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# DAILY CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, NORTHRIDGE SUNDIAL

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## UNDOCUMENTED AND LICENSED

A new bill will allow undocumented immigrants to apply for a driver's license in California

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY JOHN SARINGO-RODRIGUEZ / PHOTO EDITOR AND JASMINE MOCHIZUKI / VISUAL EDITOR

SHIRA MOSKOWITZ  
DAILY SUNDIAL

**CALIFORNIA LEGISLATORS** recently signed AB 60, allowing about 1.4 million undocumented immigrants the right to obtain a California driver's license.

"My father was stopped and detained for driving without a license and consequently, he was deported," said David Gonzalez, an 18-year-old undocumented freshman student at CSUN.

Gonzalez who is also a member of Dreams To Be Heard, a group on campus advocating for immigrant rights, said the bill should have been passed a while ago.

"My family and I have been deeply affected by undocumented individuals not being able to have driver's licenses (so) this bill is long overdue. It's not perfect, but it's still good," he said.

The bill, also known as the Safe and Responsible Drivers Act, was proposed by Luis Alejo (D-Salinas) and is currently waiting to be signed by Gov. Jerry Brown.

"With AB 60 we are recognizing the needs of many hard-working immigrants living here and contributing so much to our great state," said Alejo in a recent press release.

### 'It's something they need in order to live'

Undocumented immigrants who apply for a California driver's license but cannot provide a valid Social Security number, Federal tax ID number, or "any other number or identifier determined to be appropriate by the department," must sign an affidavit at the Department of Motor Vehicles.

However, an individual's citizenship or immigration status is not allowed to be used for any kind of "criminal investigations, arrests, or detentions."

Victor Narro, project director for the UCLA Labor Center who specializes in immigration policy, said the bill is a necessity for undocumented immigrants in California.

"You don't want to put people in a situation where they feel they have to drive without a license illegally just to survive," Narro said.

Gabriela Castillo, a 25-year-old undocumented junior and childhood and adolescent development major at CSUN, said she will use

this bill to not only get her driver's license, but to finally get a legal form of identification.

"I am an undocumented student and I have not yet received my identification," Castillo said. "I would benefit from this law because I do drive and being able to obtain a driver's license would help not only myself, but my family as well."



"It's something that many of us have fought for and I know that many of our parents have fought for as well. This law actually passed a long time ago, but Gov. Schwarzenegger repealed it, so it's about time that its actually law again."

**Pedro Ramirez**  
an immigration advocate

undocumented students and immigrant workers said the bill is not only needed here in California, but it will also provide economic growth and safety precautions as well.

"It's something that they need in order to

work and in order to live, but I also think it's good for society as a whole," Wong said.

Wong said the bill will also help undocumented immigrants assimilate into society.

"I think its very important for California to acknowledge that immigrants are a crucial part of our economy, that they contribute greatly to our society and that we should do what we can to provide ways for immigrants to fully integrate into our society," Wong said.

### California setting a precedent

Considering that California is only the 10th state to allow undocumented immigrants to obtain drivers licenses, many supporters of the bill believe that AB 60 will be setting a strong example for other states to follow in the same footsteps.

Pedro Ramirez, an immigration advocate who has experienced what it's like to be discriminated against for being undocumented, fully supports the new law.

"I think the biggest thing is that right now when immigration reform is being debated at the federal level, California took another step forward," Ramirez said. "California is leading the nation and hopefully the politicians and elected officials in Washington, D.C., are going to take a listen."

See **DRIVER'S LICENSE**, page 7

# Mixed feelings over myCSUNtablet

ALEX VEJAR  
DAILY SUNDIAL

**TO BEGIN** the fall semester, seven academic programs were given the opportunity to combine education and technology, potentially leading to one cohesive force of learning.

However, after a month of implementation, the myCSUNtablet initiative has garnered mixed reviews among teachers and students.

"I'd rather just take notes on paper and just have a typical lecture than sit there and do activities on the iPad," said Mei-Ling Cabrera, junior cell and molecular biology major. "I guess it's kind of a learning thing but I don't learn like that."

Cabrera is among those types of students who prefer a more traditional form of learning, consisting of taking notes on paper while listening to a professor's lecture.

Ibtissam Haddada, 24, senior student, said she initially struggled with learning how to use the applications on the iPad, but supports the initiative moving forward.

"It's a good thing [for] education," she said. "It's a good thing also not to carry too much stuff on you; it's just [the] iPad that has all kinds of notes you need, everywhere you go, basically."

After having taught at CSUN for 15 years, Beth Phillips, who teaches classes for the physical therapy doctorate program, feels using the

iPad as a teaching tool has been quite an adjustment.

