

DAILY SUNDIAL

FREE

<p>IN TODAY'S ISSUE</p> <p>VOLUME 53 ISSUE 107 • A FINANCIALLY INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER</p>	<p>NEWS</p> <p>Metro will soon have a stop inside of CSUN</p> <p>p. 2</p>	<p>OPINION</p> <p>Meat; your other environmental nightmare</p> <p>p. 6</p>	<p>SPORTS</p> <p>Baseball: Matadors can't hang with No. 15 Bruins</p> <p>p. 8</p>
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Don't forget insurance

Rule requires faculty traveling outside the United States purchase travel insurance, a cost CSUN will sometimes cover



IRENE NESBITT
DAILY SUNDIAL

Faculty who are planning to travel outside the U.S. for conferences, field trips, research or sabbaticals must now obtain foreign travel insurance. Though this requirement came into effect last March, risk management will implement the policy this year.

"There's normally a time lag between a new requirement, get-

ting the message out and compliance. From this office's perspective, we had some early compliance just after the March 7 (2011) issuance, and have had a steady increase in awareness and compliance since that date," said Jody Van Leuven, CSUN's risk manager.

Amemo issued by the CSU Chancellor's Office last year required all CSU employees traveling internationally on university busi-

ness to obtain the insurance via the California State University Risk Management Authority, Van Leuven said.

"The Chancellor's Office recognized that our faculty traveled very often to many foreign places," Van Leuven said. "As risk management, we wanted to give them coverage so they wouldn't have to worry about being stuck in a hotel

that doesn't have air conditioning, or not have an English-speaking doctor to attend to their medical needs."

These costs would only be covered to a certain amount under most insurances, but with foreign travel insurance, all of these costs would be taken care of, according

to Van Leuven.

"It's simply about getting the message out and developing a streamlined, step-wise, process

See **RISK**, page 3

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Metro bus station to open at CSUN

Two new bus lines will drop students off between on Vincennes Street between Darby and Etiwanda Avenue

LAURA DAVIS
DAILY SUNDIAL

The commute to school may soon be a little easier. A Metro bus transit center at CSUN will open this June, allowing students to be conveniently dropped off directly onto campus.

Two bus lines, the 167 and the 741, will stop at the transit center on Vincennes Street, between Darby Avenue and Etiwanda Avenue, just south of the B5 parking structure.

“We’re trying to facilitate people coming to campus not using single-occupancy vehicles, and we thought building a transit center would be a great way to effectively begin meeting that objective,” said Nathaniel (Matt) Wilson, CSUN campus architect.

Metro funded 80 percent, or about \$390,000 for the project, according to Ken Rosenthal, CSUN manager and director of design & construction.

“Metro will fund up to \$392,000 as long as we (CSUN) match the remaining 20 percent,” Rosenthal

said. “The funds come from a variety of different sources. It’s sort of pieced together with leftover money from other projects.”

CSUN was responsible for hiring contractors to build the transit center and the actual construction of the project was completed April 10, according to Rosenthal.

Although the center is built, students shouldn’t expect to use the transit center quite yet, said Scott Page, Metro manager of service planning.

“Although construction will be done in April, the center won’t be open until June 17 or June 24, because we have to re-route our vehicles every time a bus stop is added,” Page said.

In addition to the Metro station, several minor construction projects are currently taking place on campus, such as renovations to the Oviatt Library stairs, a \$70,000 project that will be completed by the end of summer, according to Rosenthal.

Maintenance-related work, such as the replacement of a fire line that serves Nordhoff Hall, can be seen on the walkway



MARIELA MOLINA / PHOTO EDITOR

Located behind a closed off sidewalk on Etiwanda Avenue, is one of several construction sites on campus.

across the street from the B4 parking structure near West University Drive, according to Rosenthal.

He said the fire line replacement is a regular maintenance service included in CSUN’s budget.

Other maintenance proj-

ects include the addition of new benches in area by Santa Susana Hall and Manzanita Hall, Rosenthal said.

All ongoing and prospective construction and renovation projects are a part of CSUN’s official master

construction plan, Envision 2035, which explains the dozens of proposed project for the next two decades in detail and features updated artist renditions of what the campus will look like in 2035, according to the CSUN facilities planning

department’s website.

“One proposed idea is to build additional student and faculty / staff housing, but this project will not be seriously considered until there is improvement in the housing market,” Rosenthal said.

