



OPINION

Black history spans
more than a month.

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Aztecs snap three-game
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CITY

First American university
adopts Chinese medicine
and acupuncture classes.
TOMORROW

THE DAILY AZTEC

THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY

MONDAY, FEB. 24, 2003



Tomorrow's weather:
Rain; High: 60° F Low: 53° F

VOLUME 88 ISSUE 81

Cultures converge at new center

BY ABRA DeGEARE
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

One location, one name, one purpose.

The Cross Cultural Center has opened its doors and welcomes people from every race and culture to learn, share and understand.

"The Cross Cultural Center was an idea and a hope and a vision that I think a lot of people in the campus community — but especially the students — had," Associated Students President Priscilla Ocen said.

The center is located in upper Aztec Center next to Creative Juices.

It is meant to be a place where students can go to meet each other, make new friends and congregate with other people from similar backgrounds, Ocen said.

The center has been in the planning stages for a long time, Mark Pajela, A.S. vice president for university affairs, said. But the doors opened five weeks ago and will stay open Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

A.S. approved funding for the center last year. The money comes out of the Division of Student Affairs at an annual cost of \$150,000 until 2004, when A.S. will vote again, Ocen said.

International business freshman Dushanka Urosevic said she was walking past the center one day and decided to stop by to see what it was about.

see CENTER on page 2



Former A.S. President Ron Williams speaks at new center. MF / Daily Aztec



Hardware store customers stock up on emergency supplies. Denise Pollard / Daily Aztec

Americans prepare for possible war with Iraq

BY LESLIE HACKETT
ASSISTANT CITY EDITOR

Orange.
It's a fruit.
It's the second hue in a rainbow.
It's the color Americans have learned to associate with terror.

As discussions about disarming Iraq continue in the United Nations, America's terror threat level remains at orange — symbolic of high alert.

For most of the month, the U.S. government has kept the nation at high alert because of friction in the U.N. caused by these conferences.

As a precaution, the Department of Homeland Security and the American Red Cross have suggested people assemble emergency kits and devise a safety plan in the event that an attack occurs on United States soil.

It seems as if Americans are taking this advice. Hardware stores across the nation are quickly selling out of duct tape and plastic sheeting supplies.

Brandon Montgomery, senior operations manager at Lowe's hardware supplies in Mission Valley, said for the past month, there has been a significant increase in the amount of emergency supplies purchased.

The top items people are buying at the store include duct tape, plastic sheeting, batteries and flashlights.

So, how real is the threat of war?

As of Thursday, the "Saddameter" on MSN's *Slate* — which calculates the odds of war in Iraq — showed a 94 percent chance of going to war. This percentage dropped to its lowest point around Dec. 6, when it hit 50 percent. For most of February, the odds have hovered around 90 percent.

The United States feels that Iraq is developing weapons of mass destruction. It also believes that Iraq is not cooperating with weapons inspectors and is in violation of its obligations laid out under United Nations resolutions. The United States is looking for authorization from the U.N. to use military force to disarm Iraq.

Political science professor Dipak Gupta said there is a very real possibility of going

see IRAQ on page 2

Weber hits upon A.S. concerns

BY TRACY PETERSON
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Associated Students councilmembers got the rare chance Wednesday to do something most students will never get to do.

They got to sit down with University President Stephen Weber and ask him questions regarding any issues they had about San Diego State.

A.S. councilmembers brought up a variety of subjects, including the upcoming demolition of Templo del Sol, the unofficial mascot and how the Chargers' stadium woes will affect the SDSU football team.

Interfraternity Council representative Josh Miller began the question-and-answer session by asking Weber about the plight of SDSU's football team, should the Chargers leave San Diego.

Weber said SDSU is trying to preserve Qualcomm Stadium. The university is working on the situation with the city. He said the Aztecs' football team can't just play on a high school field someplace — because of a seating capacity requirement — and would probably have to look into building a stadium. A stadium sufficient for NCAA guidelines would cost a minimum of \$125 million, Weber said.

Weber was also questioned about the College Community Redevelopment Project. He said the SDSU Foundation's Paseo proposal is "basically a good thing."

He said the Paseo project will have good housing, retail and offices, and it will help to clean up the community south of campus, should the City Council approve the project this week.

Weber was asked by councilmembers about the state budget crisis. One councilmember asked why students were paying more than other years to go to SDSU and not receiving any added benefits. Weber said students are not getting any less. He said there is a lower student-to-faculty ratio and a better, more competitive faculty. He also said that no courses were compromised this year by the budget crisis.

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Democrats address education at forum

Rep. Davis speaks on budget crisis, mentoring programs

BY BRANDON JENKINS
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Democrats in the U.S. House of Representatives took stage at UCSD Wednesday on behalf of the 51st and 53rd Districts of California.

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 redefines the role the government has in the education levels of kindergarten 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 flexi-

bility 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



Congresswoman Susan Davis speaks at the UCSD forum. Matt FitzGerald / Daily Aztec

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 other eastern European countries, he said.

"The probability of us 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, Mohammed Aldouri, a permanent representative 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, Aldouri said there had been 675 inspections within Iraq.

While focus is centered around disarming Iraq, Gupta said the threat of North Korea should not

be discounted. He said North Korea is a proliferator — willing to give weapons to other hostile countries.

Effects on the U.S. economy

Gas prices are rising and stock prices are crashing in the United States.

"Investors hate uncertainty, and war presents uncertainties," Gupta said.

According to economics professor Raford Boddy, consumers are scared, and the result is that they are not spending money.

He also said corporations that deal with technology and machinery are holding back on investments until there is more stability in the situation with Iraq.

"If it was clear there was going to be no war, the price of oil would drop," he said. "I think it's also clear that if there is a war, once that war is over, I think it's most likely that the price of oil might stabilize."

Boddy said the worst thing the United States could do right now is to get into a reduction of trade and alliance. He said the last time countries started reducing trade with each other was during the Great Depression and this added to the depressive aspects of the whole world economy.

ISSUES: University president tackles mascot, housing queries

continued from page 1

Naddia Cherre, 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 subject Weber answered questions about was 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 mascot 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 Templo del Sol. One councilmember questioned the university's decision to get rid of much-needed housing.

