

Graduate student hopes to explain how biological cells work with math

College athletes exploited while NCAA enjoys the free labor



Matador Nights returns complete with a New York theme

Gasol and Lillard have solid cases for rookie and defensive honors

FREE

DAILY SUNDIAL

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, NORTHRIDGE

TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 2013 | VOL. 54, ISS. 107 | WWW.DAILYUNDIAL.COM

THE COST OF A DEBT-FREE DEGREE

those who graduate from college without loans make sacrifices, learn lessons about time and money management

JASON GALLAHER
DAILY SUNDIAL

As concerns about national student debt crossing the \$1 trillion mark flood the media, CSUN students are finding ways to graduate from college with a bachelor's degree debt-free.

CSUN students said their concern about taking out loans comes from uncertainty in being able to pay them back.

"I don't really take out loans (because) I'm scared I'll be in massive debt later," said Lori Olmassakian, 18, a freshman psychology major. "It's like, 'Congratulations, you've graduated, now here's your present of debt.'"

alternatives to loans

Some students rely on their parents to pay for school.

"(My parents) had this college fund for me. Since they had high income that helps (them save for college)," said Penny Lanyon, 18, a freshman biology major.

Others have depended on savings to help pay for college.

"I worked on the movie 'A.I.' when I was 11," said Nathan Rillo, 21, a junior journalism major. "I was Haley Joel Osment's stunt double. They pay you an exorbitant amount of money."

According to the most recent annual report of the university's financial aid and scholarship department, more than 17,000 students rely on grants. For some, this can significantly or completely reduce the amount owed to the school.

Graciela Vargas, 18, a freshman social welfare major, has all her expenses covered through the aid she received by filling out the Federal Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Students eligible for financial aid through the FAFSA may be offered multiple types of assistance, including the Pell Grant and federal loans, among others.

When the above methods aren't enough, many Matadors chose to work full-time to afford the costs of education and avoid debt. While these students do not accumulate debt, the full-time schedule of work and school can be stressful.

"I work six days a week for six-hour shifts," said Danielle Astraquillo, 18, a freshman undeclared major, who works at Mother's Nutritional Center on Sherman Way and Reseda. "(Working) sometimes gets in the way of studying."

Astraquillo said between school and work, there is little time for anything else.

"I go to school in the mornings, then straight to work, and then I stay up late to finish school work," she said. "Sometimes I'm not able to finish my

work (at night), so I come (to school) earlier to finish work."

Despite the heavy workload, Astraquillo said the benefit of being debt-free definitely outweighs the packed schedule.

teachers have been there

CSUN employees who graduated debt-free said the hard work it took to avoid taking out loans was worth the effort.

Tina Bertacchi-Love is a lecturer in English at CSUN who also received her bachelor's and master's degrees in English from the university in 1989 and 2003 respectively. She said she worked full-time to avoid debt.

"I waited tables," she said. "It was a lot of work. I was working 40 hours a week, and I often took 15 units a semester, but I paid my way through."

Bertacchi-Love said this full-time work schedule affected her performance at school.

"I graduated with (a lower) GPA, but what could you do?" she said. "I could have had all As if I didn't have to work so often."

Bertacchi-Love said working to pay for college was ultimately a positive experience in that it taught her how to avoid loans after she graduated.

"It was a great early lesson to not rely on credit cards and debt," she said. "It helps how you're going to function later in life."

See Debt free, page 3



iLLUstration By jaSmine mocHizuki / aSSiSt ant ViSuaL editor

Students continue to fight against cancer

the 24-hour relay for life fundraiser honors those who have been affected by the disease, funds toward research

MELANIE GABALL
DAILY SUNDIAL

The CSUN Colleges Against Cancer club will host their 8th annual Relay for Life event Saturday at 10 a.m. at North Field, in an attempt to raise \$50,000 for cancer research.

The event will last 24 hours and in teams (of any size), participants will camp

out and take turns walking or running around the field.

Joining a team costs \$10, but organizers of the event encourage each person to raise \$100, said Esmeralda Ramirez, CSUN Colleges Against Cancer treasurer and Relay for Life growth chair.

"The hard work and stress in the planning is worth it," Ramirez said. "It's really rewarding."

Club President Stefanie Ventura has been doing Relay for Life since age 16.

"When I came to college, I knew I wanted to find a club that did the event," Ventura said. "I believe doing the event is a personal choice. We participate because we have a loved one who has been touched by cancer. You get the feeling of having done something positive for a great cause."

Last year, the event raised \$40,000 dollars, and this year the club decided to raise their target to \$50,000, said Todd Miller, Colleges

Against Cancer member.

"If you fundraise \$100, you get a free t-shirt and free food," Miller said.

So far, the event has raised only \$10,900 and has 380 participants signed up on 49 teams as of Monday night, according to the Relay for Life of Cal State Northridge website.

"People usually wait until the last minute to fundraise, so we will probably get a lot more money by next week," Ramirez said.

In previous years, the

event was held in the main quad in front of the Oviatt Library. For security and accommodation reasons, they decided to move the event, said Ramirez, who has participated in the last two events.

"We decided to move it to try something new. It is more secure (at North Field) because it has only one entrance," Ramirez said. "Plus, there is more room to accommodate people and tents."

The club has been work-

ing hard to raise money by setting up tables on campus recruiting participants for the relay and having students decorate Luminaria bags.

