Green plans for ModernSpace

Associated Students has hired a green building consultant to help ensure the ModernSpace project will receive Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certification.

The Supreme Court has a big decision to make regarding life sentences for juvenile offenders.

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

CAMPUS CRIME

Suspicous circumstances
Nov. 11 – Police had to ask a man to leave campus twice. The man was reportedly approaching females in front of Cascadilla Residence Hall and asking them to vote for him. The man was seen there for approximately four hours. Police interviewed the subject, but no arrests were made. Police initially received a call about this incident because the reporting party believed the man matched the description of a suspect involved in an indecent exposure case. The two incidents are unrelated and police are still looking for the indecent exposure suspect.

On Nov. 9, a student reported being a victim of an indecent exposure. After a brief conversation, the alleged victim walked with the suspect, who was unknown to the student, to the Mission Bay Aquatic Center. Police were able to locate two of the suspects in a nearby church parking lot. The reporting party told police that a group of people was frighting in front of a fraternity house. The caller was uncooperative, however, and refused to give any additional information to the dispatcher. No case was generated, because police did not find any body in the midst of a fight.

In a separate incident, police arrested two men after another fight-related call. A group of six or seven men allegedly surrounded another man and pushed him into a parked car. They proceeded to hit and punch the victim, an SDSU student. The suspects later ran off after reportedly stealing the victim’s skateboard. The incident occurred in an alley on College Place. Police were able to locate two of the suspects in a nearby church parking lot. The suspects were both arrested and transported to jail on suspicion of conspiracy to commit a crime, robbery and battery with injury. Both men are unassociated with SDSU.

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A ‘LIVING MUSEUM’
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WEB@THEDAILYAZTEC.COM
619.594.7279
ARTDIRECTOR@THEDAILYAZTEC.COM
619.594.6968
OPINION@THEDAILYAZTEC.COM
619.594.0509
STATE OF MIND EDITOR,
619.594.4190
EDITOR IN CHIEF,
619.594.7817
SPORTS@THEDAILYAZTEC.COM
619.594.7279
FEATURES EDITOR,
619.594.6976
FEATURE@THEDAILYAZTEC.COM
619.594.6976
CITY EDITOR,
619.594.7279
CITYEDITOR@THEDAILYAZTEC.COM
619.594.7279
GENERAL INFORMATION
619.594.7279
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STATE OF MIND EDITOR,
619.594.4190
EDITOR IN CHIEF,
619.594.7817
SPORTS@THEDAILYAZTEC.COM
619.594.7279
FEATURES EDITOR,
619.594.6976
FEATURE@THEDAILYAZTEC.COM
619.594.6976
CITY EDITOR,
619.594.7279
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Dr. Tanis Starck's CSP 310, Group Leadership in Educational Settings, class hosted San Diego State's first Black and Brown Summit Nov. 7 at the Aztec Center.

The event, which is titled to symbolize African-Americans and Latinos, was sponsored by the Aztec Parents Association and the Office of Intercultural Relations.

“We have been working really hard to plan this event and it was very successful,” Nasnet Andemariam, a student in Starck’s class, said.

The summit featured workshops dedicated to engaging students in thought-provoking dialogues and was designed to spotlight critical issues facing diverse communities, Dr. James R. Kitchen, vice president for SDSU Student Affairs, said.

Along with Kitchen, a number of guest speakers, including Dr. Shirley Weber, who is chair of the department of Africana studies, actor Mark Christopher Lawrence, who plays Big Mike on the NBC series “Chuck” and Jose Preciado, member of the SDSU University Senate Committee on Diversity, Equity and Outreach, were present to talk about various issues, including Hollywood’s portrayal of African-Americans, women in the media and health disparities involving HIV and AIDS.

A panel featuring student representatives from different organizations, including the Association of Chicana Activists, African Student Union, Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan, Native American Student Alliance, Student African American Brotherhood and Student African American Sisterhood, were there to answer questions from almost 200 people who attended the event. The panel, titled “What’s Going on?” discussed topics involving racism and other issues different races face.

“I would like to thank Dr. Starck and the Cross-Cultural Center for creating a summit that is beneficial to our community,” Micheila Lowe, president of SAAS and volunteer for the CCC said. “These are issues that affect the community and these workshops are very informative, providing information on these issues.”

