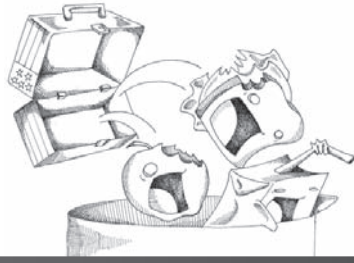


Food waste, a concern that continues to grow

Meet one of the CSUN alumna nominated as Teacher of the Year



Think twice before you toss out food that is 'expired'

Sagi Lev-Ari's journey from Israel to Northridge

FREE



DAILY CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, NORTHRIDGE SUNDIAL

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2013 | VOL. 55, ISS. 27 | WWW.DAILYUNDIAL.COM



VICTIM SHARES HER STORY

“I don’t know if this person has been in my building before because none of my things were moved around (as) if someone was trying to look for something.”

— Victim of sexual battery incident

The Daily Sundial has decided not to release the victim’s name to protect her identity.

LUCAS ESPOSITO
VERA CASTANEDA
DAILY SUNDIAL

HE WENT TO SLEEP around 5 a.m. in her on-campus apartment never expecting to be the victim of a sexual battery crime. After taking some medication for a massive headache, she fell into a deep sleep and awoke a few hours later to a strange man standing above her.

“With the medicine I wasn’t able to function fully. It just hit me—more of a shock—and I started panicking. I had to relax myself before I could speak,” said the victim.

The suspect, identity unknown, broke into the victim’s apartment and touched her bare leg before fleeing the apartment when she woke up. The sus-

pect fled with a box full of the victims important documents in tow.

CSUN students have been informed about the sexual battery incident that is still under investigation along with several other University Park Apartments incidents that took place within a span of two weeks. Because of these crimes students who live on campus have been advised to follow certain procedures to remain safe and to eliminate opportunities of danger.

“It seems odd how these incidents are all of a sudden happening not too far apart from each other,” the victim said. “I’m pretty upset...they (campus police) are accusing me of supposedly this being a bad dream or whatever. But why would my things be missing? I don’t know what is going on. I’m just disap-

See DORM CRIME, page 7

Food labels elicit waste

ANNE CHRISTENSEN
DAILY SUNDIAL

WE'VE ALL done it: pulled a carton of milk from the fridge and looked at the date stamped on the side. The milk looks fine, but it's three days overdue. Down the drain it goes. The same applies to stale bread and mottled bananas. Straight into the trash.

Farrah Masoumi, 21, said food waste is a problem. But she's also confused about the actual meaning behind date labels.

"I think that expiration dates just give an estimation of around what time food will start to get a bit sketchy," said Masoumi, a liberal studies senior at CSUN. "Usually the food in my house goes pretty quickly, so it's rare if something is really close to the expiration date. When this does happen, I think it's good for another two to three days after the date."

The Natural Resources Defense Council recently released a report as part of a lobbying effort to change the way consumers perceive the safety of their

food by standardizing the food labeling system.

Misleading expiration dates on food can prompt consumers to throw away still-edible products out of fear of contracting food-borne illnesses, according to the report. As a result shoppers are wasting money buying food they won't eat and landfills are seeing an increase in food waste.

Instead of arbitrary terms like use by, best before, sell by, and enjoy by, the report recommends clarifying the meaning of the labels and adding food handling instructions for better protection.

The report also found that misinterpretation of labels was a key contributor to nine out of 10 people throwing away safe and edible food.

"The labels are important for consumers because when they see the labels they understand that there is somebody overseeing that their product is healthy," said Mario Giraldo, assistant geography professor at CSUN. "But on the other hand, people are abusive about the labels. Because they see that a product has an expiration date, they're throwing away food that is probably edible."

The general misinterpretation of labels affect many of the products that consumers encounter daily. Coffee that is labeled organic may contain a chemically-based fertilizer, said Giraldo, who manages the composting program at CSUN's Institute for Sustainability.

"Some people want to label organic and non-organic food, sustainable and non-sustainable food," Giraldo said. "The problem with those labels is that people may think different things about those concepts. What are organic foods? And how organic is organic?"

The U.S. has seen a 50 percent increase of food waste since the 1970s according to the National Resources Council Defense. More than 20 million Americans could be fed annually if a 15 percent reduction in losses would occur in the U.S. food supply.

In addition to throwing away edible food based on date labels, an increase in waste is traced to consumers discarding produce based on looks. The report found that 40 percent, valued at about \$165 billion, of food grown in the U.S. is never actually eaten.

Instead it's discarded right at the farm, at the grocery store, or ends up in the kitchen trash solely because of its appearance.

"I think people's biggest fear is that they're going to get sick from something," said Helen Cox, director of the Institute for Sustainability. "It's the same way that a lot of people drink bottled water because they think it's safer than tap water, and how do you convince people that it isn't true? Well, you have to educate people about the source of both, the treatment of both, and testing of both, and why it's simply just a myth."

