

This week's edition of the Daily Nexus shows a detailed breakdown of each of the cases filed.

Fair
Steep swells all day

THIS WEEK'S UP AND COMING

Thursday May 9
KCRW's Left, Right & Center
Campbell Hall | 7:30 p.m.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE STITCHER

KCRW's "Left, Right & Center" is a radio show and podcast for people on both sides of the political aisle and everywhere in between. Join us for a live taping of "LRC" hosted by Center Josh Barro, as he brings together experts and top thinkers on the Left and Right for a civilized yet provocative look at news, politics and pop culture. Hundreds of thousands of listeners all over Southern California and the United States turn to "LRC" each week for thoughtful analysis and discussion – not partisan mudslinging.

Saturday May 11
Neil Gaiman
Campbell Hall | 7:30 p.m.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER

One of the greatest living storytellers, Neil Gaiman is the celebrated author of books, graphic novels, short stories and nonfiction for readers of all ages, including *The Sandman* comic book series, *Stardust*, *American Gods* and *Coraline*. Described by *The Guardian* as "a thesaurus of myth," his latest book *Norse Mythology* is a suspenseful and dazzling retelling of Norse myths. Gaiman will tell and read stories, answer questions and, in his own words, "amaze, befuddle and generally delight. It will be fun and odd and not like any other evening with Neil Gaiman."

Friday May 10
Hosted by the Juggling Club at UCSB
The 43rd Annual Isla Vista Jugglers Festival
People's Park | Isla Vista
Friday May 10, 6 p.m. - Midnight
Saturday May 11, 10 a.m. - Midnight
Sunday May 12, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Free and open to the public
in support of Standing Together to End Sexual Assault (STESA)

MAGIC LANTERN FILMS PRESENTS:
Friday May 10
HAPPY DEATH DAY*, HAPPY DEATH DAY 2U* & THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW
\$4 I.V. Theater | 7 & 10 p.m., midnight
*Also showing Monday 13

IMPROVABILITY
Embarcadero Hall | 8 p.m.

Friday May 10
\$3

DAILY NEXUS

WWW.DAILYNEXUS.COM

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"This shit sucks ass."

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SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mephram Group

Level: 1 2 3 4

	8					1		
						6	5	
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SOLUTION TO FRIDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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ACROSS

- Collegian's focus subject
- Quite a way off
- "... __ you any wool?"
- With no shoulder to cry on
- Dust speck
- "Metamorphoses" poet
- Pacific salmon
- "Kablooie!"
- TV lover's recording device
- Hankering
- *1950 Irving Berlin musical
- Bea Arthur role
- 26 Month between avril and juin
- Swayed to and fro, as a cradle
- Chewy Nestlé candy bar
- Spanish folk hero
- The "thou" in "Wherefore art thou ...?"
- Modern: Pref.
- Custardy dessert
- 38 More despicable
- Fraidy-cat
- Square root of IX
- Anti-wrinkle treatment
- Feel one's way
- Cheap cigar cost, once
- Tilted
- Stimpy's pal
- The V in PVC
- *Pretend
- Nile slitherer
- Teenager's bumps along the road of life?
- Taunting remark
- Pricey fur
- 60 Farmer's yield
- Icon clicker
- Perfect in every way
- Alluring
- Skin ink, for short
- Work a crossword puzzle

DOWN

- Department store founder R.H. __

- The Body Shop balm
- *Barack Obama's 2008 opponent
- Middle name adopted by John Lennon
- Saved from harm
- Stroll along
- 7 April 1st dupe
- 8 Basic unit of matter
- Keep in mind
- A lot of hooley
- Raring to go
- Brawny rival
- Biblical kingdom near the Dead Sea
- Recipe verb
- Club sandwich condiment
- Related (to)
- Update, as factory equipment
- Stan's slapstick sidekick
- Square dancers' neckties
- Early premium credit card, familiarly
- *Tag promoting organized labor
- Arizona city

- Kept the faith
- 35 "Hud" director Martin
- Novelist Kurt
- 39 Fay of "King Kong"
- U.K. network, with "the"
- Bible book where you can find the ends of the answers to starred clues

- Willies-inducing
- 45 Actress Ullmann
- 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:

K	N	U	C	K	L	E	H	E	A	D		P	O	D
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E	L	I	S		D	I	N	E		B	U	R	N	S
S	C	O	W	L		S	E	A	M		C	I	T	E
	O	N	I	O	N		T	R	E	K	K	I	E	S
						T	W	I	Z	Z	L	E	R	S
B	R	U	C	E	L	E	E		T	I	T	A	N	
R	U	T	H		E	A	R	S		S	E	T	O	N
I	N	T	O	W		L	O	E	B		R	A	T	E
S	T	E	N	O	S		D	E	A		N	O	S	
K	I	R			R	E	F	R	E	S	H	M	E	N
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xwordeditor@aol.com

05/13/13

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By Jerome Gunderson
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05/13/13

WEATHER

The Weatherhuman dragged himself to hir 8 a.m. only to discover hir FUCKING professor decided to make today the ONLY FUCKING DAY WITHOUT MANDATORY FUCKING ATTENDANCE!!!!!!!

Tomorrow's Forecast: sleeping the fuck in even if the world is ending

UCPD Officers Sue UCPD Members for Alleged Mistreatment After Reporting Sergeant

Evelyn Spence
County News Editor

Two UC Santa Barbara police officers filed a suit against several members of the UC Police Department and the UC Regents in March 2019, alleging they were retaliated against after they reported a sergeant for allegedly being “in an intimate relationship” with a subordinate officer, among other offenses.

The two officers – spouses Michael Little and Tiffany Little – are suing for violation of the California Whistleblower Protection Act and violation of California Labor Code, according to court documents obtained by the Nexus.

The defendants in the case are all either former or current UCSB UC Police Department (UCPD) members: former UCPD Chief of Police Dustin Olson, former UCPD Asst. Chief of Police Cathy Farley, UCPD Lieutenant David Millard, UCPD Lieutenant Robert Romero, UCPD Sergeant Gregory Pierce and UCPD Detective Gregory Smorodinsky.

According to the court documents, Olson is a current member of the department; however, he can no longer be located in the department’s directory, and he is no longer listed as Chief of Police on the UCPD website.

Farley left the UCPD around November 2018. Further named in court documents but not being sued is former UCPD Sergeant Ryan Smith, the officer who Mr. and Mrs. Little reported several offenses against.

Smith was awarded a Public Safety Meritorious Unit Citation in April 2015 for his role in responding to the 2014 Isla Vista shooting. He was hired by UCPD around Aug. 2012.

Both Mr. Little and Mrs. Little are currently employed by the UCPD; Mr. Little has worked with the department since March 2014 and Mrs. Little has worked there since November 2014, according to court documents.

This is the third lawsuit filed by an officer against the UCPD during the 2018-2019 school year. Lieutenant Mark Signa filed the first case in November 2018, and former Officer Ryan Smith filed a case on March 27 after the Littles filed their case.

Smith’s Alleged Misconduct (Dec. 2015 – June 2017):

The court documents state that on or around December 2015 and January 2016, Mrs. Little told Smith, who was her direct supervisor at the time, that “a subordinate officer was spending an explicable amount of time in the UCSB Freshman Residence Halls while on duty.”

The subordinate officer would allegedly “[turn] off his radio and refuse to respond to calls for service or other officer’s requests for assistance for multiple hours at a time,” according to court documents.

On or around Feb. 15, 2017, Mr. Little informed Lieutenant Miller that Smith was allegedly in an “intimate relationship with a subordinate officer,” alleging that Smith gave that subordinate officer “preferential treatment by dismissing a vehicle accident that caused damage to Employer’s property.”

Court documents further state that Smith “intervened” when a separate officer and Mrs. Little attempted to “exercise normal supervisory duties over the Officer.”

It is not immediately clear in court documents if the initial subordinate officer referenced is the same as the subordinate officer who was allegedly “in an intimate relationship” with Smith.

“Mr. Little expressed to Millard that Smith’s actions were illegal, unethical, and violated department policy,” court documents state.

Several other alleged incidents of Smith’s alleged misconduct are listed in the court complaint, including:

- While at UC Los Angeles on or around Jan. 20, 2017, Smith allegedly ordered officers in two vehicles to “drive code-three, meaning they were to use their emergency lights on top their vehicles to evade traffic” while on their way to a mutual aid event. Both vehicles “proceed to drive unsafely around vehicles and crossed intersections with only lights, no sirens.” According to the documents, “the officers were not responding to an emergency, instead Smith was trying to get to UCLA in time for a breakfast event.”
- While at a UC San Francisco mutual aid event, Smith allegedly “requested to use an Employer’s rental vehicle to drive to Oakland. On information and belief, Smith did not drive to Oakland and instead drove to Santa Cruz.” Court documents further allege that Smith “used an Employer’s gas card to purchase gas and used the Employer’s rental for non-job related purposes” in May 2017.
- allegedly “attempted to intervene in an administrative investigation” on or around May 19, 2017.
- allegedly “drop recklessly during a pursuit” on or around June 6, 2017 and “hit a parked car and did not stop, in violation of California Vehicle Code 20002.”
- allegedly “committed time card fraud.”
- allegedly was “witnessed committing a hit-and-run while on duty” in June 2017.
- allegedly “ordered an unsanctioned and unnecessary code-three emergency response” during which “vehicles involved in the code-three dangerous maneuvered through traffic in an unsafe manner” in or around January 2017.

In several places, court documents note that Mr. Little expressed to Lieutenant Millard that Smith’s actions were “unethical, against department policy, and were a risk of harm to the public.”

Mrs. Little also met with Lieutenant Millard on or around June 2017 and reported “possible legal violations committed by Smith including but not limited to misappropriations of department funds, improper use of emergency vehicles during mutual aid events, and a possible hit and run that was reported to Mrs. Little by a subordinate.”

Smith was placed on leave in or around June 2017 for “items not related to the complaint” Mrs. Little had filed. He returned briefly in or around September 2017 but left in December 2017.

Alleged Retaliation For Reporting Smith (July 2017 – Sept. 2018):

Mrs. Little and Mr. Little alleged that as a result of the two of them reporting Smith, they faced several instances of retaliation from several members of the department, which included:

- Lieutenant Millard allegedly requesting that Mr. Little “submit a memorandum for a Corporal position” on or around July 31, 2017. He was assigned as a detective at a time, and the move from a detective assignment to a patrol corporal “was in effect a demotion because it did not offer similar opportunities for advancement and development.”
- Mr. Little was allegedly not listed “as an instructor at the upcoming range training” in an email sent out by Detective Smorodinsky on or around Dec. 7, 2017. Court documents state that typically, “all instructors attend scheduled range training.”
- When Mrs. Little was subpoenaed in relation to a criminal case involving a former UCPD officer around December 2017, she allegedly “told Millard that she told the truth regarding the former officer.” In response, Lieutenant Millard allegedly “told Mrs. Little that she talked too much.” The former UCPD officer was “being investigated for sexual assault, providing alcohol to students, and other inappropriate misconduct.”
- On or around Feb. 13, 2018, Lieutenant Romero allegedly “expressed that he was furious at Mr. Little for reporting Smith. Lieutenant Romero told Mr. Little and Smith did not do anything wrong.”
- When Mrs. Little applied for a detective position within the Problem Solving Unit supervised by Lieutenant Romero in or around March 2018, she was not chosen. According to court documents, she had eight years of experience as a police officer compared to the two other individuals who were considered for the position, who had approximately three years of experience. When Mrs. Little asked Lieutenant Romero what more was required for her to get the position, he allegedly told her that he “wanted to see more warrants.” Court documents further allege that “Romero was aware that Mrs. Little missed time the previous year due to FMLA leave and that Mrs. Little’s leave directly affected how many warrants Mrs. Little wrote.”
- When Mrs. Little requested to be moved to “E-schedule after recent openings” Millard allegedly informed her that the department “was not going to have a corporal on E-schedule shift.” Court documents state that “after shifts were changed, Millard placed a less senior Corporal on the E-schedule shift. Mrs. Little was senior Corporal and would have normally been among the first to request an open position.”
- On or around April 2018, Lieutenant Romero allegedly told “Mrs. Little that Romero and Millard believe that Mrs. Little throws a fit when Mrs. Little does not get what she wants.” Lieutenant Romero’s comment was allegedly “in relation to Mrs. Little’s complain about the departments [sic] failure to properly investigate Smith’s misconduct.”
- On or around May 11, 2018, Detective Smorodinsky allegedly “expressed to Mrs. Little that the misconduct by Smith was not that bad.” When Mrs. Little allegedly provided examples of Smith’s behavior, Detective Smorodinsky allegedly told Mrs. Little she should have gone to Smith rather than reporting him. He allegedly later “intentionally excluded Mrs. Little from assisting in an overtime assignment” by choosing “less senior and experienced officers to assist in executing a search warrant.”
- In or around July 2018, Mrs. Little was allegedly “not invited to participate or coordinate the new hire

training post academy training... despite Mrs. Little creating, scheduling, and facilitating the training for the past several years.”

