Smoke-free SDSU: tobacco ban stagnant in first 60 days

South Dakota State is the last university in the South Dakota Board of Regents system to implement a ban on smoking. Implemented Jan. 1, the ban has faced scrutiny from students, student organizations and faculty alike.

“Honestly, telling us we can’t smoke or vape hasn’t done anything to stop us,” said Austin Windschitl, freshman agricultural sciences major.

Windschitl said smokers have simply started smoking in less visible areas on campus.

“Sure, CAS enforce it, but what they do not see or hear does not affect them,” said Jack Van Veldhuizen, freshman entrepreneurship studies major.

In a 2017 interview with The Collegian, Associate Vice President of Student Affairs Doug Wermold said the policy was never intended to micromanage smoking habits, but rather to educate and encourage a healthier environment for staff, students and the community.

The SDSU Student Health Clinic reports its new tobacco cessation service, an education program that those caught smoking on campus, has yet to have any visits from staff or students.

Jim Schmaedeke, assistant director for student conduct on campus, said he has not seen any noticeable rise in write-ups for violation of the policy. However, for the write-ups he does see, vaping is a “significant” portion of them.

Every policy has its strengths and weaknesses, Schmaedeke said.

Despite perceived ineffectiveness of the ban in combating smoking on campus, since it has been implemented, SDSU has received more than $18,000 in grants, according to an article in the Brookings Register. The grants are from the American Cancer Society, the CVS Health Foundation and the Truth Initiative.

The grants will hire two students to create social media campaigns and educational materials for the yet unused tobacco cessation service, as well as provide it with fiscal support for various other purposes.

Wermold said the ban is also a way to help bring new students to SDSU.

A 2016 study by the American Cancer Society reports 52 percent of Americans find a tobacco-free campus is an important factor in choosing where to attend. However, prospective student Nick Jacoby from Des Peres, Missouri, said the ban is “definitely not a deciding factor,” even though he doesn’t like people smoking around him.

Though there is still doubt on the actual effectiveness of the policy, students and staff have accepted it is here to stay. “I guess we’ll have to see how it goes,” Windschitl said.

African Students’ Association reflects on ‘Black Panther’

This past weekend, “Black Panther” shattered box office records. The film, which was released on Feb. 16, is currently the third-highest grossing movie in the Marvel Cinematic Universe to feature only actors of color and hold the title role.

In addition, more than 30.7 million people watched the movie or its cast in African or African American.

But beyond the box-office breaking accomplishments of the film, “Black Panther” has also gotten the unused reception of the attention of many from the African and black community.

David Odeleye, operations management graduate student from Oyo State in Nigeria, is the president of the African Student Association. He and 12 other members of ASA attended the movie, many of them dressed in traditional African attire.

“Walking into ‘Black Panther’ and seeing someone who looked like me, a superhero, even if it wasn’t shot in my country, I see how they were representing Nigeria and I was so excited about that,” Odeleye said. “It was really exciting for me.”

Odeleye has seen “Black Panther” three times since the film debuted five weeks ago. He said the film has also helped him to adjust to life in America.

“When I first got here … I wanted to blend in with the way they spoke and the way I dressed as so I wouldn’t stand out, so people wouldn’t look and think ‘oh, he’s foreign—he’s not from here’,” he said.

Ag Day celebrates longstanding history

KATIE BERNDT
Reporter

The eighth Annual Campus Wide Ag Day is Tuesday, March 27, and this year’s event lineup is more elaborate than ever.

What started as a small get-together for students grew into a full weekend of events addressing and educating others about agriculture. Ag Day is organized by the Ag-Bio Council and Ag Bio Proxy Council to celebrate and promote agriculture at SDSU. According to Alison Durheim, Ag-Bio Advocate and senior agricultural communications major, the day serves as a reminder of the university’s longstanding agricultural history.

“The opportunities to celebrate what South Dakota State University was founded on and began with — agriculture — is so important,” Durheim said.

Keeping in line with the theme “Ag Ignites Your Passion,” one of the goals of Ag Day is to relate agriculture to students who may not feel directly impacted by it, and show how it impacts the Council President and senior agricultural business major, Sam Johnson.