Weber said the loss of beds in Templo del Sol was offset by the university's purchase of University Towers, the construction of Piedra del Sol, Fraternity Row, Cuicacalli, the Paseo project and the upcoming construction of Sorority Row. He said there is a potential for 9,000 additional beds in the Foundation's land and redevelopment project.

Another councilmember asked why the open space left on campus — after the softball field and tennis courts are torn down and rebuilt at the Templo del Sol site — couldn't be turned into a classroom building.

Weber said the state won't fund a building for classrooms. He also said open space is something the campus is lacking, and people need a place to throw a Frisbee around.

CENTER: Poetry readings, mixers will be held at hub

continued from page 1

"I like the idea of a place to sit, relax and to socialize," she said.

Pajela said he is glad the center is open and sees it as a step in the right direction for the campus.

"We have a campus that brags about its diversity, and now we finally have something to show for it — not just a bunch of numbers," he said.

But the center is more than a meeting place.

"My hope is that it will serve as a coordinating office for cultural events, performances, speakers, leadership development and programs for students," Director of the Office of Educational Opportunity/Ethnic Affairs Gus Chavez said.

It's a hub to put together cultural events and get that information out to the campus community, he said.

Chavez said this type of center is overdue on campus because there is a need to coordinate a variety of campus activities that contribute to cross-cultural education and understanding.

It's also a place to put together programming for the broader campus community that would enhance diversity and understanding about one another, Ocen said.

The Cross Cultural Center Advisory Board — that puts together the recommendations for the programs — wants to hold lecture series, poetry readings, coffee hours, mixers, host receptions and movie nights.

The first lecture series — Crisis in Contemporary Culture — will kick off March 10.

Currently there are four computers, a print station, some tables and chairs in the center, but much more equipment will be added, graduate assistant for the Cross Cultural Center Marisha Mayo said. There will soon be television sets, books, magazines and other resources.

This center benefits the entire campus not just for one particular group of students, staff or faculty, Chavez said. This center is really important, as the campus becomes much more diversified than ever before.

"We're really excited about all the possibilities, and above all, we really need students to support it," Ocen said.

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 school programs may be cut, Davis did demonstrate her disapproval of any school-related cuts.

"One of the realities is that when times are tough, 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 teachers are underpaid.

"We ought to pay 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 Filner, representing the 51st district of Cal-

ifornia 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, Filner 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. It'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.

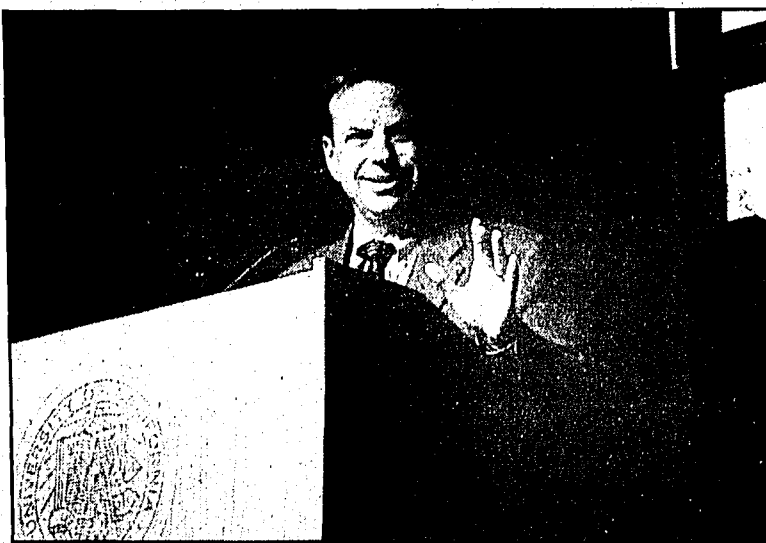
Filner suggested that everyone in the community, whether they were for or against the war,

to 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."

Filner 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 Filner discusses the war against Iraq at the UCSD forum held on Wednesday. Matt Fitzgerald / Daily Aztec



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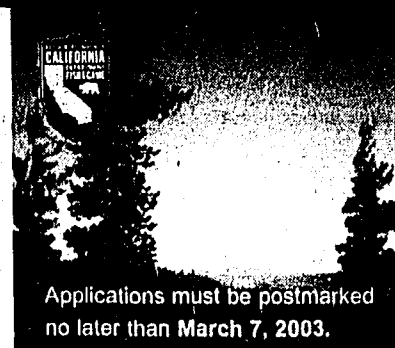
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Bush says war protests irrelevant

BY RON HUTCHESON,
DIEGO IBARGUEN AND
MARITN MERZER

KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

President Bush dismissed mass antiwar protests on Feb. 15 and 16 as well-intentioned but irrelevant — the equivalent of a marketing “focus group” — as the Defense Department ordered another 20,000 U.S. troops to the Persian Gulf region Tuesday.

About 150,000 troops already are in place for a possible attack on Iraq, but the United States and Britain decided Tuesday to confront skeptics and propose one last United Nations resolution demanding that Iraq disarm, officials of both nations said.

At the White House, Bush said “democracy is a beautiful thing,” and he supported the dissenters’ right to express their views. But he also said the protests wouldn’t influence his decisions or those of British Prime Minister Tony Blair, his closest ally.

“You know, the size of protests is like deciding, well, I’m going to decide policy based upon a focus group,” 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 speeches generally critical of the U.S. position. But the diplomatic effort isn’t likely to delay U.S. military plans more than a few days, “if at all,” one senior administration official said on condition of anonymity.

“The administration is committed to going forward,” said White House spokesman 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, as far as I’m concerned. I owe it to the American people to secure this country. I will do so.”

He said a new resolution “would be useful,” but he left the door open to act without one in case the effort falls short.

“We don’t need a second resolution,” he said. “It’s clear this guy (Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein) could even care less about the first resolution.”

White House officials declined to discuss the resolution’s proposed wording, but Fleischer said Bush would insist on language that followed through on U.N. Resolution 1441, which the U.N. approved in November. That resolution gave Saddam a “final opportunity” to disarm and warned of “serious consequences” if he didn’t comply.

“The key thing that the president wants to have in there is that it enforces Resolution 1441, making clear that ‘final’ meant ‘final’ and ‘serious consequences’ meant ‘serious consequences,’” Fleischer said.

