

Students share their views on the struggles facing black men

Check out these local shelters that are looking for help during Thanksgiving



Thanksgiving means to give thanks but also to recognize U.S. history

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2013 | VOL. 55, ISS. 53 | WWW.DAILYUNDIAL.COM

CHARITY IS ON THE MENU

Unified We Serve teams up with MEND to provide Thanksgiving dinners to low-income families in the Valley



TREVOR STAMP / DAILY SUNDIAL

Belen Herrera, 21, junior urban studies major, and Travis White, 20, junior criminology major and programs assistant for Unified We Serve (UWS), picked out food for a family UWS adopted for the holiday season on Nov. 25.

ALEX VEJAR
DAILY SUNDIAL

MARTHA GARCIA, a single mother of three, recently moved to back to California from Arizona after things didn't work out with the father of her four-year-old son, Christopher Caraveo.

She currently rents a room in a house owned by a friend's cousin, and the family has lived there since September while they attempt to get situated.

"It's been a little bit here, a little bit there, but being able to have a place to get on our feet has helped a lot," Garcia said.

Garcia originally didn't have plans for Thanksgiving, but that changed Monday night when eight members of Unified We Serve

(UWS), a volunteer organization at CSUN, personally delivered food to her and her family at their home.

Garcia's family was chosen through the organization's Adopt-A-Family program, which chooses families in need and provides them with Thanksgiving food. The program was started five years ago by UWS and works with Meet Each Need with Dignity (MEND), a nonprofit organization that addresses poverty, said Justin Weiss, activities coordinator for volunteer programs and services at the Matador Involvement Center.

In Los Angeles, about 26 percent of families are living below the poverty line, according to statistics from city-data.com. That number rises to 47 percent when the family consists of a single mother.

The members of UWS started their night at VONS supermarket after meeting in the G3 parking lot of CSUN at around 7 p.m. Once inside the grocery store, they split



ALEX VEJAR / DAILY SUNDIAL

Members of Unified We Serve file out of a VONS grocery store before heading off to the organizations adopted family, the Garcia's house on Nov. 25.

into two groups and tag-teamed the gathering of Thanksgiving items and other foods which consisted of a frozen turkey, canned goods, cereal, milk, cake mix, stuffing and others.

Daisy Gonzalez, senior sociology and criminology major, has volunteered with UWS for two years. She enjoys both aspects of being involved with delivering Thanksgiving food to families in need.

"It's one experience when you're shopping (for their dinner) because we get to be with our friends and interact (with) our group members, and then it's a whole other experience when you go and drop off the food to the families because you get to see their reactions," Garcia said.

The next stop on the journey was Garcia's house, located about 10 minutes from the school. The volunteers arrived shortly after 9 p.m., and were greeted by Garcia and her youngest son at the gate.

After everyone filed inside the home, Garcia was surprised at the amount of goods placed on her dining-room table.

"This is more than I expected," Garcia said when she saw the boxes of food. "This is going to help us a lot."

Following an exchange of thank-yous and a group picture, the eight UWS members, Garcia

See **THANKSGIVING**, page 7

Student posters display black men's struggle

ANA RODRIGUEZ
DAILY SUNDIAL

CSUN STUDENTS from the Pan-African Studies course, "The Black Man in Contemporary Times," presented posters concerning the struggles men of color face in today's society.

The poster session, officially known as the Bi-Annual Men of Color Enquiry and Student Research Poster Session, took place in the Grand Salon Tuesday afternoon.

Cedric Hackett, the professor of the class and the assistant chair of the Pan-African Studies department, first started this event last semester in an effort to bring awareness to the complex issues that men of color endure. The goal of this poster session is also to embolden students to speak to a community of their peers in a professional setting.

"(Students form) micro-investigative groups and get to pick whatever topics they want based on the content in the class," said Hackett, adding that this project is one that students work on throughout the entire semester. "We're taking the classroom to the community, so to speak, the campus community."

Hackett explained that though the project is not scientific, it gives the students an



TREVOR STAMP / DAILY SUNDIAL

Students from The Black Male In Contemporary Times class in the Pan-African Studies department present their research posters for the Bi-Annual Men of Color Enquiry & Student Research Poster Session in the USU Grand Salon.

experience that they would not normally have in the undergraduate level.

Nearly 100 members of the CSUN community attended the event. In addition to the poster presentations, a student performed the black national anthem, "Lift Every Voice and Sing."