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention revealed in its 2012 food safety report a 14 percent increase in campylobacteriosis, a serious infectious disease causing diarrhea, cramping, abdominal pain and fever. The bacteria is associated with eating raw or undercooked meat, and cross-contamination like using the same cutting board for meat as well as lettuce.

There is no federal oversight of date labels on food

See **FOOD**, page 5



CAMPUS VOICE

DAILY SUNDIAL STAFF

CSUN students share their thoughts



STEPHANIE RODRIGUEZ

PSYCHOLOGY

"It's just an expiration date. Some food can still be considered good in other countries and I feel like we (The U.S.) have so much food that we just take it for granted."



DUNE HARMAN

PSYCHOLOGY

"Personally I pretty much only buy what I eat. I was raised in a household where we recycled, compost a lot and grew a lot of our own food. So the cultural way of thinking that we have to throw away right at the expiration date is not something that quite applies to me."

hungry?



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Alumna nominated by People Magazine

MICHAEL ARVIZU
DAILY SUNDIAL



JOHN SARINGO-RODRIGUEZ / PHOTO EDITOR

WISDOM ACADEMY for Young Scientists teacher Kaylie Gomez's classroom is not large by any means. In fact, Gomez's classroom is one of several makeshift teaching spaces set up in a converted chapel in this Salvation Army building at the heart of South Central Los Angeles.

And it's not exactly sound-proof, either. The voices of other teachers and their students can be heard as they interact throughout the morning's activities.

But Gomez makes the most out of her space, which her school rents. Every corner of her classroom has some sort of educational reference, whether it's a map of the United States, photographs of elected officials, multiplication tables, or an outline of the scientific method.

A 2011 Cal State Northridge graduate, Gomez holds a multiple-teaching credential and a bachelor's degree in elementary education. She is currently pursuing her master's degree.

As a teacher, Gomez will choose not to solely focus on one or two core subjects like mathematics or language arts.

First year teacher Kaylie Gomez has been recognized nationally for her teaching efforts by People magazine.

Instead, she opts to teach other subjects as well. Gomez's week involves teaching her students everything from keyboards on Thursdays, to Zumba on Fridays, as well as art, and social studies.

Her students have even published a book together. "Wacky Stories From Wisdom Academy for Young Scientists" was published in spring 2013 and can be bought — all proceeds benefit the school — online at Amazon and Barnes

& Noble. Each chapter features a student describing one exaggerated thing about his or herself (featuring, among other chapters, "Elizabeth spells with numbers" and "Miss Gomez can speak eye language").

"She motivates them. My son is now more eager to learn," said Wisdom Academy parent Yomeisha Moore, whose son, Nathaniel Frazier, 8, is a student in Gomez's class. Moore praises Gomez for being dedicated to her students and solely

focused on their success.

Over this summer, Gomez was nominated for the inaugural People Magazine Teacher of the Year Award for her efforts.

In July, People invited readers to nominate their favorite teachers by casting online ballots. Based on those ballots, People magazine editors narrowed the finalists to six. The public then cast online votes for who they believe should win the Teacher of the Year award. Voting ended Sept. 6,

and the final winner will be announced Oct. 18.

"She is definitely deserving of the award," said Wisdom Academy Principal Karen Horowitz.

Other nominees for the Teacher of the Year Award include instructors from Arkansas, Washington, Bakersfield, and Tucson. Gomez's fellow CSUN alumna, Genein Letford, a teacher at Wisdom Academy for Young Scientists in Canoga Park, has also been nominated.

A native of Madrid with Mexican and German blood, Gomez felt her call to become a teacher at a young age. Her earliest experiences in the classroom stem from visits to her mother's special education classroom and positions as a student volunteer.

"I kind of have always known. I just fell in love with the atmosphere, specifically in elementary school," Gomez said. "It's joyful, and friendly and exciting. I like the fact that

I can continue to grow, because you learn a lot from your students every year, as well. They keep you young. They have this energy about them."

Gomez believes students can benefit greatly from a balanced approach to their education. This philosophy is the cornerstone of her teaching method.

"I pretty much want the 'whole child,' instead of just picking parts," Gomez said. "There are subjects that I enjoyed more as a student, but I try to make sure that I really get them all in there."

But education, Gomez said, doesn't have to end as soon as the 3 p.m. school bell rings. At the end of the day as they make their way beyond the classroom walls, there is one important thing she hopes her students will glean from their lessons:

"Being a good person is the most important thing you can do to help change our world and make it a better place," Gomez said.

Keep an eye out

FOR OUR PROFILE ON ANOTHER ALUMNA WHO WAS RECOGNIZED FOR HER OUTSTANDING TEACHING ABILITY, GENEIN LETFORD.



SCAN THIS QR CODE to see Gomez work with her students

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Buy a book, build a library

VICTORIA BECERRIL
DAILY SUNDIAL

FOR THE REMAINDER of the week students and faculty can help fund a library for an underprivileged school by making a purchase at the Scholastic Book Fair located in Bayramian Hall 190.

