

THE DAILY AZTEC



2010

It's done. The Spring semester is finally over. Now all you have to do is study a little more and ace those finals. Don't worry, you got this. But to help pass the time a little quicker, open these pages and see what's inside — we don't think you will be disappointed. After all, who doesn't like fun and games?

CITY 3



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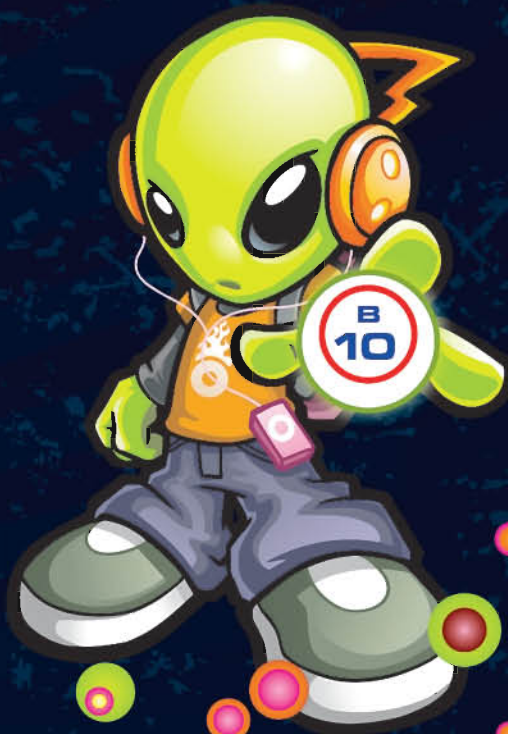
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Grades improve for student athletes



Glenn Connelly / Photo Editor

APRIL FLOWERS
CONTRIBUTOR

San Diego State student athletes have improved performances off the field, according to a report released last month by the Intercollegiate Athletic Authority committee.

Since the 2005-2006 school year, the number of SDSU scholar-athletes has increased from 170 to 246, meaning more athletes have a 3.0 cumulative GPA or a 3.2 semester GPA.

Although the number of SDSU athletes on academic probation has also decreased by almost 25

percent since 2006, some sports teams have increased the number of athletes on academic probation.

The number of football players on academic probation decreased from 16 in Fall 2007 to seven last semester. On the other hand, the baseball team's academic probations increased from zero to four in the same duration of time. Notably, the men's soccer team, men's tennis team, women's tennis team and volleyball team had no athletes on probation during this time.

Last semester, SDSU athletes averaged a cumulative GPA of 2.74. This is less than past semesters, but there were four sports teams with GPAs higher than 3.0

in the fall, which is more than last fall and spring semesters. The cross-country team and the women's tennis team had the two highest GPAs last semester at 3.36 and 3.26, respectively.

The NCAA released the 2008-2009 Academic Progress Report, which also shows academic improvements for SDSU athletes.

Sara Beyers, a food nutrition junior on SDSU's cross-country and track and field teams, has a 3.13 GPA and recorded the sixth-best time in the 5,000 meter race at the Steve Scott Invitational in 2008. Still, like many other college students, Beyers said that time management is one of the hardest parts of juggling academics, athlet-

The NCAA released the 2008-2009 Academic Progress Report, which also shows academic improvements for SDSU athletes.

ics and a social life.

Colleen Evans, director of Student Athlete Academic Support Services, said the Athletics Department tries to take a proactive approach when accommodating the academic needs of SDSU athletes.

She said the Athletics Department helps student athletes find tutors and proctors for missed tests and offers students academic advisers that help plan class schedules. There are four academic advisers assigned to support athletes.

"We have been making good strides academically," Evans said.

Career Services sees influx of students

DANNY PENERA
STAFF WRITER

Programs at San Diego State have not typically been increasing members recently, but Career Services is defying the norms of a recession — helping students find jobs while increasing its member base.

According to career counselor Preston Chipps, the number of students who are registered on the Career Services website has increased from around one-third to nearly half of the student population. Chipps said the growth in website membership has been going on for the past three years.

This increased web traffic has also led to more students seeking counseling from Career Services

office. Director of Career Services Dr. James Tarbox estimated the number of walk-in appointments has increased by nearly 25 percent since last August.

Tarbox said he believes the increased number of web users and walk-in appointments has been caused by the economy, which has had a negative effect on the job market.

According to a report released in March by the U.S. Bureau of Labor, the unemployment rate in California is 12.6 percent, making it the state with the third highest unemployment rate in the nation.

In response to this scarce job market, SDSU's Career Services offers workshops that aim to equip students with knowledge conducive to finding a job.

There are currently 10 workshops conducted by Career Services that offer a range of services from information about job-seeking to face-to-face interaction with a panel of potential employers. Students can register for workshops on the Career Services website.

Chipps teaches two of these workshops, and said the face-to-face interaction he has with students is invaluable because it allows them to think critically about their potential jobs.

"Students are giving great feedback, they come in here lost, confused and anxious, and walk out with direction, optimism and a sense of purpose," Chipps said.

He said counselors provide direction to students in two ways: by helping them identify their indi-

vidual career goals and by going through tactics to accomplish the goal they identified.

As a way of monitoring the progress of students, graduating seniors who use Career Services are asked to complete a survey so Career Services can see what people have gone on to accomplish. Those surveyed are broken down into categories: employed or full-time paid, actively seeking employment, graduate or professional school, full-time and "other," which includes military, volunteer activity, etc.

Last year, about 40 percent of those surveyed reported having full-time jobs after graduation.

These numbers, however, could be skewed by the fact that only about half as many graduating sen-

iors participated in the survey as the previous two years. Last year, 1,109 students took the survey.

The summary that accompanied the survey cited two reasons for this drop in participation: discouraged job-seekers and fewer jobs.

Despite the low survey turnout, the reported 40 percent full-time employment was the biggest group of those mentioned.

Tarbox said he believes Career Services could not take full credit for these numbers, but that the professors at SDSU play a big part in getting students prepared for the job market.

"I think it would be egocentric for any one office to claim success," Tarbox said.

TODAY @ SDSU

Midnight Study Break

Montezuma Hall

9 to 12 p.m.

The annual event is free to students and will feature a Grand Slam baseball theme, complete with free breakfast, study tips, door prizes and contests.

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Embrace the 'in-between'

AMY EBERSOLE, Assistant Features Editor

There is more to human beings than the titles and awards written on their résumés. Their life stories cause them to seek certain standards, and sometimes the scars on their bodies mark the battles it took to get there. For San Diego State's first transgender student to receive the Outstanding Baccalaureate Candidate of the Computer Science Department, Jessica Compton's life story may hold more value than any title she will ever receive.

From growing up labeled as autistic, to constantly moving from one place to the next, to living through abuse and homelessness, Compton never missed one day of school. She succeeded in staying focused on her dreams in a world that is so often driven by monetary gain rather than intellectual success.

Born in Houston to parents in the military, Compton never really had a place she could call "home." Because her dad disappeared at an early age, she lived with her mom who was training in the Navy.

For several years, Compton's mother needed to leave her in the care of others while she went to work. Unfortunately, some of these people were not always proper guardians.

"There were only a couple of babysitters who abused me," Compton said. "One of them hit me in the leg with an iron poker."

More abuse followed when she moved to Rota, Spain to live on a military base, where some Navy personnel tormented and teased her.

"... (My) mother and stepfather thought my tormentors would help me build character," Compton said. "It was as if we were all a part of some hellish play created for the amusement of a sadistic God."

While many children were participating in sports or Girl Scouts, Compton was moving from Navy base to Navy base until her father sought her out after nearly 10 years. After moving to Texas with him, she began middle school. Despite a continuing struggle with ulcers, she said she felt pretty normal throughout her middle and high school years.

However, after she turned 18 years old, she had a dream that transformed her life and body forever.

"During a dream, there was a room where I was curled into a ball," Compton said. "I had no gender, just a naked shape, floating, writhing in pain ... A binary number cycled in monochrome green through me. The larger the number grew, the greater the pressure, the greater the suffering ... The pain grew until it forced me awake, clenching my chest ... It was at that pivotal moment I decided to proceed with transitioning into a woman. It was either transition, or die; there were no other options."

Compton had an orchiectomy — a removal of the testicles — and has

been taking various hormone supplements ever since.

In a society where "normal" is assumed to mean heterosexual — one often reluctant to embrace the "in between" — being transgender is generally about altering one's body to match one's psychology.

"Because society is ordered by stereotype(s) for masculinity and femininity, there is not room for alternative gender archetypes," Compton said. "We are forced, based on the structure of our bodies, to conform to a series of behaviors and costumes, to perform the gender roles which make our society run ... Subjectively, transgender means being born in a prison without walls ... in a stranger's body ... in a patriarchal, hetero-normative nightmare from which there is no respite."

For Compton, transitioning to a woman is more than a political statement — it is the only way she can live.

But transitioning requires more than just physiological changes; psychological changes are also essential. This doesn't only apply to those who are transgender; it applies to all young adults who are searching for their identities and learning how to be comfortable in their own skins.

"I soon realized there was not much difference between men and women other than the artifice draped over us by media and society's stereotypes," Compton said. "All I really had to do was stop thinking about the ideal woman and just be myself. Once I realized this, gender became not as important."

It was at Kingwood Community College where she dove into her passion for science by working in a chemistry lab, handling hazardous chemicals.

Although the job was rewarding, her father and stepmother told her the same line that so many students hear from their parents — "Get a 'real job' to earn some 'real money.'"

Having to give up her passion, she started working at Walmart, doing what she described as heavy lifting in sweatshop-like conditions. The stress from the job took physical and psychological tolls and she fell into a severe depression, causing her to lose more than a quarter of her body weight. According to Compton, Walmart fired her for not being able to "perform."

Following this unpleasant experience, she started studying at the University of Houston, where she joined the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. She once again felt the inward pull toward the science field. Because of issues with her father and stepmother, who stopped supporting her financially because of her transgender status, Compton dropped out of school to join the Navy.

"I ditched the drama in

my family only to land into a big, steaming pile of drama in the Navy," Compton said. "There is not much I can say about the Navy other than the fact that those people have more issues than I do."

After leaving the Navy, she landed in San Diego with little money and no place to live. Compton's next journey was learning to live without a home. Getting her food from a youth center, she floated from hotel to hotel, maxing out multiple credit cards to survive.

One of the most shocking parts of Compton's life story is that despite everything she went through, she never missed a day of school. This is partially because of several key events that took place throughout her grade school years.

Being labeled autistic and put into special education courses as a young child, she was teased and scolded for poor grades. Because of this, she became fixated on improving academically.

"I had no gender, just a naked shape, floating, writhing in pain ..."

"I became obsessed with honing my academic prowess in order to disprove the lies created around my mental abilities," Compton said. "Had I not done so, I never would have been allowed to graduate high school or attend college."

Through years of struggle, Compton never lost sight of her love for science. Now graduating summa cum laude — with highest honors — in the Computer Science Department, she has proved that nothing can stop her from success.

As for the future, with a philosophy of transhumanism, Compton believes in evolution through technology to reach a post-human state. She wishes SDSU Student Health Services had a hormone treatment plan for transgender students, but is thankful for the "camaraderie and professional decorum" that made her SDSU experience memorable.

In the light of Compton's life, issues regarding psychological, geographical and physical borders bear more weight for students and San Diegans yearning to live on the cusp or the "in between."

"Borders are political constructions, which dwell in the human mind," Compton said. "Borders do not exist in nature ... They are used to divide land and people into groups for political and economic reasons ... Nature is fluid and all encompassing. As humans, we are a part of that fluid nature. We are all one race, not just Hispanic, Italian, Korean, heterosexual, male or female."

As a beacon of hope and an example of a student who has gone through more already than most go through in their entire lives, Compton embraces the fluidity of her life as a journeyer, a woman, a scientist, but most of all, someone who can shed a little light on what it means to be human.

"I want to see people challenge the beliefs that create those discrete borders ... and just see how discrete those borders really are," Compton said. "If they do this, then I am sure they will realize that most of those borders only exist in the imagination."

After searching for what feels like a lifetime, Compton finally found a home with her partner Jamie Starr. Her commencement ceremony will begin at 1 p.m. on May 23 at the Viejas Arena.

