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August 2008

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College of Arts & Sciences
#346 University of San Diego
08.13.08, 6:00 PM ET

Private
Cost: $47,838/year *
Class Size: 1,094
Student to Faculty Ratio: 15 to 1

SAT Range: 1080-1280
ACT Range: **
% of applicants admitted: 46%
Application deadline: Mar. 1
Early admission: Nov. 15

What is the best reason for a prospective student to choose your school?
"I think the best thing about USD is the level of faculty and administration involvement with students. For example, they just started offering a finance major last year, so a buddy and I started a finance club around the same time, and the amount of support we got from the teachers and administration was amazing. We had a few teachers e-mailing us to ask if they could act as advisers. I think that's pretty unusual—the amount of time and effort they're willing to spend to give us a good experience."
— Julian Santana, Class of 2009

"Great students and great faculty create a synergy here that is extraordinary. That's one of the best things that happens at USD together they create an academic community that is just unrivaled. I think you see that in the quality of our alums, and the good research that's being done here by both students and faculty. On top of that, it's a fun and beautiful campus. Just walking around the campus and looking at the ocean it's a really gorgeous place to be. People smile a lot here."
— Mary Lyons, President

Sources: University of San Diego, U.S. Department of Education, The College Board

*Cost includes tuition, room and board, books, fees, and other expenses.
**Range for Critical Reading and Mathematics sections. Does not include writing score.

< Previous: Rhode Island College

Contact
Admission Office
5998 Alcala Park
San Diego, CA 92110
(619) 260-4506
www.sandiego.edu

Courtesy of University of San Diego

Post A Comment
Regarding "USD revokes invitation to feminist theologian" (AI, Aug. 20): Most organizations have a means of checks and balances. It would appear that the University of San Diego does, too, along with principle it's willing to fight for if necessary. If an invitation for a temporary chair was not made through formal or proper channels (the appointment needed to be go to the provost for final approval), how could it be revoked? It sounds as though three faculty members broke the rules, and the bottom line is that the senior academic administrator (provost) did not approve the appointment. The provost has the responsibility to ensure that the appointment matches the donor's vision for the endowed position. Whether you agree with the decision of the USD administration or not, at least admire the fact that it stood its ground.

JON DEITERS
San Diego

Congratulations to the University of San Diego for revoking the invitation to Rosemary Radford Ruether. To give a position of prominence to someone who so blatantly opposes many of the Catholic Church's teachings does not serve a Catholic university well. Parents spend a great deal of money sending their kids to a Catholic college. They should be able to count on them getting a true Catholic education.

PHYLLIS HASSINGER
Encinitas

Thank you for publishing this injustice. Academic freedom has been a question for many years at USD. If the university continues to filter theology through its 16th century lens it will have no true theologians at all. Forcing good theologians into silence does not serve the church, either. It will be in good stead with Rome, but how much should one be willing to pay for that privilege? Ruether is position on the board of directors for Catholics for Choice is a minor part of the totality of this great theologian. USD takes a position in another century with this outrageous, shameful decision. I knew Monsignor John Portman, and he would not be pleased either. And perhaps the chair should be renamed for someone like Mother Angelica.

DONNA PALM
San Diego

If the endowment funds for the Monsignor John R. Portman Chair were accepted by USD under conditions that prohibit the chair's appointment from publicly espousing certain views, then surely the university erred in taking the funds. Derek Boe, president of Harvard University for more than 20 years, made the following eloquently when he wrote: "In some situations, donors seek to attach conditions to their gifts that invade Justice Frankfurter's four essential freedoms of the university" — to determine for itself on academic grounds what may be taught, how it shall be taught and who may be admitted to study. Accordingly, an institution must reject donations that would require it to ... give a donor the power to appoint a professor or restrict a chair to persons advocating a particular set of values or beliefs.

ANN PIRRECCIO
Pacific Beach

As professors in the School of Nurs-

ing at San Diego State University, my colleague, Diane Hatton, and I believe that once again, USD has erred on the side of risk aversion versus protecting academic freedom. What is a shame for the academic community, Rosemary Radford Ruether's ideas may not be those of the Catholic Church but what about allowing for exchange of divergent points of view within an institution in search of truth?

LINDA ROBINSON
San Diego

Rudolf Sherry Sanvedro for her brilli-

ant reporting and to the Union-Tri-

bune for putting the story on the front page where it belonged.

LINDA BROOGUETT
San Diego

I was struck by a quote from Rose-

mary Radford Ruether: "It speaks to me that some right-wing group has put pressure on the university." Is this an example of a towering intellect worthy of an endowed chair? Justifying a completely ludicrous interpretation of Catholic teachings may be a part of Ruether's beautiful mind, but originality certainly isn't. Perhaps Ruether can enthrall her followers with a further display of her intellectual prowess by writing another book, I suggest she call it, "Anti-Catholicism for Dummies."

GARY F. TAYLOR
San Diego

As a parent of a USD graduate, I have always been proud of the university's excellent reputation. Unfortunately, with the recent ac-

tion of the university, that reputation has been seriously tarnished. To abruptly withdraw an offer to a distinguished theologian such as Rosemary Radford Ruether after it has been accepted because of few complaints from conservative op-
nonents is indeed disquieting. USD President Mary Lyons should be reminded that the purpose of a true university is to permit varying viewpoints and engage in inquiry and openness.

To perform its teaching and research functions effectively a Catholic university must have true autonomy and academic freedom despite opposition from pressure groups. The richness of American education is diversity and that should be true of all diversities including those that are Catholic. Hopefully, the American Association of University Profes-
sors, the watchdog organization for violations of academic freedom, will take note of USD's action and encourage the university. Maybe such a ceaseless would cause USD to have second thoughts before it behaves like this again.

IAN DENIM
San Diego
USD defends denial for abortion rights professor

ELLIOT SPAGAT
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN DIEGO — University of San Diego administrators rejected faculty efforts Thursday to restore a prestigious teaching position to a theologian who is a prominent figure in an abortion rights organization.

The Catholic school withdrew its appointment of Rosemary Radford Ruether in July because she serves on the board of Catholics for Choice.

Administrators reaffirmed that decision Thursday despite a petition with more than 2,000 signatures, including 54 faculty members, organizers said. The petition asked the school to restore the offer or allow Ruether to visit the campus for a week and give a lecture on academic freedom.

"We are deeply concerned by this turn of events both because it is insulting to Professor Rosemary Radford Ruether and because of what it portends for academic freedom," the petition reads.

Ruether accepted the offer in the spring, but the previous dean of the College of Arts and Sciences failed to get approval from the provost as he should have, school spokeswoman Pamela Gray Payton said. The provost should have made the offer, based on the dean's recommendation.

"Her position on the (Catholics for Choice) board is obviously very much in contrast with Roman Catholic theology and, from our perspective, did not seem appropriate for this chair," Gray Payton said.

Ruether, 71, is a visiting professor of theology at Claremont Graduate School, a prolific author and a columnist for National Catholic Reporter. She taught previously at Garrett Evangelical Seminary in Evanston, Ill.

"There's just a huge conflict going on between whether people can discuss controversial issues or whether you can only give the official position," she said.

U.S. bishops have increasingly emphasized a duty of all Catholics to oppose abortion. In 2004, responding partly to the presidential election, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops warned that Catholic schools should not honor or give any platform to "those who act in defiance of our fundamental moral principles."

Pope Benedict XVI took up the issue in his visit to the United States earlier this year. He told leaders of America's Roman Catholic colleges and universities that academic freedom has "great value" for the schools, but it does not justify promoting positions that violate the Catholic faith.

Ruether's appointment drew sharp criticism from anti-abortion activists after it was announced on the university's Web site.

LifeSiteNews.com, which was founded by Toronto-based Campaign Life Coalition, wrote in July that Ruether has "a rather undisguised rejection of and antipathy toward Christianity, especially the Catholic Faith."
Catholic feminist theologian Rosemary Radford Ruether be allowed to assume an endowed chair at the University of San Diego as initially planned was delivered yesterday to the offices of the president and provost.

The petition, which contains more than 2,000 signatures — including 50 from USD faculty, was delivered by members of the nonprofit Call to Action of San Diego County, which advocates on Catholic social reform issues.

USD officials recently withdrew Radford's appointment to the Monsignor John R. Portman Chair in Roman Catholic Theology because she serves on the board of directors for Catholics for Choice, an abortion rights organization.

University officials say that role is in direct conflict with this particular chair and the appointment was never approved by the provost, as required.

The petition was sponsored by the national Women's Ordination Conference, an advocacy group for female priests, deacons and bishops; and the national Women's Alliance for Theology, Ethics and Ritual, a multi-religious feminist educational center with Catholic co-founders.

Two Catholic bloggers out of Washington, D.C, and Chicago recently started a petition in support of USD. Thomas Peters' blog is called American Papist and Brian McDaniel's blog is Ora et Labora. -s.s.
USD revokes invitation to feminist theologian

2,000 sign petition opposing decision

By Sherry Saavedra

A University of San Diego decision removing a prestigious position to a Catholic feminist theologian has thrust it smack in the middle of a national debate over academic freedom versus adherence to church teachings.

Faculty and Roman Catholics are divided over USD's decision to withdraw the appointment of Rosemary Radford Ruether to an endowed chair. At issue is Ruether's position on the board of directors for Catholics for Choice, an abortion rights organization.

Two national women's religious groups have sponsored a petition with more than 2,000 signatures demanding that she be allowed to assume the position.

USD is standing by its decision. "The public position and the symbol of this chair are in direct conflict," said USD spokesperson Pamela Gray Payton. "This chair is a powerful, visible symbol of Roman Catholic theology, and in Roman Catholic theology abortion is disallowed."

The flap underscores a longstanding issue for American Catholic colleges: the debate over academic freedom versus fidelity to Catholic doctrine. Many Catholic universities have come under fire for actions that clash with Catholic orthodoxy, including Notre Dame, Georgetown and St. Louis.

"It appears to me that some right-wing group has put pressure on the university," she said.

The position, the Monsignor John R. Portman Chair in Roman Catholic Theology, involved coming to campus three days a week, teaching a course, giving a public lecture, and mentoring junior faculty during the fall 2008 semester, said Lance Nelson, chairman of the Department of Theology and Religious Studies.

Nelson began negotiating with Ruether early this year after a list of possible candidates including Ruether was recommended in a department vote and approved by the previous dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

"She's a widely respected scholar in the field," Nelson said. "She's done seminal work on Christian feminisms, social justice, and the relationship between religion and ecology." Ruether writes a regular column for National Catholic Reporter and has written more than 40 books. She teaches part time at Claremont Graduate University, about 40 miles east of Los Angeles.

After Ruether was offered the USD appointment, the university's Web site characterized her as a "pioneering figure in Christian feminist theology."

The problem is that the appointment should have gone to the provost for final approval, Gray Payton said. That didn't happen.

USD received various complaints about the appointment, though not from the chair's anonymous donor, Gray Payton said.

LifeSiteNews.com, founded by a Canadian anti-abortion organization, wrote a scathing article about the appointment when it was made.

"This is a woman who is in favor of abortion, in favor of contraception, homosexuality and women priests," editor John-Henry Westen said in an interview. "I mean how much more anti-Catholic can you get?"

Nelson said the Department of Theology and Religious Studies was unaware of Ruether's role with Catholics for Choice, but he doesn't know if that knowledge would have changed the faculty's recommendation.

In mid-July, USD Vice President and Provost Julie Sullivan called Ruether to withdraw the offer.

Fifty USD faculty members have signed the petition demanding that USD reverse course. The petition was sponsored by the Women's Ordination Conference, which advocates for female priests, deacons and bishops; and the World Alliance for Theology, Ethics and Ritual, a multi-religious feminist educational center with Catholic co-founders.

The petition asks for USD to apologize and honor the offer or allow Ruether to deliver a campus lecture on academic freedom.

"Rosemary Ruether is like the godmother of the feminist theologians' movement," said Linda Pieczynski, spokeswoman and past president of Call to Action, a nonprofit Catholic organization that advocates on church reform issues and is endorsing the petition. "It's just criminal to discriminate her from the University of San Diego."

Many Catholic colleges have clashed with church leaders on issues such as abortion, stem cell research and sexuality. In January, St. Louis Archbishop Raymond Burke called for disciplinary action when St. Louis University basketball coach Rick Majerus publicly voiced his support for abortion rights. University of Notre Dame took heat for permitting a production of controversial play "The Vagina Monologues" on campus. Many schools have been rebuked for hosting politicians and speakers who support abortion rights.

During a visit in April to Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., Pope Benedict XVI advised Catholic college educators not to allow scholarly pursuits to depart from Catholic doctrine.

"Any appeal to the principle of academic freedom in order to justify positions that contradict the faith and the teaching of the church would obstruct or even betray the university's identity and mission," he said.

Bonnie Morris, an adjunct assistant professor of women's studies at Georgetown University, said some Catholic colleges employ faculty supportive of causes at odds with the church from gay rights to the use of contraceptives.

"I'm openly gay, and I'm teaching at a Jesuit institution," said Morris, who added that Georgetown is developing a Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Center. But Anne Forsyth, spokeswoman at Thomas Aquinas College in Ventura County, said abortion-rights advocates would not be given a platform on campus.

"As a Catholic institution for higher education, our understanding of ourselves is that we are to uphold the church's teachings on abortion and other subjects as the Holy Father calls for," Forsyth said.

USD's Monsignor John R. Portman Chair in Roman Catholic Theology was established in 2000 through a $2 million bequest. It is named after Monsignor Portman, who became the founding chair of the department in 1967.

According to the university's Web site, "Chair holders are to be distinguished theologians who think from within the Roman Catholic tradition while exploring and expressing the tradition in contemporary contexts."

Sullivan said USD has a responsibility to see that any appointment matches a donor's vision for an endowed position, and in this case it did not.

"We're not at all impugning Professor Ruether's scholarship. She is a prolific and well-respected scholar," said Jule Sullivan, USD vice president and provost.

"We're not at all impugning Professor Ruether's scholarship," she said. "She is a prolific and well-respected scholar."

Although Roether was denied the Portman Chair, that does not rule out her being invited to USD in another campus appointment or as a guest speaker, Nelson said.

Ruether doesn't see a conflict between her two roles.

"First of all, what people are doing in their personal life has nothing to do with what you're going to teach," said Ruether, adding that she had no plans to speak on campus about abortion.

Sherry Saavedra (619) 542-4598; sherry.saavedra@uniontrib.com
Withdrawn Appointment Stirs Debate on the Role of Catholic University

By JOSH KELLER

The University of San Diego's turnabout on the appointment of a prominent feminist theologian to a visiting professorship in its religious-studies department has brought to a head again a long-simmering debate among Roman Catholic colleges over how to balance the interests of academic freedom and adherence to church teaching.

Officials of the 7,000-student institution said this week that the theologian's appointment had never been approved by top administrators in the first place, blaming miscommunication between the department and the provost's office. But their decision last month to rescind the offer, like the initial announcement of the appointment itself, has ignited passions on both sides of a debate that has persisted for decades.

The scholar at the center of the controversy, Rosemary Radford Ruether, is a leading Catholic feminist theologian and is on the board of an organization that advocates abortion rights. University officials cited that membership on Tuesday when they rejected calls by some faculty members to reinstate the appointment.

A department chair at the university had offered the appointment, a semester-long teaching position, to Ms. Ruether last spring. But the university rescinded that offer after a series of public and private complaints from conservative Catholic groups and others, saying Ms. Ruether's membership on the board of an organization that advocates abortion rights put her at odds with the teachings of the church.

A Petition of Protest, and Praise

Supporters of Ms. Ruether presented university officials on Tuesday with a petition with more than 2,000 signatures, including 54 faculty members, asking that the university restore its offer or allow her to give a lecture on academic freedom.

At the same time, many other Roman Catholics applauded the university for holding its ground as a Catholic institution.

The visiting professorship, an endowed position known as the Msgr. John R. Portman Chair in Roman Catholic Theology, would have involved teaching one course, giving a public lecture, and serving as a mentor to other faculty members during the fall of 2009 semester.

Pamela Gray Payton, a spokeswoman for the university, said a department chair had offered Ms. Ruether the position, and a dean of the College of Arts & Sciences had confirmed the appointment. Faculty members in the religious-studies department supported the decision, she said, but top university officials did not learn about the appointment until it was announced on the department's Web site. The dean neglected to receive final approval from the provost, which is the normal procedure, she said.

"This one got past us, quite frankly," Ms. Payton said. "Normally, it would never have come to this."

American Catholic universities have varying degrees of independence from the Catholic Church, which has said that the values of academic freedom must be founded on fidelity to the church's doctrine. Even elsewhere within the University of San Diego's theology department, several professors have published feminist views.

The endowed chair carries special requirements that are not imposed on all faculty positions, Ms. Payton said. The
agreement that established the chair in 1999, she said, states that its holder must be somebody who "thinks with the Church in the fullest sense of the term." Ms. Ruether's membership on the board of an abortion-rights organization, Catholics for Choice, directly opposes this description, she said.

But not all Catholic educators endorse strict adherence to official policies of the church. The latest round in the debate stems from a 1990 document released by Pope John Paul II that defended academic freedom but also called on colleges to remain faithful to church teachings. He left it to local bishops to decide how institutions should live up to those instructions (The Chronicle, September 17, 1999).

The current pope, Benedict XVI, also embraced "the great value of academic freedom" during his recent visit to the United States but made clear that he did not believe it could be used "to justify positions that contradict the faith and teaching of the church."

Many Catholic educators were relieved that Pope Benedict did not take a hard line, even though his remarks left unresolved the debate over the mission of Catholic colleges and universities (The Chronicle, May 2).

**Fostering Dialogue vs. Adherence**

Lucinda Gilbert, the provost at Santa Clara University, an 8,000-student Jesuit institution in California, said on Thursday that fostering a dialogue on campuses was more important than making sure church teachings were strictly followed.

"I can't imagine I'd be in a situation to say we don't want to hire this person because we have some alums who are not going to like their views. That's just not right," Ms. Gilbert said. "What you do as a provost and a president is, It's your responsibility to ensure the academic freedom of your campus."

But the University of San Diego's actions drew support from Roman Catholics who had said Ms. Ruether's appointment would have been inappropriate. Tom Mead, executive vice president of the Cardinal Newman Society, which regularly pressures Catholic colleges to adhere more closely to church doctrine, said that in changing its mind, the university was heeding Pope Benedict's call for Catholic universities to commit to "an academic freedom informed by truth."

"The bottom line is that this story is not about academic freedom, rather it is about dissenting Catholics wanting USD to betray its Catholic identity," Mr. Mead said.
University of San Diego upholds teacher's dismissal

By Elliot Spagat

SAN DIEGO - University of San Diego administrators rejected faculty efforts Thursday to restore a prestigious teaching position to a theologian who is a prominent figure in an abortion rights organization.

The Catholic school withdrew its appointment of Rosemary Radford Ruether in July because she serves on the board of Catholics for Choice.

Administrators reaffirmed that decision Thursday despite a petition with more than 2,000 signatures, including 54 faculty members, organizers said. The petition asked the school to restore the offer or allow Ruether to visit campus for a week and give a lecture on academic freedom.

"We are deeply concerned by this turn of events both because it is insulting to Professor Rosemary Radford Ruether and because of what it portends for academic freedom," the petition reads.

The 7,000-student university defended its decision to withdraw its offer for the Monsignor John R. Portman Chair in Roman Catholic Theology for the upcoming fall semester.

Ruether accepted the offer in the spring, but the previous dean of the College of Arts and Sciences failed to get approval from the provost as he should have, said school spokeswoman Pamela Gray Payton said. The provost should have made the offer, based on the dean's recommendation.

"Her position on the (Catholics for Choice) board is obviously very much in contrast with Roman Catholic theology and, from our perspective, did not seem appropriate for this chair," Gray Payton said.

Ruether, 71, is a visiting professor of theology at Claremont Graduate School, a prolific author and a columnist for National Catholic Reporter. She taught previously at Garrett Evangelical Seminary in Evanston, Ill.

Ruether said the dispute reflects a larger debate in Catholic institutions about how to treat hot-button issues, including gay and lesbian rights and ordination of women priests.

"There's just a huge conflict going on between whether people can discuss controversial issues or whether you can only give the official position," she said.
University of San Diego withdraws endowed chair appointment offer for pro-abortion professor

San Diego, Aug 22, 2008 / 05:15 am (CNA).- The University of San Diego's decision to withdraw the appointment of feminist theologian Rosemary Radford Ruether to an endowed chair drew anger and criticism this week. The appointment was reportedly withdrawn because Ruether, who teaches part-time at Claremont Graduate University in California and writes a column for the National Catholic Reporter, had been invited to hold the Monsignor John R. Portman Chair in Roman Catholic Theology at the University of San Diego (USD) for the academic year 2009-2010, the California Catholic Daily reports.

Rosemary Radford Ruether

Lance Nelson, chairman of the university's Department of Theology and Religious Studies, told the San Diego Union-Tribune that the position involves coming to campus three days a week, teaching a course, giving a public lecture, and mentoring junior faculty.

Nelson said Ruether was recommended in a list of possible candidates recommended in a department vote and approved by the previous dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. He said the university was unaware of Ruether's involvement in Catholics for Choice but stated he didn't know whether that knowledge would have changed the faculty's recommendation.

"She's a widely respected scholar in the field," Nelson said. "She's done seminal work on Christian feminism, social justice, and the relationship between religion and ecology."

Nelson noted the withdrawal of the appointment does not rule out an invitation to Ruether for a different campus appointment or as a guest speaker.

The California Catholic Daily reports that Ruether has said she thinks God can be called "Gaia" after the Greek mother-earth goddess. A longtime supporter of women's ordination, she has been on the board of the pro-abortion group Catholics for Choice since 1985.

She has also criticized Christianity for presenting an image of a "tribal war god" instead of "wisdom pervading the universe."

After Ruether was offered the appointment, the USD web site described her as a "pioneering figure in Christian feminist theology," according to the Union-Tribune.

USD spokeswoman Pamela Gray Payton defended the withdrawal of the appointment:

"Her public position and the symbol of this chair are in direct conflict," Gray Payton explained. "This chair is a powerful, visible symbol of Roman Catholic theology, and in Roman Catholic theology abortion is disallowed."

Gray Payton said the appointment should have gone to the provost for final approval, but that did not happen. She also reported that the university had received various complaints about the appointment, but not from the chair's anonymous donor.

In mid-July, USD Vice President and Provost Julie Sullivan called Ruether to withdraw the offer, the Union-Tribune reports. Sullivan said the university has a responsibility to match the appointment to the donor's vision for the endowed position.

"Chair holders are to be distinguished theologians who think from within the Roman Catholic tradition while exploring and expressing the tradition in contemporary contexts," the USD web site explains.

LifeSiteNews.com editor John-Henry Westen attacked the initial appointment in an interview.

"This is a woman who is in favor of abortion, in favor of contraception, homosexuality and women priests," he said. "I mean how much more anti-Catholic can you get?"

Ann Forsyth, spokeswoman at Thomas Aquinas College in Ventura County, California, supported the withdrawal of the appointment.

"As a Catholic institution for higher education, our understanding of ourselves is that we are to uphold the church's teachings on abortion and other subjects as the Holy Father calls for," she said.

According to the California Catholic Daily, a petition titled "Support Rosemary Radford Ruether and Academic Freedom!" has attracted more than 2100 unconfirmed signatures on the site iPetitions.com. The petition was sponsored by the Women's Ordination Conference, which describes itself as "a national organization that works for Catholic women to be priests and for a more inclusive Roman Catholic Church," and by the Women's Alliance for Theology, Ethics and Ritual, "a feminist educational center."

One petition signer is Frances Kissling, founder of the group Catholics for a Free Choice. The group, which is now called Catholics for Choice, was described by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops as "an arm of the abortion lobby in the United States and throughout the world."

The 71-year-old Ruether said she was concerned about the appointment decision's implications for academic freedom, saying, "It appears to me that some right-wing group has put pressure on the university."

She claimed that what people do in their personal life has nothing to do with what they are going to teach, adding that she had no plans to speak about abortion on campus, the Union-Tribune reports.

Pope Benedict XVI spoke on the mission of Catholic higher education during his visit to Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. in April, saying "Any appeal to the principle of academic freedom in order to justify positions that contradict the faith and the teaching of the church would obstruct or even betray the university's identity and mission."

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(http://www.catholicnewsagency.com)
Cantankerous Catholics Need Not Apply!

Posted on August 22nd, 2008
by Hugh McNichol in All News
Read 89 times.

Yesterday the University of San Diego rejected the appointment of a pro-choice candidate for the position of theology professor at the university. Moral sobriety is coming back to the Catholic educational institutions slowly in the United States as Catholic institutions and educators realize there is definitively no room for any interpretive flexibility in following the Church's teachings on the sanctity of human life. Since the papal visit in April to the United States it is becoming very clear that academic freedom in Catholic educational facilities does not include the right to disagree with fundamental Church teachings on any moral, social or ethical level.

Dr. Ruether is a member of, "Catholics for Choice," a group that routinely looks to offer alternative moral outlooks and positions on such issues as gay rights, same sex marriages, birth control and the rights of women to procure abortions in opposition to Catholic moral teachings. Another issue that is commonly raised by the group is the right Catholic women have to ordination to the priesthood. The Church has consistently taught against this possibility from happening.

The central issue of the matter seems really to center around the ability for Catholics to hold an opinion that is contrary to the opinion of the Church. Since the pontificate of John Paul II, anyone that teaches at a Catholic educational institution has been required to publically declare they will not deviate from Church teachings in the classroom. The oath of fidelity applies to not only the public profession of the Catholic faith in the classroom, but applies to the everyday activities of Catholics everywhere. The bottom line is simply this; Catholic moral teaching is intertwined with the daily lives of faithful Catholics, and adherence to Catholic teachings across the spectrum of faith is simply not optional.

The decision of the University of San Diego to retract the offer of employment to Dr. Ruether is a genuine indication that the American Catholic Church is serious about its campaign to come into line with the universal teachings of the Church. While the general populace is sometimes not in accord with the decisions of the hierarchy, moves such as this one in the Golden State are clearly indicative of the influential message Benedict XVI wields to bring the American flock back to the global fold of traditional Catholicism.

The rejection of Dr. Ruether should also be considered an substantial victory for Pro-life Catholics as they gather support for the political opposition to candidates that proclaim political rhetoric that is contrary to Catholic moral and ethical teachings as well. The Catholic voter influence is a strong one in this upcoming political election period and the battle lines are indeed drawn over Pro-life & Pro-choice issues involving the candidates.

The final appreciation of this rejection is also very definitive. Catholics cannot in any way shape or form embrace political, social or moral stances that are contrary or undermine Catholic teachings. Hiding such positions clearly isolates such nominal Catholics from full participation in the Holy Eucharist and requires a true conversion of conscience and reconciliation before they receive any Catholic sacraments. The issue also makes another point very obvious and clear; if you are not totally in union with the teachings of the Universal Church please look for a job somewhere else. Catholic educational, social, pastoral and religious institutions really deserve only faithful believers working in these places. If you are against Catholic teachings on same sex marriages, women's ordination, birth control, abortion, et cetera, please take your contrarian opinions elsewhere and allow Catholicism to continue effectively preach its moral and ethical message to the world. We dont need academics undermining the Divine message the Church offers to the world.

Hugh McNichol is a Catholic author and journalist that writes on Catholic topics and issues. Hugh studied both philosophy and theology at Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary in Philadelphia. He writes daily at: http://verbuncarofactumest.blogspot.com &

http://www.bloggernews.net/117356

8/22/2008
SAN DIEGO, Aug. 20 (UPI) — The University of San Diego has withdrawn its offer of an endowed chair to a Catholic feminist scholar who supports abortion rights.

The announcement that Rosemary Radford Ruether had been appointed to the Monsignor John R. Portman Chair in Roman Catholic Theology was greeted with dismay by many Catholic and anti-abortion groups, the San Diego Union-Tribune said Wednesday. Ruether sits on the board of Catholics for a Free Choice.

University spokeswoman Patricia Gray Payton said that one person who did not object was the anonymous benefactor who endowed the chair.

"Her public position and the symbol of this chair are in direct conflict," Payton said. "This chair is a powerful, visible symbol of Roman Catholic theology, and in Roman Catholic theology abortion is disallowed."

The news that Ruether's appointment had been rescinded has created more controversy. Two Catholic women's groups have gathered 2,000 signatures on petitions asking the university to change its mind again.
U. of San Diego Backtracks on Appointing Feminist Catholic Theologian

In mid-July, after it received numerous public and private complaints, the University of San Diego withdrew its invitation to a feminist theologian to hold an endowed chair during the fall 2009 semester. Now, some faculty members and Roman Catholic groups are protesting the Catholic university's decision, which they say prioritized Catholic doctrine over academic freedom.

The university said it had decided Rosemary Radford Ruether was the wrong person for the prestigious post because of her service on the Board of Directors of the abortion-rights organization Catholics for Choice. "Her public position and the symbol of this chair are in direct conflict," a university spokeswoman, Pamela Gray Payton, told The San Diego Union-Tribune.

Two thousand people, including 50 faculty members at San Diego, have signed a petition supporting Ms. Ruether. The petition, sponsored by two women's groups, asks the university to host her on the campus for a lecture on academic freedom.

The university had invited Ms. Ruether to hold the Monsignor John R. Portman Chair in Roman Catholic Theology, a post that would have entailed teaching a course, giving a public lecture, and serving as a mentor for junior faculty members. The invitation drew cries of protest from Catholics who argued that Ms. Ruether's support of abortion rights is incompatible with Roman Catholic beliefs. —Allie Grasgreen

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"The Multicultural Mystique: A Liberal Case Against Diversity"

By H.E. Barber

by J. Edward Sumerau

"The Multicultural Mystique: A Liberal Case Against Diversity"

by H.E. Barber

AUGUSTA, GA - In a well-written argument crafted with an intricate view of social phenomenon, H.E. Barber undertakes an examination of unproven assumptions concerning cultural policy in "The Multicultural Mystique: A Liberal Case Against Diversity."

A professor of philosophy at the University of San Diego, Babe is an accomplished scholarly author with a deep concern for individual liberty. Willing to take a look at deeply held assumptions in the social world, Babe allows readers to critique existing societal and policy norms through a critical exploration of the underlying aspects of current situational understanding. In so doing, she offers a detailed exploration of consistent multicultural understandings within society.

The beauty of this work can be found in Baber's rejection of assumption throughout the piece. The common discussion about multiculturalism often fails to serve practical means because it allows for an understanding based on loose definitions and an acceptance of untested assumptions concerning the people of different cultural backgrounds. As a result, the average conversation does little more than reinvigorate the status quo without regard for the needs of individuals within the multicultural framework. Baber attempts to step through the maze of assumptions by focusing on the lack of liberty offered to individuals within a multicultural framework.

Seeking individual liberty as the highest goal of societal evolution Baber criticizes cultural enclaves within society as a form of trap that locks immigrants and minorities into a set of expected behaviors and punishes any who attempt to break free. As a result, the establishment of a cultural label merely enforces a set of demands upon the individual constitution; the members of ethnic enclaves who would wish to assimilate into the larger culture are oppressed by the supposed protections afforded their native culture.

Following this line of logic, she undertakes an evaluation of the damages done to the individual in the name of protecting a cultural diversity; assimilation is seen as an error or crime within the native community rather than a concerted effort to follow personal desires. In this regard, the path to full acceptance in the larger society is effectively blocked for immigrants and minorities locked into the cultural trappings of traditional affiliation.

Baber makes a case for a policy of social engineering focused on individual liberty and personal desire. Focusing on these two cornerstone goals, society may absorb the elements of minority culture while establishing pathways to full assimilation, which allow for greater participation and freedom among individual members of society. In this regard, diversity serves as merely a buzzword for the protection of traditional values no matter how detrimental such values may be to individual liberty. Baber argues for the escape of the individual from the clutches of suffocating traditions, and in so doing, seeks a form of diversity as part of the whole rather than cut out in fragments within the mass society.

Baber's framework of liberty provides a wonderful well for open debate and discourse concerning the whole of society, and in so doing, offers an interesting read for the intellectually curious.

• Vietnam's Ministry of Health has asked health clinics and hospitals to enforce a ban against ultrasounds for gender-selective abortions, the BBC reported Aug. 19. There were 105 males for 100 females in 2005. Recent statistics show that across 16 provinces, there are between 115 and 128 boys for 100 girls.

• European women earn 16 percent less than men for equal work but the gender wage gap is narrowing, the Associated Press reported Aug. 21. The gap has dropped each year since 2001, when it was 20 percent.

• In a rare show of public criticism against the monarchy, women's rights activists in Swaziland have spoken out against royal extravagance and a shopping spree by eight of the king's wives, the Telegraph reported Aug. 22. Activists said the spree was a waste of money for a nation that has the world's highest HIV rate. Jim Gama, the governor of the royal capital, condemned the women as "un-Swazi." "I have never heard of women marching," he said.

Jeers

The Bush administration issued new rules on Thursday that will allow doctors and health care providers to refuse to provide abortions to patients and undermine women's access to reproductive health care and birth control. Clinics and hospitals that require employees to provide abortion services or referrals could lose all federal funding under the new policy.

An earlier draft of the new regulation met with fierce condemnation from reproductive rights groups because it redefined abortion to include some forms of contraceptive pills and intrauterine devices. Over 325,000 people signed a petition circulated by Planned Parenthood protesting the new definition in less than a week, ABC News reported Aug. 20. And 57 groups wrote to the Health and Human Services Department to oppose the earlier draft.

In the final version, the new definition of abortion was not included, but Health and Human Services Secretary Michael Leavitt said opponents of abortion rights are likely to "press the definition," the Wall Street Journal reported Aug. 22. Karen Brauer, the president of Pharmacists for Life, said that's how she expects members of her group to react. Anti-choice pharmacists have increasingly refused to dispense emergency contraception, which prevents the implantation of a fertilized egg but does not cause an abortion.

States that have laws requiring health care providers to dispense emergency contraception to rape victims or that require pharmacies to stock and dispense prescriptions could be voided under the new regulation, although the final impact is still unclear. It goes into effect after a 30-day public comment period.

"It will have the same net effect, which is to set the stage for women being denied access to health care, women being denied information ... and women even being denied referrals," Roger Evans, director of litigation for Planned Parenthood, told Reuters.

News to Jeer This Week:

• The University of San Diego withdrew the offer of an endowed chair to scholar Rosemary Radford Ruether after Catholic groups criticized her selection for the position, UPI reported Aug. 20. Reuther supports abortion rights and serves on the board of Catholics for a Free Choice.

Noted:
Pro-choice professor still rejected

By Elliott Spagat
Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — University of San Diego administrators rejected faculty efforts this week to restore a prestigious teaching position to a theologian who is a prominent figure in an abortion rights organization.

The Catholic school withdrew its appointment of Rosemary Radford Ruether in July because she serves on the board of Catholics for Choice.

Administrators reaffirmed that decision despite a petition with more than 2,000 signatures, including 54 faculty members, organizers said. The petition asked the school to restore the offer or allow Ruether to visit campus for a week and give a lecture on academic freedom.

"We are deeply concerned by this turn of events both because it is insulting to Professor Rosemary Radford Ruether and because of what it portends for academic freedom in a Catholic institution," the petition reads.

The 7,000-student university defended its decision to withdraw its offer for the Monsignor John R. Portman Chair in Roman Catholic Theology for the upcoming fall semester.

Ruether accepted the offer in the spring, but the previous dean of the College of Arts and Sciences failed to get approval from the provost as he should have, said school spokeswoman Pamela Payton said. The provost should have made the offer, based on the dean's recommendation.

"Her position on the (Catholics for Choice) board is obviously very much in contrast with Roman Catholic theology and, from our perspective, did not seem appropriate for this chair," Gray Payton said.

Ruether, 71, is a visiting professor of theology at Claremont Graduate School, a prolific author and a columnist for National Catholic Reporter. She taught previously at Garrett Evangelical Seminary in Evanston, Ill.

Ruether said the dispute reflects a larger debate in Catholic institutions about how to treat hot-button issues, including gay and lesbian rights and ordination of women priests.

