

# DAILY SUNDIAL

California State University Northridge | September 24, 2012 | Page 54, Issue 17 | www.dailysundial.com | FREE



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## When four years turns to six

Percentage of students graduating with bachelor's degree in four years

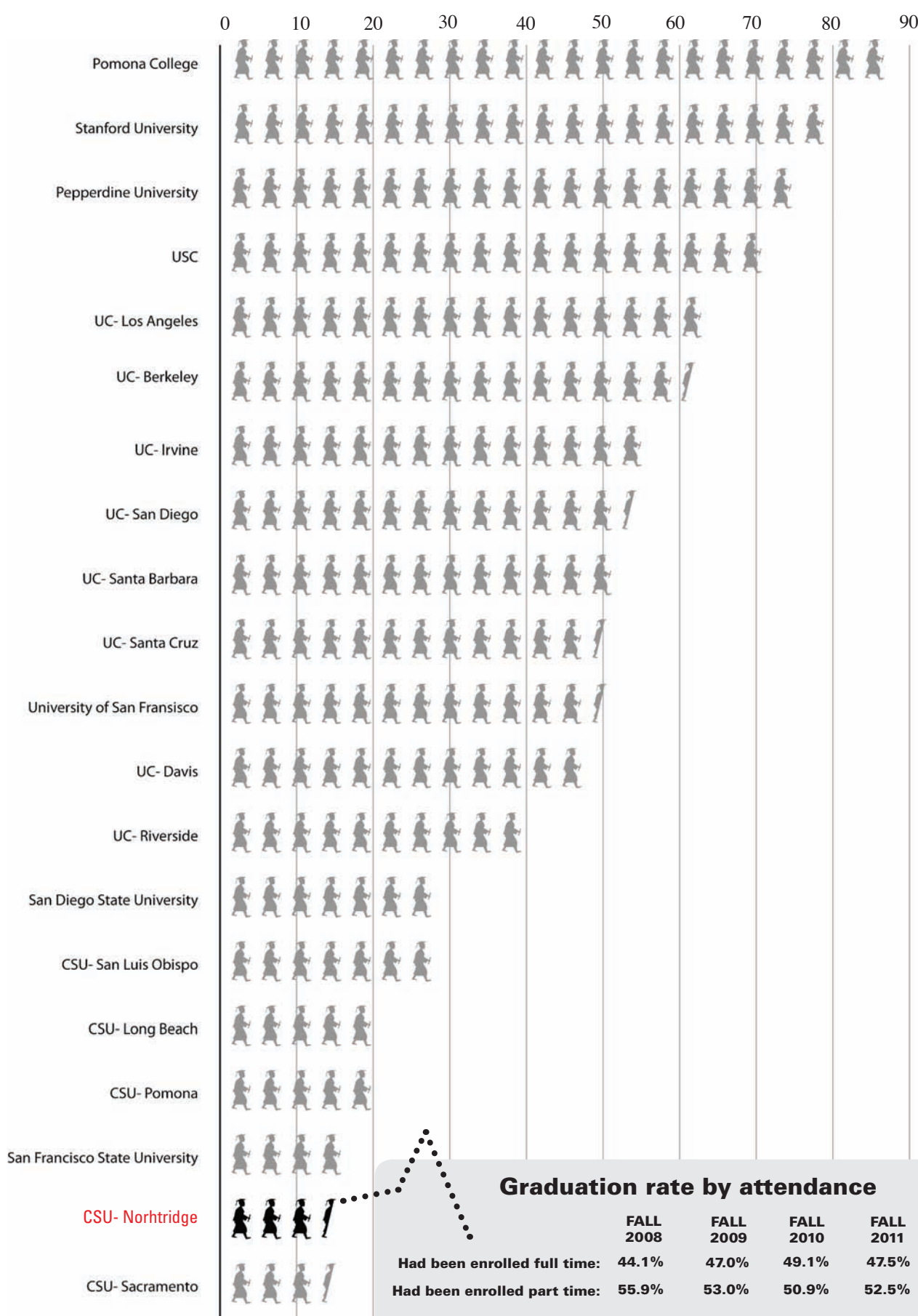


ILLUSTRATION BY JENNIFER LUXTON

CSUN ranks No. 46 out of 50 in California college graduation rates according to a study by National Center for Education Statistics

**MERCEDES RICHARDSON**  
Daily Sundial Staff Writer

Traditionally college is expected to span just four years of a student's life but graduation rates at CSUN have been fluctuating for both part-time and full-time students, according to the Office of Institutional Research, and several factors contribute to the reasons students cannot graduate in the anticipated timeframe.

On average, CSUN students who enrolled as first-time freshmen take approximately five years to graduate, compared to incoming transfer students from community colleges or other institutions who graduate in an average of three years after coming to CSUN, according to Dr. Bettina Huber, director of the Office of Institutional Research.

"A key factor in the four-year graduation rate, in particular, is whether students are able to attend college full time, without having to hold down jobs at the same time," Huber said. "CSUN freshmen, many of whom come from families with limited financial needs, often have to work while attending college. As a result, they may need five to six years to complete their studies."

The National Center for Education Statistics conducted a study of 50 California colleges that offer bachelor degrees. CSUN is 46th on that list, beating out other universities like CSU Sacramento, CSU Los Angeles and the University of Phoenix.

Schools at the top of the list include Pomona Col-

lege, Occidental College, Stanford University, Santa Clara University and Pepperdine University—all of which are private institutions.

"In assessing graduation rates, it is also important to consider the selectivity of the institutions in question. Institutions that have regional mandates, such as CSUN, tend to have lower graduation rates than many other institutions, simply because the university admits everyone in its local area who meets certain minimum criteria," Huber said.

Some private institutions, such as Pomona, Occidental and Stanford, only enroll the top candidates who apply, according to Huber. Additionally, CSUN admits more students who need to take time-consuming remedial classes, which will also bring down the four year graduation rate.

"We accept many students as freshmen who are coming in unprepared. If they come to the campus needing preparation for the units required for their major, then it will add another year to their graduation plans," said Cynthia Rawitch, CSUN's vice provost.

