



SDSU loses to USC in a four-game match
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Elections coordinator scrutinized

Objection by Madfes defeats council vote

By ART GARCIA
Daily Aztec Staff Writer

During the three hours of yesterday's Associated Students Council meeting, Elections Coordinator Eric Edge went from nearly being removed to nearly being investigated to nearly getting his job back.

After a motion failed to remove Edge from his post because it lacked the necessary two-thirds approval, the council voted to conduct an investigation to see whether he was influencing election committee members on how to vote.

Edge would have been prohibited from working with the committee while the investigation took place.

That action was nullified when Sasha Madfes, A.S. executive vice president, objected, saying it violated the organization bylaws.

Article 12, which covers nominations and A.S. elections, states that all procedures and regulations concerning every aspect of elections are governed by the organization's election code.

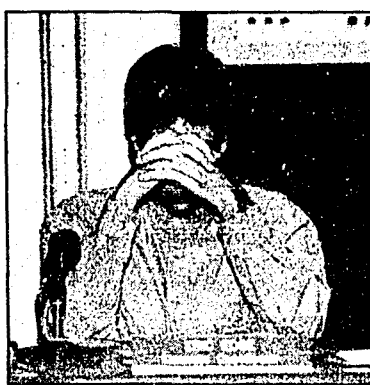
"Within the election code, there is nothing providing for the temporary removal of an elections coordinator," said A.S. Parliamentarian Ailene Dewar. "Nor is there anything in the elections code asking for any type of investigation of the elections coordinator or any procedure for that."

Edge came under fire most when Madfes said he took a set of books containing the names of voters to her house to check off who had voted. Included in those books were the voters' social security numbers.

"I did not touch the books," Madfes said. "The only thing I did was read names off a handwritten list to him, so there's no funny business there."

However, Alex Sultan, Asian Pacific Student Alliance representative, questioned Madfes' handling of the books.

"I don't remember anything in your job description giving you custodial services of our social security numbers," Sultan said to



Daily Aztec/ROBERT WASSERMAN
Elections Coordinator Eric Edge

Madfes. "So why would you read off something that is private and take it off campus?"

The controversy surrounding Edge began after a flurry of complaints were directed toward him and the elections committee. One complaint came from fellow committee member Ralph Medina.

In a letter to the council, Medina said that last Friday, Edge had attempted to influence Medina's vote at the committee's March 18 meeting, which Medina missed.

"He (Edge) told me that when Monday's meeting comes that I should abstain from everything," Medina said in his letter. "I asked him why, and Eric told me that the committee should 'be strong and stand behind its decisions.'"

Edge admitted he spoke with Medina, but said he did not instruct him on how to vote. After yesterday's meeting, Edge said he commended Medina for filing the complaint.

"If anything is wrong with the elections, I think a complaint should be filed," Edge said after the meeting. "However, in my eyes, this complaint is not valid. I know I have not done anything wrong."

After Edge responded to Medina, Shaka Williams, College of Business representative, made the initial motion to remove Edge as elections coordinator, saying that he was not fulfilling the requirements of his position as stated in the bylaws.

Please see A.S. on page 2

A symbolic clothesline



Daily Aztec/ROBERT WASSERMAN
Freshman Jamie Dryden increases her awareness about abuse toward women through 'The Clothesline Project' near Olmeca Hall on Tuesday.

Campus group hopes to grow

Positive relationships are their goal

By PAULETTE CANNON
Daily Aztec Staff Writer

Cold pizza and warm smiles flooded Woodstock's Pizza Tuesday night, as members of the San Diego State University Student Alumni Association gathered to recruit new members. The pizza got cold because there was so much to talk about.

Founded last fall, the purpose of the SAA is to develop positive relationships between SDSU students, alumni, faculty and staff.

There are currently about 17 members, said SAA President Andrea Szekrenyi.

The organization is looking for students who have a sincere desire to represent SDSU.

Szekrenyi said the SAA's goal in membership is to have between 20 to 30 students, with 40 to 45 being the maximum.

She said the membership is limited in order to increase the productivity of the club.

"No matter what, we don't want the club to be too large," she said. "To us, it's more important to have quality than quantity."

Szekrenyi said what attracted her to the club was the chance it offered for people to connect with the school.

"I want to give back to the university when I graduate," she said. "I want to mentor. So I thought, 'Why not start out at the school level?'"

"A lot of graduates may not have the money to help this school, but they may have the time and dedication to help out," she said. "There are students who need them as mentors."

She said the club presents a win-win situation to all parties involved.

The SAA is also trying to get more involved with the SDSU faculty.

Szekrenyi said the faculty has a lot to give to the SAA, not only academically, but personally. If the faculty got more involved per-

sonally with the students, she said, they would feel a stronger connection to the university and a greater will to help out.

Donna Stout, vice president of finance for the SAA, said she got involved with the organization to network with the alumni and to help promote school spirit. Stout said many are misinformed about who the SAA members are and what they actually do.

"People look at us and they think we're alumni or cheerleaders," she said. "We want to be seen as an outstanding force on campus."

About six or seven prospective members came to the restaurant to learn more about the SAA. Criteria for membership in the organization includes a time commitment of approximately 10 to 15 hours per month, a 2.25 cumulative grade-point average and a minimum of one semester completed at SDSU with at least one year remaining.

The membership application is a reflection of what the SAA is

Please see ALUMNI on page 3

Samahan displays Filipino talents this weekend

By ANGELA MCKEEVER
Daily Aztec Staff Writer

Students can look forward to two days of Filipino culture this weekend. At 6 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, Samahan, a campus organization, presents the 11th Annual Filipino Cultural Night at the San Diego State University Don Powell Theater.

Attendees to the event will have the opportunity to share Filipino culture with the Samahan organization and members of the community.

The president of Samahan, Laurence Manalo, said he expects a large turnout and that the show offers a lot of different things. The theme for the event is *Kapwa mo, Intindihin mo*, which, Manalo said, translates to, "Your people, understand them."

The show is the same for both nights.

"We have been working really hard since last semester to put this on," Manalo said. "We hope we can convey the lifestyle that Filipinos live in today."

"Our basic purpose is to share our culture with the SDSU campus."

Guests will be treated to a variety of different dances from regions of the Philippines, as well as a choir group singing Fil-

ipino and American anthems. Manalo said the evening will also feature drama about today's young Filipinos.

"The drama section will deal with issues youths are faced with, such as the generation gap and relationships," Manalo said.

One piece will address living with a homosexual roommate in the dorms.

"I don't think that there are too many cultural events on campus, so I would like students to join and support us this weekend," Manalo said.

Agnes Tjandranegara, president of the Asian Pacific Student Alliance, said she supports the show.

"This cultural night will offer a variety of traditions from years past to modern," she said.

Admission to the event is free. Reservations can be made by calling 594-4739.

Samahan will also host a banquet to honor their 25th year on campus. It will be at 5:30 p.m. on March 30 at the San Diego Marriott Hotel. The banquet will also recognize SDSU history professor Rizalino Oades.

"We encourage students and members of the community to attend this event as well," Manalo said.

A.S.

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The motion failed after two attempts to get a two-thirds majority.

Later, the motion to conduct an investigation on Edge's alleged influencing election committee members passed in an 11-9 vote.

Elections committee member Heidi Woods was subsequently appointed to succeed Edge. That appointment was also rescinded when Madfes objected.

Dewar said that the council cannot make any changes without following the standard amendment procedure of going through the rules committee.

"At this meeting, at this point, we don't have the power to make that change in the bylaws to affect the elections coordinator," Dewar said. "The council does have the power to question the election itself."

But, according to Williams, the matter isn't settled and he said he would pursue further action on this issue.

