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December 2008

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USD President / Board of Trustees
In 2009, USD will commemorate its 60th Anniversary. The yearlong celebration, which will include events throughout the nation and around the world, will highlight the achievements of the past and herald the vision for the future.

"The historic pace of USD has been nothing but leisurely," President Mary E. Lyons says. "What has been accomplished since the school was founded is nothing less than amazing."

Today, USD is recognized for academic merits on both a national and international level. Currently ranked in the top 10 of U.S. News & World Report's "Up-and-Coming Schools," USD is also ranked ninth among the top 50 national colleges and universities by U.S. News & World Report for making "promising and innovative changes in academics, faculty, students, campus or facilities." The School of Business Administration is ranked 47th on BusinessWeek's top 100 undergraduate business programs in the United States, putting it among the top five collegiate business programs on the West Coast. The engineering program ranked 29th in the U.S. News & World Report list of Best Undergraduate Engineering Programs. The School of Leadership and Education Sciences made the U.S. News &
World Report's ranking of top 100 graduate programs in the United States. The Hahn School of Nursing and Health Science is ranked in the top 7 percent of graduate schools in the United States.

The School of Law ranks 88th in the list of U.S. News & World Report's top 250 law schools in the country. The Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies is among the few places in the world where students can earn a degree in peacemaking. In the College of Arts and Sciences, the Master of Fine Arts program is among the top 10 in the nation and undergraduate science students are immersed in research, which other institutions only offer at the graduate level.

While the University of San Diego has been a leader academically, it's also been successful on the athletic front. In 2008, the Toreros won the West Coast Conference's Commissioner's Cup, which goes to the conference's top-performing school. The baseball program finished with a 44-17 record and was ranked No. 17 in the country in the NCAA Division I Poll. Women's volleyball, men's golf and baseball won WCC regular-season titles at USD in the 2007-08 season, but a strong year from other sports played a role in this achievement. The men's and women's soccer teams and the women's rowing team finished second in the WCC standings. Men's and women's tennis each finished third in the regular season. The men's basketball team won the WCC Championship Tournament and went on to the NCAA Tournament, where they defeated No. 4 seed Connecticut, 76-69.

This anniversary celebration also recognizes the tremendous opportunities the future holds. The university's "2020 Plan" outlines a vision that promotes the continued growth of the university in four ways: by promoting a spirit of collaboration, a stronger connection to the rest of the world, the importance of social justice and environmental sustainability, and a continued focus on leadership and innovation. USD moves into the new millennium with a clear focus on the promise of the future.
MAY 1, 2009
Liver Life Walk
Take a walk on the wild side and join the American Liver Foundation for the annual CA Liver Life Walk through the San Diego Zoo. Contact Kristin Lanton at 619-291-5483, liverfoundation.org/sandiego/walk.

MAY 1, 2009
Arts & Tea Event
Celebrate spring at the Home of Guiding Hands' fourth annual Arts & Tea Event. Shop for one-of-a-kind items created by local artisans, plus traditional tea fare, extraordinary desserts, opportunity drawings, door prizes and more. Proceeds benefit San Diegans with developmental disabilities assisted by HGH. Contact Marcy Blumberg at 619-938-2854, guidinghands.org.

MAY 2, 2009
Grauer Gala

MAY 2, 2009
Sowing the Seeds of Love Gala
Join DS Action's inaugural Sowing the Seeds of Love Gala at Admiral Baker Golf Course. This event benefits DS Action, a nonprofit organization that advocates for people with Down syndrome. DS Action funds the newly opened Down Syndrome Center at Rady Children's Hospital. Contact Kryzia Marquina at 858-277-7945, dsaction.com.

MAY 3, 2009
Art Exhibition Program
The Art Exhibition Program at San Diego Hospice & The Institute for Palliative Medicine showcases the work of local artists in the upper gallery of the Inpatient Care Center. Meet local artists, view their work, and enjoy wine and hors d'oeuvres. Admission is free and open to the public. Information: 619-278-6100.
Yolanda Walther-Meade and her daughter Yolanda S. Walther-Meade helped strengthen Tijuana-Diego and the ties between the two through active philanthropy and community involvement. The mother-daughter team has spent their time and efforts in serving and supporting various organizations, organizing and promoting various fund-raising events, and organizing various organizations. Their work has touched and celebrated the lives of many.

Yolanda, originally from Mexico, learned at a young age the importance of giving back to society from her family. Currently, she is a Trustee of the University of San Diego (USD), the Center for US-Mexican Studies at UCSD, Vice President and Founder of the Fundación Internacional de la Comunidad, on the board for the Tijuana Boys and Girls Club, Founding President of the St. Vincent de Paul Ladies Guild, and co-chair of the San Diego Natural History Museum's Bi-national Gala Dos Aguillas among many other organizations.

In recognition of her civic involvement throughout the years, she has been honored numerous times including Community Leadership Award from Project Concern, Woman of Dedication by the Salvation Army Auxiliary and the San Diego/Tijuana Citizen of the Year by the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce. As a mother of five and grandmother of five, Yolanda has always put her family first, no matter how much time her other commitments take. "My family has always been my inspiration and support team," Yolanda states with gratitude.

Yolanda S. not only inherited her mother's good looks and captivating smile, she inherited her passion for serving the community. As a San Diego native and single mother of two children, Yolanda S. is following in her mother's footsteps by opening doors between societies and improving cross-border development. She has excelled in public relations, as a trans-border consultant and interpreting and translating services throughout the U.S.-Mexico border region lending her services for various Mexican Presidents, the Office of Governor Schwarzenegger, and Twentieth Century Fox among many others. Yolanda S. has served as the host of the San Diego Latino Film Festival for the past seven years and Co-chair of the San Diego Natural History's Museum's Dos Aguillas Gala since 2002. Her dedication and love of family have motivated Yolanda S. to help La Cuna and the Tijuana Boys and Girls Club of Tijuana. And believe it or not, with such a busy schedule, she has the time and energy to enjoy salsa dancing, travelling with her children and going to the gym.

The mother-daughter duo has and continues to make a difference throughout our dynamic bi-national region. With their focus, determination and love, Yolanda and Yolanda S. Walther-Meade continue to make our world a better place.
AYUDA DE CORAZÓN

Yolanda Walther-Meade y su hija Yolanda S. Walther-Meade han ayudado a fortalecer los lazos entre Tijuana y San Diego a través de su filantropía y su participación en la comunidad. El equipo madre e hija ha dedicado su tiempo y esfuerzo a servir, recabar fondos, organizar y promover causas benéficas que han cambiado la vida de muchos.

Yolanda Walther-Meade es originaria de la ciudad de México, aprendió de su familia la importancia de contribuir a la comunidad. En este momento, es miembro del consejo de administración de la Universidad de San Diego (USD), del Centro de Estudios de Estados Unidos y México de UCSD, vicepresidenta y fundadora de la Fundación Internacional de la Comunidad, consejera del Club de Niños y Niñas de Tijuana, presidenta y fundadora de la Asociación de Mujeres de San Vicente de Paul y organizadora de Dos Águilas para el Museo Historia Natural de San Diego.

En reconocimiento por su participación, a través de los años, ha sido homenajeada por la Cátedra de Dirección de la Universidad de Estados Unidos y México, ofreciendo sus servicios a varias presidencias mexicanas, a las oficinas del gobernador Schwarzenegger y la productora de cine Twentieth Century Fox, entre otros. Desde hace siete años, es la anfitriona del Festival de Cine Latino de San Diego, y a partir de 2002, organizadora de Dos Águilas para el Museo Historia Natural de San Diego. Su dedicación y amor familiar la ha motivado para ayudar organizaciones como La Cuna y el Club de Niños y Niñas de Tijuana. A pesar de tener una vida tan ocupada, tiene la energía para disfrutar bailando salsa, viajando con sus hijos y haciendo ejercicio.

El dúo de madre e hija continúa haciendo una diferencia a través de nuestra región binacional dinámica. A través de su enfoque, determinación y amor, estas mujeres continúan haciendo del mundo un mejor lugar.
College of Arts & Sciences
University of San Diego Team Wins Regional Ethics Bowl

Lakewood student Megan Clift was a member of a team from the University of San Diego that placed first in the California Regional Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl on Dec. 6 and will now go to the Fifteenth National Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl Championship Competition in March. Clift is a 2005 graduate of Lakes High School. She is a senior at USD.

During the competition, teams are judged on their answers to a wide range of complex and controversial ethical issues drawn from politics, campus life, science, business and current events.

The USD team of four students defeated a team from California State University, Chico, in the final round of the competition that took place at the National Hispanic University in San Jose. Ten teams from California competed in the day-long event, including San Jose State University and last year's regional winner, California State Polytechnic University Pomona, which USD defeated in the first match.

"Our intense study of ethical theory and practical ethics and our hard training for this event paid off," said USD Associate Professor of Philosophy Mark Woods. "I can't begin to tell you how proud I am of the students. They earned this. It is a victory for USD and something the students will always carry with them."

The USD team competed in five matches, each of which was 80 minutes long. Questions posed to the team included those on whether undocumented students should be allowed to attend public universities and the ethical issues surrounding the production of biofuels. A second team from USD took part in the early rounds of the competition.

The competition started in 1993 as an intramural event at the Illinois Institute of Technology organized by its Center for the Study of Ethics in the Professions and has grown to be a national competition that now includes 10 regional bowls around the country prior to the national competition next spring. The event develops students' intellectual abilities and reinforces their sense of ethical commitment. Answers from the students are judged on a variety of factors including intelligibility, relevance, and thoughtfulness.

The University of San Diego is a Catholic institution of higher learning chartered in 1949; the school enrolls approximately 7,500 undergraduate and graduate students and is known for its commitment to teaching, the liberal arts, the formation of values and community service. The inauguration of the Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies brings the university's total number of schools and colleges to six. Other academic divisions include the College of Arts and Sciences and the schools of Business Administration, Law, Leadership and Education Sciences, and Nursing and Health Science.
A way to promote academic integrity

By Marc Lampe and George J. Bryjak

Despite various efforts at improvement, the problem of academic integrity continues to plague colleges and universities. Donald McCabe of Rutgers University, the nation's leading researcher on academic integrity, stated in 2001 that dishonesty is prevalent on college campuses, and some forms of cheating have increased dramatically over the past 30 years.

Research by McCabe completed in 2005 for the Center for Academic Integrity found that on most campuses 70 percent of students admit to some cheating. Nearly one-quarter of students surveyed admitted to serious test cheating within the past year and half admitted to one or more instances of serious cheating on written assignments.

Not only do college students engage in a variety of dishonest academic behavior, but they demonstrate little remorse or guilt over this activity. McCabe notes that students rationalize their cheating by distorting facts. Helping students develop a "social compass" should be a fundamental goal of college administrators.

The creation of integrity across institutions is ubiquitous. In his book, "The Cheating Culture: Why More Americans Dishonor Writing to Get Ahead," David Callahan outlines the appalling lack of integrity from Little League games to corporate boardrooms. Students are coming of age in an ethic of an ethical malaise.

We propose that traditional attempts to decrease student cheating via honor codes and a campus judicial system have limited utility and are insufficient in and of themselves of bringing about substantial ethical change. Just as the management literature suggests changes in business culture as requisite to more ethical behavior in corporate America, institutions of higher learning must consider a similar approach to resolve academic integrity issues.

To meaningfully decrease rates of student cheating demands the hard work of organizational change. Arguably the most appropriate course of action for universities is to provide a model of integrity for students to emulate.

A model of integrity for students to emulate. This requires creating an environment wherein the daily activities and behavior of faculty, administrators, staff and students are aligned with the fundamental values of integrity, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. It would be hypocritical to hold our students to higher standards of integrity while not expecting the same from across the community. In line with programs utilized by some business organizations, colleges must implement campus-wide "values-driven management." Such programs would place responsibility for ethical behavior on all members of the university community. It is only within the context of an Honorable University program that a meaningful level of academic integrity can be realized.

By way of constructing an Honorable University, the entire campus community should have input in creating a code of ethics. This institutional code would go far beyond traditional rules of academic integrity. For example, this code would apply to all university employees, not just students. It would clearly delineate the institution's rules and values as well as serve as a guide to behavior. Furthermore, relevant policies and processes throughout the institution should be evaluated and constructed via a values-lens filter.

This endeavor begins with a top-down consultation. Boards of directors and institution presidents must frequently let it be known that they are serious about changing the academic culture of their institutions via a heightened awareness of ethics and integrity issues. Toward this end, adequate resources must be allocated. Speculated training to develop an appropriate ethical worldview should also be implemented from the top down, starting with the president, vice president, deans, student leaders and other key members of the academic community.

To maintain consistency and avoid having the program's existence dependent upon university personnel and students volunteering their time, creating a permanent position to oversee the Honorable University is critical. This coordinator position would be similar to that of a corporate ethics officer. Duties would include ongoing training and education, management of the student academic integrity and judicial affairs component as well as monitoring, reporting and handling integrity-related problems and questions. The coordinator's office should maintain a "hotline" for students and faculty who seek advice on ethical issues or wish to report a violation.

Ideally, every school or college within the institution and each major administrative unit would have its own Honorable University committee making and presenting ethical behavior within a particular division. Composed of representatives from all campus bodies, an executive university council would work directly with the coordinator.

To promote the program and educate the campus community, the coordinator would develop literature for campus-wide distribution. This could be followed by an Honorable University program and explain issues of academic integrity, professionalism and ethical responsibilities appropriate to the audience for which the pamphlet was intended.

Integrity guidelines could become a component of employees hiring, evaluation and reward systems. Will a candidate be a good fit within the ethical culture of the community? Have there been complaints or special praise regarding the ethical behavior of a faculty member, administrator or student mentor? Finally, there must be periodic evaluation of the program.

The coordinator in conjunction with the executive council would have primary responsibility for this function. Strategies for promoting integrity have been implemented by many business organizations. These include codes of ethics, ethics programs directed by ethics officers, ethics audits and ethics training. It is long past time for colleges to follow their lead. It will take bold leadership to raise ethical awareness and build a comprehensive, comprehensive, ethics program. What institution will take the steps outlined here? This school has the opportunity to distinguish itself as the nation's first truly Honorable University.
Falling oil prices raise the pressure on Iran

By Jesse Aizenstat 12/04/2008

Whenever I have a little time to kill, I click the tab on my Web browser that takes me to the NYMEX crude oil futures. It is astounding to think that the same $147 barrel of crude from last July is now, as of Oct. 28, selling for only $54.43 a barrel. But economics aside, I care about this for two reasons: I drive a truck, and this drop in price seems to be the only thing that has effectively put pressure on the oil-revenue-dependent government of Iran.

These days it seems whenever you see a pundit on TV talking about the “real winner” of the war in Iraq, they almost certainly mention Iran. The argument goes: Saddam held Iran in check, and thus, by eliminating Saddam, Iran is now without its biggest rival. There is some truth in this. But Iran and, most notably, President Ahmadinejad have gotten lucky on a few key fronts.

To begin with, Iran has been unzipped by international pressure concerning its highly controversial nuclear program. And in 2006, Israel, in its ill-planned war with Hezbollah, failed to disarm the Iranian-sponsored guerrilla group. Even last year’s maritime drama that led to a handful of British sailors being captured was spun as an Iranian victory. It seems that almost every challenge that President Ahmadinejad has faced on the global stage has enhanced his power — well, until now.

Just before the 2005 Iranian presidential election, Ahmadinejad, then the mayor of Tehran, ran his campaign saying that he was the candidate to alleviate Iran’s economic troubles. With unemployment up to 10 percent, and urban real estate that even the flashy Persian elite struggled to afford, it was clear that something had to be done. So Ahmadinejad stole a page from former Russian president Vladimir Putin’s playbook — do anything to keep oil prices high.

This is one reason why Russia sells arms to Syria that eventually work their way down to Hezbollah and Hamas. It is also why President Ahmadinejad has repeatedly threatened to “erase Israel from the pages of time.” It is startling how these incendiary tactics spark the speculative oil markets in both New York and London.

But that was what the Middle East looked like last summer or, as the Iranians say, a whole cup of tea ago. President Bush has watched his opportunity dwindle, along with his days in office, to remove Iranian nuclear sites. And his successor — judging from the polls — President-elect Barack Obama favors a diplomatic route with Iran. Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert has resigned under a corruption scandal, leaving Israel without leadership. His would-be successor, Foreign Affairs Minister Tzipi Livni, has failed to shore up a new coalition and is now calling for general elections. Seeing that we are in the mix of what Alan Greenspan has referred to as an “economic tsunami,” the international community is now more focused on the possibility of a global recession than turning up the heat on Iran.

All of this has left the speculative oil markets on their knees. Obama isn’t likely to attack Iran, Israel is without leadership, and the global economy is in shambles. The fear and speculation that were once fueling $147-a-barrel prices have now fallen flat.

Even OPEC’s emergency meeting that announced a 1.5 million-barrel cut, or 5 percent of its global oil production, can’t stop these falling prices. So yes, OPEC has scrambled to try and stabilize price, but some voices of this 13-member oil cartel have been louder than others.

Iran’s economy, says the BBC, could be headed into a “perfect storm.” The numbers are simple. “For every dollar on the price of a barrel of oil,” says BBC analyst Jon Leyne, “Iran earns approximately a billion dollars a year.” In fact, the International Monetary Fund issued a report last August saying that the Iranian regime would face “unsustainable deficits” if the price of crude dropped below $75 a barrel. And remembering the recent Iranian outcry over the government-imposed petrol rations, President Ahmadinejad and his conservative base are starting to feel pressure from within.

All of this amounts to a perfect stalemate.

The U.S. economy, combined with swelling insurgencies in both Iraq and Afghanistan, has nearly silenced those who were beating the war drum for Iran. Leaderless Israel knows that it cannot attack Iran without first addressing Hezbollah’s stockpile of Katyusha rockets. And Iran is facing an economic meltdown because of the recent cheapness of its oil, yet it still charges ahead with its highly controversial nuclear program.

It is imperative that Obama understand that with this perfect stalemate also comes great opportunity. Unlike the quagmire that many Council sanctions of the past, the U.S. and its allies finally have good leverage on Iran. It would be a diplomatic misstep if the U.S. president could not see that in this time of peril, there could also be a moment of promise for peace in the Middle East.

Jesse Aizenstat is a freelance journalist and a political science major at the University of San Diego.

http://www.vcreporter.com/cms/story/detail/falling_oil_prices_raise_the_pressure_on_iran... 12/4/2008
On December 8, the Ethnic Studies Department at the University of San Diego invited Morse High School students for a College Tour. Approximately 60 Morse High School students had the opportunity to interact with college students and professors while attending select classes to see what college life would be like.

These students (consisting of African American, Latino, Samoan, and Samoan American students) had the chance to experience a one-day campus visit under the theme "Beyond These Walls: Education Not Incarceration." The university campus visit was part of the semester-long curriculum to develop habits to break the cycle of racism, disenfranchisement, and violence among these groups of students.

The students learned the important role that college diversity can have in impacting a student's learning experience and preparation for the world beyond the university.

Students were able to attend a class on Ethnic Identities with Dr. Michelle Jacob, a professor at UCSD. During this class, students were able to get information and a breakdown of the areas of minorities students attending private institutions of higher education.

USC Ethnic Studies is a vibrant, interdisciplinary program that allows students to study the historical, cultural, and social dynamics of race and ethnicity in the United States.

While on campus, the students participated in a session where they learned and debated Proposition 21. In 1994 the voters in California passed Proposition 21 with the goal of reducing gang violence through harsher punishment and trials for youth as adults in the courts. Some 14 years later, the residents of this state are left with the debate, "Does Harsher Punishment Make our Communities Safer?" The general consensus of the students in attendance was that more alternatives to incarceration needed to be researched.

The campus event was organized by Maslah Farah, a program coordinator for the Tang Khartoum Foundation at Morse High School. Farah works on a weekly basis with students of various backgrounds to challenge them to overcome the many adversities in their communities.

The goal of the program at Morse High School is to have students realize their potential and ultimately become a force for positive change within their communities.

Also assisting with the organization of the event were Dr. Jesse Milte, Assistant Professor of Ethnic Studies, Joseph Davisci and USC Admissions, and leaders of Somali Youth United, Inc.
Big Bang-up role for Jim Parsons

By Bill Keveney, USA TODAY

Jim Parsons can relate to his character on The Big Bang Theory: the super-finicky, supercilious genius Sheldon Cooper.

"There are certain things about Sheldon that I feel I'm low-grade with," says Parsons, whose obsessive-compulsive physicist has become a critical favorite on the second-season CBS comedy (tonight, 8 ET/PT).

"I've got some grumpy-old-man aspects of me, but I'm not nearly as rigid as Sheldon," Parsons says. "I can be a little obsessive with things, but not quite to the degree he can."

In Bang, the fussy eccentric forms a brainy Mutt & Jeff with his somewhat less oblivious roommate, Leonard Hofstadter (Johnny Galecki), making for a pair of scientists whose academic brilliance is counterbalanced by their social ineptitude.

But Parsons also differs in many ways from his TV alter ego. For one, the actor does not speak Klingon. "His interests are so divergent from mine. I don't know comic books at all. I don't know superheroes at all, unless they're out in movies," says Parsons, who plays the piano, enjoys crossword puzzles and is "a political junkie" who loves listening to talk radio.

Of course, that's why it's called acting. And on that front, Parsons is superb, Big Bang executive producer Chuck Lorre says.

"I've never seen someone come along like this, with so much uncanny intuition," says Lorre, whose résumé includes Two and a Half Men, Dharma & Greg, Roseanne and Cybill. "The chemistry between (Jim and Johnny) is phenomenal."

Parsons, who spends hours memorizing complex, scientifically-grounded dialogue, praises Bang's writers for developing the character, whose signature idiosyncrasies include an amusing rhythmic door knock.

Lorre credits the actor's influence. "He has a great sense of control over every part of his body, the way he walks, holds his hands, cocks his head, the facial tics. It's inspired," he says. "To be honest, we're standing there going, 'Well, if anything we say, you know that thing you did earlier? Do it again.'"

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Lorre says Bang remains balanced between the odd couple, who get support from their geek chorus, Howard (Simon Helberg) and Kunal (Rajesh Koothrappali), and beautiful neighbor Penny (Kaley Cuoco), who intellectually and socially seems to come from a different species.

The Penny character has found stronger footing this season, Parsons says, creating a great comic opportunity for Sheldon. "They are kind of the North and South Pole of communication skill. The other characters fall somewhere in between them."

In a recent episode, Penny won a psychological battle with the help of Leonard, who revealed his roommate's "kryptonite": fear of his mother. Leonard also happens to be smitten with Penny, a feeling alien to Sheldon, even when beautiful grad students lust after his intellect.

"There seems to be no consciousness of that on his level at all," Parsons says. "That poor, poor boy."

Find this article at:

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Holiday

**Soprano**

**Christmas** — 8 p.m. Thursday, Pechanga Showroom, Pechanga Resort & Casino, 45000 Pechanga Parkway, Temecula; $30-$50; (877) 711-2946 or pechanga.com/entertainment.

**Tanya Tucker Christmas** — 8 p.m. Thursday, Pechanga Showroom, Pechanga Resort & Casino, 45000 Pechanga Parkway, Temecula; $30-$50; (877) 711-2946 or pechanga.com/entertainment.

**Christmas Vespers Concert** — San Diego Unit Methodist Church Chapel Choir. Joyful Bells, organist Janice Stewart and others perform Benjamin Britten's "Ceremony of Carols" and other selections; 4 p.m. Sunday, San Diego Unit Methodist Church, 170 Calle Magdalena, Encinitas; free; offering; (760) 729-5602 or educog.org.

**Christmas Joya** — MiraCosta College's Chamber Chorus and North Coast Chorale present a holiday program; 7:30 p.m. Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday; Oceanside First Presbyterian Church, 2001 S. Camino Real, Oceanside; $10; general; $8, seniors and students; (760) 795-6815 or www.miracosta.edu/events.

**North Coast Symphony: "An Orchestral Holiday Celebration"** — Program features a portion of Schubert's Symphony in B minor, Faure's "Ponrent," plus "The Glorious Sounds of Christmas." "The Bells of Christmas" and more holiday selections; 7:30 p.m. Dec. 20 and 2 p.m. Dec. 21; MiraCosta College Theatre, 1 Barnard Drive, Oceanside; $10; general; $8, students and seniors; (760) 795-6815 or ncsymphony.net.

**A Christmas Potpourri** — Soprano Cheryl Larson, mezzo-soprano Ava Baker-US, tenor Tom Oberg and baritone David Marshall with pianist Janie Prim perform classical and holiday favorites; 2:30 p.m. Dec. 21; Encinitas Community Library, 340 Cornish Drive, Encinitas; $25-$30; (858) 677-0887.

**New Horizons Band Winter/Holiday Concert** — Holiday, film and big-band music; 7 p.m. Wednesday, Museum of Making Music, 5790 Armada Drive, Carlsbad; free; (619) 793-0223.

**Brian Culbertson’s A Soulful Christmas 2008** — With Vesta, Tony Maldon, Mike Pitbl; 7:30 p.m. House of Blues, San Diego, 1955 Fifth Ave., San Diego; $25-$42; (619) 299-2583 or hbo.com/sandiego.

**Venice Christmas Show** — With Charlie Vaughn and the Daily Routine; 8 p.m. Dec. 18; Belly Up Tavern, 143 S. Cedros Ave., Solana Beach; $15-$17; (858) 481-8140 or bellyup.com.

**Frequency Vocal Jazz Ensemble: "Winter Sing & Swing"** — 7:30 p.m. Dec. 18 and 19; MiraCosta College Theatre, 1 Barnard Drive, Oceanside; $10; general; $8, students/seniors; (760) 795-6815 or www.miracosta.edu/events.

**Young Dubliners: Celtic Christmas** — 9 p.m. Dec. 19; Belly Up Tavern, 143 S. Cedros Ave, Solana Beach; $22; (858) 481-8140 or bellyup.com.

**"Forever Christmas"** — The RB Chorale presents its annual holiday concert featuring music, dance and spectacular staging; 7:30 p.m. Dec. 19 and 21; Poway Center for the Performing Arts, 15498 Espola Road, Poway; $15-$30; adults; $5, children 12 and under; (619) 549-8729 or rbcchorale.org.

**Christmas by Candlelight** — MiraCosta Chamber Chorale and Camerata Singers features seasonal music and desserts; 7:30 p.m. Dec. 20; MiraCosta College student center, 1 Barnard Drive, Oceanside; $17; includes dessert; (760) 795-6815 or www.miracosta.edu/events.

**Holiday Spectacular** — Windimmers Community Band performs songs of the season; 2 p.m. Dec. 20; Sturfo A Building, 2200, MiraCosta College, 1 Barnard Drive, Oceanside; $10; general; $8, student/seniors; (760) 795-6815 or www.miracosta.edu/events.

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North County Times
December 11, 2008
PREVIEW SECTION
CLASICAL/WORLD/EXPERIMENTAL MUSIC

Cleveland Duo with James Umbie: Cleveland Duo will perform classical music on violin, saxophone and piano at the California Center for the Arts, Escondido. Through Dec. 9, 800-988-4253, artcenter.org. $15.

“Camera Lucida” The UCSD Music Department invites you to the second of five Camera Lucida concerts featuring a program with works by the 17th century English composer Henry Purcell, with two of Bach’s Brandenburg Concertos. Tickets now on sale, Neurosciences Institute Auditorium, 10640 John Jay Hopkins Drive, La Jolla-UTC. Through Dec. 9, 858-626-2000, music.ucsd.edu/live Free-$25.

Handel’s ‘Messiah’- San Diego Chamber Orchestra Join the San Diego Chamber Orchestra for this annual holiday tradition, Solana Beach Christian Church, 120 Stevens Ave. Through Dec. 12, sdcxo.org. TBA.


Christopher Taylor La Jolla Music Society presents Christopher Taylor as he performsMessiaen’s *Vingt Regards sur Jésus* on piano. Tickets on sale now, Neurosciences Institute Auditorium, 10640 John Jay Hopkins Drive, La Jolla-UTC. Through Dec. 12, 858-626-2000, nsci.edu. $40.


Handel’s "Messiah"- San Diego Chamber Orchestra: Join the San Diego Chamber Orchestra for this annual holiday tradition, California Center for the Arts, Escondido. Through Dec. 14, 800-988-4253, artcenter.org. $25.$35.


**CLASSICAL**

"Gloria" Peninsula Singers and Southwestern College Chorus plan combined choir performance of Vivaldi’s "Gloria." More than 100 voices join together to perform the classical holiday work, accompanied by orchestra. Peninsula Singers also perform seasonal selections. 619-573-9366 or 619-573-0124. $5-$10. North Chapel at NTC (2881 Roosevelt Drive), 7 p.m., Friday, December 11. DOWNTOWN

"Masterpiece Messiah" San Diego Chamber Orchestra, maestro Jong-Ho Pak, and Bach Collegium choir present George Frideric Handel’s "Messiah." This year, orchestra will also pay a "dramatic video featuring famous classical paintings to enhance and bring a modern element to their period performance." 58-350-0290. $25-$40. Saint James by-the-Sea Episcopal Church (743 Prospect Street), 7:30 p.m., Saturday, December 12. (LA JOLLA)

Organ Concert Guest organist Wayne Soppola performs. 619-762-8138. Free. Spreckels Organ Pavilion (2411 Fox American Road), 2 p.m., Sunday, December 14. (DARLINGTON)

"A Spanish Guitar Experience" Guitarist David Maldonado and his group present "Navidad" concert. 760-602-2026. Free. Schulman Auditorium at Carlisle City Library (1775 Dove Lane), 2 p.m., Sunday, December 14. (CARLISLE)

**CHRISTMAS**

**ON THE HOUR**


"A Baroque Christmas" San Diego Symphony and conductor Nicholas McGegan are joined by Jeff Thayer (violin), Dominique Labelle (soprano), Philip Cutlip (baritone), San Diego Master Chorale for Jacob’s Masterworks concerts. Program includes Handel’s "Royal Fireworks Music," "Water Music Suite No. 3," and highlights from "Messiah." as well as Bach’s "Violin Concerto No. 2 in E Major" and "Christmas Concerto No. 8" by Corelli. Reservations: 619-235-0804. $20-$35. Copley Symphony Hall (750 B Street), 8 p.m., Friday, December 12, and Saturday, December 13; 2 p.m., Sunday, December 14. (DOWNTOWN)

"Holiday Joy" Miramar College Chorus and Carol Singers plan concerts of time-honored classics and newly composed favorites. 760-795-6815. $8-$10. First Presbyterian Church — Oceanside (2001 El Camino Real), 7:30 p.m., Saturday, December 13, and 2 p.m., Sunday, December 14. (OCEANSIDE)

"Masterpiece Messiah" San Diego Chamber Orchestra, maestro Jong-Ho Pak, and Bach Collegium choir present George Frideric Handel’s "Messiah." This year, orchestra will also play a "dramatic video featuring famous classical paintings to enhance and bring a modern element to their period performance." 619-350-0290. $25-$40. Saint James by-the-Sea Episcopal Church (743 Prospect Street), 7:30 p.m., Saturday, December 12. (LA JOLLA)

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**CHRISTMAS VESPERS**

Christmas Vespers Concert performed by San Diego Master Chorale, conductor Dr. Mark W. Smith. San Diego Requiem United Methodist Church (170 Calle Magdalena), 4 p.m., Sunday, December 14. (SOUTH PARK)

Feast of Lights Westminster Choir and members of San Diego Symphony perform "Christmas favorites" including Morten Lauridsen’s "O Magnum Mysterium" and "The Manger Suite" by Michael W. Smith, Christmas carols. Offering. 619-322-7513. First Presbyterian Church (320 Date Street), 7 p.m., Sunday, December 14. (DOWNTOWN)


"Ten Carols and a Mass" La Jolla Renaissance Singers perform traditional Christmas music from Romania and "Missa Hodie Christus Natu" by Palestrina. Offering. 858-755-1616. Saint Peter’s Episcopal Church (334 14th Street), 8 p.m., Sunday, December 14. (EL CAJON)

**HARP CONCERT**


**HOLIDAY POP**

"Holiday Pops" Favorite holiday music tradition returns when San Diego Symphony, conductor Matthew Garbutt, San Diego Master Chorale, and California Ballet Company take stage. Reservations: 619-235-0804. $20-$45. Copley Symphony Hall (750 B Street), 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, December 17. DOWNTOWN
Messiah singalong — The University of San Diego is hosting a Messiah singalong with the USD Symphony Orchestra: 7:30 p.m. Dec. 12; Founders Chapel, Founders Hall, University of San Diego; free-will donation at the door; (619) 260-4171.

DEFYING BOUNDARIES! GrooveLily plays music incorporating rock, folk, jazz, pop in original songs "with no shortage of wit." Ensemble includes vocals, saturating electric viola by Valerie Vigoda, piano by Brendan Milburn, "joyful" drumming by Gene Lewin. Program includes excerpts from their two concert-musicals, *Striking 12* and *Sleeping Beauty Wars*. 800-988-4253. Friday, December 12, 8 p.m.; $34-$37. California Center for the Arts, Escondido, 340 North Escondido Boulevard. (ESCONDIDO)

JAPANESE AMERICANS IN SAN DIEGO San Diego City College history professor Susan Hasegawa discusses her new book, which focuses on development and evolution of Japanese community in San Diego county. 619-235-5821. Sunday, December 14, 2 p.m.; free. San Diego Public Library, 820 E Street. (DOWNTOWN)

MOMENTS WITH BAXTER! Melissa Joseph discusses and signs her book. 858-613-1814. Friday, December 12, 5 p.m.; Sunday, December 14, 1 p.m.; free. Borders Books and Music — Carmel Mountain, 11169 Rancho Carmel Drive. (CARMEL VALLEY)

RANCHOS OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY Lynne Novell Christenson (official San Diego County Historian) and Ellen L. Sweet discuss their new book. Mexican ranchos of the county were a vital part of early California history. 858-456-1800. Saturday, December 13, 7 p.m.; free. D.G. Wills Books, 7461 Girard Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

The Gospel According to Scrooge Full musical drama presentation with live orchestra based on "A Christmas Carol," with a "noticeable twist." Old Ebenezer is visited by "angelic visitors" rather than ghosts. 858-560-1870. Friday, December 12, 7 p.m.; Saturday, December 13, 6 p.m.; Sunday, December 14, 6 p.m.; free. San Diego First Assembly, 8404 Phyllis Place. (MISSION VALLEY)
Carols in Founders Chapel, a festival of word and song, sets the mood for Christmas. This performance includes scripture, hymns, and readings performed by USD’s Concert Choir, Choral Scholars. 619-260-7936. University of San Diego (5998 Alcala Park), 7:30 p.m., Thursday, December 4; 8 p.m., Friday, December 5; 2 p.m., Sunday, December 7. (LINDA VISTA)
SDJJ | calendar

**SENIOR EVENTS**

**Encore Event: Theater Club with Patricia Riley**  
Wednesday, Dec. 3, 1 p.m.  
University City Senior Center  
9001 Towne Center Dr.  
Act, laugh and experience the magic of performing. Info at (858) 550-5998

**Encore Event: Fine Art Class with Orma McCann Photography**  
Wednesday, Dec. 10, 11 a.m.  
University City Senior Center, 9001 Towne Center Dr.  
Call (858) 550-5998 for details.

**Encore Event: Israel Club with Nina Brodsky**  
Wednesday, Dec. 24, 10:30 a.m.  
University City Senior Center, 9001 Towne Center Dr.  
Learn about the Arab-Israeli conflict. Call (858) 550-5998.

**Flute Concert with Craig and Jan Lambert**  
Tuesday, Dec. 9, 10 a.m.  
University City Senior Center  
9001 Towne Center Dr.  
Call (858) 550-5998.

**New Archaeological Discoveries in Israel with USD Professor Jerome Hall**  
Monday, Dec. 8, 11 a.m.  
No. County Inland Senior Center  
15905 Pomerado Rd., Poway  
Call (858) 674-1123 for details
School of Business Administration
Experts Estimate Housing Recovery a Year Out at Best

BY MANDY JACKSON
CHS Staff Writer

Homebuilders, apartment owners and real estate agents gathered this month at the University of San Diego to consider the state of the slowdown in residential real estate that is not expected to bottom out for another year or more.

Economists and industry experts indicated that builders will not pick up again until late 2009 or into 2010 during the Ninth Annual Residential Real Estate Conference hosted by USD's Burnham-Moores Center for Real Estate on Dec. 9 at the school's Helen University Center.

LaVerne Henry, director of U.S. economic analysis at Walnut Creek-based mortgage insurer the PMI Group Inc., said he does not expect the government-sponsored enterprises Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to emerge from federal government conservatorship in the near future until 2009.

Whether they are reinvigorated as public entities, private companies or a hybrid of the two, Henry said Fannie and Freddie perform an essential function that must continue when they buy home loans from lenders, repackaging them as mortgage-backed securities, selling those securities to investors and reinvesting those profits in housing.

The two GSEs backed $5 trillion to $6 trillion of the $1 trillion in outstanding residential mortgages, representing a 40 percent growth in their position from five years ago.

Henry, who has worked in the past at Freddie Mac and its regulator the Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight, said efforts by the federal government to stabilize the GSEs and otherwise increase liquidity in the U.S. financial system have been done very little so far.

However, he noted that credit in beginning to loosen and confidence may be returning to the market. On Dec. 4, the 12-month interest rate for a 30-year mortgage dropped to 5.35 percent, mortgage applications doubled.

As job losses continue to mount, it remains to be seen whether the housing market can sustain any confidence that has been generated by lower interest rates.

Ryan Radclif, USB assistant professor of economics, said unemployment in the United States and in California has reached levels seen in the 2001 recession. California job losses are approaching numbers seen in the deeper and longer recessions of the early 1990s.

While the state and national economy continue to plunge in a slower or no-growth business cycle, Radclif said the current recession will not be like the Great Depression of the 1930s as some have suggested. This time around, he noted, interest rates are low, the federal government has taken aggressive action to stabilize the financial markets, and those efforts seem to be giving investors some degree of confidence.

"It will be a painful but typical recession versus a slowdown Great Depression," Radclif said.

He said Congress should develop an economic stimulus package with an emphasis on construction spending for infrastructure projects because it would be a direct investment in the economy that would produce new jobs. It gives another tax rebate or a tax cut as an economic stimulus bill, consumers are more likely to spend the money rather than spend it on support retail industry jobs.

In San Diego, the economic outlook is just as grim as the rest of the state and country.

USD associate professor of economics Alan Gin, who compiles the leading index of economic indicators for San Diego County, said he couldn't come up with a catchy slogan to keep the real estate industry going in tough times. The best Gin could offer was: "Things will not be so fine in 2009."

San Diego's index of leading economic indicators — based on local stock prices, residential building permits, claims for unemployment insurance, help-wanted advertising, local consumer confidence and the national index of economic indicators — has been down 30 of the last 31 months and it saw the biggest one-month decline ever in November.

San Diego County is on track to lose 4,000 to 5,000 jobs in 2008. The region only has lost jobs in four out of the past 20 years. Three of those years were in the early 1990s when the aerospace sector cut thousands of jobs.

The construction, manufacturing and retail industries have shed jobs, while finance and hospitality, health care, education, government, and professional, technical and scientific services saw gains this year.

Gin is projecting that the San Diego economy will remain weak in 2009 with unemployment reaching 7.5 percent due to job losses in the first half of next year. By the second half, he expects to see employment gains and job growth is likely to be flat for the year.

"Much depends on the federal economic stimulus," Gin said.

If the government pumps money into the economy via infrastructure construction spending and provides relief to state and local governments that are facing budget deficits, that could increase the chances of job growth in San Diego next year.

Gin expects the San Diego County housing market to hit bottom in late 2008 or early 2009, but he predicts another 10 percent decline in the Standard & Poor's/Case-Shiller home price index for the region on top of the 50 percent decline from the peak in 2005.

