A quick scroll through the Urban Outfitters’ website initially yields nothing new: overpriced sparkly party frocks, BDG mom jeans and those ugly Fila sneakers for which I can’t bear to jump on the bandwagon. But suddenly I do a double take when I click on the ‘Wellness’ section and see a host of vibrators, dildos and other various sex toys placed innocuously underneath the ‘Self-Love’ division. A look at the Free People website reveals the same, albeit more expansive, result. Owned by the same parent company, Anthropologie, this sudden movement of younger-skewed brands to start marketing sex toys to a strongly feminine, sexually-liberated generation smells strongly of bullshit.

Sex-positive feminism is nothing new—it has been a movement embedded within the feminine community since the early 1980s. However, it seems that late Millennial and early Generation X women were swayed by the heavy presence of pornography-friendly sites like Tumblr in adolescence, leading to a positive outlook toward sex—namely masturbation and an emphasis on female pleasure. The demographic for brands like Urban Outfitters and Free People experienced a social media-induced generational phenomenon of sex positivity and outward displays of female sexuality in the mid-2010s that led to the radical conclusion that hey—maybe female pleasure isn’t such a big taboo after all.

At the onset, it seems great that mainstream companies like Urban Outfitters and Free People are jumping at the chance to support female sexuality. But after a closer examination, I am hesitant to buy into the free love narrative fed by a company that in 2019 is only 22 percent of the executive board comprised of women. Maybe I’m just jaded, but for some reason, I am reluctant to believe that a brand of elder men of the 2010s would be so…woke. How do you capitalize off the emotional connection to female genitalia that women have paid the heavy cost to establish?

Traditional companies care about your money, not your organs. They seek to capitalize off of the emotional connection of female genitalia by producing sex toys and selling them for a profit. When searching for products reeks of performative wokeness. Why would a company so sensitive, why would they suddenly flip the script and support what has been accused of appropriating Native American culture for festival lines. When insensitivity, cultural appropriation and downright theft. Free People has additionally published a picture of an already tiny model in a slouchy v-neck emblazoned with the phrase “eat less” and have since been embroiled in several scandals involving accusations of racial insensitivity.

Men Can Be“ and Nike’s Colin Kaepernick commercial, brands have attempted to align themselves with the political sensibilities of their consumers. Many of these companies, like Urban Outfitters, are selling grams included free condoms

Themselves to some much-needed self-love. Yes, this statement is undoubtedly motivated by profit. It is true that brands are profit-driven and don’t always follow their activist lip service with donations to causes or specific calls to action. Among 18 to 29-year-olds—the demographic to which Urban Outfitters caters—the approval ratings of capitalism have plummeted by 23 percent in the past eight years. However, as much as we hate the system, we must acknowledge that companies are meeting demands in 2019. Though these products may not be direct political statements, their arrival in the midst of a feminist revolution is not coincidental. Urban Outfitters is just one of many companies that have capitalized on hot-button social issues in recent years. Through ad campaigns like Gillette’s “The Best Men Can Be” and Nike’s Colin Kaepernick commercial, brands have attempted to align themselves with the political sensibilities of their consumers. Many of these companies, like Urban Outfitters, are selling grams included free condoms

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The idea to market Valentine’s day grams together with the Free People’s campaign, Urban Outfitters’ “A friend in my group joked about it because her boyfriend’s
table of V-day. You’re putting your money makes a monumental difference.

In the days before slut walks, pussy hats and #MeToo, the process of purchasing sex toys was anxiety-ridden and shameful. Those in search of DIY orgams would have to drive to sex shops situated in strip mall on the opposite side of town and quickly purchase their order from the customer service pay cash at the register to avoid a paper trail.

Nowadays, all that shame and anxiety has flown out the window. Just this past year, millions of fed-up women weaponized a single hashtag to rewrite the rules of a convoluted sexual landscape. Buzz words like “empowerment” and “sex-positivity” represent the current iteration of feminism to which millennials subscribe. They open up about their sexuality not only to their friends but to their Twitter feeds as well.

On the shop for sex toys not in a dimly lit hole in the wall, but in the wide-open, colorful paradise of mainstream retail. To the marketers at Urban Outfitters, a vibrator is just as an accessible as a ‘90s-inspired slip dress or a coffee table book of dad jokes. Featuring items such as bath bombs, “sex dust” (whatever that means) and emoji-shaped vibrators, Free People is selling sex toys as part of a Valentine’s day pop-up.

“People were able to pick a toy and mix and match and see what they wanted to write on it [handwritten letter]. We did let them choose their message, so that way once it’s delivered it’s already handwritten.”

The idea to sell Valentine’s day grams started as a group project for Congdon’s Principles of Marketing class, TMP 124, where he and his group members had to construct a pop-up shop.

