

TBL the bottom line

Associated Students, UC Santa Barbara

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Live from Baghdad: Gauchos Connect With Iraq



Photo Courtesy | Amanda Garcia

A DIALOGUE FOR PEACE—Students watch documentary and prepare for a live video talk with students in Iraq

Amanda Garcia
Writer

UCSB and Global Access Media organization hosted the first unscripted student teleconference between American and Iraqi university students on May 9. Titled "A Dialogue for Peace," the live video-chat was an effort to establish an open public discourse that would connect and build relationships amongst the next generation of leaders in both countries.

Hosted by Mark Manning, a documentary filmmaker, and Professor Dwight Reynolds of the UCSB Department of Religious Studies, the event began in the Multi-Cultural Center with a one hour documentary called "The Road to Fallujah" that depicted the Iraq War from the perspective of everyday civilians. Manning, along with UCSB alumnus Natalie Kalustian, directed and produced the documentary in order to provide video coverage of the war in Iraq that did not rely on embedded US journalists

or potentially opinionated news media.

"Reporting on the Iraq war was predominantly about the US military," said Manning. "There was no reporting about the effects of the war on Iraqi civilians."

This realization prompted Manning to create "The Road to Fallujah," a documentary film that focused on the human aspect of the Iraq War, the human story and consequences of military actions that are usually removed from the sound bytes produced in the US.

"Sound bytes just define a problem," added Manning. "The human aspect of the story is a key ingredient to understand where the solutions might lie."

Before the film, students were asked to fill out a survey about their views and perspectives on Iraqi culture and people. Throughout the documentary, UCSB students and audience members were

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BP Oil Spill Raises Questions About SB Drilling

Alex Cabot
Writer

Many students at UCSB have no doubt been following the ongoing crisis in the Gulf of Mexico that started on April 20 when an explosion at Deepwater Horizon, a British Petroleum drilling platform, precipitating an oil leak that is still releasing thousands of barrels of oil into the ocean with each day that passes.

As of press time BP is still frantically trying to plug the well to prevent further oil from

leaking, but solutions that are currently being proposed might take up to sixty days to implement. In the meantime the US Coast Guard estimates that up to 5,000 barrels a day might be flowing into the Gulf; independent estimates predict that the actual leakage may be considerably greater.

Anyone who lives on Del Playa and has a view of the Santa Barbara channel is no doubt aware of the omnipresence of the offshore drilling industry in many coastal areas of America, including California. At present offshore oil drilling accounts

for roughly one third of all US domestic hydrocarbon production, and recent finds in the Gulf of Mexico have at least temporarily postponed the nightmarish scenario that America will soon be entirely dependent on foreign oil imports.

Older Santa Barbara residents may still remember the infamous 1969 oil spill off of the coast of Summerland, when up to 100,000 barrels of oil were released into the Santa Barbara channel, much of it washing up on local beaches. The current fiasco in the Gulf of Mexico serves as a stark reminder that such a

scenario may yet unfold here again. Given the possible environmental consequences on the one hand, and America's insatiable demand for energy on the other, what impact is the recent BP spill likely to have on offshore drilling, particularly here in Santa Barbara?

In the short term, any plans to expand further drilling off of the coast of California are on hold indefinitely. Prior to the spill, Plains Exploration and Production, a boutique oil production firm, had

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NEWS

Israel Divestment Rears its Head at Berkeley

Udayan Shevade
Writer

Petitions were sent out to University of California faculty members on 26 April to support Senate Bill 118A, which had already been passed by the Senate of the Associated Students of the University of California at Berkeley (ASUC), and which called for the divestment of funds from companies offering military support to the Israeli military occupation in Palestine.

The original bill passed the ASUC Senate on March 18, and urged that the UC refrain from investing in General Electric and United Technologies, which manufacture propulsion systems for Apache Assault Helicopters and engines for fighter aircraft, respectively. Both companies products are currently in the inventory of Israel Defense Forces military hardware. The bill passed the ASUC Senate by a vote of 16-4.

A week later ASUC Senate President Will Smelko vetoed the bill. He supported his decision on several grounds, including concern that the proposed resolutions of Bill 118A unfairly targeted Israel, failed to consider the future of UC funds in

addition to the security of the region of Palestine, and failed to incorporate “important historical context and understanding.” President Smelko mandated that a condition of the “effectiveness of a blanket divestment policy in achieving the aims of peace and security” be met before the bill can be passed.

In response, UC Berkeley Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) organized a statement, saying, “We reject the portrayals of this action as anti-Semitic. We maintain that it does not make a choice between Palestinians and Israelis, but between universal human freedom and oppression.”

Their rebuttal also clarifies that their efforts are not to dissociate the UC system from the state of Israel itself, but rather from the specific companies profiteering from the ongoing conflict in Palestine. Regarding the future of ASUC funds if divestment were to go forward, SJP claims there will be no adverse financial consequences. According to SJP, the UC does not currently own any shares in the companies discussed and at present neither profits nor loses from passing Bill 118A. Furthermore, they argue

that the bill only discusses “investment preferences,” and not immediate actions.

The past century has witnessed an ongoing, life-consuming process of territorial warfare between the states of Israel and Palestine. The damage is a result of a conflicted, complicated and volatile clash between two peoples. It is an issue of political importance to the entire world, not just isolated to its region. This measure taken by the ASUC Senate at Berkeley has garnered the public support of many UC faculty members and prominent worldwide figures, including Archbishop Desmond Tutu, who has made an open statement in favor of Berkeley’s chapter of Students for Justice in Palestine.

On April 28, the ASUC Senate voted on Bill 118A a second time. A two-thirds vote was necessary to overturn the veto and reaffirm the bill. In the end, this effort was not successful. However, it can be seen as a critical step in political action



Photo Courtesy | Oy Bay

BERKELEY— Protesting Israel

for the ASUC Senate. The bill also called for the potential divestment of UC funds in other companies aiding war crimes in places including Morocco and the Congo. This proposed direction is vital not only to the preeminent UC system, as it involves allocation of UC funds, but also globally, as a statement to and from the youth of the world.

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- The 2009-2010 Bottom Line Staff

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UCSB Makes Playboy Top 10, Again

Sarah Sloat
Writer

From the burning of the Bank of America in 1970 to last year's Floatopia fiasco, UCSB is no stranger to controversy. The university's most recent notoriety lies within the pages of Playboy magazine, which recently placed it eighth on the 2010 edition of Playboy's infamous list of "Top Party Schools."

It's no secret that UCSB comes with a reputation for beach-side revelry, but with a record breaking number of applications this year and five Nobel Prize winners on its faculty, the public perception of

the article, because our description is the only one that doesn't have to mention drinking or partying to justify its position on the list," said Ealum.

But it is the last sentence of Playboy's piece that may lead students to disagree with the entertainment mogul. Once finished with its praise of UCSB's academics and weather, Playboy stated, "Chico State may get a touch higher, but UCSB grads go on to do great things after their six years in college."

With the median time to obtain an undergraduate degree at UCSB at four years, first year student Jessica Thalia felt insulted by the magazine's assumption. "I definitely think that we deserve a higher level of respect,"

agreed second year Juan Castellanos, "but ultimately we're here to get an education, so if you're able to maintain a balance between the two, why not have your 40 oz. and drink it too?"

Associate Vice Chancellor for Public Affairs, Paul Desruisseaux, dismisses Playboy's article from having any merit. "We can't take this ranking or any other 'party school' ranking very seriously," said Desruisseaux. "Playboy magazine is interested in making headlines and selling copies, and these rankings are just a gimmick to help them market their product."

But whether or not UCSB's ranking on a 'Top 10' Playboy list affects future admissions is another question.



Photo by | Eddie Ferry

PARTY SCHOOL— Students watch Jello Fight at Snow Club house

UCSB balances precariously between "ultimate party school" and "ground-breaking research university."

While Playboy considers the University of Texas at Austin the best place in America to study and shun sobriety, the magazine considers UCSB to be "the perfect mix of sun goddesses, sand, and studying." While the other colleges' descriptions relied heavily on their drinking tendencies, the UCSB description focused mainly on Playboy's opinion of it as the "Harvard of Santa Barbara."

Student reactions to this newest accolade have been mixed. Second year student Ryan Ealum found this to be the university's advantage. "I was actually pretty stoked when I first read

said Thalia, "It's ignorant to say that the students who go to UCSB can't work and play and still manage to get out of here on time."

Third year student Sevasti Travlos agreed. "While I am not too prude or proud to see the humor in articles such as this, I can't help but feel my intelligence challenged as well," said Travlos. "I mean, who wouldn't want to spend six years here? But insinuating that my fellow classmates and I don't take our academics seriously is not true."

With departments that compete to be the best in the nation and a vibrant student culture, this balance of work and play seems to be the mantra of most UCSB students. "Yeah, our school definitely knows how to party,"

"As sad as it is, I think a lot of people actually take these articles into consideration," said Ealum. "I actually know people who have chosen schools over their reputations for having hotter girls and being more fun in general."

Whether insulted or pleased, student reactions to the Playboy piece are as varied as the student population the article attempts to represent. Some students remain defensive of the university's academic reputation, while others are insulted that it is 'only ranked eighth on the list.'

"I guess all I would say is, I'm disappointed we're only number eight," said second year Drew Brouwer. "Who wants to live in Texas over Southern California anyway?"

