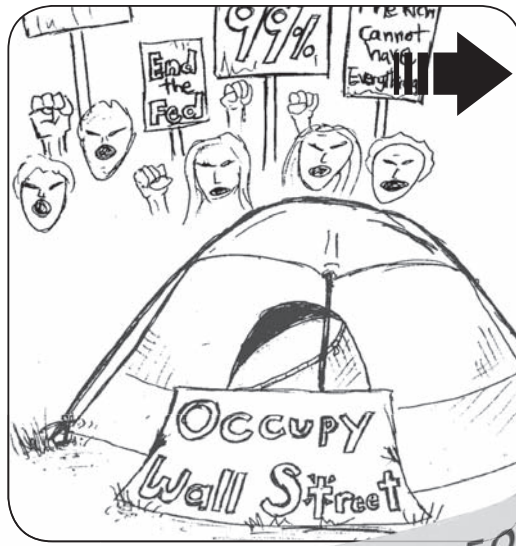


DAILY SUNDIAL

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+ OPINION: One atheist's spiritual realization p. 6

+ NEWS: Attempt highlights suicide prevention p. 2

+ SPORTS: Basketball claims NUCDF title p. 6

Textbooks evolve into digital era

School books start to transition into the online world

Mona adeM
CONTRIBUTOR

The price tag for obtaining a college degree is at an all-time high, but this is not the only financial burden for today's college student.

According to a 2011 report by the College Board, a non-profit organization for college success, an average student at a four-year public college should expect to spend over \$1,000 a year on textbooks and other course materials.

The price of textbooks has constantly been pushed upwards. But can technology reverse this direction by transforming the classroom?

It is not unusual that the world of technology has had relevance specifically to education — college students are not strangers to educational applications such as e-Textbooks or CourseSmart that become cost-saving strategies. However, the push for merging technology into the classroom is now coming from a higher level.

Gov. Jerry Brown signed legislation on September 27 that will create a website where students are able to download popular articles as well as required college and university textbooks.

One of the new laws, Senate Bill 1052, will give students free digital access to 50 widely used lower division textbooks and develop the California Open Education Resources Council. Senate Bill 1053, will create the California Digital Open Source Library that will house free electronic books and other course materials.

The first free books will be available by the start of the 2013-2014 school year.

Amanda Dickey, 20, a junior at CSUN who studies business marketing, said that she



ILLUSTRATIONS BY Gabriel Ivan orend ain-neCoC Hesi/ Visu al edit or

See **TextBooks**, page 4

SUNDIAL UNDERGROUND
JOIN. LEARN. WIN.

GET WEEK 10'S MISSION INSIDE

Students donate for relief efforts

A.S. looks to raise \$50,000 for victims of Hurricane Sandy with the Red Cross

Melody Cher Chian
DAILY SUNDIAL

The Associated Students held the first day of its Hurricane Sandy donation drive on Monday, dubbed "50 in 3." The relief effort will be continuing through Nov. 21 before the Thanksgiving holiday.

Hurricane Sandy caused widespread power outages and subway shutdowns and according to the Washington Post, the storm may be the second most expensive storm in U.S. history. Sandy has caused an estimated economic loss of \$30 billion to \$50 billion. An estimated 121 people have died in the storm, with 43 coming from New York City alone, according to Reuters.

Sarah Garcia, 20, A.S. senator for the College of Education, wrote the resolution for the fundraiser.

"It's our attempt in giving back to all those who helped us rebuild after the Northridge earthquake," Garcia said. "We're asking the USU board of trustees to match our donation of at least \$36,000, a dollar for every student."

A.S. kicked off its efforts on Monday near Sierra Tower. All proceeds will be going to the American Red Cross Hurricane Sandy relief efforts, providing meals, shelter and hygiene kits for those in need on the East Coast.

Matthew Delgado, 21, a junior double-majoring in English and photojournalism, has donated his time and money to the campus efforts, helping A.S. raise money.

"Students should be involved in these disaster efforts however they can," Delgado said. "It's important to care for those on the East Coast because we're all human. I think this is a great effort."

Other relief efforts have been in the Los Angeles area. On Nov. 2, NBC networks held an hour-long live benefit telethon, "Hurricane Sandy: Coming Together," featuring performances by well-known artists. All proceeds were donated to the American Red Cross relief efforts for Hurricane Sandy. Viewers were encouraged to donate \$10 or more via text throughout the program.