– After Mrs. Little attended a union meeting on or around Aug. 15, 2018, and “expressed discontent” with Millard’s alleged failures to address complaints, he allegedly talked to her the next day and said he was “upset about comments that were made about him at the union meeting held the previous night.”

– Both Mr. and Mrs. Little were demoted from Corporal and Field Training Officer (FTO) positions on or around Aug. 21, 2018.

– On or around Sept. 3, 2018, Detective Smorodinsky and Lieutenant Romero denied Mr. Little a computer forensic analyst position. Mr. Little “had previously been selected to fill that role during his time as Detective and had twenty-five (25) years of computer programming and software development experience in the technology industry.”

Ethics Point Incident Complaint (Sept. 2018 – current):

In response to these alleged incidents, Mrs. Little filed an Ethics Point Incident complaint with UCSB under the UC Whistleblower Protection Policy on or around Sept. 1, 2018. Mr. Little did the same on Sept. 3, 2018.

The incident alleges they were “subjected... to adverse employment actions in retaliation for their protected disclosures.”

“Since being interviewed by UC Santa Barbara Senior Investigator, no action has been taken to address Plaintiffs’ complaints, nor has UC Regents

done anything to protect Plaintiff’s from further retaliation,” court documents state.

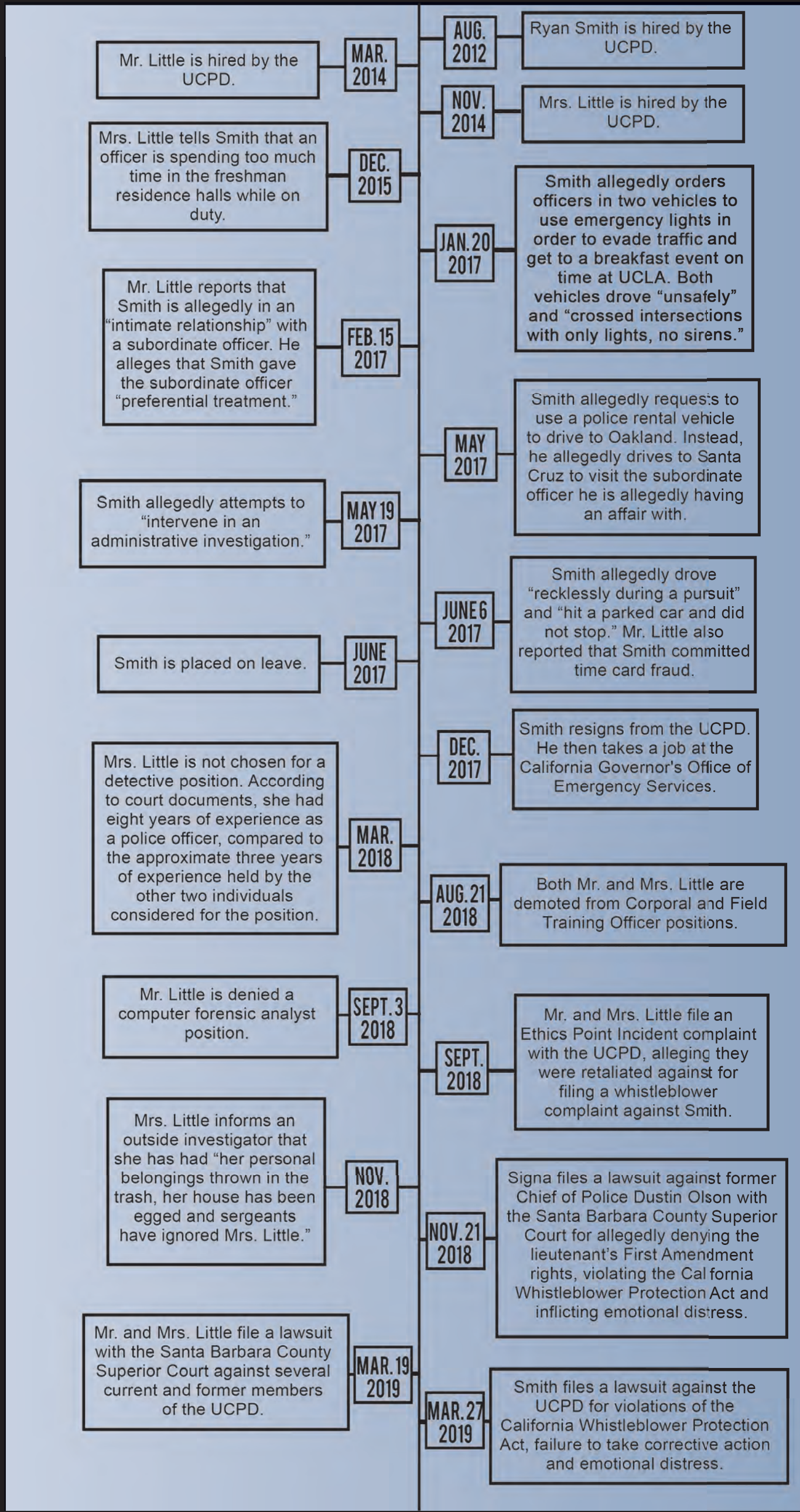
“There has been no indication from UC Regents that it intends to take any action in response to Plaintiff’s complaint.”

While at a meeting with the UCSB Title IX office on or around Sept. 17, 2018, Mrs. Little “reported her concerns that Smith was engaged in a sexual relationship with a subordinate causing a hostile work environment and sexual harassment claims.”

Since filing the violation of the Whistleblower Protection Policy complaint, Mr. and Mrs. Little allege that they have been retaliated against in several ways, including:

- Mr. Little not being assigned to handle annual ROTC training in or around October 2018.
- Mrs. Little has allegedly had “her personal belongings thrown in the trash, her house has been egged and sergeants have ignored Mrs. Little.”
- Mrs. Little was removed from a previously approved overtime shift on or around Feb. 4, 2019.
- A co-worker filed a complaint against Mr. Little, alleging that when the coworker entered a UCSB-PD building, Mr. Little “noticed his co-worker and then turned back around without saying anything,” causing the co-worker to feel “threatened” and “fearful” by Mr. Little’s ignoring him.

UC Santa Barbara spokesperson Andrea Estrada said the university is “aware of the allegations and is undertaking a thorough review.”

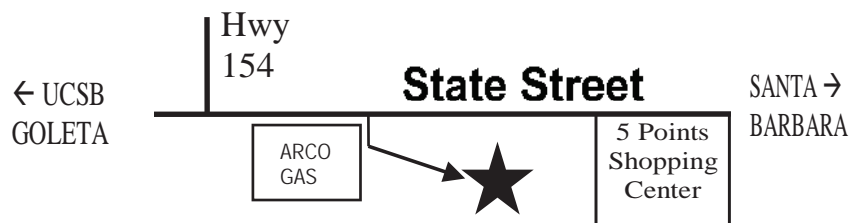


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- Attend the May 9th Board Meeting
- Submit a Statement of Economic Interest Form 700

Deadline for submissions is 5:00pm, May 9, 2019

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Or Call the District at (805) 968-2017

UCPD Officer Sues Former Chief of Police, Alleges “Favoritism” Within the Department

Sofia Mejias Pascoe
Asst. News Editor

A 28-year veteran of the UC Santa Barbara UC Police Department filed a lawsuit against former Chief of Police Dustin Olson in November 2018 for allegedly denying the officer’s First Amendment rights, violating the California Whistleblower Protection Act and inflicting emotional distress.

The officer, Mark Signa, has been with the UC Police Department (UCPD) since 1990. He currently works as a lieutenant within the department.

The suit alleges that Olson’s “favoritism” toward former Assistant Chief of Police Cathy Farley, Lieutenant David Millard, Sergeant Robert Romero and Officer Ryan Smith – which allegedly fostered a “Good Ole Boys’ Club” within the police department – resulted in two “botched” Internal Affairs investigations in 2016 and 2017, according to court records obtained by the Nexus.

The suit further alleges that lieutenant Signa’s refusal to adhere with the “Good Ole Boys’ Club” and lieutenant Signa’s “willingness to vocalize concerns about the propriety, integrity and accountability of Smith and the UCSB-PD in general made him a victim of harassment, discrimination and retaliation within the UCSB-PD.”

All three – Savaglio, Rothermel and Smith – were hired by the UCPD in August 2012.

This is the third case filed against the UCPD in recent months regarding allegations of violations of the California Whistleblower Protection Act. Officer Tiffany Little and Officer Michael Little filed another case in early March of this year, and former Office Ryan Smith filed a case on March 27, 2019.

The 2016 Internal Affairs Investigation

The suit states that a complaint was filed in or around April 2016 against two former UCPD officers, Jeff Savaglio and Josh Rothermel, which alleges the two officers committed “sexual assault and the provision of alcohol to a minor [UCSB] student.”

Smith was allegedly not named in the investigation because of his “relationships with the highest levels of UCPD,” according to court documents.

Around the end of May 2016, Lieutenant Millard allegedly “advised Savaglio and Rothermel to resign in order to avoid a potentially negative outcome” from the Internal Affairs investigation, which could have banned the two from working as police officers, according to court documents.

Neither are currently working with the UCPD.

Smith’s alleged relationship and involvement with Savaglio, Rothermel and the student was never “investigated or even associated” in the investigation,

court documents state.

The suit alleges Olson openly said he wanted the investigation “to go away as quietly as possible.”

Other officers in the department allegedly complained about Smith and Olson’s “Good Ole Boys’ Club,” but “feared retaliation against them for voicing their concerns about the improper and possibly unlawful behavior and conduct of Smith,” court documents state. Other officers also allegedly “confided” their concerns about Smith in Signa.

Lieutenant Signa expressed concern about the “impropriety” of favoritism in the department and was later allegedly retaliated against at a lunch in or around August 2016. Sergeant Romero “attacked Signa’s position as Patrol Lieutenant, stating that the other sergeants were upset with Signa’s leadership style and were contemplating a vote of no confidence in Signa,” court documents say.

Following the lunch, Lieutenant Signa allegedly met with each of the six sergeants, excluding Sergeants Romero and Smith, during which “none of the sergeants expressed discontent with Signa’s leadership” or the intention to “submit a vote of no confidence against Signa,” court documents say.

Shortly after, Signa was “transferred from Patrol Lieutenant to Administrative Lieutenant,” which was seen as “punishment against Signa for not ‘falling in line’ with the ‘Good Ole Boys’ Club,” court documents state.

The 2017 Internal Affairs Investigation

In or around September 2017, court documents state that UCPD Corporal Tiffany Little “submitted a letter of complaint alleging improper and possibly unlawful conduct by Smith.”

The following are allegations that were included in the complaint, according to court documents:

- Smith allegedly had “an extra-marital affair” with a subordinate UCPD officer;
- Smith “covered up” for an automobile accident in which the subordinate officer was driving a UCPD vehicle on campus;
- Smith was involved in an alleged hit-and-run automobile accident in which he “hit a parked car” with a UCPD vehicle;
- Smith allegedly used police lights and sirens “to get through heavy traffic” in order to attend “a free breakfast,” while visiting UC Los Angeles;
- Smith allegedly used UCPD resources to visit the subordinate officer in Santa Cruz.

