

# Zumbathon raises funds for breast cancer

**CLARISSA PERKINS**  
CONTRIBUTOR

**NEARLY 300** CSUN students, staff and community members filled the Matadome to capacity and busted a move for the third annual Zumbathon in an effort to raise money for Breast Cancer research Wednesday evening.

Hosted by Unified We Serve, a student volunteer program at CSUN, this zumba marathon was dedicated to the memory of Mary Jane Smith-Waldman, a former CSUN Kinesiology instructor and CSUN Hall of Fame Volleyball player. Smith-Waldman

passed away two years ago after battling breast cancer.

"It was very important that we honor somebody who had first-hand experience with our cause," said Justin Weiss, activity coordinator for Unified We Serve.

Matador Athletics was a major sponsor of this particular Zumbathon in memory of Smith-Waldman because she was a student athlete while attending CSUN.

"We identified through Matador Athletics that Mary Jane was really somebody who helped shine light on the importance of doing an event like this to help individuals like her," Weiss said.

Zumbathon at CSUN has become an annual event

that allows the Matador community to dance for the end of disease.

"Three years ago we (Unified We Serve) had the idea of putting together philanthropy in the month of October for breast cancer awareness month and for breast cancer research," Weiss said.

Among the 300 plus attendees were representatives from Tau Gamma Rho, a fraternity on campus that volunteered and raised money for the Susan G. Kolman For the Cure foundation as part of their philanthropic focus.

Tau Gamma Rho participated in the festivities and danced their way in the direction of a cure for breast cancer.

Mason Brown, CSUN senior, fourth year Greek and programmer on the fraternity's executive board was in attendance with 15 of his brothers.

We have moms, aunts and sisters going through it so we thought the cause was fitting," Brown said.

According to Brown, Tau Gamma Rho chose breast cancer as their philanthropic cause because it hit home.

Supporting their Greek brothers were the sisters of Alpha Xi Delta.



KEN SCARBORO / SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

The CSUN community danced together to fundraise money for breast cancer research in honor of CSUN hall of fame alumna Mary Jane Smith-Waldman on Wednesday night.

Senior and fourth year Greek Vanessa Lozoya attended her first Zumbathon. "I was really excited to hear about it" Lozoya said. "My grandma is a breast cancer survivor so I wanted to come out and donate to the cause while having a blast."

Student Recreation Center (SRC) Zumba instructors, Danny Ramos and Elaine Woods led the crowd in the routines and were joined by other CSUN staff and dancers.

Dawn Ellerbe, the associate athletic director for marketing, branding and fan development led two of the dances.

"I'm a Zumba instructor in my personal life" Ellerbe, a regular at Zumba, said. When she found out about the event from the instructors she was excited to participate and work with Unified We Serve.

Having CSUN staff participate in hands on roles is a new addition by event coordinators in an effort

to get more of the campus involved in helping raise money for the cure.

The event was publicized on campus as well as through social media and was open to students, faculty and the public.

Tickets were sold for \$10 by Associated Students and \$13.50 via Ticketmaster. All proceeds from Zumbathon are being donated in Mary Jane Smith-Waldman's name to the Susan G. Koman for the Cure foundation.



KEN SCARBORO / SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

Unified We Serve has its third annual Zumbathon in the Matadome to support breast cancer research.

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# The keys for educational success

**ABIGAIL RONDON**  
DAILY SUNDIAL

**DURING** the Higher Education Symposium students and faculty learned that practical and intellectual skills such as creative thinking, communication and teamwork are vital for success in higher education.

The symposium took place Tuesday and Wednesday at USU Northridge Center and served as an open forum where ideas about higher education were brought together to form a discussion.

Debra Humphreys, the guest speaker and vice president for Policy and Public Engagement at the Association of American Colleges and Universities, discussed the education system and the changes that should be made to improve the quality of education.

In order to properly prepare and overcome challenges that come after graduation, a student must gain knowledge of things such as human cultures and personal and social responsibilities, according to Humphreys.

"I think that what we may have to give students is that mentorship piece. I would encourage students to make sure that they still stay connected to their faculty because technology is a tool," said Marilyn J. Williams, a professor in the department of

education and a current faculty member at the Academic Technology Center. "I think that we are able to learn from each other, and so that learning community, I think, is very important."

Part of Humphreys' presentation included select data on student achievement. According to the statistics, only 28 percent of college students surveyed by UCLA claimed that their knowledge of global issues had grown since beginning college.

According to proficiency profile competitive data only eight percent of college seniors tested proficient in critical thinking.

"I want to focus on the fact that not only do we need more college graduates, but we need them to be educated with a quality education," professor Williams said. "We have both a quality shortfall and a detainment shortfall, and both of them are pretty urgent."

Educational practices such as internships, writing-intensive courses, learning communities and undergraduate research are just a few of the objectives Humphreys pointed out in terms of creating a better learning environment for students and eventually a higher success rate after graduation.

She said these kinds of practices are those in which students can't be lurking in the background, and it is crucial that they engage with faculty, peers and the subject matter in order to succeed.



JOHN SARINGO-RODRIGUEZ / PHOTO EDITOR

Debra Humphreys, vice president for policy and public engagement for the Association of American Colleges and Universities, spoke at The CSUN Symposium to Examine the Future of Higher Education event at the Northridge Center, USU on Tuesday.

Juana Mora, special assistant to the dean of Chicana/o studies, supported Humphreys' claim that education has turned into a concern.

"I think she's right that we just haven't done that across the board, we don't provide that to all the students, and that's one of my concerns. I want to make sure that in the future, every student has that kind of access to those kinds of practices," Mora said.

