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"This is wrong on so many levels it's not even funny. My parents have watched me struggle, cry, and work my ass off so that I can eventually graduate. To know that I might not be able to invite my family to my special day is horrible."

- **MOLLY ANN HUNTER COLE**, sophomore, 19, public health major

"With the all the increments in tuition, you don't think CSUN could hash out a few more chairs for the event? How come the students don't have a say? After all, this is their day. This is not the board's graduation!"

- **CYNTHIA MARCELLA ORTIZ**, 23, graduating senior majoring in psychology

"...If my family has to stand, so be it. I'd rather have my whole family there standing watching me walk across the stage rather than have me have choose four people."

- **JESSICA POLLOCK**, 21, a graduating senior who is majoring in liberal studies

"If only these people knew how much stress and duress we students go through to succeed in getting our college degrees. We paid so much of our money to the school so we could attain our ambitions. If this is no longer the case, my family and I would be very inclined to take this matter up to court."

- **CAL RAY-MUNDO LANUZA**



ILLUSTRATION BY DAVID HAWKINS / CONTRIBUTOR

## COMMENCEMENT CHAOS

The new ticket system and other changes for graduation have been finalized, leaving most students discontent

**SHIRA MOSKOWITZ**  
DAILY SUNDIAL

**D**ESPITE STUDENT outcry and concerns, CSUN graduates will officially be required to conform to the use of a ticketing system as well as participate in combined college commencement ceremonies.

"These changes are happening," said Dr. William Watkins, vice president of Student Affairs.

This will be the university's first time using a ticketing system as well as the first year that college commencement ceremonies will be combined. Students will also be asked to stay seated for the entire duration of their commencement ceremony with the exception of being directed by faculty marshals

to get up and leave for any reason.

The changes were officially finalized last week by CSUN President Dr. Dianne Harrison.

While CSUN's Associated Students (A.S.) held an open forum on Monday for students to voice their opinion about the new changes, the decisions and plans were already finalized and have no chance of being altered for 2014.

"For better or for worse, an

administrative decision like this has never been open to student referendum. Let's say we had surveyed students and students said to us, 'We want to continue to invite as many folk as we want.' What solution would that had been to the very problem that we're trying to resolve? I really am not one that ever wants to hold out in front of students. But we made sure that before we finalized this, we did pull

in a group of students and to present it before those students and to hear their input on this, that did happen," Watkins said.

However, A.S. President Christopher Woolett said that an ad hoc committee will be working together over the winter break to discuss student concerns about the new com-

See **COMMENCEMENT**, page 2



COMMENCEMENT

Continued from page 1

mencement changes, an action that he believes should ensure students that their opinions are valued.

“This winter break it is my hope is to talk with the president and vice president of student affairs about what students have said [at the open forum] and what they are continuing to say online,” Woolett said. “If this many students are feeling very passionate about this then its our responsibly to go to the administration and say this is what students feel and this is what we are going to push for.”

According Watkins, after last year’s commencement ceremonies consisted of about 7,000 students, President Harrison asked the university to look at different options in terms of the format, location and timing of commencement exercises. The two primary goals will be to reduce the amount of total ceremonies and address safety concerns with the growing amounts of graduating students and guests.

“What drives us to make changes to commencement ceremonies are some surge or gradual increase in the number of students that are participating and therefore we have to find a different venue. We’re seeing

over the past 10 years, the campus has experienced over a 33 percent increase in the number of students participating in the ceremonies. In the past we’ve told students that they could bring three to five guests to commencement, but if you’ve gone to a commencement exercise so often will you see graduates with substantially more than that actually showing up,” Watkins said.

Furthermore, graduates and their guests will be asked to remain seated throughout the now lengthier combined college commencement ceremonies.

“Out of respect for all participants, graduates must stay throughout the entire ceremony and must remain seated unless otherwise directed by faculty marshals. We are going to ask students to prepare to be there for up to X length of time and we’re going to do our best to predict for students how long they can expect to stay. You’re not going to want to drink gallons of coffee,” Watkins said.

THE DECISION MAKING PROCESS

According to Watkins, the first meeting about making changes to the 2014 commencement ceremonies began last June 2013, a process that he said begun with him looking for other universities for guidance.

“When the president asked that I undertake this, I spent a lot of time

online looking at commencement ceremonies at virtually every campus in the CSU. Northridge has had somewhat a unique approach to this in the past because of the number of individual ceremonies we have over the number of days in an outdoor setting,” Watkins said.

After considering both on and off campus options and exploring various ways in which the university can have fewer ceremonies while still including the Honors Convocation, and after consulting with a multitude of university leaders, the changes to the 2014 commencement ceremonies were finalized.

“The key consultation for these decisions was the executive leadership of the university, the president, the vice presidents and the deans. We consulted with the executive committee of the faculty senate and a focus group of students. Those were all of the people who provided input. At the end of the day, it was the president (Dianne Harrison) who decided this is the particular schedule that we’re going to go with, but she did that based upon a range of recommendations that were made to her,” Watkins said.

While Monday’s open forum gave students a platform to voice their concerns, some students don’t believe Associated Students did enough to communicate the changes.

Eric Martinez, 23, a senior major-



TREVOR STAMP/ DAILY SUNDIAL

Associated Students president, Christopher Woolett, and vice president, Talar Alexanian, listened to students express their concerns about the four tickets graduation requirement that will go into effect for the 2014 ceremonies.

ing in biology, does not believe the open forum hosted by Associated Students will bring about change.

“I really don’t think the open forum is going to create any changes. It’s more procedural than anything. It’s so the university can assure themselves they gave us an open forum. It’s nine in the morning on a Monday during finals week and it’s also taking place post

finalized changes. There should have been an open forum when this whole thing was first being discussed between students and the president,” Martinez said.

According to Woolett, Associated Students didn’t hold an open forum prior to Monday’s meeting because they wanted adequate time to inform students.

“The reason we waited until right

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COMMENCEMENT

Continued from page 1

now is because Dr. Watkins just told us two weeks ago what the changes are up until this point. We decided to have it today and not last week because we wanted to have a week to inform students, to properly market it via social media or we had some signs around campus. We didn't want to rush it and have a fewer crowd."

Woolett also said that while he wishes Associated Students could have done more to make students more aware of the changes, certain policies and regulations kept them from doing so.

"We can only send two emails a year to the general student population. This could have been one of them but we used both those emails for elections. We try to find avenues to really communicate with students but we have certain rules we have to follow," Woolett said.

Kari Costanza, a senior majoring in recreation and tourism management who works for the CSUN University Corporation, feels student input was disregarded in the decision making process.