“Ag Day is all about recognizing the importance of agriculture in everyday lives with everything from a prime rib to the cotton T-shirt,” Durheim said.

The event kicks off at 5:30 p.m., Monday, March 26, with an employer panel in Rotunda A. The main events are Tuesday, March 27. They include club and industry booths from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. around campus and a banquet at 5:30 p.m.

The Tuesday Ag Day banquet features a five meal and a speaker in the Volstorff Ballroom.

Ag Day is all about recognizing the importance of agriculture in everyday lives with a prime rib to the cotton T-shirt.

ALISON DURHEIM
2017-18 Ag Bio Advocate

At 7 p.m. on Wednesday, March 28, there will be a showing of the “Food Evolution” documentary in Rotunda D. The film features former First Council President and young agriculture business major, Sam Johnson said involving agricultural companies in the event allows students to network and share their ideas with leaders in the industry.

“My favorite part of Ag Day is connecting the industry with students,” Johnson said. “I’m awesome to watch students interact with industry sponsors and watch the value of agriculture be translated to all of the students at SDSU and the Brookings community.”

Continued to A3
Senators approve Student Health Clinic, Union budgets discuss supports of colleges with deans

SPENCER THOMPSON
SA Reporter
At this week's Students' Association meeting, Senate approved budgets for the Student Health Clinic this week and had an open forum discussion about the deans of the colleges.

The budgets were presented at the meeting as recommendations by the Finance Committee in collaboration with Union staff.

The recommended budget for the clinic remains the same as last year, which decreased by $17,904 due to revenue earned from insurance billing. The budget was approved unanimously.

The body previously approved The Union budget at its March 12 meeting, but changes were made to the budget after receiving approval from the University Activity Fee Budget Committee.

The changes were made to ensure The Union remains at the same level of service as now. The allocation was then amended by SA from $1,145,787 to $1,236,270 for 2019.

During open forum, senators asked questions ranging from diversity, international recruiting, changes to their departments and future developments.

Sen. Nick Lorang asked how SA can continue to support each college. “Keep doing what you’re doing and serve,” said Lew Brown, dean of the Jerome J. Loeh College of Engineering. “Keep cultivating the next generation of leaders.”

Toward the end of open forum, SA approved the SDSU National Society of Collegiate Scholars constitution. NSCS focuses on providing opportunities for students to earn scholarships.

SA looked at possible changes to South Dakota’s Student Federation. The federation is comprised of representatives from the public universities of South Dakota.

SA discussed wages for the executive board of the federation and how many executive positions there should be. Currently, there are two positions on the executive board, with the executive director getting paid, but not the chair. The chair of Student Federation is SDSU’s SA State and Local Government chair (and vice president-elect) Spencer Harwood. SA discussed whether or not to pay the chair, and what the pay should be for both positions.

The next SA meeting will be at 7 p.m. Monday, March 26 in the Lewis and Clark room of The Student Union.
Growing program enrollment prompts new political science hire

LAUREN FRANKEN
Copy Editor

The number of political science majors at South Dakota State has increased from 67 to 100 in the last five years, prompting a new political science hire for the department's fourth tenured faculty member.

The hiring process is slow, Wiltse said, which is why the department has only replaced one of the two faculty members who left three years ago.

"It takes time to do a search well," said William Prigge, department head for history, political science, philosophy and religion. "We're avoiding right now, but we're not going to go too quickly. I want the very best because it's a 30-year decision.

A new hire has the potential to make or break the department, Prigge said. That's why the department head is working to include student ideas about the future of the program in its final decision.

"I don't think we ever want to lower our requirements or standards for expediency sake," he said.

Candidates will undergo preliminary interviews in September and campus interviews in October. The new hire will ideally start teaching in the fall of 2019.

Since a new faculty member is hired, current staff are increasing the cap on their class sizes to 35, ideally set at 30, to keep up with the steadily growing number of students and ensure they graduate on time.

Political science professor David Wiltsie said the department is looking for someone who doesn't replicate what any of the current faculty already specializes in, so it can expand the courses it offers.