"Luminaria bags are bags that people can write on and dedicate to a victim of cancer. We were collecting donations, while students decorated them," Miller said. "Unfortunately we aren't allowed to sell anything. We can only accept donations, which

See relay, page 7

CALENDAR OF EVENTS / April 2013

24

"Fagbug: A Lecture with Erin Davies"

Wh En: 4 p.m. (come earlier for photos with the Fagbug)

Wh Er E: USU- Lake View Terrace

Description: Learn how Erin Davies took a hate crime written on her Volkswagen Beetle and turned it into empowerment and something meaningful.

"Mexico panel Discussion"

Wh En: 7-9 p.m.

Wh Er E: Nordhoff Hall, Room 113

Description: Charles Bowdin, Sam Quinones, Julian Cardona and Alice Leora Briggs will be speaking about the crime and dangers in Juarez, Mexico.

25

"Whitsett seminar and Lecture"

Wh En: 8:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Wh Er E: Whitsett Room Sierra Hall 451

Description: The History department is holding free lectures, but reservations are required. Please call (818) 677-3054.

"Why religion is natural and science is not"

Wh En: 11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Wh Er E: USU- Northridge Center

Description: Professor Robert N. McCauley talks about how the mind deals with science and religion.

25 (CONT.)

"craft corner"

Wh En: 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Wh Er E: USU- Plaza del Sol

Description: Students can dip an egg in dye and decorate them as part of the craft activities.

"noontime concert"

Wh En: Noon-12:55 p.m.

Wh Er E: USU- Plaza del Sol

Description: Listen to live music from Le Paige and mingle with other students.

"LGBT Q coffee nights"

Wh En: 5-7 p.m.

Wh Er E: USU-Pride Center

Description: Free for anyone to enjoy light snacks and discuss LGBTQ topics.

"csun cinematheque"

Wh En: 7-9:45 p.m.

Wh Er E: Armer Screening Room

Description: Featuring Krzysztof Kieslowski's film "The Double Life of Veronique".

"cross-Examine the Judges"

Wh En: 7-9 p.m.

Wh Er E: USU- Grand Salon

Description: The department of political science will host a night where the public is free to come ask the Los Angeles Superior Court Judges questions about the justice system.

"Music night"

Wh En: 8-10 p.m.

Wh Er E: USU- Games Room

Description: This free event features live music by The Highbeams and pizza.

26

"Baseball vs pacific"

Wh En: 3-5 p.m.

Wh Er E: Baseball field

Description: Tickets are \$5 adults and \$3 for youth (17 and under), seniors (60+), CSUN faculty and staff, military and CSUN Alumni Association (ID required).

"noted Queer theorist Tim Dean, to speak about film Tom Jones"

Wh En: 4-7 p.m.

Wh Er E: Nordhoff Hall Room 113

Description: A film Tom Jones will play at 4 p.m. followed by discussion and exhibits.

"comedy: The Book of Liz"

Wh En: 7:30-2 a.m.

Wh Er E: VPAC's Experimental Theatre

Description: A show from David and Amy Sedaris. Tickets cost \$20 for general, \$17 for seniors, \$16 for employees and range \$9-15 for students.

"Matador nights"

Wh En: 9 p.m. - 1 a.m.

Wh Er E: USU

Description: A night of entertainment, food and fun for CSUN students only (ID required).

27 (CONT.)

"Baseball vs pacific"

Wh En: 1-3 p.m.

Wh Er E: Baseball field

Description: Tickets are \$5 adults and \$3 for youth (17&under), seniors (60+), CSUN faculty and staff, military, and CSUN Alumni Association (ID required).

"9th Annual Warrior Goddess Diva Event"

Wh En: 4-8 p.m.

Wh Er E: USU-Grand Salon

Description: An event celebrating Mother Earth with music and dance. This event is free to attend.

"spring Fashion show"

Wh En: 5-7 p.m.

Wh Er E: USU- Northridge

Description: A fashion show that is Alice in Wonderland themed and is named "Through the Looking Glass: A Fashion Wonderland." Tickets available at AS Box Office and Ticketmaster are \$10 for students with ID, \$15 for general, and \$30 VIP.

27

"9th Annual Warrior Goddess Diva Event"

Wh En: 4-8 p.m.

Wh Er E: USU-Grand Salon

Description: An event celebrating Mother Earth with music and dance. This event is free to attend.

SUBMIT YOUR EVENT

Go online to DAiLYsUnDiAL.coM to add your organization's upcoming event to the calendar for free.



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Monday – Thursday

10 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Friday

10 a.m. – 3 p.m.



Join us tomorrow at 4 p.m. at Lake View Terrace in the USU for **Fagbug with Erin Davies**, a lecture about how she turned a hate crime into an opportunity to inspire. Have your picture taken with the iconic VW Fagbug between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.



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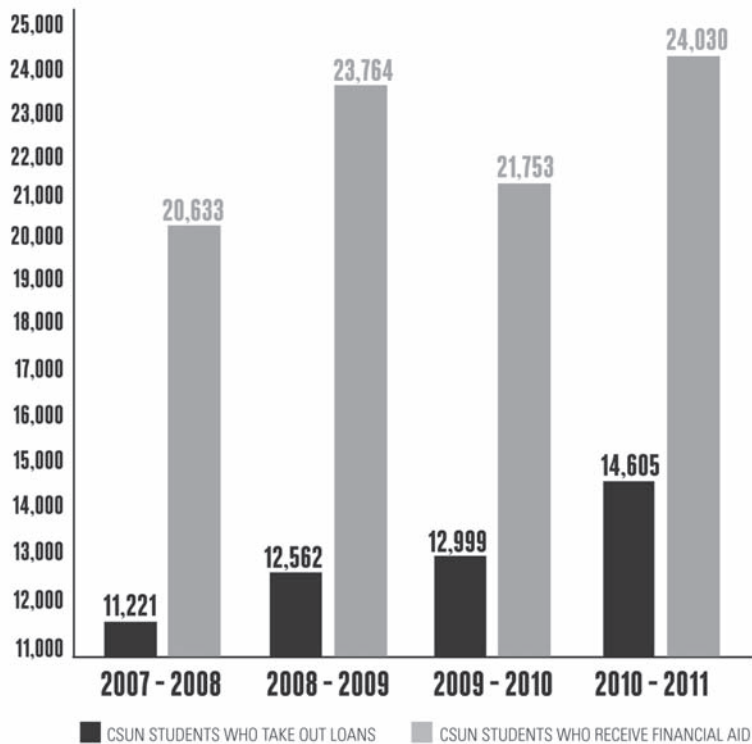
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LIVING THE
MATADOR
LIFE



