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FREE

STATE UNIVERSITY, NORTHRIDGE

STATE UNIVERSITY, NORTHRIDGE

TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 2013 | VOL. 54, ISS. 92 | WWW.DAILYSUNDIAL.COM

Cigarettes may fund CSU aid

Each pack would have an extra \$1 tax to be distributed as financial aid funds among three California college systems

MELISSA SIMON SENIOR REPORTER

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

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

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

The purpose of the California Residents College



Smokers may end up funding the CSU and UC systems if a new tax initiative passes next year.

Accessibility and Affordability act is to "increase the tax on tobacco to preserve and protect California's public university system."

Debra Hendricks, senior sociology major, said she would vote for an initiative like this because of what it might do.

"I've lost a lost of people

to smoking and you can't make them stop," Hendricks said. "If something like this can possibly help people quit then I'm all for it." In terms of generated revenue, Johnson said the initiative is projected to create \$800 million in the first year it goes into effect.

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

Hendricks said the idea of having the tax contribute to financial aid is a smart idea and if it helps lessen smoking then it is even better.

"I think it's great but at the same time people choose what they want to do," she said. "I mean, do we tax people for doing what they want? I don't know."

Jessica Fuentes, junior biology major, likes the idea of taxing more for cigarettes.

"I don't like smoke, and there's enough in L.A. as it is, so if it would mean less smoke, then I like it," she said. "The fact that the tax would mean more financial aid makes it even better."

From the projected \$800 million revenue, there is an

See **CIGARETTE**, page 7



LOREN TOWNSLEY / DAILY SUNDIAL
Leslie Moreno, a kinesiology major and first-time
LA marathon runner, finished the 26.2-mile race in
six hours on Sunday.

Campus community races to LA Marathon finish line

From the Dodger Stadium to Santa Monica, thousands complete 26.2 miles on foot

AGNES CONSTANTE
FEATURES EDITOR
CHRISTINA BENNETT
MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

fter seven years of training

volunteers to run the LA Marathon, kinesiology professor Steven Loy said it would be his last time leading the group, but for many group members it was their first.

Around 23,000 people participated in the 28th annual LA Marathon on Sunday, including about 60 who trained with Loy.

"It's so special to be able to help [these participants] accomplish that goal [of completing the marathon], something that most of them would never think of trying," Loy said.

It was the first marathon for many students, including Carol Martinez, 22, a kinesiology major.

"I was nervous, excited, anx-

ious—everything [before the run]. It was just a bunch of emotions," she said.

Martinez's goal was to complete the 26.2-mile course, and she did in about six hours.

See **LA MARATHON**, page 4

COMPARIS BEST OF CSUN RESULTS

Commencement gets costly for some

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

REANNE ROGERS

DAILY SUNDIAL

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

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

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

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

The Student Development and International Programs staff organize commence-

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

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

big day.

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

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

Package two (\$347) and package three (\$314) come with the same items, but the degree frame shrinks in size as the price decreases.

The next less expensive package does not include a souvenir tassel or a degree frame and costs \$153.

For the students who are less interested in taking home souvenirs after graduation, the cheapest package costs \$40. It includes a rented gown, cap and tassel, a one year membership in the alumni association and an alumni license

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

If the graduate is interested in decorat-

students their many options on items for their ing their rented gown with a sash, it can cost between \$40 to \$150. A graduate can purchase a very basic sash with the letters C-S-U-N

> An honors student who wants to wear the "Honors" sash and ropes has the option to purchase the sash for \$40 and ropes for \$14.

These costs are standard for Rochie's Originals, a store that specializes in customizing clothing for Greek organizations on

Any graduate who waits until the last minute and wants the more expensive items can expect to spend about \$600, but students who plan ahead can spend as little as \$87.

