Assembly Blasts UC Admissions
A recent report by the state auditor revealed that the UC has admitted significantly more nonresident students since 2010.

State legislators harshly criticized the University of California in an Assembly oversight hearing Wednesday, with one lawmaker saying he was “pissed” when he saw the state auditor’s claim that the UC had relaxed its standards in admitting non-resident students.

The state auditor published a report in March that found the UC “has undermined its commitment to resident students” by admitting more nonresidents. According to the study, the university enrolled 82 percent more nonresidents from 2010-2011 to 2014-2015 while decreasing enrollment for resident students by about one percent in that same period. Additionally, the audit claims that the UC lowered its standards for nonresidents by admitting thousands of out-of-state students with lower grade-point averages, S.A.T. and A.C.T. scores than those of resident students.

Assembly members called the hearing to examine if the University’s admissions and finance policies disadvantaged California residents applying to the UC in recent years. According to committee chair and District 52 Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez, the UC’s policies have failed to put Californians first.

“Sadly, we are here today with an audit report that confirms what many of us have speculated,” Rodriguez said.

District 64 Assemblymember Mike Gipson, who requested the audit in 2015, said he was “pissed” by the state auditor’s findings that the UC displaced resident students by increasing the number of non-resident students.

“I think it is a slap in the face, not only of the members of the legislature, but also of the taxpayers of the state of California,” Gipson said. “The University has just done a very poor job.”

UC Associate Vice President of Undergraduate Admissions Stephen Handel insisted, however, that the report is “incomplete” and that the University admits every eligible resident student.

“The University makes an explicit guarantee to every family in California whose son or daughter applies to UC that we will find a place for them if they meet UC’s eligibility requirements,” Handel said. “It is a guarantee that we never extend to nonresidents.”

UCSB enrolled 6,014 students in 2015, of those, 86 percent were California residents, seven percent were out-of-state and seven percent were international.

The state audit report specifies UCSB among four other campuses that increased its nonresident target faster than the resident target. Nearly 20 percent of UCSB’s expenditures are funded by the state, and the freshman enrollment targets for the 2015-2016 year aimed for approximately 3,850 California students and 550 nonresidents.

The different enrollment targets were created to fill each state-funded seat with a California student, according to Lisa Przekop, UCSB Director of Admissions.

“Non-residents never replace a seat funded by the state,” Przekop said in an email.

The report also includes GPA breakdowns between resident and nonresident students for every school in the UC. UCSB displayed lower average GPAs for nonresident students between 2010-2011 and 2014-2015.

According to Przekop, the “slight”
At a time of fervent outcry against inequality in the U.S. criminal justice system, Bryan Stevenson is nationally recognized for freeing dozens of desperate people from miscarriage of the law. Stevenson was a young activist lawyer when he founded the Equal Justice Initiative, dedicated to defending the poor, minorities and the wrongly condemned. One of his first cases – a young man sentenced to die for a murder he insisted he didn’t commit – drew Stevenson into a tangle of conspiracy, political machination and legal brinkmanship, forever transforming his understanding of mercy and justice.

Alvin Ailey
American Dance Theater
Tue, Apr 12
8:00 PM
Arlington Theatre

One of the most original and best-loved personalities in comedy today, Conan O’Brien wields “a comic identity as distinctive as his name” (The New York Times). His quirky humor and award-winning writing have entertained audiences for decades, from Saturday Night Live to all-time favorite The Simpsons to banter with Hollywood A-listers as a popular late-night television host, including the current series Conan on TBS. Late night’s “king of cool” (Entertainment Weekly) brings his Harvard smarts and wry, laugh-out-loud repartee to this rare conversation followed by audience Q&A. Hosted by Dick Wolf, creator and executive producer of the Law & Order series, among other award-winning television series.

Rhythmic Circus
Feet Don’t Fail Me Now!
Sun, Apr 17
3:00 PM
Campbell Hall

Highly regarded for its “passionate engagement with the music” (Boston Globe), skillful innovation and “superb” (The New York Times) delivery, the Calder Quartet performs a broad range of repertoire at an exceptional level, always striving to channel and fulfill the composer’s vision. Already the choice of many leading composers to perform their works – including Christopher Rouse, Terry Riley and Thomas Adams – the group’s distinctive approach is exemplified by a musical curiosity brought to everything they perform.
‘Give Day’ Seeks Donations from UCSB Alumni

The inaugural effort is perhaps less about that single day as it is about what [Friday] will usher in: a whole new era of fundraising at UCSB.

- Beverly Colgate

The university is focusing its fundraising efforts on the 24-hour online donation drive in the hopes of reaching its large group of younger alumni through social media.

Fundraiser will create an easy way for alumni to access the university.

From a student perspective, I can predict that engaging online, whether that be via the official Give Day website, social media or word-of-mouth, will be an accessible way for students to get involved,” Frame said.

Colgate said she is proud the university is using technology to support the campus in a joint effort with students and alumni.

“Social media outreach is being used at many institutions, so we’re right in the middle of this wave,” Colgate said in an email. “This is a way to reach a constituency that is involved in non-traditional fundraising.”

UCSB Give Day will begin on Friday at 12 a.m. Interested participants can access the website at giveday.ucsb.edu.

Marina Fox
University News Editor

Although UCSB formally joined the University of California over 70 years ago, 45 percent of its alumni graduated in the last 15 years.

To access the large, digitally active portion of UCSB’s alumni, the university is hosting “UCSB Give Day,” its first 24-hour online donation drive on Friday, to increase donor participation in student organizations, financial aid, scholarships and faculty research.

“Give Day is a 24-hour event using social media channels to digitally connect to our UCSB communities,” said Beverly Colgate, associate vice-chancellor. “It is also a concentrated outreach to our campus’ massive base of young alumni.”

According to Colgate, the university has raised “matching gifts” from donors to have their dollars match another donor’s area of passion, making fundraising more “personal.” If a donor contributes at a specific time, their donation can be matched with a campus organization of their choice.

“Our giving website will post the time intervals when these matching gifts are available for matching,” Colgate said. “A couple of our Gauchos celebrities gave matching gifts, too.”

UCSB First will also be tabling in front of the library on Friday to discuss the significance of philanthropy on campus. The organization will hand out T-shirts and offer photo opportunities for students to learn about the social media campaign.

John Lofthus, UCSB Alumni Association associate director, said 60,000 students have graduated in the last 10 years, and he hopes the young generation of alumni will digitally connect with the university, improving a nation-wide decline in percentage of alumni giving.

“Young alumni are proven to be very philanthropic, but they’re wanting to invest through their philanthropy for causes they really believe in,” Lofthus said. “For us, because having alumni support is critical, it’s trying to think about how can we do a better job of connecting with our alumni. And this is one of those ways we’re hoping to do that.”

An alumni group in London will be hosting their own Give Day at The Gaucho restaurant, showing how the event is reaching alumni “far and near,” Lofthus said.

