



Paris Attacks Affect EAP Students



23 UCSB students in Paris, all safe
129 Victims of Paris Attacks

ATEKEN ABLA / DAILY NEXUS

Zareena Zaidi
 Reporter

Maddy Brockert was in the Stade de France in Paris for the France vs. Germany soccer game on Nov. 13 when a bomber outside the stadium began the first of several terrorist attacks on the city that evening.

Brockert, a third-year sociology major and Education Abroad Program (EAP) student, is one of 23 UCSB students currently studying abroad in Paris. Following the terrorist attack, which left approximately 130 dead, UCEAP successfully confirmed the safety and location of all UCSB students in Paris.

The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) claimed responsibility for the mass shootings and suicide bombings at six locations throughout the city, including the final and deadliest attack at the Bataclan concert hall, where 89

hostages were killed. On Friday evening, President Francois Hollande closed France's borders and declared a state of emergency. Flights were cancelled, a curfew mandated and the Eiffel Tower closed until Monday, Nov. 16.

Third-year anthropology and psychology double-major and EAP student Danielle Miller lives in the 12th arrondissement of Paris and was unable to access her apartment on the night of the attacks due to a police blockade. Miller said she and a group of friends were able to spend the night at the house of someone she met that night.

"[Parisians] were opening their doors

for anyone who needed a place; there was a [#PorteOuverte] going around which means 'open door,' so basically if you needed a place to stay you would tweet or post on social media with that hashtag and anyone who saw it would invite you in," Miller said.

Miller said people in Paris the night of Nov. 13 were "there for each other."

"Everyone was scared, no one knew what was happening, but that made us all in it together. French or American — it didn't matter what your nationality was," Miller said.

Brockert said the gravity of the situation became "real" after she learned there were 100 hostages at the Bataclan theatre.

"Me and my roommate stopped in the middle of the metro station and I almost lost it because it felt really real," Brockert said. "It didn't just happen, it was happening right now. People are dying right now and we were a mile away and it became very real."

Brockert said she had visited Place de la République, a square near where the shootings took place, which is now filled with flowers "stacked feet high" and "hundreds and hundreds" of candles. Brockert said when she was in the square a man stood blindfolded in the middle of the crowd with a sign in French reading "I'm a Muslim, but I'm not a terrorist. We all love."

"I watched person after person of every background and every age walk up to him and hug him," Brockert said. "At one point a three-or-four-year old ran up and grabbed his leg ... It was cool seeing someone that young just see him as another human being — not see him as

a Muslim, not see him as a terrorist, not see him as anything other than a human being and just showing him love."

"Me and my roommate stopped in the middle of the metro station and I almost lost it because it felt really real."

- Maddy Brockert

PARIS p.3

Students Express Solidarity with Mizzou Protests



EFFIE SKLAVENTIS / DAILY NEXUS

The meeting was held in light of recent racially charged occurrences at the University of Missouri.

Nicholas Bogel-Burroughs
 Asst. News Editor

In a dimly-lit Isla Vista garage, about 45 students, local residents and UC Santa Barbara staff members convened on Wednesday to support University of Missouri protesters, share their difficulties as people of color and discuss the most effective means of overcoming these trials.

MIZZOU p.4

THE PAC-12 IS HERE FOR ANOTHER THROWDOWN
MEN'S BASKETBALL HOME OPENER
IT'S GAUCHO GAMEDAY



EVENTS THIS WEEK

- W BASKETBALL VS BAKERSFIELD**
 THUNDERDOME
 THURSDAY | 7 PM
- M BASKETBALL VS OREGON STATE**
 THUNDERDOME
 SATURDAY | 2 PM
- W VOLLEYBALL VS HAWAII**
 SENIOR NIGHT
 THUNDERDOME
 SATURDAY | 7:30 PM
- M SOCCER VS. TBA**
 NCAA TOURNEY 2ND ROUND
 HARDER STADIUM
 SUNDAY | 6:00 PM
 STUDENT TICKETS \$5

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IV LIVE presents
IMPROVABILITY's CAL
POLY V. UCSB
UCSB's award-winning
improv troupe dukes it out
with Cal Poly!
Friday, November 20 at
8pm
Embarcadero Hall, Isla
Vista
\$3

Brothers from Other
Mothers Presents
BFOM's FALL
CONCERT
BFOM and Chill: BFOM
Awakens
Saturday, November 21
at 5pm
Embarcadero Hall, Isla
Vista



Magic Lantern Films
presents
AMERICAN ULTRA
Friday, November 20 at 7
& 10pm
Monday, November 23 at
7 & 10pm
IV Theater, Isla Vista
\$4



Salman Khan
Education Reimagined
Sun, Jan 24
3:00 PM
The Granada Theatre

A nonprofit educational organization with the mission of providing free, high-quality education to "anyone, anywhere" in the world, Khan Academy was founded by Salman Khan, a former hedge fund analyst with degrees from MIT and Harvard. Khan is also the author of The One World School House, which explores the potential impact of the web as a teaching tool. With 6,000 instructional videos covering everything from basic arithmetic to college level science and economics, 100,000 practice problems and 10,000,000 unique users per month, Khan Academy is redefining the way we learn. In this moderated conversation, Khan will discuss how we can rethink education.

Mark Moffett
The High Frontier: Exploring
theForest Canopy
SUN, NOV 22
3:00 PM



One of only a handful of people to earn a Ph.D. under respected ecologist E.O. Wilson, Mark Moffett has worked in the crowns of the tallest trees, where most of the world's biodiversity lies, pursuing orangutans and canopy bears or finding rare orchids and insects – work that he details in his book, The High Frontier: Exploring the Tropical Rainforest Canopy.

Kid Flix Mix
Sun, Jan 10
11:00 AM
Campbell Hall



The film festival that is "redefining what kids' entertainment can be" (Time Out New York) returns with an exciting lineup of kid-friendly, parent-approved and jury selections. A kaleidoscopic showcase of the best short film and animation from around the world, this entertaining mix of musical and narrative shorts offers a delightful experience for all ages. (Approx. 60 min.)

Itzhak Perlman, violin
Emanuel Ax, piano
Thu, Jan 21
7:00 PM
The Granada Theatre



Undeniably one of the most beloved violinists in the world, Itzhak Perlman enjoys superstar status rarely afforded a classical musician. Recognized for his charm and humanity as well as his talent, he is a Kennedy Center Honoree treasured by audiences who respond not only to his remarkable artistry, but also to his irrepressible joy for making music.

Alex Honnold
Alone on the Wall
Sun, Nov 22
7:00 PM
Campbell Hall



lex Honnold is a professional rock climber whose audacious free-solo ascents of the world's biggest walls have made him one of the sport's most notable climbers. Known for death-defying feats such as tackling Mexico's Sendero Luminoso and Patagonia's Fitz Traverse without a rope, partner or gear.

DAILY NEXUS

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WEATHER

Despair, sadness, death
This haiku is dramatic
Shots,
shots,
shots,
shots,
shots,
shots

Tomorrow's Forecast: The 'human takes all hir obligations and turns them into haikus

I.V. Community Meeting Discusses Possible New Tenant Mediation Services



LORENZO BASILIO / DAILY NEXUS

If I.V. were to become a CSD following the 2016 election, the opportunity to create a tenant mediation program could provide mediation services to all I.V. renters.

Sonia May Htoon
Reporter

The Isla Vista Self Governance Initiative held a public meeting Tuesday in the Isla Vista Clinic building to discuss the formation of a tenant mediation program in the proposed Mediation Services District (CSD).

Tuesday's meeting was the fourth of 11 meetings the Initiative organized for community members to discuss the framework and the specific services that may be offered in a CSD. The meeting focused on whether or not the CSD should establish a tenant mediation program and, if it is established, what its specific design and functions should be. I.V. residents will vote in November of 2016 on whether or not to approve the formation of a CSD.

According to Community Organizer from Assemblymember Das Williams' office Darcel Elliott, a tenant mediation program would be the simplest service to establish because it would not directly conflict with any state's codes for CSDs.

City of Santa Barbara Rental Housing Mediation Program representative Andrea Bifano, who sits on the Rental Housing Mediation Task Force for the potential CSD, describes mediation as a process that "empowers" disputing parties to reach a resolution.

"A neutral third party helps facilitate communication by clarifying both the views and positions and helping the parties come up with their own solutions," Vivano said. "Often times, people are in a situation or relationship that they need to continue, and if they don't work out their dispute it could escalate and lead to conviction, which is something we would like to prevent."

Elliott said that the UCSB Community Housing Office is currently the only tenant mediation service for students living in I.V., and it is not available to non-student UCSB

resident of I.V., such as Santa Barbara City College students.

"They provide tenant mediation for all students, faculty and staff of UCSB. They handle 500 cases a year, 85 percent of those are people that reside in Isla Vista," Elliott said. "A lot of SBCC students that live in I.V., a lot of non-student renters that live in I.V., they don't have any sort of tenant mediation offered to them ... This is why this service became one of our top priorities."

Isla Vista Tenants Union (IVTU) and fourth-year English and sociology double-major Clara Perez said IVTU advocates for tenants and empowers them to fight for their rights but does not provide mediation.

"We have recently worked to fight with eviction cases," Perez said. "We work to bring awareness to the community about how families and students are being treated by their landlords."

Isla Vista Downtown Business Association Vice President Jay Freeman said a CSD might not provide the power needed to run an effective tenant mediation program.

"Sadly, I think we're kind of hamster-wheeling on some of these issues, because the form of government that we've been able to come up with and been able to construct doesn't allow us to have the kinds of land use power that will allow us to have the kind of teeth that would actually allow us to force landlords to do anything," Freeman said. "We need a city or a county to actually step in and do something."

Perez said IVTU could "be those teeth" by advocating for tenants if landlords do not cooperate.

"We can't necessarily get involved as far as the mediation goes, but if landlords are refusing to come to mediation tables, we want to know," Perez said. "We want to know if anyone's rights are being neglected so that we can have their back and put them on blast."

PARIS

Continued from p.1

Third-year political science major and EAP student Cameron Sousa said he and his friends were shaken when they heard about the attacks.

"My friends reacted in similar fashion to my own, with shock, disbelief, and a great amount of sorrow," Sousa said in an email.

Interim Faculty Director for UCSB Education Abroad Program Professor Francisco Lomeli said violence can happen anywhere and EAP would not dissuade students from going to France in the future.

"You could be in downtown Los Angeles, downtown Chicago or New York. It could happen like it happened in 2014 in Isla Vista. One just never knows, but that's also part of getting to know that country," Lomeli said. "It's part of society nowadays where violence is more rampant and quite unbridled and it can happen anywhere. It's extremely rare for that to happen in France."

Lomeli said EAP believes the events in France last week were an "isolated case" and the program is confident students can still safely study abroad in France.