Anthony Bennett, 22, a senior at CSUN and associate producer of promotions for A.S. productions, was also supporting the effort on Monday.



JEFFREY ZIDE / CONTRIBUTOR

A.S. senators Jesus Martinez-r amirez (left), Sarah Garcia (center), and Sean I everance (right) discuss logistics for the event "50 in 3" on Nov. 19. They hope to raise \$50,000 in the three days for relief efforts in the aftermath of hurricane Sandy, all proceeds will go to the Red Cross.

"(Sarah) asked me if I wanted to help and I thought it was a great idea," said Bennett. "I don't have much money to donate, but at least I have the opportunity to ask the student base for its help."

A more local relief effort is the Children's Hunger Fund of Sylmar. This non-profit organization has sent aid and relief to Hurricane Sandy victims by gathering resources from corporate and ministry partners, including cash and bulk food donations.

Today, A.S. will be on the Ovi-

att Lawn from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and continue the donation drive tomorrow on the Matador Bookstore lawn.

Senior Jacob Cohen, 21, an English and visual studies double major, donated through A.S.'s Paypal option.

"We as a student body need to fight against apathy," Cohen said. "It's easy to only care about what is affecting you, but it's important to remember we're one nation connected in total experiences, good or bad."

TODAY: Donate from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the Oviatt Library Lawn

WEDNESDAY: Donate from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the Bookstore Lawn

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Attempted suicide raises concerns

Melissa Simon
LIVE NEWS EDITOR
Andrew Clark
NEWS EDITOR

The CSUN community is addressing suicide prevention in the wake of a recent suicide attempt on campus.

A computer information technology major attempted suicide in Juniper Hall on Nov. 8. Students and faculty have received communications from the university urging them to contact University Counseling Services if they were affected by the incident or need help.

"The most important thing counselors do is meet with people in pain and try to help them understand themselves a little bit better, to get them some coping strategies to be able to manage their life in ways that they'll feel better," said Dr. Mark Stevens, director of University Counseling Services at CSUN.

The incident is being addressed within the student's department as well.

"I sent a note to [our] faculty to make sure they were aware. We set up a department meeting agenda item on troubled students," said Steven Stepanek, dean of the Computer Information Technology (CIT) department and faculty senate president. "There are standard rules and procedures to get UCS involved. We encourage students to go see counselors."

Stevens said suicidal thoughts can vary, ranging from a person saying things would be better if they were not alive to actually having a plan to hurt themselves.

"The most important thing counselors do is meet with people in pain and try to help them understand themselves a little bit better, to get them some coping strategies to be able to manage their life in ways that they'll feel better."

— Dr. Mark Stevens
Director of University Counseling Services

"Wherever someone is on that continuum, we take them 100 percent serious because no matter what we know, they're in pain," Stevens said.

Stevens said the key is that most people do not want to really kill themselves, but only feel better. That's is what counselors focus on – the part that wants to feel better.

"There's a very interesting study done on folks that have jumped off the Golden Gate Bridge," he said. "There are a number of people that have survived and been interviewed about what they were thinking when they were in the air and they all thought, 'I wish I didn't do this.'"

Stevens encourage students to reach out to peers they feel may be in trouble.

"It's okay to ask the question," he said. "Being direct is really important. You'll see their reaction. Then you move into the next frame, which is asking what kind of support have gotten, and asking if you can help them get the help they need. If it gets to a point where you believe that person is

really in danger of hurting themselves and it's immediate, you want to call the police services or 911. If you believe that it's not immediate, but you're not sure how to get through to them, call counseling services. But don't hold it in yourself when you're worried about someone else.

The holiday season allows for a higher suicide rate despite the general societal mood of the season being joyful. Stevens said more marginalized groups tend to be more at risk as well, including returning veterans and those from the LGBTQ community.

The Veterans Resource Center opened this semester in order to help returning veterans and offer services to them.

Other factors include weather. Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) can affect populations in areas with little sunlight for extended periods of time, Stevens said.

Pretty powerful and this speaks to the ambivalence that counselors or friends or family want to be able

to hear."

William Watkins, vice president for Student Affairs, said the campus response varies depending on each situation.

