

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA BARBARA

Opinion: Genuine Feminism, or Just for Profits?

Hannah Jackson
Asst. Opinion Editor

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

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

At the onset, it seems great that mainstream companies like Urban Outfitters and Free People are jumping at the chance to support female sexuality. But after a closer examination, I am hesitant to buy into the free love narrative fed by a company in which only 22 percent of the executive board is comprised of women. Maybe I’m just jaded, but for some reason, I am reluctant to believe that a bunch of older men of the Urban Outfitters board are super on board with the narrative of women loudly and proudly owning their sexuality.

These companies care about your money, not your orgasm. They seek to capitalize off of the generational phenomenon of social media-engendered sex positivity and outward displays of female sexuality, and they’re succeeding by selling \$29 eggplant emoji shaped vibrators and \$35 “sex dust” (which, let’s be honest, is overpriced ground herbs).

Urban Outfitters and Free People are no strangers to controversy. In 2010, Urban Outfitters published a picture of an already tiny model in a slouchy v-neck emblazoned with the phrase “eat less” and have since been embroiled in several scandals involving accusations of racial insensitivity, cultural appropriation and downright theft. Free People has additionally been accused of appropriating Native American culture for festival lines. When major clothing companies don’t care about being socially, culturally or racially sensitive, why would they suddenly flip the script and support what has been a sexual taboo for generations? They’re simply just looking to turn a profit.

Urban’s long and arduous list of scandals in juxtaposition with its sudden jump to selling vibrators, lube, whips and other bedroom-related products reeks of performative wokeness. Why would a company so notoriously nonchalant about apologizing for wrongdoings care about anything beyond their brand’s profit? When searching for products concerning one of the most intimate facets of a woman’s life, it seems illogical and counterproductive to patronize a brand that values business over people.

There’s a whole host of feminist companies that have been in the business of supporting female sexuality long before big companies sought out to capitalize on the “trend” of female pleasure. Good Vibrations has been a trailblazer in the industry, operating since 1977. Babeland, which has been around since 1993, is wholeheartedly committed to sex education and community involvement. There is a world of options beyond the cute, emoji-themed vibrator you see when scrolling through the Urban Outfitters website, and knowing where you’re putting your money makes a monumental difference.

Hannah Jackson encourages pleasure-seekers to look beyond the likes of Urban Outfitters and Free People.

UCSB Students Bring Waves of Pleasure For Valentine’s Day

Max Abrams
Asst. News Editor

Valentine’s Day doesn’t have to be all chocolates and roses. On Jan. 29, fourth-year economics major and music minor Noah Congdon announced on UC Santa Barbara’s Free & For Sale page that he would begin taking pre-orders for adult Valentine’s Day grams to be delivered across Isla Vista and Goleta. The basic packages, which would cost customers \$3.95, included chocolate and gummy candies, a heart-shaped candle, eggplant and peach emoji stickers and a handwritten tag. But for students looking for a little something extra, they could upgrade their grams to include a sex toy of their choice, ranging from dildos, vibrators, handcuffs or pocket pussies, for an additional \$6. All grams included free condoms and lubricant. To order a gram, customers were directed to a Google form where they could decide on what toys and treats they would like to order, Congdon said.

Laurel Rinehart
Opinion Editor

In the days before slut walks, pussy hats and #MeToo, the process of purchasing sex toys was anxiety ridden and shameful. Those in search of DIY orgasms would have to drive to a sex shop situated in a strip mall on the opposite side of town and peruse the aisles with eyes averted from the other customers, paying cash at the register to avoid a paper trail.

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

And they shop for sex toys not in a dimly lit hole in the wall, but in the wide-open, colorful paradise of Urban Outfitters. Thanks to this mainstream retail outlet and its new collection of “self-love” products, female pleasure is just as accessible as a ’90s-inspired slip dress or a coffee table book of dad jokes. Featuring items such as bath bombs, “sex dust” (whatever that means) and emoji-shaped vibrators, the line advances an indulgent, pleasure-centered understanding of sexuality that “empowered” women are demanding in 2019.

Though these products may not be direct political statements, their arrival in the midst of a feminist revolution is no coincidence. Urban Outfitters is just one name in a long list of companies that have capitalized on hot-button social issues in recent years. Through ad campaigns like Gillette’s “The Best Men Can Be” and Nike’s Colin Kaepernick commercial, brands have attempted to align themselves with the political sensibilities of their consumers. Many of these campaigns have received backlash from news and social media critics who believe corporations should not be hailed as trailblazers of activism for nominally supporting social causes in order to sell razors or basketball shorts.

It is true that brands are profit-driven and don’t always follow their activist lip service with donations to causes or specific calls to action. Among 18 to 29-year-olds – the demographic to which Urban Outfitters caters – approval ratings of capitalism have plummeted by 23 percent in the past eight years.

However, as much as we hate the system, we must acknowledge that companies are meeting disillusioned shoppers in the middle by infusing a much-desired sense of meaning into the matrix of material consumption. According to a 2018 survey, two-thirds of Americans believe it’s “important for brands to take public stands on social and political issues.” Right now, consumers are demanding more than just products; they hope to spend their hard-earned money on symbolic representations of their deeply held beliefs. Gillette no longer sells razors; they sell a positive and healthy form of masculinity. Nike no longer sells sneakers and basketball shorts; they sell a bold commitment to racial equity.

To the marketers at Urban Outfitters, a vibrator is not just a vibrator. It’s a symbol that their company endorses an open, shameless, modern vision of female sexuality. Yes, this statement is undoubtedly motivated by profit. But it is a statement nonetheless, and a positive one at that. The benefits of masturbation are numerous; the activity is known to reduce stress, improve sleep quality and improve body image, just to name a few. Unlike other controversial Urban Outfitters products that have profited off the shock value of things, like eating disorders and the Kent State shooting, sex toys are not harming anyone except conservative parents who don’t want their daughters to know what an orgasm feels like.

For a trendy brand like Urban Outfitters in 2019, delivering sexual pleasure to their female consumer base can only be seen as a savvy business decision. I would advise curious female readers to put aside their anxieties about capitalism for a few minutes, pull up the Urban Outfitters website and treat themselves to some much-needed self-love.

Laurel Rinehart thinks there’s nothing wrong with corporations getting on board with the trend of sex positivity.

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

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

After learning the project was due in February, Congdon’s group quickly realized that selling sex toys as part of a Valentine’s day pop-up could actually work, after previously tossing the idea around as a joke.

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

Congdon said the group project had only one rule: The shop couldn’t sell anything illegal.

Shortly after realizing their idea could become a reality, Congdon, along with group members Clarissa Requistas, Francesca Towers, Tommy Cen and Raymond Quan, began to map out the logistics of their project.

Congdon found that the best approach for attracting customers would be to advertise on sites such as Facebook, where he could reach a large audience but also spare interested students the shame of walking into a brick-and-mortar sex shop.

“We thought people might buy it for themselves. This is the perfect front to do it. It kinda, like, demystifies it. Like, ‘Oh, it’s a joke for a friend.’ If they wanted, they can gift themselves and not tell anybody.”

Regardless of their buyers’ motivations, Congdon considered the Valentine’s Day grams a success, noting that his group sold over 80 grams before closing up shop.

The grams are no longer being sold, as the due date for the project fell before Valentine’s Day.

SEX TOYS p.3

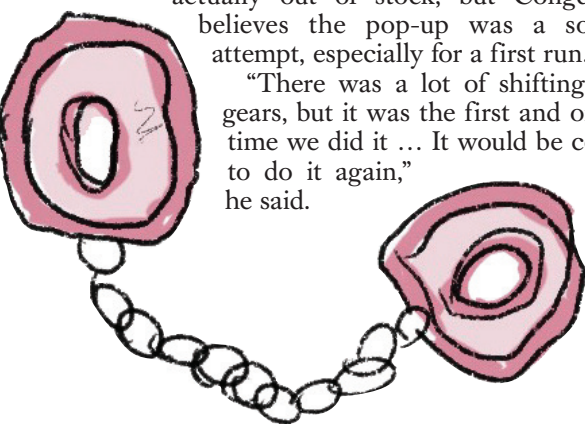
Sex Toys

However, as part of the pop-up shop, Congdon and his group pledged to donate 5 percent of their proceeds to the Planned Parenthood California Central Coast.

“It’s another way you can feel good about about buying a product for a good cause. We’re trying to demystify and capitalize on the [sex toy] market, trying to add to it to make it [as] least stigmatized as possible.”

After packaging the sex toys and preparing all the grams for delivery on Sunday, Congdon and his group are ready to please the masses with their Valentine’s Day gifts. The group ran into minor roadblocks, such as realizing some of their pre-ordered sex toys were actually out of stock, but Congdon believes the pop-up was a solid attempt, especially for a first run.

“There was a lot of shifting of gears, but it was the first and only time we did it ... It would be cool to do it again,” he said.



ALL SEX TOY ART BY PEYTON STOTLEMYRE / DAILY NEXUS



TINNA LAM / DAILY NEXUS

BSU Releases Demands to Address Black Student Resources and Success

Sofia Mejias-Pascoe
Asst. News Editor

UC Santa Barbara’s Black Student Union released a set of demands on Feb. 8 for the university to fulfill, which includes eight new paid positions dedicated to fostering black student success on campus and the creation of a building specifically for black student development.

These demands build upon previous ones that Black Student Union (BSU) presented to the university, first in 1968 and again in 2012. The most recent demands aim to address “structural hindrances on the development of Black UCSB students,” according to the list of demands authored by the BSU Demands Team.

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

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

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

“The University’s reliance on Black student intervention in what should be structured efforts to support Black students is unacceptable.”

The Feb. 8 demands include the following:

- The creation of an Office of Black Student Development “to support the Black experience at UCSB.” The office would include eight paid positions and would provide “resources, advocate for and help create a positive learning environment” for black students in addition to building a “sense of belonging” to bolster the academic success of black students.
- The implementation of a Director of Black Student Development, who would advocate for black students on campus and keep the university “accountable to Black students and Black student development.”
- The implementation of two academic support counselors dedicated to addressing the academic achievement needs of black students.
- The implementation of a recruitment and retention specialist to “ensure that the University is ... recruiting more Black students in order to increase our Black student population” and to focus on Black student retention. The specialist would also focus on “creating a livable environment for Black people.”
- The implementation of a coordinator of black student life, who would specialize in the social and extracurricular activities and opportunities of black students.
- The implementation of two advocacy counselors tasked with identifying the current challenges that black students face at UCSB and working to resolve those issues and help black students achieve their goals.
- The creation of a building on campus, which would be named the “Malcolm X Center for Black Student Development.” It would be solely dedicated to black students and would be a commemoration to the North Hall Takeover of 1968.

BSU estimates the total cost of the demands to be about \$900,000 and requires that this money be provided permanently by the chancellor’s office, as opposed to the Division of Student Affairs, and be allocated by February of 2021.

BSU also demands that the construction of the Malcolm X Center for Black Student Development begin within the same two-year period. This demand for a building for black students on campus was part of the 1968 demands set forth by BSU members during the North Hall Takeover.

“We believe that it is time that the University fulfill the commitments that it has claimed to have made to Black students throughout the course of the last 50 years. We want the entire campus community to know and hear clearly our struggle. We refuse to wait any longer,” the demands team wrote.

BSU met with Chancellor Henry T. Yang and other top administrators on Friday to present and discuss BSU’s demands.

Yang said he is willing to work with students in creating Office of Black Student Development in a statement he sent to the Nexus.

“I am supportive of the vision for an Office of Black Student Development, and have been working with students, faculty, and administrative colleagues to ensure that progress is made toward the first steps of planning for the establishment of such a significant resource,” Yang wrote in the statement.

The demands and information about the meeting were emailed to Nexus on Feb. 9. In that email, BSU expressed “frustrations” about an incident that had happened during the meeting.