Colgate said the “community is really ready for this,” and explained that Give Day has already prompted alumni to show support for UCSB on their own social networking sites.

“I cannot believe all the excitement I am seeing from our alumni, students and staff,” Colgate said in an email. “We have alumni who have volunteered to be ‘Digital Ambassadors’ on Friday and proactively push the Give Day messaging through their social media channels.”

Online fundraising is “immediate,” Colgate said, and allows donors to choose specific areas for support that they are most passionate about. “We have had an online giving site for many years, but this is the first UCSB Give Day where we focus on promoting online giving for 24 hours straight,” Colgate said in an email. “The inaugural effort is perhaps less about that single day as it is about what [Friday] will usher in: a whole new era of fundraising at UCSB.”

Madison Frame, UCSB First co-chair, said her goal is to engage people with UCSB Give not only by donating, but by participating in Friday’s events.

“UCSB First is leading the student engagement aspect of Give Day,” Frame said. “Our job is to get students excited about celebrating what an amazing feat it is that UCSB is hosting our first ever Give Day.”

Frame said she hopes the online aspect of the event is accessible for students to learn about the social media campaigns.

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Bill Passes for Staggered Min. Wage Increase

The wage increase will be staggered at 50 cents a year until 2018, then by $1 until 2022.

Gov. Jerry Brown signed a bill into law Monday that will raise the state minimum wage from $10 to $15 an hour by 2022.

State Assemblymember Das Williams (D-Santa Barbara) voted in favor of the bill in March, while Assemblymember Katcho Achadjian (R-San Luis Obispo) voted against it. First District Supervisor Salud Carbajal, a Democratic congressional candidate for California’s 24th district, supports signing the bill into law.

The bill will raise the minimum wage by 50 cents each year until 2018, and then by $1

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The wage increase will be staggered at 50 cents a year until 2018, then by $1 until 2022.

Critics of the bill argue it will hurt small businesses and force employers to fire workers. Achadjian, who is also a congressional candidate for California’s 24th district, said the wage hike will lead to an increase in unemployment rates.

“I’m all for everybody earning more money, but [workers] have to earn that,” Achadjian said.

Achadjian said the bill will discourage people from attending college and cause a rise in inflation.

“When I worked for 80 cents an hour in 1971, in college, I knew that if I wanted to get out of minimum wage I needed a higher education, so I always valued education,” Achadjian said.

Achadjian criticized the staggered increase, saying the compromise was nothing more than “politics.”

“It’s politics, and that’s something that I don’t care for,” Achadjian said. “Somebody who has 26 to 30 employees will be discouraged from hiring people who are [on] their first job because of the cost of training and everything else that comes with it.”

Proponents of the bill believe the gradual yearly increase will give the economy time to adapt to the changes. Under the bill, businesses with 25 or fewer employees will have an additional year to enact each wage increase. Carbajal said this “phased-in” approach will allow businesses to adjust.

“The phased-in approach allows businesses to have a smooth adoption and transition into this wage increase because it’s not going to happen right away,” Carbajal said.

According to Williams, businesses will be able to adjust to the wage increases on a “sufficiently long” timeline.

“Increased costs of any kind require planning and adaptation for businesses large and small,” Williams said in an email. “But, I believe the phase-in timeline is sufficiently long, with an additional year of phase-in time for employers with 25 or fewer employees.”

Carbajal said he believes the bill will allow millions of California to work their way out of poverty.

“This legislation is an acknowledgement that, in California, if you work hard and you have a full-time job, you should not live in poverty,” Carbajal said in a phone interview.

“This is a major step — significant legislation that will bring people out of poverty, that will allow them to sustain themselves and their families and work towards improving their quality of life.”

Gary Charness, a UCSB professor who specializes in labor economics, said economy efficiency and distribution are the two important issues with the topic of minimum wage.

From the standpoint of economic efficiency, Charness said there should never be minimum wage. In terms of distribution, however, he said a society could desire a higher minimum wage if it wishes to help its least able members.

“You know, it’s a judgment call,” Charness said. “How much you care about the people at the lower end of the economic spectrum, and if you care enough about them, you want to make it so that they don’t suffer too badly, but at the same time you want to have it so that they can contribute to a business and have it worthwhile for a business to pay them the money.”

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UCPD To Create New Office in Library

Nicholas Bogel-Burroughs
County News Editor

Josh Ortiz
Asst. News Editor

UC Santa Barbara Police (UCPD) are preparing to open a new substation in the UCSB Library, hoping to establish informal interactions between officers and students and increase their presence near the east side of campus.

Chief Dustin Olson said he expects the substation, which is an office with a desk for two officers, to open shortly. UCPD had expected the substation to be operating in March, but its opening has been delayed as the library waits for a furniture delivery.

“We’ve worked long and hard about being a big footprint in the new facility,” Olson said. “It’s just a number added to our number of community policing offices around campus.”

There has been a UCPD office on the ocean side of the library since 2012, but the university hopes the new room will be more accessible to students.

“[The previous space] was kind of a temporary space and this is now meant to be a more permanent and visible department,” said Rebecca Metzger, assistant university librarian for outreach and academic collaboration.

Metzger said a university librarian began working at the UCSB Library about five years ago and "immediately said that this just really isn’t a secure enough space.”

“She was hearing from parents that they didn’t feel that safe because there wasn’t any [Community Service Officer] or police presence overnight; it was just a room,” Metzger said. “Basically, people were figuring out that they can just prop the door open and let other people in, so anyone could really come in.”

Currently, Community Service Officers (CSOs) work in the library overnight, patrolling the study spaces regularly and monitoring the doors after hours when only students, faculty and staff are allowed. With the new space, Metzger said, they will be able to check into a physical office.

UCPD officers will not work in the substation on a regular schedule, but will be able to stop by and write reports, conduct interviews or store their radios and other equipment. It also allows UCPD to extend their reach across campus.

“This is just one substation they have as part of that broader goal to break down those barriers in the communities they serve,” Metzger said.

Olson said the office will also allow the department to extend its reach to the east area of campus. Much of UCPD’s focus is dedicated to the center of campus and the west side, which borders Isla Vista.

The substation “definitely extends ourselves to that east campus because we don’t have a large presence unless we’re mobile, driving in that area,” Olson said, adding that the new office is “a place where we can literally hang our hat.”

For the full story, see dailynexus.com.

Although an increased police presence on campus may make some students uncomfortable, UCPD hopes the library substation will increase campus safety.

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For the full story, see dailynexus.com.
Arbor Art Piece Takes On Political Divisions

Renowned street artist Chor Boogie displayed his latest series of paintings in the Arbor this afternoon entitled “The Divided States of America,” which depicted the divisions present in American society.