"In some cases it will not be immediately apparent that we are dealing with a suicide incident. If the incident occurs in an environment under university jurisdiction we would be initially engaged in all the typical efforts to provide medical assistance, psychological and emotional support for all who were affected," Watkins said. "Our primary objective is to provide all parties with the assistance, information and support needed to work through the individual crisis at hand."

Stevens said more marginalized groups tend to be a little more at risk, including returning veterans and those from the LGBTQ community.

The Veterans Resource Center opened this semester in order to help returning veterans and offer services to them.

"The Veterans Resource Center provides referrals, resources, and services to student veterans (and) the VRC also has a peer mentors program designed to help students as they transition to CSUN and throughout their time here," Staats-Long said.

Staats-Long said the peer mentors are knowledgeable about departments on campus and organizations around the LA area that provide counseling and mental health care to veterans.

The Blues Project is another on-campus program that provides depres-

See **sui Cide**, page 4

emergency support services

after Hours urgent Care
Call (818) 677-2366 and select from the three options.

university Counseling services
Bayramian Hall, Suite 520
Phone: (818) 677-2366
Hours: Mon-Fri: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

"see something, say something"
Faculty, staff and students need to be trained to be able to help students in distress. UCS has an online training that they can take to help deal with students they interact with that are in distress and help them get to the counseling services.

Csun Helpline
Phone: 818-349-HELP
Hours: 7 to 10 p.m.

klotz Health Center
Between Chapparral Hall and the G3 parking structure
Phone: 818-677-3666
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Tex Tbooks

Continued from page 4

spends more than \$300 a semester on her books and she usually can't buy used textbooks.

"Once, I sold back a book I bought for \$140 and I got \$60 back," Dickey said. "They need to stop changing textbooks every year because that's the reason they are expensive."

John Thai works for Senator Darrell Steven Steinberg (D-Sacramento) and said the main purposes of the bills were first and foremost to provide affordable textbooks for college students.

"Technology is used to reduce the cost for students who need the materials to learn," Thai said.

Thai also said that current laws and the new bills have created a bidding system between the publishers that want to provide the material, and a quality measure will be established to enhance good materials.

"If there is a new edition out, publishers have to state what the differences are between the new and previous edition so they can't raise the price for arbitrary changes," Thai said.

Amy Berger, the director at CSUN Matador Bookstore, said Matador bookstore supports open educational resources.

"But, the initiative should

recognize that economic barriers and restricted access could prevent students from benefitting from digital formatted content," Berger said.

Phil Kim, the Chief Financial Officer of the Twenty Million Mind Foundation, said availability of Internet connection at campuses and today's lower cost of technology helps lessen the digital divide issue.

"Computers now are so

be obsolete.

But some students still want to have hard copies as an option.

Laura Jimenez, 19, a sophomore biology major, said that constantly reading online hurts her eyes and students are not able to highlight or write on pages.

"I also think hardcopy is better in case there is a technology problem or an emergency," Jimenez said.

"Making textbooks available to students free of charge online or for a small fee as hard copy is invaluable and critical to education."

— Bobbie Eisenstock
Journalism Professor

inexpensive that you can buy a computer for less than \$400," Kim said. "That's the price of two textbooks."

Kim's organization was one of the pioneers to push for a higher education textbook library in an open platform.

"It opens up the door to a more interactive learning, adaptive learning and assessment," Kim said.

Kim said that the future is digital and within five or six years, most textbooks will

Bobbie Eisenstock, a journalism professor at CSUN, created a website for her students two years ago so she could make course materials and resources more accessible. She said that it also improves student's comprehension of the course.

"I have found that selecting course materials from online sources allows me to include different types of resources that better cater to individual learning styles,"

Eisenstock said.

She added that Brown's new legislation would help to further expand many educational opportunities as well as facilitate learning.

"Making textbooks available to students free of charge online or for a small fee as hard copy is invaluable and critical to education," Eisenstock said. "Particularly with the cost of higher public education increasing every year."

Additionally, having textbooks online will also make it more accessible and democratic for students.

"New-user-generated media is also enabling a different kind of participatory digital culture where students can collaborate with one another in ways never before possible," said Eisenstock.

But some fear too much dependency on technology.

Jacek Polewczak, a math professor at CSUN said that use of technology in the classroom is a complicated issue.