With hopes of raising success

rates among students and bringing awareness and a resolution to the issue, Humphreys closed with an encouraging message.

"Partly what I see as my job is to create a more informed public who can understand why it actually is worth investing tuition dollars and tax dollars in the quality education," Mora said. "Ultimately, it is really important that we provide students with knowledge and the ability to put knowledge to use."

# Expressing art with The Guild

**CLARISSA CORONA**  
DAILY SUNDIAL

**CSUN'S PAINTING GUILD** introduced its new exhibit at "Meet The Guild", an opening reception, Wednesday evening in the Art & Design Center. The exhibit features 22 art pieces judged by the officers of the guild, ranging from paintings to sculptures.

"We traditionally accept all disciplines of artwork ranging from sculpture, photography, printmaking, graphic design, illustration, performance, and of course painting," said Ashley Mistriell, president and judge of the Painting Guild.

The Guild is an academic club that allows to students to express themselves while developing professional skills. All students are encouraged to join the CSUN Painting Guild no matter their major.

Albert Dominguez, freshman undecided major, attended the opening of the guild because he had gone to a meeting of the Guild before and enjoyed all the people.

"I was really eager to get into the art community

here at CSUN," Dominguez said. "I've always been into the arts...without (art) life would be boring."

The artists who had their art displayed at the exhibit also came to check out the reception, and some were found taking photos proudly next to their art.

Emma Wolgast, freshman CTVA major, decided to join Dominguez to the exhibit because of the possibility of meeting new people and seeing the art.

"Without it, there would be significantly less color and life would be boring," Wolgast said. "If there was no art, there would be no expression. Without expression, we would be ticking time bombs."

The "Meet The Guild" exhibition is the third one of its kind that has been put on by the guild as an "introduction of our member's work to the CSUN community," said Mistriell. All the art shown has the opportunity to be chosen on display in the Art Advisement office.

The Exhibition will be continue until Oct. 10 in the West Gallery located in the Art & Design Center. It's open Mon.-Sat. 12-4 pm and Thurs. 12-8 pm.

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# Student shares family tragedy and her first generation guilt

**VERA CASTANEDA**  
DAILY SUNDIAL

**CHOOSING TO** continue her undergraduate studies at CSUN while her father was dying in a Colorado hospital bed was a hard but clear choice for Blanca Samano. Although her father never got the chance to tell her the pride he felt in how attending college could change her future, Samano later found out through his friends.

"One of the reasons that made me come back to college (after visiting him in the hospital) was that a lot of his friends approached me and told me that my dad talks so much about me," Samano said. "He was proud that his oldest daughter was going to college. My parents, they have the perspective that I'm doing something great for them."

Samano's father went into a coma in spring 2011. After years of heavy drinking and poor nutrition, he developed liver disease and diabetes. Samano visited her father in mid-March and returned to CSUN hoping to catch up in her studies during spring break. Even though doctors didn't expect him to survive, Samano

retained a discreet hope against medical probability.

"My whole world fell apart then and there because my dad was part of my support system. When I needed financial support, emotional support, when I needed anything, my dad was my person. When he passed away it was really shocking to me," Samano said.

Her father died during spring break that year. She was not able to attend his funeral during finals week and despite her best academic efforts, Samano had to medically withdraw from all her spring classes.

Missing her father's funeral and not being involved in rearing her younger siblings are a few examples of paradoxical guilt felt by many first generation students, Samano explained.

Samano thanks the broadcasters from Univision for reporting a story on the importance of a college education. She said she couldn't imagine what she would be doing if her mother had not watched that broadcast and pushed her to attend CSUN.

"When you are first generation, your parent's knowledge about college is all what they see on TV, what the media tells them it is," Samano said.

Samano is a peer advisor

in the Mike Curb College EOP Satellite. She works alongside full-time staff that advise first generation EOP students.

"A student who is first generation may need additional information on how and what kind of access they can receive. I also believe that university personnel advocates for students who are first generation versus parents advocating for the students," said Sevetlana Pirjan, an EOP academic advisor.

Despite the fierce support her mother provided in the beginning of her college career, Samano received frequent calls from her asking if she'd had enough of college and if she was ready to come home.

"At times my parents don't understand what it means to be away. They don't understand that you can't come to all the holidays and the birthday parties, especially when they live four hours away," Samano said.

Samano's family didn't expect her to go to college, saying that they have more hard-laboring farm workers, than students.

"Thermal (a small city in the Coachella Valley) is an agricultural area. There are a lot of farms and reservations. My grandparents worked in the fields. My mom worked in the fields," Samano said.

Her background influenced her chosen majors, chicano/a studies and sociology, and her plans to return to thermal as a community organizer.

"I think it goes back to being from a farm working family. I know what happens in the fields. There are a lot of things that we can strive for and work for," Samano said. "Working conditions are bad, the living conditions in Thermal are really bad."

Her involvement in M.E.Ch.A. (Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan), a Chicano student organization, began during Samano's freshman year and led to her position as chair.

"My first impression of her was of a strong woman who was not afraid to voice her opinion," said Ana Miriam Barragan, Samano's roommate and M.E.Ch.A. member. "She might be impatient at times, but when it comes to organizing and her life, Blanca will not waste time focusing on the problems but rather focusing on alternatives."

Through academia, Samano wants to realize her parent's hopes of creating something of greatness for them through her future plans.

