

DAILY SUNDIAL

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IN TODAY'S
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PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY ABBY JONES / ART DIRECTOR
LOREN TOWNSLEY / CONTRIBUTOR

The rising value of online learning

To remain relevant, higher education must conform to new technologies and embrace online schooling

CARL ROBINETTE
DAILY SUNDIAL

Colleges around the world will have to change

their business and credentialing models to adapt to emerging technology if they want to maintain their importance, according to computer science professors at Georgia Institute

of Technology's Center for 21st Century Universities.

Online learning is continuing to grow and develop within higher education, and it may be changing the value of a college

degree, according to ongoing research at the center.

"It was really convenient," said Guadalupe Cascillo, senior art major at CSUN, on an art history class she took

over the web last year. "You get to stay home and watch your class online."

There is no question about the value of the online learning experience, Cascillo said. In

fact, she learned more taking a class online than in the classroom, she said. The time and money she saved not commut-

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ONLINE

Continued from page 1

ing made the class a great value too, she said.

“What it means is that the university needs to rethink what it’s doing, how it’s doing it,” said Paul Baker, a professor at Georgia Tech, in a recent Q&A with Chronicle.com. “And how it innovates in a way of surviving in the face of this.”

The ability for websites like Amazon.com virtually shut down big retailers like Borders, could pose a similar threat to the

physical university, Baker said.

“We’re not the same thing,” said Kamiran Badrhan, deputy dean of the Tseng College. “We’re not a business in the same sense (as Borders). It’s not Amazon. It’s an educational institution.”

There will always be people who need to go to a physical university, Badrhan said. Online education is just another option, and those who have the most to gain from it are people who have difficulty going to school. As an example, he cited people who live in remote areas with no college nearby.

Distance learning is a growing part of the future, according to Richard Demilo, director of Georgia Tech’s Center for 21st Century Universities. Social media and other communications advancements over the last decade have made it possible for students in India to be educated by top professors at Stanford, according to Demilo.

“What you’re seeing, for example, is technology enabling a single master teacher to reach students on an individualized basis on a scale that is unprecedented,” Demilo said to Chronicle.com. “So when Sebastian

Thrun offers his Intro to Robotics course and gets 150,000 students — that’s a big deal.”

The number of undergraduates enrolled in at least one distance-education class in the U.S. increased from 8 percent in 2000 to 20 percent in 2008, according to a report released by the National Institution for Education Statistics. The number of students enrolled in a distance learning degree program doubled in the same time frame.

The biggest concern for CSUN students like Cascillo is the lack of classes currently offered online, especially for her

major’s requirements, she said.

“If there were more classes, I would have taken more,” Cascillo said. “But there really isn’t.”

CSUN’s SOLAR system lists 111 courses available online. The CSU recognizes the growing need for online education and are in the process of creating a systemwide online education initiative called Cal State Online.

“There are more success stories as online education continues to evolve,” said Michael Uhlenkamp, the CSU’s director of media relations and new media. “We hope to be able to

utilize many of the best practices that are currently known as well as those that are developing to provide a quality educational experience.”

The Technology Steering Committee, the group behind the Cal State Online initiative, is still in the developmental phase of the project.

Experts agree that the virtual world is changing the face of higher education, the big question is what that change will look like.

“I think online education is here, and here to stay,” Badrhan said.

CSU looks to launch online program

The Cal State Online program has currently entered a bidding process in hopes of finding a suitable vendor

CARL ROBINETTE
DAILY SUNDIAL

The CSU and its Technology Steering Committee are looking for vendors to provide infrastructure for the proposed Cal State Online program, issuing an invitation for vendors to offer their services, at Planetbid.com on April 2.

Cal State Online is an initiative that was started in 2011 by the committee to create a system-wide online education program for the CSU. The invitation kicked off the bidding among firms that current-

ly provide “comprehensive online course and program delivery services,” according to the project outline in the request for proposal.

