

How other CSU campuses handle academic freedom of speech

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CSUN math professor David Klein's anti-Israel website sparks a debate over academic freedom of speech

SHIRA MOSKOWITZ
DAILY SUNDIAL

CSUN MATHEMATICS professor David Klein has spent years defending his right to express his views about boycotting the state of Israel. His name was recently brought up during the CSU board of trustees meeting regarding the legality of his website.

While CSUN students are known for utilizing their First Amendment rights to openly express their opinions about controversial issues, college professors, on the other hand, are entitled to academic freedom of speech.

According to the American Association of University Professors (AAUP), academic freedom "addresses rights within the educational contexts of teaching, learning, and research both in and outside the classroom—for individuals at private as well as at public institutions."

LEGALITY

Klein has linked a webpage in support of the boycott through his faculty department website, angering many Jewish groups such as AMCHA

Initiative, a non-profit organization helping to fight anti-Semitism on college campuses.

AMCHA brought up Klein's webpage to the CSU Board of Trustees meeting, claiming he had broken California education code 89005.5, because he hasn't received permission from the board to express such views. But Klein said this is a "misrepresentation of the law."

"What the law says, is if you portray an opinion as being the opinion of the California State University system, then you have to have permission from the trustees," Klein said.

After a thorough investigation in 2012, California Attorney General Kamala D. Harris, found Klein's boycotting webpage to not violate any of the California State University's codes of conduct.

Although he linked the controversial page through the CSUN server, Klein would only be in violation of the law if he attached his own personal views to that of the university. However, Klein is clear on his website that these views are

only his personal views, and not affiliated with the university.

Michael Uhlenkamp, director of public affairs for the CSU, said that the CSU Office of General Counsel reviewed the website and didn't find any material that violates the California Education Code 89005.5, "because it is unlikely that a reasonable person would interpret the 'Boycott Israel' web page as an endorsement by the CSU or CSUN of the material contained on the website."

"While professor Klein might have a perspective that is not shared by the CSU or CSU Northridge, posting a link to a website that is hosted by the campus is not an endorsement by the university of views expressed on the website," Uhlenkamp said.

In July 2012, CSUN President Dianne Harrison supported Klein's right to academic freedom of speech.

"The reviews concluded that, because of the traditions of free speech and academic freedom that are a hallmark of our society and of higher

"To censor the website would be contrary to the important value of free speech..."

—DIANNE HARRISON
CSUN PRESIDENT

education, it was not appropriate to censor Dr. Klein's comments on the basis of disagreement with his personal views," Harrison said.

However, while Harrison said that she does "... not agree with Dr. Klein's positions and, particularly, the manner in which he has chosen to present them," or his approach in doing so, she does stand by the university's position to not censor Klein's views.

"To censor the website would be contrary to the important value of free speech and send the disturbing message that the university is willing to restrict an individual's right to personal expression due to disagreement with those views," Harrison said.

FREE SPEECH IN THE CLASSROOM

Klein said that although the web page is accessible to any student through his department website, it is not a topic he discusses in class.

Communication department chair Bernardo Attias believes that teaching is a separate issue from free speech, and that the point of free speech is that it "protects your right to make controversial statements in the classroom and

SPEECH

Continued from page 1

teach about whatever issues you want to teach about.”

He believes if a professor is hired to teach a certain subject, and instead of teaching that subject, they only talk about their personal views, then that would most likely be a problem that would get the professor unfavorable reviews within the department and the college.

As long as the professor is addressing the subject of the class, Attias said they have the right to express their personal views as well.

“If [Klein] is teaching math and gives a math problem about three Palestinians and two Israelis and he makes a math problem out of his politi-

cal views, I don’t think there’s a problem with that. Some students might be uncomfortable with that, but it’s kind of too bad,” Attias said.

President of CSUN Students for Israel Alex Beyzer, 20, believes that freedom of speech should be allowed in the classroom only if all the sides of the issue are presented equally, which he believes Klein’s webpage fails to do.

“I do not believe that professors should use a university domain page or class time to promote a very biased agenda on a highly controversial and sensitive topic, especially if it is unrelated to the class that they are teaching,” Beyzer said.

Ali Ghazal, president of Students for Justice in Palestine Club at CSUN, does not believe that a professor’s own personal views should be a deciding factor in taking a class with a professor or not.

“There is a specific curriculum that is to be followed and that is what the student should take into account when enrolling in a class,” Ghazal said. “With that, I believe being open minded allows us all to learn from each other.”

HOW ARE STUDENTS AFFECTED?

While Provost and VP for Academic Affairs Harold Hellenbrand acknowledges that all students have the right to opt out of a class with a professor whose views they don’t agree with, he also notes that if that is the only professor teaching that course, the student may have no other option but to take that specific class.

However, he believes that professors who have strong controversial views are usually the ones who are most objective in the classroom.

“Most often than not, the professors who have pronounced eradicable views on subjects have figured out how to teach objectively because they are aware that their views are so at odds with the establishment that they know people will challenge them,” Hellenbrand said. “And they’re aware that if they’re challenged, then

they need to make sure that they’re grading standards are thoroughly objective.”

