

CSUN PD distributes fliers about upcoming dismount zones

Budgeting is not as hard as it seems, just follow our tips and save

Military prison shouldn't deny Chelsea Manning hormone therapy

Fantasy Football: Who to draft and who to avoid



FREE

DAILY SUNDIAL

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, NORTHRIDGE

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2013 | VOL. 55, ISS. 9 | WWW.DAILYUNDIAL.COM



LUCAS ESPOSITO / DAILY SUNDIAL

The 1950s themed Matador Nights ran out of tickets early and thousands attended the event at the USU on Friday, Sept. 6. The event provided music, free food, and various activities.

5,400 CROWD THE USU

Students enjoy a blast from the past at the sold out 1950s-themed Matador Nights

VICTORIA BECERRIL
DAILY SUNDIAL

Students flashed back to the past as they celebrated the 1950s-themed Matador Nights at the University Student Union (USU) on Friday.

Matador Nights has become one of the most anticipated free events of each semester. It is because of this that tickets to the festival ran out before the event began and roughly 5,400 students filled the USU to capacity.

As a long line of attendees entered through metal detectors, the CSUN Police Department (PD) ensured extra precaution by thoroughly searching any small bags for restricted items.

Students were greeted by the beats of DJ Nick, the hip-hop music drawing them to the dance floor.

Special guest DJ Eric D-Lux, from the popular radio station Power 106, set the stage for music that

night. Students gathered in the center of the USU to dance. The crowds went wild when first time CSUN performer Kid Ink appeared.

"Kid Ink was my favorite part," said Opeoluwa Gunre, 24-year-old English graduate student. "It was a free event, and this night lived up to my expectations. I will come back again in the spring."

Kid Ink performed his new single, "Show Me" which he just released a few days ago featuring Chris Brown. He also featured a couple of other songs before leaving for the night.

For 20-year-old CTVA major Jonathan Rincon, his first tactic was heading straight for the mini arcade located in the Plaza Del Sol.

"I saw [the arcade] through the window and I was like 'Donkey Kong!'" Rincon said.

The Plaza Del Sol was decorated as a 1950's diner. There were high top tables, classic-styled booths and a soda fountain bar where students

could grab free root beer floats.

Making their way through the Plaza Del Sol, students were able to test out their skating skills on the makeshift skating rink. Rental roller skates were provided.

Inside the Northridge Center the craft corner supplied white bandanas that students could decorate to go with their 1950's attire.

The carnival took place just outside the Plaza Del Sol area. Students took turns riding The Tornado, a brightly lit four person ride that spins in circular motion, and the long slide.

"The best part of the night was going on the slide with a couple of girls," said 22-year-old business major Cal Lanuza.

Entering the Grand Salon, an "Old Las Vegas" styled casino was set up and students played craps, blackjack and enjoyed karaoke.

"It's a great turnout. People keep signing up [to sing] all the time," said Ashley Du, 21, in charge of the karaoke

booth. "It's a really good vibe and lot of people are laughing and having fun."

A minor incident occurred at 12:24 a.m. when a fight between three male students erupted on the dance floor.

Security quickly jumped into action and escorted the three students out. The crowds surrounding the scene soon dissipated, and many students decided it was time to end their night after the disturbance.



SCAN THIS QR CODE
to watch a live video of
Matador Night

S.T.O.P plates prevent theft

MICHAEL ARVIZU
DAILY SUNDIAL

CSUN POLICE Department (PD) is selling Security Tracking of Office Property (S.T.O.P.), a theft deterrent plate for electronic devices, for the first time ever in the Matador Bookstore.

Since S.T.O.P.'s inception in 2006, the plates were only available for purchase at PD headquarters and at the campus police substation on Zelzah Avenue adjacent to campus.

The plates are sold and installed by the CSUN PD for \$10. Students, faculty and staff can participate in this program by buying a plate to discourage theft.

Users can also install the plates themselves by purchasing an installation kit through S.T.O.P.'s website for \$20.

"We want to be sure to have something in place that can help students, faculty and staff with [protecting] electronic equipment," said CSUN Police Chief Anne Glavin. "Most students pay good money for this equipment. It's not something that you want to go out and buy again."

The plates are designed to alert potential thieves that the device is registered with the national S.T.O.P. database. The database contains the identifiable information of a user's registered device, such as an address and telephone number, and the device's unique serial number, make, model and type.

A code printed on the plate allows police or S.T.O.P. to access the identifiable information, even across state lines.

