BEST OF 2016

THE DAILY NEXUS
Bryan Stevenson
Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption

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.

IV Arts presents
SECOND SKIN
A free dramatic play of Beach Theatre Thursday April 14 at 7pm Manzanita Beach
FREE so bring a blanket and bring a friend!

Sketch ‘N’ Sniff presents
The SciFi Show
Sunday, April 17 at 8pm Studio Theatre (TD-E 1101)
FREE

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CONTACT US

The Weatherhuman recently had the inside of his mono-ridden throat described by a medical professional as “super yucky” and “gnarly.”

Tomorrow’s forecast: Zc plans to spend all day with a flashlight in his mouth telling strangers to “check out zir gnarly body.”
UCSB’s Graduate Student Association (GSA) is proposing a revised graduate student Bill of Rights for the first time since 1995 to protect graduate students from abuse and exploitation.

The GSA passed the newly drafted Bill of Rights in its General Assembly meeting on April 5. Representatives submitted the draft to the Academic Senate on Monday and hope to present before the Senate’s Graduate Council soon.

The Bill of Rights currently in action at UCSB was drafted and ratified in 1995. The University of California Student Association (UCSA) drafted a system-wide graduate student Bill of Rights in 2011 and UCSB’s GSA informally approved it soon after.

GSA Vice President of Student Affairs Kathy Swift initiated the revised Bill of Rights in December and said she expanded upon UCSA’s 2011 Bill to make the new Bill. The 2011 Bill is about 20 pages long, and the recently passed draft is about 21 pages long.

“I just basically beefed it up and expanded a couple parts that I thought were needing more support, more explanation,” Swift said.

Swift said the new bill adds language allowing for the creation of a graduate student advocate position and a shared governance board. Her vision is that the graduate student advocate would be someone students could rely on to “negotiate through the bureaucracy” and resolve disputes.

The shared governance board, Swift said, would be a group of student representatives, including the graduate student advocate, with voting power in the Academic Senate. Swift said members of the Academic Senate might be skeptical of allowing a shared governance board.

“That’s a real touchy one,” Swift said. “That’s where we’re going to get into some negotiation.”

According to Swift, the need for a revised Bill of Rights comes from the “touchy and more sensitive relationship” between graduate students and the university. She said academic departments typically consider graduate students as low-level associates rather than colleagues.

“We encounter situations where we’re exploited or we’re taken advantage of or we’re not respected,” Swift said. “That can really be destructive for our academic careers.”

Timothy Irvine, GSA vice president of committees, helped Swift draft the bill and said advisers have strong influence over a graduate student’s professional life through letters of recommendation, networking, and aid in publishing.

Graduate students are “basically working under a group of like three to six people who have control over all of those things,” Irvine said. “So, if they decide to abuse their power, your ability to respond to that is extremely limited.”

Irvine said the university currently has a process in place by which graduate students can respond to abuse, but he said these efforts are “akin to Band-Aids on bullet holes.”

“There is a method for adjudication, but it doesn’t necessarily work that well, and it doesn’t necessarily give people justice,” Irvine said.

Yanira Rivas Pineda, the GSA external vice president, said having a graduate student Bill of Rights is necessary to help graduate students who are in dysfunctional relationships with their advisers.

“Graduate students, we sacrifice our financial stability and basically put our life on hold for a few years,” Pineda said in an email. “The last thing we need is to have to navigate conflicts on our own with little to no support or guidance.”

Swift said the 1995 Bill of Rights in action across the university, drafted in 1995, offers basic protections to graduate students, but is incomplete.

“It is not comprehensive,” Swift said. “It doesn’t cover a lot of areas that graduate students need.”

Swift said she needs to consult with the Academic Senate and the Graduate Division, otherwise the newly revised graduate student Bill of Rights will not be enforced.

“[Graduate students] don’t have that much in the way of enforcement power at all, which is why it’s necessary for us to try to negotiate this with the Graduate Division and the Academic Senate,” Swift said. “They’re the ones that will make the enforcement.”

Swift said representatives of the Academic Senate and the Graduate Division have already begun to express skepticism toward the new draft in her meetings with them.

“This is going to cause problems,” Swift said.
Jimmy John’s Closes After 2 Years in I.V.

The gourmet sandwich shop closed on Tuesday night, leaving some UCSB employees without a job and other students saddened by the loss of a sanitary public bathroom.

Jimmy John’s Gourmet Sandwiches closed its Isla Vista location on Tuesday night, drawing sales to an end after opening up shop in March 2014.

Pedro Perez, a third-year linguistics major, began working at Jimmy John’s on its opening day two years ago. Perez found out about the store closing two weeks ago and said there was some “back and forth” regarding new ownership for the franchise, but the buyer ultimately did not purchase the location.

According to Perez, the owners will be using materials from the Isla Vista store to help fund two new Jimmy John’s stores in Oxnard and Ventura.

“It was great, I loved it there. The owners were super cool … definitely one of my favorite jobs in I.V.,” Perez said.

The franchise was often seen at UCSB sporting events and the Arbor walkway on campus passing out free mini-sandwiches to passersby. The business also advertised on campus, claiming their sandwiches were “Freaky Good and Freaky Fast.”

As of Wednesday, the building was seen with covered windows, and the “Jimmy John’s” signage had been removed.

Catherine Lee, a first-year political science and environmental science double major, said her distress over the loss of Jimmy John’s was “a bit different from the norm.”

“My friends and I frequented Jimmy John’s because it was a sort of haven for us,” Lee said, describing the convenience of Jimmy John’s accessible bathroom, which it shares with Sorriso Italiano.

“I’m upset to see the establishment disappear along with its friendly staff and can only hope whatever replaces it is as lenient with and tidy with its bathrooms,” Lee said.
Organizers of UC Santa Barbara’s second Million Student March expect a large turnout Thursday, when they plan to march across campus and show support for four demands, including a $15 minimum wage for all campus workers and free tuition at public colleges and universities.

This year’s march will respond directly to controversial chalk writings on campus in the last two weeks that have shown support for Donald Trump and disparaged immigrants and Muslims.

“At various locations along the path where chalkings were more specific, we will stop in order to have a speaker from those communities address the crowd, and march participants will write positive messages on chalk walls,” the organizers said in a statement.

The group had three demands in their November 2015 march at UCSB, which attracted more than 1,000 students. These demands were tuition-free public college and universities, cancellation of all student debt and a $15 per hour minimum wage for campus workers.

This year, the group is also demanding divestment from private prisons. The University of California divested $25 million from private prisons in December 2015 after pressure from the Afrikan Black Coalition, which represents black students at colleges and universities throughout California.

Some students claim that the UC’s estimated $425 million investment managed by Wells Fargo is indirectly supporting private prisons because Wells Fargo loans money to private prison companies.

Students will assemble at UCSB Library at noon and march to the Student Resource Building near Pardall Tunnel.

Phrases written in chalk in front of the SRB last week included “Obama is a Muslim,” “1 out of 4 women are not raped” and, under the Asian Resource Center, “currency is devalued.”

At an Associated Students Senate meeting Wednesday, Joseline Garcia, student advocate general and a third-year global studies and art double major, said the march would help students who felt “attacked” and that these students could “uplift themselves.”

“We’re not addressing political ideologies,” Garcia said. “A lot of students felt in negative ways about the campus climate we have. As student leaders, we should be there with them.”
Phenology Emphasizes Importance of Pollen

Susan Mazer, UCSB professor of ecology and evolution, explains that despite pollen’s small size, it is an essential part of the life cycle and genetic diversity of plants.

As students balance classes, work and a social life, they often forget the plants that play an important role in human lives.

Susan Mazer, professor of ecology and evolution at UCSB, conducts research on many botanical topics, several of which have immediate and significant implications on humans’ everyday lives. Mazer’s research regarding the ecology and evolution of the male gametophytes, or pollen, of terrestrial plants was featured in a special issue of the American Journal of Botany.

According to Mazer, the lack of research on pollen fitness in comparison to their sporophyte counterpart is attributed to what is most easily recognized by people. “Most of what people use to identify different plant species and most of what people notice … are the sporophytes, the highly conspicuous forms of plants, such as trees, shrubs and wildflowers,” Mazer said.

Mazer said pollen is harder to detect because it is “relatively inconspicuous and has a very short lifespan.” In addition, as it is carried from different flowers by insects, wind, birds and mammals, it is difficult to find in a concentrated location.

“It is deposited on a stigma or cone scale, it germinates, it produces the sperm-containing pollen tube that delivers the sperm to the ovule where it fertilizes the egg, and that’s the end of its lifespan,” Mazer said.

Although pollen is not easily visible to the naked eye, this does not make it unimportant or lacking in diversity; in reality, there is a great deal of variation in the appearance and behavior of pollen among species. Pollen differs in size, sculpture, structure of its external walls, the pollinators that collect and transfer it to other plants, germination rates and how fast their pollen tube grows. Mazer is interested in pollen from an evolutionary standpoint.

