California Republican Party and the California Chamber of Commerce.



Senate endorses Measure E2026 on IV primary ballot



SHENGYU ZHANG / DAILY NEXUS

IVCSD Director Spencer Brandt and President Katherine Carmichael attended public forum to convince the Senate to pass its resolution endorsing Measure E2026.

Elijah Obando
University News Editor

The Associated Students 77th Senate passed a resolution endorsing Measure E2026 — a utility tax increase on Isla Vista residents — at its Oct. 21 meeting.

Measure E2026 is a proposed tax on the I.V. ballot that would increase the utility tax for residents by 6% on trash water, electricity and sewer and 7% on natural gas. According to the sample ballot, Measure E2026 is projected to generate $1.2 million in annual revenue for the I.V. Community Services District (IVCSD), which will fund local improvements and services.

Adding to the existing Measure R2018, an 8% tax that was passed in 2018, utility taxes would be at a combined rate of 14% on trash, water, electricity and sewer and 15% on natural gas.

Public Forum

IVCSD Director Spencer Brandt and President Katherine Carmichael attended public forum to convince the Senate to pass its resolution endorsing Measure E2026. The resolution was proposed at the last Senate meeting and was referred to the Advocacy Committee for further deliberation.

Brandt explained that the measure will provide a source of local revenue that I.V. needs to become a city. Throughout the last 50 years, I.V. has been unable to reach this status in part due to insufficient tax revenue associated with cityhood.

"Measure E is really all about the future of Isla Vista," Brandt said. "It's really time for the new generation to decide."

In 2016, approximately 87% of I.V. residents voted yes on Measure E2016, which established IVCSD — creating a form of local government for the unincorporated area. However, without cityhood recognition, Santa Barbara County still holds much of the authority for regulations in I.V.

"In order for us as a community to take the steps that we need to form our own city of Isla Vista, we need to have locally controlled revenue that will allow us to even start the application process," Brandt said.

Brandt estimates that, if Measure E2026 passes, utility bills would increase around $5 per person per month based on a per capita estimate of the tax's revenue. However, the average amount residents would pay varies greatly depending on utility usage.

Senator and third-year computer science and sociology double major Kyara Vivanco Cortes raised concerns over the financial burden the tax could place on low-income residents.

In response, Brandt highlighted existing utility assistance programs, such as the California Alternate Rates for Energy and Family Electric Rate Assistance, that could reduce some of the burden for eligible households.

"One of the biggest things that we can work together on is the promotion of the existing programs which are super underutilized," Brandt said.

Brandt argued that the tax is a "small price to pay" in order to potentially create more savings in the long term for renters; I.V. cityhood could potentially allow the community to pursue policies such as rent stabilization.

Carmichael echoed Brandt's concerns about rent affordability, explaining that she experienced annual rent increases as a graduate student and renter in I.V. She argued that the measure could ultimately help lower the cost of living by giving residents more control over local policy.

Second-year chemistry major Avery Berger emphasized that current residents should consider the benefits the tax could provide for future renters, even if they do not witness those benefits directly during their time in I.V.

"I feel like we should feel a certain level of responsibility to later generations of Isla Vistans that are going to come and certainly see the benefits of that decreased cost of living," Berger said.

Senator Reports

During senator reports, Cortes presented the results of a survey the Associated Students (A.S.) Outreach Committee conducted to gauge students' opinions on Measure E2026.

According to Cortes, of the 159 responses collected, 44% indicated they would vote against the measure, 31% indicated they would vote in favor while 25% remained undecided.

However, Senator and second-year physics major Alec GeoSimonian raised concerns about the statistical validity of the survey. He questioned the survey's distribution and wording and highlighted that respondents could submit the survey multiple times.

Aside from students, the survey was also accessible to local business owners and employees, which GeoSimonian described as "a little bit counterproductive." He explained that businesses have their own avenues to express their position, whereas A.S. should be exclusively representing the voices of students.

GeoSimonian also disagreed with the survey not including anything about cityhood or what IVCSD stated it plans to use the tax revenue for.

"Personally, if I saw that poll, and I saw nothing about specifically what IVCSD wants to use the money towards, and it just said it's a utility tax increase and it could go towards public services, I would be skeptical too," GeoSimonian said.

Cortes clarified that she and the Outreach Committee were "very against" including the cityhood aspect because it was "speculative." She said that it isn't certain whether Measure E2026 could definitely lead to cityhood.

Additionally, Cortes explained that the survey needed to be kept anonymous, and limitations on the survey's distribution channel, Qualtrics, were why they weren't able verify if individuals responded more than once. She attributed the survey's shortcomings partly to time constraints and expressed willingness to work with other senators to conduct another before the election.

Passed Legislation

Senators debated whether to proceed with the endorsement of Measure E2026 or postpone the decision to allow for another survey.

GeoSimonian argued that there was already sufficient reason to support the measure without the need for another survey. He highlighted the supporters of the measure that spoke during public forum and the larger attention the Senate's endorsement could bring to the issue.

Senator and fourth-year statistics and data science major Atticus Gonzalez raised concern that the endorsement may encourage students to vote on the measure without properly informing themselves.

"I see this [endorsement] incentivizing people to just listen to what other people say instead of people doing the actual research for themselves," Gonzalez said.

After further back and forth, the Senate ultimately passed the resolution with 12 senators in favor, three opposed and four abstaining.

The Senate also passed a resolution establishing a temporary committee on enterprise units. The committee will examine existing A.S. operations that generate revenue and explore additional student services that could provide funding for the association.

Additionally, the Senate passed a bill amending Articles I-XIX in the A.S. legal code and a bill updating the hiring process of department chairs.

Gaucho Gaming hosts annual Game-A-Thon

Dylan Vo
Staff Writer

UC Santa Barbara's Gaucho Gaming hosted its annual "Game-A-Thon" on Oct. 25 at the Corwin Pavilion, with over 230 people in attendance. This Halloween-themed event featured tournaments, giveaways, free play, board games, card games and club collaborations.

The Game-A-Thon ran from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., and since it was less than a week away from Halloween, attendees were encouraged to wear costumes. The event consisted of a variety of activities such as gaming tournaments, livestreaming, board games and card games.

The live tournaments received the greatest amount of focus, with a League of Legends tournament live-streamed on the Gaucho Gaming Twitch. Gaming clubs like Smash Club and Marginalized Genders in Gaming at UCSB also hosted their own individual live gaming tournaments.

There were also video game booths featuring Super Smash Bros. and Mario Kart, as well as card games like Magic: The Gathering and Here to Slay.

Clubs that tabled during the event included Gaucho Graphics, PR-LO Animations and Hyde Hermit Studio. According to Gaucho Gaming Co-President and fourth-year statistics and data science major Sophie Tang, artists who tabled were not charged any fees in order to highlight smaller artists. Free Woodstock's Pizza was distributed to attendees throughout the event.



DYLAN VO / DAILY NEXUS

The live tournaments received the greatest amount of focus, with a League of Legends tournament live-streamed on the Gaucho Gaming Twitch.

The event aimed to bring together members of the gaming community with their tournaments, giveaways and livestreams. Equipment such as monitors and PCs were donated not only by Gaucho Gaming staff, but also by anyone interested in donating through their Google form. Associated Students Finance Committee also funded the reservation and food for the Game-A-Thon.

Many gaming equipment items, such as power supply units, mouse pads, gaming mice, headsets, microphones and Amazon gift cards, were given away through both raffles and tournament prizes.

Gaucho Gaming Visual Media Officer and second-year art major Joseph Lopez was in charge of creating graphics and flyers for the event and carrying equipment into the Corwin Pavilion.

Lopez enjoyed the safe space Gaucho Gaming has created for people with an interest in video games.

"The nature of our club is to kind of bring people together who have a passion for video games. And I guess the culmination is this event. It's a hub where we can have people who share similar interests talk to each other and share their passion," Lopez said.

Tang enjoyed the exposure the event brought to smaller artists that tabled during the event as well as the community-building aspect that came with it.

"I think it's a good way to highlight smaller clubs and smaller artists in our community. And it's a nice way to bring everyone together to have fun without having an entry fee of any sort," Tang said.

Fourth-year communication major Collin McCoy's favorite part of the Game-A-Thon was how it can provide a relaxing, entertaining environment during stressful times.

"You don't have to worry about studying and stuff; you can just focus on playing games," McCoy said.

El Centro volunteer denied reinstatement, University clashes with student advocacy

Julia Sanabria
Community Outreach Editor

The El Centro expansion committee was recently met with a hindrance when longtime UC Santa Barbara affiliate Marisela Marquez was denied official volunteer status to continue her position as co-chair of the El Centro expansion committee.

According to Ralph Armbruster-Sandoval, a UCSB Chicana/o Studies Department chair and professor, Marquez, in one way or another, has been a member of the UCSB community for 40 years. She arrived on campus in 1985 as a graduate student and earned her doctorate in political science. Following this, she taught in a few different states before returning back to Santa Barbara.

She was away from Santa Barbara for three years total before returning as a lecturer in political science, Chicano/a studies and sociology. Marquez was also the executive director of the UCSB Associated Students (A.S.) for 18 years. Additionally, she worked in the UCSB Academic Senate and worked extensively on the academic personnel manual — the rule book for faculty at UCSB.

Marquez was also involved in the UC Student Association, was one of the chief negotiators in the 1994 hunger strike and was at the center of the building of the A.S. Bike Shop. According to Armbruster-Sandoval, Marquez was there from start to finish and "was really critical in bringing that project home."

Marquez was never employed by El Centro, but rather students and former Chancellor Henry Yang selected three people to co-chair the expansion committee: Armbruster-Sandoval, Marquez and Victor Rios — another UCSB professor in the Department of Sociology.

Marquez retired in Summer of 2025 but intended to continue working as co-chair of the expansion committee. With the help of Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) Director Aaron Jones, Marquez completed the paperwork and was granted volunteer status for the full year.

Marquez said that, because Rios left the committee and Armbruster-Sandoval "was in the middle of a lot of things," she wanted to be able to support Armbruster-Sandoval, the community and the students by continuing on the committee as a volunteer.

Jones said that the initial volunteer paperwork, before the July 31 change, was "almost a simple waiver of liability" that included guidelines like committing to honor the tenets and principles of the University and a start and stop date.

Before the current school year started, the UC system and UCSB adopted a system-wide policy regarding volunteers. This change required Marquez to reapply, and she was subsequently denied the volunteer status.

Jones speculates that this may have been the result of a UC system-wide policy change relating to negotiations with labor unions representing university staff.

"I'm told it's as a result of something that happened at another campus [that] made the University look at a volunteer aspect of working and supporting the University," Jones said. "This is speculation, it may also have to do with negotiations between the University and the labor unions because one of the things that came out in the new policy is that volunteers are not supposed to be able to do work that a career staff person would be doing."

According to El Congreso Co-Chairs Damien Pereida, a second-year Chicana and Chicano studies major and Jasmina Patchell, a fourth-year English major, as well as Jones, there were two guidelines Marquez did not comply with.

As seen on UCSB's Human Resources website, volunteers on campus cannot "perform services that are the same as those performed by any employee of the University." Additionally, former employees are not permitted to "perform services in connection with or related to their former regular duties or duties of other university employees" as a volunteer.

Jones highlighted that these new policy shifts created a question about Marquez's involvement on campus. There has been back and forth between the administration and El Congreso surrounding this question of interpretation.

Pereida and Patchell described feeling "targeted" due to these recent developments. Pereida brought up Jack Rivas, a former UCSB Letters & Science advisor who was recently ousted as a EOP volunteer.

"He's been a volunteer for about more than 5 years now. And he's been on campus as a worker for like 30 years. He graduated from here, his kids graduated from here," Pereida said. "I think it's crazy that it's only Jack and Marisela that we've heard that have been dropped. I'm not sure if there's more, but it does feel targeted. These are two people of color, they are two people helping in spaces which students really need and spaces the administration might not agree with. To us, it just feels really targeting."

Patchell agrees with Pereida and said that the outlined guidelines barring Marquez "feel very much subjective."

"Especially because not only are these two people very involved with the community, but these are two people who have been very outspoken about admin's shortcomings. They have held admin accountable, they have called them out when they're not doing what they're supposed to do and so, yeah, it kind of feels like a convenient way to institutionally push them out. Even though the regulations are there, but again, they feel very subjective," Patchell said.

Jones mentioned that Rivas was fulfilling needs for the department in lieu of staff shortages. He also revealed that Rivas was one of UCSB's first EOP undergraduate students, so he has had a "long history" with the department.

Patchell magnified that the third co-chair of El Centro, Rios, dropped the responsibility a few years ago and since then no one has stepped up to the role. Therefore, the students are confused on who Marquez is displacing — Pereida claimed that "they're displacing her."

Pereida and Patchell mentioned that they have been experiencing friction with Interim Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Michael Miller for the last few months. Over the summer, Miller wanted to "sunset" the expansion committee for El Centro as a whole and just keep the building committee for the project.

"The expansion committee and the building committee have very different functions: The building committee is dealing with the more institutional side of it, the nitty-gritty paperwork bureaucratic stuff that is not quite as fun, while the expansion committee is more boots on the ground, getting student input, hearing what the people want and outreach into the community, fundraising, that sort of thing," Patchell said.

Patchell went on to name one of her biggest criticisms toward the situation being how the administrators, such as Miller, were handling the implementation of the new regulation at UCSB.

"I think just the lack of, if it truly is out of their hands and there truly is nothing that they can do to reinstate her, just the lack of trying. The lack of expressing that gratitude for all that she has done, whether it is calling them [the admin] out or not she is a pivotal figure on this campus and she has been and she will be even if she's not a volunteer, but just like that lack of trying, like trying to find another way [for her] to be involved," Patchell said.

Pereida and Patchell planned to go to Miller's office hours to deliver a petition they had circulated with over 150 signatures to show the "importance" of Marquez to the community.

On Oct. 15, four El Congreso students, Pereida, Patchell, third-year history of policy, law and governance major Meadows Stevens and third-year financial mathematics and statistics major Erika Cerna Martinez met with Miller and his executive assistant Maya Moore to discuss their concerns.

After the meeting concluded, Miller sent an email to Pereida accusing him of making "threats" to his office and subsequently impacting those in attendance, making them scared for their safety.

"I wanted to follow up on something that concerned me as we concluded our conversation. Although we had already committed to meeting again, you stated that 'there will be consequences if we don't meet again.' When I asked for clarification, you repeated that 'there will be consequences,'" Miller wrote. "Advocacy and accountability are important parts of our campus community. However, intimidation, whether intended or perceived, is not an appropriate way to engage with others. We all share a responsibility to communicate in ways that allow for honest disagreement while maintaining mutual respect."



SHENGYU ZHANG / DAILY NEXUS

El Centro students navigate losing chief resource — former El Centro expansion committee co-chair Marisela Marquez.

The four students in attendance refute this claim and posted a rebuttal on El Congreso's Instagram page.

"El Congreso Co-Chair, Damien Pereida, concluded this meeting by stating: If this [demand] isn't met, we will take the necessary actions to ensure Marisela's continued involvement within the campus community. This, as it is written, is the exact quote used in the meeting, and all four members of El Congreso present confirm this account. It is also the message El Congreso collectively planned to deliver. Damien spoke on behalf of the whole organization, and nothing about it was improvised or personal to him," the statement read.

The statement continues.

"To be clear, 'taking action' is standard language used in activism and organizing. It is not a threat of violence — it is a promise that we will keep advocating as we always have: through petitions, public pressure, and channels available to students ... Nothing about our approach was hostile. Indeed, we had just celebrated El Centro's renovations two weeks earlier alongside more than 200 students, and we were already working with Interim Vice Chancellor Miller on the El Centro Building Committee. We arrived with a request, not a threat."

In addition to the email from Miller, Pereida woke up to a text message from the Promise Scholars Program Director Holly Roose condemning him for his alleged actions in the meeting.

"You threatened the Vice Chancellor's life and scared the entire office staff???? Wtf is wrong with you? Do you realize Mike Miller is the only reason you and I and the whole Promise Program exists?" Roose wrote in a text message to Pereida, which was screenshotted and posted on El Congresso's Instagram.

Both Miller and Roose never explicitly denied an interview with the Daily Nexus — Roose did not respond to the Daily Nexus' request for comment at all and after multiple requests for an interview, Miller responded with only copying and pasting the email he had sent to Pereida.

Before Miller responded to the Daily Nexus, UCSB media spokesperson Kiki Reyes reached out to the Nexus on behalf of her "colleague" and requested the Nexus send her the interview questions instead.

Roose sent an email to the UCSB Promise Scholars on Oct. 25 addressing her actions.

"As some of you may be aware, it was reported that a fellow Scholar made a pretty big mistake- and I received multiple reports about it," the email read. "I texted in total shock and surprise, and I could have chosen my words a little differently. I asked them to come see me- to get their side of the story and with a plan ready to go to address the situation."