The event also featured guest speaker Dyrell Foster, a Rio Hondo College student affairs professional for more than 15 years.

"We see in the media...what

a black man is supposed to be typically doesn't include having a college degree," Foster said. "These factors impact black males' ability and interest in learning in an academic setting at a very young age."

A total of 11 posters were showcased. A few of the topics consisted of black men in the music industry, black men in the penal system, black men in the absence of a father and many more.

"Research suggests that black males are not encour-

aged socially to achieve academic success," said Foster. "This is a perception and a reality that black males must overcome."

This event is hosted once a semester and this semester marked the second time it has been organized. "This is a perception and a reality that black males must overcome."

This event is hosted once a semester and this semester marked the second time it has been organized.



TREVOR STAMP / DAILY SUNDIAL

Students from The Black Male In Contemporary Times class in the Pan-African Studies department present their research posters for the Bi-Annual Men of Color Enquiry, on Nov. 26, in the Grand Salon, USU. Dr. Dyrell Foster listens to students presenting their research on how black male identity is impacted through the lack of education, media, and public policy.



TREVOR STAMP / DAILY SUNDIAL

Dr. Dyrell Foster, Dean of Student Affairs for Rio Hondo College, led a discussion on how African-American male students' learning is impacted by their engagement experiences during the Bi-Annual Men of Color Enquiry & Student Research Poster Session, on Nov. 26, in the USU Grand Salon.

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Matadors share the secrets of CSUN

University ambassadors serve as tour guides to incoming and prospective students, showing them life on campus

LISA ANDERSON
DAILY SUNDIAL

FOR OVER 15,000 prospective students each year, University Ambassadors make up the face of the campus by showing potential Matadors around CSUN.

University Ambassadors join the organization voluntarily, but they are given priority registration and textbook discounts. However, as Peer Sangngern, a CSUN ambassador and biotechnology major, and some other ambassadors explained, the group is like a second family for them, and they claim to have gained priceless connections around campus.

"Thankfully I got in... it's been an amazing experience ever since. I would see the ambassadors walking around all the time, but I had never actually been on (a tour) here. After getting involved with the school you find out it has so much to offer you," said Sangngern.

Ambassador Juan Carlos Ramos, junior in mechanical engineering, said: "I almost

wish we could give campus tours to current students just to show them all the things they didn't know."

Sasha Martinez, the campus tours coordinator, said ambassadors like Cortez and Sangngern play a vital role in welcoming prospective students.

"The ambassador really has to be motivated and encouraging and just make the student feel comfortable in helping them find their niche on campus and... getting them to feel welcomed. That's what I love about ambassadors," Martinez said.

Since there is such diversity in the majors of the various ambassadors, they try to pair the ambassadors appropriately with their groups. Mercedes Ramos, a kinesiology major, recently led a tour on, in which two of the four students were interested in studying kinesiology.

Ramos provided specific information about kinesiology as she showed visitors a pool where the students from that department were assisting the elderly in aquatic exercises.

While tailoring the tour to the needs of prospective

students, Ramos was sure to show off the new and improved Oviatt Library. Ramos showed the students all of the computers they would have access to, explaining there are even more areas on campus to use computers in case the library is full.

"What I love is the surprised look on their face where we've been walking for a good amount of time and I tell them 'Alright that's only half of the school, are you guys ready for the next half?' Then they give me this wide-eyed look like 'the campus is this big?'" said Sangngern.

A popular question according to Martinez is regarding safety.

Ramos stopped by one of the blue emergency poles and demonstrated how to use them. She explained that students can also call the Matador Patrol at any time from dusk to 11 p.m. for a campus escort, adding that they ensure you are inside your car before they leave.

Martinez explained that some groups come with a list of questions and others just let it all sink in. She



LISA ANDERSON / DAILY SUNDIAL

University Ambassador Mercedes Ramos, describes the different activities available in the SRC while giving a campus tour to prospective students.

said some popular questions are about graduation requirements and what there is to do for fun in the area.

"Mostly what I tell them what I love about CSUN is we're right in the middle of everything. You got Six Flags up north, the beach down south, LA is right over there - we're in the middle of everything," said Sangngern.

Most who attend these

tours are high school students, but there are often large groups of middle school students or even younger who participate in the tour. For the younger students, the tours are more about just getting the idea of college as an option instilled in their heads.