"My roommate who is part of Associated Students came home practically fuming about these changes and she was concerned about all the people she has to disinvite to commencement. I think what made us both the most upset was that the administration and board in charge of the changes never asked students for their opinions," Costazna said.

A NEW TICKETING SYSTEM

One of the biggest changes and

the biggest concerns for students is the new ticketing system that will require each guest to have a ticket in order to have a seat and enter a commencement ceremony. Each graduating student will be allotted four tickets and two parking passes for their guests, both free of charge. While a CSUN graduate does not need a ticket to attend their own commencement, they do need one if they want to attend another CSUN commencement ceremony that is not their own.

"Every campus that has gone to ticketing has had to cross this bridge. Here at Cal State Northridge the evidence is that we have preserved an open commencement experience virtually longer than anyone else and we're at a point right now where given some of these issues about the size of our growing classes and as more and more students graduate over time the numbers are just going to grow, so it was inevitable that we would have to introduce some strategy for being able to manage the numbers of individuals so that there is a seat for everybody who comes," Watkins said.

Although he does agree that change to commencement needs to be done, Woolett doesn't think that combining college ceremonies is the best way to attain better safety measures in terms of controlling the mass amounts of people attending commencement exercises.

"Ticketing specifically is the one that is hard for me to wrap my mind around but so is combining colleges, especially if they want to lessen the impact of people at each venue," he said.

While he feels the decision was one that could not be prolonged any longer, Watkins is aware of the hard

situation students have now been put in by having to choose certain guests to attend their commencement exercises.

"I want students to understand that we've all thought about what sacrifices are being made here and what is being given up in the interest of having a more controlled context where people will be able to come and they will be able to have a seat. We really do aspire to have a framework that says for everybody who has a ticket, they're going to have a seat. We are going to plan for you and make sure that your experience and the experience of the graduates is one that has the proper decorum about it and meets everybody's expectations," Watkins said.

Jaylen Ross, a 21-year-old graduating senior majoring in marketing who is the first to graduate college in his family, said having to chose only four guests to come to commencement would mean excluding individuals who played an intricate part in his college career.

"My dad went to college for two years and had to drop out to support us, so I'm the first to be on this road to graduation and I really wanted all my family to be there. I have a brother and sister who need to come. But there's this woman who paid for my first semester of college because I didn't have enough money at the time and for me to not invite her because I can only have my four family members come is ridiculous," Ross said.

Due to the four ticket limitation per person, Watkins said having parking passes was a necessary component.

"Every student gets two parking permits and that's of course to make sure that there is sufficient park-

ing given the number of folks we are going to have. Because we are increasing the venue capacity from what is about 9,000 to 10,500 there's going to be more people around here so we're going to use parking permits for entry into our parking structure and we're going to be strongly encouraging carpooling," Watkins said.

Whether graduates will be able to request extra parking passes is a decision that is still pending.

Upper Division I Senator for Associated Students Sebastian Taborda, who will be graduating in spring 2014, does not support the new ticketing system.

"This affects me as a student because I have a big family and I don't want any limitations on the parking or on the tickets especially because I have a lot of friends who will be happy to be at my commencement. I don't think this is going to be a big benefit for the students, quite the contrary," Taborda said.

The decision to allow each graduate to bring four students was a decision that was based purely on how many guests can fit on the Oviatt Lawn.

"The only way that we we're able to group these colleges together and reduce the total number of ceremonies and have seats, was to introduce the use of tickets. Four tickets is the number of tickets we can distribute at the largest ceremony," Watkins said.

Graduating senior Sandra Bram, 22, said that she is upset because the four tickets being allotted to each graduating student is not fair, especially because she has family coming from out of state just to see her graduate.

"The ticketing thing is complete bullshit. I have a big family and a lot of my family from New York is coming so four tickets is not even realistic for me. Four tickets can't even cover a quarter of my family. What am I supposed to say? Am I supposed to tell the rest of my family not to come?" Bram said.

According to Watkins, students actually preferred to receive four tickets instead of five so they could have their commencement on the Oviatt Lawn.

"At one time we were talking about having five tickets, but the only way we could do that was to have the ceremonies up in North Field by the grass area north of Redwood Hall and so it would not have been at Oviatt Lawn. I said to the students, 'Would you prefer five tickets and go to North Field or four tickets and be in the center of campus?' And it was just a no brainer, hands down. People want to continue to experience that quad area on the Oviatt Lawn and all that it's meant to the university over the years that we've been using it," Watkins said.



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# Mandela's legacy will live on

**CHAMPAIGN WILLIAMS**  
LIVE NEWS EDITOR

**THE WORLD LOST** a revolutionary leader last Thursday. A leader who hoped to free his people from the tyranny of white racist rule. A leader who fought the law that created a racially separate, unequal, and unjust society for black Africans. A leader who suffered for

years before experiencing the manifestation of his efforts and becoming the first black president in his country.

Nelson Mandela, the emancipator of South Africa from white minority rule, died at the age of 95. The cause of Mandela's death has yet to be confirmed, however it is said that the former president was battling health issues, one of which was a lung infection that led to multiple hospitalizations, according to CNN.

"Mandela's goal was to see a South Africa healed, a South Africa where the racial inequalities and discrimination of the past no longer plagued the country," said CSUN political science professor Jennifer De Maio. "He believed in unity and in reconciliation. He wanted everyone, black, white, Asian and colored to come together and forge a new democratic South Africa together."

Following the lead of many state and federal businesses and organizations within the country, CSUN honored Mandela by lowering the American flags on campus to half staff until Monday evening.

In an email distributed to the CSUN community, President Dianne Harrison wrote that Mandela's "values and work have always aligned closely with the university's mission" and asked students to join her in honoring his legacy.

Susan Kibrick, senior communication disorders and science major, said that she remembers how amazing Mandela was as a unifying leader.

"We have to celebrate him because of all the work he did," said Kibrick. "Unfortunately, it's still very rare to see very influential leaders that can bridge so many opposing actions of society and that can inspire people to be better."

In 1944 Mandela joined the African National Congress

(ANC) and helped create the "Programme of Action," which involved acts of radical civil disobedience, according to the Nelson Mandela Foundation.