““A friend in my group joked about it because her boyfriend’s dad actually owns a sex shop company so we could get wholesale prices. Congdon said. “It was a huge idea in February because we were like, ‘what’s around February? Valentine’s day’”

Congdon said the group project had only one rule: The project must be a commercial venture. The idea to sell Valentine’s day grams was a commercial venture, and Congdon and his group members had to construct a pop-up shop.

“After learning the project was due in February, Congdon’s group quickly realized that selling sex toys as part of a Valentine’s day pop-up could potentially be a commercial venture. A friend in my group joked about it because her boyfriend’s dad actually owns a sex shop company so we could get wholesale prices. Congdon said. It was a huge idea in February because we were like, ‘what’s around February? Valentine’s day’”

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EDITORIAL MATTER: Opinions

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BSU Releases Demands to Address Black Student Resources and Success

Sofia Mejia-Pazcorro
Asst. News Editor

UC Santa Barbara’s Black Student Union released a set of demands on Feb. 8 for the university to fulfill, which includes eight new paid positions and five main goals that would “resolve those issues and help black students achieve their goals.” The demands build upon previous ones that Black Student Union (BSU) presented to the chancellor in 2012. The most recent demands aim to address “structural hindrances on the development of black students” and were organized by demands authored by the BSU Demands Team.

“Black students must continue to fight to have their humanity recognized and appreciated, which takes time away from students’ ability to study, learn and become wholly involved as campus community members,” the team wrote in the demands.

The demands team argued that the university’s lack of effort to improve the conditions of black students on campus has required that BSU members and the black student community consistently advocate for black students, according to the demands list. To alleviate this, BSU demands institutional changes they said would provide a reliable source of advocacy for black students on campus.

“The University has historically been unable to fulfill BSU’s demands without the intervention of black students on campus who address this inability,” the demands team wrote.

The University’s reliance on Black student advocacy in what should be structural efforts to support black students is unacceptable,” the demands included the following:

- The creation of an Office of Black Student Development “to support the Black experience at UCSB.” The office would include eight paid positions and would provide “resources, advocacy for and help create a welcoming environment” for Black students in addition to building a “sense of belonging” to bolster the academic success of Black students.
- The implementation of a specialist to “advocate for black students on campus and keep the university accountable to Black students and Black student development.” The specialist would also focus on “creating a livable environment for Black students,” and to “focus on Black student retention.” The specialist would also focus on “creating a livable environment for Black students,” and to focus on Black student retention.
- The implementation of a Director of Black Student Development, who would advocate for black students on campus and keep the university accountable to Black students and Black student development.
- The implementation of two advocacy counselors tasked with identifying and producing more content. The show will be going

Weekly Events Happening in Isla Vista

Anti-Valentine’s Day Baile

Still in a goth phase but don’t know who to rock it with? Spend your Saturday evening at Bikko Garage, and save the love or the lack of it, at this one-of-a-kind Anti-Valentine’s Day Baile! Bikko garage is conveniently located at 6862 Santa Robe Road. Nobody cares if you’re single or not, as long as you love black. Tickets are $3 at the door or $4 after 10 p.m. All funds will be donated to the MJ[R]ecre conference.

“Ralph Breaks the Internet”

This Friday, Magic Lantern Films is putting on a show that you cannot miss. Come see “Ralph Breaks the Internet” at 7 p.m. and start your weekend off right. Make a stop by 935 Embarcadero del Norte to score yourself a seat to watch this critically-acclaimed sequel to the original “Wreck it Ralph.” Tickets are $4 and will be sold at the door. Keep a lookout: Buy-me-get-one-free flyers will be handed out throughout the week. If you miss the opportunity to see this movie, don’t worry. You’ll have another chance to see the movie this Monday at 7 p.m.

Cook a Free Meal for the Community

Food Not Bombs is back at it again with a Cook a Free Meal for the Community event this Sunday 2:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. If you’re looking for five hours of food-filled fun, then look no further than this Sunday’s food-filling event. Stop by 277 Camino Pescadero and help cook free meals for the community! All foods are vegan and prepared using food donated from farmer’s markets and the Isla Vista Food Co-op. This is a tasty, fulfilling fun event that you cannot miss!

Green Shopping

This weekend, the Isla Vista Food Co-op and Lazy Eye Shop have partnered to put on a pop-up shopping event at the Co-op on 5676 Sevilla Rd. From 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, all sales will go to support Lazy Eye Shop’s mission to sell upcycled clothes, shoes and accessories. Lazy Eye Shop is a California-based resale clothing organization focusing on the environmental benefits of the resale of used clothing.

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A.S. President Kopel's Long-Term Project Becomes Reality

Ten months since Associated Students President Brooke Kopel’s inauguration, one of the Associated Students’ long-term projects has come to reality with the introduction of the continuing projects coordinator position at Wednesday night’s Senate meeting.