The CSUN University Ambassadors are hosting their annual Scholastic Book Fair from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. until Friday. All proceeds from the fair will go towards making a classroom library for a disadvantaged school in the San Fernando Valley.

For 22 years, CSUN ambassadors, known for giving campus tours and assisting guests on their visit to the university, have partnered with Scholastic Inc. to sell their products in order to fund the ambassadors' philanthropy organization, "Cuddle and Read".

"Cuddle and Read," which occurs around April, is an organization where ambassadors invite underprivileged elementary, middle, or high school students to visit CSUN and explore the campus.

Occasionally, CSUN faculty and staff members from different departments participate in showing kids different activities to get a feel of college life, such as learning how to budget their money taught by the financial aid office. The student ambassadors then take the time to read to different groups of students, and at the end of the day, each child goes home with a free book in their hands.



VICTORIA BECERRIL / DAILY SUNDIAL

Deanecia Wright, 27, education leadership graduate student, considers which book to purchase for her niece at the Scholastic Book Fair. The book fair will be ongoing until Friday, Oct. 11, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

"Students don't believe that they have the privilege to go to college, or that they're capable of it," said Andrea Lymbertos, 20, public health major and university ambassador. "We want to motivate them and show that we do care about them especially as college students."

Promoting higher education while having fun is the main objective when bringing the kids to the CSUN campus.

"Last year, we had fifth graders come to our campus and had science professors show them how cool it is to be in college," said Joanna Brazzle, 21, kinesiology major. "They got to do to cool experiments, see all the things around campus and try to promote higher education."

This year, the ambassadors are hoping to get more departments involved with the "Cuddle and Read" program including the art and kinesiology programs.

"The message we're trying to give out is to have older people read to younger kids and get them more involved educationally," said Lymbertos.

In just two days of the book fair being open, it has already raised \$600. Incentive for students to help support the project includes a raffle.

Students who make a purchase over \$15 are entered in a raffle and the winner will be announced Friday Oct. 11 at 4:15 p.m. Prizes include a CSUN collection goodie bag, a collection of books, or a trip for two to the Huntington Library.

"I saw the sign outside (the Bayramian Hall) and wanted to come check it out," said Tamarsha McKonuff, 19, psychology major. "I love to read and wanted to come support CSUN."

To learn how you can be a university ambassador, please <http://www.csun.edu/outreach/uniamassadors/>

FOOD

Continued from page 2

products, according to the NRDC report. Instead each state and local municipality decide which products are labeled, as well as the exact wording of the label. California only requires the date labeling of dairy products and shellfish.

"You buy a salad and it has a date on it, but it doesn't really need the date," said Cox. "Because if you want to eat brown-looking, yucky lettuce, then you can. It probably won't taste good, but it won't harm you either. From that point of view, the only things that really need labeling are things that potentially could do damage, like meat."

The amount of food wasted annually differs between countries according to a 2011 report by the Food and Agriculture Organization. While food waste in

the U.S. and Northern Europe is around 209-253 pounds per year, the food waste in Sub Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia is less than 24 pounds per year.

Daniel Aguiar agrees that labeling meat products will inform consumers of safe cooking and handling methods. The senior mechanical engineering student at CSUN buys his groceries in small quantities and stores produce in the fridge or freezer to prevent spoilage. But he also said to use common sense when determining if a product has turned bad.

"If I feel that something is decaying very fast, or will take longer for me to eat, I would put it in the freezer," said 27-year-old Aguiar.

"But again, relying on our nose and eyes is a very effective way to tell if something is edible or not."

The burden of preventing food-borne illnesses has shifted from using common sense in the kitchen to relying on unregulated labeling of supermarket products.

"When I was a kid we didn't have dates on things," said Cox. "It's part of the consumer protection advocacy. But on the other hand there comes a point where you're no longer protecting them anymore, you're doing them a disservice because you're making them throw away things that are perfectly edible."

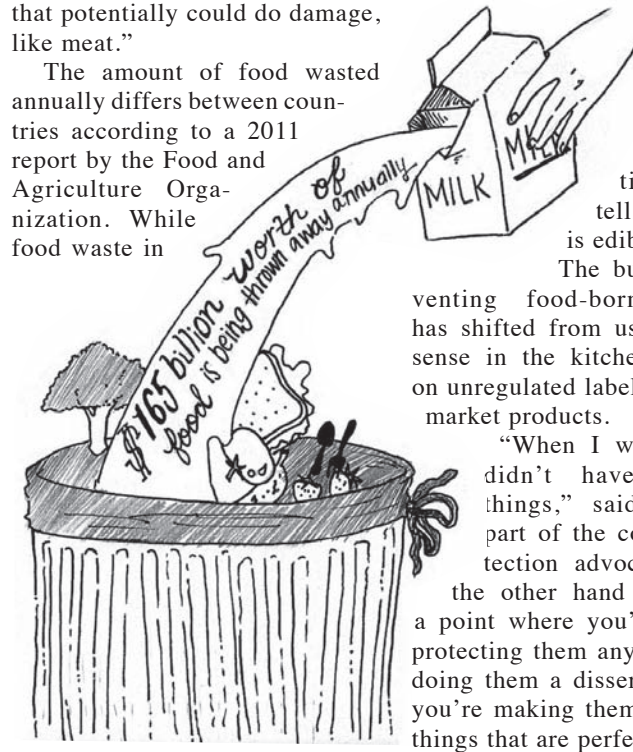


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Opinion

Your trash is someone else's dinner

The U.S. throws away enough food to feed 25 million people in the country — about half the nation's hungry

