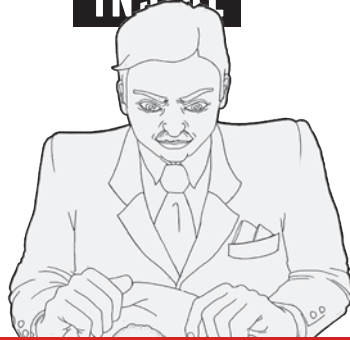


CFA oppose legislation that mandates online courses

CicLAvia hosts event with longest route in the organization's history



There is a need for regulating genetically modified food

NBA playoffs will be dominated by Thunder and Miami

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ALUMNA LEADS YOUNG AUTHORS

Inspired by Louis Sachar novel, third graders create a class book set for publication in May

MELANIE GABALL
DAILY SUNDIAL

When CSUN education professor Joan Baca visited a class of third graders at Wisdom Academy for Young Scientists in South Central, she opened her lesson with a guessing game.

"I'm thinking of a word that starts with 'S,' and that word has something to do with you and it has something to do with your teacher. What do you think that is?" she said.

She gave them clues, and eventually they determined the word was "special."

Their teacher, Kaylie Gomez, or "Miss Gomez" as she's known by her students,



CHARLIE KAJMO / SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

Third graders from the Wisdom Academy for Young Scientists head to the Education building for an introduction on sociology. CSUN alumna Kaylie Gomez took her students to tour the campus on Wednesday.

See **BOOKS**, page 3

Food to feed the hungry

Restaurants donate leftovers

JESSICA BULLOCK
DAILY SUNDIAL

A group of CSUN students who answered a teacher's challenge are holding a food drive and fundraiser to tackle local hunger issues.

Mark Abelson, a social work professor, asked one of his classes to fulfill an assignment by choosing an advocacy issue relevant to the San Fernando Valley and taking action by raising awareness in the community.

Michaela Chapman, 25, a graduate majoring in social work, and a group of classmates, decided to focus on hunger issues. They contacted several restaurants and food businesses and asked them to donate either non-perishable foods or money to the Valley Food Bank in North Hollywood, the closest food bank to their target area, Northridge.

"The food donation action is designed to raise awareness on campus about the number of people who do not have enough to eat, and the strain the recession has placed on food banks/centers," Abelson said.

Although turned down by a handful of restaurants, Chapman was able to set up a fundraising event with Pizza Hut. Pizza Hut will donate 20 percent of its sales made on April 19 and 20 from 6 to 10 p.m. as long as the customer provides the correlative fundraising flyers, which have been distributed to students on campus and com-

See **DONATIONS**, page 4

Healing with horses

Program aims to develop life lessons through interactions

MEGAN DISKIN
DAILY SUNDIAL

It's just past 9:30 a.m. on Monday at the Healing Equine Ranch in Agoura Hills as eight women are led through a morning meditation. The distant rumble of horse hooves permeate the ranch. The women take

deep breaths in and out to prepare their minds for the day's activities.

The meditation is part of Horse Mornings, a program offered at the ranch that focuses on the benefits of the interaction between humans and horses. By slowing down and getting away from the fast-paced and high-tech world, participants of the program can develop skills and awareness that can enhance their personal relationships, business relationships, self

esteem, communication and leadership qualities.

On the first day of the program, participants observe horses in their natural herd setting. After identifying the qualities of a good herd leader, participants choose which horse they want to work with that day. Then they build a relationship with that horse and start learning ways of communicating with it.

"Horses are born follow-

See **HORSES**, page 7



KEN SCARBORO/SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

Terry Carroll, a certified equine specialist, places a bridle on Willow at the end of one of the Horse Mornings sessions.

CULTURECLASH

LET'S START A
MUSICAL RIOT



CFA opposes bill offering online courses

Association does not want SB 520 to mandate classes that could affect separate university systems' curriculums

MEGAN DISKIN
DAILY SUNDIAL

A California Senate legislator has proposed a bill that would allow more online classes for students in public higher education schools, but he is getting no support from the California State University faculty union.

Senate President pro Tem Darrell Steinberg (D-Sacramento) has proposed a new Senate bill which would create a list of the 50 most oversubscribed lower division courses in the CSU, University of California and California Community College systems which are needed for program completion, transfer requirements or general education requirements and allow them to be taught online.

"The California Master Plan for Higher Education promised open access to all, yet thousands of students are struggling to complete their degrees and going deeper in college debt because there simply aren't enough class-

room seats available in the courses they need," Steinberg said.

SB 520, co-authored by former college faculty member and Assemblymember Cristina Garcia (D-Bell Gardens), states that the online courses would only be available to students who are unable to enroll in the impacted classes.

The California Faculty Association, the union which represents all CSU faculty members, has expressed concerns regarding bills endorsing online education and has issued a statement outlining those concerns.

"While CFA believes that online education can be a successful mode of instruction for some students, and while we wholeheartedly support the goal of expanding access to higher education in California, we have deep concerns about some proposed legislative solutions that mandate online instruction or call for blanket standardization of curriculum across a variety of institutions," the CFA said in a statement.

Junior sociology major Ryan Kendrick, 22, said

that he is not completely in support of the bill either.

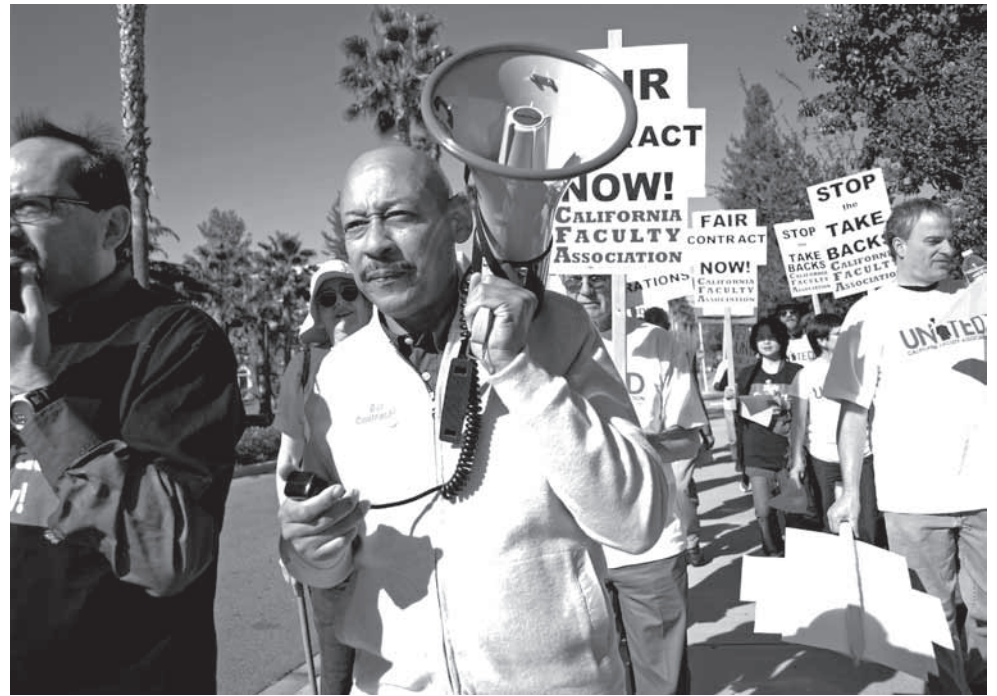
"You don't have to come to class, but it's hard to learn (online) because you have to teach yourself. It makes it harder," Kendrick said.