TOMORROW

The Green Issue



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RISK

Continued from page 1

that departments can use efficiently," she said. "This took a little time to implement, which may have contributed to any lag time between the foreign travel insurance requirement to full campuswide implementation."

The foreign travel insurance will be comprehensive for faculty and students, and will cover loss of IDs, passports, travel and government papers, injuries, emergency evacuations, hotels, rental cars and medical needs, according to Van Leuven. Risk management will cover insurance cost free for faculty (\$60.00), if their visit is under 15 days.

"Since Jan. 1, we have bound travel insurance for about 63 employees traveling to international destinations," Van Leuven said.

It will cost risk management around \$3,780 to cover faculty travels omitting the additional trips they will possibly take this year.

Erik Goldner, a CSUN history professor, travels frequently outside of the U.S. and feels having foreign travel insurance is good for all teachers to have.

"Having foreign travel insurance is sensible,"

Goldner said. "I went to France last summer to take a group of students on a field study trip, and my department was able to fund my insurance. It is comforting to know that I am covered so if any problems arise, I will be taken care of."

Van Leuven said the costs to cover the foreign travel insurance for faculty, comes out of risk management's budget that covers all the university's insurance needs – such as property insurance, liability insurance, UDI and worker's compensation.

"It's part of the university's operational budget and does not come from student fees, the cost is relatively low and our operational budget allows for unexpected expenses," Van Lueven said. "All state institutions have an annual budget and our budget comes from the state. The state (governor) gives money to the CSU Chancellor's Office, and then it is distributed to the CSU school systems and their respective departments."

By the end of this semester, if the 63 faculty count stays the same, risk management will spend around an additional \$ 7,560 on travel insurance.

Van Leuven added that foreign travel insurance will be optional to CSUN students studying abroad

or attending field trips. If students decide to purchase, it will cost them \$50, if their stay is less than 15 days.

April Nguyen, 24, a fashion major, said it is great that the cost of foreign travel insurance is affordable for students.

"It is good that students can have an option to buy this insurance for a low cost amount," Nguyen said. "I won't have to worry about any debts that could easily occur while staying in a foreign country."

Erick Ramirez, 20, an English major, said in the event that something goes wrong, for peace of student's and faculty's minds, insurance should be a top priority to get while staying in a foreign country.

"The insurance cost is a good deal for students and faculty," Ramirez said. "If I ever decided to travel for a field trip or study abroad I would definitely invest in it."

CSUN student Ben Morgan, 20, also agrees that students need to have insurance coverage in case of emergencies.

"If there are no drawbacks, it would be wise for CSUN students to purchase insurance," Morgan said. "Life is so unexpected, and it's good for students to cover themselves in case of an emergency."



MICHAEL CHENG / DAILY SUNDIAL

A.S. approved funds of \$2,050 to Pi Kappa Alpha for their event "Ladder of Risk."

Alcohol awareness event funded

JESSICA JEWELL
DAILY SUNDIAL

Associated Students allocated \$2,050 to Pi Kappa Alpha for the alcohol awareness event "Ladder of Risk," Tuesday. Tomorrow's event was at risk of being cancelled if the fraternity was not able to acquire this last-minute funding.

The fraternity originally asked A.S. to grant them \$2,600 for the first annual event.

Faculty Advisor Tom Piernik expressed that if the fraternity failed to receive financial assistance from A.S., the event overhead would average out to cost fraternity mem-

bers roughly \$40 each.

A member of the board moved to allocate \$2,250 to the greek organization but the motion failed on the floor. Debate went back and forth as senators made cases for and against the fiscal issue.

"I'll be writing a nice letter to the editor in chief at the Sundial to let him know you don't care about funding an event against alcohol abuse," President Amanda Flavin said.

Other senators expressed their thoughts on the circumstances surrounding the event.

"I feel we've been swayed to vote a certain way all year long... it's bad planning, it happens. It's happened to many clubs and orgs," Senator

Brande Hookfin said.

Senator Mellad Khoshnood expressed why he changed his mind to allocate the funds.

"This money can be used to save a life; it's money well spent," Khoshnood said.

Attorney General John Biltz spoke in an unusual gesture to the board, "Don't be perpetrators of broken promises or have vendettas against certain clubs and organizations. Look at the big picture."