"It's teaching an old dog a new trick for sure," Phillips said. "I was happy with a scalpel in the anatomy lab and chalk in the chalkboard. But I'm convinced now that I'm halfway through with this that it is going to be really helpful once I'm done with it."

Phillips said she has experienced technological snafus when students are trying to access an application all at once, but that the problem was not a major hindrance to the learning environment.

Brandon Johnson, a student in one of Phillips' classes, has benefitted from the myCSUN tablet initiative.

"It has actually helped me out in preparation for quizzes and examinations and, deeper than that, helped me actually understand what's happening in the human body rather than just recording what is on a test," Johnson said.

Some professors are not only using iPads to teach course content, but also to administer exams and quizzes.

Cindy Malone, professor of biology, said that students may be experiencing added stress from the new software they're using to take tests.

"There was no amazing revelation of wow, everybody did much better, but that could be just it was a lot of stress taking the exam on the iPad," Malone said. "The new software and the inability to take notes on stuff and just a whole new thing may have masked any kind of increased learning that we may have seen. The increased anxiety decreased



LUIS RIVAS / OPINION EDITOR

Dr. Chhandak Basu prepares his biological and physical sciences class for a quiz on Oct. 1 in Chaparral Hall. They will take their quiz using their iPads, as part of the university's myCSUNtablet initiative program with Apple, Inc. which started this semester.

the ability to find the right answers."

Phillips believes that once the kinks work themselves out this semester, using iPads will become a better experience for students and professors alike.

"I think once everyone gets used to using it and understands how to quickly download things, what apps work best for themselves, its going to be very efficient," Phillips said. "There'll be much less use of paper and much less strain on your muscles carrying around heavy textbooks."

As part of the initiative, students

are required to either already possess an iPad or buy one through Apple or the CSUN bookstore. Students can opt to pay for the device in two- or three-semester installments using their financial aid.

Phillips said she tries to accommodate students who either cannot afford an iPad or have a different type of tablet.

"I don't want somebody to have finances be the reason they can't participate [in class]," Phillips said. "They won't have as many bells and whistles and widgets and things they can interact

with, but they will have all the basic content in a PDF format if they can't buy the iPad."

The long-term impact of the myCSUNtablet initiative remains to be seen, but some students are already looking forward to the possibilities.

"I think the future is bright," Johnson said. "I think that it's all about storing information in one localized area that allows students and professors ease of access to necessary and pertinent information to help us absorb the information that we need to learn."

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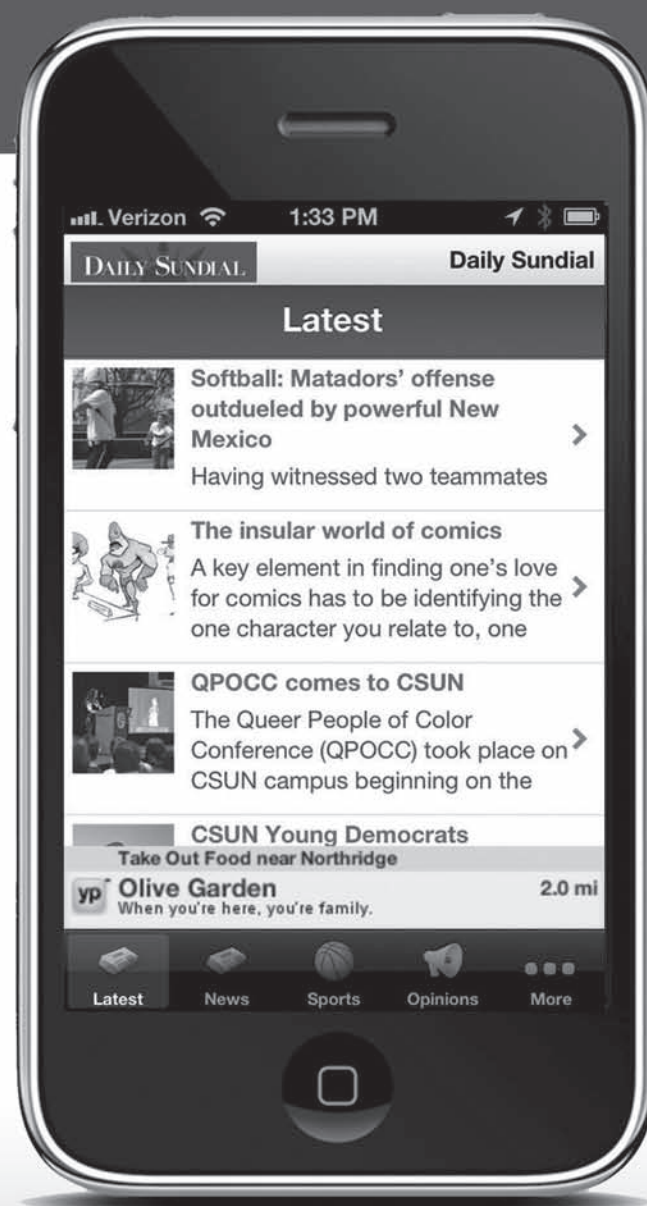
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# Students find their career path

The Pathways program provide students with resources to get ahead in the real world

ROY AZOULAY  
DAILY SUNDIAL

CSUN'S CAREER CENTER hosted their Pathways fair on Tuesday morning at the Matador Square.