BAGHDAD— from pg. 1

ordinary people in extraordinary circumstances. While Manning lived amongst an Iraqi refugee family on the outskirts of Fallujah in 2005, filming the documentary, viewers were able to share in the extreme risks Iraqi civilians experienced at military checkpoints. Viewers also observed the sheer desperation felt by families who lacked the civilian aid necessary to feed their children or protect them from illness.

"The documentary was a little shocking, but it was great," said Karina Zaur, a fourth-year political science major and international exchange student from Kazakhstan.

After the documentary, there was a short intermission where the audience could stretch their legs, get free coffee and free snacks before the start of the teleconference. At 11 PM, when all the cameras, computers, microphones and headsets were placed in their proper positions, UCSB students were given a window into the lives and concerns of Iraqi students half a world away via video-chat.

After Manning and his Iraqi

misrepresented they were by the media and were impressed to see that we knew that as well," said Daniel Sides, a third-year political science major.

Numerous UCSB students asked questions in Arabic, impressing many Iraqi students and professors. Although there was a considerable language barrier, and dialogue was slowed by translation, the excitement and heightened interest of the participants was palpable.

"The videoconference worked beyond our expectations," Manning proudly stated. "The energy created on both sides was stunning to me, and it showed a deep hunger and desire for a people to people connection that hasn't really existed."

While Iraqi students and professors were asking questions, the Iraqi camera would zoom in on different part of the crowd and pan across the room, allowing the US audience a full view of their counterparts. This also allowed for a more personal and humanistic view of the Iraqi audience projected on the video screen, prompting a more relaxed and informal dialogue.



Photo by | Amanda Garcia

TELECONFERENCE— Students connect with Iraqi peers.

counter-part made their formal salutations, US students started the dialogue with a question about how they predict the lives of Iraqis will change with the withdrawal of US troops next year. Following questions and comments were concerned with the distortion of Iraqi culture in American media, the difficulty of transportation for Iraqi civilians, and the possibility of peace in the aftermath of the war.

"(The) main thing I took away was that they knew how

"Any time you try to reach different people, it is better to talk to them directly rather than rely on the news," explained Zaur.

The conference lasted until 1 AM, and both audiences were clearly upset that it had to end. However, as Americans and Iraqis clapped their hands and waved good-bye half a world away, there was a sense of hope and optimism in the MCC that needed no translation.

OPINION

World Cup Africa: Unity and Responsibility

Devin Glass

Writer

The World Cup is in Africa! Need I say more? Yes. The World Cup is in Africa! The impact of this one event is bound to have global implications that not only shape the perception of Africa, but its future as a continent. For all you laymen out there, the World Cup is the largest sporting event in the world, which brings together the best international footballers from everywhere and groups them together based on their national origin. The attention it brings is unparalleled. The 2006 final alone had an estimated 715 million viewers from around the world. Yes, the viewership is remarkable, but the World Cup is unlike any other sporting event in regards to the level of passion it produces. People are transformed into raving hooligans, cheering for their respective teams with undying support.

The 2010 World Cup, which is to be hosted in South Africa, will be the first time that the Cup will be held in Africa. This is a landmark occasion, which could represent a marked change in the perception of the continent. Very few thought this was possible. The majority of people doubted whether Africa, much less South Africa, had the ability to pull this off. Lack of monetary funds, workers' strikes, and security concerns are the biggest issues facing a nation that is not even two decades

removed from apartheid. Recently, tensions have risen between South African white supremacists and the black majority. This burst of racial tension was brought to the surface by the murder of Eugene Terreblanche, a white supremacist leader. His murder has spurred racial disquiet that threatens the stability of a country that cannot afford to have any problems with the World Cup approaching.

The immense power of the World Cup literally has the opportunity to

other, an occasion that can only be replicated during a game of FIFA. There are a lot of elements at play with the Cup, which is set to kickoff on June 11. It's a whole new decade, and the Cup will great it in Africa. In my mind, the outcome of this event will impact the direction of the '10's. Will the progressives who are willing to support change be rewarded for their optimism, or will their counterparts be rewarded for their doggedness? Only time will tell.

Globalization is happening.

is the one continent that seems to be a mass of darkness.

The industrialized powers, and in particular the United States, have an obligation to the people of Africa to alleviate their struggles. We cannot allow this many people to live as poorly as they do. Morally, it isn't right, and I know there are those who would argue otherwise, but it is the truth. People question the work ethic of Africans, saying it is their own duty to work their way up. But how do you expect them to work their way up when they have nothing to work with? I am not suggesting that they deserve charity, but guidance. The saying goes that you can give a man a fish and he will eat for a day, but if you teach a man how to fish, he will eat for the rest of his days. And the saying holds true in this case. Africa needs help solidifying its infrastructure, not hand outs. It needs hands that are willing to help.

People at UCSB and elsewhere need to become more aware. Aware of their surroundings, the people around them, and the things outside their realm. I suppose we live in a place that, despite being culturally diverse, experiences very little cultural interaction. What is beautiful about the World Cup is its ability to bring people together. The convergence of people from different countries and different religions, all experiencing the same event, is one of the most beautiful things you can experience. It isn't called the beautiful game for nothing.



Illustration by Lily Lavaro

WORLD CUP— Will it bring a message of peace?

give the developing world chance to move up in the world. It even has the power to bring wars to a screeching halt, such as in 2006, when the combatants in the ongoing civil war in the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire briefly laid down their arms in order to jointly cheer for their national team which at the time was playing at the World Cup in Germany.

As for the event itself, it will feature the best of the best from around the world. Messi, Ronaldo, and all the game's champions are slated to compete against each

Africa is the next frontier. It's undeveloped, raw, and full of opportunity. The West has an obligation to foster its maturity. We exploited them and stunted their growth. Imperialism led to Africa being abused while the western world benefited, and still benefits, from their troubles. There is a disconnect between the people of Africa and everyone else. When you look at satellite pictures of the world, you see almost every country with massive amounts of electric lighting - signs of development. Seen from space, Africa

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Christian Groups Need to Practice What They Preach

Samantha McMullen
Writer

I stand alone on the mount, reaching out to others of my religion, and when my eyes fall down from the heavens at the end of my prayer, my hands are still empty. A certain Christian group on campus pulled me in, seduced me with their ideas of community and spirituality, and then pushed me out of the system after finding out about my liberal ideas and strumpet-like tendencies. I am allowed to be a member, but I cannot be a leader unless I commit to their rigid guidelines. Though this campus is home to a variety of groups, each trying to get their word out, some spread good news and give people hope with a new faith, and some only pretend to.

Christianity is the world's largest religion with over 2.2 billion believers - about one third of Earth's population. This statistic makes one think that perhaps Christians are winning their fight and getting what they want, but if one looks around, it does not appear so. Christianity is based on the teaching of Jesus, a prophet who is supposedly the son of God, who preached about helping the poor, feeding the hungry, and healing the sick. It would seem that if one in three people of the world were Christians, they would act how their leader preached, but this is not reality.

There is a vast Christian

population, and yet we still have famine, war and sickness. I am not saying becoming a Christian will fix this, but it should. I am a Christian and I do believe that one should follow the guidelines of a good person that Jesus Christ set out for his people. What I am sadly pointing out is that though the facts say Christians are everywhere, I see very few do as the Bible tells them to. Because they do not, they merely hide behind the disguise of Christianity, the idea of being a good person, and use this against those of other religions or nonbelievers.

People are hurt every day by seemingly friendly Christians just trying to spread the word, or not-so-friendly Christians who shove the threat of hell in their faces. If you are a Christian, you should know that, yes, God wants you to tell others about him, but He wants nonbelievers to know they are loved, not that if

they don't worship him they will spend eternity in hell. If you are a non-Christian who hides from their friends on Sundays, afraid they will be dragged to church, I apologize.

There is so much good in all religions, but it is twisted until it is an ugly monster that looks like a hair-clogged drain. Religion wasn't

to make people be better people.

Buddhists believe that life is suffering that is caused by craving; once the craving stops, the suffering stops. They strive for Enlightenment, a liberated state that frees one of the constrictions of a circle of bad karma leading to misery and death. The Muslim faith believes that Jesus

was just a prophet and the Mohammed was the best and last prophet sent by God. The five pillars of Islam enforce things like fasting, giving to the poor, praying regularly and being accountable for your sins. No matter what you believe, or don't believe from a purely factual perspective, I

hope you will see the merit. Religion should be a belief in fixing people, not breaking them.

The world may seem like a tortured place; there are over twenty main religions, each with followers

starting in the thousands, ending in billions. All these beliefs have been distorted and have bad associations. No one is right and no one is perfect. However, despite all the differences, wars and bad things connected with religions, I honestly believe some good comes out of it.

Christians, I am calling you out specifically because it is you I know best. The modern Christian should be a leader, not a follower. They should stand up for human rights and stop arguing against programs like Medicare and welfare. Christians seem to be vastly conservative - why? Jesus was not a conservative. He argued with the religious men of his time, he was a man of new ideas, and just because he isn't sending Christians emails full of new pre-approved ideas today, doesn't mean they should just give up on them. When you pin on your 'I love Jesus' button, you represent a belief founded thousands of years ago. You represent a man who loved his neighbor, who loved children, who gave all he had to the poor, the weak, and the sinners. When Christians discriminate against people with different life style choices then their own, I feel sick inside. Jesus spoke to the woman at the well and the woman who was known to be a whore, whom none of his followers would talk to. He died for that woman. Christians, are you willing to die for that friend who you drag to church every Sunday? If not, then why are you bothering?