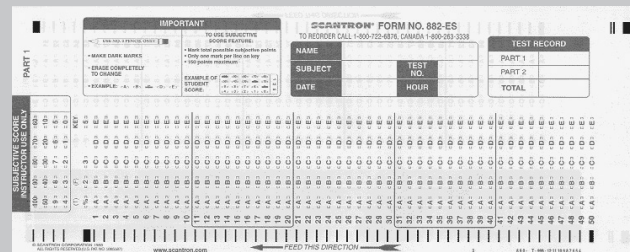
Getting Personal

The Daily Aztec: What was your favorite class that you've taken at San Diego State?

Jessica Compton: Microcontrollers — I like how I am able to affect the physical world with software inside a chip.

Wait, there's more! To read all of the "Getting Personal" facts about Compton, check out www.thedailyaztec.com.

TIPS FOR SURVIVING FINALS



NICOLE CALLAS, FEATURES EDITOR

This is the last weekend of studying for the semester. Instead of avoiding the inevitable and grueling week of finals to get a weekend fix with friends, take this time to focus on exams. Here are a few tips to help survive finals week, and, for some, keep commencement on the calendar.

1. Have a strategy

One of the best ways to take on finals week is by having a game plan. Draw out a plan of what days and times are appropriate to study for each test. Schedule in breaks for exercise, naps and other short activities, so the brain isn't overworked. The key is to not cram. Cramming for an exam can cause stress and possibly affect performance on other exams scheduled after.

2. Start slow

When getting started, only read through notes and highlighted areas. Don't get in detail. This will give a general outline of what to expect on the final and can help lay the groundwork for memory retention. After skimming notes, take a break and come back to the material, going over it once again in detail to either make note cards or a comprehensive outline. Focus on the weak areas that seem difficult and build on them.

3. Eat well

Instead of loading up on candy, high-sugar foods and bottomless Starbucks to keep awake, choose healthier foods and drinks to avoid crashes in energy. Bring some fruit and nuts to keep going. To prevent sickness, it's beneficial to dose up on Vitamin C to fight the common cold. Take Echinacea to build the immune system and vitamin B for energy. To keep alert late at night, scents such as peppermint and grapefruit are beneficial.

4. Relax

Many people freak out about the thought of finals week. Some build this week up so much that it affects their ability to study effectively and perform to their highest potential. Take a breath. To avoid uncertainty, check standings in classes and determine what score is needed to obtain the best grade possible and study as if it were a midterm.

5. Get out of the house

Lastly, switching up whatever location is used for studying can motivate a reluctant scholar to get started. Here are a few coffee houses to fit different needs, late night and internet access, to help get through finals week.

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Saturday-Sunday 7 a.m. to 2 a.m.
Atmosphere: Group study
Wi-Fi: Free

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Courtesy of Jessica Compton

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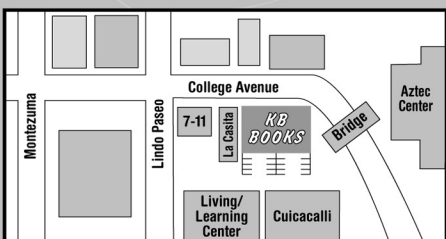


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Sallis 'SPARK's interest in students

AMINATA DIA, Staff Writer

Dr. James Sallis has developed a habit of affecting whole cities and groups of people as opposed to individuals. This isn't an easy task; however, the San Diego State psychology professor and last year's Monty Award winner for Outstanding Faculty Contribution to the University has managed to do just that with a physical education program used nationwide that he helped develop called Sports, Play and Active Recreation for Kids.

SPARK was created based on studies that Sallis helped conduct in Encinitas and Poway schools during the late 1980s. His goal was to use the research and information to create better physical education programs that would help children become more active and maintain a healthier lifestyle. The program, which has received national recognition and positive feedback, uses psychological principles and research to establish a fun physical education curriculum for students. Sallis estimates that nearly 1.3 million kids each day use the SPARK program in school to stay active.

Sallis' longtime work in the field of health psychology allowed him to collaborate and develop the SPARK program that is used in numerous elementary and middle schools across the nation including Tennessee, Pennsylvania, New York and North Carolina. There are also talks of the program going international in India or other countries.

Growing up in Mississippi, Sallis first became interested in psychology during undergraduate school.

"People are a big, complicated puzzle, like the world's most difficult jigsaw puzzle," he said. "I figured that with some sciences you would eventually get to the end and figure out all there is to know, but with psychology that would never happen."

His interest shifted from clinical to health psychology during the course of his education because of a growing personal interest in exercise, diet and nutrition, as well as his desire to help entire communities as opposed to single individuals. Sallis went on to obtain his master's and Ph.D. degrees from Memphis State University.

Sallis began teaching at SDSU in the mid-1980s and developed the first health psychology class the school offered. It

was then that he began collaborating with other professionals at SDSU and in the San Diego area to conduct the studies that would lead to the SPARK program.

Sallis practices what he preaches, maintaining a healthy lifestyle by walking, jogging and bicycling. A longtime fan of The Grateful Dead, the self-proclaimed "Dead Head" also spends his free time playing music.

Today, Sallis has once again expanded his focus to help affect even more people. He has been working to bring city planners, park and recreational professionals and real estate developers together to create environments that encourage physical activity and fitness. This new shift to working with city officials has taken him around the country, from Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's office to Washington D.C., to stress the importance of improving and encouraging physical education. Sallis currently serves as the director for the Active Living Research Program, where he is able to do just that.

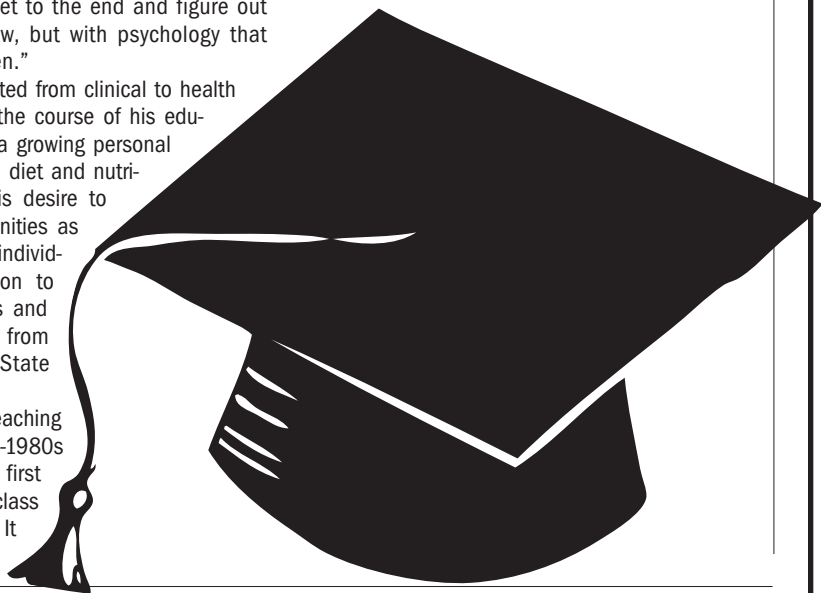
"Before we started funding this kind of work, health people did not work with planners or transportation professionals and now it's very common," he said. "I think we've played a role in building a new research field."

Getting Personal

The Daily Aztec: Favorite spot in San Diego?

James Sallis: Boardwalk in Pacific / Mission Beach.

Wait, there's more! To read all of the "Getting Personal" facts about Sallis, check out www.thedailyaztec.com.



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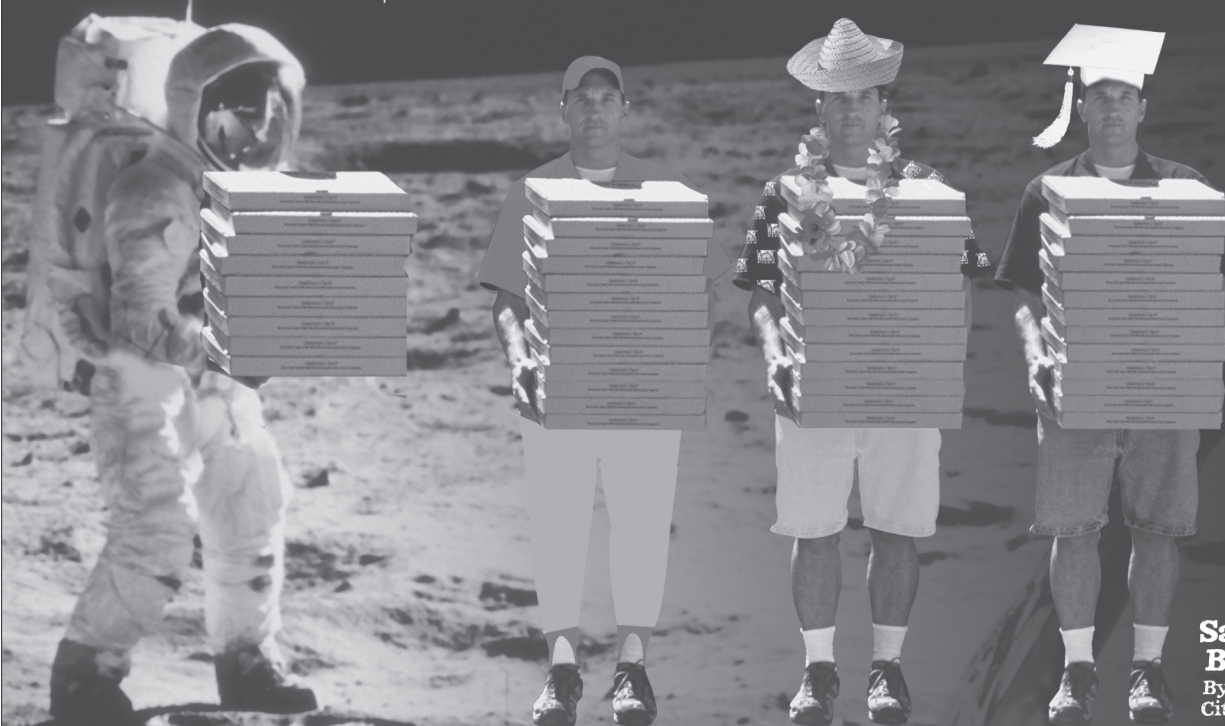
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Leave restaurants respect, not just a tip



Think Stock

When eating out, patrons should be aware of the messages they send to dining staff.

EMMA SECKER
CONTRIBUTOR

Many who have worked in a restaurant have had to, at one point, grit their teeth, clench their fists and begrudgingly remind themselves of one well-known maxim: "The customer is always right."

The widely accepted standard for restaurant staff is to meet the customer's needs with grace and enthusiasm to the best of their ability. However, in today's society, many restaurant-goers forget traditional dinner-table manners and may exploit the kindness and hospitality exhibited

by restaurant employees. By following a few simple tips, customers can show proper restaurant etiquette during their visit, making the dining experience enjoyable for both the guest and the server.

Reservations

Committing to one's reservation may seem like common sense, yet a customer failing to do so may leave the restaurant in a tough predicament. Arriving 15 minutes late with those extra five friends that hadn't planned to attend might seem innocent, but these minor deviations from the agreed arrangement can

actually present complications for the restaurant.

It is the job of the restaurant to orchestrate proper communication between managers, hosts and waiters to ensure a party is accommodated at the specified time. On the other hand, it is equally important for guests to be punctual and accurate about how many people are attending. Often much preparation has gone into the reservation and these details must be precise for everything to run smoothly.

"If a party is late for their reservation, it disrupts the flow of the entire restaurant and loses money for the server," California Pizza Kitchen manager Jeff Winthrop said. "The longer a table sits without customers, the more money we lose in sales and the server loses in tips." According to Winthrop, if the restaurant is busy, chances are that later reservations have been scheduled, relying on that slot to be filled to keep reservations on schedule.

Tipping

Another way a guest can display proper dining etiquette is by leaving a sufficient tip. Leave a 15 percent tip minimum for the waiter if he or she demonstrated good service. A 25 percent tip is recommended for exceptional service.

This is a great way for a customer to provide feedback to the server and the restaurant to reflect the quality of their dining experience. Tipping less than 15 percent is considered rude and sends the message that the service was bad. It may also make the

server feel unsure of who or what was at fault for the bad tip.