BORROWERS VS. FINANCIAL AID RECIPIENTS



INFORMATION COURTESY OF CSUN FINANCIAL AID & SCHOLARSHIP DEPARTMENT 2011 ANNUAL REPORT AND GRAPH BY JASMIN MOC HIZUKI / ASSISTANT VISUAL EDITOR

Debt free

Continued from page 1

Bertacchi-Love said that students today, however, may have a harder time being able to work full-time and completely pay for school due to higher tuition rates.

"When I started in 1982, I think tuition was around \$450 for 12 units (a semester)," she said. "I don't know if I could wait enough tables now to (pay for school)."

Margeaux Gamboa-Wong,

a lecturer in Asian American studies and English, said her personal experiences taught her that a student should think ahead about repayment if he or she chooses to take out loans.

"Have a plan," she said. "Create some sort of budget, some idea of how much you're going to need every month."

Gamboa-Wong said creating a plan helped her discover she didn't need to take all the loans she was offered during her last semester at CSUN in the spring of 2012, studying for her master's degree in English.

"My unsubsidized loan offer was \$15,000, but then I thought, 'Do I need it?'" she said. "I turned down most of it. I only took enough to pay for tuition fees and books."

Students with loans

According to the financial aid and scholarship department, there were 14,605 CSUN students with loans in the 2010-11 school year. These students in debt vary in their concern for being able to pay loans back once they graduate.

Roxanne Lawrence, 23, a junior social welfare major,

said her field of study has contributed to her worries about paying off loans.

"I'm absolutely (worried about paying back loans) because it's hard to find a job in my field especially," Lawrence said. "Paying for grad school is going to be another problem. I'll probably have to take out loans for that."

Family experience has also increased her worries about paying back loans.

"My cousin took out a lot of money just for his undergraduate degree, and he doesn't

even use it," she said.

Lawrence said she is unsure about whether the loans will be worth it in years to come.

"I hope it will be worth it, or I'll be up to my eyeballs (in debt)," she said.

Other students who have taken out loans aren't as worried that they'll be able to pay those loans back.

Amanda Abarca, 21, a sophomore psychology major, said she plans for her salary when she starts her career to be enough to pay back her student loan debt.

"I'd like to be an academic

college counselor," Abarca said.

For students who take out loans, there are multiple options to pay them back and avoid default, according to Lili Vidal, director of the financial aid and scholarship department.

"There are plans that can be as low as zero dollar monthly payments or very low monthly payments, depending on the borrower's individual situation," Vidal said. "Borrowers need to work with their loan servicer to make sure they are in the correct repayment plan for their circumstances."

CAMPUS VOICE

John Saringo-Rodriguez / Daily Sundial

How do you manage your debt?



Su Sieamezcua

Chi Cana/o studies and sociology
"So far what I am taking advantage of is the free money, the scholarships. If I'm not awarded anymore grants or financial aid I work and build my savings."



Noah Hershner

history
"My parents pay for my tuition and whatever my parents cannot cover with their income I pay with loans."



Carol Paniagua

Psychology, Central American studies
"I pay my tuition in full every semester. A big portion comes from my income tax return. I save every penny that I earn from work and I refuse to take out loans."



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Friday: 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

