Monday, April 16, 2006

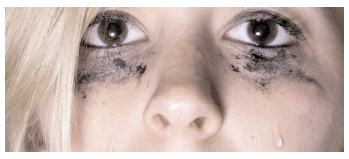
Vol. 92, Issue 107

THE DAILY AZTEC

San Diego State University's Independent Student Newspaper since 1913

INSIDE TODAY

DATING & ROMANCE



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Advice on how to deal when your relationship ends.

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SPORTS

BATTER UP

Softball's offense gets going, but will it lead to wins?

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SUBMIT YOUR SQUABBLES

ROOMMATE RIVALS?

Do you hate your roommate? Send us your horror stories for an upcoming special issue to dazteccity@yahoo.com

TODAY @ SDSU

D-Gage Trio

4:30 p.m., Aztec Center Starbucks

The jazz trio is performing as part of the San Diego State Student Performers Coffeehouse Series.

Visit *www.case.sdsu.edu* or call (619) 594-6551 for more information.

For more of today's headlines, visit: *www.thedailyaztec.com*

TODAY'S WEATHER

Mostly sunny
High: 65°F
Low: 53°F

TOMORROW

Partly cloudy
High: 66°F
Low: 52°F

WEDNESDAY

Partly cloudy
High: 64°F
Low: 50°F

TODAY'S SURF

2-3 ft.; Fair- conditions
WATER TEMP 57°-60°
TIDES 2:56 a.m., -0.57 ft. low
9:03 a.m., 4.81 ft. high
2:51 p.m., 0.11 ft low
9:05 a.m., 6.04 ft. high

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SDS-VIEW

Kelly Calligan / Photo Editor

CHILLENS CHILLS IN THE END ZONE

Chaz Chillens *celebrates after scoring the lone touchdown of the first spring football scrimmage Saturday on a 44-yard pass from senior quarterback Kevin O'Connell.*

Studies: Tanning can be addictive

Local salon owner says moderation key

Shanee Warden
Contributor

Summer is approaching. And with the rising temperatures, San Diego State students are preparing themselves and their bodies for the approaching beach weather.

Students are not only working out at the gym, but they're also looking to get that perfect summer tan.

Before they hit the beach, some students are turning to an alternative source of sunlight for a golden touch. There is often a sea of bodies baking on the sand in Pacific Beach; there are also many who are tanning in a salon.

Jason Vazquez, an SDSU alumnus and the owner of Aztec Tan, said that about 60 percent of his clientele are SDSU students. Aztec Tan customers have options, including tanning beds, lotions and the spray-on Mystic Tan.

Vazquez said the busiest time for customers to come in is usually from January to June.

Nursing sophomore Vanessa Covarrubias said she's aware that "the ultraviolet rays are really bad," but she wears sunglasses and suntan lotion to protect herself.

"People are really into the way they look," said Covarrubias, who tans in salons during the winter. "They don't take the risks seriously until something happens."

She said she knows why salons are enticing.

"People love to tan because it's relaxing and some people have skin conditions that the tanning helps them with," Vazquez said. "It's addictive because it really does make you feel better."

According to *www.medicalnewstoday.com*, new studies show that tanning may be addictive. The Web site also says the addiction is similar to drugs and alcohol in that frequent tanners refuse to change their behavior, although they are aware that it comes with an increased risk in developing skin cancer from overexposure to the sun.

According to the Center for Devices and Radiological Health, there are two types of UV radiation that could be dangerous to one's health: Ultraviolet A (long wavelength or blacklight) and Ultraviolet B (medium wavelength).

Overexposure to UV radiation, whether it's from sun or from tanning beds, may cause skin cancer. It can have damaging effects on the immune system and may cause premature aging.

Vazquez said that moderation is key in tanning and that's why he feels tanning salons are safer.

"People lay out in the sun for a long time, but here we help you moderate, only a few minutes a day," Vazquez said. "The law says you can only tan once a day."

California law requires that tanning salons post a warning that tanning beds emit UV radiation. Aztec Tan requires customers to sign a form that makes them aware of the risks.

Joni Mayer is a behavioral sciences professor in the Graduate School of Public Health at SDSU.

see **TANNING** on page 2

Going green

Enviro-Business brings Earth Week awareness to SDSU

Giselle Domdom
City Editor

It may be hard to imagine the earth ever running out of water or natural resources, but new reports about the effects of global warming and the inevitable depletion of resources have celebrities, politicians and scientists coming together to bring greater attention to what's really going on and what it means to be "green."

April 22 is Earth Day and this year the San Diego State Enviro-Business Society is hosting "Generation Green Earth Week 2007," a week's worth of events aimed at informing the campus community about opportunities and alternatives for sustainable living.

Enviro-Business Society President Ian Bevan said sustainability is like globalization, a scholarly term that can be applied to several aspects of society.

"The normal definition (of sustainability) is using resources in a way that doesn't ruin the future's chance to also use those resources," Bevan said. "I equate sustainability to efficiency. It's efficiently doing anything with any type of resource and doing it in a smart way so you can use (the resource) as many times as possible."

The Enviro-Business Society has planned its biggest SDSU Earth Week to date, with a Global Warming Action Summit and a Green Lifestyles Expo as key events spread among a number of concerts and Earth Week festivals.

Bevan said the group wanted to open and close the week with entertainment aspects to spread the ideas of sustainability.

The week kicks off with a Green Film Festival scheduled from 2 to 8 p.m. today, featuring the documentary "Dr. Bronner's Magic Soapbox" about master soap maker Dr. Emanuel Bronner.

Bevan said the film is a testament to the different types of environmentally friendly and socially responsible business plans people can create.

The idea of sustainability has translated into the business realm as a way of being both cost effective and beneficial for the environment.

Two businesses working with the Enviro-Business Society this week include professional skateboarder Bob Burnquist's alternative food line, Burnquist Organics, and Windmill Farms, a family-owned grocer popular among SDSU students.

Food from environmentally conscious businesses are set to be featured during an Organic Food Tasting Green Autoshow festival from noon to 4 p.m. tomorrow in Aztec Center.

The Enviro-Business Society has also teamed up with the Miles Automotive Group to show students an example of an electric vehicle as

see **GREEN** on page 2

Mini-dorm halt

Neighbors happy about construction stoppage, noise fines

Stephanie Nehmens
Assistant City Editor

College Area non-student residents cheered and whistled last Wednesday after they heard the news: Ian Sells and Michael Haaland of W.T. Haaland Realty and Millenium Construction would cease construction of mini-dorms from now on.

"That's just the two guys, that's just the two we've got, we're not done yet, we've got a long ways to go," said Jay Wilson, city council representative for councilman Jim Madaffer, at the College Area Community Council meeting last Wednesday. "But these are the major contenders, and we're very pleased that Michael Aguirre (the city attorney) and councilmember Kevin Faulconer got on board on this issue. That's certainly going to help down the road.