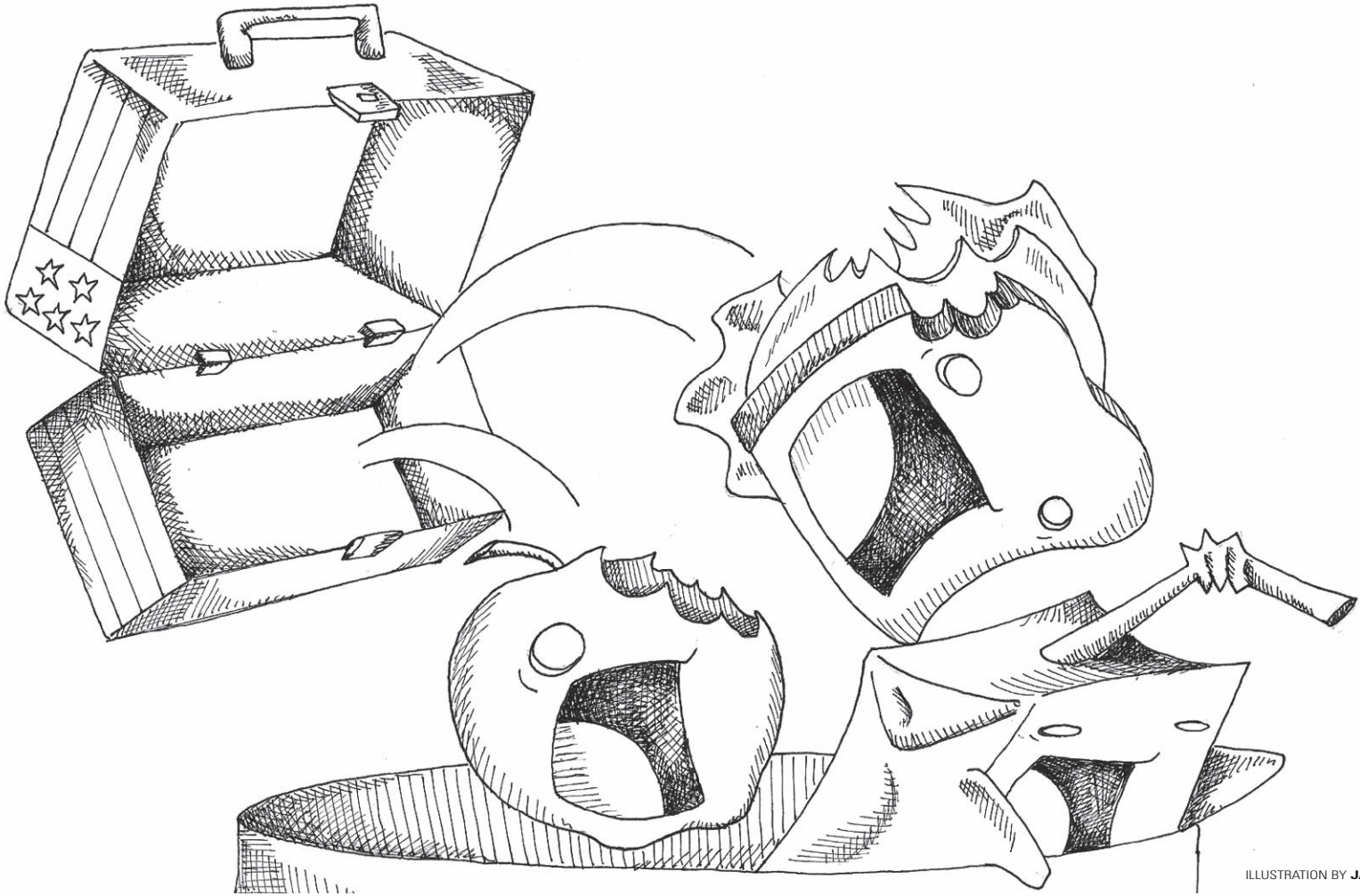


ILLUSTRATION BY JAE KITINOJA / CONTRIBUTOR

JAKE FREDERICKS
DAILY SUNDIAL

IF YOU'RE ONE of the 50 million Americans struggling with hunger every day, you needn't look further than your neighbor's trash.

In 2011, the United States tossed approximately 36 million tons (or 72,000,000 pounds!) of edible food into waste bins, according to The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). That's roughly 230 pounds of food waste annually per capita.