Tiffany Little, with her husband UCPD Officer Michael Little, also filed a suit against several members of the UCPD on March 29 on similar charges.

Millard was allegedly tasked with investigating this complaint and shared concerns with Signa “about how the IA investigation might affect his friendship with Smith,” court documents say.

Smith went on leave in or around the middle of 2017 and by the end of that year received a job at the California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services, according to court documents.

Olson, Farley and Millard allegedly said during several meetings that “having Smith get the alternate position was the easiest solution to the issues the department was facing,” court documents state.

Court documents allege that the “woefully inadequate” investigation was closed right before Smith left UCPD toward the end of 2017 so the investigation would “not impede his ability to get the job” at the Office of Emergency Services.

Smith was also allegedly treated to “a celebratory farewell lunch” and continued to have lunch with Olson, Millard and Romero after leaving the department.

Signa’s Concerns and Alleged Retaliation:

Signa allegedly reported concerns about Smith and overall UCPD “propriety” to Olson and Farley. Some of Signa’s reported concerns follow:

- “Dick jokes” made on or about a meeting on May 21, 2017 “in front of female officers and staff”;
- Smith’s misuse of UCPD funds and resources;
- “Smith’s impunity and insulation from any form of disciplinary action;”
- Excessively long supervisor meetings, sometimes two or three hours over the regular length;
- “Approval of expenses and travel for members of the ‘Good Ole Boys’ Club’ in or around Jan. 17, 2017, but not for those excluded from such club.”

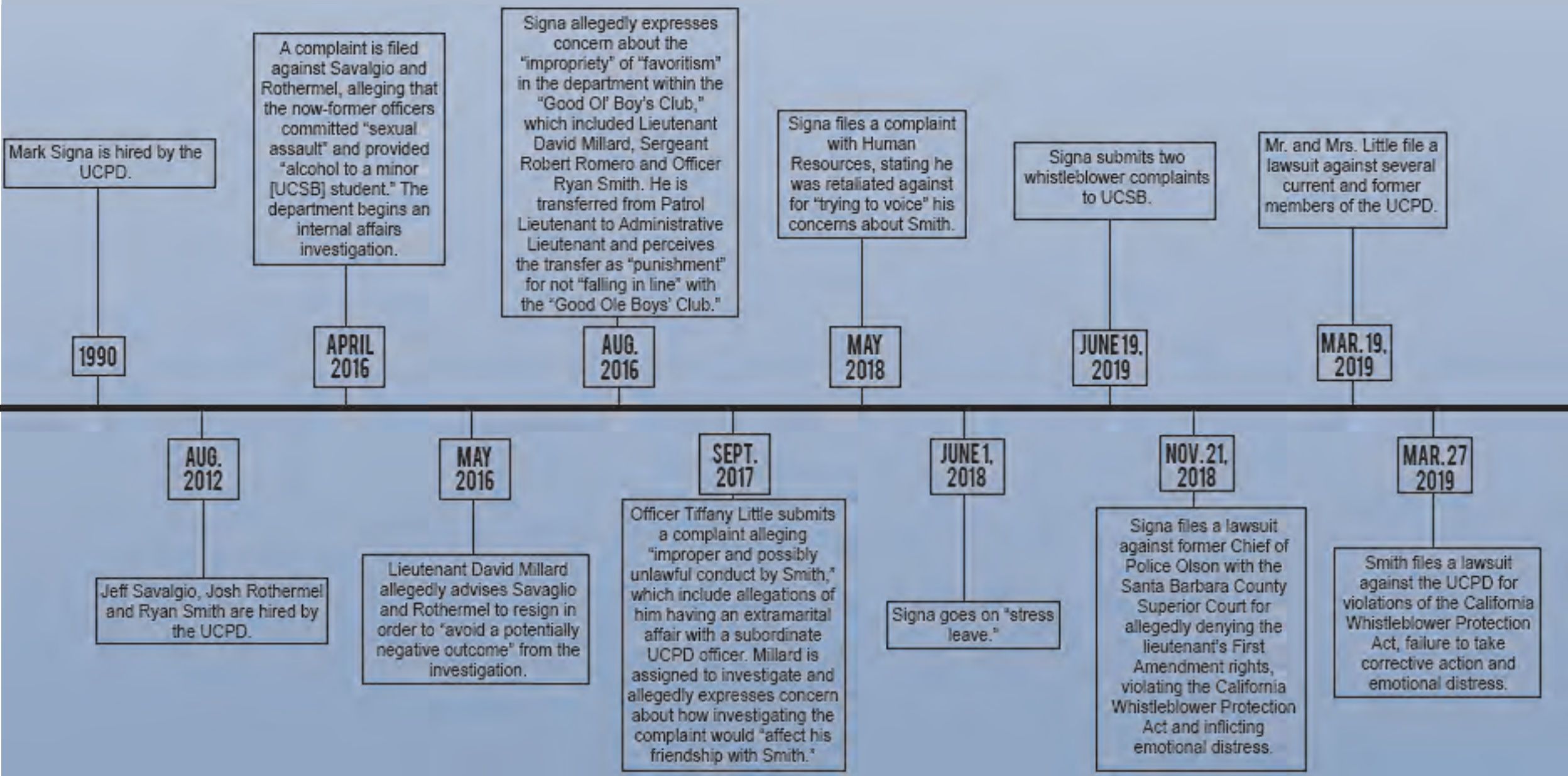
Signa was allegedly retaliated against for voicing these concerns, according to court documents. The alleged retaliations included:

UCPD Lawsuit No. 3 p.5



Angie Banks / DAILY NEXUS

The UCPD patrols both the UCSB campus and Isla Vista.



UCPD Lawsuit No. 1

Continued from p.1

In February 2017, Smith was allegedly assigned to a “mutual aid response” at UC Berkeley for the upcoming campus appearance from Milo Yiannopoulos. While at the event, UC Berkeley police officers allegedly “refused to allow the officers assisting from various U.C. Police Departments” to intervene with “students and civilians [who] were being brutally beaten by the anarchists.”

Smith allegedly reported the events at UC Berkeley and his concerns to Olson and was questioned by Olson upon his return from UC Berkeley. Olson allegedly “received a call from U.C. Berkeley Police Chief Margo Bennett,” who yelled at Olson and was “furious” with Smith for voicing concerns regarding the Milo Yiannopoulos event.

Further incidents regarding Signa can be viewed on pages 5 through 10 of the court documents.

Officer Ryan Hashimoto

While Smith served as sergeant for UCPD, he allegedly “reported several violations of policy and law to Signa,” which continued to create points of retaliation against Smith. Some of those violations pertained to Officer Hashimoto’s alleged misconduct in the office.

Officer Hashimoto allegedly “made multiple cartoon videos” of officers, crime victims, citizens, university officials and employees in which he “used his own voice to play the character of each person.” At times, the videos “were discriminatory toward several protected classes of persons.”

Hashimoto allegedly created a video depicting an officer in the department – referred to as “Officer M” in the complaint – who was known to allegedly contact “female sexual assault victims unsolicited,” as well as sexual assault advocates from the Women’s Center. The video allegedly “depicts the advocates yelling ‘Rape!’ at the victims and forcing the victims to make sexual assault reports.”

Smith also allegedly reported Officer M to Signa after Smith discovered that “Officer M was having sexual assault advocates call his personal phone directly to report cases” without notifying a dispatch or supervisor. Smith ordered Officer M to

stop this practice. UCPD allegedly took no action regarding Officer M.

Hashimoto’s alleged videos also depicted Chancellor Yang with Officer Hashimoto using a “Chinese accent, making derogatory and inappropriate statements.” Hashimoto also allegedly mocked an African-American dispatcher through “videos and in person impersonations.” Hashimoto’s alleged impersonations of the dispatcher included mockery of the dispatcher “speaking and eating food.”

On another occasion, Hashimoto allegedly acted out “a fictional situation where the dispatcher was playing with a large black dildo that Hashimoto named ‘King Kong Dong.’” Officer Hashimoto allegedly “often walked into different areas of the UCPD and would yell ‘King Kong Dong’ while impersonating the dispatchers voice. He would position his forearm in front of his groin area, and then slap his arm on desktops as if he was slapping a dildo on the desktop.”

Officer Hashimoto also allegedly “inappropriately joked” and stated to UCPD staff “that the victim in the Daniel Chen rape and kidnap case contracted herpes from the suspect,” while UCPD was conducting the investigation. Officer Hashimoto allegedly “mocked the victim’s Asian accent, and in the accent stated: ‘I have herpes on my pussy.’”

In January 2018, while Smith was working in Montecito following the Thomas Fire and the Montecito mudslides, he was shown a recording allegedly made by Hashimoto in which Hashimoto was verbally “mocking an evidence video and audio recording” related to the sexual assault, sodomy, kidnapping and robbery case of *People v. Patrick Galoustian*, according to court documents.

In this video – a tape of Galoustian allegedly “sexual[ly] assaulting a transvestite victim” – Hashimoto allegedly mocked Galoustian’s accent in a voice-over, made sexual references to the victim and made “statements in essence of rubbing their (Galoustian and the trans victim’s penis’ together).”

Smith allegedly reported the video to UCPD on Jan. 27, 2018. At the time, Olson and Lieutenant

Millard allegedly confirmed that they were “aware of the recording.”

Officer Tiffany Little and Officer Michael Little

Smith also reported alleged misconduct from married UCPD officers Tiffany and Michael Little, who “frequently left their assigned patrol areas while on duty and traveled to their personal residence in Goleta using UCPD vehicles.”

The Littles would also allegedly “stay at their residences for extended periods of time, fail to answer calls for service, and ask other officers to handle calls for service for them.” The suit alleges that the Littles’ actions “are a violation of policy and a theft of funds.”

According to court documents, Officer Michael Little also allegedly “talked about his fantasy to have a black man try to steal his wallet so he can ‘fucking shoot him in the fucking face.’”

Officer Michael Little allegedly approached Smith and other officers and “related a fictitious story about how he (Little) is walking through a parking lot and a black man approaches him and tries to rob him of his wallet. Little would then mimic responding by stating, ‘How about I shoot you in the fucking face!’”

He would then allegedly “slightly draw his fire-arm from the holster as if he was going to draw his weapon” while reciting the story. Little allegedly “acted out this fantasy, by telling the story” while he was instructing at the firing range and “fir[ed] his duty weapon multiple times” at the shooting target.

Smith allegedly reported Little’s actions to Signa, but “Signa dismissed the claims against Michael Little and Hashimoto as ‘blowing off steam.’” The suit alleges that “Signa deliberately failed to take any action to further investigate the claims against Tiffany Little because of his personal relationships with these officers.”

The suit further alleges that “Signa conspired with Michael Little, Tiffany Little, and Hashimoto to knowingly file false accusations of misconduct against [Smith] in the form of a personnel com-

plaint,” resulting in an Internal Affairs investigation into Smith and an administrative leave that lasted over a month.

Smith allegedly “requested an internal investigation into the false accusations made against him.” As of late March 2019, UCPD has allegedly “failed to investigate the officers who made false allegations against” Smith, according to court documents.

After Smith’s resignation at the end of 2017, Signa allegedly told UCPD staff that Smith resigned “in bad standing, to avoid termination.”

Smith allegedly demanded “for the harassment, retaliation, and first amendment violations to cease, no less than ten times since his departure from UCPD” in person to Olson, Farley and Lieutenant Millard.

When the university allegedly “hired an attorney to investigate” Smith’s complaints, the Littles allegedly “briefed and debriefed several individuals before and after interviews” relating to the investigation and “attempted to recruit members of UCPD” to make complaints against Lieutenant Millard and Olson.

The suit alleges that Smith “continues to suffer losses in earnings and other employment benefits as well as past and future non-economic injury.”

