

THE POLICE SIREN

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, NORTHRIDGE DEPARTMENT OF POLICE SERVICES



A newsletter dedicated to enhancing the communication of safety programs and services to students, faculty and staff

CSUN Police Promote Open Communication Between Sexual Assault Victims

By Jade Adams, The Daily Sundial
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Sexual assault is grossly under reported here at CSUN. Only 12 percent of college rape victims report to police although statistics also show that 20 percent of women and 6 percent of men will be sexually assaulted while in college.

This is according to a 2007 study referenced by campus Police Chief Ann Glavin during a lecture about sexual assaults on campus, Wednesday.

The most common form of sexual assault on college campuses is acquaintance rape, or when there is some level of familiarity between the perpetrator and the victim, Glavin said.

"That is one of the biggest challenges and common things that we have to deal with," Glavin said.

CSUN statistics have fluctuated over the past five years from zero sexual assaults reported to a high of five sexual assaults reported a year, most of which occur in the housing area, according to Glavin.

"We know that in large part the reluctance to report is rooted in social norms that do tolerate sexual aggression and tend to assign the blame to victims rather than perpetrator... that is true today and was true 30 years ago" Glavin said.

According to Glavin, in June 2009, the CSUN campus plan to address sexual assault introduced a zero tolerance policy for sexual assault.

The policy is that CSUN does not tolerate sexual assault in any form, and all allegations will be taken seriously and the university will pursue criminal charges and strong disciplinary actions.

CSUN students also have immediate access to a rape crisis advocate, public information officer Christina Villalobos, who provides emotional support and facilitates communication between the police, medical personnel, and the victim throughout the process of the investigation.

"My role is not to tell them what to say but to encourage them to talk to the officer and give them those details that are very crucial to the report and to make it as easy as possible, they may not have the support of a friend or family member...we do this in a soft interview room, it's very inviting" Villalobos said.

Villalobos does not report the information to officers, but simply informs the victim of the various options.

According to Glavin, campus police will meet with you privately at a campus location and time of your choice to take your report. "We will treat you and your situation with courtesy, sensitivity, dignity, understanding, and professionalism, and we have a female officer available upon request whenever possible. (See, "Victim's" continued on side two).

Child Safety Seat Event



(Above: Sergeant Frank Gudani assists a parent install her child's safety seat.

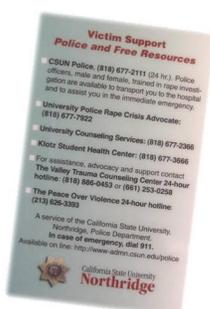
CSUN PD held their first child passenger seat installation event on campus in March. Aimed to benefit the children and families of the A.S. Children's Center, police set up a booth just outside the center in the B6 parking lot. Specially trained officers and staff are now able to inspect your child's car seat to ensure it's properly installed, all free of charge. A car seat may not seem like a complicated piece of machinery but according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 4 out of 5 car seats are improperly installed. The statistic proved valid here at CSUN, as technicians found minor issues with nearly every seat they inspected. One car seat arrived with a broken chest clip (the child's harness which straps them into the car seat). Police pointed out the defect to the parent who was unaware of the damage until now. A new seat will replace the defective one.

Police have already begun planning additional events to be held at both the Children's Center and University Village Apartments. For more information contact the Crime Prevention & Community Relations Unit. See side two.



(Above: Chief Glavin received a certificate of recognition from the House of Representatives' and a U.S. flag from Congressman Brad Sherman presented by the American Association of University Women).

(Left: CSUN PD's Victim's Support card offers local and on-campus resources as well as suggestions for what to do if you or someone you know is assaulted. Cards are available free of charge by contacting the Crime Prevention & Community Relations Unit. See side two).



California State University
Northridge

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Victims (continued from side one)

Our police officers will not pre-judge you, and you will not be blamed for what occurred...you are not obligated for prosecution of your assailant simply because you reported the crime to the university police," Glavin reports from a poster displayed in the campus police station.

Glavin said that laws are changing and becoming more victim-friendly, and she wanted to be apart of that change. She hopes the students understand all that campus police do to lower the threshold on reporting.

"You are not obligated to the criminal justice system just because you came and talked to us," she reiterated.

For more information on CSUN PD's victims resources, contact Crime Prevention & Community Relations Unit: (818) 677-7922 or (818) 677-5820.



Congrats to Louise Fonua, our March winner of a new bicycle u-lock! You can win too! Register your bicycle and sign up to use the Matador Bicycle Compounds (both FREE), and your name will be entered to win. Winner selected at the end of each month.

Did you know?

We offer a variety of presentations for departments, student clubs/organizations, and faculty and staff. Some topics include personal safety related information such as:

- Awareness on Alcohol & Other Drugs
- Bicycle Safety & Security
- Home and Residential Hall Safety
- Identity Theft Prevention
- Office Safety
- Pepper Spray Defense
- Sexual Assault & Intimate Partner Violence
- General Personal & Campus Safety

**For more information contact the Crime Prevention & Community Relations Unit at:
677-5820 or 677-7922**

Resources are also available on our website at:
<http://www-admn.csun.edu/police>

SEVEN STEPS TO EARTHQUAKE SAFETY

BEFORE, DURING, & AFTER

- 1. Identify potential hazards at home & fix them:** Move heavy objects/breakables to lower shelves & secure fragile items.
- 2. Create a plan:** Family communications plan, shelter-in-place & plans for school/work.
- 3. Make kits:** Basic items: water, food, clothing, radio, flashlight, 1st aid, cash, etc.
- 4. Identify your building's potential weaknesses & fix them:** Check: foundation, walls & unreinforced masonry.
- 5. During earthquake shaking, protect yourself:** Inside-Drop, cover & hold. Outside-Move to clear area away from power lines, trees, buildings.
- 6. After the shaking stops, check for injuries & damage:** Always care for yourself before others.
- 7. When safe, continue to follow your disaster preparedness plan:** Aftershocks will continue, always be ready to drop, cover & hold on.

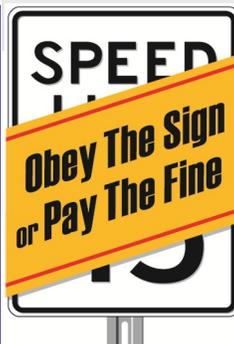
**For additional information, contact:
Kit Espinosa at:
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WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

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TRAFFIC SAFETY CORNER

Have a question or concern about traffic related issues on campus?

**Contact the Traffic Safety Unit at:
(818) 677-6866 or
trafficsafety@csun.edu**

May is national bicycle safety month.
* **A bicycle is a vehicle. Cyclists must obey the same rules of the road as cars.**