"Usually being under-tipped causes us to wonder if our service was bad," The French Gourmet server Kristina Brandt said. "If not the service, then possibly the food? It generally causes us to wonder if there really was a problem on our part, or if (the customer was) just being cheap. Ultimately, we want customers to like our restaurant and service, so receiving a bad tip is discouraging."

According to an article in *The New York Times* titled, "Why Tip?" another important reason for servers to receive the minimum 15 percent is that some restaurants don't pay servers minimum wage, so these waiters rely on their tips to make ends meet. What many also don't know is that servers do not even get to keep all of the tips they earn at the end of their shift. Although the percentages and distributions vary from restaurant to restaurant, servers are traditionally required to "tip out" other staff members. This entails that the server gives away a portion of their tips to the hosts, food runners, bartenders and bussers. Because a portion of their tips are allocated to other staff members, it is essential to servers that customers show them the courtesy of tipping appropriately.

Communication

Another way customers can show proper restaurant etiquette is by clearly and politely communicating their needs. By doing so, the server will have all the knowledge necessary to provide outstanding service. How-

ever, the way in which the customer makes these requests may also be important. California Pizza Kitchen server Ashley Mills outlined what she considers as disrespectful behavior from a customer.

"Snapping at me or constantly waving to catch my attention (is disrespectful)," Mills said. "It also really bothers me when guests grab or touch my arm when I am walking by their table to get my attention." If the guest vocalizes his or her requests politely and patiently, the server may be less likely to feel hassled and more inclined to meet the guest's needs in a prompt and friendly manner.

Also, simply being receptive to the server when he or she asks questions is a small gesture that helps boost the waiter's spirits.

"When I know a table is energetic and thoroughly enjoying themselves, I will make special trips to that one table just to say, 'Hi' and see how everything is going and maybe even jump into the conversation for a bit," Brandt said. "It makes for a much better experience for everyone and does enhance the enthusiasm and attitudes of servers and guests."

While "the customer is always right" may be the commonly held policy of most restaurants, that does not mean it should be abused by customers. It is also not an excuse for guests to misbehave or not consider the respect the waiters show them. By following simple rules of restaurant etiquette, both customers and waiters can have an enjoyable dining experience.

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BEATBOX

News and notes from San Diego State

SDSU sports teams have had a busy week gathering awards and an NCAA bid

EDWARD LEWIS
SPORTS EDITOR

Take a look at some of this week's headlines from San Diego State's sports teams.

Basketball analyst ranks SDSU No. 24

ESPN.com senior writer Andy Katz put the Aztec men's basketball team in his top 25 in his article on Tuesday. The well-respected basketball pundit wrote: "I watched San Diego State push Tennessee to the brink in the first round and its talent abounds. Rebounding machine Kawhi Leonard is back for a second go-around, along with Billy White, Malcolm Thomas and D.J. Gay. The entire team is back. What the Aztecs must do is make themselves more of a national story. San Diego State has to get out and play national games to get some momentum heading into MWC play. This is a squad that should be seen more often."

SDSU golf earns NCAA Regional bid

The Aztec men's golf team was selected as one of 13 teams to play in this month's 2010 NCAA San Diego Regional, played May 20 through 22 at Carlton Oaks Golf Club in Santee. As the No. 5 seed, SDSU will make its 12th consecutive regional appearance and will play for a spot in the NCAA national championships in June.

"We're very excited and honored to not only earn a bid to the NCAA regionals, but to also

play host to such a great event," Aztec head coach Ryan Donovan said in a statement. "I think our (No. 5) seeding is indicative of our play so far this season, but it will be a highly competitive field and we look forward to utilizing a week of preparation out on the course at Carlton Oaks."

Student athletes pile up honors at banquet

At the 16th Annual Scholar-Athlete Awards Banquet last week, an SDSU record 246 Scholar-Athletes (student athletes possessing a 3.2 cumulative GPA or a 3.5 semester GPA) were honored. The previous record for Aztec Scholar-Athletes was 229, set in 2008-09.

"This banquet started 16 years ago with 33 scholar-athletes and has now grown to 246," athletic director Jim Sterk said in a statement. "That growth is a great testament to the quality of our student athletes and the coaches and staff that are dedicated to their success."

Vaughn and Beasley win weekly awards

For the first time in his career, SDSU baseball junior outfielder Cory Vaughn earned the Mountain West Conference Player of the Week award. In the Aztecs' three-game sweep of Air Force last weekend, Vaughn batted .714, tallied 11 RBIs, two home runs, seven runs scored and a stolen base.

For the 13th time in her career and the ninth time this season, Aztec softball junior pitcher Samantha Beasley earned the MWC Pitcher of the Week award. In last weekend's games against BYU and Utah, Beasley went 2-1 and recorded a 1.05 ERA. Beasley is now 26-8 this season with a 0.83 ERA and an MWC record 330 strikeouts.



David J. Olender / Assistant Photo Editor

Tyrone Shelley and the SDSU men's basketball team were ranked No. 24 in a recent ESPN.com story.



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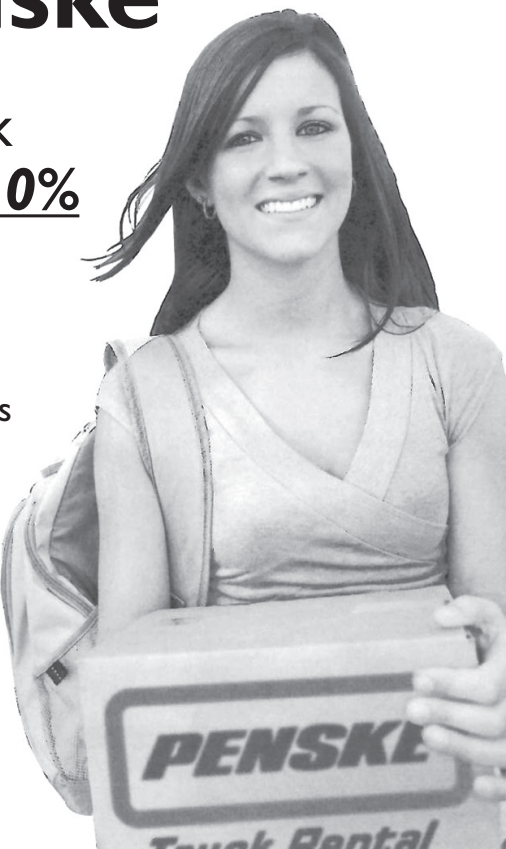
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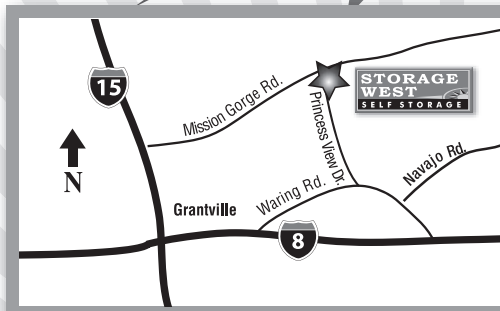
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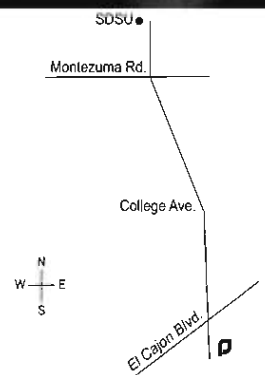
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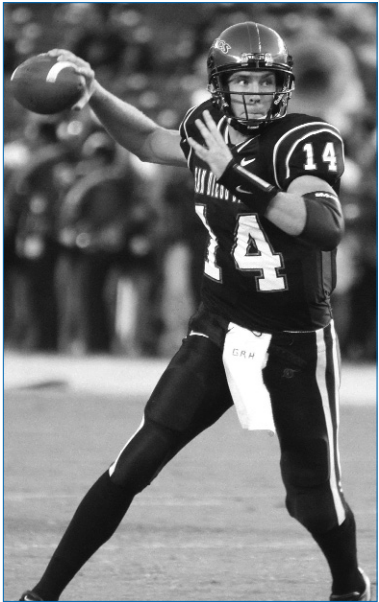
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2009-10 END OF THE YEAR AWARDS

FALL SEMESTER



David J. Olender / Assistant Photo Editor



Glenn Connelly / Photo Editor



Bryan Koci / Staff Photographer

EDWARD LEWIS, Sports Editor

MALE ATHLETE OF THE SEMESTER

Ryan Lindley

Key Statistics: 3,054 passing yards and 23 passing touchdowns

Reason for award: The San Diego State football team wouldn't have been able to double its win total from 2008 without sophomore quarterback Ryan Lindley. Despite learning a brand new offense, Lindley threw for 23 touchdowns and 3,054 yards. The game that really showcased his potential was against Colorado State on Oct. 24 last year. The star QB completed 29 of his 43 pass attempts for 459 yards and six touchdowns.

FEMALE ATHLETE OF THE SEMESTER

Cat Walker

Key Statistics: 11 goals, five assists, 27 points

Reason for award: Nobody was as dominant as senior midfielder Cat Walker in the Mountain West Conference last season. She played in all 24 games last year, averaging a goal in nearly every other one of those matches. Walker was a huge reason for SDSU's run to the NCAA Tournament, which included the school's first-ever MWC Tournament championship.

MALE NEWCOMER OF THE SEMESTER

Morgan Sacco

Key Statistics: Two goals, three assists, seven points

Reason for award: In his first season on Montezuma Mesa, midfielder Morgan Sacco only started seven games. But the freshman made his minutes count. Sacco recorded two goals, three assists and seven points in his 902 minutes played, had a shot on goal percentage of .500 and even tallied a game-winning goal last season.

FEMALE NEWCOMER OF THE SEMESTER

Andrea Hannasch

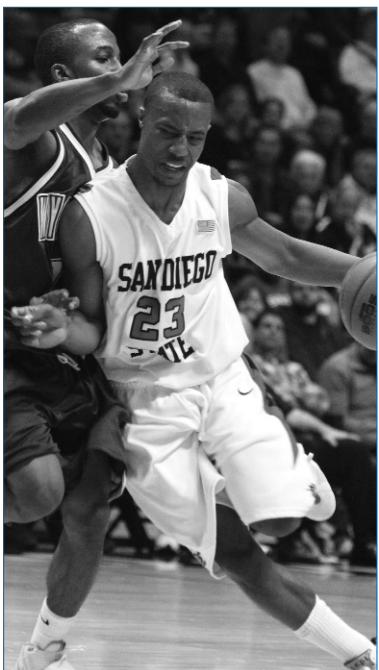
Key Statistics: 278 kills, 79 digs, 128 blocks

Reason for award: Middle blocker Andrea Hannasch was the only true freshman on last year's SDSU volleyball squad, but she played like a four-year veteran. She led the team in blocks with 128 and was second on the team in kills with 278. Her stellar play gives the Aztecs high hopes for next season.



Glenn Connelly / Photo Editor

SPRING SEMESTER



David J. Olender / Assistant Photo Editor

EDWARD LEWIS, Sports Editor

MALE ATHLETE OF THE SEMESTER

D.J. Gay

Key Statistics: 10.5 points per game, 108 assists, 37 steals, 76 rebounds

Reason for award: Point guard D.J. Gay didn't get the respect he deserved this season. The junior was left off the All-MWC regular season and the All-MWC Tournament teams. Yet without Gay, the SDSU men's basketball team wouldn't have had the success it did this past season. While he averaged 34.6 minutes per game, he played nearly every minute of every game down the stretch. And don't forget Gay switched positions from shooting guard to point guard at the beginning of the season.

FEMALE ATHLETE OF THE SEMESTER

Jené Morris

Key Statistics: 17.1 points per game, 101 steals, 99 assists, 91 rebounds

Reason for award: When you're the first Aztec ever drafted into the WNBA, you automatically win Female Athlete of the Semester. For three seasons on Montezuma Mesa, there was nobody better than she was. Her speed and quick hands dominated the MWC, and her play was the biggest reason the Aztecs made their first-ever Sweet 16 appearance this year.

MALE NEWCOMER OF THE SEMESTER

Kawhi Leonard

Key Statistics: 12.7 points per game, 9.9 rebounds per game, 65 assists, 47 steals

Reason for award: Freshman forward Kawhi Leonard winning this award was a slam-dunk. No freshman at SDSU performed better than he did in any sport. He averaged nearly a double-double per game and played 1,064 minutes this season. He won the MWC Freshman of the Year award and is a legitimate NBA prospect.