"We've stopped one investor, we haven't stopped them all."

At about 4:45 p.m. last Wednesday, Aguirre, Mayor Jerry Sanders, Madaffer and Faulconer held a press conference, with Haaland and Sells present.

Wilson told members of the CACC at Wednesday's monthly meeting that Aguirre presented the mini-dorm owners and announced they'd no longer be building mini-dorms: Their current projects will be halted and converted back to single-family homes, including two properties in Pacific Beach. However, the realtors have been granted final permits on three home conversions in the College Area that are almost complete.

While CACC members seemed happy, CACC President Doug Case said there is still some concern.

"It was kind of mysterious as to what the nature of the negotiations between the city attorney were," Case said. "A big question in everybody's minds is what they're going to do with their existing properties."

Haaland and Sells own dozens of converted properties, but did not comment at the press conference on the status of them.

Wilson said, though, that Madaffer would ultimately want all of the mini-dorms returned to original single-family homes, but there has been no decision made about the possibility of that happening.

"Time will tell, but we will definitely be working on that," Wilson said.

see **MINI-DORM** on page 2

TANNING: *Dark skin is still susceptible to skin cancer*

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

She is doing research on ways to encourage people to prevent skin cancer.

"There is no real definite answer to how much sun is safe," Mayer said.

Mayer said that not only are sunburns hazardous to the skin, but tanning is, too. Whenever the skin gets darker and tans, it indicates that the skin has been damaged.

Mayer said that so far, spray-on tans and lotions appear to be safe alternatives to tanning.

While there is a popular belief that lighter skin is the only skin at risk in the sun, darker-colored skin can get burned; tanned and darker skinned-people could develop skin cancer, she said.

Mayer said that although black and hispanic people have a lower risk of developing skin cancer, when they are diagnosed, they are usually diagnosed at a later stage, making it more fatal in these patients.

Theatre arts junior Ashley Peretta said she doesn't go tanning because of the stories she's heard.

"It is a trend, a fad," Peretta said. "Most people are not aware of the risks or they do not feel they apply to them."

MCT Campus

Although tanning salon laws prohibit tanning more than once a day and limit tanning times, the ultraviolet light can still cause cancer and now, studies say, it can cause addiction.

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GREEN: *Being 'green' in everyday life, even in fashion*

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

part of tomorrow's planned green auto show near the Free Speech Steps.

But one of the biggest events of the week is the Global Warming Action Summit from 1:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday in Montezuma Hall.

Representatives from several organizations, including the Scripps Institute of Oceanography, the Southwest Center for Environmental Research and Policy, the Global Energy Network Institute and the San Diego Coalition for Sustainability, are scheduled to have representatives speak and join in several panel discussions. Not only will speakers explain global warming, but they will also talk about taking action, plans for the future and business solutions.

"We want as many green environmentally and socially responsible companies to come to San Diego State and show students why they are sustainable and why their products are equal, if not better, than their non-environmentally safe substitutes," Bevan said. "We want to show people what their career choices are and that all these things are not only good for the environment, but you're saving yourself a lot of money."

A Green Lifestyles Expo, scheduled from noon to 4 p.m. on Thursday, is designed to show students how "being green" can be applied in day-to-day life. A fashion show featuring the sustainable clothing of businesses such as Volcom's new V.Co-Logical line, Under the Canopy and Mission Playground is one part of this event.

Bevan said the expo will showcase groups not necessarily known for being sustainable.

The weekday events conclude with a reggae concert featuring Eek-A-Mouse from noon to 1 p.m. on Friday in Aztec Center's Outdoor Stage.

The Enviro-Business Society is joining the Mission Beach clean-up effort on Saturday and Balboa Park Earth Day events on Sunday.

–Visit www.clube3.org *to volunteer or for more information.*

MINI-DORM: *Fine to be implemented on April 30*

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

He added that the Neighborhood Code Compliance Department for the City of San Diego begins its program with the San Diego Police Department on nuisance violations at the end of this month, with the ability to give on-site citations of up to $1,000, and the citations can be given in person.

The program aims to stifle the noise of college students and all other noisy tenants, which may help the mini-dorm situation.

City and code compliance representatives announced during a press conference held on March 7 at SDSU that they'd be implementing the fine on April 30 .

Case said that this ordinance is giving officers the option to gradually increase the dollar amount of each fine given to a noisy neighbor; they can start with $250 fines and work their way up or go straight to $1,000.

"And I believe it's their intent to issue just the $1,000," Case said. "It's my understanding that they're not going to graduate to the $1,000. They're just going straight for it."

That fine would be $1,000 for each of the tenants of the property and the property owner, even absentee owners who rent their homes.

"But their intent is to not cite the owner on the first offense, but to notify them and on the second offense, cite the owner," Case said.

Ken Padilla / Staff Photographer

The city has decided to take action to stop realtors from converting their homes into mini-dorms to avoid noisy party situations such as these. Police can issue $1,000 fines for noise violations beginning April 30.

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A.S. BRIEF

Bylaws change

A.S. voted to amend 10 bylaws to be effective this fall

GARETT GOMEZ
STAFF WRITER

Every semester, the Associated Students opens the floor of Council Chambers to all of its members, giving them the opportunity to make amendments to the bylaws and the codes A.S. adheres to.

At its last meeting, the committee made 10 new amendments to these bylaws, which will become effective during the upcoming Fall 2007 semester.

