Students Reflect on the 2020 Presidential Election and Prepare for Political Divisiveness

Asumi Shuda
Staff Writer

Following a divisive election season between President-elect Joe Biden's victory over President Donald Trump, voters across the country and the political spectrum have displayed a wide array of reactions and emotions, from celebrations outside the White House to "Stop the Steal" protests in favor of Trump. At UC Santa Barbara, students have expressed mixed opinions regarding post-election partisan tensions.

From warnings of post-election violence to cities and businesses putting plywood over their buildings in anticipation of rioting, concerns over Trump's refusal to accept the election results have caused some students — in both Ila Vista and their hometowns — to worry about civil unrest.

"I think there is a real possibility that demonstrations from both sides in states where votes have still not been tallied could turn ugly, and I worry that more people will be politically injured," first-year mechanical engineering major Cesar Castillo said.

"The fact of the matter is that our political discourse has devolved from civil to barbaric acts and blatant displays of hatred and cruelty," he continued.

For Castillo, who currently resides in Northern California, the possibility that violence could occur in his hometown is not a concern of much. However, he is worried that Santa Barbara County may see partisan unrest and hopes that UCSB students will keep their wits and take any necessary safety precautions.

"Do not let emotions overcome your rational thought, and focus on your own safety and the safety of those living with you," Castillo said. "Everything will be alright in the end.

For the Isla Vista Community Services District (IV, CSD), there is little to no concern of violent demonstrations and law enforcement has not provided any information on possible threats in the area, according to IV CSD General Manager Jonathan Abboud and IV CSD Board President Spencer Brandt.

For first-year global studies major Micah Dashi, on the other hand, concern over a possible rise in hate crimes in her hometown as well as the surrounding areas in the next few weeks are founded in part due to claims that she has been primarily residing at home in Carson, California, she worries for her workers and family members, especially individuals with Black male family members, specifically with Black men being lynched right out in the open, so that is definitely not safe," Dashi said.

"My fear comes from the fact that our neighbors are not safe from these kinds of crimes are more rampant, so something could happen," Dashi said.

Dashi keeps a packed bag of necessities and has stockpiled up on groceries in response to news outlets reporting of violence during and after election day.

"Once I heard that people were planning on doing things to get revenge — I just decided to not make a bag packed with clothes and necessities," Dashi said. "We are going shopping tomorrow, so we may purposely cough on you or we may generally come close to someone. That's why we are always better to be safe than sorry.

Similarly, Abboud and Brandt urged the community to continue following COVID-19 safety health and election related disturbances occur or not.

"It is important to understand that we are in the midst of a pandemic, and that we need to stay vigilant in keeping our communities safe and healthy," Brandt added.

Castillo has had hopes for the future with the results of this election. He said that he thinks Biden's victory is the first step toward unifying a country that currently is in a state of polarization.

"I think this is the first of many steps that the country will take in order to improve," Castillo said. "We voted out a president with autocratic aspirations, but in order to achieve a more perfect union there is still lots of work to be done."
ARTS & LECTURES PRESENTS: SHEKU KANNEH-MASON AND ISATA KANNEH-MASON

Grace your quarantine routine with an evening of harmonious piano and cello music, brought to you by Sheku Kanneh-Mason and Isata Kanneh-Mason, two of seven musical siblings with a worldwide following. Following from Nottingham, England. The two will be playing over Zoom on Nov. 17 from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Attendees will be able to create their own zines — self-made books of texts and images — while learning about the craft from university librarians. At the end, attendees will have the opportunity to submit their work to the University Library’s COVID-19 Community Archives Project, which is documenting life during the pandemic.

OPEN MIC AND AN EVENING OF SELF EXPRESSION

Do you miss sharing art with friends? Or spoken word on the center stage? UCSB’s MultiCultural Center has got you covered! Swing by Doors to Accelerating Success (ONDAS) Student Center is hosting a “First-Gen Zine Night” on Tuesday, Nov. 17, from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Attendees will have the opportunity to submit their work to the University Library’s COVID-19 Community Archives Project, which is documenting life during the pandemic.

MISSED DELIRIUM WITH OMAR APOLLO AND GUNNA OR PETE DAVIDSON AND ALEX MOFFAT?

DISTANCING WITH DAVID DOBRIK? BRETMAN ROCK?