FEMALE NEWCOMER OF THE SEMESTER

Justeen Maeva

Key Statistics: .361 batting average, four home runs, 32 RBIs

Reason for award: She may not be the biggest name on the Aztec softball team this season, but first baseman Justeen Maeva has been the biggest surprise for SDSU this year. Maeva, a transfer from CSU Bakersfield, leads the Aztecs in home runs and RBIs this year and has started 40 games.



David J. Olender / Assistant Photo Editor



David J. Olender / Assistant Photo Editor



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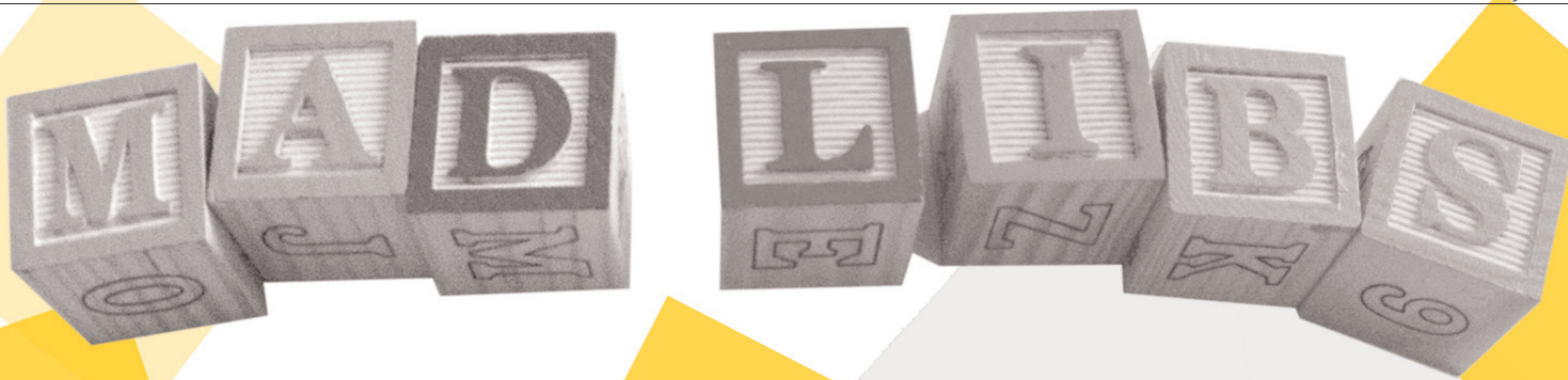
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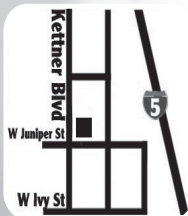
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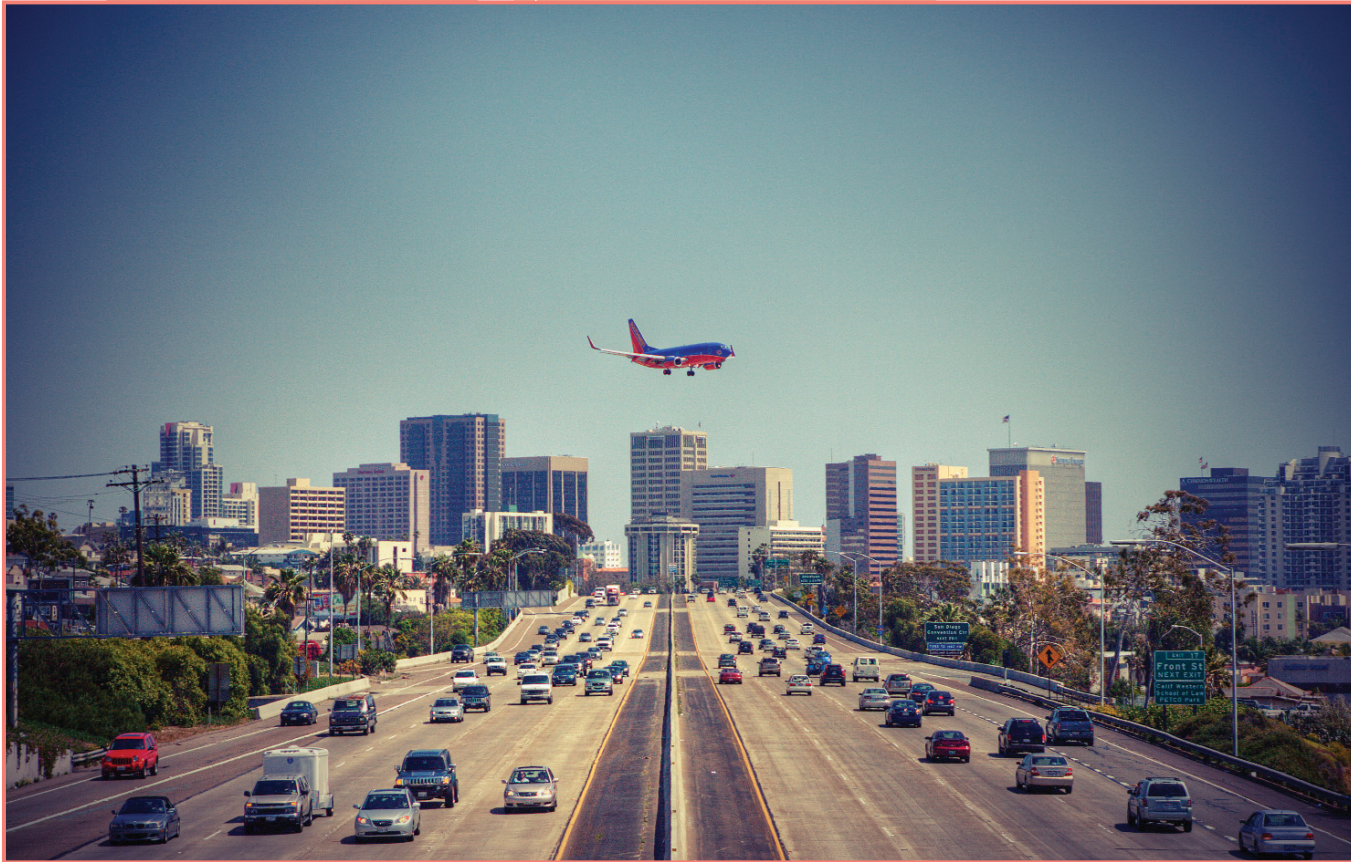
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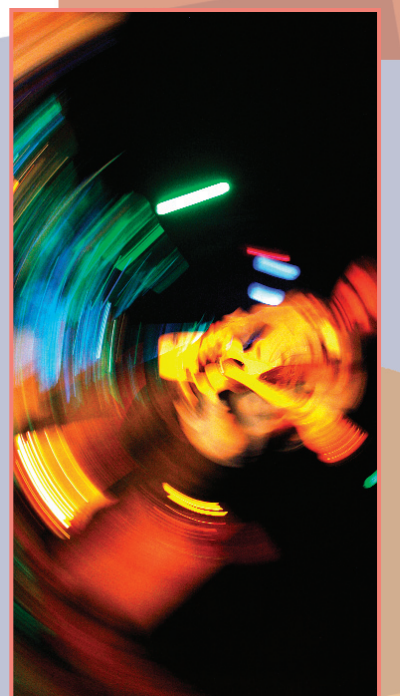
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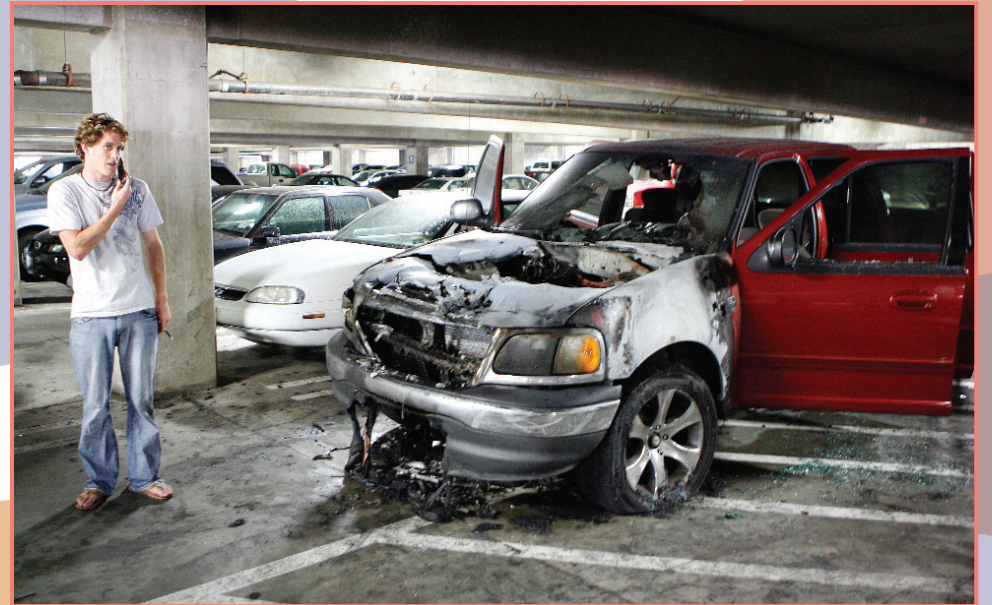
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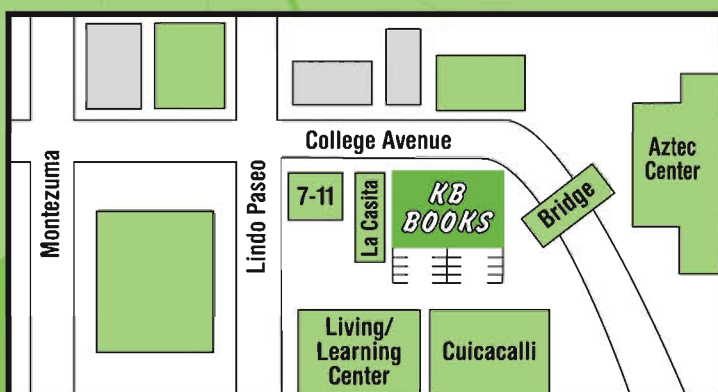
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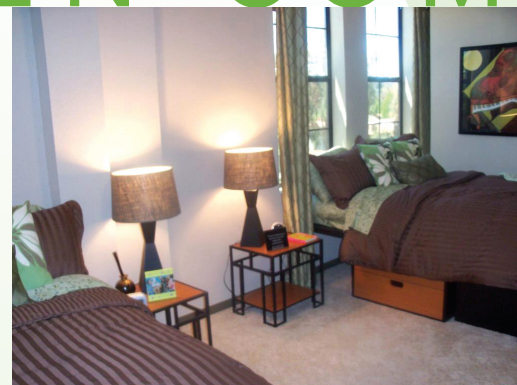
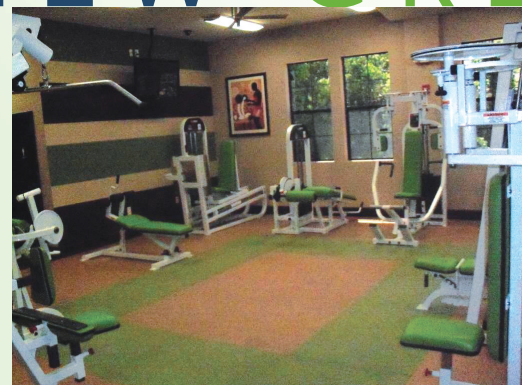
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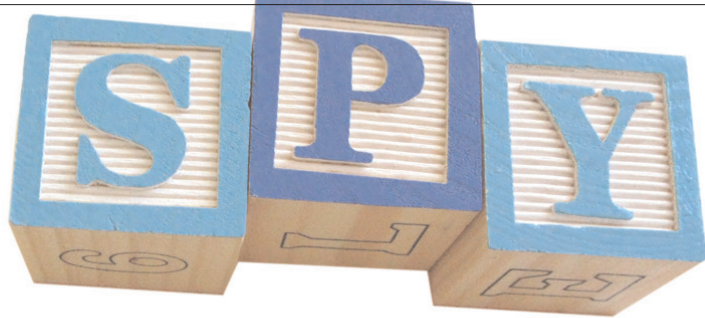
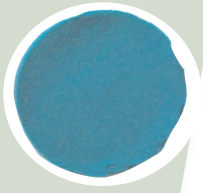
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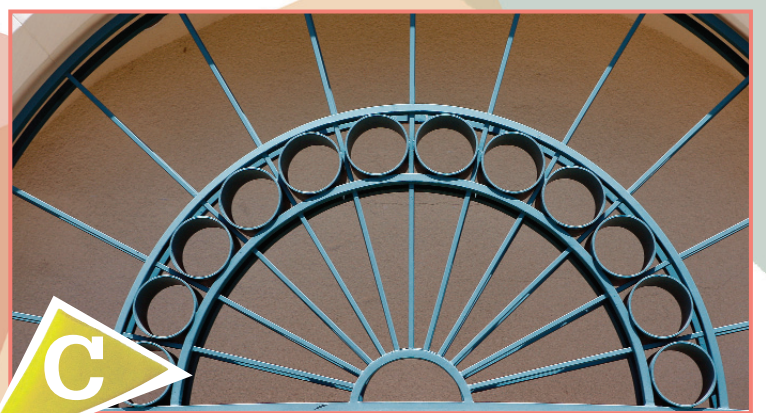
I spy with my little eye, a few things around the San Diego State campus that I typically pass by ...



