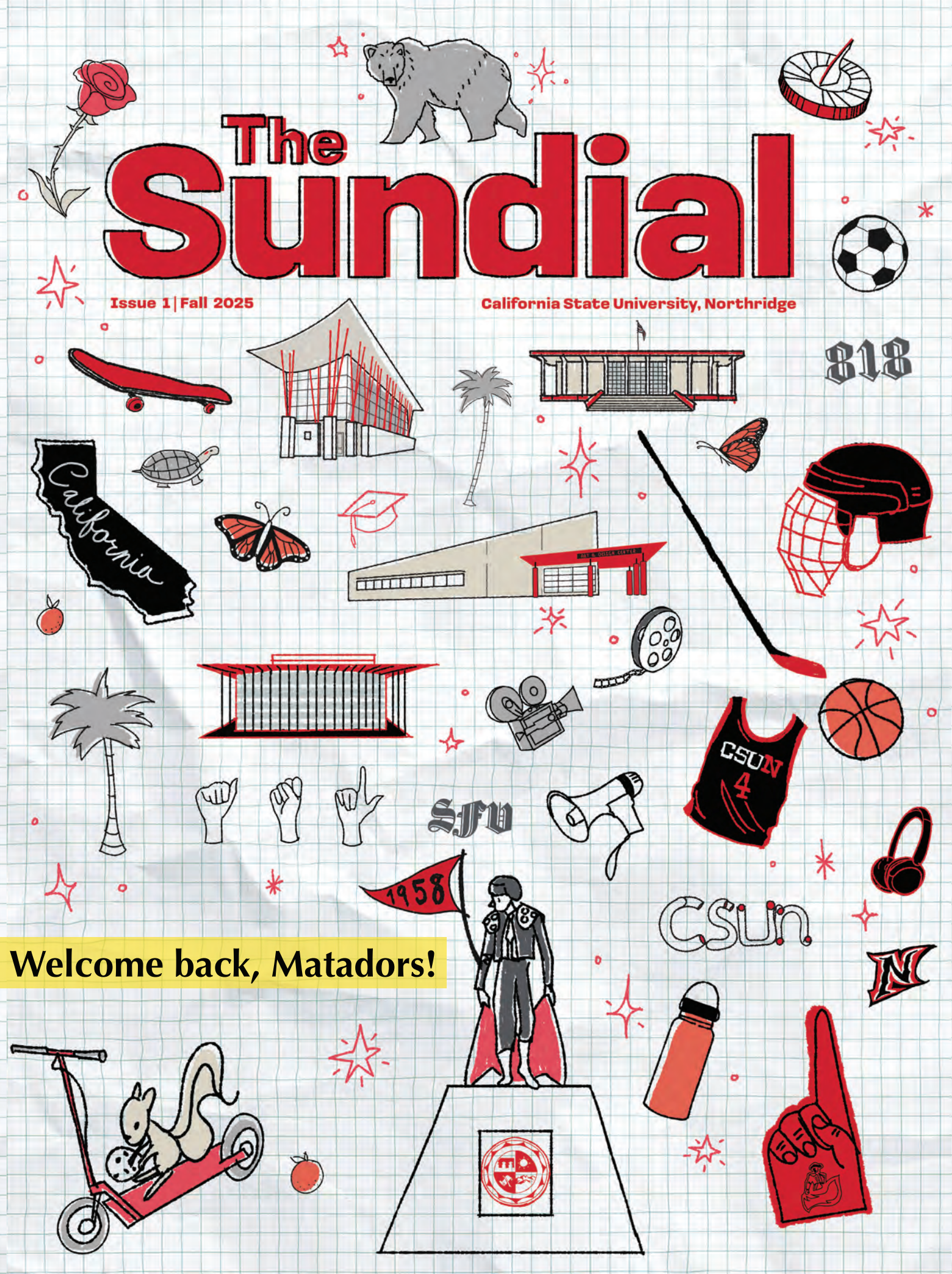


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## What's In My Bag? 03

### Featured

## 04

### Words Of Advice From A Senior

Freshman Dos And Don'ts

## 05

### Food Under \$20

CSUN Eats A-Z



**"We Are The Target" 06**

**From Weights To Wellness 08**

**Connecting Through Culture 10**

**Grieving Is Difficult. And That Is OK. 11**

**Media Querencia 12**

**Opinion 14**

**Sundial Games 16**



# Editor's Letter



Dear Sundial readers,

As the school year begins, along with it comes new schedules, new Matadors and for the Daily Sundial, a new Editor-in-Chief. I am beyond excited for the opportunity to lead the Daily Sundial toward continued greatness.

This print issue is nothing short of fantastic, showcasing the important, diverse experiences surrounding us. CSUN students are the lifeblood of our campus, bringing with them unique advice, perspectives and experiences throughout their years here. I hope that this issue highlights every aspect of the back-to-school season, from its challenges to its peaks.

I can't wait for a year filled with newness, and I can only expect the unexpected. The one thing I do know as I step into this position and this school year simultaneously is that your stories as CSUN students are unequivocally important, and I can't wait to tell them.

I look forward to experiencing the shiny newness of an untouched semester with you all.

