

CSU board members debate about 2014-2015 fiscal year budget

CSUN alumn scores book awards with self-published indie-novel



Capitalism only has two rules: be rich and keep being rich

Point guard Landon Drew leads the new era of Matador basketball

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CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, NORTHRIDGE

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SAT LEAVES STUDENTS UNPREPARED

Both students and educators say standardized testing does not help all students to be succesful in college

ANA RODRIGUEZ
DAILY SUNDIAL

A BIGAIL RAMOS, 24, a senior studying business at CSUN managed to enter college as prepared as she could be despite obstacles she faced along the road, especially when it came time to take the SAT test.

"I came from a little city neighboring Watts," Ramos said. "We barely had enough books, even less tutoring for the SAT. I did what I could with the hand I was dealt and I managed to keep my grades high enough to be accepted here. It would have been great to attend a few workshops for it, but that just wasn't the case for my high school."

A new report on College and Career Readiness by the College Board shows that only 43 percent of SAT takers in the class of 2013 graduated from high school were academically prepared for rigorous college-level course work, a number that has remained the same for the last five years.

The report also shows that low-income students and minorities are disadvantaged by the SAT due to lack of resources.

"We must dramatically increase the number of students in K-12 who are prepared for college and careers," said College Board President David Coleman. "Only by transforming the daily work that students do can we achieve excellence and equity."

The SAT College and Career Readiness Benchmark was developed by the College Board in an attempt to aid secondary school administrators, educators and policymakers assess the effectiveness of academic programs to better prepare students for college.

In Fall 2012, incoming CSUN freshmen received on average a score of 416 in writing and 424 in the math sections of the SAT. To be considered college ready, freshmen needed at least 500 in SAT writing and 550 in SAT math. About 16 percent received a col-

lege ready score in the ELM and 4.1 percent received a college ready score in the EPT.

"The College Board will do everything it can to make sure students have access to opportunity, including rigorous course work," said Coleman.

Studies show that students who met the SAT College and Career Readiness Benchmark are 78 percent more likely to enroll in a four-year college or university compared to 46 who did not meet

the benchmark. Also, 54 percent earned a bachelor's degree within four years, compared to only 27 percent who did not meet the target score.

These students are also more likely to have completed a core curriculum, taken honor or AP courses, and be ranked in the top 10 percent of their high school graduating class according to their GPA.

But Director of Academic First Year Experiences at CSUN, Cher-

yl Spector, believes that there is a problem in using the SAT as a predictor of success as well as high school grades because you are focusing on the student at age 16 or 17, a very malleable time.

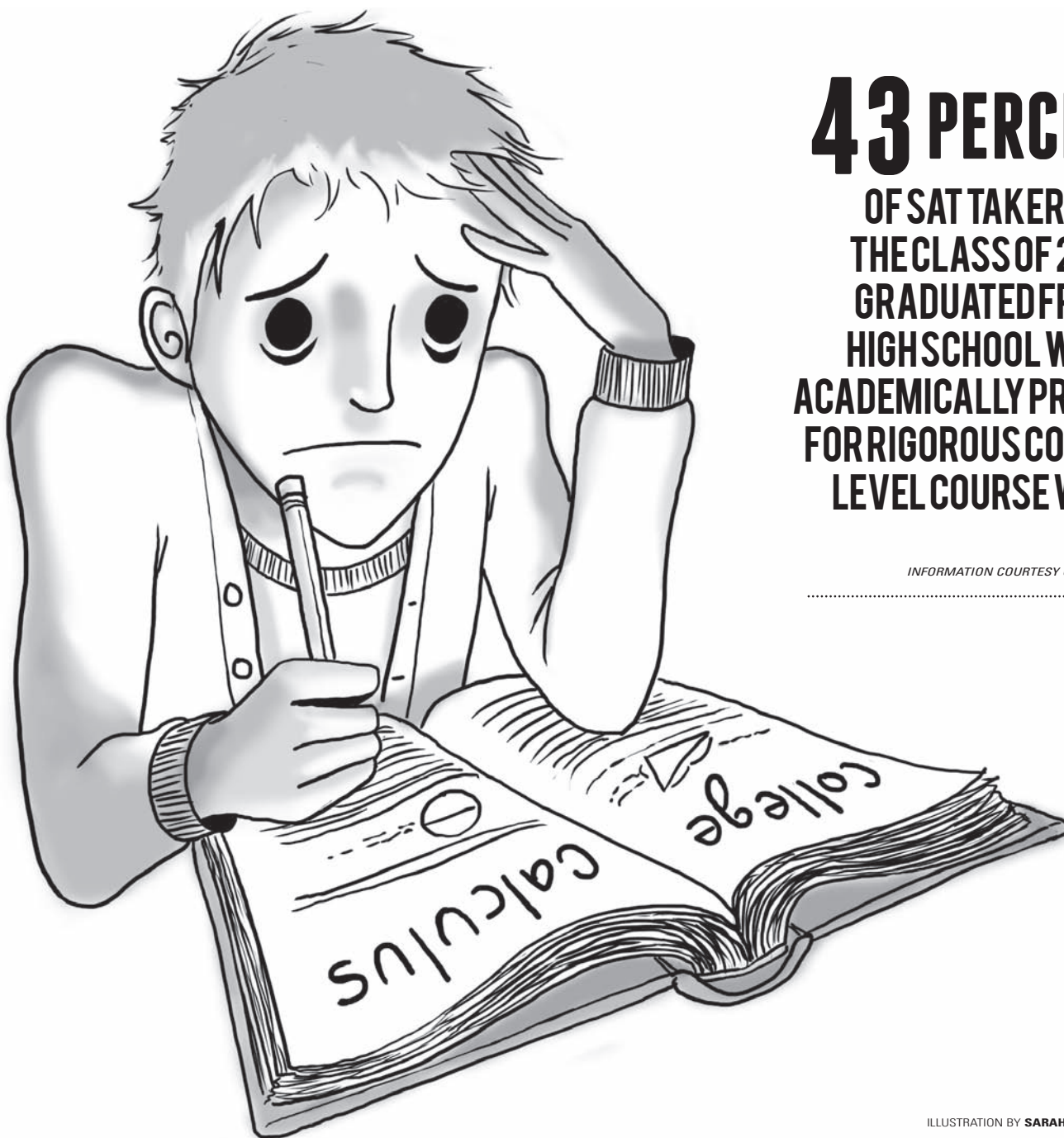
"You're always looking back at who were the students at the time they took the test and you're not allowing for the possibility that students are going to change and become different in college," Spector said. "I think most students do change some, and my

