A new initiative has been proposed to raise the tax on a pack of cigarettes in an effort to raise money for financial aid at CSUs and UCs.

The California Residents College Accessibility and Affordability Act of 2014, which is set to go on the November 2014 ballot and would go into effect in the 2015-16 academic year, would increase the tax by $1 for every pack of 20 cigarettes. The money would then be deposited into a special fund, said Ian Johnson, financial analyst at the California Department of Finance.

“I think the special fund would be called the California Residents College Accessibility and Affordability fund and the fund would essentially be used for the purpose of expanding financial aid for California residents at UCs and CSUs,” he said.

The purpose of the California Residents College Accessibility and Affordability act is to “increase the tax on tobacco to preserve and protect California’s public university system.”

Debra Hendricks, senior sociology major, said she would vote for an initiative like this because of what it might do. “I’ve lost a lot of people to smoking and you can’t make them stop,” Hendricks said. “If something like this can possibly help people quit then I’m all for it.”

In terms of generated revenue, Johnson said the initiative is projected to create $800 million in the first year it goes into effect.

“There would be slightly declining revenues each year thereafter based on declining cigarette consumption projections,” he said. “Our Demographics and Research unit does a number of projections on things statewide and has found that in coming years there will be a decline in cigarette consumption.”

Hendricks said the idea of having the tax contribute to financial aid is a smart idea and if it helps lessen smoking then it is even better. “I think it’s great but at the same time people choose what they want to do,” she said. “I mean, do we tax people for doing what they want? I don’t know.”

Jessica Fuentes, junior biology major, likes the idea of taxing more for cigarettes. “I don’t like smoke, and there’s enough in L.A. as it is, so if it would mean less smoke, then I like it,” she said. “The fact that the tax would mean more financial aid makes it even better.”

From the projected $800 million revenue, there is an estimated $800 million in the first year it goes into effect.
Commencement gets costly for some

 Depending on the package and items, graduates can spend between $87 and $600 on ceremonies and souvenirs

REANNE ROGERS
DAILY SUNDIAL

Graduating students who want to participate in May’s commencement ceremonies may face high costs to receive their diploma on stage.

The first step that a student must take in order to graduate is to pay for the graduation application after being approved by advisers.

Admissions and records is responsible for determining the cost of commencement and charging students for their graduation application fee.

The starting price for processing the application is $47. For a Spring 2013 or Summer 2013 graduation, the deadline to apply was July 6, 2012. After that deadline, an additional $10 would be added to the graduation application fee. The $47 payment covers a diploma processing fee of $10, an account overhead graduation check fee of $0.75 and the commencement fee of $36.26.

The Student Development and International Programs staff organize commencement.

“We coordinate the whole thing: commencement handbooks, getting in touch with departments and vendors and photographers,” said graduate student assistant in SDIP, Armine Karagulyan, 21.

Every year the SDIP department hold a GradFest for graduating seniors. At the event, vendors such as Jostens, who sell class rings, and Herff Jones, a company that sells caps, gowns and grad packages, come out to show students their many options on items for their big day.

On the Herff Jones website, there are a few options that students have when it comes time for them to order their cap, gown and announcements.

The most expensive graduation package rings up at $383.80. That package includes 25 announcements, 25 thank you notes, 25 envelope seals, 60 return address labels, a black and red souvenir tassel, a rented gown, cap and tassel, a degree frame, one year membership in the alumni association and an alumni license plate frame.

Package two ($347) and package three ($314) come with the same items, but the degree frame shrinks in size as the price decreases. The next less expensive package does not include a souvenir tassel or a degree frame and costs $153.

For the students who are not interested in taking home souvenirs after graduation, the cheapest package costs $40. It includes a rented gown, cap and tassel, a one year membership in the alumni association and an alumni license plate frame.

It is not an option to buy a cap and gown without having to return it as a rental.

Other extras can be added on to the total cost of graduation with such items as class rings or hoods.

“I’m most excited about purchasing my hood,” said Jordan Briem, 26, graduate student in public health. "I have no idea how much it costs, I would like it to be inexpensive, but at the end of the day I’m going to buy it because I really want it.”

in the article, “High price of expired permits” printed on March 13, Chet Galland was quoted as saying, “The response time is usually 30 minutes to an hour,” this was in reference to the elevator company, Asten, and not to the CSUN Police Department, which may have not been clearly stated in the article.