"If there were any imminent dangers, we would not send students. We are very careful as EAP to filter those things — to study those things and to figure out how safe is the country still," Lomeli said. "If by any chance there were to be more and more attacks on a consistent basis and systematic basis, then EAP would have to re-evaluate."

Miller said although she and other EAP

students have the option to return home, they will stay in France to immerse themselves in the local community.

"We had the option to go home and escape everything going on, but for all the Parisians, this is their home. They don't have anywhere else to go; they don't get to just turn away," Miller said. "We came to embrace the Parisian lifestyle and to become one of them, and we want to be there for them and be just like them."

Miller said there is a striking difference between

French and American mentalities in the aftermath of the attacks, with Americans reacting more cautiously.

"People are purposely going out to the cafés to show they are not afraid," Miller said. "The Americans I've talked to, mostly my parents and professors, are scared. They want us to stay safe, stay inside and stay away from anything that can be dangerous, which is understandable. But the French want you go to

out there and live how you lived and not let this get in the way at all."

Brockert said Paris has been "resilient" in the days following the attacks.

"The saying that's all over the city is 'Même Pas Peur,' which means 'not afraid.' It's on all the different tributes around the city," Brockert said. "It basically encompasses what Paris is trying to stand for ... to show terrorists, 'You try to tear us down and inflict terror on the city, and while you might have done that, that's not going to get us down in the long run.'"

“We came to embrace the Parisian lifestyle and to become one of them, and we want to be there for them and be just like them.”
- Danielle Miller

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MIZZOU

Continued from p.1

The garage is part of the Biko House, a 12-bedroom co-op specifically oriented to people of color and named after Stephen Biko, the leader of the black consciousness movement in South Africa who died in police custody in 1977. Attendees initially focused on solidarity with protesters at the University of Missouri, who campaigned to remove then-president Timothy Wolfe for his handling of racial tensions on campus. The two-hour conversation quickly shifted to the struggles of black students at UCSB, who comprise four percent of the student body. The meeting had no specific agenda, allowing for an open conversation between college-age students and supportive community members, very few of whom were white.

The Santa Barbara Student Housing Cooperative describes the garage as an “all-purpose community space for radical meetings,” and students within its neon walls — plastered with stickers and reminders that the garage is a safe space — spoke freely on white supremacy and institutional racism while trying to determine how to build on the progress of black civil rights leaders and modern activists.

Organizer and fourth-year environmental studies major Nia Mitchell said she is fully com-

mitted to striving for the rights and safety of African-Americans.

“When thinking like this physically puts my life on the line, what does it mean to be committed?” Mitchell asked the attendees. “We really need to be talking about what a sacrifice looks like. I want this space to be a time where we really know what solidarity is.”

Mitchell proposed a fundraising initiative to fly five University of Missouri students to UCSB in February for the 13th annual Afrikan Black Coalition Conference, which aims to unify black students throughout the University of California.

Second-year Asian American studies and political science double-major Akshaya Natarajan, who also serves as an Associated Students (A.S.) off-campus senator, encouraged Mitchell and others

to request A.S. funding to bring University of Missouri students to UCSB.

“There is a problem within A.S. that we are not representing you accurately,” Natarajan said, noting that there are currently no black senators in A.S. “I would love to aid you all in any way that I can in my capacity, and my colleagues would as well.”

For the full story, see dailynexus.com

“This temporary feeling of freedom allows me to use my imagination to dream of something better than what has been given to me.”

- Sue Abdurahman

Winter 2016 | Classes run from December 14 – January 14.

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UCSB Course	AHC Equivalent	UCSB Course	AHC Equivalent
ANTH 2 (GE Area D and World Cultures)	ANTH 102	HIST 4C (GE Area E and European Traditions)	HIST/HUM 105
ANTH 5 (GE Area C)	ANTH 101	HIST 17A (GE Area D and Am. Hist. and Inst.)	HIST 107
ECON 2 (GE Area D)	ECON 101	HIST 17C (GE Area D and Am. Hist. and Inst.)	HIST 108
GEOG 3B (GE Area C)	GEOG 101	POL 5 12 (GE Area D and Am. Hist. and Inst.)	POLS 103
GEOG 5 (GE Area D)	GEOG 102	PSY 1 (GE Area D)	PSY 101
HIST 2A (GE Area E and European Traditions)	HIST/HUM 101	N/A (GE Area D)	PSY 117
HIST 2C (GE Area E and European Traditions)	HIST/HUM 102	RG ST 1 (GE Area E)	PHIL 121

All classes are five weeks or less. Nearly all are online courses that meet UCSB general education and major course requirements.



Remember to always check with your UCSB academic advisor for final course selection. Prior to registering for any AHC course that requires a prerequisite, university students must submit official transcripts verifying the course has been completed at another college.

Governor Brown Plans To Accept Refugees into California from Syria



TARUSH MOHANTI / DAILY NEXUS

Maura Fox
Reporter

California Governor Jerry Brown plans to accept Syrian refugees into California as part of President Obama’s plan, making California one of the only states to do so.

This September, President Obama’s administration said it would accept 10,000 Syrian refugees over the next 10 months. In the wake of the recent terrorist attacks on Paris, 26 state governors have said they will refuse to accept Syrian refugees into their state, with many citing concern because one of the Paris attackers was posing as a refugee.

According to a press release from her office, California Senator Diane Feinstein said although the Paris attacks have increased people’s desire for security, the U.S. needs to find a way to provide shelter for refugees.

“In light of the Paris attacks, keeping our borders secure from ISIL terrorists must be our number one priority,” Feinstein said. “At the same time, we can’t completely abandon innocent Syrian civilians in need. America must do its share to find safe haven for the millions of children and adults who have none at present time.”

Third-year communication major Erika Peralta said because of the state’s size, she hopes California will accept refugees who could integrate into American society.

“California is a big state and we have a lot of people, but at the same time we’re helping these people,” Peralta said. “Maybe one day they’ll be able to have access to the opportunities that we have already.”

But Peralta also said she is worried that by inviting Syrian refugees, the United States could open itself to threats.

“I think they do need help, but at the same time, after what happened in Paris, you never know what can happen nowadays,” Peralta said. “They are escaping from a place that they can’t call home anymore, so it’s a really tough one.”

UCSB professor of political science Narayani Lasala-Blanco said refugees’ success depends very much on the resources “receiving societies” make available to them.

“What I’ve seen is that two people coming from the same country, same religion and identical in every way develop in very different ways contingent on the place they arrive to,” Lasala-Blanco said. “I support it if there will also be the material resources to help them integrate successfully.”

Feinstein said she hopes politicians will grow more sympathetic towards refugees.

“Come winter, to see children freezing in the snow — I don’t think that’s what the western world wants either,” Feinstein said. “So I would hope governors would be very slow to make these statements.”

Geography PhD candidate Cascade Tuholske said the refugees would further diversify the U.S., making the country “stronger.”

“I think assuming that allowing refugees who request asylum under refugee status coming to the United States — that’s probably a good thing because we’re a multicultural society,” Tuholske said. “The more diversity we have in the United States, I think, the stronger we are as a country.”

Tuholske said he thinks politicians should consider the conflict causing Syrians to refugees flee their home country.

“I think it’s not so much of what I fear from refugees coming or not coming, I think it’s the fact that politicians refuse to look at actually what is causing the refugee crisis in the first place,” Tuholske said.

Tuholske said Syria refugees would not be seeking help if circumstances were not so dire.

“Syrians in the first place probably don’t want to leave their homes, so if they didn’t have reason to leave, it probably wouldn’t exist,” Tuholske said.

Lasala-Blanco said refugees should undergo “reliable” screening, but she believes most have “no connection or desire” to engage in violence.

“They just want to get on with their lives. It’s very sad for them that they can’t do that in their own country, so I think the more vetting, the better for everyone,” Lasala-Blanco said.

Religious studies PhD candidate Caleb McCarthy said he does not think that extensive vetting is necessary and refugees are not a threat to California.

For the full story, see dailynexus.com

La Familia de Colores To Host Transgender Day

Transgender Remembrance Day will recognize members of trans community



COURTESY OF FACEBOOK

Director of UCSB's Resource Center for Sexual & Gender Diversity David Whitman said violence toward the trans community is a symptom of the group's marginalization.

Jonathan Mendez
Staff Writer

La Familia de Colores will host a "Transgender Day of Remembrance" on Friday in honor of Zoraida Reyes, a trans Latina activist and UC Santa Barbara student who was murdered in 2014.

Reyes was a co-founder of La Familia de Colores at UCSB, an organization that seeks to provide a safe space for LGBTQ Latin@/Chican@ and people of color. While Reyes was unable to attain her degree in Chican@ Studies due to financial reasons, the graduating Class of 2015 presented it to her posthumously. Friday's event was planned to honor those who identify as trans and have been victims of violence of hate crimes, as well as those who have fought for justice and equality for the transgender community.

Director of UCSB's Resource Center for Sexual & Gender Diversity David Whitman said violence towards the trans community is a symptom of the group's marginalization in daily life.

"Hopefully the trans day of remembrance at UCSB can humble students to realize that oftentimes, by just being who you are, you are at risk for losing your life," Whitman said.

Whitman said the event will honor the memory of individuals who have fought against oppression.

"For us to do this, it is to show that yes, number one, they matter, and number two, this is an injustice," Whitman said.

According to Whitman, events like the one taking place Friday are infrequent either because they are not widely publicized in the media or individuals are unaware of the violence trans people face.

"This is something to care about, that this is an issue in our country, in our world, and hopefully [attendees] would at least be considering more, how they can

be thoughtful, helpful, supportive and more loving," Whitman said.

Whitman said it is important to honor Zoraida because of her role in helping found La Familia de Colores, the only LGBTQ Chican@ organization on campus.

"She created this space for people that identify in this intersection and they are feeling rightfully that it is their duty to always honor not just the founder of their group that continues to be a supportive place for Queer Chican@, trans-identified people, but also to highlight the broader issue of violence happening to trans people of color," Whitman said.

First-year psychology major Adriana Pedroza said she was inspired to advocate for marginalized groups when she attended the Trans Revolution talk featuring trans-activist Jennicet Gutierrez in November.

"A lot of people don't know about the transgender community and [that] having a day to support them allows the UCSB community to stand in solidarity and honor those who have been oppressed just for being themselves," Pedroza said.

First-year communication major Sabrina Delgado said there needs to be more leaders in the UCSB community to spread awareness about the violence trans people face.

"I think the people who don't talk about this group are not educated or are unaware of the struggles transgender people face, so attending this event on Friday to learn more about the transgender community is a way of showing that you care," Delgado said.

First-year sociology major Juan Villalobos said honoring those affected by transgender violence validates their struggle.

"People still have the mentality that it's a choice if you identify within a LGBTQ group, and it's kind of sad that others aren't aware of the discrimination they deal with," Villalobos said.