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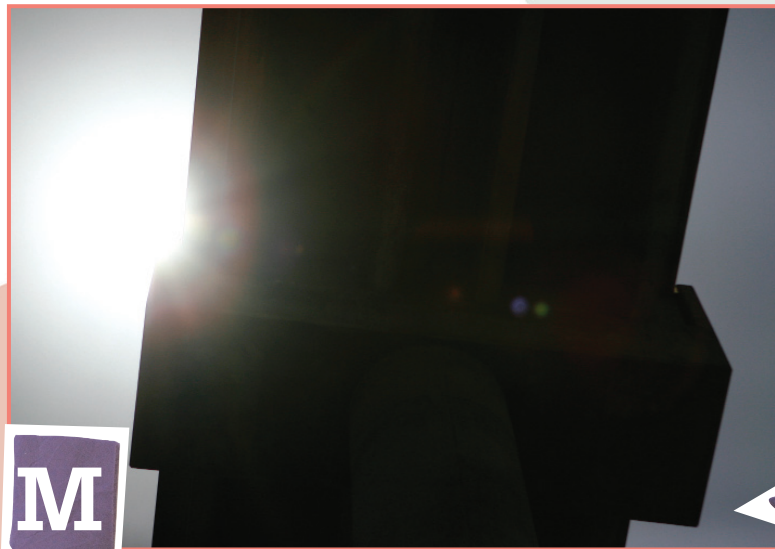
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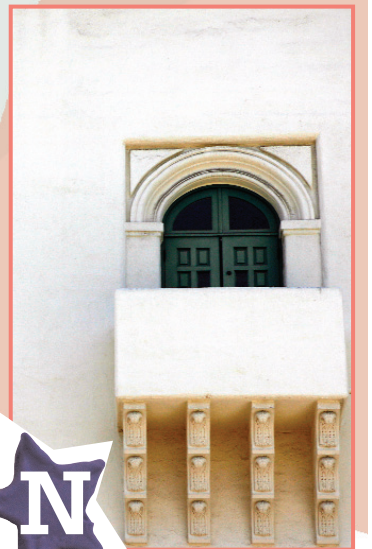
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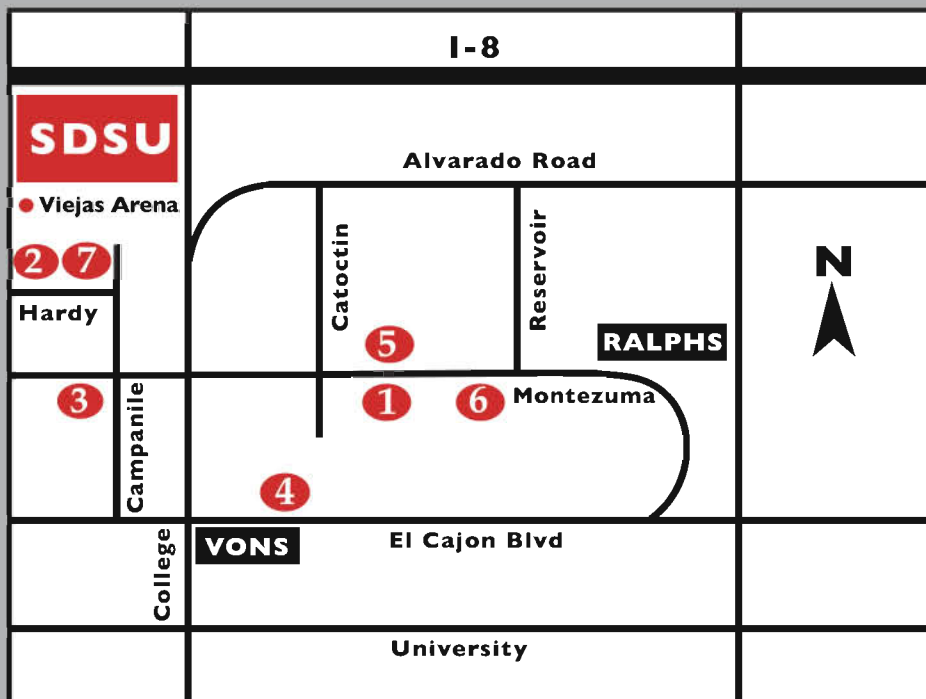
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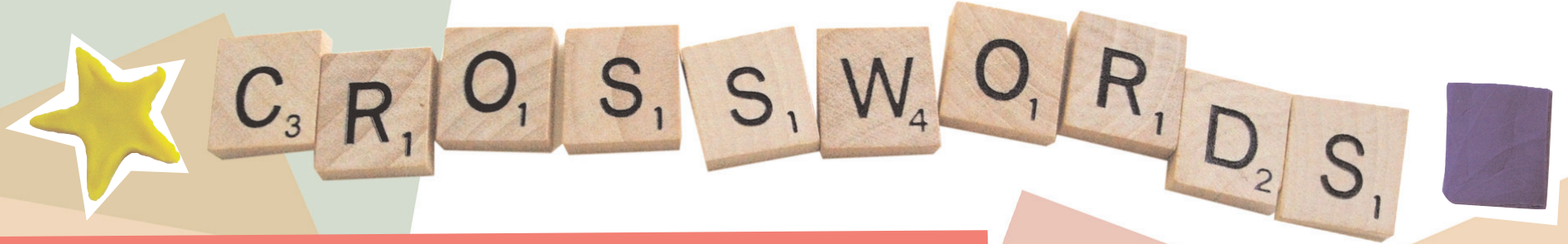
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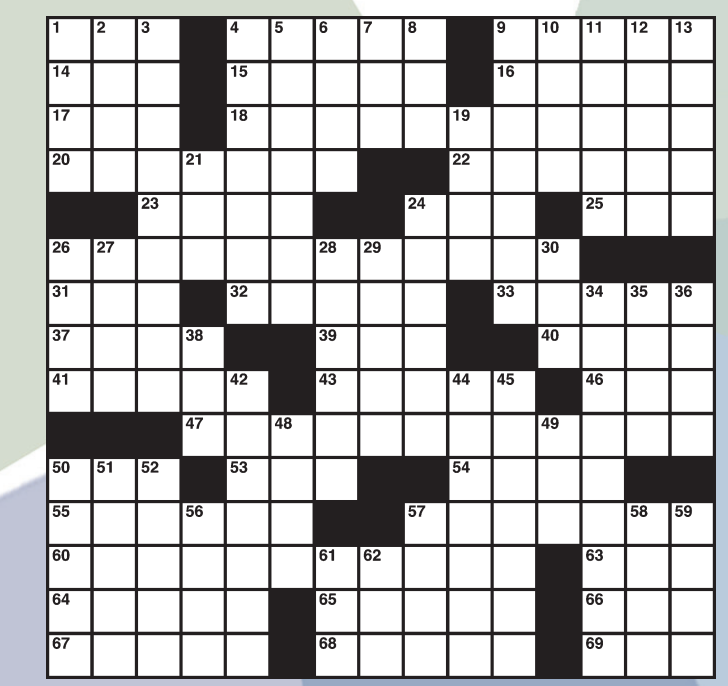
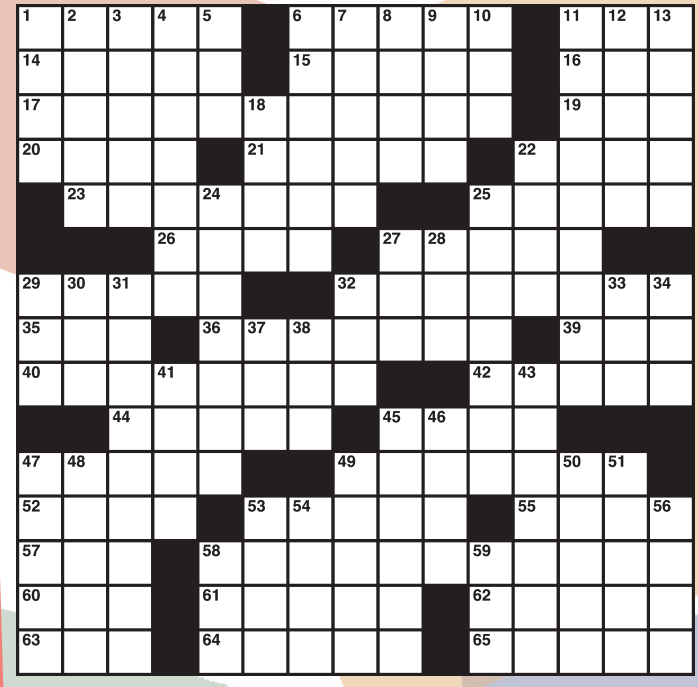
- 1 Bluegrass instrument
- 6 Tearoom biscuit
- 11 Fellow
- 14 WWII threat
- 15 Misleading moniker
- 16 Outback sprinter
- 17 *Sound and practical judgment
- 19 Trio in a nursery rhyme tub
- 20 Jacket closer
- 21 Honshu metropolis
- 22 Half-baked twice?
- 23 1970s Mary Tyler Moore costar
- 25 E-mails
- 26 Pigeon patter
- 27 Ready in the keg
- 29 Hard to please
- 32 Food preparers' headgear
- 35 Letters before a 15-Across
- 36 *Cops' sick-out
- 39 Show fallibility
- 40 Quit worrying
- 42 Barely passing grade
- 44 Wipe clean
- 45 Place to fish from
- 47 Fiery felony
- 49 Like some lettuce
- 52 Obligation
- 53 Present, as one's case

DOWN

- 1 Tampa NFLers
- 2 Dry as ___
- 3 Drifter
- 4 Crowd to capacity
- 5 Nebraska native
- 6 Talks back to
- 7 Like a day with blue skies
- 8 Sound like a pig
- 9 "Apollo 13" gp.
- 10 Opposite of WNW
- 11 *Iced tea garnish
- 12 Modify
- 13 Mojave hills
- 18 Verboten act
- 22 University VIP
- 24 Protein-rich legume
- 25 German dessert
- 27 Klutz

ACROSS

- 28 Zero
- 29 It's two more than an eagle
- 30 1950s White House nickname
- 31 *Analytical write-up
- 32 "You, over there!"
- 33 Capote, familiarly
- 34 Fourth-yr. collegians
- 37 ___ Cruces, New Mexico
- 38 Purpose
- 41 Homer chronicled its destruction
- 43 Event for special customers
- 45 Small size
- 46 It might be half-baked
- 47 Skilled
- 48 More boorish
- 49 Lenders' charges
- 50 Lofty lair
- 51 Destined
- 53 "For Pete's ___!"
- 54 Peach or beech
- 56 Nine-digit IDs
- 58 Flavor-enhancing additive
- 59 A kind of it begins the answers to starred clues



