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THE DAILY AZTEC

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Tomorrow's weather:
Mostly sunny; High: 64° F Low: 55° F

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Irvin Silverstein, DDS, cuts the ribbon at the re-opening ceremony for the student-run clinic April 18 in Pacific Beach. Derrick Tuskan / Senior Staff Photographer

UCSD free dental clinic re-opens

Center has three operating chairs, 40 dentists and more than 100 student volunteers

BY KELSEY FRONK
STAFF WRITER

A UC San Diego free dental clinic that had been shut down for more than a year has re-opened.

The student-run Free Dental Clinic Project, which offers dental care to those in need while providing undergraduate students with hands-on dental training, re-opened its Pacific Beach clinic April 18.

UCSD has two other FDCP clinics located in Downtown San Diego and southeast San Diego.

The Pacific Beach clinic had to be shut down a year-and-a-half ago because of maintenance problems and broken equipment.

Brock Lorenz, student director of the project, said the free clinics provide dental treatment to the under-served, including the working poor, homeless women and children and those unable to meet their oral health needs.

This program helps San Diego State, community colleges and UCSD students prepare for dental school, Irvin Silverstein, DDS, the faculty director and advisor for project, said.

"The students get trained in various aspects of dentistry," Silverstein said. "They actually run the clinics, under the supervision of licensed, professional volunteers."

The ability of these volunteers to teach students and work on patients in need at the same time is what makes the program unique, he said.

"We help the under served and we help the students," he said. "To our

knowledge, there's no other free dental clinic run by pre-dental students."

The Pacific Beach clinic was the first location opened by the UCSD FDCP in 1999, after medical student Eric Goldlust noticed the unmet dental needs of patients. He started the clinic with four dentists and a donated dental chair and a light, Silverstein said.

"Over the last one-and-a-half years, I went around asking for donations from various foundations, banks and dental-supply providers, convincing them of the innovativeness of our program," Silverstein said. "Now we have a modern, state-of-the-art clinic for students to work in." The clinic now has three operating chairs and one exam chair, about 40 dentists and specialists and more than 100 student volunteers, he said.

The staff of professionals includes three oral surgeons, two orthodontists, two periodontists and one endodontist.

Lorenz said the opening, which took place at the Pacific Beach

Methodist Church clinic, was a huge success. The event publicly introduced the clinic and its volunteers to the local community.

All of the services, including general dentistry, oral surgery, endodontics and orthodontics are free. Very few free clinics provide so many services, Lorenz said.

"Most free clinics simply pull teeth to improve oral health," he said, "but we believe that toothlessness leads to joblessness, and a full smile is important to the happiness and success of an individual."

The funding comes from donations

from local, state and national sources, Lorenz said. Supplies and equipment come from dental-supply corporations, and the clinic makes grant proposals to private foundations and corporations.

"The great thing is that we don't pay for salaries, because everyone is a volunteer, and we don't pay rent because the clinic space is within a church," Lorenz said.

"Once you get these kinds of clinics up and running, hard work and sweat is what keeps it operational," he said.

Silverstein said the project is receiving national recognition because it serves as a model for cities that don't have dental schools. It also provides increased pre-dental training and access to the underprivileged.

He also said he divides his time among his periodontal practice in La Mesa and 40 hours a week with the FDCP and the UCSD Pre-Dental Society without pay. He said his hectic schedule is made worthwhile when he watches students get the chance to improve the lives of those less fortunate than themselves.

Silverstein remembers specifically a patient who was missing a front tooth and was unable to get a new tooth at other clinics, which kept him from a job.

"Our students were able to give him a tooth under licensed professional supervision," Silverstein said, "and in doing so, helped him get a job and changed his life."

"I make a living as a periodontist, but the clinic is where I get my happiness."

The Pacific Beach clinic is open 6 to 9 p.m. every Wednesday.

More information about the UCSD FDCP locations, philosophy, events and speakers can be found at <http://acs.ucsd.edu/~ucsd/fdc/index.php> or by contacting Silverstein at (619) 466-6666.

CAMPUS CRIME

Drunk man runs amok

BY LYDIA OSOLINSKY
SENIOR STAFF WRITER



A 19-year-old student was arrested Saturday after refusing to leave a party when University Police arrived.

According to the police, Alexander Steinau walked out of a Kappa Sigma fraternity party showing signs of intoxication. He then tried to return, but was told by members of the fraternity he wasn't allowed back inside. Words were exchanged and University Police officers, who were originally responding to a noise complaint, took him into custody.

Steinau falsely identified himself to officers, according to the report, and based on his apparent level of intoxication, they determined he was a potential danger to himself and others.

He was taken to the station for booking, but began to injure himself while in the holding cell. According to police, he hit his head on the nearby bench and began kicking the door. He was physically restrained by officers and transported to San Diego County Jail, where he was booked on drunk-in-public charges.

The fraternity was given a citation for the noise violation.

Man suffers electrical burns

Last Wednesday morning, a man suffered second-degree electrical burns while working on the trolley.

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EOP endures severe budget reductions

About \$200,000 allotted for local communities has been taken away

BY BRIAN COLE
CONTRIBUTOR

Funding for the Equal Opportunity Program community outreach has been eliminated statewide for California State universities, possibly closing the door early on some students.

The EOP helps low-income and educationally disadvantaged students achieve their goals while providing others the opportunity to mentor and tutor incoming freshmen and transfer students.

"We serve primarily first-generation, low-income college students," Beth Crawford, a counselor for San Diego State's EOP, said. "We are an admissions program."

"When students apply to San Diego State,

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