[**Cue CSElogo with Evening news under it]**

**Stefan**: Friday December 12rd, 2014. This is the CSE News Network’s Headline news with Hovav Shacham.

**Hovav**: Good evening. The top story today is the release of highly controversial report detailing department activities in the so-called War on Rankings. [**put up GSA enhanced education slide**] In a press conference, CSE Department Chair Rajesh Gupta was forced to concede that graduate students subjected to so-called “enhanced education techniques” over the past decade were in fact victims of torture. Here now is an excerpt from that speech.

[**play video if we have it… otherwise Rajesh will do live**]

**Rajesh**: I think it’s important that we come clean. Mistakes were made and while I did not preside over these decisions, as our current chair I must take full responsibility. I believe our motives were good, but we cannot justify the means by which we pursued them. As we now know, over the last ten years, several hundred graduate students were treated in ways incompatible with our values and beliefs. In particular, they were subjected to:

* Extremes in office temperature
* Long non-ergonomic stress positions at the keyboard
* Extended sleep-deprivation and forced research paper writing
* A constant barrage of will-sapping e-mail from the Misc Psy-ops division
* and worst of all, several distinguished lectures that were… I’m ashamed to say... less than distinguished

**Rajesh**: We cannot take back what has been done, but we can learn from it.

**[put up Keith slide]**

**Hovav**: In an immediate rebuttal, prior CSE chair Keith Marzulllo rejected the notion that his administration had done anything shameful, claiming that UCSD was in a life and death struggle for rankings and that he would quote “do it all again in a heartbeat” (**pause**)

**Hovav**: On more upbeat note, joining us today, in studio, is new CSE faculty member, Julian McCauley. Julian is one of our first hires in support of UC San Diego’s initiative to dominate the field of Big Data. We’ve brought Julian in today to help us understand just what Big Data is and how it will transform our lives. Julian?

**Julian**: Thanks Hovav, its my pleasure to be here. But I think we all need to think bigger if we want to really have impact. While quite a lot of noise has been made about “big data”, the fact of the matter is that big data is largely played out as a field. A few hundred terabytes? Who cares. That’s not what I’m all about. I’m looking to the future and the future is going to be about …. Humongous Data.

**Hovav**: Humongous data?

**Julian**: Look, I understand you’re from an older generation and I understand its hard to wrap your head around this, but you’re going to need to wake up. Maybe this visualization will help you understand. [**put up big data chart animation**] See, here’s data, then bigger data, big data and so on. But then what’s coming now? Humongous data. Do you see? (**pause**) Look, Humongous data represents a quantum leap beyond big data. Its been said that Humongous data is the transistor to big data’s vacuum tube. It is the Python to big data’s machine code. It is the HD video to big data’s NTSC.. In fact… I think it would be fair to say that Humongous data is to big data as big data is to plain old data. Does anyone even care about plain old data anymore? Of course not. In a few years that will be how we look at Big Data. But we need to be ahead of this curve. We can be the pioneers of Humongous Data Science if we start now.

**Hovav**: But what about the privacy concerns about big data? Won’t Humongous Data Mining leave us with a Humongous privacy problem?

**Julian**: No, and this is one of the subtle benefits of Humongousness. Humongous data is so big that the totality of everything that everyone knows, thinks or does, for now and for all time is merely a drop in the ocean… a rounding error… in a Humongous Dataset. You see, Humongous Data doesn’t present privacy concerns because your lives are completely insignificant in comparison to the sheer enormity of Humognous Data. You might as well be concerned about the privacy of an ant on Mount Everest.

**Hovav:** Indeed. Thank you Julian for that insightful explanation.

**[Julian exits]**

**[Netflix slide up… advance just before each title]**

**Hovav**: Next up, in entertainment news, Netflix has continued its expansion into episodic television with a new slate of computing themed reality shows and drams. Said Netflix CEO Reed Hastings, “We believe the computer science demographic is underserved by the mainstream entertainment industry and there is a real interest in seeing computer science characters portrayed in a sensitive and realistic manner”. Announced today were four new shows including:

* **Amish Computer Scientist**: a reality show about the challenges of maintaining the traditional high-performance computing culture in a world that has left it behind.
* **Non-volatile Storage Wars**: in which CSE Professor Steve Swanson, myself and a host of graduate students bid for collections of abandoned USB drives to see who can extract the most valuable and damning information.
* **CSE Pawn Stars**: highlights CSE Research Scientist Kirill Levchenko and his team as they buy and sell surplus computing equipment from grad students down on their luck, ever in search of the big find.
* Finally, there’s Netflix highly anticipated new drama, **Class of Thrones**, set in a fantastical world of swords and sorcery and starting CSE’s Geoff Voelker as the Professor who will stop at nothing to consolidate his power over undergrad education. … Finals is coming. …

**Hovav**: Industry critics have noted that none of these series have female computer scientists in major roles. When asked at the ACM Grace Hopper Conference how women computer scientists should ask for leading roles in television shows, Netflix CEO Hastings replied that they should simply do good work, trust Karma and everything will work out. In other news, is was reported that Chez Bob soda machine was working perfectly, the espresso machine was clean and chez bob volunteers were turned away due to over supply.

**Hovav**: Next up, in our mental health segment, CSE’s Geoff Voelker is here to talk about the new anxieties for young computer scientists.

