

Capps and Maldonado Debate in Pollock Theatre



Photo Courtesy of | Abel Moldando for Congress

by THOMAS ALEXANDER
Isla Vista Beat Reporter

Congresswoman Lois Capps faced off against challenger Abel Maldonado in a debate on Tuesday night.

The candidates spoke before a sold-out Pollock Theater at University of California Santa Barbara, and still more people watched from home using live streams provided by the Santa Barbara Independent and UCSB’s Carsey-Wolf Center.

The debate, moderated by UCSB Political Science Professor John Wooley and Santa Barbara Independent reporter Chris Meagher, was notably attended by a large and vocal contingent of Campus Democrats—Capps supporters filled the courtyard outside the theater and chanted the candidate’s name as she walked onto the stage.

Capps, a Democrat from Santa Barbara and the current representative of the 23rd Congressional District, is in the midst of a heated battle with Republican and Santa Maria resident Abel Maldonado for representation of the newly-drawn 24th Congressional District. The district will encompass Santa Barbara County, San Luis Obispo County, and a slice of Ventura County.

Maldonado spoke out against the current state of affairs in Congress, casting himself as a Washington outsider who will work to establish bipartisanship and to represent the people of District 24.

“I love this area. I’m a local boy. I was raised in this district,” Maldonado explained. “That’s why I’m running for Congress, because I think I can fix Washington.”

Capps, trying to cast doubt

upon her opponent’s anti-Washington rhetoric, brought up the fact that Maldonado’s campaign received funding from the unofficial Super PAC of Republican House Speaker John Boehner.

Both candidates spoke extensively about tuition and education funding. Capps discussed her experience as a nurse and education advocate, while Maldonado cited his position as a parent and small-business owner.

Maldonado brought up his childhood as the son of an immigrant and claimed that education got him to where he is today.

“Education was my way up and my way out,” explained Maldonado. “I won’t bail out banks, I will help out schools.”

Capps made the point that UC tuition nearly tripled during her opponent’s stint as Lieutenant Governor under Arnold Schwarzenegger, and Maldonado lambasted Capps’ poor record with small business owners. Both candidates stressed the importance of creating jobs to support students who are graduating.

“Education is so clearly tied to jobs,” said Capps, “and we want to make sure that these students here, when they graduate, we’ll have a job for them.”

Other topics included full disclosure of campaign funding, defense spending cuts, health care, and the 2010 repeal of “don’t ask, don’t tell.”

Maldonado’s past experience includes work as a small business owner and a stint as the mayor of Santa Maria, and he most recently served as California’s Lieutenant Governor under Schwarzenegger. Capps worked as a school nurse and education advocate for more than twenty years, and has represented Santa Barbara in the U.S. Congress since 1998.

The candidates will face off in



Photos Courtesy of | Lois Capps for Congress

Stabbing in Isla Vista Leaves Victims Wounded

by THOMAS ALEXANDER
Isla Vista Beat Reporter

A fight broke out on the 6600 block of Abrego Road early Sunday morning, Oct. 7, leaving two stabbing victims in Goleta Valley Cottage Hospital and three additional assault victims in other local hospitals.

Santa Barbara County officers and deputies arrived at Goleta Valley Cottage Hospital at approximately 12:40 a.m. on Sunday morning to investigate reports of the two stabbing victims, but have not yet apprehended a perpetrator.

Santa Barbara County Public Information Officer Mark Williams explained that while the victims have been released from the hospital, police are still looking for the person behind

the crime.

“My understanding is, through the deputies Sunday, that all the victims have been released and they’re all in good shape,” said Williams.

One suspect who was seen leaving the scene of the fight was described as a Hispanic female, approximately 5 feet 6 inches tall, between 140 and 150 pounds and 22 years old. Her hair was black and pulled back into a ponytail. She exited the scene in an unknown direction, and police are still working to track down leads regarding the fight.

According to Williams, Isla Vista Foot Patrol officers are trying to obtain follow-up interviews from the victims and witnesses but have not yet gathered any new leads. Williams explained that cases such as this are never truly

“dropped,” but that due to the sheer volume of crimes a case with no new evidence may be put on hold pending further revelations.

“After a certain point if we run out of leads, a case gets suspended,” explained Williams. “If new information comes forth then we continue down that path.” we continue down that path.”

have INFORMATION?

Santa Barbara Sheriffs Department
(805) 681-410

UCSB Police Department
(805) 893-3446

CRIMESTOPPERS
1-877-800-9100

UCSB Students Maghsoodloo and Rodriguez Run for IVRPD Board

by JOANNE HOWARD

Sawyer Maghsoodloo and Alejandro “Alex” Rodriguez, two students at the University of California Santa Barbara, are running together in the Nov. 2012 election for the offices of Director of Isla Vista Recreation and Parks District. Maghsoodloo is running for a two-year term while Rodriguez will be running for a four-year term. If elected, Maghsoodloo and Rodriguez hope to better represent university students and the Isla Vista community and meet their needs more effectively.

“The Isla Vista Recreation and Park District is a five-member board of elected Isla Vista residents that manage all 22 parks within Isla Vista’s one mile radius,” says ivcommunityalliance.org in the “What is IVRPD?” section. IVRPD is the only way the specific community of Isla Vista is represented, Maghsoodloo says. Its jurisdiction includes beach accesses and trails in addition to the parks. The board facilitates recreational programs such as youth activities, cultural enrichment, a family fun and fitness program and even a hiking and exploration club.

