

# TBL THE BOTTOM LINE

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## Politics of Protest Cause Conflict at UCSB

Joan Curtis  
Staff Writer

Ongoing tensions between Israel and Palestine extended to the UC Santa Barbara campus during last week's Gaza Awareness Week when an annual display sponsored by UCSB student group Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) sparked controversy among students and faculty.

Talks from journalist Alison Weir, a documentary screening of the film *To Shoot an Elephant* and a candlelight vigil were held. However, an on-campus display is likely to have caused the most upset.

The display consisted of a large sign featuring the death toll of Operation "Cast Lead," a 22-day Israeli military offensive in the Gaza Strip that killed more Palestinians and destroyed more properties than any previous Israeli offensive. The mission began on December 27, 2008 with the stated aim of ending rocket attacks launched by groups affiliated with more extreme faction of Hamas. The conflict came to an end on January 18, 2009 when unilateral ceasefires were announced by both Hamas and Israel.

The sign on campus was accompanied by a display of wooden stakes painted in national colors to represent fallen citizens from each side of the conflict. It pro-

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Photo By | Alec Spears

**BOARDS**—Many student organizations put up boards to promote awareness about recent and upcoming events but not all of them fit the requirements for OSL.

## Chaos Reigns in Egypt Causing EAP Students to Return



Jeremy Zeller  
Staff Writer

Students from across the University of California system, including five from the UC Santa Barbara Education Abroad Program, were evacuated from Egypt on Tuesday due to the civil unrest in that country.

According to the office of the UC President, a total of 19 students evacuated from Egypt to Barcelona, as well as a team of archeologists from UC Los Angeles. From Barcelona, the evacuees returned to California. UC President Mark Yudof said in a statement that he

was pleased the students were out of harm's way.

"We are both happy and relieved that they have been delivered from what our overseas contacts described as an unstable situation," Yudof said. "We have contingency plans in place for just these types of circumstance, and they worked."

Students choosing to study abroad in Egypt can study at the American University of Cairo, which is about 45 minutes away from the city center.

According to Juan Campo, the Cam-

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# FEATURES

Cont. from Front Page:

## PROTEST—

claimed the death of over 1,400 Palestinians and 13 Israelis, according to Amnesty International.

Last year, the same display was set up and vandalized. Although the culprit was never found, stakes representing those killed have been found in the garbage.

This year, the group kept a member on guard overnight to protect the display from damage. This precaution prevented the same extent of damage that occurred last year, but vandals still tried to steal the sign during daylight hours.

SJP members say they found the sign hidden behind a nearby building and returned it to its original display location.

An unidentified person taped anti-Semitic political cartoons next to SJP's fliers and on the doors of event rooms. Members of SJP removed the cartoons when they discovered them.

"The display was successful because it gave the university community something to think about—something beyond our little bubble here in [Santa Barbara]," said UCSB second-year and member of SJP Noor Aljawad.

The display was put up Monday and taken down Friday afternoon, with a relocation in-between.

Abraham Gean, the President of UCSB's American Students for Israel, disagrees. He said that Gaza Awareness Week failed to acknowledge the "real" problem in Gaza—a problem that he believes is more centered on Hamas.



Photo By | Alec Spears

**STAKES—** Represent the deaths of over 1,400 Palestinians and 13 Israelis.

Gean said the display took the focus off of Hamas and that it did not help better the situation of the Palestinians.

Jaret Ornelas, a member of SJP, objects to that statement.

Ornelas said SJP is an organization that supports people, not governments.

Members of SJP also contest the notion that the display was inconsiderate in its treatment of fallen soldiers.

But other students felt that the display showed favoritism.

"The way it was presented made it seem like they were valuing some lives over others—a life is a life, and it seems wrong to write off thirteen Israeli deaths as if they count for less in smaller numbers," said UCSB fourth-year Art Studio major Lauren Bailey.

Ornelas also said that SJP condemned

the killings of 23 people in Israel by rockets from Gaza.

"Our point is that since all life is equally precious, how is it justifiable to kill hundreds of times more Palestinian civilians in the span of three weeks than what has been done in nine years," said Ornelas.

SJP's display prompted some students to complain to the Office of Student Life (OSL) about it being permitted on campus.

Shortly afterward, OSL contacted SJP and informed them that the club would be fined \$50 if the display was not removed from the bike route due to safety precautions.

Aljawad said that SJP was specifically targeted. She believes that the request to remove the display was due to complaints

about the content. Aljawad described OSL's request as a case of "selective policy that is only enforced when controversial messages are conveyed."

Katya Armistead, the Assistant Dean of Students from OSL, said that campus regulations require all displays to be clear of bike paths for safety reasons. Armistead said that there were over fifteen students severely injured in bicycle accidents in the past three years, many of which could have been prevented.

Armistead provided SJP with evidence of OSL fining other campus groups the same \$50 fine.

SJP was not fined after moving the display to a safer location.

SJP still plans to sponsor the display annually.

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# Professor in Profile: Patricia Fumerton

Oscar Cortez  
Staff Writer

Get to know more about your favorite UCSB professors in our new series Professor in Profile. In our first segment, we caught up with Department of English Professor Patricia Fumerton, who recently taught a class on Early Shakespeare at Girvetz Hall, and asked her questions both fun and factual.

**-Aside from the weather, what differences do you see between Stanford, Yale, Wisconsin and UCSB?**

"I'll say this: as you get into the car and drive from Yale and the East Coast to a university like Stanford or UCSB, students go from loving lectures to hating lectures. They want a formal lecture on the East Coast and they want to have an informal lecture on the West Coast. I'm serious. And if you don't give them a formal lecture on the East Coast they don't think you're doing your job and if you give a formal lecture on the West Coast it's the same."

**-Anything in particular about you that you'd like people to know about?**

"That professors are extremely young at heart. Professors should be, because if they're not then they can't reach their students. Which is why I read that whole Twilight vampire series. My students said 'You gotta read it.'"

**-Did you like the Twilight series?**

"It was a gas! It was so corny, but still fun and extremely entertaining. And the movie was the same thing."

**-So what got you interested in Renaissance literature?**

"I think that your professor or your teacher, even way back in high school, can have a major influence on shaping what you like or dislike or what career you take. I found that I went into Romantics because I loved the Romantics teacher who taught me at the University of Toronto and I went out of it at Stanford because I didn't like the Romantics teacher. But I loved the Renaissance teachers and I loved the literature. I loved the literature in both fields, but I came to really love the Renaissance."

**-Do you think having a daughter in high school gives you helpful insight when it comes to dealing with students?**

"Yes! Tremendously! I think I understand the way they find Shakespeare more challenging than I thought. I've tried now to sort of more explain basics and talk to them like I would talk to her.



Photo By | Oscar Cortez

## PROFILE- Professor Fumerton of UCSB's English Department

And I don't yell at them!"

**-What do you think about the state of the U.S. education system? Do you think it needs reform?**

"It's tragic, and in California it's disastrous. The public needs to invest economically and emotionally in education."

**-What was the experience like, writing a textbook?**

"Arduous! It's arduous first, it's exciting next, and then exhausting after, and then it's a relief when it's published! And it comes in that order!"

**-Any upcoming titles that you are working on?**

"There's the English Broadside Ballad Archive, and then I'm writing a book on one ballad that's called 'The Lady in the Blackamoor,' and its interesting because I have instances of the story being told as if it really happened, and it never really happened, and it [the story] even crosses the Atlantic. It's really cool."

**-Do you have any pets?**

"Yes, two cats! Pepper is totally terrified of everybody but loves me obsessively. I mean he literally comes down, if I stay up late working, he comes down to get me to go to bed with him. He'll come in, 'Meow, meow,' and he

doesn't want food, he wants me to literally go to bed so he can lie on me which he does all night and I keep pushing him off, but he gets back on me when I fall asleep!"