aim is to change as many as possible for the better.

Spector explained that we cannot expect students to be fully prepared after high school because "college is the place that's supposed to make you ready for college."

"You can't tell who's going to rise to the occasion and be able to make it and suddenly grow into it," Spector said. "If you lock peo-

See SAT'S, page 7



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OF SAT TAKERS IN
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Future budget causes heated debate

CHAMPAIGN WILLIAMS
LIVE NEWS EDITOR

DURING THE CSU Board of Trustees (BOT) meeting Tuesday a heated debate ensued regarding the allocation of funds for the 2014-2015 fiscal year.

Committee of Finance speaker Robert Turnage, also the assistant vice chancellor for the budget, presented a recommended support budget request for to the board for the second time this semester. During the last BOT meeting Gov. Jerry Brown had a few concerns regarding the tentative budget and it was sent back for amendments.

The money requested in the budget will be used for the increased enrollment demand within the CSU system, priority maintenance needs, infrastructure repair and a small percent compensation increase for faculty and staff.

Turnage, with the help of his colleagues, amended the original budget request of \$250 million from the last BOT meeting and requested a total of \$237.6 million for the next fiscal year. The proposed support budget was a collective effort and was supported by student and faculty members of the academic senate as well as multiple CSU presidents.

"I think everyone made a serious effort to make a balance (deciding) what our needs are," Turnage said.

"We have focused this budget on the objective of student access... (and hope) we can provide safe and functional facilities for students, faculty and staff."

In terms of enrollment, Turnage requested that the board support the budget by providing \$7.2 million to allow 20,000 more students the opportunity to enroll in a CSU for the next school year. Turnage mentioned a report that said there was a large amount of applicants who applied to the CSU this year who were not admitted because the state did not have the finances needed to accommodate them.

"More students (mean) more tuition fee revenues. However, tuition cannot cover it all," Turnage said. "So we are asking the state to make an investment of less than \$4,000 for each student. I think that this is a justifiable investment."

As Turnage's presentation came to a close, the floor was opened for questions. It was here that a nearly hour-long heated debate regarding how to reasonably meet all the needs within the CSU without over-taxing the budget began.

Trustee Steven M. Glazer said he did not feel the request outlined in the support budget was the best way to meet the financial needs.

Earlier Turnage had explained that the Committee of Finance is requesting \$15 million from the board for three consecutive years. The plan is to allocate the money for debt service in bonds for \$250



ALEX VEJAR / DAILY SUNDIAL

CSU chancellor Timothy P. White listens to a presentation at the CSU Board of Trustees meeting on Nov. 4.

million. This money will be put toward priority project work and repairs that amount to \$800 million.

The support budget proposal indicates that the three-year \$15 million plan will not be set in stone. If the financial situation during year two or three prohibits the board from making this investment, then other arrangements will be made.

Glazer said he wants to be sure the board can handle this type of commitment. "I am worried that we will enter into an arrangement that we may not have the finances to sustain," Glazer said. "We have the finances to approve this budget this year, but will we have it the second and third year?"

It was then that Chancel-

lor Timothy White entered the debate. White said that he understands the risks, but the board has gone without fixing these maintenance issues for too long and it is time to act.