The bill to create the position was introduced in the Senate by On Campus Senator Zion Solomon and Off Campus Senator Melissa Spink on January 22 at 6 p.m. The purpose of the position was to be the leader of the long-term projects, which include completion of Kopel’s main projects she hoped to accomplished while serving as A.S. President. Those projects (such as the bill to create the position) are definitely more long-term projects,” Kopel said in an interview with the Nexus earlier last week.

Ten months since Associated Students President Brooke Kopel’s main projects have come to reality with the introduction of the continuing projects coordinator position at Wednesday night’s Senate meeting.

The position’s duties entail staying up to date on all of the president’s short-term and long-term projects, meeting with the president once a week, meeting with A.S. Executive Director Marisha Manquez once a quarter, attending at least two Senate meetings per quarter, being in attendance and taking notes at all project-related meetings with the president, holding two office hours per week and serving at least four quarters over a span of two academic years.

Kopel said that ideally she would transition one of her fellow senators into fulfilling that position.

“Since all of my fellows are first-years, they will definitely have their next year and next Fall Quarter to transition or help the new president in any way that they can,” Kopel said.

In an interview with the Nexus held at the beginning of her term, Kopel said that being in A.S. for so long, fine as a caseworker within the Office of the Student Advocate, and then as a Letters and Science Senator for the 68th Senate, prompted her to create the position.

“There’s so many fantastic ideas that students in these leadership positions [come up with] but can only be carried out in a year,” Kopel said.

That’s shameful that you have something that would be so beneficial for this community, the campus community, and it’s literally just not accomplished because there’s bureaucratic issues,” she admitted that the position may not fit the projects problem entirely, but believes that “attempting it would be a great start.”

Marking himself as a citizen would constitute perjury, as a sentence on the application reminded him. Despite this, he checked himself off as a citizen.

“There was nothing else to check so I checked citizen, and when ever I checked it if actually convinced myself I was gonna go citizenry,” Kopel said.

Vargas was told later by a lawyer this past offense — a false claim to citizenship — may be the reason he never becomes a U.S. citizen.

Even worse, he said he was ‘hiding’ from his mother, not having seen her in 25 years. She herself has been waiting for 16 years to come to U.S. citizenship — may be the reason he never becomes a U.S. citizen.

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Overheard at UCSB Commemorates 1st Anniversary

By Sean Crommelin

In just one year, the Facebook group “Overheard at UCSB” has grown to over 15,000 members.

“It was like a snowball effect; even people from other schools wanted to join,” said Ocampo.

The admins found that certain periods of the quarter, like midterm season, saw peaks in activity, because a lot of people were going through the same hardships that come with being a UCSB student.

“This change in wattage would match that of the existing wattage for Del Playa Drive and Sabado Tarde Road as well as parts of Albrecht Road and Trigo Road, which already have 130W L.E.D. bulbs installed.”

The report proposed the installation of 10 new street lights along Albrecht Road, Trigo Road, and Pardall Road. These street lights will be placed in areas that currently contain gaps between existing fixtures, according to the report.

“There are also recommendations to replace the remaining 38 High Pressure Sodium Vapour (HPSV) street lights with L.E.D.s due to their lack of efficiency and shorter lifespans, excluding HPSV lights on El Embarcadero and Pardall Road,” the report said.

As the page celebrated its one-year anniversary, the founders and curators began to reflect on how large the group has become and how an active community has sprouted within it.

“Many people’s concerns about lighting deficiencies are rooted in concerns about safety in IV, which some say would be increased with greater lighting in the area.”

“We're not saying there's no need for safety. There is a lack of safety in the area. But the discussion is: Is this the best way to improve safety? Are there other means for ensuring safety when walking through dimly lit IV streets at night.”

“The Isla Vista Community Services District discussed the EVPLA’s lighting report during its meeting on Tuesday night. The report was a collaborative effort between the I.V. CSD, the EVPLA office and UCSB Lobby Corps.”

The report acknowledged concerns regarding the increase in the cost of street lighting expansions, noting that ongoing fixed costs would be “funded through CSA 31’s (County Service Area 31) property tax revenue,” which has a surplus of approximately $90,000, according to the report.

“The report proposed the installation of 10 new street lights along Albrecht Road, Trigo Road, and Pardall Road.”

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“The admins found that certain periods of the quarter, like midterm season, saw peaks in activity, because a lot of people were going through the same hardships that come with being a UCSB student.”

“The EVPLA Office made an attempt to alleviate these concerns by citing the energy-efficiency of L.E.D. bulbs and their superior light distribution compared to fluorescent bulbs. L.E.D. light contains no toxic elements such as mercury, which is commonly found in fluorescent light, according to the report.”