"If they ended up screwing up the elections process, so be it," Williams said. "We

need to get it right ... I'm going to make sure before I die or before I graduate, that they get it right."

After the meeting, Edge declined to comment on the council's actions. He did talk about the effects his brush with an investigation had on him.

"The procedures happen by code and that's how they happen," he said. "If I would have lost my job, if I would have been voted out and that was according to code, I would have accepted it."

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Man arrested in women's locker room

Crime Briefs



By JOHN HORVATH
Daily Aztec Staff Writer

University Police were alerted to a silent alarm that was set off in a janitor's closet in the Physical Education Annex building Sunday night. Their response to the alarm led to the arrest of a 45-year-old male transient. Steven Sims was arrested on suspicion of burglary and possession of burglary tools, said Detective Tom Boyer of the University Police Department.

The alarm was installed by University Police Detective Chris Jacobson after janitors reported finding pornographic magazines, women's clothing, makeup and women's undergarments in a small crawl space inside the storage closet of the women's locker room, Boyer said.

Officers Geoff Frank, Ed Burke and Sgt. Charlie Schworke responded to the silent alarm. Boyer said the officers found Sims in the restroom area of the women's locker room.

Sims was carrying a department store shopping bag filled with women's clothing and undergarments, he said. The

officers also found a screwdriver and a bent spoon on a shelf next to Sims, Boyer said.

According to Boyer, these tools could have been used to pry a door open to gain access to the building.

Sims was booked into county jail and bail was set at \$5,270.

Student arrested at Aztec Shops

University Police cited a 21-year-old San Diego State University student for petty theft at 3:20 p.m. on March 12., after an Aztec Shops loss prevention officer saw the man take some pencil lead from the store, Boyer said.

Brian Reid, of the 2000 block of Oliver Avenue in San Diego, was seen by the officer taking some pencil lead and cupping it in his hand, Boyer said. Reid then selected a blue book and went to the register. Only the blue book was purchased, Boyer said.

Boyer said the loss prevention officer followed Reid out of the store and made contact with him. The officer asked Reid if he had taken anything from the store. Reid gave the lead back to the officer.

After further questioning, Reid admitted to taking a philosophy book from the store. The loss prevention officer placed Reid under citizen's arrest, and University Police were called.

Officer Jeff Meeks responded to the call and cited Reid for petty theft. The total value of the items was \$11.

"It just doesn't make any sense to me that someone attending college would jeopardize their future and college education," Boyer said. "It is total stupidity."

Crime Log

The following crimes were reported to University Police between March 11 and March 18.

- burglary - 5
- disturbing the peace - 14
- petty theft - 11
- selling liquor to a minor - 1
- noise complaints - 4
- disorderly conduct - 3
- vandalism - 3
- indecent exposure - 1
- vehicle theft - 2
- grand theft - 1
- minor in possession of alcohol - 2
- bike/skateboard on campus - 1

ALUMNI

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looking for in prospective members. An example of a question from the application is, "Where is your favorite place on campus? Why?"

Jen Ranallo, SAA vice president of student relations, said questions such as this are used to find out just how much an appli-

cant cares about SDSU. "You can really tell if they care about the university or not because if someone just wants it on their résumé, they'll put down something like, 'I like Scripps Cottage because there's a lot of trees.'"

Applications are available in the SDSU Alumni Association office in the Administration building, Room 201. The applications are due at 4 p.m. March 29. For further information, please call 594-ALUM.



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Traveling medical group includes SDSU student

Providing care in Third World countries

By JULIE STOEHR
Daily Aztec Staff Writer

Out of the goodness of their hearts, three surgical teams of 18 people went to Esmeraldas in Ecuador to perform eye surgery and reconstructive plastic surgery. They were all volunteers who gave their time and patience to help the natives of Ecuador from March 2 to 12.

Eric Nelson, a pre-med student in chemistry at San Diego State University, was one of the coordinators for International Relief Teams. He also assisted the doctors and nurses during surgery.

The volunteers performed surgery in a general surgery hospital for the very poor. Because it's a charity hospital, the patients aren't required to pay.

The ophthalmic team performed 28 cataract repairs. The plastic surgery teams did 40 surgeries, including cleft lip repairs, cleft palate repairs, burn revisions and skin grafts.

The volunteers were guests of the Ecuadorian navy and marines, who protected them because kidnapping for political reasons was possible.

There are more than 200 regular volunteers who have gone to Bosnia, Guatemala, Latvia, Mexico, Rwanda and other countries. They also rendered assistance in Los Angeles after the Northridge earthquake and in the Midwest during the flooding of 1995.

Nelson said his goal is to become a general surgeon or an ophthalmic surgeon. He wants to do Third World medical interventions and continue to work with International Relief Teams.



Eric Nelson with post-surgical cleft-lip patient.

Nelson is a marriage and family therapist, but is not in practice at this time. He has earned an associate's degree in administration of justice and a bachelor's and a master's degree in psychology.

"I really think my calling in life is to do surgery," he said. "We need to teach modern surgery in Third World countries."

Nelson used the analogy of, if you give someone a fish, they eat for a day, but if you teach them to fish, they eat for a lifetime, when explaining the importance of teaching modern surgery to doctors in these countries.

Nelson said that in October, on his next trip, he will be teaching doctors how to perform burn revisions. He thinks teaching the local doctors how to do the surgery is more effective than doing the surgery himself.

That way, the doctors can help their own people and not have to wait for doctors from the United States.

Burns are a common problem in Ecuador. Parents have to leave home at four or five in the morning to arrive at work by 7 a.m. This leaves children to cook breakfast for themselves. They use kerosene to cook with and often get burned. The scars are difficult to repair.

Rose Uranga, the other coordinator on the Ecuador trip, also works as a program coordinator for Southwest Medical Teams.

She said it isn't too difficult to find volunteers to take these type of trips. Along with recruiting volunteers, people often come to them asking to help.

"We have a resource pool of more than 200 volunteers," she said. "Although we use some volunteers more than once, there have been a lot of new volunteers. Ninety percent of the volunteers on the trip to Ecuador were new."

After she gets the volunteers together, she coordinates the gathering of supplies that will be needed on the trip. Participants are also taught problem-solving techniques.

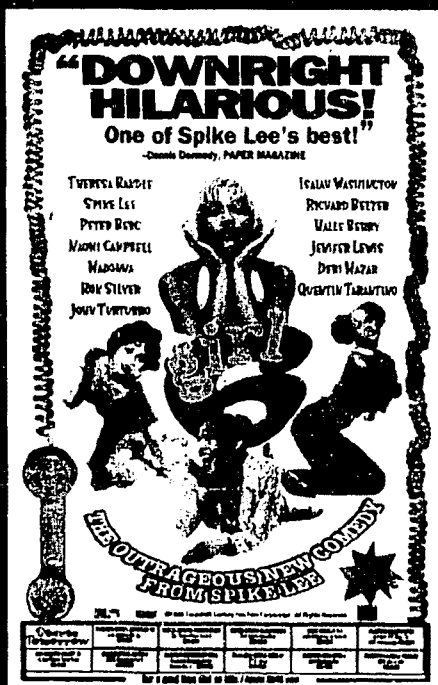
Chip Splinter, a plastic surgeon who went on the trip, has been taking trips like this for 10 years. The longest one he has been on was six weeks.

"Most people who do this (surgery) come from poor backgrounds and have empathy in these types of situations," he said.

Splinter said he enjoys the sense of adventure and teamwork that comes from helping people in Third World countries, although he realizes he is only making a dent in the world's problems.

He took his 19-year-old daughter, who is a second year pre-med student, on the trip to get her involved and interested in helping out.