"In the future, I do see myself as a professor. I do



VERA CASTANEDA / DAILY SUNDIAL

Blanca Samano, 22, Chicana/o and Sociology Double Major, 5th Year Former chair of M.E.Ch.A., a student organization that is active in political issues, such as farm worker's rights.

see myself as one of the mujeres that I look up to here in the Chicano studies department. But I also feel a sense of commitment to my community back in the Coachella Valley—back in Thermal," Samano said.

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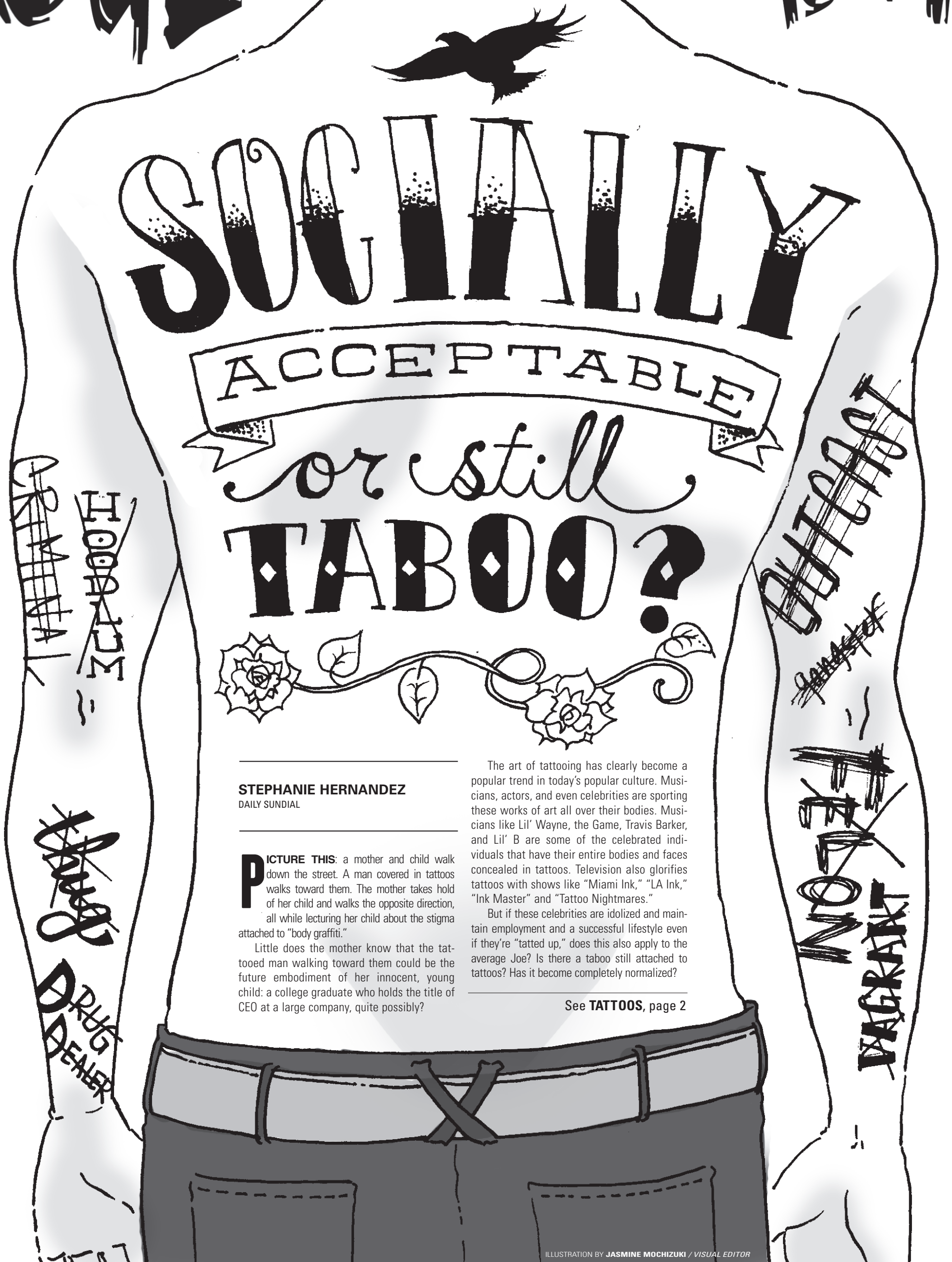
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# CULTURE CLASH



**STEPHANIE HERNANDEZ**  
DAILY SUNDIAL

**P**ICTURE THIS: a mother and child walk down the street. A man covered in tattoos walks toward them. The mother takes hold of her child and walks the opposite direction, all while lecturing her child about the stigma attached to "body graffiti."

Little does the mother know that the tattooed man walking toward them could be the future embodiment of her innocent, young child: a college graduate who holds the title of CEO at a large company, quite possibly?

The art of tattooing has clearly become a popular trend in today's popular culture. Musicians, actors, and even celebrities are sporting these works of art all over their bodies. Musicians like Lil' Wayne, the Game, Travis Barker, and Lil' B are some of the celebrated individuals that have their entire bodies and faces concealed in tattoos. Television also glorifies tattoos with shows like "Miami Ink," "LA Ink," "Ink Master" and "Tattoo Nightmares."

But if these celebrities are idolized and maintain employment and a successful lifestyle even if they're "tatted up," does this also apply to the average Joe? Is there a taboo still attached to tattoos? Has it become completely normalized?

See **TATTOOS**, page 2

**TATTOOS**

*Continued from page 1*

"The definition of taboo takes it to the extreme, but in a way it definitely was a taboo matter," said 24-year-old CSUN grad Cecilia Hernandez, who works as a preschool teacher and recreational therapist. "But some people definitely still have the mentality that tattoos are still associated with criminals and 'cholos' and a lot of people still have that old school mindset where tattoos give off false assumptions about a person."

