

A full-page background image of a skateboarder in mid-air, performing a trick on a ramp. The skateboarder is wearing a grey t-shirt with a colorful graphic, dark pants, and a baseball cap. The skateboard is black with white graphics. The background is a clear blue sky with some greenery visible at the bottom.

# The Sundial

Issue 3 | Fall 2025

California State University, Northridge

## Campus Carvers

Fall Fixings:  
Movies, Melodies  
and More

Welcome  
Back, 1995

# REALLY GET INTO THE MOVIES



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# Editor's Letter



Dear Sundial readers,

This time around, we are diving into all things pop culture, music, movies and some of the familiar faces that I'm sure we have seen all around campus. The skaters outside of Manzanita Hall are hard to miss, and in this edition we get to carve into a few of these shredders to learn more about the students on the board.

In this issue, we also opened our ears to many different musical topics relating to live music tips, preferred ways to enjoy music, as well as some fall-themed song suggestions as we ease into the new season.

Happy reading!

A handwritten signature of Claire Geriak in black ink.

Claire Geriak  
Managing Editor

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# Los Angeles Symphonic Winds

## Annual Holiday Celebration

Sunday, December 7, 2025 at 2:30 pm  
Plaza del Sol Theater,  
California State University Northridge



Our Annual Holiday Celebration will also honor those who serve our nation. We'll include Alfred Reed's powerful "**Russian Christmas Music**", Charles Fernandez' "**A Soldier's Farewell**" and our traditional audience sing-along.

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# To stream or not to stream

## The fan divide between digital and physical music

BY ZION JONES AND EMILY VELASQUEZ

Music lovers worldwide have been debating the best way to support their favorite artists. Some believe that it's more practical to simply stream music, while others believe it's best to buy their physical media, such as CDs and vinyls. This divide brings up many nuanced talking points with both sides having their pros and cons.

### Zion - Digital

In 2021, Lorde decided there would be no physical album for the release of "Solar Power" in 2021 "to honor the natural world, a first-of-its-kind disc-less format."

This is one of the first times I realized that while it's cool to show love to your favorite artist by purchasing their albums and vinyls, it's also cool to just stream their music and engage with it on social media. We are already on our phones everyday – why do we need more CD's and vinyls sitting on the planet?

As humans, we are bound to hyperfixate on a character in the media or an artist on the radio. When this happens, because of the veil on consumerism hanging over us at all times, we want to buy into our fixations. For some, that's following them on social media and streaming their music. For others, it goes beyond that. They have to buy everything that the artist puts out, from beauty products to several releases of the same album. Showing admiration and support monetarily is great, but it does get to a point where the level at which you are consuming an artist's merchandise is excessive.

For every bad thing the internet has done to our society, the best thing, in my opinion, is the convenience factor. With a smart device, you literally have the world at your fingertips. For a music lover like myself, being able to play music whenever I want to, from multiple platforms, is the best part of the digital era.





## Emily - Physical

In a world where buying digital media doesn't guarantee ownership, buying physical media is both imperative and a protest. Streaming platforms like Apple Music and Spotify are currently the most popular form of consuming music – they're also the most practical. However, even with a paid subscription, the platforms are able to remove songs and artists from their catalog. This not only hurts the artists, but does a disservice to the consumers who pay for the platform. With physical media like CDs and vinyls, fans can physically own the music. They don't need a monthly subscription for ad-free streaming, downloading or offline listening.

Streaming platforms are also not the best way to support artists. These platforms only pay approximately \$0.004-\$0.008 per stream. This is not enough of a living for the artists that are not already top earning musicians. For smaller artists, buying their merchandise pays more than if their music is streamed.

Many artists themselves have protested streaming platforms, such as Among Authors, who were penalized by TuneCore when Spotify incorrectly flagged their catalog for "illegal bot streams." Among Authors have now removed all of their music from streaming platforms and are encouraging their fans to buy their first vinyl at a pay-what-you-can price.

It is more practical to keep your music consumption to your digital devices. However, definite ownership over the media one consumes secures their ability to continue consuming it. Protesting corrupt streaming platforms ensures fair treatment for everyone's favorite artists.