The project was completed in 2012 and includes massive spray paintings that explore the various ways America has become divided over current issues. “The Divided States of America” was featured at the 2012 Democratic National Convention and will be on display at both the 2016 Democratic and Republican National Conventions.

Chor Boogie, artist of “The Divided States of America,” said the series opened his mind to a “whole different perspective” of politics.

“Divided states of America, we’re supposed to be the United States Of America. I love my country, I love this country, I love other countries too, I love the world,” Boogie said.

According to Boogie, the series aims to uplift everyone, including those who are affluent and don’t experience many societal issues present today.

“I don’t see them tearing down, I see them lifting up and being uplifting,” Boogie said. “If somebody wants to take them that personal, that’s their personal prerogative. That’s my whole point of this entire series: solutions.”

Boogie said he wants his art to provide viewers with new perspectives to prevalent issues.

“Of course, yeah, it opens up hearts, minds, bodies and souls to a whole new perspective that they either didn’t care about, or they do care about and they’re just so engulfed in the one way versus the 100 million other ways that are out there,” Boogie said. “Critical thinking, that’s all I ask for.”

Boogie said the installment was in part a collaboration between him and Nirmal Mulye, the commissioner of the paintings.

“Yeah, he gives some input but he puts in a good 20 percent vs. my 80 percent. The artwork is all my concepts,” Boogie said. “He wanted a broader perspective of exposing the truth, exposing what’s really going on out there. He comes from a background of nothing, to basically starting his own businesses out here in America, and doing a lot of interesting things politically-wise.”

Boogie said people are capable of finding solutions to the political, social, economic and religious divisions present in America.

“I know we’re doing it, but [people are] using money and politics to push it in a certain direction versus ‘yo man, we need to do something about that or something drastically bad is going to happen,’ Boogie said. “So that can go for a lot of these topics whether it’s immigration laws, education, religion … it’s endless bro.”

Boogie believes that if people throughout the world overcome their differences, solutions can be created and enacted.

“Of course the world, ya know, I think everybody should be on the same page, but it’s not always gonna work like that. There’s so much diversity and different perspectives. If we can just create certain solutions that mold with that diversity, we should be good, ya know? Nothing’s gonna be perfect. Let’s just use some critical thinking with a little bit of precaution. Let’s be discerning.”

Born Jason Lamar Hailey, Chor Boogie has been active in street art since age 10.
Amy Goodman, host and founder of the hallmark NPR global news program “Democracy Now!,” will be speaking to UC Santa Barbara students Sunday as part of a tour promoting her new book.

Goodman has hosted “Democracy Now!” since 1996, and for most of that time it has run on KCSB-FM, the UCSB radio station that is presenting Goodman’s talk and book signing. Goodman’s book, Democracy Now!: Twenty Years Covering the Movements Changing America, is presenting with contributors David Goodman and Denis Moynihan, will be released on April 12.

“One of our first stops is Santa Barbara and a fundraiser for KCSB,” Goodman said in a phone interview Tuesday. “I’ll be talking about independent media in a time of war and elections and how important it is to have the media when we cover war, that’s not brought to you by these weapons manufacturers.”

Goodman’s book explores “the idea that it’s movements that make history,” rather than individual politicians.

“Instead of hearing the same small circle of pundits — who know so little about so much — explaining the world to us and getting it so wrong, you hear people on “Democracy Now!” at the grassroots, closest to the story, telling their own stories,” Goodman said.

When the show began, “Democracy Now!” was broadcast on nine community radio stations. Twenty years later, the program is broadcast on more than 1,400 television and radio stations internationally.

Goodman said she wanted to make college campuses a major part of her 100-city tour because universities and student activism are central to her show’s purpose.

“We have a young, diverse audience and there’s so much happening on college campuses around the country, so it’s a critical part of what we do,” Goodman said, mentioning the Black Lives Matter movements last year at the University of Missouri, Ithaca College and more. “It is astounding how students’ voices are a key part of these movements.”

When asked about the recent chalk markings around UCSB supporting Donald Trump and disparaging immigrants and Muslims, Goodman called the slogans “extremely insulting.”

“What Donald Trump has done is really open Pandora’s box with his hate-filled rhetoric, his islamophobic, sexist, racist language, his outright encouraging violence at his rallies,” Goodman said, adding that the students’ reaction was vital to maintaining a welcome environment.

“I think students’ reaction, banding together and saying they won’t tolerate hate on campus, is a very important one and it’s a part of a whole coalescing of student activism,” Goodman said. “I think there’s a lot of energy on campus and a lot of commitment to making change, and that’s critical to the functioning of the democratic society.”

The Daily Nexus is named after a quote attributed to educator Robert Maynard Hutchins: “A free press is the nexus of any democracy.”

Goodman said Hutchins’ words are “absolutely” true today as they were in 1970 when the Nexus was renamed.

“I think independent media is the oxygen of a democracy, whether on campuses or off campuses,” Goodman said. “There is a reason why our profession — journalism — is the only one explicitly protected by the U.S. Constitution, because we’re supposed to be the check and balance.”

Goodman will be speaking at Corwin Pavilion at 7:30 p.m. on Sunday. The event is free for students and $10 for non-students. Tickets can be purchased online at events.ucsb.edu or at the Associated Students Ticket Office.

Contact Law Office of Anthony Kastenek for a free consultation
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INJURED IN A BIKE OR AUTO ACCIDENT?

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CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY LONG BEACH COLLEGE OF CONTINUING AND PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION
Further questions as to the ethics of solitary confinement, which is outlawed at the federal level but continues to exist in California.

Brandon Yadegari, chief of staff for the Associated Students external vice president for statewide affairs, said the installment, hosted by “Invest in Graduation Not Incarceration, Transform Education,” starts a discussion on whether or not solitary confinement should be outlawed.

“I think it’s starting a conversation about whether solitary confinement — or any forms of incarceration, period — are appropriate means of punishment for our children and adults,” Yadegari said in an email.

According to Yadegari, the UC maintains $425 million in loans to private prison corporations. Yadegari said he believes the university is not doing enough to condemn solitary confinement.

The Afrikan Black Coalition, an alliance of Black Student Unions from around California, released a statement in January demanding that UC pull its investments from Wells Fargo.

“There’s an argument being made by top UC officials that the sum of investments there is too great and we are too far removed from the profiting of those same prisons,” Yadegari said in an email. “But money is money, profit is profit, and at the end of the day, we are directly profiting from the dehumanization of millions of lives in this country.”

Yadegari said the UC is condoning a system that destroys black and brown communities, and this is problematic for an institution with a diverse student body.

“The UC-wide call to divest from Wells Fargo stems from the lived experiences of thousands of students at the UC who come from communities that are actively destroyed by the criminal justice system,” Yadegari said in an email. “These folks — most of the black and brown students — recognize that the university is actively complicit in the destruction of these communities and is, in fact, profiting off of this oppression.”