CHRISTIAN GROUPS— Are they really that welcoming?

meant to be a bio-hazard. Religion, as it is used and interpreted by those of specific faiths, has, despite all its problems, government-like regulations and control issues, morals that would seem to have been written

OIL— from pg. 1

been given approval by the State to commence new drilling off of Santa Barbara, despite opposition from local environmental advocacy groups such as Get Oil Out! (GOO) and Citizens of Goleta Valley, as well as local assemblyman Pedro Nava. Approval was authorized in part to create a new stream of income for California, which at the time was (and still is) teetering on the brink of bankruptcy.

Governor Schwarzenegger has now unilaterally terminated the

PXP deal, but oil platforms already in place will continue to drill as if nothing to happened. "(The ongoing political) question is about new drilling, not stopping," says Dr. Eric Smith, a professor of Political Science at UCSB and one of several campus experts on local environmental affairs. "(The oil companies) have outstanding lease contracts, and the government would have to buy out those contracts, literally hundreds of billions of dollars."

While new drilling may be on hold for the near term, the outcome of the California gubernatorial

election in November still leaves some medium-term uncertainty surrounding this issue. Although likely Democratic candidate Jerry Brown has strong environmentalist credentials and will likely oppose any new initiatives to expand drilling, likely Republican candidate Meg Whitman is much more hostile to the environmentalist's concerns.

"Whitman is a pro-business Republican" said Smith, "who (if elected) will probably be in favor of more drilling." Whitman has already pledged to repeal California Assembly Bill 32, which

Schwarzenegger signed into law in 2006 and which in the absence of any corresponding federal legislation calls for a reduction in California's total carbon emissions.

Smith also noted that although hysteria frequently follows any crisis such as the one in the gulf, the long-term political effect is usually quite small. "(In the upcoming election) this will be an issue, but a lesser issue," he said. "Immediate reactions are frequently different than long term reactions."

Therefore while residents of Ellwood and Isla Vista can shed a

sigh of relief that their view of Santa Cruz island will not obstructed by any more drilling rigs anytime soon, it is likely that in the very long term this issue will continue to be present in statewide and national political debate. As oil reserves continue to dwindle around the US and the globe and the price of oil continues to creep up, and if California is not able to put its own financial house in order, it is likely that memories of the Deepwater Horizon will fade pretty fast.

‘Public Lives of Posters’: Historic Art to Shape the Future

Samantha McMullen
Writer

The opening reception of the art exhibit, “Public Lives of Posters, in San Francisco’s Chinatown, Manilatown, and Japantown, 1970s and 1980s,” took place on Tuesday May 4th at the UCSB Multi-Cultural Center (MCC). This collection of historic Asian-Pacific-American graphic art tells the story of life in San Francisco in a time of racial injustice and great change. Open to the public until June 11th, the show is co-sponsored by the Department of Asian-American Studies, the California Ethnic and Multicultural Archives- UCSB library, Instructional Development and the Interdisciplinary Humanities.



As you walk into the meeting room of the MCC, you will see the normal set up for an art show-- clean white walls, perfectly framed posters and neatly placed furniture. However, this is not the environment these posters lived through. These posters were made by the Kearny Street Workshop for the purpose of informing; they were tapped to windows, stapled to

telephone poles, tacked to doors, and even trampled by the feet of the masses. The posters were not put out in public as well drawn historical remnants of a time passed, but as a reminder of the constant battle and struggle for equality felt in the Asian-Pacific-American towns of San Francisco. Now as you see them in this sheltered school environment, do not forget their importance. This exhibition means to teach of pain and heal with beauty.

The “Chinatown Worker’s Festival” poster shows a Chinese man and woman standing proudly behind a sewing machine, each with one hand on the machine, showing the real and constant part they play in production, for which they are paid extremely low wages. Another poster titled “Happy New Year: Year of the Ox,” represents the commercialization of what was before a privately celebrated event in Chinese culture. It conveys the Chinese celebration that helped to create the huge tourist destination area that Chinatown now is.

A poster from Japantown titled, “Concentration Camps, USA. A Tribute to the Past and Present,” advertises a community forum about Japanese internment in the late sixties. All the posters are silk screen copies of the originals in a pop-art style that shows the merging of modern commercialization with traditional themes. This poster in particular creates a powerful image with chain link fences and barbed wire in the background, whereas the foreground is



POSTER EXHIBIT — Posters from Kearny Street Workshops of the 1970s and 1980s.

filled with a sea of different faces.

Various Manilatown posters advertise the event known as, “The International Hotel Eviction Struggle.” One poster is a newspaper article with photographs from the event, depicting the brutality used in the ousting of tenants from a housing area, for purpose of building a parking garage in its place. The tenants who lost their homes are honored on another poster for the “Fight for Descent Low Rent Housing” in 1978, one year after the original eviction.

When I asked Julianne Gavino, the curator of the event, about what message she hopes the exhibit will give people, she replied, “One way of thinking about the exhibition is that it visually highlights Asian-Pacific-American urban communities and their internally diverse configurations, the issues they face, and the kinds of values they uphold. In this light, the posters are a testament to the strength of these communities as they persevere, creatively react, and carefully plan under sometimes

tremendously difficult conditions and environments.”

When leaving the beautiful exhibit, do not allow yourself into thinking that the past is just the past. Gavino said “We can learn that graphic art posters, through a compelling combination of visual image and text, provide a way to access the distinct and overlapping histories of the communities. They also invite us to think about various crises of authority during the 1960s and 1970s – ones in which public symbols and emerging ‘visible publics’ took on new meaning.” Look around our school, our town, our nation; evidence of war, devastation, protests, and forums for change are everywhere. Next time you see a cluttered poster board, take a chance to admire the artistry, to feel the passion, to see the posters that will one day be collected to tell the ongoing story of change that starts as it always has-- merely out of passion and hope.

Interested Students can see this exhibit at the MCC till June 11th.

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David Sedaris at UCSB

Augie Beeman
Writer

Humorist and writer, David Sedaris, made an appearance at the Arlington Theater in downtown Santa Barbara on May 3, 2010. David Sedaris has made several appearances in Santa Barbara over the last decade and remains extremely popular, speaking to an almost full theater of people. Sedaris, author of several books and a frequent contributor to the program “This American Life” read several essays and passages from his diary.

Mr. Sedaris is one of the foremost writers of today, with all five of his essay collections making it to the New York Times Best Sellers. He is of Greek-American ancestry, was born in New York, and was raised in Raleigh, North Carolina. Sedaris began his career reading his essays on the radio, especially on NPR and later began to publish his writings in magazines such as the New Yorker. He began doing stories for “This American Life” with the help of the show’s host and producer, Ira Glass.

His writings are generally noted as being satirical, brutally honest and often taken from a first-hand point of view. The themes of Sedaris’s writing range widely and are often derived from everyday experiences. During the evening, his topics ranged from the way Americans dress in airports to dealing with confusing labeling on food products in British grocery stores to his experiences with French doctors. Often, Sedaris would subtly critique issues such as healthcare, consumerism, tourism, and education.

Some of the first essays Mr. Sedaris read were from his book coming out later this year, which present animals as the first person characters and deal with the loneliness, anger, and irrationality that humans would normally deal with. In one short passage from his diary, Sedaris recounted the time he was in the airport and someone on the intercom called out a message from a person named “Adolf Hitler.”



Photo Courtesy | Arts & Lectures

SEDARIS—Intrigues students

Surprised that no one besides himself seemed to notice or care about the ridiculousness of the situation, Sedaris took a note of it and wrote it down. When asked about how he is able to come up with material and make such biting criticisms of everyday life, Sedaris noted that he keeps a diary and is later able to fit observations into stories. These odd moments in life are what eventually become full stories that interest readers.

With biting wit, Sedaris told another mundane story of overhearing right-wing political hyperbole while waiting in line at an airport. Sedaris overheard the two people complain about how indignant they were about the 2008 Presidential election, and related their sentiment to his during the Bush-Cheney years. Infuriated by the rash statements, Sedaris noted how he wanted to turn around and say how liberals like him can be just as spiteful. Often self-deprecating, Sedaris’s stories would often be about his shortcomings and how he cheerily deals with them.

Currently on a thirty-five day book tour, Sedaris signed books and talked with admirers after his reading. He has a new book coming out in the fall, entitled, *Squirrel Seeks Chipmunk: A Modest Bestiary*.

Rupa and the April Fishes Sold Out

Urvi Nagrani
Writer

On Friday, April 30th, the UCSB Multi-Cultural Center (MCC) was immersed in waves of sound that brought children to dance, adults to smile, and students to rethink the possibilities of music. Rupa and the April Fishes played to a sold out theater and brought their unique sound which somehow combines influences—including gypsy, Latin, jazz and more—into a unique fusion that truly encompasses the idea of what it means to be world music.

The audience enjoyed not only the rich multilayered flavors of sound with varying textures, tempos and

effects of immigration policy and the stories behind her more political songs, bringing those stories to life both through her spoken words and verses of songs.