"There's just a huge conflict going on between whether people can discuss controversial issues or whether you can only give the official position," she said.

U.S. bishops have increasingly emphasized a duty of all Catholics to oppose abortion. In 2004, responding partly to the presidential election, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops warned that Catholic schools should not honor or give any platform to "those who act in defiance of our fundamental moral principles."

Pope Benedict XVI took up the issue in his visit to the United States earlier this year. He told leaders of America's Roman Catholic colleges and universities that academic freedom has "great value" for the schools, but it does not justify promoting positions that violate the Catholic faith.
Ruether's appointment drew sharp criticism from anti-abortion activists after it was announced on the university's Web site.

LifeSiteNews.com, which was founded by Toronto-based Campaign Life Coalition, wrote in July that Ruether has "a rather undisguised rejection of and antipathy toward Christianity, especially the Catholic Faith."

John-Henry Westen, editor of LifeSiteNews.com, welcomed the reversal. "It's a happy ending that a Catholic university was willing to stand up for Catholic rights," he said Thursday. "It's unfortunate but hopefully in the future people will do their homework a little better. She was very public about her positions."

University of San Diego was not influenced by outside groups, Gray Payton said. The anonymous donor of the $2 million university chair did not offer an opinion, she said.

Associated Press religion writer Rachel Zoll contributed to this report.
Catholic University of San Diego Stands By Rejection of Pro-Choice Feminist for Theology Chair
Now Confronted by Dueling Petitions

By Kathleen Gilbert

SAN DIEGO, August 22 - (LifeSiteNews.com) - Although the Catholic University of San Diego (USD) came under fire for reversing their decision to appoint a radical feminist to an honorary chair in Theology, it has stood firm, and now two opposing petitions either supporting or attacking the decision are gaining support.

Thomas Peters of American Papal University in its decision. To sign it, go to http://www.brianmcdaaniel.org/?page_id=662

The controversy began when the USD Department of Theology and Religious Studies published on the USD website its choice to elect Professor Rosemary Radford Ruether, an eco-feminist who refers to God as the feminine "Gaia" and supports abortion and contraception, to fill the Monsignor John R. Portman Chair in Roman Catholic Theology for 2008-2010 academic year. Ruether was expected to teach one graduate course and deliver the annual Portman Lecture as part of her honorary position.

LifeSiteNews.com reported the decision last month and published Ruether's history of anti-Catholic teaching along with the Catholic University's contact information, prompting concerned readers to urge Catholic University not to bestow the honor on Ruether. (http://www.lifesitenews.com/ldn/2008/07/1013.html)

A week later, USD Assistant Vice President for Public Affairs, Pamela Gray Payton, contacted LifeSiteNews.com via email and stated that the decision was reversed "upon review of the specific purpose" of the honorary chair, which was established in 2000 as a "sign of the Catholic character of the University." (http://www.lifesitenews.com/ldn/2008/07/1814.html)

News of the extraordinary reversal reached 32 different newspapers across the country. Although Payton told the Associated Press (AP) that the University was not influenced by outside groups, AP coverage noted that LifeSiteNews.com published their article the same month that the University later announced the reversal.

LifeSiteNews.com editor John-Henry Westen told the AP that the affair was "a happy ending that a Catholic university was willing to stand up for Catholic rights," adding that it was "unfortunate, but hopefully in the future people will do their homework a little better. She was very public about her positions."

USD administrators reaffirmed their choice against honoring Ruether Thursday, despite protest from faculty and others who signed a petition criticizing the decision as an insult to Ruether and an ill omen for "academic freedom."

Though protesters cite Benedict XVI's address to Catholic educators during his papal visit to the United States in April to support their advocacy of such freedom, they omit the Pope's admonition that "Any appeal to the principle of academic freedom in order to justify positions that contradict the faith and the teaching of the Church would obstruct or even betray the university's identity and mission."

The Cardinal Newman Society pledged its public support of USD's resolve stating, "On behalf of our 20,000 plus member base, dedicated to the renewal of Catholic higher education, the Cardinal Newman Society publicly supports the resolve of the University of San Diego administration to not re-extend the offer to Ruether."

See previous coverage by LifeSiteNews.com:

Catholic University of San Diego Changes Mind - Rejects Radical Non-Christian Feminist For Theology Chair
http://www.lifesitenews.com/ldn/2008/jul/08071814.html

Catholic University of San Diego Honors Radical Non-Christian Feminist With Theology Chair
http://www.lifesitenews.com/ldn/2008/jul/08071013.html

URL: http://www.lifesitenews.com/ldn/2008/08/2205.html

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Catholic school denies theology position to pro-choice professor

SAN DIEGO (AP) - A Catholic university has refused to restore a prestigious teaching position to a theologian who’s a prominent figure in an abortion rights organization.

University of San Diego administrators withdrew the appointment of Rosemary Radford Ruether to a chair in Roman Catholic theology because she serves on the board of Catholics for Choice.

Administrators reaffirmed that decision Thursday despite a petition signed by faculty members urging the school to restore the offer or allow Ruether to visit the campus and lecture on academic freedom.

In 2004, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops warned that Catholic schools should not honor or give any platform to “those who act in defiance of our fundamental moral principles.”
Catholic Thought Police Cracks Down

By Amanda Marcotte
Created Aug 27 2008 - 8:00am


The Humana Vitae is rightfully considered an inhumane document because it's a fancied way for the church to play grab-hand with women's bodies. But recent events show that the implications of the document go further than controlling women's bodies and sexualities and relationships. It's given supporters (especially male supporters) the belief that they should also be able to control and police women's minds. The first incident involves Catholic feminist theologian Rosemary Radford Ruether, who was offered a job at the University of San Diego, only to reject the offer rescinded. [1] Why? Because Ruether disagrees with the Humana Vitae, and is a pro-choice Catholic.

There is a constant struggle between academic freedom and Catholic theology at a lot of Catholic schools, but most coverage of this issue has to explain is that these struggles only seem to happen in the area of sex and women's rights. Other potential sources of conflict at most Catholic universities are easily settled in favor of academic freedom, but for some reason, the idea that women have rights is so incendiary that it requires universities to completely rethink their approach to the basic concepts of higher education.

The other big incident was a bit more comical. Bill Donohue of the Catholic League demanded (doesn't he always demand) that DNCC revoke the press credentials of bloggers [2] Bitch PhD and Towleroad. The reason? Both blogs don't obey Donohue's definition of good Catholic behavior. Bitch PhD was especially singled out for being a practicing Catholic who dared to disagree with Catholic dogma, as defined, of course, by Donohue. (Instances where Donohue himself disagrees with the Vatican are not considered problematic.)

Observers, including myself, had to wonder why Donohue thought the DNCC had the authority to bring female Catholics in line with religious teachings. To his credit, there seems to be a lot of confusion around this subject, with multiple people thinking that the combination of being female and being Catholic means that you lose your religious freedom guaranteed by the Constitution. During the Terri Schiavo debacle, Schiavo's parents and lawyer had the audacity to claim that Schiavo's spoken wishes were secondary to the church's teachings on euthanasia [3]. Contrary to the hopes and dreams of Bill Donohue, the Schiavo fanatics, and anti-choice nuts nationwide, though, the government actually allows members of the Catholic faith to reject the dictates of the church. Yes, even female members maintain their basic rights as citizens. Nor do the major political parties seem inclined to require religious tests of people who show up to offer press coverage.

One shouldn't be surprised that conservative Catholics are desperate to find ways to force other Catholics to believe what they're told instead of what they want to believe. After all, according to a report published in 2008 by Catholics in Public Life, [4] most Catholics differ strongly with the conservatives on sexual health issues. A majority of American Catholics are pro-choice on abortion, think that health insurance should be required to cover contraception, think schools should provide comprehensive sex education, and support stem cell research. That's a lot of naughty Catholics. Perhaps even more dramatic are results of a recent Catholics for Choice poll, which discovered that 70% of respondents said that the views of Catholic bishops are unimportant to them in deciding for whom to vote and 73% says they believe Catholic politicians are under no religious obligation to vote on issues the way the bishops recommend.

No wonder the right wingers are appealing to the political parties and to universities to punish the straying Catholics—bishops can't find 'traction,' the government can't do it, and the "problem" of Catholics showing common sense is out of control.

As amusing as it is to see hard right extremists flail around looking for some kind of authority to force those naughty Catholic women acting like they have rights, it does us well to remember why the Bill Donohues of the world feel they're automatically entitled to claim ownership over the consciences and even bodies of women like Bitch PhD and Rosemary Radford Ruether. It's because the church and anti-choice political actors routinely act like women are not full people, but objects. Oh, you'll hear many an anti-choicer act like they're defending women against being treated like sex objects, but that's not because they object to the "object" part, but the "sex" part. Treating women like reproductive objects—like flowerpots that have the unfortunate flaws of wills and voices and opinions—doesn't really do women any favors. How about treating us like human beings?

The report for Catholics in Public Life also showed that, contrary to Bill Donohue's fondest hopes, most Catholics aren't voting with the hopes of shutting up some uppity women. On the contrary, not only are they pro-choice and pro-contraception, but most Catholics consider economic issues and the war to be more pressing issues than the fear that someone, somewhere is getting laid. In other words, to no one's great surprise, Catholic voters don't differ significantly from other voters in any substantial way.

Contraception

- Dept. of Health and Hallowed Services
- Roundup: America is Pro-Choice, More Opposition to HHS Rule
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http://www.rhrealitycheck.org/print/7973
8/27/2008
Naming Names: Catholic U of San Diego Faculty Supporters of Pro-Abort Reuther

61 protested university's refusal to offer radical pro-choice eco-feminist honorary theology chair

By Kathleen Gilbert

SAN DIEGO, August 26, 2008 (LifeSiteNews.com) - The names of 61 faculty members who protested The Catholic University of San Diego's (USD) refusal to offer radical pro-choice eco-feminist Rosemary Radford Reuther an honorary Theology chair have recently been made public.

To see the list of names, go to: http://www.brianmcdaniel.org/?p=705

At least nine of the faculty whose signatures appear on the petition are members of USD's Theology and Religious studies Department.

The petition included 2,158 signatures overall, demanding that USD extend its invitation to Ruether and claiming that the "insult" bodes ill for the practice of "academic freedom" in Catholic universities. They say the decision to rescind their offer to Ruether of the honorary Monsignor John R. Portman Chair in Roman Catholic Theology for 2009-2010 academic year was for reasons they call "unclear but seemingly ideological."

Ruether, an eco-feminist who refers to God as the feminine "Gaia" and openly advocates abortion and contraception, among many other aberrations from Catholic doctrine, would have taught one undergraduate Theology course and delivered the annual Portman Lecture as part of her honorary position.

USD turned back on its offer after a LifeSiteNews.com article revealing the proposed honor and Ruether's unorthodox teachings prompted concerned readers to contact the university. A week after USD officially extended the offer, Pamela Gray Payton, USD Assistant Vice President for Public Affairs, stated that the decision was reversed "upon review of the specific purpose" of the honorary chair, which was established in 2000 as a "sign of the Catholic character of the University." Despite being on fire, USD administrators have so far stood firm in their reversal.

The Ora et Labora blog continues to accrue signatures for a petition supporting USD in their refusal to honor Ruether. To sign this petition, go to: http://www.brianmcdaniel.org/?page_id=662

Though the protesters cite Benedict XVI's address to Catholic educators during his papal visit to the United States in April to support their advocacy of "intellectual freedom," they omit the Pope's admonition that "Any appeal to the principle of academic freedom in order to justify positions that contradict the faith and the teaching of the Church would obstruct or even betray the university's identity and mission."

See previous coverage by LifeSiteNews.com:

Catholic University of San Diego Stands By Rejection of Pro-Choice Feminist for Theology Chair
http://www.lifesitenews.com/ldn/2008/aug/08082205.html

Catholic University of San Diego Changes Mind - Rejects Radical Non-Christian Feminist For Theology Chair
http://www.lifesitenews.com/ldn/2008/jul/08071814.html

Catholic University of San Diego Honors Radical Non-Christian Feminist With Theology Chair
http://www.lifesitenews.com/ldn/2008/jul/08071013.html;
University Of San Diego Rejects Efforts To Restore Position To Professor Who Supports Abortion Rights

26 Aug 2008

The University of San Diego, a Roman Catholic school, on Thursday withdrew the appointment of Rosemary Radford Ruether -- an author and columnist for the National Catholic Reporter -- to theology professor because of her role with the abortion-rights organization Catholics for Choice, the AP/San Jose Mercury News reports. According to the AP/Mercury News, the decision came despite a petition that included 2,000 signatures, 54 of which came from faculty members, to restore the appointment of Ruether or allow her to visit campus for a week and give a lecture on academic freedom.

Pamela Gray Payton, spokesperson for the university, said that Ruether accepted the offer for the Monsignor John R. Portman Chair in Roman Catholic Theology, in the spring. Some antiabortion groups protested the appointment, the AP/Mercury News reports. Gray Payton said that the previous dean of the College of Arts and Sciences failed to get approval from the provost, who should have made the offer based on the dean's recommendation. Ruether's position on the board of Catholics for Choice "is obviously very much in contrast with Roman Catholic theology and, from our perspective, did not seem appropriate for this chair," Gray Payton said.

Ruether said the dispute reflects a larger debate within Catholic institutions about how to address controversial issues, including gay and lesbian rights, and ordination of female priests. "There's just a huge conflict going on between whether people can discuss controversial issues or whether you can only give the official position," Ruether said.

According to the AP/Mercury News, Catholic bishops have increasingly emphasized Catholics' duty to oppose abortion rights. During the 2004 presidential election, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops warned that Catholic schools should not honor or give any platform to "those who act in defiance of our fundamental moral principles." Pope Benedict XVI also told leaders of U.S. Catholic colleges and universities that academic freedom has "great value" but that it does not justify promoting positions that are not in line with the Catholic faith (Spagat, AP/San Jose Mercury News, 8/21).


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Article URL: http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/119278.php

Main News Category: Abortion

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Catholic school denies theology position to pro-choice professor

http://www.wnct.com/nct/lifestyles/fai...

"A Catholic university has refused to restore a prestigious teaching position to a theologian who’s a prominent figure in an abortion rights organization.

University of San Diego administrators withdrew the appointment of Rosemary Radford Reuther to a chair in Roman Catholic theology because she serves on the board of Catholics for Choice.

Administrators reaffirmed that decision Thursday despite a petition signed by faculty members urging the school to restore the offer or allow Reuther to visit the campus and lecture on academic freedom.

In 2004, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops warned that Catholic schools should not honor or give any platform to "those who act in defiance of our fundamental moral principles."

1 response

well YEAH

that’s likw a professor who teaches orthodox jews
and then eats and works for a slaughter house

Add your response

Login/Registration is required to add a response.

http://current.com/items/89235148_catholic_school_denies_theology_position_t... 8/26/2008
An inspiring experience at Denver's DNC

Anyone following this year's presidential race knows that it is going to be another close one. As a student and young woman voting this year in her first presidential election, I want to be sure I am well-informed and confident about which candidate will get my vote. I am a student of international relations and human rights at the University of San Diego, and I have a strong emphasis in human rights. I am very close to the students from the U.S. abroad. At this point in my life I cannot identify myself completely with one party or another, so I have chosen to register as non-partisan. When USD offered this incredible opportunity to participate in the Democratic National Convention, I jumped on it immediately. As Americans, we are now witnessing a tremendous moment in history that will forever change the image of American politics. We have our very first major party African-American presidential candidate, and as of Friday morning, a female running mate on the Republican ticket. I am blessed to be a witness to this historic event and thrilled to have experienced it first-hand at the DNC.

Upon arriving in Denver, I had no idea what to expect aside from knowing that I would be attending a lot of lectures and be placed in some sort of fieldwork as an intern. Guest lecturers included city planners, a Secret Service agent, Colorado Gov. Bill Ritter, and DNC Chairman Howard Dean, all of whom delivered intriguing messages. Things were already starting out rather exciting, but when I found out I would be working as a runner for CNN, "the most trusted name in news," I was stoked! I had access to the CNN newsroom where I got to see and meet political analysts, celebrities, and on-air personalities such as Anderson Cooper, Wolf Blitzer, John King, Donna Brazile, Rudy Giuliani, Charles Barkley, Ashley Judd, and Jamie Foxx. My position included a lot of administrative work at a desk, being a personal escort to CNN executives and VIPs, and running credentials to the right people who needed proper access to the right places. As a runner and representative of CNN, I had to be reserved and never show enthusiasm or lack thereof for any aspect of the convention, and I was very impressed with their effort to cover the convention from all sides and without bias.

The energy around Denver was soaring high with excited voters from all over the nation coming together in one place to rally support for Senator Barack Obama and the Democratic Party. As a runner, I had limited access into the Pepsi Center to see all the great speakers but could still watch from inside the CNN Grill. I was especially interested to see how Bill and Hillary Clinton would react at the convention and what, if any, animosity would be present between ardent Hillary supporters and Obama supporters. However, the two went above and beyond my expectations as both humbly showed their support for Obama and stressed the importance of this election for the unification and well-being of the party itself. It also pleased me to see Hillary on the floor of the convention among her New York delegates officially nominating Barack Obama on Wednesday night.

On Thursday afternoon, finished with work at CNN and free of my unbiased attitude, I went to Mile High Stadium at Invesco Field for Obama's acceptance speech. The anticipation had built up an overwhelming excitement in me that was hard to comprehend. I was standing still, taking it all in when suddenly Michelle Obama strolled by me no more than five feet away. No one noticed her so I waved and called out, "Hi, Michelle!" And she looked me straight in the eye, smiled and said, "Hey, how's it goin'?" Smiling like a giddy fool I responded, "I'm great, thanks!" Did that just happen? I may have just interacted with the next First Lady!

The day continued with speeches from former Vice President Al Gore and Vice Presidential Candidate Joe Biden. However, one of the most captivating parts of the night for me was the video tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his efforts as a civil rights activist which included the "March on Washington" on Aug. 28, 1963. How appropriate and fortunate for the Obama campaign that this night marked the 45th Anniversary of MLK Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech. The youngest daughter of MLK Jr., Bernice King, then delivered a fiery speech about her
Kenneth P. Serbin

Historiador, brasileirista e professor da Universidade de San Diego (EUA)

Um raio X da batina

Pesquisador mostra como a Igreja brasileira vem lidando com seus dilemas ao longo da história

Kenneth P. Serbin

O enfoque de audiovisual e imagens para a Igreja Católica brasileira não é uma novidade, mas uma prática que vem se intensificando. A Igreja Católica, particularmente no Brasil, tem se esforçado para se aproximar do povo e de sua realidade, comunicando suas mensagens de maneira mais compreensiva e acessível. No entanto, essa aproximação não deve ser vista como uma ruptura com as tradições e princípios que a moldam. A Igreja Católica, de forma essencial, pregava e pede que a vida cristã não aconteça apenas no altar e na igreja, mas também na vida cotidiana, na sociedade e na história. Ela tem se esforçado para se tornar mais aberta e inclusiva, mas sem deixar de lado o que é essencialmente sua identidade e missão.

História

Desde o início, o diálogo e a aproximação com o mundo não têm sido apenas um desafio, mas também uma oportunidade para a Igreja Católica. Durante toda a sua história, a Igreja tem se esforçado para se entender e se comunicar de maneira adequada à sua época e cultura. A Igreja Católica, de forma essencial, pregava e pede que a vida cristã não aconteça apenas no altar e na igreja, mas também na vida cotidiana, na sociedade e na história. Ela tem se esforçado para se tornar mais aberta e inclusiva, mas sem deixar de lado o que é essencialmente sua identidade e missão.

Um raio X da batina

No entanto, essa aproximação não deve ser vista como uma ruptura com as tradições e princípios que a moldam. A Igreja Católica, de forma essencial, pregava e pede que a vida cristã não aconteça apenas no altar e na igreja, mas também na vida cotidiana, na sociedade e na história.
Calavera Highway Renee Tajima-Peña and Evangeline Griego’s new film “is a sweeping story of seven Mexican-American men grappling with the meaning of masculinity, fatherhood, and a legacy of rootless beginnings.” The P.O.V. documentary screens for “Sunday Afternoon at the Movies” series. Gail Perez and Ruben Murillo of USD’s ethnic studies department lead discussion. 619-236-5810. Sunday, August 24, 2 p.m., San Diego Public Library, 820 E Street (Downtown)
Today on SignOnRadio

- At 11 a.m., Steven Camarota of the Center for Immigration Studies will discuss a new report showing a significant drop in illegal immigrants on "Radio Active" with Union-Tribune editorial writer Chris Reed.
- At 11:30 a.m. on "Op-Ed Talk" with Opinion Page Editor Bernie Jones, the topic will be the presidential campaign with guest Casey Dominguez, an assistant professor in the Department of Political Science and International Relations at the University of San Diego.

Listen to SignOnRadio live or podcast anytime at SignOnRadio.com
School of Business Administration
S.D. economy in recession, expert says

Hiring remains weak; job losses are still high

By Mike Freeman
STAFF WRITER

Escalating job losses and the decaying housing market weighed down the local economic outlook once again in July, leaving little doubt among economists that the region is in recession.

The University of San Diego's monthly report on leading economic indicators fell again in July, leading consumer confidence, a jump in job losses and worries about the national economy.

The USD index has fallen for 27 of the last 28 months.

"I would say the local economy is in a recession right now," said Alan Gin, an economist with USD's Burnham-Moores Center for Real Estate. "The unemployment rate is 6.4 percent — the first time we've been above 6 percent since the 1990s."

Hiring remains weak, and the pace

SEE Recession, C3

INTENSITY OF HOUSING'S DOWNTURN ECLIPSES GAINS BY OTHER SECTORS

of job losses continues to be high. While housing and construction have been the main culprits behind job losses, unemployment is increasingly spreading to other sectors, such as auto sales and some retail divisions.

"We've got a lot of job losses in the county," Gin said. "For the first seven months of the year we're down in terms of year-over-year job growth."

The county had 4,600 fewer salaried workers in July than it did in July 2007 — the fourth time in five months that the county had a year-to-year job loss.

There was some good news. Gas prices have eased from historic highs. That typically leads to a rise in consumer confidence, Gin said.

Some sectors of the economy, such as biotech and technology, are holding up reasonably well, economists say. Local stock prices declined in July, but not as much as earlier in the year.

But the intensity of the housing downturn has overshadowed any gains by other sectors, dispelling the notion that San Diego's economy is too diverse to suffer much in a recession.

Gin used to endorse that theory. Not anymore.

"It turns out the damage from housing, the loss of employment from housing, is much more severe than I would have thought," he said.

It's uncommon for housing to drive an economic downturn. The 2001 recession was sparked by a bubble in technology stocks. The early 1990s recession was linked to cuts in federal defense spending and overbuilding of offices, apartments and other commercial real estate.

"We haven't had a housing-driven recession in my lifetime," said Dan Seiver, a finance professor at San Diego State University. "The problem with that is housing is so widely held, and it's such an important asset" for most households.

Seiver said there's "no doubt" the local economy has been in a recession all year.

"The American consumer has been seen as indomitable," he said. "But eventually you knock out enough pillars — you knock out the home as an ATM, you knock out rising income, you knock out employment and you knock out credit — what's left?"

The revised national gross domestic product for the second quarter showed a higher than expected annualized growth rate of 3.3 percent. But economists feel the jump is temporary, fueled by higher exports and tax refund checks that arrived in the quarter.

Kelly Cunningham, an economist with the San Diego Institute of Policy Research, said San Diego is likely in recession due to higher unemployment and a dip in retail sales.

"Consumer spending reflected by retail sales shows a dramatic decrease" when adjusted for inflation, he said.

"That's a pretty significant indicator that consumers are cutting back."

Cunningham thinks the recovery isn't in sight yet. Though the pace of home price declines may slow, there is no sign of a bottom.

"It's not just that home prices have fallen," he said. "It's the fact that so much money has been withdrawn. That's really what kept the economy going for so long — people being able to take money out of their homes and spend it."

Mike Freeman: (760) 476-8209; mike.freeman@uniontrib.com
THE ECONOMY

USD’s Index of Leading Economic Indicators for San Diego County fell 1.5 percent in July. Leading the way to the downside were sharp drops in consumer confidence, initial claims for unemployment insurance, and the outlook for the national economy. Two other components -- local stock prices and help wanted advertising -- also were down moderately. On the positive side, building permits were up, but only slightly. July’s drop was the 10th consecutive significant decrease in the USD Index, which has fallen in 27 of the last 28 months.

The outlook for the local economy continues to be negative, with no signs of a rebound in sight. Job growth remains negative, although most of the damage remains in the real estate sectors (construction, lending, and real estate). The only areas outside of real estate that are being adversely affected have some connection to the housing slump, such as home furnishings and appliance stores, as well as home improvement stores. One positive development is the drop in gasoline prices, which have fallen more than 70 cents per gallon since the peak earlier this summer.

The trend in residential units authorized by building permits was positive for a second month in a row, even though the number of permits for July was low.

The news continues to be bad on both sides of the labor market. The pace of job losses continues to be high, as evidenced by elevated levels of initial claims for unemployment insurance. Hiring remains weak, with help wanted advertising falling for the 23rd month in a row. The net result was that the local unemployment rate jumped to 6.4 percent in July from a revised 6.0 percent in June, marking the first time the unemployment rate has topped 6 percent since the 1990s.

Local consumer confidence continues to be at historically low levels and is down more than 50 percent from a year ago.

Although local stock prices started to rebound towards the end of the month, the average daily close for July was down compared to June.

July’s decrease puts the USD Index at 116.9, down from June’s revised reading of 118.6.
Another Sharp Drop in Local Economy

The local economy sustained another sharp drop in July, according to the Index of Leading Economic Indicators compiled by University of San Diego economics professor Alan Gin.

The index has fallen 15 percent since July 2007. Gin said July's reading marked the 10th consecutive month of drops for the index, and the 27th month of declines in the last 28 months.

All of the categories monitored by the index logged declines except for one; building permits showed a slight increase.

Last month, Gin and other economists noted the region had entered a regional recession. Here's how Gin characterized the month's results:

The outlook for the local economy continues to be negative, with no signs of a rebound in sight. Job growth remains negative, although most of the damage remains in the real estate sectors (construction, lending, and real estate). ... One positive development is the drop in gasoline prices, which have fallen more than 70 cents per gallon since the peak earlier this summer.

That good news for gas prices could turn around the fading consumer confidence in the region, which in July was down more than 50 percent compared to a year ago, Gin said. Those results would come in a future index:

http://www.voiceofsandiego.org/articles/2008/08/29/survival/472ginjuly082808.prt
It remains to be seen whether the recent decline in local gasoline prices will be enough to turn around the negative feelings among consumers.

-- KELLY BENNETT
Regional economic index continues fall

SAN DIEGO — Consumers, whose spending accounts for about two-thirds of all economic activity, are becoming more and more cautious in their willingness to buy, a continuing trend that bodes ill for San Diego County’s overall economic prospects, according to an index published monthly by an economist.

The University of San Diego’s Index of Leading Economic Indicators fell to 118.4 points in May, its lowest level in several years, a decline of 1 percent from the May reading.

The index, which is composed of six economic indicators, has fallen for 26 of the last 27 months.

A monthly index that tracks consumer purchasing plans declined by 5 percent, the most dramatic change among the five components that worsened.

Local stock prices fell, and a weakening national economy is providing less help in keeping San Diego County's economy afloat, according to the index, composed by USD economist Alan Gin.

Unemployment claims increased, and help-wanted advertising decreased, albeit both at less dramatic rates than in most recent months.

On the plus side, homebuilders obtained more permits last month than in June 2007.

“The outlook for the local economy remains unchanged from recent months: continued weakness in the local economy through the first half of 2009, with no end in sight,” Gin wrote.
As if San Diegans probably did not already know, their wallets and purses may seem to be holding a little less cash these days after visits to the local gas station, grocery store and other service providers.

By Dave Thomas

According to data released late last week by the U.S. Labor Department, inflation in San Diego County has outpaced the national average in the last year. The most recent increase sees inflation moving along at its fastest clip in 17 years nationwide and its fastest move locally in eight years.

Nationally, the consumer price index, which looks at dozens of common items, is 5.6 percent above the level it was in 2007.

Increases in gasoline and food prices have led the way to more inflation locally.

The numbers show that between June 2007 and June of this year, consumer prices increased 4.6 percent in San Diego County. That is compared to 3.4 percent jump nationwide.

Government numbers show that the price of food and beverages in San Diego jumped 4.2 percent in the past year, education costs increased 5.3 percent, and other goods and services saw a 1.8 percent increase.

Alan Gin, associate professor of Economics at the University of San Diego, told bizSanDiego.com that he is not surprised by the data.

"That (higher inflation locally) has been the case for several years now," Gin said. He notes that part of the reason for higher costs here in the past was due to housing costs. Now that gasoline prices have increased over the last year, prices at the pump have pushed costs up locally.

"Since we're in a cul-de-sac here, the costs have been higher," Gin said, referring to San Diego being at the end of the line to receive goods in the supply chain. "It is more expensive to ship products here and the rising cost of gas prices have contributed to that. Less competition in the local gas market has also made its impact," Gin added.

Gin goes on to note his estimates show that for every $.10 in the price that a gallon of gas goes up, that takes $7 million out of the economy on a monthly basis. Averaged out, that would mean that if gas prices are $1 higher than a year ago, that is $70 million a month being taken out of the local economy.
"That means people have less money to spend on going to the movies, eating out, etc.," Gin added.

For some good news heading into late summer, gas prices continue to drop locally.

Finding gas under $4 a gallon now is actually possible at many stations throughout the county. The average price for a gallon of regular gas in the county is now at $3.98.

POSTED BY BIZSANDIEGO: SAN DIEGO BUSINESS NEWS
USD Economic Index Dips Again
By - 8/28/2008
San Diego Business Journal Staff

The University of San Diego Index of Leading Economic Indicators for San Diego County fell 1.5 percent in July.

The index has been in retreat 27 times over the last 28 months.

Six components go into figuring the index, which stood at 116.9 in July, compared with 136.8 one year ago.

Residential building permits were a bright spot, as they rose 1.7 percent.

Initial claims for unemployment insurance fell 1.9 percent.

Stock prices for San Diego public companies fell 0.6 percent.

Consumer confidence fell 4.7 percent.

Local help wanted advertising fell 0.7 percent.

The index of leading economic indicators, reflecting the national economy, fell 1.4 percent.

— Brad Graves

No Turnaround in Sight for SD Economy

Aug 28, 2008
Ed Joyce

The University of San Diego's Index of Leading Economic Indicators last month had its sharpest decline since the beginning of the year. KPBS Reporter Ed Joyce has details.

USD Professor Alan Gin says the index dropped 1.5 percent in July, the biggest drop since a 1.6 percent decline in January.

The decrease was led by a fall in consumer confidence in San Diego County. Help-wanted advertising declined for the 23rd month in a row, and unemployment claims increased.

Gin says San Diego's July unemployment rate of 6.4 percent marks the first time since the 1990s that the rate has topped 6 percent.

Stock prices of local companies also fell last month.

He says the only sign of increase economic activity was in construction, where there was a slight uptick in new residential building permits.

The USD index has fallen significantly for 10 straight months, and 27 of the past 28 months.

Ed Joyce, KPBS News.
CCDC Hires Outside Counsel: The chairman of the Centere City Development Corp. said he decided to hire outside legal counsel to investigate a contract awarded by the agency to a developer with ties to the CCDC's former director.

Fred Maas announced the move a day after CCDC President and Chief Operating Officer Nancy Graham resigned for what she said were personal reasons.

Questions have swirled around Graham's ties with Related Cos. of California, which won a contract in March 2007 to build a public-private complex at Seventh and Market streets.

Graham, a former mayor and redevelopment official of West Palm Beach, Fla., is reputed to have had a past relationship with the Florida branch of Related, which did business with the city.

The board of the city agency that oversees downtown redevelopment projects intended to revisit the project at its regular July 30 meeting, but Maas said the situation called for more aggressive action.

VCs Fued: Verve Wireless Inc. said that it closed its $3 million Series B round of financing. The Associated Press led the round, which included Iron Capital and Crosscut Ventures. Verve specializes in putting local newspaper content and advertising on wireless devices such as the iPhone.

German Engineering: Solera Holdings Inc., a San Diego maker of software for the auto insurance industry, said that it acquired UC Universal Consulting Software GmbH, a German software firm with more than 1,200 collision repair facility customers. The price paid was not revealed. Solera, with 2,000 employees worldwide and 200 in San Diego, operates in 45 countries. The company trades on the New York Stock Exchange under the ticker SLH.

Index Decline: Sharp drops in local stocks and consumer confidence, combined with moderate declines in other measures, caused a regional economic index to fall 1 percent in June.

The latest drop in the University of San Diego's Index of Leading Economic Indicators was the 26th time in the last 27 months the index fell, according to the report from economics professor Alan Gin.

The immediate future appears bleak, Gin said in the report. "The outlook for the local economy remains unchanged from recent months continued weaknesses in the local economy through the first half of 2009, with no end in sight at this point."

The sole component of the index that moved in a positive direction was building permits, which increased by nearly 2 percent.

Gin noted that the job growth in the first half of this year has turned negative, the first time that's occurred since September 1995, when the area was in the middle of a recession that lasted five years.

The June decrease in the USD index was the ninth consecutive decline of at least 1 percent. The index stood at 118.4 compared with 137.3 as of June 2007.

Ambitious Expansion Approved: The San Diego City Council approved a $900 million mixed-use expansion of Westfield UTC in University Towne Center.

The project is estimated to bring the city more than $60 million in annual sales and property tax revenues, more than 2,500 new full- and part-time jobs and more than 6,000 construction jobs, according to Westfield, an Australian developer.

Plans include up to 300 residential units, 750,000 square feet of retail space, 5,000 square feet of office space, and several new restaurants.

A spokeswoman for Westfield said groundbreaking will be as soon as construction permits are obtained from the city.

Wednesday, July 30

Biocom Takes Nonprofit Road: A program dedicated to raising awareness of the life sciences gained nonprofit status.

Local life sciences trade groups as a bridge between the two industries, San Diego Foundation and Pfizer Foundation each granted the institute an initial $30,000.

--- Heather Chambers
A Recession for San Diego

By KELLY BENNETT

Friday, Aug. 8, 2008 | For the first time in 15 years, San Diego County's economy has entered a regional recession, local economists have reluctantly acknowledged.

A key measure of the local economy's health — job growth — dipped negative in the first half of 2008 compared to the first half of 2007. That hasn't happened since 1993. The job growth measure is the local equivalent of how recession is calculated on the national level.

Economists who ardently argued even in recent months that the San Diego region would steer clear of a full-blown recession have now reluctantly allowed the 'r'-word to cross their lips.

"San Diego went through the (national) recession of 2001 without actually going into recession -- we never had negative job growth," said Kelly Cunningham, economist at the San Diego Institute for Policy Research, a conservative think tank. "I was thinking maybe we could get through this similarly but this time it doesn't seem to be the case."

The county's unemployment rate reached 5.9 percent in June, the highest point in more than a decade. It has risen nearly a whole percentage point since December, according to preliminary numbers from the state Employment Development Department. And in June, the local unemployment rate passed the national rate of 5.7 percent.

While the study of economics is a historical one, the announcement that the region is in a recession comes as little surprise to many workers, business owners and gas tank-fillers in San Diego.

Some of them work in the shops in a tile-roofed shopping center on the corner of Third Avenue and Broadway in Chula Vista. On Wednesday afternoon, Charlotte Bonds sat waiting for customers behind the counter at El Dorado Cleaners, a dry-cleaning shop. For Bonds, who works to supplement her monthly Social Security check, concerns mount daily over the
cost of gas and food and the availability of jobs that pay sustainable wages. She marveled that economists have just now acknowledged a recession in the region.

"I think it's so blatant now that they're owning up to it," she said. "One day you have a home and next day you don't and you don't have a job."

Down the row from Bonds' shop, past a vacant retail unit, hairdressers Paola Cardenas and Kat Sataeva at a shop called "The Haircutters" said it's a tougher sell these days to convince patrons to spring for the extra $10 blow-dry after they pay for a $17 haircut.

