The voices of Congressman Bob Filner and Congresswoman Susan Davis filled the Price Center Ballroom at the UCSD campus with a variety of issues facing the country today.

More than 60 people showed up to listen to the forum on higher education and school and community involvement.

Davis, representing the 53rd District, spoke first. Her speech emphasized education and community involvement. Specifically, a part of her speech aimed at improving the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, signed by President George W. Bush.

No Child Left Behind realizes the role the government has in the education levels of kindergartners through grade 12. It asks schools to determine success in terms of students' accomplishments by using four basic principles, including stronger accountability for results, increased flexibility and local control, expanded options for parents and an emphasis on teacher methods that have been proven to work.

"It's a great statement," Davis said. "We don't want to leave a child behind. But I have to say that in that legislation and the way it's being applied, I'm afraid we are leaving a lot of children behind."

Davis then encouraged college students in attendance to become mentors and take part in helping with the education of younger children.

She also talked about the effects the budget crisis will have on education, which

see FORUM on page 2
IRAQ: Uncertainty affects U.S. economy
continued from page 1
to war with Iraq in the near future. If war were to break out, Great Britain would be United States' biggest ally and they would like­ly be joined by Spain, Italy, and the other eastern European coun­tries, he said. "The probability of our winning this war is high, and everyone wants to be on a winning team," Gupta said.
Not all countries involved with the U.N. agree with the United States on this matter. And so far Gupta said the United States has not been able to convince the entire U.N. that an immediate declaration of war is needed.
On Feb. 14, Mohamed Abdou, a permanent representa­ tive of the Republic of Iraq, spoke in front of the U.N. "Iraq's doors were open to the inspection teams without restric­tions or conditions," he said. "We would like to stress that Iraq has chosen the path of peace. We want to reach solutions that satisfy­ the international community." 
Up until Feb. 14, Abdou said there had been 787 inspections within Iraq. While focus is centered around disarmament, there’s no threat of sanctions or conditions," he said.
Davismade her point last week, pointing out that it’s unlikely that the price of oil will fall because the oil market is not whole world economy.
Fiedler said the war will be discounted. He said
Aptopment of any royalty will be discounted. He said
Fiedler ended his speech by arguing that college students, in particular, could influence the country in major ways:
"You can change any state law that you want to and you can stop this war," he said. "So go do it."
Congressman Bob Fidler discusses the war against Iraq at the UCSD forum held on Wednesday: Man Fidler / Daily Aztec
CITY
ISSUES: University president tackles mascot, housing queries
continued from page 1
Naddia Cherri, Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán representative, asked Weber how much he was willing to fight against student fee increases.
"I'm going to help students by fighting for courses, not by fighting against fee increases," Weber said.
Another student asked Cherri questions about a topic that has seen its share of the spotlight in the last few years — the mascot issue.
"Weber said getting rid of Monty Montezuma, the mas­ cot the university had for many years, made a lot of people unhappy.
However, he said he doesn't regret the decision he made. He also said he hopes SDSU gets a new mascot soon. Otherwise — if the university waits too long — the Aztec Warrior could be viewed as the official mascot, whether SDSU likes it or not, Weber said.
Several councilmembers asked Weber about the August demolition of Temple del Sol. One councilmember ques­tioned the university's decision to get rid of much-needed housing.
Weber said the loss of beds in Temple del Sol was offset by the university's purchase of University Towers, the construction of Piedra del Sol, Fraternity Row, Cuicacalli, and other projects.
Weber said the state won't fund a building for classroom. He also said open space is something the campus is lacking, and people need a place to throw a Frisbee around.