**-If you could say one thing to your students?**

"Be passionate, and be hard working"

**-Favorites:**

Television show: "House"

Movie: "The Breakfast Club"

Sports: "Basketball"

Writers: "Edmund Spenser"

Books: "Pride and Prejudice"

Coffee: "Latte, non-fat, with an apple fritter"

Junk food: "God there's so much that I like. Caramel popcorn...or caramel apples..."

Patricia Fumerton is a Professor in the English Department at the University of California, Santa Barbara, where she has taught since 1987. She received her Ph.D. from Stanford University in 1981, and has also taught at the University of Wisconsin at Madison, and at Yale University. She is currently directing the digitizing of all early English broadside ballads as part of the Early Modern Center's English Broadside Ballads Archive.

# Pho King Brings California Students Closer Together



Photos By | Michelle Zaragoza

Emma Daugherty  
Staff Writer

One lucky boy was crowned as this year's Pho King on January 29. This title was granted to Hai Troung, the winner of the hilarious male talent show put on by UC Santa Barbara's Vietnamese Student Association. The VSA granted the Pho King title to the student voted winner of the talent show.

This year marked the 10th annual pageant put on by VSA. The contestants' goal was to save a princess and become the Pho King Hero, a theme inspired by the game Zelda. The three judges gave points for charisma, personality and presentation. From a talent portion to a formal dress runway walk, the contestants put it all on the stage.

Finding the best Pho King hero involved much more than just being part of a funny show.

The event brought students from a multitude of the other schools, including Pomona, Cal Poly and Cal State Fullerton.

Thirteen male contestants entered the pageant, with only two from UCSB and the rest coming from all over California. UCSB contestant Roman Roque has been a part of VSA for the past two quarters. He captured the crowd's attention with his enthusiastic rapping performance and expressed his gratitude for being a part of the event.

"Pho King definitely helps being people together and I'm grateful I was able to participate," Roque said. "Being goofy for a good cause creates bonds between people that

you wouldn't get otherwise."

All of the proceeds of the event go towards the Blue Dragon Children's Foundation. The foundation assists children in Vietnam suffering from poverty by providing education and job opportunities. Blue Dragon hopes to break the poverty cycle by targeting children who live on the street, are victims of trafficking and those who reside in rural areas.

This type of charitable work and community organizing is common of VSA. The groups' number one goal is to promote friendship and share the Vietnamese community with anyone who is interested. For that reason, VSA is open to students of all backgrounds. They promote cultural awareness through interactive events like the pageant, as well as, their meetings, picnics and camping trips, among other activities.

In line with their mission of spreading awareness, similar to Pho King, VSA continually works with other campus organizations, surrounding schools and community groups. This encourages bonds between a vast array of people as well as creating friendships.

Michael Phan, the Vietnamese Culture Night Chair of VSA, believes that the involvement of other schools is beneficial to UCSB and VSA.

"Getting other schools involved is extremely important," Phan said. "Besides being able to expand our connections, we are also able to exchange goals and ideals as well as create new friendships."

For those lucky enough to attend the pageant, the great legend of Pho King will be a memory they never want to forget.

# Taking the Lap Out of Laptop

Kerry Beeman  
Staff Writer

In college, convenience is everything. At the end of the day, instead of sitting on an uncomfortable chair at a desk, a student can combine two great things—a comfortable bed and a laptop computer—as he or she lounges in bed doing work. But what are the risks to the body from constantly resting a computer on one's lap?

There have been several rumors about the new “laptop thigh” condition generated amongst college students.

The condition, referred to as “laptop thigh,” is clinically known as erythema ab igne. According to a case report issued by researchers at the Department of Dermatology at Eastern Virginia Medical School, erythema ab igne occurs due to “repeated long-term exposure to infrared radiation insufficient to produce a burn.”

In the past, erythema ab igne was a condition that typically developed in people who worked around a great amount of heat.

Don't worry—resting a computer on thighs for too long will not cause walking disabilities. As mentioned on Healthline, walking disabilities are often caused by injury or compression of the sciatic nerve, none of which occur when a laptop is simply placed on one's lap.

But it was recently reported on CNN Health that a young boy from Switzerland, who was playing computer games for several hours straight, developed a rash on his thighs. After visiting the Dermatology Department at the University Hospital Basel in Basel, Switzerland, doctors confirmed that the source of the young patient's rash was due to heat from his computer.

Fortunately, the treatment was to simply remove the source of heat, which, more specifically, meant taking the laptop off of the boy's lap. The boy's dermatologist, Doctor Bav Shergill, stated that the skin rash would clear up quickly without any long-term effects.

While a case study by researchers from the State University of New York has found that laptop heat



Photo By | Rosana Liang

**TOO HOT TO HANDLE**—Resting your laptop on your thighs could lead to health problems

can significantly reduce sperm count in men, it was also found that any unnatural warming of the scrotum tends to have the same effect on sperm count.

Spermatogenesis, or the production and development of sperm cells, is dependent on temperature. The case study found that keeping a computer on one's lap can raise the temperature of the testicles by up to about three degrees Celcius, which is equal to about 37 degrees Fahrenheit. A rise in temperature can reduce sperm count by up to 40 percent. After a break in the exposure to the heat source, sperm count began to increase, suggesting that the heat produced by the laptop is merely a short-term effect.

It may be convenient, but placing a laptop directly on the lap still has minimal health risks and is not good for the computer. Laptops need a hard surface for their air vents to release heat

for a long lifespan. An overheated computer runs slower, and has a shorter computer life.

Although the name may be misleading, laptops were made to be computers that could be easily moved to different locations, not necessarily to be placed on the lap for long periods of time. One can avoid possible rashes and computer damage by simply placing a textbook or other hard surface underneath the laptop to avoid direct heat contact with your thighs.

“I recently noticed my computer getting hotter faster, so I bought a lap desk from a bookstore,” said Mia Giovanetti, a fourth-year UCSB Business Economics major.

“My computer doesn't overheat when I use it, and it is more comfortable on my legs. Not to mention I can eat Ramen, do schoolwork, and be in bed all at the same time.”

But not all UCSB students are planning on changing their habits.

“Seeing as [laptop thigh] has never happened to me or anyone I know, I'm not too worried about it,” said Kelly Jaeger, a UCSB fourth-year Communication major.

Some students choose to use a table when having to use a laptop for extended periods of time.

“When I write a paper, I go to the library and use tables there,” said Caroline Rowland, a UCSB fourth-year Global Studies major.

“I only put the laptop on my lap when I'm at home using my computer for leisure, which is usually [for] short periods [of] time.”

Although using laptops on one's lap may lead to short-term health problems, like rashes and a lower sperm count, it is not overly dangerous in terms of long-term health and well-being.

# Mono Prevalent in Isla Vista



Photo By || Rosana Liang

**DON'T SHARE FOOD**—The kissing disease has invaded Isla Vista

Kat Wilcox  
Staff Writer

Once heralded "the kissing disease," mononucleosis, more colloquially known as mono, is a big concern for the typical Isla Vista college student. In the 2009 academic school year, UC Santa Barbara Student Health Services recorded 119 cases of mononucleosis.

"It's always one of our common diagnoses," said Mary Ferris, PhD, Director of Student Health. "It's an infection that mostly occurs in young adults, [because] it's a time of life where there's a lot of close contact."

In other words, when college students are crowded together and saliva exchange is easy, so is the transmission of mono.

Because mono is a virus, there is no effective antibiotic for it. Often a student may not know that he or she is infected, since the virus' incubation period—the time it takes for symptoms to surface—is about a month. Once infected, individuals will carry the virus for the rest of their life.

According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), "Many healthy people can spread the virus intermittently for life and transmission of the virus is almost impossible to

prevent." The CDC estimates that, in the United States alone, 95 percent of adults have been infected.

