



MAX ABRAMS / DAILY NEXUS

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UCSB Grad Students Hold Demonstration in Solidarity with UCSC Over Cost-of-Living-Adjustment

Sanya Kamidi
Deputy News Editor
Jackson Guilfoil
Staff Writer

On Wednesday, dozens of UC Santa Barbara graduate students held a “sick-out” and a demonstration at Storke Tower in solidarity with striking graduate students at UC Santa Cruz, who are currently demanding a cost-of-living adjustment to their pay to accommodate for high rental prices. UCSB graduate students are informally calling for a similar cost-of-living adjustment (COLA), although advocacy group UCSB 4 COLA stressed that Wednesday’s action was just the first step in a larger COLA movement and not a formal strike. Graduate students at UCSC have been on strike since Dec. 9, 2019 and have been calling for a COLA of \$1,412 per month since September. The “sick-out” on Wednesday was planned to coincide with a UC Regents meeting, in which the

UCSC strikers planned to address the UC Office of the President directly. UCSB’s Wednesday demonstration focused on the parallels between the challenges faced by UCSB and UCSC graduate students, such as steep housing costs, and the high number of students at both schools who are considered “rent-burdened,” meaning that they pay more than 30% of their income toward rent. Last week, the UCSB Graduate Student Association took an informal poll of roughly 600 graduate students and found that respondents, on average, spent 48% of their \$2,091.98 monthly income on rent. Organizers said that the “sick-out” was meant to draw attention to the COLA movement and gather support from graduate and undergraduate students who may not be aware of the movement. “There’s people [here] from [the Graduate Student Association] ... but this is really a separate

movement that grad students have started,” said Emily, one of the organizers of Wednesday’s event who declined to give her last name. She explained that the group was mostly composed of union members from UAW 2865. “Similar to Santa Cruz, this is grad students coming up, standing up and saying, ‘What we’re dealing with now is unacceptable,’ and so we’re really following their lead on that,” Emily added. In addition to calling in sick on Wednesday, close to 150 graduate students and supporters marched from Storke Tower to the Arbor, chanting, “C-O-L-A, we need fair pay!” Once in the Arbor, several graduate students spoke to the crowd and to students who stopped to watch the demonstration. “Some of you may be wondering why grad students are rallying today ... it’s because of the immense hardships that we’re facing. We can choose to keep our heads down and go on with business as usual. Or we can speak up about these hardships,” Rammy Salem, a graduate student in the psychological and brain sciences department, said to the crowd. “Some of us are homeless. Some of us skip meals. Some of us have to work multiple jobs and still work paycheck-to-paycheck,” he continued. “Most of us think the cost of learning is way too expensive – that ain’t right. So if you agree that grad students deserve to live dignified lives, support the movement.” Other speakers called for the support of undergraduate students, staff and faculty as well, stressing that “it’s not just grad students.” Pratik Raghu, a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Global Studies, said to the crowd that he was at the demonstration because he knew he was just “one serious medical accident away from potentially losing [his] apartment.” “We’re all out here because we know that we are past the point of asking nicely. Asking nicely doesn’t do shit,” he continued. “So, let’s be a little less nice to the university – in fact, let’s be

MAX ABRAMS / DAILY NEXUS

COLA p.4

Rock the Vote SB Declared Illegitimate by National Organization, Shuts Down Operations

Katherine Swartz
Asst. News Editor

Rock the Vote SB, a voter registration organization that operated on campus and in Isla Vista, shut down earlier this month amidst claims from volunteers and community members that the organization was illegitimate and was in fact created to tip the favor toward one of the candidates in the upcoming Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors election. There was no public questioning of the group’s practices until a Facebook post published on Jan. 11 by the Student Activist Network alleged that Rock the Vote SB was not a legitimate chapter of the national Rock the Vote organization. “Rock the Vote SB stole the logo of a nonprofit that has national recognition for being a nonpartisan, get-out-the-vote effort. They then set up a nonprofit and used that branding of that trusted nonprofit, basically as a way to say that their organization is objective and is to be trusted,” said Ry Brennan, a member of the Student Activist Network. A representative from the national Rock the Vote organization confirmed that Rock the Vote SB was formed in August 2019 as a part of the larger organization, but as of now is “not a legitimate chapter.” They also said that the national organization sent Rock the Vote SB a cease-and-desist letter in December. Former Rock the Vote SB Executive Director Robin Howe

explained in a statement that Rock the Vote SB was a compliant chapter with the national organization beginning in August 2019. In November, he was told that Rock the Vote DC “received complaints” regarding the Rock the Vote SB operation. Rock the Vote SB initially “wholeheartedly attempted to work with them to bring our operation into compliance,” he said, but was asked by the national organization in December to “drop our affiliation.” Rock the Vote SB then “immediately ceased operation[s],” Howe said. Howe added that the Student Activist Network’s allegations – which included that Rock the Vote SB suppressed the vote in IV. by encouraging online voter registration, telling people their car insurance would go up if they voted in Isla Vista and that the group encouraged people to vote at home instead of in IV. – were “misleading and unverified.” The allegations of voter suppression not only relate to Rock the Vote but also alleged ties to Bruce Porter, a candidate running for the third district seat in the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors March election. Howe said that in August 2019, he responded to a post on the Rock the Vote SB website that stated the group was hiring. He then was “introduced to and met briefly with Bruce Porter,” who “mentioned his intention was to create a non-partisan voter registration group in Isla Vista.” In a letter Porter sent to his supporters on Jan. 15, which was obtained by the Nexus, Porter discussed Rock the Vote’s alleged intent to cause low voter turnout.

“[Congressman Salud] Carbajal and [Supervisor Joann] Hartmann went all out to crush the nonpartisan voter registration effort in Isla Vista and shotgun accusations of voter suppression,” Porter wrote. “This year, Rock the Vote has done a fabulous job of providing truthful and objective voter registration education to students. The result: far more students chose to register back home and there are 1400 fewer students registered to vote in IV this year, compared to this point in 2016, even though the student population has significantly increased.” Howe told his staff in an email sent on Jan. 15 that operations were “on hold for the moment” due to “local political issues.” Howe told them in the email to refrain from wearing their T-shirts and doing any branding and to delete all social media accounts. Volunteers were left without a clear reason why all operations had ended out of nowhere as Howe instructed staff to tell current and potential volunteers “the schedule is full and no more volunteers are needed.” Multiple Rock the Vote SB volunteers spoke to the Nexus, saying they had no idea that the organization was illegitimate until this week. “I saw a post on Free and For Sale that was basically just trashing Rock the Vote for all these allegations,” said Sean Price, a first-year pre-biology major. “At first I didn’t believe it, but then I found out that the website was gone, Facebook was gone; I haven’t checked their Instagram, but I’m sure that’s gone too. I didn’t hear anything

Rock the Vote p.5

Inaugural Director of the Office of Black Student Development Hired

Max Abrams
Asst. News Editor
Sanya Kamidi
Deputy News Editor

The first director of the Office of Black Student Development, Dahlia Hylton, started work at UC Santa Barbara last week, marking a historic fulfillment of one of the Black Student Union’s long-standing demands of the university. Last March, Chancellor Henry T. Yang promised to provide funding from his office for the creation of the office, the hiring of eight staff members – of which Hylton is the first – and \$55,000 annually for programming. In addition to the creation of the office, Yang said that the development of a Center for Black Student Development, which is meant to be a standalone building, would be “an important priority within campus planning.” The demands were presented by the BSU demands team in February and fulfilled by Yang in March but were built upon over 50 years of activism from previous generations of BSU students.

Hylton was selected after a national search by a committee comprised of members of the BSU demands team, as well as other campus leaders, according to Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Academic Support Systems Lupe Navarro-Garcia. Hylton said she hadn’t heard about the demands before she saw the job announcement, but that she was aware of “some type of forward movement that was happening, as to why this office was being created.” “I feel like I’m someone who literally stands on the shoulders of people who look like me, and to be able to be a vessel, if you will, for the amazing work that this institution has done,” Hylton said. “The students have played such a significant part in bringing this office together.” Last year, a job posting by the Division of Student Affairs described the role of director as an individual who is both capable of overseeing and advising entities – such as the Black Resource Committee and Black Student Union (BSU) – while leading in strategic planning and participating in organizations from

the local to national level. “The search committee wanted someone that really understood the diversity within the Black community and really had a commitment to intersectional identities and making sure that everyone that set foot and in the place where we have that space, or was interfacing with anyone with the office felt welcomed, seen and

Black Student Development p.5



Courtesy of Dahlia Hylton

Hylton started work at UCSB last week, marking a historic fulfillment of one of BSU’s long-standing demands of the university.

THIS WEEK'S UP AND COMING

23 **Documenting the Undocumented**
Thursday January
MultiCultural Center Theater | 6 p.m.



PHOTO COURTESY OF REMEZCLA

As a Latina immigrant filmmaker, Anayansi Pardo uses her documentary films and personal experiences to take us through the changing landscape of undocumented immigration in the U.S. throughout the last 20 years. Prado was born in Panama and moved to the United States as a teenager, where she attended Boston University and received a B.A. in film. Since then, she has been a visiting/adjunct professor at the UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television, California State University, Northridge's Journalism Department and Chapman University's Dodge College of Film and Media Arts.

26 **Ranky Tanky**
Sunday January
Campbell Hall | 7 p.m.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MCCARTHER THEATER CENTER

Charleston's high-spirited Ranky Tanky is a dynamo quintet exploding onto the music scene with their inspired take on soulful songs of South Carolina's Gullah culture, mixing the low-country traditions of their West African ancestors with dynamic doses of jazz, gospel, funk and R&B. In the unique Creole mix of African and English that has shaped art, language and attitude, their name means "work it" or "get funky" – yes they do, and yes you will! Following a standout performance at the 2017 GlobalFEST and a top-charting debut album, the exuberant group comes to Santa Barbara for the first time to have you dancing in the aisles.

22 **Cup of Culture: Standing Above the Clouds**
Wednesday January
MultiCultural Center Theater | 6 p.m.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE SANTA BARBARA INDEPENDENT

"Standing Above the Clouds" is a story of inter-generational women activists, who call themselves Aloha 'Aina, or warriors of the land. The mothers and daughters find themselves standing with many others at the forefront of the Indigenous movement to safeguard their sacred mountain, Mauna a Wakea, after a construction permit was granted for the 18-story Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT) to be built directly below the summit on pristine, untouched land. The film brings into focus how this movement has brought a new-found expression of solidarity and a spirit of hope to people across lands and oceans who work to form alliances that will safeguard their environment, lifeways and future. Post-film discussion panel to follow.

MAGIC LANTERN FILMS PRESENTS:

Terminator: Dark Fate

Friday, Jan. 24 & Monday, Jan. 27

7 p.m. & 10 p.m.
I.V. Theater

\$4



PHOTO COURTESY OF IMBD

IMPROVABILITY
Circus Freaks
Embarcadero Hall | 8 p.m.

24 **Friday January**

\$3

DAILY NEXUS

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"I just want to be suckled on like that flower!"

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SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mephram Group

Level: **1** **2** **3** **4**

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SOLUTION TO SATURDAY'S PUZZLE

1/9/12

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1	9	5	8	7	3	4	6	2
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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

FOR RENT

Great DP House
4 BD, 2 BA House on DP and plenty of parking on ST. 2 large yards, skylights and fireplaces throughout. This is a must see on Del Playa. 12 Month Rental starting in July. Call for info. Joyce 310-276-5977.
Email bob@grunauer.com

COUNSELING

Teletherapy
A safe place to talk using your computer or phone. Book an appointment with me at feelingscount.org. I am a UCSB alum. Richard Durborow, MA, MFT #102804. Let's talk.

ACROSS

- Fashionable heelless footwear
- "The Sixth Sense" sense
- Liqueur used to color a Bloody Smurf cocktail
- It's at the top of many a round face
- Pejorative nickname for one supporting a cause via unproductive feel-good measures
- Place for a gondola
- Pub.'s client
- Showed some hustle
- Peerage member
- Legal defendant: Abbr.
- Chain that makes a lot of dough
- Only British prime minister of Jewish birth
- "I'm with you!"
- Infamous 2001 shredders
- So-so connection?
- Conjure up
- Teddy's Mount Rushmore neighbor
- Voltaire's world-view
- Glass, vis-à-vis electricity
- Like carry-ons
- Most unusual
- Adriatic port
- Pasta suffix, commercially
- It was spawned by the Manhattan Project
- Precious ones
- Statesman in a Warhol series
- Sitcom about the Buchmans
- Word of repulsion
- Stand firm in the face of defeat
- Buns, e.g.
- "Prepare to be amazed!"

DOWN

- Small magazine articles?
- __ parmigiana
- Island blast
- Speaking point?
- Aaron of "Love Happens"
- Syllable of disapproval
- Czech composer Rudolf
- Hot rock
- Biting
- Police weapons
- "What'd I tell you?"
- Drive nuts
- Dredger's target
- Hanger in a rack
- Likeness words
- Punic Wars victor
- A heap
- "High Fidelity" actress Lisa
- Road trip listening
- Saturn satellite
- Signs
- University of New Mexico team
- Slower than 43-Down

- Like many a movie genius
- Note from abroad
- Crawled, say
- Xylophone relative
- Listless
- Short operatic piece
- Post-bender dose
- Pear-shaped fiddle
- Surrounded by

- Fiesta fare
- Hebrew winter month
- City captured in the Six-Day War
- Brief "Don't ask so many questions!"
- Turn in the fridge
- __ whim
- Hagen of the stage

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

W	B	A		I	S	R	A	E	L		B	A	A	S
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xwordeditor@aol.com

04/06/13

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By Brad Wilber and Doug Peterson
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04/06/13

WEATHER

Ze is trying to sell hir used underwear. Anyone know someone in the market?