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

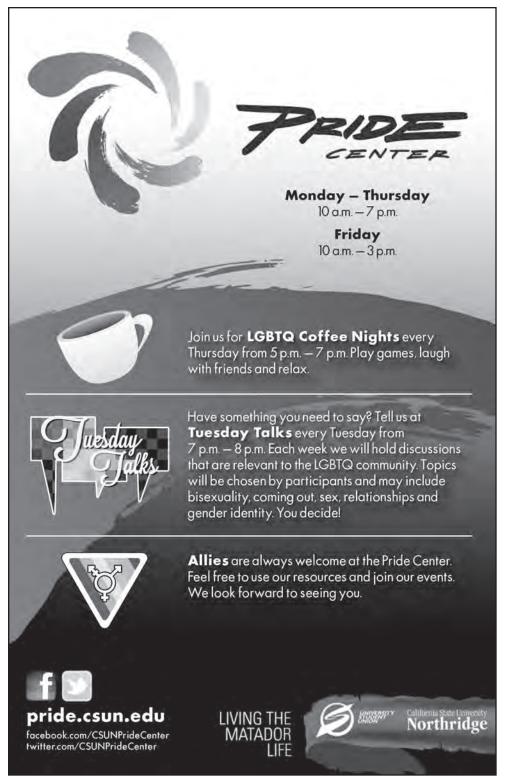
"I'm most excited about purchasing my hood," said Jordan Briem, 26, graduate student in public health. "I have no idea how much it costs, I would like it to be inexpensive, but at the end of the day I'm going to buy it because I really want it."



ILLUSTRATION BY SUNDIAL PRODUCTIO

CLARIFICATION

in the article, "High price of expired permits" printed on march 13, chet galland was quoted as saying, "the response time is usually 30 minutes to an hour." this was in reference to the elevator company, a mtech, and not to the csun police Department, which may have not been clearly stated in the article.





Analyzing people's micro interactions

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

ALEXANDRA CHIDBACHIAN CONTRIBUTOR

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

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

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

"Whenever I'm with my friends they constantly ask me for help and sometimes I just want to hang out and not think about psychology," he said. "It's hard because sometimes I don't want to hang out with people because they are constantly asking me for help. It's like I'm

working 24/7. Or when I realize something is wrong with them I try to get it out of them."

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

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

In the past, for instance, when Lara saw that his girlfriend was not giving him eye contact, he was not able to tell that she was upset.

One ability Lara has gained from his studies is reading body language. He can easily see the truth behind people and find if their words match their actions. This has helped him find friends easier.

Lara is currently interning at the CSUN Career Center as a career counselor. In the future he hopes to be a counselor at a community college where he would be exposed



Educational psychology and counseling graduate, Eric Lara, at the Career Center in University Hall. He counsels students on selecting a major, career pathways and internships, resumes, and approaching job interviews. He said he uses psychology to make students feel comfortable.

to an array of topics such as academic advisement, career counseling and student's personal issues.

If Lara sees someone slouching and bobbing their head while someone is talking to them, he can conclude that the person isn't engaged in the discussion. Lara allows his clients to solve their own problems by having them talk it out to themselves, without interruption from him.

Typically, when the grad

student is with a client, he can talk to that person for about five hours without directly telling that person what to do about their problem: he will only ask questions.

He wants his clients to

figure out their own problems. His job is just to direct people onto the right

"I love my job and wouldn't change it," Lara

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

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

Psychology has opened a new window for Lara and Villa. They are aware of everyone's actions, thoughts and behaviors.

Both students have one goal, and that is to empower and help their clients.





MARCH 19, 2013 • DAILY SUNDIAL • CSUN • CITY@SUNDIAL.CSUN.EDU

LA MARATHON

Continued from page 1

Participants were given eight hours to complete the course, but first-time marathon runner and kinesiology major Mike Wong finished in less than four hours.

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

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

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

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

In celebration of St. Patrick's Day, many particidonned pants crazy get-ups.

Throughout the course, spectators saw St. Patrick's Day inspired outfits accessorized with leprechaun hats, shiny hair bands, tutus and beaded necklaces.

Participants pumped their fists and shouted jubilantly as they crossed the finish line. Some devised more

ANDROID PHONE

elaborate celebrations, including a cartwheel, a headstand and even a marriage proposal.