"Visiting the different places and seeing actual college students at the gym, the indoor tracks and stuff,

it made me want to come here. (Ramos) knew what she was talking about and she answered a lot of our questions well," said Sakoiera Fletcher from Westchester High School.

Nikkie Vamiro, also from Westchester, said: "It made me more interested in the field I want to do, and it really motivated me to actually want to come here."

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WHERE TO GO TO GIVE BACK

MICHELLE DOMINGUEZ
DAILY SUNDIAL

THANKSGIVING IS THE TIME when students pack their bags and make their way home to feast on oven roasted turkey legs and munch on sliced pumpkin pie. As they spend time with their loved ones, many are thankful for having a warm and safe place to reside.

Unfortunately, there are hundreds of others who can't say the same.

For those students who would like to put a smile on someone's face this Thanksgiving holiday, check out these volunteer opportunities at the following local food charities. The homeless people of Los Angeles lack life's basic necessities like food, shelter and water. Why not give back to those in need with a savory hot meal?

Fred Jordan Missions



445 Towne Ave.
Los Angeles, CA
(626) 915-1981

The mission hosts a Thanksgiving Day on the streets of skid row. Volunteers will pass out meals, clothes, blankets and toys to the homeless and those with financial need. If you're interested in helping out the charity, go online and fill out a form. The mission still needs volunteers for the afternoon shift from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. Those who come by should bring a pie and an unwrapped gift for a child's Christmas present.

Gobble Gobble Give



The Echo
1822 Sunset Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA
The Raven Spa
208 Pier Ave.
Santa Monica, CA

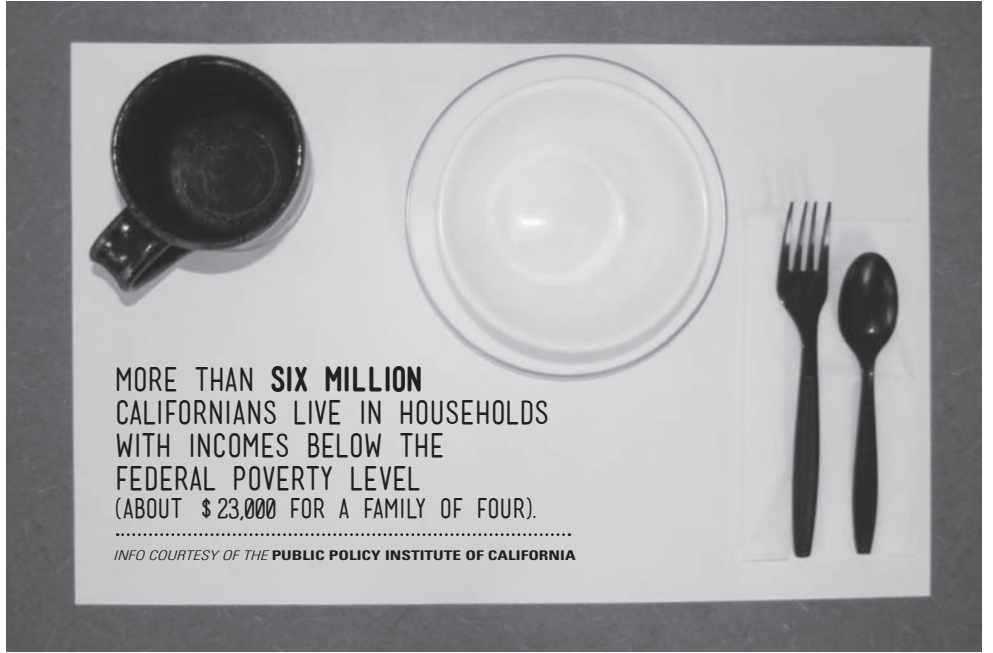
If students don't want to desert their Thanksgiving traditions, then this organization is the place to be. Everyone comes together to prepare meals which will be sent out to shelters in West Hollywood where shelter volunteers pass them out. This November, L.A. Works will hold its 20th Annual Thanksgiving Homeless Feeding and Banner Creation. Volunteers will assemble around 1,600 meals then deliver them to local shelters. Students who are interested can go online and sign up. Those who come must stay for a minimum of three hours.

Westside Thanksgiving



St. Anne Catholic Church and School
2015 Colorado Avenue, Santa Monica
310-394-3153

Located in Santa Monica this location will hold a large clothing donation as well as distribute hygiene kits and meals. Those interested in joining this noble cause may bring gently used clothing, water bottles, bags of coffee and stuffed animals. Volunteers will be working in one of five shifts and though the charity can't take reservations or sign-ups, those interested in helping are welcome to come.