Jaya Roberts  
Editor-in-Chief

## The Sundial

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# What's in my bag?

## My back-to-school essentials

BY JAYA ROBERTS • PHOTOGRAPHY BY CLAIRE GERIAK

### Decomposition notebooks

These notebooks are cool, good quality and planet-friendly, oh my! Available on [decomposition.com](http://decomposition.com)

### Journal

I always keep a journal handy for when to-do lists or scrapbooking come calling. Available on [michaels.com](http://michaels.com)

### Change Purse

Purchased in the middle-of-nowhere on a road trip, this change purse fits all my cards perfectly. Available on [blueq.com](http://blueq.com)

### MacBook Pro

As a journalism student, I can't go anywhere without my laptop. It acts as a textbook and notebook all wrapped up in one. Available on [apple.com](http://apple.com)

### Touchland Hand Sanitizer

A must for back-to-school, Touchland hand sanitizers keep my hands clean on the go, and not to mention, smell great. Available on [touchland.com](http://touchland.com)

### Papermate Profile (1.4mm pens)

I've tried many pens in my schooling career, but these are by far my favorite. Available on [papermate.com](http://papermate.com)

### Lactaids

Anyone who knows me knows I always have Lactaid pills in my purse. Available on [lactaid.com](http://lactaid.com)

### Summer Fridays Lip Butter Balm

I love every color and scent of these lip balms, and I always have one around. Available on [summerfridays.com](http://summerfridays.com)

### About the Bag: Free People Emerson Tote

This bag holds everything I could need on campus while looking fashionable at the same time. Available on [freepeople.com](http://freepeople.com)

Image courtesy of Free People



# MATADOR'S LIST OF DO'S AND DON'TS

## FIRST SEMESTER EDITION

BY CLAIRE GERIAK

Navigating a new environment can be a challenge, and maneuvering around different opportunities and connections while balancing academics can be overwhelming. Daily Sundial editors submitted tips to help get one foot in the door as a first-year student. From moving out of the house to parking logistics, this curated list of do's and don'ts can provide a guideline during the first year of college.

### DO'S



"I would definitely say to open yourself up to making friends and spending time on campus-you truly never know where you'll meet new friends! Don't take all your classes online-I did because I was scared to step out of my comfort zone, but coming on campus has made such a big difference in my college experience and allowed me to start enjoying my time more."

- Jaya Roberts, Editor-In-Chief



"Definitely start using a physical or digital planner and reminders for each of your classes on your phone or any events going on."

- Julia Torres, News Editor



"Take advantage of the food, and go to the free events. Also, try to connect with at least one person in each class."

- Emily Maciel, Sports Editor

### DONT'S



"Don't bring everything from your house when you move. Not all of your clothes, just what would be a change for about two weeks, so you have space to buy more stuff."

- Julia Torres, News Editor



"Don't think that you don't need a parking permit! If an all-day parking pass is around \$11, and if you go to school at least two times a week, you'll end up paying around \$300 by the end of the semester, which would have paid off the cost of the semester-long permit. Additionally, get to school about an hour early during the first month of classes. Even if you secure a spot early, you'll have time to explore your campus and grab a bite."

- Claire Geriak, Managing Editor



"Don't feel pressured to stick with your initial major. It is so common to switch. Try not to isolate yourself even if you're new to the area."

- Emily Maciel, Sports Editor



# CSUN EATS A-Z under \$20

BY JAYA ROBERTS • ILLUSTRATED BY NINA HUERTA

Tired of the same items on campus? We've compiled a list of food and drinks around CSUN's campus to strike some inspiration the next time you want to switch things up.



## Avocado Toast -

Waffle Love 11.59  
9411 Reseda Blvd.



## Black Sesame Bingsoo (Shaved Ice) -

Peak Cafe 8.00  
18436 Dearborn St.



## Chicken Caesar Salad -

Orange Grove Bistro 10.95  
18111 Nordhoff St.



## Dave's #1: 2 Tenders w/ Fries -

Dave's Hot Chicken 12.99  
9205 Reseda Blvd.



## Einspanner Dream -

House Roots Coffee 6.50  
18401 Nordhoff St. Suite A



## Falafel Pita -

Falafel Palace 11.99  
9255 Reseda Blvd.



## Grammy's Goods shake -

Shake Smart 7.75  
18111 Nordhoff St.



## Huevos Rancheros -

Emle's Restaurant 14.99  
9250 Reseda Blvd. Suite 1



## Iced Sea Salt Coffee -

Cafe 86 6.50  
9717 Reseda Blvd.



## Juicy Pork Dumplings -

Northern Cafe 11.99  
9305 Reseda Blvd.



## Kimchi Seasoning Fries -

Two Hands Corn Dogs 6.99  
18431 Nordhoff St.



## Lychee Chamomile Tonic -

Yellow House Cafe 6.50  
8926 Reseda Blvd.



## Matador Forever Latte -

R Cafe 5.50  
9255 Reseda Blvd. Unit B



## Nachos -

Mi Ranchito 15.99  
9301 Tampa Ave.



## Original Eggcellent Burrito -

Eggtuck 8.79  
9530 Reseda Blvd.



