

CINEMA WITH LINGUISTS



IN OUR INAUGURAL EDITION OF "CINEMA WITH PROFESSORS," WE SAT DOWN WITH SOME OF UCSD'S OWN LINGUISTS TO DISCUSS THE ACCURACY OF NEW SCIENCE-FICTION FILM "ARRIVAL."

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VERBATIM

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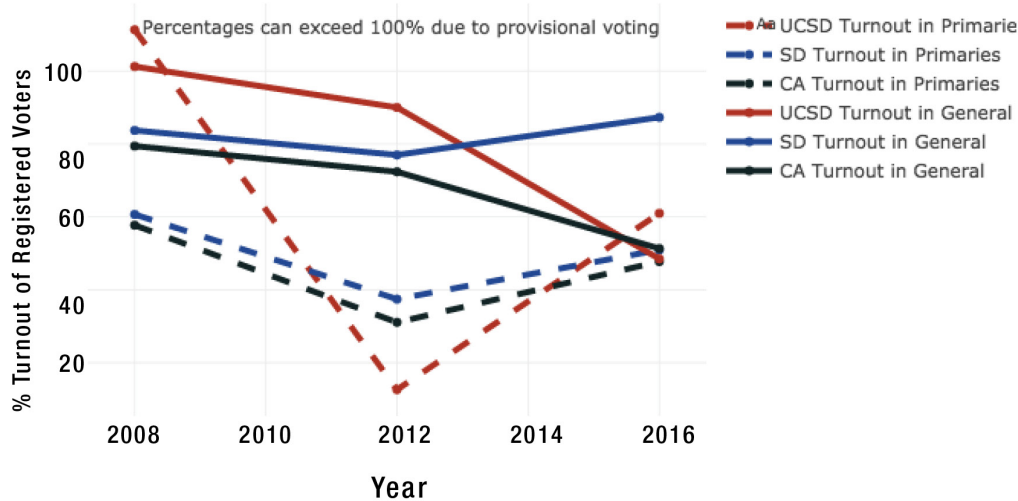
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DATA

TURNOUT RATE OF CALIFORNIANS OVER TIME



Student Voting: The Methodical and the Ideological Comparison

BY HALLEDAVIS CONTRIBUTING WRITER

At least 1,428 students at UCSD turned out to vote in the 2016 general election on Tuesday, a figure that is increasing as mail and provisional ballots continue to be counted. Data shows that student voter trends, like voting method and turnout rates, mimic that of San Diego and California residents, except in the case of candidate preference.

The similarities in both the high participation in the 2012 general election and the low participation in the 2012 primaries are evidence of how voter turnout in the regions of UCSD, San Diego and California are alike.

At first glance, it seems UCSD is voting at higher rates than San Diego and California residents as a whole. For instance, in the 2016 primary election, UCSD had a voter turnout of 60.98 percent while San Diego and California residents turned out at 50.94 percent and 47.72 percent respectively.

However, these turnout rates are based on the number of people who voted at each polling location over the number of people who were registered at that location. The numbers are not based on overall

eligible voters, just those registered at that location based on their address.

University students are less likely to be registered because they've only recently gained voting eligibility, but those who are registered are more likely to be highly motivated political participants, leading to a high registered voter turnout rate. So, it's inaccurate to generalize and say that UCSD students are turning out more than San Diego and California residents overall.

Not much can be said at this time about the turnout rate of UCSD students in the 2016 general election because approximately 500,000 mail and provisional votes in San Diego County have yet to be counted. For this reason, early calculations for the 2016 general election voter turnout for UCSD students, 48.48 percent, are lower than those of the final turnout in the 2016 primary election, 60.98 percent.

What can be said is that students showed up to the polls in greater numbers than in the past: 1569 students showed up to the polls in the 2016 general election, trumping the 1137 who came to the polls in

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CAMPUS

CSOs Increase Duties to Include Bike Removal

So far, the student safety organization has recovered hundreds of unused bicycles.

BY LAURENHOLT
NEWS EDITOR

The Community Service Officers have increased their duties to include bike abatement, the university announced on Nov. 10. The program initially began this summer, when the UCSD Police Department was asked to remove abandoned bikes from the residential areas' bike racks, and ultimately cleared away over 700.

Sergeant Nel Garcia, head of the CSO program, explained to the UCSD Guardian that he decided to expand the program for a multitude of reasons, including to relieve the burden on UCSD's single bicycle enforcement officer.

"Bike abatement opened up an avenue because [the officer] had to clear out a lot of bikes — all seven housing areas, plus Mesa and Del Sol and general campus," Garcia said. "It was an unsightly mess. People leave their bikes all over the place, and half the bikes were probably stolen ... A lot of students complained that they didn't have places to put their bikes because of all the other bikes that were locked up."

In order to extract the deserted bikes, the CSOs tagged thousands of bicycles across campus, requesting that the owners notify campus police within two weeks that their bikes were still in use. If the CSOs were not contacted, they would remove the bicycle and retain it for up to ninety days unless the owner came to claim it. The department would reach out to those with bicycle licenses during that time as well.

Garcia noted that after the ninety-day holding period, the bicycles are passed on to a charity or other organization.

"After the ninety days, we donate them to charitable organizations," Garcia stated. "Donovan Prison just picked up a bunch of them, and it is used to kind of help rehabilitate some of the inmates to give them something to do, maybe a little bit of a skill."

Garcia also mentioned that he views broadening the CSO role as an opportunity to hire more students, which he plans to also do through other programs like Triton Rides, a CSO-operated nighttime shuttle service, because such jobs are beneficial to the success of students.

"We do a lot of things for the students; we give them a lot of good job training," Garcia said. "I'm not just looking at this from the police perspective. I came from the airlines. Learning how to deal with people and be successful in the world [and] getting that edge up is kind of what we're gearing toward, [so] if I could have two or three hundred CSOs doing all kinds of different jobs, I think that would be perfect."

In addition to bike abatement, CSOs offer a number of safety-related services such as escorting students home at night, patrolling parking lots, fortifying security at campus events and aiding with medical emergencies. Escorts are available from sunset until 1 a.m.

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Student Receives Local Volunteer of the Year Award

Sixth College student Linh Luong's philanthropic efforts extend back to her time in high school.

BY JULIE YIP
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

The San Diego Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals announced Sixth College freshman Linh Luong as this year's Outstanding Youth/Student Volunteer at its 44th annual National Philanthropy Day yesterday.

Luong expressed her gratitude to the UCSD Guardian, but she emphasized that she is just one of many individuals who help strengthen the city of San Diego.

"I think this award could be shared with a lot of other youths in the community of San Diego as well since it does represent a lot of us who balance our school work as well as our advocacy work," Luong

said. "We have an amazing city and a large part of that is because of the work of youths. I am incredibly appreciative to represent the youth community of San Diego and will continue doing what I am doing."