The program is available for any technology that has a serial number, Villalobos said — from laptops and iPhones to scanners, projectors,

See S.T.O.P. page 5

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Halt, dismount and walk

Students must “walk their wheels” in areas with heavy pedestrian traffic

GEORGE BENITEZ
DAILY SUNDIAL

CSUN POLICE Department is distributing fliers to educate students and faculty about the new dismount zones.

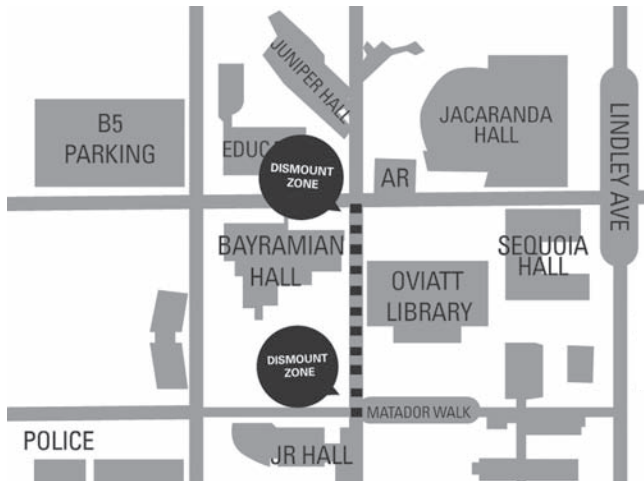
Anybody on a bicycle, scooter, skateboard or roller blades will be required to dismount their equipment in certain areas around campus.

If anyone does not adhere to the new rules and dismount at the appropriate zones they will be fined approximately \$150. This citation may also include a court appearance and court costs. Campus police will start enforcing these rules in the next two weeks.

Capt. Alfredo Fernandez said that if students feel they were cited unjustly they will have to appear in court to fight it.

“It’s almost like getting a traffic ticket but you don’t get a point against your [driving] record,” said Fernandez.

The campus police department said this new rule creates pedestrian safe zones



MAP ILLUSTRATION BY SUNDIAL PRODUCTION

that “aim to lower the risk of injuries to the community.”

Each dismount zone will require students to get off of their equipment and to “walk their wheels” until they are out of the dismount area, said campus police.

The dismount zones are north, south and west of the Oviatt Library as well as east of Bayramian Hall. There will possibly be more dismount zones in the future.

This new safety endeavor was implemented as a result of a collaborative effort between Facilities Planning, Design & Construction, A.S. and campus

police for the safety of pedestrians and for those on wheels. In March 2013, A.S. approved dismount zones in heavy pedestrian traffic areas where collisions and injuries are more likely to occur.

These new safety measures are due to the large number of accidents that occurred on campus last year. From January 2012 to June 2013, there were 190 bike related injuries and 170 skateboard related injuries, according to a report by the Klotz Student Health Center.

Community Service Assistants (CSA) began circulating fliers near the dis-

mount zones around campus last week. There are now signs posted around campus at each dismount zone.

“[The police] aren’t doing a good job of warning students,” said Isabel Piña, junior psychology major. “They should send us an email.”

Several bikers said that it isn’t fair that pedestrians walk in the bike lane.

“If cyclists are fined in pedestrian zones, pedestrians should be fined in cycling zones,” said sophomore psychology major Christian Belding.

However, Fernandez said pedestrians may be cited for walking in the bike lane too.

“This is a nice compromise,” said Fernandez. “All you have to do is walk your wheels in the dismount zones. It would be unfortunate to cite anyone.”

Several students said that a \$150 citation is extreme, especially on a student budget.

They suggest a warning first and then a citation. Also, students suggest that dismount zones should be effective only during certain hours such as rush hours on campus.

CAMPUS VOICE

DAILY SUNDIAL STAFF

Q: How do you feel about the dismount zones that CSUN is implementing?



LAUREN WELLS
LIBERAL ARTS MAJOR

“I agree, but then also I don’t agree. I ride my bike sometimes so it’s [going to] suck especially if you have classes far away and you’re trying to get from one place to another.”



JASMINE RODRIGUEZ
UNDECIDED

“At first I felt a little irritated because if I don’t ride my bike I’ll be late to class, but I guess people might complain about getting hit and it is dangerous. There are a lot more students this year. I understand if I were to be walking I wouldn’t want to get hit.”