The enrollment processes at both UC and CSU campuses come with stringent requirements, such as fulfilling certain courses at community colleges or having a certain grade point average when coming straight from high school.

At CSUN, students find there are impacted majors, requiring them to fulfill a certain sequence of pre-

See **RATES**, page 5





# Calendar of Events SEPTEMBER 2012

**24**

**A.S. Finance Meetings**

**WHEN:** 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.  
**WHERE:** A.S. Conference Room (USU 100)  
**DESCRIPTION:** The A.S. Finance meetings discuss current budget requests.

**USU Games Room Table Tennis Tournament**

**WHEN:** 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.  
**WHERE:** USU Games Room  
**DESCRIPTION:** The weekly tournaments at the games room last for 10 weeks after which the top 16 finishers will compete in a championship round. Tournaments are free to students.

**USU Monday night football**

**WHEN:** 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.  
**WHERE:** USU Pub Sports Grill  
**DESCRIPTION:** The pub will televise the matchup between the Greenbay Packers and Seattle Seahawks.

**One Amazing Community**

**WHEN:** Monday, Sept. 24 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Oviatt Library presentation room  
**DESCRIPTION:** Join 11 speakers as they share their inspiring stories about overcoming adversity. Speakers include a Holocaust survivor, veteran, transgender, and more. The event is sponsored by Unified We Serve volunteer group at CSUN.

**25**

**USU Games Room Billiards Tournament**

**WHEN:** 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.  
**WHERE:** USU Games Room  
**DESCRIPTION:** The weekly tournaments at the games room last for 10 weeks after which the top 16 finishers will compete in a championship round. Tournaments are free to students.

**26**

**Spring Awakening Musical**

**WHEN:** 7:30 p.m.  
**WHERE:** CSUN Little Theatre (Nordhoff Hall)  
**DESCRIPTION:** CSUN theatre department sponsors the presentation of "Spring Awakening" based on the play by Frank Wedekind.

**USU Games Room Poker Tournament**

**WHEN:** 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.  
**WHERE:** USU Games Room  
**DESCRIPTION:** The weekly tournaments at the games room last for 10 weeks after which the top 16 finishers will compete in a championship round. Tournaments are free to students.

**27**

**Pride Center Grand Opening**

**WHEN:** Ribbon cutting ceremony at the Pride Center at 10:00 a.m. and activities at the Plaza del Sol 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Plaza del Sol, USU & Pride Center  
**DESCRIPTION:** The Pride Center celebrates its opening with an afternoon of activities including a photo shoot with the NOH8 campaign's co-founder and photographer Adam Bouska, live performance by DJ Ray Rhodes and a craft corner activity to create a pride center quilt.

**An Evening of Small Group Jazz**

**WHEN:** 7:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Recital Hall (RH)  
**DESCRIPTION:** Students can attend this small group jazz performance for \$5.

**Women's Volleyball vs. Long Beach State**

**WHEN:** 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Matadome (MA)  
**DESCRIPTION:** CSUN Women's Volleyball host Long Beach State at the Matadome where CSUN students get in free with their ID.

**27 (CONT.)**

**How Language Will Shape the 2012 Election**

**WHEN:** 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
**WHERE:** USU, Grand Salon  
**DESCRIPTION:** Henry De Sio Jr., former deputy assistant and chief operating officer to President Barack Obama, discusses lessons from the 2008 campaign trail and the power of language.

**28**

**USU Games Room Laugh Your Class Off**

**WHEN:** 8:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m.  
**WHERE:** USU Games Room  
**DESCRIPTION:** Kick back at the monthly comedy show presented by the USU headlined by Jason Collings and featuring local comics Zoltan Kaszas and Jared Levin. The event is hosted by CSUN's Nelson Ventress and will feature CSUN's DJ Kamikaze.

**Men's Soccer vs. UC Davis**

**WHEN:** 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Soccer Field (SO)  
**DESCRIPTION:** Kick off the weekend by cheering on the Matadors! The first 50 students wearing a Red Rally shirt can participate in the starting lineup tunnel and CSUN students get free tickets with their ID.

**A.S. Senate Meeting**

**WHEN:** 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.  
**WHERE:** A.S. Conference Room (USU 100)  
**DESCRIPTION:** Come see your representatives in action. Join us for the open forum to let us know how you are doing and to be heard!

**29**

**USU Soulful Saturdays**

**WHEN:** 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.  
**WHERE:** USU Pub and Sports Grill  
**DESCRIPTION:** Live entertainment and free food featuring performances by R&B artists Jessica Samiere and Angelica Abrams. Hosted by Jonnae Thompson the event is free for students and \$5 for guests. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

**Women's Volleyball vs. UC Irvine**

**WHEN:** 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Matadome (MA)  
**DESCRIPTION:** CSUN students get in free with ID

**30**

**Men's Soccer vs. Sacramento State**

**WHEN:** 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Soccer Field (SO)  
**DESCRIPTION:** Double header with CSUN Women's soccer, pregame events are as follows: 3:30-4:30 p.m. Free youth clinic led by soccer players and waiver required. 4:30-5 p.m. Autographs. And 5-5:30 p.m. Free hot dog for clinic participants & photo with Matty

**Women's Soccer vs. Hawaii**

**WHEN:** 6:00 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Soccer Field (SO)  
**DESCRIPTION:** All youth 17 years of age and under get in for free for Youth Night. CSUN students get in free with ID and get free admission when you show your ticket stub to the Men's Soccer game on the same day.

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Go online to **DAILY SUNDIAL.COM** to add your club or organization's upcoming event to the calendar for free.

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# Different degree, different salary

PayScale report shows science and math degrees pay better than others

**CHRISTINA BENNETT**  
Dail y Sun Dial

In an economy teetering on the edge of stability and an uncertain future for CSUs, students may worry whether they will find a job. But even with a degree, students are not guaranteed a job in their respect field of study.