Tomorrow's Forecast:

Securing the bag

How “Not One More” Puts a Story of Tragedy in the Hands of its Community

Max Abrams
Asst. News Editor

The sun rises high and bright in Isla Vista. But after one evening nearly six years ago, many wondered if it would ever return. That was the night of the Isla Vista tragedy, an evening so devastating that it brought an entire community to its knees.

Isla Vista lost six of its own that night, while 14 others were injured. For a brief period of time, nearly everyone in Isla Vista could recall where they were that evening. But in a town defined by its high turnover, first-hand experiences diminished as students graduated, leaving business owners and long-term residents to bear the grief.

In an effort to bring the first-hand perspective back into focus, a new documentary called “Not One More” aims to retell the story of the Isla Vista tragedy from a “survivor-based” angle that excludes the attacker’s name from the narrative, according to fourth-year film and media studies major Cameron Leingang, who is the documentary’s director.

The documentary’s narrative is instead established through interviews with politicians, UCSB faculty, psychologists, researchers, first responders and surgeons, giving viewers a previously unseen perspective into the events leading up to, during and after the Isla Vista tragedy, Leingang said.

“The media has already done a great job of making sure that [the attacker] has been the focus of this event. So that is the last thing we’re going to do,” he said.

“They don’t know the victims’ stories. And if they did, people forget about them,” said Lexi Lunchick, a senior film and media studies major and the documentary’s producer.

Although they’re now confident in the film’s direction, with a bulk of its interviews already completed, Leingang said that he and Lunchick initially struggled over the summer to conceive a pitch for their Fall Quarter 2019 film class, which, if selected, would extend their class into Winter Quarter 2020 for the filming of the movie.

“We weren’t really sure what we wanted to do, but we were still meeting frequently to talk, knowing that we wanted to pitch something,” Leingang said. “And then, this summer, we had a really bad string of mass shootings. There were three within a week – El Paso, Dayton and the [Gilroy]

Garlic Festival right nearby.”

“I think it just kinda clicked that it was like, ‘Oh, this also happened here. Maybe this is something that needs to be told,’” he added. “That was kind of the spark.”

With the idea for a film in mind, Leingang, along with Lunchick, teamed up with fourth-year philosophy major and director of photography Alex Gorman, second-year film and media studies major and production manager Perris Burnley, second-year film and media studies major and editor lly Logeais and third-year film and media studies major and sound mixer Aidan Mastrogiorgio to produce the documentary.

Before getting a chance to pitch the film, Leingang said he first had to enroll in a pitch session during fall quarter. To do so, he, alongside 27 other students with pitches, raced to send in their pitches when the submission portal went live.

“Whoever had the fastest computers – you’re in,” Lunchick said. “Only 13 [students] got into the actual pitch session, and in the first 60 seconds alone, there were, like, 23 applications,” Leingang added.

Leingang’s submission made it to the next round. Now flanked by his movie crew, Leingang said he competed against the 12 other teams in an on-stage pitching competition for four spots before a panel of judges that was comprised of industry professionals.

If selected, Leingang said the team would have the opportunity to produce their movie during Winter Quarter 2020.

“The pitches happened on a Friday and they said that [the results] would get posted midday Monday,” Lunchick said. “We were sitting in class in Pollock [Theater] and we were told it was going to be [released at 12 o’clock] but one of the judges was late giving their answer.”

“I got up to go to the bathroom to go see if it was posted and my professor yelled at me to sit down,” Leingang added.

But soon after, Leingang and Lunchick saw a Facebook post from their film and media studies group chat that announced which four groups would go on to produce their films.

“One of the people posted the picture of the names of the four that got picked. As soon as we got the notification, we quickly looked and then saw that ours was on there,” Lunchick said.

But as Leingang and his team began planning out interviews shortly after the pitching competition, he said they faced a problem early on: They “had no credibility; we’re just a student film.”

Leingang said he reached out to Assistant Vice Chancellor Katya Armistead and graduate student Melissa Barthelmy, who is writing her dissertation on the Isla Vista tragedy, to help assemble sources. UCSB also aided him in contacting the victims’ parents, he said.

“A lot of the other crews started filming very quickly, which was panicking at the beginning,” Leingang said. “But once we started rolling, we had names on our film of people who are respected and people who have stories ... we’ve had great success with almost everyone we’ve reached out to.”

Following pre-production, which took about five weeks, Leingang said the team then began filming in mid-November. By mid-February, Leingang said he aims to have all the filming completed in anticipation for its release sometime in March.

While conducting interviews, Leingang said he and his team were always sensitive to the grief their subjects were experiencing but was surprised by how “open and willing” people were once the interview began.

“A lot of the time, the very first thing they say to me is, ‘Thank you for doing this,’” Leingang said.

“One of our interviews was just talking about how it’s good to talk about [the tragedy] every once in a while,” he added. “People are finding it cathartic.”

In a broader sense, Leingang said the film’s narrative has been heavily shaped by what has been gathered through interviews: “very strong personal stories” that built an understanding of “what they experienced that night, what happened and what happened the next day.”

As the team conducted interviews – which included a mid-quarter trip to Kentucky – Leingang took note of a common thread expressed by many people who spoke on camera: “What a lot of our interviews have stressed so far is a call for sanity,” in that many people are still overcoming the shock associated with the tragedy.

For Lunchick, filming the documentary has been a learning experience, in part because working on the film has exposed her to

the changes in Isla Vista since the tragedy, such as the bushes planted at sorority Alpha Phi after two women lost their lives there.

“I think that future generations of UCSB students are always going to be affected,” she said. “You never know if one other student walking by knew someone or their sibling that went here before knew someone.”

In a similar sense, Leingang said he came out of producing the film with a new sense of appreciation for life and how quickly things can change in the wake of tragedy.

“I’ve emphasized this the entire time; you don’t really think it’s going to happen to you or where you live and then to actually have it happen and to you,” he said.

“We interviewed someone who was supposed to hang out with the girls that ended up being killed. They made a last-minute decision to do something else and if she would’ve continued hanging out with them, who knows what would’ve happened. Stuff like that, it’s eerie, and it sends chills down your spine.”

After the film makes its initial debut as a 30-minute final project for Leingang’s two-quarter film class, he and Lunchick said they hope to produce an extended version – an hour-long “documentary feature” – to submit to film festivals in hopes of drawing more attention.

Recalling all the hardships, memories and interviews experienced while producing the documentary, Lunchick said she finds herself returning to the time she and the team flew to Kentucky to interview Bob Weiss, who lost his daughter, Veronika, in the tragedy. “Something that we realized while we were there is just how one decision of where you are at one point can just change everything for everyone,” she said.

While there, Lunchick said she had the chance to flip through a photo album that Veronika Weiss had made before she died. Though they had never met, Lunchick said she felt a connection.

“It’s hard to sometimes believe that such tragic events really happened,” she said. “And it’s moments like that that really stick out and once again feel surreal with it all and put it into perspective that this event was real.”



A Week in UC Student News

Interested in keeping up with what’s happening across the UC system? Look no further! Our column “UC News” will showcase the top stories of the week from other UC student newspapers in our weekly print edition and online.

UC-Wide: University of California Board of Regents meet and postpone tuition vote

The UC Board of Regents will conclude three days of meetings on Jan. 23. Following the release of Gov. Gavin Newsom’s proposed budget, the Regents planned to vote on a tuition hike for the 2020-21 school year. However, following public outcry by students about the amount of time they were given to look over the proposal, the Regents postponed the vote. The Special Committee on Basic Needs also met to discuss issues such as housing insecurity and incorporation of basic needs into outreach efforts.

UC Los Angeles: Shareef O’Neal announces plan to depart from UCLA men’s basketball team (Daily Bruin)

Men’s basketball player Shareef O’Neal announced his plans to leave UCLA today via Twitter, thanking his parents, coaches, the UCLA medical staff who performed his 2018 open heart surgery and his many supporters. O’Neal’s departure comes midway through the Pac-12 conference. O’Neal, who has been at UCLA for two years, still has three years of collegiate eligibility remaining.

UC San Diego: Students and Local Community Rally for ‘#NOWARINIRAN’ (The Triton)

A crowd of over 40 protesters gathered in San Diego at the corner of La Jolla Village Drive and Torrey Pines Road to protest the escalating tensions between the United States and Iran. Several tumultuous events over the past month – including the killing of Iranian General Qasem Soleimani and the shooting down of a Ukrainian passenger airplane over Iran – have led to protests across the country. The rally was organized by San Diego attorney and 2020 presidential candidate Fred Schultz under the umbrella of progressive organization MoveOn.

UC Santa Cruz: Santa Cruz City Council and Board Address University Growth Plans (City on a Hill Press)

UC Santa Cruz’s plan to expand enrollment capacity to 28,000 students and create new student housing by 2040 was examined by the Santa Cruz City Council and the Santa Cruz Board of Supervisors. Both entities approved a City-County Task Force, which aims to minimize enrollment growth under the Long-Range Development Plan (LRDP). The proposal has faced backlash both on and off campus, as many are concerned with UCSC’s lack of resources to accompany such an expansion. The city and county will equally split costs to hire a liaison and interns to assist with the transition.



Courtesy of Cameron Leingang

SAKE BOMBING!

99¢

- Small Pitcher of Sake with 10 or more people and an order of 10 large beers
- Large Pitcher of Sake with 20 or more people and an order of 15 large beers

Offer only valid for the first pitcher

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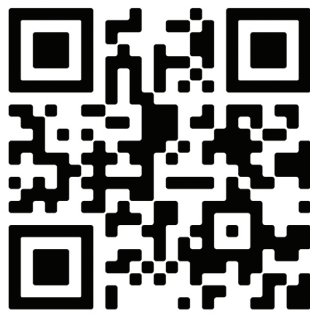
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SCAN ME

COLA

Continued from p.1

a lot less nice in making these demands.”

Raghu said in an interview afterwards that he was “nothing more than a participant” in the demonstration, although he felt compelled to speak to the crowd in the Arbor because he is an international student.

“I would hope that we can continue to show strength in numbers as we did on this particular occasion, and I hope that we can come up with a collective program of action that can help us maintain that strength in numbers,” Raghu said.

Other international graduate students spoke to the Nexus about the restrictions they face due to their visas and how that can impact their ability to support themselves throughout the year.

Jordan Tudisco – an international graduate student in the comparative literature department – said that international students in particular are struggling because their visas do not allow them to work for any employer other than the university, excluding a select few international student work programs.

“If UCSB decides not to employ me over the summer, I cannot work somewhere else,” he said.

Hannah Kagan-Moore, a graduate student in the Department of History of Art and Architecture, said that graduate

students as a whole struggle over the summer when there are fewer teaching appointments.

“I’ve had a couple of health issues that essentially bankrupted me this summer,” Kagan-Moore said.

“Because we make so little as instructors of record and as TAs, that has had an extraordinarily deleterious effect on my ability to do my own research and my ability to serve my students. It is a holistic problem and the amount of labor that we render to this institution should be compensated,” she added.

After Wednesday’s demonstration, organizers said they plan to regroup to begin drafting demands. Emily added that the demonstration was designed to involve more people in the discussions so the meetings are “as representative as possible of the grad student population.”

“We were chatting, we were creating community, because [this demonstration] is a thing of creating community among graduate students,” said Azucena Trincado Murugarren, a graduate student in the Spanish and Portuguese department.

“In graduate school, you feel kind of isolated or separated in departments.”

“I think, for [the university], it’s good to maintain us divided, and we are showing that we can unite,” Trincado said.



IDA KAZERANI / DAILY NEXUS



IDA KAZERANI / DAILY NEXUS

UCSB graduate students are informally calling for a similar cost of living adjustment, although advocacy group UCSB 4 COLA stressed that Wednesday’s action was just the first step in a larger COLA movement and not a formal strike.



MAX ABRAMS / DAILY NEXUS

After Wednesday’s demonstration, they plan to regroup to plan drafting demands. They added that the demonstration was designed to involve more people in the discussions so meetings are representative of all grad students.

UC Santa Barbara’s Mental Health Task Force Launches New Website for Student Well-Being

Amelia Buckley
Reporter

Just before the start of Winter Quarter 2020, UC Santa Barbara’s Mental Health Task Force launched its new Student Wellbeing Website – a place for students to access resources and support for their mental health and well-being, including basic needs and personal safety.

The idea initially came from the Mental Health Task Force and formed this year by UCSB Health & Wellness in an effort to create a singular directory for students, who previously had to go to multiple websites to learn about the full range of resources available at UCSB, according to Sharleen O’Brien, director of Health & Wellness and co-chair of the Mental Health Task Force.

The site features subpages including Urgent Needs and Basic Needs, as well as links to prominent campus wellness organizations such as Counseling & Psychological Services (C.A.P.S.), Campus Advocacy, Resources & Education (C.A.R.E.) and Student Health.

The Urgent Needs section

provides quick access to resources such as the UC Police Department, financial emergency assistance and sexual assault advocacy, while the Basic Needs section informs students on resources such as campus food banks, affordable housing and budgeting strategies.

The website also has a brief summary of every listed wellness organization on campus and the services each organization offers.

“The website is also a statement to students that we highly value supporting the well-being of our students for their quality of life, but also as integral to their success at UC Santa Barbara and beyond,” O’Brien said.

According to O’Brien, the Mental Health Task Force collaborated with a variety of campus groups to ensure the website was comprehensive, including the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, Student Health Services, Alcohol & Drug Programs, C.A.P.S., Health & Wellness, C.A.R.E., Student Mental Health Coordination Services, Disabled Students Programs, Career Services, Housing, the

Educational Opportunity Program, the Graduate Division and the Food Security & Basic Needs Taskforce.