A U.S. official at the United Nations said a draft of the resolution currently didn’t contain an ultimatum or firm deadline for Iraqi compliance.

“The time frame is implicit, not explicit,” the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

A senior administration official in Washington, who also asked not to be named, said the White House and Blair were seeking ways to “shift the burden” back onto Saddam by setting out “benchmarks” for what Iraq must do to avoid military action.

“I want a second resolution if we go to military action, and I still think there is a lot of debate to go on before we get to the point of decision there in the United Nations,” Blair said.

Both nations suffered a setback Friday at the U.N. Security Council, when U.N. weapons inspectors reported modest but continuing progress in Iraq, and opponents of a military attack mustered considerable support.

In addition, millions of people demonstrated around the world on the weekend of Feb. 15 and 16 against a war to disarm and oust Saddam.

Asked if Saddam should be confronted with a last-chance ultimatum, Bush said:

“You mean, another, another, another last chance? He knows my feelings, and that is he needs to disarm — completely, totally disarm.”



A protester carries a sign in Philadelphia, where about 5,000 demonstrators showed up holding signs disputing war with Iraq. KRT Campus

Minority-only programs under fire

BY SAM BAKER

THE MANEATER (U. WIRE)

Some of the University of Missouri’s minority programs might be in jeopardy. Two conservative organizations are heading up a nationwide effort to eliminate any university program open only to minority students.

Among them is MU’s Transition Scholarship, which requires applicants to be a “member of an underrepresented ethnic group in higher education.”

To the Center for Equal Opportunity and the American Civil Rights Institute, that constitutes discrimination.

“Missouri’s programs are clearly in violation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964,” said Ed Blum, director of Legal Affairs for the American Civil Rights Institute.

“What we intend to do is send the University of Missouri a letter and concurrently issue a formal complaint.”

Writing to universities has been successful so far. The two organizations wrote to Princeton and Massachusetts Institute of Technology concerning similar programs there. Those schools consequently decided their programs wouldn’t stand up in court and thus eliminated them.

Blum said MU hasn’t been as cooperative.

“It appears that the University of Missouri intends to stonewall their program and not make it comply with federal and constitutional laws,” he said. “There aren’t many reasons for us to attempt to negotiate.”

Blum’s counterpart at the Center for Equal Opportunity is Linda Chavez. She headed the U.S. Civil Rights Commission under President Reagan, and President George W. Bush nominated her as his Secretary of Labor. Her nomination was withdrawn after she admitted to employing an illegal immigrant.

Chavez said the issues underlying debate on these programs aren’t complicated.

“We believe that any policies which are in any way racially exclusionary, or have different standards, are discriminatory,” she said. “Not only are they wrong, but courts have actually struck them down in many states.”

She said movements like hers have helped call these programs into question nationwide.

“I think general counsels at universities are becoming aware of this, and are starting to take another look,” she said.

Former Missouri Students Association Vice President Christine Morris said programs at MU aren’t discriminatory.

“These organizations enrich instead of divide our campus,” she said. “Students of similar backgrounds face similar issues. Ethnicity, race, gender, social status — everything that makes a person who he or she is plays a part in the college experience.”

Morris said no organization exists for the express purpose of keeping any ethnic group out.

“The purpose is in no way to further a division between races or ethnicities or cultural background,” she said.

Blum, however, doesn’t think minority-only organizations take enough differences into account. He accused MU of “effectively hanging out a sign saying ‘white men need not apply.’”

“Whether you are from a wealthy and advantageous background or a disadvantaged background doesn’t seem to matter to Missouri if you’re a white man,” he said.



Coy McIntosh (center) sought a high-tech job but now teaches computer literacy in Fort Worth, Texas. KRT Campus

Organization offers alternative for college grads

Teach for America prepares people from all fields for jobs in education

BY JANICE SANCHEZ

THE STANFORD DAILY (U. WIRE)

While students receive a high-caliber education at Stanford University, sometimes the last thing on their minds come graduation is teaching.

Nonetheless, organizations like Teach For America, a nationwide program which seeks to bridge the disparity between affluent schools and schools with fewer resources, find that Stanford students are among their most consistent participants.

Teach for America Bay Area Recruitment Director Renee Purdy said that, in the past, Stanford was in the top 20 schools that contributed teachers to this program.

The deadline to apply to be a TFA teacher for the upcoming year was Friday.

According to Sarah Almy, a graduate student at the Stanford School of Education and campus liaison for TFA, the program is “an amazing opportunity to make a significant impact straight out of college.”

After majoring in political science at Boston College, Almy applied for TFA and taught special education fourth- and fifth-graders in Houston. After finishing her two-year commitment, she stayed on another year to work in the regional office. Her involvement gave her insight into the challenges and issues faced by the nation’s educational system.

“(The organization has) very much helped me focus on what I wanted to do,” Almy said. “I started to meet people so dynamic and dedicated (and felt privileged) to become a part of that network of individuals.”

Many TFA alumni establish valuable connections and go on to impact the educational system through teaching, administration and policy work.

The program seeks graduates of all majors. Almy felt her leadership roles in college increased her creativity in planning lessons and her strong liberal arts background allowed her to “open up (her) students’ minds.” She added that the ongoing training, as well as the summer preparation, facilitated her teaching.

Senior Ryan Stewart, Stanford campus campaign coordinator, said, “(TFA) is a challenging experience you get better with as time goes on.”

On why he decided to apply, Stewart said, “I wanted the opportunity to be unconventional ... to do something I’d really enjoy doing and to give back ... It’s a national movement for social change.”

The application process is extremely rigorous. It consists of an uploaded resumé, a personal statement and a 500-word essay. This is followed by interviews. Applicants need not be credentialed and there is no set standard number of applicants accepted. The onset of the program saw 500 corps members in six regions. Today, there are more than 6,000 alumni and 2,500 teachers on the job. This year, 1,700 applicants were accepted and the program hopes to place about 2,000 in 18 regions this application period.

Among those accepted, the average GPA is 3.5 and about 89 percent held some sort of leadership position in college. Applicants must have a cumulative GPA of 2.5, a bachelor’s degree by late June and be United States citizens, nationals or lawful permanent residents.

“(We) are good at looking at the applicants holistically,” Purdy said. “In the short run, we’re looking for outstanding individuals who will go up and beyond in the classrooms. Second, we’re looking for leaders in all fields ... who are going to take this experience with them ... and address the achievement gap.”

