

FOOTBALL SETTLEMENT

CSU settlement with former San Diego State football coach costs \$4.57 million

Last month, the California State University system agreed to settle with former San Diego State football coach David Ohton for \$2.7 million, according to *The San Diego Union-Tribune*. The lawsuit, which was first filed in 2004, created \$1.87 million in legal bills, bringing the total cost to the CSU system to \$4.57 million.

Ohton filed the suit after he was removed as a coach in 2003 following an internal audit by the CSU, which resulted in criticism of some spending practices in SDSU's athletics department and the dismissal of then-Athletic Director Rick Bay and three other employees. Ohton said head football coach Tom Craft ostracized and retaliated against him because of his cooperation with the audit.

The extensive legal bills can be attributed in part to the many reversals of the suit, which were thrown out by two separate San Diego Superior Court judges and also appealed to the state Supreme Court.

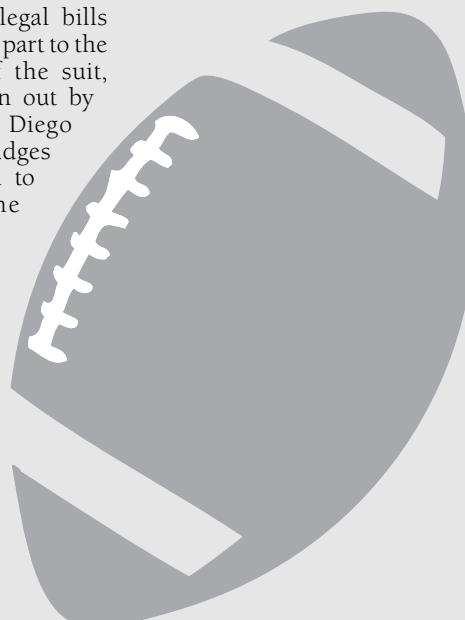
Ohton's attorney, Dennis Schoville, said if CSU had settled early it could have avoided paying the fees altogether.

"I fault the decision-makers within the CSU in-house legal

department because before this case ever proceeded into litigation, I voluntarily sat down with coach Ohton (and other CSU and SDSU officials)," Schoville said to *The Union-Tribune*. "All coach Ohton requested was that he be given a simple apology from Craft, indicating they had reconciled their differences, that they were going to move forward for the betterment of student athletes and that he be reinstated as director of strength and conditioning and continue as strength coach for football. Within a few days, we were advised by CSU that those terms were not acceptable."

Total full-time registration fees and tuition at SDSU cost \$5,376 for 2010-2011, making the total cost of the settlement equivalent to a year's worth of full-time tuition for 850 students.

—Compiled by Editor In Chief Ruthie Kelly



CLASSIFIEDS

HELP WANTED

Male volunteers (18-35) needed to donate small skin biopsies from shoulder area for research studies of sweat glands in the department of pediatrics at UCSD. Paul Quinton PhD, Principle investigator \$100 compensation requires less than one hour. Please call 619-543-6935 to volunteer.

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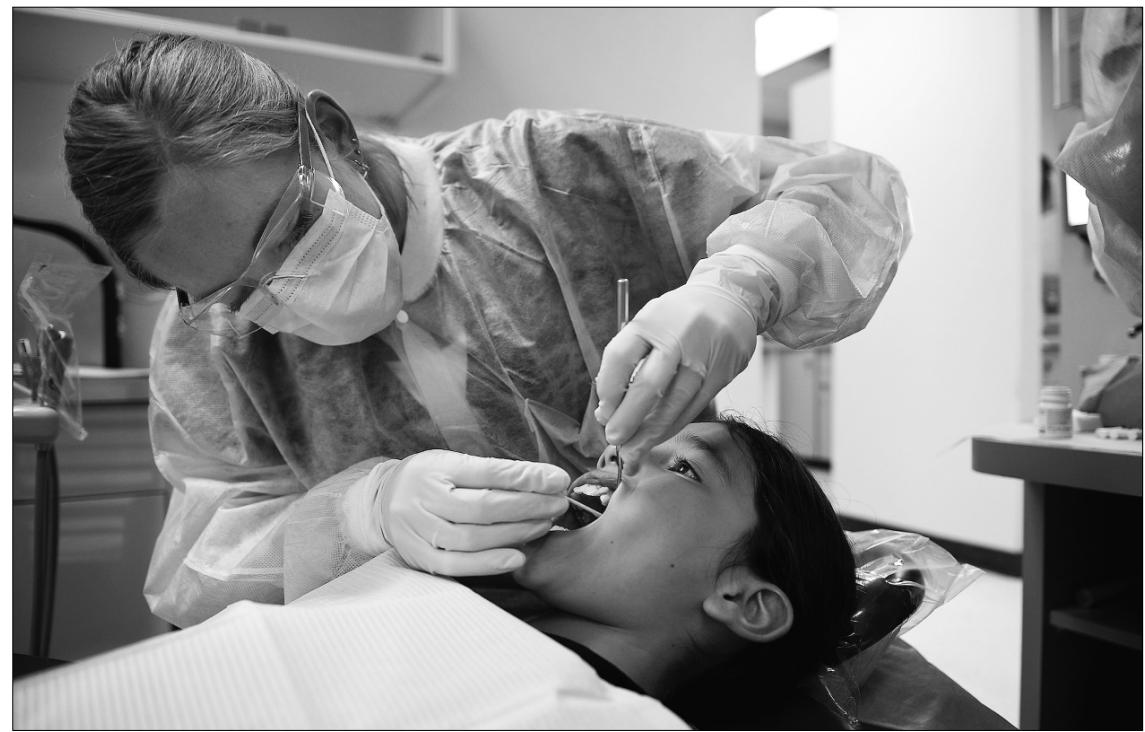
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Controversy with fluoride