Peter Horton, Smith’s lawyer, wrote in an email to the Nexus that “Smith attempted to address significant misconduct relating to Lt. Mark Signa, Officer Michael Little, Officer Tiffany Little, and Officer Ryan Hashimoto. These individuals have responded by attempting to destroy Mr. Smith’s personal and professional reputation.”

“Smith was forced to take legal action after the University did not take any corrective action against the aforementioned individuals,” Horton said in the email.

UCSB spokesperson Andrea Estrada said in an email to the Nexus that the university “is undertaking a thorough review” of allegations and that they expect the police department “to adhere to the highest of standards.”

A case management conference for *Doe v. UCPD* is scheduled for Wednesday, July 31 at 8:30 a.m.



Lieutenant Signa (pictured above at an event in 2015) is one of the officers Smith alleges harassed him. Signa filed his own lawsuit against former UCPD Chief of Police Dustin Olson in November 2018



The UCPD main headquarters is located on the other side of Harder Stadium, on Mesa Road.

UCSB Lawsuit No. 3

Continued from p.4

- Exclusion from “key meetings” essential for Signa’s job duties;
- Not being able to email Olson without notifying Farley as well and receiving criticism for not adequately communicating with Olson;
- “Bullying, harassing, publicly criticizing and blaming Signa in front of other officers and for unfounded reasons”;
- Mandatory meetings with Farley to “check-in,” in which “Signa received contradictory directives and conflicting information”;
- Exclusion from UCPD social events;
- “Resistance” from Olson to meet in private with Signa;
- Exclusion from “leadership, promotional and learning opportunities”;
- Pressure to resign early.

University Response

Signa filed a complaint with Human Resources in or around May 2018 about “his departmental concerns and the retaliation he faced for trying to voice them.” Signa met with Cynthia Señeriz, the

acting director, human resources and compensation manager at UCSB, who allegedly told Signa “she would have someone follow up with him,” court documents say.

Signa allegedly went on stress leave on or around June 1, 2018. Shortly after, UCSB Employee & Labor Relations Specialist Jessica Graham allegedly contacted Signa and said she would update him on the status of the complaint.

As of November 2018, Signa had not heard back from either Señeriz or Graham, according to court documents.

On June 19, 2018, Signa submitted two whistleblower complaints to UCSB, but had not heard back as of November 2018 when he filed the lawsuit against the UC Police Department.

The suit alleges that more UCPD officers also submitted whistleblower complaints similar to Signa’s. It does not specify whether those are in addition to Mr. and Mrs. Little’s complaints.

UCSB spokesperson Andrea Estrada said the university is aware of the lawsuits filed against UCPD and “is undertaking a thorough review.”

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UCSB's Library Awakens to New \$12,000 Nap Pods

Arturo Martinez Rivera
Asst. News Editor

Nap pods will soon be installed in UC Santa Barbara's Davidson Library with the goal of providing rest to exhausted students.

The nap pods – spherical chairs with an overhead visor – are designed to give people a comfortable resting place to take a quick nap, according to the MetroNaps website. Each pod comes equipped with a timer interface that can be set to any time or to the default of 20 minutes, along with a speaker to block out noise and ensure a gentle awakening.

These specific types of pods are used in various institutions around the country, including universities and Silicon Valley companies like Google, according to the MetroNaps website. Four nap pods were also installed in UC Berkeley's Moffitt Library in 2016.

The library will receive two nap pods as part of a Health & Wellness Program sleep initiative, according to Sharleen O'Brien, director of Health & Wellness.

"The sleep initiative is designed to help students become more aware of the sleep that they need and how much sleep that they're getting," O'Brien said.



"Because we know students are balancing long work hours, long hours studying and in class, as well as work and social activities, we wanted to make sure there was enough information on campus about sleep for students, enough opportunities to catch up on sleep if they need that, as well as to help students understand that sufficient sleep positively impacts

their memory, mood and performance."

The pods are expected to be located in front of the Transfer Student Center on the first floor of Davidson Library; it is estimated they will be installed and ready for use by Fall Quarter 2019.

Each nap pod comes at an approximated cost of \$12,000, funded by the Health & Wellness Program.

O'Brien said she first began discussion with the library about the pods in Fall Quarter 2018. She believes the pods are a great way to allow students to take recommended 20-minute naps and to advance the sleep initiative's goals.

The Health & Wellness Program is also addressing sleep health through pop-up nap stations around campus, which allow students to take naps on inflatable beds, and the Gaucho Sleep Challenge, which gives students information about sleep each day and encourages monitoring sleep hours, according to O'Brien.

The nap pods are not the first addition to the library for student rest; they follow the egg chairs that were installed in the library in December 2016, which are located on the first floor of Ocean Side in Davidson Library.

"[The egg chairs] provide a space for students to just take a 10-minute break and chill in the middle of their busy day. But because it's an egg chair, it's

not obviously a place to sleep. The nap pods, while they're very fancy-looking... are very specifically a place to sleep," O'Brien said.

"I hope over time that students will start to really experience that the campus is supporting their needs, that students will more often be willing to take a nap if they need one in a safe environment and that it will help them with their academics."

“

The sleep initiative is designed to help students become more aware of the sleep that they need.

SHARLEEN O'BRIEN

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Number of April Arrests Spike Due to Deltopia

Hayley Tice
Data Editor

More students were arrested in Isla Vista and on the UC Santa Barbara campus in April than in any of the past six months, according to data from the Nexus' arrest log.

57 people were arrested in I.V. or UCSB in September 2018, the next-highest month included in the arrest map.

More April arrests occurred in I.V. than on the UCSB campus. Only 18 of the arrests occurred on the UCSB campus, while 56 arrests occurred in Isla Vista in the same period of time. It is unclear whether two arrests occurred in Isla Vista or on campus.

Nearly twice as many individuals were arrested in April than March. In April, 76 individuals were arrested, compared to 39 individuals in March. This can likely be attributed to the unsanctioned street party known as Deltopia, which happens yearly during the first week of spring quarter.

This year, Deltopia happened on April 6; 38 arrests in the month occurred on that date, making up half of the total number in April. Another arrest occurred at 12:38 a.m. on April 7.

This was a 50% increase from the previous year's Deltopia.

Over one-fourth of arrested individuals on Deltopia were confirmed UCSB students. For the rest of the

month, about 30% of arrests were UCSB students.

The oldest person arrested during Deltopia was 27. Over 90% of individuals arrested in I.V. during Deltopia were under 22.

Approximately one-third of other arrests in April were of individuals 27 or older.

Over half of the arrests in April were related to alcohol, similarly to previous months. Disorderly conduct due to alcohol was again the most common charge in April, with 38 people charged; 30 of these occurred during Deltopia.

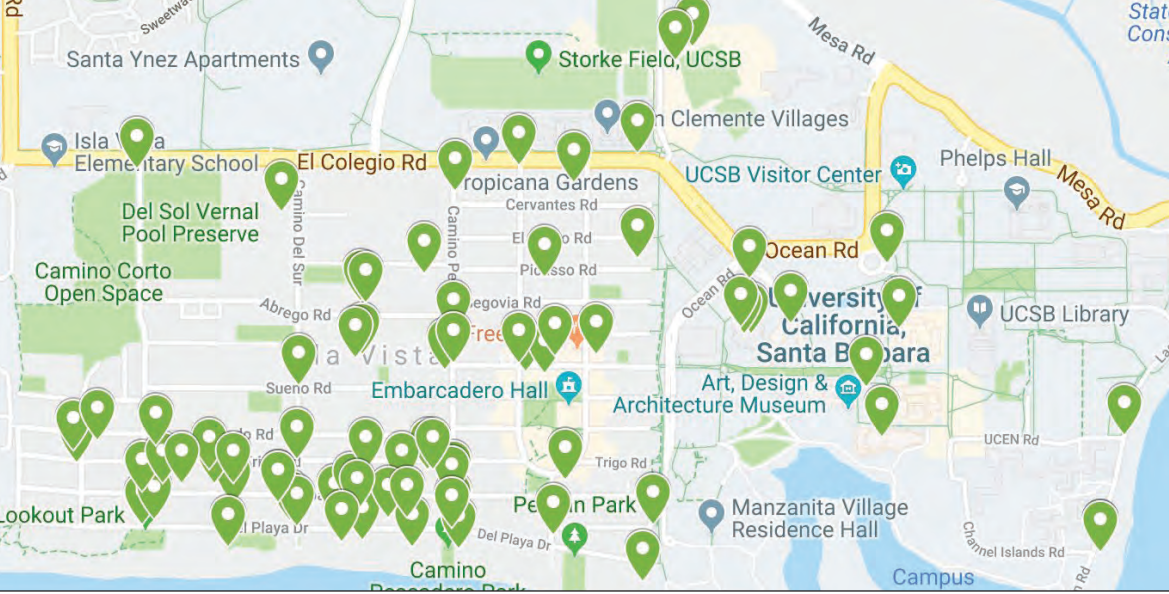
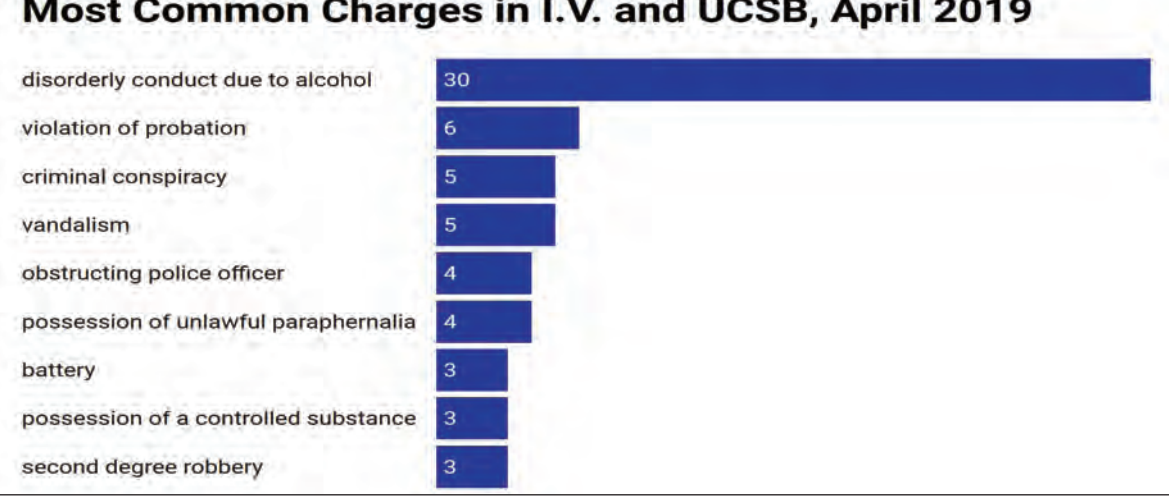
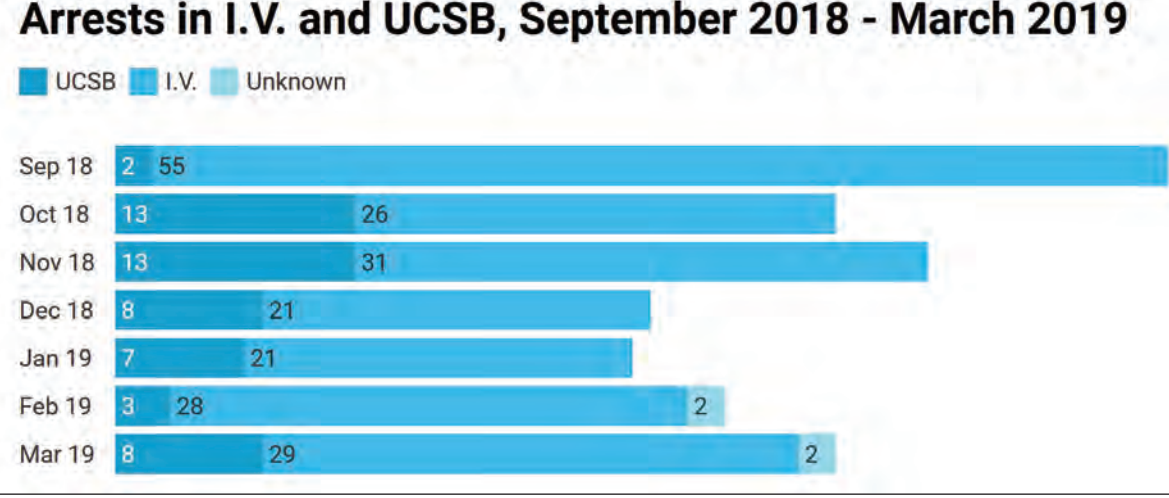
Violation of probation, criminal conspiracy and vandalism were other common charges.