"That's just kind of us stepping back and looking at the holes in our program," Wiltsie said. "And looking at where we might be able to offer something that's going to be in good demand." The expanding range of class offerings will be determined using input from current students regarding where they think the program can improve and what courses they want to see offered.

Prigge emailed political science students, the event reaches a major, it gives students a chance to network and share information with people they wouldn’t normally encounter in class.

"You go to an ag school and normally encounter in class.

"It really brings about a broad conversation with people they wouldn’t have a reason to start those conversations about agriculture, being able to apply what I learned in class and share it with other students," Hodge said.

More information and updates leading up to Ag Day are available on the SDSU College of Ag and Bio Pre-Vet Council Facebook page at /sdsuagbiopre-vet-council.

"It really brings about a broad conversation with people they wouldn’t have a reason to start those conversations about agriculture," Hodge said.

"For a really long time, I just really dispels that narrative," Okoro said. "That movie has been praised as well.

"Black Panther" was critical of the department to be sensitive to the needs of the students — not just what they need for graduation, but also what they would like to see in the future.

The department's ability to take students' wants into consideration when making big decisions is a testament to them and how they present their qualifications align with what students want.

Prigge sent the email March 11, and by the following morning, just under one-third of the department's students had already taken the survey.

"That movie gives me the opportunity to actually say, "hey, I stand out and I'm proud of it." That's really exciting,” Odoley said.

"For a really long time, I just really dispels that narrative," Okoro said. "That movie was from Nigeria, the girl was wearing positive conversation within our African American community.

She asked if we had like shoes and things like that," Okoro said. "I had to set her straight on how we have the same types of clothing as here [America], I just feel like the movie could actually teach people about that too, you know?" "Black Panther" is breaking box office records and encouraging positive conversation within and about the African American community.

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Habitat for Humanity puts unique twist on new community event

JALEY HYLORSON
Features Editor

Imagine walking down the runway wearing glamorous makeup, lights and camera everywhere, but instead of a tiny runway dress, you’re wearing a huge dress made of wood, wood, wood.

The Brooksings Habitat for Humanity is hosting its first-ever Runway the Night Runway: Studs Gala. It’s a construction-based fashion show that requires designers to at least use 50 percent construction materials in creating their outfits.

Molly Wicks, instructor in the School of Design, is getting her class of 25 students to design an outfit that will be worn at the fashion show. They find their inspiration by making a community member if they would be interested in being involved in the event and thought it would be a great opportunity for students to do something new.

Wicks gave her students a list of designers who have created cloth for Humanity’s 25th anniversary. The two wanted to have strong experience for our students. Wicks said, “It always good to support groups

Pre-freshman study abroad program aids, connects future Jackrabbits

The 10-week summer program is a joint effort between South Dakota State University’s Office of Science and Engineering Outreach and Education and Extension Experiment for Undergraduates, gives students a $6,000 stipend for each two years. It will start in May 2018.

The FAST fellowship is unique in that it brings stakeholders from academia, industry and business together in providing students with research experiences and soft skills that are necessary for success in their future careers, said Madhav Nepal, an associate professor in the Department of Biology and Microbiology.

“This project becomes an example to many future engineers to imagine American Indians and other students to enter the STEM workforce,” in their first year in the classroom, students will receive training at SDSU to prepare for careers in the food, agriculture, natural resources or human sciences areas or academia. The second year has the students participating in a career-oriented internship.

Students from SDSU, Oglala Lakota College and the region’s tribal colleges will be recruited to participate.

“This experience will bring top students from tribal colleges and SDSU together to cultivate scholars and future leaders within the agricultural industry. Students will have the opportunity to engage in research, community outreach and professional development,” said Rebecca Bott-Knutson, dean of the Van D. and Barbara B. Fishback Honors College. “We’re excited to bring our first cohort of student participants to campus this summer.”

Grant offers research, educational experiences

South Dakota State University has received a grant from the National Institute of Food and Agriculture to provide Native American and economically challenged students with research and educational experiences.

This experience will bring top students from tribal colleges and SDSU together to cultivate scholars and future leaders within the agricultural industry.