Pollen is a haploid, meaning it only has one set of chromosomes instead of two. In diploid organisms, including humans, if there is a disease-causing mutation in one chromosome, the other healthy chromosome will often be dominant, thus repressing the disease. Given that pollen is haploid, if there was a mutation in a gene, there is no “backup” gene in another chromosome to fall back on, Mazer said.

“A gene at a given locus that gives the pollen a disease or causes poor performance is going to get purged by natural selection very quickly because it cannot hide, and that makes pollen populations vulnerable to very rapid evolutionary change by natural selection,” Mazer said.

“Most of the crops that we eat have been bred for optimal seed performance, but much less attention has gone into breeding plants for the quality of their pollen,” Mazer said. “One reason why crops sometimes fail is because they didn’t receive enough pollen or good enough pollen for optimum fruit and seed production, so understanding the genetic and ecological factors that promote high pollen quality is as important for agricultural development as understanding what propagates strong and healthy seeds.”

In addition to her work on pollen performance, Mazer is also the director of the California Phenology Project. Launched in 2010, it aims to provide long-term phenological monitoring and public education activities in California.

For the full story, see dailynexus.com

Mazer serves as the director of the California Phenology Project; phenology is the study of how seasonal changes in climate affect various life cycles.
Third-year transfer student Jonah Matthew Lantaya passed away at his home in Goleta on March 31 due to unknown causes. He was 30 years old.

Prior to enrolling at UCSB in fall 2015, Lantaya served for 10 years as a medical laboratory technician in the U.S. Army and a sergeant in the U.S. Army Reserves. Lantaya later chose to attend UCSB and would spend several hours in the Veteran’s Resource Center, immersing himself in chemical engineering and building upon his interests in the science, technology, engineering and math (S.T.E.M.) fields.

Lantaya possessed an “incredible amount of intellectual energy,” according to Daniel Cha, fellow veteran and fourth-year mathematics major. “He’s more of a mathematician than an engineer,” Cha said, describing Lantaya, an individual who he said “genuinely had an interest in what we were studying.”

Lantaya’s presence was a constant for many of the veterans, and Cha said he brought a sense of “continuity” to the students’ lives.

“He brought a sense of continuity because he was always here,” Cha said. “There’s always people coming and going; it was a more permanent feeling.”

Lantaya’s friends described him as studious and intellectual, saying that he could be found in the resource center late into the night pouring over his course work.

“There was always, like, a ‘can we make him smile’ contest,” said Dex Teano, third-year English major. “He would have intellectual conversations even when he did take breaks, but it was great to see him feel so animated and alive when talking about these topics.”

Cha first met Lantaya early Fall Quarter and found that they shared a mutual interest in S.T.E.M.-related fields.

“Cha remembered the day when he and Lantaya became friends. Cha asked Lantaya if he was hungry while studying in the resource center. This question soon became a tradition of late-night Jack in the Box runs, creating a strong sense of trust between the two veterans.

“He had a very interesting sense of humor … There’s a very serious and strong undertone with the army and activism sometimes … Jonah enjoyed humor that strayed away from all of that,” Cha said.

Although Lantaya’s friends were upset to hear of his passing, they are “not mourning his death so much as we are celebrating his death,” Cha said.

“He had a good time here. I felt like he had a home here, just this community,” Cha said. “He wasn’t here long, but I feel like he had a good time while he was here.”

Funeral services for Lantaya will take place on April 16 in his hometown of Oxnard. Details are available at the Veterans Resource Center in Building 434, room 133.

If you knew Jonah and would like to talk with someone about your loss, the UCSB administration urges you to seek out help and support from Counseling and Psychological Services (C.A.P.S.) by calling 805-893-4411 (available 24/7). Even if you didn’t know him, you might want to seek support — either way, C.A.P.S. would welcome your call.
CAMPUS POINT: FIRST DATE SPOT

Campus Point is famous for its reputation as a first date spot given its inherently beachy and romantic air as well as its low, low entry price of free. A moonlit stroll down this comparatively tar-less stretch of sand is sure to get you that goodnight kiss you’ve been thinking about since you first got the courage to ask out that special someone. Just a hop and a skip away are the elusive pickleweed-strewn cliffs perfect for watching a sunset or for spotting dolphins. If you’re feeling a bit more adventurous, climbing that giant concrete cube that’s on the beach for no identifiable reason is both easy and exhilarating. Campus Point also occasionally offers an even more romantic opportunity; for example, Halloweekend 2014 brought us a shipwreck just east of the main beach. Although it was covered in police tape, a boy brought me on a second date (I know this is about first dates, but bear with me here) to explore the beached schooner. After scaring away a family of raccoons who had already begun to build a home inside of it, we climbed the wreck and saw a few stingrays swimming under the full moon. Such is the magic of Campus Point. So don’t let “hot guy from history section” and “funny girl from chem lab” remain just that; muster up some courage and ask them to take a walk to Campus Point. It’s not just a staple move for the chi-five freshies, it’s a foolproof swoon-inducer.

NEW LIBRARY: STUDY SPOT

My first quarter here, I stepped foot in the old library only once to finish up my all-time favorite pastime that was summer ALEKS, homework. While sitting in a little cubicle on the dark, dank second floor staring at the final objective I had already tried 10 times to complete, I decided I would avoid studying in the library from that point on to keep from turning into a reclusive, sullen vampire. But lo and behold, a beacon of hope for library dwellers everywhere came in the form of the much awaited “New Library.” Once Winter Quarter 2016 came around, the grand opening of the renovated library brought light to the students — literally. The highly anticipated architecture allows for an extensive amount of natural light to enter the various rooms and study spots the new library provides. No longer do they have to fear the debilitating effects that artificial lighting and ugly-ass carpeting can have on the fragile college student psyche. Now, with aesthetically pleasing interior design and a hip, overpriced café, the new library gives students the opportunity to people watch through floor length windows as they type their essays and sip their $8 Frappuccinos. It truly is the best place to study on campus. But good fucking luck trying to find an empty chair in that place. My advice: Get there at 8 a.m. so you can have an entire floor to yourself to question your life choices, all while admiring the minimalist furniture and hundreds of available outlets at your disposal.

OLD LIBRARY: SEX SPOT

The ambiance of Davidson Library fosters a sense of learning, productivity and undeniable sexual energy. Nothing says “I need to be sensually ravaged right here, right now,” like the tasteful and artsy white pendant lights hanging overhead. Inhaling the musty scent of antique textbooks and dust is an aphrodisiac like no other, so it’s no wonder Davidson is once again UCSB’s best place to have sex on campus. In the name of true romance, pull your lover up onto a desk of elegant reclaimed particleboard. Treat yourself and the one you love (to be inside of) to a romp on vintage polyester carpeting. Take a study break by breaking into the new private study rooms. Tons of students have come (heh) and gone through the original eight stories on the ocean side, so don’t forget to leave your legacy before graduation time comes. Whether you and your special someone make some memories together or you decide to embark alone on your own personal adventure, we wish you all the best. May you never get caught by authorities or by carpet burn.

MIKE: INSPIRATION POINT

We are mountain people. For those of us who struggle to surf and sunburn far too easily while lying on the sand, we find comfort in peaks and mountain-top views. Despite choosing to spend our four years of college at a beach-side paradise, the first thing we looked for was an uphill climb through the trees and hills and discovered our inspiration at none other than Inspiration Point. The trek, found in a quaint neighborhood of Montecito, offers hikers an escape from campus and I.V., as well as a view of Santa Barbara County from the top. As we catch our breath and take in the landscape in the background, we are reminded of how small and connected our city is. With Storke Tower to our distant right and the Santa Barbara pier reaching out into the ocean to our left below, we can appreciate the scenic magnitude of being only 1,800 feet above Santa Barbara. Whether Gauchos want to sprint up the mountain or take endless water breaks along the way, Inspiration Point can be taken at any pace, unlike the stressful grind of our everyday schedules. So here we stand at the lookout, the mountain people and ocean lovers alike. Regardless of the backdrop or the trail we walk on, Inspiration Point is more than a hiking destination. It belongs to the Gauchos who love it so much and who may find their own bit of inspiration every time they make it to the top.
THE OLÉS: LOCAL BAND

Somewhere in downtown Santa Barbara — not too far from State Street — is a small room nestled in between an auto parts store and an office space. It’s quiet, unassuming and not easy to find. This is where The Olés, Isla Vista’s most famous reggae band, spend their time practicing, perfecting their setlist and fiddling with a faulty air conditioning system.

Dim yellow lights are draped on all four walls of the slightly stuffy room, and a mess of cords is on the floor, waiting to be tripped over at any moment. Matt Tweed, the band’s unofficial leader, moves across the room without even looking down and sits down to absentmindedly strum at his guitar. Cole LeKsan, the excitable lead guitarist, plucks out the opening melody to the Red Hot Chili Peppers classic, “Under the Bridge.” He looks proud and mentions to me that it’s actually tricky to perfect.

When The Olés first formed in 2012, they used their house in I.V. to have casual practices. But when those practices moved outdoors, they began to gain attention from passersby on Sabado or at the local farmers market, friends were playing drinking games in the front. Then more and more friends came over, and it kind of turned into, “What should we play next for these people?” The casual beginnings of the band are a direct reflection of their sound: rhythm, sunny and all around feel good. Unsurprisingly, Matt cites Slightly Stoopid, Van Morrison and Dave Matthews Band as major influences.