Pathways is a program coordinated by the career center to help students determine which occupations fit their individual characteristics. The program also helps students to find educational opportunities in their field, discover internships, networking opportunities and how to further advance their careers.

Multiple tents were set up, each representing one of the four pathways in the Career Center's Pathways program: discover yourself, research academic programs, explore occupations, and plan your future.

"The three basic things every career theory is based on are: know yourself, know the world of work, and integrate the two," said Ryan Adams, a Career Center representative and college counseling graduate student.

Each tent had Career Center representatives explaining and demonstrating how to utilize pathways to it's fullest potential which allows students to understand and take advantage of this free resource.

"Pathways is like a roadmap except it doesn't give you directions, it's all about self-discovery. You're



ANA RODRIGUEZ / DAILY SUNDIAL

The Career Center hosted Pathways Fair in which students had the chance to visit different booths. Students could obtain valuable information concerning choosing a major based on one's strengths and searching for jobs and internships.

walking on a path on your journey, it's up to you where you want to go," said Adams. "I think everyone should be using Pathways, I mean everybody. I don't care if you know your major or are still discovering, this resource is huge!"

As an incentive to learn and inquire about Pathways, stamp cards were handed out to all attendees and stamps were given at each of the four tents after a small demonstration of each aspect of the program.

Stamps could then be redeemed for food, drinks and an opportunity to spin the prize wheel, which guar-

anteed a prize ranging from stress balls, highlighters, flash drives and travel mugs.

Plenty of students were walking around the fair discovering the Pathways program as well as getting more insight on their own path as they migrated from tent to tent.

Stephanie Solalindez, a freshman accounting major, had her eyes opened by Pathways and the fair.

"Before I came here I thought accounting was the only thing I was going to do in my life but after finding out more, it's interesting to see what other careers are out there for

me," said Solalindez. "I really recommend others check out Pathways."

While some were finding out new potential career opportunities, others had their ideas and beliefs reassured.

"Pathways has helped me solidify the major that I want, and helped make it more evident to me that I want to go into that field," said Nicole Abboud, a freshman screenwriting major.

Pathways is a fairly recent program that has been around for about two years. The Career Center is trying to market and advertise this vital resource as best they can.

## PREVIEW

### Matt Damon on campus

Today Diane Ravitch, best-selling author and former U.S. Assistant Secretary of Education is coming to CSUN and will participate in the Education on the Edge lecture series presented by CSUN's Center for Teaching and Learning.

Ravitch will be discussing the pressures facing public education in the United States.

Academy Award winning screenwriter Matt Damon is a longtime advocate of public education and will be introducing Ravitch.

The lecture is from 7 to 8p.m., free to attend and scheduled to be held in the Northridge Center of the USU.

—JAZZMYNE BOGARD, DAILY SUNDIAL

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# WELCOME TO THE 'BANK OF ADULTHOOD'

**TAYLOR VILLESCHAS**  
FEATURES EDITOR

**PART OF GROWING UP** is being entrusted with this tiny square of plastic. Not a big deal, right?

Well, depending on how you treat this tiny square, could determine a lot for later in life. Credit cards aren't inherently bad, but many students go overboard with buying things they don't need, or are too nervous about incurring even more debt, they don't even go near a card. And most of us don't even know what "credit" really is.

Fear not, this is a safe place where innocently ignorant finance questions can be answered.



## WHAT THE HELL IS CREDIT?

Credit is a measure of how trustworthy a person is when it comes to their finances. A person's credit is made up of their credit report, which ultimately determines their credit score.

A credit report is a collection of someone's history of paying bills, number of accounts and credit cards and how long they have been in use, credit limits, recent credit card activity and any bankruptcies, foreclosures or other debts.

A credit report is then used to determine a credit score. The number is derived once credit history information is plugged into an algorithm, however, there isn't any one algorithm. Companies and lenders use different formulas, so credit scores can vary.