Josh Blank, a CSUN junior majoring in television production, said that while he supports free speech, he does not feel that Klein should be allowed to host his webpage.

“I am all for free speech but when someone at a school has an influence, they should keep their political views to themselves and not be allowed to create websites like these,” Blank said.

Klein’s reviews on the popular website www.ratemyprofessor.com range from students loving him to strongly disliking him, yet there are no comments about the controversial website. However, there are a few comments made by students saying Klein’s opinions do interfere with his class.

“You have to believe his opinions to get a good grade. Slightly crazy and uses his math professor status to preach.. avoid at all costs...you won’t learn anything and will just think of ways not to have to go to class,” one commenter said on the website, while another commenter called him “the worst teacher on campus and very opinionated.”

CSUN senior Adam Shamam, 24, an information systems and business major, feels that Klein’s website is “one sided.”

“I feel that the images presented along with the accompanying information fail to provide the full story behind

the incident that led to the subject incident in question,” Shamam said. “Therefore CSUN students or any other personnel visiting the site are likely to insinuate misled interpretations of website contents.”

Furthermore, he feels that

CSUN should monitor the website because of its highly controversial images.

“CSUN should investigate and/or monitor this website due to the fact that respective students have direct access to it and so do the students enrolling into the professor’s class,” Shamam said.

ETHICS

Harrison is not only a supporter of academic free speech, but she has expressed that she is very much against racism and in support of multiculturalism, a claim that Klein questions is sincere.

Although they have let him express his views, Klein said Harrison has yet to acknowledge his views about Israel as a “legitimate topic.”

“[Harrison] has occasionally expressed her opposition to racism and her support for multiculturalism which is good and appropriate, but the most acute dramatic example of racism in the world today is the apartheid system in Israel, so anybody who is concerned about racism, has to consider that case. If somebody claims to care about racism, then they have to take a look at that and be critical of that. I think it

“I do not believe that professors should use a university domain page or class time to promote a very biased agenda...”

—ALEX BEYZER
PRESIDENT OF CSUN STUDENTS FOR ISRAEL

“I believe very strongly that you have the academic freedom to take the positions you want to take whether or not they are relevant to what your teaching...”


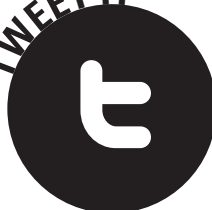
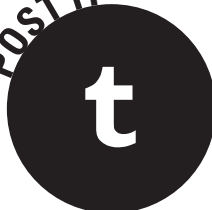
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raises a question how sincere her opposition to racism is, if she won't even acknowledge that this is a legitimate topic," Klein said.

President Harrison has stood by her comments that she made in 2011, that she does not agree with Klein's personal views about Israel.

Klein said it's only those who express controversial views who have to fight for academic freedom.

"It's a constant fight and it's a constant battle to keep that academic freedom. For non-controversial topics, there's no issue for academic freedom, everybody is happy to let people say not controversial things. It's only the controversial topics where it really becomes relevant," Klein said.

Hellenbrand said that while it's important for professors to voice their views, he does not agree with some of Klein's ideologies and prefer that the website be hosted from another server.

"I would certainly prefer that the server he is using would be from Mars or another planet or a personal website, because it would make everybody's life a lot easier. So as I said it would be politically easier for us if it was offshore but I don't think that morally it makes much of a difference," Hellenbrand said.

CSUN Business law professor Carol Docan said that professors who express their personal views should be aware that it could affect their

position within the university.

"If you're not a full-time professor, I think you are even risking promotion. No one would say this to your face, but there could be some issues that could go on. Your colleagues are going to be judging you in terms of your work and judging if you're going to be promoted or not. Each department makes a decision initially if a faculty member is going to be promoted or retained and I think that might be one direct force for some people," Docan said.

But Attias does not believe that a professor's views should have any affect on them getting tenure or possibly getting fired.

"I believe very strongly that you have the academic freedom to take the positions you want to take whether or not they are relevant to what your teaching and there's very good reasons for that," Attias said.

FACULTY GOVERNANCE

Klein said he uses his CSUN department webpage to link his page about boycotting Israel because he believes it is an issue that deals with faculty governance.

"Faculty governance is a principle that the faculty participate in the governance of the university and so I am expressing my opinion through this website to other faculty that we should join the worldwide movement for non-violent



"I would certainly prefer that the server he is using would be from Mars or another planet or a personal website..."

—HAROLD HELLENBRAND
PROVOST AND VP
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

opposition to the apartheid racist policies of the state of Israel through boycott, in particular, academic and cultural boycott," Klein said.

Hellenbrand does not believe that Klein's webpage to boycott the state of Israel is an issue of faculty governance, and thinks it would be a

"bad move" by the faculty to make such a decision to support it or not based on the webpage itself.

"To get a formal endorsement by faculty governance of the boycott of the state of Israel would probably be overstepping the boundaries, but saying that they're opposed to Israel or saying you're in support of the boycott, would probably be more tolerable for them to do. It just becomes a boundary issue," Hellenbrand said.