ACROSS

- 1 Cool one
- 4 Overused
- 9 Drink with a "generation"
- 14 Kitchen catchphrase
- 15 Implied
- 16 Betting everything, in poker
- 17 Food made from 35-Down
- 18 Where yearbooks are made?
- 20 Uncaptured
- 22 Spring celebration
- 23 Surrender
- 24 Beam
- 25 That, in Monterrey
- 26 Where Hershey's makes new discoveries?
- 31 Long, on Lanai
- 32 Broods
- 33 What some tickets are for
- 37 Russian-born Deco designer
- 39 Anger
- 40 Bare-bones subj.?
- 41 Some religious observances
- 43 Rub out
- 46 College sr.'s test
- 47 Where astronauts worship?
- 50 Prof's helpers
- 53 Bullring cry
- 54 It will come back to you

DOWN

- 1 Bit of bullring gear
- 2 Loads
- 3 Men's formalwear
- 4 Made-it-big status
- 5 Hybrid fruit
- 6 Teen's concern
- 7 Actress Lucy
- 8 Two after epsilon
- 9 Melonlike fruits
- 10 Wings with blueprints
- 11 Likely spot for dinner?
- 12 Trig functions
- 13 Words about a speaker, briefly
- 19 Sharon of "Boston Public"
- 21 Post-WWII nuclear org.
- 24 Stitch over

ACROSS

- 55 Esoteric
- 57 Maddened
- 60 Where litteneks try their luck?
- 63 Living cell constituent: Abbr.
- 64 Prefix with tropic
- 65 Unwise homebuilder's material, so the story goes
- 66 Put together
- 67 Lip-curling look
- 68 Early five-and-dime entrepreneur
- 69 Howard of the Three Stooges

DOWN

- 26 Staff symbol
- 27 Romanian dance
- 28 Individually
- 29 Lafayette's land
- 30 Arthur who played Maude
- 34 Cardiologist's request
- 35 Source of 17-Across
- 36 Early submachine gun
- 38 "The War of the Worlds" invaders, e.g.
- 42 One buying time, perhaps
- 44 Raw or burnt pigments
- 45 Typical home-loan contract obligations
- 48 Actor Baldwin
- 49 ___ Na Na
- 50 Dash instruments
- 51 Senator Specter
- 52 Model proportion
- 56 Friend in France
- 57 Pierce Brosnan's homeland
- 58 Prefix meaning "within"
- 59 Miami-___ County
- 61 Invite
- 62 Narrow channel: Abbr.

ACROSS

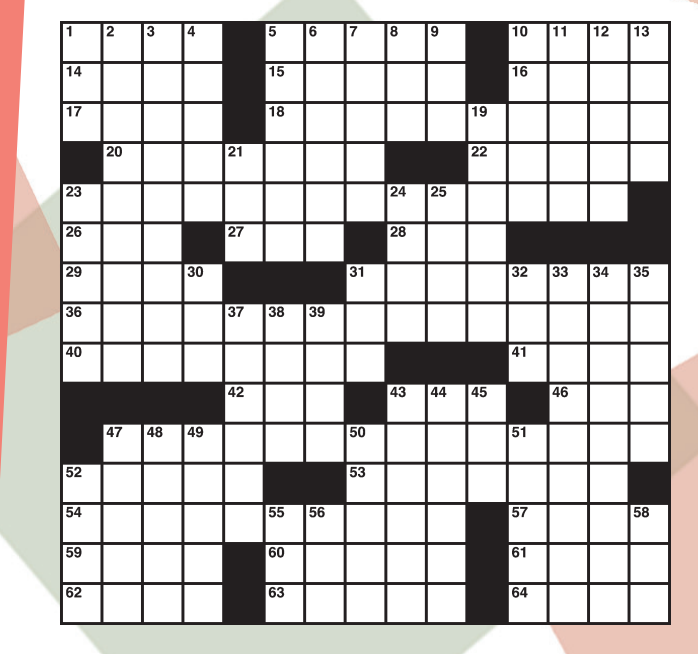
- 1 Mil. awards
- 5 Pro's employee
- 10 Keyboardist Hess
- 14 Colorful deepwater fish
- 15 Sylvester's "Rocky" co-star
- 16 Like The Citadel, today
- 17 High-tech unit
- 18 Cool body shop specialist?
- 20 Destructive spree
- 22 Perrier rival
- 23 Apple shipping vehicles?
- 26 Ottoman officer
- 27 E-mail endings, at times
- 28 Staff
- 29 Inexperienced one
- 31 Coffee-flavored liqueur
- 36 Like overcrowded medical clinics?
- 40 Toot consequence
- 41 Car with a bar
- 42 ___-80: old RadioShack computer
- 43 Lee side: Abbr.
- 46 Palindromic diarist
- 47 Short, fat pen filler?
- 52 Important peninsula in the Six-Day War, 1967
- 53 Pursue

DOWN

- 1 Baseball card stat
- 2 Pop-jazz band named for an algae genus
- 3 Twin-hulled boat
- 4 Curly's predecessor and successor
- 5 Turns to swing
- 6 Measuring instruments
- 7 Cartoon hunter
- 8 Snort
- 9 ___ Bo
- 10 Early 15th century year
- 11 Dealer's query
- 12 ___ a beet
- 13 City SSE of Sana'a
- 19 Text file with program instructions
- 21 ___ tent

ACROSS

- 23 Call during a toss
- 24 The Supremes, e.g.
- 25 Engine sound
- 30 Texter's "Yikes!"
- 31 Mil. request
- 32 Rose of rock
- 33 Result of an ump's decision, maybe
- 34 Come to a new land
- 35 Together
- 37 Crusty entrée
- 38 "Climb ___ Mountain": "The Sound of Music" song
- 39 Invoice column hdg.
- 43 Stew holders
- 44 They may be raised during a game
- 45 Pound sound
- 47 Grammy winner Krall
- 48 Not yet fulfilled
- 49 Sugar source
- 50 Torment
- 51 Bell ringer's reply
- 52 Artisan's work area
- 55 Food no. usually shown in milligrams
- 56 Chemist's work area
- 58 "Amen!"



TICKET OFFICE CLOSING!

Please be advised that the Aztec Center Ticket Office will close effective the end of business day Friday, May 28, 2010.

All services provided by the Aztec Center Ticket Office will be transitioned to the Viejas Arena Ticket Office beginning June 1, 2010.

To better serve the student body, faculty, and staff of SDSU, we will expand our hours of service at the Viejas Arena Ticket Office.

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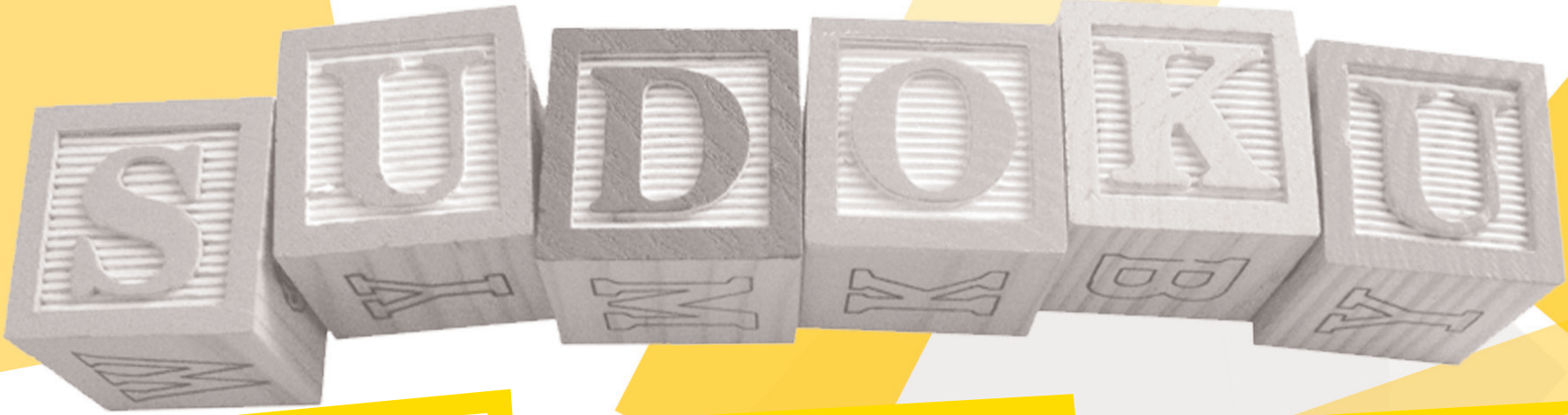
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-noun (common)

2. an online urban city guide connecting communities and great local businesses: *On Saturday, Lemar and I went out to this killer bar we found on Yelp; their margaritas got me so annihilated that I woke up married, twice.*

-noun (uncommon & amazing)

3. a stellar, fast-growing company with plenty of highly-promising career opportunities: *Hey ya, did you hear that Yelp is hiring bright and driven salespeople for their new office in Phoenix?*



Worst Band Names Part 2

Allie Daugherty
Entertainment Editor

Back by popular demand, I give you Worst Band Names, part two. Here, I will continue to express my frustration about bands that make questionable choices nominally.

Boys Like Girls

This band name insults listeners by stating the obvious. While fans are bobbing their heads to the catchy and lighthearted melodies of the pop band, they can always be reassured of their sexuality by remembering who they're listening to. Wait, how does it work? Oh, right. And here I thought we'd made progress in the gay rights movement.

Los Lonely Boys

All right, it either has to be all Spanish or all English. Changing the article in the name to a different language doesn't exactly give homage to your heritage. Instead, it makes this trio seem confused and slightly illiterate, as well as unable to assimilate. It's no wonder it's lonely.

98 Degrees

Actually, that's not that hot. The average human body temperature is even higher than 98 degrees. President Stephen L. Weber has higher fevers than what this boy band boasts. Plus, with the combined "hotness" of all four members, I'd expect them to break the thermometer. But in the music industry, settling for average is OK as long as there are plenty of screaming girls to admire you for at least a few years. Sizzle away, boys.

Goo Goo Dolls

Yes. The combination of baby speak and a little girl's play thing always makes the

perfect band name. Of course, I'm being sarcastic. I actually think this name sounds more like a band on a children's TV program instead of a group of grown men who are serious about their music. But if they really want to be that presumptuous about their looks, so be it. I'm sure the fans really go "goo goo" for them.

Anal C***

Well, this was a poor decision. The boys of this Massachusetts band seem to enjoy censorship, seeing as the name is usually shortened to AxCx for the obscene nature of the name. Of course, if you're going to be rebellious enough to call your band this, you might as well be tough enough to refuse to be censored. Ya' know, because you're anal and all. And c***.

The Number Twelve Looks Like You

Actually, it doesn't.

Limp Bizkit

Nothing says hard core like a sagging piece of bread. Biscuits are no longer served with just tea. Now they come with an in-your-face attitude and some unnecessary extra guitar riffs. I never thought I'd see a band willingly admit it was floppy. Front man Fred Durst may have flunked the spelling bee, but at least he's getting his proper servings of grain.

—Allie Daugherty is a journalism sophomore.

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



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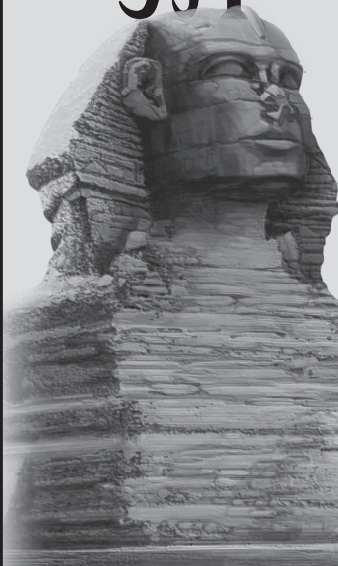
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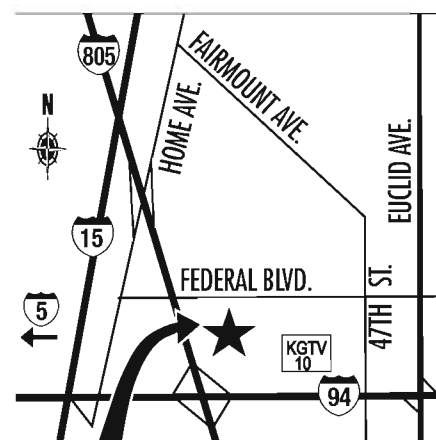
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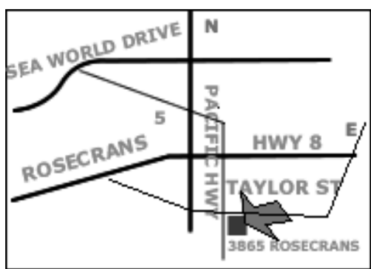


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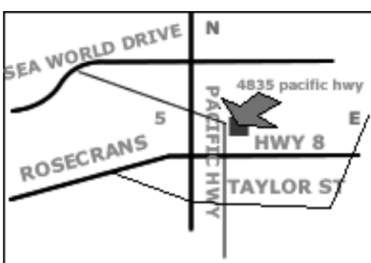
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UNDER THE SCOPE

'Iron Man 2' star Rockwell shares his wisdom



Courtesy of Industrial Light Magic / Marvel

MAGGIE PEHANICK
STAFF WRITER

The Daily Aztec: In the comics, your character Justin Hammer is older and British. Was it freeing for you to get to create your own version of the character?