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MONDAY

Monday Night Football:
Eagles vs. Redskins 4:10 p.m.
Texans vs. Chargers 7:20 p.m.
Pub Sports Grill, USU

TUESDAY

Games Room Tournaments
7 p.m.
Pride Center, USU

Tuesday Talks
7 p.m.
Pride Center, USU

WEDNESDAY

Karaoke Nights
8 – 10 p.m.
Games Room, USU

THURSDAY

Craft Corner
11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Plaza del Sol, USU

Noontime Concert
Plaza del Sol, USU

LGBTQ Coffee Nights
5 – 7 p.m.
Pride Center, USU

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ASSOCIATED STUDENTS **MATADOR REPORTER**

Upcoming Campus Events

Thursday, September 12
6 p.m. | Oviatt Lawn

Freshman Convocation

Join us to welcome the Freshman. This event is open to all students and faculty. Keynote address by Edward Humes, author of *Garbology*, the 2013 Freshman Common Reading.

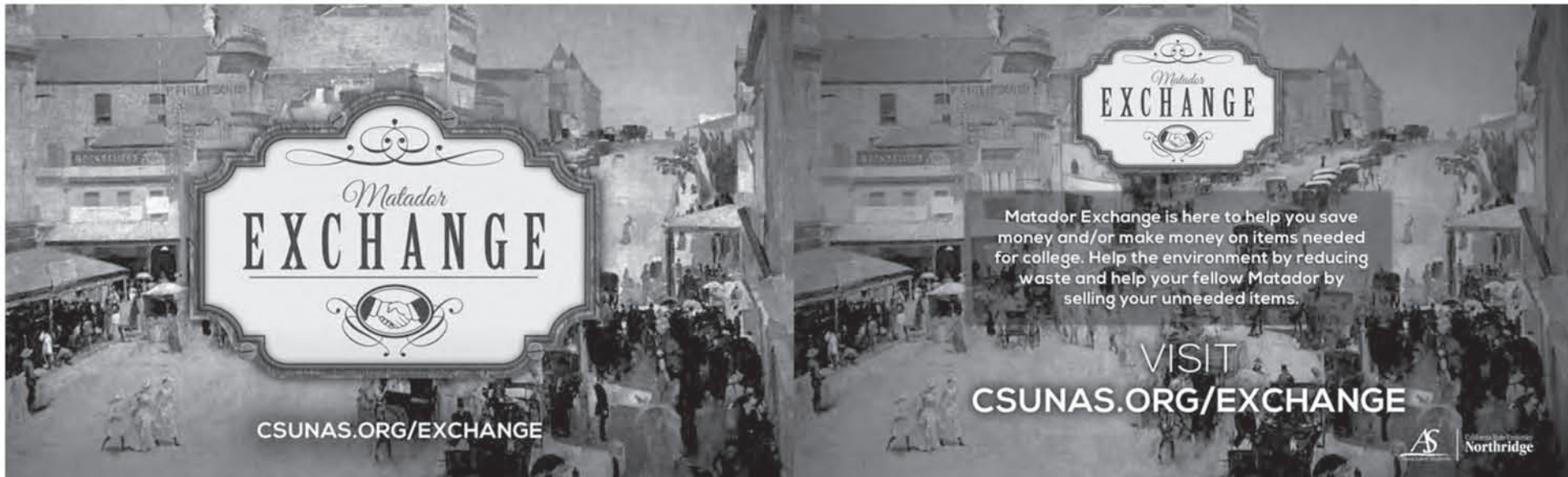
September 13th - 15th

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Large CSA Box - \$23/box
The Large CSA Box consists of a large quantity and a variety of seasonal vegetables, and always include some fruit. 3-5 People

New! BOX SHARING!

The CSA Box Sharing program reduces the cost of CSA boxes by enabling CSUN students to connect and share a CSA Box. Students can fill out an application on the Marilyn Magaram Center website or stop by the office (302 128 to fill one out).

Marilyn Magaram Center
for Student Services, Transition & Disability

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10 TIPS FOR BUDGETING

ALYSHA GARRETT-BYRD
DAILY SUNDIAL

College is all about growing up, and part of adulthood is being aware of your money...or lack thereof. Here are some budgeting tips to help keep you financially afloat.

KNOW YOUR EXPENSES

1. You know what day rent is due and when your phone bill is due, but do you budget for gas every month? What about the bills that vary each month, such as utilities? Having knowledge of exactly what is leaving your account and when will be very helpful in creating a budget. Take the time to write down all the bills and payments that are due every month.

USE A CALENDAR

2. Whether it is on your phone or an actual calendar you hang on the wall, mapping out your monthly expenses is essential to managing your money. If you are working, you can add your paydays to the calendar and calculate how much should be in your account at all times. It is a great way to make sure you stay on track and allows you to be aware of your spending throughout the month.