## Peanut Cream Top -

Re: Coffee 7.00  
9225 Reseda Blvd.



## Quesadilla Combo -

Tacos 1986 12.00  
9039 Lindley Ave.



## Rainbow Rocket Water Ice -

Happy Ice 6.00  
18427 Nordhoff St. Suite B



## Salami and Cheese -

My Hero Subs 7.05  
9514 Reseda Blvd. Unit 15



## Triple Dipper -

Chili's 17.99  
9200 Reseda Blvd.



## Ubatuba Acai Bowl -

Ubatuba Acai 12.00  
9667 Reseda Blvd.



## Vegetable Ramen -

Maru Ramen 16.95  
9035 Reseda Blvd.



## Wurst Burrito -

Dog Haus 12.99  
8931 Reseda Blvd.



## Xiao Long Bao (Steamed Chicken Soup Dumplings) -

Trader Joe's 3.49  
9224 Reseda Blvd.



## Yellowtail Scallion Roll -

King's Burgers and Got  
Sushi 10.50  
9345 Reseda Blvd.



## Zucchini Sticks -

Farmer Boys 6.69  
9010 Reseda Blvd.

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# “We are the target”

## Immigrant Matadors on edge

BY JAYA ROBERTS, TEAGAN DAVIDGE AND BELLA VEGA VICTORIANO

GRAPHIC BY NINA HUERTA



Jazmin Garcia Gaspar should be celebrating having completed her freshman year at California State University, Northridge, on a full-ride scholarship. But unable to afford college tuition due to her father’s deportation, she is afraid her first year might be her last.

“My mom has been worried that my program is going to be shut down, especially because that’s the only reason I’m in college,” said Garcia Gaspar, a Bridge to the Future Scholar. “I do have a lot of worry in my day-to-day life, thinking if my program’s going to get shut down. And if it does, I feel like I’m going to have to drop out.”

Garcia Gaspar is not the only one who has to face repressive barriers that affect her college career. The uncertainty that comes with family separation, deportation and elimination of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) programs is pervasive on campus.

More than half of CSUN students are the first in their family to attend college, and many come from immigrant families. According to CSUN, the university also has a high undocumented student population, making up about 6% of the student body. More than 1,100 students were enrolled under AB 540 qualification in the spring semester, ensuring eligibility for in-state tuition despite not being U.S. citizens or legal residents.

“There’s anxiety, there’s uncertainty, it feels like there’s just so many moving pieces. It’s hard to know what’s legal one day, what’s going to be illegal the next,” said CSUN Assistant

Professor of Elementary Education Alexandria Hollett.

The Trump administration is attempting to eliminate DEI programs, which it describes as “radical” and “wasteful.” Another executive order threatened noncompliant universities and school districts with a removal of federal funding.

A New Hampshire judge blocked the order on April 24, 2025, citing the vagueness around what a DEI program is and Trump’s lack of authority to make such sweeping changes. It’s unclear what would happen if it moves to the Supreme Court.

Additionally, concerns have arisen for many immigrants across the U.S. following a number of governmental crackdowns on immigration. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Removal Statistics states that more than 71,400 ICE removals have taken place in the fiscal year 2025.

Even in spaces that have been created to help immigrant students and their families, fear seeps in.

“There’s a lot of uncertainty. There’s a lot of fear,” said Irvin Rendon, CSUN’s DREAM Center manager. “People are scared. They don’t know where they are safe.”

The University Student Union’s center is the primary location for students of non-citizen status to build community and access important resources. However, governmental policies have impeded on that space.

“Students who might have come to the center more regularly have stopped doing that, but they still attend the



***There's anxiety, there's uncertainty, it feels like there's just so many moving pieces. It's hard to know what's legal one day, what's going to be illegal the next. - Assistant Professor of Elementary Education Alexandria Hollett***

programs and events. Being in this space when there's not a program might bring negative attention to them, and that's where some of their fear stems from," said Rendon.

The center offers events like "The Right to Travel for Non-Citizens: Updates on Advance Parole and Domestic Travel," and "Undocumented Student Ally Training," with the goal of keeping students up to date on immigration policy changes.

Although many students are able to acquire resources through the DREAM Center, they can't help but still feel unsafe on campus. Some of their fear is due to the university's president not providing a statement on her allyship with the undocumented community.

Some CSUN students, despite being citizens themselves, are burdened by fears about their family members coming in contact with immigration officers while away at school.

"I feel like it makes me super anxious when my family that's undocumented go to work or anything, because anything—a traffic stop or any interaction with police—kind of scares me, and they're extremely scared too," said Giuliana Melgar, a fourth-year journalism student.

Melgar's younger cousins have also faced obstacles entering higher education due to their parents' immigration statuses.

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid supplied students with \$114.9 billion in grants and loans last year, which enabled many of these students to attend college. However, with ICE making agreements with the IRS, even filling out the FAFSA is a safety risk.

"That could greatly impact whether they go to college or not, which is really devastating," Melgar said.

Along with consistent, updated information on CSUN's campus related to immigration topics, the DREAM Center

offers legal services to all faculty, staff, students and their immediate families through CARECEN's College Legal Services. Alumni can also receive services up to two years after graduating.