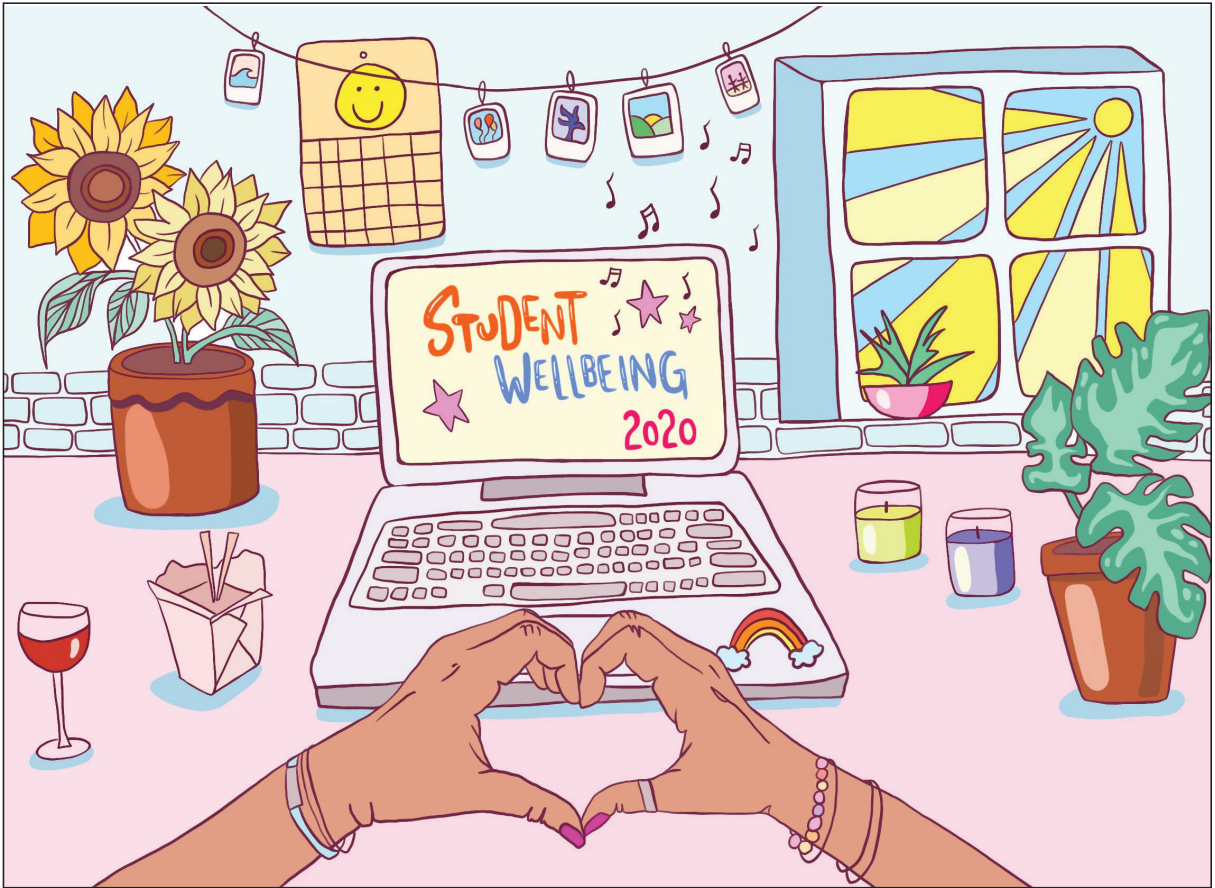
Angela Andrade, director of the Student Mental Health Services Coordination, also met with Associated Students (A.S.) President Alison Sir and Adalis Rojas from the A.S. Public Health & Mental Health Commission to discuss key features of the site, such as links to critical resources and contact information for campus services.

The website is located on the UCSB homepage, under Campus Experience and Health and Wellness.

According to O’Brien, the website is still a work in progress.

“We expect to continue growing this site with student feedback to ensure that it is maximally useful for students,” she said.

The Mental Health Task Force will be publicizing the website’s creation over the next few months and will be discussing it with the UCSB community at the A.S. Mental Health Town Hall at Corwin Pavilion on Jan. 31 from 3 to 5 p.m.



CHANNING MINK / DAILY NEXUS

UC Regents Discuss Tuition Increase Models

Daniel Seo
Reporter

On Wednesday, the UC Board of Regents discussed potentially raising financial charges among students across all campuses after deciding on Tuesday to delay the vote in order to have more time to discuss plans.

The discussion primarily revolved around the possibility of a multi-year proposal to adjust current systemwide charges, which includes tuition, the Student Services Fee and Nonresident Supplemental Tuition.

David Alcocer, associate vice president of Budget Analysis and Planning, and Paul Jenny, interim executive vice president of the UC Office of the President, led the proposal, advocating to adjust these charges in order to generate additional funding for financial aid.

In a joint presentation before the Regents, Alcocer mentioned that “the bigger challenge for students is figuring out the cost of attendance, such as food, books and supplies and healthcare. When tuition stays flat, other costs rise but no new aid is generated to cover them.”

In support of Alcocer, Jenny explained that Governor Gavin Newsom’s recent pledge to fund

the UC system with roughly \$218 million would bring a general cost increase of 5% for UC’s state general funding from 42% to 47%. With the increase in funding, the UC system would focus on “maximizing return on assets, increasing philanthropy and control costs,” Jenny said.

To provide a visual illustration of how adjustments can provide positive impacts, Alcocer presented a study conducted by a system-wide working group last summer.

The working group calculated which income bracket would benefit the most from each of the three different tuition models: a uniform approach; a uniform consumer-price-index-based approach, which would adjust tuition prices based on consumer price index (CPI) for all students; and a cohort model approach, where the amount of tuition revenue would start increasing for incoming UC students in the future years.

According to Alcocer, students with a parental annual income between \$20,000 to \$90,000 significantly benefited from the uniform CPI approach and the cohort model approach, both of which called for increases in tuition.

Alcocer said that the uniform CPI approach and cohort model

approach will allow UC schools to become “more affordable for California undergrads with fewer resources and provide campuses with resources to sustain core operations and make progress on shared goals for student success.”

The proposal brought up several concerns during the meeting as well.

Regent Sherry Lansing said it was vague “how many students would qualify for the middle-class scholarship with a tuition increase.” She also added that before the proposal goes further, dialogue with Newsom is vital, as he pledged a significant amount of money for the UC system.

UC Student Regent Hayley Weddle also noted that the “impact of proposed increases on [the Board’s] goals of reducing food and housing insecurities” remains unclear, as well as how the tuition increases would contribute to “sticker shock and potential undermatching as students are considering attending the UCs,” as they might be discouraged by seeing the increasing tuition price.

Board of Regents Chair John Pérez brought the meeting to an end, stating that the requested data of the proposal will be prepared along with an action item for the Board to consider at a future meeting.



SANYA KAMIDI / DAILY NEXUS

The discussion primarily revolved around the possibility of a multi-year proposal to adjust current systemwide charges, which includes tuition and the Student Services Fee.

Black Student Development

Continued from p.1

understood,” Meridith Merchant, assistant director for Mental Health Initiatives and Inclusion for Counseling & Psychological Services (C.A.P.S.) and member of the search committee.

Navarro-Garcia noted that Hylton has worked in various multicultural affairs offices at different campuses and at her most recent university, Lehigh University, grew the office from one person to a full staff.

“A lot of the work that I have done, particularly within higher education, has been around diversity and inclusion,” Hylton added. “Even when I was cultivating those skills in undergrad and graduate, I just always gravitated towards a space like this.”

Hylton noted that she has worked in advising offices, Educational Opportunity Program offices and admissions offices in addition to her work in multicultural spaces and said she’s looking forward to working with various offices at UCSB to help students in any way they need.

“I want to hold true to the demands that the students brought forth and however that actually manifests its ways, then we’ll actually do that,” she said.

Right now, Hylton said she’s focusing her time on learning what exactly the needs of the student are, and how she can help facilitate them.

In her first few days, she said she spent time getting to know a lot of different people on campus and building relationships, which she described as key to a position like hers.

“I’ve been able to meet, in my opinion, with some really great, great allies, or potential allies, of the space, and everyone seems so excited, which has given me a lot of energy,” Hylton said.

Now, she’s ready to get to work creating a strategic plan for the office and begin hiring other staff members.

Navarro-Garcia said they have already hired an

assistant director who will begin Feb. 3, and are in the process of looking for an advocacy counselor and an administrative business officer.

As OBSD moves forward in filling positions, Merchant said “we have to be very intentional and thoughtful” in making future hires, as to meet the BSU demands and properly accommodate new employees as they arrive on campus.

“Do we have space in our suite here for the first tier [of hiring]?” Navarro-Garcia said. “And then we need to start thinking where are we moving to advance to the hiring of tier two and tier three.”

In a similar sense, Merchant emphasized the need to continue developing OBSD’s infrastructure in an effort to make future employees feel they can perform their job to the fullest.

“Santa Barbara is not the most diverse place to be. UC Santa Barbara is diverse, but Santa Barbara as a whole [is not],” Merchant said.

“When you’re inviting people to positions where they’re going to be supporting multicultural students, it’s important that there is the infrastructure, so that you can draw people that will feel supported and be able to continue to do the great work that they’re doing,” she added.

According to Hylton, she’s looking forward to doing just that. In the future, she hopes to help create a space where Black students can seek “empowerment, education and inspiration,” while providing them with the resources they need to succeed.

“I think it’s really important that UC Santa Barbara realizes that Blackness isn’t monolithic. There’s so many different variations as to who we are as individuals. And to have this office to a vessel or a conduit to helping people understand what those many different nuances of Blackness is going to be really important.”

Rock the Vote

Continued from p.1

from them when this all happened.”

A second-year volunteer, who asked not to be named, said that they tried to reach out about changing their shift day for winter quarter and never heard back.

“What I did get was an email about there’s been stuff going on this week with tabling. So I had no idea basically what was going on until I read an article on Facebook about that it could potentially be a fraudulent organization ... they stopped tabling, and then just nothing.”

The Student Activist Network raised three separate allegations against Rock the Vote SB accusing them of voter suppression in Isla Vista. The group alleges that Rock the Vote gave out voter registration cards at the Arbor instead of filling out physical forms, that they told people their car insurance costs would increase if they registered to vote in IV. and that they encouraged people to vote at their home addresses in other parts of the state instead of in IV.

Volunteers who spoke to the Nexus confirmed that official registration forms were “rarely” provided for tabling in favor of voter registration cards that directed people to the Rock the Vote SB website, which has since been shut down, to register to vote on their own time.

In the eyes of the Student Activist Network, handing out cards makes it less likely for students to register to vote.

“I have tabled many times at the Arbor and I know that students are often walking by very, very quickly. They often take things that are handed to them and then immediately throw them away,” Brennan said.

“The best way to actually get somebody signed up to vote is to actually ask them to come over to your table and fill out the form. That is the only way that you could actually guarantee that the people who you have actually gotten to bring over to your booth are actually going to follow through ... We only complicate the process when we ask people to go online to fill out forms.”

Howe said in a statement that Rock the Vote SB encouraged online registration but “ALWAYS carried hardcopies of voter registration cards for those who preferred that method which we found to be rare because Gen Z generally is a digital culture.”

One second-year volunteer, who requested their name not be used, said they were confused about why voter registration forms were not the norm but didn’t deeply question the practice because they believed Rock the Vote SB to be a legitimate organization.

“I feel really frustrated because in retrospect looking back, things were sort of red flags,” they said. They added that they were made familiar with the organization through a UCSB honors mail listserv.

“I just never assumed that through an honors mail listserv that an actual, illegitimate thing could be presented to us students,” they said.

Another allegation raised by the Student Activist Network was that Rock the Vote SB told students that their car insurance rates would go up if they registered to vote in IV., which they heard from multiple students who Rock the Vote SB volunteers had spoken with, but Howe rejected that claim.

“I have never heard of the concept of car insurance rates getting raised nor did anything remotely close to that ever get discussed with my team,” Howe said in the statement.

“This claim is the most bizarre of them all. It is so obviously unbelievable it waves a red

flag as to how low the people spreading these dishonest statements will go for their own political ‘gain.’”

No volunteers that the Nexus spoke with had ever heard of discussions about car insurance rates increasing.

The final issue raised by the Student Activist Network is that Rock the Vote SB suppressed the vote by “dissuading people from registering in IV on the grounds that other elections in the Bay, LA, and San Diego are more contested,” according to its Facebook post.

On the backside of the Rock the Vote SB online voting card obtained by the Nexus, the card reads that “It’s Your Choice Where to Register,” whether that be at home or school.

The card’s wording did not raise alarms for Price until this past week.

“There are three places on the card: Los Angeles, San Diego and Bay Area issues, but nothing in Santa Barbara, like no reason to vote in Santa Barbara, and then there’s websites to each place about those issues,” Price said.

“It basically just said vote where you think your opinion matters more, like where you’ll make a difference, which is basically what I told people and what I thought was being advertised by them, but now I’ve heard that it’s not.”

With no further information from Howe or Rock the Vote SB in general, student volunteers for Rock the Vote SB have been left confused about where the organization stands and remain frustrated by new information.

AFSCME Service Workers Reach Tentative Contract Agreement With UC

Evelyn Spence
Lead News Editor

The University of California’s largest union reached a tentative four-year contract agreement with the UC for its service workers late last night, bringing an end to three years of contract negotiations after at least six strikes during that period.

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 3299’s (AFSCME 3299), which includes 10,000 service workers and 16,000 medical care workers, has been negotiating for a new contract since 2017; the union has also went on strike several times during this period, including most recently in November 2019 regarding alleged unfair labor practices.

Contract negotiations for the union’s medical care workers remain ongoing.