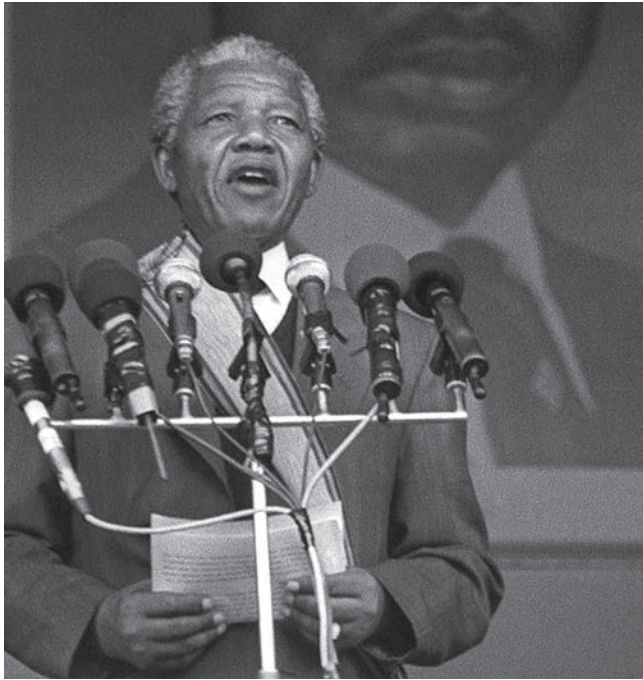
Imprisoned at the age of 45 for treason and inciting strikes, Mandela spent 27 years in prison and was released in 1990. Soon after, Mandela was named the first black president of South Africa and served one term.

Journalism professor David Blumenkrantz was living in Kenya during the year of Mandela's release, and remembers taking photos of Mandela's visit to the Kasarani Stadium, the largest stadium in Kenya, in July of 1990.

"Mandela was waving to a euphoric crowd -- an almost surreal moment, and everyone was so excited that he was finally free, and for Kenyans, that such a figure of liberation and African pride had come to their country," Blumenkrantz said.

Mandela's death has left many in his country and those around the mourning the loss of a great leader. Thousands of South Africans and dozens of presidents, prime ministers and celebrities joined together in Johannesburg Tuesday to honor Mandela and pay their respects, according to CNN.

Though the leader is gone, his legacy and the goals that he fought so hard to accomplish will live on.



DAVID BLUMENKRANTZ / CONTRIBUTOR

Nelson Mandela, in front of a giant portrait of Kenyan president Jomo Kenyatta, speaks to a large crowd at Nairobi's Kasarani Stadium, during a tour of African countries after his release from prison in 1990.



**CAMPUS VOICE**

LISA ANDERSON / DAILY SUNDIAL

**What do you admire most about Nelson Mandela?**



**MARIA GUZMAN**

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS

"He went through a lot of hardship just by staying in jail that long and then becoming president. I think that's very inspirational because it shows no matter what you can become what you want to be at the end of the day."

"Because he kept everything peaceful and he never wanted any wars. I think that's what people should look up to."



**SHAHUL HABIB**

PSYCHOLOGY

"He ended apartheid." "He was a really great leader, helping mankind determined to help humans come together as one community."

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# A geology adventure

**PHOTOS & STORY BY  
ANDREA ALEXIAN**  
PRODUCTION DESIGNER

IT'S NOT EVERY day your professor takes you on a field trip to see the San Andreas Fault and Vasquez Rocks or tells you to scratch rocks to find its hardness, but in geophysics professor Dr. Dayanthie Weeraratne's geology courses, those things are part of the norm. As a geologist, identifying various rocks and minerals is part of the job, which is where her teaching style stems from. "I take the info and words off the page and you guys, you students experience it hands on. I feel like that's where the real learning is," said Weeraratne. Field trips with her students are one of Weeraratne's favorite parts of her class besides the teaching because not only does she and the students get to enjoy nature but she loves seeing her students' excitement in the field. "I really like to interact with students in nature around geological sections, outcrops. And talk about science with students, that's

the funnest part. We are all naturally asking questions and answering each other. Climbing to the top of Vasquez Rocks, that was fun," said Weeraratne. Not everyone has the opportunity to see and explore these geological sites which is another reason why she takes her students on these field trips. "It's surprising to me how long people have lived in Los Angeles. They're next to a major plate boundary and no one knows where it is, they've never been there. [San Andreas Fault] is only 45 minutes away," said Weeraratne. Weeraratne also stated that geological science has one of the lowest levels of diversity. "Biology, chemistry-- physics is tied with us for the lowest-- math, all those fields have more diverse minority students than geology," said Weeraratne. She said sciences need diversity because the students can bring new perspectives to the table and offer more viewpoints and ideas. "I'm interested in helping bring and encourage minorities to get excited over geology and become geologists and become sci-

entists in earth sciences," said Weeraratne. It is for this reason she works at CSUN because it is one of the few universities in the entire country that can bring minority students and earth sciences together, since CSUN is a "minority-serving institution." Thus by choosing CSUN, she was able to help found the Geological Experience for Minority Students (GEM) program which she hopes will accomplish her goal of more minority students in the geological and earth sciences. In her free time, Weeraratne loves to play sand volleyball and is helping CSUN to create a Division I women's sand volleyball team.



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Dr. Dayanthie Weeraratne and her students look into a corn syrup solution which is used to visualize fluid behavior when foreign material is introduced.



John Rincon, 21, a physics and philosophy major demonstrates to Dr. Dayanthie Weeraratne his latest project for geophysics.

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# EXPLORING A HIDDEN HISTORY OF CAMPUS ACTIVISM

NEELOFER LODHY  
DAILY SUNDIAL

WHILE CSUN may appear to be a generally quiet campus, decades ago, this was not the case. In the late 1960s, hundreds of students and faculty marched toward the administration buildings in hopes of establishing equal opportunities for minority students.

“November 4, 1968 there was a huge demand to get more black students on campus, students of color, Latinos as well,” Pan-African Studies professor Anthony Ratcliff said. “They wanted to have student classes with black students, black professors speaking with students.”

During that same time CSUN, formerly known as San Fernando Valley State College, became the talk of the town and the rest of the Los Angeles area due to the amount of student activism occurring on campus.

Much of this politi-

cal activism arose because students felt the need to fight for and promote equal opportunity in higher education, protesting against racism and deprecating the Vietnam conflict, which was taking place.

Though many current students may not be aware of these events, it is because of them that CSUN made a name for itself as an active campus. Because of the conflicts that had taken place on campus involving negotiations between student groups and the school’s administration, CSUN was able to establish several of their largest most popular programs to date: Afro-American and Mexican American Studies, and the Pan-African and Chicano/a Studies Departments.

An article by the LA Times noted that from 1967 to 1971 most of CSUN’s activism took place. According to the article, there were six considerable student demonstrations where the Los Angeles policemen arrested 400 students and faculty members.

On Nov. 4, 1968, an

event occurred in which members of the Black Student Union held 34 staff and administrators hostage by occupying the administration building. The BSU did this in an effort to urge former campus president, Dr. Paul Blomgren, to increase minority enrollment and staff, as well as to conduct a thorough investigation of racism complaints on campus.