According to the email, Maria Herrera-Sobek, associate vice chancellor of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, made “disturbing and insulting” comments which “belittle[d] the struggle of Black UCSB students and Black people by minimizing the Black identity as a whole.”

While discussing BSU’s demands, Herrera-Sobek reportedly expressed her discontent with a previous black administrator, who she felt centered efforts on the black student community and lacked attention toward the Chicana and Latinx student community, the email stated.

Herrera-Sobek also reportedly said during the meeting that she would have hoped the administrator spent more time focused on the Hispanic student community, adding that, “[W]e are all African,” according to the email.

“Black students across the board continue to be undervalued and underserved at an institutional level within university systems,” BSU wrote in the email.

“Our meeting [on Friday] proved how ignorant our own administration is to the plights of Black students.”

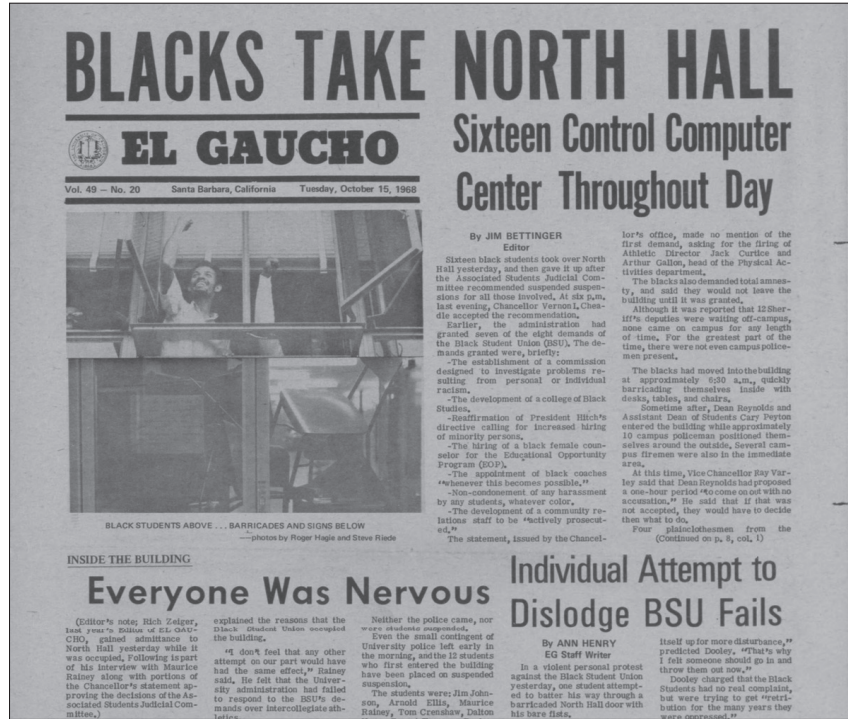
Herrera-Sobek said she apologized to the BSU members for the effects that her comments had in the meeting.

“I have communicated to the students that I deeply regret the remarks that caused them discomfort and made them feel marginalized,” Herrera-Sobek wrote in an email sent to the Nexus on Tuesday morning.

“I hope to have the opportunity for further dialogue with the students and to continue to find ways for my office and the university to support their needs and to address their pressing concerns.”

BSU said Herrera-Sobek’s behavior during the meeting was an “iteration of anti-Blackness” on behalf of the university, and something they said is familiar to the experiences of black students at UCSB and other schools such as Santa Barbara City College and California Polytechnic State University.

“It was troublesome for us to hear an administrator whose position is explicitly and solely dedicated to diversity and equity on campus use such apparent anti-Black rhetoric,” BSU wrote in an email.



NEXUS FILE PHOTO

BSU first presented the list of demands in 1968 during the North Hall takeover.



Weekly Events Happening in Isla Vista

Anti-Valentine’s Day Baile

Still in a goth phase but don’t know who to rock it with? Spend your Saturday evening at Biko Garage, and savor the love or the lack of it, at this one-of-a-kind Anti-Valentine’s Day Baile! Biko garage is conveniently located at 6612 Sueno Road. Nobody cares if you’re single or not, as long as you wear black. Tickets are \$3 at the door or \$4 after 10 p.m. All funds will be donated to the MUJERCitas conference.

“Ralph Breaks the Internet”

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

Cook a Free Meal for the Community

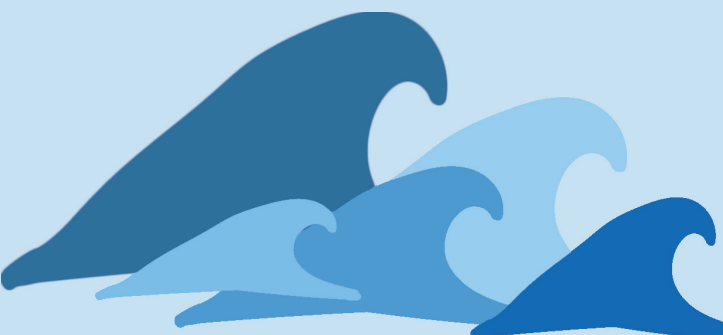
Food Not Bombs is back at it again with a Cook a Free Meal for the Community event this Sunday 2:30 p.m to 7:30 p.m. If you’re looking for five hours of food-filled fun, then look no further than this stomach- (and soul-) filling event. Stop by 777 Camino Pescadero and help cook free meals for the community! All meals are vegan and prepared using food donated from farmer’s markets and the Isla Vista Food Co-op. This is a tasty, fulfilling and fun event that you cannot miss!

Green Shopping

This weekend, the Isla Vista Food Co-op and Lazy Eye Shop will combine forces to put on a pop-up shopping event at the Co-op on 6576 Seville Road. From 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. this Friday, locals can browse through an array of upcycled clothes, shoes and accessories. Lazy Eye Shop is a California-based resale clothing organization focusing on the environmental benefits of the resale of used clothing. All items for sale were carefully picked out for resale by Andi Modugno, a Santa Barbara-based clothing collector.

Um...Magazine Hosts a Show

If you decide to stay in town for the three-day weekend, be sure to stop by Um...Magazine’s live band show on Friday from 9 p.m. to 12 a.m. Um...Magazine, a recently formed alternative magazine based out of UCSB, is fundraising by selling entrance tickets for party-goers to jam along in their garage to four bands/musicians who will be performing throughout the night. Attendees pay \$2 or \$1 if you follow Um...Magazine’s Instagram page to enjoy performances from Aqua Stallion, Jakob Akira, ChrisBaby and Careless Cub. Proceeds from the fundraiser will go to supporting Um...Magazine’s website, hosting future events and producing more content. The show will be going down at 6692 Trigo Road.



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Activist Jose Vargas Gives Speech at Campbell Hall

Caleb Brown
Reporter

UC Santa Barbara's MultiCultural Center and Undocumented Students Services hosted undocumented activist Jose Antonio Vargas at Campbell Hall on Tuesday.

Vargas is a journalist, documentarian and newly-minted author of *Dear America: Notes of an Undocumented Citizen*, which came out last year. He is also the CEO of Define American, a non-profit media organization dedicated to immigrant advocacy through storytelling.

Margaret Klawunn, the vice chancellor for UC Santa Barbara's Student Affairs, spoke briefly before the lecture, explaining that its purpose was to zero in on the diversity of undocumented people not often represented in the media.

Professor Lisa Sun-Hee Park, chair of the department of Asian-American Studies at UCSB, introduced Vargas by highlighting the significance of his lecture.

"Almost 30 years after the fall of the Berlin Wall, we have made borders and walls essential fixture[s] of our national identity," Park said.

"It is an ineffectual shortcut and unimaginative copout from dealing with the realities of a global world."

Vargas' appearance comes at a time when the nation approaches the possibility of another government shutdown over funding for President Donald Trump's border wall.

Vargas referenced this topic in his opening.

"It's really a privilege to be here tonight, considering the government may shut down again in the next couple of days, because we can't seem to want to talk about immigration without talking about walls," he said as he began his remarks to the crowd.

The theme of the night's lecture was "home." Vargas used his allotted time to attempt to tease out the contradictions in how "home" is conceptualized as an undocumented immigrant.

Vargas started the discussion by bringing up a seemingly trivial Bank of America email he received about his readiness to purchase a home.

"I saw this email on my iPhone, and the subject line is, 'Ready to buy a home?,' and Trump had just gotten elected President," he said. "At that point I heard from at least 30 undocumented people of all ages who are considering leaving the country."

Vargas said he had seriously considered leaving the United States for Canada, citing the prevalence of Filipinos in Toronto and the famous film festival named after the city.

Then he received a letter from the chief of staff for Nancy Pelosi, current Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, inviting him to attend Trump's first State of the Union as her guest.

He spoke about his decision to publish an essay for the *Washington Post* jointly with his attendance, saying he felt it was risky considering Trump's attitude toward immigrants, legal or otherwise.

Vargas puts his contention to those opposed to his existence plainly, sharing the opening line of his previously published essay with the audience: "This is my country, too."

Vargas read aloud a passage from his essay explaining why he felt compelled to attend the State of the Union despite earlier considering relocating to Canada.

"I decided to show up tonight [at the first State of the Union address] because that's what immigrants, undocumented and documented, do: We show up. Despite the obvious risks and palpable fear we show up to work, to school, to church, to our communities, in big cities and rural towns."

Vargas stressed the importance the immigration explosion presents historically, soberly noting the inability of "native-born" Americans to have this pressing conversation surrounding undocumented immigration.

"This country can barely have a conversation about [the] Black Lives Matter Movement without having a panic attack. This country can't even talk about Native Americans with any sort of nuance and any sort of import," he said. "Now all of a sudden we're going to expect that this country can talk about 43 million people? It's not a surprise that we are where we are."

Around 30 minutes into his lecture, Vargas addressed the central, basic question regarding immigration, legal or not: "Why do people move?"

Vargas delved into issues with U.S. foreign policy, particularly that of imperialism and colonialism, regarding his home nation of the Philippines. He referenced a conservative Tea Party event in North Carolina that he attended, where he said his response to a condescending question about Filipinos presence in the U.S. was, "Sir, *we are here* because *you were there*."

Vargas also called attention to the different ways that mass movements of people are framed.

"Why is it that when white people move it's called courageous, necessary ... Manifest Destiny [and] White Man's Burden. Yet when people of color move, what's the question? Is it legal? Is it a crime? Will they assimilate? When will it stop?"

Toward the end of his talk, Vargas revisited his recent book and the process behind it, detailing how the separation of the book into the themes of lying, passing and hiding came about.

"My editor did something that was really horrific. She said, 'I want you to go home for the holidays and I want you to list the Top 20 most painful experiences of your life,'" Vargas said.

"I listed 22. When I broke them out everything had to do with either lying, passing and hiding."

For Vargas, filling out an employment form for the San Francisco Chronicle was an especially poignant moment. At the time, Vargas was not a lawful permanent resident nor did he agree with the categorization of himself as an "alien."

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

"There was nothing else to check so I checked citizen, and whenever I checked it I actually convinced myself I was gonna go earn [citizenship]."

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

Even worse, he said he was 'hiding' from his mother, not having seen her in 25 years. She herself has been waiting for 16 years to come in the legal way from the Philippines.

Vargas closed the speech by asking the audience to raise their hands if they were U.S. citizens. He implored those with their hands raised not to take their citizenship for granted.

"We have a human right to move because migration is natural, and governments, including this one, should not limit those rights," he said.

"Home is actually not something I should have to earn."



RILEY ESGUERRA / DAILY NEXUS

Vargas spoke of his experience as an undocumented immigrant and the work he has done as a journalist and documentarian.

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



IDA KAZERANI / DAILY NEXUS

Senate discussed President Kopel's project during Wednesday night's meeting.