The new owners of a pizza shop on the corner of the complex have only had their family-run Gigante Pizza operation going for about three months. Manager Sadda Shaker said they're finding it's a tough time to start a business. Her brother, Rafael Shaker, added that at his other job, as a mechanic, three people have just been laid off.

The biggest job losses in the region have come in construction and real estate-related financial services jobs. That people have lost jobs that depend on a bustling housing market is hardly surprising, considering the slump in local real estate for the last two years. But the sectors counted on to pick up the slack as those housing-related sectors bleed jobs are also tied to the health of the general economy -- retail and tourism among them.

"The magnitude of our so-called rescue was leisure and hospitality," said Murtaza Baxamusa, research and policy director at the liberal-leaning Center on Policy Initiatives. "It was, to some extent, a lifeboat, but it was a lifeboat that was pretty patchy. We're creating an economy where we're always struggling to make ends meet."

For years, the economists who study the region have contended that without significant job loss in a major sector like manufacturing or defense contracting, the region would avoid recession. Housing market malaise, argued University of San Diego economist Alan Gin, wouldn't be enough to drag the region into anything more than a "San Diego-style recession," -- an economic funk that still allowed for job growth compared to the year before.

Economists have known consumers in the region lost confidence with the plunge in real estate values. They knew that their once abundant home equity had been sapped, leaving them without the spending power that bolstered local big-ticket sales for years this decade.

Still, economists like Gin contended that this housing downturn would not be accompanied by a recession like the region saw in the early 1990s when the aerospace industry cut thousands of jobs here. Then, housing prices tumbled due to job losses and weakness in the economy. This time, it's the other way around, but it's still a recession.

"Usually the real estate markets will kind of follow or trail what's happening in the rest of the economy," Cunningham added. "But the real estate market dragged us into this recession, which is not the usual way it's happened."
The last time Gin's monthly index dipped this low was in late 1993. The index measures unemployment, consumer confidence, local stock prices, building permits, the national economy's health and help wanted ads to get a picture of the local economy. That index has fallen for 26 of the last 27 months, finally yielding in June the diagnosis of recession.

"Basically, the real estate-related jobs, the losses there were much larger than I'd expected," Gin said.

And so the push continues among labor force advocates in San Diego to urge policy makers to work to attract better-paying jobs to the region, to shift away from the affinity for leisure and hospitality-related developments that has characterized the region for years.

"It's our own creation because of the strategic choices we have made in creating jobs at the low end of the wage spectrum," Baxamusa said. "It's like running on a treadmill and you keep accelerating the speed of the treadmill. And at some point you just get exhausted and fall off the treadmill if you can't keep up with it."

Correction: The graph that originally accompanied this story mislabeled the California and National unemployment statistics. It has been corrected to accurately reflect the information. We regret the error.

Please contact Kelly Bennett directly at kelly.bennett@voiceofsandiego.org with your thoughts, ideas, personal stories or tips. Or set the tone of the debate with a letter to the editor.
Foreclosures up 213% for July over last year

County figures show 9% jump since June

By Emmet Pierce

Those waiting for the lagging housing market to rebound were disappointed yesterday, as MDA DataQuick reported that 2,004 San Diego County homes went into foreclosure in July, a 9 percent increase over the previous month and a spike of nearly 213 percent over last year.

The July tally of mortgage failures was a record since DataQuick began tracking foreclosures in 1988. It was the county's 46th consecutive month of year-over-year increases in both foreclosures and notices of default, the start of the foreclosure process.

Default notices totaled 2,006 last month, a drop of 2.5 percent from June, but an increase of 81 percent from a year earlier. Alan Gin, economist for the Burnham-Moore Center for Real Estate at the Uni-

> FORECLOSURES CONTINUED FROM PAGE C1

California filings on 72,285 units are most in U.S.

from entering the housing mar-
ket, said Mark Goldman, a real estate finance instructor at San Diego State University.

"Foreclosures roar on," Goldman said. "What will turn real estate around is the ability of people to pay more for their houses. That won't happen for a while. The middle class is losing ground at an unprece-
dented rate."

Around the county, the fore-
closure problem "continues to be felt most acutely in certain inland neighborhoods in South, East and North County," DataQuick analyst Andrew LePage said.

Ranked by foreclosures per 1,000 homes, the communities with the most default activity in July were: Chula Vista, Paradise Hills, northwest Chula Vista, east Encinitas, San Ysidro and the 92131 ZIP code, which includes much of Escondido and Cow Ranch.

New foreclosures are com-
ing onto the market faster than existing foreclosures can be sold, LePage said. In July, there were 1,289 foreclosures property sales, compared with the 2,004 new foreclosures.

Forty-one percent of all resale homes sold in July had been foreclosed on within the previous 12 months.

Home prices in the county are falling because banks and investors who own foreclosed properties recognize that lower prices attract buyers, said Mark Zandi, chief economist of Moody's Economy.com.

"Obviously, if you are a homeowner or someone going through the foreclosure process, this is wrenching," he said. "But if you are a potential home buyer, it opens up opportu-
nities. First-time buyers have to be able to come back into the market to work off the unsold mountain of inventory."

According to the RealtyTrac research firm, one in every 182 California properties in July re-
ed foreclosure filings, either default notices, auction sale notices or bank reposi-
tions.

RealtyTrac reported Cali-
forinia foreclosure filings on 72,285 properties in July, the highest total among the states. Califor-

nian foreclosure activity in-
creased 5 percent from June and was up 63 percent from July 2007.

"Nationally, RealtyTrac re-
ported foreclosure filings on 272,171 properties in July. That marked an 8 percent increase from the previous month and a 53 percent increase from a year earlier. The report showed that one in every 664 U.S. house-
holds received a foreclosure fil-
ing in July."

In Encinitas, homeowner Susie Richard has managed to avoid foreclosure, despite finan-
cial problems. For several years, Richard said she strug-
gled to catch up with her mortgage payments. She fell behind after she dipped into her savings to visit her ill-
ing mother in the Philippines in 2006.

Richard said she contacted her lender several times, but was told there wasn't enough value in the home to refinance.

"They said there was nothing they could do."

Richard sought help from the Multihabit Alliance, a non-
profit organization in San Diego that was founded to support Fil-

cipino-Americans and other Asian and Pacific Islander com-
munities.

The alliance was able to nego-
tiate a loan modification that lowered her interest rate and added her missed payments to the loan's principal balance. Her monthly payments have dropped from $3,000 to $2,411.

After a year, the payment will rise to $2,775 for the life of the 30-year loan.

An audienc, Richard bought the three-bedroom, one-story house in 2003.

"I have a beautiful house, which I love," she said. "Just give me a place where I can plant my herbs and vegetables, and a house where I can live, not so grand, with a lot of win-
doors."

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CONVERSION BUST
Projects to renovate, sell apartment units all but halted

ZACH FOX
Staff Writer

Boom in popularity of converting apartment complexes into condominiums has turned into a bust, driving condo developers into a corner, especially in places such as Escondido, where sales have been particularly anemic.

As prices began to escalate at rates of 30 percent a year in 2002, the price of owning a home outpaced the cost of renting. That encouraged speculators to buy apartments, renovate and sell them as condos for a profit.

New condo sales along the Highway 78 corridor peaked in 2005 with 794 sales that year, according to Market-Pointe Realty Advisors.

That sort of activity spurred the Meadors of Renfeldt Development team to purchase a decade-old apartment complex near Escondido Boulevard and 15th Avenue for $3 million in April 2005.

You had to buy in 2003 or before to have any chance of pulling off a condo conversion successfully," said Norm Miller, a professor with USD's Burnham-Moores Center for Real Estate.

"Anybody who bought in 2005 came really late to the party," he said.

> CONVERSION, D-3
CONVERSION

It took the development team more than a year to renovate the complex and put the units up for sale. While condo conversions countywide have suffered in the downturn, condo sales in North County, especially Encinitas, have been decimated: Highway 78 corridor sales are on pace to drop 90 percent from sales in 2005, according to MarketPointe.

Encinitas' condo conversion market peaked in 2006 with 236 sales. So far this year, sales sit at "negative-five" in the city. MarketPointe considers sales contracts that were canceled as "negative sales," meaning five more sales contracts were canceled than sold.

Because condo conversions had seen one of the largest ramp-ups in prices, it attracted both developers — who bought old apartments looking to make millions — and investors, who bought the conversions looking to make thousands by reselling them.

But once prices started to decline, those investors disappeared, said Russ Valeo, chief executive officer of MarketPointe.

"They were affordable enough that Donald Trump couldn't look at buying the condo conversion and maybe rent it at a break-even," he said. "When you lost that investor mentality, all of a sudden conversions didn't work."

Further, prices have declined to the point where single-family houses are as cheap, or cheaper, than many condominium conversions — leading first-time home buyers to spurn condos for houses.

From 2005 to 2007, conversion sales countywide dropped by 50 percent, according to MarketPointe data.

Right in the middle of that downturn, Brookhaven's condos went up for sale. Within the first few months, four of the complex's 20 units sold. Then, sales languished and, in December 2007, the developers were in default on their construction loan, according to county records.

In November, the development's fortunes apparently turned for the better. A buyer agreed to buy a condo for $385,000, according to listing data. That price was 90 percent higher than the last sale eight months earlier of a slightly smaller condo.

But two weeks later, the property was deeded back to the developers, meaning the sale was canceled, according to the county assessor's office.

Nonetheless, one couple, James and Maria Roberts of Tijuana, bought a unit in December 2007 for $350,000 after hearing from a real estate broker that similar units had sold at comparable prices, said James Roberts.

Roberts purchased the condo for $380 per square foot. Discounting sales at Brookhaven, the average price for condos in the area in 2008 was $144 per square foot, according to the Sandi- cer transaction database.

Meanwhile, sales were drying up elsewhere in Encinitas. Another conversion project a few miles to the north, Sienna Hills, has halted attempts to sell its units because of low interest, said Jeff Zuckerman, senior vice president of Janes Group, the developer of Sienna Hills.

Looking at the Brookhaven sales, "something doesn't make sense," he said.

Zuckerman said he could not understand how Brookhaven's units were selling for $350,000 throughout this year.

"Their area is certainly not as good as Sienna Hills," he said. "And we never sold any at that price. Our last sale was in the $260,000 to $270,000 range."

Now, Zuckerman said he estimates the Sienna Hills condominiums would sell only if they were priced at $200,000 or less. After investing in the renovations, Janes Group, which is not associated with the Brookhaven development, is not willing to sell the condos for that little, he said.

Instead, the company is leasing out the properties to renters.

The condo conversion fallout was inevitable, said Miller, the University of San Diego professor.

"When speculators enter the market, they're the ones that drove prices up," he said. "Of course, there's no fundamental way to support those prices. You couldn't support it by how much you could rent it for or how much people were making in income."

Contact staff writer Zach Fox at (760) 740-5412 or zfox@independent.com. Visit his blog for more on this story at extreme.com/blogs/ making_your_business.
Beaten by business

WALL STREET DEMANDS
EARTH-FRIENDLY BUILDINGS, BUT MAIN STREET DOESN'T

BY ERIC WOLFF

Way up in the northern precincts of San Diego, the planned community of Del Sur stands in the heat of an unusually warm summer's day. Solar panels shine on the roofs of the 600,000 houses, recycled water fills the grass on the emerald green golf course and shade trees offer shelter from the heat. In the early part of the decade, Fred Mass, president of the company that built Del Sur, knew he wanted to build the most sustainable community his investors would let him.

"Back then, people thought we were crazy for doing all this stuff," Mass said. "And the buyers didn't care. We ask for $16,000, they could have solar panels or marble countertops. They'd say, 'What color marble?'

Naturally that was in the Bag's Era (Before All Green'sollow), when only crazy hippies and knowledgeable scientists understood what greenhouse gases were doing to the planet. Before a United Nations committee of scientists from 115 countries observed "the idea of human-caused global warming." These days, the words "sustainable" and "green" have entered everyday vocabulary to such a degree that they're starting to piss people off, even as everyone recognizes the need for changing habits.

Yet even today, Mass says he has to per-
SEDCCchief
authorized
extra pay
for herself

Documents also reveal
hotel, restaurant meals

By Jeanette Steele
and Helen Gao
STAFF WRITERS

Filet mignon for breakfast at the four-star Westgate Hotel downtown.

A staff development meeting at Jake's Del Mar beachfront restaurant, 21 miles from the blighted neighborhoods that the Southeastern Economic Development Corp. is tasked with revitalizing.

Staffers at the nonprofit city agency enjoyed fine meals and multilevel bonuses at taxpayer expense, according to documents the city released yesterday. The documents show that SEDC President Carolyn Smith had — and used — the authority to grant herself tens of thousands of dollars in extra pay.

The records were obtained under the California Public Records Act by The San Diego Union-Tribune, and are being reviewed as part of a city audit.

Top city officials have come down on the SEDC over the past month after finding pay and budget anomalies at the quasi-independent agency, which has a $19.9 million budget and guides redevelopment in 7.2 square miles east of downtown.

Smith has been fired by the SEDC board but is at the helm until Oct. 21. She signed off on at least $78,800 of her own bonuses in the past two fiscal years.

Smith's signature is at the bottom of several forms approving "incentive pay," "longevity pay," "holiday bonus I" and "holiday bonus II" for herself and others on the 15-member SEDC staff.

In one case, Smith singled herself out for extra pay, around Christmas 2007. In an October draft of staff holiday bonuses, her payout was to be $10,000. In a revised version the next month, Smith's bonus became $13,428 — the only increase in the revision.

Experts on corporate ethics say it is highly questionable for executives to approve their own bonuses.

"It's inherently preposterous," said Craig Barkacs, professor of business law at the University of San Diego. "I think anybody who receives compensation from the company should not approve his or her own bonuses."

SEE SEDC, A4
Smith: Auditors didn't question staff bonuses

Smith's approved city salary is $172,000, although she has collected as much as $261,000 in pay, according to city accountants. Her severance pay will be $100,350.

In an interview yesterday, Smith said longevity and holiday bonuses predated her, and she merely followed previous practice.

Smith said the finance division recommended the bonuses based on employees' years of service and availability of funds. She said agency auditors have never questioned the bonuses.

"It's absolutely appalling that these bonuses were paid with absolutely no rationale that has ever been approved by anyone and are paid at the whim and fancy of a single individual," Sainz said.

Pat Libby, co-director of the Institute for Nonprofit Education and Research at the University of San Diego, said such agencies should have written compensation policies and procedures.

"In exchange for this benefit of being tax-exempt, nonprofits have an obligation to be accountable to the public for their actions," Libby said.

Smith said the agency treats employees to a nice meal around the holidays, and uses meals for team building.

"It's just like everyone else," Smith said. "During the holidays, there is a traditional Thanksgiving breakfast that we do. It's voted on by the staff. I don't think that's different from other people. That's our holiday celebration. It happens once a year."

Expense reports also show that Smith rented a car on two occasions to drive to out-of-town meetings for business, then applied for reimbursement even though she receives a $450-a-month car allowance for company business.

Smith said she rents cars when she goes out of town because she has been told she couldn't be reimbursed for the use of her own car outside the city.

Rosalind Winstead, a small-business owner who admires the-redevelopment work Smith has done, said she is withholding judgment until the audits on SEDC and its sister agency, Centre City Development Corp., are done.

"Hopefully, at some point in time, audits of both agencies will be conducted, and that way we can end the speculation about practices that appear perhaps to be exceptional but in reality may not be. I don't know," Winstead said.
Landlords Offer Concessions Galore to Bring Tenants Into Office Space

Opportunities to Upgrade Abound as Leases Expire

BY MICHIELLE MOWAD

With the shift to a buyer's market in real estate, now is a good time to be a tenant searching for office space.

Higher vacancy rates in numerous submarkets is causing landlords to offer everything from free parking and handsome tenant improvement packages to allowances to reduced price per square foot rental rates and one to several months of free rent.

"There are so many creative ways that landlords are getting tenants into their buildings," said Misty A. Moore, vice president of corporate services for Jones Lang LaSalle Americas Inc. in San Diego.

Chicago-based Jones Lang is a global financial and professional services firm specializing in real estate and investment management.

Moore, who is also a board member of Commercial Real Estate Women San Diego chapter, said a handful of landlords in San Diego are signing lease agreements of more than 50 cents below the asking rates. In addition, many are throwing in free rent and large tenant improvement packages.

"There are a lot of ways landlords are enticing tenants," said Moore.

Moore said one Mission Valley landlord is offering to buy out potential tenants' current lease obligations in other buildings to move them into one of their own buildings. This Mission Valley landlord would then look to backfill, or sublease, the formerly occupied space.

Variety Of Concessions

Every landlord is different in what types of concessions they offer in this softer market, according to Moore, who said the really started seeing an increase in concessions six to nine months ago. She said The Irvine Co., a Newport Beach-based real estate firm, is generally aggressive in rental rates and tenant improvement packages but does not offer free rents, while landlords of new projects tend to offer free rent incentives to maintain rental asking rates.

It is common for tenants along the Interstate 15 corridor and Carlsbad office markets to garner one month of free rent per year of lease. For example, a tenant who signed a five-year lease would get five months of free rent at the start of its lease agreement.

Moore said concessions such as free and reduced rent incentives help the economy by spurring more transactions.

"For those who are coming up on lease expirations this year, next year, even through 2010, there is a ton of opportunity for these tenants to move up in class," said Moore. "Class B rental rates are at about Class B pricing right now. So you have tenants that have always been a Class B tenant that are able to buy into a nicer building and lock in a lower rate for three, five or seven years."

Rental Rates Decline

At the end of the second quarter, Colliers International Property Consultants Inc. reported countywide average rental rates down $2.18 per square foot compared with $2.20 for the first quarter.

Phil Wise, senior vice president of brokerage services with Colliers International in San Diego, said the downtown La Jolla retail and office market is still very strong. Wise said landlords in La Jolla Village offer none to minimal concessions to retail and office tenants because the demand for space there is so high.

"The market is soft, except in La Jolla," said Wise, who focuses on La Jolla leases and sales.

He said that any concessions, if offered, in La Jolla depend on lease terms and the financial viability of the tenant and are nowhere near what is being offered in several submarkets, including the I-15 corridor.

Competition Heats Up

Office vacancy rates are high in the I-15 corridor and are causing landlords to offer significant concessions to pen the deal and fill the space, according to Wise.

Many landlords of new Class A space are offering one month of free rent per year of lease agreement signed, considerable tenant improvement packages, reduced rents and, in some cases, moving allowances, according to Jay Alexander, senior vice president of brokerage services with Colliers International in San Diego.

Alexander said now is a good time to be a tenant in this office submarket.

"Right now it is a great time to get space that works," he said. "There is a lot to choose from. Owners are coming off their rents and offering some concessions."

By Alexander's estimates, there are currently 20 available properties with 5,000 square feet of office space in the I-15 corridor compared with may be three spaces of this size available for lease three years ago.

"It is all about competing for the tenants," said Alexander.

Vacancy rates in the second quarter for Class A office space reached 26.3 percent in the I-15 corridor, 29.7 percent in North County and 19.1 percent in the south and east county submarkets, according to Colliers.

Norm Miller, director of real estate academic programs and a professor at Burnham-Moores Center for Real Estate at University of San Diego, said whenever vacancy rates reach 20 percent, landlords offer more concessions.

"The market is thinner," said Miller. "There are less transactions. People are worried about a recession. Of course, that results in more difficult negotiations."

Landlords Aim to Counter Lagging Commercial Leases

Leasing activity in San Diego County indicates a slowdown in the second quarter. To compensate, landlords are willing to offer incentives to prospective buyers such as free parking, tenant improvement packages and reduced rental rates.

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The San Diego Business Journal is a weekly publication delivering the most current news, analysis and perspective on the business environment in San Diego County. We cover the entire economic spectrum, from the high-tech industry to the small business. We provide the most up-to-date information on the local economy, the investment community, the government and the military. We are the voice of the business community in San Diego County.
Burnham-Moores Center offers certificate in land use, sustainable community

Daily Transcript staff report

On Sept. 4, the University of San Diego’s Burnham-Moores Center for Real Estate will launch the Certificate in Land Use and Sustainable Community Development program.

The Certificate in Land Use and Sustainable Community Development is a comprehensive program for professionals interested in better understanding the mandated, complex and time-consuming processes that are involved in land use decisions.

The program will help clarify the entitlement and permitting process, as well as the environmental impact assessment. The program will also help participants understand how to incorporate sustainable measures in their projects through site planning, building design and energy-efficient approaches.

Classes in the Land Use and Sustainable Community Development curriculum are geared toward developers, land use professionals, industry consultants and advisers, architects, civil engineers, environmental professionals, attorneys, planners and community advocacy stakeholders — both public and private.

The first class, “Managing the Entitlement Process,” starts Sept. 4 and meets every Thursday in September from 6 to 9 p.m. Lou Lightfoot, president of the Lightfoot Planning Group, will instruct the class.

Source Code: 20080811cxc
REAL ESTATE

The president of GIC Real Estate, the real estate investment arm of the Government of Singapore Investment Corp., will speak at a Sept. 16 program hosted by USD's Burnham-Moores Center for Real Estate. Seek Ngee Huat will appear at the 7:30 to 9 a.m. program, "Breakfast at the BMC," in the university's Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice.

As president of GIC Real Estate, Seek oversees one of the world’s top 10 real estate investment funds and is considered one of the top experts in global capital markets. Headquartered in Singapore, GIC Real Estate’s global investments cover all sectors of direct property, private and public companies, real estate funds and debt instruments. Before joining GIC, Seek was a senior partner with Jones Lang LaSalle in Sydney. He is presently on the advisory board of the real estate programs at the National University of Singapore, Harvard University and Cambridge University and is a member of the International Advisory Council, Guanghua School of Management at Peking University.

For reservations, visit www.usdrealstate.com, or call (619) 260-4231.
USD to take on election, economy in forum

The University of San Diego brings together a panel of finance experts Tuesday to discuss "The Election, Economics & You."

The event aims to offer perspective on a complex economy and personal finances in the wake of an election. The panelists will share their outlook on economics, taxes and investment markets, and how those viewpoints may differ with the election of either major presidential candidate.

Speakers include USD economics professor Alan Gin, publisher of USD's "Index of Leading Economic Indicators for San Diego County," and tax director Steve Arman of Grant Thornton LLP, U.S. member firm of accounting, tax and business advisory organization Grant Thornton International.

George Chamberlin, money adviser for NBC 7/39 and executive editor of The Daily Transcript, will moderate the conversation.

The event, co-hosted by the USD School of Business Alumni Association Council and Coleman & Johnson Financial Advisors Inc., will be held on campus at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice from 5:30-7 p.m.

Admission is free for USD students and employees, $25 for the general public.

Register in advance at: http://www.sandiego.edu/business/forms/sbaaelection08.php. Source Code: 20080821czk
Panelists said that neither Sen. Barack Obama nor Sen. John McCain would make a significant economic difference in the long-term.

Forum: What affect does a new president have on the economy?

By REBECCA GO
The Daily Transcript

LINDA VISTA — Whether John McCain or Barack Obama could affect the economy if elected president was up for discussion Tuesday night at "The Election, Economics and You" forum at the University of San Diego.

The event, sponsored by the USD School of Business Alumni Association and Coleman & Johnson Financial Advisors, brought together a panel of experts who presented side-by-side comparisons of the politicians' major platforms and offered perspective on the current economy.

George Chamberlin, Daily Transcript executive editor, money adviser for NBC 7/39 and host of KOGO Radio's "Money in the Morning," moderated the discussion.

For the most part, the panelists chose to focus on the big picture: Neither candidate will make a significant economic difference in the long-term, they said, and the economy will pull out of its slump eventually.

"The presidential outcome will not have much of an impact on the overall macroeconomic situation," said panelist Alan Gin, USD associate economics professor, to an audience of approximately 110. "There are outside forces at work here."

See Forum on 10A
He noted that in the last two decades, the economy has grown whether taxes have been raised or cut.

"It really doesn't matter who gets elected," agreed panelist Dan Melehan, regional representative for investment company American Funds. "What matters is that election creates change, change brings out opportunity and then opportunity gets realized, not in the next 10 days, 10 weeks, 10 months — it gets realized over the next 10 years."

Rather than looking to the candidates for economic change, Gin said, the public should be looking to Ben Bernanke, the chairman of the Federal Reserve. Gin predicted that toward the end of the year, and likely after the election, the Federal Reserve will raise interest rates to combat rising inflation.

"At 5.6 percent (inflation), the Fed has got to get worried and get worried pretty soon," Gin said.

The panel emphasized, however, that the election should still matter to voters, considering the change in the composition of Congress and how the election results would affect specific groups and personal finances.

Panelist Steve Arman, a tax director based in the San Diego office of Grant Thornton LLP, spent his 15 minutes exploring several specifics in McCain and Obama's proposed tax policies. The new president will face a persistent deficit and a gauntlet of expiring tax provisions during his term, although Arman concluded that both candidates' policies would benefit the middle- to low-income tax bracket and add to the deficit.

The difference, Arman said, was in how the candidates treated high-income earners.

Some attendees left the event convinced the political system was "broken," unable to ever fix the economy.

Others, like community resident Sandra Rugg, emerged feeling comforted. She said that as the election nears, she would focus less on the economic platforms of the candidates and more on the other issues.

"It was very reassuring to know that wealth is not reliant on a president," she said.

rebecca.go@sddt.com
Source Code: 20080827cag
USD to take on election, economy in forum

By REBECCA GO, The Daily Transcript
Thursday, August 21, 2008

The University of San Diego brings together a panel of finance experts Tuesday to discuss "The Election, Economics & You."

The event aims to offer perspective on a complex economy and personal finances in the wake of an election. The panelists will share their outlook on economics, taxes and investment markets, and how those viewpoints may differ with the election of either major presidential candidate.

Speakers include USD economics professor Alan Gin, publisher of USD's "Index of Leading Economic Indicators for San Diego County," and tax director Steve Arman of Grant Thornton LLP, U.S. member firm of accounting, tax and business advisory organization Grant Thornton International. George Chamberlin, executive editor of the San Diego Daily Transcript and money adviser for NBC 7/39, will moderate the conversation.

The event, co-hosted by the USD School of Business Alumni Association Council and Coleman & Johnson Financial Advisors Inc., will be held on campus at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice from 5:30-7 p.m.

Admission is free for USD students and employees, $25 for the general public.

Register in advance at: www.sandiego.edu/business/forms/sbae-election08.php.
New USD program

The University of San Diego's Burnham-Moores Center for Real Estate will launch its second Continuing Education program: the Certificate in Land Use and Sustainable Community Development.

It is a program for professionals interested in better understanding the mandated, complex and time-consuming processes that are involved in land use decisions.

The program is designed to help clarify the entitlement and permitting process, as well as the environmental impact assessment.

The program will also help participants understand how to incorporate sustainable measures in their projects through site planning, building design and energy-efficient approaches.

Classes in the curriculum are geared toward developers, land use professionals, industry consultants and advisers, architects, civil engineers, environmental professionals, attorneys, planners and community advocacy stakeholders—both public and private.

The first class, "Managing the Entitlement Process," starts Sept. 4 and meets every Thursday in September from 6 to 9 p.m. Lou Lightfoot, president of the Lightfoot Planning Group, will instruct the class.

Local government and non-profit professionals may be eligible for financial assistance through an SDG&E scholarship. For more information on scholarship terms and availability, contact Julia Chemers at juliarose@sandiego.edu, or (619) 260-7699.

For more information on the Land Use and Sustainable Community Development program and other real estate continuing education programs, go to www.sandiego.edu/ce.
San Diego keeps full calendar leading up to holiday weekend

On the Agenda
By Rebecca Go

The upcoming Labor Day weekend hasn’t necessarily set professionals back on their haunches. Industry players continue to meet and confer over relevant issues in locations throughout San Diego this week. A University of San Diego forum addresses policies and economics; Navy Gold Coast once again brings government and small businesses together. For those looking to buy or sell property, a free real estate workshop shares insider secrets.

More than 150 retail pharmacy companies converge on the Convention Center this week for the Pharmacy and Technology Conference for the National Association of Chain Drug Stores. The event began Aug. 23 and continues through Tuesday, presenting various opportunities for attendees to network and discuss issues and trends in the industry.

The San Diego County Taxpayers Association’s Breakfast Club on Tuesday morning features a water reuse forum, in which a panel of executives will discuss regional and state policies and issues.

The University of San Diego brings together a panel of finance experts Tuesday from 5:30-7 p.m. to discuss “The Election, Economics & You.” The panelists will share their outlook on economics, taxes and investment markets, and how those viewpoints may differ with the election of either major presidential candidate. The event is on campus; admission is $25.

The Navy Gold Coast also takes advantage of Convention Center facilities Wednesday and Thursday for the Small Business Opportunity Conference. The event aims to inform and assist businesses, particularly small businesses, in working with the government, primarily the Department of Defense. Onsite registration at $299 per person begins Tuesday. For more information, visit www.NavyGoldCoast.org.

The city of San Diego spotlights contracting opportunities for the small business community at the annual public outreach meeting of the Small Business Advisory Board on Wednesday. Businesses will learn how to contract with the city, and attendees are encouraged to address concerns that affect their ability to do business in the city. The meeting will be from 9-10:30 a.m. at Liberty Station. Call (619) 236-6505 or visit sandiego.gov/economicdevelopment for more information.

Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse and Chula Vista City Councilman John McCann are sponsoring a free public forum from 6-7:30 p.m. Wednesday to help businesses comply with the American with Disabilities Act. Presenter Don Reeves of the American Institute of Architects will discuss steps businesses can take to avoid a lawsuit. RSVP at (619) 295-6059 or sdcala@sbcglobal.net.

The Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce hosts a free sustainable energy workshop Wednesday night at the Carlsbad Faraday Center from 7-8:30 p.m. The event will focus on the probable impacts of climate change on San Diego. For more information, call (760) 931-8400 or e-mail chamber@carlsbad.org.
USD’s Burnham-Moores Center for Real Estate will launch its second continuing education program -- the Certificate in Land Use and Sustainable Community Development -- on Sept. 4. The program is for professionals interested in understanding the complex processes of land use decisions. The program will help clarify the entitlement and permitting process and the environmental impact assessment. The program also will help participants understand how to incorporate sustainable measures in their projects through site planning, building design and energy-efficient approaches. The classes are geared for developers, land use professionals, industry consultants and advisors, architects, civil engineers, environmental professionals, attorneys, planners and community advocacy stakeholders.

The first class, "Managing the Entitlement Process," starts Sept. 4 and meets every Thursday in September from 6 to 9 p.m. Lou Lightfoot, president of Lightfoot Planning Group, will instruct the class. Local government and nonprofit professionals may be eligible for financial assistance through an SDG&E scholarship. For more information on scholarship terms and availability, call Julia Chemers at (619) 260-7699.

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Mission Valley Mall Takes First Steps Toward Expansion

The developer, who owns several shopping centers in San Diego, including Horton Plaza, Westfield Plaza Bonita and Westfield Parkway Plaza, is also working to redevelop another shopping center.

Westfield invested seven years of planning into a proposed expansion at Westfield UTC before receiving approval on July 29 from City Council.

This $900 million, mixed-use expansion could bring the city of San Diego more than $60 million in annual sales and property tax revenues, more than 2,500 new full- and part-time jobs and more than 6,000 construction jobs, according to Westfield.

Plans at UTC include up to 300 residential units, 750,000 square feet of retail space, 5,000 square feet of office space, and several new restaurants.

"We are going to take all the things that we have learned from UTC and from our other major developments in the U.K. and Australia ... and apply it to Mission Valley," said Bradhurst.

The proposed expansion calls for an additional 500,000 square feet of retail space, 450,000 square feet of office or hotel use, and several new restaurants.

"We are constantly looking at ways to reinvest and reinvent our properties," said Jonathan Bradhurst, vice president of development for Westfield in San Diego. "Revitalize them and keep them really relevant."

Bradhurst said Westfield has been working on the proposed mixed-use expansion project, which consists of retail, residential and office use, for nearly a year. He did not release cost estimates.

If this request is approved, the environmental review and community involvement phase of the project would begin, Bradhurst said.

"There is an opportunity to create something that is so much more than what it is today," said Bradhurst.

A spokesman for Burnham-Moores Center reported record number of students enrolled in fall semester for its masters of science in real estate program.

A total of 27 students will take classes in the masters program this fall. In addition, nearly 400 students have attended Burnham-Moores' Real Estate Finance, Investment and Developments certificate program since being offered in February 2006.

Aguirre Files Suit Against SEDC

President: San Diego City Attorney Mike Aguirre filed a complaint for breach of contract Aug. 8 against embattled Southeastern Economic Development Corp. President Carolyn Smith. The complaint alleges that the SEDC agreed not to incur any cost or expense in excess of the approved budget and it is believed that Smith approved compensation for herself and others in excess of the amount authorized and approved in the annual budget.

Smith, who has been an employee of the SEDC since 1984, allegedly approved large bonuses for both herself and staff exceeding their base pay by more than $1 million over the past five years. It is estimated that she approved more than $70,000 for herself in the past two fiscal years.

Send real estate news to Michelle Mowad at mmowad@sdbj.com. She may also be reached at 858-277-6359, ext. 3109.
TUESDAY, SEP 16 - BREAKFAST MEETING

BREAKFAST AT THE BMC

Dr. See Kiong Huat, President of GIC Real Estate, Singapore, will be our speaker, bringing his knowledge as one of the foremost experts in global real estate to this rare US appearance. **Organization:** USD/Burnham-Moores Center

**Information:** (619) 260-4231 www.USDRealEstate.com **Cost:** $100.00

**When:**
**Starts:** 7:30 AM
**Where:** Joan B. Kroc Institute, Peace and Justice, 5998 Alcala park, San Diego, 92110
OTHER EVENTS

THURSDAY, SEP 4 - CLASSES

MANAGING THE ENTITLEMENT PROCESS

This program will help participants understand how to incorporate sustainable measures in their projects through site planning, building design and energy efficient approaches. Organization: USD/Burnham-Moores Center
Information: (619) 260-4231 www.USDRealEstate.com Cost: $450.00
Where: Manchester Auditorium/USD, 5998 Alcala Park, San Diego
USD ENTITLEMENT COURSE

Real estate professionals interested in learning more about the entitlement and permitting process as well as environmental impact assessment are encouraged to take this four-week University of San Diego course under the instruction of the Burnham-Moore Center for Real Estate.

- Every Thursday from Sept. 4 through Sept. 25, 6 to 9 p.m.
- University of San Diego, Douglas F. Manchester Executive Conference Center, 5998 Alcala Park, in San Diego
- Cost: $450 includes 12 hours of instruction, class materials, parking and refreshments.
- Visit www.usdce.org/landuse
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6

USD PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COURSE

The University of San Diego offers "Property Management," a four-day course taught by professors from USD's Burnham-Moores Center for Real Estate, as part of a certificate program designed to provide competitive skills to today's real estate and building industry professionals.