Sam Rockwell: Yes, (director) Jon Favreau really let me kind of just be myself and do my thing. We were never going to try to do the ascot British accent thing.

DA: What distinguishes Favreau's directing style from other directors you have worked with?

SR: Jon is a good writer, although Justin Theroux wrote the script, but he's a great writer. He wrote "Tropic Thunder" with Ben Stiller and he really wrote an amazing script. I think what makes Jon so special is he's an actor. He's a really good actor, and he understands how to make things fresh and real. He's got a big bulls*** mirror and he kind of knows when it doesn't feel real. I think that what is so unique is that he wanted to really make it seem like this could really happen. I think that's sort of the key to Favreau's technique.

DA: How did you get involved with the project to begin with? Are you a fan of the comics?

SR: It was a series of events. I knew Justin Theroux, who wrote the script, and went to the theater at Williamstown together. We were friends. He's an actor as well. Jon Favreau and I had done "Made" together with Vince Vaughn and he had called me once about screen testing for Tony Stark and then it didn't come together, and (Robert) Downey (Jr.), of course, got the part and was amazing. My girlfriend was in the first one and we sat down and had dinner with Downey. Then Favreau and I ended up doing "G-Force" together, and so it all sort of came together. I think Justin Theroux had come up with the idea for me to be Justin Hammer, and Favreau responded to it.

DA: Last year you starred in five movies, and now you're one of the stars of "Iron Man 2." When you set out to become an actor, did you think you would be so successful?

SR: No. I thought I would just maybe get some summer stock theater, probably. I didn't really know what was going to happen.

DA: Do you have any news about the possibility of there being an "Iron Man 3" or who will be starring in the upcoming "Avengers" movie?

SR: I don't know. I hope I'm in it.

DA: You seem to have a lot of dancing in your movies, Sam. Is that a personal choice or do directors just love seeing you dance?

SR: I think sometimes they know I can dance and ... I ham it up a little bit.

DA: When you look at your movies such as "Hitchhiker's Guide," "Moon" and then "Iron Man 2," it seems they tend to take on sci-fi roles. Do you prefer these to the more generic real life roles?

SR: It's just acting to me. It's the same stuff. I just do what they tell me.

DA: Which film sets do you remember as being the most personally challenging?

SR: I've worked on some great movies. I wouldn't want to tell you the worst because I'd get in trouble.

DA: What about the best? What was the most fun?

SR: "Iron Man" is pretty good. "Moon," "Confessions of a Dangerous Mind" and "Snow Angels," things like that.

DA: How was it playing the villain?

SR: It's fun to play bad guys. You get to break all the rules and stuff. It's a really fun challenge. It's really good.

DA: Was there anything particular about filming that really was a lot of fun?

SR: I think the scenes with Mickey Rourke were very fun for me to do. There's a lot for me to do in the scenes, and it was a really good time.

DA: How much did you know about Justin Hammer and "Iron Man" in general before taking the role?

SR: I guess I knew very little. I knew nothing. I got the comic books as soon as I got the part and looked at it a little bit, and it was described to me by Justin Theroux and Jon Favreau.

DA: There was a lot of secrecy around the production of the film. Were there any moments when you had to check yourself and make sure you didn't slip out any crucial details?

SR: Yes. They give you the script pages that have your name on it so that if you get them out, you get sued because your name's on them. So yes, you've got to be careful what you say about it because it's very top secret.

DA: Given that you have experience with independent films, what makes the big budget productions such as "Iron Man 2" more appealing than an indie film?

SR: This movie actually felt like an indie a lot of times. But it was also a very active and friendly set, "Iron Man." It felt like a big budget movie. It actually felt like a lot of fun. You get up to your dressing room and you're getting paid a little more money. The movie was more exhausting and challenging in different ways.

DA: Did Favreau set you loose and let you guys do what you want, or did he have specific guidelines and things that he'd like to see in the characters?

SR: He definitely had specific guidelines, but he lets you riff. Justin Theroux wrote a great script. I did very little improvisations, actually. I'm a pretty good improviser, but I'm not a writer, so I like to have some structure and I think Theroux provided that and Favreau provided that in a big way.

DA: News recently broke about your involvement in "Cowboys and Aliens" with Favreau. How did that come about?

SR: Jon and I really love working together, so we're going to do it again.

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UNDER THE SCOPE

Rathbone breaks down the airbending experience

KARI LUU
STAFF WRITER

"The Last Airbender," based on the popular Nickelodeon cartoon series, is one of the most highly anticipated films to be released this summer. This live-action film revolves around a world where individuals can bend natural elements such as earth, wind, air and fire to their whim. However, chaos ensues as the Fire Nation attempts to gain worldwide control. It is up to one individual known as the Avatar, who possesses the rare ability to control all the elements, to restore balance among the nations. *The Daily Aztec* was recently able to interview Jackson Rathbone, who plays Sokka in the film, about his experiences.

The Daily Aztec: What drew you to work on this film, and how did you prepare for the role?

Jackson Rathbone: There was two months or so of kung fu training in Los Angeles that I was doing, which was a blast. I'd go for about three hours a day and kind of go through the rundown of kung fu and the various styles of it. And then we had two weeks of rehearsals in Philadelphia where we ran through the scenes and kind of had the big read-through and everything. And it was just—it was very natural because (director) M. Night (Shyamalan) is a very natural director and it was really amazing to get to work with him.

"... at the end of the day it's a story and subject matter that appeals to everyone. It's about being a hero and discovering yourself ..."

—Jackson Rathbone,
Actor

DA: What sort of things did you do in your off time while shooting this movie?

JR: Well I never really like to have off time. Whenever I was shooting "The Last Airbender," I was also performing with the band I'm in, 100 Monkeys, as well as starting to produce a film that I produced with fellow band mate Jerad Anderson, and we both acted in "Girlfriend." So I was kind of getting the pre-production

process started on that from my trailer from my phone, as well as working on new songs with the band whenever I would come home at night. So I don't really tend to have much off time.

DA: Once you were cast in this movie, did you go back and watch the original show that it's based off of?

JR: Yes, I was always (aware of the) original show. I think I actually watched more of the original show during the auditioning process than I did during the actual run of the film.

I wanted to kind of step away from it a little bit and kind of make it as natural and as realistic as possible because that's one of the difficulties in bringing an animated TV show to life in a two-hour movie. You're condensing 16 hours or so of animated television to be put into a two-hour film. And especially with all the kind of extreme martial arts and the extreme element bending and all that, it's a lot more serious, so I tried to stay away from watching the show. But I've always been a fan of the show and all my friends were excited as all hell when they heard I was going to be playing the character.

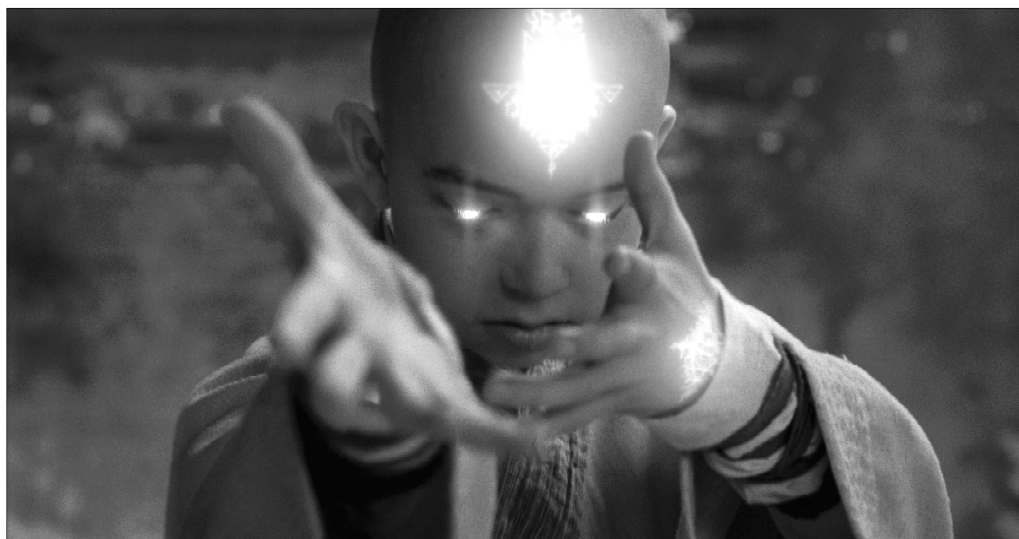
DA: Shyamalan is known for more suspenseful films. Do you feel this was more successful than and different from "The Sixth Sense" and other movies he's done before?

JR: Well, I think M. Night made his name with "Sixth Sense." However he had two films under his belt before that. Those weren't necessarily suspense thriller films. It was more about kind of searching for meaning, and so he's done a lot of different kinds of films. I mean you just look at "The Happening." It was his first R-rated film, and now he's doing a family film. I think he's an artist trying to stretch his wings if you will and trying to kind of get out there. And he's a family man, so you know he was bringing his kids to set like every Friday after school and whatnot, and that was just really cool to see. I think he's definitely making a film that his kids can see which is really pretty awesome.

DA: Noah Ringer, who plays Aang in the film, is a relatively new actor and he's pretty young. What was it like acting with him?

JR: Well, it's an amazing experience to be acting with child actors. It's interesting. They have a certain sense to them that is just completely natural. And as an actor, it's your job to wear what they tell you to wear, say what they tell you to say and stand where they tell you to stand, but at the end of the day you can't lie, and kids have a real hard time lying. If a kid knocks

see UNDER THE SCOPE on page 37



Courtesy of Industrial Light Magic / Paramount

"Airbender" is the first movie of a planned trilogy and is set to be released July 2. It had a \$100 million budget.