"We can continue to cross our fingers and hope for a better day... or we can take action," White said. "We (have) thought deeply about (a better solution) and have not found one. And we're increasingly worried about the fact that we have not taken an action. We have to have something in place to start this process."

In the end Glazer moved to amend the proposed support budget for the 2014-2015 fiscal year and to see if there are less-risky options for the board to take. His amendment was seconded by Trustee and Vice Chair Lou Monville.

In other news, this Tuesday marked the first BOT meeting for the newly appointed faculty trustee member Steven Stepanek. Stepanek, 62, was appointed by Gov. Jerry Brown last week, as reported by the Daily Sundial.

"It has literally been a very educational experience. I am learning more of the ropes and as time progresses I shall be more productive," said the CSUN Computer Science Department chair.

Stepanek has served as chair at CSUN for 14 years and has been a professor at CSUN since 1993. Stepanek also serves as the CSUN faculty president.

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Urban-fantasy novel is a big hit for alum

NEELOFER LODHY
DAILY SUNDIAL

TERRENCE KING, a self-published indie author and CSUN alumnus ('94) is being recognized and critically acclaimed for his first urban fantasy novel, *The Silent Partner*. King was recently honored as a double award winner of the Eric Hoffer Book Award in commercial fiction, as well as the Eric Hoffer First Horizon Award, which recognizes excellence in publishing.

Though King is now a successful self-published author, he admits that he had never written a book before.

"It was originally written as a screenplay," King said. "I've never written a book before and it was a lot harder than I imagined."

While King attended CSUN, his studies focused on screenwriting, film production, and media theory, which was how he ended up originally writing the novel as a screenplay. Creative writing was among a few of

the classes King had taken at CSUN, in which he discovered that writing was what he wanted to pursue.

"I had one professor, her name was Alexis Krasi-lovsky. She was the first professor I had for creative writing," King said. "When I was in her class she gave us a writing exercise and told us to write a story about isolation. When she read my story, it made her stop and go, 'Wow.' That's when I knew I was set to do something in writing."

King began writing *The Silent Partner*, a five-year process, which was inspired by the untimely murder of his uncle.

"I was dealing with a lot of issues with God, faith and loss and writing became a therapeutic exercise and coping mechanism," King said.

The Silent Partner is a novel about people destroying the Earth. In hopes to salvage Earth and its humanity, God sends an angel, Homer, in the form of a large black homeless woman to save the world. The problem with God's choice is that Homer does not believe Earth can be salvaged.

Once Homer has reached Earth, she intertwines with a number of characters that feel versions of their own world are being destroyed. These characters must find an entity within themselves that they do not know they have, to help overcome their problems.

The novel falls into the fiction subgenre of Urban Fantasy, one that King was not even aware of. He explained that comic books and books like *Twilight* would fall under the subgenre due to the supernatural powers the characters attain. Urban Fantasy is defined by its sense of place, most of which are set in contemporary times.

While writing *The Silent Partner*, King made a significant change to the main character Homer.

"Homer started out as a male character when I started writing her," King said, "But I made her a female because I thought she was more interesting."

Throughout the writing process, King realized that he could do more with a female character. He



PHOTO COURTESY OF LIZ D PUBLICITY & PROMOTIONS
CSUN Alumnus ('94) and indie author Terrence King receives critical acclaim for his debut urban fantasy novel, *The Silent Partner*.

felt her character became more believable in emotion, frustration and that it added many social layers. King further explained that he felt the female dimension was much more rich than that of men, and that those female characters are the ones he will write about in the future.

King revealed that he most enjoys writing about female characters because

women are interesting.

"Women have a sixth sense, and intuition that us guys really don't have, but we pretend to," King said.

In promotion of King's novel, he wrote, directed and produced a three-minute movie trailer for the book. Book trailers have become a common form of promotion for authors that produce a visual telling of the book.

The trailer was shot cin-

ematically like a movie, in which King also acted as the character Tom.

"I'm not an actor," King said, "I've done some acting and I enjoy it, but I've really embraced the writing component of storytelling."

King is currently working on the conception of his second novel, which will have a futuristic take on the social and political effects of the world. However, he admits that it's hard to find the time to write due to his full-time job as a general sales manager for three radio stations at Clear Channel in San Diego, where King resides.

"I enjoy where I live, and what I do, but I'd love to write more, that's a big focus of mine" King said. "I prefer to create a trend than to follow one, and those stories that come out of nowhere have been tremendous."

King offered a few words of advice for aspiring self-publishing authors: "To anyone who has a dream or passion, and loves what they do, don't give up," King said. "Be willing to explore what interests you, learn from other writers and artists. Don't be afraid to own your work, and learn all the rules so you can break them."

For more information on Terrence King visit www.terrencejking.com and to watch the book trailer, visit his YouTube page.

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A band for school spirit and music

PHOTOS AND STORY BY
TREVOR STAMP
DAILY SUNDIAL

THE MATADOR Pep Band arrives early before the sporting events. They need to figure out how many are attending and what songs they are prepared to play.