To put this number into perspective, imagine a family of four going to the grocery store once a month and discarding an entire cart filled with a week's worth of goods.

So who's to blame for America's wasteful consumption habit?

A staggering amount of edible food in America hitches a ride on the landfill express, and the primary culprit seems to be the misleading dates on packaged and perishable food items. Buyers often misinterpret the "sell by" or "best by" dates on labels as a spoilage warning,

mistakenly throwing out conditionally good food.

Dana Gunders, of the National Resources Defense Council (NRDC), submitted an issue paper in August 2012 titled "Wasted: How America is Losing Up to 40 Percent of Its Food from Farm to Fork to Landfill," which included remarks about the nation's deplorable food practices.

Gunders estimated that if the U.S. reduced its food waste production by just 15 percent, the recouped food could effectively feed 25 million Americans — about half the nation's hunger-stricken contingency. The author also reported that of the 28 percent of losses within the distribution and retail bracket, expired sell by dates attributed to an average discard value of \$2,300 per store.

Although improper labeling is troublesome, the largest impact of unnecessary food disposal is the accumulation of greenhouse gases. If global food wastage were a country, it would be the third largest producer of methane emissions behind China and the US, said a United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) report.

The 60-page summary report, titled "The Food Waste Footprint," was

released in September, and meticulously accounts for every aspect of food waste and the impact it has on the world economy, environment and health.

The reason methane has become synonymous to the umbrella term "greenhouse gases," are due to the fact that methane emissions are largely results from human activities. Methane comprises 9-10 percent of America's greenhouse gas emissions, and impacts climate changes nearly 20 times greater than naturally-forming carbon dioxide emissions.

The 1.3 billion tons of food humans waste creates an additional 3.3 billion tons of greenhouse gases released into our atmosphere — the equivalent of 650 million passenger vehicles added to global roadways.

According to the EPA, the United States produced more than 6.7 billion tons of the world's 30-plus billion tons of greenhouse gases in 2011. That means in a country comprising 22 percent of the world's population, it accounts for almost 25 percent of the world's greenhouse emissions.

Although the United States, indeed the world, appears to be in dire straights, the proper installation of public policy and joint venture

research can see food waste dwindle in the next generation.

Last year, Sweden made headlines as the country without trash. Public Radio International (PRI) broke a story about how the small, Scandinavian country of just 9.5 million people — roughly the entire population of Michigan — had resorted to importing trash from neighboring Norway.

"The problem is, Sweden's recycling program is just too successful," said the PRI review.

The squeaky-clean European nation dispenses only 4 percent of household waste into landfills, and recyclable materials are incinerated and converted into district heating for over 250,000 residents.

Stateside, a group of engineers from the Colorado School of Mines, led by Ivan Cornejo, has developed a way to turn trash into glass. Using composted food high in mineral content, such as egg shells and banana peels, dried compost is heated in a 3,000-degree kiln and shaped into glass sheets.

Glass is a multi-million dollar industry, and one that produces more than 8 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions annually worldwide.

Cornejo and company's small-scale science project was propositioned as response to combat issues surrounding the destructive practices of open-pit mining.

CSUN president Dianne Harrison also emphasized the need for increased trash awareness during the Freshman Convocation earlier this semester. Edward Humes' book, "Garbology," was the centerpiece of Harrison's speech concerning unnecessary waste, and the responsibility of students to be more environmentally conscious being the largest incoming class in university history.

The NRDC, among other environmental and health agencies, provide helpful tips on how to limit food wastage, and how hurting the environment also hurts our wallets.

Experts remind shoppers to only purchase what you can feasibly consume in a few days time, and advocate the use of freezers to store ready-made meals for the future. Get creative with your recipes by "mining your fridge" to make meals with leftover ingredients, and educate yourself on how to decipher whether food is expired, or just past its sell by date.

DAILY SUNDIAL

Published Mon.-Thurs.
by the Department
of Journalism at
California State
University, Northridge.

Manzanita Hall 140
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DORM CRIME

Continued from page 1

pointed about what is being done about this at all.”

The victim spoke to CSUN PD for a follow-up and became upset when he suggested the incident might have been a bad dream.

“They are just accusing me of this not making sense. I know it’s not making sense—it’s not making sense to me either how this happened,” the victim said.

Campus police Capt. Alfredo Fernandez said that the officers asking her the follow-up questions were following protocol, ruling out every possible option.

“We’re just trying to solve this case. It’s important for us to try to get all the facts (and) put it together,” Fernandez said. “What happened to the young lady is a huge concern to us. We just want to make sure that we put together a good case and ultimately find this person.”

According to the female student, she arrived in the UPA building 9 around 4:00 a.m. Saturday after going out to Hollywood with her friends. When she arrived home she noticed a male and female smoking cigarettes outside of her building and thought it was strange.

“With the stuff that has been going on lately I just knew it wasn’t right. I came in and my door wasn’t working but I finally got in my room,” the victim said.

