


1-11-2018

The Santa Clara, 2018-01-11

Santa Clara University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarcommons.scu.edu/tsc>

 Part of the [Arts and Humanities Commons](#), [Business Commons](#), [Education Commons](#), [Engineering Commons](#), [Law Commons](#), [Life Sciences Commons](#), [Medicine and Health Sciences Commons](#), [Physical Sciences and Mathematics Commons](#), and the [Social and Behavioral Sciences Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Santa Clara University, "The Santa Clara, 2018-01-11" (2018). *The Santa Clara*. 57.
<https://scholarcommons.scu.edu/tsc/57>

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the SCU Publications at Scholar Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Santa Clara by an authorized administrator of Scholar Commons. For more information, please contact rscroggin@scu.edu.

The Santa Clara

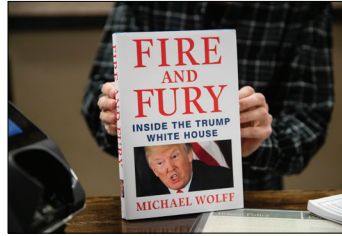
Thursday, January 11, 2018

WHAT'S INSIDE

5 SCENE
Life lessons from
Athena Nguyen



6 OPINION
Revealing book
infuriates Trump



7 SPORTS
Q & A with
Herb Sendek



Malley Center Gets Facelift



KEVIN NGO FOR THE SANTA CLARA

JUNGLE GYM: Santa Clara students take advantage of the new exercise equipment located outside the Malley Center. The outdoor fitness area allows students to workout, even when Malley is closed. In recent weeks, the Malley Center has also renovated the interior and added new weightlifting equipment.

Additional outdoor fitness area and classes open to all

Kimi Andrew
THE SANTA CLARA

The Pat Malley Fitness and Recreation Center welcomed in the New Year with new weight room equipment and fitness classes.

Students walking into the gym will no longer be greeted with hack squatters and an outdated Olympic shoulder press. Instead, they will see entirely new equipment on the heavyweight side.

"My goal was to make the opening more welcoming to all that would like to use the weight room," Director of Recreation Janice DeMonsi said.

"You now walk into the multi-use station and the free weights. The rest of the equipment is still there, it is just in a better layout

and ideally provides more space."

Although some familiar machines are gone and have not been replaced, many of the new machines can provide the same type of workout.

This update follows the creation of the outdoor fitness area which can be found between Malley and the Learning Commons.

This area was made to provide members of the university with a place to get their workout in when Malley is closed.

"I think it's a good way to distribute space."

"Over winter break when we were closed it was getting a lot of use," DeMonsi said. "For example, this weekend we are only open from 12-5 p.m. Students that like to come in at 10 a.m. can get a pseudo workout out there. They can do strength and conditioning training out there."

Sophomore Chris Wagers used the outdoor fitness area during finals week fall quarter.

"I'm glad that Malley decided to make a place to workout outside of the actual weight room," Wagers said. "I think it's a good way to distribute space since the weight room gets crowded most days."

Some students disagree.

"I have mixed feelings," senior Evangelea DiCicco said. "It's great to have new equipment. But the new layout is kind of weird and it feels more cramped."

DiCicco said she has not tried out the outdoor fitness area yet, but will when the weather gets warmer.

See GYM, Page 2

A Sensitive "Star Wars"

The latest installment in the legendary saga proves to be worth the hype

Jane Mezzino
ASSOCIATE REPORTER

Another "Star Wars" that's full of explosions, intergalactic flight and alien creatures. But in "The Last Jedi," we also see the reality of war casualties, poignant revelations about how the past affects us and scenes that beg the question of the nature of good and evil.

Drawing in over one billion dollars at the box office, Rian Johnson's film raked in more than just the title of 2017's highest grossing film. It gained surprisingly high reviews from critics, despite a mixed reactions from the audience, reactions which rooted its distaste for the film in much of what the critics found appealing (like its deliberate pacing).

The film, in spite of its clichéd one-liners and some one-dimensional characters, is a more mature piece. It moves deliberately, focusing instead on meticulous, character-driven conflict rather than ostentatious battle scenes typical of big-budget blockbusters. This is appealing in a series often associated with binaries, simplistic characterizations and style over substance filmmaking.

Johnson's characters, mostly static, rely heavily on "Star Wars" nostalgia, rather than their own complex characterizations or unique storylines in order to remain relevant.

There is enough of the late Carrie Fisher and bearded Mark Hamill to satisfy dedicated "Star Wars" fans. The audience even gets a surprise cameo from everyone's favorite green Jedi master, but this only goes so far in a story that is not centered around their legacy.

However, the script unfortunately does little to bolster most of the newer characters to the same level as their esteemed predecessors. Much of the dialogue—like Rose Tico's mantra of, "We're going to win this war not by fighting what we hate, but saving what we love"—will make anyone older than fourteen shudder.

In the face of more mature themes like abandonment, war and sacrifice, these kinds of melodramatic declarations serve as a reminder that this is not intended to be a serious film.

Despite these flaws, Johnson effectively redeems himself with his discernibly clear grasp on visual storytelling. He utilizes brilliant, thoughtful cinematography, amidst the abundance of CGI sequences expected of a project with a \$200 million budget.

Of course, there are spectacular scenes of space travel and battle thanks to the level of CGI available. This includes a jaw-dropping sequence in which temporary Resistance leader Vice Admiral Holdo, played by actress Laura Dern, sacrifices herself in a captain-goes-down-with-the-ship moment—pulling a u-turn and activating light-speed in the Rebellion's main

See "THE LAST JEDI," Page 4

CAMPUS SAFETY

Alcohol-Related Medical Emergency

Jan. 7: A male campus resident was found intoxicated in a women's restroom at Swig Residence Hall. CSS and SCFD responded. He was transported to Regional Medical Center by paramedics.

Information Report

Jan. 4: CSS responded to the Career Center office to investigate a burning smell. The possible cause was a small table lamp with a burned-out light bulb.

Medical Emergency

Jan. 6: A student injured his wrist when he tripped and fell outside of the Alumni Science building. He and his parent declined medical assistance.

Jan. 9: A student injured his knee while playing basketball in Malley Center. He was given medical assistance by SCU EMS.

Non-Injury Traffic Accident

Jan. 6: A vehicle was reportedly found damaged while parked in the Benson lot. The owner was advised to file a report with SCPD.

Student Behavior

Jan. 9: A campus resident was found in possession of numerous bottles of alcoholic beverages in the room. The alcohol was confiscated and discarded.

Suspicious Circumstance

Jan. 5: CSS documented reports of feces and soiled toilet paper found in the Loyola Hall parking lot area. An investigation is being conducted.

Jan. 5: A vehicle with a flat tire and the moonroof partially open, was observed to have been abandoned and parked in the Guadalupe Hall parking lot.

Trespassing

Jan. 5: A non-affiliate suspicious male was found inside a men's restroom of Alumni Science at night. He refused to cooperate when questioned and was admonished for trespassing.

Vandalism

Jan. 3: Graffiti was found written on the ATM by the Campus Bookstore and the bookstore window.