"Our CLS Team offers removal defense services for CSU students only. We will handle this case by case, however, if we are unable to provide these services through the College Legal Services team, we can refer the case to another department within CARECEN," said Celeste Concha, a college paralegal from CARECEN.

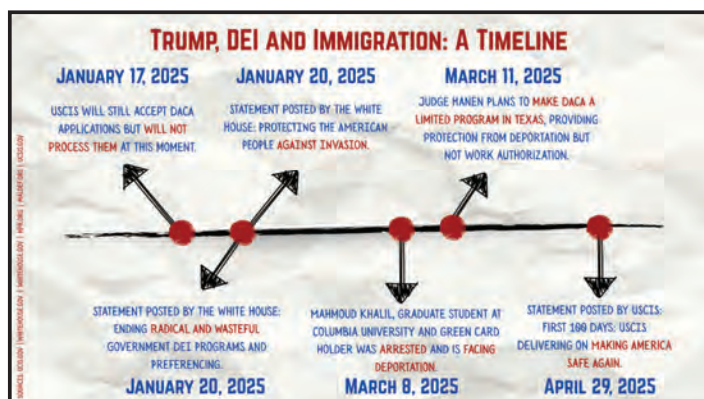
Professor Hollett recently volunteered to assist in hosting a "Know Your Rights" training for CSUN students in the College of Education. The event was held in the wake of Los Angeles Unified School District encounters with agents of the Department of Homeland Security and ICE.

Hollett explained that while training events are crucial to ensure the protection of students in all grade levels, the reactions and responses of the university are only a pinpoint into an issue affecting students across the country.

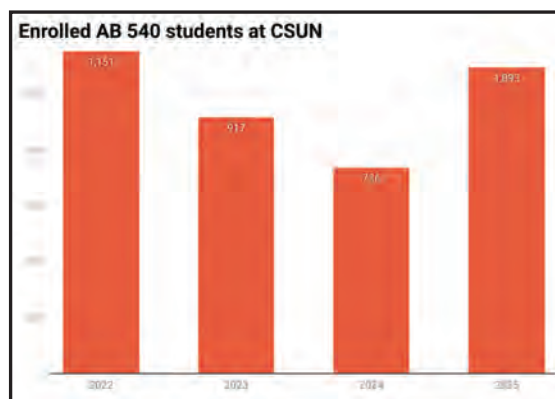
"Most of what I'm seeing happen is responsive to the current moment, and it is a form of triage. We want to stop the bleeding, so to speak," said Hollett. "Our campus is a microcosm of this broader conversation, but there's a lot you can learn from just looking at CSUN."

Despite similar anxieties echoing across campus, resilient students try their best to support each other.

"If we don't stick together, then they're the ones who are gonna win, which is unfair to all the hard working undocumented immigrants that are here paying taxes and they're getting treated this way," said Melgar. "The best thing we could do is hope and try not to live in that fear, because that's exactly what they want."



Jaya Roberts



Teagan Davidge • Created with Datawrapper

# From weights to wellness

## Inside CSUN's Girl Gains Club

BY JULIA TORRES



Photo by Julia Torres

Despite the constant rain storms throughout mid-February, the Girl Gains Club at CSUN is shifting its gears and organizing tabling events to recruit new members into the weightlifting club.

Co-President Carolina Guzman shared the history of CSUN's Girl Gains chapter, which she has participated in for three years. Guzman helped to start the chapter by promoting a place where girls can feel comfortable at the gym, or in this case, the Student Recreation Center (SRC).

"I know when I started here, I would go to the

weightlifting area in the gym, and I felt very intimidated because all I saw were guys so I had to get my friend to go to the gym with me so I wouldn't be alone," Guzman said.

According to the co-president, the club's next steps are to find a space for weekly meetings and check-ins and reach out to more potential members through tabling and social media.

The Girl Gains chapters from CSUN, UCLA and USC flex for the camera after their hike to the Hollywood sign during the fall 2024 semester. Girl Gains tries to organize at



*We want to extend the narrative that lifting isn't just for guys, like, girls can be just lifters too.*

*- Secretary Annie Duncan*

least one event where the chapters in Los Angeles meet up for a workout. (Carolina Guzman )

Girl Gains has chapters at approximately 24 colleges, including a few smaller chapters that have emerged in high schools. Only two are in the LA area. Different groups come together a few times each semester to participate in workouts. Last year, the University of Southern California, the University of California, Los Angeles and CSUN collaborated to go hiking and have fun.

The chapter at CSUN began in much the same way as the organization, through TikTok. Elisabeth Bradley and Karina Glaze amassed a large following during the pandemic, coinciding with TikTok's rising popularity. After starting at the University of California, San Diego, Bradley observed a lack of women at the school gym and decided to start Girl Gains in 2020. Guzman followed her example, channeling her experience on sports teams since high school.

"I have always been in a team," she said. "Yes, we were all dying together, but it really bonded us. I felt like it was easier to do physical activity rather than alone because we were all pushing each other."

The club schedules gym sessions during the week, led by one of the board members. It also holds weekly meetings for check-ins, meal planning and guest speakers.

Their biggest obstacle has been encouraging members to attend gym sessions throughout their busy school day.