## WHAT IS A CREDIT SCORE USED FOR?

A credit score basically tells companies whether or not you'll be able to pay them back, and do so in a timely fashion. It can determine whether you get approved for a new apartment, house, car or yet another student loan.

Long story short, it's important.

## HOW CAN I ESTABLISH GOOD CREDIT?

Let's get philosophical here: what actually is good credit? While different companies use different formulas, most credit algorithms have a range of 300 to 850. Scores that are 700 and above are considered "prime" scores, and is what everyone strives for.

In order to achieve a higher score, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau recommends the following points to consumers:

- Pay all of your bills on time
- Don't abuse your plastic! Don't overuse the credit you already have.
- Check your credit report for any errors, and dispute them as soon as possible



## CRAP, I'M IN DEBT! WHAT DO I DO?

The Huffington Post published an article last May about easy ways to get out of debt.

The author suggests a few simple solutions to this seemingly immense problem.

First, take a deep breath. Panicking over the bills that are piling up isn't going to put more money in your bank account. Lower the anxiety, accept the situation as it is, and calmly move forward. Congratulations, now you're handling things like a "mature adult".

Next, make a list of everything you spend. But don't do it just out of memory and don't solely rely on your budget; be honest, you always underestimate about how much Taco Bell and alcohol you purchase

throughout the month. Huffington Post recommends keeping track of every penny spent in the next 30 days, in order to create a more accurate portrayal of what you are paying for (Taco Bell and alcohol).

Finally, once a realistic budget has been created, commit to spending less money and increasing your revenues. Pick up some extra shifts at your job, offer to walk your neighbors' dogs (or cats or goldfish) and stop buying useless stuff, like Miley Cyrus's new album.

If you are still running into financial troubles, consider taking some money management courses on campus, or visit your bank to discuss possible options to help decrease your debt.

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# Opinion

## Licenses for all means safety for all

A bill that grants undocumented immigrants the right to driver's licenses is needed for everyone's safety on the road

**ANA RODRIGUEZ**  
DAILY SUNDIAL

**GOV. JERRY BROWN** has recently said he would sign a bill that would allow undocumented immigrants in California to obtain driver's licenses. Although it is beneficial, it also comes with some concerns.

The bill, AB 60, was approved by votes of 28-8 in the California Senate and 55-19 in the Assembly, with Republicans joining the Democrats in the majority vote.

These new licenses will clearly classify the cardholder as being undocumented and will not be acceptable as legal identification. They will carry the initials DP (driver's privilege) instead of DL (driver's license).

In order to apply for these licenses, applicants must provide a signed affidavit

that he or she is not eligible for a Social Security number and lacks proof of authorization to reside in the U.S., proof of California residency and still requires proof of identity. This can be with a consular ID, foreign passport, foreign birth certificate, marriage or divorce certificate, school transcript or a foreign voter registration card.

One of the criticisms that this bill has received is what comes after the applicant provides all of the required paperwork. Many believe that these new non-citizen drivers will not be able to perform as well as others on the road.

These new licenses are not being given away. The applicants will still have to take the same written and driving test as a citizen in California would have to complete.

Another criticism concerns taxpayer dollars in funding the new driver's licenses. Many believe that in these times of scarce resources and budget cuts, California taxpayers should not have to fund education, health care and other services to undocumented immigrants.

These immigrants are not here enjoying a free ride while citizens pay for all of the public services they receive. These immigrants hold jobs and pay taxes, making them just as deserving as anyone else.

Another argument against AB 60 concerns whether or not these newly licensed drivers will or will not purchase insurance. Although it is not guaranteed that all drivers will have insur-

ance, the chance to obtain it will now be available to all.

It is illegal to operate a vehicle without auto insurance and some of the repercussions include a suspended driver's license, suspended vehicle registration, traffic ticket or hefty fines. Many of these newly licensed drivers will surely want to keep their new privilege and would also consider purchasing insurance.

One of the major pushes for this bill was the idea that these licensed drivers would now be able to commute safely. Although, many see it as unhelpful because Social Security cards are required to be employed, not driver's licenses.

"This bill will enable millions of people to get to work safely and legally," Brown said in a recent LA Times article. "Hopefully it will send a message to Washington that immigration reform is long past due."

These new drivers will be able to drive to their jobs where their employer might have hired them illegally. Although it sounds as though undocumented immigrants are taking advantage of the system by having a driver's license and taking a job that would be given to a citizen, the undocumented immigrant is the one who is still at a disadvantage.

A 2012 report by The Migration Policy Institute found that there was a 67 percent earnings gap between naturalized citizens and non-citizen immigrants.

The Pew Hispanic Center estimates the number of undocumented immigrants in the workforce at eight million out of an overall population of approximately 11.2 million individuals, or 71.4 percent. These workers are willing to accept lower wages and poor working conditions because of their residency status.