**Geoff**: Thanks Hovav. As you know, young people have long been affected by the rarified beauty standards of celebrities and fashion models. However, this problem has taken on a new form in our field exacerbated by the new fad of X-ray imaging in research papers**. [put up X-ray slide]** Young graduate students reading these papers see celebrity faculty in their full volumetric glory and come to expect that the insides of their own bodies can meet that same standard of perfection. Unfortunately, there is no scientific basis for this belief [**advance slide**]… and we know that real bodies are packaged in all shapes and sizes. This epidemic of “*subdermal body dysmorphia*” is running rampant and we’re seeing students getting bone shaving and Teflon injections to conceal their internal blemishes from the unforgiving eye of the Roentegen lens. If you can’t get these pictures out of your head… you’re not alone… and I want to encourage you to get help. Campus counseling is on call to help everyone to work through these difficult issues.

**Hovav:** Next up with the EBU3B Accuweather is micro-meterologist George Porter.

**George**: Thank’s Hovav. [**Turns to look at audience**] Well, it’s Winter in San Diego, but you couldn’t tell if you were on the second floor.   
**[put up Weather map]**

[**George to turn sideways and gesticulate at the screen as though on green screen**]

**George**: There’s been a high-pressure system building in the 2200 block, fed by waste heat from the APE lab, and as a result the 2217 conference room is coming in at a mercury busting 93 degrees Fahrenheit. However, on the 3rd floor the situation could not be more different. A polar vortex has been confirmed around the 3109 conference room with temperatures in the mid 40s. We encourage all grad students in the vicinity to bundle up, a hat and gloves may be necessary, and to consider rescheduling any conference room meetings to a future date with more clement weather. Those at the epicenter of this front, in 3217, are urged to shelter in place and CSE authorities say that emergency supplies, including blankets and hot coffee are en route to the affected area. Are thoughts are prayers are with all the victims.

**Hovav**: Thanks George, we’ll need to take a commercial break now and when we return, an update on the Chez Bob Budget Battle.

**[Dissertation Commercial]**

**[put up budget battle slide]**

Hovav: Welcome back. In political news, the CSE graduate student body broke a stalemate on the critical “What should we buy for Chez Bob” question which had roiled members in partisan acrimony over the last several months. The Democratic student wing had long argued for reinvesting in the aging Chez Bob infrastructure. (**put up aging Chez bob slide**) Said party leader Neha Chachra, “Chez Bob was created as a shining example of what UCSD innovation and entrepreneurship could accomplish. But if we don’t reinvest, we’re letting that dream die.” However, she was unable to hold back the groundswell of support for the grass roots Self-Gratification Party whose slogan, “Hey, lets buy a pony” ultimately won the day. [**put up pony slide**] When asked about who would feed and clean up after the pony a Self-Gratification Party representative stated, “We’re sure someone will do it… after all, otherwise it might turn into a sty in there”.

**Hovav**: In other news, campus administrators announced another round of reorganization. Said Dean Pisano, “We need to be agile and we need to be efficient. Rather than duplicate resources in each department, we’re moving to centralize core capabilities so we can effectively scale services while maximizing flexibility and synergy.” As the capstone to this effort, Pisano announced the graduate students would be soon centralized within the Jacobs School rather than allocated to individual departments. Under this new plan, students will be housed at CalIT2 and will perform GSR or TA tasks on an as needed basis for faculty from across the campus. “Yes, we’ll lose some of the close relationships that exist between faculty and students in the current model”, said Pisano, “But we’ll make it up in increased efficiency. Just like Call Centers can provide high quality customer service for low cost, our new Graduate Research Center will do the same for research.”

[**put up match.com slide**]

**Hovav**: Now, in business news. UCSD has continued its work to outsource key pieces of IT infrastructure, by announcing that they are considering replacing their three homegrown single-sign on systems and switching to one provided by Match.com. “We view this as a win-win”, said campus chancellor Pradeep Khosla, “In addition to managing the spiraling costs of campus authentication, we hope we can simultaneously enhance the social lives of our students”. While there are concerns that this new technology could undermine graduate student productivity, JSOE IT director and CSE alumnus, David Hutches, argued that the dramatic improvements in security are likely worth the tradeoff. “After all”, said Hutches, “Match.com supports passwords longer than six characters”. If this pilot program is successful, later in the spring campus plans to expand it to include “In a relationship” sign-on and “Its complicated” sign-on.

**Hovav:** In environmental news, many businesses are turning to technology to help reduce their carbon footprint, allowing their employees to work remotely. Here to tell us how UCSD is adopting this *tele-presence* technology at the CSE department is Stefan Savage.

**Stefan:** Yes, you see, the feedback we’re getting tells us that one of our students’ biggest complaints is how difficult it is to get a meeting with their advisor. This is where technology can help. We’re using the latest video conferencing technology to enable a new kind of advising experience for our students.

**Hovav:** So with this technology, students will have video meetings with their advisor?

**Stefan:** Something like that. We’ve already built a prototype. We’re calling it *tele-absence*. Our system will let advisors miss meetings with their students remotely. Here’s what it looks like.

**[teleconferencing slide]**

**Stefan:** See? I could do this from home.

**Hovav**: Thank you Stefan.

**Hovav**: We end with more security news. An unidentified group hacked into Sony Pictures Entertainment servers, leaking countless internal memos and confidential email communications to the public. Confidential communications were not the only thing stolen: the hackers also copied several unreleased films produced by Sony Pictures. Among the films was this video, provided to us by an unnamed source.

**[Ranjit’s video]**