ARTURO GARCIA
STAFF WRITER

The concept of fluoridation and its enveloping controversy has been a part of San Diego's history for nearly 60 years.

The public's fear of this unusual method of medication has survived through decades of change and according to SDSU's chief dentist, Dr. Kevin Fitzpatrick, the controversy is still a recurring problem.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention call fluoridation one of the greatest health achievements ever. Results show a deduction of cavities in our youth's teeth by a large percentage.

The government's recommended fluoridation level recently lowered to 0.7 milligrams of fluoride per liter of water, a level Fitzpatrick calls minimal and therapeutic. Although the American Association of Public Health Dentistry is supporting this recommendation, many people remain skeptical.

Rick Gersberg, SDSU professor of environmental health, is uncertain about the long-term effects of this additive. The consumption of fluoride in large levels is known to cause dental fluorosis. This health condition, in its milder, most common form, consists of tooth staining. According to Gersberg, the government recently made a national study with results concluding that 30 percent of the nation's youth suffers from dental fluorosis.

Gersberg said these results show young people today are getting too much fluoride.

"I was always in favor until looking at recent data," Gersberg said. "A whole evaluation should be done with the more recent studies. Perhaps we should have waited."

Fitzpatrick, however, questions recent studies. According to him, the latest studies have not yet been peer reviewed and are based on a small sample size. When exposed to high levels of fluoride, children of age eight or younger are more susceptible than adults to develop dental fluorosis. According to Gersberg,

fluoridated water causes fragile bones in elderly people as well. It may also cause bone cancer in young adults. The severe form of dental fluorosis results in a brownish mottling of the tooth enamel, the visible dental tissue.

"I've been a dentist for 19 years and have never seen a severe case of fluorosis," Fitzpatrick said. "But every now and then I'll see a mild case."

Another concern with having fluoridated water seems to be the intrusive way in which this medicine enters a person's body. The idea of a substance being added to water systems in a nationwide scale is still making people hesitant.

According to Gersberg, fluoride is the only medicinal additive in water. The reason for his uncertainty is mainly because when the state puts fluoride in the water, they aren't controlling how much water is being consumed.

The AAPHD, applauds the continued evaluation of this public health measurement.

"Fluoridation is unusual in several ways," Fitzpatrick said. "It is still a modern health miracle."

SDSU BRIEF

Boy confesses to Acejo murder

Last week, it was reported by both *The San Diego Union-Tribune* and KPBS that a 17-year-old boy confessed to the murder of San Diego instructor Henry Acejo. According to reports, the teen worked at a restaurant Acejo frequented in Tijuana and the two were engaged in an intimate relationship. Baja California State Attorney General Rommel Moreno Manjarrez released a statement last Wednesday about the confession. It states that on the night of Dec. 18, Acejo and the boy in custody engaged in physical altercation which led to the fatal stabbing of Acejo. At the time of the stabbing, there were two other people in the apartment who helped in capturing Acejo's suspected killer. According to the newspaper article, the fight was started by "a sexual problem." The teen in custody could face up to 10 years in prison.

Football coaching salaries increased

The salaries of the San Diego State football coaching staff

increased by 18 percent since last year and have almost doubled since 2005, according to *The San Diego Union-Tribune*. The recent salary increases were funded by a \$1.2 million donation. It was reported that head coach Rocky Long's salary is \$800,000, which is \$125,000 more than former head coach Brady Hoke was making. The football coaching staff is comprised of 10 people whose combined annual salaries equal \$2.275 million. Both Long and Athletic Director Jim Sterk argued the importance of having a competitive salary for the position to attract the best staff.

Audit finds troubling practices at SDSU Research Foundation, Campanile Foundation

State auditors found auxiliary groups at San Diego State and Cal State San Marcos "failed to properly account for gifts or other revenue, and permitted other practices that violated rules and policies," according to *The San Diego Union-Tribune*. The SDSU Research Foundation may have held more than \$1.1 million in its accounts improperly, as well as accepted gifts to

the Campanile Foundation, which would violate its operating agreement. The studies "revealed certain conditions that, in our opinion, could result in errors and irregularities if not corrected," auditors wrote, according to the article. The foundation disagreed with the state auditors' \$1.1 million finding, but concurred with other findings, all of which were presented in a report to the CSU Board of Trustees last month, but agreed that a series of recommendations from the auditors could be enacted.

—Compiled by News Editor Sarah Kovash and Editor In Chief Ruthie Kelly

