

DAILY SUNDIAL

FREE

IN TODAY'S
ISSUE

VOLUME 53 ISSUE 77 • A FINANCIALLY
INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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Men's basketball: Matadors
go cold in second half
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SUNDIAL FILE PHOTO

Two members of the CSUN six, Justin Marks (left) and Jose Gomez (right) hold signs outside a courthouse for their trial last year in February.

CSUN 6 CHARGES DISMISSED

FREDY TLATENCHI
NATALIE RIVERA
DAILY SUNDIAL

Charges were dismissed for the four CSUN students and one Los Angeles Valley College student who were arrested for protesting education budget cuts on March 4, 2010 outside of CSUN.

The decision to dismiss the charges was announced to the students and their attorneys Friday morning, which was delayed a few days by the Los Angeles City Attorney Carmen A. Trutanich.

Graduate student Jose Gomez was originally charged with assault, resisting arrest and failure to disperse. Graduate student Anthony Garcia was charged with failure to disperse and resisting arrest. Alumna Jonnae Thompson, Alumnus Justin Marks and LAVC student, Angel Guzman were also charged with failure to disperse.

"I am extremely relieved that justice was served," Thompson said. "It's been a long journey and these are moments I'll never forget."

The students, once complete strangers to one another, decided to collectively fight the charges rather than accept Trutanich's offer to drop all charges except Gomez'.

According to their attorney John Micheal Lee, a deal to drop all charges was agreed upon approximately a year ago, as long as students avoided arrest and performed well academically.

Following the decision to drop all charges, Gomez explained that the process of expunging the charges from their records will take a couple months.

"We would want them to clear the record for when we ever apply for a job in the future," Gomez said.

Seeking and keeping employment has

been hindered by the pending case for some of the students.

For Thompson, it was difficult because the court dates interfered with her work at a charter school in Pacoima. She remembers when the topic of the pending case would be discussed during interviews. However, she

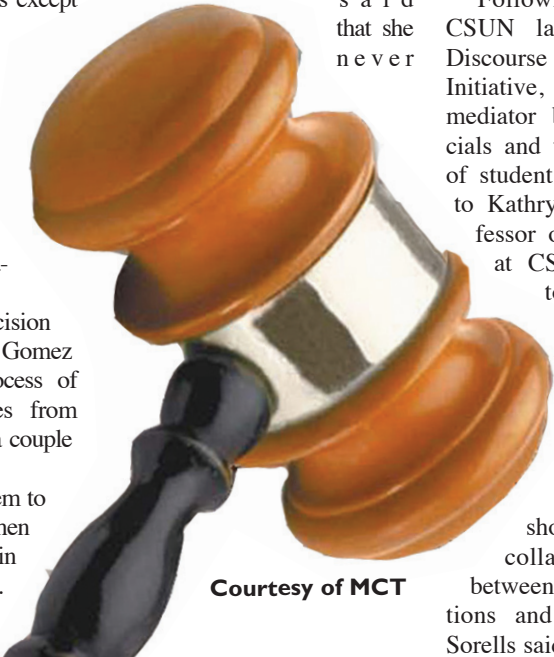
said that she never

expressed shame for the protest she was involved in.

Gomez, currently studying for his master's degree in Spanish Language Literature, said that a job he was recently considered for by LAUSD would not be given to him until the pending case was dismissed.

Following the arrests, CSUN launched its Civil Discourse and Social Change Initiative, which serves as a mediator between law officials and the school in case of student arrests, according to Kathryn Sorrells, a professor of communications at CSUN. The goal is to create a cohesive community at CSUN and to teach student activists proper civil discourse, Sorrells said.

"These protests should be more of a collaborative process between student organizations and campus police," Sorrells said.



Courtesy of MCT

SQE set to film documentary

Filmmakers plan to show how budget cuts affect CSUN students

LAURA DAVIS
DAILY SUNDIAL

The CSUN group, Students for Quality Education, is filming a documentary on campus about how budget cuts have directly affected the community.

The documentary, filmed in Jerome Richfield Hall, features the testimonies of students and professors, according to CTVA senior Eduardo Zamora, one of the filmmakers.

Students interested in being filmed were invited last Wednesday and Friday via Facebook. Many students came on Friday morning to share their stories, but left after the filmmakers were no where to be found. SQE came later in the day, Zamora said.

"We had a good turnout. I think we had about 50 different students come and share their stories with us last week," he said. "Next week we're going to get testimonies from the professors."

The film is being created in an effort to promote the "March 1 Actions in Defense of Publication Education," or more commonly referred to as "Occupy Education," said SQE organizer Edgar Ramos.

"It will be a day of action nation-wide and 18 different campuses will be taking part

in this day including CSUN," he said. "We expect the film to be released hopefully a week before that."

Students who have had no choice but to push back their graduation dates due to budget cuts jumped at the opportunity to share their stories, such as Angel Hernandez, a double major in Chicana/o and Pan-African studies major who is in his fifth year at CSUN.

"From Spring 2008 to Fall 2009 I was sort of forced to come to school part-time and that delayed my graduation date. It was in direct relation to budget cuts and how they cut down on courses made available," Hernandez said. "I'll be done Spring 2013 so it will have taken me six years to get my bachelor's when I could have obtained it in four."