Celebrating was a culmination of miles and miles of training.

Loy's group started preparing for the marathon in October of last year, and trained until days before the race.

They met in Santa Clarita on Saturday mornings where their training runs increased incrementally by two miles every week. Outside of Saturday sessions, group members were responsible for running miles set by Loy.

Routines eased up in the final two weeks, and members of the group were advised to carbload (eat lots of carbohydrates) in the days leading up to the marathon.

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

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

Ben Elisondo, CSUN alumnus and former Physical Plant Management employee, ran his fifth marathon on Sunday with his 11-year-old daughter, Lindsay. The two encountered their share of struggles along

"In mile 10 we both started cramping up and [Lindsay] started developing blisters," Elisondo said. "She really had to muscle through it."



Spectators and about 23,000 runners gathered at Ocean Avenue in Santa Monica on Sunday for the LA Marathon.

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

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

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

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

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

"I kept my eye on the prize, and I

was taking in the experience, the energy from the people cheering us on and me seeing the city," she said.

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

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

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

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

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

"If you're thinking about [running

a marathon], do it because it just feels amazing to cross the finish line. It doesn't matter what your time is. You shouldn't be running for a time. You should be running to finish it," Lindsay said.





LOCAL

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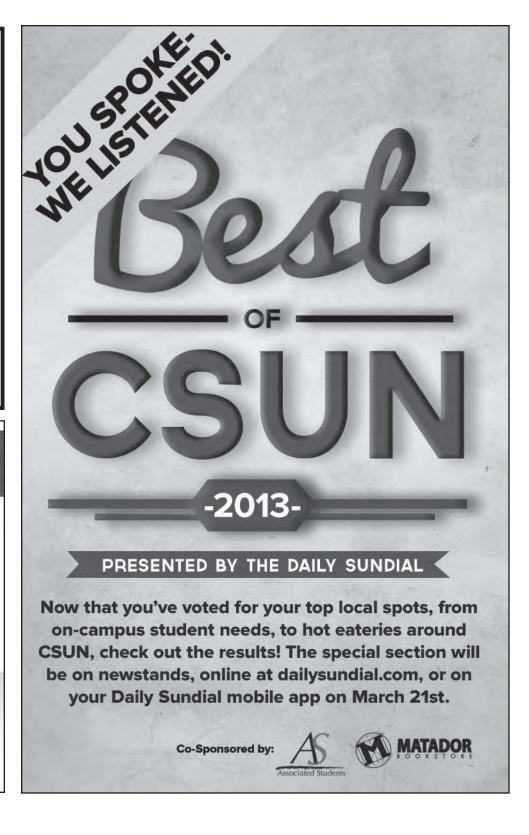
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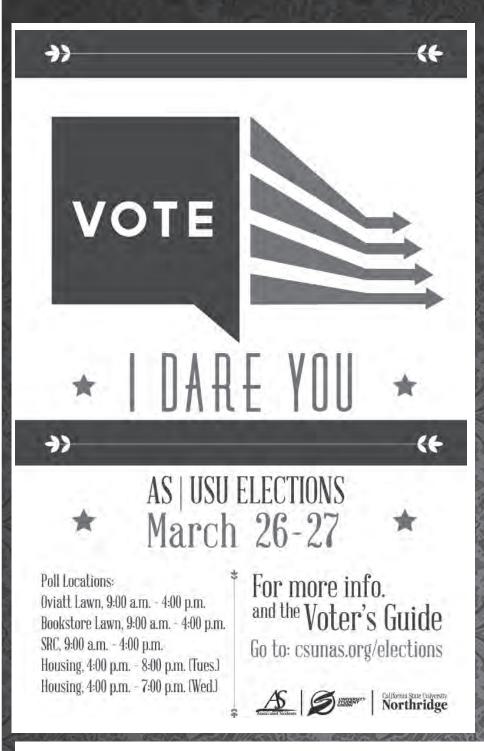
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Associated Students News and Announcements







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The undemocractic A.S. election