However, Hellenbrand said he recognized that Klein might be right when claiming the

issue is one of faculty governance if "it's an issue in the sense to not make a decision, but in expressing an opinion."

Attias feels that Klein's argument that his webpage is an issue of faculty governance is "totally appropriate."

"He has a message that's relevant to the entire university and he's using the university web server that he has access to, to do that. I think that faculty do that all the time with much less controversial messages," Attias said.

HOW FAR IS TOO FAR?

While Klein's website may be first to host a boycott against the state of Israel, CSUN professors running controversial web pages is not a new issue for the university.

In 2010, CSUN economics professor Kenneth Ng made media headlines when his personal website BigBabyKenny.com which guided tourists through the sex trade in Thailand was exposed to university officials.

Hellenbrand addressed the issue in a faculty e-mail saying that while he understands that many people will be disappointed that the university didn't force Ng to shut down the website, but by doing so would mean censoring free speech.

"As university leaders, we believe open debate is critical to ordering our values and determining our acts. While belief in an absolute right to censor might initially comfort

us; "our" and "us" has a way of quickly narrowing to "you" and "me." Then the danger is that exclusion and exploitation, the acts that initially incited us to censor, become the rules of the day," Hellenbrand said in the email.

The website, with a tagline that reads "No hidden agenda. No censorship. No bullshit," is still currently live with tourism advice for those wanting to travel to Thailand. While the website itself does not give direct information about the "Thailand girl scene," it does have a blogroll which links to websites such as Stickman, a site that discusses news about Bangkok including which "naughty bars" to go to.

Every week, Stickman publishes a column about news for "Bangkok-based experts" or for those who are frequent visitors of the popular city. This week's column was called Alone in a Room with a Thai Ladyboy and even includes pictures of the columns "Girl of the week."

Whether Ng is currently in charge of running the website is unknown. He declined an interview for the story.

Hellenbrand said that academic free speech crosses the line when it becomes a religious attack, but said that in regards to Klein, his views are currently only political.

"The issue with professor Klein, is to what extent does political speech against Israel become anti-Semitic? We had decided internally at the university, that his speech was against the current regime in Israel, and is not anti-Semitic, then therefore, it is political speech and he has a right to political speech," Hellenbrand said.

Hellenbrand also said that Klein's website is pushing the envelope in terms of being civil, an issue that has caused the website to be brought up to the CSU Board of Trustees time and time again.

"I think it's bordering on being uncivil because of its pictures that are on there. But that's part of what he is doing on purpose, which is testing out that sort of stuff. What people are normally doing in instances like this, is that they are pushing the boundaries," Hellenbrand said.



For further coverage on how academic freedom of speech is handled on other CSU campuses compared to CSUN, go to page 5.

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Speech rights on CSU campuses

SHIRA MOSKOWITZ
SENIOR STAFF

CALIFORNIA STATE University Long Beach psychology professor Kevin MacDonald, 69, has defended his work and reputation for seven years after his published work about anti-Semitism was exposed to the CSULB faculty.

Just like Klein, MacDonald never associated his views with those of CSULB.

In 2006 someone from the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC), sent an anonymous email to the entire psychology department at CSULB, except for MacDonald himself, directing them to view a comment made about him on the SPLC website discussing his views about anti-Semitism.

MacDonald has since removed his personal views from his university website and now has his own website where his opinions and published work can be found.

According to MacDonald, after the email about him was sent, Heidi Beirich of the SPLC came to CSULB to interview faculty and administrators about him. As a result, many faculty and staff distanced themselves from the professor.

"Eventually several departments issued statements dissociating themselves from my work and, in some cases, condemning my work," MacDonald said.

MacDonald has published three books on Judaism, "A People that Shall Dwell Alone: Judaism as a Group Evolutionary Strategy", "Separation and Its Discontents: Toward an Evolutionary Theory of Anti-Semitism" and "The Culture of Critique: An Evolutionary Analysis of Jewish Involvement in Twentieth-Century Intellectual and Political Movements".

According to MacDonald's website, his first book published in 1994, "A People that Shall Dwell Alone: Judaism as a Group Evolutionary Strategy," discusses the hypothesis that "Judaism is a self-chosen, genetically fairly closed evolutionary strategy,"

meaning that Jews have strategically found ways within their culture to make themselves genetically enhanced, giving them unfair advantages that non-Jewish populations do not have.

"It would be absurd to claim that CSULB has my beliefs. But in any case, the university has distanced itself from my views. There is no question that the SPLC wanted to get me fired, but they failed because I am protected by the tenure system... But the conclusive argument is that a public institution, even more than a private institution,

cannot infringe free speech rights which are enshrined in the first amendment," MacDonald said.

Communication department chair Bernardo Attias believes that while CSUN is one of the more open campuses that supports academic free speech, he doesn't think that guarantees free speech being a given right at all times.

"I think CSUN is a wonderful and very open campus. Compared to other universities around the country, I think we feel pretty safe here saying what we want. But that does not mean that we have absolute free speech right by any means," Attias said.