“These are issues that affect the community and these workshops are very informative, providing information on these issues.”

—Micheila Lowe, president, Student African American Sisterhood

The Cross Cultural Center, located in the Aztec Center in Room 202, hosts many events throughout the year, including the Black and Brown Summit. All students, faculty and staff are encouraged to come to similar future events.

“We want everybody to come out and see things from a different point of view and learn about problems that affect everybody,” political science student Shyrissa Dobbins said. “It’s celebrating everyone’s culture but realizing how similar they really are.”
enunciating juveniles to life in prison without chance of parole is cruel and unusual punishment.

In a potential landmark decision, the U.S. Supreme Court will soon begin hearings regarding the constitutionality of life in prison for juveniles without the chance of release. The court will consider crimes that don't involve murder. Two cases will be the focus of the hearings: cases where the offenders were sentenced to life in prison for crimes other than murder. The upcoming ruling could offer a chance at parole for the more than 2,500 offenders currently serving life in prison for crimes committed as juveniles.

“No other country allows life in prison for young offenders. If the courts are going to lock them up for life, then they should at least have a chance of release.”

In 2005, the Supreme Court abolished the death penalty for juveniles, including those sentenced to life in prison, ruling it unconstitutional. The upcoming proceedings stem directly from this ruling, as its consequences have forced juveniles to die in prison with no opportunity for parole.

In the ruling's majority remarks, Justice Anthony Kennedy wrote, “Juveniles are less culpable for their criminal activities than adults because they are less mature, less able to control impulses and resist peer pressure and less able to appreciate the full magnitude of their wrongdoing.” The same reasoning should be applied to the upcoming proceedings.

No other country allows life in prison for young offenders. If the courts are going to lock them up for life, then they should at least have a chance of release. Existing rulings go against equal opportunity for all citizens, regardless of age, that America has forever been known for. By denying these juveniles a chance at parole, we are denying them a chance at life. Their life sentences equates to death in prison.

People who commit crimes at such a young age are often the product of their environment and of unfortunate circumstances, of which they do not have any control. To judge them incorrigible is wrong.

By sentencing minors to life in prison, we are sentencing them off as hopeless and condoning them to live in a life of freedom to its fullest. We are robbing these young offenders at any chance of the American dream. So to uphold such a ruling is un-American.

Rehabilitation should be at the forefront of all cases involving minors. Citizens younger than 18 have no tangible control of their environment. They are forced to cope with a life often full of adversities. Low socioeconomic name, poor housing conditions, drugs, crime and violence in their neighborhoods and schools are often self-inflicted and their actions. It is wrong to consider their offenses in line with those of adults. They are kids who are emotional and still display a developing maturity. To treat them as adults is unfair.

From a moral standpoint it would be unjust to consider the constitutionality of life in prison with no chance of release.

Let's give them a chance to go counseling, to give back to the community, to get an education and to discover a life free of the one they were born into. Many of the greatest Americans, no matter how many people look up to, are the ones who overcame obstacles and defeat the odds. We must allow our court system to consider the possibilities of the risk for their mistakes and face appropriate consequences, not simply throw them in prison to die.

The court has a moral obligation to protect our youth, who are the future of our country. No young citizen is less important than another. To deny a young offender a chance at life is to deny them a chance at being an American.

Andrew Lewandowski / Staff Columnist

1 After the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force recommended in their 40s should not worry about routine mammograms, many women were left feeling confused. Women have been constantly told mammo- nograms are needed to catch any abnor- malities and even breast cancer. However, the message was also brought to the public, that this is not the case. Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius corrected the message by explaining that mammography should remain an individual con- cern. Although the mammogram message was supported by credible sources, there have been many disagreements by other companies. Sebelius understands that the issue of mammograms has received different views because of the reason for duties reasoning on breast health, how patients are diagnosed and what to do if the breast cancer is detected.

