Street Names Lack Proper Spanish

Lacking skill in the Spanish language, early Isla Vista developers erroneously translated Spanish words for its street names.

When Fernanda Cerrato, second-year political science major, moved into her apartment on Cordoba Road in September 2015, she could not help but notice the incorrect Spanish in many of the surrounding street names — "Del Playa" seemed to her a mistranslation of "to the beach," which is properly "de la playa" in Spanish.

As one who was born in Sonora, Mexico, and moved to the Mexican-American neighborhood of Oxnard at age 14, Cerrato noticed much of the common mispronunciations of Isla Vista street names. She noticed when people mistakenly sound out the "g" in "El Colegio" with an English "j" sound rather than the "h" sound used by native Spanish-speakers like herself.

"I came from Oxnard, which was like 50 percent Mexican. Everyone knew how to pronounce things in Spanish," Cerrato said. "People here don't try whatsoever to pronounce the names correctly."

Bad Spanish seems to be all-present in Isla Vista's street names, and historians argue that these mistranslated titles are the work of I.V.'s earliest developers, who tried to keep up with the area's Spanish colonial theme despite not knowing much Spanish.

Landowners Pauline and John Ilharreguy built and named the four major streets that run parallel to the bluffs — Del Playa Drive, Sabado Tarde Road, Trigo Road and Pasado Road — in 1925. Their Spanish names, along with the name "Isla Vista," were intended to keep with the Spanish colonial theme then in use by much of Santa Barbara as it rebuilt itself following the 1925 earthquake.

Several Isla Vista historians agree that the Ilharreguys were probably not good at Spanish. "Isla Vista" is ungrammatical Spanish for Island View. "Sabado Tarde" was supposed to mean "Saturday afternoon," but Spanish-speakers typically say "Sabado en la tarde" to mean this.

Historians also find the street name "Pasado" to be an odd choice. Had the Ilharreguys chosen "Pasada," the name would have meant "passage." But the "o" at the end changed the meaning to "overripe" or "spoiled."

Whether or not Santa Barbara county officials noticed the Spanish mistranslations in the titles at that time.

The Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors approved the street names for Isla Vista in 1925; however, it is unclear whether or not they had noticed the mistranslations of Spanish words present in the titles at that time.

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Whether or not Santa Barbara county officials noticed the Spanish mistranslations in the titles, the Board of Supervisors approved the street names for Isla Vista in 1925.
The Weatherhuman is drunk and is trying to grammar while publishing a paper. #halp

Tomorrow's Forecast: Ze still needs help.
Solar Panels To Be Installed at I.V. Food Co-op

The Co-op reached its fundraising goal of nearly $60,000 to pay for the solar panels; a ribbon-cutting ceremony is to take place after construction is completed this month.

I.V. Food Co-op was a good candidate for solar because of its prior commitment to sustainability. The panels are expected to offset one million pounds of Carbon dioxide.

“We’d rather have more donors giving less each than a whole project funded by a few people.”

- Kaylan Lamb

Family Student Housing Rent To Rise Despite ‘Subpar’ Conditions

The Family Student Housing Tenants’ Association argued in a statement Tuesday that the rent increase scheduled to begin this summer is unfair, due to what it says are subpar living conditions.

The Family Student Housing Tenants' Association both agreed to this proposal, with a stipulation that the rates raise to fit the long-term plan at the end of the two-year period.

Now that construction for Sierra Madre apartments is complete, the proposed 9.2 percent rent increase for West Campus Family Student Housing makes up for the two years of frozen rent, according to H&RS officials. Combined with the annual three percent increase, this will amount to a 12.2 percent increase.

Jessica Parfrey, Tenants’ Association Board president and West Campus resident, said the Tenants’ Association’s goal is to encourage the housing department to improve the living quality at family student housing, not to “shame” the university.

“There’s all this investment going on around us and no significant money being put into our living conditions, other than getting things up to code, which in my opinion is not an improvement to the amenities,” said Parfrey, third-year environmental studies and biological anthropology double major.

“The three percent is standard … it happens not just in family housing; it happens in all of our residential units,” said Jessica Fougere, placement service manager of housing and residential services. “So there’s always a percentage increase; because everything goes up in cost each year, the cost of anybody living anywhere goes up.”

Residents of university-owned housing have voiced concerns over the rent increase and explained that issues such as unsanitary living conditions, outdated plumbing and inadequate kitchenware should invalidate higher costs for student families.

“It infuriates me to think we students who come here with our families have to live in these conditions, whether we like it or not, because it’s all that’s available to us in the affordable housing shortage of [Isla Vista] and larger Santa Barbara area,” said Jessica Foster, a fifth-year environmental studies major and West Campus resident, in an email.

“I.V. Food Co-op was a good candidate for solar because of its prior commitment to sustainability. The panels are expected to offset one million pounds of Carbon dioxide.”

“We’d rather have more donors giving less each than a whole project funded by a few people.”

Lamb said this campaign has allowed her and other students to repay the Co-op for its service toward Isla Vista.

“They serve the community so much and they give back to the community, and it was really great to be able to give back to them,” Lamb said.

During the construction of the Sierra Madre Apartments, West Campus Housing rent was frozen for two years.

“West Campus is a half-dilapidated, subpar housing complex for student families,” said Brian Griffith, a graduate student who lives on West Campus. “We have lead-based paint in our homes. We have dirty water … We have, and have had, construction all around us for several years … If anything, these deteriorating living conditions deserve a rent decrease. So the least housing can do is freeze our rental rates as they are.”
The Mental Wellness Center will be hosting a party with food and a sunset walk with other Santa Barbara residents. East Beach Bathhouse, 1118 E. Cabrillo Blvd. in Santa Barbara. After the walk, the center will be hosting a party with food and live music.

The general registration fee of $50, or a student rate of $20, includes dinner provided by East Beach Grill, a T-shirt, food and entertainment. Registration is $50 or $20 for students. The event starts at 5 p.m. Friday at the East Beach Bathhouse, 1118 E. Cabrillo Blvd. in Santa Barbara.

Kirsten Wong
Reporter

The Mental Wellness Center in collaboration with UCSB Active Minds will put on the center’s fifth annual 5k Sunset Beach Walk for Mental Wellness on Friday. The event starts at 5 p.m. Friday at the East Beach Bathhouse, 1118 E. Cabrillo Blvd. in Santa Barbara. After the walk, the center will be hosting a party with food and live music.

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New SBCC President To Begin Post in July

SDCC president Anthony Beebe was chosen for the position from a pool of 42 applicants.

Santa Barbara City College (SBCC) named Anthony Beebe as its new superintendent/president on Tuesday, selecting him from a pool of 42 candidates.

Beebe currently serves as the president of San Diego City College (SDCC). According to a press release, he will begin his new position on July 1.