DON’T MISS OUT AGAIN, KEEP UP WITH US:
2020 Election Results: Santa Barbara County Victories and Campaign Promises

Staff Report

With an 84% voter turnout as of Nov. 10, over 192,000 Santa Barbara County voters cast their ballots in this year’s national election.

The Nexus compiled information about several winners from this year’s election. Read about their campaign promises and what they plan to do during their times in their respective offices below:

24th Congressional District
Representative Salud Carbajal

With 62.59% of the vote, UC Santa Barbara alumna Salud Carbajal (D) won California’s 24th Congressional District for a third consecutive term, beating out his opponent, Andy Caldwell (R). His campaign centered around Central Coast values, middle class support, environmental preservation efforts and reproductive justice.

In a statement to the Nexus, Carbajal said he plans to use his third term “to deliver another COVID-19 relief package, expand access to affordable and high quality healthcare, protect our environment, create economic opportunities and so much more.”

19th District State Senator Monique Limón

Monique Limón (D) won California’s 19th District State Senate seat by 64.82%. The current assemblymember campaigned on environmentalism, health care access, feminism, consumer protections and natural disaster prevention, recovery and response, bearing out her opponent Gary Michaels (R).

Currently, Limón serves as the 57th State Assembly District’s representative and will transition to her State Senate seat in January 2021.

In a statement to the Nexus, Limón said that she plans to use her term in office to “protect our environment, advance access to health care, champion education opportunities, prepare for natural disasters and work with local communities to respond to COVID and safely reopen our economy.”

7th District State Assemblymember Steve Bennett

Steve Bennett (D) will serve as the next State Assemblymember for the 7th District, which encompasses Santa Barbara County and Ventura County. Bennett defeated Charles Cole (R) with 62.6% of the vote.

Bennett is currently finishing his fifth term on the Ventura County Board of Supervisors, and before that worked as a high school teacher and served on the Ventura City Council. Bennett said two areas he plans to focus on during his term are finding effective renewable energy storage and addressing the “negative impacts of growing income inequality” in his district.

“People trapped at the bottom need affordable housing, access to good healthcare and quality training and education for themselves and their children,” Bennett said in a statement to the Nexus.

I.V. CSD 2-Year Term Catherine Flaherty

Catherine Flaherty won against her opponent Daniel Mitchell, gaining 78.86% of the vote in Isla Vista and a 2-year term on the Ida Vista Community Services District board of directors. The three-year UCSB student centered her campaign platform on creating an I.V. planning commission to address parking and lighting needs and increasing awareness and education on the coronavirus, especially during the COVID-19 safety in I.V. will be her number one priority once she takes office, she said.

“So many residents in our community do take the precautions seriously, but I think the board can still do more in helping to stop the spread,” Flaherty said in a message on election night.

Flaherty is also the newly appointed internal vice president of the Associated Students at UCSB. She studies history of public policy and political science and is a member of the Alpha Chi Omega sorority.

Flaherty is replacing outgoing director Kristie Nguyen, a fourth-year sociology and Asian American studies double major, who is scheduled to graduate from UCSB at the end of Fall Quarter 2020.

I.V. CSD 4-Year Term Ethan Bertrand

Ethan Bertrand ran unopposed for a 4-year term on the Ida Vista Community Services District board of directors. Since he was not focused on campaigning for an election, Aguilar said he spent the bulk of his time going door to door registering voters along with Bertrand.

Two major issues Aguilar said plans to address as director are the COVID-19 pandemic and the recent influx of houselessness in I.V., which he says is partially due to COVID-19.

“I really want to ensure that local residents feel safe in our community, and this goes especially for Black and brown persons, women and our LGBTQ community here,” Aguilar said.

“This year has shown that there’s a lot of division in our country. This community is unique in the sense that it’s always growing and evolving, and it can grow and evolve to be a very loving and equitable community.”

Aguilar is replacing outgoing director Father Jon-Stephen Hedges.

IVRPD Short-Term Mia Rahman

Mia Rahman, a second-year UC Santa Barbara student, won the short-term Isla Vista Parks and Recreation board seat with 56.89% of the vote. Rahman said she is dedicated to providing inclusive, equitable parks programming and protecting I.V’s houseless community while also creating clean, sustainable parks.