“Any time the CSU looks to implement a systemwide initiative there are challenges,” said Michael Uhlenkamp, the CSU’s director of media relations and new media, in an email interview. “Funding is one challenge and there are several logistical challenges as well.”

CSU is currently working with stakeholders to meet these challenges, Uhlenkamp said. The program is projected to launch in the spring of

2013, according to the timeline published on the website.

However, some question the validity of a degree earned through the Internet.

“I think there are massive dangers associated with online education,” said Steven Graves, professor of geology at CSUN. “Administrators love the idea because it saves money. Quality assessments of learning outcomes are not done often. So, there are few assurances that online education is equal to on-campus education.”

Graves believes that online education eliminates human interaction — a vital part of

education.

“Cal State Online would serve to supplement the overall mission of the CSU,” Uhlenkamp said. “As such, there would be no threat to the traditional experience at a CSU campus.”

Part of the program’s mission is to bring higher education to students who don’t have access to a campus, or who are otherwise restricted.

“Some of California’s residents are place-bound and unable to attend a campus,” Uhlenkamp said. “Other potential students are working full-time and are not able to participate in coursework in a

traditional classroom setting.”

One of the goals of the program is to help CSU campuses provide fully-online education programs, by offering a system that can market, service, and expand the CSU e-learning programs, according to the Cal State Online website.

While he recognizes the value of emerging media and uses online elements in his own classes, Graves said that e-learning is not effective for course work that requires “higher order thinking and problem-solving skills.”

“Would you go to a surgeon who had an online medical degree? I wouldn’t,”

Graves said.

The next step for Cal State Online is a review process of request for proposal. This gives stakeholders the opportunity to give feedback, as the CSU searches for a vendor who can provide the services that Cal State Online will need.

A campus liaison to Cal State Online has been appointed to each campus to assist with communications between the CSU and each individual school during the development process.

The next Cal State Online board meeting is scheduled for April 18.

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CSUN students participate in CicLAvia

City streets of Los Angeles shut down for 10 miles to accommodate fourth annual bike-riding event

CARL ROBINETTE
DAILY SUNDIAL

C SUN students and other members of the community rode bicycles into downtown Los Angeles to participate in the city's fourth CicLAvia event Sunday.

The city sanctioned event shut down 10 miles of city streets from the east end of Hollywood to East Los Angeles, making way for cyclists, pedestrians and everything in between.

"CicLAvia is an excellent event," said Dennis D'Alfonso, a ride organizer and leader of the CSUN Bike Collective. "It gets the community together and raises awareness about active transportation."

Led by members of the collective, a group of 12 riders met in front of Oviatt Library at 7:30 a.m. and pedaled to the North Hollywood Metro station. Picking up more riders along the way, the group tripled in size by the time they arrived in NoHo.

Bikes in tow, they boarded a Red Line train and headed for the corner of Melrose Avenue and Heliotrope Drive, where they met thousands of cycling enthusiasts.

"I was like, 'Wait. They shut down the entire road?'" said Clarke Miranda, bike collective organizer, talking about his excitement when he heard about the first CicLAvia

event. "CicLAvia rocks. You can be a walker, runner, cyclist, roller blader or anything that makes you move."

Estimates counted a crowd of about 100,000 participants, according to the LA Times, with no serious incidents or injuries reported.

D'Alfonso and Miranda also volunteered as "route angels," offering mechanic help to fellow riders who ran into bike trouble along the zig-zag of open streets.

"I saw it last year when I was working downtown," said Bell resident Arian Nava, 20, as D'Alfonso quickly repaired the malfunctioning gears on her bike. "I thought it was beautiful, but I was working. Luckily, today I'm not."

CicLAvia was inspired by the Columbian "ciclovia," which roughly translates from Spanish to bike-way. In Columbia, officials shut down 75 miles of road in the city of Bogota every Sunday for the ride. While L.A.'s event is not at the scale of its South American counterpart, it is growing with each installment.

"I think it's great. A lot more businesses embraced it this year," said Jaziel Ocampo, cyclist and sophomore anthropology major at CSUN. "A lot more people set up shop outside their stores."