The event organized by Pi Kappa Alpha President Mark Patterson and Greek Advisor Jamison Keller is open to anybody who would like to attend tomorrow evening at 6:30 p.m. in the USU Grand Salon and features a keynote speaker.

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CSUN student visits children in South Africa

After a week of sightseeing, CTVA major Devon Frankel devotes final weeks of trip to helping a local school

STEPHANIE MURILLO
CONTRIBUTOR

While most college students were busy hitting the beach, or sleeping in past noon, Cal State Northridge student Devon Frankel did something a little different one summer.

Frankel, a CTVA junior, accompanied his mother on a four-week vacation to South Africa in the summer of 2009.

"My mom has a thing for helping people out, so she would go down there specifically to help kids. That would be my first time there," Frankel recalls.

Ten thousand miles and a 35-hour plane ride later, Frankel arrived to a little town known as Nebbia, approximately four hours away from any major city and 782 miles away from Cape Tow, the remote city of Botswana.

"South Africa was absolutely stunning. Everyone there was so kind and welcoming. I felt at peace," Frankel said.

After a week of breathtaking scenery and mesmerizing sightseeing, Frankel quickly felt at home.

One afternoon, his mother asked Frankel if he'd like to take a quick trip down to the local schoolhouse, which was located just 100 yards from the

lodge where Frankel and his mother were staying.

Frankel agreed and took along with him various crossword puzzles, DVDs, a soccer ball and some footballs for the children's enjoyment.

When they arrived Frankel was surprised to see where the schoolhouse was located. An abandoned tire factory served as the location where 30 students between grades K-12 learned.

The children of the schoolhouse graciously received their donations. The Frankel's donation included a variety of crossword puzzles, children's books, and copies of Frankel's DVD "Undertow," a film he starred in.

"We taught some of the children a little English and some American customs," Frankel said.

After that afternoon's trip Frankel knew he had to help even more. He devoted his last three weeks in South Africa to helping the local schoolhouse.

"I played a lot of outdoor games with them, (and) we donated several soccer balls," Frankel said. "(They) had no idea what a soccer ball was, in fact."

Frankel spent several of his days playing soccer with the local children and helping them out during art and crafts time. During his time at the

schoolhouse, he quickly formed a unique bond with one 9-year-old boy named Maniki, whose name translates to "No Name" in the African language.

Maniki was an orphan orphan, Frankel said. He had a tear drop scar on his left eye and he struggled to make friends.

"I managed to get Maniki to play soccer with the other kids. He wasn't very good so he was embarrassed and ran off to chop wood. That reminded me a lot of myself," Frankel recalls.

Frankel and Maniki had no means of communication.

"I hardly spoke a single word to Maniki, but I knew he understood me through my actions. I felt so connected to Maniki," Frankel said.

"You don't need language to connect with someone. Maniki and I got along great without even talking most of the time," Frankel explains.

The two spent most of their time together exploring the area and playing soccer.

Despite their language barriers, Frankel learned more from that little boy than he could have ever imagined.

"You really don't know how easy we have it," he said. "Most of the families have nothing but the clothes on their backs. Most families lived in a shipping crates, but had the biggest genuine smiles I've ever seen."

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



COURTESY OF DEVON FRANKEL

CTVA junior Devon Frankel, center, smiles among the children he worked with during a four-week vacation in South Africa in 2009. The children's schoolhouse was in an abandoned tire factory, and Frankel provided them with crossword puzzles and sporting equipment.

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Send us your contact info with a short description about who you are and what you did at features@csun.edu

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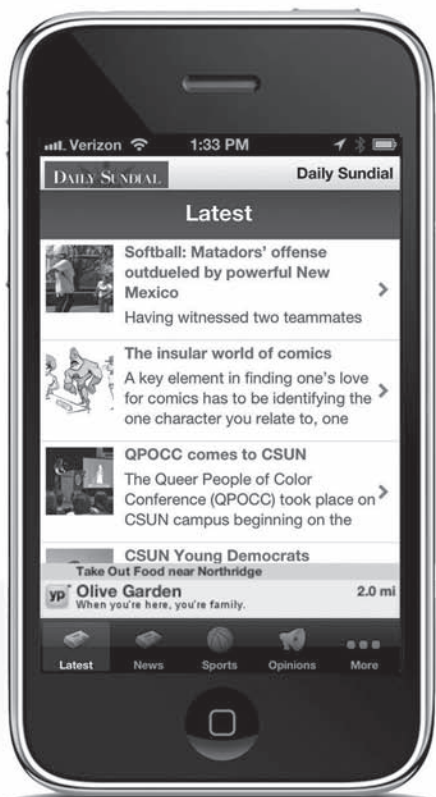
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April 18, 2012

