

THE ARTS

Our film critic Keegan Malan suggests another double feature of classic cinema. Read why he thinks “Come and See” and “Rashomon” make a thought-provoking pair.

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Members of the Biology and Jujitsu Clubs traveled to Albion Field Station for their annual retreat. Find out what they did there and why they're glad they went.

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Christopher Nolan's “Oppenheimer” put quantum physics in the popular eye. Hear how Professor Kent Davis approaches his Quantum Mechanics class.

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Renovations Across Campus Bring New Life to PUC



Lighting restoration underway in Paulin Recital Hall.

By Charlie Kefalos

Renovations of Paulin Recital Hall, West Hall and the Hanson Pool undertaken at the beginning of the calendar year are nearing completion. Funded by anonymous donations and gifts from alumni, these projects improved campus facilities that are widely used by students, faculty and community members alike.

Paulin Recital Hall

Built in 1967, Paulin Hall has served as the venue for many concerts, plays, lectures, Homecoming weekends, PUC Prep senior nights and PUC Elementary end-of-semester concerts. The last renovation — which involved replacing the '60s-era blue carpet — occurred in the '90s. Faculty and staff

members of the music department felt it was time for another update, replacing worn seating and embracing advancements in performing arts technology.

PUC alumnus Quentin White donated to PUC's music department for the renovations and upgrades after selling his share in the Angwin Community Ambulance Project.

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FROM THE EDITOR

Hey PUC,

This is a proper spring we're having! Fragrant flowers, buzzing bees, bare legs and allergies — my very favorite time of year.

Spring quarter is different from all the others. All winter, we move briskly from room to room, seeking shelter from the cold and wet. The trees sleep. But in spring, we orient our lives outdoors. We move meetings and classes outdoors. We open our windows, we plant our gardens and we reconnect our experience with the living creatures all around us.

In general, I spend too much time indoors, on screens — something I know must be relatable to many of you — so I've been trying something new this quarter. At least once a day, I like to go outside with no real purpose. I walk slowly, and I let my mind wander. I try to be alone with my thoughts for a few minutes. I take some deep breaths and spend some time listening to the birds, and I notice I feel calmer when I return inside to whatever task is at hand. My mind feels clearer.

The coolest part about this activity is

that you can also do it when you need to focus hard on something. The potential for distraction still exists, but I find those distractions are more fleeting than those found indoors. (Of course, I'm assuming you didn't bring your phone with you on your walk, which can be hard to do. Sometimes I find myself carrying mine from room to room without noticing I'd even picked it up. Scary!)

It's important to create these kinds of private moments for ourselves, to relax the tension of always feeling watched. I also think it's humbling and stirring to remember that creation is both vast and familiar — though we're so different from all these other creatures, we're made the same.

Yikes! Is that what this column has come to? Writing letters about how nice it is to take walks? I guess that's what it's like to be older and wiser — or maybe just older. Go outside! Touch grass!

*Cheers,
Charlie Kefalos
Editor-in-Chief*



CAMPUS

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A former music major, White supported the remodel of the recital hall to extend its reach as a gathering place beyond PUC.

"I would love to see us hopefully become another venue for the broader community," echoed Rachelle Davis, chair of the music department. "I'm hoping [the recital hall] will become a place that is inviting to the campus and not just for music majors."

Phase one included technology-based aspects of the remodel. A new lighting system replaced most of the interior lights, and includes a light bar that can be seen above the stage. Visitors will also enjoy a new audio system with new microphones, a 32-channel sound board, and heavy-bass speakers. Two new cameras were installed, and the department expects to add a third at the beginning of the upcoming fall quarter.

The music department's "Shrek the Musical," playing Memorial Day weekend, will be the first PUC-led performance to utilize the improved sound system.

"The remodel is a really good endeavor because it is allowing people to continue to

enjoy art, theater and music in an updated space," said music major Mika Palitang.

"The new lights and sound system will definitely be useful for the musical."

"Hopefully, showing donors that what they have given us made a tremendous difference will motivate other donors to do the same."

Phase two will begin in early August. Funding for phase two has come from myriad sources, including a concert and silent auction held at the Angwin Airport in October 2023. The music department is also offering the opportunity to name and personalize seats in the new theater for donations of \$250 per chair.