Although the band is relaxed, it would also be accurate to characterize them as hardworking. After shuffling around the lineup, which now includes drummer Westin Byerly, they released their debut album Strictly Speaking in January. Sooner than later, we’re going to go back in the studio and do a four to five song EP,” Matt says, appearing to have the group’s entire schedule planned out in his head.

Live shows are important to The Olés and are arguably the largest influence on how they play the music they write. House gigs in I.V. can either be a huge success or fall flat with the crowds of inebriated partygoers. “The pace of the town really influences our music. We play things that really get the crowd moving at shows,” Cole says. “Drinking beer on rooftops while looking at the ocean and drinking beer on the beach” are the two images he jokingly cites when describing his local inspirations.

Despite their small town roots, the five-piece does have a few big names that (hardly) pat you down and scan your tickets. According with Danny, Matt points out the slow but steady success that they have reached over the past couple of years. “We’ve been really lucky to be noticed by the reggae scene,” Matt adds. “We’re at the bottom of the list this year, but people saw what we were doing and thought that we were big enough to play a major festival.”

As everyone begins to migrate outside to take a photo, trumpet player Nick Marks joins in without skipping a beat. They climb into the open bed of Matt’s truck and form a sort of semicircle, all wearing the same half smile. Because of where they started, The Olés will probably always be content.

The Olés are going to play the Nexus Best Of Festival at Storke Plaza on Wednesday, April 20.

The live music scene in Santa Barbara has seen incredible growth in just a few years, and the Santa Barbara Bowl has played a huge part in that. Originally built in 1936 for San Francisco’s 1935 Golden Gate International Exposition, the Bowl has stood the test of time, undergoing major, multi-million-dollar renovations in 2000 that upgraded the facility technologically and aesthetically. Today, the Bowl is home to state-of-the-art A/V technology and is technologically and aesthetically. Today, the Bowl is home to state-of-the-art A/V technology that make it a competitor for major venues in Los Angeles like the Greek Theatre and the Hollywood Bowl, and a coveted stop for major national and world tours.

From the moment you enter the gates, you’re greeted by uber-friendly community volunteers that (hardly) pat you down and scan your tickets. Ascend the brutal hill to the actual venue and you’ll find multiple gardens filled with gorgeous greenery and plant life, a contrast to the stainedstacked sandstone that surrounds the entirety of the venue and the stage. Once the uptown battle is won, patrons are rewarded with breathtaking views at the top of the seating area, where most will flock to use the restrooms, buy beer and wine or take photos of the ocean-lined cityscape that only Santa Barbara has to offer. The views don't end there as the 4,974 capacity seating — small for a venue of this caliber; compare to the capacity of 17,376 at Hollywood Bowl — make every seat a good seat, whether you were lucky enough to snap a pit ticket or end up sitting at the top benches.

BUCKETZ: LOCAL DJ

For all you music aficionados out there who love the reggae scene, you may be seeing and hearing a lot more from this up-and-coming artist. But before Bucketz made his debut at UCSB’s Artsweek festival, he spent his sophomore year at UCSB. He first told us all about his crazy adventures on Saturday night riding on a land surfboard. “I can entertain as many people as you can imagine. I think, as much as I love music, it’s really about having fun and doing what you love.”

Cameron Gable walked up to a spot in the shade outside the Life Sciences Building where Artsweek was waiting for him to come down from his research lab to talk a break and chat with the Nexus. He first told us all about his crazy adventures on Saturday night riding on a land surfboard. “I always wanted to be a college basketball player and played varsity basketball in high school … I came up with a lot of really creative names, and Bucketz was one that I thought was both relevant and kind of silly, and I thought that was a quality that was important. I think, as much as I love music, it’s really about having fun and doing what you love.”

Through his fellow undergraduate researchers in UCSB’s Proulx laboratory lovingly know him as DJ PhreshD, Gable has established a promising following under stage name Bucketz. Though his fellow undergraduate researchers in UCSB’s Proulx laboratory lovingly know him as DJ PhreshD, Gable has established a promising following under stage name Bucketz.

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Starting from the very beginning, he spoke about the origins of his stage name. “I always wanted to be a college basketball player and played varsity basketball in high school … I came up with a lot of really creative names, and Bucketz was one that I thought was both relevant and kind of silly, and I thought that was a quality that was important. I think, as much as I love music, it’s really about having fun and doing what you love.”

Though he fellow undergraduate researchers in UCSB’s Proulx laboratory lovingly know him as DJ PhreshD, Gable has established a promising following under stage name Bucketz.

Looking back nostalgically on the early years of his career here at UCSB, the fourth year said, “When I came to UCSB, I wasn’t really sure what I wanted to do. I knew I liked science … but it wasn’t really enough, and so a couple of friends and I went to our first festival sophomore year … EDC. We kind of just jumped right in and went to the biggest thing we could go to, and I kind of was like, ‘Well, we’re going to go to that, we’re going to go to those events, we’re going to go to those events, we’re going to go to those events’ and it was the first … big event that I had ever played, and it was a learning experience.”

With a distant smile on his face and pride in his voice, he said, “My favorite event, one of the best days I’ve ever had, was opening for a DJ named Ghostly … He played downtown at SOHO, and that was a lot of fun. It was the first … big event that I had ever played, and it was a learning experience.”

Now, almost done with his time as a student, he is looking forward to working as hard as he can to make it the music industry. Though the biochemistry/molecular biology major plans to maintain a career in the field of science, Gable still says that after college, “I’m gonna probably give [DJ-ing] my all.”

"I think the end goal is really to mix it up like things at festivals and stuff where there’s a big crowd; you can entertain as many people as you can imagine and show them … yourself on an emotional level.” Gable said. “I think that really is the end goal, but it’s definitely not a realistic thing for me in the short term, and I understand how much work it’s gonna be, and I think Santa Barbara is a great place to really hunker down and start working as much as I can to get better.”

Bucketz is staying around Santa Barbara for at least a year, so you should keep your eyes open. You may be seeing and hearing a lot more from him in the near future.


**BEST EATS**

**FREEBIRDS: MEXICAN FOOD & DRUNCHIES**

UCSB has many aspects to its culture that it is famous for: beach life, strong academic culture and, of course, the party scene. Though UCSB’s reputation for being a party school has diminished in the last few years, students at UCSB are no strangers to getting too turnt on sensational spirits over the weekend. After hours studying and working, we enjoy letting off some steam with our best friends, much like on any other campus. However, we have something special nearby that most campuses lack. UCSB at all.

Freebirds was established in Isla Vista for UC Santa Barbara students in 1987. Since then, the burrito joint has expanded to locations in Texas. However, people commonly associate the chain with UCSB. Many people would say that if you attend UCSB and never have at least one Freebirds experience, sober or drunk, then you may have not attended UCSB at all.

So, you have gotten a small bite of the history of Freebirds, but what makes it the best druncle location for locals and visitors alike? It begins with their huge portions. When you are drunk, you are looking to stuff yourself. Plus the price couldn’t be better when you consider you are eating Mexican food goodness.

Each bite of nacho is like a symphony of sensations that Summit when accompanied by drunken pleasure. Crunches amplify to preposterous levels, the smells of guacamole and cheese tickle the nostrils, and it is easy to understand what the 1980s Wendy’s campaign meant by “Where’s the beef?” Suddenly, you have transported to another realm beyond anyone’s understanding where all of life’s questions are answered. You forget about the beer you are going to feel the next morning that will accompany your inevitable hangover and you certainly forget about the fact that you just dropped twenty dollars on a plate of nachos that took you twenty seconds to scarf down, solo or with friends.

Though Freebirds may satisfy those drunken cravings, it is important to note that everything is done in moderation. You do not need to get blackout drunk in order to enjoy your nachos, nor do you need to eat an entire plate all by yourself. Freebirds nachos is a quintessential aspect of I.V. and arguably the epicenter of I.V. life. The employees pile the fillings in your burrito may make you feel judged while charging you an arm and a leg for guac, but they’re ultimately providing you with the most I.V. experience you can partake in.

**WOODSTOCK’S: PLACE TO GRAB A BEER**

From Woodstock’s you can give a shout out to friends strolling past, with the toasty midday sun feeling almost as good as the Ballast Point in hand tastes. Do you want a cold one before or after class in Embarcadero Hall or I.V. Theater? No problem, it’s across the street. Heading to DP? Where’s the till you get to the party? Woodstock’s is there to hydrate you.

If you and your friends are feeling a little more hungry than on your typical weekday, trivia nights on Tuesday are the perfect time to come and drink from Woodstock’s pizza’s tasty variety of beer. Whether it’s a smooth Budweiser that unlocks your brain’s full potential, or a 9 percent double IPA that gets you goin’, both are perfectly acceptable to hydrate competitors.