The statement also said that after years of cuts to the CSU system the funding from Proposition 30 should go directly to the CSU and the "core mission of education" instead of to private vendors.

Nate Thomas, CSUN's CFA chapter president, said that the CFA wants to ensure that students get the same quality of teaching online as they do in a classroom.

"There are pre-fabricated courses from private owners that are not very academic or have the same rigor, like DeVry. The faculty needs to be involved in which courses are appropriate or not. Quality courses are not cake courses, they are taught by faculty who are experts," Thomas said.

SB 520 states that a review of the online courses would be done by a nine-member college faculty council comprised of three



FILE PHOTO / DAILY SUNDIAL

Professor Nate Thomas, president of CSUN's CFA chapter, wants students to experience a quality education through online courses, but worries about the mandated courses affecting curriculums.

members from the Academic Senates of the CSU, UC and CCC systems.

The council will review the course by considering how or if a student can interact with their instructor, if the course has a proctored exam to ensure academic integrity and if the course has content recommended by the American

Council on Education.

Freshman communication disorders major Heidi Vacaflor, 19, said that she doesn't usually like online classes and prefers the interaction with her professor.

"Both sides have a really good point. Classes are crowded, especially at CSUs," Vacaflor said. "We

need those classes."

The CFA statement said that research has shown that online instruction is not ideal for every student and doesn't offer them the greatest chance of success.

"One size does not fit all," Thomas said. "Nothing can replace one-on-one interaction with a professor and a student."

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BOOKS

Continued from page 1

graduated from CSUN in 2011 with a multiple-subject teaching credential and a bachelor's degree in liberal studies. She has been a teacher at Wisdom Academy for one year and already has her students on their way to becoming published authors.

Wisdom Academy is a charter school located on the property of an old church. There are a total of nine classrooms on the campus (which is one of two campuses). The school is run by Los Angeles County and is not part of LAUSD, according to Gomez.

"If you drove past it you probably wouldn't even notice it aside from the little bit of paint that says the name of the school," Gomez said.

According to Gomez, classes are generally separated by improvised versions of walls, lacking the traditional structure of most schools.

"My classroom doesn't look like a traditional classroom. Its one big room with partitions and that's the only thing separating the class-

rooms. We don't even have a door to our room," Gomez said.

Gomez and her class are having an original book published in May inspired by Louis Sachar's "Sideways Stories from Wayside School."

"We read a lot in my class and every time we are done reading we do some type of writing prompt," Gomez said. "We read the Wayside School books and the first one is about this wacky school and each chapter is about a student in 'Mrs. Jules Class.' So for our writing assignment we made a class book and they each got to be a chapter."

Gomez said she didn't initially think of getting it published, but the more reading and writing the kids did, the more inspired she got to send their book to magazines for publication. After most magazines told her that it was too long, she decided to research different book publishers.

"We found a publisher (Outskirts Press) that was reasonable and we raised the money," Gomez said. "All of the kids brought in something. Sometimes it would just be a dollar or 50 cents but I would say, 'Hey, it's one more dollar

than we had yesterday.'"

Each of the students wrote a chapter describing one exaggerated thing about themselves.

"Its really funny," Gomez said. "One of my students said he had really long hair that you could jump rope with. One of them said they had really big ears that could hear into other classrooms and then report back. They are so ridiculous they couldn't actually happen, but they are really fun to read. The inspiration came from (the Wayside School) books but they all came up with their own original idea."

The book is scheduled to come out in May and will be available for purchase on Amazon.com and Barnes & Noble. All of the proceeds will go to the school, according to Gomez.

Baca was Gomez's professor in the interdisciplinary teaching credential program at CSUN and has remained in close contact with the alumna. She visited the students in Gomez's classroom, which lead to them becoming pen pals.

"They are a special group and I bonded with them almost immediately," Baca said. "They had wonderful openness that young children have, and yet they live in an environment that is very challenging."

Baca wrote a letter to the students after her lesson, thanking them for having her, and it began a string of correspondence between the class



CHARLIE KAJIO / SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

Third graders from the Wisdom Academy for Young Scientists learn to make compasses in biology professor Maria Elena Zavala's class.

and Baca, said Gomez.

"They write to her mainly about college, saying they know if they work hard they can go to college," Gomez said. "They even say they want to come to CSUN."

Gomez mentioned in an email that it would be nice if the kids could come to CSUN for a field trip, said Baca.

Being an ex-principal for 17 years at an elementary school in Burbank, Baca said she had experience coordinating events for students. She got in contact with several school administrators including President Dianne Harrison and the Dean of the College of Education, Michael Eisner.

Through her efforts she

was able to get CSUN to fund a bus to transport the class to campus for a field trip, yesterday.

"I thought, wouldn't it be a wonderful program for the university to recognize teachers in very challenging environments who are making a difference," Baca said. "This might be a model for doing something like that. There are a lot of them out there. It's a win-win for the the university and the children because she's one of our own and it will open doors for the children."

The class visited several different parts of campus throughout the day, including Gomez's freshman dorm

and the Bianchi Planetarium.

During their visit the students explained that Gomez is great at telling jokes and even teaches them Zumba and Yoga.

"She makes funny jokes and likes to dance in the classroom," said Sasha, one of Gomez's students. "But sometimes she embarrasses us when she dances in front of other people."

Baca helped supervise the field trip throughout the day.

"(Gomez) is incredible as a teacher, and what's wonderful is that she's one of ours," Baca said. "The environment and the challenge in which she teaches is not the valley. It's South Central."

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PREVIEW

CicLAvia hosts 'To the Sea' event

CicLAvia will be holding "To the Sea" this Sunday April 21 from 10-3 p.m., which is the first event of the year for the organization.

The event is a 15 mile open road bike ride from the streets of downtown Los Angeles to Venice boulevard near Venice beach. It will "transforming Venice Boulevard and downtown Los Angeles streets into a car-free, linear park for strolling, biking, playing, and exploring the city from a new perspective."

It is a free of charge to participate in the event and is open to the public. "To the Sea" will be longest route in the organization's in its three year history in Los Angeles.

There will be several hubs along the route that provide information and services to the participants in the events.

Since its arrival to Los Angeles, CicLAvia is one of the most popular bicycling events in the Los Angeles County and draws more than 100,000 participants.

The event aims to get people to leave their cars and participate by cycling, running or walking through the 15 mile route.

—BOB GARCIA

DONATIONS

Continued from page 1

munity members, by those working on the project.

According to Chapman, Pizza Hut already contributes to the the Salvation Army and donates their surplus food to local food kitchens.

Some of the restaurants that turned Chapman down include Burger King, Subway, Jamba Juice and Panda Express. The majority of these chains were unable to get approval from their corporate offices in time to participate.

William Hernandez, director for the Valley Food Bank, has worked with local public schools, Ralphs, Target and local farmers' markets collecting donations, food and clothing.

According to Hernandez, the money donated from

Pizza Hut will go to purchasing products that the food bank currently does not have. This typically includes cereal, rice, beans and baby food.

"Without a concerted effort to educate the public about food waste more people will go hungry, a situation particularly deleterious to children's development," Abelsson said.