"When I graduate, I do want this to continue because I feel like this is such an important club here," Guzman said, sharing how when she first started in the club, she reached out to many on-campus athletes and spread the word, getting a lot of good feedback and participation. Her goal has always been to normalize women being in the gym and make it fun rather than stressful.

Treasurer Ebony Lubin, a biology major, joined the club simultaneously with Guzman. Although her knowledge of weightlifting was limited before she entered college, thanks to the club, she has learned how to incorporate full-body workouts into her daily routine to relieve stress and get a better night's sleep.

Once Lubin began college, she had a heavier workload and went to the gym less, but found the motivation within the club to push each other through "one more rep."

"It's always about the outcome," she said. "To be able



The Girl Gains chapters from CSUN, UCLA and USC flex for the camera after their hike to the Hollywood sign during the fall 2024 semester. Girl Gains tries to organize at least one event where the chapters in Los Angeles meet up for a workout. (Photographed by Carolina Guzman)

to say that was a good workout and relax. Just the feeling of it, sometimes it's hard to find where to start, but once you start, you learn to like it. You find your strengths and weaknesses."

Secretary Annie Duncan is only in her first semester with the club but has already started her weightlifting journey in a community of girls who prefer to work out with friends. As a beginner, she wants to expand the idea of a judgment-free environment where people feel comfortable regardless of their level or form in the gym and no longer worry about the number of people present.

"We want to extend the narrative that lifting isn't just for guys, like, girls can be just lifters too," Duncan said.

According to Guzman, Girl Gains also elaborates on the importance of mental health through going to the gym. During the winter break, each board member created and posted a video of a typical day. Each one ended their day with a workout, showing the importance of having that break to center themselves.

"We just want to normalize seeing more girls in the gym and get past that gender role of the gym being meant only for guys," Duncan said. "It can totally be a female-dominated space."

# Connecting through culture with Black Girl Magic

BY EMILY MACIEL • PHOTOGRAPHY BY BENJAMIN HANSON

Creating a strong community for Black women and allies is what affinity group Black Girl Magic (BGM) at CSUN strives to do for students.

The group was created in 2016 with efforts to connect Black women through personal and shared experiences. BGM is constantly recruiting new members to the group.

"We try to teach, but we also try to have people come in and we have fun," Vice President Kennedy Carter said. "We try to have events where we can allow the other Black women on campus to meet others like them."

According to Carter, the primary focus is for Black women to feel more comfortable on campus. The group is diverse in age range, and while the most members reside in student housing, anyone is welcome to join.

Paint N' Sip is one of the group's most popular events, taking place at least once every semester. The event allows students' creativity to flow while enjoying apple cider and an array of finger foods.

BGM President Adaya-Joy Gyimah joined the group after attending a Paint N' Sip in 2021 with Carter, who was her roommate at the time.

"We were really there for food cause [we're] hungry college students. At the end of the day, I'm looking for the food, but the vibe was definitely there. I was seeing a lot more of us other than just my roommate," Gyimah said. "Black Girl Magic having that gave us that college experience – cool vibes of just sitting there painting, pretending like we're sipping wine and chilling with each other really made me want to be a part of that so bad."

Every semester, BGM organizes new events with self-care and de-stressors being a hot commodity among members.

The essence of BGM and its name hold personal significance for Carter, who has been part of the group as both a mentee and mentor.

"Sisterhood, community and to me it's such a powerful name, just the way 'Black Girl Magic' sounds to me like strength,"

Carter said. "You could come with a friend, whether she's a Black woman or not – we just want everybody to feel welcome. Community is for everyone."

To Gyimah, the name evokes the same type of powerful feelings.

"Black Girl Magic means to me definitely powerful Black women... women who are seeing not too many of themselves and just trying to make a community," she said. "I see Black women as just women getting shit done."

When it comes to their future goals, BGM strives to attract more people to their events. Through feedback from those attending, the board works to give students the experience they would like to see.

Ethel Akaninwor, the group's secretary, joined BGM to feel closer to the Black community.

"If you see me, I'm a Black woman, but I was not raised around other Black people, so it was harder for me to make friends and relate on issues that Black women have as a whole," Akaninwor said. "It was nice to see that there were people that were willing to welcome me, bring me into the group and learn about what it is to be a Black woman in college."

Akaninwor has faced personal issues throughout her time at CSUN and expressed gratitude for the group, saying she would not have remained in school if it were not for the women's support.

BGM is able to maintain a close-knit community by creating a safe space that can feel like a home away from home, especially for those in student housing who are miles from their hometown.

"Housing is a secluded space where once you come onto campus, you kind of don't leave unless you go home for the holidays. But for people that are out of state, or even out of the LA area, it's hard to go home," Akaninwor said. "We always have that community, that friendship, sometimes family, and it doesn't really go anywhere 'cause we're kind of with each other for four years... it's us against the world for four years."





# Grieving is difficult. And that is okay.

BY GABRIEL DUARTE • PHOTO BY BENJAMIN HANSON

In January 2019, my dad died due to a work-related illness. He was a Los Angeles County Fire Department paramedic for over 20 years without skipping a beat. But within a matter of months after getting sick, he died. He was only 49-years-old.