Opinions

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Pointing a greasy finger in the wrong direction

Hybrid cars, solar energy and water conservation are not the only solutions to the global warming crisis

JENNIFER LUXTON

PRODUCTION STAFF

It's difficult to deny the fact that things are getting odd. To go from summer weather in the middle of January to looping bouts of chills in April is nowhere near ordinary. The dreaded "myth" of global warming appears to be becoming a reality, but the question is, have we attributed the crime to the right suspect?

The generally accepted cause of climate change has been our oil consumption (darned be those rising gas prices), but this factor is only the tip of the iceberg. An equally damaging culprit may be innocently awaiting you on your dinner plate; the production of animals for slaughter is slowly, but surely, destroying the planet in ways that are invisible to the average carnivore.

According to the U.S. census, Americans consumed more than 12,239 metric tons of beef in 2010, nearly 4,000 thousand more than the 27 countries that make up the European Union combined. Gone are the days of mom and pop farms with a few cows and chickens. Industrial farms are forced into overdrive in order to keep up with our demands, and in turn, put an unbelievable strain on the resources they need to maintain production.

"Livestock's Long Shadow," a study released by the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization, states that 70 percent of all agricultural land is used for growing livestock feed crops and grazing. This amounts to a whopping 30 percent of the total land surface of the planet.

Overgrazing, degradation and erosion are causing farmers to look for new land to move their livestock to, resulting in the destruction of forests and eventually,

human development, as people are forced from their homes by drought and famine in search of more fertile soil.

Breeding domesticated animals

has a direct impact on our water quality; eight percent of human water use goes towards raising livestock, which in turn pollutes the water with fecal waste, pro-

cessing chemicals and medicine used to keep the animals alive. The runoff from farms can leech into fresh water supplies and the ocean, where it can damage delicate ecosystems and poison fish that are then consumed by humans.

According to the UN study, livestock production is "responsible for 18 percent of greenhouse gas emissions in measured CO2 equivalents." This measures the amount of damage done by other gases as compared to CO2.

To put everything into perspective, the amount of resources used to keep Big Macs on the food chain far surpasses the amount needed to sustainably feed the population with vegetables. Livestock production takes up an unreasonable chunk of effort in comparison to the yield, which is 7 kilograms of feed to a single kilogram of meat from cattle. Those 7 kilograms of crops could feed that many more people without the unnecessary step of animals in between.

Water and land use could greatly be reduced and better utilized by growing produce that syncs up with the natural cycles of land to avoid over-harvesting. The bottom line is, we don't need meat.

Any other business that has such a low yield rate would crumble, so why is the meat industry still thriving? It is simply because we let it.

The quality of meat continues to decline (pink slime, anyone?) as the damage rises, but because of consumer demand and an uninformed public, millions of families happily sit down to a nice hearty dinner of beef, pork and chicken because they don't know any better.

However, upon reading this information, you can make a more educated choice.

This Earth Day, do a little reading on how your meat goes from creature to corn dog and seriously consider whether this is something you stand for. It is not necessary for you to become a pious vegan crusader (although that would be nice), but amidst the recycling and tree planting, become aware of what it takes to feed a nation and what the costs are to you and your planet.



ILLUSTRATIONS BY JENNIFER LUXTON / PRODUCTION STAFF

DAILY SUNDIAL

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

The Daily Sundial
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WEEKLY COLUMN

I love LA: All home teams enjoying great seasons

JONATHAN ANDRADE
DAILY SUNDIAL

Some cities are happy with having one successful team in one of the major professional sports, but the Los Angeles Lakers, Clippers, Dodgers, Kings and Galaxy have their fans gushing with excitement from the successes each team has been having as of late.

Lakers (39-23)

The purple and gold have been proving the naysayers wrong since guard Kobe Bryant went down with a shin injury. Resting Bryant before a playoff run has been essential for the No. 3-seeded Lakers, but not many could have predicted the success head coach Mike Brown's team would have without the NBA's leading scorer.

The Lakers have been without the all-star guard for six games and have been the victors in four of those, including wins over the No. 1-seeded San Antonio Spurs and last year's NBA champs, the Dallas Mavericks.