The AFP recognizes the impact of philanthropy on society and distinguishes individuals who take action to support and fortify the community. Reality Changers — the nonprofit that nominated Luong for the award — provides scholarships and programs to disadvantaged youth and has served over one thousand students in San Diego County.

Christopher Yanov, president and founder of Reality Changers, described the immense growth of the organization. Having begun in 2001 with only four students and

\$300, Reality Changers now serves thousands of San Diego County's disadvantaged youth annually who are first-generation college students. Furthermore, over \$100 million in scholarship money has been awarded to program graduates.

According to Yanov, Reality Changers values higher education and wants to help provide this for underprivileged youth.

"Reality Changers believes that college changes everything," Yanov told the Guardian. "The founding principle of Reality Changers was that it just wasn't right that most inner-city students today know more people who have been harmed or killed in the street than people who are on the road to college."

Having spent her entire high

EVERY NOW AND THEN By David G Juarez



► VOTING, from page 1

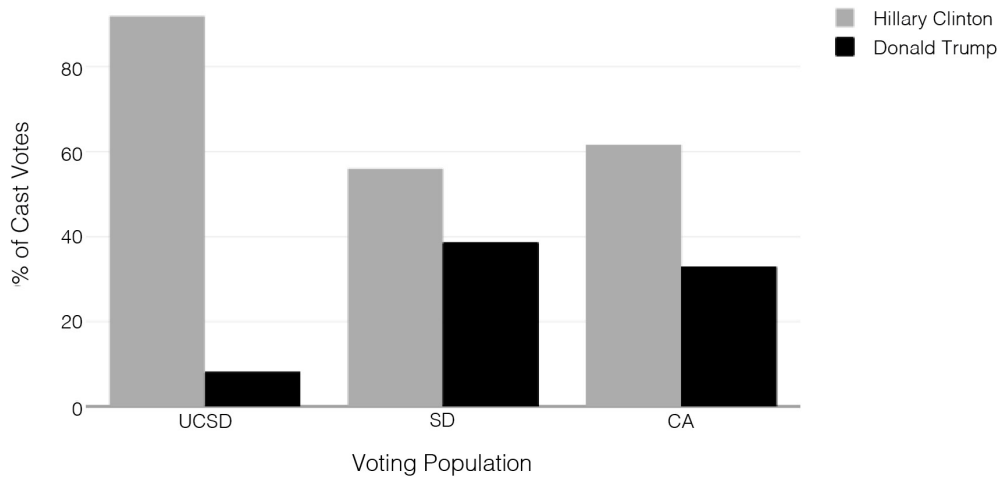
the primary.

The 2016 primary was during finals week, which led the Student Organized Voter Access Committee, or SOVAC, to recommend that students vote by mail in order to avoid lines on the day of the election. Despite this, UCSD students voted much like San Diego residents, voting at the polls and by mail at the same rates.

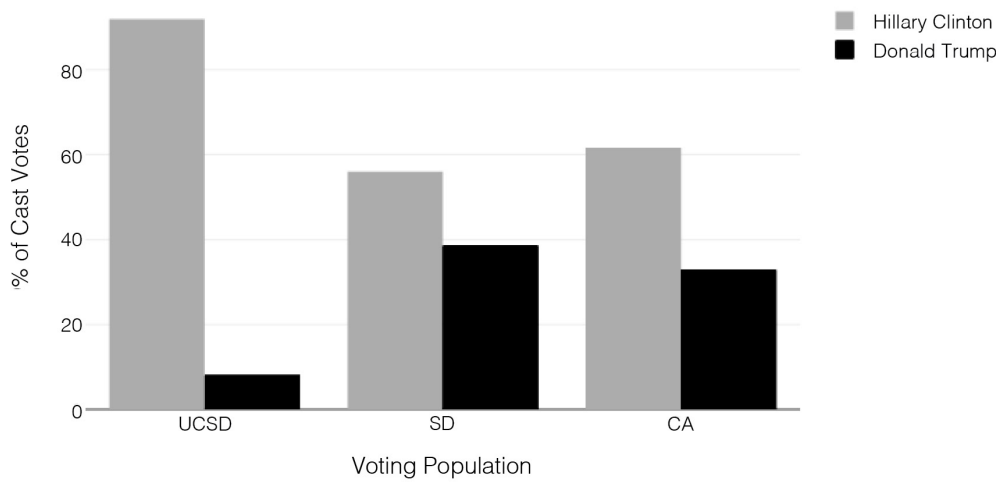
While there are similarities in terms of the way students and San Diego residents vote, differences emerge when considering each bloc's preferred candidate. The San Diego vote is representative of California as a whole. For instance, in the 2016 primary election, 51.6 percent of San Diego residents who are registered Democrats voted for Hillary Clinton while 53.1 percent of Democratic California residents did. Likewise, Republican-registered San Diego and California residents voted for Donald Trump at 77.6 percent and 74.8 percent respectively.

In contrast, UCSD students voted at dramatically higher rates for Bernie Sanders during the 2016 Democratic Primary. The 2016 Republican Primary is a similar story, when UCSD students didn't mirror San Diego and California residents' favorability for Donald Trump. Notably, in the primary, only 19 students out of 200 registered Republican voters at UCSD voted for Donald Trump.

Who Did People Vote for in 2016 General



Who Did People Vote for in 2016 General



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IN BRIEF

WRITTEN BY
MATTHEW ZAMUDIO // EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

Professor Honored for Mathematical Research

UCSD professor of mathematics Ruth Williams, on Tuesday night, was awarded the prestigious John von Neumann Theory Prize, given annually by the Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences, for her pioneering research on the theory and applications of “stochastic networks and their diffusion approximations.”

Williams, who holds the Charles Lee Powell Endowed Chair in Mathematics, shared the award with Martin Reiman of Columbia University’s department of industrial engineering and operations research. Both researchers accepted their prize of \$5,000, a medallion and a citation at an annual INFORMS meeting in Nashville, Tennessee.

Among other aspects, their distinguished research focuses on heavy traffic analysis, which examines how real-world systems function most efficiently while running near maximum capacity, such as when a website server becomes congested.

“Williams’ research is characterized by its mathematical depth and elegance,” INFORMS said in its citation of the prize. “She has greatly influenced researchers in operations research, stochastic process and mathematics, doing so through survey lectures and articles that are exemplary in clarity and insight.”

Receiving her Ph.D. from Stanford University, Williams joined UCSD as a faculty member in 1983, and, in 2012, was chosen to receive membership in the National Academy of Sciences. This fall, Williams is teaching MATH 286: Stochastic Differential Equation. She will teach MGT 413: Computational Finance Methods during Winter Quarter 2017.

Harrison: Luong Inspired Other Students to Care About Volunteer Work

► VOLUNTEER, from page 1

school career volunteering, Luong has accomplished many projects, including a mentorship program in her high school based on high performance, a reusable shopping bag initiative and a photo campaign on the importance of parent participation in stopping minorities from consuming alcohol and drugs. Additionally, Luong developed a TED Book Talk Club and established the first TED Talk at her high school to allow for discussion on recent events and societal issues.