REBECCA BOTT-KNUTON
Fishback Honors College Dean

SDSU students take a pre-freshman study abroad experience to Ireland in the summer of 2017. The group went abroad before they even begin college.

“Getting it to look like clothing was the hardest part at first,” Harmon said.

Krogmann is planning the event carefully, researching the community and creating her own outfit for the show.

She’s also been working with Executive Director Dan McCool to find out about Habitat for Humanity’s 25th anniversary.

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“Because this kind of project has some serious parameters, design students can be very creative with the materials, it makes for some very different and unique creations,” Wicks said.

Any student who has worked as a community member if they would be interested in being involved in the event and thought it would be a great opportunity for students to do something new.

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I've been asked how I grade movies a couple times, and I always thought it was interesting, because I think the question people should be asking is "for whom do I grade movies?" I'm not reviewing movies for myself. The grade at the beginning of this review is meant for general audiences: you, the readers.

Considering the movie's flaws, I give "Love, Simon" a solid B. I've been asked how I grade movies a couple times, and I always thought it was interesting, because I think the question people should be asking is "for whom do I grade movies?" I'm not reviewing movies for myself. The grade at the beginning of this review is meant for general audiences: you, the readers.

Regardless of the genre that made me weep like a hurricane, it unfolds quietly between Simon and his mother, played by Jennifer Garner. Garner gives one of the most heart-wrenching monologues I've ever seen in a film and it's something every parent should hear.

I know there are scores of gay kids, closeted and out, who need this film. It seems recently Hollywood has been on a spree with films that signal more inclusivity for underrepresented communities. We should remember the power films like this have. While "Love, Simon" might not have the same box office capital as "Wonder Woman" or "Black Panther," I would say the movie can sit comfortably alongside both of them.

Ian Lack is a reporter at The Collegian and can be reached at ilack@sdsucollegian.com.

Consideration this week might lead to a misunderstanding.

An exciting opportunity to embrace your dreams and make it a reality, Jackrabbit.

A stress relieving activity will help you make some new changes.

You feel inspired to help others.

Another Jackrabbit helps you make progress this week.

Your heart makes you feel ready for adventure with another Jackrabbit this week.

A relationship issue holds you back from moving forward with that special someone.

With an adjustment to your Hobo Dough balance, you can treat yourself this week.

Celebrate Holy Week at First Presbyterian Church

Palm Sunday
March 25
Worship Service
10:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday
March 29
The Lord's Supper & Worship
6:30 p.m.

Easter Sunday
April 1
9 a.m. Sonrise Worship
9:30 a.m. Brunch
10:30 a.m. Worship
South Dakota State students will elect their new Students’ Association senators, president and vice president March 21. Election season is usually an exciting time on campus. Sidewalks are chalked, political posters are plastered in Retum- dia and campus is buzzing. However, if anyone hasn’t noticed, this year is different.

No college seat was contested and there is only one president and vice president ticket. This means next year’s Senate has already been decided before the votes are even counted.

As at The Collegian, we would have liked to see an election. An election encourages students on campus to get involved with their student representatives. Usually students get to know their candidates through debates and campaigns. But what is going to happen to this term’s senator-student relationships when students didn’t have an election to be engaged in?

SA needs to utilize student voices. When managing millions of dollars, sitting on committees responsible for new buildings and creating policies for students, the senators need to know students’ opinions. As we work every day for students, but senators need your participation.

We, at The Collegian, are disappointed with the student body and their apathy toward student governing body. Your senators need you. Here’s how students can get involved this year.

Know who represents you
The term begins, and it’s time to know new college senators. SA endeavors to introduce senators on its social media accounts. They will also update the Students’ Association page on the SDSU website. Students can access senator contact information.

All senators are required to spend two hours in the SA office each week, which gives almost everyone ready access to the senator’s availability. President-elect Alysson Monson said in a Collegian interview she wants more student interaction with SA in the upcoming year.

“I really want students to know Students’ Association has 19 open seats,” Monson said. “If you could take off the door to [the] Students’ Association building, I would, just to show the transparency that we want.”

Catch up with The Collegian
The Collegian covers every SA meeting in print, online and through live tweets at @CollegianLive.