West Hall

Originally a dance hall and bowling alley for the Angwin Resort, West Hall was converted into a "normal school" for

both elementary and high school students as well as teachers in training. After the construction of the PUC Prep and PUC Elementary buildings, West Hall housed PUC's education and psychology departments, and today it continues to host future educators within its walls.

Faculty of the education department wanted to repair water damage and rotting walls in the historic building, which is approaching its 100th birthday. A million-dollar gift from the Ricchiuti family enabled the department to begin planning a renovation. The Facilities team helped prepare the building in late March by temporarily relocating department functions, fixing the electricity and lighting, and installing new plumbing.

Over spring break, three crews helped repaint the interior and exterior of the building, install new windows and place new carpet. One addition was that of a reception window in the main entry hall, which will ensure security of the building and important accreditation documents inside.

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CAMPUS

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“The new lounge space in Room 213 will be primarily used for technology, projects and student space,” said Jean Buller, chair of the education department. “Students have tried to use that room as a study hall space, but it was not pleasurable for studying and hanging out in.

It’s an old building!”

“In the past, [West Hall] was run down — really dirty on the outside — but now, it’s more exciting and nicer than the surrounding buildings,” stated liberal studies major Lilyana Driver. “I’m excited for the new lounge study space and technology that will be available for us.”

Buller also applied for a grant from the Archie Tonge Education Fund to implement technological upgrades across the building. The grant supported the purchase of new furniture, two new projectors, sound equipment, recording equipment, STEM educational materials, a greenscreen, two new smartboards, laptops, iPads and headphones. These items are set to arrive before the end of the school year, and will be available for student and classroom use beginning in the fall of 2024.



The Hanson Pool has been empty for most of the school year as necessary renovations are completed.

Hanson Pool

Work began on the Hanson Pool renovations during winter quarter. The refurbishments were necessary to comply with Napa County building codes and California’s Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act, designed to prevent entrapment hazards in public pool drainage systems. Around two-thirds of the funds

to restore the pool were reallocated from an extraneous insurance fund, with the remaining amount donated by the St. Helena Hospital Foundation.

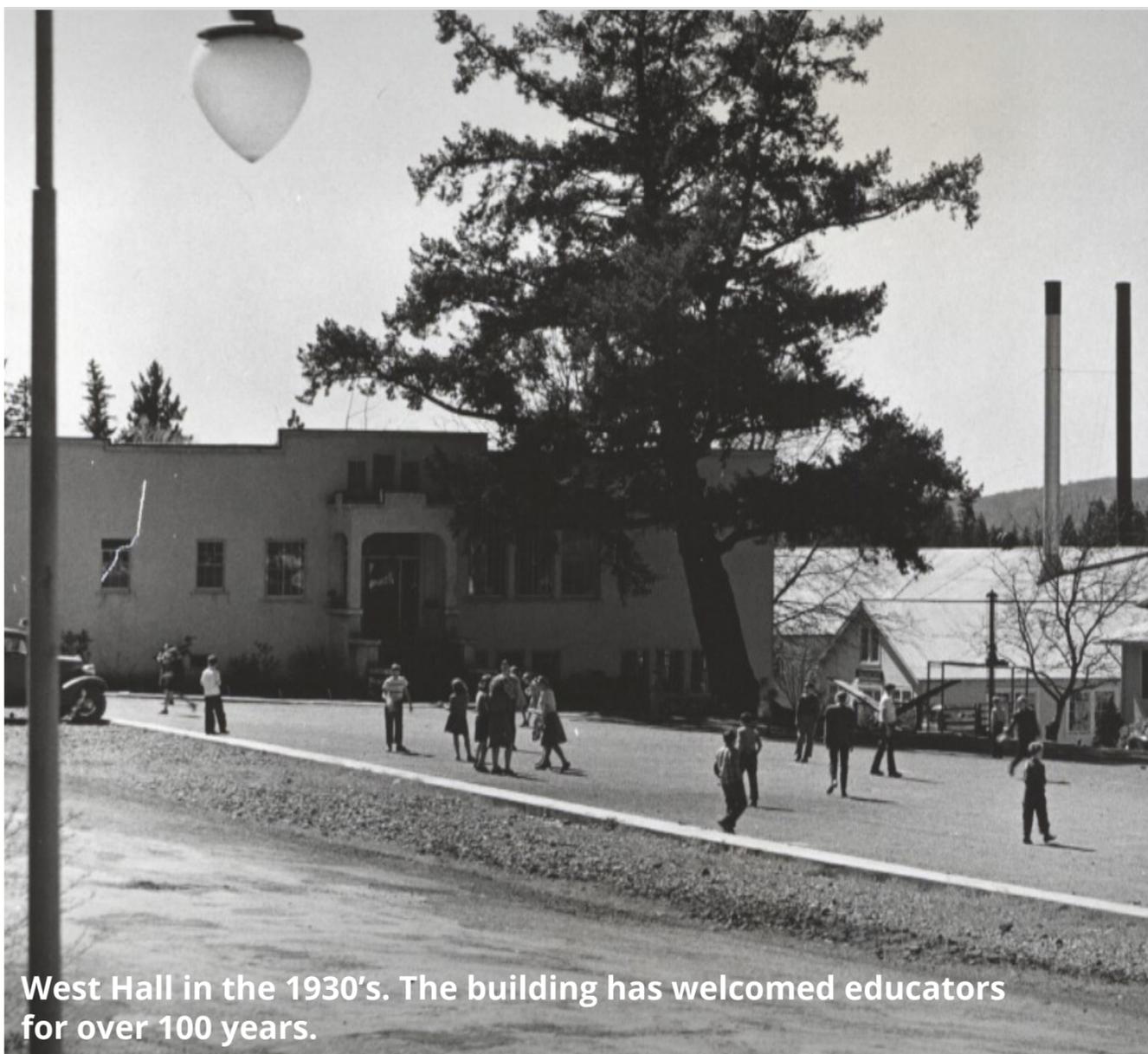
At the beginning of April, contractors opened 36 inch wide access points around 133 feet of cracks in the foundation of the concrete bowl of the pool. One of the primary pumps also needed to be replaced. The next steps will entail drilling in dowels, filling in cracks with epoxy resin and overlapping rebar, then pouring concrete and plastering it to finish the job.