# Five tips from a concert pro

BY ALY HAWKINS



If you are a novice to the concert world and need a bit of advice, fear not – this proud concert veteran has your back with the following tips to ensure you have a blast.

## 1. Get there early

Ensure you are inside the venue at the listed “door” time. Your headliner might not be on until a few hours later, but opening acts may be the way you find your new favorite artists.

## 2. Dress (and accessorize) accordingly

Dressing in a theme associated with the artist is a fun way to go, but remember the essentials! Comfortable shoes are key, along with ear protection.

## 3. Travel light

Whether you plan to crowd surf, get in a pit or stand and sing your lungs out, it is best to travel light. Having your keys, wallet and ID in a safe pocket will give you extra peace of mind that nothing will end up lost to oblivion at the end of the night.

## 4. Hold off on buying merch

It is easy to assume you need to flock to the merch table once doors open, but hold off until later in the night. Being in the crowd is a lot more fun without worrying about holding extra items.

## 5. Be a pal in the crowd

Being in a crowd coming together for the same love is one of the best feelings at a concert. Be courteous, conversational and caring. Leave the handmade sign at home, help a person in need and be open to making friends.



# Festival fixings

WRITTEN AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY CLAIRE GERIAK

Navigating music festivals can be daunting considering factors such as deciding on essentials, dressing for the environment and soaking up the onstage performances. This guide breaks down some items to consider before embarking on your music journey.

**Handheld Fan** - Whether you're in a dense crowd or getting from point A to B, a compact handheld fan can cool you down and potentially someone else in need. Some fans can also provide limited charging capabilities to power up devices.



**Water Bottle** - Festivals have increasingly widened their requirements for bringing water bottles to the grounds, as well as providing free water refill stations. Save some cash, refill and stay hydrated through these long days.



**Sunscreen** - Maybe dermatologists were onto something. Reapplying sunscreen throughout the day can ensure your comfort and safety throughout the festival. Trying to enjoy a full day of music and arts while sunburnt can sting in more ways than one.



**Ear Protection** - From investing in high-end brands like Loop and Eargasm to swinging by a drug store for foam earplugs, ear protection can help ensure that you can continue to optimize your festival experience – and health – for years to come.



**Portable Charger** - This one is an essential. Guarantee communication, check set times and potentially help out someone in need by having a power bank that can easily slip into a pocket or pouch.



**A Buddy** - Navigating the festival with an extra pair of hands, a dance partner or just someone by your side helps to amplify your experience. Along with having additional security, having a sidekick throughout the performances are key to getting in the groove.



# CSUN's unofficial official club

## The Manzanita Hall skaters

BY AUDREY DE LAURA • PHOTOGRAPHY BY CLAIRE GERIAK AND BENJAMIN HANSON

Nearing Manzanita Hall, the loud clacking and scraping against the pavement grows louder and louder. These noises belong to none other than the Manzanita skateboarders as they perform their various tricks, resulting in either success or hands hitting pavement.

"I was like, 'Oh my gosh, these people are terrifying.' They scared me so much – they look so cool," Jahde Bryant, ecology and evolutionary biology major, said when approaching the skateboarders who circled the building.

The skaters reassured Bryant everyone would welcome her with open arms if she ever wanted to hang out with them.

"I got my first board when I was four years old, but I think I took it seriously when I was 12," Bryant said. "My dad used to skate, so it was always around the house."

Kedric Virgill, a business management major, had admired skateboarders since grade school. "I thought it was cool, so I imitated them. I ran sideways to pretend I was on a skateboard," Virgill said. He has now been skating for eight years.

Most of the skaters hang out at Manzanita Hall, waiting during gap periods or simply spending time with one another. The answer as to why Manzanita Hall, of all places, was concluded to be a domino effect.

"To my knowledge, out of the people that we know, me and my friend Gavin were the first ones to discover it or really skate here," Virgill said.

Executing a flip trick,  
Bryan leaps midair on  
September 24, 2025  
outside of Manzanita Hall  
in Northridge, Calif.