Rahman, who has served as a community board member since August, said in a statement to the Nexus that she hopes to continue her community-centric programming and make the park safe for all, creating, including “socially distant organized activities including yoga, dance, live music, frisbee golf tournaments, group walks, etc, so that people may feel less isolated, while still keeping our community safe and healthy.”

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VOTED

KATHY CASTILLO / DAILY NEXUS

Courtesy of Monique Limón

Courtesy of Monique Limón

Courtesy of Catherine Flaherty

DANIELA GOMEZ / DAILY NEXUS

DANIELA GOMEZ / DAILY NEXUS

SABRINA ARBOGAST / DAILY NEXUS

Thursday, November 12, 2020
Many Isla Vistans showed up on Election Day to cast their ballots at the two local polling locations: Isla Vista Community Center and Santa Catalina Hall. Election night concluded in Santa Barbara with Joe Biden taking the county by a significant lead in the presidential race, according to official tallies.

Daily Nexus photographers documented scenes at polling places in I.V. throughout the day.

Given that university housing has been mostly evacuated since the beginning of the pandemic, the number of polling locations near the UC Santa Barbara campus was greatly reduced. One of the polling sites was located at the Linda Vista Room of Santa Catalina Residence Hall.

Social distancing measures were in place at the polling sites. At Santa Catalina Residence Hall, a notice to follow safety guidelines was displayed alongside the American flag. Several voters interviewed by the Nexus acknowledged that the COVID-19 pandemic added special meaning to the election.

Meanwhile, on the streets of Isla Vista, campaigns promoting participation in the election or candidates were ongoing. Ethan Bertrand, a director for the I.V. Community Services District, tabled on Pardall Road. Bertrand was excited for everyone to vote and unleash the anxiety and excitement that had been building up in the community. "I did not really sleep last night because I was just anxious for this day," he told the Nexus. "We have been waiting for this day for four years."
The Gen Z Vote: Direct Outreach in the 2020 Election

Fifteen million new Generation Z voters have registered to vote since the 2016 presidential election, becoming a key demographic in this year's election season and a more robust political voice on social media than ever before. Instagram, Twitter, TikTok have become stepping grounds for youth to show support for their candidate of choice, while politicians attempt to find new ways to cater to younger voters online.

Abigail Alvarado
Ragan Wheatley
Reporters

While the world watched Joe Biden become the next president-elect of the United States last week, UC Santa Barbara students from across the globe turned to social media platforms to express their political and social views on the election.

While many Gen Z voters saw Joe Biden, a second-year political science major, as their candidate of choice and voices from many other countries on TikTok is "kind of funny," said Charlie Lewis, a second-year political science major from the United States on social media.

This election has seen historic rates of young voter turnout with more than a document in an interview with the Nexus.

"Historically, speaking, it makes sense that presidential candidate campaigns focus more on older voters, said Lane. "Voters between the ages of 18 to 24 have consistently voted at the lowest rate in the country, and candidates' campaign spending reflects this pattern," he added.

A "Settle for Biden" rhetoric has emerged from many Gen Z voters who originally supported more progressive Democratic candidates like Bernie Sanders or Elizabeth Warren. Initially just a phrase used among left-leaning voters, it has evolved into a full movement. Self-described as a website as voters who "recognize Joe Biden’s flaws but know that our nation will not survive four more years of Donald Trump," the movement pushed for a vote against Trump than a vote for Biden.

Now that Biden has won more than 70% electoral votes, the "Settle for Biden" movement has been called into question. On Instagram that it plans to "hold the Biden-Harris administration accountable" and wants to "push Biden to be the most progressive president in American history," finds "unambarrassed," meaning that many of those wanting to vote for Biden, which seems like a "poor approach.""It's too boring to vote for Biden," she said, and that even in the election, the Spanish Civil War represented the individuals as well as a leverage," Wang continued.

"I definitely saw it as a screen for the election. After a long period of time without a leader, I was just a weak political play with no strength," said Wang.

"I think that's the kind of communication we're gonna see once millennials get into higher office. They're closer in age and understand digital culture.

Wang mentioned the rise of TikTok and Twitter as personal identity and political views go hand-in-hand for younger voters, according to Lane. "I would hold up (Ocasio-Cortez) as a better example of someone who really gets how to connect with younger voters," said Lane. "I think that's the kind of communication we're gonna see once millennials get into higher office. They're closer in age and understand digital culture."