“The team is working really hard to get this thing done,” noted Dr. Robert Paulson, professor of physical science. “They are very efficient about it, and I am impressed with the progress they have made.

I think this is going to look great when it is all done, but we’ve just got to give [them] time to get it done.”

Director of Facilities Management Dale Withers expects the pool renovation to be completed by June 2024. Overall, these three projects are just the beginning of a new chapter for this historic campus.

“The two messages of these remodels are, one, [President] Trecartin is big on spending donations quickly to show the donor what a difference it made, and two, most of these projects we are focused on really are donor driven,” said project manager Sam Heier. “Hopefully, showing donors that what they have given us made a tremendous difference will motivate other donors to do the same.” ■



West Hall in the 1930’s. The building has welcomed educators for over 100 years.

THE ARTS

Double Feature

By Keegan Malan

Editor's Note: *The box office is pretty dry this time of year, so our film critic Keegan Malan is recommending double features of works of classic cinema. From Keegan: "These two films represent peak foreign cinema, and both explore dark aspects of the human condition in ways which you will never forget."*

"Come and See" (1985)

Elem Klimov's "Come and See" is more terrifying than any horror movie. Taking place during World War II, the film stars Aleksei Kravchenko as Florya Gaishun, a young Belarusian boy who enlists in the Soviet partisan force to fight against the occupying Germans. Gaishun hopes to prove himself as a hero, only to experience firsthand the grim reality of war and human suffering.

In Kravchenko's tour-de-force performance, the internal conflict of his character is viscerally displayed across his face, especially in his eyes. He almost seems to play three distinct characters within one person, by turns naïve and hopeful, afraid and in denial, and consumed with the



Toshiro Mifune as Tajōmaru and Machiko Kyo as Masago in "Rashomon."



Aleksei Kravchenko's boy soldier experiences death firsthand.

Courtesy of FilmGrab

horrors he has witnessed. The deterioration of the psyche is convincingly portrayed here, thanks to Kravchenko's incredible ability to seamlessly shift from one aspect of Gaishun to the next.

Klimov's camerawork puts us in Gaishun's shoes. Characters look and speak directly at the camera, and we clearly see the toll that has been exacted from them. The film lingers on images and sequences that sear into the mind, sometimes for a maddeningly long time, evoking a realism that deteriorates you as it does Gaishun.

Yes, the film is anti-war, but that label alone doesn't do it justice. Beyond that message, the dread that fills the viewer lingers like a festering wound. It haunts and horrifies with what I would refer to as "human horror" — oh, the lengths people will go to inflict and rationalize evil!