Jonathan Abboud, UCSB alumnus and member of the SBCC Board of Trustees, took part in interviewing Beebe for the position. Abboud said SDCC students who were interviewed as part of the selection process considered Beebe “the most empowering person they’ve met in their lives.”

“I am eager to listen and engage with the campus, the SBCC foundation and with the local community,” Beebe said in a press release. “I am eager to listen and engage with the campus, the SBCC Foundation and with the local community to foster strong relationships.”

Gaskin announced her retirement in October and will be ending her four-year career at SBCC after working in the California Community College system for 35 years.

“I appreciate the fine work of the Board of Trustees, the Superintendent/President Screening Committee, and college staff whose collective efforts over these past many months are resulting in the next leader of this exceptional institution,” Gaskin said in a press release.
UCSB Takes on 40 Acres of Restoration

UCSB is undertaking restoration projects to maintain ecosystems during land development

Natalie Overton
Staff Writer

As UCSB continues to increase development each year, it is required to undertake restoration projects to mitigate the ecological impact of construction.

Lisa Stratton, director of ecosystem management at Cheadle Center for Biodiversity and Ecological Restoration, has been working there since 2005, analyzing impacts of development projects, writing grants for restoration funding and communicating with officials on campus about mitigation efforts.

According to Stratton, the university carries out the restoration projects because of policies included in the Coastal Act and the Clean Water Act.

“Generally the goal of the Coastal Commission is to preserve and avoid impacts,” Stratton wrote in an email on Wednesday. “If that cannot be avoided, then minimize impacts and as a final, least desired alternative, impact the resource and do restoration somewhere else.”

UCSB’s 2015 Princeton Review ranking as the No. 1 Green College amongst public universities stands as a “point of pride” on the school website, and the recent construction of Manzanita Village won the Santa Barbara Sustainability Award in 2005.

When the university plans to develop and potentially damage the environment of an area, they must reserve an equal area for mitigation purposes, as explained in Section 30607.1 of the California Coastal Act. “Where any dike or fill development is permitted in wetlands [...] mitigation measures shall include, at a minimum, either acquisition of equivalent areas of equal or greater biological productivity or opening up equivalent areas to tidal action.”

For the university, the “equivalent areas of equal or greater biological productivity” are handed over to CCBER for mitigation. Apart from the Manzanita Village and Lagoon Park, current CCBER management areas include the San Clemente wetland, the lot 38 bioswale, North Bluff and the Campus Lagoon.

“Manzanita impacted a very small amount of wetland habitat and created a six-acre restoration area as mitigation along the bluff and lagoon edges,” Stratton says. Past projects, on the other hand, have not been so gentle. “North Campus Faculty housing worked around a bunch over very low quality wetlands and graded them and protected them with reduced, 25-foot buffers within the housing development plus did some mitigation on South Parcel.”

This kind of environmental degradation does not go without consequences. “A total of about 25 acres of restoration is happening because of faculty housing,” Stratton adds.

Manzanita’s six acres and North Campus Faculty housing’s 25, coupled with six acres of mitigation from San Clemente and three from San Joaquin, constitutes the mitigation aspect of CCBER’s restoration work on campus, according to Stratton. The total comes to about 40 acres.

For Stratton, the job takes an optimistic turn in light of the positive educational and environmental change she and her colleagues are creating. “CCBER manages about 250 of campus’s 1000 acres, and integrates hundreds of students in our work each year as employees, interns and volunteers who help with research and restoration.”

UCSB’s commitment to various environmentally sound practices has earned the university the No. 1 spot on the Princeton Review’s list of Green Colleges amongst public schools.

MENTAL HEALTH
Continued from p.4

a really joyous event, and we hope to have a lot of young people too.”

For the third year in a row, the center is partnering with UCSB Active Minds, a chapter of a national organization dedicated to eliminating the stigma surrounding mental illness and mental health disorders by acting as liaisons between students and local mental health resources.

Melissa Boomer, fourth-year psychology major and co-president of Active Minds, said one in four students has a mental illness in any given year, so “it’s something worth talking about.”

Cameron said the two groups share common goals of facilitating conversation about mental illness. UCSB Active Minds provides the “voice and energy of the young age group.”

“Their message is so in sync with ours that we wanted to work together,” Cameron said.

Boomer said the 5k walk is her favorite event of the year.

“The energy is just so positive, with so many like-minded people coming together for something that they’re passionate about,” Boomer said. “That feeling of unity and community is really special and it doesn’t happen very often.”

Still, the groups continue to aim to “bring issues about mental health out of the shadows and into the light,” according to Boomer. Melissa said starting conversations with events such as these is “the first step to getting help, and that kind of message saves lives. That’s always the goal.”
Donald Trump All But Clinches Republican Party Nomination

After losing to Donald Trump by double-digits in the Indiana primary Tuesday, Sen. Ted Cruz dropped out of the presidential race that night. Gov. John Kasich of Ohio did the same the following day, leaving Trump as the only candidate in the race for the Republican nomination and the party's presumptive nominee. After Tuesday's primary, Trump now has 1,053 delegates out of the 1,237 needed to clinch the nomination at the convention in July. Trump's decisive victory came shortly after a surprise alliance between Kasich and Cruz to block a Trump nomination, wherein Cruz wouldn't campaign in later primaries in exchange for Kasich agreeing not to campaign in Indiana. abcnews.go.com

President Obama Visits Flint, Michigan

President Barack Obama touched down in Flint, Michigan Wednesday to address the widely criticized water contamination issue the city's residents have been facing for years. He is scheduled to receive a briefing from Michigan governor Rick Snyder as well as state and local officials about the crisis, meet with a small group of Flint residents privately and deliver some public remarks before heading back to Washington. Many Flint residents felt Obama's visit is long overdue, saying that the Environmental Protection Agency should have taken more aggressive action in response to complaints filed with them as early as 2014. nytimes.com

International Spotlight

Ceasefire in Syria Extended to Aleppo, Remains in Controversy

The United States and Syria have reached a partial truce in Syria after officials from both sides declared the truce on Wednesday. American officials say the truce began at 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, while Syrian state television said it was to begin at 1 a.m. Thursday morning. Russia has not confirmed the deal, although it remains Syria's most important ally. Nonetheless, Secretary of State John Kerry announced the deal in a press conference and called Russia to honor the agreement in order to prevent a higher death toll. nytimes.com

“Bin Laden Bill” To Be Removed from Circulation in Europe

The European Central Bank announced Wednesday that the 500 euro (value ~$575) banknote, often called the “Bin Laden Bill” because of its popularity among drug traffickers and terrorist organizations for money laundering, will be phased out of circulation by 2018. This comes after renewed efforts to combat terror after the string of terror attacks in Europe. This note will be succeeded by 100 and 200 euro bills. The 500 euro note has been attractive to crime organizations because it can store a high value in a small space: the equivalent of $1 million in 500 euro notes would weigh just five pounds and fit in a small bag. nytimes.com
the UCen to reduce its $745,753 deficit.

