Santa Barbara, UCSB Join Forces Against GOP Tax Bill

Students at UCSB organized a walk-out Wednesday morning to protest a GOP bill that would tax graduate student tuition waivers.

Simren Verma
Asst. News Editor

UC Santa Barbara students walked out of class Wednesday morning to rally against a Republican tax bill that protesters said would hold back students who are trying to pursue an education.

UC Student Workers Union (IWW 2865) hosted the event. About 40 graduate student walkouts happened across the country today in response to the tax bill, including at colleges such as USC, Caltech and UCLA.

Under the House Republican Tax Reform bill, graduate students who receive tuition waivers would have to pay income taxes because those waivers would be counted as income.

1. The group chanted "Black Lives Matter" after David Stamps, president of the Graduate Student Association, spoke about the importance of solidarity with other marginalized communities. Stamps told students that they needed to "show up" when a community beside their own is being affected.

2. Approximately 100 undergraduate and graduate students held signs that read "Tuition is not income!" and "America runs on grad student research!" Multiple student speakers explained how they would be directly affected by the bill and encouraged the students present to take action.

3. Students chanted "one, two, three, four, tax the rich and not the poor!" and "two, four, six, eight, educate and agitate!" Gary Little, a graduate student in the Department of Global Studies, union member and parent, said he opposed the idea of normalizing student debt and that the bill would ultimately increase the "crushing amount" of it. Another student speaker expressed frustration with the Democratic Party, attributing the tax plan to the party's desire to push "a candidate that no one wanted to vote for."

TAX BILL p.5

Students have expressed their opposition to the tax bill through panels and demonstrations.

Simren Verma
Asst. News Editor

Roselia Mendez, a UC Santa Barbara graduate student, began to worry about her future when the U.S. House of Representatives passed a Republican tax bill on Nov. 16 — one that might threaten her ability to pay for an education.

Mendez, a second-year first-generation graduate student in the communication department, said if the bill passes through the Senate, she might be forced to leave her Ph.D. program due to financial burdens.

Under the Republican tax bill, graduate students who receive tuition waivers would have to pay income taxes because the waivers would now be classified as income.

Tuition waivers are granted to students who teach or conduct research at universities.

"The only way that I could continue here is because of the tuition waiver that I receive," Mendez said.

Mendez was born in Mexico and moved to the United States at the age of five, and she was undocumented until fourth grade when she became a U.S. citizen.

"That’s basically been my driving force like my parents and their sacrifice," she said.

Mendez went on to pursue her undergraduate communication degree at UCSB and is the first in her family to go to graduate school.

Sandi Mosley, a second-year graduate student in the Department of Communication Studies, also uses tuition waivers that will be taxed under the bill. "I definitely still have a lot of undergraduate loans that are very intimidating ... It scares me thinking about the place it would put me in," Mosley said.

Mendez and Mosley are both teaching assistants in the undergraduate communication department at UCSB, and they both earn $18,000 a year.

"That’s what I rely on to pay for the next four years of my education ... This is my source of income," Mendez said.

As the U.S. Senate prepares to vote on the House Republican tax bill, students at UC Santa Barbara have expressed their opposition to the bill with a series of panels and demonstrations.

While Representative Salud Carbajal voted against the bill, 11 congressmen representing districts across California voted in favor of the bill.

Many representatives, such as Doug LaMalfa, who represents California's first district, said they voted for the bill because it helps the middle class and makes taxes simpler.

"Though it is not yet the final product, I support this bill," LaMalfa said in a press release on Nov. 16. "The Senate must pass their own version which, together with our House bill, will then require conference committee action moving forward."
WEATHER

The Weatherhuman keeps overthinking things with his dick machine. It's there to provide for its great needs, but why doesn't the dick care about the Weatherhuman? The Weatherhuman's job.

Tomorrow's Forecast: Hopefully the ability for intimate object to read minds and make for happy.

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Saturday, November 30, 2017

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 30

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30

AN EVENING OF SELF EXPRESSION

7:30PM | MCC LOUNGE

The MCC hosts a quarterly open mic for anyone to artistically express themselves using all creative outlets - including spoken word, poetry, hip hop, music and dance. This quarter's MC is [Alix], poet, artist and activist who brings together his lived experience as an undocumented immigrant surviving on stolen land with the theories of decolonialization.