“The administration didn’t listen to their demands, the administration here (at CSUN) didn’t respect that,” Ratcliff said. “At first they negotiated with them, but those students who left after negotiations were arrested.”

Because of this movement, police inhabited the campus for a week in hopes that no further uprising would occur. Two days later, as a result of the movement, 24 students were arrested and charged with conspiracy, assault, burglary, kidnapping and false imprisonment. Nearly a month later, a student set Blomgren’s office on fire.

As a result, Blomgren



FILE PHOTO / DAILY SUNDIAL

Students organized a protest during the fall 2011 semester, when CSUN froze permission codes.

issued a message to the campus stating, “No group is justified in using force and the threat of force to settle questions on this campus. Any document (signed) when people are held hostage or force is being used is not a mutual agreement.”

Exactly a month later, another movement took place in which hundreds of students participated in a walk to the Administration Building in an effort to see Administrator Delmar Oviatt, who took

over Blomgren’s position when he fell ill. However, the students were unsuccessful at the beginning of this movement when they were met by police at the entrance of the building. Eventually chaos ensued, fights erupted and arrests were made, yet, this didn’t stop students from being heard.

The following morning, 2,000 students gathered in front of the Administration Building causing Oviatt to declare a state of emergency.

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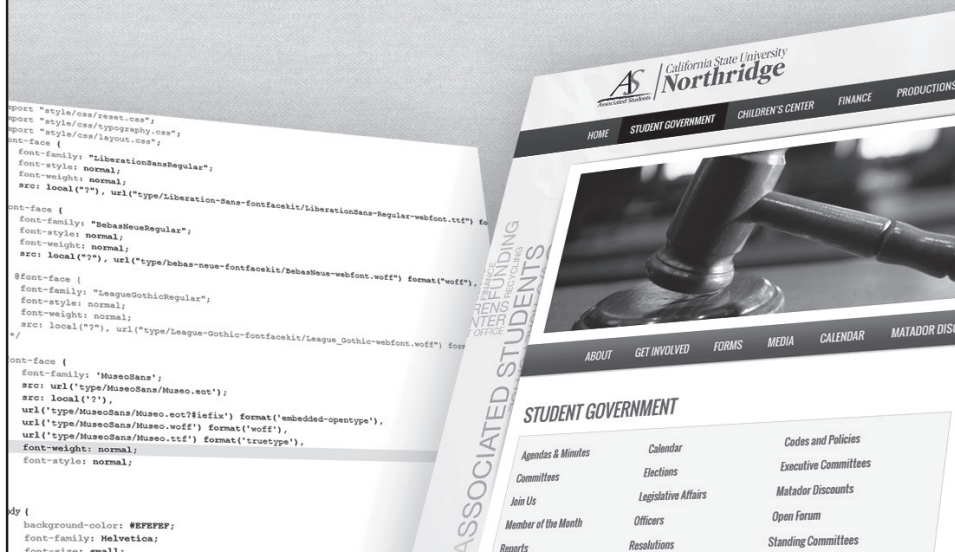
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# ASSOCIATED STUDENTS **MATADOR REPORTER**

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# 2014



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LA COMMUNITY PHOTO SERIES

# Life is like a performance

PHOTOS & STORY BY  
ALEX VEJAR  
DAILY SUNDIAL

**MANDIE HITTLEMAN**, 26, is a musician from Connecticut who moved to Los Angeles two years ago. She has been performing in some capacity for the majority of her life, whether it be theater, music or improvisational comedy.

Hittleman was writing songs as early as the age of 9, but didn't play an instrument at the time. Her writing served as more of a diary of her everyday life.

"Nobody knew that I wrote songs except for my mom," Hittleman said.

Hittleman wanted to start her performing career at an early age, but a bout of stage fright during a singing recital when she was 7 derailed her, leading her to take up basketball which she played until she got injured.

Performing didn't become a major part of Hittleman's life until midway through college

when she auditioned for a musical called "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum" and was awarded a part.

"It kind of changed my life, pretty much," Hittleman said. "I kind of got the acting bug and ever since then, I went out for every single show and worked my way up through the theater department."

Also while in college, Hittleman was in a band which started performing after she got back from studying abroad in London. She eventually joined Los Angeles-based rock band Slow Motion Celebrity, where she is the current singer and songwriter.

Recently, Hittleman created an improv comedy group with her boyfriend, Adam Slemon, called Mondo. They perform at the iO West Theater in West Hollywood.

"[Performing] is a pretty big outlet for me, I think," Hittleman said. "I'm a pretty stressed person just in general and I tend to worry. When I get up on stage, I feel like it's just a release and there's pure joy for me. I just don't worry about anything."