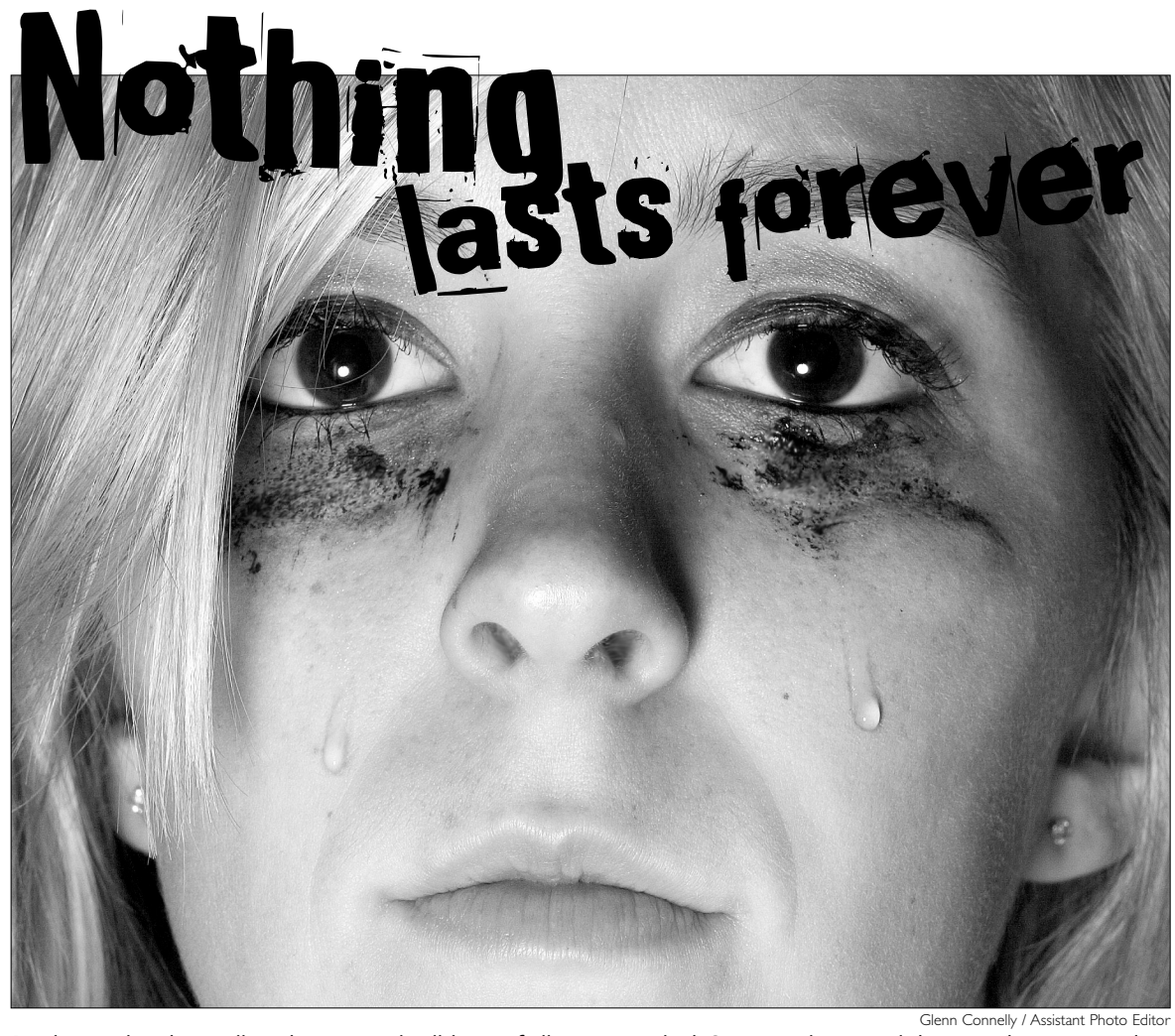
A.S. President Matt Keipper also said any member could submit an amendment based on his or her own opinion, addressing the way the council is handled. In the end, A.S. decides which amendments are applicable and necessary to its foundations.

These additional changes to the bylaws strictly deal with the A.S. system and include reforms that affect issues related to governmental affairs.

"There are a number of officers who drew up amendments, myself included," Keipper said. "I offered up two public amendments dealing with a reform on public comment and the structure of the presidential cabinet."

In addition to the amendments to the bylaws, A.S. also discussed how the Aztec Aquaplex has become a valuable asset to the world of water sports at San Diego State and spoke about the possibility of a men's water polo club team forming at SDSU.

Nothing lasts forever



Glenn Connelly / Assistant Photo Editor

Break ups take a huge toll on the emotional well-being of all parties involved. Some people cry until the stress disappears and they wipe away the tears. There are, however, several proactive ways to deal with picking up the pieces after getting your heart broken.

NATALIA VAN STRALEN
COPY EDITOR

"I am totally over him. He was such a conceded jerk."

"She was so freakin' spoiled anyway. I don't need her drama."

Therapy after a break-up seems to stem from every direction of the lonely tree. Many people would agree that the best therapy for the bitter anger left from a broken heart is self-satisfying revenge.

You know exactly what I'm talking about: the late-night partying, searching for a much better looking replacement, or the need to be dressing to a tee at all times in an effort to be prepared for the moment where your ex could possibly see your sexy self.

Hospitality and tourism management freshman Genevieve Hecht has experienced the torture of a break-up after an unfortunate scenario that led to an immediate end to the relationship.

"I couldn't believe this guy I was dating when he took me to a party with all of his friends and ex-girlfriend," Hecht said. "He was much closer to her than I had thought."

After more than a few stories about the personal relationship of her current boyfriend and his ex-girlfriend, Hecht stormed out of the party and headed home.

"It was more than I ever wanted to know about their relationship and he obviously didn't care because when I told him I was leaving he responded, 'That's your choice,'" she said.

Hecht broke up with him on the spot and dealt with it the best way she knew how – by enjoying the company of his very kind and attractive male friends as often as possible.

While Hecht's tactic of dealing with her heartbreak relieved her of her anger at the time, she wouldn't recommend it to others.

"I did enjoy those guys a lot, but it didn't seem right that I hung out with them mainly to aggravate my ex," Hecht said. "There are so many other ways to deal with a break-up in a more positive manner."

She suggests going places you have never been, spending time with old friends and considering making new ones in addition to trying something new, such as a gym class.

"I wouldn't rule out therapy for anyone either," Hecht said. "If the relationship is long or intense, sometimes all the close people around you can't even understand what you are going through."

When journalism freshman Sam Dittli broke up with his long-time girlfriend, all he wanted to do was avoid her.

"I went out a lot," Dittli said. "Friends were especially important to me and I hit up a lot of parties."

His biggest form of therapy, however, wasn't the partying or his friends. It was writing poetry, songs, novels and stories about how he was feeling. Dittli released his feelings through the use of the good ol' pen and paper.

"Maybe writing isn't your thing, but a lot of people have something they do to relax and distress," Dittli said. "Writing did it for me; it was one of the most positive things that came out of the break-up, all the great pieces I was able to put together with my thoughts."

Breaking up with someone close to your heart doesn't always have to mean that your heart has to break. Staying positive about what lies ahead and getting focused on things that are important to your life and making goals can set you on a better path than you expected. Dittli confirmed his passion for journalism after his break-up and said he knew that writing was what he wanted to do.

If you start to feel bitter anger after a break-up, instead of satisfying yourself with revenge, self-indulge in things you have wanted to do and haven't yet done or delve into what is already a steady passion of yours. If a break-up has to be bittersweet, enjoy the sweet side of it, I'm betting you'll learn to appreciate things you forgot were important to you.

–Natalia Van Stralen is a journalism freshman.

–This column does not necessarily reflect the opinion of The Daily Aztec.

On-campus counseling services can be obtained by phone or by Web at http://www.sa.sdsu.edu/cps/

Dating: Make sure an attorney is present

www.sxc.hu

CASSIDY GRUBER
U-WIRE

PITTSBURGH – I've discovered a legal loophole that is going to destroy the current ideas of courtship as we know them.