Out of her many experiences, Luong’s proudest volunteering moment took place when she was awarding medals to runners at a San Diego marathon. Despite the mix of highly experienced runners, there was one runner who was committed to finishing the race, despite the fact that the marathon staff had already begun to clean up.

When the individual completed the race, Luong realized how much she enjoys volunteering. Being able to connect with people who are absolute strangers to her is what makes these experiences within the community so special.

“When the last person to finish finally made her way past the finish line, I had one medal left and got the honor to put it on her,” Luong told the Guardian. “It was unbelievable because I could tell how proud she was of herself, and her happiness was extremely contagious. And I think that’s what makes volunteering and reaching out to people that I hadn’t known before worthwhile.”

Luong further explained the importance of volunteering and how every action, no matter how small, can have a great impact.

“I think everyone, at least once in their life, wanted to be a superhero and save the world,” Luong stated. “Making a positive impact does not

have degrees of superiority. Whether it is one other person that is being helped or a thousand people that are being helped, every little kind act makes a difference and I think that is what students need to recognize. I like to think that doing good will cause a ripple effect.”

Luong thanked her friends and family for their support. In particular, she was grateful to her mentor Jordan Harrison, who serves as Director of College Town at Reality Changers.

“Linh created a community that cared,” Harrison said. “She informed them about areas of need in her neighborhood. She facilitated discussion on policies that impact City Heights and, as a high school student, became a ‘thought leader’ for those in the community.”

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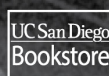
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Following Irreversible Results with Momentous Action

ILLUSTRATIONS BY APRIL GAU AND SAM XU

A campaign rife with the elicitation of fear and hatred has culminated in the election of Donald Trump. While these results cannot be changed, they should and they will be challenged through continuous, strategic action.

ON ABOLISHING THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE

For the fifth time in United States history, on November 8, the will of the people died at the hands of the Electoral College as Hillary Clinton won the popular vote but lost the presidential election. Established in Article II of the U.S. Constitution, the Electoral College was initially created with the idea that the American people were not educated or intelligent enough to choose their own president, so they chose representatives to cast a vote on behalf of their district's interests. Eventually, the "general ticket" plan developed in which states decided to have all their electors vote for the candidate who was most popular in the state, depriving the electors of their free will. Since its inception and to this day, the Electoral College is an undemocratic institution that undermines the values our country was founded on.

Under the Electoral College, one vote does not equal one vote. For example, based on the population divided by the number of electors, one vote in Vermont weighs about 3.4 times as much as a California vote. The Electoral College system is also unequal in that it places undue emphasis on swing states, forcing candidates to cater to their needs and not those of the nation. It is often said that every four years, a handful of states decide the fate of the nation, and to some extent that is true. States like Ohio and Virginia often make the difference in who is elected president. However, this is because many other states are so solidified as Democrat or Republican, they are no longer taken into consideration. This in and of itself is a problem with the Electoral College. It silences Republicans in states like California, and Democrats in places such as Alabama, ensuring that millions of votes nationwide are seen as irrelevant and pointless. All voices deserve to be heard, not just the ones that are regularly inconsiderate.

Furthermore, the cardinal principle on which Electoral College was founded — that Americans are intellectually incapable of choosing a president and vice president — is undemocratic. The argument that the public "can't handle" self-governance has long been a hallmark of dictatorships. Additionally, the Framers dictated that should the electors believe their population was incorrect with its selections for the White House, they could simply ignore their wishes and vote for a different candidate instead. By allowing an elector to drown out the voices of the public, as rare as it is, the Founding Fathers abandoned democracy from the beginning.

The Electoral College ought to be abolished — not out of hate for Donald Trump, but because no matter who is in office, no matter which policies the legislature passes, no matter where we stand in American history, democracy must persist and under this system it does not. Do not just reject a Trump presidency. Reject the electoral college because all votes should be equal, because Americans are not too stupid to make their own decisions and because no factor in the election process should be more central than the will of all people.

ON TAKING ACTION

Forget the loopholes, "unknown" laws and exceptions advertised by media sources following November 9. There is no way around the fact that on November 9, 59 million people — with help from the electoral college — elected a president who has repeatedly invalidated sexual assault victims, vowed to ban all members of an entire religion from the United States, mocked a reporter with disabilities and refused to supply tax records.

Within days of election, the president-elect — a sobering appetitive following a surreal campaign — contradicted a hallmark of his campaign's values by filling his transition team to the brim with corporate lobbyists and Wall Street interests. This includes a Verizon consultant making decisions

for the Federal Communication Commission, a man who stands behind the headline "The Solution to Online 'Harassment' Is Simple: Women Should Log Off" and has been endorsed by the KKK as a chief strategist, and a man who denies climate change to head the Environmental Protection Agency — at least until Trump gets rid of it "in almost every form." Within days of the election, the man many voted for on the basis of electing a "political outsider" will find the new "inside" to be a clear road for corporate influence in politics.

The result of this election cannot be changed, but it can be refuted, protested and fought. For the sake of communicating that hatred and fear-mongering do not suffice as the predominant traits of a president, it must be.

Such is agreed upon by those who have taken to opposition of all kinds: school walkouts, sit-ins, silent protests and freeway marches. But those who have taken only to open letters, articles and posts must realize that in order for these strictly verbal forms of opposition to translate into action, those who who hope for

change and who look to act rather than merely speak — particularly those at UCSD — must look to the groundwork that has already been laid, such as the meetings taking place weekly at Groundworks Bookstore on campus or the teach-ins given by students and faculty alike, and be a part of it.

On campus alone — even if not being reported upon — groups are organizing in a way that is extensively planned, strategic and widespread. Activism at UCSD is more than reaction protests. It involves students, graduate students, faculty and collectives. It takes place in streets, on Library Walk, outside of the Chancellor's Complex, in front of Geisel Library, and more frequently inside of conference rooms or lecture halls. It takes the form of silence, speaking and chanting alike; of gathering, organizing and listing demands. People who spend time at UCSD, who are outraged by the character of the man set to lead the United States come Jan. 20, and who yearn to be part of change owe it to themselves to explore the landscape of action already happening at UCSD and integrate themselves into it.