SQE meets every Monday at 4 p.m. in Sierra Hall 276, according to the group's Facebook page.

"We want to inform our CSUN community, as well as our neighboring businesses, about the quality of education that we're receiving right now and how the budget cuts are affecting us and the greater community in general," Zamora said. "We want the students to really take action to make sure we maintain quality of our education and our learning environment."

Jobs for vets hard to come by

Unemployment rates for veterans are higher than national average

TANYA RAMIREZ
DAILY SUNDIAL

Despite the federal government's attempt to create new career resource programs for veterans, there are an estimated 300,000 veterans struggling to find work.

According to a Dec. 11 report issued by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, unemployment among veterans has risen above 13 percent. The

veteran unemployment rate just two months prior was 12.1 percent.

Thia Nilawat, a former Navy nuclear technician and CSUN president of the Student Veteran Organization, said the problem lies with veterans often not being proactive or taking the time to research benefits available through organizations.

"Whenever I see a scruffy

See **VETERANS**, page 4

Calendar of Events

FEBRUARY 2012

20

The Buck
WHERE: A.S. Office
WHEN: 12–5 p.m. (Runs everyday until Sunday)
DESCRIPTION: CSU joint effort Student write letters or stories on Jerry Brown dollar flyer. Turn into A.S. office by March 1st. Collected notes to the government that will be delivered to Sacramento March 5th

A.S. Finance Meeting
WHERE: A.S. Conference Room (USU 100)
WHEN: 2–4 p.m.
DESCRIPTION: The A.S. Finance meeting to discuss current budget requests.

Cinematheque
WHERE: Armer Screening Room (ASR)
WHEN: 7–9:45 p.m.
DESCRIPTION: The CSUN Cinematheque presents another installment of the “My Favorite Movies” series. Marc Guggenheim, screenwriter (Green Lantern, Eli Stone, CSI: Miami, Law & Order, etc.) and comic book author (Wolverine, Blade, The Flash, The Amazing Spiderman, etc.) will screen and discuss Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan.

21

A.S. Senate Meeting
WHEN: Tue, February 21, 2-4 p.m.
WHERE: Grand Salon (USU)
DESCRIPTION: Come see your representatives in action. Join us for the open forum to let us know how you are doing and to be heard!

Gamma Rho Lambda Dinner
WHEN: Tue, February 21, 5-7 p.m.
WHERE: CSUN Women’s Center (18356 Halsted Avenue, Northridge, CA 91330)
DESCRIPTION: GRL families are very diverse and multicultural, as each of us are from around the world. Come along if you would like to learn more about GRL’s family tree, and what each member holds close to their heart.

Diversity Dinner
WHEN: Tue, February 21, 5-7 PM.
WHERE: Women’s Center
DESCRIPTION: GRL families are very diverse and multicultural, as each of us are from around the world. Come along if you would like to learn more about GRL’s family tree, and what each member holds close to their heart.

23

Krav Maga - Israeli Self Defence Training
WHEN: Thu, February 23, 6-8 p.m.
WHERE: CSUN Hillel, 17729 Plummer street, Northridge (map)
DESCRIPTION: Krav Maga or “contact combat” is a noncompetitive eclectic self-defense system developed in Israel that involves striking techniques, wrestling and grappling. Krav Maga is known for its focus on real-world situations and extremely efficient, brutal counter-attacks.

Cinematheque
WHEN: 7--9:45 p.m.
WHERE: Armer Screening Room (ASR)
DESCRIPTION: A refinery mechanic (American actor Steve Cochran in a career-best performance) finds his life suddenly overturned as his 7-year affair to a married woman (AlidaValli) ends. He embarks on an impulsive and aimless quest with his illegitimate daughter in tow seeking some way to reattach himself to the world.

23 (CONT.)

Gamma Rho Lambda Bowling Night
WHEN: Thu, February 23, 9:00-10:30 p.m.
WHERE: Brunswick Matador Bowl (9118 Balboa Boulevard, Northridge, CA 91325) (map)
DESCRIPTION: Aaaaaand STRIKE! GRL’s love their bowling! Come join us if you would like to show off your mad bowling skills, and ultimately get to know the siblings one last time before bids!

SUBMIT YOUR EVENT

Go online to **DAILY SUNDIAL.COM** to add your club or organization’s upcoming event to the calendar for free.

PINK
Continued from page 8

overs in the game. CSUN figured out a way to score against it in the second half.

“They use a 2-3 trap and we worked on this all week during practice,” Erving said. “Our main goal was to get the ball inside.”

The Matadors had a decent first half, but it didn’t end the way they wanted it to. CSUN had

the ball with 26.8 seconds left and ran a play to free up Duarte at the baseline, but UC Davis forward Lauren Juric blocked her shot. The Aggies got the ball back and guard Blair Shinoda nailed a 3-pointer at the buzzer to push her team’s lead to 29-23 going into halftime.

Erving did the most of the scoring for Northridge in the first half. She finished with 15 points.

The Matadors hit the road for one last road trip starting Thursday against UC Santa Barbara. They will face Cal Poly two days later.

M-BBALL
Continued from page 8

was just a bad game.”

After a victory over Cal Poly Wednesday night in which CSUN had five players score in double figures, Braswell warned his young team that a letdown could happen against its non-conference opponent from the Western Athletic Conference.