Six individuals were arrested for violating their probations. Five were charged with criminal conspiracy, and another five were charged with vandalism.

Four individuals were charged with obstructing or resisting a police officer. Four were charged with possession of unlawful paraphernalia, which is equipment that is used to consume, process or store illegal substances.

The arrest map is based on daily arrest logs from the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office and includes arrests that happen in I.V. as well as on the UCSB campus. The map includes data from September 2018 to the present.

The map is updated daily by the Nexus news team, and can be found at dailynexus.com.



SRB Design Plans To Remain Unchanged Despite A.S. Senate and Bike Committee Opposition

Katherine Swartz
Asst. News Editor

The Student Resource Building Governance Board voted on Friday not to add bicycle parking to the North Landscaping Design Project, against the wishes of the Bike Committee who has advocated for bike parking in the plan since it was introduced in 2018.

The Student Resource Building (SRB) Governance Board includes representatives from different offices located in the SRB to oversee operations. The majority of the board is composed of UC Santa Barbara students.

The decision follows last week’s Associated Students (A.S.) Senate meeting, during which the Senate unanimously passed a resolution in support of adding new bicycle parking back into the design’s plans after it was cut at the end of 2018.

The SRB North Landscaping Design Project redesigns unused lawn space surrounding the SRB, according to Dominic Velasco, a fourth-year music studies major and Campus Learning Assistance Services (CLAS) representative to the SRB Governance Board.

“The project wants to see those spaces transformed into something that students can use for whatever purposes, be it community events or studying, to basically repurpose them so that they become more ... heavily utilized,” Velasco said.

The governance board first conceptualized the North Landscaping Design Project in Winter Quarter 2018. After discovering that the initial plan for the project did not include any new bike parking, the A.S. Bike Committee began advocating for the addition of bike parking.

Annie Golay, chair of the A.S. Bike Committee, wrote a letter to the SRB Governance Board in Spring Quarter 2018, offering a compromise design that included 35 new bike spaces directly in front of the SRB. The governance board then agreed to the 35 new bike spaces in an updated design.

“While we would have liked to have gotten more, we felt like the 35 was a good compromise between having bike parking for students and having [bike parking] available in the safest way possible, in addition to meeting their needs for programming as well,” Golay said.

The original design plan included renovations

of five major areas, which includes the lawn directly in front of the SRB, empty space in front of Parking Lot 22 and the bike path which runs between these two areas.

However, the SRB Governance Board was notified by the Campus Planning Committee within the UCSB Office of Budget and Planning at the end of 2018 that the scope of their design was not possible, according to Velasco.

“We found out that the school has future plans for pretty much 80% of the area we wanted to renovate, so now we’re only renovating a very small portion of land that’s right in front of the SRB,” Velasco said.

When the project was minimized, new bike parking was removed altogether.

“We knew we needed to act fast because we felt that bike parking is a huge problem on campus and our job as a committee is to make sure we have appropriate infrastructure and bike parking available for students, because bike parking is such a vital part of our campus,” Golay said.

The A.S. Bike Committee wrote a second letter to the SRB Governance Board on March 1, spoke to board members at multiple meetings and helped draft the A.S. Senate resolution that passed last week.

Ricardo Uribe serves as both a Letters & Science Senator as well as a board representative for the Resource Center for Sexual and Gender Diversity. He believes that the student support from the resolution did not change the outcome of current design plans.

“Obviously that resolution shows that there was some sort of need for this space ... I think that the resolution didn’t have an effect that it attended to,” Uribe said.

At last Friday’s SRB Governance Board meeting, three different propositions for the design project were presented: either add bike parking, wait until other future projects planned by the university for the area were completed or move forward with the SRB Design plan without bike parking.

The board voted 11-2 to move forward without bike parking.

The two board members who voted in favor of bike parking are both affiliated with A.S.: Alexis Xa, the A.S. representative on the SRB Governance Board, and Uribe.

Golay, who spoke at Friday’s governance



DEVIN RALSTON / DAILY NEXUS

Due to renovation conflicts between the Campus Planning Committee and the SRB Governance Board, the design plans regarding new bike parking supported by an A.S. Senate Resolution will no longer be possible.

board meeting, believes the current amount of bicycle parking is insufficient and causes a safety threat to students going to the SRB.

“Because students have to pass all these bike lanes to get to the SRB, it is really dangerous, and that lot is already over-subscribed,” Golay said.

“We think the safest and best option is to include at least a few bike parking spaces at the SRB, because currently none exist, and we’re concerned about the safety and needs of students.”

The main priority of the SRB Governance Board, according to Velasco, was to begin work as soon as possible on the SRB North Landscape Design Project. If bike parking was added, a new redesign would be required, pushing the project back by another year.

On June 7, the SRB Governance Board will vote to approve the final cost of \$560,000 for the project. If this measure passes, construction will begin in summer 2019.

Margaret T. Getman and William J. Villa Service to Students Awards

In honor of the former UCSB Dean of Student Residents, Margaret T. Getman, and the former Director of Admissions, William J. Villa, these annual awards recognize university staff, faculty, and departments that have demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to the general growth and development of students and quality of student life. The nominees and recipients will be honored with a reception on Wednesday, June 5, 2019, 9-10:30 a.m., at the Student Affairs divisional meeting in Corwin Pavilion.

Getman Award Nominees are:

- Ralph Armbruster-Sandoval**
Chicana and Chicano Studies
- Maria Arroyo**
Housing, Dining & Auxiliary Enterprises
- Valerie Batikian**
Early Childhood Care & Education Services
- Virginia Beaufort**
Undergraduate Mentorship Program, College of Letters & Science/Academic Advising
- Angie Bryan**
Alcohol & Drug Program, Student Health
- Trela Sunshine Cowan**
Department of Art

- Lee DeAnda**
Campus Learning Assistance Services
- Kristy Herr**
Student Health
- Zaveeni Khan-Marcus**
MultiCultural Center
- Han Koehle**
Office of the Dean of Students
- John Latto**
Ecology, Evolution, and Marine Biology and College of Creative Studies
- Robert B. Lewis**
Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry

- Aashish Mehta**
Department of Global Studies
- Rebeca Mireles-Rios**
Gevirtz Graduate School of Education
- Maria Teresa Napoli**
Center for Science and Engineering Partnerships, Mechanical Engineering
- Francesca Palermino**
College of Letters & Science, Academic Advising
- Becca Plotkin**
Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships
- Holly Roose**
Promise Scholars Program, Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships

- Holly Leager Smith**
Student Health
- Lana Smith-Hale**
Career Services
- Michael Kenji “Maka” Takahara**
Health & Wellness
- Tricia Taylor**
Department of Communication
- Diana Valdivia**
Undocumented Student Services
- Dennis M. Whelan**
Campus Planning & Design

Villa Award Nominees are:

- Career Services
- Health and Wellness
- MultiCultural Center
- Student Health

The award and reception are co-sponsored by Housing, Dining & Auxiliary Enterprises and the Division of Student Affairs.

Armchair QB



Klay Thompson has been in a huge slump lately, shooting less than 20% from the three-point line so far against the Rockets. This just means he'll probably go for 40 points in his next game.

Social Media

Follow us @DailyNexSports for any and all updates on our Gauchos squads.

SPORTS

No. 7 UCSB Eyes Program Record, Hosts LBSU

With a sweep over Long Beach State, the Gauchos will set a single-season record for most consecutive home victories

Jorge Mercado
Editor in Chief

With three weeks remaining in the 2019 season, the No. 7 UCSB baseball team is still in prime position to make some history.

Nine of the Gauchos' remaining 10 games are conference contests, and the winner of the Big West title will likely come down to the last weekend which will pit UCSB against Cal Poly, teams that are tied for first in the conference with 12-3 marks.

Still, Santa Barbara cannot get too ahead of itself, even if it faces a Long Beach State team this weekend that sits dead last in the standings with a 5-10 Big West record and 11-35 overall mark.

Long Beach State is just two years removed from nearly reaching the College World Series before being eliminated by Big West foe Cal State Fullerton, but it is now on pace to have one of its worst seasons in decades.

The program also fired nine-year coach Troy Buckley on April 11 after a reported incident of workplace violence. Buckley was 260-231-1 during his tenure.

Since his firing, however, LBSU has managed to turn things around a bit.

After starting the season 5-26, Long Beach State has won six of its last 15 games, including a sweep of UC Riverside – the only team to take two of three from the Gauchos this season – and nearly knocking off No. 1 UCLA this past Tuesday, losing in 12 innings 2-1.

That may not seem like much, but it does highlight about how far this program has come in just the past month of play.

In fact, even in those 15 contests, LBSU has tallied 130 hits which is about eight hits per game, a solid number.

The team's .259 batting average as a whole might not seem great over the past 15, but it is up more than 48 points than where it was before.

Overall, the team sports a .234 batting average which is dead last in the conference but, again, higher than it was before.

LBSU's pitching staff has also been revived during conference play.

The Dirtbags have allowed the second-least hits (121) in conference play. The staff also holds the second-best ERA (4.67).

Also, despite LBSU's record, the team does put up a fight in each contest.

Twelve of Long Beach State's last 15 games have been decided by two runs or fewer, with seven of those meetings being decided by just one run. The Dirtbags have gone just 1-6 in those seven one-run games and are 3-2 in matches decided by two runs over that span.

If a few more things go right for them in some of these games, LBSU might be contending for a title as well.

Regardless, UCSB should still roll through the Dirtbags. The Gauchos' pitching staff has combined to strike out 399 batters this season, topping the Big West. LBSU strikes out a good amount with 323 on the year.

Also, Santa Barbara's offensive firepower might be too much



Senior left-fielder Tevin Mitchell takes a hack at a pitch. Mitchell currently leads both UCSB and the Big West conference with 17 stolen bases so far this year, and is near the top of the squad in both OBP (.411) and Slugging Percentage (.521).

for the Dirtbags to even think of overcoming.

Right fielder Armani Smith has been on a tear lately as he currently owns a nine-game hitting streak.

During that stretch, Smith has had five multiple hit games and gone an impressive 14 for 34 (.411) while also scoring seven runs.

This recent stretch has also seen his batting average jump 24 points as he now sports a .319 batting average.

Additionally, the Martinez, Calif. native has accumulated one fourth of his total RBIs this season in just the last nine games for a total of 10. Smith also has 10 homers on the season, second best mark on the team.

Also, the Gauchos have been especially tough to beat at home,

owning an impressive 22-1 record in home games this season.

UCSB has won 15 consecutive games in Santa Barbara with the team's last home loss coming on Mar. 17 against Cal Baptist. If the team can sweep, UCSB will have set a new program record for most consecutive wins at home in a single season.

The Gauchos last set that record in 2016 when they won 17 consecutive games. That was the same year UCSB went to its first ever College World Series.

Coincidence? I guess we'll find out.

First pitch between Long Beach State and UCSB will begin at 3 p.m. on Friday, May 10 at Caesar Uyesaka Stadium. The remaining two games will be played at 2 p.m. and 1 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday respectively.

How UCSB Baseball Ranks in Key Stats Nationwide

D1 Baseball Top 25: #16

Batting Average:	0.296	#29
ERA:	3.44	#18
Home Runs:	54	#27
SLG Percentage:	0.503	#7
WHIP:	1.19	#10
Triples:	26	#3



Gauchos' Cinderella Run Cut Short By No. 12 Stanford

Annika Pearson
Staff Writer

To conclude nothing short of a historical season, the UCSB men's tennis team was handed their final defeat by No. 12 Stanford (19-6) in the second round of the NCAA Tournament. The 4-0 loss marked Santa Barbara's first in its last eight games and cemented their finish with a 17-7 overall record.