“[The] UC is pleased that after working with AFSCME leadership to address joint concerns and resolve our outstanding differences we have reached a multi-year agreement for our valued employees,” UC spokesperson Andrew Gordon said in an email.

Gordon said that the contract includes:

- a 3% increase in wages, including an increase based on experience;
- annual 3% across the board increases between 2020 and 2024;
- annual 2% experience-based increases between 2020 and 2024;
- a one-time payment of \$2,500 for all full-time employees;
- a one-time payment of \$1,000 for employees who reach 20 years of service while the contract is active;
- and a one-time \$500 payment to per diem and limited employees

who worked at least 400 hours in 2019.

The contract, along with adding new health and pension benefits, prohibits layoffs “as a result of subcontracting decisions” and places additional restrictions on the UC’s ability to contract out service work – a point of tension between the UC and union workers and a restriction that was “long sought by the union,” AFSCME Local 3299 spokesperson Todd Stenhouse said in a press release sent out Wednesday morning.

Gordon said prohibiting layoffs “as a result of subcontracting decisions” was already a part of the previous contract. He added that the new contract will also “make it easier” for eligible contract workers to convert to UC employment.

Stenhouse did not immediately respond to request for further

comment.

In the press release, AFSCME 3299 President Kathryn Lybarger called the tentative contract “historic” and one that will “combat the outsourcing abuses that have only served to depress wages, erode benefits and increase inequality.”

“While the tentative agreement reached by UC and AFSCME represented service workers is an important sign of progress, there remains more work ahead,” Lybarger said.

She added that “it is now time for UC to provide its AFSCME represented Patient Care workers with an equally fair agreement that honors our members’ contributions to UC’s highly profitable health system.”

The tentative contract must be voted on by the union’s service members before Jan. 30 in order to be enacted.



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The year is 2048, cars are finally flying and Phil Jones is still starting at center back for Manchester United

Marcello Quarante

Congratulations to the senior swimmer, who was chosen as the MPSF Athlete of the Week after finishing first in both the 100 and 200 Breast in a dual meet against Pacific

SPORTS

No. 9 UCSB Looking for Revenge at Michigan Invite

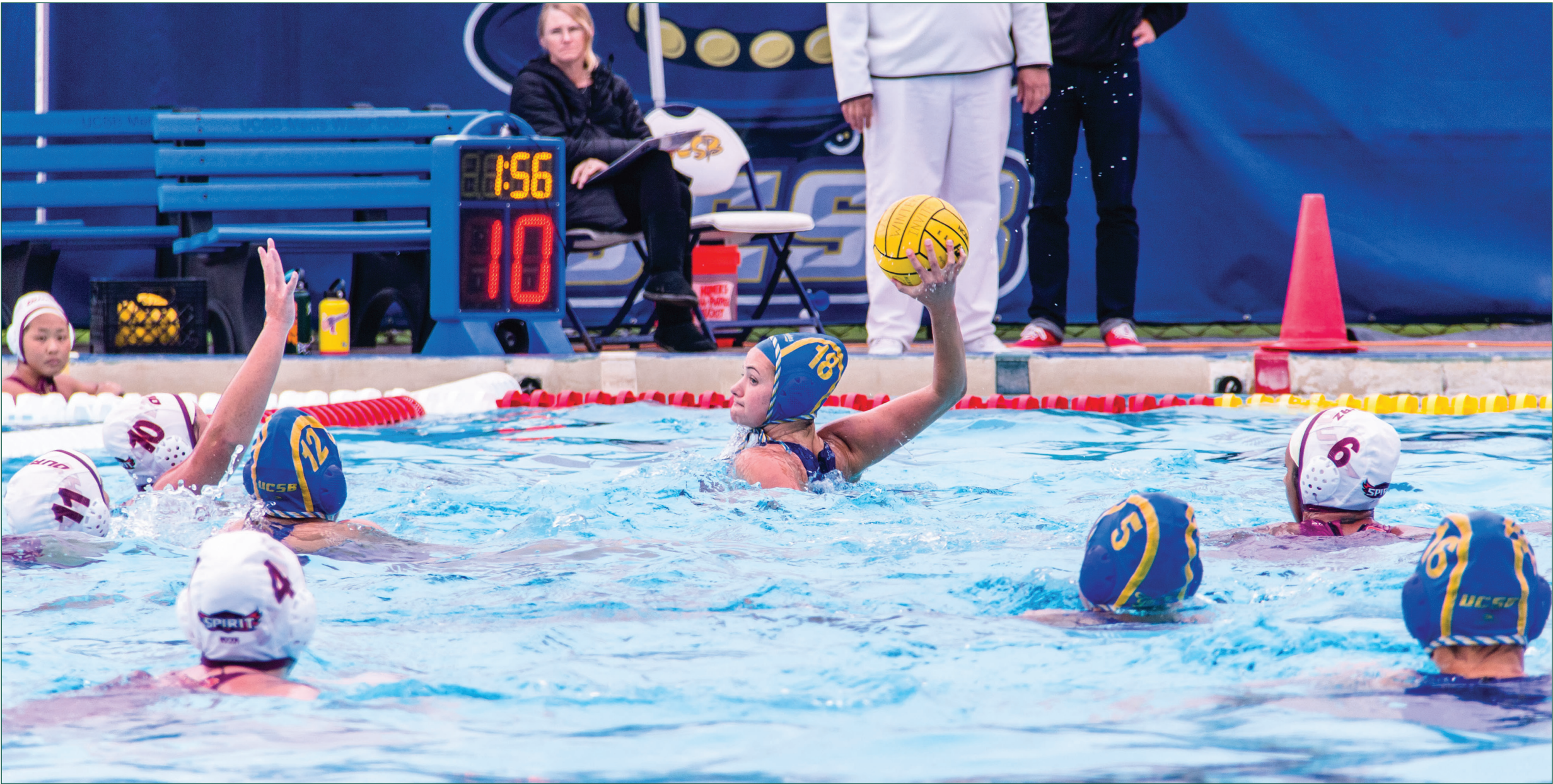
Omar Hernandez
Sports Editor

After a good start to the season which included a surprising win over then-No. 2 UCLA and narrow losses to No. 6 Cal and No. 7 Michigan, the No. 9 UC Santa Barbara women's water polo team will travel to Ann Arbor this weekend for the Michigan Invite. The Gauchos will play four games in their mini Midwest road trip. They will kick things off with a Saturday doubleheader against No. 23 Indiana and No. 24 Marist, in that order, before playing both No. 21 Wagner and No. 7 Michigan on Sunday. UCSB will be looking to maintain their form following a 19-2 thrashing of Ottawa University-Arizona in their last game. Freshmen Courtney Heydorff, Alex Mora and Evie Laptin combined for 10 of the 19 points, a great sign for a team that will be relying on its youth more and more as the season wears on. Indiana will be playing their first match of the season against the Gauchos on Saturday, and although the team is nationally ranked, they

are coming off of a rough 2018-19 season. The Hoosiers went 6-17 last season and weren't really close to doing any damage in the postseason, losing both matches in the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation Tournament by double digits. Their best win from last year was actually their first game when they took down No. 15 UCSD by 8-7 at Campus Pool in Santa Barbara, so UCSB definitely can't take this team lightly. The key to this game for the Gauchos will be limiting Hoosier sophomore Tina Doherty's time of possession. The attacker had a phenomenal freshman campaign last year, leading Indiana in goals (42) and total points (61) while also finishing second on the team in assists (19). UCSB will have their best chance of winning through limiting her scoring opportunities and forcing her supporting cast to make plays, so look for all eyes to be on her whenever the Hoosiers have possession. Next up on Saturday for UCSB will be the Marist College Red Foxes. The Red Foxes have lost all three of their games so far this season, although their strength of schedule has been strong with all matchups

having been against top-15 teams. Marist made it all the way to their conference championship last year but ultimately fell to Wagner, and the team lost some key players in the off-season including Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) Defensive Player of the Year Susan Cantoni who graduated. Even with these huge shifts to the roster, they certainly will be hungry for their first win when they compete against the 'Chos on Saturday. UCSB will face off against reigning MAAC champions Wagner College on Sunday in the first of what will be two tough games. The Seahawks haven't played a match yet this year, but they are fresh off a 30-10 championship season that ended with an 8-12 loss to UCSD in the first round of the NCAA Tournament. This is one of the most lethal offensive teams in the country, spearheaded by MAAC Preseason Co-Player of the Year Sofia Diaz Alvarez. The Spanish attacker had an astounding freshman season, pouring in a team-leading 109 goals en route to a MAAC Rookie of the Year award. With the graduation of her teammate and

former MAAC Player of the Year Erica Hardy, Diaz Alvarez will be stepping into an even bigger role in her sophomore season. The Gauchos will have to shut off her production if they want to beat this solid Red Fox team. The last game of the weekend for UCSB will be a rematch against host University of Michigan. The Wolverines beat the Gauchos 9-7 this past Sunday at the UCSB Winter Invite in a hotly contested match that came down to the last minute. One of the keys to this game for the Gauchos will be limiting costly mistakes. They only converted one of their four penalty shots the last time these two teams met up which is just not going to cut it against the top-tier teams. UCSB will have a great chance for revenge on Sunday, but they'll have to be on their A-game if they want to take down the No. 7-ranked Wolverines. The games against Indiana and Marist are at 5 a.m. and 8:45 a.m., respectively, on Saturday morning, while Sunday's games against Wagner and Michigan start at 5 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. on Jan. 26.



LEONARD PAULASA / DAILY NEXUS

Men's Tennis Heads South Searching for First Win



Annika Pearson
Staff Writer

Rolling in with a handful of Big West titles, a couple of nationally ranked players and standout new recruits, the UC Santa Barbara men's tennis team had little reason to begin its 2019-20 season anything less than confidently. Now, with two losses in their first two games, the Gauchos will look to redeem themselves against Santa Clara (0-2) in this weekend's tournament. Unfortunately, Santa Barbara started the new year with two losses against Oregon and Washington. Just this past Monday, the team went down 3-4 to University of Washington, a loss which was albeit an improvement over their initial 0-4 loss to Oregon over the weekend. Santa Clara, like Santa Barbara, has yet to post a win since the new year. Against Pepperdine, the team was unable to take control of a single match, resulting in a 5-0 sweep for the undefeated Waves. In their next game versus Loyola Marymount University, sophomore Santiago Hinojosa and freshman Mann Shah supplied Santa Clara's only two victories. Here, Shah took control of the fourth court, swiping a win away from his opponent with clean, back-to-back 6-1 victories. It is possible that after suffering losses on the road, each team is missing the comfort and advantage of their home courts. The NCAA Kick Off Weekend National Indoors tournament will continue to test the two programs as both Santa Clara and Santa Barbara head to Los Angeles to face one another. A much-needed Gaucho victory, however, will undoubtedly require some recalibration. In light of the inevitable loss of dominant alumni like All-American Nicolas Moreno de Alboran and Anders Holm, Head Coach Marty Davis prospectively sought out ways to readjust the roster heading into the new season. He successfully snatched New York-based freshman Joshua Williams, a promising four-star recruit with regional and national recognition among the tennis community. On the

other hand, junior Amit Batta, a transfer out of University of Washington, is adding his D1 collegiate experience to the roster. Texas A&M transfer Alejandro Vedri also joined the lineup, already earning game time in the early season. In the Gauchos' first games of 2020, however, Coach Davis tapped into the depths of his returning roster. The integration of sophomores like Luka Vukmanovic and Wilhelm Saiga, each of whom hardly saw the courts last season, perhaps demonstrates Davis' attempts to configure a new and dynamic starting lineup. Vukmanovic and Saiga each contributed wins in their respective doubles and singles matches despite the greater team's defeat. In singles, Saiga took three sets to take down his Washington opponent to close out the unfruitful day. Vukmanovic, paired with senior Alex Soto on court 3, beat Saiga's same opponent in the second match of the day. Trusted players like Joseph Guillin and Joseph Rotheram fell short to dominant players on opposing rosters. In doubles play, Davis has so far partnered Guillin with Vedri, a switch from last year's play in which the Frenchman predominantly doubled with junior Victor Krustev. The present pair has produced mixed results, being defeated while in Oregon but coming out victorious in a 6-4 competition in Washington. However, it is imperative not to undermine the fact that Guillin invariably shines among fellow nationally ranked collegiate players and that it seems that Santa Clara does not statistically have an equivalent. Nonetheless, the Broncos' Hinojosa has kept up a strong and steadfast presence over his two years in the Bay. Hinojosa spent his freshman year dominating court 6, finishing his singles season with only one loss and going 11-1. So far, Hinojosa has produced one of just two match wins since 2020 for his team. Determined to finally tally a victory onto their record, UC Santa Barbara and Santa Clara will compete this Saturday at 10 a.m., and viewers can tune in live to stream the game online.

NEXUS FILE PHOTO

No. 3 UCSB Men’s Volleyball Travels North To Face No. 8 Stanford



LEONARD PAULASA / DAILY NEXUS

Jesse Morrison
Staff Writer

The No. 3 UCSB men’s volleyball team travels to Palo Alto this Saturday to face off against No. 8 Stanford. UCSB couldn’t have asked for a better start to their season, sweeping every opponent they have gone up against, securing a 5-0 record. Unfortunately for Santa Barbara, they have their toughest road stretch ahead of them. That stretch includes the big game at No. 8 Stanford, games on back-to-back days at No. 2 BYU and finally a battle in Ohio against Ohio State.

The beginning of this long and trying stretch for UCSB begins with a match against No. 8 Stanford, who have had an interesting start to their season. They have played well at home, going 2-0, but have picked up two tough road losses: one at the hand of Saint Francis University (2-3) and one against No. 7 UC Irvine (1-3). Stanford has several talented players, but there is one who UCSB should really look out for: freshman outside hitter Will Rottman, who has been a recurring problem for multiple teams this season. The first-year player, born and raised in Santa Barbara, has started his college career on a high note. He is third on the team in kills with 54 and ranks near the top on hitting percentage, despite his young age. There may also be a little extra motivation for Rottman in that he’s going up against his hometown team and his father’s alma mater (where he also played volleyball).