But make no mistake

about it, to make a serious run at the title, the Lakers will need Kobe back soon.

Big men Andrew Bynum and Pau Gasol have done wonders for L.A. in the paint and on the boards while guard Ramon Sessions continues to prove his worth as the regular season nears its end.

The inconsistent bench of the Lakers have been called the worst in the league, but have done enough in these past games to demand some recognition from Western Conference foes and Laker-haters alike and should help LA go deep in this year's playoffs.

Clippers (38-23)

The Clippers are 12-2 in their last 14 games, a span that includes two victories over the Oklahoma City Thunder. Chris Paul has been key for L.A. in his first season with the team and the Clippers are slowly trying to make their way past the big-brother Lakers for the No. 3 seed in the Western Conference.

Paul and forward Blake Griffin have helped the Clippers average nearly 98 points

per game and are one of the most electrifying teams in the league.

The new-found glory of the Clipper Nation has fans buzzing all over L.A. in hopes that one day they too will have a banner hanging in the rafters of the Staples Center.

Kings (lead 3-0)

The Kings have surprised all of the NHL by knocking around the Vancouver Canucks in the opening round of the playoffs and are one win away from taking down the top seed in the west.

In their last win, the Kings held the Canucks' fifth-ranked offense scoreless and still have another home game to finish off the series on Wednesday.

L.A. hockey fans have had to deal with the annoying neighboring Anaheim Ducks' fans for the past years and finally have a chance to flaunt their success if they can pull off the upset.

Dodgers (9-2)

The boys in blue have had one of the best starts in franchise history and are 9-2

in 2012.

L.A. is in line to match its 12-2 start from the 2005 season and with the bats of outfielders Matt Kemp and Andre Ethier, fans will have lots to cheer about this season.

Kemp and Ethier have hit their team to the top five in runs scored and have combined to hit nine home runs so far this year.

Starting pitcher Clayton Kershaw is looking for an encore performance from last year's Cy Young campaign, but the arms of Chad Billingsley and Aaron Harang have worked as the perfect compliment for the Dodger rotation.

Galaxy (2-3-0)

Midfielder David Beckham and Co. have struggled in the early parts of this season, but the MLS Cup still belongs to the reigning champions.

Forward Robbie Keane and veteran Landon Donovan will have to lead the offensive charge for L.A. while former CSUN defender Sean Franklin can help the Galaxy get on top of the MLS ranks once again.



COURTESY OF MCT

Dodger Dee Gordon runs to home plate after a Juan Rivera single in the seventh inning against the Pirates at Dodger Stadium last Wednesday. The Dodgers, along with every other Los Angeles team, are currently having a remarkable season.

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

- ACROSS**
- 1 As yet
 - 6 "Atlas Shrugged" writer Ayn
 - 10 WWII carriers
 - 14 '60s-'70s Twins star Tony
 - 15 Sautéing acronym, à la Rachael Ray
 - 16 Ear-related
 - 17 "Doesn't bother me!"
 - 19 "Zapata!": Brando film
 - 20 Harbinger of lower temperatures
 - 21 Man on a misión
 - 22 Biblical mount
 - 23 More than hesitant
 - 24 Sign of puppy love?
 - 25 Ben & Jerry's purchase
 - 26 Spice gathered by hand from crocus flowers
 - 30 Leave no escape route for
 - 33 Aquamarine, e.g.
 - 34 Carol syllables
 - 35 After "on," relying mostly on hope in desperate circumstances
 - 39 Stinky
 - 40 Floor cleaner
 - 41 ___ fit: tantrum
 - 42 "500" race-sanctioning group
 - 44 Boxer Max
 - 46 Fed. property agency
 - 47 Prefix suggesting savings
 - 49 Sox, on scoreboards
 - 52 Creep
 - 54 Deli sandwich
 - 56 Brit of Fox News
 - 57 "Shake!"
 - 58 Most draftable
 - 59 Fortitude
 - 60 Cardiologist's concern
 - 61 Cold War initials
 - 62 Year, on monuments
 - 63 Small fry

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30	31	32				33			34				
35					36	37			38				
39					40				41				
42				43				44	45				
			46				47	48			49	50	51
52	53					54					55		
56						57							
58						59					60		
61						62					63		

