

Calendar: See what's happening this week on campus

Religious studies allows student to be more understanding



New York soda ban is an absurd over-reach of legislative power

Who will win the AL divisions?

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CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, NORTHRIDGE

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EMAILS MAY BE MONITORED IF HACKERS PREVAIL

Although CSUN monitors the majority of spam, a breach could result in decreased privacy for users

MELISSA SIMON
SENIOR REPORTER

CSUN continues to closely monitor incoming emails in the midst of persistence by hackers who break into servers.

After a cheating scandal hit Harvard, a group of deans were outraged last fall by their emails having been monitored without their knowing.

Chris Olsen, senior director of infrastructure services at CSUN, said the campus takes personal privacy very seriously as stated in the Privacy of Personal Information section of Policies and Procedures.

"CSUN is responsible for taking all reasonable and appropriate steps for the protection of the confidentiality, availability, privacy and integrity of information in its custody," Olsen said. "This policy encompasses university email as well as other systems that contain personal information in CSUN's custody."

CSUN has an information security program to help create a safe network, Olsen said. The program creates a safe environment for users and protects their personal information by using awareness training.

"As with any institution, and as noted in the CSUN 'Use of Computing Resources' policy, there is no guarantee of privacy or protection against intrusion by others," he said.

Olsen said there are two categories of breaches that can happen with an email account: technical attacks, which focus on a disruption or denial of ser-

vice, and social engineering, which is what CSUN, other universities and organizations are currently seeing.

"This is most widely seen at CSUN in the form of fraudulent email messages targeting faculty, staff, and students that ask to provide a CSUN username and password 'or else,'" Olsen said.

Olsen said campus policy follows state and federal privacy laws and added that there have been no recent breaches that would violate the policy, but if needed, certain campus administrators can look at users' emails.

"One example is related to litigation, and while I cannot speak to specific cases, there have been cases where university email has been involved in litigation," he said. "In such cases, authorized administrators and legal authorities handle email in accordance with policy."

Janet Valerio, sophomore liberal studies major, said she believes the campus network is much more secure than any other email platform like Yahoo or Hotmail.

"From what I understand, the school filters the email we get and also what we send each other," she said. "I think professors have to go through some system before sending emails and it will go to spam if they send it from another address."

The privacy policy applies to students, faculty, staff and any other person using CSUN's network and



ILLUSTRATION BY DANIEL CHONG / CONTRIBUTOR

See EMAIL, page 4

Faster track to graduation for CSUs

Proposed legislation could shrink graduation time to three years, keep students from spending more than \$10,000

SHALEEKA POWELL
DAILY SUNDIAL

Two proposed assembly bills could allow students with interest in science, technology, math and engineering to attend either a California State Univer-

sity or a University of California for a lower cost.

Assemblyman Dan Logue created AB 51 and AB 181 hoping to allow more students to attend college without finances prohibiting them.

Logue said he proposed the bills because there is a real concern for students future employment and it is costing the country money.

"We want to create an oppor-

tunity for students to accelerate their ability," he said.

Both bills establish a Baccalaureate Degree Pilot Program that would include campuses in the CSU and UC systems, community college districts and county offices of education in three areas of the state.

AB 51 and AB 181 will expedite the progress of participating students from high school to community college

to CSUs or UCs.

Logue said both bills will allow students to graduate from either a CSU or UC in three years compared to the average student who would graduate in five to six years.

"High school students can get up to 30 college credits, one year in junior college and two in a state college," Logue said. "The bills financially work if students take college courses in

high school because it cuts their tuition by 25 percent."

He also said the standards will be very high and students must have a B average to stay in the courses. If they excel, they get priority registration.

The AB 51 bill allows students to earn a baccalaureate degree from any participating CSU for a total cost not exceeding \$10,000, including textbooks.

"The cost of a four year college is \$24,000 so we cut it by less than half," he said. "Sacramento State costs 6,000 and UC Davis is 13,000 a year."

AB 181 would allow students to earn a baccalaureate degree from any participating UC for a total cost that does not exceed \$20,000, excluding the cost of instructional materials

See BILLS, page 4

CALENDAR OF EVENTS // April 2013

02

VRC Discussion Group

WHEN: 12-1 p.m.

WHERE: Santa Susana Room, USU

DESCRIPTION: Join the Veterans' Resource Center in a brown bag lunch and discussion group. Topics pertaining to veterans and military dependents will be discussed. Come share your thoughts.

USU Games Room Table Tennis Tournament

WHEN: 4-6 p.m.