OPEN A SAVINGS ACCOUNT

3. Even if you don't have much to set aside, \$50 a month will be \$600 by the end of the year. Student savings accounts have a lower balance requirement, often between \$300-\$500, and collect little interest over the year so you are being rewarded for saving! It is great to have some money saved for an emergency situation or holiday shopping, so starting as soon as you can benefits you in the long run.

TAKE A MONEY MANAGEMENT COURSE

4. CSUN offers money management courses for students to help them set their budgets. Check the financial aid website for dates and times. There is also a website called cashcourse.org that offers online workshops to help you learn to manage money.

USE STUDENT DISCOUNTS

5. Many popular places, especially near campus, offer student discounts if you show your ID card. This includes restaurants, clothing stores, and even some theaters. That 10 to 15 percent will quickly add up even if you are only eating out once in a while.

BUY USED TEXTBOOKS

6. Many students do this already, but some want all their books in one place so they just head to the bookstore. With a little online searching, textbooks can be found at much lower prices. Also, Kindle and electronic versions of books are usually cheaper than the print versions, so they are a smart financial option.

SET AN ENTERTAINMENT BUDGET

7. We all need a little fun every now and then, but these outings can quickly become expensive. Groupon is great for discounts on entertainment as they have deals on concerts, fairs, nightclubs and other ideas for a fun night out. Sign up to get deals via email and always know what deals are coming up.

COOK INSTEAD OF EATING OUT

8. Cooking for yourself is far less expensive than eating out and with grocery coupons you can always ensure savings. Some grocery stores, such as Vons, have an iPhone app that connects to your store savings card. You can browse the app before you go shopping and add the coupons to your card without having to clip physical coupons. It's an easy way to save and it remembers what you purchase, creating personalized deals for the future.

CARPOOL OR USE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION WHEN YOU CAN

9. Gas prices are always changing and it can sometimes be hard to set a budget for gas usage. Carpooling with a friend to campus a few days a week can help you both save money. Using public transportation is also a good option, as a pass is often less expensive than the amount of money you would be spending on gas.

BUY WHAT YOU NEED BEFORE BUYING WHAT YOU WANT

10. This one sounds like common sense, but sometimes it is hard to think about the future when you see something at the mall that you MUST HAVE. When the season changes and it starts to cool down, it is easy to want to go out and get a whole new wardrobe. While that would be great to be able to do, as college students, many do not have that luxury. When shopping for clothes, always look for sales! Many popular stores always have specials and some even offer student discounts.



ILLUSTRATION BY JASMINE MOCHIZUKI / VISUAL EDITOR

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Friday
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.



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What's your song? Sing it at **Karaoke Nights** at the Games Room this Wednesday, Sept. 11 from 8 – 10 p.m. You could win a \$25 Visa gift card, just by having fun with your friends.



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S.T.O.P.

Continued from page 1

printers and televisions.

To further discourage potential thieves, a sticker printed in bright red type is placed beside the plate, marking the device as being registered with S.T.O.P.

If a device is found by someone other than the owner, an 800-number that is printed on the plate and sticker can be dialed to assist in recovery. Thieves can also see the number on the sticker and are encouraged to call it to "identify the owner and avoid prosecution," the sticker reads.

The plate is designed to make it virtually impossible to remove. Doing so will cause severe damage to the device.

If the device is nonetheless removed, a chemically etched

permanent tattoo underneath the plate warns the thief the device is registered.

The decision by campus police to sell the plates through the Matador Bookstore was made as a matter of convenience for students who may wish to pay for the plates with a debit or credit card, Villalobos said. Campus police only accept cash transactions.

"Anyone can make the logical conclusion that there's going to be a lot more iPads on campus, which is going to increase the chances of theft," Villalobos said.

Although the plates are designed to discourage theft, students must remain vigilant at all times.

"Having the S.T.O.P. plate on your device... isn't going to 100 percent prevent it from being stolen. It's not full proof," Villalobos said.

CSUN sociology major Charmane Bethune recently lost her MacBook Pro after leaving it in a classroom in Sierra Hall. Upon realizing she had left her computer there, Bethune returned to the classroom to find it gone.

The laptop, Bethune said, contained school notes, recommendation letters and personal and financial information such as her social security number and boyfriend and parent's information. The laptop had no insurance and the AppleCare warranty had recently expired.

Although Bethune had never heard of S.T.O.P. before, she said such programs can go a long way in possibly locating student's missing devices.

"It's something I have to worry about now, because of my personal information," Bethune said regarding the theft. "If you are carrying electronics, make sure they are always with you and that you can see them."