MORE THAN SIX MILLION CALIFORNIANS LIVE IN HOUSEHOLDS WITH INCOMES BELOW THE FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL (ABOUT \$23,000 FOR A FAMILY OF FOUR).

INFO COURTESY OF THE PUBLIC POLICY INSTITUTE OF CALIFORNIA

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY YOSCY PEREZ / ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

L.A. Works



Saturday Nov. 30
Playa Del Rey, CA
6:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.

If students don't want to desert their Thanksgiving traditions, then this organization is the place to be. Everyone comes together to prepare meals which will be sent out to shelters in West Hollywood where shelter volunteers pass them out. This November, L.A. Works will hold its 20th Annual Thanksgiving Homeless Feeding and Banner Creation. Volunteers will assemble around 1,600 meals then deliver them to local shelters. Students who are interested can go online and sign up. Those who come must stay for a minimum of three hours.



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STAFF EDITORIAL

Give thanks, but know our history

The origin of Thanksgiving reveals this country's long-standing history of indigenous genocide, ceremonial appropriation

As families in America come together for Thanksgiving and feast on delicious, savory meals and give thanks to everything good that the world has given them, they don't acknowledge where this holiday actually came from.

It has come to symbolize family togetherness, American pride, gratitude and appreciation for all the things that we have - but all on the bones of a shameful history, a legacy of genocide.

ORIGIN OF THANKSGIVING

When a group of English colonists arrived to the Massachusetts Bay Colony they came upon a man named Squanto. Squanto had previously been taken as a slave to England and had made his way back to his native land the year before. But because of his knowledge of English he was able to communicate with the colonists. He taught them how to fish and grow corn as a sign of the treaty made between the colonists and the Wampanoag Nation.

Meanwhile, back in England word was spreading of the ample land and resources in the New World. Other British settlers arrived on new shores triggering the neighboring Pequot Nation's fear. When the British began taking Pequot people as slaves they fought back because their nation had not signed a peace treaty with the colonists which inevitably started one of the bloodiest Indian wars ever fought. In the early hours of the morning the Pequot tribe gathered to celebrate the Green Corn Festival when Englishmen surrounded their camps killing unarmed men, women and children. Some were sold into slavery.

The next day the governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony declared a "day of thanksgiving" for finally ridding their land of the savage heathens and a glorious feast ensued. The heads of Pequot Indians were kicked through the streets, including some of the friendly Wampanoag. (Sadly, their chief would not make it to the Thanksgiving sequel.) Massacres like this went on for days and feasts of Thanksgiving followed every one. George Washington later suggested that only one day be set aside to celebrate the racial genocide, and during the Civil War-era Abraham Lincoln made this day a federal holiday.... right before he sent troops against the Sioux in Minnesota.

Assistant professor in the American Indian Studies department Brian Burkhart explained that the tradition known as Thanksgiving, of giving thanks, has its roots in indigenous spirituality.

"Thanksgiving, that ceremony, is something that is fundamental to all native religious practice. It is the kind of core of what is done in a ceremony for native people at a very basic level," Burkhart said.

WE ARE TOLD WHEN TO BE NICE

Thanksgiving, like all American holidays, is celebrated by the majority without any criticism. We live in a society where we are told what to feel, when to feel, how to feel. We are told when to be

nice to one another, when to give charity, when to be compassionate.

But not all Americans are like that, you say. Of course not. If you happen to find yourself celebrating life, love and compassion regardless to the calendar, you are an anomaly to this system. We live in a society that is a dictatorship of customs, traditions and values.

For one day, many local organizations, churches and people decide that they are going to help the most vulnerable in society by sharing food and showing simple gratitude and compassion. The same humanitarian actions and family bonding exists during Christmas as well.

Last year during Thanksgiving, Indian Country Today Media Network published an interview between Gale Courey Toensing and Ramona Peters, the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe's Tribal Historic Preservation Officer. Peters first and foremost debunked the accepted story of the first Thanksgiving in 1621 as being a peaceful co-existence between native people and the colonizing Pilgrims.

Additionally, she explained that native people, such as the Wampanoag Nation, didn't give thanks only once a year.

