

DAILY SUNDIAL

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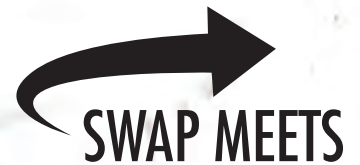


+ SPORTS: Recent AEG deal may bring NFL to LA p. 8

+ NEWS: Students speak out against banned books p. 3

+ OPINION: Is religion really on the decline? p. 6

CULTURE CLASH



Fort for the foreclosed

Despite receiving a notice to vacate their home, the Fernandez family create a stronghold



CHARLIE KAIJO / ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

Members of Occupy San Fernando Valley wait for the Hernandez family to return from the police station after filing a complaint on LAPD following numerous visits to the house. The home has been dubbed "Fort Hernandez." The house was turned into a camping ground for many who have lost their homes in bank foreclosure. Fort Hernandez has become the heart of one of the local Occupy movements, Occupy San Fernando Valley.

MELODY CHERCHIAN
DAILY SUNDIAL

A barricaded home with determined supporters on the lawn, holding picket signs and offering food to a passerby.

An American flag waves in the wind. Banners decorate the home. "Children live here," is written on a sign. "Is your home next?" reads another.

This is day 38.

After four years of fighting against Bank of America, the Hernandez family was given a notice on Aug. 21 to vacate their home after being unable to pay their mortgage. Five days later, they received their final notice, but the family decided to stay on the property. After

"We knew we weren't going to give up the house. The next thing you know, we had built a fort."

— Ulises Hernandez
Fort occupant

seeing 174 foreclosures within the 91405 zip code, the Hernandez family knew it was time for action.

Activists are sharing the history of this organized attempt to overcome the banks. A large contingency of Occupy protesters acts as

a safeguard for the property.

The home has been dubbed "Fort Hernandez." The residence was turned into a camping ground for many who have lost their homes in bank foreclosure. Fort Hernandez has become the heart of one of the local Occupy movements, Occupy San Fernando Valley.

"We knew we weren't going to give up the house," said Ulises Hernandez, 21, one of the 11 members of the household. "The next thing you know, we had built a fort."

Hundreds of people just like the Hernandez family are dealing with bank foreclosures on a daily basis. According to the Center for Responsible Lending, a non-profit organization which aims to protect home ownership and

See **HERNANDEZ**, page 4

Obama, Romney face off in debate

Initial reactions favor Romney

ANDREW CLARK
NEWS EDITOR

President Obama and former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney had a spirited debate Wednesday.

The debate, sponsored by the Commission of Presidential Debates, took place at the University of Denver in Colorado.

Moderator Jim Lehrer, anchor of PBS' "NewsHour" tried to follow a format of 15 minute segments, but both candidates ran over their allotted time.

The immediate reaction from liberals and conservatives alike favored Romney.

Bill Galston, a former adviser to President Clinton and senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, told the Wall Street Journal Romney, "almost certainly did himself some good. He conveyed a sense that was more human, more empathetic."

Republican strategist Alex Castellanos said on CNN that Romney's primary battle helped him in the debate, giving the former governor a strong showing against the president.

Here are three topics highlighted in the debate, including candidate excerpts and an independent fact-checker.

JOB CREATION

Obama said, "Bill Clinton tried the approach that I'm talking about. We cre-

See **DEBATE**, page 3

WE — THE — PEOPLE



October 4th from 10am - 4pm
(voter registration until 6pm)

Bayramian lawn: Political booths, clubs and orgs, free food,
music, politicians, vendors, and art

Matador Square: Free speech area and Art

Bookstore lawn: Voter registration hub

Voter registration throughout campus.



California State University
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DEBATE

Continued from page 1

ated 23 million new jobs. We went from deficit to surplus. And businesses did very well.”

Romney said he wants to create 12 million new jobs after going through 43 straight months of an unemployment rate above 8 percent.

According to the Associated Press and Huffington Post, the most recent jobs report in August stated the national unemployment rate is 8.1 percent, but was lower than previous months. The same article also points out that the report says private sector job gains have gone up for 30 consecutive months.

TAX CUTS

“This is where there's a difference, because Gov. Romney's central economic plan calls for a \$5 trillion tax cut – on top of the extension of the Bush tax cuts – that's another trillion dollars – and \$2 trillion in additional military spending that the military hasn't asked for,” Obama said. “That's \$8 trillion. How we pay for that, reduce the deficit, and make the investments that we need to make, without dumping those costs onto middle-class Americans, I think is one of the central questions of this

campaign.”

“First of all, I don't have a \$5 trillion tax cut. I don't have a tax cut of a scale that you're talking about. My view is that we ought to provide tax relief to people in the middle class,” Romney said. “But I'm not going to reduce the share of taxes paid by high-income people. High-income people are doing just fine in this economy. They'll do fine whether you're president or I am.”

Amy Bingham, in-house fact checker at ABC News, said, “So far the only specifics he (Romney) has offered on how to pay for his 20 percent across-the-board rate reduction and collection of other tax cutting measures is to eliminate tax ‘loopholes’ for high income earners. Without these specifics, an analysis by the non-partisan Tax Policy Center estimated that his tax cuts would strip \$5 trillion from federal revenues over the next decade, or \$456 billion per year. Romney's tax plan could add \$5 trillion to the deficit. But that is an estimate on an incomplete tax plan.”