“I was afraid this could happen. There’s

something about BracketBusters,” Braswell said. “When you go to a BracketBuster and you’re not careful, you take a sigh of relief.”


Still, CSUN could take some positives from the first half.

Northridge closed the first period on a 19-5 run and went into halftime with a 32-23 advantage.

The Matadors shot 44 percent in the first half compared to the Bulldogs’ cold 28 percent.

Fresno State was led by Kevin Foster, who had a team-high 17 points.

UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNION, INC.



LIVING THE MATADOR LIFE

EVENTS

TODAY

BOD MEETING - SALA DE LA OSA, SSU - 12:30 - 2:30 P.M.
TABLE TENNIS TOURNAMENT - GAMES ROOM, USU - 4 - 5 P.M.

TUESDAY, FEB. 21


BILLIARDS TOURNAMENT - GAMES ROOM, USU - 4 - 5 P.M.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 22

NATIONAL SPORTS AND RECREATION FITNESS DAY - PLAZA DEL SOL, USU - 11 A.M. - 1 P.M.
POKER TOURNAMENT - GAMES ROOM, USU - 4 - 5 P.M.
LECTURECISE FEATURING RICHARD SIMMONS - RED RING COURTS, STUDENT RECREATION CENTER - 6 - 8 P.M.

THURSDAY, FEB. 23


CRAFT CORNER - PLAZA DEL SOL, USU - 11:30 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.
NOONTIME CONCERT - PLAZA DEL SOL, USU - NOON - 1 P.M.
VETERAN MEET RELAX EAT - BALBOA ROOM, USU - NOON - 1 P.M.
KARAOKE CONTEST - GAMES ROOM, USU - 7 - 10 P.M.




CHECK-IN TO THE USU ON FACEBOOK

The University Student Union wants to help you make the best out of your CSUN experience by providing free events, services, food, jobs, and volunteer opportunities.

Like us on Facebook: Check-in when you visit the USU and tell us how you are Living the Matador Life. Check-in five times and you will receive free CSUN gear (while supplies last). Claim your prize at the Front Desk in the Sol Center.









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California State University Northridge

Witnessing revolution a hemisphere over

Downtown native travels to Chile, Puerto Rico to participate in protests against tuition hikes

STEFANIE DE LEON
TZIC
DAILY SUNDIAL

While most 10-year-olds spend their vacations at camps or summer schools, Steve “Chiru” Singh Gill, 22, spent his in the streets of downtown Los Angeles. A native of Echo Park, Gill grew up in the marginalized community nestled between Temple and Rampart. He was surrounded by violence, poverty and injustice.

The middle child and the only male out of three siblings, it was typical for him to help out his parents. From the time he was 10-years-old up until he graduated from Downtown Magnet High School, Gill spent most of his time, either at his father’s shoe store, The Shoe Monster, or his mother’s restaurant, Downtown Deli, both located in the same building.

He recalls the fashion district laborers that would come to eat at Downtown Deli, many of them underpaid for their hard labor.

“Before I used to think that an immigrant having an extremely hard time – getting fired for no reason, not having access to healthcare, being harassed by the police – was

normal. I didn’t realize they were injustices,” he said.

Soon, gentrification began sweeping the building where his parents worked, Gill’s mother was forced to close Downtown Deli in 2008 in order to make way for lofts. The Shoe Monster survived but eventually shut down in 2011. The influx of cheaply imported shoes and high rent brought about by the newly gentrified area contributed to its closure.

“My dad was paying more rent for one fourth of the space than he was the whole space (before),” recalls Gill. This was the case for several shop owners.

It didn’t seem fair to him as this was just one of the many injustices he witnessed. Once he entered CSUN he knew he wanted to be a social science major. He chose political science because he knew the effects that politics can have, and he wanted to study such a process to see if he could influence it or not.

Majoring in political science awakened Gill to the harsh realities that minorities face and prompted him to follow a path of activism.

In Spring 2010, he spent a semester in Puerto Rico as part of the National Student Exchange program. There, he

became involved in La Primera Huelga, a student organized strike against tuition hikes. Puerto Rican students were experiencing the same tuition increases as Californian students. At his first real exposure to democracy, Gill was stunned by the amount of student activism.

