DAILY NEXUS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2026 | UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA BARBARA | EST. 1930 | WWW.DAILYNEXUS.COM

End of Election Day Midterm Results

Called results as of 12 a.m. on Nov. 4.

Local Election

State Assembly District 37:
Gregg Hart

Congressional District 24:
Salud Carbajal

Propositions

Passed:
Proposition 1
Proposition 2
Proposition 37

Failed:
Proposition 39
Proposition 44

Statewide Election

Governor:
Xavier Becerra

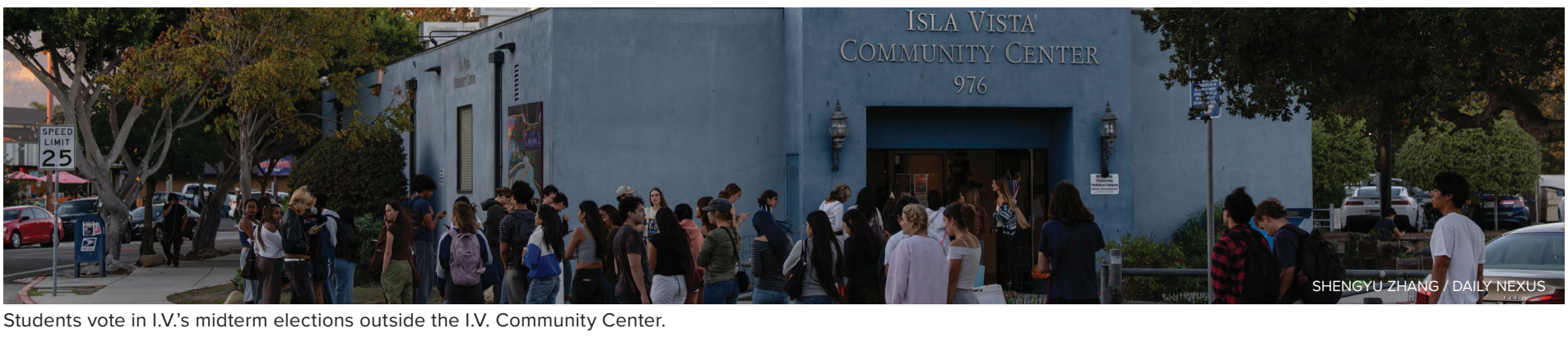
Controller:
Malia Cohen

Lieutenant Governor:
Fiona Ma

Treasurer:
Eleni Kounalakis

Secretary of State:
Shirley Weber

Attorney General:
Rob Bonta



SHENGYU ZHANG / DAILY NEXUS

Students vote in I.V.'s midterm elections outside the I.V. Community Center.

UCSB Student Bees bridges generational gaps through student-led services

Ramona Jacobson
Staff Writer
Salome Harris
Reporter


PHOTO COURTESY OF STUDENT BEES

Dhaliwal worked on developing Student Bees over the past summer, ultimately growing their client base from three to 54.

UC Santa Barbara's student-founded service-based organization Student Bees strives to connect older local residents with students, providing a variety of services and forming connections in the community through its work.

Fourth-year communication major Samai Dhaliwal, third-year biology major Koa Papandrew and UCSB student Zane Pinedo founded Student Bees in February 2026. The organization is an online marketplace agency where Santa Barbara community members can seek assistance for manual labor tasks from student workers, including moving, yard work, furniture assembly and tech support for seniors.

"We're basically the matchmakers matching the client to the student that best is able to fulfill their needs," Papandrew said.

In October 2025, the founders began developing their ideas into the organization that would eventually become Student Bees. Co-founders Dhaliwal, Papandrew and Pinedo met through the New Venture Program, which is managed by UCSB's Technology Management program. The program facilitates the creation of entrepreneurial ventures by pitting students against each other in a "Shark Tank"-style competition, where competitors pitch business ideas and have the chance to be rewarded with the funding to develop their startup.

During a summer spent working in car detailing, Papandrew had met many older clients who appreciated the chance to interact with a younger person, and this experience sparked his idea to create a student-based business that served the older community. Papandrew credited the co-founders' prior experiences assisting older members of their communities as a key inspiration in their creation of Student Bees.

"The idea stemmed from the fact that we would all kind of help around our neighborhoods, maybe with senior neighbors or our grandparents, and just seeing that there was a need," Papandrew said. "These people start losing their mobility, they start losing their strength, and a lot of times they just want a helping hand. I think a lot of people reference us as their surrogate grandson or their surrogate son, and that is kind of what we act as. It's just hands that can help you."

Dhaliwal worked on developing Student Bees over the past summer, ultimately growing their client base from three to 54.

Student Bees offers student employees hourly wages that outcompete minimum-wage pay in the Santa Barbara area — paying students $25-$30 an hour for their work with the organization. Dhaliwal feels that Student Bees' lenient, gig-based employment structure will benefit student employees by allowing them to select work times that best fit their schedules.

"Besides the pay, the real opportunity, I always tell them, is that you get to actually meet the network of Santa Barbara," Dhaliwal said.

He feels that the networking and relationship-building opportunities of the job are some of the most significant benefits that students can gain from working for Student Bees.

"The number of times people have referred us to other things — I've gotten job opportunities in accounting because they're just so willing to extend it," Dhaliwal said. "The people I get to meet are amazing. There are so many unique elderly people, and the stories I get to hear are incredible."

Jill Hyers, the activity director for the Maravilla senior living community in Santa Barbara, was first introduced to Student Bees at an open house event when Dhaliwal approached her with several offers that his organization could assist the seniors at Maravilla, such as technology help and tips on avoiding scams.

With over 400 senior residents at Maravilla attempting to use technological devices to complete everyday tasks, she said it is very helpful for residents to have access to regular assistance with any technological issues that they may face.

"It was just a blessing and a gift from God, really," Hyers said.

"We all get together, the residents in their walkers and their wheelchairs with their iPads, anything that they've got. The Bees are there to really make everything comfortable for them and show on a screen what is going on, make it very easy for them to understand and just be on call for any emergency issues," Hyers said. "They've just been amazing. It's like having a grandson at your community that you live at."

Hyers said that one of the benefits of having Student Bees work with residents is that Student Bees workers are willing to help with tasks that may feel too small to hire other assistance to complete.

"We have people coming into our office in our buildings every day, or every other day, asking, 'When are those Bees guys coming again? I wanted to talk to them. I wanted to ask them something,'" Hyers said. "You don't realize how important it is until you just sit down with them, and they come to trust them very quickly. It's a great community service."

Senior and local resident Leah Diamond first heard about Student Bees through an advertisement on the neighborhood networking app Nextdoor and has since developed a deeper relationship with Dhaliwal through her use of Student Bees' services.

"[Dhaliwal] helped me on my phone; I write poetry and then turn it into a song, and then a friend of mine does the music, but it wasn't really clear how to put it on my phone to save the songs, so one of the things he helped me with was how to do that," Diamond said. "I'm not tech-savvy at all, so I don't really want to learn. I want to learn as little as I need to to be able to do stuff, so it's like I know I can call [Dhaliwal] if I have a tech problem."

Beyond technology help, Diamond believes that she and Dhaliwal have benefited from the connection that Student Bees has facilitated between them.

"I feel like [Dhaliwal] and I have other common interests besides him just coming and doing something for me," she said. "I make dark chocolate, and whenever he comes, I've given him one and we talk about different things, and it's kind of like having a son or something sometimes. He was having some issues with what he was going to do as a business, and I've had a business here for 25 years, so I told him I'd help him, that he could run ideas off of me, and he has done some of that. I feel like I'm kind of a senior mentor to him."

Britt Iliff, a resident of Santa Barbara's Garden Court retirement community on De La Vina street, was Student Bees' first client. Iliff said that she chose to use Student Bees' services because she felt the workers seemed trustworthy, energetic and capable of assisting her with tasks that other means of assistance could not accomplish as well.

"I think the fact that they're affiliated with UCSB, which legitimizes their presence being here in Santa Barbara, makes it, let's put it this way: not a scary idea to call a number out of the blue and not know who you're getting," Iliff said. "You have a sense of security because they have been validated as being actual students who are looking for part-time work and specializing with this in the senior community. It's a rare area."

Iliff shared a story about struggling to see while driving; she had initially misattributed this struggle to issues with her eyesight. However, Papandrew helped her recognize and address an issue with her headlights that caused the problem. With Papandrew's assistance, Iliff was able to avoid paying $2000 at a mechanic shop and instead paid him $120 to fix the headlight.

"He made them like new, and so when I went to drive that week at night, I found that the stripes on the roads were back again," Iliff said. "It was a simple job, but it changed my night driving completely."

She values Student Bees' willingness to work with older people, and their kind personalities in general.

"We put them through the paces," she said. "It's not easy working with people who can't hear you. They're going, 'What?', and you have to yell at them, and it's really hard. They've been so kind and patient, they've really been very sweet."

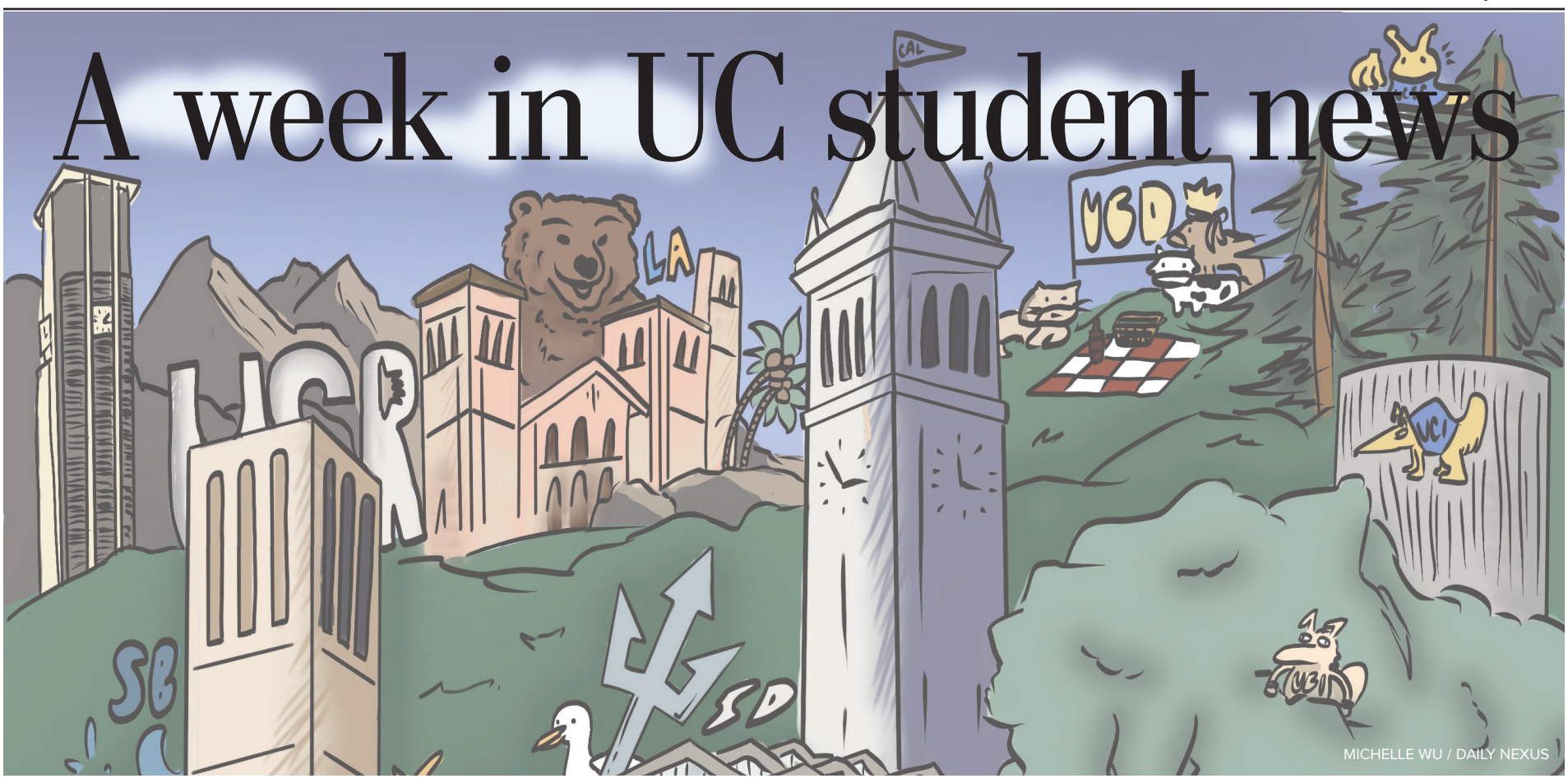
Iliff appreciates the accessible help that Student Bees offers, comparing their assistance to that of a partner or family member who might stop by casually to complete a small task.

"It's just the simple, small stuff of running a home. And when you're alone and you don't have a partner to help you with that, you can call on [Student Bees], and they just make up that niche that's really quite good of helping the older generation getting help as they would, for instance, from a family member that lived close by," she said. "These people have put themselves out there to say that they're willing to help with the smallest task that we older people really need to have help with over time."

Hyers shared her appreciation for the enthusiasm and commitment of the Student Bees workers; it's rare and valuable, she said, for people to be consistently committed to working with residents and building relationships with them over time.

"It's not just the seniors that get the rewards, it's the Bees, because they get all the information and all the stories and all the scenarios that the residents share when they feel like they have a trust thing going on," Hyers said. "I'm just glad that we can say that this generation is just as good as any other generation because you just see it. If you're willing to look for it, it's there. And one of those places is the Bees."

A week in UC student news



MICHELLE WU / DAILY NEXUS

Wynne Bendell
Lead News Editor

Former employee sues UC Berkeley over alleged discrimination

A former UC Berkeley health center employee, Armando Hugo Flores Cortes, is suing the UC after allegedly facing discrimination, and later termination, on the basis of his sexuality and race by his supervisor.

Flores Cortes, who worked as a medical assistant at the University Health Services, Tang Center, is a Mexican man who identifies as LGBTQIA+. He filed the suit on Oct. 19 with California's Civil Rights Department, alleging his former supervisor commented on his sexuality on several occasions, one time saying, "Yeah, he's cute, but I think he's gay."

Additionally, Flores Cortes alleges his supervisor frequently mocked his height and pressured him to dress up as "Miguel," a Mexican character from the Disney movie "Coco," in front of his co-workers on Halloween.

Flores Cortes' colleague made a harassment report in November 2023 to the UC Office for the Prevention of Harassment & Discrimination. Following this, Flores Cortes alleged his supervisor started applying stricter tardy policies toward him and denied training and promotion opportunities. Flores Cortes ended up filing a subsequent formal written complaint to the UC Title IX Office, however, he claims he was never informed of the investigation's outcomes.

In January 2025, the UC's onboarding office found that Flores Cortes' employment records did not have a completed Form I-9 — a required employment eligibility verification document. Following this, Flores Cortes took a leave of absence to resolve the issue.

After returning to work in February 2025 at his supervisor's instruction, the campus escorted Flores Cortes out of the building and terminated his employment two months later.

After obtaining over $200,000 in drones, less-than-lethal weaponry, UCLA Police Department is requesting more

UC Los Angeles' Police Department (UCLAPD) bought $220,020 worth of drones and less-than-lethal weapons in 2025 and is now requesting to buy more, according to its Oct. 19 military equipment report.

The drones are part of UCLAPD's new Drone as First Responder program that aims to reduce response times and provide video evidence during emergency incidents. According to the report, UCLAPD's military equipment inventory includes drones and less-than-lethal weaponry, such as 40-millimeter sponge rounds and projectile launchers. The department also owns semiautomatic patrol rifles, but it classifies them as "standard issue service weapons" rather than military equipment.

The report states that the department did not use its military equipment outside of training in 2025. However, several community members have expressed concerns over the inventory.

UCLA political science professor Michael Chwe started a petition on Oct. 30 urging UCLAPD to stop using 40-millimeter projectiles, which were banned in the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) for crowd control purposes in January.

Per AB481, the UC Board of Regents can grant UCLAPD permission to use military equipment only if it is cost-effective, the department has policies to protect civil liberties and there is no reasonable alternative for upholding safety. The Regents will review systemwide military equipment policy at its November meeting.

The department wants to buy two more Skydio X10 unmanned aircraft systems, artificial intelligence-powered camera drones and their associated parts.

The department is also requesting 1,950 additional PepperBall rounds and 50 more 40-millimeter projectiles. Despite the LAPD ban, the department said it will continue to have the weapons available to combat violent people and that officers have never and will never use them for crowd control.

However, UCLA alum Jakob Johnson said a UCPD officer shot him in the chest with a 40-millimeter projectile on June 10, 2024 when he was attempting to leave a protest.

UCLAPD did not respond to the Daily Bruin's request for comment.



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"Reading smut made me an English major."

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UCSB art museum presents Gemidos de la Tierra exhibition

Leilani Barker
Reporter

UC Santa Barbara's Art, Design & Architecture Museum presented the third public activation of Gemidos de la Tierra, which translates to "Wailings of Land/Soil," a memorial created by Guatemalan-American artist Jackie Amézquita dedicated to honoring victims of Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention centers.

The memorial commemorates those who lost their lives in Immigration and Customs Enforcement (I.C.E.) detention centers since the agency's inception in 2003. According to Daniela Lieja Quintanar, an independent curator and the original curator of Gemidos de la Tierra, Amézquita created the exhibition based on her own experiences and is dedicated to bringing light and honor to each of the individuals who lost their lives.