EMILY ESFAHANI SMITH

CAMPBELL HALL | 7:30PM

There is more to life than searching for happiness, says Emily Esfahani Smith, author of The Power of Meaning: Crafting a Life that Matters, a positive psychology instructor and an editor at Stanford University's Hoover Institute, Smith finds that pursuing meaning in life is ultimately more fulfilling than chasing happiness. Drawing on psychology, philosophy and literature, she points the way toward a richer life.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1

IMPROVABILITY: IMPROV GOES CAMPING

8PM EMBARCADERO HALL | $3

Celebrate the most wonderful time of the year with Pink Martini, the globe-trotting "little orchestra" that draws inspiration from classic Hollywood musicals and crosses genres to make an eclectic, modern sound. Combining Latin music, jazz, cabaret and more, this effervescent group is committed to serving the audience dancing to the aisles. Billboard's "Queen China Forbes returns to headlinen the show, performing music from around the world accompanied by the ensemble's unsurpassed musicianship and infectious joie de vivre. On the heels of their recent studio album release, Je dis oui, Pink Martini once again reveals their formidable talent and wide-ranging influences, "tackled with cosmopolitan sophistication and the playfulness of pop." (NPR).

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2

PINK MARTINI

ARLINGTON THEATRE | 8PM

Celebrate the most wonderful time of the year with Pink Martini, the globe-trotting "little orchestra" that draws inspiration from classic Hollywood musicals and crosses genres to make an eclectic, modern sound. Combining Latin music, jazz, cabaret and more, this effervescent group is committed to serving the audience dancing to the aisles. Billboard's "Queen China Forbes returns to headlinen the show, performing music from around the world accompanied by the ensemble's unsurpassed musicianship and infectious joie de vivre. On the heels of their recent studio album release, Je dis oui, Pink Martini once again reveals their formidable talent and wide-ranging influences, "tackled with cosmopolitan sophistication and the playfulness of pop." (NPR).
Customer service to their tenants is not something that is prioritized or even needed.

SPEICHER BRANDT

I.V. residents contacted the Santa Barbara Rental Housing Mediation Program for help in 2014 to 2015 fiscal year. This is the highest usage rate by any unincorporated area of the county and nearly double the rate of the community with the second highest usage, according to the presentation.

Tenants reached out to the mediation program mostly for security deposit refunds, lease terminations, habitability and repair issues and rent increase disputes. FTHH provides education and advocacy for tenants and some case work for rental housing issues and the UCSB Community Housing Office provides some dispute resolution and mediation.

The Legal Aid Foundation of Santa Barbara County also provides information about tenants' rights and responsibilities, but there is yet to be a service that unites all areas of tenant-landlord issues for all residents.

Bertrand compared mediation programs in the cities of Palm Alto and Santa Barbara to I.V., which he said has a need for a similar program. He said he hopes to discuss the program's creation with other UC I.V. stakeholders at their next board meeting.

If the CSD chooses to create a mediation program, it can make its mediation program mandatory through an ordinance, though a majority of board members have said they would first like to create a pilot program.

KCSB OPEN MIC

KCSB is hosting an open mic night on Friday, Dec. 1 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Rincon Room in Isla Vista, located at 6581 Pardall Road. KCSB is a UC Santa Barbara-based radio station that has been operating for over 55 years. The station invites interested parties to sign-up online if they wish to perform comedy, spoken word, music and other performances. A sign-up sheet will also be available at the event.

GOAT YOGA

KOGO will host a goat yoga event on Saturday, Dec. 2 from 9 a.m. to 12 a.m. at 6694 Del Playa Drive. Attendees are encouraged to don Christmas-themed clothing.

PUNK SHOW

Wild ox punk bands Crucial Measures, Slow Down and Spirits will be playing at 6531 Sabado Tarde (Unit 89) on Monday, Dec. 4th from 6 to 10 p.m. Tickets are available for $5 at the door. Crucial Measures is a touring band from San Luis Obispo. Slow Down is a Santa Barbara band and Spirits is from Bellingham, Massachusetts. Albums for all three are available on the event's Facebook page.