HEALTH CARE

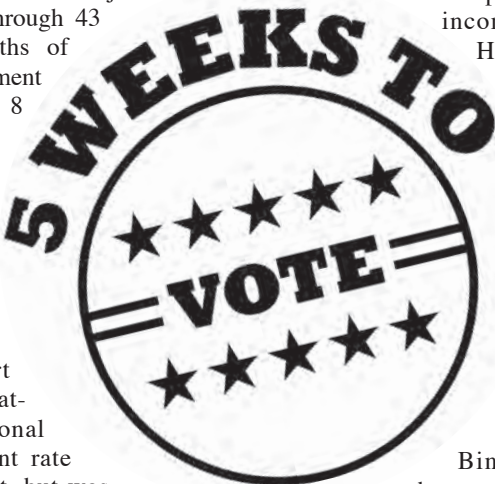
Obama accused Romney of supporting a plan to turn Medi-

care into a voucher program, but according to FactCheck, the former governor's plan is “structured the same as the system Obama's health care law sets up for subsidizing private insurance for persons under age 65.”

Conversely, Romney said, “I want to take that \$716 billion you've cut and put it back into Medicare. By the way, we can include a prescription program if we need to improve it.”

But the idea of cutting \$716 billion from Medicare to be able to balance the additional cost of Obamacare is, in my opinion, a mistake.”

However, FactCheck said that “these cuts in the future growth of spending prolong the life of the Medicare trust fund, stretching the program's finances out longer than they would last otherwise.”



UPCOMING DEBATES

THURSDAY OCT. 11
Vice presidential Debate
Vice President Joe Biden v. Congressman Paul Ryan

TUESDAY OCT. 16
Presidential Debate
Town hall format
Foreign and domestic issues

MONDAY OCT. 22
Presidential Debate
Foreign policy



CHRISTINA COCCA / DAILY SUNDIAL

Marissa Wallace, 22, read Maya Angelou's “I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings” aloud in the Matador Bookstore Complex during the “Banned Book Readout,” a demonstration by her journalism class symbolizing the freedom to read.

Students protest banning of books

MAYRA ESCOBEDO
DAILY SUNDIAL

Students from the First Amendment Tutorial held a Banned Book Readout celebrating their freedom to read and the 30th anniversary of the American Library Association's Banned Book Week on Wednesday.

They read excerpts from the “Twilight” series, “I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings,” “The Hunger Games,” “The Perks of Being a Wallflower” and “Tarzan of the Apes,” all of which have been banned, to students outside of Manzanita Hall and then inside of

the Matador Bookstore Complex.

“I think it's really cool,” said Marco Gramago, 19, sophomore civil engineering major. “You always hear people talk about banned books but you never hear people reading them.”

Dr. Elizabeth E. Martinez, who helped organize the readout, said that books have been banned from either libraries or school boards due to inappropriate content, rape, sexuality and other subjects that people don't want to talk about.

“Honestly, I don't see why its a big deal,” said Rayne Vasquez, 23, senior CTVA major. “You can ban a book but people are still going to read it. It's not like they are burning them.”

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2. Submit one letter of recommendation.
3. Respond to the Sheila Gold Foundation Scholarship Program essay prompt.
4. Upload your high school transcripts.

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HERNANDEZ

From page 1

family wealth, nearly “500 California families have lost their homes every day since 2007” while hitting ethnic minorities the hardest. From a Center for Responsible Lending report in April 2010, a total of 2.5 million homes were foreclosed from 2007 to 2009. David Rodriguez, CSUN Chicano/a studies professor with an emphasis in political economics, said most Latinos have been impacted unevenly in the housing market for a wide range of reasons. According to Rodriguez, ethnic minorities are faced with poverty, lower education, a loss of jobs, and bad credit. For these reasons they were hit the hardest.

“They were brought into bank schemes that didn’t give them the details,” Rodriguez said. “They didn’t read the fine print. Some began losing their jobs and others had stagnant wages which made it more difficult for them to pay their mortgage.”

However, bank foreclosures have been decreasing within the past few years, according to Athena Tionson, a realtor for Pinnacle Estate Properties Inc.,

“Foreclosures are much less,” said Tionson. “In fact, there are a lot of buyers looking for homes now in a much better market.”

But this isn’t just a trend in California, although it is the state with the highest number of foreclosure homes. Nationwide, almost 1.5 million homes have been foreclosed in 2012 alone according to Realty Trac, a leading online marketplace of foreclosure properties.

Fort Hernandez has also become a site for community events and local outreach. Couches, blankets, chairs, smiling faces and a buffet table full of food gives the place an immediate sense of home, welcoming everyone.

“We are trying to create a community,” said Hernandez. “We barely spoke to our neighbors, but now they pass by, we talk and they ask questions.”