“‘Mercy mostly poses a threat to the environment, specifically when fluorescent light ends up in landfill waste,’ the report stated.”

“While street lighting has been a talking point for Associated Students (A.S.) and IV officials for years, IV CSD President Spencer Brandt said there is still a lot of work to be done. Brandt said he hopes that IV residents continue to support this proposal and hopes to secure the funds and resources necessary from CSA 31 to keep the project moving forward.”

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Following this new week of play, only five more conference matches will remain before the men’s basketball postseason officially begins. For the Gauchos, this means fighting for that top spot in the Big West, which may hopefully lead to an NCAA Tournament invite at the end of the season. After last week’s win, the Gauchos have tallied a total of six wins over nationally ranked opponents of their losses coming to Big West opponents, Long Beach State, Hawai’i, Cal State Fullerton and Long Beach State.

The Gauchos have lost their past four games in a row, with the team getting collectively outscored by 80 points across that time. An upset win over the Gauchos would do them the world of good as they continue to pursue a more preferable seeding in the Big West conference tournament.

On the season, the Highlanders currently stand at an overall 16-11, a win percentage of about .592. At the moment, UC Riverside has been dealt a rough road, with an away record of 1-10. However, their home record of 6-5 is much more reasonable, so the Gauchos can’t take this matchup for granted. The Highlanders will be coming off a most recent 54-77 home loss to Cal State Fullerton last Saturday.

Historically speaking, the Gauchos have the all-time series advantage over UC Riverside. In 43 total games, UCBA boasts a record of 24 wins and nine losses. In their last match, the Gauchos came out on top in a 72-64 home victory over the Highlanders.

The Anteaters season has gone quite the opposite compared to the Gauchos. UC Irvine currently boasts an impressive seven-game winning streak, which included their 66-62 overtime win versus Long Beach State. The Gauchos would not go quietly, as kills from Chavers and taking advantage of UCLA’s mistakes would eventually tie the match at 8-8, and when up against conference opponents, at 9-2.

The Anteaters will look to their home match against the Gauchos as an opportunity to further their lead at the top of Big West standings. Currently, UC Irvine is in third place in conference standings.

In the third, both teams would again trade scores at the beginning, but UCSB would eventually tie the match at 6-6 thanks in large part to five attack errors from UCLA. From there, Santa Barbara was never threatened—never letting their lead get below four—and would take a 6-3 lead into the fourth set.

With the fourth set over, UCSB would jump out to a 7-3 lead, but the Gauchos would tie the match at 9-9 thanks to two more kills from Chavers and one from fellow outside hitter Ryan Wilcox.

The freshman also contributed a fine passing tally, setting 10 kills on 28 attacks. This is just the fifth time this season Wilson has notched double-digit kills.

Three straight points from UCLA’s junior outside hitter Austin Matutin—one kill and two service aces—would push his team’s lead back to three. Then, the two squads traded scores until 20-17. A service error by UCSB followed by a kill from Bruin junior middle blocker Devon Gilmour put the Anteaters ahead 20-18, but UCSB would not go away, earning six of the next nine points to draw things even at 24-24.

A kill from Chavers, then consecutive service aces by the Gauchos would prove to be the backbreaker. From there, they kept a healthy distance with the Bruins never cutting the lead past three.

In the last set, UCSB flipped the script as after being tied at 4-4 to start, the Bruins would go on to take a 10-6 lead. At 11-7, two attack errors by UCLA and then a kill by the Gauchos would put the Gauchos ahead 10-7. Then, a series of UCLA attack errors would put the Gauchos up 13-9 in the final set. With the final margin set, UCSB eventually took the match 15-11.

As for his team, this is Santa Barbara’s first win over UCLA since the 2010 season. Even more impressive, this is UCSB’s ninth-consecutive victory, the longest active streak since 1992. The Gauchos are now 6-2 in the conference and a comfortable six-point lead against conference opponents, at 9-2.

As for the Bruins, they fall to 10-3 on the year with all three of their losses coming to Big West opponents. Long Beach State, CSUN and UCBA pushed their record to a very impressive 12-3 mark and gives them even more confidence heading into their first conference tilt of the season on Friday.

For Chavers, this is the third time this year he has surpassed 20 kills in one match and just the seventh time overall in his illustrious four-year career.

The two teams would trade points once more, but at 14-12, UCBA would register its sixth attack error of the set that would go on to be the decisive game-winning point for the Gauchos.

For weeks now, UCSB has tried to make the case that it is a legitimate contender. Wins against BYU, Lewis, etc. were great, but there is no question that an upset win over UC Riverside in the 12th place in the Big West Championship, that means a bit more.