Food vendors, musicians and other merchants and organizations lined the streets to take advantage of the crowds and participate in what was a celebration of clean air



A mob of cyclists at CicLAvia wait for traffic to cross at the corner of Spring and 5th Streets in downtown Los Angeles on April 15.

CARL ROBINETTE / DAILY SUNDIAL

and community.

The CSUN group thinned and spread out on the city streets, but members of the collective stayed on their bikes until the event officially ended at 3 p.m. for a total of more than eight hours.

"Who closes 10 miles of road

down for bicycles?" said Charles Han, art major at Pierce College who road with the CSUN group. "It's really cool that Los Angeles would do this."

The ride was in cooperation with Chinatown's first-ever Springfest, a festival created to benefit

LA Conservation Corps and The Chinatown Service Center Youth Center.

The next CicLAvia is already being planned and is expected to take place within a few months, according to several participants and organizers.

Thursday, April 19

The Green Issue

The Sundial celebrates Earth Day by looking at how CSUN and the community are creating a sustainable environment on campus and beyond.



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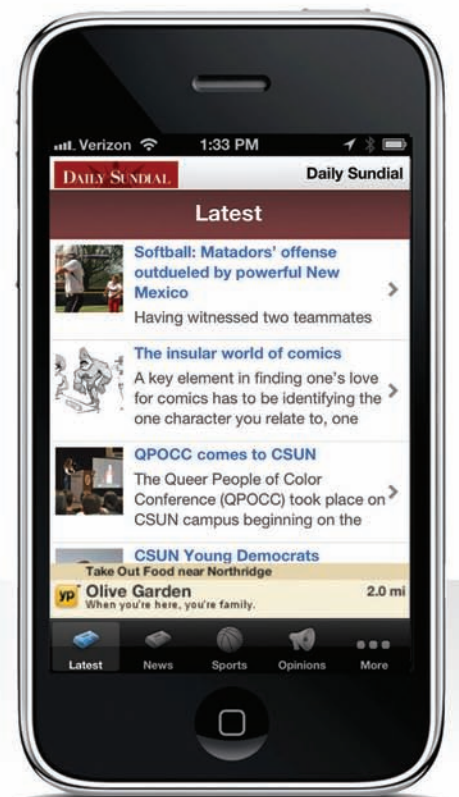
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KEN SCARBORO / EDITOR IN CHIEF

Shouting: "This is a phone, not a gun!" demonstrators raise their cell phones in front of a portrait of Abdul Arian. Arian was shot dead by LAPD April 12 after a high speed chase with police yesterday.



KEN SCARBORO / EDITOR IN CHIEF

Imam Omar Jubran addresses a crowd of community members protesting outside the Devonshire LAPD department seeking justice for the shooting of 19-year-old Abdul Arian.

Demanding justice in LAPD shooting

KEN SCARBORO
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Community members from and various Islamic groups protested outside the Devonshire LAPD department Monday, demanding an investigation into the police shooting of a 19-year-old man after a high speed chase last week.

Abdul Arian was shot dead by LAPD early April 12 after leading police on a high speed chase down the 101 freeway. Initial police reports

stated Arian was on the phone with 911 dispatch and told them he had a gun. After pulling to the side, Arian got out of his car, took what police described as a "shooting stance," then was shot numerous times.

Imam Omar Jubran, who sits on the executive board of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, said the demonstration was community largely organized through email chains and information distributed in Islamic centers and prayer halls.

"What we believe, as a community, was that this was an overkill," said Jubran, adding, "He didn't need to be

shot 90 times in his body."

Lt. Andy Neiman, LAPD media relations officer, said there were no official numbers on how many shots were fired.

"In events of this magnitude we reach out to the community, and in this case we reached out to the Muslim community, Islamic community," said LAPD Cpt. Kris Pitcher of the Devonshire Division. "To basically let them know what is being done with the investigation and find out what their concerns are."

"We just want a thorough investigation and we want justice," Jubran said.