Following another request for an interview with Miller, Reyes responded with a statement saying it would not be "appropriate" to schedule an interview about this topic. She then outlined the volunteer regulations and acknowledged the importance of open dialogue with respect.

"The University is conducting a review of the reports involving the interactions between students and members of the staff in accordance with University policy," Reyes's email stated.

Jones explained that he can see both sides of the issue. He understands Marquez has been a "tremendous asset" as well as that change in bureaucratic institutions can be very quick or very slow.

"The University is supposed to, at least rhetorically, function under the principles of shared governance, so everybody has a seat at the table. But in actuality, I don't know that that necessarily happens all the time," Jones said. "The challenge really is, and it's also a great learning opportunity, 'So we're kind of at odds here, how do we find a way to move forward that is going to fit within policy, but it's also going to satisfy the needs and desires of the student population.' And that's where the rubber meets the road. But I will say that this campus has a rich history of students and faculty and staff and administrators really taking the time to engage in the process of negotiation and deliberation for the betterment of the campus community. And that's my hope."

UCSB Parking Information

Halloween 2026

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

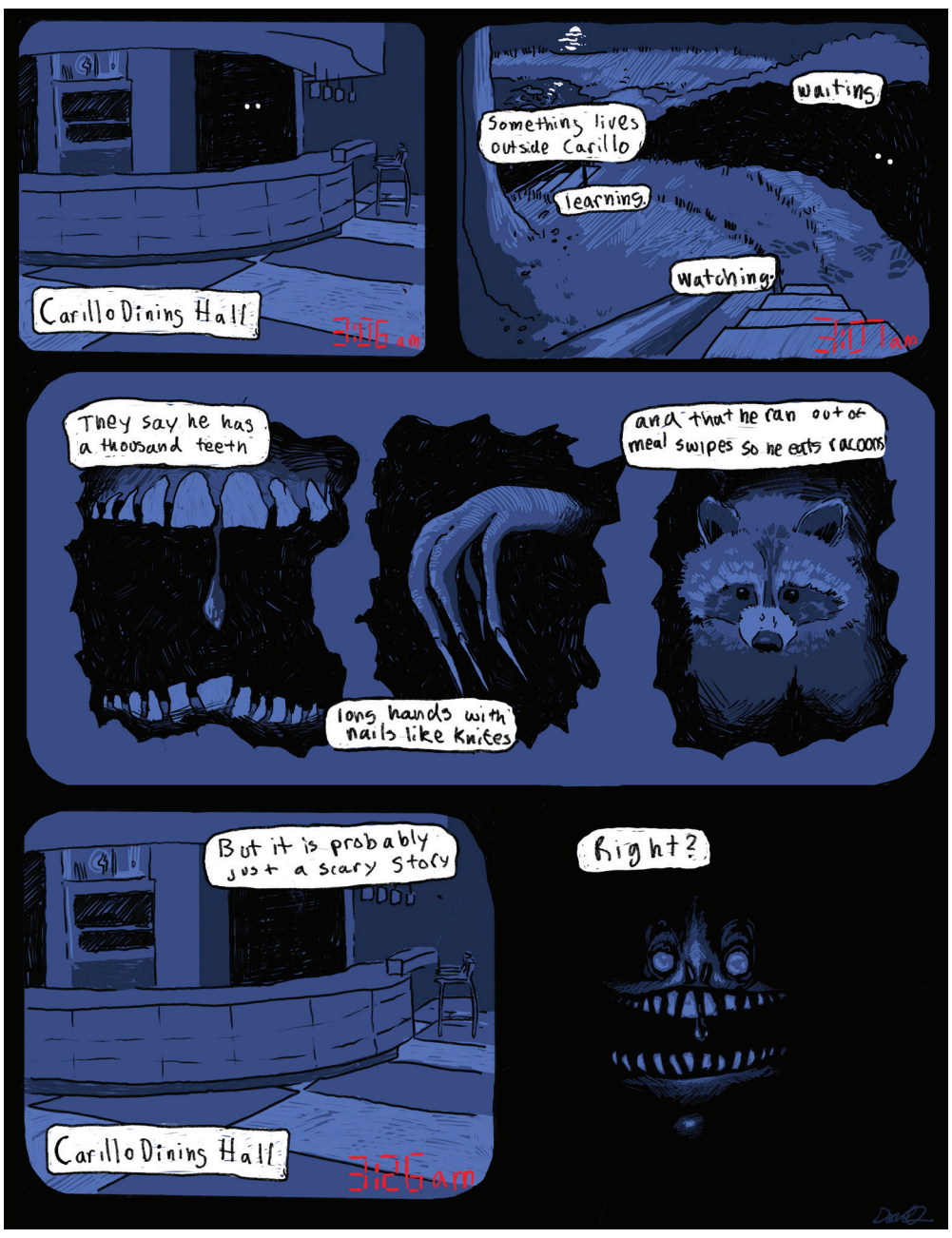
No Overnight Visitor Parking is allowed on the UCSB Campus on Friday October 30th and Saturday October 31st

$52.50 – valid through June 30, 2027.
One permit per registered student; vehicle must be linked to permit.

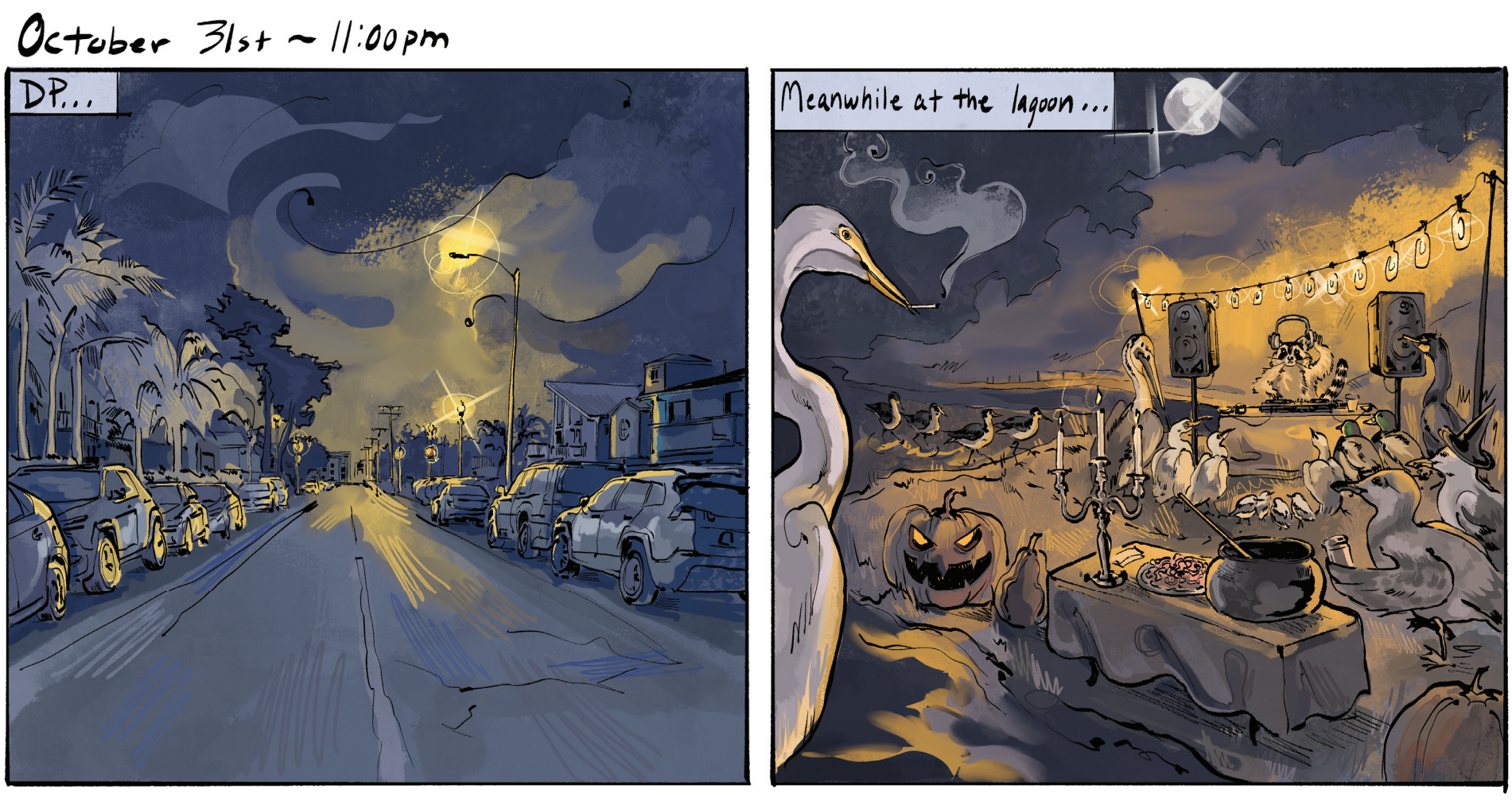
TPS

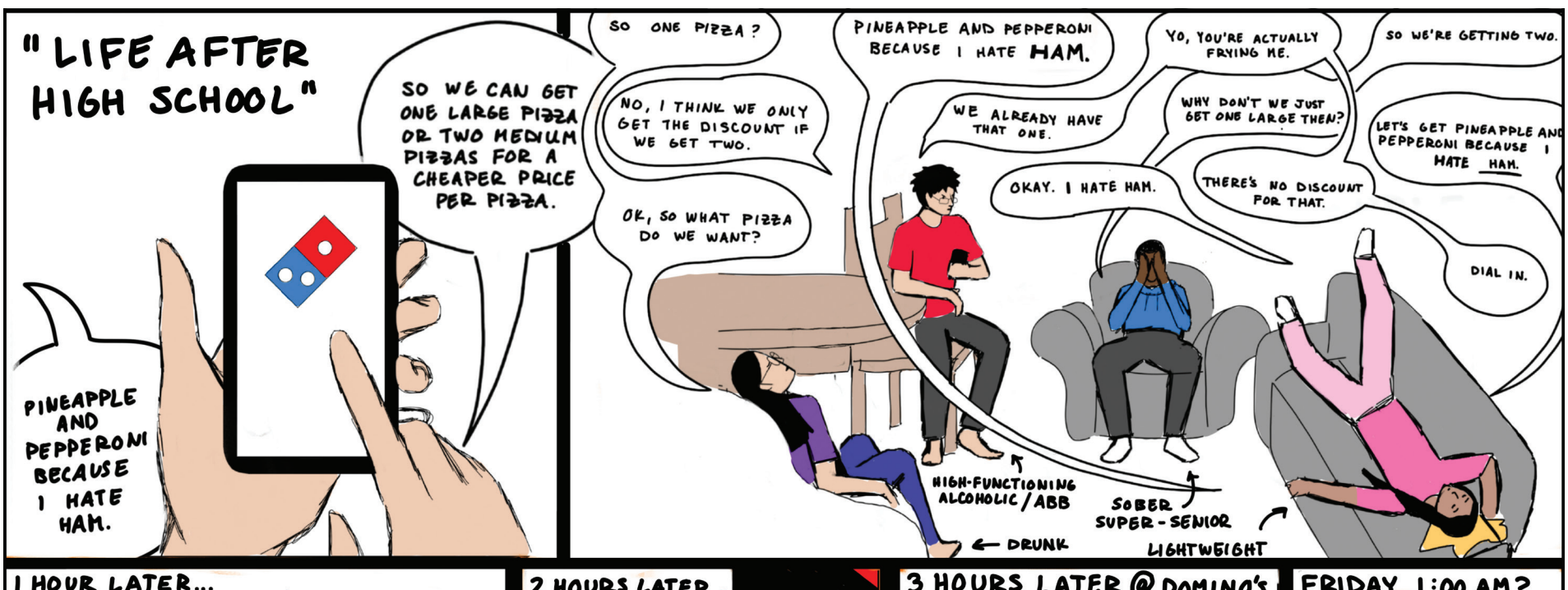
Order online today!
Deadline to order is Oct 22nd!