Chapman's group is also educating local restaurants on current national efforts to reduce food waste with online programs that can help them better plan their food needs.

In addition to the restaurant collaboration, Chapman and her group have set up six food donation boxes throughout campus. There are two at Arbor Grill, one in the social work office in Sierra Hall, two in the Sierra Center and one in Geronimo's.

They are requesting non-



CHARLIE KAIJO / SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

Masters of social work students, Adriana Rubio, Patricia Franco, Elizabeth White and Michaela Chapman by the social work office in Sierra Hall. They set up five food collection boxes on campus.

perishable foods such as canned goods, dry pastas, rice, flour and sugar. Collected items will be distributed equally to food pantries throughout Los Angeles. Their last day for donations is April 25.

Other project topics being worked on by students in Chapman's class include homelessness among veterans, animal population control and prisoners' rights.

"This class is about analyzing policies that impact

urban families across a wide-range of issue areas the students' choose, and learning how to advocate for policies and actions that promote social justice and the well-being of these families," Abelsson said.

Volunteers to harvest fruits for local non-profits

BOB GARCIA
DAILY SUNDIAL

The Institute for Sustainability and Food Forward are holding its

third annual event to harvest fruit at the campus orange grove in honor of Earth Day on Sunday.

The harvesting will be at the orange grove, located between Nordhoff Street and Lindley Avenue, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event is open to the public and par-

ticipants must sign up through the Food Forward's website.


The picked fruit will be donated to SOVA (a Hebrew word for eat and satisfied), which is a community food and resource program with the Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles,

Meeting Each Need with Dignity (MEND), a non-profit organization that provides clothes and food to those in need, and the Valley Food Bank.

Two different shift volunteers can sign up for either the morning shift from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. or the afternoon shift from


1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Volunteers are advised to wear closed-toe shoes, hats and sunblock.

Anyone interested in volunteering for the harvest can do so at Food Forward's website and require volunteers sign up for three other picking events.



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CULTURE CLASH

GRABBING YOUR ATTENTION SINCE... NOW

THE BEATLES:



I'm sure you have all heard their song "Revolution," released in 1968 as the B-side on their single "Hey Jude." The lyrics, as you can imagine, are about changing the world.

NO MORE SHITTY MUSIC!

Political music was once mainstream...so what happened?

BOB DYLAN:



Legendary Bob Dylan, who continually rejected the title of protest singer, has written dozens of songs that are forever tied with the protest-era of the '60s. "The Times They Are A-Changin'" was released in 1964 off the album with the same title. Rolling Stones magazine in 2004 named it song number 54 as part of the top 500 greatest songs.

GRANDMASTER FLASH:



Although it's credited as being done by Grandmaster Flash of the hip-hop pioneer group Grandmaster Flash and the Furious Five, in reality it was another member of the group, Melle Mel, who wrote one of the group's most famous songs "White Lines (Don't Don't Do it)" released in 1983. The song is a call against cocaine and its destructive impact both on the individual and for the larger community. This is one of the earliest examples of conscious hip-hop.

LUPE FIASCO:



Music's last hope? Perhaps so. Lupe Fiasco has been a consistent socially conscious rapper. His 2011 release, *Lasers*, produced several hits, one of which actually landed in the 89 spot on the Billboard Top 100 in 2011, "Words I Never Said."

LUIS RIVAS SENIOR REPORTER

Once upon a time music meant something.

Harsh, huh?

Peaking in the '60s and '70s, protest music, music based on social justice, a call to change, a righteous condemnation of the Vietnam War, a ballad in support of Nelson Mandela and against the apartheid government of South

Africa, songs about overcoming racism, sexism, division—all this, all of it, was here in the U.S. And it was mainstream. It wasn't some underground movement where DJ's were rounded up and arrested for broadcasting subversive verse. Or a marginalized style of music that only appealed to a handful of people.

No, we're talking about top 40 hits. Music that, even currently, is still listened to, their records are still being purchased (or downloaded as pirated mp3s).

No, we're talking about The Mamas and the Poppas, Joan Boaz, Bob Dylan, Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young, The Byrds, Phil Ochs, John Lennon, The Beatles, Pete Seeger, The

Doors and a list long enough to bring any contemporary musician to his or her knees in shame and embarrassment.

So what happened?

How did the Billboard top 40 of 1967—and well into the 70s, really — go from featuring groups that were known for their social commentary songs, such as The Beatles, the Mamas and the Poppas (three times), the Doors (twice) and Buffalo Springfield to the Billboard top 100 of 2012 including Nicki Minaj, Rihanna, One Direction, Drake and something called a Justin Bieber and LMFAO.

Arguably, it could be said that the good socially-conscious singer-songwriter is dead.

But the truth is socially conscious musicians are not gone; they've been with us since the earliest days of modern music, such as the legendary, Oklahoma-born working class troubadour Woody Guthrie.

Haven't heard of Woody? Actually, yes you have. You know that one tune that always seems to give you a warm fuzzy feeling inside of your chest whenever you hear the chorus, "This land is your land/This land is my land/ From California to the New York Island/From the Redwood forest to the Gulf Stream waters/ This land was made for you and me." But Guthrie's identity has been quieted and nearly squashed — his radical politics, his speaking

out in public against the rise of fascism in Europe and Spain, his speaking against the police and military repression against organizing laborers in the U.S.

But aside from Pete Seeger (who will be turning 94 this year—God willing) and Bruce Springsteen, one might think: crap, what if I don't like folk music?

Fear not! There are actually great socially conscious groups of all stripes around, just not in the mainstream, touring and producing music regularly. Let's do this by genre:

See **PROTEST MUSIC**, page 2

PROTEST MUSIC

Continued from page 1

Rock:

Chicago melodic punk/heavy rockers Rise Against is one of the rock bands that are enjoying mainstream success while creating music that actively raises awareness for various issues including LGBTQ discrimination (Check out the music video for their song "Make it Stop"), animal rights, anti-consumerism and anti-war causes.

System of a Down, Armenian-American alternative heavy rock band had an overtly political message and enjoyed mainstream success immediately following their debut self-titled album in 1998. Some of their songs include "B.Y.O.B."—a strange, non-linear critique on militarism—off their 2005 release Mezmerize and "Boom!" from their 2002 release Steal This Album!

But what kind of a critic would I be if I didn't mention late '90s Rage Against the Machine here, right? Sure, they broke up in 2000, with members pursuing side projects (Audioslave, The Nightwatchman, One Day as a Lion). They reunited in 2007 and performed at the annual, overpriced, promotionally-bloated Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival, with subsequent touring. Unfortunately, the fate of Rage Against the Machine is up in the air. Although technically together, there is no strong evidence that any new studio material will be released. Nonetheless, the heavy fusion of metal, hard rock and hip-hop drumming and vocal style mixed with Tom Morello's unique whammy-bar-driven guitar work has created something that will never be matched or surpassed in the genre of social protest rock.

Folk:

I know, I know. You don't like folk music, right? Well, what if I told you that you probably don't even know what folk music is? You're an asshole, you'd say. Well, yes, but that notwithstanding much can be said in the defense of folk. Folk music is generally accepted as having its traditional roots in the poor and working class perspective. Although typically associated with guitar and banjos, folk music isn't just performed with string instruments — folk music is found all over the world and in many places, drums and flutes are the main instruments.