Jan. 5: An unknown suspicious male matching the description of a previous vandalism suspect was observed outside of the Bannan Engineering Labs during the night. He attempted to flee the area upon noticing CSS arrival. SCPD was contacted and responded. He was cited for vandalism and released to the Bill Wilson Center by SCPD.

Jan. 5: Graffiti was found written on the exterior door of a Daly Science 200 classroom and the pillar in the basement of the O'Connor basement.

Welfare Check

Jan. 3: CSS investigated a report of a campus resident who was possibly depressed. The resident was not in his room because he is currently out of the country studying abroad.

From Campus Safety reports.
Email news@thesantaclara.org.

Check out the Campus Safety Report online:

- facebook.com/scucss
- @SCUCampusSafety

Gym Features New Equipment, Facilities

Continued from Page 1

The outdoor fitness area, which cost \$40,000, was made possible by revenue generated by the gym's summer program and alumni memberships.

Additionally, after 17 years, both men's and women's locker rooms were updated during the break.

Tiles were replaced along the walls due to normal wear and tear.

The Campus Recreation Center is offering seven new classes this quarter due to its recent partnership with Les Mills.

Les Mills is a company that trains fitness instructors and allows its partners to have access to those instructors.

The three Les Mills classes being offered this quarter are GRIT, a 30-minute high intensity strength training class. BODYBUMP, a one-hour strength training class. And CXWORK, a core and ab workout class.

All 22 fitness classes are free to attend this week. Starting next week, students will need a punch card in order to access classes. Unlimited admission to classes for the quarter costs \$85 if purchased this week, and \$100 if purchased next week.

A free Zumba class will be offered every Wednesday of the quarter from 7:45-8:45

p.m. on a trial period to gauge popularity.

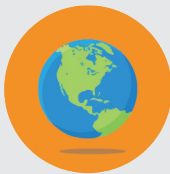
Contact Kimi Andrew at kandrew@scu.edu or call (408) 554-4852.



KEVIN NGO—THE SANTA CLARA

A new outdoor fitness area is just one of the many changes made to the Malley Center over winter break. The site features a climbing net and other workout options. It is always open, even when the Malley Center is not.

News in Brief



Global

- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un announced that the country would send a team to the Winter Games in South Korea next month.
- Iran has banned the teaching of English in its primary schools.
- Iceland has become the first country to legally mandate equal pay between men and women.



National

- Steve Bannon stepped down as executive chairman of Breitbart News on Tuesday following his criticism of President Trump and Donald Trump Jr. in Michael Wolff's "Fire and Fury."
- University of Alabama won the College Football Playoff National Championship 26-23 against the University of Georgia.
- The 75th Golden Globe Awards on Sunday were the first major awards show since allegations of sexual misconduct in Hollywood. Stars wore black in solidarity with the "Time's Up" movement.

Santa Clara



- Vice Provost for Student Life Jeanne Rosenberger sent an email reminding students that despite the implemented change in state law regarding marijuana, use and possession of the drug on campus or in association with any university-sponsored or affiliated activity or program is prohibited.
- This week, Men's Basketball hosts St. Mary's (Thurs., Jan. 11 at 8 p.m. on ESPNU) and BYU (Sat., Jan. 13 at 7 p.m.).

The Santa Clara

Since 1922

Volume 97, Issue 9

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Jimmy Flynn

MANAGING EDITOR

Perla Luna

EDITORS

- News: Erin Fox
- Opinion: John Brussa
- Scene: Noah Sonnenburg
- Sports: Olivia DeGraca
- Photo: Michelle Wang
- Head Copy: Kali Swindell
- Design: Mimi Najmabadi

REPORTERS

- Kimi Andrew
- Ethan Beberness
- Addy Camisa
- Jay Fuchs
- Meghan McLaughlin
- Jay Mehta
- Bella Rios
- Alex Stewart

COPY DESK

- Bronwyn Geyer
- Emily Mun

PHOTOGRAPHERS

- Alyssa Lee
- Kevin Ngo
- Spencer Raines
- Cesar Tesen
- Andrea Yun

ADVERTISING MANAGER

Hannah Hawkins

FINANCE MANAGER

James Kipper

WEB ENGINEER

Matt Kordonsky

DISTRIBUTION MANAGER

Maritza Soria

ADVISERS

- Gordon Young
- Charles Barry, photo
- Dan McSweeney, photo

CONTACT US

- Newsroom: (408) 554-4852
- Editor-in-chief: (408) 554-4849
- Advertising: (408) 554-4445

ON THE WEB

www.thesantaclara.org

EMAIL

editor@thesantaclara.org

Editors and departments can also be reached via email at section@thesantaclara.org (e.g. sports@thesantaclara.org). For a complete list, visit us on the Web.

TWITTER

@thesantaclara

INSTAGRAM

@thesantaclara

MAILING ADDRESS

Center for Student Leadership
Locatelli Student Activity Ctr.
500 El Camino Real
Santa Clara, CA
95053-3190

OUR POLICIES

The Santa Clara is the official student newspaper of Santa Clara University.
The Santa Clara is written,

edited and produced by students once weekly, except during holidays, examination periods and academic recesses.

The Santa Clara welcomes letters to the editor from readers. Letters can be delivered to the Benson Memorial Center, room 13; mailed to SCU Box 3190 or emailed to: letters@thesantaclara.org.

Our letters policy:

Submissions must include major and year of graduation and/or job title, relation to the university and a phone number for verification.

Letters should not exceed 250 words. Those exceeding the word limit may be considered as publication as an article or in some other form.

Anonymous letters will not be considered for publication.

The Santa Clara reserves the right to edit letters for grammar, clarity and accuracy, or to shorten letters to fit the allocated space.

All letter submissions become property of The Santa Clara.

The deadline for publication in Thursday's edition is the prior Saturday.

Nothing on the opinion pages necessarily represents a position of Santa Clara University. Letters, columns and graphics represent only the views of their authors.

The Santa Clara has a minimum newspaper circulation of 2,000.

One free copy. Additional copies are 25¢.

All Past Issues of Student Newspaper Available Online

School library participates in archives project

Gabby Deutsch
CONTRIBUTOR

The Santa Clara community is one step closer to traveling back in time.

No, it's not due to an invention like the DeLorean, but rather an online archive.

Thanks to a six-month project by Archives & Special Collections at the Santa Clara Library, researchers can now learn a lot more from "The Santa Clara" undergraduate newspaper.

Since last September, all 2,367 issues of The Santa Clara dated between 1922 through 2013 are available on the library's website.

The digitization project was a massive undertaking—totaling more than 24,000 individual pages.

The online database allows keyword searches within the scanned newspaper images, meaning searches can be made for mentions of names, sports, clubs and buildings.

Nadia Nasr, Head of Archives & Special Collections, thinks people can learn a lot from a student newspaper. Not just

about what's happening at a school, but in the world around it.

"It is a great project, something we initiated just to increase overall accessibility," Nasr said. "Before this project we didn't have any paper indexes. If you wanted to know what was being reported about a particular event or individual, you kind of had to know the time period."

Though newspapers are no longer the primary medium for news, they're a valuable archival resource.