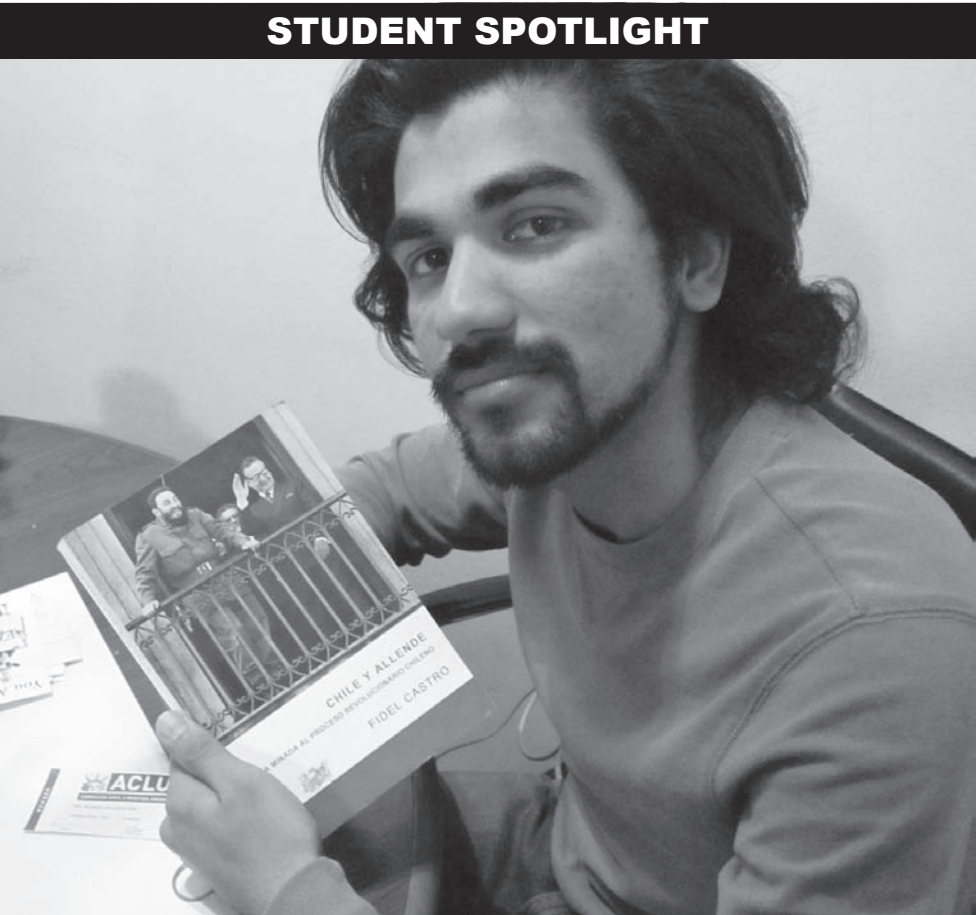
“To see a whole campus vote whether to go on strike or not was inspirational,” he said. He remembers thinking that this could never occur at CSUN.

Gill continued down this path of student activism. From July of 2010 through July of 2011, he studied abroad in Chile. He witnessed the awakening of a nation led by students, in what has become known as the Chilean student uprising, which is still taking place today.

Chilean students, much like Puerto Ricans and Californians, were also experiencing tuition hikes and are now demanding free quality education for everyone.

“If I thought Puerto Ricans uniting for a common cause put the U.S. to shame, Chileans uniting for a common cause put Puerto Ricans to shame,” Gill said.

Although very much moved by both student strikes, Gill also recalls feeling embarrassed by how little he knew about world



STEFANIE DE LEON TZIC / DAILY SUNDIAL

Steve “Chiru” Singh Gill, 22, a political science major, reads about Chile’s ousted president Salvador Allende.

systems and politics. He said both Puerto Ricans and Chileans knew twice as much as he did. They knew the American system, in addition to their own system.

“In the U.S. we are only taught liberalism. There is no

Marx being taught. He can spark revolutions, but he can’t make it onto a syllabus here,” Gill said.

Today, Gill mentors at-risk youth for CSUN’s Mentoring to Overcome Struggles and Inspire Courage program (MOSAIC)

in the San Fernando Area and is set to graduate this spring. Having been exposed to the hardships that the underserved face, both at home and abroad, he has decided to become a doctor and has since been following a pre-health curriculum.



YES WE CAN

[FIND A GOOD RESTAURANT NEAR CSUN.]



THE DAILY SUNDIAL PRESENTS THE BEST OF CSUN POLL

The Sundial wants YOU to tell us the best Northridge has to offer. Fill out the ballot in today’s paper or log on to our website now through February 29 and take our poll on the top local spots. After you complete your ballot, you’ll be eligible to win an iPod Touch. So give us your restaurants, your bars, your tattoo parlors yearning to be known. We’ll publish the results in a special section on March 22.



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**STUDENT
RECREATION
CENTER**

WHERE MATADORS PLAY



**80s
Fitness Gear
Contest**

**National Recreational Sports and
Fitness Day**
Wednesday, Feb. 22

PARTICIPATE TO WIN PRIZES • FREE FOOD AND 80s DJ

Plaza del Sol, USU
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Hula Hoop and Double Dutch Contests, Four Square, Peer Nutrition Counselors, Wellness Trivia, and more

OST Lawn
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Potato Sack and Hippy Hop Races, Tetherball, and the Big Red Ball

SRC*, 1 – 5 p.m.
Dodgeball and Inner Tube Water Polo Tournaments, Boulderling Competition, Water Sports, and 80s themed classes



Join Richard Simmons for “Lecturecise” at 6 p.m., Red Ring Courts, SRC • Doors open at 5:15 p.m.
Wrist bands will be distributed at 3 p.m. in front of the SRC. This event will reach maximum capacity. Students must register at the SRC before receiving a wrist band. Stand-by line available for non-registered faculty and staff

***MUST BE A REGISTERED SRC MEMBER**

SRC.CSUN.EDU (818) 677-2491

California State University
Northridge

Vagina Monologues raise awareness



Nageena Ahmadzai performs “The Vagina Workshop” at the 9th Annual College Campaign of Eve Ensler’s “The Vagina Monologues.”