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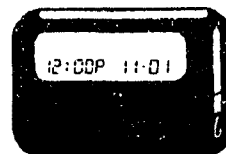
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No Princeton upset this time

By SEAN COLCLOUGH
Daily Aztec Staff Writer

When the Princeton women's tennis team came to San Diego yesterday, it had upset on its mind.

Why not? Their basketball team had upset defending national champion UCLA in the NCAA tournament. Maybe the March Madness could rub off on the women? Then again ... maybe not.

The San Diego State women's tennis team smothered any hopes of an upset, drilling the Tigers, 8-1, on the East Courts.

Playing without senior captain Christy Propstra, who injured her shoulder yesterday in practice, the Aztecs won five of six singles matches to seal the early victory.

Every player moved up from their normal spot to compensate for the loss of Propstra, but the win was a lot harder than it seemed.

"They were deceiving," Junior Emma Doyle said. "We were able to win by being more aggressive and not letting up, even though we were down 2-1 to start the match.

In the No. 1 singles match, sophomore Molly Lindahl finally lost a match after nine consecutive victories at No. 2.

Although she won the first set, 6-2, Lindahl dropped the next two to Princeton's Bridgete Mikysa 6-3, 6-3 to snap her streak.

Jeanette Bhaguandas had a nightmarish time disposing of Olivia Streafield 6-3, 6-7, 6-3 in the No. 2 singles.

Bhaguandas played for three hours, during which she endured two broken racquet strings, a couple of bad calls and a collision with the fence.

After the marathon match, Bhaguandas was drained. "I am so tired," Bhaguandas said. "I played three hours of singles, then I went right into doubles."

SDSU also received strong performances from Sarah Donovan, Tamara Bridges and Simone Howard.

Howard has played solid tennis of late, bouncing back from a slow start. She easily beat Princeton's Joanna Felton 6-1, 7-6 in the No. 6 singles match.

49ers strike gold in San Diego

By FERRIS SHAHRESTANI
Daily Aztec Sports Editor

When you lose two games by a combined 16 runs, there really aren't too many justifications. There are, inevitably, some reasons.

In the wake of Long Beach State's 7-0, 9-0 throttling of the San Diego State softball team in a non-conference doubleheader yesterday, co-head coach Linda Spradley offered an explanation.

"You had one good team playing well," Spradley said. "And you had another good team that didn't play well. They have a very good team that did everything they needed to do."

The 49ers (16-13) also had a pitcher-catcher combination, recruited from the San Diego area, that did in the Aztecs both offensively and defensively.

CSULB pitcher Amy Miner, a Patrick Henry High alumna, pitched her first collegiate no-hitter in the nightcap.

"It feels good to throw (a no-hitter) in college," said Miner, who improved her record to 6-3. "I wasn't even aware of it until the sixth inning when we thought the game was over (because of the 9-run rule).

"For me, it was just a confidence thing. I threw my game."

No disagreement from the Aztecs.

"She did a good job keeping the ball down and away from us," SDSU catcher Jaimie Clark said. "We let her pitch her game by swinging at some bad pitches."

The 49er catcher, Jessie Martinez, also a San Diego native, did the damage offensively, going a combined 5-for-9 at the plate with 4 RBIs.

She helped the 49ers jump out to comfortable 4-0 leads by the third inning of both games.

It was a position the Aztecs would prefer not to be in.

"We've come back from deficits before," SDSU shortstop Kelley Santa Cruz said. "But (the early deficit) does wear on you."

It was a frustration CSULB sensed and eventually took advantage of, blowing both games wide open.

"When you get down by four runs early in the game, it's difficult to come back," 49er head coach Pete Manarino

Trojans too much for SDSU

SDSU wins first game, but fizzes down the stretch

By DAVID HANNA
Daily Aztec Staff Writer

The San Diego State men's volleyball team was faced with a stiff challenge last night at Peterson Gym by No. 12 University of Southern California.

The Aztecs marched in with a two-game winning streak, but limped out with a loss.

USC prevailed over SDSU by scores of 8-15, 15-8, 15-10 and 15-10. As the scores indicate, it was a hard-fought contest to the end.

When the Aztecs rolled out to a one game to nothing lead, it looked as if an upset was in order.

"The first game we came out red-hot," said quick-hitter Jason Rasmussen, who had 19 kills and a .452 hitting percentage. "Then after the first game, we just died out."

That certainly is one way of putting it.

After coming out of game one with a scorching .543 team hitting percentage, SDSU proceeded to fizzle out in the remaining games. Going down in each one, it ended up at .214 in the final game.

This is not to say the Aztecs didn't have their opportunities to do some damage. With outside hitter Lars Winter slamming balls down and setter Dustin Cremascoli serving them up, SDSU was there to the end.

"We had our chances and opportunities to score," SDSU head coach Jack Henn said. "But our passing completely broke down."

A thought which holds firm. In the fourth game with the Aztecs trailing 12-10, it all came tumbling down.

"In the fourth game, my passing game completely fell apart," Rasmussen said. "It just totally broke down."

But in the end, it was a matter of SDSU coughing up something.



Daily Aztec/PHIL RINGLER

Dustin Cremascoli set Ryan Niles during the Aztecs' loss to USC last night.

"We just choked in the end," Henn said. "When we get the opportunities, we have to execute."

Something that was executed after the match was a confrontation between Henn and USC assistant coach Glenn Sato over pronunciation of names.

"I don't usually pay attention to names," Henn said. "What ticked me off was when (Sato) brought my name into it, like I had something to do with it."

"We go up to USC and are treated badly, play in a (bad) facility with just as (bad) equipment, and they act up about something like this. (Forget) those guys."

Tigers sneak past Aztecs

By JUSTIN QUIS QUIS
Daily Aztec Staff Writer

A couple of nationally ranked players proved to be the difference as the San Diego State men's tennis team lost 4-3 to the University of Auburn on the West Courts yesterday.

Junior Eric Faulk took on No. 32 ranked Lee Pearson, and the two proceeded to fire rockets at each other. Faulk went down, 6-2, 6-4 but the scores don't tell how close the match was.

Pearson's style is not unlike other top No. 1 singles players at this level, according to Faulk.

"You don't get very many free points like you do down the lineup," Faulk said. "But it's tennis, and you can't get caught up with what ranking the other player is, or you're beat before you even play."

Sophomore Steve Adamson was also moved up in the lineup, this time playing No. 2 singles.

He played No. 67 ranked Carlos Engel, who made the big shots in this one, defeating Adamson, 6-4, 6-4.

The doubles teams got the Aztecs off to a good start, winning two of three matches for the doubles point.

Although Morgan was bumped out of the singles rotation for this match, he

was beaming with confidence after the doubles victory.

"This is the most fun I've had playing tennis in a month," Morgan said, referring to the slump that has plagued him this season.

One player who has managed to avoid any kind of slump has been freshman Nguey Lay.

Lay beat Lionel Bourroux 6-4, 3-6, 6-0 in a match that featured a lot of jabbering between the two players. He was clearly pleased with coming back after losing the second set and pitching a shutout in the third.

"It felt good beating him," he said. "Let's just say he wasn't the most polite person on the court."

Summary:

Lee Pearson, UA, def. Eric Faulk, 6-2, 6-4. Carlos Engel, UA, def. Steve Adamson, 6-4, 6-4. Adam Aloily, UA, def. Blake Pearson, 6-4, 6-4. Rodrigo Ribeiro, UA, def. Mike Bannister, 6-1, 6-3. Nguey Lay, SDSU, def. Lionel Bourroux, 6-4, 3-6, 6-0. Jason Pearson, SDSU, def. Don Bryant, 4-6, 6-3, 7-5.

Doubles: Pearson-Aloily, def. Faulk-Bannister 8-6. Adamson-Morgan, def. Engel-Bryant, 8-3. Pearson-Pearson, def. Ribeiro-McGrove, 8-3.