She fell asleep after taking medication for her ear infection, swollen tonsils and migraine. When she woke up at 8 a.m. the next morning, the male suspect ran out of her room and she froze in a state of shock.

“I actually have really bad anxiety and stuff. So of course, my anxiety kicked in and I just stayed to myself,” said the victim. “That is when I went to my RA and she didn’t answer and I came back. One



COURTESY OF CSUN PDA

Sketch from PD of sexual battery suspect

of my roommates happened to be awake finally. I told her what happened.”

When she overcame her shock, she attempted to reach Taylor Ikenin, her third floor Resident Advisor (RA), but she didn’t answer the door until later.

“Around 10 a.m. (the victim) and her roommate came and got me. I went to her room, made sure she was OK, then we called the police,” Ikenin said. “One of her other roommates also called one of the RA’s on duty so they had to come and we all made the call together.”

The victim said her two roommates, which were sleeping in a separate bedroom, are heavy sleepers and didn’t wake up when the suspect fled or when she left to reach her RA.

“I don’t know if this person has been in my building before because none of my things were moved around like if someone was trying to look for something,” the victim said. “The only dresser that was open was where my box was kept with my important documents that they took.”

According to the victim, the suspect took her wallet, birth certificate, social security, and other important documents.

Ikenin addressed the concerns of the third floor residents by telling them they shouldn’t be scared. Instead they should

be mindful of their surroundings.

“Travel in groups, being mindful, being aware, being sober...and knowing where you are,” Ikenin advised the residents.

Elizabeth Vincent, community director of Residential Life, along with other Residential Life staff, refused to comment on the sexual battery incident.

Neither campus police nor the victim seem to have concrete evidence explaining how the suspect entered the student’s room.

“There seems to be a missing piece in this story,” Ikenin said.

Brian Eruaga, a freshman criminal justice major and UPA resident, said although he feels safe living in the dorms, he has noticed people who go around security.

“You could just hang out and wait for somebody to open the door. As far as getting into the actual rooms that people live in, (that) might be harder,” Eruaga said. “(Security) definitely keep people out but there are ways that people can go around it,” he said. “There’s people who can hop the fences and stuff like that.”

Fernandez said campus police are making adjustments in student housing to better secure the area and to keep students safe.

“We have increased our police patrol in the housing area (and) we are certainly doing a lot of investigative things,” Fernandez said. “...but overall we have a very robust crime prevention program already in place and we’re gonna remind students about those things.”

Fernandez pointed out that CSUN PD provides students not only protective services and crime suppression, but also crime prevention. It also offers physical defense courses, such as dorm safety classes and R.A.D (Women’s Self-defense program.)

“Our biggest concern is the safety of the students, that’s why we’re here,” said Fernandez. “We’re gonna use every resource at heart that’s available to us to continue to keep the students safe.”

CAMPUS VOICE

VICTORIA BECERRIL/DAILY SUNDIAL

Q: How do you feel about living in the dorms after hearing about the crimes that have taken place?



LAURA GARCIA
KINESIOLOGY

“It makes me feel paranoid especially because they don’t know how they broke in. I’m going to make sure to walk with my friends and make sure my dorm is locked up.”



LISETTE GOMEZ
PSYCHOLOGY

“It makes me nervous but not scared. I walk around at night with people so I’m not always by myself. I’m going to buy pepper spray and take self-defense classes on campus.”



JACKIE MENDOZA
RADIOLOGY

“I still feel safe. I know I have to be more cautious of my surroundings. If someone knocks on my door and I don’t know them, I’m not going to answer.”



GIOVANNI ROSALEZ
MANAGEMENT

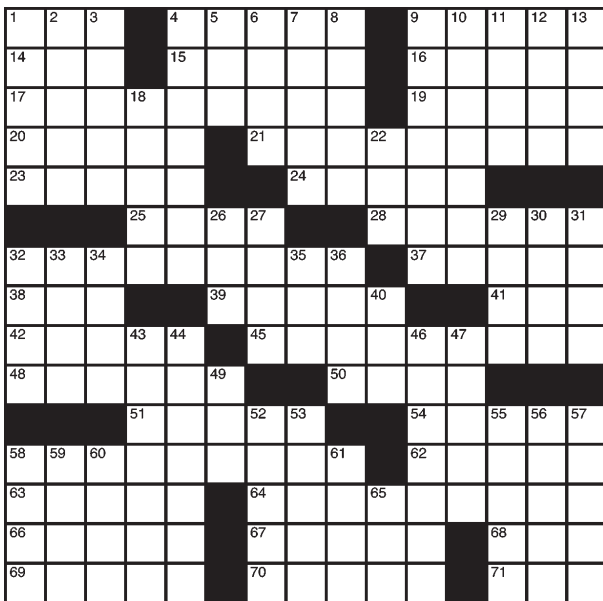
“When I saw the fliers, I wasn’t scared, but...it made me worried to think that people actually are going campus to campus seeking to do these crimes.”