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CULTURE CLASH

TRYING TO GRAB YOUR ATTENTION SINCE... NOW

Meet the swap meets



MAP BY AUSTIN LASATER / CONTRIBUTOR

The best bargains are owned by swap-me-nistas

LUIS CAMPOS
DAILY SUNDIAL

SAN FERNANDO SWAP MEET
585 Glenoaks Blvd.
Admission Rates: Tuesday/
Saturday \$1.00, Thursday/Friday
\$0.50 and Sunday \$1.50

The San Fernando Swap Meet is the ideal location when shopping for shoes; one may purchase TOMS for \$30, Converse Chuck Taylors for \$25 and oxfords for \$14.

"It's important to shop around and not when you need something because the more you already have, the less pressure to buy something last minute at the nearest store that won't give you the best bargain price," said Dinorah Virgen, 22, business marketing major after purchasing a red orange blazer at the San Fernando Swap Meet.

"Students should not be concern(ed) about the advertisements retail stores

are offering," she said.

However, nothing is ever as nice as it seems. The high school that is located next to it, appropriately coined "Swap Meet High," should not be your biggest concern. What will have you stressing out is having to circulate an eternity when trying to find parking. CSUN students should not worry about this issue, most deal with it on a daily basis.

SAUGUS SWAP MEET
22500 Soledad Canyon Rd.
Admission Rates: \$1.50
Open Tuesday, Saturday
and Sunday

When it comes to unique accessories, live music and beer, the Saugus Speedway which hosts the Saugus Swap Meet is the right place to go. It will become the ideal place fashion seekers can go to find the right accessory without the hassle of feeling claustrophobic.

Who knows, Ryan Gosling might "Drive" his way into the outdoor race track-turned-swap meet if he ever wishes to shop on a budget by visiting one of the 12 locations the film took place.

The Saugus Swap Meet becomes the perfect weekend location for fashion enthusiasts who love purchasing great deals, like Forever 21 clothing for no more than \$10.

"I usually buy shirts and either sew them to fit me or I will cut them up to make them look different," said Stephanie Marquez-Cardenas, 23, photography major. "You can always look fashionable without having to buy high end clothing," she said.

SLAUSON INDOOR SWAP MEET
1600 W Slauson Ave.
Free admission, open daily

If you enjoy seeking an adventure, how about going to the Slauson Indoor

Swap Meet in South Los Angeles where one may have to be weary of elderly retailers who are roaring at the sea of fashionably anxious buyers wanting to know "how much for the boots?"

The Slauson Indoor Swap Meet is like the Northridge Fashion Center with the exception of the security guards watching your every move. Students like Priscilla Galvez, 23, liberal studies major believes that negotiating is key when shopping at the indoor swap meet.

"You'd be surprised at what cute things you can find for good prices," she said after successfully purchasing \$18 booties for the fall and a dressy top to go along with them at the South L.A. swap meet.

New York Fashion Week may have been in full effect by showcasing what will be hot for Spring 2013, as college students we are more focused in looking fierce, hot and fabulous on a swap meet budget by rocking our own looks, right now.

At some point in our college life, CSUN students come across the path of wanting to purchase the latest fashion trend without having to be reported to ChexSystems. But setting foot on swap meet territory never appears to be on our agenda. Being stereotyped as a place where unfashionable people purchase their clothes is like saying that fashion should be considered ambiguous. Times are hard and college students are walking on a penny lane where luxury appears to be guiding them into becoming fashionistas on a swap meet budget.

REVIEW

'Borderlands 2' excels

NATHAN MCMAHON
DAILY SUNDIAL



COURTESY OF MCT

Guns, shoot 'em. Pow, pow. Bang, Bang. Over, and over, over again. This is the life of a Vault Hunter in 2K Games' "Borderlands 2." It's raucous and over the top and the amount of midgits and mutants you will be slaughtering in the quest for loot like guns, grenades, and armor approaches levels of absurdity that only belong in the most ardent of video game worlds.

Pandora is a planet that inhabits the edges of the known universe. But due to circumstances from the end of the first game, a whole world of money-making opportunities have opened up with the Vault's reveal and the ancient alien technology within. Eridium, money, and weapons are the currency that are scattered throughout the wastelands of Pandora.

The game has the normal expectations of a sequel. It's worth addressing that for the first game I was employed by 2K Games as a tester and worked on "Borderlands." I never actually played the full retail release so it's not fair to compare my experience with the first game with the final product of the sequel.

As far as the quality of the sequel itself, it is a wonderfully fun experience with slight hiccups that can detract but should in no way deter prospective buyers.

The game has two main components. A single-player campaign with a wide variety of missions and areas to explore. Also available for friends and random other online gamers is a drop in-and-out multiplayer co-operative experience. While starting out the single-player campaign is a healthy way to grasp the basics of the game, the sooner you can dive into the multiplayer, the better time you will have.

"Borderlands 2" has a hard difficulty curve and enemies are thrown at you fast and furious from the start so being overwhelmed is an almost immediate proposition. Once you start to get that feeling your best bet is to jump into the multiplayer

component.

The game will match you up with other players who are around your same level and involved in the same current mission. Multiplayer is where the game excels. The amount of fun that can be derived just tearing around the world in vehicles with three other players is unrivaled on console gaming. It's a festival of explosions, and fire, and acid bullets with bodies exploding in bloody bits and robots self-destructing.