According to PayScale, a website that compiles data about job salaries and analyzes colleges across the nation, the top 10 college majors that pay the most are all in math sciences.

PayScale has a report on “degrees that pay you back,” which ranks degrees by starting median pay and mid-career median pay and considers that “typical starting graduates have two years of experience,” according to the report.

Of the top 10, seven are in various fields of engineering, including petroleum engineering at No. 1 with a starting median pay of \$97,900 and mid-career median pay at \$155,000.

It may not be surprising that math and science degrees offer top dollar. Dr. Say-Peng Lim, chair of the physics department at CSUN, said there are reasons for this high demand.

“Traditionally it has always been that physics majors tend to be very well paid. A lot of the people who do quantitative analysis in financial firms tend to have physical science and math background(s),” Lim said. “Physics-trained students gravitate towards positions that require a lot of problem solving, a lot of quantitative type work.”

Physics degree holders are being employed by a variety of sectors of the economy, according to the American Institute of Physics (AIP), which reported on hiring trends.

In August, the American Institute of Physics published enrollment and degree data from 711 degree-granting physics departments nationwide on the 2010-2011 academic year and confirmed that the pool of physics students is small.

The rigors of the physics program appeal to a certain type of student, Lim said.

“You really have to like math, you really have to be inquisitive and like to understand how things work or why things have certain properties and behave the way they do,” Lim said. “If you have those kinds of inclinations, then this can be a very challenging, interesting, rewarding major.”

Jake Reschke, 21, senior physics major, echoes this point of view, adding that patience is an indispensable virtue for physicists.

“There are definitely difficult problems that can be very frustrating, but in my opinion those are the best problems to solve [because] the ones that really get you frustrated pay off the most,” Reschke said. “[When] you finally solve a problem you’ve been working on for days or thinking about for weeks, it just feels really good to finally have an answer.”

Dr. Sharlene Katz, full-time faculty member at CSUN’s electrical and computer engineering department, offered her insight on the rigors of the electrical and computer engineering program and stressed the intensity of the prerequisite and core course load.

“It’s a very difficult major. I’d say it’s probably one of the most difficult programs on campus,” Katz said.

Electrical engineering may be one of those degrees students initially choose because of the financially rewarding job prospects, but if no underlying passion for science and math exist, the allure of a high paying job often wears off, according to Katz.

“If you can pick something

that you are passionate about, but you can see leads to a career, I think that’s the best combination,” Katz said.

On the lower end of the scale, degrees in liberal arts, communications and social and behavioral sciences are not as promising, according to PayScale.

The bottom 10 collegiate degrees on PayScale’s report have starting median salaries ranging from \$29,600 to \$35,600 and mid-career median pay salaries ranging from \$40,500 to \$52,000.

Yesenia Vasquez, 22, senior psychology major, said she feels the work in her major will be rewarding but admits that salary was a factor in her decision.

“Before I thought about psychology, I wanted to be a choreographer. My passion used to be dance, and I wanted to do that,” Vasquez said. “I had to choose—am I going to go struggle with dance, or am I going to go with something that will definitely be more stable.”

Vasquez has not given up dance as a passion, but chose psychology after weighing the financial prospects of her two interests. Psychology is personally a good fit because of the opportunity to help a wide range of people, she said.

## Top ten degrees by salary

The first salary is the “starting median pay” and the second is the “mid-career median pay.”

<b>Petroleum Engineering</b>	<b>\$97,900 - \$155,000</b>
<b>Chemical Engineering</b>	<b>\$64,500 - \$109,000</b>
<b>Electrical Engineering (EE)</b>	<b>\$61,300 - \$103,000</b>
<b>Materials Science &amp; Engineering</b>	<b>\$60,400 - \$103,000</b>
<b>Aerospace Engineering</b>	<b>\$60,700 - \$102,000</b>
<b>Computer Engineering (CE)</b>	<b>\$61,800 - \$101,000</b>
<b>Physics</b>	<b>\$49,800 - \$101,000</b>
<b>Applied Mathematics</b>	<b>\$52,600 - \$98,600</b>
<b>Computer Science (CS)</b>	<b>\$56,600 - \$97,900</b>
<b>Nuclear Engineering</b>	<b>\$65,100 - \$97,800</b>

## Bottom ten degrees by salary

<b>Theology</b>	<b>\$35,600 - \$52,000</b>
<b>Public Health (PH)</b>	<b>\$35,500 - \$51,700</b>
<b>Athletic Training</b>	<b>\$34,600 - \$50,200</b>
<b>Religious Studies</b>	<b>\$32,900 - \$49,700</b>
<b>Recreation &amp; Leisure Studies</b>	<b>\$34,500 - \$49,100</b>
<b>Special Education</b>	<b>\$34,300 - \$47,800</b>
<b>Culinary Arts</b>	<b>\$29,900 - \$46,800</b>
<b>Social Work (SW)</b>	<b>\$32,200 - \$44,300</b>
<b>Elementary Education</b>	<b>\$32,400 - \$44,000</b>
<b>Child and Family Studies</b>	<b>\$29,600 - \$40,500</b>

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IN THURSDAY'S PAPER DAILY SUNDIAL RESTAURANT GUIDE

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**This week at the USU**

**MONDAY**

- Table Tennis Tournament**  
4 p.m. Games Room, USU
- Monday Night Football**  
5:30 p.m. Pub Sports Grill, USU

**TUESDAY**

- Billiards Tournament**  
4 p.m. Games Room, USU

**WEDNESDAY**

- Poker Tournament**  
4 p.m. Games Room, USU

**THURSDAY**




- Pride Center Grand Opening**  
10 a.m. Pride Center and Plaza del Sol, USU
- Craft Corner**  
11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Plaza del Sol, USU

**FRIDAY**

- Red Rally: Men's Soccer**  
7 p.m. Matador Soccer Field
- Laugh Your Class Off**  
8 p.m. Games Room, USU


**SATURDAY**

- Soulful Saturdays**  
7 p.m. Pub Sports Grill, USU

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LIVING THE MATADOR LIFE



California State University Northridge



# Speakers to inspire others with amazing life stories

**CHRISTINA BENNETT**  
daily@sundial

“One Amazing Community,” an event hosted by the CSUN volunteer group Unified We Serve, will spotlight a diverse panel of speakers whose life stories inspire the community and encourage connections with others, according to Lanza Price, program assistant for Unified We Serve.