COMICS





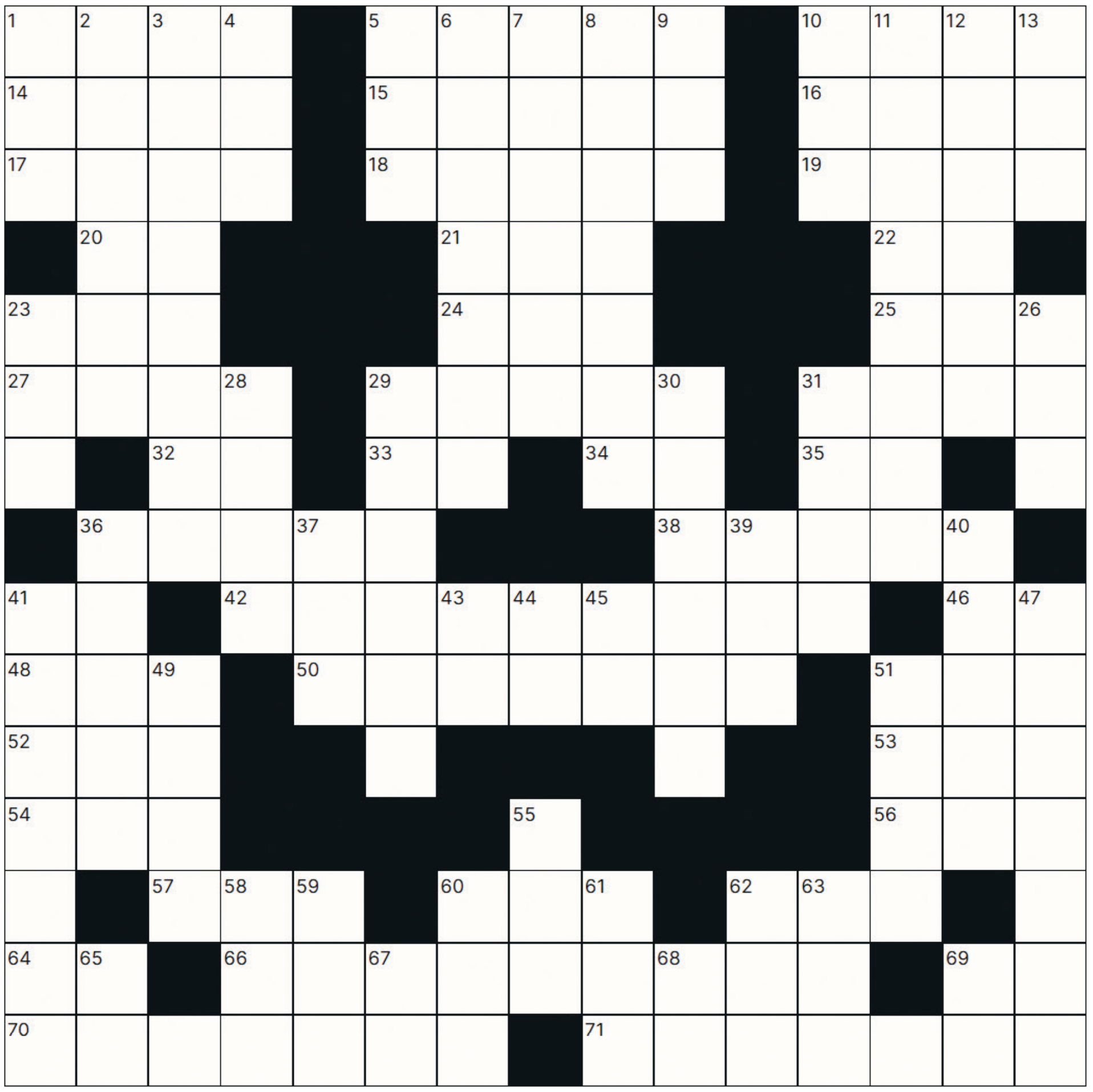




OCT 29
SRB MULTIPURPOSE
6:30PM
Daily Nexus Orientation

GAMES

The Daily Nexus Halloween crossword



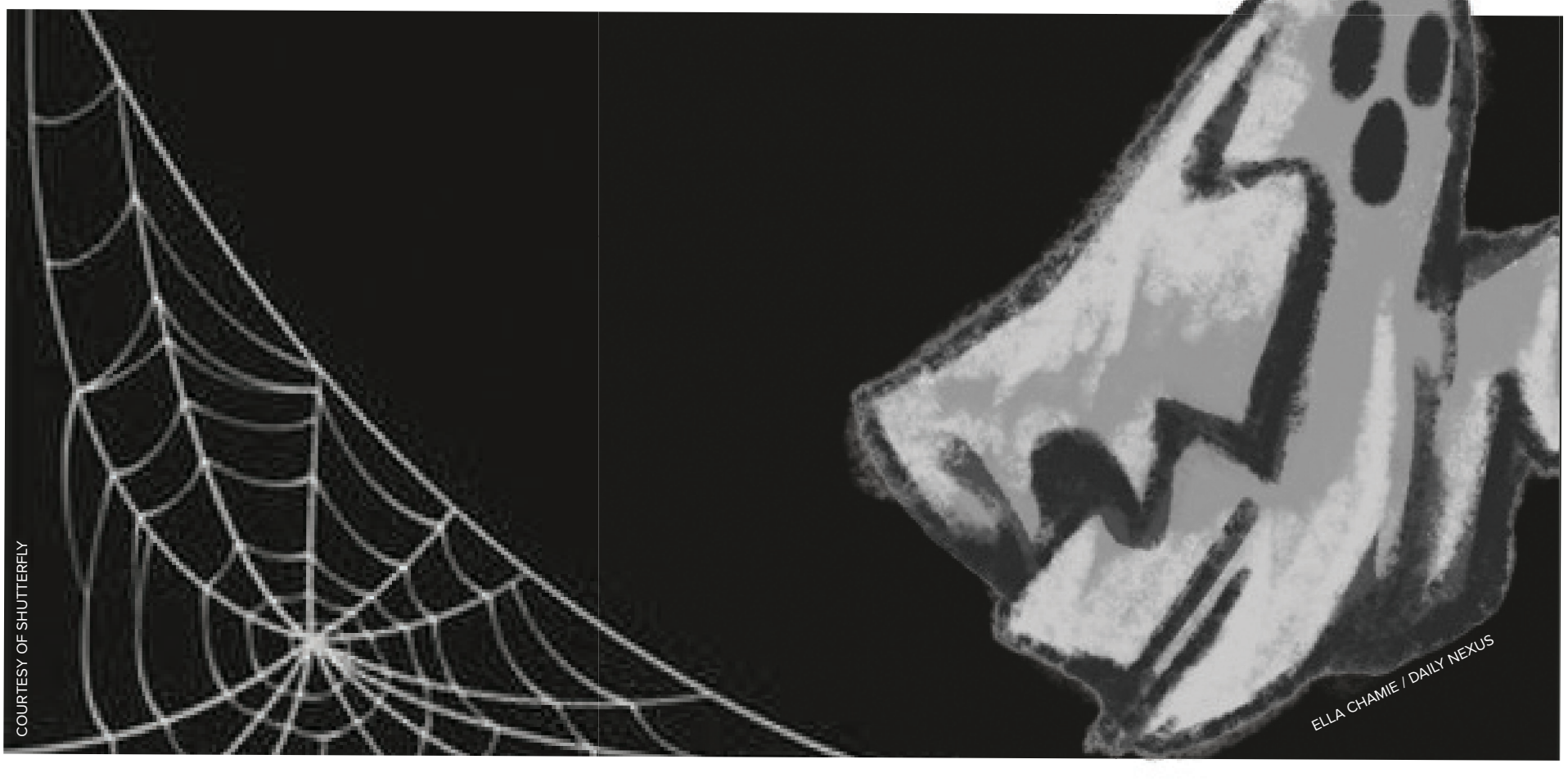
Sanchita Koppa
Games Editor

Across

1. Up the stakes
5. Cinderella's godmother, for one
10. To cry, in the past tense
14. Shades
15. A commune in the Mayenne department in northwestern France; named after a river
16. ___ Bhatt, popular British-Indian actress
17. A British donkey
18. Popular recreation center, often called by a letter; plural
19. Avoid these during the holiday season; singular
20. A holy person, abbreviated
21. Common form of fossil fuel
22. U.S. department for those who served
23. Anderson known for eccentric, distinctive films
24. Quirk of mannerism
25. "What's your ___?"; in terms of meeting up
27. Largest continent by landmass
29. Flip side of a nightmare
31. Spanish name derived from Agnes, or Ynez
32. Section instructor
33. That is, in writing
34. Southwest, but flipped
35. Gaming abbreviation to acknowledge a good effort
36. Certainly, in archaic English
38. "Silence ___ Lambs"
41. A dorm mediator
42. Component of Dubai chocolate
46. Popular Isla Vista street during Halloweekend
48. The finale
50. What many people wear on Oct. 31st
51. The roam found on many college campuses
52. "Much ___ About Nothing"
53. With an arrow
54. Calendar year deductible, abbreviated
56. One who speaks for others, for short
57. Gaming competitor
60. Eye of a cyclops
62. After school program for kids generally between ages 5 to 11
64. Emma's nickname
66. A spooky day
69. What you might say when 69D isn't heard
70. Way to have your eggs
71. To inform

Down

1. A lightbulb moment
2. Popular hospital-themed costumes
3. A place to try things out
4. That, in Spanish
5. Be careful about giving them your real name
6. A fancy wardrobe
7. To carve
8. A beabadoobee song, from "This is How Tomorrow Moves"
9. ___ or no
10. A sporty spouse, informally
11. The hour before a deadline
12. A costume with booty
13. ___ Nguyen, a young Sheldon's friend
23. Is in the past?
26. Wood after fire
28. Savings and insurance company for older adults
29. Succumbs to
30. "Goodness gracious!"
31. Interested, in slang
36. A Halloween haul
37. Sudden movement or sound
39. "___, fi, foh and fum" (from King Lear, or Jack and the Beanstalk)
40. Venom's host
41. Attained
43. ___ Eliot, author of "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock"
44. To tag someone, in a group chat
45. ___ later (in text)
47. October porch decoration
49. An extinct, flightless bird
51. "I'm all ___" (for listening)
55. Next year, l'année prochaine, ___
58. Alpha ___, Gamma ___ Beta
59. A bud
60. Your friend in the year above you
61. A member of the flock
62. "Yikes!"
63. Weekend comedy show
65. ___, myself and I
67. A millennial prefix (and a French article)
68. An old flame
69. A greeting



COURTESY OF SHUTTERFLY

ELLA CHAMIE / DAILY NEXUS

GAMES

The Daily Nexus clue search

W C Q D Q Q J V C F S P Z J D F K I U F
A C J P B Z C D X P C U L T V X P R G W
S L S C A N D Y G Z D M R W B F V I U I
V K R E W W Y W S O C P D W N E X E D T
Z B E G Y P V G O S B K E R M S S H B C
R S B L J Y G V R N R I K Q P K D K H H
Z N V U E C A S P E R N Y H I I U Z T Z
X I O G K T A E H L K N U T G D C L R N
R C J N H A O R S D E W T Z Q D Y Z I E
S K M L P O K N F Q A L H S C Q A G C L
M E X J O M S W B U E Q Y J Q W B Z K Z
T R V A X E Z T U S R C O W N W Q O Q E
H S F B H G M P F X R Q L J Q J J Z O B
F S T D D N Z G E C O J H S X B L U X R
P Z J Y P R E T Z E L S R X Q E O Q D A

Sanchita Koppa
Games Editor

1. Often referred to as "The Friendly Ghost"
2. What you say when jumping out from a hidden spot
3. Chocolate caramel and peanut candy bar
4. Candy with the tagline "Taste the Rainbow"
5. Salty snack that often comes in the shape of bats and ghosts
6. Alternative to treat
7. What children hope to fill their pillowcases with on Halloween night
8. Haunter of houses
9. What the Headless Horseman carries with him
10. Popular anatomical decoration
11. Glinda or Elphaba



ELLA CHAMIE / DAILY NEXUS

Personality Quiz: What was your Halloweekend fate?



ELLA CHAMIE / DAILY NEXUS

Nicolás Brown-Corrada
Games Developer

If you're a freshman, you just had your first taste of an Isla Vista Halloweekend. If you're anything else, you probably already knew the drill. Either way, you probably got into at least some hijinks this weekend, so let's see if I can guess what your fate was.

1. Halloween takes a lot of preparation. How long ago did you decide what your costume(s) would be?
A) I've been planning since last Halloween
B) At least a month ago
C) In the last few weeks
D) I didn't wear a costume
E) I decided the night of

2. There are lots of parties to go to, and they aren't all on the same night! How many different costumes did you/will you wear this October?
A) More than three
B) Two solid costumes
C) A nice costume and a going out costume
D) Again, didn't wear one
E) Just the one costume

3. Sewing can be hard. How did you make your costume(s)?
A) 10+ hours of sewing and crafting
B) I bought them from the store
C) I repurposed some clothes and costumes I already had
D) Just wore what I already was wearing
E) I grabbed random stuff from my closet

4. What was your costume based on?
A) A book or a movie
B) A real animal/A real job
C) A niche internet reference
D) A TV show
E) A video game

5. What non-party Halloween activities did you do?
A) Gave out candy to trick-or-treaters
B) Went to a pumpkin patch
C) Went to a haunted house
D) Watched a horror movie
E) Decorated your house

6. Which of these pieces of horror media do you like the most?
A) "Frankenstein"; or "The Modern Prometheus" by Mary Shelley
B) "Night of the Living Dead" (1968)
C) Five Nights at Freddy's
D) Horror is too scary
E) "Scream" (1996)

7. And finally, how many nights did you go out this Halloween season?
A) Two
B) Three
C) Four or more
D) I didn't go out
E) One

Results

If you chose mostly A: Perfectly planned weekend!

You're a big Halloween fan. Your costumes were perfectly niche. Everything went just how you wanted, and you made it home safe after some wonderful nights out! You can't wait till next Halloweekend.

If you chose mostly B: Long weekend, huh.

You certainly had your fun! It was a lot of getting ready and a lot of chaos and by Saturday you were probably pretty worn out. Your house is pretty messy right now and you're considering not going out for a little bit. A good weekend, but you're glad it's over.

If you chose mostly C: Party animal!

You didn't go to class on Monday, or Tuesday for that matter. It was ragers every night for you, and you ended up in the bathroom or on someone's couch a few more times than you wanted to. Maybe it was your first Halloweekend? Despite all that, you are going to another school next weekend to continue the spooky festivities.

If you chose mostly D: Peaceful bliss.

You didn't really want to do much for Halloween, and therefore you didn't! Maybe you don't have a passion for horror, maybe you just aren't a party person. You had a relaxing weekend, although your neighbors were pretty loud and annoying.

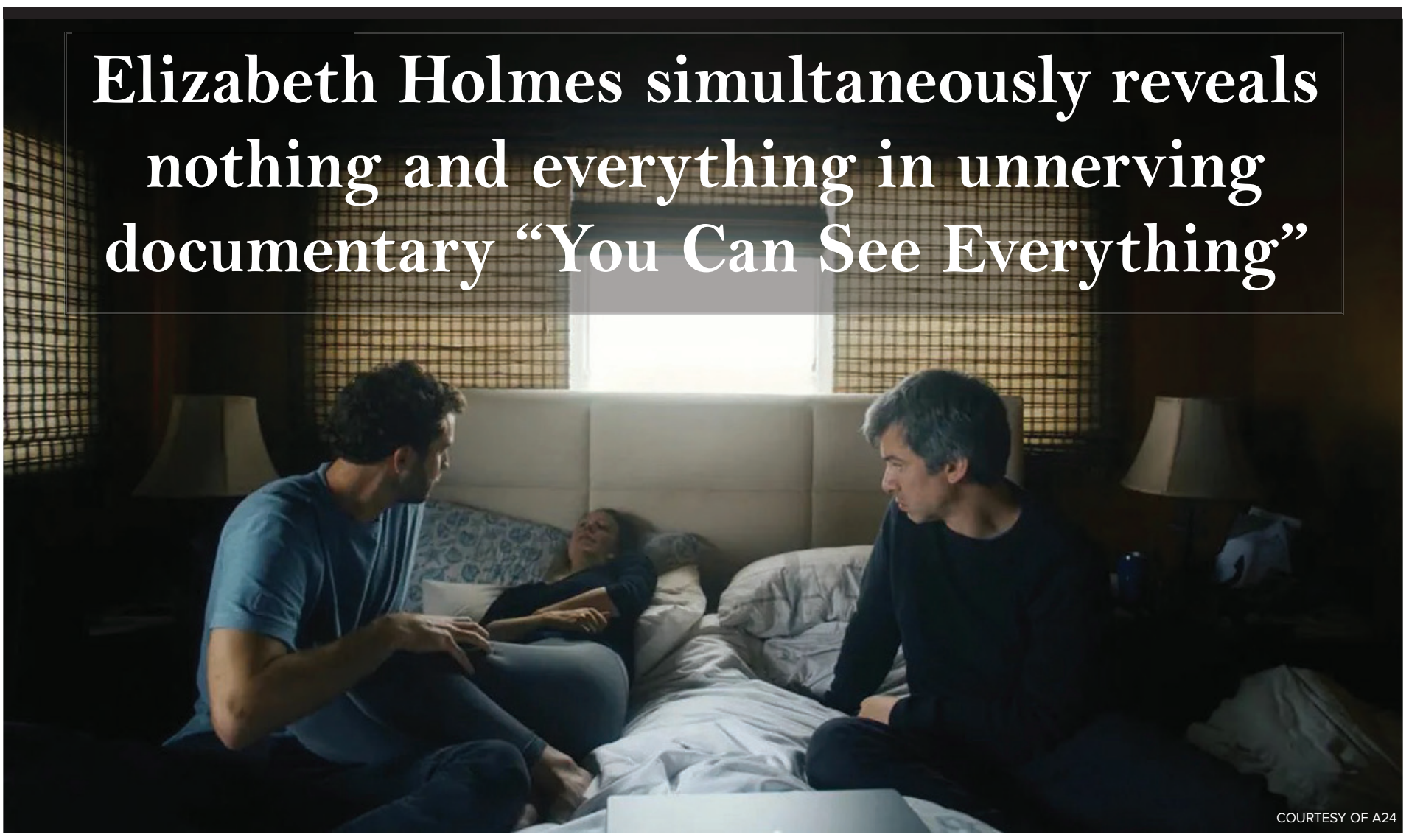
If you chose mostly E: Could have been better.

It just wasn't your weekend. You didn't go out as much as you wanted, your costume didn't come out perfectly and the one party you went to was pretty mid. Don't let it get you down, though! There are dozens of weekends and many Halloweens to come.

Daily Nexus Artsweek

ARTSWEEK

Elizabeth Holmes simultaneously reveals nothing and everything in unnerving documentary "You Can See Everything"



COURTESY OF A24

Fiona Feng
Reporter

*Contains spoilers

"Why would I deceive you? There's no ... there's no reason for me to do that," convicted fraudster and disgraced Silicon Valley entrepreneur Elizabeth "Liz" Holmes says as her expressively honest face is mere inches away from comedian and filmmaker Nathan Fielder's probing gaze.

This year she makes an enigmatic return to mainstream media — despite her supposed aversion to it — through "You Can See Everything," a nearly three-hour experimental documentary co-directed by Fielder and documentarian Lance Oppenheim. What unfolds before the audience's hungry eyes is a fascinating case study of a woman whose greatest deception may be the one she has successfully sold to herself.



COURTESY OF A24

Directors Lance Oppenheim (left) and Nathan Fielder(right) incepted and filmed Elizabeth Holmes for the 34 days leading up to her prison sentence. The documentary took over three years to produce before it hitting theaters.

There is little reason to approach Holmes with any degree of sympathy. Her Icarian fall from Silicon Valley darling to convicted fraudster has already been exhaustively documented, leaving seemingly little more to uncover about the woman behind Theranos. Yet, Fielder and Oppenheim appear less concerned with establishing the truth of her crimes than with examining how she continues to construct her version of it. The result is an unusually intimate documentary that invites the audience into Holmes' carefully curated reality.

The audience becomes intimately familiar with her, her fiance Billy Evans, their two young children and Fielder's awkwardly lurking presence half hidden behind convenient walls. Holmes, awaiting an 11-year prison sentence for defrauding investors through her now-defunct blood-testing company Theranos, remains remarkably serene. Evans, however, seems perpetually on the verge of exploding.

Very quickly, it becomes evident that Evans is the mad and vengeful barking dog for Holmes. What the dog does, the master approves of. His aggressively protective demeanour makes him a fascinating counterpart to Holmes' cultivated fragility, allowing her to remain outwardly detached from the hostility that surrounds her. Now, with Evans holding power of attorney over her, another man has assumed considerable authority over her affairs. Before him was Ramesh "Sunny" Balwani, Holmes' former romantic and business partner, who served as Theranos' president and chief operating officer before being convicted of fraud himself. Whether this is deliberate manipulation on Holmes' part remains uncertain, but the arrangement certainly benefits her. Evans gets to indulge his protective instincts whilst Holmes retains the convenient possibility of distancing herself from his actions.

This becomes especially apparent when Holmes insists that financial matters belong to Evans' world, not hers, despite his earlier attempts to negotiate a share of the documentary's proceeds. For someone who once commanded a multibillion-dollar company, she has developed an impressively selective understanding of her own involvement in business.

Holmes staunchly maintains that she has never knowingly deceived anyone, even claiming that she cannot recall telling a lie in her adult life — a statement Fielder hopes to catch her lying about. When confronted with the evidence against her, she retreats into variations of "I don't know" and "I don't remember," occasionally becoming emotional over her portrayal as a liar.

