

RCSGD Personnel and Students Reconvene To Discuss 2017 Demands, Including Unmet Demand for New Building

UCSB Resource Center for Sexual & Gender Diversity 2017 DEMANDS

- The RCSGD will no longer be under the jurisdiction of the WGSE and will report directly to AVC/Dean Katya Armistead effective immediately
- The programming budget will be doubled immediately, with the intention of further increasing the budget
- The Division of Student Affairs will begin to work with students, faculty and staff on the creation of a free standing building for the Resource Center for Sexual and Gender Diversity.
- Positions such as the Queer and Trans Health Advocate will receive emergency funding through the Resource Center for Sexual and Gender Diversity, in the case that their contract is not re-signed. The intent is to create a permanent position.

ALY WITMER / DAILY NEXUS

The demands in 2017 were written as a revision to a preexisting set of demands presented to Chancellor Henry T. Yang in 1998.

Sean Crommelin
Copy Editor

The Resource Center for Sexual and Gender Diversity hosted a town hall Tuesday afternoon, bringing together students and administrators alike to update the community on the progress of the demands made to the university in November 2017 after the controversial termination of the center's former associate director Ale Muro.

The demands in 2017 were written as a revision to a preexisting set of demands presented to Chancellor Henry T. Yang in 1998.

The 1998 demands called for the establishment of an LGBTQ+ resource center as well as a building in which to house the newly created organization and were meant to address the needs of LGBTQ+ students and provide more services and education, in addition to a space on campus for LGBTQ+ students. These demands ultimately resulted in the creation of the RCSGD in October 1999.

The 2017 demands called for the Resource Center for Sexual and Gender Diversity (RCSGD) to be separate from the jurisdiction of the Women, Gender and Sexual Equity Department (WGSE) – stating that their umbrella organization did not treat them fairly – for the



SEAN CROMMELIN / DAILY NEXUS

RCSGD's programming budget to be doubled and for the designation of a freestanding building for the RCSGD.

In addition, the demands called for a proper investigation into the circumstances surrounding Muro's termination; the RCSGD and the WGSE disagreed about the extent of police presence during Muro's firing.

Almost immediately, the RCSGD was removed from underneath the umbrella of the WGSE, and its programming

budget was doubled.

Dwayne Mosbey, the programming coordinator of the RCSGD, said the center has seen an almost sixfold increase in growth between Spring 2019 and Fall 2019. In addition, event attendance has doubled in the same timeframe across 72 programs, which he pointed to as a sign of the program's expansion.

Mosbey also discussed the RCSGD's work in expanding its reach through collaborations with 22 various services and

organizations, including Counseling & Psychological Services (C.A.P.S.), Campus Advocacy, Resources & Education (C.A.R.E.) and the MultiCultural Center.

"What this implies is that our center now has connections all throughout campus. So for students who find some of these services that are inaccessible on their own, we're able to connect them with those resources,"

RCSGD p.6

Graduate Students Hold Teach-In at Storke Tower To Protest Indian Prime Minister Modi's Administration

Aniket Mehrotra
Reporter

A coalition of South Asian UC Santa Barbara graduate students held a teach-in at Storke Tower on Monday afternoon to educate students, staff and community members about government actions in India under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party.

Speakers and organizers spoke out against some of the Indian government's practices, such as the lockdown of the region of Kashmir, the implementation of the National Register of Citizens (NRC), the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and violence against people protesting these acts, actions which they deemed representative of "state-sponsored facism," according to the event's Facebook page.

The event drew over 100 attendees and featured chants led by graduate student and organizer Pratik Raghu, speeches from students and faculty members, a recitation of a revolutionary Urdu poem by organizer and first-year graduate student Tannishtha Bhattacharjee and a strategizing session to discuss ways in which people can support the protests in India.

The event was organized by Raghu, Bhattacharjee, third-year English graduate student Somak Mukherjee, graduate student Surojit Kayal and first-year film and media studies graduate student Pujita, who asked to be referred to by her first name due to privacy concerns.

At the teach-in, third-year College of Creative Studies biology major and speaker Salman Sadakkadulla from the UCSB Muslim Student Association criticized the process required to prove citizenship under the NRC, which declared 1.9 million applicants from the northeastern state of Assam – many of whom are Muslims and Bengali Hindus – to be stateless.

"Imagine waking up tomorrow, in I.V.," Sadakkadulla said. "Imagine waking up without carrying your wallet. Imagine being stopped by [the] I.V. Foot Patrol and being asked to show your birth certificate. You don't have that? Well, do you have your Social Security card? No? Well, if you don't have that, do you have your driver's license? No, you forgot it."

Participants also handed out informational documents, stating that the CAA, which passed in December 2019, "when combined with the NRC, could lead to Indian Muslims, transgender people, adivasis, poor people, dalits, women, those not having land – everyone without documents – being declared stateless."

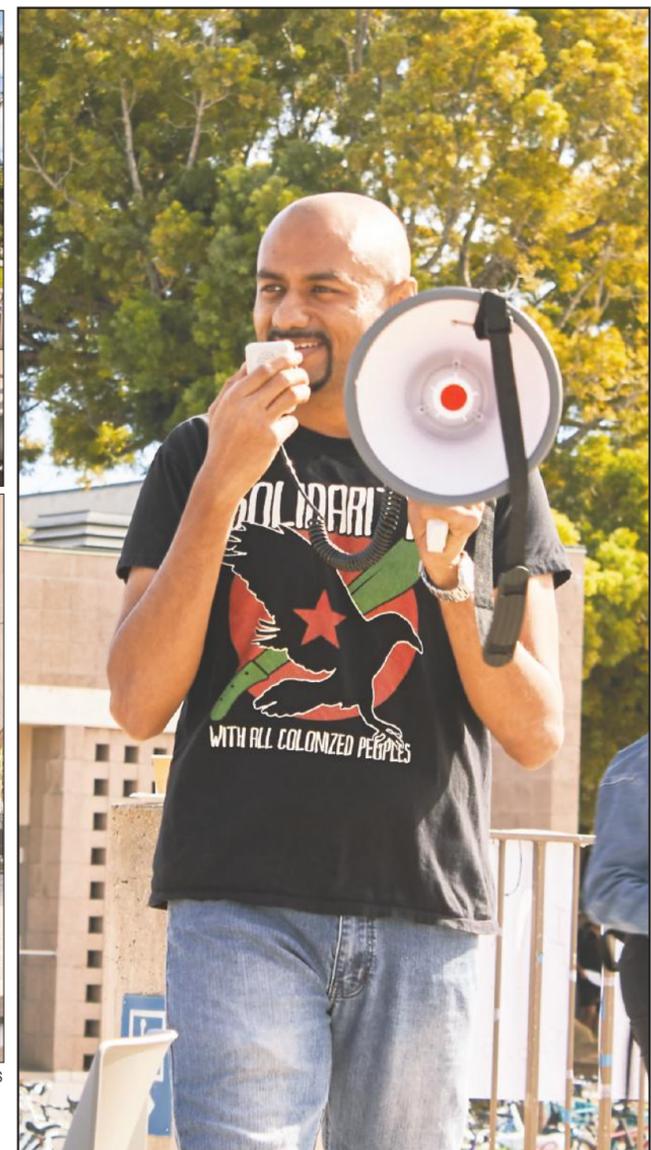
The CAA provides a path to citizenship for undocumented Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi and Christian refugees escaping religious persecution in countries neighboring India.

Opponents to the act argue that it does not give eligibility to Muslims nor religious minorities from all countries that neighbor India, such as Rohingya Muslims



KAIYI YANG / DAILY NEXUS

The event drew over 100 attendees and featured chants led by graduate student and organizer Pratik Raghu, and included a strategizing session to discuss ways in which people can support the protests in India.



KAIYI YANG / DAILY NEXUS

Teach-in for Indian Democracy p.6

THIS WEEK'S UP AND COMING

Wednesday 22 January
Cup of Culture: OffCenter
 MultiCultural Center Theater | 6 p.m.

"OffCenter" is an experimental documentary emphasizing the attitudes and experiences of unconventional African American, Latinx and LGBTQ people in Texarkana, a twin city in East Texas and Arkansas. It explores the racial, sexual and gender identity of five main interviewees rebelling against Southern conservatism. "OffCenter" portrays the existence of marginalized people, their encounters with racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia and internalized oppression. Post-film discussion with director Aylin Sözen and cinematographer Cesar Jaralillo to follow.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE UCSB EVENTS PAGE

Friday 31 January
Psychedelic CUMBIA! with Ocho Ojos
 MultiCultural Center Theater | 7:30 p.m.



Ocho Ojos is a Latin fusion sensation from Coachella, that incorporates elements of cumbia, psychedelic chicha, hip hop/funk and electronic music to bring an eclectic show of original music. With the addition of a rhythm section, Ocho Ojos has been able to expand its live performance into a more dynamic and improvisational show. Most recently, they have performed at major music festivals such as Coachella in 2018. Tickets are \$5 for UCSB students and youth under 12 and \$15 for general admission.

Monday 3 February
McCarthy: Film Screening and Discussion
 McCune Conference Room | 7 p.m.



The Center for Cold War Studies and International History presents a free film screening of "McCarthy." Seventy years ago this February, Senator Joseph R. McCarthy launched his destructive anti-communist rampage. This riveting PBS documentary, directed by Sharon Grimberg, chronicles the demagogue's extraordinary rise and fall. Following the screening, Professor Salim Yaqub of the Department of History will lead an audience discussion. Refreshments will be served. This event is free and open to the public.

MAGIC LANTERN FILMS PRESENTS:
Harriet
 Friday, Jan. 31 & Monday, Feb. 3
 7 p.m. & 10 p.m.
 I.V. Theater
\$4



PHOTO COURTESY OF IMBD

IMPROVABILITY
That 70's Show
 Embarcadero Hall | 8 p.m.
Friday 31 January \$3

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"I really feel a camaraderie when I see pictures of Russian women from the 1800s"

SUDOKU
 THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level: **1** 2 3 4

	8		7			3		
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SOLUTION TO MONDAY'S PUZZLE 1/10/12

9	8	7	3	1	2	4	6	5
6	4	2	8	5	9	1	3	7
5	1	3	6	7	4	2	9	8
8	3	5	9	6	1	7	4	2
4	2	9	5	3	7	8	1	6
1	7	6	4	2	8	3	5	9
3	9	4	2	8	5	6	7	1
2	6	1	7	9	3	5	8	4
7	5	8	1	4	6	9	2	3

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk

ACROSS

- Eva or Juan of Argentina
- "Taking you places" premium movie channel
- Suffix for hero
- '60s-'70s Twins great Tony
- Nest on a cliffside
- "Friends" actress Courteney
- Many a coffee shop, vis-à-vis Internet access
- Corner PC key
- Subj. for immigrants
- Synagogue
- Cowpoke's seat
- Flightless South American bird
- Scottish hillside
- "... believe ___ not!"
- Hairstyling immortal Vidal
- "Ship out" alternative
- co-star Morales
- Very strange
- Car headlight setting
- Strike a bargain
- "The Newsroom" channel
- Request for the latest update

DOWN

- ___ that be: authorities
- Inventor Otis
- Remington weapons
- Egg: Pref.
- Casual turndowns
- Second-largest planet
- Physicist Nikola
- Dadaism founder
- Spanish rivers
- Greek letter that seems like it should be last
- Summer refreshers
- Hardly an amateur
- Quote in a book review
- "How frustrating!"
- Chip go-with
- Pale as a ghost
- "La Bamba" co-star Morales
- Very strange
- Car headlight setting
- Strike a bargain
- "The Newsroom" channel
- Request for the latest update

38 The Twins, at Minneapolis's Target Field
 39 "Born Free" lion
 40 Press for
 41 Windex targets
 45 Free TV ad
 46 Words before "Can you give me directions?"
 47 Celist who performed at Steve Jobs's funeral

48 Like a single-performer show
 49 Leads, as to a seat
 52 Garçon's handout
 55 AutoCorrect target
 56 Keynes's sci.
 58 Male heirs
 62 Appt. book rows
 63 Soak (up), as gravy

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

BALLETF LATS ESP
 BLUECURACAO XII
 SLACKTIVIST ALP
 AUTHMADEHASTE
 EARLRESP
 SBARRODISRAELI
 COUNTMEINENRON
 ANDEVOKEABE
 DEISMINSULATOR
 STOWABLE RAREST
 BARIRONI
 ATOMICAGEGEMS
 MAOMADABOUTYOU
 ICKBRAZENITOUT
 DOSABRACADABRA

xwordeditor@aol.com 04/08/13

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WEATHER

Ze's roommate often gets ghosted by men she sleeps with. Some may say she has a ghost pussy. Ze, however, has a tendency to be ghosted by hir friends. Why? No fucking clue, but some may say our house is haunted.

Tomorrow's Forecast:
 Calling the Ghostbusters.

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A.S. Senate Calls for Local Labor Agreement Contracts in Future Campus Construction Projects



MAX ABRAMS / DAILY NEXUS

The bill focuses on new construction projects used with student fees and does not affect current labors on other works or projects in their bidding phase; the bill will take effect immediately due to the language of the bill.

Jackson Guilfoil
Staff Writer

On Wednesday, the Associated Students Senate voted to pass a bill to mandate negotiations for a specialized contract for construction workers who work on campus projects built with student fees. The specific contract, known as a project labor agreement (PLA), primarily serves to hire more local workers, according to Nickolas Harvey, a labor organizer for Union Auto Workers (UAW) Local 114 who the resolution's author, Off-Campus Senator Daniel Segura, consulted with when writing the bill.

The bill focuses on new construction projects used with student fees and does not affect current laborers

on other works or projects in their bidding phase, according to Off-Campus Senator Justice Dumlao, who seconded the bill. The bill will take effect immediately, rather than the next school year, due to specific language within its writing requiring that the bill be "enacted and enforced immediately."

Segura said that the resolution is aimed at "keeping things local and making sure that the workers that we are contracting with are unionized" and to ensure that "people that aren't being brought in from other places just because it's cheaper."

The Associated Students (A.S.) Bike shop, which the university is currently looking to relocate, is an example of an institution which might require a PLA, should it require

construction work.

Buildings which are paid for with student fees include the A.S. Bike Shop, A.S. Annex and Pardall Center, according to Dumlao.

"If those things were to be expanded, or moved, or changed, that's what this bill could fall under," Dumlao said.