It all started one lazy Saturday as I sat studying at the Carnegie Library with a friend. This friend, who is full of seemingly useless knowledge, which he loves to spout out as soon as he sees that I am starting to make progress on my homework, informed me that the part of the brain that sends out the unpleasant response linked to physical pain – the anterior cingulated cortex, to be exact and nerdy – is the same part of the brain that reacts when a person encounters social rejection, and that these two responses share some pretty important neural pathways.

So that's why it feels like you've been kicked in the stomach every time someone turns you down for a date.

At first I was all "Please stop talking to me, I'm actually understanding this reading on temporal parts," but then I began to reflect on this little scientific fun fact. And because I was already doing logic-ish metaphysical philosophy, I wrote down a little proof that went something like this:

Premise 1: Getting kicked = getting rejected.

Premise 2: Getting kicked = legal action taken against kicker by kickee.

Conclusion: Therefore, by substitution: Getting rejected = legal action taken against rejecter by rejected.

"Oh, snap," I said to my friend. Do you know what this means? If you can press charges against someone for assaulting you, and assault is the equivalent of getting dumped, ditched or not dated, then you can take legal action against someone who rejects you!

At this point my library buddy's face instantaneously filled with what I would describe as dread. You see, my friend is in a state of perpetually rejecting my romantic advances, so according to my new little scientific/legal/proof-thing, he is also in a state of perpetually causing me physical harm, or the equivalent thereof, and therefore is in a state of perpetually being at risk of legal action.

And in my friend's newfound dread, I saw the potential that this little law has. Imagine the implications of being able to press charges against someone every time he or she rejected you! People would never get rejected. Ever.

The world would be such a different place.

For starters, the economy would be completely revitalized. Because people would be dating so much more, they would be spending a lot more money. Dinner, movies, flowers, coffee, presents, etc. – all these little things would start to add up. There's real money in new romance.

Second, dating obligations would break down class boundaries. You know that person who is all "I am too classy for you"? Well, not anymore, my friends, the playing field is now level. Because nobody, not even classy people, can escape the long arm of the law. Equality would reach a new dimension.

Third, and here's the big one: world peace. OK, why do you think people start wars? They're bitter about being rejected. Rejection is not limited to just you and me, even world leaders are rejected from time to time. And let's not lie to ourselves, that rejection-fueled acrimony builds up until all of the sudden you find yourself making up reasons to invade some place or ethnically cleanse a group of people or something. My Nobel Peace Prize is in the mail, right?

A world with no rejection seems amazing to me.

Here's the thing though – I've seen enough romantic comedies to realize that if you never reject someone who's pursuing you, and you're forever stuck with the first really gross kid who asked you out in seventh grade, then you probably won't be so happy.

You won't ever want to actually go out with this person, so your "dates" will consist of watching cable television at home and making frozen pizzas. So the economy won't really be boosted, except for the frozen pizza economy and is that even lacking? People love frozen pizza now and I can safely say they always will.

And not-so-desirable people will fight to ask out the super-desirable people, so the mediocre people, who make up the majority, will not have anyone to ask them out. So there'll be a lot more loneliness. And even more class stratification. And there will probably be all this newfound hostility to fuel people's war-starting fires. So no world peace, which means no Nobel Peace Prize for me, and that makes me very unhappy.

I guess rejection is a necessary part of life, as painful as it may be. It opens doors to new opportunities and shuts them on potentially unpleasant situations. It justifies teenage melodrama and provides fodder for pretty much any show on The CW. And most importantly, it's an excellent source of the bitter pills on which writers such as myself subsist.

So I'd just like to say to my library friend, you can wipe that dread off your face now. And also, do you want to get coffee sometime? Maybe a movie ...?

–This column does not necessarily reflect the opinion of The Daily Aztec.

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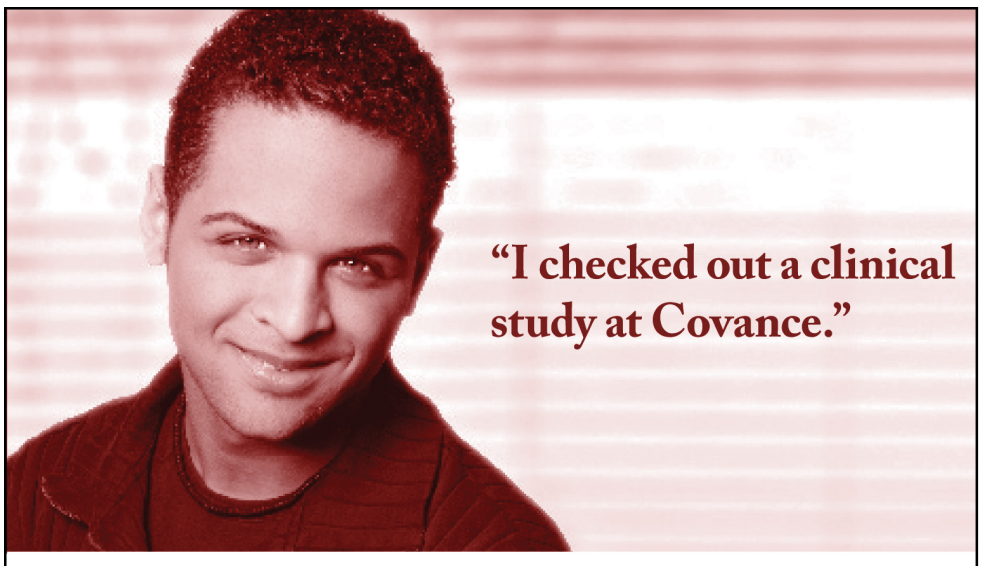

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SOFTBALL

Bats come alive against Colorado State

Aztecs find offensive game, but can't take advantage after pitching problems

ANDREW STEWART
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

When the San Diego State softball team began Mountain West Conference play two weeks ago, their Louisville Slugger bats were on strike.

SDSU's bats couldn't buy a hit. During a four-game stretch, the team walked away with only five runs.

That all changed last weekend, when the Aztec hitters crossed the picket line. SDSU (25-17, 2-5 in MWC play) tallied 26 runs and 31 hits in three weekend games – two against Colorado State in Fort Collins, Colo., on Friday and one against New Mexico in Albuquerque, N.M., on Saturday. The result of yesterday's game against the Lobos was not available as of deadline.

Megan McDonald did her share. The junior catcher hit two home runs on the weekend, including a grand slam in an 11-2 victory over the Lobos (11-14, 1-1 MWC) on Saturday.

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LOBOS	2

"She has definitely been making better adjustments at the plate," head coach Kathy Van Wyk said. "She's done a good job at not pulling the inside pitch and turning it into a long strike, but trying to take the inside pitch to the middle more and keep it fair. Both of her home runs were inside pitches that typically she would have hit foul."

But McDonald's output was matched by the Rams (23-19, 2-1 MWC). CSU came prepared for the Aztecs' offensive onslaught, sweeping Friday's doubleheader by scores of 13-12 and 6-3.