"A lot of technology is helpful, especially for math," said Polewczak, "but it is still not clear how it can be best developed in the classroom."

Polewczak also said we need to remember that this is a push from businesses and we need to be careful that education doesn't become more commodified between different groups wanting to benefit from it.

sui Cide

Continued from page 2

sion services and suicide prevention through UCS.

Vaheh Hartoonian, assistant coordinator for peer programs and co-facilitator for the Blues Project, said students are trained every semester as peer educators to give presentations about depression and suicide in classrooms across campus.

"Through these presentations we aim to dispel common myths and misconceptions about depression and suicide, educate audiences about warning signs, and inform people about on-campus and local resources that are available to them," he said.

Hartoonian said the goal of the Blues Project is to give students information about the topics and resources.

William Watkins, vice president for Student affairs, knows that students face hardship that can lead to distress and potentially thoughts of suicide.

"College students face a host of stress producing situations and challenges that can devolve into mental health challenges that produce life-threatening behaviors. Overcoming such conditions is not a simple task but there are resources that are avail-

able and, thankfully, most students, at least by my observation, make progress and do not undertake acts of suicide," Watkins said.

Watkins said students may feel doubts on whether or not they had done enough to prevent or be aware of peers in trouble.

"There is always that sense of, 'What could I have done to help?'" he said. "For those who may not have known the student involved, I think there is a bit of self-reflection that looks inward at how well their own stressors are being handled. For some, experiences like this cause individuals to re-double their sense of care about the well-being of others around them and to manifest that care by reaching out to provide support where needed. No matter the problem, we want students to have hope and choose life."

Stepanek agrees students should be able to talk to faculty comfortably and seek help.

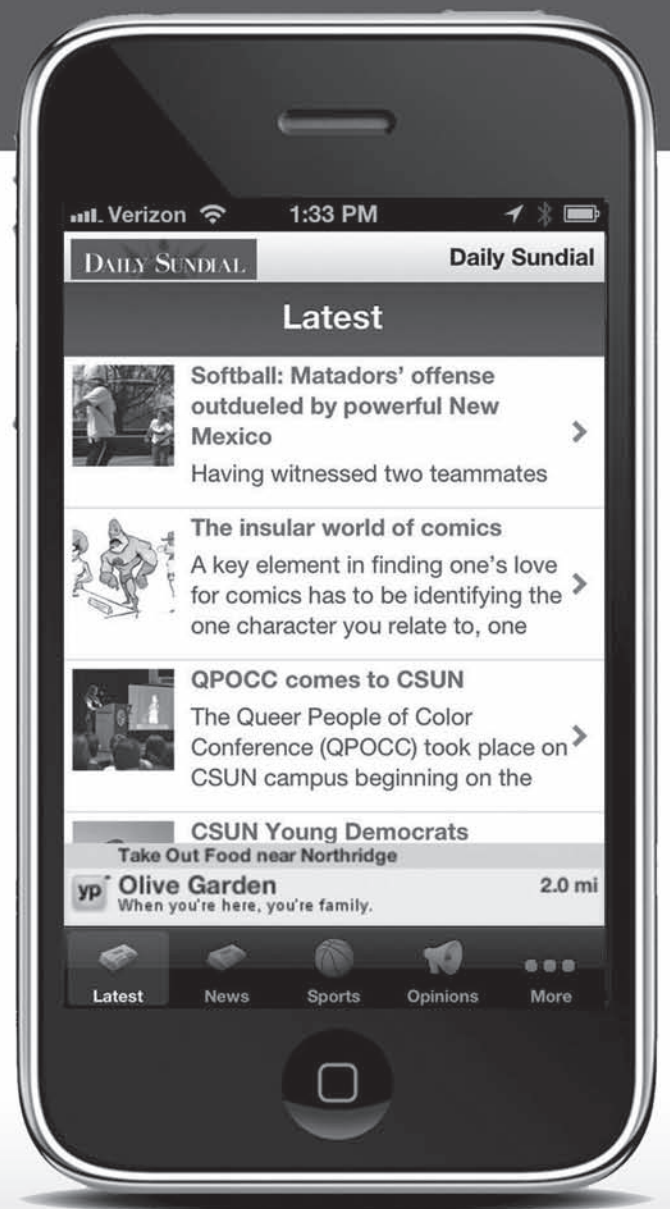
"When somebody comes to CSUN, I can understand feeling intimidated," Stepanek said. "Come and talk to us, we can adjust the load. Students need to come and talk to us. There are ways to help. If they're part of a specialty group, they have people and services that can help."