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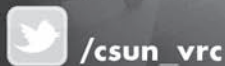
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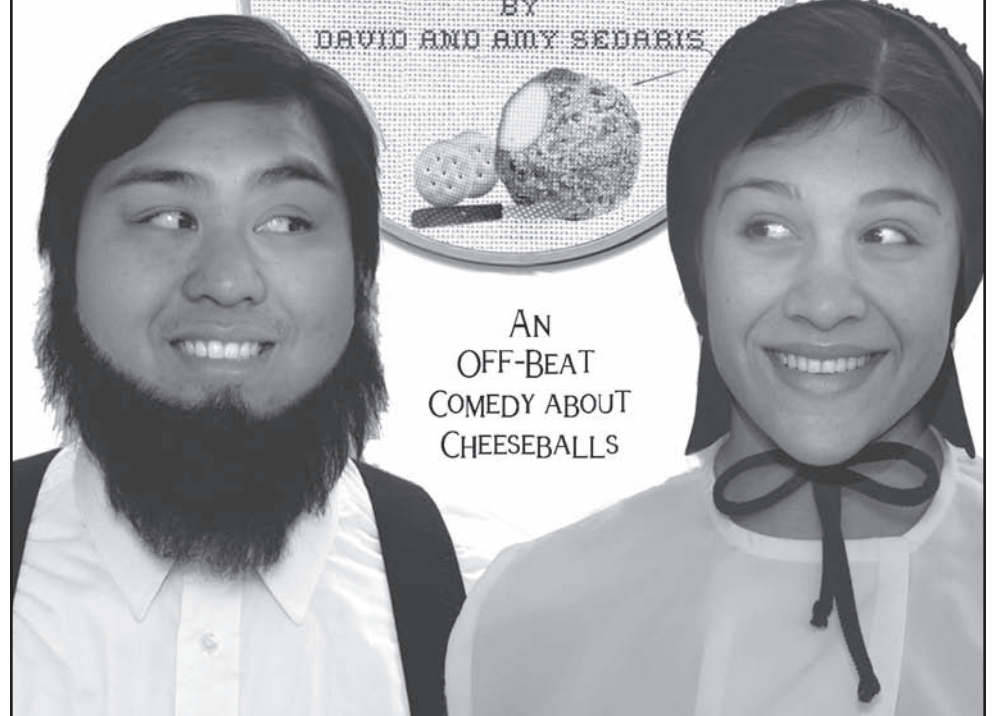
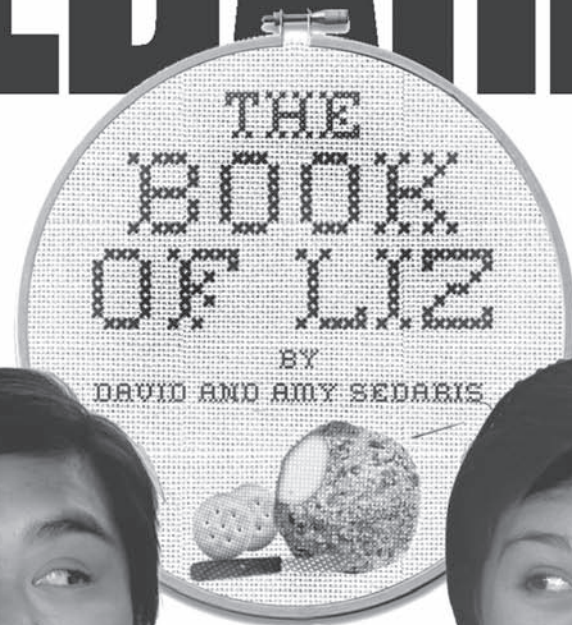
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LIVING THE MATADOR LIFE



SEDARIS



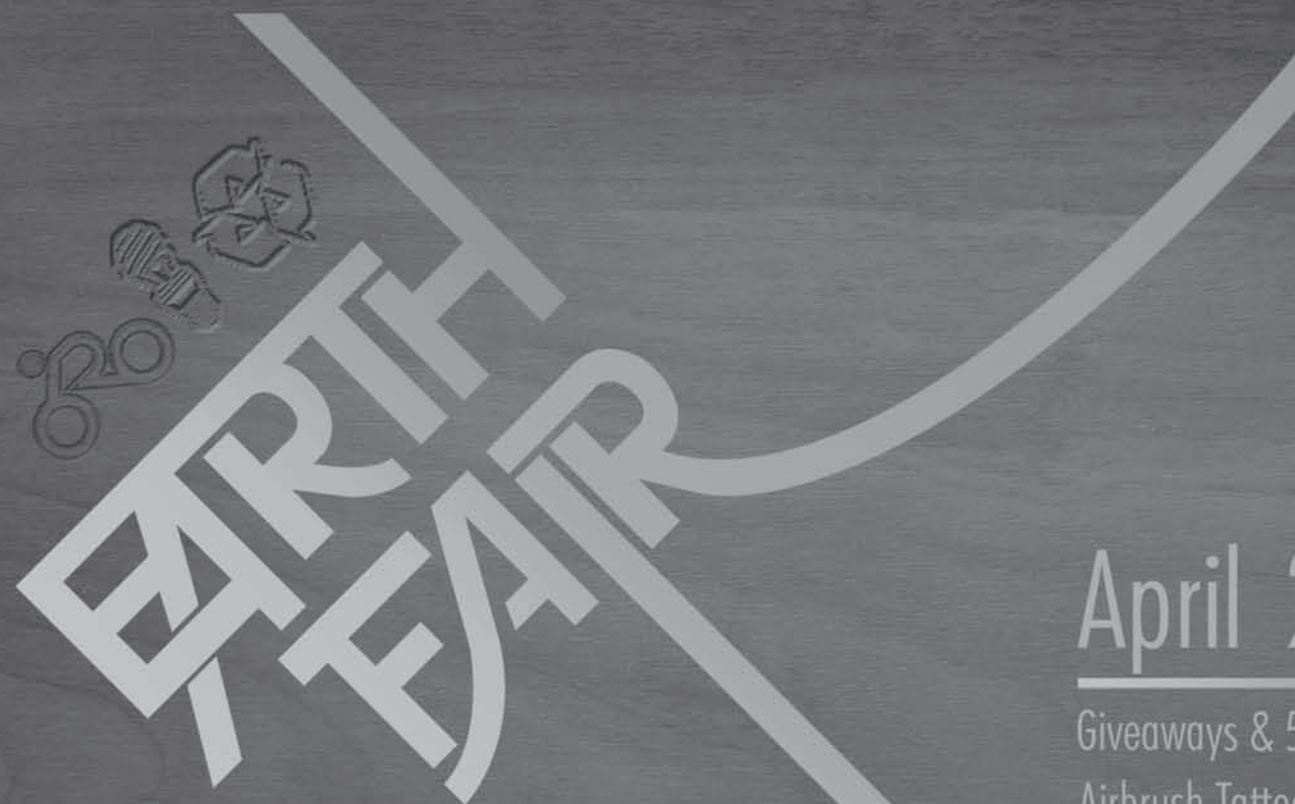
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8 am - 5 pm, M-F

Earth Fair, 4/25 only, Bayramian Hall Lawn
10 am - 4 pm

Incentive: swap for a free, reusable shopping bag
(supplies limited...or until run out of bags....have
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- Mobile Hot Spots
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speaker
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at the University of
California, Los Angeles
(UCLA), where she
was a faculty member
for thirty years,
training ESL teachers
and researchers in Applied
Linguistics. She has always been
interested in language teaching
methodology and in applying her
Ph.D. in Linguistics to the
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APRIL 23, 2013

OPINION@SUNDIAL.CSUN.EDU

Opinion

NCAA needs to share the wealth

KEVIN KIANI
DAILY SUNDIAL

Watching the March Madness tournament last month, I saw players who will never make it to the NBA take elbows to the face, dive for loose balls and take charges, all for no financial compensation.