Also known for their pint nights, Woodstock’s pizza’s perhaps most festive and economical night to grab a beer is seven is Wednesday evening. Pints go for just four dollars. From there, no matter what type of beer your first pint was, you now get discounted pints for the rest of the night. That Bud just turned into a discounted Stone IPA; it’s practically alchemy. When the good times stop rolling at Woodstock’s, you get to take your glass home with you!

There really isn’t anything better than keeping a memento of great times while also adding to your glassware collection.

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**BAGEL CAFE: HANGOVER CURE & BREAKFAST SPOT**

It’s Sunday morning and although the weekend allured you with the glory and grandeur of an I.V. rager, the magic has gone and she has left you abandoned and with a migraine. You are unsure of your next move because one wrong step could send you rushing to the toilet for comfort. It seems like the world will never be the same, but there is a light at the end of this dark road; Bagel Cafe sits waiting for you like a old friend judging you for your life choices who wants to say ‘I told you so,’ but will still comfort you because they have your best interest at heart and only want you to be happy.

This year, many of you have shared this experience because Bagel Cafe won not only Best Breakfast, but also Best Hangover Cure. To me this comes as no surprise because Bagel Cafe has become an important part of my life in I.V.

Bagel Cafe is famous for: beach life, strong academic culture and, of course, the party scene. Though UCSB’s reputation for being a party school has diminished in the last few years, students at UCSB are no strangers to getting too turnt on sensual spirits over the weekend. Bagel Cafe sits waiting for you like an old friend judging you for your life choices who wants to say ‘I told you so,’ but will still comfort you because they have your best interest at heart and only want you to be happy.

When my mouth is craving something a little sweeter, I venture into a classic yet cinn-fully good menu item. Sex on a Bagel is rightly named; it’s purely orgasmic and no one can resist its temptations. A cinnamon glazed bagel drizzled with melted butter and sprinkled with cinnamon sugar; it’s like a churro reincarnated itself into a beautifully balanced bagel. It’s simple and light enough to feel as though you didn’t just stuff yourself. Plus the price couldn’t be better when you can have this glorious concoction for under four dollars!

The atmosphere is also something to celebrate: A laidback staff streams workaholics on their flat screen while cracking jokes and belting classic tunes to the radio. The guests come from all sorts of walks of life, from the professional business woman grabbing her “Hampton,” to the barefoot surfer dude snapping up a Pinche Ester or even the family bonding over their Hannah Bananas. Bagel Cafe epitomizes the friendly and accepting community of Isla Vista.
As the one place in I.V. to get a “cookiewich” with delicious McConnell’s ice cream, it is no surprise that I.V. Drip wins best spot to pick up dessert. This quaint and homey shop located in the downtown business district is the go-to place for sugar fiends everywhere. With ice cream flavors as simple as Santa Barbara Strawberry, as unique as Eureka Lemon and Marion Berry or as eclectic as Whiskey & Pecan Praline, I.V. Drip is there to fulfill all your sweet tooth tendencies. Frappés, smoothies, milkshakes, floats and acai bowls are also well in abundance. On the warmer side, customers can try homemade cookies, brownies and cupcakes, or they can sip on a wide array of coffees, espressos and teas. For those looking for something different, I.V. Drip offers boozy cupcakes made with alcoholic drinks like Guinness beer. On St. Patrick’s Day, the shop offered its signature Irish Car Bomb — chocolate cupcakes baked with Baileys Irish cream.

It is also no stretch to say that I.V. Drip took the gold for having some of the kindest and most upbeat humans behind its counters (how can someone not be nice in an ice cream shop?). If you have ever applied to work at I.V. Drip, then you know that their application process includes decorating a brown bag — a test in creativity only suitable for a place with as colorful a personality as the I.V. Drip. The people whom you see happily shmooshing a scoop of ice cream between two cookies seven days a week are the winners of this sweet contest.

There’s no better way to piss off your dentist than to enjoy some cold, sugary treats under the warm embrace of smiley servers. Sure, getting cavities sucks, but so does missing out what is hands-down the best dessert spot in I.V.

Surging as the next best made-to-order food chain, Blaze Pizza provides customers with the same thrill felt as a kid in the candy shop. With an assortment of meats, cheeses, veggies, sauces and seasonings, one trip to Blaze will reveal your pizza connoisseur side you never knew existed.

Whether you prefer veggies, meat or even a gluten-free crust, Blaze Pizza provides the suitable ingredients to create a pizza that’s not too overbearing or bland.

With an array of signature pizza combinations such as the Meat Lover, White Top, Green Stripe and more available to order, there’s options for those who prefer to eat a meal without having to exert the brain power to create it.

Yet, the most appealing option for enjoying the optimal pizza experience is Blaze’s Build Your Own option.

For the price of $8.25, excluding tax, the journey of pizza gatore is experienced with the build your own process. A popular choice for many, the Build Your Own feature is key for piling on your likes and excluding those distasteful dislikes.

Offering its classic or spicy red sauce, white cream sauce, mozzarella, parmesan, goat, feta, vegan cheeses, Applewood bacon, grilled chicken, Italian sausage, meatballs and an array of other toppings that may suit your taste buds, Blaze adds uniqueness to a league of pizza chains that commonly imitate each other.

Aside from its offering of salads and dessert in the form of a s’more pie, Blaze has thrived with its commitment to perfecting the craft of pizza. It’s this allegiance to quality that has allowed Blaze to become the top choice in pizza during the day or when winding down after a fun night in Isla Vista.

Cajé is not a pizza joint, nor does it sell falafel. The less discerning foodie may, however, be confused by the location of this sweet little coffee pot. In fact, if Cajé did not emanate a seductive aroma of coffee during its open hours, one may miss it completely. This is the draw of Coffee, Art, Juice and Entertainment, pronounced with the j in jello, not the h in habañero. The place is small, unassuming, but pulls you in with the vigor of a caffeinated lover. Cajé carries coffee beans from Handlebar Coffee Roasters, which emphasizes a commitment to environmentally conscientious products. The menu includes bagelwiches named after Isla Vista streets, espressos named after Santa Barbara landmarks and artistic representations of local foliage in latte art. If you’re in need of a fun, daily activity, make a personal goal to try each flavor of the Alternative Baking Company’s vegan cookies, assembled in an appealing row near the checkout. Space is difficult to come by during finals week, but the shop has both indoor and outdoor seating for sunny days. Cajé also boasts accommodating hours, open until midnight on weekdays and 11 p.m. on weekends, made for the caffeinating of night owls and the warming of souls.
Many of us living in I.V. bear the everyday burden of standing at a fork in the food consumerism road. At the end of one path are wise dietary choices and holistic approaches to food. This path leads to peace of mind and optimum physical health, with the promise of luminous Instagram-worthy aerial shots of tastefully mismatched acai bowls sitting on a bohemian picnic blanket in the middle of a somehow summery day in winter with your boo-thang. At the end of the other path is ice cream. This path leads to, uh, ice cream, and all the pictures you forgot to take before eating it.

Somewhere along these two paths there is a convergence point. This is where Blenders stands. This unassuming little smoothie shop is where man’s primal inclination for natural, nourishing sustenance meets its consummate ability to give in to guilty pleasures. It is a magical place where the three scoops of ice cream or frozen yogurt in your smoothie are easily nullified by the Trim & Fit supplement you add as an afterthought. It is where the I.V. Deli buffalo chicken fries bubbling in your belly are soothed by each sweet, sweet sip of the refreshing 24 ounces of Tropical Guava you acquired just by walking across the street. It is where the bitter remembrance of having slept in instead of going to the gym this morning is put out of mind quickly with the knocking-back of an equally bitter Wheatgrass Shot.

Beyond beverages, Isla Vista’s Blenders location is a bustling one which encourages its patrons to maintain a healthy “keep moving forward” mentality by offering no place to sit and linger while sipping away. This makes it the perfect place for non-committal meetups with that person to whom you’re always saying, “We need to catch up!” but whom you always forget to call. So call Felicia up and ask her to meet at Blenders — it will be easier on both of you, and I’m sure you can find a supplement to counter the awkwardness when you get there.

HANA KITCHEN: BOBA

“Number 58!” the server’s voice rings out, as you look down at your crumpled receipt and subsequently leap up with joy. Your eyes light up and you begin to salivate as you briskly approach the counter to claim your order. Piercing the clear film with a black straw, you are soon rewarded with an icy cold mouthful of delicious tea and chewy pearls made of tapioca.

Whether you’re looking for a snack on your way home after class or craving a sweet treat after a night out, you can always count on Hana Kitchen to provide the best boba in I.V. to quench your thirst. Santa Barbara’s year round summer weather makes boba drinks perfect for any time, any occasion.

Choose between classic milk teas, fruitier options or refreshing slushies paired with boba for a delightful texture combination. Don’t forget to order a warm teriyaki chicken bowl slathered with spicy mayo alongside your drink to create a sweet and savory balance of flavor. Despite the constant line, Hana Kitchen always has “Friends” playing on TV to keep you entertained while you wait.

Hana Kitchen remains a staple for Asian food and drinks in I.V. amidst a wide array of burritos, pizzas and sandwiches. The only thing I can think of that would make Hana Kitchen even better would be if they served alcoholic boba.