Mono cases range in severity, with mild cases amounting to a long-lasting cold while more serious cases can cause students to drop out of school. Symptoms can include fever, sore throat, extreme fatigue, and swelling of the liver, spleen, and lymph nodes. Symptoms typically last one to two months.

Eve Rothfarb, a Student Services Representative for the UCSB Office of the Registrar, says that the Registrar frequently processes withdrawals from the university due to mono infection.

"It's not uncommon," said Rothfarb. "This is a common age for students to get mono."

But there are a number of measures students can take to prevent infection, and the university has resources to help infected students.

"Protect yourself with good hand and oral hygiene, get your rest, and avoid excessive partying behavior," advises Dr. Ferris.

Common steps to avoid the cold or flu apply to preventing mono as well: consuming plenty of Vitamin C, maintaining a proper diet and exercise regimen, and getting a good night's

sleep can go a long way in keeping students well.

While sick with mono, there are a number of measures students can take to stay on top of their schoolwork.

"Work with the professor on a plan for incompletes," suggests Rothfarb. "A student might be able to handle a lighter load temporarily, or focus on one or two classes."

Because the illness is temporary, the Disabled Students Program generally can't assist a student with mono. But if complications from the virus arise, assistance may be granted on a case-by-case basis. Another resource for a student with mono is Campus Learning Assistance Services (CLAS), which offers free tutoring, workshops and drop-in hours.

Short of good medical and hygiene habits, there's not much the UCSB student can do to avoid mononucleosis entirely. From kissing to sharing drinks, coughing classmates and drinking games, transmission is almost inevitable. But consensus among university administrators seems to be the same—communication with professors and TAs and taking an active role in fighting symptoms can go a long way in battling this rampant adolescent virus.

Cont. from Front Page:

## EGYPT—

pus Director for the UCSB EAP, students in Egypt were to resume their studies on January 31, beginning the new term. He also said that the program is well equipped to handle emergency situations.

"The American University in Cairo has a very elaborate set of procedures that it has initiated throughout the years," he said. "Since that time, EAP here has not only established their own risk management team but also they have contracted with a private firm that provides risk management advice."

One of the procedures for studying abroad includes filling out a form of emergency insurance, which helps cover the costs involved with providing security and extractions in the event such actions become necessary.

"I was very impressed about how efficiently they operated," Campo said, referring to the group tasked with evacuating the students. "They were able to find the students where they were. Given the complexities involved, they were amazing. I think it happened without any incident at all."

On February 1, the U.S. State Department issued a travel advisory for Americans in Egypt, advising all non-emergency citizens to leave the country. That advisory warns of large-scale demonstrations with the potential for violence, as well as social and political unrest.

On Tuesday, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak announced that he would

not seek reelection.

For UCSB fourth-year Political Science major Jon Berthet, the protests this week are much larger than ones he saw when he studied in that country last year.

"One time there was a protest, and you couldn't see the people at all because the riot police were covering the scene, but you could hear them," Berthet said. "They all have a reason to hate on the government, but there was no avenue or venue for them to seek out."

Berthet was a student in the EAP program last year, and studied about political science in the region while at the American University of Cairo. He took particular interest in the politics of the region, including political Islam.

"[Egypt is] like the center for a lot of political issues, which is one of my interests," Berthet said. "The government is everywhere. If you want anything to happen, there's this building in the middle of the square, and any big political thing goes there. It was the symbol of Egypt, and the symbol of Mubarak's bureaucracy."

For someone who saw the people's angst first hand, Berthet said he understands why the people are protesting the government.

"For 60 years now there have always been suppressed protests," he said. "It just seemed like there was hope, to a degree, but there was no way of operationalizing it to where it could actually happen. I feel like what people are doing now is what they've always wanted to do but have never been able to."

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# Get Ready for the 2011 Academy Awards



Courtesy of | Andrea Rodriguez

**Oscars**—The Academy Awards will take place on February 27

Simone Spilka  
*Staff Writer*

After his appearance at the Arlington theater in Santa Barbara, the talented and oh-so-sexy- James Franco will be making his way down the California Coast to the Kodak Theatre in Hollywood to co-host the 83rd Academy Awards alongside actress Anne Hathaway.

On February 27, 2011 the ceremony, commonly known as the Oscars, will honor the best films of 2010 in 24 competitive categories.

Want your chance to enjoy the most prestigious award show in the movie industry with the celebrities themselves? Well, the first option is to join the Academy, but if that falls through, head to Plan B and start your planning in early September. With 300 bleacher lottery seats available to the public, entrants apply months in advance for their randomly selected chance to win.

Other dedicated fans can become

seat fillers. Adults can sign up with one of the two most well known organizations, Seat Filler and Dynamic People Club, for their chance to earn a spot star-gazing. Seat fillers are required to blend in with the best-dressed crowd of people and stand in the back of the theatre until there is a brief moment to take to the place of a celebrity and wait for them to return.

But the rules of this celebrity musical chairs includes no speaking, taking photographs, or asking for autographs, as well as no food from 1p.m. until 7p.m.

Still sound appealing? If not, spice up award show season by rolling out your own red carpet to Del Playa Drive and making it an occasion to stay classy in Isla Vista. Enjoy a bottle of champagne while watching the stars arrive and playing your own rendition of fashion police. Download ballots at [www.oscars.org](http://www.oscars.org) to vote like the Academy and have prices for the biggest movie junkie of 2010.

That being said, with only days remaining, head to the cinema or rack

up Netflix orders and watch the ten films nominated for Best Picture of the Year to impress friends with all of your inside-the-envelope knowledge.

*The King's Speech*, a film about King George VI's struggles to overcome an intense speech impediment, leads the pack with 12 nominations.

Leading actor Colin Firth was quoted saying he was, "not used to this much joy, or this much champagne at this hour."

David Fincher's *The Social Network* is another highly praised film of the year about the founders of Facebook, the website that has changed our generation. The 27-year-old Jesse Eisenberg is nominated for Best Actor for his perfected portrayal of Time's Man of the Year Mark Zuckerberg. If the Academy votes in his favor, Eisenberg will be the youngest actor in history to receive the honor.

Another timeless actor, Natalie Portman, has been recognized for her role in the deep and dark film *Black Swan*, about two rival ballerinas. Kenneth Turan

described the film as, "When Tutu Goes Psycho."

And we can't forget about *Inception*, the film that had people returning to the big screen second and third times to follow Leonardo DiCaprio as he goes to deeper, deeper and deeper levels of dreams to create and manipulate even the most fixed ideas of the human mind.

A break from the serious and powerful script nominations, *The Kids are All Right* is a witty and cleverly written film about familial relationships. This family, however, consists of two moms, two kids and one sperm donor. The cast of Annette Bening, Julianne Moore and Mark Ruffalo all make the movie one that is undeniably entertaining and a must-see.

Another feature film is the lovable *Toy Story 3* that left adults and children equally impressed. UCSB third year Biology major Shona Beatty agreed with its numerable nominations.

"Not only is it very difficult to make a third version of movie that can measure up to the first two's reputations, but it is amazing that it is able to entertain all ages with its clever, funny, emotional, and action-filled plot," she said. "Children are well able to relate to the imagination that toys bring to life, and adults were reminded of the nostalgia they feel for childhood and innocence."

UCSB third year Economy and Accounting major Jace Swank is placing his bets on *True Grit*, which he describes as a movie about the old west, but one that makes you feel like you're really on the plains of the old west, living the rough and tough lifestyle.

"The combination of action, well written story line, and the occasional humor makes this movie an instant great," said Swank.

127 Hours, *The Fighter* and *Winter's Bone* complete the nominations in a competitive list that will make this years Academy Awards one for the records.