Recently, the state of California passed Senate Bill 1525 which requires universities in the PAC-12 conference in Division I to pay student athletes' tuition, the full cost of attendance and an additional \$3,600 a year. I applaud this bill because it is a step in the direction of fairness, and hopefully more conferences will follow.

It makes sense that athletes should always play a sport for the love and not the money. However, when the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) recently struck a 14-year deal with Turner Sports and CBS through 2024 worth \$10.8 billion, I am forced to take the side of the players.

To put this into perspective, this deal is paying the NCAA close to \$11 billion for three weeks of basketball per year. That is an astronomical sum of money, and none of that reaches players as compensation.

Yet, they are the very reason the seats are filled, ratings are through the roof, and why working citizens collectively seem to call in sick toward the end of March.

The ludicrous and insulting comments from NCAA President Mark Emmert at a press conference in Los Angeles in 2011 show just how little the organization thinks of its prime source of profit.

"They are student-athletes. They are not our employees, they don't work for us," Emmert said. "They are our students, so we don't pay them."

It boggles the mind. It is easy for Emmert to say these insensitive comments when he is leaning back in his chair, watching the athletes perform on television.

These are the same players who were the catalysts for the

growth and popularity of college basketball and, in turn, generated revenue for these schools.

Student athletes are employees, and probably the best employees for the NCAA. Outside of what they do on the court and field, athletes are making money for retailers and the university just by being popular and likeable.

According to IMG, a marketing and brand management company representing the NCAA, consumers spent \$4.5 billion on college merchandise in 2011. This merchandise includes videos games, hats, jerseys and other forms of clothing.

The NCAA is using the age-old excuse that these players are amateurs and don't warrant financial compensation.

I must be confused, because the last time I checked, amateur athletes didn't play in multi-million dollar stadiums or have their faces on the cover of widely popular video games.

Amateur basketball is what you see at the rec center on Sunday mornings, not on national television in front of sold out crowds.

It's simple. Players are being exploited while the fat-cats at the NCAA are watching the cash flow in and coaches are seeing their salaries exponentially increase. According to Forbes, in 2006, 42 major college football coaches made at least \$1 million. Today, those same coaches make at least \$2 million and 13 of them are receiving a base salary of more than \$3 million.

According to the same report, the average annual salary for head coaches at major colleges is up 12 percent from last season and up 70 percent from 2006. What does this all mean?

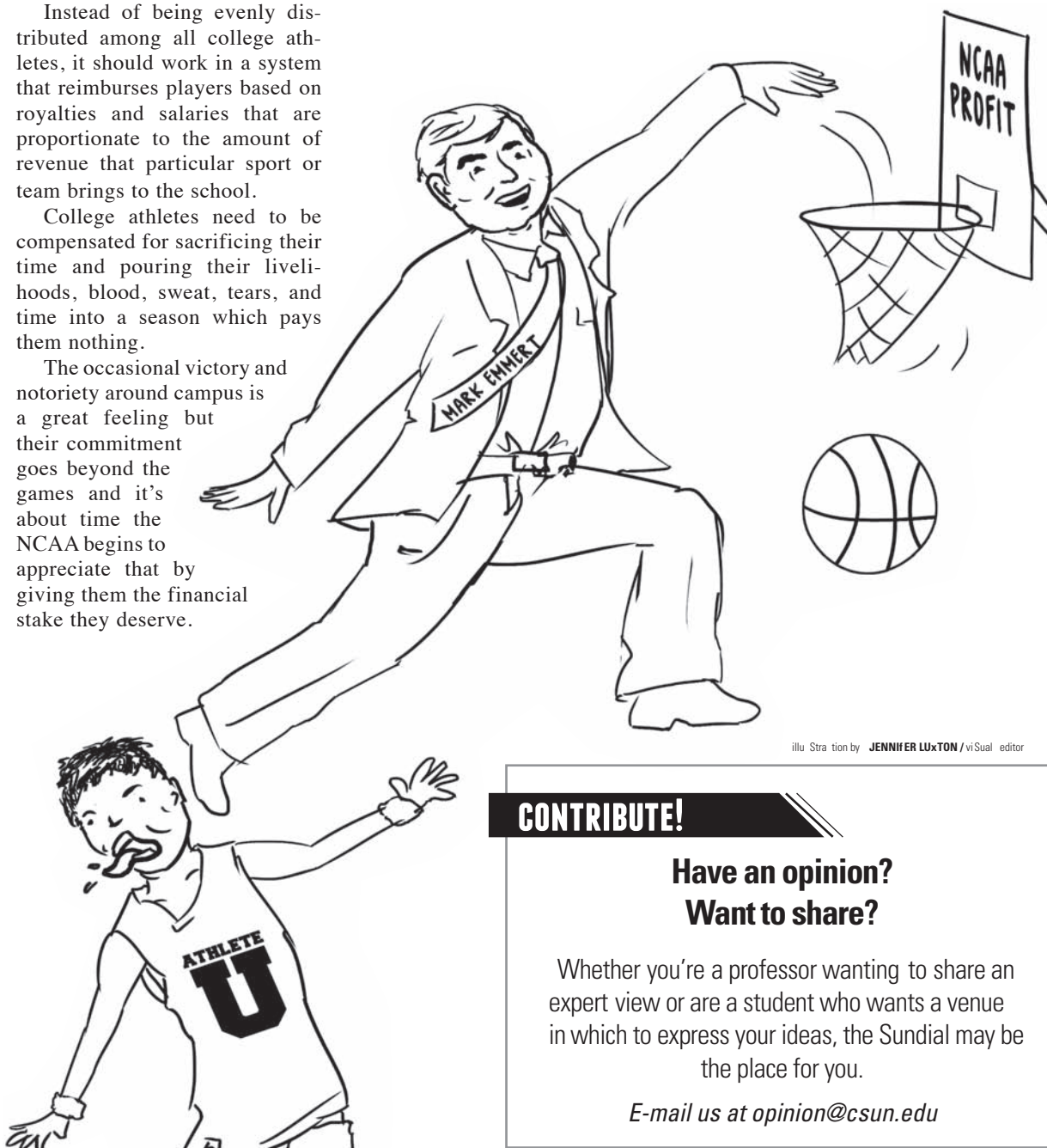
It means that the rich are getting richer because of lucrative television deals while the players are left by the wayside with no slice of the pie.