Her seemingly genuine distress raises a far more unsettling possibility: Holmes may have spent so long manipulating others into her narrative that she successfully manipulated herself.

Fielder and Oppenheim's decision to foreground Holmes' domestic life makes her transformation from the black-turtlenecked Steve Jobs disciple to the fragile, devoted mother equally revealing. Through private glimpses of her nurturing personality, including scenes of her breastfeeding her child, the documentary presents a considerably softer image of the woman who once deliberately cultivated the image of a technological visionary. Holmes now emphasizes her vulnerability, seemingly bewildered by the circumstances surrounding her conviction. She even expresses a desire to use the media properly this time, as though her previous notoriety were simply the result of unfortunately misrepresentation. Yet, the filmmakers' willingness to capture these tender moments calls into question the ethics of their potentially sympathetic portrayal of a convicted fraudster.

Nevertheless, there is no discernible crack in her facade. Holmes appears to believe every word she says, regardless of how thoroughly it contradicts reality. As long as she believes it, it is true. This is where "You Can See Everything" becomes considerably more interesting.

Fielder, who initially approaches Holmes with a clinical skepticism, gradually becomes entangled in the reality he is attempting to dissect. His growing familiarity with her, coupled with her all too obvious vulnerability, begins to compromise the distance between filmmaker and subject. Following her imprisonment, his increasingly obsessive attempts to revisit their interactions transforms the documentary into a case study of Fielder himself. As he continues to scrutinize his footage for some elusive indication of her true intentions, the more he exposes the limitations of his own judgement.



COURTESY OF A24

In true Fielder style, he delivers an unsettling performance as he interacts with Holmes in her everyday life, begging the question: Has he fallen for her deception?

The introduction of Amanda Seyfried, who portrayed Holmes in Hulu's 2022 television miniseries "The Dropout," is particularly brilliant. Recruited to reenact Fielder's interactions with Holmes following her imprisonment, Seyfried initially approaches her real-life counterpart with sympathy. Yet, her encounters with Evans and examination of Fielder's recollections gradually produce a far more dubious assessment. She almost becomes the audience's grounding presence, recognizing contradictions that Fielder, despite his investigative instincts, seems progressively willing to overlook.

The documentary's closing sequence makes this transformation especially chilling. Having initially declined Holmes' invitation to swim in the cold ocean, Fielder is eventually shown joining her in the water — playing and splashing around with her. It is a strangely intimate conclusion to a film that began with his determination to expose the inconsistencies in her account. Holmes has offered no convincing acknowledgement of wrongdoing, yet Fielder has somehow moved closer to her.

Perhaps the most disturbing implication is that Holmes does not necessarily need to convince anyone of her innocence — she merely needs to convince them of her sincerity. Even Fielder, whose career has largely revolved around exposing the absurdities of human behavior, appears susceptible to the extraordinary conviction with which she inhabits her own manufactured reality.



COURTESY OF A24

The documentary allows the audience to become intimately familiar with Holmes, her fiance Billy Evans, their two young children and Fielder's awkwardly looming presence in their home.

For a film titled "You Can See Everything," its greatest achievement may be demonstrating just how little can be known about someone who has perfected the art of appearing entirely sincere.

And – as @brendohare said on Letterboxd – "I believe Theranos 2 will work."

9/10



COURTESY OF A24

Following the investigation that revealed her company Theranos defrauded investors out of hundreds of millions of dollars, Holmes was scentenced to 135 months of prison.

ARTSWEEK

Daily Nexus Artsweek

"CLAYFACE" IS A MIDDLING PILE OF CLAY

Tanner Perez
Staff Writer



COURTESY OF WARNER BROS PICTURES

Serving as the fouth installment in James Gunn's DC Universe, "Clayface" fails to match the box office success of "Superman"'s, grossing only $45 million during its opening weekend.

Across nine live-action "Batman" films and their many spin-offs, there have been six different portrayals of the Joker, five for Catwoman, three Penguins, two Two-Faces and two Harley Quinn. But prior to the release of DC Studio's body-horror film "Clayface," and despite being one of the Dark Knight's first ever comic book villains, debuting in 1940, the titular villainous character had never been adapted for the big screen.

"Clayface" is the newest project in filmmaker James Gunn's new DC Universe (DCU) to be released this year, following "Supergirl" and the HBO television series "Lanterns." While all three of these projects are vastly different in scope and story, what each of them have in common is the inability to live up to the quality and success of 2025's "Superman." While it is perhaps the strongest DCU project in a post-"Superman" world and captures the essence of its lead character, "Clayface" suffers from a fair share of storytelling problems and is, unfortunately, middling at best.

Directed by James Watkins, "Clayface" follows Matt Hagen (Tom Rhys Harries), a rising movie star from Gotham City who is sent on a downward spiral after an encounter with the mobsters that shakes up, not only his acting career, but his entire life. Left with a scarred and mutilated face, Hagen is left unable to continue his acting career and is caught within a controversy, eventually turning to the help of Dr. Caitlyn Corr (Naomi Ackie). Corr, a fringe scientist, runs experiments on Hagen in hopes to regenerate his damaged skin. As the film progresses, things begin to unravel, with Hagen inadvertently gaining the ability to alter his appearance into anyone he chooses before becoming a living piece of clay as an unforeseen consequence, losing his sanity in the process.

The film is heavily influenced by the "Batman: The Animated Series" two-part episode "Feat of Clay," which reimagined Hagen's backstory from the comics, and envisioned the character as a once successful actor who is disfigured in a car accident. As a result, Hagen starts abusing a chemical drug that allows him to reshape his face however he pleases.

One major change "Clayface" makes — other than the complete exclusion of Batman — is the decision to make Hagen an up-and-coming hot-shot as opposed to a veteran actor. Depicting Hagen as a young actor who has just received his first Academy Award nomination makes his untimely mutilation all the more tragic. Despite that, one thing "Clayface" does exceptionally well is its utmost commitment to making Hagen an undeniable villain as opposed to an antiheroic figure by the end of the film.

The highlight of the film is the lead performance by Harries. When Hagen is first introduced in the film's opening moments, the audience is instantly met by Harries' undeniable charm. He infuses Hagen with such a sense of both confidence and humanity, making the fictional celebrity feel like a real public figure ripped from a headline. As the character experiences several life-altering events, Harries never loses sight of Hagen's humanity or what makes this performance particularly special. Even at the end of the character's journey, Hagen's descent feels earned rather than arbitrary or over the top, though the film itself feels a little disjointed and not fully realized.

Harries' performance is accompanied by exquisite makeup design that allows for hauntingly chilling body horror. It's particularly overwhelming to watch as Hagen's body adapts to its new physiology as it shifts in ways that are both grotesque and strangely intimate. The practical effects make Hagen's gradual yet bizarre transformations feel less like a typical superhero's power evolving and more like a body betraying itself, which makes these moments particularly disturbing to watch.

In terms of other characters, Harries is surrounded by forgettable, one-note performances. Ackie's performance of Hagen's "love interest," Dr. Corr, is just fine, but the character functions more as a plot device as opposed to a fully realized character.

Where "Clayface" succeeds are in aspects that successfully embody the spirit of this greatly underrated character. Where it ultimately fails is in finding its own cinematic voice. The film feels like a rehashing of Todd Phillips' "Joker" (2019), relying heavily on the aesthetic that it created — a tragic figure surrounded by a dark, uncaring world. "Clayface" also borrows the visual imagery of both "Joker" and "The Batman" (2022), as opposed to creating its own brand-new depiction of Gotham City, preventing "Clayface" from feeling visually distinct.

Though the character has been around for over 80 years, "Clayface" still bears undeniable similarities to "The Substance" (2024). Both films follow struggling actors utilizing some sort of drug to regain what they have lost, in this case, their respective beauty and good looks. Additionally, both films utilize body horror to showcase the cost of trying to reverse the irreversible. Still, the difference in filmmaking is apparent; "The Substance," despite having a much lower budget, is far more appealing visually and aesthetically, as well as auteur-driven, whereas "Clayface" sort of embodies the unoriginal nature of the studio superhero genre. And while Harries' performance is much deserving of praise, he is no Demi Moore.

There is a script issue as well, with dialogue often feeling clunky, undeveloped or overwritten. The cinematography is dreadful; there is an overreliance on backlight coming from street lamps in almost every scene. Even interior scenes are lit by blinding lights outside that overexpose the image and make it harder to see the respective actors' faces and their surroundings. The dreadful visuals are made worse by frequent use of green screens.

It may be the best DCU-released project of the year, but "Clayface" still has its own fair share of issues. Generic and undercooked, it is ultimately just "fine" and that would be okay, if there weren't elements throughout the film that could have allowed for something truly great.

Rating: 6.5 /10.



COURTESY OF WARNER BROS PICTURES

Tom Rhys Harries infueses his performance of Matt Hagen with confidence and humanity.



COURTESY OF WARNER BROS PICTURES

Despite Harries' incerdible performance, other character potrayals are forgettable and one-note.

Latest "Sense and Sensibility" film adaptation loses classic Austen charm

Sophia Benito
Staff Writer

*Review contains some spoilers for both Jane Austen's novel and the film

Georgia Oakley's next-generation adaptation of "Sense and Sensibility" is flat and devoid of warmth, despite being a more naturalistic or realist portrayal of Jane Austen's classic novel. While pointedly not trying to be an accurate adaptation or a remake of Ang Lee's 1995 adaptation, the new film — released earlier this month — ends up losing the charm of classic Austen in the process.

In Austen's 1811 novel, after being cast out of their family home when their stepbrother inherits their father's estate, two sisters with opposing temperaments learn and encounter matters of the heart. Elinor Dashwood (Daisy Edgar-Jones) takes the part of sense — rational, but conceals her true affection for Edward Ferrars (George MacKay) — and Marianne Dashwood (Esmé Creed-Miles), who embodies sensibility, is more passionate and emotionally driven.

As an adaptation, the 2026 film presents itself as the dichotomy of its predecessor, the 1995 version starring Emma Thompson, much like how Joe Wright's "Pride and Prejudice" (2005) positioned itself against Simon Langton's 1995 television series.

Oakley made some obvious homages to Wright's 2005 film, one in which Edward appears like a Romanticism figure on some rocks when Elinor rushes to confess her feelings, a version of the Mr. Darcy dawn confession. The film is also earthy, focusing on a natural atmospheric effect, with a reverence for the outdoors and naturally set scenes, but ends up being too quiet and muted at strange moments. In the deliberate decision to focus on realism and natural colors, the desaturated and bleak result is dour and rather depressing, especially combined with the dark lighting throughout the film.

There were other strange choices, particularly in modernization, that were jarring, including a bizarre, touchy, almost freestyle dance scene, and an almost horror-like score in a scene in which Marianne is lost in the woods at the Palmers'.

Creed-Miles's portrayal of Marianne was also more of a Cathy Earnshaw, essentially more Emily Brontë than Austen. Her Marianne is wilder, more untamed and in combination with a dark, almost moorish landscape, it was as if she was in the wrong adaptation.

In terms of dichotomy, Oakley's adaptation focuses heavily on the relationship between the Dashwood sisters and less on the typical Austen marriage plot — it notably ends with a built-up confession, not a marriage scene. The film ends on a high note, but future resolutions are implied. Marianne does not end up with Colonel Brandon (Herbert Nordrum) onscreen, but her feelings for him have visibly changed.

The development and backing of Elinor and Edward's relationship were significantly revised in the new film. Unlike other adaptations where Edward is absent but often mentioned, the film adds additional scenes, including a confession in London's National Portrait Gallery, in which he deeply engages with Elinor. If the adaptation does anything "better" than one of its predecessors, it's the revision and simplification of romantic entanglements and relationships for modern audiences.

In terms of plot, Oakley made small changes to simplify, which isn't necessarily a bad thing; however, the novel's depth and essence are lost in the process — only some classic Austen wit and humor is saved, and the film barely functions as a social commentary. Despite small differences and shifts to re-adapt Austen's novel that somewhat paid off, the artistic direction and other strange decisions took most of the focus.



COURTESY OF FOCUS FEATURES

Devoid of Jane Austen's classic wit and humor, the Georigia Oakley adaptation of "Sense and Sensibility" falls flat and only has aesthetic and nostalgia to show for it.

5/10

ON THE MENU

Five reasons you need to host a potluck

Sahasra Hanumiahgari
On The Menu Editor

What's better than good food? Good food with good company. However, eating out is expensive. I can no longer justify spending $20 on a meal, and don't even think about ordering a drink with my food because that's easily at least another $7. As much as I love to cook, dishes and prep and cooking for so many people is an energy and time expense I can't commit to every time I want to share a meal with friends. The solution to both these problems? Have a potluck! I present to you: 5 reasons you need to host a potluck!

You get to hang out with your people.

I've said it once, I'll say it again. In fact, you'll probably find it engraved on my tombstone, but to my core I believe that food is a love language. There's no better way to show someone how much you appreciate them than cooking food you hope they'll love. Even if it's something store bought, it speaks volumes that you go through the trouble of going to the store and putting in the thought and effort of finding something special for someone special. I love walking through the aisles in grocery stores, picking items up and trading them for others, hunting for the perfect snack that I think my friend will enjoy. To love someone is to know their favorite foods.

You get "stuck" with leftovers.

This one may depend on the circumstance, but after my potluck last week, I was left with quite the haul. Shoutout S for the tray of tater tots that have been my main sustenance since. Yes, I may have had to clean up, but I also had a pack of cookies and cupcakes to enjoy once I was done. I had enough food that I didn't have to worry about cooking for the next few days. And besides, the cleanup took a maximum of 15 minutes — that's a price I'd pay any day of the week.

A chance to improve your cooking skills.

Are you really even friends if you can't be honest with each other, be (constructively) critical of each other, and try to help each other improve? This is why you need to cook for your friends. Let them tell you what needs more salt or what could have been cooked longer so you can become the next Gordon Ramsey. (Not me though, all of my recipes are perfect and never need to be adjusted, duh.) AND, you get to do the same. Go tell your friends that their food is overly salty or make fun of their lack of a spice tolerance.

You're going to eat SO good.

Potlucks are so wonderful because of how much variety they provide. Truly, the world is your oyster. There's not a lot of other situations where you are able to graze on so many different kinds of foods (especially for so cheap). If you can get your friend group to lock in and each bring a dish, you will have a beautiful plate of food and a full stomach by the end of the night. My plate was heaping with tacos, tater tots, fruit, dumplings, samosas and sweet treats; what more could a girl ask for?

You can try a new recipe.

Have you ever seen a recipe and thought, "Nah, that's too complicated to make just for me?" Fear not, have a potluck! Try that extravagant recipe I know you have saved on TikTok or Instagram Reels and see what your friends think. Worst case, if it turns out awful and flops, other people will be bringing plenty of food to cover it up. However, I know it's hard to find a recipe that's suitable for cooking in a large quantity. So, here's my go-to potluck-friendly taco recipe!

Chicken tacos
Yield: 12-15 tacos
Duration: 30 minutes

Ingredients:

- 1.5 pounds chicken breast (or potatoes for my vegetarians)
- 4 tablespoons taco seasoning
- Salt to taste
- Chili powder, adjusted according to your spice tolerance (optional)
- Lime (optional)
- ¼ cup hot sauce
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- Tortillas of choice (I prefer corn)

For the sauce:*

- ½ cup mayonnaise
- 1 teaspoon paprika
- Pickled jalapeños (and about 2 tablespoons of the brine)
- Salt to taste
- Hot sauce

Instructions:

1. Dice the chicken** into small, bite-size pieces.
2. Marinate the chicken with the taco seasoning, salt, chili powder, lime and hot sauce.***
3. Heat up the oil in a skillet over medium heat. Once the oil is hot, add in the chicken and cook until tender.
4. For the sauce, dice up some pickled jalapeños very tiny and combine all the ingredients. Taste as you go and see what needs to be added.
5. Heat up some tortillas and serve.
6. Top with onions, cilantro and tomatoes. Enjoy!

* This sauce is what I like to call my Taco Bell Creamy Jalapeño Sauce dupe. Dare I say, it may be better than the original ...

** If you're using potatoes, boil the potatoes until fork tender before cooking — this is the key to getting a super soft inside but keeping the outside crispy.

*** Marinating the chicken in hot sauce is one of my all-time favorite kitchen hacks; it works as a binder in the marinade and adds depth and a spicy kick.



SAHASRA HANUMIAHGARI / DAILY NEXUS

Here's my go-to potluck-friendly taco recipe!



SAHASRA HANUMIAHGARI / DAILY NEXUS

My homemade Taco Bell Creamy Jalapeño Sauce dupe.


SAHASRA HANUMIAHGARI / DAILY NEXUS

Potlucks are so wonderful because of how much variety they provide.

A glutton for gluten



FRANCESCA GASPARINI/ DAILY NEXUS

Moments before it all vanished outside of PopUp Bagels in Brentwood.