ON THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY

For at least the next two years, members of the Democratic Party must figure out how they will deal with Republican executive, legislative and judicial branches. After last week's brutal defeat, it is clear that the blue party must undergo a dramatic reconfiguration — how it works and whom it serves. It must prove to its voters that it is as ready for change as President-elect Donald Trump appeared to be, and it must stay true to its name by bringing democracy back into its process. Even the most moderate of Democrats could and should get behind a deviation from the status quo in order to begin mounting the party's comeback in two years. A key demographic in which the Democrats endured a large hit in the general election was Americans making under

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► **DEMOCRATIC PARTY** from page 4

\$50,000 a year. Hillary Clinton only garnered the support of 52 percent of low-income voters, according to Washington Post exit polls, 8 percent less than President Obama's figure in the 2012 election. More and more low-income Americans feel that the Democratic Party no longer serves them and would rather vote for a businessman who explicitly advocates against their best interests — by lowering rather than raising minimum wage, by repealing rather than expanding the Affordable Care Act, etc. With over 46 million Americans still living in poverty and approximately 28 million possessing no health insurance,

it shouldn't be a surprise that so many low-income Americans voted for drastic change, no matter what form that change comes in. They work much longer hours to survive at a lower standard and have less access to good education for their kids, especially if they live in poorer neighborhoods. The Democratic Party must make clear that it has the platform to support and is the party for working people. It also must elect a candidate who has both a track record of helping poor Americans first and the communication skills to express this commitment to Americans who don't have the time to read through candidate platforms. Furthermore, the Democratic

National Committee needs to allow democracy to work. As much as it criticizes the Electoral College for superseding the popular vote, which at least aims to ensure fair representation by state, it uses the similarly absurd idea of superdelegates, who are bound to represent no one but themselves. With Clinton starting out with over 500 delegates ahead of her competition, the party essentially secured its fate this election cycle — a Clinton win, then a Clinton loss — before a single vote was cast. The next chair of the DNC must ensure that the party restores its status as a neutral arbiter between candidates and the American people.

ON THE NEED FOR ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

Whether or not the most drastic of Donald Trump's immigration proposals will come to fruition is at this point uncertain, but the possibility of such is in the minds of many throughout the University of California community who have already been the target of anti-immigrant rhetoric. Reince Priebus, being recently appointed to Trump's cabinet as White House chief of staff, has fronted more moderate stances on immigration in a move to expand Trump's constituency. Priebus clarified Trump's massive deportation plans by saying criminal undocumented citizens would be a priority, but then said, "... then, only until all of that is taken care of, will we look at what we are going to do next." This intentional vagueness has caused a swelling feeling of uncertainty

among undocumented students that will pile another worry into their lives.

By merely announcing last week that the UC system would uphold the "UC's principles against tolerance," Janet Napolitano did little to assuage this by offering an offensively mild response. There was no mention of future plans or proposals that could directly push back against federal action, like designating the UCs as sanctuaries so that collaboration between the university and U.S. Customs and Border Protection in pursuing undocumented students might be avoided.

UCs wouldn't be exempt from federal law in the case of adopting sanctuary status and can't keep "federal government from enforcing immigration law." They would, however, be within their legal right to refuse cooperation with federal immigration agencies, according to professor Kurt Organista for the Daily Cal. Organista also noted that UC campuses may not be able to provide protection to students outside of campus grounds.

Napolitano's own tenure as U.S. secretary of Homeland Security under the Obama administration, whose "administration oversaw more deportations than any other in US history," raises concerns as to how much her personal history has affected UC administration's inadequate efforts on serving undocumented students.


Deprived of the sanctuary status of UCSD and with Trump still intent on rescinding Obama's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals — protecting some undocumented students from deportation — the status of 750,000 students is put into question. One concern is how DACA's database would be used under the auspices of a Trump administration, as it holds all 750,000 of those identities.

Ultimately, action is in the hands of the UC system. On-campus organizations like MECHA have already published lists of demands including UCSD's existence as a sanctuary status, illustrating just how strong the support runs through the community, but not within administration.

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CINEMA WITH LINGUISTS

INTERVIEW BY JACKY TO Senior staff writer

In the inaugural edition of “Cinema with Professors,” The Guardian sat down with Sharon Rose and Farrell Ackerman, professors in UCSD’s linguistics department, to discuss the new Denis Villeneuve-directed film “Arrival,” which follows a linguist tasked with decoding the language of an alien species that arrives on Earth.

GUARDIAN: What do you think about the main character’s approach to decoding the alien language, and what would you have done differently?

SHARON ROSE: We should talk about what linguists do first, because one of the ways the movie didn’t quite get it right was in the way that they talked about what linguists actually do. For example, when the general — Forest Whitaker’s character — came to her and said something about thanking her for the Farsi translations she had done, that was a little odd because linguists generally don’t do translations, and the government would’ve had a Farsi translator anyway. The linguist in me was annoyed because we don’t just translate.

FARRELL ACKERMAN: There was also that initial scene where Forest Whitaker puts down a tape ...

SR: Oh right, and just plays noise.

FA: He plays noise for about four and a half seconds, and he says, “What does that mean?” Now that’s got to be the dumbest question.

SR: And actually, they did get that right; she handled that very well. First of all, we don’t even know if it’s a language or a communication system. It could just be noise, so how can you tell? So she said, “Well I would have to interact with them.” So that, they did get right. She basically approached it like a field linguist — somebody who is looking at a language or some kind of communication system, knows nothing about it and has to figure out how to start. And that’s how we teach our students how to do it in our classes. We have a speaker of a language who comes to the class, the students know nothing, and their job is to figure it out.

GUARDIAN: And how would you approach non-objects and non-action verbs? The question they were trying to figure out how to communicate was, “What is your purpose on Earth?” So how would you, for example, try to communicate “purpose”?

SR: I thought that the movie also handled this quite well. You can’t start with this sentence; you’ve got to figure all the component pieces. We don’t even know if they have a concept of purpose. We’ve got to get to that by building up slowly. Getting to conceptual aspects like purpose would have required an enormous amount of work, months and months of building up this structure until you could actually get to it, assuming they even had this concept. They might not have had a word for it; they might have had several words that, combined together, might give a sense of purpose. And notice that they had trouble with the word “weapon.” That kind of polysemy — one word having multiple meanings — was also quite well done. The other thing they did well was to look for patterns in the data they were getting, so that’s exactly what linguists do. We collect data, we look at the patterns, and we try to figure out how the system works. So attacking it like a system — looking for things that are recurring, and those recurrences have a particular meaning — that’s what they did when they approached the symbols.

GUARDIAN: There is kind of this feud between science and linguistics in the movie. When the linguist and physicist first meet, they have that question of “What is the foundation of life? Is it language or is it scientific fact?” What do you think?

SR: Well, I don’t know if it’s the foundation of life; it’s certainly a component piece and a large portion of what it means to be human. But we do approach language in a much more methodical, mathematical way than many people think we do. So linguistics is not just about learning languages or translating languages.

FA: There’s also something really implausible in the movie that feeds into naive stereotypes about what linguists are. So she starts out giving a lecture on romance languages, and then it turns out she’s done translations of Farsi. And then, he barges into a room that she’s in later on and says, “The general in China is speaking. Could you tell me what he’s saying?” This is such a silly notion of what the skillsets of linguists are. In addition, she had the computational capacities to be able to go through all of the mini differences in all of those circles in order to figure out what the pattern was. So it gives you a very strange notion of what a linguist — a single linguist — can do.