With a unique line up of instruments the sounds of her music were anything but typical. Performing with her guitar while singing, she also was accompanied by Marcus Cohen on trumpet, Isabel Douglass on accordion, Aaron Kierbel on drums, Misha Khalikulov on cello, and Safa Shokrai on upright bass. All of the musicians contributed to vocals at certain points within the songs, allowing the stage to be transformed into crowd scenes and even Cohen’s sound effects on the trumpet brought an elephant to life.

audience made an enjoyable evening of multilingual energy and stories that were universal in nature.

With her humorous and off beat reflections on life, Rupa takes music to an absurdist space as well as a crystal clear visionary space. Joking about being from the small island nation of San Francisco and the multi-ethnic make-up of the band, she breaks barriers socially, artistically and still manages to adhere to the aesthetically pleasing side of performance by making you want to be immersed in her every thought. The band’s musical agility enabled many styles of music to seamlessly meld into the indefinable. What Time Out magazine branded as “global agit-pop” was captivating. However, at the



Photo by | Urvi Nagrani

RUPA AND APRIL FISHES— Draws a large crowd at the MCC Theatre

emotions—but also the performers themselves. In between numbers, Rupa ad-libbed about the MCC stage, saying it felt like a lecture hall, so if the audience had any questions she’d make up something to educate us with. And speaking of the rolling California hills, which she described as sleeping dinosaurs, she brought wistful smiles to the faces of young and old. However, she didn’t let the joy of beautiful possibilities shield the audience from harsher realities as she spoke critically of the dehumanizing

The possibilities of music were brought to life in a way most contemporary musicians seem to lack if you’re stuck in the radio waves or top 40 hits.

The catchy beats made me tap my foot, sway in my seat and by the end of the concert many had abandoned their seats to dance in the aisles. One boy was so excited about the music he was bouncing through the aisle dancing along until Rupa invited him on stage to gently tease him with tempo changes that he somehow still managed to keep up with. The positive energy and back and forth rapport between the

end of the show I had given up on any interest in labeling the sounds, opting instead to simply enjoy it and question the absurdity of labeling music in general. Such is the affect of Rupa and the April Fishes, never conforming themselves and making the audience reshape their thoughts to include the broad and humanistic perspective that longs for the beauty and celebration of differences with full acceptance rather than fear neatly packaged in sounds that make one sway.

Chilla Vista



Photos by | Rosana Liang



Photos by | Steven Wilson



Photos by | Rosana Liang



Photos by | Rosana Liang



Photos by | Rosana Liang



Photos by | Steven Wilson

Community Spirit in IV

Steven Wilson
Writer

Building community spirit is what Isla Vista is all about. The more people you meet, the better. It also happens to be what Chilla Vista is all about; the event seeks to keep Isla Vista's community feeling strong for many years to come. The goal of the day is to "see we are not just alcoholics," said co-host Beth Goodman. "Most people just assume [Isla Vista's] a party town. This day was more about community building. It's the perfect day to get a henna tattoo, make bracelets, listen to music, meet new people, and just have fun."

Chilla Vista started in 2006 and was hosted by the current teachers of Sociology 194 right here on campus.

When those students, now teachers, graduated, Chilla Vista almost went with them. Yet, Goodman and co-host Cori Lantz, who now teach the History of Isla Vista sociology class, kept the tradition alive. Both Lantz and Goodman teach the class filled with about 18 students who want to simply learn more about Isla Vista or just take an easy class. "It can be awkward teaching some of your peers, but I do know a lot about IV," said Goodman.

Chilla Vista has now moved over to become a EVPLA (External Vice President of Local Affairs) production, which Goodman is the county liaison to. She has put in the time to make this event happen. "I've been working on this since January," said Goodman. "It took a lot of planning but it came together nicely." The EVPLA also supports people who

want to continue the tradition of Isla Vista and encourages ideas of how to make it better.

The event's purpose is to celebrate the community with a different theme than the Earth Day celebrations that had gone on only two weeks earlier. "We are trying to celebrate different parts of Isla Vista than just environmentally friendly oriented ones," said Goodman. Environment friends or not, the hosts of Chilla Vista showed off their sustainability by having the stage for bands in People's Park run by solar panels.

The finance board and the Isla Vista Community Relations Committee funded the operation, which supported groups such as Greek Life, E.A.B. (Environmental Affairs Board), Hempwise, AS recycling, Surf Rider, Adopt-a-Block, Costal

Fund, C.A.B. (Community Affairs Board) community members, and local bands. Other activities offered included free tie-dying, chalking, bracelet and headband making, and free workshops on hula hooping, tai chi, yoga, and many more.

Chilla Vista was a day to kick back, bust out your hula hoop, and get some free stuff. It was too big to fit in one park so they doubled up Anisq'Oyo' park with People's Park and had bands playing in each. A day for crafts, music, and playing in the sun, Chilla Vista 2010 was a great event for the community.

For pictures of Chilla Vista and videos of jugglers, baton artists and people in a workshop yoga class, log on to The Bottom Line at thebottomline.as.ucsb.edu. Keep it Classy, Isla Vista.

Race Matters: “The Compton Cookout”

Regina Sarnicola
Writer

The contentious issue of racially-themed college parties and how students and administrators should best respond to them became a hot topic of discussion at a forum hosted by the Multicultural Center on May 11 at Embarcadero Hall.

The talk, entitled “The Compton Cookout And More: Race in the College Party Scene,” was part of the Multicultural Center's “Race Matters Series,” and was hosted by a panel of students from UC San Diego to speak on recent acts of racism on their campus.

In addition to UCSD students Sam Bostick, Fnann Keflezighi, Sy Prescott and David Ritcherson, Black Studies Professor Clyde Woods and graduate student Reginald Archer, both of UCSB, also facilitated the event.

The topic in question was if the growing trend of racially charged theme parties on college campuses are really just “clean fun” or hints of more serious race related issues.

Woods worked with a colleague at UCSD to bring the discussion to UCSB after UCSD gained some notoriety in January of this year

following a racially themed party organized by UCSD fraternity members called “The Compton Cookout.” Party-goers were encouraged to dress ghetto and in rapper-style clothing with big chains, gold teeth and other attire stereotypical of African-Americans.

“All race is, is a construction,” said Bostick, the fourth-year UCSD student during the panel discussion. “We need to bring awareness to the false myths that surround and stereotype various races.”

A clip from the Spike Lee movie “Do the Right Thing” was shown to highlight examples of racist attitudes and name calling and to remind the audience that such speech, while normally used, are hurtful.

A short talk on the history of African-Americans was given by Dr. Woods, dating back to the period of slavery all the way to the Civil Rights movements in the 1960s. He focused particularly on minstrelsy, and how the use of minstrels promoted and justified slavery, a form of “naturalization of oppression and psychological terrorism.”

With Embarcadero Hall packed, the discussion lasted for about an hour and a half with many interested

students posing questions and interacting with the panel.

The tension and racism precipitated by the party at UCSD and felt across campus afterward was also a major topic. Bostick, Keflezighi, Prescott and Ritcherson all touched upon the failure of UCSD to have a fair representation of African-American students, with African-Americans making up only 1.3% of UCSD's total student population.

Prescott said as college students, this is the moment to take advantage of our time and energy to be bold and effect change.

Mayra Alvarado, a third-year Philosophy major at UCSB said she attended the forum because she has started to notice such parties and events taking place on the UCSB campus and that she herself has been a victim of name calling.

“Such behavior is inexcusable,” Alvarado said. She states that such events shouldn't have to take place for things to start to change.

“People justify their actions as fun... they don't realize it is damaging.”

While UCSD has achieved the most publicity over its student parties, a recent racially charged theme party that took place at UCSB was also



Photos by | Zephyr McIntyre

PROFESSOR CLYDE WOODS — Speaks about racism among UCSB students.

mentioned. The party, “Gangsters and Hoes,” was discovered on Facebook by a UCSB student who notified friends and members of the Black Student Union who in turn, held their own Facebook event, a silent protest against the party. The protest organized a group of about 60 to 70 people who stood outside the party with tape over their mouths and signs.

Afiya Browne, Co-chair of the BSU and one of the protest organizers, said that although she feels privileged to go to UCSB and generally feels safe,

UCSB has its own share of problems and that the pool of faculty members and resources helps support students.

“You can't rank racism,” Browne said. “But the type of environment and resources are key. I feel we are more welcome to students of color.”

Keflezighi said the goal of the forum was to open students' eyes and empower them to make a positive change.

“Challenge yourself to be fluent in other peoples' struggles,” Keflezighi said.



Photos by | Urvi Nagrani



Photos by | Rosana Liang

PRIDE — Students attend Coming our Workshop



Photos by | Lauren Daniels

TIE DYE — Students gather to dye t-shirts



Photos by | Erica Yu

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Meet Your Professor... Dr. Ralph Armbruster-Sandoval

Simone Spilka
Writer

Passionate, influential, and genuine are all words that come to mind when thinking of my Chicano 1C Professor, Ralph Armbruster-Sandoval. In a lecture hall pushing three hundred people, the personal connection he creates with his students is an amazing feat. Armbruster-Sandoval's passion for Chicano studies and activism regarding the subject is readily apparent and our interview proved this enthusiasm goes far deeper than surface level. Armbruster-Sandoval's class focus goes beyond working for a grade; he seeks to understand what is wrong in the world and educate on how we - as students, a community, and human beings - can use our opportunity to help the oppressed. Influenced by his family, students, previous professors, and civil rights leaders alike, Armbruster-Sandoval's main desire is to make an impact on the world, however significant or insignificant it may be.