Taylor said, adding that replacing Nicoletti’s is part of an effort by the UCen to improve the campus experience. "The main factor was the revenue," Taylor said. "That’s why we even looked into changing Nicoletti’s into a different store in the first place.”

Nicoletti’s will close at the end of July, leaving at least a three-month gap until Starbucks is scheduled to open on Nov. 10, according to minutes from a Governance Board meeting in April. Jillian Stout-Blackman, third-year sociology and global studies double major and barista at Nicoletti’s, said she first found out about Starbucks in the UCen by reading the Nexus.

“I was just kind of shocked and confused and I still am because no one really knows what’s going on,” Stout-Blackman said. “It’s just weird that the employees aren’t being told what’s going on.”

While Stout-Blackman said she rarely drinks Starbucks coffee, she said she would be excited to work at Starbucks because she has heard good things from her friends who work at other Starbucks locations.

UCen officials say current Nicoletti’s workers will have priority in applying to work at the new Starbucks location, although they will need to go through Starbucks training.

Peeter, the coffee roast served at Nicoletti’s, will still be available at other coffee locations like The Arbor and UCen Dining Services. Director Sue Hawkins said coffee carts at the Student Resource Building and Humanities and Social Sciences Building will still be branded as “Nic’s.”

The UCen will have to pay to renovate the new Starbucks location, but Samantha Moon, fourth-year statistics major who also votes on the board, said Starbucks is poised to make substantially more money than Nicoletti’s, although she and other officials declined to specify Nicoletti’s yearly revenue.

“I don’t agree with commercialization,” Moon said. “But what it comes down to is we need to fix the financial situation of the UCen and this is the best way to do it.”

After the establishment of the university in the years after, developers began consulting much of the untouched plans laid out by the Ilharreguy property and Coal Oil Point, submitting a map to the county in April 1926. Attorneys Alfred W. Robertson and James R. Thompson built three long roads adjacent to the bluffs, two of which joined in a loop on the east side of Isla Vista. They named these streets “Embarcadero Del Mar” and “Embarcadero Del Norte,” meaning “Ocean Wharf” and “North Wharf.”

The attorneys set aside the inside of the loop for the building of an athletic park, and they extended the four parallel roads built by the Ilharreguys. Most of the streets on this end of I.V. kept their original names except for Pasado Road, which was renamed “Sevilla” and later became Seville Road.

Robertson and Thompson also renamed the streets that crossed Embarcadero Del Mar and Embarcadero Del Norte: Cervantes Road, El Greco Road, Picasso Road, Segovia Road, Cordoba Road, Madrid Road and Seville Road. The developers named these streets after prominent Spanish artists and cities, but the streets only existed on paper. Despite much of the planning that took place in the 1920s between these various landowners, much of Isla Vista looked as though it had never been developed by the early 1940s. Historian Jennifer Hildreth Strand noted in her 1987 Master’s thesis that Isla Vista was covered with bean fields — a place “where ‘goats wandered’ and ‘roosters crowded.’”

The streets that make up today’s Abrego Road and Sueno Road appeared unnamed in a 1944 map of Isla Vista, when a U.S. Marine Corps base existed instead of the university. After the establishment of the university in the years after, developers began consulting much of the untouched plans laid out by the Ilharreguys, Robertson, Thompson and the Moody sisters in the 1920s.

The county formed an Assessment District in 1960 to pave and construct much of these roads. By 1968, a map of Isla Vista indicated the newly added roads Camino Majorca, Fortuna Road, Fortuna Lane and Estero Road. Abrego Road and Sueno Road appeared as named streets on this map.

Sueno Road appears to have referred to “dream” in Spanish, but the current spelling omits the "i" used in Spanish. Cerrato said it does not surprise her whatsoever that historic developers named many of Isla Vista’s streets with little knowledge of the Spanish language.

“This is a white community, so this is expected,” Cerrato said.
After being hired by the Los Angeles Lakers last Friday, Luke Walton might actually be an important factor in bringing a championship home to L.A.

UCSB Visits Long Beach for Conf. Championships Preview

Duncan MacPhee
Staff Writer

This Friday and Saturday, UCSB track and field will send a group of three heptathletes and two decathletes to Long Beach State to compete against other top multi-event athletes from around the conference in their section of the Big West Championships.

Many of the top athletes on the team will be busy preparing for the second section of Big West Championships, which will take place next week and feature all the top individual-event athletes in the conference.

UCSB is coming off a big performance last Saturday where its sixth consecutive men’s women’s sweep at Cal Poly in the Blue-Green Rivalry Meet. The Gauchos will look to build off that result and continue their success into these next two championship weekends.

“I think this past weekend brought a lot of momentum,” Distance Coach Peter Van Beurden said. “Everyone seemed to be starting to step up and perform based on the training they’ve put in all year, so I think we’re going to carry the energy from those wins into the championships and hopefully get it done.”

For this weekend, the Gauchos will have a reigning conference champion competing for them once again in junior decathlete Darion Williams.

He will be joined in his decathlon by two young newcomers to the championships, sophomore Tyler Nelson and freshman Wyatt Thompson-Siporen, who are both expected to compete at a high level this weekend.

While the three Gaacho men will be contending in the decathlon, a couple Gaacho women will also remain faithfully grounded and trust that their team will once again assemble the unique components that made them special winning.

“Change in Home Signals Kings Return to Throne?”

Elliot Thornton
Staff Writer

With King James and the Cavaliers, the reigning champion Warriors and the powerhouse Spurs all managed to breeze through the first round of the NBA Playoffs, teams not participating in the post-season continue to watch from afar and prepare for yet another offseason.

Despite their playoff shortcomings, the time off is still valued as teams are able to learn from their most recent miscues in hopes of making a top eight conference finish the following season.

For some NBA teams, the road to success may be more challenging than others, but for a franchise like the Sacramento Kings, the 2017 year could very well stand as their opportunity for growth.

As the Kings bid farewell to the aging Sleep Train Arena, a home court that has hosted the last 28 seasons and hosted three memorable Pacific Division title series, a pure sense of optimism emanates for its fans in welcoming their new state-of-the-art facility, the Golden One Center.

The Kings, a franchise still torn from their Western Conference loss to the Los Angeles Lakers in the 2002 Western Conference Finals, have experienced its share of unpleasant seasons since their pursuit of a championship.

Following its relocation in 1985 from Kansas City to Sacramento, the team has experienced a nine-year playoff drought since losing 4-2 to the San Antonio Spurs in the first round of the 2006 NBA Playoffs.

Despite a 65-year gap since the team’s first and only Finals appearance and title in 1951, Kings’ fans still manage to wake up every year with a sense of hope and optimism.