Conor Oberst, guitarist, lyricist and frontman for Nebraska's Bright Eyes is perhaps one of the best, leading examples of the survivability of folk music. Although Oberst' lyrical content is dominated by commentary on personal relationships (often dwelling on the doomed nature of the singularity of human romance, or something like that) but there has always been a consistent social commentary in all of his records, especially in the 2005 release "I'm Wide Awake, It's Morning."

Hip-Hop:

There is this ghastly, god-awful, techno-drenched, auto-tuned abomination that is — for whatever reason—dubbed as hip-hop that is played on the airwaves today. Lil Wayne, T.I., Young Jeezy and Rick Ross are arguably some of the worst lyrical rappers ever to wrap themselves in the flag of sexist, empty, profit-glorifying capitalist, soulless hip-hop. But for the sake of brevity, let's just say that this, too, can be called hip-hop (Seriously, check this garbage out about selling dope on iPhones, playing pool and strippers).

OK, this is turning into a rant against empty-hearted music so I'll stop. Fuck Rick Ross, though. Seriously.

Basically, hip-hop — much like



LUIS RIVAS / SENIOR REPORTER

Xela de la X, also known as Cihuatl Ce, embraces some mainstream music regardless of her artistry.

folk music (bet you'll never see that pairing of words again) — started off as musical social commentary. Such acts like Grandmaster Flash and the Furious Five and then later on KRS-One and Public Enemy are prime examples of smart, socially commentary hip-hop.

For good conscious hip-hop, look no further than East Los Angeles with such acts as Olmecca or Cihuatl Ce, who are roommates. Both have been around for years. Olmecca has played with other well-known socially conscious hip-hop acts such as KRS-One — who is still playing, by the way. In the vein of old school conscious hip-hop, there has been a resurgence of more contemporary conscious hip-hop acts, such as Dead Prez, Immortal Technique, Lupe Fiasco, The Coup, Lowkey, Mos Def, Sole, Talib Kweli, Brother Ali and many others.

Cihuatl Ce is the performance name of Xela de la X, who has been performing since her early 20s. She tours regularly, often times performing out of state at festivals and at universities. Despite her critique on mainstream music, one of Xela's favorite contemporary artists is Drake.

"People judge me when I say that, but I don't give a fuck. I love that guy," she said.

As far as artists from the past, Xela draws a lot of influence from Riot Grrrl and punk rock bands such as Bikini Kill, Naked Aggression and Los Crudos, which comes across through her insistent, up-front lyrical styling and stage presence. She describes her music as "aggressive, unapologetically militant feminist, gutter music from the streets and the people."

"Mainstream (music) is mad

misogynist... If they're speaking about rebellion and revolution and making change, that shit you don't hear on the radio," Xela said.

When artists do decide to speak on these issues, often it is not featured on the radio, as you may have noticed.

"Although I would say the exception to that in mainstream music would be Lupe Fiasco. He's pretty on-point," she said.

Many of these groups have transcended the act of simple social commentary with many practicing what they preach, such as Brother Ali. Back in June 21, 2012, Brother Ali (full name Ali Douglas Newman) was arrested for taking part in a protest against a home foreclosure in Minneapolis.

All conscious rappers nowadays, big or small, have been involved with

grass-roots efforts in social justice movements. Olmecca, a steadfast community and political activist, who has spoken and performed at CSUN on several occasions over the years.

I had the privilege to see Olmecca and DJ Phatrick perform in Echo Park for a Woody Guthrie tribute at El Centro Del Pueblo back in July 14, 2012. Here is where I saw the ease and poetry in which Olmecca, a revolutionary Chicano hip-hop artist, was performing and historically connecting with one of the greatest American folk singer-songwriters. Woody was a resident of Los Angeles for several years in his life and regularly visited and performed for multi-ethnic migrant farm workers.

Woody, like Olmecca or KRS-One, Conor Orbest and Bob Dylan, are those types of musical artists that are completely consumed by their art and its potential not just to document the injustices of society, but ultimately to transform it entirely.

So, although you may not hear a lot of protest songs on the radio or on the television, do not despair. The protest song is alive and well, but as most good music nowadays — it requires a little bit of searching.

Xela doesn't see a decline in the demand for socially conscious music. It's not a matter of that. The people want it. It's a matter of who is standing in the way of allowing this music to be heard on the radio or on television. Which I am tempted to agree with. Think about it. It restores your faith in humanity knowing that we don't want Justin Bieber or Lil Wayne.

"I think that whatever is being played is not because the masses are asking for it," she said. "It's what's being fed to us. Definitely, I think there's a degree of people being tired of the monotony of the messages in the mainstream."

PLACES TO GO

Filming spots near CSUN you wouldn't expect

MELANIE GABALL
DAILY SUNDIAL

Given its proximity to Hollywood, the San Fernando Valley has always been a popular location for filming. While CSUN is the most popular location in Northridge, here are some potentially surprising filming locations off campus.

1 Anna's Linens
8762 Corbin Ave,
Northridge

"Glee" filmed two of its episodes in the first season at Anna's Linens which posed as the fictional "Sheets N Things". Three of the main characters, Finn Hudson, Noah Puckerman and Terri Shuester worked at the home improvement store.

2 Congregational Church of Northridge
9659 Balboa Blvd,
Northridge

"Glee" then returned to Northridge in the episode "Furt" to the Congregational Church of Northridge where the cast and crew filmed a wedding scene. In the episode, two of the glee

club members (Finn Hudson and Kurt Hummel) parents tie the knot.

3 Picture Car Warehouse
8400 Reseda Blvd,
Northridge

In the movie "Drive," starring Ryan Gosling, Picture Car Warehouse served as the garage where Driver would work on his car when he wasn't doing stunts. The garage is owned by Shannon (Bryan Cranston), in the film. According to the LA times, the character Irene, has her car towed here and after Shannon urges Driver to give her a ride home, there is the foreshadowing of a potential romance.

The Picture Car Warehouse wasn't new to film-makers, however. The warehouse transforms cars (it has over 700 of its own available for rent) for use in movies, television and commercials.

4 L.A. River
Reseda and Victory Blvd,
Reseda

After leaving the garage, Gosling as Driver, takes Irene and Benicio on a drive through the concrete banks of the river, which happens to be only a few miles away from The Picture Car Warehouse.

5 Crown Pawn Shop
20933 Roscoe Blvd.,
Canoga Park

According to movie-locations.com, Pulp Fiction (1993) filmed a scene at a pawn shop in a small strip mall in Canoga Park. The pawn shop was used as the Money Loan Store where Butch Coolidge and Marcellus Wallace run into Maynard, the gimp and Zed.

6 Ulysses S. Grant High School
13000 Oxnard Street,
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Ulysses S. Grant High School has been a popular destination as a film location for many years. Most recently, the television show "The Secret Life of an American Teenager" has been filming here. Most of the outdoor school scenes in the show are filmed here, including the opening titles of the show. Other things filmed here include, "Freaks and Geeks," "Clueless" and

"Mr. Hollands Opus," according to seeing-stars.com.

Some other movies that were filmed close to CSUN was "Pearl Harbor", at Van Nuys Airport and the skate park, Skateland in Northridge, has also been used in television shows like Blind Date, and Parental Control and Some of "E.T." was filmed in Porter Ranch.