Humans can make beautiful things, such as classical music or life itself, but they can also ravage, murder and appall.

"Come and See" is not for the faint of heart, but it should be watched. It serves as an invitation to witness death itself and its agents, in order to truly understand what evil is and how it operates.

"Rashomon" (1950)

Akira Kurosawa's "Rashomon" is a masterpiece of Japanese cinema. Taking place in feudal Japan, the film follows Toshiro Mifune's Tajōmaru, a notorious bandit accused of murdering a samurai and raping his wife. But when called to testify, four key witnesses give conflicting accounts of what actually occurred, leading to a heated investigation to uncover the truth.

The ensemble cast gives it their all. Mifune, in particular, is exceptional in

his depiction of a madman who is by turns terrifying, darkly humorous and a simpering wretch. You hate him, are disgusted by him, and yet are somehow held in his slimy grasp.

Machiko Kyō, who stars as the samurai's wife, is also worth noting. She portrays a ravished woman whose grief is equal parts palpable and heart wrenching. And Masayuki Mori, who plays the deceased samurai, gives an exceptional, understated performance. He doesn't say much, but his expressions perfectly convey the character's every thought and emotion.

Kurosawa's direction is stunning. Every decision he makes about where to place the camera and how to frame the image turns the film into a living, breathing organism. It's an act of manipulation, as all filmmaking is. Kurosawa forces us to see and feel what he wants us to, in a way that we aren't aware of; it simply unfolds and engulfs us.

"Rashomon" explores the nature of truth and justice: In this world, you can't take anyone's word as it is. The film is filled with liars, and characters who all seem to believe a radically different version of what happened in the grove. It's not trying to say that there is no truth — rather, it explores the difficulty of getting at the truth in a world filled with deception, misunderstandings and half-truths. How can justice reign when it seems that everyone is guilty? Can there be true justice if the legal system allows wicked and cruel people to live free? And how many truly evil walk among us?

"Rashomon" is not an entertaining film, but it is brilliant, harrowing, and so very terrifying in its insight on human nature and its desire to hide its true self, even at the expense of justice. ■

COMMUNITY

Clubs Visit Albion Field Station for Annual Retreat



Student and faculty attendees pose for a group photo on their annual Albion trip.

By Colin Russ

From April 19 to 21, the Biology Club and the Jujitsu Club took a weekend trip to the Albion Field Station. Students and their professors enjoyed the mid-quarter opportunity to relax, experience the natural environment and foster old and new connections with their fellow Pioneers.

Albion, PUC's retreat, research and education center on the Mendocino Coast, attracts diverse visitors to its cabins and facilities. For many campus clubs and organizations, the trip has become an annual custom.

"We go mainly to have fun and enjoy a weekend in the beautiful environment of Albion," said Biology Club president Christian Nunez. "But we also go because it's a Bio Club tradition!"

Members on the trip explored local attractions like Fort Bragg, the historic Point Cabrillo Light Station and state beaches like Big River Beach and MacKerricher Beach. They also hiked to geological points of interest, like the unique pygmy forest in Van Damme State Park and the active coastal blowhole.

"The Albion trip is meant to make good memories ... and to provide an experience that students do not get often," said Nunez.

The Jujitsu Club led the group in special activities rarely taught on campus,

like centering and awareness exercises, balance training and qigong. Students also competed in the "Albion Olympics," a series of games and physical challenges such as charades, costume contests, and canoe and kayak races.

"These Olympics have seen many participants end up in the water," recalled John Duncan, biology professor and club sponsor.

Spending time in the casual atmosphere at Albion allows students and faculty to bond and grow in meaningful ways. From the Olympics to meal preparation to cabin living, simple and fun activities facilitate teamwork and create valuable shared experiences.

"The weekend is a great opportunity to socialize with people that one knows, get to know people that one may not know that well, and to spend time with [each other] in an environment that is not an academic setting," added Duncan.

As another spring quarter comes to an end, traditions like these Albion trips reward the work and commitment of students and staff at PUC. The memories made there may not always end up on postcards, but they will be treasured by those who shared them as they part ways for the summer. ■

"The Albion trip is meant to make good memories ... and to provide an experience that students do not get often."



Students in front of a waterfall on one of the group's many hikes.