Stephanie Bonilla performs “Becuae He Liked to Look At It” at the 9th Annual College Campaign of Eve Ensler’s “The Vagina Monologues.”



Scan the QR code to view multimedia of the event

VETERANS

Continued from page 1

guy in uniform on the side of the road holding a ‘help, homeless veteran’ sign, I can’t help but wonder how the hell that happened,” Nilawat said. “With the G.I. Bill and so many resources out there, I don’t get how these guys resort to homelessness.”

Organizations and federal agencies that offer career resources and training for veterans include the Veteran Affairs Office, the Disabled Veterans National Foundation and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department.

John Tremblay, deputy secretary of the California Department of Veteran Affairs, said though veterans have access to hundreds of assistance programs, lack of formal education is the biggest factor hindering veterans from employment.

“It’s like trying to drink off a fire hose,” Tremblay said. “Some of these veterans signed up straight out of high school and they have no concept of the real world. They don’t know where to go or what to do following the service, which makes landing a job incredibly difficult.”

Tremblay said the California Department of Veteran Affairs is in the process of developing a new transition assistance course for veterans about to leave the service. He said veterans are currently required to take a one-week crash course in which they are taught how to find work and apply for aid. The new course would expand over a series of months.

“The country and nation as a whole does an excellent job of preparing men and women for the service. The training is extensive to say the least,” Tremblay said. “But we do not do a good job at forming

exit strategies. There is little training to prepare these soldiers for civilian life.”

David Arnett, former helicopter mechanic for the Marine Corps and CSUN graduate, said he is currently underemployed and has been searching for work for several months. He said federal programs like the Department of

that hire disabled veterans.

“It’s a duel edged sword,” Nilawat said. “On one hand, the act may generate more jobs for veterans and disabled veterans. On the other, it may steer jobs away from more qualified civilians who are just as desperate to find employment.”

According to the Army Times, the Defense Department, the Labor Department and other federal agencies are also in the process of implementing a “comprehensive veteran’s employment package” as a result of the Vow to Hire Heroes Act. This package will be distributed to veterans leaving the service as an attempt to provide career resources.

“I look forward to seeing how that works,” said Sarina Loeb, who helped create the CSUN Veteran Peer Mentor Program. “I think the government and VA are doing the best they can at this point, and I can only hope these new initiatives help in the long run.”

Loeb said veterans often feel their military skills are non-transferable to the workforce. She said CSUN’s Office of Veteran Affairs and programs like the Veteran Peer Mentor Program are designed to help veteran students succeed and realize they possess the necessary skills to find civilian work.

“When we talk about veteran employment, we have to be very careful where we draw the line,” Arnett said. “It’s one thing to help someone seek employment and a completely different story to have them on a career path that is financially and emotionally rewarding.”

Veteran Affairs tend to be unreliable and run on flawed systems.

“It’s kind of run like an HMO,” Arnett said. “The model doesn’t make much sense and I think that is due to the sheer number of people returning from the two wars that we are fighting, it will find itself overwhelmed and underbudgeted.”

To address joblessness among veterans, the Obama administration proposed its Vow to Hire Heroes Act in October 2011. The act guarantees \$6,500 worth of tax credits to businesses that hire veterans and an additional \$4,000 to those

“The country and nation as a whole does an excellent job of preparing men and women for the service. The training is extensive to say the least,” said Tremblay. “But we do not do a good job at forming exit strategies. There is little training to prepare these soldiers for civilian life.”

— John Tremblay
Deputy Secretary of the California Department of Veterans Affairs

New science may advance society

Advancement of nanotechnology furthers economic recovery

AGNES CONSTANTE
DAILY SUNDIAL

Environmental Protection Agency administrator Lisa Jackson visited UCLA Friday to tour its Center for Environmental Implications of Nanotechnology.

The center, which was founded in September of 2008, was granted \$24 million from the EPA and National Science Foundation.

“(Nanotechnology) is a new science that is going to change our economy,” said Andre Nel, professor of medicine at UCLA. “It’s going to change how we can take care of the environment, it’s going to change healthcare, it’s going to make safer energy.”

The University of California Center for Environmental Implications of Nanotechnology aims to ensure the safe use of nanotechnology so the world can benefit from the science both economically and socially.

“Nanotechnology is here and it is the future,” Jackson said. “We’re very proud to be co-funders of the center, especially because they’re actually only finding problems because then they turn around and find the solution at the same time.”

The field of nanotechnology focuses on the study and application of matter between one to 100 nanometers, as stated on the National Nanotechnology Initiative website, and typically involves the manipulation of atoms and mol-

ecules.

A nanometer is one billionth of a meter, and there are 25,400,000 nanometers in one inch, the website states.

By integrating data from various scientific fields (including microbiology, bacteriology, ecology, cell biology and biostatistics, among others), scientists at the center have created a predictive platform that can indicate the extent of environmental impact of engineered nanomaterials.

“What really is striking is the integration (allows for) immediate feedback so that as (scientists are) learning about these materials and where there might be implications and environmental concern, there’s feedback right away into how to fix the problem,” Jackson said.

The new science holds the potential to change many aspects in society, but there are possible negative implications in nanotechnology. For this reason, Jackson said research conducted at the center is also keeping an eye out for environmental consequences.

