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TODAY @ SDSU

Celebrate Darwin Exhibit
Donor Hall, Love Library

Exhibit exploring Charles Darwin's life and the theory of evolution. It features items gathered during his historic voyage to the Galapagos Islands.

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Green plans for ModernSpace



Glenn Connelly / Photo Editor

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

SARAH KOVASH
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Associated Students is planning for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certification for ModernSpace with the help of green building consultants.

Green Building Consultant Lynn Simon, of Simon & Associates, Inc., was visiting San Diego State to give a presentation at the A.S. meeting last Wednesday. Simon was hired by A.S. as a building consultant to help obtain platinum status LEED certification for ModernSpace.

"Everybody has a very special role when they're doing a LEED certified project," Simon said. "So

my role is to really sort of facilitate that process and serve as a resource and technical support on the project."

LEED is a system developed by the U.S. Green Building Council to certify green buildings, according to its Web site.

Some ways of potentially obtaining LEED certification for ModernSpace are site sustainability, storm water usage, water-efficient plumbing fixtures and recycled materials.

According to Simon, site sustainability is something that could be counted toward LEED certification because of SDSU's proximity to the trolley station and public transportation.

One possibility for the building is the installation of a vegetative roof that would collect reusable storm water.

"It could be possible that you could gather all that water and then clean it up and use it for flushing toilets," Glen Brandenburg, director of the Mission Bay Aquatic Center, said. "There are all sorts of different ways you can reuse water."

Designing a building to achieve LEED certification adds to the overall costs to build, but is expected to save money in the long term.

However, it is too early in the process to know exactly how much it will cost. A.S. decided that no more than 5 percent of the total cost would be spent on LEED certi-

fication, according to Brandenburg. "It was pointed out that the national average is 3 to 7 percent," Brandenburg said. "So they picked a middle-of-the-road 5 percent."

Many LEED qualifications are being considered right now, but nothing specific has been decided. A.S. is still in the early planning stages for ModernSpace, Brandenburg said.

"One of the key things of being able to have a LEED building that achieves platinum is teamwork," Brandenburg said. "It's extremely complicated to build a \$50 million and \$70 million building. ... So you take that already complicated process and add all these new ideas and so it really takes a person and a company to coordinate all that."

CAMPUS CRIME

Suspicious circumstances

Nov. 11 – Police had to ask a man to leave campus twice. The man was reportedly approaching females in front of Cuicacalli 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

Music building. After talking for several more minutes, the suspect exposed his genitals to the victim.

The suspect was described as a male, 35 to 40 years old, 5 feet 5 inches tall and balding with bright blond hair. He also reportedly had yellow teeth and a "strong musky smell," according to a crime alert that was posted on campus and on the campus police Web site.

Multiple fights

Nov. 12 – Officers from the San Diego Police Department arrested San Diego State student Christian Biofara on suspicion of public intoxication. SDSU Police Lt. Lamine Secka said Biofara was allegedly the main aggressor in the fight. Although the incident involved 10 people, Biofara was the only person arrested and transported to jail by SDPD.

Nov. 15 – SDSU Police received a call regarding a fight on College

Place. The reporting party told police that a group of people was fistfighting 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 anybody 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. Sedric Johnson, 20, and Keith Stewart, 19, were both arrested and trans-

ported to jail on suspicion of conspiracy to commit a crime, robbery and battery with injury. Both men are unaffiliated with SDSU.

Battery

Nov. 16 – A faculty member was pushed by someone in Parking Structure 8. The victim was pushed after he confronted the subject for throwing cones off the side of the structure. The subject was reportedly upset that the cones were blocking parking spaces. The faculty member filed a crime report with police, but the subject has not yet been located. He was described as male, 5 feet 8 inches tall and 180 pounds. He was seen wearing sunglasses, a blue shirt, dark pants and a brown backpack.

—Compiled by Senior Staff Writer Kristina Blake

Students discuss race issues in summit

SDSU's first Black and Brown summit deals with pressing topics

CHRIS ARECHAEDERRA
CONTRIBUTOR

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, Afrikan Student Union, Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán, 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," Michelia 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."