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Proposition 16, the latest in a series of two decades of efforts to bring affirmative action back to California, failed to pass in last week's general election, upholding that race cannot be used in admissions or employment decisions in public institutions across the state, including the University of California.

Affirmative action was first banned in California in 1996 under Proposition 209. The vote to repeal the ban on the most recent ballot gained large support from the UC system and its students, but ultimately, the vote failed in the California general election, with 56.2% of voters voting "no" on repealing the affirmative action ban and 43.5% in favor of the repeal. The proposition needed more than 50% of the vote to pass.

For student leaders on the "front lines" of campaigning, the decision came as a blow for those hoping to bring greater racial diversity to the UC system, according to Aidan Arasasingham, president of the UC Student Association (UCSA). He said that Proposition 16 was UCSA's "number one electoral priority" this fall.

"The failure of affirmative action in California is really a history of antivalent (sic) undermining," said Arasasingham. "Students have been on the frontlines of affirmative action since the civil rights movements in the 1960s and 25 years on the battle against Proposition 209," Arasasingham said. "And like any student leaders really feel like we stand on the shoulders of those giants who came before us.""This fight began before we came to campus and unfortunately with the failure of Proposition 16, this fight will continue long after we leave campus," he continued.

Affirmative action allows public employers, such as universities and government offices, to factor in a person's race, gender or ethnicity in hiring and admissions. Bringing back affirmative action would allow public employers to consider race in admissions and employment decisions. If passed, Proposition 16 would have permitted the option to do so under California law.

Arasasingham said he supported Proposition 16 over Proposition 209, which was on the ballot last November. "We've seen from this election that the more people know about it, the more likely they were to vote "yes" on Prop 16," he said. "In this environment, where attention spans were limited, misinformation on the part of No On 16 was able to spread so pervasively. People were more confused about Prop 15, and the idea of a resignation of confirmation, they were more likely to vote "no.""

In a Nov. 4 statement, the University of California, Office of the President (UCOP) explained that it would not force public employers to consider race in their admissions and employment decisions, but would "permit the option to do so under California law."

"The failure of Proposition 16 means barriers will remain in place to the detriment of underrepresented families and California at large. We will not accept inequality on our campuses and will continue addressing the inequitable effects of Prop 209," said a spokesperson for Assistant Vice President Joe jmp Perez said in the statement.

The ban on affirmative action in California has directly impacted admissions diversity in the UC system over the past 25 years. According to the UC, the systemwide undergraduate group enrollment by at least 12% and up to 18% - from 1998 to 2000.

"The failure of this decline could have arisen from the elimination of race from financial aid and other student-centered efforts," according to Arasasingham. "As soon as Prop 209 was implemented in fall 1998, the divide between campus communities increased.

"If we're going to really focus on the comprehensive method "seeks to fully understand and evaluation each applicant through multiple dimensions - including race and gender from that point on," Arasasingham added.

"We've seen from this election that there are just such large swaths of voters that are not ready for these policy changes. Essentially, their minds need to be changed, and that's why we're taking a lot of work. We have a lot more to do, even in California, a seemingly progressive state," she continued.

Proposition 16 did fail to pass. What's next for the UC System?

While affirmative action is still banned, Arasasingham said that the UC still has other options to help bring more students from marginalized communities into the UC system without considering race.

He pointed to the Student Academic Preparation and Educational Partnerships (SAPPE) program to students in the top 4% of their class. From 2001 to 2011, URG enrollment increased by about 4%.

"It's disappointing to see the UC abandon policies - including holistic admissions review policies that place less emphasis on grades - but also in our education for the students in the top 4% of their class. From 2001 to 2011, URG enrollment increased by about 4%.

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With the 2019-20 season having ended early due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Gauchos were unable to see what they could have achieved at the semina of the Big West Men's basketball championships. But the prospect of a new season brings with it hope and aspirations: a Big West title. Ever since the 2017-18 season, UC Santa Barbara has consistently performed as the second-best team in the Big West Conference, boasting an overall record of 21-18 last season. Their dominance over the past couple of years has set them up to win their first championship this season since 2001.

With rival UC Irvine as the clear threat to achieving this goal, the team will be looking to make up some major losses, with five players having graduated from last year's team, including Max Heidegger, who was the team's leading scorer. However, it is worth noting that the Gauchos won 11 of the 13 games that he missed, showing that the other players are capable of stepping up when needed. Regardless of losing five members this year, the team is full of experienced players.