As society changes, people's perceptions about the world and its inhabitants also change. People are becoming more open to accept the wide range of individuals that make up our society.

Veronica Perez, a 21-year-old political science major, believes that even though tattoos are becoming more accepted in society, there are nevertheless certain people that are still against them.

"I think tattoos are still looked at in a negative way, especially certain religions where they believe having ink on your body is a sin," Perez said. "And I don't think any employers would be OK with employees having tattoos."

Tattoos and those who showcase their bodies as canvases are becoming an everyday thing in the outside world, but are employers still applying a no tattoo policy in the workplace?

"I think it really depends where you work," Hernandez said. "If they do, I think it's just for a level of professionalism and having exposed tattoos takes away from being professional.

Personally, I am well aware of that and that's why I usually always cover my tattoos."

CSUN admits thousands of students every year, and celebrates a diverse student population. That being said, does CSUN have a policy for student staff and faculty displaying tattoos in the workplace?

"I have seen colleagues on campus with tattoos and if the CSU has a policy on tattoos, I am unaware of it," said Sarah Le Long, employment services and event coordinator for CSUN's Career Center. "Since more people are getting tattoos nowadays, the original associated stereotype of tattoos is becoming more and more obsolete."

For Hernandez, displaying her tattoos enables her to build a relationship with the older students she works with.

"It definitely gives me some common ground with children and when I begin working with at-risk youth and children who have mental health and behavioral issues, having tattoos will help connect and build a trusting relationship with them," Hernandez said. "Currently my supervisors have no issue with [tattoos] and I don't think there's an issue in the social service world."

It seems that although most of today's employers are OK with their employees having tattoos, some are still holding on to the old belief that it may poorly represent their company to customers.

But society has changed. Most people, including some employers, know that having tattoos does not mean you were once in a gang, in prison or murdered someone.

**NOM NOM NOM**

**The good, the bad & the delicious**

**JACOB FREDERICKS**  
DAILY SUNDIAL

**FOR A CITY** steeped in an immensely diverse and rich Hispanic heritage, it is incomprehensible how few quality Mexican restaurants operate in the San Fernando Valley, commonly referred to as "The Valley." San Fernando is recognized as "The First City of the Valley," and has been a final destination for emerging Hispanic families since its foundation in 1874. According to a regional map produced by the Los Angeles Times, Latinos remain the predominant ethnic group in the 34 communities that comprise the SFV.

However, in a community of predominantly Hispanic ethnicities, it often feels as though it would take the resurrection of Francisco Pizarro to track down something as straightforward as a good street taco. In a quest to uncover a street taco that stayed true to its humble origins, three purveyors of Mexican cuisine answered the call, but only one proved worthy.

Señor Sol, located at 9233 Reseda Blvd., failed to positively represent two varieties of taco: the street taco and the rolled taco, or "taquito." Their street tacos (\$2.80 ea.) only consist of a corn tortilla and choice of meat — in this case, carnitas (pork) — and patrons are expected to doctor their tacos with available salsa bar accoutrements. Despite the salsa



JACOB FREDERICKS / DAILY SUNDIAL

bar's well-balanced offering, nothing could have saved the over-priced, foot-long chicken flauta (\$4.75) from drowning beneath a sea of lukewarm cheese, lettuce, sour cream and flavorless guacamole.

Three blocks southwest of CSUN and Señor Sol stands the cosmetically unabashed El Taco Llama. The 8709 Corbin Ave. establishment is one of two in the SFV under the same name and ownership, and it speaks to the no-frills taco enthusiast.

Aside from the aesthetic handicap of a dilapidated kitchen, puzzling menu and cash-only sales, El Taco Llama's three-taco combo at \$7 plus

change is one of many affordable — albeit uninspired — lunch options. Just make sure to prevent an untimely demise of the complimentary tortilla chips and rice from the proximal threat of liquid-state refried beans.

Sensing that El Taco Llama wasn't enough to quell the escalation of a curiously arousing taco bloodlust, Tacos Michoacán is only a few miles down the road, at 17020 Devonshire St. At \$1.25 each, health-conscious diners will be hard-pressed to resist expending a cheat day at the cost of a few good tacos and a high-fructose corn syrup-free Mexican Coca-Cola. The cabeza (head), buche (stomach)

and lengua (tongue) act as mouth-watering proxies of taste, momentarily transporting taco aficionados south of the border. The combination of chopped cilantro and onions, accompanied by a generous splash of fresh salsa, elevates the simplicity of Michoacán's tacos.

Although Tacos Michoacán emerged as the considerable favorite, there are dozens of Mexican restaurants waiting to be discovered in the SFV. Unfortunately, the reality is that in such an oversaturated market, dining out may entail eating at more Señor Sols and El Taco Llamas before a Tacos Michoacán comes along.

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**FASHIONISTA**

# Street swag: How to nail it at your next interview



CHRISTINA SABALBURO / CONTRIBUTOR

**CHRISTINA MOFFITINO**  
CONTRIBUTOR

**WHEN IT** comes to landing the internship or job of your dreams, confidence is everything. If you look good, you feel good and that energy is just what employers are looking to take on in their workspace. Now if buying new clothes for that interview wasn't on your priority list, you might want to reconsider purchasing those key pieces to help you stand out. The student struggle is real, but anyone can make it happen. It's about being creative and adopting a fashion philosophy that works for you, your style and budget. You don't have to have mad money to have mad style. Here's some looks that can easily transition from work to weekend wear. Hopefully they help inspire you to dress for success.