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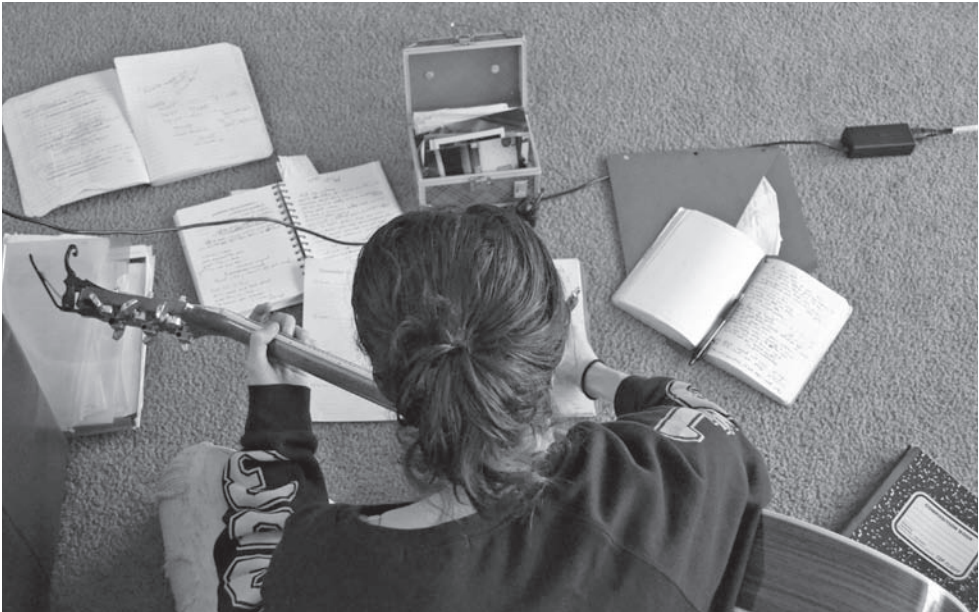
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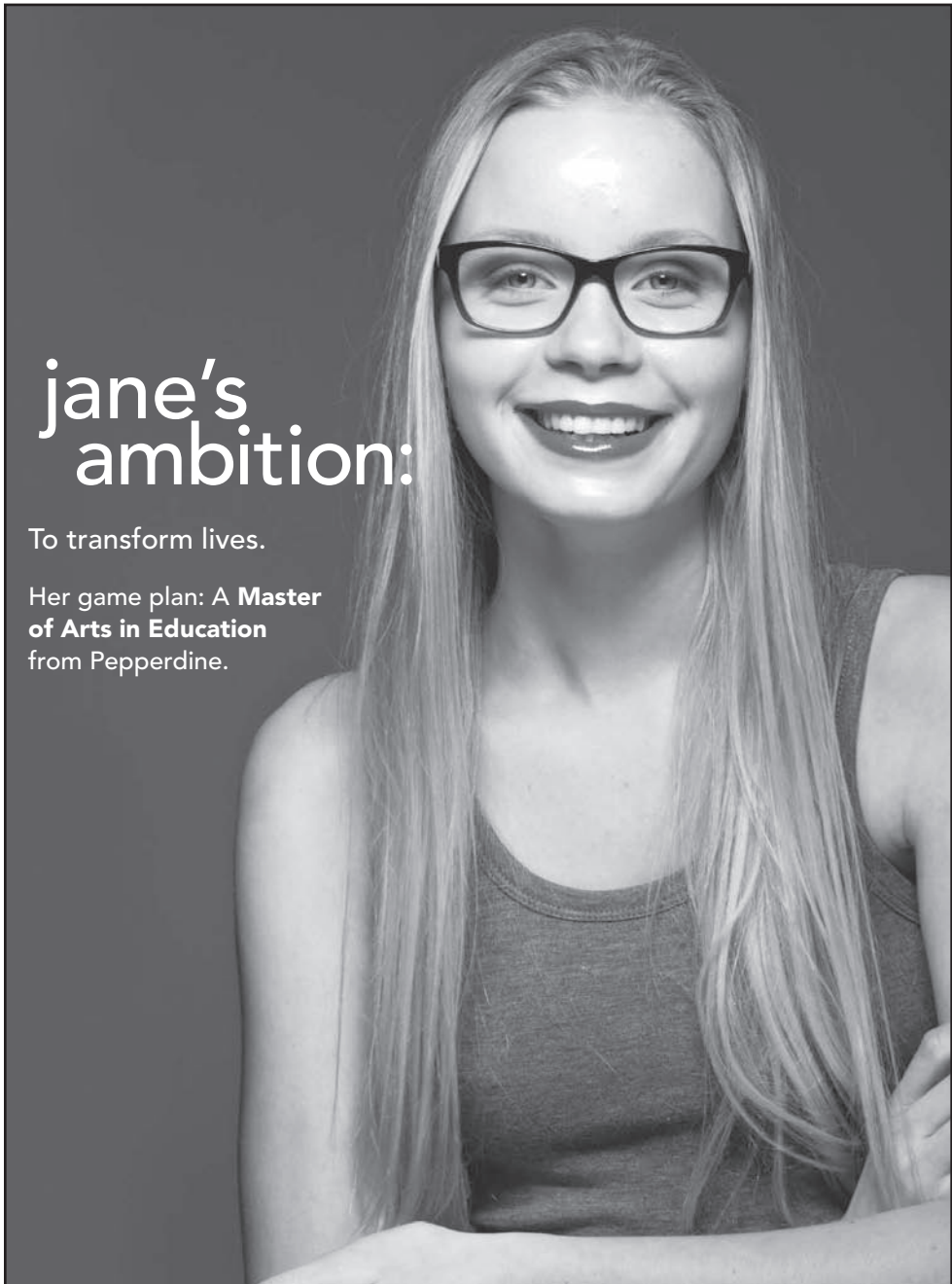
Mandie Hittleman sings during a Slow Motion Celebrity practice at ABC Rehearsal in Glendale.



Hittleman works on multiple unfinished songs in her Los Angeles apartment.



Hittleman flips through a page in her song notebook during a writing session in her apartment.



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# Opinion

# Everything I learned was wrong

Journalism teaches us to be objective — but at the expense of critically analyzing the structural injustice of society

**LUIS RIVAS**  
OPINIONS EDITOR

**IN THE NEWSROOM** at the Daily Sundial we often talk about the concepts of balance and objectivity. Reporters and editors have always shared opposing arguments. Our stories are an extension of this discourse. But it’s not our fault.

**WE ARE CONDITIONED**  
We are all conditioned, and we are taught that we are not conditioned. Especially journalists.

Those of us that have decided to pursue journalism as a discipline are conditioned to seek a readily-available truth. We are told to give opposing viewpoints equal time, that is, to be balanced.

Professors tell us we have to keep our opinions out of the story. It’s news, they say. God forbid you use any pronouns referring to you as the reporter. It’s only he, she, him, her, they. It’s never us, we, you, I. Just state the facts, and move on. Don’t take a side.

We are conditioned to give equal time to opposing viewpoints.

But if your position in society is at the losing end of oppression, the oppressor’s viewpoint has been given enough time and coverage. Six corporations control 90 percent of the media, according to research published in the Business Insider. The status quo remains the status quo because of the nature of their position in power: it’s comfortable, and they only let friends and family in. Like a hegemonic dynasty.

**THE NATURE OF HEGEMONY**  
The balance of power is against radical criticism. Hegemony doesn’t stop at the barriers of a supposedly free press. Hegemony goes into the very fiber of our way of thinking.

So, then, it should be no surprise that when you decide to major in journalism, you are inundated with the concept of objectivity. But who do we serve, directly or indirectly, by not questioning the structure of our society?

Injustices by large are not solely determined by individuals so punishing individuals does very little to remedy larger-scale problems.

For African-American males in their 30s, one out of 10 are currently in prison or jail on any given day, according to the criminal justice reform advocate The Sentencing Project.

Federal laws that differentiate between crack and powder cocaine are another example of structural injustice. In 2006, 82 percent of people convicted under federal crack cocaine laws were African-Americans, and including Latinos, the percentage is 96 percent, according to the NAACP.

Instead of questioning why people

abuse drugs, why there is a federal differentiation between crack and powder cocaine, how black and brown communities are affected, we don’t question this. We don’t question the prison, criminal justice system or the federal government. Instead, we blame individuals.

**CHALLENGING THE STATUS QUO**  
Ulrike Meinhof, late journalist-turned-revolutionary, used journalism to expose injustices. She left the journalism profession to join the West German urban guerilla the Red Army Faction, putting into practice what she was writing about, exposing Western imperialism, the Vietnam War and denouncing capitalism that indoctrinates us into catatonic consumers.