Just like that, my world flipped upside down. My dad was such a monumental figure in my life. I was 15-years-old when he died, and sometimes it feels like I haven't grown since then.

That's what grief does to you. It can snatch up who you are as a person, and that's what it did to me. For a long, long time, I never acknowledged how I felt, despite being constantly reminded of what happened.

I acted out in school, had my grades drop, and wasn't the best son to my mom. I let grief consume who I was by pretending to be someone I wasn't.

It wasn't until I reached college and did some serious self-reflection that it dawned on me that I didn't like the path I was going down. My mind was trying to move on, but my soul wasn't healing. I repressed a lot of how I felt by just ignoring the grief.

By my sophomore year, I had no sense of the direction I was heading in. So, I decided to try to be productive and join the Daily Sundial. I had no clue that I was going to begin my healing journey.

One of the most vivid feelings I recall is the first time I was credentialed for a game at the Rose Bowl. While inside the elevator heading up to the press box, I felt an overwhelming urge to call my dad before reality set in.

There would be no answer on the other line.

Even on one of the most exciting days of my life, grief managed to slither inside my mind. Sports was the glue that held my relationship with my dad together. It was one of the things we bonded over most.

I still remember the time I helped him draft a fantasy football team. I couldn't have been any older than 9-years-old, but I could see and hear the excitement emanating from him as I was reciting each player's name verbatim.

My dad is the reason I wanted to get into sports journalism



and not just standard news. As I went out to cover sporting events and interview world-class athletes, all I could think about was how proud my dad would be if he could see the things I did.

Being able to cover sporting events gives me the solace I need because it allows me to connect to my dad on a level deeper than anyone can understand.

I also find solace in music and movies. In fact, after watching *Top Gun: Maverick* for the first time in theaters, I cried.

Throughout my childhood, I couldn't go more than a week without hearing my dad sing "Danger Zone" by Kenny Loggins. He loved playing beach volleyball, just like they did in the original *Top Gun*.

I know without a doubt in my mind that he would've loved to watch the movie, and it made me sad we weren't doing it together. It was a nice reminder for myself that it's okay to be human. It's okay to miss my dad and to be still grieving, even three years after his death.

Scan the QR code to continue reading



# Cantando

WRITTEN BY PAMELA GARCIA

For some students, the first few weeks of school may feel nerve-racking. Adjusting to new schedules, classmates or even being in the college setting for the first time can sometimes make you need an extra push. For those days that you need some high-energy songs to hype yourself up as you walk through campus, consider adding these to your playlist:



## Balloon

Tyler, The Creator (ft. Doechii)

Closing out his newest record "CHROMAKOPIA," Tyler, The Creator and Doechii teamed up to deliver a spirited track that screams confidence through its lyrics. Reflecting back on his success, the song 'airs out' Tyler's distaste for making connections with shallow people in the music industry.



## A.M.P.

Movements

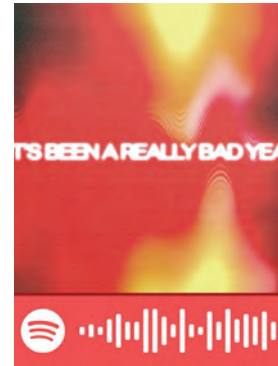
This track dives into a story centered around a fictional character that uses the attention they receive from people to their advantage. In an interview with Messed!Up Magazine, lead singer Patrick Miranda says that the song was inspired by the popular HBO show "Euphoria," with the thematic influence coming through in the lyrics of the song.



## DOUBT IT

Chase Atlantic

The third single "DOUBT IT" released prior to Chase Atlantic's newest album "LOST IN HEAVEN," uses lyrical references to the band's extensive discography with a trap-inspired beat, creating an addictive track that incorporates rap influences into alternative sounds and lyrics.



## Jesus

Young Culture (ft. Daisy Grenade)

Delivering a very classic pop-punk song with its rapid instrumentals and lyrical disses to an ex, Young Culture and Daisy Grenade combine both feminine and masculine vocals to tell the story of an on-and-off relationship between frontman Alex Magnan and a partner he just can't seem to let go of.



## Super Graphic Ultra Modern Girl

Chappell Roan

Keeping on the theme of feminine power throughout her debut album "The Rise And Fall of a Midwest Princess," this song plays out Roan's decision to drop dating men who do not do enough to please her. She later begins pursuing relationships with women that she felt had what it took to be with her.



## She's A God

Neck Deep

A deep cut from Neck Deep's discography, this 2019 single is an oldie but a goodie. It follows frontman Ben Barlow's infatuation with his romantic partner, worshipping her in a similar way one would a god or deity. Despite the fact that, as he sings in the second verse, "she's nothing like Jesus."



# El Cine

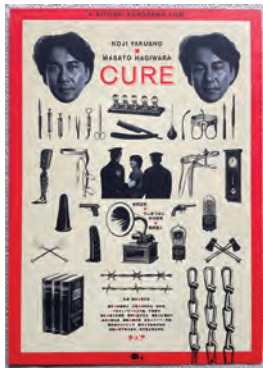
WRITTEN BY JESSE ILLANES

With the semester starting, one some of the best ways to unwind is watching films with friends or with a large group of people. These choices include horror, thrillers, comedies and action movies that are sure to all be loved by new viewers.