"We give thanks more than once a year in formal ceremony for different seasons, for the green corn thanksgiving, for the arrival of certain fish species, whales, the first snow, our new year in May," she said in the interview.

All these holidays happens for one day, but then what? Usually, we go back to our daily routine, often times neglecting family members or our partner. When we see poor people, compassion is put on the shelf, as we don't have the time, energy or even the desire to help those who are less fortunate.

That is, until the day comes when advertisers and the government tell us when we ought to care for other human beings or the exact date when we should take time to hang out with family members. Holidays, and Thanksgiving in particular, have become nothing more than capitalist rituals that benefit businesses and corporations in our society.

Holidays are a nice ritual but we shouldn't rely on them to show compassion or affection. There should not be an alarm set when to be human; we should always be awake for these opportunities.

BLACK FRIDAY IS ANTI-FAMILY

While families come together at the dinner table, some have to take off early for the night to walk into the battlefield that is the Black Friday sales.

While some shop, others work. These workers wait for the stampede during their Black Friday work shift. Instantly, a federal holiday about gratitude turns into a game of an ultimate bargain. Giving thanks itself is a great thing to do, but this year, let's also acknowledge what has been done, and be kind to the employees working on Black Friday, as many students, will be on shift.

But if Thanksgiving is supposed to be about being with family, then why does Black Friday interfere with this American tradition of family? Black Friday takes people away from what is said to be family time just to wait in ridiculous lines as consumers.

NORMALIZING GENOCIDE

The genocide of indigenous people has been normalized. And the most extreme forms of violence are the acts that are systematic, normal and calm, like the compartmentalized celebration of a holiday.

People of this country are constantly told the fairytale that the United States is always acting as a humanitarian nation. That could not be farther from the truth. Our nation's history is marred with mass killings, oppression and the desire to expand at the expense of anyone who gets in our way.

As pointed out in an article by Andrea

Perkins published in the People's World, Thanksgiving as it is currently celebrated as a federal ahistorical holiday is a gruesome reminder of conquest.

"We as indigenous people remember this (Thanksgiving) not as a day of thanks but as a day to remember the genocide and colonization of our people that continues even today," Perkins said.

So if you want to continue celebrating Thanksgiving, you are obligated to incorporate history and the complexity of colonization, genocide and occupation into your Thanksgiving celebration, as Burkhart suggests.

"I think it's also necessary to acknowledge where it comes from, this ceremony of Thanksgiving," Burkhart said. "But also to honor it in that way and by having that attitude of thankfulness of the most basic things that we have - our life, our health, our food, our family."

"I think it's also necessary to acknowledge where it comes from, this ceremony of Thanksgiving, but also to honor it in that way and by having that attitude of thankfulness of the most basic things that we have - our life, our health, our food, our family."