In “Occupy: Class War, Rebellion and Solidarity,” a book written by critically acclaimed political commentator Noam Chomsky, he examines mainstream media’s uncritical commitment to objectivity.

“If you go beyond that and you ask a question about the bounds, then you’re biased, subjective, emotional, maybe anti-American, whatever the usual curse words are. So that’s a task and, you know, you can understand it from the point of view of established power,” Chomsky said.

But don’t just leave it to the radicals.

Internationally renowned mainstream journalist Christiane Amanpour, who I disagree with on most political issues, once famously said, “There are some situations one simply cannot be neutral about, because when you are neutral you are an accomplice. Objectivity doesn’t mean treating all sides equally. It means giving each side a hearing.”

**THE CRIME AND IMMORALITY OF OBJECTIVITY**  
To side with objectivity can actually mean to be complicit. The reporter who refuses to question the rising incarceration of black and brown youth in urban communities while acknowledging influence of policy in the criminal justice system by the Corrections Corporations of America is guilty of complicity.

And although Pennsylvania Luzerne County Judge Mark Ciavarella Jr. was sentenced to 28 years for sending boys and girls to juvenile detention centers in exchange for bribes from these same companies, it is not an isolated incident. The entire U.S. political economy, from its courts to its institutions, is corrupt.

In fact, the only reason stories of corruption such as these are made public by a supposedly investigative and critical media is to perpetuate the idea that we live in a functioning democracy. In other words, the system is fine; Judge Mark Ciavarella or AIG, Lehman Brothers, Chase and other financial institutions guilty of mishandling money and other crimes are only examples of bad apples.

But in reality, no, the entire apple orchard is rotten.

Famous late journalist, Rubén Salazar, a hero of mine but not a radical by any means, was once quoted as saying, “Objectivity is impossible.”

In journalism, objectivity is fetishized. It is made into something that is desired and erroneously attainable.

When photojournalist Kevin Carter documented the 1993 famine in Sudan, he came across a starving child struggling to get to a feeding center over a hill.

Far off into the background of the child settled a vulture, like a patient guest waiting for his meal. Carter snapped this iconic photo, which later won the Pulitzer Prize.

The photo and photographer came under much controversy. Many critics said that Carter should have picked up the child, but that ultimately due to his journalistic duty, he did not. There are many accounts of the story. But what remains is this: the fate of the child is unknown, the journalist community was by and large passive when it came to calling for their readers to get involved, to question the origin of the famine, the parties involved and those that remained silent.

Carter, shortly after winning his Pulitzer Prize, committed suicide. I would venture to guess that when he thought of the concept of objectivity and the role of journalism, he didn’t like the answer he came up with and, so, to save his soul he took his life.

But I’m not Carter, nor do I want to be.

**WHY MAJOR IN JOURNALISM?**  
Why am I here?

Why did I major in journalism? Why did I abandon my comfortable full-time salary to go back to school, living on a fixed income slightly over \$900 per month, only to discover that I fundamentally disagree with nearly the entire discipline of contemporary journalism?

Stephanie McMillan, former journalist and radical activist, visited CSUN this past October showcasing her political cartoons and spoke out against capitalism and imperialism. When I spoke to her, it was clear she understood the role of the media and our role as activists.

“If you live in a class society, there is no such thing as objectivity,” she said. “Because most of what’s promoted and talked about and put out in the media is serving the ruling class. If we’re actually going to promote balance, then we have to decide who we are serving. And I believe, like you do, in serving the oppressed.”

I decided years ago that life isn’t worth living if it isn’t adding significantly to a movement to better the lives of the people most afflicted and oppressed, locally and globally, and that my ultimate happiness is directly tied to the well-being of the most affected by the cruel political economy of capitalism.

And I’ve been told I have a knack for writing. Naturally, I am trying to merge my talent with my calling. Come what may, I’ve made my peace. I will never be hired as an objective journalist. I don’t want to be, and that’s OK. Surely, this article will come up with a simple Google search of my name by prospective employers. That’s fine. We should be honest and transparent. I do not want to perpetuate U.S. capitalist and cultural hegemony. Frankly, I want to contribute to its destruction.

So, journalists and non-journalists, do what you will, but understand the true role of the media. We are not here to protect you. We are here to distract you.

But I am here for something else.