While King James and the Cavaliers, the reign- ing champion Warriors and the powerhouse Spurs are both expected to compete at a high level this weekend.

“UCSB Visits Long Beach for Conf. Championships Preview”

UCSB returns to Long Beach State next week for the Big West Championships.
Batter Up! Clark Swings Her Way to Success

Antonia Bird  
Staff Writer

Although only a junior, outfielder Kristen Clark is on the path to leave one of the most everlasting legacies in UCSB softball history.

This legacy stems back to Clark's first year as a Gaucho, when she delivered one of the most praised performances as a freshman in program history.

In just her first season, the young Clark performed at a veteran level, setting the single season school records in hits with 90 and batting average with an unbelievable .437 clip.

Nonetheless, her success as a freshman doesn't end there. Clark ended the 2014 season leading in almost every offensive category, finishing with 25 stolen bases, four triples and a .505 slugging percentage. These incredible numbers would earn her Big West Freshman of the Year, First Team-All Big West and Honorable Mention All-Pacific Region.

Clark began playing softball at the early age of six when her parents signed her up for tee-ball. Her interest in softball was sparked through her older sister, whom she watched play for a year before deciding to pick up the bat herself.

While Clark's older sister provided an inspiration for her growing up, she also admired watching pro baseball players, as baseball is one of her favorite sports to watch. There is one player in particular, however, who really stands out to Clark.

"I really admire Adrian Beltre. I grew up as a Dodgers fan back when he was playing for the Dodgers, and I liked the way he would just take a hack," Clark said.

Taking a hack would be the motto for Clark as she improved her batting average from a .407 to .438 percentage by the end of her high school career at Monte Vista High School. Before attending Monte Vista High, Clark attended The Woodlands High in Woodlands, Texas where she would have a freshman season much like the one that she would experience later at UCSB.

While only a freshman in high school, Clark led her team to a district title and was named the district's Freshman of the Year. She also earned herself a spot on the district's all-first team and all-academic team.

Although softball plays a huge part in Clark's life, academics have always been a priority. Clark was an honor roll student during all four years of high school, while also being a member of the National Honors Society, the California Scholarship Federation and the French Honors Society. Fortunately, Clark ended up at UCSB.

There were a lot of factors that made me choose UC Santa Barbara. Academics has always been a priority. Clark was an honor roll student during all four years of high school, while also being a member of the National Honors Society, the California Scholarship Federation and the French Honors Society. Fortunately, Clark ended up at UCSB.

In her sophomore year during the 2015 season, Clark was named Second Team All-Big West, tallying the third-most hits in Gaucho history and leading the team with 0.

Clack also finished the season with a team-high nine stolen bases. Throughout conference play, Clark improved her batting average from a .356 to .382 which ranked her sixth in the league.

Clark's ability and determination to improve, whether it's small or large improvements, is at the precipice of her game. Since the beginning of her high school career, Clark has managed to better her softball abilities and improve her game.

"I've always been more of a get on base type of batter," Clark explained. "And so this past year I've really tried to get a bit more power. Against Riverside I hit an over-the-fence home run so that was a big step for my hitting and offense."

Setting such high goals for herself has developed Clark into one of the team's strongest and most powerful hitters. This year Clark has continued to dominate most offensive categories, leading the team with a .420 batting average, ranking her third in the conference, and an excellent .480 on base percentage.

She also leads the Gauchos with 37 runs scored this season, and 17 stolen bases, ranking her seventh in conference standings. Since the beginning of Clark's softball career at UCSB, Clark has inspired her teammates with not only her numbers at the plate, but her drive and determination to succeed both on and off the field. As a junior, she will have huge expectations put on her by the team for her next year. There is little doubt that Kristen Clark will be ready to meet the challenge.
UCSB Students Descend Upon Coachella

Frank Horne & Alex Bocknek
Artweek Editors

What can be said about Coachella, that festival among festivals, which brings scores of UCSB students carpooling into the desert every spring? Apparently a lot; the Nexus hit Coachella 2016, and here are some of Artweek’s highlights.

LCD Soundsystem:

It is not often they announced that they’d be reuniting for a new album and tour in 2016 after their dramatically heartfelt and measured disbanding in 2011, LCD Soundsystem delivered one of the most anticipated and groover-y sets of the weekends. Soundsystem proved apt nomenclature, as main stage became scaffolded with keyboards, drum machines, synths and people to produce the intricately layered and progressive synth-bass band churns out. Frontman/visionary James Murphy and an arrangement of longtime compatriots like Nancy Whang and Pat Mahoney riffed seamlessly through their patented danceable tracks that make you think, like “Someone Great.” “Get Innocuous,” “Daft Punk is Playing at My House” and “Dance Yrself Clean.” They also paid tribute to some late greats, most memorably of Prince’s “Controversy” as he belted David Bowie’s “Heroes.” “I wasn’t a huge fan of them before going to the festival, but one of my friends convinced me to go. Their music was really powerful. Murphy’s voice was unbelievably good, and their performance definitely made me a huge fan of the band. The set pretty much defined all of Coachella for me,” said UCLA sophomore Andrew Gorin. Such a definitive performance makes the band a welcome addition back into today’s musical landscape: the promise of the buzz was well-kept.

Sheer Mag:

Sheer Mag lead singer Tina Halladay welcomed the band’s noontime audience at the Mojave tent with an admittely reticent “Hi, we’re Sheer Mag,” before tearing into the mic with the opening track off of their most recent III EP, “Can’t Stop Fighting.” Halladay carried a quiet yet detectable charisma about her — tough to detect from her notable refrain of crowd interaction but undeniable when her high-pitched vocals ground into a screen’s design — as she belted heartbreak ballads and grievances with the American political system. Even despite the limitations of the 30-minute set length, the low-maintenance, Philly-based garage band proved to be one of the most impressive sets of the weekend due to their unusual marriage of ’70s revivalist singing, fuzzy instrumental overlay and genuinely fun high-fi guitar riffs.

Courtney Barnett:

Courtney Barnett has been on the receiving end of quite a bit of accolade, with her debut album Sometimes I Sit and Think, and Sometimes I Just Sit making many 2015 year-end lists and earning her a Grammy nomination for Best New Artist. Her distinctive lyrical style always feels like aimless meandering through vividly mundane yet accessible scenes of poolside cushions as a conduit for profound thought exploration, while always remaining playful enough to land far away from any sense of pretension. During “Elevator Operator” and “Small Poppies,” Barnett was brought to her knees mid-guitar solo in an act of rocker-geist possession often caricatured in bad ’70s hair metal bands but perfected by the endlessly manic Jack Whites and Dan Auerbachs of the world. In between songs, she awkwardly chuckled and said things like “We like you guys,” or a simple “Thanks,” almost as if her manager told her she had to be nice to her fans. More likely, though, she’s just that lone person at the party exchanging clunky pleasantries, but is actually super sweet once you get to know her.