— BRIAN BURKHART

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR IN THE AMERICAN INDIAN STUDIES DEPARTMENT

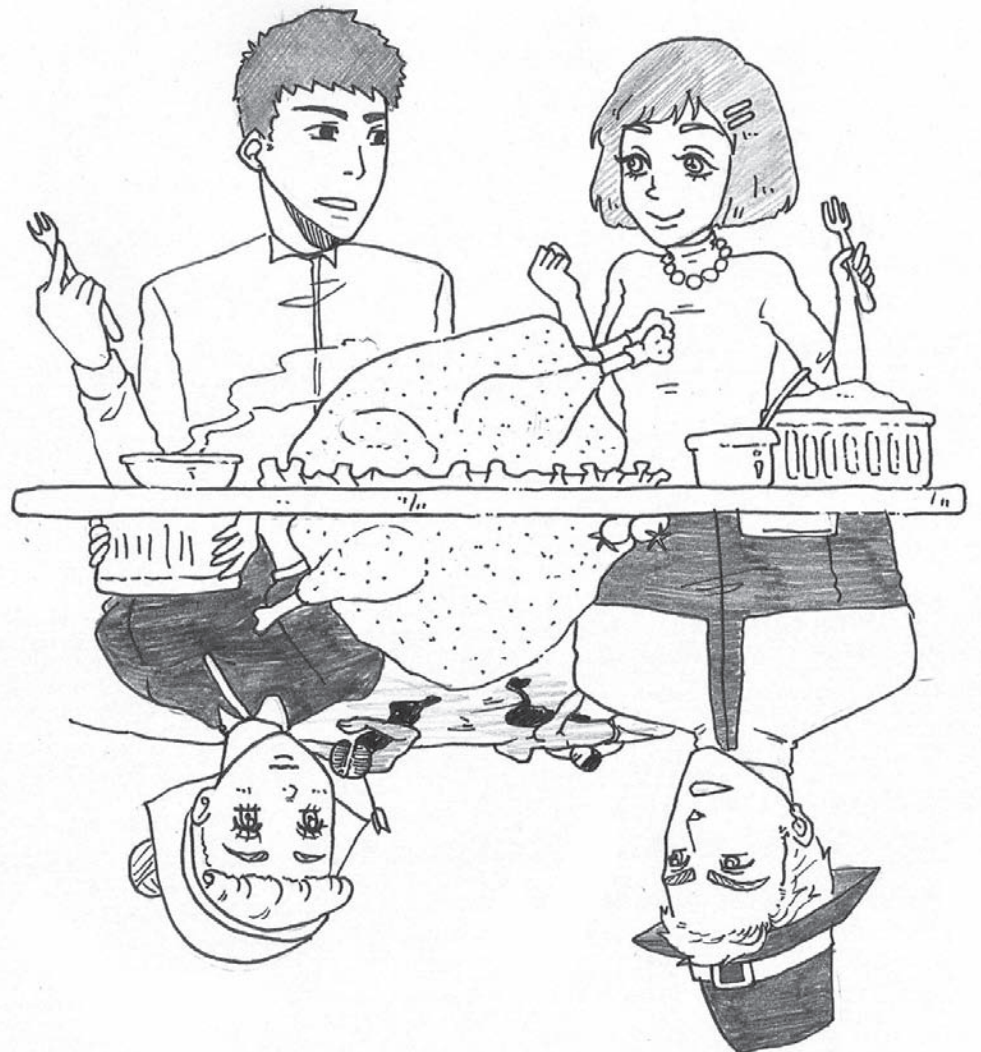


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THANKSGIVING

Continued from page 1

and her son gave each other a large group hug.

Travis White, junior criminology major and student assistant for UWS, has delivered Thanksgiving food for families for three years and enjoys the families' reactions when the volunteers show up on their doorsteps.

"Just seeing the excitement on their faces for the holidays makes me feel really great," White said.

White finds this experience different than when he worked with MEND assessing a family's level of need.

"It was just a little bit different this time because I was actually providing the food this time instead of just evaluating her," White said. "It makes me a lot more happy actually providing food for her instead of just evaluating her and asking her questions about how she's living."

In addition to the money they raised to pay for the Thanksgiving food for Garcia and her children, the group also bought and donated a gift card from Target.

"A lot of years we've done (the dinner delivery), we've always tried to go above and beyond," White said.

Participating in this deed reminds White of what he loves about the Thanksgiving holiday.

"It brings families together," White said. "Especially around this time, I always do Adopt-A-Family with Unified We Serve, so we bring the Unified We Serve family together to help another family

come together for Thanksgiving."

Gonzalez mentioned the happiness on Caraveo's face when he saw the boxes of food as an example of the positives that can come from this experience.

"You feel the pleasure of helping other people," Gonzalez said. "You get to see the joy in their face and know that they're going to have a good Thanksgiving because we were able to help them."

Garcia was glad she could provide the kind of Thanksgiving that she feels her children should have.

"Thinking that when you were with your parents and you have those big dinners, you want to do the same for your kids, and all of a sudden you can't," Garcia said. "It breaks your heart because you should be able to."

With the feast provided by

UWS, Garcia said she will now attempt to celebrate Thanksgiving with her family and those living in the house.

"I'm very happy," Garcia said. "It's like everything's coming together."



SCAN THIS QR CODE to watch Unified We Serve feed a family



Members of Unified We Serve (UWS), Martha Garcia and her son Christopher Caraveo after UWS gave them food for Thanksgiving.



ALEX VEJAR / DAILY SUNDIAL

Morgan Jones (Left), 21, a communications major, Cassandra Irvin (Middle), 22, a sociology major, and Daisy Gonzalez, 23, a sociology and criminology major, inspect a frozen turkey at a VONS grocery store on Nov. 25.