## Evil Dead II (1987)

The pinnacle of horror comedy is definitely a crowd pleaser. Of course, you should watch the whole series, but this film is a filmmaker's favorite movie, such as Quentin Tarantino and Guillermo del Toro, for a reason. From practical effects, camera tricks and the unique blend of slapstick humor with grotesque horror is a must-watch.



## Cure (1997)

Shocking murders plague Tokyo as a detective uncovers why complete strangers are dying the same exact way across the city. Starring "Perfect Days" (2023) Koji Yakusho, Detective Takabe encounters suspects with memory loss, eerie coincidences and a potential mastermind that is part of these murders.



## Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels (1998)

A British black comedy/crime film that focuses on a card shark losing a rigged game against a crime boss, in which he gets his friends to do deeds to pay off his £500,000 debt. Guy Richie's abrasive direction leads to an off-the-wall film with crimes going wrong and plays that has the gang attempt to keep from the crime boss.



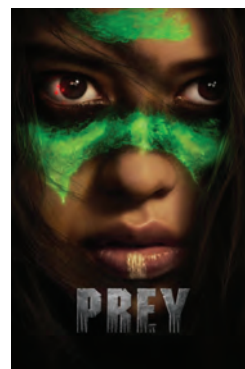
## Kung Fu Hustle (2005)

Stephen Chow's stars, directs, wrote, etc. in a martial arts film, with comedy in the forefront. Two petty thieves aspire to be part of the infamous Axe Gang in 1940s Shanghai. The combo of comedic bits and amazing fight scenes poke fun of martial arts movie archetypes while also paying homage, making this amazingly zany comedy.



## The Raid (2011)

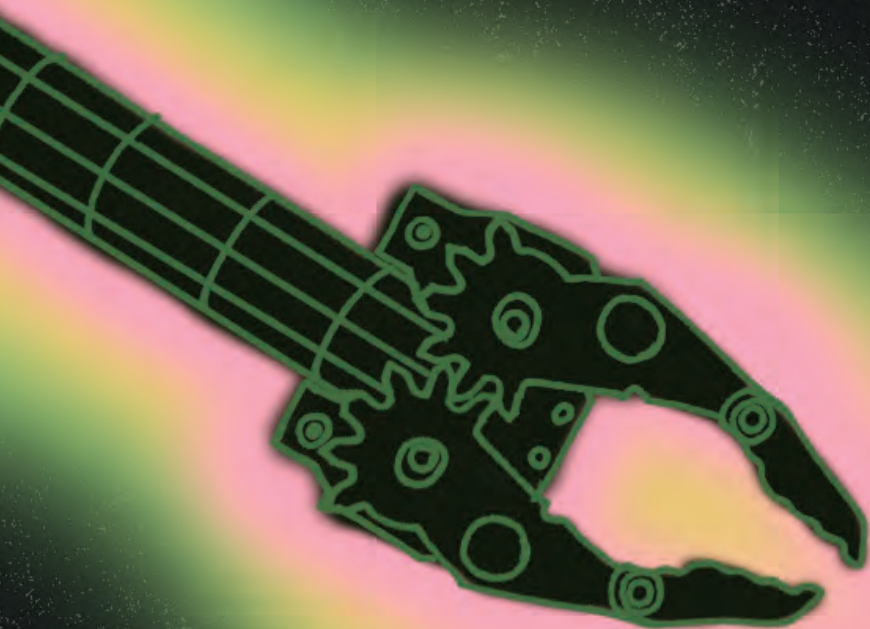
An action packed film, mixing fight scenes with shootouts, all entirely localized in an apartment building owned by a drug lord. Indonesian special forces attempt to lock down a building harboring the drug lord, which leads to absolutely unbelievable action scenes that leave you wanting more.



## Prey (2022)

This film takes place in 18th century America, focusing on a Comanche girl training to be a hunter. What the Natives discover is that a "demon" lurks in the shadows, ruthlessly killing animals and people, which turns out to be the first "Predator" that comes in contact with humans.







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# AI only gets worse from here

BY NYAN GAVINO • ILLUSTRATED BY NINA HUERTA

Improvements in technology over the past few years have sparked a new industrial revolution driven by artificial intelligence (AI). AI has proven to be a highly profitable industry, and major tech companies have been scrambling to take their share and enhance their platforms for users. However, the issue at hand remains whether or not these tools' pros outweigh their cons.

Microsoft is among the largest investors in the industry and has continued to show just how confident they are in this tech, with plans to invest billions of dollars more this year alone. Other giants like Nvidia, Apple, Google (Alphabet), Meta and Amazon have followed suit, hoping to reap the investment benefits in the long run.

Silicon Valley hasn't been the only one in the race either, as recently released ChatGPT competitor DeepSeek saw nearly immediate success and popularity in the global market, disrupting stocks in the West and seeing vast implementation in many products and services throughout China.

Clearly, these billion-dollar companies see a future in AI, but how have regular people been affected by the revolution?