The exhibition, held Nov. 1 on Día de los Muertos, marked the first public activation of Gemidos de la Tierra since March 2023 in Los Angeles. Amézquita and her collaborators, Natalie Godinez, Hedy Torres and Johnny Pérez, added 57 new names of I.C.E. victims — bringing the number to 298 and expanding the work to 15 panels, which will be showcased in a museum setting for the first time until Nov. 29.

Amézquita began Gemidos de la Tierra in 2020 as her Master of Fine Arts thesis at UC Los Angeles. She was inspired to create the exhibition after coming across a list of the names of immigrants who passed away in I.C.E. detainment while searching for her sibling seeking asylum.



LEILANI BARKER / DAILY NEXUS

Amézquita uses the art of sculpture to bring recognition and respect to those who have lost their lives in I.C.E. custody, shared with audiences through public activations.

Amézquita uses the art of sculpture to bring recognition and respect to those who have lost their lives in I.C.E. custody, shared with audiences through public activations. Gemidos de la Tierra is a project built from the act of remembering those who were lost and sharing their stories with the community.

"The work honors people who died in immigration custody, and giving their names a physical presence, insists that their lives deserve recognition and dignity. The ritual asks us to remain in relationship with them," Amézquita said.

Amézquita hand-casts each name onto carved wooden panels in front of a live audience using the soil from the region where individuals lost their lives and a mixture of masa de maíz — a dough made of corn salt and rainwater. She shared that each material used during this process serves a purpose.

"In my practice, materials are collaborators, and earth is a holder of memory and erasure," Amézquita said.

Amézquita emphasized the importance of masa de maíz as it connects the work back to the everyday actions of caring for one another and the sustenance of life. She explained that she sculpts each letter, taking time to craft them by hand, as the time spent on each name becomes a part of the offering.

"Through the masa, the names take shape in a material that has nourished generations. What sustains the living body now helps sustain the memory of someone who is no longer here," Amézquita said.

Melinda Gandara, an instructor at Santa Barbara City College for the Chicano studies and American ethnic studies department, said the use of soil has sharpened the meaning of the piece.

"The soil is from where these people are from. You cannot take away that connection ... We are all connected to soil," Gandara said.

Curator of the Art Design & Architecture museum Gemidos de la Tierra exhibit, Ana Briz, said this exhibit enabled community members to come together and raise awareness on the local impact of I.C.E.

"This is an opportunity to be able to honor people who are impacted locally, and also an opportunity to gather and show support," Briz said.

Amézquita presents these deaths not as a number or a new addition to statistical data, but instead uses art to ensure each name is honored and is recognized as a human being who lived a life cut short in I.C.E. custody.

"It allows us to have much more of a civic engagement rather than just a statistical way of looking from a distance," Gandara said.

The exhibition also allowed UCSB students and faculty to participate in community engagement and continue bringing awareness to the problem of immigrants losing their lives to I.C.E.

"Jackie's practice, artistic practice, varies from performance, installation, sculpture and the topics that she engages with also has given us the opportunity to engage with a wide range of faculty and students," Briz said.

Gemidos de la Tierra is a project that will continue to grow, and Amézquita hopes that sentiment stays with observers.

"Something I hope comes through is that the work needs to be continually tended. The panels are part of a larger practice that lives through sound, movement, gathering and the relationships that sustain it," Amézquita said.

IVCSD discussed I.V. Harm Reduction Project, car-free living in Isla Vista

Olive Thompson
Reporter

The Isla Vista Community Services District Board covered new progress on a bluff fall memorial, the fall quarter Isla Vista Safe meeting and ideas for parking strategies for new developments during its Oct. 27 meeting.

The meeting began with a report of the Oct. 21 I.V. Safe meeting, which covered Soltopia 2027 and the I.V. Harm Reduction Project. The project consists of implementing non-police safety services in I.V. every Friday and Saturday night. Isla Vista Community Services District (IVCSD) General Manager Jonathan Abboud said the harm reduction project was "very well received" by the agencies at the meeting.

The board discussed having insufficient funding for Soltopia 2027. IVCSD is currently looking to partner with other agencies for Soltopia 2027. IVCSD Director Annabelle Sipos, a fourth-year anthropology and global studies double major, said that UC Santa Barbara has expressed tentative interest in helping to organize the event.

Attendees at the meeting had mixed views on the possibility of reducing the number of police officers at Soltopia. The Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office initially said that numbers would be similar to last year, while Second District Supervisor Laura Capps said that the plan was to reduce numbers. Sipos noted that the Sheriff's Office has not started planning for Soltopia 2027.

"[The officers] were more concerned with why students weren't 100% pleased with Soltopia last year and less about funding or the actual event," Sipos said.

According to IVCSD Director and fourth-year economics and philosophy double major Noah Luken, the district's goal is to make Soltopia 2027 a more positive experience for attendees while maintaining the reduced citations and medical call numbers from last year. Luken explained that the board is "definitely having those conversations as soon as possible."

Luken also reported on a meeting he had with Capps the week prior where they discussed potentially changing or reducing the noise ordinance for Soltopia weekend. They hope that in future years, students could have events in their own yards without facing citations.

"[Capps] said she sees flexibility in the future for that, but the event would need to prove itself for another year or two first," Luken said.

He also noted that any changes to the noise ordinance would have to go through the Sheriff's Office, which he is focused on working with to make sure students aren't being cited for actions that aren't harmful to the community.

The board then turned its focus to IVCSD Assistant General Manager Sydney Castaneda's presentation about cliff and bluff falls in I.V.

Castaneda explained that since 1993, at least 14 lives have been lost to cliff and bluff falls in I.V. In an effort to remember those who've passed and educate I.V.'s constantly changing population, IVCSD launched a Cliff Safety and Education campaign in 2023. The campaign included updating UCSB and Santa Barbara City College orientation materials to include bluff safety, and IVCSD has been working to build a permanent bluff fall memorial in Walter Capps Park on Del Playa Drive.

With funding in place and a bench designed by UCSB Woodshop Technician Carson Brown already created for the memorial, the only barrier that had been stalling construction was deciding who would pay for the memorial's ongoing maintenance, amounting to about $500 per year. Castaneda updated the board, saying that the district would agree to fund the maintenance of the memorial.

The motion to approve the agreement to commit to the maintenance of the memorial and to submit permit applications was unanimously approved by the board, with Director Spencer Brandt sharing his personal connection to cliff falls and the importance of this memorial.

"We are not the only college community where people drink alcohol, but we are the only one where people die in this way, and it's really important that we both memorialize lives lost and do it in a way to make it very visible for new students," Brandt said.

The Cliff Safety Hub, a set of safety resources available on the IVCSD website, includes a map of falls, safety tips, a letter template for tenants to request bluff measurements from landlords and contacts for how to report unsafe bluffs especially during this El Niño season.

Finally, the board discussed potential strategies to deal with proposed and in-progress housing developments that currently have less than standard amounts of on-site parking. The proposed solutions included requiring sidewalk construction, secure bike storage lockers, food co-op memberships, bus passes and possible monthly mobility credits to be used on services like Uber and Lyft.

According to the board, the goal of these discussions is to make it easier to live car-free in I.V., and to reduce traffic and parking congestion, especially as more housing is being built in the area, including the San Benito and East Campus housing projects.



NEXUS FILE PHOTO

The Sheriff's Office has not started planning for Soltopia 2027.



Senate considers student referendum on UCSB academic system

Elijah Obando
University News Editor

Disclaimer: The writer of this story works for Basic Needs.

The Associated Students 77th Senate considered a resolution at its Oct. 28 meeting that would poll students on whether UC Santa Barbara should transition from a quarter-based system to a semester-based system.

The resolution proposes placing a nonbinding referendum on the Associated Students (A.S.) election ballot to gauge student opinions on the University's current academic calendar.

The Senate does not have the authority to affect UCSB's academic calendar; the results would be used to communicate student preferences to the University for consideration in future discussions.

Legislation proposed

Senator and second-year physics major Alec GeoSimonian said he introduced the resolution to counteract the lack of opportunities for UCSB students to voice their opinions about the academic system.

Senator and third-year computer science and sociology double major Kyara Vivanco Cortes said she supports the referendum despite personally preferring the quarter system. She also said that placing the resolution on the ballot may indirectly increase A.S. voter turnout.

However, Senator and second-year communication major Jake Horvitz questioned how much influence the results of the referendum would have on the University's decision-making process. He urged the Senate to consider whether the resolution would be worthwhile for students to participate in.

"I don't know the endgame of this because — okay, we get this information, where does it go from there?" Horvitz said.

GeoSimonian responded by stating that the referendum could provide evidence that could be presented to University officials. He added that even if the results did not lead to a change, the data would still be valuable.

Senator and fourth-year economics and accounting major Faizaan Chunawala said that he believes the resolution should take faculty perspectives into consideration. Cortes acknowledged that professor opinions could also be researched, but emphasized that the purpose of the resolution was to provide students with an opportunity to express their preferences.

The Senate also discussed the possible financial implications of transitioning to the semester system, specifically the change in cost of attendance and time required to graduate for students.

The resolution was referred to the Outreach Committee for further discussion.

The Senate also introduced a bill aimed to clarify the responsibilities of the A.S. Solicitor General. The bill proposes removing the position's responsibility to act as the Association's public defender, citing a conflict of interest. The bill was referred to the Liaison Committee.

In addition, the Senate referred an omnibus bill to the Liaison Committee, which proposes changing the internal structure of the Environmental Affairs Board (EAB) and Community Financial Fund (CFF). The bill would add two environmental justice director positions to EAB and add a co-chair position to CFF.

Public forum

Fourth-year mechanical engineering major Eddie Barajas requested support from the Senate in an ongoing expansion of the dining hall meal plans. The expansion is aimed at allowing students to use their meal plans at retail locations on campus, such as Panda Express and Subway.

Barajas explained that after three years of advocacy and discussion with UCSB Housing, Dining & Auxiliary Enterprises (HDAE), the University agreed to implement an expanded meal plan beginning in fall 2027.

Barajas requested the Senate's assistance in publicizing the initiative and maintaining involvement throughout its implementation process. He explained that student involvement would ensure the expanded meal plans reflect student preferences.

"If we disappear, maybe the HDAE says, 'Okay [the meal plan can be used] only for the [University Center]," Barajas said. "But if students are vocal, then maybe we can get everything on campus."

Third-year statistics and data science major Sreeja Vadlamudi addressed the Senate regarding funding shortages affecting Basic Needs resources across the UC system.

She acknowledged a $20 million California state allocation for student support services. However, she said "the fight for basic needs is not finished" because campuses have yet to receive it. Vadlamudi emphasized that a one-time funding allocation would not provide a permanent solution to growing student needs and rising cost of living.

"We have a fundamental mismatch," Vadlamudi said. "More students need support, students need more support but campuses have fewer resources per student to provide that support."

Vadlamudi requested the Senate's support in advocating for the $20 million and pushing for sustainable, permanent solutions for funding Basic Needs resources.

Fourth-year electrical engineering major Natalie Buzzini requested funding for UCSB Engineers Without Borders' ongoing water infrastructure project in Rwanda. The project aims to improve water accessibility for a school in Rwanda by expanding the existing rainwater filtration system and installing solar-powered pumps.

Buzzini explained that the organization would oversee the project remotely due to travel restrictions and emphasized the educational experience it would provide to participating UCSB students.

During financial allocations, the Senate rejected the funding motion due to the organization being affiliated with a religious organization.



SHENGYU ZHANG / DAILY NEXUS

The Senate also discussed the possible financial implications of transitioning to the semester system.

MCC director proposes campus-wide harm response system

Julia Sanabria
Community Outreach Editor

MultiCultural Center Director Afiya Browne drafted a proposal to fill observed gaps in UC Santa Barbara's consistency toward responding to and repairing identity-based harm.

Browne mentioned that students are requesting further transparency around the procedures and processes that follow after reports are made about discriminatory practices, especially if the report filed cannot be effectively addressed by existing advocacy resources.

A big issue Browne sees within the existing systems is that they are oftentimes "reactionary." She sees the student body becoming increasingly diverse, which can lead to more differences to navigate on campus. Because of this, she believes a new system is necessary to proactively state what will happen when harm that affects the campus climate occurs.

Browne highlighted Campus Advocacy, Resources and Education (C.A.R.E.) as an "amazing" resource at UCSB to support those affected specifically by interpersonal violence.

"[C.A.R.E advocates will] be there to tell you, this is what that process is beforehand, they tell you what it means afterwards," Browne said. "They're able to sit there with you when you cry when it doesn't get accepted as something that's going to be continued in that office. They're able to write notes to your faculty or to your boss and say, hey, we need accommodation for here. There's this intentional care that's happening for the student, the staff and the faculty, because C.A.R.E. helps everyone."

She then said there is no counterpart system for when racialized harm occurs. Browne explained an experience she had before the pandemic in which she worked with a student who had experienced an identity-based attack in Isla Vista.

The student had been recommended to talk to Browne in order to be heard, cared for and believed. Prior to speaking with Browne, the student had made local law enforcement aware of the situation, who had laughed in their face. Students are referred to talk to various existing resources about situations involving identity-based harm, but Browne highlighted how some students still slip through the cracks due to office workload, capacity and timing.

"We know harm is gonna happen on campus because it's a whole bunch of different people together from different identities to different status on our campus," Browne said. "If we already know harm is going to happen, we can be proactive in the tools that are going to be used to engage with it. And that's just what I'm looking for."

Browne emphasized that she believes this is an issue that affects the campus climate and should be treated with the appropriate seriousness.

"Sometimes when we label things as race-based it gets brushed to the side or not taken to the seriousness that it will have an impact on all of campus, but if one group of students, or one student or someone doesn't feel safe, we [all] aren't gonna be able to feel safe," Browne said.

Browne has tried to put her ideas into effect on multiple occasions following various identity-based harm situations. In 2021, the MultiCultural Center (MCC) council began to envision something like a race-based care department.

Last year, Browne began the conversation again with the Title IX office and the dean of students, but the conversation, again, ended.

Recently, El Congreso provided a list of demands, with the fifth demand calling for "the commitment to discuss how UCSB can better support students experiencing discrimination or mistreatment by university employees, including where existing resources such as the Ombuds, Title IX, and Student Advocate offices may fall short for marginalized students."

The demands inspired Browne to bring it back into conversation. She drafted a proposal last week and has since shared it with offices and individuals she wishes to collaborate with.

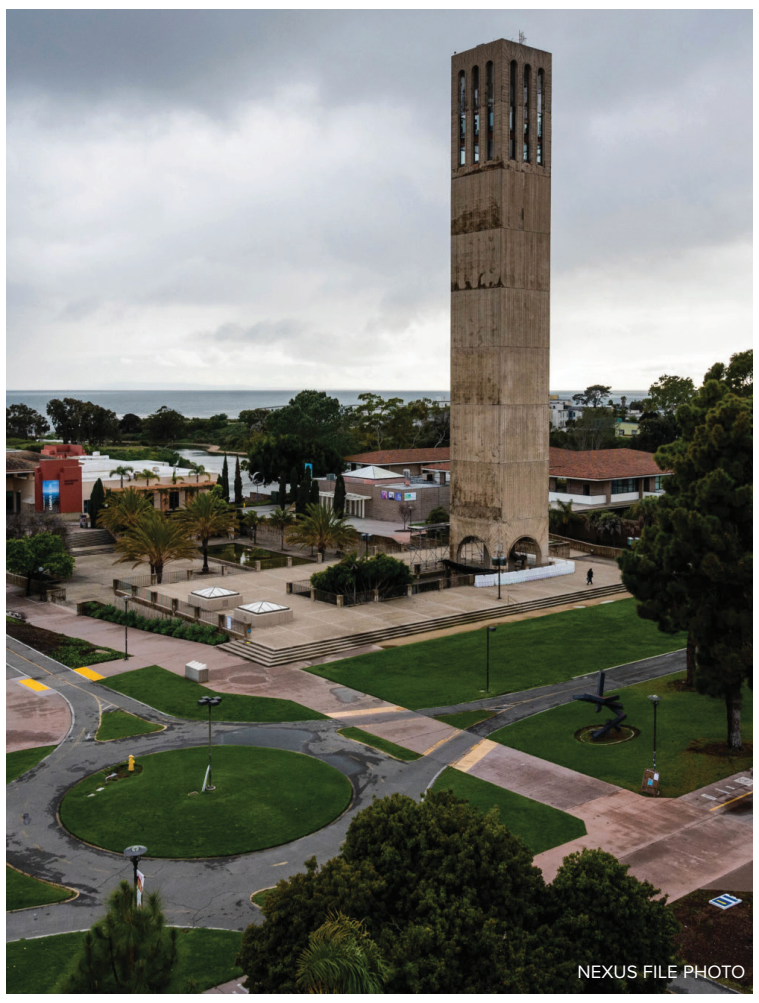
"It's definitely collaborative because it shouldn't be, it wouldn't be able to just be based in the MCC, and so I drafted up stuff I've been sharing with folks. So there's a number of different folks who work in cultural centers who are giving feedback, leaving comments and then we're hoping to come together and meet with student affairs admin to then figure out [how to] get some things moving," Browne said.

Browne emphasized that her ideas have been formed into a "very rough" proposal that has yet to get approved. However, she feels very strongly about the necessity for a program like this.