State Legislature Approves Three Locally Authored Bills

The bills deal primarily with fair payment, transgender rights and violence prevention

Josh Ortiz
Senior Staff Writer

The California State Legislature has recently approved three bills authored by local Santa Barbara government officials which will go into effect Jan. 1, 2016.

California Governor Jerry Brown signed a total of 808 bills in October, a portion of which become effective Jan. 1, 2016, according to his office. The wide range of laws address issues such as water conservation, healthcare benefits and protection for undocumented immigrants.

Senate Bill (SB) 358 — California Fair Pay Act

SB 358, authored by California State Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson, seeks to address gender wage inequality. The new law prohibits employers from paying employees of one sex wages that are lower than those paid to people of the opposite sex who do "substantially similar work." The legislation also restricts employers from retaliating against employees who share information about their wage earnings.

Jackson said the California Fair Pay Act is the "strongest equal pay law in the country" in its attempt to eliminate wage discrimination by gender.

"There's just an assumption that has long been a cultural and social reality that men need to work

more than women to provide for families or that men's work is more valuable than women's work," Jackson said. "This is going to hopefully put an end to that concept."

According to Jackson, employers will begin reviewing their employees' wages after Jan. 1, 2016 to ensure women receive equal pay to men who are doing "substantially similar work."

"What we'll hopefully see is companies proactively reviewing their pay criteria and their actual pay schedules for their workers to make sure that their women employees, who are doing substantially similar work to their male employees, are being paid the same," Jackson said.

Jackson said female students at UCSB often begin their careers in a difficult situation upon graduation because of the widespread pay discrimination in the workplace.

"When they get out of school, women start off in the workforce by virtue of this kind of discrimination — being paid less than their male counterparts doing the same work," Jackson said. "What happens when you start off behind the eight ball is you never catch up."

Jackson said with SB 358 women graduating from UCSB can now challenge employers for discrimination based on wages.

"According to the law that we just passed, if you're doing substantially similar work you have to be paid

LAWS p.6

Break the Chain of Meningitis "B"



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St. George Proposes SBCC Dorm Plan



COURTESY OF ST. GEORGE

Pending approval, the plan would renovate and add to the Beach City apartments on Cliff Drive to create dorms for 1,500 SBCC Students.

Neil Yanga
Staff Writer

Independent housing developer Ed St. George of St. George Associates introduced a proposal earlier this year to convert Beach City apartments on Cliff Drive into dorms for Santa Barbara City College (SBCC) students.

St. George plans to renovate the two-story apartments by adding a third story to accommodate up to 1,500 SBCC students. Existing kitchens will be removed for more space, and a new shared dining commons will be added. The proposal is currently in the second pre-application process under the City of Santa Barbara Planning Division.

Planning Division Project Planner Daniel Gullett said the Santa Barbara Planning Commission will review the early concept of the project.

"The applicant will be submitting another pre-application in January because there are so many large issues to address," Gullett said. "The applicant will get more feedback from city staff and then put

together a formal application."

Gullett said the Planning Commission is taking special caution with the proposal because the project is a new concept for the city.

"It's a unique project for the city. We don't have any dormitories, and this particular project requires a conditional use permit from the Planning Commission," Gullett said. "So there is a lot of discretion in the review. It would be the only dormitory in the city."

Gullett said the application process may take years to approve because the project is unique to Santa Barbara.

"City council would have to approve the zone change and land use designation change to allow for the height, and Coastal Commission would have to certify," Gullett said. "The design would also have to be approved by the Architectural Board of Review."

Suzanne Elledge Planning and Permitting Services Principal Planner Laurel Perez said the firm is currently developing the second pre-application package, which they will submit in early

January.

"We've engaged traffic and parking consultants, a project biologist and project archeologist that will look at the cultural resources that might be present on site," Perez said. "We're completing those technical studies that will help address many of the questions that the city has identified in relationship to this project."

According to Perez, the project is still in its early stages and will continue to address concerns such as parking issues, noise and neighborhood compatibility.

"Ed St. George's primary objective for this project is to create a student environment that positively interacts with the local community," Perez said. "Hopefully together we can come up with a project that addresses community concerns and help to meet a long overdue student housing need."

Perez said many other community colleges in the nation are facing similar housing issues because of increasing enrollment.

"I was surprised to learn that this is not a unique situation that SBCC is facing," Perez said. "We are seeing an increase in the number of students who are attending a community college that provide excellent education."

According to SBCC President Lori Gaskin, less than 15 of the 113 colleges in the California Community College system have dormitories.

"Dormitories are not funded by the state for community colleges and are not part of the mission," Gaskin said. "Those [community colleges with dorms] tend to be in locations that are very remote or are servicing remote geographic regions."

Gaskin said Beach City Apartments are close to campus but unaffiliated with the college.

"It existed for a long time, but this particular developer bought it a couple of years ago and is seeking to increase the capacity of living apartments," Gaskin said.

Gaskin said the proposal might help

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TARUSH MOHANTI / DAILY NEXUS

the same," Jackson said. "You have to be paid upon the work and not upon your gender."

UCSB Career Service career counselor Lily Maestas said women do not typically negotiate with employers to receive higher wages, which is why women receive lower pay than men in most cases. According to Maestas, the California Fair Pay Act will make negotiating one's wages more commonplace for women in the future.

"I think that the underlying factor is teaching everyone how to negotiate more and how to advocate for themselves in the job market," Maestas said. "Oftentimes — what Governor Brown signing this bill is an example of — we have to legislate social change before social change actually becomes more part of the ethos."

Professor of feminist studies Eileen Boris said although SB 358 is "moving in the right direction" toward erasing gender discrimination in the workforce, it still is not expansive enough to address how most women are institutionally barred from working the same jobs as men.

"The reason that it doesn't go far enough is precisely because most women prominently work in what we think of as feminized labor — that is, they're in jobs that are prominently female and are low wage," Boris said. "Equal pay with men doesn't get at the undervaluing of many jobs that are dominated by women."

SB 703 — Recognizing Transgender Rights in the Workplace

SB 703, authored by California State Senator Mark Leno, prohibits state agencies such as the UC from doing business with companies that do not offer transgender employees the same health coverage and benefits they provide other workers. The law specifically prevents a state agency from entering into contract of \$100,000 or more with a contractor that discriminates between employees on the basis of gender identity in the provision of benefits.

For the full story, see dailynexus.com

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National News

White House Continues Support for Syrian Refugee Plan Following Paris Attacks

Although many Republicans have called for disallowing Syrian refugees from entering the country after Friday's terrorist attacks in Paris, the Obama administration remains unchanged in its plan to bring in 10,000 Syrian refugees next year. Opposition has voiced concern regarding the fact that one of the Paris attackers is believed to have been posing as a Syrian refugee in France. More than half of U.S. governors have publicly stated they will refuse entry to any Syrian refugees into their state. *nytimes.com*

Two New Baby Red Pandas Debuted at Philadelphia Zoo

Two unnamed red panda cubs had their public debut Wednesday at the Philadelphia Zoo. They were born on June 26 to parents Basil and Spark. The zoo said it will keep the cubs out throughout the winter. The zoo is asking visitors to suggest names for the cubs on its Facebook page, where they can also view pictures of the pandas. There will be a vote on Monday. *abc.go.com*

U.S. Stocks and U.S. Dollar Rise

After the Federal Reserve Bank (The Fed) released the minutes on its recent policy meeting, U.S. stocks rose and the U.S. dollar's value hit a seven-month high. The minutes stated many Fed officials showed support for an interest rate increase in December. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 1.42 percent, the S&P 500 rose .62 percent and the NASDAQ rose 1.79 percent. The U.S. dollar rose 0.05 percent on the U.S. Dollar Index, which measures the value of the U.S. dollar against major global currencies, after rising 6 percent in the past month. Experts said this indicates the market is ready for the increased interest rate. *reuters.com*

International Spotlight

French Police Raid Apartment in Search of Ringleader of Friday's Attacks

French police raided an apartment Wednesday in the suburb of St. Denis following a tip suggesting Abdelhamid Abaaoud, the top suspect from Friday's terrorist attacks, may have been there. French Authorities are still unsure if the raid killed Abaaoud. At least two people died during the raid, one woman via a suicide vest she detonated, and another whose body was covered in shrapnel and bullets. French police continue to search for those responsible for Friday's attacks and have so far conducted 414 raids across the country. They have arrested and detained 60 people, placed 118 people under house arrest and seized 75 weapons. *nytimes.com*

Five U.S.-bound Syrian Men Detained in Honduras with Stolen Passports

Five U.S.-bound Syrian men were taken into custody in Honduras after arriving from El Salvador carrying stolen Greek passports. According to authorities, the real identities of the men are still not known. Greek diplomats said none of the men speak any Greek. Their planned itinerary was to travel through Guatemala into Mexico, ultimately crossing the U.S. border. They are currently being held in the Honduran capital of Tegucigalpa. Interpol said it will assist Honduran police with the case. *bbc.co.uk*

U.N. Committee Reprimands Burma (Myanmar) over Mistreatment of Muslim Minority

The United Nations General Assembly's Third Committee, which focuses on humanitarian and social issues, urged Myanmar on Monday to grant the Rohingya people full citizenship. The Rohingya people are an Indo-Aryan ethnic group and are primarily Muslim. Under 1982 citizenship legislation, Rohingya is not recognized as one of Burma's 135 ethnic groups, meaning its people are not entitled to full citizenship nor full rights. In a non-binding draft resolution, the Committee unanimously mandated that Burma grant full citizenship and full rights to the Rohingya people. *reuters.com*

APARTMENT

Continued from p.6

with low vacancy rates and high rental fees in Santa Barbara, which have impacted student enrollment rates at SBCC since 2009.

"This fall semester we are down in enrollment by over four percent. When we reached out to potential students on why they applied but chose not to enroll, they talked about the cost of living," Gaskin said. "The cost of living competes with the cost of going to school, so it's really hard on our students."

SBCC student and third-year communication major Allie Trice said it was easy for her to find housing in Isla Vista because she had friends from UCSB living in I.V.

"I chose to live here because all of my friends lived here since they went to UCSB. I didn't really have any friends at SBCC," Trice said. "It was convenient. It was nice already knowing people living here."

Trice said housing in I.V. and the Santa Barbara area is expensive because of its proximity to the beach.

"When I first moved down here, I was like, 'Wow. I'm paying for living in a double as much as you'd pay for a whole apartment where I'm from,'" Trice said. "I understand that it's expensive because we live right down the street from the beach."

For the full story, see *dailynexus.com*

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UCSB Students, Faculty Discuss Refugee Crisis

National leaders from countries in Europe and Africa created an Action Plan to address benefits of migration, causes of forced displacement and other issues

Effie Sklavenitis
Staff Writer

More than 60 European and African leaders attended the Valletta Summit in Malta on Nov. 11 and 12 to discuss solutions to the refugee crisis taking place between Africa and Europe. At the Summit, national leaders from Eritrea, the Gambia, Italy, Greece and other countries created an Action Plan to confront migration issues.