Nathan Moss, fourth-year statistics major, said the lack of stimulus for prisoners inside the solitary confinement cell was particularly alarming.

“Imagine nothing to do … just looking at the wall and being with my own thoughts for 23 hours a day, and [being] fed through a hole,” Moss said. “One day would do enough damage.”

Chadwyck Moore Jr., second-year political science major, explored the inside of the installation and said a lack of social interaction could be harmful to prisoners’ health.

“It was interesting to see what it was really like, and you can definitely see why it will mess with your health,” Moore said. “People are social — we need to see, we need to speak to other human beings — 23 hours in there, I already know I would go insane.”

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**AUDIT**

Continued from p.1

differences in GPA can be attributed to inconsistencies in the ways different schools calculate GPAs across the world.

In the Assembly hearing Wednesday, Handel said the GPA, S.A.T. and A.C.T. scores of the students admitted to the University do not completely qualify an eligible student.

“Reader evaluations are based on a set of 14 academic factors that look well beyond traditional numeric markers of achievement,” Handel said. "A grade-point average and a test score, important as they are, provide only partial insight into the qualifications of students for college."

UC Chief Financial Officer Nathan Brostrom further asserted that the state budget is what controls the enrollment of resident students, not the enrollment of nonresidents.

“Growth in nonresident students does not constrain the University’s ability to enroll growing numbers of California resident students,” Brostrom said. “The key to enrollment is state funding.”

District 16 Assemblymember Catharine Baker told the UC representatives at the meeting that they need to stop discounting the audit report as “unfounded” and start working with the legislators on a solution.

“It’s very easy for all of us to come after you with pitchforks, and trust me, I’ve got one and constituents of mine have one. Part of the solution is that you are not tone deaf. One of the worst things that can happen with a public servant is they get tone deaf. That’s what we’re hearing.”

- Catharine Baker

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Further questions as to the ethics of solitary confinement, which is outlawed at the federal level but continues to exist in California.

Brandon Yadegari, chief of staff for the Associated Students external vice president for statewide affairs, said the installment, hosted by “Invest in Graduation Not Incarceration, Transform Education,” starts a discussion on whether or not solitary confinement should be outlawed.

“I think it’s starting a conversation about whether solitary confinement — or any forms of incarceration, period — are appropriate means of punishment for our children and adults,” Yadegari said in an email. “These folks — most of the black and brown students — recognize that the university is actively complicit in the destruction of these communities and is, in fact, profiting off of this oppression.”

Nathan Moss, fourth-year statistics major, said the lack of stimulus for prisoners inside the solitary confinement cell was particularly alarming.

“Imagine nothing to do … just looking at the wall and being with my own thoughts for 23 hours a day, and [being] fed through a hole,” Moss said. “One day would do enough damage.”

Chadwyck Moore Jr., second-year political science major, explored the inside of the installation and said a lack of social interaction could be harmful to prisoners’ health.

“It was interesting to see what it was really like, and you can definitely see why it will mess with your health,” Moore said. “People are social — we need to see, we need to speak to other human beings — 23 hours in there, I already know I would go insane.”

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**AUDIT**

Continued from p.1

differences in GPA can be attributed to inconsistencies in the ways different schools calculate GPAs across the world.

In the Assembly hearing Wednesday, Handel said the GPA, S.A.T. and A.C.T. scores of the students admitted to the University do not completely qualify an eligible student.

“Reader evaluations are based on a set of 14 academic factors that look well beyond traditional numeric markers of achievement,” Handel said. "A grade-point average and a test score, important as they are, provide only partial insight into the qualifications of students for college."

UC Chief Financial Officer Nathan Brostrom further asserted that the state budget is what controls the enrollment of resident students, not the enrollment of nonresidents.

“Growth in nonresident students does not constrain the University’s ability to enroll growing numbers of California resident students,” Brostrom said. “The key to enrollment is state funding.”

District 16 Assemblymember Catharine Baker told the UC representatives at the meeting that they need to stop discounting the audit report as “unfounded” and start working with the legislators on a solution.

“It’s very easy for all of us to come after you with pitchforks, and trust me, I’ve got one and constituents of mine have one,” Baker said. “Part of the solution is that you are not tone deaf. One of the worst things that can happen with a public servant is they get tone deaf. That’s what we’re hearing.”

- Catharine Baker
It’s official: the Michael Jordan crying face meme is pure greatness. Sorry to the North Carolina Tar Heels, but there’s no way around it.

Known for his cornrows, tattoos, du-rags, headbands, jewelry and baggy clothes, Iverson’s influence on past generations is inevitable within the game of basketball but most importantly within the black community.

The only inducer not dressed in formal attire at Monday’s enshrinement ceremony, it has been in this same fashion in which he has left an imprint on the game of basketball and serves as the trademark example for players such as Stephen Curry, Kyrie Irving, LeBron James, Russell Westbrook and more.

His life is a testament for many individuals such as myself that regardless of what you represent, accommodating or pursuing change doesn’t always guarantee success, and you should never downplay your genuine self.

However, as his character was on full display throughout his 14-year NBA career, Iverson’s journey to the NBA was unlike any other.

The then 17-year-old spent four months in jail after being found guilty of accusations of striking a white woman and man with a chair during a brawl that took place in a bowling alley in his hometown of Hampton, Virginia on Valentine’s Day in the year 1993.

Charged as an adult and convicted of three felony accounts, Iverson was due to serve 15 years in prison but was granted clemency by former Virginia Governor Douglas Wilder.

While Iverson would have to transfer from Bethel High School to Richard Milburn High School for his senior season and go on to play two seasons at the collegiate level for the Georgetown Hoyas, central to Iverson’s trial was the involvement of race.

In addition to his innocent plead, Iverson claimed that the incident revolved around someone’s use of a racial slur towards him.

The aura of AI lives on forever; I just hope that the misconception of such a legend will not overshadow what he stands for.

Thanks, Bubba Chuck.

Sean White
Sports Editor

Big West Challenge Cup Awaits Gauchos in Fullerton

Duncan MacPhee
Staff Writer

Track and field fans may have to wait a few more days to see the Gauchos take the field, but the wait will be worth it.

UCSB will be pitted against conference rivals UC Irvine and Long Beach State in addition to hosting Titans in what should be a heated battle for league bragging rights, despite taking place over the course of just one day.

“IT’s nice. It’s a little bit [of] a low-key meet, but the energy is kind of big,” senior distance runner Shyan Vaziri said.

Friday’s events will be unlike any other meet the Gauchos have competed in this year.

“It’s not about running fast times, it’s about which school comes out on top,” Vaziri said.

“IT’s all about the team this week, so whatever the coach wants me to do, I’ll do it, and I’ll just want to score as many points as I can for the school,” Vaziri said.

This meet will attempt to get on track for the second half of the season.

“I’d love to see the team place really high at the Big West Championships at the end of the year. I think it’s just going to take a lot of progressing, everyone just really coming together,” Vaziri said.