The game costs \$60 on consoles and really, anybody should be able to squeeze the copious amount of content dry and make that investment back in spades with the fun time to be had.

With the glut of games that is about to descend upon us this gaming season, "Borderlands 2" is a wonderful opening salvo and shouldn't be missed.



@cultureclashDS



Funny or Die @funnyordie

"Looper" is a movie about an assassin who meets his future-self & goes crazy trying to figure out when he went bald: ow.ly/e4Asl
Funny or Die, founded by actor Will Ferrell, pokes fun at everything under the sun.



Brian Regan @BrianReganComic

"Typical AOL Headline: Celeb couple splits when actor is mortified by horrifyingly startling sheer outfit showing starlet wife's baby bump." Professional comedian Brian Regan has made a career out of mocking headlines and celebrities.



TECHNOLOGY

Disney magic on your phone

ANDREW CLARK
NEWS EDITOR

MOUSEWAIT (IOS/ ANDROID, FREE)

This app's primary purpose is for real-time wait time updates for both Disneyland and California Adventure, but it also has a ton of extra features that make it an essential part of any Disney trip. The app allows for users to upload wait times and Fastpass return times to broadcast to other users who may be in the parks that day. The app also features a restaurant finder that uses GPS to find the nearest food. Other helpful bits include a character finder, annual passholder blackout calendar, park hours,

and even a list of iPhone charging station locations for those moments when you've drain the battery from your phone after taking tons of photos and videos.

MARVEL (IOS/ ANDROID, FREE)

When Disney bought Marvel Comics in 2009, Marvel didn't have a presence on mobile platforms. With apps now available on Android and iOS, Marvel comics are now readily available on mobile, often for free. Comics are presented in full-screen mode and users can pinch-to-zoom to see the details of the art and dialogue bubbles.

SORCERER RADIO (IOS/ ANDROID, FREE)

When you can't visit Disneyland, Sorcerer Radio is the next best thing. The free app is an Internet radio station that features music found only in the theme parks. While it has its flaws (it can only play music from lesser shows and attractions for blocks at a time), it works as a great way for a Disneyland fix.

**BLACK DAD
KOREAN MOM**
Where will their orbits take them?



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Too broke? Why not travel nearby?

One reporter ventures out to Ventura county and discovers that a road trip to a local area can be just as exciting

TERESE TORGERSON
DAILY SUNDIAL

Driving up Pacific Highway 1 is something I have always wanted to do. The deep blue ocean scenery complements the setting sun. It doesn't get better than this.

I decided to stop by three towns in Ventura County: Oxnard, Ventura and Ojai. None of these destinations are

too far away for a weekend trip from Northridge.

My first stop was **Oxnard**, about two hours from campus. You could get there faster by taking the 101, but driving on highway 1 is a joy that should be experienced by all. I drove down Topanga Canyon and then turned left on highway 1.

Historical places are on the top of my travel itinerary, which is why I decided to spend a few hours in Oxnard to visit Heritage Square in downtown.

Heritage Square features a recre-

ation of 15 houses from 1800 to the early 1900s. In front of every house there is a small poster informing visitors of the house's history. On the weekends they offer 45 minute guided tours. Inside the McGrath house you will find the restaurant, "La Dolca Vita."

People with a sweet tooth should try the cupcakes and cookies at the small bakery "A little Piece of Heaven," hidden on 4th street.

When walking along A Street, make sure you visit Frida's Treasures and McMullen's for Japa-

nese art and antiques.

Before heading to **Ventura city**, watch the sunset at the almost empty Hollywood Beach where "Back to the Future" and "Spartacus" were shot.

Ventura city is the ideal place for water sports. In Ventura Harbor Village you will find shops, galleries and seafood restaurants. It might be a bit touristy, but you can rent kayaks, pedal boat or take sailing lessons.

They also have full day cruises to the Channel Island National Park and whale watching excursions offered on a daily basis. Across the street from

the harbor are uncrowded beaches.

Ventura has a nice pier and ocean front walk, perfect for a peaceful stroll while watching the surfers.

Before I headed back to Northridge, I took a few hours in the quiet town of **Ojai**. At the end of Reeves Road is a place called "Meditation Mount" where they offer meditation classes. Or you can take a stroll through their meditation route; enjoy the magnificent view, the silence and pot rabbits in their natural habitat.

Walking along Ojai Avenue you will find arcade shops, art galler-

ies and boutique clothing stores.

Bring lunch or an ice-cream and head over to Libbey Park in downtown, where you will find wide walkways, children's playgrounds and tennis courts. In one corner of the park there is an amphitheater.

During the semester, you most likely don't have time or money to take on a week-long road trip, so why not explore some of our neighboring counties? It's almost free and a great way to relieve stress.



A vintage house in Oxnard's Heritage Square.



A view of the Ventura Harbor Village at Ventura City.



Relax at the Meditation Mount in Ojai.

PHOTOS BY TERESE TORGERSON / DAILY SUNDIAL

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PRIDE CENTER LIVING THE MATADOR LIFE UNIVERSITY STUDENT CENTER California State University Northridge

iPhone 5 has potential

CASEY DELICH
DAILY SUNDIAL

The iPhone 5 was recently released; too much hoopla and fanfare from Apple groupies, selling over three million copies in the first weekend of release.