The Gauchos will be looking to lock down last season's leading scorer and the 7-1 rebounder, Touré, who will be asked to step up, and possibly even be given the keys to the backup starting lineup. Touré will be asked to step up because this conference is known for its high-scoring teams, and the Gauchos will need to fill the void left by Heidegger as the team's top scorer.

As for the forward, Sow will be looking to bolster the team's rebounding and shot-blocking, as both of which he already improved last year with his team-high 7 rebounds and 1.1 blocks per game. The Gauchos will be asked to step up, and the potential is there. Forward Robinson Idoko and Jay Nagle will be asked to complement Sow in the starting lineup. Nagle is a versatile big with a 7-3 game, shooting 40% from deep for his career, while Idoko is big with a soft touch and good defensive aptitude.

UCSB looks to Build Off of Strong 2019-20 Campaign

UCSB Tennis Coaches Speak on New Artificial Turf for 2021 Season

With the return of Dana Miller for her senior year, UCSB will have elite players in addition to the Gauchos who take advantage of space in the defense. Last season, Dana Miller averaged a career-high 13.3 points per game while also dishing out 4 assists per game. With University of Houston transfer Dorian Jones eligible to play this season, UCSB will have a formidable backcourt. In addition, Hampshire will likely need to rely on Arya Choue and Alyssa Marie, two freshmen guards whom Hampshire praised heavily.

Beyond that, however, there's still a bit of an air in the UCSB, at least in terms of numbers. Hampshire said the team is working on submitting waivers to gain eligibility for two transfers: junior guard-forward Taylor Mole and junior guard Morgan Anderson. Mole — a 6'2'' transfer from Colorado State — would provide the Gauchos with some needed height, while Anderson contributed last season in 3-pointers made and would help space the floor further.

If those waivers are denied — and they will likely either both be accepted or both be denied — then UCSB will only have 10 active players for the season. "We're going to have to be creative on our bench," Hampshire said. "I would say we could play more var [to limit running], but we can't play var because this conference shoots the ball so well. We have to be smart on the court and look to follow the ball and make sure we're in the right spots for the shots."

While the nonconference schedule is yet to be finalized, it is likely that the Gauchos will open the season in late November. UCSB has scheduled seven nonconference games, including a home game against Oregon. UCSB will play a handful of nonconference games in November and December before opening conference play on Dec. 27 against UC Irvine.

"This is a way different than anything else," Hampshire said. "I really like this group, and I want to have a meaningful season for our seniors."
Joshen Mantal Staff Writer

This year amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, UC Santa Barbara’s Associated Students Program Board moved its annual Halloween concert Delirium online and adapted it into a two-night entertainment fest.

Delirium’s first night featured Saturday Night Live (SNL) cast members and comedians Pete Davidson and Alex Moffat, who spoke to students about their careers and Davidson’s favorite strains of marijuana as part of Associated Students (A.S.) Program Board members Gabriel Reyes and Emily Kooch, who presented a mix of prepared questions as well as questions posted by students.

The event started at 9:30 p.m. on Zoom, with Davidson and Moffat appearing on-screen together from SNL’s studio in New York City. Davidson awkwardly greeted students with “Go Rams!” — seemingly unaware that UCSC’s mascot is the Gaucho — before mentioning that they were on set right before getting ready to film for the highly-anticipated season 27 of SNL.

The Zoom chat was initially flooded with comments and questions directed toward Davidson. “It’s like you’re my girlfriend qualifications!” (“Pete I’m single!”), including several inquiries regarding Davidson’s thoughts on on-screen Ariana Grande’s new album “Positions,” which had dropped the previous night. Despite attendees’ heightened interest in these topics, the moderators first asked Davidson to speak more about his interest in marijuana and what he thought about it to film reality series, such as the one thing each performer could not live without. Moffat responded to this round of rapid-fire questions, highlighting their athletic careers, which Davidson revealed that he prefers indica over sativa.

Later in the conversation, Davidson and Moffat recounted their favorite SNL memories, including their favorite hosts. Davidson said that his favorite was comedian Bill Burr, while Moffat named Will Ferrell. In regards to staying in character, Davidson joked that he is “one of the worst live-sketch performers of all time” for never being able to keep a straight face or hold back his laughter.