After receiving his Political Science undergraduate degree at California State University of Long Beach, Armbruster-Sandoval had ambitions of becoming an attorney working on the side of "people in the trenches, people in need, or people of color." He wanted to help with rights for unions or an organization that deals with issues of homelessness or poverty, illustrating his strong belief in the importance of working toward equality for all. When LSAT scores stood in the way of this dream, a respected professor guided him to a new and equally rewarding path. This teacher posed a question for the younger Armbruster-Sandoval, "Can you see yourself doing what I do?" Armbruster-Sandoval reflected on this idea, but left the question unanswered as he had difficulty comparing himself to a man he held with such high regard and admiration. The next step was then attending graduate school and finishing classes in 1990 at the

University of California, Riverside. Come 1998, Armbruster-Sandoval found his calling as a professor here at UCSB.

Teaching both lower-division and upper-division courses, Armbruster-Sandoval created a learning environment centered on the notion of mutual respect, something he appreciates from his own experiences before becoming a professor himself. "I had a couple of really great teachers that took me under their wing and treated me as more than a number, some who, even now, I call upon regularly to tell them what is going on in my life," said Armbruster-Sandoval. "These people taught me what it means to be a teacher: it means more than showing up; we need people to give a shit and try to change the world. Why else are we here?" For this professor, the reward comes from making a difference in his students' lives and vice versa. "[As a teacher] you want to do something," said Armbruster-Sandoval. "If you can light up at least one person, that's significant." This determined attitude exudes in both his relationship with his students, as well as in his efforts to teach the course material and inspire action.

Armbruster-Sandoval recalls one story in particular that provided him with gratification from building relationships with his students and showing how, in turn, they each had a significant influence on one another. In 2001, Armbruster-Sandoval was fervently working to publish a book while striving equally hard to stimulate his students to demonstrate on behalf of the anti-sweat shop movement. One afternoon, he received a call saying his book was "basically shit," but he could not let this discouraging message prevent him from his plans of spreading awareness on the movement with students. Ester, one of his students, could immediately sense his distress. She was able to encourage him to believe in himself in a moment when he felt he had lost his self-esteem. Bringing the story

full circle, Armbruster-Sandoval was asked just last week to introduce Ester at an awards ceremony where she was receiving recognition for her work at Pueblo, a Santa Barbara based organization that empowers working class people and Latino immigrants. Significantly, Ester was energized to a degree by what took place as a student in 2001, so her contributions to the organization began as a result of the class. "It's a blessing to know that I have helped a lot of students open up their eyes about something, and that they've done the same for me."

As much as we, as students, view Armbruster-Sandoval as a dedicated professor and activist, he is above all a dedicated husband and father to his two children, Sol Justica, age 5, and Sky, age 3. He laughs as he describes the "unattained benefits of being seated in alphabetical order," referring to high school sweetheart and now wife. Following each other to college, moving to grad school only 15 minutes apart, and 18 years of marriage later illustrates how his own real-life love story has been a driving influence for Armbruster-Sandoval. Having two children completely reshaped his life in the sense that he became "much more active in a different way. Before [he] had them [he] was going to many more rallies, etc., but they pull me back home: where I need to be and want to be." In this aspect, Armbruster-Sandoval feels a constant tension between "wanting to be a good parent and wanting to be a good person." Armbruster-Sandoval draws inspiration from past civil rights leaders such as Martin Luther King, and Langston Hughes to teach his classes about societal issues such as inequality and justice, yet his family provides him with strength and morality as his main priority and driving zeal for life. As a result, the



Photos Courtesy | Chicano Studies Dept.

PROFILE — Armbruster-Sandoval shares his teaching and family experiences

ideas of these prominent figures in his life are often intermixed. For example, when asked on his opinion regarding the biggest issues in the world today, Armbruster-Sandoval creates a strong connection between how the current war's devastating effects on our country is directly influencing his own community, own family. He addresses a valid point regarding the "out of wack" priorities of the United States government who will find money for "bombs, banks, prisons, and everything else we don't need...but not for our community, pools, parks." He teaches his course through the same lens: how can we look at larger issues affecting people today and relate them back to our own situations? Clearly, he tries to balance his own priorities as he feels necessary. "Life is pretty full at the moment," said Armbruster-Sandoval. "When I get done talking to you and another student I'm going to take my kids to the park."

Armbruster-Sandoval left me with one final note, which I believe highlights his inspiring attitude. "It's a great thing being a teacher...to see response from my students. I teach in a very unique way; I'm just trying to get people to care and be to be myself. And if they don't like it...well, I don't know what to say."

Pollock Theater Opens Soon

Sarah Sloat

Writer

According to theater manager Matt Ryan, UCSB's long awaited high-tech Pollock Theater will open in roughly two months. It has been a source of mystery for many UCSB students, who have walked past its pristine yet closed doors since the beginning of the academic school year. When fall quarter of 2009 began and the neighboring Social Sciences & Media Studies Building opened, many wondered why the new theater that would double as a classroom was still not open.

But the confident and excited Ryan shakes his head at any rumors that surround the new theater concerning financial set backs. "Any delays have been from construction," said Ryan. "But fundamentally, it's done."

According to Ryan, who has designed both theaters and classrooms at NYU, the only thing the theater needs now is its equipment. This includes the expensive and rare 35 mm projectors designed to screen the old and very pricey film that the theater plans to showcase. "For example, we have silent films from 1915 that would be destroyed without the proper projectors," said Ryan, who predicts that Santa Barbara's Pollock Theater will become one of the premier sites for vintage films to be viewed.

Privately funded, the 15,570-square-foot Pollock Theater is part of the Carsey-Wolf Center for Film, Television and New Media. Named after Joseph and Helene Pollock, who donated \$2 million for the theater's construction, the theater also received funds from other high profile donors such as television executive Marcy Carsey and Academy Award-winner Michael Douglass. Douglass's own name is inscribed in the lobby, placed on marble paneling that will later house nine flat screen digital televisions.

A classroom by day and an intimate setting for film screening by night, the Pollock Theater provides a comfortable venue for both students

and community members. A 298 seat theater, it also offers a projection room unusual for its large size and expansive technology. "Acoustically, this place is perfect. As for what we can do with the theater, this is rare," said Ryan. "You don't normally get these sort of facilities."

Ryan also noted that the theater is built to accommodate changing technology, which will give UCSB film students an advantage for the future. "Now the film students have a space to make higher quality films in a controlled space," said second-year film student Elyse Hollander. "Also, it makes the department more prestigious, which helps the school out over all."

Second year Alana Dowden, a communications and film double major, also feels that the Pollock Theater will put her at an advantage over other film students. "I definitely think we'll be at an advantage over other schools. Getting to work with such great equipment will really help us get ready for the industry, and allow us to network with members of the Santa Barbara film community and beyond."

Kim Williams, also a second year communications and film double major, feels that the Pollock Theater gives a whole new sense of pride to UCSB's film department. "Just trying to get into the major now, I feel really fortunate," said Williams. "This school is doing something really great for us."

In addition to the Pollock Theater's ability to serve the community in multiple ways, its capability to screen new student films is what excites Ryan most about the newest addition to the UCSB film department. Shown in an aesthetically beautiful place through the very best quality technology can provide, the Pollock Theater will offer an unprecedented venue for student film-makers.

"When students see their films in here, it's going to mean something," said Ryan. "You can see it in their faces."

Preaching with Jehovah Witnesses at the UCen

Desmond White

Writer

The "spiritual" side of UCSB can be hard to spot. At other times its right out in the open. In the case of the Jehovah Witness ministry that operates on campus, it's a bit of both. Their message isn't blatant or in-your-face, but their presence has remained tenaciously active through the years. We've all seen them sitting out by the UCen corner store distributing their Bible translations and waiting for inquisitive folk to poke around. The question is, how many of us have put the time aside to broach them on a subject they've put their lives aside to pursue?

During college's time of self-discovery and revelation, the Witnesses who table by the UCen offer a single answer - the Christian Bible. They see themselves as conduits that direct people to the Bible. Although they remain strictly apolitical, the Witnesses believe heavenly governance will someday return to the world and replace our current system. In the meantime, they patiently abide, spreading their doctrine in a very humble and caring manner.

The Jehovah Witness campus ministry started 20-25 years ago. At first they primarily went door to door in IV, but they weren't finding enough students who were at home. Eventually, they moved to campus and began tabling in front of the UCen. Persistence (or better yet, patience) won out - they remain the only consistent religious table in the Free Speech Area just outside of the UCen.

"Twenty years ago there were all sorts of tables in front of the UCen. People would volunteer their time to what they believed in," said Barb Merriett, ministry worker. "People are so busy now. Interest has waned. But we believe the Bible's message is so important that we must give the students the opportunity to read it. This is the only way the University lets us do that."

"There would be a table For Abortions next to a table Against. The marines were right next to the

people vying for peace," continued Merriett. "It's good to have all these different voices. People developing their perspectives - trying to find what's real, what works for them."

Some students argue that the Jehovah Witness doctrine is erroneous Christian teaching, and that their translation of the Bible, called the New World Translation, is biased.

"The Protestant Bible's New Testament, like NIV and NASB, was translated from the Greek language and the Greek is a very specific language, so it's hard to mistranslate. Their subtle misinterpretations change the whole thing," said Phil Kiner, a third year Communications



Photos by || Eddie Ferry

major, referring to a scripture discrepancy in John 1:1.