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50 in 3

Hurricane Sandy

Donation Drive

Associated Students is raising funds for the victims of Hurricane Sandy. Our goal is to raise \$50,000 to donate to the American Red Cross for the victims of Hurricane Sandy. Please join us to reach our goal by donating at the event or online.

For more info and online donation, visit:
csunas.org/studentgovernment/50-in-3-donation-drive

Tuesday, Nov. 20th at Oviatt Lawn
Wednesday, Nov. 21st at Bookstore Lawn
10am - 2pm



November 20, 2012

Opinions

opinion@sundial.csun.edu

BEYOND BELIEF

Spirituality is part of the human experience



ILLUSTRATION BY LUIS RIVAS/FEATURES EDITOR

luis riv as
FEATURES EDITOR

Growing up Catholic makes it easy to become an atheist.

Like most Chicanos in the San Fernando Valley, I was a small, unsuspecting baby when I was baptized by the Catholic Church – too tiny to offer any protest or clarification.

I attended morning mass every Sunday, kicking or screaming. Well, almost every Sunday. Sometimes the kicking or screaming would work, but then there would be hell to pay once my mother came home.

And my fondest memories of going to mass were not the service or the priests reciting scripture, trying to connect biblical morality with everyday life. Instead, it was sneaking out with my younger brother and cousins to go to the local liquor store to play Metal Slug or Street Fighter II arcade games.

Eventually, my brother and I were placed in weekend Catholic school to prepare us for our first communion and confirmation. After a curriculum of the dogmatic Holy Trinity and what

it meant to be a good Catholic, the Book of Job and its ambivalent morality of an unquestioning servant that has to suffer as an experiment by both God and Satan and the panic of having to confess before priests had all but destroyed any hope in continuing with Catholicism.

Growing up with a religion that doesn't promote dialogue with other faith traditions is doomed to narrow-mindedness. My weekend school teachers did not promote criticism or open-mindedness, which caused me to completely break away from the Catholic church.

I came to identify as an atheist, having made the sweeping generalization that only young teenagers can make – that if my religion was like this, all religions were like this. I began to pursue social justice activism in middle school and more seriously after high school. There was no room for religion in my life. Through activism I learned the philosophy of materialism (not to be confused with consumerism) which views the world as only definable by material forces. Materialism is the opposite of idealism, which is the birthplace of the abstract and religion.

It took me more than a decade later, in a different country, to see the important role religion has played and is still playing in social justice

movements. It was through an effort to organize rural farmers in El Salvador that I encountered what I thought was a paradox; a communist evangelical preacher who was organizing the poor and spreading the teachings of Christ. He did it in complete harmony, for Christ was an ancient crusader against empire and the rich, ruling class. Did Christ not prefer the company of the homeless, laborers, prostitutes and the downtrodden? Using Marxist dialogue, we would call them the proletariat and the lumpen-proletariat.

This experience with the paradoxical minister, coupled with a long discussion with a friend on thermodynamics and the nature of unbreakable, permanent energy, made me question my rather unscientific leap to atheism. The first law of thermodynamics states that energy is forever and only susceptible to change. Maybe the soul – as a person's essence – is a kind of energy that is never destroyed, but altered after death.

Through these realizations, I have come to view the world's religions not as inherently evil, but rather fragmented and fundamentally flawed when separated from each other. I believe that religions can only truly benefit

society as a whole by coming together and reach realize their commonality, transcending differences for the greater good of service and devotion to our fellow brothers and sisters.

In this sense, I am not religious, but spiritual. I don't subscribe to one denomination or faith tradition, but I believe in the essence of good that transcends human division. I believe in the soul as a source of compassion and shared energy that inhabits all people and life on planet.

Spirituality allows for interfaith work. I now work with Interfaith Communities United for Justice & Peace, a group that promotes social justice activism and works with the religious and non-religious communities to end war and renounce violence. With them, I am at home, in peace, in complete harmony, especially since most of them are far more radical than I am (many openly critiquing the damaging role of capitalism and imperialism).