Read the SA agendas
Every week at the top of the Monday Rabbit Report there is an agenda for that week’s SA meeting. It could be students who see when senators will talk about new policies concerning student dollars and new initiatives.

This isn’t to say senators are perfect either, not all of the blame falls on students. Sena-

tors should always strive to talk to constituents and look for opportunities to inform the campus community on issues and ways to get involved with SA. SDSU students, you failed to have a voice in this “election,” but don’t let apathy keep you silent.

Stance: Students and senators need to find a common middle ground.

The Collegian Editorial Board meets weekly and agrees on the issue of the edit-

orial. The editorial represents the opinion of The Collegian.

Commit to fighting, ending global climate change

Climate change is a man-made international crisis, the effects of which are far-reaching in severity depending on location.

Melted ice caps are threatening polar bears, sea levels are rising, coral reefs are disappearing and plant and animal habitats are changing.

Another effect of climate change is the increase in frequency and severity of fires, droughts, hurricanes and floods.

While some of these effects seem distant from South Dakota, our state will not be exempt from disaster. It is difficult to pinpoint exact effects for any given area, but according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in August 2016, South Dakota could see an increase in temperatures and precipitation.

Temperatures are expected to increase by 1.5 to 5.5 degrees and water use by 70 percent; however, this could be offset by the increase in precipitation. The change is expected to come heavy downpours, which could lead to flooding.

In addition, climate change may lengthen and intensify pollution season, which could negatively affect game animals in the Midwest.

Discussing climate change is often depressing, but there are so many things we can do to help mitigate climate change. The Natural Resource Defense Council provides a list of actions, many of which are doable even for college students.

Unplug electronics even when they aren’t in use. Many devices still pull energy even when they are turned off. According to NRDC, “This ‘idle load’ across all U.S. households adds up to the output of 50 large power plants in the U.S.”

LED light bulbs are more expensive, but they use 75 percent less energy and money in the long run.

Eat less meat and eat all the food you buy.

Food is resource intensive to produce and, in general, food takes energy to grow, process, package and ship. NRDC states this accounts for 10 percent of U.S. energy even though 40 percent of food goes to waste in a landfill.

Walk or bike instead of driving, as pollution generated is fueled by fuel.

For times when driving is a necessity, ensure the car’s tires are inflated properly to maximize fuel efficiency.

Global climate change has impacted the lives of people in countless states and countries, and SDSU is doing its part in raising awareness about it by participating in Earth Hour.

Earth Hour is an annual event that encourages everyone to turn off their lights for one hour to show support for fighting climate change.

This year, SDSU will join countless others in powering down. Students are involved in agriculture, make your voice heard by participating in SDSU’s event 8 to 9 p.m. March 24 in the Hilton M. Briggs Library. There will be pop-up, beverage and media booths, including food trucks.

Individuals are also welcome to participate in their own homes by powering down their lights and unplugging electronics.

Jennifer McAllistair is the SDSU sustainability specialist and can be reached at jennifer.mcallistair@sdstate.edu.

As I write this month’s column, I am sitting on a plane to Washing- ton, D.C., headed to the Agri-

tulture Future of America Policy Institute.

The conference invites college students from across the country to our nation’s capital to discuss food and agriculture policy. The con-

ference is an opportunity to network and build on ideas and to meet people from across the country.

In the agriculture industry, we often think the fact consumers aren’t listening to us. They turn to blogs and online sources for information about their food, rather than what we, in the ag community, consider our best sources. But the problem isn’t with the product.

Agriculture as an industry needs to talk to consumers and consumers need to talk to farmers. Consumer involve-

ment with agriculture is sometimes limited to driving by crops or flying over fields of crops. The information they receive about the industry and its practices isn’t conveyed to them as they can be.

In most cases, these videos don’t come from the industry, while many of them do.

While we can’t necessarily stop this information from being spread, distributed, we can join the con-

versation in a way that supports the agriculture industry and its members. There are plenty of options.

This is where the younger generation comes in. The large group branded as tech-savvy and innovators, why not put those skills to good use?