SR: That’s right. They portrayed her more as a polyglot.

FA: And then they turned her into something else that she had to be in order to crack the code. The idea that you could take an alien language with an utterly different kind of mind and be able to crack it in a couple of months is extremely naive.

SR: One of the interesting aspects was that the noises and the sounds that the aliens were making actually turned out to be completely unrelated to the code. So that, I found really fascinating because that’s the reverse of how human language functions. Human language is all about sound and its oral use — or for sign language, its visual use — and what you write down is your attempt at just transcribing that. And it’s a poor attempt. Every writing system fails in some way to encode something. So when we write down English, and English spelling is really terrible, it doesn’t encode all sorts of interesting properties of English that we need to know.

GUARDIAN: Like inflection?

SR: Yeah, all the minute phonetic pronunciations that you have to know how to do if you’re an English speaker or if you’re learning how to produce English properly is not encoded in our writing system. So it’s an imperfect way of coding the richness of language. And so, what

was interesting about that was that the symbols they were using were the richness. It was the communication system. The sounds they were producing were immaterial. But that went by way too fast, and I thought, this is incredibly important and interesting, yet they didn’t give focus to it at all.

GUARDIAN: Are there any examples in history that felt reminiscent of what was portrayed in the movie?

SR: No, because this was not one human talking to another human. It wasn’t as if somebody was opening their mouth and making a sound; they couldn’t even figure out what the language component was that they were supposed to be paying attention to. At first, they thought it was sound, and then, they had to figure out what was this ink stuff that was emitting from their tentacles.

FA: On some level, it was funny that she began with the assumption that there was such a thing as a statement and a question in the alien’s language. That’s a big presumption; you can imagine a creature that is omniscient, for which there are no questions, there are no hidden purposes, and there’s nothing to question. I had a friend I went to graduate school with who for a part of his life after graduate school was employed to go into the highlands of New Guinea and contact previously uncontacted tribes that were cannibalistic.

SR: Well, uncontacted by?

FA: Uncontacted by whites, right. Well, even with other people who were not white, it’s not clear how long that contact lasted (laughs). In some sense, that’s what was happening in the movie.

SR: There was one interesting comment in the movie where she starts by saying the English word for human and writing it down. Then he said something like, “You’re trying to teach them to read and speak at the same time,” but that’s not actually what she was doing. She was trying to figure out which method worked. If I give both of these at the same time, they’re going to gather a response to something. And she wasn’t actually trying to teach them English. It was just to teach them the ways in which we communicate: I use this sound, I write this word. So she was trying to get them to do that by using her own communication system. And the whole thing should’ve taken years.

FA: As we know from having worked on the same language for many, many years.

GUARDIAN: It’s also kind of strange in the movie that despite each pod landing in a different country encountering a different language, all of the countries started to figure out the alien’s language at around the same time. Do you think any nation would have an advantage in cracking the alien’s language?

SR: Maybe China, because the alien language was a symbolic system. It had concepts tied up altogether in a single symbol, and the writing system that Chinese languages use is more like that. And so they might have an advantage.

GUARDIAN: So Americans wouldn’t be exceptional in this case?

SR: No, not at all.

FA: I think with good computational power, every nation would be in the same boat.

SR: Yeah, China may have had an initial advantage if they assumed the symbol system was like their symbol system. But once you figured that out, it’s all fair game.

GUARDIAN: Overall, would you say that “Arrival” portrayed linguists well, moderately well, poorly etc.?

SR: I would say moderately well. You know, it was nice to have a linguist as a protagonist where the linguist was actually doing something related to the profession. We’ve had other examples of linguists in movies recently. For example, in “Still Alice,” Julianne Moore plays a linguistics professor and there is a moment where she gives a lecture about language acquisition, which was quite well done. But that was sort of immaterial to the whole concept of the movie. It just happened to be her profession.

But this is actually the linguist as the main character and doing her job as the main issue in the movie, so that’s really great.

FA: I always find myself — well, what can one expect — disappointed. I find language endlessly mysterious, and I would hope that when an audience sees a movie like this, they’re just as mystified at the magnificence of language that I feel. And I feel like it’s a deprivation, actually, that there were so many opportunities to enrich people’s understanding about what language is and it wouldn’t have taken a lot. That’s why I was interested when you told me that there was an actual linguist consultant because it wasn’t obvious to me.

SR: Apparently, she had some trouble getting them to change certain things and she complained about the language translation aspect. There were certain things she managed to get right and there were other things that they didn’t respond to.

FA: I would imagine that everybody who knows something about something must feel that sense of disappointment when you see a movie about it. What do physicists think about “2001: A Space Odyssey?”

SR: I went to see it with a friend who’s a lawyer and she said she can’t see legal movies because it just drives her crazy how many things they get wrong. So we had that attitude of, at least they were doing something that is useful. And she does make a breakthrough, so the linguist is the hero, which was quite marvelous. But there were some things that weren’t portrayed accurately, so we still are left with a misperception about what linguists do.

FA: I guess on the most generous interpretation, it is quite clear that language is enormously important. I don’t think you can come away from this movie, however you interpret it, and think that somehow language isn’t central to what it means to be human and for making a difference in the way that the world works.

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FILM REVIEW



ARRIVAL

Director Denis Villeneuve

Starring Amy Adams, Jeremy Renner, Forest Whitaker

Release Date November 11

Rated R

A-

PHOTO COURTESY OF PARAMOUNT PICTURES

Director Denis Villeneuve successfully avoids becoming a prisoner of the studio system and proves himself an enemy of tropes.

The deep empathy held for family is far from a congruous experience. A parent's gentle touch remains a faded, yet warm, memory. A single moment from an otherwise menial trip through the grocery store — a smile, maybe a yell — that stays vivid five years on. There are silent aliens and mile-high spaceships, but the heart of "Arrival" resides within its propulsive emotion, capable of rendering the cosmos inconsequential in the face of understanding for those around us.

Without communication, we can't make sense of what's around us, and interaction comes to a total standstill. We follow linguistics professor Louise Banks (Amy Adams), who joins an elite team of investigators on a mission to communicate with one of the 12 spaceships that landed around the world after she impresses a cool-headed Colonel Weber (Forest Whitaker) with her Farsi and linguistic

precision. Every word that escapes is impeccably mulled over, with her considering the cause and effect of each sentence. The underpinnings of her maximalist sense of professionalism are both buoyed and threatened by the bittersweet memories of her departed daughter. Sudden cuts to her daughter as a child running through the park pepper the film with a Malick-influenced shooting style and sense of wonder, leaving a bereaved Banks in the memory's wake. Director of photography Bradford Young ("Selma," "Ain't Them Bodies Saints") continues to impress with his naturalistic and fluid visuals, lending a sense of warmth not present in previous Villeneuve films by exchanging the rustic tones of "Prisoners" for organic light and vibrant greens.

