# SINGE

**Issue 2 | Fall 2025** 

California State University, Northridge

Ice out of LA

Ballet Folklórico: CSUN's historical club

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# Editor's Letter



Dear CSUN Community,

I am thrilled to have my first issue as the newfound Print editor out to the world, featuring some work by our outstanding staff on the Daily Sundial. Throughout this edition, we focused on commemorating Latinx and Hispanic Heritage month, celebrated in September and October. Latinx students make up over half of CSUN's student body, and we wanted to celebrate that cultural heritage in this issue through dance, recipes, mementos and personal narratives. This issue also touches on the early summer of 2025 protests throughout Los Angeles, diving into our staff's writing and photography while on the

Thanks for reading!

Claire Creniak

Claire Geriak Managing Editor

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# Not Just Aesthetic:

### **The Objects That Speak Our Stories**

#### BY JULIA TORRES PHOTOGRAPHY BY CLAIRE GERIAK

s we approach Hispanic Heritage Month, we celebrate more than just our own traditions – we celebrate and honor the everyday objects that carry our stories into our daily lives. From worn-out mugs used during late-night talks to the childhood candy we treat ourselves to occasionally, these connect us to our roots. They may seem simple, but they are a symbol of our culture, memory and home.



#### **Figurines**

Every "alebrije," a whimsical folk art sculpture of an imaginary creature, carries deep cultural pride. They are beautifully handcrafted, celebrating heritage through storytelling and artistry passed down from generation to generation.



Used for more than just coffee or hot chocolate, these clay mugs hold stories – late-night family game nights filled with laughter and jokes. Decorated with vibrant colors and unique designs, they reflect the warmth and personality of Mexican culture, perfect for everyday use.







#### Mazapan

Delicate, but one of the most iconic and recognizable pieces of Mexican candy. It brings instant nostalgia of childhood and holiday parties.

#### **Rosary**

The rosary is more than just a symbol of faith; it is a symbol of heritage. It can be worn or carried, keeping that spiritual connection closer to the beholder. It carries generations of prayers, hope and resilience between every bead.



# Inaugural CSUN Concert by Los Angeles Symphonic Winds





The Internationally acclaimed **Los Angeles Symphonic Winds**, a 90-musician ensemble, is pleased to present a new series of concerts at their new home venue, **CSUN**, featuring a repertoire of classical, popular and commercial music.

Celebrating its  $42^{\rm nd}$  year, the LAWinds has recently completed performances at the Dolby Theater in Los Angeles and the Prestigious Disney Concert Hall.

Join us for a Sunday afternoon with the LAWinds. Enjoy the very first CSUN performance of the LAWinds with a special 50% discount.

Use the code "CSUN" when purchasing your tickets.

For tickets, concert details and videos of the **LAWinds**, please visit our website at: www.LAWinds.com



# "ICE out of LA"

### A peaceful protest interrupted by violence

#### BY YULISSA GARCIA • PHOTOGRAPHY BY BLAKE FAGAN

eave the area! Leave the area!" shouted LAPD officers on horses as they pushed, kicked and hit protestors leaving Gloria Molina Grand Park by City Hall in Downtown Los Angeles.

On Wednesday, June 11, day six of the anti-ICE protests, peaceful protesters were met with brutal force from armed officials. A female protester was left in agony after getting shot by a rubber bullet while others scattered to find a place to hide from the open fire.

The march to City Hall was peaceful; the traffic was the worst outcome for the public. The protest began at 5 p.m. in Pershing Square. Protestors marched through the streets of LA chanting, cheering, laughing, singing and even dancing.

The colors red, white, green and blue took over the streets of Los Angeles. Hispanic music and chants

such as "La gente unida jamas sera vencida" (The people united will never be defeated) were heard throughout the city.

No looting, no violence. Just pure pride and the blatant disapproval of the violent ICE raids taking place. Until the police declared the protest an "unlawful assembly."