IMPROV

 weekly goings-on in Isla Vista

The El Centro Committee was designed to improve communication between students and administrators. The group meets weekly to discuss student issues and will bring goats from a farm in Sun Valley.

El Centro serves as a gathering space for various cultural groups that have occupied the space since 1971, provoking outcry from student groups that use the space. Instead of demolish it, the university opted to repair the building.

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Maurita Fox

After almost a year of confusion, anger and discussions, the future El Centro, the historical building will be ready for full use by the start of Winter Quarter.

The project to repair El Centro began in January after the university notified students that the building was no longer safe due to dry rot, insect damage, steel beam corrosion and an inadequate amount of ventilation beneath the trailer's floor.

The project cost approximately $900,000, according to UC Santa Barbara spokesperson Andrea Estrada. Student Affairs contributed $360,000, and the university supplemented the remaining $540,000 through the deferred maintenance fund.

University officials originally told students to evacuate El Centro within 45 days, saying the building would either be demolished or improved within that time period. The alarming notice provoked outcry from student groups that use the building.

The university intended to complete the project over the summer, but plumbing complications and changes with university officials over the location of a row of pillars around the north and east sides of the building delayed the repairs. Alvarez said the building repairs were slow at the start of the summer due to plumbing complications and a project manager going on vacation, but progress sped up when Alvarez returned to UCSB in August.

"Over the summer, you would have seen nothing being done to El Centro, and when I came back in August, you started seeing weekly changes," she said.

Former campus architect Marc Fisher, who was one of the lead contributors to the project, returned to UCSB over the summer to take a job at UC Berkeley. Alvarez said the El Centro Committee worked with Fisher until the last communication with Renee Bahl, associate vice chancellor for Design, Facilities and Student Services, about the repairs.

The El Centro Committee was designed to monitor the building repairs and keep an open line of communication between students and administrators. The group meets weekly to discuss student issues.

"We aren't architects," Alvarez said. "We want to make sure we understand what's happening as students.

After a seismic stabilization project that began in February, the university added 12 concrete pillars around the north and east sides of the building.

These structures made the building more durable and safe for earthquakes, campus architect Ed Schmittgen told the Nexus in April, and the university opted to repair the building instead of demolish it.

Some student organizations have been able to use various parts of the building throughout the reconstruction.

In October, El Centro was permitted to reopen to student organizations.

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Maurita Fox

After Repairs, El Centro Will Be Ready for Use by January

The El Centro Community Services District began discussions to develop a new tenant-landlord mediation program on Tuesday, Nov. 28, at their board of directors meeting.

The new program would mediate disputes between tenants and landlords in Isla Vista in collaboration with the many organizations that currently provide different services between tenants and landlords in Isla Vista. Organizations that currently provide different services between tenants and landlords in Isla Vista in collaboration with the many organizations that currently provide different services between tenants and landlords in Isla Vista include the Isla Vista Tenants Union, UC Santa Barbara's Community Housing Office and others in the area.

The I.V. Community Services District (CSD) has not yet decided the program's specifics but board members have called it creation of a "top priority." Assembly Bill 3 (AB 3), which paved the way for the I.V. CSD's creation with its passage in 2015, provided the district the power to create a tenant mediation program.

I.V. CSD Board President Ethan Bertrand gave a presentation about similar tenant mediation programs during the CSD's Tuesday meeting and said I.V. residents have reached out for assistance with tenant-landlord mediation in the past.

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Bertrand compared mediation programs in the cities of Palm Alto and Santa Barbara to I.V., which he said has a need for a similar program. He said he hopes to discuss the program's creation with other UC I.V. stakeholders at their next board meeting.

If the CSD chooses to create a mediation program, it can make its mediation program mandatory through an ordinance, though a majority of board members have said they would first like to create a pilot program.
July Whittier Fire May Have Effect on Lake Cachuma Water Quality

Melanie Voskanian
Managing Editor

The Whittier Fire that burned through Santa Barbara County in July could have a lasting detrimental effect on the water quality in Lake Cachuma, a main water source for the county.