Michael Scherman, director of research at the San Diego Regional Economic Development Corp., said the housing market correction has been a boon for industries that are trying to recruit employees from out of town, because home prices are more competitive with other high-tech and biotech hubs, such as Boston.

Scherman was part of a panel that included Joseph Anton, president of圣地亚哥房地产机构，

Anthony Bote, senior vice president at Herzibin; Daniel Glavikos, first vice president of Equity Residential; and Jason Hall, associate vice president and chief operating officer of U.S. REITs, who discussed opportunities and challenges ahead.

In rental housing, Coeslo said 2009 will continue to be extremely weak and the apartment market won't come out of its doldrums until 2010.

There will be little new development and low multifamily property sales throughout 2009, he said.

Anschutz encouraged homebuilders and real estate agents to partner up with other companies to generate business, especially in buying or selling distressed housing projects or portfolios.

"Half of a pic is better than no pic," he said.

"Link with somebody, some business that's doing what you're doing," he said.

While there is a glut of houses for sale in the region, the panelists agreed that now is the time for developers to get their projects out of by developing more projects, especially in buying or selling distressed housing projects or portfolios.

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entitlement and construction period, according to Bott. He said institutional investors can’t get the 15 percent unlevered returns they’re seeking under that timeline.

Golvan said that construction costs haven’t come down much yet, capitalization rates are rising and lenders are providing loans for no more than 60 percent of project costs, so it is hard to make meaningful construction work right now. He said Equity Residential will continue to buy more apartment properties with the cash it has on hand during the next 18 months, but it will be much more selective about the markets and assets where it invests. The multifamily company will look at broken, condominium conversions and sizes where landlords are in trouble.

Bott said institutional investors will continue to provide equity for residential real estate and private hedge funds are participating in the market as well.

Pension funds will continue to grow, Golvan said, noting that endowment funds for universities also will keep up their real estate investment, though they may reconfigure their ratios for investing in real estate versus the stock market. Foreign money will come back, but it will only go to select markets and property types, he added.

When developers can’t get the financing to build, Adhue said they can always finish projects that other builders were unable to complete, build on a fee basis and form partnerships to take advantage of streams in the market. Some developers are becoming custom home builders to generate business.

"While we’re going down in flames, I’m not going down without a fight," Adhue said.

— E-mail Mandy.jackson@dailymail.com
2009 expected to be rough year, panel says

By JEN LEBRON-KUHNEY
The Daily Transcript

SAN DIEGO — Most speakers at the University of San Diego's Ninth Annual Residential Real Estate Conference: Outlook 2009 were not optimistic about the coming year, describing the current market as "extremely weak," a "web of terror" and a "death spiral."

While speakers touched on the issues in the residential real estate market next year throughout the conference, a panel discussion held at the end of the conference called, "Oh My Gosh, What Next? How You Can Take Advantage of the Opportunities Ahead," primarily focused on what the market may see in 2009.

Companies with cash can find good deals, said panelist Daniel Golovato of Equity Residential. He said his company has, and therefore has not felt the credit crunch like many of its competitors have. However, things will be challenging for most of the connected to the real estate market in 2009, said Alan Gin, USD professor of economics.

See 2009 on 10A

Continued from Page 1A

Gin showed on a chart how the decline in housing prices affects all sectors of the economy including employment, consumer spending and tax revenue for governments.

Panelists Joseph Anfuso of Florshiem Homes, Anthony Botte of Hearthstone Advisors, Jason Hall of RE/MAX Associates and Michael Schuerman of San Diego Regional Economic Development Corp. agreed that stabilization of a "rational" housing market is key to recovery.

"A rational market would be great," said Golovato. "04 and '05 made no sense."

However, there was some disagreement about when recovery would occur.

While Gin said the market might reach a bottom in the latter part of 2009 at the earliest, Anfuso and some of the other panelists said the market might not return to "normal" for some time.

"I come from the opinion that we lived in a fake economy for more than a decade," said Anfuso. "I would just say we're in for some trying times, not that you can take advantage of them ... but you need to splash some cold water on your face and look what's happening and make your business plans accordingly."

Anfuso said creating strategic partnerships and making cuts in one's business is key to surviving in an economy where people are trying to scramble for market share.

However, not all in attendance said the market is as bad as it seems. Lori Staehling, president of the San Diego Association of Realtors, was in the audience and voiced her opinion on the market during the question and answer session with the panel.

"There are a lot of positives going on and there will be positives that come out of this for our industry," she said. "Prices are incredible. Interest rates are incredible ... and I don't think anyone who has a fixed rate loan is going to regret it."

The panel and Staehling agreed that building fees in the city of San Diego are too high for new building to be profitable now that prices have come down from their 2005 peaks to encourage construction.

Hall said it is a positive sign that home sales have increased over the past few months, though the market is currently seeing a seasonal slowdown.

jennifer.lebron@sddt.com
Source Code: 20081210cei
Mark Riedy has compared the financial crisis to a line of dominoes, just waiting to fall. "We don't know how many dominoes there are going to be because we can't stop the process," he said.

Close-up: Mark Riedy

Former Fannie Mae president explains mortgage collapse as inevitable

By REBECCA GO

SAN DIEGO — Mark Riedy can legitimately say to his University of San Diego students, "I told you so."

The executive director of the USD Burnham-Moores Center for Real Estate tells an office visitor one Wednesday afternoon that he started worrying about the mortgage industry years ago — and he wasn't alone.

"Everyone knew there were problems growing with the subprime mortgage market," Riedy said. "The kinds of mortgages that were being created were not hidden from view!" Underneath it all was an unwillingness to properly assess risk and the assumption that home values would continue to rise.

"It's greed throughout the whole system, and it was accommodated by the fact that prices were going up so rapidly," he said.

Riedy, who has a penchant for metaphors, often compares the financial crisis to quicksand, with no bottom in sight, or a line of dominoes, just waiting to fall.

"We don't know how many dominoes there are going to be because we can't stop the process," he said, pointing to commercial real estate as possibly the next to fall, "and we don't know all the interrelationships that are there."

See Riedy on 2
Riedy —

Continued from Page 1

Riedy has directed nearly 40 years to real estate finance, with a career that has included positions among the influential people in his field. Among his former titles: president, chief operating officer and director of Fannie Mae (NYSE: FNMA), vice president and chief economist of the Federal Home Loan Bank of San Francisco, and senior staff economist under former President Richard Nixon.

Riedy has also served in executive roles for the Mortgage Bankers Association of America and the National Council of Community Bankers, as well as on the boards of several companies, including San Diego-based Bishop Realty Trust (NYSE: BMK).

These days, however, Riedy spends his workdays pasting along his practical experience to undergraduate and graduate students at USD.

For this industry veteran, the culprits in the mortgage crisis can be found in almost every sector of mortgage finance — a series of weak links in an already convoluted chain.

"The whole system, and the investors got it in the shorts because they had faith in everybody," he said.

Problems can be traced back to the 1980s, Riedy said, when Congress and presidential administrations began to push for higher percentages of homeownership. Before 1998, rates had floated between 65 and 66 percent since the 1960s. In the last 10 years, the national homeownership rate has approached 70 percent, according to a U.S. Census Bureau report. Third quarter 2008 saw a homeownership rate of 67.9 percent, down from rates seen between 2005 and 2007.

A rate of 65.5 percent was "where you hit the limit of who could afford to get into the mortgage market," said Riedy, who notes San Diego lingers around 65 percent homeownership, yet was among the first to suffer.

Under increasing congressional pressure, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac (NYSE: FRE) — established to create liquidit y and stability in the mortgage market through securitization — began to relax standards so more low-income families could afford homes.

Squeezed mortgage brokers began to tell Riedy that Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac were approving loans the two government-sponsored enterprises would never have guaranteed in the past.

"I got suspicious and concerned at that point that they were moving away from their mission," said Riedy, who was president of Pacific Mortgage in the 1980s. "They bought their freedom, but at a price that turned out to be too high."

Bank and broker alike: on commission — were free to sell more and more loans, regardless of risk. Some brokers took loan applications despite knowing there were no loans.

Declining a loan meant driving clients to competitors.

Riedy said Riedy that they were aware of the danger in subprime, but requiring lenders to adhere to sound standards would mean losing talent as employees sought more commission with other companies.

Rating agencies, which offer third-party guarantees for loans Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac are unable to approve, followed suit. Deluding large,及以上 stellar securities ratings meant fewer issuers would knock on their door.

Regulators did nothing — they couldn't, Riedy said.

At the time, Washington, D.C. practiced a deregulatory philosophy, and Fannie and Freddie held considerable sway over D.C. lobbyists. Budget constraints Riedy played a factor as well, limiting the staff that regulators could deploy.

Besides, housing prices were still rising.

"The truth in the government never seems to respond in a major way unless there's a crisis," said Riedy, who by then was living in San Diego and felt his hands were also tied. "Until it hits the fan, no one's going to do anything about it."

The situation was exacerbated by the consumer tendency tap home equity, encouraged by tax incentives dating back to 1985 and the continuing notion that home prices would increase by as much as 8 percent to 10 percent each year.

Instead, the unscrupulous prices reversed direction, while interest rates rose. Defaults and foreclosures rose dramatically in 2006 and 2007, pushing additional homes into a market characterized by high prices.

"It really accelerated the collapse of the housing market," Riedy said.

He maintains that homeownership remains an admirable cause, citing benefits from social stability to neighborhood pride. However, the cost of advancing unqualified borrowers is too high.

"You can't have it both ways," Riedy said.

A cramped focus on affordability, while housing may be needed, but Riedy prefers reversing negative attitudes toward renting and directing policy toward improving rental opportunities.

"Other things can make a community other than homeownership," Riedy said.

Regardless, the reworked lending system of the future needs to be simpler and more transparent for borrowers, he agreed.

Prospective homeowners need to understand what they are signing — an adult education course for first-time homebuyers would not be a bad idea, Riedy said.

Both mortgage brokers and ratings agencies need to be under heavier regulation.

"Anybody tied to the money you need to retrain," he said.

The key is in the restoration of trust: Perhaps the biggest losers in this crisis are the investors — from foreign firms to U.S. commercial banks — whose faith in Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac and ratings agencies has been shattered, Riedy said.

These investors must be guaranteed a payoff, or "made whole" as Riedy puts it.

He doesn't favor widespread, unconditional bailouts. The U.S. government, he said, is unable to guarantee that lenders would direct funds to consumers, and helping fraudulent borrowers would fail to hold such borrowers accountable.

He also expressed skepticism at the Federal Reserve's move last week to purchase obligations from Fannie, Freddie and Federal Home Loan Banks as well as mortgage-backed securities, mostly concerned that the regional home-based banks, had not been reviewed closely enough.

But innocent consumers who got in over their heads deserve some help, Riedy said, likening their situation to a natural disaster area. Disaster victims receive government aid without question, he said, not to avoid living in disaster-prone areas.

Riedy criticized the idea of modifying mortgages or suspending foreclosures, which has been championed by government officials from former San Diego City Attorney Michael Aguirre to Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger to President-elect Barack Obama.

Rewriting a mortgage alters a contract, Riedy said, and simply passes along losses to the investor. A moratorium on foreclosures — recently enacted by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac for the holidays — is a temporary moratorium and also puts more losses on banks' books.

"Who in their right mind is ever going to invest in mortgage market again?" Riedy said. "Investors need to be able to rely upon laws to protect their value."

Riedy won't admit to having the answers, but knows that things need to move forward as much as they need to be fixed.

"We don't want to go back 60 years to one loan at a time; our markets are way beyond that point," he said. "We need that mortgage-backed securities market, and right now it's broken."
The USD School of Business Administration has been awarded a $100,000 grant from the Foundation for Enterprise Development for research on private employee-owned firms. The first project will investigate how the composition and scope of employee ownership changes over a private firm's evolution and the factors influencing those changes. The second looks at how private employee ownership firms can benefit from SEC Rule 144a in order to raise capital using private placements. The work on both projects will be Diego East County Chamber in 1997, Phemister served as communications director. He is a graduate of the United States Chamber of Commerce's Institute for Organization Management at Notre Dame University.
Sempra Energy Foundation Gives $250,000

The San Diego Zoo received $250,000 from the Sempra Energy Foundation, which will benefit the EnviroSchool program, the 2009 Cans for Critters recycling program and the Baja California Condor Education Effort, all zoo conservation programs... Ledcor Construction has donated $75,000 for internships and career development at San Diego State University. The gift will be disbursed in $25,000 annual increments during the next three years. This is Ledcor’s second gift in support of construction, engineering and management education at SDSU... Wal-Mart donated $10,000 to Feeding America San Diego, which will be used to expand a program that provides school kids with a bag of food every Friday for the weekend. “This donation means that we can provide 85 more students with food every weekend for an entire school year,” said Gary McDonald, CEO of Feeding America... Palomar College celebrated its 17th annual gala recently, and Darlene and Donald Shiley, Ray Lucia and Joseph Madrigal were honored for their contributions to the community... The American Heart Association’s heart walk was held Nov. 25. Money raised is used to fund research aimed at fighting heart disease and stroke. Sharp HealthCare, Scripps Health and USD, San Diego business administration school was awarded a $100,000 grant from The Foundation for Enterprise Development for research on private employee-owned firms. “We’re extremely pleased to receive this grant. It will support critical research on how firms... can use employee ownership to support growth and expansion,” said Dean David Pyke... The local chapter of the American Institute of Wine and Food held its fifth annual Bay Wine & Food Festival recently. The six scholarship recipients were presented awards totaling $26,500 at a luncheon Nov. 14. Kaiser Permanente gave scholarships to nursing students totaling $256,000. Participating schools in San Diego include Grossmont College, Imperial Valley College, Point Loma Nazarene University, City College and USD. Scholarships of $1,000 to $2,500 are based primarily on financial need to assist individuals pursuing nursing degrees. Sycuan Casino’s bakery provided pies for the recent Mama’s Kitchen Pie In The Sky fundraiser. “It’s an honor to assist Mama’s Kitchen in providing this service to men, women and children who suffer from... critical illnesses,” said Anita Bye, director of community development for Sycuan. Proceeds will help Mama’s Kitchen deliver meals to people who are too ill to cook for themselves... The Junior Seau Foundation hosted its annual Shop With a Jock at Target Mission Valley on Dec. 2. Athletes and television and radio personalities joined Seau, a current professional football player, to take children shopping for their loved ones with a $100 gift certificate... A drive for charity, the first-ever held on the South Bay Expressway, raised $30,000 for Chula Vista's community foundation. Held Nov. 19, the one-year birthday of San Diego’s first toll road, the private agency donated $1 for every trip taken. The money will fund community services... Fresh Start Surgical Gifts received a $10,000 grant from the Pimco Foundation, $4,000 from the Erich and Della Keenig Foundation and $3,000 from Pickford Realty Care. The donations go toward reconstructive surgery for disadvantaged kids and young adults. Please send Kudos and Giving items to contributing writer Joyce Glazer at jglazer@sdbj.com.
Trustee’s deeds hit year low; notices of default up 18%

By JEN LEBRON-KUHNEY
The Daily Transcript

SAN DIEGO — Trustee’s deeds sank to their lowest number of the year in November, while notices of default are up 18 percent from October.

There were 1,144 trustee’s deeds filed last month, nearly 50 percent down from the year’s peak in July.

Trustee’s deeds are also called a notice of trustee’s sale and are the last step before a home is foreclosed on.

Mark Reidy, executive director of the Burnham-Moores Center for Real Estate at the University of San Diego, said the 11.5 percent month-over-month drop in trustee’s deeds is not indicative of market improvement.

“I don’t think things are getting better (overall),” said Reidy. “The only thing I think is getting better is that lenders are trying furiously to work things out.”

Reidy said banks might be trying to encourage short sales since lenders do not have to file a notice of trustee’s sale 90 days after giving a homeowner a notice of default.

Trustee’s deeds are down nearly 50 percent from the year’s peak in July.

The 90-day period is the minimum time a bank can give a homeowner a notice of trustee’s sale after filing a notice of default. It is not mandatory a bank files a notice of trustee’s sale immediately.

Lori Staeling, president-elect of the San Diego Association of Realtors and on the mayor of San Diego’s foreclosure advisory board, agreed that banks are trying to help some troubled homeowners.

“I’m not sure they’re encouraging short sales, but they are working on them better,” she said.

Banks used to take four to six months to close a short sale, often-times not fast enough for potential buyers and sellers to go through with their offers. However, banks have started working more quickly with short sales, said Staeling.

Staeling said approximately half of the homes sold in the market are short sales, but they are working on them better,” she said.

Reidy said there might be a decreased number of trustee’s deeds and notices of default next month with Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac’s foreclosure moratoriums, but added it will only be an artificial decline.

“I think it’s a political feel-good thing, but it doesn’t relieve the pressure on families or really help the economy,” he said. “It’s not really going to do a whole lot in the long run.”

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See Trustee’s on 12A
Dear Obama, San Diego's Been Nice This Year

By KELLY BENNETT

Friday, Dec. 19, 2008 | If President-elect Barack Obama heeds San Diego leaders' call, within a few months many of the region's freeways, roads, sewers and other infrastructure will be bustling with new developments and improvements.

Local governments have a final draft proposal for the region that includes more than 1,000 projects and asks for a total of more than $7.4 billion. The federal stimulus plan, anticipated to cost more than $600 billion, is expected to be drafted and signed soon after Obama takes office next month.

The $7.4 Billion Wish List

- Local governments have drafted a proposal for more than $7.4 billion of federal aid to fix existing infrastructure and fund new projects, creating nearly 96,000 jobs in the process.

- As the construction sector has been especially hard hit in the slowdown of the region's housing market, officials hope the projects would reinvigorate the economy by putting construction workers in jobs to build freeway expansions and other projects.

- In addition to major freeway expansions, the proposal includes projects for bikeways and mass transit, solar panels and water desalination, in efforts to stay in line with some of the local governments' aims to curb greenhouse gas emissions and fight global warming at a regional level.

A regional proposal to garner federal aid aims not only to improve infrastructure in the region, but also to create nearly 96,000 jobs. Proposals include work on the region's freeways, surface streets, bikeways, sewers, storm drains, parks, buildings, and systems for water, photovoltaic cells and recycling water, among others.

In a region with hordes of workers idled by the cooled housing market and economic slump, the projects could reinvigorate the construction sector in particular. Many hope that the stimulus effort will aid the county's ability to build its way out of a regional recession. Local economists have defined that state as a drop in job growth for a six-month period compared to the same period a year earlier.
The unemployment rate in San Diego County rose to 6.8 percent in October. The biggest job losses have for months been in construction and real estate-related sectors. At its peak in mid-2006, the construction sector bulged with more than 95,000. The sector shrank to 79,600 jobs in October. A hope is that projects like the ones drafted in the San Diego Association of Government's proposal will put many of those laid-off construction workers back in jobs.

The region's governments hope federal dollars will make up for some of that loss. If all of the projects in the proposal are funded, the region would see 59,030 jobs directly created, with 12,124 additional jobs created in support -- like business products and services -- over the life of the projects. A further 24,805 jobs would be created as those newly employed workers spend their money in the local economy.

One of Obama's major emphases in talking about the package has been the immediacy with which he wants to see the money spent in local communities. The projects are broken into a group that could be contracted out nearly immediately, those that could be started within six months, and those that could be started within 12 months. If a project is ready to go now, that means it has already completed its upfront design costs and its environmental review process, which sometimes delays ground-breaking on development projects by months or years.

The final draft includes a ready-to-go $30 million project to grind and smooth parts of Interstate 5. It asks for $80 million for carpool lanes on Interstate 805 near Carroll Canyon Road, a project that would be ready to contract out in six months. Ready to go in 12 months is a project to install carpool lanes on Interstate 5 from Manchester Avenue to State Route 78, a project that would cost an estimated $275 million. A separate project for carpool lanes on I-5 would cost $175 million and stretch from Genesee Avenue to Interstate-805.

The proposal asks for more than $200 million to improve both the Calexico border crossing and the Otay Mesa crossing.
Transit projects that would be immediately ready to contract out include a $20 million project for bus rapid transit in the Mira Mesa corridor and a $30 million connection between the Orange and Blue trolley lines. Sandag asks for $290 million for installing low floor trolley cars, which would allow disabled passengers, including passengers in wheelchairs, to more easily travel by trolley. The proposal also seeks $18 million for six rail cars to add to the Coaster system for north-to-south commuters in the county.

Several governments included major public works projects in the proposal, for projects including fire stations and libraries, sewer system fixes and school renovations. Among other things, Carlsbad requests $53 million for Alga Norte Park, a 32-acre park that is planned to include an aquatics center and a skate park. Chula Vista seeks $25 million to convert its multi-purpose fields citywide from grass to artificial turf. The County Water Authority wants $22 million to install solar panels at its facilities, and $175 million for the Carlsbad desalination plant.

Sandag officials will present the proposal to the group's board on Friday.

While working with Sandag, at the same time, Mayor Jerry Sanders has launched separate lobbying efforts to snag some of the federal money for the city of San Diego. The mayor efforts come through the U.S. Conference of Mayors and a separate lobbying firm in Washington, D.C., said Job Nelson, director of intergovernmental relations for the Mayor's Office.

City projects include a $21 million improvement to the La Jolla Village Drive connection with Interstate 805, an interchange often snarled with traffic. Another $142 million project would reconstruct the State Route 163 connection with Friars Road in Mission Valley, to smooth out the traffic-heavy entrance and exit there.

The city wants to spend $20 million to install a quiet zone downtown, which would install more safety measures at railroad crossings so that trains and trolleys wouldn't need to sound their horns as frequently when passing to the crossings. The tooting of trolley horns has arisen as a quality of life issue for residents of downtown's condo buildings.

A $5 million line in the proposal would widen 43rd Street and realign the connection between Logan Avenue and Interstate 805 in southeastern San Diego.

"Some people say working on a freeway or something gives you a two-fer -- you get the initial immediate effect and then you get the future improvements in the economy," said University of San Diego economist Alan Gin, referring to the increased efficiency to the flow of goods and people. "Things like a bike path would not have that secondary effect."

But Kathy Keehan, executive director of the San Diego County Bicycle Coalition, said it's not enough to examine only a project's direct economic benefit.

"When we look at all of those dollars going to freeways and expanded roadways, we see that as encouraging people to drive more, which is contrary to some of our other goals," Keehan said.

"When you fund those greener infrastructure options, you get not only the construction jobs but also the community benefits long term."

The proposal includes bike projects like path expansions, lane installations and road crossings in the cities of Coronado, Del Mar, Escondido, Imperial Beach, National City, Oceanside and San Diego. Such projects -- bike paths in San Diego -- have landed in the crosshairs for national critics of the plan's cost, who say the economic stimulus is being clouded with pet projects.
"A lot of people think of bicycle path only as a recreational standpoint, but we've got to be careful that we're not always talking out of both sides of our mouth -- we're also trying to deal with this whole issue of climate change and global warming," Gallegos said. "I'm not convinced that we can just build our way out of this congestion and this climate issues by just building more roads."

Keehan said asking her to name a pet project among those in the proposal was like asking her to name her favorite child. But for the goal of connecting commuters who want to combine their bike trips with public transit, Keehan's excited to see a bike locker project.

Sandag proposes a regional $1.5 million project to install bike lockers near transit hubs so that commuters can safely lock their bikes near the place they take the train or the bus to work.

Gallegos said a major concern for Sandag and its partner agencies is building projects that will last, especially in light of the federal government's financial situation.

"This is probably, at the end of the day, going to be deficit spending," he said. "I might not have to pay for it today, or tomorrow, but my kids and my grandkids are going to have to pay for this stuff."

Gallegos said he's heard some questions about the extent of the projects -- for example, whether some of the money would go to expenses like landscaping.

"Our response to that is, when we look at these projects, there's not a lot of fluff on them," he said.

If there are landscaping pieces, the expense is not purely aesthetic, Gallegos said -- some is to protect against erosion and runoff.

Nelson said he expects that some of the requests from various governments won't be funded.

"I think for a lot of folks out there this is like Christmas Day -- there's a lot of money out there and everybody wants a piece of it," he said. "But the list of wants is going to far outpace the money that's going to come out of this thing. A lot of that is going to kind of fall to the wayside."

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.
Down on Main Street

Will consumer loyalty help small businesses weather the storm?

By BILL BURKE

On a recent Friday morning, Richard Miller got a store-call offering him an instant line of credit. He accepted in the lobby as he hung up the phone—only minutes before, he'd been talking about closing the North Park gift shop, Last Your Muscles Too, that he's owned for 10 years, site of them at the main spot on Bay Street.

"When I opened here in the late '80s, people told me that business moves to Row Street in 2001," Miller said. "I said 'That's not going to happen to me—I'm going to prove them wrong.'

"We've been here nine years," he said. "I think that's a success, you know?"

Miller has no plans to take advantage of the credit offer. On Dec. 8, he'll lock up his store—filled on this particular day with Christmas decorations, candles, jewelry, hand-knitted scarves and two boxes of writing on display cases—for the last time. Since Last Your Muscles Too sales have taken a dive, he said, it used to be that each month, an average, would spend $30 or $40 in the shop. But, during the last year, per-customer spending has dropped to below $20. When the economy turns bad, Miller said, one of the first things people stop buying are gifts.

"When you have a bottom-line margin to begin with, and you see a 20-percent decrease in your sales for the year, that means you've lost probably 60 percent of your profit margins," he said. "He's not willing to go into debt simply to stay open. Honestly, I don't see the economy turning around fast enough for me to continue to survive.

"During the last few years, more than $10 million has been invested in North Park's revitalization through a combination of state and federal grants, private development and smart improvements. The neighborhood is one of San Diego's 11 business improvement districts (BIDs), the goal of which is to make neighborhood commercial zones more attractive to visitors in order to lure consumers away from existing malls and toward a more community-centric way of life.

While economists have tracked consumer spending on high-end items and analyst trends coming out of chain stores like Wal-Mart and Costco, the recession's effect on local retail and restaurants—the components of North Main Street—has yet to be seen.

North Park, for now, boasts a reasonably healthy commercial district. Despite the economic downturn that began two years ago, in the first six months of 2008, it and businesses moved into the North Park BID footprint while only three closed—and none of those closures were due to the economy, said Elizabeth Stadelebecher, executive director of North Park Main Street, So the Last Your Muscles Too in the only business she knows of whose closure is recession-related.

There are empty stores in North Park, Stadelebecher said—but you'll find that they're in need of the neighborhood's largest empty building, an University Avenue site the BID used to be, recently occupied largely because it's hard to find a space for 40,000 square feet of retail space. But it's barely an empty space. The center recently renovated the building and local gallery Algrip has converted it into a new window display open each month.

"At least for the first couple of quarters for 2009, things are shaping up pretty difficult where retail is concerned," Stadelebecher said—"and you'll find that's not just in San Diego. The neighborhood's largest empty building, an University Avenue site the BID used to be, recently occupied largely because it's hard to find a space for 40,000 square feet of retail space. But it's barely an empty space. The center recently renovated the building and local gallery Algrip has converted it into a new window display open each month.

In Stadelebecher's estimation, the economic downturn is a good bump in North Park's overall upward trajectory. If anything, there's opportunity to be had—"the economy affordable food.

"Square footage was a cause, I think, were probably really artificially inflated for the last—at least 10 years ago," she said, "and now I think I'm coming back to more comfortable where... it's more manageable to consider leasing a space that's less than 100 square feet.

"Instead, speculative office in North Park can be San Diego's only two Main Street programs, designated funded out the National Trust for Historic Preservation for which BID must apply. To keep such designation, Main Street associations are, among other things, required to keep track of business openings and closings,

MAIN STREET CONTINUED ON PAGE 18
Main Street
Continued from Page 9

New, he said, "I see the economy spreading into other retail sectors, including general merchandise stores, department stores, and other retail sectors. And to that a little bit worldwide." Since January 2002, Grin has published a monthly index of economic indicators, and Pavcnkova’s data shows the local economy at an all-time low.

But there’s some good news, too, he pointed out. By Grin’s estimates, for every $10 spent in the price of gas in San Diego County, consumers benefit an additional $6 million each month.

"So compared to all-time highs, the worst is over for now. San Diego is known for having a local economy that’s better than most, and that’s because the retail sectors are doing very well," Grin said. He agrees that local businesses are benefiting from community loyalty, the fact that there are less chains in the county, and the fact that there are a lot of community ties that help businesses stay in business.

"If you have a solid base plan, and you really have a good product and you have a good local base, you think it’s absolutely possible to weather this storm," he said. "But obviously, not everyone is going to survive it. But that’s everywhere. It’s not just North Park or San Diego it’s everywhere."

"I see an opportunity for a lot of people to make some changes," Grin said. "I think it’s a great opportunity for people to get something out of the local economy."
DARK CLOUDS & Silver Linings

National, Global Woes Must Be Resolved Before Regional Growth Can Occur

BY NED RANDOLPH

Even the most optimistic industry boosters are buckling down for a tough year ahead, which is expected to include more layoffs, housing foreclosures and difficulty for businesses across nearly all sectors.

San Diego's economy — which was at the epicenter of the housing collapse — appeared initially to withstand the drag of the real estate downturn. But it probably won't be saved from subsequent blows of the national recession.

Home prices continue to fall, losing 40 percent of their value since the market peak of November 2005, and foreclosures accounted for more than half of all home sales in November, according to MDA DataQuick of La Jolla.

The national credit crunch and loss of confidence could prolong the overall economic downturn.

"Locally, I'm not sure there's anything we can do. It's a national and worldwide problem beyond our local control that has to be resolved before we see economic growth or stimulus," said Kelly Cunningham, an economist with the San Diego Institute for Policy Research, a nonprofit think tank that studies the economy. "This is clearly the worst financial market we have seen since the Great Depression."

Projection

The county's unemployment rate — which rose to 6.8 percent in October, compared with 4.8 percent in October 2007 — is expected to continue climbing when the November and December numbers are released.

Consumers are tapped, and now, layer on the reverse wealth effect that's happened in the stock market — most people's portfolios are down 40-50 percent."

— Anthony Botte oversees Western region, Hearthstone Advisors

'This is clearly the worst financial market we have seen since the Great Depression.'

— Kelly Cunningham economist, San Diego Institute for Policy Research
Outlook:
Continued from Page 1

In 2009, venture-backed businesses in technology and biotech sectors will find funding in short supply, forcing many to survive by trimming costs through job cuts and finding revenue through licensing deals and strategic partnerships. Some will have to merge, others will disappear.

San Diego's tourism industry, so dependent on national travelers, is expected to see smaller profits. The San Diego Convention Center's events calendar is booked, but downtown hoteliers are bracing for a decline in revenues as guests shorten their stays.

Retail sales will suffer as shoppers continue to cut back spending in the midst of job insecurity, falling home equity and hard-to-obtain credit. That's likely to hurt consumer electronics manufacturers such as Qualcomm and the many local companies that supply them.

"I think we'll see more job losses," Cunningham said. "The year-over-year numbers in October saw a decrease of 12,000 jobs. We haven't seen the worst of it yet."

He expects the jobless rate to crest at more than 8 percent next summer.

Many of those who work in the financial services sector say the recession will almost certainly continue for most of next year.

Stabilizing Factors

Yet San Diego has a few life rafts. Reliable defense spending, which ironically was the cause of the recession in the early 1990s, will keep shipbuilders employed and technical engineers working on research and development.

The county’s limited supply of developable land should also position the region for a real estate turnaround once foreclosures work their way through the pipeline and prices stabilize.

There are fewer vacant new homes on the market, as builders pull back on new projects and lower home prices to get projects off their books. New home building permits fell to 87 in November, the lowest monthly total in 20 years, according to the Construction Industry Research Board.

"I just think overall, with what's going on with the economy and individuals — it all starts with the consumer, especially with residential housing," said Anthony Botte, who oversees the Western region for Hearststone Advisors, which financed new home communities in San Diego. "Consumers are tapped, and now, layer on the reverse wealth effect that's happened in the stock market — most people's portfolios are down 40-50 percent."

One bright spot is falling gas prices, which are averaging under $2 a gallon. According to University of San Diego economist Alan Gin, every 10-cent drop per gallon of gas typically equates to $7 million a month in consumer spending for the local economy.

That may have boosted retail sales in November, which were not as glum as some economists had expected.

Diversification Helps

The region's diverse technology and biotechnology sectors should also keep some areas of the economy afloat.

Home to the nation's third-largest cluster of biotechs, the county should benefit from increased federal spending in the Obama administration in stem cell research and health care, analysts say.

Kevin Carroll, executive director of the AeA San Diego Council, a technology trade group, said: "We're pretty diverse. So other clusters can absorb one cluster's slowdown. We're not all telecom or all software...we're a little bit of everything, which is good. And the fact that you don't have Fortune 500 companies insulates us a little (from) huge worker gluts. You don't find yourself with 1,000 engineers on the market. Layoffs here are small and easily absorbed."

Deer In Headlights

The venture capital market — which never fully recovered after the dot-com bust of 2000 — is on life support, says Jeremy Glaser, a local attorney with Mintz Levin Cohn Ferris Glovsky and Popeo, who represents technology and venture capital companies in mergers and sales.

"Venture capitalists are like deer in headlights. They're frozen now," said Glaser, who doesn't expect the venture capital market to return until 2011.

His advice to clients is to control expenses, find revenue as quickly as possible and learn how to bootstrap.

"In 2009, the first thing we'll see is larger sales of companies out of their venture portfolio," he said. "Venture capitalists are going to sell some of their underperformers in order to get liquidity and get exits and build up their cash reserves."

Once they decide on those most likely to succeed, venture capitalists will leave the weaker businesses to fend for themselves or pair two together within their portfolio.

"I think we'll also see venture capitalists combining companies on the hopes that one plus one equals three," Glaser said.
PERDURARIA AL MENOS DOS TRIMESTRES

Registra SD mayor crisis económica

ALDO MARTÍNEZ / EL MÉXICANO

SAN DIEGO. La economía de San Diego registró su mayor retrceso en los últimos 17 años, conforme un estudio de campo de la Universidad de San Diego (USD) que anticipa que la crisis persistirá por lo menos los primeros dos trimestres del año que entra.

Alan Gin, el economista en jefe de esa universidad, comentó que desde hace 23 meses los índices económicos se han deteriorado en San Diego pero en octubre cuando los seis indicadores que sirven como parámetros cayeron simultáneamente. Como consecuencia, "esta peoría empezó a materializarse en los ingresos del consumidor el año pasado. Es más que evidente que los consumidores están cuestionando más profundamente su gasto debido a la incertidumbre.

El análisis vio que confirmó que las altas ventas en el "sector negro" de los grandes remates pre-ordenados después del Día de Acción de Gracias fue un reflejo del público por abstenerse de regalar a bajas precios y ahorrar en la época navideña. En el último año entre octubre de 2007 y el de este año, el desempleo en San Diego aumentó en 6,100 personas para alcanzar unas tasas promedio del 8.8 por ciento, la más alta registrada en San Diego desde mediados de 1995, cuando al terminar la guerra fría la economía andaba bastante bien pero que resurgió de una industria enfocada en lo militar a una que sirvió a la sociedad civil.

El estudio elaborado y divulgado por el centro Baerham Moon para los Blanes Raices indicó que esa mayor insensibilidad a los precios de colocación para nuevas construcciones de edificios, aunque las ventas aumenten debido a la baja generalizada de precios de la vivienda en todo el condado de San Diego. El análisis enfatizó que en San Diego, como en la mayoría del resto del país, la crisis hipotecaria afectó y se extendió a otras áreas de la economía, primero a la construcción y luego pasó a la financiera y ahora afecta la automotriz que en el caso del condado es la venta de vehículos nuevos y usados.

Por cierto este martes la policía de San Diego informó que planeará que arrestará a los vendedores de automóviles de particulares en las calles con la necesidad de liquidar los coches recogieron aumentó la oferta y el remate de carros usados en las calles.
GLOOMY TIDINGS

The local economy fell by the second largest amount in a single month in November, second only to the drop in the index in October, according to the University of San Diego's Alan Gin, whose index of local economic indicators has grown gloomier of late.

Also this morning, the state Employment Development Department released its latest estimates for unemployment in the region, pegging San Diego County's rate at 6.9 percent. The EDD also revised its earlier October estimate up from 6.8 to 6.9 percent.

Gin's index showed negatives in all six of the components examined -- help wanted advertising, consumer confidence, building permits, claims for unemployment insurance, local stock prices and the outlook for the national economy.

Here's Gin:

The outlook for the local economy remains grim at this point, at least for the short term.

I thought this was an interesting tidbit:

In the past, local consumer confidence responded positively to drops in the price of gasoline. But that relationship is not holding this time around, as the negative news about the rest of the economy overwhelms the positive news of lower gas prices.

Still, Gin hangs some optimism for the second half of 2009 on a few factors he's expecting -- lower gas prices, increased home sales as buyers are drawn out by low prices and mortgage rates, and some federal spending in the region through vehicles like the stimulus package I wrote about today.

Gin expects the unemployment rate to average at 7.5 percent next year, with higher numbers in the first half of the year balanced by better employment rates later on.

Back to the unemployment numbers. The sector that includes retail jobs lost more jobs between November 2007 and November 2008 than the construction sector did. Trade, transportation and utilities lost 7,700 jobs over the year, with nearly 6,400 of those lost in retail jobs like clothing and accessories and motor vehicle and parts.

Construction was down 6,200 jobs over the year. Government added 1,500 jobs in the same period.

-- KELLY BENNETT
Economists see county recession's long reach

Some regional experts data slump to spring '07

By Dean Camerata
StAFF WRITER

Although the nation’s leading economists have determined that the national recession began in December 2007, regional economists are split over whether San Diego County slipped into recession.

Some say it began in 2006, while others say it began in 2007. But they agree that the county—like the nation—is likely to remain in recession at least through the first half of 2008.

That view is bolstered by the region’s latest index of leading economic indicators, released yesterday by the Barrow-iwan-Moore Center for Real Estate at the University of San Diego. The index plummeted 2.3 percent in October—the biggest monthly decline in the 17-year history of the index.

“What that says is that there’s no end in sight for as far as the downturn is concerned,” said USD economist Alan Gin, who compiles the index. “And there’s at least a little bit of worry that things could be accelerating on the downside.”

The USD index was released a day after the National Bureau of Economic Research said the nation’s economy had been in recession since last December, based on declines in income levels, employment, retail sales, manufacturing production and other indicators.

There is no firm definition for what constitutes a recession in a county or regional economy. And much of the data for regional economies lag far behind the national data. As a result, economists often differ when trying to estimate when a regional recession begins. But according to an informal survey of local economists, San Diego County slipped into recession between June 2007 and March 2008.

“I’d date it back to June 2007,” Gin said. “That’s when the unemployment rate started surging. Before that, it was below 4.5 percent, but then it jumped toward 5 percent and then 6 percent.”

Most economists agree that San Diego’s economy started slowing earlier than the nation’s based on the effects of the housing bubble, which were felt earlier in Southern California than in most other parts of the nation.

The decline in housing prices led to unemployment among construction workers, mortgage brokers and real estate agents and outbreaks in sales at furniture and home improvement stores. Over the past year, the effects have spread through other sectors of the economy.

RECESSION
CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1
USD economist: Slump could last 20 to 24 months

Economists previously had hoped that San Diego’s early entry into a recession meant the county would be able to recover earlier than others. But the depth of the national recession and the consequences in credit have darkened that outlook. Few economists now believe that the county will recover before the nation as a whole.

“The sharp decline in the USD economic indicators suggests that the economy will continue to decline through at least the end of this year,” said the index. “The data used in the index building process has fallen by more than 50 percent over the past year, because of a sharp drop in apartment and condominium construction.”

Consumer spending is a key indicator of economic growth.

“The decline in the housing market didn’t necessarily put us into a recession, but when retail sales decline, that’s pretty good indicator,” Cunningham said.