MICEHALANGELO LANDGRAVE

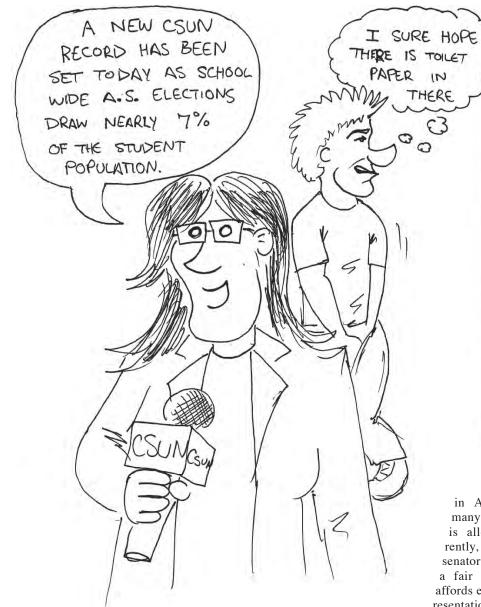
CONTRIBUTOR

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

One big reform that is needed is increasing the time to register as a candidate. This year registration for candidates opened on March 1 and closed on the 11, amounting to slightly over a week. This doesn't give potential candidates much time to form a slate. What is a slate you ask? A slate is essentially a temporary political party. You can run independently, but if you aren't part of a slate, don't expect to win. Slates allow candidates to organize better and try to gain more name recognition for themselves. Allowing more registration time would hopefully allow candidates more time to better organize slates. It wouldn't hurt if there were an event where potential candidates could meet one another before registering.

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

There are also strict rules on campaign financing. Again, this is a restriction with good intentions as it encourages candidates not to spend large amounts of money on their campaigns. The downside is these same restrictions discourage candidates from effectively reaching out to large portions of the student body. The various rulings on campaign financing also make it harder for smaller slates



or independent candidates to organize themselves effectively since it isn't clear what they can do to advertise themselves without breaking these policies.

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

The current A.S. President, Sydni Powell, won her seat with 1,496 votes. There are about 37,000 students at CSUN. In other words, 4 percent of the student body wanted Powell as A.S. president. This means 96 percent either didn't or didn't care enough. The rest of the A.S. Senate didn't do much better.

If the threshold for a valid election were raised to a minimum 51 percent turnout, one of two things would happen. A.S. would cease to exist if it were unable to meet the threshold or A.S. candidates would actually engage students enough to reach that threshold. They would have to go and talk to students about what A.S. does and why they should vote. If they manage to get at least 51 percent voting turnout then one can say that A.S. is truly democratic, if only just barely.

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

Another thing that needs reform

in A.S election is how many senators each college is allowed to have. Currently, each college has two senators. This has the air of a fair compromise since it affords each college equal representation. The problem is that not all colleges within CSUN

have the same student population. The College of Social & Behavioral Sciences and the Business Administration & Economics College has more than 5,000 students each. The Science and Mathematics College and the Humanities College, on the other hand have relatively less than 3,000 students. This means that smaller colleges are over-represented in A.S. As an analogy, consider how Rhode Island and California both have the same number of Senators at the federal level despite California being several times bigger in popular vote. This is unfair for larger colleges and ideally the A.S. Senate composition should be reformed to acknowledge the difference size of the colleges

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

ELECTIONS

VOTING

BOOTH

-Michealangelo Landgrave is the former president of the CSUN Libertarian Club.

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CIGARETTE

Continued from page 1

estimated loss of \$70 million to programs that receive proceeds from existing excise taxes on tobacco companies, which Johnson said are used for tobacco education and prevention, tobacco-related disease research, breast cancer screenings for uninsured women and early childhood education.

This leaves \$730 million to be distributed for financial aid by the California Student Aid Commission, which is the state entity that administers financial aid, Johnson said.

An independent financial accountability committee will be in charge of reviewing the audit of the California Residents College Accessibility and Affordability fund and will then create a public report based on "the financial practices and performance of the California Student Aid Commission," according to the proposal.