Choosing Manzanita Hall as the central hangout spot was primarily because of the quality of the flat and smooth ground.

"Even though we're on wheels, small stuff still gets us," said business major Diderot Herit. "Like, run into a small little pebble – you could get flung off the skateboard. It happens so many times. It's like at one point, you're gonna eat s--- on campus."

CSUN does have a policy on the use of skateboards, scooters and other similar transportation methods. Its purpose is to ensure pedestrian safety, and states any type of skating to which the wheels leave the ground goes against it.

Due to this, the skaters have confirmed that they have been reported and involved with campus police numerous times. Despite consistently being told to leave, they continue to return as if they were never reported or told to leave in the first place.

The group understands how they can be perceived, but skateboarding is their form of expression. They remain focused on their academic goals while also gathering around Manzanita Hall to practice kickflips and enjoy their years at college with friends.

"We all have a common goal of progress and friendships have evolved from that," Bryant said. "I think it's really nice because some of the people here, I feel like they wouldn't have flourished as much as they have in school without this place. I know I'm one of those people. It was just so welcoming."





Terrell Thomas performs a skate flip trick outside of Manzanita Hall on Sept. 24, 2025 in Northridge, Calif.



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# Indie games

BY EMILY VELASQUEZ

Autumn is officially here, bringing the perfect excuse to curl up with a warm drink and a cozy game. Although many gamers enjoy the usual cozy simulators such as *Stardew Valley* and *Animal Crossing*, independent game developers have created unique, relaxing games that deserve recognition as well. I've curated a short list of comfy games that I enjoy playing in the fall, all under \$20. Whether you enjoy simulation games or prefer slow story-driven adventures, reeling in the season with a charming indie game is a fun way to get into the fall spirit.



**Galaxy Burger – \$11.99**

Galaxy Burger is a cooking simulation game where players serve burgers to aliens and mecha cats. Designed to be stress-free, time limits are eliminated, encouraging a relaxing gaming session. It has a nostalgic feel that reminds me of the classic *Papa's Games* series.



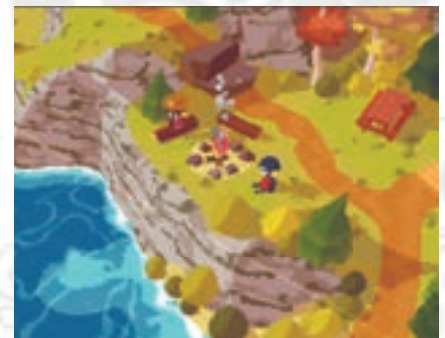
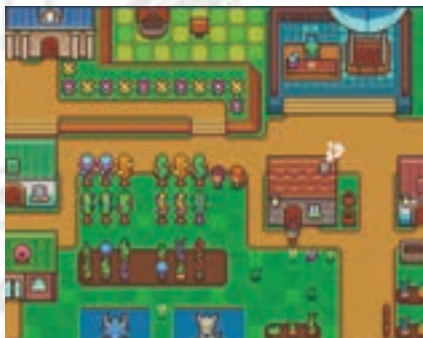
**Littlewood – \$14.99**

In *Littlewood*, players rebuild the world by progressing through exploration and collecting materials and items to fulfill the townspeople's requests. *Littlewood* is similar to *Stardew Valley* in aesthetics and some gameplay; however, it has a much different storyline. The art style is also slightly reminiscent of classic *Pokémon* games.



**A Short Hike – \$7.99**

Arguably the most relaxing game on this list, *A Short Hike* is exactly that—a hike! Focusing on independent exploration, players are not given set paths to complete. The ultimate objective is to reach the top of the mountain to get cell reception. However, players will encounter an unexpectedly emotional story along the way.







# Welcome back, 1995.

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY JAYA ROBERTS

The youth of the 1990s propelled a resurgence in the cultural phenomena of the eras prior. From bell-bottom pants to the 1998 TV show “That ’70s Show” – the 1990s were influenced by the fashion, culture and even the political upheaval of the 1970s.