2 The most expensive education reform in state history has finally struck California's largest school districts. An increase in class size, specifically in kindergarten through third grade, will be implemented. Academic quality and performance are believed to be affected by large class sizes. New research showed that class sizes may increase by 24 to 30 students. Schools used to be rewarded for keeping class sizes at a minimum, however, because of the cuts in the educa- tion system, schools have been forced to increase sizes. The decision is being made to give back to the community, to get students. Teachers and staff at elementary schools can only anticipate the effects the decrease in money and increase in students will have on education.

3 In a recent study conducted in Spain, large quantities of alcohol were found to be more beneficial than men. The study included 13,500 men and 26,000 women, between the ages of 29 and 69. They were instructed to document their drinking habits for 10 years. In a country with many smokers and a high coronary heart disease and great rates of alcohol consumption, the geographical region of the study was perfect. Aside from alcohol providing some protection to the heart, it also raises high-density lipoproteins, or good cholesterol. There are about 18 million deaths globally from alcohol each year. Although the results of the research were positive, it does not mean individuals should increase their drinking habits.

4 For the first time in the history of the European Union, two new power positions have been voted on. Last Thursday, the leaders of the EU comprised of 27 countries, unanimously voted on Herman Van Rompuy, Belgian prime minister, as the EU’s first president. Catherine Ashton of Britain, the trade commissioner, was rejected as high representative for foreign policy. Both members will take their new positions on Jan. 1 of next year. After a long struggle, the reconstitution of the Lisbon Treaty allowed the creation of the two new positions. The positions were designed to simplify management for the E.U. This decision, however, was not met with much popularity. The low-profile status of both candidates has been thought to highlight the problems of Europe. Although it's a step toward a solution, Europe is not in need of minimal action.

5 In 2005, Texas created a constitu- tional amendment that included a same-sex marriage ban. However, after much investigation, Houston District Attorney Patricia Edmondson wrote that Subsection B of the amend- ment, which states, “This state or a politi- cal subdivision of this state may not cre- ate or recognize any legal status identical or similar to marriage.” may jeopardize all marriages in the state. According to Radin, the wording in the subsection actually means: “This state does not recognize any common-law marriages. Current Speaker of the Texas, Republican Joe magic, Abbott, allowed the wording mistake in the constitution Radin suggests it be publicly removed and added to the error and apologize. Also, it might be necessary to insert another constitutional amend- ment to reverse the current one. Kim Shackelford, president of the Liberty Log Cabin in Paso, Texas, commends that Subsection B was written to pre- vent any arrangements allowing same-sex marriage. Nevertheless, Radin insists the clause will be subject to legal claims.

June 26, 2009

The Daily Aztec 3
White leads SDSU to tight win in Fresno

David Pope
Assistant Sports Editor

While the San Diego State men’s basketball team is full of explosive talent and athleticism, it was the solid fundamentals of rebounding and late free throws that gave SDSU the win last night over Fresno State, 62-58.

In a game in which neither team was able to get a formidable lead, junior forward Billy White led the Aztecs (3-1) with 22 points and eight rebounds. But perhaps his most important contribution came in the final minute when he went to the charity stripe and hit both his shots on two separate occasions.

“We were going to have a lot of games like this,” head coach Steve Fisher said to AM-70’s Ted Leitner after the game. “We just have to have poise under pressure and find a way to make a play and compete hard when things aren’t going too well.”

Junior guard D.J. Gay did just that as he had an abysmal night shooting from the floor (going 2-12) but found a way to make a huge impact on the game by pulling in six rebounds and dishing out six assists to go along with his six points.

Also making a major impression was sophomore transfer guard Tyrone Shelley who had 17 points and six rebounds, the last of which came in the final seconds of the game. Shelley was promptly fouled and then drained two free throws to ice the game in favor of SDSU.

“You hear the fans, you hear people yelling, but you’ve just got to be there just like our,” White said. “Tyrone (Shelley) is a really good free throw shooter. He goes and knocks them down like nothing.”

This is the first close game the Aztecs have played in their young season as they blew out UC San Diego at home to start this year’s campaign, lost in a rout to St. Mary’s in Moraga and then were huge against Santa Clara back in San Diego in their last game.

But for a team with so much young talent, some growing pains are to be expected. For White, he knows it is now the leader his teammates will look to, much like the way he used to look to Lorenzo Wade and Kyle Spain.