The group of 11 speakers will spread the message that finding ways to conquer undesired circumstances is a matter of resolve.

## The value of selflessness

Luda Gogolushko, 24, lives with a disability, but it is clear it does not disable her.

Like other students, she attends class and is dedicated to her education. However, her routine includes planning out her day the night before because daily energy levels are unpredictable when living with spinal muscular atrophy type III, which causes the weakening of the muscles and spine, and decreased endurance.

“I’ll get ready the night before just so I don’t have to bump into the wall to get stuff. [There’s] definitely a lot of planning for me,” Gogolushko said. “Although I may not be able to walk or run, that doesn’t mean I

can’t do everything else.”

Only able to walk until age 9, Gogolushko began experiencing more severe symptoms of the neuromuscular disability as she got older, using a power wheelchair in eighth grade.

Despite her condition, she earned her bachelor’s degree last May in recreation and tourism management, and will finish her graduate degree this May in communications studies.

“It breaks my heart to know the things people have gone through,” Gogolushko said. “Whatever I can do to make people’s lives better and easier is definitely something I tell myself everyday. Selflessness is something I value.”

One Amazing Community is trying to relay this message of perseverance, Gogolushko said.

“The one thing that keeps me going: I tell myself, ‘Don’t give up now, you might be a moment away from a miracle,’” Gogolushko said.

## Finally, a purpose

Having a resilient mentality is familiar to CSUN student Theodore Chavez, 22, double major in linguistics and deaf studies.

When Chavez was 8, he came home from school one afternoon eager to deliver a school project he worked on for his parents, particularly his mother.

His family was gathered



LOREN TOWNSLEY / Photo Edit or

**Lanza Price, program assistant for Unified We Serve, hopes the “One Amazing Community” event will shed light on the interconnectedness of the CSUN community and the opportunity for enrichment and personal growth through the embrace of others.**

at the house, but his mother was not there and did not return home that night. He slept for

days on the floor of his room waiting for her.

She never came home.

He lost his mother to right-sided heart failure, sending his world spiraling out of control. He only became aware of his mother’s death at her funeral, when the casket was opened.

After his mother’s death, his sisters ran away from home. His father developed a cocaine addiction, and he came and went as he pleased. Chavez was left to fend for himself.

Numbing the pain was not easy. His mother’s death left emotional wounds, and to cope with the pain, he began cutting himself.

“At this point in my life, I had not dealt with my mother’s death,” Chavez said. “It was something that was pushed to the backburner and never brought up. When it was brought up, I was always the person being talked to about it. I was kind of like the punching bag of the family.”

The family had a brief time of peace when Chavez’ father and sisters reunited when his dad moved to Bakersfield. But the reunion didn’t last long Chavez’ father ended up in the hospital and was declared brain dead.

But his life went on. Chavez worked full time, joined the Associated Student Body, took AP classes and played sports in high school.

“It’s OK to have problems,” Chavez said. “It’s OK to sit in your room at night and cry. Just know that you’re not alone.”

It’s not about the size of your problems or comparing yourself to others, Chavez said, because problems can’t be measured.

Now a graduating senior at CSUN and active in Kappa Sigma fraternity, he has found a loving brotherhood that left him wondering why he waited so long to get involved.

A conversation Chavez had with an aunt gave him new perspective on his life.

“She said, ‘God didn’t put you through this on accident. God’s not up there waving a wand saying, ‘Oops sorry, yeah you lost your parents.’ God’s saying, ‘This is going to happen and I promise there will be a way to use this in good ways.’ That’s exactly what I feel about what’s about to happen on Monday,” Chavez said. “I feel like I’m finally seeing a purpose to everything. I’m finally seeing why I’ve been through all this stuff.”

## Tonight

These speakers, along with the nine others, will share their stories in the Oviatt Library presentation room from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

For more inspiring stories, read the online version of this story on [sundial.csun.edu](http://sundial.csun.edu).

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**RATES**

From page 1

requisites before they can graduate, with each department having its own set of requirements.

“(Requiring prerequisites is) one mis-step in this process and that can easily set a student back a whole semester,” Rawitch said.

Ideally students would be able to take 15 units per semester and work around 20 hours a week to graduate in four years, but that is not the case with a majority of the student population. The average load is 12 units or less and students do not factor in taking summer or winter sessions to meet that four year standard, according to Rawitch.

Diligent planning and sticking to a plan should be incorporated into a student's educational career, according to Will Sherman, 22, an applied mathematics major working on his two-year graduate degree after spending five years as an undergraduate.

“While it's the responsibility of the students to make a plan to get out in four years, making a plan is useless if the student can't get into the classes,” Sherman said. “It's disturbing that there are larger schools with more

students who can graduate their students quicker than CSUN.”

In Fall 2011, 80.2 percent of students were full-time while 19.8 percent were part-time. In order to be considered full-time, students have to take 12 units or more, and dropping below that will make a student part-time.

There are programs, policies and practices in place at CSUN that can help students in their pursuit of a degree including: mandatory advisement and class waitlists, EOP Transitional Programs, Freshman Seminar, New Student Orientation, The Early Warning System, and “Super Senior” initiatives.

Other students, like Gabrielle McKelley, 22, an apparel design and production major, have been set back in their graduation plans due to budget cuts.

“The budget cuts have hurt my pursuit of a degree because a core class for my major was not offered during the 2011-2012 school year. The class was a prerequisite for another in my major, which is only offered once a year,” McKelley said.

The CSU campuses all rank 30th from the top, starting with CSU San Luis Obispo according to the study by the National Center for Education Statistics.

**A.S. alumni address current members**

**AGNES CONSTANTE**

da lly Su Nd la L

**P**ast Associated Students members attended Friday's meeting to advise current members about what issues affect students.