In addition to changing participants’ perspectives, TFA can also aid them in the graduate school admissions and employment. Certain businesses and organizations consider TFA alumni strong candidates, and some graduate schools even offer two-year deferrals to students who join TFA, knowing that people with these skills often bring unique experience and insight. TFA teachers may also receive a yearly AmeriCorps education award of \$4,725 that can be used to pay back student loans or for future education.

For more information, visit www.teachforamerica.org.

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BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Influence of blacks integral to culture

Out of the ashes of the American past, struggling in the face of suppression, black history has and continues 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 whose very backs 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 exemplify 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 endorsed 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 assignment of culture, tradition and the omission of contributions and achievements from the record.

In 1926, historian Carter G. Woodson founded "Negro History Week" to empower 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 historical significance — the birth of the great orator and abolitionist, Frederick Douglass. Woodson intended to usher in a new and deep knowledge of black history and culture; he intended for the week-long celebration to begin the process of bringing black history to the mainstream; 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



**PRISCILLA
OCEN**

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 some 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, and hear 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 the balance of the year.

Even during Black History Month, I'm saddened by the sort of tokenized treatment that black history receives. People will attend events and breakfasts and lectures, then just check off their list any consideration of black people, black history or commitment to social justice, period. For most, Black History Month will be the extent to which they acknowledge black people during the year.

As a student, the only way I was able to receive a good understanding of black history, beyond just the snippets of slavery, Harriet Tubman and Martin Luther King, was to enroll in Africana Studies courses and eventually make it my major. In all of my years in the elementary 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 Africana Studies courses to learn about black history, what of those others who never attend college, let alone enroll in classes that offer a multicultural perspective? They will never know the beauty of the words of Zora Neale Hurston or Ntozake Shange, or the brilliance of Benjamin Banneker. They will never know of the riches of Madame C.J. Walker or of the black Wall Street in Tulsa, Okla. They will never know of the courage of Sojourner Truth or Fannie Lou Hamer, or the fire of David

see HISTORY on page 6

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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 plywood desks inside their brick schools and surviving. Was anyone really fooled? Apparently so, since 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 wrap have been flying 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 clubhouse, 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, then by all means, shop away. If, however, you realize these items



**BILL
LUECKE**

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 these areas, I would be astounded.

If you'll feel better about having some extra batteries around, or you just want to make a kick-ass 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 '50s and '60s, 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 ter-

rorist 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.

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LETTERS

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," Blaine Sullivan, Feb. 17). 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 Pieczenik-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. 19). 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; thereafter, 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 requiem 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 My Head in Your 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 "unsanitized" poets to her home.

—Richard Thompson
UCSD Class of '83

Letters Policy

—The Daily Aztec welcomes letters on all subjects, sections and stories. Letters may be edited for brevity and libelous or overtly 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 know 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 experienced a huge hit in their endowments and campuses scramble to raise tuition and make cuts, it's no secret that there is usually more to university admissions than just grades, test scores, personal statements and glowing letters of recommendation.

The practice of preferring "legacies" has gone on forever, as schools believe that the practice is healthy in building loyalty to school — and garnering support via contributions.

At Notre Dame, for example, 57 percent of students admitted were children of alumni, with 23 percent of these students actually enrolled at the university.

Overall, 10 to 15 percent of students at several Ivy League schools are children of graduates and are also admitted in much higher rates than other students.

The "legacies" don't have to meet the same standards as other prospective students.

In 1964, George W. Bush applied to Yale University. He had a C-average in high school and a 566 SAT verbal score. With those credentials, the future president would have had a tough time getting into a community college.

However, George W. was a legacy — a third-generation legacy. Yale University accepted him and rejected others with far more impressive credentials.

Private schools contend that "preferring" legacies is a good practice because it builds school loyalty and generates alumni contributions. Prospective students have an incentive to apply and attend, knowing that their own kids will have an edge when they apply to a competitive college.

Private colleges and universities rely upon student tuition, grants and support from their endowments.

Public colleges and universities, however, receive most of their support from public tax dollars. Yet, they also prefer legacies, such as University of Wisconsin. According to *The Badger Herald*, while a "minor" factor, the University of Wisconsin considers "being the child of an alumni" a "plus factor."

But other competitive public schools, such as the University of Virginia and the University of Michigan, also prefer legacies. The University of Pennsylvania, although considered private by most, has the governor serving on its governing board. The university admitted 41 percent of legacies and enrolled 14 percent of them.

Giving an edge based upon legacy is, in reality, an advantage based

largely upon race. Keep in mind that many private and public universities were segregated until 1954 (and for years later).

Getting into a college did not become a reality for most minorities and women until the passage of federal laws in the '60s and '70s denying funds to schools engaged in race or gender bias.

Even then, minorities and women had to contend with the "legacy" factor as they tried to get admitted into schools based upon merit, while others, like George W., could ride on the coattails of his dad and grandpa.

In 1978, in *Bakke v. Board of Regents*, the Supreme Court did not, as most believe, allow the use of quotas to balance the ethnicity of the student body at the University of California at Davis Medical School. Rather, it found that UC Davis had to accept Bakke and it could, in the future, use "race" as one factor in the admissions mix.

The reality, of course, is that states like California, Washington, Texas and Florida no longer use "race" as a factor in admissions, and their enrollment numbers, especially at the graduate level, are dismal. Nevertheless, they continue to favor legacies.

As some point, legacies are a form of bias based upon one's lineage, a factor over which a student has no control. Unlike being born into poverty, birth to a parent with a college degree is an advantage. For a state university to give one "credit" for having been born into a home of college-educated folks violates the Equal Protection Clause of the Constitution.

In the '70s, in a series of cases, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down state privileges that only applied to "legitimate" children of fathers, but not children born out of wedlock. The state deemed them "illegitimate." In fact, as legal history rightfully points out, those born out of wedlock were referred to as "sins of the flesh," "bastards" or "illegitimate."

The Supreme Court rightfully pointed out that it was unfair to make the kids bear the stigma of their parents' acts.

If the Supreme Court and state legislatures believe that race cannot be a factor in admissions, then they must also prohibit the use of "lineage" from being a factor, too.