Anderson .Paak & The Free Nationals:

2016 is the year of .Paak. Born Brandon. Paak Anderson, the R&B singer, songwriter, drummer, producer and rapper has largely slipped under the radar of hip hop fans for the majority of his professional music career. However, 2015 was exceptionally kind to .Paak, as Dr. Dre plucked the rapper out of obscurity to contribute to a whopping eight tracks on Dr. Dre’s latest release, Compton. .Paak’s January release, Malibu, has garnered him widespread media attention, citing his compositional complexity, strong lyrical content and energetic live performance. .Paak spent much of his Coachella performance bouncing between his mic and his drum kit with the only consistency throughout the performance confined to the intermittent declarations of his catch phrase, “Yes, Lord!” and his cheek-to-cheek, white-toothed grin. Both Dr. Dre and Kendrick Lamar came out in support of the budding star, a testament to both .Paak’s talent and his future enshrinement into the pantheon of West Coast musical legends.

Sufjan Stevens:

After touring with an intimate and human set to support his last effort, 2015’s quiet and folkly Carrie & Lowell, fans didn’t know quite what to expect from the adeptly talented multi-instrumentalist in a 2016 festival setting. Flanked by a groovy Valleyke duo of backup dancer-singers, a kinetic brass trio and eventually a cropping of inflatable air dancers, Stevens delivered an extra-gantly theatrical act. There was banjo smashing, disco bulling and costume changing ( suf wore erratic costumes ranging from a set of gigantic feathery wings, a get-up of dozens of swaying and bouncing mylar balloons, to a towering set piece resembling a crucifix-like jellyfish). He blasting through Age of Adz touchstones like “Too Much” and the 25-minute “Impossible Soul.” Even his CCR cuts were arranged up to match the energy, culminating with a performance of “Fourth of July” in which Stevens and his backup cried out emphatically the refrain that “We’re all gonna die.” “It was a big change from the last time I saw him, in a really good way,” fourth-year biopsych major Roni Brawley said, who also called his timely Gallant-accompanied cover of “Purple Rain,” “moving.”

Sia:

The enigmatic Australian songstress held down main stage Sunday night with one of the most bizarrely artistic and moving sets to grace the polo fields in, possibly ever. Obscured in the corner by her signature black-and-blonde wig and a swelling oversized white bow, Sia let her belting voice, and a slew of guest artists weave her story of pain, depression and triumph. The set bolstered hits like “Diamonds,” “Titanium” and “Chandelier” with performance art conducted by the eccentric likes of a tearful Kristen Witig, a bionic dancer made of bolts and wires, Paul Dano, frequent collaborator and dance prodigy Maddie Ziegler and more, all unified under matching checkerboard wigs to make the songstress’ striking aesthetic. The love of artistry and the Tellers was unprecedented for the festival, especially when stacked against the droves of partiers shoving through the gapage crowd to camp out for Calvin Harris’ following set.

Speaking of artistry, the visuals at this year’s fest were notably more subdued than the imaginatively photogenic fare of previous years. Poetic King Kong, As the design studied behind iconic works like the enormous and mobile snail, astronaut, and caterpillar/butterfly mascots were conspicuously absent this year, and the Do Lab stage, while still a wonderland of LED and light, bass and PLURality, re-used its Big Fish stage setup, which debuted last year. Rumors have abounded about the hefty sum Goldenvoice hoisted over to Guns N’ Roses for their headlining gig, siphoned off from supporting more visual artists. Whether these are founded or not, the money must’ve gone somewhere; in regard to the huge “Besame Mucho” piece backgrounding the polo field, senior Lauren Gutchess scoffed astutely “Just because they’re in a different language doesn’t make giant words any more interesting as art.” Portals, a piece by Philip K. Smith, was a noticeable standout amidst the stagnation of the other works, reflecting and shifting subtly in light and color, as fourth-year Josh Swedelson noted, “like an Apple Store display crossed with the Hotline Bling.” As the people posed for selfies, Ed Sheeran’s photos in front of the piece’s glowing rings, opening their own portals into their lives and themselves to become a part of the piece, the mirrored slats reflected outward onto the other worlds for a few hours. Through music, art and, well, a lot of other things, Coachella offers portals into another universe for a weekend, one that it was a pleasure to get lost in.
Jojo Abot Charms MCC

Maximiliano Ochoa
Reporter

“Do it,” Jojo Abot whispered to me after her performance at the MCC Friday night. Her piercing command was directed toward aspiring artists: “Do it.” Create. Thematically speaking, the energy of the performance was heavy and wild; it vibrated through the MCC theatre.

Dressed up in a slick, powder blue jumpsuit and adorned with a wrap snaked around her neck that swayed behind her back, Abot was intimidating. Silvered, metallic paint smeared across her face symmetrically formed both an exaggerated brow and thick rectangles on her cheeks. The act itself was loud, punctuated and rhapsodic; her lyrics at times were indiscernible and difficult, but that is her style and it works. Taking a quick break after a particularly intense song, she spoke of Santa Barbara: “[It’s] so clean ... everybody is so rich.” She flashed a quick smile, baring bright, dangerous teeth. Laughter rippled through the audience.

Those present were drawn into a trance-like dance despite the limitations of the small seats in the sometimes too-warm room. Blue light danced off of faces and the screen behind Abot imposed video of the 101 freeway styled in a distinctive retro quality.

Before starting her next song, she laughed and said, “I want you to join me.” She motioned behind her as a command and kept her eyes trained on the audience, her desire clear. The call was answered first by one, then two, then a steady stream of audience members. The stage became crowded with bodies in movement. Abot’s energy grew as more of the audience slid in behind her.

Abot’s engagingness lent the space a feeling of possibility. It seemed that within that room anything could happen, or rather, she could make anything happen. After a particularly intense song, the music stopped. “That was our last one,” she said, then promptly performed two more. “I never want the party to end,” she cackled.

After the performance wrapped up and the lights turned on, the party didn’t stop. Everyone attending the show collected in the main room of the MCC, little webs of conversation floating in the air. One of these was spun by Alex Gallant, third-year environmental science major at Long Beach. “[She had] impeccable range. Her style was an infusion of jazz, ethiopean and reggae.” The vibrant energy of the show leaked into the mood of the room. People were animated and excitement was palpable in the air as everybody waited for the reappearance of Abot.

When questioned on Ms. Abot’s stage presence, Kennady Reason, second-year history major at UCSB, said, “She was really getting down and dancing.”

When Abot finally moved from the theatre into the lobby, conversation stopped, and a half-moon of fans formed around her. She greeted strangers like old friends, giving hugs and posing for photographs. As I watched her mingle, laugh and converse, her voice was like a spell, folding those who listened into a web of her own making. As I pondered the scene before me, her words from moments earlier returned to me: “Do it.”
Polyjuice, Butterbeer and Muggles, Oh My!