"I kind of wish I knew which team was going to show up," Van Wyk said. "It's kind of hit and miss – you just don't know what to expect."

It seems like no one knows what to expect. So far this season, pitching has been SDSU's only constant. But after CSU became just the second team to score double digits against the Aztecs this season, anything could happen.

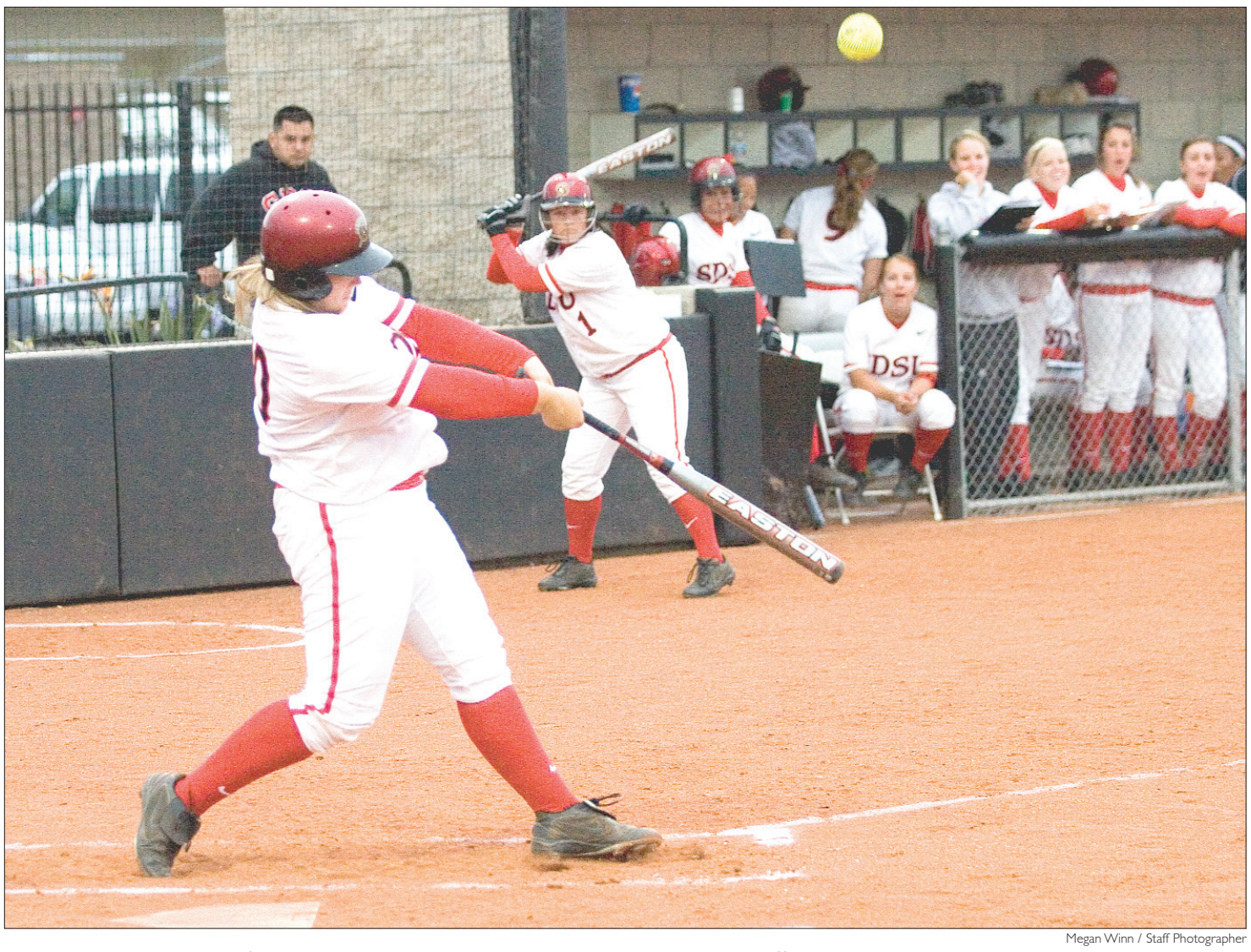
One reason for the pitching collapse could be the team's thin bullpen. The Aztecs' relief corps took a big blow when sophomore pitcher Melissa Owens went down with a high ankle sprain in the first at-bat of the weekend.

"Everything yesterday would have been different if we had Mel," Van Wyk said of Friday's sweep. "But those are the kinds of things you have to plan for. Under the circumstances, we did as well as could be expected."

With Owens possibly on the shelf for two weeks, SDSU loses a potent player who contributes in offense, defense and pitching. And the Aztecs, despite lofty prospects on Opening Day, are starting to fall down to Earth.

"We just have to worry about taking it one game at a time," Van Wyk said. "We can't look down the road and look at how many losses (we have) because that's all behind us now. We know we haven't played up to our potential, and we have issues to keep working on."

Added McDonald: "Our confidence is just as high as it was before. We played well both games (against Colorado State), it just didn't go our way."



Megan Winn / Staff Photographer

Megan McDonald hit a pair of home runs this weekend, including a grand slam, as the Aztecs' offense scored 26 runs and recorded 31 hits in three games.

NEWS AND NOTES

- Junior Megan McDonald's two home runs this weekend were her first two of the year.

BEHIND THE NUMBERS

5.2	Innings pitched by junior Tamani Wells in Friday's doubleheader
3.2	Innings pitched by Wells heading into last weekend
18	Hits recorded by the Aztecs on Saturday against New Mexico, tying a school record
6	SDSU batters hitting over .300 this season
2	Games with 15-plus hits for the Aztecs last weekend
0	15-plus hit games for SDSU before last Friday

SPRING FOOTBALL

Lesson from first scrimmage: Bee aggressive

Insect arrival spoils start of SDSU's first contest of the spring

DAVID BIDERMAN
STAFF WRITER

How's this for an ominous sign?

Following weeks of limited-contact practices in front of scattered fans, the San Diego State football team was ready to start hitting.

A crowd of several hundred people watched SDSU play its first scrimmage of the 2007-08 season on Saturday, and the cloudless sky was complemented by ideal 70-degree weather.

Sounds like the perfect start to a new chapter of Aztec football, right?

Wrong.

During a few practice plays before the official start of the scrimmage, a swarm of bees decided it would join the party.

Literally.

A swarm of bees in the "grab your stuff and get out of the way as fast as possible" sense.

Fortunately, the brief hundred or so bee invasion was short-lived, but it was enough to shake up the people crowding the sidelines as well as the players on the field.

"I was trying to get out of the way," redshirt freshman running back Brandon Sullivan said. "I laid on the ground ... I wasn't trying to get stung. I'll be honest, I thought that was a bad sign right there."

Luckily for Sullivan, the bees didn't stay long enough to cause any real problems.