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## Grad Students Exhibit Original Art



*Photo By | Lizzie Liu*

**Original Art**—UCSB Student Garret Tom takes a closer look at an art exhibit.

**Samantha McMullen**  
*Arts and Reviews Editor*

Harder Stadium opened up to reveal the art of 14 graduate students who work and create in the studios under the bleachers where UC Santa Barbara cheers on its soccer players on Saturday, February 5. Under the bleachers, there was a plethora of activity as the artists presented their works to their audience, along with a free barbeque and an accompanying keg.

Each studio was filled with the art works of the Master of Fine Arts (MFA) students. Some chose to show their work in a gallery style and others left their studios cluttered with supplies and showed their in-process work as well as some finished pieces.

Nick Loewen, a UCSB first year graduate student used insulation materials in his installation.

One piece Loewen exhibited was of three towers, roof to ceiling, made of small, quarter size cork board pieces. The towers looked like they were balanced delicately, but Loewen revealed that he used thread to keep the towers from falling over.

"I like to take materials that are man made but made from raw materials, like corkboard, and morph them into objects that look like different raw materials," said Loewen when asked about why he chose to use such materials as insulation, corkboard, thread and plaster in his work.

Another student, Tim Brown,

packed his studio full of projects.

One of Brown's projects was a pile of dog figurines that had been glued together into a pile, creating a "Dog-Pile." Brown said that as a child, he had thought these would be worth millions and had kept him for that purpose, but after a vast eBay search his childhood dreams were shattered when he found out they were worthless.

But not for long.

By making them into a "found-object" sculpture, Brown makes an ironic piece that, like his other work, is linked to his childhood.

"It is cool to step into the spaces and experience the art... it is as close to seeing work from the artists eye as you can get," said UCSB first year Philosophy major Lena Veronica Sok.

Another graduate student, Bessie Kunath, showed some of her favorite pieces that were made from packing molds. Kunath said she liked to use these things because they are normally just thrown out, and she wanted to give them a chance to be beautiful. Her goal in doing this is to break down the relationship between objects and people.

A lot of the artists used found-objects in their work, or used tools normally not associated with traditional works to make their pieces. This gave the show a lot of variety, as the artists had free reign on their projects and had many different styles of work. The show will be ongoing for the next couple weeks.

## Interpol Takes the Stage at UCSB



*Photo By | Holly Keomany*

**Paul Banks**—Lead singer and guitarist of Interpol plays at the Thunderdome.

**Simone Spilka**  
*Staff Writer*

Interpol, the Indie band from New York, rocked out for a huge crowd of people at the UC Santa Barbara Events Center on Friday, February 4 and did not disappoint. The trio played for an eccentric crowd of UCSB students, Los Angeles residents and older adults.

The UCSB Associated Students Program Board managed to book the group, while on their North America tour, to perform between a Conan O'Brien appearance and the much anticipated show at Coachella.

Given the nature of the group's fame and notoriety, this was not a concert to miss.

"I couldn't believe it when I saw the tickets were only \$23," said UCSB third year Environmental

Studies major Graham Stephens. "I mean they're huge; it's such a steal. I can't wait to hear them perform [their song] 'Obstacle 1'."

At 8 p.m., the band School of Seven Bells opened the concert while eager fans pushed to claim their spots at the front for Interpol. There was an antsy thirty-minute break between the opener and headliner bands that fortunately didn't stop enthusiasm from skyrocketing when 9:30 p.m. arrived.

The lights came on, and Interpol opened with "Success", and a success it was indeed. The hour and a half

set incorporated older, favorite songs as well as hits off their fourth and latest self-titled album released in September of 2010.

Popular numbers included "Evil, Lights" and "Rest my Chemistry" among others, with each song enjoyed by the audience as much as the last. The crowd sang along to front man Paul Banks' distinct and baritone vocals, whose live sound mimicked (if not surpassed) any album recording.

Praise is owed to the musical geniuses for their undeniably powerful stage presence and talent. The sound quality exceeded all expectations and each song was customized to a light show flashing yellow, blue and red to illuminate the stage.

The show confirmed that Interpol has an indisputable passion for performing.

Dissimilar to other bands, the men were not concerned with speaking to the audience. Instead, they were fully focused on the music.

After a rendition of "Slow Hands", the band left the stage while some skeptical fans questioned their return. But after such an epic show - how could they not?

An unusually long time of "encoring" later lead to an unusually long four-song encore; I was in music heaven. Their decision to start back up again with "Lighthouse" was an unfortunate change of pace as it's slower melody was more sleep inducing than pick-me-up, but within the change of a riff they were back in full-force.

"My favorite song was definitely "Barricade" during the encore; the whole crowd was getting into it and it's so easy to dance to," said Jordan Miller, UCSB third-year Communication major. "Con: They didn't play "Obstacle 1". Pro: Everything Else. This was my first time seeing Interpol live and they rocked the Thunderdome."

**TBL MEETS EVERY  
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# “The Space”: Isla Vista’s Music Hotbed



Photos By | Michelle Zaragoza

**Filling the Space**—Local musicians make use of their musical mecca.

Matt Brooks  
*Staff Writer*

On any weeknight, take a short walk in Isla Vista down Embarcadero Del Norte to a small, hardly noticeable street called Seville Road that wraps to the left just before Korean BBQ. Once there, listen for the distinct jolts of clamoring percussion, the faint crunching riffs of an electric guitar, and the smooth yet powerful undercurrent of an amplified bass emanate from a seemingly unremarkable pair of public storage buildings.

Unofficially dubbed “The Space” by the people who use it, these twin storage facilities provide an ideal haven for local IV bands that come together to play their music.

Andrew Piepenbrink is one of the many musicians who frequent this lesser-known island of Isla Vista subculture.

“This is a place for music. Most of the people who use this place aren’t even students and not many people know about it, but there are a lot of bands with great work ethic,” said Piepenbrink. “It’s almost religious for them. They come and you can hear at least someone practicing really hard every night of the week.”

Around 60 bands have sojourn to The Space as a kind of musical

Mecca. Most of them are forced share the available rooms because of high rent and limited space.

“It’s about \$400-600 total for these rooms, and most bands share to divide the costs,” said Cody Franklin, a third-year Sociology major who rents out Room 6 with his band, The Erectors. “I pay about \$160 a month on my own, but I don’t mind because I freaking love playing music. I’ve been coming here since I was a freshman.”

The resourcefulness it took to transform this run-of-the-mill storage facility into the gem of a jam-shack it is and the sacrifices these guys make to be able to use it makes The Space a physical embodiment of the kind of classic “make do with what you got” attitude.

Franklin was busy at work with Eric Harris, the guitar player and singer of The Erectors and Culinary Arts student at SBCC, making their demo to be submitted to the Associated Student Board’s Battle of the Bands, which will take place on Thursday, February 24 at The Hub—it’s free, so be sure to check it out.

The Erectors’ cramped, self-made “recording-studio” is so packed with equipment that the door only opens a few degrees before banging up against something. The walls are lined with posters of classic bands like Led Zeppelin along side old

rugs and shredded pieces of mattress foam in an attempt to create some kind sound insulation.

The sight is reminiscent of the legends we hear about successful musicians who struggled before making it big. The basement that White Zombie once lived in, back when they were barely surviving on peanut butter, could have looked and felt just like Cody and Eric’s set up in Room 6. The spirit is there, that willingness to scramble and sacrifice for something you love.

The Space has a long running history of being a “hive” of jam-shacks. Bands pioneered the units to be used for practice in the 1980’s, and The Space has since spawned some fairly successful groups. Among the original visionaries who saw its potential as a practice area were the members of a hardcore punk band formed in 1982 called Rich Kids on LSD (RKL). The young bunch of music junkies stumbled on the location and approached the owner, a man known as “Cricket,” who allowed them to make use of it.

Signs of the RKL’s presence can still be found as Jesse Youngblood, a member of the band The Groms, pointed out.

“If you come inside our unit you can still see some faded lyrics that RKL had written up on the ceiling in like 1982, before getting signed,” Youngblood said.