"Our campus needs this. We need more consistency with how we engage with campus climate issues, and I really feel that our student body and community is gonna do so much better with there just being transparency. I find this [proposal] allows for transparency that still honors the limitations that we have around [transparency] because of HR, or policy or legality," Browne said. "Our campus is currently in the process of reimagining community safety and how we approach it, and I think this is part of that process."

The proposed system would not replace current resources such as Ombuds, Title IX, the Student Advocate office or others. It is intended to aid students in navigating those options but also strengthening coordination across offices and clarifying responsibilities, which would then improve support and follow through.

"I want us to adopt a healing justice-centered response system that establishes a clear, transparent process for responding to harm: who coordinates the response, how those impacted are supported, how progress is communicated and how the university works toward repair while addressing both immediate concerns and the underlying conditions that allow harm to continue," Browne said.



NEXUS FILE PHOTO

Afiya Browne is concerned with the campus not having a clear, defined process for responding to and repairing identity-based harm, especially harm that isn't criminal.



Isla Vista Recreation and Parks Department hosts annual pumpkin patch



JUNXI WU / DAILY NEXUS



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UCSB professor speaks on information disorder and geopolitical connections

Isabella Terranova
Reporter

Associate political science professor Julia Morse delivered a presentation titled, "Information Disorder and Global Politics: How Technology is Reshaping International Relations," on Oct. 27 in the Pacific View Room as part of the UC Santa Barbara's Pacific Views: Library Speaker Series.

Professor Morse has taught political science at UCSB for 8 years and is a non-resident fellow at the Oxford Martin AI Governance Initiative. The focus of the presentation, information disorder, is a topic that Morse researches and is the co-author of the book, "Damage Control: Lies, Evasion, and the Cost of Breaking International Law."

Several students and community members gathered in the Pacific View Room, located on the eighth floor of the library, to hear Morse's expertise. She previewed her talk with some guiding questions, introducing her investigation by posing the question, "[What] do people think about when [countries] break international law?"

"For a lot of people, unless you're a lawyer, the question of whether [a country] violated international law per se is not the question that really shapes opinions," Morse said. "It's a question of how the larger conversation takes place about that behavior."

She explained that governments employ certain strategies, such as disassociating themselves from their misconduct, denying wrongdoing altogether or questioning the values behind the laws that find them guilty to influence public opinion.

Morse highlighted examples of political events, such as the Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022, to demonstrate that despite there being clear proof of the violation of international law, narratives can prevent society from using the facts to reach a shared conclusion. "It's not just about the events that happen ... there are narratives, there are stories told that influence how people think about political events," Morse said.

Morse explains how technology allows for government rhetoric and narratives to circulate. Social media algorithms, which control the facts that one is exposed to, are "very good at amplifying the emotional impact of technology" and spreading narratives that elicit an emotional response.

She added that the addition of AI to the already information-challenged social media landscape has created further confusion about facts.

"Maybe you're seeing a fact. Or maybe you're seeing AI-generated content ... It might be real, it might not. So even the facts themselves are already up for debate," Morse said.

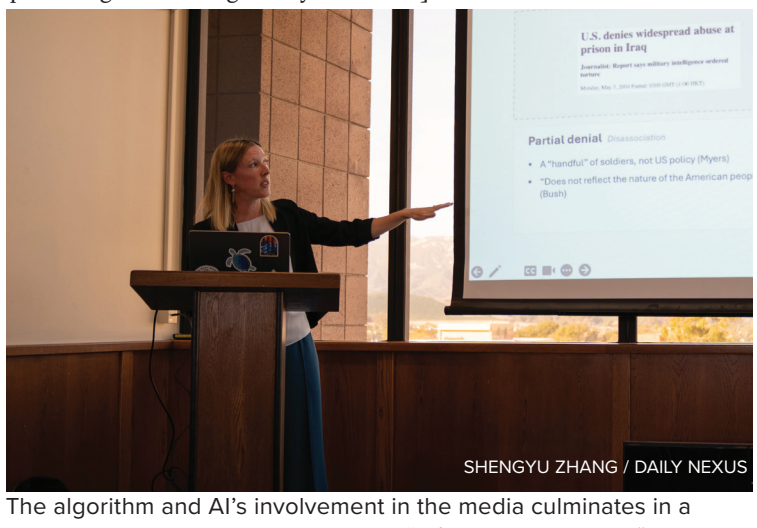
The algorithm and AI's involvement in the media culminates in a situation that Morse characterizes as "information disorder." She clarified that information disorder is present when an environment has "low barriers to content creation," which allows the "rapid spread of false or misleading material" and the "amplification of particularly sensational or fragmented narratives."

Considering the global prevalence of information disorder, Morse claims the ability of international organizations to cooperate is being threatened and contributing to the "undermining of multilateralism," altering the dynamics of global politics.

Morse explained that misinformation, which she believes international organizations must combat, can even be responsible for accelerating conflict. She illustrated this point by exploring the role that Facebook's algorithim had in encouraging the Rohingya genocide in Myanmar.

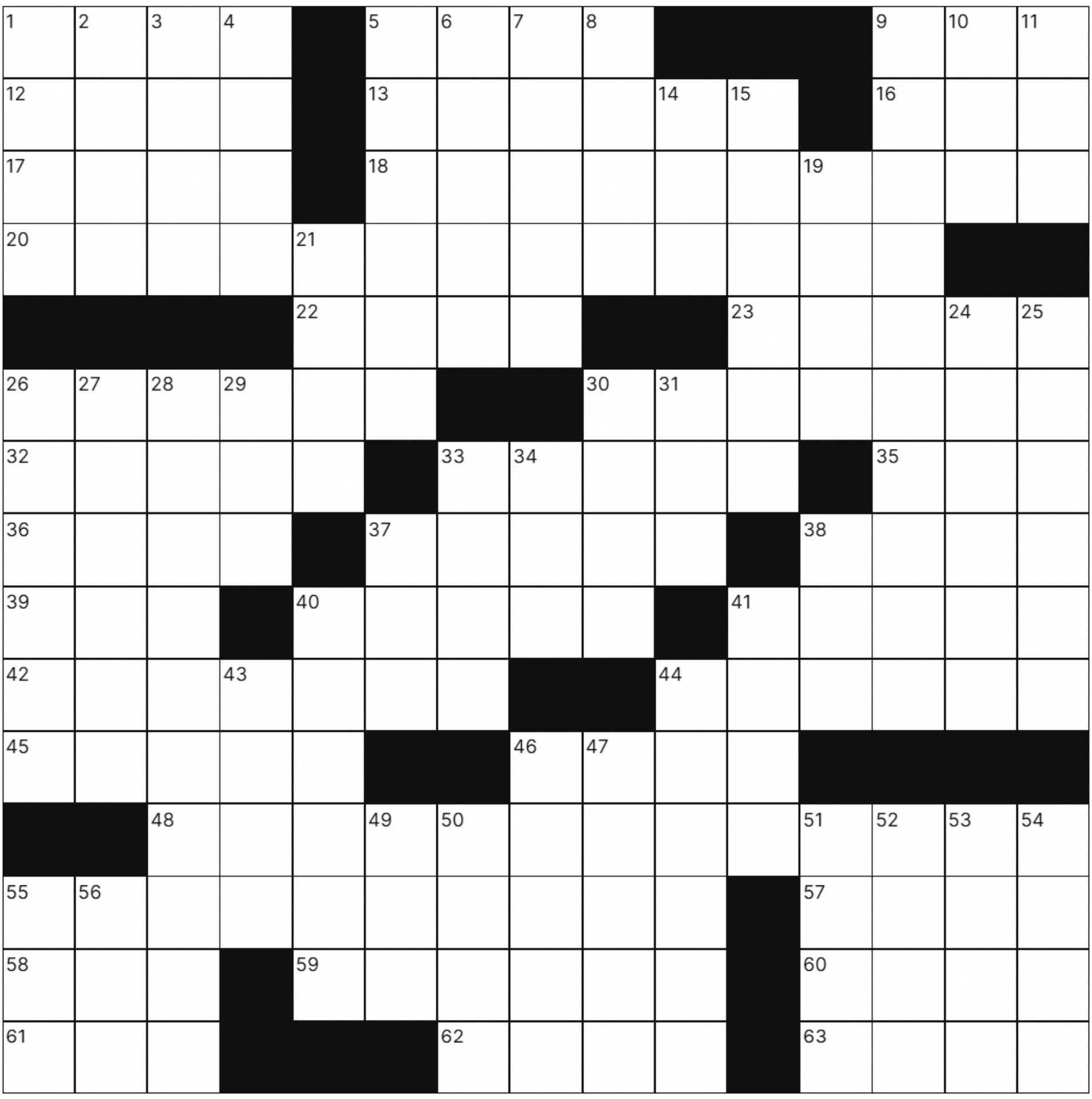
In the face of information disorder, Morse believes that protecting the legitimacy of multilateral arrangements is crucial. Additionally, she proposes stronger regulations on AI-generated content, as well as "information resilience," or an increased awareness of how to spot misinformation and AI-generated content, as potential solutions to information disorder.

Ben Sam, a fourth-year political science and history double major who attended the event, said his biggest takeaway was "the implications of how we could go about [creating] policy [to regulate AI] ... on a world scale."



The algorithm and AI's involvement in the media culminates in a situation that Morse characterizes as "information disorder."

The Daily Nexus Crossword

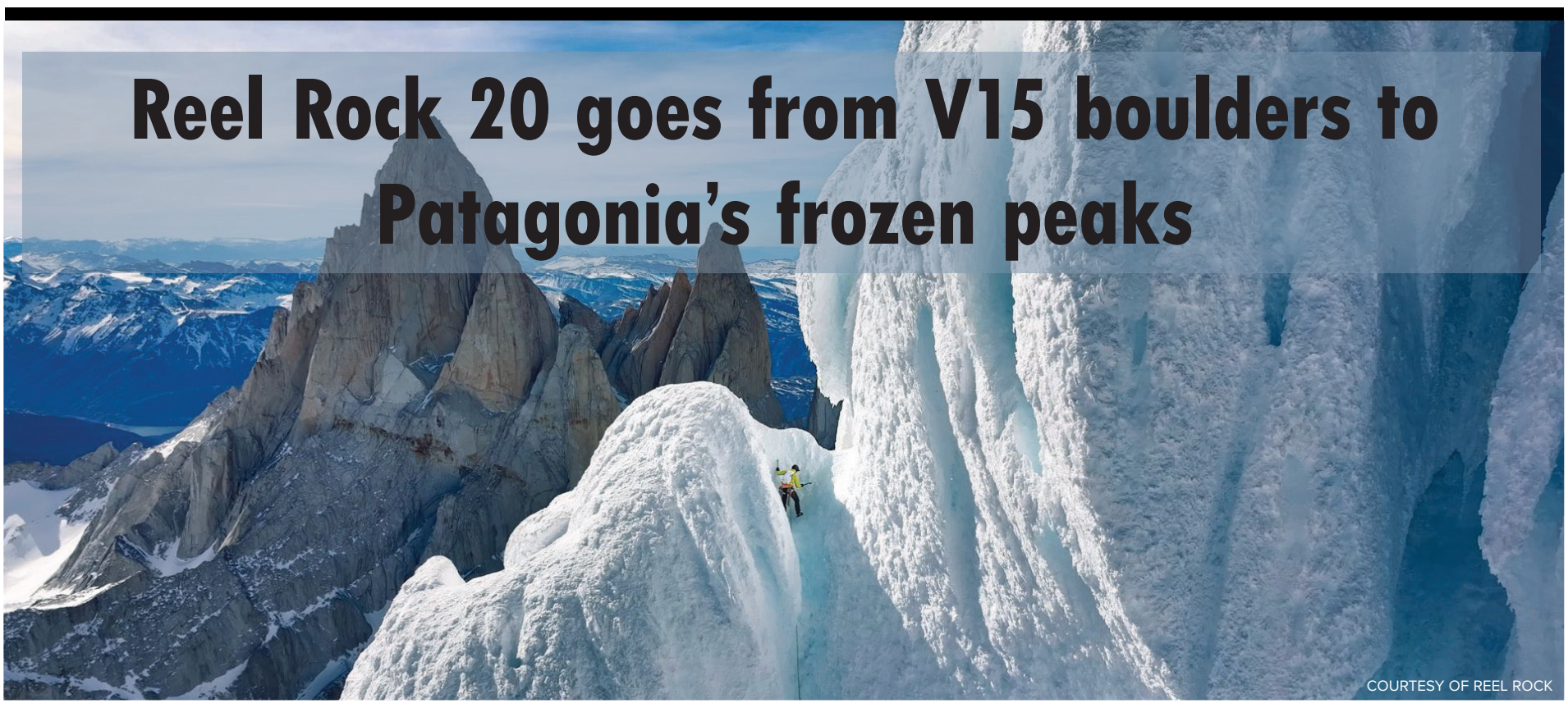


Gustav Westlake
Games Contributor

ACROSS
1. Middling grades
5. Son of Seth
9. "Space ___"
12. Brontë heroine
13. Spanish sirs
16. Western treaty grp.
17. Astrophysicist ___ de-Grasse Tyson
18. Former Manchester United star looks different today?
20. Make impossible demands
22. Stadium cheers
23. Willy with a chocolate factory
26. Whirlpools
30. "Eyes Without a Face" singer loses face card?
32. Pork cuts
33. Petty arguments
35. Windy City hours
36. Angers
37. "Day 'n' Nite" rapper makes strange credit card transactions?
38. ___ Men ("Who Let the Dogs Out" group)
39. Complete collection
40. Yoga position
41. Worker who makes a ton of dough
42. German Victoria Secret model isn't quite herself?
44. Commands
45. Paid to play
46. Opulence
48. Wallet loser's concern, or a hint to the misspelled celebrities in this puzzle
55. What 18, 30, 37 and 42-across may say after feeling their pockets ...
57. Margarine
58. Bengals, on scoreboards
59. Mall pizza chain
60. ___ dunk
61. Aliens, for short
62. Train track part
63. "I'm all ___!"

DOWN
1. Wrestler-turned-actor John
2. Peepers
3. Miami Heat Coach Spoelstra
4. Narcissist's love
5. Either of two of the 14 books of the Apocrypha
6. Under, poetically
7. How many '80s/'90s home movies were stored
8. "___ it" ("Amen")
9. Griddle-cooked corn bread
10. Small battery size
11. The NYT, WSJ, CNN, etc.
14. Sleep stage
15. Unhappy expressions
19. ___-Aid
21. Mine extractions
24. Like some Jewish delis
25. Wedding settings
26. "24" actress Cuthbert
27. ___ Tracey, one of the original Mouseketeers
28. Experts on nutrition
29. ___ and outs
30. ___ Bing! (go-go bar on "The Sopranos")
31. "Lord, is ___?": Matthew
33. Rip-off
34. Many a dad joke
37. The Wildcats of the NCAA
38. Not good
40. Trees in the birch family
41. Pitcher Saberhagen
43. Sneakers brand
44. Detergent that debuted in 1914
46. First sign of fall
47. Wombs
49. Head, slangily
50. Ski lift
51. Sprinkler attachment
52. Jazz great Fitzgerald
53. Phobia
54. Holland, Brady and Cruise, collectively
55. Rink surface
56. Clever humor

ARTSWEEK



Reel Rock 20 goes from V15 boulders to Patagonia's frozen peaks

COURTESY OF REEL ROCK

A screening of Reel Rock 20 was shown in UC Santa Barbara's Isla Vista Theater during the event hosted by the Department of Recreation. The film features the stories of Janja Garnbret, Colin Haley (pictured above), Michaela Kiersch and Ben Mayforth.

Fiona Feng
Reporter

UC Santa Barbara's Department of Recreation brought the Reel Rock 20 Film Tour to Isla Vista Theater on Oct. 28, putting on a special event for the rock climbers in the I.V. community. The 20th installment of the annual Reel Rock Film Tour brings four remarkable climbing stories to the big screen, spanning everything from cutting-edge bouldering and sport climbing to adaptive climbing and high-stakes alpine expeditions. Equal parts exhilarating, humorous and occasionally nerve-racking, Reel Rock 20 offers an exclusive look at the extraordinary athletes pushing the limits of the human body in their respective disciplines.

Reel Rock 20 offers plenty of impressive climbing, unexpected humour and moments that are genuinely difficult to watch but that you can't look away from. For the 165 members of the climbing community — families, children and adults alike — gathered at I.V. Theater, the screening offered a rare opportunity to appreciate the sport and some of its most accomplished athletes on the big screen.

Each of the four climbers set out to send a route of extreme difficulty. Bouldering involves climbing shorter routes without ropes and typically fall between 10-15 feet tall, although highball boulders can reach considerably greater heights. Per the Hueco grading scale, bouldering routes are graded from V0 to V15. Sport climbing, on the other hand, involves ascending taller routes, often 40-100 feet or more, using gear for protection. Following the Yosemite Decimal System, sport climbing is graded from 5.0 to 5.15.

Michaela Kiersch's Global Sending Spree

Against the picturesque backdrop of the Swiss Alps, Michaela Kiersch opens her global sending spree with an impressive ascent of Kings of Sonlerto (V12) accompanied by a soundtrack as groovy as it is intense. The film wastes little time establishing its pace, plunging straight into a two-year stretch of historic climbing achievements by one of the world's strongest female climbers.