**Clarification**
Analyzing people’s micro interactions

Study of psychology equips graduate students with better understanding of body language and human behavior

ALEXANDRA CHIDBACHIAN
CONTRIBUTOR

When Eric Lara walks into a room he can easily interpret how people are feeling and behaving through their body language and facial expressions.

Lara, 28, is a graduate student in psychology. He sees the world through an extensive lens developed through his major.

Psychology has affected Lara’s everyday life in many ways. It has become part of his personal life, with his friends frequently asking him for help with their personal issues because of his knowledge in the field.

“Whenever I’m with my friends they constantly ask me for help and sometimes I just want to hang out and not think about psychology,” he said. “It’s hard because I don’t want to hang out with people because they are constantly asking me for help. It’s like I’m working 24/7. Or when I realize something is wrong with them I try to get it out of them.”

He has begun seeing himself and others in a new light, paying close attention to everyone’s actions, and has become more analytical.

He has learned not to be judgmental, to see people for what’s on the inside, and believes there is a reason behind everyone’s actions and thoughts. Psychology has become part of his personal life, including friendships and romantic relationships.

In the past, for instance, when Lara saw that his girlfriend was not giving him eye contact, he was not able to tell that she was upset. One ability Lara has gained from his studies is reading body language. He can easily see the truth behind people and find if their words match their actions. This has helped him find friends easier.

Lara is currently interning at the CSUN Career Center as a career counselor. In the future he hopes to be a counselor at a community college where he would be exposed to an array of topics such as academic advisement, career counseling and student’s personal issues.

If Lara sees someone slouching and bobbing their head while someone is talking to them, he can conclude that the person isn’t engaged in the discussion. Lara allows his clients to solve their own problems by having them talk it out to themselves, without interruption from him. Typically, when the grad student is with a client, he can talk to that person for about five hours without directly telling that person what to do about their problem: he will only ask questions.

He wants his clients to figure out their own problems. His job is just to direct people onto the right path.

“I love my job and wouldn’t change it,” Lara said.

Larisa Villa is also a grad student in psychology. Because of her knowledge in the subject, she is able to communicate better with her friends and family. She has learned more about herself and understands why she reacts to certain events the way she does.

“I instinctually apply psychology to whatever issues I see reported in the world and community news, trying to understand how our human behavior has influenced the creation of these issues we now face and how we can use that same psychology to find possible solutions to make our world better,” she said.

Psychology has opened a new window for Lara and Villa. They are aware of everyone’s actions, thoughts and behaviors. Both students have one goal, and that is to empower and help their clients.
Participants were given eight hours to complete the course, but first-time marathon runner and kinesiology major Mike Wong finished in less than four hours.

“I wasn’t really worried about the time anymore when I got to mile 20. I just knew I wanted to complete it,” he said.

The course is dubbed “Stadium to the Sea” because it starts at Dodger Stadium and ends on Ocean Avenue in Santa Monica. Runners pass through several LA landmarks including Hollywood and Highland at mile 12 and Rodeo Drive at mile 17.

As they passed through event staff cheered on participants from the sidelines and handed water to runners.

Spectators joined in too, making snacks like peanut butter filled pretzels available, and even offered Vaseline to help prevent chafing and blisters.

In celebration of St. Patrick’s Day, many participants donned St. Patrick’s Day inspired outfits or even offered Vaseline (eat lots of carbohydrates) in the days leading up to the marathon.

Kelly Palmenberg, systems analyst for admissions and records at CSUN, said she ran short distances a few times in the week before the marathon.

“Other than that it was just eating a lot of carbs and resting as much as possible,” she said.

Ben Elisondo, CSUN alumnus and former Physical Plant Management employee, ran his fifth marathon on Sunday with his 11-year-old daughter, Lindsay.

“The two encountered their share of struggles along the course. In mile 10 we both started cramping up and [Lindsay] started developing blisters,” Elisondo said.

“She really had to muscle through it.”

By miles 16 and 17, Elisondo was considering calling a shuttle for his daughter, but Lindsay was determined to make it to the finish line.

“I wouldn’t have liked the feeling of sitting in a shuttle and driving past everyone while they were running. I just wouldn’t have been able to take that. I really, really wanted to finish this,” she said.

In a little more than seven hours, Elisondo and Lindsay cried tears of joy when they hit the endpoint.

Emily Seeboonruang, 24, a kinesiology major, said she finished the distance in about seven hours.

“At about mile 20, her thigh began hurting, so she had to pace herself by running slower and walking. Despite the difficulty, she continued.

“I kept my eye on the prize, and I was taking in the experience, the energy from the people cheering us on and me seeing the city,” she said.