## WOMEN

### FASHION FORWARD

A leather skirt makes a standout wardrobe piece, it's flirty yet edgy. It can easily work for a weekend out. This look would be appropriate if you're applying for a job or internship in a more creative field. You can mix patterns without overdoing it. In this case, the pairing is a polka dot top and floral satchel. The mix of pattern and classic leather will help you stay on trend. Heels are always a must, they'll notice that you made the extra effort to dress up. Plus they're the perfect pump of confidence you need to strut

into that interview. Just remember to practice walking around in them first!

### CONFIDENCE IN COLOR

A well-fitted dress with a subtle waist belt is airing on the side of simplicity. It's a traditional look that works for any job or internship interview and can easily be styled for a day at school or weekend luncheon. Picking a solid bright color definitely makes you stand out and can help your potential employers remember who you are. This look is simple with neutrals and minimal accessories. Remember, when it comes to job interviews, less is more. Statement earrings and a watch add the right touch to show you're detail-oriented and you have mastered self-presentation.

## MEN

### PERSONALITY ALWAYS WINS

Shake up that traditional cotton shirt and tie, slack combo and opt for a denim button up shirt with a fun, quirky tie. Instead of traditional black and grey, throw in some caramel corduroys to bring out the colors in a tie. Just remember gentleman: when your tie is bold, your shirt holds back and when your shirt is loud your tie quiets down. Mixing a printed tie and shirt is great for weekend wear but you don't want to overwhelm your interviewer in the first meeting.

### MODERN MAN

If you don't want to look like the average applicant, go with a pattern. Plaid and stripes get you noticed. A wool tie in a rich texture is a great investment piece that can work for

date nights and other special occasions. You don't have to always pair the tie with a blazer. For a more casual interview or day at the office fold up your sleeves and wear some dark wash jeans.

To make the most out of your work wardrobe invest in classic, quality pieces that will last and transition throughout the changing seasons of fashion. Think of your

wardrobe like your bank account, you want to save for the things you really want and it's an investment for yourself and your future. Come prepared with a printed resume, a portfolio (if you have one) and questions for your employer. With a well-polished look and the right preparation, you'll be updating your LinkedIn profile with your new job in no time!



CHRISTINA SABALBURO / CONTRIBUTOR



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# 4

At 8:00 p.m.  
**Hamlet: The Acting Company**  
Plaza Del Sol Concert Hall  
Cost: \$35 to \$40

The VPAC is hosting a special performance of the Shakespeare classic, "Hamlet" that is not to be missed. The Acting Company, who has been around for over 40 years, is performing the play for the first time since forming. One may be turned off by "Hamlet," considering that it was one of those plays most were forced to read in high school, but revisiting a classic later in life can be a rewarding experience for a weathered soul. That being said, take a chance and go see "Hamlet."

# 5

At 4:00 to 5:00 p.m.  
**Eagle Rock Music Festival**  
Colorado Blvd. between Eagle Rock Blvd and Argus Dr.  
Cost: \$15 to \$20

Street festivals are always a good time. Street fests with live music are even better. The Eagle Rock Music Festival started in 1998 with the hopes of bringing LA natives together. The fest promotes not only local bands, but also Eagle Rock business' and the culture within the neighborhood. Another plus is that the event is all ages and pet-friendly, so feel free to bring the whole family!

# 6

At 2:00 to 10:00 p.m.  
**Way Over Yonder**  
The Santa Monica Pier  
Cost: 2 Day Pass \$80, 1 Day \$45

Way Over Yonder began as a way to bring the tradition of the Newport Folk Festival in Rhode Island westward. The classic fest, still going today, saw one of the most controversial moves in music history: Dylan going electric. It's probably safe to say that Way Over Yonder won't be causing an uproar in the folk scene, but with Bright Eye's frontman Conor Oberst headlining Sunday night, it's sure to be a reason to check this fest out.

# 7

At 8:30 p.m.  
**Little Green Cars**  
The Echoplex  
Cost: \$12 to \$14

The members of the Irish indie rock band, Little Green Cars, are barely old enough to drink in the states, but these old souls are without a doubt turning some heads over here, and by the looks of it, they're here to stay. After making the rounds on the fests over summer (Coachella, SXSW), LGC is making a stop in Los Angeles in support of their latest album "Absolute Zero."

# 8

At 10:00 p.m.  
**Ari Shaffir, Neal Brennan + more**  
The Laugh Factory  
Cost: \$17 to \$27

With midterms right around the corner, students need all the laughs they can get. The Laugh Factory in Hollywood has become a staple in the LA comedy scene and has played host to comedians from all sides of the spectrum. Ari Shaffir and Neal Brennan round out a night that is sure to be just the antidote in getting rid of that mid-semester frown. Don't miss out!