According to reports by the National Conference of Mayors, San Diego County’s gross metropolitan product grew by 1 percent in 2007, compared with 3.4 percent the year before. Because the beginning of 2007 had stronger growth than the end of the year, it is possible that growth in the second half was negative, Cunningham said.

Cunningham predicted the recession would last well into 2009.

“If the nation, some economists are saying that the economy could bottom out by the second quarter—and I don’t think, there’s any reason San Diego would be any different,” he said. “But even after we hit bottom, it doesn’t mean like there will be any quick bounceback to this recession. I think it will be a while before we see any real growth.”

Marni Cox, economist at the San Diego Association of Governments, suggested the county’s recession began last December or January, when employment fell a peak. That would place the local recession about in line with the national recession.

“After that point, we started to see fewer jobs available and rising unemployment rates,” Cox said. “That’s when we began to see people who were employed before that start losing their jobs.”

Cox predicted that the county’s unemployment rate would remain in recession at least through September.

“Tales of a peak ahead of us,” he said. “Even though some areas will continue to grow—such as healthcare, education and hospitality—that won’t be enough to offset construction in retail and consumer goods.”

Samuel Abadi, economist at Chapman University in Orange, added a large swath of Southern California, led by Riverside, San Bernardino and Orange counties, was recession-bound by June 2007. Based on rising unemployment and declines in housing.

Using employment growth as a guideline, he said San Diego County probably did not enter a recession until early this year. Based on data from the state Employment Development Department, the county’s employment growth did not turn negative until March.

Even though Abadi disagrees with some peers about when the recession began, he has no doubt about how deep it has become.

“Right now, looking at the 10 largest metropolitan areas in California, it’s clear that every region in recession except for Santa Clara and San Francisco counties, which had a much higher proportion of the work force tied to retail and construction,” he said.
Regional Job Losses May Reach Up to 5,000 in 2008

USD Foresees Severe Downturn

By Ned Randolph

A higher than expected turnout at a Dec. 9 University of San Diego real estate forecast led some speakers to congressional real estate professionals still in the fight amid the recession.

But panelists at the Residential Real Estate Conference: Outlook 2009 offered little encouragement for a quick recovery.

"Do you remember the phrase, 'Stay alive in 2007?' " USD economist professor Alan Gin asked the audience of 150 people. "Now I would say, Things will not be so easy in '09.' "

Gin said the indicators, which look six to 12 months into the future, predict a difficult year ahead. Local indicators, like initial unemployment claims, building permits, local stock prices, help wanted ads and consumer confidence have fallen each month in 30 of the past 31 months.

"San Diego is now on pace to lose 4,000 to 5,000 jobs this year," Gin said. "This is unique. We rarely get job losses in San Diego."

Annual job growth, which was dragged down by construction, financial services and real estate layoffs, fell for only the fourth time in as many decades, Gin said.

Economic Collapse

How did we get to this point in the economy?

Gin said a series of intertwined events created a "death spiral" that began in the last quarter of 2007.

Falling home prices led to foreclosures, which led to distressed banks. Banks tightened credit, which crippled local businesses. The resulting layoffs have led to lower consumer spending for everything, including cars.

All of this happened against a backdrop of record high gas prices last spring and summer, which caused extreme consumer caution.

"One bit of good news is that gas prices have gone down and there's some increase in housing demand," albeit in distressed properties, said Gin.

His forecast: The economy should bottom out in the second half of 2009 with a 7.5 percent jobless rate, and another 10 percent drop in home prices.

California will bear the brunt of it, said fellow USD economist Ryan Ratcliff.

The state was overexposed to the housing bubble, just as it was overexposed to the dot-com bust and aerospace consolidation in the 1990s after the Cold War, he said.

California's unemployment rate is higher than it was after the tech bust and is rapidly closing in on the level of the 1990s, Ratcliff said.

Climbing out of the recession, he said, will take government spending on infrastructure to pump money into devalued industries.

"A new round of tax cuts would have minimal impact," Ratcliff said. "I hate to say it, but government spending is the answer."

One reason the current recession is so severe is because the economy made a "false recovery" after the 2001-2002 downturn, which led to the loss of 3 million manufacturing jobs that were never regained.

That recession was lifted by job growth outside of manufacturing in housing construction, financial services and retail trade — industries that are now being hammered.

"Housing blew through the last recession," he said.

Presured To Make Loans

Many critics blame Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, government-sponsored agencies that hold half of the $12 trillion U.S. mortgage debt. Those critics say the two agencies were pressured to issue high-risk loans.

However, most of the loan defaults came from California and Florida, which had the lowest rates of participation by Fannie and Freddie, said LaVaughn Henry, director of U.S. Economic Analysis for The PMI Group, which is based in Walnut Creek.

"We lived in a false economy for a decade," said panelist Joseph Anfuso, president of Florshcin Homes, in diagnosing the problem. "When you have hairdressers that can make $250,000 a year as a Realtor after a year of training you live in a fake economy."

Daniel Golovato, first vice president of Equity Residential, which builds apartments nationwide, predicted the residential market will remain weak until mid-2010.

There are not enough transactions to price assets or determine acceptable returns, he said.

He also said that there is plenty of excess inventory that should be addressed before offering incentives to build more.

One upside to the downturn, according to Michael Schreiter, director of research for San Diego Regional Economic Development Corp., is affordability. Tech companies can compete for talent in lower cost of living areas such as Austin, Texas, and Raleigh, N.C.

In 2005, the median price of a home was 12 times per capita income," he said. "Today, it's seven times," which is closer to the national average.
Local Scene

Local economy declines in November

An index gauging the county's economy fell another 1.9 percent in November as labor, real estate and stock markets continued to deteriorate.

The drop was the second largest ever, compared to the record decline of 2.3 percent in October. The Index of Leading Economic Indicators for San Diego County has now fallen in 31 of the last 32 months.

University of San Diego economics professor Alan Gin, who compiles the report, expects the local unemployment rate to approach — if not exceed — 8 percent in the coming year.

October unemployment was at 6.8 percent, and Gin expects an increase to at least 7 percent in November.

San Diego, which has historically trailed the national unemployment rate, has consistently topped the national average since last year.

"The outlook for the local economy remains grim at this point, at least for the short term," Gin said in Friday's release.

Most of the components of the index are down by more than 1 percent, led by stock prices.

Initial claims of unemployment insurance are up more than 40 percent, while help-wanted advertising has fallen for the last 27 consecutive months.

However, Gin expects the combination of lower gas prices — which slightly boosted consumer confidence — increasing home sales and a federal stimulus package will bring some stability by the second half of 2009. Source Code: 20081219czb
USD's Index of Leading Economic Indicators for San Diego County fell 1.9 percent in November -- the second largest drop ever -- topped only by October's decline of 2.3 percent. Every component was down, and with the exception of the outlook for the national economy, they were all down significantly, as defined by a more than 1 percent change for the month. With November's drop, the USD Index has now fallen in 31 of the last 32 months.

"The outlook for the local economy remains grim, at least for the short term," says Alan Gin, associate professor of economics at USD and author of the Index. "Job growth has become decidedly negative and the local unemployment rate is likely to approach and possibly top 8 percent some time in 2009. A combination of lower gas prices, a pickup in home sales spurred by lower prices and interest rates and a massive federal stimulus package may bring stability to the local economy in the second half of next year. For 2009 as a whole, job growth is expected to be in the -5,000 to zero range. The unemployment rate is expected to average 7.5 percent, with the second half of the year better than the first."

November's decrease puts the USD Index of Leading Economic Indicators for San Diego County at 110.6, down from October's revised reading of 112.7.
The USD Index of Leading Economic Indicators for San Diego County fell 2.3 percent in October. This was the biggest one-month change in the Index in either direction on record. Every component was down significantly during the month, with the biggest damage occurring in local stock prices and initial claims for unemployment insurance. With October’s drop, the USD Index has now fallen in 30 of the last 31 months.

An already difficult situation took a decided turn for the worst with the developments in October. What started as a problem related to real estate spread into the financial system as the viability of some of the county’s biggest financial institutions was called into question. The problems in the housing and financial markets in turn have impacted the rest of the economy, as retail and auto sales have plummeted, which threatens the loss of more jobs and further weakness in the housing and financial markets. This downward spiral is projected to continue through the first half of 2009. The economy is expected to stabilize in the second half of the year due to a combination of lower oil and gas prices, increased home sales and another stimulus package by the federal government. The stimulus package will likely include massive spending on infrastructure and relief to state and local governments among other elements.

October’s decrease puts the USD Index of Leading Economic Indicators for the county at 112.8, down from September’s reading of 115.4.
San Diego Economy Likely to Get Worse

A University of San Diego economist says that as the city's economy tries to bounce back from a flood of foreclosures and the Wall Street meltdown, it could get even worse.

USD economics professor Alan Gin said that for at least the next six months, the economy will most likely get worse.

"Every one of the components in our index was down and most were down significantly," Gin said. These components include local stock prices, building permits, consumer confidence and employment.

"Locally we are down about 15,000 jobs when compared to the same period of time in 2007," Gin said.

Statewide figures released Friday showed California's unemployment rate had risen to 8.4 percent, the highest in 34 years.

However, Gin also pointed to positive signs in the economy, such as gas prices and government bailouts. That federal money, he said, could trickle down to the city and create jobs with infrastructure and energy projects.
SAN DIEGO — With unemployment expected to approach 8 percent, the outlook for San Diego County's economy in the short term remains grim, a University of San Diego economist reported Friday.

The Index of Leading Economic Indicators for San Diego County fell 1.9 percent in November, the second-largest drop ever, according to Alan Gin, who compiles the index for USD's Burnham-Moores Center for Real Estate.

All seven components of Gin's index were down last month.

There were significant declines in building permits, local stock prices, consumer confidence and help-wanted advertising and a more modest drop in the outlook for the national economy, according to the index.

Initial claims for unemployment insurance were also up more than 40 percent in November, compared to the same month last year, according to Gin.

The USD index has fallen in 31 of the past 32 months.

According to Gin's index, job growth has become "decidedly negative," and the unemployment rate in San Diego County is likely to approach — and possibly top -- 8 percent sometime in 2009.

However, a combination of lower gas prices, a rise in home sales spurred by lower prices and interest rates and a proposed massive federal economic stimulus package may bring stability to the local economy in the second half of next year, according to the index.

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Economist: Region took 'turn for the worst' in October

CHRIS BAGLEY
STAFF WRITER

Key measurements showed the region's economy buckling dramatically in October and suggested that the situation will continue to worsen for the next six months, an economist said Tuesday.

The University of San Diego's Index of Leading Economic Indicators fell 2.3 percent in October, the sharpest drop on record. The index is a composite of local consumer confidence, help-wanted advertisements, new unemployment claims, and three other types of economic data.

Share prices of companies listed on an index of San Diego County stocks fell more than 5 percent in October, driving down a sixth component of the index. The five other components also fell, though less dramatically.

"An already difficult situation took a decided turn for the worst," economist Alan Gin, who compiles the index, wrote in an accompanying report.

Gin and most other regional economists have acknowledged that the area's economy has been in recession since summer. Gin's report comes a day after economists declared the U.S. to have been in a recession since December 2007.

A panel of university and other private-sector economists serves as the nation's semi-official arbiter of business cycles. That panel — the Business Cycle Dating Committee — typically calls national recessions and expansions six to 12 months after they begin, based on a number of factors including the numbers of employees on payrolls; total personal and corporate income in a given time period; and gross domestic product, the value of all goods and services sold in a given time period. The panel does not forecast recessions or expansions.

Economists don't measure economic activity in individual regions with the same precision.

Gin said Tuesday that he expects the region's "downward spiral" to continue through June. Lower fuel prices and government spending will probably help the economy to stabilize in the second half of the year and recover in 2010, he said.

San Diego’s Economic Indicators Point to Continuing Recession

San Diego County’s index of leading economic indicators fell sharply in October, offering new evidence that the recession will last through at least the first half of next year.

The index has been on a downhill slide since April 2006. In October, all six of the measures used to judge the health of the local economy were in negative territory:

- Residential building permits dropped as a summertime surge in multi-family units cooled off.
- Help-wanted advertising fell, a sign of slowing employment growth. From October 2007 to October 2008, local employment fell by 22,200 jobs, nearly a 1 percent drop. Nationally, 1.2 million jobs have disappeared so far this year.
- Initial claims for unemployment insurance rose. The net result was that the local unemployment rate surged to 6.8 percent in October, the highest level since July 1995.
- The barrage of bad news on the economy, housing, and the financial markets continues to take a toll on local consumer confidence. "With consumers likely to be cautious in the near term, the Christmas shopping season is projected to be one of the worst in decades," said USD economist Alan Gin, who compiles the index.
- Local stock prices suffered as stocks were battered by concerns about the economy and the health of financial institutions. The tech-laden Nasdaq index, where most local stocks are listed, fell 17 percent during the month amid huge volatility.

The national Index of Leading Economic Indicators has fallen three of the last four months, signaling continued weakness in the months ahead. The preliminary estimate for real growth in the gross domestic product showed that the economy shrank by 0.3 percent in the third quarter, indicating that the economic decline is accelerating.
USD Index Sees Big Decline
San Diego Business Journal Staff

An economic index for San Diego County fell 2.3 percent in October, the largest one-month decline on record, propelled mainly by big drops in the stock prices of local companies and a surge of unemployment insurance claims, according to the report released Dec. 2.

The University of San Diego's Index of Leading Economic Indicators for San Diego County has now dropped for 30 of the last 31 months, with the latest declines showing how widespread the slowdown has become.

"An already difficult situation took a decided turn for the worst with the developments in October," said Alan Gin, the USD economics professor who compiles the data for the index. "What started as a problem related to real estate spread into the financial system as the viability of some of the country's biggest financial institutions was called into question."

Gin said the area's downward spiral is expected to continue through the first half of 2009, but should stabilize in the second half of the year.

Lower gas prices, plus an expected federal stimulus package that includes heavy spending on infrastructure and relief to local governments should steady the downturn, he said.

The October index featured declines by all six components. In addition to stock prices and higher unemployment claims, there were fewer housing permits issued, a drop in the consumer confidence measure, reduced help wanted ads and a decline in the national economic index.

Gin's report stated the national gross domestic product shrank by 0.3 percent in the third quarter, and some 500,000 jobs have been lost in the last two months, bringing the national total of lost jobs for the year to 1.2 million.

— Mike Allen
USD Economic Index Takes Biggest Drop Ever

University of San Diego economist Alan Gin said his index of local economic indicators fell 2.3 percent in October, the biggest one-month change in the index in either direction for his data going back to 1977. He talked about the reasons behind the decline and prospects for the economy in 2009.

Q: What was behind October's big decline?

A: "What started as a problem related to real estate spreads into the financial system as the viability of some of the country's biggest financial institutions was called into question. The problems in the housing and financial markets in turn have impacted the rest of the economy, as retail and auto sales have plummeted which threatens the loss of more jobs and further weakness in the housing and financial markets."

Q: What component of the index do you think is cause for the most concern?

A: "The labor market outlook remains very weak with both initial claims for unemployment insurance and help wanted advertising remaining under pressure. The net result was that the local unemployment rate surged to 6.8 percent in October, the highest level since July 1995."

Q: Looking for a bright spot, the market was in positive territory Tuesday morning after Monday's big sell-off. Do you think that means we might be near a bottom in the stock market?

A: "It's encouraging that we've still off yesterday's bottom but we have a long way to go here. I think we have to throw out all the old rules at this point."

Q: But do you see a recovery, albeit a weak one in 2009 for the local and national economy?

A: "The economy is expected to stabilize in the second half of the year due to a combination of lower oil and gas prices, increased home sales and another stimulus package by the state and federal governments. I think infrastructure spending would help us and any sort of relief to state and local governments would also be a boost, given the problems we are facing in those areas."

San Diego's Index of Economic Indicators had its largest monthly drop since the index began tracking the local economy in 1977. The Index fell 2.3 percent in October, with every sector measured down significantly.

University of San Diego Economist Alan Gin says building permits, consumer confidence, help wanted advertising and the outlook for the national economy all declined. However, he says the huge drop in the value of the stock market showed the biggest decline.

Gin: October was a particularly bad month for the stock market. The Dow Jones Average was down 14 percent during the month and that impacted stocks here in San Diego as well.

Gin says the value of the index has fallen in 30 of the last 31 months. He says the economy is being weighed down by ongoing problems in the real estate and financial systems. Gin says those problems have spilled over into other sectors including, retail and car sales.
Local econ indicators down sharply

The University of San Diego's Index of Leading Economic Indicators for San Diego County fell 2.3 percent in October.

This was the biggest one-month change in the index in either direction on record. Every component was down significantly during the month, with the biggest damage occurring in local home prices and initial claims for unemployment insurance.

With October's drop, the USD Index has now fallen in 30 of the last 31 months. Source Code: 20081202ezb
Dec. 15

'San Diego is now on pace to lose 4,000 to 5,000 jobs this year. This is unique. We rarely get job losses in San Diego.'

— Alan Gin, University of San Diego economics professor.
The Education of Business...
and the Business of Education

"A little learning is a dangerous thing; drink deep, or taste not the Pierian spring."
—Alexander Pope (1688-1744) in An Essay on Criticism (1709)

According to the 19th-century essayist and poet Alexander Pope, while "book smarts" help individuals and companies get ahead, "job smarts" help make the navigation a lot smoother. In San Diego, universities and business leaders have joined forces to create a synergy that helps drive the future of the region. Both the University of San Diego and the University of California, San Diego, interact with local companies in multiple ways, from one-time interactions to student projects and multimillion-dollar partnerships.

According to UCSD's Economic Impact Report, conducted by CBRE Consulting, Inc., San Francisco, faculty and alumni at the university have started 97 active companies locally that generate more than $10 billion in annual sales, of which $5.8 billion comes from Qualcomm, Inc., founded by former UCSD professor Irwin Jacobs. On top of that, companies started by UCSD faculty and alumni inject more than $37 billion annually into the California economy and generate nearly $100,000 jobs. UCSD does not hesitate to tap into
this wealth of knowledge, says director of marketing communications Judy Piercy. Local companies, such as the Carlsbad-based telecommunications firm VisiNet (co-founded by a UCSD alumn) work with the university to increase their innovation and workforce pipeline. Firms partner with the university for a multitude of top-notch reasons to create new discoveries, such as novel cancer therapeutics; to improve operations, including research in manufacturing process and control systems; and to bring new resources to the community, such as sponsoring community sustainability forums and commercialization of projects.

According to Piercy, nearby research institutes, technology companies and biotech firms band together with UCSD to get more bang for their buck. A case in point is the $315 million stem cell lab—the San Diego Consortium for Regenerative Medicine—a collaboration involving UCSD, Burnham Institute for Medical Research, Salk Institute for Biological Studies and the Scripps Research Institute. Consortium members hope that by pooling their strengths they can quickly identify breakthrough drugs based on stem cell research.

UCSD'S BUSINESS ALLIANCES

Teledyne Marine, a group of Teledyne Technologies Incorporated businesses, and the Instrument Development Group of Scripps Institution of Oceanography at UCSD have formed an alliance that will advance the state-of-the-art autonomous underwater glider systems. Under the alliance, Teledyne has licensed hardware and software technology related to the Scripps SFFAT glider and intends to manufacture gliders subject to those licenses.

On the medical front, oncologists at Mount Sinai Cancer Center at UCSD teamed up with Novavax, a biopharmaceutical company based in San Diego, to create a new lung cancer vaccine, Lucanix. The vaccine, which is genetically engineered to trick the cancer into turning off its immune system-suppressing activities, is expected to be tested in a clinical trial involving 700 patients at some 90 centers worldwide.

"There is a constant exchange of ideas and experiences between UCSD and our local technology, biotech and science firms."

—Judy Piercy, director of marketing communications

"There is a constant exchange of ideas and expectations between UCSD and our..."
local technology, biotech and science firms,"

says Petry. "In addition, many of our

region's business and community leaders

are involved with the campus in a variety of

efforts, including participation on advisory

boards and in educational programs, as

guest speakers to give students perspectives

on different career paths, and as mentors

and coaches. Local companies also sponsor-

various entrepreneurial and research

competitions for students."

For instance, Catalyst Law Group, the

Foundation for Enterprise Development,

Mission Ventures and Think Trade

LLC have been sponsors of the UCSD

$50,000 Entrepreneurship Competition.

Teams, which must include at least one

full-time UCSD student (enrolled in a
degree-granting program) or recent UCSD

graduate, create and present business

plans to a panel of judges chosen for

their leadership in the venture capital,

entrepreneurial, scientific and business

school settings. Sixty-eight teams

entered the 2007-2008 competition, with

technology products and services from
green energy to novel diagnostics and

therapeutics.

COMPANY EXEC CONTRIBUTE

At UCSD, San Diego companies and students

work together to create better companies

and stronger leaders. Executives are

recruited to speak in a variety of classes,

including the entrepreneurship class, and

students are given the opportunity to work
closely with top-flight companies.

For instance, eight speakers who are

currently in the work force are recruited to

give lectures in the entrepreneurship class.

"We have serial entrepreneurs giving

real-world experience to the students,"
says dean of business administration

David Pyke.

Executives, retired or still in the work

force, often teach introductory courses at
the school. For instance, Matthew H. Hall, the former corporate senior executive vice president and CFO of McDonald’s Corp., serves as an executive professor in residence.

“What better person to have teach special topics in finance or international economics,” says Pyke, who came to USD in July from Dartmouth University.

Students in the master’s programs work with local companies, such as WD-40 and Gen-Probe, on consulting projects the executives give them. “They wrap themselves around the project,” says Pyke, who holds a doctorate in decision sciences from the Wharton School. “They work on everything from a new product, determining who would be the target audience, to big strategic things, such as how to go more green or how to analyze suppliers if a company moves to India.”

David Pyke, USD dean of business administration and other programs include the Master of Science in executive leadership, a 22-month program developed in conjunction with leadership guru Ken Blanchard, author of The One Minute Manager, and designed to develop and inspire leaders who will transform their organizations and the world.

The master’s in global leadership is a 16-month program designed to develop strong and ethical business leaders, a respect for the key role that culture plays in the economic and political arenas, and best business practices. According to Pyke, 50% of those who attend the program are either currently in the military or are recent ex-military who are making the transition to civilian life.

In addition, adds Pyke, the school is currently researching how it can provide the needed, biotech and health care sectors with the management talent they need.
Partners in Learning

UCSD not only prepares its university students for the business world, it also works with the younger set through the Preuss School, a charter middle and high school dedicated to providing a rigorous college prep education for motivated low-income students who will become the first in their families to graduate from college. Jack in the Box Inc., through the Jack in the Box Foundation, partners with UCSD to provide funds for the Preuss School.

"One of our former foundation board members was on the advisory board for the Preuss School," says Kathy Kovacevic, spokesperson for Jack in the Box. "He fell in love with what they were doing for the kids, and we wanted to help."

The Jack in the Box Foundation provides $50,000 for transportation to the Preuss School and another $50,000 in scholarships. Jack in the Box also participates in two Achievement Scholarships. A 120,000-square-foot campus in Mission Valley in which fifth-grade classes have been integrated really works. Jack in the Box is one of the 19 life-size businesses, a nonprofit organization and a city that all students participate in the nine-week experience.

Every day 150 new students become business owners, make financial decisions, execute philosophies, and pay taxes.

"It's an amazing way for students to learn about business," says Kovacevic.

After time spent in the classroom learning about such principles as economics, good citizenship and money management, students apply for specific jobs, including CEO and CFO. Once they are assigned to a job, students spend time with the other employees in their business to develop their business operating budget, apply for a bank loan, create advertising and develop their marketing strategies.

Then the students come to JA BizTown and become "grown-ups" for one day to put into practice all the principles they have been learning in the classroom. Students work in a life-size interactive city that replicates San Diego. There's even a Jack in the Box.
The 25th annual San Diego County Economic Roundtable — an event focusing on the economy, global markets, employment and real estate — will be held Jan. 16 from 8:30 to noon at the San B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice at USD. Registration and a continental breakfast is at 8 a.m. Attendance is free. Reservations should be made by calling (619) 531-5413 or by visiting www.sdcou1ty.ca.gov.

The roundtable is sponsored by the county of San Diego, San Diego Workforce Partnership, USD School of Business Administration and Qualcomm Inc. Presenters will include Jeff Olson, chief of assessment services for the county; Barbara Brown-Hahn, president of Pacific Southwest Association of Realtors; Marney Cox, chief economist for Sandag; Bill McClelland, v.p. of international human resources for Qualcomm; Ryan Ratcliff, assistant professor of economics at USD; and Howard Roth, chief economist for the California Department of Finance.
ECONOMIC ROUNDTABLE

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George Chamberlin's Money in the Morning

The same fears were repeatedly expressed at the real estate conference sponsored by the USD Burnham-Moores Center for Real Estate. Speaker after speaker presented a bleak picture for the markets in 2009. There was one exception, however. LaVaughn Henry of the PMI Group ended his presentation by saying that, "More millionaires will be created in the next five years than any other time."
On the Agenda

SAN DIEGO - Experts continue to peer into their crystal balls this week, sites in on panels for conferences and forums that look to the future. As expected, real estate and construction top the agenda, with the University of San Diego's Burnham-Moores Center for Real Estate focusing on local and regional markets at its upcoming conference on Tuesday.

The San Diego Software Industry Council features a Tuesday panel presentation and discussion on "Lean-Agile." To register, visit sdsic.org.

San Diego Meeting Professionals International closes out the year with its "Season of Rock" holiday gala on Tuesday, including dinner, entertainment, and silent and live auction from 5:30-10 p.m. To register, visit admosa.org.

Women's Global Network prepares a delectable menu for its holiday tea on Tuesday from 5-8 p.m. Attendees will enjoy a selection of sandwiches, scones and desserts.

The Center for Business Intelligence holds its second annual West Coast management forum on Monday through Tuesday. The educational conference seeks to provide resources and advice for medical device and biopharmaceutical professionals. For more information, visit bomo.com and click on "Medical Device" under "Conferences."

The San Diego Military Advisory Council honors community organizations for their military support. Awards on Tuesday, 5:30-9:30 p.m. at the Qube. For more information, call 619-696-2131 or visit sdmilitaryadvisory.org.

The San Diego Women's Network presents a Tuesday forum, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. An expert from Smith Barney will conduct the seminar. Early bird is registered. Visit sdnwn.org.

The San Diego Better Business Bureau holds its second annual Accredited Business Awards on Tuesday, 5-7:30 p.m. To register, visit sdbbb.org.

The Pacific Safety Council hosts its annual Business Meeting on Tuesday, 7:30-9:30 a.m. Network with the new board of directors, members and staff. For more information, visit safetycouncilsan Diego.org and look under "Upcoming Events."

The San Diego World Trade Center hosts its annual Business Meeting on Thursday, 7:30-9:30 a.m. English workshops are also available at other branches.

The San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce sponsors a policy forum on Thursday, 9 a.m. to noon at Cal State San Marcos. Discussion will cover the international trade and employment relationship. For more information, visit sdchamber.org.

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The Burnham-Moores Center for Real Estate is offering a course that will provide a comprehensive understanding of the benefits and complexities of urban infill development.

- Thursdays, Jan. 8 - Jan. 29, 6 to 9 p.m.
- University of San Diego, Douglas F. Manchester Executive Conference Center, 5998 Alcala Park, in San Diego
- Cost: $450
- Visit www.sandiego.edu/landuse
USU URBAN DEVELOPMENT CERTIFICATE

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- 7:30 to 11:15 a.m.
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The Hahn University Center, 5998 Alcala Park,
in San Diego
- Cost: $50 per person
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TUESDAY DECEMBER 9
USD RESIDENTIAL OUTLOOK

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OTHER EVENTS

TUESDAY, DEC 9 - CONFERENCES

RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE CONFERENCE

This half-day conference will feature vendors, developers, publishers and other real estate professionals who will address the opportunities and challenges in the local and regional real estate markets. Organization: Burnham-Moores Center for Real Estate USD. Information: Jodi Waterhouse 619-260-4231 Cost: $50.00 When: Hours: 7:30 AM - 11:15 AM Where: University of San Diego, Hahn University Center Faculty Forums A & B, San Diego
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 129.4 in November 2007.
The monthly changes in leading indicators (initial claims for unemployment insurance, local stock prices, outlook for national economy, consumer confidence, building permits, 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 131.7 in October 2007.
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 133.5 in September 2007.
My View: GOP must renew its conservative principles

By Robert Fellmeth
Special to The Bee
Published: Wednesday, Dec. 24, 2008 | Page 17A

Early in the last century, a group in Los Angeles, influenced by their Republican Party's ideas, their faith, their desire for clean government, and by the thinking of Teddy Roosevelt and Bob La Follette, started the Lincoln-Roosevelt League.

Their mission: Take back the Republican Party from the Southern Pacific Railroad and its allies. They organized on a grass-roots level, first changing Los Angeles and its charter. In 1910, they took the state, electing Hiram Johnson as their governor.

They ended California's status as a backward banana republic and ushered in the greatest reform era the state has ever known. Almost exactly a century later, the future of the state will be determined by whether the Republican Party can once more change from within.

I have been a registered Republican for many decades. That allegiance carries with it a certain quintessentially American skepticism about government as the prime repository of progress. My party's stalwarts prefer self-regulating market solutions. If the prerequisites for such a market exist, let its consumer-driven democracy function.

And my party has insisted on private responsibility. We do not reflexively oppose all government; we are just from Missouri, the "show me" state. If government top-down regulation and cross-subsidies from others are imposed, justify them. But outside of these welcome parameters, our Republican legislators now function in a world of delusion. They have elevated anti-state and anti-tax rhetoric into a shibboleth of mindless obeisance.

Their responsibility to deal in reality is magnified by the antidemocratic budget structure that gives them power far beyond American principle. California is one of just three states that require a two-thirds vote for budgetary approval. Add to that a Republican caucus that commits all to a majority decision, and 17 percent of the Legislature (from gerrymandered districts concentrating the maximum number of conservative voters) can determine public spending, or disinvestment.

Currently, every Republican legislator defies our party's leader and succumbs to the majority of their minority, a fidelity to group-think inconsistent with real conservative values of individualism and conscience.

Another irony underlies the values-defining budget debate. The 2001 and 2003 Bush tax cuts saved California taxpayers (the relatively wealthy among us) an average of $37 billion per year every year to at least 2011. The governor, to his credit, in late 2008 proposed $13 billion in new revenue - more than have the Democrats. But legislative Republicans propose zero, except for a raid on funds committed to other purposes.

The payment of current obligations to children requires revenues. How is the just-proposed Republican $10 billion-plus cut in public education consistent with conservative commitment to future child investment? Given California's extraordinary relative wealth, how does the foreclosure on education required for jobs in the "flat world" comport with precepts of California competitiveness, or of patriotism?

For 2008, we enacted a late and dishonest budget. It is now exposed as $40 billion or more short over the next 18 months. Basic state infrastructure work is now halted. We associate opposition to terrorism with patriotism. How high in our priority list is the betrayal of the opportunities our parents provided for us? Why is that not an act of patriotic failure?

The current political mantra of "no taxes" will change as more and more members of my party appreciate continued amnesia about the $37 billion in annual federal tax savings - one-third of which could be expended at state and local

http://www.sacbee.com/opinion/story/1495919.html
My View: GOP must renew its conservative principles

Sacramento Opinion

levels to resolve our shortfall with reasonable spending cuts, consistent with true Republican principles of federalism.

An unanticipated political outrage is building quietly within our party to move toward primary challenges, more competitive redistricting and even electoral recalls.

California needs the Republican Party of Reagan and Wilson to resurge. When confronting a similar deficit in 1991, Gov. Wilson agreed to resolve the shortfall using 50 percent cuts and 50 percent new revenue. The Republican governor - finally - is similarly inclined. The extremism of the Republicans in the Legislature in defense of child disinvestment (against the state and public revenue) lacks perspective on the future and is devoid of the important empathy with our youth that we rightly require of our leaders.

Ironically, they now behave similarly to adolescents in their mutual reinforcement of common recalcitrance. As with teenagers, they are preoccupied with symbols and are subject to the overweening influence of their narrow group. Although legislative Republicans do not wear goth makeup or drop their pants close to their knees, they are in the same social vortex as the high school cliques we all remember.

For California to work again, we need the return of a principled, far-sighted and fact-consequences-based Republican Party.

Robert C. Fellmeth is the Price Professor of Public Interest Law at the University of San Diego School of Law, director of the Children's Advocacy Institute and a longstanding registered Republican. Reach him at cpill@sandiego.edu.

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Comments: 26 Showing: Newest first

fstoph wrote on 12/25/2008 10:53:32 AM:

Three groups spend other people's money: children, thieves, politicians. All three need supervision. The cliche about truth being the first casualty of war is seen daily in Sacramento by state leaders in the brutal battle over the 2008-09 budget. It is impossible to tax ourselves into prosperity. Churchill said it's like a man standing in a bucket and trying to lift himself up by the
Targeting the Wasteful, Activists Seek End to California's Waste Board

By JIM CARLTON

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has repeatedly scolded state legislators for not doing enough to resolve California's budget deficit, which now stands at nearly $15 billion and which he said could balloon to more than $40 billion over the next two years.

Yet activists say the governor and other lawmakers continue to practice patronage politics that keeps questionable spending on the books. A prime example, they say, is the California Integrated Waste Management Board.

Last month, the Republican governor appointed former state Sen. Carole Migden to a $132,000-a-year seat on the waste-management board, an obscure panel that many critics say serves chiefly as a landing spot for out-of-work politicians. Ms. Migden, a Democrat, was trounced in her bid for re-election following a series of scandals including being fined $350,000 for state campaign-finance violations.

Mr. Schwarzenegger nearly three years ago appointed his former director of scheduling, Margo Reid Brown, to the board, which she now heads.

Leaders of the Democrat-controlled Assembly and Senate appointed two other former state legislators to the waste board last month after they were forced out of office by term limits. The governor gets to appoint the four other members of the six-person board.

"It's become a senior-fellow program for favored legislators," said Jamie Court, president of Consumer Watchdog, a public-advocacy group based in Santa Monica.

One main function of the waste board is to oversee California's trash disposal, including approving permits to open or expand a municipal dump. But some groups say its duties could easily be folded into the California Environmental Protection Agency.

Jon Myers, a spokesman for the waste board -- who said he would have to speak on behalf of Ms. Migden, Ms. Brown and the two other newest board appointees, former state Sen. Sheila Kuehl and former Assemblyman John Laird -- disagreed that the job is redundant. He also said the board members themselves do a lot of work.

Lisa Page, a spokeswoman for Mr. Schwarzenegger, said the governor agrees the waste board is a waste -- even though he has appointed members to allow for a quorum to conduct business. "He agrees with those who have said this board
should be eliminated, and will propose this again in his January budget," Ms. Page said.

The waste board is one of dozens of boards and commissions in California that consumer advocates say should be abolished because they serve no vital purpose. There are boards for barbers, landscape architects, court reporters and auto dealers. Advocacy groups managed to get rid of one for dry cleaners, and stopped the legislature from setting up ones that would have overseen aerobics instructors and astrologers.

Most board members are paid a per diem fee that often doesn't exceed $1,000 a year, and the boards' budgets are relatively small. The waste board's budget of $200 million, for example, pales next to California's overall general-fund budget of $104.3 billion.

Critics of the boards -- mainly consumer groups and many Republican lawmakers, who say they squander tax money -- say the spending looks bad when lawmakers are taking the ax to budgets of social-safety-net programs and other services. They also say the boards add a layer of bureaucracy to doing business.

"The savings from abolishing a lot of these boards would be an easier entry to business and cheaper prices for goods and services," says Bob Fellmeth, director of the Center for Public Interest Law, a consumer-advocacy group based at the University of San Diego School of Law.

In 2004, Mr. Schwarzenegger recommended killing off 88 boards and commissions -- including the waste board -- after ordering a review that found most redundant with other state and local bodies or simply not needed. But he withdrew the proposal after fierce criticism from legislators and public-interest groups.

In the waste board's case, there has been widespread agreement that it should go. According to the California Performance Review the governor ordered, one of the board's chief functions -- acting as final authority on solid-waste permits -- is adequately handled through a thorough vetting by local agencies.

Some lawmakers, including several Democratic leaders, defend the board, as do groups that work to ensure public access to and oversight of government workings. The waste board's Mr. Myers said board members play a key oversight role, meet as many as four times a month and often inspect facilities whose permits they are considering.

Mr. Myers added that the board helps set the tone for what he called California's national leadership in recycling.

Write to Jim Carlton at jim.carlton@wsj.com
Wall Street

First, Fire the Regulators

by Jesse Eisinger | Sam Archive

The Obama administration needs to blow up the regulatory system and start from scratch. For the first time in decades, this may actually happen.

In the aftermath of the stock market crash of 1987, reformers moved to remake America’s regulatory structure. Some experts proposed tinkering with the oversight agencies, merging the Securities and Exchange Commission with the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, for instance. Others recommended regulating derivatives, which were in their infancy. George Soros, not yet the bête noire of right-wingers, took to the editorial page of the Wall Street Journal to warn that nobody was thinking big enough: “The longer markets function without supervision explicitly aimed at maintaining stability, the greater the danger of an accident like October 19, 1987.”

Anyone remember the landmark 1987 Securities Act? It never materialized. And did anything happen in 1998, after Long-Term Capital Management nearly went under and a similar dance took place? Many of the same players strutted on the same stage, and Soros again predicted that without sweeping international regulatory reform, we risked “the breakdown of the gigantic circulatory system which goes under the name of global capitalism.” Again, no ’98 Securities Act—perhaps not surprising, given that what followed was a market recovery that we now know was a massive equity bubble. (View a graphic showing how investment vehicles escaped current regulatory measures.)

In our current financial mess, hardly a day goes by without another hearing on the failures of the U.S. regulatory system or speech on regulatory affairs. In November, Henry Waxman, chairman of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, hauled five of the most influential hedge fund managers before the committee and extracted pronouncements from each of them—some less full-throated than others—that the markets, including hedge funds, needed more regulation. Once again, there was George Soros, as right as ever, leading the Regulatory Light Brigade.

This time, the calamity in the markets is more devastating than any of the previous crises since the Great Depression. Luckily, it’s looking like history won’t repeat itself. One of the enduring legacies of this economic collapse will be that the government finally had to embark on a wholesale financial rethinking. Right now, finding a way to end the crisis and reinvigorate the economy is the most pressing issue. But in a few months, after the Obama administration settles in—assuming we aren’t all eating cat food under a bridge—we are going to have the debate we need about how to rebuild the regulatory system.
The pressure to put off this debate will be enormous. The financial industry is bound to resist. But Wall Street is at its weakest point in decades; the new administration has to strike while the public temper is at its hottest.

"Investors have lost confidence in everything: the regulators, the system, the oversight of Congress, the fairness of our markets," says Arthur Levitt, a former S.E.C. chairman. "How do you restore it?"

One hopeful sign is that President Obama has given the matter significant thought. In a campaign speech in March, he talked about regulating the derivatives markets and raising the capital standards for banks. If that speech becomes the template for reform, it's a promising start. It's also promising that Gary Gensler was named co-head of Obama's search team for a new S.E.C. leader. Gensler has been a prescient critic of excesses at Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac (which were not remotely the cause of the crisis but were inarguably pockets of systemic risk).

First, regulators need to change their ninnyish attitudes. They have gone about their jobs in the past decade like hall monitors at the prom, deeply afraid of being ostracized. They need to bring some mettle to their roles. The challenge is to remake the system so that it's up to the task of preventing, or at least minimizing, the next global meltdown. Alter the structure all you want, but unless you have the right regulatory attitude, it'll be for naught.

This is not a moment to think small. First, we raze the S.E.C. and the C.F.T.C., along with most, if not all, of the federal banking and state insurance regulatory structure. We should strip the Federal Reserve of its responsibility for regulating banks; it's enough to oversee the economy. And just as everyone was trying to express how bumbling and irrelevant the S.E.C.'s enforcement approach has been, the agency provided perfect examples.