FORUM: Congressmembers urge college students to voice their thoughts
continued from page 1
may include possibly increasing class sizes and raising tuition.
While not specifically going into what might be cut, Davis did demonstrate her disagreement of any school­ related cut.
"One of the realities is that when we look at the U.N., schools have a tendency to cut back," she said. "In many ways, that is: the one thing we ought to be raising, because that means people will be more skilled and have the opportunities at diffi­cult times."
Strong applause came when Davis made her claim that teach­ ers are underpaid.
"Our teachers, the people who deal in early childhood education as much as we pay our professors, because in many ways they are the ones who are deal­ing with the developing mind," she said.
Congressman Bob Fidler, repre­senting the 51st district of Cali­fornia and former professor of history at San Diego State, was next to speak. His speech, while still focusing on community involvement, was directed more toward terrorism and the war against Iraq.
After offering a little back­ground information, on how he arrived to where he is today, Fidler talked about why the war against Iraq should not take place.
"We have a war going on in about 16 days," he said. "That war is a bad war: I'll be the first time in American history that we make a preempted strike on a nation which doesn't pose for us, at least by any reasonable definition, as an imminent threat."
He said the war will create so much instability in the world that America will be faced with far more terrorism than it is today.
Fidler suggested that every­one in the community, whether they were for or against the war, raise their voice and let their thoughts be heard.
"People have got to get involved in what America is doing," he said. "You have power. You have incredible power that you don't even know."

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President Bush dismissed mass anxiety over Iraq as well-intentioned but irrelevant — the equivalent of a marketing "focus group." Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld ordered another 20,000 U.S. troops to the Persian Gulf region Tuesday.

About 150,000 troops already are in the region, though the United States and Britain decided Tuesday to confront skeptic isms and propose the last United Nations resolution demanding that Iraq disarm, officials of both nations said.

At the White House, Bush said "President Blairs plan makes much more sense" and he supported the dissenters' right to express their views. But he also said the protests wouldn't influence his decision or those of British Prime Minister Tony Blair, his closest ally.

"You know, the size of protests is like deciding well, we're going to do it this way, we're going to do it that way," Bush said. "The role of a leader is to decide policy based upon the security. In this case, the security of the people.

At the same time, the United States and Britain continued to pursue diplomacy at the United Nations, despite Tuesday's resumption there of security council action to enforce the resolution.

The diplomat's effort isn't likely to delay U.S. preparations for a war. "It's less than a few days, " he said, "if at all," one senior administration official said on condition of anonymity.

"The administration is committed to going forward," said White House spokeswoman Ari Fleischer.

Bush summed up the delicate balance between diplomacy and war this way:

"War is my last choice. But the risk of doing nothing is even a worse option, and that's as I'm concerned. I owe it to the American people to secure this country. I will do what will protect the security of this country."
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Influence of blacks integral to culture

Out of the ashes of the American past, struggling in the face of suppression and violence, the black community has continued to be made. Even still, the true and full history of black people has not been told. History, or the presentation of history, is drafted by those in the dominant class, and in the American context, history has been whitewashed — wielded without regard to the various groups and communities upon which very back America’s existence was built.

Seldom does a child of eight or nine learn about black scientists or inventors, scholars or artists. Seldom does the American school system broaden curricular offerings to include major literary works that explore the black experience of oppression and resilience, tragedy and triumph. Seldom do students learn about black history because it is a consequence of the systematic racism that ensured slavery, segregation, Jim Crow and the like. Institutions of education were created out of a history that sought to dehumanize and marginalize black people and other people of color through the assimilation of culture, the omission and the exclusion of contributions and achievements from the history books.

In the 1920s, historian Carter G. Woodson founded “Negro History Week.” He envisioned black people with a keen understanding of themselves and their history, as well as to enhance the general knowledge of what black people have really achieved in the United States and in the rest of the world — rather than accept the racist images so prevalent in the society.

Woodson chose the month of February because of its historic significance, the birth of the great orator and abolitionist, Frederick Douglass. Woodson intended to instill a now and deep knowledge of black history and culture; he intended to launch the week-long celebration to begin the process of bringing black history to the forefront of American consciousness. He did not, however, intend for the week — now a month — to be the only time black history is highlighted.

Woodson hoped that the celebration of black history in the month of February would be the climax of history taught in the remaining 11 months of the year. Unfortunately, educational institutions and the United States have not yet rid themselves of the institutional racism embedded in their very foundation, and as a result, have not been able to embrace the full range of contributions of different cultures and ethnicities.

Despite what Angela Davis calls the “erasures” of history, I do get excited when Black History Month comes around. I’m excited because I know I will see images that reflect my history, however shallow and short-lived. I know I’ll see films that haven’t seen the light of day for years, books that would not otherwise receive attention, images and names that would otherwise not receive mention. But as February comes to a close, I’m saddened because I’ll see little to no representation of black history during the year.