CONVERSATION

Quantum Mechanics: So Hot Right Now

By Sherban Cedeno

In the popular imagination, quantum mechanics has a reputation for mystery and complexity. For Dr. Kent Davis and the six students in CHEM-461: Quantum Mechanics, however, it is simply another subject for chemistry and biochemistry majors to learn, with equations to master and models to apply.

What were once Physical Chemistry I, II and III have now been rebranded as Thermodynamics, Kinetics and Quantum Mechanics, but the subject matter remains the same. But what is quantum mechanics, and why do chemists need to know about it? Simply put, quantum mechanics is the study of the extremely small — of things smaller than atoms. In the early 20th century, many scientists in Europe began to find that Newton's laws failed to fully describe phenomena at this scale, and their efforts created "quantum" mechanics, distinct from the "classical" physics governed by Newton's laws.

The field of quantum mechanics was not fully articulated until the 1920s (Christopher Nolan's "Oppenheimer" provides a Who's Who of the time), but its impact on physics and chemistry was felt almost immediately, both in the wider world of science and here on Howell Mountain.

"For all its weirdness, and for all the things that make it non-intuitive, it's the best theory that we have to describe these weird things that happen at the microscopic level, at the atomic level," Davis explained.

Take light, for instance. In its most fundamental form, it behaves both like a particle and like a wave. Imagine if a baseball were both a solid sphere and vibrations in the air, depending on how you interacted with it.

"Most of the time you and I walk through the world and look at things, and we don't even notice. We don't notice that wave," Davis said. "But it exists nonetheless." Quantum models are important to chemists for the role they play in illuminating the behavior of electrons.

"Quantum properties become more and more important as the size and as the energy of an object gets smaller," Davis



Within minutes of starting class, the chalkboard in Kent Davis' Quantum Mechanics class is filled with math and equations.

explained. Because electrons cannot be further divided into anything smaller, quantum models outline their role in chemical reactions as parts of elements and molecules.

Of course, much of the mystique of quantum mechanics comes not from widespread excitement about the behavior of electrons, but from the philosophical and technological implications of its principles. Electrons and other quantum objects exist as "clouds" of probability; that is, they exist in all the possible positions they can take simultaneously, until they are interacted with. When interaction occurs, they snap to only one position, and all other probabilities are discarded. In the late 1950s, Hugh Everett proposed what has since been termed the "Many Worlds" interpretation of this behavior: When this probability collapse occurs,

reality branches into multiple "realities" in which each probability occurs. (It should be noted that this is one of a handful of interpretations, with others being far more tame.)

In essence, at the smallest scales of reality, seas of energy are constantly bubbling. Particles can spontaneously be created from nothing, before returning to nothing just as quickly. Some scientists have argued that the universe was created by one such random fluctuation at the quantum scale.

The creation of something from nothing and the potential existence of multiple realities are two of the strange and mysterious ideas that quantum physicists have hypothesized, and the ones which attract many laypeople. But Davis is uninterested in using such ideas as a way to develop metaphysical guidance.