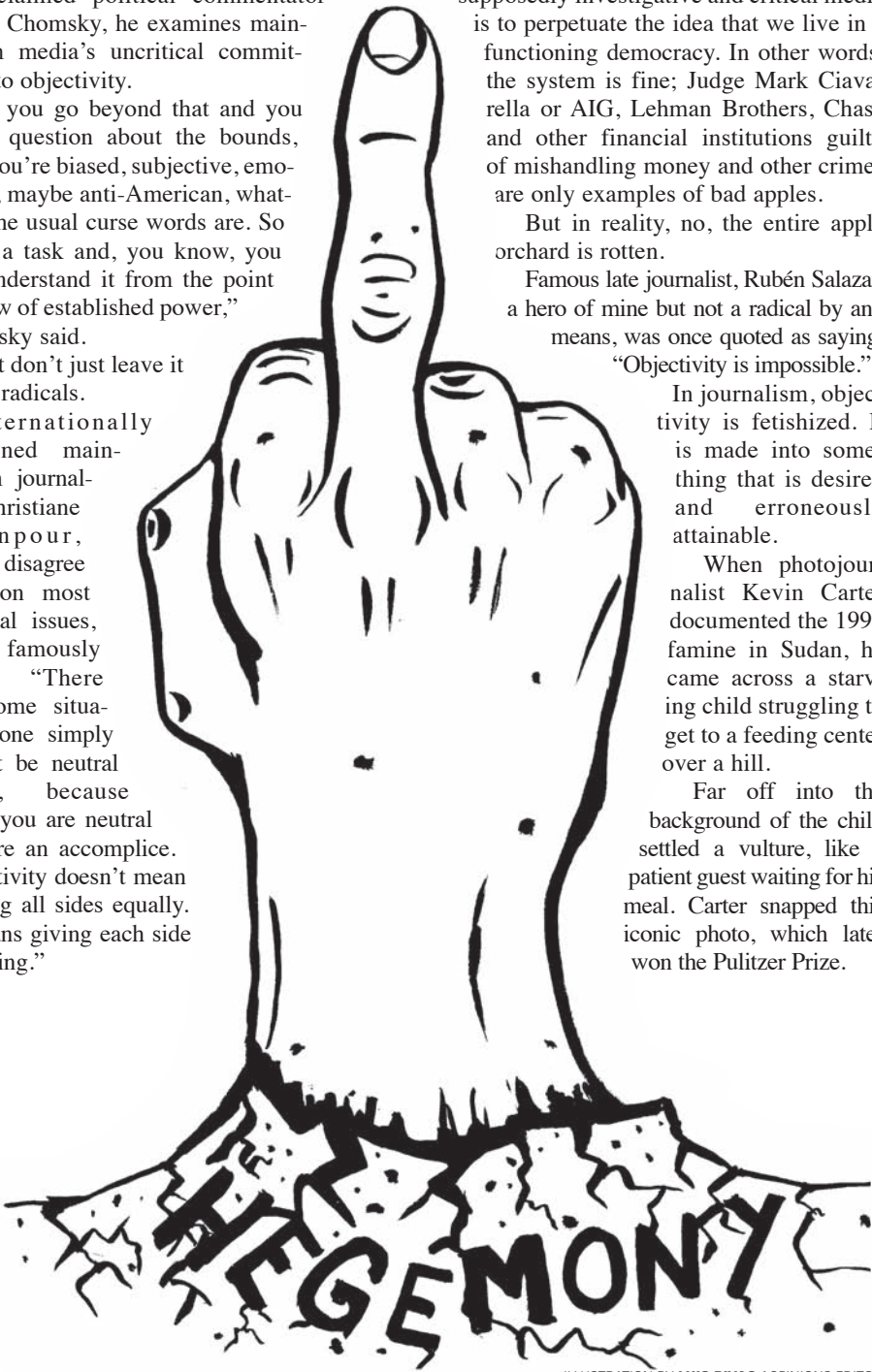


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☆ Stay on a budget this Christmas with these gifting ideas

MICHELLE DOMINGUEZ  
DAILY SUNDIAL

AS THE SEMESTER comes to a close, students start preparing for the holiday season. With Christmas only four weeks away, decorations are popping out of dusty old boxes and Mariah Carey's song, "All I Want for Christmas," gets played on a loop on every radio station.

It all seems holly and jolly until you remember one little, tiny detail: Christmas gifts.

All of a sudden the stress comes rolling in and with a limited student budget buying presents for all your family, friends, co-workers and bosses seems excessive, but all is not lost. Christmas shopping can be fun, if you organize yourself. Here are a few simple tips you can follow this holiday season for finding memorable, meaningful gifts on a budget.

☆ Tip # 1: Make a gift and budget list

Before you start running to the store and go on a crazy shopping spree, take a minute and sit down. Create a list of

all the people you want to give presents to. Then prioritize that list. The most important people, such as immediate family, go on the top, best friends second and co-workers last. This guarantees you won't waste money on someone who isn't a priority in your life.

Furthermore, take a look at your bank account. Make a list and write titles like food, bills and gift budget. Calculate how much money needs to be spent on serious matters like car payments or rent. After dealing with those, the leftover money is your available Christmas budget.

☆ Tip # 2: Think about the person

The worst thing that can happen is to give someone a present they absolutely hate. That's why taking a person's personality into consideration is vital. If they're a fashionista, sports fan, or Disney aficionado, the key to a good present is detail and that includes paying attention to their likes.

Music major, Elizabeth Lopez, manages to ease her Christmas shopping by focusing on her friend's behavior.

"My best friend is very outgoing. She loves music, is

addicted to makeup and usually always wears black. So if I can try to get her something that exemplifies either one of those things, I'll be good," Lopez said.

☆ Tip # 3: Look for the best deals

A good gift doesn't mean it has to be expensive. There are plenty of gifts you can buy at a reasonable price. Shops like Target, Marshalls, TJ MAXX, and Buffalo Exchange should be the first stores you visit. Many of these places offer low prices on designer clothing, accessories and beauty products. You can find anything from a handcrafted leather wallet for your boyfriend to a hat, scarf and glove set for your grandma.

Besides shopping stores, the internet can be a goldmine for the budget savvy student. Ebay and Amazon have a wide selection of products. Items like a portable Iphone speaker, a monogrammed necklace or a leather book bag are easily attainable. Just make you sure to give yourself enough time for shipping. Amazon currently offers free two-day shipping for students.



YOSCY PEREZ / ASSITANT PHOTO EDITOR

Using newspaper as gift wrappers is a unique alternative to survive Christmas on a budget.

☆ Tip #4: Be creative, go homemade

If you're really short on money or you just don't want to spend time being pushed and shoved in a crowded department store, then why not make a handcrafted gift. Now, this doesn't mean you're going to glue macaroni like a kindergartener. If you enjoy baking then consider whipping up some chocolate cookies, cupcakes or

a cake. Personalize them using colorful icing or fruit toppings, but if mixing flour and cracking eggs doesn't agree with you then visit your local craft store. Buy some yarn and knit a scarf, make a scrapbook or personalize a coffee mug. If you're a photographer then offer to take their portrait. The trick is to use your natural talents to your advantage.

Lisa Wirsing, a child development major, thrives in making personalized items for those she truly cares about during the holidays.

"I only make homemade stuff for my close friends," Wirsing said. "I think it's more personal and it's unique. You won't find those types of things at a store, they're the only ones who'll have them and keep them, hopefully."

Whether you prefer buying gifts or making them, the holiday season is meant to be celebrated with friends and family, so don't stress out with finding the perfect gift.

Remember, if all goes wrong, gift cards will save you every time.

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

ACROSS

- 1 Says "I do" to
- 5 Harvest bundle
- 10 Bone below the knee
- 14 Big name in skin care
- 15 Sculpture subjects
- 16 Jay with a column in Popular Mechanics
- 17 Smokes
- 19 Speak wildly
- 20 Dated song
- 21 Computer repair pros
- 23 Fizzle out
- 24 2013 Literature Nobel
- 26 Words sighed after a defeat
- 28 Ice cream maker
- 30 Cultural funding gp.
- 31 Let loose, as pigs
- 32 Large group
- 34 Two-time Oscar-winning director

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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17				18					19			
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42				43			44	45				
		46		47			48			49		
50	51					52			53			
54				55		56	57		58		59	60
61			62		63			64				
65					66				67			
68					69				70			

By C.C. Burnikel

12/10/13

DOWN

- 1 Home of the Texas Sports Hall of Fame
- 2 Villainous
- 3 Sultry stretch
- 4 Slow mollusk
- 5 Fr. holy woman
- 6 Drink with dim sum
- 7 Art Deco artist
- 8 "Be there in"
- 9 Vacation with worms?
- 10 Nikon product, for short
- 11 Destined for one's comeuppance ... or what the last words of 3-, 9- and 25-Down are doing?
- 12 Navel type
- 13 Well-known
- 18 Queen, in Quebec
- 22 Additive sold at Pep Boys
- 25 Slogan on a Boston basketball fan's shirt
- 27 Flinch, say
- 28 Long heroic poem