Theories claim that cultural trends work in 20 to 30-year cycles. As 90s trends make their way back around, this theory rings true. So, are the ‘20s the new ‘90s?

In January of this year, the surviving members of Nirvana, one of the most influential bands of the ‘90s, reunited in Los Angeles at FireAid. Dave Grohl, Krist Novoselic and Pat Smear performed four songs, closing out the performance with 1993’s “All Apologies,” which had been performed only one other time since Nirvana’s final concert on March 1, 1994.

Many of music’s biggest festivals have welcomed ‘90s sensations back to their stages. For three consecutive years, ‘90s legends rocked the desert at Coachella Music and Arts Festival. The year 2023 welcomed Blink-182, who reunited with their former guitarist Tom DeLonge in the year prior, 2024 hosted No Doubt for their first performance in 9 years and in 2025, Green Day also rocked the main stage as a headliner. Less than three months after this, Oasis made their musical comeback for the first time in 16 years.

One of the most influential developments of the ‘90s was technology. Between at-home internet, mobile phones and MP3 players, the technology of the ‘90s was one of the biggest changes in pop culture to date.

The phones we have today combine computers, MP3 players, game consoles and digital cameras into one shiny box, but younger generations are reverting to “single-purpose devices.”

Recently, pocket technology of the ‘90s has come back into the spotlight. Digital cameras, Wi-Fi-compatible Sony Walkmans and turning smartphones into “dumbphones” are hallmarks of this technological regression.

Studies have shown that more people are using their smartphones politically. A 2010 Pew Research Poll showed that more than a quarter of cell phone users researched and participated in the 2010 midterm election using their phones. Now, that number is likely much higher.

In June, protestors flooded the streets of Los Angeles to denounce the Trump administration’s push for mass deportation through ICE raids. Five years prior, the same streets held protestors denouncing police brutality following George Floyd’s death in Minneapolis.

Political demonstrations and protests targeting the rights of undocumented immigrants and police brutality are no stranger to LA.

The Los Angeles Riots of 1992, a massive part of LA history, were sparked by the acquittal of police officers in connection with the assault of Rodney King. These protests denounced police brutality and anti-Black racism, much like their 2020 counterparts. In 1994, tens of thousands of protestors gathered to decry Proposition 187, which aimed to deny undocumented immigrants use of public services in California.

The fashion, culture and even political movements we participate in echo the history of those who came before us. Whether based on nostalgia, wounds that never closed or simply the 20 to 30-year cycle we have observed in trends since the 1950s, it’s clear that the ‘90s are hella back.



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# Cantando

WRITTEN BY JAYA ROBERTS

Californians rarely experience an onslaught of red and orange leaves or chilly weather until late in the season. That doesn't stop anyone from sipping on an iced pumpkin coffee and curating the perfect fall playlist. Here are some autumn favorites to add to your playlist this season.



## Frozen Love

Buckingham Nicks

Released for the first time digitally in September, "Frozen Love" is the lead single and final song on 1973's "Buckingham Nicks." The track is a seven-minute ballad reflecting on a relationship that has become stagnant, no longer growing, yet still lingering. It expresses a recognition that even if the relationship doesn't continue, their connection will always be present in some way.



## New Perspective

Noah Kahan

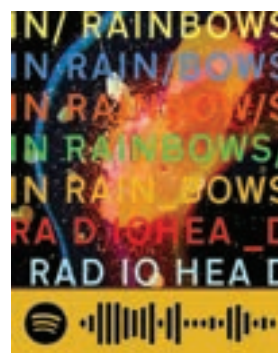
Right in the middle of Noah Kahan's "Stick Season," "New Perspective" features warm vocals and acoustic guitar, exploring the concept of change in people, places and relationships. The song represents a desire to hold onto the way things once were, while also acknowledging that he can't stop the inevitability of change.



## Today

Katie Gavin

The final song on Katie Gavin's solo debut, "Today," caps off the album with a bittersweet acknowledgement of her wrongdoings. She realizes that although she has become isolated and closed herself off in the past, she accepts the present moment, its imperfections and its growth potential.



