

Overview of New A.S. Parties

As spring Associated Students elections near, four newly formed political parties will be participating



LORENZO BASILIO / DAILY NEXUS

The Open People's Party will not be participating in this year's Associated Students elections, however, four new A.S. parties will be: Campus United, Peer Action Coalition, The Response and Queer and Trans Student Body.

Amy Koo
Staff Writer

In the upcoming spring elections, four new Associated Students (A.S.) parties will be participating: Campus United, Peer Action Coalition (PAC), The Response and QutSB (Queer and Trans Student Body). Open People's Party (OPP), which accomplished a near-sweep in last year's elections, will not be participating, and many of its old members now identify with the new groups.

In October, A Bill to Change Associated Students Elections to a Single Transferrable Vote (STV) passed and will be implemented this spring. Under STV, each voter will rank the candidates to their preference and will have a single vote that is initially allocated to their most preferred candidate. As the votes continue to be counted and candidates are either elected or eliminated, the vote is transferred to other candidates according

to the voter's stated preferences in proportion to any surplus votes. The reallocation of votes may vary.

Nawar Nemeah, author of the legislation and second-year history of public policy and global studies double major, said the new system will create more proportional representation in A.S.

"The single transferrable vote was a new voting system we passed in the fall to increase proportional representation," Nemeah said. "The idea behind STV and proportional representation is that on the ballot, voters can rank their candidates, and there's a mathematical formula that takes all your choices into consideration. So if you're a party that wins 60 percent of the vote, you'll win 60 percent of representation."

CAMPUS UNITED

Campus United, in its introductory letter to the student body, PARTIES p.4-5

CC Library Brings Resources to I.V.

Pardall Center is hosting library services for SBCC students



STEPHEN MANGA / DAILY NEXUS

SBCC's librarian outreach is providing its students residing in I.V. with easier access to its library services.

Noah Brennan-Greenbaum
Reporter

The Santa Barbara City College (SBCC) Library is sponsoring a librarian outreach service at the Isla Vista (I.V.) Pardall Center to help SBCC students and I.V. community members receive library services close to home.

The outreach program is designed to provide SBCC students who live in I.V. with easier access to the campus library's resources. SBCC Mobile Librarian Kristen LaBonte will be available Wednesday nights in the Pardall Center from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. to provide locals with services such as research and homework assistance.

LaBonte said she will be available to help students with a wide range of assistance services.

LIBRARY p.8

WOMEN'S HOOPS PLAYING FOR MORE THAN JUST A "W"



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AWARENESS
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THUNDERDOME

EVENTS THIS WEEK

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W BASKETBALL V LBSU
THUNDERDOME
SATURDAY FEB. 20 | 2:00PM

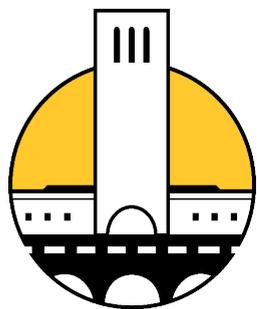
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REC CEN COURTS
SAT FEB. 20 | 12:00PM
SUN FEB. 21 | 12:00PM

BASEBALL V SAN FRANCISCO
CAESAR UYESAKA STADIUM
FRI FEB. 19 | 2:00PM
SAT FEB. 20 | 11AM & 2:30PM
SUN FEB. 21 | 1:00PM
BASEBALL V ST. MARY'S
TUESDAY FEB 23 | 2PM

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DAILY NEXUS CALENDAR

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\$3

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Born adventurers Justin Lansing and Joe Mailander have been exploring the outdoors together since they were kids. Now fully grown, the Okee Dokee Brothers place their passion and respect for the natural world at the heart of their Grammy-winning American folk music with songs, harmonies and life lessons rooted in their own adventures canoeing down the Mississippi and hiking the Appalachian Trail. The three-time Parents' Choice Award winners inspire kids and their parents to go outside and get creative!

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Marcy Darnovsky,
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 Thursday, March 3 at
 8:00pm at 1104 Harold
 Frank Hall, UCSB



Marcy Darnovsky will unpack the controversies that have erupted in recent months about how we should — and should not — use gene editing tools, and explores the technical, social, and ethical stakes of these imminent decisions.

Sarah Koenig & Julie Snyder, Binge-Worthy Journalism: Backstage with the Creators of Serial
 Thu., Mar. 3, at 8:00 p.m. at
 Campbell Hall



Renée Fleming, soprano
 Sun, Feb 28
 2:00 PM
 Campbell Hall



“Renée Fleming is a true diva du jour. Her sumptuous soprano, dazzling technique and glamorous persona make her the complete package.” *Star Tribune*

The Silk Road Ensemble with Yo-Yo Ma
 Sun, Feb 21
 7:00 PM
 The Granada Theatre



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WEATHER

The Weatherhuman has never liked anyone riding a Go Kart. If ze isn't in one, ze is jealous of anyone who is. If ze is in one, ze must go fast. Ze must win. There are no friends here. All is fair in love and Go Karts.

Tomorrow's Forecast: The 'human champions every Go Kart track in Southern California, gets sponsored by Gatorade.

Part One: Isla Vista Gets Down to Business

Vicky Munro
Staff Writer

A wide array of businesses are drawn to the busy streets of Isla Vista (I.V.), with new hopefuls arriving every year to compete for the interest of thousands of young adult customers. From chains like Starbucks to independent establishments like I.V. Deli, the two-block downtown district in I.V. sustains nearly 50 independently and franchise-owned establishments. As businesses in I.V. begin to outgrow the humble beach town, business owners in I.V. continue to stay afloat.

"The original concept was called 'Blunts and Bagels' and it was gonna be a dispensary bagel shop," Daniel Dunietz, owner and founder of Buddha Bowls said. Captivated by the beach town's creative and unique vibes, Dunietz knew he wanted to own and operate his own business in Isla Vista even before he attended UCSB.

In December of 2013, Dunietz opened the doors to Buddha Bowls. The restaurant is a testament to his desire to make people happy through unique and satisfying food and was first opened under the expectation that marijuana would soon be legalized. Dunietz said he intends to incorporate marijuana into his business as soon as it becomes legalized, but said "up until now, all we can really do is help get signatures, help get measures through, help rally the students and really try to bring awareness to the importance of voting in the next election cycle."

While Dunietz has larger political ambitions in mind, he and other Isla Vista business owners are focused on the more immediate challenges of running a successful business in the community.

The Isla Vista Downtown Business Owners Association was formed in 2015 to market I.V., protect businesses and deal with problems of parking and safety. The college-town atmosphere of Isla Vista makes working in the beach haven both social and engaging, but the isolated location suffers from a constantly increasing flow of students, high population density and the effects of a thriving party scene.

"The sheer number of young people here, the energy, it's a place that can really embrace something unique and different," Dunietz said. "It's not somewhere that you have people that are set in their way, they're new, they're molding," Dunietz said. The progressive ideologies and creative personalities of many students make I.V. a "perfect" place to operate a restaurant.

Andrea Maasz, manager of Otaco, said there are sometimes issues with rowdy customers, but I.V. is one of the best places she has worked. According to Maasz, when planning for the opening of the restaurant, Otaco's interior designers had to take into account the energy of I.V. customers and the "potential for mayhem" in the small area.

"All our furniture is plywood because people will dance up on there. We've broken the stage last week and the music's pretty loud, but overall it's a lot of fun," Maasz said. "People understand if something bad happens, and people are a lot of fun on the Wednesday karaoke nights; it gets crazy."

Al Espino, owner of organic hemp product store Hempwise, said he enjoys the constant influx of new people in I.V. because it creates an "ever-changing population."

"We've been in I.V. for 20 years; there's a good and bad I guess," Espino said. "It's kind of like moving and getting a new location every few years."

Rico Ochoa Suave, manager of Pizza My Heart, said he has "seen it all" when serving I.V. customers, and appreciates the town as a lively environment for business.

"It can get a little bit hectic maybe with alcohol, but it's always a great place to be," Suave said.

Pizza My Heart employees must be prepared to handle situations involving intoxicated customers, but Suave said customers rarely need to be kicked out.

Virtually all businesses in I.V. are squeezed into a few "downtown" blocks, stretching from 65 Pardall to 65 Trigo. The area is commonly packed with students commuting to and from campus and the congested area offers few options for parking. Beginning in 2015, I.V.

stakeholders started holding weekly meetings to discuss solutions for more efficient traffic in the area.

Jacob Bergam, manager of Bagel Café, said careless pedestrians and bikers and "horrible" parking create an unappealing shopping environment in I.V.

"As a result most non locals avoid making the trek to Isla Vista business," Bergam said in an email.

Marissa Bragstad, Isla Vista Food Co-op floor manager and outreach assistant, said non-student residents shop at the Co-op, but some of them may be "put off" from its location in Isla Vista, which is drastically different than the surrounding Goleta and Santa Barbara areas.

"We do have some shoppers that have been shopping with us for over thirty years since the Co-op first started," Bragstad said. "But sometimes it's hard to maintain those customers since it is a different shopping experience from if you're going out in Goleta or downtown Santa Barbara."

The majority of I.V.'s population flows in and out as college graduates move out of town to make place for incoming freshman. Due to the transient nature of I.V.'s residents, businesses are hard-pressed to retain customers and appeal to new residents.

The Isla Vista Food Co-op, which first opened in 1972, has in recent years begun several programs to support I.V. and encourage community participation.

"You may have a customer that shops here from their sophomore year to their senior year and then they go," Bragstad said. "So we're constantly trying to make people aware that we're here."

Woodstocks General Manager James Glover said another downside of I.V.'s transient environment is the need to constantly rehire employees.

"There's not a lot of long-standing folk. It sucks, you develop people, they turn into these badass adults and then fly off and do amazing things," Glover said. "So it's cool that that's the case but it also sucks that you have to get rid of your best people sometimes, just out of the nature of being in Isla Vista."

According to fifth-year math major Donald Heatherington, the increase in chain businesses was inevitable because smaller businesses have difficulty surviving in I.V.

For the full story, see dailynews.com.