The band is one of the loudest groups during the game. Each member is as loud as the next, their sound echoing across the field and the campus.

The game is over, and whether the team wins or loses, the band is still there playing. Their school spirit and dedication to playing music and having fun is evident before, during and after each event.

"These games, they would be kind of lame without anybody just trying to hype up the crowd," said Laura Marquez, 21, a junior deaf studies major and vice president of the Matador Pep Band.

The Matador Pep Band is a branch of Matador Spirit, a collective of student organizations that cheer at CSUN sporting events.

There is an incentive for many of the students to join the band and perform. The students receive priority registration for playing at 10 sporting events,

according to several members of the group. However, this has led to the number of members in the group to fluctuate between practices and sporting events.

Taffy Hui, 20, a junior music education major and music director for the Matador Pep Band, said a group of music majors formed the group six years ago. However, non-music majors began taking over as the music students became too busy with the music department.

"Pep band is basically the only place that you can go to, to still play music and not have to worry about the amount of skill you have," Hui said.

Patrick Cruz, 20, a junior kinesiology major and drummer for the pep band, said the group allows him to experience the fun and camaraderie from high school band.

"I feel like a part of a family," Cruz said.



SCAN THIS QR CODE
to watch the
Matador Pep Band



Taffy Hui, 20, junior music education major and music director for the pep band, directs the group during a soccer game on Oct. 26. Hui said the band is a relaxing place for her to play music without the pressure of the rigorous courses in the music department.



Braddock Sandoval, 21, junior bio chemistry major and tenor saxophone player for the band, said he wanted some way to keep playing music at school, so he joined the group.



Laura Marquez, 21, a junior deaf studies major and clarinetist for CSUN's pep band, said that through pep band she has befriended people outside of her major with many different interests.



The Matador Pep Band supports the athletics department at most sporting events by performing as well as chanting.



Some members of the band said that they hope they can eventually bring back the CSUN marching band, which disbanded simultaneously with the football team in 2001.

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OPINION@SUNDIAL.CSUN.EDU

Opinion

How to win in the game of capitalism

In the game of capitalism, you can win if you follow these simple rules: be rich, stay rich and continue being rich

MONA ADEM
NEWS EDITOR

HAVE YOU EVER played the game "How to beat Capitalism?"

No?

Then please allow me to explain the setup of the game, which is rather basic and straightforward:

First, never choose to become poor and always be a puppet for the wealthy, no matter what. If they say jump, you say "how high?" If they say support individualism, you say "screw collectivism!" If they say "equality is just for fools," you shout loud and clear....well, you get the point by now. Simple, right?

Oh, I almost forgot to tell you the most important feature of the game. It is rigged in a way that the probability you will ever become a winner, especially if your last name is not Gates, Buffet or Zuckerberg, is like 0.0000001 percent, no matter

how hard you try. Sorry to ruin any dreams here. But hey, that percentage still technically, theoretically, gives you a chance to win the game. But like anything in life there are some crucial rules, or rather ideologies, that you do need to understand and adhere to.

By the way, if you are related to the Koch brothers or any other plutocrats, you can stop reading right about now. The rest of the American population, you can thank me later.

Rule 1.)

Capitalism only applies to the poor

Rule number one and perhaps the most important one is to convince yourself that poor people choose to be poor and that any support to help them must be reduced, taken away or destroyed.

This rationale explains why primarily Republicans -- probably the best players in this game -- recently decided to cut funding from the food stamp program while the country is still struggling with the aftermath of the economic recession.

Millions of poor Americans who currently benefit from the Supple-

mental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), also known as food stamps, will now face the harsh reality that their hunger will only get worse.

But this is America, God damn it! This is the land of the free (well, we might need to exclude the 2 million prisoners locked up behind bars and immigrants who are put in detention centers indefinitely) and home of the brave.

So really, who else could 48 million Americans blame for the cuts on food stamps but themselves?

Now, one might come to the conclusion that the main reason the number of Americans who receive food stamps nearly doubled since 2007, from about 26 million to almost 48 million people, is due to job losses during the recession in addition to rising costs of living.

But this is just an excuse used by poor people and these so-called Robin Hoods so they can gain leverage in the game and outplay the winners. But the joke is on them now, so don't get caught in the same trap believing that the government will ever have your back. Unless you pay them, of course.

Instead, the 22 million children who live in "deep poverty" according to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities need to hold their parents accountable for deciding to become dependent on the government while working a low-paying job.

Don't hate the game, hate the player.

Poor people could easily get five jobs instead of three or four or better yet, they could also choose to work a minimum wage job and/or further their education.

As President Obama always eloquently points out, the number one key to climbing out of poverty is education. So in reality poor people have the option to attend any elite private school where one can receive a top education in addition to building connections with highly influential people. After all, it's not what you know nowadays, but who you know.