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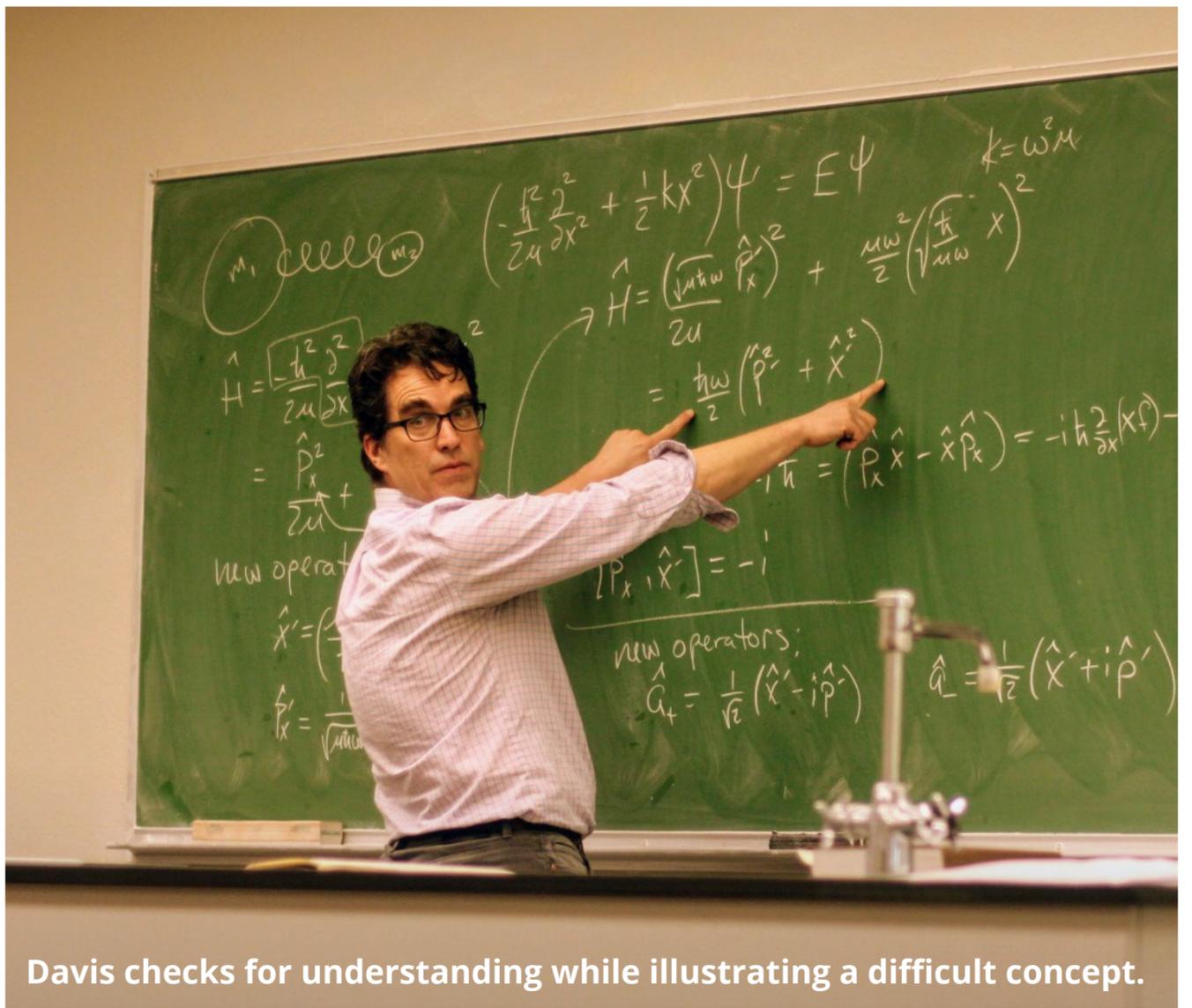
CONVERSATION