WHERE: Games Room

DESCRIPTION: The Games Room invites students to serve up some friendly competition at their Table Tennis Tournament. It's free to join. Online registration is required.

Big Comedy featuring Jo Koy

WHEN: 7p.m.

WHERE: Plaza del Sol Performance Hall

DESCRIPTION: Comedian Jo Koy will be headlining the Big Comedy show presented by Associated Students. Brent Morin and James Davis are also scheduled to perform. Tickets for CSUN students and staff are free and available in the Ticket Office.

Baseball vs. Loyola Marymount

WHEN: 3-5 p.m.

WHERE: Baseball field

DESCRIPTION: Event is free to attend.

Fantastic & Strange: Reflections of Self in Science Fiction Literature

WHEN: All Day

WHERE: Tseng Gallery, Oviat Library

DESCRIPTION: Engage in the wildest imaginings and celebrate the fantastic and strange in science fiction literature.

03

USU Games Room Billiards Tournament

WHEN: 4-6 pm

WHERE: Games Room

DESCRIPTION: The Games Room invites students to rack 'em up at their Billiards Tournament. It's free to join. Online registration is required.

04

Craft Corner

WHEN: 11:30 - 1:30 p.m.

WHERE: Plaza del Sol

DESCRIPTION: Beautify your own bug jar at the Craft Corner. Then relive childhood memories trying to catch bugs for their new home.

Noontime Concert

WHEN: 12 - 1p.m.

WHERE: Plaza del Sol

DESCRIPTION: Relax and spend a lunch hour listening to the hip hop beats of Timothy Rhyme.

USU Games Room Poker Tournament

WHEN: 4-6 p.m.

WHERE: Games Room

DESCRIPTION: The Games Room invites students to show their poker faces at a Poker Tournament. It's free to join. Online registration is required.

LGBTQ Coffee Nights

WHEN: 5-7 p.m.

WHERE: Pride Center

DESCRIPTION: The Pride Center provides a relaxing environment with friends to enjoy some snacks at LGBTQ Coffee Nights. Allies are welcome to join too.

04 (CONT.)

Neon Nights

WHEN: 8-10 p.m.

WHERE: USU Games Room

DESCRIPTION: Enjoy free neon pool, tennis and console games all night at Neon Nights. Pizza will also be served as a DJ spins the latest tunes.

CSUN Cinematheque

WHEN: 8-10 p.m.

WHERE: Plaza del Sol Performance Hall

DESCRIPTION: The quartet will perform several songs by Mozart, Gardel and Schubert. Tickets are \$5 for students.

05

Vadim Repin, violin

WHEN: 8-9:30 p.m.

WHERE: Great Hall, VPAC

DESCRIPTION: Child prodigy, Vadim Repin will play several songs accompanied by pianist Andrei Korobeinikov. Tickets range from \$35 to \$65 depending on seating.

Psychology Dept. Brown Bag Series

WHEN: 12-1 p.m.

WHERE: Sierra Hall 322

DESCRIPTION: Listen to Allison Wishard from UCSD discuss the linguistic and social development of Mexican immigrant children.

Baseball vs. UC Riverside

WHEN: 1-3 p.m.

WHERE: Baseball field

DESCRIPTION: This is the 2013 Big West home opener. Adults \$5, kids 17 and under, seniors (60+), faculty, staff, military and alumni \$3. Must have I.D.

06 (CONT.)

Val Kilmer in Citizen Twain

WHEN: 8 p.m.

WHERE: Valley Performing Arts Center

DESCRIPTION: Join Val Kilmer as he portrays Mark Twain live on stage. "Citizen Twain" takes a look into the mind of the man who created such legendary characters as Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn. Tickets range in price from \$45 to \$150.

Baseball vs. UC Riverside

WHEN: 1-3 p.m.

WHERE: Baseball field

DESCRIPTION: Adults \$5, kids 17 and under, seniors (60+), faculty, staff, military and alumni \$3. Must have I.D.

07

Baseball vs. UC Riverside

WHEN: 1-3 p.m.

WHERE: Baseball field

DESCRIPTION: Adults \$5, kids 17 and under, seniors (60+), faculty, staff, military and alumni \$3. Must have I.D.

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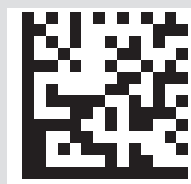
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PERSPECTIVES

Soul searching opens student's mind

Sept. 11 attacks inspire individual to pursue study of religions and cultures instead of joining the military

LUIS RIVAS
SENIOR REPORTER

The world is a place filled with people from different cultures and religions.