Sure, attending schools like Harvard will cost you around \$50,000 a year but that's why there are options such as savings accounts, credit cards or student loans, albeit you might be in debt for life. But hey, you only epitomize the American lifestyle of buy now worry later, if at all.

So if you want to avoid the rules of capitalism, do not whatsoever choose to live in poverty.

Rule number 2.)

Social welfare only applies to the rich

Do you ever wonder what it is that rich people have and you do not, that allows them to always win the game? Why they always turn out to be the lucky ones who one day decide to play the lottery and end up winning millions, while you have played fairly for years in vain. Don't you just hate that?

Well, let me share with you some of their secrets, because it is neither magic nor luck.

You see, the rules of capitalism do not actually apply to wealthier Americans, the creators and officials of the game.

While austerity has been inflicted on the most vulnerable citizens in our society, these wealthier Americans have enjoyed tax breaks and increased salaries.

For example, between 1985 and 2008, the 400 wealthiest Americans experienced a drop in their federal income taxes, from 29 percent to 18 percent. Furthermore, as reported by the National Priorities project, in the fiscal 2013 year corporate tax breaks will total over \$1 billion. Mean-

while, federal spending for education programs will be around \$ 70 billion for the same year.

Furthermore, income inequality, which a new report shows to be the highest in almost 100 years, is also indispensable to the game. Since 2009, the incomes of the top 1 percent grew by more than 30 percent, while the bottom 99 percent saw their income only grow by 0.4, if at all.

American CEOs, who are among the highest paid CEOs in the world, earn about 800 times more than their employees. As the average CEO, making \$11,000 an hour, finishes up her/his meeting and uses the restroom, her/his employees must work the rest of the year full-time to earn the same pay.

Now, you might call this unfair or even a crime against humanity. But really, think about it. Just imagine a system where wealth was distributed equally and resources such as education and health care were accessible to all. Think of all of the laziness and immorality it would create.

Perhaps more importantly, who will be responsible for boosting the economy and then unexpectedly creating recessions, exploiting workers, destroying mother nature, all the while arguing for morality and the right codes of ethics in an immoral capitalist society? It sure isn't the lazy, immoral, poor people who have the audacity to steal and resort to crime in order to survive, trying to revolt against the game. No, we need to show our gratefulness to corporations who keep the game alive while maintaining the perfect status-quo.

As Mitt Romney once said: "Corporations are people, my friend ... of course they are. Everything corporations earn ultimately goes to the people. Where do you think it goes? Whose pockets? Whose pockets? People's pockets. Human beings, my friend."

No, we don't need any crazy Marxist ideas influencing the game. We need the American people to work harder and longer so they too can one day become a wealthy CEO because the 0.0000001 percent chance is out there and don't you dare believe otherwise.

I know what you are thinking by now. Thank God for the rich and powerful manipulating the system or else everyone would know how to beat the game and become a CEO. Or even worse, no one would ever repeat their stupid mistakes when they chose to be rags in a land of riches.



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SAT'S

Continued from page 1

ple out based on SAT scores, you just don't give enough chances to enough people for the opportunity of an education."

The College Board's report showed that test takers in the low-income category, from families that make less than \$20,000 per year, averaged a score of 1326 which is far below the benchmark, as opposed to students averaging a score of 1619 from families who make more than \$100,000.

Many critics of standardized testing argue that the exams are unfair to students from low-income backgrounds because these students don't have equal access to advanced classes or test preparation materials.

"The SAT today is so heavily influenced by how much parents are able to pay for students (so) they are a reflection of their socioeconomic status," said former Assistant Secretary of Education Diane Ravitch.

Ravitch, who recently visited CSUN to discuss education, said colleges and universities should spend more time evaluating the applicants in terms of their high school work, recommendations from teachers, student essays and other measures.

"I came from Granada Hills high and I went to a lot of SAT workshops but I decided that a big UC campus just wasn't for me," said Michael Sanchez, 20, junior chemistry major. "Now my younger brother is preparing for the SAT and he has aspirations to attend a private school. In that case, I see

how the SAT can be important. But I don't see how he would be able to do that if he didn't have the resources he has."

California Gov. Jerry Brown recently signed legislation which will replace current public school standardized tests. This new law will pay for school districts to shift to computerized tests and will be based on the Common Core standards.

However, Ravitch said she cannot support the Common Core standards because she believes these concepts should be tested before being forced on teachers and students. She believes that there are many ways to teach and many ways to learn. The test scores will not be able to be assessed for five or 10 years and Ravitch believes this is far too long because changes need to be made now.

In an attempt to give all students an equal opportunity to succeed, the College Board is now using evidence-based practices to help these students succeed.

The organization is trying to aid students by giving them access to rigorous course work by working with its partners to expand access to AP courses to all students, providing customized college information to high-achieving low-income students, offering SAT fee waivers and hosting an SAT School Day where students will be able to take the SAT exam for free in their own school.