Nonetheless, their advancement into the second round alone was an accomplishment that had not been fulfilled in over 20 years. The Gauchos, therefore, were reluctant to go down without a fight.

The dominant senior duo Nicolas Moreno de Alboran and Anders Holm delivered an impressive 6-2 win over Stanford's Sameer Kumar and Timothy Sah on the number one court. Alongside their teammates, the co-captains finished their season boasting a 15-9 overall record.

Their time playing together is not quite over. The two, now ranked 64th in the nation, will represent Santa Barbara at the NCAA Doubles Championship in May. Singles standout No. 58 junior Joseph Guillin will also join them and compete for the singles portion.

This is the first time in program history that UCSB will be represented by more than one player in each of the respective NCAA Championships.

Guillin and doubles partner sophomore Victor Krustev fell to Stanford's sophomore-junior duo Axel Geller and William Genesen in a 6-2 match. Now split 1-1 between Stanford and Santa Barbara, the doubles point rested on the men of court three, UCSB's sophomore Joseph Rotheram and junior Alex Dominguez Soto.

The pair battled Stanford's Jack Barber and Sangeet Sridhar in an extremely tight set. Tied 3-3, Barber and Sridhar, bolstered by the cheers from their home crowd, pulled away, stealing the next three matches and the dou-

bles point from the Gauchos.

It seems impossible to deny the momentous effect of Stanford's home court advantage. In the six singles face-offs, four were forced into the third set, but no Gauchos emerged victorious from them. Nonetheless, UC Santa Barbara fought tirelessly throughout each in an attempt to counter the previous doubles loss.

Senior Hironori Koyanagi was forced into a third set by sophomore Timothy Sah, where he ultimately dropped the match.

Though it was not reflected in the outcome, Koyanagi was an integral part of the roster starting in the second half of Santa Barbara's season.

The senior ended his last season as a Gaucho with seven straight wins, sending his dual match record up to 14-7.

Anders Holm was bested by senior Michael Genender in a two-set sweep. The loss was uncharacteristic of Holm, who in his last eight appearances had been undefeated.

Nationally ranked singles Moreno de Alboran and Guillin each left with unfinished matches. No. 16 Moreno de Alboran was called while he was leading 2-0 in the third set, while No. 58 Guilin was battling to take back his early lead in his respective third set.

Stanford senior Sameer Kumar solidified the win for his team, taking out Victor Krustev in two games.

He first delivered a hefty 0-6 sweep to UCSB's sophomore on the third court. Krustev responded eagerly and forced his opponent into a tiebreaker but ultimately lost the battle.

And, albeit with more difficulty than anticipated, Stanford swept the Gauchos on their home court.

But, as aforementioned, the UCSB men's tennis team has nothing to be ashamed of. Over the course of the 2018-19 season, the team earned numerous accolades and gained immense recognition for UCSB in the eyes of both Big West and NCAA.



JORGE MERCADO / DAILY NEXUS

Gauchos To Host Big West Conference Championships



LEONARD PAULSA / DAILY NEXUS

Leonard Paulsa
Estef Zuniga
Staff Writers

UCSB Track and Field prepares to compete in the NCAA Big West Championships this coming Saturday here at Pauley Track and Field Facility.

The team will be following the successful weekend accomplished by seniors Hope Bender and Tyler Nelson during the multis, both of whom took first in the heptathlon and the decathlon respectively.

Bender was the favorite and successfully defended her title, winning the Big West heptathlon in back-to-back years. Meanwhile, Nelson reclaimed glory and made his return to the top after not having won the event since 2016.

Nelson scored 7,420 points while Bender broke the Big West conference meet record for the heptathlon with 5,814 points. Previously, former Gaucho and U.S. Olympian Barbara Nwaba set the record in 2012 by ending the heptathlon with 5,709 points.

This is the first time since 2012 that two individuals from the same school won the decathlon and heptathlon at home.

Besides the multis, the Gauchos closed out a great regular season with both men's and women's teams defeating Cal Poly in the Cal Poly Dual.

The men's team defeated the rival Mustangs with a score of 104-97, while the women outpaced them with a score of 104-98.

The Gauchos have been consistently improving throughout the season with many members setting new personal records, or PRs and also cementing themselves in UCSB history by breaking school records.

Junior Chloe Cox placed herself 10th overall in the 3000

meter steeplechase with a time of 10:49.94, and Bender had yet another record to break placing her 5th overall in our 400m record with a time of 54.68s.

"Winning at home was absolutely as special as I have ever imagined, and having friends and teammates there who don't usually get to watch the multi was even more amazing," Bender said. "Getting to close out my Big West heptathlon career with a win was icing on the cake and a huge boost going into the weekend."

Bender's success can be attributed to her hard work and dedication throughout her running career, as well as her drive to improve that has existed since her high school days.

"[My passion] started out in high school when I realized that the harder I worked, the faster I got, and that become kind of addicting," Bender said. "I love training, and even on the long and hard days I love walking away with a sense of accomplishment and [feeling] like I got better on that day. I think that's what keeps me going: little victories each and every practice."

Sophomore Sam Pica also had a strong performance during the Bryan Clay invitation, placing second only behind Nelson. He translated this performance with a fifth place finish in the multis this past weekend, but look for him to make his mark in the 4x400 and the long jump.

Bender already holds the majority of the women's track and field records, but look for her to close out her last Big West tournament with a bang.

The success the team has had throughout the season has been remarkable.

The season is slowly coming to a close, but expect them to represent the school with pride and fight for the championship.

The first event starts at 9 a.m. Friday morning.

Slumping Gauchos Travel to SLO for Rivalry Matchup

Jake Ciccone
Staff Writer

A fairly underwhelming season has left the 8-41 (2-16 in the Big West) UCSB softball team with nowhere to go but up.

Coming off a sweep at the hands of UC Riverside in their final home series, the Gauchos will travel to SLO to face the Mustangs and put a stamp on another edition of the Blue-Green rivalry.

Similarly to UCSB, Cal Poly comes into the final three-game series of the season with not much to play for other than pride, as the Mustangs and Gauchos currently occupy the seventh and eighth positions in the conference standings.

Cal Poly has dropped five consecutive games leading up to this weekend's series, and UCSB has dropped its last eight, which means that this series provides a great opportunity for one of these teams to finish the season on a high note.

It is difficult to know what to expect from this series because both Cal Poly and UCSB rank in the bottom two in the Big West in terms of runs scored and earned run average, so it will be interesting to see if we get some low-scoring pitcher duels or high-scoring offensive showcases between these two squads.

One way the Gauchos could gain an advantage is if their star player, sophomore Sammy Fabian, can keep up her stellar hitting to supply the Gaucho offense with runs. Fabian hit a bit of a rough patch in the middle of conference play, but as the season went on, she found her rhythm again.

Fabian led the Gauchos against UCR, going 5-11 in three games against the Highlanders.

She has now recorded a hit in seven of the Gauchos' last eight games and raised her batting average to .390 on the season.

In addition to Fabian, senior Melanie Menor has been very reliable throughout Big West play, as she is cur-

rently batting a team best .327 in conference while also leading the team with six RBI's over that span. Menor is another Gaucho who has upped her play as of late, recording three multi-hit games out of her last five.

Pitching is one of the areas in which the Gauchos have remained consistent for most of the season. Their 4.50 overall E.R.A. as a staff for the entire season is similar to their 4.45 Big West E.R.A.

However, both of these figures place last in the conference, which is a big reason why UCSB has found little success throughout the year.

The good news is that Cal Poly's pitching staff has given up the second-most runs in the Big West, so the Gauchos will not be outmatched against their final opponent of the season.

The Mustangs also have no hitters with an average above .209 on the season, with junior Hailey Martin's .267 mark being the closest. Cal Poly does have four players hitting between .243 and .267, however, so there is a bit of depth that has to be accounted for by UCSB pitchers.

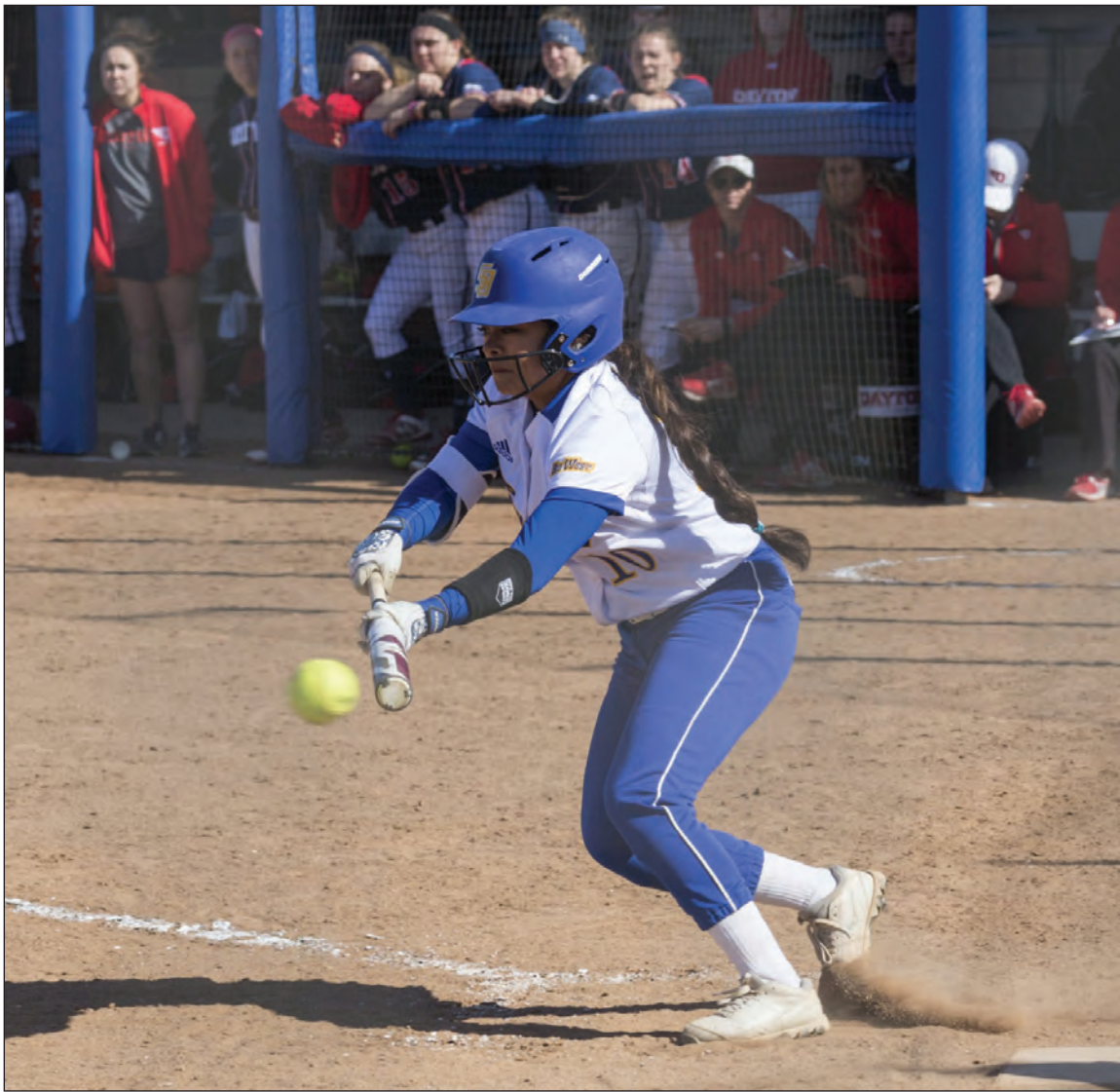
But the Cal Poly player that should worry UCSB the most is their ace starter, junior Steffi Best.