The fact that AB 60 has passed can be taken as a sign that immigration reform may well be underway and this may be one of the first steps.

As of now, the government is offering as many as 1.76 million undocumented immigrants a way to avoid deportation for now through the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program (DACA).

Obama announced the DACA program in June that postponed deportation for any individuals that were brought to the country as children. They must have arrived before they turned 16, be younger than 31, be high school graduates, be in school or served in the military, along with having a clean criminal record.

Apart from this process there is the naturalization process. It is here that immigrants will have access to all the rights and benefits as any U.S.-born citizen.

Nearly two-thirds of the 5.4 million immigrants legally here from Mexico

who are eligible to become U.S. citizens haven't done so because of the difficult process, according to a the Pew Hispanic Center study. These applicants must learn English, take a citizenship exam and pay the \$680 application fee.

Although citizenship should not be given away, it should however still be attainable by the average individual who needs it.

These new driver's licenses seem to be one of the first steps in giving them opportunities to better their lives. This step will lead to countless others as immigration reform continues to loom.

### WHAT IS AB 60?

- These driver's licenses are only good for driving, not for identification purposes. They will be clearly marked DP for Driver's Privilege.
- Undocumented immigrants still must pass a written and behind-the-wheel driving test.
- If passed, California is not the only state to issue driver's licenses to undocumented immigrants. Currently, Colorado, Maryland, Oregon, New Mexico, Illinois, Washington offer driver's licenses to undocumented immigrants. In addition to California, Rhode Island and Washington, D.C., are considering passing similar legislation.
- This wouldn't be the first time undocumented immigrants are able to get driver's licenses. Prior to 1993, before Senate Bill 976, undocumented immigrants were able to obtain driver's licenses.