I believe in a system that pays athletes royalties for jersey sales or anything else that has their name or likeness on it. The amount of time and effort that these student athletes put into their respective sport requires some sort of compensation, especially when their name is on merchandise that is being sold in such high amounts.

Instead of being evenly distributed among all college athletes, it should work in a system that reimburses players based on royalties and salaries that are proportionate to the amount of revenue that particular sport or team brings to the school.

College athletes need to be compensated for sacrificing their time and pouring their livelihoods, blood, sweat, tears, and time into a season which pays them nothing.

The occasional victory and notoriety around campus is a great feeling but their commitment goes beyond the games and it's about time the NCAA begins to appreciate that by giving them the financial stake they deserve.



CONTRIBUTE!

Have an opinion? Want to share?

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POLL OF THE DAY: MULTIPLE CHOICE

QUESTION: Should athletes get paid?

YES

NO

Join the discussion in the
Opinions section at
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Courtesy of Alex Delgado

CSUN's College Against Cancer club will host the 8th annual Relay for Life fundraiser this Saturday, April 27.

rela y

Continued from page 1

makes it harder."

During the Relay for Life Luminaria Ceremony at 10 p.m. votive candles are lit inside of the personalized bags to honor those who have lost their lives to cancer, according to Relay for Life.

"If someone can't make

the event they can donate money or dedicate a Luminaria bag for \$10 online to help out," Miller said.

This week, the club will be taking flyers to all departments and setting up mouse pads in the USU computer lab in a last effort to advertise the event, Ramirez said.

To those planning on attending the event, relayforlife.org suggests bringing basic necessities such

as coolers with food and drinks, pillows, sleeping bags and tents, campsite decorations, sunscreen and clothing appropriate for the weather. The event will go on rain or shine.

"Right now we are focusing on growing our teams before the event. Anyone can sign up and join a team," Ramirez said.

People will be able to show up on the morning of the event and join a team.

PREVIEW

Matador Nights returns with a New York theme

The University Student Union is putting on Matador Nights this Friday, April 26 from 9 p.m. until 1 a.m. in the Plaza del Sol, Grand Salon, and Northridge Center.

The theme for this semester's Matador Nights is New York City, complete with a Coney Island carnival-style atmosphere that includes a ferris wheel, round-up ride and a skating rink.

The event will also have carnival attractions such as a photo booth, glitter tattoos, caricature artists and an arcade. Free food will be provided including hot dogs, caramel apples, pizza and snow cones.

The event will also feature an Atlantic City casino, where participants can play Texas Hold 'Em and craps to win MataMoney, American Express gift cards, and iTunes gift cards.

Music will be provided by DJ Felli Fel. Felli Fel has produced platinum selling records, and worked with artists such as 50 Cent, Chris Brown and Akon.

Matador Nights is free to CSUN students with a current student I.D. Tickets are available at the Associated Students Ticket Office, as well as the USU and the Satellite Student Union.

Matador Nights is open to CSUN students only. No guests outside of the CSUN student body are permitted.

—JASON GALLAHER

MAIN EVENT

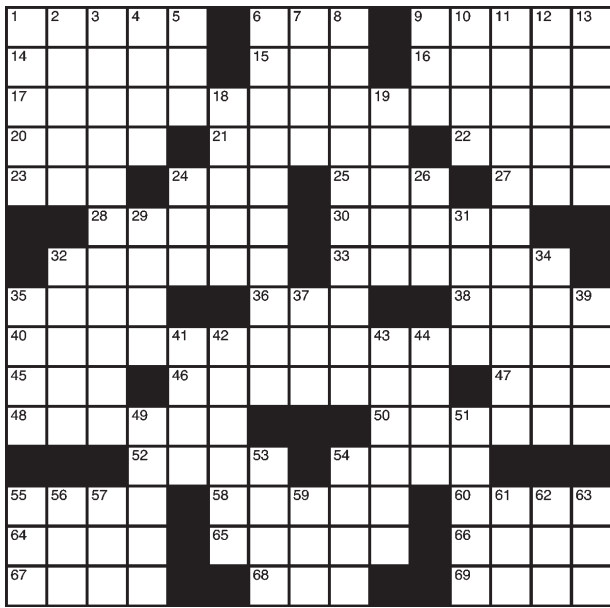
When : Saturday, April 27 at 10:00 a.m.
Where : North Field
Why: Raise money for cancer research and awareness