Davidson went on to talk about how he got his start in comedy, moving from a Wendy’s, where he admitted to working, and into a role as a busboy and chauffeur. When Davidson chose weed over coke, much to the surprise of his friends, Davidson joked that he is “one of the worst live-sketch performers of all time.”

Among Us” until the early hours of Wednesday morning, Davidson and Moffat’s Starbucks orders: “Drip Too Hard” and “Frío,” ending his set with a “Trouble.”

Later in the conversation, Davidson and Moffat discussed their favorite strains of marijuana. Davidson said he prefers indica over sativa. “I’m single!”, including several attendees in the chat who wanted to pursue his talent for improv and sketch comedy in Delirium 2020: A Two-Night Virtual Experience Featuring Pete Davidson.

Sunidhi Sridhar Artweek Editor

By this point, most of us have had our preferred escape method from the bleak reality of the COVID-19 pandemic, whether that be arguing with strangers about politics, learning to speed read, or binge-watching hours of the morning or the baking Sunday morning. So, for the “Six Cents” team, “Going into this, I wanted it not to be self-centered. We all shared versions of the episodes, so that was cool to have all of us involved,” Yansane said.

When asked if the episodes are scripted, all of the dialogue flows naturally. “We [used to] record our shows together from SNL’s studio in New York City. Davidson awkwardly greeted students with “Go Rams!” — seemingly unaware that UCSC’s mascot is the Gaucho — before mentioning that they were on set right before getting ready to film for the highly-anticipated season 27 of SNL.”

As our podcast grew, we’re left political podcast based in Oakland. Yansane listed “The Joe Rogan Experience” as an interesting listen to get some perspective from the conservative side, even though Kenney’s career of “Apolonio.” Apollo’s career has forced them to adapt to the changing circumstances.

Even though the podcast is on ice for the time being, the creators of “Six Cents” are optimistic about the future of their show and are grateful for the friendships they’ve formed along the way. “The main thing is we are growing as a family. As our podcast grew, especially in the beginning, I feel like we really clicked,” Jassar exclaimed. Kiruuta echoed Jassar’s sentiments, saying that what he likes the most about their show is its authenticity.

“Going into this, I wanted it not to be just us, speaking from our hearts.”

 Courtesy of “Six Cents” Podcast YouTube
It's Satire, Stupid.

In an only slightly shocking turn of events, it appears as if the various fraternities of Isla Vista have collectively tested positive for every disease known to modern medicine. This update comes as disheartening news as Isla Vista continues to be the coronavirus hot spot for all of Santa Barbara County and winter classes are set to be almost entirely online.

Public health officials have been reached out to for comment but were too busy banging their heads against the walls of their office and muttering, “How fucking dumb can these kids be,” under their breaths.

“I am shocked and outraged,” one A.S. senator posted publicly in response to this news. She continued, “I will do everything in my power to make sure that the frats are held responsible for the damage they are causing the community.” She has since posted three infographics to her Instagram story and introduced no legislation to the Senate.

Upon further investigation, it seems as if the different frat houses across I.V. have taken de facto specialties in their contracting. Some have gone for domestic diseases, some have gone for diseases that target specific systems within the body and, while most houses have a respectable collection of STIs, some houses seem to be looking to collect every strain of every STI in every combination possible.

“Well, we all have COVID. Neil went on to the South and came back with West Nile and I somehow got Zika. Remember that one?” asked Stuart Spredder, a member of a frat that has been dabbling in some classic diseases from the news cycle of the 2010s. “It wasn’t really a conscious effort at first, but once we saw how quickly we could spread a bit of SARS, we started to take pride in our immense infectiousness.”

This reporter is not an epidemiologist, but he does know that while some diseases fare best in humid environments and some fare best in dry environments, it seems that the diseases present in the frat houses of Isla Vista fare best in stupid environments.

A. Wiessass puts the PP in PPE ;-)
DIY Philz Iced Mint Mojito

Phila Coffee is a Bay Area staple known for its artisanal coffee blends and unique takes on your everyday iced latte. One of the chain’s most popular drinks is their Iced Mint Mojito, and for good reason. While coffee and mint may seem like an odd combination at first, the bitterness of the coffee is perfectly complemented by the sweet, refreshing notes of mint, and the drink itself is smooth and creamy.