PHOTOS BY KEN SCARBORO/SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

Ulysses S. Grant High School Van Nuys: Secret Life of the American Teenager

“THAT’S WHAT HE SAID

'Fables' author Bill Willingham talks fantasy

Bill Willingham wants you to write a 'drabble.' What's a drabble? Read this article and find out! Lazy people...

SPENCER KILGORE
DAILY SUNDIAL



PHOTO COURTESY OF SAM FOX PHOTOGRAPHY

Bill Willingham signing his work at "Fablescon."

If you are into comic books and aren't hip to the name "Bill Willingham," there's a special place in Hell just for you. Combine the 120+ issues of his own folklore-gone-wrong "Fables" series on Vertigo (DC Comics) with its very own Fablescon, the ample spin-offs and the fact that this guy lived in a castle in Italy to finish his most recent novel and you have a bona fide badass on your hands.

Willingham has been in the writing game for 30 years. Now he wants to see if you have what it takes to write a "drabble"—a short story exactly 100 words long (emphasis on exactly)—with a little contest judged by none other than himself.

Daily Sundial: Now is your chance to convince our readers to start reading anything you've worked on. What should they pick up and why?

Bill Willingham: I guess just because it's available and it starts the story, the "Fables" first issue or first collection. The "why" is because stories are best done from the beginning.

DS: What gave you the idea for this 100-word-story competition?

BW: 100-word-story, I'm not sure when I first encountered the phenomenon, I suppose I ran across it

online like many things. But it's just elegant. It's tough to do a short story, as a matter of fact, what's the line, "I didn't have enough time to make a short story so I gave you a long one." It really is, because you have to cut and trim and whittle things down to their most basic essence. You need to spare, there are no other words to spare when it has to be exactly 100 words, so the challenge of that. As a comic book writer we need to train ourselves to write sparsely because we just don't have the room for long, drawn out conversations or just the droning kind of speech you can kind of get in prose books because you have the room there to let yourself go. I think that's what drew me to it, but I'm certain that I discovered the phenomenon of the 100-word-story online.

The other thing I like about it is it can't be about 100 words, it's exactly, no more, no less, and that takes some effort. So yeah, I enjoy them.

DS: You've got "Fables" which are all about fairy tale characters, then your children's novel "Down the Mysterly River" is filled with fairy tale elements, where did this infatuation with fairy tales come from?

BW: It was inculcated into me early on in life. As a child I was a fan of the Bullwinkle cartoon show, and as everyone knows, the Bullwinkle cartoon show also featured a cartoon in it called "Fractured Fairy Tales," in which fairy tales would kind of be rewritten and mockingly re-plotted so that the villains win sometimes or that the wolf is the victim, etc. As a child I was a little concerned about this

because I thought there were rules that govern everything. I didn't think you could just rewrite the fairy tales to have them come out differently. I asked my mother about it, she was in the room when I was watching it one day and she explained the whole idea of folklore and public domain. I don't think she used the term "public domain" but just the whole concept that there's a whole branch of stories that we all own, and anyone who wants to can do anything they want to with it, which just blew my mind as a kid because I really did think there were rules and committees and agencies governing everything in life, because why wouldn't there be? There were rules and things governing every aspect of my life, so the idea of the freedom that I could just take all these characters and make up any story I want with them, I think that stayed with me forever. Even to the point where in later storytelling life and doing superheroes and stuff I kept inserting fairy tale elements into stories where they probably didn't belong. I think Fables was just an admission to myself that this is what I want to be writing, so why not go ahead and write it?

DS: What's it like manipulating characters like Snow White and the Big Bad Wolf, throwing them in a New York apartment building and giving them real-life conflict?

BW: I guess the original Snow White story didn't cover a lot of real-life conflict. I would hope that back then little girls, just because they

happened to be prettier than their stepmother, weren't taken out into the woods to be butchered too often. And certainly they didn't survive by falling in with a bunch of dwarves, or one presumes that didn't happen a lot. I don't know that my version of Snow White's dilemmas are more real-life than those though. You know, getting accidentally impregnated by the

"You know, getting accidentally impregnated by the son of the North Wind, that probably doesn't happen to a lot of women these days."

— BILL WILLINGHAM

son of the North Wind, that probably doesn't happen to a lot of women these days. Her trials and her frustrations, to continue to use her as an example, are probably as fantastical as anyone's, as any fairy tale story. The realism probably comes from the reaction and response.

DS: I've read that you said "Fables" was intended from the start as a metaphor for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, how was that inspired?

BW: I don't know that it was intended to but that certainly entered

into it. The idea of Fables as refugees was very much a kind of recreation of the Jewish Diaspora. There's the fact that they were scattered all over and longed for their homelands again someday. It was also of course inspired by things like Ellis Island. The idea that you want freedom, you want a start over, you want a new life. You come to America through Ellis Island and most of them end up somewhere in New York, and Fables was very much a kind of fantastical recreation of that as well. I think, like any story, there's a lot of different inspirations and motivations that go into it.

DS: How about the spin-offs, where do those fit in?

BW: Where do the spin-offs fit in? I suppose where we can find places to fit them. In every case that we do a spin-off or a special story, it's "Here's something we'd love to do story-wise that we can't fit into the main storyline, so let's start a new series or let's do a special collection or something." The idea is that the stories come first. You think of good story and then worry about where they might fit. You know, creating spin-offs when you need them to accommodate a story that doesn't fit in with the regular story is an easy solution.

DS: How did Fablescon come about?

BW: It was almost a result of a drunken bar bet. Fablescon was kind

See WILLINGHAM, page 4

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WILLINGHAM

Continued from page 2

of a challenge to myself because, like anyone that attends a lot of conventions, I would make a mental list of "Boy if I ever get a convention of my own I'd do more of this or less of this or I'd change this or I'd do it this way," the way people do. I was silly enough to mention this out loud to some friends. I think there was a little bit of wine involved one night a little more than a year ago, and one of those friends says "That's it, we're doing it, we're gonna do that show," and I suddenly got swept up into it and we're gonna do it.

DS: "Peter and Max: a Fables Novel" was released in 2009, "Down the Mysterly River" in 2012, now your newest novel, "Tom Harrow," is already in to your publisher. Why the increased concentration on novels?

BW: Because they're more of a challenge. Telling a good story is always a challenge. There's so many bad stories out there it's clear that one has to work hard to tell a good one. But the actual mechanics of how to do a story in comic book form are no longer a mystery to me, they're no longer a challenge. I don't really know the process as well, as comfortably, in doing prose work. So yeah, the challenge of doing stories in that format is there and that appeals to me. **DS:** So you stayed Machiavelli's Castle in Italy while writing "Tom O'Harrow," why?

BW: I needed to finish the book. When I'm working at home the big projects I work on that don't have a deadline always get bumped in favor of the other things that need to be done right now, right today, etc. etc. Plus, when



PHOTO COURTESY OF SAM FOX PHOTOGRAPHY

According to Willingham, "Fables" was a great way for Willingham to challenge himself and to give classics more depth.

your home, you're friends, your family, the people in your life know where to find you. So I said to my trusted assistant, Stephanie, I said "Find me a place to go write where I can be away from people, and as long as I'm going to go away let's go somewhere nice. And since we were talking about Italy, she looked in Italy and she found a couple of places and I said "That sounds good, book it" and the next day she said "or one of the villas used to be owned by Machiavelli," and I said "That's obviously where we have to stay."