Every student has the tools to create and promote information that consumers will understand and engage with. Interactive pro-

grams, videos of farm practices, photos on a postcard-sized media presence provides a reliable and easy way to access data that can both educate and inform consumers and support producers in the industry.

If online sharing isn’t your speed, one of the best, and easiest, ways to engage with con-

sumers is in person. If you are in-

volved in agriculture, make your voice heard by following up with questions. Participate in local farm and farmer’s activities. Visit with people in line and on airport airport plane sharing the story of agriculture.

About agriculture
Across the United States, we have 2.3 million farmers and farm families. In the Midwest, there are 1 million farmers, and the rest of the nation. If you can see it, it’s beautiful, diverse and available to everyone.

As we enter the workforce, the world of agriculture has the potential to change the conver-

sation. We are seeing more and more people who are keeping the best interest of con-

sumers in mind, and we are confident that we can create a positive con-

versation to help everyone un-

dertand the industry that feeds all of us.

Katie Berndt is an agricultural communications specialist. Her email can be reached at kathleen.berndt@sdstate.edu.
A controversial belief I have heard going around is the idea that the way a woman dresses affects whether or not it is OK to harass and assault her. This is yet another excuse that continues to perpetrate rape culture. There is no justification whatsoever for sexual assault.

By the logic of “protective clothing encasing rapes,” anyone who wears expensive clothing and accessories gives thieves the right to rob them. That person had the audacity to flaunt nice clothes, shoes and phones in public. Isn’t that the same as being rigged to be robbed?

If not, why was that person wearing such nice clothing and carrying an expensive phone? How dare that person step out of the house like that, right?

And again, by the extension of this logic, does your unlabeled and morally incorrect argument give her the right to question your intelligence and call someone an idiot?

Personal snide aside, girls wear revealing clothes because they want to. They don’t need to justify it to anybody. It doesn’t matter if they want to flaunt themselves, or want to feel confident in their bodies. Their desire to look their best is no way an invitation to others to harass them or claim them on.

In a world that believes highly in empowering women and encouraging survivors to unite with strength, it goes to stand that verbal consent is valuable and something that should be universally understood.

In what reality is a provocative outfit equivalent to verbal consent?

Rape is not about “loss of control” on rapist’s part, rather it’s about “asserting control” over the victim. Rape is never a form as sex with the sole purpose of inflicting harm—it is violence. It is never about the victim, it’s all about rapist’s mentality.

So how do we do away with the movement of modestly changing rapist’s mindset on arresting consent?

A rapist is responsible for sexual assault, not what a woman chooses to wear in public. The number of assaults will not go down if women make sure to cover up and they should be forced to dress a certain way to preserve their own safety. Respect should be a right not a privilege.

A low-cut dress in no way justifies violent actions.

A rapist will still assault and will tell something to blame other than themselves. Females have the absolute right to wear what they want, if you can’t control your raging hormones and claim what a woman wears you give her the right to harass or assault her. Do you even know what— the problem is you. Changes come about from solving the root issue of a problem. Outfit choice is not the problem and the world needs to know this. This is not a conversation we should still be having in 2018.

SOPE has many opportunities to educate students on the effects of Sexual Assault and gain awareness about how to prevent it. I encourage everyone to take a chance to educate themselves with all of the information and activities coming up for “Sexual Assault Awareness Week” in April.

Real Greyson is an entrepreneurial studies major and can be reached at realgreyson@gmail.com.
Five things to know about Jacks softball

Junior Ali Herdliska up to bat during the game against Omaha April 21, 2017. Herdliska leads the team with three home runs this season and has 25 in her career. SDSU 14-9 on the season, which is their best start since becoming Division I in 2005. The Jacks will look to replace the seniors they lose with a good recruiting class, Bono said.

1. Hot start

The Jacks are 14-7 in 21 games before falling to Nebraska twice last week. This was their best start to a season since joining Division I in 2005. They are in second place in the Summit League as of right now. SDSU will also lose heavy hitters, leading the Summit League in runs scored and runs batted in, and are second in hitting. The Jacks have three of the top four players with the highest Summit League batting averages.