Daily Aztec/FERRIS SHAHRESTANI

Amy Miner, a Patrick Henry High alumna, reacts after pitching a no-hitter against the Aztecs yesterday.

Ansley's attitude translates into success

By BEN SAXE
Daily Aztec Staff Writer

Earlier in the season against the hated Santa Barbara rugby team, Brian Ansley felt the need to get things going. "There was good physical play, but neither team had scored yet," Ansley said. "Whether it be a big hit or a score, I just wanted to try to get the team going."

Try he did. Ansley snatched a loose ball out of the air and raced 80 yards for the Aztecs' first score. Ansley's play broke the goose eggs, and SDSU went on to win, 17-10.

"Attitudes just don't exist on the rugby field, and (Santa) Barbara comes off a little arrogant," Ansley said. "That started the fire from the beginning."

Actually the fire for this season was lit last year.

The Aztecs play in the Pacific Coast Rugby Football Union, and hosted the end of the season tournament. But there was one slight omission among the contenders - SDSU.

"It was pretty embarrassing not to be in your own tournament," Ansley said. "I had to watch, and there is no way I was going to go through that again."

The way people are talking about Ansley, he won't have to worry.

"He is natural. Big. Fast. And has very soft hands," coach Fabio Comana said. "Brian doesn't turn the ball over much."

The respect that Ansley gets from his coach and other coaches is the same he demands from opponents and expects from teammates.

"Rookies get the wrong idea when they first come out," Ansley said. "We have to teach rookies what it's all about."

In his third and final year playing for the Aztecs, the senior from Napa, Calif., has become one of the cornerstones of the Aztecs' winning tradition, blossoming into a Rugby player Brain Ansley is an All-American candidate.

"The tradition is set," said Ansley of SDSU rugby. "With the alumni support and the reputation, I don't want to disappoint the program. I don't want to be part of the team that loses that respect."

To put the tradition in perspective, let's talk numbers. There are 429 schools nationwide that compete in collegiate rugby. Some schools have as many as 90 people on a roster.

Every year, 25 players get chosen for the All-American Collegiate squad. Players from around the country endure a series of tryouts and tournaments.

There has been at least one Aztec on that team since 1984. This year there are two possibilities, Ansley and Josh Bautista.

"I don't feel any pressure," Ansley said. "Our coaches are so good, they don't put any pressure on anyone. Besides, rugby is such a team game, it is kind of bogus to talk about individuals. There are no Michael Jordans in rugby."

Saying Ansley is a good player is like saying he is sort of serious about rugby. For

every time he refers to "having the right attitude about the game," there is a teammate translating that into his focus.

"His intensity is awesome," teammate Oleg Sheklarevski said. "He is such an intense player and his ability to get around the field is incredible."

"He leads by example. He's not really into pep talks."

Ansley's ability to "get around the field" comes with the territory. Ansley plays the eight-man position. This is where he can create some of his own opportunities. Comana compares the position to the tight end/running back in football.

But the rugby position may be the more physically demanding.

"My position is the fittest one on the field," Ansley said. "My coach told me that in international play, the eight man runs about six miles a match."

"As far as me getting around the field," Ansley said, "if I don't do it, I'm not playing my position. I always keep in shape."

He claims that a track background has taught him how to get in shape within a short period of time. But regardless of how good of shape someone is in, 29 bodies on top of him will hurt.

"If you lose, your body is so beaten down that the pain is insurmountable," Ansley said. "But if you win, it soothes the pain."



Daily Aztec/ROBERT WASSERMAN
Rugby player Brain Ansley is an All-American candidate.

Rugby teams clinches tournament spot

Water skiing team begins practicing

By ERIC HOWARD
Daily Aztec Staff Writer

With their 14-10 victory over USD on March 16, the San Diego State rugby team won their first league championship since 1993.

"It was an ugly win," club president Jaime Barmach said. "We wanted to dominate them, but we barely squeaked out a win."

The win clinched the Aztecs a fourth seed in the national championship tournament, which begins on April 20.

"We are looking forward to prove that we can make a mark," team member Michael Farris said.

SDSU gave some regulars a break and lost to Army, 20-15, on Sunday.

"All the military teams are very fit," Barmach said. "But Army was very physical too."

Army, which is currently ranked number one in the East, is a team the Aztecs may see down the road in the playoffs.

"We didn't use all of our regulars," Farris said. "We didn't even prepare for them at all, so we are pretty happy with the way we played."

There will be no spring break for the members of the rugby team, as they plan on practicing through the break to prepare for the tournament.

"Playoff games are on back-to-back days," Barmach said. "We are going to work hard and be ready."

Water skiing

The SDSU water skiing team will finally begin official practices in a week.

The team had a problem with the Mission Bay Aquatic Center on the Aztecs' use of the facilities.

In the past, the Aquatic Center let SDSU use their boats and facilities. This year, they wanted team members to sell classes for the center amounting to \$420.

"I didn't think it was fair," club president Jason Rossiter said. "We do not work for the Aquatic Center, and we don't have the time to peddle classes onto strangers."

The club decided to pay the \$420 dollars out of their own pockets and move on.

Practices begin next week with a very solid men's team and an inexperienced women's team.

"I think that our men's team is one of the top four in Southern California," Rossiter said. "Our women's team is just starting, but could still be competitive."

Their first competition isn't until April 13. But the team is just excited to get out on the water and practice.

"Some of our guys have their own boats, and we have practiced a little," Rossiter said. "But it will be fun to get out and practice as a team."

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IN THE BLEACHERS

By Steve Moore

Twelve miles into the marathon, Dewey purchases a fresh set of lungs.

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DAILY AZTEC EDITORIAL

Washington-style politics at SDSU

A.S. election flasco

Everything was going along just fine. A plan had been instituted and passed. Turnout was expected to jump. Students were starting to get the message.

But then this happened:

Mike Katz charged that Memo Mayer's supporters were spreading rumors that Katz was a racist. Mayer denied the allegations and asked for evidence. The A.S. Elections Committee reprimanded Mayer and then rescinded its reprimand.

Are you kidding us? Does this sound like Washington, D.C., or what? No wonder voters are so turned off.

The petty political circus that surrounds the A.S. elections ruins any chance that this year's process will go smoothly and set a strong positive precedent for next year.

For once, it would have been nice to have everything go great. And the worst part about this "scandal" is that this year's elections had so much potential.

Everyone seemed to be excited about picking a new A.S. president and filling other offices. The \$1 revenue-sharing idea (strongly endorsed by *The Daily Aztec*) passed with the hopes of getting more people involved in the process. The candidates recently debated openly and professionally, addressing the concerns of the student body.

But, now, all the goodwill generated by these moves has been all but forgotten. Associated Students has become the new breeding ground for whiny, nasty, self-serving politics.

This situation could probably have been avoided if a couple of things were different.

First, the A.S. election code defines a campaign worker as someone who supports a particular person. That's ridiculous. If this definition is allowed to stand, then the Associated Students should strike down the principle that the person running for office is responsible for those that help him/her. Either that, or a new definition needs to be drawn up as to who exactly works for candidates who are running for office. *The Daily Aztec* favors the latter.

Second, the candidates should try to resolve their problems between themselves, not let them spill out in public. If no agreement can be reached privately, then a public hearing is the only, final recourse.

The Associated Students does not need to become a proving ground for Washingtonian-type politics. The winner of this election should keep that in mind.