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Opinions

April 17, 2012

opinion@sundial.csun.edu

Death of the honey bee is anything but sweet

JESSICA JEWELL
DAILY SUNDIAL

Bees, an unsung hero in bringing food to you. They work hard pollinating produce aisle delights. It is a task ensuring plants reproduce and thrive—without bees, the food supply would be in peril. Well, it kind of is these days. Bees are dying and ditching their hives around the world, a scary prospect as our own elementary subsistence depends on these little guys.

Since 2007, between 30 and 90 percent of honey bees have been mysteriously dying and abandoning their hives in the U.S. according to Harvard research. Until now, there were no clear culprits or contributors to this crisis. But recently, Harvard's School of Public Health released new research to be published in the June issue of the *Bulletin of Insectology* linking the health care, agribusiness and technology company Bayer and their notorious nicotine-based (neonicotinoid) insecticide, imidacloprid, to bees abandoning their hives and their puzzling deaths. This is one of the most widely-used insecticides in both industrial agriculture, but also in peoples' backyards.

The researchers conducted a 23-week-long experiment monitoring bees in four different locations. They treated the bees with different levels of the chemical

and a control hive. The writing is on the wall: 94 percent of bees died in 15 out of 16 hives treated with the chemical; and the hives treated with higher levels of the insecticide experienced higher rates of death.

Aspirin is the first thing that comes to mind with Bayer; benign enough, right? But no, this company doesn't just produce the lifesaving aspirin—they were also partial developers in the creation of Zyklon B gas in WWII, championing the effective gassing of millions of people in concentration camps. Well, now Bayer has moved on to other things, like creating toxic—albeit lucrative—pesticides!

Even *Wired* says that neonicotinoids have been banned in France, Germany and Italy!

The phenomenon known as Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) has bees dropping like flies. Puns aside, the alarming disappearance of honey bees has scientists stumped and is a major threat to the world food supply.

Fingers flagrantly pointed left and right in the science community; some blamed climate change; others thought it was pollution; and there were some ruminating over pollution as a cause.

The new findings may help the bees, now that science has a place to start. Now to wait and see if the evidence can actually persuade decision-makers to wake up.

The elusive insects play a major role in agribusiness, as one third of all crops in the U.S.

depend on these pollinators. Honorable mentions include fruits, nuts, livestock crops like alfalfa and clover, and vegetables. Experts estimate losses projected in the billions if the honeybee population continues its decline at this rate.

"About 130 crops in the U.S.—worth some \$15 billion a year—depend on honeybee pollination, and if bee populations really did collapse, it would mean an agricultural catastrophe," *Time Magazine* wrote this month.

CCD has been on the radar for a few years, but until now there has been little evidence to explain this eco-crisis.

The Harvard findings reported that bees are subject to exposure through two ways: the nectar of affected plants, or the high-fructose corn syrup beekeepers use to feed their bee colonies.

"Treated colonies had a significantly reduced growth rate and suffered an 85% reduction in production of new queens," *Science* magazine said.

In the bee-universe, queens make the world go round; bees are matriarchal creatures that depend on a queen to keep the hive alive. She pops out grips of baby bees that then go out and take one for the colony, pollinating plants and bringing home the goods. But when the colonies are exposed to the chemical, queenie goes bye bye. And without the queen, well, there is no longer a colony.

Southwest Farm Press argues that Bayer's intentions have always been in the favor of protecting the bee population and that the insecticide is safe and helpful for agriculturists to use to protect their crops. They attempt to debunk the recent findings to vindicate Bayer.

"Insecticides generally, remain safe and effective management tools to control a wide range of destructive insect pests...Bayer is committed to bee health and has been actively involved in finding solutions to improve honey bee health for more than 25 years," a Southwest Farm Press article said. "As a company dedicated to crop protection, Bayer is also committed to environmental stewardship and sustainable agricultural practices, including the protection of beneficial insects such as honey bees."

This canned sound bite retort is flimsy at best.