Spirituality and noble selfless goodness, I have found, can be outside of the confines of organized religion. To be spiritual does not necessarily require one to define God, or believe in the concept of a definable, complete God. Spirituality allows for open-ended questions, for constant questioning and a journey to become.

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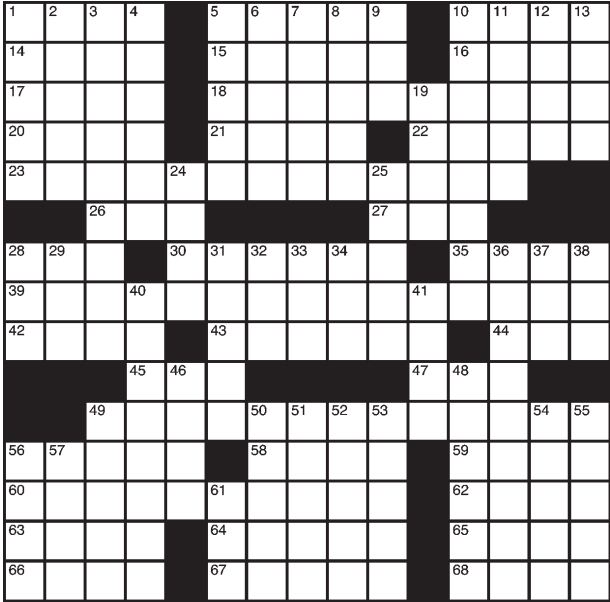
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By Steve Blais

11/20/12

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- 2 Hawaiian porch
- 3 Ritualistic evictions
- 4 Singers Washington and Shore
- 5 Cost
- 6 Spiral-horned antelope
- 7 Faint of heart
- 8 Madonna title role
- 9 B or C of the Spice Girls
- 10 Sits on the kitchen counter until dinner, say
- 11 Indian __
- 12 Not even ajar
- 13 Chore list heading
- 19 Quaint country consent
- 24 Grammy winner India __
- 25 Bread choice
- 28 Place to overnight
- 29 Quid pro __
- 31 Future beetles
- 32 Rejection on top of rejection
- 33 Opal finish?

Monday's Puzzle Solved



(c)2012 Tribune Media Services, Inc. 11/20/12

- 34 Brother of Jack and Bobby
- 36 Admitted
- 37 Opposite of paleo-
- 38 Act inappropriately
- 40 Accepted
- 41 Bright star
- 46 Latin 101 word
- 48 Behind bars
- 49 Where to get Seoul food
- 50 "A Doll's House" playwright
- 51 "That's so cool!"
- 52 Quick flash
- 53 Needing practice in
- 54 Smaller map, often
- 55 Rains cats and dogs
- 56 Auction condition
- 57 One who rarely has low spirits?
- 61 Hog the phone

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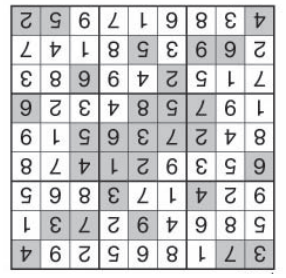
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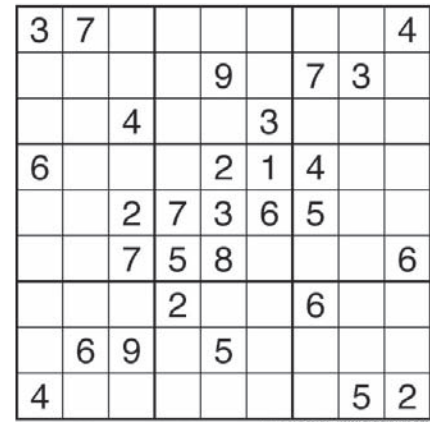
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COLUMN

Champions with no recognition



Monique Muniz
 Casey Deli Ch
 DAILY SUNDIAL

The Los Angeles Galaxy have claimed the Western Conference title and the defending MLS champions will be heading to the championship match on Dec. 1 at the Home Depot Center.

But who knew? How many even knew they won it all last year?

For a game that isn't too popular in America, don't expect to see too many Angelenos jumping the bandwagon like they did with the Los Angeles Kings in their June run to the team's first-ever Stanley Cup.

The team may draw a decent sized crowd at some games, but they have yet to grasp the love of many LA natives.