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For Chavers, this is the third time this year he has surpassed 20 kills in one match and just the seventh time overall in his illustrious four-year career.
Brandon Victor
Assistant Sports Editor

It's almost unheard of to see a press conference tirade after a victory — especially a blowout victory. After all, as the old adage in sports goes, “Winning cures everything.”

But last Wednesday, following Golden State's 39-point demolition of the undermanned Spurs, Kevin Durant saved the largest firework for his press conference. After refusing to talk to the media for eight straight days, Durant exploded into a three-minute rant, blaming the media for twisting his words and speculating about his future.

Durant has never handled criticism well — just look at all the burner accounts on Twitter justifying his move to Golden State. I was one of the people who criticized Durant for that move; to me, it felt more like a cop-out than anything else. If Durant truly wanted to prove he was the best player in the league, he should have joined the reigning NBA champions.

Yet Kevin Durant is unequivocally correct in saying that he has no ties to the Knicks and that he knows nothing about their long-term plans. Yet, in an effort to get clicks, reporters keep making it seem like it’s a done deal that Durant will ultimately sign there this summer.

Some people may wonder why Durant doesn’t just clarify the facts himself with the media. If he’s so fed up about being misrepresented, why didn’t he talk to the media for more than eight days straight?

The reason: Mainstream sports media continues to take quotes out of context in order to push a narrative. Look at Kyrie Irving, a player who many just click to bring up with Durant in New York after the season.

All of last week, Irving was quoted saying, “I don’t owe anybody shit,” in response to questions about his free agency plans. Even highly respected journalists like ESPN's Marc Stein used this quote to make it seem like Irving’s leaving was a foregone conclusion.

In the context of the full quote, however, Irving's words merely portray a man who is frustrated with the constant rumors from the media. In the same exact quote, Irving stated he “still has confidence in Boston and the plan for the future” — a part of the statement that was conveniently left out by reporters.

Kyrie Irving is certainly no lock to stay in Boston beyond this year; the team has been underperforming all season, and all the players seem to be frustrated in the locker room. If Irving doesn’t believe he can win a championship, he will leave.

But to suggest that Irving and Durant have some master plan to meet up in New York is silly.

The Knicks have proven time and time again their incompetence in this area. If Irving and Durant are fed up with the media, it tells us what would happen if they played in New York.

And yet, every rumor connects Durant and Irving to the Knicks with little to no evidence.

If Ethan Strauss, the reporter from the The Athletic who specifically called out the media, joined the reigning NBA champions, he shouldn’t have been given the chance to write a feature about it. Journalism is a dying field, and in the era of fast-paced social media, reporters are fighting tooth and nail for every click, every interaction.

People no longer have the time or attention span to read a full-blown article, and those few who do text soundbites certainly help them accomplish their goal.

But that’s not the role of the media. The media’s job is to report on what’s going on, not to give greater insight to fans following from home.

The media’s job is not to speculate; to make up rumors or act like they’re coming from a verifiable source.

I’m just as frustrated as Kevin Durant when he comes to this sensationalism. Journalists are already maligned in mainstream society thanks to the myth of “fake news.” When journalists and reporters purposely speculate for clicks and interactions, it just adds fuel to the fire.

To me, the obvious solution is to have a UCSB player or coach trust me not to twist their words.

By purposely misrepresenting others’ views, they’re undermining the integrity of all sports journalists — including those of us at the Daily Nexus.
Joshen Mantia
Social Media Manager

The 34th annual Santa Barbara International Film Festival showcased some of Hollywood's biggest stars, along with award-winning short films and documentaries. Here is a recap of each day of the star-studded, multi-day celebration.

Day 1: Jan. 30

The Santa Barbara International Film Festival (SBIFF) opened and closed with Santa Barbara films, starting with a screening of the film “Dune: Deep: The Life and Times of Mike DeGruy.” The film was directed by Mimi DeGruy, the wife of the story’s protagonist, Mike DeGruy. Mimi com- mented that DeGruy was the executive director of the film, and her son, artist共有 Mimi’s point of view.

Day 2: Jan. 31

The 2nd Day opened at the Arlington Theatre with one of the most anticipated tribute nights of the festival, awarding the 2019 Maltin Modern Master Award to Glenn Close.

A: Did you have any background on Queen before acting in “Bohemian Rhapsody”?
Q: No, I didn’t do any research. I think everyone in the world feels like they could write their own biography about the band. For me, it was just hearing the music and being really touched by what they all feel when they hear a Queen song. I think it touches people in their own unique way, and so I dove into it.

Q: There’s a certain amount of pressure with playing such a legend in the film, did you feel any of that pressure?
A: Of course, an immense amount of pressure. I just thought that if I had the right resources and enough time, that there would be a chance that I could pull it off. I think when we get to be the people in these films — the image that people see — but for myself, it’s a combination of so many different factors that nitpicking and not being too precious.