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

ACROSS

- 1 Big bird of myth
- 4 Spiny desert plants
- 9 Bathysphere’s domain
- 14 Thurman of “Batman & Robin”
- 15 Underway
- 16 Like one in the sulks
- 17 Shows off one’s connections
- 19 What the truth sometimes does
- 20 When repeated, soothing words
- 21 Top of the charts
- 23 Tanning site
- 24 Strips off
- 25 “Buzz off!”
- 28 Next-generation relatives
- 32 Modernized pre-1949 auto
- 37 Hold dear
- 38 Stat for Mariano Rivera
- 39 No-no
- 41 Tell a whopper
- 42 Mag with relationship quizzes
- 45 Metropolitan distance unit
- 48 Way up or down
- 50 Do in, as a dragon
- 51 Wild Australian dog
- 54 Pub order
- 58 Aptly named Nevada border community known for its casinos
- 62 Powerful explosive, familiarly
- 63 Three-time Tony winner Uta
- 64 Lunchbox sandwich protector
- 66 Eyeball-bending pictures
- 67 Somewhat wet
- 68 Physician’s org.
- 69 Wavy dos
- 70 At exactly the right time
- 71 Agreeable response



By Clive Probert

10/8/13

Monday’s Puzzle Solved



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10/8/13

- DOWN**
- 1 Litters’ littlest
- 2 Nebraska city on the Missouri
- 3 Caravan beast
- 4 Rhythmic flow
- 5 Congo’s cont.
- 6 Ring-tailed critter, to Crockett
- 7 Refill to the brim
- 8 “Who’s there?” response
- 9 Hamlet’s love
- 10 Flowed swiftly
- 11 Cyprus currency
- 12 “To whom it actually does concern” letters
- 13 Wall St. institution
- 18 Uneven, as a leaf’s edge
- 22 “Big” London attraction
- 26 ABA dues payer
- 27 Gillette’s ___ II razor
- 29 Wyo. neighbor
- 30 Idle of Monty Python
- 31 Hide’s partner
- 32 “In a few ___”
- 33 Equine gait
- 34 Tabula ___: blank slate
- 35 Japanese sash
- 36 Two lowercase letters have them
- 40 Olive ___
- 43 Heavily weighted exam
- 44 Points in the right direction
- 46 It’s unpleasant when things end on one
- 47 Like some poetry
- 49 NBC show that launched many comics’ careers
- 52 Doodad
- 53 French ___ soup
- 55 Held in check
- 56 Picture holder
- 57 Frat party wear
- 58 Look for bargains
- 59 Weak-ankle support
- 60 Ice cream thickener
- 61 Spectacular Baton Rouge sch.

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PHOTO ESSAY

From battlefield to soccer field

Senior forward Sagi Lev-Ari went from serving as a soldier in Israel to leading the Matadors to a historic start

**PHOTOS AND STORY
BY LUCAS ESPOSITO**
DAILY SUNDIAL

THE NO. 6 MATADORS have started the season off on the right foot. After seven consecutive wins, the Matadors were off to their best start since the 1979 season. Even the first loss of the season (10-0-1) against UCLA on Sept. 22 did not seem to affect them.

The team remains unbeaten in the Big West Conference (2-0-0) and with the victory against UC Davis last Sunday (2-0), the Matadors earned their third consecutive shutout and have become the third team in modern Big West play (since 2001) to have 10 wins through 11 matches.

One of the players responsible for the positive results is forward Sagi Lev-Ari, who has scored eight goals and given three assists so far this season.

Lev-Ari, 24, grew up in Haifa, Israel, and has been playing soccer at a high level since he was 12 years old, when he was part of Maccabi Haifa Football Club's youth squad.

Back in his home country, Lev-Ari served as an infantry soldier in the Israeli Defense Force. In Israel, male citizens are obligated to serve for at least three years after gradu-

ating high school and female citizens have to serve for two.

In 2011, he played one season for Monroe College in New Rochelle, N.Y. As a starting forward, Lev-Ari helped his side to a second-place finish.

His journey at CSUN began last year, when associated head coach Yossi Raz recruited him to become part of the Matadors' soccer team.

"He told me to come here because they were a good team. I trusted him and didn't regret it," Lev-Ari said.

The junior business major explains that one of the obstacles he faced when he first arrived in the United States was adapting to the different soccer style.

"In Israel, it's all about tactics. In the USA, it's much more powerful and rapid," he said.

With the help of CSUN's technical committee, Lev-Ari learned how to adapt to the new style.

"Sagi is a great, mature kid," said head coach Terry Davila. "The guy is so hungry to score goals, and that's something you can't teach."

Center back Pol Schönhöfer Bartra met Lev-Ari last July, when Raz set them up sharing the same apartment. It was the beginning of a strong friendship since both were freshmen at CSUN and came from another country (Bartra was born in Barcelona, Spain).

"I learned a lot from this



Senior forward Sagi Lev-Ari became a Matador last year when coach Yossi Raz recruited him to become part of CSUN's soccer team. "He told me to come here because they were a good team. I trusted him and didn't regret it."

kid and I hope he learned a little from me," Bartra said. "On the field we all know he is the main target and that he has the quality to put it inside the net so we all try to find him as much as we can."