The five priorities outlined in the Action Plan address the benefits of migration, the causes of forced displacement, legal migration and mobility, protection and asylum. The plan also focuses on preventing irregular migration and trafficking.

The migration crisis is currently at the forefront of world debate as over 750,000 migrants have arrived in Europe in 2015 by sea according to the International Organization for Migration.

According to the Action Plan, the European Union, its member states and other associated countries will cooperate with African partners to implement objectives. Additionally, the newly established EU Emergency Trust Fund and the European Investment Bank will provide supplementary funding to create stability by addressing the root causes of destabilization, forced displacement and irregular migration.

The financial support is expected to lead to self-sustaining economic growth and the development of human capital in Africa through the promotion of economic opportunities.

Fourth-year global studies and political science

double-major Alagie Jammeh, who lived in the Gambia before coming to UCSB, said people migrate in search of a place that allows them to create a better life for themselves and their family.

"These people are trying to find some livelihood, something that they can depend on," Jammeh said. "People want to go to a place where they can make a difference for their families and for their own lives."

Jammeh said he thinks European governments should monitor monetary contribution to the Action Plan to make sure it goes toward the Plan's outlined programs and sustainable solutions.

"If you give money to the government to invest in their youth or to invest in their infrastructure and all that stuff, they spend the money in other ways," Jammeh said. "If you are trying to solve this problem, this phenomenon of migration ... you've got to give him something that he can depend on and use to help himself so that, tomorrow, he will not come back to ask for help again."

Professor of global studies Alison Brysk said she believes the Action Plan will allow Europe to

stabilize and give Africa development assistance, but she also thinks its goals are too vague.

"The migrants will benefit if the process is more orderly," Brysk said in an email. "Conflict resolution' which is driving much of the current push, is much more difficult than development for more chronic flows, and trafficking law enforcement is feasible but longer-term prevention

requires deep changes in legal, open ways for migrants to travel."

Brysk also said the Action Plan does not include specific discussion of quotas or burden-sharing among the European countries, with only minor reference to front-line recipients of migrants and refugees like Lebanon and Turkey.

"It is a huge omission from the summit, and far greater

numbers of migrants are stuck in these places with lower resources, or fleeing secondarily, because these places are no longer safe or no longer able to provide basic services — including post-trauma health care," Brysk said in an email.

Black studies lecturer Jude Akudinobi said the Action Plan is a successful first step, but will not necessarily lead to effective outcomes.

"Trying, for instance, to persuade African countries to take back failed asylum seekers without addressing the root causes, in their complexities, at best, would be a temporary, if not cosmetic gesture," Akudinobi said in an email.

Akudinobi said although the Summit addressed the economic issues of migration, "money is not enough" and it should have focused more on the causes behind it.

"Effective leadership, mutual trust, political will and vision on both sides are some factors that will help mitigate the challenges of this unprecedented moment," Akudinobi said in an email. "The summit produced a \$2 billion trust fund to assist African countries in taking back their nationals who migrated to Europe."

Akudinobi said it is "problematic" that aid under the Action Plan is contingent on cooperation from recipient nations.

"It appears that the EU is making aid to Africa conditional, an inducement to cooperation on border control," Akudinobi said in an email.

Sociology graduate student Jamella Gow said although she does not think the plan goes far enough to help refugees, she appreciates that Action Plan addresses the development of countries from which people are migrating and that Africa Union and European Union response collaborated on it.

"The EU pledges to support vocational and especially agricultural initiatives with the idea of creating self-sufficiency in the continent of Africa," Gow said.

“ These people are trying to find some livelihood, something that they can depend on. ”

- Alagie Jammeh



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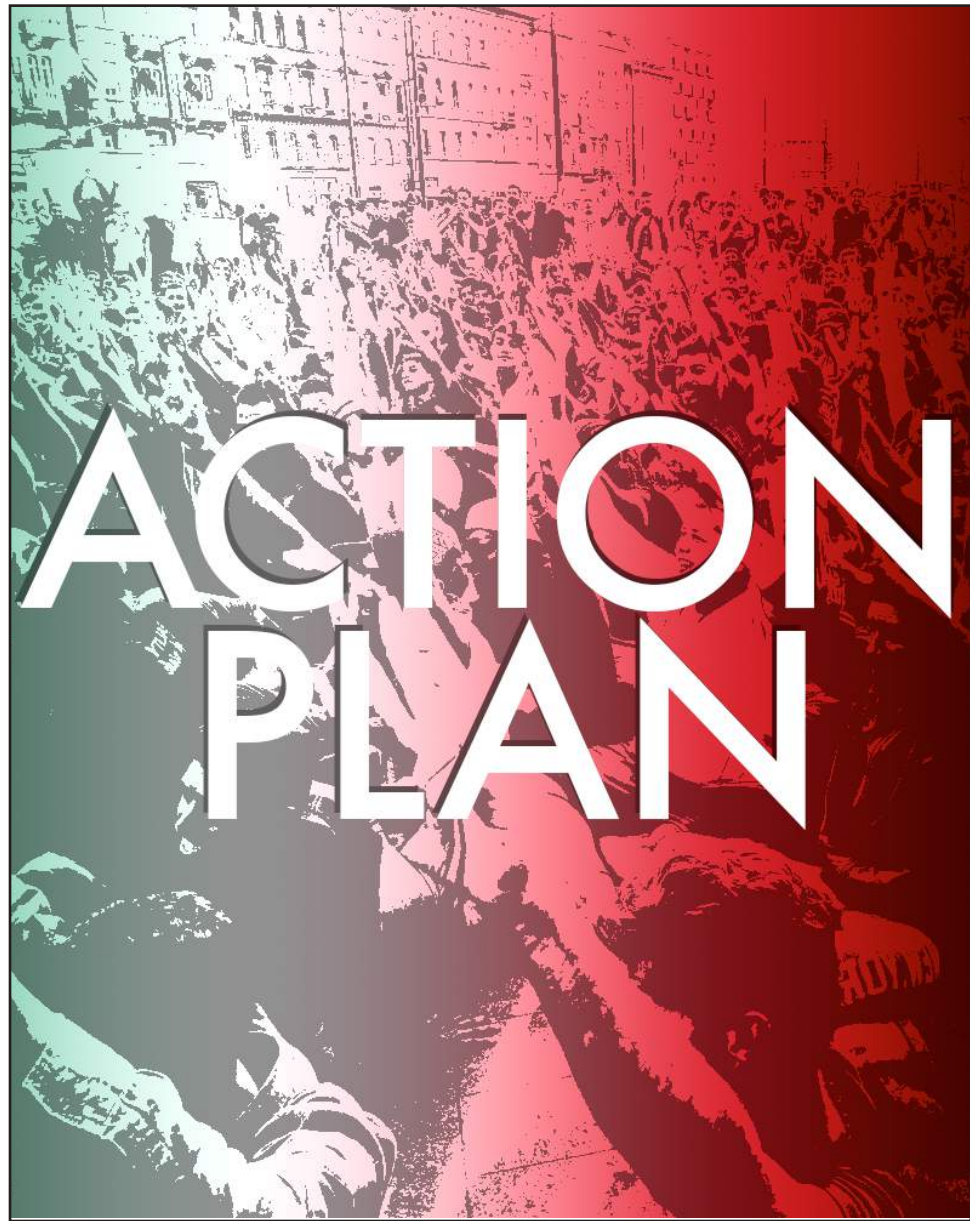
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Men's Soccer

The Gauchos take the No. 15 seed into the NCAA Tournament this Sunday and will host the winner of tonight's first-round matchup between Furman and No. 21 South Carolina.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Gauchos Fall at No. 15 Cal, Open Home Schedule Saturday

Michael Jorgenson
Sports Editor

A 13-2 deficit to open the game set the tone for the UCSB men's basketball team on Monday as it fell 85-67 at No. 15 Cal. The Gauchos will be back in action this Saturday against Oregon State in their home season-opener.

Santa Barbara enters the weekend at 1-1, having won its first game of the year in a 60-59 thriller against Nebraska-Omaha thanks to a tip-in by junior point guard Eric Childress with three seconds left. The Golden Bears are 2-0 after picking up their second straight blowout victory to open the season, outscoring their opponents by an average of 25 points per game.

"We have a tough preseason schedule every year. It's all about building," sophomore guard Gabe Vincent said. "We played a much better game than we did at UNO and now we're looking to play better than we did at Cal. There's a lot of things we've got to work on and shooting might be one piece but we have a lot defensively to work on as well."

Coming off a season-opener in which UCSB shot just 34.9 percent from the field, things weren't much better to open the game at Cal as the Gauchos missed their first seven shots before center Ami Lakoju's got them on the board at the 14:38 mark, already trailing 8-0 prior to the freshman's layup.

Berkeley's junior guard Jordan Mathews came out hot, knocking down a pair of triples and converting a three-point play during the Bears 13-2 run to open the game. He went on to finish with 16 points and seven rebounds while going 3-6 from deep and 6-9 from the field.

From there, senior guard Tyrone Wallace took

over as he led Cal with a 15-point first half, including 8-9 shooting from the free throw line to give his team a 47-28 lead heading into the break. The Bears shot 50 percent in the half compared to just 32.3 percent for the Gauchos.

Senior guard John Green was miscredited with a third personal foul in the first stanza, causing him to play only nine minutes before the foul was reversed in the second half.

The Gauchos had a much better effort in the final 20 minutes, outscoring Berkeley 39-38 on 14-29 shooting as a team, but the end result was never in question.

One bright spot for UCSB was the play of senior guard Michael Bryson, who played his first game of the season. The Gauchos' leading returning scorer and rebounder scored 23 points on 8-18 from the field and an impressive 4-8 from beyond the arc to lead his team on offense.

Wallace finished with game-highs of 24 points and six assists on an efficient 6-10 shooting night and 11-13 from the line to lead Cal. Freshman forward Jaylen Brown scored in double-digits for the second consecutive game, recording 17 points to go along with seven boards.



JENNY LUO / DAILY NEXUS

UCSB now shifts its focus to Saturday's game against Oregon State. With two impressive 20-point wins in their first two games, the Beavers are currently 2-0 and will play Rice later tonight.

"We need to get stops," Vincent said. "The more we can keep them out of the paint and off the free throw line like the other two teams we've played have been, the better off we'll be and we can get out, run more and get more possessions."

Freshman forward Drew Eubanks has shot a remarkable 13-15 from the field through his first two career NCAA games, averaging a team-high 16 points a night. The Beavers have a total of five players averaging double-figures to start the year, including two off the bench, and are shooting a solid 49.6 percent as a team.