SOUTH COAST DELI: SANDWICH

Need a reasonably-priced sandwich that tastes like it was made in your kitchen without all the work? South Coast Deli is the place to go for a wide variety of sammies, paninis, salads, breakfast sandwiches, coffee and other drinks. Boasting a menu that doesn’t go over $11, South Coast is a great call for morning energy, a post-run salad or toasted sammies with friends on a warm summer night. An underrated aspect of South Coast Deli? Its bread. Many sandwich shops give you bread options that all taste like an inflated paper bag; South Coast bread tastes like the real thing. The atmosphere is metallic and pleasant, with the warm combination of breeze and humans inside. Depending on when you come in, you can either hear folk or hip-hop music on the speakers, and usually catch ESPN highlights on the TV. The outdoor courtyard is hidden from the busyness of Pardall by a wall of bamboo shoots, creating a tranquil atmosphere to enjoy your delicious Cheesy Veggie, Phatty, or Italian 3-way. But even when the last crumbs have been devoured and there’s seemingly nothing left of your culinary experience, a cheery dum-dum lollipop included with your order promises to be a carefree way to finish off the meal.
NEW FEES

UNDERGRADUATES WILL VOTE ON THIS ONE NEW INITIATIVE:

Daily Nexus Independent Student Journalism Support

Do you approve a mandatory fee of $2.93 per undergraduate and graduate student per quarter, including summer, to support the Daily Nexus?

Breakdown of the increase: $2.20 is for the Daily Nexus; $0.73 is for return to aid; of the $2.20 for the Daily Nexus, a 7% administrative assessment will be charged on all non-capital expenditures.

The Daily Nexus currently collects (including all return-to-aid and administrative assessments): $3.85 per undergraduate student per quarter ($1.00 in summer) through an AS lock-in fee.

The Daily Nexus Independent Student Journalism Support fee would be in addition to the $3.85 ($1.00 in summer) per undergraduate per quarter currently collected, and would bring the total to $6.78 ($3.93 in summer) per undergraduate student per quarter.

YES ___ NO ___ ABSTAIN

Since the 1930s, the Daily Nexus has been a completely student-run, independent publication, receiving no funding from the university while providing the UCSC community with meaningful and essential news, editorials, feature coverage, opinion pieces, and entertainment. The Nexus allows students the opportunity to work with a 100 percent student-run editorial team, operating around the clock to provide timely and relevant content to the UCSC community.

It is vital that the Nexus receives students' financial support in order to continue serving the student population by delivering quality news and entertainment. Thank you for your support of the Nexus.

— Cheryl Sun and Megan Mineiro, UCSC students

Come to an office tucked away under Storke Tower to find a group of students working daily to provide readers with quality news, in print and online. The Daily Nexus aims to reach every student demographic with honest, timely coverage of issues on campus and in Isla Vista. As one of the largest student newspapers in California, we do not require an application process to join, and instead rely on a peer learning process to encourage new members of our staff. With your vote, the Daily Nexus will be able to better serve UCSC, Isla Vista and the unrepresented voices within our community. Thank you for your support of the Nexus.

— Supriya Velimeli, UCSC student

REAFFIRMATION: NO PRO/CON STATEMENTS WERE RECEIVED FOR THE THREE 2016 REAFFIRMATIONS

ONLY UNDERGRADUATES WILL VOTE ON THESE TWO REAFFIRMATIONS:

**Campus Learning Assistance Services (CLAS) Support Fee**

Do you wish to continue a mandatory fee of $6.00 per undergraduate student per quarter, including summer, to help maintain the current level of CLAS group instruction, drop-in tutorials, and academic skills services?

Additionally, CLAS currently collects (including all return-to-aid and administrative assessments):

| $6.60 per undergraduate student per quarter, including summer, collected as an Associated Students lock-in fee, and | $17.37 ($12.90 is for CLAS, $4.34 is for return to aid, and $0.13 is for administrative assessment) per undergraduate student per quarter, including summer, collected as a campus lock-in fee, | $21.90 per undergraduate student per quarter (fall, winter and spring) and $17.90 for summer currently collected through an Associated Students lock-in fee, for a total undergraduate student per quarter fee of $28.90 (fall, winter, and spring) and $24.90 (summer). If reaffirmed, the $0.00 portion of the fee would continue to be assessed until subject to reaffirmation in spring 2020. |

YES ___ NO ___ ABSTAIN

The CLAS Support Fee helps maintain group instruction, drop-in tutorials, and academic skills services at their current level. Over 9,000 students utilize CLAS services, logging over 200,000 contact hours each year. Annually, CLAS serves students of all disciplines by offering an average of 640 tutorial groups, 5 drop-in centers, 336 academic skills workshops, as well as individual study skills consultation appointments. CLAS also hires 75-125 undergraduates annually. In order to retain the current level of services and continue to grow to meet changing student needs, CLAS must maintain this fee. For the cost of the CLAS support fee, the average student using CLAS receives 20-25 hours of tutorial services per quarter.

**Student Health Support Fee**

Do you wish to continue a mandatory fee of $7.00 per undergraduate student per quarter, including summer, to maintain the current level of student health services?

Additionally, Student Health currently collects:

- $21.90 per undergraduate student per quarter (fall, winter and spring) and $17.90 for summer currently collected through an Associated Students lock-in fee, for a total undergraduate student per quarter fee of $28.90 (fall, winter, and spring) and $24.90 (summer).

If reaffirmed, the $0.00 portion of the fee would continue to be assessed until subject to reaffirmation in spring 2020.

YES ___ NO ___ ABSTAIN

Student Health is designed specifically to serve UCSC students to support their success.

This health fee:

- Helps Student Health to maintain a wide range of medical services with an extensive staff of doctors, nurses, therapists, counselors, psychiatrists, pharmacists, dieticians, lab scientists, x-ray technologists, dentists, hygienists, and optometrists working to address the needs of our campus community.

- Helps maintain current hours of operation to include Thursday evenings, and offset rising costs.

- All the following medical services are conveniently located on-campus: Student Health also provides public health information as it pertains to college students.

**UCSB/MTD Superticket Bus Program**

Do you wish to continue a mandatory fee of $13.13 per undergraduate and graduate student per quarter (including summer) to fund the UCSB/MTD Superticket Bus Program? Any fee increase will be indexed to the MTD adult fare. If reaffirmed, the UCSB/MTD Superticket Bus Program fee would continue to be assessed until subject to reaffirmation in spring 2020, unless cancelled by UCSB or MTD.

YES ___ NO ___ ABSTAIN

**Transit System Fee and Adult Fare Index**

The current per student per quarter transit fee for unlimited MTD bus service is $13.13. The student transit fee is indexed to the MTD adult fare. If the MTD adult fare were to rise, the student transit fee would rise proportionately.

**Bus Access**

MTD will continue to accept UCSB registration cards with a current quarter validation sticker. In winter and spring quarters, or for the period of one week prior to the first day of classes, through the end of the second week of classes of each quarter, MTD will also accept a registration card validated for the previous quarter.

**Summer Access**

Students who are registered for Summer Session will continue to have unlimited rideship with MTD from one week prior to the start of Summer Session to the beginning of fall quarter by showing their registration card with the valid Summer Session sticker. Thus, students registered in all four quarters have access to year-round transportation.

**Contract Reaffirmation**

If students reaffirm this fee, the contract will continue in effect until cancellation by either UCSB or MTD. However, a reaffirmation of this contract and fee by ballot voting will occur every four years.

**Contract and Bus Service**

The current contract between UCSB and MTD does not specify the level of bus service, e.g., number of bus lines or hours. The contract does not state that MTD must notify UCSB of any proposed service changes and hold a public forum at a location convenient to UCSB community. These public forums must be advertised in the Daily Nexus. MTD will also notify the presidents of Associated Students and Graduate Students Association when changes have been implemented that affect Goleta, Isla Vista, and/or UCSB.

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Alzheimer’s disease is the sixth leading cause of death in the United States, killing more people than breast and prostate cancer combined. As of now, the cause of Alzheimer’s is unknown, but UCSB neuroscientist and co-director of the Neuroscience Research Institute Kenneth Kosik has been involved in an international effort to discover more information about the disease.

Alzheimer’s affects one out of nine people over the age of 65, impairs the victim’s memory and logical capacities and strangles the brain until one loses the names of those around them and the ability to do everyday tasks.

Kosik, who has spent his career studying the fundamental processes that make our brains work, recently discovered the work of Dr. Francisco Lopera, who has been studying a Colombian family that has a rare genetic predisposition to Alzheimer’s dating back to the 1600s. Today, there are more than 5,000 people with this specific mutation.

Kosik took samples from the 5,000 people and, with the knowledge of who had Alzheimer’s and those who did not, monitored the progression of Alzheimer’s from a much earlier stage of the disease. The results of their trial will be released in 2021. Until then, there are other trial results to look at to map the progress in Alzheimer’s treatment.

Tony Estrella and his mother, who was a participant in the trials conducted, commented on how destructive Alzheimer’s is.