- August 6, 13, 20 and 27, 6 to 9 p.m.
- University of San Diego, Douglas F. Manchester Center, In San Diego
- Cost: $450
- Visit www.usdrealestate.com
REAL ESTATE CALENDAR

FEATURED EVENTS

THURSDAY, AUG 28 - SEMINAR
REAL ESTATE EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOP
Join Gary Laturno, Attorney and Real Estate Broker (former FBI agent) and Fred Eckert, Chicago title, Foreclosure, Short Sale REO Specialist Learn insider secrets you should know before you buy real estate. Find out how to, find the deals, with foreclosures, short sales, trustee sales, bank owned (reos) fsbos and other types of properties in a free educational seminar. Seating limited to 30, please RSVP. Organization: Chicago Title Information: Fred Eckert 619-507-6886 supmanx@aol.com, www.chicagotitle.com Cost: No Cost When: Hours: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Where: Chicago Title Building, 2365 Northside Dr., 6th Floor, San Diego, 92108

OTHER EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, AUG 13 - CLASSES
PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
This course will explore the various facets of property management that apply to the variety of real estate products. Other Dates: Wednesday, Aug 20;Wednesday, Aug 27 Organization: USD Burnham-Moores Center for Real Estate Information: Jodi Waterhouse (619) 260-4231 jodiw@san diego.edu Cost: $405.00- $450.00 Where: The Burnham Institute, 10901 N. Torrey Pines Road, San Diego, 92037, Venue Phone - (858)646-3100

THURSDAY, AUG 21 - SPECIAL EVENTS
IYP SUMMER BASH
Join us in celebrating 2 amazing years of networking, education, and building relationships! We'll top the evening off with a special tribute to our sponsors. Organization: IREM Young Professionals Information: (619)209-2997 http://iremsd.org Cost: $15.00- $30.00 When: Starts: 6:00 PM Where: The Fleetwood, 639 J Street (corner of 7th & J), San Diego

FRIDAY, AUG 22 - CLASSES
FAIR HOUSING
See Calendar on 3B
OTHER EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, AUG 20 - CLASSES
PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
This course will explore the various facts of property management that apply to the variety of real estate products. Organization: USD/USQ Burnham-Moores Center for Real Estate Information: Jodi Waterhouse (619) 260-4231 jodiw@sandiego.edu Cost: $405.00- $450.00 Where: The Burnham Institute, 10901 N. Torrey Pines Road, San Diego, 92037, Venue Phone - (858)648-3100

THURSDAY, AUG 21 - SPECIAL EVENTS
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FRIDAY, AUG 22 - CLASSES
FAIR HOUSING
This class will teach participants the about trust fund management for fair housing. Organization: San Diego Association of REALTORS Information: See Calendar on 2B

SATURDAY, AUG 23 - COMPETITION
1ST ANNUAL SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT
You are invited to join in a fun-filled charity softball tournament to benefit ReStart, a charity program devoted to preparing and training rehabilitated women for careers in Property Management. Organization: IREM San Diego Chapter Information: (619)209-2997 http://www.iremsd.org Cost: $300.00 - $500.00 When: Starts: 8:30 AM Where: Robb Field, 2525 Bacon St., San Diego, Venue Phone - (619) 531-1563

THURSDAY, SEP 4 - CLASSES
MANAGING THE ENTITLEMENT PROCESS
This program will help participants understand how to incorporate sustainable measures in their projects through site planning, building design and energy efficient approaches. Organization: USD/USQ Burnham-Moores Center Information: (619) 260-4237 www/USD/RealEstate.com Cost: $450.00 Where: Manchester AuditoriumUSD, 5998 Alcala Park, San Diego.
OTHER EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, AUG 13 - CLASSES
PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
This course will explore the various facets of property management that apply to the variety of real estate products. Organization: USD Burnham-Moores Center for Real Estate Information: Jodi Waterhouse (619) 260-4231 jodiw@sandiego.edu Cost: $405.00-$450.00 Where: The Burnham Institute, 10901 N. Torrey Pines Road, San Diego, 92037, Venue Phone: (858)646-3100

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FRIDAY, AUG 22 - CLASSES
FAIR HOUSING
This class will teach participants about trust fund management for fair housing. Organization: San Diego Association of REALTORS Information: (858) 715-8000, Fax (858) 715-8088 www.sdar.com Cost: No Details Available When: Hours: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM Where: San Diego Association of REALTORS, 4845 Ronson Cl., San Diego

SATURDAY, AUG 23 - COMPETITION
1ST ANNUAL SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT
You are invited to join in a fun-filled charity softball tournament to benefit REstart, a charity program devoted to preparing and training rehabilitated women for careers in Property Management. Organization: IREM San Diego Chapter Information: (619)209-2997 http://www.iremsd.org Cost: $300.00-$500.00 Where: Starts: 8:30 AM Where: Robb Field, 2526 Bacon St., San Diego, Venue Phone: (619) 531-1563

THURSDAY, SEP 4 - MEETING
ADA COMPLIANCE AND UPDATE
Attorney Craig McMahon deals with ADA issues on behalf of both commercial and residential owners and managers and will share his years of experience and knowledge with today's participants. Organization: IREM San Diego Chapter Information: (619)209-2997 http://www.iremsd.org Cost: $25.00-$75.00 Where: Hours: 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM Where: Lincoln Military Housing Clubhouse, 10323 Orleck St., San Diego

THURSDAY, SEP 4 - CLASSES
MANAGING THE ENTITLEMENT PROCESS
This program will help participants understand how to incorporate sustainable features in their projects through site planning, building design, and energy efficient approaches. Organization: USD/Burnham-Moores Center Information: (619) 260-4231 www.USDRealEstate.com Cost: $450.00 Where: Manchester Auditorium/USD, 5998 Alcala Park, San Diego
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6
USD PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COURSE

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- August 6, 13, 20 and 27, 6 to 9 p.m.
- University of San Diego, Douglas F. Manchester Center, in San Diego
- Cost: $450
- Visit www.usdrealstate.com
TUESDAY, SEP 16 - BREAKFAST MEETING
BREAKFAST AT THE BMC
Dr. Seok Ngee Huat, President of GIC Real Estate, Singapore, will be our speaker, bringing his knowledge as one of the foremost experts in global real estate to this rare US appearance. Organization: USD/Burnham-Moores Center Information: (619) 260-4231 www.USDRealestate.com Cost: $100.00 When: Starts: 7:30 AM Where: Joan B. Kroc Institute, Peace and Justice, 5998 Alcala park, San Diego, 92110

WEDNESDAY, AUG 27 - CLASSES
PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
This course will explore the various facts of property management that apply to the variety of real estate products. Organization: USD Burnham-Moores Center for Real Estate Information: Jodi Waterhouse (619) 260-4231 jodiw@sandiego.edu Cost: $405.00- $450.00 Where: The Burnham Institute, 10901 N. Torrey Pines Road, San Diego, 92037, Venue Phone - (858)646-3100

THURSDAY, SEP 4 - CLASSES
MANAGING THE ENTITLEMENT PROCESS
This program will help participants understand how to incorporate sustainable measures in their projects through site planning, building design and energy efficient approaches. Organization: USD/Burnham-Moores Center Information: (619) 260-4231 www.USDRealestate.com Cost: $450.00 Where: Manchester Auditorium, USD, 5998 Alcala Park, San Diego
ULI Young Leaders will present a Thursday (Aug. 7) presentation and panel discussion on environmental design and the green building rating system. It will be held from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at 4350 La Jolla Village Drive, Suite 500, in San Diego. The presentation will be by Christian Dick, project manager of Swinerton Management & Consulting, on the Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) rating system of the U.S. Green Building Council.

The panel discussion will cover a variety of issues on environmental design. The panelists are Matt Ellis of CB Richard Ellis; Paul Vujica, senior project manager of Swinerton Builders; and Norm Miller, professor and director of real estate academic programs at the Burnham-Moores Center for Real Estate at USD. The moderator is Linville Martin of Grubb & Ellis.
The monthly changes in leading indicators (initial claims for unemployment insurance, local stock prices, outlook for the national economy, consumer confidence, building permits and help wanted advertising) of the San Diego economy as tracked by Alan Gin, an urban economics professor at the University of San Diego. The highest monthly rate is 137.3 in June 2007.
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School of Law
The University of San Diego School of Law is holding a business valuation conference on Sept. 18.

U.S. Tax Court Judge David Laro will discuss the conflicting theories related to the lack of marketability discount.

The conference will be held at USD’s Joan B. Kroc Peace & Justice Theater.

The cost of the conference is $495 by Aug. 18 and $545 after. The last day to register online is Tuesday, Sept. 16.

From the Mandelbaum case to Dr. Bajaj, the theories will be analyzed and reconciled to produce a single lack of marketability discount method.

USD School of Law is a State Board of California approved MCLE provider, and certifies that this activity is approved for MCLE credit in the amount of 8.50 hours of general credit.

Business Valuation Resources, LLC is registered with the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA) as a sponsor of continuing professional education on the National Registry of CPE Sponsors. Attendees will earn nine hours of interactive CPE credit (consulting services).

For more information or questions regarding registration, contact the dean’s office at lawdean@sandiego.edu.

Source Code: 20080812tjd
doug.sherwin@sddt.com
USD law school holding business valuation conference Sept. 18

By DOUG SHERWIN
Tuesday, August 12, 2008

The University of San Diego School of Law is holding a business valuation conference on Sept. 18.

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For more information or questions regarding registration, contact the dean's office at lawdean@sandiego.edu.
USD to host business conference

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For more information or questions regarding registration, please contact the dean's office at lawdean@sandiego.edu. **Source Code: 20080806czi**
Rob Selphrut pronounces each word by tapping on the table with a clinked flat, as if hoping the sound or the vibration will let loose some common sense. "Eighty percent of non-kid adoptions are really coming from family foster care," he says. "That's why you want to put every kid in family foster care that you possibly can." 

But to Selphrut's way of thinking, the low payments are simply the cause of a larger problem. By operating a foster-care system on the cheap, the state is depriving foster families out of the business of caring for abused or neglected children. His goal is to change the way the system works so that more neglected kids will be adopted into healthy family environments.

"We've established that the state has no idea what the costs are. They don't care." ~ROB SELPHRUT

But, as he continues, the payments were increased. "I like it. I really enjoy doing it. I really love the kids and everything, but I just can't afford to do it anymore," she says. "I can't afford to support other people's kids." 

Fosters used to run a day-care business and, while she doesn't feel that as personally fulfilling as being a foster parent, she's going to return to that line of work. During the day, she has a job and weekends free and can make $150 a week per child. But, Selphrut says, "It's not what I enjoy. I'd rather do foster care. When you do foster care, you're the kids are almost like your own. Day care not as enjoyable,"

As soon as the complete her sentence, the sound of a suddenly crying child can be heard in the background. She chuckles, as she explains that her 3-year-old grandson, the man of the house, has just announced one of the other kids to not hug him on the cheek, prompting the sudden wail.

The concern about the low reimbursement rates is just part of a larger effort to reform the state's foster system, which oversees care for roughly 80,000 children who've been, at least temporarily, removed from their homes and, for whatever reason, can't be placed in the care of relatives.

A Blue Ribbon Commission on Children in Foster Care later this month will present final recommendations for reform to the California Judicial Council, the policymaking body for the state's court system. On Friday, Aug. 8, state Assembly Speaker Karen Bass and Assembly member Jim Baril, Jr. will host a hearing in Los Angeles on "Fixing Foster Care: Challenges and Solutions." Bass, long passionate about foster care issues, did not respond to CityBeat's request for an interview.

For Selphrut and Christine Richi, a staff attorney with the Children's Advocacy Institute who is also researching issues related to the deaths of abused and neglected children, the solution starts with money. Every time a foster parent like Mary Selphrut leaves the system, they say, it increases the possibility that a child will have to be placed in a group home, which child welfare advocates say greatly lowers chances for success in adulthood. 

A 2007 Children's Advocacy Institute report called "They Deserve a Family" cites a study done by researchers at the University of Colorado at Boulder that found that adults who spent time in group homes as kids were less accomplished educationally and were more likely to go around. Advocates attribute this to group homes' lack of family-style attachments.

It follows, then, that kids placed in group homes have a greater chance of living in poverty, standing up on the government food and housing programs, Richi says, noting the state's long-term socioeconomic impact in making sure there are enough foster families to go around.

But she and Selphrut say there can be a quicker return on investing in higher monthly payments to foster parents. 

"If we were able to move 100 kids from group homes to foster homes~assuming there are that many in group homes who don't require the sort of intensive social work for which such facilities were designed." Whereas the severely cost of family foster care is measured in the hundreds of dollars, the monthly cost of group home placement is measured in the thousands. A spokesperson for the state's Department of Social Services told CityBeat that the average monthly payment per kid in a group home is 60,000.

"We just want our kids to be smart," Richi says. "It's like a math quiz that they're flunking. It's not even an algebra quiz. It's third grade level."

"The kids, in me, is a means to an end." The state says that federal law requires states that collect federal foster-care funds to cover the cost of food, clothing, shelter, daily supervision, school supplies, personal incidentals, liability insurance and travel for visitation with birth parents. "California applied for and willingly accepted this federal funding, but does not cover the costs incurred by foster parents as required by federal law," the state argues. "Even as costs to feed, cloth, house, and transport these children back if it were able to move 100 kids from group homes to foster homes~assuming there are that many in group homes who don't require the sort of intensive social work for which such facilities were designed." Whereas the severely cost of family foster care is measured in the hundreds of dollars, the monthly cost of group home placement is measured in the thousands. A spokesperson for the state's Department of Social Services told CityBeat that the average monthly payment per kid in a group home is 60,000.
Foster care

Continued from Page 11

have risen every year; California's foster care payment rates have not kept pace.

After a 5 percent increase that took effect in January, the state now pays foster families between $445 and $827 per month, depending on the child's age. But that's subject to the availability of funds, state law says. The latest change that the child support payments have not kept pace. After a 5 percent increase that took effect on Jan. 1, the state now pays foster families between $445 and $827 per month, depending on the child's age. State law requires the reimbursement rate to rise according to increases in the California Necessity Index (CNI) - but that's subject to the availability of funds, state law says. The latest change that even though the CNI rose by 8 percent between 2001 and 2002, the state did not adjust the foster care rates during that time. Between 1999 and 2003, the rates were increased twice - a 1% percent bump in 2000 and a 5% percent hike in 1996.

The latest change that the state laws on the U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates that, nationwide, a family earning between $43,400 and $73,100 per year, spends an average of $962.6 per month raising a single child. A study by the University of Maryland School of Social Work recommends raising California's rates to $355 for a 3-year-old, $775 for a 5-year-old, and $981 for a 15-year-old.

"We have good evidence," Pietschnik says. "We've estimated that the state has no idea what the costs are. They don't care."

A spokesperson from the state Attorney General's office referred毯ys to the Department of Social Services for comment and, just before press time, e-mailed a copy of the state's legal response, which essentially denies the plaintiffs' alternative charges. A spokesperson for DCFS said his office's policy is to withhold comment on matters involving litigation.

As concerned as Pietschnik is about kids while they're in foster care, he's equally mindful of the before and after. "Nobody ever talks about prevention," he says. "Nobody ever talks about parenting education, Nobody ever talks about in-school births," which correlate strongly to the demand for foster care, he says, particularly in the African-American community. "Then you've got methamphetamine, which hits hard and is even a bigger cause of poverty," he adds, "It destroys maternal/paternal instincts. Probably 60 to 70 percent of the cases we see in our clinic are methamphetamine-connected, it's enormous.

"After foster care, when kids "age out" of the program, they're pretty much out of control, and too many become homeless." Pietschnik says that the state set up a "transition guardianship" program. Under it, the state would give each foster kid roughly $60,000 to live on for five years while receiving vocational training or higher education. The money would be distributed monthly through a court-approved guardian, and each recipient would be required to check in with a judge, preferably one who's been overseeing a youth's care since the first custody hearing, every six months.

If you believe in family values, these are your children. Literally. Legally, these are your children. This is not welfare to someone else's kids," Pietschnik says. "You've been paying for them already. You've raised them. These are your courts. This is your state. Now are you going to follow through? Are you going to be a good, decent parent and follow through like other parents do? Or are you going to be a bad parent? That's the proposition."

Comment? Story tips? Write to david@dailybeast.com.
Sacramento County grand jury probing CPS in wave of children's deaths

By Marjie Lundstrom and Sam Stanton - mlundstrom@sacbee.com
Published 12:00 am PDT Wednesday, August 6, 2008

Sacramento County's grand jury quietly began an investigation this week of Child Protective Services following a string of seven children's deaths, even as county officials announced plans for their own independent review of the troubled agency.

The grand jury is looking into the agency and the children's deaths, a source told The Bee, something several child advocates have been calling for since last month's beating death of 4-year-old Jahmaurae Allen.

Meanwhile, county officials said Tuesday they hoped to hire an outside consultant within two weeks to examine the agency, its structure and how it handles cases. They said they did not know who would be hired, how much it would cost or how long it would take.

The existing CPS oversight committee - created in 1996 following the death of 3-year-old Adrian Conway - will work with the expert in the review.

"The more oversight and review into CPS, the safer the children will be in the future," said Robert Wilson, executive director of Sacramento Child Advocates, whose attorneys represent children in dependency court.

But Wilson, who was among those pressing for a grand jury investigation, said it is imperative that the consultant be truly independent, without ties to the county.

The series of deaths, beginning last September, was alarming to many because of the agency's involvement with the children and their families before the deaths.

One of the seven children died in foster care, while the rest had remained in their homes. Jahmaurae was the subject of a CPS case opened five weeks before he was beaten to death on July 21.

Jonathan Lamar Perry, the live-in boyfriend of the boy's mother, has been charged with murder and child endangerment. He made a brief appearance in Sacramento Superior Court on Tuesday morning. Later in the day, the Sheriff's Department also charged the 26-year-old former security guard with physically abusing Jahmaurae's 3-year-old brother.

That boy and an 18-month-old sister were taken into protective custody after Jahmaurae's death.
Perry has not entered a plea, and his case was continued Tuesday until Aug. 19.

The death of Jahmaurae (pronounced "Ja-MAR-ee") spawned a firestorm of criticism of CPS' performance, the subject of a Bee investigative series published in June that exposed shortcomings in the agency. Despite an infusion of resources - the agency's budget has nearly quadrupled since Adrian's death, and its staffing has doubled - The Bee found that problems persist, among them: inadequate supervision and training, sloppy investigations, poor evaluation of children's risk and lack of accountability for mistakes.

The Sacramento grand jury has issued six reports on CPS since Adrian's 1996 murder, among many of the same problems - especially the agency's failure to protect children in homes known to be troubled.

Grand juries have broad subpoena power in their secret investigations of public agencies or officials, which can result in criminal charges, recommendations for new laws or reports identifying problems.

Ed Howard of Sacramento, senior counsel for the San Diego-based Children's Advocacy Institute, said it is "heartening that the county now appears to be taking this seriously."

"But it is distressing in the extreme that it took so much news coverage, so many angry editorials, for the county Board of Supervisors to do what every parent would do at the first hint of trouble - not when it becomes a full-blown scandal," he said.

In recent days, Supervisors Don Nottoli and Roberta MacGlashan have raised concerns about the deaths, with MacGlashan saying she favored an outside look at the agency.

"The idea is not to have it be one of these year-long projects, but to be more strategic and timely," she said. "I think it's important for ourselves and for the community to know it's not just us looking at ourselves - which we're doing - but that there's outside expertise."

CPS already has begun an internal review of some procedures. Director Laura Coulthard said Tuesday that the agency had reviewed all 921 active cases involving children 5 and younger since Jahmaurae's death and had found no widespread problems.

Despite that, Coulthard said, the process of improving CPS procedures would continue.

"Any time there is a child death, it is totally unacceptable," she said.

Coulthard and Supervisor Roger Dickinson, who said he was representing the board at an afternoon news briefing about the plans to hire the outside expert, said CPS is underfunded and social workers have high caseloads.

Dickinson, who was the board's chairman when Adrian died, said Tuesday that the agency has "made some very significant changes" since the child's torture and death.

"But that was never the end of what we did - either as a board, as a county or as a child protection agency," he said.

Dickinson complained that the state of California has shorted CPS millions of dollars, which "forces us to not have as many social workers as we need or should have."
However, Coulthard said later she does not blame the deaths on budget constraints, and that the agency has identified internal problems with accountability and communications.

Coulthard's boss, Lynn Frank, who heads the county's Department of Health and Human Services, recently told The Bee she would welcome a grand jury inquiry and would cooperate fully.

Among the grand jury's previous criticisms was a lack of cooperation at CPS.

The new grand jury probe comes amid heightened awareness statewide of the deaths of children with prior CPS involvement. Last week, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger signed legislation that would give county boards of supervisors increased powers to probe those deaths.

Assemblywoman Mary Hayashi, D-Castro Valley, sponsored the bill, which allows supervisors to investigate deaths of children with a connection to county child protective services. That has proven difficult in the past because of confidentiality laws.

Alameda County Supervisor Gail Steele said she pushed for the legislation because she was "furious because nobody wants to talk about it or do anything about it" when a child known to CPS dies.

"It gives any board of supervisors a right to investigate any of these deaths," she said, noting that "Sacramento has had an unusual number of deaths."

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Sacramento CPS report in child death was altered

By Marjie Lundstrom and Sam Stanton - mlundstrom@sacbee.com
Published 12:00 am PDT Saturday, August 9, 2008

In the 16 days between the time 4-year-old Jahmaurae Allen was beaten to death and Sacramento Child Protective Services publicly released portions of its records, the case file was altered to change the original finding in the case, The Bee has learned.

One early version of the report from the social worker, who began handling an allegation of abuse involving the 4-year-old on June 19, described the allegation as "unfounded," two sources who read the document told The Bee this week.

Another early version obtained by The Bee described the allegation of abuse of the little boy as "inconclusive."

But the portions released by CPS to The Bee this week under a new public records law do not reflect either of those findings. Instead, those files indicate the allegation of abuse was "substantiated," a finding listed as "effective 7/21/08" - the day Jahmaurae was beaten to death, allegedly by his mother's boyfriend.

A top county official said Friday she was unaware of the varying case files until The Bee raised questions.

"We're pulling computer records right now to find out what's happened," said Lynn Frank, director of the Health and Human Services Department, which oversees CPS.

Late Friday, CPS Director Laura Coulthard issued the following statement:

"CPS policy and procedures requires supervisors to review social worker's cases, and update or correct findings based on their independent assessment. In the Jahmuare (sic) Allen matter, supervisors and management did such a review and made new findings that differed from the social worker's original assessment ...

"The county is reviewing allegations by The Sacramento Bee that original documents were altered. If it is established that those documents were altered, the county will take appropriate responses as warranted by this investigation."

Children's advocates outraged

The existence of differing versions of the case file outraged children's advocates who work with the...
agency. Some had been instrumental in pushing for the new law, which forces child welfare agencies to open files of children who die on their watch.

"This is unbelievable," said Robert Fellmeth, a law professor and director of the San Diego-based Children's Advocacy Institute.

"If you don't take the kid (from the home), the only check you have is this: the record of what you did or did not do ... " he said. "If you start playing with that and altering that, you undermine the only check these kids have on failure to protect."

Alarm over child welfare files being falsified or backdated has surfaced elsewhere.

Last week in Philadelphia, criminal charges were filed against two social workers in a case that led to the starvation death of a disabled 14-year-old girl. Workers were accused by the grand jury of falsifying documents after her death to make it appear they had performed their jobs properly.

Jahmaurae's death has spawned a grand jury probe of CPS, and the agency said Tuesday it was planning to launch its own independent review.

CPS has conceded it should have done more to protect Jahmaurae, and suspended the social worker. At the time, the agency said the social worker "worked in isolation and did not follow established department procedures."

Sources familiar with the case say the social worker's entries and narrative about what happened were not accessible until after Jahmaurae was killed. It remains unclear who completed portions of the file.

CPS documents show the social worker evaluated the case after a doctor reported June 17 that Jahmaurae might be the victim of physical abuse. That doctor reported a painful swelling and bruise on the boy's chest the size of an adult fist.

CPS documents indicate the social worker tried to contact the boy and his mother on June 19, going to their Foothill Farms apartment. The worker went to the wrong apartment at first, and when she found the right apartment, no one was home. She left her card on the door and returned June 21, the documents state, and left her card again.

She finally made contact when the mother called her June 23, according to one early version of the case file that was not released by CPS. The social worker went to see the family the next day, and Jahmaurae told her that the bruise on his chest had come from a fight with his 3-year-old brother. He "denied being hit by anyone else," it said.

Initially, the social worker filed a report that the allegation of abuse was "unfounded," sources said.

In CPS jargon, "unfounded" means the report is determined not to be true, according to agency literature.

But a subsequent report on the case obtained by The Bee - also not the one ultimately released by CPS - does not reflect that finding. Instead, that version reads:

"The allegation in regard to physical abuse was assessed by this reporter with a case disposition of inconclusive. This was evidenced by lack of disclosure from the minor that the mother's boyfriend had hit him. Also, the minor's (sic) were observed jumping off furniture and throwing things at each other."
"Inconclusive" means there isn't enough information to know either way, according to a CPS pamphlet.

The documents CPS eventually provided The Bee under the new law do not contain either the "unfounded" or "inconclusive" findings. Instead, those documents say: "Effective 7/21/08" – the day Jahmaurae died – "a review of this case has deemed the conclusion to be substantiated."

That finding means there is credible information to believe child abuse or neglect did occur, CPS materials show.

Had the doctor's abuse allegation been deemed "substantiated" a month earlier, it would have set off a more detailed investigation that could have led to Jahmaurae being removed from the home. As it was, it appears CPS had no contact with the family after the social worker's June 24 visit.

**Altering record criminal offense**

The documents CPS provided also differ from an earlier version of the case file in other ways.

An entire passage in the document provided by a source does not appear in the documents released by CPS.

That passage, dated June 23, 2008, discusses what happened when the social worker finally heard from Jahmaurae's mother:

"The mother stated she was afraid that this social worker was trying to take her children. The mother stated she is new here from the Bay Area.

"This social worker told her that I have to see her and the children and do an assessment and then we would talk further. This social worker told her not to be concerned about the article in The Bee Sunday (sic) CPS is supportive of families."

That was a reference to an investigative series on CPS that began in The Bee that day.

William Grimm, a senior attorney at the Oakland-based National Center for Youth Law, said he was deeply disturbed by the initial "unfounded" report on Jahmaurae.

"If a physician sees a fist-sized bruise on a 4-year-old, the red flag automatically goes up," he said. "I just don't understand how any reasonable person could make a judgment other than 'substantiated' – period."

Jahmaurae was the seventh child to die since September whose family had had previous contact with CPS.

The suspect in the case is 26-year-old Jonathan Lamar Perry, a 6-foot-4-inch, 250-pound man who was in the apartment with Jahmaurae and the boy's 18-month-old sister.

Perry is charged with murder and child endangerment. He is being held in the Sacramento County jail and has yet to enter a plea.

Robert Wilson, executive director of Sacramento Child Advocates, said Friday he "would sure be interested to see how CPS explains" the different versions of the case file. His office, whose attorneys represent children in dependency court, received the same version from CPS that The Bee
was given this week.

Fellmeth, a former prosecutor, said the California government code makes it a criminal offense to alter a public record – even if that record won't be given to the public. "You're not supposed to be altering, period," he said.

The proper way to make changes in public documents is to "overlay, or add the correction – not subtract or erase or alter."

"You don't create a new reality," he said.

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CHULA VISTA

Relationship
at college
scrutinized

By Chris Moran
STAFF WRITER

A legal opinion for Southwestern College states that a trustee dating a high-level administrator could create a public image problem but one that could be "negated to some degree" if the trustee recused herself from voting on issues affecting the administrator.

The trustee, Yolanda Salcido, hasn't.

The entire governing board has long known that Salcido and director of business services John Wilson are dating, board President David Agosto recently said, but no one has specifically asked her to recuse

SEE College, B8
Legal opinion wasn't released for four years

herself.

Salcido and Wilson's relationship has generated a legal claim from former college vice president Debra Fitzsimons. She alleges that she was driven to resign last year by Salcido after raising concerns about the relationship with Wilson. Fitzsimons is now a vice chancellor at the University of Hawaii's Hi-lo campus.

Salcido said: "It would be inappropriate for me to comment on anything that is pending. I welcome the opportunity to go straight in its due time, not through the media." Wilson did not return a phone call on e-mail.

But Fallin, executive director of the Center for Public Interest Law at University of San Diego School of Law, said that if he were on the board, he would ask Salcido to recuse herself. He doesn't fault the board for its inaction because dating doesn't constitute a clear-cut conflict.

"The easy bright line," after which Salcido's votes could clearly benefit her financially, "has not been passed," Fellmeth said.

Salcido has continued to vote on raises for Wilson and on the extensive building projects he oversees. Next week, the board is scheduled to consider putting a property tax increase on South County's November ballot to fund $389 million in college construction projects based on work led by Wilson.

The legal opinion has been kept under wraps for four years by the college's attorneys, who denied The San Diego Union-Tribune's request for a copy last year. A founding partner of the firm that denied the request also is treasurer for a political action committee that made more than $23,000 in independent expenditures on Salcido's behalf for her 2006 re-election.

The board voted last month to release the opinion. Trustees David Agosto, Jorge Dominguez and Jean Roesch voted in favor of releasing the opinion, with trustee Terri Valladolid opposed. Salcido abstained.

"The legal opinion states that the relationship does not violate conflict-of-interest laws so long as Salcido and Wilson do not share expenses or living arrangements. Salcido drives a car of which Wilson is the registered owner, but they have separate residences.

"In this instance, it (perception of conflict of interest) could be negated to some degree by the board member abstaining on issues that relate to the director," the legal opinion states.

In June, Fitzsimons filed her claim, generally the precursor to a lawsuit, against the college saying that Salcido drove her to resign after she raised conflict-of-interest issues and questioned the college's business practices.

Chris Moran: (619) 498-6637; chris.moran@uniontrib.com
Our View: Foster care needs crucial cuts are going to be made, but we must demand that foster children are first in the process.

"If I have just one can of beans in the pantry, my kids are going to eat."

Ed Howard, a children's advocate who works with the University of San Diego School of Law, puts California's budget priorities in a simple way that reflects the thinking of all responsible parents. When money's tight at home, the kids come first.

And so it should be when we set priorities for spending our money in the lean, mean years -- like this one. Bluntly, adults are big people who can take care of themselves. Even children with parents have someone who will sacrifice for them.

But the neediest of the needy are the state's 77,000 foster children, who have no one but us to look out for their well-being. They don't have a union; they cannot vote; there are no prime-time commercials on TV pressuring legislators not to cut their funding.

When children are so mistreated that they must be removed from their homes and placed in foster care, it is us, the residents of California, who become their parents.

Morally, we cannot ignore their cries when they are being neglected, assaulted, exploited or abused by their parents. We must investigate their cases, help their parents to step up. If their folks will not or cannot do so, we must find loving foster care and then assume responsibility for food, clothing, shelter, health care and education.

Just in Merced County, there are 635 foster children who have been placed with families.

It is well documented that foster children often bear the scars of early maltreatment for a lifetime. They are more likely to suffer poor health; to experience relationship problems; to engage in alcohol and drug abuse, become pregnant as teens; to become juvenile delinquents, adult criminals and have abusive or violent behavior.

If we don't want to act out of compassion, look at pure numbers: We pay for those problems later. In the United States, Prevent Child Abuse America puts total annual costs of child abuse and neglect at more than $103.7 billion.

We are fortunate that awareness in the Legislature is rising; Assembly Speaker Karen Bass has been a tireless educator and advocate for foster children.

We're all tired of the steady parade of people yelling at the Legislature: Don't cut me! Not me! Not us! Through all the deal making, we must demand that the Legislature put foster children first.
Foster care needs crucial

08/03/08 01:21:18

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In Fresno County alone, there are 2,759 children who are placed outside their homes. The proposed budget cut will mean 230 reports of abuse that will be unable to be investigated every month; 138 families will not receive services to allow them to maintain their children in their homes; 134 families will not receive reunification services; 260 children will not be able to receive services to help them acquire permanent homes.

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We're all tired of the steady parade of people yelling at the Legislature: Don't cut me! Not me! Not us! Through all the deal making, we must demand that the Legislature put foster children first.

Tell us what you think. Comment on this editorial by going to http://www.fresnobee.com/opinion, then click on the editorial.
Bar foundation awards $110,000 in grants

Wednesday, August 27, 2008

The San Diego County Bar Foundation has awarded $110,000 in grants to 10 local nonprofit organizations.

The bar foundation, which is the charitable arm of the San Diego County Bar Association, has a mission of improving the delivery of legal services and improved administration of justice to San Diego’s County low-income residents.

Each year the foundation awards grants to local nonprofit organizations that provide programs and services that mirror this mission. Funding for the foundation’s grants comes from fundraising efforts and gifts.

“This grant money will help serve needy residents, including refugees, immigrants, domestic violence victims, homeless, children, elderly and prisoners re-entering society,” said Meredith Brown, president of the bar foundation and chair of the foundation’s grants review committee. “We believe that these grants will expand the availability of legal representation for those needy residents, as well as promoting the administration of justice.”

Recipients of the foundation’s grant awards include ACCESS Inc. ($15,000 to provide training and mentoring to 12 law student interns to help domestic violence victims attain immigration relief); Casa de Amparo ($5,000 to support the Family Visitation Program); Center for Community Solutions ($10,000 to support the center’s legal department); Community Resource Center ($7,500 to expand the center’s domestic violence legal advocacy program); Elder Law and Advocacy ($10,000 to support the newly established senior scam alert resources team); International Rescue Committee ($15,000 to support the low cost refugee-centered immigration services in San Diego County); La Cuna, Inc. ($20,000 to support court accompaniment for children under the age five); San Diego Grantmakers Working Group on Prisoner Reintegration ($5,000 to support the Community projects effort of SDG’s WGPR); University of San Diego-Children’s Advocacy Institute ($20,000 to support the Bio Disrupt Youth Project); and VIP Mentors San Diego County ($2,500 to strengthen and refine the mentoring program).

The bar foundation awards grants twice a year. The last grant cycle awarded $125,300 to 10 local organizations. The foundation maintains a rigorous grant making process.

Written grant applications are carefully reviewed and in-depth site visits and interviews are conducted.

Since its inception in 1979, the Bar Foundation has granted more than $1.6 million to more than 30 legal aid and public interest organizations as well as a selection of initiatives.
The San Diego office of Best Best & Krieger has added Jennifer Haley and Greta Proctor as associates. Haley will practice in the areas of litigation, labor and employment and environmental law and natural resources. She graduated magna cum laude from USD with a degree in history and received her law degree cum laude from the USD School of Law.

Proctor will practice in the areas of environmental law and natural resources and sustainable communities. She graduated summa cum laude from Sierra Nevada College with a degree in psychology and received her law degree magna cum laude from USD.
La Mesa teacher to walk 50 miles in three days

La Mesa resident, Jo McGlin, who was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 1999, is planning to walk 50 miles in three days, from Carlsbad to Downtown San Diego, at the 2008 Southern California Challenge Walk MS, Sept. 5 to 7. It will be her seventh consecutive year to participate in the MS Challenge fund-raiser (she says it will take her about four months to recover). The National MS Society said about 350 people are expected to walk and help raise about $1.2 million for MS research and programs and services for people with MS.

McGlin, a special education teacher at Patrick Henry High School, says she is seeking donations to raise $2,500, which is the minimum fund-raising amount required to walk in the MS Challenge. Donations to McGlin can be made online at www.myMSCChallenge.com.

New football conference for Grossmont College

After winning seven championships in the past 10 seasons in the Foothill Conference, Grossmont College’s football team will switch to the newly formed Southern California Football Alliance for the 2008 season, announced James Spillers, associate dean of athletics.

The Griffins will play in one of three, seven-team conferences that are comprised of elite teams from Southern California that were selected based on an average of each team’s winning percentage over the last six seasons. Grossmont has been placed in the Southern Conference of the National Division, with conference opponents to include Palomar, Saddleback, Long Beach, Fullerton, Orange Coast and Santa Ana. The 10-game season begins Sept. 6 against San Diego Mesa. Two non-conference contests will feature former Foothill rivals, including College of the Desert (Sept. 13 in Palm Desert), then hosting Chaffey (Sept. 27), the only school to beat Grossmont at home since the installation of an artificial surface prior to last season.

Oakland Raider supports Muscular Dystrophy

Former Oakland Raiders defensive lineman Ben Davidson, a resident of La Mesa who works in property management, has been re-elected to a national leadership position with the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Davidson was re-elected to a one-year term as an MDA national vice president during the association’s recent convention. MDA national vice presidents provide volunteer counsel in their areas of expertise to support the association’s research and services programs.

Santee office building sold for $1.75M

Rancho Mesa Insurance LLC has purchased a 6,875-square-foot office building at RiverView at Santee, a new master-planned business park, for $1.75 million, according to Grubb & Ellis BRE Commercial. It is the first building to be sold at RiverView, a 108-acre business park developed by Ryan Cos. The business park, featuring six one-story and two-story office and medical buildings totaling 62,500 square feet, is located adjacent to Santee Trolley Square.