Best has found a different gear in conference play, as her 3.70 E.R.A. ranks fourth in the Big West over that span. Her record is only 2-8 in Big West play, but she has thrown a complete game in nine of her 10 starts, so she definitely has the stamina to carry the Mustangs for an entire game.

The Gauchos will look to replicate the result of last year's Blue-Green rivalry, during which they took two out of three games from the Mustangs in Santa Barbara.

With no postseason implications at stake, these two rivals will be playing purely for bragging rights, which will hopefully bring out the best in both squads.

The first game of the series will be played on Friday at 3 p.m. as the first of a doubleheader at Bob Janssen Field on the campus of Cal Poly SLO.



NEXUS FILE PHOTO



NEXUSTENTIALISM

It's Satire, Stupid.



MAX MYSZKOWSKI / DAILY NEXUS

Panda Express Line Reaches All-Time High, Chaos Ensues

Max Myszkowski
Staff Writer

Earlier this week, during the daily lunch-rush feeding frenzy at the University Center's Panda Express, the wait time for this inauthentic – yet no less delicious – cuisine reached an all-time high.

With the queue for this UCen favorite encircling the building many times over, much like one of the endangered Chinese boa constrictors from which the orange “chicken” is made, the clock for one student was ticking. Bravely joining the back of the line (now snaking its way through Storke Plaza) time-pressed freshman Darby Hindschej decided to risk it all for a taste of that sweet, sweet chicken-ish goodness.

“I know I should probably be focusing on my studies for the next four years,” Hindschej told reporters from her spot in line. “But it’s just too much to pass up. Plus, I’ve already sunk too much time into this to leave empty-handed,” she added, creeping a few millimeters closer to the patron in front of her.

Meanwhile at the front of the line, one customer, when asked if he would like to try any samples, had reportedly savored a toothpick-full of every entree on the menu before ordering a plate with orange chicken, broccoli beef and chow mein – the same as the 14,000,605 diners before him.

“Look, we all know you’ve tried the honey walnut shrimp before. You’re not fooling anyone,” an exasperated Panda Express employee sighed, surrendering yet another morsel to the

gluttonous fiend on a cellophane-tipped platter.

Several feet behind this charade of an order, a herd of elementary school students erupted into chaos as they jostled for positions closest to the front. The students, having abandoned the rope formerly tethering them to their chaperone, then proceeded to have an all-out brawl in the UCen dining area.

“Nick pulled my hair!” one hungry schoolgirl cried, demanding restitution from the now powerless chaperone.

When asked for comment on the allegations, Nick claimed that the girl had, in fact, bitten his arm first, and he was acting solely in self-defense. At press time, the two quarrelers had been removed from the Panda Express line and were instead being fed granola bars from the chaperone’s purse.

When the Nexus caught back up with queue caboose some weeks later, Hindschej had moved only imperceptibly from her original spot in line if at all.

“Someone collapsed from exhaustion a couple days ago, so now I’m one spot closer to the front,” Hindschej cheerfully reported, gesturing to an ominously human-shaped chalk outline on the ground where she stood.

Now standing within smelling distance of the fine cuisine, though weary and on the brink of collapse herself, Hindschej was more determined than ever to get her shot at the prize of a lifetime; she just hoped she’d get it before she graduated.

Max doesn't care if it's snake meat because it's goddamn delicious

BREAKING: College Professor Actually Just Big Idiot

The ‘D’ in Ph.D Stands For Dumbass

Arthur King
Reporter

This past Tuesday, Professor Joe Kerr of environmental studies accidentally misprinted the midterm for a class of over 800 students. As it turns out, Kerr printed a midterm from Winter Quarter three years ago and distributed it out to his tired students.

Halfway through passing out the exam, a TA with exceptional eyesight noticed the error and brought it to Kerr’s attention. Kerr immediately collected all of the incorrect midterms, dropped them on the ground and proceeded to cry.

“It’s not even Winter Quarter,” said one anonymous Gaucho who almost skipped the 8 a.m. midterm. “It’s like, dude, you have a Ph.D, and you can’t even print papers right?”

Not only did Kerr contribute to global warming because of the excessive paper waste, but he ended up showing YouTube videos the

entire class period instead of having the midterm, which he pushed back indefinitely.

“You know, when I was in high school, all my teachers told me that our professors would be super strict,” says first-year theater major Alec Azam. “They’re actually pretty dumb, if you ask me.”

It is unknown whether or not Professor Kerr will rewrite the midterm entirely or just change the date on the upper right hand corner and say, “Fuck it.” All evidence points to the former because he uploaded the correct version of the exam onto GauchoSpace which caused a massive panic in the 5 p.m. section.

“I’m a failure,” Professor Kerr told Nexustentialism. “I spent eight years getting my Ph.D only to embarrass myself in front of 800 kids. Life is so hard.”

Arthur King promises that this isn't about any specific professor.



DAILY NEXUS ART & COMICS



ON THE MENU

East Meets the Pacific Northwest: An Asian Palate Invasion in Portland



Paulina Leang
Reporter

Anytime I find myself in a vibrant city with a population in excess of half a million or with a significant population of Asians and Asian Americans, my intuition is that the food must be – has to be – good, especially the Asian food. Growing up in San Luis Obispo County and now living in Santa Barbara, there is usually a lot left to be desired after sad attempts to satisfy Asian food cravings by means of local purveyors (the only exception being sushi). Needless to say, I always have a hunger and a void I am so ready to fill with the tastiest of Pan-Asian flavors.

On a recent trip to Portland, I was able to indulge myself – albeit briefly – with Din Tai Fung, Afuri: Ramen and Izakaya and Luc Lac Vietnamese Kitchen.

DIN TAI FUNG

A Taiwanese outfit gone global, known for its xiaolongbao. Its Hong Kong location was the first restaurant in Taiwan to receive a Michelin star. The Portland location is located in Washington Square, a mall in the city's outskirts. Suburban setting aside, the food was impeccably delicious as always. Consistency and precision are likely what make Din Tai Fung a favorite for many dumpling lovers worldwide.

I opted for the shrimp and pork wonton noodle soup and the cucumber salad, which was the perfect amount of food and comfort for a party of one on a cold and rainy Pacific Northwest day. Knowing what to expect and then having your expectations met is always comforting.

AFURI: RAMEN + IZAKAYA

A Japanese import, renowned for its ramen. It specifically chose Portland because the water quality was ideal to create excellent broth by its standards. Every ramen aficionado knows that the flavor of broth is crucial for a well-executed noodle soup dish.

I ordered the Asari Shoyu Ramen, complete with clams, chashu pork, leek, scallions and a truffle jam in a hot bath of clam and chicken broth. When it arrived in front of me, the steam escaping the surface of the broth tantalized my taste buds. I ate every last bit of that ramen and licked every last drop of the soup. It was that good.

LUC LAC VIETNAMESE KITCHEN

A Vietnamese-American joint, known for its late-night hours. You can order food up until closing time at 4 a.m. The restaurant was named for the traditional Vietnamese and Cambodian beef dish that both travelers and locals love alike. Sounds super appealing, right? Unfortunately, Luc Lac seemed lacking to me.

I ordered a bowl of pho and the shrimp and pork spring rolls. Just as broth makes or breaks a bowl of ramen, it does the same for pho. Although pho broth usually goes down well with a tinge of sweetness, Luc Lac's broth was a tad bit too sweet for my taste. The pork in the spring rolls was on the dry side. I sat at the bar, where the bartender effectively ignored me for almost my entire time there. Toward the end, he asked me, "How was everything?" to which I replied, "It was okay." He didn't have a response for me. Staying at a hotel two blocks down, I had walked past this restaurant many times to see a line out the door with people patiently waiting to get in. I was disappointed, to say the least. But there is something about late-night food that can always be appreciated.

Portland is a city with many offerings, and this was just a small sliver of my experiences. Although time and finances limited all that I could explore, I was glad to be able to experience at least a few arguably delicious establishments. Next time you're in Portland, consider giving these restaurants a try.



SCIENCE & TECH

The ‘Invisible’ Pollution of Plastics

Jacqueline Wen
Science Editor

While many of us know about the harmful effects of plastics on marine ecosystems, including marine life getting snagged in plastic debris or ingesting microplastics, less apparent are their contributions to the air and climate change.

To get a more comprehensive understanding of greenhouse gas emissions that plastics produce, UC Santa Barbara researchers performed the first global-scale study focusing on the impact of plastics on climate change. Their findings have been published in the *Nature Climate Change* journal.

“Some people are focusing on the fate and transport of plastics like in the Great Pacific Garbage Patch in the Pacific Ocean. To me, these are all the ‘visible’ pollution which is, of course, very important, but relatively less attention is paid to the ‘invisible’ pollution, which are emissions from the whole supply chain of plastics,” Jiajia Zheng, a graduate student in the Bren School of Environmental Science & Management and the lead author of the study, said.

“That got me interested in how large of a scale plastics contribute to climate change, and I decided to do a model myself to find out how large the problem is.”

With the abundance of plastic products in our daily lives, it can be easy to overlook where they have come from and to fully realize their environmental impact.

“Plastics seem very simple – a bag, a bottle. But actually they’ve gone a long way to serve our lives,” Zheng said.

Today 99% of plastics manufactured are synthesized from fossil fuels including coal, crude oil and natural gas, according to Zheng.

Take a simple plastic bag, for example. Its life cycle begins with the extraction of petroleum, which is then distilled and processed in refineries to produce ethylene. These fossil fuel-derived monomers are polymerized in a polymer manufacturing plant – emitting more greenhouse gases – to form low-density polyethylene (LDPE), resulting in the characteristic plastic bags we use.

“It’s gone a long way. It’s a long process. And after that, we only use the bag for a couple of hours or probably one to two days and then we throw it away,” Zheng said.

The plastic bag will likely end up at a landfill, where the majority of plastics are fated.

In fact, the recent influential study from Roland Geyer, a professor of industrial ecology also in UCSB’s Bren School, found that 79% of plastic waste we produce globally ends up in landfills. Only 9% of all plastics ever produced were recycled in 2015. The remaining option for end-of-life management of plastics is incineration, which was at 12% in 2015.

Even these end-of-life processes add carbon emissions.

The researchers found that plastic production has increased dramatically in the past six decades. Between 1950 and 2015, the production rose from zero to over 400 million metric tons, with an annual growth rate of 8.4%. The annual increase was 4% between 2010 and 2015.



Courtesy of Pixabay

Zheng’s study is the first to look at the greenhouse gas emissions of plastics production on a global scale. Today 99% of plastics are synthesized from fossil fuels, and even their end-of-life management is carbon-intensive.

Looking forward, the researchers expect to see a continued rising trend of around 4-5%, especially as residents of numerous developing countries still require the usage of plastics in their daily lives.

If these oil consumption and plastics production trends continue at their current rate, plastics will account for 20% of our total oil consumption by 2050.

In their paper, Zheng outlined four strategies to curb emissions from plastics, including reducing the growth in demand for plastic.

Potentially the most effective strategy, according to Zheng, would be to decarbonize the entire energy system in the plastics supply chain. “If we replace the current energy with 100% renewables like wind or energy or biogas rather than fossil fuels, we would see a 50% [to 75%] reduction from where we are now.”

Another mitigation strategy she proposed is the replacement

of fossil fuel-based plastics with bio-based plastics, derived from plants such as corn or sugarcane. Recycling also plays an important role in reducing the carbon-intensive polymer production and decrease emissions levels from incineration.

“If all four strategies can be combined together so that we’re using a multi-layered strategy, we can see emissions have a reduction of as much as 93% compared to the baseline in 2015,” Zheng said.

The paper acknowledges that a 100% recycling or conversion to renewable energy may not be “practical nor economically feasible in reality,” but the urgent message behind their strategies remains clear.

Zheng concluded, “The carbon emissions from the plastic supply chain are enormous. If we do nothing, this dramatic rise will [continue to] happen. We should adopt an integrated strategy to tackle this challenge – and to do it fast.”