"You'll find that as you look across different schools within the LAUSD, there is quite a bit of differences in terms of access to resources and access to learning opportunity," said professor and Director of Doctoral Programs

Miguel Ceja. "I think there is probably a disconnect with what's being taught at high school and what's expected in college (and) depending on who's defining that, there's going to be a gap between what colleges expect from students and what K-12 is doing to prepare students."

Ceja said that high schools are a reflection of their communities, so if the city has no resources, students will be at a disadvantage. He believes that if we change our way of thinking, students can be successful with the right resources and opportunities, but they also need the motivation to do so.

"Everyone has to buy into this idea that all students can succeed and that as a school, we can promote a very healthy and strong college-going culture or at least, a healthy, strong successful culture whether someone wants to go to college or not," Ceja said.

NEXT ISSUE

If you want to know how SAT's and our the current test-driven education system affects students in the workfield and competing in the global market, check out our further coverage in tomorrow's paper.

CAMPUS VOICE

SUNDIAL STAFF

Q: Students share their thoughts about SAT's



HANG CUI

FASHION DESIGN MAJOR
"It (SAT) is not just good for your college life, but it's good for yourself. If you practice a math problem, it's good for your brain. It's a benefit, and it's for everyone because the test is (based on the) things you learn in high school, so everyone should be able to take it."



APRIL MACHADO

FILM PRODUCTION (CTVA)
"What I don't like about the SAT is that it's a very basic test, and people process information differently, so it doesn't showcase everyone's actual intelligence. Somebody can get a bad score and it doesn't mean that they aren't academically proficient."



JUN YING

MECHANICAL ENGINEERING
"If you're lazy, no matter what SAT class you take, you're lazy. However I did take the SAT before I graduated from high school, and I think it was useless, actually."



JESSIE RANGEL

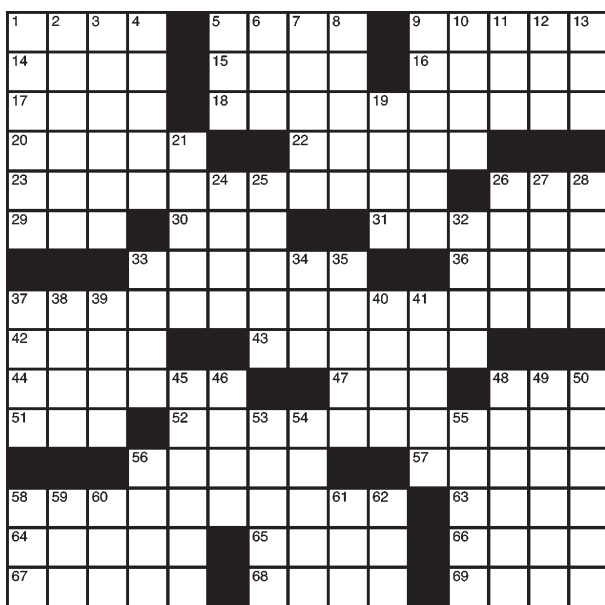
RADIOLOGICAL SCIENCES
"I took the SAT's and it helped me prepare for college because it's a way bigger challenge than high school. There's much more difficult material but by taking it, it can benefit with school."

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

ACROSS

- 1 Lies as a whole?
- 5 King who raged to Edgar on the death
- 9 Turbaned Punjabis
- 14 Matty or Felipe of baseball
- 15 Puffs additive
- 16 Pistons great Thomas
- 17 Hog product
- 18 *Madonna
- 20 Leave open-mouthed
- 22 Gets under control
- 23 *Ivy League professional school
- 26 PC brain
- 29 Skier's challenge
- 30 Tuna holder
- 31 Sci-fi hybrid
- 33 Running or jumping
- 36 Mideast flier
- 37 *Fruity dessert with sweetened crumbs



By Gareth Bain

11/6/13

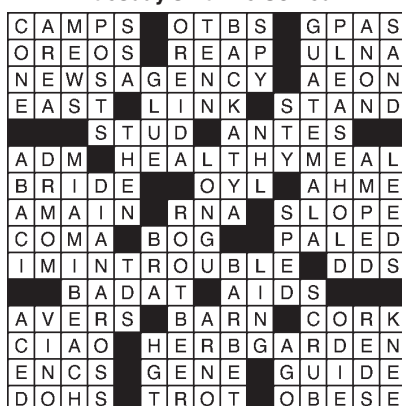
- 42 Wrath, in a hymn
- 43 Writes to, nowadays
- 44 Green stuff
- 47 Transfer
- 48 Orchestra site
- 51 Say more
- 52 *The Lord of the Rings' genre
- 56 Liszt or Schubert
- 57 Plaque honoree
- 58 Prize for an aspiring musical artist, perhaps from the first word of the answer to a starred clue
- 63 Avatar of Vishnu
- 64 Congo critter with striped legs
- 65 Golden St. campus
- 66 Grace ender
- 67 Concise
- 68 Use FedEx, say
- 69 Male deer