The first step of that progression is this Friday, April 9 at the Big West Challenge starting at 3 p.m. at the Titan Track Complex in Fullerton, CA.

Performing the long jump, Tori Usgaard is healthy after redshirting last season.
BASEBALL

No. 19 Gauchos End Road Stretch at Charleston

Jorge Mercado
Asst. Sports Editor

After a solid start to conference play, the UCSB baseball team has jumped to No. 19 in the country and will take a week off from Big West games this weekend as it travels to South Carolina to take on No. 24 College of Charleston.

The Gauchos enter the weekend with an overall record of 20-6, 2-1 Big West and they will end their long eight-game road stretch after this series.

During this road stretch, Santa Barbara has been less than stellar, posting a 2-3 record in the last five games.

Being one of the best teams in college baseball over the last few weeks, the Cougars host the visiting UCSB squad with an overall record of 20-9, 5-1 Colonial Athletic Association record.

They regained a national ranking spot after winning eight of their last 10 games.

College of Charleston has also been a great team at home, registering a 14-4 record, something that has troubled Santa Barbara, which is only 4-5 on the road.

The Cougars can attribute their strong season to their great hitting, outscoring opponents 190-145.

In particular, they like getting out to fast starts as they have scored 35 runs in the first inning alone, their most in any inning.

Leading the team is junior Bradley Jones with 27 runs scored, 31 hits, 6 home runs, 21 walks and 9 doubles.

Helping lead the charge is redshirt senior infielder Arianna Palomares who leads the team with a .504 on base percentage. She has also managed 29 runs scored, 15 runs batted in and 21 stolen bases and 55 hits.

Another solid hitter is redshirt sophomore outfielder Morgan Phillips, who leads the team with 25 runs batted in and is second in home runs with five.

On the mound for C of C is sophomore reliever Carter Love, who was recently named the CAA pitcher of the week after 2.1 scoreless innings this past weekend. Love is 2-1 with six saves and a 1.86 ERA on the season.

Love is the third College of Charleston pitcher to win CAA Pitcher of the Week honor this season.

Senior right-hander Nathan Helvey won the award of week March 1, while redshirt sophomore Bailey Ober took home the honor the following week of March 8.

The Gauchos have no easy match this week, however, as it welcomes UCSB for a tough three-game series.

UCSB is led by many strong players, including redshirt junior Andrew Calica, who ranks first in the Big West in walks with 24, is second in runs scored with 26 and third in on-base percentage at .488.

Two other solid hitters are redshirt sophomore Dempsey Grover and sophomore Austin Bush, who rank eighth and ninth respectively in batting average with .352 and .350 clips.

On the mound, UCSB has the best pitching in terms of ERA in the conference in sophomore left-hander Kyle Nelson.

The reliever has registered a .65 ERA in 27.2 innings pitched to rank seventh in the nation.

He has struck out 31 batters — third best on his team — and has only allowed 14 hits.

He has also limited his opposition to a .146 batting average, which is third best in the Big West.

The Gauchos have a great opportunity to improve its already great record and get more practice before conference play resumes.

It will also be interesting to see if they are ready for another challenging team away from home.

UCSB’s next match is against College of Charleston Friday, April 8 at C of C Baseball Stadium at Patton’s Point at 3 p.m. Saturday’s and Sunday’s games are set for 11:30 a.m. and 10 a.m. start times at the same stadium.

CAMPUS POOL #9

VS

SATURDAY NOON

#4

VS

SUNDAY NOON

BASEBALL

UCSB Hopes To Maintain Perfect Conf. Record

Antonia Bird
Staff Writer

Thus far, it has been smooth sailing for the UCSB softball team as it will continue Big West conference play this weekend.

After sweeping rival Cal Poly last weekend at home, the Gauchos are undefeated in league play at 3-0 and will travel to UC Riverside for a weekend series.

UC Riverside had a tough series last weekend being swept by Cal State Fullerton, which has left it with a current 23-12-1 overall record.

UCSB junior outfielder Kristen Brucelas leads the team with a .444 batting average at .444 and leading the team in batting average at .341 and on-base percentage at .472.

He also ranks second on the team in hits and RBIs with totals of 29 and 24, respectively.

Another solid hitter is redshirt sophomore outfielder Jessica Johnston with 27 runs scored, 31 hits, 6 home runs, 21 walks and 9 doubles.

Helping lead the charge is redshirt senior infielder Arianna Palomares who leads the team with a .504 on base percentage. She has also managed 29 runs scored, 15 runs batted in and 21 stolen bases and 55 hits.

Thus far, it has been smooth sailing for UCSB's pitching has proven to be solid this season. Senior starting pitcher Ashley Ludlow has continued to throw consistently and has given up only 39 earned runs and registering 107 strikeouts.

Further more, freshman pitcher Veronika Grover has nicely assisted Ludlow in the pitching rotation. Grover has a 3.26 ERA and has given up 37 earned runs in 125.1 innings pitched, which closely eclipses her total of 76 strikeouts this season.

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Despite a 14-8 record by Highlander starter Tayler Misfeldt, she is sure to feel pressure from the Gauchos lineup.

She has a 3.57 ERA and has given up 64 earned runs in 125.1 innings pitched, which closely eclipses her total of 76 strikeouts this season.

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The two teams will first face each other on Saturday, April 9 at 1 p.m., again at 3 p.m. later that day and will wrap the series up on Sunday, April 10 at 1 p.m. All games will be played at Amy S. Harrison Field.

WOMEN’S H2O POLO

No. 19 Gauchos End Road Stretch at Charleston

CHRISTINA DEMARZO / DAILY NEXUS

April 7, 2016 Sports Daily Nexus

Despite its 13-1 home record, UCSB looks to improve its 4-5 road standing. Junior catcher Jake Maziar, who leads the team in batting average at .341 and on-base percentage at .472.

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## Campus Pool #9

**UCSB Hopes To Maintain Perfect Conf. Record**

Antonia Bird
Staff Writer

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Grouplove Warms Up Deltopia Show

Tracy Smith
Reporter

The day was warm, and the night was even more flushed as students from all over campus and I.V. flooded the Thunderdome Saturday night to witness a performance from the dauntless band Grouplove. The spacious events center transformed into a large venue, providing both standing room and seating accommodations, yet most of the crowd were without a doubt drawn to the stage. Despite doors opening at 8 p.m., nearly two hours went by before the opening act, Tor Miller, took the stage. In most cases this would call for an uproar of anger from the crowd, but there were no hints of angst threatening to taint the atmosphere. Whether it was the feeling of being surrounded by peers who understood or the number of impaired people in the crowd, the night was too mystic to let impatience get in the way.