Even with the questionable losses this year, UCSB should not underestimate Stanford. They are one of those teams in collegiate men’s volleyball who are usually

playing for something important near the end of the season. The Gauchos will need to be on their A-game if they want to steal a road win on Saturday.

UCSB has been playing to that standard, playing at a very high level to start the year. They have been extremely efficient, posting an unreal 41% hitting percentage through their first five matches. This offensive success is due to a multitude of things, but for starters, great setting. Senior setter Casey McGarry has been the main catalyst for this high powered offense, picking up 30 or more assists in his last four matches. His impressive setting earned him Off the Block Setter of the Week honors. If he can keep playing at a high level, UCSB’s chance of winning increases significantly.

Along with McGarry, several other Gauchos have been shining early in this 2020 season. Senior setter Randy DeWeese has been one of the bright spots for UCSB, scoring at a much higher clip compared to his first three seasons. His career kills per set average has increased significantly this year, going from a previous 0.37 kills per set to now being at 3.13 kills per set. Perhaps this is a new role for DeWeese in the Gauchos’ high-octane offense.

This is the second year in a row that UCSB has begun its season 5-0; a testament to their good coaching as well as a consistent winning culture around UC Santa Barbara. A road win against a strong opponent like Stanford would be huge for UCSB’s confidence next week when they travel to BYU. In contrast, Stanford hopes to get back to their winning ways in front of their home crowd. I envision close matches down to the last set; however, I think UCSB will walk away victorious in this one, 3-2.

Gauchos Take on Aggies & Titans in Crucial Week

Brandon Victor
Sports Editor

After knocking off Irvine and narrowly falling to Riverside last week, the UCSB women’s basketball team finds itself in a four-way tie for fourth place in the Big West conference at 2-2. This week, the Gauchos have their most difficult week to date, hosting UC Davis (7-9, 2-1) before traveling down to Fullerton for a rematch with the Titans (10-7, 2-2).

Against two of the strongest teams in the conference, UCSB will need to do a better job of starting the game on the front foot. In Thursday’s game against Irvine, the ‘Chos needed a 27-point fourth quarter – including 17 points in the quarter from freshman phenom Ila Lane – to knock off an upstart Anteaters squad. Similarly, Santa Barbara trailed by nine at the end of the first quarter against the Highlanders. While the team never gave up, they were ultimately unable to overcome the early deficit, falling 66-61 to Riverside.

With reigning conference champion UC Davis coming to town on Thursday, the Gauchos cannot afford to stumble out of the gate.

After dropping a close game to Riverside, the Aggies have won their last two conference games, knocking off both Hawai’i and Long Beach State.

Despite the graduation of superstar Morgan Bertsch – who accounted for 23.6 points per game last season – Davis seems to have hit its stride as of late. Earlier this season, UCD actually led at halftime against Stanford, the No. 4 team in the nation at the time.

Much of UC Davis’ success this season has been predicated on their free-flowing offense. Junior point guard Mackenzie Trpic has done an excellent job orchestrating the offense, averaging 4.8 assists per game while only turning the ball over 2.3 times per game.

“They are always a tough team because they play very consistently and their offense has a lot of motion to it,” third-year Mira Shulman said.

In terms of scoring production, the Aggies are relatively

balanced with no single player averaging more than 29 minutes per game. Junior guard Katie Toole leads the way with 15.2 points per game; perhaps most impressively, she has done so while shooting 54% from the floor and 53% from deep.

As a team, Davis thrives on its efficiency, shooting 42% from the floor and 37% from deep.

“Their [efficiency] makes packing in the paint hard, so we are going to need a lot of ball pressure to try to stop the ball from coming in on back door cuts and screens,” Shulman said.

Many of UCD’s weaknesses come on the defensive side of the court, where the Aggies allow 67 points per game. If the Gauchos are going to hang with Davis, they will need their offense to be in full swing on Thursday. With Davis lacking a dominant big, look for UCSB to lean on Lane for much of its offensive production.

Lane continues to dominate in the post, averaging 14.1 points per game to go along with her monstrous 12.8 rebounds per game.

On Saturday, Santa Barbara will travel to Fullerton looking to avenge their overtime loss earlier this season.

Just like that game, UCSB’s success will be predicated on its ability to slow down third-year guards Raina Perez and Taylor Turney – both of whom finished with more than 20 points in that first encounter.

“Turney and Perez are who they are – they are two phenomenal playmakers in this league,” Henrickson said.

In that game, Santa Barbara will need junior Danae Miller and senior Coco Miller to score from the perimeter. In the second half of the first meeting between the two sides, Fullerton was able to shut down Lane’s presence inside by constantly double and triple-teaming her. With the Titans likely to keep a similar strategy, the Gauchos will need to hit their outside shots to keep pace on Saturday.

In one of their most important weeks of the season, the Gauchos will host Davis at the Thunderdome at 7 p.m. Thursday, before hitting the road and taking on Fullerton Saturday at 5 p.m.



NEXUS FILE PHOTO

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ARTS WEEK

In Photos: Adam Driver at SBIFF ‘20

Recently, actor Adam Driver attended the Santa Barbara International Film Festival to receive the Outstanding Performers Award for his role in “Marriage Story.”



SIAVASH GHADIRI / DAILY NEXUS



SIAVASH GHADIRI / DAILY NEXUS



SIAVASH GHADIRI / DAILY NEXUS

Grammys 2020: Just How Relevant Is “Music’s Biggest Night”?

Sunidhi Sridhar
Staff Writer

This year’s awards season is officially underway and with it comes a new headline every day. Whether it is a feature on which actors and artists struck gold and which ones struck out, a slideshow about who wore what best and who missed the mark or a recap of the most iconic moments of the ceremony, the buzz surrounding awards season continues to dominate both the news cycles and social media year after year.

Ticketed as “music’s biggest night,” the annual Grammy Awards returns on Sunday, Jan. 26, to crown this year’s winners. Singer-songwriter Lizzo leads in nominations with eight nods, including “Best New Artist,” and Spanish superstar Rosalía and global phenomenon Billie Eilish are amongst those slated to perform.

In the years before streaming platforms took a vice-like grip on the industry, the Grammys were lauded as the gold standard in recognizing the best in music. Fans who may not have yet listened to an artist’s album were encouraged to pick up a copy after hearing that it won “Album of the Year,” and critics may have been more inclined to pay attention after learning of an artist’s nomination for “Best New Artist.”

These days, however, when fans are alerted to the release of a new project mere moments after its drop and the latest viral track takes social media by storm within hours, it is close to impossible to imagine that a single three-hour ceremony can honor all the incredible talent that deserves recognition. More diminishing to the award show’s reputation, however, is its perceived tendency to crown overwhelmingly white and male artists rather than highlight the diversity across all genres.

The Recording Academy has historically favored mainstream artists who they believe to be the most influential across all demographics in place of musicians who are not only at the forefront of innovation within their genres but are also usually the fan favorites. Taylor Swift, long established as one of pop music’s biggest stars and winner of 10 Grammys, is a good case in point; she was nominated in eight different categories in 2010 and can always count on receiving at least a few nods each year, even if the public’s response to her music is lukewarm at best.

While major record labels and entertainment corporations may not have gotten the message yet, the artists themselves have definitely caught on to the algorithmic system the voter pool uses by now,

especially those in the hip-hop industry. Drake, arguably the biggest name in music right now, famously criticized the entire notion of awards in his Grammy acceptance speech last year.

“This is a business where sometimes it’s up to a bunch of people that might not understand what a mixed-race kid from Canada might have to say,” the Toronto-bred rapper told the audience. “If there are people who have regular jobs who are coming out in the rain, in the snow, spending their hard-earned money to buy tickets to come to your shows, you don’t need this right here, I promise you that. You already won.”

Jay-Z, who lost out on all eight of his nominations in 2018, also wanted people to know that validation from his fans meant much more to him than an endorsement from the Academy. “Apeshit,” a collaborative track with his wife Beyoncé, features the lyrics: “Tell the Grammy’s fuck that 0 for 8 shit/Have you ever seen the crowd goin’ apeshit?”

The Grammys is certainly aware of its rapidly decreasing viewership and relevance, and to its credit, is taking some steps to fix that. Lizzo, a black female artist who is anything but establishment, leads in nominations this year, while Lil Nas X, with six nominations, is the poster child for this generation’s crop of social media stars gone viral. The Recording Academy has broadened its categories and is purposefully giving female artists more air time in order to avoid another #GrammysSoMale fiasco.

It remains to be seen if the Grammys can ever return to its former glory in the face of constant evolution within the music industry as well as the increasingly progressive changes expected of the entertainment industry from fans. One thing, however, is for certain: At the end of the night, the internet will always have something to say.



Courtesy of Variety

Mac Miller Gets Personal in Posthumous Album “Circles”



Courtesy of Variety

Neha Makkapati
Staff Writer

“Here we are,” began Mac Miller’s family in their announcement of the rapper’s recently released posthumous album. “The act of having to write this all feels surreal. At the time of passing, Malcolm was well into the process of recording his companion album to ‘Swimming,’ entitled ‘Circles.’”

On Sept. 7, 2018, Malcolm James McCormick, known by his stage name Mac Miller, died of an accidental drug overdose. The hip-hop community found itself in utter devastation, with many artists dedicating their performances to him and fans mourning over the loss of someone who gave lyrics and sounds to their own personal feelings. But, to the pleasure of all the people he inspired, Mac Miller had been recording his project “Circles” with producer Jon Brion, who continued to work on the album after his death. With this album, fans were given one more ending note, a solacing goodbye to their beloved hero.

A few months before his passing, Mac Miller dropped the album “Swimming” that helped us understand the mindset of the famed rapper, who seemed mentally stronger and had a better understanding of his hardships than ever before. Then came “Circles,” the beautifully unique sequel, giving Mac a final conclusion to his oscillating thoughts.

“We simply know that it was important to Malcolm for the world to hear it,” his family continued. Both albums, “Swimming” and “Circles,” voice Miller’s problems dealing with his depression and anxiety. But “Circles” doesn’t build on the previous album; it instead takes on a more experimental sound and never truly evolves into a typical rap album. The folksy beats with his soft singing show a distinct side of Miller, putting his personal and musical evolution on full display.

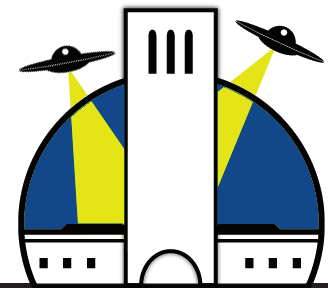
The album begins with the song “Circles,” in which Mac sings, “And I cannot be changed/I cannot be changed” – commemorating his struggles and evoking a sense of sadness over his unexpected death. However, he keeps an optimistic tone and beat throughout the album, and by the time you get to “Good News,” you see how he manages to maintain a light tone despite the harsh circumstances. Comparing the lyric “spring cleaning” with clearing his mind, Mac Miller sings his pain: “There’s a whole lot more for me waitin’ on the other side.”

“We miss him. We are left to imagine where Malcolm was going and to appreciate where he was,” Miller’s family explained. There’s something so beautiful about the melodies throughout this album. The various instruments, the symphonic sounds, the lo-fi beats; it all translates the exact feelings that his lyrics describe. Songs like “Blue World” and “Hands” give an alternate, deep-house sound, combining multiple genres. Throughout the album, you hear a different sound and tone within each song: together a creative, unabridged project.

Throughout the album, Miller seems to reach different conclusions about his emotional pain. He seemingly creates mental notes, maybe even reaching a better mindset for himself while being slightly buoyant and possibly optimistic. Yet, you still hear the darkness and sorrow of his words in each verse of every single song. Miller shows us his ability to create an amalgamation of both misery and hope, and you finally see the translucent light at the end of the pitch-black tunnel that he’s beginning to see.

It’s easy to relate to Mac Miller’s thoughts. We all feel the instability of emotions he describes and understand his constant jump between confusion and certainty, knowing that he’s “busy trippin’ bout some shit that still ain’t even happen yet,” but still fighting his dark thoughts. The love he has for this other person he talks about and the dreams he hopes to achieve with them – it all seems so comfortably relatable as we listen and daydream about the person we can’t stop thinking about. By the end of the album, the certainty in his voice is stronger, more visible than the start: “And I know that somebody knows me. I know somewhere there’s home.”

This album leaves you smiling through the tears, intensely happy and devastated at the same time; Mac Miller is alive through his songs and all the people that he resonates with. Whether you’re a fan who began listening to him after his death or one of those who knew him from the beginning, he rests with so many of us all the same. When you listen to this album you feel this energy, and he sounds alive. His pain, his love, the instruments, the lyrics – they are all so real. A perfect resolution in Mac Miller terms. The ups and downs, side to side, the circle.



NEXUSTENTIALISM

It's Satire, Stupid.

Heroic Bike Crash Bystander Isn't Going To Stop and Help, But Hopes Everyone Is OK

Kian Karamdashti
Staff Writer

Local outstanding citizen Randy Fygel is being hailed as a “local hero” after his actions today following a 27-bike pileup at the bike intersection by the Isla Vista Foot Patrol station.

According to witnesses at the scene, Fygel was present when a reckless biker ran through the yield sign into oncoming traffic, instigating the massive cycling disaster in the middle of Ocean Road. Instead of aiding those in need, however, Fygel simply yelled out an obligatory “Oh shit, are y’all good?” before continuing to jet onto campus without slowing down.