In the meantime Bethune will be keeping an eye on her and her parent's respective accounts for any fraudulent activity.

"Hopefully, I can get it back," Bethune said. "I am keeping my fingers crossed."

For more information about S.T.O.P., call CSUN PD at (818) 677-5820.

"Most folks learn by being victimized at least once," Glavin said. "We've seen the pattern, we know it happens. Trust us. You could be victimized really easily. Protect yourselves."

Workshop promotes wildlife preservation

MERCEDES ORTIZ

DAILY SUNDIAL

THE CSUN Botanic Garden hosted an al-Gardening workshop last Saturday morning.

The workshop was about converting a garden into an Audubon Habitat and was conducted in Chaparral Hall by Alan Pollack, chair of the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society.

Pollack introduced different ways to convert gardens into a wildlife habitat for plants and animals. He explained the importance of preserving wildlife in gardens, conserving water and providing shelter to animals.

"Our wildlife is important because life on our planet depends upon our biodiversity," Pollack said. "We need all the wild animals and the wild plants that live in our planet in order for humans to survive."

Brenda Kanno, Botanic Garden manager, said that more than half of the 120 attendees came from

CSUN's surrounding communities.

Kanno said she feels good because these events are helping CSUN be a good neighbor.

Lynn Ruger, a resident in Woodland Hills, has been coming with her husband to the al-Gardening classes since 2006.

"They are really great and we are grateful to CSUN for being supportive of this," said Ruger. "We have learned a lot."

CSUN staff that attended the workshop said they were pleased that the Botanic Garden continues providing this important information for them.

Susan Mueller, history department administrative support specialist, said she wants to "reduce her footprint," meaning she wants to reduce her demand on the Earth's ecosystem, by recycling and composting fruits and vegetables. She is using native plants now to help her achieve her goal.

Louise Adams, testing center administrative support staff, said she has also joined the movement to protect wildlife in gardens. She has already removed her

lawn at home to bring in more native plants.

Workshop facilitator Pollack offered to personally help some of the attendees with their home gardens, and provided them with his business card.

"I hope to plant seeds in people's brains that will encourage them to think about what kind of garden they have and [how] to make it wildlife friendly," Pollack said.

He also added that a number of colleges are becoming more wildlife-friendly and have vastly improved in their landscaping.

Kanno said that the drought-tolerant landscaping approach has already started at CSUN.

"The campus recognizes the need to reduce water usage when they can, [while] still having something attractive to look at."

These al-Gardening series have taken place the past 8 years and according to Kanno they will continue in the future.

The next workshop will be held in January 2014. The main topic will be about rose pruning.

Warning:
Police Identifiable

This equipment is protected against theft by the S.T.O.P. International Registration System, which makes resale of stolen equipment impossible.

Removal of the S.T.O.P. Security Plate requires a force of up to 800 lbs., and if removed, the Plate leaves a permanent, indelible marking:

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PHOTO BY JOHN SARINGO-RODRIGUEZ / PHOTO EDITOR

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SEPTEMBER 9, 2013

OPINION@SUNDIAL.CSUN.EDU

Opinion

Manning needs respect, not neglect

Chelsea Manning should receive hormone therapy - just like any other prisoner in need of treatment

ANA RODRIGUEZ

DAILY SUNDIAL

A DAY AFTER U.S. Army Pvt. Bradley Manning was found guilty of 20 charges, which included espionage, theft and fraud, a statement was released in which Manning expressed that she would like to be known as Chelsea E. Manning and be referred to by female pronouns.

She plans to undergo hormone therapy as soon as possible in Fort Leavenworth military prison in Kansas where she is due to serve her 35-year sentence for having leaked hundreds of thousands of classified documents to the website Wikileaks.

Kimberly Lewis, a spokesperson for the prison, told NBC News that the Army doesn't provide hormone therapy or sex-reassignment surgery. In an article by The Guardian, the prison stated that it does not provide transgender treatment beyond offering psychiatric support.

In the same article in The Guardian, Mara Keisling, who is the executive director of the National Center for Transgender Equality stated, "It is illegal, it's unconstitutional. That is fairly settled law under the Eighth Amendment against cruel and unusual punishment. The medical community is now unified that transition-related care is legitimate medical care that can successfully treat a serious underlying condition."

According to the Legal Information Institute, although prisoners do not have full constitutional rights, they are still protected by the Eighth Amendment against cruel and unusual punishment which is crucial because it supports Manning's case to receive the care she is asking for.