Congress could easily cure this matter by simply denying federal funds to any school that considers whether an applicant's parents or family members attended the school.

—Robert DeKoven is a professor at California Western School of Law.

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

continued from page 5

Walker or Marcus Garvey. And they will be the poorer for it, and the United States will be the poorer 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

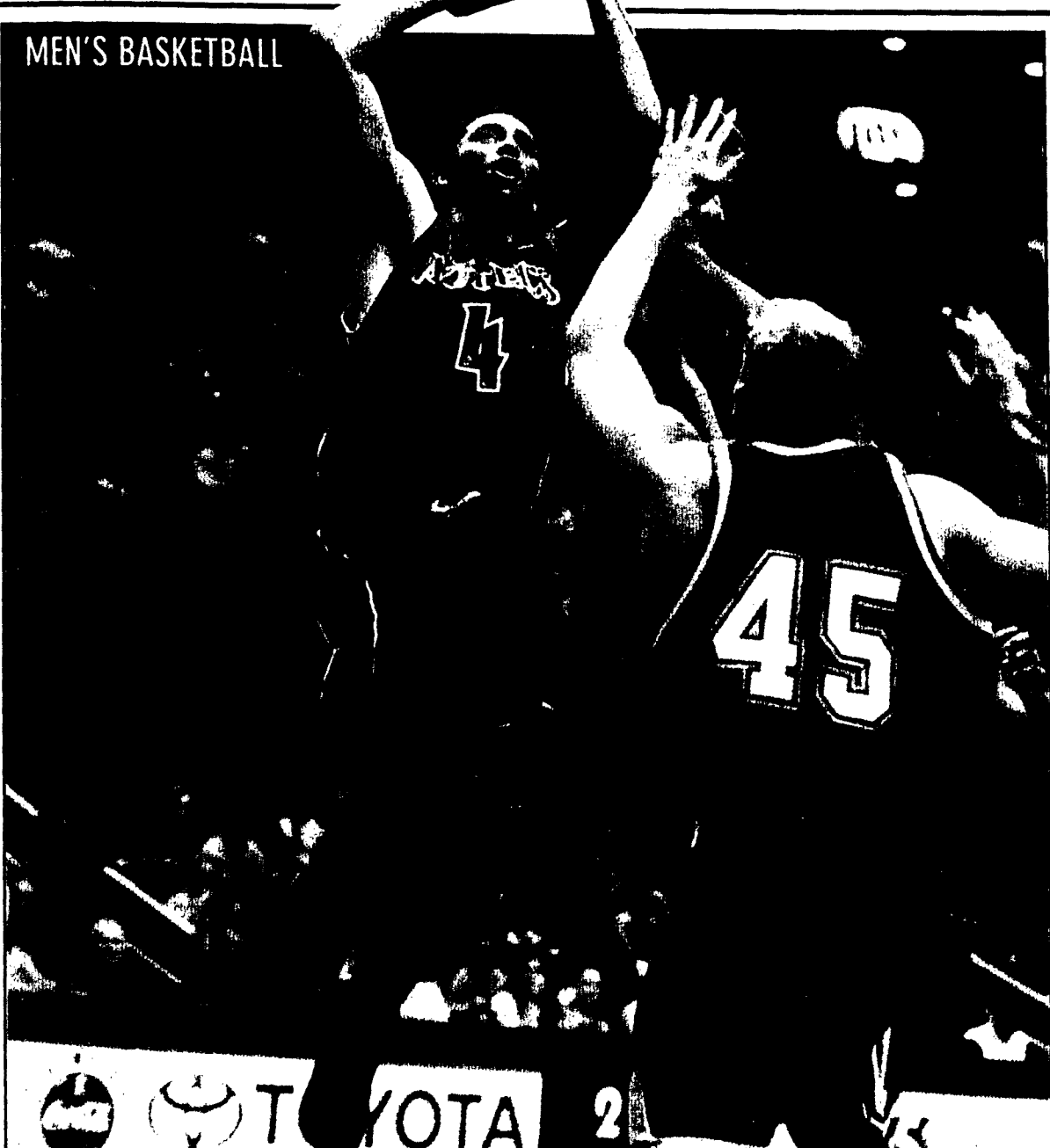
contributions and achievements of black people, we cannot confine it to a single week or month; rather, it must be ongoing and consistent.

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.

—Priscilla Ocen is an Africana Studies and political science senior and the president of Associated Students. She is a guest columnist to *The Daily Aztec*.

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MEN'S BASKETBALL



Senior Tony Bland soars over two defenders for two of his game-high 28 points. Ben Horne / Daily Aztec

Rising back to the top

Aztecs return to their winning ways by downing Air Force

BY MICHAEL KLITZING
SPORTS EDITOR

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 incarnation — 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 padlocked 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 threes. At first, it appeared to be an acceptable substitute. In the first half, it nailed an astounding 8-of-10 from downtown. But as 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-for-9 on treys 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 lights 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 off 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 much to cheer about. For at least 40 minutes, the old Aztecs were back.



Referee Bill Gracey checks on Evan Burns, who needed stitches after a fall opened a gash on his head. Ben Horne / Daily Aztec

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Postseason berth still hangs in the balance

Late run to March Madness continues tonight against the University of New Mexico Lobos

BY CARLOS MANZANILLO
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Tonight the San Diego State men's basketball team will finish its two-game home stand against the University of New Mexico at 7:05 p.m. at Cox Arena.

It will be the final regular season home game for the Aztecs, but for them to continue playing well into March, they know that they will have to continue to chalk up

victories in their next four ball games, much like they did against Air Force Saturday night.

"We want to do as well as we can to get momentum going into the tournament, to get a good seed and to get confidence," senior Tony Bland said. "This league is by far one

of the most competitive leagues in the country, but we feel like if we come out and play the way we did on the road at Utah and BYU, we have a good chance of winning. We are excited about these upcoming games."

What started Saturday night continues against the Lobos, who boast one of the conference's most dangerous players and the most potent scorer in the entire nation — Ruben Douglas. Douglas is averaging 27.9 points per game, including an incendiary 32.5 ppg in conference. SDSU held Douglas to just 3-of-10 shooting in its first matchup against UNM in late January, but it still dropped a 66-62 decision on the road. A win 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 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 Aztecs' shoulders at every corner, and the expectations for the same kind of success to resurface once again on Montezuma Mesa had reached feverish pitch.