Standing at a considerable height disadvantage in a sport that greatly values reach, Kiersch has nevertheless become the first woman to climb both V15 and 5.15. Her ascent of The Dagger (V14) is particularly captivating, featuring a smoothly controlled bat hang, powerful heel hooks and a generous amount of power grunting. An avid wearer of La Sportiva Solutions and Solution Comps, Kiersch makes a convincing case for the shoes' heel-hooking capabilities, despite their notorious baggy heels.

The film's most compelling moments, however, are its relatively unembellished climbing sequences. An extended, uncut recording of Kiersch on Dreamtime (V15) captures the remarkable composure behind her physical strength. After seven sessions on the boulder, she appears almost comically relaxed during her send attempt, casually shaking out an arm while topping out.

Away from the rock, Kiersch lives in Salt Lake City with her husband and works as an occupational therapist. Her otherwise ordinary professional life makes her extraordinary climbing achievements all the more fascinating. The film follows her First Ascent (FA) & First Female Ascent (FFA) on Mad Lib (5.14d) and Dolby Surround (5.15a), the latter requiring more than two months and 20 sessions to fully send. Its dynamic crux delivers a particularly triumphant, almost heroic sequence.

Fast-paced and refreshingly straightforward, Kiersch's part in Reel Rock 20 allows her climbing to command the attention it deserves. With minimal editorial embellishment and an infectious soundtrack, the film is as entertaining as its subject is impressive.



COURTESY OF REEL ROCK

Janja Garnbret attempts the Bibliographie (5.15c), one of the world's most difficult sport routes in Hautes-Alpes, France.

Ben Mayforth redefines adaptive climbing in his intense pursuit of 5.13

Ben Mayforth was born with the congenital condition spina bifida, and doctors believed he might never walk — much less climb — yet he has spent much of his life defying expectations. In one of the most emotionally gripping installments of Reel Rock 20, Mayforth sets his sights on Slim Shady (5.13a), a formidable project in West Desert, Utah that demands considerably more from his body than most.

At 5 feet, 1 inch tall with an extraordinary 6-foot wingspan, Mayforth possesses proportions practically engineered for climbing. His legs, however, remain considerably weaker than his upper body, making precise footwork and lower-body engagement particularly challenging. His solution is as amusing as it is effective: "When in doubt, campus it out," Mayforth said.

Having grown up participating in sports to prove his physical capabilities, Mayforth approaches climbing with an almost relentless discipline. His training and repeated attempts on Slim Shady reveal the extent of his determination, particularly as he navigates the physical complications associated with his condition. Yet, his humour remains intact, lending the film a welcome lightness amidst its more demanding sequences.

The documentary's orchestral soundtrack and intense pacing heighten the physical and emotional stakes of his project. There is a palpable tension throughout, especially as Mayforth confronts the limitations of his lower body whilst attempting movements that require tremendous precision and strength.

One of the film's more touching developments comes through Mayforth's involvement with an adaptive climbing festival, where he progresses from participant to instructor. It is a fitting full-circle moment for someone who once believed he would never be able to climb at all.

Witty, emotional and occasionally nerve-racking, the film is an engaging depiction of an athlete whose relationship with climbing reaches far beyond physical achievement. As Mayforth himself puts it, climbing is what he was meant to do.



COURTESY OF REEL ROCK

In one of the film's more touching segments, Ben Mayforth, who was born with the congenital condition spina bifida, attemps Slim Shady (5.13a).

Janja Garnbret takes on Bibliographie (5.15c)

Widely regarded as one of the greatest competition climbers of all time, Janja Garnbret is considerably less accustomed to the unpredictability of outdoor climbing. Her attempt on Bibliographie (5.15c), one of the world's most difficult sport routes in Hautes-Alpes, France, makes for an unexpectedly humorous and thoroughly entertaining installment of Reel Rock 20.

Compared with the energetic intensity of the preceding films, Garnbret's segment adopts a cooler, more restrained atmosphere. Much of its appeal comes from the Slovenian climber's personality, particularly her wonderfully entertaining relationship with her coach. Their constant banter provides some of the film's funniest moments, revealing a playful dynamic beneath the otherwise serious business of projecting a 5.15c route.

Although Garnbret's competition credentials are virtually unparalleled, Bibliographie presents a distinctly different challenge. Unlike the controlled environments of indoor competitions, where men and women compete on separate routes, outdoor climbing allows Garnbret to measure herself against the world's strongest male climbers on the very same rock, with established grades that remain unchanged for decades. Outdoor climbing also introduces a myriad of variables that cannot be anticipated or managed quite so easily. Poor conditions repeatedly complicate her attempts, forcing her to contend with the rock and the environment as much as the route's physical difficulty.

In one particularly ridiculous sequence, a bee finds its way into Garnbret's shirt just before the crux. Somehow, this becomes the first attempt in which she successfully moves beyond the route's hardest section. The discovery of a previously overlooked thumb hold also proves instrumental, prompting the wonderfully simple revelation that apparently all one needs is a thumb.

Garnbret's segment is especially enjoyable for its willingness to embrace the absurdities of outdoor climbing. Her extraordinary ability is never in question, but the film finds considerable entertainment in watching an otherwise dominant athlete negotiate unfamiliar challenges. The result is a charming — and often hilarious — portrayal of a climber whose competitive perfectionism is in a battle with the reality of real rock.

Colin Haley attempts the first winter solo ascent of Cerro Torre

As a child, Colin Haley was so captivated by Patagonia's Cerro Torre that he once wrote a poem about the mountain for a school assignment. Decades later, that fascination has developed into a rather dangerous ambition: completing the first winter solo ascent of one of the world's most formidable alpine peaks.

Unlike the explosive athleticism of the preceding films, Haley's segment unfolds against an almost eerily serene landscape. Towering walls of rock and blue and rime ice, vast expanses of snow and an impossibly picturesque sunset fashion the documentary into a majestic piece of work, although the beauty of its surroundings does little to alleviate the anxiety of watching a man climb an enormous mountain entirely alone.

Haley is an amusingly meticulous character — for good reason — approaching his expeditions with the temperament of a chronic overthinker and overpacker. His preparations are extensive, although there is only so much planning that can account for the sheer unpredictability of alpine climbing. His objective is straightforward enough: to accomplish something exceptionally difficult. Cerro Torre certainly obliges.

Throughout his ascent, Haley must repeatedly self-belay, a precarious undertaking made even more exhausting by the necessity of climbing each pitch twice to retrieve his equipment. Between navigating icy wind tunnels, contending with treacherous terrain and enduring the considerable physical discomfort of prolonged exposure to freezing temperatures, his progress is painstaking and impressive.

The film also finds moments of unexpected comedy amidst the danger. In one particularly memorable sequence, Haley's hands begin warming after continuous exposure to the cold, producing such excruciating pain that he repeatedly moans in what he describes as an "orgasm of pain."

Yet, beneath the occasional absurdity lies a genuinely unnerving display of ambition. As the climb grows increasingly difficult, Haley's determination begins to border on an unwillingness to accept defeat, raising the uncomfortable question of perseverance turning into recklessness.

Visually magnificent and quite anxiety-inducing, the film captures the peculiar appeal of alpine climbing, where even the greatest climbers are at the mercy of nature. Although each film follows a different aspect of climbing, all four athletes demonstrate an admirable willingness to subject themselves to immense physical and mental challenges.



COURTESY OF REEL ROCK

Michaela Kiersch attemps her First Ascent & First Female Ascent on Mad Lib (5.14d) and Dolby Surround (5.15a) in the stunning Swiss Alps.

SPORTS

Gauchos defeat Matadors in regular season finale and claim the No. 3 seed in the Big West Championship

Izabella Nickerson
Asst. Sports Editor

UC Santa Barbara Men's Soccer ended their regular season with a win over California State University, Northridge 3-2, securing their spot in the Big West Championship.

On Saturday, Oct. 31, the Gauchos showed their strength on the pitch with an impeccable performance from senior midfielder Kaden Standish, who scored the first goal of the match and assisted both sophomore midfielder Steinar Bjornsson and junior midfielder Kalle Rahbek's goals.

Celebrating senior night during their last regular-season home match, both senior defenders Drew Kamienski and Calle Mollerberg stepped up to play the full 90 minutes.

Within 20 minutes of the first half, the Gauchos scored their first goal, with work from Standish and Rahbek assisting, sending it to the center of the goal for Bjornsson to punch in, making it his 10th goal of the season.

Standish's contributions continued; heading into the penalty area, he was fouled by a CSUN defender and earned a penalty kick, converting it into their second goal.

During the first 45 minutes, the Gauchos out-shot the Matadors 13-5; however, they only led 2-0 at the end of the first half.

Heading into the second half, the Gauchos kicked in another goal at the 52-minute mark. Directly assisted by Standish, Rahbek found the back of the net with a line-drive into the far bottom corner for the first time in a Gauchos uniform, upping the lead 3-0.

With the game not over yet, CSUN started their comeback with two goals in the 55th and 61st minutes. Only up by one, the final half hour was crucial for the Gauchos, who retained possession and avoided any further Matador goals.

Head Coach Tim Vom Steeg highlighted the team's impeccable performance Saturday night.

"The first half was probably the best half of the year," he said. "We moved the ball around really well. We got the two goals. We did great."

While the first-half dominance by the Gauchos gave way in the second half to two CSUN goals, Vom Steeg added that the win is what matters.

"We picked up the win, and you know that's what it is these days, you win and move on," he added.

Standish, who finished with a goal and two assists, commented on what the night meant to him as a senior.

"It feels amazing. Based on the season, I think this would be the last time I play at Harder, so I want to make the most of it," he said. "I've had so many memories here with the team, family, everything about it, so I wanted to make sure this one counted, kind of gave it my all."

Joining the program as a freshman for the 2023 season, Standish accomplishments include First Team All-Big West honors as a junior in 2025.

"I wanted my freshman year to be the building, sophomore year breaking through and junior and senior year to be kind of a standout player, [and] show the coaches, show the country who I am," he said.

Looking ahead, Standish added, "I think I'm at a good start, I just got to continue going. Hopefully we can get some big wins, get into the tournament and just continue going. But yeah, I'm really pleased to see how this turned out," he concluded.


COURTESY OF UCSB SOCCER

Zac Siebenlist slides for the ball.

With the win over CSUN and Utah Valley University's over California State University, Bakersfield, the Gauchos secured the No. 3 seed in the Big West Championships. The semifinals will begin on Saturday, Nov. 7, when the Gauchos will head to UC Irvine to take on the No. 2 seed Anteaters at 6 p.m. at the Anteater Stadium in Irvine. The winner will compete against either No. 1 seed Utah Valley or No. 4 seed Cal State Bakersfield in the championship final on Nov. 13.

UCSB Women's Soccer falls short of Big West tournament following disappointing final week


COURTESY OF UCSB SOCCER

Gauchos post-game in a huddle.

Vincent Regaldo
Sports Writer

UC Santa Barbara Women's Soccer saw its postseason aspirations come to an end following a difficult final week of conference play. A 1-2 defeat against California State University, Northridge on Wednesday, Oct. 28, followed by a 2-2 draw against UC Riverside on Saturday, Oct. 31 left the Gauchos outside the six-team Big West Women's Soccer Championship field.

Despite entering the final week with opportunities to qualify, UCSB managed just one point across its final two matches, concluding its season with an 8-5-7 overall record and a 3-4-4 mark in conference play.

The Gauchos entered Wednesday's matchup in Northridge looking to end a two-game losing streak and improve their position in a crowded postseason race.

UCSB began the contest aggressively, earning two corner kicks within the opening three minutes. Senior forward Olivia Howard nearly gave the Gauchos an early advantage after recovering her own blocked shot, but her follow-up attempt sailed over the crossbar.

CSUN eventually capitalized in the 20th minute when CSUN senior forward Jordyn Canister delivered a cross from the right side of the penalty area. CSUN sophomore midfielder Lia Peterson collected a rebound and finished near the far post, giving the Matadors a 1-0 lead.

The Gauchos continued generating opportunities before halftime, with freshman forward Alondra Talamantes and junior forward Chayse Yu forcing saves from CSUN senior goalkeeper Hayden Mauldin. Freshman midfielder Ava Ybarra also came close to equalizing when her attempt struck the left post.

UCSB's situation worsened shortly after halftime. In the 47th minute, Peterson intercepted a clearance attempt from senior goalkeeper Maddie Buckley, deflecting the ball into the net for her second goal of the match.

Trailing by two, the Gauchos increased their offensive pressure and finally broke through in the 69th minute. Sophomore forward Delilah Vega-Aguilar received a pass from junior midfielder and forward Dakota Watterson and finished with her left foot to cut the deficit to 1-2.

The goal marked Vega-Aguilar's sixth of the season, extending her team lead to 12 points. She finished the season as UCSB's leading scorer, 3 goals and 4 points ahead of junior midfielder Ava Jarolimek.

UCSB continued attacking throughout the closing minutes but could not find an equalizer. Despite recording 17 shots and six attempts on goal, the Gauchos suffered their third consecutive defeat, leaving their postseason future dependent on Saturday's results.

Halloween finale against UC Riverside

With its season hanging in the balance, UCSB traveled to Riverside on Saturday, needing a victory to bolster their conference standings.

Although UC Riverside entered the match near the bottom of the Big West, the Highlanders had recently found momentum, winning two of their previous three contests, including victories over CSUN and California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo.

The Gauchos wasted little time asserting themselves offensively, testing Riverside's junior goalkeeper KaMia Elliott twice before opening the scoring in the eighth minute.

Senior defender and forward Stella Etcheverry converted a chance created by senior midfielder Sophia Moness, giving UCSB a 1-0 advantage. The goal was Etcheverry's first of the season.

Riverside responded in the 22nd minute when UCR's freshman defender Albertine Faye converted a pass from sophomore defender Macie Baird to level the score at 1-1.

UCSB continued producing scoring chances throughout the first half. Senior defender Emily Caughey nearly restored the lead in the 37th minute, but her shot struck the crossbar.

The Gauchos eventually regained the advantage just before halftime. In the 43rd minute, junior forward Chayse Yu found the back of the net for her second goal of the season, sending UCSB into the break with a 2-1 lead and keeping its postseason hopes alive.

The second half began with UCSB searching for an insurance goal. Senior defender Regan Stiner tested Riverside substitute senior goalkeeper Trinity Hale twice, but the Highlanders prevented the Gauchos from extending their advantage.

Riverside eventually found its equalizer in the 75th minute. Baird, who assisted the Highlanders' first goal, converted a pass from sophomore forward Mia DiLeo to bring the score level at 2-2 with just over 15 minutes remaining.

UCSB attempted to respond in the closing stages, generating additional corner kicks and scoring opportunities. Junior forward Devin Greer sent an attempt over the crossbar in the 87th minute, but the Gauchos could not find the decisive third goal.

Despite outshooting Riverside 18-8 and recording 8 shots on goal, UCSB was forced to settle for a draw in its regular-season finale.

Big West tournament hopes come to an end

Saturday's result brought UCSB's conference point total to 13, leaving the Gauchos outside the six-team Big West championship field.

Elsewhere in the conference, California State University, Long Beach provided a potentially favorable result for UCSB, drawing 1-1 against California State University, Bakersfield to finish with 13 points.

However, Cal Poly secured a 3-1 victory over California State University, Sacramento, moving the Mustangs to 15 points and earning a postseason berth. CSUN also finished with 15 points despite a 2-5 defeat against Utah Valley University, while California Baptist University secured fourth place with 16 points following a 3-3 draw against California State University, Fullerton.

The final standings left Cal Poly and CSUN occupying the fifth and sixth tournament positions, respectively, while UCSB and Long Beach State finished points short of the postseason field.

The results meant the Gauchos' elimination was not solely the consequence of Riverside's late equalizer. Even if UCSB had preserved its lead, Cal Poly's victory would have created a complicated tie at 15 points, involving teams that had already defeated the Gauchos during conference play.

The Gauchos struggled to turn offensive production into results throughout the final stretch of the season They combined for 35 shots across their final two matches but scored only 3 goals, finishing their final five contests without a win.

The disappointing conclusion marks a significant change from the previous two seasons, when UCSB advanced to the 2025 Big West Championship Final before falling 0-1 to rival Cal Poly, and made the NCAA tournament in 2024.

With their 2026 campaign coming to a close, the Gauchos will turn their attention toward next season, while their departing seniors close a chapter that included both a conference championship appearance and the disappointment of narrowly missing another postseason opportunity.

PHOTO

In Photos | First Visions of UCSB



LARSEN PORTER / DAILY NEXUS

The sun emerging from the Santa Ynez mountains, rays caught by thin clouds appearing above.

Shengyu Zhang
Photo Editor

For many, entering and living in a college is a highly transformative experience: Gone are the familiar streets, friends and neighbors, and the comforts of family and home. But UC Santa Barbara and its surrounding offers a highly unique environment with few equivalents anywhere else in this country, and for this Topic of the Week photo story, the Daily Nexus photo team wanted to briefly document the sights that captivated us when we first moved here – from the beach to Storke Tower.



NATHAN SO / DAILY NEXUS

A low angle of the Henley Gate in the afternoon.