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

ACROSS

- 1 Pink drink, briefly
- 6 Arson aftermath
- 9 Hutt crime lord of sci-fi
- 14 According to
- 15 Grazing area
- 16 Light purple
- 17 O'Neill drama set in Harry Hope's saloon
- 20 Tailor's target
- 21 Many a Beethoven sonata ender
- 22 Popeye's ___ Pea
- 23 Jabber on and on
- 24 ___ in November
- 25 Likable prez
- 27 More than feasts (on)
- 28 With 30-Across, drama based on '70s presidential interviews
- 30 See 28-Across
- 32 Aspiring doc's course
- 33 Walked alongside one's master
- 35 On the Pacific
- 36 Fertilizable cells
- 38 "Just ___": "Be right there!"
- 40 Drama about Henry II and Eleanor of Aquitaine
- 45 "Friendly skies" co.
- 46 Greatly feared
- 47 Comstock Lode find
- 48 Fred of "My Cousin Vinny"
- 50 Oozed
- 52 With 54-Across, "Viva La Vida" rock group, and what 17-, 28-/30- and 40-Across each is?
- 54 See 52-Across
- 55 Pottery "pet"
- 58 Smooth transition
- 60 Pastoral poem
- 64 Invisible vibes
- 65 More than most
- 66 Wine tasting criterion
- 67 Quilting parties
- 68 Corrida cheer
- 69 Neuter, horsewise



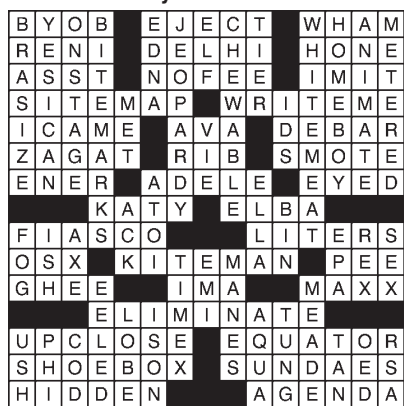
By John Verel and Jeff Chen

4/23/13

DOWN

- 1 Slyly spiteful
- 2 Irish actor Milo
- 3 Say what you will
- 4 Golda of Israel
- 5 "The Lord of the Rings" baddie
- 6 Answering the penultimate exam question, say
- 7 Actor Connery
- 8 How lovers walk
- 9 "Jersey Girl" actress, to fans
- 10 Goals
- 11 Emulated Mt. St. Helens?
- 12 With ___ breath: expectantly
- 13 Pains' partner
- 18 Answering machine button
- 19 Journalist Roberts
- 24 Name, in Nimes
- 26 Program file suffix
- 29 Not counterfeit
- 31 "The Good Earth" mother
- 32 "Nonsense!"
- 34 Tractor manufacturer

Thursday's Puzzle Solved



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4/19/13

- 35 Give ___: yank
- 37 By way of
- 39 Believability on the street, slangily
- 41 Driver's license fig.
- 42 Threat words
- 43 Actor Snipes
- 44 Thought
- 49 "March Madness" games, informally
- 51 Sizing up
- 53 "Whip It" band
- 54 Like the driven snow
- 55 Red wine choice, for short
- 56 Tint
- 57 Wrath
- 59 Salon goop
- 61 Mommy deer
- 62 Initials on L'Homme fragrance
- 63 Took the reins

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FOR RENT

Nice neighborhood single house with swim pool and large front back yard. For more information, visit www.dailysundial.com/classifieds, Listing ID 52640658

Solution to today's sudoku

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

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sudoku

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

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.

APRIL 23, 2013

Sports

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COLUMN

Lillard unchallenged as ROTY

Portland's Damian Lillard stands alone as this season's Rookie of the Year with his averages of 19 points and 6.5 assists



courtesy of MCT

Blazers guard Damian Lillard has proven himself this year by joining Allen Iverson, Damon Stoudamire and Oscar Robertson on the list of rookies who have averaged at least 19 points and six assists.

BALLIN' WITH BOB



BoB gar Cia
DAILY su NDIAL

The NBA season's Rookie of the Year award is going to go to point guard Damian Lillard of the Portland Trail Blazers.

This past NBA draft, the sixth overall pick has by far had the most impressive season among all the rookies this season. Lillard is the swept all six NBA Western Conference Rookie of the Month awards, which makes him the eighth player in league history to do so, joining top-tier players

such as David Robinson, LeBron James, Carmelo Anthony, Blake Griffin and Chris Paul.

Lillard was ranked first among rookies with his averages of 19 points and 6.5 assists per game. His 19 points per game ranks him 13th in scoring in the league. These numbers make him the fourth rookie to average at least 19 points and six assists per game for season, putting him on another list filled with all-time greats: Allen Iverson, Damon Stoudamire and Oscar Robertson.

His durability allowed him to start every game this season as he led all rookies in minutes played at 38.6 per game, which is also third among all NBA players. Notably, he's also the first rookie to lead the league in total minutes played (3,167) in a single season when Elvin Hayes accomplished this feat in the 1968-69 season.

His 185 made 3-pointers this season broke the Portland Trail Blazer franchise record of 181 set by Damon Stoudamire in the 2004-05 regular season and the rookie record of 161 made 3-pointers Golden State Warriors point guard Stephen Curry's three pointers, which was set in the 2009-2010.

Lastly, in this season's opening regular season game, Lillard's 23 points and 11 assists made him the third rookie in NBA history along with Oscar Robertson and Isiah Thomas to record at least 20 points and 10 assists in their NBA debuts.