Lev-Ari also emphasizes the importance of teamwork in soccer. "We are like brothers in the team, and everyone helps

each other on and off the field," Lev-Ari said. "If I need help with homework or something, I can ask any of my friends. The same happens in the game. If I need to score goals they are there to assist me."

Lev-Ari prepares for every match by having a balanced diet and a good night of sleep. "When I'm in the field,

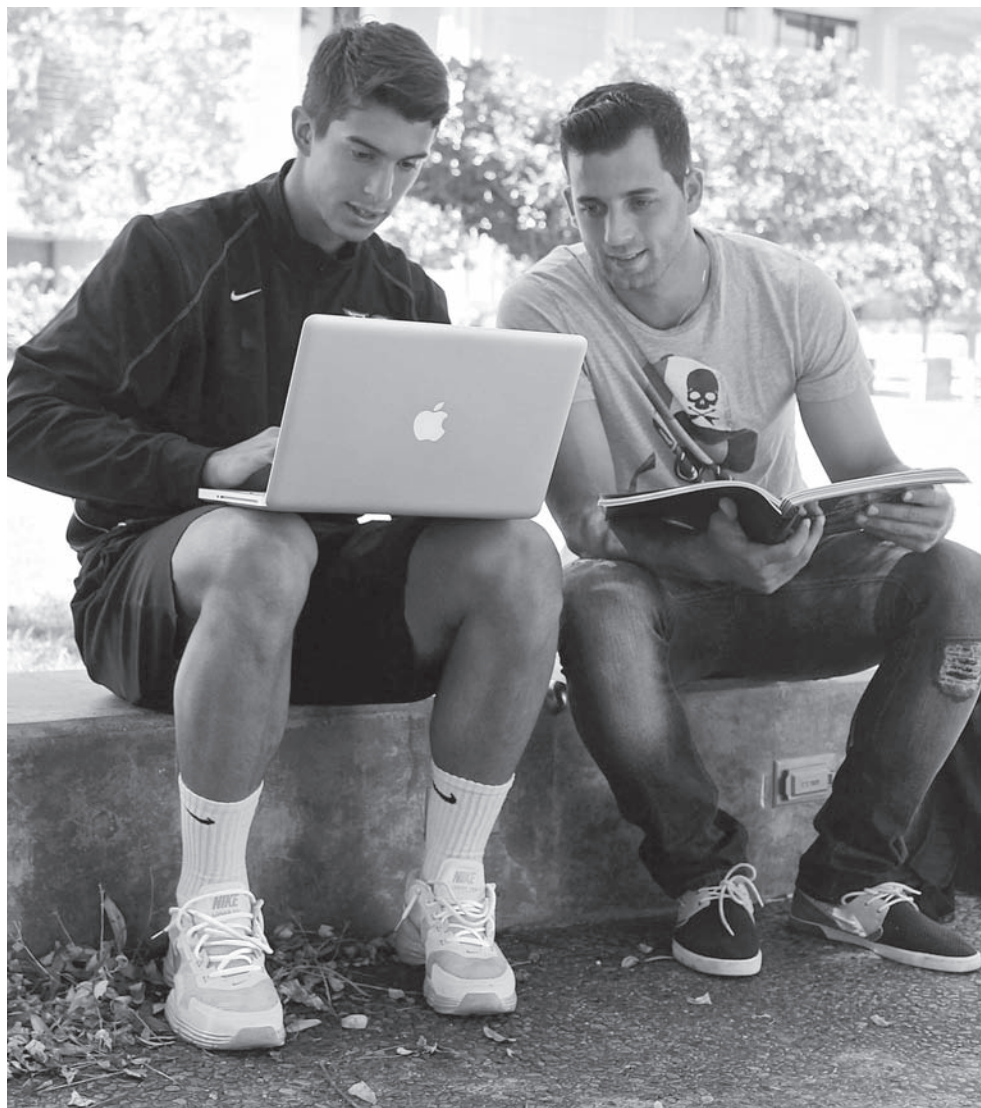
the only thing I think about is to give my best to win the game," he said.

One of Lev-Ari's major influences in soccer is Real Madrid's forward Cristiano Ronaldo.

"He is a complete athlete. He is strong, he is fast, and he has everything for being one of the best athletes in the world," he said.

In the near future, Lev-Ari hopes to achieve his business finance degree at CSUN and play professionally in Major League Soccer next year.

"I really want this guy to play in the next level because he works hard and he really deserves it," Bartra said.



Center back Pol Schönhöfer Bartra and Lev-Ari have been friends since they were both freshmen. "I learned a lot from this kid and I hope he learned a little from me," Bartra said. "On the field we all know he is the main target and that he has the quality to put it inside the net."



In the near future, Lev-Ari hopes to get a business finance degree and play professionally in Major League Soccer.



Lev-Ari was born in Israel and has been playing soccer since he was 12 years old.