Villeneuve wrangles emotion with finesse by focusing more on the people involved in the investigation than on the grandeur of their precarious

extraterrestrial situation. Balancing the film's more conceptually ambitious elements with a deft humanity results in a science fiction epic that shares more in common with the tender portraits of auteurs like Todd Haynes than the bombast of blockbuster magnates like Steven Spielberg; this has come to define Villeneuve's own evolution as a filmmaker.

With Villeneuve piloting a smart script from screenwriter Eric Heisserer that presents a refreshing interpretation of what a sci-fi film can be, longtime fans of the director need not worry about him succumbing to creative compromises as a result of "Arrival" being a high-priced product of the studio system. Sci-fi profoundly resonates when developing characters who go past weary archetypes and address current concerns through a fanciful lens, so to see "Arrival" taking full advantage of that is a remarkable sight. A subtle criticism of academia's

involvement with military efforts brings a legitimate ethical dilemma into question, leaving it to fester in the back of one's head as the plot carries on.

"Arrival" continuously upends expectations and tropes without drawing attention to itself in a self-congratulatory manner, instead leaning on character chemistry to dismantle them. The prospect of the two leads falling for each other is dutifully converted into something more through an ingenious use of "Arrival's" own in-film logic. Even Jeremy Renner crawls out of his position as "third most memorable supporting actor" in any movie and impresses us as a charmingly dense physicist when it seems like such a drab role. A stubborn Chinese general quick to make decisions and ally with Russia could just be another cardboard antagonist in a lesser film, but instead shatters assumptions in a standout

scene between himself and Louise that plays out like a bank heist. What may at first seem like laziness proves otherwise. The few missteps in this film, like an out-of-note mutiny, are a direct result of not sincerely following character motivation.

Amy Adams, with her inner turmoil and ineffably tranquil outward appearance, is the spiritual center of the film. She's repeatedly been teased at the Oscars as a result of her dig into prestige pictures, transcending previous work through precise turns of mood that have been sharpened with years of experience. Adams' talent sells the film's thesis, arguing that communication holds the keys to personal and social advancement, but without compassion there might as well not be a conversation.

— SAM VELAZQUEZ
A&E Editor

FILM REVIEW



MASCOTS

Director Christopher Guest

Starring Jane Lynch, Parker Posey, Fred Willard, Chris O'Dowd

Release Date October 13

Rated TV-MA

C+

PHOTO COURTESY OF NETFLIX

Director Christopher Guest has mixed results trying to recapture the magic of "Spinal Tap" and "Best in Show" with his latest mockumentary.

Netflix is really pushing hard to finance and distribute original content. So much so, in fact, that it will be adding another billion dollars' worth of debt to its balance sheets over the next few years, to be spread around to a variety of media projects. In addition to churning out Marvel hero-of-the-week shows and writing blank checks to Adam Sandler, Netflix's creative team is working with notable writers and directors to try to recapture some of its previous magic.

One such director is Christopher Guest, the creative mind behind a series of mock documentaries that have had a huge influence on the

comedic landscape of modern television and films. In "Mascots," Guest trots out his usual formula, giving us an intimate glimpse into the lives of some moderately absurd characters and their passions.

However, "Mascots" feels, at times, too much like a carbon copy of Guest's previous and more successful films, specifically "Best in Show." Instead of obsessive dog breeders, he features odd but lovable men and women with a passion for sport mascotry. Guest doesn't try to hide the similarities, as he uses many of the same actors playing comparable roles.

What works against Guest is that there ultimately comes a point where

creating similar films, no matter how well done, ends up looking like a tired rehash of old glory days. Think of the reason why someone like Sasha Baron Cohen is moving away from his reality-style movies ("Borat" and "Bruno"). The first "Borat" movie was hilarious; would, say, a fifth one be as good? However, if you loved "Spinal Tap" and "Best in Show," "Mascots" really scratches that itch for quirky, dry comedy.

The film has some genuine bright spots. Parker Posey — one of the most underappreciated actresses of the last 15 years — is her usual, brilliant self. This time she can be seen dancing around in a strange,

steampunk-style armadillo costume, complete with glowing red eyes. Fred Willard, another mockumentary veteran, shines as a doddering, senile godfather type.

However, other, better-known stars like Jane Lynch are never given enough screen time to really stand out from the crowd. The great Irish comedian Chris O'Dowd — you may recognize him as the male lead from "Bridesmaids" — normally fits into roles as a sort of reedy, intellectual type. He is miscast in "Mascots" as a one-note, tough-guy hockey bruiser with a taste for cheap booze. But the film falters with serious pacing and rhythm issues, as well as numerous subplots that never really

go anywhere. The end of the film feels unresolved and generally unsatisfying, like a clever TV show cancelled before its time. This may be due to the fact that, in the editing process, large parts of different story lines ended up on the cutting room floor, in order to shave the film down to a lean, hour-and-a-half total running time.

"Mascots" has quite a few quirky and genuinely charming moments, but they are too few and far between to lift this film up past mediocrity.

— SPIKE HEMANS
Contributing Writer

"LIBERAL TEARS"

Please,
do not tell me that my
pain is not real.
Please,
do not tell me that I'm a baby
because I feel.
I hurt
for those who hurt much more than I.
I hurt
because I saw so many friends cry.
The divide
is swallowing us whole before my eyes.
The divide
is so great because we do not, will not, empathize.
I know
you have reasons for feeling how you do.
I know
you think he's the only one who's listened to you.
But, look
at the vile words he's said from the very start.
But, look
to whether he really speaks to what's in your heart.
Stand with me
and disavow such hate.
Stand with me
because choosing love is never too late.

ON ACCOUNT OF BOTH**Corrina Seeley // Thurgood Marshall College Senior**

This poem was inspired by Facebook posts from family members who support Trump. The day after the election, my uncle shared a video compilation of "butthead liberals crying over Hillary's loss." I wanted to comment: "You know Uncle, I also cried last night. Maybe I should have recorded it so that you could laugh at me too?" But, I didn't have the heart to post it at the time. Instead, I wrote this.

And to those who are in pain, to those who are afraid, to those who are flattened by this outcome: I want you to know that you are not alone. Your feelings are valid and acknowledged. Please take care of yourself, and reach out to your family, friends, and communities for support. We cannot change what happened, but we can change what happens from here. I know many feel angry, and that is valid. But, we cannot allow anger and fear to turn into hate. Instead, we must use these feelings as a motivation to action. Stand for what you believe is right. Stand united with those who believe in the foundational principles of the United States — of freedom, liberty, and justice for all. Reach out to others who do not share your cause and educate them with words, not fists. Remember that we are stronger when we stand together. And, we are even stronger when we are pursuing what is right. At this time, I feel that unity and solidarity is paramount. So, I offer you all this: If you feel weak, I'll offer you support. If you fall down, I'll lend you a hand. If you feel discouraged, I'll give you words of affirmation. If you feel neglected, I'll stand with you. If you feel unwelcome or insignificant, I'll offer you all my love. If you need help, I'll be here. Remember to always love each other, empathize with one another, and never give up your fight.