Kelsey Ferrara
Reporter

POLYJUICE POTION

After sneaking into Snape's office, we have finally discovered the secret recipe for polyjuice potion! Now you can make this mysterious brew in your very own cauldrons at home. While the original recipe took Harry and his friends a month to finish, our adaptation will only take you about 15 minutes. This recipe is for more advanced potion students, as it requires several different ingredients that may have to be stolen from Snape’s office.

The final potion is murky green in color with a texture similar to orange juice. Your polyjuice potion will have a slightly sweet and fruity taste. It also has a refreshing and fizzy flavor that reminds one of the bubbling cauldrons in the potions room.

Ingredients
- 1/4 cup orange juice
- 1/4 cup Sprite
- 1 cup water
- 2 bags ginger tea
- 2 tsp honey
- 4 drops blue food coloring
- 2 canned peaches (sliced)

Directions
Steep 2 bags of ginger tea in hot water for 10 minutes. Stir in 2 tsp. of honey and mix gently. Pour the tea and honey mixture, 1/4 cup orange juice and 2 peach slices into a blender and mix until everything is mixed into juice. Pour this into a new jar and add 1/4 cup Sprite. Your potion should look similar to orange juice, so add in 4 drops of blue food coloring to create a green, murky effect. Enjoy and make sure Snape doesn't find out!

A Harry Potter party wouldn't be complete without this magical classic! Instead of making the long journey to Hogsmeade, you can make this treat yourself. This iconic drink only requires four ingredients, making it easy to concoct and easy on your budget. All of the ingredients can be found in Diagon Alley or your local muggle grocery store. It takes under 10 minutes to make, meaning that you will have plenty of time to make a quick batch before rushing off to quidditch practice.

The end result is a frothy, sweet masterpiece that is topped with a thick foam. It is reminiscent of childhood root beer floats, but is much creamier and tastes faintly of candy and butterscotch. The sweet, bubbly flavor will leave you feeling nostalgic and ready for a “Harry Potter” movie marathon.

Directions
Pour 1/4 cup of butterscotch and 2 tsp. of butter into a cup and microwave for 30 seconds. Stir until evenly distributed, then add 1/2 cup of cream soda and mix. Make sure the butterscotch is not stuck to the bottom of the glass. Add a scoop of vanilla ice cream and enjoy a magical treat.

Celebrate Cinco de Mayo at Tierra Mia

Tiffany Velazquez
Reporter

Somewhere on popular Pacific Blvd. in downtown Huntington Park lies Tierra Mia. The coffee shop opened its second location here roughly six years ago, offering Latin flavors and outdoor seating to those out shopping on the busy street.

While its prices are roughly the same as a typical coffee chain, Tierra Mia offers a nice reprise from the typical assortment of coffee drinks. With a menu consisting of Latin-inspired drinks such as the Horchata Latte and the Chocolate Mexicano Frappe, it is no wonder it has been referred to as being “like a Mexican Starbucks.”

I made a visit to Tierra Mia on my last trip home. The Horchata Latte is, without a doubt, their best and most popular item, available also in the form of a frappe or muffin. I opted for the Horchata Latte due to the colder weather and, upon inspecting their bakery selection, ordered a butter croissant. My cashier was friendly, offering to warm up my croissant and quickly going off to prepare my drink.

With drink and pastry in hand, I managed to secure one of the few empty tables that day. I dug into my butter croissant, both flaky and delicious. My Horchata Latte, which had been prepared with a foam heart, was topped with whipped cream and cinnamon. I found the drink to be immensely satisfying. The drink is creamy with a cinnamon taste that was in no way too sweet. The drink left me feeling warm and cozy with a sense of home.

If you ever find yourself in Huntington Park or in any of the four other Southern California locations, I recommend heading over to Tierra Mia and trying one of the many Latin-inspired drinks they have to offer.
CLAS A.C.E. Chemistry Sections Gain Popularity

The A.C.E. course was created after the CLAS staff noticed that most students on academic probation had taken the Chemistry 1A class.

Kristine Legaspi
Reporter

“Part of the point of the A.C.E. Chemistry Program is to create a sense of solidarity, mutual aid and shared effort among the students in the class.”

– Jay Stemmle

I hope participants walk away with the idea that there is not one specific way to pursue your education, but continuing to pursue education after four years is likely to lead to meaningful experiences.

– Mario Castellanos

The 20 undergraduate participants engaged in an in-depth discovery of academic and career opportunities in applied conservation science research, and public science homeland without fear of death.

Stephanie Pernett
Science Editor

UC Santa Barbara has expanded its pilot program for underrepresented students in science fields, funding yearly trips for local students to conduct research in Virginia under the mentorship of scientists.

In total, 20 students from UCSB, Ventura College, Santa Barbara City College, Oxnard College and Hancock were chosen to fly to Virginia’s Smithsonian-Mason School of Conservation last year to be a part of the first cohort that would explore academic and career opportunities in applied conservation sciences.

This year, UCSB and the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute (SCBI) have successfully expanded the program into two weeks, and hope to see a six-week program in the future.

Mario Castellanos, executive director of the Office of Education Partnerships, said the UCSB-Smithsonian Scholars Program is designed to help first generation students experience a lab environment while building a support group in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (S.T.E.M.) fields.

“This was an opportunity for us to kind of pique student’s interest,” Castellanos said. “Especially with things going on locally. There’s a lot of good S.T.E.M. resources here in our community.”

Students such as Diego Ruvalcaba, a second-year studying mechanical engineering at Ventura College, were individually recruited by advisors. Those who worked with the Mathematics Engineering Science Achievement (M.E.S.A.) program were likely to be selected.

“Each of the campus contacts that we had really knew those individual students, and so when we did the program last year, we had them tell us a little about the student and who they thought was a good fit,” Erica Johnson, UCSB P-20 Coordinator, said. “We just maintained communication with them and we did the same here.”

For many of the students, including Ruvalcaba, it was their first time participating in a research lab environment.

“I would either be doing a lab, field work, be involved in classroom discussion or networking with guest speakers. Some topics we covered were meadow ecology, how to extract DNA and conservation genetics,” Ruvalcaba said. “We evaluated chytrid fungus from amphibian species and then compared them to DNA samples from a pond filled with amphibians. If we repeat this to the surrounding ponds, it would determine the infected region.”

In addition to the summer program, which will be funded through the summer of 2017, the partnership with the Smithsonian has allowed for other student opportunities, such as traveling to Santa Rosa Island in June to learn about geological and biological communities. Currently activities, webinars and presentations of biologists and professors are being held throughout the year as way to appeal to students’ interests.

For the full story, see daily nexus.com.