New county Superior Court judge from El Cajon

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has appointed El Cajon resident Polly Sharmoon to the San Diego County Superior Court. Sherman has been a deputy district attorney with the San Diego County District Attorney’s Office since 1993. She earned a doctorate degree from the USD School of Law and a bachelor’s degree from USD. She fills the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Larrinard.
Panel approves plan for desalination plant

Thursday, August 7, 2008

The California Coastal Commission approved a plan Wednesday to build the Western Hemisphere's largest desalination plant north of San Diego - a move aimed at relieving water shortages in the nation's most populated state.

The decision came after a daylong debate over the merits of the $300 million Carlsbad project, which is expected to eventually produce 10 percent of San Diego County's water supply from ocean water.

Construction on the plant could begin next year and begin delivering drinking water in 2011, according to Connecticut-based Poseidon Resources Corp., which is heading the project.

"We're ecstatic," Poseidon Vice President Scott Maloni told The Associated Press. "This is a monumental moment in what has been a 10-year process in bringing a desalination project to Carlsbad."

Commissioners gave the plant conditional approval in November. However, final approval hinged on the commission endorsing the company's plans to make the plant carbon neutral and to restore wetlands to make up for the marine life that would get drawn in and killed through the plant's intake system.

Commissioners approved both plans after lengthy debate, and Poseidon can now seek a state lease for the land.

Once complete, the plant will suck in 100 million gallons of sea water a day and produce enough drinking water for 300,000 people. The water will be filtered through reverse-osmosis to remove salt and impurities - with half the water being used by consumers and the rest returned to the ocean.

Pressure has been mounting to find new sources of clean water as a prolonged drought continues across the state and traditional sources of water are becoming more unreliable. More than a dozen other desalination plants are under consideration across the state, including one in Huntington Beach.

The Carlsbad project has drawn ire from some opponents who fear the plant will damage the environment and raise people's water bills.

Mark Massara, director of Sierra Club's coastal programs, called the desalination project "a giant step backward" for Californians. He said the ocean water that will be diverted will kill millions of fish to pad Poseidon's profits.

"It allows the privatization of public trust water supplies for public profit and will ultimately make San Diego water ratepayers slaves to the most expensive fresh water ever produced in the United States," Massara said.

Local business and political leaders from San Diego converged on the meeting, urging commissioners to green light the project.

"Both mitigation plans submitted by Poseidon are good plans," Robert Simmon, a retired University of San Diego law professor, said at the meeting. "They're reasonable."
School of Leadership and Education Sciences
TASC seeks to identify the needs of the transgender community, educate itself and others regarding those needs and advocate to make resources a reality. TASC’s goals are to make sure that transgender voices are heard in the greater community, to help the transgender community find its place as a group and as individuals, and to act as a platform to help the community create the support network necessary to live healthy and happy lives.

The picnic will take place at Balboa Park along Sixth Avenue just beyond the Upas Street entrance. A transgender flag will be posted for identification. For more information contact Tracie at 619-515-2411 or Paola at 619-515-2446, ext. 2943.

Freedom Banquet tickets available at early bird rate
Tickets for the San Diego Democratic Club’s (SDDC) annual Freedom Banquet are available. Guests are encouraged to purchase tickets now, as early bird rates are in effect until Aug. 31.

The 2008 event will be held on Saturday, Sept. 27 with a VIP reception at 6 p.m. followed by the general reception at 6:30 p.m., and dinner and program at 7:30 p.m. California Assembly Speaker Karen Bass will present the keynote address at the event which will take place at The Hyatt Regency Resort.

The SDDC’s annual awards will also be presented at the banquet, including the presentation of the A. Brad Truax award to California Assembly member John Laird and a special recognition award to The Center Advocacy Project’s “Decline to Sign” team effort.

Single tickets are available for $90 before Sept. 1, and tables are available for $900. VIP tickets and tables are also available for a slightly higher rate.

More information and tickets are available online at www.sddemoclub.org.

The Hyatt Regency Resort is located at 14441 Quivira Rd. on Mission Bay.

USD to present philanthropy study
San Diego Grantmakers and the University of San Diego Casa Loma Family Center for Nonprofit Research have announced the release of a new study that examines foundation and corporate giving in the San Diego region. The results of the study will be presented on Sept. 16 at 8 a.m. at the University of San Diego’s Warren Auditorium.

The analysis provides insights into philanthropic support of the San Diego nonprofit sector. Areas examined by the study include the size of local grantmaking and growth trends in the area; the types of nonprofits that are most likely to be the recipients of foundation and corporate grants; what areas of the county are granted most heavily; the amount of private grants coming in and out of San Diego; and how organized philanthropy in San Diego compares to other regions.

Philanthropists, nonprofit organizations, policymakers, media, business and community leaders, professional advisors, and others interested in the study are invited to attend the free presentation. Seating is limited so advance reservations are required. Directions and parking information will be sent upon registration.

To RSVP, please contact Carmen Valencia at cvalencia@sandiego.edu or call 619-260-8839.

Rivers to perform show to benefit ‘No on 8’
Comedienne Joan Rivers will perform a show on Sunday, Oct. 12 and will donate a portion of the evening’s proceeds to the “No on 8” campaign. The 8 p.m. show will be held at the Birch North Park Theater.

Rivers, a comedic legend, is well known as a hilarious force of nature and one of the hardest working celebrities in the world. Although most people know her for her “red carpet” hosting and time on the Tonight Show, she is also a Tony-nominated actress, best-selling author and Emmy Award-winning television talk-show host.

Tickets for the show start at $53 and can be purchased online at www.birchnorthparktheatre.net. VIP and dinner
EDUCATION

The USD School of Leadership and Education Sciences (SOLES) will honor five San Diego-area residents who have made strides in improving the state of education on the local and national level. A Remarkable Leaders in Education ceremony will be held from 4 to 6 p.m. in Warren Auditorium in Mother Rosale Hall on campus.

The honorees are: former state Sen. DeDe Alpert; Brian Bennett, a former principal and teacher who helped develop charter schools in the state; the late King Durkee, former journalist who established the Newspapers in Education program; Larry Rosenstock, founder and CEO of High Tech High School; and Rev. George Walker Smith, the first African-American to hold public office in San Diego County as a member of the San Diego Unified School District board.

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The USD School of Leadership and Education Sciences (SOLES) is honoring five San Diego-area residents who have made strides in improving the state of education on the local and national level.

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School of Peace
Los Angeles Times: Mexico anti-drug general is ousted

MEXICO UNDER SIEGE

Mexico anti-drug general is ousted

Sergio Aponte Polito is relieved of duty in Baja California and Sonora states. He has won public praise for his effectiveness but also criticism from officials for accusations against them.

By Richard Marosi
Los Angeles Times Staff Writer

August 9, 2008

ENSENADA — In Mexico's drug war, Gen. Sergio Aponte Polito racked up crime-fighting credentials worthy of the Dark Knight, making record seizures of drugs and weapons and forcing out top Baja California law enforcement officials he accused of corruption and of having links to organized crime.

But in a surprise move Thursday, the general was relieved of his command, abruptly ending his controversial 20-month stint as the leader of President Felipe Calderon's army-led battle against organized crime in the northern states of Baja California and Sonora.

Aponte policed a region that serves as a major drug-trafficking corridor for some of Mexico's most powerful criminal groups, including Tijuana's notorious Arellano Felix cartel. The more than 3,000 troops under his command arrested 1,388 suspects and seized 539 tons of marijuana, 4 tons of cocaine and 1,583 weapons.

The stout, salt-and-pepper-haired general, who broke secretive military tradition by becoming an outspoken public figure who relished the media spotlight, left the military base in Mexicali on Thursday night, but not without first thanking adoring residents through calls to local newspapers.

The office of the secretary of defense said in a news release that Aponte's removal was part of a regular rotation of generals and officers nationwide. He is to become president of the Supreme Military Tribunal in Mexico City.

But critics and supporters said the general's ouster probably was related to his increasingly contentious behavior.

Aponte won broad public support for aggressive tactics against drug gangs whose turf wars have left hundreds dead here, but he generated controversy by denouncing scores of police officers, prosecutors and officials by name in blistering letters published in newspapers across the state.

With such an aggressive general benched, some critics questioned Calderon's commitment to the drug war, saying he appeared to be sending a signal that his get-tough campaign against traffickers, which has included deploying 40,000 troops to several states, stops short of attacking entrenched government corruption.

Aponte took aim at the culture of impunity enjoyed for years by Baja California leaders with Calderon's conservative National Action Party, who many say were complicit in the rise of the drug cartels.

"What he did was enormously valuable," said Victor Clark Alfaro, director of Tijuana's Binational Center for Human Rights. "The people supported him. The only ones who didn't were organized crime and officials in state government."

But Aponte's critics say he was his own worst enemy, done in by his big ego and reckless accusations, many leveled without evidence. His was unfortunate, but necessary to preserve basic democratic rights, some observers said.

"When citizens are desperate for security, they will trade their liberties and due process," said David Shirk, director of the Trans-Border Institute at the University of San Diego. "And in the end may create a monster that is as dangerous as the other threat they are concerned about."

Regardless of whether he is hero or demagogue, the general's departure deals at least a temporary blow to Mexico's offensive against cartels, experts and U.S. and Mexican law enforcement officials said. U.S. agencies viewed the general as a strong ally in the drug war.

"He was very responsive and cooperative," said a U.S. law enforcement official who declined to be identified because he is not authorized to speak to the news media. "He was instrumental in fighting the narco-trafficking groups, kidnapping rings and arms smugglers."

Aponte's aggressive tactics didn't stop with criminal groups. His first letter in April accused Tijuana's anti-kidnapping chief, among others, of running a kidnapping ring. He also said a former deputy attorney general had been protecting organized crime groups.

The letter sent shock waves through state government. Many of the more than 50 accused officials quit or fled, in shame or guilt. A few fought back, only to back down under withering public pressure, and despite fear that the general's accusations were smearing innocent people.

In the following months, Aponte emerged as a Gen. George Patton-like figure, full of bravado marred by prima donna behavior. He once complained that state officials showed disrespect by seating him behind a partition at a public event.

He took offense when the generally fawning media reported that he got choked up during a speech at City Hall. His emotional moment, he wrote in his second letter, came at having to see his troops standing in formation next to corrupt local and state police.

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Vocal Mexican General Is Reassigned

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TIJUANA, Mexico - An outspoken general who urged residents to call the army when they witnessed a murder or drug deal in Tijuana, a crime-stricken border city, was transferred Friday after repeatedly accusing the police of being corrupt.

Gen. Sergio Aponte Polito, the army's senior officer in northwest Mexico, publicized a phone number to field the public's pleas for help, and on Sunday he gave the news media his latest 5,700-word letter complaining about corrupt police officers.

Such public provocations are out of character for military leaders in Mexico, and they may have cost the popular general his job.

"As much praise as there is for Aponte standing up, there's a right way and wrong way to do things," said David Shirk, director of the Trans-Border Institute at the University of San Diego. "His approach was to shoot from the hip more than was appropriate."

Mexico is struggling to control drug-related violence, which has soared since President Felipe Calderón moved to openly confront the drug cartels.
Mexican army takes lead fighting crime

August 8, 2008 - 3:20am
By ELLIOT SPAGAT
Associated Press Writer

TIJUANA, Mexico (AP) - If you witness a murder or a drug deal in the crime-stricken border city of Tijuana, don't bother calling the police _ call the Mexican army.

In a slap at the police, Gen. Sergio Aponte Polito, the army's top officer in northwest Mexico, has publicized a phone number for pleas for help and on Sunday gave the news media his latest 5,700-word bombshell letter complaining of police corruption.

Such public provocations are extremely out of character for military leaders in Mexico, and the general may have gone too far that he might be forced out: A state official who spoke on condition of anonymity confirmed Mexican newspaper reports that the general will be relieved of his command as early as Friday.

A Defense Secretary spokesman did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

The general's fate reflects larger questions in Mexico about how to control drug-fueled violence, which has soared in the years since President Felipe Calderon moved to openly confront the cartels that move cocaine into the United States.

Some Mexicans see the police as corrupt and the army as the only hope, but others fear soldiers are overstepping their authority and abusing their power by raiding the homes of suspected criminals.

Aponte leads many of the 20,000 troops Calderon dispatched to retake wide swathes of Mexico that were taken over by drug trafficking. And he has pushed limits by asserting a dominant crime-fighting role for soldiers in a city where police are considered too ineffective or corrupt to call. He named his phone-in campaign "Nosotros, si vamos," or "Yes, we respond."

"What he's doing is completely unprecedented," said Roderic Camp, an expert on the Mexican military at Claremont McKenna College. "Instructing citizens to call the army is really unique."

The jowly, silver-haired 64-year-old general speaks in severe tones and writes as if he's inscribing his epitaph. In his latest missive, he declared that he was relieved of four previous assignments because he denounced ties between drug traffickers and public officials, and openly challenged the defense ministry to support him this time.

In another indignant tirade four months ago, he accused police of working for drug lords, bank robbers, migrant smugglers and other criminals and even named officials he called crooked.

Analysts expect his successor would differ in style, not substance. The military would continue to exert a high profile, with a leading role in the fight against crime, but without Aponte's knack for confrontation.

"The military is supposed to be a nameless, faceless entity," said David Shirk, director of the University of San Diego's Trans-Border Institute. "It's supposed to be an institution, not about personalities. Aponte's behavior deviates dramatically from the military culture."

Aponte, who declined an interview request from The Associated Press, has claimed many army achievements under his command _ 1,388 people arrested, 539 tons of marijuana seized, 211,000 bullet casings recovered _ but it's hard to say if he has made Tijuana safer. The city's murder toll hit 285 before the end of July, nearly eclipsing 339 for all of 2007.

Still, his actions are wildly popular in a city worn down by years of escalating violence and failed
In Tijuana, outspoken Mexican general who has confronted cartels may lose his post

By ELLIOT SPAGAT
Associated Press Writer

3:21 AM EDT, August 8, 2008

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Still, his actions are wildly popular in a city worn down by years of escalating violence and failed promises of police overhauls.

"We trust the army because they get the job done," said Maribel Martinez, a hairdresser in a modest neighborhood where the military had an all-night shootout in March to free a kidnapping victim from a home. "People are scared that the police will cause you harm, so no one calls them."

When Aponte first arrived in 2006, Tijuana was suffering a terrifying wave of kidnappings. Aponte set up vehicle checkpoints to search for arms, and stripped police of their pistols to test for ballistics.

Some officers protested by brandishing slingshots — a striking contrast to drug traffickers armed with AK-47s and grenade launchers. The probe apparently went nowhere; authorities never released results of the ballistics findings.

Aponte shifted course this January, during a gruesome crime spree that included the assassinations of three police commanders, by urging people to report crimes directly to the army. He publicized a phone number and addresses on Yahoo, Hotmail and Gmail.

By April, he said the army had taken about 2,000 reports. Aponte went from a virtual unknown to toast of the town.
Aponte has detractors.

Some fault him for failing to offer evidence when he names crooked officials. And Francisco Javier Sanchez, Baja California's human rights ombudsman, said it is illegal for the army to lead the fight against crime unless the government declares a state of siege, which it hasn't.

"The fact that (the army) is fielding complaints, that it is investigating, that it's detaining people on its own — all of that is against the law," Sanchez said. "There's a perception that (the army) is our savior. However, I believe it shouldn't be that way. The police should be doing this work."

But few in Tijuana look to the police for answers. Many blame low pay and death threats to any who dare to confront drug traffickers. Tijuana officers earn the equivalent of about $1,400 a month. Six have died on the job since December, each leaving behind a death benefit of about $50,000.

Some call for better coordination among disjointed civilian agencies or even a national police force. Tijuana's 2,400 police officers are the most visible presence, but do not investigate. Detective work falls to the state for murders, kidnappings and robberies and to federal investigators for trafficking in drugs, arms and migrants.

Others recommend a unified national database to prevent corrupt police officers from job-hopping after they are fired.

Alberto Capella, Tijuana's public safety secretary, applauded Aponte's work but said the army alone can't fix the city. He cautions that it will take time for the police to win the public's trust.

"We are fighting two wars," he said. "The first war is inside the police, and the second one is the normal war, outside on the streets, against crime."

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Outspoken Mexican general loses his Tijuana post
8/8/2008, 5:14 p.m. ET
By ELLIOT SPAGAT
The Associated Press

TIJUANA, Mexico (AP) — An outspoken general who urged residents to call the Army when they witnessed a murder or drug deal in this crime-stricken border city was ousted Friday after repeatedly chastising police for being corrupt.

As the army's top officer in northwest Mexico, Gen. Sergio Aponte Polito publicized a phone number to field the public's pleas for help, and on Sunday he gave the news media his latest 5,700-word bombshell letter complaining about bad cops.

Such public provocations are extremely out of character for military leaders in Mexico — and may have cost popular Aponte his job.

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Aponte was reassigned to the Mexico City-based Supreme Military Tribunal and replaced by Gen. Sergio Magana Mier, who was most recently the Army's top commander in Guerrero state. The Defense Secretary said such rotations are common in a press release that also announced transfers of five other generals and dozens of lower-ranking officers.

But the general's fate reflects larger questions in Mexico about how to control drug-fueled violence, which has soared in the years since President Felipe Calderon moved to openly confront the cartels that move cocaine into the United States. Some Mexicans see the police as corrupt and the army as the only hope. But others fear soldiers are overstepping their authority and abusing their power by raiding the homes of suspected criminals.

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In another indignant tirade four months ago, he accused police of working for drug lords, bank robbers, migrant smugglers and other criminals and even named officials he called crooked.

Analysts predict his successor will differ in style. The military would continue to exert a high profile, with a leading role in the fight against crime, they said, but without Aponte's knack for confrontation.

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Bolivians to vote on president's recall

COCHABAMBA, Bolivia - Three governors have stopped eating to protest the president, and Marxist teachers have been blocking streets throughout Bolivia in the run-up to a plebiscite tomorrow that was supposed to strengthen the country's democracy.

Instead, Bolivians will decide whether to recall President Evo Morales and the country's governors amid a deepening climate of political and geographic polarization.

The divisions have become so pronounced that in the past week Mr. Morales had to scrub campaign trips to five of Bolivia's nine states to avoid violent protests against him.

Bolivia is South America's poorest country, with only 9 million residents and with an economic output equal to that of Alaska.

Tomorrow's vote is attracting outsized attention, however, because Mr. Morales is the country's first self-proclaimed indigenous president, he has formed a close alliance with Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez and Cuba's Fidel Castro, and Bolivia is the third biggest producer of coca, the raw ingredient for cocaine.

Top general ousted from Tijuana post

TIJUANA, Mexico - An outspoken general who urged residents to call the Army when they witnessed a murder or drug deal in this crime-stricken border city was ousted yesterday after repeatedly chastising police for being corrupt.

As the army's top officer in northwest Mexico, Gen. Sergio Aponte publicized a phone number to field the public's pleas for help, and every day he gave the news media his latest 5,700-word bombshell letter complaining about bad cops.

Such public provocations are extremely out of character for military leaders in Mexico - and may have cost the popular Gen. Aponte his job.

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MEXICO

General reassigned after speaking out

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VENEZUELA

Rabies from bat bites blamed in 38 deaths

CARACAS — At least 38 Warao Indians have died in remote villages in Venezuela, and medical experts suspect an outbreak of rabies spread by bites from vampire bats.

Laboratory investigations have yet to confirm the cause, but the symptoms point to rabies, according to two researchers from the University of California at Berkeley and other medical experts.

The two UC Berkeley researchers — the husband-and-wife team of anthropologist Charles Briggs and public health specialist Dr. Clara Mantini-Briggs — said the symptoms include fever, body pains, tingling in the feet followed by progressive paralysis, and an extreme fear of water. Victims tend to have convulsions and grow rigid before death.

Dr. Charles Rupprecht, chief of the rabies program at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, agreed with their preliminary diagnosis.

Outbreaks of rabies spread by vampire bats are a problem in various tropical areas of South America, including Brazil and Peru. Rupprecht said.

PAKISTAN

Aides say Musharraf to fight impeachment

ISLAMABAD — President Pervez Musharraf will stage a spirited defense against impeachment charges that the governing coalition is pursuing against him, and has no intention of resigning under pressure, his key allies said Friday.

Musharraf, who has been president for nearly nine years, faces the first impeachment proceedings in Pakistani history, after the leaders of the two major political parties in the coalition announced...
3,000 families flee Mexican violence to US: expert
2 days ago

MEXICO CITY (AFP) — Mounting drug-related violence and 800 murders so far this year have driven some 3,000 families from the Mexican city of Ciudad Juarez into the United States, a border expert said Friday.

Officials reported 10 new deaths in the Mexican border city Friday, and five others elsewhere in Chihuahua state.

Most of the families seeking safety across the border were middle-class, said Antonio Payan, a political science professor at the University of Texas in El Paso, the US city adjacent to Juarez.

The mayor of Ciudad Juarez, Jose Reyes Ferriz, said he "knew that some families had left to live in El Paso out of fear of the city's violence," but said that he had no figures.

Ciudad Juarez is the battleground in the power struggle between the Sinaloa and the Juarez drug cartels.

In escalating violence, the city of some 1.5 million has registered some 800 homicides this year.

Experts said the figure was triple that of the whole of last year.

Bank and car robberies, extortion, kidnappings and protection rackets were also on the increase in Juarez, according to the Trans-Border Institute at the University of San Diego.

An increase in kidnappings in the business community was another reason for the relocations, with at least 38 reported this year.

Most of those who left and moved to the United States had dual nationality or children born there, Payan said.

Violence throughout Chihuahua state left 15 dead Friday, officials said.

Ten people died overnight in separate incidents in Ciudad Juarez, local police said, and an armed commando attacked and killed four males, including three youths, on a basketball court in the town of Casas Grandes.

One man died of bullet wounds in a hospital in a nearby municipality, police said.

Federal authorities have deployed more than 36,000 soldiers across the country, including 2,500 in Ciudad Juarez, in an effort to combat drug trafficking and related violence, but some 2,000 people have been killed in Mexico so far this year.
MEXICO CITY, Aug. 15 (Xinhua) -- Drug-related violence and murders have forced some 3,000 families from the northern Mexican city of Ciudad Juarez to emigrate to the United States this year, a U.S. political scientist said Friday.

Antonio Payan, professor of political science at the University of Texas, said most of these families were middle-class and had moved to the United States for safety reasons.

The Juarez mayor, Jose Reyes Ferriz, admitted he "knew about some families that had left to live in El Paso, the sixth-largest city in Texas, due to the violence," but he did not have the statistics.

Juarez has some 1.5 million inhabitants and there have already been about 800 killings there this year, along with increased car robberies, extortion, kidnapping and protection rackets since last year, according to the Trans-Border Institute at the University of San Diego.

Some 38 kidnappings were reported among the business community this year.

Meanwhile, 2,000 people have been killed in Mexico in attacks related to drug trafficking and organized crime this year. Authorities have deployed more than 36,000 soldiers in the country, including 2,500 in Juarez to combat drug-related crime.
Solutions to Mexico’s Skyrocketing Violence

Wednesday, 27 August 2008, 10:11 am
Article: Council on Hemispheric Affairs

Searching for Solutions to Mexico’s Skyrocketing Violence

On August 21, Mexican President Felipe Calderón Hinojosa held a security summit at the National Palace. In attendance were the Mayor of Mexico City, Marcelo Ebrard, and Mexico’s thirty-one state governors. Those in attendance, represented most of the nation’s political parties, were still able to display a stunning show of relative harmony and cooperation in the face of dangerously mounting violence brought about by growing street gangs and more violent drug cartels throughout Mexico. A seventy-five-point package of security measures was unanimously adopted and will be implemented over the next three years. The package includes initiatives aimed at purging police corruption, constructing several new maximum-security prisons, and creating a database for mobile phones that the government will use to track down criminals using them.

Violence Everywhere

The unprecedented level of violence resorted to by Mexico’s drug gangs has reached a fevered pitch. On August 16, masked gunmen murdered thirteen people in a village in Chihuahua, a state that has witnessed 1,026 deaths so far this year. The number of gang-related deaths for all of Mexico so far this year stands at 2,682, already surpassing the 2007 total of 2,673. The escalating violence represents an ugly offensive by Mexican drug gangs retaliating against the government’s increased determination to combat drug trafficking and the drug-related violence that has plagued the country in recent years. Since 2007, Calderón has ordered 36,000 troops to be deployed against the gangs throughout Mexico’s thirty-one states, with only modest results.

Complicating the situation, Mexico’s various police forces are saturated with corruption, and its tolerance of violence, systemic. Various drug cartels have taken advantage of this, bribing the authorities – particularly the intelligence service – to side with them by waging war on their rivals. According to a congressional Research Service Report, authorities in Nuevo Laredo municipal officials have been known to kidnap competitors of the Gulf cartel, while members of the Sinaloa cartel enjoy police protection. According to the same report, in December 2005, the Mexican Attorney General’s office (PGR) reported that one-fifth of its officials were under investigation for criminal activity. This culture of corruption was starkly revealed by the Fernando Martí case, where a fourteen-year-old boy was kidnapped last June 4 by drug gang members masquerading as policemen. His body was found on August 1 in the trunk of an abandoned car. Subsequent investigation uncovered the involvement of fourteen members of the Federal District Judicial Police in the killing.

No Respite from the War’s Escalation

The chronic lack of integrity displayed by the police has further weakened Mexicans’ plummeting confidence in their government’s ability to cope with drug gangs. A poll taken in early June showed that 53 percent of the population believed that drug gangs were winning their war against federal forces, while a mere 24 percent thought that the government had the matter under control. Some 3,000 people from Ciudad Juárez – of mostly middle-class families – crossing illegally into the United States, do so out of fear of violence. Particularly hard hit by gang violence, Ciudad Juárez has registered 800 homicides so far this year—trailing the 2007 figure—as well as a spurt of bank and car robberies. The University of San Diego’s Trans-Border Institute recently reported that there has also been an increase in acts of extortion and kidnappings that have specifically targeted the business community.

In spite of Calderón’s intensified war against Mexico’s drug barons and the early phase in the implementation of Washington’s predictably under-funded Merida Initiative, the death toll continues to mount and there is no indication that the future will be any brighter than the past. This spotlights the inherent problems embedded in the Mexican government’s strategy, such as unrestrained venality in the police force as well as in the tainted bureaucracies at the municipal, state, and federal levels. On July 31, the government announced a shake-up in the PGR, with the departure of Noé Ramírez, the head of Mexico’s secret anti-organized-crime unit, Siedo, and three of the PGR’s deputy attorneys. This announcement followed a meeting during which the head of the PGR, Eduardo Medina-Mora, and public security...
Four decapitated bodies discovered in Tijuana

A fifth person was also found dead. Police say they may be linked to the leader of Arellano Felix drug cartel.

By Richard Marosi
Los Angeles Times Staff Writer

August 27, 2008

TIJUANA — The gruesome discoveries this week of five bodies, four of them decapitated, have shattered a period of relative calm and revived concerns that organized crime groups are escalating their battle for control of this border city.

Two bodies were found Monday morning on a hillside, one with its head placed on its upper back.

Three more bodies were discovered Tuesday morning in an illegal dump.

Their heads, charred from gasoline burns, were placed at their feet, according to the Baja California state attorney general's office.

Authorities have not identified the victims.

The attacks recalled the decapitations two years ago of three Rosarito Beach police officers.

Authorities believe the recent victims may have been associates of the reputed leader of the Arellano Felix drug cartel, Fernando Sanchez Arellano, nicknamed El Ingeniero — The Engineer.

Printed on the shirtless victims' backs was a taunting message: "We are people of the weakened engineer."

Violence had declined significantly in recent months, and Alberto Capella Ibarra, Tijuana's secretary of public security, discounted the significance of this week's killings, comparing them to Los Angeles-area gang slayings that are barely noticed.

"The only difference here is how dramatic the deaths are," Capella said in an interview in his downtown office.

But Capella and others conceded that the savage nature of the crimes could signal a deadlier phase in the drug war as the Arellano Felix drug cartel fights rivals.

The cartel, once among the most powerful in Mexico, has been weakened in recent years by arrests and killings of its top bosses.

Sanchez Arellano is said to have assumed control when his uncle, Francisco Javier Arellano Felix, was captured in 2006.

In April, a gun battle between groups headed by Sanchez Arellano and a rival faction left 13 dead and appears to have split the cartel into two camps.

The head of the rival group, Teodoro Garcia Simental, moved to the state of Sinaloa, where he may have forged ties with a cartel based there, said Mexican law enforcement sources who spoke on condition of anonymity as they were not authorized to talk publicly on the subject.

The recent deaths could be a sign that Garcia or one of his underlings may have launched an offensive to push out Sanchez Arellano with the help of powerful allies from Sinaloa.

Such a scenario, some fear, could turn Tijuana into a battleground on par with the northern state of Chihuahua, where more than 800 deaths this year have been linked to drugs, the most of any Mexican state, according to a report by the Trans-Border Institute at the University of San Diego.

The Chihuahua death toll grew higher Tuesday when gunmen killed five people at a family gathering at a ranch.

Also this month, cartel gunmen killed 13 people at a party in the tourist town of Creel, and eight people during a prayer service at a Ciudad Juarez drug rehabilitation center.

richard.marosi@latimes.com
Mexico Says No to Drug Violence

Mexico took a positive, albeit small, step toward stemming drug gang violence -- which has claimed over 2,500 lives this year alone -- by adopting a security package that includes measures to combat police corruption, explains Latin America analyst Amy Coorradt.

"Mexico's failure to adequately confront its rampant gang activity has allowed the number of local armed groups to significantly increase. Organized crime-related homicides have risen alarmingly - jumping 47 percent this year to nearly 1,400 deaths," wrote Council on Hemispheric Affairs research assistant Emily Dunn in early June. To read more about conflict and human rights in Mexico, visit OneWorld UK's Mexico country guide.

In late June, U.S. President Bush approved the Merida Initiative, a regional $400 million, 3-year counter-narcotics, counter-terrorism, and border security accord with Mexico. Initially, human rights were not integral to the bill, but Congress recently amended the legislation to include conditionality such as reform of the judiciary and other aspects of the criminal justice system. The Mexican government, however, has proved wary of bowing to such requirements.

Searching for Solutions to Mexico's Skyrocketing Violence

From: Council on Hemispheric Affairs
Amy Coorradt
August 28th, 2008

On August 21, Mexican President Felipe Calderón Hinojosa held a security summit at the National Palace. In attendance were the Mayor of Mexico City, Marcelo Ebrard, and Mexico's thirty-one state governors. Those in attendance, represented most of the nation's political parties, were still able to display a stunning show of relative harmony and cooperation in the face of dangerously mounting violence brought about by growing street gangs and more violent drug cartels throughout Mexico. A seventy-five-point package of security measures was unanimously adopted and will be implemented over the next three years. The package includes initiatives aimed at purging police corruption, constructing several new maximum-security prisons, and creating a database for mobile phones that the government will use to track down criminals using them.

Violence Everywhere

The unprecedented level of violence reported to by Mexico's drug gangs has reached a fevered pitch. On August 16, masked gunmen murdered thirteen people in a village in Chihuahua, a state that has witnessed 1,026 deaths so far this year. The number of gang-related deaths for all of Mexico so far this year stands at 2,682, already surpassing the 2007 total of 2,673. The escalating violence represents an ugly offensive by Mexican drug gangs retaliating against the government's increased determination to combat drug trafficking and the drug-related violence that has plagued the country in recent years. Since 2007, Calderón has ordered 36,000 troops to be deployed against the gangs throughout Mexico's thirty-one states, with only modest results.

Complicating the situation, Mexico's various police forces are saturated with corruption, and its authorities in the trunk of an abandoned car.

No Respite from the War's Escalation

The chronic lack of integrity displayed by the police has further weakened Mexicans' plummeting confidence in their government's ability to cope with drug gangs. A poll taken in early June showed that 53 percent of the population believed that drug gangs were winning their war against federal forces, while a mere 24 percent thought that the government had the matter under control. Some 3,000 people from Ciudad Juárez - mostly middle-class families crossing illegally into the United States, do so out of fear. Particularly hard hit by gang violence, Ciudad Juárez has registered 800 homicides so far this year, the 2007 figure as well as a spurt of bank and car thefts.

In spite of Calderón's intensified war against Mexico's drug barons and the early phase in the implementation of Washington's predictably under-funded Merida Initiative, the death toll continues to mount and there is no indication that the future will be any brighter than the past. This highlights the inherent problems embedded in the Mexican government's strategy, such as unbridled violence in the police force as well as in the tainted bureaucracies at the municipal, state, and federal levels. On July 31, the government announced a shake-up in the PGR, with the departure of Noli Ramírez, the head of Mexico's secret anti-organized-crime unit, and three of the PGR's deputy attorneys. This announcement followed a meeting during which the head of the PGR, Eduardo Medina-Mora, and public security minister, Genaro García Luna, blamed each other for their inability to coordinate and harness their respective intelligence-gathering units. This manifestation of ineptitude reinforced the need for Calderón's call for the government to agree on public security policies and to improve coordination among the federal, state, and municipal administrations in order to advance the nation's uphill fight against crime.

A united campaign against the drug gangs, this time with Calderón and Ebrard de facto at the helm, has been necessary for a long time, but may be too much to ask for, especially amid the current escalating levels of violence with its skyrocketing death tolls reported from many Mexican cities. A coordinated and innovative bipartisan approach on the part of all government levels, rather than any further militarization, or going easy on the purveyor of crime, may prove to be the ultimate key to stemming the country's current surge in violence. Added to this is the population's flagging confidence in the bona fides of the country's security forces. With the August 21 summit, Calderón and his colleagues may have made an initial move (albeit a tiny one) in the right direction.
DATEBOOK | EVENTS CALENDAR FOR SAN DIEGO

Nuclear Weapons, Nuclear Waste: A Native American's Perspective.
7:30 p.m. tomorrow at First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego, 4190 Front St., Hillcrest. Ian Zabarte, a member of the Western Shoshone National Council, will speak. For 25 years, Zabarte has been an activist against nuclear weapons testing that has adversely affected the Western Shoshone nation. Information: (858) 459-4650.

If you've ever wondered if sharks snore or if lobsters walk in their sleep, find out during a special slumber party at Birch Aquarium, 2300 Expedition Way, La Jolla. Asleep in the Deep: Pirates, an overnight adventure from 6 p.m. to 8 a.m. tomorrow and Saturday. Before crawling into their sleeping bags among the aquarium's inhabitants, participants ages 6 and older and their guardians will take part in activities designed to inspire "pirates" to protect seas. $60 per person. Information: (858) 534-7336.

End your summer with an exclamation point! Judy Reeves, a popular writer, teacher and executive director of San Diego Writers Ink, will lead her annual Summer Writing Marathon from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday at The Ink Spot, 710 13th St. downtown. Join a writing extravaganza that's guaranteed to get the ink flowing and the ideas exploding. Open to writers of all levels. Space is limited, so register early. $72 for members, $90 for nonmembers. Information: (619) 284-1343 or sandiegowriters.org.

The San Diego Blood Bank will accept donations from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday at Clairemont Village Shopping Center, 3089 Clairemont Drive. The bloodmobile will be in the parking lot. Anyone who is at least 17 years old, in good health and weighs at least 110 pounds may be eligible to give blood. A meal is recommended before donation. Information: (800) 4MY-SDBB or sandiegobloodbank.org.

The Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice presents "China's Olympian Human Rights Challenges," a Human Rights Watch photography exhibit runs through Nov. 8. A collection of recent photos illuminating human rights issues in China. The exhibit also includes a photographic tour of human rights issues around the globe, including genocide, domestic slavery, migrant labor, exploitation by extractive industries, and civilian casualties of armed conflict. Free. Noon to 7 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 5998 Alcalá Park, University of San Diego. Information: (619) 260-7509 or peace.sandiego.edu.