Upon further investigation it's

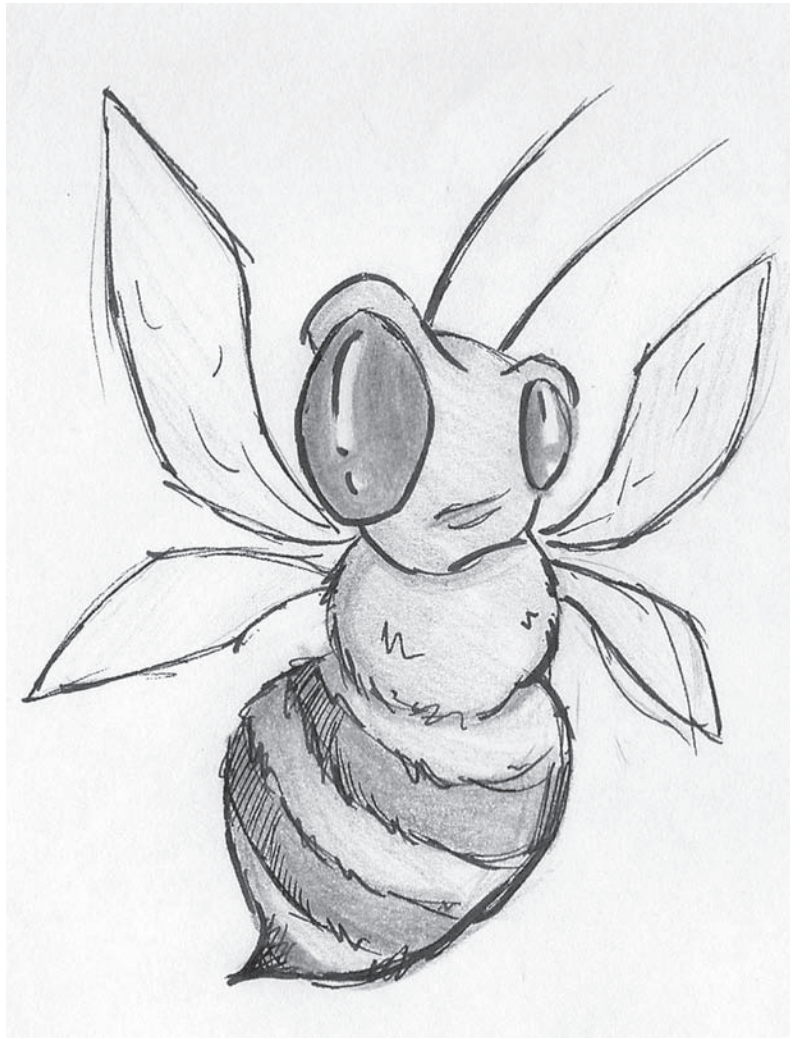


ILLUSTRATION BY CARL ROBINETTE / DAILY SUNDIAL

clear to anyone who does their homework that it's not just Bayer that is to blame, but the EPA itself. They released a fact sheet detailing the risks of clothianidin, another neonicotinoid.

"Clothianidin is highly toxic to honey bees on an acute contact basis. It has the potential for toxic chronic exposure to honey bees, as well as other nontarget pollinators, through the translocation of clothianidin residues in nectar and pollen. In honey bees, the effects of this toxic chronic exposure may include lethal and/or sub-lethal effects in the larvae and reproductive effects in the queen," the EPA said.

If everyone and their mothers who know a modicum of what's up in science, they'd think twice about approving a family of chemicals that in their own words "is highly toxic to honey bees."

What's going on, EPA?! This institution is supposed to be the environment's last beacon of hope. Prevent these atrocities, don't enable them!

The EPA further disappoints in a memo, "(c)hronic toxic risk to honey bee larvae and the eventual

instability of the hive."

What gives? CCD is throwing the science community for a loop as scientists around the world try to find a reason bees are abandoning their hives in droves like mysterious have-beens in the past; it's oddly reminiscent of a certain people who won't be named. Okay, I'll give you a hint, it starts with "M" and ends in "ayan"... does 2012 ring a bell? Civilizations disappearing into thin air?