MacDonald has also received death threats and hate mail because of his personal views and published work, and has even had students interrogate him during a class session about it, which a CSULB student captured on video.

The video, captured on the first day of classes during the Spring 2010 semester shows students asking MacDonald specific questions about his views regarding white supremacy.

The video shows a student asking the professor, "how much will

"Eventually several departments issued statements dissociating themselves from my work and, in some cases, condemning my work,"

—KEVIN McDONALD
CSULB Psychology Professor

CRIME BRIEF

CSUN student arrested

Tuesday morning a CSUN student was arrested by campus police on suspicion of false imprisonment that took place at the Transit Center.

According to the crime alert, when the bus pulled into the Transit Center at 7:50 a.m., a man blocked passengers from exiting the bus. When a female student attempted to exit the suspect refused to move out of her way. The suspect soon turned away and exited the bus.

Once the victim exited the bus the suspect proceeded to follow her and her friends and tapped the victim on her shoulder and attempted to initiate conversation before turning away.

"The victim was able to give enough information for officers to develop a composite sketch, which then allowed the officers to make a quick arrest," said Christina Villalobos, CSUN PD Public Information Officer.

—JAZZMYNE BOGARD,
DAILY SUNDIAL

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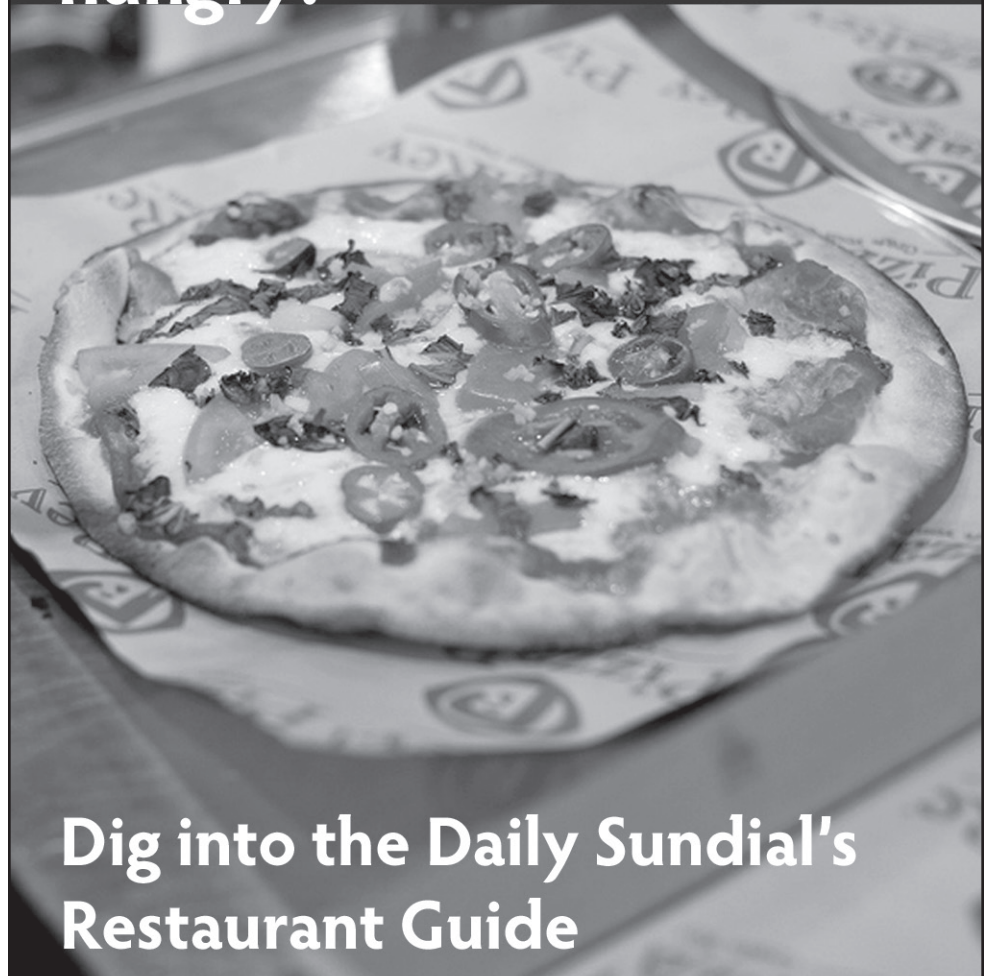
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Opinion

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Deadly 'Concussion Crisis' in NFL

Football players are risking their lives and health for the sake of the game and other people's entertainment

NATHALIA H. NIELSEN
CONTRIBUTOR

BEFORE I EVER WATCHED an NFL game, there were the football movies. "North Dallas Forty," "Everybody's All-American," "Any Given Sunday," "Varsity Blues," "Rudy," "Invincible," "Remember the Titans" – you name it, I watched them all.

As a European, I was fascinated by American sports, and these movies had a profound effect on me. I was stirred by the heroics of football players and coaches. By how the underdog fought his way to the top. By how teams rallied together. By how an injury could seem like a mere inconvenience for a player determined to will his team to victory.