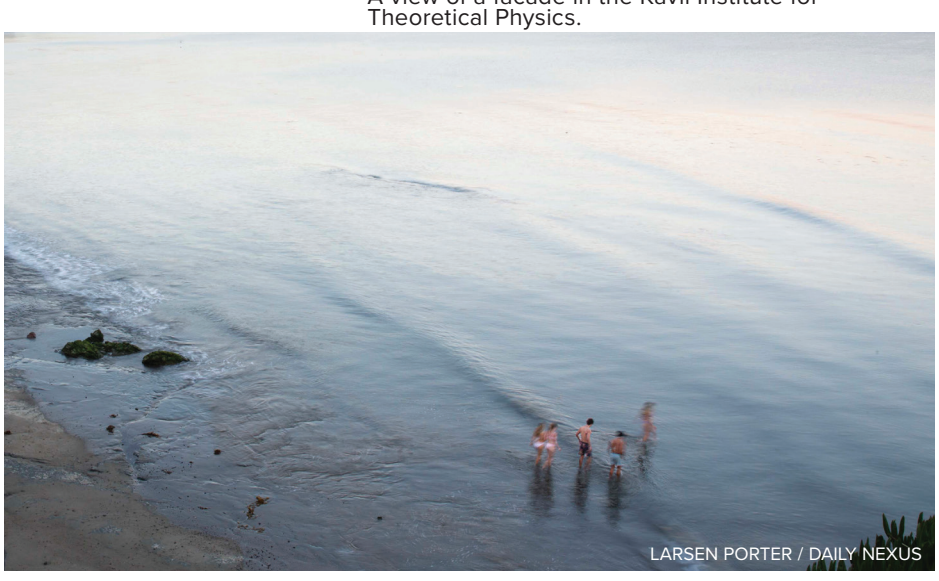
NATHAN SO / DAILY NEXUS

A view of a facade in the Kavli Institute for Theoretical Physics.



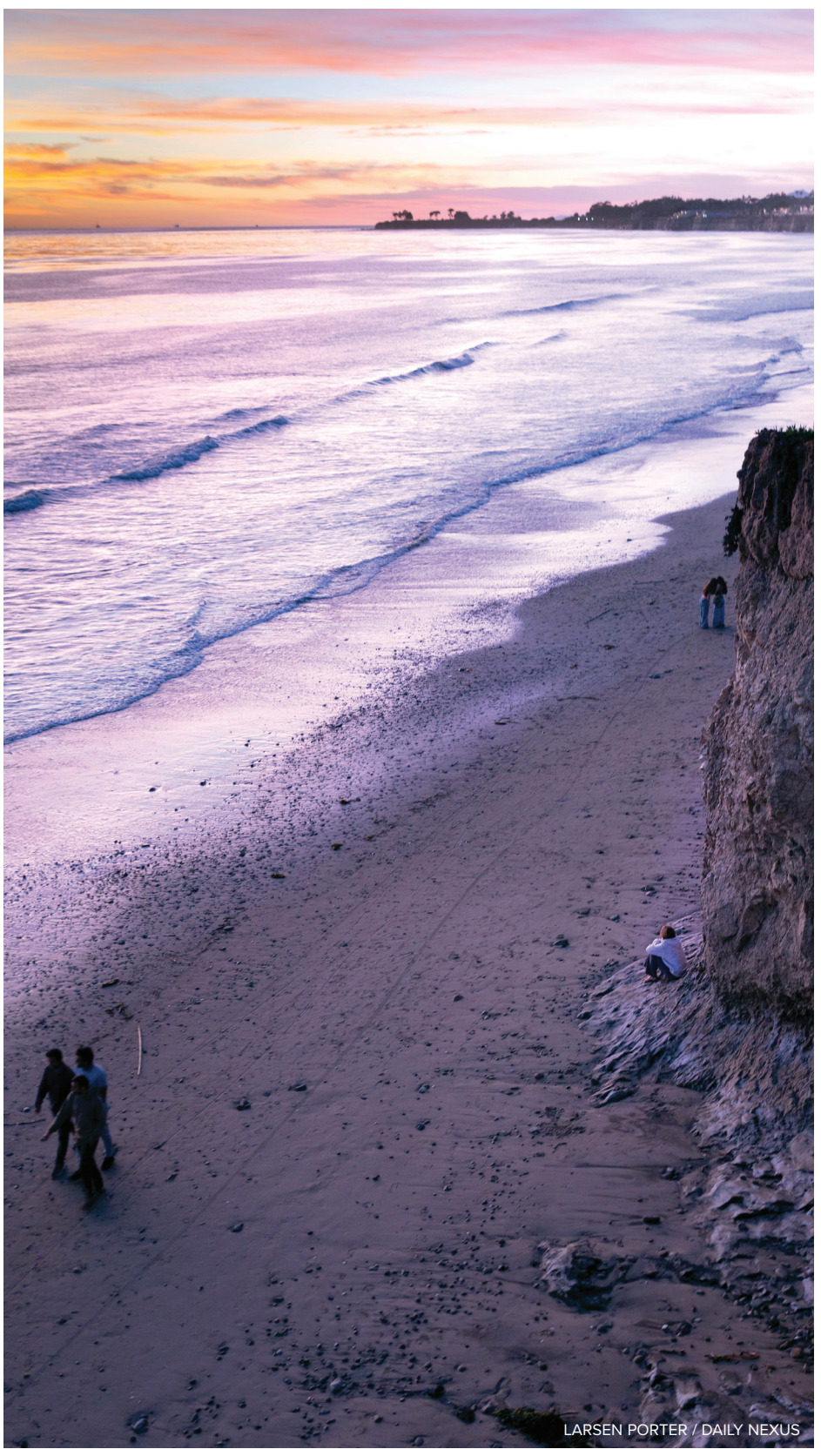
LARSEN PORTER / DAILY NEXUS

Multiple brown pelicans sit on the mossy rocks at the shorelines.



LARSEN PORTER / DAILY NEXUS

Students entering into the ocean to the east of UCSB, overshadowed by the Santa Ynez Mountains.



LARSEN PORTER / DAILY NEXUS

Students walking and basking in the sunset near the cliffs around campus.



LARSEN PORTER / DAILY NEXUS

Long exposure of students commuting to classes near the music building in the evenings.



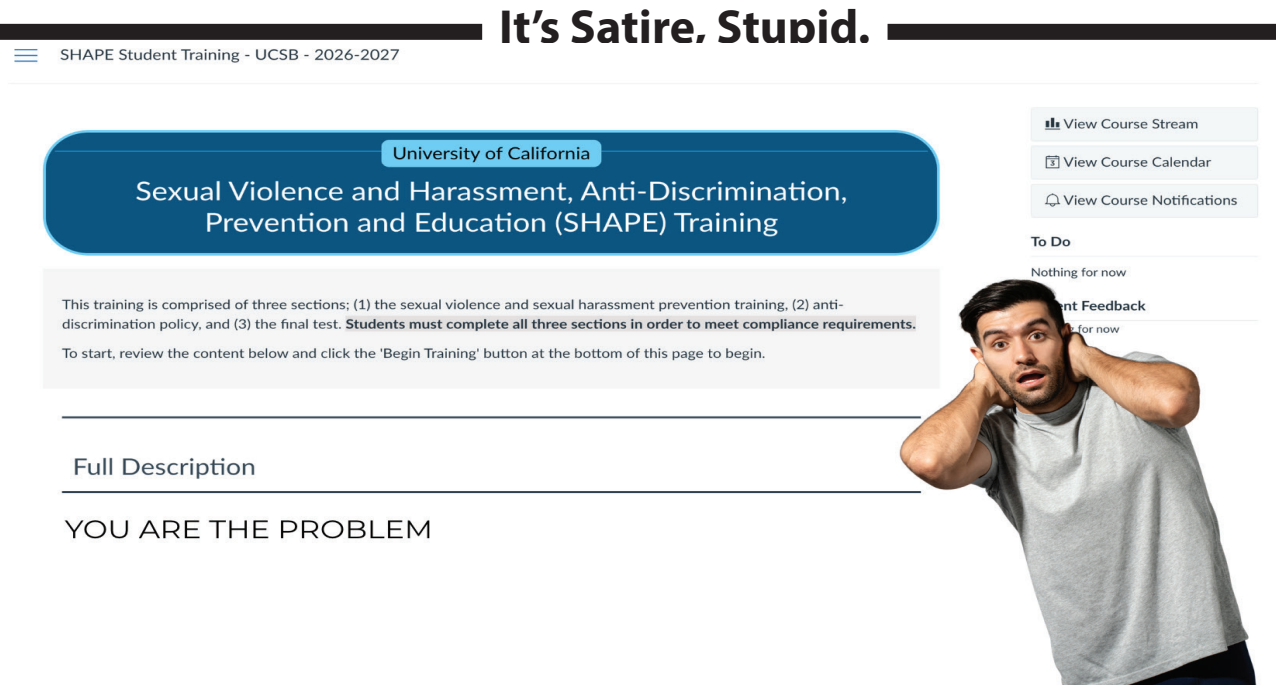
SHENGYU ZHANG / DAILY NEXUS

A silhouette of Manzanita Village and the Lagoon.

Daily Nexus Stench

NEXUSTENTIALISM

It's Satire, Stupid.



MADELINE BRYCE / DAILY NEXUS

S.H.A.P.E.-d up: Asshole man realizes he might be the problem

Serrano Ham
Spherical

Completion of UC Santa Barbara's Sexual Violence and Harassment, Anti-Discrimination, Prevention and Education training was due this past Friday, on Oct. 30. This annual training is an often-procrastinated task that most students claim should be common sense anyway. However, to some students, this training was an incredibly eye-opening experience and has led to a determination to be a better person.

Brock Buster, a fifth-year communication major, had never once completed Sexual Violence and Harassment, Anti-Discrimination, Prevention and Education (S.H.A.P.E.) until this past Friday, Oct. 30. Buster has been unable to sign up for any classes for the past four years because of the freeze put on his GOLD owing to his incomplete training, which has naturally delayed his graduation date.

Upon the threat of being financially cut off by his hedge-fund-manager father because of his inability to graduate, Buster finally opened his computer, set up his Duo Mobile app and managed to log into Canvas to access the S.H.A.P.E. modules.

Buster's roommates were horrified by the change they saw in him. Leo St. Grass, a fourth-year economics major, spoke with the Daily Nexus.

"When I walked into our casa, I was like 'Bro, what the FUCK are you doing?' I've never seen Brock with his laptop open — we've always kind of joked he was illiterate, but it wasn't really a joke 'cuz like he can't read. But I guess he actually can. Fuck, now I have to pay the boys $400," St. Grass said.

For unknown reasons, Buster spent 29 hours completing the full module — he didn't skip a single video or reading portion. This in itself is an incredibly rare occurrence. A UCSB spokesperson provided more information about S.H.A.P.E. training data in a phone interview.

"We can see how long it takes each student to complete all the modules, and the average time is five minutes. Legally we have to make it mandatory, but everyone involved knows that not a single student actually watches anything," the spokesperson said.

Beyond spending time meticulously going through the modules, having a moment of self-recognition is also incredibly uncommon, as few students even digest the material. Buster seemed to realize all of his past mistakes after completing the training.

"I had no idea that I was creating a hostile environment every time I slapped a girl's ass. I thought girls found that flattering," Buster reflected.

Buster saw a lot of himself in the modules, and he was a little disturbed to identify closely with the men in the examples that were supposed to be the "bad guy."

"Asking a girl if she's a lesbian because she's never dated anyone is bad? I was just curious because like, why else would she not want to date me — unless everyone else knows something I don't!" Buster exclaimed.

Toward the end of the interview, Buster admitted something that had been weighing on him.

"The training said something that really stood out to me," Buster said. "Something about reports? I was wondering what all these random emails and letters I was getting were, something 'Title Eye-Ex' and I was always confused, like, what the hell is eye-ex?"

Upon further investigation, the Daily Nexus discovered that Brock Buster has been included in several Title IX reports throughout his time at UCSB regarding his behavior, but has never followed up with them because of his confusion over what "eye-ex" meant.

However, Buster truly seems to have seen the error of his ways, with the S.H.A.P.E. training leaving an unexpected mark on him.

"I can't believe how bad my behavior has been in the past. I am going to turn over a new leaf and live better. I will now always ask for consent before doing anything," Buster vowed.

When the Daily Nexus tried to clarify whether Buster meant he would ask for consent and only act when the consent was given, Buster seemed confused.

"Isn't just asking for consent enough? As long as I do that, everything is fine? Just the question is the most important part? Cuz if I respect the bitch enough to ask, that's a good sign, right?"

Serrano Ham thought S.H.A.P.E. training was learning how to identify squares and circles.



MADELINE BRYCE / DAILY NEXUS

Boo! It's a man with romantic intentions

Kitty Funk
Culturally perceptive

The UC Santa Barbara spooky season has come to a close (literally, like an eight-day noise ordinance close), and everyone has just returned from a questionable visit to their ex-boyfriend's fraternity at San Diego State University or an awkward weekend with their hometown friend because they needed a place to crash at UC Berkeley. Now that the chaos has wound down, I think it's time to reminisce because, I for one, am still reeling.

Naturally, one would assume the costume choices and levels of intoxication would be the scariest things about UCSB's Halloween weekend. Genuinely — envisioning a man in a backward jersey and hat dressed as steez, double-fisting beer and performing for the male gaze, sends a shiver down my spine. But the costume choices made by men in pursuit of women's approval were actually the more startling sights — shocker.

Apparently, the traditional courtship ritual of copying a woman's Spotify playlist evolved into something far more concerning, and it manifested itself this Halloween season. A new wave of nonchalant yearning was born: cultural profiling with romantic intentions.

A witness claimed that over the weekend men in lederhosen stormed the streets of Isla Vista, accompanied by men in kilts and even bonnets. Fake mustaches, striped shirts, pints of beer — that's actually not incredibly abnormal, but still — and an alarming amount of misplaced cultural courting flooded the streets.

As said witness, I did some further investigation.

One student, first-year red-headed political science major Stacy O'Sullivan, shared that, for weeks, her guy best friend had developed a sudden affinity for the color green. "Then, he dressed up as a leprechaun for Halloween," O'Sullivan added. She swiftly exited the interview after I disclosed what my report was on; Lucky the Leprechaun likely entered the friend zone later that evening.

Another student, third-year biopsychology major Emily Deutschland, shared with the Daily Nexus that the guy who sits next to her in class passed her a stein of beer after she turned in her organic chemistry midterm.

"You know, I always thought it was weird he said 'Gesundheit' after I sneezed. I guess I should take my last name out of my Instagram username," Deutschland said.

The government isn't the only thing stealing information from us anymore.

The cultural courtship wasn't limited to German-and-Irish inspired gestures. As I roamed the streets on that fateful day, I approached a group of dudes dressed as British guards. I was met with loud grunts whenever I came too close. Peering past them to see what they were guarding, I noticed an unnamed student sporting a blonde pixie-cut, biker shorts and a crewneck — a look seemingly inspired by the late Princess Diana.

Additionally, a man carrying a two-tier cake reportedly approached a woman dressed as Marie Antoinette. The cake ended up in his face. I guess one shouldn't mistake a Halloween costume as an invitation to reenact the French Revolution.

"Honestly, I only did that because I hate cake," the Antoinette cosplayer shared. How controversial of her — very fitting.

The reasoning behind these peculiar courtship rituals remains unclear, but it can be theorized that performative cultural awareness has become the newest signal of emotional availability. Men seemingly believe that showing interest in a woman's perceived cultural background is a shortcut to establishing a romantic connection. Why bother getting to know her when they can just trace her ancestry back to the Mayflower?

Halloween truly did provide the perfect cover for these romantic advances.

Who knows? Maybe the guy in lederhosens just wanted to LARP (live-action role play) Oktoberfest because all of his friends were studying abroad, or maybe the costume — plus the 30 beers he pounded — was his way of proving he's in touch with his interest's 10%.

The distinction remains unclear.

The scariest part of this new phenomenon is the realization that men are getting creative, more unclear and even more problematic.

At this point, the eight-day noise ordinance may have been the only thing protecting us.

Kitty Funk took scraps of the cake home to eat for munchies later. "No regrets," she reported.



MADELINE BRYCE / DAILY NEXUS

Student explodes from holding in cough

Ina Pickle
In mourning

The usually carefree and buoyant mood at UC Santa Barbara has recently been dampened; a first-year physics major with a bright future has been taken too soon. William Gardner, who was known affectionately as "Will" among his friends and family, was obliterated on Oct. 30.

His passing was an unfortunately violent affair, and occurred after a prolonged struggle with an illness known colloquially as "frat flu." Symptoms of this terrible affliction include fatigue, sore throat and intense coughing fits.

Gardner's roommates and friends have shared accounts praising his valiant efforts to overcome this sickness, which he contracted a week earlier while attending a fraternity party, "Trick or Dih," during Halloweekend.

The morning of Oct. 30 began as an ordinary day. After Gardner drank multiple mugs of lemon ginger tea in De La Guerra Dining Commons, he attended his Greek mythology lecture in Campbell Hall. The students seated in the hall with him provided their accounts of that morning.

First-year chemistry major Ella Nishida witnessed Gardner's tragic demise — having sat just two rows behind him — and shared details about what led up to the incident.

"He had this really wet cough, and I could tell he felt bad about being loud. He was trying so hard to hold it in," Nishida said.

Fellow first-year, Nick Wood, whose major is undeclared, told a similar version of the story.

"He'd already coughed like five times in the first 15 minutes of class, and I feel like that's just the max, man," Wood said. "At that point you're doing way too much; you've gotta stay quiet."

The societal pressure to remain quiet and respectful must have gotten to Gardner, who was described as "kind and empathetic" in a statement to the Daily Nexus by his family. His whole body was reportedly shaking and shuddering with the effort to quiet his cough. The professor took no notice of this silent struggle, but students around him were awoken from their naps with the tremors. After holding it in for too long, the first-year lost the prolonged battle with his sickness and was destroyed by the force of his uncoughed cough escaping his body.