Even during Black History Month, I’m suddenly reminded of the sort of tokenized treatment that black history receives. People will attend events, and will call it Black History Month, but the extent to which they acknowledge black people through their presentations is a huge issue. The only way I was able to receive a good understanding of black history, the black history that I have, was from my mother. She would sit me down and tell me about Harriet Tubman and Martin Luther King, Jr. She would talk about African Studies courses and eventually make it my major. In all of my years in the classroom and secondary educational system, I was taught very little about my culture and history, let alone anyone else’s beyond the traditional Eurocentric model. If I first had to first come to college and enroll in African Studies courses to learn about black history, what of those others who never attended college, let alone enroll in classes that offer a similar perspective? They will never know the beauty of the works of Zora Neale Hurston or Ntozake Shange, or the brilliance of Benjamin Banneker. They will never know of the desegregation of Soweto or the bravery of Sojourner Truth or Fannie Lou Hamer, or the fire of David Walker.

Bush disaster supply kit pointless

During the Cold War, many schools showed videos displaying what to do in case of nuclear attack. The videos showed children ducking under their school desks inside their brick schools and surviving. Was anyone really fooled?

Apparent or so, the Bush administration is employing similar tactics with the release of its “suggested” disaster supply kit.

Since the proposal of having this kit, on-hand materials such as duct tape, water batteries, flashlights, food rations and plastic tape have been flooding off the shelves. These “optional” materials are supposed to protect the American people in case of biological or other terrorist attacks. Plastic wrap and tape off all openings in your home and then hunker down with a week’s supply of rations and water to avoid biological war. Duck and cover. The flashlights would be a cool addition to a shadow puppet theater in my cubicle, however.

The Bush administration, which has been harkening back to the days of Reagan fiscally, has decided to take a page out of the Eisenhower administration’s handbook when releasing its propaganda. If any of you think that a sheet of plastic wrap and a roll of duct tape will allow you to sleep safer than by all means, shop away. If, however, you realize these items will not do you or anyone else much good, then just relax.

We live near a nuclear plant, San Onofre, situated between two heavily populated cities — San Diego and Los Angeles. On top of that, we live in an area that is largely military oriented. If there’s any sort of attack in this area not aimed at the military installations or the nuclear plant, then I would be very surprised. And if some duct tape and plastic wrap will save me in case of attacks in those areas, I would be astounded.

If you’ll feel better about having some extra batteries around, or you just want to make a kickass fort using some couch cushions and leftover plastic wrap and duct tape, then have at it. If you’re expecting any more safety to result from these actions, than the duck-and-cover tactics employed in schools throughout the United States in the ’60s and ’70s, then don’t hold your breath.

Along with the “disaster supply kit” is a list of suggestions released by the Homeland Security Department that will better prepare us in the event of a terrorist attack. It’s a kind of “terror check list.” In case of a terrorist attack, you should already have a plan to get in contact with your loved ones. A cell phone. It also suggests that you should educate yourselves on the types of possible terrorist attacks in the area. I’m sorry, but I thought ducking and covering would be enough. Most importantly however, do not cancel travel plans. If you stay home and stop spending money, the terrorists have won. And besides, can you imagine a Republican president being judged by his domestic or fiscal policy? I shudder at the thought.

The government isn’t helping anyone by raising terror alerts and suggesting “disaster supply kits.” All these actions can create is further unrest initially followed by desensitization, a kind of “boy-who-cried-wolf” type scenario. The one advantage I can see to these disaster supply kits is that with a few couch cushions I can make a bitchin’ clubhouse in my living room. All I need is some bubble wrap for decoration. Duck and cover!

— Bill Luecke is a history sophomore.

— This column does not necessarily reflect the opinions of The Daily Aztec. Send e-mail to letters@thedailyaztec.com. Anonymous letters will not be printed — include your full name, major and year in school.
Reader urges students to take a stand on the environment

I would like to respond to a recent column in The Daily Aztec; (“Bush promotes corrupt culture,” The Daily Aztec, Feb. 13). The Bush administration is not only guilty of "lies, cheating, stealing and corruption," as quoted by Sullivan, but also of promoting business at the cost of the environment — the American people's most precious commodity. The Bush administration is responsible for rolling back 30 years of environmental rules, regulations and laws, which affect all major environmental issues: forests, air, wildlife, water, energy and wetlands.