Not so lucky was the SDSU defense, however, as Sullivan showed why he was so highly touted as a recruit last season. He's potentially a second feature back this season to go with sophomore running back Atiyyah Henderson.

Sullivan is big (standing at 5 foot 11 inches, 215 pounds), muscular, has good foot speed and hits the line of scrimmage like a freight train.

He ended the day with five carries for 29 yards, as SDSU ran 48 plays overall, with the lone score coming on senior quarterback Kevin O'Connell's touchdown pass to senior receiver Chaz Schilens. Although Sullivan didn't score, he played loosely while maintaining composure.

The seeming lack of pressure he showed stems from knowing that Henderson is still slotted as the starting running back. That knowledge gives Sullivan room for error.

"I felt fine out there, but I'm still learning," Sullivan said. "I had some good plays and some bad ones, but I'm getting adjusted and things are going all right."

As for the person responsible for getting the ball to Sullivan – or any offensive player – the quarterback spot is still far from decided.

Sophomore quarterback Kevin Craft split snaps with senior quarterback Kevin O'Connell, and neither did anything particularly impressive.

O'Connell was the initial starter last season, but early injuries gave Craft an opportunity to play and now the competition for the starter's spot is wide open.

Head coach Chuck Long said he'll let the players get used to his system before any permanent choices are made, however.

"We want to see how they compete," Long said. "(Quarterback) is a spot that needs to be defined more, but both players look crisper because they know the system better."

With the signal-callers looking ready for the challenge and Sullivan providing depth at the running back spot, the first scrimmage left the Aztecs in a good frame of mind.

"I see a lot of good things so far," Long said. "The players are farther along than we thought, and that's a culmination of a good offseason."

Kelly Calligan / Photo Editor

Redshirt freshman running back Brandon Sullivan is dragged down from behind during Saturday's scrimmage. Sullivan was SDSU's leading rusher with five runs for 29 yards.

MCT Campus

Super Bowl champion Indianapolis Colts quarterback Peyton Manning hoists the Lombardi Trophy after the Colts' victory. Manning and the Colts appear just once on ESPN's "Monday Night Football" this season.

NFL gives ESPN and fans raw deal with 'MNF'

MICHAEL ERLER
SENIOR COLUMNIST

In a world where screenwriters and directors constantly try to top one another with their ridiculous premises and implausible plots, it's almost refreshing to watch a movie trailer that's more conservative than reality. Sighing through the previews with my date last weekend, waiting for the superb new Will Ferrell movie "Blades of Glory" to start, we were treated to a sneak peek of "Ocean's 13."

Frankly, I was stunned. I can't believe this sequel to a sequel got made. Wasn't "Ocean's 12" bad enough? The original was a good flick, but it's pretty tiresome watching a gang of pretty-boys scheme for two hours to steal only $200 million.

However, compared with the NFL's fleecing of ESPN, $200 million is pocket change.

ESPN agreed to terms with the NFL last season on an eight-year deal to broadcast "Monday Night Football," paying $1.1 billion per season for the privilege, according to *The Washington Post*. For the 35 years before last year, the "MNF" franchise had been on network television, on ABC.

Since its inception, "MNF" has both advertised and enjoyed its "Game of the Week" status. It had the most cameras, used the newest technology and employed the best broadcasters. Until the relatively recent availability of the Sunday Ticket package on satellite television, football fans were often held hostage on Sundays, as the only televised games they got were from their local markets.

MNF was usually the one chance per week to watch a matchup of marquee teams during the regular season.

It was a big deal.

Now it's become a train wreck.

I couldn't believe my eyes when I saw next season's Monday night schedule. For its kingly ransom, the league gave ESPN a pauper's spoils. Last year's champions, the Indianapolis Colts, are featured just once. So are the Chicago Bears, the team they vanquished in the Super Bowl. In fact, last year's 12 playoff teams will only make a combined 14 appearances on Monday nights next year. Just one game, the New England Patriots at the Baltimore Ravens on Dec. 3, will be waged between 2006 playoff teams. Meanwhile, four games on next year's slate will feature no playoff teams at all.

This is highly irregular.

Consider that in the last 13 years ABC hosted Monday Night Football, the past year's champion averaged 2.85 appearances the following season (never less than two or more than three). The Super Bowl loser was featured almost as often, 2.69 per.

Playoff teams averaged a combined 26 appearances and 10 games versus one another between the 1993 and 2005 seasons for ABC. In ESPN's first year, those numbers slipped to 17 and four.

It used to be the Sunday night games that got the less desirable tilts. After all, the NFL has a league rule where every team, no matter how bad they are, has to be featured in at least one primetime national game. Sunday nights would often be where the Arizona Cardinals and the Cleveland Browns of the world were hidden away.

Now NBC, which pays the NFL $600 million a year for "Sunday Night Football" – or a little more than half what of what ESPN pays – gets to boast about featuring the game of the week. The Colts and Bears are scheduled to appear three times each. Playoff teams from 2006 are on the docket a combined 26 times and they'll be battling each other a whopping 12 of 17 weeks.

If that wasn't enough, NBC has the right to use "flex scheduling" between weeks 11 through 17, so if any of its slated games in those weeks look less appealing than before, it has the option to choose another game from the Sunday afternoon schedule to replace it. ESPN, on the other hand, is married to its weak schedule.

Believe me, I'm not complaining about any of this. NBC has better announcers, (Al Michaels and John Madden) better production values and less shtick. ESPN has second rate talent – to be kind – in the booth and it interrupts its games in the second quarter to interview celebrities that no one cares about. No phase of its operation screams quality, no matter how loud its analysts yell at one another.

I can't wait till they interview George Clooney and Brad Pitt next year during the middle of some snoozer, just so these world-famous actors can finally see what a real robbery looks like.

–Michael Erler is a political science senior.

–This column does not necessarily reflect the opinion of The Daily Aztec.

WATER POLO

Aztecs exact vengeance for earlier loss

Weekend starts well with MPSF victory

DAVID POPE
STAFF WRITER

About two months ago, the San Diego State water polo team was off to a rocky start.

Coming off its third consecutive loss, SDSU sat dangerously close to .500 at 4-3, not a solid beginning for a team with legitimate post-season aspirations.

SDSU	11
UCI	4

But since then, the Aztecs have let everyone know that mediocrity just isn't an option.

The team countered its three-game losing streak by winning 20 of its next 23 games (including a program-record 14-game winning streak) and turned the season around.

On Thursday, the Aztec Aquaplex was the site for a rematch between SDSU an UC Irvine. In the first match earlier this year, the Anteaters edged the Aztecs 8-7, handing SDSU its third consecutive loss, the longest losing streak of the season for head coach Carin Crawford's squad. But the Aztecs carried the momentum from the 18-3 stretch that followed into Thursday's match, winning 11-4.