Evelyn Spence
County News Editor

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

The bill to create the position was introduced to the Senate by On-Campus Senator Zion Solomon and Off-Campus Senator Christian Ornelas. It passed unanimously during the meeting on Wednesday.

"There is a lack of concept continuity among incoming AS Presidents which can perpetuate a culture of unfinished projects that may waste AS resources," the bill states, arguing that Associated Students (A.S.) Presidents can be "limited" in their abilities to finish projects due to their one-year terms.

The creation of the position was one of Kopel's main projects that she hoped to accomplish during her term as A.S. President.

"Particularly with this office, and especially my projects, [these] are definitely more long-term projects," Kopel said in an interview with the *Nexus* earlier last week.

"Having that position is really crucial in making sure that there's no transition divide that would inhibit the projects from being carried through."

The position must be filled by someone who will be at UC Santa Barbara for the entirety of the 2019-2020 school year and is also familiar with the type of projects that the Office of the President takes on.

The filling of the position is up to Kopel's discretion, without prior approval from the Senate, the resolution states.

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

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

"Since all of my fellows are first-years, they will definitely be here next year and next Fall Quarter to transition or help the new president in any way that they can."

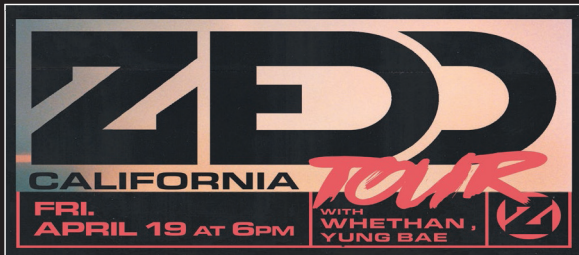
In an interview with the *Nexus* held at the beginning of her term, Kopel said that being in A.S. for so long, first as a caseworker within the Office of the Student Advocate, and then as a Letters & Science Senator for the 68th Senate, prompted her to create the position.

"There's so many fantastic ideas that students in these leadership positions [come up with] but cannot accomplish in a year," Kopel said.

"That's shameful that you have something that would be so beneficial for this community, the campus community, and it's literally just not accomplished because there's bureaucratic issues."

She admitted that the position may not fix the projects problem entirely, but believes that "attempting it would be a great start."

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EVPLA, I.V. CSD, Associated Students Lobby Corps Compile Report for Lighting Expansion in Isla Vista

Max Abrams
Asst. News Editor
Sean Crommelin
Copy Editor

On Jan. 12, the Office of the External Vice President for Local Affairs presented a report to the Isla Vista Community Services District detailing a comprehensive plan to improve street lighting in I.V.

The report touched on a variety of topics, focusing mainly on how to remediate I.V.'s current lighting situation, which many residents deem inadequate, according to the report. The report also covered funding, wattage increases and potential problems that could arise from the implementation of new lighting fixtures.

The report, compiled by the External Vice President for Local Affairs (EVPLA) Jeike Meijer, I.V. Community Services District (I.V. CSD) and Associated Students Lobby Corps proposes improvements to the existing street lighting situation.

The lighting augmentation would include street light wattages from 54W L.E.D. to 130W L.E.D. along the 6600 and 6700 blocks of Pasado Road and Sueno Road, the 6500 and 6600 blocks of Picasso Road and the 6500 block of Cordoba Road, Segovia Road, El Greco Road and Cervantes Road.

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

Altogether, the report suggests increasing the wattage of 73 L.E.D. street lights in I.V. The report calculated the L.E.D. updates to cost roughly \$21,900, or \$300 per each L.E.D.

Aside from detailing fixed costs, the report also noted that ongoing costs would be "funded though CSA 31's (County Service Area 31) benefit and property tax revenue," which has a surplus of approximately \$7,500, according to the report.

There are also recommendations to replace the remaining 38 High

Pressure Sodium Vapour (HPSV) street lights with L.E.D.s, due to their lack of efficiency and shorter lifespans, excluding HPSV lights on El Embarcadero and Pardall Road.

The report proposed the installation of 10 new street lights along Abrego Road, Pasado Road and Sueno Road. These street lights would be placed in areas that currently contain gaps between existing fixtures, according to the report.

The construction of these new street lights would cost an estimated \$90,000, according to the report.

The report acknowledged concerns regarding the increase in the wattage of existing street lights. Installing new lights could potentially erode I.V.'s "natural serenity" and increase light pollution, according to the report.

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

"Mercury mostly poses a threat to the environment, specifically when fluorescent lights end up in landfill waste," the report stated.

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

"There is strong support for a brighter IV and to the hundreds [of] IV residents that have made their voices heard. We will need the community's continued input in order to make more lighting a reality," he said in a Facebook post.

Although this is the most recent attempt to call attention to street lighting deficiencies in I.V., past efforts from community members have also attempted to address this issue, going back as far as 1972, according to Brandt's Facebook post.

Students, leaders and law enforcement officials also voiced their

concerns in support of upgraded lighting fixtures in testimonials from the report.

Many people's concerns about lighting deficiencies are rooted in concerns about safety in I.V., which some say would be increased with greater lighting in the area.

"Often when I feel the least safe is when I am walking back to my apartment through IV. at night, and I think adding more lighting would make me, and others, feel safer," Sarah Allen-Sutter, fourth-year psychology major, wrote in her testimonial in the report.

For now, some students, including Emily Montalvo-Telford, president of Students Against Sexual Assault, said they have to resort to other means for ensuring safety when walking through dimly lit I.V. streets at night.

"I feel unsafe. I am forced to walk quickly and I have spent many walks on the phone with friends in order to experience even a small amount of security," Montalvo-Telford wrote in the report.

Lt. Juan Camarena of the Santa Barbara Sheriff's Office wrote in the report that he agreed that increased lighting would be a viable way to mitigate crime and increase safety.

"Improved lighting means that offenders are more likely to be seen by someone who might intervene, call law enforcement, or recognize the offender," Camarena wrote.

The report also included a survey conducted by the EVPLA office which asked I.V. residents if money designated for improving I.V. should be spent expanding either sidewalks or lighting. Lighting was overwhelmingly favored, garnering 90.9 percent of the 187 responses.

The report proposed several ways to gauge feedback from the community about lighting issues and then suggested specific improvements for lighting expansion and renovation.

I.V. CSD, in collaboration with A.S., would co-host a Lighting Expansion Forum, which would give residents the opportunity to review the proposal and provide input.

Canvassing would also be carried out door-to-door, with volunteers giving information to residents about proposed changes and the lighting expansion forum for the public.



LEONARD PAULASA / DAILY NEXUS

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

Overheard at UCSB Commemorates 1st Anniversary

Sean Crommelin
Copy Editor

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

"I just want to know how it's Week Six *again*," a relatable Gaucho on the fourth floor of the lib said.

"Ribbed condoms *don't* taste like ribs," one curious Gaucho said.

"You can't treat them like people. Don't even make eye contact," a Gaucho who is tired of CALPIRG asking them to save the bees said.

The Facebook page has become a go-to platform for students attending UC Santa Barbara, a place for them to put a spotlight on fellow Gauchos expressing their frustrations, failures, joys and triumphs that define the college experience, but also the little things that make living in I.V. the unique experience that it is. It has become a part of the campus's culture.

As the page celebrated its one-year anniversary, the founders and current administrators of the group took time to reflect on how large the group has become and how an active community has sprouted within it.

Inspired by the popularity of Overheard at UC Berkeley, Adil Truong, an admin of UCSB Zesty Meme Cuisine for Horny Teens, created the UCSB Overheard page alongside current admins Ashley Ocampo, Jacky Chen and Mixe0 Vu.

"It started with the cultural clubs, which were comfortable with us, and [they] started posting. Then once it passed a certain size, other people were like, 'Oh, this is for everyone,' and they felt more welcome to post," Truong said.

From the start, the page grew quickly.

"It didn't take long at all; we advertised it immediately on the other memes page, so everyone just came over," Vu said.

"It was like a snowball effect; even people from other schools wanted to join," Ocampo added.

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

"More people are likely to complain about the same thing, and because of that people are able to relate to [Overheard at UCSB] more, which contributes to the popularity," Chen said.

Overheard at UCSB quickly adopted a unique flavor in line with the campus itself and the community of I.V.

"Each Overheard page has its own culture that kind of, like, reflects the culture of the college ... at UCSB it's kind of like a bit [of a] party school. You hear a lot of really inappropriate pieces of conversation," Chen said.

While Overheard at UCSB has grown organically with its community, the admins have had to exercise judgment in moderating content from certain users who have tried to hijack the page to sell products or simply commandeer the group.

"There are rules in place for a reason. Sometimes people try to make it their own page ... it's not 'Overheard from Someone Else,' it's Overheard at UCSB, and we want it to be about the campus, not a specific person," Ocampo said.

"There was a person on Overheard who posted multiple times a day, so we checked him out, and he doesn't even go here. He, like, looked up facts to make the posts more relatable, and then he tried to sell them on apparel. We've blocked him twice," Vu said.

Still, the admins believe that the page has flowered into a thriving community.

"I think, as long as people are willing to share their experiences, Overheard at UCSB has a place," Chen said.



ALYSSA LONG / DAILY NEXUS

Armchair QB



The Lakers dropped a huge road game against the struggling Atlanta Hawks earlier this week. Seems like Lebron really is more dedicated to making movies than winning basketball games.

Women's Basketball

The UCSB women's basketball team will host UC Irvine on Saturday at 4 p.m.. For more details visit dailynexus.com.

SPORTS

Gauchos Travel South for Two Pivotal Big West Matchups

Richard Benites
Staff Writer

Following this new week of play, only five more conference matches will remain before the men's basketball postseason officially begins. For the Gauchos, this means fighting for that top spot in the Big West, which may hopefully lead to an NCAA Tournament invite at the end of the season.

After last week's fixtures, which featured the Gauchos hosting a Big West doubleheader of their own at the Thunderdome, the team will now find themselves on the road this time around.

First, on Thursday, they'll travel down to take on the UC Riverside Highlanders. Then, on Saturday, the Gauchos will travel south once more to face off against the UC Irvine Anteaters.

Coming off last week's doubleheader, which resulted in a 70-64 win over CSUN and a 61-57 loss to UC Davis, the Gauchos will find an opportunity to turn the season back in their favor.

Already familiar with these two upcoming sides, UCSB will want to do the double over the Highlanders and find a redemptive win in the Anteater's own house.

As it currently stands, the Gauchos have an overall record of 17-6 on the season, equaling a win percentage of .739.

This week, the team will have its chance to improve their away record of 5-4. Meanwhile, UCSB's performances at the Thunderdome have been much kinder to them, as they boast one of the best home records in the conference at 10-2. The Gauchos are 2-1 in February, however.

Following this week's doubleheader on the road, the team will be able to finish strong as the remainder of their matches this month will all take place at home: a three-game stint against Hawai'i, Cal State Fullerton and Long Beach State.

The Highlanders have lost their past four games in a row, with the team getting collectively outscored by 80 points across that time.

An upset win over the Gauchos would do them the world of good as they continue to pursue a more preferable seeding in the Big West conference standings.

On the season, the Highlanders currently stand at an overall record of 8-17, a win percentage of about .320. At the moment, UC Riverside has been dreadful on the road, with an away record of 1-11.

However, their home record of 6-5 is much more reasonable, so the Gauchos can't take this matchup for granted. The Highlanders will be coming off a most recent 54-77 home loss to Cal State Fullerton last Saturday.

Historically speaking, the Gauchos have the all-time series advantage over UC Riverside. In 43 total games, UCSB boasts a record of 34 wins and nine losses. In their last match, the Gauchos also came out on top in a 72-64 home victory over the Highlanders.

The Anteaters season has gone quite the opposite compared to the Highlanders. UC Irvine currently boasts an impressive seven-game win streak, which included their 66-62 overtime win versus the Gauchos.