CSUN alumnus Raul Engle is set to train the group next year.

Engle achieved a personal record by finishing the course in three hours and thirty-three minutes.

Running a marathon may seem daunting, but Loy said if an individual has the right mentality, they should attempt the challenge.

“People should push themselves to do something unusual, just challenge themselves, stretch themselves and they’ll be rewarded if they do that,” Loy said.

Those who completed the marathon said the feeling of accomplishment is unlike anything else.

“If you’re thinking about [running a marathon], do it because it just feels amazing to cross the finish line. It doesn’t matter what your time is. You shouldn’t be running for a time. You should be running to finish it,” Lindsay said.
Associated Students

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The undemocratic A.S. election

Micheangelo Landgrave
CONTRIBUTOR

Did you know that we are having elections for our student government? Probably not considering that in the past few years turnout has been around 5 percent. For the 2012 election, there was a 7 percent turnout. Needless to say, Associated Student’s election procedures need to be reformed before it calls itself democratic.

One big reform that is needed is increasing the time to register as a candidate. This year registration for candidates opened on March 1 and closed on the 31st, amounting to slightly over a week. This doesn’t give potential candidates much time to form a slate. What is a slate you ask? A slate is essentially a temporary political party. You can run independently, but if you aren’t part of a slate, don’t expect to win. Slates allow candidates to organize better and try to gain more name recognition for themselves. Allowing more registration time would hopefully allow candidates more time to better organize slates. It wouldn’t hurt if there were an event where potential candidates could meet one another before registering.

Smaller reforms would be changing the election codes. One election rule is that candidates or their helpers cannot escort voters to voting booths. Other policies include limiting the time and places where candidates can campaign. Many of these policies are well meaning, but in essence they limit the ability of candidates to go out and inform students about the elections. They should be struck down in favor of election policies that encourage candidates to engage with students.

There are also strict rules on campaign financing. Again, this is a restriction with good intentions since it isn’t clear what they can do to advertise themselves without breaking these policies.

One way of making sure that A.S. was democratic was by making any election with a turnout of less than 51 percent of the student body invalid. A.S. describes itself as representing the student body, but how can it when it can’t even get 51 percent of students to vote?

The current A.S. President, Sydni Powell, won her seat with 1,496 votes. There are about 37,000 students at CSUN. In other words, 4 percent of the student body wanted Powell as A.S. president. This means 96 percent either didn’t or didn’t care enough. The rest of the A.S. Senate didn’t do much better. If the threshold for a valid election were raised to a minimum 51 percent turnout, one of two things would happen. A.S. would cease to exist if it were unable to meet the threshold or A.S. candidates would actually engage students enough to reach that threshold. They would have to go and talk to students about what A.S. does and why they should vote. If they manage to get at least 51 percent voting turnout then one can say that A.S. is truly democratic, if only just barely.

Why should the election procedure be changed at all you ask? Student government doesn’t matter much anyway, right? While certainly A.S. doesn’t actually do much good, and the case could be made to simply abolish it, but this is an organization that controls a multi-million dollar budget generally in the range of $6 to $8 million in any given year. A budget that big shouldn’t just be given to anyone.

Another thing that needs reform is A.S. election is how many senators each college is allowed to have. Currently, each college has two senators. This has the air of a fair compromise since it affords each college equal representation. The problem is that not all colleges within CSUN have the same student population. The College of Social & Behavioral Sciences and the Business Administration & Economics College has more than 5,000 students each. The Science and Mathematics College, on the other hand have relatively less than 3,000 students. This means that smaller colleges are over-represented in A.S. As an analogy, consider how Rhode Island and California both have the same number of Senators at the federal level despite California being several times bigger in population. This is unfair for larger colleges and ideally the A.S. Senate composition should be reformed to acknowledge the difference in size of the colleges.

The A.S. needs to look at both its election policies and internal organization if it ever wishes to truly claim itself representative of CSUN’s student population. It’s current incarnation doesn’t work for the students and if it’s failing at it’s most core and fundamental initiative, then the disconnect is bigger than we realize.

Micheangelo Landgrave is the former president of the CSUN Libertarian Club.