With an online archive, researchers can remotely learn about a time directly from the people who lived it.

Take March 22, 1961—one of the most notorious editions of "The Santa Clara."

The double-decker headline on the front page reads "Tradition Shattered," reflecting the misguided panic some male administrators and students had to the announcement that Santa Clara would be a co-educational institution.

But upon closer inspection, there was some optimism.

Beyond the statements of regret and discomfort from the university administration and the newspaper staff itself, there are encouraging, progressive voices mixed in.

Richard Lautze, the president of the Santa Clara

Alumni Association at the time, called the move "a better service to the community."

"I am very happy," Lautze said. "I have four daughters."

Then-president of Associated Students University of Santa Clara, Jerry Kerr, said, "Progress has to be served...I think people will see the reasons behind it. The University has to move forward and this is a necessary step."

That's the value of a primary resource like a newspaper.

According to Nasr, the archive is full of valuable lessons about Santa Clara, the Mission Church and the United States as a whole.

Old issues contains information about everything from Vatican II to the civil rights movement to the changing role of higher education.

"It is easy to think, 'oh, university history, whatever,'" Nasr said. "But you really do see a lot of what was happening on a national scale, reflected locally and in microcosm on [the] campus communities."

An earlier version of this story appeared in the University Library's Fall/Winter 2017 newsletter under the headline "A Window to the Past."

Contact Gabby Deutsch at gdeutsch@scu.edu.



March 22, 1961 is one of the most notorious editions of "The Santa Clara." The double-decker headline, which reads "Tradition Shattered," announced that the school would become a co-educational institution after 110 years.



Death Toll Hits 17 in California Mudslides; 13 Remain Missing

Maricio Jose Sanchez & Amanda Lee Myers
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MONTECITO, Calif. (AP) — Anxious family members awaited word on loved ones Wednesday as rescue crews searched for more than a dozen people missing after mudslides in Southern California destroyed an estimated 100 houses, swept away cars and left at least 17 victims dead.

"It's just waiting and not knowing, and the more I haven't heard from them — we have to find them," said Kelly Weimer, whose elderly parents' home was wrecked by the torrent of mud, trees and boulders that flowed down a fire-scarred mountain and slammed into this coastal town in Santa Barbara County early Tuesday.

The drenching storm that triggered the disaster had cleared out, giving way to sunny skies, as hundreds of searchers carefully combed a landscape strewn with hazards.

"We've gotten multiple reports of rescuers falling through manholes that were covered with mud, swimming pools that were covered up with mud," said Anthony Buzzerio, a Los Angeles County fire battalion chief.

"The mud is acting like a candy shell on ice cream. It's crusty on top but soft underneath, so we're having to be

very careful."

Buzzerio led a team of 14 firefighters and six dogs in thick debris. They used long-handled tools to search the muck in the painstaking task.

Teams rescued three people Wednesday, but they also discovered two more bodies, raising the death count to 17, Santa Barbara County Sheriff Bill Brown said. Thirteen people were missing.

The deluge destroyed 100 houses and damaged 300 others, Santa Barbara County authorities said. Eight commercial properties were destroyed and 20 damaged.

Some 500 firefighters and other rescue workers were searching debris spread across a wide swath of Montecito, a wealthy enclave of about 9,000 people northwest of Los Angeles that is home to such celebrities as Oprah Winfrey, Rob Lowe and Ellen DeGeneres.

Helicopters were used to hoist more than 50 people to safety from roofs, where they scrambled to escape the mud or because debris had blocked roads and left them stranded.

At one point, a Coast Guard helicopter rescued a family of five and their two dogs.

Video shot from the hovering chopper showed a house surrounded by muck and debris as a mother, muddy from the waist down, handed her infant to two rescuers on the roof and then got help onto it.

She and her newborn were

hoisted to safety, followed by the rest of the family.

Weimer's missing parents, Jim and Alice Mitchell, didn't heed a voluntary evacuation warning and stayed home Monday to celebrate her father's 89th birthday. She hoped to find them in a shelter or hospital.

"They're an adorable couple, and they were in love with their house. That's their forever home," Weimer said.

People in Montecito had counted themselves lucky last month after the biggest wildfire in California history spared the town. But it was the fire that led to the mudslide, by burning away vegetation.

"We totally thought we were out of the woods," said Jennifer Markham, whose home escaped damage in both disasters. "I was frozen yesterday morning thinking, 'This is a million times worse than that fire ever was.'"

Only an estimated 10 to 15 percent of residents fled when ordered and much of the damage occurred where evacuations were voluntary.

Marco Farrell, a real estate agent, cited "evacuation fatigue" as his reason not to leave — a decision he wouldn't make next time.

He woke to the sound of pounding rain early Tuesday and went outside to investigate. He was two blocks from home when he heard a rumble that he realized was the mud-

slide he feared.

"I ran as fast I could and yelled, 'Flash flood!' as I passed neighbors' homes," he said.

Farrell ran inside to warn his parents, and within a minute, a boulder plowed through the kitchen door.

The mud flow went through the home and burst through a backdoor.

Farrell planned to float his elderly parents to a hillside on a surfboard, but it didn't come to that.

The mud never got above their thighs and after about an hour of huddling in a hallway, he led his folks and dog outside where a passing firetruck took them to safety.

The flow was so powerful it swept several homes off their foundations, crushed others and wrapped cars around trees.

At least two unrecognizably mangled cars were carried like driftwood all the way to the beach, where they were partly covered in seaweed.

In Montecito, heavy debris still covered a stretch U.S. Highway 101, closing the main link between Ventura and Santa Barbara for 30 miles. It was not expected to be open until Monday.

Another storm-related death was reported in Northern California, where a man was killed when his car was apparently struck by falling rocks in a landslide Tuesday evening in Napa County.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

SCENE

Thursday, January 11, 2018

Rap to Rock: The Defining Albums of 2017

Resident music critic ranks the ten best albums in a catastrophic year

Noah Sonnenburg
SCENE EDITOR

It's time to look back. We were all waiting for 2017. There isn't a genre in the music industry that didn't have a major release. From rap to rock to electronica, there was a tidal wave of tunes that swept the music world. The quality of music too was unmatched. While there were far more works of genius, these are the cream of the crop. These are The Santa Clara's top ten albums of 2017:

10. Dan Auerbach — "Waiting on a Song"

2017 was a rough year. No matter your background, this year felt like it would never end. Celebrity deaths, rocky politics, global threats and widespread controversies abounded. Needless to say, it was an overwhelming 12 months. People needed an escape, a reminder that there was good in the world. Dan Auerbach provided the warm and fuzzy music we all needed. In that way, "Waiting on a Song" was perfect. Beyond this, the songwriting, production and instrumentation came across beautifully in the recordings. This album was a big, goofy smile packed into 10 short tracks. *Best track: "Never in my Wildest Dreams."*

9. Calvin Harris — "Funk Wav Bounces Vol. 1"

Much like Auerbach, Calvin Harris delivered to the world a bundle of joy with his 2017 release. Featuring 21 of Harris' contemporaries, this album delivers a torrent of fun, hip-swinging melodies. Like the title suggest, there is a strong funk basis in this album, as the midrange-driven bass guitar carries each track along. There is no doubt that each of these 10 songs will have you on your feet, dancing around, forgetting your worries. *Best track: "Feels."*

8. SZA — "Ctrl"

SZA didn't want anybody to just relax all year. Her sophomore release, "Ctrl," is a thoughtful, relentlessly poignant totem in the musical world. With her familiarly beautiful voice, she tells stories of broken love and re-birth. Plaintive yet steadfast, this album is fit for a moody drive on a rainy day. She doesn't work alone in this, however. She is joined by fellow artists Kendrick Lamar, Travis Scott and Isaiah Rashad on consecutive tracks.