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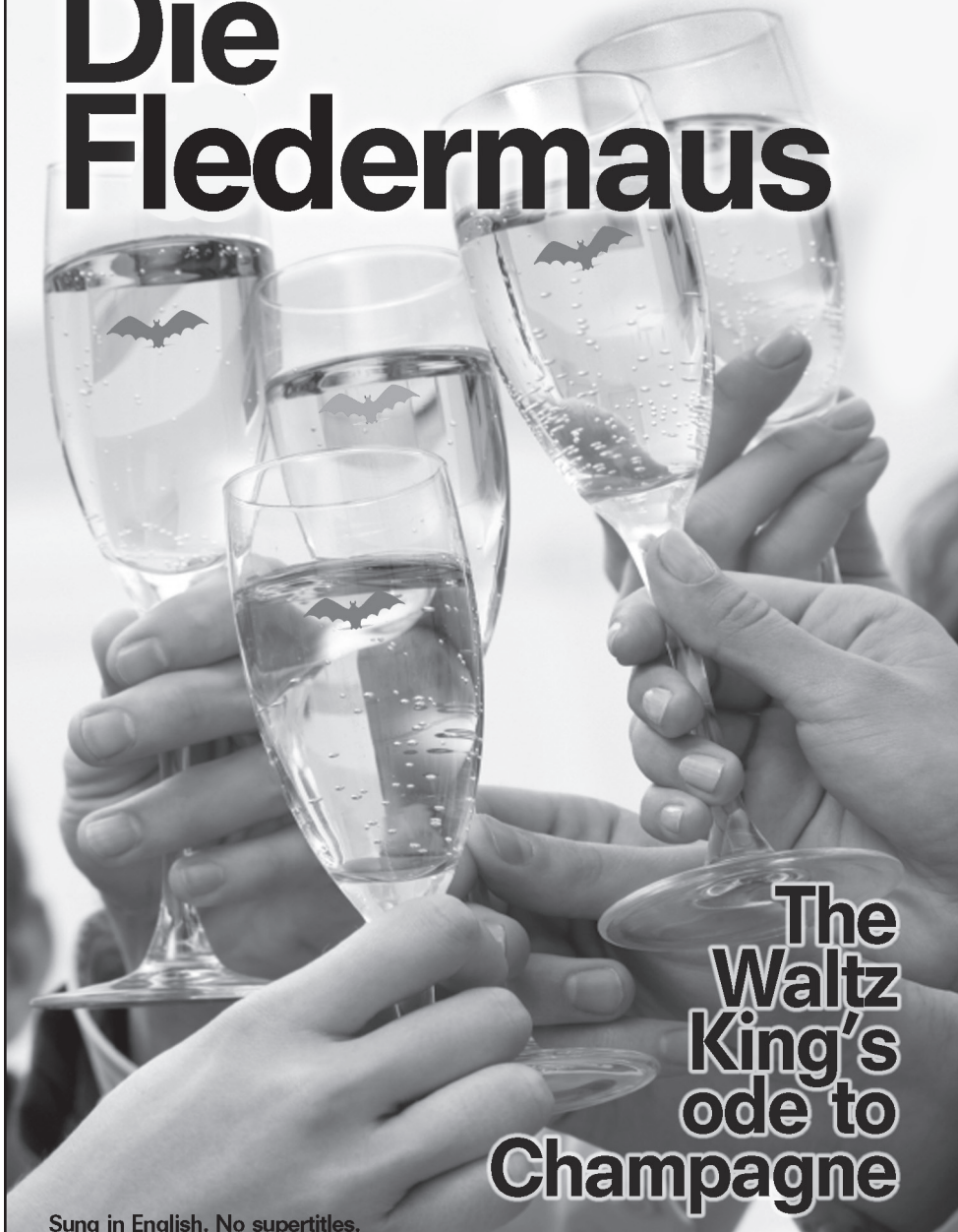
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**DAILY SUNDIAL** Your news. All day.

# Alumna to share her story at local TED Talk

**ANDREW MARTINEZ**  
DAILY SUNDIAL

**CSUN ALUMNA** Olympia LePoint is not your typical educator. A former award-winning rocket scientist, LePoint is the CEO of her own consulting corporation and is the author of the book, "Mathaphobia: How You Can Overcome Your Math Fears and Become a Rocket Scientist." And now she can add TED speaker to her resume.

The TEDxPCC Conference, an independently organized TED event, will be held at the Arcadia High School Performing Arts Center in Arcadia on Saturday, November 23.

TED, an acronym for Technology, Entertainment and Design, is a set of conferences that are featured around the world. Established in 1984 by a non-profit foundation, TED promotes "Ideas worth spreading," and features speakers who promote creative, innovative ideas.

LePoint will be the fea-

tured speaker at the independently organized TEDxPCC Conference in November, where she will discuss the challenges she faced in overcoming barriers in both her education and career and how others can use the same methods to succeed.

LePoint's path to success was not easy. She faced adversity early on, growing up in poverty in Los Angeles and struggling in the classroom. LePoint failed algebra and geometry, and got a D in calculus. However, in 11th grade, she met a teacher who tutored her for the AP Calculus exam.

"It would be a beautiful story if I could say that I passed the calculus test afterwards but I didn't," LePoint said, "but rather I learned the process to study, and I learned the process to succeed."

LePoint realized that she struggled with "mathaphobia," a term she created which describes the fear that shuts down a person's critical thinking when struggling with mathematics.

"When I learned to overcome mathaphobia I was empowered and I thought to



ANDREW MARTINEZ / DAILY SUNDIAL

Former rocket scientist and CSUN alumna Olympia LePoint will be speaking at a TED Talk event in November. LePoint will talk about the adversity she faced on her way to becoming a rocket scientist and educator, and share her path towards success.

myself if I could do this and reprogram my brain to become a rocket scientist, I can help other people do the same," LePoint said.

After graduating high school, LePoint was motivated to pursue a career in science and mathematics. She was shocked to discover that only 1 in 31,000 African-

and mathematics and embrace it so we'll have a new future of people to pursue those fields," she said.

Shellie Hadvina, LePoint's former mentor and current CSUN associate director of alumni relations, saw firsthand LePoint's drive to educate and help others.

"Even as an undergraduate, she was passionate as a student in completing her education and sharing the value of education with everyone around her," Hadvina said. "She has always been an innovative problem solver and she has honed her skills well and is now dedicated to fostering change in our nation."