"I find it perplexing that a religion necessitates one being a 'good person' when such a title or alignment is so ambiguous that all hopes to appease it ultimately end in despair. That is inevitably not living up to your convictions or pride, that is inevitably molding your moral ethic above another and demanding that he or she match it for justification," said Stewart Warren, a third year English major. "The Jehovah Witnesses are the same song to a different tune, incapable of offering a cure for the problem of the heart, which is sin."

"It's your choice to disagree," said Joyce Fosnight, a Jehovah Witness who works the tables. "Sometimes there are students who make fun (of us). But usually the students are

searching. They're here to learn. We're here to help."

Other students find their dedication commendable, especially with such a stout intention.

"The biggest thing I admire is their commitment to their cause. Although I don't necessarily believe what they believe, I respect," said Nico DeMordaunt, a second year English and Psychology major.

Raquel Stewart, a second year French major said, "I always want to stop but I'm always in a hurry. They're so nice!"

The Jehovah Witness charter that operates in Santa Barbara is comprised of eleven congregations, made up of six English language congregations, four Spanish, one French, and a group in Goleta that does American Sign Language. These congregations meet at four Kingdom Hall Churches distributed in the Santa Barbara area - one in Goleta, one on Turnpike, and two out in Santa Barbara. After church is a public discourse at 1:30 PM, with discussion-based Bible subjects. No collections or plates are passed - the ministry isn't about soliciting for money.

"We aren't trying to get people to join, nor are we looking for members. Our main purpose is to sort out what the Bible really says and relate it to students. We offer free books, free bible studies, free discussions. Our focus is on helping people grow spiritually with accurate information," says Merriett. "Jesus said you receive free, so give free. We're volunteers. That's why we don't have huge over-branching expenses."

That's true - the Jehovah Witnesses are truly motivated to teach the Bible to others. This isn't a pyramid scheme to solicit money or members. There isn't a conversion rate-o-meter. The Jehovah Witnesses are dedicated to Biblical education en masse. They know first-hand the many misunderstandings and difficulties that come with teaching the Bible.

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Best Buddies: Creating and Cultivating Friendship

Regina Sarnicola
Writer

"I hope to have as many friends as stars in the sky, and I think that I am getting very close to my wish," said Annie Forts, inspiration for the Annie Forts "UP" Syndrome Fund, which works to educate and assist individuals with down syndrome.

This year, I had the blessed opportunity to have such an experience, making not just one, but around 30 new friends who are unique, special and full of unconditional love. For that, I couldn't help but end up a different, better person.

Best Buddies, a nonprofit international organization that works to create and cultivate one-on-one friendships, employment and leadership development for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, is truly a diamond in the rough. Founded in 1989, it is now an organization that can be found in high schools, middle schools and college campuses nationwide, including UCSB.

Each year, interested college and community buddies are asked to fill out an application where they state buddy preferences and personal interests. The application process enables the organization to match up suitable best buddies with one another.

Best Buddies receives funding from Associated Students through the Community Affairs Board and receives buddies through both the Santa Barbara Special Olympics chapter and Pathways, an agency that focuses on helping those with mental and intellectual disabilities find employment.

"The mission is to integrate buddies into society," said Dustin Wailes, president of the UCSB chapter and a member for three years. "The earlier that can happen the better, whether it is in high school or college. That way we can touch more lives."

The program at UCSB pairs students up with mentally and

intellectually disabled individuals, or "buddies," from within the community. It helps encourage and nurture friendships with people who ordinarily wouldn't interact. There are between 30 and 40 pairs of buddies this year.

My buddy, Kimberly Yvonne Carreno, is a 36-year-old Latina woman who loves her dog, shopping, and romantic comedies. Meeting her for the first time, I was nervous and had a hard time initially understanding her. Now, however, we talk on a regular basis about anything from politics to friends. Despite having known each other for eight months now, she still calls me with the same greeting "Hi Regina, it's your best buddy Kimberly," as if she is worried I've forgotten who she is.

Adriene Strickroth, a first year Best Buddy member, said she can always count on her buddy Jessica to greet her with an "I miss you!" no matter how often they talk or see one another.

"Me and Jessica talk about everything, school, family, boyfriends," Strickroth said. "She is a total social butterfly and cracks me up all the time... she's always saying funny things."

Buddies are encouraged to try and talk at least once a week and hang out once a month. In addition, there are group events where all the buddies get together. This year's activities included a Halloween and Valentine's Day party, scavenger hunt, barbeque on the beach, and movie night.

My buddy Kimberly said her favorite event this year was the scavenger hunt, because she likes to "look for stuff." Ideas for next year include trying to get involved with kids with mental and intellectual disabilities as well and holding more events like a dance party, a sports game, or a bowling night.

Jaime Rutiaga, Day and Employment Service manager for Pathways, said he enjoys seeing the happiness the buddies get from the program, and emphasized the



BEST BUDDIES — *Within a single lifetime, specific moments, experiences, and people have the ability to completely change one's outlook on life.*

great importance of the program as a whole. "Best Buddies gives the buddies a chance to practice their socialization and get feedback which is invaluable for them," said Rutiaga. "It is also a form of normalization for them, because often, they may not be encouraged to go out and make connections with people that are not disabled." Rutiaga also said a program like this also breaks down barriers, because the community is usually "unaware and uneducated about disabilities."

Karen Duong, an officer for Best Buddies, said her favorite part about Best Buddies is the social events. "It's really fun for all the buddies to get together to talk and hang out."

Duong, a junior who has been in Best Buddies since her sophomore year, said one of her favorite memories was when the UCSB chapter attended a buddy bash in Los Angeles, an event where all regional chapters came together. Duong said she and her buddy at the time, Diane, were awarded Best Buddies College pair.

"I was really surprised. When they were describing who won I thought 'Oh, that sounds like Diane and me and it ended up being us,'" said Duong. "I cried. Diane cried too. It felt good, like I had made a difference in her life."

Wailes said his buddy of three

years, Craig, has encouraged him to do things he wouldn't normally do, such as going to see *Cats* at the Arlington Theatre in downtown Santa Barbara. "He was so excited and it was just awesome," said Wailes. "It was fun to share one of his interests with him."

The most common response to being a part of Best Buddies is how rewarding the experience has been for participants. "It opens your eyes to how people with disabilities enjoy spending time and how little time they do spend with others," said Wailes. "They enjoy normal things like hanging out, going to dinner or the movies."

Strickroth said her buddy Jessica has allowed her to see the world through her eyes and it has made her realize how lucky she herself is.

One of my favorite things about Best Buddies is how different each buddy is. They all have their own personalities, ideas, and interests which always makes for an entertaining time. Additionally, their genuine happiness at being able to spend time and just be your friend is an amazing feeling.

If interested in becoming a part of Best Buddies, check bestbuddiesonline.org or email Dustin Wailes at dwailes@umail.ucsb.edu.

UCSB Urban Planners Mull Ideas For Isla Vista Layout

Alycra Matsushita

Writer

Remember the Red Carpet affair down Del Playa, complete with a literal red carpet, where residents strutted their stuff down the street to commentary from a microphone-clad emcee hosting from a balcony? Or the balloon-releasing event in Isla Vista, where strangers were given balloons in the community for free to study movement in IV? These events, seemingly guided by an unseen hand, were really put into place by a group called Participatory Planning Towards Place Making, a community arts and design collaborative in Isla Vista.

The collaborative, supported by the UCSB Isla Vista Commission, is led by UCSB Professor Kim Yasuda and architect and urban design planner Seetha Raghupathy. Their goal is to work together with the campus, community, and surrounding areas to affect the course of the area's future development. Though their name is long, their goal is simple - to link campus and community in terms of art, culture, and economy by utilizing areas of strength and energy in hopes of bettering the whole. By doing this in a literal conjoining sense, or simply in terms of mindset, the goal is there.

Raghupathy is currently a designer-in-residence at UCSB. Originally from India and coming to UCSB directly from the East Coast, she came to Santa Barbara for a one year stint to work with the community to see what could be done with our little town. Although her time is nearly up, she has contributed much to the effort. Meeting with over 85 groups, individuals, and stockholders, she has discussed issues and potential resources, as well as ideas for the community.

Although the project's dreams are big, Raghupathy stays down to earth. "I'm only here for a year," said Raghupathy. "Although we'd like to tackle everything, we really had to prioritize, considering the

feasibility and what could be most successfully done in the year that we had." With these limitations in mind, Raghupathy explains, "Look at Del Playa. It's a parking lot by day, but at night it comes alive to the party scene. It's full of possibilities." As an urban designer, she sees areas of IV as a cultural gold mine, ready for exploration and cultivation. The compact and autonomous nature of Isla Vista helps to present the community as a perfect "Petri dish" to serve as an example for other communities and experiments.

Yasuda, a professor of Spatial Studies in the Art department, is also the co-director of the University of California Institute for Research in the Arts (UCIRA). She believes that, in terms of the project, things must be researched short term to reflect what can be done in the long term. She explained the project is about changing imaginations, working against institutionalized expectations to change how things are done. As a professor at the University and a resident of Isla Vista, she has a personal stake in the community. Well aware of the transient nature of the IV population, she still would like to see a celebration of conjunctions in the community.

"Isla Vista is a beautiful place, simply because it has so many opportunities," she explains. "Once you visualize the possibilities, you see that anything can be done with it." However, Yasuda emphasizes the initiative, not institutionalized, manner of the program. "We're connectors; we're reaching out to different groups and organizations and repurposing them, not necessarily creating anything new," she states.