These features are extremely tasteful and well chosen. Their tone matches the album well, making it a more cohesive set of tracks in the end. *Best track: "Broken Clocks."*

7. Father John Misty — "Pure Comedy"

Father John Misty and SZA are very different. Their musical genre, style and message are on opposite ends of the music world 99 percent of the time. However, the moods and feeling of Father John's "Pure Comedy" and SZA's "Ctrl" are strikingly similar. These affecting albums are stirring and sincere. Bluntly, they are dark. Father John touches more however on an overarching distaste with society on the whole. Especially in tracks like "Total Entertainment Forever" and "Ballad of the Dying Man," he bemoans the inescapable commercialism of the modern day, and our addictive reliance on technology. Anyone upset with the world should give a listen to the beauty and taunting, haunting elegance of this album. *Best track: "Leaving LA."*

6. King Gizzard & the Wizard Lizard — "Murder of the Universe"

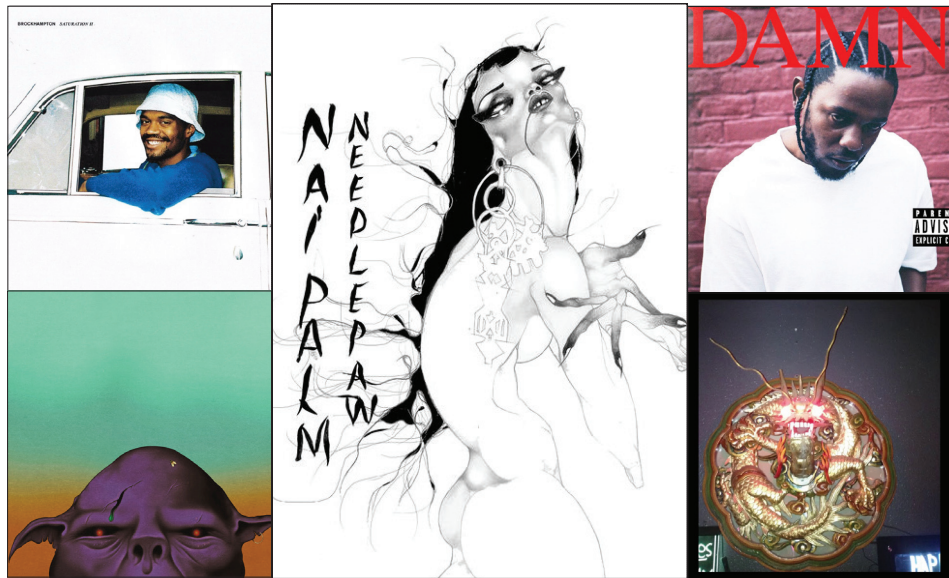
You have never heard an album like this. Not once. Built to flow like a continuous track, this album is more of an epic poem than a musical piece. With a narrator and a cast of characters, the album asks for attention and asks what it is to be human. One of four albums put out by KGWL this year, "Murder of the Universe" is by far the best. It feels like a slap to the face. Psychedelia is back with this album. Not for casual listeners, this album requires headphones for true appreciation. If you're bored of music today, this album could be the dose of something adventurous you're looking for. *Best track: "Alter Me III"*

5. Nai Palm — "Needle Paw"

Nai Palm is an Australian guitarist and singer. Frontwoman of jazz outfit Hiatus Kaiyote, she is well established as a powerhouse of songwriting and performance. This album is a collection of originals and songs from Hiatus Kaiyote. Each song is stripped down and raw. Played on a jangly Jackson guitar with light accompaniment, Nai Palm's voice takes the forefront. It's unfussy, enjoyable and seamlessly executed. *Best track: "Molasses."*

4. Death Grips — "Steroids (Crouching Tiger Hidden Gabber)"

This is a risky inclusion on this list. Much like their release called "Exmilitary," "Steroids" isn't an album. It's a mixtape. While a lean 22 minutes long, a lot of substance is packed into that short timeframe. The mix is fiery and angry, showcasing some of the



Listed counter-clockwise from bottom left: "Orc" by Oh Sees, "Saturation II" by BROCKHAMPTON, "Needle Paw" by Nai Palm, "DAMN." by Kendrick Lamar, "Steroids (Crouching Tiger Hidden Gabber)" by Death Grips.

best work the group has ever put out. While not departing from their distinct sound, this release illustrates a healthy departure from the drum-heavy tracks of their freshman release "The Money Store." The release of this mix also was an exciting moment for Death Grips fans as its announcement was accompanied by this tweet from their official Twitter page: "we're working on the new death grips album, but in the meantime, here's a new track/mix. it's 22 minutes." *Best track: all 22 minutes.*

3. Kendrick Lamar — "DAMN."

What can be said about this album that hasn't been said already? "Damn" is the highly anticipated 2017 album release by Compton rapper Kendrick Lamar. Harsher, angrier and more electric than its predecessor, "To Pimp a Butterfly," this album is far from a masterpiece. Nevertheless, it is a masterpiece for this reason: The album beautifully reflects the anger in Kendrick's heart. Much of the album is posed as a response to the comments made by journalist Geraldo Rivera about Lamar's 2015 BET Awards performance. His internal conflicts, loyalties and biases are on the table in "Damn." Kung-fu Kenny can be vulnerable and, in his words, make it look sexy. *Best tracks: "DNA," and "PRIDE."*

2. Oh Sees — "Orc"

Rock needs a comeback. It needs to contemporize and reflect current sentiments in society. Oh Sees is just the band to do that. Their paranoid, frantic and intimidating style of songwriting is enlivening and engaging. Mesmerizing scenes are set up in their songs with imagery of prisons in the sun, the

nighttime adventures of arachnids and cut-off heads. Their chaotic music feels like the soundtrack Frank Zappa would write for a movie co-written by Guillermo Del Toro and David Lynch. "Orc" is a fine example of this. More zany than most of their releases, this album is prime Oh Sees, and worth a close listen. *Best track: "Animated Violence."*

1. BROCKHAMPTON — "Saturation"

There's a reason this group is "america's favorite boy-band." BROCKHAMPTON was the single most interesting and stupefying group putting out work this year. Within 2017 they released three albums: "Saturation" (17 songs), "Saturation II" (16 songs), "Saturation III" (15 songs). In an effort to literally saturate the music world with their work, these albums were put out in rapid-fire succession. One might imagine that with these quickly successive releases, the group would be putting out three of the same album. It could not be more to the contrary, however. Each installment is something wholly new, something deserving of attention because it's clear the band took the time to grow as artists between releases. While each album is unique, it would be a crime to separate them for this ranking. This group is redefining genre, and broadening the tastes of their generation, for this reason, BROCKHAMPTON is something new and really really important. *Best tracks: "STAR" (1); "FIGHT" & "SWEET" (2); "ZIPPER," and "BLEACH" (3)*

Contact Noah Sonnenburg at nasonnenburg@scu.edu or call (408) 554-4852.