If any A.S. entity decides to make another space and contract with construction workers, they would be required to negotiate a PLA, according to Dumlao.

PLAs "are a fantastic way of ensuring that the project will include local workers even if the contractors are from out of town," Harvey said.

"Also, it's the only legal way of enforcing local hire," he added.

The bill contains a provision

which calls for the Senate to pass a resolution of no confidence in the university should a UCSB office "interfere with the enactment of this bill," but Dumlao added that a no-confidence resolution would largely be a gesture, rather than any kind of divestment.

Dumlao cited the bill's emphasis on union contracts, partially inspired by recent union actions, including AFSCME 3299's tentative contract with the University of California, as an attempt to get the university to be more union-friendly.

"This bill in particular was more of a proactive move because of all the union stuff that's been going on in order to try and get our university to just show more support for unions," Dumlao said.



A Week in UC Student News

Haas School of Business launches deferred MBA admission program:

On Tuesday, UC Berkeley's Haas School of Business launched its Accelerated Access admission program, which will allow undergraduate students in their final year at UC Berkeley to apply for conditional admission to the university's MBA program. The program's goal is to attract diverse students of all areas of study. Students will graduate and work two to five years in their respective field and will return to UC Berkeley to complete their MBA. The Accelerated Access program estimates that it will enroll roughly 15 students a year.

Parent to plead guilty for involvement in admissions scandal at UCLA:

Xiaoning Sui, a parent who allegedly paid William Singer – the ringleader of the college admissions scandal – in order for her son to be admitted to UC Los Angeles as a soccer recruit, accepted a plea deal on Wednesday and is expected to plead guilty to federal program robbery. Upon her arrest in September, Sui was charged with conspiracy to commit mail fraud and honest services fraud. After receiving \$400,000 from Sui, Singer then paid UCLA men's soccer coach Jorge Salcedo \$100,000 to list her son as a soccer recruit, who was later admitted to the school on an athletic scholarship.

UC Santa Cruz Misses 2020 Zero Waste Goal:

Under a shared goal throughout the UC system to recycle or compost 90% of all solid waste at each UC campus by 2020, UC Santa Cruz reported that it missed that goal by 40% this year, as the university managed to only divert just over half its solid waste by the beginning of the new year. However, no UC campus has achieved the goal, and UCSC cites budgetary shortfalls and shifts in the international recycling market as reasons for falling short.

UC Davis is most sustainable university in U.S., third globally, according to GreenMetric Rankings:

UC Davis has been deemed the "most sustainable" university in the United States and the third most sustainable in the world for the third year in a row, according to the 10th annual GreenMetric Rankings. The UI GreenMetric World University Ranking takes into account setting and infrastructure, energy, climate change, waste, water, transportation, education and research when ranking institutions. The GreenMetric Rankings analyzed 799 universities around the world before determining the rankings.

2020-21 School Year Will Have Two-Week Winter Break Due to University of California-Wide Policy

Yiu-On Li
Reporter

Winter break for the upcoming 2020-21 school year will be shortened from three weeks to two weeks due to a late start to fall quarter.

According to UC Santa Barbara spokesperson Andrea Estrada, the change is in accordance with a University of California policy established by the Division of Student Affairs in 2007. This policy prevents campuses in the UC system from scheduling fall move-in days at the same time as a major religious holiday.

In 2020, Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, will take place between Sept. 18 and Sept. 20, which is when move-in weekend is typically scheduled. As a result, move-in weekend will be pushed back one week to Sept. 26 and Sept. 27, with Fall Quarter 2020 classes beginning on Oct. 1 instead of in September.

Since all UC campuses except for UC Berkeley and UC Merced follow the quarter system, the later start to fall quarter means a later start to winter break on Dec. 18. The break is scheduled to end on Jan. 4, 2021, around the same day it typically ends.

"Exception to that requirement [of preventing religious holiday conflicts] are only allowed if there are 'overriding academic or administrative considerations that would make such a calendar unworkable,'" Anthony

Schmid, the interim registrar and associate registrar who manages information systems, said in an email.

Winter break was last shortened during the 2014-15 school year to avoid classes being scheduled during Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. When word of the shortened break spread throughout the UC system in Jan. 2014, a student-led online petition was created to restore the vacation to three weeks. Though ultimately unsuccessful, the petition received over 35,000 signatures before closing.

According to a Jan. 2014 op-ed published in the Nexus, some Jewish students said they were grateful to the UC for recognizing and accommodating their beliefs. "I have been forced to choose between my religion and my studies on quite a few occasions," Arezu Hashemi, a second-year history major at the time, said in the article. "This is why I am extremely grateful to the UC system for deciding to push back the first week of school."

"Speaking to other Jewish students at UCSB, I can confidently say that as a community, most of us are appreciative for the change in schedule."

Others, however, believed that such accommodation was unnecessary.

"Let's be clear: anti-Semitism is a serious form of hatred," Jason Garshfield, a second-year political science major at the time, said in another op-ed. "But lacking

official observance of Jewish holidays is not anti-Semitism in any sense whatsoever. It's life, and part of attending a secular public university."

Meanwhile, some students expressed a preference for a shortened summer break instead of a shortened winter break. This hypothetical summer break would either begin later or end earlier than it normally would.

But Schmid said he was skeptical that such a switch would be possible.

"While the summer sessions are optional and enrollment is lower than the standard terms, enrollments during summer have been growing over time with over 9,700 students opting to enroll in summer 2019. That change would require some pretty significant adjustments in how summer is structured," he said.

"Even if a solution could be identified at UCSB, the requirement that all quarter system campuses have standardised start dates for the fall, winter, and spring terms make a change to summer unlikely."

While next year's winter break will be shortened, the 2022-23 school year will include a four-week-long winter break. The reason for this irregularity comes down to UC-wide policy, which Schmid said dictates the minimum number of instructional days and holidays a term may have.



ALEX GARCIA ARANGO / DAILY NEXUS

Since all UC campuses except for UC Berkeley and UC Merced follow the quarter system, the later start to fall quarter means a later start to winter break on Dec. 18. School resumes on Jan. 4, 2021

According to Schmid, academic calendars expect 52 weeks in a year (or 364 days). This amount falls short of a full year by one day – two in a leap year. Eventually, enough extra days accumulate that an extra week becomes available to the calendar.

When that happens – and when New Year's Day occurs on

a Monday – the extra week is added onto the winter break for that school year, as was the case for both the 2011-12 and 2016-17 terms.

But these extra days cannot be added to the upcoming shortened winter break.

"It would cause some additional scheduling problems in 2021-

2022," Schmid said of the prospect of an earlier extension. "The fall quarter would end on December 17th and because of the way the administrative holidays are arranged, the faculty would have one less day for grading."

The three-week winter break schedule will resume after the 2020-21 academic year.

On the Grind: Student-Run Coffee Company Drips Down to UCSB



Courtesy of Adam Chohan

The student-run coffee company, known as Quokka Brew, was created at UC Berkeley and is now expanding to other campuses across California, including UCSB and Cal Poly SLO.

Celeste Chavez Hernandez
Reporter

UC Santa Barbara students recently welcomed a new cold-brew coffee product to campus – this one without the associated anxiety and caffeine crash.

The student-run coffee company, known as Quokka Brew, was created at UC Berkeley and is now expanding to other campuses across California. As president of the Quokka Brew Ambassador Program at UCSB, fourth-year chemical engineering major Adam Chohan said he is helping expand the brew to UCSB.

Chohan said he first heard about Quokka Brew from UC Berkeley students Ofek Arush and George Passantino, who realized they needed caffeine during finals week in 2018 but found that the anxious jitters and excessive sugar that come with coffee weren't worth it.

The co-founders then formulated the idea for an ideal brew that would be an effective energizer and healthier alternative to traditional brews. They soon after consulted with chemists and food scientists in the Bay Area to craft this into a reality, Chohan said.

Five months later, Quokka Brew was being distributed in 4-ounce glass bottles around the Berkeley and San Francisco area – marked with a beaming quokka, a small marsupial similar in size to a cat. Containing 15 calories, 1 gram of sugar and almond milk, Quokka Brew is currently the healthiest non-black coffee on the market, Chohan said.

According to Chohan, the science surrounding Quokka Brew's effectiveness revolves around the circulatory system, where some coffee drinkers experience caffeine's infamous jitters.

"Caffeine normally restricts your veins, so less blood pumping through the circulatory system causes the heart to start pumping harder and counteract that, which is where the jitters and anxiety arise from," Chohan explained. "The amino acids in [the Quokka] blend act as vasodilators which dilate the veins so blood flows through the circulatory system with the same caffeine intake."

The idea of Quokka Brew – to provide the benefits of caffeine without its negative side effects – was initially ridiculed as an impossible feat but has proven successful and financially self-sustaining, Chohan said. The

brew is sold in 10 stores across the Bay Area and is backed by a team of 46 students at UC Berkeley.

As the company transitions into its second year of production, it continues to expand to college campuses across the state, including Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Sacramento State and now UCSB. Across each campus, the company tables, creates ambassador programs and works to get the product sold in nearby stores.

"The steps we are taking here are very similar to the steps that UC Berkeley took but they are happening a lot quicker because the response has been really awesome. I think mostly it is because people are very friendly here and students are eager to support student-run business models," Chohan said.

While popularity grows on campus, the company is looking forward to making some pivotal adjustments including using a fair-trade coffee roaster and transitioning to aluminum cans. The brew is currently only available at Sam's To Go in I.V., but Chohan said they hope to soon sell Quokka Brew at the UCen, the Arbor and the Corner Store on campus.

AFSCME Patient Care Works To Reach Tentative Contract With UC After Three Years of Negotiations

Evelyn Spence
Lead News Editor

The University of California's largest union reached a tentative contract agreement with the university for its 16,000 patient care workers on Monday, less than a week after the union reached an agreement for a contract for its service workers.

The American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 3299 (AFSCME 3299) patient care and service workers have been without a contract for just under two years – reaching an agreement with the UC is a "testament to our members' commitment," AFSCME President Kathryn Lybarger said in a press release sent out by the union.

"This has been a long and hard process that required both sides to seek common ground and work in good faith," Lybarger said. "But it has brought important issues to light about the growing problem of income inequality, the fight for what's left of America's middle class and how large public institutions can uplift the communities they serve."

The UC similarly welcomed an

agreement with the union. The contracts were "achieved through the hard work and good faith efforts of the AFSCME and UC negotiating teams," UC Board of Regents Chair John A. Pérez said in a press release sent out Tuesday afternoon.

He added that the contracts "provide hardworking UC employees with the benefits and protections they deserve, and it moves UC closer to being the kind of employer we need to be."

The terms of the contract for patient care workers include:

- A 6% across the board increase plus an experience-based increase;
- A one-time \$500 payment to per diem and limited employees who worked at least 400 hours in 2019;
- Annual 3% across-the-board increases between 2021 and 2024;
- Annual 2% experience-based increases between 2020 and 2024;
- A one-time payment of \$3,000 for all eligible full-time employees;
- A second one-time payment of \$1,000 for all eligible full-time employees

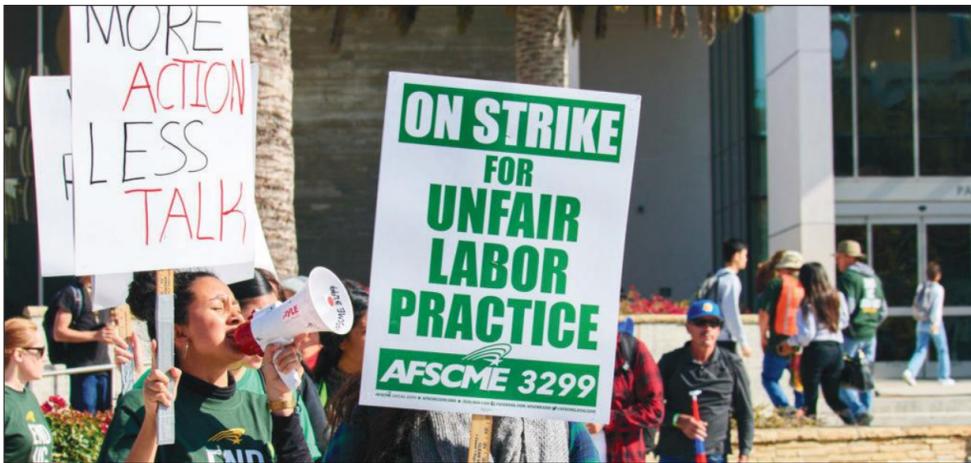
in 2021;

- A one-time payment of \$1,000 for employees who have or will achieve 20 years of service for the UC while the contract is active.

The contract, along with directing that new employees receive the same pension benefits as current AFSCME-represented employees, also continues to prohibit layoffs as "a result of subcontracting decisions and creates career employment opportunities at UC by placing additional restrictions on UC's ability to contract out service unit work."

The road to coming to an agreement was not smooth – AFSCME workers went on strike several times during the contract negotiations, most recently in November 2019 over alleged unfair labor practices. The union filed six complaints against the UC on Nov. 1, alleging that the university had cut costs by contracting with private companies to do work that otherwise would have been done by union workers.

AFSCME patient care members will vote on whether to approve the contract in early February 2020.



IDA KAZERANI / DAILY NEXUS

AFSCME 3299 patient care and service workers have been without a contract for just under two years – reaching an agreement with the UC is a "testament to our members' commitment," its president said.

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Isla Vista Community Services District Moves Forward With Proposal To Absorb Compost Collective

Arturo Martinez Rivera
Katherine Swartz
Asst. News Editors

The Isla Vista Community Services District has moved forward with plans to absorb the Isla Vista Compost Collective, which has been left without funding since the beginning of Fall Quarter 2019 following stipend issues.

The Isla Vista Community Services District (IV. CSD) is including the Isla Vista Compost Collective (IVCC) under its payroll as a parent organization, but the IVCC will continue to fund itself independently from the IV. CSD.

Since it lost its funding, IVCC has been unable to provide stipends to its 10 management and shift positions. Students have continued to work for IVCC on a volunteer basis this academic year, but IVCC has stalled compost collection to the 96 homes it currently serves and cannot expand to the 100 homes currently on its waitlist.

The organization was created in Fall Quarter 2017 by current IVCC director and fourth-year environmental science major Jacob Bider, who conceived the idea of a grassroots-level composting group in IV. when he moved out of on-campus housing after his freshman year and realized there was no composting in IV.