Reigning Pac-12 Defensive Player of the Year Gary Payton II, son of NBA great Gary Payton, is another player shooting lights out at 55 percent. He averages 14 points and a team-leading 5.5 assists per game.

"We're going to handle them just like we do everybody else," Vincent said. "We're going to play them straight up, keep them off the line and keep them out of the paint, make them shoot over us instead of around us."

For the Gauchos, John Green has continued to show his growth coming off his first full season without missing significant time due to injury. He is currently second on the team averaging 17 points a night but has also been extremely helpful on the boards, pulling in a team-best nine per outing.

Vincent is the team's third leading-scorer at 10.4 points per game.

The Gauchos' first home game of the season will be played early at 2 p.m. this Saturday against Oregon State in the Thunderdome.

MEN'S WATER POLO

No. 6 UCSB Opens MPSF Championship Run at No. 2 Cal

Jorge Mercado
Staff Writer

By securing the sixth seed with a win over Pepperdine this past weekend, the No. 6 UCSB men's water polo team's quest for its first MPSF Championship in school history begins with a match against No. 2 Cal on Friday.

"I thought defensively we played well," Head Coach Wolf Wigo said. "We are really excited for this upcoming game."

UCSB is currently riding a two-game winning streak with an overall record of 16-9 and finished conference play with a 5-5 record. Cal, the third seed in the tournament, has won five of its last six matches and holds a 21-5 record finishing MPSF play with a 7-2 record. The Golden Bears are seeking their first MPSF championship since 2006.

The quarterfinal match this Friday will be the fourth meeting between these two teams this season. The Bears have defeated the Gauchos in the last three matches by scores of: 12-5, 12-5 and 12-8.

"We've been going over the last three matches on film," Senior goalkeeper Chris Whitelegge said. "We are really confident we can win."

In the last matchup at Campus Pool, UCSB had a chance to pull off the upset against then No. 4 Cal when they were tied 8-8 after the third. In the final frame, Santa Barbara was held scoreless and gave up four goals in its third loss to Cal this season.

"We improved in each game we played them this year," Wigo said. "The last game was our best

performance, went tied into the third. I think we can do that again and this time we will finish."

The Golden Bears are led by two top-10 MPSF scorers in freshman attacker Johnny Hooper and freshman utility Odysseas Masmanidis. Hooper is the third leading scorer in MPSF with 65 goals while Masmanidis ranks seventh with 56 goals this season. The two freshmen have combined for 15 goals against the Gauchos this season.

UCSB must also be weary of Colin Mulcahy, the Sept. 7 KAP7/MPSF Player of the Week recipient. The senior attacker has scored 47 goals on the season, third most on the team, including a five goal performance this past weekend against Stanford. He has accounted for five goals in three matches against Santa Barbara this season.

"We have to be ready defensively," Wigo said. "They are a tough team and they are talented."

Defensively, the Golden Bears are led by junior goalkeeper Lazar Andric who has tallied 210 saves this season and has an impressive 10.2 saves per game. He holds the fourth highest saves total in a single match this season when he has 19 against Pacific on Oct. 10.

The Gauchos will want another big performance from star senior Derek Shoemaker who has been on a hot streak recently with seven goals in the last two matches. The attacker leads the team with 42 goals.

Right behind him is sophomore Shane Hauschild who has 35 goals on the season, good for second on the team. Other key factors are freshman Boris Jovanovic who has 26 goals this year and

junior attacker Mitchell Hamilton who has scored at least two goals in the last two matches.

On the other side of the pool, UCSB knows it has one of the best goalkeepers in MPSF history, senior Chris Whitelegge. Whitelegge is currently at 850 career saves which is only five saves from the No. 3 spot and 39 saves from No. 2. However, Whitelegge has struggled against Cal allowing 12 goals in each of the last three matches.

Ultimately, the Gauchos will go as far as their star seniors take them. The seniors have played a big role all season whether it be offensively, defensively or in the leadership roles. Intensity will also be a big key to the game, as UCSB will need to take the game to Cal instead of the other way around. Most importantly, the intensity needs to last four quarters to in order to pull off the upset.

Santa Barbara will face off against Cal in the quarterfinals of the MPSF Tournament on Friday, Nov. 20 at USC's Uytens Aquatic Center at 1 p.m.



BEN PU / DAILY NEXUS

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL FEATURE

The Competitive Edge Translated

Sean White
Assistant Sports Editor

Balance is an integral facet of life, particularly if you are a student athlete. Finding a way to juggle responsibilities concerning classes, personal matters and having to play on a weekly basis is no collegiate lifestyle that any individual can embrace.

For freshman Emilia Petrachi, starting libero for the UCSB women's volleyball team, this balance came before her status as a NCAA Division I athlete. Having trained and played volleyball for more than a decade, she comes from a country where the sport has thrived.

"Growing up in Modena — it's a small town, really quiet," Petrachi said. "There's not much going on there, but volleyball is a big thing in Italy."

She attended and played high school volleyball for Liceo Classico San Carlo. While Petrachi played well at the high school level, she excelled at the club platform, playing for Liu Jo (LJ) Volley. Petrachi joined the club in 2013 and was placed on its Series A2 team.

The decision to place her on the secondary team did not persist as her talent prompted her promotion to the Series A1 team in August 2013, making her the youngest member of the club for the remainder of the year and the following 2014-15 season. Petrachi's addition to the club's premier team was justified by her winning of the region's Best Libero award in 2014.

Her performance on the court exceeded the expectation that she would have a developmental role on the team, but being the club's youngest member was overwhelming at times, as she wasn't the only elite talent on the court anymore.

"Being the youngest was hard because I needed to catch up with the experience of the others," Petrachi said. "There were people that were 35 years old, 20 years old and myself as the youngest. But it for sure helped my growth as a volleyball player and person."

At the pinnacle of her volleyball career, Petrachi possessed veteran talent, but as a youth she was dealing with the responsibilities and pressures of playing school and club volleyball.

While she was a vital asset to her high school's volleyball team, Petrachi discovered a new type of competition that gave her life some balance and offered a unique twist to her identity as a competitor: the Certamen Carolinum.

This three-round translation competition tests students on their ability to translate Ancient Greek and Latin. It's a form of competition that is reminiscent of a spelling bee, but with a foreign pizzazz that makes it just a tad bit more intriguing.

Once introduced, it became the newest task that Petrachi was determined to conquer.

While learning a multitude of languages is common and tends to be innate within the European culture, Petrachi's trouncing of the competition was unforeseen as she became a three-time winner.

She won the translation competition twice in Latin and once in Ancient Greek, two languages that are convergent of her native language of Italian.

"I like competition — I like to be the best in everything that I do," Petrachi said. "It came naturally because I liked it and I wanted to be the best."

Although a well-known individual for her play on the court, it wasn't Petrachi's notoriety as a libero which earned her the opportunity to participate in the competition. In addition to being selected by a former high school teacher, her merits in the classroom and pure enjoyment for the competition led to her continued involvement.

"I didn't feel the pressure," Petrachi said. "I competed really loosely, without the fear of losing."

Despite UCSB's offering of courses in translation studies, no competition similar to the Certamen Carolinum exists. Although her schedule as a student-athlete wouldn't permit time to create a rendition of the competition on campus, Petrachi remains confident with her translation abilities.

"If there will ever be a competition, I will be ready to attend it," she jokingly said.

The story of a student-athlete succeeding off the court in an activity such as a translation competition may be striking for many, but it is Petrachi's method in her decision to attend UCSB that is even more shocking, making her UCSB's first international athlete in nearly 15 years.

The college recruiting process is an exhausting experience for student-athletes — coaches calling at all times of the day with recruiting pitches, university visits, expectations of friends and family and the pressure of deciding where to dedicate the next four years of their life are all influences that help determine athletes' future collegiate careers.

For some prospects, their sights have always been focused on a dream college and are fulfilled with a scholarship offer. In today's generation of sports, in which middle schoolers end up on high school teams and off seasons are submerged in training, young athletes in their pre-teens even receive offers from universities.

However, the stresses of the recruiting process do not always follow suit. Guiding Petrachi's decision to attend UCSB was a rare approach: intuition.

Petrachi had never been to California. Visits to New York and Jacksonville, Florida served as her introductions to the American lifestyle. Still, this time could not make up for a lifetime in another country.

Unlike most students, who are able to seek comfort from their families just hours away, Petrachi's busy schedule also doesn't permit the time for traveling the 5,000-plus mile distance that separates her and family in Italy.

"It's been tough because it's a completely different world," Petrachi said. "I didn't know what to expect. I didn't visit the campus or meet the coaches before coming here."

One Skype conversation with the team and personal research of the university were her only ideas of life in Santa Barbara.

Despite her unfamiliarity with the city, new team and coaching staff prior to the start of the season, Petrachi's decision to attend UCSB didn't solely revolve around her future in volleyball.

"I wanted to come to a place where I would feel good even if I wasn't playing volleyball," she said. "I know volleyball can be upsetting at times. I needed a place in which I could shake off the homesickness. It's [UCSB] right on the beach, I.V. is a little community, and it's great and I'm happy."

Enjoying her new journey as a Gauchos, Petrachi's first-year with the UCSB women's volleyball team has been impressive despite the team's struggles this season.

Her overall average of 4.73 digs per set ranks second in the Big West Conference while she ranks third overall in the conference with 407 total digs. Petrachi is just one of three players in the Big West to break the 400 mark this season and recently earned her second Freshman Player of the Week award on Monday.

She is 88 digs away from reaching former Gauchos Leah Sully's single-season record of 495 digs, which ranks 10th all-time in program history.

"It's been an honor to become the libero for this team," Petrachi said. "I try to give the best that I have. I want to be in the top five because I know that I can be in there. It's an honor that I owe to the team."

Trusting her instincts to guide her future, Petrachi knows that UCSB is the right place for her and is appreciative of Head Coach Nicole Lantagne Welch for the opportunity to play on her team.

"She went beyond the role of being a coach," said Petrachi. "She helped me with integrating with the girls, making me meet people and ask questions. I'd probably be lost without her."

At 7-18 overall, 3-11 in conference play and with two matches remaining this season, UCSB is still young and will have to find a way to fill in the void of losing five seniors at the end of the year.

But the future is promising for UCSB, especially with the tremendous talent and competitiveness that Petrachi has to offer.

A gut feeling suggests that Petrachi will be the centerpiece in helping translate the Gauchos' upside for the future.

For more information on the Certamen Carolinum translation competition, visit its official website: certamencarolinum.de



ERIC SWENSON / DAILY NEXUS

Freshman libero Emilia Petrachi ranks second in the Big West in digs per set with a 4.73 average and third in total digs with 407.