DS: You've done tons of writing for DC and its Vertigo imprint, but only worked with Marvel for one issue of X-Men, why is that?

BW: One issue of X-Men and four issues of a miniseries about the Warriors Three, the Thor supporting characters. I don't know, it just seemed to have worked out that way. DC was the first to give

me work of the two, and in the course of a career I guess when you've done some work and you want to do more work you tend to go back to the same people who gave you those jobs in the first place. There's no philosophical idea at work here, no "I like these guys and not these guys," none of that. It's just the career inertia is all.



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STORY TIME

Belle divorces the Beast

BRIGITTE NAJARIAN
CONTRIBUTOR

It's been 20 years since Belle left Prince Adam (the Beast) in his tower. She hopped a ship to travel the world after one of their many marital fights ended with the same conclusion; he became more infatuated with his own beauty after the curse than before it was even cast.

He was a diva, if you could believe it, and took on many of the qualities Belle hated in Gaston. The only difference was, she was married to him. Surprisingly she had no trouble with him being unfaithful, but he always managed to ridicule and critique every outfit and hairstyle she chose to wear that day. On one particular occasion their conversation revolved around his distaste for the gold color she chose for her ball gown the first night they danced together.

Prince Adam, "Out of all the dresses I had for you, you managed to pick the ugliest."

Belle, "I thought you liked that dress. You danced with me all night in it."

Prince Adam, "You were the only other person there. Who else was I going to dance with? Lumiere?"

Belle, "If that's the way you feel about me I can just leave."

Prince Adam, "You're not going to leave me. Have you seen the library I gave you? Anyway we're going to have dinner at the Rochester's tonight so how do you think I should wear my hair? In a loose curl or tied in a low bun?"

Belle walked away and sighed, realizing that her husband was a nit wit. He goes out every day pontificating about his new found beauty and the glory of his magnificent hair. Sometimes she dreams of cutting it off in his sleep. She could never actually leave him though. It was a weird sense of debt she felt she owed him.

She walked into the library to find Mrs. Potts dusting the shelves with the handle of a feather duster. In her old age, she had slightly lost touch of reality but still preserved her helpful and encouraging spirit.

Belle, "I don't know what to do Mrs. Potts. He's a complete imbecile."

Mrs. Potts, "He's quite the looker now with that fine head of hair. Just give it time, he'll get old eventually and go bald."

Belle, "I'm not going to wait until he goes bald for him to stop talking about himself."

Mrs. Potts put down her duster and sat down next to Belle.

Mrs. Potts, "Alright then, just go."

Belle, "What?"

Mrs. Potts, "Yeah, off with you. Get on with your life. I'll tell the master you went on a business trip."

Belle, "But I don't work."

Mrs. Potts, "He won't even notice. I'll take the heat, don't you worry. Just go now, the last ship sails off at midnight."

Belle, "I think your head isn't so clear Mrs. Potts."

Mrs. Potts, "Listen here, young lady. I only pretend to be senile so I can get away with stealing a couple of silverware here and there. No hard feelings but it's hard being a 60 year old woman with a ten year old boy to feed."

Belle had contemplated leaving for the past couple of years but it always seemed more complicated than it was and nobody could put it as simply as Mrs. Potts just did. The next morning Prince Adam awoke to an empty bed and his hair chopped off in an uneven blood curdling scream as Belle handed off his tresses to a greedy Mrs. Potts, anxious to sell her new fortune to some wig makers in the city. With her newfound courage, Belle traveled the globe teaching French to impoverished children in Malaysia, discovering new wildlife in the Amazon, and eventually becoming the first woman to rule her own country.

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Opinion

GMO seeds; a global threat

Genetically modified organisms (GMO) are causing hardships for small farmers and eradicating food supplies

ANNE CHRISTENSEN
CONTRIBUTOR

A debate simmers over the threat to global seed stock diversity posed by agricultural corporations using genetically modified seeds to dominate farming industries. In the aftermath of California's rejection of Proposition 37, which would have required food companies to label consumer products containing genetically modified organisms (GMO's), the powerful industry behind GMO's enjoyed another small victory on the road to controlling the global seed stock. The end result is a tight control on food product that is beneficial to only a select few shareholders.

The threat to seed diversity may not be the first thing that comes to mind when discussing genetically modified crops, but it's vitally important to understand the relationship between genetically engineered seeds versus heirloom seeds, agricultural practices and the future of global food supplies.

Seeds are used by professional farmers as well as amateur gardeners as the first step of growing anything: you plunk the seeds in soil, add water, sunshine, and voila! Green stuff grows. But the decoding of plant-based DNA, and the ability to selectively breed positive qualities while eradicating negative ones, has opened the Pandora's box of GMO foods.

Genetically modified seeds have been engineered to require a specific chemical paired with fertilizer and pesticide to grow to its full potential. So farmers may be tempted to try the seeds that promise extreme growth, reduced water usage, resistance to attacks from pests and vermin, and immunity to mold and other diseases. But the deal comes with a hidden cost: the farmers must buy all seeds, fertilizer and pesticides from the same company in a very expensive three-in-one deal that causes farmers, especially in developing countries, to remain trapped in a vicious cycle of poverty, according to the Council for Responsible Genetics.

Heirloom seeds are unaltered, natural seeds that come with no strings attached. According to Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds company—home to 1,450 varieties of non-GMO vegetable, flower and herb seeds—heirloom seeds have been harvested since the 19th century and are considered "pure" because they have not been genetically tweaked to accommodate intense farming or reliance of chemically-based fertilizer or pesticides. But as GMO seeds are



ILLUSTRATION BY SARAH CASCADEN/CONTRIBUTOR

becoming more prevalent in agriculture, they're posing a bigger threat to the preservation of global heirloom seed stock. GMO seeds can be transported from one field to another by gusts of wind or in the beaks of birds, resulting in cross-contamination of entire crops. There is no way to police or verify what seeds go where once they've been deposited into the soil.

The biggest culprit in the prevalence of GMO seeds is Missouri-based Monsanto. Their seeds make up a terrifying 91 percent of soybeans, 88 percent of cotton and 91 percent of maize, according to the Center

for Food Safety. Monsanto's 2012 market value stands firmly at \$42.2 billion according to Fortune Magazine, and Monsanto recently announced a 22 percent increase in earnings. Not much of a surprise for a company that has facilities in 68 countries worldwide.

Seeds are obviously big business for companies like Monsanto. Through heavy-handed legal action, they aggressively pursue farmers who they claim dodge patent laws by harvesting the offspring seeds from previously purchased seeds. The harvesting of seeds is a centuries old

practice that guarantees future crops. But Monsanto argues that they own the property rights to any and all seeds that have ever been purchased from them, which essentially makes seed-collecting illegal. The Center for Food Safety has tracked Monsanto's legal actions and found 142 patent infringements against 410 farmers and 56 small businesses in more than 27 states. Monsanto has pocketed more than \$23 million from these lawsuits and shut down many small farmers in the process.

Those in favor of GMO seeds claim that because these seeds are not as susceptible to diseases as their counterparts, they will provide a more reliable food source for the population in areas where a failed harvest spells starvation and death for thousands. Monsanto claims that "...agriculture needs to produce more food because the world's population is growing. Monsanto—along with many other companies, governments and organizations—has been working to develop seeds and other systems that help farmers grow more." But the system they're promoting is short-sighted and has devastating consequences: dwindling native seed stock, dependency of third party seed and fertilizer supply, and crippling debt for perceived food security through GMO seeds.