Maghsoodloo, a third-year political science major at UCSB, has had over seven years of experience in student government, including serving on the UCSB Senate of Associated Students for the 2011-2012 school year. She runs alongside Rodriguez, also a political science major, who begins his second year at UCSB. They are running with Pegen Soutar, who was a member of the board from 1996-2004, and Jeffrey A. Bessmer, who has sat on the Board of Directors of six community businesses according to his statement of candidate found on sbcvote.com. If elected, it will be the first time serving on the board for Maghsoodloo, 20, and Rodriguez, 19.

Both Maghsoodloo and Rodriguez include better park maintenance in their agenda and cite water shortage as a major issue for the parks in IV. They hold water conservation as the key to keeping our community parks’ natural beauty alive.

“I would push for water con-

servation with night time sprinkler programs, host Community Park clean ups and keep community gardens affordable,” said Rodriguez. Additionally, Maghsoodloo argues that abandoned plans for park renovations need to resume. She uses the vernal pools located in the Devereux Slough watershed as an example, which are crucial for sustaining wildlife in the area. Water supply to these pools was recently shut off by the board, and the surrounding wildlife has since suffered. Lastly, according to Maghsoodloo’s statement of candidacy, she plans “to rejuvenate some of the Del Playa beach access points that are overgrown with shrubbery and left abandoned.”

Aside from environmental improvements, Maghsoodloo and Rodriguez advocate using the parks to bring the IV community closer together. Also in her statement of candidacy, Maghsoodloo proposes “reach[ing] out to local artists to increase art in our parks” as well as increasing the number of concerts by “encouraging bands to play on weekends via lower concert fees and more lenient decibel ordinances.” Rodriguez agrees that such activities will benefit the community and bring more diversity to IV. He said, “If our budget allows us, we can host more recreational activities such as concerts or BBQs, which foster participation from all members in our community.”

Soutar, who is a UCSB alumnus and raises her family in IV, said about the candidates, “They have lots of great ideas and enthusiasm, and I’ve enjoyed working with them on the campaign.”

Maghsoodloo, Rodriguez, Sou-



Pictured Above: Candidates Sawyer Maghsoodloo and Alejandro Rodriguez

Photos by Morey Spellman | *The Bottom Line*

tar and Bessmer are endorsed by the Democratic Party of Santa Barbara County, Democratic Women of Santa Barbara County, Local SEIU 620 and UCSB Campus Democrats.

Students are encouraged to visit ivcommunityalliance.org and ivparks.org to learn more, and may email sawyerhmaghsoodloo@gmail.com and a_rodriguez02@umail.ucsb.edu for further information.

UC Regents and Pepper-sprayed UC Davis Students Reach a Preliminary Settlement of 1 Million

by EMMA BOORMAN

The students involved in last year’s nationally recognized pepper-spray incident at the University of California Davis reached a settlement with the UC Regents on a federal class-action lawsuit on Sept. 26, about 10 months after campus police sprayed the Occupy UC Davis protesters who remained seated when asked to clear the quad.

The \$1 million settlement includes \$30,000 for each of the 21 students and recent alumni who were sprayed, \$250,000 for legal fees and a reservation of \$100,000 to compensate others who may join the class-action lawsuit by proving they were arrested or pepper-sprayed.

According to The Los Angeles Times, the UC’s self-insurance program, with \$600 million in reserves, will be used to pay the pending settlement, which must be finally approved in federal court.

The settlement’s terms are not restricted to monetary compensation; Chancellor Linda Kathei will write an apology to each student, the UC Regents will offer assistance to students whose grades suffered as a result of the events and the American Civil Liberties Union will work with UC Davis to revise demonstration and protest policies.

According to the ACLU, the \$20,000 they will receive will fund “its future work with the University on these policies to protect free speech and free expression on campus.”

Some students who were pepper-sprayed have publicly weighed in on the events of Nov. 18, 2011 and the lawsuit that followed. The SF Gate cited Enosh Baker, who was arrested that day,

Baker, though pleased with the outcome, expressed disappointment with the fact that former Lt. John Pike, the man who can be seen spraying students at close range in the viral video, was cleared in Yolo County of

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illegal use of force.

Another protestor who was pepper-sprayed, Fatima Sbeih, called the settlement “a step in the right di-

rection,” but also brought up a sense of trust UC Davis still needs to restore in its students.

Ian Lee, who was pepper-sprayed as well, said he protested to show his concern about the increasing cost of tuition and felt “silenced” by the university. He is still a UCD student and has stated he will use his settlement money to pay for school.

Michael Risher, an attorney for the ACLU of Northern California, hopes the University’s hefty loss will be a “wake-up call for other universities and police departments.”

UC Regents and the ACLU are aiming to form an effective relationship that will ensure the prevention of potential violent episodes during future protests at any

UC. A UC Davis task force report that became public April 2011 indicates discussions about how to peacefully handle campus protests have already taken place.

Cruz Reynoso, former associate justice of the California Supreme Court and current professor of law at UC Davis, chaired the task force, which established a report that admitted the events in Davis “should and could have been prevented.” In addition, the report elaborated on Lt. Pike’s “objectively unreasonable decision to use pepper spray on the students,” even though he was later cleared of charges, and the Chancellor’s “primary responsibility for the failure to communicate her position that the police operation should avoid physical force.” U.S. District Judge John A. Mendez will decide what constitutes justice for all parties involved when the settlement is sent to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of California.