DOWN

- 1 Versailles attraction
- 2 Los ___: Manhattan Project site

- 3 Pink shades
- 4 Invasive vine
- 5 WC
- 6 Actor Roth
- 7 Arterial trunk
- 8 Kingly
- 9 Like the village blacksmith's hands
- 10 Philosophies
- 11 Rio automaker
- 12 Laugh syllable
- 13 Shunning the spotlight, maybe
- 19 Computer that may use Snow Leopard
- 21 Toastmaster
- 24 Caustic comeback
- 25 Accustom (to)
- 26 Firearms pioneer
- 27 Backside
- 28 Hard to look at
- 32 Nectar collectors
- 33 High spirits
- 34 Pierre, e.g.
- 35 Friend of Snow White
- 37 Verdi opera with pyramids
- 38 Nudge
- 39 Tex's bud

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved



(c)2013 Tribune Content Agency, LLC 11/6/13

- 40 NPR correspondent Totenberg
- 41 Short on taste
- 45 "___ Melodies": Warner Bros. shorts
- 46 Tablet debut of 2010
- 48 Land on an isthmus
- 49 Chemical relative
- 50 Oppressive ruler
- 53 River near Karachi
- 54 Austerlitz native
- 55 Holy ark contents
- 56 Dandies
- 58 Decompose
- 59 ___ out a living
- 60 One may be hired
- 61 Onetime ring king
- 62 Track circuit

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FEATURE

New era ushers in new point man

BRIAN BERNSTEIN
DAILY SUNDIAL

EXPECTED TO be the floor general for the Matadors, who are predicted to finish seventh in the Big West Conference by the LA Times, is sophomore point guard Landon Drew. With the season underway, Drew has not concerned himself with what the papers have to say.

"My expectations are definitely high," Drew said. "We got new talent this year, brought a few guys in this year who are a lot more athletic this year than last year. My expectations are finishing first. You know I don't care who is suppose to be better than us, I expect us to get it all the way."

Landon is no stranger to the game of basketball, it's in his DNA. His father, Larry Drew, played 10 years in the NBA and is currently the head coach of the Milwaukee Bucks. While unable to attend his son's games, Larry has continued to be an influence on his upbringing and development as a player.

Then there is Landon's



ABIGAILLE LEVRAV / DAILY SUNDIAL

Sophomore point guard Landon Drew will be taking the reigns for the Matadors this season. Last season, he averaged 3.8 assists off the bench.

older brother Larry, who played for UCLA and the Miami Heat. Although Larry played only one game for the Heat's summer team, he is playing for the Developmental League in South Dakota.

Landon keeps in contact with his family often, particularly with his dad during the season.

"My father understands what it takes to get there cause he's been in the NBA," Landon said. "He'll give me tips. There are times if he's on the road and he can't come to my games, we'll watch tape on the phone and he will tell me what I'm doing right or wrong."

Playing one of the toughest positions in basketball,

Landon knows the role he will be put into this season but said the situation is nothing new. He is confident that his actions on the court will be a leading force for his team, but vocalizing his opinion and views is just as important as a leadership role.

"I have to be more vocal, I understand that," Landon said.

"Be a leader on and off the court. Be somebody that these guys can come and talk to on and off the court as well."

New head coach Reggie Theus also needs Landon to step into his role and be comfortable for the Matadors to be successful.

"I want to put a lot of pressure on him to be the future

of this team. The toughest position on the court is playing point guard," Theus said. "He has a tough job to play a certain style to make us better. He has to come to play everyday because if he lets up, we have no chance."

Last year Landon averaged 19.2 minutes per game 5.8 points per game and 3.8 assists, but he was not the starter. This year he will be burdened with a greater load to shoulder for a team with lofty expectations.

Landon has an excitement playing for Theus and has noticed a change in the demeanor of some of the players in practice.

"There's been a few people grinding it out in practice, and just chit-chatting back and forth to each other, but I just feel like that's going to build a mindset to the team to be tougher," Landon said. "Last year, teams came into our house and bullied us, and now it's our turns to be the bullies in the conference."

Unless asked, Landon will not talk about himself. His mind is set on bettering the team. He works out not just to improve his skills, but to work on components that will benefit the team.

COLUMN

Can the Kobe-less Lakers survive?