The Space was also home to a current rising act in music: the Santa Barbara based reggae band Rebelution, who is soon releasing its second studio album and have been playing in big-name festivals across the country for the past few years.

Franklin also mentioned Rebelution’s history with The Space.

“Rebelution used to practice here all the time before they were signed. They tour a lot now, but actually still come here sometimes, when they’re in town, and we’ve heard them practicing just a few doors down before,” he said.

The Space also houses a band called Dante Elephante that has been featured in *The Independent* and recently won second place in a downtown Santa Barbara Battle of the Bands. Dante Elephante members shifted their focus to playing at UCSB’s Freestyle Extravaganza Concert on Friday, February 4 in the Events Center. Other notable names include Boom Box Orchestra and The Internets, who frequently play downtown and in IV.

If you are at all curious about joining a band, renting a space for your own project, finding a band to play at your next party, or maybe just becoming a groupie, then head down to The Space where you’ll find a flurry of eager talent ready to rock out.

# Are Profits Greater Than Seneferu's Paintings Do the Talking Personal Protection?



Courtesy Of | bren.ucsb.edu

**Oil Spill**—While lucrative, oil drilling comes with many inherent dangers.

Krissy Reyes-Ortiz  
Staff Writer

*The Spills: Mixing Oil and Water* was shown in Pollock Theater on Friday, January 28, on the night before the 42nd anniversary of the Santa Barbara Oil Spill. The film pointed out that the tar on the Santa Barbara beaches are not only the remnants of the oil spill, but are also proof that corporations sometimes put their company's savings and profits before the safety of their equipment and workers, which is a downfall for everyone in the end.

*The Spills: Mixing Oil and Water* is about bringing societal awareness about worker and environmental hazards, as well as ambition and its consequences.

The film reveals the work practices of BP, one of the largest oil companies in America, and suggests that BP values profit over the safety of people. Its facilities have many safety and fire hazards, which its managers denied knowledge about. BP performed 25 percent price cuts in order to save money instead of reconstructing their facilities. This lack of reconstruction led to oil rig explosions, large fires, malfunctioning equipment, eroded pipes and untrained workers.

Despite the numerous accidents and apologies by BP, the company did not take action in reforming their policies to protect its people and the environment. Even though BP was successful in expanding their operations throughout the country, they were unsuccessful in operational excellence. The movie clearly showed that corruption within large businesses affects everyone.

In the panel discussion that followed the film, ProPublica journalist Abraham Lustgarten, who worked on the film, explained that the film did not produce all of the reactions which he expected.

"Even though the film created a positive impact on the government and their communication, public relations didn't change people's opinions about BP. I'd like to say that I've seen change, but I haven't," Lustgarten said.

However, the film was successful in changing the mind of the audience.

Oxana Ermolova, a UCSB first year Dance and Global Studies double major, was especially shocked by the information that was revealed in the movie.

"I found the subject of the documentary to be rather frustrating and upsetting, since it exposes how big business trumps environmental consciousness and basic human morality," Ermolova said.

Robert Gramling, discussion panelist, author, and professor of Sociology at the University of Louisiana, remarked on how much of a problem oil spills really are.

"Once the oil is in the water, it's over. We have lost the war," Gramling said.

Gramling also proposed many ways to prevent future oil spills from damaging the environment. He suggests that the government should review the existing off-shore leasing policies to ensure that they are safe. He urges for the government to enforce these regulations and create a stronger public policy based on the honesty of companies. In order for the businesses to remain honest, Gramling requests that organizations such as the Occupational Safety and Health Administration should set the rules and regulations for off-shore drilling and should perform the inspections and investigations rather than the industries themselves. He believes that if these things were to be done, the workers, the environment and the whole world would have a lower risk of harm.

"It's prevention, it's prevention, it's prevention," Gramling said.



Photo By | Michelle Zaragoza

**Art Exhibit**—The paintings of Malik Seneferu on display at the MCC.

Ross Dyer  
Staff Writer

San Francisco artist Malik Seneferu greeted students and visitors with an enlightening dialogue at the Multi-Cultural Center on Monday, January 31.

As Seneferu addressed the student body on the black experience in America, audience members sat encircled by a kaleidoscope of colors as Seneferu's paintings hung on the surrounding walls. Dealing with themes of identity, race, and heritage,

Seneferu's paintings drip with soul-searching.

"I came from an ugly environment, where people are told they're ugly," said Seneferu.

While speaking about his impoverished upbringing in San Francisco's Hunters Point district, Seneferu offered wisdom for others on how to elevate one's self out of such dire circumstance.

"No matter how hard you have it, you can create your way out of it," he said.

This ethos is captured eloquently in his painting, "Kujichagulia." Kujichagulia, a Swahili term for

self-determination, is one painting in Seneferu's "Raw Series."

Painted on a raw canvas about seven feet across, "Kujichagulia" depicts the transformation of a black fetus into a man gliding over a cotton field with an American flag with question marks instead of stars soaring in the background. It is a painting comprised of fractured moments that work together as a whole.

Seneferu calls this piece one of his intense realities that is hard to look at. He described his process of just taking directly to the canvas to see what would come out of the interaction and not pre-meditating on his paintings.

Seneferu's "Aesthetic Ascension" depicts an African warrior donning a tribal mask standing in waves with swimming fish. The pastel painting also makes use of decorative and elaborate symbols—just one of the primitive writing systems Seneferu incorporates into his imagery.

"This is one of my visions of Africa I imagined when I was a child," said Seneferu.

It wasn't until adulthood that he finally got the chance to travel around Kenya.

"I'm really wowed by the

amount of pieces displayed here in the MCC," said UCSB fourth-year English Literature major Erich Tomkinson.

"I really like Seneferu's vibrant color schemes and the palette he works with on all these paintings."

But some of the paintings weren't bright, reflecting the harsh realities of growing up as a black male in the United States.

The most thought provoking of Seneferu's works included paintings that referenced "COINTELPRO" (an acronym for Counter Intelligence Program), a series of covert operations by the FBI during the 1960s that included falsifying media reports, disrupting political organizations, and even assassination, such as the murder of Chicago Black Panther Party Leader Fred Hampton.

"Looking at his work you can really understand his perspective and where he comes from in life," said UCSB third-year Economics/Accounting major Rose Collins.

Seneferu's work is powerful, political, and unapologetic and will be on exhibition in the MCC until Friday, March 11.

# SANTA BARBARA INTERNATIONAL

## Rising Star James Franco Honored at SBIFF

Matt Brooks  
Staff Writer

A hoard of hysterical—mostly female—fans greeted James Franco at this year's Santa Barbara International Film Festival, cheering him on as he made his way to the red carpet at Arlington Theater on Saturday, January 29.

Franco appeased his idlers by taking time to sign autographs and take pictures around the perimeter of the event, even if it meant being a little late to the night's ceremony. During the ceremony, Franco received the SBIFF Outstanding Performance of the Year Award for his career-transforming performance in the film *127 Hours*, directed by Danny Boyle.

For those of you unaware of who James Franco is, he's the guy on your girlfriend's desktop background. His acting career has steadily been rising with his most popular roles to date as the loveable pot dealer Saul from *Pineapple Express*, his run as Harry Osborn in the *Spiderman* film series, and his supporting role along side Sean Penn in *Milk*.

Aside from these obvious successes, Franco's career up to this point had made him out to be somewhat of a Hollywood pretty boy who had made a few poor career choices, but who also managed to gain a substantial female fan base. He also managed to become a part of some cult classic hits (*Freaks and Geeks* anyone?) along the way.

His dynamic portrayal of real-life mountain climber Aaron Ralston earned him recognition at SBIFF. Franco depicted Ralston's amazing experience as a climber trapped inside a desert canyon who eventually amputated his arm in order to survive. The top notch performance catapulted Franco into a new realm of respectability as an actor, earning him mountains of critical appraisal and an Oscar nomination.