This is compiled by David Berlin. Send items at least 10 days before desired publication date to Datebook, The San Diego Union Tribune, P.O. Box 20091, San Diego, CA 92129-0911, or e-mail to lyricoul@uniontrib.com. Publication or item use is not guaranteed. Questions: (619) 498-6626.
LOCAL SPOTLIGHT

Human rights photo exhibit: Through Nov. 8, the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice, University of San Diego, will feature a photo exhibition of human rights challenges in China and elsewhere. Free to the public and open noon to 7 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays. Information: (619) 260-7509 or peace.sandiego.edu.
"Mugs of the Mesas" Exhibit of prehistoric ceramics from David W. May American Indian Collection associated with ancestral Pueblo people of the Four Corners region of Southwestern United States. Photographs of Cliff Palace at Mesa Verde National Park in Colorado included. Exhibit was curated by USD anthropology professor Tim Gross, designed by Paul Johnson, with photographs by William Lile. Viewing continues in the May Gallery — located in Serra Hall 214 — through Tuesday, September 23. 619-260-4238. Fridays, 1:30 p.m.; Mondays, 1:30 p.m.; Wednesdays, 1:30 p.m.; through Tuesday, September 23, 2008, University of San Diego, 5998 Alcala Park (LINDA VISTA)
Daily Business Report

August 18, 2008

EXHIBITS

Chinese Olympian Human Rights Challenges," a photography exhibit, opens Wednesday (Aug. 20) at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice galleries at USD. A collection of recent photos from China illuminates some of the human rights issues spotlighted by the Olympic games in Beijing. Also included is a photographic tour of human rights issues around the world, including genocide, domestic slavery, migrant labor, exploitation by extractive industries, civilian casualties of armed conflict, and more. The exhibit ends Nov. 8. It is free to the public. Hours are noon to 7 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday and Saturday.
GALLERIES

'Mugs of the Messes' University of San Diego, 5998 Alcala Park, Mission Valley; Through Sept. 23. 619-260-4600.
Other
USD is one of 20 national universities ranked as "Up-and-Coming Schools" by *U.S. News & World Report* in a new rankings list. The university also jumped to 102 from 107 on the overall list of national universities. USD’s engineering programs jumped to 21st from 25th in the nation for schools whose highest degree is a bachelor’s or master’s. USD was ranked ninth among the top 20 national colleges and universities for making "promising and innovative changes in academics, faculty, students, campus or facilities." The top three up-and-coming schools were George Mason University, Clemson University and USC.
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August 15, 2008


So you want to go into business with your family? Are you nuts?! Maybe not. Family firms lead the way in today's business world.

Photos by Robert Benson  Story by Nicholas Drake

What kind of lunatic goes into business with his family? It's not enough that you raised your children from diapers to diplomas and stuffed their faces with more self-esteem than they could ever possibly swallow? Now you want them yanking on your shirttails in the very same boardroom you built with your own blood, sweat and tears? Are you nuts?!

Well if you're not, your kids are. Why would any self-respecting member of the next generation want to tether himself to another zillion years of Papa Know It All dispensing mighty morsels of wisdom? And what about that carrot-on-a-stick paycheck signed by the same guy who used the no-allowance threat on you back in the day?

There's a reason the cliché "never go into business with your family" is, well, a cliché. It stands the test of time. The landscape is littered with families torn asunder by business ventures that produced either too little or too much money for the brood to handle. Even after you've succeeded far beyond your wildest dreams, those nettlesome family issues seem to bubble to the top of water cooler conversations like nobody's business. Your legacy becomes one of those family squabbles for the whole world to see on TMZ.

When California wine god Robert Mondavi passed away earlier this year at age 94 after playing Bacchus to the business of vintners for a half-century or so, great accolades were heaped upon him for more or less defining the modern wine industry. Yet the folklore of Mondavi's fame nearly always includes mention of the time he punched his brother Peter in the face for accusing him of embezzling company money to buy his wife a mink coat to wear to a White House dinner. It took some 20 years before the brothers began talking again. Cheers!
Not all family businesses, of course, suffer such sour grapes. In fact, going into business with one’s family is as American as Henry Ford and as old as mankind. Mothers and fathers share leadership skills with sons and daughters. Siblings join forces to build bold new ventures with one another. Uncles and aunts and cousins and in-laws work together on the next big thing to hit the market. Sometimes it works. Sometimes it doesn’t.

"Whenever you go into business with family, you bring all kinds of other challenges to the table," says Tony Robbins, 48, the world-famous inspirational speaker, author and self-help guru. "But being in business with family can be the greatest thing in the world—if there’s mutual respect, if everyone is pulling his or her own weight, and if the people running the business are given the power to run things and not be interfered with."

Robbins, who just went into business with one of his two sons, Josh Jenkins-Robbins, joins a legion of like-minded entrepreneurs. According to a recent study by J.H. Astrachan and M.C. Shanker published in Family Business Review, family firms comprise 80% to 90% of all business enterprises in North America. They contribute 64% of the gross domestic product—more than $5 trillion worth—and employ 62% of the entire United States workforce. How’s that for quality time with one’s brethren?

"Statistics show that about 80% of businesses in San Diego are family owned, meaning that they have two or more people of the same family either working in the family business or are the shareholders of the company," says Jodi Waterhouse, director of the University of San Diego Family Business Forum and manager of USD Corporate and Professional Education. "Working with family can be one of the most rewarding things anyone can do. Among the positives I hear are the joys of working with family, keeping the family legacy perpetuating through generations, and the autonomy of knowing that the family has built a business together.

"However, it can also tear families apart," she continues. "Among the challenges I hear are working with the ones you love, getting parents to let go of the business, defining goals and responsibilities, communication and conflict resolution. It is very important to have clear-cut job responsibilities, identify roles in the company, hold regularly scheduled meetings and keep clear lines of communication open. It’s also important to make time for the family outside of work."

TEACH YOUR CHILDREN WELL

For someone who branded his fame by walking barefoot on a bed of hot stones and actually convincing others to follow his lead, Tony Robbins had no fear when it came to going into business with his son Josh, who already had co-founded a couple of upstarts on his own during his twenties. Now at the ripe old age of 30, Josh is heading a local company called Ensure
with her heart, which is a lasting leadership that people remember. It’s very important when enrolling people in your vision.”

**MY GENERATION, YOUR GENERATION**

Fabienne Hanks believes the positives to family businesses far outweigh the challenges. After her husband, Terry, debunked the equally brain-numbing taboo of going into business with a friend—his best man Tim Brown—and succeeding with their friendship intact after 10 years as owners of The Meeting Manager, the Hanks bought Brown’s share of the business when he got married and moved to Orange County. What began with two buddies in 1978 morphed into a full-fledged family enterprise in 1988.

An award-winning leader in the field of destination management, The Meeting Manager covers the gamut of event planning, including team building, entertainment, travel arrangements, specialty tours, and logistics of all sorts. Terry, 61, and Fabienne, 57, run the company with their two sons, Trevor, 36, and Jason, 31, who have learned business leadership lessons firsthand from their parents.

“We each bring such different talents to the business and find that we truly complement one another,” says Fabienne, president of The Meeting Manager, who works out of the San Diego headquarters. “Rather than compete, we work to our strengths. Trevor and Jason also provide a portal into the mindset of their generation and help us understand how to hire and retain their peers. Many of our clients are now in their age group. There is a greater rapport and working dynamic because of their shared perspectives.

“We taught them work ethic, capability, responsibility and opportunity,” she says. “Trevor and Jason learned to earn money for things they wanted at a very young age. They were our janitors at the company for years, earning $50 a month to clean things at the office after their soccer games. As a result of these real-life lessons, they have proven to be responsible and practical in their personal financial management.”

Not having truly experienced college themselves, Papa and Mama Hanks made sure their sons did, even though it came with great financial sacrifice for the family. Upon graduation, the brothers went to work for other companies for a few years before asking to join the family biz—a move that Fabienne believes benefited The Meeting Manager as a whole. As college grads, Trevor and Jason also served as role models to their cousins, the oldest four of whom have graduated from universities as well. Still, the clan is not without its challenges.

“There are definitely some generational differences,” Fabienne says. “Terry and I tend to be more formal in our standards of how people dress for work. I am the fashion police. Jason was upset with me when I told him he couldn’t wear cargo pants to work. Since his work is technical and internal, he didn’t agree with my position. I explained that our staff takes their
Charity, and his famous dad has joined him to lend leadership acumen—but from a business perspective rather than one of simply father to son.

"Ensure Charity is an insurance brokerage that services individuals and businesses, although our primary push is life insurance and its applications for individuals and businesses," explains Josh, who grew up in San Diego and lives in Del Mar with his wife, Amy. "We give 50% of our gross revenues—our commissions—to the charity or nonprofit of the client's choice.

"In insurance the carrier standardizes the commission, he explains, "so the client will never pay more by using us. In effect we are giving our money away, and the client is directing our gift and receiving the recognition. As long as we save our clients money and find them a better product to meet their insurance needs, why wouldn't they use us?"

Ensure Charity is the first business of Josh's that piqued Tony's interest. It had all the right ingredients the self-help master admired in a new company, regardless of it being his son's gig.

"It's consistent with my mission," Tony says. "My son is involved, and I'm very proud of him. But it's the first business he's been involved in that I've invested in. The reason is because everything I'm focused on in my life is this: How do you really have an impact on people? I believe you can be in business and make a difference simultaneously. You don't have to choose between profit and impact. Ensure Charity's entire business is based around that idea. And I didn't come up with the idea for the company. It was Josh's idea all around.

"If you're trying to do something different to help yourself, you get a certain amount of insight," says Tony. "If you're trying to do something to support your family, you get a different level of insight. If you're trying to do something to serve a community or the world, you get another level of insight. I think that has guided my career, and it's what I've tried to impart on Josh. Not so much by just verbally saying so, but by living it. I think the best way to teach your kids is to live by example."

Of course, when your dad dispenses self-help advice to the masses and has been named one of the top 50 business intellectuals in the world by the likes of Accenture, you've pretty much been handed a textbook to success, right? Not necessarily so, says Josh. He believes the emotional part of the family business puzzle is as important as the creation, operation and execution side of it.

"I was given incredible amounts of love and the tools I needed to not only handle life but create a fulfilling life," Josh says. "My dreams were always nurtured, so I was a possibility thinker from a young age. This comes in mighty handy as an entrepreneur. Obviously, my dad is a master at becoming fulfilled in life, and that inspires my business approach. At the same time, my mother is incredibly strong and has tremendous authenticity and warmth. She leads
cues from him, so he needed to set a professional standard that worked for all departments. The compromise is that we now have casual Fridays, and staff members are encouraged to relax their dress that day."

What advice does she offer other families considering jumping into business together?

"A family has to have a healthy personal foundation to have a healthy business foundation," she says. "As founders you have to consider and respect the perspective of the second generation, even when you don't share viewpoints. They have so much to contribute, and you have so much to gain. It's a matter of relaxing the parental relationship and embracing the business potential. On those rare occasions when someone has to make the call, as the founders you have to do what you believe is right. We have also found that having outside consulting from a business coach is an invaluable asset to us as a business and as a family.

"It's every parent's dream to have a lifelong relationship with their children. Working together allows us to stand back and appreciate our sons, not only from a loving parental position but also from a professional perspective. And we like what we see. Without being pretentious, I have to say that we are blessed."

Q&A with Carmen Bianchi

Carmen Bianchi is founder and director of San Diego State University's Entrepreneurial Management Center (EMC) Business Forum and president of the international professional membership organization Family Firm Institute. We asked her about support opportunities for San Diego family enterprises as well as the ins and outs of going into business with loved ones.

**What's the mission of EMC?**
To build critical management skills associated with family and closely held businesses through educational curriculum, materials and events. To facilitate peer support and productive networking opportunities that enable sharing of best practices and resolution of critical and pertinent issues. To conduct relevant research on business growth to identify trends and approaches that drive tangible business results. We meet once a month for roundtable discussions, which are open only to member companies. We also have three open forums each year for the public to address pertinent issues affecting family and closely held businesses.
What does a typical advising session with family business owners include?
At our roundtables we give members time to discuss any significant issue they're facing since the last meeting. Their peers sitting around the table give opinions and advice. Should it be a burning, complicated issue, we bring in an expert in that field to address the issue the following month.

What are the greatest rewards of owning a family business?
The greatest rewards are honesty, loyalty and trust. Also, family businesses can tighten their belts and ask everyone to pitch in when times are tough. They can diversify and be very entrepreneurial without having to worry about shareholders getting a return on investment as in publicly traded companies.

What is the biggest challenge in owning a family business in San Diego?
Probably the cost of workers' compensation insurance.

Are there commonalities that you see among family businesses that succeed?
The most successful family businesses are those that have structure. By that I mean they have governance—as in a family council, a shareholders assembly, a board of advisers or board of directors and a great management team.

What are some of the recurring mistakes family businesses make?
A lack of planning and a lack of governance. Most family businesses do not have a written succession plan or a family council with a family creed explaining the exit and entry strategies of family members wishing to join or exit the company. A succession plan incorporates a financial plan, a strategic plan, a development plan and an estate plan.

What advice would you give to a family considering opening a business in San Diego?
Know your market. Understand your competition. Know your product well. Put together a good business plan with governance and structure. Plan ahead on how you are going to allow family members to enter the family business by creating a code of ethics and a family creed. It will avoid a tremendous amount of conflict down the line.

For more information, go to http://emc.sdsu.edu
Michelle McWilliams graduated in May with a bachelor's of science in international business and a commission with the U.S. Navy from the ROTC program from the University of San Diego.

McWilliams, a 2004 Tonganoxie High School graduate, will attend the API Naval Flight School in Pensacola, Fla.

McWilliams is the daughter of Greg and Diana McWilliams and granddaughter of Mary Barncord.

Originally published at: http://www2.tonganoxiemirror.com/news/2008/aug/06/ths_grad_attend_naval_flight_school/
Liz Raines, a USD alumnus, took over as president of the La Jolla New Generations Rotary Club through 2009. She is 24. "We are going to build on our South Bay Dictionary project with international literacy projects in Jamaica and food programs in Tijuana," says Raines. The New Generations Rotary Club was chartered in 2007 and is the first club of its kind to target a younger demographic of professional leaders to further Rotary's mission of local and international community service.

The average age of the New Generations club's 35 members is 33. The club has taken on local projects such as the Miramar Sports Improvement Project, KITS Breakfast with Santa and the Dictionary project for lower-income schools.

Prospective young professionals can contact www.newgenrotary.org to learn how they can get involved.
The "Catholic" University of San Diego: Catering to GLBTQ

By Robert Kumpel
PewSitter.com

September 1, 2008 - The University of San Diego is in the news again. This time over a brochure it has published on Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and "Queer" discussion groups. The is simply a continuation of an ongoing scandal at the once-Catholic (and still claiming to be Catholic) University of San Diego. Why does a Catholic college need to have support groups to encourage Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and "Queer" people to persist in their perversions? Instead of making new "allies", perhaps the University should return to teaching these people that their greatest ally is Jesus Christ and His Church, who want to give them freedom from their deathstyle.

USD makes no attempt to hide these kinds of events any more, instead they promote them on the official university website.

It is also no secret that USD's Department of Theology and Religious Studies has a gay-friendly faculty. In fact, several of these faculty members are openly homosexual.

This is the same Theology and Religious Studies Department that recently offered a special teaching position to heretic, pro-abort "feminist theologian" Rosemary Radford Ruether, only to withdraw the offer a few days later because of the public outcry.

USD's website informs us that the tuition alone for a full load of classes is $17,000 per SEMESTER. Parents, if you are going to shell out that kind of money for a Catholic education, it is strongly suggested that you investigate the college where you will send your sons and daughters. Merely calling itself "Catholic" is no longer enough.

Sadly, when San Diego Bishop Charles F. Buddy founded USO in 1949, he said that he wanted it to be "the Notre Dame of the West". Little did he know that he was starting the "Kent State of the Catholic Church".

Robert Kumpel is a stay-at-home, homeschooling father of four girls and part-time journalist, living in Valdosta, Georgia. You can read his blog, St. John's Valdosta blog at www.stjohnsvaldosta.blogspot.com

Post a comment

http://www.pewsitter.com/view_news_id_10699.php
Networking and business building booked for August

On the Agenda
By Christine Meador

The San Diego and Carlsbad Chambers of Commerce come to life this week with a trade mission to Mexicali on Monday, the seventh annual Golf Classic tournament on Thursday and a product launch also on Thursday. Also, the deadline for the Carlsbad Chamber's November trip to China lands at the end of week.

The San Diego Regional Chamber of commerce is bringing a trade mission to Mexicali on Monday to help strengthen the working relationship with Jose Guadalupe Osuna Millan, the governor of Baja California. For more information, call (619) 544-1362.

The Small Business Development Center holds a workshop on “Business Funding Basics” at 10 a.m. Tuesday at the North County Small Business Development Center. The workshop will teach start-up ventures how to get funding without using personal finances and how to increase cash flow. For more information, call (760) 795-8740.

The University of San Diego hosts “Academy for Business Success” from 6-9 p.m. on Tuesday at USD's Douglas F. Manchester Executive Conference Center. Speaker Crystal Watkins, director of marketing and community relations for Torrey Pines Bank, will attempt to demystify marketing for business owners. For more information, visit www.sandiego.edu/success.

The Young Nonprofit Professionals Network offers a San Diego Meet and Greet from 6-8 p.m. Tuesday at the Universal Hillcrest. It is an opportunity to learn about other organizations and meet business associates. Visit www.ynpnsandiego.org for more information.

Mom Business Associates (MBA) welcomes professionals to the MBA North County Networking Group at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday. The event will be held at Simply Ambrosia in San Marcos and it provides a supportive environment for women looking to balance business and family live. Call (760) 521-4003 for more information.

The San Diego Community College District hosts a Contractor Networking and Outreach Event from 7:30 – 9 a.m. Thursday at San Diego Mesa College. San Diego's top contractors will be in attendance to learn opportunities with the construction bond program. For more information and to register, visit www.ptac-sandiego.org/workshop.html.

The San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce San Diego's business community to the seventh annual Chamber Golf Classic at 11:30 a.m. Thursday at the Maderas Golf Club. The format of the event is a four-person scramble. For more information, call (619) 544-1370.

The Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce hosts a Product Launch at noon on Thursday at the Seashell Awnings USA Inc. in Carlsbad. The event will be led by president and CEO of the Carlsbad Chamber Ted Owen. For further details, call (760) 931-8400.

The deadline for the Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce's guided trip to China is Friday. The trip is scheduled for Nov. 3-12, with stops in Hong Kong and Macau. For more information, call (760) 931-8400.
BUSINESS CALENDAR

FEATURED EVENT

WEDNESDAY, AUG 27 - CONFERENCE
NAVY SMALL BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY CONFERENCE


OTHER EVENTS

TUESDAY, AUG 26 - MEETING
CHULA VISTA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Come to the monthly membership meeting of the Retired Employees of San Diego County, Inc. Organization: Retired Employees of San Diego County. Information: (866) 689-9229 resdc@resdc.net Cost: No Details Available Where: Chula Vista Police Department, 315 4th Ave., Chula Vista

TUESDAY, AUG 26 - CLASS
ACADEMY FOR BUSINESS SUCCESS

Taught by Crystal Watkins, VP, Director of Marketing and Community Relations for Torrey Pines Bank, the purpose of this module is to demystify the world of marketing for the business owner. Organization: USD Information: www.sandiego.edu/success Cost: $399.00 Where: USD's Douglas E. Manchester Executive Conference C, 5998 Alcala Park, San Diego, 92110

WEDNESDAY, AUG 27 - CONFERENCE
NAVY SMALL BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY CONFERENCE

NDIA and the Navy have collaborated to arrange speakers and topics of interest with regards to working with the government. Organization: Navy Gold Coast Information: www.NavyGoldCoast.org Cost: $199.00- $299.00 Where: San Diego Convention Center/Sales Pavilion, 111 W. Harbor Dr., San Diego, 92101
Citizens Academy: An insider's view of prosecution

The San Diego County District Attorney's Office will hold its popular Citizens Academy starting in early September on the University of San Diego campus.

The ten-week long Citizens Academy is a free course in partnership with the San Diego Sheriff's Department that demystifies the criminal justice system and the workings of the District Attorney's Office for members of the general public.

"This is an amazing opportunity for people to meet prosecutors in the DA's Office and get an inside look at what we do," said DA Bonnie M. Dumanis. "This year's course touches on several topics like juvenile justice and animal cruelty that directly relate to recent high-profile cases."

Citizens Academy classes are held once a week for ten weeks. The Academy introduces citizens to the inner-workings of the law enforcement system as it is administered by the District Attorney and Superior Court. The course includes a behind-the-scenes look at how sheriff's deputies protect themselves on the job, and an in-depth tour of lockdown at the Central Jail facility.

A diverse group of speakers from the DA's Office and Sheriff's Department will discuss topics ranging from cold case homicide to prosecuting sexually violent predators. Prosecutors and deputies will also cover narcotics, gangs, crime scene investigations, ballistics/firearms, witness protection, Internet crimes against children, sex crimes and stalking, domestic violence, and prison reentry programs.

Praise from those who attended the DA's first Citizens Academy has been strong. As one Academy graduate wrote, "Real...law enforcement is traditionally an arcane, obscure and sometimes frightening institution; it rarely has its curtain lifted or its interior workings broadly disclosed. If you can afford the time, don't mind a background check and have an interest in community affairs, by all means apply to be included in this course."

The Citizens Academy begins Sept. 9 and runs Tuesday or Wednesday evenings through Nov. 12. Classes will be held from 6-9 p.m. at the Joan Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice on the University of San Diego campus. Space is limited.

Members of the public wishing to attend the academy should contact the District Attorney's Office at (619) 515-8294 to make a reservation by September 2nd. A required application is available online at http://www.sdcda.org/office/academy.php.
OTHER EVENTS

TUESDAY, AUG 19 - CLASS
ACADEMY FOR BUSINESS SUCCESS
Taught by Crystal Watkins, VP, Director of Marketing and Community Relations for Torrey Pines Bank, the purpose of this module is to demystify the world of marketing for the business owner. Organization: USD Information: www.sandiego.edu/success Cost: $399.00 When: Hours: 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM Where: USD's Douglas F. Manchester Executive Conference C, 5998 Alcala Park, San Diego, 92110

TUESDAY, AUG 19 - WORKSHOP
LEADING STRATEGIC & CULTURAL CHANGE
Learn the fundamental differences between Enterprise-Wide Change and all other change approaches and more in this three-day workshop. Organization: Haines Centre for Strategic Management Information: http://www.hainescentre.biz Cost: $1,795.50 - $1,996.00 When: Starts: 8:00 AM Where: Manchester Auditorium/USD, 5998 Alcala Park, San Diego
TUESDAY, AUG 12 - CLASS

ACADEMY FOR BUSINESS SUCCESS

Taught by Crystal Watkins, VP, Director of Marketing and Community Relations for Torrey Pines Bank, the purpose of this module is to demystify the world of marketing for the business owner. Organization: USD Information: www.sandiego.edu/success Cost: $399.00 When: Hours: 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM Where: USD's, Douglas F Manchester Executive Conference C, 5988 Alcala Park, San Diego, CA

District attorney's 10-week Citizens Academy course starts next month

The 10-week long academy is a free course held in partnership with the San Diego Sheriff's Department that demystifies the criminal justice system and the workings of the district attorney's office for members of the general public.

"This is an amazing opportunity for people to meet prosecutors in the DA's office and get an inside look at what we do," District Attorney Bonnie M. Dumanis said. "This year's course touches on several topics, like juvenile justice and animal cruelty, that directly relate to recent high-profile cases."

Citizens Academy classes are held once a week, from 6-9 p.m. either Tuesday or Wednesday evenings, at the Joan Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice through Nov. 12. Space is limited.

Members of the public wishing to attend the academy should contact the district attorney's office at (619) 510-8334 to make a reservation by Sept. 2.

A required application is available online at ncdoa.org/office/academy.php.

The academy introduces citizens to the inner-workings of the law enforcement system as administered by the district attorney and superior court. The course includes a behind-the-scenes look at how sheriff's deputies protect themselves on the job and an in-depth tour of lockdowns at the Central Jail facility.

A diverse group of speakers from the district attorney's office and Sheriff's Department will discuss topics ranging from cold case homicide to prosecuting sexually violent predators.
Leading Strategic & Cultural Change Workshop

Learn the Strategic Approach to Business Excellence, develop a Smart Start to leading strategic change, ensure successful strategic planning implementation and desired change, and build and sustain high performance year after year.

DATE: Tuesday, August 19 2008
TIME: 8:00 AM
LOCATION: University of San Diego Manchester Coference Center
PRICE: $1,995.00
CONTACT: Haines Centre for Strategic Management
PHONE:
EMAIL:
URL: http://www.centretraining.com/public-events.html
TUESDAY, AUG 19 - WORKSHOP
LEADING STRATEGIC & CULTURAL CHANGE

Learn the fundamental differences between Enterprise-Wide Change and all other change approaches and more in this three-day workshop.

Organization: Haines Centre for Strategic Management
Information: http://www.hainescentre.biz
Cost: $1,795.50 - $1,995.00
When: Starts: 8:00 AM
Where: Manchester Auditorium/USD, 5998 Alcala Park, San Diego
OTHER EVENTS

TUESDAY, AUG 12 - CLASS
ACADEMY FOR BUSINESS SUCCESS
Tught by Crystal Watkins, VP, Director of Marketing and Community Relations for Torrey Pines Bank, the purpose of this module is to demystify the world of marketing for the business owner. Organization: USD Information: www.sandiego.edu/success Cost: $399.00 When: Hours: 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM Where: USD's Douglas F. Manchester Executive Conference C, 5098 Alcala Park, San Diego, 92110

WEDNESDAY, AUG 13 - NETWORKING
MBA NORTH COUNTY NETWORKING GROUP
Come to this professional networking, educational, and supportive group of women balancing the pressures of being business owners as well as CEOs of their homes, children, and personal lives. Organization: Mom Business Associates (MBA) Information: 760-521-4003 www.mombusinessassociates.com Cost: No Details Available When: Starts: 11:30 AM Where: Simply Ambrosia, 577 S Rancho Santa Fe Rd, San Marcos

WEDNESDAY, AUG 13 - OPEN HOUSE
MEET ME AT THE CHAMBER!
This open house will feature guest speakers, free refreshments, live music, raffle prizes, and plenty of interesting networking opportunities. Organization: Alpine Chamber of Commerce Information: (619) 445-2722 info@alpinechamber.com Cost: No Cost When: Hours: 5:30 PM - 8:00 PM Where: Alpine & Mountain Empire Chamber of Commerce, 2707 Alpine Blvd., Alpine

THURSDAY, AUG 14 - COMPETITION
CHAMBER GOLF CLASSIC
We are looking forward to a day of friendly fun and competition with the business community of San Diego; the format is a four-person scramble. Organization: San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce Information: (619) 544-1370 http://www.sdchamber.org Cost: No Details Available When: Starts: 11:30 AM Where: Maderas Golf Club, 17750 Old Coach Road, Poway, 92064, Venue Phone - (858) 451-8100

TUESDAY, AUG 19 - WORKSHOP
LEADING STRATEGIC & CULTURAL CHANGE
Learn the fundamental differences between Enterprise-Wide Change and all other change approaches and more in this three-day workshop. Organization: Haines Centre for Strategic Management Information: http://www.hainescentre.biz Cost: $1,795.00 - $1,995.00 When: Starts: 8:00 AM Where: Manchester Auditorium, USD, 5098 Alcala Park, San Diego

WEDNESDAY, AUG 20 - WORKSHOP
CORPORATE POLITICS
This interactive workshop will discuss interpersonal politics, and the three ways to make them work for you. Organization: WIIT San Diego Information: http://www.wiit.com/ Cost: No Details Available When: Hours: 11:45 AM - 1:30 PM Where: Fish & Richardson P.C, 12390 El Camino Real, San Diego, 92130, Venue Phone - (858) 678-6070

THURSDAY, AUG 21 - ANNUAL EVENT
STATE OF THE CITY
This luncheon will feature a 20-minute video on the status of Carlsbad, including Mayor Bud Lewis, the City Council and city staff members, during which a gourmet three-course lunch will be served. Organization: Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce Information: (760) 931-8400 chamber@carlsbad.org Cost: No Details Available When: Hours: 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM Where: Four Seasons Resort Aviara, 7100 Four Seasons Point, Carlsbad, 92009, Venue Phone - (760) 603-6800
RSF musician shines spotlight on local singers, charities

By Matt Lisb60:z

To say singer Brigitte is invested in local music would truly be an understatement.

Musically, the Rancho Santa Fe resident has performed on stages across the world. She recently released a music video DVD compilation to her debut album, "Where Birds Meet in the Rain." As the owner of Honk! Sirens Production, a record label she created in 1999, she aims to defend the creative rights of singer-songwriters against the controlling Hollywood companies.

In the multi-artist showcases she's put on for several years, Brigitte has introduced more than 200 talented performers to local stages like the Belly Up Tavern, La Jolla Festival of the Arts, and Humphrey's Backstage Music Club, where she had her own music series.

"I believe in the power of a well-performed and well-written song," said Brigitte, who's also the president of the San Diego Songwriter's Guild.

On Aug. 19, Brigitte is bringing her successful knack toward the stage at Anthology, a new downtown San Diego music venue and fine dining restaurant, for the debut of Brigitte's Music Garden.

With her motto, "Plant music and watch the garden grow," the inaugural night of Brigitte's new venue will showcase herself, Cynthia Hamond, Sevan Yvens, Lindsey Yung, and Candice Grohers, each of whom will perform 30-minute sets.

Feeling that there is strength in numbers, Brigitte sings the praises of the night's format.

"I understand what it means to put on a good show," said Brigitte. "Listening to one singer for two hours can be tiring, but every group is stronger as a team."

Mentioning now-closed venues such as Café Europa and Caffèino, Brigitte lamented the singer-songwriter struggle.

"Some of the homedown singer-songwriter spots have been evaporating," she said. "It can be disenchanting as a songwriter to understand that success isn't all about talent, but about having a promotion machine behind you."

With her own music series, which she put together with Anthology's Director of Music Operations, Michael Pehrson—who she worked with at Humphrey's—Brigitte hopes to yet again, serve as a springboard for local musicians.

Brigitte's talent is not just behind a piano and microphone; she's also using her voice to speak up, and, for the past six years, Brigitte has served as vice president of Women's International Center (WIC), a San Diego-based nonprofit dedicated to acknowledging, honoring, encouraging, and educating women across the world.

A portion of Brigitte's Music Garden show will go to WIC, and the music night will serve as an advertisement for WIC's 25th Anniversary party, being held Oct. 1.

Another beneficiary of Brigitte's Music Garden will be the San Diego Food Bank, guests are invited to bring canned food donations.

"It's my turn to give back," she said.

Brigitte's musical missionary work isn't ending once the stage lights dim at Anthology.

Brigitte is currently working on a documentary film of families displaced to San Diego after being spread by Hurricane Katrina. The movie is being put together by helpfromacross.org, a humanitarian organization of which Brigitte serves as creative director.

For more information on the Aug. 19 performance at Anthology, visit www.anthologysd.com.
Talkin' Water

U.S. Rep. Susan Davis, D-San Diego, is hosting a forum on water issues tonight at 5:30 at the University of San Diego's Joan Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice.

Speakers include David Pierce, an analyst at Scripps Institution of Oceanography's Climate Research Division; Jim Barrett, the city of San Diego's director of public utilities and Bruce Reznik, executive director of San Diego Coastkeeper.

-- ROB DAVIS
Daily Business Report

August 24, 2008

The San Diego chapter of the Institute of Real Estate Management has scheduled several workshops and programs over the next two months to assist real estate professionals. The schedule:

• A Sept. 4 workshop on "The Price of Procrastination: ADA Compliance and Update" to be held at the Lincoln Military Housing Clubhouse, 10323 Orleck St., San Diego. The speaker will be attorney Craig McMahon, partner with the statewide law firm Kimball, Tirey & St. John. McMahon will share information on the Americans with Disabilities Act as it affects commercial and residential owners and managers. The workshop is free for chapter members and $75 for nonmembers. Register at (619) 209-2997.

• A Sept. 8-9 course on "Property Maintenance and Risk Management" and a Sept. 10-11 course on "Investment Real Estate." The courses are taught at the Handlery Hotel, 950 Hotel Circle North in Mission Valley. The cost is $570 for chapter members, $715 for nonmembers. For more information, call Nicole Baker at (858) 715-4736.

• A Sept. 18 luncheon on "Making a Case for Going Green: Workshop, Trade Show and Luncheon." The workshop is at 9:30 a.m., the trade show at 11 a.m. and the luncheon at noon. The events are in the McMillin Cos. Event Center, 2875 Dewey Road, in Liberty Station. Cost is $65 for members and $85 for nonmembers. To register, call (858) 715-4747.

• An Oct. 8 luncheon meeting featuring a talk by Rex Hime, president and CEO of the California Business Properties Association, giving an update on issues affecting real estate professionals. It will be held at the Joan Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice at USD. Cost is $45 for chapter members, $85 for nonmembers. To register, call (619) 209-2997.
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27
ULI-SD CCC FINALISTS DISCUSSION
Urban Land Institute of San Diego/Tijuana hosts presentations by Gerding Edlen and Hines, the finalists of the San Diego Civic Center Complex design. The presentations will be followed by a dialogue between representatives from the firm and senior ULI members.

- 6 to 8 p.m.
- University of San Diego, Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice,
  5998 Alcala Park, in San Diego
- Cost: $15 members only
- Visit wwwuli.org
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27
ULI-SD CCC FINALISTS DISCUSSION

Urban Land Institute of San Diego/Tijuana hosts a presentation by Gerding Edlen, possible designer of the San Diego Civic Center Complex. The presentations will be followed by a dialogue between representatives from the firm and senior ULI members.

- 6 to 8 p.m.
- University of San Diego, Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice, 5998 Alcala Park, in San Diego
- Cost: $15 members only
- Visit www.uli.org
Invitan a aprender sobre el sistema legal

Autoridades del condado invitan al público en general a participar en un programa de diez semanas diseñado para entender mejor el sistema de justicia criminal y la manera de trabajar de los abogados de distrito.

Las clínicas darán inicio el 9 de septiembre y hasta el 12 de noviembre, en sesiones de tres horas una vez por semana, empezando a las 18:00 horas.

El evento se llevará a cabo en el Instituto para la Paz de Joan Kroc, en la Universidad de San Diego en Linda Vista, SDU.

Conferencistas de la oficina del abogado de distrito y del departamento de Sheriff participarán con diferentes tópicos incluyendo casos de homicidios, persecuciones y pandillas y cómo se procesa a los pandilleros.

Si desea participar debe hacer una reservación antes de 2 de septiembre en la oficina del abogado de distrito al teléfono (619) 515-8294 o buscar mas información en el sitio de internet www.sdcda.org

- POR EDNA CARRERA
SAN DIEGO, CA. — The world famous Kabayao Quartet will perform a repeat violin and piano concert with fresh repertoire at USD Community Service Center at 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., on Saturday, August 2, 2008.

Proceeds from the event, produced by the Kalusugan Community Services (KCS), will benefit the Filipino Wellness Center and its services. The Center’s mission is to improve the quality of Filipino-American lives through advocacy, health promotion and multi-faceted programs. The Kabayao family has devoted to music. And they have, indeed, remained among top Philippine artists.

In all his performances, Gilopez brought a remarkable combination of unique sensitivity and a fresh approach to his playing of the great composers. His interpretation was a revelation. His bowing has an endless variety of nuances, in the passages of explosive force and in the softest melodies, according to music critic of Manila Standard.

Produced by KCS, the Kabayao Quartet promises to captivate San Diegans with a rare evening of classical and gospel music and Filipino folk songs. A grant opportunity that music lovers should not miss.

It’s not only music, but helping our community outreach projects; and preserving our Filipino arts and culture. KCS promotes the health and socio-cultural well being of Filipinos and other underserved groups through positive changes in their lifestyles.

“We need our community support to sustain those wonderful programs,” KCS Director, Riz A. Oades said.

Tickets are available at the KCS FilAm Center, 1419 East 8th Street, National City, for $35, $75 and $100. Sponsorships and souvenir program ads are also welcome.