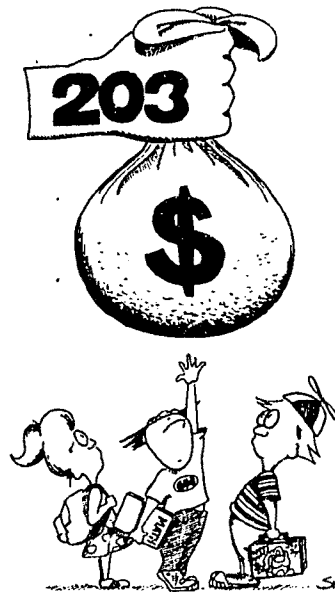


Illustration by Greg Smith

Don't group me in

VIEWPOINT/Dawne Brooks



We've all been in one once. Some people enjoy them; others hate them. I loathe them.

I'm talking about being paired into groups in my classes. I've had professors who swear by the practice and others who use it sparingly. Most of my education-major friends sing the praises of group work, telling me it has its positive and negative aspects. But I'm positive I've experienced more negatives.

You see, I'm an overachieving, obsessive-compulsive, perfectionistic workaholic. Translation: I am the group partner who does all the work. I'm one of those people who's never gotten below a B in her life, and therefore, I end up carrying the group and doing most of the work myself to get a good grade.

It's not a position I take with excitement. I would love to be one of the other group members—the ones who do nothing, or when they do, they do it half-assed. But I am seemingly forced into "leader" of the group every time some professor sticks me in one. No one else wants to take any initiative to get things done. So, bam—there I am taking on all the work again.

Then there's my group partners. Being that the typical group I get put in is made up of four people, I have, nine times out of 10, got stuck with any combination of the following people: the shy group partner, who can barely muster enough courage to tell her partners her name, let alone do anything constructive; the sleeping group partner, who had too wild of a night before to participate; the overtalkative group partner, who is really there just to gossip or drop some intelligentsia here and there to try and impress his/her fellow partners; the one who does other homework while in the group, which is pretty self-explanatory; the group partners who are also good friends, hence they're seemingly joined at the brain and are unable to function without each other; the group partner who has stupid and/or worthless ideas, but you're too polite to say anything, so you go with it and get a lower grade on the paper; and finally, the group partner in an ongoing group who never shows up (a.k.a. the MIA group partner).

Now, occasionally, I have been paired with people who do their share of the work and the group works smoothly together. There are also certain classes I've been in that group work went well

with—for instance, an essay-critiquing class, an acting class, an improv and literature class and language courses. Groups in these classes were helpful and even fun at times.

But those instances are few and far between. For the most part, 90 percent of all the groups I have ever been stuck in are worthless. I do a lot of work while some less-than-ambitious partners come along for the ride and get a good grade courtesy of me.

My education-major friends tell me that students are put in groups to aid in bringing the more shy and less social students out of their shells and getting them to be active with the rest of the class. They say students who aren't as intelligent are encouraged when they're grouped with students who are. I say maybe this was helpful back in grade school. But as for college, grouping in classes is almost unnecessary. Aside from the successful groups in the classes I've mentioned, as a college student, I feel people in any

given class should be grown up enough not to have to be catered to for their shyness or social inadequacies.

They say students who aren't as intelligent are encouraged when they're grouped with students who are.

The rampant use of grouping makes me wonder how much professors think about the situation before they decide to make the class break off into groups. Do they consider if the whole class will indeed be learning from such groups? Or are they just feeling lazy that day and use the practice as a way to get out of lecturing?

I would like to think most professors are simply following what they learned when they were education majors themselves—that there are benefits to grouping in classes. Apparently, most believe the benefits override the number of drawbacks and decide to go with having group functions. However, maybe what professors don't know is how students feel about groups.

I can't speak for everyone on this campus, but I know my friend—don't do cartwheels when they get stuck in some group for a class, and I think I've established that I surely don't. I know I haven't learned more from group work compared to work done alone. And I can certainly say that I much rather prefer doing my work solo than carrying a group of classmates who simply won't work as hard as I do to get a good grade. So, professors, next time you get the urge to group, please reconsider.

Dawne Brooks is a journalism senior and assistant Stanzas Editor of *The Daily Aztec*.

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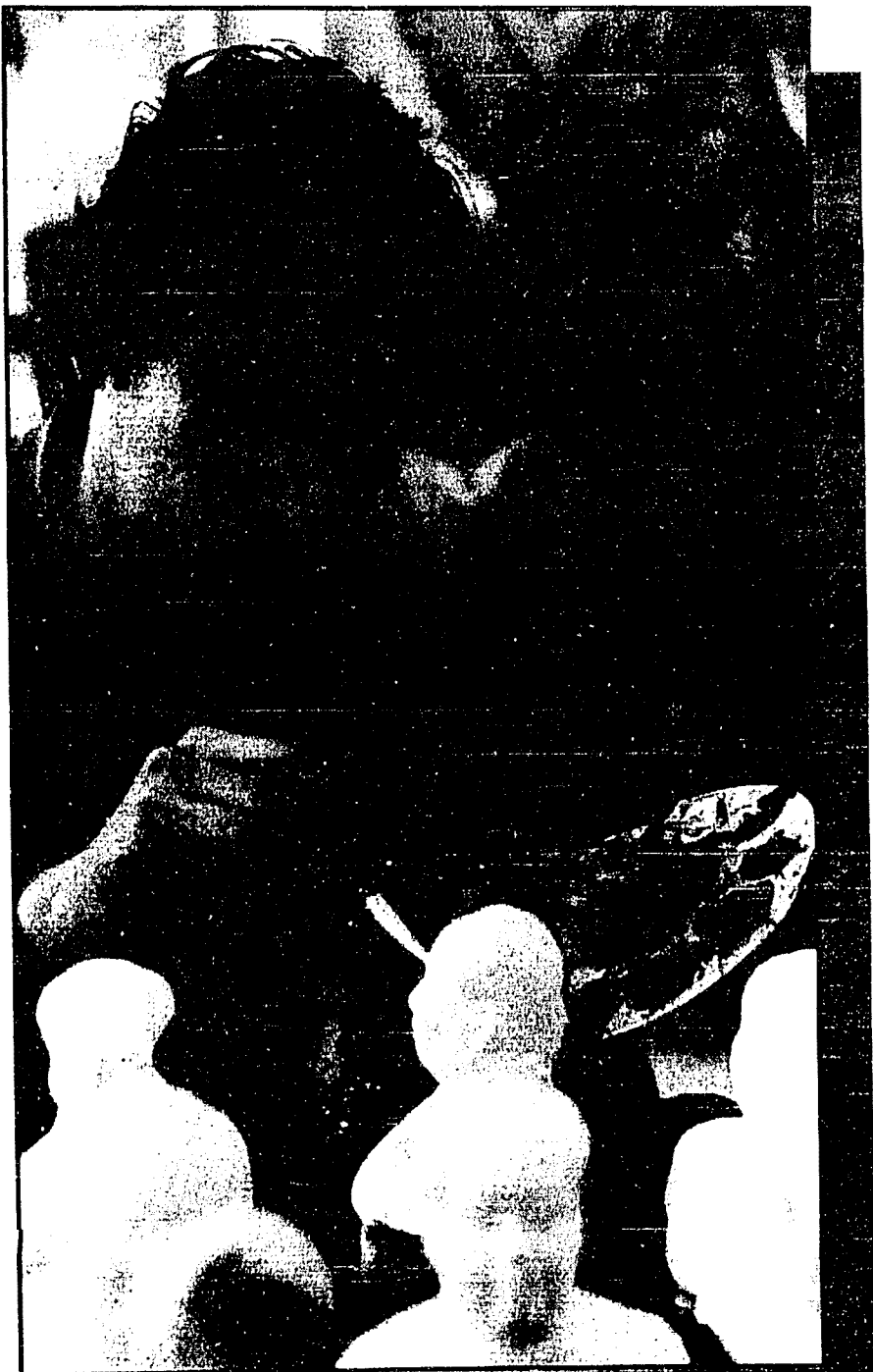
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Stanza

The Daily Aztec Arts and Entertainment Source

MORE THAN EMBROIDERY BY MARY BOON

Story by Jessica Yadegarani • Photo by Kerstyn Robie • Design by Chance P Roth & Jileen Hohle



SDSU art department gives students a taste of the future

Are you one of the 3,000 students who takes an art class each semester at San Diego State University? If not, you have missed out on one of the top art departments on the West Coast.