That's how Adam Cabral, 25, a senior religious studies major, sees it, and learning about cultures through the religious studies department at CSUN has given him a more complete worldview.

Outside of the classroom, Cabral uses his knowledge to better himself and develop a more comprehensive understanding of people from other nations and faith traditions—even at his retail job at Faconnable, a men's and women's clothing store in the Camarillo Outlets.

"I guess I use [religious studies] in how I approach people, how I deal with it at work," he said. "I work at a place where there are a lot of international people there so I have a respect for them. Whereas, I would say the majority of people who don't have a religious studies background, they would be more nonchalant about it. Say

a person comes in with a turban, they'd say, oh, they're probably Muslim, but it's not really. They're Sikhs."

Learning about Islam was something that Cabral was very interested in, ever since the Sept. 11 attacks.

"I was in high school during the time and I was actually considering joining the military, but then after a while I looked into myself and asked 'Why am I so angry?'" he said. "And after a while I was just like, 'They're people, too, you know.' They wouldn't attack us if they didn't have a reason to."

Cabral is also a guitarist and dedicates time for self-reflection. Playing his guitar was a way of soul searching, an introspection through the ritual of musical practice, a sort of quasi-meditative state.

It was in the routine of strumming his guitar, writing songs and melodies, that he found inner-peace. Cabral stopped himself from joining the military after reflecting on these critical questions.

Years later, he decided to study other people's cultures and worldviews instead.

"We learn about religions, not just one religion, but all major religions, such as Hindu-



CHARLIE KAIJO / SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

Religious studies major, Adam Cabral, at the Pleasant Valley Sports Park near his home in Camarillo. Cabral said he found religious studies and writing music as an outlet for built-up emotions after the Sept.11 attacks.

ism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam and array of others," Cabral said.

Students that major in religious studies are not all people wanting to be priests or ministers, he said.

One doesn't have to be religious to want to pursue reli-

gious studies. Atheists make some of the best well-rounded experts of religion—even more so than actual practitioners of religions—since they tend to do a heavy amount of research and study, Cabral said.

"[Atheists] do their own soul searching," he said.

"They pretty much study all religions to see which one is the right one for them. It's not that they don't believe in a higher being. They could be spiritual. Religions revolve around a structure, a hierarchy of organization. Being spiritual is more on the individual."

For anyone interested in learning more about the individual and the world simultaneously, religious studies is an appropriate area of study.

"Religious studies offered me sort of solutions and a pathway to understanding the world," Cabral said.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF LOGUE'S OFFICE

Assemblyman Dan Logue created AB 51 and AB 181.

BILLS

Continued from page 1

and campus-based fees.

Logue said both bills will allow participating high school students to earn an unlimited number of advanced placement course credits.

He also said CSUs and UCs must accept a minimum of 60 semester units earned by students.

Logue said after graduation, most students cannot buy a house because they usually graduate with \$60,000 to \$100,000 in student loan debt.

Logue said if this program works, they can expand it to other fields.

"The bottom line is that many students may graduate from college with no job," he said. "Canada and Latin America have a program established, and America is behind."

The bills will be introduced in January 2014. Logue said since he was in college, campuses have doubled in tuition prices.

"When I was in college there was no Internet and tuition was \$400 a year," he said. "State colleges have doubled, and it's unacceptable."

EMAIL

Continued from page 1

prohibits "all unauthorized modifications, deletions, or disclosures of information included in CSUN data resources that compromise the integrity of CSUN's educational, scholarly, and administrative programs, violate individual privacy rights, or constitute a criminal act."

Olsen said CSUN has anti-spam systems that block between 85 and 90 percent of all email coming into the university.

"It is very challenging to identify and block

social engineering messages as they look and read as legitimate messages," he said. "They do not contain viruses and other obvious characteristics typically found in spam."

Andrea Lee, undecided sophomore, was not as sure about the security of her email, but said it seemed pretty secure, especially since a great number of students use Moodle for classes.

"I mean, if you don't know anyone in your class it's a really good way to reach out and get the notes via email," she said. "Besides, I only use my CSUN Gmail account for

school, so I don't see the point in anyone hacking into it but if they did I would be pretty angry."

Valerio, who has older emails saved in her account, said she would be irritated if her account were hacked.

"I have emails from past classes that have grades or some sample research papers for future reference writing and I would be upset if something happened," she said.