The trauma of witnessing such a shocking and gruesome event left his peers struggling to recount a consistent description of what happened after that point. Some say he went up like a mushroom cloud, one that could be seen over the top of Campbell Hall. Others say he simply vaporized from existence, leaving his parents with no remains to bury.

The most common explanation by witnesses is that he blew up violently, as though a grenade within Gardner had its pin pulled.

Second-year theater and dance major Talia Burton says she saw "chunks of Will flying over the seats" in Campbell Hall. Apparently an undigested section of Arbor muffin landed at her feet a few rows away from where Gardner had been seated.

No matter what the specifics of the event were, Gardner will be deeply missed by those who were blessed with the opportunity to meet him. His parents extend an open invitation to Gardner's memorial service, which will take place Nov. 21 in his hometown of Walnut Creek. Our hearts here at the Nexus go out to his loved ones, and especially his parents, who will need to hold a closed casket service.

Ina Pickle is eating an Arbor muffin in Gardner's honor.

SCIENCE & TECH

UCSB introduces interdisciplinary environmental humanities minor

Bella Astin
Staff Writer

UC Santa Barbara introduced a new environmental humanities minor this fall which offers undergraduate students the opportunity to examine environmental issues through disciplines beyond the natural sciences. The program brings together courses from throughout the university to explore how human experiences and cultural perspectives shape environmental challenges and responses to them.

The minor was developed through the Division of Humanities and Fine Arts in the College of Letters & Science and draws from 12 departments and programs spanning the humanities and social sciences as well as the sciences. Its curriculum aims to connect environmental research with fields that look at the historical and cultural dimensions of environmental change.

"Climate change as a threat multiplier is something that cannot be solved from a narrow, myopic perspective," Yanoula Athanassakis, UCSB's director of academic initiatives and the Environmental Humanities Faculty Advisory Committee, said.

An interdisciplinary approach to environmental education

Athanassakis previously directed the Environmental Humanities Initiative at New York University, where she helped establish interdisciplinary opportunities for students that were studying the environment. After joining UCSB, she sought to bring a similar approach to the university.

"I was keen to pursue similar initiatives as they bring faculty and students together from different disciplines," Athanassakis said.

Athanassakis credited Daina Ramey Berry, the Michael Douglas Dean of Humanities and Fine Arts, with envisioning the development of three interconnected undergraduate programs in environmental, legal and health humanities.

In UCSB's Oct. 6 announcement introducing the minor, Berry emphasized the importance of perspectives beyond science in responding to environmental challenges.

"The climate crisis is not only a scientific and technological challenge. It is also a challenge of history, culture, ethics and imagination," Berry said in the announcement.

Kari Robinson, UCSB's legal humanities associate director, described the program as an effort to bring academic resources together that students might otherwise come into contact with separately.

According to Robinson, UCSB's three humanities minors aim to be "intentionally interdepartmental," with the environmental humanities minor drawing together scholars who approach the study of the environment through a humanistic lens.

What the minor offers students

The environmental humanities minor allows students to investigate environmental questions through subjects such as literature and history, rather than primarily the scientific side. It also incorporates perspectives from the social sciences.

Students begin by completing one of four gateway courses: English 22 (Introduction to Literature and the Environment), English 23 (The Climate Crisis: What It Is And What Each of Us Can Do About It), Environmental Studies 3 (Introduction to the Social and Cultural Environment) or Environmental Studies 70 (Introduction to Environmental Ethics). These options allow students to be admitted into the minor through either an environmental studies course or a humanities course.



COURTESY OF PEXELS

To complete the minor, students must take 20 upper-division units from at least three different departments, including at least three courses from the humanities course category, which is known as Area A.

The approved electives reflect the range of disciplines inside the program. Students can explore environmental themes through courses such as Green Games from the film and media studies department or American Environmental History from the history department and even Sustainable Architecture in the history of art & architecture department. Other options examine environmental justice and human relationships with animals.

The minor also includes courses approved for specific quarters, which lets students explore additional subjects outside of the program's standard course list. For Winter Quarter 2027, the approved course list includes Classics 178, Environmental Interactions in the Ancient Mediterranean World, which gives students an opportunity to examine environmental questions through ancient societies.

The program is intended to help students develop skills they can apply to many different academic and professional fields.

Robinson said the minor aims to strengthen critical thinking and "develop communication and analytical skills through oral and written expression."

Athanassakis also highlighted the importance of giving humanities students opportunities to apply their education to more than the conventional expectations of their fields.

"Humanities majors are often pigeonholed as people that can just write and communicate well, and that's the end of their skill set," Athanassakis said.

The minor is designed to complement a range of undergraduate majors, even those outside the humanities. Students who want to pursue a career in environmental advocacy and public service can use the program to discover how cultural and historical perspectives inform environmental decision making.

For students who are interested in enrolling in this minor, UCSB requires courses applied toward the minor to be taken for letter grades.

No more than five upper-division units may overlap with the upper-division requirements of a student's major or other minors.

Students can see approved courses and other degree requirements on UCSB's environmental humanities minor website and the Division of Undergraduate Education. Those who want to declare the minor or receive individualized advising can contact envhumanities@ucsb.edu.

A course on video games might seem worlds apart from one on ancient civilizations. Yet under UCSB's new minor, both offer a different way of exploring the same question: How do humans understand and shape the environment around them?

Could quantum mechanics underlie conscious thought?

Rebecca Raymond
Staff Writer

As a child, I struggled with a mild form of double vision: when looking at objects, I would see a faint second image overlapping the main one. Especially when focusing on people, the fainter image seemed very real, and my childish mind decided I was seeing part of each person's soul, floating alongside the person's body.

Much to my dismay, I seemed to lose this amazing power of seeing other people's souls as I got older and was given eye exercises to improve my double vision. As it turned out, the second image I was seeing was certainly not a soul. However, the idea that there is more to our lived experiences than the biological processes of the body has persisted throughout history, leading to many theories and ideas about what could be behind conscious thought.

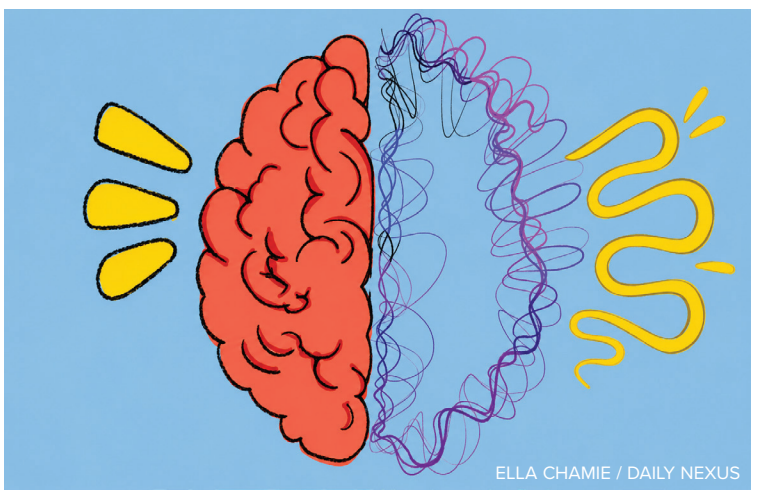
What constitutes conscious thought? As we go through life, we constantly take in information about the world around us, draw upon past memories and experiences to make decisions, communicate with others and apply our knowledge to solve complex problems or complete homework, though some of us may be prone to daydreaming instead.

Neurobiology has made significant progress in understanding many of these processes involved in conscious thought, including the functions of various parts of the brain and how they communicate with one another and the rest of the body through electrical and chemical signals. For example, the occipital lobe is responsible for processing visual information, while the hippocampus plays an important role in learning and memory. Our understanding of how neurons communicate has also enabled us to develop medications such as painkillers, which alter the transmission of signals throughout the nervous system.

There may be more to our conscious brain processes than biology can explain, however, and it has been an intriguing and long-standing hypothesis that quantum mechanics could play a role in the way that our brain works. Dirk Bouwmeester, a physics professor at UC Santa Barbara, reasoned why the notion that quantum mechanics could be behind our brain processes is so compelling: "We are very good at pattern recognition," Bouwmeester said. "There are quantum algorithms specifically designed for very efficient pattern recognition."

Visual pattern recognition is second nature to us, but according to Bouwmeester, "this is actually quite a hard task for a classical computer."

"We have learnt the power of quantum algorithms, and that power is particular in tasks that are similar tasks that we are good at, so it hints that evolution may have discovered the same principles," he said.



ELLA CHAMIE / DAILY NEXUS

Bouwmeester, along with his colleagues professor Kenneth Kosik and professor Bradley Chmelka, are investigating the possibility of quantum mechanics behind consciousness. Their research builds on a leading theory proposed in a 2015 paper by Matthew Fisher, a theoretical physicist at UCSB. Fisher suggested that phosphorus nuclei in the brain could become quantum entangled, a phenomenon in which particles share a quantum state such that their properties are correlated, even when physically separated. He proposed that this entanglement could be preserved inside calcium-phosphate structures called Posner molecules, potentially influencing chemical reactions involved in communication between neurons. In this way, quantum entanglement of nuclear spin states could play a role in brain processes.

If entangled nuclear spin states do play a role in brain activity, introducing other nuclei with their own spins could disrupt the entangled states, leading to observable changes in neuron activity.

"If there are too many local disturbances, suddenly the global entanglement is destroyed," Bouwmeester explained.

The three groups received $2.5 million from Google Quantum AI this September to continue their work toward investigating quantum consciousness at UCSB. Kosik's group, which specialises in brain organoids, provides the organoid infrastructure to study networks of neurons grown from stem cells, while Chmelka's group contributes expertise in nuclear magnetic resonance imaging. Bouwmeester's group draws upon their knowledge in quantum information science in their work and develop precise equipment to study organoids, observing changes in the electrical activity of neurons when exposed to isotopes of xenon.

Without xenon, neurons in the organoids exhibit coordinated electrical activity. "If one fires suddenly, all the others start responding and you get some sort of collective response," Bouwmeester explained. However, when exposed to anesthetics such as xenon, this coordinated activity begins to break down, while the neurons themselves appear to remain intact.

"The neurons still keep firing, but not in an orchestrated way. We can measure that with electrodes," Bouwmeester said. "We see that the collective firing falls apart as a function of the pressure of the xenon."

The group aims to precisely determine how xenon is disrupting communication between neurons. One possibility they are exploring is that xenon's nuclear spins could play a role, potentially interfering with the hypothesised quantum entangled state. The group is now investigating whether different isotopes of xenon, which have different nuclear spins, produce differing effects on neuronal activity.

Determining whether the observed effects on neuron activity are related to xenon's nuclear spins, rather than other effects, requires precisely controlled experimental conditions.

"It's really careful physics experiments that we do with these organoids," Bouwmeester said. "We build high-quality chambers, we have automated controls of pressures and we analyze with mass spectrometers the gas that [the organoids] are interacting with."

A challenge for the theory that quantum mechanics could play a role in consciousness is that the proposed quantum states would need to survive on the scale of milliseconds in the brain. However, the warm, wet environment of the brain appears incompatible with this idea, since if quantum states interact with their environment they decohere, meaning that they lose their quantum properties and start to behave like a classical system. In 2000, Physicist Max Tegmark calculated that interactions with the surrounding environment would cause quantum states to lose coherence at timescales of 10^-13 to 10^-20 seconds. This decoherence would prevent quantum states in the brain from reliably storing or processing information relevant to our conscious processes.

Fisher proposed a possible way around this problem in the theory he described in his 2015 paper. He stated that nuclear spins are "so weakly coupled to the environmental degrees of freedom" that they could maintain quantum coherence for unusually long periods. His proposed Posner molecules could further "protect the neural qubits on very long times," with theoretical estimates in the paper suggesting that quantum coherence could persist for approximately a day, which could allow quantum information to survive long enough to influence neuronal activity.

At the moment, Bouwmeester group's work on testing this quantum brain hypothesis remains exploratory.

"I'm not trying to prove the brain is quantum,", Bouwmeester clarified, "I'm open for all possible outcomes."

The souls I imagined as a child turned out to have a much simpler explanation, but that's not to say that there isn't far more to the way our minds work than is currently understood by neurobiology. Bouwmeester's group, in collaboration with the Kosik and Chmelka groups at UCSB, will continue to investigate whether quantum mechanics could play an important role in the way we think and process the world around us.

Daily Nexus La Vista

LA VISTA

¿Cuándo llegará el día de nuestros muertos?



CORTESIA DE MAINE IMMIGRANTS RIGHTS COALITION

Johan Sebastián Durán Guerrero, el muchacho de 25 años quien fue asesinado por agentes de ICE en Biddeford, Maine.

Jeannie Gutiérrez Rubí
Editora

¿Cuándo vendrá el día que nuestras vidas y muertes reciban el mismo valor y la misma protección que las de cualquier ciudadano estadounidense?

El 13 de julio, Johan Sebastian Duran Guerrero, un colombiano de 24 años, murió por disparos de un agente de ICE en Biddeford, Maine, en los Estados Unidos.

Aquella mañana, agentes de ICE realizaban labores de vigilancia cerca de su edificio de apartamentos, buscaban a una persona que tenía una orden final de deportación y cuya última conocida locación era en el mismo apartamento en que vivía Johan.

Cuando Johan salió en un automóvil Kia, los agentes intentaron detenerlo, según la explicación inicial del DHS, Johan intentó fugarse, y un agente disparó un tiro de su pistola por temor al peligro a la seguridad pública.

La congresista del estado de Maine, Chellie Pingree reveló que Johan no era el hombre que los agentes migratorios buscaban.

El compañero de vivienda de Duran Guerrero y el dueño del Kia blanco no estaban sujetos a una orden final de deportación.

La Oficina del Fiscal General de Maine confirmó que trabajria con autoridades federales para investigar el uso de fuerza letal contra el hombre inocente.

Johan había llegado a los Estados Unidos en el 2023, con la esperanza de ofrecerle una vida mejor a su hija.

En mayo del 2025 había recibido autorización para trabajar y permanecer legalmente en el país, y se dedicaba a trabajar para realizar su sueño.

Su esposa, Martha Rojas Alvarez, contó que estaba en el apartamento cuando escuchó los disparos.

Al salir, encontró el automóvil y el cuerpo de su esposo en la calle, su hija de tres años con ella.

Martha describió a su esposo como un hombre responsable, trabajador, y profundamente dedicado a su familia, "Johan Sebastian Duran Guerrero era un hombre responsable, trabajador y dedicado a su familia. Siempre soñaba en grande y tenía tantos sueños por cumplir.

Hacía todo para verme feliz. Siempre me decía que yo era su vida y que soñaba con pasar toda una vida conmigo. Siempre me decía: "Hasta que seamos viejitos...".

Ese mismo día, a miles de millas de Maine, Jesus Manuel Arenas Selva murió mientras estaba bajo custodia de DHS y ICE en Georgia. Solo llevaba cuatro días tras custodia de ICE.

En la madrugada del 9 de julio, Jesús había salido de su casa en Dallas, Georgia a caminar con su perro por su vecindad y fue detenido por agentes de ICE.

Su hermana, Sonimar Arenas, quien estaba dentro la vivienda, salió al escuchar a su hermano llamar su nombre. Al verlo esposado, le pidió a los agentes que no se lo llevaran debido al estado de salud delicado de su hermano.

Jesus padecía de hipertensión y necesitaba medicamentos para controlar su presión arterial. Sonimar intentó reinar sus medicina y le rogó a los agentes que permitieran a su hermano llevarlas, pero según su testimonio, los agentes solo le dejaron llevar una.

Días después, dentro del centro de detención, Jesús llamó a su hermana y le dijo que los agentes aún no le habían dado la medicación que necesitaba.

El informe preliminar de ICE sobre la muerte de Jesus confirmó que no había recibido todos los medicamentos que necesitaba cuando fue sometido a una evaluación médica cuando entró en el centro de detención.

Según el informe, la enferma reportó que el único medicamento que llevaba al entrar al centro era para tratar la ansiedad.

Esa misma enfermera confirmó que tenía otras recetas médicas vigentes, cuyos medicamentos nunca recibió.

Cuatro días después de su arresto, Sonimar y su hijo habían ido al consultorio de atención primaria de su hermano, para conseguir las fichas y registros médicos y enviarlos al centro de detención.

Mientras esperaban, Sonimar recibió una llamada Jesus fue declarado muerto a las 8:31 de esa mañana, tras tener un paro cardiaco.

Su hermano había pedido el conocimiento durante el traslado en autobús hacia el centro de procesamiento Folkston D. Ray en Georgia.

ICE sostuvo que Jesus había recibido atención médica durante su detención y que fue atendido por médicos, en su reporte en inglés aseguró: "ICE está comprometido a garantizar que todas las personas bajo su custodia permanezcan en entornos seguros, protegidos, y humanitarios.

Se brinda atención médica comprensiva desde el momento en que los individuos llegan y durante toda su detención".

Sonimar cuestiona esa afirmación y exige una investigación independiente de la Oficina de Investigación de Georgia.. "Estoy 100% segura de que no recibió la atención médica adecuada", expresó Sonimar.

"Buscar justicia para él y para todas las demás personas que atraviesen por esto, para que ninguna otra familia tenga que pasar por lo que estamos viviendo. Nadie merece esto".