The condition that Keisling refers to is a gender identity disorder (GID), specifically called gender dysphoria, and its treatments usually include psychotherapy, hormone replacement therapy and sex reassignment surgery. In order to properly treat gender dysphoria, all three are required - although at this time Manning is not asking for surgery.

It has been observed that some of the common symptoms that come with gender dysphoria may include withdrawal from social interaction, anxiety, feelings of isolation, depression, and in serious cases, suicide.

If a prison is refusing to provide the medical procedures necessary to treat Manning's transitioning, it



ILLUSTRATION BY JASMINE MOCHIZUKI / VISUAL EDITOR

can be seen similar to torture, which is under the Eighth Amendment to protect against cruel and unusual punishment.

In one case in 2011, *Fields v. Smith*, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit dismissed a Wisconsin law that banned access to hormone therapy and sex reassignment surgery for prison inmates. It was found here that the ban violated the inmate's Eighth Amendment right and the court stated that "refusing to provide effective treatment for a serious medical condition serves no valid penological purpose and amounts to torture."

Although this decision was not made into a law, it is obvious that Manning has a reasonable expectation to receive the necessary care to treat gender dysphoria in order to prevent any of the above symptoms.

In an article written on Aug. 27, 2013 by the Huffington Post, Manning's lawyer David Coombs, stated that Chelsea has offered to pay for her own treatment.

"It's just to be comfortable in her own skin," Coombs said and described it as being similar to ensuring that someone with high blood pressure gets medication.

Since Manning has been diagnosed with gender dysphoria,

which can result in serious symptoms if left untreated, the proper treatment must be offered. If it is not offered then it can easily be seen as a form of torture.

Although Chelsea Manning did commit a crime against the United States, she is still a citizen and as a citizen, she deserves to have her rights respected and rightly implemented.

The reason I feel so strongly about Chelsea Manning's case is because at the early age of 12, my aunt sat me down and asked me, "How do you feel about gay people?"

Even though I was surprised by what I thought was a random ques-

tion, I responded almost immediately.

"I think people should be with who they want to be with," I said. "If two people love each other, then there's nothing wrong with it."

I could see the smile grow across my aunt's face.

"I'm so happy you said that," she said. "Now I feel comfortable telling you that I'm gay."

Although she doesn't know it, my aunt taught me the true meaning of being yourself no matter what anyone might say. Manning did commit a crime and must now deal with the consequences of her actions but that doesn't mean she should be denied her rights.

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Manzanita Hall 140
18111 Nordhoff St.
Northridge, CA 91330-8258

News (818) 677-2915
Advertising (818) 677-2998
Fax (818) 677-3638
www.dailysundial.com

Editor in Chief
LORENTOWNSLEY
editor@csun.edu

News Editor
MONA ADEM
city@csun.edu

Live News
CHAMPAIGN WILLIAMS
city@csun.edu

Features
TAYLOR VILLESAS
features@csun.edu

Sports Editor
KEVIN KIANI
sports_sundial@csun.edu

Opinions
LUIS RIVAS
opinion@csun.edu

Culture Clash
JOSH CARLTON
ane@csun.edu

Photo Editor
JOHN SARINGO-RODRIGUEZ
photo@csun.edu

Assistant Photo Editor
YOSCELIN PEREZ
photo@csun.edu

Multimedia Editor
MEGAN DISKIN

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Online & Social Media Editor
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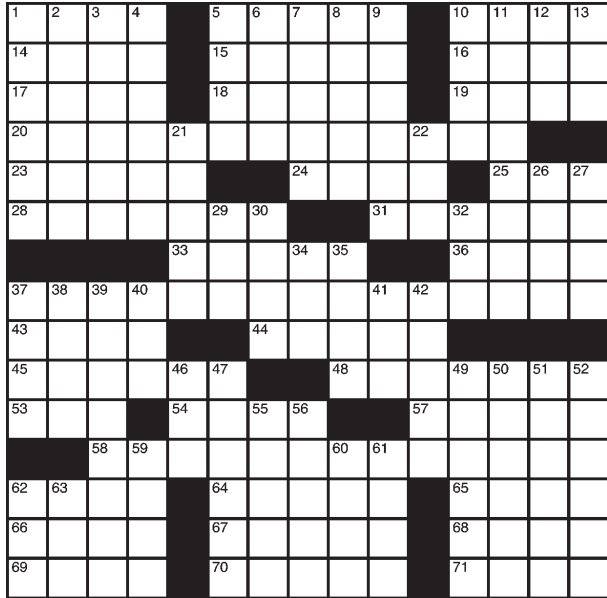
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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