Bider applied for an internship at the Santa Barbara chapter of the Surfrider Foundation and in his application proposed a student-led composting program to IV. He and other Surfrider interns then began developing the composting initiative, which officially

began in Winter Quarter 2018. Residents in IV. can apply for composting buckets at their homes to be picked up weekly by IVCC dirtriders — student workers for IVCC who pick up the bins each week, sort and deliver compost to gardens around IV. and then bring the buckets back to people's homes.

IVCC started in Winter Quarter 2018 by serving approximately 10 homes and proceeded to double in size by the next quarter. A grant from the Coastal Fund in Spring Quarter 2018 allowed them to continue expanding, and by Fall Quarter 2019, IVCC was providing compost services to 96 homes.

IVCC's past three years of growth began stalling at the beginning of Fall Quarter 2019 when Surfrider notified IVCC that shift workers like dirtriders were not allowed to be paid under a stipend and had to be paid by the hour instead.

Bider said in an interview that the amount dirtriders receive on a stipend is equal to minimum wage, and that the decision to have stipends was proposed in its original funding with the Coastal Fund, but that they have now expanded beyond that model's capacity. Surfrider told IVCC that they needed to switch their shift workers from stipends to payroll, but as a nonprofit, Surfrider didn't have the capacity to do so. As a result, IVCC dissolved its relationship with Surfrider.

The main problem the IVCC faced was its lack of a parent organization; the program didn't need funding, Bider explained — it has a development team that works to apply for grant funding to help it expand operations. But in

order to apply for any funding and put employees on a payroll system, it needed a larger organization to be a part of.

IVCC then turned to the Office of Student Life (OSL) to absorb it but found it couldn't put their shift workers on any payroll system. IVCC also reached out to Associated Students (A.S.) and the Community Affairs Board (C.A.B.) but were told that "due to various policies, A.S. cannot take on the program," Bider said.

Bider also spoke with Katie Maynard, event manager and coordinator of UCSB Sustainability, and was told that they were already spread too thin and could not take on the payroll for the IVCC; when IVCC tried reaching out to the Department of Environmental Studies, it was told that it's "not in the nature" of an academic department to take on a project like the IVCC, Bider said.

The IVCC then reached out to MarBorg Industries, a waste management company that collects residential and other compost. Currently, 20% of the compost collected by IVCC goes to MarBorg in order to prevent overflow of the three gardens that collect compost in IV, according to Bider. MarBorg also told IVCC that it was unable to take on the group.

But throughout the talks with various departments, Bider said there was a recurring name: the IV. CSD.

"We're seeking a partner that can provide us with institutional longevity and because [the IV. CSD is] a governmental institution with paid staff and a board, you can provide us with that," he said during the meeting.



STAFFER / DAILY NEXUS

Director George Thurlow suggested moving the conversation along to the next agenda item in the same vein: discussion regarding the possibility of composting bins at the Isla Vista Community Center.

According to Jonathan Abboud, general manager for the IV. CSD, MarBorg Industries offered to supply the community center with two free composting bins for six months. MarBorg stressed the importance of having the bins strictly managed; if the bins were open 24/7, people could toss in non-compostable items and render the compost useless, Abboud said.

With the option of having bins at the community center, the IV. CSD began discussing ways for the

IVCC to take part in providing a compost service in IV. — something that combines the IVCC and the possibility of bins at the community center.

Director Jay Freeman drafted a motion to direct staff to draft a memorandum of understanding between the IVCC and IV. CSD for potential composting services for IV., while authorizing the IVCC to approach organizations for possible sources of funding. The motion passed 7-0.

While the IVCC has been stuck in a waiting period this academic year while searching for a new organization, students have continued their work on a volunteer basis. IVCC recently implemented a composting

event service, where groups can apply on the IVCC website for composting at its events. IVCC also partnered with Associated Students to hold a non-perishable food drive called Food on Wheels.

"As much as we want to communicate the struggles we've been through, we also want to communicate the fact that we're still here and we're really ready to get back into running and we have some things that we're excited to promote too," Ily Logeais, IVCC marketing and communications manager, said.

Logeais said it was important for IVCC to find a group like the IV. CSD to sponsor it that was just as invested in local, grassroots initiatives.

UC Regents Hold Town Hall at UC Berkeley To Discuss Selection Of New UC President

Emily Whitaker
Reporter

The UC Board of Regents Special Committee hosted a town hall meeting on Monday at UC Berkeley to discuss the selection criteria for the new UC president and hear recommendations from the university's students and staff.

The search for a new president comes after the announcement that current UC President Janet Napolitano will step down in August 2020 after a seven-year tenure. Board of Regents Chair John A. Pérez appointed members of the Special Committee to consider the Selection of a President last September.

The event was the second of four town hall meetings; the first was held at UC Riverside. Upcoming discussions will also be held at UC Merced and UC San Diego. The committee has also held forums at UC Davis and UC Los Angeles, as well as meetings with UC union leaders and UC health officials.

Students, staff and faculty

took to the floor to share the characteristics they are looking for in a president, along with policies they hope the new president will implement.

"The next president needs to be an ally for immigrant students and underrepresented students of color," Valerie Johnson, a representative from the UC Student Association, said.

Many students at the town hall were also vocal about their desires for the incoming president to focus on campus sustainability policies, including the possibility of creating a UC Green New Deal to address climate change.

"We have an institutional responsibility to act collectively and use our resources to reduce harm and bring about sustainability and justice in our UC communities," Sarah Bancroft, a third-year student at UC Berkeley, said.

UC Berkeley faculty and staff were also present to voice their concerns to the committee on a number of issues, including food insecurity, affordable housing and

diversity and resource allocation.

"As staff, we're really concerned about the issues of equity and inclusion that this new president would bring," Brian Light, a delegate from Council of UC Staff Assemblies, said. "We'd love to see if a new president could champion some ideas to help the complexities that staff are increasingly seeing."

Berkeley faculty held their own town hall last November to discuss ideas to bring to the Special Committee. Michael Burawoy, a sociology professor at UC Berkeley, reported that staff wanted a president who interacted more with students, staff and faculty.

"I wanted to emphasize the importance of the new president understanding the actual campuses, and the relationships between the administration, the Senate faculty, lecturers, challenges graduate students face and the implications all this has for undergraduates," Burawoy said.

Going forward, the Special



SANYA KAMIDI / DAILY NEXUS

The event was the second of four town hall meetings; the first was held at UC Riverside. Upcoming discussions will also be held at UC Merced and UC San Diego.

Committee will spend the next four months reviewing potential candidates and communicating with students and faculty recommendation for the presidential seat is expected in May.

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RCSGD

Continued from p.1

Mosbey said. Now two years later, with the majority of the 2017 demands met by the university, the largest and most costly demand is the last one left: the designation of a free-standing building for the RCSGD, which is currently housed in the Student Resource Building (SRB).

"This was one demand put on the list that we discussed with students at the time was going to take a while and [there] would be a much longer process [to it] than the other ones," said Margaret Klawunn, vice chancellor for student affairs.

The discussion centered around how the RCSGD could go about either repurposing a building on campus, constructing a new building, creating multiple centers in various places in order to spread services across campus or even designate a location outside the bounds of the university in order to better serve members of the wider Goleta and Santa Barbara community.

Assistant Vice Chancellor and Dean of Student Life Katya Armistead suggested constructing a building to serve the aggregate needs of several organizations on campus. The Black Student

Union has been calling for a freestanding center for Black students on campus for over 50 years; in March 2019, Yang agreed to provide funding for the creation of the Office of Black Student Development and to make the standalone building a priority in campus planning efforts.

"We have several groups, like the Office of Black Student Development, the Monarch Lounge; we'd like them to have some really nice space and then [it'd] probably be more cost effective to have another SRB for these groups."

Armistead also discussed the possibility of establishing a location off-campus to serve as the RCSGD building, as well as potentially partnering with the Pacific Pride Foundation, an organization that provides "provides services to the HIV/AIDS and LGBTQ+ communities of Santa Barbara County," according to its website.

Craig Leets, the RCSGD director, said the center could also establish temporary spaces on campus, which could be used by the RCSGD to provide better accessibility to students living in the Chi-5 residence halls and the eastern ends of campus, near the

engineering building, for example. "I know when I first got here, we had been talking about Isla Vista as where we needed more space, but I've noticed that here we seem to have some claim on this side of campus [near the SRB]. But I wonder about the middle of campus where Chi-5 is, and then the other side of campus," Leets said.

"Honestly, where the engineering buildings are, I went there for the first time this summer. So like a year into my job here, I had never been over to that side of campus. I think we're trying to think about how we can have temporary space in those places."

Alexia Duran, a second-year undeclared student, suggested that the RCSGD allow students to have 24/7 access to the center "just for it to be a more accessible space for students," citing the El Centro Arnulfo Casillas building.

"El Centro is open 24/7 and I've been there at 3 a.m. and I see people... [who] don't have a house and students sometimes have to sleep on the couch. Having a space that would provide that for LGBTQ people would be necessary," Duran said.

Armistead said the RCSGD



SEAN CROMMELIN / DAILY NEXUS

The largest and most costly demand is the last one left: the designation of a free-standing building for the RCSGD, which is currently housed in the Student Resource Building.

could also be moved into a number of soon-to-be-vacated sites closer to the center of campus, allowing for greater accessibility and interconnectedness with the Chi-5 dorms.

"This is a couple years down the road, but the university is in the process of moving some of the offices that are in the center of campus, and don't need to be on the center of campus, off-campus. And that's going to create some more space," Armistead said.

However, several attendees

objected to that idea, arguing that the buildings in that portion of campus were both old and in an undesirable state.

"You look at the Monarch Lounge, like it's a pretty poor excuse for how we serve undocumented students. It's a glorified portable, and relocating the RCSGD towards the center of campus will be probably within that space," said Esmeralda Quintero, a third-year political science and sociology double major.

Armistead said that feasibility will be considered in the decision, but that support from students will be the deciding factor.

"We're not moving the RCSGD at all without student support," Armistead said.

"Do we have an exact plan? No. However, things are moving because of new development that's happening. And so starting to identify our needs now will serve us well so that we can slide in and start moving towards a space that is going to be open in the future."

Teach-in for Indian Democracy

Continued from p.1



KAIYI YANG / DAILY NEXUS

Several speakers from the teach-in drew parallels between the situation in India and authoritarianism across the world.

from Burma and Christian Tamils from Sri Lanka, according to the Economic Times.

Pujita, the initial organizer for the teach-in, said in an interview that detention centers built for stateless people in Assam share similarities with migrant detention centers in the United States.

"The United States of America and Trump and Modi are constantly built on their

politics of illegal immigration," Pujita said. "Words like 'border patrol,' 'detention camps,' 'the wall' – these words that move around here are similar concepts and similar words that are being mobilized [in India] as well."

One of the chants from the teach-in elaborated on that comparison: "From Assam to El Paso, detention camps have got to go."

Pujita was initially mobilized

to put on the teach-in after the attacks on Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) in New Delhi on Jan. 5, in which 50 masked people, later identified as members of the right-wing Hindu Raksha Dal, beat students and faculty with iron rods and acid bottles, vandalizing property and "specifically targeting Muslim and Kashmiri students."

"[It was] an act of unprecedented terror that happened on campus," Pujita said. "I spent six years there and all my political upbringing has been [from there], and I endow all my life and existence to that campus. So that was at once feeling helpless, being away, but also wanting to do things here and tell people what's going on back home."

Several speakers from the teach-in drew parallels between the situation in India and authoritarianism across the world.

Fourth-year English major Rachel Andrews, a student speaker from UCSB's Students for Justice in Palestine,

compared the military occupation of the Muslim-majority state of Kashmir to the occupation of Palestine.

"Kashmir is considered the most militarized zone in the world. Excessive force is used by the army, even on children, and there are extreme restrictions," Andrews said. "For example, Kashmir has a curfew, and in a similar way, Palestinians are not able to move freely."

Article 370, which granted semi-autonomous status to Kashmir and Jammu, a Hindu-majority state, was revoked in August 2019, subjecting the two states to greater Indian influence and control. Following the revocation, the Indian government stationed tens of thousands of troops in Kashmir, suspended telecommunications and banned public movements, according to CNBC.

Fourth-year global studies and philosophy major Alia Reynolds, another student speaker from UCSB's Students for Justice in Palestine, warned that the same pattern of "danger, hatred and

persecution" will continue to spread across the world and the United States.

"If we do not engage in the advocacy, policy, prevention, restructuring and revolution that is available to us now, we will fall into the same pattern," Reynolds stressed. "If we do not fight for the rights and lives of those around the world who are currently being denied those rights or tortured or killed for fighting for them, who will fight for us when our time comes?"

Other speakers expressed hope through the multidimensional student movement emerging out of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)'s exertion of authoritarian power.

Bishnupriya Ghosh, chair of the global studies department, expressed hope for the college students across India that have been launching protests at their universities, most recently after the passage of the CAA in

December, and fighting to reestablish India as a secular, democratic republic.

"As the attacks on the universities have continued, [at] many universities, there's been a broad coalition, visibly between Muslims, between Dalits [and] between women and students," Ghosh said in her speech. "It's a coalition which is extraordinary because it goes across ethnic and linguistic grounds, religious borders, castes and generations."

For Raghu, the teach-in at UCSB was an urgent call-to-action for people to care about "these oppressed millions who have taken to the streets" in India.

"I've felt a keen sense of desperation over the past few weeks... over the past few years, really, as authoritarianism has gained momentum in India," Raghu said. "And I've tried to use that sense of desperation to bring others into the struggle."



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New Learning Platform Aims To Streamline Communication Between Students and Professors

KJ Clay
Reporter

Look out, Slack, there is a new program in town.

Nectir, a new learning and communication tool at UC Santa Barbara, was founded by and for UCSB students to better connect the student body with each other as well as with their professors.

Kavitta Ghai '19 and Jordan Long, a second-year environmental science major, founded the start-up to provide UCSB students with an alternative to Slack.

Slack is an instant messaging platform generally used by large organizations for communication on the business level. Nectir, on the other hand, is a system based entirely on improving communication at the academic level between students and instructors. Nectir is actively being built into the GauchoSpace program as an add-on, giving teachers and students the option to use it in their class as a tool.

According to Ghai, Slack is "a communication platform that's made for enterprise," meaning it is structured to support business at a corporate level, whereas the two envisioned Nectir as a structure for communication in an academic environment.