I believe that as university students, we are in an excellent place to change the current course of environmental action. It is important and critical for university students to keep abreast of the political issues affecting our lives, and to take a stand on these issues. I would applaud Sullivan for his blunt article, even if I did not agree with him.

Throughout history, social change has been initiated on college campuses. If you disagree with what the Bush administration is doing, the best way to respond is to take action. Call or write your representatives, educate others and become involved in politically minded community service.

—Sharon Pleczenik-Siegel
communication freshman

Laura Bush under no obligation to host academic conference

Why would an academic conference be held at the White House? (“Literature will not be sterilized for White House,” Karla Saia, Feb. 13). Usually, the Modern Language Association rents a hotel with a convention center, e.g., the San Francisco Hilton. President Kennedy had Robert Frost write a poem for his inauguration, therefore, President Clinton had Maya Angelou write a poem for his inauguration. Later, Clinton used Whitman’s “Calamus” cluster of poems to justify his affair with Monica Lewinsky. In his “Leaves of Grass” (1855), Whitman presents himself as “Walt Whitman, an American, one of the roughs, a cosmos, Disorderly, fleshly and sensual, eating drinking and breeding.” Whitman’s request for President Abraham Lincoln may be the greatest poem in the language, “When Lilacs last in the Dooryard Bloom’d,” but it was written in the same year that “As I Lay with Myleep Lap Camerado” was written (both 1865). No one ever suggested Whitman would have been welcomed by Mary Todd Lincoln. The idea of his commenting on the Civil War in her presence is far-fetched.

Laura Bush has no obligation to welcome “unnaturalized” poets to her home.

—Richard Thompson
UCSD Class of ’85

Letters Policy

The Daily Aztec welcomes letters on all subjects, sections and stories. Letters may be edited for brevity and oratory or offensive content. Letters must include the writer’s year in school and major, or professional title. The Aztec offices are located in the basement of the Business Administration and Mathematics building. Please send e-mail to letters@thedailyaztec.com.

‘Legacy’ no qualification

By Robert DeKoven
Contributing Columnist

After you've worked so hard to get into college, it is disheartening to see that some of your peers are in school for reasons not necessarily based entirely upon merit, but because a parent attended the university.

In these times, where private universities have created the term “legacy,” that a student with the same last name as a past graduate receives preference in admissions, is a valuable tool for universities. The term “legacy” also describes a monetary gift to a university for their support of the institution.

As a student in college, you are not powerless to remedy the situation. You can help promote a college ethos of fairness and equal opportunity in the admissions process. By calling your senators and representatives, you can bring attention to the problem of unfair admissions practices.

—Priscilla Owen is an African Studies and History major and the president of Associated Students. She is a guest columnist to The Daily Aztec.

HISTORY: Black contributions vital to America; necessary all year, not only February

continued from page 5

Walker or Marcus Garvey. And they will be the挺好 for it as well.

Black history is made daily and cannot be confined to a single month. Yet, as we approach the anniversary of the assassination of Malcolm X, it is appropriate that we begin to think about the power of knowledge of self, both in the context of the black community as well as the United States society at large. The knowledge of black history and the history of other underrepresented groups can only serve to empower those groups and promote awareness overall. As Malcolm once said — and I’m paraphrasing — that a people without a history is lost. So as we celebrate black history and embrace the great contributions and achievements of black people, we must continue to do so in a single week or month; rather, it must be ongoing and consistent.

Limiting understanding and celebration of black history is like limiting your view of the ocean to the shore: you miss the true depth and breadth of it and thus its beauty. In the end, Black History Month is as it was a good start.

—Barry Goldwater is a senior English major and the Daily Aztec’s editor in chief.
Rising back to the top

Aztecs return to their winning ways by downing Air Force

By Michael Klitzing

For a full 40 minutes Saturday, the old Aztecs were back. From opening tip to final buzzer, the San Diego State men’s basketball team looked like the same team that raised hopes with a 2-0 conference start, running past the Falcons 67-53.