Monday's Puzzle Solved

C	A	R	A	T		H	A	I	K	U		J	A	R
A	R	E	S	O		E	X	C	O	N		E	P	I
I	T	S	H	O		P	E	L	E	S		S	D	I
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			C	A	T			S	T	O	L			
	W	H	A	T	H	A	V	E	I	D	O	N	E	
	W	H	O	L	E		L	I	A	M		N	A	G
	B	A	W	L		E	L	L				G	O	R
	A	R	T	E		H	U	L	A		C	A	M	E
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A	B	E		T	E	S	T	S		E	X	P	E	L

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12/10/13

- 29 Pop, to baby
- 31 One, for Juan
- 33 Got some shuteye
- 34 Pitcher's asset
- 36 Jewish wedding dance
- 37 Lead-in for prof. or D.A.
- 40 Show curiosity
- 45 More than heavyset
- 47 Not at home
- 48 \_\_\_ and Herzegovina
- 50 Golf club par
- 51 Greeting word
- 53 John who married Pocahontas
- 56 Top pilots
- 57 Buds
- 59 Molecule part
- 60 Crunch count
- 62 Used a chair
- 64 Boxing's Sugar \_\_\_ Leonard

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# Sundial Sports’ Fall 2013 All-Matador First Team

## WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

The leader of the Lady Matadors is junior guard Ashley Guay, who has been playing well on the season, averaging a team-high 15.9 points, 4.8 rebounds, and 2.0 steals per game over their first nine contests. Her best game thus far was a 25-point performance in 30 minutes of action against Montana State on Nov. 10.

As a freshman, Guay made the 2011-12 All-Big West Freshman Team and received an All-Big West honorable mention. As a sophomore, Guay made the 2012-2013 All-Big West Second Team after averaging 13.2 points per game. After being named to the 2013-2014 Big West Preseason All Conference First Team, Guay is looking to etch her name as a member of the All-Big West First Team at the end of this year’s campaign and is on pace to do so.

With less than three quarters of the season yet to be played, the Lady Matadors will try and rally behind the leadership of Guay and win their conference for a berth in the NCAA tournament in March.



ALL PHOTOS ARE FILE PHOTOS



## MEN’S BASKETBALL

Junior forward Stephen Maxwell has had a solid year for the CSUN Matadors. As one of the three main players returning to the lineup this season, he has performed well and has been an emotional leader on the court.

Maxwell, who hails from Woodland Hills, Calif. and attended Taft High School, is averaging 16.9 points and 8.8 rebounds on 55.1 percent shooting so far this year. He’s the best rebounder on the team, and averages the most offensive rebounds on the team at 4.1.

His scoring, rebounding and leadership has helped Northridge to a 5-5 record in this young season. Maxwell has recorded a double-double in six of the Matadors’ 10 games this year.

In a November win against the Hope International Cougars, Maxwell made all 11 of his free throw attempts in his 23-point, 12-rebound effort. His best outing of the year so far was against the Southern Utah Thunderbirds where he recorded 27 points and 13 rebounds in a huge 84-57 blowout win.

Last year, Maxwell’s studies as a communications major earned him a selection on the Big West All-Academic team.

## WOMEN’S SOCCER

In a frustrating season for the CSUN Women’s Soccer team, freshman forward Breanna McCallum’s plays shined brightest all year.

McCallum tied with junior forward Brittanie Sakajian for the team’s leader in points, seven, and goals, three.

She scored her first goal, the lone Matador goal, against the University of San Diego in a 3-1 loss. She then backed up that performance with her best statistical game in a victory against Houston.

McCallum recorded three points versus Houston with one goal and one assist. Her second goal of the season was to tie the game 1-1 with one second remaining on the game clock, and then had an assist in overtime to secure the Matadors’ first win of the season.

Her tenacity and physicality kept the Matadors within striking distance of each game. Her size was unmatched in every game and she was able to use her speed and strength to her advantage.

McCallum was a solid force for the Matadors and by far the most consistent player. She will be a threat and a go-to player for CSUN for the remainder of her collegiate career.



## MEN’S SOCCER

Junior forward Sagi Lev-Ari posted MVP-like numbers for the Matadors this season, finishing the 2013 regular season as the top scorer in Division I men’s soccer.

He led the nation in points with 38, recording 16 goals—five of which were game-winners and six assists in 23 games.

For his efforts, he was nominated as a finalist for Soccer News Net’s College Boot, honoring NCAA Men’s Soccer Player of the Year.

The second year striker is also tied for seventh in Northridge history in goals scored and ninth in points and has been selected as a semifinalist for the MAC Hermann Trophy, awarded to the top player in collegiate soccer.

Although he was impressive from the start of the season, his best performance came in the Big West Conference Tournament where he scored five goals including a hat-trick in the semifinal round at then-No. 10 UC Santa Barbara.

Lev-Ari scored a goal in nine separate matches, posting five multi-goal performances and two hat-tricks.

He received All-Big West Conference First Team honors and was named an All-American by CollegeSportsMadness.com.

During his career with the Matadors, Lev-Ari has 31 goals, six assists and 68 points in just 45 games and became the first Matador since Willie Sims (2004) to score 16 goals in a season.

## WOMEN’S VOLLEYBALL

In a team full of great performances, middle blocker Casey Hinger stands out as the MVP of the Matadors’ historic season.

The 6-2 junior out of Fullerton led her team with 357 kills, 124 total blocks and a .327 hitting percentage, placing her in the top five in each category among Big West conference leaders, good for a spot on the 2013 All-Big West first team for a third straight season.

Hinger stepped up her game in pivotal matches this season, leading her team with double-digit kills in nine conference victories including a career-high 22 kills in a 3-2 win at Long Beach State on Oct. 10, a performance which earned Hinger her second career Big West Player of the Week honor.

Hinger also smashed a team-high 17 kills in the Matadors’ first-ever NCAA Tournament victory, a 3-2 win over No. 12 Colorado State on Dec. 5.

Hinger’s best performance of the season came in a late October stretch, as she led her team with a then career high 21 kills and seven total blocks in a five-set road victory at Cal Poly on Oct. 19, followed by a team-high 16 kills and eight total blocks in a 3-2 victory over No. 8 Hawaii at home on Oct. 24.

Already holding the best career hitting percentage in CSUN history (.291), Hinger is now only 120 kills away from becoming the sixth Matador to record 1,000 kills, and should challenge the school record for career total blocks next season (492), as she now sits fourth among career leaders with 388.