With big-name teams like the Lakers, Dodgers and Kings, the Galaxy are in the shadows when it comes to coverage.

Gabriel Ochoa, La Opinion's sports editor, expressed in an interview last year that most of their sports coverage is on Mexican soccer teams rather than the Galaxy's results to appease their reader's preferences.

Even with such a big market in Los Angeles, the Galaxy may not ever compete with the other teams here, especially if, or when, the City of Angels gets NFL team.

The city realizes that the team doesn't have a big fan base because they never got a single parade --- even after winning three MLS Championships.

The MLS is still carving out its niche, something the Arena Football League has tried to do over

the last 20 years. While soccer is gaining a following among the American public, they mostly crave international competition and prefer to be informed about the well known European teams.

Many fans would rather support their home country in the World Cup rather than bandwagon a team that they have no attachment to more than just what city they are from.

Even the big-money signing of David Beckham -- which turned out to be a flop -- didn't draw fans to the game, even though it was the biggest signing in MLS history. Playing in America during injury-ravaged seasons increased his international presence but didn't increase the Galaxy's ratings significantly.

A lack of national television broadcasts, corporate sponsorships and ridiculous team names, like the New York Red Bulls, leaves the MLS as a sport less watched than NASCAR.

The rules of the game itself may be unusual for views as well. I mean, what kind of system allows a team to lose a playoff yet advance? Winning the first game 3-0 and not losing more than 3-0 against the Sounders at the second game Sunday, the Galaxy won the West despite dropping a game 2-1 as they won with an aggregated score of 4-2.

The MLS has a long way to go to gain popularity. It needs to find a way to entice international superstars to come over and grow a stronger fan base.

Right now, they are competing with the NFL and NBA in the United States -- and there's no way people are going to stop watching football and basketball on Sundays to watch soccer. If things don't change, they may just go the way of the XFL.

Galaxy star David Beckham, who signed a \$250 million contract in 2007, failed to gather a big fan base for the team. He plans to leave the team after the 2012 championship match.

COURTESY OF MCT

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Hicks earns tournament MVP, CSUN 6-0

Ron Rokhy
 ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Riding the momentum garnered by its two young stars, CSUN (6-0) extended its win streak to six and outlasted Northern Kentucky (0-4) 69-58 Sunday afternoon in the last game of the National Urea Cycle Disorders Foundation Challenge.

Junior guard Josh Greene and redshirt sophomore Stephan Hicks once again led the Matadors' charge, scoring 14 points each.

Greene — who kept his streak of leading the team in assists alive by handing out five on the night — also managed to finish his third consecutive game without missing a single free throw, connecting on all 26 of his attempts in that span.

Hicks recorded his second double double of the season by pulling down a game-high 10 rebounds and was named the tournament's Most Valu-

able Player as he tallied 75 points, 36 rebounds and nine steals throughout the four-day period.

"(Hicks) played some great basketball," said head coach Bobby Braswell in an interview with Northridge Athletics. "People know who he is, and a lot of defenses are locking in on him. But he still is finding a way to rebound the ball and is still finding ways to score and get to the free throw line."

In addition to being named MVP, Hicks was named on the all-tournament team along with Greene, who himself scored 63 points, dished out 19 assists and collected 10 steals.

"Josh had a fantastic tournament," said Braswell in the same interview. "He hit some big shots when we needed it. He also knocked down his free throws. Josh has shown great leadership. He has great energy. Josh and Stephan (Hicks) certainly deserve to be on the all-tournament team."

The Norse started with an early 12-4 lead, but CSUN started a rally which had them heading into the locker room up 26-24. A 43-point second half capped off by 10 points apiece by Hicks and sophomore guard Allen Guei, who chipped in 13 points on 50 percent shooting.

Northridge remains the lone undefeated team in the Big West Conference, and its 6-0 record is the best season opening start since the Matadors moved to the NCAA Division I level in 1990-91.

"These guys have bought into the whole idea of being a team," Braswell said in the press release. "I am blessed to have the right group of guys who have the right personalities who will listen and will allow themselves to be coached. They really don't care who scores or who gets the accolades. They want to win. They pull for each other. It's refreshing to see that as a coach."



Redshirt freshman Trey Williams goes up for a floater against Pepperdine.

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