Day 3: Feb. 1

Day three was one of the most anticipated tribute nights of the whole festival, with Rami Malek receiving the Outstanding Performer of the Year award in his performance as Freddie Mercury in “Bohemian Rhapsody.” I had the chance to speak with Malek, who arrived at the red carpet with presenter and co-star Joe Mazzello and co-star Lucy Boynton.

Q: Did you have any background on Freddie Mercury before acting in “Bohemian Rhapsody”?
A: Not like I do now. As I think everyone in the world feels like they could write their own biography about the band. For me, it was just hearing the music and being really touched by what they all feel when they hear a Queen song. I think it touches people in their own unique way, and so I dove into it.

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Day 4: Feb. 2

Viggo Mortensen was honored with the American Riviera Award for his performance in “Green Book.”

Mortensen was interviewed by Deadline awards columnist Pete Hammond, reflecting upon his acting career. Mortensen said, “I decided to become an actor at the relatively late age of 21 but started educating myself on film by watching reruns movie houses, where he became inspired by ‘spellbinding performances.”

He also stated that he was lucky to portray Freddie Mercury and his career because it allowed him to “get a peak at a world, to see the ‘Lord of the Rings’ franchise as open and the door for the first time.”

Mortensen closed by remarking that the best result of “Green Book” is that it is “a book that helped people discover the music of classical and jazz pianist and composer Don Shirley.”

Day 5: Feb. 3

Amy Adams was first presented with the Malin Modern Master Award for her performance in “The Wife.”

Close discussed “The Wife” in an interview with film critic Leonard Maltin. Close stated that it took 14 years to get the money to make the film, but that it had an interesting script unlike any other project she’d done before. She also hoped to push her performance in other films like “Fatal Attraction” and “Basic Instinct” to the edge when she accepted the award, saying she was “humbled to be able to do this thing, I love most in the world.”

Close also discussed her upcoming film “The Last Post,” in which she stars as a nun.

Day 6: Feb. 4

Day six, Variety presented the Virtuosos Award to the Lobero Theatre to those “essential to the filmmaking process who have exhibited the most innovative work of the year in their respective fields.”

The award was presented to 12 honorees, including “BlacKkKlansman” costume designer Ruth Carter and “Mary Poppins Returns” composer Marc Shaiman.

The full list of honorees is below:

- Barry Alexander Brown (“BlacKkKlansman”)
- Ruth E. Carter (“BlacKkKlansman”)
- Franco Battiato (“The Favourite”)
- Lucasz Zal (“Cold War”)
- Patricia Dehaney (“Vice”)
- David Shirk (“Roma”)
- Skip Lievsay (“BlacKkKlansman”)
- Yalitza Aparicio (“Roma”)

Day 7: Feb. 5

Day seven entailed The Virtuosos Awards, intended to honor actors for their on-and-off screen work.

Elliott (‘A Star is Born’), Elsie Fisher (‘ Eighth Grade’), Claire Foy (‘ First Man’), Richard E. Grant (‘Can You Ever Forgive Me?’), Thomasin Harcourt McKenzie (‘Leave No Trace’), John David Washington (‘BlacKkKlansman’) and Steven Yeun (‘Burning’).

Day 8: Feb. 6

Day eight was by far the most media-satellite and fan-filled night of the festival, with the last tribute award: the Cinema Vanguard Award honoring Michael B. Jordan for his work in “BlacKkPanther” and “Creed II.”

Jordan was greeted by a mob of excited fans, followed by a brief red carpet appearance before his interview with Feinberg. Jordan discussed working with Feinberg. Jordan’s preference toward non-stereotypical roles and ended on the significance of “Black Panther” as a cultural phenomenon that he called their “Star Wars.”

Actor Jamie Foxx made a surprise appearance to present Jordan with the award. “I’m not in this for fame. I’m in this for the attention. I’m really trying to create a blueprint to show people that if you’re good and you’re good-hearted and you do the right thing, that you can be successful,” Jordan said after accepting the honor.

Day 9: Feb. 7

The last night of the festival featured the world premiere of ‘Spaivo: A Santa Barbara Story’ by director Wyatt Daly. Scott Feinberg and AssociatesCalifornia’s curatorial history and how Santa Barbara produced and continues to produce some of the world-class surfers and innovators.

The Santa Barbara Film Festival brought film, tourism and inspiring words from the finest directors, actors, among the most ideal Hollywood settings. And if you are a fan of a particular movie with the press alike feel like they were a part of the glamorous and powerful Hollywood event.
Girl Reminiscences About Best Valentine’s Day Hook-Up: Part 2

Melanie Bangh
Reporter

If there’s one hook-up everyone remembers as the most magical time of all, it’s when they lost their virginity. The year was 2016. I finally had a boyfriend, Leo was a hopeless romantic who writes amateur romance novels inspired by internet porn.