"While the idea of Slack is

great, there are a lot of problems that make it unusable at schools. They don't have data privacy for students ... [and] it's insanely expensive," Ghai noted, adding that there are "a lot of technical problems" with Slack.

So Ghai and Long spent two years developing an alternative: Nectir.

In the last two years, the team has met with university administrators, professors, teaching assistants and students. The purpose of these meetings was to understand what problems these people are seeing and facing every day on campus at a communicative level – allowing the team to create real solutions to real problems, Ghai said.

One of the first classes at UCSB to use the Nectir program was a workshop class in the Instructional Development department led by one of their instructional consultants, Mindy Colin. By adapting her class to the program, Ghai and Long were given the opportunity to see how Nectir would function in reality.

Nectir was designed specifically to create lines of communication throughout an entire school, not just for one class or within one major. In order for students to use the program, professors must create a channel for their class – similar to those in Slack – that

will be embedded in their class GauchoSpace site.

The program had its soft launch in Fall Quarter 2019 and since then, Ghai and Long said that 15% of the people at UCSB have used or currently have access to a Nectir channel for a specific class. It is working so well that, according to Ghai, the team is in the process of signing a contract with the school for funding.

The team's goal is that "every single student on campus should have Nectir regardless of whether their TA or professor decides to use it," Ghai said, by Spring Quarter 2020.

The purpose behind Nectir is to solve this "position of frustration" that students feel when they transition from a 30-person class in high school to a 500-person college course, Long explained.

"It takes days to figure out things, and you're often alone in the library banging your head against the wall trying to figure something out," Long said. "We don't know how to fix it, we don't know how to create a new educational system... but what we can do is use technology to connect people."

Ghai added that a bonus of the program is that it was created by students for students, as opposed to being created by tech companies who create academic



MAX ABRAMS / DAILY NEXUS

Kavitta Ghai '19 and Jordan Long, a second-year environmental science major, founded the start-up to provide UCSB students with an alternative to Slack.

tools without factoring in student perspectives.

The actual set-up of the Nectir program was designed in-house; Long manages all of the technical parts in-house and runs the servers himself.

Long and Ghai have been able to manage a huge portion of the work by bringing their ideas to

life themselves, allowing them to move very quickly through the developing process while not needing a significant amount of start-up money.

"Now that we're starting to reach out to other schools, it will eventually be time to bring other people onto the team, but for right now, for everything we

have done at UCSB, it has worked really well with just the two of us," Ghai added.

The team plans to first completely integrate the system at UCSB before branching out and attempting to spread the program to other schools, such as Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and other UC campuses.

UCSB To Undergo Building Upgrades To Meet Earthquake Safety Standards

Megan Ramsey
Reporter

The university will begin upgrading buildings across campus to meet current earthquake safety codes, according to an email sent out by the UC Santa Barbara Administrative Services alerting the campus community about UC seismic safety standards.

The buildings that have now fallen below UC standards are in a level VI category, which is labeled by the UCSB Design, Facilities & Safety Services website as a high priority for correction. These buildings are the Chemistry and Biochemistry Building, Ellison Hall, Music Building, Phelps Hall, San Miguel Towers and San Nicolas Towers, according to the campus-wide email sent out by Garry Mac Pherson, vice chancellor for administrative administrative services.

Additionally, 99 campus buildings or portions of those buildings have a rating of V, meaning they will

require a "second, more thorough evaluation, and any confirmed seismic deficiencies will be addressed."

According to Mac Pherson's email, engineers have been reevaluating the UCSB campus since 2018 based on new guidelines. The retrofitting and upgrading of buildings is expected to be completed by 2030, according to the email.

"As new science and technology become available, building codes are modified to incorporate advances in best practices and continually enhance building safety," Mac Pherson said.

"Since the 1970s, the University of California has been a leader both in seismic-structure research and in developing seismic policies and standards to address the risks that earthquakes pose," Mac Pherson said in the email. "UC has set its standards for seismic safety higher than those associated with state and local building codes."

Even with the extra precautions taken by the University of

California, earthquakes still pose a risk. According to the California Earthquake Authority, there is a 75% chance of at least one earthquake occurring in Southern California with a magnitude of 7.0 or higher. The campus will begin undergoing building upgrades in summer 2021, according to university spokesperson Andrea Estrada.

"Campus leadership is actively working on developing the schedule and sequencing of our seismic retrofit program to align with UC seismic safety policy. Currently for our housing facilities, the goal is to schedule the seismic retrofit projects over the summer months, when they are least likely to impact our student residents and occupancy rates," Estrada said.

Plans for the upgrades are not yet complete, so it is not known what aspects of UCSB life will be affected yet. Estrada also expressed that it is unclear what will need to be repaired in order to maintain the high building rating.

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Kobe Bean Bryant was one of the greatest players to grace the hardwood. His passion for the game was unmatched and his post-career exploits were just getting started. He will be sorely missed.

SPORTS

UCSB Athletics

Both UCSB swim teams host Cal Poly on Saturday for their last meets of the regular season. Check it out to see the Gauchos cap off a historic year.

TV Time in Northridge: UCSB Set for Quick Rematch Against CSUN

Nick DiPierro
Staff Writer

It'll be TV time in Northridge on Thursday night when the UC Santa Barbara men's basketball team tips off against Cal State University, Northridge in a match televised on ESPNU.

It's an 8 p.m. start time originally scheduled for 7 p.m., a change the Gauchos hope won't interfere with their rhythm. Four of their last five games have tipped off at 7 p.m., the road match against Hawai'i being the only game to have started at 8 p.m. (HST).

UCSB will come into this match winners of their first game since the road opener against Cal Poly. In last Saturday's Thunderdome throwdown against UC Riverside (UCR), the Gauchos climbed back from a game-long deficit to take their first lead at 54-53 with just 5:46 left to go.

Senior guard Max Heidegger's 3-point dagger with 2.9 seconds left completed a comeback that was nothing short of great. With that basket, UCSB finished on top 65-63.

For himself, Heidegger is amidst an inspiring three-game run of form in which he's averaged 19.3 points per game at a 55% clip. He's also dished out 2.6 helpers and is hitting 34% from deep.

Of the past three games, Heidegger's best performance was coincidentally the last meeting between these teams. In that game, despite losing, he finished with 21 points, 2 rebounds and 5 assists and tied for second in the game in points.

Head Coach Joe Pasternack is surely appreciating the rejuvenation he's seen from his team since the introduction of the senior guard in the starting lineup. The main issue for the Gauchos seemed to be their efficiency from the floor, but Heidegger's 55% showing over the past three games suggests he may be the answer. He's one to watch in this Thursday's game.

UCSB's overall record hasn't translated well to conference play yet and now they find themselves up against a Cal State University, Northridge (CSUN) team that has already bested them once. The Matadors' 8-14

record goes to show that it ain't just a cliché that anybody can win these games.

In fairness to CSUN, they've played much better than their overall record suggests, which is why looking at their performances in the more recent games can tell us a bit more.

Matador sophomore forward Lamine Diane is on fire right now, having scored 32 and 27 points, respectively, in each of the past two games after having missed his team's matchup against UC Davis. Just prior to that, Diane led the way in CSUN's dominant victory over UCSB, finishing with 36 points, 9 rebounds, 1 assist, 2 blocks and 3 steals.

He'll be a tough one to stop, but it'll have to get done if the Gauchos are to steady the ship.

The Matadors have alternated wins and losses since their win over Long Beach State in the conference opener and sit at 3-3, in fifth place in the Big West.

Diane is flanked by junior guard Terrell Gomez out of Los Angeles, California. Gomez, a member of last year's All-Big West First Team, is bragging about his cover fire of 20.6 points per game.

He's actually seventh on his team in field goal percentage, but he leads the way with 36.9 minutes per game and is consistently knocking down baskets night in and night out. He's also got a 93.5% clip from the line and still dishes out 2.5 helpers a game.

Other notable information to highlight includes that Gaucho sophomore forward Amadou Sow has scored in double figures in five of the past six games and looks set to shoot with a green light on Thursday.

Junior guard JaQuori McLaughlin contributed but struggled to have a more significant impact in the win over the Highlanders after sustaining a groin injury earlier in the week. Junior guard Brandon Cyrus, the probable replacement if McLaughlin needs a break, has made just 4 of his 20 shot attempts over the past four games. McLaughlin has averaged 14.8 points, 3.7 rebounds and 3.9 assists per game with a 48.9% efficiency from the floor and will surely be missed if he is not fully recovered.

UCSB will travel to CSUN for a match that tips off at 8 p.m. this Thursday. Match to be televised on ESPNU.



SIAVASH GHADIRI / DAILY NEXUS

Gauchos Take On First Place Aggies Looking for Revenge

Brandon Victor
Sports Editor

After six games of conference play last season, the UC Santa Barbara women's basketball team found itself in the cellar of the conference with a 1-5 record.

Following the team's stellar offensive performance on the road against Cal State Fullerton, the Gauchos are firmly in the conference race, sitting in fifth place with a 3-3 conference record. If UCSB truly hopes to challenge for the regular season conference title, the team will need to knock off UC Davis on Saturday – who currently lead the conference with a 4-1 record in Big West play.

Knocking off the Aggies on the road will be no easy task for the 'Chos, who just last Thursday fell 56-46 at home to Davis. Despite limiting Davis to its second lowest offensive tally in conference play, the Gauchos' poor offensive display ultimately doomed the team. In that game, Santa Barbara merely shot 28.1% from the floor and only had three players score more than two points.

Every time UCSB seemed to make a run in that game, senior guard Katie Toole would make a basket to ensure that Davis kept the lead.

On the night, Toole paced the Aggies with 18 points on an efficient 8-14 from the floor.

In the rematch, the 'Chos will have to try to keep Toole in check while not throwing too many numbers at her on defense. Davis features one of the most balanced offensive approaches in the conference – with no single player averaging more than 29 minutes per game.

"Davis is always a tough team to play because they play very consistently and their offense has a lot of motion to it," junior forward Mira Shulman said. "They also have a lot of people

shooting a very high percentage, which makes packing in the paint hard."

At the end of the day, however, UCSB's success will come down to its ability to generate offense against a sturdy Aggies defense that has played lights out as of late. In the Aggies' road win over the weekend against Cal Poly, they held the Mustangs to 36 points on only 29.5% shooting from the floor.

As has been the case all season, the 'Chos will surely look to get freshman Ila Lane involved early. A double-double machine, Lane was one of the few bright spots for UCSB in the first matchup between these sides, scoring 12 points and grabbing 14 boards.

In the second half, however, the Aggies started to double-team Lane in the post, and limited her to only 5 second-half points. With Davis likely to employ a similar strategy on Saturday, UCSB will need their guard play to step up and carry the load on offense.

While senior guard Coco Miller and junior point guard Danae Miller both finished with double figures in that matchup, they did so on inefficient splits, with Coco going 3-11 and Danae going 5-20 from the floor.

If the Gauchos are to keep pace with Davis, they will need their bench to continue to provide an added scoring punch, taking some of the pressure off of Coco and Danae. Against Fullerton, the bench scored 34 total points – including double-digit performances from senior Tal Sahar and sophomore Megan Ormiston.

Playing Davis away is never an easy matchup – especially given Davis' success this season in conference play already. Still, if the 'Chos can come up with a more efficient performance from the floor, they have the firepower necessary to keep pace with the Aggies.

UCSB will take on UC Davis on Saturday at 2:30 p.m.



NEXUS FILE PHOTO

No. 3 UCSB Set for Prime-time Matchups Against No. 2 BYU

Jesse Morrison
Staff Writer

The UC Santa Barbara men's volleyball team travels to Utah this Friday for two games against Brigham Young University. These schools come into the week with two of the top volleyball programs in the country, with Brigham Young University (BYU) at No. 2 and UCSB in the No. 3 spot. Santa Barbara (6-0) and BYU (8-0) have both been perfect to start the year, making this weekend's matchup even more exciting. Will one of these schools go to 2-0 on the weekend? Or could they split victories and see two of the remaining four unbeaten teams go down?

UCSB has been playing great volleyball to start the 2020 season, sweeping every team they have gone up against. The competition hasn't been a walk in the park either, but Santa Barbara has just continuously risen to the occasion. Some of their notable victories this year include wins over No. 13 Concordia Irvine, No. 11 Purdue Fort Wayne and former No. 8 Stanford. Yes, this weekend's series of games will be Santa Barbara's biggest test to date; however, the Gauchos will definitely travel to BYU prepared and with the mindset that they can and should win this game.

The proof of UCSB's great play this year is clearly evident in their statistics. The Gauchos currently hold the highest rank in the Big West Conference for kills per set, digs per set and assists per set. A large part of their offensive success this year is because of the play of senior setter Casey McGarry. McGarry just recently earned Off the Block National Setter of the Week honors for the second

consecutive week for another impressive performance versus Stanford. He racked up another 30-plus assist match, his fifth time doing that in just six games this year.

Luckily for McGarry, he has several talented offensive options he can target each time he takes the floor. Some of those targets include senior setter Randy DeWeese and senior outside hitter Roy McFarland. Both of these fourth-year players are currently leading the team in kills, with DeWeese at 56 and McFarland at 38. These two will need to be at the top of their games come this weekend if UCSB wants to steal a couple of road wins.

UCSB won't underestimate BYU, as they have several notable weapons. The 6-foot-9-inch outside hitter Davide Gardini has 126 kills on the season and could cause some problems for UCSB's defense. Also, Gabi Garcia Fernandez is a 6-foot-7-inch opposite hitter who has been very productive this year for BYU, racking up 123 kills so far. If UCSB can slow down either of these standout hitters – a tough task for that Gaucho defense – their chances of success will increase significantly.

I am interested to see what happens after this Friday night's game. Will adjustments be made by the losing team before Saturday's game and what will those adjustments be? Last year, UCSB traveled to BYU for the same back-to-back stretch and came home with two 3-0 sweeps. With the way Santa Barbara has been playing to start the year, it is hard to bet against them. I think UCSB is going to pick up two huge wins in Utah and claim the No. 2 spot in the nation. If you want to watch the games, they both will be livestreamed on BYUtv.



LEONARD PAULASA / DAILY NEXUS

Alum Recounts How Kobe Brought Purple & Gold Euphoria to UCSB

Jonathan Neal
Contributor

My experience as a student at UC Santa Barbara was full of sweet excitement, stunning beauty, a rigorous education, lifelong friends, ridiculous fun and a feeling that my youth would never end. Of all of my experiences as a Gaucho, some of my most thrilling were when Kobe Bryant and the Los Angeles Lakers came to UCSB in October of 1999 and deeply and visibly engaged the campus community into a magical wave of purple and gold euphoria.