The initiative has to go to the Board of Equalization where they estimate the impact this new excise tax would have on other programs that currently depend on tobacco consumption proceeds, Johnson said.

"If the board were to determine, based on their projections, that this new tax would have a negative impact on the amount of tobacco consumed in the state enough that it would have a negative impact on the revenue generated from tobacco consumption, the first call on these funds that are raised would be to make those other

programs whole before the revenue generated could be spent on financial aid," he said.

Sen. Bob Huff (R-Diamond Bar) said the focus should not be another tax increase that has already been rejected several

"The people of California voted to increase taxes by \$50 billion and Gov. Jerry Brown promised students that this money would go to education," Huff said. "Since the governor has only directed 50 percent of this money to education, the question students need to ask is, what happened to the rest of the money."

Fuentes is not sure if another cigarette tax proposal would pass but thinks the financial aid aspect definitely makes it more appealing.

"There's so much going on with smoking and cancer that (an initiative) like this might make a difference and make people more aware of cancer," she said.

Johnson said the initiative is somewhat vague with what "expanding financial aid" actually means.

"There is a requirement that in expanding financial aid the California Student Aid Commission is required to supplement, not supplant, the current state financial aid," he said. "Supplementing existing state funding for financial aid means the state cannot decrease the amount of General Fund provided for financial aid and backfill the same amount with this new College Accessibility funding."

Religions intersect for good

Speakers find commonalities for the purpose of spiritual activism

JASON GALLAHER DAILY SUNDIAL

ive representatives of various religions came together Monday to deliver a panel discussion on spiritual activism as a part of the Civil Discourse and Social Change Initiative.

The discussion was to encourage using spirituality as a means to end injustices including environmental abuses, racism and economic disparities.

Maestra Olivia Chumacero of the Raramuri indigenous tradition focused on using spirituality as a means to connect to the earth and help end abuses against the environment.

"We are the ones who have created a system that destroyed Mother Earth for pleasure and for the system of making a profit," Chumacero said.

Rabbi Laura Geller related many of the Jewish community's struggles to that of African-Americans during the Civil Rights Era. She said Judaism supports actively helping any community in need regardless of race or religion.

"It's about connecting you to every other human being and every other living creature, which calls for a response,"



LOREN TOWNSLEY / PHOTO EDITOR

Rabbi Laura Geller discusses the importance of social justice in the Jewish tradition as part of the Civil Discourse and Social Change Initiative's panel on spiritual activism in Cypress Hall.

Geller said. "That response is spiritual activism.'

Imam Shakeel Syed of the Islamic faith reflected on economic injustices that have occurred in recent years.

"Economic justice is the civil rights issue of our time," Syed said, adding that small and consistent good deeds are more productive as opposed to a passing burst of kindness.

Buddhist Larry Ward said loving kindness is a foundation in spiritual activism.

"Loving kindness is the capacity to be gentle, to be thoughtful, to be careful and kind," Ward said, adding it needs to start with the self. Once an individual is aware of what is happening in and around them at every moment, he or she is then able to pass that loving kindness to others.

Reverend James Lawson, who worked alongside Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., posed a final question for reflection.

"There is a human wisdom

that it is a task to find divinity in ourselves," Lawson said. "Why do we make decisions then that invoke crisis?"

Lawson said the answer lies in one's faith, no matter how they spiritually identify.

"(The panelists) have not tried to put labels on divinity (or) spirituality," Lawson said. "But we all insist how you manage (your faith) is the task of transforming cruelty into care, torture into the possibilities of listening and truth."