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL



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‘Chewie, We’re Home’

Robert Johnson
Staff Writer

On Dec. 1, 2014, comedian Stephen Colbert dedicated his show’s opening segment to an impassioned recollection of a moment from his childhood: seeing “Star Wars: A New Hope” a whole two weeks before any of his friends did. Colbert, who won two tickets to an advanced screening from a radio station in eighth grade, recognized immediately that “Star Wars” had changed everything and lamented the fact that none of his classmates yet understood his love for that galaxy far, far away. Although Colbert has been a “Star Wars” fan a whole two weeks longer than most people, ask any person who was young during the summer of 1977, and I bet they will have a similar story to tell.

The success of “Star Wars: A New Hope” was truly unexpected and unprecedented: the film was turned down by United Artists, Universal Pictures and Disney, but was finally budgeted a measly \$8 million by 20th Century Fox. It opened on a Wednesday in less than 32 theaters nationwide, with even George Lucas forgetting the film’s premiere. The film was an immediate smash hit — theaters quickly began demanding the film, and Fox’s stock price doubled in three weeks. “Star Wars” quickly became the most successful film they had ever released. All this from a film that Lucas so expected to flop that he wrote a self-contained storyline in case he was denied future funding.

In 2012, after five more “Star Wars” movies and a handful of ill-fated TV specials and animated features, Lucas sold Lucasfilm, along with the “Star Wars” and “Indiana Jones” properties, to Disney for \$4.05 billion. With George’s empire now in their hands, Disney quickly announced a new trilogy of films, with “The Force Awakens” taking place roughly 30 years after the events of “Return of the Jedi,” as well as three stand-alone films focused on specific characters. The Internet, of course, went wild.

With less than a month left until “The Force Awakens” premieres in North America Dec. 18, 2015, how much do we actually know about the film? Unsurprisingly, very little, with a lot of room for speculation. Between a handful of teasers, two trailers (one Japanese) and a 60-second spot, we can infer a lot about the film.

Even 30 years after the death of Emperor Palpatine, the galaxy still finds itself in a struggle for peace, with the Empire replaced by the New Order, led by a new masked darksider, Kylo Ren, a member of the Knights of Ren, a cult devoted to “finishing what [Vader] started.” Fighting against this new reign of tyranny are scavenger Rey; Poe Dameron, a member of the Resistance, which has replaced the Rebel Alliance; and Finn, a First Order deserter who is somehow in possession of Anakin Skywalker’s lightsaber (y’know, the one that Obi-Wan picked up when he left Anakin for dead and then gave to Luke, who lost it when his hand got chopped off in Cloud City. Yeah, that one). Guiding these young heroes along are near-mythical figures Han Solo, Leia Organa and Luke Skywalker (whose face has yet to appear in promotional content).

It’s not hard to imagine a storyline for this film. Considered together, the original trilogy and the prequel trilogy tell the tale of the fall of a father and his eventual redemption through the help of his son and the triumph of good over tyrannical evil. From the second that he accepts Anakin’s lightsaber from Obi-Wan in “A New Hope,” Luke assumes the responsibility of being his father’s son, and all



the good and evil that comes with it. The Rebel Alliance’s toppling of a monolithic, totalitarian and xenophobic imperialist regime was just a secondary benefit of Luke’s quest. And just as Obi-Wan passed the lightsaber on to Luke, just as George Lucas passed the lightsaber on to J.J. Abrams, just as the generation that saw “A New Hope” in theaters passed the lightsaber on to their children, the characters of the original trilogy pass their triumphs and struggles on to a younger generation — a new group of protagonists who are strong as the aging heroes grow weary.

And that’s what this is all about, isn’t it? The passing of the lightsaber — the changing of the guard. “The Force Awakens” boasts an amazingly long cast of series veterans, many of whom are returning to these characters after more than 30 years away: Mark Hamill (Luke Skywalker), Harrison Ford (Han Solo), Carrie Fisher (Leia Organa), Peter Mayhew (Chewbacca), Anthony Daniels (C-3PO), Kenny Baker (R2-D2), Warwick Davis (Wicket the Ewok) and Tim Rose (Admiral Ackbar). The project also employs veterans Lawrence Kasdan, who wrote the scripts for “The Empire Strikes Back” and “Return of the Jedi,” composer John Williams and sound designer Ben Burtt.

And so it was with this “Star Wars” “brain trust” that J.J. Abrams embarked on his labor of love. With the help of Simon Pegg, whom Abrams treated as a sounding board, a generation that had grown up absolutely enamored by “Star Wars” was

given the chance to play in the galaxy far, far away while working with many of the people who made the place what it is today. Many of Abrams’s choices hearken back to the original trilogy: heavy reliance on practical effects, scale models and actual set pieces in contrast to the prequel trilogy’s extensive reliance on CGI; the use of 35mm Kodak film and 65mm IMAX in contrast to the digital cameras used for “Attack of the Clones” and “Revenge of the Sith,” and the return of iconic ships such as T.I.E. Fighters, X-Wings, Star Destroyers, a massive spherical superweapon and, most importantly, the Millennium Falcon.

“The Force Awakens” is a second coming of “Star Wars” in a world that was let down by the prequel trilogy. It is made to recapture the childhood that a generation experienced in the summer of 1977. There is absolutely no way that it will not succeed in terms of sales; the real challenge is changing the game and inspiring a new generation, like “A New Hope” did all those years ago. According to Disney, the film’s second teaser trailer, released April 16, 2015, was viewed more than 88 million times within its first 24 hours online. IMAX ticket sales quickly reached over \$6.5 million for just the U.S./Canada market, shattering records set by films like “The Dark Knight Rises” and “Avengers,” which had garnered around \$1 million each. Ticket sales site Fandango crashed repeatedly while “The Force Awakens” sold more than eight times the number of tickets of the previous record-holder, “The Hunger

Games.” Analyst Phil Contrino has predicted that “Star Wars” will easily earn \$1 billion and could cross into the next billion. (For reference, “Jurassic World” grossed \$1.669 billion worldwide and current record-holder “Avatar” grossed \$2.788 billion.) Not bad for a group of scruffy-looking nerf herders.

Here are my thoughts to those who of you who are planning on seeing it — and let’s face it, even if you don’t think you’ll see it, you probably will, and if for some reason you are adamant about not seeing it, it’s probably going to be all you hear about until February — re-watch all six films. That’s right, six. Take in the entire story of the Skywalker family, both the good and the bad, because we may soon be moving on to a new lineage of heroes. Plan on staying off the Internet and social media starting Dec. 14. And if by some weird, freaky, miraculous circumstance you have a friend that has not seen a “Star Wars” film, do not by any means let them watch any before they see “The Force Awakens.” Drag your friend through their protestations — through their kicking and screaming — to see “The Force Awakens” with you. If it somehow ends up being bad, then your friend might be angry at you for a bit. But if it turns out to be anything close to what “A New Hope” was, then your friend will forever remember you as the person who showed them an amazing film that changed their life. You will have passed on the lightsaber and shown them what it’s like to live a long time ago in a galaxy far, far away ...

TOKiMONSTA Takes Over SOhO

Nisa Smith
Staff Writer

The stage was set and waiting for world-renowned DJ TOKiMONSTA, to bring SOhO's quaint, dimly lit room to life last Thursday night. Soft background music created a tranquil ambiance while people freshened up their drinks, engaged in small talk and swayed along to the beat. It was the calm before the storm.

The attendees of this sold-out show trickled in from every walk of life. Literally. Checkered Vans-wearing undergrads, oxford-sporting graduate students, laid-back locals in flip flops, and frequent club-goers in stilettos all made their marks on the dance floor.

As the clock approached 9:00, individual groups of minglers quickly morphed into an antsy crowd in anticipation of the opening act. Thanks to SOhO's intimate setting, dodging elbows to the face in hopes of securing artist visibility was a non-issue, unlike in most general admission venues. Any spot at SOhO is a good spot.

So, 9:15 passed. Ok, no big deal. Artists run late all the time. Then 9:30 passed.

By 9:45, the storm began to brew.

The previously nonthreatening crowd became rambunctious. Drinks were spilled. Chatter was thunderous, and mile-high platform heels turned their owners into mere puddles on the floor.

Finally, an hour later, Leikeli47 appeared sporting her signature mask and an unapologetic New York attitude. The instant she made her entrance, a surge of bone rattling bass vibrated the room so hard that it is a wonder SOhO still has a second floor. At this point in the night, the crowd was ready to respond to any stimulus, so when Leikeli47 demanded that everybody "clap [their] fucking hands," you can bet everyone responded obediently regardless of how they felt about the performance. For example, even the middle-aged woman who so eloquently voiced her opinion by shouting, "This shit sucks!" could not resist bouncing along to the bass's heavy beats.

Leikeli47's abrasive raps lacked substance overall, but her exceptionally repetitive and simplistic lyrics had the crowd chanting along to the previously unfamiliar songs. Therefore,



RILEY ESGUERRA / DAILY NEXUS

although the New Yorker's vibe was out of place in laid-back Santa Barbara, she did manage to temporarily satiate the small but mighty crowd's unruly energy.

Within minutes of the opening act's departure, a petite girl, who was barely visible under the shadow of a wide brimmed black hat, took her place on the stage. With no introduction necessary, Jennifer Lee (alias TOKiMONSTA) kicked off the third show of her nationwide Fovere tour with a charged-up rendition of Lupe Fiasco's "Kick Push," to which the crowd went wild.

Lee's hypnotic visuals and pulsing, euphoric beats turned charming SOhO into an elated dance club complete with attendees busting out interpretive, jellyfish-like moves which mimicked Lee's melodic whimsy. Who else creates a mix of "The Next Episode" and "Hypnotize," then jumps a decade and transitions to Tinashe's "2 On," cuts to "Bitch Better Have My Money" and ends the rollercoaster montage with some Kendrick Lamar?

While original remixes seemed to be the crowd favorites, die-hard fans like Jessica, a fourth-year UCSB sociology major, were

most excited to hear tracks from TOKi's older albums. However, judging by the lack of familiarity that many attendees had with TOKiMONSTA's original songs like "Realla" and "Go With It," one could assume that the majority of this crowd came curious to discover new music. They were not disappointed.

Lee enjoyed her time on stage almost as much as her audience enjoyed her performance. In the middle of her set, TOKi smirked and addressed the crowd for the first time to say, "I hope you guys like this Spanish version of 'Hotline Bling,' because I personally think it's better than the original." She later toyed with the audience by pretending her set was over. After a chorus of encores, Lee ran back out and said, "Ok maybe one more." That one more song turned into two more and then three more until she ended with a bass pounding remix of "Shabba" and "Bugatti" that tore the roof off of SOhO.

Lee's inherent charm and knack for mixing things, as she puts it, "that are really chill and really angry and obscure" turned everyone into a fan of the "bunny monster" by the end of the night. Plus, she gets extra points for playing some Spanish Drake.