SDSU came flying out of the gate, outscoring UCI 3-0 in the first quarter and taking a 7-3 lead at the half. Thanks to hat tricks from sophomores Jenna Schuster and Anna Gonzales, and senior goalkeeper Sarah Kilgore's steady effort (13 saves, only one second-half goal allowed), the Aztecs got their retribution, winning 11-4.

Unfortunately for SDSU, momentum hit a wall on Saturday as the Aztecs took on No. 3 USC. SDSU suffered its worst loss of the season by far, falling 17-5 at the Trojans' home pool in Los Angeles. The Aztecs were outplayed in every facet of the game, as they were unable to contain USC's offense or find any offensive rhythm of their own.

SDSU is not accustomed to losses of this magnitude. Of the six losses the Aztecs have suffered this year, three have been by one goal and only one was by two goals. The only other blowout came at the hands of No. 1 Stanford, which defeated SDSU 14-8 earlier this season.

The Aztecs will try to get back on track on Thursday when No. 2 UCLA comes to Montezuma Mesa looking to cement the No. 2 seed in the MPSF championships.

Andrew Huse / Contributing Photographer

Sophomore Anna Gonzalez (right) scored three goals on Thursday in an 11-4 win against UCI.

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HUMOR

My least favorite Flava

BRETT UDDENBERG
SPECIAL TO *THE DAILY AZTEC*

For years, I made a sincere effort to make fun of all people within shouting distance who stayed glued to the television set to catch whatever new reality series was plaguing the monitor. From my family's religious devotion to "Survivor" to my girlfriend's love for "The Real World," I made damn sure to be an elitist jerk and ridicule them for their poor taste.

Which brings me to why I'm a complete hypocrite. Thanks to the dark forces behind VH1's "Celebreality," I too have been sucked into the machine. My excuse for this slip up varies from day to day, but it always begins with something along the lines of "It's different when I watch it because ..."

It started innocently enough, when I'd sit down and join my roommates to watch a few minutes of "Breaking Bonaduce" or "The Surreal Life." This was more than acceptable, I thought, seeing as we all like to see celebrities crash and burn. Maybe it's mere jealousy of their fortune and fame, or maybe it's the feeling of justice when no-talent-scum come tumbling back down to Earth. Train-wreck television at its finest.

Though I never got into "The Flavor of Love," one of three reality series VH1 has run featuring Flavor Flav, I witnessed enough moments and heard enough conversations on campus to understand its genius. In fact, "The Flavor of Love" was the most popular conversation for the Fall 2006 semester, followed closely by Anonymous Blonde No. 247 debating how many kegstands Rory did the previous night at the fraternity social, while she takes corners at 86 mph in her Escalade through Parking Structure 5, one hand on her Blackberry and the other firmly gripping a "Guatemalan Hazelnut Mocha Frappucino." But I digress.

Public Enemy's Chuck D labeled VH1's recent programming as Flavsploitation; it's hilarious when you consider he's suggesting Flavor Flav had a scrap of dignity left in his 120-pound frame before the network approached him. Though I guess the idea makes sense when you think about it. Because who's more respectable than the dude who smoked too much crack to be a hypeman? I guess we should have seen it coming. People who wear Viking helmets and ribcage-sized clocks around their neck tend to smoke copious amounts of crack and get their own shows on VH1. Ask Whitney and Bobby.

After watching just bits and pieces of these VH1 shows, I only felt like a marginal scumbag. Then, of course, they had to create "The (White) Rapper Show." VH1 tried to get Satan to produce the series, but he decided he'd had enough after his stint with FOX on shows such as "The Swan" and moved on to focus his dark energy on advertising and marketing.

Gimmicks are paramount to any reality series and "The (White) Rapper Show" was no exception. Hosted by a no-hit-wonder who miraculously earned the billing of "Hip-Hop Icon" under his name, this program made Ted Haggard look respectable. And if you think I'm exaggerating, you must have never watched the show.

When the unmitigated a**hole host MC Serch would have a message for the "rappers," they would receive this correspondence on a screen that said "You've Got Mayo." Get it? 'Cause mayonnaise is white! Like the rappers! Touché, VH1. Touché.

One of the high points of the show came when the "rappers" picked oversized crayons out of a box, each having a children's theme inscribed thereon, and had to kick "thugged-out nursery rhymes" about them. I could list 100 examples of the ignorance and stereotype-fueled madness of "The (White) Rapper Show," but you should get the point by now.

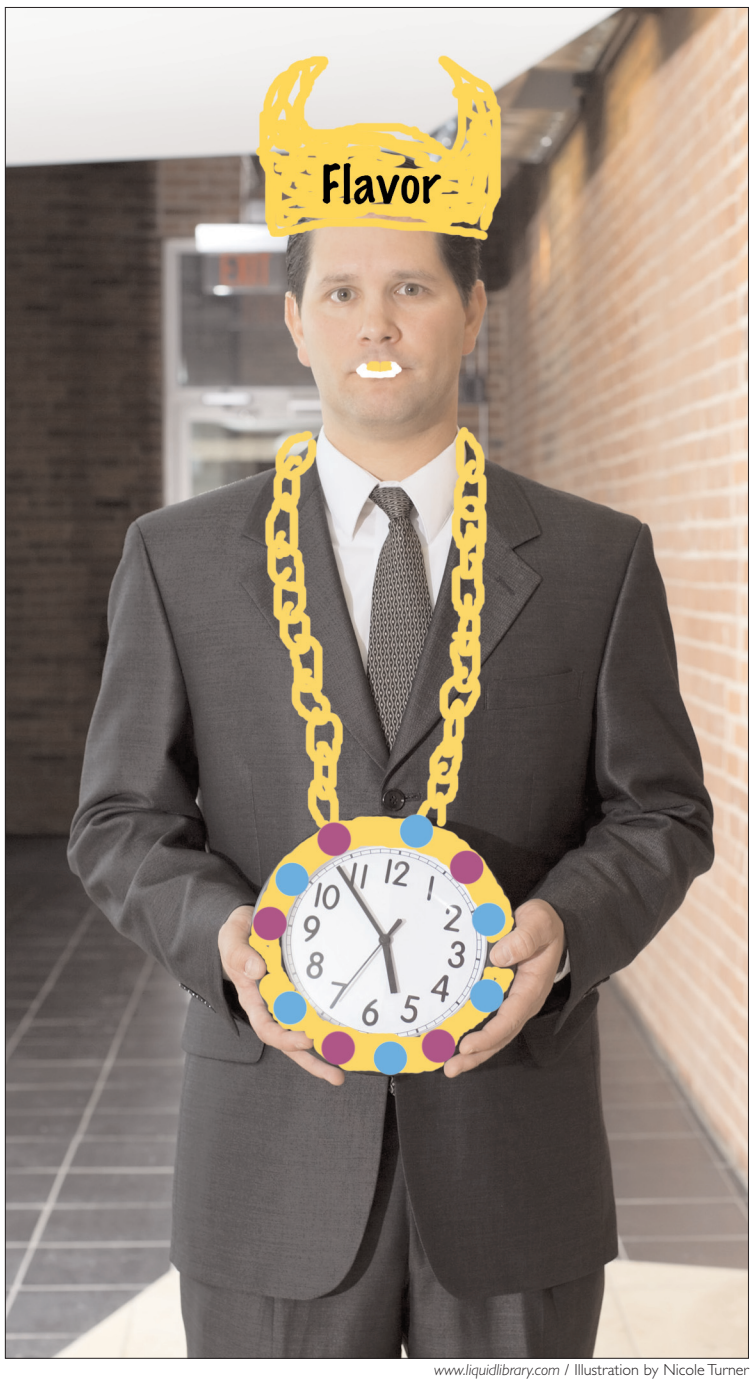
I would, however, feel like I'm cheating you if I didn't mention that $hamrock, the winning rapper, started off his winning song with the line "I've got my fresh Filas on and they lookin' so pretty." And with that lyrical miracle, he was $100,000 richer while every half-talented artist before him rolled over in his grave.