“In my first game back (from injury), we were running a play and I looked up (to say) ‘Lorenzo!', but Lorrenzo isn’t out there anymore,” White said. “So I have to be the veteran with D.J. (Gay) and sophomore forward Tim (Shelton) and lead the young guys.”

SDSU will stay in the Central Valley of California for their next game when they take on California for their next game when they take on California at 7 p.m. tomorrow in Stockton.

Aztecs prep for final match against UCSB

Brenda Bearden
Senior Staff Writer

Mountain West Conference play is complete.
But the San Diego State volleyball team has one more match to play.
SDSU will finish its 2009 campaign against UC Santa Barbara at 6 p.m. today in the Thunderdome.

“It’s just as important as a conference game,” junior middle blocker Lauren Salisbury said. “We’re looking forward to it. We want to end this season on a good note.”

SDSU was able to get a big 3-1 win. Behind double figure kills from four players, SDSU was able to get a big 3-1 win.

While getting a victory is obviously the goal for the Aztecs today, it isn’t the only thing they will look to take away from the match. Head coach Deitre Collins-Parker has strengthened improvement all season and that won’t change in this last contest.

“We’re going to practice like it’s another conference match,” Collins-Parker said. “It’s still about us getting better. We get to play a good team (today), so that causes us to raise our level another level.”

The Gauchos have had a very successful season at home and in the Big West.

In the Thunderdome, UCSB has only lost one of the 10 matches it has played this year. The Gauchos have had a very successful season at home and in the Big West.

The last time the Gauchos won nine matches has one more match to play.
SDSU will finish its 2009 campaign against UC Santa Barbara at 6 p.m. today in the Thunderdome.

After winning four of its last six matches and four of its last five road games, the San Diego State volleyball team will face the Gauchos in Santa Barbara tonight in its final contest of the 2009 season.

BEHIND THE NUMBERS

FOR SDSU VOLLEYBALL

13.3 Kils per set for SDSU so far
12.8 Kils per set allowed by the Aztecs
106 Service aces for SDSU this season
136 Aces allowed by the Aztecs this year
29 Solo blocks for SDSU in 2009
52 Solo blocks against the Aztecs this season
272 Kills for Lauren Alidisu this year; a team high
25 Service aces for Andrea Hannasch

Score Higher, Aztecs!

A+ Review
Advanced Test Preparation
Marathon runners get in shape for a cause

Running a marathon is an achievement, they also make runners' efforts benefit and fund cancer and disease research, which extends beyond self-gratification.

Building friendships, health and money for the greater good

By Stonie Brooker

In Mission Beach, downtown, Carlsbad, the Temecula wine country, Balboa Park and all throughout San Diego, people are running. But from what? San Diegans are running to help benefit others, while building friendships and throwing parties along the way.

The San Strides Foundation is putting on the Temecula Turkey Trot 5k and 10k at the Cougar Vineyard & Winery this Saturday. One hundred percent of the fundraising from the five and 10 kilometer runs will support San Strides Foundation’s projects. This organization supports safe, free and renewable energy for people in developing countries.

“Currently, we are raising funds for a biogas conversion tank for an orphan village in Arusha, Tanzania,” Race Director Rachel Hiner said. “It’s a great cause and it’s different. The race itself is on a dirt road.”

Check-in begins at 8 a.m. and the first race starts at 9 a.m. Registration is $25 to $30 and free wine tasting will be available for 21 and older participants after the race. Volunteers are still needed.

Upcoming marathons in San Diego

One of the upcoming marathons is the award-winning "boutique style" Tri-City Medical Center Carlsbad Marathon that will take place Jan. 24 of next year. The race will begin at 6 a.m. and with more than 10,000 participants, this winter marathon is already sold out. The race includes a scenic coastal route that passes through Buena Vista Lagoon and Highway 101, performances of more than 25 live bands and many special features and awards. The race gives awards called "Heroes of the Marathon," which are given to "ordinary people doing extraordinary things," according to the marathon website. Mason Smedley, a patient of Juvenile Dermatomyositis, won this award last year. His father pushed him through the half marathon in his wheelchair to raise funds to fight the disease.

"Obviously we do this out of appreciation for the sport, but it’s also very good for the community. It’s very good for the economy but also the overall health of the community,” Lynn Flanagan, president of In Motion Inc.