With a price tag of $5 a cup, Phila’s Iced Mint Mojito is definitely not cheap. Using just a few simple ingredients that you probably already have in your kitchen, you can recreate this iconic drink on a budget.Super easy!

**Ingredients:**
- 2 shots of hot espresso or 1/2 cup of strongly brewed coffee
- 1 cup of milk of your choice
- 2 teaspoons of sugar
- 4-6 mint leaves, 1 optional garnish
- ½ cup of ice

**Directions:**
1. Place your mint leaves in a small bowl or coffee mug. Cover them with the 2 teaspoons of sugar.
2. With a mortar or metal spoon, grind the mint leaves and sugar in small circles until the mixture is fragrant. The sugar helps the mint leaves break down and release oils.
3. Pour freshly brewed espresso or coffee into a bowl/coffee mug with mint and sugar mixture.
4. Carefully pour coffee mixture into a cup, so as to not let the mint leaves fall in. Placing a mesh strainer over the cup may be helpful.
5. Top cup with 2 tablespoons of heavy cream. Feel free to add more if you would like your drink to be more creamy.
6. Stir the drink all together with a spoon or straw, and garnish with a sprig of mint. Enjoy!

While nothing can really beat the authentic Phila’s Iced Mint Mojito, this recipe is a great alternative for those who do not live near a Phila Coffee. The secret to this recipe is letting the crushed mint leaves steep in the hot coffee to get that hint of mint, and topping the drink with cream to mimic the creaminess of Phila Coffee drinks. Even for people who are not familiar with Phila, this DIY Iced Mint Mojito is a fun, easy way to elevate your typical iced coffee.

Kyle’s Kitchen, a fast-casual restaurant with a variety of healthy comfort food options, recently opened its newest location in Isla Vista, replacing Silvergreens on the corner of Pardall and Embarcadero Del Mar. The menu highlights all of the most popular burgers, salads and the new Krappy Chicken Sandwich that everyone has been craving, and I knew I had to try after seeing lines out the door for this hot commodity.

Upon entering Kyle’s LV, I was welcomed by lively employees and a clean, inviting atmosphere. There was a sign reading, “Our buns melt in your mouth!” Right then I was intrigued. I wanted to try an array of items on the menu, so I got the Stazed Ahl salad, the Krappy Chicken Sandwich and their Hand-Cut French Fries.

First, I tried the salad, which I noticed comes in a pop bowl. This is a plastic bowl that’s packaged tightly with a lid, and the bottom expands when you’re ready to pour in the dressing and shake it up. This cool and convenient concept is original to Kyle’s Kitchen and has been used in Kyle’s locations for a while now. It’s also reusable so you can take it home to use for your own salads.

The Stazed Ahl salad included a mix of fresh field greens, napa cabbage, mandarin oranges, wonton strips and a sesame ginger dressing. I thought the flavors melded perfectly, and it was refreshing and delicious. I loved the dressing and the crunch that the wontons bring to the dish as a whole. This was a great start to my taste test and I would definitely go back for this salad again!

Then I tried the Krappy Chicken Sandwich, which has been getting lots of attention from locals in Isla Vista. It pairs fried chicken with either their OG Garlic Aioli or Kyle’s Spicy Sauce and dill pickles – all on a brioche bun. I opted for the spicy version. The chicken itself was very juicy on the inside and crispy on the outside which created the perfect combination of textures. The saltiness from the pickles and tanginess from the spicy sauce added bursts of flavor to the sandwich.

However, I thought the whole ensemble was quite simple since it only included two ingredients besides the bun and the patty. After taking my first few bites, I noticed that the bun really did melt in my mouth. It was soft, sweet and warm, which made all the difference.

I later found out about a perfect alternative that would satisfy my need for the perfect chicken sandwich. Kyle’s allows you to substitute their Krappy Chicken Breast onto any of their other burgers, which include ingredients such as lettuce, tomato, cheese, jalapenos and crispy onion strings. Next time I visit Kyle’s, I will definitely try this option out. However, if you like to keep things simple, the Krappy Chicken Sandwich (as is) would be perfect for you.

The Hand Cut French Fries are double fried and sprinkled with the perfect amount of herbs and seasoning. I loved how these had a bold flavor and a crunchy texture. When I first heard they were double fried, I was worried they would be too hard, but they were cooked to perfection. If you’re a sauce person like me, ranch and ketchup make the most delicious additions. I couldn’t stop eating them!