“The work you do here today is real stuff, and it has real dynamics, real work, real value to your community,” said George St. Johns, A.S. vice president for Valley State College (CSUN's former name) from 1966-67.

“That's the way I viewed it, and I hope you view it the same way,” St. Johns said. “I also hope you don't get caught up in it to a point where you think your ideas are omnipotent. They're not. They're going to change.”

Both former and current A.S. members compared the issues facing their generations.

Joe Perret, a former A.S. adviser in the 1960s, said among major concerns during his time were tuition, burning down buildings, free speech, the Vietnam War and student fees.

Current A.S. members chose communication between the student government and student body, tuition and classes, parking



FILE PHOTO / DAILY SUNDIAL

**A.S. Vice President Christopher Woollett.**

and getting students to vote as today's most pressing issues at CSUN.

Senator of Education Sarah Garcia cited that only 8 percent of the student population voted in last semester's A.S. elections.

“I think a lot of students want us to be able to handle the tuition situation and classes,” said Chloe Thornton, senator of Health and

Human Development.

“I think we get reprimanded that we don't do anything because people don't understand what we do on this board. So we've been getting lashed out against quite a lot this past year.”

John Cagle, A.S. president from 1965-67, said part of the challenge the student government has

today is to engage its community through various events and activities, given that most CSU students hold jobs and leave campus right after their classes.

Apart from the visit from alumni, A.S. Vice President Christopher Woollett reported on how the failure of Proposition 30 would affect CSUN according to Thursday's CSU board of trustees meeting.

“If Prop. 30 fails, there are about three areas on our campus that will be affected: engineering, music, health sciences,” he said. Architecture is the only major exempt from this, but an estimated 3,000 students will be affected, he said.

Whether Proposition 38 passes or fails, if Proposition 30 fails there will be an added \$150 to CSU students in the spring 2013.

The student government also allocated \$700 to Matadors for Equality from the assigned contingency fund.

Woollett also said A.S. is looking into an online open forum for students who are unable to attend meetings on Friday. This would provide them a way to address the student government, he said.

The next A.S. meeting will be held at 9 a.m. on Sept. 28 at the Grand Salon.

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**DAILY SUNDIAL**



September 24, 2012

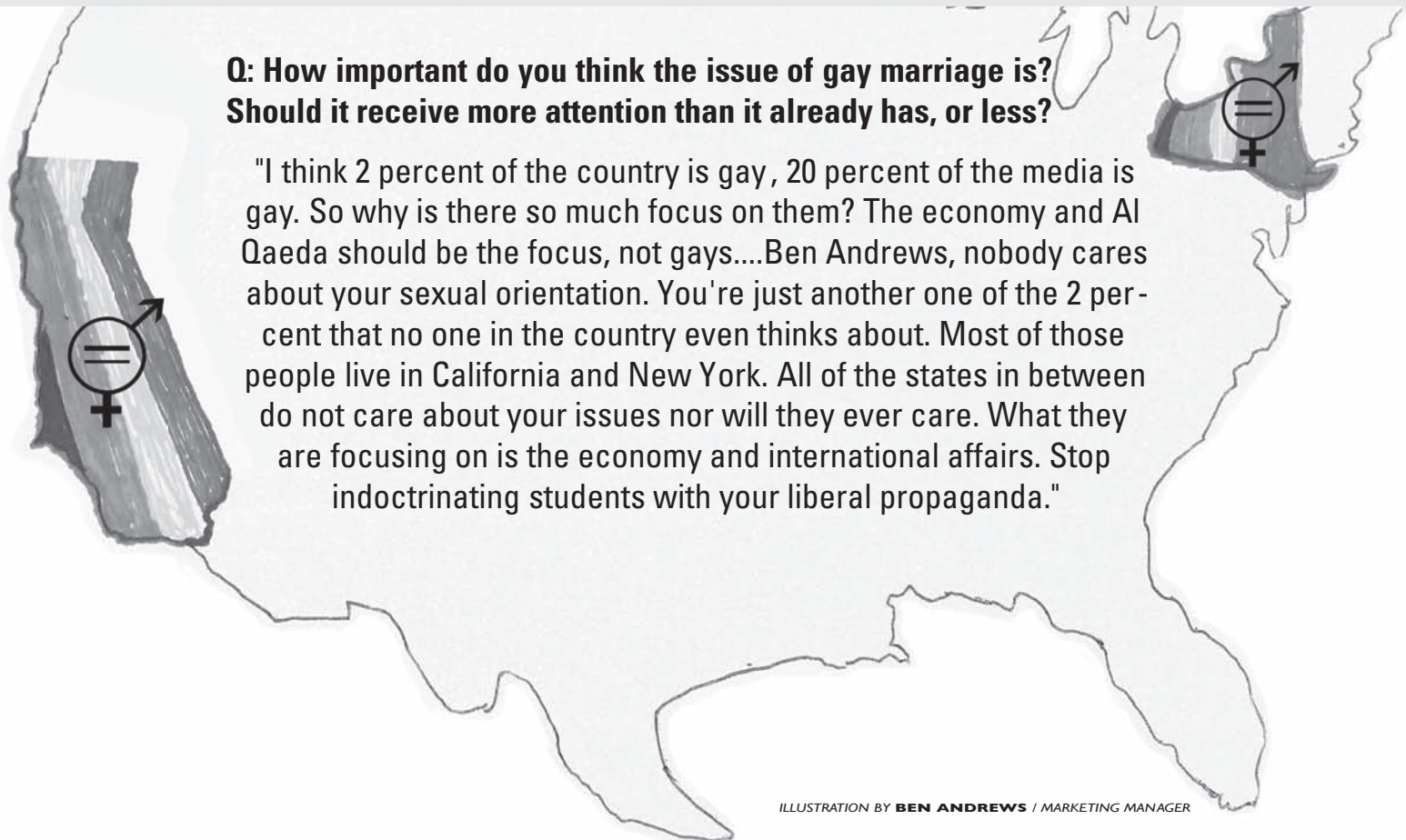
# Opinions

opinion@sundial.csun.edu

## Queer is everywhere, queer is American

The following quote is from our Facebook page and was made in response to a Sep. 17 editorial about the role of same-sex marriage in the upcoming election. These comments inspired the author to write this editorial.