LORENZO BASILIO / DAILY NEXUS

The college town environment of Isla Vista provides businesses with a constant influx of new customers, but it also leads to the inevitable loss of old ones.



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PARTIES

Continued from p.1

said students “are [its priority.]” They recognized the achievements of their party members, saying “although we are a new party, we take pride in the past accomplishments of our party leadership,” and are “eager to accomplish more on [the students’] behalf.”

Letters and Science Collegiate Senator, Campus United member and third-year history of public policy major Ashcon Minoiefar said Campus United is focused on bringing attention to student fees and general student services because UCSB students pay the most in student fees amongst all 10 UCs.

“Our party is focused on getting some of the conversations and things A.S. does refocused on student fees and general student services. Our party wants to focus on student fees and their proper use and management because we have the highest student fees out of any UC by a longshot,” Minoiefar said.

Minoiefar said Campus United is focused on moving forward based on reforms to the old structure of OPP.

“The new party implemented a lot of changes I wanted to see in OPP, mostly internal and structural changes; nothing grandiose. We wanted to start something new and give everyone some breathing space,” Minoiefar said. “I didn’t leave [OPP] because all these things were wrong, I just realized that I’d rather to start something new. My concerns weren’t what OPP had done in the past, but what I could do in the future.”

Off-campus Senator, Campus United member and third-year political science major Austin Hechler said the party has yet to develop a specific platform, but is focusing on including all students and making resources and services available to all students.

“Campus United doesn’t have a specific platform yet, we’re still a new party, but we really want to focus on inclusivity in A.S.,” Hechler said. “Making sure that everyone feels like they have a spot there because

it’s the student union that represents all students and making sure that the services that we put out there are being utilized by everyone and accessible to all students.”

Campus United plans to support the formation of a CSD in Isla Vista, a fee initiative detailing the funds allocated to various campus organizations, utilization of the new A.S. website and more universal use of A.S. Publications for course readers.

“We value inclusivity; we believe that everyone has a spot. We want everyone to know more about A.S. and to feel like they can get involved. We work for all the students, so we want to make sure everyone feels welcome to the services and resources we provide,” Hechler said. “What we want to see changed is representation of Isla Vista as a community service district, the new fee initiative, utilization of the A.S. website that just launched and tagging different parts of campus that use student fees that are A.S.”

Hechler ran as a senator with OPP last year and said that he left OPP to work alongside students with a more similar set of goals, but supports the creation of many new parties. He also said Campus United has learned from OPP and will be using the aspects OPP members thought were successful.

“I left OPP because I found a group of like-minded people that also didn’t agree with certain things OPP did. It’s not any hard feelings, I feel like it’s just better to have more parties to come in and not just have one mega party that everyone knows. I think it’s awesome that so many new parties have formed,” Hechler said. “We’re not OPP anymore, I feel like we’ve learned from OPP and [are] using the aspects we thought were successful in our campaign.”

Campus United party member and fourth-year anthropology and global studies double major Sarah Tagger said Campus United values the students’ voices, the representation of students in A.S. and the fulfillment of student visions.



LORENZO BASILIO / DAILY NEXUS

Campus United members Austin Hechler and Ashcon Minoiefar both left OPP to join the party as a way to take the old party’s ideas and evolve them into something more.

“Campus United values the amplification of the student voice and the fulfillment of student visions. We aspire to focus on clear consensus student issues, increase services, provide safety, and improve academic accessibility,” Tagger said in an email. “We believe that every student should be represented within Associated Students and utilize its resources. We are dedicated to transparency and open channels of communication.”

Tagger also said Campus United was formed because party members were “dissatisfied with the status quo” and provides a new perspective and leadership for students that pledges to provide students with essential needs.

“Campus United offers an entirely new perspective and new leadership that pledges to provide students with the essential needs that we have been collectively advocating for,” Tagger said. “We are a fresh,

new party with a vision for a bright future.”

To learn more about Campus United, visit ucsbcampusunited.com and [facebook.com/UCSBCampusUnited](https://www.facebook.com/UCSBCampusUnited) or attend any of the informational sessions on Feb. 18 at Santa Barbara Hillel (781 Embarcadero del Norte) at 7p.m., Feb. 22 San Nicolas Classroom at 7p.m., or Feb. 23 at Santa Catalina Fiesta Room at 8p.m.

PEER ACTION COALITION

Peer Action Coalition (PAC) outlined its platform in its letter to the student body. They named their affiliates, saying, “current affiliates of this party include experienced members of A.S. Senate, A.S. entities, RHA, the Office of Student Life, and other student groups,” and “PAC is intended to be unique in nature as we strive to mobilize students, increase involvement

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and transparency in Associated Students.”

College of Creative Studies (CCS) Collegiate Senator, PAC member, and third-year CCS chemistry and biochemistry major Dustin Larrazolo said PAC’s values fall under the categories of academic excellence, fiscal responsibility, increased inclusivity in university spaces, the destigmatization of mental health considerations and expansion services for those suffering from mental health problems, increased transparency in A.S. government and its entities, collaborations with non-A.S. groups and I.V. self-governance.

Larrazolo said PAC welcomes all students to express their concerns and ideas.

“We call ourselves the Peer Action Coalition because everyone can be a part of it as long as you follow the party’s main platform and you can develop your own individual platform and express concerns, ideas and where you want the party to go and it’s an inclusive space for all students,” Larrazolo said.

Larrazolo also said, as a former OPP member, he felt that OPP had been “corrupted” and deterred from its original platform, creating a need for a new party.

“The party was forced to diversify beyond what it traditionally represented. When you look at the party’s original core values of trying to represent all students and students to all have representation and non-toxic spaces where all students are able to have constructive dialogue, it veered away from that and it wasn’t really the centrist party it used to be,” Larrazolo said. “When you have a political party that runs for 10 years, it’s hard not to become a political machine.”

According to Larrazolo, PAC is the center-left party and hopes to promote inclusion and safe spaces on UCSB’s campus. Larrazolo also said PAC wishes to focus on academics and to reinstate the Academic Affairs Board A.S. dissolved last year.

“Academia is a big priority to us. The Academic Affairs Board was dissolved by A.S. last year, and that was very concerning as the CCS Senator because my

job is to focus on academics,” Larrazolo said. “I think we’ve focused on that more than other parties.”

Larrazolo said PAC sees toxicity in previous A.S. elections and hopes to work collaboratively with the other parties to make sure elections are more transparent this year.

“We want to reach out to the other parties to make sure that everyone is a student leader; a student first, leader second, and taking care of their mental health and treating themselves because nobody wants to come out of this being personally hurt or victimized because of personal agendas,” Larrazolo said.

PAC member and third-year political science major Victor Garcia said PAC sees itself as a “hybrid” between Campus United and The Response, as they understand the need for activism and safe spaces on campus, but they also hope to represent the student population as a whole.

“At the end of the day, we’re here to serve the students. We’re not here to serve ourselves. Regardless of what we think is necessary or right, we need to give in to what the students want,” Garcia said. “Ultimately, we want students to know that we want to represent them. Even if they don’t think A.S. is a space for them, we want them to feel comfortable enough to come to us and express their ideas.”

To learn more about Peer Action Coalition, visit twitter.com/UCSBPAC and facebook.com/UCSBPAC.

THE RESPONSE

The Response prides itself on being a progressive party and a “response” to students’ concerns.

Off-campus senator, The Response member and second-year Asian-American studies and political science double major Akshaya Natarajan said The Response was formed because of frustration with the lack of representation in A.S.

“A lot of our members are from different parties and wanted to create a change and bring in more com-

munities,” Natarajan said. “Our platform is centered around that, a lot of community building.”

Natarajan also said tuition-free and debt-free education and student well-being are central to their platform.

“Our party also believes a lot in the right of education. One part of our platform that I don’t see in other platforms is the right to a tuition-free and debt-free education for all of our students,” Natarajan said. “Our party is also dedicated to the physical and mental well-being of the students.”

Natarajan also said that The Response views itself as the most progressive party.

“The other two parties don’t necessary pride themselves on being very socially progressive, but The Response stands wholeheartedly behind it,” Natarajan said. “We won’t back down even if there is backlash. We truly believe in progressive ideals and believe they benefit students and all types of different students.”

PAC member and second-year history of public policy and global studies double major Nawar Nemeh said The Response challenges engrained A.S. politics.

“Historically in A.S., there have been two parties that dominate the space and grapple for power, and The Response sees itself as a new alternative to the system,” Nemeh said. “We think of ourselves as representing the everyday student, representing the underrepresented students who have been marginalized and completely cut out of A.S. and have no voice.”

On-campus senator, The Response member and third-year Chican@ studies and sociology double major Alejandra Melgoza said The Response’s platform is still evolving.

“Our party’s platform is still being added to because we want to hear everyone’s input and we haven’t recruited enough people to get a proper proportion of the student body,” Melgoza said. “A lot of our members have worked in the past with mental health reforms, sexual assault policies and advocating

for more resources for students, especially low-income students.”

According to Melgoza, The Response also wants to increase representation for underrepresented communities at UCSB and bring the party members’ identities to light.

“We created a new party because a lot of the party members feel that underrepresented communities have not been represented well in student government,” Melgoza said. “We can amplify those voices and build structures and build those relationships into the institution.”

To learn more about The Response, visit twitter.com/TheResponseUCSB and facebook.com/The-Response-229273187412212/ or attend any of the

PARTIES p.6



LORENZO BASILIO / DAILY NEXUS
PAC member Dustin Larrazolo stated that academia is a big issue for the new party.

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PARTIES

Continued from p.5

informational sessions on Feb. 18 at 7 p.m. in the SRB, Feb. 19 at 7 p.m. in Santa Rosa Formal Lounge & Santa Catalina Fiesta Room.

QUEER AND TRANS STUDENT BODY

Queer and Trans Student Body's (QutSB) mission statement is as follows: "We, the Queer and Trans Student Body, support and affirm the diverse identities and lives of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, LGBTQ, two-spirit, heterosexual, and same-gender loving as individuals above all else. We strive to engage the student body in the propagation of inclusive spaces demanding greater accessibility to campus resources and taking action to end the silent epidemic of student hunger. We also acknowledge the systemic power dynamics existing in higher education are mirrored in the systematic misrepresentation of queer folk and people of color in Associated Students. We are F.I.E.R.C.E. (Food Insecurity, Inclusive Spaces, Education, Resources, Campus Climate, and Environment.)"