I have seen at least a mod of tears shed in my office over this one class,” Stemmle said. “I got interested; how could this possibly be so hard?”

Last year, Stemmle sat in on a chemistry lecture to better understand the complaints.

“I thought that Chemistry 1A would be easy. It’s an introductory undergrad class after all. Man, was I arrogant,” Stemmle said. “If a grade had gone onto my transcript for that winter in Chem 1A, it would have been an F. Not even a D-. Not even an F-. I was so embarrassed and confused. She had never gotten an F. It filled me with anxiety. So then I understood, really, what all these tears were about.”

She gave a presentation of her experience to her colleagues, and they formed the CLAS Task Force shortly after to help students perform better in Chemistry 1A.

Stemmle and her colleague, Emma Cristofani, interviewed several students to find the source of the problems, deciding that smaller study sections would give the students an opportunity to discuss specific content.

“We received a Michael D. Young Grant to try the program, and that’s how the A.C.E. Study Teams were born,” Stemmle said.

The A.C.E. Chem CLAS program has also teamed up with UCSB’s Education Abroad Program to help students in their chemistry classes. Because CLAS is working with EOP on the project, EOP students get priority enrollment to study groups.

The Study Teams provide academic skills lessons in addition to problem solving built into their curriculum. After the students’ midterm, tutors review “habit adjustments” that can improve test results.

“Also, because the Study Teams are small, the tutors can really see each student’s strengths and weaknesses,” Stemmle said. “The idea is that if you’re not getting it, your tutor will know and you don’t have to get up the courage to get your hand in the air to call attention to your confusion.”

According to Stemmle, a common misconception about Chemistry 1A is that the curve dictates that a certain percent of students enrolled in the class will receive non-passing grades and that the students are in competition with each other.

“Part of the point of the A.C.E. Chemistry Program is to create a sense of solidarity, mutual aid and shared effort among the students in the class,” Stemmle said. “But you don’t have to be in A.C.E. to generate this dynamic; you just need to talk to the people sitting next to you.”
**DAILY HOROSCOPE**

Aries (March 21-April 19) -- Today is a 7 -- The Full Moon lunar eclipse begins a new phase in a partnership. It can get spicy. Independent efforts advance. Consider new work projects. New work could mean new location. May have to work extra. Consider new location for work. Take new work project too far.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) -- Today is a 7 -- Today’s Full Moon lunar eclipse in Libra opens the door to a new level of personal relationships. Changes require adaptations. Modify careful plans. Reschedule as necessary. Sort, organize and file. Stay true to your long-range plans. Set your own course, and prioritize excellence.

 Gemini (May 21-June 20) -- Today is a 7 -- What you’re learning is broadening your perspective. A new six-month phase in fun, romance and games opens with the Full Moon lunar eclipse. New perspective blurs the line between work and play. The one having the most fun wins.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) -- Today is a 7 -- A turning point with home and family arises with the Full Moon eclipse. An investment in real estate could tempt, or your clan may grow. Make sure to read the fine print. Revise documents carefully. Reserve energy and resources for when needed.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Today is an 8 -- Get things in order today and tomorrow. File papers. Avoid risk, travel and stress. With the Full Moon eclipse in Libra, a new six-month stage develops around communications and intellectual discussion. Talk about liberty, justice and freedom. Contribute to a larger conversation.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Today is a 7 -- Keep confidences today and tomorrow. A financial turning point arises with today’s Full Moon eclipse. There’s an opportunity to take bold new ground over the next six months. Prudent savings contributes. Stash funds for a rainy day. Take advantage of new income potential.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) -- Today is a 7 -- Today’s Full Moon eclipse is in your sign, empowering independent thought, a new look and a strong stand. Fly, and be free. Give thanks for the ones who went before. Speak out for those with less. Make corrections as needed. Be gentle with yourself and others today.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) -- Today is a 7 -- This Full Moon eclipse presents a turning point regarding sorrows, secrets and mysteries. The next six months favor spiritual insight, meditation, and personal peace. Tap into your musical and artistic creativity. Avoid arguments today, and get into your studies and education.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) -- Today is an 8 -- Friendships and community participation take focus during this eclipse. Group involvement flourishes over the next six months. Maintain your sterling reputation. If you mess up, own it and move on. Cleaning up messes gets granted or denied over the next six months. A financial turning point arises with the Full Moon eclipse. New perspective blurs the line between work and play. The one having the most fun wins.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Today is a 7 -- Show your love through your actions. A rise in status and reputation provides freedom (and happiness). Don’t make expensive commitments today. A turning point develops with today’s Full Moon eclipse. There’s an opportunity to take bold new ground over the next six months. Prudent savings contributes. Stash funds for a rainy day. Take advantage of new income potential.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) -- Today is a 5 -- A new six-month phase begins with today’s Full Moon eclipse regarding your education, studies and travels. Philosophical and spiritual conversations draw you in. Inquire into fundamental questions. Take on new responsibility in life. Engage in new learning opportunities today. Ask for assistance if needed.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) -- Today is a 7 -- A turning point develops with this Full Moon lunar eclipse in the area of shared finances. Pay taxes and debts, review budgets and take actions to grow the family fortune over the next six months. One phase ends and another begins. Support your partner through changes.
Deactivate to Reactivate

I finally feel free from myself. It’s like taking a sip of your favorite tea 24/7 or always being hugged by the person you love most. With this new life, I am also free from the real or imagined judgments of other people, and there’s nothing more fulfilling than living without this self-destruction. That being so, this freedom is one I want to share with you in hopes that you will free yourself if you are otherwise imprisoned.

One of the best places to start unbound life is by letting go of social media. I know it sounds simple, but it’s fucking powerful. If you deactivate your Facebook, you may experience freedom. If you shut down your Instagram, you may be more compassionate. I’ve recently become a better me, and this has been a direct result of deactivating my social media accounts for two months. I feel more grounded. I feel more loving. I feel less judgmental. This is a better me, and the beginning of this self-development was merely one magic touch away. So, I want you to click it all away, too. Click away your problems and turn off your things, because you are not a thing. Today, you have the power to turn yourself back on and it’s perfect to do it again, good baby!

Let’s start a new life in the mornings together. I have experienced two ways of waking up and there’s only one that brings me joy. One of them is how I spent my mornings, afternoons and nights since I made Facebook and Instagram accounts, and the other is what happened to me when I deactivated both accounts for the past two months.

Scenario #1: Wake up, but not really...

It’s 7:37 a.m. on a busy Del Playa morning, and the ocean greets you in a breeze along your window pane. It’s an invigorating beginning, but you don’t feel it. The tragedy of waking up is that you don’t notice the world. You’re only with yourself and in this lovely new you are deceived in believing that your morning starts off with many other people because of the notifications you wake up to. But let’s face it, Mama Earth cares for you in a way that online presence never could.