LISTEN TO THIS, NOT THAT**Brittney Lu // Lifestyle Editor**

Lately it's been challenging to approach any platform, social media or otherwise, without hearing or seeing a plethora of tension. Not to imply there shouldn't be a proposal to engage well with the current climate, but rather, if you need a break from it all, let these TED Talks take you away:

If you need to remember there is still compassion in this world: Hannah Brencher's "Love Letters to Strangers"

In fewer than five minutes, Brencher reveals how a lost art form connects humanity to one another and reconnects an individual with their innermost being. A champion for compassion, she describes her journey with the written letter. In finding handwritten healing, she has decided to share this wealth of hers with the world around her — by placing love letters around her city and reinventing the use of social media to find new means of communication. There's something so intimate and personal in seeing a message of affirmation in the perfectly imperfect scribe that Times New Romans can never replace. Neither a "strategist or specialist, but storyteller," Brencher proposes that these are the "words that speak louder than loud."

If you need to see how beautiful this world can still be: Louie Schwartzberg's "Nature. Beauty. Gratitude."

Sometimes, words can never do the story a picture can tell instead justice. In Schwartzberg's talk, time-lapse photography slows down the world around him, offering insight to the smallest of intricacies and most profound of what the world around us has to provide. Nature provides for him an escape, a reminder of the harmony in humanity we sometimes have a tendency to forget, a "realization that [nature] connects us to every one of us." Schwartzberg goes on to say that in the eyes of each person we encounter, there has to be a "story you could never fully fathom." The Dictionary of Obscure Sorrows provides us with this sonder: this realization that each person we pass by has a "life as vivid and complex as our own." So remind yourself every so often that there must be a reason behind your connection to this world, your connection to one another and the weighted necessity behind what that entails.

If you need to be inspired to change the world: Ron Finley's "A Guerilla Gardener in South Central LA"

Where there is gray, there can be green. In Finley's urbanist campaign for environmental justice, gardening is revolutionized to become an act of rebellion, a bottom-up crusade for equity in the most creative of ways. LA Green Grounds has become a group centered in LA that takes grassroots change to the most literal of senses. Urban gardens have become the way for South Central to reclaim their land, reevaluate a sense of economy and envision a new city for a new generation. Finley becomes an artist where "gardening is [his] graffiti," "soil [his] canvas" and "plant some sh*t" his motto.

If you need to be reminded of self-care: Guy Winch's "Why We All Need to Practice Emotional First Aid"

When it comes to health, Winch argues that there is this age-old "favoritism we show the body over the mind." As a psychologist, he questions why it is we are quick to fix our physical ailments, but when it comes to our emotional and mental well-being, there is only resistance to healing. In a profound talk weaving in the most vulnerable of human emotions from loneliness to failure, Winch highlights the intertwined ways emotional suppressions manifest in physical repercussions. A firm "believer [that] quality of life could rise just as dramatically if we all began practicing emotional hygiene," Winch gives a call to his audience to replace rumination and apathetic withdrawal with engaged emotional understanding.

If you need other ways to process: Elizabeth Gilbert's "Your Elusive Creative Genius"

Challenging the norm of purpose, Gilbert poses a question that we are often too afraid to ask ourselves — "Is it logical that anybody should be expected to be afraid of the work that they feel they were put on this Earth to do?" When it comes to harnessing creative energy, there is an unspoken rule that seems to dictate how we engage artistically: a rule that says, if you are no good, there is no need to try. Erroneously, we often become satisfied with the limitations of what we believe to be our ability, but in Gilbert's talk, she argues to not "be afraid [or] daunted," but rather to "just do your job; continue to show up for your piece of it, whatever that might be."

DO GOOD, FEEL GOOD**Guardian Lifestyle Staff**

Big things are happening during this time of change, so while we're coming to terms with Trump's upcoming term, let's shift our focus towards other end-of-the-year festivities that honor the gift of giving. It's important to appreciate and do some good to feel some good before the year is up.

Carry On Some Community Service

- Re-trash the trash that fell out of the garbage can.
- Leave notes in bathrooms for the next user when the stall is out of toilet paper.
- Prevent skaters from getting broken bones by kicking sticks and stones out of the way on main paths.
- Wipe down your table in PC after you eat and spare the cleaning crew some pain.
- Check behind you to see if anyone is following you into lecture, and keep the door open.

Helping Hands Are Happy Hands

- Offer your charger to a dying phone in need.
- Be the person to quietly inform them of the lunch remnants in their teeth.
- Return market items to where you found them, instead of tossing it into any aisle, so that employees don't have to be responsible for one more misplaced item.
- Actually make room for incoming bus riders.
- "Hey, your backpack is open."

Thankful Tidbits

- Call out a "thank you" to your friendly neighborhood shuttle driver.
- Show some appreciation to those working in HDH — a smile goes miles.
- Genuinely thank your TA; they're students who may be having bad days too.
- Shout out to those working in maintenance, some of who put up with some disgusting dorms.
- No need for passive aggressive post-its here: Replace "please do your dishes" with "have a great day" and see what happens.

Take That Quality Time

- Call your parents.
- Message that friend.
- Actually go through with your texted promise to "hang out sometime," and hang out sometime.
- Be bold — sit with someone during lunch who looks like they could use some company.
- Share your coveted table at MOM with a student looking for a space to study.

Go With Generosity

- Offer to buy someone coffee or simply pay for the person behind you at Starbucks.
- Swipe for your starving off-campus friends.
- You know the cashier at The Village Market could use a snack too. Pick up a candy bar and hand it to them before heading out.
- Someone need a seat on the bus more than you do? You know what to do.
- Being generous isn't only about mo' money, offer your time! Ten minutes to listen to a friend in need won't kill you.

THE GUARDIAN

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Sofa and Loveseat for Immediate Cash Sale - Furniture is in attractive condition as it has been a month since we bought it. Please contact -- if you are interested. Pictures and contact details on Advertigo website. Listing ID: 305157000 at ucsdguardian.org/classifieds for more information

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Sweet Holland Lop Babies - \$60. Super cute purebred Holland Lop Baby Bunnies. They are 8 weeks old and ready to go. I handle all my baby bunnies from birth, so they are all tame and sweet. They will

be between 3-4 pounds when full grown. I will show you how to handle your new bunny and give you lots of helpful information. Please text me at 951-294-2051. I am located in Murrieta. Listing ID: 305984269 at ucsdguardian.org/classifieds for more information

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9		4			8			
	9				2		8	
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			8			7		3
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“Educating people on the benefits of composting and recycling may not always seem ‘sexy’ but it’s worth it.”