Olsen said it would be good practice for anyone to share only the minimum personal or private information, whether it be through email, phone or web.

"Always question suspicious emails, web pages, and phone calls that solicit personal/private information," he said. "CSUN will never ask you to provide your password, social security number, or any other personal information by email. If in doubt, do not respond to suspicious email, and do not click on suspicious URLs included in email."

To report a potential breach of personal information, Olsen said to contact the office of Information Security at 818-677-6100 or by email at security@csun.edu.

WATCH OUT FOR THESE RED FLAGS

CHARACTERISTICS OF FRAUDULENT EMAILS

(Info provided by **Chris Olsen**, senior director of infrastructure services at CSUN)

- Ask for **sensitive information** (*click here to verify your username and password*)
- Contain **spelling and/or grammatical errors** (*thank you, from trusted administrator*)
- **Threaten** you (*do this or else your account will be deleted*)
- Contain **suspicious web addresses/URLs** (*visit the CSUN page by visiting: <http://www.csunorg31.com/account>*)
- Originate from **unknown or untrusted senders** (*from: administrator@csunorg31.com*)
- Contain **unexpected/inaccurate content** (*you've exceeded your e-mail quota*)
- Are **generically addressed** (*dear CSUN customer*)
- Ask you to **download** something (*click here to get the necessary virus update file*)
- Expresses an **urgency** (*you must click here immediately to avoid having your account terminated*)



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- Register your bicycle with CSUN's Bicycle Registration Program
- Engrave/mark the frame of your bicycle
- Secure your bicycle to a designated bicycle rack.
- Don't lock your bike to itself (the front wheel locked to the frame).
- Don't lock just the tire. The rest of the bike can still be removed.
- Don't lock your bike in the same location all the time.
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For more information and to register your bike, visit <http://www-admn.csun.edu/dps/police/>



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CSUN Numbers Seventh Week

- 3,085 LB. Cardboard
- 222 LB. Beverage Containers
- 2,338 LB. Paper



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APRIL 2, 2013

OPINION@SUNDIAL.CSUN.EDU

Opinion

From my icy cold, dead hands

New York City's failed soda ban is another politically motivated attempt at legislating lifestyle choices for people

KEVIN KIANI
DAILY SUNDIAL

Just yesterday I walked into my local convenience store and bought a 99 cent donut and a small bag of chips. I ate it and I enjoyed it. During all the munching and crunching, I knew I was eating something that wasn't going to digest well and something that was not good for my long term health but I pushed through. My bowels reminded me of that later and going back in time, I wouldn't have changed a damn thing.

New York City mayor Michael Bloomberg and his proposed plan to ban the sale of sugary drinks larger than 16-ounce at all fast-food establishments is straight out of a George Orwell book and finally we have the New York appeals court stepping up and restoring sanity to the world.

I applaud Bloomberg for attempting to solve the growing problem of obesity in our country. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), more than one-third of U.S. adults are obese and in 2008, medical costs that were associated with obesity were estimated at \$147 billion nationwide.

Applause withstanding, Bloomberg has unfortunately tried to legislate one of the most blatant breaches of freedom in recent history with his asinine plan. We are an increasingly obese nation and we are all waddling our fat-asses to an early grave, but if we don't have the ability to make personal lifestyle choices, whether they are responsible or not, we simply aren't that free.

Not only would this ban take away the basic freedom of choice, it would also open the door for the government to infiltrate other aspects of our personal lives. We've seen the absurd cost of social wars on alcohol and drugs. Give the government an inch and they'll take a mile as they run by and knock that soda out of your hand.

The logic presented in the details of the ban is head-scratching. The ban excludes alcoholic beverages, drinks under 25 calories, which includes diet sodas, water, unsweetened coffees and teas, and vegetable and fruit juices with no sugar added.

Diet soda as an exclusion is the worst of the bunch and it demonstrates how little research these lawmakers did when writing up this law. Either that, or they were drunk off a 32-ounce bottle of whiskey, which would be within legal limits if this law passed.

According to Health.com, diet soda and

the "artificial sweeteners it contains can make some people psychologically - and even physically - dependent on it." The article also mentions that chemicals found in diet sodas, such as the artificial sweetener aspartame, have been linked to cancer and other health problems.