We encouraged the commenter to write an editorial or letter to the editor of their own, as we aim to publish a wide variety of opinions.



**Q: How important do you think the issue of gay marriage is? Should it receive more attention than it already has, or less?**

"I think 2 percent of the country is gay, 20 percent of the media is gay. So why is there so much focus on them? The economy and Al Qaeda should be the focus, not gays....Ben Andrews, nobody cares about your sexual orientation. You're just another one of the 2 percent that no one in the country even thinks about. Most of those people live in California and New York. All of the states in between do not care about your issues nor will they ever care. What they are focusing on is the economy and international affairs. Stop indoctrinating students with your liberal propoganda."

ILLUSTRATION BY BEN ANDREWS / MARKETING MANAGER

**BEN ANDREWS**  
MARKETING MANAGER

I wish I could live in a world where no one cares about my sexual orientation.

There are a lot of things in life I would have gladly avoided without having to cope with the social stressors of homophobia and hate.

I wish I'd never been called a fag or a faggot. I wish I hadn't been kicked out of a private Christian high school when I came out at 15. I wish I hadn't spent years trying to repress my desires and date a woman in an attempt to become straight.

I wish I'd had access to a relevant sexual education and healthcare in my hometown of Palmdale. I wish hadn't engaged in risky sexual behavior when I came to college and came out for the second time.

I wish I hadn't gone through depression and self-loathing. I wish I didn't get anxiety when I walk into a church. I wish who I am didn't matter to my father, who is a Lutheran pastor. I wish I didn't have to worry about who I could love or if I'll be able to walk down the aisle with the support of my family, friends, church and community.

I wish I didn't have to write something like this to defend myself.

This section ran an editorial Sep. 17 asking, "Is gay marriage a wedge issue?" The story was shared on our Facebook page, giving people a space outside of

the comments section to answer the same question. A few individuals responded with insensitivity toward the issues of gay marriage and civil rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or queer people. One commenter claimed that only 2 percent of the country is affected by these issues and that most people are more focused on the economy than the civil rights of these Americans.

To assert that this issue only concerns 2 percent of the population is ludicrous. To say that only people in California and New York have any opinion about gay marriage or queer issues in general is mind bogglingly ignorant. Beyond the fact that queer people exist in every state, city and town in the United States, the issue affects more than just us queers. LGBTQ issues affect our friends, our family and co-workers. These issues affect every aspect of our nation from our economy to our military and government.

A common tactic used to make discrimination more acceptable is to marginalize those being discriminated. This often turns into a game of numbers. Anti-gay groups claim that the queer population is only 2 percent, saying that that is too small and insignificant to matter. Many LGBTQ advocacy groups claim that the LGBTQ population is closer to 10 percent of the country and therefore too many people to ignore.

The actual demographics are very hard to determine because there is little con-

sensus on how to accurately define who is LGBTQ.

According to a study done by Gary J. Gates at the Williams Institute of UCLA this year, 3.8 percent of the population self-identify as LGBT-roughly 9 million people. However, it is important to consider the difference between self-identification and sexual or romantic behavior.

In another article by Gates written earlier this year, he estimated that the population of people who report same-sex attractions and same-sex behaviors in their lifetime is even higher. Gates found that 19 million Americans (8.2 percent of the country) reported that they have engaged in same-sex sexual behavior and nearly 25.6 million Americans (11 percent) acknowledged at least some same-sex sexual attraction.

Whether you define the LGBTQ population by identity, community, sexual behavior or some intersection of all three, it's clear that the non-heterosexual, non-heteronormative population is well above 2 percent. But the numbers should not really matter in the end.

"Today, the size of the LGBT community is less important than understanding the struggles of its members and informing crucial policy debates with facts rather than stereotype and anecdote," Gates said.

How we treat self-identifying queer people is central to defining our cultural and national values in the 21st century. Do we believe in equality for everyone

regardless of race, sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation? Or do we choose to discriminate against our fellow human beings because they are a minority that we either don't care about or don't understand?

As for the relevance of the question, it's quite timely for us to ask, taking into account that we are in the height of an election cycle where both major parties have made same-sex marriage a key issue in their platform. It has also become a political symbol and rallying point for those who either support the queer community or oppose it. Because our economy and society in many ways is based on the family unit, what we consider family is imperative to creating public policies.

To sweep it away under the rug and say no one really cares is irresponsible. To pretend that this country has become so tolerant that gay people should just shut up and not complain about their problems is cruel.

If I lived in a world where no one cared about my sexual orientation, I'd be much happier and healthier. But more than that, I wish I could live in a society that wasn't just content with being tolerant. I wish I could live in a society that was queer positive, proactive and life-affirming.

Until then, our society will be defined by whether or not we can continue the long march towards equality or if we will turn back to the dark ages of rampant discrimination.

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Published Mon.-Thurs. by the Department of Journalism  
at California State University, Northridge.