I braved no crowds, I waited just a few hours for AT&T to connect the phones of customers in front of me at Walmart, and picked up my own iPhone 5. Was all the hype surrounding the phone worth it though?

Camera

Compared to the 4S, the 5 has the same camera, but for all those with the 4 it adds an extra three megapixels and face detection. It makes it perfect for all those girls that want to post pictures of themselves making duck faces on Facebook, focusing in on your face in the picture.

Siri

All of us iPhone 4 users felt left out when Siri came out for the 4S and we were left without anyone to talk to. She can be your best friend when you're lonely, call you whatever you want and find information without ever getting mad at you when not listening to her. The iPhone 5 now allows her to access sports scores; perfect for when your fingers are too lazy to access your ESPN app.

Maps

Change is the hardest thing to do, but after a falling out with Google, the iPhone 5 brings us Apple Maps. The 3D awesomeness of the maps feature can't save the overall use of it. It is years behind the Google Maps app that was a standard through the iPhone 4S. Glitches were reported the first day by new users, and had many upset.



COURTESY OF MCT

it out people are going to jump back and be scared by the size. They'll be so amazed by the retina display their eyes will bug out.

Connector

Apple isn't the richest company in history for nothing. The redesigned connector must have been created by an employee that would get home drunk and be unable to figure out which way they had to turn the connector to plug it in. Apple made the connector smaller and reversible for no matter how confused you are when plugging it in. What happens to all the old connector products? Say hello to a \$29 adapter.

4G LTE

Impatient users need worry no more if they need that score update or photo loaded this second, as the iPhone 5 is now LTE capable. Obviously you need to be on a network that has a great access to this feature, Verizon is the best, especially in the LA area. It doesn't even look as if the web pages load anymore, instead they just fly to your fingertips mere seconds after opening the browser.

Is it worth it? I've had my new iPhone 5 for a couple of weeks now, upgrading from a 4, and I love it. If you want to be on the cutting edge of technology with Apple, the 5 is the phone for you. Bearing you may be able to carry an extra ounce and smaller screen, stick with the new iOS upgrade for the 4 and 4S and save your money.

OCTOBER CALENDAR

SAMANTHA PETERSEN
DAILY SUNDIAL

7:30pm

"SATELLITES," a play by Diana Son, and directed by Peter Grego will take place at the Experimental Theater in the Valley Performing Arts Center, CSUN. Showtimes vary for other dates; the cost is \$15 with a student ID.

7:30pm

THERE will be an outdoor movie screening for the film "The Last Days of Pompeii," 1913. It will be located at The Barbara Lawrence Fleischman Theater at the Getty Villa. Cost is \$7; call (310) 440-7300 or go to www.getty.edu for tickets.

4:00pm - 7:00pm

THE "Burning Wallstreet" exhibition will officially burn during the closing reception. It will take place at the CSUN West Gallery for no cost.

7:00pm

THURSDAY Nights at Cinematheque will have a retrospective of the films of Francois Truffaut featuring "The Bride Wore Black", 1968. It will be free to students and take place at the Alan Armer Theater, CSUN

12:00am - 10:00pm

THE Downtown L.A. ArtWalk will mainly take place on Spring and Main streets between 2nd and 9th in downtown LA. Hours vary for each gallery and the cost is free

6:00pm - 9:00pm

The Getty Center will have live music for their "Saturdays off the 405: Cold Cave," for free

10/26 - 11/4

7:30pm

"Cendrillon" (A Cinderella Opera) will be showing at the Campus Theater in Nordhoff Hall. Showtimes vary for other dates and the cost is \$15 with CSUN student I.D.

CALENDAR DESIGN BY JASMINE MOCHIZUKI/ DAILY SUNDIAL

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*Source: GfK Custom Research North America. The telephone survey was conducted among a national probability sample of nearly 1,000 adults 21 years of age and older. Interviewing for this survey was completed September 24-26, 2010. ©2010 Anheuser-Busch, Inc., Budweiser® Beer, St. Louis, MO



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In addition to organizing the community, the activists behind this fort are holding an educational forum with guest speakers informing the community and anyone who is interested on avoiding foreclosures and being more aware of the small-print in many home loans.

But their effort comes with consequences. According to Hernandez, two LAPD officers and two Department of Children and Family Services agents arrived unexpected at the fort on Wednesday Sept. 19 at midnight in response to an anonymous call claiming the children there were living in unfit conditions without electricity or running water.

The family refuted all claims. Hernandez then filmed a video that morning showing a clip of running water, the lights on, and the unharmed children sleeping in their tents. The next day, he was cited by police for obstructing traffic for having sofas on the street.

"This isn't about just one house," said Hernandez. "We aren't being selfish. This is about all the homes that have been lost, leaving families homeless with no where to go. And for that, we are willing to risk arrest to save this home."

A local supporter of Fort

Hernandez, Chris Rose, 23, encourages residents to take a second look at the Occupy movement in Van Nuys as well as others around the state.

"Start talking to your com-

munity about these issues," said Rose. "These corrupt bank foreclosures really target the poor and ethnic minorities. They ultimately force them to take title loans and bet against themselves."