Just as the crowd seemed to be losing an ounce of hope, Tor Miller and band took the stage and set the tone for a night that would send everyone present through a spiral of emotions. He may have been a New York native, but the students at UCSB welcomed him with open arms. Although most people were not aware of who he was, he was captivating enough to keep their attention. His stage presence — along with the band members that surrounded him — allowed him to do so. Much to the crowd’s dismay, a portion of his set was a bit on the slower side, yet it enhanced the vitality of songs to follow when the songs did pick up the pace.

Tor Miller was particularly enjoyable because of his ability to shift between various styles of sound. It is evident in his performance alone that he takes the risk of toying around with various genres instead of finding one that works and sticking with it. Every soulful, alluring song aided to the feeling of wanting to stay inside that room just a little longer.

After what seemed to have been ages, Grouplove entered the stage with the upmost avidity. The room erupted in the weight of a thousand lights intensifying with every scream. It was apparent that the band was happy to be there, and the crowd only reciprocated the feeling. The connection between the band and the crowd was dynamic, and the rapport among the students alone was fascinating. The sublime union could only be explained through the music that played in the background, and while getting lost in the moment, the realization came that this performance was something that only UCSB students had experienced. Rather than just simply seeing Grouplove do what they do best and calling it a night to remember, it became a night to remember because we were able to experience together.

Grouplove’s energy, along with their artistry, is unequivocal. There is no questioning the fact that they brought a much needed revival to the campus after a long break. It was an extravagant night that one just had to be there to experience, especially with the performance of their hit single, “Tongue Tied.” Every bit of apprehension evaporated the further they went down the set list, and it would be an understatement to say that the school will miss them.
Quantic Brings Latin Funk to Velvet

Gabriel Lazo  
Staff Writer

If you have ever listened to KCRW, Santa Monica-based radio station that doubles as NPR during the day, you have likely heard one of the ultra-cool late-night DJs mention or play Quantic. Quantic’s unique blend of traditionally acoustic music styles (cumbia, salsa, jazz) with edgy, electronic experimentation creates the perfect ambiance for cruising through L.A. at 2 a.m. Fortunately, it isn’t too far away. On Friday, April 1 the England-born, Columbia-taught, New York-based artist came to Santa Barbara to play at Velvet Jones.

Opening first was Givers and Takers, a self-described “rock” band comprised of former Gauchos. Standing at the front of the stage, lead vocalist and keyboardist Zach Greenwald wore loose, colorful clothing and a blue-and-yellow scarf around his head. He looked as if someone had tie-dyed a Hare Krishna. Givers and Takers played a relatively smooth electronic set. Most of the time, the band’s dark rock label got a bit lost in their own sound. The drummer and bassist often disregested into harder chords and vocals more representative of true rock than anything particularly indie or pop.

Following Givers and Takers was Xenia Rubinos. Rubinos shares some of Quantic’s Caribbean influences, but blends these with soul, hip-hop and R&B. She herself boasts a smoky, soulful voice that’s simultaneously playful, oddly reminiscent of Kate Nash. She also used the full extent of her physicality on stage. Rubinos extended her arms out, twirling her fingers together. She beckoned the audience closer and gracefully twirled her arms. With her unique vocals and movement, the singer crafts a distinct and unforgettable stage presence.

Finally, Quantic himself mounted the stage with his band. They all sported black shirts with green and pink triangle patterns. On his head, the singer wore a dastishi. Quantic’s (aka Will Holland) maintained an unassumingly stage presence. He never stood front and center, keeping slightly back and to the left, with his drummer and saxophonist.

All three members of the band plugged between instruments. Quantic himself played guitar and accordion; percussionist Wilson Viveros played a drum set and Quantic himself mounted the stage and swayed about, clearly drugged-out. Velvet Jones security were trying to go after their passions. The arts scene here, it’s really special. I’ve met some of my favorite people here and I’ve seen some crazy shit. I don’t think you could go anywhere else and find the same type of — and how they are — the parties and shows around here! It’s a fucking crazy place to be in a band. There’s always somewhere you can play.

And for either you or the band, do you think living in L.A. has shaped your sound at all?

MG: Oh definitely, yeah. It’s like I was saying, L.A.’s such a unique place that it makes for really great inspiration; there’s plenty of song material here. It’s also a brilliant place for just fucking around, and we do lot of that and I feel like that’s reflected in the music we make.

JW: Nice, nice. And now while our readers do love to hear about the music, they also want to know about you, the dish. So I gotta ask, what are you listening to in middle school?

MG: Oh god. Uh, gimme a sec … Avenged Sevenfold, I guess! Rise Against? All that shit … I think I had one Slipknot song, one point.

JW: My Chemical Romance?

MG: Hahahaha, oh sure, yeah. Check out the Batcave session online.

The audience responded with cheers and applause. When I’m on my own, though, so it’s amazing playing and being up there [with them] and there’s definitely a groove you can get into. You can explore your ideas for songs and backing band or something like that.

MG: I have, yeah, but there are problems you run into. It basically means finding people — drummers, bass, whoever — who don’t have a problem taking more of a backseat position. They have to be okay with playing your music. That what means, I think, is that the band probably shouldn’t be their central thing — their only thing. I’m still looking right now, actually. Can you actually put that in the article?

JW: Yeah, of course.

MG: Thanks.

JW: Do you think you want to keep on doing music as a career?

MG: Well sure, I mean, that’s the dream, right? I’d love to spend the rest of my life in the studio and playing shows and touring and shit — all that stuff’s really … I really enjoy it. But being able to share my music with other people — with the world — that’s what’s important for me. The music scene, it’s a really hard place to continuously make money in, so a lot of what I’ve been thinking about is how to make money, at least enough to live on, while I can keep writing and performing. So having a job that I like, something cool — that’s why I’m in marine bio — to pay for food and rent and all that so I can do what I really want in my own time; I think I’d be fine with that, too.

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Cauliflower and Spinach Curry with Potatoes

Ingredients:
- 3 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 5 Yukon Gold potatoes, diced
- 1 large yellow onion, coarsely chopped
- ½ cup red curry paste
- ½ small cauliflower, chopped into small florets
- 1 ¾ cups vegetable broth
- 1 cup coconut milk
- 5 oz frozen spinach, thawed
- Cooked rice or warm naan bread

Steps:
1. Heat oil in a large saucepan. Add onion and potatoes and cook for roughly 5-6 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add the curry paste. Stir in completely and cook for about a minute to let spices cook in.
2. Add cauliflower and coat in curry paste. Then add the vegetable broth and coconut milk. Bring to a boil, then reduce the heat. Cover and let simmer for 15-20 minutes or until potatoes and cauliflower are tender.
3. Stir in spinach and heat for another few minutes until spinach is hot. Serve with the rice or warm Naan.

Adapted from The Hungry Student Vegetarian Cookbook

The recipe was delicious! I had never had curry before and wow, I am so glad I did. I had never before experienced spice utilized in that way. It was a unique and comforting experience. Next time I make this recipe I will probably crank up the heat with my curry paste choice. I also plan to incorporate more curry into other recipes I enjoy!
NASA Approves Study of Ocean Carbon Cycles

Through E.X.P.O.R.T.S., researchers will use satellites to observe quantitative data concerning ocean carbon cycles.