Call it a far cry from the more recent SDSU incarceration — that of the six losses in seven games variety.

This was a convincing win in my opinion,” Aztec head coach Steve Fisher said. “This was a real tough, hard-fought effort by everybody.”

Convincing indeed. The 14-point win was SDSU’s biggest margin of victory since it whacked Air Force by 15 in Colorado Springs on Jan. 11. That triumph came in the midst of a 9-1 stretch.

Even Saturday’s key to victory makes one hearken back to the good old days of a month ago. The Aztecs’ stifling defense, something that showed up in early season wins over Hawaii, Houston and Utah, resurfaced again last night.

Air Force, which runs the pesky, Princeton-style offense, found little room to maneuver. SDSU effectively patrolled the back door, as it guarded the Falcons’ cuts so well that the strategy was seldom employed in the second half.

Instead, Air Force was relegated to chucking shots from 3-point range. The Falcons continued to get nothing inside in the second half (they made only six two-point field goals all game), the outside shot disappeared as well.

They were just 2-9 on 3s after intermission.

“We didn’t give them a lot of easy baskets in the second half,” Fisher said. “They had to shoot with a hand in their face or with a guy flying at them.”

“Said Aztec guard Tony Bland: “All week we’ve been working on their back cuts and we made it our focal point tonight. They shot the ball light out in the first half and we were starting to think ‘here we go again.’

“But we were determined to put more pressure on the ball in the second half. I think we did a great job of that tonight.”

Bland also showed his determination on the offensive end. Air Force had no answer for the senior off the dribble as he poured in 28 points — an Aztec season high — on 11-of-13 shooting.

But Bland was not the only one to singe the nylon.

As a team, SDSU shot a sizzling 61 percent from the field. Center Mike Mackell led the charge underneath, scoring most of his 16 points in the paint.

“We knew that (Air Force) wasn’t going to be a shot-blocking team,” Fisher said. “We knew if we could take it to the rim of the dribble or throw it in to Mike (Mackell), we’d have a chance to score some inside baskets. And we did that.”

The end result was a second half in which SDSU’s lead was never seriously in jeopardy. In fact, the only late-game drama came in the form of an injury.

Midway through the period, Aztec forward Evan Burns hit the floor head first after committing a foul on Air Force’s leading scorer Joel Gerlach (15 pts.).

The blow opened up a bloody gash on the forehead of the freshman. The wound would require stitches after the game, but Burns — much to the delight of the 6,950 in attendance — did return to action with 1:14 to play.

It turned out to be a night in which the Cox Arena crowd had more than a few reasons to cheer. Not only did the Aztecs back the good old days of a month ago, but they did so in true Aztec fashion.

“We are excited about those upcoming games,” Fisher said.

What started Saturday night continues against the Lobos, who boast one of the conference’s most dynamic players and the most potent scorer in the entire league — Cashmere Cotton. Cotton is averaging 27.9 points per game, including an invidious 32.5 ppg in conference. SDSU had Douglas to just 3-of-10 shooting in its first matchup against UNM in late January when it dropped a 66-62 decision on the road.

Fisher said tonight would go a long way in securing a postseason berth for the Aztecs.

“We have two games at home this weekend that we are labeling as our own mini-tournament, that we feel are essential for us so if we want to make a tournament,” head coach Steve Fisher said.

While Fisher has talked all season about his team making “a” tournament, the miraculous success of last year’s Cinderella-run has been looming over the Aztec’s shoulders at every corner, and the expectations for the same kind of success to occur once again on Montezuma Mesa had reached feverish pitch.

“I think with SDSU stumbling a bit in conference, the reality is that it is going to take another fairy-tale type of run for it to get dancing come March, instead of just relearning the meaning,” Fisher said.

As SDSU continues its ascent, its 2-0 conference mark suggests that SDSU is up to the challenge.

SENIOR NIGHT

What: Men’s basketball — University of New Mexico Lobos

When: Tonight; tip-off at 7:05 p.m.

Where: Cox Arena

TBS vote to determine conference champion, with conference tournament in play.

Aztecs win 67-53.