“The first two trials are to assess the risk, effectiveness and prime dosage of the drug, and the final test will determine whether the drug is ready for market. Genentech, a biotechnological drug-developing company, made an antibody that could successfully slow the development of plaques in people affected with mild to moderate Alzheimer’s disease in high enough doses.

Kosik pointed to this trial when he modified his own trial and claimed, “The only answer is research.”

In light of Genentech’s trial, Kosik’s team increased the dosage in their trial to give them the best chance at success.

Currently, there are drugs that attempt to treat the symptoms of Alzheimer’s, but none are able to slow or prevent it. Lopera is hopeful that, in the next decade, we will see drugs that tackle the causes of the disease. Kosik stressed the usefulness of collaboration.

“Humanity can tackle the biggest problems facing society so long as we work together,” Kosik said.

Rhonda Spiegal, CEO of the Alzheimer’s Association central chapter in California, added, “The more we can do to bring people and science together, the better we will be … We have to convince congress to give resources to scientists studying Alzheimer’s disease.”

For now, Kosik will continue his work understanding the basics of the human mind in order to add to the wealth of knowledge that can be drawn on for future trials.

For the full story, seedailynewsux.com
UCSB Begins MPSF Title Search at Stanford

Staff Writer
Ryan Burns

The Gauchos are hoping to win their second MPSF title in school history. A week after knocking off now No. 7 Pepperdine and No. 5 Stanford by a score of 3-1 each to finish the regular season, the No. 6 UCSB men’s volleyball team will travel north for a rematch with the Cardinal in the first round of the MPSF playoffs.

The Gauchos are riding high ahead of the match, carrying a five-game win streak into the postseason following their strong finish to league play. UCSB finished the regular season 19-9 overall, 14-8 in the MPSF for fifth in the conference standings.

Nonetheless, Stanford put together an impressive season as well, losing just three matches all year before losing its last two against UCLA and the Gauchos last week, resulting in the Cardinal dropping from first place in the conference to fourth. Still, Stanford managed to finish with a 19-5 overall and 17-5 MPSF record.

In its meeting last weekend versus the Cardinal, UCSB ousted Stanford 360 to 299 thanks to what was arguably senior Jonah Selt’s best performance of the season. The setter recorded his sixth double-double of the year with 47 assists and 10 digs and was all over the court in the four-set victory.

“Jonah’s been phenomenal,” junior libero Parker Boehrle said of his teammate. “He’s always the one to let us know that we’re fine no matter how bad the situation, and we can always look to him to come up big.”

Seif also outshined Stanford’s setter James Shaw in last Saturday’s clash, who was honored as the National Player of the Week ahead of the last week of league play. Shaw tallied 31 assists before breaking his ankle on a block in the fourth set, ending his night.

The Gauchos will be stronger with the return of redshirt junior outside hitter Jacob Delson.

As Santa Barbara’s leading hitter, averaging 3.29 kills per set, Delson was back on the bench on Saturday, but Head Coach Rick McLaughlin decided not to risk playing the outside hitter with their first round match in mind.

In Delson’s absence, sophomore Hayden Boehrle was called upon to fill the void left by Delson’s injury, putting on his best performance of the year at outside hitter after splitting playing time with his brother Parker at libero for most of the season. Against Stanford, Hayden recorded his first double-double of the season with a career-high 12 kills on .526 hitting to go with 10 digs.

“It helps knowing that guys like my brother Hayden can step up,” Parker Boehrle said. “It makes us even more confident that we have a guy [Delson], who’s been a key player for so long that’s ready to contribute.”

When the teams met at Stanford earlier in the year, the Cardinal sent the Gauchos home in straight sets. Starting with a home loss to Long Beach State, Santa Barbara went 3-7 in its next 10 league games, including the loss to the Cardinal, but UCSB has improved much since then.

“That loss was one of our worst games, but we’ve put it in the past and last week [against Stanford] we were able to show that we’re a new team,” Boehrle said.

The changes have shown, and since their mid-season skid the Gauchos have gone undefeated as they tune up for the postseason, the biggest win of which was the final match of the season against then No. 3 Stanford.

“We’re fired up to play them again after beating them for the first time at home court,” Boehrle said. “We’ve had a great week of practice so far, and we’re ready to play them again this weekend.”

The match between fourth-seed Stanford and fifth-seed UCSB will take place Saturday, April 16 at Maples Pavilion in Stanford at 7 p.m. A live stream of the first round match is available at pac-12.com.

With a win, the Gauchos will face the winner of eighth-seed UC Irvine v. first-seed and national No. 1 BYU in the MPSF semifinals.

Blue-Green Match Marks End of Conf. Play

Xavier Cardenas
Staff Writer

Nearing the end of the regular season, things are looking good for the No. 75 UCSB women’s tennis team as it prepares to wrap up its Big West Conference schedule against rival Cal Poly this Saturday.

The following day Santa Barbara will travel to the Bay Area to play Santa Clara in a match that had been postponed early on in the season due to rainy weather.

Currently 13-7 overall and 6-1 in conference play, UCSB enters its road trip with a 4-1 record in away matches. Santa Barbara has also won eight of its last ten matches.

With just two matches remaining, Cal Poly has had a tough season thus far, sitting at 5-13 overall. On a two match slump, the Mustangs are 1-6 in conference play and are 1-4 in their last five matches.

Santa Clara has been on the rise lately, ranking in the top four of the West Coast Conference and owning a 10-7 overall, 3-3 conference record.

In hopes of remedying its losing woes, Cal Poly has used 14 different pairs in doubles play, making adjustments over three times at the one slot.

Yet, the changes have brought some encouragement along as the 14 different doubles duos have accumulated a total of 11 winning sets at a .334 win percentage.

Cal Poly’s doubles combination of senior Dane Joubert and sophomore Zoe Oedekerk will likely face UCSB’s No. 21 doubles pair of junior Stefani Stojic and sophomore Palina Dubavets.

Joubert and Oedekerk have led the Mustangs at the No. 1 doubles matchup with a 2-4 record. They are also 0-1 against nationally ranked pairs.

In singles, sophomore Molly Reed, a native of Sheffield, England, has led Cal Poly with the most matches won. She holds a 6-4 record and has been utilized from the three to the six slots, finding success mostly at the six.

It will be important for the Mustangs to establish consistent play on the court versus a peaking Santa Barbara team that is currently only behind Long Beach State in the Big West standings.

While UCSB may be favored against Cal Poly, it will embrace a more difficult challenge at Santa Clara.

The Broncos happen to be riding a two match winning streak. Aside from its wins and losses, Santa Clara seems to have also discovered its identity with a talented depth chart.

When competing in doubles play, the Broncos currently have a win percentage of .556.

Leading the team are juniors Nábia Falah and Daniella Silva with an 8-8 dual record all at the one. Complementing the pair of juniors are freshman Madison Clarke and senior Chelsey Cooke as they possess a 10-4 record at the second slot. However, against nationally ranked doubles competition Santa Clara is 0-2.

In singles, leading the team is junior Daniella Silva. She is 12-6 overall and presents a versatile skillset that has served as beneficial for the rest of the team as she has found success in matching up with the competition on the one, two, three and four courts.

UCSB will be their last of the regular season. Currently on a three-match winning streak, UCSB has the opportunity to enhance its momentum heading into the postseason as the Big West Tournament is to begin on Thursday, April 28.

UCSB faces Cal Poly this Saturday, April 16 at 10 a.m. It will have another morning match on Sunday, April 17 at Santa Clara set for a start time of 11 a.m.

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The match between fourth-seed Stanford and fifth-seed UCSB will take place Saturday, April 16 at Maples Pavilion in Stanford at 7 p.m. A live stream of the first round match is available at pac-12.com.

With a win, the Gauchos will face the winner of eighth-seed UC Irvine v. first-seed and national No. 1 BYU in the MPSF semifinals.

UCSB has won eight of 10 matches since opening the season 5-8 overall.
WNBA: Too Great Not To Shine; 2016 Draft Tonight

Antonia Bird
Staff Writer

After getting swept in last weekend’s three game series against UC Riverside, the UCSB softball team will look to make improvements in this weekend’s match-up against CSU Northridge.

The Gauchos head into the weekend with an even record of 20-20 overall, while the Matadors come in with a 23-17 overall record. Both teams are tied with a 3-3 record in conference play.

“Although the team is 3-3 in conference play, UCSB has had key contributions from players such as reigning WNBA MVP Elena Delle Donne, reigning Defensive Player of the Year Brittney Griner, Maya Moore, Diana Taurasi — who is set to return after taking a year off to play overseas — and a plethora of other players have instilled a level of talent that have heightened the game of women’s basketball.

The ceiling of the WNBA can only ascend as tonight’s draft welcomes new talent that will enthrall the game at its highest stage of the 2015 WNBA Finals in which the series between the Minnesota Lynx and Indiana Fever went to a five-game series for the first time since 2009.

Moreover, Minnesota became the fourth franchise in WNBA history to win at least three titles, each of which have been won during the tenure of Moore, who has three rings in just five years of being in the league.