The fire, which burned thousands of acres in the Santa Ynez Valley, left ash and burnt vegetation that could wash into the lake. Heavy rainfall could further pollute the lake because the lack of vegetation has created loose sediment, resulting in a mudslide hazard.

Lake Cachuma provides water for four districts in Santa Barbara County: the City of Santa Barbara, Goleta Water District, Montecito Water District and Carpinteria Valley Water District, according to Fray Crease, Santa Barbara County water agency manager.

Increased sediment flow into the lake presents a challenge for water filtration and treatment, Crease said.

She said water purveyors are planning to use alternate water sources if Lake Cachuma’s water becomes too difficult to treat in the winter.

According to David Matson, assistant general manager and chief of staff at the Goleta Water District, the District has moved toward groundwater usage for the coming winter. The Goleta Water District’s service areas include Isla Vista and UC Santa Barbara.

The conditions surrounding Lake Cachuma create “significant concern” about the water quality because of the potential for sediment runoff into the lake, Matson said.

He said risk factors that could affect the water quality include the severity of the wildfire burn, steep terrain, erosion and the proximity of the burn area to the watershed.

Although the rainy season has not yet begun, Lake Cachuma has already faced several environmental challenges in recent years, Matson said.

The six-year California drought reduced Lake Cachuma’s water levels to 7 percent capacity at its lowest point. The newly exposed land experienced overgrowth of vegetation, he said.

“Winter rains in 2017 resulted in the submersion of this vegetation, which is now decaying under water … leading to deteriorating water quality,” Matson said in an email.

Lake Cachuma’s water supply has since recovered, rising by 24.5 percent in one week earlier this year, the Nexus reported in February of this year.

As of Monday, Nov. 27, Lake Cachuma is at 39 percent of its water storage capacity, according to data from the Santa Barbara County Flood Control District.

Past fires in the area, including the Rey fire that occurred in the summer of 2016, have also detrimentally affected Lake Cachuma’s water quality. Matson said even the 2007 Zaca Fire that burned through the Lake Cachuma watershed has left residual effects on the quality of water in the area.

Lake Cachuma has experienced challenges from the surrounding environment in recent years. The six-year drought at one point led to the lake’s record-low 7 percent capacity, and the 2016 Rey Fire in Santa Barbara County caused debris and ash to wash into its watershed.
Mendez said many congressmen do not understand the "lived experience" of graduate students struggling to afford their education.

"This isn’t the right place [in the budget] to be saving money," Mendez said. "There are so many corporations who can pay for this, but instead they’re doing it at the expense of us."

Congressman Carbajal came to UCSB on Monday to speak about why he voted against the bill and its potential effects on UCSB students.

"This is a proposal that quite simply gives 80 percent of the tax benefit to the top 1 percent of this country," Carbajal said Monday. "It’s the biggest gift to the wealthiest in our country."

Mendez worries that if the bill passes, she will have to take out loans or take from her savings to continue her education.

"I am going to have to take out student loans so I can finance taxes," Moxley questioned.

Both Mendez and Moxley are unsure of how they will make ends meet if the bill passes, but said she may get her Masters degree instead of continuing the full Ph.D. program to avoid the extra expenses she would have to pay under the new bill.

Mendez attended the walk-out on Wednesday and said it was one of the first rallies she has ever attended.

Moxley has called Senator Diane Feinstein and Senator Kamala Harris hoping that if enough graduate students can come together and use the statistic when talking about higher education on the Senate floor:

"If [UCSB] could decrease rent for graduate student housing or pay "Dia more," Mendez said when asked how UCSB could help graduate students if the bill is passed.

"Students in the Graduate Student Association have also been speaking out against the bill."

"I could easily say that I would be over $100,000 in debt without these quarterly remission awards," Danny Meza, a fourth-year graduate student in the counseling, clinical and school psychology department, said in an email.

"To be now be responsible for thousands of dollars in tax payments will severely impact my financial resources and cause me to spend additional time working or securing other funding, time which I have very little of as I try to complete my dissertation," he added.