"The Last Jedi": I (Don't) Have a Bad Feeling About This

Continued from Page 1

space vessel—slicing through the monstrous First Order spaceship that is chasing after them. Johnson does a terrific job of creating an emotionally heavy and more mature film than expected.

Beyond exploding space vessels are the intense shots of Kylo Ren and Rey communicating through their minds.

These are conveyed separately on screen in each character's own setting, only shown in frame together during their final telepathic scene when they reach out across the galaxy and grip hands.

This one moment of connection seems even more significant with Johnson's dis-

tinct style of filming, showing that in one powerful moment they are connected beyond the limits of their previous bond.

Their battle scene features an intense struggle to out-Force each other, breaking the old Skywalker lightsaber in a beautiful shot that perfectly illustrates their equal, balanced power.

Most fascinating is the development and insight into Kylo Ren.

Maskless and exposed, actor Adam Driver does a fantastic job conveying the torment and multi-faceted nature of the not-so-typical villain.

His scenes with Rey, compellingly played by actress Daisy Ridley, display deeper

dimensions than the simple conflict of good versus evil.

They suck the viewer into conversations fraught with tension as both characters struggle to reconcile with their pasts, question the present and look to their futures.

"The Last Jedi" does not disappoint. It caters to a more sensitive audience that may still cringe at its one-liners but will feel satisfied by the escalating tension and character development of its two young Force-users.

Despite exploring the complicated nature of war and morality more closely than usual, it stays true to the classic good versus evil thread that has lined the saga for the past forty years.

Like the previous install-



Since its release on December 14, 2017, "The Last Jedi" has brought in one billion dollars in revenue. Pictured left to right: Mark Hamill as Luke Skywalker, Daisy Ridley as Rey and Adam Driver as villain Kylo Ren.

ment, "The Force Awakens," "The Last Jedi" also redeems the series from the unstable prequels and proudly carves itself a place in the "Star

Wars" legacy beside classics like "A New Hope" and "The Empire Strikes Back." "The Last Jedi" is indeed a Force to be reckoned with, even in

the face of its flaws.

Contact Jane Mezzino at jmezzino@scu.edu or call (408) 554-4852.



Senior student reflects on her studies and travels abroad

Gavin Cosgrave
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The following is an entry in a series called "Voices of Santa Clara," which profiles noteworthy students and faculty. The Q & A is excerpted from the "Voices of Santa Clara" podcast.

Athena Nguyen is a senior majoring in public health and political science. When she's not studying, you can find her working as a peer advisor for the political science department, spending time with her residents as a community facilitator in the Sanfilippo Residence Hall or catching up with friends and professors.

Athena traveled abroad both these past two summers: first to Peru on a Jean Donovan Fellowship, then to Myanmar as a Global Social Benefit Fellow.

Gavin Cosgrave: What experiences impacted you as a high school student?

Athena Nguyen: I was involved in an academic team called Model United Nations. My first year in high school, one of my teachers, Brian Dodson, handed me a flyer and told me, "I think you should try out. It's incredibly demanding but I think you would be great at it." I wasn't really planning on doing any type of team like that, but to be polite, I tried out.

I got in, and my life changed for the better. I learned how to be a good debater and how to present

Voices of Santa Clara: Athena Nguyen

my thoughts concisely. The summer before I came to Santa Clara, Brian Dodson passed away. Grieving him and processing his death was very difficult, but it made me realize how important people are and to treasure the relationships I have with my mentors.

GC: What is a lesson you have learned in college?

AN: I've gotten very close to many of my professors, which is something I learned to value in high school. I just met with my chemistry professor from my sophomore year to hang out and chat about what I did over summer and what I plan on doing after graduation.

GC: Were there any especially impactful moments from your trip to Peru for your Jean Donovan Scholarship after sophomore year?

AN: I was feeding this five-year-old child at an orphanage, and he didn't speak because he wasn't very developed mentally. We were sitting down playing together, and this woman came up to me and waved me away. I walked away and sat with another nun, who told me that the child's mom was coming to give him up completely because she had another child at home with special needs and didn't have the resources to take care of her son. She had brought a blanket and toys for him, and she picked him up out of his wheelchair and cradled him in her arms.

You could tell that she loved him very much, but it's difficult if you don't have the resources to take care of your family. As a public health advocate, it's very difficult to see someone who cares about their family but can't take care of them because of something out of their control.

GC: How was your experience as a Global Social Benefit Fellow last summer in Myanmar?

AN: I was in the field in Myanmar for two months with a social enterprise called Koe Koe Tech, a health tech startup. Koe Koe Tech developed an app called Maymay



Athena Nguyen next to her "Café Athena" board in the Sanfilippo Residence Hall. As a Community Facilitator, she uses this board to showcase a bit about herself. For example, she has photos from Peru and Myanmar, where she spent her past two summers.

PHOTO COURTESY OF GAVIN COSGRAVE

(which means "mother" in Burmese), that has information related to pregnancy and childcare. It has content on nutrition and fitness, hotlines for gender-based violence, online shopping features and is structured like a social newsfeed. We discovered that women really loved the weekly pregnancy updates and weekly quizzes. One of the big issues is that, although anyone could get the app in the Google play store, many people didn't even have an email address.

Our team of three conducted six video interviews, fifteen in-person interviews, and we worked with the Koe Koe Tech marketing team to conduct 162 phone surveys.

At this time last year, I didn't know what a "social enterprise" was. This fellowship has definitely altered my view of myself and how I view myself as a leader and advocate for others. I would love

to work for an organization that has social impact, and the people that I met in Myanmar constantly inspire me.

GC: Are there any decisions you have made, or habits that have been important for you in college?

AN: One of the best things I have done for myself is being comfortable with asking for help, because there is great humility in it. Most people are willing to help you. Just don't be afraid to ask.

GC: What is your favorite part about being a community facilitator?

AN: Oh my, I could go on and on about it ... In my past two years as a CF, I've had the opportunity to develop a lot of amazing relationships with my residents.

It's not just about looking out for them or hoping they won't do anything bad in front of me. It's more about them feeling com-

fortable approaching me about anything ... romantic advice or classes, or just doing homework in my room. I have been able to mentor a lot of amazing students and help them see the potential I see in them. To see someone blossom throughout their time at Santa Clara is something amazing that I've been fortunate to witness and be a part of.

GC: What advice would you give to a first-year student?

AN: Don't be afraid to try things. If you don't like it, you are not obligated to stay in it ... that includes sports, majors, friend groups ... things change in our dynamics all the time and people have to pivot and adapt.

To listen to the full interview, visit voicesofsantaclara.com or search "Voices of Santa Clara" on the iTunes Podcast App.