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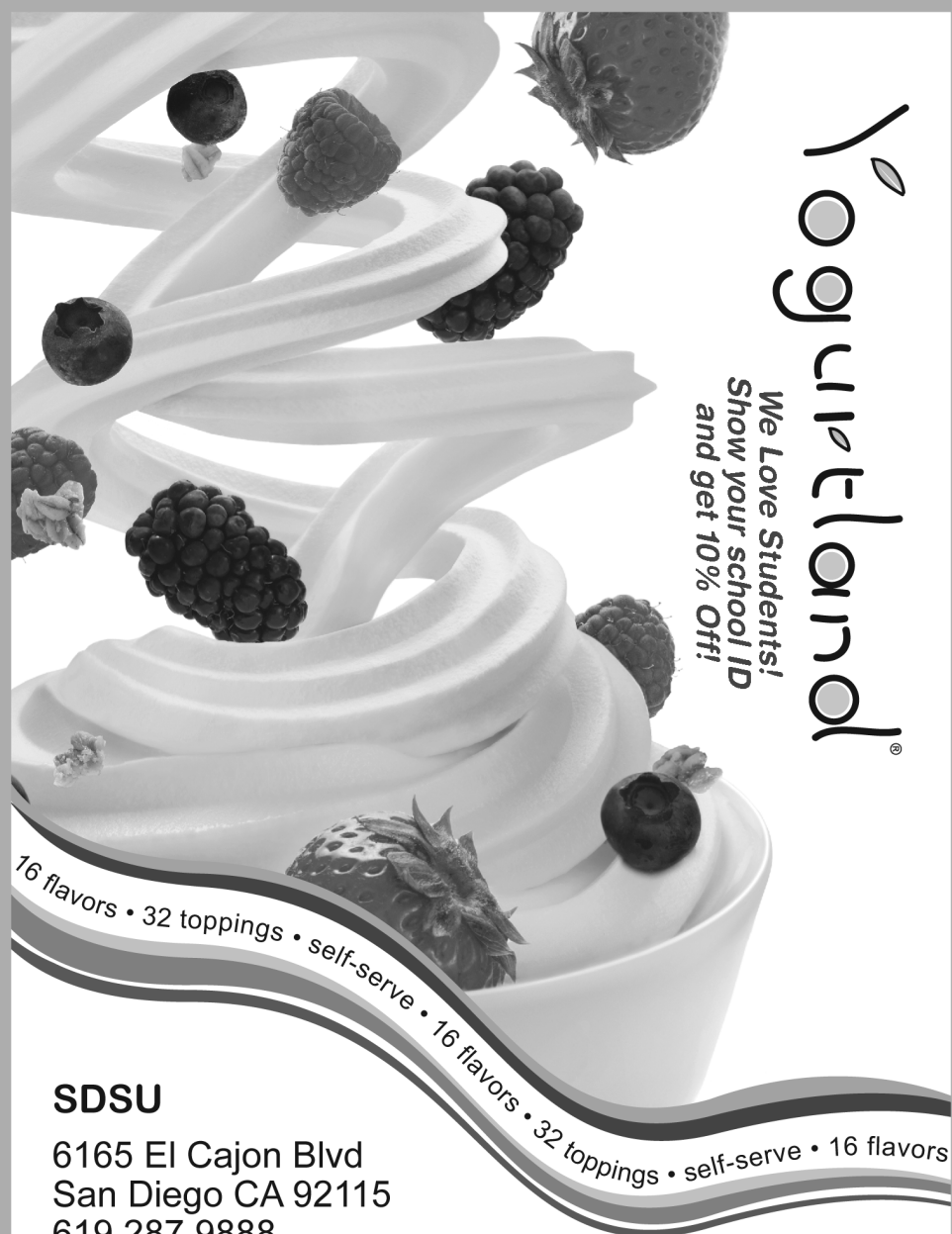
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UNDER THE SCOPE: Read the rest of The Daily Aztec's interview with 'Airbender' actor Jackson Rathbone.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 34

a baseball through a window, you ask him if he did it, you know when he lies about it; it's pretty transparent. So it's pretty amazing to be able to work with a younger actor who doesn't really have that capability that we all get jaded with when we grow up to lie. So it's very natural, and you know it kind of brought me to a certain place naturally as well within all the scenes that we worked on together. And it was just — it was amazing just to watch him grow as an actor and as a performer over the course of the film.

DA: The film is based on the Nickelodeon cartoon series so it skews to younger audiences. Why should college students spend their money to see this film?

JR: Well, it's one of those things. A lot of my college friends were watching "The Last Airbender" whenever it was on Nickelodeon, and I mean, a lot of my college friends also liked it.

And it was one of their favorite shows when they were little because it was on a younger adult or children's programming

television station, but at the end of the day it's a story and subject matter that appeals to everyone. It's about being a hero and discovering yourself and it's almost like a coming-of-age story set in this amped-up action world. And it's one of those things ... like I've always loved kung fu movies and I've always loved action films, and the idea of manipulating the elements. And that's just something that's kind of been there throughout all time, the mankind dependency on the elements and the ability to kind of work with them or work against them and what that means.

DA: Assuming this movie does well, do you think there's going to be a sequel?

JR: Oh, I definitely hope so, and I think that's the plan. It's waiting for the box office basically. As an actor, I'm not too privy to all that, but at the end of the day, from a speculative standpoint, I think hopefully this movie will do extremely well and people will want to see the next two books put up into a film format. And I'm really excited and ready for it.



Courtesy of Industrial Light Magic / Paramount



Courtesy of Zade Rosenthal

"The Last Airbender," based off the popular Nickelodeon TV series, is directed by M. Night Shyamalan.

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A self-appointed legend bids SDSU farewell

This past weekend I went home for Mother's Day. I did so because I love my mom and because I was out of food.

DAVID POPE
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

But the hours I spent in Chino Hills happened to coincide with my sister's junior prom. My hatred of all things pertaining to high school dances is well documented, so you can imagine my enthusiasm. Anyway, while my dad, grandfather and I were standing awkwardly in the corner of someone's backyard as 15 high school couples were being photographed for two hours by a paparazzi of moms wearing sunglasses that cost more than my car, all I could think about is how this would make for a great column.

As I was trying to figure out how to viciously denigrate my sister's date for being the only tool in the token white tuxedo (in a way that wouldn't piss off my mom) I realized that my infinitely hilarious observations would never make it onto the Back Page of this esteemed paper — and neither would anything else I concocted in the coming days, weeks or years.

My time has come to an end, ladies and gentlemen. I graduate from our beloved San Diego State in just a few days, which means it's time to leave *The Daily Aztec* behind. I know, I never thought this day would come either. I figured there was no way I'd live this long. I always assumed I'd be murdered by angry Hawaiians or overdose on Malibu long before I made it to this point.

But here we are, friends. And I have some people to recognize.

First of all, I have to thank my parents (yeah, I'd call me 'gay' too). My mom and dad taught me that if I could be smart, hardworking and funny, I'd be set for life ... Well, one out of three isn't bad, right? Right? Check back with me in 20 years and I'll let you know.

Next is the man that gave me my start at this paper and taught Glenn Connelly and I that any trip to Panda Express could be written

off as a business expense, Mr. Devin Kunysz. He saw in me a young man with a vision and the potential and drive to be great. That's actually not true at all. What he really saw was a 120-pound freshman he could make write about water polo for free.

John Gold, David Biderman, Michael Menninger, Justin Lafferty and Eric Shannon — thank you, too. I don't have anything specific to say to any of you, but you're all more successful than I am and I don't want to burn any bridges in this economy.

To my high school girlfriend: If anyone deserves credit for this column, it's you. If you hadn't turned into the super-slut of the universe and slept with all of my friends after we broke up, I don't know what I would have written about in my first dozen or so articles. Sure, we get along fine now, but if not for all the unbridled loathing I felt back then, I never would have been motivated to make this column happen. My four fans are eternally grateful.

On a similar note, I should probably thank Fantasy Football, Nintendo 64, Aaron Rodgers, pie, drunk-texting and Ke\$ha. Those were always there for a good column topic when things got slow. Apparently this didn't go unnoticed by some of my more scrupulous readers as I drank from those wells perhaps a few too many times. I'm sorry about that, but I really do care what your middle name is.

Next: Tara Rodriguez, the first girl to seek me out and add me on Facebook as a fan of this column. Everyone else who came after her just has to get in line. When I make it to the top, I'll forget a lot of people. Tara Rodriguez will not be one of them.

To La Casita's: I cannot thank you enough for the endless tortilla-wrapped, guacamole-filled joy you

have brought to me during these past few years. My time at SDSU would not have been the same without your delicious burritos and reasonably priced beer pitchers. I hope you know you'll be catering my wedding someday.

To the young lady I spent the better part of my junior year dating: What can I say about you that hasn't already been said in a Reel Big Fish song, that gratuitously features the word "f**k?" The world would be a better place if you stopped existing. I wish you nothing but the worst misfortune and most horrible agony in your future endeavors. I will say this though; you have got one hell of an ass.

Shane, the Niners suck. Max, the Raiders suck. Maggie, the A's suck. Suzie, Cal sucks. Melissa, if you liked sports, your favorite team would suck. Beau, the Giants suck. But I love you all. Yes, even you Beau — just not enough to answer most of your phone calls.

Nathan Fishbein, if not for you I probably would have had a complete nervous breakdown and died of multiple aneurysms on more than one occasion back in one of the less pleasant times of the past few years. The world thanks you for keeping me alive.

Seth Mallios, you are the best, coolest professor that has ever lived. If you don't know, he's like a younger, California version of Indiana Jones and he listens to Rancid. I can only imagine that girls show up to his office hours naked on a weekly basis. You, sir, have my respect, admiration and envy.

And of course, my time at *The Daily Aztec* and at SDSU in general would never have been the same without my hetero-life partner and platonic soul mate, Edward Lewis. Some of the best times of the last four years of my life were spent with Edward in press boxes at football games, courtside media seats at basketball games and the patio of a closed McDonald's in Pacific Beach at 3 a.m., wondering if Glenn is still alive and drunk-text-

ing our coworkers. I look forward to starting a totally not-gay family with him some day. You're damn right you're jealous.

People wonder what legacy I leave behind at *The Daily Aztec*. What's that? No one wonders that? Oh, well I do. And I think it is this:

There's a policy at this paper, which states that if there is ever a word or phrase of potential vulgarity (such as asshole, bitch or Boston Red Sox), they search our website, and if it's been printed in the same context before, it's automatically permitted to be printed again.

A few weeks ago, this came up in the office. The word in question was "prick." I overheard the following exchange between my managing editors.

"Found it. Well, looks like it's OK." "We've printed it before?"

"Yeah ... it was Pope."

"Of course it was Pope! It's always Pope! Anytime we look up anything obscene, it always comes back to Pope!"

At that moment, a single tear rolled down my face.

The only thing I never managed to let slide was a word that rhymes with "bouche dag." But I had to

leave something for the next generation to strive for.

Which reminds me: I leave you in good hands. None other than Noah Henry will be taking over the Thursday Back Page. I actually have no idea if he really is or not, but he should. He's five times funnier than me, 10 times more creative and infinitely less obnoxious. He will serve you well.

As for me, well I have Billy Joel's "Piano Man" playing right now. If you're unfamiliar, he basically spends five and a half minutes singing about how important and awesome he thinks he is. If you could boil all my columns down into one song, it wouldn't be too far off from this. I think it sums things up quite nicely.

But I hope I made you laugh, or at the very least gave you a means to distract yourselves from class on Thursday mornings.

Thanks for reading. I'm sure you'll all miss me. But it won't be half as much as I'll miss you.

—David Pope is a graduating English senior.

—This article does not necessarily reflect the opinions of The Daily Aztec.

DAILY HOROSCOPE BY LINDA C. BLACK, TRIBUNE MEDIA SERVICES

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (5/13/10) Private life takes on a powerful role in career development. A lot goes on behind closed doors, and you have just the right touch to make giant strides this year. All dealings benefit from sincere directness and sensitivity to changing emotions around you.

ARIES (March 21 - April 19) - Today is a 6 - Today you feel the pressure to finish. Stress lets you know where to apply more energy. Don't let others push you around.

TAURUS (April 20 - May 20) - Today is an 9 - You're standing on one foot, trying to balance a heavy workload. You'll get tired unless you find a way to support the weight more evenly. Seek help.

GEMINI (May 21 - June 21) - Today is a 6 - Yesterday's problems are returned to the sender. Some of the things that had been vague now become clear. Represent the needs of your associates.

CANCER (June 22 - July 22) - Today is a 5 - Your associate grasps the problem and rushes in to take advantage of circumstances. There's still some stress, but things will go smoothly overall.

LEO (July 23 - Aug. 22) - Today is a 7 - Base your assumptions on your capacity to do the job. You may be able to enlist help, but don't depend on it. Do this cheerfully.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22) - Today is a 6 - Stand firm on decisions. There's no need to get creative right now. Instead, wait until

you have more information. Patience is the key.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22) - Today is a 6 - Your efforts come home to roost, and you discover that all those chickens fit into the henhouse just fine. Don't forget to latch the door.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21) - Today is an 11 - Show how much you care about others while also telling them what to do in no uncertain terms. There's no room for "maybe" today.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21) - Today is a 6 - You have lots of work at home, and much of it takes you into the social realm. Put some of those creative ideas on the back burner.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19) - Today is a 6 - The efforts of co-workers dovetail today. Your leadership helps everyone move ahead without the burden of decision-making. One person needs extra help.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18) - Today is a 6 - Bending the rules accomplishes just what you need today. Drop your strict attitude and allow some flexibility.

PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20) - Today is a 6 - Everyone's champing at the bit today. If you apply pressure, expect resistance. You're better off allowing folks to proceed at their own pace.

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Solution available online at www.TheDailyAztec.com

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