In mid-November, headlines blared that the S.E.C. had charged Mark Cuban, the billionaire owner of the Dallas Mavericks and a frequent blogger, with insider trading. Did he gain secret knowledge of the failure of A.I.G. and sell his stake? Had he done something untoward with regard to Lehman Brothers? No. Four and a half years ago, Cuban sold stock in a company called Mamma.com based on inside information, according to the S.E.C., and thereby avoided $750,000 in losses. Today, Copernic, Mamma.com's successor, sports a market value of less than $3 million. Cuban may well be guilty. But who cares? It's as if Homeland Security had a ceremony in 2008 to announce that it had erected a gold-plated bollard at ground zero. And come December, it became clear that the S.E.C. had shockingly botched multiple chances to send confessed Ponzi schemer Bernie Madoff.

Before the economic crisis became acute, Treasury Secretary Hank Paulson put forward his plan to remake the regulatory system. Like most of Paulson's initiatives, it was inadequately explained and poorly sold. And the motivation was exactly wrong, born of a fear of regulation that looks ridiculous today. It died on arrival, as it should have.

But surprisingly enough, given the dubious way it began, a Paulson-like framework is a good place to start. It was influenced by what is known in regulatory circles as the Twin Peaks approach, used in Australia and the Netherlands. The idea is to create two financial regulators that are given separate responsibilities not based on financial firms' lines of business. Currently, we have separate regulators for securities, futures, banks, and insurance. That antiquated division of labor needs to be scrapped. Under a Twin Peaks structure, one agency would focus on the safety and soundness of financial institutions; the strength of their balance sheets, whom they trade with, and how strong their risk controls are. An agency with this structure would remedy one of the glaring limitations of the S.E.C.—that it has too many lawyers and too few market experts.

The second peak will be more familiar. It would focus on business conduct and investor protection, otherwise known as lying, cheating, inadequate disclosure, and manipulation. This would encompass much of what the S.E.C. is currently supposed to be doing. It would go after big targets and not monkey around with dinky companies and small-time insider-trading issues.

The Twin Peaks model has good-cop, bad-cop appeal. The safety-and-soundness regulator can work with firms to make sure they are solid or else the enforcer will come in. And we should consider a third peak as
well: one with responsibility for surveying systemic risk. It would monitor the safety and soundness of the entire financial system, rather than assess it on a company-by-company basis.

One debate—sometimes drawn as a Europe-vs.-U.S. argument—is about whether we should reorder regulation based on broad "principles" rather than strict "rules." This is a red herring, despite the energy expended on it. Rules come from principles, after all. Whatever we have, it needs to be enforced.

In remaking the regulatory architecture, we will need to update the regulatory mandate to deal with 21st-century financial products. Accounting rules should be tightened to prevent anything from being moved off the balance sheet unless there is a true sale of the assets. No entity or instrument should be untouched by some form of regulation.

Regulators need to monitor positions taken by banks, other financial institutions, and major investors, including hedge funds. To its credit, the S.E.C. did attempt in recent years a modest hedge fund registration requirement. The courts struck it down. Congress will have to expand the regulatory mandate to include private investment partnerships, or at least those of a certain size.

Clearly, the regulators will need new powers. We must insist on higher capital requirements for all financial institutions. Given the disastrous incompetence of the rating agencies, Congress will have to undertake the enormous task of decoupling our regulatory framework from its dependence on ratings. Right now, ratings are written into the fabric of thousands of laws and regulations. Instead, market prices should be used.

There is wide consensus, as there should be, that derivatives will be brought under the umbrella. In the 1990s, the definitive fight was over the regulation of derivatives. Brooksley Born, then the head of the C.F.T.C., pushed to regulate them. Alan Greenspan, Robert Rubin, and Lawrence Summers fought her. She was right. It's encouraging that people like former S.E.C. commissioner Levitt, who sided with the crowd that argued that regulation would plunge the market into legal chaos, are now having second thoughts. Let's hope the same is true for Summers, who is now in Obama's inner circle. "I have regrets that I didn't use that as an opportunity to say, 'Wait a second, maybe it will create uncertainty, but what about going forward? And what about mandating a clearinghouse?'" Levitt says. "I could have and should have, and I regret not doing it."

Other problems are thornier. Can we do something about outrageous compensation for executives and Wall Street? Can we prevent institutions from becoming too big to fail or, worse, too interconnected to fail? Right now, unfortunately, regulators are encouraging mergers, giving us a land of one-eyed institutions buying blind ones. They have to be followed by a complete re-thinking of our capital requirements. Stronger capital requirements might help with excessive bonuses too. They will make financial firms more stable, less profitable, and therefore more parsimonious with their own employees in order to leave more for shareholders.

But a revitalized regulatory sector won't be enough. We need more dissidents. We need to make the world a safer place for short-sellers to criticize companies. Regulators should publicly praise short-sellers, rather than periodically ban their activities. Critics and whistleblowers, no matter how self-motivated, should be regularly consulted about suspicious companies, not dismissed as cranks once they expose wrongdoing.

And then we need to bring back plaintiffs' lawyers. In the past decade and a half, Republicans not only weakened regulation but also led an attack on these lawyers. Corporate America hated them—and why not? They look like parasites, ready to pounce on every corporate mistake. But they are vital to keeping capital markets functioning because they keep boardrooms scared. Frank Partnoy, University of San Diego law professor and prescient critic of the fragile financial markets, says that "it's crucial that standards not stand alone and they be enforced with real teeth. We need public enforcement and private litigation."

The current catastrophe presents us with an opportunity. But the Obama administration and a Barney Frank-led congressional effort have to be aggressive and ambitious. Reforms can always be scaled back if they overshoot the mark. But the reform-minded cannot enter the debate in a defensive crouch. As new chief of staff Rahm Emanuel says, Don't let a crisis go to waste.

Privacy Policy.
Securities Firms Claw Back at Failed Bets

By SCOTT PATTERSON

Beware of the clawback.

As securities firms rein in risk-taking that ran amok when times were good, the use of clawback provisions is spreading, with Morgan Stanley and UBS AG rolling out rules that allow them to take back money paid to traders and other employees whose bets blow up later.

But the push to clean up an old problem on Wall Street may create some new ones. By giving workers little power to reclaim bonuses and other compensation, firms might unintentionally make traders too skittish about taking even healthy risks, or nudging some of the best talent out the door or encouraging employees to conceal their losses, some observers warn.

Penalty Kicker

New clawback provisions could result in these unintended consequences:

- Traders try to hide losses
- Risk-taking reined in too much
- Traders defect to firms without clawbacks

The clawback "has far too long a memory and makes your most successful traders the most risk-averse," added Aaron Brown, a hedge-fund manager who used to work at Morgan Stanley.

Clawbacks are more common among private-equity firms and hedge funds, essentially giving the employer an insurance policy in case trades or deals come back to haunt the firm. In a memo Monday, Morgan Stanley Chairman and Chief Executive John Mack announced that an unspecified portion of year-end bonuses for eligible employees will be "subject to a clawback provision that could be triggered if the individual engages in conduct detrimental" to the Wall Street company.

Grounds for invoking the provision include "the need for a restatement of results, a significant financial loss or other reputational harm to the Firm or one of its businesses," the memo said. Morgan Stanley's rule applies to 2008 bonuses and cash payouts vesting over a three-year period. The roughly 7,000 employees covered by the policy range from top brass to midlevel managers.

"We're making what we see as a good-faith effort to more closely tie employee compensation to longer-term performance," said Morgan Stanley spokesman Mark Lake.

UBS, which announced its clawback provision in November, will hold about two-thirds or eligible cash bonuses for one year. UBS's policy also allows the bank to reduce the number of shares it awards to eligible employees.

At the end of a three-year period beginning in 2009, UBS could reduce the bonuses it pays out if an employee has performed poorly, according to the bank's guidelines. UBS's overall profitability.

UBS acknowledged that its clawback rule could cut into short-term profits if employees become too risk-averse. Overall, though, the policy is expected to result in more consistent and less volatile long-term gains. Reginald Cash, head of U.S. investor relations at UBS, said the provision could create "some limit to chasing the last dollar on any given strategy."

Officials at UBS and Morgan Stanley expect clawback provisions to continue spreading to other Wall Street firms, lessening the likelihood that employees will leave for firms where their pay isn't at risk.

Goldman Sachs Group Inc. said it has no plans to alter its compensation structure. While Goldman awards employees stock-based bonuses that vest over time and can be reduced at the firm's discretion, cash bonuses aren't subject to any clawback policies. Goldman said such rules...
Can Reparations-for-All Replace the Failed Bailout?

By Chris Stevenson

click here for related stories: economy
12-27-08, 9:29 am

In the final act, setting the stage for the Federal Reserve, J.P. Morgan and his associates crashed the stock market in 1907 then offered to prop up the American economy with money he created out of nothing with the blessing of congress.

Corporate welfare, corporate communism, call it what you want, let's not make a deal. Let's indict. The cancers that have led to today's recession were caused by bad regulators and the short-sightedness of Congress who enabled them. And some of those cancers have crossed party lines.

On 12/18 President-elect Obama blamed regulators for the nation's financial troubles saying, "If it were me, I would have dropped the ball" and they were "asleep at the switch." This is one of the few times regulators were singled out, a 10/26 60 Minutes segment noted that the latest downfall of Wall Street was caused by side bets. Also known as credit derivatives or credit default swaps (CDS) and this is a bookie's market for mortgage money. These side bets were based on the performance of US mortgage markets. The segment compared this to a football bet where people have put money on an outcome without directly participating or managing the team to the victory.

The only real problem was the nature of the side bets. 60 Minutes interviewed Frank Partnoy, a University of San Diego law professor who stated the bets were based whether or not people would default on their mortgages. "This is the bet that blew up Wall Street." It goes even deeper than that 60 Minutes reveals, it was Lehman Brothers, Bear Stearns, and American International Group (AIG) who were the most to blame. They made more bets than they could afford to pay off. It was the show's revelation of the Commodity and Futures Act of 2000; the bill was sponsored by then-President Bill Clinton, encouraged by then-Federal Reserve Board Chair Alan Greenspan and passed by the 106th Congress and signed by Clinton almost exactly eighty years ago to the day of you're reading this (12/21/08).

Additional resources:
12-25-08, 12:50 pm
Podcast #89 - Auto Bailout: Why and What's the Reason for It

It's the desire of government to care of their corporate partners, the auto industry is seen as too much of a blue collar industry because of the direct employment and transportation they supply to white working class and minority consumers. Regardless of the political implications one well-known Buffalo broadcaster recently aired the best spread-the-wealth idea that would make both the auto industry and corporate America recover in record time while saving the government hundreds of billions in the process. Consider it reparations for everyone, but it's a can't miss.

An on-air commentary by Patrick Freeman on local Public Access and YouTube on 12/6 needs to be heard nationally:

700 billion dollars now went to companies on Wall Street. Companies that are part of mainstream corporate America...if there was such an economic crisis in this country of more than 300 million people, if you were to give each person in America one million dollars, pay off all their debts, they're house, credit cards, everything, and give them the balances of that money and tell them they could use it any way they wanted to, don't you think they'd be jump and said: "This is ridiculous! I am not for or any way continuing to finance private entities with taxpayer money...the benefit is going to corporate America who has had no regulations put on it for 40 years!"

This ultimate economic stimulus would concurrently benefit America on so many different levels. A one-time distribution to adults 18 and over would bring us out of recession very quickly.

Chris Stevenson is a columnist for the Buffalo Challenger. Contact him at pointblankr@yahoo.com.

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Claw-back provisions become more popular - Related Stories - SIFMA Global SmartBrief

Securities firms are increasingly using claw-back provisions as they curb risk. Morgan Stanley and UBS introduced policies that allow them to reclaim money they paid to employees if their bets should blow up. The push to dampen risk could create issues, such as making traders too cautious or encourage them to hide losses. "It would be hard for traders to hide losses for more than a year or two, but if we incentivise them to do so, they will find a way," said Frank Partnoy, a University of San Diego law professor.

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Legal ethics: San Diego’s Christmas present

"No laughter allowed!" is the first principle of petty tyrants. Thus it was with Michael Aguirre, San Diego’s infamous former city attorney. His cult of personality, now partially defunct, continues in the minds of those attorneys unfortunate enough to be wrapped into the vortex which was his administration.

The distortion of ethical principles and astonishing abuses by an attorney carried out by Aguirre and his minions should never be tolerated by the California State Bar. The aftermath of his two legal philosophy requires repair of the office, retraining of the attorneys and staff, and an utter recommitment to the ethical practice of law.

A first step in that regard took place on Dec. 13, at the University of San Diego Law School. An all day course was provided by ethics law professor David McGowan, County Counsel John Sansone, 4th District Court of Appeal Justice Richard Huffman and a number of widely respected experts in municipal law and ethics. It was the beginning of a healing process, much akin to therapy for post-traumatic stress syndrome victims suffering from the Stockholm syndrome.

It was clear from the responses to a number of the questions that many in the course had become genuinely confused regarding their duties as professionals serving the legal needs of the client — the city of San Diego. So long had they suffered under the nonsense propaganda of Mike Aguirre, fearful for their livelihoods and oppressed by his internal "secret police" operation, that much of what they heard from objective experts seemed a bit perplexing.

For me, the single most gratifying experience was hearing widespread laughter and open discussion among more than 100 class members after they were provided a set of hypothetical facts. The class, in response to a posted factual scenario depicting major ethical lapses, spontaneously burst into laughter upon realizing it was Mike Aguirre’s regular behavior.

Now they could talk about his misconduct freely and discuss among themselves without fear of reprisal. They could confront directly the kind of massive misconduct they had witnessed and set it straight in their minds for what it was and is — a breach of public trust and abandonment of professional duties, both tolerated too long.

Only a few weeks before, on the eve of the election, such an exercise would have resulted in wholesale firing, reprisals and a wave of paranoia the likes of which should never exist in the modern workplace.

Nearly a year ago, I observed Mr. Aguirre teaching a Minimum Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) course under the auspices of the San Diego County Bar Association. It was a travesty! From the fees in attendance and information obtained later, it became clear that for a major portion of his office, attendance was recommended — wink, wink! Aguirre expressed genuine delight at so many familiar faces appearing at a course taught by him. His minions beckoned and the staff dutifully appeared.

I attended the course, but refused on principle to take the unit of credit. I knew, and those who attended should have known, that a discussion of the actions and role of the “independent city attorney” as that concept has been bastardized by Aguirre, was no proper subject for MCLE credit. A course on how to play Internet poker would have provided more legal analysis.

As the dust settles on the aftermath of Mike Aguirre’s destruction of innocent lives, Dan Goldsmith has taken a first few steps to repair and rebuild. The recent USD ethics course was a refreshing change.

The press, except for this commentator and a Kpbs reporter, was absent despite invitations. When the destruction was under way, lives were being destroyed and reputations trampled, news organizations tumbled one over the next to imply that the victims were "dead wood," urging Aguirre on to greater destructive heights. Now that the healing has begun, all eyes are tempered.

Let us hope that the lesson taught the public through Goldsmith’s well publicized abuses and exploits can be properly countered by a well publicized, articulate and forceful punishment for those involved. The State has the votes of the city of San Diego and the people of California the attention required by this situation.

Aguirre, and those who aided and abetted him, should pay a price for abandoning their duties.

The healing process has only begun. As I looked around the room during the ethics training, I saw faces I recognized as those involved in supporting the faux “police state” mentality which struck fear in almost all members of the city attorney’s office.

Goldsmith has sent a message by beginning with ethics training. That message should not be defeated by maintaining within the office of the city attorney those who perpetrated and assisted in its degradation.

Coffee is an attorney based in San Diego. He can be reached at daniel.coffey@sddt.com.

Commentary may be published as Letters to the Editor.
San Diego City Attorney's Office Takes Ethics Training

Dec 15, 2008
Katie Orr

Lawyers with the San Diego city attorney's office get a refresher course in ethics over the weekend. KPBS reporter Katie Orr has more.

The lawyers spent Saturday in an ethics seminar at the University of San Diego. One topic of discussion, exactly who is the client they serve. New City Attorney Jan Goldsmith says there's a clear answer.

Goldsmith: We are accountable to the public, because, they vote me in, they can vote me out. I must be accountable to them on my, the way I do business, and our attorneys are accountable. But we're hired to represent the city. I've been saying that for a year. I do understand that basic legal principle. It is, it is not unclear, it is very clear.

Goldsmith says he wanted to emphasize to his staff the legal side of the office, rather than the political side. He says lawyers should always have ethics in the back of their minds. Goldsmith says his office will follow up the seminar by creating internal policies to implement what his staff learned.

Katie Orr, KPBS News.
Law schools think long range when evaluating curriculum

By DOUG SHERWIN
The Daily Transcript

SAN DIEGO — Law schools are now focusing more on the training of practical skills as firms increasingly expect new associates to contribute right away, according to local legal educators.

"Students want to be able to hit the ground running," said Eric Mitnick, associate dean for academic affairs at Thomas Jefferson School of Law. "Clients are no longer willing to pay for the training of lawyers."

"Especially in more medium and larger firms, there was an understanding that first or second-year lawyers would be trained on the job and clients would be willing to pay for that training. I think with budgets tightening up everywhere, clients are less willing to pay for that apprenticeship," Mitnick said.

Mitnick said the number of skills-based courses has increased 10 fold in the past decade.

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Courses can include those that focus on the trial practice, appellate advocacy, client interviewing and negotiations.

This year, California Western School of Law added an innovative two-semester program called Skills Training for Ethical and Preventive Practice and career Satisfaction, or STEPPS.

The program is designed to help

See Law schools on 12A

Law schools

Continued from Page 1A

students learn professional responsibility, problem solving, legal research and writing, and alternative dispute resolution techniques.

The courses immerse students in real world situations.

"We do see legal education moving in the direction of more skilled-based training," said William Aceves, associate dean for academic affairs at California Western. "ST EPP is really at the forefront of recognizing the value of that methodology."

Mary Jo Wiggins, associate dean at the University of San Diego School of Law, said the school has always been focused on improving clinical offerings and practical training.

Within the last year, USD has added a state and local tax clinic and a landlord-tenant clinic.

These programs allow students to get more hands-on experience.

"We, as a faculty, have not traditionally added courses in response to any one specific event or trend," Wiggins said, "because trends come and go, and we're very wary of latching onto the hottest thing and then finding out it's not so hot anymore."

None of the three local law schools have made a significant change to its curriculum. They're all interested in long-term planning, and the traditional courses are still relevant.

Wiggins said the USD law school is halfway through an extensive review of its current curriculum, in which it's seeking input from faculty.

USD administrators also have an ongoing dialogue with attorneys in the legal community.

One of the comments they hear, Wiggins said, is that law firms think students need more training in legal writing and legal research.

While lacking any major changes, each of the law schools has been tailoring its curriculum to fit students' requests.

Thomas Jefferson added a course in wildlife law last fall and will be adding an animal law course in the spring. Twenty-three students are already enrolled in the class.

Wiggins said USD has been enhancing its offerings in intellectual property and patent law and corporate and business law.

California Western's Aceves has seen an increased interest in immigration and intellectual property law as well.

The school also has expanded its health law area. California Western now offers a dual degree with the University of California, San Diego that's a master's in advanced studies in health law.

doug.sherwin@addt.com

Source Code: 20081211b
Many California health workers not checked for criminal pasts

The Department of Consumer Affairs estimates that nearly a third of the state's 937,100 licensed healthcare workers have not been screened through fingerprinting.

By Charles Ornstein and Tracy Weber

December 30, 2008

California's failure to check the criminal backgrounds of health professionals extends well beyond nurses, encompassing tens of thousands of doctors, dentists, psychologists, technicians and therapists.

The Times reported this fall that regulators had vetted about 195,000 of the state's registered and vocational nurses, exposing patients to caregivers with histories of violence, addiction, predatory behavior or corruption.

Prompted by those articles, the state Department of Consumer Affairs has identified the same professionals from all levels of medical care to add to that tally. All told, the agency now estimates that close to a third of the state's 937,100 licensed workers have not been screened through fingerprint checks.

Licensing boards maintain inconsistent rules about who must be fingerprinted. But fingerprints are the primary tool that regulators can use to root out convictions and allow law enforcement agencies to automatically alert regulators if a licensee has ever been arrested.

Those who have not been fingerprinted include almost three-quarters of ophthalmic technicians, nearly half of family therapists, social workers and dentists; and 12% of physicians.

"We depend on the state of California . . . to screen out those who are disbarred or impaired or dishonest or otherwise unqualified," said Julianne D'Alessandro, administrative director of the Center for Public Interest Law at the University of San Diego. "If the state doesn't do that for whatever reason, we're all in trouble."

After the reports by The Times, which collaborated with the investigative news organization ProPublica, the state Department of Consumer Affairs moved quickly.

Agency Director Carrie Lopez ordered the 20 health-related boards and bureaus she oversees, including the Medical Board of California, to collect fingerprints from anyone who had not provided them.

She also told the agencies to begin asking licensees whether they had been convicted of a crime since their last renewal. Other states' boards, including those in Arizona and Texas, already do that.

Lopez urged regulators to more quickly pursue professionals who may pose a danger to the public.

"I have and fully intend to make use of all resources to ensure that we remove threats to the public safety and well-being of Californians," Lopez said in a written statement.

The Board of Registered Nursing received expedited approval from the state Office of Administrative Law last month to collect fingerprints from the 147,000 nurses licensed before 1990. The board estimated that the new fingerprinting requirement will cost more than $9 million to implement over the first three years and $1.7 million annually thereafter.

In seeking the requirement, nursing board officials wrote that The Times' "articles packaged information in a different way and in a different light than the board had done in the past. Moreover, these articles raised the issue with respect to specific licensees with notable criminal histories that the board had never disciplined."

The Bureau of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians plans is seek a fast-track review for proposed fingerprint regulations. It also has sought to discipline some of those mentioned in The Times' articles, including Cynthia Kent, convicted in 2007 for selling drugs that had been stolen from her job at the Fresno County Jail to an undercover investigator.

The consumer affairs department, which oversees all licensed professionals in the state, said it is focusing on healthcare first but intends to expand fingerprinting to other boards as well, including those that govern auto repair and contractors.

Fingerprinting requirements originally were adopted because boards believed that some crimes could reflect poorly on a licensee's character, competence or ability to safely perform the job.

But gathering existing fingerprints has not been a priority.

The Dental Bureau of California, for example, started requiring fingerprinting in 1980 but has almost none on file for any dentist licensed before then - some 16,000 people, said Cathleen Poncabare, the board's executive officer.

The board knows about some criminal convictions through complaints or direct contact with law enforcement, but "without the fingerprints, we don't know" what else may be out there, she said.

The new background checks will probably flag such cases as that of Kyosuke Fukuda, a dentist from Santa Rosa, licensed in 1969, who has a clear record, according to the bureau's website. Yet reporters found that he is a registered sex offender, listed on the state's Megan's Law website.

Fukuda, 63, was convicted in 1980 of two counts of oral copulation on a child under 16.

In an interview, Fukuda said he had disclosed his conviction to the board when he renewed his license years ago and never heard anything back. He closed his private practice in January and said he recently sent a request to the dental board to cancel his license.

The conviction "did not have anything to do with my office, my profession or anything. It was something that was on the private side. But should they have checked? My guess would be yes. I've done everything since then to try to be honest for this," he said.

Poncabare, who has been in her post about six months, said she couldn't explain why the bureau did not seek fingerprints from every dentist sooner.

"It's perplexing to me that it was never done," she said.

Fingerprinting is not always the issue. Some licensing boards have known about professional convictions or pending charges for years but still have not acted.

Michael Marcus, a dentist from San Jose, for example, was arrested in July 2005 for allegedly touching a 17-year-old patient's breasts and making inappropriate comments to her during an exam.

Prosecutors charged him with misdemeanor sexual battery against three patients, and he is set to stand trial next month. Although the denial board cooperated in the investigation, Marcus continues to practice without restriction, and the board's website lists only a previous disciplinary action against him from 1996.

In that case, the dental board suspended him for 30 days and placed him on five years' probation for fondling the breasts of three patients.

In an interview, Marcus said the criminal charges are not true and should be dealt with by the courts before any action is taken by the dental board. A spokesman for the Department of Consumer Affairs said the board was aware of the case but could not comment on it.

Leura Moskowitz, a staff attorney for the National Employment Law Project in Oakland, said the state should proceed with caution as it gathers arrest and conviction information on...
health professionals. The law requires proof that the convictions are "substantially related" to the qualifications and duties of the job, she said.

"There are thousands and thousands of people who may have had something happen in the past, and it's not reflective of who they are today and the kind of work they can perform," she said.

The Times and ProPublica have found more than 115 recent cases involving registered nurses and an additional 27 cases among vocational nurses in which the state didn't seek to pull or restrict their licenses until they had racked up three or more convictions.

Many of the convictions involved off-the-job incidents, such as driving while intoxicated, stealing and taking drugs, or petty thefts. But the chaos and impairment often affected the nurses' ability to care for patients, sometimes in critical-care settings.

Escondido nurse Mary Eileen Cahill-Therrien was convicted three times in 2000 and 2001 of vandalism, driving under the influence and disturbing the peace. The registered nursing board failed to step in before she showed up for a home-care assignment at a patient's house seemingly drunk and refusing to wash her hands. According to a later ruling by an administrative law judge, she also left the patient's catheter in too long and had to be asked to leave.

Weeks later, Cahill-Therrien was fired from a different hospital job after she appeared to be drunk and refused to take a drug and alcohol screening test. Even after the board filed an accusation against her, she was able to get work at another hospital. She was fired after showing up drunk there too, the judge wrote. Her license was revoked in 2007.

Cahill-Therrien could not be reached for comment. Her former attorney declined to discuss her case, citing attorney-client confidentiality.

Linda Whilney, chief of legislation for the medical board, which oversees about 125,000 physicians, said her board plans to seek prints from up to 15,000 physicians licensed before 1956, who have never provided them. But she said, her board has long used other methods to snap convictions among doctors.

"Could something slip through the cracks? Absolutely," she said. "There could be a doctor licensed in 1965 that could be convicted next week and we may never hear about it. For consumer protection, which is our No. 1 mission, we don't want one to slip through the cracks."

Charles Ornstein and Tracy Weber are senior reporters at ProPublica.

Times researcher Maloy Moore, ProPublica director of research Lisa Schwartz and Jennifer LaFleur, ProPublica director of computer assisted reporting, contributed to this report.

If you want other stories on this topic, search the Archives at latimes.com/archives.
Many Calif. health care professionals not checked
Tuesday, December 30, 2008

More than 100,000 California health care professionals — including doctors, dentists and therapists — have not been given criminal background checks by the state boards that license them, according to a report published Tuesday.

The Department of Consumer Affairs identified about 104,000 professionals from various levels of medical care that have not been through fingerprint screening, the Los Angeles Times said.

An investigation in the fall by the newspaper and ProPublica, a nonprofit news organization, determined that about 195,000 of the state's registered and vocational nurses had not been vetted for criminal backgrounds.

Since that investigation, Department of Consumer Affairs director Carrie Lopez has ordered the 20 health care boards and bureaus she oversees for the state to collect fingerprints from any licensee who has not been screened, and to ask them if they have been convicted of a crime since their last renewal as other states do.

"I have and fully intend to make use of all resources to ensure that we remove threats to the public safety and well-being of Californians," Lopez said in a written statement.

The state's medical boards have had inconsistent rules for screening.

The Dental Bureau of California began asking for fingerprints in 1986 but have virtually none on file for any dentists first licensed before then, according to the board's executive officer Cathleen Poncabare.

Julianne D'Angelo Fellmeth, administrative director of the Center for Public Interest Law at the University of San Diego said citizens depend on the state "to screen out those who are incompetent or impaired or dishonest or otherwise unqualified. If the state doesn't do that for whatever reason, we're all in trouble."

http://sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/n/a/2008/12/30/state/n024720578.DTL
LOS ANGELES -- More than 100,000 California health care professionals -- including doctors, dentists and therapists -- have not been given criminal background checks by the state boards that license them, according to a report published Tuesday.

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Son of former Assembly speaker pleads not guilty

By ELLIOT SPAGAT

The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO

The teenage son of former California Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez and three other men pleaded not guilty Thursday to murder in the stabbing death of a college student as prosecutors shied away from calling the attack the work of a criminal street gang, a characterization that carries stiffer punishments.

Court documents say 19-year-old Esteban Nunez and his friends belong to a "close-knit group of friends who call themselves 'THC' aka 'The Hazard Crew,'" who flash hand signs and sport tattoos with symbols of hazardous materials.

"Basically, your honor, they want to be gang members," prosecutor Jill DiCarlo told San Diego Superior Court Judge David Szumowski, adding that she was not trying to prove they were.

Brad Patton, Esteban Nunez's defense attorney, insisted his client was not a gang member.

"[The prosecutor] stands up and makes brazen claims about gang connections but can't plead that in her pleadings," he told reporters outside court.

Patton said Esteban Nunez acted in self-defense, but he did not elaborate, and said one defendant, Ryan Jett, was stabbed.

The judge set bail at $2 million for Esteban Nunez, Rafael Garcia and Leshanor Thomas, all 19. He denied bail to Jett, 22, because he is on probation for possession of ammunition.

The four defendants stood silently in blue jail garb as their attorneys spoke on their behalf. Each is charged with one count of murder, three counts of assault with a deadly weapon and a misdemeanor count of vandalism for allegedly slashing a trailer's tires before the attack. They face maximum sentences of life in prison if convicted of murder.

The prosecutor said Nunez, Garcia and Jett went to the banks of the Sacramento River hours after the Oct. 4 stabbings to burn clothing with gasoline and toss knives into the water.

Angry about getting kicked out of a fraternity party, they left Luis Santos, a 22-year-old Mesa College student, bleeding to death in the street, stabbed two others and punched another man in the eye so hard that he needed surgery, DiCarlo said.

The victims, who were attacked in front of San Diego State University's Peterson Gym, had just left a party at an apartment, not a fraternity, DiCarlo said.

"They ended up being in the wrong place at the wrong time," she told the judge.
Fabian Nunez, 41, his wife Maria and their daughter Teresa stood before a bank of television cameras as Patton made a brief statement outside court blasting prosecutors for making the case "a bit of spectacle." Fabian Nunez declined to comment.

"They believe 100 percent in their son's innocence," Patton said.

Paul Pfingst, Garcia's attorney, told reporters his client "is not a murderer" and blasted authorities for waiting two months to file charges.

Police have said they were probing a possible "criminal nexus" in the attack, but Paul Levikow, a spokesman for the San Diego County district attorney's office, said prosecutors will not make that allegation, which requires a higher burden of proof.

Shaun Martin, a University of San Diego law professor who is not involved in the case, said prosecutors would have to prove that the group committed other crimes, even if they weren't charged.

"The biggest barrier is you have to prove a pattern of committing crimes, and that's not what happened in this case based on what I've seen," he said.

Fabian Nunez is the longest-serving speaker in California's era of legislative term limits. The Los Angeles Democrat cultivated a close relationship with Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger that led to their agreement on a landmark law to greatly reduce greenhouse gas emissions in California.

He authored a bill last year that established a statewide office to combat gang and youth violence. The law proclaims that gang violence had reached "epic proportions" in California.

An arrest warrant affidavit offers witness accounts of the stabbings and their aftermath.

Prosecutors say Nunez and his friends drove to San Diego to party. After getting kicked out of a party, they fueled their anger with a bottle of rum and two six-packs of beer at the apartment of Garcia's cousin, Briana Perez.

Perez quoted the men saying, "Let's go burn down their house" and, "Let's show them how we do it in Sac-Town." The documents don't specify which men made the statements, although they say Esteban Nunez and Garcia did most of the talking.

The melee occurred after the group left the apartment, according to the affidavit.

Thomas later told investigators that one of the victims said, "I think I got stabbed," and that Esteban Nunez said, "Yeah, I got one of them."

John Murray told investigators that he joined his friend Esteban Nunez later that day at a Sacramento riverbank frequented by transients. Esteban Nunez carried a plastic bag, and Jett had a cup filled with gasoline as they prepared to destroy evidence, according to the affidavit.

"They had a hat and a shirt they burned, and they had their knives in a bag," Murray is quoted as saying. "I walked back to my car and said, 'You guys do what you have to do.'"

Associated Press Writer Juliet Williams in Sacramento contributed to this report.

Published: Thursday, December 4, 2008 17:28 PST
FactCheck: Health care bills big part of bankruptcies

Q: What is the percentage of total personal bankruptcies caused by health care bills? A: A Harvard study published in 2005 found that about half of those who filed for bankruptcy said health care expenses, illness or related job-loss led them to do so. Twenty-seven percent cited uncovered medical bills specifically, and 2 percent said they had mortgaged their home to pay what they owed. The "about half" statistic has been cited by politicians and others as an example of why the health care system in the U.S. needs to be changed to control costs and provide more people with coverage. At a Dec. 11 press conference to introduce his pick for secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, President-elect Barack Obama said that "close to 50 percent of family bankruptcies are caused because of a health care crisis." And the likely-to-be head of HHS, Tom Daschle, used the same figure in his book on health care, writing: "No wonder medical bills are the leading cause of bankruptcy in the United States, accounting for about half of them." Obama and Vice President-elect Joe Biden have proposed a bankruptcy law exemption, which would forgive debt, for those who can prove that medical expenses led them to file.

It's worth noting, though, that the figure from the Harvard study includes those who lost their jobs or significant income due to illness - even if they didn't cite mounting health care bills as a direct cause of their bankruptcy. That makes Daschle's specific mention of "medical bills" not quite correct, though several newspaper headlines characterized the findings that way, too. The study, published in the Feb. 2, 2005, issue of the journal Health Affairs, based its findings on surveys completed by 1,771 Americans in bankruptcy courts in 2001, financial information available in public court records and follow-up interviews with 931 of the respondents. It determined that 46.2 percent of bankruptcies were attributable to a major medical reason.

Debtors cited at least one of the following specific causes: illness or injury (28.3 percent of respondents), uncovered medical bills exceeding $1,000 in the past two years (27 percent), loss of at least two weeks of work-related income because of illness (21.3 percent), or mortgaging a home to pay medical bills (2 percent). (A larger category - "any medical bankruptcy" - also covered those who cited addiction, or uncontrolled gambling, childbirth, or the death of a family member. Including that group brought the total percentage of "medical bankruptcies" up to 54.5.)

The authors - David U. Himmelstein, Elizabeth Warren, Deborah Thorne and Steffie Woolhandler - indicated that they believed theirs was a more thorough look at this topic than other reports: "Most previous studies of medical bankruptcy, however, have relied on court records - where medical debts may be subsumed under credit card or mortgage debt - or on responses to a single survey question," they wrote. Surveys and interviews were conducted in five states: California, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Tennessee and Texas. The study also refers to some convincing stats from other research. For example, 8 percent of the insured and 31 percent of the uninsured said they had been contacted by a collection agency about medical bills, according to a 2002 NPR/Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard Kennedy School of Government survey.

But it's difficult to say for certain whether the much-touted finding - that half of all bankruptcies are due to medical issues (though not necessarily medical bills) - is correct. Other factors may well be in play, and the authors themselves acknowledge that if some respondents hadn't faced health care problems, they may still have found themselves in court.
The death penalty | Rome News
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The death penalty should be used and applied. Georgia's death penalty amount should never be spotlight recently. How often should the death penalty be applied? It should be used more often. There should be fewer death penalty cases. The death penalty is used the right amount. The death penalty should never be.

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Sunday in Parade

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Ruth Terry |
Ruth Terry www.ruthterry.com cell: 706-346-6567

Local Poll

Georgia's death penalty rules have been in the spotlight recently. How often should the death penalty be applied? It should be used more often. There should be fewer death penalty cases. The death penalty is used the right amount. The death penalty should never be.

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The Association of American Law Schools 2009 Annual Meeting to Feature Three Presidential Programs

Presidential Programs entitled Institutional Pluralism, Religiously Affiliated Law Schools and Associational Pluralism.

SAN DIEGO, Jan. 6 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- Three Presidential programs will take place at the Association of American Law Schools (AALS) Annual Meeting from 2:15 to 4:00 p.m. Each session will further explore the Annual Meeting's theme of Institutional Pluralism. The Annual Meeting will take place January 6-10, 2009, in San Diego.

The first Presidential program, Institutional Pluralism, is designed to explore the virtues of institutional pluralism, the costs of pursuing that ideal, and the impediments to realizing it. The panelists, who come from a variety of types of law schools, will begin a conversation about how institutional differences affect faculty and students, how they contribute to our intellectual life, and what effects they have on the other values our schools cultivate. Kenneth W. Starr (Pepperdine) will serve as the moderator and speaker for this session and joining him will be: Heather K. Gerken (Yale); R. Kent Greenawalt (Columbia); Alice Gresham (Howard); Sanford Levinson (Texas); Daniel D. Polsby (George Mason).

The second Presidential program, Religiously Affiliated Law Schools, brings to the forefront the AALS' 49 religiously affiliated law schools, which is about one quarter of all of AALS' 200 member and fee-paid schools. Are these 49 religiously affiliated law schools different from their secular counterparts? What effect might the religious commitments and beliefs of the sponsoring faiths have on subject matter, perspective, student life, academic freedom, admissions, hiring, and other issues? What do religiously affiliated law schools contribute to the legal academy and broader legal community? Patricia A. O'Hara (Notre Dame) will serve as moderator and speaker for this session. Joining her will be Michael Herz (Yeshiva); Mark A. Sargent (Villanova); B. J. Toben (Baylor); and James D. Gordon (Brigham Young).

The third Presidential Program, Associational Pluralism, addresses the flourishing culture of parallel organizations we have seen in recent years, including the Federalist Society, the Society of American Law Teachers, the National Association of Scholars, the Law Professors Christian Fellowship, and the American Constitution Society. Does this phenomenon signal that the AALS is not representing these points of view? Should the AALS try to assimilate these groups, or make more of an effort to accommodate them (without digesting them) in its own framework, or live with the status quo? Gail Heriot (University of San Diego and National Association of Scholars) will serve as moderator and speaker for this session. Joining her will be Margaret Martin Barry (Catholic University and Society of American Law Teachers); Michael Brintnall (Executive Director, American Political Science Association, Washington D.C.); Goodwin Liu (University of California, Berkeley and American Constitution Society); and John O. McGinnis (Northwestern University and The Federalist Society).

All three Presidential Programs will occur on Thursday, January 8, from 2:15 - 4:00 p.m. at the San Diego Marriott and Marina.

The entire AALS 2009 Annual Meeting program can be found on the Association's Web site at www.aals.org/am2009/. Members of the press are invited to attend free of charge. Those interested in attending are asked to notify Deborah Quick from January 6-10, 2009 at 619-645-6955. Press also may register on-site at the AALS office located in the Manchester Room on the North Tower/Lobby Level of the San Diego Marriott Hotel & Marina beginning Tuesday after 6 p.m. January 6, 2009, and continuing through Saturday, January 10, 2009.

The Association of American Law Schools is a resource for the improvement of the quality of legal education by networking law school faculty, professional staff and deans to information and resources. AALS is the principal representative of legal education to the federal government, other national higher education organizations, learned societies and international law schools.

SOURCE Association of American Law Schools
Quin-essential Cases: The perverse results of affirmative action

By Quin Hillyer
Examiner Columnist | 12/9/08 6:12 AM

With the incoming president and first lady, both being African-American graduates of elite law schools, it stands to reason that a host of aspiring black collegians would want to emulate their success.

Counterintuitively, a member of the United States Commission on Civil Rights has written a paper suggesting that the best way to produce more black lawyers is to eliminate race-based preferences at law schools, especially at elite law schools.

Commissioner Gail Heriot, also a professor of law at the University of San Diego (USD), wrote in this fall’s edition of the school’s “The Journal of Contemporary Legal Issues” about the commission’s investigations showing what she called “troubling evidence that race-based affirmative action policies may have harmed rather than helped minority students who aspire to become attorneys.”