“We’re asking the questions earlier. It’s like preventative medicine in a way. There’s so many things that we learned after the fact were bad for us and then we spend years and years trying to clean up waste or worry about air pollution or build cleaner cars,” Jackson said.

The center is located in the California NanoSystems Institute at UCLA. A second center is located at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

HELPFUL CONTACTS

U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs - Los Angeles: 800 827-1000
Disabled Veterans National Foundation: 202-737-0522
Veterans of Foreign Wars: 816-756-3390
California Department of Veteran Affairs: 800-952-5626



DAILY SUNDIAL OFFICIAL BALLOT

Fill out this ballot now through February 29 and give us your opinion on the top local spots. Drop off your completed ballot at the Daily Sundial or the Matador Bookstore computer department. After you complete your ballot, you'll be entered to win an iPod Touch. We'll publish the winners and runners-up in a special section on March 22.

You can also vote online at www.dailysundial.com

Food & Drink (Off Campus)

- ★ BBQ
- ★ Bar
- ★ Cheap Eats
- ★ Chinese
- ★ Coffeehouse
- ★ Desserts & Sweets
- ★ Gluten-Free
- ★ Greek
- ★ Indian
- ★ Italian
- ★ Late Night
- ★ Mexican
- ★ Middle Eastern
- ★ Pizza
- ★ Romantic/First Date
- ★ Sandwich Shop
- ★ Steak
- ★ Sushi
- ★ Thai
- ★ Vegetarian/Vegan

Student Needs

- ★ Art supply store
- ★ Computer/OS
- ★ Free WiFi

- ★ Furniture Store
- ★ Place to use CSUN ID
- ★ Social networking site
- ★ Textbooks Provider

On Campus

- ★ Bathroom
- ★ Class
- ★ Dorm Building
- ★ Food
- ★ Nap place
- ★ Parking
- ★ Study spot
- ★ Non-Greek Club/Organization
- ★ Fraternity
- ★ Sorority
- ★ Volunteer Opportunity

Entertainment

- ★ Adult Store
- ★ Club
- ★ Free Entertainment
- ★ Game system
- ★ Getaway
- ★ Movie theater
- ★ Music store
- ★ Place to meet someone
- ★ Radio station

- ★ Theme Park
- ★ Video game

Looking Good

- ★ Bargain
- ★ Car
- ★ Cellphone
- ★ Cellphone provider
- ★ Clothing store
- ★ Gadget
- ★ Jewelry Store
- ★ Manicure/Pedicure
- ★ Piercing/Tattoo parlor
- ★ Salon/Barbershop
- ★ Shoe store
- ★ Spa

- **Drop off your ballot at the Daily Sundial (MZ 140) or the Matador Bookstore computer department**
- **Ballot must be received by February 29**
- **Don't want to write? Vote online at www.dailysundial.com**
- **One ballot (paper or online) per person**

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PLEASE ENTER MY NAME INTO THE IPOD TOUCH GIVEAWAY YES ☐ NO ☐
PLEASE SIGN ME UP FOR THE DAILY SUNDIAL'S EMAIL NEWSLETTER YES ☐ NO ☐

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Co-sponsored by the Matador Bookstore

February 20, 2012

opinion@sundial.csun.edu

Opinions

Occupation of Gaza is a crime against humanity

TAREQ SEIKALY
CONTRIBUTOR

The Arab/Israeli or Palestinian/Israeli conflict has been an ongoing struggle since the creation of Israel in 1948, as many may already know. But what many may not know is that every day, Palestinians are subject to human rights violations that may amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Israel has been in violation of international law since 1967, when U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 was adopted in November of that year, which condemned the seizure of land through war and called for Israel to withdraw its occupying forces to the June 1967 borders. Since, the international community (except the occupying power) considers the Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, to be "occupied territories."

With the onset of the occupation, Israel began to transplant parts of its own population to the Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem. These Israelis were settled on illegally acquired Palestinian land in what came to be known as Israeli settlements. Such population transfers are explicitly forbidden under the fourth Geneva Convention specifically to prevent colonization and annexation.

In the initial stage of this process, Israel claimed that the settlements were being built for "security" reasons. At a later stage, however, more ideological reasons were given to justify this illegal expansionist policy. To date, Israel has transferred more than 500,000 settlers into the occupied Palestinian territory, and the abuse of natural resources and the establishment of a dual system of law has created a clear situation of colonization; what many consider systematic apartheid.

Some who are "pro-Israel" may deny their current presence in Palestinian territory because they withdrew their troops occupying Gaza – a strip of land between Israel and Egypt – in 2005. However, the international community still considers Israel as an occupying power because it has control over Gaza's land borders, water and airspace.

Israel's policies only hurt regular civilians and not terrorist groups. The United Nations' submitted its annual report on the humanitarian situation in the Palestinian territories

in January, describing a grim state of food insecurity, isolation, violence and failing health and education services. The report, which was presented during a Security Council session upon the Palestinians' request, asserted that the number of civilian casualties rose by more than 30 percent in Gaza and the West Bank compared to 2010.