Later I started watching the NFL. It was even better than what I imagined. The heroes, the villains, the blood, sweat and tears all played out live. Once the game is over, we return home with no bruises to show for our commitment to the game other than a sore throat, forgetting already that a wide receiver had gotten a nasty blow. While he leaves our mind, that player still lies tensely on a bench, waiting for the call on whether or not he is going to need surgery, if his season is over. Or, in worst case scenario, if this is the end of his career.

The reality for these injured players is more than a football movie, more than a fantasy football team and more than entertaining us week after week. It is deadly serious. For a long time, no one knew just how serious it was. Then the stories started appearing of how former professional players committed suicide. First it was Mike Webster in 2002, then Terry Long in 2005 and Andre Waters in 2006. In 2011, Chicago Bears defensive back, Dave Duerson, shot himself. Then 2012 came around and Ray Easterling and Junior Seau also killed themselves. What did these six men have in common other than being NFL players? Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE).

CTE may sound complex but when you sum it up it is pretty simple. It is a disease of the brain found in athletes and

others who have a history of repetitive brain trauma – which in most cases are concussions. The men in power of football did not recognize the dangers of brain injuries for a long time. It was not until 1994 a brain injury committee was established, and we need not look further for continued ignorance than 2010 where co-chair, Dr. Ira Casson, denied the connection between repeated head impacts and long-term brain damage.

So perhaps the league did truly not know the dangers? One could almost wish this was true. I wish that the organization of the NFL did not turn a blind eye to the overwhelming evidence brought to them by doctors and thereby did not consciously put players in danger. I wish they had the respect for players, families and fans not to be driven by money as is so often the case with sports. It is not pennies we are talking about here either. Between 2014

and 2022 alone, the league is set to receive \$28 billion in media revenues alone from NBC, Fox and CBS.

To put this staggering amount of money in perspective let us consider the recent trial where the NFL settled in the concussion lawsuit started by 4,500 former players. The settlement means that the league agrees to pay \$765 million for medical and related research. More than \$760 million out of \$28 billion. Let us do the math. That is roughly 3 percent granted by a league to its former players who gave, yes, their health and lives to the game. To say that the players do not carry some blame themselves would be naive and to put it in the words of former New York Jets defensive lineman, Marty Lyons:

"Players had to be more responsible for their own actions. I'm not saying the league didn't know. I'm not saying the players didn't know. It was part of the game."

However, it should not have been a part of the game. It should not be a reality that six of ten players suffer concussions. And it certainly should not be a reality that the settlement means that the elephant in the room again is ignored and focus returns to the game. There is too great a willingness to forget instead of trying to fix the problem, especially among the media who are none too eager to return to the coverage of Monday Night Football.

Trying to put the crisis back on the agenda, PBS just aired the documentary "League of Denial: the NFL's Concussion Crisis," which tries to answer the question of what the NFL knows and when it did know it. It is worth a watch and sends a strong message which I will echo:

For the love of the game, solve the concussion crisis.