In fact, less than a decade ago, the SDSU Department of Art, Design and Art History was the biggest on the Coast. It consisted of 1,100 students. Due to budget cuts three years ago, however, the number of majors dropped to 600. Today, the department is booming once again with approximately 900 students in the major.

The department of applied design offers 11 areas of emphasis: ceramics, furniture, metalsmithing/jewelry, textiles, environmental design, graphic design, printmaking, painting, photography, sculpture and studio art. There are many advantages to the SDSU Art Department that can't be found in other universities.

The university offers facilities such as a fully equipped metal foundry, a papermaking laboratory, a studio library, intaglio, relief, lithography and photo silkscreen printing equipment and an art supply store. The faculty members are all working professionals and bring their experience of the job market into the classrooms.

Although SDSU offers a wide range of emphases, the larger departments have had the chance to thrive at the expense of the smaller ones. For instance, the photography/painting/printmaking emphasis has three photography classes and one professor.

The Department of art, design, and art history's objective is to make sure students are aware of the resources available to them. Summer abroad programs are offered through the department, including one with the Royal College of Art in London which has been calling for SDSU students for the last five years.

You don't have to be an art major to take advantage of the department, the information on the Internet or classes. Many students take Art 100 and 101 classes just because they enjoy drawing, doodling and messing around with a paint brush. Other students might not be sure if an art major is the right route for them, but are required to take a full year of introductory drawing, introductory design and art history.

"There is a major difference between high school art classes and college ones," said freshman Natalie Walter. "Here it's up to you to succeed or to fail. You have to buy all your own materials, which is a really expensive investment. In high school, all your materials are covered. I expect many challenges. I think that having an individual style to your work is probably the most important aspect to succeeding in art because there's so much competition and everyone is good at what they do."

Jesse Dominguez, undergraduate art advisor and sculpture/3-D design instructor, said it's very important to build a friendship with the younger students as they come into the program.

March 21, 1996

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A 'Thin Line' between inanity and stupidity.

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Three men and a bumbling crime spree.

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Don't know what to do this weekend? Check out our calendar of events.

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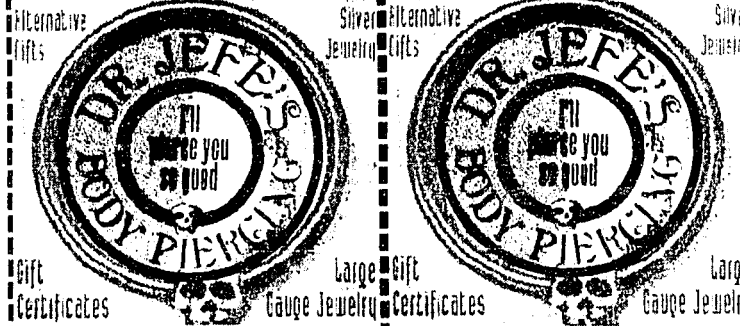
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Mocking the elephant and donkey show

Still kicking after more than 20 years

By A.C. BOISVERT
Stanza Writer

Mark Russell, political humorist — you've probably seen him while channel surfing, with his obnoxious bow tie and grand piano bedecked with a blue banner and white stars, singing of the goings on in Washington, D.C. Teasing, sneering and chortling at the politicians on Capitol Hill, his performances have been broadcasted on PBS for nearly 20 years.

Russell started out playing piano in "the sewers of Washington, D.C. night life," at a hotel bar, making fun of the customers — many of whom happened to be politicians. Twenty years later, he has a syndicated newspaper column, along with countless albums and videos. But Russell is pretty low-key about his success.

"It's still basically a lounge act," Russell said. "But now I stand."

After twenty years, Russell said there aren't too many politicians who are really distinctive.

"I quickly forget them after they're out of office," he chuckled. "I mean, they've all brought some theater to the Oval Office, and we've kept the lunatics out so far. I suppose Reagan would be the most memorable, simply because he's been in office longer than anybody else."

Russell described the upcoming presidential election as a "self-blanding process."

"It's really a self-blanding process, the campaign. The liberals will go to the center, and the conservatives will go to the center. Either way, they disappoint their constituents."

"Take a look at Bob Dole. For years in Washington, whenever there was a roast, Dole was always called upon because of his rapier wit. So it doesn't jive with what's going on right now. He's dumbing himself down right now. The same goes for his wife Elizabeth Dole. She's every bit as intelligent and sophisticated as Hillary Clinton, but

she's dumbing down too! You have to get way down there with the people who listen to radio talk shows to win."

The upcoming Republican convention in San Diego has Russell rather depressed.

"It was supposed to be so exciting, with it being an open convention," Russell said. "I hope Buchanan stays in. Otherwise, we might as well send the delegates to the other zoo, the San Diego Zoo, for entertainment. But seriously, the best Republican will lose to Clinton anyway, and that's Dole."

As for politicians who attend his shows, he simply sighs.

"Any kind of politician who shows up, you know they're clean."

Russell said he doesn't plan to slow down.

"The material will be there, no matter what. I've got 535 writers. One hundred in the Senate and 435 in the House of Representatives. I'll keep on till I die, or the audience dies, whichever comes first."

Mark Russell is performing at the California Center for the Arts in Escondido on Saturday, March 23, at 8:00 p.m. Tickets



Courtesy photo
Mark Russell brings his political satire to San Diego.

range from \$17.50 to \$39. For more information, call 1-800-98-TICKETS. Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. to 6 p.m.

What's love got to do with it?

'Thin Line' little more than a cliché

By A.C. BOISVERT
Stanza Writer

Martin Lawrence's latest film, "A Thin Line Between Love and Hate," goes over the abyss of tackiness into a simply awful film. Touted as a "stylish blend of comedy and suspense," Martin Lawrence directs and stars in what boils down to a bad version of "Fatal Attraction."

Darnell (Lawrence), a nightclub promoter who scams on basically any female, sets his sights on Brandi (Lynn Whitfield), a classy woman who is way out of his league. Darnell succeeds in capturing her heart, but loses interest quickly and moves on to his childhood friend, Mia (Regina King). Brandi, however, won't be dropped so easily and starts stalking Darnell.

Singer (and now actor) Bobby Brown could phone in his role as Tee, Darnell's best friend and co-promoter of the nightclub. A brief and pointless dance sequence lets the audience know he can still move with remarkable agility, even if it makes absolutely no sense in the film. Indeed, all the nightclub scenes will transfer over to MTV quite nicely, with videos to promote both the soundtrack and film.

"I think this should be compulsive viewing for all 12-year-old boys if they're squirting," Lawrence said. "But I guess the parent needs to decide." Lawrence said he hasn't dealt with a woman like Brandi in real life, "but I've been cussed out."

Lawrence said directing proved to be more challenging than he thought it would be.

"You go in with all high expectations, but directing is a mental game. If you're not in mental shape, you have no business doing it."

Brown joked about living with a real version of Brandi (a veiled reference to his wife, Whitney Houston) and said he enjoyed his first acting stint.

"I've hung around so many people that act that way, with that small a focus as a woman is concerned," Brown said. "Any male could play that role. I mean, I'm his buddy. That's all I am, his buddy."

"When Martin told me about this movie five years ago, I told him as long as I wasn't getting beat up, it was cool. But seriously, I'm willing and ready to play more challenging roles, but nothing's set for the near future."