According to the Use of Force Policy enforced by the LAPD, officials must first use verbal commands and de-escalation techniques before resorting to physical force.

No verbal command was given to the crowd outside City Hall. No de-escalation techniques were used. Instead, the police immediately resorted to violence and began rushing the crowd, shooting those who wouldn't move fast enough, tried to say something or take a photo.

The officials on horses chased,

pushed and kicked people for not leaving the park fast enough. I was kicked by an officer for that reason. I witnessed a male protester trip, fall, attempt to get up and get hit in the face with a baton by an officer on a horse.

Police surrounded City Hall well before curfew. Protesters ran screaming from the baton-drawn officers, some even fell to the ground and were hit by horses.

The violence was not being caused by immigrants. It was not caused by the children of immigrants, by those who support the immigrant communities nor by the peaceful protestors. The aggressors were those who wore the masks of authority.

Our first amendment right felt violated. The right to free speech and assembly was stripped from the protestors. The crowd did not get a warning, they were ambushed.



# Photo Editor reflects on June protests

BY CLAIRE GERIAK • PHOTOGRAPHY BY BENJAMIN HANSON

The Daily Sundial's Photo Editor Benjamin Hansen was one of many photographers that could be found across Los Angeles protests in the early summer of 2025. While on the scene, Hansen had to work with factors such as maneuvering through crowds and maintaining personal safety, while additionally curating photographs. On location, he had been pepper sprayed twice and teargassed five times. Through rigorous days during the coverage, Hansen reflected on his experience in a Q&A with the Daily Sundial.

#### Was this protest any different from other protests you have photographed in the past?

Not really – there were a lot of angry people. There just happened to be a lot of them centralized between the Metro Detention Center, the Federal Building and City Hall. The MDC is still currently seeing 20 to 30 people protesting 24/7. The government recently put up a fence around the entrance at the MDC to combat this.

# How have these protests changed your approach to photographing them in the future?

They didn't change anything in my approach. I treat every assignment breaking news the same: be there and photograph it.

### What advice would you give to photojournalists attending a protest?

Don't attend protests, cover them. Don't choose sides and don't go alone if you have any inkling at all that it might turn violent.

> Right: Protesters storm the 101 freeway during an anti-ICE protest on June 8, 2025. Below:Protesters stare down LAPD officers in riot gear during an anti-ICE protest in Downtown Los Angeles, Calif., on June 8, 2025.















LAPD clash during an

begin forcing protesters down the street during an anti-ICE protest on June 8, 2025.

anti-ICE protest on June 14, 2025. Left:LAPD officers



# Ballet Folklórico fosters resilience, representation and community

WRITTEN AND PHOTOGRAPED BY CLAIRE GERIAK

udding from the 1960s Chicano Movement, CSUN's Ballet Folklórico Aztlan (BFA) Club blossomed to celebrate community and culture through

Mexican folk dance. As the second recognized collegiate folklórico club in California, originating at CSUN in the late '60s, BFA de CSUN President Jazmin Garcia and Vice President Katelyn Casas seek to carry on the legacy of the club while navigating obstacles.

"As one of the first collegiate folklorico groups in California, we deserve safe spaces for all our members to dance and grow together," Garcia said. "Our priority is to protect our dancers' well-being and keep our community united, because BFA has always been more than just a club, it is a family."

The BFA de CSUN club expressed complications with finding a proper space on campus for students and community members to practice. The dancers' shoes contain nails in the toes and heels that create a resonant sound that adds another layer to the music. According to the club

members, studios on and around campus are concerned with the potential damage to the floor.

Tower on the concrete. According to Casas, previous BFA members have reported negative effects on their body from performing on the concrete long-term, issues she sees arising for current club members as well. "It's disappointing, to say the least, to see CSUN be willing to advertise its inclusivity by

As a result, the Folklórico dancers practice under Sierra

videos, but not give us the proper resources to continue doing what we do, without putting our health at risk," Casas said. Amidst adversity, Garcia seeks to preserve and celebrate Mexican culture in higher education, emphasizing

that many of her people do not have a chance to

featuring us on signs in

the USU or promotional

be represented. "As a first-generation student, it is important to take up space at our university and show that we are still here," Garcia said. "Dancing folklórico is a powerful form of resilience, especially in times like these."