Heriot based her essay largely, but far from exclusively, on a study by UCLA Law Professor Richard Sander. “If his findings are correct,” she wrote, “there are today approximately 7.9% fewer, not more, practicing attorneys as a result of race-based admissions policies.”

Sander’s research indicates that without affirmative action, fewer African-Americans would be admitted to law schools, but more would eventually pass the bar exam and become practicing attorneys.

At first glance, of course, these findings seem to make no sense. But the key lies in the concept of “academic mismatch.” Heriot explains: “Students who attend schools where their academic credentials are substantially below their fellow students’ tend to perform poorly.” They consistently receive worse grades, and they drop out at far higher rates.

On the contrary, when African-American students are competing against white or Asian students of similar academic credentials, they “performed very close to the same.” In other words, the problem isn’t race but readiness.

Black students with high credentials will do just as well at Yale or Harvard as white students with the same prior achievement levels; black students with appropriate academic training who go to good second-tier law schools (Tulane, William & Mary) will fit in just fine at those places, too.

But, as would be the case with students of any race, black students admitted with lesser credentials struggle. Race-based admissions, according to Heriot, put students behind the proverbial Eight Ball. Rather than thrive and advance, they falter, get discouraged, lose confidence, and all too often leave law school altogether— even though they might well advance to superb careers as lawyers if they attend less selective schools.

The same tendencies apply for students who attend second-tier law schools when their credentials are better suited to third-tier programs—and so on down the line. If the goal isn’t to admit more black students, but to actually produce more black lawyers, then, according to Heriot, the best way is to have race-blind admissions so that students can study in the milieu most appropriate for their advancement.

Furthermore, Heriot reports, law firms in practice are at least as likely to hire based on good grades from mid-tier law schools than they are to hire those who made poor grades from “prestige” universities. “Interestingly,” Heriot wrote, “the best available evidence shows that attendance at an elite college or university does not add to earnings capacity.”

It is worth noting that both Heriot and Sander once were strong advocates of affirmative action before the objective data changed their minds.

It is therefore particularly counterproductive for the American Bar Association, which acts as an accrediting agency for law schools, to pressure law schools to meet numerical “diversity” standards.

Heriot reported that the ABA has acted in egregiously bullying fashion in threatening to withhold accreditation from law schools with too low a percentage of black enrollees, even if those schools sponsor active minority recruitment efforts.

Indeed, the U.S. Department of Education threatened to strip the ABA of its accrediting role if the ABA continued such tactics. In 2006, the ABA was forced to pay a $185,000 fine for failing to abide by a court’s “consent decree” ordering it to revise its accrediting practices.

If the new evidence compiled by Heriot stands up to further research, it may turn out that the ABA not only has been skirting the law but also has been harming the very black students it purports to be helping.

Quin Hillyer is associate editorial page editor of The Washington Examiner. He can be reached at qhillyer@dcexaminer.com.
FRIEDMAN CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF TEACHING

Kevin Cole, Dean and Professor of Law at the University of San Diego School of Law; Lynn Schenck; Professor C. Hugh Friedman; and Ronald M. George, Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court, gather in celebration of Friedman's 50 years of teaching at the USD School of Law.
OTHER EVENTS

FRIDAY, DEC 12 - PRESENTATION
TAX CODE CHANGES
We will discuss the potential tax implications of the recent presidential election as well as basic estate and business planning steps you should take to protect your hard-earned wealth. Organization: Nelson & Ball Law Firm Information: 858-876-0636 law@nelsonball.com Cost: No Details Available When: Hours: 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM Where: Marina Village Conference Center, 1936 Quivira Way, San Diego, 92109

SATURDAY, DEC 13 - SEMINAR
LEGAL ETHICS TRAINING SEMINAR
This seminar will focus on ethical topics of particular interest to city counsel. These topics include obligations for conducting civil and criminal litigation. Organization: USD School of Law Information: (619) 260-6848 usdlawevent@sandiego.edu Cost: No Details Available Where: USD School of Law, 5998 Alcal Park, San Diego, 92110, Venue Phone: (619) 260-4600
USD to hold legal ethics training seminar

The University of San Diego School of Law will host an all-day training seminar on legal ethics Dec. 13 at the request of incoming San Diego City Attorney Jan Goldsmith.

Goldsmith is a 1976 graduate of the law school.

The training session will be held in Mother Rosalie Hill Hall Auditorium on the USD campus. The event is open to the public, but reservations are required.

Facilitated by USD law professor David McGowan, the seminar will focus on ethical topics of particular interest to city counsel. For more information, reservations and a full agenda, visit law.sandiego.edu/ethicstraining. Source Code: 20081204czj
OTHER EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, JAN 7 - DISCUSSION
THE 14TH AMENDMENT

The time has come to take stock of the incorporation question, to look for consensus where it can be found, and to attend closely to opposing arguments and evidence where disagreement persists.
Organization: USD School of Law
Information: (619) 260-6848 usdlaw-event@sandiego.edu
Cost: No Details Available
Where: USD School of Law, 6998 Alcala Park, San Diego, 92110, Venue Phone - (619) 260-4600
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School of Leadership and Education Sciences
Urgency Required

We might look at the current crisis faced by the big three American automobile makers as a failure of adaptation. One could make an argument that they have been unable to keep pace with changes external to their companies while others have reacted to the needs and wants of the consumer.

Their current situation might well be a case of very efficiently doing the wrong thing for too long -- producing the wrong product combined with an apparent inability to recognize that fact and initiate corrections.

Large and complex bureaucratic organizations, like the Big Three, are not known for their agility. The challenge of leadership in such organizations is to harness a sense of urgency, develop a climate that promotes creativity and innovation, and provide structures and processes that reward those who move the organization toward success.

While the auto executives are now making the right symbolic moves, the question remains whether it is another example of too little too late, or a real awakening to the needs of the contemporary environment.

BY GEORGE REED | DECEMBER 8, 2008; 2:35 PM ET | CATEGORY: ECONOMIC CRISIS
SHARE THIS: | TECHNOFRATI | DELICIOUS | DIGG | FACEBOOK
PREVIOUS: BE WILLING TO STEP ASIDE | NEXT: PAY FOR PERFORMANCE

Comments
Please email us to report offensive comments.

WE WILL SEE WHAT WE WILL SEE.

WHY I'D LOVE TO BE THE NEW CAR CZAR, OR EVEN THE USED CAR CZAR.

I FIND THAT LAWYERS MAKE EXCELLENT CAR CZARS
USD to Host Seminars on Autism, Special-Needs

ALCALA PARK — In January, the University of San Diego will be hosting two events focusing on people with special needs. A Winter Autism Institute, "With a Little Help from My Friends: Building Personalized Supports for Individuals with Autism Across the Life Span," will be held starting at 8 a.m., Monday, Jan. 12, and continuing through Jan. 14; the event, which will be held in the Mother Rosalie Hill Hall Auditorium, will feature experts on supporting children, teens and adults with autism. There is a fee to attend; for information or to RSVP, call (619) 260-7705. A separate event, "Transition to Adulthood Seminar," will be held at 6 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 13, at the Degheri Alumni Center, Room 112. The seminar is for parents with special-needs children age 14 or older; there is no cost to attend the seminar, and attendees can register at www.sandiego.edu/compass.
Parents, Educators Upset Over 'Testing Frenzy' 

Dec 01, 2008
Ana Tintocalis

Most adults remember taking a test or two in grade school. But few would recall taking upwards of 16 tests in a single year. That's the reality some school kids face in the San Diego Unified School District. Parents and teachers are calling it a 'testing frenzy.' But administrators say the exams are needed. KPBS Education Reporter Ana Tintocalis has this report.

Lily Morash is a seven-year-old girl who goes to Benchley-Weinberger Elementary in San Carlos.

Lily: I love to read and I love to write. One of my favorite subjects in school is science.

Lily's blonde hair is tucked under a baseball ball cap. A book bag is slung over her shoulder. She says she's always enjoyed going to school, but that's beginning to change this year.

Lily: It gets really frustrating because it's like we have tests every single day. My teacher is Mrs. O'Hara, so I sometimes I say, Mrs. O'Hara, can you please stop giving us tests? It's just annoying.

Lily says she and her classmates got so annoyed they began telling their parents every time they took a test. Chris Marash, Lily's mom, says the amount of testing this year is ridiculous.

Chris Morash: If you almost wonder, are these administrators who are looking to keep their jobs, so if they keep writing more tests, we'll have to keep giving them?

Most educators acknowledge testing has greatly increased over the past few years. They say that's because federal education officials hand out sanctions when districts fail to meet academic targets under the No Child Left Behind Act.

In an effort to avoid sanctions. San Diego Unified has created its own set of district tests to prepare students and to gather more data on performance.

Karen Bachofer is director of standards and evaluation at San Diego Unified.

Karen Bachofer: We use these tests as early warning systems to tell us whether or not we are doing a good job with helping our kids meet standards. And so we need those early indicators.

Screening tests, diagnostic tests and benchmark tests will now be handed out one or twice a year. That's also 'end of unit' exams which some students take every time they've covered one part of a lesson in class. State and federally mandated tests are also given.

The average elementary school student is taking a couple dozen tests this year. Teachers say it's testing overload. But Bachofer says it's just about right.

Karen Bachofer: I don't believe in the level of assessments, or the amount of assessments that we have in our district assessment calendar are overwhelming.

Raul Mora teaches sixth grade at Baker Elementary in South San Diego. He says administrators don't explain the purpose behind the exams, why ordering the tests, and how to use the data in meaningful ways.

Raul Mora: I come home late. I go to school early. I can't just sit and handle it. And it's tough. They (administrators) want to see results, but they're not given proper instruction, proper support from the district.

Lea Hubbard says that's a widespread concern. Hubbard is a professor in the School of Leadership and Education Sciences at the University of San Diego.

Lea Hubbard: There hasn't been enough professional development around helping teachers to deconstruct what these test scores mean, and then what to do about it. It's not an easy translation.

District officials admit they're not effectively communicating the purpose and meaning behind some of these tests.

There are two separate departments in the district creating tests, and those two departments don't always talk with each other.

Mary Barry, a top administrator in one of those divisions, admits there is a lot of testing going on.

Mary Barry: Perception is reality in my head. So I think that testing is something we've have to work on...to make sure people understand what is the purpose behind each of the assessments and how many assessments we need in a district this size.

And that might be music to the ears of parents like Chris Morash.

Chris Morash: Its elementary school. I think our goal is to get kids to love coming to school, to love the education process, and the process of learning and being excited. And we're taking that away from them.

Administrators say they plan to meet with school principals later this month to take stock of which tests are helpful and which ones interfere with learning.

Ana Tintocalis, KPBS News.
Janice Yuwiler writes nonfiction children's books and co-teaches a course at the University of San Diego on writing among other things.

Janice Yuwiler

Somewhere around middle school, Janice Yuwiler became hooked on young adult fiction and has remained captivated by the genre even as an adult.

"Children's literature is actually a harder genre to write for than adults. It's less forgiving," she said.

The stories have to be tighter and capture the essence of the tale, minus the "long, winding passages and side trails."

Yuwiler, 51, lives in San Diego with her husband and three children. Besides reading books her kids enjoy, she also writes nonfiction for children and co-teaches a course at the University of San Diego on writing and illustrating books for children and getting published, their day job is at San Diego State University, where she is an organization development coordinator for the Academy of Professional Excellence, which assists health and human service agencies and workers.

"I wear a million different hats," she said with a laugh.

If you're taking your child to the dentist's office this month, pick up the current issue of Highlights magazine — she's in there, too, with a Hanukkah craft on making a dreidel and playing the game.

Yuwiler says she's had the most success in writing nonfiction. She's written two books for children in middle and high school, one on family violence and the other on the discovery of insulin.

"I've got my insider's of pubic library...so I've written academically, Nonfiction is a nice easy task for me to do," she said.

But Yuwiler has a soft spot for the young adult books.

Perhaps she just doesn't have the patience for the very heavy adult books she can do, she said.

"You can't just sort of wander around for four pages. The kids won't take it."

Do you know a teacher who should be in the spotlight? Contact Lisa Goodall at (619) 293-2505 or lisa.goodall@unionsd.com.
USD honors San Diego Jewish Academy for exceptional governance

San Diego Jewish Academy, founded in 1979 and located in Carmel Valley, has been awarded this year's USD's Kaleidoscope Award for Exceptional Governance at the fifth Annual USD Nonprofit Governance Symposium held Jan. 9 at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice. The mission of the award is to recognize, celebrate, promote and inspire excellence in nonprofit governance and is granted to nonprofit organizations who exemplify excellence in fiduciary, strategic and generative governance. The award recognizes board excellence in ensuring accountability and safeguarding the school's mission. For information, visit www.sdja.com; 858-704-3716.
Registration is still open for the fifth annual USD Nonprofit Governance Symposium set for Jan. 9-10 at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice on campus. For online registration and event information, visit http://www.sandiego.edu/nonprofit/events. The lunch hour each day will be devoted to the economy and sharing experiences. For more information, contact Laura B. Stein, assistant director, at (619) 260-7442.
School of Peace
By Robin Duncan

"All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood."

On Oct. 10, a collection of concerned citizens and activists met at the Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies, thanked the 10 human rights organizations who made the evening possible as well as their co-sponsors, the International Museum of Human Rights at San Diego, the United Nations Association of Voice of Women (VOW), and the International Women's Right to Peace (IPW), to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. There to help them do this was none other than one of the members most active for constructing and signing the document, Eleanor Roosevelt.

"I was brought to life by Eleanor Roosevelt," said Robin Reynolds, remindful of this time of great turmoil in 1943. She was the only woman on the delegation and by many considered to be the most influential of the UN's Commission on Human Rights. Mrs. Roosevelt had no idea at the time that it would turn out to be one of the most influential documents in history.

Signed by eight countries and adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, the document declares the rights of all human beings in 30 carefullycrafted articles which have been modified into international law. On this particular evening, Diana Kutlow from the Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies, thanked the 10 human rights organizations who made the evening possible as well as their co-sponsors, the International Museum of Human Rights at San Diego, the United Nations Association of Voice of Women (VOW).

After a 15-minute introduction by Mrs. Krocve, the evening segued into a panel discussion regarding the present state of human rights and the future of human rights around the world. This was followed by a question and answer period. The panel consisted of the aforementioned William Avezov, as well as Marjorie Cohen, professor at the Thomas Jefferson School of Law and president of the National Lawyers Guild. Cohen in her discussion focused on the human conventions covering women and children.

"I have great hope that the coming administration will make good on the promise of human rights for all," Denise Sharp, a senior program officer for the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice and human rights investigator for the Human Rights Watch in Francophone, West Africa, expounded on the Declaration's original vision. According to Sharp, "It was set some pie in the sky vision, on the contrary it was meant to be quite practical." She reminded the audience that while these liberties cannot exist without economic and social rights, and while good seems to be the general consensus of the other panels, nevertheless the gap is widening.

Jeani Priak, the president of VOW said, "I hope that this event creates a ripple effect for those that attend, and that we take a clear look at human rights today." Priak was moved to start her human rights organization by the events of 9/11.

"It terrified me that there was war in our home, so I emailed a lot of women and said we have to do something. Shortly after that, I reserved a room at the World Trade Center to San Diego. Thirty women turned up; we broke into working groups and decided to focus our attention especially on women and children and how they are affected by war." On Oct. 17, 2001 a board of directors evolved. Now the organization has ten directors—all women, from all walks of life. They just recently hosted an event at her house for Woku Kaara, a special guest at the 17th event and a human rights advocate from Kenya.

VOW's goals for 2009 are to continue its mission of education and empowerment for women and children. On Jan. 22, they will be hosting another event at the EU called "Mamfoss of Wealth," with award-winning journalists and057716776771 donors. He will be discussing the Presidency of Barack Obama and the effect of the recession on our country and especially women. In addition, VOW will be celebrating the Millennium Development Goals, established by the United Nations Millennium Declaration, a commitment to a global partnership to reduce extreme poverty and setting out a series of time-bound targets with a deadline of 2015. These goals range from ending extreme poverty to halving the spread of HIV/AIDS and providing universal primary education.

Mrs. Roosevelt ended the informative evening, raising the sentiment of the panel by saying that we will still have a long, long way to go. She also said, "It wasn't until I was in my middle age that I felt the courage to be involved in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights—something that was so harmful in promoting a peaceful world.

"What does the future hold?" Avezov asked, "I am charmed with optimists, but I am also a realist." He expressed concern that the world was moving in the wrong direction, and reminded the audience of the tene- mous words associated with the Holocaust, "never again." He hoped that things would change. "I hope that we will not be replaced by "yet again." In light of this, it is vital for us to be reminded of the timeless sentiments of the Declaration. A world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common people.

For further information or to attend an event, visit http://www.voice­of­women.org, or for the IPW, visit http://peace.uni­sdiego.edu.
In Tijuana, there's now a new standard for savagery'

[Image: A man in a suit standing in front of a building]

**GRIM MESSAGE:** An investigator in September checks a barrel containing dismembered human remains in Tijuana.

**MEXICO UNDER SIEGE**

A city goes silent at his name

Crimes attributed to a suspected Tijuana gang boss even scare police.

**RICHARD MARCIAN REPORTING FROM TIJUANA**

He is said to love the ladies, fast horses and discreet enemies to kill.

Theodore Garcia Villarreal is among the best known but least identifiable villains in Mexico's drug war, blamed for a trail of terror across Jalisco.

His heavily armed hit men, authorities say, have been leaving the gruesome displays of dismembered bodies along the highway connecting the rival Jalisco drug cartels.

Yet thousands of police officers, soldiers, state and federal agents can't seem to find him.

Silhouettes showing Tijuana's most wanted kidnapper don't include Garcia's image, even though he is believed to be behind most of the group's killings. The cartel's reach exceeds more than 400 miles here, where late last year, a federal prosecutor was found dead in his home.

"That tells you that they don't want to be the one responsible for getting this picture in public," said one law enforcement source who spoke on condition of anonymity: "There's no proof to it."

The alleged crime boss appears chubby-cheeked and balding, sporting an off-white shirt and tan suit in a newly released photograph, released as No. 77 on the FBI's most-wanted website.

His photo bears no name, and he is listed as one of several names people sought for allegedly using false Mexican police identification in connection with shootings, kidnapings and other crimes.

Many police officers, prosecutors and ordinary citizens go silent when talk turns to the name, which is known only about him comes from the so-called "testimony" of captured criminals, who are co-opted or coerced with threats of violence and immunity -- or worse.

In Tijuana, there's now a new standard for savagery'

**Mexican authorities say Garcia's group shot up a hillside, killing 13 people, leaving 14 dead, and burning bodies to try to destroy evidence. The authorities say the group is responsible for dozens of murders in recent weeks.**

The group is said to have been involved in shootouts, kidnappings and other crimes, and is suspected of being responsible for the assassination of a federal police officer in the city of Tijuana.

The group is also said to have been involved in the murder of a local politician and the kidnapping of a prominent businessman.

The group is said to have a significant presence in the city, and is said to have been involved in the drug trade and other criminal activities.

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Mysterious Mexican drug kingpin is believed to be behind hundreds of gruesome murders

December 22, 2008

RICHARD MAROSI
LOS ANGELES TIMES

TIJUANA, Mexico—He is said to love the ladies, fast horses and dissolving enemies in lye.

Teodoro Garcia Simental is among the best known but least identifiable villains in Mexico’s drug war, blamed for a trail of terror across Baja California.

His heavily armed hit men, authorities say, have been leaving the gruesome displays of charred and decapitated bodies across the city, signed with the moniker “Tres Letras,” for the three letters in Teo. And authorities believe he runs a network of hideouts where kidnap victims are held in cages.

Yet thousands of police officers, soldiers, state and federal agents can’t seem to find him.

Billboards showing Tijuana’s most wanted kidnappers don’t include Garcia’s image, even though he is believed to be behind most of the gang war that has claimed 400 lives here since September.

"That tells you that you don’t want to be the one responsible for putting Teo’s picture in public," said one U.S. law enforcement source. "There’s no future in it."

The alleged crime boss appears chubby-cheeked and sporting an ill-fitting tie and coat in his only published photograph, labelled as No. 27 on the FBI’s narcitip.com website. His photo bears no name, and he is listed as one of several dozen people sought for allegedly using false Mexican police identification in connection with slayings, kidnappings and other crimes.

Many police officers, prosecutors and ordinary citizens go silent when Teo’s name is mentioned. What is known about him comes from the secret testimony of captured gunmen, narco-messages left with victims and anonymous "narcocorrido" ballads sold at swap meets. "Pay attention, President (Felipe Calderon) ... In Tijuana, I rule," one song boasts. "We’ll show you what a real war is like."

Mexican court documents and interviews with U.S. and Mexican authorities paint a portrait of Garcia as a vengeful crime boss who vows not to go down without a fight.

Garcia is said to be in his mid-30s – even his date of birth is not known. He reportedly bets big on clandestine horse races at isolated ranches outside Ensenada. He hires people at $400 a week to guard kidnap victims and to weld the barrels of caustic chemicals used to dispose of bodies, according to documents and interviews.

"Criminals earn respect and credibility with creative killing methods," said the official, who requested anonymity for reasons of security. "Your status is based on your capacity to commit the most sadistic acts. Burning corpses, using acid, beheading victims ... This generation is setting a new standard for savagery."
Garcia's alleged criminal empire is built largely on kidnappings and extortion, a model for a post-drug-war crime boss who, starved of narcotics profits, resorts to bloodier, homegrown pursuits.

Garcia's bid for power began shortly after Calderon launched his offensive against organized crime groups in December 2006, aiming to destroy the drug cartels by shattering their leadership ranks.

"The government's strategy was to break the cartels into smaller, more manageable pieces," said David Shirk, director of the Trans-Border Institute at the University of San Diego. "But smaller doesn't mean more manageable ... It's begetting more violence ... and more dangerous organizations, and people like this guy."

Garcia, whose family is said to be from Sinaloa, grew up in Tijuana and started out in the Arellano Felix organization as a trusted enforcer, probably in the 1990s, and grew powerful as a lieutenant who helped transform kidnapping into a multimillion-dollar industry.

This year, the head of the cartel, Fernando Sanchez Arellano, tried unsuccessfully to halt the abductions of doctors, businessmen and politically influential figures. Sanchez Arellano was worried the crime wave, attributed to Garcia, was hampering the organization's drug-trafficking business, according to U.S. and Mexican authorities.

In April, the renegade lieutenant and the cartel leader split in spectacular fashion; their gangs shot it out on an expressway in eastern Tijuana, leaving 14 dead. Garcia fled to Sinaloa but returned in September to launch all-out war.

Since then, Tijuana has seen an average of five killings per day, many of them carrying messages boasting they were the work of Garcia. One victim was found with his face sliced off. Three headless bodies were dumped near a baseball diamond. Two corpses were hung from an overpass. Others have been doused with gas and set aflame.

The government, meanwhile, seems helpless to stop the killings.
Twelve men were decapitated and dumped at separate sites in the southern Mexican state of Guerrero, authorities said Sunday. Some of the victims have been identified as soldiers.

State Public Safety Secretary Juan Salinas Altes said the bodies were found on a major boulevard in the state capital, Chilpancingo, just a few hundred yards from where the state governor was scheduled to participate in a traditional religious procession later in the day.

The heads were bundled in a plastic bag and dumped at a shopping center, while the bodies turned up in two other sites at opposite ends of the city, authorities said.

Local prosecutors later said three more decapitated bodies were found Sunday in a village on the outskirts of Chilpancingo.

Experts are still trying to identify the bodies, but a still-undetermined number of them are soldiers, Salinas Altes said. An army base is nearby.

The find came two days after three gunmen in Guerrero died in a shootout with soldiers. Mexican media said the beheadings might have been retribution.

The Web site of the daily El Universal newspaper, citing unnamed state law-enforcement officials, reported that a message that accompanied the bag of heads warned: "For every one of mine you kill, I'm going to kill 10 of yours."

Also Sunday, federal police reported they had captured three suspected cartel hit men in the border city of Tijuana. The suspects allegedly had six assault rifles and about 3,500 rounds of ammunition at the home where they were caught.

Beheadings have become increasingly common in Mexico amid rising drug-related violence that has killed more than 5,300 people this year.

President Felipe Calderon launched a crackdown against drug traffickers two years ago, triggering clashes between security forces and gunmen and vicious feuding among rival drug gangs.

The coastal state of Guerrero, home to the resort city of Acapulco, has been one of the drug war's more violent corners. Nearly 500 people have been killed there since January 2007, soon after Calderon announced his anti-crime offensive, according to a tally by the University of San Diego's Trans-Border Institute.

As part of his crackdown, Calderon has sent 45,000 soldiers and 5,000 federal police into the streets. The offensive has produced thousands of arrests and some major seizures of drugs, cash and weapons, although there is no sign that any of the country's main drug gangs have been dislodged.

Most of the killings have resulted from turf wars among drug-trafficking organizations.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.
Inside Cover

Report: Mexico More Dangerous Than Iraq

Monday, December 15, 2008 2:37 PM

The escalating drug war in Mexico has now made America’s southern neighbor a more dangerous place than Iraq, according to Strategy Page, a military affairs Web site.

“This month, about 26 people a day are dying from criminal and terrorist violence a day in Iraq. That’s a bit lower than the death toll in northern Mexico, which on a bad day (like last November 3rd) saw 58 people killed,” the Web site writes in a headlined post, “Mexico: Iraq is Safer.”

“The police are generally helpless, hundreds of thousands of middle-class Mexicans have fled the border region, often to the United States (if they had dual-citizenship, which many do),” Strategy Page continues. “Those without money must hunker down and wait for someone to win this war. The drug gangs show no signs of weakening, although the army believes that it can prevail in the next year or so.”

At least 7,000 people have been killed in a two-year war between the Mexican government and major drug cartels along the U.S.-Mexico border, according to the University of San Diego Trans-border Institute. The war was triggered by a decision by President Felipe Calderon in 2007 to reclaim major areas of the border from the control of huge drug cartels and their private armies. Calderon has deployed an estimated 45,000 army troops and 18,000 police officers in 18 states in Mexico.

The effect has been minimal, according to published accounts. Kidnappings have dropped, but brutal gangland style murders have escalated. Headless bodies have been hung from overpasses and thrown on the side of major streets and highways in places like Tijuana and Ciudad Juarez, and mass killings have taken place inside once peaceful restaurants and business districts.

Mexican media reported that November 2008 was the deadliest month in Mexico’s now two-year old Cartel War, according to Strategy Page. Over 700 people were killed in November, and 669 were killed in October 2008. That brings the death toll for 2008 to somewhere between 4,900 and 5,100 murders. “The 2008 death toll is another indicator that Mexico is a country at war,” Strategy Page concluded.

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THE UNLIKELY
ABRAHAMIC
SISTERHOOD

...a muslim, a christian
and a jew take
interfaith dialogue
to new heights

BY JESSICA HANEWINCKEL

The members of the Faith Cafe pose
Before a mosque in Muscat, Oman. The
women spoke at a Young Presidents
Organization Conference there in
March. From left, Ranya Aliby,
Priscilla Warner and Suzanne Oliver.
The first time I see the photo of Rayya Idliby, Suzanne Oliver and Priscilla Warner, I study it closely, scanning the women's faces, clothing, hair. Which is the Muslim? Which is the Christian, the Jew? I know that part of their self-fortified and well-named Path Club, each New York City member represents one of the three Abrahamic religions. I stare at the book's cover, at the photos of the three authors sitting closely side by side, I'm already surprised to see representatives of each different, confusing religions sitting together smiling, Not one of them looks particularly foreign to others; they all look like regular Americans women to me. I'll call Rayya, Suzanne and Priscilla by their first names, since using their last names would feel impersonal, almost rude, after meeting them and reading their most intimate conversations that took place in their own living rooms, these women make their own rules feel like personal friends, and they say that is their intent.

I pin Suzanne as the Episcopal Christian because of her long, brownish hair and blue-green eyes. Definitely Wallis-like, I think, Now for the Palestinian Muslim and the Jew. Neither Warner nor Idliby wears any sort of scarf or hair covering, so no clue there. But I guess that Warner's the Jew, unlike the other two, her thick, untreated dark hair and wide, square jaw emit a sort of energy, curiosity and passion, I know to be common in Jewish women. Idliby's name sounds Muslim, Middle Eastern, and her brown almond eyes and olive skin give her away.

Before reading The Path Club, I often realize I've already known what women come together six years ago, that even they each did so separately during time initial meetings in New York's Beekman Hotel, and watched, it's only after I read the book, after I've learned their story in a rather intimate way at the University of San Diego's Institute for Peace and Justice Nov. 17, that I understand why it is so frequent in this country that(print on this page by mistake)

She worried for her children's future in a place where Muslims were being accused and attacked, where most people saw her religion of peace as being one of violence, terror and brutality toward women. She worried for her children's future in a place where Muslims were being accused and attacked, where most people saw her religion of peace as being one of violence, terror and brutality toward women. She worried for her children's future in a place where Muslims were being accused and attacked, where most people saw her religion of peace as being one of violence, terror and brutality toward women. She worried for her children's future in a place where Muslims were being accused and attacked, where most people saw her religion of peace as being one of violence, terror and brutality toward women. She worried for her children's future in a place where Muslims were being accused and attacked, where most people saw her religion of peace as being one of violence, terror and brutality toward women.
"We were trying to understand each other, and sometimes the truth hurt. It was painful for the person saying it, and it hurt the person receiving it."

Priscilla looked to her own religion to help overcome stereotypes. As the women sat before their audience at USO, Priscilla quoted Hillel: "What is hateful to you, do not do to your fellow man. This is the whole of the Torah and the rest is commentary."

The women not only explored the relationship between their respective religions and holy books to the others, but they also reexamined their personal relationships with God, ultimately all ironically finding Him more deeply than they thought they already had, through their own faith while better understanding the faiths of their friends.

"Religion is part of the problem," Suzanne said, "but it can also be part of the solution."

A notable problem that has crested much of the conflict the women dealt with was using religion to one's own benefit, and mixing religion with politics. Regarding the view that Islam is a violent faith, Ranya said, "It's a question of nation-building, state-building, society and culture. It's not about religion."

"People use a more liberal lens when looking at their own religion."

Regarding her people's relationship to Jews, she also recognizes her family's experience of being forced from their land near the Sea of Galilee has actually given her an outlook many Jews can relate to. "No matter where I lived I have always been an outsider," she writes in the book. "I have struggled to develop my own personal identity in the shadow of whatever stereotype others have attributed to a Muslim Palestinian woman."

"The air was charged because I was in a room with two substantial, intelligent women who felt an urgent need to connect and produce something meaningful out of that connection."

These people's experiences are vastly similar, but, as Priscilla pointed out at USO, the effect of the experiences on a person can vary depending on the context.

"Words sound different depending on whose ears they fall on," she said, "and depending on whose ears have been." After six years of dialogue and finally writing the book chronicling their experience (which the project took a different course, they delayed writing that children's book, Ranya, Suzanne and Priscilla look to one another as safety nets, keeping them afloat in their faiths. They no longer simply share conversations, but a deep friendship,defending one another among their respective circles of friends and in public spaces, where people are more sceptical of their experience.

They continue their dialogue, but now, they want to share it with anyone who will listen. Priscilla recalls their first meeting: "The air was charged because I was in a room with two substantial, intelligent women who felt an urgent need to connect and produce something meaningful out of that connection."

"During their lecture at USO, Priscilla spoke again about that feeling of electricity by quoting Jewish philosopher Martin Buber: "When two people relate to each other authentically and humbly, God is the electricity that surges between them."

To start your own faith club, learn more about the women or buy the book, visit www.thepfaithclub.com.

"The Faith Club" by Ranya Idliby, Suzanne Oliver and Priscilla Warner, 328 pages, $15.00.
Despite explicit instructions to the contrary, Jean Bowes, Al and Anni Williams, Joan Henkelmann, Rod Smith, and John and Martin Null found themselves in the相同的 parking area in the building where the function was being held. "No outside vehicles permitted," or words to that effect, and since only her invited guests were attending the annual Diplomatic Club Speaker lecture at the Joan Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice, imagine their frustration and hers. Then, to compound the problem, John Bolton, former ambassador to the United Nations, had served for 16 months with a list of credits too numerous to list before and after that appointment, performed on the scale of the U.N. and the rest of the world. A bit different than the usual holiday event.

One more typical party was given by Jim and Joy Furby at La Valenta, and neither one could recall how many years they had been doing it there, with the usual array of milestones, sliced-to-eruption turkey, etc. As usual, the two had pre-arranged parking for their guests and, as Joy said, it was for them the best, na- tiest, and most appreciated of holiday parties. All the old familiar faces were there, including new-comers Richard and Wanda Levi, Lael and Jay Kevan, etc., etc., et moi aussi, moi! And a Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah and Joy- ous Kwanzaa to all.
How Far Have We Come?

"The Highest Aspiration: Looking Ahead on the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights" is presented in panel form to examine changes in human rights from 1948 to 2008. Wednesday, December 10, 7 p.m.; Joan Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice, University of San Diego, 5998 Alcala Park. (619) 239-7509.
Dec. 9.

Tots and Tales at the San Diego Humane Society will take place at 10:30 a.m. Bring your preschooler for an interactive story-time complete with animal stories, crafts, and of course, animals at the San Diego Humane Society and SPCA, 5500 Gaines St. Playgroups please call to arrange a private program. Cost is $3 per child. Reservations are required. Call (619) 243-3432 for more information.

Pt. Loma Garden Club Annual Holiday Bazaar & Tea will take place from 10 a.m.-noon. It's open to the public. Specialty holiday fresh and dried decorations, crafts and home-made delectables, all created by Point Loma Garden Club members, are for sale. Come find the perfect table centerpieces, wreaths and swags for your home and special gifts for hostesses, friends and family. Proceeds to benefit student scholarships. Portuguese Hall, 2818 Avenida de Portugal or visit www.plgc.org.

Sixty years ago, Eleanor Roosevelt signed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). In a blend of theater and history, Voices of Women (VOW) is collaborating with the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice and other human rights groups to present a reenactment of that day in history with acclaimed actor Rosina Reynolds portraying Eleanor Roosevelt to life. A panel discussion will follow. The event will take place at 7 p.m. at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice, in the Peace & Justice Theatre, at 5998 Alcald Park, on the USD campus. RSVP to http://peace.sandiego.edu.

An evening featuring local Jewish poets followed by a half hour of open mike readings will take place at 7:30 p.m. at the Astor Judaica Library, Lawrence Family JCC, Jacobs Family Campus, 4125 Executive Dr. La Jolla. Admission is free. RSVP to (858) 362-1174 or hadash@jcc.com.
ELEANOR ROOSEVELT COMES TO LUE

at Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace, USD. Linda Vista, Voices of Women presents a reenactment of the day Roosevelt signed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, followed by a panel discussion with William Aoeys, Marjorie Cohn and Dustin Sharp. At 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 10, 619-260-7750, www.activistsandiego.org.
Other
Former Coca-Cola Facility Sells to USD for $6.8M

University to Use Industrial Facility in Future Campus Expansion

The University of San Diego acquired the 34,600-square-foot industrial warehouse at 5330 Linda Vista Road in San Diego from Coca-Cola Enterprises Inc. for $6.85 million, or approximately $198 per square foot.

The University said the property would be part of a future expansion of the main campus. The building was constructed in 1964 on about 2.5 acres in the Rose Canyon/Morena Industrial submarket.

It was vacant when sold.

There were no brokers involved in the deal.

Please refer to CoStar COMPS #1613364 for more information on this transaction.
ABC fills up with selection of training courses

On the Agenda
By Rebecca Go

Events thin out as the holidays approach, and this week is no exception. Aside from the occasional festive gathering and monthly meeting, it's the Associated Builders and Contractors that seem to be busiest, with a training course almost every day.

Datran Media hosts a free live Webinar Monday titled "Generating Value from Your Online Ad Inventory." Register for the 11 a.m. to noon event at datranmedia.com.

Mintz Levin discusses new federal contract disclosure rules at its Monday program starting at 11:45 a.m. To register, click on "News and Events" at mintz.com.

Associated Builders and Contractors features a series of informative courses this week, starting with "Data Cabling Techniques" on Monday from 3-7 p.m.

The four-hour course will focus on installation methods and procedures. Obtain a registration form at abcsd.org or register online under "Construction Education."

Datran Media hosts a free live Webinar Monday titled "Generating Value from Your Online Ad Inventory." Register for the 11 a.m. to noon event at datranmedia.com.

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The four-hour course will focus on installation methods and procedures. Obtain a registration form at abcsd.org or register online under "Construction Education."

The University of San Diego features a Family Business Forum on Wednesday with a focus on strategic planning. For more information about the 12:30-3:00 p.m. event, contact Julia Chemers at 619-260-7699 or juliarose@sandiego.edu.

The San Diego Society for Human Resource Management presents its holiday luncheon from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Wednesday. All proceeds will go to Angel's Depot. To register, visit sdshrm.org.

Associated Builders and Contractors sponsors a CPR and first aid course from 1-4 p.m. Wednesday. Obtain a registration form at abcsd.org or register online under "Construction Education."

The East County Personnel Association hosts a holiday luncheon from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Thursday. The agenda promises a menu and prizes. Reserve a spot with susan@PlazaPersonnelService.com.

The San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce holds its monthly Business After Five Mixer from 5:30-7:30 p.m. on Thursday. For more information, visit sdchamber.org.

Associated Builders and Contractors examines storm water pollution prevention in its last course for the week from 8 a.m. to noon on Friday. The program includes an onsite project consultation for each attending company. Obtain a registration form at abcsd.org or register online under "Construction Education."
ABC fills up with selection of training courses
By REBECCA GO, The Daily Transcript

Events thin out as the holidays approach, and this week is no exception. Aside from the occasional festive gathering and monthly meeting, it's the Associated Builders and Contractors that seem to be busiest, with a training course almost every day.