UCSB Eager To Get Back on the Field

Junior starter Daphne Pofek who is 10-4 on the season. Pofek has pitched 86.2 innings with 56 strikeouts.

The Gauchos have a hitting attack of their own led by junior outfielder Kristen Clark, senior softball team will look to look to junior starter Taylor Glover and sophomore infielder Savannah Horvath lead their team in virtually all offensive categories. Glover leads the team with a .341 batting average, 26 RBIs, four stolen bases and a .480 slugging percentage. She leads the team with three triples and has scored 21 runs this year.

Infielder Melanie Menor also plays a strong role on this team. The freshman has a batting average of .315, and has tallied 14 RBIs, 34 hits and one stolen base.

Junior outfielder Jacqueline Hinojosa is another starter on the Gauchos who has a .327 average with 32 hits, 10 RBIs and two stolen bases.

The Gauchos pitching staff continues to be led by standouts Ashley Ludlow and Veronika Gulvin.

Ludlow has 17 starts in her senior year and carries a 2.44 ERA. She has collected seven wins this year with 119 strikeouts in 120.1 innings pitched.

Freshman Gulvin has 15 starts this year with six wins and a 3.73 ERA.

There are 15 games left and we are tied with four other teams in the conference at 3-3. So it’s all about competing away this weekend, says Galicinao.

The two teams will first face each other at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, and again at 3 p.m. The last game of the series will be on Sunday at 1 p.m.
College cooking is essentially associated with quick, easy and cheap meals. Instant food — think ramen noodles and Easy Mac — are among the most popular, especially in on-campus housing. In the dorms, it is nearly impossible to exert a semblance of creative control over one’s meals. Last Friday, my friends and I sought to defy this assumption by attempting to bake cookies and brownies in the dorms. While cookies and brownies don’t exactly constitute a meal, we lacked the storage and refrigerator capacity needed to create anything that could be considered “balanced.”

5 p.m. We decided to meet in front of the DLG Dining Commons to walk over to our friend’s car and begin shopping for all the necessary ingredients. Our first stop was Costco. Originally, we planned to use the bulk containers of cookie dough and brownie mix as guides for gathering the necessary individual ingredients needed for these recipes, but soon realized the impracticality of this goal.

After meandering through Costco and taking full advantage of the host of samples available, we left with a large tub of frozen Toll House cookie dough and a four-batch box of triple chocolate Ghirardelli brownie mix. With our immediate hunger temporarily satiated, we headed to Trader Joe’s to pick up a small carton of eggs and canola oil.

6:30 p.m. When we arrived back on campus, we began collecting the necessary equipment. As college freshmen with dining commons meal plans, we lacked the essential baking sheets, mixing bowls and measuring cups. Fortunately, the front desk of each of our dorm halls carries a small supply of these materials which residents can temporarily borrow in exchange for their access cards. By pooling together our resources, we were able to find a small, albeit slightly greasy baking sheet, a large measuring cup with a broken handle, a plastic rice paddle, a cupcake tin and a borrowed metal spoon courtesy of my roommate. It felt like “Chopped” for college chefs.

7 p.m. With our supplies gathered, we decided to try the kitchen on my floor in San Nic. Upon reaching the floor kitchen, my friend looked dismayed by what she deemed my “janky” kitchen. While at first glimpse, the kitchen looks like a shrunken version of an old, greasy diner, I thought it showed character. However, after noticing the crusty Tupperware containers littering the already narrow counter space and the dirty utensils strewn across the metal cabinet beneath the sink, I saw her point. We headed over to her kitchen in San Miguel.

7:15 p.m. Although I didn’t want to agree with her, I had to admit this kitchen was much nicer. Though still slightly messy, it looked much more inviting than the one on my floor. After we had laid out the ingredients and thoroughly washed the cookware, we commenced baking. Because we didn’t have a bowl, we poured the brownie mix into the large measuring cup, eyeballed the oil and water measurements and mixed everything together. Coincidently, the measuring cup proved to be perfect for pouring the batter into the cupcake tin. After we set the brownies in the oven to bake, we moved on to the cookie dough. During our journey across dorms, the cookie dough had softened to a perfectly malleable texture. Since the cookie sheet was too small to efficiently make individual cookies, we decided to make cookie squares instead. Using the rice paddle, we dug up the softened dough and evenly distributed it across the pan. As our block of cookie and cupcake brownies were baking, I rushed over to my dorm to grab a plastic knife to cut the cookies.

8:30 p.m. After everything was slightly cooled, we cut the cookies, liberated the brownies from their cupcake liners and joined some of our other friends to watch “Across the Universe.” The cookies bars and brownie cupcakes were delicious, perfectly suited for a movie night. Warm, soft and cooked to perfection, the cookie bars were sinfully sweet as they melted in my mouth. I will admit the brownie cupcakes were less dense than I had hoped, their “lighter” flavor eased my guilt over eating so many. Despite the long process and the limitations of the dorm kitchens, my friends and I were able to adjust to these constraints, exerting a solid modicum of culinary freedom in this strange environment we call dorm life.
To commemorate the weeklong pride celebration at UCSB, campus organization Queer Commission hosted fellow gaucho's to a night of drag-tastic performances at I.V. Theater. At 8 p.m. on a school night, the Student Drag Show 2016 received a line of eager audience members down the block. For those who were lucky enough to obtain a seat inside, the special guest of the night was none other than Derrick Barry of “RuPaul’s Drag Race” and “America’s Got Talent” fame.

Born and raised in Modesto, CA, the Britney Spears impersonator first came to the drag scene in 2003 when he dressed up as the famous singer during his first ever show. With scantily clad ladies and heavy, hella bars I can’t even count / L.A. country jail, ain’t got my moms here to help,” Barry said. “Hard ice is no talking at all, and soft ice is low voices, and the more we talk, the more we get in trouble. Then we are silenced. And they have to put in confessions, shade tree, all of that stuff, so you’re really seeing about half ounce of weed a day should be capable of, he saturated a crowd that seemed already at full enthusiasm. As a train- rocking, gas-spool-rapping, ex DJ football player, a less-informed person might making the assumption the Gibbs would come off as the cocky, too-good-for-you type. This person would be shocked to see Gibbs shaking hands, signing vinyls and jokingly told the audience when asked about contestant relations on the show. One interesting lesson Barry learned from his time on the show is the need for thick skin. In an episode when the drag queens were asked to personify different characters, Barry refused to do her part because she didn’t feel it was right to perform as an “angry black woman.” As a result, judge Michelle Visage critiqued Barry as having no soul, which has led to social media trolling.

For the comedic tones of the night, Avery Daniels changed up the usual song and dance lineup by doing a stand-up comedy routine. Calling it “the new Grindr,” Daniels spoke of unfortunate yet hilarious experiences using an online dating app. Hosts Bees and Scyde got to perform their own numbers as well, set to Marina and the Diamonds’ “How To Be a Heartbreaker” and Agnes’ “Release Me.” Drag king Jennifuck Binaries went in his lap dance on fellow queen Maddy Mokes. Ms. Mokes herself later vogue’d, catwalked and duckwalked to Gorgon City’s club hit with Jennifer Hudson, “Go All Night.”

As for the special guest of the night, Derrick Barry finally arrived in a black two-piece outfit alongside a whip, walking to the beat of Britney Spears’ “Circus.” Throughout the night, the Las Vegas performer lip-synched and danced to the pop star’s greatest hits including “Womanizer,” “Hit Me Baby One More Time,” “Work Bitch” and many more. Changing a total of three times, Barry finally finished her performance in a black PVC latex cat suit that resembled Spears’ own costume for her “Piece of Me” Las Vegas show. After the dollar bills had been collected, Barry remained on stage to do an impromptu Q&A with the audience.

When an audience member asked about the experience of tape- ing “RuPaul’s Drag Race,” the contestant shared secrets that most viewers wouldn’t know.

“We are filming 12 hours a day, and every episode takes two days, so for 24 hours of filming, you guys get to see 40 minutes of what happened,” Barry said. “And they have to put in confessions, shade tree, all of that stuff, so you’re really seeing about 35 minutes, maybe, of what we shot over 24 hours.”

“We’re not really supposed to talk to each other, and we get in trouble if we do. It’s something called hard ice and soft ice,” Barry said. “Hard ice is no talking at all, and soft ice is low voices, and the more we talk, we get in trouble. Then we are silenced and have to listen to our iPods and not talk to each other at all while off camera … so it’s like being in prison,” the 22-year-old jokingly told the audience when asked about contestant relations on the show.

One interesting lesson Barry learned from his time on the show is the need for thick skin. In an episode when the drag queens were asked to personify different characters, Barry refused to do her part because she didn’t feel it was right to perform as an “angry black woman.” As a result, judge Michelle Visage critiqued Barry as having no soul, which has led to social media trolling.

“‘This is the hardest part I’m having with the show so far. Anything the judges say, the people believe, and that’s what I am finding hard to deal with online, because there are so many followers in this world. It’s hard to deal with because it’s comments like that that stick around, and people believe that now I’m soulless,” Barry shared.