Book Expresses a Post-American Worldview

Suzy Hansen's successful 2017 book challenges readers' view of America's position in global politics

Ethan Beberness
STAFF REPORTER

America has changed since the days of the Lost Generation and the idealized American expatriate author. No longer are we the fledgling, rebellious country who stood up to European imperial power—our nation has become the imperial power.

Suzy Hansen's "Notes on a Foreign Country: An American Abroad in a Post-American World" is a wake-up call to anyone with romanticized fantasies of the United States' as benefactor in global history.

Through an introspective analysis of her political beliefs and worldview, Hansen points her finger at so-called "progressive" Americans. After all, regardless of how objectively readers may perceive themselves, "an objective American mind is still first and foremost an American mind."

According to Hansen, even the most liberal American still possesses a subconscious, nationalistic view on foreign policy. Americans are raised to believe that America is a benevolent, generous nation that only intervenes in international affairs with the best intentions.

Hansen suggests that the United States' foreign policy is more similar to that of the British or French empires than most Americans might readily believe.

In order to understand Hansen's point of view, the reader must first make a major paradigm shift. After all, regardless of how objectively the reader may perceive themselves to be, "an objective American mind is still, first and foremost

still an American mind."

"Notes on a Foreign Country" demonstrates how the United States defines freedom, justice and a higher quality of life for other nations and how those definitions are enforced by a powerful, possessive and global empire. Though similar to the British or French in its purpose, this empire has a different structure.

Rather than operating through colonization (though we do have "nearly 800 military bases in more than several countries," according to Politico), the American Empire is built through strong armed control exercised on nations we regard as lesser, backwards or barbaric.

Hansen focuses primarily on American influence in Turkey because she is based in Istanbul, though she does explore the role of the U.S. in Egypt, Pakistan and Iran.

However, what makes her Turkish-based perspective so interesting are the similarities between American and Turkish culture, particularly our violent and nationalistic tendencies.

One teacher explained to Hansen that, in Turkey, "War and war making are essential to [Turkish] culture." Furthermore, "Turks learned that the military must stay strong to protect them from constant foreign and domestic threats," according to Hansen. Sound familiar?

The Turkish equivalent of George Washington is a man named Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, a hero of the First World War and founder of modern Turkey after the collapse of the Ottoman Empire.

Students go on a mandatory trip to Gallipoli, the site of "a giant victory for the flailing Turks, and from which Atatürk emerged as a brilliant hero," during World War I.

This political pilgrimage is reminiscent of the eighth-grade field trips many young Americans take to Washington D.C. each year. The similarities between American and Turkish nationalism go even deeper, especially when citizens have been attacked.

Once, when a group of Kurdish militants (representing a

heavily oppressed ethnic group present in not just Turkey, but also Iran, Iraq and Syria) killed a group of Turkish soldiers, Hansen saw her neighborhood erupt with the red of Turkish flags.

"People marched down Istiklal Caddesi waving those enormous bloodred Turkish flags, the men sporting red bandanas like warriors, the women holding photos of Atatürk on sticks, the children clutching signs that read 'We are all Turks,'" Hansen says, describing the reaction in Istanbul to the attack.

Hansen's friend Caner, a Kurd, jokes to her, "Maybe we should buy a flag. Just in case?"

This reaction is reminiscent of the proliferation of American flags and active, aggressive, outward patriotism displayed after the 9/11 attacks.

Every American should have a desire to understand the nation's true position as a world power. We should question why citizens of another country might hate the United States.

"Notes on a Foreign Country" is an excellent place from which readers can begin to learn about the true nature of United States foreign policy — to understand our country's position as a world power and how we have angered citizens of other nations.

Hansen's tight, informative prose relays event after event of mismanaged foreign intervention, showing how the long term effects of American influence abroad.

In light of recent changes in American foreign policy, especially regarding Pakistan and Israel, it is imperative that citizens are informed of not just the American perspective of the region, but also the local reactions to the United States in their world.

An informed populace is the lifeblood of a strong democracy. Hansen's "Notes on a Foreign Country" is a last-ditch effort in informing the people.

Contact Ethan Beberness at ebeberness@scu.edu or call (408) 554-4852.

OPINION

Thursday, January 11, 2018

Jay Fuchs

“Fire and Fury” Making Trump Fired Up and Furious



Following its release on Jan. 5, “Fire and Fury” sold 30,000 hard copies during its first weekend on the shelves. Many have called into question the accuracy of some of the book’s content, including President Trump, who sent its publisher a cease and desist letter through his attorney. Steve Bannon, former White House Chief Strategist, recently stepped down from his position at Breitbart News, prompted by his contributions to the book.

“Here, arguably, was the central issue of the Trump presidency, informing every aspect of Trumpian policy and leadership: He didn’t process information in any conventional sense. He didn’t read. He didn’t really even skim. Some believed that for all practical purposes he was no more than semi-literate.”

This excerpt is one of several incendiary claims made by author Michael Wolff in his controversial account of the Trump presidency. “Fire and Fury: Inside the Trump White House” is a shocking expose compiled from over 200 interviews with White House staffers that ultimately calls into question the President’s fitness for office.

Since “Fire and Fury” came out, the Trump administration has worked tirelessly to undermine both the book’s content and Wolff’s credibility. The President has taken to Twitter, denouncing the book as “phony” and calling Michael Wolff a “total loser.” In keeping with

fantasy” and “tabloid gossip” when those are the basis of his entire political identity.

Donald Trump, the politician, would not exist if not for calculated fallacies: the first and maybe foremost example being his perpetuation of the birther conspiracy. Start-

ing in 2011, Trump was vocal about his disbelief in Barack Obama’s American citizenship. His insistence that Barack Obama’s birth certificate was illegitimate was integral to his emergence in American politics. Even Trump is aware of that. In speaking with ABC News’ John Karl about the birther movement in 2013 Trump said, “I think it made me very popular ... I do think I know what I am doing.” He was relentless in furthering an outlandish, racist rumor that was proven to

be factually inaccurate long before he stopped pursuing it. In short, he made effective use of actual “complete fantasy” and “tabloid gossip” to a political end.

Perhaps the most fitting example of the President’s hypocrisy in response to “Fire and Fury” is his

an illegitimate African-American son whom he refuses to acknowledge or support.

The book is nothing more than an extended hit piece: a low, manipulative, fabricated ploy meant to cultivate political capital in the ugliest way possible. Donald Trump

value. Even John Sargent, the Chief Executive of Henry Holt and Co.’s parent company said in an interview with “The New York Times,” “in the course of a day in the White House, there are a lot of people saying a lot of things, some of which are factual, some of which are not factual. So Michael reporting on something that is not factual can easily happen, because he’s reporting on people talking about these things.”

Some of the claims in the book may very well be “fantasy” or “gossip.” That being said, there is no excuse for the President’s behaviour in the wake of “Fire and Fury’s” publication. There are absolutely no claims made in the book that are any more outrageous than “Barack Obama is secretly Kenyan” or “Bill Clinton serially rapes women and Hillary personally intimidates them to keep them quiet.” Trump has been perfectly fine with perpetuating fallacies when they suit him, so he has no right to be on the brink of tears when they do not. Obama remained composed when his birth certificate was fake. Hillary did not wince when she was accused of being the First Lady who systematically silenced her husband’s rape victims. So Donald Trump should be equipped to handle being the semi-literate President who eats cheeseburgers in bed.