INFORMATION COURTESY OF LA TIMES AND POLICYMIC.COM

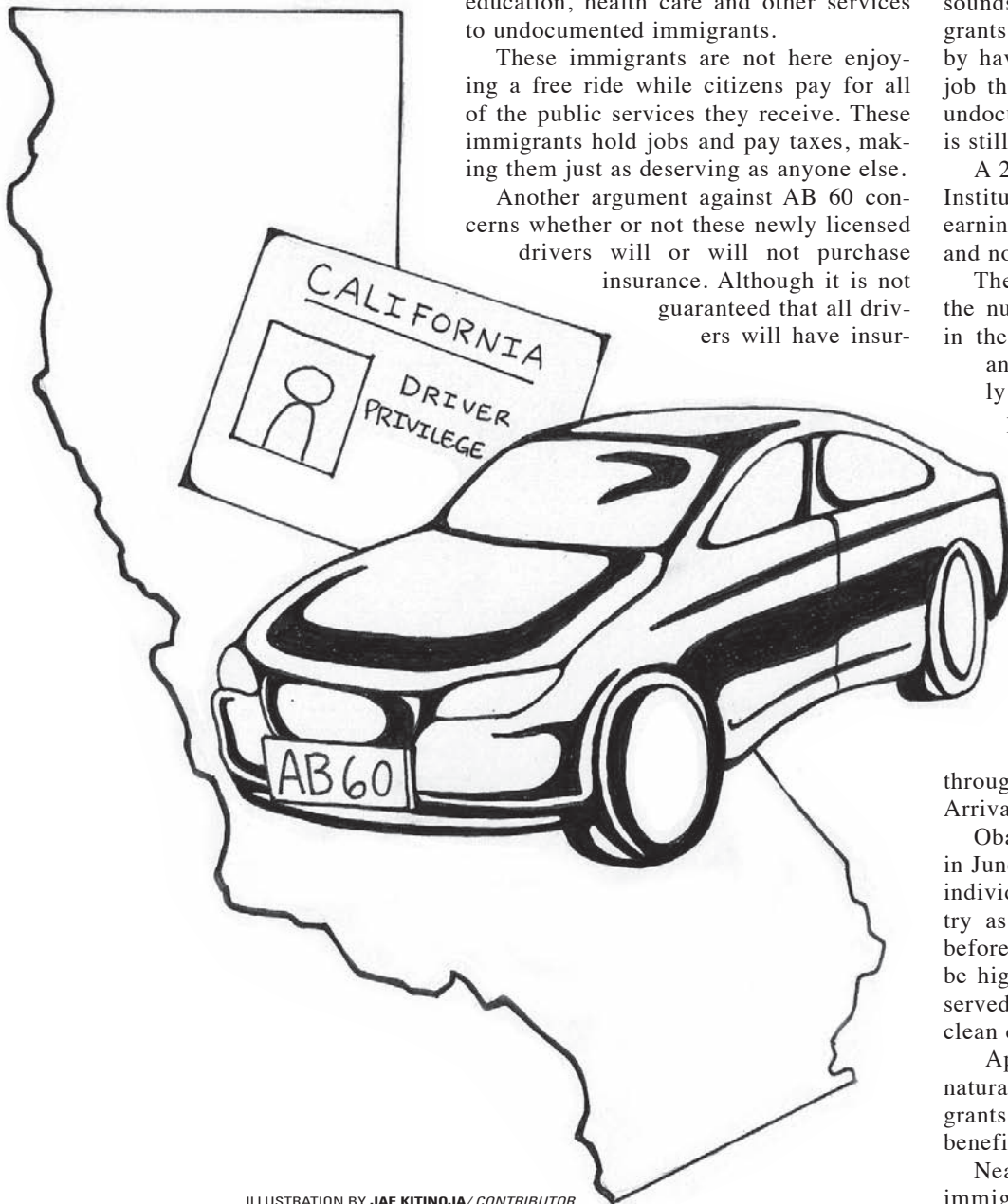


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## DRIVER'S LICENSE

Continued from page 1

Ramirez used to be Fresno State University's student body president in 2006, and he had to publicly confirm his residency status after an anonymous email was sent to a variety of media outlets. This prompted him to become an immigration activist ever since, fighting for immigration reform such as the Dream Act.

"It's something that many of us have fought for and I know that many of our parents have fought for as well. This law actually passed a long time ago, but Gov. Schwarzenegger repealed it, so it's about time that it's actually law again," Ramirez said.

### Federal law vs. State law

If an official driver's license is issued to an individual who is undocumented, the license would have the letters DP (driver's privilege) on the front, as opposed to a legal residents' license that would say DL (driver's license).

Under federal law, employers cannot hire undocumented immigrants. However, the new bill states that employers cannot use the immigration status implied by the "DP" marking on the driver's licenses of those who are undocumented to discriminate against them.

California Assemblyman Tim Donnelly, of the 33rd Assembly District, who voted against the bill, believes that the bill is putting employers in an unfair position.

"AB 60 prohibits business owners hiring employees from discriminating against people who present the new special ID," said Donnelly in a statement. "(Therefore, the) employer is going to face a choice they shouldn't have to make because in order to be compliant with state law (AB60), they would be in violation of federal law," Donnelly said in a statement.

Nathaniel Mangione, a member of CSUN's Conservative Club and a graduate student in history at CSUN, said even though the point of the bill is to let undocumented immigrants drive to work, the license does not make them eligible for legal employment in California.

"By passing this law, we are encouraging employers to continue to hire undocumented persons without making any effort to help their employees achieve legal status. Now employers can ensure that their employees make it to work without breaking the law, only to arrive at work and break the law," Mangione said.

Although he does not support of the new bill, Mangione does not deny that immigrants are an essential part of our society.

"There is no question that immigrants make up an invaluable part of our society, but this bill falls short of helping immigrants fulfill their dream and encourages further exploitation," Mangione said.

### Promotes a safer driving environment

Recent studies have shown that about one in five fatal car crashes in the U.S. involve unlicensed drivers, according to the bill.

Pete Moraga, spokesmen for the Insurance Information Network of California (iinc), said the insurance industry in California has supported the AB 60 bill since the very beginning when it was first introduced to legislators.

"The reason there was such widespread support for this bill was because insurers feel that increasing the safety on our highways and streets is a good thing, and we feel that this bill is a good thing for safety," Moraga said.

Moraga also said that insurance companies are often told by law enforcement that many hit-and-run accidents are done by unlicensed drivers.

"Unlicensed drivers don't want to stick around after a crash, so we hope that with this new law there are less accidents and less hit-and-runs," Moraga said.

David L. Moguel, CSUN professor of secondary education and expert on immigration, can understand why those who oppose the bill feel that it somehow 'legalizes' people whom they want to continue to see as 'illegal.'

However, Moguel also believes it promotes a safer driving environment.

"The bill increases public safety because (an) undocumented driver is on the road whether the bill passes or not. So if the person is on the road, I would rather have the person pass written and physical driving tests. If they don't, then they are more likely to make a mistake on the road, not follow the rules, and kill me or someone else."

### Modesta Soto

an undocumented freshman studying psychology at CSUN.

Moguel also said that with the passing of this bill, people are prone to feel more comfortable and therefore help sway voters who are "on the fence."

### 'Another bill to oppress undocumented immigrants'

Modesta Soto, an undocumented freshman studying psychology at CSUN, said she feels this bill is labelling her as well as other undocumented immigrants.