—Michelia 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 Shyrisa Dobbins said. "It's celebrating everyone's culture but realizing how similar they really are."



Glenn Connelly / Photo Editor

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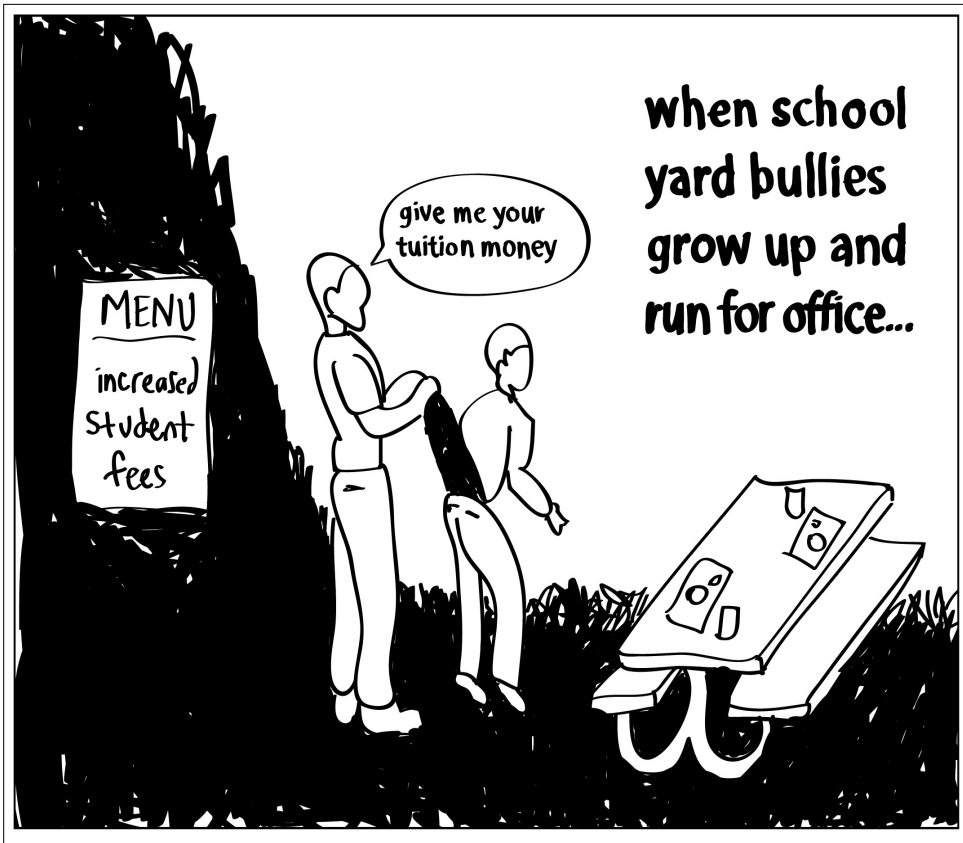
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SDSU

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Crystal Hoy / Contributing Cartoonist

MASS MEDIUM

Appeal life sentence for young offenders

Sentencing 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 circum-

stances, of which they do not have any control. To judge them incorrigible is wrong.

By sentencing minors to life in prison, we are writing them off as hopeless and condemning them to a life in the shadow of society. This is unjust. America promises the right of every citizen to live 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 status, poor housing conditions, drugs, crime and violence in their neighborhood all affect their self-concept 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 misguided to equate the failings of a minor with those of an adult, for a greater possibility exists that a minor's character deficiencies will be reformed,” Kennedy said. Hopefully, this same sound reasoning will be applied when considering the constitutionality of life in prison with no chance of release.

Let's give them a chance to go to counseling, to give back to the community, to get an education and to discover a life outside of the one they were born into. Many of the greatest Americans, who so many people look up to, are often the ones who overcome obstacles and defeat the odds. We must allow our youth to accept responsibility 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 is a media studies senior.