ALEX VEJAR / DAILY SUNDIAL

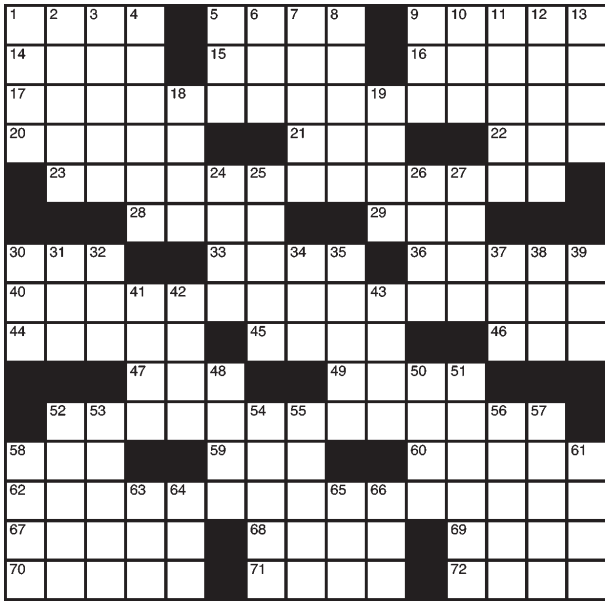
Members of Unified We Serve and Martha Garcia share a group hug after the volunteers delivered Thanksgiving food to Garcia's home on Nov. 25.

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

ACROSS

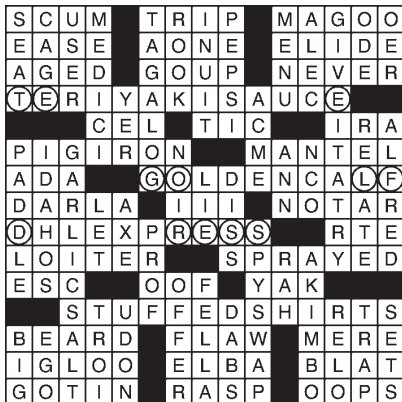
- 1 One-on-one contest
- 5 Pub orders
- 9 Creator
- 14 Sicilian smoker
- 15 Shout to a storeful of customers
- 16 Elegant headgear
- 17 Line on an envelope
- 20 Noel beginning
- 21 Current to avoid
- 22 Gives the nod
- 23 Pago Pago's land
- 28 Dudley Do-Right's gal
- 29 Green prefix
- 30 Golfer Woosnam
- 33 Down __: Maine region
- 36 "Gotta run!"
- 40 Paul Hogan role
- 44 Side of the 1860s
- 45 __ Lisa Vito: "My Cousin Vinny" role
- 46 Cold-sounding commercial prefix
- 47 "I'm not impressed"
- 49 '60s White House daughter
- 52 Classic cartoon shout
- 58 NYSE overseer
- 59 Green roll
- 60 Tropical trees
- 62 Zero in Morse code, any part of which will finish the title of the Oscar-winning song found at the ends of 17-, 23-, 40- and 52-Across
- 67 Stopped lying?
- 68 MBA seeker's first hurdle
- 69 Napa prefix
- 70 Array for a Boy Scout
- 71 Comes to a stop
- 72 Quick cut



By Marti DuGuay-Carpenter

11/27/13

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved



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DOWN

- 1 Rectilinear art form
- 2 City east of Syracuse
- 3 Sci. of insects
- 4 Nonprofessionals
- 5 Pantry pest
- 6 Green expanse
- 7 Cast-of-thousands member
- 8 Pub order
- 9 High-elev. spot
- 10 A leg up
- 11 Sung-into instrument
- 12 Slezak of "One Life to Live"
- 13 Shoots the breeze
- 18 Plagued by drought
- 19 Church recess
- 24 "Where Is the Life That Late ___?": Cole Porter song
- 25 Forty-niner's stake
- 26 Rights gp.
- 27 Ghostly sound
- 30 Post-ER area
- 31 Son of Prince Valiant
- 32 "There's ___ in 'team'"
- 34 ___-mo
- 35 Potato sack wt., perhaps
- 37 B. Favre's career
- 508
- 38 Velvet finish?
- 39 Collectible car
- 41 Search everywhere in
- 42 Front row seat
- 43 Apply amateurishly
- 48 It may be slung at a diner
- 50 Matador's cloak
- 51 Oft-baked veggies
- 52 Long (for)
- 53 Blessed outburst?
- 54 Evade
- 55 Butler's last words
- 56 Of yore
- 57 Muscat native
- 58 Where to find Pierre: Abbr.
- 61 Class with tools
- 63 Mar.-Nov. hours
- 64 Two-time loser to DDE
- 65 Owned
- 66 Boozier's syndrome

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FEATURE

CSUN Roller Hockey Club rolls on

The Northridge Roller Hockey Club has bounced back from sub-par years and is finally primed for a breakout season

DARKO DEBOGOVIC
DAILY SUNDIAL

WITH NO head coach, no home rink, and very few players returning to the team, the CSUN Roller Hockey Club was left in shambles heading into the 2013-2014 season.