Above a .808 win percentage, UC Irvine is currently 21-5 on the season; they can attribute this success to their spectacular play when on the road, with their away record at 10-2, and when up against conference opponents, at 9-2.

The Anteaters will look to their home match against the Gauchos as an opportunity to further their lead at the top of Big West standings.

Historically, the Gauchos have come out on top of the Anteaters

in the all-time series with UCSB leading 52-39, across 91 total games.

Gauchos to watch for include sophomore guard JaQuori McLaughlin and freshman forward Amadou Sow.

Last time out, McLaughlin was one of two starters that finished in double-digit scoring.

He also added four rebounds, four assists and three steals to his name. Sow continues his prolific rim-protecting ways as he's coming off a game-high seven rebounds and one block to go along with the eight points he scored.

For the Highlanders, junior guard Dikymbe Martin continues to be the man with the plan. He currently leads his side in total points with 387 and total assists with 70.

Alongside him is freshman guard Dragan Elkaz, whose specialty is from behind the arc, leading his side in three-point field goals with 53 on the season. The Gauchos will win this battle in the backcourt, depending on whether or not they can halt the offensive distribution from these two.

UC Irvine's Max Hazzard and Eyassu Worku are the ones to watch for Saturday's opponents.

Hazzard, the junior guard, remains the leading scorer for the Anteaters with 316 points, and his 40 assists are good enough for third on his team.

Worku is the leader in assists, however, with a total of 81 on the season; his 198 points also puts him in fourth in total scoring, only 16 points away from being second place to Hazzard. UCSB will be facing a side with plenty of talented and productive players, but they should pay special attention to this dynamic pair.

This week's Big West doubleheader starts away at UC Riverside on Thursday, Feb. 14, at 7 p.m.. Then the Gauchos will be on the road again for an away bout at UC Irvine on Saturday, Feb. 16, at 9 p.m.



ANGIE BANKS / DAILY NEXUS

No. 6 UCSB Claws Past No. 4 UCLA in Signature Victory

Jorge Mercado
Editor in Chief

Senior outside hitter Corey Chavers picked the right night to play one of the best games of his season as he tallied 20 kills to lead the No. 6 UCSB men's volleyball team to a huge victory over No. 4 UCLA, 3-2 with set scores of 25-18, 21-25, 25-20, 19-25, 15-12.

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



ANGIE BANKS / DAILY NEXUS

As for his team, this is Santa Barbara's first win over UCLA since the 2015 season.

Even more impressive, this is UCSB's ninth-consecutive victory, the longest active streak since 1992 and the best mark in the Rick McLaughlin era.

The Gauchos' 38th overall win over national powerhouse UCLA pushes their record to a very impressive 12-3 mark and gives them even more confidence heading into their first conference tilt of the season on Friday.

As for the Bruins, they fall to 10-3 on the year with all three of their losses coming to Big West opponents, Long Beach State, CSUN and UCSB tonight.

Tonight's win over UCLA means a lot for UCSB. The Gauchos have tallied a total of six wins over nationally ranked opponents coming into tonight, but there is something about the Bruins being the seventh that makes it so much sweeter.

It's probably because Santa Barbara also avenged its previous loss to UCLA this season, 3-0 at Pauley Pavillion, which coincidentally was also the last time the Gauchos lost this season.

Unlike their last meeting, however, the Gauchos came out firing to start as in the first set they earned 13 kills on an impressive .524 percentage while holding the Bruins to six kills on .133.

Even on the scoreboard, UCSB pounced on the Bruins, jumping out to a very quick 8-3 lead. Still, the No. 4 in the nation would not go away, earning six of the next nine points to be down just two at 11-9.

A kill from Chavers, then consecutive service aces by the Gauchos grew their lead back to five, and from there they kept a healthy distance with the Bruins never cutting the lead past three. At 19-16, UCSB would tally six of the final eight points to win the set.

In the second, UCLA flipped the script as after being tied at 4-4 to start, the Bruins would go on to take a 10-6 lead. At 11-7, two attack errors by UCLA and then a kill by the Gauchos would put the home team within one.

However, the Bruins would then use a score nine of the next 13 points to take a commanding 20-14 lead and would eventually cruise to a win in the second set tying the match at 1-1.

In the third, both teams would again trade scores at the beginning, but UCSB would eventually jump out to an 11-6 lead thanks in large part to five attack errors from UCLA. From there, Santa Barbara was never threatened – never letting their lead get below four – and would take a 2-1 lead in the match.

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

The freshman also contributed a fine outing tallying 10 kills on 28 attacks. This is just the fifth time this season Wilcox has notched double-digit kills.

Three straight points from UCLA's junior outside hitter Austin Matautin – one kill and two service aces – would push his team's lead back to three.

From there the two squads traded scores until 20-17. A service error by UCSB followed by a kill from Bruin junior middle blocker Daenan Gyimah and another ace from Matautin would give UCLA a comfortable six-point lead which they rode to force a decisive fifth set.

In the final set, UCSB played its guts out. Down 3-1 early, the Gauchos would not go quietly, as kills from Chavers and taking advantage of UCLA's mistakes would eventually tie the match at 8-8.

Tied at 10-10, UCSB's freshman middle blocker Brandon Hicks came up huge with a big block to see his team take the lead. Following that, Hicks would stay in the limelight coming up with a huge service ace that was nearly too far aimed at the right corner, but somehow stayed in and gave UCSB a 12-10 lead.

Following an error, Wilcox tallied a very significant kill to extend the lead back to two.

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

For weeks now, UCSB has tried to make the case that it is a legit contender. Wins against BYU, Lewis, etc. were great, but there is something about beating UCLA, a team that has won 19 National Championships, that means a bit more.

UCSB will take on UC San Diego at 7 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 15 at the RIMAC Arena Box Office.



PEYTON STOTELMYRE / DAILY NEXUS

NBA Media Circus Seeks Views, Ignores Truth About Stars

Brandon Victor
Assistant Sports Editor

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

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

Durant has never handled criticism well – just look at all the burner accounts on Twitter justifying his move to Golden State. I was one of the people who criticized Durant for that move; to me, it felt more like a cop-out than anything else. If Durant truly wanted to prove he was the best player in the league, he shouldn't have joined the reigning NBA champions.

Yet Kevin Durant is unequivocally correct in calling out the media. In doing so, he paints a broader picture of the issues surrounding sports journalism in the 21st century.

In a society that craves sensationalism and BuzzFeed-esque articles and in a world that revolves around social media, sports journalism has morphed into what feels like a glorified tabloid section.

When Kristaps Porzingis was traded from

the Knicks to the Mavericks – a trade made mostly to clear the Knicks’ cap space – multiple basketball insiders claimed that the Knicks “had evidence” that Kevin Durant would sign with them in free agency.

Now, there is no problem with a reporter expressing their opinion, as long as they make it known that it is just that: the opinion of the writer.

If Ethan Strauss, the reporter from the *The Athletic* who Durant specifically called out, wanted to write an opinion piece on Durant’s upcoming free agency, he should have labeled his piece as such.

If he wanted to write a feature about it, he could have talked to Warriors brass, Knicks brass, Durant’s teammates and Durant himself about the impending decision.

It’s almost impossible to write a credible article when you can’t get a single source to go on the record.

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

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

The reason: Mainstream sports media con-

tinues to take quotes out of context in order to push a narrative. Look at Kyrie Irving, a player who many people believe will team up with Durant in New York after the season.

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

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

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

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

The Knicks have proven time and time again their incompetence as a franchise. Just because they cleared the cap space does not mean they will land one or both of the superstars.

If Irving and Durant are fed up with the media now, imagine what would happen if they played in New York.

And yet, every rumor connects Durant and

Irving to the Knicks with little to no evidence.

Reporters constantly push the narrative that superstars will just flock to big-market franchises like birds migrating north. Remember when Paul George was considered a lock to join the Lakers – how did that one turn out?

As a fellow journalist, I get it. Journalism is a dying field, and in the era of fast-paced social media, reporters are fighting tooth and nail for every click, every interaction.

People no longer have the time or attention span to read a full-blown article, and these out-of-context soundbites certainly help them accomplish their goal.

But that’s not the role of the media. The media exists to keep teams and players honest, to give greater insight to fans following from home.

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

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

After watching all of this unfold, why should a UCSB player or coach trust me to not twist their words?

By purposely misrepresenting others’ views in an effort to get clicks, sports journalists are undermining the integrity of all sports journalists – including those of us at the *Daily Nexus*.

KEY DEADLINE ACQUISITIONS

POSITION	PLAYER NAME
PF	NIKOLA MIROTIC
From New Orleans Pelicans ➡ Milwaukee Bucks	
SF	TOBIAS HARRIS
From Los Angeles Clippers ➡ Philidelphia 76ers	
C	MARC GASOL
From Memphis Grizzlies ➡ Toronto Raptors	
PF	KRISTAPS PORZINGIS
From New York Knicks ➡ Dallas Mavericks	
SF	HARRISON BARNES
From Dallas Mavericks ➡ Sacramento Kings	
PG	MARKELLE FULTZ
From Philadelphia 76ers ➡ Orlando Magic	

Mavs Stock Up On European Talent

Leonard Paulasa
Staff Writer

A maverick is someone who is independent and a nonconformist – some might even say rebellious.

In pop culture, mavericks are often associated with the cowboys of the wild southwest.

An NBA team from Dallas coined this term and successfully built a winning brand.

Owned by notorious billionaire, Mark Cuban (a maverick in his own right), the Dallas Mavericks – Mavs for short – are a small-market basketball team that has lived up to its moniker.

Unlike other teams, the Mavs don't lavishly spend money on big-name superstars.

They've chosen to build their team around coachable players to reliably build teamwork and chemistry, with the hopes of signing or drafting a couple superstars along the way.

The franchise has been praised by players, coaches, analysts and media personalities for their loyalty toward their players, and in 2011, that loyalty was rewarded.

Aging superstar Dirk Nowitzki put on a historical NBA finals performance and propelled the Mavs to victory against the star-studded juggernaut that was the Miami Heat.

Unfortunately, the following eight years were filled with disappointment seen through multiple first round exits, if they even managed to luck into the postseason.

Their style of basketball has a hard time finding success in this era of the NBA: a time characterized by superstars taking pay cuts and teaming up to win.

With Dirk's retirement imminent, the Mavs needed a new franchise piece that would take them to the next level, and in the 2018 draft, their prayers were answered in the coming of Euroleague superstar Luka Doncic.

With international experience and exceptional veteran guidance under his belt, Doncic has taken the league by storm.

At the young age of 19, Doncic is the clear frontrunner for Rookie of the Year and has led the Mavs to more wins this season than they did last.

It's clear that Doncic just needs the assistance of another All-Star caliber player to push the Mavs back into championship contention.

Fortunately, Porzingis – PorzinGOD, the Zinger, KP6 or whatever you want to call him – was traded by the New York Knicks to the Dallas Mavericks on Jan. 31.

Porzingis and the Knicks' front office had met earlier that day to discuss his future with the franchise, and within two hours, a deal was closed.

The Knicks also managed to trade away two other large contracts in the form of Tim Hardaway Jr. and Courtney Lee.

This frees up almost \$75 million in cap space to gamble with this offseason and potentially land two big-name superstars such as Kevin Durant and/or Kyrie Irving.

Additionally, the Knicks were able to fix their drafting error and finally obtained Dennis Smith Jr. as part of the trade.

Lastly, while the Knicks may continue to lose games, it does increase their odds of landing the No. 1 pick in the upcoming draft, presumably to use on Zion Williamson.

Meanwhile, the Mavs' addition of Porzingis gave them the All-Star caliber player they needed to pair with Doncic.

While there were initial worries of KP leaving in 2020, his love and respect for Dirk are strong signs that he'll choose to stay.

Cuban said that he won't make the same mistake he did back in the early 2000s of letting Steve Nash, who would win back-to-back MVPs, leave for Phoenix.