SENIOR NIGHT

What: Men's basketball — University of New Mexico at San Diego State. It is the final regular season home game for the Aztecs.

Three seniors: Deandre Moore, Mike Mackell and Tony Bland will be honored at a short ceremony prior to the game.

Where: Cox Arena

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

But 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 be dancing come March, instead of learning the meaning N-I-T. SDSU, it seems, is up to that challenge.

"In order for us to get to the NCAA tournament we are

going to have to do just what we did in Vegas in the Mountain West Conference tournament," Fisher said. "We are going to have to win three games, which will be difficult, but we did it last year when it was difficult."

Randy Holcomb and Al Faux — the two catalysts to last year's MWC tournament triumph — may be gone, but the Aztecs still have three capable senior leaders that were also a big part of last year's tournament success, and their experience may be the key in once again reaching postseason glory.

"We know what we have to do," senior Deandre Moore said. "The three seniors that were big contributors to that team last year know what it takes. We believe we can beat any team in this conference. We know we have to win the conference tournament."



UTAH

Conference 8-1

Overall 20-4



SAN DIEGO STATE



BRIGHTON YOUNG

Conference 7-2

Overall 18-6



COLORADO STATE

Conference 3-7

Overall 14-11



WYOMING

Conference 7-3

Overall 19-6



NEW MEXICO

Conference 3-7

Overall 9-14



UNIV

Conference 5-5

Overall 16-8



AIR FORCE

Conference 2-8

Overall 11-12



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Countywide Assistance

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 torturous) 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 cakewalk.

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-25 foes.

"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

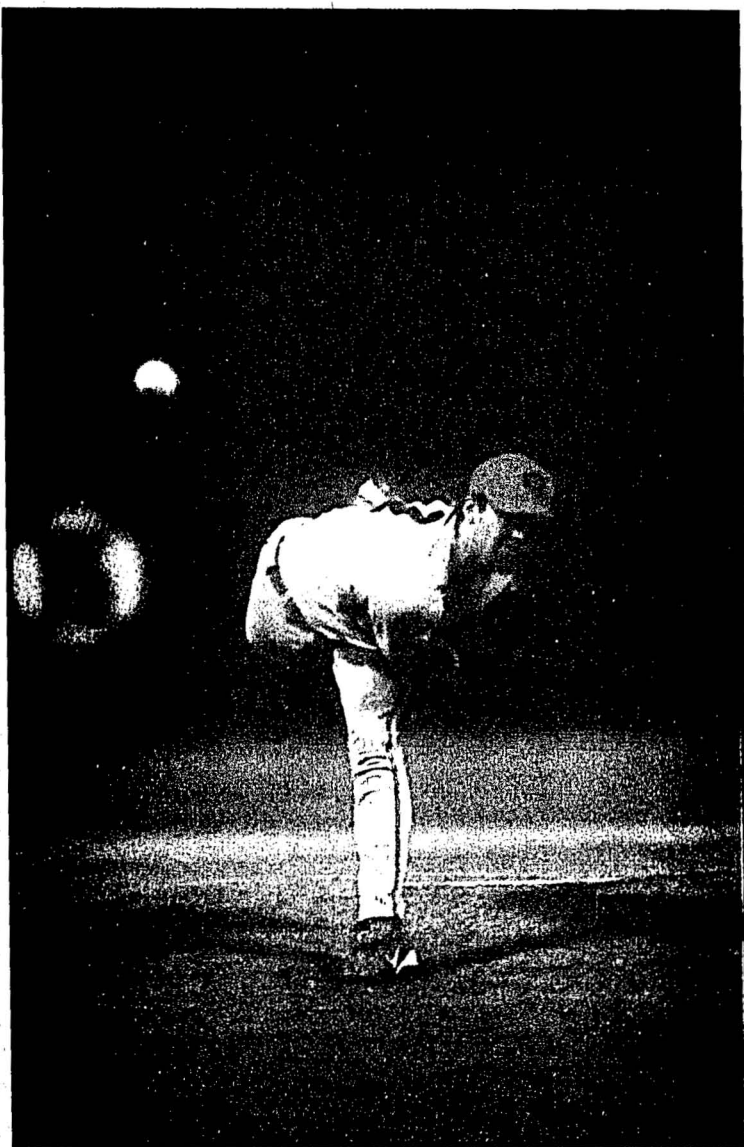
Gwynn said. "Our guys are trying hard, trying to make things happen, but falling short."

"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.

Hurricanes' 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 being selective at the plate and we're not driving in runs. Our starters are taking us deep



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

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.

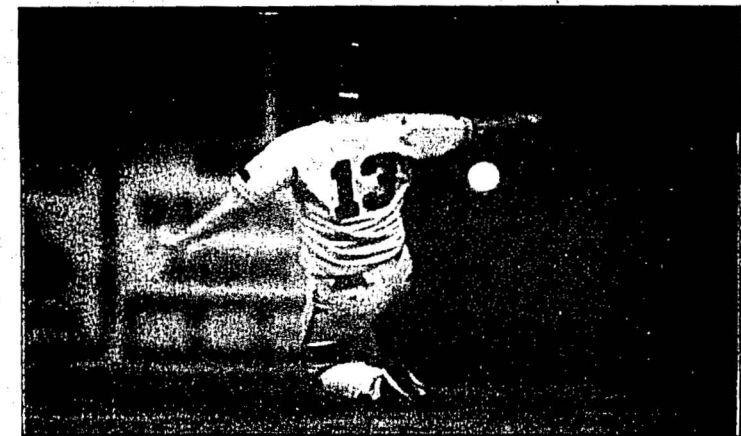
Friday night was much the same story for the Aztecs: solid starting pitching without much to back it up. Hurler Mike Moat gave up just one unearned run in 5 1/3 innings of work as SDSU built a 2-1 lead on Josh Allen's two-run clout.

But when Moat was lifted in the sixth, the roof quickly

caved in. Relievers Joey Pace and Ben Leuthard 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 opportunity. 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."



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 stiff 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 tramping over the University of Hawaii and Santa Clara — both matches ended in 6-1 blowouts.