QutSB member and fourth-year black studies and feminist studies double major Ernesto Piña said the party is running on an education-focused

platform rather than a student-government-focused platform.

"Instead of focusing on why you should run with our party or be in Associated Students, we are running on an education platform to make this space available to queer folk," Piña said.

Piña said QutSB differs from the other parties because of its grassroots perspective and unique, novice outlook on A.S.

"If you see the current structure, every single new party that was started aside from ours were released by ex-senators or senators," Piña said. "I believe each party has done tremendous work, but I do believe that it is a replication of stuff that has been done in the past."

Piña said their party is focused on inclusivity.

"We are inclusive to students who are interested in learning about the process of Associated Students through an education lens to realize why they should care," Piña said. "You don't have to be queer or trans to join our party. We are inclusive of heterosexual and cisgender individuals."

QutSB member and third-year environmental studies major Ryan Carr said QutSB wants to address forgotten issues in A.S.

For the full story, see dailynews.com.



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How to Fill a Seat on the Supreme Court

Recent death of Court Justice Scalia raises judicial questions

Effie Sklaventis
Staff Writer

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia was found dead on Saturday at a Texas resort at the age of 79, raising questions about nominating new justices and the presidential appointment process following the death.

Scalia, who was first appointed to the Supreme Court in 1986, was the longest serving Justice on the Supreme Court and is the first Supreme Court Justice to die mid-term since 1954, not including William Rehnquist. His death may hinder conservative pursuits.

Scalia's vacancy comes during a time when the Supreme Court is tasked with deciding numerous cases on issues including abortion, affirmative action, religious freedom and healthcare.

The Supreme Court is composed of nine appointment officials, and with one vacant spot, tie votes are a possibility.

How are Supreme Court justices really appointed? We'll break it down for you:

Phase One: The President Finds a Favorite

The U.S. Constitution states in Article II Section 2 that the president "shall nominate, and by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, shall appoint ... judges of the Supreme Court." The president can nominate anyone he wishes to fill Scalia's vacancy.

Phase Two: Confirmation Nation

Next, the president's nomination is sent to a smaller group within the U.S. Senate, the Senate Judiciary Committee. The Committee conducts a three-part process: a background check of the nominee, a public hearing in which the nominee is questioned by the Committee and, lastly, a report to the U.S. Senate with a decision for the nominee.

Phase Three: The Senate Struggle

If the Senate Judiciary Committee sends their recommendation to the Senate, the Senate enters an "executive session," which is enforced by the Senate majority leader, Republican Mitch McConnell. Despite McConnell stating that he refuses to appoint a new justice until after the 2016 presidential election, the nomination can still be considered if a senator makes a motion to do so. In typical U.S. Congress fashion, a filibuster can block the motion, but if the motion does make it to a closing debate, the motion can be taken to a vote.

Phase Four: The Vote

The motion to approve the president's judicial nomination can be voted on by the Senate and requires a simple majority. After the vote, the Senate secretary will notify the president that his nomination was successful, and he can sign a commission to appoint the new justice.

If All Else Fails...

Article II of the Constitution states the president "shall have power to fill up all vacancies that may happen during the recess of the Senate." The appointment can last until the end of the Senate's next session. Since the Senate is currently in recess until Feb. 22, the president has the ability to nominate and appoint a justice without consulting the Senate.

Republicans and Democrats are divided on the issue of when a new justice should be appointed or if President Obama should even attempt to appoint a new justice during an election year; however, until a justice is appointed, the Court cannot make effective and active decisions on cases, rendering it indefinitely useless.

Ex-Student Pleads Not Guilty in Campus Rape



Photo Courtesy of Paul Wellman

Former student Daniel J. Chen (center), represented by attorney Adam Pearlman (left), pleaded not guilty to two counts of rape on Tuesday.

Nicholas Bogel-Burroughs
Asst. News Editor

A former UC Santa Barbara student accused of raping a woman on campus in 2014 pleaded not guilty to two felony rape charges Tuesday and will continue to be held without bail.

Daniel J. Chen, 21, of San Ramon, Calif., was arraigned in Santa Barbara Superior Court on Tuesday morning and charged with rape by means of force and rape in concert, also known as gang rape.

Additionally, Deputy District Attorney Benjamin Ladinig is including several special allegations, which would lengthen Chen's sentence if he is convicted. These allegations include torture during rape, personal infliction of great bodily injury and a request that the two felony rape charges be served consecutively.

Chen, who attended UCSB from September 2012 to

December 2013, is accused of taking a UCSB student from Isla Vista and, with two other men, raping her for approximately three hours next to Pauley Track shortly after midnight on Feb. 23, 2014.

"We believe that there is sufficient evidence to charge two separate rapes under the case law," Ladinig told a reporter shortly after the arraignment. "If there is a break between one sex act and one has time to reflect on the nature of their act and then decide to commit an additional act, that can be charged separately."

Ladinig said the victim's injuries included facial fractures, severe body and vaginal injuries and "additional, yet to be specified injuries," warranting the special allegations.

Judge Raimundo Montes De Oca also issued a protective order, barring Chen from communicating with or coming within 100 yards of the victim, who is being referred to as Jane Doe.

Chen was arrested on Feb. 10 by the UCSB Police Department after his DNA — taken during an unrelated arrest in Alameda County for possession of marijuana with intent to sell — matched DNA found at the scene of the rape, according to UCPD Sgt. Rob Romero.

Wearing an orange Santa Barbara County Jail shirt and blue pants, Chen stood behind glass in a separate room and communicated with his lawyer, Adam Pearlman, via a telephone on the wall. He did not speak except to acknowledge that he understood his right to a speedy trial would be postponed until his next trial date.

Pearlman argued that photographers should not be allowed to take pictures of the proceedings Tuesday because of what he said was the "potential prejudice for

potential jurors seeing Mr. Chen in a jail uniform," but the judge ultimately allowed photographs by the press.

When Ladinig was asked if he was considering a plea deal in exchange for the two other suspects, he said, "As of now, we're just proceeding with Mr. Chen and Mr. Chen's case."

A preliminary hearing is set for March 2 in front of Judge Pauline Maxwell, and Pearlman indicated he would likely request bail for his client at that time.

Separately, the victim filed a personal injury lawsuit against the UC Regents in January alleging that the area of the attack was "secluded and dangerous," that the UCSB Police Department was "understaffed and insufficiently trained" to investigate the case and that UCSB improperly reports its sexual assault statistics.

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LIBRARY

Continued from p.1

"I help out with technology questions, research relating to term papers, personal research that people are doing, general questions and technical things like people's personal devices," LaBonte said.

Although the program's main objective is to provide resources for local

SBCC students, LaBonte said she is happy to help anyone who stops by.

"I help everyone. I don't ask for anyone's affiliation. That's actually common practice with libraries," LaBonte said. "We don't discriminate; we are open to everybody."

SBCC Library Director Elizabeth Bowman explained the reasoning behind the new service.

"So many of our students live in Isla Vista and struggle with bus availability or don't have a car or, for whatever reason, want to stay here in I.V.," Bowman said. "We do have online resources, which are great, but to have someone here for an extended time who can offer extensive help is invaluable. Students have told us that they like our library and our hours, but they like to stay here [in Isla Vista]."

Ethan Bertrand, SBCC Associated Students Isla Vista community representative (IVCR), said the project is the result of collaboration with the Pardall Center and UCSB Associated Students leadership.

"Within our student government last year, we saw a need for services in Isla Vista, so we created the IVCR position," Bertrand said. "This is one of my roles with that, to work to support City College interests in the community and support students."

Bertrand said the news of the project's launch has been well received.

"So far we've heard a lot of great things. This originated due to feedback from students. This event is us saying we're here and to please come use our services," Bertrand said. "I think the greatest part about it is it's not just for City College students, it's also for the whole community, whether it's UCSB students, longtime community members or families."

Jonathan Abboud, SBCC trustee, said he helped coordinate the project by using the knowledge and connections he made as a former Associated Students (A.S.) President at UCSB.

"I coordinated this space. I was A.S. President, so I had connections and knowledge of Associated Students. So I brought both together, both my involvement with SBCC and my past involvement in A.S.," Abboud said.

Abboud said he thinks the new service will serve I.V.'s SBCC population well and hopes it will expand to include more services for SBCC students in the future.

"I think it's great that we're providing services for SBCC students. There are about 3,000 [SBCC] students living in I.V., and they do need services. SBCC is far and it's not feasible for students to make it over there all the time," Abboud said. "I hope that this, in the future, expands to include more than library services like transfer services and financial aid services."



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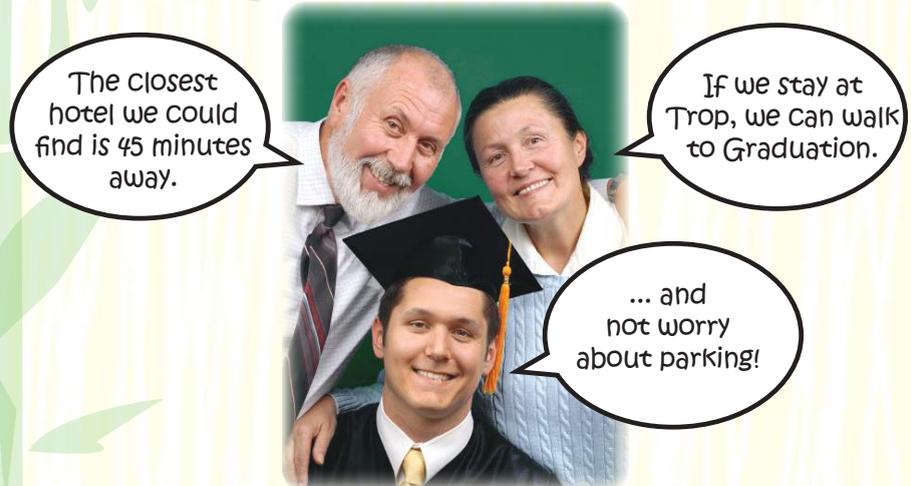
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Armchair QB Dwight Howard thinks he's Superman, right? Apparently, the NBA trade deadline and team front offices must be his kryptonite ... Houston, we have a problem.