Opinion

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have a negative impact on the state enough that it would amount of tobacco consumed mine, based on their projection proceeds, Johnson said. Other programs that currently depend on tobacco consumption existing state funding estimated loss of $70 million to programs that receive lion to programs that receive aid, Johnson said. An independent financial accountability committee will be in charge of reviewing the audit of the California Residents College Accessibility and Affordability fund and will then create a public report based on the financial practices and performance of the California Student Aid Commission, according to the proposal. The initiative has to go to the Board of Equalization where they estimate the impact this new excise tax would have on other programs that currently depend on tobacco consumption proceeds, Johnson said. “If the Board were to determine, based on their projections, that this new tax would have a negative impact on the amount of tobacco consumed in the state enough that it would have a negative impact on the revenue generated from tobacco consumption, the first call on the money that are raised would be to make those other programs whole before the revenue generated could be spent on financial aid,” he said. Sen. Bob Huff (R-Diamond Bar) said the focus should not be on what “expanding income,” that has already rejected several times. “The people of California voted to increase taxes by $50 billion and Gov. Jerry Brown promised students that this money would go to education,” Huff said. “Since the governor has only directed 50 percent of this money to education, the question students need to ask is, what happened to the rest of the money.” Fuentes is not sure if another cigarette tax proposal would pass but thinks the financial aid aspect definitely makes it more appealing. “There’s so much going on with smoking and cancer that (an initiative) like this might make a difference and make people more aware of cancer,” she said. Johnson said the initiative is somewhat vague with what “expanding financial aid” actually means. “There is a requirement that in expanding financial aid the California Student Aid Commission is required to supplement, not supplant, the current state financial aid,” he said. “Supplemental—of existing state funding for financial aid means the state cannot decrease the amount of General Fund provided for financial aid and backfill the same amount with this new College Accessibility funding.” Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzles Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

ACROSS
1 At who created Fearless Fiddler
5 Sign between Ville and St-Pollio
10 Saltbush team
14 Trai II successor
15 See eye to eye
16 “Dinah Sings of the Smarties!”
17 Play some b-ball
19 Walk in Paris
20 Brain scan artifacts
21 What a red “X” may mean
22 Chainedargo.
23 Tavern plate
25 Tinted feature of some 28, Moloty
31 Of spinach
32 “OMG, stop with the details”
33 Support column
36 Hamilton’s bill
37 Irritable, as a scheme
40 Nervous mannerism
43 Plata, for a time
44 Curry letter
45 That Negro nation
49 Put under
51 “That Husband” setting
54 Spiky
55 _ _ _ _ _ _ _
56 _ _ _ _ , California _ _ _ _
57 “Like_ obviously!”
60 Nutritional no.
61 Smelly red
62 Cerulean with a spokeshave
64 Pac-12 team headers for 2013
65 Boiler Mike
66 Earmark
67 With S-Down, “Cowboy Lion played”
68 Big barn in farm (hint)
69 640,739 to 1 against being stung (a royal flush, e.g.)

DOWN
1 Looker security cameras, for
2 In the most basic state
3 Usher’s handgun
4 Halfback, & 19
5 See 67-Across
6 “What’s up?”
7 Lab assistant
8 Long plate cleaner
9 90s Dem. presidential candidate
10 Black Woman, for one
11 Reason for a tarn-covered field
12 Condensed building, maybe
13 Gifts evaluation
22 “Monty Python’s Princess Bride” role
24 “About time the week ended”
26 Deserving of praise
27 Wetland
29 Hunky Greek god
30 _ _ _ _ _ , monster island
31 Saor, stuffer
32 Titles of “_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _”
33 “Tramore,” for one
34 Probie
40 Theorist’s hint
41 Cut out from others
42 Michael Bublé, for one
45 Drug banned by USA pro sports
46 Baan pro sports
48 Hearty
52 Winter Pearl
53 Color, maybe
54 “May be served from the Carribou coast
55 Has a long shaft
56 Why in
58 _ _ _ _ , magazine
61 Multi-used pencil
62 Bucket dip
63 Scalability
65 Gold, in Granada

“Loving kindness is the capacity to be gentle, to be thoughtful, to be careful and kind,” Ward said, adding it needs to start with the self. Once an individual is aware of what is happening in and around them at every moment, he or she is then able to pass that loving kindness to others. Reverend James Lawson, who worked alongside Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., posed a final question for reflection. “There is a human wisdom that it is a task to find divinity in ourselves,” Lawson said. “Why do we make decisions that then evoke crisis?” Lawson said the answer lies in one’s faith, no matter how they spiritually identify. “(The panels) have not tried to put labels on divinity (or) spirituality,” Lawson said. “But we all insist how you manage (your faith) is the task of transforming cruelty into care, nurture into the possibilities of listening and truth.” The Daily Sundial does not knowingly accept advertisements that discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, religious preference, national origin or sex. The Daily Sundial accepts responsibility for claims or correspondence to advertisements placed in the paper. The cautious in answering ads, especially when you are asked to send cash or provide personal or financial information.