– **Lesly Figueroa**

AVP of Environmental Justice Affairs
Student Manager of the Triton Food Pantry



Lesly is the AVP Environmental Justice Affairs. She has founded several programs under the Sustainability Resource Center, a student-peer educational program that promotes campus sustainability goals. For more information on how to get involved, visit sustain.ucsd.edu.

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Tritons Will Travel to Western Oregon University for DoubleTree D2 Shootout

►M. BASKETBALL, from page 12

points on five of five shooting, including four three-pointers, in 30 minutes of play. Teammates senior guard Adam Klie (13 points), sophomore center Chris Hansen (12) and sophomore guard Christian Oshita (10) contributed with double-figure point totals en route to the victory.

In the first half, the Sea Lions came out firing, and the Tritons fell behind 23-33 with less than half of the period to go. The Sea Lions shot the ball 54 percent from the field in the half and an impressive 64 percent from the three-point line on 7 for 11 shooting. The Tritons found it difficult to limit the opposing offense, especially with the overall great first-half shooting performance from the Sea Lions. After a hard-fought end to the half, however, the Tritons narrowed the deficit down to a manageable three points behind an 11-4 run.

With score at 34-37 at the half, head coach Eric Olen fired up the troops in the locker room, which worked to perfection as the Tritons gave a totally different second half performance compared to the first. The Tritons shot an unreal 72 percent (18-25) from the field, totaling to 48 points. On the other hand, the Sea Lions went from over 50 percent shooting to just 38 percent from the field in the second half, including only 4 of 14 from the three-point line.

While the Tritons came up big and rejuvenated in the second half, the Sea Lions came out flat and paid the price for their lack of assertiveness.

During Olen's post-game interview, he praised his team's resilience throughout the game and labeled their second half performance as "some of our best basketball so far ... We tried to become the more aggressive team and tried to make some more plays."

Applying a healthy dose of pressure on the Sea Lions and really making them work for their shots enabled the Tritons to get back into the game in the second half. Additionally, better shot selection and execution on the offensive end allowed the Tritons to pull away and close the game out comfortably.

With three home victories to begin the young season, the Tritons will now take their winning streak on the road to compete at Western Oregon's DoubleTree D2 Shootout.

Speaking of the road trip, Olen said, "The important thing is to have the same amount of focus and mental toughness ... even more important when you are not at home."

Hopefully the players will receive their coach's message loud and clear as they are set to face Concordia on Nov. 18 at 5 p.m. and Western Oregon the following day on Nov. 19 at 7 p.m.

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UPCOMING
UCSD
GAMES

Swim and Dive	11/17	All Day	AT A3 Performance Invite
W. Volleyball	11/17	12 PM	AT CCAA Tournament
M. Water Polo	11/18	10:30 AM	AT WWPA Championship
W. Soccer	11/18	1:30 PM	AT NCAA Championship
M. Soccer	11/18	7 PM	VS Cal Poly Pomona

MEN'S SOCCER

Tritons Advance to Third Round of NAAs

UCSD blanks Western Washington to become highest seed left in tournament, improves record to 17-2-2 overall.

by Dev Jain // Senior Staff Writer



No. 10 UCSD defeated Western Washington University 2-0 in the second round of the NCAA Division II Men's Soccer Tournament. In the victory at Triton Soccer Stadium, redshirt sophomore defender Jeff Powers scored his first collegiate goal in the 11th minute with a right-footed strike that was drilled into the bottom right corner.

Senior center back Kuba Waligorski doubled the lead in the 70th minute and helped the Tritons earn their 13th shutout, the most in the California Collegiate Athletic Association. UCSD's excellent defense is ranked third in the country.

The win over Western Washington marked the program's first victory in an NCAA Division II Tournament match. UCSD had posted a 0-1-3 record in its three previous appearances. Long tenured head coach Jon Pascale, who was earlier named the 2016 CCAA Coach of the Year, earned his first NCAA win.

The Tritons have posted a stellar 10-0-1 record at home and have not lost in La Jolla in over a year. Their last defeat at Triton Stadium was Sept. 27, 2015. Sunday's victory also means that UCSD will get at least one more home game in the NCAA Tournament.

Pascale talked about how important it was to have another game at home. "We're good at home; we're tough to beat at home and the crowds that we've been getting this year have really kind of fueled the team. So I know the guys will be confident going into the game and feel comfortable not having to travel on the road."

To begin the match Western Washington came out striking and very nearly had an early lead. Within minutes, Viking junior forward Anthony Dean used a good through ball to get a great shot on goal, but his ball was deflected off of the left post by redshirt senior goalkeeper Cameron McElfresh. Again Western Washington would have a scoring

chance when Dean delivered a ball to fellow junior forward Drew Barker in a scoring opportunity, but McElfresh stopped the shot once again to keep UCSD in the lead.

Waligorski gave the Tritons extra cushion in the 69th minute when junior forward Uly de la Cal delivered a perfect pass that Waligorski only had to tap into the net.

In the 72nd minute senior midfielder Riley Harbour released a shot that looked like it was going to end up in the back of the net, but the Vikings' junior goalkeeper Tyler Visten managed to knock it out for a corner. With fewer than 10 minutes left, junior midfielder Colton Ronk's header hit the left post and junior midfielder Luke Olney's rebound fell right into McElfresh's hands. McElfresh ended the match with six saves, just one away from his career best, and earned his 31st clean sheet of his career and 12th clean sheet of the year.

With the win, UCSD improves their record to 17-2-2 overall and 12-1-1 in the last 14 games as it won the CCAA regular season and tournament title for the first time in program history. Western Washington, hailing from the Great Northwest Athletic Conference, finishes its season with a 10-5-4 record. The Vikings had been on fire in their last six games, posting a 5-0-1 record which included their first-ever NCAA win, a 3-2 victory in overtime over No. 19 Dixie State.

Since the Tritons are the West Region's highest seed remaining in the tournament, they have the opportunity to have the next two matches at home. CCAA rival Cal Poly Pomona will come to Triton Stadium on Friday, Nov. 18 at 7 p.m. for the West Region final. In addition, UCSD will host two Texas teams, St. Edward's and Midwestern State, at 4 p.m. which will be playing in the South Central Region crown. The victors of those matches will meet in a national quarterfinal on Sunday, Nov. 20 at 12 p.m. in La Jolla.

PHOTO BY CHRISTIAN DUARTE/UCSD GUARDIAN



PHOTO BY CHRISTIAN DUARTE/UCSD GUARDIAN

MEN'S BASKETBALL

UCSD Maintains Perfect Record

UCSD pulls off a comeback to beat PLNU 82-68.

by Daniel Hernandez //
Senior Staff Writer

After two victories, the UCSD men's basketball team added yet another game to the win column on Tuesday night against city rivals, Point Loma Nazarene University, with a final score of 82-68. The Tritons struggled to contain the offense of the Sea Lions in the first half, but played an inspired second half to pull away from their opponents. The win gives the Tritons their third consecutive victory (3-0) of the early season.

Junior point guard George Buaku led all scorers, with 16

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