The University of San Diego features a Family Business Forum on Wednesday with a focus on strategic planning. For more information about the 7:30-9:30 a.m. event, contact Julia Chemers at (619) 260-7699 or juliarose@sandiego.edu.
OTHER EVENTS

THURSDAY, DEC 4 - MIXER
RED HOT HOLIDAY MIXER
Make some new contacts, re-connect with former colleagues, celebrate with clients and more at our holiday mixer! Please bring one unwrapped toy valued at $10 or more for our holiday toy drive.
Organization: WITI Information: www.witi.com Cost: No Details Available When: Hours: 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM Where: Fish & Richardson P.C., 12390 El Camino Real, San Diego, 92130, Venue Phone: (656) 678-5070

FRIDAY, DEC 5 - BREAKFAST MEETING
FIRST FRIDAY NETWORKING BREAKFAST
This breakfast is one of the best networking opportunities of the year; Attendees will have the opportunity to meet with one another and share ideas while enjoying a delicious breakfast buffet. Organization: Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce Information: (760) 931-8400 bjorgen@carlsbad.org Cost: $30.00 - $40.00 When: Hours: 7:00 AM - 9:00 AM Where: Hilton Garden Inn, 8490 Carlsbad Blvd., Carlsbad, 92009

SATURDAY, DEC 6 - WORKSHOP
SURVIVING THE DOWNTURN
Our panel will consist of business owners who will answer participants' questions with lessons learned, factual how-tos and practical survival tips. Organization: SCORE Information: (619) 557-7272 www.score-sandiego.org Cost: $30.00 - $50.00 When: Hours: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Where: Point Loma Nazarene University (Mission Valley), 4007 Camino Del Rio S., San Diego, 92108

TUESDAY, DEC 9 - WORKSHOP
FUNDAMENTALS OF LICENSING
This workshop will present the fundamental concepts and provisions of a license negotiation, such as royalties, exclusivity, and technology transfer. Organization: CONNECT Information: www.connect.org Cost: $45.00 - $55.00 When: Hours: 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Where: National University La Jolla, 11256 North Torrey Pines Road, La Jolla

FRIDAY, DEC 12 - NETWORKING
HOLIDAY NETWORKING & MEMBERSHIP DRIVE
The proceeds from this event will benefit the UCSD's Black Staff Association, which supports the professional and personal development of its members and contributes to the diversity of the university. Organization: UCSD Black Staff Association Cost: No Details Available When: Hours: 6:00 PM - 12:00 PM Where: UCSD Campus/Price 10111 North Torrey Pines Road, La Jolla, 92037

WEDNESDAY, DEC 17 - FORUM
FAMILY BUSINESS FORUM
University of San Diego:
5998 Alcatti Hall, USD, 619-260-4600.
Thursday, 8 p.m. — Third Eye Blind. Alternative/rock.
## Concerts

### DECEMBER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Third Eye Blind</td>
<td>Thu., Dec. 11</td>
<td>8 p.m.</td>
<td>USD (University of San Diego), 5998 Alcala Park, San Diego</td>
<td>(619) 260-4600</td>
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<td>Ruby &amp; the Red Hots</td>
<td>Thur., Dec. 11</td>
<td>8:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Humphrey's Backstage Music Club, 2241 Shelter Island Dr, San Diego</td>
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<td>Chris Williamson</td>
<td>Fri., Dec. 12</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>AcousticMusicSanDiego, 4650 Mansfield St, San Diego</td>
<td>(619) 303-8176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kelly Joe Phelps</td>
<td>Sat., Dec. 13</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>AcousticMusicSanDiego, 4650 Mansfield St, San Diego</td>
<td>(619) 303-8176</td>
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<tr>
<td>Metallica with Lamb of God and The Sword</td>
<td>Mon., Dec. 15</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>Cox Arena at San Diego State University</td>
<td>(619) 220-8497</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chris Botti</td>
<td>Mon., Dec. 15</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Copley Symphony Hall, 750 B St, San Diego</td>
<td>(619) 235-0804</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mike Ness</td>
<td>Tues., Dec. 16</td>
<td>10 p.m.</td>
<td>Belly Up Tavern, 143 South Cedros Ave, Solana Beach</td>
<td>(858) 481-8140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The RB Chorale Holiday Concert</td>
<td>Fri., Dec. 19</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>House of Blues, 1055 Fifth Ave, San Diego</td>
<td>(619) 299-2583</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah Brightman</td>
<td>Sat., Dec. 20</td>
<td>8 p.m.</td>
<td>Sports Arena, 5500 Sports Arena Blvd, San Diego</td>
<td>(619) 303-8176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B.B. King</td>
<td>Sun., Jan. 4</td>
<td>6 p.m.</td>
<td>House of Blues, 1055 Fifth Ave, San Diego</td>
<td>(619) 299-2583</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loudon Wainwright III</td>
<td>Sat., Jan. 24</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>House of Blues, 1055 Fifth Ave, San Diego</td>
<td>(619) 299-2583</td>
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### JANUARY

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<tr>
<td>The Radiators</td>
<td>Sat., Jan. 3</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>House of Blues, 1055 Fifth Ave, San Diego</td>
<td>(619) 299-2583</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marti Lynne King Jr., Choir</td>
<td>Mon. Jan. 19</td>
<td>5 p.m.</td>
<td>House of Blues, 1055 Fifth Ave, San Diego</td>
<td>(619) 299-2583</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Legend</td>
<td>Fri., Jan. 16</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>House of Blues, 1055 Fifth Ave, San Diego</td>
<td>(619) 299-2583</td>
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### FEBRUARY

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<tr>
<td>Motley Crue</td>
<td>Mon., Feb. 2</td>
<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>House of Blues, 1055 Fifth Ave, San Diego</td>
<td>(619) 299-2583</td>
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**Newspaper Credit:** NAVY DISPATCH

**Publication Date:** December 11, 2008
DECEMBER

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Rub & The Red Hots, Thur., Dec. 11 8:30 p.m.-11:30 p.m., Humphrey's Backstage Music Club, 2241 Shelter Island Dr., San Diego. (619) 224-2377.

Chris Williamson, Fri., Dec. 12, 7:30 p.m. $15. AcousticMusi<сан-Лего, 1650 Mansfield St., San Diego. (619) 303-8176.


Metallica with Lamb of God and The Sword, Mon., Dec. 15, 7 p.m. Cox Arena at San Diego State University. (619) 220-8977.

Chris Botti, Mon., Dec. 15, 7:30 p.m. $40-$100. Copley Symphony Hall, 750 B St., San Diego. (619) 235-0804.

Mike Ness, Tues., Dec. 16, 8 p.m. jelly Up Theatre, 143 South Cedros Ave., Solana Beach. (858) 486-8140.

The RB Chorale Holiday Concert, Dec. 17, 7:30 p.m. $5-$30. Poway Center for the Performing Arts, 15498 Espola Rd., Poway. (858) 740-0505.


B.B. King, Sun., Jan. 4, 6 p.m. $72-$112.50. House of Blues, 1055 Fifth Ave., San Diego. (619) 399-2383.

David Hidalgo 7 Losa Perez (From Los Lobos), Sat., Jan. 10, 8 p.m. $5-$42. Poway Center for the Performing Arts, 15498 Espola Rd., Poway. (619) 224-1471.

JANUARY

Barenaked Ladies, Sat., Jan. 17, 6:30 p.m. $35-$55. Viejas Casino, 1055 Fifth Ave., San Diego. (619) 399-2383.


THE HALLWAY

Disparate Warwicks


February

Ramon Ayala, Sun, Jan 25, 7 p.m. $42.50-$62.50. House of Blues, 1055 Fifth Ave., San Diego. (619) 299-2383.

FEBRUARY

Motley Crue, Mon., Feb. 2, 6:30 p.m. $79.50-$95. With Hinder and Theory of a Deadman. Cox Arena, 950 Campanile Dr., San Diego. (619) 594-6976.

Robin Williams: Weapons of Self Destruction Tour, Thur., Feb. 12, 8 p.m. $51.50-$91.50. Ricas Arena, 9500 Gilman Dr., San Diego. (619) 299-2383.

26th Annual Tribute to Legends (Reggae Festival), Mon. Feb. 6, 1 p.m. $35-$41. San Diego Sports Arena, 3500 Sports Arena Blvd., San Diego. (619) 224-8477.


The Schtick Trio, Sat., Feb. 28, 7:30 p.m. $35-$51. Birch North Park Theatre, 2881 University Ave., (619) 239-8836.
Counts

DECEMBER

Third Eye Blind, Fri., Dec. 11, 8 p.m. UCSD (University of San Diego), 5988 Alcala Park, San Diego. (619) 260-4600.

Ruby & the Red Hots, Thur., Dec. 11, 6:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m. Humphrey's Backstage Music Club, 2241 Shelter Island Dr., San Diego. (619) 224-3577.

Chris Williamson, Fri., Dec. 12, 7:30 p.m. $25. AcousticMusicSanDiego, 4650 Mansfield St., San Diego. (619) 303-8176.


Metallica with Lamb of God and The Sword, Mon., Dec. 15, 7 p.m. Cox Arena at San Diego State University. (619) 220-8497.

Chris Botti, Mon., Dec. 15, 7:30 p.m. $40-$80. Copley Symphony Hall, 750 B St., San Diego. (510) 235-0804.

Mike Ness, Tues., Dec. 16. Belly Up Tavern, 143 South Cedros Ave., Solana Beach. (858) 481-8140.

The RB Chorale Holiday Concert, Fri., Dec. 19, 7:30 p.m. $5-$30. Poway Center for the Performing Arts, 15498 Espola Rd., Poway. (858) 748-0505.


City Limits Band, Wed., Dec. 31, 7 p.m. California Center for the Arts, Escondido, 340 N. Escondido Blvd., (800) 988-4253.

JANUARY


David Hidalgo 7 Louis Perez (from Los Lobos), Sat., Jan. 10, 8 p.m. $5-$42. Poway Center for the Performing Arts, 15498 Espola Rd., Poway. (858) 748-0505.

George Winston, Fri., Jan. 16, 7:30 p.m. $30-$41. Birch North Park Theatre, 2891 University Ave., (619) 239-8836.


Fred Eaglesmith, Fri., Jan. 16, 7:30 p.m. $15-$45. AcousticMusicSanDiego, 4650 Mansfield St., San Diego. (619) 303-8176.

Peter Roway, Sat., Jan. 17, 7:30 p.m. $22-$47. AcousticMusicSanDiego, 4650 Mansfield St., San Diego. (619) 303-8176.


FEBRUARY


Robbin Williams: Weapons of Self Destruction Tour, Thur., Feb. 12, 8 p.m. $51.50-$91.50. RIMAC Arena, 9500 Gilman Dr, San Diego.


The Lalo Schifrin Trio, Sat., Feb. 28, 7:30 p.m. $38-$51. Birch North Park Theatre, 2891 University Ave., (619) 239-8836.

MARCH

Zappa Plays Zappa, Sun., March 1, 7 p.m. $30-$69.50. House of Blues, 1055 Fifth Ave., San Diego. (619) 299-2583.

The Pretenders, Thurs, March 5, 8 p.m. House of Blues, 1055 Fifth Ave., San Diego. (619) 299-2583.


The Irish Rovers, Sun., March 15, 3 p.m. $20.50-$47.50. Balboa Theatre, 868 Fourth Ave. (619) 570-1100.

Joe Bonamassa, Fri., March 20, 8 p.m. $27.25-$50. Spreckels Theatre, 121 Broadway, San Diego. (619) 235-9500.

APRIL

Hawaiian Slack-Key Masters, Fri., April 3, 7:30 p.m. AcousticMusicSanDiego, 4650 Mansfield St., San Diego. (619) 303-8176.

Billy Currington, Thurs., April 9, 8 p.m. $35-$54. Viejas Casino DreamCatcher Show Room, 5000 Willows Rd., Alpine. (619) 445-5400.

Don Felder, Fri., APRIL 10, 7 p.m. $37.50-$52.50. House of Blues, 1055 Fifth Ave., San Diego. (619) 299-2583.

Seun Kuti & Egypt 80, Wed., April 15, 8 p.m. Price Center at UCSB, 9500 Gilman Dr. (858) 534-6467.
"TALES OF NOW AND ZEN"
Motoke performance, USD. Saturday, December 6.

(SEE FOR KIDS)

"Tales of Now and Zen"
Award-winning storyteller Motoke's tales depict characters from ancient China. Themes include wisdom, strength, fear. 619-267-6363. Saturday, December 6, 8 p.m.; University of San Diego, 5998 Alcala Park. (LINDA VISTA)
Girl Scouts get schooled at USD's 'Cookie College'

By JENNA LONG, The Daily Transcript

Nearly 250 Girl Scouts recently completed Cookie College at the University of San Diego. The teens and tweens explored sales, marketing, public speaking and money management. Cookie College was created through a three-year grant to Girl Scouts, San Diego-Imperial Council from Merrill Lynch's "Investing Pays Off" financial education program. Attendees received book bags and USB drives uploaded with business resources, and enjoyed a catered lunch.
Lectures:

"Movie Costumes by Adrian" Christian Esquevin, director of Coronado Library, speaks about his personal collection and recent book, Adrian: Silver Screen to Custom Label, in Room LL430, 619-594-2447. Thursday, December 11, 3 p.m.; free. SDSU Library, 5500 Campanile Drive. (COLLEGE AREA)

Building Kettenburgs Presentation by author Mark Allen, historian Iris Engstrand, Tom and Bill Kangasburg. Event begins with reception (6:30 p.m.), followed by talk (7 p.m.), book signing (8 p.m.). RSVP by December 15: 619-234-9153 x106. Wednesday, December 17, 6:30 p.m.; San Diego Maritime Museum, 1306 North Harbor Drive. (DOWNTOWN)

Creative Writing Class Author Lisa Shapiro helps writers improve creative writing, including fiction, family history, personal memoir, and creative nonfiction. 619-588-3718. Monday, December 15, 2 p.m.; free. Ages 16 and up. El Cajon Library, 201 East Douglas Avenue. (EL CAJON)


Make It Today, Wear It Tonight Jan Janes leads silk painting workshop. Learn to paint on silk using traditional silk painting techniques, go home with a finished scarf. Fee includes "some materials." Registration: 619-299-4278. Sunday, December 14, 10 a.m.; $50. San Diego Art Department, 3830 Ray Street. (MIRA MESA)

Sharing Lessons Learned Local children's authors and illustrators share insights "gained along the way to being published and tips that could make your path easier as you sell and promote your work" during next meeting of Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators.

Participants include Laurie Alway ("Bungle Bear's Burnt Toast"), Jeni Burt Wilharm (Dinosaur Funny Bones, Doctor Dinosaur), Melissa O'Heilly (Forbidden Truth), Samantha Pascarella (Illustrator of Reading Recovery books), Joy Rush (author/illustrator of Kate Sessions: Mother of the Seals Park), Deborah Ramos (Amaryllis of Aardvarks, A Zebra, Zebra), Eric Shanower (�Deployed in Os, Age of Brontosaurus). Session (Lighting of San Diego Christmas Tree) Many books available for sale. Meeting takes place in USD's Hahn School of Nursing Building room 106 (at Linda Vista Road and Marion Way). 619-713-5462. Saturday, December 13, 2 p.m.; free. University of San Diego, 5998 Alcala Park. (UNIVERSITY)
Athletics
USD 90, Long Island 54

Four Toreros, led by freshman Domique Conners and senior Amber Sprague with 16 points each, scored in double figures as USD (9-5) upended Long Island (5-8) to win the Maggie Dixon Surf 'N Slam Tournament at Jenny Craig Pavilion. For the second time in as many games, Conners (La Jolla Country Day) scored a career-high, while senior Kiva Herman scored 14 and sophomore Emily Hatch finished with a double-double, scoring 13 to go with 13 rebounds.
USD comeback rocks Miss. St.

By Kyle Veazey
SPECIAL TO THE UNION-TRIBUNE

MISSISSIPPI STATE 64
USD 61

OVERTIME

And even though it took Pomare a while to set the record, doing so on a comeback of his own made for his third and fourth points of the night with 1:22 to play, he left with a 15-point lead. Most of that contribution came in key moments in USD's win.

"It's always great to win, but to set a record and win? It's something I'm going to take back home," Pomare, the senior from Oceanside, said. "It's something I'm going to talk to my mom about. I'm sure she's going to love it." So did Toreros coach Bill Grier.

"He's a kid that, I think, around San Diego gets a little misunderstood in that he doesn't play with a ton of emotion outwardly," Grier said. "But he's a very fierce competitor internally. He's really become a load down low.

Needing three for the record, Pomare tied Stan Washington (1971-74) in career scoring with a short jumper over MSU center Jarvis Varnado, the nation's leading shot-blocker, with 4:44 left in the first half.

In his second game back after missing the start of the season with an injury, Pomare led the Toreros with 17 points. DeJon Jackson had 13 points, five coming in overtime.

That's when the Toreros took control, scoring the first two points and never trailing. Up by two with 9.6 seconds to play, USD survived a trip to the foul line by Varnado. He missed the first of two free throws.

More impressive was USD's effort to send the game to overtime. Mississippi State led by eight with 1:02 to play and by four as the clock ticked under a minute. Grier called for the players to trap Mississippi State's attempt to bring the ball up the floor, which forced a turnover that led to the tying points — a Pomare putback with 1.1 seconds to play.

MSU (8-5) had three chances to win the game in the final seconds, but all three shots were unsuccessful.
Jackson, Johnson carry USD to victory in OT

Associated Press

Two guards the University of San Diego men's basketball team has played without for a good part of the season showed the torque what they've been missing on Tuesday.

Tremaine Johnson had 17 points in his second game of the season and De'jon Jackson returned from a two-game absence to add 13 points, leading USD to a 64-61 overtime victory over Mississippi State.

Jackson, who has been bothered by knee problems, scored five points for the Toreros in overtime to secure the win. Johnson, a sophomore point guard who spent the season on indefinite suspension, has scored in double figures in each of his two games this season.

"This group has a tendency to rise up to the challenge in bigger games," said USD coach Bill Grier, whose team beat Oregon at a tournament in Portland, Ore., earlier this month. "They did that tonight."

USD (7-7) finished 25-of-61 from the field and hit 11-of-14 free throws. Mississippi State (8-5) finished 5-of-19 from beyond the arc in the loss.

USD led by as many as seven points in the first half, but only 25-24 at halftime.

The Bulldogs opened the second half on a 16-7 run, but the Toreros responded with a 13-2 run to reclaim the lead.

"The thing that was great for us throughout the game was that we were able to get the tempo that we wanted," Grier said. "We were able to slow it down and take advantage of some of their youth in some positions."

The Bulldogs regained the lead on a layup by Jarvis Varnado with 5:10 left in regulation, part of a 9-0 run.

Cyro Pompeo (30 points) tied the game at 21 on a put-back with 38 seconds left.
Marshall among league’s top free throw shooting teams

By GARY FAUBER
Bluefield Daily Telegraph

December 30, 2008 11:51 pm

— BECKLEY — As Marshall’s men’s basketball team traveled all the way across the country, it hopes not to leave its free throw prowess back in Huntington.
The Thundering Herd (7-5) visits the University of San Diego on Friday. Tip-off will be 10 p.m. Eastern time. Marshall was scheduled to leave Huntington today, hoping to avoid any jetlag from the 2,000-mile-plus trip. The Herd is coming off Sunday’s 74-60 win over Tennessee State. They led by 21 at halftime but still had to hold off the Tigers in the second half.
Aiding Marshall’s cause was a 24-of-25 day at the free throw line. The Herd is now third in Conference USA in free throw percentage at 72.3 (224 of 310).
Individually, freshman Damier Pitts is ninth at 78.4 (40 of 51), senior Markel Humphrey 12th at 75.0 (36 of 48) and sophomore Tirrell Baines 15th at 73.5 (36 of 49).
Junior Chris Lutz actually leads the Herd in free throw percentage at 78.8 (26-of-33), but he has not played in enough games to qualify for league rankings.
San Diego was 6-7 going into Tuesday’s game at Mississippi State. Among the Toreros’ losses were games against nationally-ranked Wisconsin (64-49) and Miami (80-45) in the Paradise Jam tournament in the U.S. Virgin Islands in November.
Senior Gyno Pomare, a 6-foot-8, 240-pound center, is San Diego’s top player at 14.5 points and 6.0 rebounds per game. The two-time All-West Coast Conference first-teamer went to Mississippi State needing three points to become the program’s all-time leading scorer (1,470 career points going in).
Two other players are scoring in double figures, led by sophomore guard Trumaine Johnson’s 16.0 ppg. Rob Jones, a 6-6 sophomore forward, averages 10.6 ppg and 5.3 rpg.
Rounding out the starting lineup are sophomore guard Matt Dorr (6.9, 4.2) and 6-7 junior forward Chris Lewis (6.8, 4.0).
Marshall is returning the Toreros’ visit to Huntington of a year ago. Marshall won that game 76-60 last New Year’s Eve. Pomare was held to nine points and one rebound.
Friday’s game can be heard on WWNR-AM 620.
The Herd will begin conference play at NCAA runner-up Memphis on Wednesday.
— E-mail: gfauber
@register-herald.com

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Today: at Mississippi State
Tipoff: 6 p.m. at Humphrey Coliseum, Starkville, Miss.
Records: University of San Diego 6-7; Mississippi State 8-4
Radio: XPRS (105.9 AM)
At a glance: The last time USD hit the road to play a Southeastern Conference school during the winter break, the Toreros returned home from hallowed Kentucky with an upset victory. A win over Mississippi State won't bring the same national attention as last year's victory over Kentucky, but it's another example of coach Bill Grier upgrading USD's schedule. USD has been making the transition to playing without senior G Brandon Johnson. The return of sophomore PG Trumaine Johnson allows sophomore G Matt Dorrien and sophomore G Matt Dorrien to return to his natural position of shooting guard. Trumaine Johnson scored 16 points in a loss to Boise State last week, his first game back from a suspension. USD's defense should receive a boost if Junior G De'Jon Jackson returns from a knee injury that has sidelined him the last five games. Jackson was able to practice last week and is expected to play. Mississippi State has balanced scoring led by C Jarvis Varnado (89), who is averaging 14.3 points and 9.8 rebounds.

— Tom Shanahan
NORTH COUNTY TIMES
December 23, 2008

Toreros feel like visitors at home

TOM SHANAHAN
FOR THE NORTH COUNTY TIMES

SAN DIEGO — The atmosphere was electric, bordering on the panic of a college football game.

A Boise State marching band filled seats in the northwest corner of the Bob Mathias Stadium, with horns blaring and drums pounding out school fight song. Radley residents dressed in the school colors.

The trouble for the University of San Diego men's basketball team, though, was the atmosphere was created by Boise State's fans as the Broncos beat the Toreros 75-72 on Monday night with about 1,000 of 2,864 fans dressed in Boise orange and blue.

"The atmosphere was terrific," USD head coach Bill Grier said. "It's sad that it had to be from the opponent."

Boise's fans took in the game while in town for Tuesday night's Poinsettia Bowl football game which matches No. 9-ranked Boise State against Texas Christian at Qualcomm Stadium.

Boise State's basketball program doesn't have the lofty rankings of the football team, but the Broncos have enjoyed success. Boise State is the defending Western Athletic Conference regular season and tournament champions, although the Broncos were only picked fifth in this year's preseason poll.

The Broncos (8-3) needed some blistering hot shooting from 3-point range to beat the Toreros (6-7). Boise was 7-of-7 at halftime for a 39-32 lead. The Broncos not only finished 9-of-11 for the game, they also converted three-point plays on free throws 3-6-4 times.

"That's as disappointed as I've been since I've been here with our defense," said Grier, who's in his second season. "We knew they were a good perimeter shooting team."

Boise junior guard Anthony Thomas entered the game averaging only 8.0 points, but he scored 20 while hitting 4-of-4 from 3-point range.

Senior forward Mark Sanchez also scored 20, with 2-of-3 from the 3-point arc.

Despite the loss, the Toreros had a much more aggressive look with the return of sophomore point guard Trumaine Johnson. He scored 16 points off the bench in his first game of the year.

Johnson was suspended eight games, but Grier didn't let him play in any of the next four games or dress for two of them.

USD's Gyno Pomare drives to the basket against Boise State's Kurt Cunningham during the first half on Monday.
Boise State doesn't need tricks, gadgets, razzle or dazzle to win.
Not the Broncos men's basketball team. Not last night against USD. In an atmosphere that made it a semi-home game for the Broncos, who had the support of about 1,000 blue-and-orange clad fans in town for tonight's Poinsettia Bowl game, Boise State stuck to the basics and shot the lights out from three-point range in edging USD 75-72.

Announced total attendance at the Jenny Craig Pavilion was 2,384.
Boise State made its first eight three-point shots and finished 9-for-11 from long range. The Broncos (8-3) opened a 13-point lead early in the second half and, after USD tied it with 10:50 to go, broke the deadlock with a three-pointer (natural) and didn't let the Toreros get closer than two after that.

Trailing 75-72, USD forced a turnover with 2.7 seconds left and had the ball out of bounds under its own basket. A play to set up Danny Brown for a three-pointer worked well, but Brown's shot was off the back of the rim at the buzzer.

Neither USD nor Gyno Pomare (left) could stop Boise State's Anthony Thomas, who was 6-for-6 on field goals.

The loss for the Toreros (6-7) came in a game notable for the return of sophomore guard Trumaine Johnson, a starter in the 13-2 finish to last season who had served an indefinite suspension for unspecified "conduct unbecoming" of a USD player.

Johnson checked into a game for the first time this season with 3:21 expired and scored his first basket 25 seconds later. He finished with 16 points and gave a boost to both the speed and diversity of the USD offense.

"It felt awesome and I'm happy to be back," Johnson said. "But I'm tired. I'm not in as good shape as I thought I was."

Regarding the suspension:
"I just haven't been handling business like I was supposed to," Johnson said. "I was told there was a certain way I had to do things and I didn't follow it. I can't be mad about the punishment because it was all up to me."

Boise State, which scored the first five points of the game, led 16-12 when USD went on a 9-0 run to take a 21-16 lead with 10:35 to go in the half.

The Toreros couldn't stop Boise State junior guard Anthony Thomas in particular, and the Broncos in general, from beyond the three-point line as Boise took a 39-32 lead into the intermission.

Thomas was perfect on six field-goal attempts, four of them from three-point...
range, in scoring 15 points and adding six rebounds and three assists in the first 20 minutes. He came in averaging 8.4 points and .333 (10-for-30) on three-pointers.

Thomas finished with 20 points, eight rebounds and five assists. Boise State came in a 32.6 percent team (69-for-119) from beyond the arc.

"I'm probably as disappointed as I've been (any game) since I've been here defensively," second-year USD coach Bill Grier said. "We knew what kind of shooting they were capable of coming in and we didn't do a good job of taking it away.

"Thomas hit his first one (three-pointer) and you could tell that he was feeling good about it and we didn't do a good job of taking it away."

Thomas conceded he was "in the zone," but said he had been shooting well in practice the last few days and came in with confidence. The Boise contingent in the stands was also a boost.

"It was huge," Thomas said. "We're on the road, but we had our fans, our band was playing. It felt like a home game, it was great and it helped a lot."
Anthony Thomas connected on all four of his three-point tries, finishing with 20 points, to help lead the Boise State Broncos to a 75-72 win over the San Diego Toreros in non-conference action at Jenny Craig Pavilion.

Thomas, who finished the night hitting 7-of-8 from the floor overall, added eight rebounds and five assists for the Broncos (8-3) as they won their second in a row. Mark Sanchez added 20 points, Paul Noonan 15 and Kurt Cunningham 13 points in the triumph as well.

The Toreros (6-7) were paced by Gyno Pomare with a game-high 22 points, while Trumaine Johnson came off the bench to contribute 16 points as they had their brief two-game win streak halted. Rob Jones and Matt Dorr both chipped in 15 points in the setback.

BSU knocked down an impressive 57.7 percent from the field in the first half and converted an incredible 7-of-7 beyond the arc, en route to a 39-32 lead at the break.

In the second half the Broncos continued to shoot the ball well from the floor at a 50-percent clip, allowing them to pick up the three-point win.

Boise State managed to overcome 16 turnovers by hitting 9-of-11 out on the perimeter.

Game Notes

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SAN DIEGO: Mark Sanchez and Anthony Thomas scored 20 points each to lead Boise State to a 75-72 win over San Diego on Monday.

Sanchez, who scored 15 points in the second half, had 12 of Boise State's 14 points in one stretch that gave the Broncos a 65-61 lead with 5:53 left in the game.

Kurt Cunningham scored consecutive baskets for Boise State (8-3) for a 69-61 lead with 3:06 remaining. San Diego (6-7) then cut the lead to three on three occasions, the final time on Trumaine Johnson's layup with 7.6 seconds left. But after the Toreros forced a turnover, Danny Brown missed a 3-pointer at the buzzer.

Gyno Pomare scored a game-high 22 points for San Diego and Johnson added 16.

Correction: 

Notes:
Boise State men's basketball looks to grab second road win

The Broncos will play at San Diego tonight after winning at Cal State Bakersfield.

Boise State guard La'Shard Anderson helped the Broncos seal their first road win of the season Saturday night.

Now the sophomore is looking forward to his homecoming game Monday night at San Diego.

Anderson, who made a key basket and added a free throw in the final minute of the Broncos' 66-62 win over Cal State Bakersfield, is a San Diego native. He and the Broncos (7-3) are hoping to beat the Toreros (6-6) in what they hope will be a pro-BSU crowd.

In addition to the 50 or so friends and family that Anderson will attract, several thousand Bronco fans are in San Diego for the Poinsettia Bowl and could take in the basketball game at the Jenny Craig Pavilion.

"For me, it's going to be a home game," Anderson said. "We're going to have a lot of people cheering us on. The fans should help us play harder."

Anderson has been a bright spot thus far for the Broncos. It's his first year with the program after playing one season at Irvine Valley College. He plays 21 minutes per game and averages 4.3 points. He leads the Broncos in steals (11), ranks third in assists (27) and has made 14-of-17 free throws.

"He's had some really good minutes and bright spots," BSU coach Greg Graham said. "He hasn't had a chance to go through a freshman year at this level. It's a change for him, and he's adjusting to it. Everyone has seen that he has a chance to be a very special player out there. He can really do some things with the basketball as far as making us better."

Anderson backs up starter Anthony Thomas at the point. He'll come off the bench like he has in the first nine games and Graham hopes he gets the usual results.

"You know he'll be ready to play, but you just worry that he doesn't get ready too much," Graham said. "You don't want La'Shard to try and do too much. Guys have a tendency to press and try to do too much. The big thing is to just relax and go play. He gets an opportunity to play in front of family and friends - that's a good thing and I'm glad that we were able to do it."

That's how Anderson will approach the game. It won't be easy. In addition to his family and friends, he used to play in summer league games against many of San Diego's players.

"I pretty much know their whole team," Anderson said. "I'm just going to try stay calm and play my game and not really get to into everybody - my family and friends - being at the game. I just have to play my game and stay focused."

Nick Jezierny: 377-6420
USD could be visitor at home

By Hank Wesch
STAFF WRITER

When the college football bowl assignments were revealed, the one for Boise State put Bill Grier into a bit of a funk.

Not over the incredible injustice of the undefeated (12-0) Broncos being passed over for a BCS bowl, over the supreme serendipity of Boise State coming to play in the Poinsettia Bowl the day after Grier's USD men's basketball team hosts their Broncos counterparts - tonight at the Jenny Craig Pavilion.

Grier knew the Poinsettia Bowl bid would bring thousands of Boise State fans to San Diego. And if enough of them decided to spend a day at SeaWorld or the zoo with an evening of hoops, the JCP might seem more like the Broncos' home court than the Toreros'.

"When I saw those selections and saw that Boise was coming here, I just went, aww," Grier said. "They could have - a big crowd behind them, and they're playing well."

Of all the bowl towns and all the bowl games in the world, they had to walk into this one.

Finals week ended Friday at USD and the student body - not known for coming out in droves anyway - has dispersed for the long holiday break. USD's marketing department added fuel to the potential Broncos fire by offering, until last Friday, reduced prices for those who called the ticket office and used the code word "Broncos." The offer was prominently displayed on the Boise State men's basketball Web site.

Toreros Sports Information Director Ted Gosen said he has received 25 requests for credentials from Boise, Idaho-area media, here primarily for the bowl game. So the Broncos figure to have the Toreros outnumbered in media by a 2-1 margin (or more) as well.

USD (6-6) has emerged from a three-game losing streak to win its past two - an encouraging neutral-court victory over Oregon in Portland on Dec. 13 and a routine dispatching of Division II Academy of Art on Friday at the JCP.

The Toreros have shown signs of recovery from the traumatic loss of standout senior guard Brandon Johns for the season to injury, 16 days ago. And there have been indications of a possible fresh start for some players who have spent considerable time this season with injury or suspensions.

Junior guard De'Jon Jackson has been testing a knee that has caused him to miss seven games. And while previously suspended sophomores Clinton Houston and Trumaine Johnson were the only Toreros not to see action against Academy of Art, Grier said they might tonight.

Boise State (7-3) is fresh from a 66-62 victory at Cal State Bakersfield on Saturday. USD, with Brandon Johnson, won 77-65 at Bakersfield on Dec. 1.

TODAY'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
USD MEN vs. BOISE STATE
Site/time: Jenny Craig Pavilion / 7 p.m.
TV / Radio: Channel 4 San Diego / 1090-AM
Records: USD 6-6; BSU 7-3
Outlook: Toreros on two-game win streak. Broncos, fresh off Saturday road victory at Cal State Bakersfield (66-62), lost to USD's West Coast Conference rival San Francisco at home on Dec. 13.
Today: vs. Boise State
Tipoff: 7:05 p.m. at Jenny Craig Pavilion
Records: Boise St. 7-3; USD 6-6
TV/Radio: Ch. 4 / 1090 AM

At a glance: USD won at Bakersfield, 77-65 on Dec. 1, but that was before the Toreros lost senior G Brandon Johnson for the season (ruptured Achilles' tendon) and dropped three in a row. Since then, USD has won two in a row against Oregon and AAU, and Monday night’s game might mark the return of GS Del’Jon Jackson and Trumaine Johnson. USD coach Bill Grier said Johnson might play for the first time since his suspension was lifted on Dec. 7. Jackson may also return after missing the last five games with pain in his knee. Arthroscopic surgery was considered, but after a second opinion determined that surgery wouldn’t relieve the pain, Jackson will try to resume his season by playing with an orthotic in his knee and continue rehab. USD lost 77-71 at Boise State last season.

— Tom Shanahan
USD cruises to win over Urban Knights

■ Div. II team is in its first year of college basketball

TOM SHANAHAN
FOR THE NORTH COUNTY TIMES

SAN DIEGO — Bill Grier's first year as the University of San Diego men's basketball coach wasn't all smooth sailing, although it seems that way looking back on a season that included an NCAA first-round upset of Connecticut.

The Toreros struggled in December USD 79 Academy of Art 49 and they've struggled this December — albeit for different reasons. But once again Grier has shown a touch for rearranging pieces to plug holes.

USD won its second straight game with a 79-49 win over Academy of Arts University on Friday night, an NCAA Division II school in San Francisco playing its first year of college basketball, before 1,660 fans at Jenny Craig Pavilion.

The victory evened USD's record at 6-6. What's significant about beating AAU (5-9) isn't the win itself, but rather the fact that the Toreros didn't need the Urban Knights as a soft touch to end their losing streak.

They took care of that Saturday when they surprised Oregon 64-57 in Portland to end a dismal three-game losing skid that was the result of losing senior guard Brandon Johnson for the year on Dec. 5 with a ruptured Achilles' tendon.

But better use of the inside offense has been the difference the last two games

"We're doing a better job of getting the ball inside, but we're still not where we want to be," Grier said. "One thing is we're looking to pass too much. We've got to look to score more."

USD had four players in double figures, led by 16 points from sophomore forward Rob Jones. Senior forward/center Gyno Pomare, a former El Camino High standout, had 15 points and eight rebounds, junior forward/center Roberto Mafra had 12 points and junior forward Chris Lewis added 10 points and seven rebounds.

After a sluggish start that saw the Toreros trailing 13-6, they started running the offense efficiently. During a 19-0 USD run for a 25-13 lead, Pomare, Jones, Lewis and Mafra accounted for 14 of the points with low post moves or balls fed to them while cutting into the lane.

"We've tried to work on getting better position, and the guards are feeding the ball inside better," Lewis said. "Once we started executing better, the passing is easier."

Grier used all but two players — sophomore guard Trumaine Johnson and sophomore forward/center Clint Houston. Both players were suspended earlier in the season. It was the first time Johnson has dressed since the San Jose State game Dec. 8, but he has yet to play.

"They may play Monday," Grier said. "They've been practicing and were good teammates tonight."

Junior guard De'Jon Jackson was held out because of a knee injury, but he may return for Monday's home game against Boise State.
USD uses Academy of Arts as primer

USD's Roberto Mafra takes it to the basket against the Academy of Arts' Joshua Jangstam. Sean M. Haffey / Union-Tribune

USD SUMMARY
USD 79, Academy of Arts 49

USD
79
Academy of Arts
49

Rour, Oregon
Portland, Ore.
was second season.
Jenny straight, and Jones (13) don't too much.
The Toreros' men's basketball team closed the books on finals and took care of business as expected, dispatching Academy of Arts University 79-49 before an announced crowd of 1,080 last night at the Jenny Craig Pavilion.

Rob Jones (16 points), Gypo Pomare (13), Roberto Mafra (12) and Lewis (10) gave USD a quartet of double-figure scorers in a game for the second time this season. The first was Dec. 1 at Cal State Fullerton, where Pomare had 24, Brandon Johnson 18, Matt Door 14 and Jones 13.

The Toreros lost three straight games and senior point guard Johnson for the season in injury after the Fullerton contest. But the ship was righted somewhat with a 64-57 victory a week ago over Oregon in the Pac 10 Tournament. Portland, Ore. And last night's rout of Academy 69-40, a freshman program of NCAA Division II

USD's Roberto Mafra takes it to the basket against the Academy of Arts' Josh Joshua Jangstam. Sean M. Haffey / Union-Tribune

USD SUMMARY
USD 79, Academy of Arts 49

USD
79
Academy of Arts
49

points and 15 rebounds in combination. Pomare, Jones and Mafra totaled six assists.

"I'm getting used to playing together with all of them," said Mafra, a 6-6, 200-pound guard, who is a native of Brazil and a transfer from Southeastern Iowa Community College. "But I'm playing mainly the five (center) in case Gypo gets in foul trouble or something."

The front-line parts might not be interchangeable yet, but for one night they were clicking.

"I think they're improving on interior passing," Grier said. "I do get a little worried though when they've got their backs to the basket and are trying to find cutters with people. I don't think we have (former NBA player Arvydas) Sabonis on this team."

"I'd rather just see those guys carve out space in there and score."

That happened often enough that guard Devin Gin, who had a career-high 20 points, with no turnovers, and his fellow backcourt starter Matt Door matched a career-high five assists established last Oregon.

"Just coming off finals, a very difficult week for the kids. I was worried about where we would be mentally," Grier said. "But sometimes teams like this can be kind of hard to play."

USD's Roberto Mafra takes it to the basket against the Academy of Arts' Josh Joshua Jangstam. Sean M. Haffey / Union-Tribune

USD SUMMARY
USD 79, Academy of Arts 49

USD
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Academy of Arts
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USD's Roberto Mafra takes it to the basket against the Academy of Arts' Josh Joshua Jangstam. Sean M. Haffey / Union-Tribune

USD SUMMARY
USD 79, Academy of Arts 49

USD
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Academy of Arts
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They have given no one Art attacks

Fledgling Knights up next for Toreros

By Hank Wesch
STAFF WRITER

How could the Academy of Art University men's basketball team lose to San Francisco 74-61 on Nov. 21? "Please don't play," said USD coach Bill Grier, whose Toreros face the SF Urban Knights tonight at Jenny Craig Pavilion.

No disrespect, AAU fans. Just Grier taking a one-line opportunity at a neger" that wouldn't work for any other USD opponent.

Yet there are that many AAU followers to take offense just yet.

AAU, a San Francisco institution in existence since 1929 with an enrollment of about 14,000, initiated intercollegiate sports programs — six men's and seven women's offerings — this year under the leadership of Athletic Director Dr. Jamie Williams.

Men's basketball, which has NCAA Division II status and membership in the Pacific West Conference, is coached by Peter Thibeaux.

"To be able to start a program, versus inherit one, is pretty exciting to me," Thibeaux said this week. "I love sports, and I realized just how much I missed it when I was away for several years in other businesses."

Thibeaux graduated from Skyline High in Oakland and went on to a standout career at Saint Mary's, a West Coast Conference rival of USD. At Saint Mary's, Thibeaux was a two-time, first-team All-WCC selection in a career that spanned 1979-83 while he earned a degree in economics. He was inducted into the Saint Mary's Hall of Fame in 1997.

Drafted in the fourth round by the NBA's Golden State Warriors, Thibeaux played two seasons with the hometown team. He also logged time with the Bay Area's four overseas teams before the Academy

Islandout career in 1997.

While in Japan, he coached Kawasaki to a national championship in 1993-94, his only head coaching experience before this season.

A mutual acquaintance brokered a meeting between Williams and Thibeaux, when word of AAU's athletics plans circulated in the Bay Area. A job offer was tendered a little more than a year ago and the program-building began.

There are eight scholarship players on the 12-man Urban Knights roster. Guards Wesley Dennis and Dominique Smith were already on campus when Thibeaux arrived. The others he recruited, starting with 7-foot sophomore center Schanel

"It was too soon," Thibeaux said. "We weren't hitting our shots. We were playing pretty good defense actually and making them miss, but then they were beating us up on the boards." Could have used Pessoa, a master in (they) paint.

Thibeaux's emphasis on playing big men was the reason for several forward signings.