FRANCESCA GASPARINI/ DAILY NEXUS

The Avocado on the right and The Herloom (farmer's market heirloom tomato and herbs on a salt bagel) from Mother Dough Bagels.

Francesca Gasparini
On The Menu Editor

The other weekend, I had the opportunity to cross not one but two places I've been meaning to try off my list. What's more is that both places were bagel shops I've been dying to go to for ages: our local legend, Mother Dough Bagels, and the viral PopUp Bagels down in Los Angeles.

Mother Dough Bagels has attracted long, winding lines every weekend since its opening in January 2025. Drawing countless students alongside Santa Barbara residents, this quaint little townhome of a bakery specializes in hand-rolled sourdough bagels with fresh, simple toppings. These naturally fermented bagels are boiled and baked in small batches daily and are adorned with different schmears, greens and herbs.

They're best known for their Asian-inspired twists on New York-style bagels and the picturesque Lox Box: a myriad of heirloom tomatoes, cucumbers, microgreens, pickled onions, capers and house-cured yuzu gravlax. Although her love for bagels was born from her years growing up in New York, owner Jennifer Gonzalez-Neely highlights her Filipino heritage through Asian flavor profiles within menu items, like their furikake bagel and best-selling gochujang cream cheese.

Since I was dining with just one other, I saved the large Lox Box for another visit and opted for The Avocado ($13), one of their specialty open-faced bagels with classic schmear, sliced avocado, pickled onions and microgreens on a sesame bagel. The bread itself was incredibly soft and fluffy, with a slightly crisp shell courtesy of that pre-bake blanch. I have to say, with all the chewy, tougher bagels that have taken over the market as of late, this soft, pillowy bite was a welcome surprise. I definitely need to return for a more in-depth review to try their furikake bagel and gravlax — among other enticing menu items — but safe to say, the quality and freshness of their ingredients are evident and well worth their popularity.

Not only do they do bagels well, I have also heard buzz surrounding their coffee roasted by Coastal Coffee Collective and their matcha lattes whisked from the premium brand, Nekohama. These drinks are also offered with house-made syrups, with flavors like miso caramel and black sesame that I can't wait to try. Since my visit, they've added a trio of seasonal fall syrups: pumpkin spice caramel, salted maple and apple crumble, which I know will tickle the fancy of many of you readers.

After my Thursday morning spent at Mother Dough, I headed down to LA to visit some friends for the rest of the weekend. Right before I left the city, I decided it would be a waste to skip town without trying any of LA's many viral food spots I've seen online. Although I was not able to hit as many as I would've liked, I did get the chance to swing by the PopUp Bagels in Brentwood for a simple three-pack of bagels and schmear.

I am disappointed to say I didn't try one of their seasonal schmears — as this month's Tabasco spicy mac'n'cheese flavor was not what my stomach was craving at 9 a.m. — but instead, my friends and I shared a classic scallion cream cheese with a trio of everything, poppy seed and sesame bagels.

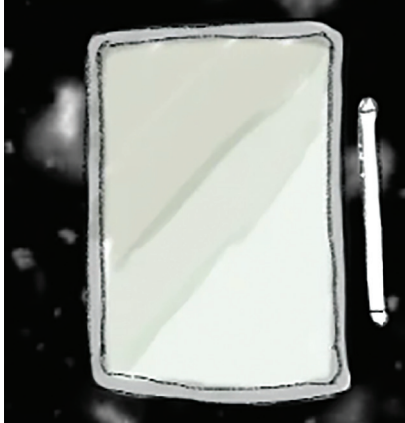
Immediately, I understood the publicity this spot received as I bit into the crunchy, crisp exterior of the everything bagel, still piping hot from the oven. The freshness is what really sold me on this place. Their business model of exclusively rip-and-dip bagels and schmear means you're in and out in just a few minutes with a bag of fresh bagels and a tub of chilled schmear.

However, the excitement the first bagel stoked in me gradually diminished after trying the other two bagels, which were not nearly as fresh as the first and therefore felt lackluster in its wake. Although they were still solid bagels, the absence of the steamy, doughy center I expected was seriously disappointing. PopUp excels because of their nuanced schmears, fresh bagels and quick service, but you have to encounter them on their A-game to really understand the praise. That being said, it was still a delicious breakfast, and I hope to give them a chance to blow me away with their ever-changing schmears and butters in the near future.

Lucky for all of us, we will be getting many more opportunities to try all PopUp has to offer in the coming year. This summer, the franchise announced plans to open a Santa Barbara location at 3925 State Street, at the former Blaze Pizza. While details on their future openings are scarce, according to the Santa Barbara News-Press, their marketing director stated they were hoping for a mid-fall opening.

I'm glad that I will be able to have both bagel titans available to me for a weekend brunch moving forward and am looking forward to giving both the opportunity to wow me once more.

DATA

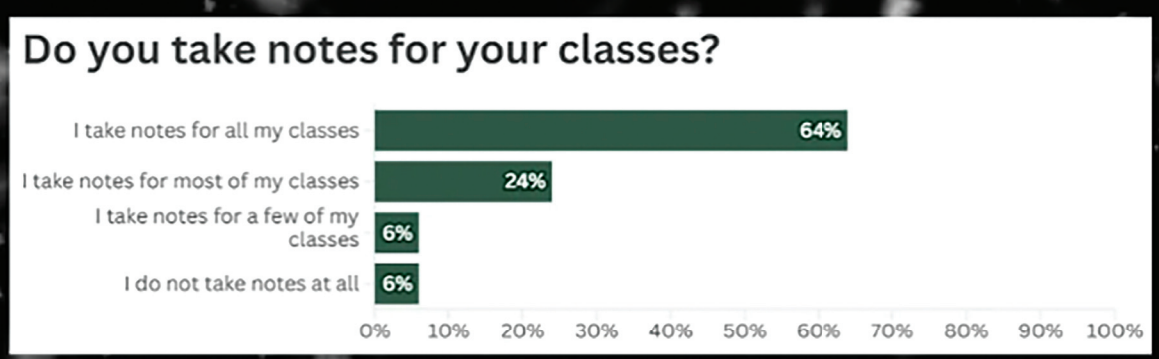


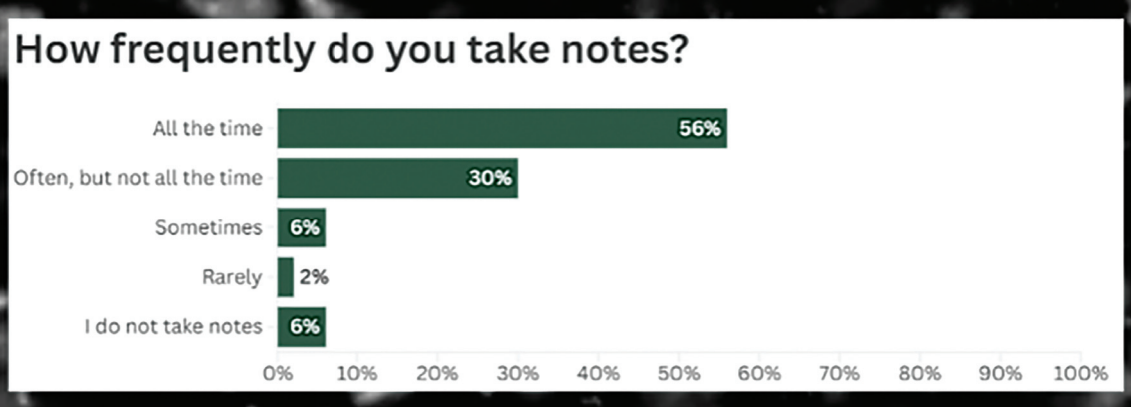
MALIA GUY / DAILY NEXUS

Notetaking patterns at UCSB

Infographic by: Malia Guy

The Daily Nexus surveyed 50 UC Santa Barbara students on their notetaking habits. Out of our respondents, 94% took notes, and 64% said they took notes for all of their classes.



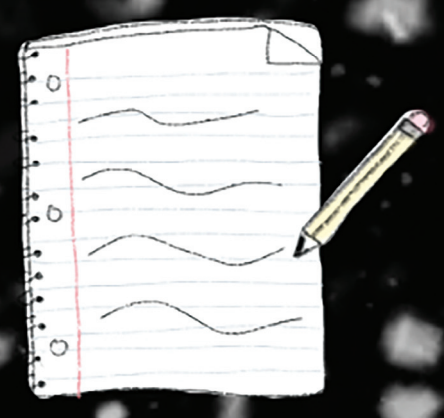


56% of respondents said they take notes “all the time,” while 30% said “often, but not all the time.”

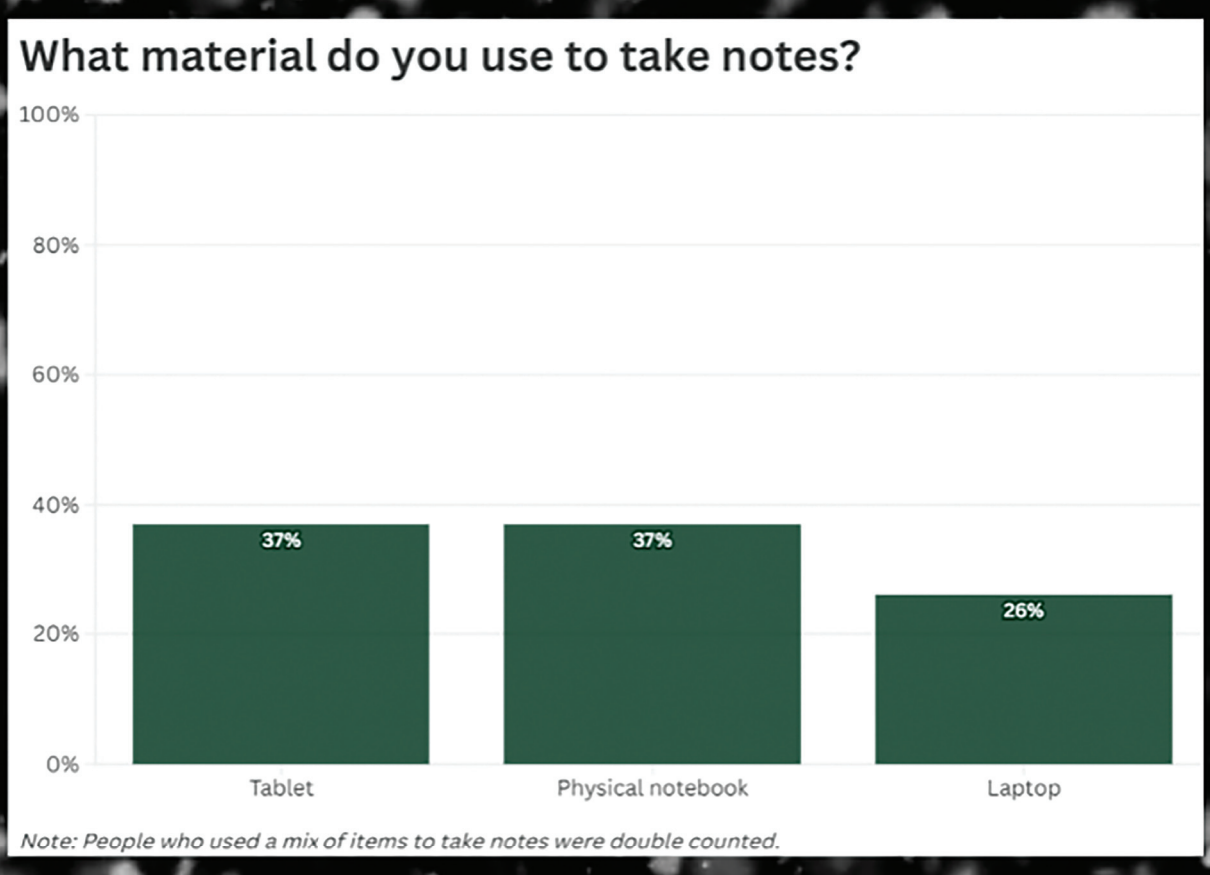
Third-year electrical engineering major Johnny Soto takes notes for two of his three classes with a physical notebook. “I’ve always used a physical notebook,” Soto said. “It’s just something about the physical notebook that I’m able to retain most of the information than an iPad.”

Just the process of taking notes, even if they are not reviewed afterward, has a correlation with higher test scores and can lead to better comprehension of course material.

Tablets and physical notebooks were the most commonly used materials, with each accounting for 37% of respondents’ usage. Laptops were the least used at 26%.



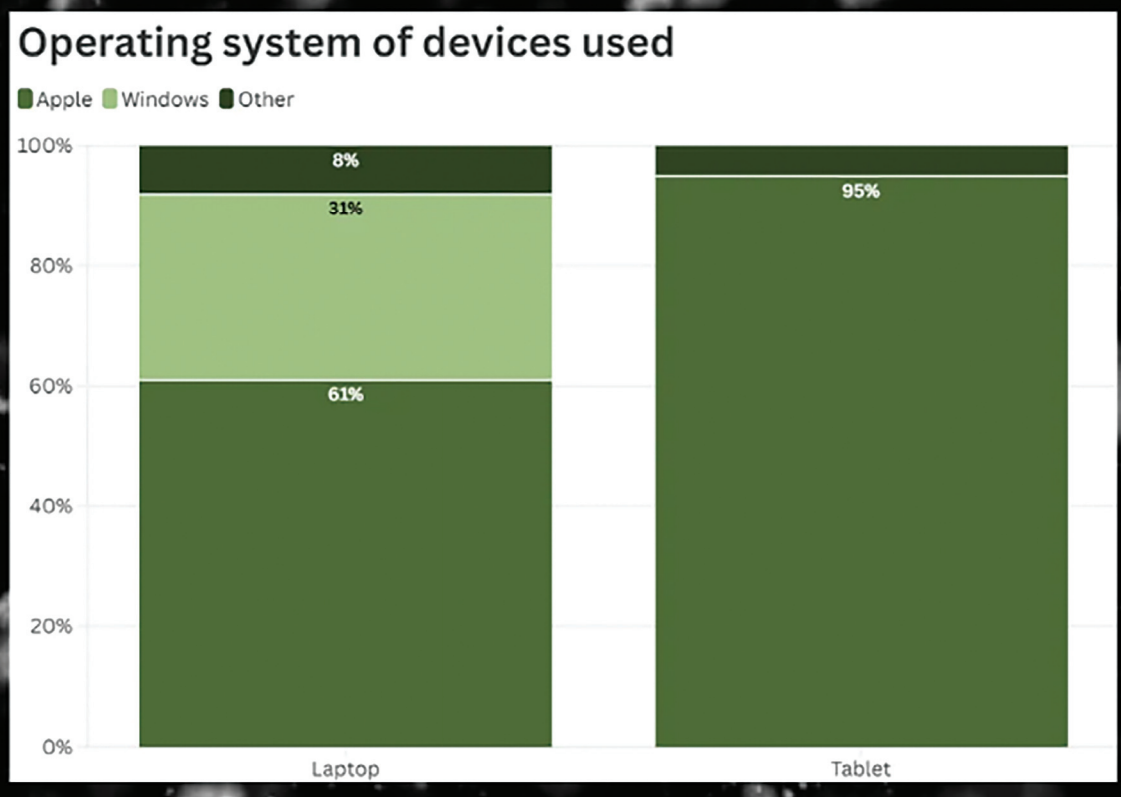
MALIA GUY / DAILY NEXUS



Creating handwritten notes can enhance the mind’s encoding effect, allowing for better retention and increased memory. Typing can be effective for brainstorming but leads to a less reflective processing of material.



MALIA GUY / DAILY NEXUS



The operating systems of laptops were mostly Apple at 61%, while Windows made up 31%. For tablets, Apple made up 95% of the results.

NEXUSTENTIALISM

It's Satire, Stupid.

MADELINE BRYCE / DAILY NEXUS



Local student reports "haunting"

Serrano Ham
Specter

Orson Dumbee, a first-year undeclared student at UC Santa Barbara, thought hauntings only happened in movies. He isn't a fan of the horror genre because it's "too creepy" and he doesn't like it when his skin "gets all bumpy" and he gets a strange feeling in his "tummy." But, this past month, Dumbee has noticed something strange happening to him: He is being haunted.

It began when Dumbee went out to party for the first time in Isla Vista on Oct. 16. Dumbee, who wouldn't describe himself as the "most lit guy ever," felt like he needed to experience the UCSB Halloween party scene at least once. He dressed up as his favorite Minecraft character and hit the town with his friends around 8 p.m., making sure to bring their pepper spray just in case things got a little crazy.

Dumbee felt something "sinister" as soon as he walked under Pardall Tunnel into Isla Vista.

"The streets felt strangely deserted, and the only people who were walking around were hiding in really large sweatshirts so we couldn't see their faces," Dumbee said.

Dumbee and his friends decided to walk to Del Playa Drive (DP) to try their luck getting into a party.