Manzanita Hall 140, 18111 Nordhoff St. Northridge, CA 91330-8258

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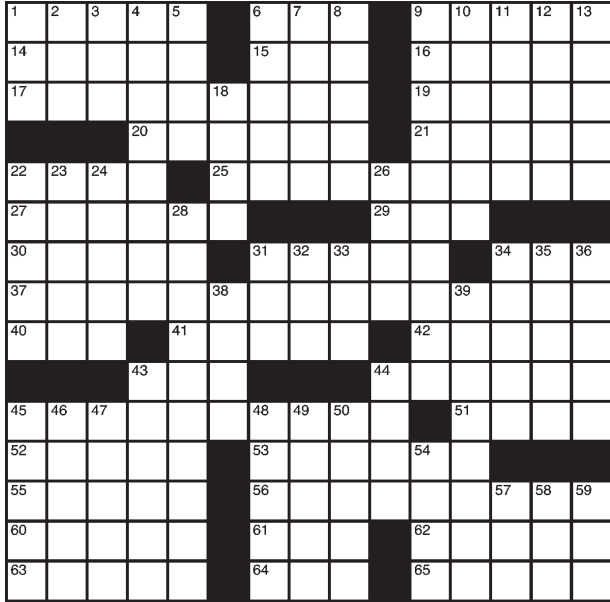


**Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle**

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

**ACROSS**

- 1 Sitcom's test episode
- 6 Sitcom interrupters
- 9 Holy Roman emperor crowned in CMLXII
- 14 In on, with "to"
- 15 Keg attachment
- 16 "Yep"
- 17 Corfu or Crete
- 19 Hopping mad
- 20 Close again, as a Ziploc bag
- 21 Volkswagen sedan
- 22 Scary Nile snakes
- 25 Salute heard at the Forum
- 27 Friend of Monica and Rachel on "Friends"
- 29 Dumbbell abbr.
- 30 Selfish sort
- 31 Snow-block home
- 34 Ab \_\_\_: from day one
- 37 Classic Frances Hodgson Burnett children's novel
- 40 CIA precursor
- 41 Arkin and Alda
- 42 Queen, in France
- 43 End of a professor's email address
- 44 Makes sense
- 45 Once-common childhood ailment
- 51 Flower stalk
- 52 Boca \_\_\_
- 53 Young bird of prey
- 55 Primitive calculators
- 56 Entrée go-with, or the aptly placed part of 17-, 25-, 37- or 45-Across
- 60 Spiced rice dish
- 61 Cinque menó due
- 62 Prefix with -dactyl
- 63 Keep in the warehouse
- 64 IRS W-4 info
- 65 Saudi Arabia neighbor



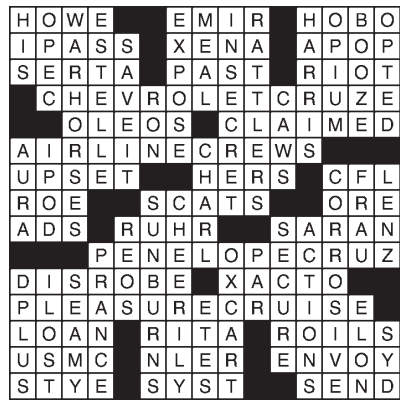
By Adam Prince

9/24/12

**DOWN**

- 1 NBA scoring stat
- 2 Like some reduced mdse.
- 3 Commit perjury
- 4 Supervises
- 5 Trike rider
- 6 On the ocean
- 7 \_\_\_ Lama
- 8 Wizard's incantation
- 9 Séance accessory
- 10 Good scores on par-fours
- 11 "\_\_\_ a wrap!"
- 12 "\_\_\_ sight!"
- 13 "Word on the street is ..."
- 18 "\_\_\_ Dead?": Mark Twain play
- 22 Probably will, after "is"
- 23 Persian sovereigns
- 24 Jobs in the ribs
- 26 Thick-soled shoe
- 28 Serrated kitchen tool
- 31 Pension supplement, for short
- 32 First Bible bk.
- 33 USN officers

**Thursday's Puzzle Solved**



(c)2012 Tribune Media Services, Inc. 9/21/12

- 34 Keats, notably after "is"
- 35 Change of \_\_\_: trial request
- 36 Early aft. hour
- 38 Game with rooms and weapons
- 39 Republican region, on a political map
- 43 Toyota Prius, e.g.
- 44 Wheel-supporting shaft
- 45 High roller's game
- 46 Nun's wear
- 47 \_\_\_-Turkish War
- 48 Homes in trees
- 49 Sock purchases
- 50 Humorous poet
- 54 Catch sight of
- 57 NASA moon craft
- 58 "We \_\_\_ the World"
- 59 Mafia boss

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**Solution to today's sudoku**

9	8	5	3	4	2	6	7	1
6	2	1	5	8	7	3	9	4
3	4	7	6	1	9	5	8	2
7	1	9	2	3	4	8	6	5
8	5	4	7	9	6	1	2	3
2	3	6	8	5	1	4	6	7
4	9	1	3	8	7	8	7	9
6	3	2	5	7	4	8	6	1
8	1	4	3	9	6	2	7	5

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	1				2	
		2	7			6
6	7				3	4
			1	8		
	2		9	7		5
			4	2		
2	5				7	3
	6			8	1	
		9				8

**sudoku**

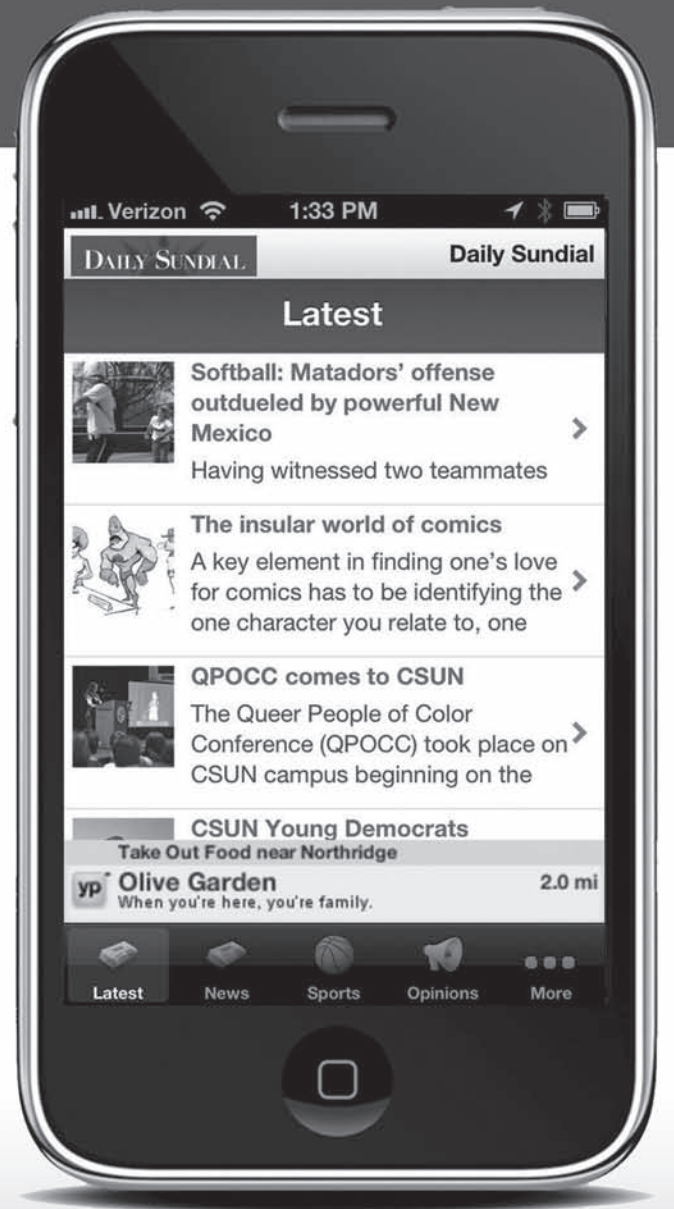
**How to play:**  
 Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9.