Participants have the option of donating to 19 different charities, including the American Cancer Society, Children’s Heart Institute Fund, Heart for Africa and North County Community Services Food Bank. Although the marathon is sold out, volunteers are still needed and anyone can transfer their entry to another person.

A health and fitness expo at the Plaza Camino Real shopping center will be open to the public Friday, Saturday and Sunday and will have an array of vendors, displays and bargains on apparel and equipment. It will be located in the same spot as the starting point of the race.

"Obviously, we do this out of appreciation for the sport, but it’s also very good for the community," Founder and President of In Motion Inc. Lynn Flanagan said. "It’s very good for the economy but also the overall health of the community. It’s an opportunity for people in the area to come together and produce this nationally recognized event. Kathy López Evans is an organization that attracts families and athletes throughout Southern California. A computerized race system is used at these marathons to ensure accuracy and order. In its next race, the Pure Fitness Run for the Hungry 10k and 5k Run Walk, will be held downtown on Thanksgiving to benefit the San Diego Food Bank and Foodmobile.

Balboa Park will hold the Jingle bell 5k Run Walk for the Arthritis Foundation on Dec. 12. Next year’s Super Run will take place on Feb 6 in Mission Bay to benefit Water for Children Africa. Many other upcoming events are listed at www.kathylopezevans.com

Training for the marathon

As far as training is concerned, San Diego State students can no longer depend on the Aztec Recreation Center track. Because of budget cuts, the track closed for the remainder of the semester last Wednesday.

The San Diego Track Club offers members to take advantage of other facilities in the area where participants can train and benefit from staged races, free counseling and coaching. It is the largest running club in the county.

"Don’t let the title ‘San Diego Track Club’ fool you. Our marathon ships a broad range from recreational joggers to elite athletes, with the majority being recreational runners who take in some local road races, multi-sport events during the year," SDTC Membership Committee contact Richard Williams said. "SDTC is a 501(c)(3) organization providing donations to the Balboa Park Foundation for park improvements and scholarships for local students.”

Memberships expire at the end of the year and rates start at $40 and decrease to $15 during the late summer months. More information can be found at www.sdtc.com including group run details such as the Wednesday night Pacific Beach runs.

Some marathons available in San Diego include the Rock ‘n’ Roll San Diego Marathon benefiting The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society and the Jingle Bell 5k Run Walk raising money for the Arthritis Foundation.
Local nature center drives sustainability

SHANNON CLARK  CONTRIBUTOR

At first glance the Chula Vista Nature Center might appear to be a typical aquarium with sharks, fish and sea horses. However, a closer look at this self-proclaimed “living museum” reveals the CVNC as more than a replica of SeaWorld. Instead, it’s a center of sustainability in San Diego County located on one of the few remaining wetlands in all of Southern California.

Originally owned and managed by the San Diego Oil Products Corporation, the marsh and wetlands of Chula Vista have come a long way since the fight for sustainability began. As part of the last 5 percent of remaining wetlands in San Diego, the marshlands on which the CVNC are now part of the National Wildlife Refuge System and are protected from any further human development. Additionally, unlike any other aquarium one can visit in San Diego, all the animals in the center are native to the San Diego Bay and are noninvasive.

“We’re the only zoological institution in town that’s in the middle of the refuge,” Executive Director of the Friends of the Chula Vista Nature Center, Dr. Brian Joseph said. “We focus (solely) on the wetland environment of San Diego. No one else interprets that. Only 5 percent of original wetlands are left here … (The refuge) is very important for wildlife.”

In addition to providing the public with exhibits such as “Shark & Ray Experience” and a variety of local birds, the CVNC offers many classes and seminars in composting and water conservation areas. The center currently operates an advanced composting program, complete with tips and answers to frequently asked questions. Other little known benefits offered by the CVNC are activities for children, free tours and a series of refuge trails that are situated around the center.

“The general purpose of the CVNC is to teach people the importance of wetlands and estuaries, and leading a sustainable life,” Joseph said. “It’s not just about preservation, it’s about sustainable resources.”