2. Key Players

Senior infielder Abby Murphy led the Jacks in hitting so far this season. She has a .450 batting average, which is third in the Summit League and she has 19 RBI’s. She’s [Murphy] got a lot of confidence," Wood said. "She’s swinging at good pitches and is just a tough out. She fouls a lot of balls off until she finds a pitch to hit. So she’s up there competing and batting at the plate.

Senior outfielder Julia Andersson and junior infielder Ali Herdliska are great hitters for the Jacks. Herdliska is a National Champion. She is first in the Summit League and she has 276, which is third in the conference.

3. Best season with Wood as head coach

This is Woods fourth season as the Jacks head coach. In her previous three, the team had a combined record of 65-108. Wood said having more upperclassmen is the reason SDSU has been successful.

"Everyone is starting to buy into the process more,” she said. "They’re buying into what we’re doing and our philosophies. We’re being more consistent with what we’re telling the kids with how we’re going to do things. The last two years we’ve been young, so now we’ve gotten a lot more experience and consistency.

4. Conference championship hopes

The Jacks have not had a winning record since 2005 and have never won the Summit League regular season championship or tournament. This is arguably their most talented team since joining the Summit League and Wood thinks they can win the conference.

"We have to put it all together," Wood said. "Offense, defense, pitching and everyone’s goal is to win the league. So it’s not going to come easy by any means. North Dakota State is going to be a good program and Omaha has been doing well. When it comes to Summit League play anything can happen. It’s going to be a battle, but offensively through out those last 20-some games that have been there moments where if we can put it all together we can win it.”

The Jacks will travel to Iowa City to face Iowa and then to Kansas City to take on Missouri-Kansas City before going to the NCAA Tournament play March 30.

5. Key Games

The Jacks don’t play many games at the Jackrabbit Softball Stadium due to weather, so they like to take advantage of the dates they do have.

SDSU will have its home opener April 7 against North Dakota. SDSU will also lose heavy hitters, leading the Summit League in runs scored and runs batted in, and are second in hitting. The Jacks have three of the top four players with the highest Summit League batting averages.

The South Dakota State softball team is a couple weeks away from beginning conference play. Here are five things you should know about the team before it begins conference play.

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TRENTON ABREGO
Sports Reporter

The Jacks have lost nine straight games and are 2-7 on the season. As they enter the important midway point of their season, here are five things to know about the 2018 SDSU baseball team.

1. There are several MLB prospects on the team
Senior shortstop Toney Koshing and sophomore pitchers, Brady Stover and Brady Moshman have received attention from scouts.

When those guys (Koshing and Stover) throw, there's 10 to 15 scouts that show up every weekend," head coach Rob Bishop said.

Moshman owns a 0.3 record with a 2.56 earned run average but has managed to strike out 25 batters in as many innings. Stover has been a bright spot in the Jacks rotation with an earned-run average of 2.77 but has only made three starts due to a sore shoulder.

"Hopefully we'll get him back to full strength where he can pitch every weekend," Bishop said. "It's not a serious injury."

2. The lineup is full of new faces
On the Jacks roster, there are 11 college transfers. Most of the transfers come from junior colleges and lack the experience on Division I playing time.

"Even though we have guys with experience, we don't have a lot of guys with Division I experience," Bishop said.

The difference between the junior college level and the DI level have been apparent, Bishop said. "I feel like at the second half of the season, they will make adjustments," he said.

For the Jacks to turn the corner this season, they will have to adapt to their youth and experience to use it to their advantage.

3. Power in the lineup
There are just three players in the Summit League who have hit three home runs this season and two of them are SDSU players — Senior Newt Johnson and Anthony Schneider. Toney Koshing and Josh Falk both have two home runs.

As a team, SDSU and Oral Roberts are tied at 11 home runs for the Summit League conference lead.

4. Key games
April 17, 2018 versus Minnesota at Siebert Field in Minneapolis, Minnesota will be key.

Earlier this season, the Jacks dropped a 1-0 loss to the Gophers at U.S. Bank Stadium February 28. In that contest, the Jacks were held to just two hits, but their pitching held the Gophers to just three hits. In their next showdown, if the Jacks are able to get their bats going, they should have a chance to flip the script.

April 20 to 22 versus Oral Roberts at Evv Phifer Field.