Stephanie Pernett
Science Editor

In a plan recently approved by NASA, researchers from UCSB and other institutions have developed a study for a major NASA field campaign to quantify the state of the ocean carbon cycle from satellite observations.

The knowledge gained through E.X.P.O.R.T.S. will help predict how future changes in the ocean's sequestration of carbon will alter the global carbon cycle. The plan appeared in the scientific journal Frontiers in Medical Science and is described in detail on NASA's website.

There are several pathways in which carbon travels within ocean food webs, which lead to significant differences in the vertical transport of carbon in the ocean interior. This variability of the oceans' ecosystems is what makes quantifying carbon difficult. Depending on how and where it is released back into the ocean, it can make the difference of whether it will cycle back within a few days or will become organic matter created by phytoplankton that stays in the ocean for decades.

Siegel elaborated on the difficulties of a project that deals with immense global ecosystems. “We have to care about things phytoplankton eat, the types of phytoplankton there are, how there are many animals that migrate vertically in the ocean,” Siegel said. “And then you have all these physical processes that are very complicated.”

Siegel said E.X.P.O.R.T.S. will measure major pathways and use the data collected to compare systems.

“The idea is to measure major pathways at the same time, at a same place, at different stages and by doing so we can compare different systems,” Siegel said.

The deployments and the time needed to analyze and model the data require E.X.P.O.R.T.S. to be a five-year program. E.X.P.O.R.T.S. results will be a data set that spans the range of states of ocean carbon cycling.

While E.X.P.O.R.T.S. is designed to be a five-year program, Siegel said the planning process was also time-intensive.

“I got funded four years ago,” Siegel said. “It was very small grant from NASA to help start the planning process and organize the team, but I've been working on problems like this for a long time and realize that I'm working on different parts but never all together at the same time, and that's really the problem.”

The overall objective for E.X.P.O.R.T.S. is to ensure the success of these future satellite mission goals by establishing relationships between remotely sensed signals and carbon cycle processes. Through a process-oriented approach, E.X.P.O.R.T.S. will bring new insights into ocean carbon cycling that will maximize societal relevance and be a key component in understanding Earth as an integrated system.

While it is approved by NASA, Siegel said E.X.P.O.R.T.S. may not begin field deployments until 2017.

“With the stage where NASA has formed a Science Definition Team, and our job is to figure out how much it’ll actually cost, and now we’re down at the point of trying to rationalize what is needed,” Siegel said. “Our goal is to then present the plan to the community in July and get it submitted by early fall, and then NASA will decide if it’s able to fund it.”
**Daily Nexus**

**News**

Thursday, April 7, 2016

## Horoscope

**Aries** (March 21-April 19) -- Today is a 7 -- Travel and adventure call to you. Keep the big picture in mind... does this trip forward the dream? Set long-term goals. There's more work coming in. A mate has excellent advice. Invest in an experience that forwards the action for a project you love.

**Taurus** (April 20-May 20) -- Today is a 6 -- Get into the details today and tomorrow. Consider resources and supplies, logistics and team management, and finances. Wheeling and dealing could be required. Build a strong foundation. Consult friends and experts. Many hands make lighter work. Someone from your past could reappear.

**Gemini** (May 21-June 20) -- Today is a 7 -- Let your partner drive. Collaboration gets you further than playing Lone Ranger. Practice your arts, and beauty your surroundings. Indulge your curiosity, and get the latest expert research. Let yourself get carried away by romance. Negotiate and compromise. Two heads are better than one.

**Cancer** (June 21-July 22) -- Today is a 7 -- Practical considerations hold your concern. Follow safety rules and high standards. Sort through feelings as they arise. Trust your experience. It could get hectic today and tomorrow. A friend makes an excellent suggestion. Use it to persuade the team. It pays to have good manners.

**Leo** (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Today is a 6 -- Lay down the law. Make every attempt to follow the rules. Even if you make mistakes, you're charming. Work out kinks in private. Working at something you love brings abundance. Improve your living conditions. Include delicious treats, cozy atmosphere and friends (or one special friend).

**Virgo** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Today is a 6 -- Home and family take priority today and tomorrow. Settle into your nest. Good deeds you've done bring benefits. Check out an interesting suggestion. Keep your future vision in mind. There's more money coming in... Divert some of the flow to savings. Share a treat.

**Libra** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) -- Today is a 6 -- It's easier to learn for the next two days. Study instructions first. Talk to someone who's been there, done that. Creative work pays well. A generous offer requires more thought. A lucky break blesses your passion project. Your work and opinions garner respect.

**Scorpio** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) -- Today is a 7 -- Pay attention to finances. Fill orders and raise the money. Schedule a sit down meeting. Pull strings to get a compromise. You're very persuasive now. Trust your feminine side. Make time for visiting friends. Take the roundabout route when necessary.

**Sagittarius** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) -- Today is a 5 -- Generate enough to cover expenses in a test of your frugality skills. There's more money coming your way. Friends and siblings share the wisdom of their experience. Brilliant ideas come at odd moments. Evaluate old policies.

**Capricorn** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Today is a 6 -- There's more work, and the pressure's rising. Take a philosophical view. You're making an excellent impression. Acknowledge your team's efforts. Celebrate a windfall view. You're making an excellent impression.

**Aquarius** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) -- Today is a 6 -- Get together with friends today and tomorrow. Share emotional support and laughter. Invent new goals and reaffirm previous ones. It's a good time to ask for money. A lucky break blesses your passion project. Your work and opinions garner respect.

**Pisces** (Feb. 19-March 20) -- Today is a 6 -- Career matters occupy your time now. There's a rise in status and high standards. Sort through feelings as they arise. Trust your experience. It could get hectic today and tomorrow. A friend makes an excellent suggestion. Use it to persuade the team. It pays to have good manners.
Understanding the ‘Privilege of’ the Jewish Minority

Why are there no “safe spaces” for Jews on campus?
Every other group with a claim to current or historical oppression — black people, Native Americans, women, gay and transgender people — gets protected class status on campus. Meanwhile, we Jews rarely have our struggles recognized by the social justice wing of the school, despite being one of the most oppressed minorities in history.

As the divestment debate starts up again at UCSB, you can be certain that Jewish students will face strongly-worded anti-Israel rhetoric that they will find offensive, marginalizing and triggering, and yet their complaints will not evoke the usual reaction that such claims do when they come from other minority groups. Why is this?