It was so sweet watching the poor kid struggle to find Cherry ready to be popped, I embraced the unbearable pain that overtook my entire body, letting him know how horribly good it felt with my sexiest screams and even more so when I’d spent the last 20 minutes in agony, so he reverted to crying so that at least some part of me was wet. Like a true gentlemen, his little soldier couldn’t stay hard once he realized I’d been the one to make him lose his virginity, I called my sister and practically crying while I let her know how horrible it was, until, overcome with joy, I blacked out.

After an hour I awoke naked and cold alone in the dark, immediately recalling the glorious transformation that led me there. Triumphant, I reached for my phone and, after a few moments of querying and blurring my vision with the brightest stars, I could see Cupid’s precious little hands tightening around my chest and they stayed friends until New Year’s Eve. This is the long – term long term. It’s when they lost their virginity. The total magical time of all, it’s when they lost their virginity.

'You’re allergic to condoms, you fucking idiot.' I could hear the pride in her voice. 'This sounds like anaphylaxis. You should go to a hospital.' I immediately recalling the glorious transformation that led me there. Triumphant, I reached for my phone and, after a few moments of querying and blurring my vision with the brightest stars, I could see Cupid’s precious little hands tightening around my chest and they stayed friends until New Year’s Eve. This is the long – term long term. It’s when they lost their virginity. The total magical time of all, it’s when they lost their virginity.

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"No," I sighed and smiled to myself. "Trust me. It’s love." I eventually fell asleep curled up in his loving, skinny arms, and now I’m turned on by the feeling of his skin against mine while I woke out into a cold sweat.

It was so sweet watching the poor kid struggle to find worlds, shocked at the destructive power of his formerly innocent penis. Eventually be pulled on his jocks and took his leave, like an angel ascending back to heaven in acid-wash boots. Leo’s eyes wide, I limped back to my place where he gave me a stuffed unicorn, the universal code for, “Let’s have sex.” All he had to do was pull the Trojan value-pack out of his Dakine backpack and I was all his, my sexiest screams and even more so when I’d spent the last 20 minutes in agony, so he reverted to crying so that at least some part of me was wet. Like a true gentlemen, his little soldier couldn’t stay hard once he realized I’d been the one to make him lose his virginity, I called my sister and practically crying while I let her know how horrible it was, until, overcome with joy, I blacked out.

At a Hurry, Most Sally

It’s a tried and true: “When Harry Met Sally” is the best damn romance film ever created. But the whole point of “When Harry Met Sally” is that they never got together for years even though they met in college. They were friends and they started friends until New Year’s Eve. This is the long – term long term. It’s when they lost their virginity. The total magical time of all, it’s when they lost their virginity. The total magical time of all, it’s when they lost their virginity.

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**Sweet Treats for Your Special Sweetheart**

**Garlic Butter Steak**

*Adapted from Twany*

**Ingredients for the steak:**
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- ¼ cup of white chocolate chips
- 1 lb. fettuccine, cooked
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1 ribeye steak
- 3 tablespoons canola oil
- 3 tablespoons butter
- 3 tablespoons tomato paste
- ½ cup of white chocolate chips

**Directions:**
1. Cook the steak rare and let rest.
2. Cook the shrimp with the garlic, salt and pepper in the same pan until shrimp is pink.
3. Add the cream mixture to the potatoes, a little at a time.
4. In a small saucepan, combine the heavy cream and garlic and bring to a simmer.
5. Add the cream mixture to the potatoes, a little at a time, stirring until fully incorporated.
6. Top with a pat of butter, freshly ground black pepper and sprinkle with chives.

**Grilled Salmon and Rice**

**Ingredients:**
- 2 salmon fillets
- 1 teaspoon paprika
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 2 salmon fillets
- 2 cups spinach
- 2 cups heavy cream
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 1 lb. fettuccine, cooked
- 1 cup grated parmesan cheese
- Salt and pepper to taste

**Directions:**
1. Cook the rice in a rice cooker and keep warm until ready to serve.
2. Combine the salt, pepper, paprika and in a large bowl and marinate the steak in the refrigerate for 15 minutes.
3. Grill the salmon on a pan on high heat for two minutes on each side and remove them from the pan to rest.
4. Fry two eggs and cook the spinach until soft in the same pan.
5. Place the rice, eggs, salmon fillets and spinach on two plates and serve.