Overall, Kyle’s Ilsa Vista is an amazing addition to downtown IV. The food is great and it’s just a quick walk or bike ride away from locals in the IV area. Even though the menu is on the simple side, there are a considerable amount of options that will satisfy everyone’s personal preferences. Not to mention, they’re always having deals!

Kyle’s weekly menu deals are happening until the end of the year and feature one discounted menu item for the whole week each time. Make sure to stay tuned to the Kyle’s Kitchen Instagram (@kyles_3r) to see which items are on sale every week.

Kyle’s Isla Vista: The New Krappy Chicken Sandwich

On the Menu

**Pumpkin Rice Krispies Treats**

Yuriko Chavez
Staff Writer

What better way to get into the autumn season than making tiny pumpkins? These cute and small desserts are so adorable and extremely fun to make! They make perfect party favors or a sweet treat to snack on in between classes.

**Ingredients:**
- 1 bag of marshmallows
- 3 tablespoons of butter
- Pretzel sticks
- Cooking oil spray or liquid
- Red and yellow food coloring

**Directions:**
2. Add 2 drops of yellow food coloring and one drop of red food coloring. Stir until completely blended.
3. Pour into a box of Rice Krispies Cereal. Stir until Rice Krispies are completely covered by orange-mallows mixture and then transfer into a bowl.
4. Apply cooking oil to hands, and roll Rice Krispies treats into balls. Stick a pretzel stick in the center of the ball.

These make a great autumn activity to share with you and your family and are incredibly delicious!
The first goal of this conversation is to establish common ground -- don't bring up facts right away. What does your sibling believe? For some, this might be a responsibility to future generations to maintain the same wilderness and quality of life. For others, this might be a fear of the loss of natural beauty or that natural beauty is vanishing due to climate change. So, this is where you begin. Set the stage for a productive conversation by first understanding your loved one's conversation partner on the level that they're at and provide information when it's helpful or asked for.

In summary, climate change is happening. We can see this with our own eyes -- there is a warming trend, observable and worldwide consensus. Even the evidence and media coverage available at the click of a button, climate change is real if you care to search for it or not. It is not impossible to fathom. Look at the facts. Let your loved ones know that this is not a natural process. There is rarely a situation where your loved one's view isn't the result of lies or misunderstanding, and it's important to start by understanding where your loved one's conversation partner on the level that they're at and provide information when it's helpful or asked for.

Denial argument 1: Climate change isn't real. Everyone has their own preference for how much credibility we can grant the theories that others believe in. As a result, the first opportunity to find and address these differences is to establish common ground -- don't bring up facts right away. What does your sibling believe? For some, this might be a responsibility to future generations to maintain the same wilderness and quality of life. For others, this might be a fear of the loss of natural beauty or that natural beauty is vanishing due to climate change. So, this is where you begin. Set the stage for a productive conversation by first understanding your loved one's conversation partner on the level that they're at and provide information when it's helpful or asked for.

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Democrats Didn’t Do Enough To Stop Amy Coney Barrett’s Confirmation

Christine Tu

DAILY NEXUS

Thursday, November 12, 2020

If there’s any indication for how badly some Democrats mucked this up, it would be the fact that some California Senator Dianne Feinstein got "Am I a liberal or a conservative?" wrong in her opening statement at the Judiciary Committee confirmation hearing in protest against the confirmation of Judge Amy Coney Barrett, the leading candidate to fill the Supreme Court seat vacated by Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Feinstein declared that she was a liberal, while Barrett, whose nomination was one of the fastest in history, demonstrated how the Senate, which currently holds a Republican majority, is in the pocket of the most powerful interest groups. Since Republicans had enough votes to confirm Barrett, the confirmation was based off of the fact that there was no opposition from the Senate. Furthermore, the September 26 hearing was one of the fastest in history, demonstrating how the Senate, which currently holds a Republican majority, is in the pocket of the most powerful interest groups. The Senate confirmation hearing began on Oct. 12, and the Senate Judiciary Committee approved Barrett's nomination by a 11-10 vote (all Republicans in favor). Then, on Oct. 26, Barrett was confirmed to the Supreme Court by a vote of 52-48 in the Senate.

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