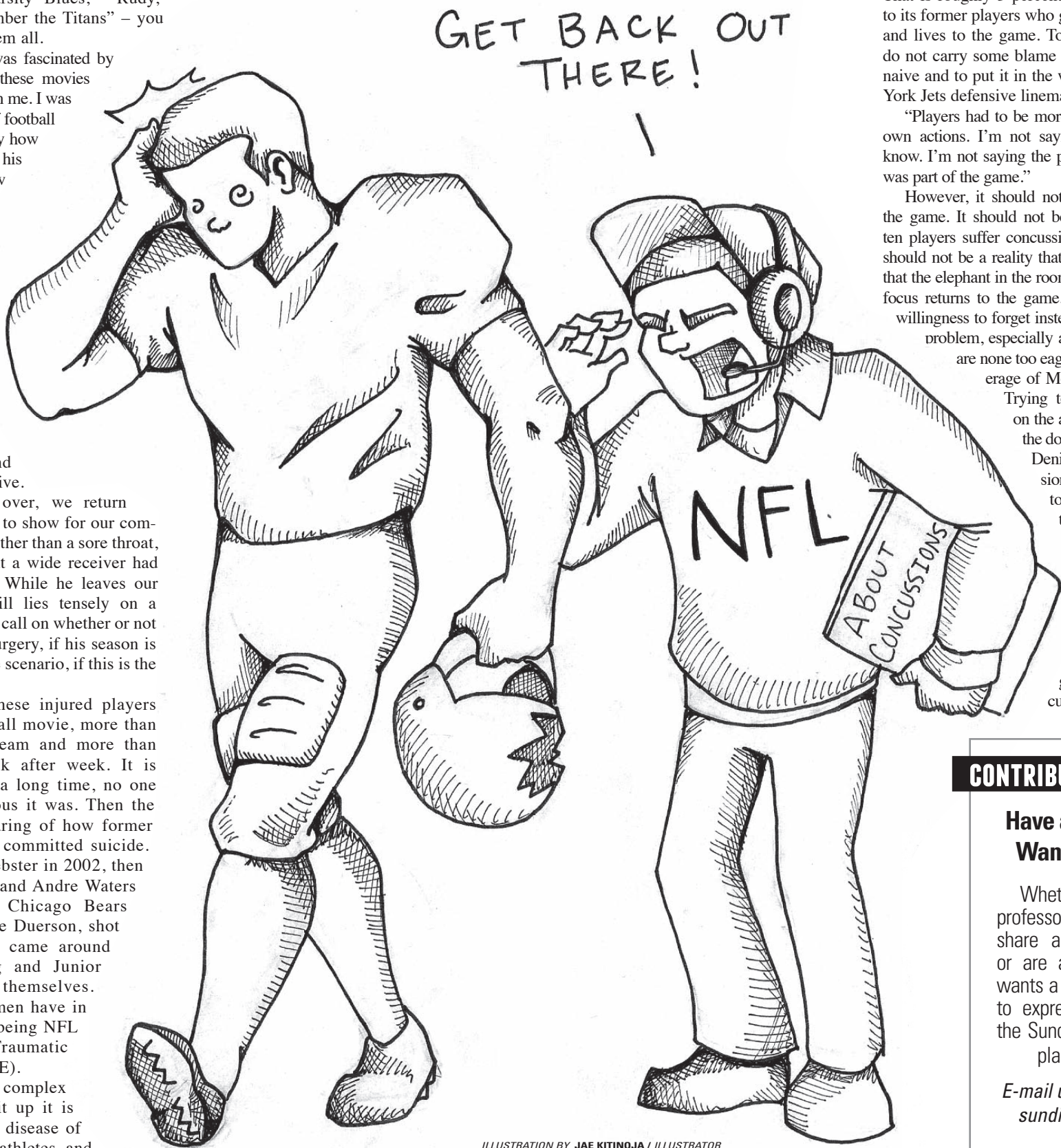


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'Eat Cake' stresses worldwide food disparity

VERA CASTANEDA
DAILY SUNDIAL

CSUN STUDENTS, alumni, faculty and staff watched a Mexican baker recall seeing a mother comfort her wailing infant by feeding it Coca-Cola in a baby bottle on the screen of the Elaine and Alan Armer Theater. The documentary sneak preview "Let Them Eat Cake" juxtaposed images of poverty and malnutrition against images of lavish pastries and gluttony from 12 countries.

"I spend most of my day providing one on one counseling for all students here," said Ellen Bauersfeld, dietician for CSUN Student Health Center, in the discussion panel after film preview. "In watching this film, it is amazing to me the parallels in terms of what our students face and what some of the other young people face across the world."

For Bauersfeld, the Mexican baker's story depicts a lack of education about health. "Even though we (the U.S.) have so much education, there is often a big gap...I see a lot of students

that really don't know the basics. They do not know that the over consumption of certain foods can lead to obesity," Bauersfeld said.

Bauersfeld addressed various points in the documentary that reminded her of the CSUN student population.

The images of starving people followed by close-ups of people taking bites of pastries displayed a disparity between the people who have an excess of food and those who have a scarcity of food.

"There is estimated about 3,900 calories available every day per person in our country. But it is just not distributed evenly," said Bauersfeld. "The average female only needs 2,000 calories a day and the average male only needs about 2,500 calories a day."

According to Alexis Krasilovsky, the writer, director and co-producer of the documentary, the film's purpose is to address issues involving those that have too much to eat and those that don't have enough to eat.

"I also thought, how can we seduce people who are not social activists into thinking about some of those issues. I thought why don't we seduce them visu-



MATTHEW DELGADO / CONTRIBUTOR

CTVA professor, Alexis Krasilovsky participated in a panel after the sneak peek of her new documentary "Let Them Eat Cake," in the Elaine and Alan Armer Theater in Manzanita hall on Monday.



TREVOR STAMP / DAILY SUNDIAL

Dr. Alexis Krasilovsky, CTVA professor, meets with guests during the reception party for a sneak peek of her documentary, "Let Them Eat Cake," on Oct. 14, 2013 at the Elaine and Alan Armer Screening Room in Mazanita Hall.

ally through the camera and incite their taste buds with some of the finest pastries in the world then we could go into the ingredients," Krasilovsky said.

The documentary also includes attitudes towards food by comparing a French child on a diet to a Los Angeles woman struggling with an eating disorder.

"There are a lot of students here with eating dis-

orders from anorexia, to bulimia, to bingeing disorder," Bauersfeld said.

Each of the stories from different countries are diverse in the way they discuss food. Dr. Dena Herman, nutritionist and faculty of the Family and Consumer Sciences Department, as well as a panelist at the event, interpreted the scenes from country to country as a way to cre-

ate the connection between each of the stories.