“I know he didn’t stop or anything, but you can tell by the way he turned his head before continuing on his bike ride that he was really concerned for everyone there,” local biker Lolita Vega said. “It really meant a lot to everyone there that he acknowledged the accident and had it in his thoughts as he swiftly biked away from the scene.”

One student involved in the wreck bemoaned the lack of help from bystanders, but it’s important to note that the accident occurred at 10:50 a.m. – otherwise known as peak rush hour – and a perfectly acceptable reason for a man of Fygel’s great character to abstain from actions greater than a hurried condolence.

“Oh no, I didn’t even have class. I just was just mad hungover and really wanted Jamba Juice and Panda Express from the UCen,” Fygel said. “Like, I really do hope everyone was okay, but that Strawberry Surf Rider and Orange Chicken Plate was calling my name.”

Fygel’s hopes and prayers to those involved did not go unnoticed by university administration, who will be holding an impromptu medal ceremony for Fygel in Campbell Hall this Friday at 7 p.m. Tickets have already sold out for the event, as Fygel’s admirers are clamoring to see their salubrious hero. Rumor has it the president himself has plans to bestow the highest possible civilian honor upon the well-wishing bystander.

“People standing by, wishing well and doing nothing are the backbone of this country and is what the government is all about,” President Donald Trump said. “What he did was totally huge of him and I even think he deserves a medal of honor.”

What’s next for Fygel? The world is his oyster, and he’s scheduled with an appearance on “Ellen” next week.

Kian Karamdashti fell off his bike before his Isla Vista Theater 8 a.m. to a staring, emotionless crowd of onlookers during his freshman year. He thinks about that a lot.

UCSB Employees You're Legally Allowed To Fuck



HANNAH JACKSON / DAILY NEXUS

Natalie Knothergirls
Staff Writer

You're back at it again, you sick hedonist! If you've spent the entirety of fall quarter desperately scouring around campus for a mere crumb of physical affection, scour no further – Nexustentialism has done your work for you and compiled a quick and easy reference guide of members of the UCSB employees with whom you are legally permitted to fornicate! Conveniently organized in order of fuckability, the following are options to fill the hole that your absent father left you with:

Arbor Employees

With their empty facial expressions and apparent soullessness, employees of everyone's favorite mini-mart have the sexual allure of a mayonnaise-filled Nike crew sock. Despite their unequivocally rancid air, Arbor staff are fair game for fucking. Plus, the Arbor offers a great escape from ever-present roommates, complete with a wide variety of refreshments!

Student Health Staff

Although we here at Nexustentialism cannot see the appeal in the golden girls and boys of the Student Health Center, you, dear reader, are another story. At least they'll keep it confidential!

Mental Health Peers

There's nothing better than communicating your feelings in a healthy, safe environment. If good mental health gets you going, these university-employed students are your best bet by far.

CSOs

These burly babes will leave you saying ole, ole, ole! Community Service Officers are a great option for those of you with a more butch type. Call them up for an “escort home” and let nature take its course!

CLAS Tutors

The closest you're legally allowed to get to fucking your hot TA!

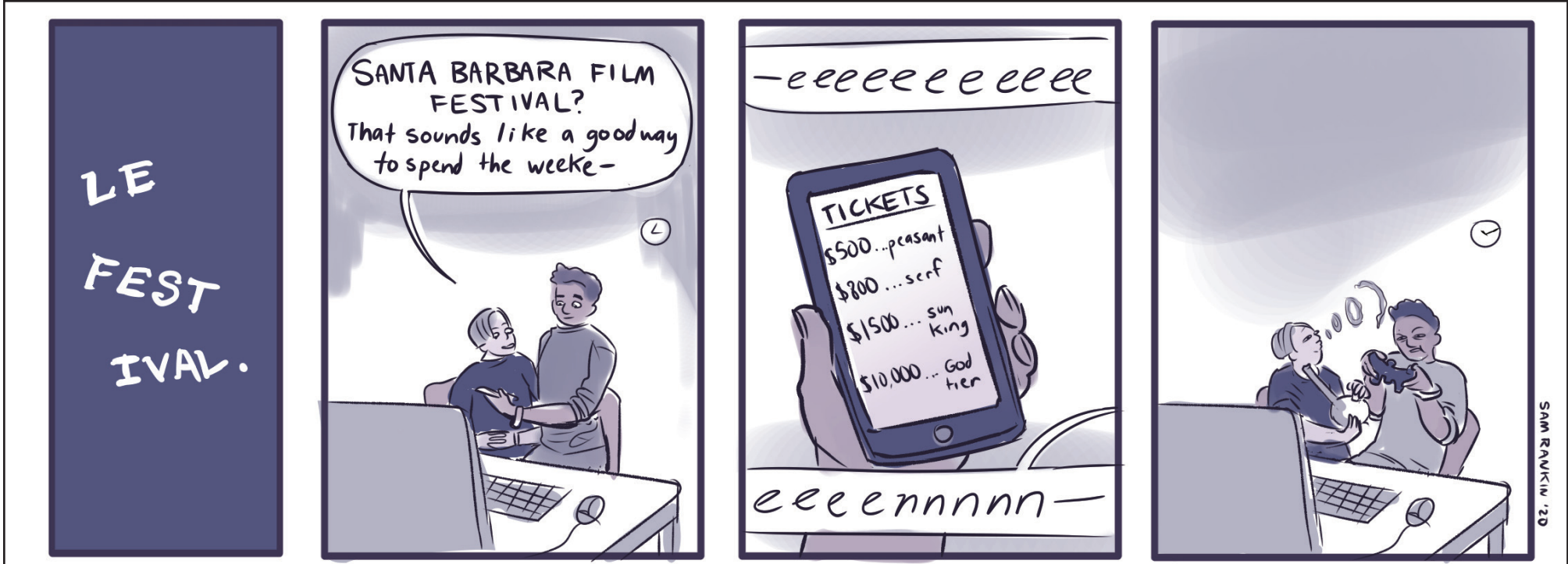
Professors That Aren't Yours

Finally, the most fuckable of those you are legally within your bounds to hook up with: a professor that you just don't happen to be the student of. No conflict of interest, no awkward in-class encounters, no problem!

Remember – stay safe, get consent and don't step outside your university-imposed legal boundaries.

Natalie Knothergirls is a virgin but has a vivid imagination.

DAILY NEXUS ART & COMICS



ON THE MENU



PHOTO COURTESY OF FLICKR.COM

Lucky Lunar New Year Foods Around the World

Winnie Lam
On the Menu Editor

The Lunar New Year celebrates the coming year according to the traditional Chinese lunisolar calendar in Asian countries such as China, Japan, Vietnam and Korea – and it’s just around the corner! A huge aspect of the Lunar New Year celebration is the food because it is said that eating certain foods during the celebration will bring in luck, prosperity and health for the new year. Check out this list of what these different Asian countries eat to ring in the new year!

CHINA

Dumplings

Dumplings are eaten on Lunar New Year’s Eve and are believed to bring wealth into the new year. This belief is based on the fact that Chinese dumplings are shaped like ingots, which was the currency used in imperial China. Like the ingots, Chinese dumplings are boat-shaped, oval and turned up at the two ends. The dumplings have a variety of fillings, but they usually contain some variation of pork, shrimp, beef and vegetables. They can be steamed or pan-fried.

Nian Gao (Glutinous Rice Cake)

Nian Gao is a glutinous rice cake that is steamed or fried. The name of the dessert itself, Nian Gao, sounds like it means “the year getting higher and higher,” which is why eating this dish during Lunar New Year festivities is said to bring a higher income or job position in the upcoming year.

Spring Rolls

These glutinous rice balls are desserts filled with sweets like red bean paste or black sesame paste. They are usually served in a simple sweet syrup and vary in size. The pronunciation and round shape of Tang Yuan are associated with reunion and being together.

Tang Yuan (Glutinous Rice Balls)

These glutinous rice balls are desserts filled with sweets like red bean paste or black sesame paste. They are usually served in a simple sweet syrup and vary in size. The pronunciation and round shape of Tang Yuan are associated with reunion and being together.

JAPAN

Ozoni (Mochi Soup)

Traditional foods known as “osechi ryori” are eaten to celebrate the new year in Japanese culture. Osechi ryori consists of a variety of dishes served in a fancy, multi-layered bento and is served with a traditional soup called ozoni. The dish has its roots in samurai-society cuisine, where it was offered to the gods in a ceremony on Lunar New Year’s Eve. There are many variations of ozoni depending on the region of Japan where the soup is made, but all versions of the soup are eaten with a piece of grilled or boiled mochi. Common additions to the soup include chicken, fish, meatballs, leafy vegetables and flakes of yuzu peel for its citrus fragrance. The type of broth can also vary, as some soups are made

with a miso-based broth and others are made with a clear, dashi-based broth.

Kuri Kinton (Candied Chestnuts and Sweet Potatoes)

This dish is made by mashing the syrup of candied chestnuts with gold sweet potatoes. It is considered a type of comfort food because of its sweetness and is only served during the Lunar New Year. The yellow color of the treat symbolizes economic fortune and wealth in the new year.

Kazunoko (Herring Roe)

Herring roe is a delicacy served during Lunar New Year celebrations to wish for the prosperity of the children or grandchildren in one’s family, because the tiny fish eggs represent fertility. The caviar is steeped in a light dashi broth and lightly seasoned with soy sauce.

VIETNAM

Banh Chung (Square Steamed Cake)

This is the most typical food eaten to celebrate Tet, the Vietnamese New Year. The square-shaped rice cake is made of glutinous sticky rice, pork and mung bean wrapped in banana leaves. The shape represents the earth and is eaten to show respect for ancestors and nature.

Banh Tet (Cylindrical Steamed Cake)

Banh Tet is similar to Banh Chung in that they both use the same ingredients and cooking methods, but they differ in shape. Banh Tet is cylindrical, which represents the moon. This steamed cake is more popular in southern Vietnam, and all members of the family are involved in the process of making Banh Tet because it allows them to bond and celebrate the holiday spirit together.

Boiled Chicken

A whole boiled chicken is a staple dish in any Vietnamese celebration, especially during the new year. The chicken symbolizes abundance, prosperity and well-being and is often presented on the ancestor worship altar along with fruits, flowers, candles and incense sticks.

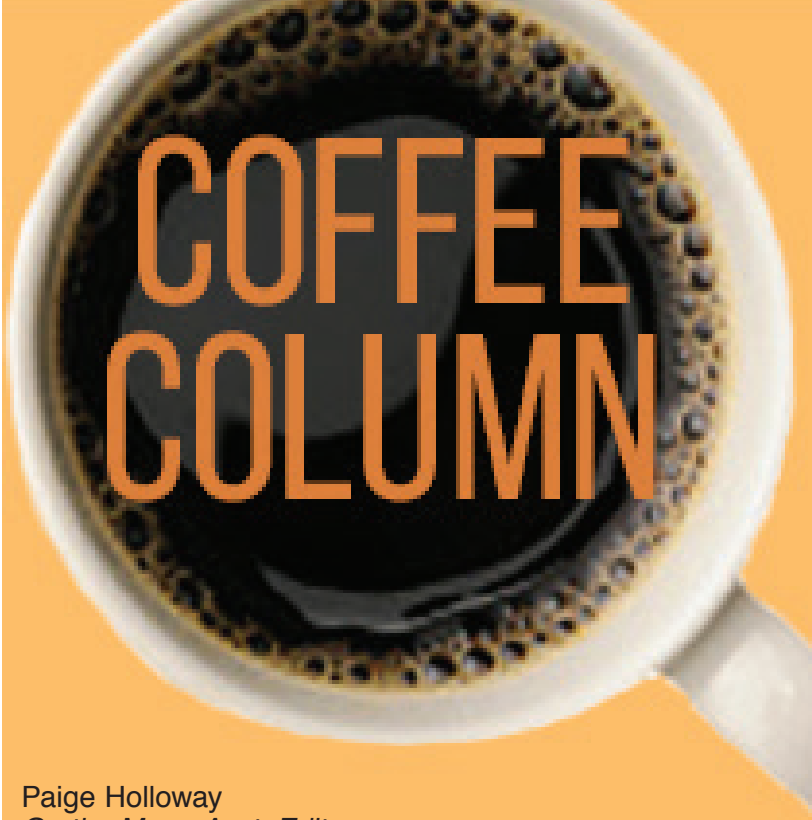
KOREA

Tteokguk (Rice Cake Soup)

Tteokguk is a traditional Korean dish eaten during the celebration of the Korean New Year that is made of a meat and soy sauce-based stock (tuk) with thinly sliced rice cakes (tteok). This dish is eaten during the Lunar New Year celebration to signify growing a year older and is believed to bring good luck, good health and a long life. Another dish, called manduguk, is similar to tteokguk, but includes dumplings.

Galbi Jjim (Beef Short Ribs)

Galbi Jjim is a popular Korean dish made with beef short ribs braised in a sweet and salty sauce with carrots and potatoes. Because of the lengthy preparation of the dish and the price of galbi in Korea, this dish is reserved for special occasions such as Korean New Year.



Paige Holloway
On the Menu Asst. Editor

If you have suffered through early eight a.m. classes or last-minute late-night studying, you know what it’s like to be a sleep-deprived UC Santa Barbara student. The most common cure to this daily exhaustion is caffeine. Throughout campus, you can see students running to Starbucks for a cold brew or the Arbor for a yerba mate. Regardless of their preference, students are constantly relying on caffeine to stay energized throughout the school day. However, that daily caffeine fix has many different effects on the body, and it’s important to know both the benefits and risks of caffeine consumption.

The most obvious benefit of caffeine is increased alertness, which can come in handy during long school or work days. In fact, some studies indicate that drinking caffeine can enhance people’s learning ability. This is due to the effect caffeine has on the brain’s ability to memorize and think critically. For students working hard to cram information from their classes and complete assigned tasks, this can be highly beneficial. This is why many students become reliant on drinking caffeine every morning or multiple times a day.