Whitfield was excited to have the opportunity to play a character like Brandi.

"It's not often I get to play a part in which I'm not trying to get a son out of jail or simply making ends meet," Whit-

field said. "I think we've broken new ground with Brandi. She's not on welfare, pregnant or a drug addict. She's free to explore the inner conflicts without all the sociological ills, and it's always fun to play a woman scorned."

"I think this film takes a good look at the consequences of doing a tap dance on a woman's heart," she added. "We all need to be reminded hearts are delicate. Frankly, I think this

Please see THIN on page 5



Darnell (Martin Lawrence) flirts with Brandi (Lynn Whitfield) in 'A Thin Line Between Love and Hate.'

Courtesy photo



'Rocket' men shoot for the stars



New film examines fumbling felonious fun

By THOMAS PARKER
Stanza Writer

Director Wes Anderson's "Bottle Rocket" could very well be a part of a whole new trend in Hollywood. Spurred on by the success of non-formula films such as "Pulp Fiction," Hollywood executives are beginning to realize the average filmmaker is capable of appreciating films with a little more depth and creativity than your average moronic comedy or blood and guts

action film. If "Bottle Rocket," the 26-year-old Anderson's debut film, is any indication of things to come, then corporate Hollywood is certainly headed in the right direction.

Thanks in part to the exposure of smaller, more artistic films by independent showcases like Robert Redford's Sundance Festival, movies like "Bottle Rocket" are getting the chance to being seen, a chance they would never have gotten 10 years ago.

Anderson's film is an exciting deviation from the endless barrage of stale, formulaic movies churned out in astounding numbers by every major motion pic-

ture studio in the country. It's a refreshing option in an industry where options should be limitless, but unfortunately, thanks to the public's insatiable appetite for the familiar (or at least the industries belief in one), aren't. Five years ago this film would have spent three weeks at the Ken Cinema in Hillcrest and then disappeared from the face of the Earth. Only film students, movie buffs and the occasional couple bored after a night at the Corvette Diner would have ever experienced the delight of watching three misfits ineptly pursue a life of crime. What a shame that would have been.



(l-r) Anthony (Luke Wilson), Dignan (Owen C. Wilson) and Bob (Robert Musgrave) plan a heist in 'Bottle Rocket.'

Courtesy photo

Please see ROCKET on page 5



Son Volt kicks up their heels tomorrow night at the Belly Up Tavern.

Courtesy photo

The following is a list of events for the week of March 21 to March 27.

Thursday, March 21

Artists on the Cutting Edge IV – The annual literary and performing arts series continues with appearances by Poet Laureate of the United States Rita Dove, alto saxophonist Oliver Lake, author Denise Chavez and poet Tom Raworth. The performance will be held at the newly remodeled Museum of Contemporary Art in La Jolla. Tickets range from \$7 to \$10. For additional information, call 454-3541.

Local music – Catch alternative local bands The Shirlies, Furious IV and Slot Car at Bodie's, 528 F St. downtown. For additional information, call 236-8988.

Friday, March 22

Son Volt – The rockin' Son Volt will perform at the Belly Up Tavern. The show begins at 9:15 p.m. Blue Mountain will open. For additional information, call 481-8140.

Saturday, March 23

Everclear – SOMA Live presents the poppy grunge band Everclear at 8 p.m. Hagfish and Triple Fast Action will open the show. For additional information, call 239-SOMA.

Cindy Lee Berryhill – The local folk songstress will host an album-release party at Java Joe's in Ocean Beach. Her performance begins at 9 p.m. For additional information, call 523-0356.

Sunday, March 24

Women's Festival – Sushi Performance & Visual Art continues its Women's Festi-

val with performances by Stephanie Heyl and Aimee Greenberg. Heyl will depict an intriguing tale of loving, using stories from the animal world. Greenberg presents a multi-media performance on the effects of breast cancer. Tickets range from \$10 to \$15, and the show begins at 7 p.m. at the Isaacs & McCaleb Studio Theater in downtown. For additional information, call 235-8466.

Monday, March 25

Ruby – The funky popsters will perform at The Casbah, 2501 Kettner Blvd. The show begins at 9 p.m. Schtum will open the show. For additional information, call 232-4355.

Mark Russell – PBS personality Mark Russell, who hosts "The Mark Russell Comedy Specials," will appear at the California Center for the Arts in Escondido. His performance, titled "The Laughter & Song of Politics," begins at 8 p.m. For additional information, call (800) 988-4253.

Tuesday, March 26

Record releases – Look for new music from bands including Stone Temple Pilots, Busta Rhymes, Bryan White and the X-Files Soundtrack.

Wednesday, March 27

Patti Smith – Alternative music icon Patti Smith will perform at 4th & B. For additional information, call 231-4343.

John Hiatt – Musician John Hiatt will appear at the Belly Up Tavern at 8 p.m. To order tickets, call 481-8140.

– compiled by Nina Garin

HAPPY HOUR GUIDE

WINE & CHEESE

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10 min. from STATE

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3/22 Fri. **Dishwater** w/ Roll Ball Hero

3/23 Sat: **Spencer the Gardener** Surf Rock

3/24 SUN. **HOODOO BLUES JAM** w/ RICK GAZLAY

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Mon: Diamond Entertainment Presents:
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3/26 Tues: **BoneLip**
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(Alternative Rock)

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Natasha & Ghost

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A R T

continued from page 1

"I talk to students about why they're going into art," Dominguez said. "Many of them don't have a clue. I tell them what it's really like and the kind of drive you need to become an artist. I let them in on things they can't get out of a book. Many of them are lost and I like to try to put them at ease."

The SDSU Art Council, which is the program's community support group, sponsors numerous fund-raisers, lecture series and exhibitions. Art graduates from SDSU have a wealth of career opportunities at their feet. Internships are available as a part of the upper division curriculum and students can work with a faculty supervisor to find an internship that exposes them to work in their chosen field.

Lie Tie, a painting graduate student and drawing 100 instructor, moved to the United States from China to pursue a master's degree in painting. Tie said he expresses his dual cultural experiences in his paintings.

"All of my paintings have to do with how I deal with being Chinese and living in America," he said. "One of my paintings has a light watery image of my mother holding me when I was a baby in China. The large dark shadow beneath it is flat. It represents what I feel as a result of coming to America. The numbers on the shadow are all the numbers on my greencard."

Art majors graduating from SDSU can pursue careers as graphic illustrators, advertising artists, teachers, layout artists and environmental designers, just to name a few occupations.

"We have one of the best furniture departments in the country," said Dominguez. "Wendy Maruyama is one of the most famous furniture designers in the world. She is currently on a grant in Japan, and her work can be seen in design magazines all over the globe. She is an SDSU graduate and instructor."

In addition to being one of the best furniture schools in the country, SDSU is one of

the few offering a masters of fine art. Kelli Kadokawa, one of Maruyama's pupils who graduated from SDSU in May, is pursuing graduate school in Wisconsin.

"She's world-renowned," Kadokawa said. "It was an honor to have her as a professor."

It's obvious the SDSU art world isn't just paintbrushes and charcoals anymore. The technological explosion has dramatically changed the curriculum, as well as the art world. Fred Orth, director of the art department, said SDSU has the ringside seat, if not the upper hand, in the merging of science and art.

"There has been an incredible introduction of new technology in the art world," Orth said. "We are trying to make computers accessible to art students as a part of their regular instruction. In the past, people taught art history with slides and old pictures. Now, thanks to newly available funds, we are beginning a program called 'smart classrooms'."

Smart classrooms involve the use of computers, images from the Internet and CD-ROMs to teach art history classes. The second smart classroom will be geared toward graphic design majors, both lower and upper division. This approach will make hands-on technology available to smaller groups of students.