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SWIM

MPSF Championships Officially Underway

Daniel Moebus-Bowles
Staff Writer

Today, the UCSB men's and women's swim teams will cap off the season with the biggest conference competition of the year, The MPSF Championships. The men will compete in a pool of five total teams and the women will face a larger group of seven. One day of events is already in the books, and the men are currently holding down third place with 62 points, while the women lead the pack in first with 74.

"We really need to get behind each other this week if we want to take home the Championship," junior Cheyenne Low said. "The work and preparation have been put in and now it's time to race."

The women jumped out on the first day of competition taking home a couple of top spots in the relay events. The Gauchos came in at a meet best 1:40.55 in the 200-yard Medley Relay to take the top spot in the race. Low lead the way with the top lap in the backstroke. They added a second place trial in the 800-yard Freestyle relay coming in at 7:16.57.

The men's team gathered some first day points as well with a third place outing in the 800-yard Freestyle Relay. The 'A' team came in at a time of 6:28.96.

The last time the Gauchos competed in this postseason event, both teams came up just short, as the men took second place behind BYU and the women fell to third as Hawaii took home the competition.

The scores of last year's meet did not do justice to how close the match was since both

Santa Barbara teams out swam the schools that topped them in the standings and only lost due to a lack of divers on the team. Both BYU's men team and Hawaii's women team gained well over 200 points from diving alone and with this advantage just edged out the Gauchos by a margin slimmer than the 200 points gained from the board.

This year will be a special event for both Santa Barbara teams as it will be Head Coach Gregg Wilson's final conference championship meet as he plans to retire at this end of this season. This final season is Wilson's 40th consecutive as the head coach of both Gaucho programs. Wilson has won a total of 36 combined conference championship meets, 23 for the men and 13 for the women, but will be looking to pick up his first win at the MPSF Championships as UCSB has not won since joining the conference in 2011.

"As all of my teammates have been saying, this is the Big One and it means everything to be a part of [Wilson's] last conference," Low said. "[Wilson] has left such a huge legacy and it would be an honor to win it for him in his last year."

The women's team, which only lost two dual meets this entire season, head into the competition with a lot of relay teams and individual athletes on top of the conference's best times and rankings in several events. On the grounds of team events, the Gauchos are on top in the 200-yard freestyle relay, the 400-yard freestyle relay, and the 400-yard medley relay.

Seniors Lauren Vosseler and Katie Records each hold two spots atop their respected

events. Vosseler comes in with the best time in both the 50-yard freestyle at 22.76 and the 100-yard freestyle at 50.20. She also holds second in the 200-yard freestyle at 1:48.11.

Records leads the 100-yard and 200-yard breaststroke events at 1:02.20 and 2:13.98, respectively. Records also registers as third in the conference in the 200-yard IM event with a time of 2:01.41. Low adds a top position as well with her league best time of 54.82 in the 100-yard backstroke.

On the men's side, the freshman duo of distance swimmers Bobby Guerra and Eric Vanbrocklin hold down second and third in 1000-yard freestyle with times of 9:28.84 and 9:29.27, respectively. Another rookie in freshman Logan Hotchkiss follows just behind in 5th with his time of 9:33.12.

Sophomore Chris Nolan represents the sole number one on the men's side as he leads the 200-yard Butterfly with a tie 1:46.60, over a second faster than the next best time.

Today's action is set to start in the morning at East Los Angeles College.



ERIC SWENSON / DAILY NEXUS

After day one of MPSF Championships, UCSB's women's team is in first place.

BASEBALL

New Look Gauchos Open Season Against San Francisco

Jorge Mercado
Staff Writer

The UCSB men's baseball team hopes to continue the success of last year's historical season, including hosting its first ever NCAA Regional matchup, with its opening four-game series against San Francisco at home.

"We had a good run last year and this year we want to keep building," Head Coach Andrew Checketts said. "We have a goal to get back to the playoffs, and with our returning key pieces I think we could do it."

The Gauchos are coming off a 40-17-1 season in which they also had a successful run in conference play with a 16-8 record. The 40 wins was a new record for most wins against Division I opponents in a season. The preseason polls have UCSB finishing fourth in conference play behind CSULB, UC Irvine and No. 16 Cal State Fullerton.

Checketts, entering his fifth season as the Santa Barbara Head Coach, will have a much tougher time setting his line-up this season. This is because a record 10 of his players were drafted last year, including pitcher Dillon Tate, who was drafted fourth overall by the Texas Rangers. UCSB has the second-most draftees of any team in the country, only trailing Oklahoma's 11 players drafted.

"There has been a lot of turnover on the roster," Checketts said. "However, we are

returning some key pieces."

These key pieces include outfielder Andrew Calica and pitcher Shane Bieber. Calica is a career .321 hitter at the Division I level, while Bieber earned an All-Big West Second Team nod after co-leading the Big West in wins with 8 and a solid 2.24 ERA.

"I'm counting on them [Calica and Bieber]," Checketts said. "They're Friday night starters and have experience, including playing in regionals last year."

The Gauchos are also going to count on younger pieces such as sophomores Clay Fisher and Kyle Nelson. Fisher, an infielder, racked up 43 hits and 19 RBIs, which were both seventh best on the team. Nelson, a left-handed pitcher, went 3-1 with a 0.75 ERA out of the bullpen to earn Freshman All-America honors.

"We are new in some spots and we are excited for the younger players," Checketts said.

UCSB will hope to see its new roster do some good things against a San Francisco squad who finished 23-31 last season. They ended the season on a seven game losing streak, meaning they will be excited to take the field against UCSB.

The Dons are looking to players like infielder Dan James to lead the team this year. The junior had a .346 batting average, which was second best on the team. They will also

look to former 2014 West Coast Conference All-Freshman Team Nico Giarratano. The junior hit a respectable .220 average in his 32 games.

The new Santa Barbara line-up is what will have most people excited this season. After losing the aforementioned 10 players to the draft, it will be interesting to see how new players feel in their roles.

"We still have a lot of question marks," Checketts said. "There are still a lot of moving parts and we still are not sure of our exact lineup. We want to find ourselves and our identity, and it will take some time, but we are excited."

Santa Barbara's season opener is at 2 p.m. Friday, Feb. 19 against San Francisco at Caesar Uyesaka stadium.



STEPHEN MANGA / DAILY NEXUS

After a 40-17-1 finish last season, the Gauchos begin their campaign Friday.

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BASKETBALL

UCSB Looks to Extend Streak Against UCR, Davis

Elliot Thornton
Staff Writer

After grinding out a 72-66 victory at UC Davis last Thursday, Santa Barbara looks to extend its winning streak to three games with games against UCR tonight and UC Davis on Saturday.

The Gauchos head into the week in fourth place having won three of their last four games to improve to 11-12 overall and 5-5 in the Big West.

UC Riverside is hoping to overcome its latest three-game losing streak and enters tonight's game with a 13-14 overall record, while sitting in sixth place of the Big West standings with a 4-7 record. The Aggies' loss to the Gauchos last Thursday ended their 12-game home winning streak, making them 10-14 overall and 5-6 in the Big West for a fifth place standing.

A total of five players recorded double-figures in scoring in the team's road victory at UCD. Aside from the 29 combined points that sophomore guard Gabe Vincent and senior guard Michael Bryson tallied home, Head Coach Bob Williams accredits this victory to a collective team effort from other players on his squad.

"It's crucial when other guys make contributions offensively for us [because] it turns us into a much more efficient team," Williams said. "John Green was alive ... [Sam] Beeler was really effective [on the floor], and Eric Childress continues to be money shooting the ball from the three-point line. This gives us a lot of balance because opponents are going to pay a lot of attention to Michael and Gabe."

Most notably, the Gauchos shot a season-high 23-26 from the free-throw line last Thursday.

Against Riverside, UCSB will have to contain the senior duo of forward Taylor Johns and guard Jaylen Bland. The two are the best frontcourt-backcourt combo in the conference, combining for 32 points per game, Bland at 16.5 and Johns at 15.5.

Johns carried the Highlanders in their 78-86 loss to Cal Poly last week. The senior scored a game-high 25 points in 38 minutes, also tallying his fifth double-double of the season with 10 boards.

While Bland only scored five points in his last match, he and Johns have scored 20-plus or more points in seven games this season.

Looking to avenge their six-point loss last Thursday and upset UCSB at home, junior guard and Darius Graham and senior forward Josh Fox will play pivotal roles Saturday night against Santa Barbara.

Graham is coming off a big game against the Gauchos scoring a game-high 19 points while going 3-4 from downtown. The 5-10" floor general has shown signs of being an offensive threat, leading Davis in scoring five times this season including a 21-point outing in its 58-55 win against Riverside.

Big man Josh Fox will try and compliment Graham's guard play down low in the post. Last year's Big West Sixth Man of the Year, the forward has been having an unforgettable senior campaign leading all Aggies in scoring with 14.2 per game and field goal percentage with 51.5 percent. Fox has led his team in scoring 10 times this season while scoring 17 or more points in ten occasions.

With regard to last Thursday at UC Davis, a conference win was not the only achievement Coach Williams accomplished against his former

team. Coaching the Aggies from 1990-1998, the three-time Big West Coach of the Year collected his 299th win last Thursday.

While this milestone is a notable one, just one victory shy of being the 3rd coach ever in conference to eclipse the 300-win mark, Williams says at this point it is just a number.

"The win at Davis meant a lot to me because it was home for eight years ... but I'm just not attached to the number of accumulated wins at this stage in my life," Williams stated. "Maybe 10 years from now when I'm reading through a scrapbook that will be something that means something to me."

The Gauchos will face UCR tonight at 8 p.m. UCSB returns to action in the Thunderdome this Saturday, Feb. 20 versus UC Davis, which is set for a 7 p.m. tip-off time.



DUSTIN HARRIS / DAILY NEXUS

UCSB is fourth in the Big West standings and is 5-5 in conference games thus far.