On a global scale, the reliance on GMO seeds threatens the ancient practice of seed harvesting. Mexican maize, Indian cotton and Scandinavian beet root are all threatened by the monopoly of a few profit-hungry corporations. Any potential benefit to agriculture that GMO seeds may bring to the table pales in comparison to the threat posed to the global seed diversity.

Complex problems can occasionally be solved with simple solutions. Consumers wishing to avoid GMO products and support a thriving seed stock can make conscious choices when shopping for produce. Choose items clearly labeled "USDA organic," buy directly from local farmers who use sustainable agriculture practices, or sign up for delivery of fruit and vegetable boxes grown by your local Community Supported Agriculture business. The most efficient way for consumers to take a stand against GMO agriculture is to vote with their wallets. Corporations will respond to fluctuations in their profit margins when consumers make the switch from GMO-laden produce to a chemical-free organic future. The short-term benefits of a genetically homogeneous species should not outweigh the long-term benefits of a diverse seed pool. The world's food supply is too important.

Anne Christensen is a journalism major who writes about sustainability issues.

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Terry Carroll and Kiki Ebsen trade stories with participants after a Horse Mornings session at the Healing Equine Ranch in Agoura Hills. The two began offering the program in 2010.

HORSES

Continued from page 1

ers, they're going to follow the leader," said Kiki Ebsen, owner of the Healing Equine Ranch and a former CSUN student.

There is a Horse Mornings program for women and men. There, participants learn how pressure can affect a horse's behavior. Ebsen teaches participants how to use pressure and the release of pressure

to create space.

There are different ways of creating that pressure based on the personality of the horse. Sometimes it can be a slight step forward which crosses into the horse's personal boundary causing the horse to move backward or a less subtle waving of the arms.

When Ebsen and her longtime friend Terry Carroll began offering the program in 2010, they noticed that all the people signing up were women.

"We discovered that it was becoming a safe place for women to share and process with like-minded women," Ebsen said.

Once the husbands of some of the female participants signed up for the program, the pair created Horse Mornings for Men, which had its first session on March 2.

"Seeing our morning program becoming a really safe space to grow and learn, we decided to call it Horse Mornings for Women

and thus market it accordingly. We never meant to exclude the guys so when a demand became apparent, a program was created for them as well," Ebsen said.

CSUN humanities professor Pat Swenson, who learned about Horse Mornings from a flyer hanging at a Westlake Starbucks, said the program teaches awareness.

"You learn how your energy affects those around you. You don't realize how you come off," she said.

She recommends Horse Mornings specifically to women and said the skills learned from it can help make them become stronger people.

"You really see parallels in your own life. That's why it's healing," Swenson said.

Candy Mintz, a CSUN alumna and former Horse Mornings for Women participant, said she learned about communicating from the program.

"It is a remarkable process

and not really understood until you are with a 1,200-pound animal and you realize there are ways to communicate with him so that both you and the horse can be effective in getting what you want from one another," she said.

Ebsen, who studied art and music at CSUN from 1978 to 1980, grew up on the ranch and developed her love of horses there.

She has been an equestrian since the age of 5 and has been learning about natural horsemanship for 13 years. The practice focuses on developing a relationship with horses by understanding their basic needs by

watching how they freely interact with each other, and rejects abusive treatment of them.

All the horses at the ranch have been saved from inhospitable situations. They have been rescued from feedlots where they were being fattened up for slaughter.

Although Ebsen started her lifelong love of horses by riding them as a child, what she has learned through natural horsemanship has enriched her relationship with these animals and her relationship with herself tenfold.

"What I wanted to do, natural horsemanship, made me feel better about myself. Horses remind you to stay mindful," Ebsen said. "Everything is about the present for horses. They remind you to stay in the moment because there may not be a tomorrow. Life is a series of moments and they are what you make it."

HORSE MORNINGS

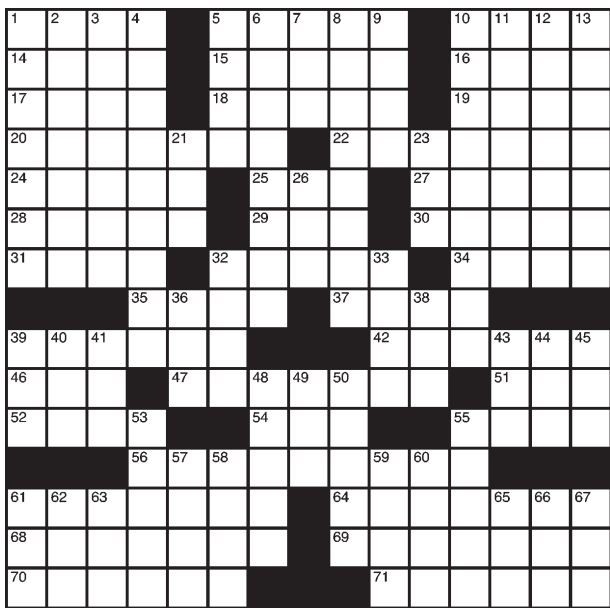
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Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

ACROSS

- 1 Invitation reminder letters
- 5 Tape player button
- 10 '80s pop duo with an exclamation point in its name
- 14 Renaissance painter Guido
- 15 Indian city
- 16 Sharpen
- 17 #2: Abbr.
- 18 Like some checking accounts
- 19 Cry after being tagged
- 20 *Web page index
- 22 "Keep in touch!"
- 24 Start of a boast
- 25 "Middle of Nowhere" director
- 27 Prohibit
- 28 Restaurant survey creator
- 29 Tease
- 30 Smacked, biblically
- 31 Steven Chu's Cabinet dept.
- 32 Mononymous "Rumour Has It" singer
- 34 Used peepers on
- 35 "Firework" singer
- 37 Exile isle
- 39 Debacle
- 42 Soda buys
- 46 Mac interface
- 47 *Comics supervillain whose real name is Charles Brown
- 51 Start to push?
- 52 Clarified butter
- 54 "Believer": '60s hit
- 55 Retailer T.J. _____
- 56 Knock out of contention
- 61 Personal partner?
- 64 It goes around the world
- 68 Flat container
- 69 Ice cream treats
- 70 With 71-Across, what the answers to starred clues contain?
- 71 See 70-Across



By Erik Agard

4/18/13

DOWN

- 1 Lingerie spec
- 2 "Absolutely!"
- 3 Treading the boards
- 4 *Vampire victim's souvenir
- 5 Flamboyant Dame
- 6 Where to find a lot of answers?
- 7 Impish sort
- 8 Like some vitamins
- 9 Cake level
- 10 *Chicken choice
- 11 Inner city buddy
- 12 Produce, as cartoons
- 13 Like most cabs
- 21 Was introduced to
- 23 Passports, e.g.
- 26 Contend
- 32 Yours, in Tours
- 33 Big name in scat
- 36 Cry from Cathy of comics
- 38 Trash repository
- 39 Weather for low beams
- 40 Moderating suffix
- 41 Terminate
- 43 Green org.
- 44 T. _____

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved



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- 45 What F or M may denote
- 48 "It takes a licking ..." watch
- 49 U.K. record label
- 50 Leonine neck features
- 53 Sought morays
- 55 Gettysburg general
- 57 Brain part
- 58 "And the race ___!"
- 59 Blue hue
- 60 Mao Tse-_____
- 61 Seat, in slang
- 62 NYG NFL rival
- 63 Fish-and-chips fish
- 65 Basking goal
- 66 Where age always goes before beauty, briefly
- 67 The ANC's country

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Solution to today's sudoku

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

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

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.