The center doesn’t slack off on sustainability either. All exhibits run on energy efficient LED lights and the on-site voltaic cells generate a large amount of the institution’s energy. Additionally, all plants found at the CVNC are native to San Diego and therefore require much less water than invasive species would.

“We’re the only zoological institution in town that’s in the middle of the refuge. We focus (solely) on the wetland environment of San Diego.”

—Dr. Brian Joseph, executive director, Friends of the Chula Vista Nature Center

Unfortunately however, the City of Chula Vista is cutting the budget of the nature center to less than one-third of its original funding, giving the center less than a year to raise the funds needed to stay open. This setback has posed complications for the center, which now only employs seven workers. The rest 75 to 80 in all, Joseph estimated, are volunteers.

“If we had to live only on what the city provides we’d be closed,” he said. “We’re going to be successful, but it’s going to be an uphill battle.”

As an alumnus of San Diego State, Joseph feels that for students, visiting or volunteering at the nature center is a beneficial experience for any major.

“It’s one thing to sit in a classroom,” he said. “It’s another thing to come here and see living in action.”

For more about the Chula Vista Nature Center or volunteering opportunities, visit www.chulavistanaturecenter.org.
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THERE ARE NO CLASSES this summer 2009 on campus.

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SANTA FORGOT HER.

Donate your new unwrapped toys for AJ’s Kids Crane!

Drop off your toys at the The Daily Aztec office at the basement of the Education and Business Administration building on the east side of campus or at the AS Business Office in Aztec Center.

All proceeds benefit Rady Children’s Hospital.

AJ from Star 94.1 will be living on his crane until he collects more than last year’s goal of 101,000 toys!

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Tuesday
November 24, 2009
Don’t run, you look funny

One day, I was sniffing in a patch of autumn sunlight at my beloved turtle pond, trying to breathe before going back to the Art building to finish seven paintings in less than a week. But, I wasn’t enjoying myself thanks to the ever-present stress that had been pummeling under my eyes and a jiggly in my midsection. As I was staring to feel sorry for myself, the best thing that could have happened did. Two fraternity pledges (unless they were wearing matching ties for fun) were coolly sprinting side by side down the hill. I won’t go into detail about what color ties or shirts they were wearing, because I don’t want to say bad things about any one fraternity in particular – but I started laughing immediately. It’s as if those two boys knew how bummed I was. Young sir, did you steal something? Isn’t the trolley station where the hell are you running? Were you just trying to burn a few calories just when the waddling gait of nonathletic running in nonathletic clothing running made me crack a smile, he stopped running, which is really the funniest part of nonathletic running in nonathletic places.

So, we all know how funny this is. It’s as if the two boys knew how bummed I was. There is nothing as funny as watching nonathletic running occur in nonathletic places. Is it not funny to you yet? Two boys sprinting in dress shoes and ill-fitting pants, not smiling. They were taking themselves very seriously while running for purposes not intended for exercise. Just sprinting for reasons I can only assume relate to the same fraternity they are carrying mints for so they can pass lots of money to be in next semester.

Just when I was walking toward my next class, thinking about how it’s so funny to see people run in “civilization,” it happened again. I’ll just say that this man was not from around here. He was also particularly short and he was holding his backpack in his hand and running with all he had.

Young sir, did you steal something? Isn’t the trolley station the other way? What class is it that you fail if you are two minutes late? Where the hell are you running to, boy?

Just when the waddling gait and the absurdity of how fast he was running made me crack a smile, he stopped running, which is really the funniest part of nonathletic running in nonathletic places.

Well sweet Jesus, why don’t you stop running? Were you just trying to burn a few calories between classes, despite the fact that you fail if you are two minutes late? Where the hell are you going? It was your time to show off how fast you could run in Levi’s and you’re just going to start walking while we can all see you? What a shame.

That’s the thing about nonathletic running in nonathletic clothing. Everyone is obviously watching you, but you have reasons to warrant such scrutiny. We are all wondering where you are going or coming from and why it necessitates urgency. But there is a reason that nobody else understands that makes the blisters you must be forming from those nonathletic shoes worth it.

There are so many questions that go unanswered and the absurdity of how fast he was running made me crack a smile, he stopped running, which is really the funniest part of nonathletic running in nonathletic places.

—Patricia B. Dryer is a journalism junior.