Michael Wolff, author of “Fire and Fury,” chose its title based on President Trump’s tweet threatening retaliation toward North Korea. Wolff began his research in 2016, claiming to have conducted several interviews with Trump and members of the senior staff.

own experience with promoting disparaging literature for political gain. On the campaign trail, Donald Trump retweeted the Amazon link for “The Clintons’ War on Women” a book by a former political advisor and known conspiracy theorist Roger Stone. In the book, Stone casts Bill Clinton as a serial rapist and alleges that Hillary Clinton enabled his sexual misconduct. Stone also claims that Bill Clinton was a drug addict, that he is not actually Chelsea Clinton’s father and that he has

did not just approve of Stone’s book; he endorsed it. In doing so, he effectively forfeited his right to be pitied in the wake of “Fire and Fury’s” publication.

The claims in “Fire and Fury” can be hilarious, unsettling and provocative. They range from Donald Trump not ever actually wanting to be elected President to Trump eating cheeseburgers in bed multiple nights per week. As compelling as the stories may be, I know better than to take all of them at face

value. Even John Sargent, the Chief Executive of Henry Holt and Co.’s parent company said in an interview with “The New York Times,” “in the course of a day in the White House, there are a lot of people saying a lot of things, some of which are factual, some of which are not factual. So Michael reporting on something that is not factual can easily happen, because he’s reporting on people talking about these things.”

Some of the claims in the book may very well be “fantasy” or “gossip.” That being said, there is no excuse for the President’s behaviour in the wake of “Fire and Fury’s” publication. There are absolutely no claims made in the book that are any more outrageous than “Barack Obama is secretly Kenyan” or “Bill Clinton serially rapes women and Hillary personally intimidates them to keep them quiet.” Trump has been perfectly fine with perpetuating fallacies when they suit him, so he has no right to be on the brink of tears when they do not. Obama remained composed when his birth certificate was fake. Hillary did not wince when she was accused of being the First Lady who systematically silenced her husband’s rape victims. So Donald Trump should be equipped to handle being the semi-literate President who eats cheeseburgers in bed.

There are absolutely no claims made in the book that are any more outrageous than “Barack Obama is secretly Kenyan”

Trump’s response, Sarah Huckabee Sanders dismissed “Fire and Fury” as “a book that is complete fantasy and full of tabloid gossip.” Sanders’ statement perfectly frames my biggest issue with the Trump Administration’s response to the book. I cannot stand to hear the President and his people bemoan “complete

Jay Fuchs is a senior communication major.

Articles in the Opinion section represent the views of the individual authors only and not the views of *The Santa Clara* or Santa Clara University.

NFL Playoffs: Postseason Results and Predictions

With eight teams left, football is bound to get even more exciting this February

Alex Stewart
THE SANTA CLARA

AFC Division Games

New England Patriots vs. Tennessee Titans

The Titans pulled off a miraculous (and somewhat controversial) win last weekend against the Kansas City Chiefs. The Chiefs were up 21-3 going into the second half of the Wild Card game. After TE Travis Kelce got knocked out of the game due to a concussion, QB Marcus Mariota and RB Derrick Henry took over, leading the Titans to a 22-21 win. As for their matchup against the Patriots, the Titans offer a formidable defense, along with a big play potential offense. However, that won't be enough to make the greatest QB of all time in Tom Brady sweat more than a quarter or so, and the Patriots will roll to a 31-19 win.

Pittsburgh Steelers vs. Jacksonville Jaguars

The Jaguars battled out a playoff win in a game that belonged in 1977 when you look at the final score: 10-3. "Sacksonville" shut down

a mediocre, and injury hobbled Buffalo Bills offense, and will look to pose the same threat to the Steelers. As for Pittsburgh, they will have to wait and see how much they can expect from MVP candidate WR Antonio Brown, who is still rehabbing a calf injury. Either way, they still pose an incredibly potent offense and a formidable defense to match. The Steelers will have to shake off some bye-week rust to start the game but should roll to a solid win over the Jaguars by a score of 27-17.

NFC Division Games

Minnesota Vikings vs. New Orleans Saints

The Saints held on for the win in an incredibly entertaining game versus the Panthers. Drew Brees looks as elite as ever and wants to show to the world that he deserves serious consideration for the title of greatest player to ever throw the pigskin. Minnesota will have something to say about that, however, as they have one of the most feared defenses in the NFL. This will be one of the closest games of the playoffs, and the experience of Drew Brees, along with the loads of talent on the Saints roster, gives them the edge over the Vikings 20-17.

Philadelphia Eagles vs. Atlanta Falcons

All Eagles fans will be on the edge of their seats as they hope to overcome the loss of MVP candidate QB Carson Wentz, and still finish the year raising the famous trophy. The red-hot



Pittsburgh Steeler's wide receiver Antonio Brown will be a key component as the Steelers make their way through the playoffs. With 101 receptions and 1,533 yards this season, Brown is a threat to any defense.

Atlanta Falcons are coming off a convincing win over Coach-of-the-Year candidate Sean McVay's Rams. This will be a classic shootout affair, with Nick Foles tapping into his past success along with Atlanta's loads of talent leading to numerous touchdowns. The Eagles will score last, however, and advance to the next round with a win over the Falcons by a score of 38-34.

AFC Championship Game

Pittsburgh Steelers vs. New England Patriots

Here we go again: Hall of Fame quarterback, elite coaches, above average defenses, numerous famous names on both sides and another chapter in the Steelers-Patriots rivalry. This game will be one for the ages. Controversial plays, top-of-the-line performances from both quarterbacks and key defensive turnovers will be in abundance.

Expect social media to be ablaze after this game when the Patriots scrape out a 24-23 win over the Steelers. People will liken it to the Week 15 matchup that ended with the Patriots winning after an overturned Pittsburgh touchdown. This win will further cement Tom Brady as the greatest quarterback to ever play the game.

NFC Championship Game

Philadelphia Eagles vs. New Orleans Saints

Sorry, Eagles fans; this isn't your year. The reason is simply the difference of quarterback

play. Drew Brees, the two electric running backs in Mark Ingram and Alvin Kamara, a formidable defense led by Marshon Lattimore and ample playoff experience will give them a solid edge over the Eagles with a 33-21 win.

Super Bowl LII

New England Patriots vs. New Orleans Saints

Super Bowl 52 has an all-time classic quarterback matchup. Two of the best quarterbacks in the history of the NFL will take the field late in their careers, looking to cement themselves as the best ever.

Both teams sport an above-average defense, with their front sevens and secondaries looking to force the opposition to make mistakes. On the offensive end, the Saints are arguably more complete than the Patriots because of the running backs in the black and gold. Although the talented defense and the complete offense would seem to give the Saints the edge in this game, the Patriots have arguably the best quarterback and head coach to ever exist.