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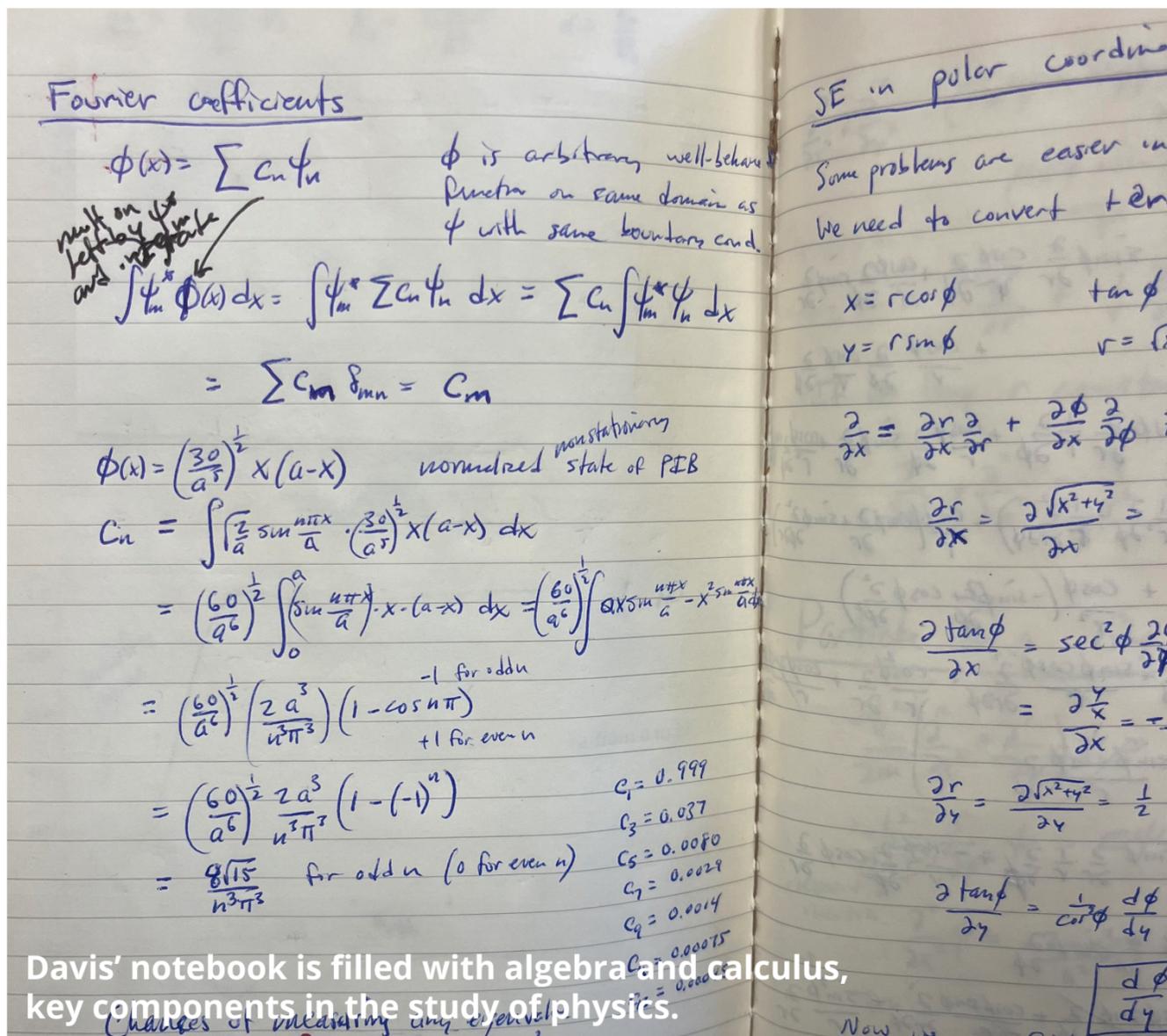
“Some people say, ‘Quantum indeterminacy? Well, that’s where God can work in here,’ and I tend to try to avoid that,” he said. “I don’t like boxing God into a corner and saying, ‘Oh, He works according to some scientific principle where I can’t understand something.’”

Armed with his notebook full of differential equations and linear algebra, Davis is interested in teaching quantum models to help students develop a deeper understanding of the world. The mathematical rigor of quantum mechanics is the one stereotype of the field affirmed in the course — calculus is a prerequisite to take the class. But the heady and speculative conclusions about the world that are often highlighted in headlines and “science” YouTube videos are things best left to students’ free time.

“I think we should encourage more people to take calculus,” he said, underscoring the practical aspects of the field. “I think of it as a huge achievement in human history, and this ability to think about change and that sort of thing is used in so many other fields.” ■



Davis checks for understanding while illustrating a difficult concept.



Davis’ notebook is filled with algebra and calculus, key components in the study of physics.

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UPDATES

PITCH IT!



Are you taking a class that more students should know about? Have an idea for a campus story that must be discussed? Make your voice heard in the PUC community — send your pitch to the *Campus Chronicle*! Contributing writers are always compensated for their work and receive a publication credit in the issue.

FIND THE ANSWER, WIN FREE COFFEE



The first person to DM us on Instagram @pucchronicle will win a free drink at the Grind!
This week's question is:
When was Paulin Hall last renovated?

JOB POSTING

Academic administration is looking for 10-12 students to work as ushers over graduation weekend. Ushers will be paid hourly, including training, and the role includes attendance at the commencement ceremony. Please email graduationcoordinator@puc.edu for more information.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Lip Sync Battle
Wednesday, May 8 at 6 p.m.
in Paulin Hall

“Fiddler on the Roof”
May 8, 9 and 11
at PUC Prep

College Assembly
Tuesday, May 14
at 4 p.m.

Cello Recital – Eric Moore
Tuesday, May 14
at 6:30 p.m.

Bouquet Bar
Thursday, May 16 at 5 p.m.
outside the Campus Center

Senior Recital
Friday, May 17
at 4 p.m.

Save Your Seat!



Be a part of history by naming a chair in Paulin Recital Hall. For a gift of \$250 per chair, a personalization of your choice will be engraved on a plaque and adhered to the back of a theater seat, creating a lasting recognition of your contribution and support. Donations are tax deductible. Please contact Alumni & Advancement to find your seat and leave a legacy!
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