It was extremely exciting when the Lakers announced that they would return to UCSB for their training camp. They had been there the prior season, but I had been too engrossed in midterms to participate (they were there in February of 1999 – a strange time for NBA training camp – due to a strike-shortened season). This time, the Lakers would be on campus from early to mid-October, right after the school year started. Perfect! No need for much studying.

The Lakers conducted their practices at Rob Gym. Being a lifelong, die-hard Lakers fan, I was determined to connect with the players, and I had the two necessary items that would help me accomplish this. The prior summer, I had bought a gold Shaq jersey, and I had also just purchased what remains my most prized possession – a Sector 9 longboard that I still skate with in 2020.

I decided that I was going to get as many Lakers as possible to sign my jersey.

To achieve this goal, I decided to use the skateboard to my advantage. I figured out that I could place my jersey on top of the longboard and hand the entire board to the players I wanted to sign my jersey. That way, it took up a lot of space in their field of vision and it would be harder to refuse.

One afternoon during the training camp, I stood at the exit to Rob Gym where the players would pass as they got onto their bus. The players began exiting the

building.

First, Shaq signed nothing as he passed, saying with pomp: “I’m not signing anything.” It’s all good. He wasn’t the one I wanted anyway.

Lots of other players signed autographs though. I handed my skateboard to five players who signed my jersey: Robert Horry, Tyronn Lue, Derek Fisher, Glen Rice and one Kobe Bryant. For the last 21 years, I’ve been skating on my board, loving that Kobe held it.

After a few minutes, all the Lakers got on the bus – except Kobe. Kobe kept signing and signing, with a smile. Finally, the bus with the players on it started honking at him! He just ignored the honking. He kept signing away outside of Rob Gym, again, with a smile on his face. He was doing what he wanted to do – making the fans happy – regardless of his teammates’ wishes.

Once Kobe got on the bus and the Lakers departed, my jaw dropped as I realized that I had hit the mother lode – I was standing there next to Rob Gym with a bright gold Lakers jersey with the signatures of five players, including one superstar.

My time interacting with the Lakers was not through, however. At the end of camp, the Lakers held a free intrasquad scrimmage for the UCSB community at the Thunderdome. In Phil Jackson’s book, “More Than a Game,” he discusses this public practice, stating “we were certainly well hosted in Santa Barbara.” Jackson also refers to UCSB as “one of the most beautiful college campuses in the country.”

Right outside the Thunderdome, the Lakers showed up in front of a handful of fans, and walked into the arena basically in a line. I asked Phil Jackson for an autograph (even calling him Mr. Jackson) but he told me that he had to start practice. Fair enough.

The last player who passed? A certain Kobe Bean Bryant.

I called to him. “Kobe!”

He turned his head toward me: “Yes.”

“Can I get my picture taken with you?”

“Sure,” he said. He walked the 15 feet or so from the entrance of the building to where I was standing.

Let me point out that this was in the pre-digital camera era. I didn’t even own a camera. Before I showed up to the T-Dome, I bought a disposable camera from the Isla Vista Market, just in case I got lucky, and as Kobe approached, I gave the camera to some random dude to take it, hoping that he wouldn’t blow my chance for a souvenir for the ages.

Kobe came up to me and wrapped his arm tightly around my shoulders, like I was his little brother. The disposable camera snapped.

“Thanks, man,” I said.

“You’re welcome,” said the future Hall-of-Famer, Olympic gold medalist and five-time NBA world champion.

I was in absolute nirvana. I was flying above the ground. It was a total exhilaration. I was dizzy. Kobe had shown himself to be, without a doubt, the most accessible Laker, the kindest one and the most devoted to his fans.

Eventually, the Lakers meandered their way into the room, unannounced. There was big applause for all of the players. Except there was one player missing – the youngest player on the team. When Kobe nonchalantly entered the arena, there was a cacophony of ear-splitting applause, a standing ovation for the ages, one that put the thunder in the Thunderdome. The deafening ovation was even bigger than the crowd had given for superstar Shaquille O’Neal.

The scrimmage itself was delicious. It was the purple team against the gold team. For pure fans, how wonderful is it to see players on one’s favorite team play one another? I wish I had more precise memories of the game, but I clearly was in the afterglow of my time with Kobe. I just remember being so happy. Feeling so lucky. To be at my beloved, beautiful university and to have the basketball team I had loved since I was 6 years old visit my campus and interact with me.



Kobe had shown himself to be, without a doubt, the most accessible Laker, the kindest one and the most devoted to his fans.

The Los Angeles Lakers won the NBA Championship that season for the first time in 12 years. They clinched it exactly two days after I walked in my graduation ceremony on June 17, 2000. So two extremely meaningful and emotional life events for me happened within a week. The Lakers also won the championship the next year ... and finished off the three-peat the following season.

I want everyone reading this to remember this: The three-peat all started in Isla Vista.

I spent half of my life watching Kobe dazzle and amaze. I always thought that he would be an ambassador for the Lakers and the NBA for the next 40 or 50 years. I am deeply sad.

As I remember this story, I feel immense gratitude and love – for my magical and wonderful college experience at UCSB, for basketball, the Lakers and for Kobe Bryant. The experiences I’m recounting happened 20 years ago, but they feel like they went down yesterday.

My memories as a Gaucho are sweet and exhilarating. In the midst of my sorrow about the loss of Kobe Bryant and his daughter, Gianna, my wonderful recollections from when Kobe and the Lakers came to campus are swirling in my mind. Thank you, Kobe, for being so kind and friendly to the fans, and, for the briefest of moments, making me feel like we were 21-year-old brothers.



SAM RANKIN / DAILY NEXUS

UCSB Students Mourn the Loss of Kobe Bryant and His Daughter

Max Abrams
Asst. News Editor

Kobe Bryant, his daughter Gianna and seven others lost their lives just before 10 a.m. on Sunday after their helicopter crashed in the hills of Calabasas while en route to a youth basketball academy.

News of Bryant’s death sent ripples of emotion throughout the United States and the rest of the world. Fans paid tribute to Bryant, who was an icon to many, by holding vigils around the world, but most prominently at the Staples Center in Los Angeles, home to Bryant’s 20-year tenure with the Los Angeles Lakers, the New York Times reported.

At UC Santa Barbara, about an hour and a half away from the crash site, an outpour of roughly 200 students gathered under Storke Tower at 8 p.m. to mourn the loss of Bryant, 41, and Gianna, 13.

The university was also home to Bryant’s basketball camp, the Kobe Basketball Academy, which ran for

eight years at the Thunderdome and was designed to help kids hone their basketball skills, Noozhawk reported.

At the center of the vigil rested a picture of Bryant and his daughter, a bouquet of flowers and a poster inscribed “RIP #24 MAMBA.” Bryant’s numbers – 8 and 24 – glimmered off the jerseys of students facing the candlelight, while shades of purple and gold draped the crowd from the many who sported Lakers attire.

“Obviously, if you came out, Kobe meant a lot to you,” Nasrat Hamid, a fourth-year chemistry major and the event’s organizer, said to the crowd.

“It’s kind of crazy how someone I’m sure most of us have never met before had such a huge impact on our lives. It’s kind of silly when you think about it – I’ve never met this guy but here I am crying my eyes out because he just passed away.”

Hamid organized the event earlier that same day after emailing Chancellor Henry T. Yang for permission to hold the vigil, and Yang helped provide Hamid with

microphones for the event. After getting permission, Hamid’s sister, Nisha, said they used social media to let students know an event in Bryant’s honor would be taking place that night.

Hamid spoke to the crowd first, leaving the microphone open for students who wanted to share their favorite memories about Bryant, the impact he had on their lives and what they’ll remember most about him. As students spoke through the tears, those in the crowd banded together, arms wrapped around one another as they mourned.

One student who took the mic saw Bryant’s death as an opportunity to look back and resolve the negativities in life that weren’t worth the frustration they caused.

“If you have any conflict with anyone, maybe just resolve it and say ‘I love you,’ even in a friendly way. It’s what Kobe would have wanted,” the student said. “I love that man, and even though I don’t know anyone here, I love you all.”

“Just keep powering through [your] own lives and

look around and love those near [you] because we are not guaranteed a tomorrow.”

In the minutes leading up to the moment of silence at 8:24 p.m. – to honor both of Bryant’s jersey numbers – one student put his phone next to the microphone to play Lil Wayne’s “Kobe Bryant” after asking the crowd if they’d like to hear the song.

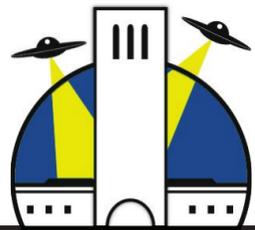
After a few minutes of silence, students resumed speaking to the crowd as others began to leave.

One student recalled how an introduction to basketball – and later, a passion for it – came from Bryant, who inspired them to pick up a ball after watching him on television.

“I’m having fun. Kobe taught me how to love the game,” the student said. “I have this Kobe poster in my room and now I can’t look at it all that much anymore, just because it hurts that much.”

“I never got to watch Kobe live; I never got to meet him in person,” the student added.

“Now, I will never get the chance to.”



NEXUSTENTIALISM

It's Satire, Stupid.

Heroes of Isla Vista: Hoe Doesn't Get Cold

Sierra Vakili
Staff Writer

ISLA VISTA, CALIF. – Third-year student Lindsay Thompson has been turning heads this frigid winter quarter in the classic tube top and miniskirt combo – but Thompson, a Santa Barbara six at best, is not attracting anything other than concerned gazes and murmurs from sorority girls wondering how she manages to brave the post-party chill.

But to Thompson, the answer is simple: She just doesn't get cold. In regard to shivering and shuddering when exposed to the icy air of El Greco Road, Thompson said, "it's just inconvenient. So I don't do it."

Thompson has been making waves throughout UCSB, leading the pack for un-cold hoes everywhere. Her inspiration has influenced several hoes thus far, including Anna Lopez, 21, who genetically modified her nerve endings to numb out cold temperatures; McKenna James, 20, a

cold-blooded reptile; and Eliza Howard, 18, who is just from Colorado and thinks "this is nothing" and that "you're all weak."

"Honestly, it's just a mindset," Thompson added, unflinchingly submerging herself into an ice bath. "If you really want your 'endless summer' dreams to come true, you have to act the part. I don't even own any clothing with sleeves, really."

Sleeved hoes across campus meet Thompson's mindset with skepticism.

"You can still be a hoe in a sweater, right? Like, a cute cropped sweater? Maybe? Right?" stuttered second-year Madeline Layman through gritted teeth, profusely rubbing her arms to generate some meager warmth through friction. However, Layman's final statement to Nexustentialism spoke volumes on behalf of the entire Isla Vista hoe community: "I fucking hate winter quarter."

Sierra Vakili shows less skin in the winter than a Utah sister-wife.



MAX MYSZKOWSKI / DAILY NEXUS

Mint Juul Pods Are Out: Here's What We're Vaping Now



ALY WITMER / DAILY NEXUS

A. Wiessass
Staff Writer

With the changing of the year, we had to bid farewell to a beloved staple of Isla Vistan life: flavored vape pods. We at the Nexus are taking this departure especially hard, but fear not! I am here to guide you through alternative flavorings to help ease the transition from our delicious nicotine juice to less flavorful offerings.

1. Yerba Mate

UCSB is currently the number one point of sale for nearly all yerba mate brands across the country. Considering how ingrained yerb consumption is in Gaucho culture, it seems like a natural leap to load up our vapes with this South American caffeine elixir.

2. Arbor Soup

Equally entrenched into the UCSB zeitgeist is the soup selection at the Arbor. Whether you prefer the classic clam chowder or the zesty Timberline Chili, you will forget all about flavored Juul pods when you load up your vape with these chemically active stews. Unfortunately, EBT does not cover this vape juice.

3. Mojo Boba

For those that like to chew their tea, Mojo has introduced a way to chew your vape with boba e-juice. My personal favorite is the taro tea vape juice with extra boba. I don't even miss the nicotine while I am distracted by my jaw's campaign to conquer those little tapioca balls.

4. TA Tears

Much like the tears of leprechauns or fairies, the tears of TAs have magical properties. It is said that if you can capture the tears of a grad student in your vape cartridge, you will be endowed with the power to see the future, an exhaustive knowledge of their area of study and – if you pick the right TA – eternal life.

5. Lagoon Water

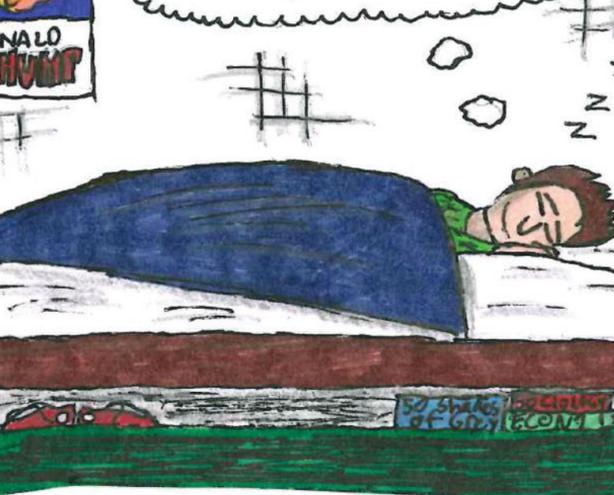
Now, we aren't sure that the lagoon contains nicotine, but it seems plainly ignorant to claim that there isn't a fuck ton of addictive chemicals mixed into the water. Think of all the runoff from the dining commons, the refuse deposited in the lagoon by indiscriminate freshman and the sweat from the rowing team. Lagoon water may not get you domed, but it'll certainly knock you on your ass.

A. Wiessass only vapes free-range egg yolk.

DAILY NEXUS ART & COMICS

Roommates
WE WOULD HATE TO HAVE!