For further information, please call Chris Feraro at (619) 477-3392 and Aurora Cudal at (619) 399-9982. For related story, see “The Kabayao Family of Iloilo,” on page 6.
MUSIC


ENGLISH RUMPERDINK at Fala Casi-no, 11 S. Highway 76. The "King of Romance" performs a selection of his hits. At 7 p.m. Thursday, July 31. www.palacasinio.com. $50.


"SUMMERFEST" at the Sherwood Auditorium, MCASD, 700 Prospect St., La Jolla. The La Jolla Music Society kicks off its annual festival celebrating classical music with Fire and Passion Friday, Aug. 1; French Connections, Saturday, Aug. 2; Brahms Tuesday, Aug. 5, and An Evening with Laleh Josefowicz Wednesday, Aug. 6. All shows start at 8 p.m. www.mjs.org or 858-459-3728. $10-$60.

* CONCERTS ON THE GREEN at Prescott Promenade, East Main St., El Cajon. A summer series of weekly concerts each Friday. This week, The Hayseans. From 8 to 9 p.m. Friday, Aug. 1. 619-401-8888, www.downstownelcajon.com.

TOP JAZZ IN THE PARKS at Pollack Park, 6601 Hidden Valley Road, Carlsbad. Free outdoor concert every Friday, with a different performer each week. This week, Reddix Romero & The Hub City All Stars. From 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, Aug. 1. www.carlsbadca.gov.

* ACOUSTIC SAN DIEGO NIGHT at The Marquise, 825 25th St., Golden Hill. The music series and art show continue at the new all-ages venue in Golden Hill. This week, Batley Hart, Joahn Damigo, Trevor Davis and Rob Dezu, with art by Rich Walker. At 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 1. www.acousticsandiegonoight.com. $5.


MONICA MANCINI at Embarcadero Marina Park South, Downtown. The daughter of singer Henry Mancini performs a tribute to her father in “Remembering Henry: a Personal Sonnet with the San Diego Symphony.” All shows start at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 1, and Saturday, Aug. 2. www.sandiegosymphony.com; 619-255-0604.

ROMADS at Portugalia, 2321 Pacific Hwy., Ocean Beach. Deyavadda plays their unique blend of Middle Eastern and Western music, accompanied by a bellydance performance from the Shimmy Sisters and electronic music by DJ Sundog. Showtimes at 7 and 10 p.m. Fri., Sat. www.deyavadda.com. $10.


CONTINUED ON PAGE 18}

BIRD PARK SUMMER CONCERTS at Bird Park, 28th & Thorn, North Park. Enjoy some diverse acts in an outdoor setting on live Saturdays throughout summer. This week: Gato Papachico, Fri. 6 to 7 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 5. www.rpcssummerconcerts.org.

PLAZA DEL PASADO CONCERTS at Plaza Del Pasado, 2545 Calle Obispo St., Old Town. These weekly summer concerts feature several opening acts in addition to the popular local headliners. This week: Paradize (Sanford cover band). From 4 to 8 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 5. www.plazadelpasado.com.

WELCOME HOME at Christ Lutheran Church, 4761 Casa St., Pacific Beach. The San Diego Symphony performs in its newly remodeled church with special guests the S2 Women’s Chorus. At 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 5, and 2 and 5 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 6. www.christlutheran.org.

KABAYOA FAMILY QUARTET at Hayden Center, USD campus, Linda Vista. The Filipino pop group performs a smattering of songs featuring world-class vocalist Gloriette Kabayoa. See website for details. From 6 to 9 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 5. 619-265-4081, www.webst-uppercase.org.

ARCHIVES BY NORTH PARK This local music history and business workshop features keynote speaker Jerry Heller, a variety of panels, and an industry mixer, followed by an evening of concerts at various venues across the city. See web­site for full details. Saturday, Aug. 5. www.northbypark.com.


CORONADO CONCERTS IN THE PARK at Spectra Park, Orange Ave. & Sixth St., Coronado. A series of live shows throughout summer, with a different band each week. This week: cover band “Dave & Sarah Elliot” at 6 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 6. coronado.com/concerts.

WATERFRONT SUMMER CONCERTS at Seaport Village, Kettner Blvd. & West Harbor Drive, Downtown. The series of free performances is offered by a diverse collection of acts takes place weekly at Seaport Village. This week: Blue Rockets. From noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 5. www.seaportvillage.com.

GILBERT CASTELLANOS at Quail Botanical Gardens, 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas. Castellanos performs with his Latin Jazz Quintet. Optional dinner available at 5 p.m. for double ticket price. See website for details. At 5 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 5. 760-436-3036, www.gqgardens.org. $22.

LES COULTER at Moonlight Beach, 8 St., Encinitas. Coulter performs acoustic tunes as part of the Encinitas Sunday Summer Concerts series by the Sea series. From 3 to 6 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 5. www.encinitasfriends.org.

TAHOE DRUM CIRCLE at Encinitas Library, 540 Coitniah Drive, Encinitas. A free interactive performance of the Japanese drumming style. At 2 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 5. encinitasfriends.org.

MUSIC MONDAYS at North University Community Library, 8829 Judicial Drive, La Jolla. A series of outdoor summer concerts at the North University Library. This week: Pomeroy Guitar Combo. At 6 p.m. Monday, Aug. 4. www.sandiegolibrary.org.

02 AUGUST, SATURDAY

02.AUG.08 KABAYAO FAMILY QUARTET PIANO & VIOLIN CONCERT. For the special people with finer tastes in life: You will never miss this very rare opportunity in San Diego to enjoy the extraordinary music of the Kabayao Family Quartet* (a piano & violin concert) on Saturday, August 2, 2008 at 6:00 o’clock pm at the Hahn University Center, University of San Diego 5998 Alcala Park, San Diego, Ca 92110. For more details/tickets: Betty Baemail: (619) 934-8479 or email: artsygutsy@gmail.com. The Kabayao Family quartet is led by Gilopez Kabayao, an extraordinary violinist who made his debut at Carnegie Hall at the age of 19. A gifted virtuoso, he was a recipient of the President Ramon Magsaysay award, the highest recognition for outstanding public service in Asia. Armed with his 1974 “Dolfus” Stradivarius violin, he gave hundreds of concerts in schools, public places, churches, market places and sports arenas. His wife, Corazon, graduated magna cum laude from the University of Santo Tomas Conservatory of Music and has been featured as a piano soloist with the Manila Symphony Orchestra. Their three children, daughters Sicilienne and Farida and son Gilberto, are talented violinists who have won numerous awards. Gilberto will not be able to join them this time as he is still attending school in the Philippines.
1) Friday
The City of Carlsbad presents its 23rd annual "FISHX in the Park" event with the Carlsbad Community Concert Band and the Pacific Romance Around the World. The concert begins at 7 p.m. and features an array of music. The event takes place on the Oceanside Pier in Carlsbad. For more information, call 760-438-2070 or visit www.carlsbadcarp.com.

2) Saturday
Enjoy Claremont Family Day from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will be live entertainment, a pancake breakfast, a car show and Call the South Claremont Recreation 681-5450 for details.

3) Saturday
Enjoy the San Diego zoo's annual "Spring into the Zoo" event featuring live animal exhibits and performances. The event begins at 10 a.m. and runs until 5 p.m. For more information, call 619-221-1555 or visit www.sandiegozoo.org.

4) Saturday
Rang and Test Academy presents a program by at least 5 indie movies popular bands. Indian Ocean, at 5:30 p.m., at the House of Blues in San Diego. For more information, call 619-221-1555 or visit www.sandiegozoo.org.

5) Saturday
The San Diego Chinese Historical Museum offers a program on Chinese immigration to San Diego's Chinese community. For more information, call 619-221-1555 or visit www.sandiegozoo.org.

6) Saturday
The San Diego Opera presents a performance of the American Civil War era opera "The Devil's Disciple" at the10th Street Theatre. For more information, call 619-221-1555 or visit www.sandiegozoo.org.

7) Saturday
The San Diego Symphony presents its annual "Summer Musicales" performance at the Copley Symphony Hall. The event begins at 8 p.m. and runs until 10 p.m. For more information, call 619-221-1555 or visit www.sandiegozoo.org.

8) Saturday
The San Diego Symphony presents its annual "Hollywood in the Park" event featuring live music and family-friendly activities. The event begins at 8 p.m. and runs until 10 p.m. For more information, call 619-221-1555 or visit www.sandiegozoo.org.

Ongoing
The San Diego Symphony presents its annual "Summer Musicales" performance at the Copley Symphony Hall. For more information, call 619-221-1555 or visit www.sandiegozoo.org.

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Alpha Chi Omega, North Coast Alumnae, members attend gathering

Members of the North Coast Alumnae chapter of Alpha Chi Omega recently attended the San Diego Alumnae Panhellenic luncheon at La Jolla Country Club.

Alpha Chi Omega alumna Jan Pelletier of Encinitas, shown at right, was installed as president of San Diego Alumnae Panhellenic, an umbrella organization of 26 women's sororities. Other Alpha Chi Omega alumnae attending the luncheon were Gerrie McDonald of Rancho Santa Fe, Bobbi Karnes of Solana Beach, Heidi Williams of Carlsbad and Margaret Goldau and Diane Wozniak of Pacific Beach. Williams' daughter, Chelsea, received one of eight $500 Panhellenic scholarships presented at the luncheon.

Below, from left are Margaret Goldau, Diane Wozniak, Jan Pelletier, Bobbi Karnes, Gerrie McDonald, Chelsea Williams and Heidi Williams.

Alpha Chi Omega has collegiate chapters at Cal State San Marcos, UC San Diego, San Diego State University and the University of San Diego. Alpha Chi Omega is a 122-year-old national women's sorority with 131 collegiate chapters. Call (760) 634-3739.
Athletics
Trujillo throws 4 TDs as San Diego beats Marist

The Associated Press
Saturday, August 30, 2008

SAN DIEGO: Sebastian Trujillo threw four touchdowns as San Diego beat Marist College 40-22 to extend its home winning streak to 25 games Friday night.

Trujillo threw three of his TDs in the first half including a 2-yard strike to John Matthews and an 8-yard TD to Mitch Ryan as the Toreros took a 20-9 lead.

Matthews scored his second touchdown early in the third quarter on a 42-yard pass from backup quarterback/wide receiver Ben Hannula.

Hannula scored a touchdown in the fourth on a 32-yard pass from Trujillo.

JT Rogan, a fifth-year senior, scored the game's first touchdown on a 29-yard pass from Trujillo. Later in the first quarter Rogan tore his MCL and ACL on his left knee.

Bo Ehikioya led Marist with 75 yards on 17 carries and scored two touchdowns on runs of 2 and 16 yards. Chris Debowski completed 13 of 31 passes for 173 yards and two interceptions.

San Diego, the three-time defending Pioneer League champion, has beaten Marist four straight games. Marist will join the Pioneer League next season.
Toreros lose Rogan for season

RB tears 2 ligaments; USD rolls in opener

By Kevin Gemmill
STAFF WRITER

It was a grim statistic last night: USD running back J.T. Rogan, one quarter, one touchdown and two torn ligaments.

The preseason All-American tore the anterior cruciate and medial collateral ligaments in his left knee during the first quarter of last night's 40-22 win over visiting Marist and will miss the rest of the season.

Through a USD spokesman, team physician Dr. Paul C. Murphy said he would wait until next week for the swelling to go down before giving Rogan an MRI exam to determine the extent of the damage.

Heading into his fifth year, the 5-foot-10, 210-pound team captain already owned USD career marks for touchdowns, rushing yards and all-purpose yards. Last year he led the nation in kickoff return average (26.2).

Rogan, who was upbeat after the game, said he'll petition the NCAA for a six-year medical redshirt season. Adding to the frustration, there were several NFL scouts at the game watching Rogan and other Toreros players.

"I was feeling really good, better than I ever have," said Rogan, a Coronado High alumnus. "But there is no point sulking. I'll be back next year."

The injury put a damper on what was a promising first game for the Toreros, who extended their home winning streak to 25 with the nonconference victory.

"It's bittersweet," USD coach Ron Caragher said. "Every win is exciting and fun. But losing a great USD Torero — maybe the best offensive player in the Pioneer League — it's tough."

USD couldn't have asked for a better opening sequence: The defense forced a three-and-out, then a 7-yard punt gave USD first-and-10 at the Marist 33. Three plays later, quarterback Sebastian Trujillo hooked up with Rogan on a swing pass that went for a 25-yard touchdown.

The visitors from Poughkeepsie, N.Y., responded with a 11-play drive that ended with a 3-yard Obama Ebituya touchdown run. Marist took the lead for the first time on a 5-yard field goal from Kevin Puddy. After Rory Foley intercepted Trujillo and returned it 26 yards to the USD 40, the Red Foxes nibbled inside USD's 20, setting up the final goal.

The ensuing drive was when Rogan hurt his knee. During a 3-yard run just before the end of the first quarter, he tried to cut back in the open field, but stumbled awkwardly on his plant leg and went down untouched. He bounced up and hopped to the sideline before collapsing.

"The knee just locked up," Rogan said. A steady parade of teammates offered support as he spent the second quarter on the trainer's table. During the second half, he remained on the sideline on crutches.

"It kills me," said receiver John Matthews, Rogan's best friend and roommate. "I'd give up this game just to get him back. He looked as good as I'd ever seen him before he got hurt. One way or another, he'll still find a way to help us this year."

With the All-American out, Phil Morelli, a transfer from Colorado State, took over most of the rushing duties, rushing for 66 yards on 17 carries. Making his first start for the Toreros, Trujillo, a junior college transfer from Saddleback, ran hot and cold most of the night.

After the interception, he tossed two touchdown passes in the second quarter, a 3-yard fade to Matthews to retake the lead and an 8-yard toss to tight end Mitch Ryan. Two plays earlier, Trujillo and Ryan converted on a pivotal third-down conversion to keep the drive alive and set up the conclude, extending USD's lead to 20-7.

Rog-•n's roommate . "I'd give his knee. During the second half, he remained on the sideline on crutches.

There were first-game jitters," he said. "But it was nice to finally play against someone else other than my teammates for the last three weeks."

Backup quarterback Ben Hamma- la, also a starting wide receiver, threw a 3-yard touchdown pass to Matthews to give USD a 27-7 lead in the third. Matthews led the team with four catches for 65 yards and two touchdowns.
Cluelessness benefits USD’s QB

Newcomer missed what Johnson did

By Kevin Gemmell
STAFF WRITER

The greatest asset for USD’s new quarterback might be his ignorance of the past.

Sebastian Trujillo has seen the tapes of graduated All-American Josh Johnson. He even worked out with him over the summer, learning the intricacies of the Toreros’ West Coast offense. But he wasn’t around the past couple of years to witness firsthand Johnson’s ability to cleave defenses.

“It’s kind of like saying ignorance is bliss,” USD coach Ron Caragher said. “Out of sight, out of mind. Maybe he doesn’t feel that kind of pressure. He knows it’s out there, but he wasn’t there to see it.”

As Trujillo, a junior college transfer from Saddleback, takes the helm of USD’s offense tonight in the season opener against Marist, he’s aware of the expectations, but realizes there is only so much he can do to temper them.

“All I can do is play my best and try to earn the respect of my teammates,” said Trujillo, 22. “If I worry about myself, I should be fine. You can’t control what other people do or have done, so I don’t even bother trying.”

It’s that attitude that earned him the starting job over fifth-year senior Ben Hannula, a standout wide receiver two years ago and defensive back last season. Heading into camp, it was thought that Hannula and Andrew Rolin, Johnson’s backup the past two years, would compete for the starting job. But a reinjured lower back dropped Rolin out of the running and Trujillo was able to pass Hannula on the depth chart.

“You have to believe you are going to be the guy,” Trujillo said. “You can’t think any other way. I told myself I’d be starting. That’s the only way to go if you are a competitor.”

Now it’s a matter of getting the team behind him. Wide receiver John Matthews flourished catching passes from Johnson, who was drafted by the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Now he’ll be on the receiving end of Trujillo’s tosses, and he expects the rest of the team to get on the bandwagon.

“It’s a matter of what he does on the field,” said Matthews, who scorched Marist for six catches, 169 yards and two touchdowns in last year’s 38-17 win over the Red Foxes. “Everyone on this team loved Ben and loved Andrew and would have been happy with either of them as the starting quarterback. But if Sebastian is out there and proves he’s the starter and earns the respect of the teammates on the field, guys are going to start following him.”

Born in England, just outside Cambridge, Trujillo moved to Durango, Colo., where he attended elementary school and high school. But he wasn’t highly recruited, leaving him frustrated and filled with questions. He moved to Southern California on his own and waited — not entirely pu-
USD quarterback Sebastian Trujillo transferred from Saddleback College in Mission Viejo. *Ervine Grafton / Union-Tribune*

He's learned to keep an even keel. It's that ability to control his emotions that impressed Caragher. "I like his decision-making and accuracy. But above all it's his poise," Caragher said. "He doesn't get too flustered. He doesn't get the high highs and the low lows. A teammate of mine in college — Troy Aikman — had that. I like that consistency."

Kevin Gemmell: (619) 718-5304; kevin.gemmell@uniontrib.com
SAN DIEGO -- University of San Diego opens the season Friday night against Marist at Toreros Stadium.

The Toreros will put their 24-game home winning streak on the line. They will start junior college transfer Sebastien Trujillo at quarterback. He replaces record-setting Josh Johnson, a draft choice of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

The San Diego State Aztecs will also have a new quarterback in Ryan Lindley when they host Cal Poly on Saturday night. The redshirt freshman will be tested early, as he replaces now New England Patriots quarterback Kevin O'Connell.

The Aztecs schedule gets far tougher next week when they travel to Notre Dame.

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- August 11, 2008: NCAA Football Preview - San Diego State Aztecs
- August 11, 2008: NCAA Football Preview - B-Y-U Cougars

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Trujillo latest discovery in Toreros’ arms race

JC transfer looks to continue USD’s success at QB spot

TOM SHANAHAN
FOR THE NORTH COUNTY TIMES

SAN DIEGO — Three years ago, Josh Johnson followed in the footsteps of Todd Mortensen as the University of San Diego’s starting quarterback.

At the time, Johnson had big shoes to fill. Mortensen, a transfer from Brigham Young, was talented enough to sign a free-agent contract with the Detroit Lions for their 2005 training camp.

Johnson, though, surpassed Mortensen. The Tampa Bay Buccaneers drafted the three-time offensive player of the year in the Pioneer Football League in the fifth round in April.

Now comes Sebastian Trujillo, USD’s starter for the 2008 season opener Friday night against Marist College at Torero Stadium.

Can the junior college transfer from Saddleback College

TOREROS, C-7

one-up Johnson?

“l haven’t thought about it that way,” Trujillo said with a laugh. “l’m just focused on Marist. l don’t want to get ahead of myself.”

No one expects Trujillo to top Johnson, of course, but you could say he’s already ahead of himself by earning the starting job for the opener.

He entered fall camp as the No. 3 quarterback behind junior Andrew Rolin, last year’s backup to Johnson, and senior Ben Hannula. But Trujillo began receiving more repetitions than anticipated when Rolin suffered a stress fracture in his back during the first week of camp. Rolin will undergo further examinations with a specialist in Los Angeles before it’s determined whether he can return to the field later this season.

That left the competition between Trujillo and Hannula, who switched back to his high school position after earning second-team All-PFL honors as a safety in 2007.

“It was a tough decision, but we felt Sebastian gives us the best chance to be successful,” USD coach Ron Caragher said. “We weren’t expecting him to learn the offense so soon; it’s a difficult offense to understand. But he worked hard and did a nice job.”

Hannula, a senior who asked Caragher if he could return to offense during spring drills, is listed as the No. 2 quarterback, but the Toreros plan to put him on the field in other roles.

Although Trujillo arrived at USD from Durango, Colo., by way of Saddleback, he knew a lot about Johnson and USD football. As a senior in high school, he was recruited by former USD coach Jim Harbaugh, now the head man at Stanford.

USD is a non-scholarship school in the Football Championship Subdivision (formerly Division I-AA), but Trujillo said he was offered scholarships by North Dakota State — a FCS power — and other FCS scholarship programs. He turned down scholarships from colder climates, though, to take the California junior college route. He also considered Palomar College before picking Saddleback.

As a freshman at Saddleback, he backed up Nick Nelson, now a senior at Colorado. As a sophomore last year, he began the season splitting time with Brian Shrock before finishing as the starter.

“We were really impressed with his recruiting tape,” Caragher said. “He’s big, strong, very athletic and can run the football.”

Trujillo wasn’t on campus for spring drills, but he began studying the playbook and film in early July.

“I love the school, and I love the West Coast offense,” Trujillo said. “I watched a lot of what Josh Johnson did here, and what he does is take the pressure off himself by making the right reads. That’s what I hope to do here, too.”
USD taps Trujillo to be starting QB

By Kevin Gemmell, Staff Writer

USD has picked its starting quarterback for next week's season opener — and it's not the guy head coach Ron Caragher had in mind when camp opened earlier this month.

Junior-college transfer Sebastian Trujillo gets the nod over Ben Hannula and Andrew Rolin, the leading candidates when camp began.

"It's a real swing of events," Caragher said.

Rolin, who had a back injury that kept him out of spring ball, reinjured his lower back and missed most of training camp. That opened the door for Trujillo to challenge Hannula, a converted wide receiver and defensive back.

"A big thing had to do with the scrimmages and we really got a chance to see how the guys operate on their own, and we thought he did a good job," Caragher said. "He surpassed Ben and he's earned the confidence of the team and coaching staff."

The 6-foot-3, 222-pound Trujillo prepped at Durango High in Colorado before going to Saddleback College in Mission Viejo. He spent three seasons with the Gauchos, redshirting his first year, then playing backup his second year before earning the starting job.

"As a quarterback you always hope for the best. In the back of my mind I wasn't looking for a backup job. When I came here I wanted to start," Trujillo said.

USD opens its season next Friday at 7 p.m. at Torero Stadium against Marist.

Hannula, an all-conference defensive back last season and standout wide receiver two years ago, will remain on offense as a receiver and backup quarterback. Caragher said Hannula is one of the team's most versatile athletes and wants him on the field as much as possible.
Hooked on football

Tackle is an anchor on USD offensive line

By Kevin Gemmell

Deene Kabiling thrives during the chaos that comes in three-second intervals.

When the football is snapped, the University of San Diego offensive tackle knows his job — and does it well — despite the physical pounding his body takes every play. Chaos is nothing new to the University City High graduate.

When Kabiling was 5, Mount Pinatubo erupted in his native Philippines. The boy and his family were transported by a U.S. Navy helicopter out of their home province of Pangasinan as their town burned in the volcano's wake.

Kabiling vaguely recalls traveling aboard the aircraft carrier Abraham Lincoln en route to San Diego, where his father was stationed while serving in the Navy.

"I remember being so scared," Kabiling said. "Then coming to a new country where I didn't speak English. My mom got me "Hooked on football." That's how I learned how to speak English." He's a quiet leader, a star in the trenches.

Kabiling, a redshirt junior, is the starting left tackle for the Toreros, who began practice last week.

"Our glory comes Sunday morning in the film room," Kabiling said, "when you see a great play or a great pancake block. That's how we get our glory."

The Toreros, who began practice last week, enter the year as favorites in the preseason coaches poll. They are three-point favorites in their league and ranked No. 15 nationally.

Kabiling, who has started all 12 games the past two seasons, said the key to his success on the field is his ability to block.

"I'm good at blocking," Kabiling said. "I'm big and strong. I'm a great pancake blocker. That's how I get my glory."

Like many football players at non-scholarship schools, Kabiling wasn't planning to play the sport in college. He wasn't recruited and didn't believe he was very big coming out of high school at 6-foot-2, 300 pounds.

Now 6-3 and 308, Kabiling is coming off a junior season in which he earned All-PFL and Mid Major All-America honors.

Kabiling was redshirted during his third year at USD while recovering from a knee injury. Returning with a successful season last year was rewarding.

"I was in the weight room," said Kabiling, "when I competed in wrestling in high school. I wanted to be the best. I wanted to be the best."

Kabiling, who started wrestling in high school, said the key to his success is his ability to block.

"I'm good at blocking," Kabiling said. "I'm big and strong. I'm a great pancake blocker. That's how I get my glory."

Kabiling's family has been a source of strength for him.

"I owe so much to my family," he said. "My parents are great. My younger brother is 10 and he really looks up to me. I want to make him proud and I can't wait until he's playing college football and I can look back and be proud of him."

Kabiling's family includes his mother and father, who are both active in their community.

"They are always at every home game cheering me on," Kabiling said. "My family is the best."
Oceanside’s Zimmerman could make early impact for Toreros as receiver

Story by TOM SHANAHAN
FOR THE NORTH COUNTY TIMES

SAN DIEGO

College football’s first practice is a day when freshmen try not to embarrass themselves with glaring rookie mistakes. They spend a lot of time watching and learning from the veterans, least that’s how the opening day of the University of San Diego fall camp was progressing on Monday for Oceanside High graduate Frankie Zimmerman until an assistant coach called out his name.

“Frankie, get in the huddle,” shouted Steve Mooshagian, the assistant head coach and wide receivers coach. “Show them you’re a valedictorian.”

At least that’s how the opening day of the University of San Diego fall camp was progressing on Monday for Oceanside High graduate Frankie Zimmerman until an assistant coach called out his name.

“Frankie, get in the huddle,” shouted Steve Mooshagian, the assistant head coach and wide receivers coach. “Show them you’re a valedictorian.”

Zimmerman, a 6-foot-1, 165-pounder, may find himself in that huddle when the season begins.

“Frankie is a tremendous athlete,” said Ron Caragher, the Toreros’ second-year head coach. “He has the ability, it’s a matter of how much he learns and (how) quickly he understands the concepts of our passing game. We’re excited to add him to our team.”

Although Zimmerman earned first-team All-CIF honors as a defensive back for a talented Oceanside team that won a fourth straight CIF San Diego Section Division II title and a state bowl game, the Toreros recruited him as a wide receiver.

“That kind of surprised me, because most schools were recruiting me as a cornerback or safety,” Zimmerman said. “It doesn’t matter to me; I just want to help the team. I like offense and defense, and if they need me to switch to defense, I will.”

The Toreros consider Zimmerman one of the top recruits in a freshman class that features five products of North County high schools.

“Frankie can do a lot more than play wide receiver,” Caragher said. “He can return kicks and punts, and I remember seeing a tape of him in high school when he had two interceptions. We’re committed to playing him at wide receiver, but who knows what the future entails. Sometimes there is movement as guys develop and there are different needs for the team.”

Zimmerman’s talent was such that he attracted interest from Air Force and Nevada-Las Vegas of the Mountain West Conference, although his size limited his scholarship offers from Football Bowl Subdivision schools (formerly Division I-A).

But he didn’t foresee a future in college football until the summer before his senior year. He thought he would play soccer, but that changed when he turned in an impressive performance in the 2007 San Diego State passing tournament.

“I love football,” he said. “When we lit up (the SDSU tournament) and ended up winning it, I started thinking I might be able to play (college) football.”

Though tempted to test himself at the PFL level, he has no regrets about starting his career at USD, a non-scholarship school that plays in the Football Championship Subdivision (formerly Division I-AA).

“I just wanted to go to a school I loved,” Zimmerman said. “A lot of people told me when you’re on campus, you’ll realize it’s your school. That’s the way it is for me here. The team is amazing, they’re the best guys around. They’ve got great receivers here like (All-PFL pick) John Matthews. I want to learn from that.”

“I was looking around, and I was honored to be out there with those guys.”

— Frankie Zimmerman, on his first practice with the University of San Diego

“Frankie, get in the huddle. Show them you’re a valedictorian.”

— Steve Mooshagian, USD assistant football coach

> ZIMMERMAN, C-3

Toreros notes

Besides Zimmerman, USD's fresh face from North County high schools are Oceanside's Matthew Segg, Benny

Burr, Isaiah Odum, Ian Harper, Kaitti P.

Christie, Alex Andrade and Cathedrals
defenders Kyle Lomas. USD will

open its season on Aug. 29 against

Austin Peay at Torero Stadium.
Toreros keep plugging away

By Kevin Gemmell
STAFF WRITER

USD's defense already had a significant void with the graduation of Eric Bakhtiari, a midmajor All-America defensive end now a free agent in Chargers camp.

And with standout defensive back Ben Hannula locked in a competition for the starting quarterback job after switching to offense in the spring, the defense suddenly finds itself trying to plug more holes than it originally intended.

Not a problem, said all-league cornerback Gabe Derricks yesterday after the Toreros' first practice.

"Of course you would think when all-stars leave it would hurt, but we don't look at it like that," Derricks said. "We look at it as a team game. Individuals play a huge roll, but you have to think about the secondary who covers the receivers to give (the linemen) time to get the sack. We're a team. That's our vibe."

With six defensive starters returning (Hannula would have made seven), Patrick O'Neill shifts from safety to cornerback. With four interceptions and 65 tackles last year, the 5-foot-11, 200-pound fifth-year senior brings a hitter's mentality to the corner position.

"I think our secondary should be the fastest in the league," Derricks said. "We have some heavy hitters and we fly."

Hannula is competing for the quarterback job with Andrew Rolin. But don't expect to see him carrying a clipboard should Rolin win the job.

"At this point, Ben is an offensive player," said second-year coach Ron Caragher. "That's my mentality, and first and foremost is the quarterback spot. If things happen where Andrew is the starter, Ben is too good a player to keep off the field. I think Ben would find a way on the field. But it's so early. It's going to be a tough competition between those two."

Caragher said he hopes to have a starter named about 10 days before the Toreros' first game Aug. 29 against Marist at Torero Stadium.

While the team searches for a successor to record-setting quarterback Josh Johnson, who was drafted by the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Caragher was quick to point out the impact Bakhtiari had on the defense.

"What Josh was to our offense, Eric was to our defense," Caragher said last week. "A guy like that isn't easily replaced."

Kevin Gemmell: (619) 718-5304; kevin.gemmell@uniontrib.com
Ex-coach McGarry settles with USD

By Brent Schrotenboer
STAFF WRITER

Former USD football coach Kevin McGarry has reached an undisclosed settlement in his wrongful termination suit against the school.

McGarry filed suit against USD in 2004 after being fired abruptly in the middle of one of USD's best seasons in 2003. He was replaced by Jim Harbaugh two months later.

"I can only tell you it was settled satisfactorily," said McGarry, whose record as head coach was 39-37 in seven-plus seasons, including 5-1 in 2003.

USD officials declined comment, citing school policy on personnel matters.

Before the settlement, the court ruled USD officials were entitled to more than $115,000 in attorneys' fees from McGarry after they succeeded in having his defamation claims against them struck from the suit. McGarry said he could not discuss how that financial issue was resolved.

According to the suit, a USD official told McGarry three reasons for his firing. He was accused of kicking a football in the direction of trainers after they gave him bad news about injuries. McGarry said this was a lie. He also was accused of engaging in a profanity-laced tirade at a cheerleading camp when he wanted to use the field for football practice. A campus security officer's report of the incident contradicts this account, saying "McGarry did not use profanity."

The third incident was a phone conversation with assistant coach Tim Drevno about how much time Drevno would be permitted to spend with his family after his wife had given birth. USD officials had described it as a heated argument. McGarry said USD's account of the incident was "grossly mischaracterized." McGarry was fired later that week.

McGarry recently has worked as a teacher and assistant coach at Hilltop High.

Brent Schrotenboer: (619) 293-1368; brent.schrotenboer@uniontrib.com
USD seeking QB Johnson’s successor, not replacement

By Kevin Gemmell
STAFF WRITER

Ron Caragher knows the question before it’s asked. It’s the obvious question the USD football coach has pondered since the Toreros’ final game last season: How do you replace Josh Johnson, the prolific quarterback and the greatest player in USD history? Caragher’s answer, likewise, is obvious.

“You can’t,” Caragher said. “How is a guy going to come in and be as productive as that? That may never happen in college football again — that type of passing rating.”

Johnson was the nation’s most efficient passer last season, thanks to a school-record 43 touchdowns compared with only one interception. After graduating with every USD passing record, he went on to earn MVP honors at the East-West Shrine game and was the first player drafted out of USD’s program. He re-

SEE Toreros, D3
QB candidates are friends as well as rivals

recently signed a four-year deal with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, the team that took him in the fifth round of the NFL draft.

"I think (the Toreros) are going to be successful," Johnson said last week from Tampa Bay's training camp. "I didn't raise the bar by myself. As a team we raised the quality of the program. The whole program began to change and work really hard and we all experienced success."

While Johnson tries to find his spot among Jon Gruden's bevy of quarterbacks in Florida, the void he leaves at USD is substantial — statistically and in ways that can't be quantified. Yet as the three-time defending Pioneer Football League champs (co-champions last year with Dayton) begin their first title defense sans Johnson, Caragher remains confident.

"I don't expect a dropoff," he said. "The bar has been set high. That's the only thing that we know. That's our attitude.

"Those are big shoes to fill and I don't expect any one person to fill those shoes. I do have expectations of a team that will help fill those shoes. I certainly hope it will be an entire group effort. When you have a superstar player like Josh, it's easy to lean on that athlete in certain situations and in crunch time. But we had guys performing on the other end and catching those balls and making plays. I'm anticipating a very balanced offense."

Exactly who will be commanding that offense this year remains to be seen. Heading into the first practice today, Andrew Rolin and Ben Hannula will compete for the starting job.

Rolin, a 6-foot-3, 215-pound fourth-year junior, appeared to be the heir apparent before a lower-back injury forced him to miss most of spring workouts. He has playing experience, appearing in seven games and completing 20-of-28 passes for 249 yards and five touchdowns last year. But his absence in the spring opened the door for Hannula (6-2, 205), an all-conference defensive back and fifth-year senior, who asked for a shot at quarterback following Johnson's graduation.

"I had asked Ben to move from wide receiver to defensive back last year and he did so unselfishly," Caragher said. "So when he asked me for a chance to play quarterback, I couldn't say no.

"He's been a very pleasant surprise. I didn't anticipate him having such a good spring. Now you've got two great leaders competing and I think it's going to be fun.

"You just have to be yourself. You can't go out and try to do what Josh did."

BEN HANNULA; USD quarterback

TOREROS
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 91

USD FOOTBALL
Coach: Ron Caragher (2nd year)
Conference: Pioneer Football League
Overall Record last year: 9-2
PFL record/finish: 6-1/1
(w/Dayton)
Starters returning: 14 (7 offense, 7 defense)
Season opener: Aug. 29 vs. Marist

Turns out the two are pretty good friends also, which makes the competition all the more interesting.

"It's nothing personal, it's whatever is going to make the team better," Rolin said. "I think Ben will make the team better no matter what position he plays."

Rolin has proved he can lead the team. In last year's season opener against Azusa Pacific, Rolin got the start in place of Johnson, who was serving a one-game suspension for an undisclosed violation of team policy. Rolin excelled, tossing four touchdowns in a 42-32 victory.

The would-be starters know whoever wins the job will face a certain level of scrutiny because of their predecessor's accomplishments. Both said they are ready.

"It's something you can't control," Hannula said. "You just have to be yourself. You can't go out and try to do what Josh did. No one is going to throw 43 touchdowns and just one interception. You have to play the game you play and play it smart. There are some things you can control, ball security and being smart with your reads."

Either quarterback will have the benefit of working with seven returning starters, including standout running back J.T. Rogan, who rushed for more than 1,000 yards and 10 touchdowns. He also caught seven touchdowns in the West Coast hybrid offense.

John Matthews, the team's leading receiver also returns following 47 catches and 13 touchdowns last season.

Kevin Gemmell: (619) 718-5302; kevin.gemmell@uniontrib.com
Bakhtiari shoulders the duties of being a Bolts rookie

SAN DIEGO — The long list of accolades and gaudy statistics that are part of Ernie Bakhtiari's college football resume doesn't preclude him from being assigned tasks that remind him of his NFL future.

As a rookie free-agent linebacker attempting to crack the Chargers' roster, the former University of San Diego star had an important duty after a recent practice.