Athletes also are known to benefit from drinking coffee or caffeinated drinks during the day. Those who participate in sports may choose to drink caffeine right before a game, match or performance because of the sustained energy it provides. The European Food Safety Agency explains that caffeine can improve endurance and prevent early exhaustion.

Caffeine can also serve aesthetic purposes such as weight loss. Caffeine is an appetite suppressant, which can make people eat less than they would without it. It also can increase the amount of calories we burn at a resting state because it boosts your metabolism. In addition, caffeine stimulates thermogenesis so the body generates more heat when digesting food.

However, beyond these enticing benefits, caffeine comes with a few risks that should be acknowledged. The biggest risks of daily caffeine consumption comes from the excessive use of it. The recommended amount to reap its benefits is around 200 mg, and the maximum one should consume a day is 400 mg, typically two to three cups of coffee. When exceeded, caffeine can enhance depressed or anxious thoughts.

Caffeine also can influence physiological feelings. Many people who drink excessive amounts of caffeine may suffer from insomnia or have trouble falling asleep. This causes them to be in a constant cycle of lacking adequate sleep and relying on caffeine as their energy source. Beyond sleeping issues, drinking large amounts of caffeine can cause irritability, stomach aches, heartburn, dehydration, dizziness and jitters.

Like any drug, caffeine can also have addictive qualities. Many people become reliant on caffeine as their energy source. This causes them to build up a tolerance and eventually can lead to higher amounts of caffeine being consumed to achieve the same effects. The addictive qualities of caffeine are even more accentuated when a heavy coffee drinker cuts off their consumption abruptly. These withdrawal symptoms often include intense headaches and feelings of tiredness.

However, as long as people remain aware of what they’re putting into their body and the amounts in which they do, the risks of caffeine consumption should not be an issue. The health benefits of caffeine are important to acknowledge. Caffeine can be a healthy or unhealthy energy source, depending on how people use it. It all comes down to moderation and mindful consumption!

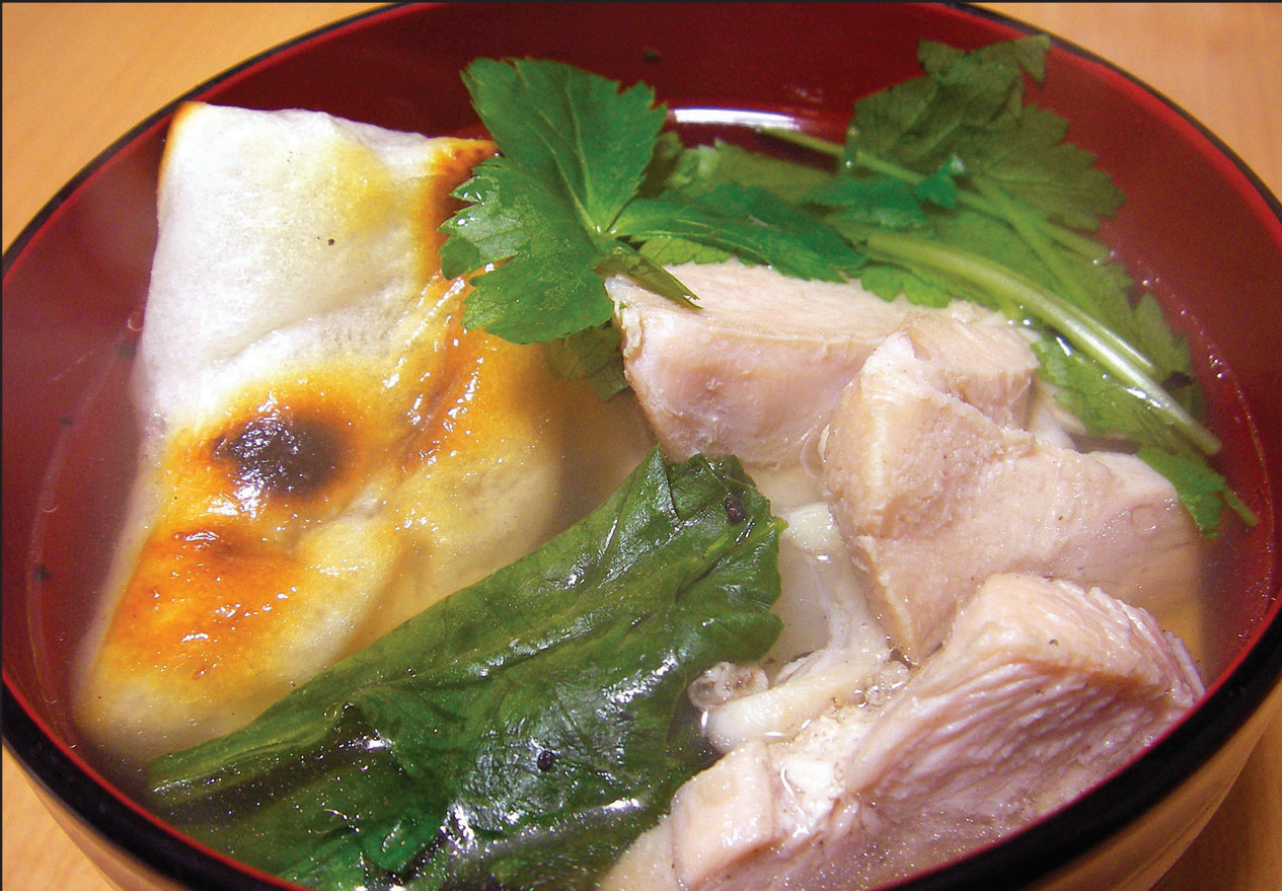


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SCIENCE & TECH

Womxn/Hacks Organizes Second Annual Hackathon Over Weekend

Surya Pugal
Reporter

Over 250 students from around campus and across the country spent 36 hours at the Student Resource Building and Corwin Pavilion coding nonstop over the weekend at the second annual Womxn/Hacks, a hackathon at UC Santa Barbara dedicated to promoting an inclusive environment for female-identifying people interested in S.T.E.M.

The Womxn/Hacks officer team, which consisted of students from various majors and school years, spent months behind the scenes organizing the hackathon, an event spanning three days during which participants develop useful or innovative tech projects and then present these projects to a series of judges.

According to Mina York, fourth-year sociology major and president of the officer board, Womxn/Hacks was spearheaded last year by Sarina Abrishamcar, president of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) and current advisor for WomxnHacks.

Abrishamcar, along with several other AAUW officers, created Womxn/Hacks as a means of bridging the enduring gender gap within computer science.

York largely attributed this disparity to stereotypes reinforced at an early age, asserting that “boys are often raised building things, whereas girls are often raised playing with dolls and taking care of things.” York also pointed out that most middle school and high school S.T.E.M. teachers tend to be male, further exacerbating the effects of imposter syndrome for female students, as well as students who do not fit into the male-female binary.

To better tackle the pressing inequity within computer science and S.T.E.M. at large, the officer board this year has doubled in size, consisting of 26 officers as well as five additional interns.

Greater emphasis had also been placed on mental health, as displayed in the creation of the Hacker Experience board, a subset of the officer board focused on putting on events related to emotional well-being, such as stargazing and mason jar painting. These events served to break away from the competitive nature of hackathons and de-stress those who may be overwhelmed with pressure to create a working product.

Kitty Fung, fourth-year computer science major and head of Hacker Experience, asserted that the ultimate goal for Womxn/Hacks was to “provide a safe space for all female-identifying and non-binary students on campus to code together.” This sentiment was evidenced by the presence of several female-identifying keynote speakers and industry leaders, who helped reinforce the idea that “empowered womxn empower womxn.”

In an effort to increase inclusivity for students of all coding backgrounds, the hackathon also offered both beginner and advanced tracks for students to participate in. Several workshops were held throughout the hackathon to teach participants about iOS, Flask, web development and even quantum programming.

Jayleen Li, a third-year computer science major and one of several mentors that assisted participants with their projects, pointed out that what makes hackathons enticing is this opportunity to “learn about new technologies and even make new friends” in the process.

This year’s theme heavily focused on sustainability, which was reflected in both the various project submissions and high concentration of recyclable materials used in the hackathon.

Winning submissions included “Hua-lee” (Best Overall and



Courtesy of Surya Pugal

The second annual 36-hour hackathon organized by Womxn/Hacks took place from Jan. 17-19 in the Student Resource Building. The event provided an opportunity for female-identifying and non-binary students to create and present innovative or useful tech projects.

Best Hardware Hack), a robot that can identify when and how to water a plant depending on its soil moisture content (developed by Jacqueline Burd, Swetha Pillai, Cher Lin and Tiffany Cowan), and “Know Your Trash” (Best Sustainability Hack), a mobile app that when given a picture of an object, can determine if the object is trash or recycling (developed by Shamali Shinde, Aakanksha Patel, Anuja Patil and Tram Tran).

Over \$26,000 in prizes were awarded, including Microsoft Surfaces, Bose noise-cancelling headphones and Atari flashbacks.

While the awards were certainly an incentive to participate, the biggest reward that hackathons provide is the pride that accompanies developing a project that you can get behind, as well as the sense of camaraderie among like-minded individuals that is hard to find anywhere else. The latter shows particularly in Womxn/Hacks, which continues to help foster a strong community of women in a male-dominated industry.

April Sanchez, third-year computer science major and WomxnHacks participant, echoed this sentiment, arguing that “events like these help promote more women joining tech and not be discouraged by naysayers.” Sanchez stated that by simply “showing up, you’ll find a welcoming community of womxn with whom to build ideas, get support from and have fun.”



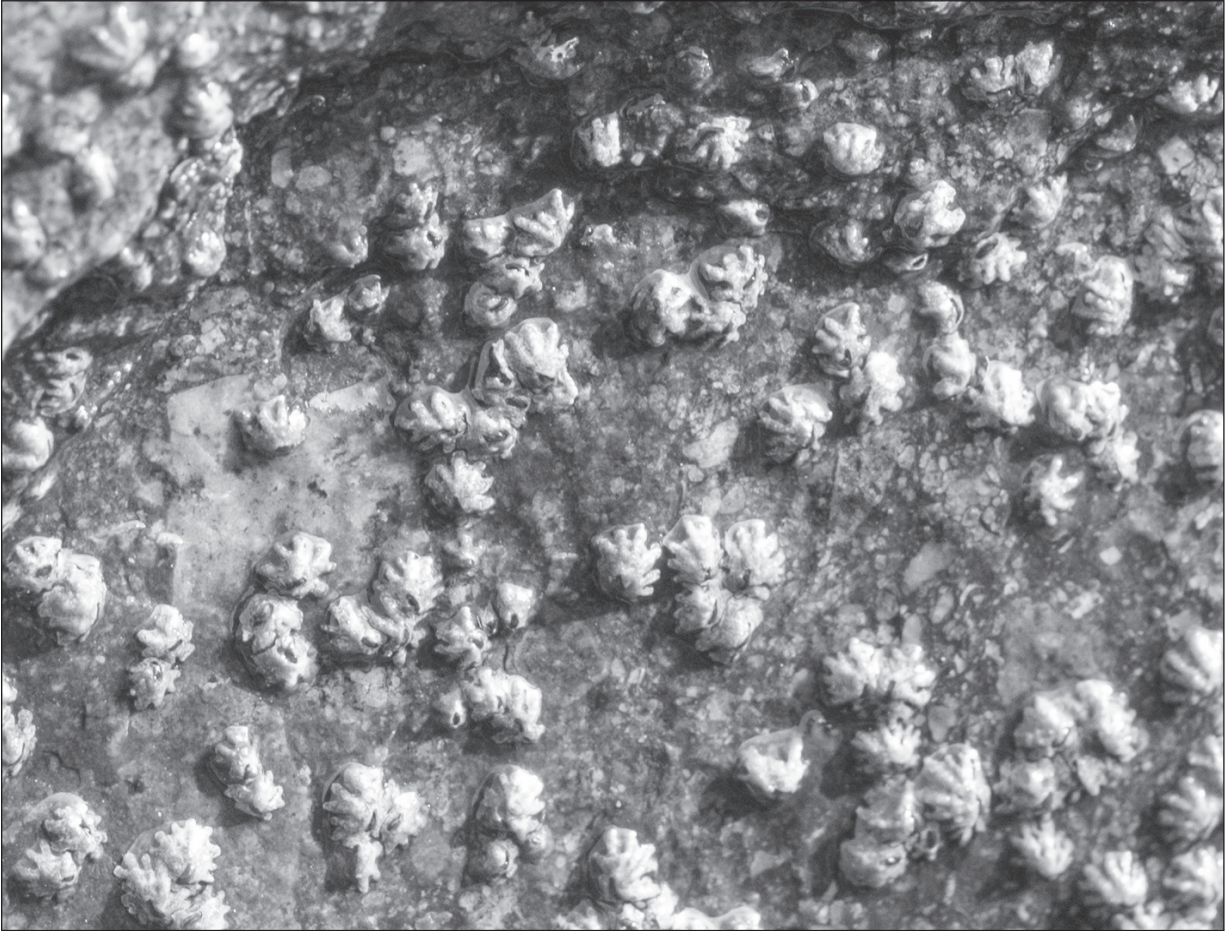
Courtesy of Surya Pugal

The hackathon hosted activities related to mental well-being, including mason jar painting, to provide the coders a break to de-stress.

The Strange Case of Parasitic Castrators Amongst Hermaphroditic Barnacles

Hannah Hirou
Reporter

Parasitic castrators remain one of the most fascinating aspects of parasitology. These organisms feast on the lipid-rich reproductive tissues of their host, which results in eventual castration.



Courtesy of iNaturalist

The study found that parasiticism infection of *H. balani* occurred at a higher rate in female-functioning barnacles.

Not a good day if you’re a barnacle ... or is it? Unlike other parasites, castrators tend to leave their host otherwise unaffected and in some cases even increase the longevity of the organism.

“All other kinds of parasites, in a certain sense, degrade their habitat and that means that host is more likely to die ... there is only one kind of energy you can take from an organism that will

not affect its viability, and that is its reproductive energy, and you can take it all,” explained Armand Kuris, a professor in the Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Marine Biology and in the College of Creative Studies.

Hemioniscus balani is a bit of an enigma. It is a parasitic isopod that, unlike most other castrators, has an ephemeral life cycle inside its host. After infecting its host, the parasite then dies.

“We don’t understand that,” Kuris said.

When it dies, the host usually regains its ability to reproduce – a very unusual case.

Wanting to find out more about this mysterious parasite and its relationship to the barnacle *Chthamalus fissus*, Kuris, UCSB postdoctoral researcher Caitlin Fong and UC San Diego professor Ryan Hechinger studied hermaphroditic barnacles and the relationship between size-specific reproduction function and infection rates by *H. balani*.

Since these barnacles are hermaphrodites, “they function as either man or female most of the time, but they don’t do both at the same time,” Kuris clarified. This means they can choose whether to devote energy to a male or female reproductive status.

The study, published in Scientific Reports, made the prediction that infection would be mainly in female-functioning barnacles due to the parasite’s feeding habits. It was also speculated that increased body size would be correlated with increased infection rates in these female hosts.

The researchers thought this could be for one of two reasons. The first was that larger size means a larger target for the parasitic isopod to encounter. The second idea was that the isopods themselves choose a larger host.

To test their hypothesis, the study looked at two different populations at six different locations along the California coast, from Goleta down to La Jolla in San Diego.

The two main factors at play when it came to this study were how the size of the barnacle affected the probability of its sex and how size then affected the probability of infection.

“Size primarily determined the probability of female reproduction, and secondarily, the probability of infection, since parasitism is only possible if the host has a female reproductive function,” Fong explained via email.

The paper found that females were most likely to be of intermediate size while the males were more often the largest.

Fong went on to state that “the probability of infection was not even across sizes (i.e. no matter the size, your probability of infection was the same). Rather, the probability of infection matched the probability of female reproduction.”

The other pivotal point in this study was the debate between the probability of encountering a host versus choosing a host. Interestingly, the data collected in the study found that the infection was not random among the different locations.

“Because the infection is non-random, something must be driving this pattern. The infectious stage is pretty mobile, so the choice seems likely,” Fong said.

H. balani is actively able to move around in the last of three larval stages, its cryptoniscus-searching stage, and would be able to choose a larger host which would be more favorable for its fitness.

This idea comes from another parasite of barnacles in the family Chthamalophilidae. These parasites infiltrate the brooding cavity of barnacles with a preference for a larger cavity size to maximize their own offspring output.

A fundamental difference between these two cases is that *H. balani* has a much shorter life cycle, so it is difficult to say whether this comparison is apt. As a result, the behavior of *H. balani* remains a subject of further research.

OPINION

There Should Be No Expiration Date on Ending Sex Discrimination



Surya Swaroop
Staff Writer

In the past week, Virginia has made significant progress in its push to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment. The Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) is an important amendment to pass because it establishes a crucial precedent that will firmly state in the Constitution that discrimination on the basis of sex is not allowed. As of now, the only aspect of the Constitution that even moderately represents an argument for equal rights is the Equal Protection Clause in the 14th Amendment. However, the clause does not explicitly prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex. The ERA also goes beyond women's rights because it also applies to sexual orientation and gender identity. Adding the ERA to the Constitution would be meaningful for both women and the LGBTQ+ community.

Virginia ultimately ratified the Amendment last Wednesday, Jan. 15, and became the 38th and final state needed for the ERA to achieve the approval it needs in order to become an addition to the Constitution. While this should be a moment of celebration, it is not that simple. The preamble to the ERA states that the amendment needed to be ratified by 1920, which has caused a huge debate as to whether or not the ERA can still be ratified today.

It is first important to understand the history of the ERA to get a better sense of why Virginia's decision and the subsequent actions taken by Congress are so critical. The concept of having an amendment specifically for equal rights was first introduced in 1923 but took almost 50 years for it to pass Congress. It ultimately did so in 1972 and became the ERA that exists today. Thirty-five states were quick to ratify the amendment shortly after it was introduced, but the momentum tapered off in the '70s mainly due to the work of conservative activists like Phyllis Schlafly.

The resurgence of women's rights activism due to events like the #MeToo Movement and the confirmation of Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh helped push Nevada and Illinois to ratify the amendment. Democrats in Virginia also tried to push the amendment through its state legislature in 2018, but the effort was unsuccessful due to the Republican majority in the state's legislature at the time. Virginia is a recently flipped state, which means the Democrats are now in control of its legislature. This was critical in the amendment passing last Wednesday. It is also significant that Virginia was the final state because Virginia has historically voted in a more conservative manner and it is a sign of progress that the state is moving in a new direction. In fact, it was *United States v. Virginia* in which Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg wrote her now-famous majority opinion stating that discrimination on the basis of sex violated the Equal Protection Clause.

It is unacceptable that it has taken almost 100 years for the ERA to finally get the 38 states needed for its addition to the Constitution. It is even more unacceptable for the Republicans to use the weak argument of an arbitrary deadline to say that Virginia's decision is essentially meaningless. The House Judiciary Committee is actively working on finding a way to eliminate the deadline. The solution they devised will likely pass the House, but it will have difficulty passing the Republican-controlled Senate. The Department of Justice issued a statement that said that Congress does not have the power to change the deadline. While this is certainly a setback in the momentum created by Virginia's decision, legal experts are arguing that this is simply another barrier in a fight that has been riddled with obstacles.

It is also important to note that, when the ERA first passed in 1972, it received a good amount of bipartisan support. Unfortunately, over the years, the issue of combatting sex discrimination has become more of a partisan issue. This has rapidly increased under the Trump administration, as Trump himself has made countless statements that portray women and the LGBTQ+ community in a negative and demeaning light. His appointment of Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court was perceived by many as Trump's approval of the despicable manner in which Kavanaugh took advantage of and abused women. Additionally, Trump has attacked women's reproductive rights through the passage of the Global Gag Rule, which is a measure that prohibits any government-funded women's health clinic from discussing safe abortion practices.

Women deserve to be seen as equal rather than inferior. The United States needs to move away from its history of outdated social hierarchy and address the lack of equality plaguing its society. On a purely ethical level, it is deplorable that a woman in 2020 is still paid less than a man, does not have the ability to make her own decisions about her reproductive health and is subject to blatant sex discrimination through no fault of her own. The ERA is by no means a magic button that will automatically erase the systemic discrimination that has become a centuries-old practice in this country. It will, however, be a significant step in the right direction. The fight to add the ERA in the constitution – the fight for women to be represented in the document that is supposed to represent the values of the United States – is by no means over.

Surya Swaroop strongly believes that the Equal Rights Amendment must be added to the Constitution to eliminate unfair practices of sex discrimination.



SAM RANKIN / DAILY NEXUS

Behind the Bombs: Exposing Our University's Relationship With Nuclear Weapons

Carley Weiler
Staff Writer

If I told you that on a system-wide level, the University of California helped design weapons that have killed over 200,000 people, would you believe it?

The University of California is considered one of the top university systems, boasting some of the brightest students and professors in the nation. It is hard to fathom how an institution that is held in such high esteem could be involved with anything but progressive initiatives. The UC Office of the President's web page includes a mission to create solutions to the urgent social and ecological issues affecting our society. In many ways, students fulfill this mission every day. If you walk through UCSB's campus, you will be surrounded by students advocating to save the bees, campaigning for sexual assault prevention and organizing for climate change awareness. It is extraordinary that so many students engage in altruistic action, despite the countless personal anxieties that most college students endure.

While universities under the UC system offer a safe and open space for student activism, this does not mean that the university reflect the actions of its students. For example, UC Santa Barbara's mascot, which appropriates the Argentinian Gaucho, is a decision made by the school, not the students. Despite some outdated practices that continue to endure under the UC system, students across the nine campuses have historically been at the forefront of progressive policy changes.

However, a deeper look into the UC's off-campus affairs reveals cracks in the ethical, forward-thinking exterior that the institution so proudly projects.

During the early stages of World War II, President Roosevelt called upon the country's top universities to help research and develop the world's first atomic bomb, naming it the Manhattan Project. Many universities responded to the call and helped the success of the project by building the world's first nuclear weapons. The University of California proclaimed their involvement a "service to the nation."

The Manhattan Project resulted in complete devastation when the United States dropped two of its nuclear weapons on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. Eighty thousand people were instantly killed in Hiroshima and thousands more died soon after from radiation exposure. Three days after this tragedy, another bomb was dropped over Nagasaki, killing approximately 40,000 people, most of whom were innocent civilians. The mass murders of the people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki are the only events in history in which nuclear weapons have been deployed.

Since its inception, the UC has partnered with the laboratory where the weapons from the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings were developed, meaning that not only was the world's first atomic bomb built under the consciousness of the UC system, but also that the institution was integral in its creation. The Nagasaki and Hiroshima bombings should have immediately ended any association between nuclear weapons and university resources.

However, the everlasting prioritization of profit and power over humanity has led the UC to engage in the ongoing research and development of weapons of mass destruction.

The ongoing development of nuclear weapons is not exactly shocking, considering the avenues through which the United States accrued its power and economic prosperity (*cough cough* mass genocide and slavery); however, it may come as a surprise that the UC system, along with about 50 other universities, is still intimately involved in the research and design of nuclear weapons today. According to the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons report (ICAN), the University of California estimated that for the fiscal year of 2019, it would receive around \$22 million in total net fee revenue for co-managing two of the biggest nuclear weapon laboratories.

The University of California's decades of involvement in the development of nuclear weapons indicates that our university leaders are willing to sacrifice morality for power and profit. The two nuclear weapons laboratories that the UC manages, the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and the Los Alamos National Laboratory, are hidden from view and overlooked by the public. Unbeknownst to most students, the UC's association with nuclear weapon laboratories generates billions of dollars in funding which is predominantly put back into nuclear weapons research. While unfathomable amounts of money are poured into the funding of the research and design of the nation's nuclear arsenal, services that are vital for the well-being of students, like healthcare, financial aid and housing assistance, receive

much less support.

After speaking to several students about the University of California's tight-knit relationship with nuclear weapon laboratories, I realized that most people were not aware of the historic impact and current development of the nuclear arsenal, let alone the UC's direct hand in designing, engineering and testing warheads. Second-year environmental studies major Maggie Drelichman said that it makes her curious to know what else the UC system is affiliated with. She wonders "if it really aligns with the school's values, message and mission that has drawn students here." Drelichman believes that if more people were aware of this issue, "the [institution] would have to respond in a way that explains their collaboration with them and maybe that could spark some change."

David Krieger, former president and founder of the Nuclear AgePeace Foundation, commented that universities have no business being involved with the development and potential use of weapons of mass destruction. "The University of California has set a very bad precedent in doing that, and students, if they understand what is going on, should be very upset about their universities engaging in development of weapons of mass destruction," he noted. Krieger added that "universities should take a moral stand and dissociate itself from the weapons."

While the development of new technology is often seen as a marker of progress, we need to be careful about how these tools are used, especially in the face of conflict. Fourth-year statistics and data science major Natasha Pollayil observes that her major is becoming increasingly popular with students. She warns that nuclear weapon industries will continue to be funded so long as people keep entering the field, as technological advancements have created a demand for engineers. Pollayil says that while these new technologies may be presented as "advancements," we need to be asking ourselves what exactly we are advancing toward.

Spending substantial sums of time and money constructing weapons whose sole purpose is to kill masses of people rather than spending those resources on issues directly affecting students is a betrayal of the purpose of our university system. The relationship between war and education must be seriously reevaluated.

We as students and faculty of the University of California must use our voices to make others aware of the dark secrets that are hidden from the public's view. We must call out our university leaders and demand change in a system that supports inhumane and immoral practices. The University of California is too great of an academic institution to still be supporting unethical practices nearly 80 years after it first became involved in the creation of nuclear weaponry. As members of this system, we have the power – and the responsibility – to take a stand.

Carley Weiler strongly believes that the University of California should disassociate itself from the development of nuclear weapons.

HOROSCOPES

The Signs as Sick People

ARIES

MARCH 21 - APRIL 19

Cries every time they blow their nose

TAURUS

APRIL 20 - MAY 20

Laughs at the doctor when receiving their mono diagnosis

GEMINI

MAY 21 - JUNE 20

Has seven different kinds of cancer according to WebMD

CANCER

JUNE 21 - JULY 22

Sleeps with their mom on speaker phone next to them

LEO

JULY 23 - AUGUST 22

Thinks that the cure to a runny nose is some weird homeopathic remedy that definitely doesn't work

VIRGO

AUGUST 23 - SEPTEMBER 22

Coughs once, instant six pack

LIBRA

SEPTEMBER 23 - OCTOBER 22

The full-on open-mouth cougher who projectile coughs onto the back of the neck of the person sitting in front of them in lecture

SCORPIO

OCTOBER 23 - NOVEMBER 21

In on hand, the bottle of Robitussin; in the other, a cigarette

SAGITTARIUS

NOVEMBER 22 - DECEMBER 21

Sick person who is *fine*

CAPRICORN

DECEMBER 22 - JANUARY 19

The constant napper we are all jealous of

AQUARIUS

JANUARY 20 - FEBRUARY 18

Person who complains about being sick all day but won't go to the doctor

PISCES

FEBRUARY 19 - MARCH 20

The non-sick germaphobe roommate who hasn't showered in weeks