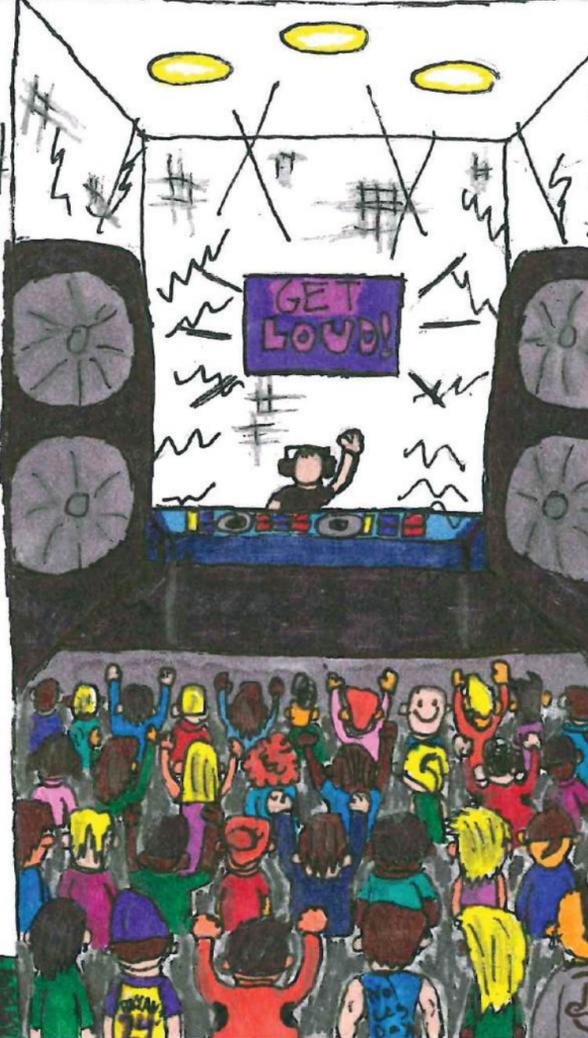
Alright, I got two mid-terms at 8 am and 11 am. I feel as ready as I will ever be. All I need is some good sleep...



Later at 2 am.



Meanwhile downstairs...



NICK ZANINOVICH / DAILY NEXUS

ARTS WEEK

Didn't Make it to SBIFF 2020? Here's Everything You Missed

From Jan. 15-25, theaters downtown hosted the Santa Barbara International Film Festival for the 35th year in a row, bringing esteemed members of the film industry an opportunity to share their experiences with fans.



SIAVASH GHADIRI / DAILY NEXUS

Artsweek Staff

Opening Night

Celebrating its 35th year in operation now, the Santa Barbara International Film Festival recently took over local film spots to host the annual cinema-packed and star-studded fest. On Jan. 15, The Arlington Theatre, which also hosted many of the festival's major events and screenings, opened its doors and filled its seats with local Santa Barbara cinephiles who gathered to watch the opening night film "A Bump Along The Way."

Set in Derry, Northern Ireland, the film follows the rocky relationship between a single working mother and her moody teenage daughter. Along with more serious themes like family values, self-acceptance and growth, "A Bump Along The Way" is also filled with extremely comedic dialogue, albeit it can be difficult to understand everything that's said due to the thickness of the Irish accents.

After the film screening, star actress Bronagh Gallagher appeared onstage to thank everyone for attending the event and to wrap up the evening. Although "A Bump Along The Way" featured some emotional tear-jerking scenes, it set a great tone for the rest of the festival as fans left the theater eager for the days to come.



KAIYI YANG / DAILY NEXUS

American Riviera Award

The rain did not stop Renée Zellweger as she received the American Riviera Award for her iconic role in "Judy" – marking the first celebrity tribute award of the Santa Barbara International Film Festival (SBIFF). Zellweger's performance earned her a Golden Globe and an Oscar nomination for her role as Judy Garland, an American actress/singer/dancer who achieved stardom due to her warmth, spirit and iconic status within the LGBTQ+ community.

Interviewed by Hollywood Reporter's columnist Scott Feinberg, Zellweger detailed how she has changed over the years, proclaiming "the journey is what matters the most," not the success of the film but the creative experience. Zellweger's contribution to cinema includes more than 35 films, including the popular "Bridget Jones's Diary" franchise.

Diane Warren, songwriter and friend of Zellweger, presented the award and predicted on the red carpet that Zellweger will take home a much-deserved Oscar. When Warren presented the award, Zellweger thanked Warren for "inspiring her to tap into her imagination" and thanked the community for allowing her to be a part of the "cinema-loving community" of Santa Barbara.

Outstanding Performers of the Year Award

For their roles in "Marriage Story," actors Adam Driver and Scarlett Johansson were presented with the Outstanding Performers of the Year Award at SBIFF 2020. However, due to an unexpected illness, Johansson was unable to attend the festival, leaving Driver on his own in the limelight.

In his interview onstage at The Arlington Theatre, Driver discussed at length how his experience in the military prepared him for his career as an actor because "you are working as a team" when it comes to making a film, just as you would work as a team in combat. With this award ceremony, fans got to personally see Driver reflect on his growth as an actor, having to part with his beloved role as Kylo Ren in the "Star Wars" franchise and what it was like creating Arts in the Armed Forces, a non-profit organization working to bring the world of art to military communities.

Virtuosos Award

The Virtuosos Award, presented by UGG, was presented to a select group of actors whose noteworthy performances in film have dubbed them as having the breakout performances of the year.

The award honored:

Awkwafina ("The Farewell"), Taron Egerton ("Rocketman"), Cynthia Erivo ("Harriet"), Beanie Feldstein ("Booksmart"), Aldis Hodge ("Clemency"), George MacKay ("1917"), Florence Pugh ("Little Women," "Midsommar") and Taylor Russell ("Waves").



ALBERT NGUYEN / DAILY NEXUS



ALBERT NGUYEN / DAILY NEXUS



ALBERT NGUYEN / DAILY NEXUS

Cinema Vanguard Award

During the SBIFF 2020, Laura Dern joined the likes of Willem Dafoe and Michael B. Jordan as the recipient of the Cinema Vanguard Award. This award honors actors who possess a wide range of acting talent and continue to break new ground with each new endeavor. Dern was honored at the festival because of her fantastic and complementary performances as a divorce lawyer in Noah Baumbach's "Marriage Story" and a strong-willed matriarch in Greta Gerwig's "Little Women," but the event also highlighted work throughout Dern's career.

Her drive and talent as an actress were apparent not just in her highlighted work but also in her response to the question, "Why do you want to be an artist?" to which she replied: "It's so much damn fun."



IDA KAZERANI / DAILY NEXUS

Montecito Award

On Jan. 20, Lupita Nyong'o received the distinguished Montecito Award, which is given to individuals who have made great contributions to film. SBIFF recognized Nyong'o for her spectacular performance in Jordan Peele's thriller "Us" and highlighted her notable filmography following her breakout performance in "12 Years a Slave." The award was presented by none other than the "Us" director Jordan Peele.

Dave Karger led an hour-long Q&A with Nyong'o discussing the early influences and moments in her life that ultimately led to her decision to pursue acting. An incredibly honored Peele presented Nyong'o with the award, and in her acceptance speech, she expressed gratitude for Peele and Steve McQueen and her hopes that this night marks only



ALBERT NGUYEN / DAILY NEXUS

the beginning of her career and that she continues to make works that matter.

Maltin Modern Master Award

The man who needs no introduction (yet here we are), Brad Pitt, made an appearance at The Arlington Theatre to receive the Maltin Modern Master Award, an award recognized as "the highest accolade presented by SBIFF." Instead of presenting Pitt with an award for his most recent roles in acclaimed films like "Ad Astra" or "Once Upon a Time ... in Hollywood," SBIFF honored the actor for his accomplishments and impact on film throughout his entire career. Other notable people to have received this award include Denzel Washington, Clint Eastwood, George Clooney and Cate Blanchett, to name a few.

Leonard Maltin conducted the onstage interview with Pitt, occasionally taking breaks to showcase clips from several of Pitt's major films. In a nearly two-hour long discussion, fans got to hear firsthand how Pitt began his acting career, how he prepares for certain roles and what it's like getting to work off-screen in his production company, Plan B.

At the end, "Fight Club" director David Fincher presented Pitt with his Maltin Modern Master Award and closed the night on a positive note. "I feel so fortunate for all the amazing people that I've been able to work with that have taught me so much, that have touched my life," Pitt said. "I feel blessed."

Outstanding Director of the Year Award

On Thursday, Jan. 23, "Parasite" director Bong Joon Ho was awarded the Outstanding Director of the Year Award. This critically acclaimed, stomach-turning, dark comedy masterpiece has already earned Bong various other awards including Best Motion Picture in a Foreign Language at the Golden Globes and a Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival. Bong is also currently nominated for four Oscars: Best Picture, Best Director, Best Original Screenplay and Best International Feature Film.

As the first-ever Korean director to be nominated for an Oscar, Bong is certainly paving the way for future Korean (and people-of-color) filmmakers. "Parasite" marks Bong's seventh feature film as a director and is the reason why he is this year's outstanding director. With the help of his interpreter, Sharon Choi, Bong took the audience through each of his films and revealed eccentric facts about his life, creative process and behind-the-scenes work.

Women's Panel

The panel included Rosana Sullivan, Mayes C. Rubeo, Julia Reichert, Arianne Phillips, Anne Morgan, Aneta Hickinbotham, Regina Graves, Sarah Finn and Bonnie Arnold – all renowned in their respective fields for their leadership, dedication to their craft, attention to detail and stunning success. Whether they were costume designers, directors, producers, hairstylists or more, each woman brought her own raw experience and perspective to the table.

Moderator Madelyn Hammond, with lively and hilarious commentary of her own, questioned the women for about 15 minutes each, in which they shared stories of their experiences working in film over the past year.

Closing Night

For the Closing Night Film of SBIFF, the spotlight was put on Santa Barbara in showcasing an array of short documentaries made by local filmmakers. This selection of films covered a broad range of topics, from backpackers trekking the Los Padres National Forest to a local guitarist who shares his music in public areas throughout downtown Santa Barbara.

These Santa Barbara Documentary Shorts included "10 Miles Out," "Cabrillo Village," "Carrizo Plain: A Sense of Place," "Hannah's Ride," "The Last Ride" and "State Street Serenade."

Kristina Valencia, Joshen Mantai, Aubrey Valerio, Ivan Gonzalez, Liliana Lina and Alexandra Lee contributed to the reporting of this piece.

ON THE MENU

Top 10 Best Brunch Spots in the Santa Barbara Area

Rinah Anatolio
Staff Writer

Although the best way to start your day is breakfast, the best way to start the weekend is brunch. Santa Barbara is home to many great brunch places and I have created a list for every situation you may encounter while you're here.

The Best Place To Forget Your Actions From Last Night and Cure Your Terrible Hangover: Cajun Kitchen

What to order: *anything greasy*

Cajun Kitchen is a chain restaurant with multiple locations in the Santa Barbara and Goleta areas. They offer a variety of breakfast and Cajun foods. Their menu is extensive, which makes it a perfect read to take your mind off of whatever you did last night. The portion sizes here are very large, which can help soak up any alcohol that's still left in your body.

The Place To Take Your Parents and Pretend the Quarter Is Going Okay: Scarlett Begonia

What to order: *lemon ricotta pancakes, cinnamon roll, shrimp & grits*

Scarlett Begonia is on the god tier of brunch places in Santa Barbara. Everything on their menu is delicious and their ingredients are all organic and locally grown. The food here is so good that your parents will take one bite of their cinnamon roll and ignore all the bad news you told them. It doesn't matter that you failed a midterm or your housemates are fighting or you bought a Coachella ticket when your rent is due next week. All that matters is that you brought them to an amazing brunch spot.

The Place To Run Into Someone You Never Want To See Again From the Night Before: Bagel Cafe

What to order: *Benedict Eggle, Super Emma*

Bagel Cafe is in the heart of Isla Vista and many students flock here after a long night. The line typically extends to the sidewalk and is filled with people you don't want to talk to. Maybe it's someone that you met the night before but don't remember their name or someone that you've had multiple classes with but never really talked to or someone you had a crush on during your first year. Regardless of who it is, you come here and only talk with the one person you came with or you stay glued to your phone, order your bagel, wait for it to be ready and walk back home.

The Place To Take Your Aesthetic Brunch Photos for Instagram: Boathouse at Hendry's Beach

What to order: *Boathouse Signature Breakfast*

Boathouse at Hendry's Beach has great views, great food and great vibes. Its location is right on the beach, making this the best place for an Instagram shoot with your friends. You can pose with your coffee cup, mimosa flute or just a glass of water since everything looks good with the Santa Barbara sun shining on you.

The Place To Get the Best Egg Popping Boomerang From Your Benedict: The Shop Kitchen

What to order: *any eggs Benedict*

Everybody knows that a good eggs Benedict is the epitome of brunch. At The Shop Kitchen, you're able to customize your own eggs Benedict. It doesn't matter if you don't eat meat, if you want fish or if you want fried chicken early in the morning, there is an eggs Benedict dish for you! You can't go wrong with any Benedict you pick on the menu, so have fun popping that yolk for the Boomerang on your Instagram story.

The Place To Get Wasted at 11 a.m. on Bottomless Mimosas: State & Fig

What to order: *bottomless mimosas and State burger*

For my 21+ friends, you know that bottomless mimosas are the way to go. There is no better way to start your morning than a mixed drink on an empty stomach. The service here is really good at making sure your mimosa flute is never empty. I highly suggest ordering something heavy for food like the State burger or the short rib Benedict to help you take advantage of the bottomless drinks. Cheers!

The Place To Go if You Like Dessert in the Morning: Jeannine's

What to order: *french toast or pancake combo*

Jeannine's is a bakery and restaurant with multiple locations in Santa Barbara County and they have recently expanded to Goleta. Jeannine's is the perfect place to go for your sweet tooth. They offer an assortment of pastries from their bakery but one of the best dishes Jeannine's has to offer is french toast. Jeannine's makes their french toast with the challah bread from their bakery, which is so fresh and yummy. I highly recommend this place if you love a classic french toast.

The Place To Take That Girl You Really Like but Won't Commit To: Finch & Fork

What to order: *short rib sweet potato hash and fire-roasted milkshake*

Finch & Fork has some of the best food in Santa Barbara. This is the perfect place to take that girl you won't commit to because the food is so good that she'll forget all about your commitment issues. The menu changes seasonally so you won't have to worry about ordering the same thing when you bring a different girl next quarter.

The Place To Go With Your Vegan and Vegetarian Friends Even if You Don't Like Vegan Food: Mesa Verde

What to order: *green plant bowl and baklava*

Every friend group has a vegan or vegetarian friend that always has to compromise when eating out. Lucky for them (and you!), Mesa Verde is a vegan spot that everyone will love regardless of dietary restrictions. The aesthetics and vibes of the place are super trendy and their food is delicious.