Harvard says it's bad; Science says it's bad; and if bees could talk, they would say it's bad. What else does the EPA need?

Oh, that's right. This precious little potion is a goldmine and with a menacing GOP over your shoulder threatening to pull the plug on you any minute, you've lost the backbone to do what's right. I guess there's that.

Let's cross our fingers that the guys at the top will wise up before it's too late and we start feeling the effects of bee death everywhere. Heaven forbid it hits the consumers' pockets when the cost of meat and produce skyrocket, then people might actually care. What a concept.



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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

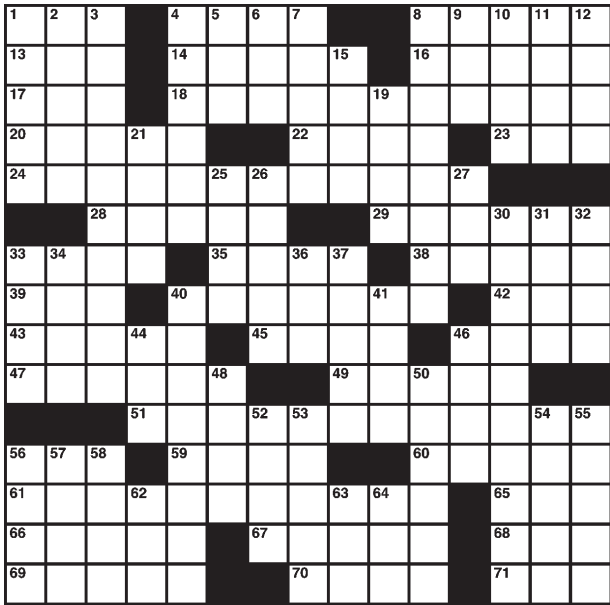
Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

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By Gareth Bain

4/17/12

Monday's Puzzle Solved

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- 11 "Quo Vadis" emperor
- 12 Mark's love, casually
- 15 Distort, as facts
- 19 Microwave no-no
- 21 Black, to Blake
- 25 Six-time baseball All-Star Moises
- 26 Like a newborn
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- 31 Physics particle
- 32 Jules Verne captain
- 33 Powder on a puff
- 34 Sundance Film Festival state
- 36 Green prefix
- 37 Toyota subcompact
- 40 Compromise with the district attorney
- 41 Tirade
- 44 Chew the fat
- 46 For a ___ pittance
- 48 Plains native
- 50 Gal's guy
- 52 Trims the lawn
- 53 Green-bellied sap sucker
- 54 Schindler of "Schindler's List"
- 55 Clingy, in a way
- 56 Oil acronym
- 57 Object that may be struck by the starts of the answers to starred clues
- 58 Thought
- 62 TiVo, for one
- 63 Wide shoe letters
- 64 Mom's opposite

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Solution to today's sudoku

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

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

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.

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BASEBALL

Bruin up a win on the road

CSUN heads down the 405 to seek redemption against UCLA

JONATHAN ANDRADE
DAILY SUNDIAL

The Matadors may have gotten a confidence boost coming out of their Big West Conference series win over No. 27 Cal Poly, and they could sure use it when they face familiar foe, No. 11 UCLA today.

CSUN (16-19, 4-5 Big West) hosted UCLA (24-8, 10-5 Pac-12) Feb. 21 and was dismantled by the Bruins' bats, 19-7, in the Matadors' home opener.

In the loss, Northridge managed nine hits and scored in three consecutive innings, but UCLA's nine-run eighth exploited the CSUN pitchers, who scattered 16 hits.

Northridge's pitching staff will have to deal with Bruin junior catcher Tyler Heineman and junior outfielder Jeff Gelalich.

The two combined for six RBI and three home runs against the Matadors in their

first meeting.

Heineman leads the Bruins with a .432 batting average and has started all 32 games for UCLA while Gelalich has homered six times, accounting for nearly all of the Bruins' dingers in 2012.