Aside from the logistics of the ban, the method of controlling portion size is absurd. Regulating the size of a drink just makes people recall their elementary math and buy two 8-ounce sodas instead of one 16-ounce soda. Folks could also buy two-liter bottles from the grocery store, keep them at home and fill up their own 16-ounce bottles, or even larger, before they leave the house. The amount of shortcuts people can take to bypass this ban seem to render it useless, and more like a failed political stunt by Bloomberg as opposed to an actual solution with teeth.

Although sodas may be a major contributor to obesity, there is a multitude of other foods and drinks that contribute to obesity. Fast food restaurants are rolling out gut-destroying items every month like the Triple Whopper with Cheese from Burger King that has an insane 1,180 calories (45 percent of daily intake) and 30 grams of saturated fat.

If we want to fight the war on obesity, it needs to be fought on all fronts. That includes a program that educates citizens about healthy food and drink options and stresses the importance of exercise. Telling them they are not allowed to drink something boils down to babying, a job for a mother or a father, not the government.

What is effective in our current society are gripping and dramatic Public Service Announcements (PSA). Cigarettes have not been banned but PSA's by the CDC about the dangers of smoking, have been effective in scaring people about the dangers associated with smoking.

Despite all the talk about soda and its adverse health benefits, it isn't even the preferred choice among the majority of Americans. According to the Beverage