ONLINE FOCUS: AROUND THE NBA

Rumor Has It: NBA Trade Deadline

Jorge Mercado
Staff Writer

Surprisingly, one of the best days in the NBA season is not a playoff game or rivalry game, but today's trade deadline day.

The NBA Trade Deadline is like reality TV for us sports fans. We see the reports leading up to the trade, the actual trade happens and we watch the drama that unfolds after. The suspense of teams hoping to become title contenders while some enter full tank mode are the elements that make the NBA trade deadline so intriguing each year.

Here are a few of the bigger names that have been thrown out there and could possibly be dealt by the deadline today at 3 p.m. EST:

DWIGHT HOWARD

The Rockets seem to be fed up with all-star center Dwight Howard, as they are actively trying to move him. In fact, it has been reported that Houston is doing "everything in their power" to deal Howard before Thursday is over.

One of the more intriguing trade options that has been thrown on the table is a possible three-team deal between Houston, Miami and Atlanta. The trade that has been discussed is Howard to the Hawks, F Al Horford and G Jeff Teague to the Heat and G Goran Dragic and C Hassan Whiteside to Houston. Even if this trade doesn't work out, it's clear that the Rockets will do everything to get him out of the building tomorrow before 3 p.m.

BLAKE GRIFFIN

Head Coach Doc Rivers and the Los Angeles Clippers have been vehemently denying that they are actively interested in trading

five-time All-Star forward Blake Griffin. The trade talks come from the all-star's altercation with a staff member that led to him punch the staffer, breaking his hand in the process.

The only trade that has been reported comes from ESPN's Chris Broussard, who reported that L.A. offered Griffin and fellow teammate F Lance Stephenson to the Nuggets for G Danilo Gallinari, F Kenneth Faried, F Nikola Jokic and G Will Barton. However,

are looking to deal former All-Star Kevin Love. They have been on record saying they want to get rid of him, but will not settle for a bundle of draft picks or young players — instead, they want a star player in return.

Love has come up in two possible trades. The first one could be a possible three-way deal, which would send Love to Boston and New Orleans F Ryan Anderson to Cleveland. It is unknown what New Orleans would get in return.

The second trade option has been more of a showstopper. It involves Boston again, but also includes the New York Knicks and Carmelo Anthony. The deal is said to have Love again go to Boston and Melo go join LeBron in Cleveland. The Knicks would get a bundle of draft picks and some youngsters in return.

CARMELO ANTHONY

Carmelo and the Knicks have had a rocky relationship the past five years. When he first arrived — coincidentally, thanks to a trade near the deadline — New York was expected to be a powerhouse for years to come. Instead, the Knicks only advanced past the first round of the playoffs once in three tries with Anthony. The last two seasons were a train wreck, with New York mustering a 54-110 record over that span.

The surprising growth of rookie F Kristaps Porzingis has prompted New York to possibly trade Carmelo in order to build around its young stud. The more popular trade that has garnered attention is the aforementioned deal with the Cavs and Celtics; however, Anthony has stated that he believes he will not be traded by the deadline. We will see, Carmelo.



ARTHUR NGUYEN / DAILY NEXUS

Denver turned down the offer.

Even if the Clippers hold on to Griffin for this season, it is possible they could deal him in the offseason. The decision on Blake may be linked to their chances to land Thunder forward Kevin Durant, who will be an unrestricted free agent. Either way, it will be interesting to see how this soap opera ends.

KEVIN LOVE

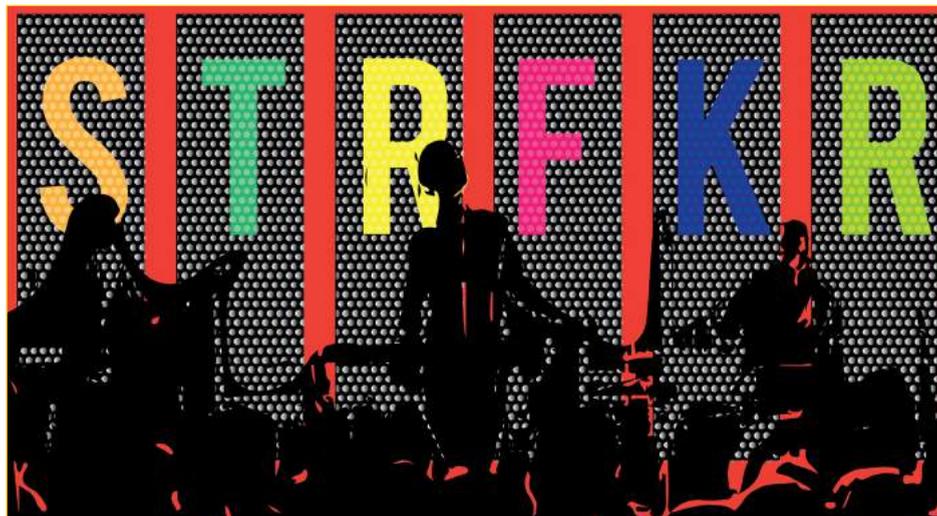
Cleveland's own version of "the big three" hasn't worked out so well. As a result, the Cavs

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STRFKR Gets Rowdy in VN'TRA

Frank Horne
Asst. Artsweek Editor



TARUSH MOHANTI / DAILY NEXUS

STRFKR is very serious about not being taken too seriously. Ironically lifting their name from the label slapped onto those willfully entrenched in the celebrity lifestyle they so eschew, STRFKR's live set perfectly crystallizes their direct dedication to keeping things fun.

Fake Drugs started the show off with a set hurtling down a cyberpunk highway at 80 mph on a Tron bike. The electro-punk duo slapped some frenetic strings over new wave synths and squawked distorted, unintelligible vocals. While the Drugs maintained a high energy throughout, their show would've been greatly enhanced by the addition of a live drummer; without one, they lacked the rawness that an exciting punk act should exhibit. Though not all that compelling in and of itself, their synthy vibe served to whet the collective appetite for Com Truise, the second act of STRFKR's winter tour.

Com Truise seemed to appear all at once, assuming his position helming an expansive dual-Macbook mixing station. Silent and stoic and clad in a plain black tee, he spun a pulsing set of his '80s synthwave repertoire. Com Truise and the entire stage were highlighted over by melting geometries in neon pastels, unfortunately dim as a result of presumably deficient projector settings. Enthused audience members cast crude shadow puppets on the spiraling visuals, nipping and winking innocently at the unalterable DJ. After bumping back-to-back jams like crowd favorite "VHS Sex," Com Truise departed coolly, without

a word. His music spoke loudly enough to set the perfect palette for STRFKR to paint their vibrant poppy melodies with.

As the crowd shuffled with anticipation for the main event, a fog machine puffed out its haze incessantly, shrouding the stage in mystique. As STRFKR took the stage and began to play, the reason became clear; the six pillars of shifting light and color standing behind the band were allowed to play in the negative space, effusing a chameleon glow throughout the theater, perfectly timed with their upbeat rhythms.

The set was constant crescendo. Despite maintaining their grooving mellow throughout, the band managed to draw out more and more

crazed feedback from their audience with every song. Draped in a velvet dress that could've been snatched from his grandmother's closet, frontman Joshua Hodges crooned softly as his bandmates deftly riffed through their collection of indie pop-tronica tunes. The four appeared a little bit mismatched on stage, to charming effect. Pointing out each member individually, UCSB second-year Johanna Ramirez noted, "That one looks like he came from a Renaissance faire, that one looks like a dad, that one a college dropout and that guy a high school student that plays in a band at night."

Despite their quirky aesthetic differences, the band expertly meshed together sonically.

The four of them stayed playful throughout,

not afraid to shuffle up their spots on stage. Hodges and drummer Keil Corcoran traded spots for "German Love," and bassist Shawn Glassford joined the scramble for a trio of covers, including The Human League's "Don't You Want Me" and New Order's "Blue Monday." During their famous rendition of Cyndi Lauper's (er, Robert Hazard's) "Girls Just Want to Have Fun," friends of the band arrived on stage decked out in spacesuits to launch confetti cannons from their groins. The rowdy astronauts also incited a spree of (excessive) crowdsurfing throughout the audience, much to the chagrin of the venue's hyperactive security guards.

After blasting through hits like "Rawnauld Gregory Erickson the Second," "Malmo" and "While I'm Alive," the band departed to clamorous roars from the audience. As a soft light hung in the foggy haze, recorded speech (presumably the words of Alan Watts, a big influence on Hodges) was drowned out by the calls of the crowd for more. The intermission stretched on, but the crowd was relentless, erupting ecstatically when the band resumed the stage to close the night out with an encore consisting of "Pop Song" and "Bury Us Alive," culminating with a rock-star performance of "Leave It All Behind" among flaring strobes of darkness and white light. By the end of the set, Hodges' lank hair stuck to his forehead, a facsimile of the turbo energy the audience channeled increasingly up to the very last song of the night. The band thanked their parents watching above in the Ventura Majestic's closed-off balcony, and left the stage graciously to the applause of a crowd that'd just had a seriously good FKING time.

Zion I Brings the Beat to Velvet Jones

Gabe Lazo
Staff Writer

An MC spits lightning-fast rhymes from onstage. A few hippie-looking girls stand in the middle of the club, twirling around. One scraggly bearded and tie-dye adorned individual dances, spinning bolos with rainbow neon lights attached to the end. Throughout the night, Friday-night regulars — young people dressed for the club — would trickle in. But for now, the floor belongs to counterculture vagrant-ish looking people. The stage belongs to Brayell, the Southern Californian rapper opening the show.

Clearly grounded in a tradition of west coast freestyle, he rattles off rhymes with the speed that makes you wonder if he needed to do diction exercises before stepping out on stage. Aside from his rapping, Brayell (born Brandon Kelly) boasts a variety of talents. He frontlines his own band. He produces many of his own beats and plays various instruments when he records those beats.

After Brayell finishes, rapper James Kaye takes the stage. Kaye bounces around the stage frenetically. His physicality informs his show. The artist likes to jump around. At one point, Kaye leaps off the stage to mosh with audience members. In a night largely dominated by freestyling, this performance distinguishes itself with its underlying electronic-pop beats. The style culminates in the riotously fun, self-hype anthem "How Come," the chorus of which goes "If I didn't make it, how come everybody know my name?"