"We had drunk a lot of kombucha, which is actually known to have a little alcohol. I remember this distinctly because my stomach was hurting a lot, especially when things started getting scarier," Dumbee told the Daily Nexus.

Dumbee later tried to retract this quote over fears his resident assistant would find out he was seeking "intoxication" through illegal means.

Unsurprisingly, Dumbee and his squad — a motley crew of a pirate, Nintendo Switch controller and another Minecraft character — were unable to gain entry anywhere. It is unclear at this time whether that was because it was simply too early, or because they weren't cool enough to make it in.

Dumbee and his friends apparently wandered around I.V. trying to look like they were having a good time, but they were losing hope that UCSB was the party school they thought it was.

Around 10 p.m., though, is when Dumbee said his whole life changed for the worst.

"I first saw this girl when we were walking past San Rafael. She was blonde, wearing all black and had some sort of animal ears on. She looked like a cat, and it's a well-known fact that I really hate cats because I was scratched by one when I was little," Dumbee said.

Dumbee didn't think much of the sighting until he remembered that he had seen the girl by Freebirds, again on DP, and now she was at San Rafael. That's when Dumbee realized he couldn't escape this girl.

"She was everywhere I was," Dumbee remembered. "She tried to get tricky and walk with a new group of people each time I saw her, probably to make me less suspicious and think she was someone else, but it was her for sure. Every time I looked over my shoulder I saw this blonde girl dressed as a cat — it felt like an evil omen."

Dumbee said that he made his friends go back to the dorms because he was so fearful, but he forgot about the incident after the weekend ended.

Despite their less-than-fun time, Dumbee and his friends decided to go out again, this time on Oct. 24, which was feted to be "the best time ever." Dumbee and his friends decided to dress up as their favorite manga characters, and they even managed to find actual alcoholic kombucha, which was a game-changer.

However, before the squad had even reached I.V., Dumbee claims he saw the same girl.

"She was blonde, wearing a cat costume! She walked right past me, and I swear to god she hissed at me too!"

Dumbee walked straight to the police station in I.V. to file a report of "haunting." He was asked repeatedly if he meant "stalking" but he insisted he was being haunted.

"It's like that evil cat from my childhood is trying to have a last laugh," Dumbee said.

The Daily Nexus was informed no report was actually filed, for a lack of sufficient evidence and the suspicion that the filer was intoxicated.

"I don't feel safe anymore. All I see is this blonde girl now, she is just walking around everywhere," Dumbee said. "She's not in costume but I know it's the same girl. Just following me. I'm scared!"

Serrano Ham is also scared of blonde girls.

MADELINE BRYCE / DAILY NEXUS



Proposed Storke Tower haunting raises ethical quandary

Ghee Buttersnaps, Esq.
Advocate

Earlier this week, UC Santa Barbara's Administrative Services Division announced that they were looking to hire a ghost, ghoul, goblin or gargoyle to haunt Storke Tower this Halloween season.

The Administrative Services Division describes itself as "[providing] the systems and services that create an ooky-spooky campus environment," and believes that introducing a ghastly specter will improve student horror and foster a sense of agony on campus. Sightings, stalkings and possessions are all going to be implemented in the hopes of building a "campus lore" that students will be eager to contribute to.

This initiative could potentially raise the University's national rankings, which has declined in recent years. Elite schools such as Ohio State University and the University of Notre Dame each boast campus ghosts alongside their highly ranked academics. While no definitive research has been done regarding the correlation between on-campus hauntings, scholastic quality and student performance, the University is optimistic about the impact this initiative will have on academics. The Administrative Services Division has dubbed this project the Storke Tower Haunting Initiative, aka STHI (pronounced ST-EYE).

While the University seeks to implement STHI, criticisms about the working conditions the potential campus ghoulie may have to endure have been levied. Monster and human advocacy groups have spoken up about the global plight of the monster working class; monsters worldwide are three times as likely to face unsafe or unfair working conditions when compared to human counterparts, and UCSB could potentially contribute to the problem.

The Daily Nexus sat down with Garreth Stonework III, President of the Monster Workers Union (MWU) and fifth-generation haunted gargoyle to talk about the kinds of issues monsters face in the workplace.

"The most common kind of work open to monsters is Halloween gig work, the kind UCSB is looking for. Low wage, job insecurity, no benefits, y'know?" Stonework said.

Stonework also mentioned that lack of benefits is a major concern for monsters in the workplace, an issue that MWU hopes to tackle going forward.

"And employers are usually like: 'You're a gargoyle, whaddaya need healthcare for?'" Stonework said. "And I says to 'em, 'Look, stone deteriorates, and we're lookin' at a Super El Niño that's gonna dump enough rain to erode my nuts away...'"

A lack of healthcare may not be the only problem with the position. Anonymous sources provided the Nexus with a copy of the job listing, and the University is offering hours and wages that would be illegal to offer a human. Overnight shifts, no breaks and zero hazard pay are all requirements for the role, yet it's not uncommon to see such conditions in monster work.

Campus advocacy group Student Coalition Against Monster Mistreatment (SCAMM) is planning a week's worth of demonstrations on the Storke Tower lawn. In an interview with the Nexus, SCAMM President and third-year history major Thea Gene Groblin called out administrators for failing to treat monsters as they would humans.

"The administration should be ashamed to think they can treat respectable, hardworking monsters this way, which is why SCAMM feels it's our responsibility to raise our voices in opposition to what we're seeing," Groblin said.

When the Nexus reached out to the Administrative Services Division for comment, an unidentified representative from the STHI committee replied with a short statement.

"While we understand the frustration the monster community feels, we are unable to provide more comprehensive benefits and pay for the position at this time. We may make the Storke Tower Ghoul a full time role, should the University deem STHI a success," the statement read.

The STHI representative refused to elaborate on what criteria would make STHI "successful."

Ghee is currently being haunted by midterms and DMs from S.T.E.M. majors.

MADELINE BRYCE / DAILY NEXUS



These five easy steps will get any man into exclusive fraternity parties

Lucille My Balls
Blacklisted

As Halloween rolls around at UC Santa Barbara, many nonfraternity-affiliated men suffer from a FOMO-related disorder: fear of not getting fucked up and/or getting bitches (FONGFUA/OGB). The symptoms of this disorder have only been exacerbated by recent reports of absolute ragers, causing tension between the fraternity and nonfraternity populations across Isla Vista.

For many of these nonfraternity-affiliated populations, the solution isn't as easy as simply joining a fraternity, which is much easier said than done. Meanwhile, half-empty band parties provide little to no relief for those afflicted by chronic FONGFUA/OGB.

Second-year biology major Aidan Knickerbacker voiced his complaints regarding rumors of hazing in fraternities.

"I really want to party but I heard frats do a bunch of gay shit," Knickerbacker said "Don't get me wrong I love homoerotic male friendships as much as the next guy, but I hate being told what to do! It completely takes the passion away from the experience."

Many feel hopeless regarding their fate of dorm-room video games instead of dance floor feel-ups, but with these simple five steps, partying as a nonfraternity-affiliate man has just gotten so much easier!

Disclaimer: The Daily Nexus is not responsible for any harm to life or property that may arise as a result of following this guide.

STEP 1: Pick your target. It is important to choose a specific fraternity in advance as each has their own complex security system. Case the house. Find your entrances. Find your exits. Plant recording devices. Find the weakest link. And most importantly, learn the names of at least five brothers.

STEP 2: Shave your body clean. This step is absolutely essential. Complete baldness will ensure aerodynamics. There should be NO hair on your body in order for the process to succeed. Even a stray armpit or chest hair can throw the whole operation off.

STEP 3: Go to the chosen fraternity house. Find the frat boy's dumpster. Get in there. Hide under discarded trash if applicable. Wait. This step should be done 24 to 36 hours before the party begins so if you get hungry or bored, bring snacks and a Nintendo Switch to keep you entertained. Wear a diaper if you have to. This is where shit gets serious. This is when the distinction between those who want to party and those who need to party will come clear.

STEP 4: Once the mediocre DJ starts blaring offbeat mashups, it's go time. Your in-the-dumpster position means you have already infiltrated the heavily-guarded borders. Log roll from under the car. Change out of diaper if needed. Change into a pre-planted on-theme outfit.

STEP 5: Go get fucked up and get some bitches. Let your world be changed by the magic of fraternity houses.

Lucille My Balls regards fraternities as America's most important institutions.

SCIENCE & TECH

UCSB computer science department now offers new artificial intelligence major

Olivia Lohrer
Lead Science Editor

Over the past few years, artificial intelligence seems to have entirely reshaped what it means to be a university student in peripheral — and, for some, presumably innocuous — ways, such as using ChatGPT to craft a study guide or Otter.AI to transcribe a lecture. Now, for the first time, UC Santa Barbara students will be able to make artificial intelligence the focus of their undergraduate experience.

As of this quarter, the UCSB computer science (CS) department has launched a new undergraduate major in artificial intelligence (AI). Designed to prepare students for a rapidly evolving technological landscape, the new AI major brings together fundamentals from across several disciplines to not only educate students about existing technologies, but to prepare them to be the next generation of AI developers.

"At the core of modern AI is basically a very interesting combination of math, statistics, logic and computer science fundamentals," Diba Mirza, teaching professor and vice chair of the computer science department, said. "The curriculum is really helping students build on that foundation, it's about being equally strong in these pillars and bringing them together to not just understand the current technology but also create the technology of the future."

Mirza helped lead the charge following a conversation with professor Tevfik Bultan that inspired the major. Together, Mirza and Bultan worked with CS Department Chair and distinguished professor Divyakant Agrawal to develop the program. The proposal for the new major was first submitted in the fall of 2024 and was approved by the UCSB Academic Senate in January 2026 to be implemented that fall.

According to Mirza, she and her colleagues first weighed whether or not to overhaul and integrate AI within the existing CS major, or to create a new major altogether. Ultimately, they decided on the latter because they "could lay out what [they] wanted someone to know at the end of this degree, what they should be capable of doing and then work out all of the curriculum that they should go through more systematically to get to that point."

"Those were the discussions that we had in our curriculum committee meetings and it just felt like a dedicated degree would help us think backwards and say, 'OK so for somebody to be really strong in this field, what is the foundation that they would need?'" Mirza said.

UCSB is the second UC campus to offer a dedicated undergraduate degree in AI following UC San Diego, who launched their program in the fall of 2025. UC Merced plans to follow suit next fall with an undergraduate major while UC Berkeley will launch their master's program in artificial intelligence and machine learning in the same semester.

Nationwide, 355 U.S. universities currently offer degree programs in AI. In 2026 alone, 33 new programs have been announced and the number of dedicated AI programs has increased by 600% over the past six years.

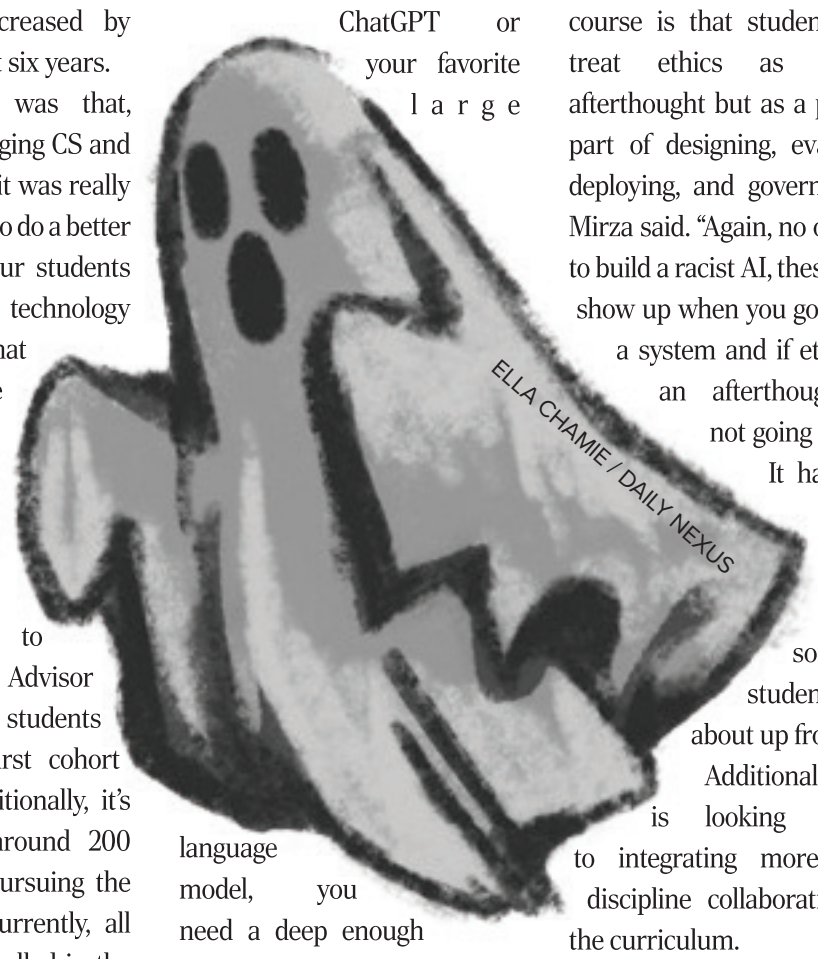
"The intention was that, because AI is changing CS and CS is changing AI, it was really clear that we need to do a better job of educating our students to understand the technology well enough that they could be the creators of the technology and that they could take it to the next level," Mirza said.

According to Undergraduate Advisor Jasmine Perez, 22 students enrolled in the first cohort of the major. Additionally, it's anticipated that around 200 students will be pursuing the major by 2029. Currently, all of the students enrolled in the major are taking a seminar course with professor Xifeng Yan. So far, Mirza has received positive feedback from the students she has spoken to.

"Overall, from what I've been hearing, it's going really well," she said. "Right now, through the seminar course, they're seeing a lot of guest speakers from different fields that use AI in interesting ways and are furthering their fields. What we hope is that they'll be really excited about what types of futures they can build with this degree."

Given how rapidly AI technology is evolving, however, creating a curriculum that will remain relevant in years to come poses a challenge. To confront that challenge, Mirza emphasizes the importance of focusing on the fundamentals — the math, statistics, logic and computer science principles — of developing AI systems.

"Whatever knowledge went into creating the current versions of ChatGPT or your favorite large language model, you need a deep enough technical understanding of all of that in order to bring about the next generation of AI," Mirza said.


ELLA CHAMIE / DAILY NEXUS

But the curriculum doesn't stop at technical knowledge alone. Amid growing concerns about AI's seemingly ceaseless expansion into our everyday lives, Mirza views addressing the ethical considerations of these systems as key to building a holistic curriculum.

"For AI, [ethics] is absolutely core and central. Things like fairness, bias, privacy and social impacts are really core principles that we want the graduates to be able to follow in what they create," she said.

The major will include the course CMPSC 183: Ethics, Privacy, Fairness, and Bias in AI and Computing, which will likely be taught by associate professor Michael Beyeler, whose research as director of the Bionic Vision Lab combines neuroscience and AI technology to advance sight restoration for the visually impaired.

"The main goal of the course is that students don't treat ethics as abstract afterthought but as a practical part of designing, evaluating, deploying, and governing AI," Mirza said. "Again, no one goes to build a racist AI, these things show up when you go to build a system and if ethics are an afterthought, it's not going to work. It has to be something students think about up front."

Additionally, Mirza is looking forward to integrating more cross-discipline collaboration into the curriculum.

"It was designed to be highly interdisciplinary, there are lots of electives that students can take in other departments already and we really want to expand that. Lots of entities and people are working in AI that are not in computer science, they're all across campus associated with various centers and departments and we really want to collaborate with anyone else in this space," she said.

Ultimately, Mirza views success in terms of producing graduates prepared to join this dynamic field in the early years of what has already been deemed "the AI revolution."

"We want it to be a point of pride for UCSB to produce amazing graduates doing amazing things," she said. "The goal is to produce graduates who can go out there and solve interesting and hard problems — human problems that have an impact on society and that we all care about. That would be the dream."


SARAH CAULDER / DAILY NEXUS

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LA VISTA

Muro Impenetrable: Fallo judicial reduce las garantías constitucionales para los inmigrantes



CORTESIA DE BLOOMBERG LAW

Jeannie Gutierrez Rubi
Editora

Un tribunal federal de apelaciones decidió el viernes, 23 de octubre, que ciertos inmigrantes detenidos por las autoridades migratorias no tienen derecho constitucional a una audiencia para solicitar su liberación condicional bajo fianza.

La decisión del Tribunal de Apelaciones del Quinto Circuito de Nueva Orleans, aprobada por una votación de 10 a 7, se aplica a los estados de Texas, Louisiana y Mississippi.

El caso llegó al tribunal después de que tres hombres detenidos en Texas impugnaron su encarcelamiento sin la posibilidad de solicitar fianza. Los tres hombres, Ignacio Sosnava Rodríguez, Miguel Ángel Gómez Alvarado y Alejandro Villegas Ángel, llevaban catorce años viviendo y trabajando en los Estados Unidos.