Coming off a 2012 campaign that saw the Matadors finish 8th out of the nine teams in the Western Collegiate Roller Hockey League (WCRHL), the highest finish in CSUN history, the outlook for the club looked bleak at best.

This disorganized and leaderless team was revitalized in the off-season thanks in large to the efforts of team president William Cornell with vice president and assistant captain, James Jewett.

The first order of business for Cornell and Jewett, two of the team's six returnees, was to find a head coach.

After meticulous research and planning the duo settled on part-time, sports psychology professor Aaron Weinstein.

"I knew James from the past and my brother (Alex) goes here and also plays on the team, so that started the channels of communication and through some discussions I found out they needed a coach, so I volunteered and here I am," said Weinstein.

Though this is Weinstein's first year as a coach, his broad experience as a player and

extensive knowledge of the game made him the ideal candidate for the job.

In terms of developing the team from a coaching standpoint, Weinstein plans on instituting some of the psychological techniques he teaches to help his players become more mentally prepared.

"I need to come up with a much more solid game plan and structure," said Weinstein. "I also need to do a better job of getting us more mentally prepared. I want to start implementing some sports psychological techniques that I use to try to get people fired up."

Weinstein is confident his team can turn the ship and improve collectively, as long as his players continue showing dedication and determination.

The next step for the team was finding a local rink to play on.

Jewett, who previously played in the North Hollywood Hockey League (NHHL), came into contact with rink manager and former CSUN alumni, Jerry Dorfman.

Dorfman, an avid fan of all things hockey, agreed to help out his Alma mater by allowing the team to practice on his facility.

"(Dorfman) was all about helping out CSUN, he's an alumni and we worked out a deal with him and started skating on the rink," said Jewett.

With the acquisitions of a new coach and rink, Jewett and Cornell focused their efforts on recruitment.



PHOTO COURTESY OF LENA NASIRI

Cody Chase (Left), junior mechanical engineering major, Radley Cutchon (Middle), senior business management major, Justin Cutchon (Right), senior kinesiology major, look on during a roller hockey practice at North Hollywood Park.

Both players wanted to establish a new brand of hockey, separate from the lethargic, languid ideology seen in previous years.

"The biggest challenge (in previous years) was commitment," said Cornell. "We get a group of guys in the beginning super excited and then we lose four games, we get blown out and everyone disappears—there's no more team, that's been the philosophy: if we don't start out strong there's

no hope, so we don't even play anymore."

First year player Cody Chase was among the prospects they targeted.

Chase, a 22-year-old mechanical engineering major, began playing in recreational leagues at age five before joining the Los Angeles Knights, a local travel team.

Although he is optimistic the Matadors can achieve their first postseason berth, he

acknowledges that the team is still working to become a cohesive unit.

"I'd say our biggest weakness is our time together—we hardly know each other, I just met these guys a couple of months ago, and it shows in our play that were not used to each other yet. We still need time," said Chase.

After starting the season 1-7, the Matadors will try to compile a series of wins in their next three tournaments in

Santa Barbara, Hamilton City and Huntington Beach to get back on track.

The unanimous goal for this year's team is to make the playoffs for the first time.

"We want to make the postseason," said Jewett. "That's never happened before, so I would love to do it for the first time and be in the front office when it happens."

In order to help the club garner more publicity and attention, the players understand that they need to establish a winning culture.

Weinstein is hopeful that with a good season, his team will see an increase of awareness on campus in the next couple of years.

"I'm hoping (the club is) still around (in the next couple of years) and it just gets better and better. I know there are players here (at CSUN) who play roller hockey and are really good that aren't playing on this team, so I'm hoping that if we establish a good season, that years to come they will start playing."

For more information on the CSUN Roller Hockey team visit csun-rollerhockey.com.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TOCHTLI NAVA

The CSUN Roller Hockey Club recently hired sports psychology professor Aaron Weinstein as their head coach. This is the team's first year with a coach as they look to compete in the Western Collegiate Roller Hockey League (WCRHL) this season.



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