By Norm Guggenbiller

4/18/12

- DOWN**
- 1 Puccini opera
 - 2 Butterlike products
 - 3 Bohr of the Manhattan Project
 - 4 Ancient Roman poet
 - 5 Hemming and hawing
 - 6 Apply more varnish to
 - 7 ___-garde
 - 8 Waters between Great Britain and Europe
 - 9 Fawn's mom
 - 10 Chick flick subject
 - 11 Dangerous bottom feeders
 - 12 DVR pioneer
 - 13 Battle reminder
 - 18 Wrinkle remover
 - 21 Personal ad abbr.
 - 25 Schoolyard handshake
 - 27 Sound system part
 - 28 Cheers for a torero
 - 29 Not a one
 - 30 Mata ___

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

I	S	M	L	I	O	N	F	R	A	N	C		
S	W	E	E	T	U	I	S	L	I	B	E	L	
A	I	D	S	T	I	C	K	F	I	G	U	R	E
A	R	I	E	S	A	E	O	N	T	O	O		
C	L	U	B	S	A	N	D	W	I	C	H		
	M	O	O	L	A	L	H	A	S	A	N		
T	U	R	N	O	K	E	Y	E	M	O	T	E	
A	T	A	C	U	E	C	A	R	D	M	O	M	
L	A	R	G	O	D	O	R	A	M	E	M	O	
C	H	E	A	P	O	I	N	F	E	R			
	B	A	T	M	A	S	T	E	R	S	O	N	
O	B	I	P	O	O	P	L	E	A	S	E		
P	A	D	D	L	E	W	H	E	E	L	U	K	E
E	L	E	V	E	S	I	E	E	L	A	D		
C	L	A	R	A	D	E	E	R	T	R			

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- 31 Obi-Wan portrayer
- 32 Psychological tricks
- 33 Econ. yardstick
- 36 Org. with a much-quoted journal
- 37 Like beer cans before recycling
- 38 Dimming gadget
- 43 Lo-___: lite
- 44 Mackerel-like fish
- 45 Pre-med subj.
- 48 Replace a dancer, perhaps
- 49 Paper-pusher
- 50 Gold rush storyteller Bret
- 51 "Don't get any ___"
- 52 Dynasty during Confucius' time
- 53 Legs it
- 55 Hail in a harbor
- 57 Sports tour organizer, for short

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Solution to today's sudoku

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

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

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.



BASEBALL

Unlucky seventh

Matadors keep up with No. 11 UCLA before seven-run seventh inning does them in on the road

GILBERTO MANZANO
SENIOR REPORTER

WESTWOOD – The Matadors hadn't forgotten an embarrassing 19-7 loss in their home opener on Feb. 21 to their rivals from Westwood.

At Jackie Robinson Stadium for a second go-round against the No. 11 Bruins Tuesday night, CSUN came out swinging, scoring early and taking a 3-2 lead in the fourth inning.

"(The home opener) was on our mind and we definitely wanted to get back at (the Bruins) for that loss they put on us," CSUN's Nate Ring said.

Similar to the first meeting, the CSUN bats kept up with the mighty Bruins in the initial innings. Unfortunately for them, that wasn't the only resemblance to the first game.

Once again, the wheels fell off in the latter innings of the game for CSUN as it allowed seven runs in the seventh en route to a 12-4 defeat to UCLA (25-8) in non-conference play.

"That's kinda been the history against UCLA, we play with them early and then it gets away from us," said Ring, whose team trailed 10-7 going into the eighth inning of the Feb. 21 meeting before giving up nine runs. "It's frustrating when that happens."

By the seventh inning on Tuesday night, CSUN (16-20) had relinquished its 3-2 lead, but only trailed 6-3. But then the frame became one to forget for the Matadors.

In the dreadful inning, CSUN allowed five runners on base before retiring the first batter. The Bruins brought up 11 men to the plate and recorded eight hits and only left one runner stranded by the end of it.

"Once (UCLA) started hitting the ball pretty well, we

UP NEXT:

Matadors vs. CSUB
Tuesday (3 p.m.)

had a couple mental errors on defense and mentally we kinda shut down and didn't get things going after that," said CSUN first baseman Cal Vogelsang.

Despite the disheartening defeat, Vogelsang took some positives from the outing.

"We hung with them for seven solid innings, we did pretty well," said Vogelsang, who had three hits. "UCLA is a solid team, they do everything. Forget about the seventh inning."