The new-look Lakers have exceeded expectations but may have trouble making the playoffs without the Black Mamba

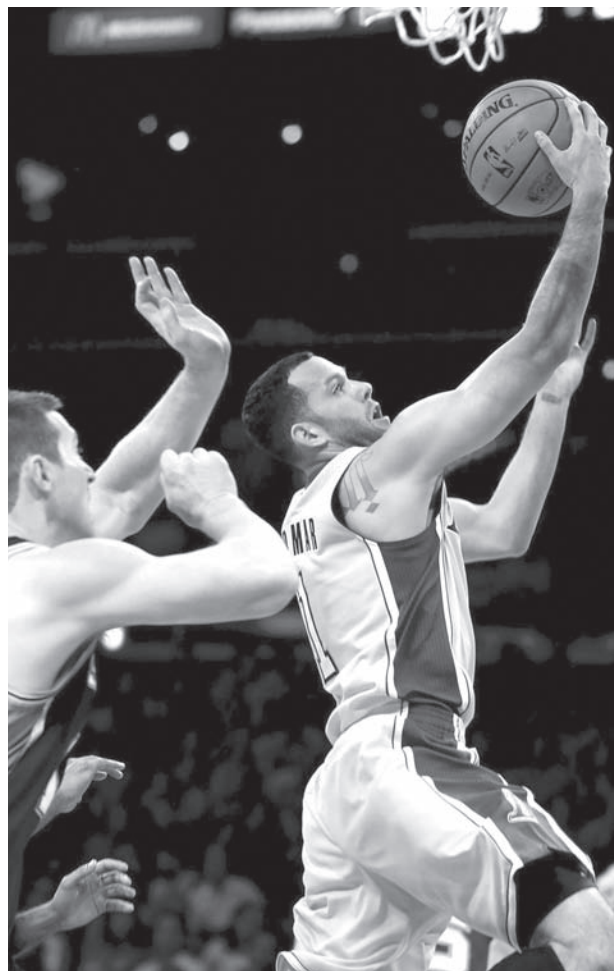


PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT

Lakers guard Jordan Farmar has returned to the team this season to joining a young core of athletic guards looking to stay afloat without superstar Kobe Bryant. The Lakers are 2-3 on the season so far.

ROY AZOULAY
DAILY SUNDIAL

WHEN LAKER nation found out that Kobe Bryant's Achilles surgery would keep him out for an unknown period of time in the 2013-2014 season, there was a big question mark as to what will materialize from this team at the beginning of the season and its outlook going forward.

More than anything last season, the loss of Jerry Buss hurt the most. Ultimately, this meant a new reign in the organization. With his son, Jim Buss, handling the basketball operations, and Magic Johnson criticizing how Jim runs the team in comparison to his father, things are looking bleak for Laker fans this season.

The obstacle of having your prized superstar being sidelined will not be easy to overcome, and with Kobe's future and career in question, they have decided to set themselves up for what's coming next.

They are hoping to sign some big name free agents in the 2014 market as they currently have 12 guys who have one-year deals or have

only one year left. Only three players are on the books for next season, and only one of which is making more than \$1 million: veteran point guard Steve Nash.

After going 4-4 in the pre-season, all hope was not lost as management was able to find some young hungry players in Xavier Henry, Wesley Johnson, Nick Young and the familiar Jordan Farmar, even with Kobe's \$30,453,805 handicap.

Playing with an up-tempo style is the Lakers' best chance of winning games given their current roster and with D'antoni at the helm, he can get the best out of their young players and help them to overachieve.

The Lakers won their season opener in game one of the half-way series against the Clippers, where their young bench was on display, scoring 76 of their 116 points in their 13 point victory. Henry had 22 points, Farmar put in 16, and Young dropped 13 as the team had seven players score in double-digits.

They got blown out and run off the floor by the Warriors who excel in fast paced offensive games and were just too much to handle for Los Angeles who would also drop their next

game to the defending Western Conference champion Spurs.

Looking to bounce back at home versus the Hawks, balanced scoring was again their key to victory as they had five players in double digits and 10 players score at least five.

It's clear D'antoni will look to balance the rotation and keep it fluid to maintain the fast tempo for as long as possible and it provides them with the best chance to win.

Looking at their wins, 11 players played at least 13 minutes against the Clippers with nobody playing more than 27. Against the Hawks, 11 players played at least 14 minutes.

A balanced team effort will be the way to go moving forward and hopefully one of these young players will look to settle in and separate themselves in the rotation and take a lead role. Henry looks the most poised and likely to do so thus far, averaging 14.3 points per game in 27.5 minutes.

The Lakers have eight players averaging at least seven points per game as they hope to keep up this balanced attack on their Texas road trip through Dallas and Houston on Tuesday and Thursday.

MEN'S SOCCER

CSUN looks to lock up playoff berth

The No. 20 Matadors (12-4-1, 4-3-1 BWC) will have a chance to gain a Big West tournament berth tonight on the road against Cal State Fullerton (6-9-1, 3-4-1 BWC) with a win or a draw. The Matadors are coming off two straight losses and the Titans haven't won a game since Oct. 13. Fullerton is 0-3-1 in their last four games and last season the Titans defeated the Matadors in a high-scoring 5-4 affair in Fullerton.

If the Matadors win or draw and UC Irvine wins or draws in their game against at UC Riverside, CSUN will play for the postseason berth on Saturday night at UC Irvine for a winner-take-all game.

—KEVIN KIANI,
SPORTS EDITOR