Senior Todd Eskilin homered against the Bruins the first time around and could provide more offense for Northridge in today's game.

CSUN's offense did well at the plate over the weekend, outscoring the Cal Poly offense 18-9 to take two out of three meetings.

In the opener against the Mustangs, freshman Ryan Raslowsky tallied three of the Matadors' 12 hits and had two RBI including a game-winning chopper over the Cal Poly third baseman in the eleventh.

Freshman Jerry Keel and junior Alex Muren had their worst outings as of late against the Mustangs, but still kept the Matadors within striking distance throughout the series.

Against the Mustangs, the Matadors had 31 hits, with 25 of those coming during the two wins. Northridge struggled to keep the Cal Poly offense in check and had to beat them at their



JOHN SARINGO-RODRIGUEZ / CONTRIBUTOR

CSUN pitcher Louis Cohen looks for a strike against Cal Poly Saturday at Matador Field. Cohen and the Matadors will head to Westwood today for a non-conference showdown against UCLA at Jackie Robinson Stadium.

own game to take the series. Cal Poly had 36 hits in the three games.

Certain members of CSUN's pitching staff will surely be looking at another chance at facing the bats of the Bruin offense this time around.

Freshman Jordan Johnson

was roughed up for nine runs against UCLA in his first career outing as a Matador. Johnson didn't even last an inning in the meeting, but has since only given up two runs in six innings of work.

The matchup with the nationally-ranked Bruins

will give CSUN a preview of what to look for as Big West play continues into the tougher sections of the Matadors' remaining schedule.

After the game against the Bruins, the Matadors will take a weeklong break. They won't play again until they host Cal State Bakers-

field next Tuesday.

CSUN has already beaten the Roadrunners once this season, 4-3, on April 10.

The Matadors will resume conference play on Friday, April 27 when they host Long Beach State in the first of three games against the Dirtbags.

TODAY:

Matadors @ UCLA
at 6 p.m.

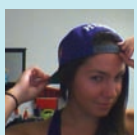
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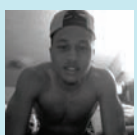
twitter Tuesday

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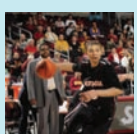
What are the Matadors saying on the social network?



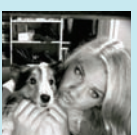
Can't think of a sadder - or funnier - way to go.
@HGurriell, Hayley Gurriell, water polo
Lmao my teacher just said youre more likely to get killed by a vending machine than win the lottery hahahahahahaha
Apr. 10



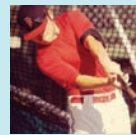
Apr. 24. Circle it on your calendars, folks.
@TheeELITE1, Josh Greene, men's basketball
Dang I just remembered my bday is in 10 days I wonder how many shout outs imma get... NONE haha my life sucks
Apr. 14



What say you, @HGurriell?
@SmoovSteph, Stephan Hicks, men's basketball
Do water polo girls pee in the water?
Apr. 12



Nobody likes class. Nobody. =(((
@LindsayNel, Lindsay Nelson, water polo
class being canceled is probably one of the best feelings ever
Apr. 10



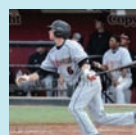
This guy makes his own luck!
@CHESTERPAK, Chester Pak, baseball
That awful moment when you're about to have a delicious bowl of cereal and you're out of spoons..... Fork time YOLO
Apr. 11



Imagine what the spider felt. You destroyed its house. =/
@RLFriess, Randi Friess, women's basketball
Walking through a spider web is by far the worst feeling in the entire world...just had a 30 second spastic panic attack.
Apr. 15



Kobe will never get a break from coach.
@CoachTrutanic, Coach Trutanic, women's basketball
Kudos Thibodeaux 4 sitting Rose when the game was on the line & going with his bench. Mike Brown needs 2 take notice! TEAMS win, not snakes.
Apr. 12



Somebody pull that cop over!
@nubigglyfe, Kyle Attl, baseball
Just saw a cop texting while driving
Apr. 13