Brayell's and Kaye's music is available on SoundCloud.

Finally, Zion I mounts the stage. Rather than announcing themselves with the usual fanfare, MC Zumbi and rapping

partner Deuce Eclipse simply stand up and begin their set. The duo's song transitions are seamless, forgoing pauses to constantly inform the audience where they are. It almost feels like Zumbi and Eclipse go for an hour without pause. This feat is especially impressive considering MC Zumbi's age. Zion I was formed in the mid-'90s and has been a significant force in the underground and alternative rap worlds since the early 2000s. Zumbi doesn't have the same love of milking stage time that younger performers often have, but, to his credit, he never flags and pushes himself through a solid, hour-long set.

MC Zumbi (or Baba Zumbi) spoke with the *Nexus* about the show and his upcoming projects. He spoke about the medley of musical styles that go into his beats.

"Always like a fusion with the beats I like, it's got a soulful vibe, melodic, but also has that pounding bass, too. We do it all, man. I mean, I'm a child of the culture," Zumbi said.

He also commented on what led to Zion I's eclectic mix of music.

"I was born in Philadelphia, I lived in Texas, I moved to the west coast, I went to school in Atlanta ... I've experienced hip-hop in all these different places," Zumbi said.

The different influences are audible in the performance. Zumbi favors call-and-response audience interactions. He offers up a song, "Save a Soul," from his upcoming album. The beat is electronic and bears the hallmarks of trip-hop sounds.

Zion I also embodies comradery on stage. Besides their call-and-response and prompting of the audience to sing along, they also start a "peace, love and harmony" chant. They bring the openers, both Kaye and Brayell, back on stage to freestyle and jam with them. The performers clearly pride themselves on creating genuine connections to the audience. Rapper Deuce Eclipse also had a word with the *Nexus*.



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"I pride myself on that west coast freestyle, just off the dome, kinda in the moment. The more I feel the crowd, the more I'm able to express myself," Eclipse said.

Freestyling for these performers clearly involves sensing the rhythms of the audience.

"The crowd out here is so hyped, and they just give you that energy so you just work with it, kinda close your eyes and just let yourself free," Eclipse elaborated.

When Zion I finally gets to their hit single, "Coastin," the audience cheers and sings along. Zion I welcomes it.

Citizen Cope Starts V-Day Early

Vincent Beck
Reporter

It was like any other Friday night in downtown Santa Barbara. The streetlights illuminated couples, friends and acquaintances, all making their way to the next restaurant, bar or both. Everyone was ready to find some escape this President's Day weekend. SOhO's signature brick walls enclosed a full house that night, its patrons eagerly awaiting to see Citizen Cope (Clarence Greenwood) perform his *With Love* compilation. The compilation is a journey through Cope's discography starting from the '90s till now. A majority of the crowd appeared to be older than your average UCSB student, all die hard lovers of his music.

Daniel Vasquez, the manager of the club that night who had seen Citizen Cope some time before, assured me that this would be an enjoyable performance. He also mentioned that Cope was very particular about how his audience behaves during his sets. Apparently, he has been known to walk off the stage due to rambunctious crowds. This explained all of the signs posted around the venue asking its patrons to be respectful toward the solo act that night.

The request appeared strange at first; however, the crowd worked as one so as to maintain a certain level of peace. Citizen Cope walked on stage to great applause, his warm smile drawing the remainder of the restaurant to the stage. Bathed in blue, red and purple light, Citizen Cope began his set, treating spectators to the solemn and gentle chords from his guitar. Cope's music jumps between genres, sometimes lying directly in between two. He will blend and borrow from various styles and make them his own. His *With Love* compilation showcases his talents in playing blues, rock, hip hop and more.

Citizen Cope delivered Friday night, his voice adding a degree of authenticity and soul to his past works. With each part of his set, Cope channeled the pain and moments of love present in his lyrics. The crowd quietly sang along and swayed with their significant others, possibly remembering past relationships or happy romances. Who knows? With songs like "Salvation" and "Bullet and a Target," one



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experiences a darker side to the narratives Cope wrote into his songs. The disco ball overhead swayed slowly, reflecting the stage lights through the rafters of the venue. Through the haze of purple, the crowd danced slowly along to the steady rhythm of Cope's set. It was an amusing sight when

fans shushed pockets of patrons of the louder variety as the next song began, most likely to ensure the best show possible. As a collective, spectators cheered as Cope began performing favorite after favorite. "Let the Drummer Kick" had Cope playing alongside a recorded beat and piano melody; he jokingly said to the crowd, "This next acoustic song is gonna have some accompaniment with some tape. Otherwise, I wouldn't be able to play it, and I know all of you want to hear it." The crowd responded ecstatically as a bass kick and snare hit shook the venue, bodies moving to the steady hiss of a hi-hat.

Citizen Cope returned for an encore to a still-packed venue. The cheers called Cope back to the stage for a few more songs to close out the night. "Hurricane Waters" had the audience participate by clapping along to the beat, echoing "I will carry you" and "hurricane waters." The crowd's voice bounced across the walls, creating a serene moment between them and Cope at the end of the night.

Citizen Cope brought an intense mixture of blues, rock and hip hop to SOhO. His voice complimented the bluesy scales, its accent almost

morphing away from the west coast to something more mid-western or southern. Cope finished up a fantastic show, bringing out love and a whole box of other emotions for the venue to experience — definitely an appropriate start to the three day weekend and Valentine's Day.

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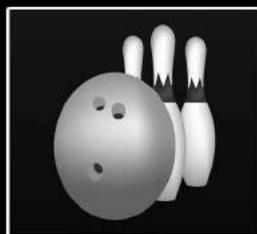


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It's All Gucci at Pascucci

Marisa Ratchford
On The Menu Editor

and lime. The friendly waiter was just as excited about it as I was. It was refreshing, tangy with just the right amount of sweet and, as I found out, made a great palette cleanser.

I ordered the phyllo wraps as an appetizer. They were filled with gorgonzola, tomato pesto and pine nuts. Although they were delicious — the phyllo wraps were crispy and buttery — the filling was overwhelmed with gorgonzola and made it hard to eat too many. However, when I did get a more inclusive bite of the phyllo, the flavors blended beautifully.

For the main course, I ordered the Amalfi, which is a three cheese ravioli topped with a roasted red pepper and rosemary. The sauce was surprisingly sweet with just a hint of spice, and the raviolis were perfectly filled with cheese, which oozed out in a stringy texture each bite. My dining partner ordered the Bellagio, a farfalle pasta with white sauce, chicken, bacon, mushrooms, roasted red peppers and onions. The chicken was cooked perfectly; it melted in my mouth and its toppings were flavorful, which was fortunate because the sauce was a little lackluster and definitely needed the boost from the other flavorful ingredients.

Overall, I was satisfied and stuffed upon leaving Pascucci. I contemplated dessert but was too full to even take a bite of gelato. The atmosphere was perfect for either an awesome get together or a romantic date. It was very affordable, too. I will definitely be back for some more delicious food, and you should head over there soon as well.



Photos courtesy of Marisa Ratchford



I love Italian food. It's that simple. Perhaps it is because my father owned a pizzeria, perhaps it's because the first thing I learned how to cook was spaghetti; either way, my obsession has only grown since coming to college. Of course the only problem with this is that my supply has been limited. In Isla Vista there is only Sorriso offering my weekly dose of Eggplant Parmesan, and in all of Goleta there is only one other location, Petrini's Pizza and Pasta on Calle Real. When I heard that Pascucci, one of State Street's popular Italian destinations, was creating a second location at the Camino Real Marketplace in Goleta, I was, needless to say, overjoyed.

Finding a time that fit my schedule was not easy, so I settled for a Tuesday afternoon. My first thought when I walked in was simply "opulence." The atmosphere was rich, with rustic brick walls and arched entrances to a private back-room with multiple mirrors and low lighting. The walls were paneled with a dark wood and the seats were upholstered with Victorian-esque decals in deep maroon and dark brown. The tables were made out of a beautiful green stone. The ceiling was tiled with gold plating. Each booth had its own chandelier, and in the center of the building was an extravagant blood-red chandelier.

Now that I have fully immersed you in the atmosphere of the location, I suppose I should mention the food. I ordered a fresh squeezed citrus juice, a combination of orange, lemon

A Beer Virgin's (Unreliable) Guide to State Street

Collin McLeod
Assistant On The Menu Editor

Let's get this straight: I don't like beer. As a kid, my dad would offer me a few sips of his hellacious, hoppy, bubbly brew, and within seconds I'd realize precisely why I promised myself that beer would never disgrace my taste buds again. Flash forward 11 years and I still strongly hold this sentiment. There is just something about drinking fermented yeast that does not speak to me. As such, I am probably not the best person to ask for advice when it comes to picking out the best beer.

Now I know considering that I am putting together a guide to State Street's best beers, I should probably be more credible. I could give you a long list of all of the beer I have tried in my lifetime, but that would be limited to pumpkin ales and Sam Adams. In essence, I am a beer virgin; any beer I have tried has been extremely unpleasant, so I refuse to drink anything else.

When I decided to put this article together, I knew I was taking a risk. What if I hated everything I drank? What if I got drunk and had to Uber home? Well, I can tell you that only one of two of those things happened.

Two of my friends and I decided we would go downtown over the weekend and have a "treat yo'self" day. We took the bus and got kicked out of our seats a few times to accommodate elderly passengers, but we made it. We stepped out onto the asphalt of State Street and knew it was going to be a great day. Within about 20 minutes, we realized how hungry

we were, so we decided to sniff out a good place to get dinner. This was when things turned for the worse.

We ended up walking over to Eureka! Burger (which, keep in mind, happens to be a block away from State Street) because I figured they would have a pretty wide beer selection. We were seated upon arrival and our friendly server approached us to take our drink orders.

I asked him if he were to order something off of their beer menu, what he would get, and his response was, "Well, what do you like?" I laughed out loud — literally — and told him that I do not like beer and that the only reason I was ordering some was for this assignment. He recommended their "Hoppy Poppy IPA."