"To win a game would be great; I love to win and I've won a lot. But I know this is about growing and learning as well right now. I'm learning as a coach and the players are learning.

So how did AAU lose to USD like it did? It was only the third game in school history, the first against a Division I opponent. Thibeaux's emphasis to that point had been more on defense than offense.

"It was too soon," Thibeaux said. "We weren't hitting our shots. We were playing pretty good defense actually and making them miss, but then they were beating us up on the boards." Could have used Pessoa, a master in (they) paint.

Lozeau leaves

USD sophomore center Nate Lozeau, one of Grier's first recruits, has chosen to leave the program and transfer to a school nearer his Marysville, Wash., home. The 6-10, 270-pound Lozeau averaged 1.8 points, 1.2 rebounds and 7.6 minutes of playing time per game in 19 games last season and virtually the same numbers seeing action in six of USD's first 10 games this season.

"I'm disappointed he's leaving because I thought he was getting better and better and it was just a matter of time for him," Grier said. "But I can understand about his being homesick and I wish him well."

Hank Wesch (619) 293-1852; hank.wesch@uninews.com

"To win a game would be great; I love to win and I've won a lot. But I know this is about growing and learning as well right now."

PETER THIBEAUX, Academy of Art University men's basketball coach
SAN DIEGO: Rob Jones scored 16 points and Gyno Pomare added 15 to lead San Diego to a 79-49 win over Academy of Art on Friday.

San Diego (6-6) used a 19-0 run in the first half to take a 25-13 lead with just less than seven minutes left and was never threatened again.

The Toreros dominated their Division II opponents, holding Academy of Art (0-9) to 31.9 percent shooting, including 5-for-21 from 3-point range. San Diego also pressured the Urban Knights into 26 turnovers.

Weleh Dennis scored 11 points to lead Academy of Art. Phillip Samuels and Lorenzo Dobson scored 10 points each.

Correction:
At a glance: At first blush, scheduling Academy of Art University, a NCAA Division II school in the Bay Area playing its first season, looks like a stroke of genius by USD coach Bill Grier. With the season-ending loss of senior G Brandon Johnson (ruptured Achilles’ tendon) setting off a dismal three-game losing streak, the Toreros thought they might need this matchup once they returned from a game Saturday against Oregon that was expected to be a fourth straight defeat. But USD, showing significant improvement in adjusting to the loss of Johnson’s ball-handling, shooting and defense, upset the Ducks 64-57 at the Rose Garden in Portland. The matchup against AAU was a response to USD having trouble lining up games. After the Toreros’ success last year, which included a win over Connecticut in the NCAA tournament, Grier said he had a hard time finding opponents willing to face his team. Against Oregon, USD had improved success getting the ball inside to senior F/C Gyno Pomare, who finished with 16 points and eight rebounds. Pomare hit 5-of-10 from the field. Academy of Arts has played one other Division I school, losing to the University of San Francisco 74-23. USF plays in the West Coast Conference with USD. Freshman PG Marcus Crawford is one of four players averaging in double figures.

— Tom Shanahan
USD sets the pace in beating Oregon

Toreros deny Ducks their running shoes

By Ian Ruder
SPECIAL TO THE UNION-TRIBUNE

PORTLAND, Ore. — In a game that figured to be all about which team could set the tempo, the USD Toreros put on a clinic worthy of their name sake in defeating the Oregon Ducks... 64-67 last night.

Since injuries and suspensions forced him into essentially an eight-man rotation, San Diego coach Bill Grier knew that it was important, and quickly, to get his Toreros to keep up with the deep but young Ducks. "They've really got to be the up-tempo game. It thrives on," Grier said. "This last couple of games have been kind of tough, but we've been close and I think we're coming together more as a team, building up to a winning season," he said.

The Toreros, masterful pace-setting was best seen in the first half. From the time Timpan Porter brought the Ducks within two at 12-10 at the 13:56 mark, San Diego held Oregon to two baskets in the next 13:21. During that time San Diego built the 13-point cushion it would ride through the second half.

The Ducks cut the gap to six twice in the second half, but each time they made a change, the Toreros responded with points.

"They weathered Oregon's runs, and that comes with experience," Grier said. "We have some older, more experienced guys against Oregon's youth, and in college basketball a lot of times, the experience is going to win out." Porter led Oregon with a game-high 18 points. But the Toreros continually took advantage of the Saúde Porter on "It's like I always tell them, it doesn't have to be perfect, it just has to be the way we want it to be."

BILL GRIER, USD coach

mismatches in the past, leading to a number of easy baskets.

"Yesterday's game served as the team's last on-court test before hitting the books for the real tests during finals week this week."

Asked to grade his team's performance, a relieved Pomare didn't hesitate. "Sophus." Grier didn't offer a grade, but a comment.

"It's like I always tell them, it doesn't have to be perfect, it just has to be the way we want it to be."

Grier had nothing but praise for the way his team has responded to the loss of Johnson and the other perso-

See Toreros, D4
GREG WAHL-STEPHENS / AP
Oregon's Joevan Catron (50) defends a shot by USD's Roberto Mafra on Saturday.

Toreros hurting, still beat Oregon

ASSOCIATED PRESS

PORTLAND, Ore. — Gyno Pomare had 16 points and eight rebounds to lead the University of San Diego men's basketball team to a 64-57 victory over Oregon in the annual Pape Jam game at the Rose Garden Arena on Saturday.

Chris Lewis had 15 points and 64 Rob Jones
USD 64 added 14
Oregon 57 and six rebounds for the Toreros (5-
6), who snapped a three-game losing streak.

Tajuan Porter had 18 points for Oregon (4-5) while LeKendric Longmire added 12.

The Ducks trailed by as many as 15 points in the second half, but briefly threatened when Churchill Odia's 3-pointer with 38.4 seconds left narrowed the gap to 59-53. It was as close as Oregon could come.

The win came as the Toreros were hurting. The team was hit last weekend when senior guard Brandon Johnson ruptured his Achilles' tendon in a 57-46 loss to San Diego State. Johnson, who is out for the rest of the season, was leading the team with an average of 13.5 points and 3.6 assists.

Fellow guard De'Jon Jackson did not make the trip because of a sore knee. His return is uncertain.

"We're kind of playing a hodge-podge lineup out there," said USD coach Bill Grier, who is an Oregon alum.

As a result, the Toreros had to slow the Ducks down. They did, holding the Ducks to just 17 first-half points.

"We never let it get into a rat race," Grier said.

The Toreros jumped out to a 29-15 lead in the first half, capped by a pair of free throws by Roberto Mafra with 2:29 to play.
Grier's homecoming just ducky for USD

By Hank Wechs
STAFF WRITER

Homecomings can be warm and happy. Or they can be a little discomforting and awkward — like the ones depicted in movies such as "Four Christmases" and "Rachel Getting Married."

USD basketball coach Bill Grier's return to his home state to send his Toreros against the University of Oregon tonight at the Rose Garden in Portland would be in the latter category.

Oregon, Grier's alma mater, is coached by another Ducks alum, Ernie Kent. And despite Kent leading Oregon to seven postseason appearances and two NCAA Elite Eights in 10 years, there are rumblings about his job security.

The speculation inevitably centers on Gonzaga coach Mark Few, another Oregon alum, who Grier served as top assistant for 10 years before coming to USD.

So what was Kent, coming off an 18-14 season with an NCAA Tournament first-round loss to Mississippi State, to think when it was announced that the Ducks' opponent for the Papé Jam — an annual event sponsored by the Papé heavy machinery company featuring the Oregon men's and women's teams — was Grier's Toreros.

A team Grier coached to a 22-14 mark with a first-round NCAA Tournament upset victory over Connecticut in his debut season at USD. With all five starters returning,

"There had been some talk about us playing in the Papé Jam, and I don't know if Ernie was excited about it at first," Grier said of the scheduling. "I appreciate him playing us. I have a ton of respect for him and what he has done up there."

"The way I looked at it was that it was an opportunity for us to play a Pac-10 school on a neutral floor. Even though it's in their home state, it's a couple hours away from their campus. And it's a lot different playing them there than it would be at McArthur Court."

Oregon's old campus gym, in its 79th year and with a seating capacity of around 10,000, is notorious for the noise and pressure generated on visiting teams.

"I've seen weird things happen to the opponent at that gym growing up in Oregon and watching them through high school and junior college," said Grier, who turned down the head coaching job at Oregon State in April.

The Toreros head to the Pacific Northwest under difficult enough circumstances. They have dropped three in a row, lost star guard Brandon Johnson for the season, have junior guard De'Jon Jackson out with a knee problem and will be playing their fourth game in eight days.
Today: vs. Oregon

Tipoff: 5:05 p.m. at Rose Garden
Portland, Ore.
Records: University of San Diego 4-4
Oregon 4-4
Radio: XPRS (1030 AM)

At a glance: This marks USD coach
Bill Grier's first game in his home
state since he turned down the Ore­
gen State job in April. ... The Toreros
are coming off a 67-64 loss to New
Mexico on Wednesday. The Lobos
took away Gyno Pomare's inside game
while the guard play continued to
struggle to adjust to the loss of G
Brandon Johnson for the season (rup­
tured Achilles' tendon). ... USD PG
Trumaine Johnson did not travel to
Oregon. Grier lifted his suspension but
hasn't allowed him to play until he
meets more academic require­
ments. ... G De'Jon Jackson has been
having his knee drained and is day-to-
day. If he misses his fourth straight
game, he may have arthroscopic sur­
ery on Monday.

— Tom Shanahan
Short on bodies, USD loses again

TOM SHANAHAN
FOR THE NORTH COUNTY TIMES

SAN DIEGO — There’s cold shooting when the touch is off, and there’s frozen shooting when a team can’t get the shots it wants.

Take your pick in explaining the University of San Diego’s 57-54 loss to New Mexico in a nonconference men’s basketball game played before 2,034 fans Wednesday at Jenny Craig Pavilion.

USD shot only 27.3 percent from the field, but the two-point shooting (6-of-30, 20 percent) was colder than the 3-point shooting (9-of-25, 36 percent).

"I can’t fault our effort," USD coach Bill Grier said. "Obviously, we’re short-handed. Any team that loses your one, two and three (point guards) is going to struggle. I feel bad for the guys playing out of position."

Sophomore Matt Dorr, a transfer from a junior college in Spokane, Wash., hadn’t played point guard since seventh grade. He led the team with 12 points and four assists. But the Toreros had at least seven times when they struggled to shoot before the shot clock expired.

USD is without junior guard De’Jon Jackson (knee) and sophomore Trunaine Johnson. A decision will be made Monday on whether Jackson will have arthroscopic surgery. Johnson is off suspension, but he hasn’t met Grier’s requirements for playing time.

Johnson sat on the bench in Monday’s 56-52 loss to San Jose State, but he was not with the team Wednesday. Grier said he had responsibilities to fulfill and will meet with him again before deciding when he can return to the floor.

Similar to Monday, when USD was tied with San Jose State at 52 before committing turnovers on its last two possessions, the Toreros failed to capitalize on a chance to win. They trailed by three with the ball when senior Gyno Pomare (nine points, four rebounds) missed an inside shot and New Mexico rebounded with 6.8 seconds to play.

Brandon Johnson, who made it to practice late Tuesday afternoon following surgery before team physician Paul C. Murphy spotted him and ordered him back to bed, watched Wednesday’s game from the team bench.

"I’ve got to be here to support my team,” Johnson said. "I’ll make it back. It all depends on how hard I work, and I’ve got a lot of support from my teammates and friends."

When Murphy performed the surgery Tuesday, he discovered a complete tear of the Achilles’ tendon in Johnson’s left foot. That means the rehab process will be closer to six months than four months in the original estimate.

BILLY WECHTER / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
USD’s Roberto Mafra drives to the basket against New Mexico.
Great expectations a tease for Toreros

By Hank Wuesch  
STAFF WRITER

With the USD men's basketball team resuming all five starters from the squad that upset Connecticut in the first round of the NCAA Tourney, preseason hopes were at unprecedented heights.

Just over three weeks into the 2008-09 season, however, and the total time spent on the floor together by the five prospective scoring starters is zero minutes. And the team's preseason promise is having to adjust to the reality that no minutes is going to remain the total for the season.

The backcourt trio of Brandon Johnson, Trumaine Johnson and Didier Jackson and frontline duo of Gino Passare and Rob Jones exhibited commendable cohesion, drive and opportunities in the Toreros' 135 run to end last season.

But disciplinary actions by coach Bill Grier in the form of suspensions to Passare (one game) and Trumaine Johnson (eight games) and house problems for Jackson broke up the remaining five for the first eight games in that eighth game Saturday against San Diego State, star senior guard Brandon Johnson suffered a season-ending torn Achilles' tendon.

Even before the exacerbation of that injury, Grier lamented the circumstances of the start of the USD season. He expressed disappointment that the suspensions and Jackson's injury had prevented building upon the foundation of success put down last season.

Now possibilities can make a case that the Toreros are candidates to become the team "It Ain't Your Year," high-expectation team in the city, following in the staggering footsteps of the Padres and Chargers.

But talent remains, particularly in Passare and Jones. Trumaine Johnson, if he ever gets back to Grier's good graces and plays to his capabilities, has the speed, ball-handling skills and emotional leadership potential to replace some of what was lost with the injury to Brandon Johnson.

Despite being reinstated from suspension, Trumaine Johnson did not play in Monday night's home loss to San Jose State by Grier's choice. Grier said it's a "day-to-day" situation regarding Trumaine's reintegration into the Toreros' guard rotation.

Trumaine, if the knee problem is overcome through therapy or the contemplated arthroscopic surgery, might still return. He was the team's best perimeter defender last season and it's no coincidence that in his absence opposition guards have been burned by the Toreros needlessly with three-pointers recently.

USD (3-0) at San Diego State (2-1) in the Mountain West Conference opener Saturday night in the Jenny Craig Pavilion.

USD hosts New Mexico Wednesday night before traveling to Portland, Ore., for a Saturday matchup with Oregon as part of the "Pep" Jam at the Rose Garden Arena.

"We're going to have to make it through this stretch until we have time to make some adjustments and won't be until finals (next) week," Grier said.

The only encouraging news recently for the Toreros was that thanks to an NCAA rules change this year, Brandon Johnson -- who underwent surgery surgery recently -- would appear to be a candidate for a medical redshirt and return next season.

Before this year, the cutoff was participation in 20 percent of a team's games, which would have meant that Johnson, who played in eight, would have been ineligible. The rule change to 30 percent puts Johnson within the limits.

Paperwork and appeals must go through the West Coast Conference office and a final NCAA ruling might not be forthcoming before early next season.

Hank Wuesch (619) 293-1653;  
wuesch@atelethics.com

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COLLEGE BASKETBALL

TONIGHT

SDSU men at Arizona

Site/Time: McKale Center/6 p.m.
PST

Recorder: ESPN 14-M, Arizona 5-2

TV/Radio: Fox Sports Arizona

UNM: Tom & Holly Coughlin, 208/233-2629

OUTLOOKS: The Aztecs, who are allowing just 53 points a game, will face their biggest test to date against an Arizona team that garners three potential NBA draftees, in former La Costa Canyon High star Chase Budinger (20ppg, center, Jordan 60.7, 12.3 rpg) and guard Mic Wise (20.2). SDSU is 2-4 against the Pac-10 during the Steve Fisher era.

USD mens vs. New Mexico

Site/Time: Jenny Craig Pavilion/7:05 p.m.

TV/Radio: Channel 4 San Diego/1090 AM

OUTLOOKS: Toreros two-game losing streak includes first home loss Monday to San Jose State. UNM lost only previous true road game, 82-75, Nov. 16 at Crisler, Mich.

Briefly was 5-for-6 on threes in a USD win on Dec. 1, Kyle Spann scored for SDSU on Saturday and San Jose State's Tim Pierce 5-for-6 in the second half on Monday.

"We chuckled," Grier said after the Monday loss. "Just because of our guard play right now, it's tough.

"I wish we had more time to tinker with things, but we don't."

USD hosts New Mexico tonight before traveling to Portland, Ore., for a Saturday matchup with Oregon as part of the "Pep" Jam at the Rose Garden Arena.

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Paperwork and appeals must go through the West Coast Conference office and a final NCAA ruling might not be forthcoming before early next season.
At a glance: The University of San Diego reported that Tuesday’s surgery to repair senior G Brandon Johnson’s ruptured left Achilles’ tendon went well. Johnson’s season-ending injury, which occurred during Saturday’s loss to San Diego State, has robbed the Toreros of their last available ball handler and prompted them to shift from a three-guard alignment to a more frontcourt-oriented approach. Despite using three shooting guards to bring the ball up court, the Toreros are getting open shots. The problem is they’re not making them. In the last two games — both losses — USD is shooting 41 percent from the field and 18.5 percent from 3-point range. In addition to Johnson, the Toreros have been without Gs De’Jon Jackson, who may have to undergo arthroscopic knee surgery, Trumaine Johnson (suspension), and Devon Baneswell, who ruptured his Achilles’ in preseason practice. Trumaine Johnson’s suspension was lifted prior to Monday’s loss to San Jose State, though he did not play. New Mexico is rebuilding after compiling a 2-48 record and reaching the NIT last season. The Lobos start four freshmen. New Mexico was picked to finish fifth in the preseason Mountain West Conference poll.

— Tom Shanahan
USD feels loss of Johnson

By Hank Wesch
STAFF WRITER

The first try at reinvention-on-the-fly by the USD men's basketball team was not a success.

In their first full game without star guard Brandon Johnson (ruptured Achilles' tendon), USD 52
San Jose
56
Toreros missed on four opportunities in the final 1:39 and San Jose State cashed the two it had to pull out a 56-52 victory last night before 1,946 at the Jenny Craig Pavilion.

"I knew it was going to be a tough game for us, based on the 48-hour turnaround (from a loss Saturday at SDSU) and the adversity of losing Brandon," coach Bill Grier said. "That put us in a bind obviously at the guard position, but also from an energy standpoint with what he brings to the team.

"I don't think they are hanging their heads about it. But we are playing guys out of position because we have to."

Sophomore Matt Dorr assumed the majority of Johnson's duties at point guard. Rob Jones played more at the wing and less at power forward as Grier went from a three-guard lineup to two guards and three forwards.

"I came here to be a shooter, now I'm having to run the point," Dorr said. "I haven't done that since about seventh grade, when I was a lot smaller."

De'Jon Jackson and Truanae Johnson, guard starters last season, did not play. Jackson was in street clothes and Grier said Jackson might undergo arthroscopic surgery on his injured knee, which would sideline him for at least three weeks.

Truanae Johnson, while off suspension and suited up for the first time this season, saw no action.

USD (4-5) managed to grind its way to a 27-28 lead at the end of an error-plagued first half. But San Jose State guard Tim Pierce went off in the second half, scoring 21 of his career-high tying 23 points in the final 20 minutes on 5-for-8 on three-point shots.

"We did a good job on him in the first half, but in the second half, we allowed him to get touches where he wanted to and he was effective," Grier said. "That was, really the difference for them in the second half. He really got going."

The Toreros, meanwhile, went 10-for-30 overall and 1-for-7 on three-pointers in the second half. In three halves of play without Brandon Johnson — the second half Saturday at San Diego State and last night — USD has scored 19, 27 and 25 points.

And without Johnson to look to, USD couldn't make good things happen at crunch time.

After taking a timeout with 1:32 remaining and the score tied 52-52, USD had three chances with the ball. But after rebounding two missed shots, Dorr was stripped on a drive by San Jose State's Justin Graham.

The Spartans (9-3) then isolated Graham on Dorr for a drive to a basket with 11.1 seconds remaining that broke the tie.

USD's final play to tie or win was intended for Gyno Pomare (18 points, eight rebounds). But the ball wound up in Jones' hands and Graham, coming over to double-team, took it away when Jones attempted to drive for a last second shot.

USD hosts New Mexico tomorrow night in reinvention try No. 2.
Subpar guard play
sinks Toreros in loss

By Chris Parks

SJSU 56, USD 52

Up next:
Wednesday:
New Mexico (6-4)
at USD (2-6)
7 p.m.

The Toreros played their first game without injured senior guard Brandon Johnson, and it was painful to watch the offense without him handling the ball and hitting 3-point field goals.

USD fell to 4-5 as the Toreros lost to a sloppy San Jose State team 56-52 Monday before an announced crowd of 1,946 at Jenny Craig Pavilion.

“We’re going to struggle with our guard play, quite honestly,” USD coach Bill Grier said. “I wish we had more time to tinker, but we’ve got to get ready for New Mexico (Wednesday at the JCP) and then we’re off to the tournament (Saturday at Oregon).”

Johnson suffered a ruptured Achilles’ tendon in Saturday’s loss at San Diego State and is out for the season. But the Toreros have also been without their other two ball handlers — junior De’Jon Jackson (knee) and sophomore Trumaine Johnson, who was reinstated from his season-long suspension Monday but didn’t play.

“There is talk of De’Jon having his knee scoped (arthrosopic surgery), and he would be out at least three weeks,” Grier said. “Trumaine was my decision. That’s day to day.”

Despite benefiting from 24 turnovers by San Jose State (3-3), the Toreros couldn’t overcome their own 16 turnovers and 3-of-15 shooting from 3-point range.

Matt Dorst, a 6-foot-4 sophomore transfer from Spokane Junior College, was forced to point guard, a role he hasn’t played since seventh grade.

“It’s definitely a big difference for me, but I have to shoulder the point guard responsibility,” said Dorst, who finished with 10 points, two assists and four turnovers.

“I have to look to score more. We have to make up for 16 points a game we lost without Brandon.”

Gyso Pomonac led the Toreros with 15 points and eight rebounds as the USD tried to adjust its offense with more inside play. An offensive rebound by Pomonac had tied the game at 52.

But San Jose State overcame its turnovers by hitting 5-of-9 from beyond the 3-point line.

The Spartans’ Tim Pierce, a 6-7 senior transfer from Arizona State, tied a career high with 23 points. He was 5-of-6 from 3-point range, including a 4-point play when Dorst fouled him on a 3-pointer.

Brandon Johnson is scheduled to have surgery Wednesday and will need 4 to 6 months of rehab.

CHRIS PARKS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

San Jose State’s Chris Colena puts up a shot while USD’s Rob Jones, left, and Nick Price, right, defend.
USD soldiers on, minus star

Trumaine Johnson back with Toreros

By Hank Wesch
STAFF WRITER

Tonight's is the first game of the rest of the 2008-09 season for the USD men's basketball team.

Brandon Johnson is out and Trumaine Johnson is in, and the campaign filled with preseason promise has, less than a month in, already had a year's worth of twists and tumult.

Gone now, with a ruptured Achilles' tendon suffered in Saturday night's loss to San Diego State, is senior guard Brandon Johnson, who is slated to undergo surgery tomorrow. Returning is sophomore guard Trumaine Johnson, reinstated from a suspension imposed by USD coach Bill Grier before the start of the season for "conduct unbecoming a USD student-athlete."

Trumaine Johnson's reinstatement has been contingent on meeting unspecified criteria set by USD coach Bill Grier. Johnson practiced with the team Thursday and Friday and Grier said yesterday that Johnson has fulfilled requirements and would be available to provide much-needed ballhandling that was lost with Brandon Johnson.

The Toreros will have had less than 48 hours to adjust to the loss of Brandon Johnson before getting on with the rest of the season.

"We don't have a lot of time to regroup," Grier said Saturday night. "I told these guys coming into this stretch that it was kind of like the Iron Man, playing four games in eight days. "Now we can do one of two things. We can hang our heads and pout and pout and feel sorry for ourselves. Or we can look at this kid (Brandon Johnson) that has given his heart and soul to this program and we can rally together for him. "That's what we're going to do."

Brandon Johnson's eligibility for a possible medical redshirt enabling him to return next year remains uncertain. But Grier said preliminary inquiries provided more encouraging than discouraging feedback.

With Brandon Johnson out and junior guard De'Jon Jackson still questionable with a knee injury, the Toreros likely will have to adjust their offensive approach. They almost will certainly have to look for more scoring from front-line players Gyno Pomare, Rob Jones, Chris Lewis and Roberto Moffa.

With 17 points against San Diego State, Pomare has 1,390 for his career, No. 4 all-time at USD and only behind Bob Bartholomew. Brandon Johnson has 1,385. "The burden is going to be put on all of us, and more on me than anyone else," Pomare said. "I'm willing to accept it and go out and try to do what I can to help the team win. "That's what I try to do every game."
San Jose State

NCAA Game Summary - San Jose State At San Diego

Monday, December 8, 2008

San Diego, CA – (Sports Network) - Tim Pierce scored 23 points to lead the San Jose State Spartans to a 56-52 victory over the San Diego Toreros in a non-league affair at Jenny Craig Pavilion.

Chris Oakes added 16 points for SJSU (3-3), and also grabbed 14 rebounds, while recording five blocks in the win.

Gyno Pomare netted 18 points and grabbed eight rebounds for San Diego (4-5), while Matt Dorr chipped in 10 points in the losing effort.

Despite shooting a pedestrian 40.0 percent from the floor in the first half, the Toreros were able to go into the break with a slim, 27-25 advantage.

The Spartans used a 50.0 percent shooting effort from the field in the second stanza en route to the four-point win.

San Jose State overcame 24 turnovers by shooting 45.5 percent from the field, and 55.6 percent from long range.

Copyright 2008 Courtesy of The Sports Network.
SAN DIEGO: Justin Graham hit the go-ahead basket with 44 seconds left then sealed the win with a steal and two free throws as San Jose State beat San Diego 56-52 Monday.

Tim Pierce led San Jose State (3-3) with 23 points, including 21 in the second half. He hit five 3-pointers in the second half and hit two free throws with 37 seconds left to tie the score at 52-52.

Graham drove to the basket and hit an off-balance 8-footer in the lane to put the Spartans ahead 54-52. He then stripped the ball from Matt Dorr on San Diego’s next possession and was fouled before making both free throws with 1.9 seconds left.

Gyno Pomare led San Diego (4-5) with 18 points as he moved into third place on the school’s all-time scoring list with 1,408 points.
The San Diego Toreros (4-4 SU, 3-3 ATS) are not off to the kind of start they may have liked, although the level of competition has been elevated. On Monday they will try to climb over the .500 mark as they meet up with the San Jose State Spartans (2-3 SU, 0-2 ATS) in NCAA college basketball sports betting action that is slated to tip off at 10 PM ET at the Jenny Craig Pavilion in San Diego.

BetUS Sportsbook NCAA Basketball Odds: SAN DIEGO -10.5, Total 114

Here are some of the NCAA basketball sports betting trends as they relate to this matchup:

* SJSU has lost nine of its last 12 games SU
* SJSU has lost 11 of its last 12 road games SU
* SD has won 18 of its last 25 games SU
* SD has won its last five home games SU
* SD has won and covered four of the last six meetings

San Diego was one of the surprise stories of last year's college basketball season. The Toreros, under former Gonzaga assistant Bill Grier, won the West Coast Conference tournament (held at the Jenny Craig Pavilion) to become one of three WCC clubs in the Big Dance (aside from Gonzaga and St. Mary's). Then they upset #1 Connecticut in the first round of action. They've done it with defense and a deliberate style of basketball, which tends to frustrate opponents.

And with more experience some (including myself) expected them to be even better. But sometimes when you emerge one year you get invited to play against higher-level non-conference opponents in pre-season tournaments, made-for-TV games and whatnot, and San Diego has found obstacles in their path, as they have tasted defeat at the hands of Wisconsin (shooting 34.5%), Miami (shooting 32.7%), UNLV and, in their last effort, crosstown rival San Diego State, where they lost leading scorer Brandon Johnson with an Achilles tendon injury.

So this team, which does not shoot well from beyond the arc, must figure out a way to replace Johnson's 13.5 ppg and 1.6 steals per contest, a task that could be more difficult with guard De'Jon Jackson listed as day-to-day with a knee injury.

San Jose State has hardly even begun its season. Its biggest test yet was at Nebraska, a place that is a dungeon if you're a poor shooting team. The Spartans shot just 36% in that loss, but more importantly, hit only three shots from downtown. They also lost to Presbyterian (a provisional Division I team) and were held without a field goal over the last five minutes in last Wednesday's defeat against Santa Clara.

Still, I don't know if it's wise to lay this many points with San Diego, in the shape they're in, considering SJSU would like to slow this game to a crawl if it can. San Jose at least has a little scoring balance, some defense (allowing 34.5% shooting) and a capable center in Chris Oakes (9 rpg, two blocks per contest). San Diego, like the Spartans, averages more turnovers than assists, and that is not helped with Johnson's absence.

So while we're cautious, we'll grab the points with San Jose State, the 10.5-point underdog in the BetUS NCAA college basketball sports betting odds.

JAY'S PLAY: SAN JOSE STATE +10.5 **

(Graded on a scale of 1-4 stars)

(Charles Jay of http://www.ebookies.com makes his share of shots from downtown as a contributor to the BetUS Locker Room)
At a glance: USD doesn't have much time to adjust its lineup after losing senior G Brandon Jeldoff for the season with a ruptured left Achilles' tendon. Johnson was injured Saturday night in USD's 57-46 loss at San Diego State and will have surgery Tuesday. Johnson and SDSU's Matt Thomas were chasing a loose ball at midcourt when Thomas' foot came down on Johnson's heel. ... The Toreros are also missing their other two ball-handlers: junior G DeJon Jackson (knee) and sophomore PG Trumaine Johnson (indefinite suspension). Jackson has missed three games with swelling in his knee. Coach Bill Grier said arthroscopic surgery might be necessary for Jackson, which would keep him out about a month. Trumaine Johnson has missed all eight games, and Grier said he will reassess when to lift the suspension. ... Go Matt Doer, Devin Ginty and Darryl Brown handled the ball against SDSU, and the Toreros committed 17 turnovers against SDSU's pressure defense. Expect USD to slow its offensive tempo and use three big men more than the three-guard offense Grier had employed.
San Jose State (2-3) At San Diego (4-4)

Monday, December 8th, 10:00 p.m. (et)

FACTS & STATS: Site: Jenny Craig Pavilion (5,100) -- San Diego, California. Television: Local. Home Record: SJSU 1-1, USD 2-0. Away Record: SJSU 1-2, USD 1-2. Neutral Record: SJSU 0-0, USD 1-2. Conference Record: SJSU 0-0, USD 0-0. Series Record: San Diego leads, 7-5.

GAME NOTES: The San Jose State Spartans try to snap a two-game slide tonight as they drop in on the San Diego Toreros for a non-conference bout at Jenny Craig Pavilion. The Spartans have been out of action since Wednesday when they tumbled at home against Santa Clara in a 59-56 final. The loss was the third in the last four games for SJSU. Meanwhile, the Toreros were in action on Saturday night battling crosstown rival San Diego State at Cox Pavilion, a meeting that resulted in a 57-46 decision in favor of the Aztecs. As a result, the Toreros had their two-game win streak snapped as they play four of their next five games on the road. As far as the all-time series between these two teams is concerned, USO is now ahead by a count of 7-5 over the Spartans. The teams met last season in early December as well with the Toreros taking a 60-40 victory.

Tim Pierce converted just 2-of-9 behind the three-point line and 7-of-17 from the floor overall as he finished with a team-best 18 points in the loss to Santa Clara last week. Justin Graham chipped in 13 points, adding four assists and four steals to his stat line, but it wasn't nearly enough to offset a 2- of-13 shooting effort by C.J. Webster. Pierce, who is shooting just 26.7 percent from behind the three-point line so far this season, is the lone double-digit scorer for the group with 16.0 ppg. It also hasn't helped that Pierce has converted only 57.1 percent of his team-high 28 free-throw attempts either. As bad as Pierce has been at the stripe it is still not nearly as bad as Chris Oakes (8.6 ppg, 9.0 rpg) who has made good on just one of his seven chances. As a whole, San Jose State has allowed far too many points to slip away at the charity stripe with a woeful 58.5 percent accuracy over five games.

Gyno Pomare sank all but two of his 10 field goal attempts to finish with 17 points, along with a team-best eight rebounds, but the Toreros still bowed to SDSU on Saturday night at Cox Arena. Chris Lewis added 12 points and Brandon Johnson 10, while the rest of the squad accounted for just seven points. Matt Dorr not only missed all five of his field goals chances, he also turned the ball over six times in 39 minutes of action. Although he is shooting just 39.3 percent from the field at the moment, Johnson leads the team in scoring with his 13.5 ppg, yet Pomare is streaking up from behind with his 13.4 ppg on 60.9 percent accuracy from the field. Rob Jones is on the cusp of double-digit scoring with 9.9 ppg and could easily be included in that group if not for his 52.6 percent shooting at the free-throw line. The team is giving up only 62.0 ppg thus far, but putting up 62.1 ppg gives San Diego very little room for error.

Having had plenty of time to prepare for this meeting, it will be up to SJSU to figure out how to stop Pomare and Johnson, while keeping the rest of the Toreros in check.

Predicted Outcome
San Diego 71, San Jose State 64

Copyright 2008 Courtesy of The Sports Network.

12/8/2008
San Diego had a huge advantage in playing the WCC tournament at home this past March, beating Saint Mary's and Gonzaga to win the title.

Winning at Kentucky earlier in the season and then taking out Connecticut, even with A.J. Price gone from the game with a torn ACL, proved that the Toreros had a deserving place in the NCAA field last season.

But it's going to take a herculean effort to get another shot this March. The Toreros were dealt a crushing blow to its postseason hopes, let alone a chance to catch Saint Mary's for second place in the conference (sorry, but I don't see how Gonzaga is going to lose first place in the WCC) when leading scorer senior Brandon Johnson ruptured his Achilles tendon in a loss at San Diego State on Saturday night.

Johnson was leading USD (4-4) in scoring (13.5), assists (3.6) and steals (1.6). The injury occurred just as the Toreros are hitting the most critical stretch of their nonconference schedule with the game against the Aztecs (a 57-46 loss after Johnson went down in the first half), San Jose State and New Mexico at home, against Oregon in Portland and then a road trip to Mississippi State sandwiched between home games against Boise State and Marshall.

"He's devastated," second-year coach Bill Grier said of Johnson. "I'm honestly more concerned for the kid, then the team. I don't think this how he should go out as a senior. He's within 130 points or so of being the school's all-time leading scorer."

Grier said the newer NCAA rule that states a player cannot play in more than 30 percent of the team's games before redshirting gives him hope that Johnson can obtain a medical redshirt and play as a fifth-year senior in 2009-10. But Grier said Johnson isn't even thinking about a medical redshirt at this juncture.

This is actually the second Achilles injury for USD this season. Freshman guard Devonier Braswell ruptured his Achilles during a September workout and is out for the season.

Grier is offsetting Johnson's loss with the return of sophomore guard Trumaine Johnson from his previously disciplined eight-game suspension. Trumaine Johnson, who averaged 5.7 points a game last season, played 40 minutes in the win over UConn in the 2008 NCAA tournament first round, scoring eight points. Brandon Johnson scored 18 points in 45 minutes (the game went into overtime) in that win.

The injury news doesn't end there. Junior guard De'Jon Jackson is out with a knee injury that could keep him down for a few more weeks. He has played in five games so far this season, averaging 5.4 points a game.

So, where does this leave the Toreros for this stretch? It's likely in the hands of Rob Jones, according to Grier. The sophomore forward has been extremely erratic this season, scoring 23 points in a win over Nevada, going scoreless against Miami in the Paradise Jam in the Virgin Islands and scoring just four points in the loss to the Aztecs.

"He's got to step up," Grier said of Jones. "He's athletic and can make a play. When stuff wasn't going well offensively, Brandon did that for us. Now Jones has to do that, and he's that kind of athlete."

The WCC tournament is at the Orleans Arena in Las Vegas this season, meaning Gonzaga holds the edge in a neutral-site setting. The Zags have the most talent -- and have for years -- but playing true road games in the WCC tourney has its disadvantages. Gonzaga travels well for the conference tournament so the Zags shouldn't have a problem. That means a team like Saint Mary's may have to earn its way in as an at-large team, and a team like USD, especially now with the loss of Johnson, will have an extremely difficult chore to make a return trip.

- Buffalo coach Reggie Witherspoon is looking for another Big East team to come to his place. But unless the Big East coaches are backed into a corner and have their head in the sand, another one going up there anytime soon is probably unlikely.

Buffalo beat Rutgers and South Florida and nearly clipped Pitt and most recently UConn in the past four seasons at home.

How does this keep happening? Three of the four games were played because scheduling became a problem late in the season for those Big East teams, while the Rutgers game was played to accommodate the football schedule.

The game against UConn occurred because the Huskies needed a team for their 2007 Coaches vs. Cancer regional. Buffalo filled
Injury overshadows Aztecs’ big victory

Toreros lose game, Johnson to ruptured Achilles’ tendon

By Mick McElroy
STAFF WRITER

While it certainly can be argued that USD was bereft of its heart and soul, one could also contend that San Diego State is becoming quite adept at weakening the will.

The Aztecs, as miserly as an irritable Scrooge and roughly as merciful, continued to tease their hammerlock last night, choking off the Toreros 57-46 before 9,023 at Cox Arena.

In capturing the mythical city championship for the third straight year, SDSU (7-3) held an opponent to 50 points or fewer for the seventh time this season, a feat made considerably more manageable when USD lost second guard Brandon Johnson to a ruptured left Achilles’ tendon with 2:24 left in the first half.

Johnson, the Toreros’ leading scorer, will undergo surgery Tuesday and will miss the rest of the season.

"You love to win, but you hate seeing what happened to Brandon," said Aztecs coach Steve Fisher. "I don’t know him except to watch him play, and I love the way he plays. It’s tough to feel as good as you should after a win when you know someone has suffered such a significant injury."

Said USD coach Bill Grier: "It was disappointing that we lost this game, but it was devastating that we lost this kid."

And no less comforting having spent the better part of 40 minutes in a stranglehold.

SDSU, which in the most recent NCAA rankings was tied for 10th nationally in scoring defense, has held three opponents to 47 or fewer points. The Aztecs scored 28 points off turnovers.

Sdsu, D10
Aztecs tied for 10th nationally in scoring defense

The Toreros (4-4), meanwhile, posted a turnover margin of just 1.5, one of 13 turnovers coming in the opening 20 minutes.

"They make you pay for turnovers," Grier said of SDSU. "They get run-out, they get three shots in transition, and they get the crowd into it. I thought that was the difference in the game. They pressure you very well. They help each other and make it very difficult for you to get clean shots. I was very impressed with what I saw of SDSU on film and just as impressed in person."

Trailing 13-8 following a short jumper by Cyne Pomare with nearly seven minutes gone, the Aztecs broke out with a 20-0 run fueled by senior forward Kyle Spain. Making 19 of 20 shots from the floor and going 4-4 from the foul line, Spain, who scored SDSU's first eight points, finished with 20. He has yet to fall to score in double figures this season, a performance that has been crucial during the absence of Lawrence Wade, who was released by the team on Friday after being suspended prior to the start of the season.

Wade, who had been charged with felony burglary before his case was dismissed on Thursday, was in uniform last night but did not play.

San Diego State junior forward Tim Shelton, who scored eight points in a span of five minutes, said Spain's ability to "get close to the rim and make easy baskets" has helped him take more of a leadership role.

Shelton, a senior, said his team's defense has been crucial during a 10-10 start to the season.

"They help each other and make it very difficult for you to get clean shots," Shelton said.

"We're defending in a fashion where even if we don't play great on the offensive end, we're still going to have a chance to be in the game," Fisher said. "We have to continue to play that way."
Win not enough to satisfy Aztecs

SAN DIEGO — San Diego State freshman forward Tim Sheldon had 12 points and seven rebounds in a convincing 57-46 win over the University of San Diego in front of a 9,923 at Cox Arena, yet all was not well in Sheldon’s world.

“He’s doing a great job, but I would’ve liked to take a charge today, but I couldn’t get one,” he said. “My job is to step in (off the bench) and contribute in any way I can. My only goal is to bring energy.”