Ecosystems of the Santa Barbara Channel

Cristian Loza
Reporter

Last Wednesday, UCSB professor of Earth science and biology David Valentine held a presentation to discuss the ecosystems of oil in the Santa Barbara Channel.

“The Pacific Plate is gradually sliding past the North American Plate, and it’s tearing off pieces of the North American continent. In the course of that activity, what happens is the formation of a borderland with lots of valleys and ridges that separate basins from one another,” Valentine, of the Department of Earth Science and Marine Science Institute, said.

A lot of Valentine’s work revolves around studying these valleys and ridges that have been created in the last 20 million years, with a focus on the study of three local basins.

“A basin is basically a geological bathtub. The first is the Santa

Barbara Basin, and it’s about 2,000 feet deep. It’s a sealed basin, meaning the bottom portion of it is restricted from the ocean,” Valentine said.

According to Valentine, the neighboring Santa Monica and San Pedro basins are about 3,000 feet in depth. Because of the depth of these geological underwater bathtubs, they must be explored by using very specific tools.

Valentine went on to describe four of his team’s primary research tools, each engineered to perform a specific task. According to the Wood’s Hole Oceanographic Institution, the research vessel *Atlantis* is owned by the U.S. Navy and is one of the most sophisticated research vessels to date.

The *Atlantis* is outfitted to deploy *Alvin*, a human-occupiable submersible dedicated to getting up to three researchers as close of a look as possible, down to “a depth of around 14,000 feet,” according to Valentine.



Courtesy of Cristian Loza

Last week, Valentine gave a talk about the unusual ecosystems found around oil seeps around the California coast. His presentation is related to the exhibition about the 50th anniversary of the 1969 Santa Barbara oil spill.

OPINION

Life and Death in a Nutshell



Harper Lambert
Opinion Editor

“Try this, it’s delicious.”

Sitting on the table before me, she looks innocuous enough – seductive, even. The slice of cake beckons me with ganache and jewel-toned berries. I cannot feign immunity to her cocoa-flavored charms, but I’m no fool and she certainly takes me for one. We square up, this dessert and I. Eat me, she taunts. I dare you.

I weigh my options. Her polished exterior betrays no immediate signs of danger. But then I recall the first time I laid eyes on her in the glass display case: rubbing shoulders with the other pastries, conceived most likely in the same pan. The whole affair reeks of cross-contamination.

I shake my head. “No thanks. Better safe than sorry.”

My personal kryptonite crowds the shelves of supermarkets, populates the pantries of restaurants and bakeries, litters ballparks and bars and birdcages. Green and smooth-shelled, brown and bulbous, cream-colored and comma-shaped. Sometimes they are purchased in their original forms, pried from their husks and ingested as is. More often, they team up with other ingredients or shapeshift forms: butters, brittles, candies, extracts, flours, makeup, milk, oils, pastries, purées, soaps, spreads, syrups and almost anything vegan.

If you’ve never thought about the ubiquity of peanuts and tree nuts, it’s probably because you don’t have to. Only a small sliver of the population – approximately 2.5% – is allergic to peanuts, while tree nut allergies range from 0.5-4.9%.

It never ceases to amaze me that something so ordinary, so mindlessly enjoyed by those around me has the potential to end my life.

I was reminded of this fact a few weeks ago at a Sunday brunch gone wrong. Two bites into a baguette smeared with vegan cream cheese (what did I tell you?), the alarm bells started ringing. All the telltale signs were there: the itchiness on my tongue; the feeling of sand filling my throat as it constricts; my lips going pillowy with numbness; my swollen eyelids reducing my eyes to slits; and worst of all, the panic that sends adrenaline pinballing through my body, drumming up my heart rate and alighting every nerve.

I checked the label on the container. Sure enough, the first ingredient listed was “RAW CASHEWS.”

A moment of callousness and two bites of cream cheese. That’s all it took to launch my immune system into shutdown and my body into the bathroom, where I spent the next hour with my head in the toilet. This time I got lucky: With the aid of some Benadryl, my breathing returned to normal and the vomiting subsided.

There are a thousand ways this situation could have played out, a thousand parallel universes determined by a single detail. What if I hadn’t been with friends who live minutes away from a drugstore? What if I’d been at a party surrounded by strangers? Or in a foreign country? What if my body went into anaphylaxis and I didn’t have my Epi-Pen with me?

I have experienced all of these scenarios in some form or another. From hives at holiday parties to barfing at the beach, I’ve seen it all. So it goes without saying that I am grateful my most recent reaction didn’t land me in the hospital, or worse.

That being said, a tiny, irrational part of me wishes it did.

Oftentimes, there is a disparity – a chasm, really – between the emotional and physical scars left by a traumatic event. Each time, my body outpaces my



Countless times, I had wondered what my life would be like without my allergy; never had I wondered *who* would I be without it.

mind in the recovery process; my eyes de-puff before my tears dry. My allergy is life-threatening, meaning that every time I have a reaction, I am faced with the possibility of my own death.

That such a serious medical condition is called an “allergy” strikes me as wildly inappropriate. “Allergy” is a silly word that conjures up images of snot-nosed kids and springtime pollen. It undercuts the terror that seizes me when I realize that something tastes “off.” It makes it difficult for others to empathize with my experiences. No, I don’t live with chronic pain or have to inject myself with medicine on a daily basis. Yes, I am otherwise healthy and able-bodied. But when you live your whole life thinking you could die at any meal, it takes an emotional toll.

For this reason, the more drastic the reaction, the easier it is to cope with it. In the wake of a reaction fraught with dramatic details – pastries, Greece, family vacation, deserted island, paramedic tent, no Epi-Pen – I received an outpouring of sympathy from my friends and family. The intensity of their concern matched the misery of the experience. However, this was an exception, not the rule. Reactions that occur under ordinary circumstances, such as Sunday brunch, don’t elicit the same response even though they are no less terrifying for me. This can be extremely isolating, to say the least.

The feeling of being heard but not understood makes me want to exaggerate the details of my reactions the way I sometimes embellish stories, a trait at which my friends and family often poke fun.

I was struck by this as I lay in bed after the Bad Brunch, snapping me out of my post-reaction slump. Countless times, I had wondered what my life would be like without my allergy; never had I wondered *who* would I be without it.

My allergy and I have been attached since birth, our fates tied together by the pad thai noodles that sent me to the hospital at age one. I can’t remember living without it, and data indicates that I probably never will. Which means that for better or worse, my nut allergy is woven into the fabric of my being. If personalities are like smoothies – a random blend of family, culture, DNA and environment – who’s to say it wasn’t a formative ingredient?



PEYTON STOTELMYRE / DAILY NEXUS

Some manifestations are positive, highlighting aspects of my personality that may have otherwise remained in the shadows. I was always a precocious child, the kind that enjoyed talking to adults and hogged the camera in all the home videos. Yet my engraved emergency bracelet was my first real taste of the spotlight. I would shake my chubby fist at anyone who would listen, reveling in the attention it garnered me. Eventually I graduated from bracelet-waving to bragging, as if being in constant latent danger was cool. I feel lucky for myself and my parents that I was such an obnoxious kid, never hesitating to announce my allergy to anyone offering me food.

I also credit my allergy for my Doomsday Prepper tendencies. When you have to carry a chunky plastic medicine stick and 1-2 tablets of Benadryl with you everywhere, you become one of those people who anticipates disaster at every turn. I have since blossomed into a one-woman drugstore, never without band-aids, floss, tampons or gum on hand.

Growing up with a severe allergy also prematurely exposed me to some dark truths. The most heartbreaking lesson of childhood is that your parents can’t protect you from everything, and I learned this early on. Proactive and careful as they were, my parents couldn’t be there every time there was an incident. In fact, they were the accidental perpetrators of a few reactions. To chalk up my neuroses and distrust of adults to a nut allergy might seem, well, nuts, but it can’t be dismissed.

It’s part of who I am, for better or worse. The disadvantages of a fatal allergy are obvious. They read like the side effects delivered in hyperspeed at the end of a commercial: nausea, vomiting, swelling, redness, anaphylaxis, death.

And the upsides? I am long past the point of considering attention to one of them; no amount of

“

Would I wish a fatal food allergy on anyone else? No. Can I imagine my life without it? Strangely, also no.

pity or compassion can counteract the trauma or resulting isolation. Moreover, I do not subscribe to the “everything happens for a reason” theory – it’s disrespectful toward the victims of senseless tragedies and frankly, it’s bullshit. Some clouds are gray without a touch of silver. Some lemons are just meant to be lemons.

Yet despite the drawbacks, having a severe allergy has gifted me with an alternative perspective on my own life. Along with all of the other timelines by which we organize our lives – relationships, family pets, schools, career milestones – exists my personal history of reactions.

The details surrounding these incidents are forever vivid in my mind: the holiday decor at the Christmas Party where I ate white chocolate walnut fudge at age nine; the sunlight and rolling green hills at my second grade field trip, crumbs glinting off the knife that had been used to cut a peanut butter cookie moments before; the security of my mom’s hand around mine when she picked me up from kindergarten after a classmate’s birthday cake made me sick.

While allergic reactions make for unpleasant memories, they go hand in hand with special moments that I wouldn’t recall otherwise.

There is, however, one definitive benefit of having

a deathly allergy: It gives people a way to show that they care about you. There’s a line in “Lady Bird” that goes, “Don’t you think they’re the same thing? Love and attention?” In this case, I think they are. Considering how nuts are exceedingly normal and harmless for about 95% of the population, a person needs a reason to care about their presence. I am that reason for my loved ones.

Every time someone takes extra precautions to ensure my safety, I feel like they’ve just handed me a present. Like when my friend Samantha insists on asking the waiter if the pizza we ordered has nuts, even though I’ve read the menu twice and pizza never has nuts, idiot. Or when my aunt Millie hands me the bowl of sweet potatoes that she personally prepares for me every Thanksgiving. It’s not just that my people look out for me; it’s that I never have to ask. They’ve already thought of it.

Most of the time, living with this condition is perfectly manageable. Unlike many people, I’m fortunate to have a support system that includes access to medical treatment in case of an emergency. As of this moment, no cure has been found, though I’m sure it won’t be long now (and when it is, it’ll probably be outrageously expensive).

Would I wish a fatal food allergy on anyone else? No. Can I imagine my life without it? Strangely, also no.

As I was writing this, I got a text from Aunt Millie. “Can you eat sunflower seeds?” she wanted to know. “We’re going to make an appetizer for Passover with sunflower seeds in place of walnuts.”

Harper Lambert has never tasted Nutella, and she is not sad about it.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES
MARCH 21 - APRIL 19

Your will come home to your housemates cooking you a homecooked meal, and they will wash all of the dishes.

TAURUS
APRIL 20 - MAY 20

You will half-ass a paper and get a 95%.

GEMINI
MAY 21 - JUNE 20

You will walk by the UCen bird and it will simply squawk and let you pass.

CANCER
JUNE 21 - JULY 22

Your professor will email you tonight and cancel your 8 a.m. class.

LEO
JULY 23 - AUGUST 22

The annoying people at the Arbor will be silently handing out free Yerbs.

VIRGO
AUGUST 23 - SEPTEMBER 22

The Extravaganza lineup will finally come out, and it will contain all of your favorite artists.

LIBRA
SEPTEMBER 23 - OCTOBER 22

You will finally go to watch “Avengers: Endgame” and will be surprised because no one has spoiled the ending for you.

SCORPIO
OCTOBER 23 - NOVEMBER 21

You will run into your professor on campus, and they will remember your name.

SAGITTARIUS
NOVEMBER 22 - DECEMBER 21

You will miss a basketball game, but you will still score a dunk in her basket.

CAPRICORN
DECEMBER 22 - JANUARY 19

You will fall off your skateboard, but that’s okay because you will fall into the arms of your Prince/Princess Charming.

AQUARIUS
JANUARY 20 - FEBRUARY 18

Your landlord will forget to charge you rent, and you will get to live in your house for a month for free.

PISCES
FEBRUARY 19 - MARCH 20

Your roommate and their significant other will go away for a romantic weekend, leaving you the room to yourself.