I check how many likes I got on my profile picture. I’m nervous that too many girls liked it and not enough boys. I check how many people have read, liked and shared my articles on the Daily Nexus. I get nervous that not enough people like me anymore. Does my writing make them judge me in a way I wouldn’t want them to? I check how many people tagged me in pictures. Do I look good? Do people think I’m smart? I decide to change the quotes under my personal information tab. I go on Tinder. I die a little inside. I have no new matches. I hate myself. I want to change everything about myself in real life so I can be more appealing in a fake world. I hate myself.

Ten minutes have passed and you’re still not conscious. Your hands are preoccupied by phone addiction and you forget to clean your face. You forget to brush your teeth and you forget to dress yourself in a way that is tender and self-loving. You do not read a verse of poetry before waking up and you refuse to stretch because it’s getting late and you only have time to press the refresh button. You forget to pledge to universal growth in sustaining a better day, but you did write a status about it yesterday and that’s enough to make you feel committed to living a life worth living. Whatever other people see and think is the most important aspect of waking up and carrying out intention nowadays.

I can’t stop searching my phone, but then I try to remember what waking up used to be for me. There was my childhood routine of snoozing the alarm, moving to the window to open the blinds and trying to fall back asleep. I would finally rise from my pillows with fresh drool on my PJs, hitting the snooze button and feeling silly enough to write something funny. I would roll over to my journal and ignite its blank pages with my sunrise soul and have poetry for breakfast. I would wake up experiencing what it means to be a person. But today, my drought-ridden journal is burning. My poetry is dying, and my soul, in its silencing of such experiences, is dying. It only takes 10 minutes of a new routine to kill me.

You are not in tune with the rebirth of day because your news feed demands your attention. The morning was not to be with you, but you would rather be with pictures of the ocean instead. You upload your picture of last week’s sunrise and wait to see who approves of your nurture-loving, self-compassionate, artistic aura. You wait and wait and wait all day, so you can see if you break your previous records of being famous (only in your own mind because you’re not fucking famous).

Here, I am not anything I can love. I am not mysterious. I am not intimate with myself. There is no privacy, meaning no anonymity or room for mistakes. I miss adventure and a life I love to be a part of. I need a change.

Scenario #2: This is real life, baby!

It’s February and you deactivate your Facebook. You are going through some self-development because you refuse to hate yourself for any longer and you refuse to let the opinions of others get you down. You don’t want to judge other people, either. You want to get to know people and have the privilege to learn about their opinions, beliefs and passions as a result of building a relationship. Facebook makes you hate people.

Click, Deactivated. Clicking away all of my problems; now I’m just doing me. Feb. 27, 2016, I stopped clicking away my life.

Now, two months have gone by. I do not have social media apps on my phone. I notice the silence of mornings mixed with the ocean’s gorgeous roars and I am ready to live. Social interactions don’t make me nervous anymore. This is freedom. I don’t have to anticipate telling someone that story attached to my posts online. I feel so good. I don’t have to be anyone at all.

When I get out of bed the air feels good. I am lucky to be privileged and alive. I didn’t take any selfies today and I didn’t take any selfies yesterday. I don’t do a hunch and hold my breath, sucking in my tummy to upload a picture of my gym progress. I don’t check how many likes that guy texting me or not texting me has on my pictures and I don’t creep his profile for likes from other women. I don’t see my family members uploading articles that I don’t agree with and therefore, I don’t give them an immature silent treatment at the next family party. I don’t have to worry. I feel less judgmental, and thank God for this. I feel more grounded.

I am on my phone way less. I sit with myself on the bus without a phone in hand. I am willing to read flyers and spontaneously go to events by myself. I meet people and cherish moments because I know that without using social media, I may never see them again. There are no obligations to talk about politics or feminism or promote an event coming up that I really believe in, even though these things come up anyway because they are a part of who I truly am. There is no starting a conversation with, “I saw on Instagram that your mom came to town” or, “Congrats on getting that position! I saw it on Facebook!” I am becoming less egotistical, which is what I need. I became accustomed to promoting myself on Facebook and completely objectifying myself in this egocentric, dehumanizing society. No more time or soul room for that bullshit.

Scenario two was the most cleaning experience of my life and I urge you to try this. I was so stuck in scenario one that I felt lifeless. Deactivate your accounts to reactivate your life. So many amazing experiences came out of turning off social media. First, I started to care less about what people thought (those that thought in terms of social media images) and more about what I valued. I deconstructed why I didn’t like certain people and trained myself to stop judging others based on what I hear from others. I felt free. I stopped pursuing guys who were not into me. I did not change myself to grow on certain people. I was self-compassionate. I did not say derogatory comments to myself as often as before. I started to take less pictures altogether. I turned off my phone a lot and felt so much happier. I had fewer obligations, which is what I needed in the state I was in. I had no one to answer to. It was a lack of taking responsibility that healed a lot of other areas that needed attention.

When you delete social media, you are finally free. You are anonymous in a town that you’ve lived in for four years. You don’t feel insecure if you have always had insecurities. Things online do not define how the world perceives you when there is nothing online to be judged. There’s no more idealizing other people based on what they post without really knowing them, and upon meeting them, feeling confused about how they are with you in a specific setting. It can be quite disappointing when this happens, or when other people think your projections online are how you are always supposed to be in person. If you are in an otherwise opposing state of mind or emotional place, you are then perceived as disingenuous. None of that! You now have time for hobbies. You put personal invitations to send out via text message or in-person embraces that you wouldn’t have gotten before. You are feeling fun, spicy and ready to do whatever the day has in store for you. You get to know yourself better and others better.

You only spend time with people who you really want to and you live a more lovely life.

I did jump back on that social media train as of a week ago, but only with Facebook. I felt my social anxiety coming back when I first reactivated a world that seemed like impending doom. I was generating self-destructive thoughts again. The difference this time was that I stopped these thoughts early on. I deactivated Facebook while remembering social media is not my life anymore. Real life can never be controlled by what is posted online. I reminded myself that I valued people as they are away from social media and myself as I am away from it as well. I wanted to challenge myself and keep Facebook because I felt ready to enter this space in a less dependent way. I have my Facebook now, but I forget about the online world because it’s not the best world to live in. Now I naturally spend my time in the real world.

Rest assured that if you go on a social media detox for a couple of days, weeks, months or years, you will feel more competent and rejuvenated.

Create something real again. Become your truest, most loving self. This is a different life out there for you and it’s one that has been begging for your attention. I hope you go out without your phone and delete your social media apps. I hope you delete your profiles and see what happens. It’s a fun experiment and soon you will forget what it’s like to wait on a network that cannot nurture you the way a spontaneous hike can, or a true friendship.

Leilani Leilani Radin hopes your life is all you’ve dreamed of and more. Deactivate it to reactivate it.