The first thing I did with that beer was sniff it, and may I say it was very hoppy, but not very poppy at all. All I could taste was what I thought was plant juice. I downed the whole thing (because \$8 for a pint is a lot for a college student balling on a budget) and was buzzed within a few minutes. Nauseous and slightly inebriated, I decided I would not be able to continue on.

Though my Fresno Fig burger was fantastic and being buzzed while eating it helped, the taste of the Hoppy Poppy IPA was nothing short of a traumatic experience. I stumbled back to State Street, took the bus back home and wallowed in the fact that I would never be able to write a guide to anything beer-related so long as I live. This beer virgin will probably continue to be a beer virgin for the rest of his life, solely because of this experience.



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Fit AND Fat: The Downfall of BMI

Natalie Overton
Staff Writer



Photo courtesy of Jeffrey Hunger

Through his research, Jeffrey Hunger shows that there are better and more accurate alternate indicators of health than the popularly used body mass index.

one characteristic of the body. He refers to BMI as a “crude proxy,” arguing that the BMI marker should be completely done away with.

“Our data show that it does a really poor job categorizing health, and I think that at the same time it really overemphasizes weight as a marker of health itself. I think this should really be the final nail in the coffin for BMI,” Hunger said.

So, is there a level at which the amount of body fat itself is unhealthy?

“Body fat is different from the BMI, which I think is a common misconception. Most people assume that the BMI does a good job of capturing body fat, which it really doesn’t,” Hunger said.

There are “healthy” parameters for body fat that have been set out, just like those for BMI, but Hunger steers clear of the topic, further pressing his point that the amount of body fat is insignificant in light of the more accurate health indicators.

“The sooner we can focus on either actual clinical indicators of health or healthy behaviors that we know are important and sort of ignore the number on the scale or ignore the number on the BMI, the better,” Hunger said.

As his theory goes, body fat is a distant and subsequently inaccurate way to determine health. All the issues associated with being unhealthily “fat,” like heart problems, diabetes, high cholesterol and bone weakness, can be examined more accurately using the tried and true clinical measures. So body fat plays into the equation, but more intermittently, as a background feature that is rarely representative of the exact issues that lie beneath the surface.

But Googling your BMI is just so easy! Hunger argues that the ease and accessibility of BMI is why its use has persisted for so long. It seems so much more challenging to seek out the six indicators of clinical health, which sounds like an ancient collection of Buddhist precepts: wonderfully idealistic, yet realistically unattainable. But at least for the three main indicators, Hunger says, figuring them out is simple: Go to the doctor for a blood draw and a blood pressure test.

“I think they’re a lot more accessible than people think. From what I’ve had done at the health services, [Student Health], you can definitely go there and get your triglycerides, your cholesterol and your blood glucose checked,” Hunger said.

He admits that a blood draw and a trip to the doctor is more time consuming than a quick Google search, but, “quick and easy isn’t always the best route. With a little more effort, we can get a deeper understanding of individual health,” Hunger said.

Attaining this deeper level of understanding is very important for the individual as well as for our society as a whole. According to his website, his field of study focuses on the personal and social psychological effects of weight-based stigma in our society.

Inaccurate measures of “health,” like BMI, lead to negative self-image and body shaming, which evolves into a vicious cycle of poor mental and physical wellbeing.

“Perhaps we can convince people that this conversation needs to shift away from weight and emphasize health, and hopefully we can see some of this stigma associated with weight go down,” Hunger said.

Everyone has heard of it; some know it all too well. The Body Mass Index (BMI) has served as the go-to source for affirmation and criticism of health for too long, according to UCSB researcher and graduate student Jeffrey Hunger. His work shows that BMI is a terrible health measure, uncorrelated with actual health.

Hunger gauges health using the six clinical health indicators, which is a more accurate alternative to using BMI. Blood pressure, triglycerides, cholesterol, blood glucose, insulin resistance and C-reactive protein levels are the indicators that medical professionals use to determine physical fitness.

“These are a fairly well established set of cardio-metabolic indicators of health. Even though somebody may be categorized as overweight or obese based on their BMI, we know that they’re actually healthy when we look at these clinical markers of health,” Hunger said.

According to Hunger, the clinical indicators are much more truthful because they directly reflect health conditions rather than relying on just



Photo courtesy of BBC.co.uk

An infant in Poco Fundo, Brazil presents with microcephaly, a neurological disorder that can cause lifelong difficulties and is potentially linked to Zika virus infection.

Zika Virus Prompts Public Health Emergency

Emily Ohara
Reporter

The Zika virus is causing international concern due to its rapid spread across the globe and potential connection to a microcephaly, a neurological birth disorder. According to World Health Organization (W.H.O.), the aggressive daytime biting *Aedes aegypti* mosquito has transmitted the virus to over 29 countries. W.H.O. has declared it a “public health emergency of international concern” and has suggested pregnant women not travel to countries already affected by the virus.

Zika virus belongs to the same flavivirus family as dengue, yellow fever and West Nile, but has many unique qualities that set it apart from its flavivirus counterparts. It is not an airborne virus, so it cannot spread like the common cold. However, Zika virus can stay in the blood stream for up to a week, during which it can be spread through blood transfusions and sexual contact. Infected individuals exhibit relatively mild symptoms including fever, muscle pain, red eyes and skin rash.

Zika has come into the spotlight due to an alarming connection between its outbreak and a drastic increase in microcephaly. Microcephaly is a complex neurological disorder that causes newborns to be born with abnormally small heads. The infection rate of Zika in Brazil has increased and the rate of microcephaly in regions of infection has skyrocketed as well. Though the increase in microcephaly and infection rate of Zika could be coincidental, there has been Zika virus found in the umbilical cord blood of fetuses, indicating that Zika virus is capable of vertical transmission through the mother to the fetus.

A company in India had been working on developing a vaccine for Zika virus even before the outbreak occurred. Now, due to the W.H.O.’s recent announcement regarding Zika virus, the race is on to develop a vaccine for this virus.

“A vaccine tries to create an inert substance that cannot propagate that will then activate appropriate cells against the virus and hopefully intercept it at the correct point in its cycle,” Duane Sears, immunology professor in the Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology Department, said.

Though there has been little research conducted on how the Zika virus causes microcephaly, Sears has a possible explanation.

“There is a newly discovered lymphatic route

in the brain, and it would be interesting to know whether that is the way the virus [gets into the brain]. Presumably, the virus is affecting something in the neural tissue development in the brain and knowing how it gets there is going to be the key so [the vaccine] can intervene the process by targeting the structure in the virus that is critical for transfer for one place to another,” Sears said.

Genetically modified male *Aedes aegypti* mosquitos, called OX513A, and dubbed “mutant mosquito” by critics, pass down a lethal gene that causes its offspring to die. Females only mate once, so this genetic modification is used to slow down the population growth of mosquitos. Field trials of OX513A in Brazil have been seen to be hugely successful in reducing the target population to below the level needed to transmit disease. This technology is still being researched in order to combat Zika virus.

Though the spread of the Zika virus has been devastating in Brazil, officials do not predict that the virus will have a significant effect in the United States. *Sports Illustrated* reported that the Director of the National Institutes for Allergies and Infectious Diseases at the National Institutes of Health stated, “there will be some unfortunate cases, but nothing of the magnitude that the poor Brazilians are going through.”

All people in the United States affected by the virus have traveled to Brazil or another affected area, or have had sexual contact with someone who was infected. The United States does not have a history of spreading mosquito-borne viruses as rapidly as other countries, mostly due to difference in climates. Mosquitos thrive in tropical areas, and they tend to dislike cooler temperatures. Due to the cooler temperatures in much of the United States, the number of mosquitos is lower, so there is less of a chance of the spread of Zika virus. Another factor in the lack of mosquito borne illnesses is the population density in the United States is much lower than in Brazil, so people tend to live further apart from each other. An infected mosquito cannot bite as many people in a short amount of time.

As of right now, many people are concerned with how the outbreak of Zika in Brazil will impact the upcoming Olympics in Rio de Janeiro. Thus far, the International Olympic Committee president, Thomas Bach, is not expecting the virus to cause any significant issue with the Olympics.



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DAILY HOROSCOPE

Aries (March 21-April 19) -- Today is a 9 -- Creative work has a bittersweet flavor, and it still tastes good. Commit to what you believe in. But don't bite off more than you can chew right now. Take baby steps at first.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) -- Today is an 8 -- Delays can be surprisingly fun. Check for changes before proceeding. If you're going to be late, call. Don't rest on your laurels just yet. Continue to put in extra effort, and follow your gut instincts.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) -- Today is a 9 -- It requires getting everyone aligned to move forward to get the task done ... but it's worth it. Imagine the project complete, and work backwards to see what steps are necessary. Inspire with treats.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) -- Today is an 8 -- Relationship frustration and disagreement requires a step back. A solution is available, if you listen. Relax and breathe deeply. Look from the other's viewpoint. Talk it over, and it goes better than expected.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Today is an 8 -- Don't try to bend the rules. It's not worth the energy. It may require discipline to do what's needed, rather than plot alternatives, but it's ultimately the easiest route. Just do it.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Today is an 8 -- Use an opportunity to dig deeper into a favorite subject. Your ability to concentrate gets enhanced marvelously. Express your true feelings gently at work. Replace outdated and broken junk.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) -- Today is a 9 -- When it comes to money, now's the time to watch and learn. View the situation from a different perspective, and then exceed all expectations. You may have to travel to get what you want.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) -- Today is a 9 -- You're in the spotlight today and tomorrow. Beat a deadline. Don't spend all your money on bills ... one little treat's nice. Get together face to face for best results. Build something of value.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) -- Today is an 8 -- Venture farther out. Grasp the next opportunity. Compromise is required. Keep your objective in mind, and make the changes you desire. Don't take more than you need. Listen with a practical ear.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Today is an 8 -- The action today is behind the scenes. Move files to storage or organize structures. You can afford a special treat (although saving counts the same as earning). Maintain self-control. Others warm to your ideas.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) -- Today is a 9 -- Cultivate the ground. You're learning, with practice. Friends are eager to help and vie for your attention. Seek help from a female teacher. Stick with the rules and routine. There may be a test.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) -- Today is a 9 -- Complete an old project, and stick with what worked before. Do a good job and increase your status. Keep a discovery private, for now. Travel and romance look good for the next two days.