Even though the fans of Derrick Barry don’t yet know if he has made it to the coveted top six, the drag queen ensured that one can only try by continuing to watch the rest of “RuPaul’s Drag Race.” At the end of the day, it was not an easy feat putting on the elaborate student drag show, but thanks to UCSB’s Queer Commission, the show went on without a glitch.
Le1f, Junglepussy Get Close with Hub

Judging from the success of the UCSB Drag Show the night before that turned away a long line of students after seats ran out, it wouldn’t have been unreasonable to anticipate that the Hub’s free concert to round off Pride Week would draw a big crowd. The concert began with a performance from Kitten, a relatively recent L.A. band who have also opened for No Doubt and Paramore. They were followed by Junglepussy, a New York rapper with a cult following who has attracted the notice of artists like Nicki Minaj and Erykah Badu, and headlining the concert was big-name queer artist Le1f. Le1f’s most popular song “Wut” has over 3 million hits on Youtube, but, based on the turnout on Friday night, it seems very few of them came from UCSB students.

Third-year theatre and dance major Eleanor Gribbin, who was visiting from UC Davis for the weekend partly because of the concert, was one of many surprised and disappointed by the size of the crowd, which seemed even smaller in the large venue.

“We arrived really early to make sure we would get in and then there was a tiny crowd, which frustrated us,” Gribbin said. “Perhaps the organizers were relying on the ‘big names’ to fill the room for the event, but the lack of promotion just led to the UCSB queer community seeming to be even smaller than I expected.”

It’s possible that this lack of promotion was due to the concert being organized last minute, since the Hub website instead said they would be holding an “Education for All Ball” that night, leading to confusion among some attendees. There was even a table at the event inexplicably covered in plastic masquerade masks, possibly intended for this cancelled event.

However, despite the turnout and a fairly late start, the performers did their best to make the evening a success. The drag queen emcee did a great job amping up the crowd with her irreverent humour and genuine enthusiasm for the acts, and none of the performers seemed to let the various issues with the event — such as fairly poor sound quality — get to them.

Kitten, the opening act, had by far the smallest crowd and gave an extremely high-energy performance, with lead singer Chloe Chaidez whipping her hair aggressively while singing. As an indie-rock band, it was an odd choice to open for two rap artists, but they nevertheless got the crowd moving and cheering even if no one seemed to know any of the songs.

Junglepussy by contrast gave the kind of effortlessly casual performance for which she is known, not dancing as much as the other performers but still a commanding stage presence. Her lyrics are boastful and antagonistic, but also humorous enough that the audience is always aware she is playing a character, often one that seems to parody contemporary male rappers. Her playful confidence and unapologetic crassness would be enough to make her charming, but her music is elevated further by her commentary on the reality of being a black woman. Lyrics such as “Compliment her if she’s light / If she’s black don’t get her hype,” in “Pop For You” send up serious social issues like colorism but in a way that is succinct and punchy.

This made her a fantastic artist to pair with headliner Le1f, whose lyrics frequently address complicated political issues, even if this can sometimes escape notice beneath his incredible beats and rapid-fire flow. His song “Hey” features the lyric “Ask a gay question / Here’s a black answer,” sending up his presentation as merely a “gay rapper” in mainstream media and how the ways in which his sexuality and race intersect are often ignored.

The fact that his delivery is quite low and not so loud meant his performance was the most adversely affected by the venue’s poor sound. Still, Le1f is not only a great rapper, but also a fantastic producer and dancer and honestly could have stopped rapping entirely and still given an incredible performance. Even his style was impressive; he somehow got his fairly long braids to stick straight up like antennae and his energy only seemed to increase as the performance went on, culminating in him jumping over the barrier and dancing in the crowd.

Third-year theology student Claire Nuttal noted that in this way the small crowd was almost a positive since “the performers capitalized off the intimate setting by interacting with the audience members and joking around on stage.”

“I came expecting great music,” Nuttal said, “but didn’t anticipate the incredible feelings of inclusivity, pride and celebration emanating from the artists and the crowd in equal parts.”
Struggling to Resemble a Democracy

In case you haven’t heard, it’s an election year. Every election that occurs is touted as the election that could potentially determine the future of our country, but in this case it could very well be true. For many of us in university, this is the first election by which we feel as though we’re really affected, and we have a vested interest in electing a candidate who will speak to our needs and assure our futures in a time of violence, climate change — both current and prospective — and threats to women’s rights. Underlying the unavoidable anger surrounding this election is a national frustration and feeling that many aren’t being listened to. The middle class is disappearing and so are our voices. With the word “superdelegates” almost as at it is with corporations contributing citizens in the funding of candidates, I think it’s important to ask — regardless of your party affiliation or candidate preference — do you think we are still a democracy?

Superdelegates are delegates who decide on which party candidate to vote for independently of the will of the voters. This is actually something that isn’t new — in fact, party nominees were chosen by party elites up until 1972; only after that point were party nominees decided by the popular vote. However, the superdelegate system was later added to put a check on the will of the voters so more experienced party members could support a nominee they felt would have a better chance in the general election. In this election specifically there’s a lot of scrutiny placed upon this system — mostly because it’s the first time many of us became aware of it.

While some use the excuse that it’s a system that has existed for a significant amount of time and therefore isn’t broken, I’d like to assert that just because a system has deep roots it doesn’t make it a good one. In fact, regardless of how well the system works, I believe it is undemocratic. Sure, that isn’t always a heretical thing. If there were an executive action enactment that the people is needed to be to significantly cut our emissions levels, I certainly wouldn’t have a complaint. It’s a shame of laws that permanently protected women’s rights to healthcare and dismantled the factory farming industry was signed, I’d be jumping for joy in the streets. But regardless of your opinion on the matter of democracy, you must acknowledge that the superdelegate system is not consistent with the definition of democracy itself: “A government by the people, resp. rule of the majority, a government in which the supreme power is vested in the people and exercised directly by them or indirectly through a system of representation usually involving periodically held free elections,” (Oxford-Webster). We can agree that a representative given the position of superdelegate so that they can supersede the popular vote when the voters aren’t leaning in the direction that is “good for them” is problematic.

I believe the reason this process is under such duress now is the difference of opinion between the superdelegates and the voters is characterized by a fundamental difference in values that are influenced by the growing socioeconomic gaps between classes in the United States today. How can a superdelegate who has been in the public eye and has experienced a charmed albeit busy life presume to know the needs of the person working 60 hours a week between three jobs with children, bills and overwhelming student debt? The gap has grown so large in the United States that the people who are supposed to represent us can’t comprehend us anymore. The people who go to million dollar fundraisers and schmooze for a living are so out of touch with the people in Flint, Michigan — who can’t drink the water that runs from their tap — that it’s laughable that they could provide over their choice for a candidate because of what they think is right for their constituents. Is it any wonder people are skeptical of the system?

It is also entirely likely that the reason the system is under such scrutiny now as opposed to any other time and in any other election is that the burgeoning dissatisfaction with the political world and the campaign finance system is making people more critical of the people governing them, which they should be. When a candidate takes large amounts of money from any one person or corporation, one would expect them to lean a certain way on issues that their donor has an interest in. After all, wouldn’t a donor choose to finance someone whose views are somewhat in line with theirs? In that case, it’s hard to know who your candidate is listening to you or the corporations that are financing them. Superdelegates are an interesting frame when thrown into the mix. They’re often established party elites, and in this election — for those who catch them — the issue is that they not only seem to be leaning towards the candidate that represents the party elite but that they seem to be ignoring the polls in order to do so. In polling projections of the general election by alclearpolitics.com, Bernie Sanders polls consistently better against all Republican candidates than does Hillary Clinton. If the superdelegate system worked as it claimed it does, the superdelegate would be rushing to support Sanders to ensure a Democratic lock in the general election. Here’s another word defined just so we’re all on the same page: “Oligarchy: Government by the few; a government in which a small group exercises normal functions, corrupt and selfish purposes,” (Merriam-Webster).

Now, I’m not a conspiracy theorist. I don’t believe that every member of government is bad, out of touch or out to get us. But I do think that our government is structured to resemble an oligarchy more than it does a democracy. If we as a collective decide that one decisions are going to be made by a select few, let’s at least make sure they’re highly educated and respectable people. Instead, we have people who don’t believe in climate change making decisions for us while having all the money poured into their back pockets by the Koch brothers while we all look away and shrug to ourselves. The point of this isn’t to praise or condemn any one candidate; any affiliation shouldn’t matter for the purpose of this article because this isn’t about partisanship — it’s about the entire system. Regardless of your ethnic background, if you’re a citizen of the United States those are people who bled to give you the rights you currently have. They won’t hand them to us, and the struggle to give our democracy strength has forced our national identity into something stronger — even while we come from many different cultures. This struggle should not be taken lightly, and even in the midst of all the problems we face on a daily basis, we’ve found ourselves faced with one once. If we don’t protect the democracy we have and fight for more honest representation, those rights and our precious democracy will be taken away from us. Once it’s gone, it will be much harder to get back.

Sebastianne Kent is not a conspiracy theorist, but she can tell something is wrong with the way our votes are counted.

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