Mendez worries that if the bill passes, she will have a financial benefit the university gave her.

"I look forward to learning more about the community’s desire for a tenant mediation program on campus," said Spencer Brandt, I.V. CSD board member and cultural mentors began using the space to hold study groups, and two full-time Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) counselors and counseling, clinical and school psychology department.

"We had an issue with students not being able to get into El Centro because it was locked," Alvarez said. "Getting the card reader — would be a safer way for them to navigate through the building and get access to the building."

Alvarez said the university has been transparent about its work on the building’s progress.

"I'm really thankful that they're allowing us to be a part of these conversations and ask for things when we need clarifications," Alvarez said. "They've been really helpful in that sense."

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How Do the Latest Big West Changes Impact UCSB?

Jorge Mercado
Sports Co-Editor
Jorge Mercado
@Merk_43

On Monday, Nov. 27, the Big West held a press conference and voted to add two new programs, University of San Diego and Cal State Bakersfield, to the league, which now is up to 11 total teams.

While this is great news for both universities and the commissioner of the Big West, Dennis准备好，有一个问题需要解决将会影响到整个联盟。

Without a doubt, the biggest news for UCSB in 2016 was the return of basketball to the conference. The Gauchos have been a staple in the Big West for over 20 years, and their departure was a blow to both the league and its fans. However, in May of 2016, a referendum along with the balance of the schools was not as important as the university's decision to remain an official Big West member in all sports in 2020. UCSB and CSUB will probably find it a very happy life in the Big West just as UC Davis did when it joined in 2012.

However, the biggest question is how will this affect UCSB and the sports programs found here on campus?

The short answer: This is not a move that will help UCSB in any way.

While the two schools might be able to help the Gauchos in another sport such as water polo or men's volleyball, they won't be a big boost to the basketball programs. UCSB has been improving in men's basketball, winning the WAC title the last two seasons and making a decent run in the NIT last year, but it's not a school that the Gauchos will benefit from having on their schedule—not yet.

If they continue the trend, then maybe down the line this could become a great game that will draw many fans, but at this right now, I don't think UCSB students will be going up to a CSUB game.

Again, UCSB is not a bad addition that will hurt CSUB due to its winning ways the past few years, but its jump to the Big West will also close off those winning seasons due to them being in a less competitive conference or not.

As it stands, both schools will have a high recruiting base for years until they can get their program up to D-I competitiveness.

The problem with adding CSUB isn't that you are adding another average conference or that it saves, then maybe they could help get some more exposure for a conference primarily now made up of smaller programs. The same goes for UCSD once they become a full-fledged member.

The bottom line for UCSB, however, is simple: it has to capitalize on this conference and start becoming the team that dominates, especially in those bigger sports. For most successful mid-majors like Gonzaga in men's basketball, they aren't in tough conference either, however, it's the way they dominate their conference that gives them notoriety.

So it comes down to who they schedule and beat in non-conference play because, as it stands, the Big West Conference up the RPI ladder as a whole either. The same goes for UCSD once they become a full-fledged member.

Again, CSUB does not help this problem. It also doesn't help that last year's conference RPI has the lowest of any in D-I basketball, baseball, etc. and help grows some of their student bodies, which it hopes to do with the money it saves, then maybe they could help get some more exposure for a conference primarily now made up of smaller programs.

The Big West, even with these two additions, is still a conference that can provide some quality teams. If UCSB can become the team that dominates in year in and year out, then it won't matter who is in or who is not added.

The answer to that question was graduate transfer Leland King II, who had yet another double-double in this game with 21 points and 14 rebounds.

The Forward led all players in scoring in and out of conference this year, and they come into the matchup led by Pacific. While the two schools might be able to help the Gauchos in another sport such as water polo or men's volleyball, they won't be a big boost to the basketball programs.

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The bottom line for UCSB, however, is simple: it has to capitalize on this conference and start becoming the team that dominates, especially in those bigger sports. For most successful mid-majors like Gonzaga in men's basketball, they aren't in tough conference either, however, it's the way they dominate their conference that gives them notoriety.