"It was a good weekend," head coach Peter Mattera 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 Tornier and Indra Erichsen defeated Christine Limbers and Janalle Kaloi 8-4 in the No. 1 spot. In the No. 2 spot, senior Katja Karrento and Romero beat

Ashley Campbell and Catherine Cochrane 8-0. In the No. 3 spot, sophomore Patricia Graf and senior Lindsey Hedberg defeated Mariko Kawakami and Pati Ruiz 8-1.

In the singles matches, the Broncos put up a tough fight against SDSU, sending two of the matches into super tiebreakers. In the No. 1 spot, Tornier 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," Mattera said. "That would have been a bad loss, but she fought through that."

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

"That win is just going to give her more confidence," Mattera 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 Kaloi 6-3, 2-6, 6-2.

"That was the turning point of the match," Hedberg said. "Everyone kind of relaxed after we got that point. My opponent 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, Tornier defeated Lauren Fitzgerald 6-2, 7-5. In the No. 2, Hedberg beat Stacy Hakikawa 6-2, 6-2. Graf defeated Mio Fukushima 8-6 in the No. 3 spot.

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

"They're always tough," Mattera said. "We've got nothing to lose; we'll take our swings and just go for it."



Junior Lindsey Hedberg and the Aztecs will face No. 3. USC Saturday. File photo

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 Federation opponent San Jose State to earn its first conference win of the season.

SDSU's 9-4 triumph over San Jose State also marked the first game ever played at the new Ray and Joan Kroc Center.

After suffering two consecutive losses to MPSF rivals No. 4 Long Beach State and No. 3 USC during last weekend's road trip, No. 7. SDSU (4-3, 1-2) was able to refocus and rebound against the No. 8-ranked Spartans.

"After 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 defense against the Spartans, holding them scoreless over the last 10:14 of the game. A key factor in the Red and Black's successful defensive effort was an incredible performance by transfer Sara Daseler, who tallied 12 saves in goal.

SDSU's solid defense was supported 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 in SDSU's inspiring victory over San Jose State, she feels that last weekend's road trip was not critical to the team's ability 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) helped us."

In their two previous MPSF contests against Long Beach State and USC, the Aztecs were outscored 7-1 in the third period. 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 slump, but it also earned 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 Aztecs' nine goals. Hartzell's three goals bring her total to 15 over seven games. Although Hartzell is a key component in the SDSU's offensive attack, she still seemed somewhat surprised by her scoring opportunities against San Jose State.

"I actually 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 their main point is to not let me touch the ball."

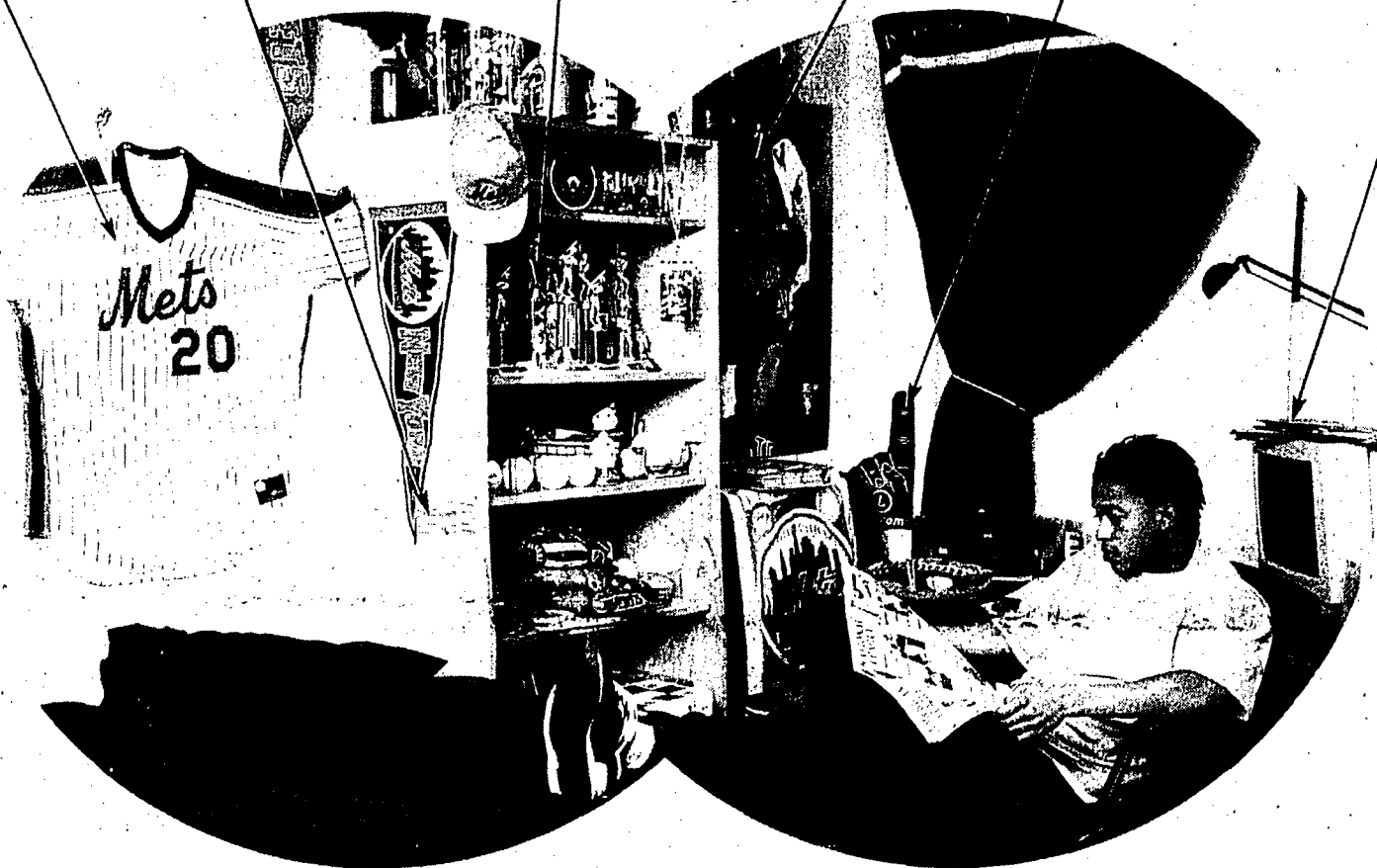
After securing a crucial conference victory in their home-opener over San Jose State, SDSU now looks to build off its momentum as it returns to La Jolla to compete in this weekend's UCSD mini-tournament.