UC Santa Barbara second-year Political Science major Rosalinda Garcia attended the special screening for *127 Hours* that took place at the Lobero Theater hours before the

awards ceremony.

"I thought James Franco was amazing. I thought it would be obviously good to get to watch just him for an hour, but his acting was so believable and he can be really funny," said Garcia.

Inside Arlington Theater, Franco sat down with Leonard Maltin in front of a packed house for an extensive, not to mention entertaining, Question and Answer session, complete with clips from Franco's various films. The sly Franco charmed his audience with stories about his rise in the movie industry and the oftentimes humorous experiences he

had along the way.

One of his more wild experiences occurred while working with Nicolas Cage.

"It was crazy. I was playing a male prostitute—so I wanted to meet some male prostitutes," said Franco. "For some reason Nick also wanted to meet some, so we both went into downtown New Orleans for a day and, well, that's what we did."

After establishing himself as a legitimate working actor, Franco took an unexpected turn for a Hollywood star—he went back to school at UCLA (there is a very humorous picture of Franco sleeping in class at

UCLA on the Internet that's worth searching for).

Since then, he has attended several universities and is currently studying at Yale.

Franco seems to enjoy surprising people. His hilarious performance in *Pineapple Express* "turned a lot of heads" as Leonard Maltin put it, and his later work in *Milk* once again shook up his image, proving he could hang with legendary actors in serious dramatic roles.

His most recent quirky career move was his decision to join the cast of *General Hospital*, a popular soap opera, as serial killer Franco.

Seth Rogen presented Franco with the award. The two friends have known each other since they spent time working together on Judd Apatow's cult classic TV show *Freaks and Geeks*.

During his speech, Rogen made many jokes at Franco's expense.

"James Franco and I have never smoked weed together. That is just insane," said Rogen. "I never should've let him play Saul, then surely I'd be sitting there being interviewed by Leonard Maltin and hosting the Oscars and he'd be standing here giving a speech."



Photo By | Holly Keomany

S.B.I.F.F.—Actor James Franco charms the audience.

# NATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

## 127 Hours Puts Life in Perspective



Courtesy Of | Filmjunk.com

Elysia Cook  
Distribution Manager

Up until recently, most UCSB students probably associated James Franco with his role as a drug dealer in the 2008 movie *Pineapple Express*. But after his performance in the 2010 film *127 Hours* that premiered at the Santa Barbara International Film Festival last weekend, I'm sure that people will start identifying Franco with that movie from now on (if they haven't already).

Franco plays Aron Ralston, a man who in 2003 got trapped under a rock in Utah's Blue John Canyon and eventually cut off his right arm in order to escape. Franco delivers an exquisite and profound portrayal of Ralston's endeavor as the film chronicles all 127 hours of his story in one hour and 34 minutes of cinematic mastery.

Since the story is based on Ralston's autobiography *Between a Rock and a Hard Place*, the premise and outcome of the story is no shocker to those who view it. But what makes *127 Hours* stand out is how beautifully and effortlessly Franco's character uses his isolation to his advantage.

As the only character on screen for about 95 percent of the movie, Franco portrays Ralston's frustration, vulnerability, and ultimately growth as a person in a way that makes audiences feel like they're stuck under that rock with him, sharing his initial exasperation and panic, taking part in his small but significant victories (such as when he retrieved his knife from the ground using his foot and a stick), and feeling his excruciating pain during the climax of the film when he frees himself.

"Because there were no other actors, in a way it was like we (the cast and crew) were all sharing the character," said Franco at the Santa

Barbara International Film Festival.

There's also an unspoken relationship between Franco and the viewer because the viewer feels like he or she is the only one who can empathize with his character in his dire situation. At least Tom Hanks had a volleyball to talk to in *Cast Away*; Franco only has himself to confide in via a video camera. It is during those scenes when he records himself that the connection between him and the audience seems most potent since he's looking straight into the camera. That's where the film transcends its literal concept and delves into an emotional realm that not many other films can enter.

Despite how the film primarily rides on Franco's performance, I believe that his acting alone would not have been enough to garner as many awards and nominations as it has. Throw in Danny Boyle's flashy, stylistic direction, and suddenly the film is impeccably stimulating both emotionally and visually.

One shot that struck me was when the camera showed Franco peering into his water bottle to examine how much water he had left. The shot panned from the bottom of the bottle looking up at Franco's eye to the top of the bottle looking down at the bottom, where only a pathetic amount of water remained. The contrasting angles represent Franco looking down at himself in the canyon—an outsider staring into a desolate, hopeless hole.

The coupling of Franco's acting and Boyle's directing is what gives *127 Hours* its driving force and ability to speak to audiences on a deeper level (literally and figuratively).

Although it's not a feel-good movie you'd want to watch over and over again, it's a film that puts things in perspective. It reminds us that those things we all take for granted—whether that be family, a home, or even contact lens solution—could be gone in 127 hours, a day, or even a second.

## The Kids Are All Right

Elysia Cook  
Distribution Manager

Amidst all the hype in the media lately about same-sex couples, some may argue that Lisa Cholodenko's 2010 comedy drama *The Kids Are All Right* premiered at a bad time. But really, it could not have come out at a better time.

The film, which stars Annette Bening, Julianne Moore, Mark Ruffalo, Mia Wasikowska and Josh Hutcherson revolves around what occurs when Nic (Bening) and Jules (Moore) have to deal with their sperm donor named Paul (Ruffalo) after their children Joni and Laser (Wasikowska and Hutcherson) contact him during one long summer.

The beauty of the film lies in how it portrays an unconventional twenty-first century family in a way that is still relatable to the audience.

Despite the obvious fact that the story's leading couple is comprised of two lesbians rather than a heterosexual male-female couple, Cholodenko shows how substituting "Adam" with another "Eve" doesn't deprive the plot of any substance or entertainment.

There are still plenty of scenes and instances that correspond with typical family dynamics and milestones—the family shares dinners and many awkward moments, they all drop off Joni at college, and Nic and Jules struggle to maintain the spark in their relationship.

But it's the little details and quirks that set *The Kids Are All Right* apart from other family-interpersonal relationship movies. Cue the dual "World's Best Mom" mugs that Nic and Jules both use, the gay male porn that they watch during their alone time, and the reference of them by Joni as "Momses." These small but significant indicators of the movie's uniqueness show how same-sex relationships may follow the road less traveled, but that road still leads in the same direction and destination—happiness and cohesiveness within a



Courtesy Of | Filminfocus.com

**The Kids Are All Right**—A portrait of a not-your-everyday family

household.

"Really, it [the plot] is a classic structure—trying to keep a family together; a couple who runs into problems," said Bening before she accepted the American Riviera Award at the Santa Barbara Film Festival on Monday, January 28.

When Paul—played understatedly well by Mark Ruffalo—enters, the biological sperm donor of Joni and Laser adds a spin to the plot when the kids contact him to learn more about the man who gave them half of their chromosomes. This is where the film's direction sharply turns and gives the movie its distinguishing angle. Although Paul's laid back demeanor and fun-loving attitude make him seem like a cool uncle or a chill older brother, the fact remains that he is the father of Joni and Laser—and to Nic, an imposing presence on her family.

The sequence of events that follows is a roller coaster of interactions between the characters, which culminates to create a jeopardizing disarray of emotions.

Cholodenko seems to be partial toward emphasizing dyadic relationships, and explores the various com-

binations throughout the film. The audience is allowed an insider's perspective as they watch the primary relationship between Jules and Nic disintegrate, the relationship between Paul and the kids strengthen after an initially uncomfortable introduction and the scandalous relationship between Jules and Paul unfold behind closed doors.