"The third smart classroom is geared toward our photography majors," Orth said. "We are introducing digital photography to the old development system. We are integrating computers all for the improvement and production of art. The goal is to get all students to realize that the computer is just another tool for the mind and the imagination."

With the arrival of a program called Eyes on Art, teachers can access innovative means of teaching art, just by accessing the University's Home Page on the World Wide Web. Eyes on Art allows students to tap into the world's art.

Many museums, including The Metropolitan Museum of Art and The National Gallery of Art in Washington, have online Web sites where students can scan

works from their collections. Many virtual museums available on the Internet, like WebMuseum, which students can access to broaden their educational experience and lift it above and beyond the classroom sphere.

The technological itch has spread to other areas of the art department. Richard Burkett, a ceramics professor, is responsible for the first international ceramics web page.

"I use computers in teaching ceramics, mostly in glaze calculations," Burkett said. "Students are able to manipulate the chemical aspect of glazing."

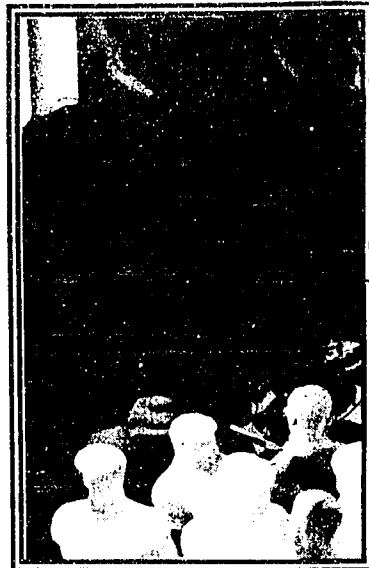
Russ Prior, a graduate student in graphic design at SDSU, is the creator of what both Orth and Burkett call "the latest thing in technology." As part of his graduate study, Prior has put together one of the most technologically advanced web pages at SDSU at <http://rohan.sdsu.edu/home/rprior/index.htm>.

Aside from the mind-blowing advances currently taking place in the art arena, it's also refreshing to return to the basics and examine classical art on campus. If you've never cruised the art building, it is definitely an enriching experience worth your time. It offers three galleries featuring work from outside exhibitors to faculty and students.

The University Art Gallery located in the lower level of the art building has four to six exhibitions each year, usually featuring an outside artist. The Everett G. Gallery can be found to the left of the upper entrance of the building and features work of students completing their masters degrees. The Flores-Y-Canto Gallery displays undergraduate pieces and has shows running every two to three weeks.

The University Art Gallery has been hosting faculty exhibitions for the last 30 years, giving the San Diego State community and the community at large to chance to appreciate its talented teaching artists. The most current exhibition, "Self as Another," which ended on March 13, featured the work of Luis Cruz Azaceta.

Wall-size pieces focusing on the suffering of Spanish refugees decorated the gallery. Luis experimented with Polaroids placed



Stanza/KERSTYN ROBBIE
Christopher Leone works on his piece for the upcoming Graduate Exhibition.

strategically on his gigantic acrylic painting entitled "Ojo." "Rehearsal: El Dictador" featured a snout-nosed tiny dictator standing on a chair with wheels. Luis' use of vibrant primary colors emphasized the message in the piece and reminded viewers racism is an inevitable reality of yesterday and today.

The SDSU art department is one of the most comprehensive parts of our campus. It embodies multiculturalism, talent and expression, and is on the brink of incorporating all the new technology. It is even making advances that put it ahead of the technological race, making it a leader in providing a balanced artistic educational experience.

T H I N

continued from page 3

film was a control issue, but both Darnell and Brandi wanted it."

Brandi carried scars from an earlier relationship, but Whitfield didn't think they should excuse what she did.

"Victimhood isn't the way to go. Ideally, when you show the dark side of a character, it's supposed to enlighten the audience that this isn't right. Besides, Darnell really wasn't worth all that."

Unfortunately, the transition from comedy to thriller is awkward, and shoddy editing makes it even worse. In one scene, Brandi throws a brick through Darnell's windshield. The windshield fluctuates through the rest of the film between a medium-sized hole, to the entire windshield being gone, and finally the entire windshield reappearing mysteriously intact.

The most frustrating thing about this film is, yet again, an intelligent, attractive woman who remains incomplete without a man. White women have been playing these parts for years, and it's a terrible position for African-American actresses to finally achieve. There is nothing wrong with being an intelligent single woman. Now if only Hollywood could figure this out.

In the end, the word "love" becomes more powerful than any of the other expletives strewn throughout the film, which seem to be grammatical tools teachers managed to keep top secret until now. Four-letter words serve as commas, periods and exclamation points, but love seems to be the hardest word to really mean.

Pass by this "Thin Line," and don't bother to wait for it to come out on video.

Rocket

continued from page 3

"Bottle Rocket" stars three unknown actors and takes place in Texas (although it really could be anywhere). And while it's supposedly the present day, it could be any time or any year. It really doesn't matter though, which is the beauty of it. The audience is left to bask in beautiful cinematography; witty, intelligent and occasionally hysterical dialogue and an original plot. They truly are a rare combination.

Obviously, just being small and unknown is not an advantage in itself. It simply allows the creative process to flow, unhindered by corporate financial ties.

"I don't think it's just a question of finding inexperienced people to hire," said Anderson. "It's finding people that I think are really good. The advantages of these people being my friends is that we all have the same sense of humor and we all know each other well enough to know what we're after."

Like many of Jim Jarmusch's films, the plot is not the most important part of the film. "Bottle Rocket" serves mostly as a character study of some very quirky misfits.

Dignan (Owen Wilson), Anthony (Luke Wilson) and Bob (Robert Musgrave) are the last word in odd combinations. Dignan is the self-appointed leader of the gang. With a driving desire to lead a life of organized crime, living the good life and evading the law, he's the man with the plan, all organized and clearly mapped out in his lifetime spiral notebook planner.

Anthony is the introspective lover, searching for something he isn't even aware exists. He follows along with Dignan's insane plots for

criminal notoriety partly out of passive amusement and partly out of genuine concern for his childhood friend.

Finally, Bob is the man with, well, everything. He's got the (getaway) car, the money and the house. He also has the endlessly tormenting big brother, Futureman (Andrew Wilson) a la Chet from "Weird Science" (they even have the same hairdo). He serves as a representation of the "real" world, attacking his confused little brother like a frat boy confronted with a liberal, Clinton-loving, foreign homosexual. With an even odder assortment of supporting characters, "Bottle Rocket" meanders along at its own leisurely pace, eliciting thoughtful chuckles and poignant smiles.

"I don't think the characters are a realistic portrayal of criminals," Anderson said. "It's more like a realistic portrayal of a bunch of guys that we knew growing up."

From the opening scene in which Dignan rescues Anthony from a mental hospital, unaware it's a volunteer situation, to the final heist at the end, the characters bring this film to creative heights.

Thankfully, this film isn't spending two weeks at the Ken alongside the latest subtitled wonder from France. Columbia is giving "Bottle Rocket" well-deserved distribution around the country, and hopefully, this movie will mark the dawn of a new era in filmmaking.

"Since people haven't heard of us, and people haven't heard of the movie, the only way (for the film to do well) is word of mouth and the movie being well received," Anderson said. "Hopefully, people will see it, like it and then tell their friends."

Instead of just pulling in the critics' votes, artistic and original films such as "Bottle Rocket" might actually be able to make a buck or two, a welcome change indeed.

Check STANZA next week for the second article in a four-part series focusing on the arts at San Diego State University. The topic: Music Department.

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CASE

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RESIDENCY
SERIES

Rebecca Walker

Third Wave of Feminism / Author

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