LePoint, who graduated in 1998 with a BA and later in 2005 with an MA, both in Applied Mathematics, said her time at CSUN was "extremely amazing and extremely challenging at the same time." She even had to tough it through the 1994 Northridge earthquake.

"We had to find a way to keep up the courage to continue with our education," LePoint said, "at the same time

it was exciting because all of us that were here that stayed bonded together and we've become friends for life."

She was hired by Boeing after she graduated and worked as a rocket scientist with NASA for 10 years as a reliability engineer.

LePoint helped launch 28 space shuttles, and was awarded with the 2004 Boeing Company Professional Excellence Award, as well as the 2003 National Black Engineer of the Year "Modern Day Technology Leader" Award.

The TEDxPCC Conference will focus on "overcomers," what LePoint calls people who overcome adversity. The event organizer selected her as a speaker after reading an article about how she became a rocket scientist after failing mathematics in the past.

"I'm always talking about the process to succeed, but they're asking about what it was like in my head as I overcame these barriers," LePoint said. "This is the first time I will share with the world what it took and what went through my brain in doing so."

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OCTOBER 3, 2013

# Opinion

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## IT'S JUST A GAME, ASSHOLES!

Sports is about bringing people together, not about team rivalries that escalate into violence, bloodshed and death



ILLUSTRATION BY JAE KITINOJA / CONTRIBUTOR

**MEGAN DISKIN**  
MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

**WHEN WALTER** O'Malley, then owner of the Brooklyn Dodgers, decided to move the ball club to California in 1957 he convinced then owner of the New York Giants, Horace Stoneham, to move his ball club there, too. O'Malley wanted to keep the years-old rivalry alive. Both teams moved west where the Dodgers settled in Los Angeles and the Giants settled in San Francisco. And just like Walter O'Malley wanted, this historic rivalry remained alive and kicking.

Just last week, a San Francisco Giants fan fatally stabbed a Dodgers fan blocks away from AT&T Park after a fight over the long-running feud ensued. The fan, Jonathan Denver, was in town to catch a Wednesday night ballgame with his father and brother for his father's birthday.

Unfortunately, the string of senseless violence connected to this rivalry does not end there.

The world of sports is saturated with the blood of fans who've been wounded or murdered over the rivalries their favorite sports teams belong to. Let me repeat: they've been wounded or murdered over the rivalry their team belongs to.

The Dodgers-Giants rivalry is just one of the catalysts that have sparked this kind of meaningless bloodshed. It spans across all sports and all countries.

In a 2011 pre-season game, the San Francisco 49ers beat the Oakland Raiders at Candlestick Park 17-3 before two fans were shot and wounded in the stadium parking lot. And just before that a 26-year-old fan was attacked and brutally beaten unconscious in a stadium bathroom which led to him being hospitalized. The "Battle of the Bay" exhibition game no longer is played as a result of this incident.

Sometimes a rivalry isn't needed to trigger these senseless acts.

Sometimes the sting of a recent loss can have the same effect.

Two Chicago Bulls fans were shot by two Philadelphia 76ers fans while riding a train in Philadelphia after the Bulls beat the Sixers 96-89. Both parties had been arguing before the shots were fired. But want to know the worst part? The shooters were teenagers! What kind of example are we setting if two teenaged boys are causing this kind of violence?

At a soccer game in Brazil, a referee named Otavio da Silva got into an on-field argument with player Josenir Abreu and da Silva eventually ejected him from the field. But Abreu wouldn't leave so the referee took out a knife and stabbed him to death. In retaliation, angry fans stormed the field, stoned the referee to death and quartered his body before mounting his head on a stake in the middle of the field.

So what causes this kind of behavior? Is it the frustration of another loss or the excitement of another win? Or could that inebriant called alcohol, which often rears its

ugly head when something needs to be blamed, be the culprit?

In this case, alcohol isn't just a scapegoat. According to the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, alcohol is a factor in 40 percent of all violent crimes. Alcohol can also "change mood and behavior, and make it harder to think clearly," according to the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.

As much as I enjoy drinking a beer at Dodger Stadium I would gladly give it up if there was any chance that it could decrease the number of fan-related deaths and injuries.

These kinds of incidents ruin the sanctity of sports. No fan should ever be killed over a lost game. In all seriousness, what control do the fans have over the outcome of the game? And besides bragging rights and contentment, what does the fan get when their team wins a game or even a championship title? Unless they have money on the game, absolutely nothing. They are mere spectators.

On the other hand, when a fan commits these kinds of violent acts

they become eligible to receive lawsuits, time in prison, community service, fines and my favorite: a place in hell.

When I attend Dodger games I am choosing to use my valuable leisure time to enjoy something that brings me happiness. It's a time for me to escape the struggles of my daily life and be a part of something that's bigger than myself. I carry a love and respect for the game of baseball. I also carry love and respect for the rest of humanity, especially the people who love the same sport as I do. Sports should bring fans together not tear them apart.

But we live in a society that is obsessed with competition, us versus them. It's not about the love of the game. It's about who holds the trophy. It's not about the love of the country. It's about whose idea is better. It's not about equal rights for everyone. It's about who can obtain the most power. Until the global society changes the way it thinks about conflict, survival and legacy, this problem may never go away.

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## COLUMN

# The dark side of the World Cup

One of the biggest sporting events in the world has transitioned into a corrupt and inhumane exploitation of workers

**NATHALIA H. NIELSEN**  
CONTRIBUTOR

**THE WORLD CUP** is a big deal around the world. Actually, it is a huge deal. Not only do fans get to watch the best of what soccer can offer over the course of several weeks, but the countries hosting the tournament empty their piggy banks to run the event. Let us look at some numbers to get a feeling of the sheer size and importance of the World Cup.