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

ACROSS

- 1 Al who created Fearless Fosdick 5 Sign between Virgo and
- Scorpio 10 Sailboat's team
- 14 Trac II
- successor 15 See eye to eye 16 "Divine Secrets of
- Sisterhood"
- 17 Play some b-ball 19 Well, in Paris
- 20 Brain scan
- letters 21 What a red "X"
- may mean
- 22 Charged atoms 23 Tavern game 25 Tinted feature of
- some cars 28 Motley 31 __ of speech
- 32 "OMG, stop with the details
- already!" 33 Support column
- 37 Infallible, as a
- scheme 40 Nervous mannerism
- 43 Pluto, for a time 44 Curvy letter
- 47 The Negev's nation 49 Put under
- 51 "The Hustler" setting
- 54 Spinning dizzily
- __ Linda, California 56
- 57 "Like, obviously!"
- 60 Nutritional no. 61 Smallish iPod
- 62 Cereal with a
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- since 2011 65 Boxer Mike
- 66 Run amok
- 67 With 5-Down.
- Cowardly Lion
- 68 Big name in farm
- equipment 69 649,739 to 1 against being dealt a roval flush, e.g.

By Pancho Harrison

DOWN 1 Looked for security cameras,

- 2 In the most basic
- 3 Usher's handout 4 Kung __ chicken 5 See 67-Across
- 6 "What hump?" lab assistant 7 Ump's plate
- 8 Copy, briefly 9 '50s Dem.
- candidate 10 Bionic Woman, for one
- 11 Reason for a tarp-covered field 12 Condemned
- building, maybe 13 Pasty-faced 18 Skills evaluation

_ Montoya: "The

- Princess Bride" role 24 "About time the
- week ended!" 26 Deserving
- 27 Wetland
- attention 29 Hunky Greek god 30 __ monster: lizard

3/19/13

Monday's Puzzle Solved STENOS B E E T A I R O U T B A R R Y L A R K I N D I M ROIBABE ALANARKIN C A N E R ЕМО AVGSPUEBLO KINFOLK AKITAS SASS T O M H A R K I N A H E M A R R I O T I S ELLENBARKIN NOS VIENNA A L L E Y S

T B A

- 34 Hosp. staffer 35 Ticks off 38 "Carmen," for one 39 Phobia
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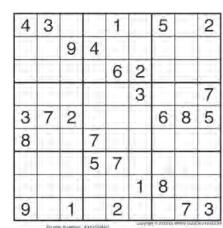
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How to play:

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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SOFTBALL

CSUN rolls past Seattle, LMU

ELLEN KRAUSSE

DAILY SUNDIAL

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

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

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

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

"We kinda just went

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

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

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

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

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

The Lions started the first



Junior first basemen Tanna Bindi readies herself to field against Seattle Sunday afternoon at CSUN.

and second innings with lead off doubles, but were unable to advance the runners any farther than second until the seventh inning.

Putting runners on first and second with no outs in the seventh inning, the Lions hit into two straight fielder's choices and put runners at the corners with two outs. A single into left field by senior second baseman Skylar Segura scored the Lions' only run, and a third fielder's choice of the

inning ended the game.

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

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

COLUMN

Spring Training is a waste of time

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



COURTESY OF MCT

Albert Pujols, who's returning from off-season surgery, steps up to the plate and attempts to hit a pitch.

MILH RAR



BOB GARCIA dai Ly Sundia L

s it me or is that month and a half span of preseason games called "spring training" a waste of time?

These games mean statistically nothing to the regular season. For example, to try and make their 25-man and the Angels' first baseperennial bottom-dwellers – are 17-4, the best record for this year's spring training. While projected playoff contender Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim have a record of 5-12, currently the second worst record for this year's spring training.

So does that impressive spring training record mean that the Royals are an elite team and a contender for the 2013 World Series? Does the Angels' atrocious record mean they are out of the playoffs once the season comes around?

The answer to both these questions is a big fat NO.

This is because the simple fact that spring training games do not matter. MLB teams during this time are inviting players and calling up minor leaguers to camp

the Kansas City Royals - roster, so this means on a man Albert Pujols, who is game to game basis, you may witness Joe Schmo playing center field for the Los Angeles Dodgers and not superstar Matt Kemp.

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

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

Players like the Dodgers' outfielder Carl Crawford, who played his first game Sunday since getting shoulder surgery in August,

recovering from off-season surgery on his right knee, are using these games as a time to get back into baseball form.

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

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