"I carry Shawne Merriman's shoulders pads from the practice field and place them nearby in Merriman's locker," Bakhtiari said with a smile. "I have a lot of respect for the guys and they have a lot of respect for me and I respect where I am on the team. It's fun. They don't bust me too hard. They know me just right to make sure I know to never get too big for my britches."

Bakhtiari's college days were neat and tidy unlike in the case of "Schools weren't looking for a person like myself," Bakhtiari recalled. "No one came calling, not even USD.

"I wasn't selected in USD and was allowed to come out for the team after then-coach Kevin McGregor and the defensive coordinator Jason Dejohnais viewed tape of him. He redshirted in 2003 and hit the weight room, eventually developing into the most decorated defensive player in USD history.

"I have a lot of respect for Merriman's jersey." Bakhtiari said. "I have a lot of respect for me and the only downside is being as- 

He also took his pads to his mom and dad's place, along with his soccer mom.

"I called them the day after. I wanted to let them know what was going on. They were excited, of course." Bakhtiari said.

"I have a lot of respect for Merriman's jersey." Bakhtiari said. "I have a lot of respect for me and the only downside is being a first-team All-American and being a second-team All-American.

Bakhtiari was one of eight finalists for the Football Championship Subdivision (formerly Division II-A). He was also the only small school player among the eight finalists for the Ted Hendricks Defensive End of the Year Award, won by Virginia's Chris Long.

Chargers general manager A.J. Smith first noticed Bakhtiari at the Pioneer Football League defensive player of the year award ceremony in both campaigns. Bakhtiari was a third-team small school All-American as a junior before being a first-team All-American selection last season.

Bakhtiari was the football player of the year at USD in 2003 and bit 258 pounds, Bakhtiari was a 200-pound defensive end at Burlingame High. Not only was he not on the radar of major-college recruiters, he wasn't even sought by small colleges.

"Schools weren't looking for a person like myself," Bakhtiari recalled. "No one came calling, not even USD."

Bakhtiari walked off in USD and was allowed to carry him every snap. He was just a tough, hard-nosed, physical guy, who was dominating at that level. Tremendous hustle from sideline to sideline and just a nasty football player, I enjoyed watching him."

Bakhtiari went undrafted and signed with the Chargers after the draft concluded. He was competing for a spot on the 53-man roster or the eight-player practice squad as a two-time All-American.

"I have nothing to lose," said Bakhtiari, who earned a business administration degree from USD. "I have an amazing degree and I went to a school that is not known for football. I was able to excel and I'm here now. Everything right now, after any collegiate career, is an added bonus. Even though I view it that way, I'm not satisfied. I want to stay here. I want to stay on this team and I want to be a Charger."

This month's four preseason contests, beginning with Saturday's affair against Dallas, will determine whether Bakhtiari will stick. However, Chargers coach Norv Turner has been impressed with Bakhtiari's off-season work and football skills.

"It's a safe bet he can also make every time a linebacker has made him carry his pads too.

"I have to be the best Eric Bakhtiari I can be," he said. "I have to be the best football player I can be, I have to use the tools and resources I have around me. In order to accomplish that, I need to learn from each guy and they've been very instrumental in helping me with that. I literally call you a point in time where each one of the linebackers has pulled me aside and helped me."

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It's a safe bet he can also make every time a linebacker has made him carry his pads too.

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It's a safe bet he can also make every time a linebacker has made him carry his pads too.

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It's a safe bet he can also make every time a linebacker has made him carry his pads too.

It's a safe bet he can also make every time a linebacker has made him carry his pads too.
Bucs' Johnson rejects the labels

By Monte Poole
Staff columnist

JOSH JOHNSON doesn't sweat the labels. Neither of them. The Oakland Tech product knows they were written across his back in April and will stay there unless erased by talent and tutelage and production.

Label One: Quarterback of the Future. It was stamped on Johnson when the Tampa Bay Buccaneers drafted him after a superb career at the University of San Diego.

"I've heard it, but that's all talk," Johnson said by phone from training camp near Orlando, Fla. "I don't say it myself. I have to prove it on the field first. Then everything else will fall into place. That's what I'm getting ready for. So when the opportunity comes, I'll be ready."

Label Two: Jon Gruden's Lab Experiment. This one is partly about Johnson but mostly about Tampa Bay's head coach. A reputed offensive guru, the former Raiders coach has yet to develop a young quarterback.

"I don't really think about it," Johnson laughed. "I just try to get prepared to understand the offense, to go in and do what I'm told. As far as Coach Gruden developing me to be his quarterback, being his project, I don't look at it like that. I just see it as playing the position the way he wants me to and the way I know how to play it."

Which, as a Division I-AA All-America, was off the charts.

A three-year starter for the Toreros, Johnson completed 68 percent of his passes and threw for 9,564 yards, with 113 touchdowns and 15 interceptions. He rushed 294 times for 1,825 yards and 17 touchdowns. As a senior in 2007, Johnson passed for 43 touchdowns — and one interception.

"He's got it," said Jim Harbaugh, the head coach at USD before moving to Stanford before the 2007 season. "Josh has got it. I think he will make the (Bucs), definitely, this year. Is he a future starter in the National Football League? I think he is."

How did Johnson, 22, get to Tampa Bay? General manager Bruce Allen and Gruden, who worked together in Oakland, maintained ties with former Raiders assistants, including Harbaugh, who ended up at San Diego. The Bucs studied Josh from afar and, impressed, sent senior assistant Doug Williams to San Diego before the draft to spend a couple of days with Johnson.

Though Johnson, suffering back spasms, threw poorly at the combine, he still ran a 4.53 40, the fastest of any QB. Bucs quarterbacks coach Greg Olson attended Johnson's pro day, and when the two met after a strong showing, Johnson was quick to recognize coverages and grasp terminology.

The Bucs were sold, maneuvering to draft Josh in the fifth round.

"When you do the individual makeup of this kid, you see a 6-3, 215-pound youngster who has 4.5 speed," Gruden said after the draft. "I think he is a heck of a kid. ... Is he the quarterback of the future? I don't know. But he will compete, and he will be very interesting."
Johnson is the only non-veteran QB in camp. He's behind Jeff Garcia (age 38), Brian Griese (33), Luke McCown (27) and Chris Simms (27).

Gruden, you see, has a fondness for quarterbacks. Usually, veterans like Rich Gannon, Brad Johnson, Garcia and Griese. Gruden might even leave a light on for Jake Plummer to come out of retirement.

"I'm looking forward to playing," said Johnson, who is expected to make his debut tonight in an exhibition game at Miami. "But I'm the rookie, so I'll probably go last. I'm just hoping I'll play. I was told I'll play."

Many of Johnson's measurables and intangibles compare with those of a young QB from a small college who got no respect until, late in his career, Gruden lured him to Oakland. His name was Rich Gannon. He excelled at Delaware but bounced about the NFL for a decade before silencing legions of doubters. The Bucs are on to something, if Johnson is along the lines of Gannon.

Johnson, hoping to become the first Bay Area prep quarterback since Harbaugh (Palo Alto High) to distinguish himself in the NFL, would accept that scenario. Gruden would embrace it.

It would, among other things, erase a couple of annoying labels.

Contact Monte Poole at mpoole@bayareanewsgroup.com
Toreros Fall To Trojans In Opener

Amberly Richardson
Posted: Sunday, August 24, 2008 12:31 am

San Diego high school soccer was well represented when USD took on USC at Torero Stadium on Friday. Last year's senior standouts formulated this year's recruiting class for the Toreros and Trojans. The game remained scoreless through 90 minutes of regulation and went three minutes into overtime before a miscue by the Toreros defense allowed Marihelen Tomer to shoot into a keeperless box and win the match for USC.

San Pasqual HS alum Natalie Garcia captured a starting role in her first college contest with the Toreros. As a defender, she hurried her opponents and made the most of her touches. Lining up as a starter for the Trojans was Ashli Sandavol (Granite Hills HS), who was a difference-maker for the reigning NCAA champions. Former Cathedral Catholic star Alex Sitta is also a freshman on the USC squad.

Patrick Henry HS alum Stephanie Ochs wasn't a starter, but she certainly played like one. She checked in at forward with 13 minutes left in the first half. Ochs immediately received a pass and dribbled it to the goal line. However, she was double-teamed and USC defender Meagan Holmes deflected the ball out of bounds.

USD's offensive push fell flat when a header from Christine Mock was saved. Nonetheless, Ochs, who finished with 21 goals and 19 assists as a senior at Henry, wasn't finished. She earned two shots with time winding down in the first half and another good look with just three minutes left in the game. Despite her efforts, the Toreros couldn't bust the bagel on the scoreboard.

Also checking into the match was Ellie Magracia (Bonita Vista HS), who got her first college experience.
COLLEGE SOCCER

Top-ranked USC beats USD on botched play

By Ivan Orozco, Today's LOCAL NEWS

USD goalkeeper Brittany Cameron watched her teammates defend and remain focused at Torero Stadium last night.

The USD women's soccer team gave defending NCAA champion USC a challenge. The Toreros kept the No. 1-ranked Trojans scoreless for 90 minutes.

But all came crashing down in a matter of seconds, resulting in a 1-0 loss for USD before more than 1,000 fans in the season opener for both teams.

Cameron watched a ball float over her head and bounce into the goal three minutes into overtime.

After a solid defending effort for most of the match, a miscue in the back ultimately cost USD the game.

Cameron and defender Erika Wesley couldn't decide who was supposed to clear a filtered pass from USC's Ashli Sandoval near the left corner of the penalty area.

Wesley and Cameron bumped into each other, leaving the ball free. Trojans midfielder Marileni Toneri took advantage, sending the loose ball arching over Cameron into the net from about 22 yards out.

"I thought Erika was going to kick it," Cameron said of the play. "It was just a little bit of miscommunication. It (stinks) that it had to be at that exact moment. Hats off to USC for taking advantage of it. We fought hard. We'd love to get the game back. We tried the hardest we could."

Trover coach Arla Greenwood thought Wesley was pushed right before the play.

"She got pushed in the back," Greenwood said. "That was for sure. I don't put it all on Erika. We should have dealt with that before she got pushed, but that's part of the game. We're a good team trying to be a great team."

USD outshot the Trojans 9-8 and had a handful of opportunities to score in the first half, but perhaps its best chance came in the 84th minute. Forward Allison Walters sent a long ball near the left post, where Ellis Magraca got a header on the ball.

Magraca's header was slotted over the crossbar inches before it crossed the line.

"We had a lot of chances," Greenwood said. "They had a lot of chances as well. But the miscommunication was costly. We need to have better quality in the final moments. We just didn't have that."

Notes

Natalie Garcia, a Serra High grad, started at defender for the Toreros. She made her presence felt, stealing the ball several times from USC's Sandoval. Garcia smartly read the only San Diego native who saw her first college soccer action. Stephanie Ochs (Patrick Henry) and Magraca (Booitn Vin) subbed in and out of the match.
Natalie Garcia (front) and USD are getting ready for their season opener Friday vs. top-ranked USC, the defending NCAA women's soccer champ.
Read about USD's preparations at soccer.uniontrib.com  K.C. Alfred / U-T
USD Takes on National Champs

Amberly Richardson
Posted: Tuesday, August 19, 2008 11:46 am

USD kicks off its season in a big way when it takes on defending NCAA National Champion USC on Friday, Aug. 22. The game is scheduled for 7:30 at the new and improved Torero Stadium.

The Toreros finished last season with a program-best 15-3-3 overall record and an appearance in the NCAA postseason. The Toreros are coming off of their fourth consecutive quarterfinal appearance. Coach Ada Greenwood is optimistic about the season and invites all of San Diego’s soccer fans to come see the game at its finest.

The coaches of the West Coast Conference backed Greenwood’s enthusiasm. The WCC coaches’ poll predicted that the USD women would finish third in the conference this season.

For groups 20 or more, tickets are just $2, but you must contact Sierra Foster 24 hours or more in advance. She can be reached at 619-260-7886.

For more information about the USD women’s soccer program, please visit their website.

Baseball Releases 2009 Schedule

Toreros will play eight teams who made the NCAA Tournament this past year.

Aug. 26, 2008

2009 Tentative Baseball Schedule in PDF Format

SAN DIEGO, Calif. - The University of San Diego head baseball coach, Rich Hill, has announced the Toreros' 2009 schedule.

The Toreros' schedule features yet another strong caliber of opponents, much like the 2008 season. Eight NCAA Tournament participants including the University of Oklahoma, Long Beach State, Rice, Pepperdine University, UC Irvine, Cal State Fullerton, Stanford University and Arizona State highlight USD's schedule. The Toreros will compete in 15 games against this top competition.

USD will begin its season at the MLB Urban Youth Academy Tournament in Compton, Calif. This tournament will feature USD, San Diego State, Southern and Bethune-Cookman. USD will also host a four-team Tournament in the second week of the season, which features Pacific, South Florida, Nevada and Kansas State. The Toreros will continue its long-standing rivalry with San Diego State in a four-game series with each team playing two games at their home venues. USD will also renew a long-standing rivalry with UC Riverside in a home and home and USD will get to play mid-week games with two College World Series opponents, including Arizona State and Stanford.

The Toreros will once again compete in the strong West Coast Conference, a conference that sent two teams to the NCAA Tournament in 2008. The Toreros will get to host WCC runner-up Pepperdine in a three-game set at USD's Cunningham Stadium to begin WCC action.

USD will look to make its fourth consecutive trip to the NCAA Tournament on the heels of the record-setting 2008 campaign that saw USD reach its second consecutive 40-win season with a program-best 44-17 overall record. The Toreros also captured their fourth WCC Championship, as they posted a league record of 16-5. The Toreros also reached a program-first by reaching the Regional championship game, before falling to eventual national Champion Fresno State.

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Arm Strength Development Camp Rapidly Approaching

Limited spots available, sign up now!

Aug. 19, 2008

SAN DIEGO — The University of San Diego baseball staff is pleased to offer Arm Strength Development Camp for all skill levels and ages. Players ages 10 through seniors in high school will be able to hone their skills with USD baseball coaches and players.

Baseball players need to have a strong, well-conditioned and healthy arm to play baseball. Players can simply not afford to allow their arm to be a liability, it must be an asset. Wouldn’t it be nice to show up to the field every day and appreciate your arm? Wouldn’t it be nice if your arm thrived on throwing everyday? You can learn how through our Arm Strength Development Camp.

Please feel free to call (818) 200-7496 for any questions, and check for space availability for your camp! There are only 16 spots available per session. Below is a link to the form you will need in order to register for this camp.

Arm Strength Development Camp Brochure

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BACK TO SPORTS
Matusz Signs Four-Year Contract with the Baltimore Orioles

By Dan Heafy

Matusz, the fourth overall pick by the Orioles in the 2008 MLB draft and the consensus best pitcher available, received a $3.2 million bonus and a four-year major league deal as part of his contract with the Orioles. That bonus is the second-highest in this year’s draft, trailing only the $4.15 million the Rays gave No. 1 overall selection Tim Beckham.

Matusz is coming off a season in which he led the NCAA in strikeouts (141) and tied for fifth in the country in wins (12). He posted a 1.71 ERA, which is the fourth best all-time mark at USD in single-season ERA. The junior lefty was named the 2008 West Coast Conference Pitcher of the Year, Rivals.com National Pitcher of the Year, named a Louisville Slugger, Baseball America and Rival.com first-team All-American and finished the season as the all-time career leader at San Diego in strikeouts (396). The junior southpaw also tied the program single-game record for strikeouts with 17 in a win against Harvard on March 22, 2008.

Matusz became USD’s highest draft pick of the current draft format as he was taken No. 4 overall by the Baltimore Orioles. He was drafted in the fourth round by the Angels in 2005, but he elected to attend school instead. He became the first San Diego player to be named a finalist for the Golden Spikes Award – given to the best amateur baseball player – and he helped the team achieve its highest ranking (No. 4) last season. Matusz was a member of the 2007 USA Baseball National Team and was also a finalist for the Roger Clemens award.

Then you’ll have to move into the dorms.

BACK TO SPORTS

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8/18/2008
Matusz gets first taste of Camden Yards

Orioles' first-round Draft pick meets with media on Friday.

By Spencer Fearn / MLB.com

08/22/2008 7:53 PM ET

Matusz gets first taste of Camden Yards

By Baltimore's director of scouting,

"I'm excited about getting him into the Draft, and as soon as we get him out and get him started, he'll get into the routine.

"It's the start of his business. I do think it will be quick, but as a timetable, I don't know.

Matusz has a Major League contract with a signing bonus worth $3.2 million, won't be playing in any full-season professional league until 2009. The Orioles have to begin play in either the Arizona Fall League or Hawaiian Winter Baseball league, where Draft pick Matt Wieters got his feet wet after signing, but it's deadline.

The full-season debut will have to wait for next year, and Matusz said that he'd prefer to pitch in the Arizona Fall League this winter because of the level of competition and because he grew up in Phoenix. The left-hander, who starred at the University of San Diego before being drafted, is excited to begin his professional career and to be with Baltimore.

"Obviously, I've been playing at the college level, and one thing I'm excited about is pitching to wood bats," Matusz said. "Just being able to do it every day and handle the travel, the media, everything about it. It will be nice ... not having to go to class on the day you have to pitch. I had to pitch on Fridays, so I'd have to go to class and then have to get ready for a start. I'm looking forward to not having to do that and just focusing on baseball, working out and getting myself in shape."

Matusz hasn't thought about his timetable for making it to the big leagues as much as he's pondered the best way to prepare himself for each stop along the way. He met Hall of Famer and Baltimore broadcaster Jim Palmer on Friday and also spoke briefly with manager Dave Trembley, but Camden Yards was the starring attraction.

"It was a great experience," Matusz said of touring the Orioles' home stadium for the first time. "I've been waiting for this for a while. It's definitely been a long summer, but it's a process. I'm happy to be part of the club now and to make it out here to Camden Yards, which is just a great stadium. I love everything about it so far. It's been a lot of fun."

Jordan, who generally shies away from comparing Draftees with current big leaguers, dropped a doozy on Matusz, saying that the prospect reminds him of Philadelphia ace Cole Hamels in terms of stuff. And Matusz agreed, saying that he's heard it before and that he's watched Hamels closely to ascertain what works for him at the big league level.

"I've been compared to him a lot the last few years [because of] the way Hamels works off of his changeup..."
NOTEBOOK

One-time standout at USD takes on Cajuns coaching post

By Nicole Vargas

Former Southwestern College and Montgomery High girls basketball coach Lori Morris has joined the staff of the University of Louisiana Lafayette.

Morris, 46, will be an assistant under second-year head coach Errol Rogers.

"I am very appreciative of this opportunity," Morris told The Daily Advertiser in Lafayette. "I thought maybe the time had passed for me to coach at the Division I level, so this is really exciting."

Morris spent last season as head coach at Southwestern, returning to a position she held from 1984 to 1986. Before that, Morris spent most of her 30-year coaching career at Montgomery, leading the Aztecs to seven league titles and two San Diego Section runner-up finishes.

Morris, a standout point guard for the University of San Diego, graduated from Chula Vista High.

Morris will not be the only San Diego connection for the Ragin' Cajuns. Bishop's graduate Michelle Brunker will begin her college basketball career at Louisiana-Lafayette in the fall.

All-American

Oceanside High graduate Matt Cerda has been named a second-team high school baseball All-American by video-game maker EA Sports.

Cerda, the San Diego Section Player of the Year, batted .542 with 16 home runs and 45 RBI. He turned down a scholarship to the University of San Diego and signed with the Chicago Cubs after being taken in the fourth round of the pro baseball draft in June.

Cerda has been stationed at second base for the Cubs' Arizona Rookie League, compiling a .319 batting mark after 13 games.

Sign-ups

Registration for the fall Miracle League season is available online for players, coaches, buddies and other volunteers.

The Miracle League provides children with mental or physical challenges an opportunity to play baseball as a team member in an organized league. The fall season will run from Sept. 20 through Nov. 15. Registration will close Aug. 22. For information, go to miracleleagueofsandiego.org.

Nicole Vargas: (619) 293-1390; nicole.vargas@uniontrib.com
Girl Scouts go all out for Urban Campout

OrgWatch
By Jenna Long

The Girl Scouts of San Diego will be teaming up for a fundraising event at 6 p.m. Sept. 12 called "Urban Campout: Sports Madness!" at the organization's headquarters in Balboa Park.

Sports-attired guests will have the chance to shoot hoops with USD's championship women's basketball team, meet NASCAR driver Erin Crocker and test their skills at archery, golf and baseball.

After a meal prepared by The French Gourmet, guests can dance to live music by The Heroes and gather around a campfire for s'mores.

A 10-day cruise, Hawaiian vacation and six sampler cases (48 boxes) of Girl Scout cookies are among more than 200 items up for grabs in silent and live auctions.

Honorary Co-chairs Liz and Mark Leslie are collaborating with "Coach" Anthony Napoli, committee chair, to ensure a successful "fun fundraiser" for adults.

The event's presenting sponsor is GEICO, and diamond sponsors are 1st Pacific Bank and KBPS. The emcee for the night's festivities will be local 10News anchor, Carol LeBeau.

Proceeds from the 11th annual Urban Campout will help provide nearly 30,000 local Girl Scouts with hundreds of opportunities, including camps; science, technology, athletics and arts programs; career exploration; and travel.

Girl Scouts, San Diego-Imperial Council provides activities for 40,000 girl and adult members, offers training for volunteers and maintains three camps and four program facilities.

Individual Urban Campout tickets are $175 ($300 for VIP reserved seats); tables for 10 are $1,750 (includes VIP tickets). For details, contact Moni Jannikson@girlscoutsdi.org or (619) 610-0807.

Source Code: 20080828tga

The San Diego Chamber Orchestra announced a grant of $30,000 from the San Diego County Board of Supervisors Community Projects Grant Program and Supervisor Bill Horn.

This grant will provide support for the Frances Hunter Music Memory Program, the orchestra's music education program.

Named in honor of a long-time supporter, the program will kick off the orchestra's anniversary this season and will be implemented throughout school districts in San Diego County, Encinitas, Rancho Santa Fe and Escondido — with future plans to expand into all county schools.

The program will culminate each year with a San Diego-wide "music bee," allowing all-star teams to attend a live concert by the San Diego Chamber Orchestra, and then be tested on their knowledge by participating in a team competition.

The orchestra has previously announced an award of $45,000 from the Rancho Santa Fe Women's Fund for this program. Source Code: 20080828tg

The San Diego Museum of Art in Balboa Park has announced the addition of Dr. Julia Marcari-Alexander as the Deputy Director for Curatorial Affairs.

Dr. Marcari-Alexander joins the Museum from the Yale Center for British Art in New Haven, Conn., where she served as the associate director of exhibitions and publications.

In this newly created role, Dr. Marcari-Alexander is in charge of all existing curatorial programs at SDMA and leads an ambitious new publication program for the 82-year-old institution.

"In hiring Julia, the Museum has brought one of the most promising curatorial talents to San Diego," commented Derrick R. Cartwright, SDMA's executive director.

"She has impressive academic credentials and a demonstrated management prowess that has been acclaimed both in the United States and Europe. We expect that she will have an immediate impact on the quality of curatorial work — collections growth, exhibitions and catalogues — that SDMA can produce, which is a priority for the institution."

Dr. Marcari-Alexander possesses a doctorate from Yale in the history of art, as well as two master's degrees — one in art history from Yale and another in French literature from New York University.

With the cost of living and consumer goods and services on the rise, the Second Harvest Food Bank for San Diego has witnessed an increase in the demand for food from people all over San Diego County.

To help meet this growing need, ConAgra Foods Foundation has awarded the food bank with a new 24-foot HINO truck.

"It's great to have the support of ConAgra Foods and receive this truck from its foundation, especially during this time of additional need," said Gary McDonald, president and CEO, Second Harvest. "Many working families are being forced to make difficult decisions between paying for rent, utilities, health care and buying enough food to feed their children. Our food programs are essential for filling this critical gap. This truck will help us get nutritious food into the community faster and much more efficiently."

The ConAgra Foods Foundation has provided nearly $1.8 million in support of its "Child Hunger Program and Truck Grants" this year.

Source Code: 20080828tgd
Gunning for the gold

Del Mar resident Rachel Buehler heads to Beijing

By Karen Billings

Looking for someone to root for in the Beijing Olympics? Look no further than women's soccer, where Del Mar native and Torrey Pines alum Rachel Buehler is making her Olympic debut. The unapologetically aggressive first timer will turn 23 just two days after the closing ceremonies at Beijing, hopefully with a gold medal as her new most favorite accessory.

"It's just such an honor to play on the team and represent my country," said Buehler. "It's the coolest dream I could ever think of. I've been working for this for a long time."

The defender came home to San Diego to play in a match against Brazil at the University of San Diego on Wednesday, a 1-0 victory before a record-breaking crowd of 7,502. The game was the women's last before they kick off the Olympics in a game versus Norway in Qinhuangdao on Aug. 6. The U.S. will also face Japan and New Zealand in the first round of play.

Off the field, the 5'3 Buehler plays very much the part of the girl next door — sweet and friendly with

SEE BUEHLER, PAGE A6
Buehler played for Stanford in college

A great example of Buehler’s toughness is her overcoming two big injuries in her career. She’s torn the anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) in both of her knees, the second time coming in 2001 just two weeks after recovering from her first.

“She’s very impressed with her attitude,” Sundhage said. “The reason why she’s on the national team is her attitude, it’s her best quality. For the last few months, she’s been a pleasure to be around.”

Sundhage also said Buehler is a professional who takes good care of her body, always taking a longer warm-up when she needs it. And she is very willing to learn and get better — Sundhage said she always comes to practice with “big eyes and big ears.”

“She’s a dream for a coach,” Sundhage said. Buehler has been playing soccer since age 7, playing locally with the San Diego Surf Soccer Club At Torrey Pines, where she played varsity all four years, and was captain of the team her junior and senior years. She was named defender of the year in 2000 and player of the year in 2001 and 2002.

She went on to play for Stanford, the alma mater of her heart surgeon father Don. Also like her father she was a biology/psych major and has considered becoming a doctor.

Buehler was a starter on the U-19 U.S. team that won the 2002 FIFA Women’s World Championship and went on to play internationally with the U-21 team as well. Her first full cap on this Women’s National Team came at the Algarve Cup in Portugal this year.

“The girls are amazing,” said Buehler of her team. “I really feel like everyone really cares about each other. They work so hard and are invested in winning. It’s really special.”

Buehler said for the most part she doesn’t get nervous before games but has a pre-game ritual of talking to her room on the phone. Luckily long distance phone changes won’t come into play next month as both parents will be accompanying her to Beijing.

“I’m just real happy for her,” said mom Mary Ellen. “It’s been a long time coming.”

Buehler expects things to “ramp down” a bit after August, as the year after an Olympics is typically a slow one for the national team. They will probably do some touring and then next spring is the launch of the new Women’s Professional Soccer (WPS) league. The league is kind of a re-invention of the Women’s United Soccer Association, the world’s first professional women’s soccer league that folded in 2003 after just three seasons. Buehler, along with her national team teammates, are excited for what the WPS will mean for continuing on in their professional soccer careers.

Buehler said instead of her for the moment, it’s a matter of putting off medical school for a bit.

“I’m going to go with the flow and see where soccer takes me,” said Buehler. “I want to take advantage of this wonderful experience.”
That's Our Girl

Rachel Buehler, left, a defender on the U.S. Olympic team and a Del Mar resident, takes a break here with U.S. Olympic team midfielder Tobin Heath. Buehler is North County's Olympic sweetheart, a graduate of Torrey Pines High School who played with San Diego Surf under current USO women's head coach Ada Greenwood. This summer, Buehler was a volunteer assistant coach at USD, site of the final pre-Olympic match for the USA, which was held there in July with a 1-0 win over Brazil. The USA Women's soccer team is currently undefeated in 2008, ranked No. 1 in the world by FIFA and is the defending champions in Olympic Soccer, having defeated Brazil in Athens. Courtesy photo
Player turns whim into fame

By Gideon Rubin

John Kenyon admits he didn't know much about lacrosse when he first saw some friends playing it at a local YMCA when he was in fifth grade.

Kenyon had grown up playing football, and admits he was intrigued by how different the game looked.

"One of my friends started talking to me about it and I got all excited because I'm used to football and I wanted to try something different," Kenyon said.

"He was like ' dude, come play with me.'"

Kenyon did just that, and in eight years, he's emerged as one of the top area players at his level.

The recent Santa Fe Christian grad was a high school All-American his senior year, and is headed to Div. I Towson State of Baltimore on a lacrosse scholarship.

Kenyon became the first player in school history to land a Div. I lacrosse scholarship when he signed with Towson earlier this year.

He is among three players from a team earlier this year that made the school's deepest playoff run ever headed to a five-year program.

Kenyon, a physical and athletic defender, led Santa Fe Christian to the section semifinals, where they lost to perennial state power and eventual section champ Los Alamitos-Cerritos.

Santa Fe Christian lost the game 6-5 at halftime and had beaten LCC five weeks earlier.

"It was awesome," Kenyon said of his team's playoff run. "Obviously our goal was to go to the championship, but we were really one of the only teams that gave them a run."

They beat Corona del Mar 11-10 in the championship game.

Los Alamitos-Cerritos went on to win the state championship.

Kenyon said the All-American honors and leading his team to the semifinals were among his career highlights.

He admits he had his doubts when he first started playing the sport, but is now glad he never backed away from the challenge.

"I thought it was impossible," he said. "I had no idea I was going to play this game. Picking up a stick and trying to catch a thrown ball can be really challenging. I was more used to football where I was just hitting people."

Kenyon from page A16

second-team linbacker, is the best player in school history according to lacrosse Head Coach Danny Keils.

"He was definitely a huge factor for us," Keils said.

"The kid was on the field the whole time for the entire season."

Kenyon admits it took a while to get the knack of lacrosse.

Whereas in football, he was able to excel with his size and strength alone, Kenyon said developing command of the stick-handling skills necessary to compete at an advanced level in lacrosse didn't come easy.

Kenyon said he'd always dreamed of someday playing college football, but admits those dreams started to dissipate when his growth spurt abruptly ended his sophomore year.

He credits Keils, his coach since he started playing club lacrosse in middle school, for contributing to his development.

As important, he said, was competitive edge he developed playing alongside fellow defender Pratt.

"I really didn't have the stick skills," Kenyon said of his first years playing lacrosse. "I just kept getting around hitting people."

He said Keils encouraged him to continue practicing, and Kenyon said working on his technical skills practicing at home playing " Bald Ball" paid off.

"After a while, I got the hang of it and I really started loving it," he said.

"I really like the physical and disciplined style he developed playing football made him a better lacrosse player," Kenyon said. "He enjoys the less regimented environment that lacrosse offers."

"Football kind of gave me that mentality to where you have to work hard at all times," he said.

"You get used to constantly being yelled at, told to do this, do that ... it's almost like you're in a military camp. In lacrosse practices, you just play lacrosse. You're still having fun all the time, and that's how you get better."

In many ways the game of lacrosse is more fun, too, noting the free-flowing nature of the game is more conducive to players being anywhere on the field at any given moment, and that almost any player — not just so-called skilled players — can change the outcome of a game.

"In football, if you're the running back or the quarterback, you have chance to change the game," he said.

"Your linemen or your defensive players have a big impact on the game, but not everybody can have a huge impact on the game."

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The United States Women's Olympic soccer team's last match before the Beijing games was held at University of San Diego last week. The women beat Brazil 1-0 before a record crowd of 7,502. At left: Amy Rodriguez takes the ball down field. Below: fans show their national pride.
Player turns whim into fame

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Kenyon became the first player in school history to land a Div. I lacrosse scholarship when he signed with Towson earlier this year.

He is among three players from a team earlier this year that made the school’s deepest playoff run ever headed to a four-year program.

Former teammates Taylor Gilbert and Ben Pruett are the others. Midfielder Gilbert is headed to Div. II University of Delaware. Defender Pruett is headed to Div. III Chapman University of Orange.

Kenyon, a physical and athletic defender, led Santa Fe Christian to the section semi-finals, where they lost to perennial state power and eventual section champion La Costa Canyon of Carlsbad 12-6 on May 24.

Santa Fe Christian led that game 6-5 at halftime and had beaten LCC five weeks earlier, 7-6.

“It was awesome,” Kenyon said of his team’s playoff run.

“Obviously our goal was to go to the championships, but we were really close of the only thing that gave us a run. ‘They beat Coronado by 11 goals (in the championship game).’

La Costa Canyon is a public school with much larger enrollment numbers and much greater depth on the lacrosse team. That depth eventually out the Eagles in the semi-finals.

“I was just glad that we went down with a fight,” Kenyon said. “We don’t have the numbers, we’re just a bunch of kids who want to go out there and play hard.”

Kenyon, also a football standout who was an All-CIF.

SEE KENYON PAGE A19
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KENTON, FROM PAGE A15

second-team linebacker, is the best player in school history according to lacrosse Head Coach Danny Koltz.

“He was definitely a huge factor for us,” Koltz said.

“The kid was on the field the whole time for us the entire season.”

Kenyon, from a small family, only played one game during his entire high school career. Kenyon admits it took a while to get the knack of lacrosse.

“When I was in a situation where I was able to excel with his size and strength alone, Kenyon said developing command of the stickhandling skills necessary to compete at an advanced level in lacrosse didn’t come easy. Kenyon said he’d always dreamed of someday playing college football, but admits those dreams started to dissipate when his growth spur abruptly ended his sophomore year.

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A world apart: U.S. soccer teams get a split decision in Olympic openers

By Phillip Brents

If the U.S. women's Olympic team is going to win the gold medal, it appears the Americans will have to go through the back door to do it following their 2-0 loss to Norway in Wednesday's opening round of Group G play.
The 12-team tournament is divided into three groups, with each group winner and runner-up team, along with the two best third-place teams (based on points), advancing to the eight-team quarterfinals.

It appears as if Team USA faces must-win scenarios in its upcoming group matches against Japan and New Zealand, which tied in their respective opening round match-up to send the Americans to the bottom of the group standings.

Should the U.S. team advance to the quarterfinals as a non-group winner, it would likely face the prospect of matching up against either Germany, Sweden, Canada or Brazil in the single-elimination round of eight.

The Norwegians scored twice in the opening five minutes of Wednesday's contest. The United States out-shot Norway 20-12 and totaled four corner kicks to one for the Norwegians. The Beijing Games features full women's national teams, meaning that 216 of the world's best female soccer players are entered in China.

The Americans entered the Beijing Games ranked No. 1 in the world. They defeated the top-ranked U.S. Women's National Team in a pre-Olympic match in January after the United States was defeated 3-2 by Brazil in Sydney, Australia.

This was the 44th meeting in a rivalry that dates to 1987, with Norway having more success against the U.S. than any other team. Going into the match the U.S. had won the 10 previous meetings dating to 2002, and the win was the 18th in the series for the Scandinavian side.

Men's soccer
The U.S. men's Olympic team got off to a fine start in the 2008 Summer Games by earning a 1-0 victory against Japan on Thursday. Stuart Holden fired home the game's only goal in the 47th minute to hand Team USA three points and the top spot in Group B following the 0-0 draw between Netherlands and Nigeria.

"The first game in this kind of tournament is very tight and you have to compete," U.S. head coach Peter Nowak said. "I'm very proud of them, because the first game is never easy and you never know how it is going to be. You train for three weeks and you try to find the right recipe about how the team will play. It was important to get the three points."

The Americans next face 2007 European under-21 champion Netherlands on Aug. 10.

The U.S. men's team dropped a 1-0 decision to Cameroon to close out play in the pre-Olympic ING Cup Aug. 2 in Hong Kong. The Americans placed third in the four-team cup play.

The Netherlands captured the cup title with a 2-0 victory over Cameroon and a 1-1 draw against the Ivory Coast. Team USA was scheduled to kick off group play with a match against Japan on Thursday.

The Olympic men's tournament is an under-23 draw. The only goal the Americans allowed in the ING Cup came on a penalty kick in the 24th minute against Cameroon.

Nowak, who freely made use of the six substitutes allowed in the ING Cup, credited the backline of Marvell Wynne, Maurice Edu, Michael Parkhurst and Michael Orozco with solid performances in front of goalkeepers Brad Guzan and Chris Seitz during the two games.