—This column does not necessarily reflect the opinion of The Daily Aztec. Send e-mail to opinion@thedailyaztec.com. Anonymous letters will not be printed. Include your full name, major and year in school.

ANDREW LEWANDOWSKI
STAFF COLUMNIST

NEWS TO KNOW

1 After the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force recommended women in their 40s should not worry about routine mammograms, many women were left feeling confused. Women have been constantly told mammograms are needed to catch any abnormalities and even breast cancer. However, the message was also thought to be a government policy, but this is not the case. Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius corrected the message by explaining that mammograms should remain an individual concern. Although the broadcasted message was supported by credible sources, there have been many disagreements by other companies. Sebelius understands that the issue of mammograms has received different standards, which is the reason for dueling theories on breast health, depending on the organization. The recommendation was made after studies showed women in their 40s, who received routine mammograms, ran a greater risk of obtaining false breast cancer positives, strong anxiety and unnecessary biopsies.

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. On average, 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 education system, schools have been struggling to increase classes while still collecting \$1 billion in state aid. The Class Size Reduction program, created 13 years ago, aimed to decrease class sizes and keep them at a minimum. Any class with 22 or more students would automatically be denied funding. Now, the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act awarded California with \$1.25 billion in stimulus funds. This source of funding aims to benefit large classes comprised of low-income and minority 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 for men. The study included 15,500 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 small rates of 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 1.8 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 bloc's trade commissioner, was selected as high representative for foreign policy. Both members will take their new positions on Jan. 1 of next year. After a long struggle, the reconstruction of the Lisbon Treaty allowed the creation of the two new positions. The positions were designed to simplify management for the EU. 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 constitutional amendment that included a same-sex marriage ban. However, after much investigation, Houston lawyer Barbara Ann Radnofsky discovered that Subsection B of the amendment, which states, “This state or a political subdivision of this state may not create or recognize any legal status identical or similar to marriage,” may jeopardize all marriages in the state. According to Radnofsky, the wording in the subsection eliminates marriage in Texas, including common-law marriages. Current Attorney General, Republican Greg Abbott, allowed the wording mistake in the constitution. Radnofsky suggests Abbott publicly acknowledge the error and apologize. Also, it might be necessary to insert another constitutional amendment to reverse the current one. Kelly Shackelford, president of the Liberty Legal Institute in Plano, Texas, commented that Subsection B was written to prevent any arrangements allowing same-sex couples the benefits of a marriage. Nevertheless, Radnofsky insists the clause will be subject to legal claims.

6 Last Wednesday, the Rev. Jesse Jackson spoke out against Rep. Artur Davis, a Democrat, after he voted against the Democrat's health care bill. Jackson said, “We even have blacks voting against the health care bill from Alabama. You can't vote against health care and call yourself a black man.” Although Jackson did not specifically say Davis' name, it was implied. Davis is the only African-American member of Congress who is from Alabama, and he was also the only member of the Congressional Black Caucus to vote against the bill. The reverend's comments were made at an event held by the CBC. In Jackson's defense, he stated that his comment was not meant to suggest members of Congress should vote only one way, rather they should vote to help the people they are representing. In Davis' situation, his opposing vote to the bill would have a negative effect on Alabama because it's one of the poorest states.

—Compiled by Contributor Aileen Pantoja

Think the Opinion section is a crazy leftist, liberal bastion of Republican bashers? Come fix it.

Opinion is currently hiring for the position of:
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All interested writers should inquire at The Daily Aztec office located at SDSU, EBA-2 to pick up the application. E-mails may be directed to our current editor at opinion@thedailyaztec.com or call 619-594-0509

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MEN’S BASKETBALL

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 minutes when he went to the charity stripe and hit both his shots on two separate occasions. “We’re going to have a lot of games like this,” head coach Steve Fisher said to AM-KOGO’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 zone that out,” 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 won 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 he 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 Lorenzo 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 Pacific at 7 p.m.tomorrow in Stockton.