The Place To Go To Cancel Out All the Unhealthy Things You Put in Your Body the Night Before: Backyard Bowls

What to order: *berry bowl with coconut milk base instead of apple juice*

Everybody knows that ordering an acai bowl the morning after a long night is the best way to detox your body. Backyard Bowls has the best acai in Santa Barbara, in my opinion. The staff is very accommodating with any substitutions you may have, but their pre-made combinations are amazing as well.



SCIENCE & TECH

“Two Years After Fire and Flood”: Santa Barbara Community Evaluates Impacts and Responses

Sean Crommelin
Copy Editor

On Sunday, about 300 people filed into the Fleischmann Auditorium at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History in attendance of a public conversation regarding the aftermath of the Thomas Fire in December 2017 and January 2018 and the Montecito mudflows, which ensued following rain which extinguished the fires on Jan. 8, 2018.

The event, organized by UC Santa Barbara's Bren School of Environmental Science & Management, the Santa Barbara Community Environmental Council (CEC), the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, Santa Barbara Channelkeeper and the Santa Barbara Foundation, aimed to inform the public regarding “ongoing research assessing the extent of [the] impacts” and “how to improve response[s] to future disasters,” according to the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History's website.

In December 2017, severe dry conditions coupled with strong Santa Ana winds gave birth to an insatiable firestorm which spread and engulfed the southeastern bounds of Los Padres National Forest. The Thomas Fire burned 281,893 acres and at the time grew into the largest wildfire in California history – later surpassed by the Ranch Fire in 2018.

Then came the first significant precipitation of the season. Four inches of rain fell in a single torrential storm, thoroughly extinguishing the fires and resulting in cataclysmic debris flows, causing 23 deaths.

Now, two years later, the community reconvenes to reflect.

The speakers who attended included Sarah Anderson, an associate professor of environmental politics at the Bren School of Environmental Science & Management; Andrew Brooks, the project scientist with the UC Natural Reserve System monitoring the Carpinteria Salt Marsh Reserve; and Steven Gaines, the dean of the Bren School.

Alongside faculty were speakers with the Santa Barbara County Flood Control, Geosyntec Consultants, South Coast Habitat Restoration, Santa Barbara Channelkeeper, the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis and the CEC.

Particular focus was given to the progress in healing the areas around the debris flows over the past two years, with both promising signs of recovery as well as sobering realities regarding the damage to infrastructure and the natural environment which continues to persist today.

Brooks delved into the impacts that the mudflows had on the wetlands and salt marshes straddling the coast. Nearly 20,000 dumpsters' worth of debris flowed downstream from the burn scars and inundated the Carpinteria Salt Marshes. If put end to end in a single line, the debris would have stretched for 22 miles, according to Brooks.



Presenters including UCSB NCEAS's Kim Selkoe, Santa Barbara Channelkeeper's Ben Pitterle and Santa Barbara County Flood Control's Tom Fayram spoke on the latest ongoing research assessing the impacts of the Thomas fire and mudslides and how it might inform future disaster responses.

Coupled with the fact that the salt marsh is a biodiversity hotspot of the South Coast with 250 plant species, 200 bird species and 150 marine fish species, the extensive damage to it particularly stings.

“Well, first, there was quite a bit of habitat loss. Oysters, crabs, shrimp, clams, they were completely buried and suffocated by the large amounts of sediment that now choke these channels. The loss of those species causes disruptions to the marsh food web, as many of the species that were lost are important food items for other species,” Brooks said.

“There was [also] actually the introduction of a number of toxic compounds associated with the burned chaparral material that washed into the marsh,” he continued. “We were faced with sort of an existential question ... What do we do? Do we clean everything up and try to restore the marsh back to its pre-reflow conditions? Or do we step back, monitor the conditions and work out how the systems respond?”

Brooks found many things promising, guiding the audience through photos of wetlands in recovery, making note of how the streams and tides have guided the rejuvenation of the land.

However, Brooks was quick to qualify that although widespread recovery has occurred, much of the wetlands are still severely degraded, and stressed that moving forward, the preservation of existing wetlands and the prevention of further habitat fragmentation

will be necessary to ensure the resilience and vitality of the marsh.

“We need to maintain the connectedness between those wetlands. A lot of the species that were extirpated by the debris flow [and the wetlands] are going to be colonized by individuals and species that are found in other marshes up and down the coast,” Brooks said.

“If those marshes go away, we no longer have a source for those species to be colonized from.”

Brandon Steets, a senior principal engineer with Geosyntec Consultants, discussed the microbial impacts on coastal water quality that the fires, subsequent debris flows and dumping had in the Santa Barbara Channel.

Goleta Beach, closed to beachgoers for six months following the debris flows and the dumping of debris onto the beach, which was carried out afterward, showed elevated levels of surfzone bacteria throughout sampling. However, in the months during the closure, the decline in bacteria levels continued steadfastly and improved below state standards in July, a benchmark which was met earlier than expected.

In looking at the human marker results, Geosyntec Consultants concluded that “there was no evidence of human waste in surfzone water, and therefore no evidence of an elevated human risk.”

For the future, Steets recommends that disposal activities should be surveilled in the same way,

Neuroscientists Find Categorization Influences May Begin in Earliest Stages of Visual System

Jacqueline Wen
Science & Tech Editor

Whether it is distinguishing between edible and poisonous plants that look similar or separating trash from recyclables, categorization has always been an important ability for humans.

Learning which items belong to what category based on basic visual features increases our perceptual sensitivity. That is, differences between physically similar but categorically distinct objects become enhanced; correspondingly, differences between physically similar objects in the same category become reduced.

Neuroscientists, including Thomas Sprague, Edward Ester and John Serences, suspected these biases may be based in the brain's occipitoparietal cortex, an area which helps us integrate information from our environment as detected through our senses, including vision.

To test this hypothesis and get a better idea of how people learn to categorize information in the world around them, the researchers carried out three experiments.

Their findings are detailed in a study published in the *Journal of Neuroscience*.

Through trial and error, the study's participants learned to associate stimuli with specific category labels “very quickly ... within five to 10 minutes of practice,” said Sprague, an assistant professor in UC Santa Barbara's Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences and a faculty member in the Interdepartmental Graduate Program in Dynamical Neuroscience (DYNS). The participants were trained to associate bars in various orientations – clockwise or counterclockwise with respect to a randomly selected stimulus orientation on a computer monitor – as belonging to one of two arbitrary categories.

“What we then wanted to do was see if that learning actually changes how the visual system is processing information,” said Ester, lead author of the study and an assistant professor in Florida Atlantic University's Department of Psychology.

The researchers tested categorization based on object orientation and spatial location using functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI), which measures brain activity in different brain regions. They complemented this method with another

commonly used technique, electroencephalogram (EEG). Providing better temporal specificity than fMRI, EEG could show how quickly the categorized neural representations emerged.

“That tells us what different stages of processing might be influenced,” Ester explained.

The results appeared to indicate that the effects of categorization were “basically immediate,” according to Sprague. “As soon as you're engaged in a task and sensory input comes, it's already assigned a category and this impacts the neural representation,” he said.

The scientists also performed other experiments to ensure that their findings were based on categorization and not due to alternative explanations, such as motor planning or response selection.

Additionally, they modeled the brain responses of various neural populations to see how visual orientations activate different brain regions. Using the patterns of brain activity, the models generated neural representations of the stimuli subjects were viewing, allowing the researchers to decode or predict what subjects were looking at in a given trial.

The brain activity patterns that emerged differed based on the orientation of the stimuli.

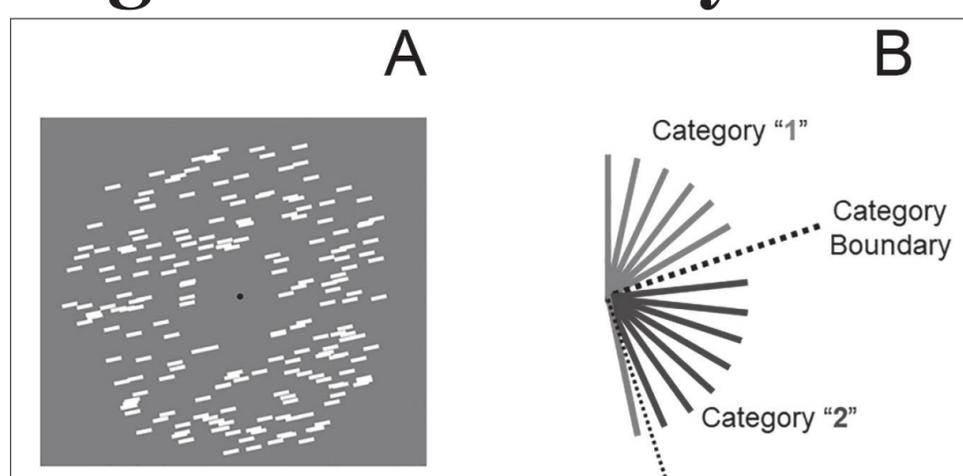
“Our central question was does learning how to categorize these stimuli or does the intent to try and place them in different categories actually influence those patterns of activity such that stimuli that are from the same category become more similar to one another?” Ester described.

Indeed, the collaborators found that, as a group, brain activity patterns evoked by stimuli from the same category appeared more similar to one another. They became more distinct than patterns of activity prompted by stimuli from the other category.

Furthermore, the study reports that the generated representations appeared more like an exemplar or prototype from a category rather than the actual physical stimulus itself.

This suggests that in categorizing a stimulus, relatively early visual areas begin to process it in a way that corresponds more to its category membership instead of its physical attributes.

“That's something that's relatively surprising, because it's long been thought that the visual system is a label-blind system that responds in very specific ways to certain types of stimuli,” Ester said. “And



Courtesy of Edward Ester

A: In experiment 1, participants viewed iso-oriented bars assigned one of 15 unique orientations from 0° to 168° in each trial. **B:** The researchers designated two arbitrary categories by randomly choosing a stimulus orientation as a category boundary and assigning the seven orientations counterclockwise to Category 1 and the seven orientations clockwise to Category 2.

those types of responses are immutable. They're not really selective or they can't really be changed by intent – but we find that they, in fact, can.”

The representations also correlated with participants' categorization performance. A stronger effect in the biasing of stimuli or change in activity pattern arose when participants correctly categorized the stimuli than when they didn't.

The paper provides insight into how categorizing processes may influence information processing at the earliest stages of the visual system in the occipitoparietal cortex.

“Maybe the most important finding from this study is it provides some intriguing insights into a debate about whether categorical decision making is something that happens kind of at an abstract level, say, [in the later stages of the visual processing system such as in the] parietal cortex or frontal cortex, where you're reasoning about vertical sensory information,” Sprague stated. “This is saying, ‘Well, actually, there's information in as early as the primary sensory cortex that is already fundamentally different based on a very rapidly learned arbitrary category.’”

with an emphasis on “monitoring indicator bacteria, human DNA marker and potentially pathogens in the raw material and the surf zone during and after disposal.”

In describing impacts to people, Anderson described a number of ways in which residents of Santa Barbara had responded more effectively to difficulties associated with the fire and subsequent mudflows than other communities had done in the wake of similar natural disasters.

“I was worried about [after the fire] because my research has shown that as time passes, the degree to which you're paying attention to [risk] falls off. And at the same time – in the case of wildfires – that risk is actually increasing as vegetation grows.”

Anderson listed a few factors which separate Santa Barbara residents from other vulnerable communities, namely knowledge and wealth.

Cited were the results from a survey which evaluated whether or not participants correctly answered questions inquiring about the “most-likely scenario for a debris flow to occur, the number of houses that can be destroyed by a debris flow, the largest boulders that can be carried by a debris flow, the fastest speed of a debris flow and the largest size of a debris flow.”

It was found that a significant – and sometimes overwhelming – majority of participants managed to answer the question correctly.

However, there was another explanation for Santa Barbara's reduced wildfire risk in addition to knowledge. Wealth and privilege were also statistically significant variables.

“If we go back to these two communities ... I told you that the one that has a wildfire is more likely to have gotten government funds. And it turns out that with whiter, wealthier or more educated communities that gap is even bigger. So there's also a story here about inequality,” Anderson said.

Perhaps given that – as Anderson suggests – it would be wise to use Santa Barbara's resources to aid in the recovery of other surrounding communities.

A survey conducted during the final minutes of the discussion asked the attendees to describe Santa Barbara in one word. The safer “resilient” only won the second place spot. “Resilient,” in fact, was sandwiched between two different, more complicated distinctions: “affluent” and “entitled.”

“We're surrounded by communities who share our wildfire and debris flow risks, and I think it's imperative that we share our story so that those communities can learn from what we've done,” Anderson said.

“And so our story is powerful not just to this conversation, but it's powerful to other folks and I challenge everyone in this room to take our story out beyond the walls of this conversation.”

The full version of this article appears at dailynexus.com.

OPINION

Remembering Kobe: Reflections on the Loss of a Legend

Kian Karamdashti
Staff Writer

"Look at that night over there."
"What, the sunset? Yeah, it's nice tonight."
"No, the fog rolling in. That stuff is my worst nightmare."
I looked at what he was pointing at and saw a gloomy fog looming behind the majestic orange sunset.

It was Saturday evening. My pilot friend and I had a brief conversation on his Del Playa Drive balcony regarding the dangers and fears of flying in foggy conditions. It seemed like such a random and inconsequential conversation at the time. Afterward, I went on with my Saturday night not thinking anything of it. As many may know, it never really feels like anything that happens in Isla Vista has a connection to the real world, much less an effect on the people that we see under bright lights on television.

On Sunday morning at 9:47 a.m., a helicopter crashed into a steep hillside in Calabasas, killing all nine people on board. Along with seven other victims, the helicopter carried NBA legend Kobe Bryant and his daughter Gianna Bryant, an up-and-coming basketball player. The exact cause of the helicopter crash is still being determined; however, authorities suspect that low visibility was a major factor.

Seeing the words "Kobe Bryant is among those dead in a helicopter crash outside Los Angeles, a source confirms," at the top of my Twitter feed was a surreal feeling. A feeling that I still can't wrap my head around. My shift at work that day was a hazy, gloomy daze. I couldn't stop picking up my phone every two to three minutes hoping for news that it was a false report. The group chats on my phone were alight as my friends and I struggled to piece together how a man who was such a staple of American culture could be gone with the snap of a finger.