Los tres tienen familia en los Estados Unidos y hijos ciudadanos estadounidenses. Los tres fueron detenidos durante controles de tráfico realizados por agentes estatales entre noviembre de 2025 y febrero de 2026.

Luego fueron entregados al Servicio de Inmigración y Control de Aduanas (en inglés, I.C.E.).

Los agentes de ICE mantuvieron a los hombres detenidos sin permitirles comparecer ante un juez para solicitar una audiencia de fianza.

Los tres hombres fueron finalmente liberados de la custodia de ICE después de que jueces federales determinaron que mantenerlos detenidos sin la oportunidad de solicitar una audiencia de fianza violaba sus derechos al debido proceso legal.

La administración Trump apeló esta decisión, y con el juez designado por Trump, escribió en su decisión que los inmigrantes que no han sido legalmente admitidos en el país tienen derecho a las protecciones que el Congreso haya establecido en las leyes migratorias. Pero no a los derechos al debido proceso legal de la Constitución de los Estados Unidos. La decisión generó desacuerdos dentro del tribunal.

El juez Leslie Southwick, quien votó en contra del fallo, escribió que la resolución había creado un "muro impenetrable entre la Constitución y esos residentes de larga duración."

La abogada principal de litigios del American Immigration Council, Rebecca Cassler, afirmó que la decisión afecta las protecciones constitucionales de los inmigrantes.

"El derecho al debido proceso es una protección constitucional fundamental y está destinado a proteger a todas las personas en este país."

La quinta enmienda de la Constitución de los Estados Unidos establece que ninguna persona puede ser privada de la vida, la libertad o la propiedad sin el debido proceso legal.

En el caso de la Corte Suprema *Kwong Hai Chew v. Colding* (1953): la Corte citó el precedente de que las personas extranjeras en los Estados Unidos cuentan con protecciones constitucionales.

Asimismo, en el caso *Landon v. Plasencia* (1982), el tribunal señaló que la situación constitucional de una persona extranjera cambia cuando es admitida en el país y comienza a establecer vínculos propios de la residencia permanente.

Gracie Willis, abogada del Proyecto Nacional de Inmigración, quien representa a los tres inmigrantes que fueron detenidos, también cuestionó la decisión, con la premisa de que el caso "afrenta al debido proceso, como si el Quinto Circuito estuviera rechazando el debido proceso."

La decisión se aplica a Texas, Louisiana y Misisipi, pero mientras tanto, la Corte Suprema ha reconocido que las protecciones del debido proceso se extienden a las personas que se encuentran en los Estados Unidos, independientemente de su estatus migratorio.

La importancia de palabras motivadoras para estudiantes universitarios

Ashley Vasquez
Escritora

Llegue a UCSB Septiembre 18 del 2025, y recuerdo el primer dia en que mis padres me vinieron a dejar.

Manejamos desde Los Ángeles hasta Santa Bárbara una ciudad que era muy extraña para nosotros pero veníamos con toda la energía. Llegamos y yo como siempre ansiosa en nuevas situaciones.

Para mudarme me acompañaron mis primos, mi tía, tío, mis hermanas, y por supuesto mis padres.

Entre todos empecemos a mudar todo entre mi nuevo hogar, y yo solo miraba a mis padres en como me ayudaban y empezaba a pensar en cuanto ellos me han ayudado.

Terminamos de mudarnos y llegó la parte que más temía, porque sabía lo difícil que sería para mí dejar a mis papás y a todas las personas con las que tenía una relación tan cercana. Mientras me despedía de mi papá, recuerdo específicamente una frase que me dijo: "echale ganas, Nani". Esas palabras son algo que sigo repitiendo hasta el día de hoy, ahora que estoy en mi segundo año de universidad.

Algo en esa frase, "échale ganas", me ha servido como un recordatorio constante de que realmente tengo un propósito aquí.

Me recuerda todos los sacrificios que mis papás han hecho para que yo pueda estar en el lugar donde estoy hoy.

Si en verdad hay demasiados momentos de incertidumbre en los que quisiera estar en mi cuarto y dudar de todo lo que soy capaz de lograr, pero esas palabras me motivan a seguir adelante.

Antes de UCSB fui testiga del esfuerzo y el trabajo duro de mis papás, desde limpiar casas junto a mi mamá hasta sacar la basura de otras personas junto a mi papá. Todos esos momentos y sacrificios se resumen en una frase: "echale ganas".

Durante mi tiempo en Santa Bárbara ha habido demasiadas ocasiones en las que olvido quién soy y simplemente quiero rendirme, pero unas simples llamadas con mi mamá son suficientes para levantarme el ánimo.

Durante mi primer trimestre en UCSB, tomé mi primer curso que realmente me puso a prueba, microeconomía. Recuerdo haber llorado en la biblioteca por la frustración de no poder comprender la materia.

Decidí levantarme, regresar en bicicleta a mi dormitorio y llamar a mi mamá.

Durante esa videollamada, escuché las risas, el sonido de la comida que estaba cocinando y, lo más importante, sus palabras: "Qué raro, Nani, si usted no es así".

Me dijo eso después de escucharme llorar y decirle que ya no quería seguir en UCSB. Después de esa llamada, recordé quién soy y por qué estoy siguiendo el camino en el que me encuentro hoy.

Ahora entiendo que las palabras motivadoras pueden tener un gran impacto en la vida de un estudiante universitario. A veces, no necesitamos que alguien nos dé todas las respuestas, sino que nos recuerde quiénes somos y de lo que somos capaces.

Para mí, esas palabras y enseñanzas vienen de mis papás, quienes siempre me recuerdan que siga adelante, incluso cuando las cosas se ponen difíciles.

Aunque estoy lejos de casa, sus palabras me acompañan todos los días y me dan fuerzas para seguir luchando por mis metas.

Al final, una frase tan sencilla como "echale ganas" significa mucho más que seguir intentando, significa recordar todo lo que he superado, los sacrificios que mis papás han hecho por mí y la razón por la que estoy aquí.

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OPINION

Halloween costumes: The ultimate relationship test?

Avery Massie
Reporter

The weather is getting cooler, the leaves are changing colors and pumpkins are being carved — Halloween is approaching. Around the country, college students are making the choice between whether or not to be an angel or a devil, a vampire or a siren. But what does the holiday look like to those who are in relationships?

The Halloween season has the tendency to cause tension within relationships, with heterosexual relationship dynamics often struggling the most. Women are constantly put down by society due to norms surrounding their fashion choices, and it's all too common for women to face misogynistic comments based on their clothes. This issue is often exacerbated during Halloween, when many boyfriends may accuse their girlfriends of wanting to "unnecessarily show off." This can often be observed on social media platforms including TikTok and Instagram, with women often posting videos of themselves in their costumes, asking for the approval of others and stating that her boyfriend was not okay with her outfit. Oftentimes under these posts, commenters are on the girl's side.

Halloween is viewed by many students as a night of complete freedom and festivity, and this extends to wearing what they want. In the early 2000s hit "Mean Girls," Cady Heron once said, "In girl world, Halloween is the one night a year when a girl can dress like a total slut and no other girls can say anything about it." But the issue is, dressing in a certain type of way shouldn't lead to women being labeled with derogatory terms like "slut." However, the idea still stands: It is the one night a year where you can embody the characters you love without facing anxiety and fear of judgement from others for being in a costume. And the same thing should apply to men as well — nobody should be dictating what their romantic partners choose to wear. A secure relationship should not be affected by the amount of clothing someone wears.



KATHERINE NGUYEN / DAILY NEXUS

The idea that a man should be allowed to dictate what a woman wears is part of longstanding patriarchal standards which impose upon women's autonomies, norms which society should outgrow. It is unfair for a woman to have to suffer consequences due to a man's jealousy. When it comes down to it, the root of the problem is not the woman. This is a problem rooted in insecurity, and the expectation that someone must change their actions to cater to these insecurities is unfair. Throughout history, it has been normalized for a man to have power in decision making over a woman. Rape culture is at the forefront of a world where showing more skin is seen as an invitation, and something even as small as controlling a Halloween costume ties into that. What women wear is often twisted by abusers in an attempt to justify their actions, but any violation of a woman's boundaries has everything to do with the person violating them, and nothing to do with her or what she is wearing.



ELLA CHAMIE / DAILY NEXUS

It is natural to get jealous, and everyone has their own insecurities, but it becomes a problem once it is projected onto others. In today's world, the distinction between establishing a healthy boundary and imposing your will on others due to a personal belief is often confused. Boundaries are a set of personal rules one has to protect their emotions and wellbeing by limiting their own behavior and the treatment they find acceptable from others. Therefore, there is a difference between communicating a boundary and asking someone else to change their own behavior because of an insecurity; in the latter case, responsibility doesn't fall on the other party to change. Sometimes a bit of self reflection is necessary rather than forcing other people to make accommodations for you. It is completely acceptable to place boundaries, however, it is a different situation when you create boundaries for someone else. It becomes controlling and toxic, especially when a romantic relationship is involved.

Another question arises of what the actual issue is with "revealing" costumes. Is it considered a problem because other people have wandering eyes? If so, that is not the costume-wearers' problem. As long as they don't encourage or allow anything unloyal, they have done nothing wrong. Other people thinking your partner looks good should really be a flex, not a cause for jealousy.

Halloween is meant to be a time for everyone to have fun, and no one's night should be ruined due to jealousy. Costumes are just another form of expression, and everyone has the right to show off.

Avery Massie thinks that girls should wear whatever they want for Halloween, and look like a baddie while doing so.



SARAH CAULDER / DAILY NEXUS



KATHERINE NGUYEN / DAILY NEXUS



KATHERINE NGUYEN / DAILY NEXUS

U-MAIL: New Message!

To: <ivstreets@umail.ucsb.edu> **Subject:** Isla Vista, don't worry, we will be back.

Dear empty streets of Isla Vista,

I will miss you this weekend on my journey away from your boarded-up streets and high police presence. I am sorry to leave you in the hands of such company. I tried to make it up this past weekend in my Velma costume that I put on one week early just for you. In fact, so many of us showed you our loyalty, dressed head to toe as different ghosts and ghouls. As I walked hand in hand with my Scooby gang counterparts, I took in all your glory.

The houses that hug your sides were shaking as music and people overflowed into your waiting arms. As my boots clicked on your asphalt surface, you provided me with endless entertainment. To my left, I saw freshmen begging for their GroupMe chats to load outside of whatever fraternity was throwing that night. To my right, I saw the safety booth surrounded by cats, Victoria Secret angels and a life-size Marlboro Reds pack anxiously waiting for water. And right in front of me, of course, was a girl hurling her guts out, which I thankfully dodged with ease thanks to the expertise I have gained on so many weekends before.

Will you miss me this weekend when your entrances are boarded up, speakers are locked away and the massive crowds disappear? I know I will miss you. I promise I would never leave your side if I was not forced out – none of us would.

Unfortunately, the evil forces that tear us away have nothing to do with you. It is nothing more than a Halloween curse called a "noise ordinance." Coming into effect on Oct. 26 at 6 p.m., not only can I not enjoy music with you, but I cannot play music that can be heard from the edge of my own property. If you know me, which, Isla Vista, I know you do, you know that I simply cannot survive without my Beats Pill. I'm sure that the music I play in the shower would probably violate this ordinance, so I'd rather not take my chances. And if you think I am being dramatic, Isla Vista, last year during the infamous Deltopia, my friend was approached in her front yard by an officer on horseback warning her to turn off her speaker while tanning. As much as I would love an officer on horseback to try and write me a ticket, I think I will stick with fleeing town this weekend.

Don't worry though, I will be back for more sunset walks, Friday nights and people-watching from balconies. They could never tear us apart no matter how hard they try. I hope you'll miss me as much as I'll miss you.

With love,
Narineh

Send

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 decisions they would make in a horror movie

ARIES
MARCH 21 - APRIL 19

Locking themselves in a closet to hide and breathing loudly

TAURUS
APRIL 20 - MAY 20

Picking up the mysterious phone call in the middle of the night

GEMINI
MAY 21 - JUNE 20

Deciding to split up with their group

CANCER
JUNE 21 - JULY 22

Tripping and falling at a crucial moment

LEO
JULY 23 - AUGUST 22

Getting out of bed to investigate an unusual sound

VIRGO
AUGUST 23 - SEPTEMBER 22

Moving into a house that all the neighbors say is haunted

LIBRA
SEPTEMBER 23 - OCTOBER 22

Not making sure the killer is actually dead in the end

SCORPIO
OCTOBER 23 - NOVEMBER 21

Trying to get away in an old car that won't start

SAGITTARIUS
NOVEMBER 22 - DECEMBER 21

Choosing to ignore all the warning signs

CAPRICORN
DECEMBER 22 - JANUARY 19

Calling their friends instead of the cops

AQUARIUS
JANUARY 20 - FEBRUARY 18

Going to the public library to research paranormal phenomenon

PISCES
FEBRUARY 19 - MARCH 20

Playing with a Ouija board and accidentally inviting spirits into their house

SPORTS

UCSB dominates Long Beach State, cruises to 13-8 victory

Fiona Feng
Sports Writer

No. 12 UC Santa Barbara Men's Water Polo delivered an impressive 13-8 upset over No. 9 California State Univeristy, Long Beach on Saturday, Oct. 24, at Santa Barbara High School. The Gauchos demonstrated an exceptionally coordinated defensive effort, holding off a formidable Long Beach offense while securing its second consecutive victory over a nationally ranked opponent.

The Gauchos entered the match — which was dedicated to the late Gaucho Nick Johnson — fresh off a 14-8 win over No. 8 UC San Diego the previous weekend. The victory improved their conference record to 2-1 and continued their momentum against ranked competition.

Santa Barbara established an early lead when freshman attacker Luigi Canepa converted a five-meter penalty just 42 seconds into the opening quarter. Long Beach's sophomore attacker Federico Gulisano quickly responded, leveling the score at 1-1 before freshman attacker Dash D'Ambrosia restored the Gauchos' advantage. Despite several impressive consecutive saves from fifth-year goalkeeper Wyatt Pieretti, the Beach managed to equalize again, bringing the first quarter to a 2-2 close.

The second quarter, however, saw a considerable shift in momentum.

UCSB's increasingly aggressive defense forced Long Beach into difficult offensive positions, allowing the Gauchos to capitalize on turnovers and launch counterattacks. Sophomore attacker Charlie Johnson opened the quarter's scoring before Canepa converted two additional five-meter penalties, extending Santa Barbara's lead to 5-2.

Although Long Beach's junior attacker Harper Stewart briefly interrupted the Gauchos' offensive momentum, senior attacker Finn Genc secured another goal with just 11 seconds remaining before halftime, giving UCSB a comfortable 6-3 advantage.

The third quarter saw Long Beach mount a more determined offensive challenge, with frequent exclusions and turnovers disrupting both teams' rhythm. Long Beach gradually narrowed the deficit through goals from junior utility player Artur Diaz and senior utility player Marc Frigola, while freshman attacker Noah Loo contributed UCSB's lone goal of the quarter.

Nevertheless, Pieretti remained a daunting presence in the Santa Barbara goal, repeatedly denying Long Beach opportunities to capitalise on its numerical advantages. The Beach managed to reduce the deficit to 7-5 entering the final quarter, leaving victory within reach.

Any possibility of a Long Beach comeback, however, was quickly extinguished.

D'Ambrosia opened the fourth quarter with 2 consecutive goals, completing his hat trick and extending UCSB's advantage to 9-5. Long Beach eventually responded, but freshman center Hayden Tully restored the four-goal margin just 13 seconds later.

The most remarkable moment of the match came courtesy of Pieretti when he, following Canepa's fourth goal, capitalized on Long Beach's decision to pull its goalkeeper. With the opposing cage left unattended, Pieretti launched the ball across the length of the pool, securing his first career goal and bringing the score to 12-6.

Long Beach managed 2 additional goals in the closing minutes, but it was a futile effort. A final contribution from senior utility player Landon Lassahn secured the Gauchos' 13-8 victory.


COURTESY OF UCSB WATER POLO

UCSB players honor late Gaucho Nick Johnson.

It was an extraordinary conclusion to an already impressive individual performance. Pieretti finished with 9 saves and 8 goals allowed, while Canepa led the Gauchos offensively with 4 goals and 1 assist. D'Ambrosia contributed 3 goals, with Genc adding 1 goal and 2 assists.

UCSB's defensive superiority was equally apparent in the final statistics. The Gauchos recorded 11 steals compared with Long Beach's 5, whilst attempting 32 shots to the Beach's 25. Santa Barbara also won all four opening sprints, consistently establishing possession and controlling the pace of play.

The win marked another significant achievement for the Santa Barbara squad, finding its rhythm as conference competition intensifies. Having defeated two top-10 opponents in consecutive weekends, the Gauchos will look to maintain their momentum when they travel to face UC Irvine on Friday, Oct. 30, at 7 p.m.