The Big West, even with these two additions, is still a conference that can provide some quality teams. If UCSB can become the team that dominates in year in and year out, then it won't matter who is in or who is not added.

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UCSB Women’s Club Soccer Shines in Back-to-Back Domination.

“Once a Gaucho, always a Gaucho.” The mantra embodies what many generations of past and current students appreciate about their time in athletic competition while at UCSB.

Across the multitude of generations, this phrase is one that is thinking. In the case of Gauchos alumnus Mike Heil, for almost two years, he has been a force of club soccer with a mission to win and give all and any things back to the team.

According to the website’s archives tab, information on the site dates back as far as Sept. 7, 2016.

It was 2016 that earned the title of being at a competitive level, where they are now playing at either the MLS or international level. The program is the 2016 recruiting class and the even more the team has been on the field, all that is available on the site.

Despite the image, the website’s most striking piece of content is Heid’s self-titled “The Quest to Rep UCSB Soccer Jerseys: A Case Study in Citizen Journalism.”

With little to lose as an individual, the team’s soccer fan looking to further his support knew, Heil took his right to citizen-journalism into the keyboard and onto public records to further his cause.

Despite being home to 20 Division-I sports, UCSB’s athletic department is not shy in a sports powerhouse.

With that said, the search for a team jersey is any sport is likely a feat of a lifetime for any individual.

While browsing Adidas.com, one soon realizes that Adidas, the Gaucho’s official “partner,” does not carry a specific jersey for the Gauchos.

Published on Sept. 4, Heid’s article chronicles his search for a UCSC soccer’s men’s jersey, which was a discounted cost nearly $100.

For years, I’ve tried to buy UCSC soccer jerseys and jersey sections, and every year it’s the same stuff. There was one year when they did sell the actual jersey, which I still have, but there is not a lot of what else exists.

“With the shirt shopping mentality it’s a game of gut that just trial and error is the best way to go about it. Sometimes you’re on the right track and sometimes you’re completely off base,” Heid said.

Nonetheless, the players contribute more to the program than just their on-field performance. They’re the front-line recruiters for the team as well, manning booths and getting the word out in order to bolster the roster each year.

The mantra embodies what many generations of past and current students appreciate about their time in athletic competition while at UCSB. UCSC’s women’s soccer team practices three times a week rather than six times a week, which is the norm for a Division I team. But they’re student athletes all the same.

“I believe this team can continue its success into the future by keeping the close bonds we have formed and keeping true to our style of soccer,” she said. “Now that this younger group has a taste of winning back-to-back national championships, I believe they will carry on and keep the program healthy and growing.”

So far, the team has been in the top four in the nation, and they have formed a true bond with their teammates, which is why they are so successful.

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We were never trying to make a lo-fi bedroom sound, but we had lo-fi gear. We worked with what we had. And we continue to reinvest in our studio space. We hold true for the bulk of their project in sound. They release music when they want to, because they want to.

The Florida act is set to play in Santa Barbara next Thursday as a stop on their latest headlining West Coast tour with support from Seattle indie-pop band Chaos Chaos.

Meet SALES: The Minimalist Pop Duo That Crafts Bedroom Beats

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SALES is slated to perform on Thursday, Dec. 7, at SOHO Restaurant and Music Club.

ARTSWEEK

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Frat Tables in Arbor to Promote Parties

In an unsurprising turn of events, lame-ass frat Sigma Tau Delta has resorted to tabling in the Arbor yesterday just to get people to come to their dumb parties. While attendance at their social gatherings was low before, it is sure to be even lower now. When asked about it, STD president and engineering major Chad St. McMichaelson commented, “We’re a newer frat. What better way to get the word out about our great brotherhood?” Unfortunately for St. McMichaelson, the word is already out about their frat, and that word is “lame.”

“STD is having a party and you’re invited!” Even though STD may have committed the ultimate party foul, these events have helped to strengthen the brotherhood by bringing the boys together in new ways. In fact, as their reputation has now reached epidemic lows, local sorority Lambda Lambda Lambda has taken them in as an extra act of philanthropy. If you’d like to contribute to helping this cause and in boosting the morale of STD, please send words and letters of encouragement to the STD chapter house at 6969 Fortuna Rd, Isla Vista, CA 93117.