Jesus había llegado a los Estados Unidos de Venezuela en 2021, y vivía con Sonimar y su familia. Trabajaba como cocinero en un restaurante y talachero en un hotel.

También era una figura cercana y ejemplo para su sobrino de trece años, Manuel, con quien jugaba fútbol y pasaba tiempo junto después de la escuela.

Su familia tanto en los Estados Unidos como en Venezuela, ha quedado devastada por su muerte, Jesus era el único hijo varón de su madre.

El tercer inmigrante en morir en el transcurso de estas mismas 48 horas fue Juan Jairo Coronilla Duran, después de ser atropellado por un camión de carga mientras huía de agentes de ICE.

Según ICE, Juan Jairo viajaba en un vehículo con otros tres hombres que fue detuvido en el estacionamiento de una gasolinera en St. Augustine, Florida a las 7 de la mañana.

Los cuatro hombres salieron corriendo; Juan Jairo intentó cruzar la carretera para escapar los agentes siguiendolos, pero fue atropellado por un camión de carga.

El padre de dos había viajado del estado de Guanajuato, México a los Estados Unidos con una visa de turista vigente. Llevaba apenas dos días en Florida, y había comprado su boleto de avión para regresar a México el siguiente sábado.

Según Israret Jeffers, la fundadora de la Organización Colectivo Árbol, habló con la esposa de Juan Jairo, Yezzika Alamilla, quien le explicó que Juan Jairo no entendía lo que estaba sucediendo durante el encuentro con los agentes. "No vino a trabajar, no estaba trabajando.

Él estaba allí como turista ..." le dijo Alamilla a Jeffers. Alamilla también le había contado a Jeffers que cree que Juan Jairo huyó porque estaba asustado, "...tenía mucho miedo y por eso salió corriendo".

El joven de 28 años deja atrás a su esposa, con quien llevaba diez años casado, y a sus dos hijos, una niña de siete meses y un niño de siete años.

Las autoridades federales estadounidenses aún no han revelado el motivo por el cual habían intentado detener al grupo.

Una semana antes de estas muertes, el asesinato de Lorenzo Salgado Araujo caputro la atencion nacional.

El 7 de julio, Lorenzo Salgado Araujo, un mexicano de 52 años, murió por disparos de un agente de ICE en Houston, Texas. Llevaba casi 35 años viviendo en Estados Unidos, donde había construido su propio negocio de construcción y criado a sus tres hijos, todos ciudadanos estadounidenses. atropellar a uno de los agentes y este disparó en defensa propia. que los agentes buscaban originalmente.

Su hijo mayor, Ronaldo Salgado lamento: "Me parte profundamente el corazón saber que el hombre que me enseñó el valor del trabajo duro ... ya no podrá pasar otra tarde sentado en ese porche".

CORTESIA DE NEW YORK TIMES



Juan Jairo, el muchacho de 28 años quien huyaba los agentes de ICE cuando fue atropellado por un camion en Florida.

CORTESIA DE SONY ARENAS



Jesús Manuel Arenas Silva, aqui 45, con la mascota de la familia.

La Casa Blanca declaro que el Presidente Donald Trump is el presidente mas pro-vida de la historia del pais, y que "desde el día en que el presidente Donald J. Trump asumió el cargo, su administración ha defendido sin reservas la santidad de la vida".

¿Cómo puede una administración proclamarse defensora de la vida mientras sus políticas migratorias han contribuido a la muerte de tantas personas que no son estadounidenses?

Decenas de personas han muerto bajo custodia de ICE y muchas otras han perdido la vida durante encuentros con agentes migratorios.

Detrás de cada muerte hay familias que han perdido a un padre, una madre, un hijo, una pareja.

Familias que siguen esperando respuestas y que, en algunos casos, ni siquiera saben dónde están los restos de sus seres queridos.

Esta administración habla de defender la vida, pero sus políticas han tenido consecuencias mortales para quienes no son ciudadanos estadounidenses o no tienen los documentos que el gobierno exige.

Para ellos, este gobierno no ha sido provida: ha sido promuerte. Parece que la protección y el valor de una vida dependen de haber nacido en Estados Unidos o de tener los papeles correctos.

Y mientras tanto, muchas personas han muerto y muchas familias tendrán que aprender a vivir sin ellas.

Miles de menores han pasado por centros de detención migratoria, incluidos bebés y niños pequeños.

Son niños que deberían estar en la escuela, jugando y creciendo junto a sus familias, no encerrados en centros de detención muriendo de sepsis o viviendo con el miedo de que ellos y sus padres sean deportados.

Muchos ni siquiera entienden por qué los separan de sus casas o por qué tienen que vivir con la incertidumbre de no saber cuándo volverán a ver a sus padres. Más de cincuenta personas han muerto bajo custodia de ICE durante la segunda presidencia de Donald Trump. Miles de inmigrantes han desaparecido intentando cruzar la frontera entre México y los Estados Unidos y cientos de familias llevan años buscando a sus seres queridos sin saber si están vivos, donde murieron o donde quedaron sus restos.

¿Por qué la muerte de un inmigrante provoca menos indignación que la de un ciudadano estadounidense?

Nuestros muertos también merecen justicia. Sus familias merecen volver a estar juntas. Estas personas también tienen hijos, padres, parejas y una vida a la que querían regresar.

¿Por qué sus familias tienen que rogarle al gobierno y autoridades por respuestas sobre los restos de sus familiares?

No deberían de tener que demostrar que merecían vivir, ni sus familias tener que demostrar que merecen justicia.

¿Qué significa el Día de Muertos para las madres que no sabe dónde están los restos de su hijos? ¿Que recuerdo les queda?

ON THE MENU

Cloudy with a chance of coffee

Alice Baraona
Staff Writer

The previous week's sudden onset of rain left students scrambling for shelter and warmth. While some remedied this by officially having their first pumpkin spice latte of the season, there were others who made miserable trips back home with an ice-cold drink in hand and no umbrella in the other.

Why is this the case? It is understandable that when it is cold, you would want to drink something hot and vice versa, yet despite this sound logic, baristas are continually serving up every iced beverage on their menus to the loving arms of the masses year round.

As a certified iced beverage lover, I can think of a wide range of reasons: some prefer the taste, some drinks are only offered chilled and others are too impatient to wait for their drink to cool. Since I habitually sip on my drinks, it is my opinion that a drink retains its flavor best when going from iced to room temperature, as opposed to starting hot and then cooling down. Recently, my drink of choice has been the simple iced Americano. There is something about the cold temperature that really brings out the bitterness of the espresso, resulting in an especially refreshing experience. When I feel like treating myself, I will splurge on a flavored iced matcha. Who cares if people say it tastes like grass? I like it!

In spite of what is to be believed, the consumption of cold beverages does not greatly affect one's body temperature. Unless consumed in great quantities in a relatively short time span, (known as a brain freeze), your iced coffee is a perfectly reasonable choice for the change in weather.

A crisp, cool beverage also has the added bonus of being more satisfying to drink than a warm one. Whenever I am standing in line at a cafe, scanning through the menu, I will land a drink that sounds pretty tasty. My immediate thought afterwards, "Does it come iced?" Whether the beverage itself comes caffeinated does not really matter. Innately, I believe that any iced drink will satiate me more than any warm beverage ever could.

To get into the psychology of the matter, the most commonly reported aspect that makes a food or drink refreshing is its temperature. Anything cool, cold or icy is considered to be the most refreshing; warm, hot or boiling is not. So even science is backing me up on this one.

Now that the rain is gone, we are all back to our day-to-day lives of clear skies, flip-flops and tank tops. However, not before long, the wet season will be upon us. The next time you need to seek shelter on campus, grab an iced beverage at Summit Café, The Arbor or Coral Tree Cafe. There are many options on campus for you to get your caffeine fix, so make the best of the dip in the weather and enjoy your iced or chilled beverage of choice. I know I will.



SAHASRA HANUMIAHGARI / DAILY NEXUS

A perfect meal

Sahasra Hanumiahgari
On The Menu Editor

For me, Friday nights since the quarter started have been spent roaming the streets of Isla Vista, hopping from one party to the next. Usually, the food is drunchies from I.V. Deli Mart (shoutout to the Nashville Chicken Burger) or a KitKat from 7-Eleven. However, last Friday, with I.V. being shut down and a seemingly never-ending patrol of cops, my liver got a break and I was on a hunt to find some other way to pass time.

The solution to my empty Friday night? Downtown Santa Barbara. No, not Wildcat or Dargan's but California Pasta Sandwich & Salads — my favorite restaurant in Santa Barbara. Located at 811 State St B in the Paseo Nuevo mall, it's a short walk from public parking Lot 10 and all too easy to reach. It's honestly problematic how often I think about this place. Just about every time I go downtown, I turn into a cartoon character who sees a pie on a windowsill and I can feel myself levitating to the smells of the pasta.

I'm a creature of habit, so I got the same thing I always do, the tequila chicken pasta — a spicy linguini dish with diced chicken, bell peppers, red onions, cilantro and diced jalapeño smothered in a housemade tequila cream sauce. For $16.75, you get a heaping bowl of pasta and a slice of garlic bread. The tequila pasta can only be described as heavenly. The chicken is soft and tender, the sauce is rich and slightly spicy. After lots of introspection, I can honestly say this is probably my favorite pasta dish I've ever had, ever. My friend followed my lead and got the same thing; watching her take her first bite and seeing her eyes light up, I knew immediately we would be planning another visit back ASAP.

I would probably rate this dish a 9/10; you get enough food for a solid two meals, and it's quite delicious. I took off one point because I do wish it was a little spicier, but I say that about everything. My friend also gave it a 9/10: "The flavors go really well together, but there could be something to surprise me," she said.

I believe that no meal is truly over and no hunger is ever satisfied until it's wrapped up with a sweet treat. This belief, combined with my dedication to giving my new friend a true Santa Barbara experience (and slightly due to my debilitating sweet tooth and frozen yogurt addiction) led me to decide that we should try The Lovin' Spoonful, a locally owned frozen yogurt at 2028 Cliff Drive, just a 10-minute drive from downtown Santa Barbara. I heard about it from my roommate who described it like it was the pot of gold at the end of a rainbow and had been dying to try it ever since she told me about it.

The shop itself was quaint, and there were around 10 different yogurt flavors to choose from. They had the classics like chocolate, tart, cookies and cream and cake batter, among others. Something to differentiate The Lovin' Spoonful from other fro-yo was the extensive sorbet selection. If fruity flavors are your thing, you really should go check this place out. There was also a wide variety of toppings to choose from.

The brownie was probably the best brownie I've ever had at a fro-yo place. I would rate The Lovin' Spoonful a 7/10; the frozen yogurt was yummy and creamy, but I don't know that I would ever drive out so far just for fro-yo. However, if you're ever in the area, I would recommend giving it a try!

Overall, the Friday of my Halloweekend was quite perfect, even if I didn't end the night drunk and in costume. After a day of shopping and eating my favorite food with my friend, both my heart and stomach were thoroughly satisfied. A perfect day and a perfect meal.



SAHASRA HANUMIAHGARI / DAILY NEXUS
The tequila pasta can only be described as heavenly.



SAHASRA HANUMIAHGARI / DAILY NEXUS
The Lovin' Spoonful, a locally owned frozen yogurt shop.

The tinned fish epidemic

Francesca Gasparini
On The Menu Editor

If you asked me a year ago to eat a can of sardines as a dare, I would have said absolutely not. Nowadays, however, I find myself repeatedly spending my hard-earned cash on these odorous little fish. The tinned fish craze has taken us all by storm in recent years, with entire restaurant concepts popping up surrounding the pantry staple alongside social media trends of tinned fish on toast and sardine martinis. Who would have guessed that the one thing all the college town markets would be repeatedly sold out of would be canned sardines? I find myself repeatedly returning to the Isla Vista Food Cooperative only to be sorely disappointed to find the Patagonia Provisions sardines in tomato sauce vacant from their shelves.

As far as food trends go, this is a pretty solid one in my books. Sardines are incredibly nutrient rich, packing tons of omega-3 fatty acids, calcium, phosphorus and just about every vitamin you might need. They are also a great source of protein but have low levels of mercury due to their placement on the food chain. As a busy student, one of their greatest strengths is convenience. All you need is a tin of these suckers and a slab of sourdough, and you have yourself a five-star meal. If you want to get fancy, you can pair them with avocado, tomato, cheese or anything else that you so desire.

One of the other main attractants for me is the packaging that sardines come in. Maybe it's just due to my susceptibility to advertising and graphic design, but some of these fish have such pretty cans, I just have to buy them to try them out. Back home, my brother has started covering his kitchen walls with tinned fish boxes — they are just too beautiful to throw away.

I recently fell victim to the internet and tried the can-fired method of laying a paper towel over the top of your can and letting it absorb the oil before lighting the edges on fire to smoke the can of fish. Although it was quite exhilarating, I have to say I was sorely disappointed in its result. I knew it was supposed to be smoky, but my oh my, I could really taste the char.

I don't blame you if you have an aversion to tinned fish, but I urge you to give them a chance. I too was once on the other side, partly due to trauma of the trapped smell of smoked mussels in my unventilated dorm room, courtesy of one of my friends who'd regularly take the trip down the hall from her room to mine to geek out over the newest species of canned marine life she picked up at the market with my roommate. Despite this, I managed to overcome the stench obstacle this summer when I was first introduced to flavored sardines.

I was in France when I had my first bite of sardines soaked in olive oil and red peppers, and my world opened up. Now I can't go to the store without checking the tinned fish section. My all-time favorite is the Matiz Wild Sardines in olive oil and harissa. If you are still struggling to hop on the craze, I recommend starting with a fish soaked with some other ingredient, like preserved lemon, peppers or tomatoes. They make the fish even more flavorful while cutting back on the fishy bite.

Not only will eating sardines make you feel great physically, they will also put your mind at ease because they are a very sustainable protein option. Due to their low placement on the trophic pyramid and short life spans, they have a much lower carbon footprint compared to other protein sources like beef or pork. If done responsibly, sardine fishing results in much less bycatch than other industries like tuna. That being said, make sure to look out for Marine Stewardship Council when shopping for sardines to ensure you are sourcing your fish from a sustainable fishery.



FRANCESCA GASPARINI / DAILY NEXUS
Fishwife's sardines with hot peppers in olive oil.



FRANCESCA GASPARINI / DAILY NEXUS
Looks epic, doesn't taste great.



FRANCESCA GASPARINI / DAILY NEXUS
My very favorite sardines with harissa and olive oil.

OPINION

What happened to romantasy?

Kavya Praveen
Reporter

We can't even get good junk food anymore. By junk food, I'm referring to romantasy books, or romance-fantasy, for those of us who haven't been exposed to the influx of mass produced romantic novels set in fantasy worlds that have sprouted up seemingly overnight in almost every Barnes & Noble I've been to. Romantasy sales reached about $600 million dollars in 2024, about $150 million more than the year before, likely due to the genre's popularity amongst BookTok creators.

Of course, even if you'd never heard of it, just typing it into the search bar would inundate you with enough horror stories about bad writing, incoherent plotlines and gratuitous smut to put you off for good. However, if you're like me, you're probably wondering what the hell happened.

I grew up reading a lot of romantasy like the series "Cinder" by Marissa Meyers and "An Enchantment of Ravens" by Margaret Rogerson, but when I look at the shelves of any bookstore nowadays, I can barely recognize what used to be one of my favorite genres. Although now that I've said that, I'm betting a good few of you aren't going to take me seriously anymore. After all, can you really expect an intellectual, literary opinion from someone who willingly consumes this? The culture around these books and this genre has reached a point where people who read romance-fantasy novels are no longer viewed as legitimate readers.

So what happened to the genre, and why has the credibility of romance-fantasy readers tanked so drastically over the last couple years?

Let me start by saying I don't hate romantasy. I really don't. Have I perhaps been critical of it in recent years? Yes, but only because I used to love it so much that looking at what the genre has become is genuinely disappointing.

More and more, it seems like authors are writing their books around the popular tropes and fill-in-the-blank plotlines of this genre that they sacrifice originality for the growing consumer demand. They are so focused on satisfying the consumer and publisher by adding in every buzzword or next new thing that they end up with a collection of tropes and no actual plot tying everything together.

Because of this, romantasy is becoming known as the genre with bad character writing, subpar world-building and excessive amounts of explicit scenes. As someone who likes this genre, it is incredibly irritating. It means that when people find out I've read romantasy, they no longer take my opinions on books seriously. They tend to assume that I'm talking about the new wave of massproduced novels, and reach the conclusion that I clearly have no standards when it comes to writing quality, plot complexity or literally any literary quality.

Like any other genre, romantasy has good books mixed in with the bad; there are so many stories with interesting plots, in-depth worldbuilding and wonderful characters. For example, the "Sands of Arawiya" series by Hafsah Faizal is one of my favorite romantasy series as an adult. It has captivating female characters, a strong mystery and adventure plotline and amazing worldbuilding. So, why has the opinion of romantasy books in general dropped so low? Personally, I believe it's due to the low quality of these newer novels. This is not to say that all new romantasy books are automatically bad; I'm only referring to the ones that have been obviously copy-pasted with a general type-scene structure.

For me, a good romantasy novel should have a strong female lead with a hard past, but a confidence and personality that makes her unique and compelling to read. There should be an interesting plot built on a cohesive fantasy world, perhaps including a few dragons, and a mystery completely independent of any romantic endeavor. And of course, it needs to have the obligatory standoffish male lead with his own struggles. Although in a majority of those 'new-wave' copy-paste novels that are mass produced, these aspects are poorly done or ignored in favor of explicit scenes.