FINNEGAN

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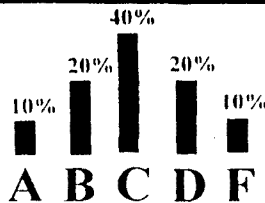
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AZTEC RECREATION CENTER DAILY HOROSCOPE • Monday, February 24th

By Linda C. Black
Tribune Media Services

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 24). The folks at home see less of you this year, as you work toward your dream career. Watch for the opportunities and be ready to grab them. They'll come along. To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)-Today is an 8-Take another shot at something that didn't work before. A barrier may have dissolved, or maybe you'll smash right through it.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)-Today is a 6-There are a few things you might buy for yourself that would be kind of fun. They'd be tax-deductible, too. What new, profitable skill would you like to learn?

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)-Today is a 6-If you team up with a powerful person, you can make a major improvement. Add structure to the other person's passion.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)-Today is a 6-Unexpected circumstances

leave you with more than your share of the work, but not the pay. It's not fair! Don't complain. Your stock is rising.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)-Today is a 7-A new agreement between you and a loved one provides new motivation. Anything is possible if you're willing to do what's required.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)-Today is a 6-You're the one they call on when they don't know what to do. It's you they ask for when jobs need to be done. You're more popular than you may realize. They need you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)-Today is an 8-You can advance your career by studying with an expert. And better yet, this won't cost you a cent. The expert you should choose wants you to win and loves you like family.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)-Today is a 6-Dreaming of distant shores? Been a while since you've had a vacation? If you get a bonus or a windfall, put it into your Tahiti account.

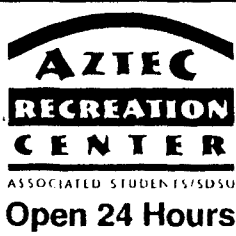
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)-Today is a 7-You may not have much natural interest in accumulating wealth, but you sure do love abundance. It can easily be yours. Well, some study is required.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)-Today is a 6-Your worries and fears aren't pointless if they lead to new and constructive action. Dump a bad habit and move on.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)-Today is a 7-Your friends are anxious to begin, and they need your support. They don't know how to get to where they want to go. You do.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)-Today is a 6-Don't just get frustrated and start destroying things. Part of what you've got is worth keeping. Go back to the drawing board.

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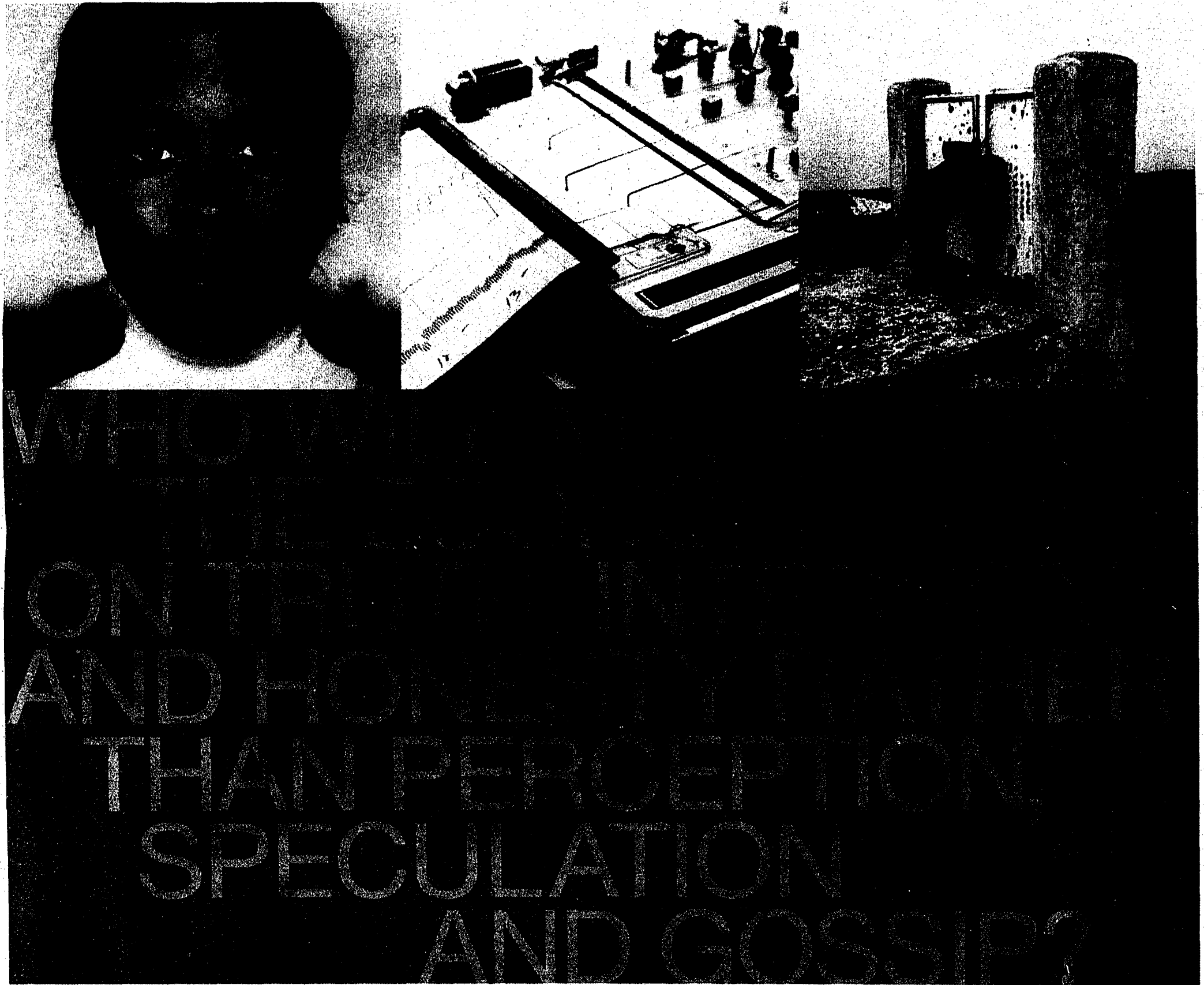
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