Glenn Connelly / Photo Editor

VOLLEYBALL

Aztecs prep for final match against UCSB



Kallie Larsen / Staff Photographer

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.

BEAU 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.”

In order to do so, the Aztecs will need to step up their game. 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 last time the Gauchos won nine matches at home was in 2004 when they went 9-2. That season, UCSB made it to the second round of the NCAA Tournament before dropping a 3-0 decision to Georgia Tech.

The Gauchos just finished their conference play last Saturday with a 3-0 sweep of Cal State Northridge. With the win, UCSB secured second place in the Big West with a 11-5 record. The Gauchos haven’t won more than 10 games in the Big West since 2005 when they went 12-2 and won the league title.

UCSB has been led by Rebecca Saraceno this season, but the senior outside hitter just returned last Saturday after suffering a knee injury on Nov. 7 against Cal Poly. The All-American candidate appeared at full strength

against the Matadors though, finishing the match with a team-high 10 kills and eight digs. Saraceno currently leads the Big West in kills with 4.54 per set.

Meanwhile, SDSU enters today’s contest looking to bounce back from a 3-1 loss to BYU last Saturday on Senior Day. However, the Aztecs were on a three-match winning streak before they dropped the match to the Cougars. The biggest victory during that stretch was against Utah last Thursday in Peterson Gym. 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 stressed 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.”

AT A GLANCE



WHEN: 6 p.m. today

WHERE: The Thunderdome in Santa Barbara.

VS.



WHY TO WATCH: The Aztecs will finish their 2009 season on the road against the Gauchos.

BEHIND THE NUMBERS FOR SDSU VOLLEYBALL

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13.3	Kills per set for SDSU so far
12.8	Kills 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 Alisbury this year; a team high
25	Service aces for Andrea Hannasch

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Score Higher, Aztecs!

Marathon runners get in shape for a cause



Courtesy of Rock 'n' Roll Marathon
Running a marathon is on some people's bucket list of life accomplishments. Not only do marathons provide a sense of personal 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

SYDNEE BROOKER
CONTRIBUTOR

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 Sun 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 Sun 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 23 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 Web site. 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 Loper Events is an organization that attracts families and ath-

letes throughout Southern California. A computerized race system is used at these marathons to ensure accuracy and order. 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.kathyloper-events.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 membership spans a broad range from recreational joggers to elite athletes, with the majority being recreational runners who take in some local road races, marathons or 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.



MCT Campus
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.