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Le Tour de Fromage

A Flavorful Journey Through SB's Mac 'n' Cheese

Marisa Ratchford
On the Menu Editor

I feel as though my diet restrictions really hindered my experience here because, apparently, the pulled pork mac 'n' cheese is heavenly. I still felt this one needed to be included on

made me cry a little, as my Irish blood longed for those sweet spuds. It is unfortunate, too, because this macaroni dish checked

all my boxes. It had an incredible kick. Because it was prepared fresh, the cheese was creamy and the noodles were excellent, but the dish became monotonous, and I felt like those tots could have completed the dish, sending me to pasta heaven.

Overall, the dish was perfect comfort food; the heat from the jalapenos warmed from within and the creamy pasta goodness was apparent in every bite. I highly recommend going here, and if you are a meat-eater, do what my vegetarianism did not allow me to and order the animal mac so I can live vicariously through you.

3. Velvet Jones Mac 'n' Cheese After Dark

Although the location is out of our little Isla Vista, Velvet Jones, normally a bar and lounge, offers a supplementary service Thursday through Saturday called Mac 'n' Cheese After Dark. I found this haven a while back and have been making ventures out to State St. frequently ever since to get my fix. The menu is simple enough. A small or large mac 'n' cheese comes with optional toppings of bacon bits, basil, tomato or jalapenos. You can also, for an additional charge, go animal style and add tater tots or BBQ chicken. The macaroni is all premade, so it isn't nearly as gooey as it could be, but the numerous toppings really compose it into a beautiful dish. Of course, the tater tots are essential to the experience and are nestled at the bottom as a sort of secret to be divulged later. Needless to say I am a bit obsessed with this concoction, and if you happen to make your way downtown late at night, make sure to experience Velvet Jones Mac 'n' Cheese After Dark.

Mac 'n' cheese is just one of those quintessential dishes that just makes you feel all warm and fuzzy inside. Whether served in a bread bowl, covered in pulled pork or served with tater tots, mac 'n' cheese just has that special something to satisfy everyone.

If there is one thing in this world that I love, it has got to be mac 'n' cheese. I can't get enough of the cheesy pasta comfort food. I think it reminds me of my childhood when my grandpa would cook Kraft mac 'n' cheese consistently, and it became a sort of ritual in my humble home. In my early adolescence, I rebelled against this classic dish; I had had just one too many platefuls and felt the need to cut it out of my life. But since leaving home, I have longed for that sense of comfort that I used to get out of my meals cooked by my grandpa. These nights get lonely, so what better way to fill the void than with a nice helping of mac 'n' cheese? If you are like me in your search for home-cooked comfort, then here are some local restaurants that you must try if you want to relive those glory days of childhood.

A few key points I want to mention about my mac 'n' cheese expertise are that when I bite into mac 'n' cheese, I seek a rich, cheesy texture, a thin yet sturdy noodle and a little kick of heat. Originality is also a huge bonus for me. Fresh flavors are what make it classy and inspired.

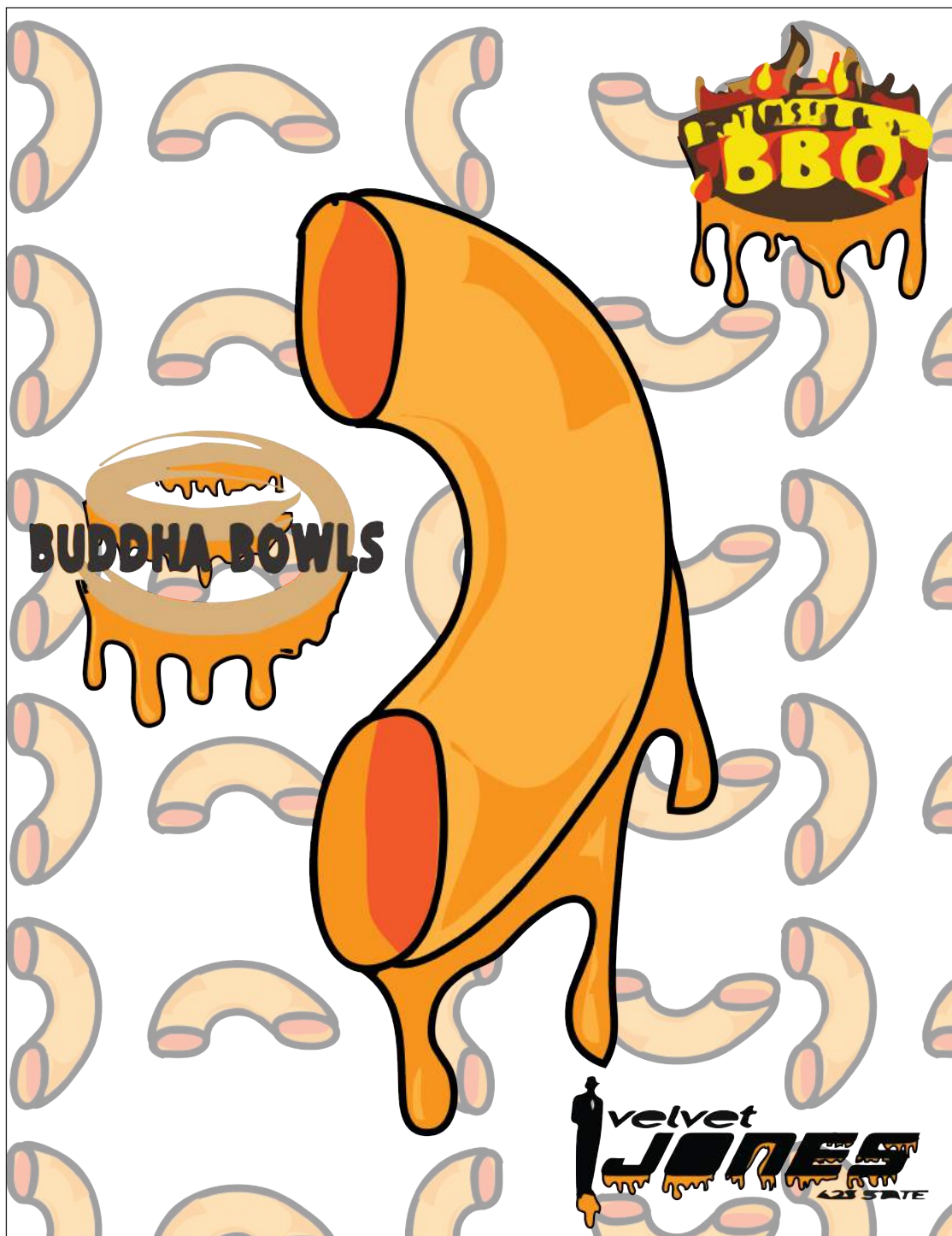
1. Buddha Bowls' Mac Daddy

This particular meal is only for the empty-stomached. I was not prepared for the amount of food presented before me but I never back down from a challenge. Buddha Bowls presented me with a hefty serving of mac 'n' cheese so gloriously nestled inside a hollowed-out sourdough bowl. It is normally served with bacon bits but I opted for tomatoes. My bread bowl was stuffed with a ton of macaroni, topped with tomatoes, an extra layer of mozzarella and cheddar and a splash of Tapatio Hot Sauce — talk about a carb and salt overload! My first bite was pretty amazing. Thinking back now, I realize that they must rely on the bacon to provide most of the general flavor which was absent from my dish. However, the tomatoes added a nice fresh bite that was desperately needed to break up the heavy starches I was consuming.

Because it is was cooked like a typical Buddha bowl, the cheese was not very creamy, but this coagulated Mac Daddy was able to be consumed like a sandwich without falling apart. I managed to eat the whole thing, but I will never eat again; I'm so full.

2. Kaptain's Firehouse BBQ Late Night Mac 'n' Cheese

my tour de fromage. I tried the jalapeno mac and attempted sweet-talking my way into getting some tater tots thrown in the mix, but they are exclusive to the animal mac 'n' cheese. This fact



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California Health Department Bans Crabs Due to Toxic Algal Blooms

Erendira Garcia
Staff Writer

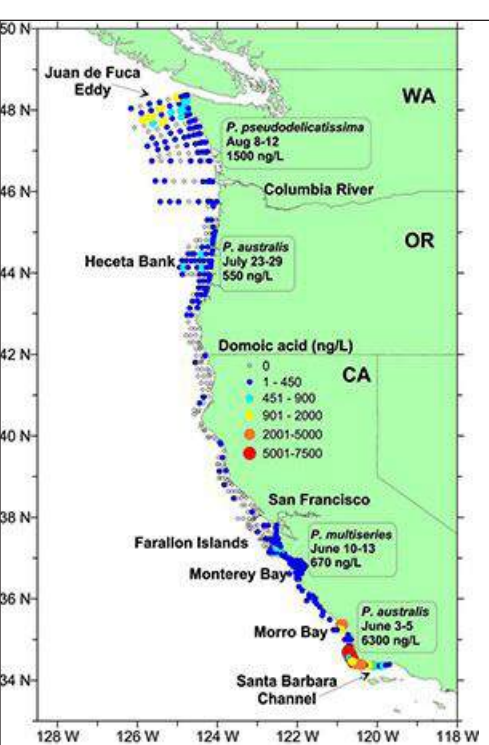


Photo courtesy of NOAA

The map shows concentrations of domoic acid present along the California coastline in 1998; these levels have increased since then.

poisoning heavily affects sea mammals. Sea lions who have consumed fish with high levels of DA have been seen seizing or bobbing their heads in disorientation. Earlier this year, the Marine Mammal Center rescued nearly 400 California seals and sea lions suffering from distress due to domoic acid. Sea birds can also be affected by DA poisoning because they consume small fish, like anchovies.

"This year, a large number of anchovies washed ashore in Monterey and had very high, full-body loads of DA, which may have led to their eventual stranding on the beach," Anderson said.

DA poisoning in humans (also called Amnesic Shellfish Poisoning) also has dangerous effects beyond a 0.5 mg/kg level in the body. *Pseudo-nitzschia* produce the neurotoxin, which

Crab season is getting a late start this year due to high levels of domoic acid (DA) present in Dungeness and rock crab off of most of the West Coast. From Ventura County to the Oregon border, State Fish and Wildlife services have closed commercial rock crab season and have delayed Dungeness crab season indefinitely from its usual November start.

DA has been found in the body mean and viscera, or internal organs, of the creature at extremely toxic levels. DA is produced by the phytoplankton *Pseudo-nitzschia*. These organisms photosynthesize similarly to land plants and are native to the phytoplankton communities off the West Coast.

According to Clarissa Anderson, lecturer and researcher in the Institute of Marine Sciences at UC Santa Cruz, there are several possible reasons why phytoplankton release domoic acid, but the exact reason is unknown.