Tangible statistics have taken a back seat to hustle and team play in this seemingly backward mindset, one shared by the entire Aztecs squad.

“Guys are being selfless with the ball,” Aztecs point guard Richie Williams said. “If there’s a man open, they’re giving it up and making the easy play. That helps the team morale, and makes everyone feel better about themselves.”

The Toreros (4-4) were reeling after Saturday’s loss, which will have a lasting detrimental effect on their season. Toreros point guard Brandon Johnson is out for the season after rupturing his left Achilles tendon late in the first half. The senior was chasing down a loose ball in the backcourt when his foot gave way, causing such crippling anguish that Johnson couldn’t leave the court under his own power.

He will have surgery on Tuesday to repair an injury that has tempered optimism surrounding USD’s season.

“When you lose a guy that is the heart and soul of your team and you lose him for the year, right now my mind isn’t on the game,” Toreros head coach Bill Grier said. “It’s on him. For him to have this happen in his senior year is devastating for him and for me.”

With Brandon Johnson out, Trauma Johnson suspended indefinitely and De’Jon Jackson nursing a sore knee, USD is woefully thin at guard.

The Toreros had shooting guards running the point in the second half.
San Diego 46, San Diego State 57

Recap Box Score Play-By-Play GameCast Photos Conversation

1 2 T
USD (4-4) 27 19 46
SDSU (7-1) 35 22 57

Final

10:00 PM ET, December 6, 2008
Cox Arena at Aztec Bowl
San Diego, CA

San Diego St. 57, San Diego 46

WERE YOU THERE?

Did you attend this game? If so, start chronicling your sports memories today with ESPN's Sports Passport. Enter the games you attend, upload your photos and share your memories! I was there »

San Diego's Brandon Johnson drives around San Diego State's Matt Thomas during the first half of their NCAA college basketball game Saturday Dec. 6, 2008 in San Diego. Johnson,
who was first team West Coast Conference last year, ruptured his Achilles tendon later in the game. (AP Photo/Lenny Ignelzi)

Team Stat Comparison

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Game Leaders

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<tr>
<td>G. Pomare</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>K. Spain</td>
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| Rebounds | SAN DIEGO | 8 | SAN DIEGO STATE | T. Shelton | 7 |
| Assists | R. Jones | 8 | R. Williams | 4 |
| Steals | G. Pomare | 1 | M. Thomas | 3 |

Team Stats: San Diego | San Diego State

Game Flow
Kyle Spain scored 16 points and Tim Shelton added 12 to lead San Diego State to a 57-46 win over San Diego on Saturday.

Spain scored the first eight points for San Diego State (7-1), which took the lead for good midway through the first half en route to its sixth straight win.

San Diego (4-4) suffered a major loss when leading scorer Brandon Johnson suffered a ruptured left Achilles tendon late in the first half.

Johnson, who scored 10 points, moved into fourth place on San Diego's all-time scoring list. Gyno Pomare led the Toreros with 17 points and moved past Johnson into the No. 3 spot on the list.
Hoop rivals USD, SDSU are friendly foes

City championship is void of vitriol

By Mick McGrane

STAFF WRITER

Where's the venom, the vitriol, the bad blood being spilled with every spoken word? Where's the spite, the leaking of the malice and the mayhem? If this were a Firefox McCoy feud, it would be viewed as soccer friendly.

San Diego State hosts USD for the city championship tonight in men's basketball. Dregs of fights are at stake, pride is on the line and gloves will be flung. And there isn't enough bubblegum-seeking material to paste on the head of a pin.

Two coaches have been at it for 40 years, said Aztecs coach Steve Fisher. "What you say in the locker room stays in the locker room. And USD coach Bill Grier is the same way. . . . We think we're pretty good; they know they're good.

Neither team, however, has proved itself particularly adept at the art of trash talking, seemingly reducing a so-called rivalry to a touching reunion, a 40-minute exercise in reliving your enemy.

"I really don't think either team sits around hoping the other team loses so that we'll look like the best team in the city," Fisher said. And yet there is history here.

Two years ago, during a summer game between members of the two teams, an actual fight broke out. That didn't involve pillows was somewhat of a surprise.

Asked if his teammates were

RIVALS
CONTINUED FROM OP

40th game has SDSU ahead in series 22-17

tempted to chide SDSU players during the offseason after qualifying for the NCAA Tournament a year ago, USD senior guard Brandon Johnson offered an answer considerably more sympathetic than sinister.

"I think the respect is there," Johnson said. "I played over at State a couple of times this summer with guys like (Toreros) Eddie and Relick (Williams). They gave us props (for advancing to the tournament) and we didn't have to get involved. It was the same thing for the first two years when they went to tournaments and we didn't.

Separated by 9.4 miles, SDSU and USD are meeting for the 40th time. The Aztecs (46-43) have won five of the past six meetings, including three straight against the Toreros (4-4) at Cox Arena, and lead 25-17. If there is any hatred in its heart, however, USD is doing an admirable job of disguising its disgust.

"I'm excited to get it out of the way," Aztecs forward Kyle Spain. "I'm excited to see what we can do. I'm excited to see what we can do."

Until recently, USD's forward Kyle Spain. "We're always going to come out and play hard. The difference with (USD) is that they're right up the street. We're fighting the Aztecs, we play against each other in the summer. There's no trash talk or bad blood.

Tickets still available

Tickets remain for tonight's game and are available at the Cox Arena box office beginning at noon. Tickets can also be purchased at Window 8 at Qualcomm Stadium or by calling (810) 800-7376 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.
Aztecs, Toreros on top of the city

Tom Shahanian
For the North County Times

SAN DIEGO — Dan Gavrellich and Bruce Meyer would not doubt their head in wonderment at news of former University of San Diego basketball star Mike Whimans.

But the former Chargers coach and Padres manager from the heady days of San Diego's pro franchises would have to admit there's more than a grain of truth to his observations.

"Basketball might be one of the few bright spots in San Diego sports this year, considering the way it's going for the Padres and Chargers," said Whimans, who led USD to the 1984 NCAA tournament. "I would like to see both programs in this city doing well and keep this city growing.

Whimans was referring to the USD San Diego State basketball city championship game that will be renewed Saturday at 7:05 p.m.

USD is 4-3 and coming off an NCAA tournament appearance in coach Bill Golen's first season. That included a win over Connecticut in the first round, marking the first time a non-major basketball team from San Diego won an NCAA tournament game.

San Diego State is 6-1 and coming off a five-game winning streak in seven seasons since 2002 under 100-year coach Steve Fisher, who led USD to the 2002, 2006 and 2008 NCAA tournaments.

Whether San Diego is a bad basketball town or the city's college basketball program lacks strong leadership and consensus in the past can be debated. But there's no denying that interest in USD and SDSU has reached new heights.

One reason is the postseason trips. USD's upset of Oklahoma was one of those magical NCAA moments that is continually replayed on TV, with guard DeJon Jackson hitting a game-winning, 18-foot shot in the final seconds. An early indication of increased fan support was the 1,200 students — on a campus of 4,000 — attending the games against Nevada.

The Aztecs had suffered through losing seasons in 13 of 14 years before Fisher arrived. By his third season, he had led them into the NCAA, and attendance has steadily grown until it now averages more than 7,000.

Both teams are playing in modern on-campus arenas. USD's easy, $200-seat Jenny Craig Pavilion opened in 2000 and replaced the Sports Center, which was basically a high school gym. It allowed the Toreros to host the West Coast Conference tournament, which paid off when USD used home-court advantage to win the 2003 and 2008 tournaments to gain an automatic bid to the NCAA.

The arena has helped raise the caliber of athlete that USD can recruit," said Whimans, who lives in Rancho Santa Fe after a pro beach volleyball career that included a silver medal in the 1996 Olympics. "When we played at the Sports Center and high-quality recruits saw us, we lost a lot of good players.

SDSU has played since 1997 in 12,414-seat Cox Arena, which has hosted an NCAA men's regional and will host an NCAA women's regional this year. SDSU had been playing at the Sports Arena. The new campus in the Midway district, before a return to Peterson Gym, another glorified high school gym, in the 1990s.

"When I played at USD, we saw hosting San Diego State as a chance to legitimize our program," Whimans said.
Wade rejoins Aztecs, might play against USD

By Mick McGrane
STAFF WRITER

San Diego State men's basketball player Lorenzo Wade has rejoined the team after a San Diego Superior Court judge dismissed a felony burglary charge against the standout senior forward on Thursday.

Aztecs coach Steve Fisher said Wade, who made an appearance at practice for the first time yesterday, could be in uniform for tonight's game against USD.

"What he did was wrong," Fisher said. "What he did is unacceptable. I feel that a correct decision was made and that, in my opinion, he served a pretty stiff punishment both in his inability to participate with us and from the standpoint of public perception. I think it's more than enough of a penalty for a young guy, and now we'll move forward."

Wade, who had been charged with taking a woman's television set from her apartment on Sept. 21, was the team's leading scorer last year and a preseason first-team All-Mountain West Conference selection. He had been suspended indefinitely and missed the season's first seven games, a period during which the Aztecs went 6-1.

Judge Charles Rogers said he did not believe Wade had criminal intent to assist in taking the television. Wade's friend and co-defendant, Brian Ware, admitted taking the television, according to testimony given during a preliminary hearing this week.

Fisher said no decision has been made as to when Wade will be allowed to resume playing. According to Fisher, Wade was working out on his own while the trial was pending and has proclaimed himself as being in "basketball shape."

"When we feel he's ready to come in and play, it will probably be for fewer minutes rather than more," Fisher said. "Even though we've not changed a lot with our schemes, there are some subtle things that we're doing differently and we have guys who are used to working with one another."

"When you have a good thing going, you always have a concern (about) what an addition or a subtraction will mean to your chemistry. We've got really good chemistry right now and we're winning."
USD guard uncertain vs. SDSU

By Hank Wesch
STAFF WRITER

The availability of junior guard DeJon Jackson for tomorrow night's crosstown rivalry game against San Diego State remains uncertain. And that's a major concern for USD coach Bill Grier and the 4-3 Toreros.

Jackson missed Monday's victory at Cal State Bakersfield with a swollen left knee. On Tuesday, he had the knee drained of fluid and received a cortisone shot. He watched practice from the sidelines on Wednesday and spent most of yesterday's practice on an exercise in the training room.

"It's kind of a wait-and-see-how-it-responds situation," Grier said.

The problem may not be as much related to the medial collateral ligament, which Jackson sprained taking a charge in a preseason scrimmage against Long Beach State, as it is with the patella (kneecap), which Grier said has an unusual structure and is the source of the swelling and pain.

Jackson was uncertain if he would play. "I don't know," he said.

"The pain came from out of nowhere. It's right at the top of the kneecap and it's worse than anything I had to deal with last year." Grier called Jackson the "heart" of the team during its late-season 13-2 run to the West Coast Conference Tournament championship and NCAA Tournament victory over Connecticut last season.

Jackson's contributions, as the team's best overall and No. 1 perimeter defender, and his savvy on offense were invaluable to that team's cohesiveness and success. He played most of last season on two gimpy knees that he had hoped to rest and strengthen in the offseason.

He also made the 18-foot jump shot with 1.2 seconds left in overtime that lifted USD over UConn.

Jackson averaged 31.1 minutes of playing time, 7.6 points, 3.4 rebounds and 2.3 assists as a starter in all 36 Toreros games last season. He has averaged 25.8 minutes, 5.4 points and 2.4 rebounds in five of USD's seven games this season. He missed the season-opening loss at UNLV and Monday's game at Bakersfield.

The prospect of facing SDSU without Jackson is somewhat daunting to Grier.

"It's tough because we really need him," Grier said. "We're short-handed at the guard position (with one of last season's starters, Trumaine Johnson, indefinitely suspended). And with the quickness and athleticism that State has at the guards, it really puts us in a tough spot going into this game.
Soccer spotlight
ESPN2 and ESPNU will carry the NCAA Women's College Cup, starting with the first national semifinal — Stanford vs. Notre Dame — at 1:30 p.m. Friday on both networks. The second semifinal, UCLA vs. North Carolina, is at 4 p.m. on ESPNU. The national championship game is scheduled for 9 a.m. Sunday on ESPN2.
Kelsey Lysander (Rancho Bernardo High) is the starting goalie and Canle Dew (La Costa Canyon) is a starting defender for unbeaten Notre Dame.
Allison McCarr (La Costa Canyon) is a part-time starter for Stanford, while Kelly Birch (Torrey Pines) is a key reserve for the Cardinal.
Encinitas' All Hawkins (La Jolla Country Day) is a part-time starter for North Carolina.
College football
The big game Saturday is the SEC championship game, matching Alabama and Florida, the top two teams in the Associated Press poll. Kickoff is at 1 p.m. on CBS.
At 5 p.m. on ABC, No. 19 Missouri will play No. 4 Oklahoma for the Big 12 championship.
Other good games include Army-Navy at 9 a.m. on CBS, Virginia Tech vs. No. 18 Boston College in the ACC title game at 10 a.m. on ABC and No. 5 USC at UCLA at 5 p.m. on ABC.
Fight night
Promoters are hoping for big viewership for Saturday night's Manny Pacquiao vs. Oscar De La Hoya welterweight fight from Las Vegas. But with the pay-per-view bout priced at $54.95, how many people can afford to purchase it?
Top Rank, the company promoting the fight, is projecting 1.5 million buys. That would be the second highest for a De La Hoya fight on pay-per-view behind the 2007 bout with Floyd Mayweather Jr., which had 2.4 million buys and $134.4 million in revenue.
The bout from the MGM Grand in Las Vegas is set for 6 p.m.
Senior citizens power Toreros by Bakersfield

TOREROS 77,
CAL STATE BAKERSFIELD 65

By Hank Wesch, STAFF WRITER

BAKERSFIELD — Maybe it’s a Monday thing. When not on an island, that is.

Exhibiting its best overall cohesion since an impressive home victory over Nevada two weeks earlier, USD’s men’s basketball team notched its first road victory of the season here last night, defeating Cal State Bakersfield 77-65 before 1,539 at Rabobank Arena.

The Toreros placed four players in double figures, led by the senior duo of Gyno Pomare (24 points, 9 rebounds, 3 blocks) and Brandon Johnson (18 points, 7 assists, 3 steals). USD (4-3) expanded a four-point halftime lead to 11 in the first five minutes of the second half and stayed in complete control the rest of the way.

Sophomore guard Matt Dorr scored 14 points, doubling his previous career high, and Rob Jones contributed 13 points and five rebounds.

It was enough to make USD coach Bill Grier forget about the Toreros’ Monday contest between Nevada and last night’s — an 80-45 blowout loss to No. 22 Miami a week earlier in the Paradise Jam Tournament on St. Thomas in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

"I think it was probably our best game other than Nevada," Grier said. "Brandon did a good job of running our team. "It has been a struggle for him. Last year when we really got rolling, he was playing predominantly at the two (shooting guard)."

"Tonight he did a nice job of being a point guard and running our team. Also we did a good
Blakley resulted in the Toreros holding only a 39-35 lead at the break.

Blakley was a perfect 8-for-8 overall from the field including 4-for-4 on three-pointers in scoring 20 points to keep the Roadrunners in the game and the Toreros from pulling away.

Blakley wound up going 10-for-11, his only miss being a tip off a rebound for 26 points, which included 6-for-6 from beyond the arc. The fact that he only took three shots in the final 20 minutes appeared to be as much a product of the Roadrunners’ (3-3) forgetting he was on the floor as any USD defensive effort to stop him.

Bakersfield’s problem all night was an inability to contain Pomare or Johnson, who combined to connect on 17-of-26 shots.

“(Pomare’s) 10-for-13 isn’t as impressive as Blakley’s 10-for-11. But it’s still pretty impressive,” Grier said.

Pomare described the game as an “emotional” one for the Toreros because it, like the Nevada contest, represented an opportunity to avenge a loss last season. CSUB defeated USD at the Jenny Craig Pavilion 80-72 in a game Johnson sat out with a thigh injury.

“We got a little payback,” Pomare said. “I thought we played really well (as a team) in the Nevada game and it was the same tonight.”

Hank Wesch (619) 293-1653; hank.wesch@uniontrib.com

USD CONTINUED FROM PAGE E1

Pomare calls Bakersfield win ‘emotional’

job on the glass and Gyno really got going inside and that was tough for them to deal with.”

The Toreros were without junior guard De’Jon Jackson, who experienced some swelling in a previously injured knee and was withheld for precautionary reasons. Jackson will be examined by team physician Dr. Paul C. Murphy today and his availability for Saturday’s game at San Diego State will be determined later in the week.

USD did most things well in the first half. But a failure to faze UCSB junior forward Trent
Pomare, Toreros beat Bakersfield on the road

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gyno Pomare had 18 points and nine rebounds as the University of San Diego men's basketball team beat Cal State Bakersfield 77-65 on Monday.

Brandon Johnson added 18 points for visiting USD (4-3), which shot 61 percent from the floor and 54 percent from beyond the arc.

USD led 39-35 at halftime and opened the second half on a 14-7 run.

Bakersfield (3-3) cut the margin to eight on a Trent Blakley 3 with 11 minutes left, but Johnson pushed the lead back to double digits with a short jumper, and the Roadrunners never got within 10 the rest of the game.

Blakley led all scorers with 26 points on 10-for-11 shooting, including 6-for-6 from 3-point range. Terrence Johns added 17 points off the bench for Bakersfield.

Matt Dorr scored 14 for the Toreros and Rob Jones added 13.
San Diego avenges last season's loss to 'Runners

BY JEFF EVANS, Californian staff writer
jevans@bakersfield.com | Monday, Dec 1 2008 11:07 PM

The University of San Diego had no difficulty getting motivated to face Cal State Bakersfield Monday night.

The Toreros, who reached the NCAA Tournament last season and stunned national power UConn in the first round, avenged last season's loss to the Roadrunners with a 77-65 win before 1,529 at Rabobank Arena.

"We got what we wanted when we were aggressive," said CSUB junior forward Trent Blakley, who scored a collegiate career-high 26 points on 10-of-11 shooting, including 6-of-6 on 3s.

"We've been a second-half team," Blakley added. "Tonight they played 40 minutes and we didn't play the whole game. ... We just didn't execute."

The loss snapped CSUB's three-game winning streak. CSUB (3-3) was coming off an emotional 79-72 overtime win over Pepperdine, like San Diego a member of the West Coast Conference.

The game was close in the first half. A 3-pointer by senior point guard Brandon Johnson gave San Diego the lead for good, 12-9. The Roadrunners trailed 39-35 at halftime, with Blakley having 20 of CSUB's points.

The Toreros (4-3) pulled away early in the second half, outscoring CSUB 10-1 to open up a 53-42 lead. It was at least a 12-point margin the final eight minutes.

Blakley's final basket was a 3-pointer with 10:29 left. He was not a factor after that as his touches were few and far between.

"Trent kept us in the game offensively," CSUB coach Keith Brown said. "We were not as effective inside as we needed to be when we had the opportunity."

San Diego coach Bill Grier said his pre-game thoughts focused on CSUB's difficulty hitting 3-pointers thus far this season. The Roadrunners came into the game only 27-of-102 from long range.

"We did not do a good job on Blakley when he got his rhythm going," Grier said. "Overall I was pleased. I thought the guys did a nice job handling their pressure."

CSUB had an 11-10 edge in offensive rebounds but only had two buckets that followed those offensive boards. Five of the offensive boards by San Diego were converted into baskets.

Terrence Johns had a season-high 17 points for the Roadrunners, but no one else did any real damage.

Johnson, who missed the Toreros' 80-72 loss to CSUB last season because of deep thigh contusion, had a dominant game, scoring 18 points with seven assists and three steals.

CSUB's top defender, Bryan Emanuel, had the job of defending Johnson.

"He's a great player," Emanuel said. "His speed -- I'd say we're about even. He caught me a couple of times when I was off-balance. ... Facing a great guard like that makes me want to get back in the gym and work harder."

San Diego senior center Gymo Pomare had 24 points and a game-high nine rebounds, hitting 10-of-15 shots.

"I felt going in our guys were hungry," Grier said, referring to the motivation after last season's home loss to Bakersfield. "To their credit, last year they were more aggressive."
CSUB's Terrence Johns drives the lane against University of San Diego's Danny Brown during the first half Monday at Rabobank Arena.

CSUB point guard Donovan Bragg had 20 points in the win over San Diego last season. On Monday he had two points -- on a layup with 2:29 left in the game.

"He's a big, strong guard who's good in the gaps and at going to the rim," Grier said. "We wanted to keep in front of him and keep him from finding the gaps."

CSUB continues its busy stretch of games Wednesday in Stockton against University of the Pacific. CSUB plays at UC Davis on Saturday, which will be its fourth game in eight days.

Photo by Michael Taggart / The Californian
Event raises $123,000 to fight Huntington’s disease

LESLEI CARTER
FOR THE NORTH COUNTY TIMES

LA JOLLA — Guests at the 2008 Celebration of Hope event in support of the Huntington’s Disease Society of America were treated to a performance of “Don’t Undress Until You Die,” a one-man play written by sportscaster Dick Enberg celebrating the life of late college basketball legend Al McGuire.

The Nov. 12 event at the Museum of Contemporary Art in La Jolla brought in $123,000.

After a cocktail reception and a silent auction outside, the 350 guests gathered in the auditorium for a live auction and a performance by Cotter Smith portraying McGuire, who coached the basketball team at Marquette before becoming a college basketball broadcaster.

Billy Ray Smith and Scott Kaplan from XX Sports Radio warmed up the audience and introduced University of San Diego basketball coach Bill Giri-er and San Diego State University basketball coach Steve Fisher.

Others who were recognized in the crowd were Rolf Benirschke, Jane Mitchell, Kathleen Bade, Susie Spanos, Kris Dielman, Nancy Turner, Matt Goff, Scott Mruczkowski, and Jack and Jill Cesare.

Jack Berkman, a Huntington’s board member and the auctioneer for the evening, spoke about the advocacy efforts of the local chapter.

“A big part of what our chapter does is create a presence in a political environment so that we can get the attention of Washington, D.C.,” he said. “It is an amazing undertaking.”

Barbara Rowse, president of the Huntington’s Disease Society of America, flew in from New York to enjoy the evening and to announce the creation of the Bill and Ramona Johnson Family Research Fund of HDSA.

Jeanne Bas, president of the San Diego Huntington’s chapter and a senior vice president at Union Bank, took the stage to thank the crew that put the event together.

“These are the people who worked every day for a year,” she said.

The organizing crew included Enberg, Evelyn Da Rosa Feliciano, Maria Vizziello-Gibson and Dinisa Valadao.

Other committee members were Shannon Alford, Kim Ayers, Kathleen Bade, Virginia Ball, Lori and Luis Barrios, Lisa and Peter Belott, Jack Berkman, Jeff Bolitho, Lisa Catlin, Natalie Carpenter, LaVonne Cashman, Kris Dielman, George Essig, Julie Estrada, April Fagundes, Jill Faucher, Amy Foley, Theresa Garces, Antonio Gates, Gigi Goldman, Mike Goff, Ann and Ben Haddad, Bill Johnston, Cheryl Kendrick, Angela Lachica, Jamaal LaFrance, Jim Lampley, Steve Lyman, Jim Nantz, Jennifer Oliveira, Misty Oto, Nan Pace, Adrienne Rebollo, Steve Redfean, Guy Riddle, Jennifer Rojas, Daniel Silva, Mary and John Still, Juniza Terzoli, Karen Tran, Norv Tucker and Nicole Yorkey.

Sponsors of the gala were the Robert & Lillie Breitbard Foundation, Peggy and Eric Johnson, Liquid Investments, Inc., National University, Palomar Pomerado Health, and Qualcomm.


Photos by LESLIE CARTER
FOR THE NORTH COUNTY TIMES

Meghann O’Connor, Sean O’Connor, Marilyn Erikson and Megan Erikson

Denise Derrett, Leslie McCormick, Keith Bell and Carol Land
Holland in a new basketball courtship

By Mark Zeoli
STAFF WRITER

Goleta — The hardest part wasn't being fired after having just two losing seasons in 15 years at the University of San Diego and a near-perfect graduation record. It wasn't even finding a coaching job a full year later. It wasn't even being able to play golf, because he felt too guilty about being unemployed.

It wasn't in his words, "not feeling very appreciated was the worst." He wasn't in the living room of their Carlsbad home on a Friday afternoon in March watching TV, watching USD play Connecticut in the first round of the 2006 NCAA men's basketball tournament.

Watching the Toreros win.

Watching his players win.

Watching them become the first team in San Diego history to win an NCAA Tournament game under first-year coach Bill Grier.

"One of the toughest things I've ever gone through in my whole life," Holland says. "Because that wasn't me sitting on the bench being able to enjoy the fruits of the labor of getting the program to that point."

"I mean, I love the fact that the players we recruited got the experience that I was happy for them. And I called Bill that night after he beat UCSC and we talked and I gave him my congratulations, and I think that was very appreciated. But it was very difficult to watch that unfold and not be part of it."

Holland, 52, is talking in his office on the second floor of UC Santa Barbara's intercollegiate athletics center. Life could be worse. His window — the USD basketball offices in Jenny Craig Pavilion don't have them — overlooks Santa Barbara. He is a Coach's assistant under Bob Williams, one of those veteran coaches everyone seems to know and like.

Holland was hired in May, 14 months after he became the first USD men's basketball coach to be fired in nearly a half-century. He returned to San Diego on Saturday afternoon, when San Diego State hosted 5-6 USC at Cox Arena.

"I'm looking forward to seeing a lot of old friends," Holland says. "I'm going to have some family, obviously, at the game. I'm looking forward to it. I really am. It's all positive."

"Now, if it was USD (as the opposition), I might have some different feelings about going back there."

College basketball coaches are fired all the time. Very few last 10 years at the same school. But what made Holland's dismissal unusual, or at least mildly puzzling, was when and where it happened — after an 18-14 season and at USD, Catholic school that traditionally puts as much stock in academic performance as it does athletic achievement.

Holland had a 200-176 record (52%) in 13 seasons, five times won 15 or more games, twice was named West Coast Conference Coach of the Year and reached the NCAA Tournament in 2003, USD's first trip in 16 years.

Of the dozen of players who exhausted their eligibility under him, only one failed to graduate. That was center Jason Keep, whom Holland advised to drop out of school during the spring semester of his senior year because he had numerous NBA trials underway. Keep promised he would complete his degree; so far, he hasn't.

The previous four men's basketball coaches at USD did essentially the same thing, and two — Dennis Hickerson and Mark Akin — left for more plush careers in the NBA. Before Holland, Egan had a .533 winning percentage in 11 seasons and went to the NCAA Tournament once. Before that, Jim Breuer had a .550 winning percentage in 11 seasons and went to the NCAA Tournament once.

"I was thinking were doing a pretty darn good job and the program was elevating," Holland says. "What I got from around the country was, Wow, if that can happen to you, it can happen to almost anyone."

"Everybody was fairly shocked, I think it put a lot of coaches on alert that, if it can happen to him and he graduated people and he had a good, solid winning program, what is our business coming to?"

What happened was: Taggart became USD's athletic director in December 2003 and, with the university's blessing, placed a greater emphasis on winning in particular, on winning championships. With Gonzaga a force in WCC basketball, that meant 18-14 and regularly graduating your players won't good enough any more.

"It's a tough business, we all know that," USD's Williams says. "At the same time, we all understand that some ADs want their own guy, and it sounds like Brad ran into an AD who wanted his own guy . . . at USD, (men's) basketball is the flagship sport. It's a chance for an AD to put his coach on the program."

USD wasn't alone. Santa Clara fired Dick Davey in February 2007 after 16 years of familiar athletic and academic results, including a 5-10 record in his final season. Four other WCC schools, presumably with Gonzaga envy, have purged head coaches in the past three years.

Comparing Holland with Grier is premature and probably unfair. Grier, a former assistant at Gonzaga, won the WCC...
Tournament and went two games deep in the NCAA Tournament in his debut season at USD, but he did it with a roster almost exclusively recruited by Holland.

And the programs themselves may be apples and oranges, with Grier seemingly afforded a bigger budget and lower academic requirements. Two of Grier's original three recruits who were offered scholarships for this season failed to qualify academically. His top recruit from last season, guard Trumaine Johnson, has been suspended most of this season.

Snyder declined to comment but has said several times "I don't believe that academic and athletic excellence has to be mutually exclusive."

Holland refuses to talk specifically about any changes in financial and academic resources for Grier, instead speaking about the issues in general terms.

"From my experience, USD is a challenging place to recruit to for men's basketball," Holland says. "I also know that fundamentally when a new coach comes on board, things are different for him. People will go out of their way to make him as successful as he can possibly be because you know, a change was made."

"So whether it's the budget, academic requirements, whatever, that's just the nature of the business."

USD still owed Holland the final year of his contract, and he spent it bouncing around the country teaching pro and college practice, learning new teaching methods and validating old ones. He visited UCLA, Creighton and the Phoenix Suns. He spent two weeks with the Cleveland Cavaliers.

He did some television commentary. He attended the NCAA Final Four. He explored business opportunities outside basketball. He got into better shape.

He also applied for three college head coaching jobs, all in the West. None panned out.

"It was nice to sort of not feel the stress for a while," says Holland, who moved his family from Carlsbad to Santa Barbara over the summer. "I feel like my body recovered, and so did my mind. It's a stressful occupation, to be sure."

"When you go through something like that, it really forces you to take stock of yourself. I wanted to see what else was out there for me... And I found out by going through all that, I wanted to stay in coaching."

Mark Ziegler: (619) 272-2208; mark.ziegler@uniontrib.com
The USD women's basketball team closed on a 12-0 run to defeat visiting Cal State Fullerton 65-62 yesterday.

Forward Kiva Herman led the Toreros (7-5) with 27 points on 11-of-18 shooting, while center Amber Sprague added 20 points and 19 rebounds.

Lauren Chow scored 20 points and had six three-pointers to lead the Titans (3-9), who held a 62-55 lead but didn't score in the final 3:51.
LAE, Hawaii — Kiva Herman scored 25 points to lead the University of San Diego women's basketball team to an 81-70 win over Utah Valley State (3-5) in a non-conference game Saturday afternoon.

Herman made 8-of-9 shots and had six rebounds. Amber Sprague and Morgan Henderson scored 19 points apiece for the Toreros (6-3), and Dominque Conners tied a career-high with 10 points.

USD shot 44.3 percent from the floor.

The Toreros began the game on a 9-3 run. But the Wolverines went on a run of their own to take a 14-11 lead with 14:15 to go in the half. Utah Valley took a six-point lead into halftime.

The Wolverines continued the momentum in the second half, taking a 49-40 lead with 13:52 to play. A Sprague jumper ignited an 11-2 run as the Toreros tied the score at 51 with 10:26 left and USD took control the rest of the way.
Troost makes a name for herself at USD

SAN DIEGO — Ali Troost made the usual recruiting trips as one of the top volleyball prospects on the West Coast coming out of Hemet High. She had the star power to pick and choose from among national powers.

But like the actress that takes pride in her craft by playing a role in an off-Broadway production as well as taking parts in a blockbuster studio movies, Troost found the personal touch she was looking for at the University of San Diego.

"I visited schools like USC and Washington, but after visiting a few schools like that, I decided they weren't for me," she said. "I felt USD was better for me. It's a nationally ranked program and a smaller school that's close to home. At a smaller school, we're friends with athletes in the other sports, too."

Troost, a left-handed, 6-foot-2 outside hitter that earned first-team All-West Coast Conference honors and is an All-American candidate, is one of the key reasons the Toreros won a third straight West Coast Conference title and are back on the national stage with their 13th NCAA tournament appearance in the last 14 years.

USD (23-4), ranked No. 15 in the nation, plays a first-round match against No. 12 USC (16-11) at 7 p.m. Friday at USC. The other match in the four-team bracket has unranked Belmont University (25-7) against No. 6 Hawaii (28-3). The winners will play Saturday for the right to advance to the Sweet 16.

"Ali is a huge part of our success," said 10th-year USD coach Jennifer Petrie, the WCC Coach of the Year for the second straight season. "She was injured early in the year, and you can definitely see how much better of a team we are offensively when we got her back."

Troost was not only a high-profile recruit the Toreros would usually be a long shot to land, she came with a bonus. When the Toreros were watching her club team matches, they were surprised one of her teammates and best friends wasn't being recruited.

That would be Andrea Csaszri, a junior libero from Rancho Buena Vista High who earned All-WCC honorable mention recognition for the second straight year.

Troost had committed as a junior and Csaszri was a year ahead of her in school.

So when Csaszri played her freshman year at USD, she was able to confirm for Troost that USD's program matched her impressions during the recruiting process.

"We are so fortunate to have her on our team," Csaszri said. "She's a great player and she's a lefty, and that's a big advantage in itself. She brings a lot of knowledge and teamwork to the game."

She's also one of those talented players who dominated in high school with superior athletic ability but recognized a need to work on other parts of her game. As a freshman, she only played in front row because she needed to improve her defense.
SAN DIEGO — The transition plan worked for Dominique Conners.

When she arrived at USD as a starting point guard, Conners was the only relay from the high school to the University of San Diego's women's basketball team.

That meant Conners had to share the point guard role with Brianna Estell, who handled the position so well in a backup role last year.

But what's that they say about best-laid plans?

Conners, who grew up in Oceanside, but her family moved to Temecula midway through her career at La Jolla Country Day School, arrived at USD with the point guard role solidly thrust upon her shoulders after the graduation of starter Aurnaca Jeggo was followed by the unexpected transfer of Estell to Cal Baptist in Riverside to be closer to home.

"It's been hard on the whole team to have a freshmen point guard," Conners said. "But this whole team has been supportive. Amber (Sprague, a senior guard) has been a terrible leader for me. She wants me to take a deep breath.

The only relief Conners gets is from sophomore Sara Van Der Heyde, a shooting guard in high school, and freshman Morgan Woodruff, a forward in high school.

Despite trying times, USD's patience is already being rewarded. The School-4 Conners, who struggled in the first four games while playing through nagging injuries, led the Toreros (4-4) to win over San Diego State and Seaton Hall last week.

Conners scored 11 points with three assists against SDSU and seven points with seven assists against Seton Hall.

But just to show that it's never that simple, Conners came down with a flu Saturday and struggled Sunday, when she scored only four points with two assists in the Toreros' 58-53 loss to UC Irvine.

Still, Conners believes the SDSU game was a significant turning point in gaining the confidence needed to shift from a high school star relying on superior athletic ability to a college athlete who must find a mental edge.

Late in the SDSU game, Sprague rebounded a missed free throw and fed Conners, who pushed the ball up court to score.

She was about to pull up on the right side of the court to reset the defense when she spotted a lane to the basket. Conners exploded to the hoop and able to sneak a layup past the covering defense of SDSU's forward Paris Emery for a 61-57 lead with 32 seconds to play in a game the Toreros won 64-60.

"Everything I was told to take to the hoop," Conners said. "It wasn't easy getting it past Paris, Johnson. That felt good, but I don't know how I would have felt if I missed that shot."

Producing under pressure, though, was a hallmark of her career at LJCSD.

As a senior, she was named the CIF player of the year for the San Diego Section. She averaged 17.2 points while leading the Toreros to the CIF San Diego Section Division IV title, CIF Southern California Regional Division IV title and CIF state runner-up finish.

"I think she definitely grew a lot in the (SDSU) game," USD coach Cindy Fleischman said. "She's a very explosive player that plays so hard — 100 percent all the time. She's been playing through injuries, but we've seen enough shots from her that she can take it to another level.

When Conners arrived at LJCSD, she was following in the numerous footsteps of Candice Wiggins, who led the Toreros to four straight CIF titles and was a national player of the year at Stanford last season before starting her pro career with WNBA Minnesota Lynx.

Conners, who doesn't shrink from pressure, led her team to four straight section titles.

Now that she's at USD, she's following Berg, a Mission Bay High alumnus.

Robo was a two-time All-West Coast Conference pick as a junior and senior (co-player of the year as a junior) and MVP of last year's NCAA tournament that the Toreros won to advance to the NCAA tournament.

"I have a challenge, and I love what Candice and Amanda did," Conners said. "The only way you're going to get better is to challenge yourself with goals."
Toreros stopped

Three USD players scored in double figures — paced by Morgan Henderson's season-high 21 points — but it wasn't enough as the Toreros fell to UC Irvine 88-53 at the Jenny Craig Pavilion.

Henderson was 8-of-12 shooting from the floor and had 12 rebounds for her first double-double of the season.

Sam Child had 11 points for the Toreros (4-3) with Kiva Herman adding 10 points.

As a team, USD was held to 32.2 percent shooting from the field and was out-rebounded 39-33 by UCI (2-2), which was led by Mary Has (19 points) and Rebecca Maessen (14).

USD MEN
at CS BAKERSFIELD
Site/time: Rabobank Arena / 7 p.m.
Radio: 1090-AM
Records: USD 3-3; CSUB 3-2
Outlook: Roadrunners fresh off 79-72 win Saturday at USD's league rival Pepperdine and won last year's matchup against the Toreros 80-72 at Jenny Craig Pavilion.
COLLEGE BASEBALL
USD junior closer AJ Griffin and sophomore right-hander Kyle Blair have been named preseason second-team All-Americans by Pingbaseball.com.
In the Collegiate Baseball pre-season top 40 poll, the Toreros, under 2008 West Coast Conference coach of the year Rich Hill, posted a program-best 44-17 record last season, won their second consecutive conference title and advanced to the Long Beach Regional championship games. Six of USD's 2009 opponents are in the top 40, including conference foe Pepperdine at No. 23. Rice (the highest-ranked opponent at No. 9, followed by No. 8 Stanford, No. 6 Arizona State, No. 15 Cal State Fullerton and No. 20 UC Irvine. The Toreros open the season Feb. 20 at the MLB Urban Youth Academy Tournament in Compton against Southern University.

Football
Palomar College's Justin Klingerman (Valley Center), a 6-foot-4, 310-pound sophomore who started all 11 inside last season, signed with Old Dominion. Klingerman is the first Palomar player to sign with a four-year college during the NCAA Division I mid-year junior college signing period. Klingerman, who also plays guard, was an All-Southern Conference honorable mention selection. He also won Palomar's Football Academic Award, carrying a 3.83 grade-point average.

Women's volleyball
Palomar College middle blocker Audrey Green (San Marcos), a 6-foot-7 All California selection and second-team NVCA All-American, has committed to UCSD. Green, the Pacific Coast Conference player of the year, led the Comets to a 25-6 record, the PCC championship and a No. 4 state ranking at the end of the regular season. Green led the conference with 1.30 blocks per game. She originally played a season of basketball at San Diego State out of high school and couldn't return to a Division I school because of the NCAA's four-year rule for that level. UCSD went 20-4 during the 2008 season, was ranked No. 11 in NCAA Division II and advanced to the West Regionals.

--- John Maffei
Baseball

- San Diego State right-hander Stephen Strasburg has been named to the 2009 Brooks Wallace Player of the Year Watch List. The USD 204 player, the team's closer, and starting pitchers Kyle Blair and Sammy Solis have been named to the 2009 Brooks Wallace Player of the Year Watch List.
- UC San Diego signed players to national letters of intent for the 2010 season. Head coach Dan O'Blfen signed outfielder/first baseman Dillon Pennrose from El Toro High, pitcher Nick Laface from Notre Dame High in Sherman Oaks, and pitcher Scott Liske from Royal High in Simi Valley, and outfielder Dylan Barth from W.T. White High in Dallas and first baseman K.C. Rentfro from Riverside Poly.

Football

- Freshman quarterback Matt Christian (Carlsbad) was voted Palomar College's Valuable Player by his Comets football teammates. Christian won the starting job during the season and wound up leading the Comets to an 8-3 record and was MVP of Palomar's 36-33 victory over Centros in the Inland Empire Bowl.
- The complete list of award winners:
  - Offensive players of the year - Tyler Lavea (Oceanside) and Martavious Lee;
  - Defensive player of the year - