

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA BARBARA

Party Like It's 1999: Coach Davis' 20 Year Dynasty Project

Jorge Mercado
Editor in Chief

When a UC Santa Barbara student thinks about the most popular sports team on campus, it might be obvious to think the answers would be men's basketball or men's soccer.

But when that same student thinks about what the most successful team has been on this campus in the past 20 years, it might be hard to think about men's tennis.

However, men's tennis is the correct answer. In the past 20 years, the UCSB men's tennis program has won 12 Big West Tournament titles and made 12 NCAA Tournament appearances; no other UCSB program has won more tournament titles in the past decade as the men's tennis team.

And the man leading this team is none other than Marty Davis.

This past Saturday, Davis made conference history, leading the UCSB men's tennis team to its fifth-straight conference title.

"Winning [Big West] titles never gets old. It is always a blast and always a new experience," Davis said.

Davis' work has not gone unnoticed. On Wednesday, Davis took home his 11th (and fourth consecutive) Big West Coach of the Year honor.

Since taking over during the 1999-2000 season,

Davis has only finished worse than third in the conference once. Since 2001, he has won 12 of the last 18 regular season titles.

Davis and his team currently own an insane 32-match win streak over Big West opponents.

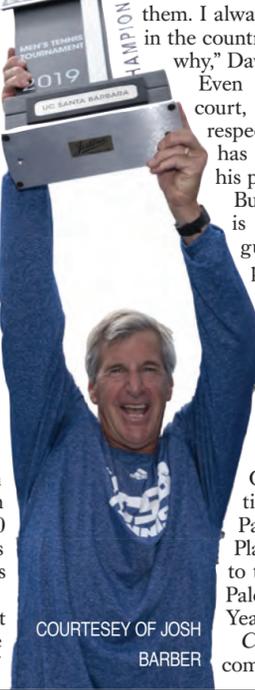
"What we have been able to do says a lot about this program but also about these players. I love coaching these guys and having Blake [Muller] on my staff certainly helps a lot," Davis said.

Still, what Davis has done transcends beyond the local sphere. Davis has transformed the UCSB tennis program into not just the best in the Big West conference but one of the best mid-majors in the country.

Every single year, Coach Davis has his team on the cusp of the ITA national rankings and every year his team is able to come up with big wins against nationally-ranked and highly-respected tennis programs.

This past year, the Gauchos defeated then No. 17 Oregon 4-3. It was the first time in Davis' career that UCSB bested a top-20 program in the country. Before this, Davis coached his team to a win over No. 22 Texas Tech in 2012.

"I was so pumped when we won. Wins against programs like that are hard to come by but we always work so hard to take advantage of



COURTESY OF JOSH BARBER

them. I always believe we are a top-25 team in the country and wins like that remind me why," Davis said.

Even beyond the coaching on the court, Davis is truly a man athletes respect and admire for the time he has put into this program and into his players.

But on the court, Davis' coaching is clearly special. Under Davis' guidance, numerous UCSB players have reached outstanding heights.

In 2000, Simon Shen was named Big West Player of the Year after going 20-0 in dual match singles, 30-3 overall and advancing to the NCAA Championships as an individual.

In 2002, not only did the Gauchos win their first league title under Davis, but Carlos Palencia was named Big West Player of the Year and advanced to the NCAA Tournament as well. Palencia was named Player of the Year again in 2003.

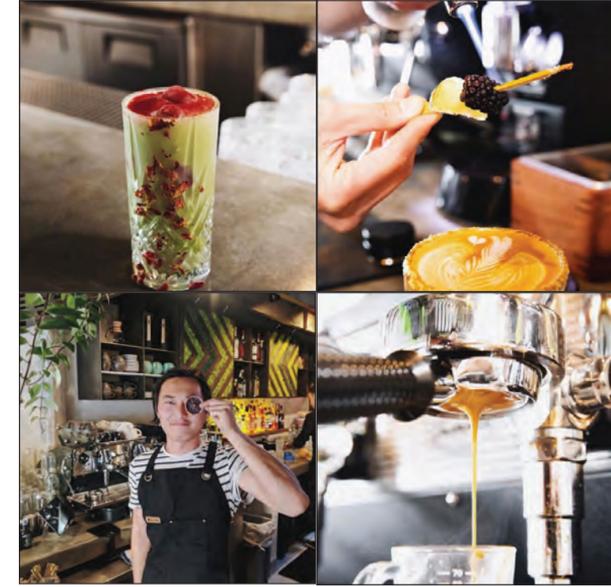
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Courtesy of Josh Barber

In his 20 years as head coach, Davis has led the UCSB Men's Tennis Program to 12 Big West Tournament titles.

Cajé Unveils Eco-Friendly Location in Downtown Santa Barbara



Courtesy of @cajefcoffee on Instagram

Amira Garewal
Staff Writer

Cajé, the much-loved coffee shop at the heart of Isla Vista, opened a second location in downtown Santa Barbara this past weekend.

According to Cajé General Manager Troy Yamasaki, the new shop, located at 416 E Haley St., is revolutionary in its progressive steps toward reducing waste.

"We are unique in that we don't have any single-use to-go cups or single-use to-go anything," Yamasaki said. "At Cajé in I.V. we understand that students are busy and have to run, but we do have a lot of consumer waste there."

"With us having the opportunity to open a shop with an entirely new concept, we thought that we should take a step in the right direction for the environment and cut down on our use of single-use plastic cups," he added.

The downtown Cajé relies on what is known as an "exchange program" as an alternative to single-use cups. Customers pay a deposit to use a reusable cup, which is repaid when the cup is returned.

"We have an exchange program, so it is \$5 for a hot cup and \$2 for a Mason jar, and you pay that deposit and you get your order in a reusable cup," Yamasaki said. "If you give it back to us, we give you [the deposit] back."

In contrast to the I.V. location, the downtown location will be a

Prohibition-era themed bar beginning at 5 p.m. The bar, called Lab Social, is a speakeasy-style bar, meaning that it is hidden from public view.

"[The bar] is supposed to be slightly incognito," Yamasaki said. "It is a trend that a lot of bigger cities are doing, where instead of just being a bar with the front door open, it's a bar that is kind of hidden within another store or hidden from plain sight."

The front door will be locked at nights, and customers will have to find their way into the bar through the back entrance, according to Yamasaki.

Other differences between the I.V. location and the new Cajé downtown revolve around the menu.

"In Isla Vista, we have bagels, acai bowls and smoothies," Yamasaki said. "[Downtown], our menu right now is consisting of a tortilla española and an avocado toast, which is different than the location in Isla Vista."

Additionally, the downtown Cajé has formed a collaboration with Sama Sama Kitchen, an Asian fusion restaurant, to diversify Cajé's menu. According to Yamasaki, the menu is expected to grow, with the full version to be rolled out come grand opening, pending a time and date to be determined.

"The space is beautiful, and we are really excited to provide a downtown haven for our regulars in Cajé Isla Vista as well," Yamasaki said.

"We appreciate all the love and support we have received so far. It's actually been ridiculous how many regulars from our current location came out to show some love and some support. There is just a lot of gratitude here for that loyalty."

Students in 2003 Voted for "Free" Night and Weekend Parking. Sixteen Years Later, Where Is It?

Evelyn Spence
County News Editor

UC Santa Barbara students have very, very limited options when it comes to parking.

Parking in Isla Vista at night leaves the danger of being towed or having a drunk student drive a Bird into your car; purchasing a daytime on-campus parking permit for the year costs over \$600 out of pocket, while night and weekend parking permits are limited to specific hours - if you don't move your car on time, you face upwards of a \$40 ticket.

But in Spring Quarter 2003, UCSB students approved a \$3.33 fee on the ballot that promised "free" night and weekend parking permits at no additional cost other than the \$3.33 per quarter. The permits allow students to park Monday through Friday from 5 p.m. to 7:30 a.m., and all day Saturday and Sunday.

At the time that the \$3.33 ballot fee was proposed, TPS announced they would begin charging \$2 for visitor parking during nights and weekends. As an "alternative," the \$3.33 per quarter fee was proposed "in order to continue providing night and weekend parking for students."

For the next five years, until around 2008, the permits were provided to students at no additional cost other than the \$3.33 fee, according to Transportation and Parking Services (TPS) Director

Nestor Covarrubias.

But it's 2019, and students are still paying that \$3.33 per quarter fee - without the free night and weekend parking.

For the past 11 years, students have had to pay money on top of the \$3.33 per quarter fee if they want night and weekend parking.

The \$3.33 fee is currently being used to "partially cover" the full cost of a night and weekend parking permit, which stands at \$160 for community members and \$52.50 for students for three quarters, Covarrubias said in an email to the Nexus.

With these permits, students can park in selected spots on campus Monday through Friday between 5 p.m. and 7:30 a.m., and all day Saturday and Sunday.

If that fee went away, students would pay the full \$160, he confirmed.

It was the discovery that the initial ballot language promised students "free" night and weekend parking that prompted A.S. President Brooke Kopel to post on her personal Facebook on April 22, encouraging UCSB students to vote no on the TPS \$3.33 reaffirmation fee that was on the Spring Quarter 2019 ballot.

"I have attempted to re-implement this free night and weekend parking that TPS has promised us. In conversations with A.S. staff, I have discovered that over the years since this lock-in was passed, TPS claims that the \$3.33 fee is just no longer enough to

supplement free night and weekend parking due to their own institutional growth and expansion," Kopel said in the post.

"BUT that is not what YOU pay for. YOU pay for FREE night and weekend parking. Not subsidized night and weekend parking."

In an interview with the Nexus, Kopel explained that her predecessor, former A.S. President Hieu Le, attempted to "strong arm" TPS into providing students with free night and weekend parking toward the end of his term by asking A.S. Executive Director Marisela Márquez not to give TPS the money collected by student fees.

Once Kopel took office, she said she was told by Márquez that A.S. cannot legally withhold that money from TPS.

"Because it's ballot language that was voted on and approved by the student body that this money will be paid to TPS, even though they're not giving exactly what the ballot language says, Marisela can't just withhold funds that students voted on giving to a department," Kopel said.

"I think it's really, really irresponsible of Associated Students to be letting students pay \$10 a year for a service they are not receiving. \$10 could be a few meals, \$10 could go to rent, \$10 could go to gas, to books."

This past Thursday, the fee was reaffirmed with 3901 yeses, or 71.79%, and 1533 noes, or 28.21%. It cannot be voted on again until Spring Quarter 2021.

If A.S. was "open to the idea," Covarrubias said, "TPS could come up with an updated rate to provide the undergraduate Night & Weekend additional permit at no cost."



CAMERON HSIEH / DAILY NEXUS

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UCSB Set to Take on Texas Tech in NCAA Tourney

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SB County Fair Celebrates 128 Years

Weather Report
Mostly Cloudy
High 68°F | Low 47°F
Temperatures hitting low 60s this weekend
Surf Report
Fair
Steep swells all day

THIS WEEK'S UP AND COMING

Friday 3 May **David Sedaris**
Granada Theatre | 7:30 p.m.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE STEVEN BARCLAY AGENCY

With his sardonic wit and incisive social critiques, David Sedaris is one of America's most celebrated humor writers. A master of satire beloved for his personal essays and short stories, Santa Barbara's favorite comedic darling returns on the heels of *Calypso*, his new collection that takes a self-deprecating look at life, growing older and beach vacations. Fans and newcomers alike will be richly rewarded by this sidesplitting evening with the man *Entertainment Weekly* dubs "the preeminent humorist of his generation."

Sunday 5 May **Dorrance Dance**
Granada Theatre | 7 p.m.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DORRANCEDANCE.COM

A rare artist who makes dance as innovative as it is engaging, tap genius Michelle Dorrance leads a company comprised of some of the best hoofers in the business. The MacArthur Fellow returns with a mesmerizing evening-length work that combines rhythm with interactive electronic music technology. The entire stage is an instrument as eight incredible dancers on electronic tap boards – plus three musicians playing live – become an orchestra creating an exciting visual and auditory polyphony that merges modernity and tradition into pure bliss.

Tuesday 7 May **Sunni Patterson**
MCC Theater | 7:30 p.m.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TED.COM

Sunni Patterson is a New Orleans based poet who combines the heritage, culture and traditions of her hometown with a spiritual worldview to create powerful music and poetry. Her words capture a culture, unite people and shed light on issues some would find uncomfortable or un-newsworthy. Most of all, she is enlightening and speaks her truth, giving other women the power and strength to do so as well. Patterson captures sunlight and radiates it in her being, in her words and in her action.

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SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level: 1 2 3 4

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SOLUTION TO FRIDAY'S PUZZLE 5/5/12

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

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

- ACROSS**
- 1 Collegian's focus subject
 - 6 Quite a way off
 - 10 "... ___ you any wool?"
 - 14 With no shoulder to cry on
 - 15 Dust speck
 - 16 "Metamorphoses" poet
 - 17 Pacific salmon
 - 18 "Kabooie!"
 - 19 TV lover's recording device
 - 20 Hankering
 - 21 *1950 Irving Berlin musical
 - 24 Bea Arthur role
 - 26 Month between avril and juin
 - 27 Swayed to and fro, as a cradle
 - 29 Chewy Nestlé candy bar
 - 34 Spanish folk hero
 - 35 The "thou" in "Wherefore art thou ...?"
 - 36 Modern: Pref.
 - 37 Custardy dessert
 - 38 More despicable
 - 39 Fraidy-cat
 - 40 Square root of IX
 - 41 Anti-wrinkle treatment
 - 42 Feel one's way
 - 43 Cheap cigar cost, once
 - 45 Tilted
 - 46 Stimpy's pal
 - 47 The V in PVC
 - 48 *Pretend
 - 53 Nile slitherer
 - 56 Teenager's bumps along the road of life?
 - 57 Taunting remark
 - 58 Farmer's fur
 - 60 Farmer's yield
 - 61 Icon clicker
 - 62 Perfect in every way
 - 63 Alluring
 - 64 Skin ink, for short
 - 65 Work a crossword puzzle
- DOWN**
- 1 Department store founder R.H. ___
 - 2 The Body Shop balm
 - 3 *Barack Obama's 2008 opponent
 - 4 Middle name adopted by John Lennon
 - 5 Saved from harm
 - 6 Stroll along
 - 7 April 1st dupe
 - 8 Basic unit of matter
 - 9 Keep in mind
 - 10 A lot of hooley
 - 11 Raring to go
 - 12 Brawny rival
 - 13 Biblical kingdom near the Dead Sea
 - 22 Recipe verb
 - 23 Club sandwich condiment
 - 25 Related (to)
 - 27 Update, as factory equipment
 - 28 Stan's slapstick sidekick
 - 29 Square dancers' neckties
 - 30 Early premium credit card, familiarly
 - 31 *Tag promoting organized labor
 - 32 Arizona city
 - 33 Kept the faith
 - 35 "Hud" director Martin
 - 38 Novelist Kurt
 - 39 Fay of "King Kong"
 - 41 U.K. network, with "the"
 - 42 Bible book where you can find the ends of the answers to starred clues
 - 44 Willies-inducing
 - 45 Actress Ullmann
 - 47 Changes course
 - 48 Apple computers
 - 49 Back forty unit
 - 50 Fort with bullion
 - 51 "Mona ___"
 - 52 "As if!"
 - 54 Czech, e.g.
 - 55 Soccer legend
 - 59 Hullabaloo

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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xwordeditor@aol.com 05/13/13

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"There's no line at Panda' has the same energy as, 'My parents aren't home."

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A.S. Calls on UCSB To Become Sanctuary Campus

Max Abrams
Asst. News Editor

On Wednesday night, the Associated Students Senate passed a resolution and tabled a bill, both of which support the protection of undocumented students at UC Santa Barbara.

While the resolution and bill are similar in nature, their overarching goals are different.

The resolution, "A Resolution to make UCSB a sanctuary campus," advocates for the university-wide protection of undocumented students, while the bill, "A bill to make ASUCSB a sanctuary space," states that Associated Students (A.S.) would "not be permitted" to communicate with immigration enforcement agencies as well as interact, receive or grant funds from more than 10 different companies.

The resolution also condemns the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (I.C.E.) and several major companies that the university is currently invested in, such as Salesforce, ABM Industries and the Hewlett-Packard Company among others. A.S. is condemning these companies due to their involvement with I.C.E.

Both pieces of legislature, drafted by Off-Campus Senators Rafael Cornejo and Christian Ornelas, were student-sponsored by Rachel Andrews, Dylan Kupsh and A.S. President Brooke Kopel.

To attain "sanctuary status," the school needs to meet several stipulations outlined in the resolution.

Refusing to share information with immigration enforcement agencies, investing in "faculty and staff training to support undocumented students," protecting students and faculty from deportation, barring I.C.E. from all UCSB-owned property and blocking "campus security" from asking about an "individual's immigration status" all contribute to the definition of "sanctuary status," according to the resolution.

The resolution calls for all current A.S.

executive offices to "release a statement in support of the Undocumented community & International Community at UCSB," and for the A.S. Executive Director to "release a statement in support of UCSB as a 'Sanctuary Campus.'"

Ornelas also cited the Senate's history of support for undocumented students by passing a resolution that supported voter rights for undocumented residents in Isla Vista.

"This Senate and past Senates have history of supporting the undocumented community and it would be good to continue that. Earlier this year, we passed something about voter rights for undocumented folks in I.V. and it's good to just do something on campus," Ornelas said.

Rachel Andrews, a second-year biopsychology major, spoke about the resolution during public forum. Andrews said undocumented students often fear being "separate from us, as if they're not your neighbor or the person you're sitting next to in class."

The bill carries similar sentiments to the resolution, with the exception that it is tailored specifically to UCSB-invested companies, stating that "Associated Students shall not provide assistance or resources" and will prohibit any presence of these companies in A.S. "physical space[s]" without the proper documentation to enter them.

Also tacked onto the bill: "ASUCSB will no longer use e-verify in its practices in order to protect the identities of its undocumented members." E-verify is a "web-based system that allows enrolled employers to confirm the eligibility of their employees to work in the United States," according to the company's website.

While addressing the Senate, Kopel noted that she asked UC President Janet Napolitano if she plans to make UCSB a sanctuary campus. According to Kopel, Napolitano ultimately said she would not, citing fears that it would make UCSB a target if it were to assume the label of a "Sanctuary Campus."



DEVIN RALSTON / DAILY NEXUS

Associated Students passed both a resolution and a bill that call on UCSB to become a sanctuary space for undocumented students and forbid A.S. from communicating with immigration enforcement, respectively.

UCSB Shuttle To Increase Frequency Amid Route Changes



NEXUS FILE PHOTO

By adding an additional bus to the route, the UCSB shuttle will be increasing frequency in order to make more room for students trying to get to campus.

Arturo Martinez Rivera
Asst. News Editor

Santa Barbara Metropolitan Transit District is slated to increase the frequency of bus line 28 by adding another bus to line 28, known as the UCSB Shuttle, which travels from Camino Real Marketplace through El Colegio Road to campus.

The change comes as part of a series of adjustments to the bus routes in Santa Barbara and Goleta to improve the timing and efficiency of routes. The line 28 adjustments were drafted by Santa Barbara Metropolitan Transit District (SBMTD) and UC Santa Barbara and are scheduled to come into effect on Aug. 19.

Adding another bus to line 28 will allow buses to pass by every 10 minutes instead of the current 15-minute intervals, according to Hillary Blackerby, interim planning and marketing manager for

SBMTD.

Line 28 was established in August 2016 as part of UCSB's Long Range Development Plan (LRDP). The plan details campus development up to 2025 through changes in programs, transportation and housing.

UCSB funds the operation of the shuttle. The quarterly lock-in student fee of \$13.13 is based on enrollment in UCSB and allows students to ride the bus for free.

Blackerby approached the Isla Vista Community Services District (I.V. CSD) at its April 23 meeting as part of SBMTD's annual April outreach to inform the board of the proposed bus route changes.

Blackerby noted buses are often filled to capacity along El Colegio Road due to the high amount of students headed toward campus. Many of these students are what she describes as "line-neutral."

"You don't care which [bus] you get on because you know whichever one you get on, it's going to wind up at campus," Blackerby said.

"When people are really just trying to get to campus, they're filling up lines that have destinations past campus, like downtown."

Buses headed toward campus are filled to capacity and exclude people farther down El Colegio as a consequence.

The 60-foot segmented buses with a standing load of 110 people were originally purchased for line 15x, but instead became used for line 28 due to higher demand. Even now, these buses are still reaching capacity and leaving people behind, according to Blackerby.

She hopes the additional line 28 bus will relieve the overcrowding problems on other El Colegio buses, such as lines 7, 11 and 24x.

UC Regent Taucher Passes

Sofia Mejias-Pascoe
Asst. News Editor

UC Regent Ellen Taucher passed away earlier this week at the age of 67 after months of fighting a pneumonia infection, the *Los Angeles Times* reported on Tuesday.

Taucher was only two years into a 12-year term of serving on the Board of Regents, but made significant contributions during her time, according to a statement released by UC President Janet Napolitano on Tuesday.

"We were extremely honored and fortunate to have Ellen serve on the UC Board of Regents where her expertise and passion for quality education... helped us navigate complex issues facing the university," Napolitano said in the statement.

“

She truly loved her country and it was an honor to work with her.

U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein

Before sitting on the board, she held a seat in Congress, worked on Wall Street for 14 years and was one of the first female members of the New York Stock Exchange, according to the UC Regents website.

While in Congress, Taucher served in several subcommittees, including within the Strategic Forces Subcommittee and the House Transportation and Infrastructure committee.

Taucher also received her bachelor's degree in early childhood development from Seton Hall University.



Courtesy of UC Regents

Governor Gavin Newsom also released a statement on Taucher's passing, stating Taucher "blazed trails in business and in the halls of Congress" and "held her own at some of the world's toughest negotiating tables."

In their statements, both Gavin and Napolitano spoke about Taucher's "grace" during pressing times. U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein described Taucher as "brilliant, gracious and generous" in a statement she released after Taucher's death.

"She had a knack for getting to the bottom of an issue smartly but also in ways that people could really understand. She truly loved her country and it was an honor to work with her," Feinstein said in the statement.

Taucher joined the Board of Regents in June 2017 after being appointed by former California Governor Jerry Brown. She was one of 17 other appointed regents who sat on the board, in addition to Napolitano.

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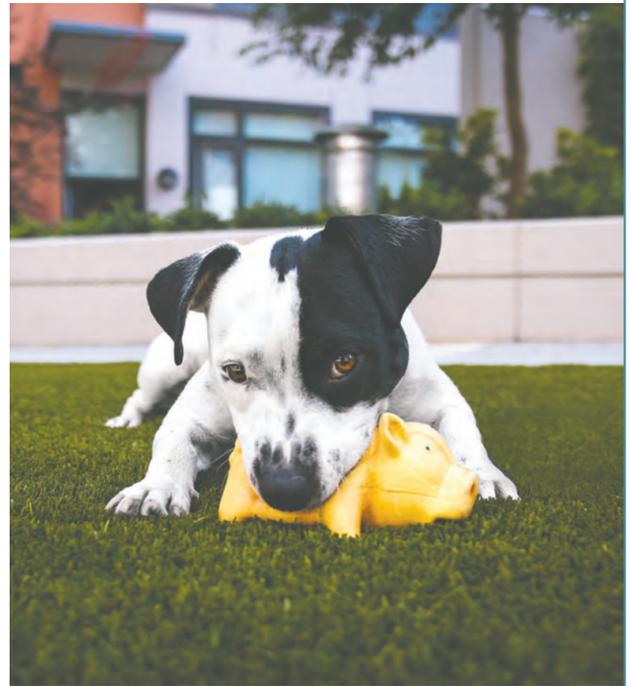
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SRB Gains Support From A.S. for More Bike Parking

Katherine Swartz
 Asst. News Editor

On Wednesday, UC Santa Barbara's Associated Students Senate unanimously passed a resolution through email vote supporting the Bike Committee's demands for greater bicycle safety at the Student Resource Building.

The Associated Students (A.S.) Bike Committee worked with Bike Committee Senate Liaison and On-Campus Senator Yash Nagpal to develop the resolution.

The resolution includes a letter written by the Associated Students (A.S.) Bike Committee, which oversees maintenance of campus bicycle infrastructure.

The letter criticizes the lack of bicycle parking and infrastructure in the newest design plan for the Student Resource Building (SRB) North Landscaping Design Project. The development plan for the lawn area north of the SRB and south of the bike path would provide more space in the SRB and expand outdoor study space, according to the letter.

Wednesday's vote is in solidarity with the A.S. Bike Committee's letter, and directs the SRB Governance Board to consider their request to put the project on hold until the design includes improvements to the SRB's bicycle system.

The resolution emphasizes how the current bicycle parking situation at the SRB threatens the safety of the campus. Because the bicycle parking lot for the Theater and Dance West building is across the bike path, accessing the SRB is "challenging and dangerous during peak hours," according to the letter.

The letter also stated that current parking "poses a potential congestion problem if either building facility receive greater traffic than usual, which happens every time a major event is held in either space."

The Bike Committee first became involved with the North Landscaping Design Project in Spring Quarter 2017, and worked with the SRB Governance Board to add bike parking to their original design.

"The [previous] design included space for approximately 35 bike parking spaces near the SRB main entrance. This space has been eliminated in the most recent proposal, and the Bike Committee hopes that it will be added back in," A.S. Bike Committee Chair Annie Golay said to the *Nexus*.

Associate Dean of Student Life and SRB Governance Board Advisor Kim Equinoa said the

changes sacrificed more bike parking for programming and study space.

"The scope was narrowed to include one design area encompassing the grass area north of SRB and south of the bike path. In that transition, the space was designed to maximize programming and study space," Equinoa said to the *Nexus*.

When the A.S. Bike Committee found out the newest design plan did not include new bike space, they wrote a letter directly to the SRB Governance Board detailing why new bike parking is necessary for the SRB.

"Currently, students who wish to go to the Student Resource Building must park in the bike lot adjacent to the Theater and Dance West building. This poses a potential congestion problem if either building facility receive greater traffic than usual, which happens every time a major event is held in either space," the letter states.

In response to the resolution, Equinoa said "the SRB Governance Board is open to receiving any feedback and information that can help inform decisions."



DEVIN RALSTON / DAILY NEXUS

A.S. Senate has agreed to ask the SRB Governance Board for increased parking around the SRB to alleviate potentially dangerous congestion.

UCSB's Lean On Me Chapter Launches Emotional Support Hotline

Simren Verma
 University News Editor

UC Santa Barbara's chapter of Lean On Me officially launched a student-run emotional support hotline service on Monday, with 12 trained student supporters on standby to respond to anyone who texts the hotline.

Lean On Me is a national nonprofit organization that "automatically and anonymously matches peers to create texting networks of instantaneous support," according to the organization's website.

Rushali Kothari, a third-year biological sciences major, founded UCSB's chapter this past fall quarter and now serves as the president.

"It's a 24/7, anonymous, peer-to-peer support text line. Anyone can text in at any time, and a trained student supporter will respond," Kothari said. "It's just a way to vent, or if you need to get something off your chest and you feel like you can't go to anyone else, this is very easy and accessible."

Kothari heard about Lean On Me from a friend at another university and decided to bring the organization to UCSB. UCSB is the first UC to have a Lean On Me chapter, according to Kothari.

The national organization handled the logistical end of setting up the hotline, Kothari said. Kothari and the rest of Lean On Me's executive board act as the people "on the ground" who publicize the hotline and help train the student supporters.

UCSB's Lean On Me chapter spent the second half of Winter Quarter and the first half of Spring Quarter recruiting the 12 student supporters who are responsible for responding to the texts that are sent to the hotline. The application process involved both an online application and an interview.

Each student supporter went through a four-hour online training session provided by the national organization, along with a three-hour in-person workshop led by Lean On Me executive board members.

"The online training was a lot about empathy and vulnerability and just being open to listening to people," Kothari said. "The workshop training was more hands-on. We went through a lot of different scenarios."

"The main two things are validating responses and validating how a person feels and how you do that, and then asking open-ended questions. Let the person... tell you what they want to tell you."

The training also involved educating the student supporters about other resources in the local area so that they are able to refer people who text the hotline to those resources.

"We do have systems in place if something does seem very serious... they'd alert the national team and get the person's phone number if they're in danger and then we can give that phone number to UCPD to get the person help if need be," Kothari said.

When someone texts the hotline, they have to agree to a list of terms and conditions before a student supporter can reach out to them. 30 people have texted the hotline since its launch on Monday, according to Kothari.

"A lot of people were just testing it out the first day. The text was like 'hey, I'm just testing this out to see if it's real,' and we'd be like 'yeah, it's real, it's working, you've got us!'" Kothari said.

"A lot of people have been using it for what it's meant for, whether they're stressed, they have mild mental health issues, eating disorders, family grief, whatever it might be, and we're here to help."

Emily Talbert, a second-year psychological and brain sciences major, is one of the twelve student supporters. She has exchanged texts with two people since the hotline's launch on Monday.

"The main point is to make sure they know that there's a lot of resources out there and that this is a good starting point if they need to go further, and if not, this is a good place to just... talk it out, basically," Talbert said.

Some text conversations have lasted more than a day, while some are as short as 30 minutes, according to Kothari.

To publicize the hotline, Lean On Me has been tabling in the Arbor and plans to put up flyers around campus and Isla Vista soon, Kothari said.

Lean On Me also wants to form partnerships with Counseling & Psychological Services (C.A.P.S.) and UCSB Health & Wellness.

"Everyone has a lot of their own problems and their own things that they're dealing with and sometimes it's not easy to tell a friend or find someone to help you," Kothari said. "C.A.P.S. is a great resource for sure but it can't handle such a large school and the large amount of students that we have."

The hotline's number is (805) 874-5888.



HANNAH JACKSON / DAILY NEXUS

The campus' chapter of Lean On Me recently opened a text-based, student-run emotional support hotline.

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Armchair QB

We are now in May, and the Padres are still over .500. No, that was not a typo.



SPORTS

Track and Field

The UCSB track and field team will compete in the Big West Conference Championship Multis this weekend. For more details visit dailynews.com

UCSB Set To Take on Texas Tech in NCAA Tourney

Annika Pearson
Staff Writer

The UCSB men's tennis team made program history last week, earning their fifth consecutive Big West Championship title. Now, they are set to face No. 24 Texas Tech in the first round of the 2019 NCAA Tournament.

The Gauchos (16-6, 5-0) made their Big West sweep look effortless. Beating Texas Tech, however, will not come with as much ease.

The Red Raiders faced brutal competition over the duration of their season.

Each team in the Big 12 Conference alone is nationally ranked, including No. 4 Texas Tech, No. 6 Oklahoma State and No. 9 TCU.

Texas Tech (15-11) earned an at-large bid into the tournament after finishing 2-3 in B12. Nonetheless, its repeated exposure to highly competitive programs – and being one itself – gives it an experienced advantage, one that Santa Barbara simply did not have the opportunity to develop.

UC Santa Barbara has only faced four nationally-ranked teams this season and only defeated No. 17 Oregon.

In their other three matchups, the Gauchos fell on the road to Pac-12 opponents USC, Cal

and UCLA.

The Gauchos' success so far, however, cannot be undermined so easily.

Undeclared in league and boasting a .727 winning percentage, the team has unsurprisingly demonstrated how in many ways they mirror, if not exceed, the talent of Texas Tech as doubles and as individuals.

Santa Barbara brings four nationally-ranked singles and duos into this next match: No. 16 Nicolas Moreno de Alboran, No. 58 Joseph Guillin, No. 115 Victor Krustev and No. 89 doubles Anders Holm and Moreno de Alboran.

Moreno de Alboran came into his senior season with the prospect of being one of the program's best players, and his outstanding performance so far only solidified the claim. Of his last 14 matches, he has racked 12 wins.

A local at the No. 1 court, the senior has also faced 14 nationally-ranked singles and, more importantly, has been triumphant over eight of them.

This experience will lend itself to defeating Moreno de Alboran's likely opponent, No. 79 Parker Wynn.

Though at one point he was riding on eight wins in a row, Wynn only recently broke a four-game losing streak against Baylor's No. 22

Johannes Schretter. Granted, the junior's last six competitors have consisted solely of players ranked in the top 100.

For that reason, facing Santa Barbara's co-captain may seem daunting, and rightly so, as Moreno de Alboran exceeds his and most of his recent opponents' rankings.

At court one for doubles, fellow co-captain and senior Anders Holm joins Moreno de Alboran.

Seasoned and consistently dominant, the two earned their ranking as a pair by no mistake. After taking out Cal Poly's top duo on Sunday, the doubles achieved their eighth consecutive win.

The No. 89 senior pair significantly defeated the No. 17 doubles team Jacob Brumm and Yuta Kikuchi of No. 46 Cal Berkeley in a single 6-1 set.

Texas Tech's most dominant duo, however, poses a massive threat to their streak. Ranked No. 10 in the nation, redshirt junior Bjorn Thomson and Wynn boast an impressive 28-9 record.

Before losing their last conference match, Thomson and Wynn secured arguably their most prized victory of the season against the No. 1 doubles team in the nation, No. 6 Baylor's

Sven Lah and Jimmy Bendeck.

The two were recently selected to participate in the NCAA Singles and Doubles Championship in May.

Holding down the two and three courts for the Gauchos are No. 58 Joseph Guillin and No. 115 Victor Krustev. Likely, the junior and sophomore will face No. 108 Tommy Mylnikov and Ilgiz Valiev.

On court four, senior stalwart Hironori Koyanagi will look to keep his five game win-streak intact. With veterans Koyanagi and Holm on the lower courts, the Gauchos will hope their experience and confidence can elevate them on Friday.

As for the rest, Santa Barbara will need to successfully utilize their built-up momentum in order to take out Texas Tech and exceed the first round of NCAA. In their last four trips to the NCAA tournament, UCSB were knocked out in the first round.

Though as a program the Red Raiders are threatening, the UCSB team has the skill on both the doubles and singles levels to carry out an important win, and prove that Santa Barbara can compete with the best teams in the nation.

The Gauchos will get this opportunity this Friday at 11 a.m. in Palo Alto.

UCSB Men's Tennis NCAA Division One Championship Results

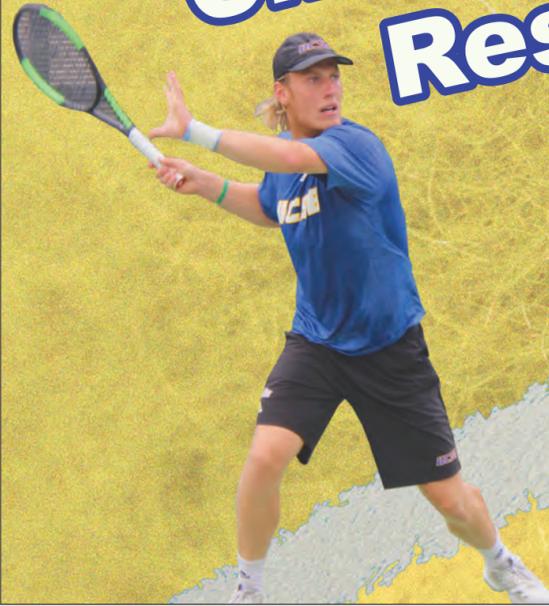
2015: Record 16-10, lost in the first round to Texas Tech 4-2

2016: Record 17-7, lost in first round to Georgia Tech 4-1

2017: Record 19-6, lost to Ole Miss 4-1

2018: Record 18-7, lost to USC 4-1

2019: Record 16-6, faceoff against Texas Tech May 3!



Multiple Gauchos Take Home Conference Accolades

Brandon Victor
Asst. Sports Editor

After dominating their competition on the court all season, the UCSB men's tennis team continued their dominance off the court on Wednesday, winning a number of end-of-season conference accolades.

Most notably, for the second season in a row senior Nicolas Moreno De Alboran was named the Big West Player of the Year, marking only the second time in school history that a Gaucho has won the award in consecutive seasons.

Moreno De Alboran finished the season with a 14-3 dual singles record, and currently presides as the No. 16 player in the country. If Moreno De Alboran remains in the top 16, he will finish the season as an All-American.

Moreno De Alboran will take part in the NCAA singles championship later this month as a top-16 seed.

Last season, Moreno De Alboran became the first UCSB athlete to win a match in the NCAA Tournament since 1995.

For the fourth consecutive season, Head Coach Marty Davis was named the Big West Coach of the Year.

With the accolade, Davis has now won the award in 11 of the 20 seasons he has coached the Gauchos – a feat that will likely never be matched.

Alongside Moreno De Alboran, junior Joseph Guillin and sophomore Victor Krustev both received First Team honors in both singles and

doubles.

Guillin finished the season with a 10-6 overall singles record – a record that likely would have been better if not for UCSB's overall dominance.

The No. 53 player in the country, Guillin received an at-large bid to participate in the NCAA singles championship.

In only his second season as a Gaucho, Krustev went 14-4 in dual-match play, and was ranked for a majority of the season.

As a duo, Guillin and Krustev crushed their opponents, tallying an 11-2 record in dual-match play.

Rounding out First Team honors for UCSB, Moreno De Alboran and senior Anders Holm earned First Team honors in doubles play for the third straight year, as well as an appearance in the NCAA Doubles Tournament for the first time in their careers.

Winners of their last eight doubles matches, the duo will be the first Gaucho pair to make the postseason since Morgan Mays and Simon Freund in 2017.

Senior Hironori Koyanagi was also honored on Wednesday, earning Second Team honors.

Since moving up to the fourth spot, Koyanagi has cruised to a 6-1 record, including five consecutive victories.

After winning 32 straight Big West matches, it is no surprise that UCSB took home so many conference accolades.

Now, the Gauchos will hope their conference success translates into a run in the NCAA Tournament.



JORGE MERCADO / DAILY NEXUS

No. 8 Gauchos Look To Get Back On Track, Face CSUN



Jorge Mercado
Editor in Chief

Last week was a bit of a wake-up call for the No. 8 UCSB baseball team. Santa Barbara traveled to UC Riverside with a bunch of momentum, riding the high of a program-best 13 straight wins.

What met them, however, was a swift punch in the face as the Gauchos stumbled losing their first conference series of the season, dropping two of three against the Highlanders.

Because of that, UCSB dropped to second in the Big West standings with a 9-2 conference mark. Following a win at home versus CSUB on Tuesday, Santa Barbara is 33-7 overall.

This week, the Gauchos will have a similar test as they travel to face CSUN, a team that has had its fair share of struggles this year currently boasting a 19-23 overall mark and a 6-9 league record placing them in the bottom third of the standings.

Last week, really everything that could go wrong, did go wrong for UCSB. In losses on Friday and Saturday, the Gauchos were outscored by a combined score of 16-6.

On Friday, starter Ben Brecht took his usual spot on the mound for the Gauchos. Coming into the game, Brecht had pitched stellar, but that night he was anything but. Brecht (7-1) suffered his first loss of the season following an outing that included allowing eight hits and seven earned runs in just four innings of work. The junior also had a season-low three strikeouts.

On Saturday, the story was the same for Jack Dashwood (6-1). The lefty suffered his first loss of the season following a 4.2 inning outing that involved him allowing nine hits and five earned runs. Dashwood did strike out nine batters but gave up a season-high two home runs in the same game.

The Gauchos will hope to get back on track this week facing a CSUN team that ranks seventh in the conference in batting average. The team sports just a .259 batting average.

However, when CSUN does get contact, it hits for power as its slugging percentage (.404) ranks third in the conference.

Also, last week UCSB pitchers were facing one of the best power hitters in the Big West in Conner Cannon from UCR. This week, CSUN does not really have a ferocious hitter such as Cannon.

The Matadors do have infielder Kyle Barret, however, and he certainly has had a solid campaign. He currently sports a .333 batting average and has drove in 25 runs. His 15 doubles on the season rank first in the conference. CSUN still has other solid hitters across the lineup as it has four players in the top 30 of the conference in terms of batting average, but no one that really scares the opposition.

The Gauchos, however, definitely have those power hitters that scare the opposition. Even last week, UCSB still sprayed a bunch of hits, and in the one game the squad took at UCR, it exploded for 20 hits and 15 runs.

Sophomore shortstop McClain O'Connor was the man of the hour last Sunday at UCR as he had the game of his life batting 4 for 6 driving in four runs and scoring three times.

O'Connor is really one of the hottest bats on the team since becoming a consistent player in the lineup mid-March. In his last 14 outings, O'Connor has accumulated 20 hits and eight RBIs. His .359 batting average would rank as one of the top among the conference if he had more at-bats.

Speaking of hot bats, outfielder Armani Smith has been on a tear. The junior currently holds a five-game hitting streak and in that same time span, Smith has gone 6-17 with three RBIs. His 33 RBIs rank third amongst the team while his eight home runs rank second.

Recently, Smith also hit the .300 club as he sports a .302 batting average thanks to his recent hitting.

Finally, Marcos Castanon made his return to the lineup last weekend and has been solid. The sophomore third baseman in his three starts has gone an outstanding 7-13 with three runs scored and one batted in.

For UCSB, this week is all about getting back on track. A nice midweek win really gave this team a little more confidence, but the truth is the Gauchos are far from a league crown. Cal Poly is coming hard so Santa Barbara needs to pick up these wins when it can.

UCSB will begin its three-game set versus CSUN at 3 p.m. on Friday, May 3 at the Matador Baseball Field.

Women's Water Polo Demonstrates Improvement, Finishes Third in Conference

Kunal Mehta
Staff Writer

No. 11 UCSB women's water polo team wrapped up their season this past weekend with an overall record of 22-8, 3-2 in conference play, as well as finished third place in the Big West.

After having an up-and-down year last season where they only won 16 games, Santa Barbara was able to rack up six more wins. They were able to win the close games that they had lost the season prior because of strong leadership from their seniors.

Senior utility Kate Pipkin, who made First Team All-Conference, was instrumental for the 'Chos as she tallied 40 goals, 29 assists and 18 steals.

One thing that cannot be overlooked was Pipkin's ability to playmake for her teammates. This kept opposing defenses from being able to doubleteam as UCSB would almost always make the extra pass.

On that note, senior attacker Sarah Kreiser also had a season to remember as she was able to score 32 goals as well as 26 assists, earning

her Second Team All-Conference.

Her consistency was crucial to the success of UCSB this year as she had numerous well-timed goals that either give her squad the edge or put the game out of reach for their opponent.

UCSB will look to build upon their successful season in the hope that they will finally win the Big West Conference

For junior utility Sarah Snyder, next year will be her final season where she will look to build upon her impressive numbers this year.

Snyder netted a team-high 65 goals along

with seven assists.

Although she is nearly impossible to stop on the offensive side of the pool, one aspect that she will look to improve on will be her playmaking with the departure of Pipkin.

There is a lot to be excited about for the Gauchos as they return the majority of their starters for next year.

Moreover, there will be opportunities for the younger players to take on a bigger role as well. Junior utility Caitlyn Snyder will look to take on one of those roles, following her impressive freshman season.

Snyder, who is Sarah Snyder's younger sister, finished with 27 goals and 30 assists and will look to finish her UCSB career on a high note next year.

Another highlight for the 'Chos was the play of their goalkeepers.

Both sophomore Becca Buck and junior Kenzi Snyder shared time in front of the cage and combined for a total of 250 saves.

The dynamic duo has grown a tremendous amount of confidence which will undoubtedly carry over to next year.

UCSB will look to build upon their successful season with the hope that they will finally win the Big West Conference.

In order for them to do so, they will need to further develop this year's chemistry.

Many of their losses this season have been extremely close which is a sign that if they learn from their mistakes, they will be able to win those similar situations next season.

Since the Big West Conference is extremely competitive, it will be crucial for Santa Barbara to have a strong offseason.

If there is one area that UCSB will look to improve, it will be their movement when their offensive sets are not yielding results.

There were times throughout the season where they would be in a drought offensively and would be unable to break out of it.

By continuing to move by cutting or setting screens, this will create more opportunities for shots on goal.

UCSB will look to build upon their successful season as they aim to win the Big West Conference next season with an experienced group that is ready to take the next step.

UCSB Swept by Upstart Matadors, Drop Fifth Straight

Jake Ciccone
Staff Writer

UCSB was unable to keep CSUN's offense at bay as the Gauchos dropped all three games at home against the Matadors last weekend.

After the conclusion of the series, the Gauchos fall deeper into the doldrums of the Big West at 2-13 in conference and 8-38 on the season. With the sweep, the Matadors improve to 8-7 in the Big West and 24-24 overall.

The most obvious takeaway from this series is that the UCSB pitching staff was unable to slow down a very good CSUN offense, leading the Gauchos into a hole that they were unable to dig themselves out of. The Matadors outscored the Gauchos 21-7 over the course of three games and never trailed over that stretch. The pressure of playing from behind combined with solid pitching performances by CSUN put UCSB at a major disadvantage for the duration of the series.

Game one on Saturday was the most lopsided game of the entire series, as CSUN was able to score five runs on six hits in the top of the first inning to basically solidify the outcome from the start.

Northridge's bats were cooking the whole time as they finished with 13 hits as a team and with five players producing more than one hit.

On the other side, Santa Barbara only managed six hits as a team; Sammy Fabian was the only Gaucho to record more than one hit as she went 2-4.

The Matadors extended their lead to 8-0 in the fifth inning before RBIs from Teah Thies and Devan Sperry brought the lead to 8-2 in favor of CSUN.

The lead eventually ballooned back to 10-2 before the game ended and Northridge took a comfortable 1-0 series lead.

The second game played out in a very different way than the first but with a similar outcome. No runs were scored through the first three innings as Veronika Gulvin of UCSB and Kenedee Jamerson of CSUN both seemed comfortable early on.

Northridge ended up striking first, putting up one run in the fourth and fifth innings due to a single and a sacrifice play.

Santa Barbara then immediately responded as a Maci Finessingle and Melanie Menor double tied up the score at 2-2.

Unfortunately, the Gauchos' comeback effort fell short when CSUN put up three runs on four hits to go up 5-2 in the sixth inning and as UCSB did not record a hit for the rest of the game, ultimately falling in the second game of the back-to-back.

The series finale on Sunday continued the trend of the Matadors grabbing an early lead as they found themselves up 5-0 after four innings with the Gauchos having yet to record a hit against Jillian James, the ace of CSUN's pitching staff.

UCSB was finally able to retake the momentum and put some fear into CSUN for the first time all game as they racked up three runs on five hits in the bottom of the fifth, forcing a pitching change with the tying run at the plate.

Still, the Gauchos were unable to come all the way back as Kenedee Jamerson came in and staved off the Gaucho comeback effort.

The Matadors put up one more run in the sixth inning to extend their lead back to three, which proved to be insurmountable for Santa Barbara as they went on to win by a score of 6-3 and clinched the series sweep in the process.

The Gauchos will face UC Riverside next weekend in their final home series of the season, starting with a doubleheader at Campus Diamond starting at 1 p.m. on Saturday, May 4.





NEXUSTENTIALISM

It's satire, stupid.



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Breaking: Ex-S.T.E.M. Major Finds New Ways To Hate Her Life

Carly Kay
Staff Writer

After switching her major from biochemistry to medieval studies, third-year Ima Noying has longed to fill the empty void in her heart that used to be nourished by the steady source of fear associated with being a S.T.E.M. major. The high concentration of dopamine levels in her bloodstream have resulted in Noying experiencing extreme discomfort and crippling paranoia due to the lack of anxiety.

"I knew I was in trouble when I started singing 'Happy' by Pharrell Williams un-ironically," Noying stated. "The fact that I've developed a sense of pop-culture enough to know who Pharrell is without a Google search is already unsettling as it is."

In order to reestablish her connection to self-loathing and anguish, the newly branded "Positive Polly" has been actively seeking out new ways to hate her life. Noying has been seen openly walking through the Arbor without

headphones and has been spotted at frat parties stone-cold sober on numerous occasions.

"I'm so happy that she finally has found peace," reported her roommate. "It honestly was a bit painful watching her learn how to smile again."

The hours Noying used to spend pouring over her lab reports are now used to engage in aggravating activities to maintain a balanced mindset.

She particularly enjoys arriving to her lectures 10 minutes late so that she has the option to sit on the rock-hard ground or interrupt the professor while hurdling over her classmates to claim the one open seat in the middle of the row.

Noying is proud to announce that she has transitioned from "Happy" to her old time favorite "The Sounds of Silence" by Simon & Garfunkel.

Carly Kay agrees with Bill Nye that science does indeed rule.

Son of Non-Traditional Student Somehow Central to Class Discussion, Sources Claim

Sam Penn
Staff Writer

Students of History 178B: US Wealth and Poverty have found that somehow all class content ties back to non-traditional and fellow student Tammy Oblesky's son, Ethan.

This was unanimously discovered after Oblesky raised her hand to comment after the professor's lecture on American ideals of meritocracy, saying that she follows this because she makes her son Ethan do chores before he can play Fortnite.

Oblesky's classmates told Nexustentialism that she can be easily identified as the woman trying to commandeer the class, implementing alternative instructions to the professor's (it is unclear if she assumes her likeness in age qualifies her to do this) or by her to-go mug that reads, "I'm a Mom. What's your superpower?"

Further, classmates are unclear as to how long Oblesky has been in school. Some say since 1985, others say forever. There is no in between. Whatever the case, classmate Nelida Silva stated, "At this point I probably know more about Ethan than American industry."

When the professor lectured on American reconstruction, Oblesky told the class that Ethan watches YouTube gamers who advertise

different energy drinks, which Ethan buys without her permission.

When classmate Ryan Thorne commented that the current handout neglected to comment on workers' rights of the time period, Tammy followed up by telling the class that as a baby, Ethan got a rash so severe he was hospitalized, and this is why he is short for his age.

Additionally, Oblesky has been an integral part of the class by being very vocal as to which page a pulled quote can be found and using the "find" function on her iPad to see how many times the word "industrial" appears. On more than one occasion, Oblesky has graciously gone out of her way to alert the professor that the word "imperialism" appeared on a handout 45 times.

There's no word yet if the midterm will include material on Ethan and his goings-on, but classmates are sure to review Oblesky's greatest points of contribution which include but are not limited to: Ethan's experience at baseball camp over break, Ethan's favorite type of Hansen soda (tangerine), Ethan's attitude toward Fortnite (favorable), his attitude toward showing affection for Tammy (bad) and his burgeoning YouTube gaming channel.

Sam Penn is ageist.



DAILY NEXUS ART & COMICS



ARTSWEEK

Freddie Gibbs Intoxicates Velvet Jones

Konrad Neithercutt
Staff Writer

The Gary, Ind., gangster rapper returned to Velvet Jones last Thursday completely in the pocket. In fact, he seemed like someone who could never in any way be shaken from the pocket, doing things like going a capella on his hardest verses while still making them sound like butter and challenging the crowd to keep up.

The world needs more rap shows like this – more rap shows that don't stutter. That night, no one's favorite lyrics were skipped, muffled, tripped over or mangled. The smoothness of Freddie Gibbs' performance appeared to be unconscious, perhaps something to do with him having woken up just before taking the stage. After he came out singing "Now & Later Gators," quite possibly the closest thing to a soul song in any gangster rapper's discography, he explained, "I'm higher than a motherfucker, I just woke up." He added, to doubtlessly anticipated whoops and cheers, "I don't know what the fuck I smoked, you know what I'm saying, some California shit."

That is not to say, though, that his performance was sedated. If you've ever heard a Freddie Gibbs song, you are familiar with the liquid intensity that permeates his music, warped to whatever flow he is masterfully steering at any – any – moment you might pick out. His music is more engaging than it is hypnotic. It pulls you in, not down.

There was no tension to speak of between man and crowd; they had some sort of unspoken agreement that prevented any of that. It was mutually understood that everyone was simply there to wild out to, as Freddie Gibbs put it, "some gangsta shit." And that is exactly what they did.

It didn't take long for Gibbs to get to cuts from *Piñata*, his iconic 2014 collaboration with Madlib.



Courtesy of HipHop-N-More

After "Still Livin'" and "Eastside Moonwalker" warmed the room all the way up – along with playful interludes involving his trademark check-in, "Make some noise in this motherfucker," and call-and-response go-tos, "Say fuck po-lice, fuck po-lice," and, "I say E-S, you say G-N: E-S, G-N..." – Freddie Gibbs did "Thuggin'." And he didn't just *do* it. He did it a capella – the *entire* thing. A full three minutes of three relentless, bare-knuckle verses with *no* beat to back them up. And it *murdered*. The number of people rapping along throughout it was no small surprise. To say the least, Santa Barbara is not a hip hop city – many more UCSB students would rather listen to EDM on a knockoff Bose Mini speaker than pay more than \$5 for a rap concert ticket. But this crowd was different. I could only count one tank top-donning, bleach-blond individual among them. The hip hop heads showed out for Freddie Gibbs.

And he had them rocking. For the rest of the night, the building was all in. Other *Piñata* tracks "Harold's"

and "Deeper" surely elevated the crowd's hype for *Bandana*, the follow-up Madlib collaboration project set for release later this year. What followed was a filling setlist of banger after banger after banger, most of it coming off his 2018 commercial mixtape and latest non-single release, *Freddie* (as for his latest single releases, check out "Flat Tummy Tea" and "Bandana" if you haven't already!)

The world's best charismatic, cold-blooded rapper seemed to be having fun. In between an earth-shaking "Triple Threat" and a raw and reckless "2 Legit," he started singing lines from the latter's Mary J. Blige sample and joked, "Fuck this rap shit, I'm tired of it. I'ma do R&B."

He could pull it off, too. The man seems to make no wrong moves as of late. With more music already on the way, I have a hunch Freddie Gibbs will be staying in the pocket for some time into the foreseeable future, and hopefully he has another Santa Barbara return in store for us soon.



Courtesy of Pitchfork

7 Songs Even Country Skeptics Can Enjoy

Hannah George
Reporter

First, apologies in advance if you consider yourself a country fanatic. But, whether your current residence is the beach, the city, the suburbs or essentially anywhere that isn't the country, I can probably guess that you do not like country music. There's an age-old conversation that goes something like this:

"Hey, what kind of music do you like?"

"Anything, besides country."

While some of us live and breathe this sentiment, there are exceptions. The following songs, all of which straddle the fringes of country, are a select few that will make you want to ditch the streets and hit the stables or just jam out and suppress your fury against all things country for a short moment.

1. "Old Town Road" – Lil Nas X

This is the obvious choice here. Dominating meme pages for months now, everyone is chanting about how they've "got the horses in the back." Hannah Montana's country star father, Billy Ray Cyrus, even jumped in on the fun. However, according to *Billboard*, the original track (not the remix with Cyrus) embraces too much hip-hop and not enough country. So unfortunately, it was pulled from country music's top charts.

2. "Before He Cheats" – Carrie Underwood

The unfaithful ex, the partner scorned: We've all been there. That's what makes this nostalgic 2005 track an astounding hit, even over a decade later. You don't have to be deep in the backwoods to relate to this soulful story. All you need is a few of your best friends to head bang and scream the lyrics with. Just make sure nobody cries.

3. "Cruise" – Florida Georgia Line

This country duo took the world by storm with their hip-hop-meets-hoe-down banger. Whether playing

it alone in your car or at a party with friends, the unmistakable, "Baby you a song," has everyone singing (and trying to mumble the rap part). Despite its oh-so-typical country lyrics, the average Joe can still get down.

4. "Smile" – Uncle Kracker

Sweet and slow, Uncle Kracker really pulls at everyone's heartstrings with this one. What's better than driving a man wild because he's thinking about you? Or making him dance like a fool? Either way, the combination of romantic lyrics and golden vocals is an absolute must-have in any non-cowboy's playlist.

5. "High Horse" – Kacey Musgraves

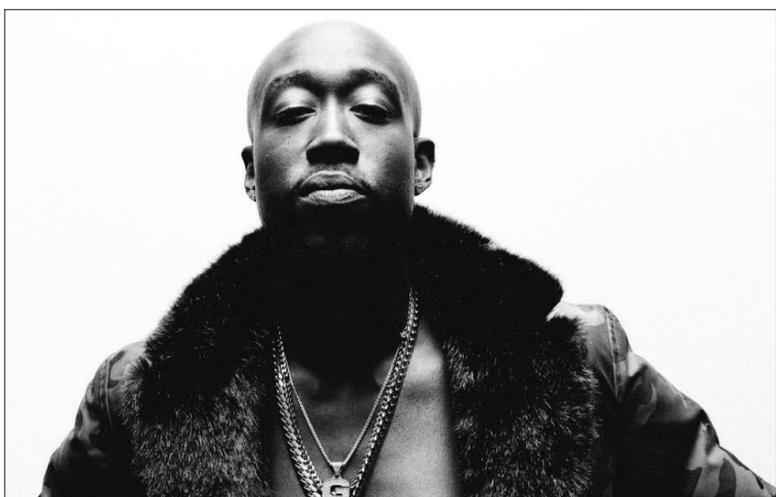
A recent headliner at Coachella 2019, Kacey Musgraves' eccentric, alternative take on country in her album *Golden Hour* resonates with the urban crowd. Juxtaposing a '70s feel with contemporary country lyrics makes this song relatable to a wide range of generations and personalities. Hardly following a stereotypical country look or vibe, Musgraves creates the perfect music for the non-country identifying listener.

6. "You Belong With Me" – Taylor Swift

Pop-country queen Taylor Swift wooed the masses with this teen romance ballad back in 2008. What's more reminiscent of our high school years than watching the man of your dreams oggle the cheerleaders when he should be falling for you? T-Swift definitely hit close to home with this one. She also scores extra points on this list due to her recent transition into an almost entirely pop identity. But we'll still call her country for the sake of our list.

7. "Pony" – Ginuwine

Arguably not even a country song (it's definitely R&B), "Pony" is an unbeatable, blatantly sexual take on country lovin'. There's the rural country trope of a horse and – actually, that's about it. But everyone knows this one and loves it.



Courtesy of Spotify



Courtesy of Ticketfly

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ON THE MENU



MARILU BEDOLLA / DAILY NEXUS

The Santa Barbara County Fair Celebrates 128 Years

Marilu Bedolla
Staff Writer

Santa Barbara took a bite of carnival foods this past weekend at a dinosaur-themed fair and exhibit. On Saturday night, the funnel cake station had the biggest line out of all the food vendors, demonstrating which fair food was most popular among the crowd. But funnel cakes were not the only treats available – some people opted for the classic hot dog while others tried the trendy foods and desserts.

This is a guide to the 2019 fair food menu that is worth checking out. The categories judged were based off of price, presentation and overall flavor.

5. Chicken Teriyaki

Not in for a sweet treat? Try the chicken teriyaki served on a bamboo skewer. The meat is tender, juicy and packed with a sweet and tangy sauce that drips off your mouth with every bite. What is nice is that the meat strips off easily and the chunks of meat are large. While the chicken teriyaki was smoked and seasoned to perfection, at \$15 for two skewers, you are better off getting a bang for your buck somewhere else.

4. Deep-Fried Oreos

Do you want a fluffy sweet treat? The deep-fried Oreo can satisfy that need. The outside of the fried dough is lightly sprinkled with powdered sugar, providing a subtle sweetness when you first bite into the treat. As you further bite into the center, you are met with a warm, melted Oreo cookie that gushes with white creme, completing the missing sweet element the treat needs. Served to order and ready in less than three minutes, deep-fried Oreos are a quick fix to a person's sweet tooth. Priced at \$5, this treat is for one serving – perfect if you are looking for a personalized snack.

3. Chili Cheese Fries

Fairs are known for their heavy comfort food, and this fair was no exception. The loaded chili cheese fries take the third spot for worthy fair food, not because of their presentation but because they are filling and topped off with the right amount of sauces. The soft fries could have been sold on their own with a layer of the creamy cheddar sauce, since the sauce was melted enough to smoother all over the fries and

did not stiffen as time went on. The chili had bits of ground beef that floated among the sauce, but was not flavorful enough to make an impact on the dish. The fries cost \$12.75, the amount you would expect for large-portioned food at the fair.

2. Hawaiian Honey Cones

Not in the mood for a warm treat and looking for a frozen treat? The Hawaiian Honey Cones are just right for you. The J-shaped ice cream cone tastes like honey and is thick in density, allowing it to hold ice cream. The cone is filled with a rich vanilla Hokkaido ice cream, a Japanese-inspired flavor, which makes it taste fresh and not artificial or watery. The treat wins points for being trendy and tasting like honey, living up to its name. It goes for \$7 a cone and is worth every penny because the cone concept is unique and the ice cream leaves you wanting more, but you can only get this treat at the Hawaiian Honey Cones stands.

1. Bacon-Wrapped Hot Dog

The bacon-wrapped hot dog took the number one spot because it looks appetizing and is packed with a variety of ingredients and flavors. This was a jumbo hot dog grilled in thin pieces of bacon wrapped all around. Apart from chicken, mayo and mustard, people had the option to add grilled onions and bell peppers for free. The onions were soft and crisp from their caramelization while the green bell peppers were also soft but remained crunchy. The grilled onions and green bell peppers complemented the savory hot dog, as the sweetness of the onions and juiciness of the bell peppers provided a punch of flavors and textures. While the dog was \$11, it was worth the price because the service was fast and the hot dog was not plain or small.

A local college resident says the prices charged at the fair are high, but they still enjoyed the experience of getting on rides and trying several fair foods.

"What I did enjoy was the deep-fried Oreos; they were fantastic," Niko Estrada, environmental studies major at UC Santa Barbara, said. "I don't go in with the expectation of eating healthy foods ... you go to indulge."

Groups of people came out to enjoy the 30th annual Santa Barbara Fair and Expo, which ran from Wednesday of last week until this past Sunday. There were as many food vendors for people try as there were ride options for people to experience.



MARILU BEDOLLA / DAILY NEXUS

Taco Tuesdays at Downtown's El Paseo Mexican Restaurant

Winnie Lam
On The Menu Co-Editor

We all need an escape from midterm season, and what better way to take a break than by grabbing a delicious meal with your friends or classmates? El Paseo Mexican Restaurant in downtown Santa Barbara has been serving the community with its authentic Mexican cuisine since 1922. It's a hidden gem all the way back in a plaza that embodies a Spanish village.

The restaurant is built like a historic adobe complex and is decorated with some greenery and beautiful string lights that illuminate your dining experience, making it the perfect place to relax and ease up as you try to ignore all your exams and papers that are piling up.

One thing unique to El Paseo is their all-you-can-eat Taco Tuesday. Every Tuesday from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m., diners can indulge in a taco bar buffet for only \$9. The restaurant can accommodate small groups for a more intimate dining experience, but it is also large enough to seat bigger groups if you're celebrating a special occasion. The waiters serve you warm tortilla chips with salsa as soon as you're seated, but don't snack on

those for too long because the real star of the show is the taco bar.

Customers have the option of hard shell tacos and two varieties of soft tortillas: corn or flour. Although I usually prefer corn tortillas for my tacos, the flour tortillas at El Paseo are to die for. They are thin enough so they don't overpower the tacos with a breadly flavor, but they're also thick enough to hold everything together. El Paseo serves chicken, pork and beef paired with all the taco toppings you usually eat like tomatoes, onions, cilantro and sour cream.

Since it's a buffet, you can feel free to pile up as many ingredients as you want in your tacos and really take advantage of the all-you-can-eat aspect of this meal. Personally, I put a lot on my tacos and can only eat two or three each time I visit.

El Paseo also has a regular dinner menu for the rest of the week and Happy Hour Mondays-Fridays from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. when all house margaritas and appetizers are half off. This is definitely one of the best deals in town, and it doesn't get too crowded, so be sure to visit the next time you take a trip downtown.



WINNIE LAM / DAILY NEXUS

SCIENCE & TECH

UCSB's Bridge to the Doctorate Program



The 12 Bridge to the Doctorate fellows meet with the program's directors, Javier Read de Alaniz and Arica Lubin.

Courtesy of Bridge to the Doctorate Program

Jacqueline Wen
Science Editor

Sponsored by the National Science Foundation's Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation, the Bridge to the Doctorate program at UCSB has chosen 12 doctoral students to support from underrepresented groups in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

The Bridge to the Doctorate (BD) program aims to "enhance the diversity of STEM graduate education by recruiting, enrolling, training and graduating a cohort of 12 talented doctoral students," its website says.

BD fellows receive financial support for the first two years and assistantship support for the remaining time. They also have opportunities for graduate student mentorship and leadership in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (S.T.E.M.) communities, professional development and career preparation and academic support through workshops for technical writing of reports and papers.

"I was over the moon when I found out I was chosen as a BD fellow," Lourdes Velazquez, a first-year Ph.D. student in the biomolecular science and engineering program, said in an email.

"I still find it hard to believe that I have such amazing opportunities. Because my path has been very nonlinear, being chosen as a BD fellow reaffirmed my confidence in moving forward with a Ph.D. program. I honestly don't know if I would be here if it weren't for BD."

As part of the program's requirements to do rotations, Velazquez is currently in her third rotation in mechanical engineering professor Beth Pruitt's lab, studying the freezing and thawing effects on the mechanobiology of human induced pluripotent stem cell-derived cardiomyocytes (hiPSC-CMs).

Her previous rotations were with ecology, evolution, and marine biology professor Cherie Briggs to study how chytrid fungus affects amphibian populations and with molecular, cellular, and developmental biology assistant professor Julie Simpson, who studies the neural circuits controlling motor sequences of the fruit fly (*Drosophila melanogaster*), a model organism.

"Prior to grad school, I had been studying biophysics with [physics] professor Deborah Fygenon for about ten years. Although I very much enjoy the field, it's the only research I've ever known. For this reason, I decided to use my rotations as an opportunity to branch out to other fields, learn new techniques and see what else I enjoyed," Velazquez wrote.

Aside from fostering professional connections, including through arranging conference participation and connecting fellows with peers and professors in their departments, the BD program helps to form a more personal support system.

"The BD program has been such a wonderful experience,"

Velazquez continued. "They support and help coordinate socials for the BD fellows which ultimately means we get to know each other well and gain a group of friends. Our BD meetings with Javier [Read de Alaniz] and Arica [Lubin], the BD program directors, are wonderful. The support group this fellowship has provided is one I didn't expect to have and am most grateful for."

"I feel like my minority status has only opened doors for me. The BD program is an example of this," she said.

Marcos Reyes, a first-year Ph.D. student in the Department of Mathematics, was "pretty ecstatic" about having been chosen as a BD fellow. Although unable to come to UCSB for his undergraduate years, Reyes is "pretty excited, pretty stoked" about being able to earn his Ph.D. at one of his "dream schools."

"I've been exposed to way more than I could even believe. Studying knot theory, knowing there's math behind the knots, is just unheard of. Being exposed to other S.T.E.M. majors like chemistry, engineering, bio, we all just talk about science and help each other talk about science. Like 'you need help on Fourier analysis? I know that. I did a project on it.' It's just nice to be exposed to different areas of S.T.E.M.," Reyes said.

Part of the math department's Directed Reading Program (DRP), Reyes works with undergrads to help them "learn about areas of math that are not standard in classes," such as knot theory. At the end of the program, mentees present their research projects.

Reyes initially aspired to be a high school teacher, recalling his own high school teacher encouraging him to teach math. "[The math] was interesting and he taught it in a funny way ... he put a nice flavor to it," he said.

Reyes now aims to teach at a four-year college because it has a "different vibe." He wanted to "try to find a different route where I do the same thing but people appreciate you [more], so that's where I'm at now."

"In university, it's more of a relaxed environment," he explained. "I would play tennis with my undergraduate professors and it was a crazy environment. I felt like I wanted to be one of those people, one of those teachers for the students. That's why I chose this route and it worked out - it's working."

A first-generation college student, Roman Aguilera is now second-year Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Computer Science.

"I was really excited when I got [the BD program]. I was very grateful because it's not easy to get funding for a graduate student without doing a TAship or fellowship," he said.

Aguilera found that the flexible research component of the BD program allowed him to "approach pretty much any type of research [he] wanted on campus."

"The fact that I was able to do computer science and I

got the BD Fellowship pretty much seemed that I was very unconstrained in what I could possibly do. It felt like a very overwhelming thing but it's been more of a blessing, in my opinion," he said.

Aguilera's main research interests are machine learning and robotics, particularly in the area of reinforcement learning. His work aims to increase robots' agility and awareness of the environment, and to get them to interact with the environment in a more intelligible way.

While he took an artificial intelligence class in his fourth year of undergrad at UC San Diego that "naturally drew [his] attention" and further encouraged him to pursue machine learning, Aguilera found that he personally did not have many role models in science and engineering.

"There would be a lot of people that I couldn't relate to [in my math classes during my undergrad days]. I had to be comfortable in a setting where I didn't feel like I belonged. So I think that's made me very strong in that sense."

Since coming to graduate school, the feeling of being out of place has "increased tenfold," Aguilera reflected.

"There's a lot fewer minorities in that sector. Nowadays the thought [of not feeling like I belong] still lingers there but it's not as intense. For me, you have to figure out what to do in certain situations where you feel like you don't belong. There's always a certain club like National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) or SACNAS [Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science] - very small communities that are usually very there for you because they can share that same sentiment. So it's also a blessing as well because it gives you a community that will always be there for you."

That's one reason why joining the BD program means so much to Aguilera.

"It's also given me the opportunity to be part of a cohort," he said. "Part of the cohort's very diverse. You have people from statistics, you have people from biology, electrical engineering, mechanical engineering - all very broad areas."

While he finds it "very easy to socialize with people" within his own department, being a BD fellow has allowed Aguilera to become familiar with people from other departments.

"It's a good way to hear about what else is going on on campus, what's going on with other fellows' lives. It gives us the opportunity to be a cool group of aspiring young scientists that are all going down the same path, though each department has its own different things. It's also given me an opportunity to network with other people that may have some expertise in an area that I need. And maybe sometimes I need to help someone else with some type of coding resource, teach them how to code or something like that," Aguilera said.

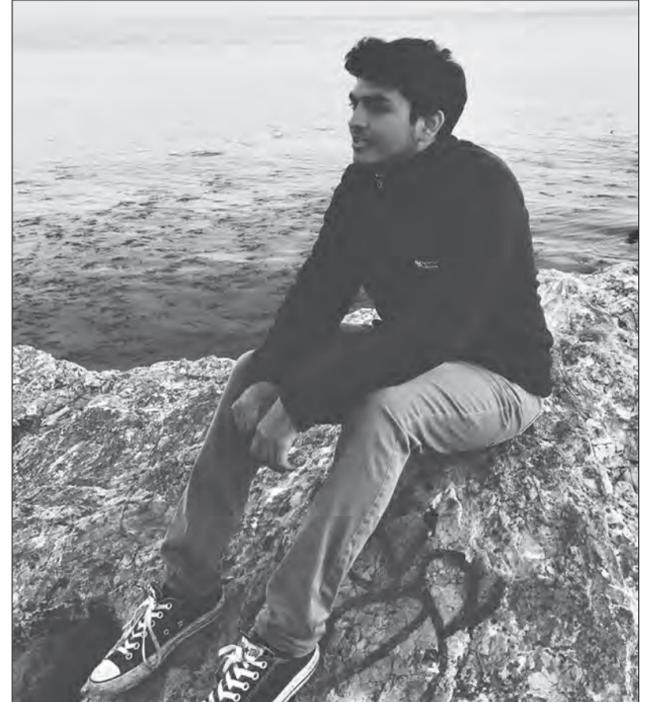
"I'm very grateful for the Bridge to Doctorate fellowship. I hope opportunities like this can be more available to others."



Courtesy of Lourdes Velazquez



Courtesy of Marcos Reyes



Courtesy of Roman Aguilera

OPINION

The Border Wall Argument Stands on a Shaky Foundation

Kian Karamdashti
Staff Writer

It's 2019 and whether you support, despise or remain indifferent to him, everybody is pretty much tired of talking about Donald Trump. Every week seems to bring in a barrage of new scandals, headlines and crises consistently putting the country and its media into bedlam. It takes devoted political interest to not be numbed by the constant chaotic updates coming from the Oval Office.

Despite many citizens' attempts to block out anything Trump-related, the Trump train continues to chug on, affecting real lives everyday. It is in this context that Trump's continued insistence on combating the supposed dangers of illegal immigration represent such a dangerous precedent for the American people's attitudes towards the immigrant population – more specifically, the immigrants illegally crossing the border.

Trump's tough stance on the border has been a staple of not only his administrative goals, but his campaign as well. It has been almost four years since Trump announced in his presidential candidacy speech that, "When Mexico sends its people, they're not sending their best. They're not sending you. They're not sending you. They're sending people that have lots of problems, and they're bringing those problems with us. They're bringing drugs. They're bringing crime. They're rapists."

While this declaration of division among the citizens of two neighboring countries is certainly troublesome, Trump doubled down on his aggressive stance toward Mexico by centering a key part of his platform on the notion that "Mexico must pay for the wall"

This obviously hasn't happened, however. Since his election, Trump has continued to push this agenda against the southern border despite the wishes of the American public. According to a Gallup poll conducted in February 2019, 60% of Americans reported being "totally opposed" to the construction of a border wall built on the Mexican-American border. That's three-fifths of the Americans who are TOTALLY AGAINST the construction of the wall. Nevertheless, a 35-day government shutdown, the longest in American history, was forced when Congress did not grant funding for our president's passion project. For 35 days, 800,000 federal employees went without pay, and federally funded programs, such as the TSA, were left short-staffed – all for a cause the majority of the public doesn't seem to support.

Considering the president's relentless pursuit of a project he hopes "is named the Trump Wall," one must inquire about the reasoning behind this "improved" fence. Trump has described the scene at our southern border, "involving 'thousands of illegal immigrants'" However, while there is certainly a humanitarian crisis forcing many illegal immigrants to attempt to enter the United States of America, there has actually been an 81% decline in border apprehensions since 1999. This means that, historically speaking, the volume of immigrants crossing the border is certainly not the issue. Crime-wise, according to CNN, among Texas residents, the rate per arrest among 100,000 residents in each subpopulation was 899 for undocumented immigrants, while native-born citizens experienced a rate of 1,797 arrests per 100,000 Americans – a number that is approximately double the crime rate present for undocumented immigrants. While this may sound surprising, this makes sense from a logical standpoint: illegal immigrants enter this country to seek out a better life.

In order to do this, they must remain undetected by law enforcement. This begs the question of why an illegal immigrant would commit a crime, especially a violent one, and risk being sent back to a country they risked so much to escape. It simply makes no sense.

One of the biggest arguments pushing for stricter enforcement of the border is the notion that illegal immigrants are prying jobs away from American citizens. According to the Pew Research Center, undocumented immigrants make up about 5% of the U.S. workforce. Despite this low number, these undocumented immigrants make up a large concentration of many industries: they make up more than half of our nation's agricultural employees and a quarter of the nation's domestic laborers. While these numbers may seem alarmingly large, these are sectors that require even more growth over the next few years. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, which produces estimates of growing occupations in the U. S., domestic labor jobs such as maids and cleaners will require about 112,000 more workers by 2024. According to the Cornell Farmworker Program, many farms turned to undocumented workers in past decades due to a lack of U.S. citizens willing to do the job because it is consistently listed as one of the most dangerous occupations every year. In the face



of these numbers, the argument seems to shift from "undocumented immigrants are stealing jobs" to the argument that they're indispensable to the American workforce and will continue to be.

But hey, let's create a hypothetical scenario: say every single person who crossed the border illegally was a violent criminal. Would a wall even be effective? Not necessarily. According to Roll Call, in 2017, United States Border Patrol reported the apprehension of 310,000 undocumented immigrants crossing the border. However, in the same year, more than 700,000 undocumented immigrants came through via a legal visa and then overstayed it once it expired. Earlier this year, President Trump claimed the border wall would cost about \$12 billion. That's \$12 billion for a wall that would fail to address a significant portion of the population that Trump intends to keep out. From a financial perspective, this is highly questionable. It would be a substantial waste of money, regardless of whether the Mexican government or U.S. taxpayers provide funding.

A significant amount of evidence calls into question the rationale behind the Trump administration's aggressive stance on immigration. Yet, just last week, Trump claimed he was "going to call up more military" and "that we can't act like a military would act. If they got a little rough, everybody would go crazy." Such diction encouraging military violence against undocumented immigrants is not only out of touch, but is insensitive to a population often looking to flee drugs, violence, rape, etc. It is insensitive to a population that often is filled with unarmed women and children. The rhetoric used by our president dehumanizes people who are no less entitled to a life of safety and security than the rest of the white settlers whose descendants live here today in the United States. Those in charge of controlling the border have clearly adopted Trump's mindset towards these immigrants and asylum seekers. Three published reports from the DHS Office of Inspector General found that ICE detention facilities held "poor treatment and spotty facilities." On top of that, as of January 2019, 22 people have died in ICE custody within the last two years. 22 people died while in the custody of the country they were hoping to escape to. A treacherous, dangerous journey was made completely futile.

Sadly, this problem with deportations has been perpetuated by multiple administrations, especially the Obama administration, which broke national records of deportations. However, during Obama's presidency, the United States experienced approximately double the amount of individuals attempting to cross the border than during Trump's presidency thus far. According to Vox, in September 2018, the United States estimated the apprehension of 31,000 individuals at the border, the most experienced under the Trump administration so far. In comparison, nearly 70,000 individuals were apprehended at the border in May 2014, during Obama's tenure. While I do not agree with the Obama administration's response to this large influx of immigrants, there was at least a circumstantial argument to justify the mass deportations and attempted separations of family at the border. Trump seems to be doing it not because he needs to, but because he simply wants

to. There is no denying there is an issue at the border. Men, women and children are being forced out of their Central American countries and choosing to partake in a perilous journey in the hopes of escaping the dangers and problems of their homes. Yet, I would argue that a larger issue is being created in how the Trump administration has inhumanely responded to a group of people looking for a better life, a group statistically proven to not represent any more danger to the American people than its own citizens. They're not stealing American jobs and an expensive, fancy wall is certainly not going to keep them out. History will not look back at the policies and actions of this administration kindly.

The Statue of Liberty famously states: "Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, The wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"
Yeah fucking right.

Kian Karamdashti wishes our elected leaders were held responsible for the words they relay to the public.

HOROSCOPES

The Signs as the Roommate From Hell

ARIES
MARCH 21 - APRIL 19
Sees chore chart *Suddenly forgets how to read*

TAURUS
APRIL 20 - MAY 20
Casual racism

GEMINI
MAY 21 - JUNE 20
Raises eyebrows whenever you eat something that came in a plastic package

CANCER
JUNE 21 - JULY 22
Gets locked out multiple times a week, think it's cute (it's not)

LEO
JULY 23 - AUGUST 22
Constantly invites strange men into your home

VIRGO
AUGUST 23 - SEPTEMBER 22
Spoils "Game of Thrones" by watching it without headphones on at full volume

LIBRA
SEPTEMBER 23 - OCTOBER 22
Subscribes to medieval hygiene standards and is not ashamed of it

SCORPIO
OCTOBER 23 - NOVEMBER 21
Only talks in the house group chat when they want to sextile you

SAGITTARIUS
NOVEMBER 22 - DECEMBER 21
Goes to sleep at 6 p.m. and growls if you interrupt their sweet slumber

CAPRICORN
DECEMBER 22 - JANUARY 19
Takes in every stray animal they see and waits at least 48 hours before posting about said animal on Free & For Sale

AQUARIUS
JANUARY 20 - FEBRUARY 18
Puts every last tiny scrap of food into its own big-ass Tupperware and never eats it or throws it away. (Bonus: When you throw the moldy food away, they ask if anyone's seen it)

PISCES
FEBRUARY 19 - MARCH 20
Owns a cat that locks eyes with you when you're a) having sex or b) taking a shit

Case Cracked: Casual Coitus on College Campuses

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During my first week of school at UCSB, I noticed colorful square packets scattered on the bathroom counters, stuffed into dispensary boxes and generally littered around the dorms. Periodically, our RA will put out free feminine products and condoms. My roommate will sometimes come back from class and see a small red square placed in the center of her desk. It's a running joke: "I thought I'd help you with your endeavors," my other roommate would comment.

UCSB is known for having a very active party culture, including – among other things – drugs, alcohol and, of course, hookups. The message behind having free condoms readily available is essentially a reminder to be safe, an acknowledgement that sex will probably take place so it's best to be prepared for it. At the beginning of fall quarter, I saw free condoms being put out, along with tampons and pads. I observed that contraceptives and feminine products were being categorized together, implying some degree of transferability regarding their necessity. This is something I disagree with. You cannot will your period to stop, as awesome as that would be, but (in a perfect world) you can choose whether or not you'd like to have sex. My discomfort, of course, does not translate into support for any sort of regulation, policing or actions that should be taken. I look back now and see the right to participate freely and explore your sexual identity as something that years of sexual liberation, progress and technological innovation has brought to us. I do however, disagree with the conflation of what I see as cultural pressure to participate in casual sex with being liberated, progressive and "woke."

Though feminism and the detachment of sex from traditional stigmas may appear to inevitably support casual sex, that does not mean it is necessarily emotionally healthy. According to a study published by the American Psychological Association on undergraduate students, "78 percent of women and 72 percent of men who had uncommitted sex (including vaginal, anal, and/or oral sex) reported a history of experiencing regret following such an encounter." This is all well and good because it's the individual's personal choice. But what if we zoom out and observe the cultural implications?

My first exposure to the idea of casual sex was ... an NPR

study on the distinctive characteristics of hookup culture. University students recounted their experiences and spoke about the infamous back-and-forth game of trying not to become emotionally attached: "If casual sex was taboo a generation ago, emotional intimacy has become taboo today."

I learned of the ritualistic body language of potential partners on the dance floor, as well as the exclusivity of hookup culture, where the demographic is mainly white and heterosexual and the few minorities that are accepted come from particular intersections perceived to be more "exotic" – namely Asian females and Black males. From a young age,



my perception of casual sex was colored by this study.

I saw college parties as a setting for these non-inclusive, hyperheterosexual, primal activities. Also, being in a long-term relationship and coming into this campus as a first-year, I observed the active party culture going on around me. Drawing from my preconceptions I felt skeptical and hesitant to embrace that culture.

However, according to numbers, my caricatured idea of college life may be incorrect. From a 40-year study conducted between 1976 and 2016 on 18 million teenagers, 54% of high school students in 1991 reported having had

sex, while only 41% did in the early 2010s. This study even suggests that "today's 18-year-old more closely resembles a 15-year-old of the 1970s or '80s." So even though it may feel like everyone around me is "doing the deed" 24/7, we are actually participating in less sex than older generations.

What is the reasoning behind this? Perhaps there are more romantics among us today who feel as I do and are more likely to give it some time. Or maybe people are generally less interested in dating earlier on. Or it may be that the definition of sex and intimacy has changed. It ultimately boils down to several factors, the center of it all being technology.

Technology has changed the game. Sexting, Snapchat sex, porn and all the resources the internet has to offer have joined forces to divert teens' focus from physical sex to online sex. At the same time, technological advances and more resources mean that each generation is living longer, so having sex later on in your life may be a symptom of the "slow-life strategy," discussed in the study mentioned above.

According to the study, this phenomenon fits into a larger trend of kids staying kids longer due to lengthened lifespans and more present parental supervision: "Today's teens were found to be less likely to drive, work for pay, go on dates, have sex, or go out without their parents."

Technology has affected sex in other ways. With so much to do on social media and streaming services, more people prefer to stay in and use devices instead of, say, go out to do drugs, drink alcohol and find partners.

Though statistics support this view of people our age, our campus appears to oppose the general data about Gen Z's sexual habits. Could UCSB's social reputation create a concentration of people more interested in sex, alcohol and drugs, thereby exempting this population from a generalized claim?

It may be an interesting thing to think about, but in the end it should not affect the way you go about your life. I may have had my preconceived notions about casual sex and even taken a moral stance on it back then, but the fact is that sex is just one of the many choices at your disposal as a young adult, and as long as you're informed and consent to it, it can be fun. Just stay safe out there.

Marie Stevenson wants Gauchos to weigh the risks and rewards of sexual activity.