Yasuda's humble manner greatly downplays the extreme efforts the two have made within the last year. Not only have they met with landowners, they have also made close contacts

with business owners, students, and even groups on campus. For example, they have been working closely with the Geography 176C to find out history and lighting of the area, as well as observe its potential for work within the project. The work they've done has pushed the course into a more project-based class. In addition to this, the two have created a safe-



Photo Courtesy | Molly Gordon

PLANNERS — UCSB Professor Kim Yasuda and architect Seetha Raghupathy.

zone within many organizations. As Yasuda emphasized, the project is meant to connect organizations, bringing them together to make for a greater good.

Of course, this has not come without resistance. Raghupathy claims that things "can be a logistical nightmare." Sometimes things fall through, and more often that not, permits can be nearly impossible to access. In addition to this, ideas like bringing food carts onto the streets of Del Playa to capitalize on hungry late-night party goers present complications, like food permits and vendor availability. Other grandiose ideas like the creation of banners to be hung from balconies create

problems in terms of execution. Either way, Raghupathy and Yasuda push through the headache and turmoil of planning with large organizations, all the while hoping to bring culture and conjunction to campus and community.

When questioned about the feasibility of longevity for the project, Raghupathy explained their process. "What we're doing is casting a wide net, hoping things will stick. Not everyone will be willing to collaborate with us, but we can work with those that do, hoping they will stick with it." Yasuda emphasized the wonders mindset and tradition can make. "Why is DP known as the party street? Why did people go to the Marley House to party? If we get a sort of tradition going, people will just continue the process for us." Clearly a heavy dose of optimism is necessary, but with the gumption, ritual, and publicity, the project could definitely work.

One of the organizations that has "came to play," as Raghupathy puts it, is UCSB's MCC (Multicultural Center). Traditionally MCC events are held on campus, in the MCC building. However, with the encouragement of the Participatory art project, there

has been a successful relocation of events from campus to community. Although obtaining permits was a long, arduous endeavor, it seems the hard work will be paying off.

The event will be held on Thursday, May 20 at the corner of Ocean Road and 6500 Del Playa. The site itself creates a beautiful metaphor of where campus meets community. The event, featuring Boots Riley and The Coup, will be from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. A socially-conscious rapper, Boots Riley and The Coup will be performing for over an hour. Taking advantage of the different location, the stage will be far more interactive than the normal MCC event. Not only will there be spoken word presentations, but student art work will be all around; the atmosphere will be lively, artistic, and full of unique Isla Vista culture and flair. The conjunction effort of the project will be evident with the relocation of the MCC event, as well as the prevalence of student art.

The duo holds as much energy as the event site they plan to use in the upcoming weeks. Their optimism obvious, their charm contagious, the program seems solid and holds potential to grow for years to come. "The eye is now turned to IV," said Yasuda. "We have the location, all we have to do is brainstorm and execute."

Congratulations!

The Bottom Line Staff would like to congratulate next year's Senior editors:
Executive Managing Editor
Erica Yu

Executive Content Editor
Hannah Peterson

HEALTH and LIFESTYLES

Try New Foods That May Increase Your Sex Drive

Tara Ashlynn Luckner
Writer

Attention all 'five minute' men! Are you currently dating someone and having trouble in the bedroom? Maybe you have too much on your mind, or maybe you just haven't had 'it' in months and your libido is too weak to pull an all-nighter full of passion and pleasure. Whatever the case may be, if your performance is lacking, sooner or later your partner will become dissatisfied and may look elsewhere for more excitement.

What if there was a way to fix this problem immediately in order to save your relationship? The good news is you are only a few bites away from becoming true sexual pleasers who will always keep your partners coming back for more. Medical research has concluded that specific types of food contain chemicals that help increase the sex drive for both men and women. In order to make use of this new knowledge, however, a romantic meal should be prepared to arouse both you and your partner's sexually stimulated senses.

First consider bananas. Besides the phallic shape that frequently serves as a turn-on for women, bananas are also an essential libido booster for men. The bromelain enzyme is responsible for giving males strength and endurance during sex. More importantly, bananas help males with muscle development after a work out, so if you put in that extra effort at the gym, the payoff will be great. With a rock hard body your lady will definitely have her eyes glued to you for the entire night.

After hours of male body preparation, it is time to think about your actual date. Just before it begins, it would be wise for you to eat a good portion of celery. Believe it or not, the consumption of celery provokes the biggest turn-on for females. Research has revealed that celery contains the hormone androsterone, which is released during male perspiration. Although androsterone is odorless, females are able to sense it and become sexually

stimulated by its presence. In a snap, your date will be ready to get down to business. So, stock up on those celery sticks and prepare yourself for the smothering effect.

Now for what you should eat while you are actually on your date. For starters, a salad with an addition of avocado would be helpful for providing energy. Surprisingly, avocado is helpful for increasing

about the idea, consider that garlic is known to contain *allicin*, an organic compound that aids in stimulating individuals to have sex multiple times throughout the night. It also helps males to have consistent erections with no trouble. In order to use garlic properly, however, you must chop it first, since allicin is only produced through an enzyme reaction. Do not try to chomp on raw garlic cloves -



BANANAS — Foods that can increase your sex drive

libido in both males and females. High levels of folic acid help boost metabolism, which is beneficial if you are planning for a long night., while Vitamin B6, which is also found in avocado, can help with the production of male hormones. If you're not a salad lover, guacamole and other recipes can be substituted in order to add avocado to your menu.

Another possible appetizer are oysters, which must be the most popular aphrodisiacs currently known. Oysters also help boost libido, as well as sperm production. Depending on your date's preferences, you can add this to your meal or even eat them in your spare time. In the worst case scenario, your date would still appreciate the thought that you went out of your way to prepare oysters for her in the first place.

For the main course, try to season at least one dish with garlic. Yes, garlic does put a damper on good breath, but that can always be fixed with a minty piece of gum afterwards. If you are still hesitant

doing so will have no effect on your body whatsoever.

Another good seasoning to add to your meal is basil. This herb has a triple health effect, regulating blood flow, stimulating sex drive, and increasing female fertility. You may not even be thinking about the fertility aspect at this point, but it may be useful years down the road if your casual dating should turn into something more long term. Another significant point is that the scent of basil has been noted to stimulate sexual feelings for men. Historians believe that Mediterranean prostitutes would wear basil oil as a perfume to attract customers.

If you looking for a vegetable to balance out your meal, try grilling some asparagus. Asparagus contain Vitamin E, which is commonly known as a 'sex vitamin' because of its stimulating effect on the production of sex hormones. The Vegetarian Society declared that "[it] only takes three days of asparagus consumption until you notice the difference. The

increase in libido is clearly present."

For dessert, a bowl of strawberries should do the trick. Strawberries are known to be one of the most popular aphrodisiacs used to end the night on a sweet note. According to Patrick Holford, who conducted research into strawberries in 1984, strawberries are essential for "preparing the body for sex and optimizing blood flow to the sexual organs." The reasoning behind his statement comes from the fact that zinc and antioxidants are found in strawberries. Zinc is extremely critical for sperm production, as well as having prolonged sex sessions.

Holford concluded that after a man has had sex three times in twenty four hours, "his zinc levels become completely depleted, leaving him to be too tired to engage in any sexual activity." A woman is also more eager to have sex if her zinc levels are high. Therefore, it is crucial to have zinc in your diet beforehand, in order to prepare your body for a long night of sex and passion.

Lastly, chocolate should be added in addition to the full bowl of strawberries. Not only is it a romantic gesture to feed to your lover, but chocolate also helps release the same hormone that is released during sex. Scientific research has demonstrated a trend in women having a higher sex drive after they have eaten chocolate. In the 1980's, Michael Liebowitz discovered that chocolate contains phenethylamine, a compound that helps trigger sexual emotions in women. He named his discovery "The Chocolate Theory of Love," which explains why women are almost always craving chocolate.

After preparing a meal that has these ingredients, you might very well be satisfied and eager to begin a never-ending night of passion and intimacy. Another positive result is that your partner will be surprised and happy that you made a meal for the both of you. Nothing gets to the heart faster than a nice and delicious meal; especially, a meal that will help increase both of your sexual appetites.

UCSB Projects Are Key Recipients of New Green Initiative

Aisa Villanueva

Writer

The Grant Making Committee of The Green Initiative Fund (TGIF) has recently announced the grant recipients for its 2009-2010 funding cycle. Out of twenty-seven environmentally sustainable project applications that it received from UCSB students, faculty and staff, thirteen were awarded grants altogether totaling \$160,350. The winning projects include Plastic Bottle Reduction Project, Utility Conservation Incentive Program, Energy Efficient Exercise Equipment, Multiple Building Waste Audits, Laboratory Competition, Water Conservation Initiative, Harder Stadium Bathroom Fixtures, Halten Theater

LED Stage Lights, Energy Efficient Hand Dryers, High Speed Electric Vehicle Charging Stations, Wind Turbines at the White Mountain Research Station, Building Energy Visualization, and Sierra Nevada Aquatic Research Laboratory (SNARL) Photovoltaic System.