Above: Vice President Katelyn Casas. Left: Casas and BFA de CSUN President Jazmin Garcia.

\*\* Disclaimer – Jazmin Garcia is Internal Marketing Coordinator of the Daily Sundial



# Cantando

#### WRITTEN BY GIULIANA MELGAR

The new season calls for new beginnings and experiences. Whether that be meeting new people, taking an interesting course, or even better, discovering new music. Think about adding one, or all, of the following songs that may bring a funky new vibe to your playlists.



#### I CARE Turnstile

The hardcore punk band from Baltimore, Turnstile, released their album "NEVER ENOUGH" on June 6. "I CARE," a song featured on the album, is Turnstile's second most-streamed song on Spotify, with over 8.3 million streams. "I CARE" features a more melodic beat, combined with hardcore elements contrasting the rest of the album, such as their song "DULL."



#### Off the Wall

Michael Jackson

"Off the Wall" is a title track by Michael Jackson released in the late '70s. The song conveys that life is not so bad if you "live life off the wall." Jackson sings, "So tonight, gotta leave that nine-to-five up on the shelf / and just enjoy yourself." Overall, "Off the Wall" is a feel-good, groovy tune, reminding people to cut loose and live life to the fullest.



#### Ring Ring Ring

Tyler, The Creator

Tyler, The Creator released his latest album, "DON'T TAP THE GLASS," with little notice on July 21. Tyler stated on his personal Instagram that this album was "made for body movement." His song "Ring Ring Ring" adds a groovy '80s dance vibe to "DON'T TAP THE GLASS," sampling the song "All in the Way You Get Down" by Ray Parker Jr.



#### Jeans 2hollis

"Jeans" is 2hollis's second moststreamed song on Spotify with over 25.8 million streams. The hit single was released in October of 2023, bringing an energetic electro-rap pop vibe to the EDM and experimental rap scene.



#### Independent Women Pt. II -Destiny's Child

Destiny's Child

"Independent Women Pt. II" was released in 1999 with Destiny's Child's third album, "Survivor." The song aims to empower women, praising women who take care of themselves, are financially independent and know their self-worth. "Independent Women Pt. II" uses a unique sample from "Peabody's Improbable History," which makes the song more funky and catchy.



#### BAILE INoLVIDABLE

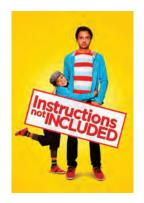
Bad Bunny

Bad Bunny's recent album "DeBi TiRAR MaS FOToS" features "BAILE INoLVIDABLE," a six minute salsa song about losing love and never forgetting the last dance, with lyrics saying "No te puedo olvidar / no te puedo borrar," translating to, "I can never forget you / I can never erase you." The sad lyrics are paired with the rhythm and sound of the Cuban dance genre, salsa.

# El Cine

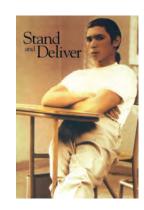
#### WRITTEN BY JULIA TORRES

Shortly after a couple of weeks of the new semester, CSUN students will find themselves amidst a flurry of events celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 to October 15. The month-long holiday is dedicated to recognizing the Hispanic/Latinx communities and their culture and contributions in the United States. And one of the ways students and their families can show their appreciation is through cinema, with comedies, dramas and even animation.



### Instructions Not Included (2013)

While not just a personal favorite, this is a comedy-drama that is guaranteed to turn into a favorite for the whole family. One of Eugenio Derbez's first Hollywood-directed pieces after his work in Mexican cinema. It's a delightful film that's an absolute tear-jerker. This movie is a mustwatch for its unique and heartwarming story about an unlikely father-daughter relationship.