"This bill is like a label. It's not considered equal. Equal is when you have two of the same thing, and these licenses are clearly not the same," Soto said. "One is marked with DP and one is marked with DL. When

you show it, it's like you're showing your identity, making it easier for people to make more racial comments about you."

Ana Miriam, 22, an undocumented senior studying psychology and deaf studies at CSUN, and also an active member of Dreams To Be Heard, said she supports this bill only because it with help other people.

"I don't agree with this bill. Not only because it's segregating us, but because it's marking us and it's an invasion of peoples privacy," said Miriam. "Being undocumented is really personal, and it's something people don't like sharing and don't feel comfortable admitting to. And now we have a license that is marked, what is the point of that?"

Furthermore, Miriam sees the bill as a way to oppress undocumented individuals.

"It oppresses us in the sense that the government is still using us for labor, using us for economic reasons and to make profit out of us," Miriam said. "I am tired, I am sick of it and I am angry. We think that one person cannot change very many things, but I wish I could."

While this bill is seen by many, including the undocumented students of Dreams To Be Heard, as a step in the right direction, Miriam does not think it is nearly enough.

"If we start celebrating what they are giving us now, we're letting them know that we will accept whatever they give us, instead of accepting what we deserve. I will be very happy once this bill is signed into law, but I won't celebrate for it because it's not enough, it's not what I deserve," Miriam said.



"This bill is like a label. It's not considered equal. Equal is when you have two of the same thing, and these licenses are clearly not the same. One is marked with DP and one is marked with DL. When you show it, it's like you're showing your identity, making it easier for people to make more racial comments about you."

**Share your thoughts!**

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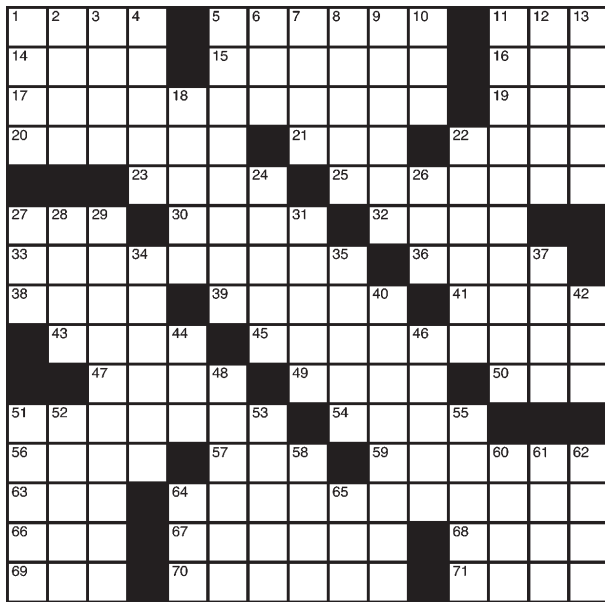
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## Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

### ACROSS

- 1 Cried one's eyes out
- 5 Facial expression
- 11 Hang down
- 14 Pre-migraine phenomenon, for some
- 15 Hot wings did him in
- 16 It may need a boost
- 17 \*Shopper's aid
- 19 Barracks bed
- 20 Scattering seed
- 21 Raid the fridge
- 22 Songwriter Bacharach
- 23 Small combo
- 25 Katana-wielding warrior
- 27 Barking sound
- 30 Responsibility
- 32 Choice in a booth
- 33 Evening for trivia buffs
- 36 Disney lioness
- 38 "That \_\_\_ last year!"
- 39 In the future, or, when spoken with a long starting vowel, what the last word of the answers to starred clues can have



By Gareth Bain

10/2/13

### DOWN

- 41 1492 vessel
- 43 Hoodlum
- 45 Run-down urban buildings
- 47 HST part, say: Abbr.
- 49 Ex-Yankee Martinez
- 50 "A mouse!"
- 51 Takes care of
- 54 Islands in the stream
- 56 Meringue needs
- 57 Alts.
- 59 Homemade pistol
- 63 Bygone space station
- 64 \*Stop-action film technique
- 66 Rock gp. known for its symphonic sound
- 67 Maker of Light & Fit yogurt
- 68 Jungfrau's range
- 69 Homer's nice neighbor
- 70 Battery parts
- 71 Push to the limit

### Tuesday's Puzzle Solved



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10/2/13

- 29 \*Angler's equipment
- 31 Fitted bedding item
- 34 "Gadzooks!"
- 35 Patty Hearst, in the SLA
- 37 Kitty builder
- 40 Inhabitants
- 42 Pose
- 44 Miracle Mets manager Hodges
- 46 Recurring theme
- 48 Mideast capital
- 51 Hunks
- 52 Like gymnasts
- 53 Shorthand expert
- 55 Fat-shunning fellow
- 58 Email button
- 60 Storm wind
- 61 Calls the game
- 62 Brooding place
- 64 Govt. Rx watchdog
- 65 Actress Caldwell

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- 3 Write your ad and click Continue to begin the billing process. You're done!