The Patriots will write another fantastic chapter in their dynasty with this 38-33 win over the Saints, but the rest of America will rejoice knowing that with a 40-plus Tom Brady, a frustrated Bill Belichick and assistant coaches leaving to greener pastures, the Patriots dynasty is coming to an end.

Contact Alex Stewart at astewart@scu.edu or call (408) 554-4852.



Quarterback Tom Brady will carry the New England Patriots through the playoffs. The Patriots are favored to win their way to the Super Bowl for the second consecutive year with Brady and the help of their defense.

Q&A with Herb Sendek

Addy Camisa
THE SANTA CLARA

Now in his second season, Men's Basketball Head Coach Herb Sendek has given the program a glimmer of hope following many years of disappointing play. While the team's overall record currently sits at 6-10, their conference record of 3-1 has fans standing behind Sendek's implemented changes. The Santa Clara recently interviewed Sendek, who is in his 24th season as a head coach.

Addy Camisa: How would you characterize your career at Santa Clara compared to your years at other schools like Miami, North Carolina and Arizona?

Herb Sendek: I'll speak to Santa Clara, not necessarily as a comparison to other schools, but specific to Santa Clara, I love the spirit here. It's just a good place to be. You're surrounded by amazing and wonderful people, there's a real caring, family atmosphere. I love the spirit at Santa Clara.

AC: What were your main goals going into the season and have you achieved them so far? Have these goals evolved from the beginning of the season?

HS: We have four daily goals: to learn, to improve, to connect and to serve. Each of us in the program tries to accomplish all four of those goals each and every day.

AC: The Men's Basketball team advanced to the West Coast Conference Tournament semifinals last season for the first time in six

years. How do you plan to achieve that again this season?

HS: Well, right now we're just focused, like we always are, on today. We're trying to learn and improve. We're trying to connect with each other, help each other and take it one step at a time on our journey, trying to get better.

AC: What aspects of coaching at Santa Clara are you looking forward to the most in the future?

HS: I love the relationships with the players, the coaches, the staff, the managers, the administration, the faculty, the alumni. That's what makes the journey worthwhile, fun and fulfilling.

AC: Do you have any personal goals for the future?

HS: To be the best version of myself.

Contact Addy Camisa at acamisa@scu.edu or call (408) 554-4852.



Men's Basketball Head Coach Herb Sendek has begun his second season with the Broncos. Though his team currently holds a sub-.500 record, Sendek remains positive and committed to day-to-day progress.

SPORTS

Thursday, January 11, 2018

Q&A with Polina Edmunds

Jay Mehta
THE SANTA CLARA

Both an Olympic figure skater and a full-time student, sophomore Polina Edmunds gives Santa Clara an athletic claim-to-fame akin to Steve Nash. She is the 2015 Four Continents champion, a two-time U.S. national silver medalist (2014, 2016), and represented the United States at the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics. Edmunds was on track to compete in this year's Winter Olympics, however, she has had to resign due to a foot injury. Nonetheless, she looks to continue her career as a competitive figure skater and aspires to represent the U.S. at the 2022 Winter Olympics.

Jay Mehta: How do you feel about having to withdraw from the Olympics because of an injury?

Polina Edmunds: It's definitely disappointing because over the past four years I've put everything into this season but I'm still young and have a lot going on with school so I'm putting my focus into that. It's terrible timing but, I'm looking at the bright side. I'm already an Olympian from 2014 so I've already experienced it and gone through it all so it's not as crushing as it could have been.

JM: When you're training for a competition are you put on a certain diet?

PE: Not necessarily, but I'm mindful of what kinds of food I'm eating. I make sure to eat foods rich in protein and plenty of vegetables.

JM: Do you face pre-competition nerves and how do you battle them?

PE: I definitely face a lot of nerves and anxiety pre-competition, so I try to zone my focus into pretending I'm home at just another day at practice. If I don't keep calm, I could freak out and make a mistake.

JM: Who goes with you to competitions?

PE: Usually, it's just me and my coach. My mom is one of my coaches, so she goes everywhere with me. My family and friends only go if it's a huge competition. They all came with me to Sochi in '14 for the Olympics.

JM: Do you design your own costumes? How much input do you have?

PE: We do design our own stuff but you have to have a costume designer with you. As far as the initial input and ideas for design, I tell them what I'm looking for but the actual

costume designer will draw up a design and the final product is a mutual agreement between all of us.

JM: Do you ever look at comments people leave on social media about your performances? Do the negative comments affect you?

PE: I do sometimes, and I always see the good and bad comments but the negative comments don't really affect me because I see it as people who don't know me or appreciate my style, which is totally fine because everybody has their own taste. If I see a comment that's really distasteful I know that it's because they're probably uneducated.

JM: Is it difficult to have so many people talk about your injuries and speculate about your career path?

PE: It's a mix because I don't usually mind it but some people don't believe my injuries are real and think I'm using them as a "cover up" to withdraw from a competition. However, most people believe me and know that when I get injured it's real, so it's fine.

JM: When you came to Santa Clara were you ever nervous that people would receive you differently because you're a well-known figure skater?

PE: I don't really feel like I'm well known, but I guess a lot of people do know me. I was pretty used to it in high school because that's when I got my first big break in the Olympics. Santa Clara feels like a bigger version of my high school, but not as many people are from this area. So, I don't necessarily feel like I'm very recognized.

JM: Do you ever feel it's important to separate your social and professional lives? Was there ever a worry people would judge you if you decided to go to parties?

PE: I don't personally because I separate the different things going on in my life. If I'm at a party or doing anything else I'm not at the ice rink training. I know my times to train and I know my times to focus on other things, so what I choose to do with my free time I don't think affects anybody in any way. What other people think about it doesn't matter as long as I know that I'm doing what I should be doing.

JM: Who are your best friends in the figure skating community? Are they also Olympians? Do you stay in touch?

PE: There are actually a lot of figure skaters in the area who have gotten really good. One of my friends that I know from growing up, Anthony Ponomarenko, is a junior ice dancer who's doing really well and just won his first national championship a few months ago. Another friend, Nathan Chen, is the front runner of the Olympic team and could quite possibly become the Olympic gold medalist this year. It's really exciting!

JM: How do you find ways to make peace with the unfavorable decisions? Or are you able to accept those decisions pretty readily?

PE: I try to see the bigger picture, and not only the immediate ramifications of things. This isn't the first time I've had to withdraw from a giant event because of injury, I've been experiencing this for the last two years because my injury has been on-again-off-again. It helps to look at the future

"It's terrible timing, but I'm looking at the bright side."

and remember that I'm still young and that I could still potentially enter the Olympics in 2022. I also like to put my focus into school and things outside of skating. Skating isn't my entire world and it isn't the end of the world if I don't make competitions.

JM: What career would you do outside of skating? After college are you going to only work on figure skating, or work and skate on the side?

PE: I'm a communications major and haven't decided what direction I want to go in, but I might want to go into television or PR. After I graduate, it will be a year until the 2022 Olympics so I will probably devote that year completely to training, but I don't know



if my foot can handle it so if I weren't to skate anymore I would go full time into whatever career I'm doing. So, in essence it's undecided.

Contact Jay Mehta at jmehta1@scu.edu or call (408) 554-4852.



ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF AP