"Israeli authorities continued to impose a blockade on Gaza, amounting to collective punishment of the population and affecting every aspect of life in the Gaza Strip," the report stated. The report maintains that the policies restricting the habitants of Gaza's access to areas with viable agriculture and fishing prospects constrain their livelihoods. Moreover, restrictions on the movement of goods and people into Gaza compromise the region's health, education and sanitation services.

The UN also addressed the situation in East Jerusalem arguing that the Palestinian population there is growing isolated from the rest of the West Bank. Furthermore, the residents of "Area C" – which makes up 60 percent of the West Bank and is under Israeli control – have been facing escalating rates of home demolitions, settler violence and restricted travel.

Pro-Israelis may also respond to criticism of the Israeli government's continued colonization of Palestine by blaming the victim – since Palestinians have failed to make peace with Israel, occupation is a necessary measure to ensure the security of the Jewish state.

Ironically, Israel's occupation only aggravates violence and puts their own people at risk. Groups such as Hamas and Hezbollah have indiscriminately fired rockets into Israel as a way to stand up to the occupying power. Israel sees this as a reason to continue bombarding Palestinian land, although the problem lies first and foremost in the illegal acquisition of Palestinian land and resources by Israel.

So what is a "crime against humanity"? According to Francis Boyle, professor of international law at the University of Illinois, this concept goes all the way back to the Nuremberg trial of 1945 for the trial of major Nazi war criminals. Drafted by the United States government, a new type of international crime was created to specifically deal with the Nazi persecution of the Jewish people.

This is what the United Nations



ILLUSTRATION BY CARL ROBINETTE / DAILY SUNDIAL

Human Rights Commission determined that Israel is currently doing to the Palestinian People: crimes against humanity.

To learn more about the conflict and crisis, CSUN will host a lecture today in the Northridge Center at 4:00 p.m., by Professor Ilan Pappé, an Israeli activist and scholar who advocates against Israel's "false paradigm of parity and partition."

Have an opinion?
Want to share?

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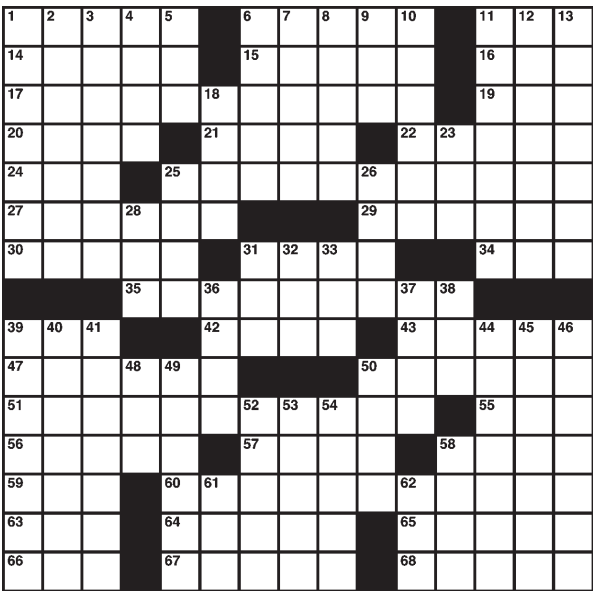
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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

ACROSS

- 1 Like Eastwood's Harry
6 Aromatic resin
11 Emeril catchword
14 Start of un año
15 Add to the mix
16 Freudian subject
17 *Get really angry
19 Cocktail cooler, in Coblenz
20 Paris airport
21 Having trouble deciding
22 Hindu social division
24 Fish eggs
25 *Belfast-born flutist
27 "For shame!"
29 Sedative
30 Suffix with bed or home
31 Arthur of tennis
34 Selected on a ballot, with "in"
35 *2004 loser to George Bush
39 Source of quick cash, briefly
42 Operating system since the '60s
43 Ball hit over the wall
47 Steals
50 Title street of kids' TV
51 *Sandwich request
55 Accomplished
56 Islamic deity
57 College head
58 Shower affection (on)
59 __ tai: cocktail
60 One of the four that end this puzzle's starred answers
63 Rock producer Brian
64 Stealthy craft
65 Zellweger of "Chicago"
66 Room with bookcases
67 Tolerate
68 Flowers with swordlike leaves, briefly



By Geoffrey Lewis

2/20/12

DOWN

- 1 Expels from the country
2 "Should I deal you a hand?"
3 Abundantly supplied (with)
4 Helen of __
5 Partner of hither
6 __ salts
7 "Filthy" dough
8 Preppy collars
9 Downed Russian space station
10 Mushroom with a black-edged top
11 Secretion used in hives
12 Stir up
13 Strolled, as to the saloon
18 French state
23 "Float like a butterfly" boxer
25 Karate relative
26 Habitué
28 __ Mahal
31 Landers or Lee
32 Enjoy the slopes
33 Put a spell on
36 Awed crowd reaction
37 Stat start
38 Casual hellos

Thursday's Puzzle Solved



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2/17/12

- 39 Humiliated
40 Like many rural roads
41 Thousand thousand
44 "Papa Don't Preach" singer
45 Radiated
46 Flights leaving around midnight, usually
48 iPhone, e.g., briefly
49 Rules of conduct
50 In __: harmonious
52 Twin Cities suburb
53 Subatomic particle
54 Oohed and __
58 Face-off with pistols
61 Squealer
62 Nonprofit's URL ending

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**Solution to
today's sudoku**

4	1	6	8	7	2	9	8	5
9	8	8	9	1	4	6	2	7
2	9	7	9	6	8	3	4	1
5	3	1	2	4	7	8	6	9
7	6	9	8	5	3	4	1	2
8	2	4	1	9	6	7	5	3
6	7	2	4	3	5	1	9	8
1	4	5	7	8	9	2	3	6
3	6	8	6	2	1	5	7	4

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sudoku

How to play:
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9.