TGIF is the first environmentally aware group in the University of California system. It was adopted in 2006 by students driven to “reduce the University’s impact on the environment.” Since then the Berkeley, Los Angeles, Irvine, and San Diego campuses have all voted for TGIF Lock-In Fees. Both undergraduate and graduates students pay a fee of \$2.60 per quarter to support projects that focus on decreasing the impact that

UCSB makes on the environment.

The TGIF Grants Committee is composed of a select group of undergraduate and graduate students, one faculty member, and one other staff member. Jointly they are tasked with choosing winning projects and allocating the necessary grant donations.

“TGIF is meant to be a start-up grant, meaning the money helps projects get off the ground while they search for additional sources of funding,” said Brian Starr, and Undergraduate Representative-at-large and Committee Chair of TGIF. “We encourage projects to seek matching funds from other grant sources like The Coastal Fund... If a project is well-received by the committee and has [also] made a

good effort to seek additional funds, and there is some additional TGIF funding carried from the previous year, the committee may consider funding a project for a second year.”

Regarding project feedback, analysis, and measures of success, Starr said that each project funded under the program is required to complete a final report at the end of the academic year. This report includes answers to several questions about how the experience was for them and how things could be improved in the future. In addition, the groups are required to hold a poster session for the public at the UCen.

“Individually, the projects make small steps towards campus sustainability, but collectively

they make a big impact,” said Jill Richardson, the TGIF Grants Manager. “[In detail, their] success is measured [in such units like,] kilowatt-hours or water saved, pounds of waste diverted, number of departments or labs asking for sustainability assessments, percentage of food purchased etc.” Richardson also added that the posters will be available for public viewing in the first week of June in the UCen lobby.

TGIF will begin soliciting applications for the 2010-11 funding cycle in fall 2010. Applications are open to all UCSB students, faculty, and staff. Interested parties should contact Jill Richardson, at (805) 893-8367, or by e-mail at jill.richardson@vcdadmin.ucsb.edu.

UCSB Promotes Acceptance With Expanded Safe Zone Program

David Mendez

Writer

While UCSB ended its annual queer pride week a couple of weeks ago, it is apparent that the issues and concerns that it aroused will continue to outlast the event itself. Even though the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ) community increased its visibility in recent years, there are still many who students who remain unaware of it, despite the overall diversity of the UCSB campus. The Resource Center for Sexual and Gender Diversity (RCSGD) has sought to remedy this with various outreach programs, the latest of which is the Safe Zone Project.

Safe Zone has actually been at UCSB for nearly ten years in varying degrees, so you might not say it is brand new. The project began as a way to create a safer, more inviting environment for LGBTQ students on campus, by encouraging faculty and staff to place stickers displaying the Safe Zone logo on their doors or windows. You may have seen them around campus as the rainbow colored stickers, which simply say “Safe Zone.”

These stickers were meant to convey a place where one could find a person who was sympathetic to their gender or sexual identity and the issues that may arise from it. Since the program has started, the stickers have proven to be helpful, but are still in limited supply. Starting this past Fall quarter, the RCSGD has begun to expand the project by providing workshops for those who wished to learn more about queer issues and who want to become an ally for the LGBTQ community.

The workshops are held for both students and faculty and consist of a single session lasting approximately 90 minutes. Workshops consist of presentations, Q&A sessions, and exercises to “educate others on different identities” and “engage with local communities,” according to Queer Commission Co-Chair and Student Workshop Leader Edward Muna.

As previously mentioned, there are two workshops offered: student-oriented and staff-focused

presentations. Both seek to “teach the basics” while keeping in mind the context of each environment. The student workshops focus on areas such as living arrangements or the use of potentially offensive language. The staff and faculty workshops are

community, but that they have also attended the Safe Zone presentation.

Although the 90-minute seminars are very helpful for those looking to learn more, Brittni Tanenbaum, Co-Chair of Queer Commission, as well as Edward

Muna admit that the short amount of time spent in the seminars is “not enough.” There are currently plans to expand the program further by adding a second workshop for those who have completed the first and wish to continue learning about these issues.

Along with this extension, the workshop leaders of

Safe Zone have also been actively asking for feedback on how to improve the seminar experience and to convey their overall message more effectively. Queer Commission Co-Chair and LGBTQ Resources Director Samuel Santos also emphasized that by far the biggest barrier for expansion is simply numbers. At this point they are simply looking to train

more counselors to hold additional workshops for interested students, hoping to do so over the course of the coming year.

Overall, the Safe Zone Project seeks to simply increase awareness and sensitivity toward the LGBTQ community on campus. They encourage all students and faculty, regardless of their orientation, to sign up for the workshops, which are open to individuals, as well as to entire organizations. The organization has also payed visits to residence halls and held presentations tailored to each hall’s specific living conditions.

It may seem like a lot to ask certain people to either give up various preconceptions or to even have an interest in the first place, but as LGBT Program Coordinator, Cristina Madrigal, states, the goal is “not to change lives but to give information [to help] people make up their mind.” Hopefully, the Safe Zone Project can continue to grow and gain enough support so that, eventually, the awareness of the LGBTQ community can last for more than just a week.



Photo Courtesy | Eddie Ferry

SAFE ZONES — Helping LGBTQ students feel at ease.

oriented towards a more professional setting and attempt to convey ways that staff can provide support to students who may approach them with questions or concerns.

At the end of the faculty seminar, attendees are provided with a card, similar to the sticker, which can be displayed as an indication that they are not only an ally to the LGBTQ

CALENDAR

IV Arts

The Messenger

Fri, May 14, 7&10PM

Mon, May 17, 10PM

IV Theatre

Avatar

Fri, May 21, 7&10Pm

Mon, May 24, 10PM

IV Theatre

UCSB Improvability

Fri, May 14&21 8PM

Embarcadero Hall

UCSB Theatre

The House of Bernarda Alba

May 12-15 8PM

May 15, 2PM

Studio Theatre

Iphigenia 2.0

May 14,15, 18,19, 20, 21& 21 8PM

May 15, 16, 22, 2PM

Performing Arts Theatre

Hub Events

Greek Prom

Fri, May 14, 9PM

This Will Destroy You

Fri, May 21, 8:30PM

Pink Paradies

Sat, May 22, 9PM

Arts & Lectures

Patti LuPone

Thurs, May 13, 8PM

Granada Theatre

Chanticleer

Fri, May 14, 8PM

Campbell Hall

Collapse

Mon, May 17, 7:30PM

Campbell Hall

North Face

Thurs, May 20, 7:30PM

Campbell Hall

Ken Burns

Mon, May 24, 5PM

Coral Casino

MCC Events

Open Mic Night

Thurs, May 13, 7:30PM

Discussion: Coming out in High School

Tues, May 18, 6:30PM

Film: *Mountains That Take Wing*

Wed, May 19, 6PM

Boots Riley and the Coup

Thurs, May 20, 7:30PM

Corner of Ocean Road and 6500 Block of Del Playa

IHC Events

Talk:“What are Dogs Good For in a City?: Rabies, Civilization, and Urban Anxiety in NYC 1850-1920”

Fri, May 14, 1PM

HSSB 4041

Talk: Everybody Must Get Stones: The Iranian Search For Lithographic Tech

Fri, May 14, 4PM

McCune Conf Room

Screening: *Plagues and Pleasures of the Salton Sea*

Tues, May 18, 3PM

McCune Conf Room

Conference: Does it Take More Courage to be a Cybernetician than to be a Gunman?

Tues, May 18, 4:30PM

6046 HSSB

Talk: *Sacred Waters: Arts and Ecologies of Mami Wata and Other Aquatic Divinities in Africa*

Thurs, May 20, 4PM

McCune Conf Room

Talk: *Roman Comedy as Slave Theater*

Fri, May 21, 3PM

McCune Conf Room

Talk: *Food Security and Farm Labor in California: A Case Study of Santa Barbara County*

Mon, May 24, 3pm

McCune Conf Room.

Miscellaneous

Open Mic Night

Thurs, May 13, 7PM

SB Coffee Roasting Co.

Traditional Irish Jam Night

Thurs, May 13, 6PM

Muddy Waters Cafe

Goleta Farmers Market

Thurs, May 13, 3PM

Calle Real Center

Photoshop/Design Shop Workshop

Thurs, May 13,4PM

615 De La Vina St., Ste

Hot Results on Cool Galaxies:The Hidden Universe Revealed

Thurs, May 13, 7:30PM

SB Museum of Natural History

Karaoke

Thurs, May 13, 7PM

Monty’s Sports Bar

Thirty Seconds to Mars With Mutemath and Neon Trees

Fri, May 14, 6PM

Santa Barbara Bowl

Screening: *Birth of a Movement*

Fri, May 14, 7PM

SB Maritime Museum

Belly Dance Class

Fri, May 14, 7:15PM

Goleta Valley Community Center

Vietnamese Culture Night

Sat, May 22, 7PM

Campbell Hall

SBMM Sea Festival

Sat, May 15, 11AM

SB Maritime Museum

Extravaganza

Sat, May 15, 1PM

Harder Stadium

AS CAB Presents Walk for Good Times

Sat, May 22, 9AM

Lagoon Lawn at UCSB

Architectural Walking tour of Historic Santa Barabra

Sat, May 15, 10AM

Meet at City Hall Steps

UCSB Vox: Voices for Planned Parenthood Presents “A Life Journey: Living With Aids”

Thurs, May 20, 7PM

SRB MultiPurpose Room

UCSB Middle East Ensemble Spring Concert

Sat, May 22, 8PM

LLCH