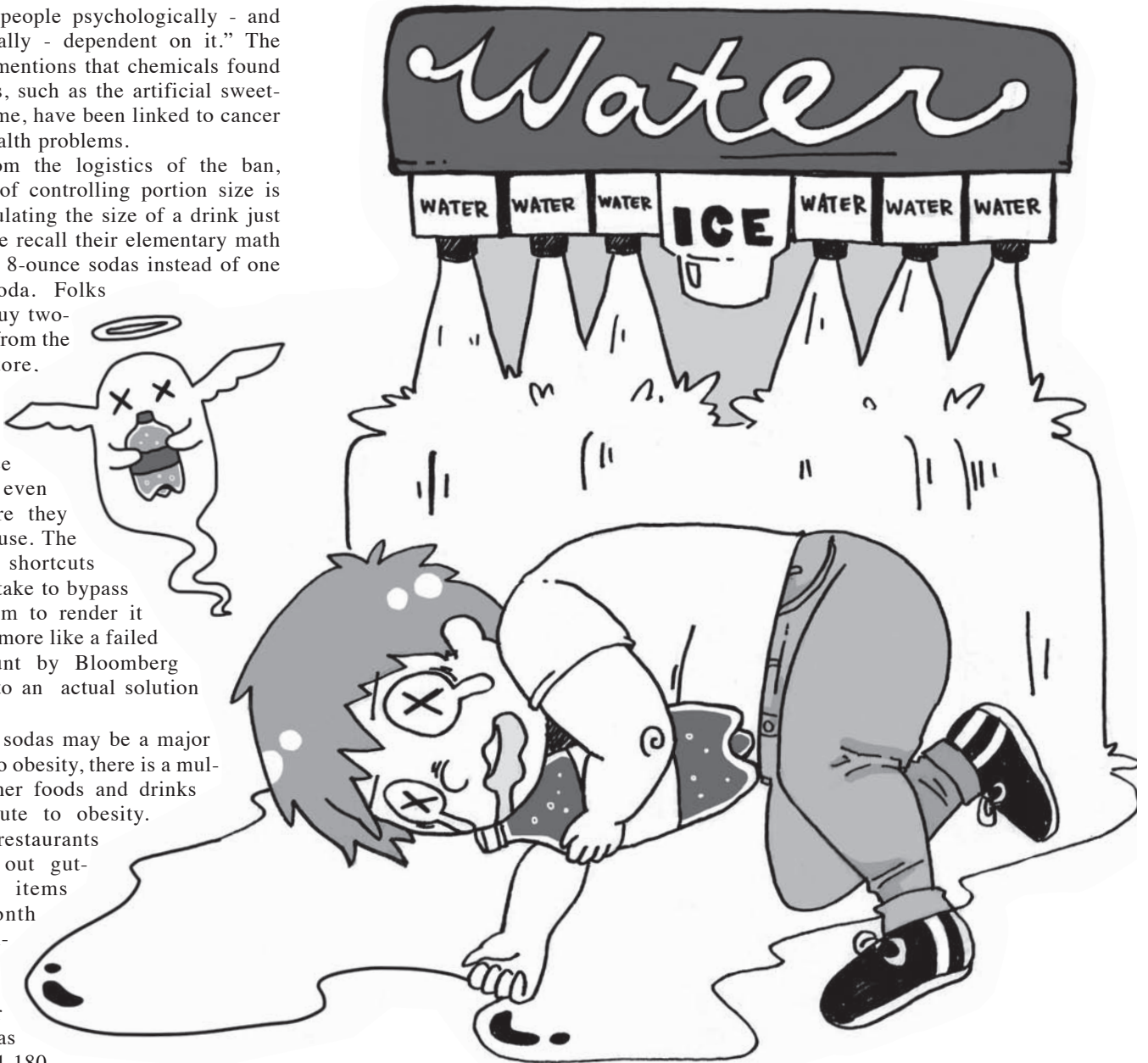


Illustration by JASMINE MOCHIZUKI / assist aNt visual editor

Digest, the industry tracker, water has become the No. 1 drink in the United States, a spot that was held for two decades by soda. Americans now only drink 44 gallons of soda a year, a 17 percent drop from the soda consumption peak in 1998, and water consumption has increased 38 percent to 58 gallons a year.

This clearly shows that although obesity is indeed a major problem, it doesn't start and end with soda. It is also evident that Bloomberg is setting his sights on the wrong venues by thinking that movie theaters, restaurants, and convenience stores bear the responsibility in the fight against obesity. As a society, we need to be better informed about the potential health risks of the food and drinks out there.

In this age of technology that we live in, there is no excuse for being oblivious to what is in our food. We need to research

what we eat and use our buying power wisely instead of shoveling our money into the pockets of the corporations who live off our cravings.

We are generally dumb as a society, myself included, with what we eat and no amount of regulation can change that. Changing your diet is a personal choice and if someone is perfectly content with how they look, regardless of weight, then that is their choice.

This law couldn't stand up to the courts but it still diminishes the credibility of the mayor's office. The end result is a nation where you are free to practice any religion you please, protest the government, own weapons, but not drink a 32-ounce soda. There are a multitude of ways to fight obesity, and Bloomberg's plan isn't remotely it.

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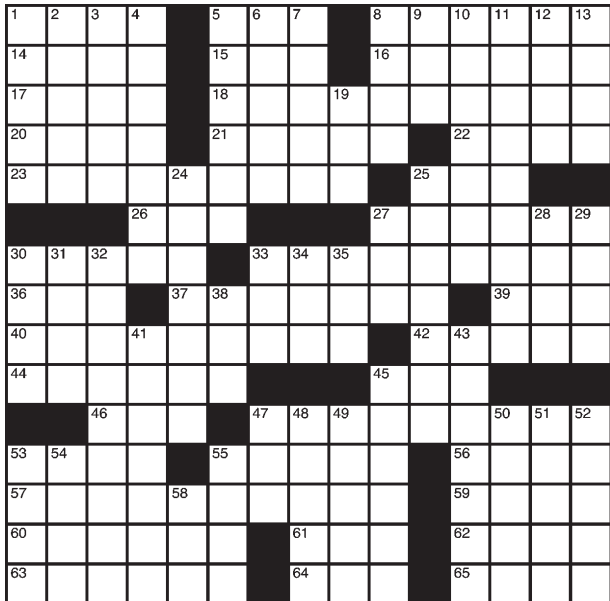
General Manager
JODY HOLCOMB

Business Coordinator
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Web Development
BENJAMIN GARBER

ACROSS

- 1 "SNL"-like show filmed in Canada
- 5 "Doctor Who" network
- 8 Rafter's shoot them
- 14 Pre-Euro Italian coin
- 15 Nest egg letters
- 16 With 3-Down, way west for many American pioneers
- 17 ___-Iraq War: '80s conflict
- 18 Crooner Perry's ad?
- 20 Self-righteous sort
- 21 Manicurist's aid
- 22 Rage inwardly
- 23 Space pilot Han's shirt?
- 25 Through
- 26 Classic racecars
- 27 Lighthouse light
- 30 Nouveau ___
- 33 U2 frontman's bit of naughtiness?
- 36 Back in the day
- 37 Bedevil
- 39 PC monitor type
- 40 Cartoon possum's corporate symbol?
- 42 Chilean range
- 44 Camera stand
- 45 Roman 1,051
- 46 Winery container
- 47 Japanese general Hideki's talisman?
- 53 Triumphant cries
- 55 Disconnect
- 56 Explosion sound, in comics
- 57 Movie pooch's picture?
- 59 Poetry unit
- 60 Church key, e.g.
- 61 "___ My Party": Lesley Gore hit
- 62 Fairly matched
- 63 Great suffering
- 64 Easter egg dip
- 65 "That didn't go well"