Javier Hernandez, 31, title owner of the home and older brother of Ulises, first mortgaged the house at the age of 25 because his parents were undocumented and saw no other way to provide a place to live for his family.

Seven years later, he's

struggling again to maintain the house for his parents and younger siblings.

Once the family decided to barricade the house, the Hernandez brothers started walking around their neighborhood, knocking on the doors of area residents

going through the same problem, telling them they weren't fighting their battle alone.

"We aren't asking everyone to barricade their home and refuse to leave," said Javier. "All we ask is that they show some resistance."



PHOTOS BY CHARLIE KAIJO / ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR



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Opinions

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BEYOND BELIEF

Faith still has a place in modern life

HANSOOK OH
OPINION EDITOR

Last Thursday we ran our first article for "Beyond Belief," a column on the role of religion, faith or lack thereof in our lives. The column was inspired by a recent international poll called "The Global Index of Religion and Atheism," which reported that globally, religion is on the decline and atheism is on the rise.

According to the study, irrespective of whether or not the participants attended a religious service or participated in religious institutions, "59 percent of the world said that they think of themselves as a religious person, 23 percent think of themselves as not religious, whereas 13 percent think of themselves as convinced atheists."

The same study was done in 2005. The data shows a 9 percent drop in the number of people claiming to be religious, while those claiming to be atheist rose 3 percent. In the United States, the number of religious people dropped 13 percent and the atheist population rose from 1 percent to 5 percent in 2012.

Based on this poll, it would seem that God is dead (or dying), just as the 19th century philosopher Nietzsche famously stated.

However we must question whether or not such research is truly indicative of the changing face of religion around the world and in our communities. What defines a person as being religious or nonreligious? What does being a convinced atheist mean? What is the difference, if there is any, between religiosity and spirituality?

Dr. Rick Talbott, chair of the religious studies department, does not

think the poll's language was specific enough to assess whether or not religion is declining or inclining in the world. He pointed out the difference between the trend of secularization in certain countries around the world versus what the data of the poll implies.

"I find this study very fossil – it over simplifies what is going on in the world," said Talbott. "There is a connection between secularization and atheism – secularization is a phenomenon that describes the declining influence of religion in public life. You can have a fully secular nation, but fully religious individuals."

Talbott found it problematic that the study did not define religion, religiosity or atheism. According to him, just because people do not identify as religious does not mean they are automatically atheist.

"In our culture, many people are consciously distancing themselves from religion," explained Talbott. "Recently the Dalai Lama came out and said that religion is a bad thing – the leader of a large Tibetan religious group. He's playing into the cultural concept of religion. He realizes that for many, religion carries a negative connotation."

Talbott said that people of even major traditional faiths such as Christianity are claiming that they are not religious, but "spiritual."

Last year, two mathematicians from the University of Arizona and Northwestern University published a paper predicting that religion would die out in nine of 85 countries they studied. Those nine countries are Australia, Austria, Canada, the Czech Republic, Finland, Ireland, the Netherlands, New Zealand and Switzerland.

According to the recent poll, the

10 most atheist countries are China, Japan, the Czech Republic, France, South Korea, Germany, Netherlands, Austria, Iceland, Australia and Ireland.

These countries may have a higher rate of atheism, however, Talbott points out that religion is rising in some.

"The fastest growing religion in the world today is Pentecostalism in China – why didn't this study point this out?" asked Talbott. "Christianity is no longer a white religion."

In a 2009 PBS interview with religious scholar Harvey Cox, author of "Future of Faith," stated that religion is actually on the rise all over the world.

"There were people who were predicting the marginalization and even disappearance of religion in my early years as a teacher," said Cox. "That disappearance, marginalization, didn't happen, and in various religious traditions, almost all of them, there's been a resurgence for complicated reasons... I think it's a basic change in the nature of our civilization, that it will continue."

This campus has over 20 faith-based student clubs registered with the Matador Involvement Center, and probably more faith groups that meet unofficially. Faith is an important part of their lives as students, however, they may not actually identify as religious. Atheism is likely an important part of some students' lives and may be on the rise also.

However, the international poll does not accurately capture the role of belief – or lack thereof – in people's lives. Perhaps an index of faith and disbelief might be more relevant and accurate to study the changing face of religion. The thought that faith has less influence today in the lives of individuals is just beyond belief.

SOCIAL MEDIA COMMENTARY

OPINION: The peacefulness of Muslims: Violence over 'Innocence of Muslims' not reflective of true Islam

A popular stereotype about Muslims is that they are violent, according to the author of this opinion. Why do you think this is the case? The author Islam says that is the opposite of this widespread perception.



Michelangelo Landgrave

I admire Islam for one. When it began it promoted the sciences and encouraged the development of mathematics, economics, the natural sciences etc. The muslims also saved the lost works of the greeks and romans that would eventually allow Europe to prosper when these works were rediscovered via the muslims.

September 27 at 12:42pm · Like



Ryān Shāhbāzī Same as any religion. People will use religion to justify violence. I wouldn't call them Muslims to begin with.

27 September at 12:35 · Like

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ANDREW CURRAN / DAILY SUNDIAL

Do you identify as religious, non-religious or a convinced atheist?