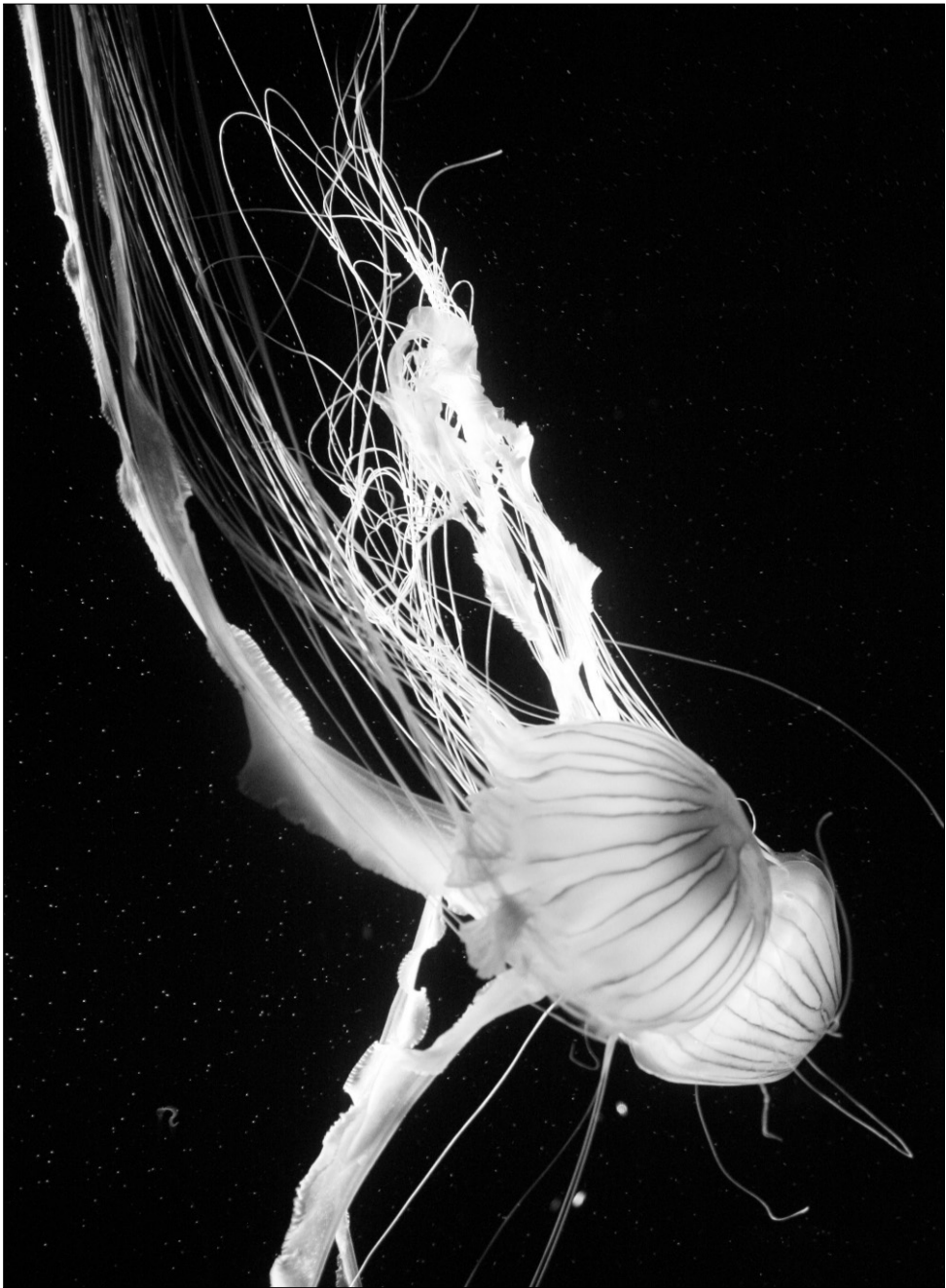


Courtesy of Chula Vista Nature Center

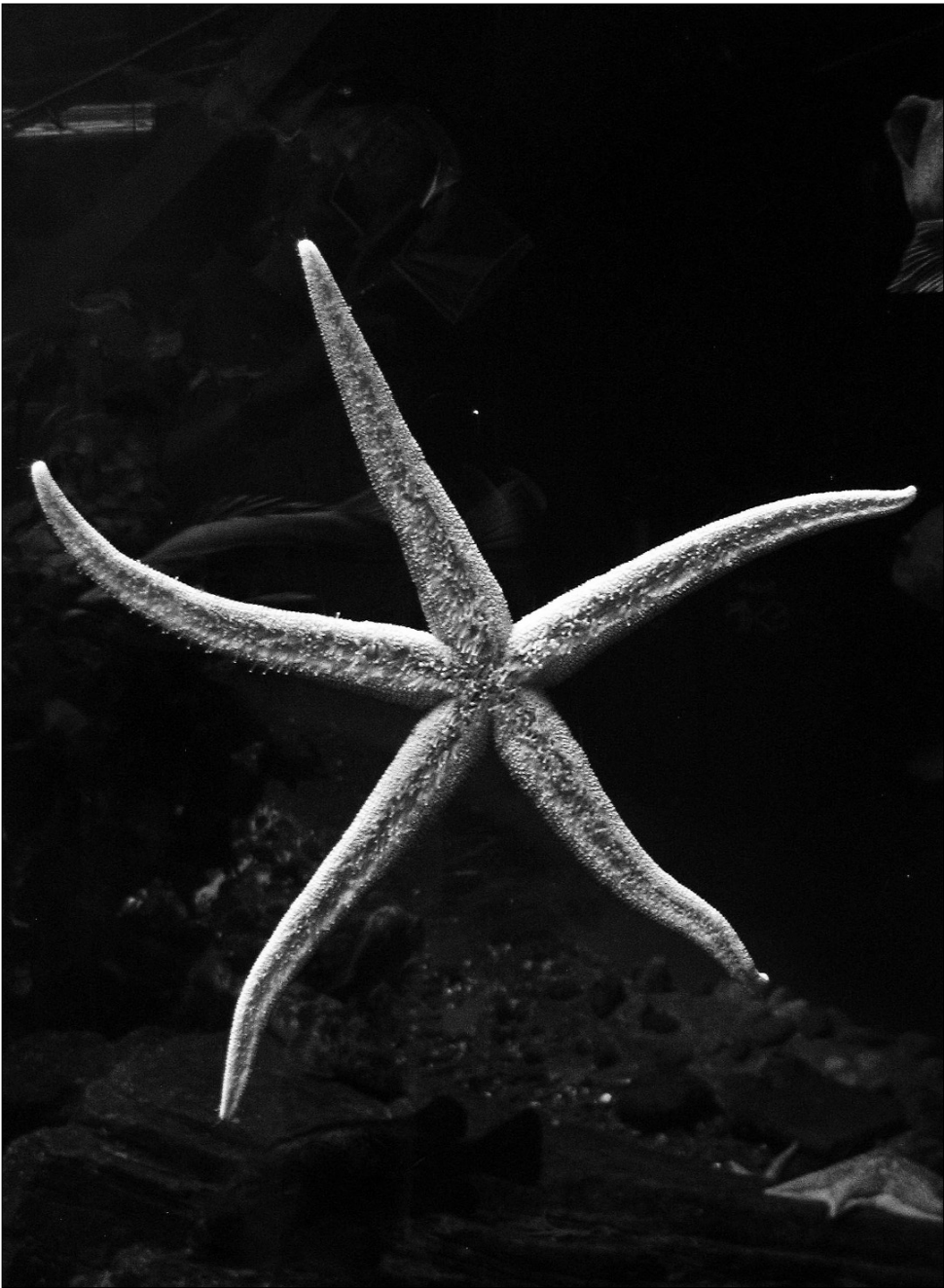
Tucked away in Chula Vista is an internationally recognized nature reserve that promotes sustainability and shelters endangered, exotic animals and native San Diego water fauna such as Green Sea Turtles.



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HUMOR: PATI’S TAKES

Don’t run, you look funny

One day, I was sitting 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 putting bags under my eyes and a jiggle in my midsection. As I was starting 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. 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

PATRICIA B. DWYER
STAFF COLUMNIST

assume relate to the same fraternity they are carrying mints for so they can pay 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 “civilian clothing,” 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 did you stop running? Were you just trying to burn a few calories between classes, despite the scene you were creating? Because

you know everyone notices someone who is running that fast when the vast majority is casually strolling. Did you decide that you were ahead of schedule enough with that little boost across the quad? I mean, you had everyone looking at you. 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 the mystery cracks me up, even when I’m all by myself.

–Patricia B. Dwyer is a journalism junior.

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

LOOKING THROUGH OUR LENS



GOOD ENOUGH TO WRESTLE IN

ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR LINDSEY MARTIN shot this photo in Peru of bird tracks in the dense, watery mud after sunset.

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DAILY HOROSCOPE BY LINDA C. BLACK, TRIBUNE MEDIA SERVICES

TODAY’S BIRTHDAY (11/24/09) You’ve thought that you deserved more than you got. This year, make every effort to manage your money carefully. By your next birthday, you’ll find that you have far more than anticipated.

ARIES (March 21 - April 19) - Today is a 6 - An older person offers you a chance to follow your heart’s desire. Give your imagination free rein.