6 Ways to Fuck Your Bae, Not Your GPA

Have a class together? Like to play with your ass together? Have the receiving partner hold a book and read the required homework readings aloud while the partner on top holds them steady via firm ass-grabbing. Note: This works best for lighter readings due to body movements possibly impairing vision and ability to read. Pro tip: Do not try this with a rented textbook!

Brainal

Grab your essay outline, crack open that laptop, split apart your partner’s legs and get to work. As a bonus, in order to ensure that your laptop stays relatively where your hands are, you have to work your abdominal muscles extra hard to keep yourself in place.

Studious Scissors

Have a class together? Like to play with your ass together? Have the receiving partner hold a book and read the required homework readings aloud while the partner on top holds them steady via firm ass-grabbing. Note: This works best for lighter readings due to body movements possibly impairing vision and ability to read. Pro tip: Do not try this with a rented textbook!

Tabletop

Conveniently add a textbook in-between your partner’s legs if you’re on top! This way, while you’re down, you’re also not out. Added bonus: Your confidence will skyrocket. This effective and foolproof method for studying and making someone orgasm will make you feel good about your o-chem skills as well as your skills in bed.

Double Head

One each other head at separate times. This person who is receiving the oral treatment can simultaneously review notes! It’s called “double head” because you’re getting knowledge in your head while you’re getting head.
## Loco for Cocoa:

**Bring in the Season with These Delicious Holiday Drinks**

Marisa Ratchford & Tiffany Velazquez  
*On the Menu Editors*

Whether you’re taking a ride on the Polar Express or just cuddling under your blankets after class, nothing welcomes the holiday season quite like hot chocolate. Now, I’m not talking about the instant stuff you get at just about any supermarket, I’m talking about the decadent, rich hot chocolate your younger self could only dream of.

While the holidays approaching means that finals are getting ever closer, it also means that winter break is almost here, and you are one step closer to seeing your loved ones back home. So it’s only fitting that this bittersweet time is filled with bittersweet chocolate and milk all wrapped up in a perfect drink—we call cocoa.

Here are some recipes that will have you scoffing at plain old box mix and longing for some snow.

### MEXICAN HOT CHOCOLATE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ingredients</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 cup milk</td>
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<tr>
<td>½ cup heavy cream</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 oz. bittersweet chocolate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 cinnamon stick</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1 tbsp. light brown sugar</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>¼ tsp. ground cinnamon</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>¼ tsp. nutmeg</td>
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Place the milk, chocolate, heavy cream and cinnamon stick in a medium saucepan and bring to a simmer. Add the ground cinnamon, brown sugar and nutmeg once the chocolate has melted. Lower the heat and stir with a wooden spoon until the mixture has thickened. Remove from heat and serve in mugs with whipped cream.

Reminiscent of Abuelita chocolate tablets my mom keeps back home, the flavors of cinnamon and nutmeg in this cocoa make the classic drink just that much better. The spices and smells will have you excited for the holiday season ahead.

### PEPPERMINT HOT CHOCOLATE

<table>
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<tr>
<td>1 cup milk</td>
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<tr>
<td>½ cup heavy cream</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 oz. bittersweet chocolate</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 tsp. peppermint extract</td>
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Place the milk, chocolate and heavy cream in a medium saucepan and bring to a simmer. Remove the saucepan from the heat once the chocolate has melted and stir in the peppermint extract. Serve in mugs with whipped cream and crushed peppermint candy.

Nothing quite captures the holidays like peppermint and hot chocolate, the flavors of this drink balancing each other out to give you a perfectly minty treat.

### NUTELLA HOT CHOCOLATE

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<tr>
<td>2 cups milk</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 tbsps. cocoa mix</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>½ cup Nutella</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pinch of salt</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mini marshmallows</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chocolate syrup</td>
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Combine the milk, Nutella, salt and cocoa mix into a pot on medium-low heat. Stir vigorously until Nutella is completely blended. Bring to a simmer, but be careful not to boil your drink. Serve with an abundance of marshmallows and a drizzle of chocolate syrup.

The flavor of this one is much more subtle but just as delicious, and the nuttiness of the hazelnut pairs deliciously with the creamy cocoa.

### COOKIES AND CREAM COCOA

<table>
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<tr>
<td>1 cup milk</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 cup heavy whipping cream</td>
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<tr>
<td>½ cup cocoa powder mix</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 crushed Oreos</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Whipped cream</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Chocolate syrup</td>
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Combine the milk, cream and cocoa mix in a pot over medium-low heat until simmering. Next, add in two-thirds of your cookie crumbles to the mix and stir until blended completely. Pour your drink into a mug and top with a healthy dose of whipped cream. Drizzle chocolate syrup and sprinkle the remaining Oreos.

The flavor is rich and decadent and so sweet that it’s almost impossible not to be swept back to your childhood as you finish the mug, and the Oreo crumbs create that all-too-familiar cookie mush at the bottom of your cup.

### PERFECT PAIRINGS

**The next time you indulge in a cup of hot cocoa, try out these snack combinations to make your chocolate-y experience even better.**

**Chocolate chip cookies:** The only thing better than dunking chocolate chip cookies into a glass of milk is dipping it into a mug of hot cocoa. If you love chocolate, this pairing will definitely satisfy your sweet tooth.

**Pretzels:** We all know that salty and sweet go well together, so pretzels and hot cocoa are obvious choices if you’re looking for combinations that bring out the best of both worlds.

**Peppermint bark:** You can’t go anywhere during the holidays without seeing peppermint-themed snacks. This year, try pairing your hot cocoa with peppermint bark to get you right into the holiday spirit!

**Nuts:** This might seem like a weird choice, but munching on little snacks like almonds, peanuts or cashews gives your hot chocolate a nutty flavor that you’re sure to enjoy.

**Strawberries:** Strawberries and chocolate are a match made in heaven. Hollowing out your strawberries and filling the inside with whipped cream will make the pairing “berry” delicious!
Some Americans are fortunate enough not to have to worry about how their water is. However, for those who get their drinking water from private wells rather than a public utility, there could be a case for concern about where their water is coming from.

"Our analysis underscores the need to increase monitoring efforts to recognize that we can identify water bodies that may be impacted and do our best to remediate, contain and isolate potentially contaminated groundwater wells," said Jasechko. "We also identified cases where groundwater wells exist within two kilometers of one or more recorded oil and gas wells producing during 2014. These conclusions were based on a public hydration fracturing records downloaded from FracFocus, a hydraulic fracturing registry website with access to hydraulic fracturing chemical registry website. Their analysis of hydraulic fracturing operations assessed wells likely stimulated in 2014, whereas their analysis of oil and gas wells assessed producing hydraulic fracturing in 2014. This in turn, demonstrated the need for future fieldwork to better understand the potential for contamination events and in protecting water-well quality.

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There's More to Life Than Devil's Lettuce

Marijuana is a pervasive part of the culture of Isla Vista, and it certainly has brought many positive experiences for UCSB students. Smoking a bowl or a casual smoke sesh by the beach can be a good de-stressor when done in moderation. That being said, there are certain problems that a culture like this can bring, and with the legalization of recreational marijuana on the horizon, these problems could end up becoming worse.

The old stereotype of stoners being more prone to laziness while high does have some truth behind it. For every person who can smoke and do their work, there are three others who show up to class high and don't do their work. For every person who can smoke and work hard, you have to work hard, and it's impossible to transition your way to being more prone to laziness while high does have some truth behind it. There are recognized scripts and etiquette rules around smoking weed that make it an easy social field to navigate, while casually walking the street in I.V. or surfing in the ocean is apprehensive about the dangers of a house with a white picket fence. Smoking provides the ideal environment for reaping the benefits of smoking weed. Not all stoners are just as such, and there are responsibilities as students heading out to a party on DP. Smoking provides the ideal environment for reaping the benefits of smoking weed. Not all stoners are

For UCSB students, an apartment with a tapestry on the wall and a bong on the coffee table is the symbolic equivalent of a house with a trimmed lawn and a white picket fence.

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