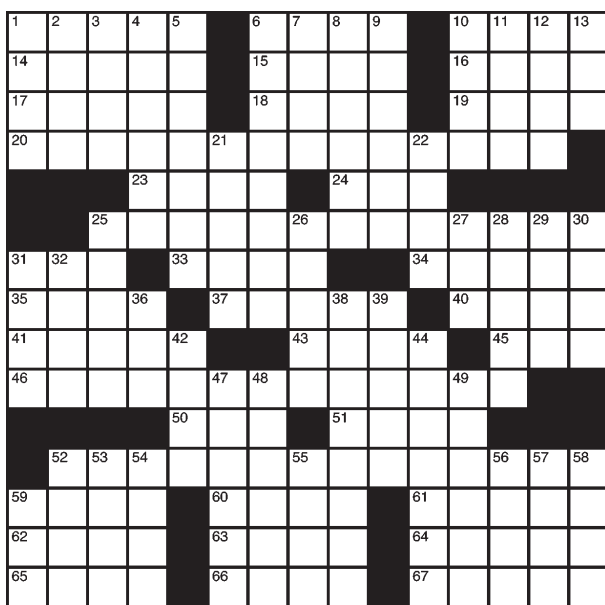
"We are globally and geographically different places and yet we are very linked. The film brought to bear and helped us understand that our actions are the reactions and we are very tied together, whether it is in the sugar market, the cacao market, whatever these large agricultural markets are," said Herman.

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

ACROSS

- 1 Tower site
- 6 "That last piece of cake is mine!"
- 10 Hemingway nickname
- 14 Once ___ time ...
- 15 Shield border, in heraldry
- 16 Skunk's defense
- 17 Roulette choices
- 18 Roulette, for one
- 19 Baltic native
- 20 Some boxing wins
- 23 Not bare
- 24 Large expanse
- 25 Cause a stir
- 31 Bath accessory
- 33 TV talk pioneer
- 34 March composer
- 35 Destructive Greek god
- 37 Like May through August, literally
- 40 Bar order
- 41 Use Comet on
- 43 Rejection from the top
- 45 RMN was his vice president
- 46 Sitcom security device that often defeated its own purpose
- 50 Bread, at times
- 51 Salad cheese
- 52 Where to find the starts of 20-, 25- and 46-Across
- 59 Winter coat
- 60 Michigan city or college
- 61 ___ Janeiro
- 62 Part of a plot
- 63 Pleased
- 64 Navel phenomenon
- 65 Tools for Wolfgang Puck
- 66 Italian noble family
- 67 Fancy moldings



By Pam Amick Klawitter

10/16/13

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved



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10/16/13

DOWN

- 1 Burger King supply
- 2 For each one

- 3 Recipe instruction
- 4 Supplement nutritionally
- 5 Race ender
- 6 Outcome of successful negotiations
- 7 Camaro ___-Z
- 8 A bit down
- 9 Dojo instructor
- 10 Game divided into chukkers
- 11 Arabian Peninsula seaport
- 12 Tools for Wolfgang Puck
- 13 Gallery showing
- 21 Senegal's capital
- 22 Swimmers Crocker and Thorpe
- 25 Rudder's locale
- 26 Coin-tossing attraction
- 27 Gooley lump
- 28 Upholsterer's choice
- 29 Previously owned

- 30 Cut the skin from
- 31 Like "padre," e.g.: Abbr.
- 32 BP subsidiary
- 36 Drag to court
- 38 Like some millionaires
- 39 Expensive
- 42 Pear variety
- 44 Lake on the New York border
- 47 Silo filler
- 48 Hogwarts castings
- 49 Thoughtful
- 52 Cuzco native
- 53 Muffin grain
- 54 Flock females
- 55 Latin I verb
- 56 Single
- 57 "Garfield" canine
- 58 "Cheers" actor
- 59 Maple yield

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COLUMN

Redskins name: insult or honor?

The debate over the Washington Redskins insulting moniker has resurfaced, but owner Dan Snyder refuses to change it

DARKO DEBOGOVIC
DAILY SUNDIAL

ALTHOUGH OUR society has made tremendous leaps in eliminating discrimination and inequality throughout the 21st century, one NFL franchise proves time and time again that ethnic stereotyping is not dead.

For 81 years the Washington Redskins organization (founded in 1932) has profited off a logo that is chauvinistic and racist toward Native American people.

According to the Racial Slur Database, the term Redskin "came from two places, the skin color, then the cruel torture of skinning Native Americans for a bounty. Since their skin was red they started saying 'red skins.'"

What makes matters worse is that the Redskins operate out of Washington D.C., our country's capital.

If America is synonymous with change and freedom then how can our country's most popular sport promote an organization that perpetuates offensive, demeaning stereotypes?

Consider what would happen if tomorrow the Redskins changed their name and logo

to the "Negroes," "Chinks," or "Spics." There would be public outrage, civil right lawsuits and perhaps even riots.

An organization claiming to represent "strength, courage, pride and respect," as stated by owner Daniel Snyder, should not endorse a racially offensive trademark.

So why won't Snyder change the team's name?

Because of the franchises' 81 year history and the fear of losing his fan base (or his revenue) by adopting a new name (see the popularity of the NBA's Charlotte Bobcats or New Orleans Pelicans).

But the truth is, other popular sports franchises that utilize a Native American moniker as their mascot have done so without conjuring offensive racial slurs.