"It may be that the diatom produces it simply as a metabolic byproduct or that domoic acid serves some function, such as to aid competition with other phytoplankton or to ward off predation by zooplankton," Anderson said.

As it moves up the food chain through shellfish, fish and other marine animals, its bio accumulates to poisonous levels — although, the primary consumers (shellfish) are not susceptible to the neurotoxin. DA



Photo courtesy of KTLA

Incidences of poisoning due to the neurotoxin domoic acid from toxic algal blooms have stalled crab season, affecting fisheries, recreation and restaurants.

is similar to our amino acid, glutamate.

"In humans and all other vertebrates, domoic acid has the potential to overexcite neurons at glutamate receptor sites since it is such a similar molecule. We call this a glutamate agonist," Andersen said. "When humans eat any fish containing high enough levels of domoic acid, there is a high risk of developing Amnesic Shellfish Poisoning, which presents first with gastrointestinal distress and can be followed by dizziness, respiratory distress, short term memory loss and even death."

Blooms of *Pseudo-nitzschia* have been increasing in frequency and size since 1998, especially in Santa Barbara and Monterey Bay. The blooms have been successful in the warm waters that came up to the coast between 2013 and 2014. The waters are the perfect temperature for the toxic species, *Pseudo-nitzschia australis*, to thrive — warm enough to keep them from moving away from shore and wreaking havoc on the food web. Although there haven't been any new observations of DA production, *Pseudo-nitzschia australis* does not show signs of leaving soon.

"This warm water anomaly in the ocean has been atmospherically linked with the resilient high pressure system that has helped the severe drought persist. In the oceans, though, this warm water has pushed up against the coast and caused the entire ecosystem to change from 2014 until now," Andersen said. "Now that El Nino is starting to arrive in California in the form of very warm subsurface water and it is happening at a time when the waters are already reaching unprecedented temperatures, it will be very interesting to see how the ecosystem responds. We can say that after the transition to La Nina next spring, another large bloom is very likely."

First Summit Addressing UC Carbon Neutrality

Mackenzie Gorman
Staff Writer

Janet Napolitano announced the goal that all University of California campuses must be carbon neutral by 2025. Carbon neutrality implies that the campuses would have a net zero carbon footprint — the amount of carbon produced would be balanced or offset by other means. This goal would make the UC system the first university system to achieve complete carbon neutrality.

Following Napolitano's announcement, 200 scientists and scholars came together at UC San Diego on Oct. 26 and 27 for the first UC Summit on Carbon and Climate Neutrality. All 10 campuses were represented in this group, which included state and federal officials, corporate sustainability leaders and green technology entrepreneurs. The group discussed ways in which UC research is currently transforming the possibilities for carbon and climate mitigation. Their discussion also focused on scalable solutions for dramatically reducing greenhouse gas emissions which could be used for both California and the world.

The conference was headed by program chair David Auston, who is also the executive director of UCSB's Institute for Energy Efficiency. He has worked very closely with Veerabhadran Ramanathan, Director of UCSD's Center for Atmospheric Sciences at the Scripps Institute of

Oceanography, along with a team of organizers spanning across the UC system.

In addition, there were a multitude of speakers who represented many different angles through which to approach the problem of greenhouse gas emissions and the challenges presented in finding a solution. In true interdisciplinary fashion, the different ways to approach the issue ranged from science and culture to politics and communication. The speakers and representatives pulled from a broad spectrum of fields, including energy, ethics, climate science, environmental justice, climate science, economics and religion. Some of the speakers included California Governor Jerry Brown, UC President Janet Napolitano, Nobel laureate and chemist Mario Molina and Achim Steiner, executive director of the United Nations Environment Program.

Because the UC system and California are leaders in climate mitigation, the research and advances implemented at the UC and state level can be used as a model for the rest of the country and the world. In the multidisciplinary discussions at this conference, it was deemed that not just the technology, but policy issues, economic issues and social science issues will be incredibly important as well. At the summit, a 300-page report was released, called, "Bending the Curve: Ten scalable solutions for carbon neutrality and climate stability." This report has over 50 UC authors and will be published in book form next year by UC press.



04/29/13

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) -- Today is a 9 -- Your nerves will become less frazzled soon. Ignore a nasty tone. A goal gets achieved. Accept a loved one's support and a compliment. You're changing how you see yourself. Talk like you mean it.

OPINION

OPINION@DAILYNEXUS.COM

Not Suicidal Anymore

NOTE: Feelings depicted here are deeply personal and are not to be taken as a representation of suicidal thoughts or experiences on a whole, or mental illness (i.e. this being how people other than myself feel about suicide). Stereotyping from one being's story is counterintuitive to sharing for the sake of ending mental health stigma.

Suicide. It's a word with immediate Leila triggers, then and now. Past me was triggered in a positive way, when this word was top 10 most used in my vocabulary. It became my happy place. To better understand my sensationalism, let me tell you that I was once so happy by the highs of suicide ideation that I wrote about it in a *Nexus* article last year. Although I quickly told them never to publish it because I would be hated and that's just not moral according to my heart, the attraction to ending my life was still there. The word "suicide" used to inspire me to defend it when people talked about suicide prevention and mental illness intervention because my whimsical imaginations about dying were correlated with valuing myself, as odd as that may sound. These were suicidal fantasies, like images of me and some gentle tool glittering in the sun where darkness couldn't penetrate us as long as I followed through. It was the feeling of self-control I associated with suicide that made me feel worthy of existing, ironically enough. So all I had to do to sustain this momentary high was keep whispering this word to myself over and over again. Say it. Climax. Vibrate. Feel nice. Repeat.

Daydreaming about self-harm brought me relief, but now when I repeat this word I don't feel good at all. I'm disconnected from all the elevations I used to get from it. I can't fall back into my usual routine. There's no more warmth. There's no satisfaction or reaffirmation that yes, I can exercise control and I actually have a handle on things. I don't feel giddy anymore, and I don't think it's a pretty thing. The thought of taking my own life is not the type of self-love I want to exercise. I am scared of it now. It reminds me of hating myself. It's not the solution for me, and it never will be. But following through with it is not selfish. It's never cruel to the outside world. It may be impulsive, or it may not be. It should not be shamed, but it should be talked about, because this is prevention. Hearing public stories about suicide survivals brought me to this place where it's not a part of my identity. I can't do it because I realized this weekend while at the Active Minds National Conference that I DO want to live. I actually want to live and love myself the way I never thought I could. Suicide is not my fate.

I don't love this word anymore — now it reminds me of confusing freedom with self-harm. I don't write it anymore. It doesn't rest on my lips as frequently as before. It's not my hero. It's not my hero because the ideation of suicide became second best to rescuing myself and claiming heroine to my storyline. After that it didn't even make the list. Once I became that heroine, killing myself stopped seeming so beautiful, and there was nothing relevant about it. I met a lot of suicide survivors this weekend while at the conference I attended with a UCSB delegation. It was put on by Active Minds National, which aims to end the stigma surrounding mental illness, prevent suicide and intervene with mental illness to help the healing process breathe well. I heard their stories, including the lows that lead to their suicide attempts and the highs that came after those attempts failed. They also spoke about the lows they still have and will probably always have. But they know that life is worth living because with practice, a loving community and self-care, it will get easier to get through the lows and enjoy the highs with more natural ecstasy. I was inspired. Like, really inspired — vibrating naturally and never wanting to die and can't imagine dying on my own terms and wanting to write a book like them and hug them and love everyone and accept my sadness and know that it will be okay and live and live and LIVE.

Later in the day I got depressed. It was painful and uncomfortable as usual and I had people to talk to, as I usually do, but I was still too inspired to live to turn to my thoughts of suicide. I had been breaking the habit of suicide ideation for the past few months, but now I knew it was actually working. I didn't automatically go to that place because I assured myself that the lows would go away in a few hours or

tomorrow or in five minutes and then I would smile and feel connected to someone. I would write, and that always makes me happy. So these speakers and the peers around me and everyone who has ever attempted suicide and survived or had thoughts and then moved past them or just has a loving nature inspire me to stay alive.

My desire to live started with never wanting to hurt my parents or my friends. And then it became about valuing my own life. I then had thoughts about wanting to live, to travel and meet new people or deepen friendships, to have more lovers and taste more food and exercise more freedom and just be in ways I hadn't been. I want to live now for myself because myself includes everyone and everything, too. We are all one.

I want to live to see the ocean tomorrow. I want to live to have cool dreams tonight and maybe lucid dream one day. I want to live to write. I want to live to see a friend from San Diego this weekend. I want

to live to kiss someone. I want to live to hold my mom's hand. I want to live to enjoy a rainbow or a cup of tea. I want to live to see how long my Vegan eating will last. I want to live to see my sister fall in love again and have a family. I want to live to wipe away my tears and wipe away your tears. I want to live to have erotic sex. I want to live to go to graduate school. I want to live to see you happy. I want to live to develop new interests. I want to live to strengthen my passions. I want to live to smell stir fry and see snowflakes. I want to live to eat snow and climb a huge mountain and cuddle in a cave. I want to live to meditate for more than ten minutes and recycle like I mean it. I want to live to see if aliens exist and if the world will be kinder. I want to live to see Iran for the first time and fall in love. I want to live to laugh at more things. I want to understand who I am. I want to meet Louis C.K. I want to watch "The Office" on Netflix. I really want to read all the books and write all the books and be a book. I want to live. I want to swim. I want to engage and feel. I want to accept. I want to heal. I want to get another tattoo. I want to make a new friend. I want to take care of my parents. I want to make it. I want to get my nipple pierced.

I want to live because I deserve to live. I want to respect myself and love myself. I want to understand that my internal power will keep me going through depression and disappointments. I want to feel every emotion in peace. I want to live because it's worth it and life really is beautiful. I want you to live. I want you to live because you are worth all the life you doubt you deserve sometimes. I

want you to be every color of vulnerabilities and to feel strong because of it. I want you to feel silliness and lightness and joy and pain and move with it all. I want you to live. I want you to live with me. I want us to live together.

Suicide is no longer glamorous in my mind. Idealization of anything is never healthy, and it should be kindly shut down, especially if it is harmful. It's not something sexy or the only way I can feel nice about myself. It's not an option because I don't believe in not living anymore. We should never shame anyone for committing it or surviving it or thinking it because it's a deeply personal choice and no one knows what leads another to it. It should never be judged. But what I've recently found is that we CAN find happiness in living. I didn't really believe this before, so now I want us to do it together.

I have found happiness, but it doesn't come without the pain. It just becomes more worth overcoming the blues to feel beauty. I love me. I love living. I love you, and I love your existence. I hope we can exist together or apart. Please believe in your existence and love yourself. I want to live and when you live, I feel more life. There really is another day. Thank you for reading and I am here for you as you have been here for me in your energies. Blessings to all. Your life brings me to life every time.

Leilani Leila Riabi wants to live now, and she hopes you do, too.