Do you think a decline in religion and a rise in atheism would have a positive or negative impact on people, or is it neither positive or negative?



RYAN JONES
KINESIOLOGY

"I'm religious but not a consistent church goer. (The decline of religion) is negative because people that are raised without religion or morals may have a tendency to do immoral things."



KELLY ARMSTRONG
PURE MATHEMATICS

"I consider myself spiritual. People don't like rules. I think (the rise of atheism) will have a neutral effect on people because atheists aren't bad."



ALI GHAZAL
MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

"I'd consider myself pretty religious. Religion is being brought up in politics a lot and people are giving religions a bad name. Some people need religion to bound them, but some people can bound themselves."

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

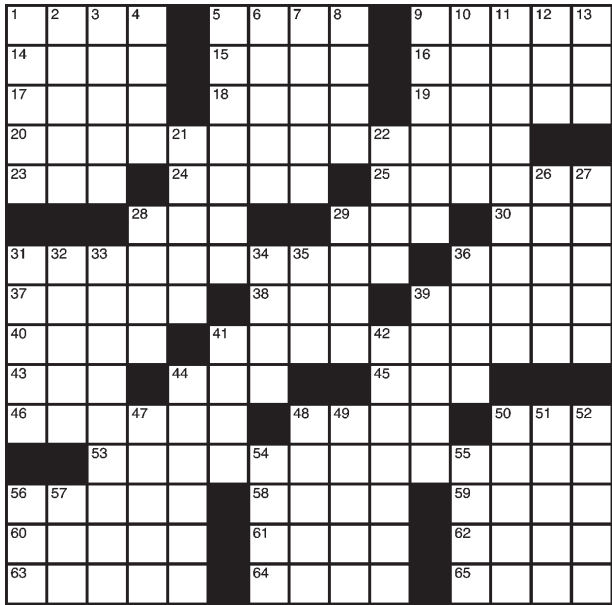
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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

- ACROSS**
- 1 They sit at stands
 - 5 Check out with nefarious intent
 - 9 Gyneco-'s opposite
 - 14 Really cruel guy
 - 15 ABA member
 - 16 Man-trap
 - 17 Grievously wound
 - 18 Approach
 - 19 Thirteenth Amendment beneficiary
 - 20 Game with a windmill, usually
 - 23 "___ takers?"
 - 24 Big shots
 - 25 Requiring an adult escort
 - 28 Big London attraction?
 - 29 Handy set
 - 30 Former despot Amin
 - 31 Uncle Remus rogue
 - 36 Big butte
 - 37 Bootcut Skinny brand
 - 38 PC interconnection
 - 39 Like proofed dough
 - 40 Dueler's choice
 - 41 Insect honored on a 1999 U.S. postage stamp
 - 43 Make a booboo
 - 44 ___ Lingus
 - 45 Article in Der Spiegel
 - 46 Not at all out of the question
 - 48 "Shucks!"
 - 50 Friend of François
 - 53 Literally meaning "driving enjoyment," slogan once used by the maker of the ends of 20-, 31- and 41-Across
 - 56 Popular household fish
 - 58 Princess with an earmuff-like hair style
 - 59 Lose color
 - 60 "If ___ Would Leave You"
 - 61 Sea decimated by Soviet irrigation projects
- DOWN**
- 1 "I, Claudius" feature
 - 2 Piano teacher's command
 - 3 Like pickle juice
 - 4 Big rig
 - 5 Ensenada bar
 - 6 Devoured
 - 7 Friend of François
 - 8 Headlines
 - 9 Rochester's love
 - 9 Categorize
 - 10 Nabisco cookie brand
 - 11 Most in need of insulation
 - 12 Gun
 - 13 Individual
 - 21 Declares
 - 22 Spunk
 - 26 Four-wheeled flop
 - 27 Title name in Mellencamp's "little ditty"
 - 28 Runny fromage
 - 29 Powerful pair of checkers
 - 31 Run, as colors



By Donna S. Levin 10/4/12

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved



(c)2012 Tribune Media Services, Inc. 10/4/12

- 32 Copy, for short
- 33 Eternally
- 34 Get fuzzy
- 35 Prohibition
- 36 Appearance
- 39 Run the country
- 41 Antelope playmate
- 42 Language of South Asia
- 44 Secretary of state after Ed Muskie
- 47 Support for practicing pliés
- 48 Farmers' John
- 49 Diva specialties
- 50 Sonoran succulent
- 51 Jason's jilted wife
- 52 Like helium
- 54 "Impaler" of Romanian history
- 55 Sci-fi staples
- 56 Rocker Nugent
- 57 Night before

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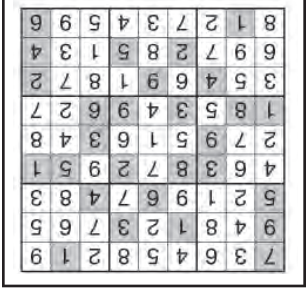
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Solution to today's sudoku