In those moments, I couldn't seem to comprehend why I cared this much about Kobe Bryant and the way he bowed out. Why was I so frantically refreshing my feed, hoping this was all just some sick joke?

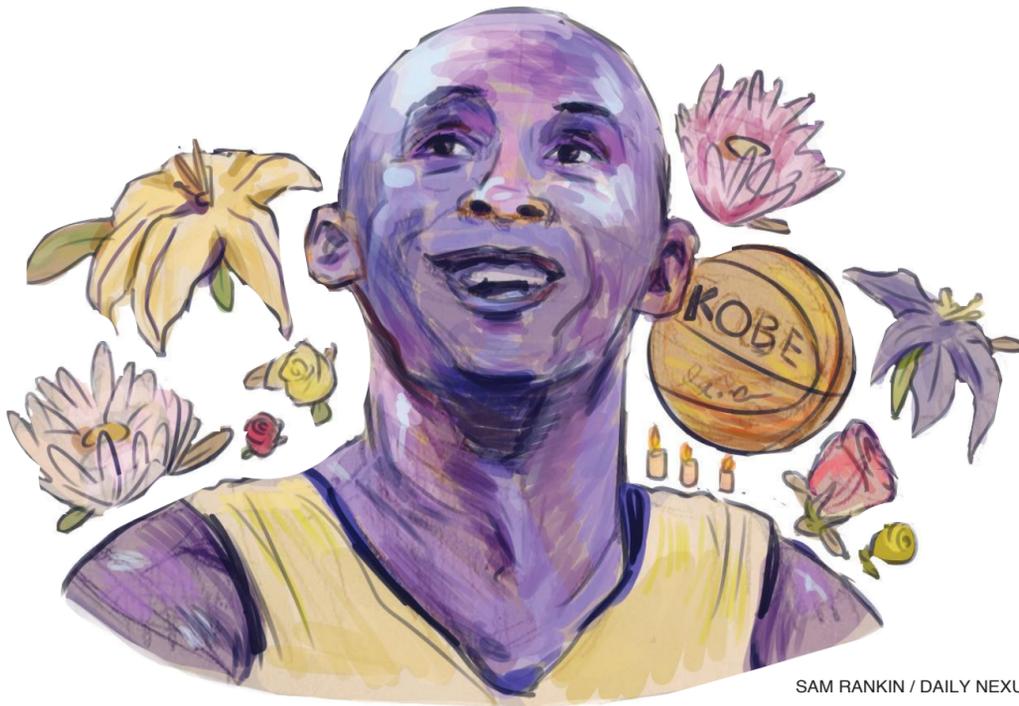
I mean, you could argue that I used to hate this guy. He was the asshole villain that always seemed to crush the dreams of my then-underdog team, the Golden State Warriors. The cocky demeanor. The stone-cold expressions. The trash talk to opposing players that he always backed up with his moves. He was the big dog every time he stepped on the court. A man no one could ever step up to and emerge as the victor. A man who once confiscated his teammates' pairs of his very own model shoes because they lost a game and he deemed they were too "soft" to wear them.

The only other celebrity death that has ever affected me was Mac Miller's passing in September 2018. I was a fan of the man's art and craft and truly resonated with the emotions and feelings that he brought to his music. It was often the soundtrack to my days and weeks; his evolution as an artist coincided with my own evolution into a grown man. As a guy who shows little emotion, it felt odd that Mac's death bothered me. I didn't know the guy at all and he certainly had no idea who I was. But I at least had the emotional connection I felt to his music to provide context for those feelings. So why did Kobe's sudden death feel much more difficult to comprehend? Why did the death of a man who had been putting balls through hoops for my rival team since I was born conjure up such distraught emotions within me?

No one likes to talk about it, especially in the wake of his passing, but it would not be appropriate to discuss Kobe's legacy without also mentioning the sexual assault allegations against him from 2003. The conclusion to the case did little to alleviate concerns of his guilt. It is not my place to evaluate the details of what may or may not have happened that night, but it is important in today's era of accountability that the existence of the claim is addressed rather than swept under the rug. It is part of his complicated story, whether people like it or not.

With all of these factors in mind, I didn't have much of a reason to feel an emotional attachment to this man. Yet over the years, I grew to respect the guy more and more.

In an era in which retired basketball players routinely criticize today's generation, Kobe was one of the few that uplifted and supported today's basketball stars. He was completely secure in his accomplishments and career, never feeling the need to bring new players down. He was an advocate for social justice,



SAM RANKIN / DAILY NEXUS

endorsing individuals such as the San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick in a time when it was financially risky to do so. Most of all, he honestly seemed like the ultimate family man in his post-retirement days. I had assumed Kobe was the kind of guy who would harp on and on about his glory days long after he stopped playing, but one look at his Instagram feed tells a totally different story. Picture after picture features other people: his family, his wife and kids, his former teammates, even photos of his daughter's basketball team. It takes a solid 15 seconds of scrolling to find even one picture of his famous purple and gold Lakers uniform, and even that photo included an ode to a former coach. Kobe outwardly cared about the people around him, which was refreshing behavior from an A-list celebrity, especially in a world where personal recognition is intensely sought after.

This familial love was particularly apparent in his relationship with his daughter Gianna. The two were seen at sporting events everywhere: front row at NBA games and WNBA games, on the sideline at the United States women's national soccer team matches and behind the scenes at events such as the NBA All-Star game. Just last month, a viral video of Kobe and his daughter sitting courtside analyzing the game in front of them showed just how deep their bond was. As a father of four girls, it was easy to make jokes at Kobe's expense for not having a son to be the "heir to his throne." However, he didn't seem to care. In a late night interview, when asked about who would carry on the family legacy Kobe said, "[Gianna's] got this."

What makes the two's sudden death even harder to swallow was the intended destination of the ill-fated helicopter ride – Gianna's basketball tournament at the Mamba Academy, a facility for boys and girls to hone their basketball craft, built by none other than Kobe himself. If there is any solace to be found in this tragedy, it is the fact that Kobe spent his last minutes doing what he loved – being a father.

As I began to acknowledge this other side of Kobe, one that I had ignored for so long, I began to understand why he was so revered and idolized. His "asshole" uber-competitive traits were signs of resilience and determination. His penchant for cockiness was the swagger of a man who truly earned every ounce of confidence he had. He was the guy who refused to come out of the game after an Achilles tear and scored two free throws for his team before hobbling off the court. The guy who retired from basketball and went on to win an Oscar two years later, because of course he could. A man who consistently upheld the values

that many strive for, while achieving heroic feats on a nightly basis on the court. He was the reason so many children grew up yelling "Kobe!" everytime they shot a paper ball into a trash can. For many people – the poor, sick, rich and down-on-their-luck – Kobe Bryant was the closest thing they ever had to a goddamn superhero.

And that's what makes it so difficult. This was not how it was ever supposed to end. There was no way in hell Kobe was ever going out on anything but his own terms. No fucking way. Kobe was a public pillar of strength and composure. The image of Kobe Bryant being in a helpless state in his final moments with his daughter beside him is unimaginable and crushing to everyone who revered him. It's a disturbing image. It just wasn't possible. If a superhero like Kobe Bryant could fall victim to the fragility of life, what chance do any of us stand?

So I get it. I get why my friends were crying all day when they heard the news. I get why NBA figures touched by this man were struggling to keep their composure. I get why the city of Los Angeles mourned publicly over a man many of them had never met. I can grasp why Kobe's shocking death shook me so much.

So how do you memorialize a person like Kobe Bryant, an imperfect but legendary figure? I honestly don't have the answer. From one angle, he should 100 percent face some sort of judgment and ramifications for his actions – no level of celebrity omits you from that. But on the flip side, you cannot deny the inspiration he instilled in millions of people all over the globe – not only from his playing days but from his evolution during the second half of his life as a father, an advocate for women's basketball and a person.

When I sat on that balcony on Saturday evening looking at the dooming fog, I had no idea the emotions and moral evaluations that it would bring forth. More importantly, I never believed it would mortalize (and immortalize) Kobe Bryant.

All I know is I really wish it never happened.

I wish we could have seen Gianna grow up to be the basketball star she was destined to be.

I wish we could have seen Kobe right there on the sideline, cheering her on.

Rest in peace Kobe Bryant, Gianna Bryant, Christina Mauser, Ara Zobayan, John Altobelli, Keri Altobelli, Alyssa Altobelli, Sarah Chester and Payton Chester.

Support COLA: UC Grad Students Deserve Better

Lexus Rodriguez
Staff Writer

This past December, UC Santa Cruz graduate students decided to go on a "wildcat strike," or work stoppage. This "occurs during the term of a collective bargaining agreement without the approval of union leadership and in violation of a no-strike clause." In doing this, they decided not to submit fall quarter grades because the university would not meet with them to discuss their demands for a cost-of-living adjustment, or COLA. Currently, they are asking for a COLA of \$1,412 per month to help alleviate rent burden, which is defined as spending more than 30% of one's income for rent. At the moment, the students' contract only offers a 3% increase to support the cost of living – many say this is not enough.

I strongly support the UC Santa Cruz graduate students because even though they make a similar amount as other graduate students at other UC campuses, the cost of living is more expensive than in some areas of the state, causing them to live in terrible conditions. It also affects undergraduate students and, so far, the university has taken steps to avoid addressing the demands.

Graduate students are simply not being paid enough for the amount of work they contribute to the school. Overall, at 50% appointment, they can be assigned a workload of 220 hours per quarter. Depending on the instructor and course, they can be asked to do a lot of the grading for undergraduate classes and interfacing with students and contribute valuable research. Currently, for 50% appointment at UC Santa Cruz, TAs are paid \$2,434 monthly and \$21,906 annually. More than 50% of this income goes to their housing after taxes. For 50% appointment, TAs at UC Davis, UC San Diego, UC Irvine, UC Los Angeles and here at UC Santa Barbara earn around the same amount monthly and yearly.

However, since the cost of living is different depending on the area, the same amount of pay can feel like less for graduate students at UCSC. A poll conducted at UCSB of around 600 graduate students found that respondents spent on average 48% of their income on rent. Low pay and a high cost of living have caused significant rent burden that not only affects UCSC but also graduate students at other UC campuses.

Moreover, at different UC campuses, rent burden causes graduate students to subject themselves to horrible housing conditions. At UCSC, an anonymous graduate student detailed their living situation, saying, "In my previous home I was subject to 5 years of stachybotrys poisoning due to a criminally negligent landlord and having no affordable alternatives. I go into debt every month while skipping meals and going to the OPERS food pantry three times a week despite being in the 2nd highest tier of pay among graduate students."

Here at UCSB, graduate students who were interviewed at last Wednesday's "sick-out" spoke about how some of their coworkers are homeless, working multiple jobs and having difficulty finding job opportunities in the summer.

I interviewed an international graduate student who works as a TA. The student talked about how rent burden has affected her life, mentioning a difficult time with a landlord who wanted to move back into the house. "My roommates who are not international students had a little bit more to work with... I had to say, no guys, sorry I can't because that little bit extra you're willing to stretch is impossible for me."

She also said, "It's stressful because you feel so vulnerable so much of the time and it is the kind of stress that wakes you up in the night and the kind of stress that invades your day in a way that can impede productivity and creativity, which are the things we come here to do."

These issues affect undergraduate students as well. Rent burden impacts how effectively graduate students can do their jobs when they are worried about their own well-being. It is safe to assume that they are not going to worry about grading someone's paper when they are worried about eating and sleeping. As such, undergraduates may not be receiving the education for which they paid.

Undergraduates and graduates should support one another if they hope to gain the university's cooperation. Currently, UCSC has not done anything to lift the burden off of students. The administration has expressed that it cannot address a wage increase because they are legally prohibited from negotiating and because the students have to go through the proper channels to negotiate with their union representative and United Auto Workers (UAW

2865), the union they are contracted under. It has also stated that it will not meet with students because work stoppage is illegal and violates their contract.

In response to this refusal to negotiate, the UCSC Graduate Student Association stated that "there is nothing in state or federal labor law that prevents an employer from meeting with workers in an effort to resolve a dispute while workers are in contract even if these workers are engaging in a wildcat work stoppage." Sarah Mason, a former unit chair for their campus union said, "There is nothing in labor law that prevents an employer and a union from voluntarily agreeing to reopen contracts."

Veronica Hamilton, a UCSC UAW 2865 unit chair, has formally requested to meet to discuss COLA. This clearly shows that the university is not worried about the legal aspects of negotiating with students – it is just not willing to meet because it does not want to.

In order to counteract the graduate students, the university has tried to get lecturers to confiscate exam materials in situations in which they would ordinarily be collected and graded by graduate students to circumvent the non-grading of assignments. The university has also told undergraduate students that the withheld work would result in "potential disqualification, being unable to enroll in classes that require a prerequisite taken this quarter, and delays in financial aid and graduation." However, multiple steps have been taken to protect undergraduates. Since UCSC will not cooperate, a poll has determined that the GSA will potentially withhold winter quarter grades, with 83% of students supporting the hold of final grades and 50% supporting holding all the grades.

With low pay, high cost of living and terrible housing conditions, it can be hard for graduate students to do their job as effectively as they would like. It is important that undergraduates and graduates remain informed about the previously mentioned issues as the strike moves forward. These issues affect everyone on campus, and the only way change can occur is if students do their due diligence and offer their support.

Lexus Rodriguez strongly believes that employed graduate students need and deserve a COLA.

HOROSCOPES

The Signs as Divisive Issues

ARIES
MARCH 21 - APRIL 19

Adam Driver's hotness

TAURUS
APRIL 20 - MAY 20

Grocery-store soft frosted sugar cookies

GEMINI
MAY 21 - JUNE 20

Barefooting

CANCER
JUNE 21 - JULY 22

God is Dead

LEO
JULY 23 - AUGUST 22

Big romantic gestures

VIRGO
AUGUST 23 - SEPTEMBER 22

Drinking a glass of milk

LIBRA
SEPTEMBER 23 - OCTOBER 22

Hannah Brown continually showing up on Pilot Pete's season of The Bachelor

SCORPIO
OCTOBER 23 - NOVEMBER 21

Presidential impeachment

SAGITTARIUS
NOVEMBER 22 - DECEMBER 21

Boosted Boards in the bike lane

CAPRICORN
DECEMBER 22 - JANUARY 19

Paper straws

AQUARIUS
JANUARY 20 - FEBRUARY 18

Peeing in the shower

PISCES
FEBRUARY 19 - MARCH 20

Dave Chappelle