Last time it took place was in 2010 in South Africa. About 3.18 million fans attended the 64 matches. It was shown in every single country on Earth and television coverage reached over 3.2 billion people. The finale between Spain and the Netherlands alone reached 909.6 million in-house viewers and 130,000 jobs were created in South Africa because of the event. South Africa spent \$5.6 billion to host the games and \$3.6 billion was raised, not even counting money made by selling actual tickets to the soccer games.

It is apparent that the World Cup extends far beyond soccer alone. It is no longer a matter of love for the game but rather a matter of prestige, politics and economics. Being chosen as a host country will put you on the map – for better or worse.

Whilst the festivities in South Africa are three years gone, another country has been passed the torch and steps into the limelight as they prepare to host the World Cup in 2014. Brazil was unsurprisingly chosen as host nation in 2007 by FIFA due to the fact that they were the only bidders. Still, when the news broke, Brazilians took their celebrations to the street and excitement began bubbling in the hearts of soccer fans. The World Cup would return to the home of legends like Pelé, Ronaldo and Ronaldinho.

However, the paint of those newly built soccer stadiums slowly started trickling off as report after report about demonstrations and slave-like conditions started surfacing. At first, everything had gone so well. Stories told of how Brazil battled slave labor and gave former “slaves” dignified jobs

front and center in the World Cup preparations. Fast forward one year and an investigation recently showed that 111 workers were lured to work on the expansion of Sao Paulo international airport with promises of high wages but instead got living conditions “analogue to slaves,” as stated by the Labour attorney general’s office.

In retrospective, it is worth pondering if Brazil actually would have been chosen as the host nation had there been other contenders. The country’s economy was already damaged in 2007 because of the credit crisis and on top of that, the population consisting of 193.9 million people was and still is marked by social disparity. During this summer, thousands took to the streets to protest corruption, working conditions and the billions of dollars spent on the World Cup and 2016 Olympics.

While Brazil certainly is to blame for taking two such huge events as The World Cup and the Olympics upon them in times of economic and social distress, it is FIFA who soccer fans and the general public should cast a critical gaze upon. Soccer’s governing body is first the one who mainly milks the profit of every major event. During the World Cup in 2010, FIFA earned more than \$3 billion through sale of television rights and sponsorships, while South Africa, having spent more than twice that amount, only made around \$100 million from ticket sales.

Faced with the choice of finding the host nation for the World Cup in 2022, FIFA eyed the possibility for an even wider audience and bigger profit in the Arab world when Qatar made a bid. Chosen in front of nations such as Australia, Japan and the United States, there was a serious backlash as critics claimed that the voting was “fixed,” as they blamed the oil-rich nation for buying support.

FIFA defended their choice at first but FIFA president, Sepp Blatter, has since stated that “it may well be that we made a mistake at the time.”

This comment was solely made on the fact that the temperatures during summer reach an inhumane level. But what about inhumane treatment of workers then? The Guardian reported that immigrant workers in Qatar face “abuses that amount to modern-day slavery.” In an upsetting revelation, it was found that at least 44 workers died between June and August due to either heart-related issues or workplace accidents, and further that Nepalese men

had not been paid for months.

Having run face first into a brick wall of human rights, FIFA is currently trying to salvage what is left of their credibility by promising to make workers’ well being their first priority. What these recent events have shown more than anything is that FIFA not only governs soccer but also hold the lives of millions of people in their hands. Now, the question remains whether this is a job they took too lightly.



ILLUSTRATION BY SARAH CASCADEN / CONTRIBUTOR

## UPCOMING GAMES



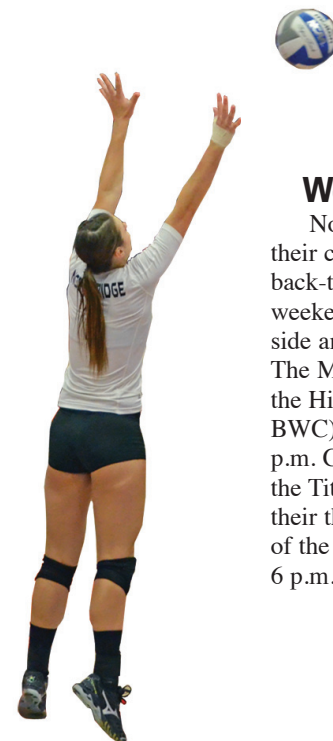
### Men's Soccer:

CSUN opens up Big West Conference play with a pair of road games this weekend against Sacramento State and UC Davis. The Matadors travel up to the state capital on Friday for a 4 p.m. kickoff against the Hornets (2-3-3). Northridge will then travel to Davis on Sunday for a 3 p.m. kickoff against the Aggies (4-4-1).



### Women's Soccer:

Matadors will also open up Big West Conference play on the road against UC Riverside and Cal State Fullerton. The Matadors will take on the Highlanders (3-7-1) on Friday at 6 p.m. Northridge will then travel to Fullerton on Sunday to face the Titans (5-3-3) at 6 p.m.



### Women's Volleyball:

Northridge continue their conference play with back-to-back road games this weekend against UC Riverside and Cal State Fullerton. The Matadors will take on the Highlanders (1-12, 0-1 BWC) on Friday at 7:30 p.m. CSUN will then face the Titans (7-6, 0-1 BWC) in their third conference game of the season on Saturday at 6 p.m.