By Jeffrey Wechsler

4/2/13

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

S	P	E	C	S	S	H	A	H	J	U	N	G
C	O	R	A	L	H	I	L	O	I	S	I	N
O	B	A	M	A	A	L	O	T	H	E	L	P
R	O	S	E	B	O	W	L	P	A	R	A	D
E	Y	E	R	P	L	Y	I	E	D			
		A	A	A	U	R	N	C	E	L		
S	W	I	M	C	L	A	S	S	A	S	H	B
L	E	C	A	R	R	E	M	U	T	U	R	N
I	R	O	N	Y	T	A	C	K	L	E	B	O
T	E	N	L	A	Y	E	T	A				
		Z	I	P	G	E	L	M	E	L	T	
I	C	E	C	R	E	A	M	P	A	R	L	O
S	K	I	S	O	R	Z	O	S	O	R	R	Y
P	E	N	T	N	E	A	T	O	L	I	N	S
F	A	Q	S	S	I	N	E	F	L	O	A	T

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3/29/13

DOWN

- 1 Pink ones are unwelcome—except in lingerie

- 2 Prefix with cumulus
- 3 See 16-Across
- 4 Self-portraitist with a bandaged ear
- 5 Bodybuilder's "guns"
- 6 ___-Seltzer
- 7 Desert safari beast
- 8 Pink-cheeked
- 9 Dada pioneer Jean
- 10 ___ Gulf: Arabian waterway
- 11 Reason given for calling in sick
- 12 Rounded roof
- 13 Winter whiteness
- 19 Pizarro's gold
- 24 Broad-brimmed hat
- 25 Chaste priestesses of ancient Rome
- 27 "___ appetit!"
- 28 Fairy tale start
- 29 Dozes
- 30 Like one who can't put a book down
- 31 Composer Stravinsky
- 32 Ponders

- 33 Male sib
- 34 "Egad!" in an IM
- 35 Opposite of paleo-
- 38 Long in the tooth
- 41 Tommy Dorsey hit tune
- 43 Less clumsy
- 45 Sullen
- 47 Internet slang based on a common typo
- 48 Egg-shaped
- 49 Harbor wall
- 50 Eight-time All-Star Tony of the '60s-'70s
- 51 Sister of La Toya
- 52 Warning signs
- 53 Elemental particle
- 54 Arizona native
- 55 Twinkle-toed
- 58 Rev.'s message

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Solution to today's sudoku

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

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

sudoku

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

Solution above.



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Friday
 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.



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APRIL 2, 2013

COLUMN

Sundial sports picks AL champs



COURTESY OF MCT

Former Braves pitcher Tommy Hanson was brought to Los Angeles to fix the Angels' weak pitching.

BOB GARCIA
DAILY SUNDIAL

Coming off a competitive 2012 season the AL West looks to be headed for another competitive three-team race for the top spot.

The Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim had their second consecutive busy offseason that saw them sign star outfielder Josh Hamilton from the Texas Rangers and trade for starting pitchers Tommy Hanson and Jason Vargas.

The Rangers, in turn, signed A. J. Pierzynski, Lance Berkman and traded Michael Young to the Philadelphia Phillies. The Seattle Mariners also made a couple of moves by signing former New York Mets' outfielder Jason Bay, acquiring Kendrys Morales from the Angels in the

Jason Vargas trade and locking up ace pitcher Felix Hernandez to a long term deal. The Athletics did not make any notable acquisition to improve their club.

With these moves in mind, the winner of the AL West this season will no doubt be the Angels.

The Rangers' loss of Hamilton, catcher Mike Napoli (who signed with the Red Sox) and Young will be a big a blow to the team's offense. The Athletics' strategy of staying put with last year's lineup does not help them keep up with the rest of the division's improvements.

Although Seattle made off-season acquisitions, they should still remain a bottom-dwelling team along with the Houston Astros, the new addition to the AL West, because of their lack of overall talent.

The Halos will be entering their second season with first baseman Albert Pujols, who had an off year for his standards

(he batted .285 with 30 home runs and had 105 RBI).

Pujols should be feeling more comfortable and productive coming into his second season as an Angel. The signing of Hamilton, who also had a .285 batting average to go along with 42 home runs and 128 RBIs, brings a proven power hitter to the team who can bat in the cleanup spot behind Pujols. Phenom outfielder Mike Trout rounds out the Angels potent three-headed monster lineup within the first five batters.