What makes *The Kids Are All Right* work is how Cholodenko balances the humorous, lighthearted elements of a stereotypical American family with the deeper, more serious underlying relationships of the characters that give the story its breadth and depth.

Despite the fact that there is no fairytale ending to look forward to (the ending itself is actually somewhat ambiguous), the film is a cleverly crafted family-dynamic story that speaks out not only to the same-sex couple community, but to everyone else as well. Its ability to blur the lines of what is considered a "normal" relationship and convey that message in a comical, yet heartwarming way is what makes *The Kids Are All Right* more than just an "alright" movie—it makes it an extraordinary one.

# SANTA BARBARA INTERNATIONAL

## The Kings Speech Leaves Audience Speechless



Photos By | Rosana Liang

**Walking the Red Carpet**—Geoffrey Rush, Helena Bonham Carter, and Colin Firth

Elysia Cook  
*Distribution Manager*

There were definitely moments in *The King's Speech* that left me, in a somewhat ironic way, speechless. As the Duke of York-turned-King during the 1920's and '30's, Colin Firth delivers a provoking and heart-wrenching portrayal of the royal figure as he tries and fails to hide his speech impediment from society, many times with no avail.

The opening scene of the film stunned audiences into an awkward silence as the duke steps up to a microphone in a stadium full of people, only to start stammering moments into his address. It is from this beginning scene that the duke establishes himself as a sort of anti-hero, an unexpected underdog and subsequently sets the premise for the movie.

From that point forward, the film chronicles the king's search for a cure (as strongly encouraged by the Duchess, played by Helena Bonham Carter) and how he eventually ends up at the hands of Lionel Logue (played by Geoffrey Rush), a hole-in-the-wall Australian speech therapist whose unorthodox methods help the

disheartened king overcome both his impediment and his self-deprecating attitude.

But the climax of the movie, though inspiring and monumental, isn't even the most memorable part of the movie. It is the bond that develops between the student and his teacher over the duration of the film that gives *The King's Speech* its heart, as well as its humorous elements. The relationship between Logue and 'Bertie' (as Logue calls him) begins as only a professional one, but gradually deepens into a simultaneous friendship that makes Bertie's primary purpose for seeing Logue a much more intimate affair.

Through their therapy sessions, Bertie slowly starts to fix his speech problem and also discloses personal information to Logue that gives both Logue and audiences a look into his troubled past. His lamentable childhood memories, which Logue believes contributes to Bertie's stammer, only make viewers more sympathetic to Bertie and their desire for him to succeed more prominent.

As the king, whose standard of excellence is thrust upon him, Firth does an impeccable job at

portraying Bertie. He doesn't try to exaggerate the king's notorious stammer, which is what really gives his character authenticity. Though the king's personality is also not that appealing to begin with (Bertie is reserved, stubborn, and frequently has sporadic temper tantrums), Firth somehow makes his character likeable to the audience and establishes himself as the afflicted protagonist.

The growth of Bertie's character over the course of the film is supported beautifully by Rush's representation of Logue, who takes care not to overshadow Firth but still manages to stand out. The on-screen chemistry between the two carries the film for its nearly two-hour running time, and redefines the meaning of a "bromance."

Ultimately, *The King's Speech* dazzles with its acting rather than with special effects and high-action scenes. For those looking for a visually stimulating film, this one might not be what you're looking for. But for film enthusiasts searching for a thought-provoking, heart-wrenching and historically conscious film, *The King's Speech* is more than ideal.



Photo By | Spencer Bruttig

## SBIFF Dubs Christopher Nolan a Master Filmmaker

Matt Brooks  
*Staff Writer*

Innovative director Christopher Nolan received the Modern Master Award at this year's Santa Barbara International Film Festival for his work on the instant classic science fiction thriller *Inception* on Sunday, January 30 at Arlington Theater.

Nolan discussed his career and various aspects of filmmaking, after which Leonardo DiCaprio presented Nolan with the award.

Nolan's serene, highly contemplative demeanor throughout the night reflected the care and attention to detail that he puts into his films, which tend to incorporate layered, complex plot lines and are often unapologetically intellectual.

"I don't sit there and think 'Oh I'm this special, unique person and no one would ever want to see a film like that.' No, if I like an idea I trust that there will be an audience for it and that someone else will appreciate it too," said Nolan. "There are a lot of companies that will embrace new, innovative ideas and ambitious projects."

Admiration for Nolan hung thick in the air.

"I think a guy like that only comes along every once and a while. Every single one of his movies is so original and so powerful," said UC Santa Barbara fourth-year Anthropology major and audience member Lindy Oliver Ramirez. "I couldn't miss

an opportunity to see such a special talent share his wisdom."

Arlington Theater was the perfect venue for Nolan's reception. Its unique interior, designed to look like a villa courtyard, added a distinctly Santa Barbara feel as well as an element of class to the ceremony.

Throughout the night it was interesting to hear about the difficulties Nolan encountered in his early stages of breaking into the industry, especially regarding the slow process of getting *Memento* into theaters.

"We were screening it for any company who would see it, but most people weren't getting it. But there would always be one or two people who got it and I tried to hold on to those in my head, you know, as signs of hope it could eventually be received well, and eventually it was," he said.

Nolan was pleased to be recognized for his achievements by SBIFF, one of the biggest film festivals in the world, and said that it was an encouragement to continue filmmaking.

"Hopefully my family will keep me from getting a big head from all this attention I'm getting," joked Nolan.

Maybe a big head is in order for a man who has helped changed the course of filmmaking forever.

"He no longer challenges our ideas about film," said DiCaprio of Nolan during his presentation speech. "He has helped define them."

# INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL



Photos By || Ron Ocampo and Rosana Liang

**Cinema Vanguard Award**—Actress Nicole Kidman talking with reporters on the red carpet.



**A Different Shade of Blue**—Director Jack McCoy with Shaun Tomson, 1977 IPS World Champion surfer (right)



**The Modern Master**—Actor Leonardo DiCaprio accepting his award.



**The Virtuosos**—This years winners: actors Lesley Manville, John Hawkes, Jacki Weaver, and Hailee



**On The Red Carpet**—Actor Lee Unrich smiling for the cameras at this years S.P.I.F.F.

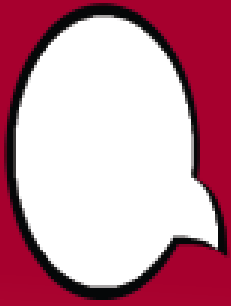


**Woman's Panel**—Speaker Lesley Chilcot.



**Outstanding Performance of the Year**—Actor James Franco wins for his performance in 127 Hours.





# OPINIONS

Regina Sarnicola  
*Opinions Editor*

Is your wallet feeling empty as four years of college come to a close? Are you barely finishing all the classes for your major before graduation? Has the realization set in that you're going to be returning home after four years of being "independent?" Although you might have been laughing at those who were junior college bound while you signed your letter of intent to start at a big University, we're the ones laughing now.

I remember graduating from high school, seething with jealousy over my friends who were shopping for their dorm rooms. Like many, I had fed into the false notion that attending a four-year school after high school was the only way to go. I had graduated with an above average GPA, been involved in extra-curricular activities, and had even taken Advanced Placement classes and the SATs in preparation for a four-year school. So what was I doing at a junior college where the rejected, lazy, and burn-outs attend?

It was the best decision I made.

The most obvious advantage is that you save money. One year at UCSB is estimated to come out to around \$25,000. Multiply this by four and \$100,000 can be spent on one student alone. Imagine having more than one child to put through college! With the state of the economy and rising tuition, a junior college is the financially prudent choice. In addition, by staying at home an extra two years, I was able to work and save up money for when I did transfer.

In addition to saving money, I saved time.