- ACROSS**
- 1 The Crimson Tide's school, for short
 - 5 Delayed, as in traffic
 - 10 Boast
 - 14 Fe on the periodic table
 - 15 Latin bears
 - 16 Bridle strap
 - 17 Ditty
 - 18 Lament over a loss
 - 19 Light brown
 - 20 Gentle leader's quality
 - 23 Cry of surrender
 - 24 Practice for the LSAT, e.g.
 - 25 Crescent component
 - 28 Lou Grant portrayer
 - 31 Tar pits locale
 - 33 Cowboys and Indians, e.g.
 - 36 Lab gel made from seaweed
 - 37 Devout petitions kept to oneself
 - 43 Doughnut's middle
 - 44 Gets really wet
 - 45 Voices one's view
 - 48 401(k) alternative named for a Delaware sen.
 - 53 Like cool cats
 - 54 1986 Peace Nobel
 - 57 "The _____ Sanction": Eastwood thriller set in the Alps
 - 58 Behind-the-scenes investor
 - 62 NYC or London area
 - 64 Bygone anesthetic
 - 65 Bottom of a shoe
 - 66 Be absolutely sure
 - 67 April Fool's antic
 - 68 "Mila 18" author
 - 69 Jedi guru
 - 70 '90s White House cat
 - 71 Confined, with "up"



By Jack McInturff

9/9/13

- DOWN**
- 1 Shellfish soup
 - 2 In the area
 - 3 Tennis great
 - 4 Beings with halos
 - 5 Kid's math homework
 - 6 Pace between a walk and a run
 - 7 Seize, as power
 - 8 Concerned person
 - 9 Pet motel
 - 10 One of TV's Mavericks
 - 11 Plug in, as a smartphone
 - 12 What you breathe
 - 13 African antelope
 - 21 7:50, vis-à-vis 8:00
 - 22 Dean's list no.
 - 26 Back
 - 27 Valets park them
 - 29 Comic strip shriek
 - 30 Explorer John and comical Charlotte
 - 32 Howl at the moon
 - 34 Letters after L
 - 35 Trade jobs
 - 37 "Whoops"
 - 38 "Nah!"

Thursday's Puzzle Solved



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- 39 Haphazard, as workmanship
- 40 Pig holder
- 41 Former MGM rival
- 42 Daisylike fall bloomer
- 46 Long, thin fish
- 47 Rains ice pellets
- 49 Asks boldly, as for a loan
- 50 Turn one's back on
- 51 Land with a rod
- 52 Slap the cuffs on
- 55 Emcee's speech
- 56 Moral principle
- 59 Des Moines's state
- 60 Quick kiss
- 61 Slow-moving vessels
- 62 Big _____ Country
- 63 Sean's mom
- Yoko

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FANTASY FOOTBALL

Declining stock: Players to avoid

BRIAN BERNSTEIN
DAILY SUNDIAL

THE 2013-14 NFL SEASON is here and that means fantasy football is back. With all the acquisitions teams have made, players' stocks have gone up and down. Whether a player is on a new team, or the same team that has lost other key players, his stock may have dropped in the fantasy world.

TOM BRADY

Quarterback Tom Brady's stock dropped slightly for the 2013 fantasy season because of the uncertainty of the New England Patriots' offense.

Stevan Ridley, entering his third season in the NFL, will start at running back for the Patriots this season. Last year he rushed for 1,263 yards, however, his rushing stats will not earn Brady any fantasy points. Ridley's production was also credited to how well the Patriots passing attack was with tight ends Rob Gronkowski, Aaron Hernandez and wide receiver Wes Welker.

This year, Hernandez is in jail, Gronkowski is recovering from back and wrist surgery and Welker is with the Denver Broncos. Although the Patriots replaced Welker with Danny Amendola, Brady's numbers will slip without the dual threat

of Gronkowski and Hernandez.

Brady is still a premiere quarterback in the NFL and will put up better numbers than most, but his production will take a hit, even when Gronkowski returns, with a new offense.

MIKE WALLACE

The Dolphins are not known for their passing game, and no one knows if Wallace and second year quarterback Ryan Tannehill are on the same page. The Dolphins did not show any signs of a deep threat in pre-season, so the chemistry factor between these two players is still a mystery.

Wallace could be a steal because of the unknown aspect of the Dolphins' offensive ability and schemes. He may have big reception numbers, but he may not rack up the yardage and touchdowns to keep fantasy owners happy.