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BASEBALL

Plenty of bumps on the road with tough schedule

Offense struggles as SDSU drops the first two of a three-game set at No. 13 Miami

BY MICHAEL KLITZING
SPORTS EDITOR

The rationale for the San Diego State baseball team’s tough (some might say tor- turous) schedule seemed quite clear at the beginning of the season. Playing top- ranked opponents results in a higher strength of schedule — hence a higher RPI when it comes time to select at-large teams for the NCAA Regionals. But while it made sense, no one said it would be a cake- walk.

SDSU dropped the first two of a three-game weekend set at No. 13 Miami, falling 4- 1 Saturday and 6-3 Friday. The losses now put the Aztecs at 5-7 overall and 1-6 against top-50 teams.

“I don’t know what it is about ranked teams that seems to keep us from playing like I know we can,” Aztec head coach Tony Gwynn said. “Our guys are trying hard, trying to make things happen, but falling short.

“We got another well- pitched game tonight from (Joe) Carque, but couldn’t make it count in our favor.”

Carque was effective for seven innings Saturday, allowing four runs on six hits, but the offensive support was not there. SDSU collected just four hits on the evening.

Horned’s starter Vince Bongiovanni allowed just one run and three hits in 5 2/3 innings, but was mildly erratic, walking five. Yet the Aztecs’ scuffling bats were never able to take advantage.

“We’re struggling on offense right now, and it’s one of those things we have to battle through,” left fielder Landon Burt said. “It just seems like we’re not selective at the plate and we’re not driving in runs. Our starters are taking us deep into games, and we’re not providing any run support.”

Burt plated SDSU’s only run in the top of the fifth as Ryan Wilson scored on his RBI single. Burt’s namesake, however, did him one better. Miami’s Jim Burt put his team up 3-0 with a two-run home run in the fourth.

Friday night was much the same story for the Aztecs: solid starting pitching with- out much to back it up. Hurler Mike Moat gave up just one unearned run in 5 1/3 innings of work as SDSU built a 2-1 lead on Josh Allen’s two-run cloud.

But when Moat was lifted in the sixth, the roof quickly caved in. Relievers Joey Pace and Ben Leuthardt surrendered five runs to the Hurricanes in the inning. Blame for the loss can also fall on the shoulders of the Aztec offense, which could not accumulate more of a cushion despite ample opportuni- ty: SDSU left seven men on base in the first five innings.

“When you leave ducks on the pond in college baseball like we did, it usually comes back to bite you,” Gwynn said. “We had our opportunities to build a lead early and couldn’t get it done. We let them hang around, and they had the one big inning.”

Joe Carque pitched seven solid innings of work on Saturday, but SDSU couldn’t take advantage. David Eppolito / Courtesy photo

Base runners like Ryan Wilson were far and few between for the Aztecs against the Hurricanes. David Eppolito / Courtesy photo

WOMEN’S TENNIS

It’s a day at the beach for Aztecs in Hawaii

Despite stiiff winds, netters blow past Santa Clara and Hawaii over the weekend

BY TIM MIGUEL
STAFF WRITER

The No. 25 San Diego State women’s tennis team spent its weekend in Hawaii trampling over the University of Hawaii and Santa Clara — both matches ended in 6-1 blowouts.

“It was a good weekend,” head coach Peter Mattern said. “The conditions were tough with the 20 mph winds and we played some solid competitive teams, but we’re ready to come home now and we feel pretty good where our team is right now.

Added junior Katalina Romero: “When it’s really windy like it was, you need to pay even more attention to where the ball is going. The match shouldn’t have been that close.”

SDSU advanced to 6-1 on the season after its two wins over the weekend.

Against Santa Clara on Saturday, the Aztecs got the first point of the match as they swept three doubles matches.

SDSU’s Silvia Toenier and Intra Erich- sen defeated Christine Limbers and Jan Kabi 6-3, 6-2 in the No. 1 spot. In the No. 2 spot, senior Katja Kurvento and Romeros beat Ashley Campbell and Catherine Cochran 8-0. In the No. 3 spot, sophomore Patricia Graf and senior Lindsey Hedberg defeat- ed Mariko Kawakami and Pat Ruiz 8-1.