TAURUS (April 20 - May 20) - Today is a 5 - Today you get to present practical ideas in imaginative ways. An older person influences you to adjust your focus.

GEMINI (May 21 - June 21) - Today is a 5 - Take care of business today. Check items off your to-do list. You’ll be glad you did.

CANCER (June 22 - July 22) - Today is a 5 - Take time today to accomplish your top-priority item. Make a list for tomorrow, when you’ll have more energy.

LEO (July 23 - Aug. 22) - Today is a 6 - Take care of errands close to home. Line up everything you need for the next several days. Bake dessert today.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22) - Today is a 6 - Take care of priorities and start early. Emotions enter the scene around midday

and fog up the environment.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22) - Today is a 5 - If you can get past the obstacles within your own mind, you can gain clarity with co-workers. Persuade, don’t push.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21) - Today is a 5 - Contact a school or other institution to share a good idea. Instant feedback is not part of today’s plan. Await a response.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21) - Today is a 5 - This is a good day to work on your own assigned tasks and let everyone else stick to theirs. Plenty of time to assess results tonight.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19) - Today is a 7 - Make a list and check it twice. You have a lot to get done in the next two days. Delegate to an older male.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18) - Today is a 5 - Tension grabs you. Take this moment to relax the muscles in your forehead. You’ll feel better immediately.

PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20) - Today is a 6 - An older person provides you with a chance to shine. Glow like you never did before! You deserve it.

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	6		2		4		8	
5	8							1
	9			3	1		5	
	3		7	6			4	
8							6	9
	4		8		9		2	
	7	5			3			

Level: 1 2 3 4

Instructions: Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk.

Solution available online at www.TheDailyAztec.com

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CROSSWORD EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE LEWIS

ACROSS

1 Job detail, briefly

5 First appearance

10 Irish dances

14 Prefix with space

15 Really peeved

16 Campus south of Sunset Blvd.

17 Investor’s goal

18 Subsidiary building

19 Thoughtful

20 Sophisticated taste, foodwise

23 B&Bs

24 Jane Fonda, to Peter

25 Ping-Pong need

28 Airing, as an ESPN game

30 Schmooze

33 See eye to eye

34 “Night” author: Wiesel

35 Nod off

36 Studio item with a thumb hole

39 Datebook entry: Abbr.

40 Improves in the wine cellar

41 Western

42 Guitarist ___ Paul

43 1982 Disney sci-fi movie

44 Pessimistic types

45 Sidekick

46 Sargasso et al.

47 Portable shipping platform

53 “The Haj” novelist

54 Racetrack borders

55 Giant screen format

57 Vitality

58 Els on the links

59 Free from doubt

60 Foreboding date for Caesar

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15					16			
17				18					19			
	20			21				22				
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	47	48				49	50			51	52	
53					54				55			56
57					58				59			
60					61				62			

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61 Dublin-born poet

62 Romanov ruler

DOWN

1 Droop

2 Anjou or Bosc

3 Toledo’s lake

4 Free from doubt

5 California senator Feinstein

6 Maritime raptors

7 Robin Hood’s merry men, e.g.

8 Longhorn State sch.

9 Oil, informally

10 Biblical traitor

11 Rapper-turned-actor

12 Ticked-pink feeling

13 Maple yield

21 Bay or cove

22 Actress Tyler

25 Of the Holy See

26 Showing shock

27 Plumbing problems

28 Jimmy of the Daily Planet

29 Playful bites

30 Gangster dubbed, “The Teflon Don”

31 Ancient Mexican

32 Tavern round

34 Consequently

35 Academic honor

37 Tea named for William IV’s prime minister

38 True-blue

43 Mai __: cocktail

44 Breaks off

45 Roaches, ants, etc.

46 Bowler’s headache

47 Wilma’s mate

48 Greet the day

49 Cocksure

Aesopian racer

50 “Saturday Night Live” alum Fey

51 Outback runners

52 O’Hara home

53 Action film gun

56 Gen-__: boomer’s kid, usually