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OCTOBER 2, 2013

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## FEATURE

# Bouncing back from hardship

Chris Smith has fought his way back from multiple injuries to help lead CSUN men's soccer to a historic start

**MELODY CHERCHIAN**  
SENIOR STAFF

## CAL STATE NORTHRIDGE

senior midfielder Chris Smith knows a thing or two about sports injuries. With about 10 different injuries in his soccer career, Smith knows even more about what it takes to get back in the game.

From broken bones to multiple ankle sprains, Smith, 22, has overcome each injury with no sign of diminished determination.

In July 2012, Smith was playing for a little league team in Hawthorne during the summer where he suffered his most recent injury. As he went for a goal, Smith pivoted his body to kick the ball. His ankle twisted and he landed on it - the bone couldn't take the pressure and resulted in a fracture.

48 hours later, he finally decided to consult a doctor who decided they had to break the bone for it to heal correctly.

Smith was forced to stay off his feet for a minimum of seven weeks. With only a month and a half until the next season at CSUN, Smith's injury couldn't have come at a worst time. Recovering from the broken ankle was a challenge, but the hardest part for Smith was staying off the field when all he wanted to do was play.

"It was no fun," Smith said. "But in some way it was good for me to sit and watch my team playing. It motivated me to heal quicker, work harder, and get back on the field."



ALEX VEJAR / DAILY SUNDIAL

Senior midfielder Chris Smith, a mechanical engineering major, has had a long road of rehab after breaking his ankle last summer. Smith is back healthy this season and hopes his team carries their early success deep into the season.

Smith went through an intensive conditioning program once he was able to put pressure on his ankle. Throughout the injury he had practiced ankle mobility and jump exercises while working on his stability. Off the field, he spent hours working on handling skills and going to the gym. But now Smith faced the biggest challenge.

"After weeks of being off my feet, my muscles had gotten weak," Smith said. "Once I got back, I really had to adjust to the speed of the game. Getting back in shape was the easy part."

Men's soccer coach Terry Davila said Smith's recovery was a result of his own hard work and that he always thinks of the team first.

"Chris has made a lot of

personal sacrifice," Davila said. "He's a strong individual and has the ability to do what he wants under pressure. He always finds a way to compete even in the hardest circumstances."

Smith said that he owes a lot to his team, including his coaches.

"They keep me humble," Smith said. "My coaches give me what I need, not always

what I want. They get under my skin enough to motivate me, but not frustrate me. They're a hardworking team."

Smith has always been athletic. From the get-go his first choice was soccer but his parents put him in basketball, football and even karate to start. One day he finally decided to take matters into his own hands and tried out for the soccer team in high school.

"I love how (soccer) is continuous," Smith said. "You're always moving. And it's in a team environment."

According to Smith, he now knows the sport very well. His acquired ability to read the game and realize what it needs when it needs it, is a strength he has developed.

But even a great player like Smith can admit his best friend Brian Behrad, CSUN senior forward, out does him in speed.

"I wish I were as fast as Brian," Smith said, laughing. "I'm sure he'll love hearing that."

He recalls having to work on his eye-foot coordination and the rigorous training it took to gain his way into the sport.

And it's clearly paid off. The CSUN men's soccer team has fought their way to the top and were ranked No. 3 in the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) poll before losing to UCLA on Sept. 22. They are currently ranked No. 6 in the same poll.

But that isn't enough for the team. According to

Smith, they're gunning for the NCAA playoffs.

"It feels good, but we're far from satisfied," Smith said. "There's still work to be done. We want to be number one throughout the season. Nobody plays to finish in third place."

Smith is majoring in mechanical engineering. Why did he take such an unrelated major? He said it's fun to take a challenge and he's always been good at math. Doing something so different keeps him on track, Smith said.

He's worked at Camp Pendleton, a naval base camp in San Diego, and has even coached soccer there. Last year, he coached at Harvard-Westlake high school.

Even though playing professional soccer is his obvious first choice, Smith is keeping his options open. He plans some day on having a pair of cleats on his feet and a few patents under his sleeve.



ALEX VEJAR / DAILY SUNDIAL

Chris Smith, senior midfielder, takes a shot at goal on the practice field. He has overcome a multitude of injuries over the course of his career at CSUN. Smith has four goals and two assists so far this season.



**SCAN THIS QR CODE**  
To see footage of  
Chris in action