A freshman at a four-year school and a freshman at a junior college take basically the same classes, since that first year is about getting your general education out of the way, and junior college students aren't just one

of 600 students in a big classroom. And since I knew what to major in when I transferred, I didn't waste time experimenting with different majors before deciding. I was also able to attend the school I wanted because I had more time to research, compared to some friends who didn't get into their first choice and therefore ended up going to whatever school they got into.

I was also able to take part in activities that contributed to learning about myself and what I was interested in pursuing as a major and career.

At 18, I had no idea what to do because I had very little real world experience. But while attending a junior college, I worked on my college newspaper and quickly discovered I have a knack and love for writing. The two years I spent on the paper were some of the best of my life as I made unforgettable friendships, challenged myself, strengthened my writing and communication skills and matured as a person. This experience led me to ultimately select Communication as my major and pursue an editorship for The Bottom Line.

Maybe most importantly, I was not mature enough to leave home at 18.

Most think they are, but at 18, we usually haven't had to deal with any life-altering decisions or experiences and are used to

having our parents around. Many freshmen go crazy with their newfound independence and make unwise decisions, fall behind in classes, or drop out of school altogether. The two extra years enabled me to bond with my family and mature without dealing with a bad acid trip or blacking

"Junior college was a good stepping stone; I got to experience more than one college and it helped prepare me. I also don't think I could put up living in Isla Vista for all four years," said UCSB Communication major and transfer student Taylor McGowan.

Needless to say, junior college



out before learning my lesson.

Freshman year for many is the most fun. I am often asked if I felt like I missed out because I didn't get the "college experience." However, I don't have any regrets. I was able to transfer and still meet new people, party it up, and take advantage of being on my own.

Other UCSB transfer students share similar thoughts.

is starting to become the smarter option because of how competitive colleges are becoming and the rising tuition.

Hopefully, soon the negative stigma of community colleges will be long forgotten and my kids will be excited for their first day of community college.

# The Cons of Transferring

Steven Wilson  
Features Editor

I came to UC Santa Barbara in August of last year as a transfer student from Northern California.

The first big mistake I made

to replicate the dorm experience that all freshmen have.

This is easier said than done. By the time students reach their third or fourth year in school, the more secluded their group of friends becomes, and the more newcomers fall into the

to be able to break into the cliques on and off campus. That may be the reason they call it a four year university—because you are supposed to go here for four years, find your clique during freshman year and stick with it.

The one thing that helped me mature quickly as an adult and as a student was moving out of my house for the first time. But when you move to a ghetto like Isla Vista there are certain things you don't expect.

I didn't expect my roommates to not have rent each month. I didn't expect my bike to be stolen as I tried to find it only ten minutes before class, and I didn't expect my house to be broken into, or for some unknown drunken guy to pass out on my couch at five a.m.

Let's just say that you better pick the right house and the right roommates, and you better know how to use locks.

Transferring from a community college using a semester system to UC

Santa Barbara, I had to adapt to the quarter system fast.

It used to be that I could get a low grade on the first paper or test and still catch up, maybe even still earn an "A" in the class by the time the semester was over. Well, not on the quarter system!

Every transfer student that I personally know, and there are about seven, has had a hard time adjusting in his or her first quarter, and it's usually for one of the following reasons: He or she takes too many classes for his or her own good, he or she can't adjust to the fast pace, or he or she can't figure out how the teacher tests until after the drop deadline and end up doing poorly.

But it's not like they are stupid people either.

All of them are now doing well and are maintaining multiple internships or jobs as well as succeeding in class. Adjusting to the style and speed of quarter system classes and time management are the most important factors.

"At a junior college, the tests are based on memorization rather than on critical thinking," said transfer student and UCSB Psychology major Amy Maggard. "After switching into a research-based college like UCSB, when asked why something happens, the first answer that comes to many transfers' heads is, "because it did," or "who cares" because we were never really forced to think

analytically."

Lastly, as a transfer you have no choice but to continue with your major once you are accepted. Sure, I could stay an extra year if I decided to change, but with the fees we pay now, who would want to do that?

Once in the major—that is, if you get into the major and don't get stuck in pre-major classes with high GPA requirements—you must jam-pack as many classes into the two years you have in order to finish on time. If I ever decided that I didn't like my major, then I would be stuck here for another two years paying ridiculous rates, or I would be stuck with a piece of paper saying my degree at the top that I could care less about and will probably never use again in my life.

Choosing classes in your major and figuring out your requirements for graduation is a bit tricky as a transfer student. Having one day during summer where you find out how to use the online registration system, GOLD, and pick your classes is not sufficient. Offering a one-on-one session for students, for classes and registration, seems like an acceptable compromise to me.

The benefits of being a transfer student are tremendous, and I think they outweigh the cons, at least most of the time. But the stress I dealt with could have easily been dissipated through a little more information and a lot more communication between the University and the students.

Good thing I graduate in June.



Illustration By | Marina Castro

was moving in with my girlfriend at the time. Not only did this ruin my life for those seemingly endless nine months of torture, but it was extremely difficult to make friends when I lived with someone I already knew.

Although I do not envy anyone who tries to live with a stranger, transfer students must find a way

"out-group." It seems like the only people who need new friends are transfer students.

Being involved in campus groups helped me make friends, but finding "that best friend" is much more difficult than expected, and you need the personality type of an extrovert

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# OPINIONS

## Is Isla Vista Losing Its Mojo?



*Illustration By | Katie Napier*

**TURNING DOWN THE VOLUME**—Is Isla Vista becoming boring?

Desmond Wilder  
*Staff Writer*

Ambling through Isla Vista on a mission to find Steve's apartment for more tequila-salt-and-lime shots, my friends and I observed how much the scene had changed since our freshman debut. On that night we were disappointed by closed doors and quiet streets. Isla Vista seemed a fallen empire, a ghost town, a sham.

In regards to trends, this one is the lamest.

IV, known as California's "party central," is on the drip. Now when people call UCSB a party school, I chuckle nervously and change the subject. With police crackdowns and debilitating ordinances, our IV party life is either dying, maturing,

or transforming into furtive living room parties and massive "freshmen traps" whose purpose is to attract inexperienced freshmen to Del Playa Drive.

Since IV hits the refresh button every four years, most don't remember the glorious decades that established IV's status quo. Few commemorate our collegian ancestors, like the angry mob that burned down a Bank of America in 1970, or the brave souls who erected the infamous IV Halloween. Now with all of the curfews, beach-drinking prohibitions, "no tolerance" policies, noise and host ordinances, and IV Foot Patrol cyclists, we party with our heads low and our cups down.

"Isla Vista as a lame party location is drastic falsity. IV still parties and parties hard," said Summer Galante, UCSB

fourth-year Comparative Literature major. "The difference is now we have to find a legitimate reason for such belligerence."

With the dismal economy and higher tuition and rent fees, our tighter budgets have halted frivolous spending habits. Gone are the days when you could get free alcohol from complete strangers.

"Long story short, I don't think IV is having a 'losing streak.' I just think everyone around us is having a 'growing-up streak,'" said UCSB fourth-year Geography major Maddie Brown.

Perhaps Isla Vista isn't suffering an alcoholic drought as much as a binge-tinted evolution. IV's party scene still keeps its game face on, even if most of the doors on Del Playa Drive have closed themselves to the public.

"I personally don't think Isla Vista is losing it, but it's definitely

changing," said Eric Gungon, Manager of Santa Barbara Party Scene. "There are less house parties with alcohol for everyone. Now there are more super huge parties and smaller private parties. The Greek system has also grown to be a bigger part of IV."

Isla Vista is no longer one communal party where you could go to many houses and rage with anybody. Now we're seeing a feudal Isla Vista party scene develop, with a few ceremonial gatherings on Del Playa, aristocratic parties in the Greek system, and living room parties among friends. There's no longer a middle class of mass party.

Whether this means you'll have to search harder for parties to crash on a Friday night—or just get used to the smaller, more personal gatherings—the decision is up to the partier.