Wallace is a high-upside receiver if Offensive Coordinator Mike Sherman and Head Coach Joe Philbin trust their quarterback's arm enough to open up the playbook and take chances downfield. Wallace will become an integral part of the Miami offense and rack up major fantasy points.

ANTONIO GATES

Gates' production has dropped steadily since 2009 when he had a career high in receiving yards at 1,157.



San Diego Chargers tight end Antonio Gates will make a lot of fantasy owners unhappy with his inconsistent production this season.

His health has also been a problem and that won't get better considering Gates is 33 years old. Also, he has not reached 800 yards receiving since the 2009 season and his average yards-per-catch has slowly diminished as well.

This is mostly due to the lack of talent around him. Receivers Malcolm Floyd and Eddie Royal are both battling

injuries suffered during the pre-season. Without impact receivers surrounding Gates, opposing defenses can focus their attention on him which will make him an irrelevant fantasy option.

Quarterback Philip Rivers is also a reason for the lack of success Gates has had. Rivers has gotten the reputation of an irresponsible gun-slinger who

throws the ball into tight spaces and turns it over at an alarming rate. He has thrown double-digit picks in the last three seasons, including 20 in 2011.

The Chargers also hired a new head coach this offseason. Mike McCoy, who was the Denver Broncos offensive coordinator last year, is credited last year with helping the Broncos secure their second highest

win total for a regular season at 13, but that was more due to Peyton Manning's brilliance. Rivers can't even be mentioned in the same breath as Manning so it's safe to say the offense won't be as high-octane and potent as it was in Denver.

Fantasy owners should steer clear of Gates this season as his production is bound to take a big hit.

Players on the rise after preseason

DARKO DEBOGOVIC
DAILY SUNDIAL

ALTHOUGH THE NFL pre-season may seem meaningless when it comes to team rankings, it can have a major impact from an individual standpoint.

Like the stock exchange, the pre-season determines the rise and fall of potential players. Some plummet while others break-out, raising expectations of fans and coaches across the country.

VERNON DAVIS

Coming off a Super Bowl loss, Davis saw his numbers decline drastically from recent years, catching only six passes for 61 yards to close out the final six regular-season games.

After Colin Kaepernick took over for Alex Smith, Davis disappeared from the offense and it was clear that the two weren't on the same page.

Things seemed to get better in the postseason, as Davis caught 12 passes for



Cleveland Browns quarterback Brandon Weeden looks to break out this year after a sub-par rookie season.

254 yards and a touchdown in three games.

Thanks to the development of their relationship, the tight end has been lining up at wide receiver in training camp this year.

According to the Sacramento Bee, Davis has been "the perfect match for Kaepernick's ever-improving long ball, and has been by far the most consistent deep threat."

With Michael Crabtree's

indefinite torn Achilles injury, the 49ers will have to incorporate Davis more into their offense. Expect him to have a huge role this year and return to the formidable, Pro Bowl level we are accustomed to.

BRANDON WEEDEN

Last season didn't go so well for Weeden during some stretches. It looked like he couldn't hit water if he fell out of a boat.

But despite the lackluster year, the 29-year-old showed signs of hope during the pre-season. In his first outing against the St. Louis Rams, he went 10-13 for 112 yards and a touchdown on a crucial third-and-goal throw.

Recently hired Offensive Coordinator Norv Turner's new downfield attack should open things up for the second year quarterback far better than last year's west coast offense, which underutilized his strength.

In an interview with the Cleveland Plain Dealer, former NFL head coach and ESPN analyst Jon Gruden expressed his faith in Weeden.

"I think they need to build around Weeden and improve the receiving corps," said Gruden. "I'm confident he's going to be a good pro quarterback."

Weeden finished the pre-season with 334 yards, three touchdowns and no interceptions. Being named the official starter should give him confi-

dence heading into this season and Browns' fans something to hope for.

EDDIE LACY

Everyone knows what Aaron Rodgers can do slinging the rock, but imagine adding a physical, elusive back to the Packers' already potent offense.

Lacy's pedigree speaks for itself: three BCS National Championships with the University of Alabama, including 181 yards and two touchdowns in the 2012 SEC Championship game, 140 yards, one rushing touchdown and one catching touchdown in the 2013 BCS Championship Game.

With the recent injury to running back DuJuan Harris, the door is wide open for Lacy to be the No.1 featured back in Green Bay. In his first preseason action Lacy racked up 40 yards on eight carries against the Rams.

The threat of an explosive rushing attack will open up play action for Green Bay, strengthening their deep ball.

Lacy gives Rodgers and the Packers something they've been missing for a long time, a legit running game.