In my opinion, the Mavs won this trade. It's important to note that the Knicks are basing their future on luck, but there are reasons why the Knicks have been stuck in mediocrity since the early 2000s.

Their front office and ownership are infamous for poor management, and that infamy coupled with the pressure of playing in the "Mecca of basketball" makes New York a perilous destination for superstars.

On the other hand, Dallas is the exact opposite: a small market team with competent ownership.

With all this in mind and barring any injuries, one thing's for certain: Here comes the Mavs.

ARTSWEEK

Michael B. Jordan Highlights This Year’s SBIFF

Joshen Mantai
Social Media Manager

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

Day 1: Jan. 30
The Santa Barbara International Film Festival (SBIFF) opened and closed with Santa Barbara films, starting with a screening of the film “Diving Deep: The Life and Times of Mike DeGruy.” The film was directed by Mimi DeGruy, the wife of the story’s protagonist, Mike deGruy. Mimi commended Roger Durling, the executive director of the film festival, for keeping the festival local in regards to putting a spotlight on Santa Barbara films, even though the event is traditionally global in scope.

The film is a documentary about Mike DeGruy, a biologist and filmmaker who filmed in oceans around the world, capturing images of unique sea creatures. DeGruy died in a helicopter crash in Australia in 2012 while filming for James Cameron. The film serves as a memorial that celebrates deGruy’s achievements and passions through Mimi’s point of view.

Day 2: Jan. 31
The second day opened at the Arlington Theatre with one of the most anticipated tribute events of the festival, the Outstanding Directors of the Year award.

The honorees included Alfonso Cuarón of “Roma,” Yorgos Lanthimos of “The Favourite,” Spike Lee of “BlacKkKlansman,” Adam McKay of “Vice” and Pawel Pawlikowski of “Cold War.”

Each director participated in a one-on-one interview with *The Hollywood*

Reporter columnist Scott Feinberg. All praised each other’s films profusely and when asked to identify other noteworthy films of the year, three of the five directors selected films directed by women. A notable response from Cuarón about his filmmaking process was that he “had to have less control in the process in order to give him more creative freedom.” Roger Durling closed by presenting the five directors with their awards, noting the cinematic talent and diversity in the group.

Day 3: Feb. 1
Day three was one of the most anticipated tribute nights of the whole festival, with Rami Malek receiving the Outstanding Performer of the Year award for his performance as Freddie Mercury in “Bohemian Rhapsody.”

I had the chance to speak with Malek, who arrived at the red carpet with presenter and co-star Joe Mazzello and co-star Lucy Boynton:

Q: Did you have any background on Queen before acting in “Bohemian Rhapsody”?

A: Not like I do now, no. I think everyone in this cast feels like they could write their own biography about the band. For me, it was just hearing the music and feeling the same passion behind it that we all feel when we hear a Queen song. I think it touches everyone in their own unique ways, but it galvanizes us. It’s a story that I wanted to be a part of telling.

Q: There’s a certain amount of pressure with playing such a legend in a biographical film. Did you feel any of this pressure while acting?

A: Of course, an immense amount of pressure. I just thought that if I had the right resources and enough time, that there would be a chance that I could pull it off. I think when we get to be the face of these films – the image that people see – but for myself, it’s a combination of so many different forces that

have` allowed me to stand here and say, ‘I got to portray Freddie Mercury and *possibly* pull it off,’ and that is due to the work of everyone on set. It’s everyone coming together and creating that performance that allows me to represent a film and not just myself.

Malek was then interviewed by Feinberg about his career and background; Malek spoke about how his early gigs placed him into a category of “Egyptian roles” because of his ethnicity and about his initial struggle to make his mark in the industry. Malek also talked about his preparation for his role as Freddie Mercury, in which he detailed his admiration toward Queen and Freddie’s passion and comfort on the stage.

Day 4: Feb. 2
Viggo Mortensen was honored with the American Riviera Award for his performance in “Green Book.”

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

He also stated that he was lucky to land so many minor roles early in his career because it allowed him to practice the craft of acting. He cites the “Lord of the Rings” franchise as opening the door for him.

Mortensen closed by remarking that the best result of “Green Book” is that it has helped people discover the music of classical and jazz pianist and composer Don Shirley. At the end of the night, Mortensen’s longtime friend Ed Harris presented the actor with the award.

Day 5: Feb. 3
Glenn Close was first presented with the Maltin Modern Master Award for her performance in “The Wife.” Close discussed “The Wife” in an interview with film critic Leonard Maltin. Close stated that it took 14 years to get the money to make the film, but that it had an interesting script unlike any other project she’d done before. She also went on to discuss her performance in other films like “Fatal Attraction” and “Cruella de Vil.” Close was humbled when she accepted the award, saying she is “blessed to be able to do the thing I love most in the world.” Close’s dog, Pip, also made numerous appearances onstage during the tribute.

Later that evening, a sold-out crowd attended the Montecito Award tribute, given to Melissa McCarthy for “Can You Ever Forgive Me?” In a conversation with *IndieWire* editor Anne Thompson, McCarthy discussed her early work in “Gilmore Girls,” reminiscing upon her first job which lasted for seven years.



JENNY LUO / DAILY NEXUS

She went on to discuss “Bridesmaids,” “The Hangover” and her love for producing with “building a project from the beginning up.” McCarthy’s co-star Richard E. Grant presented her with the award, and McCarthy thanked the SBIFF for “shining a light on these types of movies.”

Day 6: Feb. 4
On day six, *Variety* presented the Variety Artisans Awards at the Lobero Theatre to those “essential to the filmmaking process who have exhibited the most innovative work of the year in their respective fields.”

The award was presented to 12 Oscar nominees, including “Black Panther” costume designer Ruth Carter and “Mary Poppins” composer Marc Shaiman.

The full list of honorees is below: Barry Alexander Brown (“BlakKklansman”), Ruth E. Carter (“Black Panther”), Fiona Crombie (“The Favourite”), Lukasz Zal (“Cold War”), Patricia Dehaney (“Vice”), David Shirk (“Ready Player One”), Marc Shaiman (“Mary Poppins Returns”), Skip Lievinsay, Craig Henighan and José Antonio García (“Roma”) and Sergio Diaz and Skip Lievinsay (“Roma”).

Day 7: Feb. 5
Day seven entailed The Virtuosos Awards, intended to honor actors for noteworthy performances. Each honoree engaged in a one-on-one discussion with interviewer Dave Karger, followed by participation in a panel discussion. Each actor discussed their acting experience and how they learned to channel emotions and realize the scope of their role to truly succeed in their respective films. Following the panel discussion, actor Christopher Lloyd presented the awards.

The honorees included: Yalitza Aparicio (“Roma”), Sam

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

Day 8: Feb. 7
Day eight was by far the most media-heavy and fan-filled night with the last tribute award: the Cinema Vanguard Award honoring Michael B. Jordan for his work in “Black Panther” and “Creed II.”

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

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

Day 9: Feb. 9
The last night of the festival featured the world premiere of “Spoons: A Santa Barbara Story” by director Wyatt Daily. “Spoons” details California’s surfing history and how Santa Barbara produced and continues to produce some of the most world-class surfers and innovators. The Santa Barbara Film Festival brought tourism, fame and inspiring words from the finest directors, actors and creators that made fans and the press alike feel like they were a part of the glamorous and powerful Hollywood scene.



ANGELICA BANKS / DAILY NEXUS

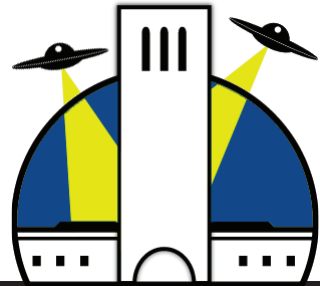
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NEXUSTENTIALISM

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Courtesy of Flickr

Girl Reminisces About Best Valentine’s Day Hook-Up: Part 2

Melanie Bangh
Reporter

If there’s one hook-up everyone remembers as the most magical time of all, it’s when they lost their virginity. The year was 2016. I finally had a boyfriend, Leo was about to win his first Oscar, Taylor and Kanye were feuding publicly again. Everyone was having a grand old time. After a sweet little date downtown, my guy and I went back to my place where he gave me a stuffed unicorn, the universal code for, “Let’s have sex.” All he had to do was pull the Trojan value-pack out of his Dakine backpack and I was all his, my latex allergy forgotten. Cherry ready to be popped, I embraced the unbearable pain that overtook my entire body, letting him know just how horribly good it felt with my sexiest screams and even crying so that at least some part of me was wet. Like a true gentlemen, his little soldier couldn’t stay hard once he realized I’d spent the last 20 minutes in agony, so he reverted to cuddling me in his loving, skinny arms. Even now I’m turned on by the feeling of his skin against mine while I broke out into a cold sweat. It was so sweet watching the poor kid struggle to find words, shocked at the destructive power of his formerly inno-

cent penis. Eventually he pulled on his jeans and took his leave, like an angel ascending back to heaven in acid-wash bootcut Levi’s. Ripe with anticipation, I limped bow-legged to the bathroom for an assessment of my new womanhood. My vagina had turned the most beautiful shade of egg-plant with lips more swollen than Kylie Jenner’s. My euphoria must have been too extreme, sending my heart-rate skyrocketing and blurring my vision with the brightest stars. I could feel Cupid’s precious little hands tightening around my chest until, overcome with joy, I blacked out. An hour later I awoke naked and cold alone in the dark, immediately recalling the glorious transformation that led me there. Triumphant, I reached for my phone and, after about three tries to pick it up because I guess losing your virginity makes things a lot heavier, I called my sister and spilled the whole story right up to the fairy tale ending. “You’re allergic to condoms, you fucking idiot.” I could hear the pride in her voice. “This sounds like anaphylaxis. You should go to a hospital.” “No,” I sighed and smiled to myself. “Trust me. It’s love.” Melanie Bangh is a sixth-year student majoring in human anatomy who writes amateur romance novels inspired by internet porn.

The 4 People You’ll Date in College

Brock Clark
Staff Writer

Relationships are tough. How tough? Tough to say. In I.V., they’re tougher than a Hydro Flask that just won’t break whenever it smacks into the ground mid-lecture. We can’t just make out in cars like we did in high school, but we can’t get married at 21 either... Come on guys, don’t leave the party after one shot. Here, hopefully, is the guide you need to understanding relationships.

- 1. Harry, Meet Sally**
It’s a tried and true: “When Harry Met Sally” is the best damn romance film ever created. But the whole point of “When Harry Met Sally” is that they never got together for years even though they met in college. They were friends and they stayed friends until New Year’s Eve. This is the long – term long term. It could be your dorm mate, your upstairs neighbor, hell, it could even be the cute guy who makes your food at Santorini’s. You don’t know when, how or where you will meet, but it’s gonna be majestic as heck. Eventually, you guys will tell each other your feelings in a semi-drunken state at some elaborate party. Take it from this guy: This is the best way to go.
- 2. The Rebound Hound**
This one sucks. A rebound hound is essentially the guy or girl who always goes for or gets thrown at the new sexy singles waiting in their local area. This person is never in a relationship for long. They are the stepping stone – the guru if you will – who guides the heart-broken and lustfully lonely into the next phase of their dating lives. These men and women are the heroes without capes, they are the Jim Halperts before being with Pam

Beesly (but also not when he was with Karen because, let’s be honest, who actually appreciated Rashida Jones in “The Office,” she was just sort of there). These men and women are all around, and you will never know it. They are the lays we deserve, but not the ones we need. Shoutout Jim.