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sudoku

Solution to today’s sudoku

How to play: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. Solution above.
CSUN rolls past Seattle, LMU

ELLEN KRAUSSE
DAILY SUNDIAL

I
n a second day of doubleheaders against Seattle University and Loyola Marymount, seniors Mia Pagano and Shelly Tait pitched complete games to pick up a pair of victories Sunday for CSUN’s (14-18) softball team 3-1 and 6-3.

“With conference coming up next weekend it is nice to get some momentum. It is our first three wins in a row and the girls are feeling good and we are playing well,” said head coach Tairia Flowers.

In game one against Seattle University (11-17), Northridge came out firing in the first two innings, scoring five runs. Senior second baseman Korinne Randazzo scored three runs for the Matadors, going 2 for 3 with a double and a stolen base. Starting senior catcher Mikayla Thielges scored three runs. Coach Tairia Flowers.

In game one against Seattle University (11-17), Northridge came out firing in the first two innings, scoring five runs. Senior second baseman Korinne Randazzo scored three runs for the Matadors, going 2 for 3 with a double and a stolen base. Starting senior catcher Mikayla Thielges also went 2 for 3 with an RBI.

Pagano picked up the first win for the Matadors over Seattle, their second of the weekend over the visiting Redhawks after Saturday’s 10-2 victory.

“We kinda just went right at the team,” said Pagano, who allowed five hits and two earned runs while striking out four in seven innings. “We played them the day before and we knew they were coming back for revenge because we played really well the day before. So I just wanted to come right at them and jump down.”

Carrying a shutout into the seventh inning, the Matadors defeated Loyola Marymount with a 3-1 victory in game two.

Despite LMU’s eight hits of the game against Tait, the Lions were only able to muster one run.

Northridge put a run across the plate on a ground-out RBI by senior third baseman Tiffany Lucero with the bases loaded in the second. A base hit to right field by Pagano would score junior first baseman Tanna Bindi with sophomore center fielder Abby Linn on her heels, but a close call at the plate tagged Linn out to end the inning.

“It always helps (scoring first) because it allows pitchers to find the zone, get into a rhythm and make them chase out pitches and let the defense go to work,” said Tait, who allowed eight hits and one run with one strikeout through seven innings.

The Lions started the first and second innings with lead off doubles, but were unable to advance the runners any further than second until the seventh inning. Putting runners on first and second with no outs in the seventh inning, the Lions hit into two straight fielder’s choices and put runners at the corners with two outs. A single into left field by senior second baseman Skyler Segura scored the Lions’ only run, and a third fielder’s choice of the inning ended the game.

Pagano led the Matadors with a 2 for 2 and two RBI performance against Loyola Marymount and Lucero drove in the Matadors other run going 1 for 2 and saved a couple runs with two strong catches at third with runners on.

“I think we played good defense. I mean it is the first time in a couple games that we played solid defense and we came out being aggressive,” Flowers said.

Spring Training is a waste of time

The records and statistics of teams during MLB Spring Training don’t mean a thing as superstars are benched

This is because the simplest fact that spring training games do not matter. MLB teams during this time are inviting players and calling up minor leaguers to camp to try and make their 25-man roster, so this means on a game to game basis, you may witness Joe Schmo playing center field for the Los Angeles Dodgers and not superstar Matt Kemp.

These ball clubs are not worried about winning or losing games in spring training. They are worried about how are the players on a team are jelling together. To get a look at a player’s at-bats or innings pitched is the most important aspect for managers to decide on their opening day roster.

Spring training gives players who have undergone off-season surgery or are rehabbing an injury to get at-bats or innings pitched.

Players like the Dodgers’ outfielder Carl Crawford, who played his first game Sunday since getting shoulder surgery in August, and the Angels’ first baseman Albert Pujols, who is recovering from off-season surgery on his right knee, are using these games as a time to get back into baseball form.

As for baseball fans, it is a time where we are concerned about how our new players and returning players are performing individually. I want to know if a batter is having trouble seeing the ball, his bat speed, pulling hits or if he’s already in midseason form. Are the pitchers losing velocity, like Roy Halladay, or are they ahead of schedule and dominating lineups?

So when you look at the records and stats for each team in spring remember this: They don’t matter. What really matters is what happens from April on through November when everything counts.