#### Stand and Deliver (1998)

Edward James Olmos and his legendary performance as Jamie Escalante will motivate anyone who watches his film. It is an inspiring story that shows how dedication and the hidden potential of overlooked students can make you believe anything is possible with "ganas." The classic underdog story is a true classic that is perfect for the start of the semester.



#### Selena (1997)

A true classic and a beautiful but heartbreaking tribute to a Texan legend. More than just a biopic, it is a celebration of family, culture and the power of music. Jennifer Lopez's star-making performance, combined with the incredible musical numbers, makes it a must-see for anyone who wants to understand the joy and sorrow of Selena's life story.



#### Encanto (2021)

One of the most popular animated films from the 2020s, Encanto, brings a truly memorable cast together in a visually stunning and emotionally beautiful masterpiece from Disney creators. It is a story not just about magic, but about relatable family dynamics, generational trauma and the pressure of expectations. Lin-Manuel Miranda's fantastic soundtrack is the cherry on top.



#### Under the Same Moon (2007)

Keeping the train of heartbreak going, this humanizing look at the immigrant experience follows a young boy's journey to find his mother in the U.S. Another masterpiece by Eugenio Derbez, in which he both stars and directs, is a powerful, emotional and ultimately hopeful story about family and sacrifice.



#### The Book of Life (2014)

Another great example of an animated film, this time from Guillermo del Toro, is a breathtaking visual masterpiece. The unique art style, combined with the fantastic love story, makes it a true gem about the importance of honoring those who have passed and writing your own story.

# 'Too Mexican or not Mexican enough?'

BY EMILY MACIEL • PHOTOGRAPHY BY JACOB GAMBINA



rowing up, I was always darker than the rest of my family and friends. I never really saw an issue with it until middle school.

I never had a doubt in my mind that I was Mexicana, a proud product of "la raza," which translates to the race. Sure, I'm a third-generation Mexican whose Spanish isn't perfect, but I thought it was obvious I'm Latina.

In my early teenage years, I was surrounded by more kids at a bigger school, and my nationality was questioned all the time. Suddenly, I dreaded the questions "Where are you from?" and "You're Mexican?" – often followed by, "I thought you were Indian."

I used to feel so embarrassed and ashamed. For years, I looked in the mirror, picking apart my features and wishing I looked more Mexican.

I was never able to claim one specific part of Mexico because my grandparents came from different parts, so I've never felt like I belonged to one particular place.

High school wasn't any better, and I still get comments about my looks to this day. The surprising look on people's faces when I respond in Spanish and can understand what they're saying is something I'll always live with.

It wasn't until recently that the comments didn't make me fume.

It took me a long time, but now I know that brown is beautiful and it comes in all forms. I may not be a first-generation student or been to the motherland, but that doesn't make me less Mexican.

Soy chingona (I'm badass) Soy hermosa (I'm beautiful) Soy Mexicana (I'm Mexican)

# La receta de mi abuela

### My grandmother's recipe

#### BY GIULIANA MELGAR



ilachas, translated to threads in English, is a traditional dish from Guatemala. Hilaches is similar to beef stew, consisting of shredded meat, potatoes, carrots and a tomato-based spiced stew. The dish is affordable to make, which is why my grandmother often made it for my mother and her siblings. Hilachas is very similar to other dishes from Latin America, such as ropa vieja, which translates to old clothes, from Cuba. Through my Mamita Luga, the recipe was shared among her children to teach the future generations just as she was taught how to make and enjoy hilachas. The dish is a staple within my family, and my Tia Mabi cooks it for everyone's birthday

For dessert, we typically eat platanos after a meal. Platanos are fried plantains, similar to bananas but sweeter. If you have a sweet tooth, it is common to add sugar on top. Otherwise, it is typically accompanied by "queso" and "crema." Overall, the savoriness of the hilachas followed by the sweet and soft platanos makes for a perfect traditional Guatemalan dish.