## House of Cards

Radiohead

"House of Cards" is a delicate, melancholic love song from 2007's "In Rainbows." The song explores the delicate balance between tension and vulnerability in a relationship, acknowledging that it could potentially fall apart. Even through this tension, it represents the raw, human willingness to embrace the fragility of being in love.



## Everybody Scream

Florence and the Machine

"Everybody Scream" is the lead single and title track of Florence and the Machine's sixth studio album. The song is an almost ritualistic interpretation of what it takes for Florence to perform. It explores the vulnerability of visibility and offers her deepest thoughts to her audience through music.



## Season of the Witch

Lana Del Rey

Lana Del Rey's 2021 cover of Donovan's 1966 hit adds a haunting touch to an already eclectic hit. The lyrics tell a story foreseeing change in society and the darkness of censorship in the world. Lana's haunting vocals add to this sense of paranoia and makes it the perfect halloween tune.



# El Cine

WRITTEN BY GIULIANA MELGAR

It's officially autumn, which calls for pumpkin spice and everything nice. Consider adding these films to your movie list when deciding what to watch on your next cozy night in.



## Mulholland Drive (2001)

A woman on her way to a party gets into a car accident on Mulholland Drive. When she wakes, she doesn't know where or who she is. She wanders into the apartment of Betty, a sweet girl from the Midwest seeking acting gigs in Los Angeles. Together, they attempt to retrace the woman's steps to find her true identity.



## Little Women (2019)

Four sisters, Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy March, navigate their lives as they grow into womanhood during the Civil War era in New England. The March sisters explore ways to cope with love, grief and the complexities of sisterhood.



## HIM (2025)

Rising football star Cameron Cade sustains a possible career-ending head injury from an unhinged fan. Cade thinks his career is over until he receives a life-changing call from his idol, the Savivors quarterback Isaiah White, offering to train him. As Cade trains with White, he begins to notice things are darker than they seem.



## Hereditary (2018)

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.



## How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days (2003)

Andie Anderson, an advice columnist at a magazine, devises a story idea about losing a guy in 10 days. Benjamin Barry, an executive, makes a bet with his coworkers that he can make any girl fall in love with him in 10 days. When Andie and Ben meet, they realize their challenges will be more complex than they anticipated.



## Wicked (2024)

A young woman named Elphaba is misunderstood and judged based on her green skin. She makes an unusual friendship with Glinda, who is the complete opposite of her. Together, they go on an adventure seeking the Wizard of Oz.



# CSUN BINGO

attended Big Show	Placed a rose on the Matador Statue	Felt threatened by a squirrel	Waited 20+ minutes for Panda Express
Signed up for a club	Dodged a skater outside of Manzanita Hall	Hung out with the Orange Grove Turtles	Taken a selfie with the mascot
Used a nap pod at the Oasis	Grabbed a last- minute Scantron at the Campus Center	Arrived over an hour before class to secure a parking spot	Utilized the library's creative maker studio
Recongized campus while watching a show or movie	Recieved a free goody from an Associated Students event	Dodged a TukTuk Scooter as it speeds past you	Forgot where you parked in the B-3 Structure

## 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).

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

**Easy**

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

**Hard**

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**CSUN**



## FEATURED EVENTS



### **StrongMatador: Fitness Combine**

Friday, Nov. 3 – Friday, Nov. 7  
📍 Student Recreation Center



### **Welcome to Wellness: Celebrating Ten Years**

Wednesday, Nov. 5: 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
📍 Oasis Wellness Center



### **Salute to Service**

Sunday, Nov. 9 – Thursday, Nov. 13  
📍 Various



### **Craft Your Path**

Wednesday, Nov. 12 and  
Tuesday, Nov. 18: Noon – 2 p.m.  
📍 Van Nuys Room



### **Trans Week of Awareness and Empowerment Week**

Thursday, Nov. 13 – Wednesday, Nov. 19  
📍 Plaza del Sol

## CHECK OUT



### **Games Room Tournaments**

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