- 3. When Will My Wife/Husband Return from War**
The Long Distance. We all know someone who is engaged in endlessly long phone calls to their significant other who is either a) at another school, b) in the military, c) running a multi-billion dollar company or d) living at home and “figuring themselves out.” This relationship is characterized by the fact that the partner here will sneak in something about their S.O. during most conversations. The best advice I can give to the long distance is make sure you actually bring the person around every once in a while so we can make sure that a) they’re treating you right and b) they’re real.
- 4. Listens to Father John Misty Alone in His/Her Room for Hours on End**
Being single: We’ve all been there, but this poor individual relishes in it. When entering this person’s room, you will see many a poster from a 90s indie film, and their bluetooth speaker will be blasting anything from “Hollywood Cemetery Forever” to “Bored in the U.S.A.,” (which there is usually nothing wrong with). Here, the person will likely be sullen, making references every minute to some hook-up they’ve had or some love they’ve lost ... just to remind you of their single-ness. Don’t be this person. Nobody likes them.

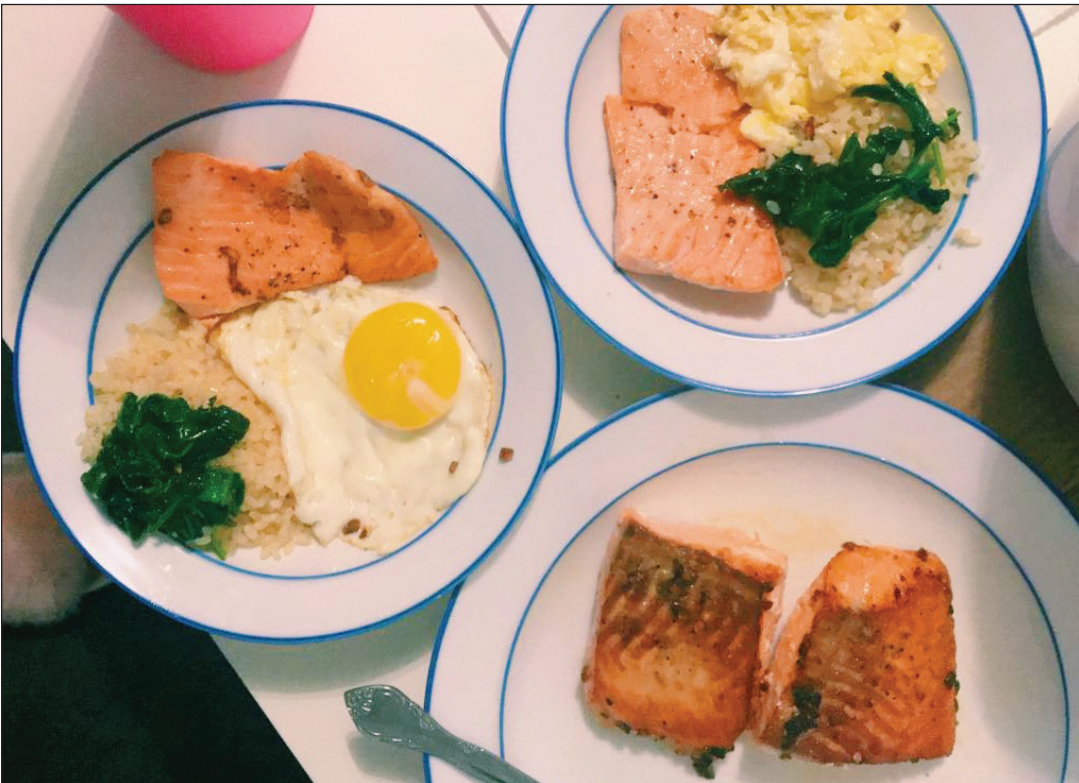
Brock Clark is not a certified relationship expert but will be opening a business for relationship coinciding in the foreseeable future.

DAILY NEXUS ART & COMICS



ON THE MENU

A Recipe for Love: Three Dinner Meals to Impress Your Valentine This Year



ALL PHOTOS BY WINNIE LAM / DAILY NEXUS

Winnie Lam
On the Menu Co-Editor

If you want to impress your significant other or that special someone with a fantastic home-cooked meal, look no further! Valentine's Day can be stressful when you're planning the perfect night, but hopefully these simple recipes will take away some of that pressure. You can prepare these meals for two in an hour or less and they won't break the bank either!

Garlic Butter Steak (adapted from Tasty)

Ingredients for the steak:

- 1 ribeye steak
- 3 tablespoons canola oil
- 3 tablespoons butter
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- Salt and pepper to taste

Directions:

1. Pat the steak dry and season with salt and pepper.
2. Heat the canola oil in a large pan over high heat until smoking.
3. Sear the steak for 30 seconds then flip it over.
4. Add the butter and garlic and swirl it around the pan.
5. Baste the steak with the butter and garlic mixture with a spoon.
6. Flip the steak to its sides to reduce excess fat.
7. Take the steak off the heat and let it rest for 10 minutes.
8. Slice the steak and serve.

Ingredients for the mashed potatoes:

- 3 yukon gold potatoes
- 1 stick unsalted butter, melted
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- Chives, finely chopped
- Salt and pepper to taste

Directions:

1. Peel the potatoes and dice them into 1 inch cubes.
2. Add the potatoes to a large pot of cold water and bring to a soft boil over high heat, then reduce the heat to low and simmer for about 12 minutes.
3. Drain the potatoes, then return to the pot. Increase the heat to medium-high and stir the potatoes around for two to three minutes.
4. Transfer the potatoes to a large bowl and mash.
5. Add the melted butter and stir, then season with salt to taste.
6. In a small saucepan, combine the heavy cream and

- garlic and bring to a simmer.
7. Add the cream mixture to the potatoes, a little at a time, stirring until fully incorporated.
8. Top with a pat of butter, freshly ground black pepper and sprinkle with chives.

Grilled Salmon and Rice

Ingredients

- 2 cups of white rice
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 teaspoon paprika
- 2 salmon fillets
- 2 cups spinach
- 2 eggs
- Salt and pepper to taste

Directions:

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

Garlic Shrimp Bacon Alfredo

Ingredients:

- 6 slices bacon
- 1 lb shrimp, peeled and deveined
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 cups heavy cream
- 1 lb fettuccine, cooked
- 1 cup grated parmesan cheese
- Salt and pepper to taste

Directions:

1. Cook the fettuccine al dente in a large pot then drain and place into a separate bowl.
2. Cook the bacon in a large pan until crispy, then cut into small pieces.
3. Cook the shrimp with the garlic, salt and pepper in the same pan until shrimp is pink
4. Add the cream to the empty pot and bring to a boil.
5. Once the cream is boiling, add the fettuccine.
6. Transfer the shrimp and bacon to the pan and stir.
7. Add the parmesan cheese and serve.

Sweet Treats for Your Special Sweetheart

Rinah Anatolio
Staff Writer

As Santa Barbara continues to feel like a polar vortex, I have discovered that turning on my oven to bake is the best way to heat up my apartment. Because of this and the busyness of midterm season, meal prepping baked goods has become my go-to. One of my favorite things to eat during any time of the day and anywhere on campus is muffins. They are easily transportable and you can eat them super quietly, which is perfect for an all-nighter in Davidson or that lunchtime lecture that drags on forever.

These muffins are gluten-free and packed with protein because of the addition of Greek yogurt. My personal favorite is the white chocolate raspberry because they look and taste so good! The red and white colors are also perfect for a surprise Valentine's Day treat. These muffins will last in the fridge for three to five days or in the freezer for two months.

Blueberry Lemon Muffins

Ingredients:

- 1 cup of almond flour
- 1/3 cup of nonfat plain Greek yogurt
- 1/4 cup of coconut sugar
- 1 tsp of baking powder
- 2 eggs
- 1 tsp of lemon juice
- 1/2 cup of blueberries
- (Pro Tip: frozen blueberries work perfectly!)

Directions:

1. Preheat your oven to 375 degrees and line a muffin pan with cupcake liners.
2. Combine your Greek yogurt, eggs and coconut sugar and whisk together.
3. In a separate bowl, mix your almond flour and baking powder until thoroughly combined.
4. Slowly incorporate your mix of almond flour and baking powder to your wet ingredients.
5. Once everything is combined and mixed well, gently stir in your lemon juice and blueberries.
6. Divide your batter evenly into your prepared muffin pan and bake for 20 to 25 minutes.

White Chocolate Raspberry

Ingredients:

- 1 cup of almond flour
- 1/4 cup of nonfat plain Greek yogurt
- 1/4 cup of coconut sugar
- 1 tsp of baking powder
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 cup of raspberries (frozen ones work here too!)
- 1/2 cup of white chocolate chips

Directions:

1. Preheat your oven to 375 degrees and line a muffin pan with cupcake liners.
2. Combine your Greek yogurt, eggs and coconut sugar and whisk together.
3. In a separate bowl, mix your almond flour and baking powder until thoroughly combined.
4. Slowly incorporate your mix of almond flour and baking powder to your wet ingredients.
5. Once everything is mixed well, gently stir in your raspberries and white chocolate chips.
6. Divide your batter evenly into your prepared muffin pan and bake for 20 to 25 minutes.

Banana Chocolate Chip

Ingredients:

- 1 cup of almond flour
- 1/4 cup of nonfat plain Greek yogurt
- 1/4 cup of coconut sugar
- 1 tsp of baking powder
- 2 eggs
- 1 medium-sized banana, mashed (about 1/2 a cup)
- 1/2 cup of chocolate chips

Directions:

1. Preheat your oven to 375 degrees and line a muffin pan with cupcake liners.
2. Combine your mashed banana, Greek yogurt, eggs and coconut sugar and whisk together.
3. In a separate bowl, mix your almond flour and baking powder until thoroughly combined.
4. Slowly incorporate your mix of almond flour and baking powder to your wet ingredients.
5. Once everything is combined and mixed well, gently stir in your chocolate chips.
6. Divide your batter evenly into your prepared muffin pan and bake for 20 to 25 minutes.



RINAH ANATALIO / DAILY NEXUS

SCIENCE & TECH

The Swipe Right Love Story

Jennifer Sor
Reporter

There are supposedly plenty of fish in the sea, but before four Harvard graduates formed OkCupid in 2004, never before had the sea seemed so vast, nuanced and oddly isolating.

“Tonight,” Christian Rudder writes, co-founder and head of OkCupid’s analytics department, “some 30,000 couples will have their first date because of OkCupid.” In his 2014 book, *Dataclysm*, Rudder and his team estimate that 3,000 of these couples will embark on a long-term relationship, and 200 will be successfully married within the decade.

200 out of 30,000 – which makes out to be a .66 percent success rate – isn’t bad for a matchmaking service, an industry so notoriously rife with rejection, failure and heartache.

In the digital age, where potential matches are virtually infinite in quantity, it seems alien to consider the old conventions of dating. With the help of dating apps, a romantic connection can be forged across hundreds of miles within seconds. This is stark contrast from in 1932, the year a University of Pennsylvania survey indicated that nearly half of all couples married someone who lived within 20 blocks from them, the *American Journal of Sociology* concluding that geographical proximity was one of the main predictors of a long-lasting relationship. “It was easier in the olden days,” BBC’s Paul Kerley muses.

Or perhaps it’s Aziz Ansari, in his 2015 book *Modern Romance*, who words the struggle most succinctly: “Today’s generations are [...] turning their 20s into a relentless hunt for more romantic options than previous generations could have ever imagined,” he writes. “You have a recipe for romance gone haywire.”