I would go on to discuss "I Love New York," which was simultaneously the funniest and most disgusting show on television, but I'm not quite ready to admit I watched that.

You're probably thinking the guy who wrote this article is no more than a hater who is bitter about watching the programming that nearly made him vomit for so many years. And you're right. But reality television will always be an abomination in my mind. Especially the VH1 variety that sets cultures back 200 years. It's just these train-wreck TV shows I can't seem to turn away from. Because what's more fun that laughing at other people's misfortunes? Not a single thing in the history of the universe.

—Brett Uddenberg is a communication senior.

—This column does not necessarily reflect the opinion of The Daily Aztec.



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DAILY HOROSCOPE

BY LINDA C. BLACK, TRIBUNE MEDIA SERVICES

Monday, April 16, 2007

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (4-16-07). You're not only enthusiastic this year; you're also quite accurate. Add discipline and you'll set new records in areas you'll find important.

ARIES (02-13-07). - Today is a 10 - You can get farther faster than ever before under these conditions. Barriers that have stopped you in the past have been overcome.

TAURUS (April 20 - May 20) - Today is a 6 - You're up against a deadline again, which isn't entirely your fault. Circumstances beyond your control have increased the pressure. Better hurry up and do what you promised.

GEMINI (May 21 - June 21) - Today is an 8 - Confer with your team, and do your best to learn from their mistakes. Become more assertive under their coaching but don't get impetuous.

CANCER (June 22 - July 22) - Today is an 8 - The quality of your work has made an excellent impression. It's also good that you're in the habit of solving your own problems.

LEO (July 23 - Aug. 22) - Today is a 9 - This could be your lucky day. That part is pretty obvious. Whether or not you keep what you gain, however, is not as clear. Avoid impetuous behavior, especially from yourself.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22) - Today is a 5 - Count the money carefully, so you don't make any mistakes. The last thing you need is a lecture from people who can't do their own math.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22) - Today is a 7 - Be ready to hear about every little violation of the rules. Passions have also been aroused, so stay out of the way of a zealot.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21) - Today is a 9 - You're onto something good. Resist the urge to tell everybody. Use that energy to make sure all your paperwork is in order.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21) - Today is a 7 - You are so very attractive now, it's hard to get a moment's peace. Some very assertive admirers are demanding your attention.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19) - Today is a 5 - You don't have to explain yourself to anyone but you can. A private conversation with a loved one could do wonders for a drooping attitude.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18) - Today is a 6 - Your passion for learning is so intense, you could frighten casual observers. Don't worry about them, they'll turn out to be your greatest admirers.

PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20) - Today is a 10 - Choose your words very carefully, while things are going well. If you have trouble with profit flow, shouting could clear the blockage.

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BY MICHAEL MEPHAM

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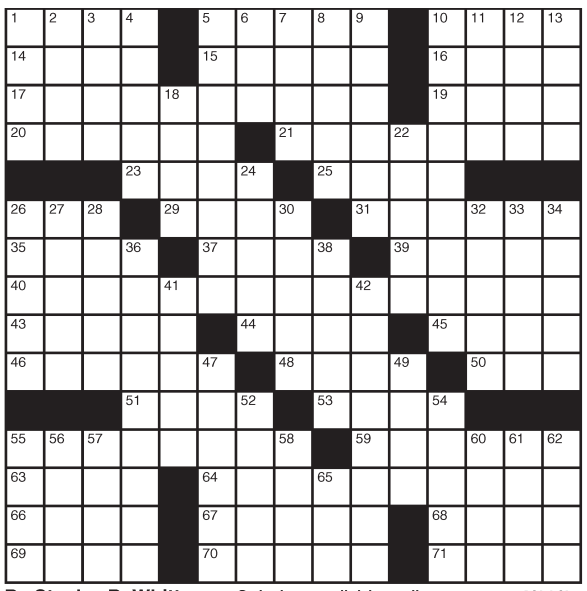
CROSSWORD

EDITED BY WAYNE ROBERT WILLIAMS



ACROSS
1 Hatteras or Canaveral
5 Piece of broken pottery
10 Crowds gone wild
14 Caspian feeder
15 Vietnam's capital
16 In a frenzy
17 Hit where one lives?
19 Punjabi princess
20 Surfer's inhalations
21 Talked idly
23 Letter opening, often
25 CNN word
26 Tease
29 Pindar works
31 Of the teeth
35 God of love
37 Elec. measures
39 Spooky
40 European landmass
43 Outfit
44 Connery or Penn
45 PGA pegs
46 Lend an ear
48 Opera singer
50 EPA-banned substance
51 Snare
53 Hoist
55 Hive resident
59 Gauguin location
63 Declare
64 Certain female dancers
66 Country road
67 Cream of the crop
68 Iditarod terminus
69 Ran away
70 Title documents
71 Leg joint

DOWN
1 Swear, casually
2 Comic Johnson
3 Medic or normal lead-in
4 Disney's middle name
5 Union general
6 Expression of derision
7 Shortly
8 Word before candle or numeral
9 Counted calories
10 Hugger-mugger
11 Actor Sharif
12 Treat for Rover
13 Lose traction
18 Metric wt.
22 Twixt's partner
24 Office subs
26 Mutineer
27 Baghdad resident
28 Round mass
30 Swiftness
32 Positioned accurately
33 Felt unwell
34 Fewest
36 Skipped, as a fishing lure
38 Sluggish one
41 Mimicry
42 Those asked
47 Collared
49 Distant
52 U.S. family of artists
54 Use one's gray cells
55 50%
56 Track shape
57 Hawaiian bird
58 Author Wiesel
60 Privy to
61 Domesticate
62 Words of understanding
65 Inc. in Great Britain

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