The Angels have made moves this offseason to improve their already loaded lineup and their one two punch pitching rotation with Jered Weaver, who finished 2012 with a 2.81 ERA and 20-5 record and C.J. Wilson, who is looking to bounce back from his subpar first year with the Halos. With the bullpen being the only crack in the Angels' armor, look for them to run away with the AL West in 2013.

ing little changes in the offseason other than the acquisition of Vernon Wells and Kevin Youkilis, they have several key players on the disabled list. If everyone can perform to what their contract pays them, the Yankees can still be a top team in the AL East. Though with many on the starting roster injured, or prone to injury due to their age, it is unlikely that all of the players will play up to their potential, and the Yankees will lose their stranglehold on the division.

It is for the same reason that the Orioles will do well. They have made very few changes during the off-season, and will return with the majority of their squad that won 93 games last year and made the playoffs (as the wildcard) for the first time since the late 90s. The ball club had a taste of victory and the postseason, coming off last season with momentum and confidence.

Nick Markakis and Brian Roberts will be returning to

the lineup after missing 203 combined games due to injury. Adam Jones will need to live up to his potential and a repeat performance by Chris Davis will be necessary to produce the same results as 2012.

The Orioles have one of the most lockdown bullpens in the majors, leading the team to a 29-9 record in one-run games. Relief Pitcher of the Year Jim Johnson is back to close for the Orioles along with setup man Darren O'Day, as well as left-handed-pitchers Brian Matusz and Troy Patton, which will be key if they hope to win the division.

It is very difficult to predict this division because it all depends on who stays healthy and which pitchers can achieve consistency. Every team in the division, with the exception of maybe the Red Sox, has the opportunity and chance to win. This is perhaps the most open division in all of baseball.

BRIAN PERRAS
CONTRIBUTOR

The Detroit Tigers are the favorite to win a newly improved AL Central Division. The real question is: by how many games?

Catcher Victor Martinez is returning from last year's season ending injury and his presence will help the already effective offense. Led by Triple Crown winner Miguel Cabrera and Prince Fielder, the Tigers will most likely see Martinez hit fifth in the lineup behind Fielder, and provide an offensive boost with his .303 batting average.

The Tigers also added outfielder Tori Hunter, upgrading from career-bust Delmon Young. Hunter batted .300 for the Angels last season, and brings an All-Star glove and an above-average bat, making this lineup a modern day Murderer's Row.

The Tigers offense, which includes six all-stars, will end up being in the top three of the MLB in total offense.

While offense alone doesn't win titles, the Tigers have the best starting pitcher in baseball. Justin Verlander is two years removed from a Cy Young and MVP award and with some run support this season, he has a shot at at both awards again. Putting too much stock in Doug Fister as a top of the rotation starter may hurt the Tigers, but a rotation of Max Scher-



COURTESY OF MCT

Tigers batter Prince Fielder gets hit with a pitch and earns a walk.

zer, Anibal Sanchez and Rick Porcello behind the top-two is formidable.

The closer situation is one the Tigers will have to address quickly. Closing games by committee is never good for a bullpen, but there are a couple solid guys, in Phil Coke or Joaquin Benoit, they may be able to lean on.

The White Sox will do their best to challenge the Tigers for the AL central crown, but will ultimately fall short.

They do have one of the best young pitchers in the game in Chris Sale who will one day win a Cy Young.

Behind Sale is another former Cy Young winner Jake Peavy who, if healthy, will have a great year.

Having two top pitchers will keep the White Sox in the division race, but pitching alone can't win every game and a weak, inconsistent lineup will ultimately lead to Chicago's downfall.

Strikeout machine Adam Dunn and an aging Paul Konerko cannot lead a lineup full of weak hitters. Alexei Ramirez, the once future of the franchise, regressed again last year, and it looks like it will be another long season for Chicago fans.

MELANIE GABALL
DAILY SUNDIAL

With the deepest bullpen in the division, the Baltimore Orioles will win the AL East. It is always the toughest division in baseball, and this year is no different. Although all of the teams in the division could be good, the Orioles have the least amount of question marks. With Wei-Yin Chen coming off a 12-win first season and Jason Hammel returning from an injury shortened season, the Orioles should be considered a top contender for a division title.

As an unofficial rule however, one must never rule out the New York Yankees.

They won the division last year after a close battle with Baltimore, coming down to the last series of the season. Mak-



COURTESY OF MCT

Relief Pitcher of the Year Jim Johnson leads the Orioles top-ranked bullpen.