Solution above

					9		6	3
			6	8			4	
		1		3		2		
		7					2	8
2								7
6	9					1		
		3		9		7		
	2			1	5			
5	8		2					

Puzzle number : 963684132

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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Just in the pink of time

Matadors find offensive rhythm in last minutes of second half, overcome 15-point deficit vs. UC Davis



ANDRES ROCHA / SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

CSUN center Jasmine Erving looks to get a shot off in the paint. Erving scored 24 points as the Matadors remained in first place with a 63-60 win Saturday.

ANTHONY CARPIO
SPORTS EDITOR

It started with exactly 10 minutes left in the second half with the Matadors down 45-32. Center Jasmine Erving had just made a jumper. Forward Violet Alama got a layup 29 seconds later. Then, with 8:35 to go, Alama drained CSUN's only trey of the game to cut UC Davis's lead

to 10. And then they came out like pink bats out of hell. Wearing its breast-cancer-awareness pink jerseys, Northridge (16-10 10-3 Big West) made clutch baskets and defensive stops, outscoring the Aggies 31-15 in the last 10 minutes of the game to get a 63-60 victory Saturday afternoon at the Matadome. CSUN head coach Jason Flowers said it was his team's

effort in the second half that gave the Matadors the win. "The kids get all the credit," he said. "I wish I could say that I drew up a magic play or invented a brand new defense that had never been seen before. But it's not. It was our kids." Erving continued to be a factor, contributing 24 points and four rebounds. But it was Alama and Jessica Duarte who came up the biggest with clutch shots and hustle plays.

Alama had a solid outing with nine points, seven rebounds and four steals. Her 3-pointer was the catalyst that sparked the Matadors on both ends of the court. "It was the difference of the game," Flowers said. "It's been interesting from the standpoint of how she shoots the ball from the perimeter, and we want her to shoot the ball well from the perimeter. But for whatever reason, she's hesitant or she tries to

do more than is presented. She caught the ball in rhythm and she knocked down the shot. She does that all the time in practice." Duarte was another driving force down the stretch. She made the game-tying jumper and a fastbreak layup to give CSUN a 55-53 lead. It was the Matadors' first lead since 2-0 in the first minute of the game. "We want to get to the Big West Tournament and be the best," said Duarte, explaining the

team's second-half surge. "We have a good chance at finishing No. 1 and that's what we want. That's what we're fighting for everyday." Prior to their second-half push, the Matadors struggled to get baskets, only shooting 33.3 percent going into halftime. UC Davis's 2-3 trap zone defense forced CSUN to commit 18 turn-

See **PINK**, page 2

MEN'S BASKETBALL

CSUN shoots 9 percent in second half, falls in BracketBuster



MARIELA MOLINA / PHOTO EDITOR

Guard Josh Greene fends off Fresno State's Kevin Foster. The Matadors shot 2-for-22 during Saturday's second half.

GILBERTO MANZANO
SENIOR REPORTER

In the four years CSUN guard Vinnie McGhee has been with the Matadors, he's been part of many memorable games, but what transpired Saturday was a night he would like to forget. In what likely was the worst half in the program's history, CSUN (7-18) collapsed in the second twenty minutes of Saturday night's BracketBuster match against Fresno State (12-14), only making two baskets and shooting nine percent from the field en route to a 62-49 defeat

at the Matadome. McGhee, a senior captain, took the blame for the disastrous offense. "I just feel like I let my team down," said the point guard with his head down after only contributing three points and six turnovers. "I didn't play like I was supposed to play. I wasn't being a leader out there. I blame this game on me." Even CSUN's high-scoring sophomore Josh Greene struggled in the second half, only chipping in four points after scoring 16 points in the first period. Greene, one of the Matadors' vocal leaders, didn't think his

senior teammate should be held accountable. "It's not all Vinnie's fault, it's a team game," Greene said. "We all had turnovers. I had turnovers. We let up in the second half, turned the ball over and we just got soft." To put things in perspective: CSUN went 2-of-22 from the floor in the second half with zero assists and tied its season-low for points. The Matadors also finished the game with 20 turnovers and only had three assists. Matador head coach Bobby Braswell has been at CSUN for 16 years and he couldn't recall a worse offensive half than the one his team had against the

Bulldogs after halftime. "Wow, we've shot the ball pretty poorly before, but I don't think we've shot it as poorly as we shot the ball in the second half," Braswell said. Despite the horrendous offense, CSUN was in a 46-46 tie with six minutes left in regulation. But Fresno State finished the game on a 16-3 run. The Bulldogs shot 50 percent from the field in the second period and finished 21-of-54 overall. "We didn't execute, didn't hit any shots," McGhee said. "They came down and scored on us. It

See **M-BBALL**, page 2