*Solution above.*

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# Hockey fans brace for lockout

The NHL, following in the footsteps of the NBA and the NFL, may cancel the start of its upcoming season

**CASEY DELICH**  
DAILY SUNDIAL

**S**ports fans have already endured two of the biggest national sports – basketball and football – shutting down for parts of the year due to lockouts, now fans may be without hockey for an extended period of time.

The National Hockey League locked out its players Sept. 16 after the collective bargaining agreement ended. It is the fourth lockout in the NHL since 1992.

The last lockout occurred during the 2004-05 season, when the entire season was lost due to the dispute.

Negotiation has been nonexistent between the two sides. Without taking fans into consideration, the NHL can expect to lose a fan base that was already struggling to compete against the big three, MLB, NFL and NBA.

Already running a season concurrent with the NBA, the NHL finds it hard to gain a foothold into national television viewers.

Recently, all preseason games were canceled and the start of the regular season is in jeopardy.

The heart of the issue is money, but unlike other leagues, multitudes of

hockey players are not paid in the eight-figure range yearly.

With 23 players on each team in the 30-team league, the average salary reaches \$2.4 million per player, ranking third among major sports, ahead of the NFL. With some deals spanning over 10 years, none of the team owners are breaking the bank to afford these players, unlike Major League Baseball where \$200 million contracts seem to be the new normal.

Revenues split between owners and players currently sit at a 57-43 split in favor of the players. The last proposal was a drop to 46 percent for the players – an 11 percent drop, according to ESPN.

According to the league, 15 of the 30 teams lost money last year.

With nearly \$3.3 billion in revenue for 2012, a \$330 million cut to players is something completely ludicrous to ask for.

Owners provide the team, arena and entertainment for the fans, but want to make sure they pinch every penny out of the team. While not every player is playing this game for the love it, they are the reason we pay the money and sit in the seats rooting



COURTESY OF MCT

**Kings' midfielder Anze Kopitar and a teammate collide with an opponent as they try to secure possession of the puck**

for our teams.

With careers that don't span more than 10-15 years, every dollar matters. The average salary for a 10 year career, after taxes and agent fees, may net a player \$14 million for their career.

Hockey is a hard con-

tact sport, where fighting is a nightly occurrence in games, and where medical bills can pile up for players after their careers are over.

Unlike the NBA, overseas borrowing of players is easier for both the player and the team. With nearly

80 percent of players in 2010 being foreign born, they have no qualms in uprooting their families for even a short while.

The KHL of Russia restricted each of its teams to signing three lock-out players for 65 percent

of their contract. Foreign teams have already contacted many of the top players in the NHL, including Los Angeles King Anze Kopitar, who signed a deal with Mora IK of Sweden on Sept. 18.

## WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

# Matadors cruise by Highlanders, Titans

**ANDREW CLARK**  
DAILY SUNDIAL

**T**he CSUN women's volleyball team recovered after the narrow loss to Hawai'i last week by defeating Cal State Fullerton and UC Riverside.

The Matadors dominated the match against the Titans of Fullerton, winning in four sets. The win was CSUN's third-straight against CSUF.

Junior outside hitter Mahina Haina led the Matadors with 14 kills while sophomore middle blocker Casey Hinger added 13 to go with eight blocks.

Senior defensive specialist Monica McFarland had 20 digs, a season high, while sophomore middle blocker Sam Kaul had eight kills, her best highest in a match so far this year.

Fullerton's Bre Moreland had a match-high 17 kills.

After Fullerton won the first set 25-21, CSUN went on a tear and won the next three sets in decisive fashion, thanks to their front line defense.

The Matadors led the Titans in

blocking 20-10 in the match. In the final set, middle blockers Cieana Stinson and Kaul forced Fullerton's Gabrielle Dewberry to hit into a block, causing an attack error and the end of the match.

The next stop on the trip was UC Riverside who gave Northridge a scare before CSUN mounted a late comeback to win in five sets.

Hinger provided the front-row offense with 17 kills to lead the Matadors while senior libero Cindy Ortiz anchored the back-row defense with 22 digs.

The Highlanders' Ashley Cox led the match with 21 kills.

Haina and Stinson joined Hinger in the double-digit kill club for the match. Haina had 13, most of which were in the last two decisive sets, and Stinson had 10.

Down two sets to one, CSUN rallied to win the fourth set 26-24 and making eight kills out of 17 swings in the final set to secure the victory. As a team, the Matadors had a lower hitting percentage than their opponent, but still won the game.

The team returns home for a two-game home stand, hosting Long Beach State on Thursday and UC Irvine on Saturday.



DAILY SUNDIAL FILE PHOTO

**Sophomore middle blocker Sam Kaul spikes the ball while her teammates look on in the Matadors' match against Hawaii last week.**