APRIL 18, 2013

Sports

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NBA playoffs free of major upsets

EASTERN CONFERENCE

MATT FISHER
COPY EDITOR

Miami v. Milwaukee

Milwaukee has no shot whatsoever. Simply put, Miami is that team and LeBron James is that dude, the de facto basketball player. The level James is on has been attained by few – we are witnessing not just a future hall-of-famer, but a top five player of all time, smack dab in the middle of his prime. If James alone wasn't enough for Milwaukee to lose sleep over, he also has Dwyane Wade, Chris Bosh and an extremely good 3-point shooting supporting cast to help him out. Enough said.

PREDICTION: Heat in 4

New York v. Boston

This will be the most exciting opening series out East. A completely healthy Celtics team with Rajon Rondo running the point would upset the Knicks in a full seven-game series. The simple fact of the matter is that Rondo is, and will

remain, out. That gives New York the slight edge. Carmelo Anthony has been unconscious as of late, averaging 35.1 points per game over his last 10. His play of late earned him his first scoring title, as he out-dueled Thunder superstar Kevin Durant. Melo has been getting a ton of help from super-sub J.R. Smith as well. Smith has elevated his game at least two levels the past month or so by taking better shots and staying focused. He is finally starting to develop into the All-Star caliber guard he was projected to be earlier in his career.

The Celtics do not have a true starting center, which combined with the Knicks' youthful roster, is a major concern. They do have rugged veterans with heart, though. Paul Pierce and Kevin Garnett can still play at near-elite levels, and with those two in the rotation, you can never count Boston out. Not to mention, the recent outburst of swingman Jeff Green. Like Smith, Green is on the verge of becoming an All-Star. It will require a final battle, a "refuse to lose" effort (could this be the last time we see KG and Pierce?) by

the Green team, led by Mr. Green himself, to get past the surging Knicks.

PREDICTION: Knicks in 7

Indiana v. Atlanta

This should be an easy advance for the Pacers, despite their late-season struggles. Indiana is an elite defensive team for a reason. They will find themselves in the playoffs, shutting down the streaky Hawks. It all starts with Paul George, Indy's best player on both ends of the floor. George is in the conversation for both Defensive Player of the Year and Most Improved honors. He carried his team to home court advantage in the first round of the playoffs when everybody thought they were doomed without the often-injured Danny Granger.

Losing Joe Johnson had no positive effect on Atlanta; it was basically a move that said they are entering a rebuilding phase. They no longer have that designated scorer who can offensively close out games. The Hawks are also going to get dominated on the glass by the Pacers (Atlanta is 24th in rebounding). This is the same team that put up a



COURTESY OF MCT

Coming off last year's championship, the Big Three look to become repeat champions after a 27-game win streak during the regular season. An overmatched Milwaukee lineup will be no challenge to them.

pathetic 58 points against the Bulls (20 at the half!) on Jan. 13 and nearly set a new franchise-low in points in a game.

PREDICTION: Pacers in 5

Brooklyn v. Chicago

Imagine if Tom Thibodeau had a master trick up his sleeve; what if he were to bring back a healthy Derrick Rose to start the playoffs without mentioning a

word to the media? Rose has been cleared to play since mid-February and has been practicing with his teammates. This would surely throw off Brooklyn (or any opponent for that matter) and their defensive game plan. Even if the thought of Rose returning for the playoffs is wishful thinking, Chicago has more than enough firepower to extinguish the Nets from con-

attention. The core of Carlos Boozer, Loul Deng, Joakim Noah and Jimmy Butler are very strong defensively and Nate Robinson can light up the scoreboard if given the chance. The Nets look great at times but are too inconsistent. They are 32-6 against sub-.500 teams, but only 15-27 against winning teams. The Nets lost the season series to the Bulls 3-1.

PREDICTION: Bulls in 6

WESTERN CONFERENCE



COURTESY OF MCT

The tandem of Russell Westbrook and Kevin Durant should demolish the Rockets in the first round.

AMMONS SMITH
CONTRIBUTOR

Oklahoma City v. Houston

This matchup is intriguing because of the history between Kevin Durant, Russell Westbrook and James Harden. Harden was traded to the Rockets before the season started and has become a superstar and a scoring machine. The Thunder are the No.1 team in the Western Conference, giving them home-court advantage and illustrating how good of a team they are even without Harden, showcasing a perfect tandem of Durant and Westbrook. The Thunder are the better team and will be able to shut down the Rockets without a sweat since Harden is the only consistent scorer on the team. Last year's phenom Jeremy Lin and Chandler Parsons help lead a Houston offense that won't be able to overcome Oklahoma City's all-around play. This matchup looks good on paper but won't be once the series starts.

PREDICTION: Thunder in 5

San Antonio v. LA Lakers

The Spurs will defeat the Lakers in six games due to

the Lakers' lack of consistency on offense and defense. Kobe Bryant is out of the playoffs due to an Achilles injury, which puts this team in a deeper hole going against the Spurs. An already hobbled Steve Nash, who still hasn't come back from his injury, doesn't solve any of L.A.'s problems. Tony Parker and Tim Duncan will use their veteran experience to limit the Lakers offense to Dwight Howard and Paul Gasol. Forcing Howard to shoot free throws with a haka-Howard strategy, role players like Antawn Jamison will have to make vital contributions to make this series competitive. Gregg Popovich will out-coach Mike D'Antoni to get the Spurs past the first round.

PREDICTION: Spurs in 6

Denver v. Golden State

This is an interesting series because of the dynamics surrounding the teams. The Nuggets are a team made of good players without a recognizable superstar while the Warriors have two stars – sharpshooter Stephen Curry and David Lee – carrying the team to its first playoff berth since 2007. The Nuggets, however, will win due to them having home court advantage and because of their defensive prowess, something the Warriors lack. Andre

Iguodala, who was acquired in the three-team blockbuster centered around Dwight Howard, is a shutdown defender who will embrace the task of either stopping Curry or shooting guard Klay Thompson. Andre Miller, Wilson Chandler, Corey Brewer, and Javale McGee round off the Nuggets' strong bench and will be the catalysts to lead this team past the first round.

PREDICTION: Nuggets in 6

LA Clippers v. Memphis

Based on the previous battle last year between these two ball clubs, which Los Angeles won, it's safe to say this series will be the most exciting first round matchup in the West. The same result is expected since the Clippers own home court advantage and have strengthened their roster compared to last season. Also, they beat the Grizzlies 3-1 in their season series, giving them confidence going into the playoffs. Chris Paul's leadership and playmaking skills will be the deciding factor in this matchup as the Clippers look to dismantle the Grizzlies' top-ranked defense anchored by hard-nosed players such as Marc Gasol, Mike Conley, Tony Allen, and the newly-acquired Tayshaun Prince.

PREDICTION: Clippers in 7