#### La Receta de mi Abuela:

\*This recipe serves about 8 people\*

You will need

3 tomatoes

3 tomatillos

Half of a red chili pepper

One chile guajillo (dried Mexican

chili pepper)

One medium sized onion

7 garlic cloves

1 pound of carne de res para

desebrar (beef meant to shred)

3 bay leaves

Thyme

Garlic salt

Salt

Chicken bullion

Potatoes (optional)

**Carrots (optional)** 

#### First,

- Fill up your pot about half way and add your beef, 3 bay leaves, a sprig of thyme, 4 garlic cloves, an onion, salt and season to your desired amount
- Cook the beef for one and a half hours
- Once the beef is fork tender, you can remove from pot to shred
- Shred the beef with two forks until the meat looks like threads

#### For the stew:

In a separate pot,

- Fill up the pot with water 1/3 of the way
- Add in the rest of the vegetables into the pot and boil until fully cooked
- (You will know it is fully cooked when tomato skin starts to peel)
   Once the vegetables are done boiling, put them in a blender with about a cup of the same water
- Once blended, pour into a pot

#### Final steps:

Add the shredded meat into the stew and let it simmer on low for 30 minutes

\*If you choose to add potatoes and carrots, boil them separately and add them to simmering stew\*

When you have completed these steps, the hilachas are ready to enjoy! You can plate them with a side of rice or tortillas.

#### **Receta Para Platanos:**

- Purchase a yellow to black plantain for a sweeter taste
- Cut to the shape and length to your desire
- Add oil to a pan and fry until golden brown
- Let it cool down and enjoy with queso, crema, sugar or plain



### **Celebrating Hispanic Heritage**

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

KNÍÓYVFÍKQYLÓQÓEDULL SWXGEOUFNLZÑQLYB ULXOXBUQJJOCÑBRJLSH GDQTHUDCXXXGOCDQW DLJKFOQÓHWARPV IBERTADUMGYC V L QVZF UH Y N H R W Ι JFOD Α Ι U S UÑ Ζ UFA Z D Ζ O E K O I U D N A D R O U A O Í Z DKFBQIAD Ι RDAFZÓWÓFPNREVFTANQI VDGBQHUEÓ Ε APO JIRÓBXÍMPT RMRTRFW UCFAYÑOSH D SI EÑBTIRAVCEC Ι UÓLKKÓRYLAKDICS ÓFVÍ ENEBFRAAEE LAVYBLRJCYQCADMSRÑÑQ YVKUOUMBÓCPERÓIP

Cultura (Culture) Familia (Family) Comunidad (Community) Libertad (Freedom) Esperanza (Hope) Orgullo (Pride) Historia (History) Raíces (Roots) Alegría (Joy) Amistad (Friendship) Unidad (Unity) Diversidad (Diversity) Tradición (Tradition) Respeto (Respect) Fuerza (Strength) Sueños (Dreams)

#### Sudoku

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

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

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

**Easy** 

Hard

Scan here for puzzle solutions





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#### **FEATURED EVENTS**



#### **Art Jam**

Thursday, Oct. 2: 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Plaza del Sol



#### **Orgullo y Cultura**

Tuesday, Oct. 14: 4 – 7 p.m. **♀** Plaza del Sol



#### **Neon Fitness Frenzy**

Oct. 20 - 31

**9** Student Recreation Center



#### **Mystic Evening**

Friday, Oct. 24: 7 – 11 p.m. **♀** Student Recreation Center



#### **VRC: Bagel Bonding**

Wednesday, Oct. 29: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

**Veterans Resource Center** 





#### **Games Room Tournaments**

Stay up-to-date with the our exciting and competitive tournaments throughout the semester. (discord.com/invite/MEG&Abs)



#### **SRC: Boxing Training Program**

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VISIT THE FULL USU CALENDAR OF EVENTS Events subject to change