CSUN took the lead in the top of the fourth with a double from Ring, who had two hits and a RBI for the night. The hit drove in Steven Keller from first

base to give the Matadors the 3-2 advantage.

Northridge didn't hold the lead for long as the Bruins scored two runs in the bottom half of the inning. UCLA catcher Trevor Brown kicked off the scoring inning with an infield single. He later advanced to second on a single by Pat Valaika, bringing Pat Gallagher to the plate with two on and one out.

Gallagher delivered a base hit to right field, which brought home Brown for the 3-3 tie. That ended redshirt freshman Louis Cohen's day on the mound. Cohen pitched 3.1 innings and allowed seven hits.

Reliever Brandon Warner, a freshman, allowed a RBI single against the first batter he faced, giving UCLA a 4-3 lead and charging another run to Cohen. Warner got the next two batters out to end the fourth.

CSUN used five pitchers. Cohen got his second loss of 2012.

"It's a different environment here, it's a night game, nice facility and there's some nerves that go with that," said CSUN head coach Matt Curtis about his young pitchers. "They're growing and it's a function of the inexperience we have."

UCLA used seven pitchers. Zack Ortiz recorded the win.

The Bruins had 18 hits compared to the Matadors' 11.



MARIELA MOLINA / PHOTO EDITOR

CSUN outfielder Miles Williams tries to reach base at Jackie Robinson Stadium Tuesday. The Matadors hung with No. 11 UCLA early on, but faltered in the seventh inning.

SOFTBALL

Grand challenge: Matadors visit No. 15 UCLA



YOKO MAEGAWA / CONTRIBUTOR

CSUN catcher Mikayla Thielges swings at a pitch during a game against Oregon State on March 28. Thielges and the Matadors take on UCLA on the road today.

ALONSO TACANGA
SPORTS EDITOR

As Mia Pagano's first grand slam of her life went over the left wall at Bob Jansen Field – pointing the way to a 4-0 CSUN win Saturday against Cal Poly – an array of emotions fluxed through her.

"I didn't even know how to react," Pagano said. "(My teammates) were so excited for me. It was just the best feeling."

Pagano, who also took the mound on the day, not only matched a career high with four RBI, she was also the winning pitcher after only allowing two hits from the Mustangs.

With the exciting win now behind her, Pagano is looking for new thrills. The Matadors heading to Westwood to take on No. 15 UCLA today is a start.

"I'm actually really excited because (the Bruins) are a very tough team and I want to face those good hitters," Pagano said.

With the win against the Mustangs becoming only the eighth of the season in 39 tries for the Matadors (8-31), Pagano's words carry quite a bit of boldness. The UCLA hitters are tops in the Pac-12 Conference, hitting .357 with an impressive 62 home runs in 2012.

The Bruins (29-12) count with a seemingly endless number of proficient hitters. Two of them are elite: freshman infielder Stephany LaRosa and senior outfielder Katie Schroeder, who are hitting better than .430 while combining for 117 hits in the year.

While CSUN hasn't been on the winning side too often in 2012, it has shown signs of improvements as of late, particularly on the offensive side. The Matadors have averaged 7.2 hits per game in their last five outings.

Unfortunately for them, they only had the Saturday win to show for the solid offensive stretch. But Pagano still sees

her team going in the right direction, partly the reason why she seems unfazed at the mighty challenge the No. 15 Bruins represent.

"Just to prove to everyone that we're a competitive team and that our record doesn't show how good we really are," she said.

It's not only Pagano who feels that way. CSUN catcher Mikayla Thielges, who has 23 hits and six home runs this year, said the Matadors are "definitely getting better." She also recalls the beginning of the Big West Conference schedule in which CSUN visited current-first-place Pacific and took two of three games from it.

The losses are the only ones the Tigers have suffered in Big West play so far.

"We just have got to work together and have that fire and that excitement we had (at Pacific)," Thielges said.

The junior also recognizes that CSUN isn't having the best

year, but she says that doesn't deter her nor her teammates.

"Losing's not fun, obviously, but it's making us better people," Thielges said. "It's teaching us how to find positives and just work through it."

Against the ranked Bruins on the road, the Matadors have their work cut out for them, but they like their chances.

Another grand slam and/or superb pitching performance by Pagano sure wouldn't hurt, though.

"It's never a doubt of whether we're capable," Pagano said. "It's just giving the little extra when we need it."

TODAY

Matadors @ UCLA
at 2 p.m.
Easton Stadium