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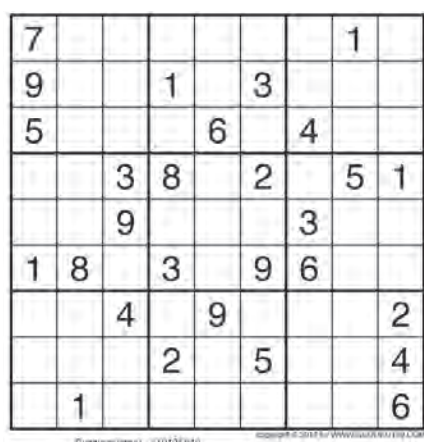
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including President Obama's August 2009 White House letter to Leland (page 2):
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By LELAND



sudoku

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 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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AEG deal paves way for NFL in LA

City Council approves a \$1.5 billion project to build Farmers Field and expand the convention center

ANDREW CLARK
NEWS EDITOR

The City Council unanimously voted to approve the building of Farmers Field last Friday, and on Wednesday, a formal agreement was reached between the city and Anschutz Entertainment Group (AEG) to begin breaking ground in March 2013, barring any legal challenges.

"We are a giant step closer to bringing NFL football back to Los Angeles," Mayor Antonio Villarraigosa told ESPN.

Councilwoman Jan Perry highlighted the economic growth that awaits downtown L.A. when the construction of Farmers Field and the subsequent convention center expansion get underway.

"By signing this agreement, we are demonstrating our firm commitment to investing in our local economy, creating tens of thousands of new jobs and developing our convention center into a leading destination while protecting the taxpayer," Perry said in a press release. "We are also sending a clear signal to the NFL that Los Angeles is ready and eagerly awaiting the return of football."

The project is expected to cost \$1.5 billion. The Play Fair at Farmers Field Coalition, a group of local activists, want AEG to pay \$60 million for low-income housing in the neighborhood surrounding the complex at 11th and Figueroa Street.

The agreement comes at a time when AEG is in the midst of selling itself and its

"I want to get Farmers Field built."

— Tim Leiweke
AEG CEO

assets, many of them in L.A.

The Los Angeles Kings hockey team, the Los Angeles Galaxy soccer club, Staples Center, a future NFL stadium and convention center expansion, along with the L.A. Live entertainment district are owned by AEG, who has put itself up for sale for unknown reasons.

The company, owned by Denver billionaire Philip Anschutz, is

expected to net a sale of more than \$7 billion. The company CEO, Tim Leiweke, told the Los Angeles Times he is staying with the company for at least another five years, whoever the new owner is.

"I want to get Farmers Field built. That is a legacy project," Leiweke said. "I love the city; I love L.A. Live; I love what we've done here. We're going to get it done, and I'm not going anywhere."

When he bought the Kings in 1995, the franchise was just moving past the Gretzky era and started a rebuilding phase that included moving into Staples Center in 1999 and ended with the franchise's first Stanley Cup this summer. The LA Galaxy won the MLS cup in 2011, play in the state-of-the-art Home Depot Center and have one of soccer's iconic players in David Beckham.

In a recent article on ESPNLA, investment company and Dodger owner Guggenheim Partners and Los Angeles businessman Patrick Soon-Shiong, often cited as the richest man in L.A., were named as having looked at a potential purchase of AEG. Soon-Shiong owns a minority stake in the Los Angeles Lakers basketball team. Guggenheim Partners bought the Dodgers in April for \$2.15 billion and have \$160 billion in assets.

Leiweke told the Times he thought Soon-Shiong and Guggenheim would be involved as investors.

"I think Patrick is going to be one," Leiweke said. "There's a half-dozen people that Mr. Anschutz has heard from already. There are going to be many people that look at it with a view to do it."

Leiweke said to the Times that there had not been recent discussions with Dean Spanos, the chairman of the San Diego Chargers, one of the teams most-rumored to come to Los Angeles.



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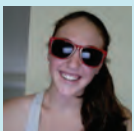
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BY SUNDIAL SPORTS DESK
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What are the Matadors saying on the social network?



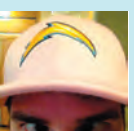
With a receiving core and solid defense, why not? #SteelCurtain
@MaxDunksWell21 Stephen Maxwell, Men's Basketball
The Pittsburgh Steelers are officially my team.. #Madden13



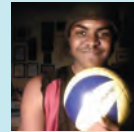
Don't deny them. Just claim you "roof" Big West opponents daily.
@stop_cammertime Camille Mahlknecht
I feel like all I do is burn my hand taking English muffins out of the toaster and tell people I don't play volleyball. #livinglife



You may be in the wrong sport. Try softball. They could probably use your eye.
@MamaUwineFine Janae Sharpe, Women's Basketball
I don't swing at everything, just the rite pitch



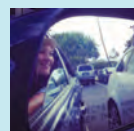
#NeedLights indeed. Even soccer has lights. What's the hold up?
@TdiggerSIMIS Tommy Simis, Baseball
It's pathetic when fraternity flag football games get more fans than our games. #NeedLights



And you wonder why you're never on Twitter Thursday...wait...
@BigGreg28 Greg Faulkner, Men's Volleyball
I'm never on this, whats good though?



I see your predicament...should have checked RateMyProfessor.com.
@CharlieCondron Charlie Condron, Men's Volleyball
it makes it tough to study for a midterm when your professor has no idea what he's done all semester



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