There's the MLB's Atlanta Braves, the NHL's Chicago Blackhawks, the NBA's Golden State Warriors and the NFL's Kansas City Chiefs. Not to mention the various universities that have a Native American mascot: Florida State University Seminoles, San Diego State Aztecs, and Utah Utes are just some examples.

It's shocking to think that a name which invokes the atrocious, horrendous treatment of

Native Americans in this country (at the hands of our European predecessors) has taken so long to become a topic of controversy.

Although this issue has just surfaced publicly, protests and lawsuits have occurred in the past.

Following the Redskins' Super Bowl victory in 1992, Native Americans petitioned former owner Jack Kent Cooke to change the team's name.

Approximately 2,000 Native Americans from local tribes attended Super Bowl 26, including the National Congress of American Indians and the American Indian Movement.

In a 1992 article from the Philadelphia Inquirer Charlene Teters of the Native American Students for Progress stated: "The fact that a football team in the nation's capital could be named the Redskins in this day and age shows how pathetically ignorant this country is."

Amanda Blackhorse, a 31-year-old Navajo social worker, was part of the group that petitioned to the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board to revoke the trademark to the Redskins name in 2006.

Blackhorse hoped the lawsuit would create a large enough financial debt

BY MEDIA SERVICES



COURTESY OF MCT

The Washington Redskins have had their racially offensive mascot for 81 years and owner Dan Snyder has no plans to change it because he feels that he is representing "strength, courage, pride and respect."

that would force Snyder to change the name.

Even President Obama recently expressed his opinion regarding the Redskins in an interview with the Associated Press.

"If I were the owner of the team and I knew that the name of my team, even if they've had a storied history, that was offending a sizable group of people, I'd think about changing it," Obama said.

Dan Snyder, if you want your franchise to reflect the values of "strength, courage, pride and respect," please do this country a favor and change the name of your team once and for all.

COLUMN

Why Oregon should be ranked No. 1

BRIAN BERNSTEIN
DAILY SUNDIAL

THE UNIVERSITY of Oregon Ducks are widely known for their high-octane offense and abstract uniforms. But the No. 2 ranked team in the nation, in the Associated Press and USA Today poll, has tied No. 1 ranked University of Alabama Crimson Tide in ESPN's poll. It's time for Duck fans to flaunt their feathers for the best team in college football.

Undefeated Oregon is known throughout the college world for their offense, and for good measure. Amongst Football Bowl Series (FBS) teams, they rank second in yards per game, 630.5, and points per game, 56.8, and comes in at number three with 324 rushing yards per game.

Their offense does it all. They attack you through the air and on the ground and strike quickly too.

The Ducks offense is so simple, yet extremely complex. They do not have an abundance of formations, however

each play has an arsenal of options and wrinkles. They run a spread-formation no huddle read-option offense where players line up relatively in the same spot each play. The coaches then signal in the play, offense goes off of quarterback Marcus Mariota's read.

Talks about Oregon as the best team in college flourished Saturday when they beat then No. 16 Washington Huskies 45-24. The Ducks gained 631 total yards of offense against a defense that allowed 287.8 yards before Saturday.

Mariota, the Ducks leader, has numbers guaranteeing him the Heisman, barring an injury. In six games, he has completed 60.6 percent of his passes for 1,724 yards, 17 touchdowns, and oh yeah, zero interceptions. He has also rushed 41 times for 426 yards, an average of 10.4 yards per carry, and eight touchdowns.

Besides Mariota, the Ducks dominate their opponents with speed. Junior sensation De'Anthony Thomas, nicknamed the Black Mamba by rap artist Snoop Dogg, is one of the nation's most electrifying playmakers. His blinding speed make fans sympathetic



COURTESY OF MCT

The Oregon Ducks have made a case to be the top team in the nation following a convincing 45-24 win over No. 16 Washington on Saturday.

for defenders who have to try and tackle him in the open field.

Along side Thomas is freshman receiver Bralon Addison. Addison is so shifty he brakes defenders ankles attempting to

points per game.

The Ducks rely on a quick and agile defensive line to put pressure on opposing quarterbacks. This pressure allows the cornerbacks to play aggressive-

ly by being physical with the receivers by bumping them off their routes to disrupt timing.

Duck fans have been defending defensive coordinator Nick Aliotti's "bend, don't break" style defense. Despite losing to Cam Newton and the Auburn Tigers in the 2011 National Championship game, the Ducks held the Tigers to 22 points. Last years Fiesta Bowl victory versus Kansas State University, a team said to be better than Oregon, scored a measly 17 points.

With their two toughest tasks still ahead, No. 9 UCLA in Eugene Oct. 26, and at No. 13 Stanford Nov. 7th, a Thursday night game, the Ducks are set up to make a return trip to the BCS National Title game.

There should be no doubt in any Oregon fan their beloved Ducks could not take down the defending back-to-back champions Alabama. Bama's defense has shown weaknesses this year, and lack the punishing back like Mark Ingram, Trent Richardson, and Eddie Lacy they are accustomed to.

The Oregon Ducks will hoist the crystal football over their heads in Pasadena January 6, 2014.