The main character is still a confident woman. However, her 'confidence' usually borders on blatant arrogance and a frustrating amount of ignorance to the context of the situation. For example, in "A Court of Thorns and Roses" by Sarah J. Maas, the main character Feyre continuously ignores warnings concerning her safety as a human in the fey realm.

This resistance to warnings is likely a way to write her as self reliant. But, given that Feyre spent most of her life hunting, she would be aware of the dangers of the woods and unfamiliar wild places. The fact that she then makes choices to actively ignore the warnings out of a desire to "be independent" makes no sense.

Moving on to world-building and plot, in an ideal novel, the romance and overarching plotline should be equally balanced and fleshed out. Unfortunately, with most new romantasy books, almost every aspect of the plot is added to further the romance or add room for sex scenes.

In Laura Thalassa's "Rhapsodic," the main character Callypso and the male lead Desmond travel to his kingdom together so he can show her the victims of the mysterious kidnappings that have been happening recently. However, there isn't much emphasis placed on the actual victims beyond a very dry, cursory explanation; this sequence of scenes is only used to endear him more to her, and advance their physical relationship, which is something most new-wave romantasy books focus on a lot — the physical relationship between the leads. I don't see anything wrong with adding a sex scene or two, but when it's inserted constantly into situations where it adds no narrative value or meaning, it just gets old.

Clearly, a lot of these newer novels lack most of the aspects that I value in a good book. But why is it so negatively affecting the external view of the genre?

Well, generally speaking, the influx of bad quality books in a genre means that the average book for that genre is statistically likely to be worse. Meaning if you go to a bookstore and pick a random romantasy novel off the shelf, chances are you'll get one of the newer ones that I've described not-so-favorably above.

Most people, judging romantasy based on the average book quality, will assume that all or the majority of the genre's books are at the same level. It also means they're more likely to think people who enjoy those books have the same standards for literature that these books exhibit.

So regardless of whether you read romantasy as "literary junk food," or simply because you enjoy a fun romance with magic involved, you invariably will end up with your opinions reduced to reflect the worst books of this genre. In the end, it all comes down to the market flooding our indulgent hobby with subpar versions of the books we enjoy, and now we, as readers, are judged based on their quality.

But, it's not all bad news. In my opinion, although the genre's quality overall is diminishing, this doesn't have any bearing on my own discernment and taste as a reader. As long as I stick to the same high standards of quality I've always had and take the time to search for that one good novel in the haystack, my literary opinions are worth listening to.

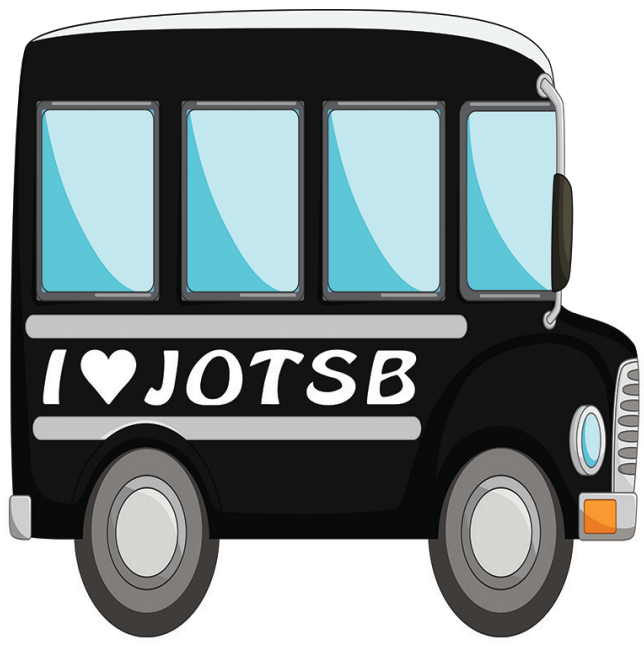
Kavya Praveen is not giving up her romantasy novels or her standards.

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HOROSCOPES

The signs as common romance tropes they would fall for

ARIES
MARCH 21 - APRIL 19
Best friend's brother

TAURUS
APRIL 20 - MAY 20
Forbidden love

GEMINI
MAY 21 - JUNE 20
Forced proximity

CANCER
JUNE 21 - JULY 22
Fake dating

LEO
JULY 23 - AUGUST 22
Love triangle

VIRGO
AUGUST 23 - SEPTEMBER 22
Marriage pact

LIBRA
SEPTEMBER 23 - OCTOBER 22
Opposites attract

SCORPIO
OCTOBER 23 - NOVEMBER 21
I hate everyone but you

SAGITTARIUS
NOVEMBER 22 - DECEMBER 21
Second chance love

CAPRICORN
DECEMBER 22 - JANUARY 19
Friends to lovers

AQUARIUS
JANUARY 20 - FEBRUARY 18
Enemies to lovers

PISCES
FEBRUARY 19 - MARCH 20
Slow burn

COLUMNISTS



What we keep wearing:
Layered looks

Arna Churiwala
Fashionista

There is a certain point when getting dressed where adding another layer stops being practical and starts becoming a fashion choice. A tank top over a baby tee, a long-sleeved shirt underneath a boxy T-shirt, a skirt over jeans — suddenly, one perfectly good outfit has become three, and somehow it looks better that way.

Layering is one of fashion's most entertaining exercises in excess: combining clothes in ways that might not immediately make sense. A pair of tights underneath knee-high socks, another pair of socks pulled over those and, finally, a pair of boots. A lacy camisole under a low-cut top. A minidress over work slacks. None of these combinations are particularly necessary, but that is precisely the point. Sometimes an outfit needs a little more than what it needs.

The appeal of layering lies in the opportunity to experiment. It allows us to play with color, texture and proportion, turning otherwise ordinary basics into something more personal. A simple white T-shirt becomes infinitely more interesting when worn over a fitted long-sleeved shirt, while a familiar pair of jeans take on an entirely different personality with a skirt layered on top.

It is also one of the easiest ways to make use of clothes already sitting in your closet. Rather than buying an entirely new outfit, why not find a new way to wear the one you already own?

The layered look has a long history in fashion, particularly within alternative youth culture. In the 1990s, grunge popularized the idea of dressing in a deliberately undone way, with slip dresses worn over T-shirts, leather jackets layered over oversized flannels and contrasting textures becoming part of the aesthetic. The appeal was in the refusal to look perfectly polished. Clothes were mixed together without much concern for whether they belonged in the same outfit, creating a look that felt personal rather than carefully coordinated.

By the early 2000s, layering had become a defining feature of everyday fashion. Think camisoles of different lengths worn over one another, visible bra straps, cropped cardigans over fitted tanks and baby tees layered over long-sleeved shirts. It was a time when more was, quite literally, more. Mixing colors, prints and necklines was practically an art form.

This style found another home in the 2010s Tumblr era, when the internet's favorite girls seemed to have an endless supply of striped long-sleeved shirts, oversized sweaters, disco shorts and patterned tights. The combination of a graphic T-shirt over a striped shirt, paired with shorts and black stockings became something of an unofficial uniform. It was a little grungy, a little nostalgic and messy in the coolest way.

Today, that same instinct to keep adding to an outfit has found its way onto the runways, albeit in a more polished form. Valentino's fall 2026 show offered its own take on maximalism, pairing high-waisted skinny jeans with floor-length coats and contrasting cummerbunds, while combining faux fur, fringe and pleats in unexpected ways. In many modern collections, layering becomes the focal point of an outfit rather than an afterthought.

One of the easiest places to experiment is with tops. The classic long-sleeve-under-a-T-shirt combination is practically a rite of passage, but there are plenty of ways to make it feel new. Try a brightly colored lace-trimmed camisole over a fitted white shirt, an oversized graphic T-shirt over a dress or a short-sleeved knit over a thin turtleneck. For something a little more classic, a crisp button-down shirt underneath an oversized sweater, with the collar and cuffs peeking out, is an easy way to add dimension to an otherwise simple outfit. It is all about playing with different necklines, sleeve lengths and fabrics to make familiar pieces feel new again.

Then there are the bottoms, which offer perhaps even more room for experimentation. Wearing jeans underneath a miniskirt might sound like a combination best left to the early 2000s, but it can feel surprisingly modern when styled with a simple top and understated shoes. Trousers underneath dresses, shorts over tights and skirts layered over leggings all challenge the idea that an outfit needs to follow a conventional silhouette. Sometimes the most interesting part of getting dressed is figuring out how to make two pieces work together that were never meant to be worn at the same time.

And, of course, no discussion of layering would be complete without socks and tights. Sheer stockings underneath colorful socks, knee-highs peeking out over boots, leg warmers scrunched around ballet flats — the possibilities are practically endless. Layering different textures and patterns can make even the smallest details of an outfit feel intentional. A pair of polka-dot tights under white socks, for example, can transform a simple miniskirt and ballet-flat combination into something much more playful.

Layering is the easiest way to make a familiar campus wardrobe feel less repetitive. Between classes, coffee runs and spontaneous nights out, there is no shortage of opportunities to rework the same closet staples. You might even find that the outfit you were about to give up on just needed one more thing.

Of course, there is a fine line between an intentionally layered outfit and looking like you got dressed during a power outage. But maybe that is part of the fun.

Maybe personal style isn't always about having the right clothes, but about finding unexpected ways to wear them.



Arna Churiwala believes there is always room for one more layer.

COURTESY OF PINTEREST



put me on aux
'Amsterdam Music Festival: Truly a blast'

Siobhan Stewart
Beat Reporter

The United States treats music festivals as a very exclusive stage, where music and vibes can only be felt once the ticket is paid. When there is a musical festival in Amsterdam, music can be heard down any and every street without ever actually entering the venue. The contrast is almost shocking to an American traveler used to such strict boundaries. Day and night, the flow is endless. Instead of keeping the celebration behind paywalls and velvet ropes, Amsterdam treats electronic music as a shared civic treasure, weaving the festivities directly into the daily life of its residents and visitors.

Now I am not saying that you can walk down the street and hear David Guetta playing a headline set on a random street corner, but the whole city lights up with DJs and partying during Amsterdam Dance Event week. It's as if the entire urban landscape transforms into a living, breathing venue. Every neighborhood takes on a noticeable electricity, and the boundary between official venue and casual storefront completely dissolves.

You could literally walk into a vintage clothing shop to pick up a jacket and find a local artist spinning deep house behind the cash register while shoppers sway near the racks. I once sat in a tiny boutique café to see the barista fading two tracks together on a controller set up right next to the pastry display. The cashier wasn't just working a shift; she was vibing to the music, handing out coffees with a radiant smile that made you feel like you were part of an exclusive club.

From the early hours of the morning to late at night, the city never became silent. There was a unique glow to Amsterdam — one that can not be replicated. That city is known for its high life (literally), but its true magic lies in how openly it embraces human connection.

I ended up on a spontaneous canal cruise of the city and had the best tour guide. She was explaining how the entire week, people have been partying, listening to music, anywhere and everywhere, at all times. According to her, it's normal to start partying at a young age in the Netherlands, as dance music isn't viewed as a rebellious subculture or a guilty pleasure reserved for late-night clubbing. It's almost as if dance music is a fundamental part of Dutch culture and national pride. There is an innate openness, where music belongs in the streets, in the air and in the shared spaces of everyday life.

That weekend was filled with the soundtrack of summer. On Saturday night, I got to see the one and only David Guetta. My friends and I arrived at the event, got there around 10 p.m., and found ourselves finessing a front-row view. We heard DJ Armin van Buuren perform some hits before Guetta came out and played the most fun and nostalgic party music for everyone to dance to. We stayed until so early in the morning that I essentially had to head straight to the airport. The memories and experience David Guetta provided was worth any amount of sleep deprivation.

Guetta is not only a masterful DJ who has made waves in the electronic music scene since his rise to fame in the early 2000s, but he is a well-known artist whose music still sounds relevant. While many producers fade away as trends shift and genres evolve, Guetta has managed to stay popular. I remember listening to his songs as a kid in the car with my family and singing to him with my friends. Tracks like "Titanium" and "Without You" were the literal soundtrack to my childhood road trips, school dances and summer vacations.

He was part of my childhood and has never left. At parties, at clubs and on social media, Guetta has always been on aux. He has reached many generations, and his music has resonated deeply with Generation Z, but I can guarantee that people in older generations around my parents' age and in younger generations have all heard at least one song from him. In 2023, he produced a new song and collaborated with Bebe Rexha, "I'm Good (Blue)," which reached over 2.5 billion streams on Spotify, proving that his musical career is nowhere near over. Despite being 58, Guetta brings a youthful energy to his sets. The concert was filled with lasers and showered with confetti. It was immaculate. I felt like I could stay there forever, and I almost did.

Leaving was not easy. The world seemed to get a whole lot quieter. Amsterdam was a blast that will never be forgotten. It brought the vibes and left me with the best memories. I think that we can all learn from Amsterdam, to play music, socialize and continue to live life with good energy.

The Dutch have mastered the art of gezelligheid — a unique feeling of togetherness, warmth and cozy fun that permeates their entire lifestyle. This trip was a needed reminder that life is short. The time we have should be spent moving our bodies, meeting new people and looking at life through rose-colored glasses. We often forget to keep moving and creating new experiences, so if you have the chance to go out and listen to live music, take it.

Siobhan wants everyone to hit the dance floors, or if in Amsterdam, the nearest coffee shop.



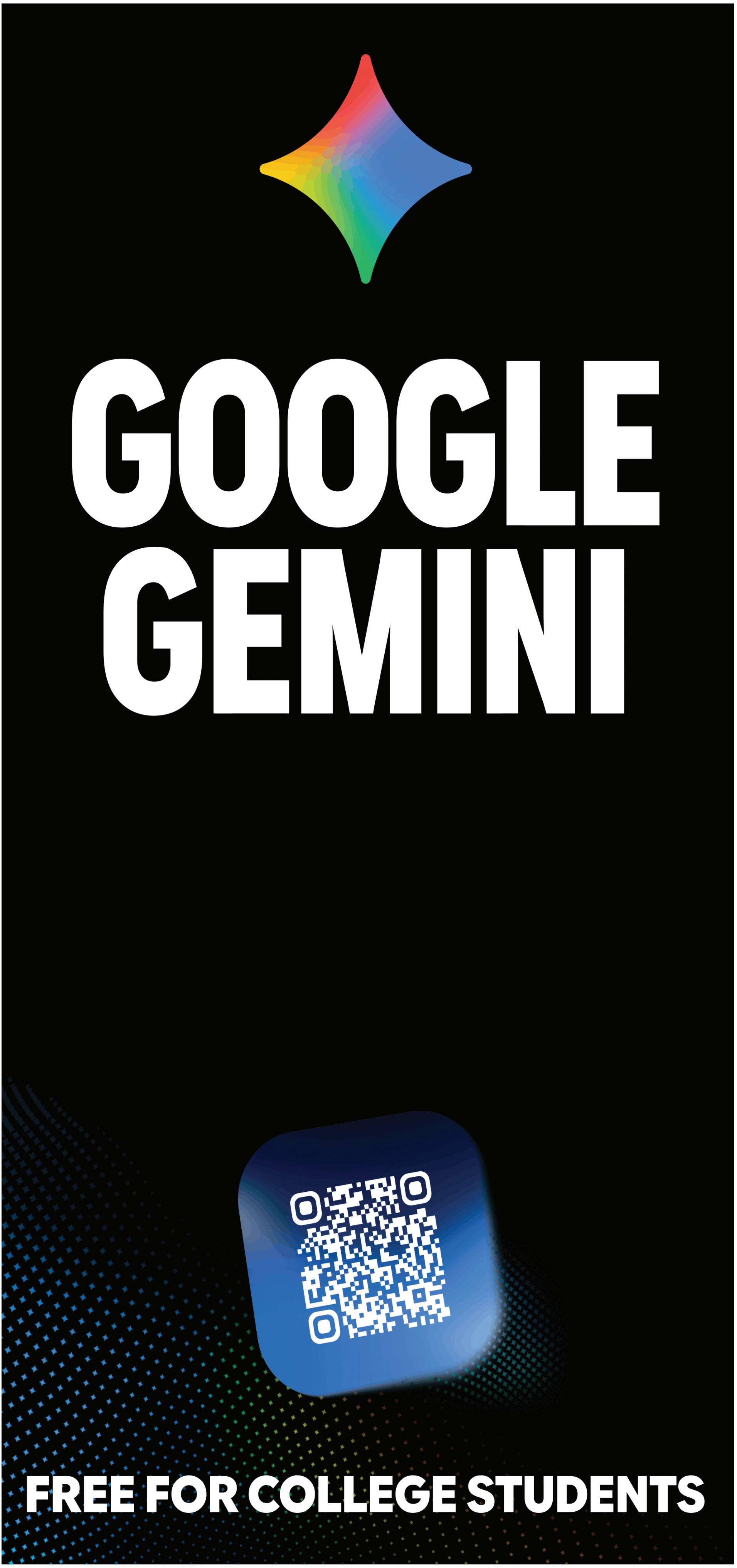
COURTESY OF AMF FESTIVAL

The Amsterdam Music Festival of 2026 sold out with 40,000 antendees, hosted by the Johan Cruijff ArenA.



COURTESY OF DJ MAG

Amsterdam's A10 Highway rave embraces the country's industrial infrastructure with a free 15km highway rave.


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