In the singles matches, the Broncos put up a tough fight against SDSU, sending four of the matches into super tiebreakers. In the No. 1 spot, Toriier beat Limbers 5-7, 7-6 (13) (10-7), despite feeling sick with stomach problems.

“She was really struggling out there and having a tough time,” Mattern said. “That would have been a bad loss, but she fought through that.”

The other super tiebreaker came when Graf beat Ruiz 7-5, 7-6 (10-7).

“That win is just going to give her more confidence,” Mattern said. “She’s on a nice path right now.”

The biggest win of the day, however, came when Hedberg won her match to get the all-important fourth point. She beat Kabi 6-3, 6-2, 6-2.

“That was the turning point of the match,” Hedberg said. “Everyone kind of relaxed after we got that point. My oppo- nent was from Hawaii, so she knew the course and had family here. I just had to concentrate more.”

The day before, the Aztecs stomped through Hawaii on their home court. SDSU swept the three doubles matches on this day, as well as getting that first point.

In singles competition, the Rainbow Wahine was no match for SDSU. In the No. 1 spot, Toriier defeated Lauren Fitzgerald 6-2, 7-5. In the No. 2, Hedberg beat Stacy Haklak 6-2, 6-2. Graf defeated Mio Fukushina 6-4, 6-3 in the No. 3 spot.

Next Saturday, the Aztecs finish their road trip at No. 3 USC.

“They’re always tough,” Mattern said. “We’ve got nothing to lose; we’ll take our swings and just go for it.”

TIE WATER POLO

SDSU takes advantage of home pool

Aztecs pick up their first win ever at their new home, Ray and Joan Kroc Center

BY BOBBY ELLIS
STAFF WRITER

There is no place like home for the San Diego State women’s water polo team, as they defeated Mountain Pacific Sports Fed- eration opponent San Jose State to earn its first conference win of the season. SDUS also marked the first game ever played at the new Ray and Joan Kroc Center.

After two consecutive losses to MPSF rivals No. 4 Long Beach State and No. 3 USC during last weekend’s road trip, No. 7 SDSU (6-1) was able to recover and rebound against the No. 8-ranked Spartans.

“A lot of the Long Beach- USC road trip, we had a lot to think about and a lot of work that we needed to get done before we played San Jose,” senior co-captain Casey Finnegan said. “I think that we learned a lot from the Long Beach-USC trip.”

The Aztecs mounted an impressive 12-5 lead against the Spartans, but fell behind slightly over the last 10:14 of the game. A key factor in the Red and Black’s successful defensive effort was an incredible perform- ance by transfer Sara Daslier, who tallied 12 saves in goal.

SDSU’s solid defense was support- ed by an aggressive offensive attack led by 2-meter junior Holly Hartzell, who recorded a hat trick with three goals, and Finnegan who scored two of her own.

Although Hartzell had a strong performance, SDSU’s convincing victory over San Jose State, she feels that last weekend’s road trip was not critical to the team’s abil- ity to regroup against the Spartans.

“I think we would be just as fine if we would have won both of those games,” Hartzell said. “I don’t think it (road trip experience) hurt us.”

In their previous two MPSF contests against Long Beach State and USC, the Aztecs were outscored 14-5 and 13-7, respectively. However, the third conference game was a charm, as SDSU drilled San Jose State for three goals in the third period, while holding the Spartans to just one. In doing so, SDSU not only snapped its third-quarter slide, but also learned itself an 8-4 advantage over San Jose State heading into the fourth and final period of play.

In the fourth period, Finnegan’s second goal extended the Aztecs’ lead to five, as they went on to earn a 9-4 victory over the Spartans.

SDSU was able to support its outstanding individual play with a strong team effort, as six players contributed to the Aztec offensive attack, and brought home their total to 15 over seven games. Although Hartzell is a key component in the Aztec offensive attack, she still seemed somewhat surprised by her scor- ing opportunities against San Jose State.

“I don’t have as many goals as I think I could have,” Hartzell said. “So far, this entire season, teams know who I am and the main point is to not let me touch the ball.”

After securing a crucial conference vic- tory in their home-opener over San Jose State, SDSU now looks to build off its momentum as it returns to La Jolla to com- plete in this weekend’s UCSD mini-tourna-
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