UCSB Women's Soccer shut out by Cal Poly in Blue-Green Rivalry


COURTESY OF UCSB SOCCER

Hayden Halscheid surveys the field.

Vincent Regalado
Sports Writer

UC Santa Barbara Women's Soccer suffered a 0-2 defeat against California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo on Wednesday, Oct. 21, as rainy weather and 2 Mustang goals complicated the Gauchos' efforts at Spanos Stadium in San Luis Obispo.

Heavy rainfall created difficult playing conditions for the 38th meeting of the rivalry between these two teams. Precipitation left portions of the field covered in water, disrupting the pace of play and making ball movement challenging for both sides.

Cal Poly broke the scoreless tie just eight minutes into the game. Following a corner kick from freshman Mustang defender Kate Nunes, UCSB failed to clear the ball from its penalty area, where the ball found the head of junior Mustang defender Lilly Cole, who directed it back to senior Mustang forward Annika Smith for the header to take an early advantage.

Following the opening goal, Cal Poly maintained control of the match and limited UCSB's offensive production. The Gauchos managed only 2 shots through the first 40 minutes before generating several opportunities near halftime. However, they entered the break trailing 0-1.

The Gauchos responded with increased offensive pressure to start the second half, recording three early shot attempts. UCSB continued pushing forward throughout the opening 20 minutes but struggled to turn its possession and scoring chances into a goal.

Cal Poly eventually regained momentum and extended its advantage in the 73rd minute. A header from Nunes sailed just past senior goalkeeper Maddie Buckley, giving the Mustangs a 0-2 lead.

UCSB continued searching for a breakthrough in the closing minutes. Freshman midfielder Ava Ybarra came close to scoring when her shot struck the left goalpost, while senior forward Olivia Howard saw a close-range attempt blocked by the Mustang defense. Neither opportunity produced a goal, allowing junior Cal Poly goalkeeper Shannon Porubski to finish the shutout.

The Gauchos dropped to 3-3-3 in Big West conference play, following an additional loss to Utah Valley University on Oct. 24. UCSB will next travel to Matador Soccer Field for a matchup against California State University, Northridge on Wednesday, Oct. 28.

Gauchos fall to Mustangs in hard-fought 3-set game

Katie Anderson
Sports Writer

With over 950 spectators in attendance, UC Santa Barbara Women's Volleyball (10-10,6-3 Big West) hosted the highly anticipated rivalry game against California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo (13-6, 9-0 Big West) on Oct. 22. Having to overcome an in-game injury, the Gauchos fought hard but fell short to the Mustangs in a 0-3 game.

The Mustangs came out strong in the first set, mustering up an 11-4 lead on the Gauchos. A shift in offense came when sophomore setter Ava Zamora was subbed into the game. Her assist paired with sophomore opposite Avery Gibbs' kill, and back to back kills from sophomoreoutside hitter Gabi Martinez led to a trickle that narrowed the score to an eventual 18-16 two-point deficit. As the first set came to an end, Cal Poly's .308 hitting in comparison to the Gauchos' .121 resulted in a 25-19 victory for the Mustangs.

The second set began with the Mustangs quickly reestablishing control in a 7-3 lead. This only grew with Cal Poly's Alexis Haury anchoring in a 10-0 run in a single service turn that pushed the score to 18-4 in favor of the Mustangs. The Gauchos fought back with a kill and ace from senior opposite Auburn Tomkinson, However, the deficit proved to be too large. With a final service error, Cal Poly took the second set 25-13.

The Gauchos came back strong in the third set starting off with an aggressive kill from Martinez, resulting in an early 1-0 lead for UCSB. The Mustangs remained diligent, fighting to an 8-4 advantage. The Gauchos, however, refused to back down as service aces from Tomkinson and Martinez's kills successfully tied the game at 12-12.

Down 12-16 to the Mustangs in the third set, a frightening collision occurred on the court between UC Santa Barbara players junior outside hitter Sophia Wendlick and Martinez. Wendlick sustained a significant injury, appearing to be to her left knee. Martinez was able to walk off of the court, although she suffered a visible bloody nose from the impact. Both were tended to by medical staff before the match proceeded.

In an emotional end to the last set, the Gauchos came together to play for their teammates. Cal Poly continued to a 21-13 advantage before UCSB junior outside Danica Rach stopped the run from growing. As points continued to trade between teams, The Mustangs claimed the game with a 25-17 victory.

In the Thursday game, Martinez led UCSB with 10 kills, followed by Wendlick's 6 and 5 from Tomkinson. Senior defensive specialist Cortni Youngblood secured 6 digs for the Gauchos along with senior setter Milan Rex obtaining 20 assists.

Despite the difficult match and loss against the Mustangs, the UC Santa Barbara women's volleyball team has consistently demonstrated their grit throughout the 2026 season, a trait highlighted by a previous 3-2 win against California Baptist University on Oct. 16, a result the Gauchos look to carry forward as the season continues.


COURTESY OF UCSB VOLLEYBALL

Gauchos return the ball over the net.

COLUMNISTS



What we keep wearing:

Borrowed menswear

Arna Churiwala
Fashionista

There are few things more romantic than a borrowed sweatshirt, and few things are more satisfying than realizing you look better in your partner's clothes than they do.

Somewhere between stealing a boyfriend's hoodie and convincing ourselves that men's button-downs are better than women's, borrowing clothes became its own kind of fashion statement. His oversized work shirt looks better tucked into your jeans. His old band T-shirt works better with a miniskirt than anything you bought specifically to pair with one. And his boxers? Well, those have officially left the bedroom.

The appeal of wearing someone else's clothes is partly sentimental. It can feel like carrying a little piece of them around, even when they are several miles away and wondering why their favorite crewneck has mysteriously disappeared. But borrowed menswear is about more than romance. It is a way to experiment with proportions, play with gender expectations and achieve that elusive, carefully cultivated look of effortlessness.

The oversized button-down is perhaps the easiest place to start. Borrowed from a father's closet, a boyfriend's wardrobe or the men's section of a thrift store, it can be worn over a tank top, tucked into jeans or thrown over a short skirt. It is simultaneously polished and a little undone, which is the perfect balance to strike when getting dressed for a full day of classes.

Then there is the necktie. Once the uniform of office workers and men with important meetings, the tie has found a different life in women's wardrobes. Styled loosely over a white shirt or paired with baggy jeans, it can make an outfit feel deliberately masculine. If paired with a plaid pleated skirt, it can lean into a preppy, school uniform vibe instead.

Boxer shorts have gone from private to public. The striped cotton shorts that once belonged beneath a pair of jeans are now being styled as outerwear, paired with tanks, oversized skirts and structured handbags. The appeal is obvious: they are comfortable, inexpensive-looking in the best possible way and slightly risky.

Of course, women borrowing from men's wardrobes is hardly a new phenomenon. For centuries, clothing has helped define which roles women and men are expected to occupy, and dressing across boundaries has carried meaning beyond aesthetics.

In the early 20th century, actress Marlene Dietrich became famous for wearing tailored suits and tuxedos, challenging the expectation that femininity required skirts and dresses. Coco Chanel also helped popularize practical, relaxed silhouettes inspired by menswear, offering women an alternative to the restrictive clothing that had dominated fashionable dress.

Then came Yves Saint Laurent's "Le Smoking" in 1966. The designer's tuxedo for women transformed a traditionally masculine eveningwear staple into a symbol of sophisticated femininity. The suit was not simply a man's outfit made smaller; it was a new way of dressing women altogether.

Nearly six decades later, that same spirit remains central to the Yves Saint Laurent aesthetic. For its Spring/Summer 2025 collection, creative director Anthony Vaccarello revisited the house's legacy with broad-shouldered suits, wide-leg trousers, crisp shirts and oversized ties, redefining what femininity looks like. By returning to the suit season after season, Saint Laurent demonstrates that borrowing from menswear is more than just a trend.

Today, the appeal of menswear is less about dressing to prove a point and more about having fun with clothes. Oversized tailoring, relaxed denim and boxy silhouettes have become staples of contemporary styling, while the line between menswear and womenswear continues to blur. But the history is worth remembering: Clothes that now feel casual or cool have not always been free from gender expectations.

There is also something interesting about the way women in masculine clothing are perceived, allowing them to subvert societal norms of femininity. A woman in an oversized blazer can look powerful, nonchalant or fashion-forward. The same cannot always be said of a man in traditionally feminine clothing, who may still face judgment for wearing something associated with softness. Fashion has become more flexible, but its ideas about masculinity and femininity have not disappeared entirely.

Men's clothes often offer a different relationship with the body. Instead of emphasizing the waist or following every curve, an oversized shirt or blazer allows fabric to hang, fold and move. The effect can be relaxed without being careless, and dressed up without feeling overly precious. When so much of women's fashion is marketed around finding the most flattering fit, there is something liberating about wearing a shirt simply because it feels good.

On campus, the borrowed look is also remarkably easy to incorporate into an everyday wardrobe. An oversized button-down with denim shorts, a borrowed crewneck with a miniskirt or a pair of boxer shorts paired with tall boots can make familiar pieces feel new.

The secret is in the contrast: Balance a loose shirt with a shorter hemline, pair masculine tailoring with delicate jewelry or add ballet flats to soften your baggiest jeans. The goal is not to look as though you rolled out of your partner's bed. It is to make the pieces feel like yours.

And, naturally, you do not need a boyfriend to participate.

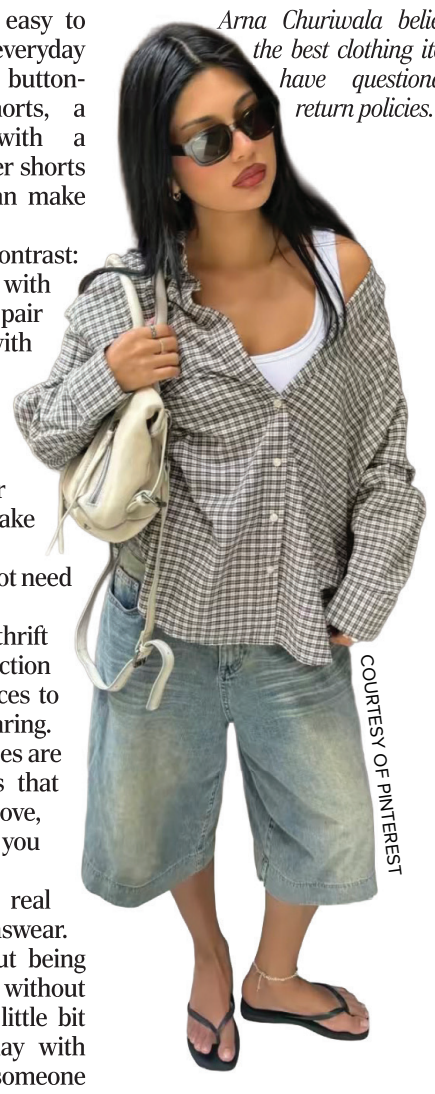
Friends, siblings, thrift stores and the men's section are all perfectly good places to find something worth wearing.

The best borrowed pieces are not necessarily the ones that belong to someone you love, but the ones that make you feel more like yourself.

Maybe that is the real appeal of borrowed menswear. They are familiar without being predictable, comfortable without being boring and just a little bit intimate. They let us play with the idea of dressing like someone else while making the final styling entirely our own.

Whether it's a sweatshirt, a button-down or an entire aesthetic, sometimes the best items in your wardrobe were never yours to begin with.

And if they happen to smell like your favorite person? Consider that an added accessory.



COURTESY OF PINTEREST

Arna Churiwala believes the best clothing items have questionable return policies.



put me on aux:

From Ištar to Geneva: The infectious warmth of Afro house and Jamaican house across Europe

Siobhan Stewart
Beat Reporter

The mesmerizing flow of Afro house shakes my soul when I enter the warm, persuasive glow of Ištar. This famous Spanish club brings together organic drums, polyrhythms, live percussive textures and modern electronic house music to create a refreshing blend. Across the floor, bodies move in a synchronized tempo, surrendering to the rhythm of the sound. A nice change from the traditional going-out scene of pop songs and house music.

Afro house has been steadily building momentum since the last decade and it's here to stay. Artists like Adam Port, Ramp, Francis Mercier and Black Coffe have become dominant forces in reshaping the landscape of global clubbing and summer music festivals.

Afro house originated in the late 1990s across South Africa. It is a hybrid genre bridging African percussion and deep Chicago and New York house music. While standard house music relies on a standard four-by-four beat, Afro house layers syncopated polyrhythms over that kick drum, using organic instruments like congas, djembes, shakers, kalimbas and talking drums.

The speed generally sits around 120 to 124 beats per minute (BPM), fast enough for clubbing and still enough to preserve the organic groove. Rich in minor chords, ambient atmospheric pads, traditional African vocal chants and deep, resonant sub-bass, the genre combines cultural heritage with electronic energy to create a spiritual, warm and hypnotic vibe.

This warmth has been exploding far beyond the clubs. Tracks like "Sauti" by Francis Mercier have gone massively viral on TikTok, inspiring over 518,700 people to generate videos using the audio. On Spotify alone, it has gained over 128 million streams and 128,000 daily streams. Yet, this digital explosion and global rise doesn't stop at Afro house.

Jamaican house has exploded in popularity through releases like FISHER's remix of Bob Marley's song "Jamming" to HUGEL and SOLTO (FR) remixing Sister Nancy's "Bam Bam."

HUGEL and SOLTO's remix of Sister Nancy's iconic vocal line has become a fixture across social platforms and clubs world wide. It recently accumulated over 447 million streams on Spotify with roughly 1.4 million daily streams.

The roots of Jamaican house started way before the "Bam Bam" rework was produced. Originating in the 1970s and 1980s, producers mixed Jamaican vocals and syncopated rhythms with house tracks. It uses skank guitars, heavy sub-bass lines and vocal chants, with a high-energy tempo of 120 to 126 BPM, matching the pace of Afro house, while delivering a soulful, summery energy. Other famous artists that blend Afro and Jamaican rhythms are Francis Mercier and Major Lazer.

These two genres don't exist separately; they actively build off each other. They share a heritage, Jamaica's reggae and dancehall culture stems directly from West African rhythm traditions. Today's top DJs, like Aaron Sevilla and HUGEL, weave Afro house into Jamaican-influenced house tracks to create a lethal combination. The Jamaican vocals create an instant nostalgia that the listeners recognize, while the Afro house drum pattern keeps the dancing flowing.

This sound is finding a home in unexpected places. From Geneva, Switzerland, to Amsterdam, Netherlands, crowds in historically-techno local club nights and active nightlife hubs have seen a notable rise in reggae-infused house sets. Even regions historically dominated by cold winters and rigid techno-dominated regions are seeking out the warm energy of African and Jamaican dance music. When I went to visit Geneva in early September, a local involved in the club and active scenes told me that reggae has been on the rise in Switzerland and gaining rapid popularity. He started playing me his favorite Sister Nancy electronic remix song, proving that even in a city known for cold winters, the warmth of Jamaican house is universally understood and loved.

Beyond transforming the club scene, these genres represent a more interconnected future for global dance culture and clubbing. Music holds an extraordinary power to bridge diversity. By opening our ears to rhythms rooted in different traditions, we learn to listen and value each other on and off the dance floor.

Siobhan thinks Afro and Jamaican house music are only getting started.



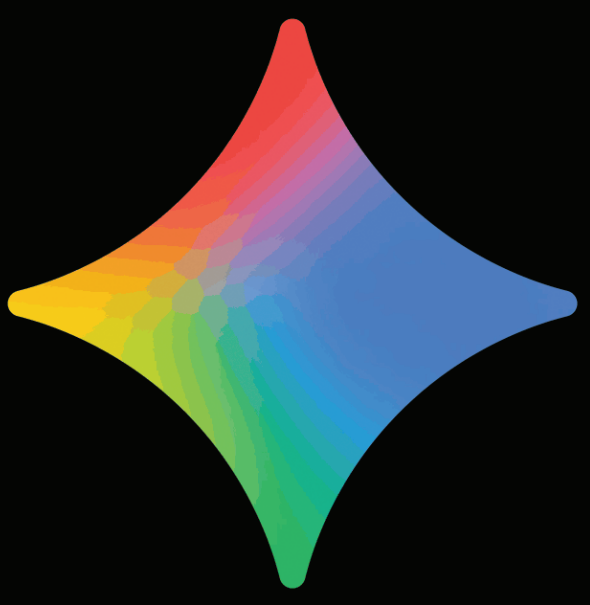
COURTESY OF MYKEYMADRID

Ištar is a popular club, best known for Afro house music, located in the Salamanca district of Madrid.



COURTESY OF SOLUNA

Francis Mercier is a Haitian DJ and producer with 4.6 million monthly Spotify listeners. His Afro house track "Sauti" went viral on TikTok.



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