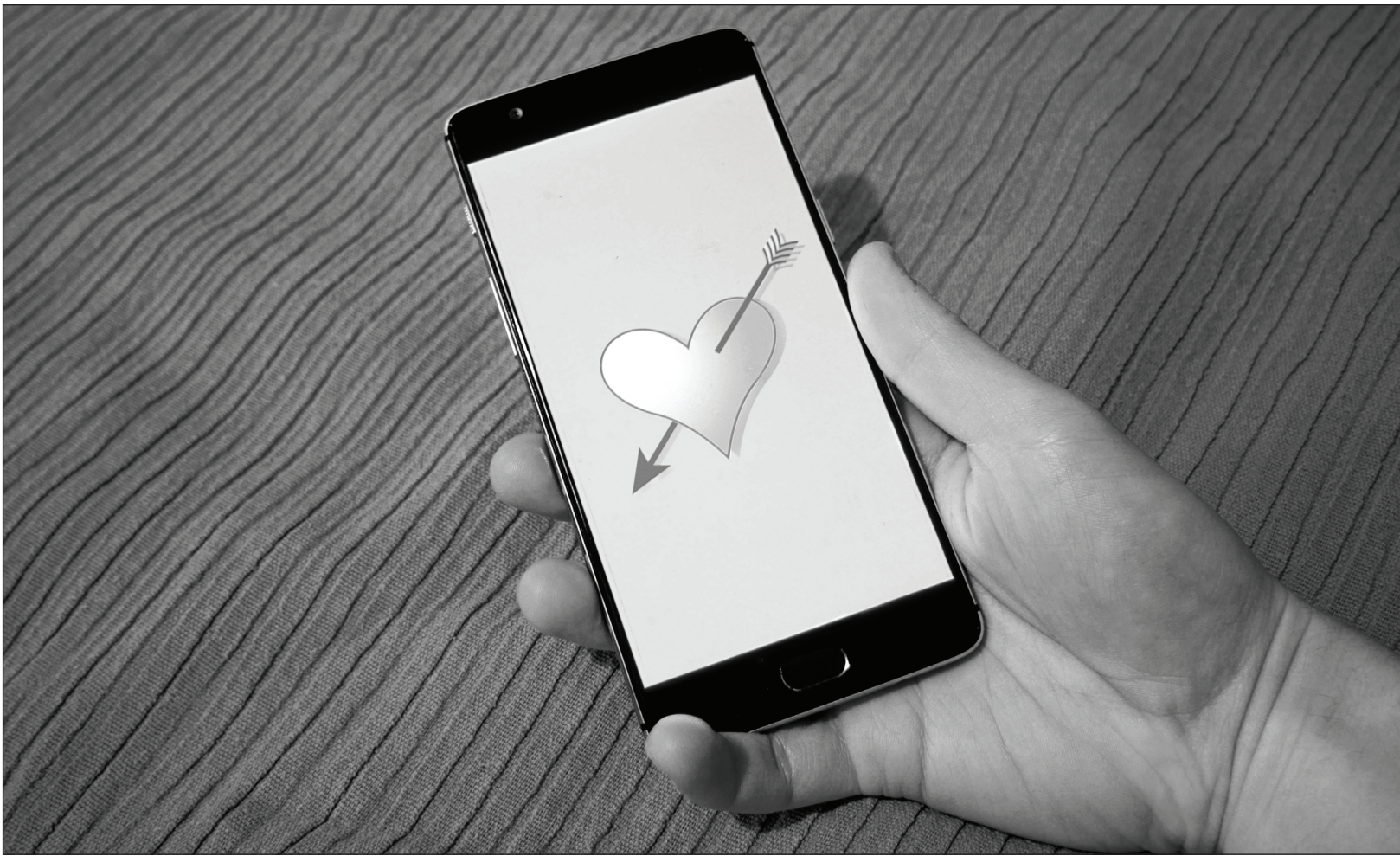
Both Kerley and Ansari make a fair point: Gone are the days of “The Boy Next Door,” or stumbling into the love of your life at a coffee shop. This era is a highly advanced, barren wasteland where massive amounts of data and probability science are needed to meet your next lover.

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

“Many evolutionary psychologists put [online dating trends] down to the power of innate biological drives,” Marcel Zentner, a psychology professor at the University of Innsbruck, said. In his *Quartz* article, “This is what dating could look like 100 years in the future,” Zentner highlights how natural selection primes men to seek out signs of fertility in female partners, the logic being that greater fertility leads to a greater chance of survival for his offspring.

On the flipside, the same is true for females, having what Zentner refers to as a “primeval urge” to seek wealthy men. Regardless of gender, our romantic preferences lie in the vein of wanting what’s best for our offspring.

With our underlying biological instincts working in the background, enter the magic of apps like Tinder, Bumble and, of course, OkCupid, all of which continue to grow in popularity. Different methods are formulated to match users to their potential partners, but in general, the premise to online dating is simple: Upload a picture of yourself, or multiple. Fill out OkCupid’s questionnaire. Depending on whether you like dogs, long walks on the beach or have a preference for cilantro, OkCupid’s algorithm aggregates a feed of potential partners, ordered by compatibility. For apps like Tinder or Bumble, the process is even easier and more intuitive, so much so that its user interface



Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Even in the current age of prevalent online dating and dating app use, users tend to choose partners based on innate biological inclinations. Male users spend more time focusing on visual elements in their evaluation of potential partners, whereas women pay more attention to different attributes, including financial stability and education.

heeds no explanation: Left means you pass, right means you like.

By no coincidence, these platforms reveal trends consistent with the evolutionary research that Zentner outlines. Men, as researchers know, are profoundly visual in their evaluation of female partners, explaining why a study conducted by Tobii Technology showed that male online daters spent on average 65 percent more time reviewing photos of potential matches than their female counterparts.

Women, on the other hand, spend 50 percent more time reviewing the profile information of a potential match, paying particular attention to aspects like education (Ivy League Tinder users are predictably in high demand) and career, two reliable indicators of income and financial security.

These biological preferences, it seems, are innate: “Evolution [has] selected and encoded it in our genes, forever,” Zentner emphasizes. It appears that, on a platform where both male and female users are allowed to critically examine and filter for certain qualities, are primitive mating instincts are not only at work, but at work more so than ever before.

Alicia Cast, UCSB’s own sociology professor and researcher, confirms this. “There still is a tendency for men to slightly emphasize physical attractiveness, whereas women are more likely to [prioritize] things like financial stability,” Cast says.

She notes that “those stereotypical views [on love] are still out there,” and moreover, still at play when it comes to the forces that drive our attraction to one another.

Is it natural to browse through hundreds of potential love matches at the swipe of a finger?

Perhaps not, but research at the very least affirms that it is natural to judge and eliminate partners in online dating in the way we do. “I’m not sure if it’s that much different than meeting people through social networks,” Cast muses. We have, Cast says, and always have been “attracted to the things we’re attracted to.”

Her concern for online dating, however, echoes a reservation many users have upon making their accounts: “We have a sense of unlimited quantity when online dating.” Although users’ preferences may be evolutionarily based, the ubiquity of potential partners on dating apps has a way of influencing users to “always think that there may be something greener,” Cast says. “We may be really picky, and we can pick ourselves out of someone who’s really quite a good match for us.”

For any online dater, the thought is comforting, yet simultaneously perturbing: are we alone because there are too few or too many fish in the sea?

I’ll delete my Tinder if you delete yours.

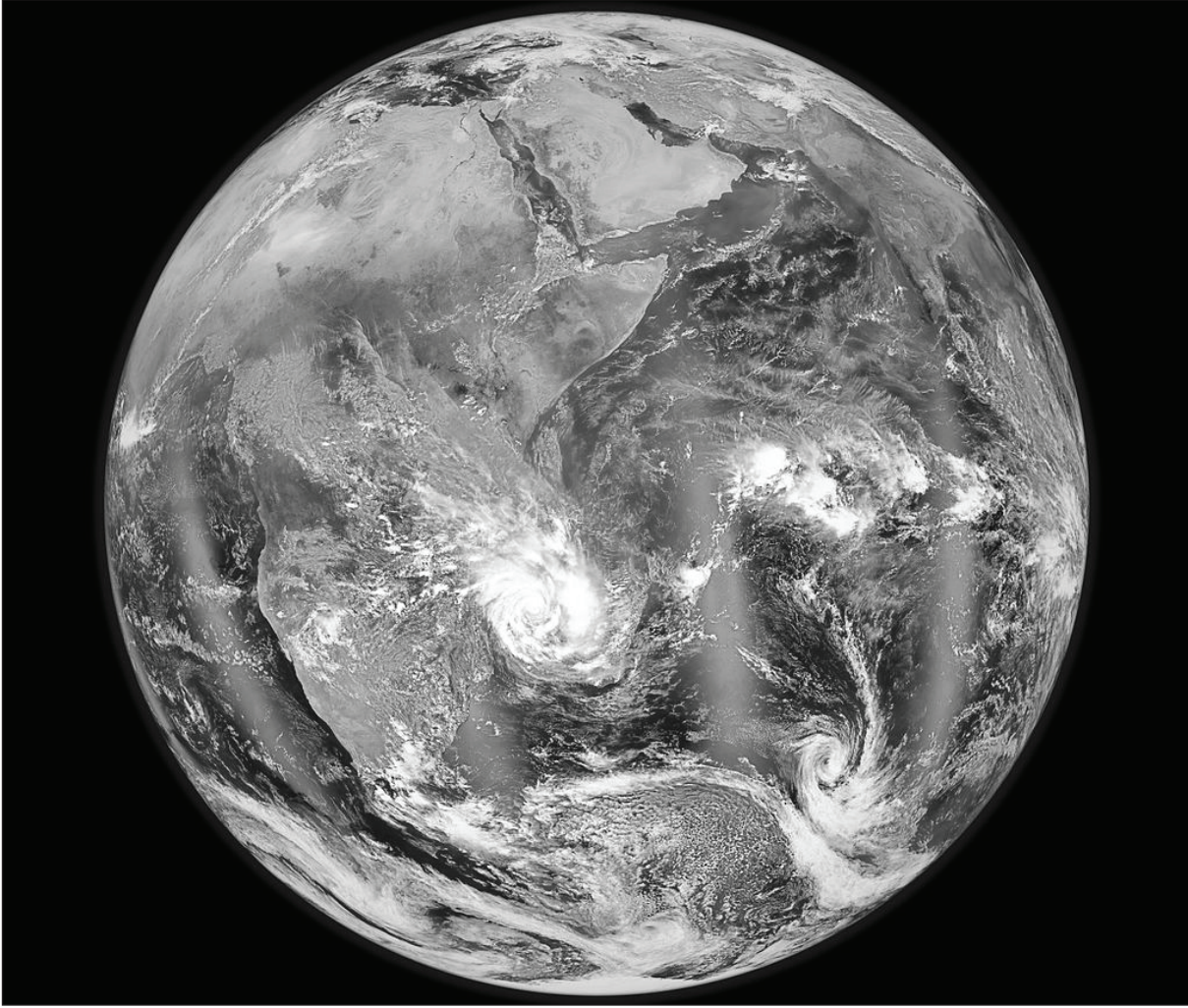
‘Train Locally, Deploy Globally’ with AI

Jacqueline Wen
Science Editor

Technology undoubtedly plays a fundamental role in tracking climate change. Scientists and researchers can take advantage of a plethora of technological approaches to aid them in their work in widely diverse ways, including using

remote sensing tools to monitor the decline of ice sheets at the poles, or in field applications to view the outcomes of environmental management.

To help scientists in “applying artificial intelligence (AI) to help understand and protect the planet”, Microsoft and National Geographic have partnered up to sponsor AI for Earth Innovation Grants.



Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

With the Microsoft and National Geographic sponsored AI for Earth Innovation Grant, Kelly Caylor and his colleagues will use artificial intelligence technology to track and estimate changes in agricultural land use and groundwater use in places such as sub-Saharan Africa.

Eleven recipients were selected, including UC Santa Barbara’s own Kelly Caylor.

Caylor, an ecohydrology professor in the Department of Geography and the Bren School of Environmental Science as well as the director of the Earth Research Institute at UCSB, will use this grant to more accurately estimate and track agricultural land use change and groundwater use.

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

Many farms have been supported through rainfall – rain-fed agriculture – but are increasingly supplemented by groundwater accessed through wells, pumps and irrigation schemes that can be monitored by satellites.