Of course, Israel is not immune from criticism. In fact, we should criticize it more often. We Jews pride ourselves on being intelligent and asking difficult questions, but I have seen an incredible amount of narrow-minded and dogmatic groupthink in support of Israel from my fellow Jewish students. The university should be a place where all ideas, including the most sacred, are open to be questioned. The current actions of the Israeli government, and even the ideology of Zionism itself, fall well within this category — regardless of how much the UC Regents’ shameful “Statement of Principles Against Zionism itself, fall well within this category … regardless of how much” gets protected class status on campus. Meanwhile, we Jews rarely have our struggles recognized by the social justice wing of the school, despite being one of the most oppressed minorities in history.

So, the relentless attacks on Israel are extremely hypocritical. Whatever its crimes, Israel is not the greatest villain on the world stage today, or even the greatest villain that America does business with. Why does the Students for a Free Tibet movement get so little attention compared to the Palestinian cause? China’s occupation of Tibet has been at least as brutal as Israel’s occupation of the Palestinian territories. Why does the movement to divest from Turkey also receive so little attention?

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Even so, the relentless attacks on Israel are extremely hypocritical. Whatever its crimes, Israel is not the greatest villain on the world stage today, or even the greatest villain that America does business with. Why does the Students for a Free Tibet movement get so little attention compared to the Palestinian cause? China’s occupation of Tibet has been at least as brutal as Israel’s occupation of the Palestinian territories. Why does the movement to divest from Turkey also receive so little attention?

For that matter, what about the decades-long leftist love affair with Cuba? As ranked by Freedom House, Israel is the only “free” country in the Middle East. By the same ranking, Cuba is the only “not free” country in the Americas.

For half a century, the Communist government in Cuba has denied its citizens their basic freedoms and brutally murdered thousands of political dissidents, and yet the same leftist academics who want us to divest from Israel are cheering for us to open trade with Cuba.

In fact, as soon as President Obama loosened travel restrictions, UC Davis was quick to offer a study abroad program to Cuba entitled “Narratives of Resistance.” The program description says that “Cuba has been a major site of resistance — first against Spain, and later against the United States,” and that the program will “examine how U.S. thinkers and writers have used Cuba and its revolutions as a model of resistance against racism and oppression.”

Perhaps they should also talk to some of the Cubans who have suffered for standing up against their evil communist government, such as the graffiti artist “El Sexto” who was imprisoned for painting Fidel and Raúl Castro as pigs … but I doubt they are interested in those “narratives of resistance.”

Birthright Israel (the free 10-day trip to Israel for young Jews) has come under scrutiny over the years for presenting only one side of the story, but where is all the anger about the fact that the UC system itself is sponsoring an equally biased program about Cuba?

Let me give you the key to this quandary: To understand the singling-out of Jews in Israel, we must first look at the situation of Jews in America.

Social justice warriors (SJWs) in the universities provide no “safe spaces” to Jews because we fly in the face of every single claim they make about privilege, oppression and group identity.

Academic leftists believe in the concept of "privilege." They see America as a fundamentally racist society and claim that different groups have varying degrees of “privilege” within our society. The level of privilege each group has, according to the SJW mindset, is more or less fixed and cannot be changed without a radical overhaul of the system.

Jews put every one of these claims to shame.

We Jews are living, breathing proof that a historically oppressed group can overcome its oppression on its own in America, through its hard work and drive to succeed, without any of the “legs up” (affirmative action, welfare, reparations) that SJWs say are necessary.

One hundred years ago, Jews faced massive oppression in the United States … and yet, within the last few generations, we have largely overcome this hurdle. Although anti-Semitism still exists in America, it is not common. By and large, Jews have been integrated into American society … completely blowing to bits every single SJW claim about the inevitability of racism and the unattainability of meritocracy.

Is it any wonder that they’re a little annoyed with us right now?

In fact, Jews have not only survived within American society; we have actually thrived within it. Jews are only around two percent of America, and yet we represent five percent of Congress.

Jews currently occupy three of the nine seats on the Supreme Court. If Merrick Garland is confirmed as the successor to Antonin Scalia, we will occupy four.

While there has not yet been a Jewish president, Jewish candidates from Bernie Sanders to Joe Lieberman to Barry Goldwater (who was a practicing Christian, but half-Jewish by his father) have been serious contenders.

Jews earn higher incomes than non-Jewish whites, on average. Jews are overrepresented among the super-rich, in the business world, in academia, in Hollywood and among Nobel Laureates.

The conclusion to be drawn from these facts is inescapable: Jews are a privileged group in the United States today. If you are a SJW who believes in “white privilege” and you have any intellectual integrity, then you will also have to believe in “Jewish privilege,” because almost all of the metrics that apply to whites apply as well to Jews.

Since the SJW modus operandi is to attack any individual or group which has attained great success in the United States, we should not be surprised when SJWs attack Jews. They are merely following their privilege-checking ideology to its logical conclusion.

Anti-Semitism has taken many different forms throughout the years. It has frequently taken the form of a nihilistic envy, an anger at the Jews for being more successful than people believed they deserved to be. When will we recognize that the nihilistic envy that drives anti-Semitism is what also drives the modern social justice movement?

Let’s consider another example. Last year, UCLA student Rachel Beyda was questioned about whether she would be “able to maintain an unbiased view” in a student government position as a Jewish student. This attracted nationwide media attention, and to many outside observers, it seemed like an appalling act of anti-Semitic bigotry.

However, this line of questioning is not surprising at all if you understand the left-wing ideology that permeates our universities.

As I have mentioned previously in this column, feminist scholars openly attack the idea of objectivity. Professors in feminist studies and other left-wing fields teach students that everyone is biased because of their position in society, an idea encapsulated in the concept of “standpoint theory.”

Because of this mindset, white students and male students in student government regularly have their objectivity called into question. Is it any surprise that this practice would eventually be extended to a Jewish student?

The Rachel Beyda incident, among other things, is another example of how the warped logic of the social justice movement makes perfect sense within the university’s left-wing echo chamber and, yet, strikes outside observers as completely insane.

SJWs say that America is an inherently racist country, because it was designed by white men for the interests of white men. The first part may be true, but the second is patently false, and the Jewish story in America is proof of this. Our Founding Fathers were geniuses beyond their own era; they created a system so great and so profound that it transcended even their own human shortcomings.

Attacking the Founding Fathers for their hypocrisy — referring to them, for instance, as UCSB’s former Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs did, as “white men of privilege, some even slave owners” — does not prove them wrong. Ironically enough, it legitimizes their ideas by holding them to a lens of individual liberty which they created. By a similar token, although most of the Framers were not particularly anti-Semitic, they probably did not write the Constitution with Jews in mind, but, nonetheless, their ideas created a system where Jews could succeed, even flourish.

And that is why, above any other identity anyone might place on me — white, male, Jewish or transChicano@ lesbian — I am proud to be an American, an heir to the legacy of this great system, even if I am not entirely the sort of “American” that they would have envisioned back in 1787.

Jason Garshfield is proud to be an American, no matter what the Founding Fathers may have thought of him.