Oral Roberts owns a 20 of the last 21 Summit League Championships. If the Jacks can flip the script on the Golden Eagles, they might be able to knock off the perennial powerhouse in the Summit League Tournament.

Next game to take note of will be May 9 versus Wichita State at Eck Stadium in Wichita, Kansas.

Wichita is a good test having last 13-4 start to their season and own a 1-4 record when opponents visit. If the Jacks can beat Wichita in a hostile environment close to the Summit League Tournament, it could be the momentum boost they need.

5. Goal for the rest of the season
The Jacks need to get their pitching on the same page as their hitters. Against Oral Roberts, the Jacks scored 24 runs over the three games. Pitching proved to be the downfall for the Jacks as they allowed 34 runs.

As a team, the Jacks have an earned-run average of 6.86. The pitching staff has allowed 34 runs over the last 21 Summit League Championships. If the Jacks can flip the script, they might be able to knock off the perennial powerhouse in the Summit League Tournament.
After NCAA defeat, women enter off-season with determination

Senior Ellie Thompson (45) goes for a layup against Villanova on March 16 in the first round of the NCAA Tournament at the Joyce Center in Notre Dame, Indiana.

CARSON HERBERT
Sports Reporter
The South Dakota State women’s basketball season came to an end March 16 after an 81-74 overtime loss against Villanova in Notre Dame, Indiana. While the team is disappointed in not making it further in the tournament, it has a lot to be proud of looking back on the 2017-18 season.

The Jacks finished the season 26-7 overall and had a 13-2 conference record. They averaged 78.2 points per game, which was second best in the Summit League.

Two wins against power five schools in Oklahoma and North Carolina State, as well as nearly taking down the ACC Champion and No. 3 ranked Louisville earlier during the year signaled that the Jacks would be a team to look out for in 2017-18.

Junior guard Mary Miller, who spent most of last season on the sideline due to an ACL tear, won her second Summit League Player of the Year award. Head coach Aaron Johnston was upset by the loss, but couldn’t overlook the team’s accomplishments.

“I think every time you lose at the end you feel like it’s a tough way to go out. It was a phenomenal year for many reasons,” Johnston said. “We had some great individual accomplishments, some great team accomplishments and some great wins. Our goal in the NCAA Tournament was to try and make a run. It was disappointing that we didn’t, but we think the season didn’t end so much as God did a through God, we did not end this season the way we wanted to.

The Jacks No. 8 seed in the 2018 NCAA Tournament was the second-lowest seed in program history.

“It was obviously something that was very special for our program. Just being able to see that we are getting the respect from teams and people across the country will definitely be a big motivating factor for us going forward,” Johnston said.

Looking ahead to next season, the Jacks will lose two starters in senior forward Eliza Thompson and senior guard Alexsis Alexander, but will return their top two scorers in Mary Miller and Madison Guebert. The junior guard duo finished the season fourth and first in the conference in scoring, respectively.

Freshman forward Myah Selby, junior forward Taylor Larson, sophomore guard Riley Casdorph and junior guard Sydney Palmary and freshman forward Tylee Irvin are all expected to be back next season. All of them were pivotal players for the Jacks.

“Going into the offseason, we have a lot of things we can improve on,” Guebert said. “But we are excited with everyone we have coming back, especially with bringing back all of the experience we had from this season.”

À la carte menu:

• 8 oz. New York Strip Steak
  • Garlic mashed potatoes
  • Grilled Asparagus
  • 2 glasses of house wine

Price: $28.50

Please call 605-694-7300 to make advance reservations.

Bar and Cafe Open

Sponsored by the
SDSU Office of Career Development

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK:
SETH GROSS

Andrew Holman
Sports Editor
The South Dakota State wrestling team participated in the NCAA Division I Wrestling Tournament March 14 to 17.

Seth Gross won the 133-weight class and was the first SDSU wrestler to win an NCAA Division I Championship. He defeated Tarig Wilson of North Carolina in the semifinals by pinning him in overtime. In the championship match, Gross defeated Elevan Liu of Michigan by decision 11-8.

For this performance Gross is the SD State Athlete of the Week.