**Blueberry Lemon Muffins**

**Ingredients:**
- 1 cup of almond flour
- ¼ cup of nonfat plain Greek yogurt
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- ¼ cup of coconut sugar
- 1 cup of blueberries
- 1 tsp of baking powder

**Directions:**
1. Preheat your oven to 350 degrees and line a muffin pan with cupcake liners.
2. In a mixing bowl, whisk together the almond flour, yogurt, lemon juice, coconut sugar and baking powder.
3. Fold in the blueberries.
4. Fill the muffin cups ¾ full of batter.
5. Bake for 15 to 20 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean.
There are supposedly plenty of fish in the sea, but before four Harvard graduates formed OkCupid in 2004, never before had the sea seemed so vast, nuanced and oddly isolating.

Tonight, at the Times Center, the site’s co-founder and chief executive, Christian Rudder, and his team estimate that 3,000 of these couples will embark on a long-term relationship, and 200 will be successfully married within the decade.

As of perhaps last April, in his 2013 book, Modern Romance, who says the words most succinctly: “Today’s generations are [;] turning their 20s into a relentlesslyhunt for more romantic options than previous generations could have ever imagined.” He writes, “You have a recipe for romance gone haywire.”

Both Kerley and Ansari make a fair point: Gone are the days of “The Boy Next Door,” or stumbling into the love of your life at a coffee shop. This is a far more subtle and complex landscape where massive amounts of data and probability science are needed to meet your next lover.

While the prospect of online dating is bleak, research has shown that its dystopian implication doesn’t deviate as far from our primitive instincts as we might think.

“Many evolutionary psychologists put [online dating trends] down to the power of innate biological drives.” Marcel Zentner, a psychology professor at the University of Lundbeck, said. “I think it’s fairly convincing.”

That study’s conclusion: For a century “100 years in the future,” Zentner highlights how natural selection primes men to seek out signs of fertility in female partners. The logic being that greater fertility leads to a greater chance of survival for his offspring.

On the flipside, the same is true for females, having what evolutionists call the “motherhood problem.” While the prospect of online dating is bleak, research has shown that it’s natural to target individuals who are likely to attract potential mates. The premise to online dating is similar in that those with the highest fertility are most likely to be the ones who are most attractive.

While our underlying biological instincts work in the background, on the surface, the magic of apps like Tinder, Bumble and, of course, OkCupid, all of which continue to grow in popularity. Different methods are formulated to match users to their potential partners. Despite the variety of options, one unifying thing is simple: Upload a picture of yourself, or multiple. Fill out OkCupid’s questionnaire. Did you notice how, whether you like dogs, long walks on the beach or have a preference for citronella, OkCupid’s algorithm aggregates a feed of potential partners, prioritized by compatibility. For apps like Tinder or Bumble, the process is even faster. The user can easily swipe left or right to seek out wealthy men. Regardless of gender, our romantic preferences lie in the vein of wanting what’s best for our offspring.

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Technology undoubtedly plays a fundamental role in tracking climate change. Scientists and researchers have taken advantage of a plethora of remote sensing tools to monitor the outcomes of environmental management. To help scientists in “agricultural intelligence (AI) to help understand and protect the planet,” Microsoft and National Geographic have partnered up to sponsor AI for Earth Innovation Grants.

Agriculture is a major user of water worldwide. What has been happening and what continues to happen around the world is that as there’s a need for greater food production, we are starting to move agriculture into new areas, places that maybe weren’t farmed in the past.”

While the concept of looking at the water in agricultural land use is known well enough — such as the irrigation sites in western U.S. — researchers build up enough confidence, they will deploy them on a larger scale to other areas of the world where precipitation occurs. They can be monitored as comprehensively and they can do this to help agriculture.

“Agro-ecologists, chemists, biologists, geologists, hydrologists, soil scientists and many others will want to know how that shifting land use may impact other important priorities for these countries.”

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For any online dater, the thought is comforting, yet simultaneously terrifying: are we alone because there are too few or too many fish in the sea? I’ll delete my Tinder if you delete yours. — Jacqueline Wen
Ask AJ: Love on the Brain

Valentine's Day may not be the best time to break up with your best friend, but it could be.

Hey, AJ.

I accidentally hooked up with the same person as my best friend on Monday. You've been my best friend for the past three years and I'm not usually one to cheat or even be interested in another person. I've been in a relationship with this person since we met in college, and I know it's not fair to break up with her. But, I'm not sure what to do.

I thought I could just talk to her about it, but she seems to be really upset. Now I'm not sure what to do.

I'm not sure if this is a good idea, but I'm not sure what else to do. Is there anything I can do to help?

AJ

Happy shagging!

Aj

Valentine's Day

Shagging doesn't have to happen on a specific day. If you feel like it at the moment, go for it! You can always say that you had too much to drink or that you wanted to shag someone you barely know. Shagging doesn't have to happen on this day. You can always shag someone at any time.

February

I know you value your best friend above all else, but you can't just go behind their back. If you really value your friendship with them, you can express your love for them in other ways. For example, you can help them celebrate the love that they have for their partner. You can also encourage them to express their love for their partner.

February

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