When looking for information on Google about this topic, you will instantly be greeted by the search engine's new 'AI Overview' search result. This experimental AI summarizes online information into just a few sentences to reduce users' reading time, making research much more concise.

This feature greatly represents what AI implementation is really doing—lessening the load on real people by making a robot do it instead.

AI has demonstrated tangible benefits to the world, and technology usage continues to rise. A 2025 global survey by Chegg revealed that 80% of students use generative AI to support their studies. While 69% claimed they wanted their curriculum to include training in AI tools relevant to their future career. Platforms like ChatGPT and DeepSeek can significantly enhance productivity, but it appears that their primary usage has been replacing the need for human thought and research entirely.

As technology improves, users are lessening their time thinking and working. A recent study by major AI investor Microsoft revealed that using AI tools can damage critical thinking and lead to long-term reliance on the technology. Just as with any new technology, its usage will have benefits and downsides.

In the present moment, it's difficult to determine whether a society increasingly dependent on AI is for the better or worse. However, the more prevalent issue is the increasingly

*AI tools are here to stay, for better or worse, leaving it up to consumers to decide how best to utilize and engage with them*

blurry distinction between what is real and what is generated.

Scammers have taken this opportunity to use AI for their benefit, utilizing deepfakes and online fraud for financial gains. A growing trend on TikTok is AI-generated influencers advertising products through misinformation and false claims. With deepfake and generative AI tools becoming smarter, it becomes much more difficult to determine if the people you are watching are actually real. Fake writing, videos and images are becoming easier to create as tools become more accessible, while social media allows the generated content to spread rapidly.

Lawmakers worldwide recognize the threat this technology creates, but the question remains whether they are moving fast enough.

There are also major concerns about user data being stored on these platforms. Recent findings from Surfshark revealed that 30% of popular AI chatbots track and share data with third parties. Google Gemini collected the most data, including location, contact information, user content, search history, browsing history and more. Copilot, ChatGPT, DeepSeek and others were shown to collect a lot of user data.

A significant concern regarding stored data is the possibility of it leaking due to a cyber attack on one of these platforms, which is exactly what happened to DeepSeek in January. The app was forced to limit registrations temporarily because of the attack, prompting the question of whether user data is safely stored on these platforms.

It's extremely important to exercise caution online, now more than ever. When we are inundated with so much information daily, it can be hard to separate what is real from what isn't. AI tools are here to stay, for better or worse, leaving it up to consumers to decide how best to utilize and engage with them.

As these corporations continue to invest in and evolve this technology, the average person is left to deal with the consequences. Don't believe everything you see online, and fact-check information as much as humanly possible because AI certainly isn't.

## Scholar's Square

Words can be found in any direction (including diagonals).

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Q | U | N | E | L | U | D | E | H | C | S | J | D | N | X |
| S | M | Q | R | C | C | P | F | M | N | B | I | W | V | E |
| K | L | B | O | Y | Q | S | I | L | Y | D | U | T | S | S |
| O | U | E | O | Z | S | U | N | C | G | E | E | N | E | C |
| O | O | R | M | L | J | Y | A | D | M | I | A | M | X | W |
| B | W | U | M | Q | M | C | L | G | O | A | I | N | M | Q |
| T | E | T | A | R | Z | J | S | L | G | N | I | Y | I | X |
| X | C | C | T | Q | C | E | C | O | A | S | M | F | D | U |
| E | A | E | E | D | E | A | D | R | D | B | V | X | T | V |
| T | M | L | K | L | K | S | Y | Z | U | A | U | W | E | R |
| R | P | G | Y | R | O | T | I | M | R | O | D | S | R | N |
| D | U | O | R | I | E | N | T | A | T | I | O | N | M | H |
| D | S | O | X | S | I | L | L | N | D | C | C | B | S | B |
| D | F | T | J | I | U | V | F | I | L | Y | G | K | A | G |
| W | I | D | F | N | Z | S | Y | N | B | C | V | M | B | H |

Orientation

Textbooks

Study

Finals

Lecture

Seminar

Midterms

Campus

Roommate

Syllabus

Dormitory

Schedule

## Sudoku

Each 9x9 square must be filled with numbers from 1-9 with no repeats in each line, horizontally or vertically. There are also 3x3 squares marked out in the grid (there can also be no repeat numbers in the squares).

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

**Easy**

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

**Hard**

Scan here for puzzle solutions





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*Events subject to change*



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## FEATURED EVENTS



### Pride Center: Open House

Tuesday, Aug. 26: 1 – 4 p.m.

📍 Pride Center



### Mataverse

Wednesday, Aug. 27: 1 – 4 p.m.

📍 Plaza del Sol



### Art Jam

Thursday, Sept. 4: 10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

📍 Plaza del Sol



### 9/11 Memorial

Thursday, Sept. 11: 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

📍 Library Lawn



### Matador Nights

Friday, Sept. 12: 7 p.m. – Midnight

📍 University Student Union

## CHECK OUT



### Games Room Tournaments

Stay up-to-date with our exciting and competitive tournaments throughout the semester.

([discord.com/invite/MEG&Abs](https://discord.com/invite/MEG&Abs))



### SRC: Intramural Sports

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