In his game against the Los Angeles Lakers on April 10, Lillard became the first rookie since LeBron James to score 38 points and tally 9 assists in a single game. He has also scored at least 20 points in 42 games and at least 30 points in five games this year, which include 30 points against the Denver Nuggets, 35 against the San Antonio Spurs, 37 against the Golden State Warriors, 33 against the Miami Heat and his previously-mentioned 38 against the Lakers.

His outstanding play also increased Portland's win total by five to 33 this season despite the team dealing with numerous injuries, and for a portion of the season, he had his team in the mix for a playoff spot.

Lillard's record breaking rookie season, along with his durability to play and start every game this season puts him above and beyond the rest of the rookies in the NBA.

COLUMN

The non-statistical case for Gasol

Despite averaging only 1.7 blocks, Gasol's high defensive IQ and toughness make him the NBA's top defender

KEVIN'S COURT



kevin kiani
DAILY su NDIAL

Marc Gasol is hardly the flashiest player in the game, but his intelligence and his instincts make him the most feared big man on the defensive end. Although his 1.7 blocks per game and his 7.8 rebounds per game are hardly enough to get anyone's attention, it's what he does off the ball that pegs him as this season's clear-cut

Defensive Player of the Year.

First off, Gasol anchors the Memphis Grizzlies defense, which is the number one defensive team in the league, only allowing a league-best 89.3 points per game. His presence is definitely felt on the court as the Grizzlies allowed 95.4 points per 100 possessions when Gasol is on the court, and 102.2 points per 100 possessions when he is off the court.

Stats do not tell the whole story when it comes to Gasol. One of the biggest misconceptions when it comes to judging a good defender is how many blocks that player has. If blocks were the deciding factor, Larry Sanders, averaging 2.8 blocks a game and 9.8 rebounds per game, would take home the honors. In fact, Gasol is 23rd in the league in rebounds per game and 12th in the league in blocks per game.

What does not show up in the stats when it comes to Gasol is the amount of shots that are contested and altered

as a result of the seven-foot Spaniard roaming the paint. Gasol's defense and paint presence were what enabled the Grizzlies to stay afloat and secure a playoff spot in the Western Conference after Rudy Gay was traded to the Toronto Raptors.

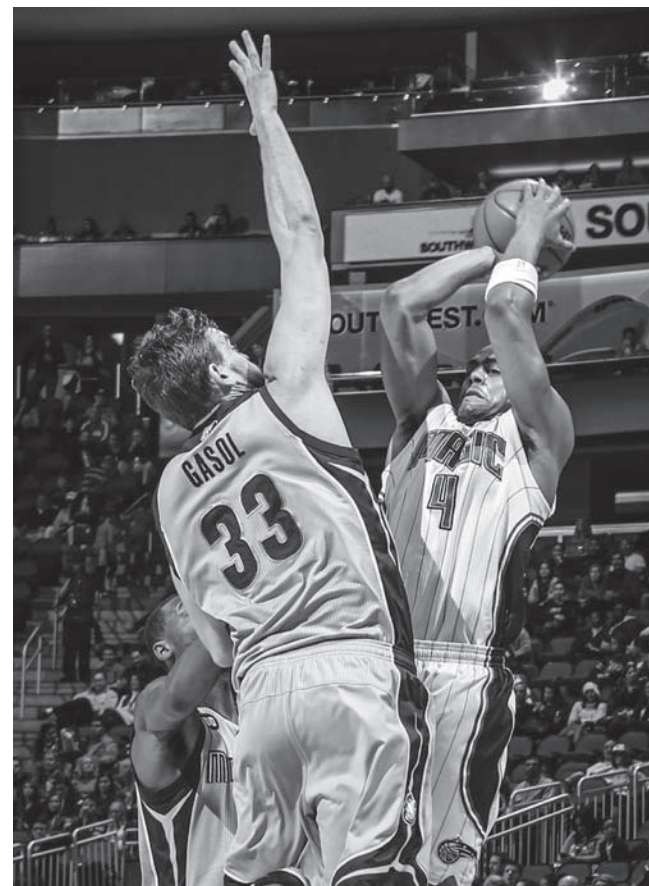
With a league full of athletic freaks of nature at the center position including Javale McGee, Deandre Jordan, and Dwight Howard, Gasol does not even compare. What he lacks in athleticism, he makes up for in natural defensive intuition. Gasol is by far the smartest center in the league with the ability to read, react, and is almost always in the right place at the right time ready to take a charge or force a guard to change his mind about entering the paint.

The Grizzlies as a whole have plenty of great defensive players such as Tony Allen and Conley, who are both known as nightmare matchups, but Gasol is the shot-caller and vocal leader

of that defense. In a current NBA landscape where alley-oops, athleticism and scoring sells tickets and fills seats, defense is not necessarily appreciated as it slows the pace of the game and takes away from its aesthetics.

Gasol is old-school and a legitimate game-changer on both ends of the floor. He is able to switch on pick and rolls and somehow is able to slide his feet far enough to cut off a penetrating guard who expects to fly right by him. With Gasol's stifling post defense, head coach Lionel Hollins isn't forced to send a second defender to double team post players, which could potentially yield wide open shots from late rotations.

It's difficult for the casual NBA fan to get excited about defense, but to just watch Gasol on the defensive end of the floor is an absolute clinic. Gasol has been recognized as an All-Star, but it's about time his relentless and underrated defense has been honored.



courtesy of MCT

Grizzlies center Marc Gasol (33) extends to challenge a jumpshot by Magic guard Aaron Afflalo.