“The goal of our project is to use the historical archive of satellite data to try to map the expansion of these emerging agricultural landscapes and see how much water they’re using in order to try to figure out what the impacts are on groundwater in the regions that growth is occurring,” Caylor explained.

Caylor and his associates, both at UCSB and at other universities, plan to start small. They will focus on places where groundwater use is known well enough – such as the irrigation sites in western Nebraska or areas in California – to train and hone their technological approaches. Once the researchers build up enough confidence, they will deploy them on a larger scale to other areas of the world where past or present groundwater use isn’t monitored as comprehensively and they can do more prediction than confirmation.

“So we start small; ‘train locally and then deploy globally’ is the strategy,” Caylor said.

Caylor’s past work has been in sub-Saharan Africa, including Zambia. There, agriculture plays a crucial role for a large percentage of the population’s livelihoods and has greatly converted from rain-fed to irrigation-dependent agriculture.

In addition to figuring out where this change is occurring, Caylor and his colleagues want to

know how that shifting land use may impact other important priorities for those countries.

“We’re curious to what degree this change in how agriculture is done might be impacting conservation of wildlife in the lands that are placed in conservation in sub-Saharan Africa because it’s opening up new areas for agriculture that people weren’t using before,” Caylor said.

The grant also gives free access to cloud-based tools and AI services, provided by Microsoft’s Azure platform and National Geographic Labs, that will help Caylor and his team work on their ambitious project.

“National Geographic is interested in solving this problem and answering this question, and we want to do that kind of research. Microsoft is enabling those two things to happen through the support that they’re providing computationally. And for us, that’s as much of a learning process as it is the learning process of figuring out where the agriculture is [shifting]. So everyone’s real excited about that.”

Microsoft has built a set of machines – cloud computing environments – that are “hand-tailored” for Caylor and his colleagues’ work and optimized to run the types of algorithms they implement.

Cloud computing usage hasn’t been very common in university research settings until very recently, Caylor said. One reason is because it had been set up more for commercial applications, like Netflix or Google, rather than for the tools researchers utilize.

“It’s really exciting just to see what the potential [for that technology] is, but to also have that support from Microsoft to figure out how to realize that potential,” Caylor said.

Currently the project is in its embryonic stages.

“We’re just getting started,” Caylor said. “A lot of what we’re trying to do now is getting our feet underneath us with respect to these new systems that Microsoft is giving us to work with...a lot of it is retooling and getting ready for the ‘big race.’”

“We’re learning a lot every day. That’s one of the great things about working with a company like that – they really know how to support people and help us get what we need done.

OPINION

Ask AJ: Love on the Brain



PEYTON STOTELMYRE / DAILY NEXUS

AJ
Advice Columnist

Hi, AJ! I met this great guy on Tinder, but I'm not sure when to take the plunge and ask him out. I don't want to wait too long, but I also don't want to seem overeager. How soon is too soon to ask out a Tinder date? -Tinderella

In my professional, non-conforming, non-Tinder-using opinion, it's never too soon! The "culture" of college relationships that shames anyone who doesn't wait at least 10 minutes to respond to a text needs to be canceled. I hate the idea that if you text back "too soon" that translates to you being needy or clingy and that there is a timeline put in place for when you can take steps in a relationship. That being said, each relationship is different. Definitely try to get an idea of how the other person is feeling, but don't wait to be straightforward about how you feel. Every relationship takes some level of vulnerability to be successful. If the feelings are mutual, why wait?

Help! I got ghosted, and I'm still super bummed about it. How do I get over it? -Seeking Casper

Regardless of how a relationship ended, it is always difficult to get over someone you have been intimately involved with. That being said, moving on will take time; however, I think the most important thing for

you to know is that when someone ghosts they are being careless and actively choosing to disregard your emotions. People who ghost are normally trying to avoid their own emotional discomfort, but in doing so they have selfishly neglected to think about the other person involved. Unless you have very explicitly given them some reason to stop all forms of communication with you, there is no justification for ghosting. Keep in mind that you deserve better, and someone who does care about you (someone worth being with) will communicate their feelings to you regardless of what they are.

I'm unhappy in my current relationship, and I know it needs to end, but Valentine's Day is coming up. Is it better to break up before or after? -V Stressed for V-Day

I think if you are certain you want to break up with your significant other, it's better to have the conversation earlier. Breakups are usually never without hurt, but spending Valentine's Day together as if you were happy and then breaking up immediately following Valentine's Day is confusing and could potentially lead to more pain in the end. On the other hand, if you are still considering breaking up with your S.O. but you're not certain, I would say wait until after Valentine's Day to express how you've been feeling and give your partner the opportunity to have a conversation.

Remember – there are healthy, respectful, caring ways to go through a breakup with a partner, but it does require some active thinking.

I have a crush on my friend in my same organization. Is it worth risking our friendship and the structure of our org to tell them how I feel? -Org-y

There are a lot of things to be said about hooking up with or pursuing a romantic relationship with someone from your friend group or organization. It is important to KNOW THYSELF, or at least (since everyone believes they are the one human exempt from their own biases and tendencies) know the person you're interested in. Not all people are able to handle the very possible uncomfortable outcomes of org-cest, and that is okay. Navigating a relationship with someone from the friend group and especially with someone from within an organization takes open communication and maturity. Before you decide whether or not to make those moves, decide whether or not

you are willing to commit to the amount of communication it takes to preserve enough of a relationship to stay friends or work together. I would encourage you to talk to the other person about boundaries and whether or not they are willing to talk to you even if things don't work out. Just saying you will be "friends no matter what" isn't enough – actually talk through the possibilities. If you both think you're ready, then by all means enjoy each other!

I accidentally hooked up with the same person as my friend ... How do I navigate this situation? -Copycat Catie

You should probably take advantage of this pristine opportunity to have a threesome. However, if that's not your style at the moment, you should first try to evaluate the situation: Is your friend still hooking up with this person? Are you planning on hooking up with this person again? What is the status of the relationship between your friend and the other person? I have always found that the best way to avoid conflict is to be transparent; be honest about how you feel and ask questions when you're unsure. While there are many aspects of relationships that are out of your control, you can choose to create a space for you, your friends and your lovers where you are free to talk about anything.

Once you've thought through what you want from the relationship with the person you hooked up with, it should be easier to start a conversation with your friend. Regardless of whether or not it was a one-time thing or you plan to marry this person, you should tell your friend. If you're not convinced, think about how your friend would feel if they had to find out from someone else. At that point it could seem like you're trying to hide it, and we all know that is a difficult hole to dig yourself out of. Think about what you want, and talk to your friend!

Happy shagging!
xoxo,
AJ

Got questions for AJ? Send them in to opinion@dailynexus.com with the subject "Ask AJ."

HOROSCOPES

Oh baby, you *know* we've gotta do Valentine's Day 'scopes

ARIES

MARCH 21 - APRIL 19

You can take your head out of your partner's asshole for five seconds to realize you've completely neglected all of your other relationships.

TAURUS

APRIL 20 - MAY 20

Valentine's Day may not be the best time to break up with your long-distance S.O. over the phone, but YOLO!

GEMINI

MAY 21 - JUNE 20

Today feels like the day to debut your foot fetish. GODSPEED!

CANCER

JUNE 21 - JULY 22

That grand romantic gesture you're thinking of making? Stop that right now. Stop it!

LEO

JULY 23 - AUGUST 22

The person you've been into all year will seek your advice on how to ask out your best friend.

VIRGO

AUGUST 23 - SEPTEMBER 22

You will meticulously plan your own rom-com level meet-cute and it will actually happen!

LIBRA

SEPTEMBER 23 - OCTOBER 22

Who needs Valentine's Day when you have GALentine's Day, am I right ladies???

SCORPIO

OCTOBER 23 - NOVEMBER 21

That kid from your chem lab will text you "Hey I think we have ~chemistry~. Wanna go out?" When you say no, they'll say their cousin took your phone.

SAGITTARIUS

NOVEMBER 22 - DECEMBER 21

You will meet your ~soulmate~ at Whole Foods. Look for the person buying celery as you're buying your rosé.

CAPRICORN

DECEMBER 22 - JANUARY 19

The guy who hit you with his car will try turn his vehicular faux pas into an opportunity to ask you out.

AQUARIUS

JANUARY 20 - FEBRUARY 18

Your parents will call you to ask about your Valentine's plans, with the not-so-subtle reminder that they want grandchildren.

PISCES

FEBRUARY 19 - MARCH 20

Maybe don't ghost someone after you have sex with them (especially when you say "Let's do this again.") Be direct, dumbass!

Just the Tips: How to Give Blowjobs That Don't Suck

Jackie Offerman
Opinion Writer/Oral Sex Connoisseur

Approaching sex, particularly oral sex, for the first time can be a distressing event for some. Traditional sex is a team sport, as it fosters a "we're all in this together" sort of camaraderie that takes some of the pressure off each individual participant. However, when giving oral sex all eyes are completely on you. In most cases, if someone isn't nutting it's pretty easy to find who's to blame.

Personally, tackling my first dick seemed like a daunting task. So, I approached the situation with the intensity that my type-A personality demands and decided to hit the books. This came in the form of an in-depth tutorial from one of my close friends.

She sat me down and demonstrated the proper positioning, motions, etc. on a hairbrush



TINNA LAM / DAILY NEXUS

handle. In my case, not knowing what exactly to expect was what was causing the majority of my anxiety. After receiving explicit instructions, I felt better prepared to explore this unknown territory. I realized that I wasn't nervous about the actual act of giving a blowjob per se, but more that I couldn't imagine how the events might unfold in my head because I had absolutely no concept of what was going to happen.

I felt lucky that I had a friend I trusted who was willing to educate me on the subject. I don't think I would have found the courage to give my first blowjob without the encouragement from this important learning experience. Finding friends who are willing to talk so openly about their penis experiences are rare, and it has made me wonder about other girls' first experiences and whether or not they felt prepared when taming their first dick.

I decided to broach the subject with some of my college friends and received some interesting feedback. I found out that many girls did not receive the thorough education I thought was necessary for success. Most girls simply repeated the golden rule: no teeth. But other than that, most advice was to "just kinda go for it." When they reflected on their experiences, the consensus seemed to be that they didn't believe this lack of education hindered their ability to perform or caused them any more anxiety than normal during their first experience. Personally, I think hindsight blurs the anxiety they felt preceding the act.

I continued the conversation with my blowjob virgin friends, who all agreed that receiving a thorough how-to walkthrough would significantly decrease their anxiety. Most of these girls told me that they had gleaned what little knowledge they had from brief conversations with friends, or from articles in Cosmopolitan and the like. We discussed the merits of these articles and they told me how they didn't feel like they could trust the information between the glossy pages of a national magazine when performing such an intimate act.

All this talk about blowjobs and education got me thinking about how our society approaches sexual education. Sex is such a popular topic in our culture; it's used in advertisements to sell products, it's shown in movies and music videos, it's discussed in the media, news and politics. But amidst all this, there's so little discussion about sex

Traditional sex is a team sport, as it fosters a "we're all in this together" sort of camaraderie. However, when giving oral sex all eyes are completely on you.

that occurs outside of heterosexual penetrative acts – particularly about the details of oral sex, or sex that falls outside of the heterosexual binary.

Is this lack of information fueling a culture that shames these acts? After considering all of the knowledge gained from examining my own experiences, discussing the experiences of others and pondering how our society educates the masses on this topic, I've come to the conclusion that the fear women feel in performing oral sex comes from a culture of embarrassment.

I think women should be proud of their ability to please their partner. Maybe by owning the power we wield in our positions as blowjob-givers, women will be better able to share their confidence and knowledge with those coming next. *wink wink*

Jackie Offerman thinks women should share their experiences to create a new generation of epic blowjob-givers.