ACROSS

- 1 Pink drink, briefly
- 6 Arson aftermath
- 9 Hutt crime lord of sci-fi
- 14 According to
- 15 Grazing area
- 16 Light purple
- 17 O'Neill drama set in Harry Hope's salon
- 20 Tailor's target
- 21 Many a Beethoven sonata ender
- 22 Popeye's ___ Pea
- 23 Jabber on and on
- 24 ___ in November
- 25 Likable prez
- 27 More than feasts (on)
- 28 With 30-Across, drama based on '70s presidential interviews
- 30 See 28-Across
- 32 Aspiring doc's course
- 33 Walked alongside one's master
- 35 On the Pacific
- 36 Fertilizable cells
- 38 "Just ___!": "Be right there!"
- 40 Drama about Henry II and Eleanor of Aquitaine
- 45 "Friendly skies" co.
- 46 Greatly feared
- 47 Comstock Lode find
- 48 Fred of "My Cousin Vinny"
- 50 Oozed
- 52 With 54-Across, "Viva La Vida" rock group, and what 17-, 28-/30- and 40-Across each is?
- 54 See 52-Across
- 55 Pottery "pet"
- 58 Smooth transition
- 60 Pastoral poem
- 64 Invisible vibes
- 65 More than most
- 66 Wine tasting criterion

- 67 Quilting parties
- 68 Corrida cheer
- 69 Neuter, horsewise

DOWN

- 1 Styly spiteful
- 2 Irish actor Milo
- 3 Say what you will
- 4 Golda of Israel
- 5 "The Lord of the Rings" baddie
- 6 Answering the penultimate exam question, say
- 7 Actor Connery
- 8 How lovers walk
- 9 "Jersey Girl" actress, to fans
- 10 Goals
- 11 Emulated Mt. St. Helens?
- 12 With ___ breath: expectantly
- 13 Pains' partner
- 18 Answering machine button
- 19 Journalist Roberts
- 24 Name, in Nimes
- 26 Program file suffix
- 29 Not counterfeit
- 31 "The Good Earth" mother
- 32 "Nonsense!"

- 34 Tractor manufacturer
- 35 Give ___: yank
- 37 By way of
- 39 Believability on the street, slangily
- 41 Driver's license fig.
- 42 Threat words
- 43 Actor Snipes
- 44 Thought
- 49 "March Madness" games, informally
- 51 Sizing up
- 53 "Whip It" band
- 54 Like the driven snow
- 55 Red wine choice, for short
- 56 Tint
- 57 Wrath
- 59 Salon goop
- 61 Mommy deer
- 62 Initials on L'Homme fragrance
- 63 Took the reins

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

S	H	I	V	M	A	R	A	T	W	I	L	Y
M	U	T	E	A	R	O	S	E	E	N	Y	A
U	R	S	A	N	B	A	E	R	B	A	E	Z
G	R	O	U	P	D	Y	N	A	M	I	C	S
G	I	N	I	M	S	B	A	T	H	S		
L	E	M	A	N	S	B	E	A	M	M	E	U
E	R	E	C	T	B	O	W	L	W	H	Y	
				H	O	S	E	R	E	E	L	S
A	A	H	A	L	E	R	I	N	T	R	O	
S	T	A	F	F	C	A	R	B	L	O	W	O
S	T	Y	R	O	S	A	L	O	P	E		
				S	U	P	P	O	R	T	S	Y
S	T	E	M	E	V	E	R	I	L	I	S	P
K	E	E	P	R	E	L	I	C	E	M	I	T
I	N	D	Y	P	R	O	P	S	D	E	N	Y

xwordeditor@aol.com 04/23/13

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
					15			16					
					18			19					
					21			22					
					24			25	26		27		
			28	29				30		31			
			32					33				34	
								36	37		38	39	
					41	42			43	44			
					46						47		
					49			50		51			
					52			53		54			
55	56	57			58			59		60	61	62	63
					65					66			
					68					69			

By John Verel and Jeff Chen
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SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level: 1 2 3 4

		6					8	3
4		2					1	5
						7		
9				8				7
		4		9			3	
6				5				2
				1				
8		7					5	6
1	5						4	

SOLUTION TO TUESDAY'S PUZZLE 4/17/13

5	3	6	1	7	9	2	4	8
2	8	9	6	4	5	1	3	7
7	1	4	3	2	8	5	9	6
4	9	2	8	3	6	7	1	5
1	6	5	7	9	2	3	8	4
3	7	8	5	1	4	6	2	9
8	5	3	9	6	1	4	7	2
6	4	7	2	8	3	9	5	1
9	2	1	4	5	7	8	6	3

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk

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OPINION

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China's Theft of the South China Sea: It's Definitely 'Not That Chill'

If you live in Isla Vista, you may be familiar with the game of "dibs." It's not a very complicated game; if you see something you like that has been unattended for a very long time or shows obvious signs of neglect (like a pair of awesome Nike Free-runs hanging on a telephone wire), you call "dibs!" and then boom — it's yours! Some folks call it "alley-shopping," but it's essentially the same concept. I must admit, however, that this quintessential I.V. practice is not the most straightforward of activities; as you can imagine, there is a fine line between acquiring something that nobody cares about and actually stealing. If you were starting to question my moral compass, stealing is definitely not chill (this goes out to the scumbag who stole my Sector 9)! Sometimes, multiple people call dibs on the same item — this obviously leads to conflict. Sometimes, stupid I.V. residents leave their crap out in the open for weeks and wonder why it eventually disappears ... was it stolen by an out-of-towner, or was it simply dibbed by a housemate? A better question to ask, however, is why the heck are you reading about I.V.'s moral decadence in an article that you assumed from the title would be about international relations in the South China Sea?

In simple terms, I would argue that the big power game going on in the South China Sea is the same situation as multiple people in Isla Vista calling dibs on the same item. The item in this case, however, is a chain of militarily strategic islands and an open stash of valuable resources in the center of the South China Sea. Instead of your obnoxious city college neighbors or the sketchball Irish Storm party crashers (if you've spent a summer in Isla Vista, you know exactly what I'm talking about), the major actors in this massive geopolitical game of dibs in Southeast Asia are China, Vietnam, Malaysia, Taiwan, the Philippines and — oh yeah, America! Just like when your housemates argue over who gets priority for the shower before work, there is usually one person who thinks they absolutely need it — and, in this case, this fine gent is none other than our good friend China.

So why does everyone want a share of these international waters so badly, and why is China being such a jerk about it? It's called the "South China Sea," so doesn't that mean that China gets first dibs on it? Why does Uncle Sam feel the need to assert our dominance here as well — don't we already control the entire world?

First of all, the South China Sea is like the end of the rainbow where the leprechaun stashes his pot of gold. Instead of an actual pot of gold, however, the South China Sea is overflowing with way cooler things, like oil and natural gas. Whoever controls these waters not only has the leverage to dictate the economic strength or failure of Southeast Asia, but could also dictate the future of the 21st century energy craze facing western nations.

So why does America feel the need to extend itself so far away from home in the South China Sea? First of all, we're a superpower and we would prefer to stay that way. Unfortunately, being a superpower on the 21st century Earth kind of means asserting your presence just about everywhere to maintain your "superpower" status. This doesn't necessarily mean we have to bully other nations or steal resources from them, but it does mean that our government will do whatever it can to keep trade open in places where we can benefit

economically, and we definitely have a lot to benefit from in the South China Sea. For example, access to the gas and oil fields so prevalent off the Spratly Islands in particular would make the U.S. less dependable on the OPEC-controlling Middle Eastern powers — who love the western world so much already — for energy materials. Since many Americans are so opposed to both offshore drilling at home and our involvement in the Middle East, one might see how the concept of attaining oil in an area surrounded by Uncle Sam's "friends," like the Philippines, could be enticing. One might call it greed, but more realistic people consider it necessity. Until America figures out how to get our "sustainable" energy alternatives efficient enough to match our level of industrial output, I'm afraid that our nation is rather forced to attain energy resources from distant places like the South China Sea. China is cutting America's trade partners, like the Philippines, off from their own resource-rich waters ... Obviously, this pisses the U.S. government off a bit.

I'm also no military tactician, but you don't need to be a General Eisenhower to see how having a naval presence in the South China Sea gives the United States an upper hand in our negotiations with Southeast Asian powers. The United States doesn't need to start placing 1,000-foot-long aircraft carriers and nuclear-armed battleships all over the South China Sea in order to maintain economic and military influence in the region, but we definitely have a lot to lose if China calls dibs on the entire body of water, as does practically every island nation surrounding the South China Sea.

So why should you care about what China is doing? If the United States were in the same shoes as China, we would call dibs too, right? Probably, but this doesn't change the fact that China is rapidly getting closer to leveling up to "hegemon" (World of Warcraft fans might compare this term to being a Level 70 Paladin in world politics) and they will undoubtedly use their new power to challenge not just us, but all of our allies in Southeast Asia as well. History has shown that "superpower" nations can still fall — from Spain to Great Britain to Rome — and it is ignorant to assume that the United States will simply remain this powerful forever without being vigilant of the world around us. A "nation" is no more than the people that make it up; as a part of our nation, therefore, I urge you to stay vigilant and alert to the other nations that may one day seek to challenge us.

This game of dibs isn't as innocent as the petty theft that goes down in I.V. The South China Sea isn't just some neglected,

half-empty box of warm Keystone Light being borrowed for a last-minute game of beer die; it's more like a cold six-pack of Lagunitas IPAs that the rando at your house party just stole from your fridge. And as previously mentioned, stealing is definitely not chill. If China keeps stealing cold fresh IPAs from the Southeast Asian mini-fridge (South China Sea), our world is going to change and Southeast Asia may become another warzone. Now is a good time to start educating yourself about it.

Nik Frey wants you to become as attentive to news about the South China Sea as you are attentive to the contents of your fridge.

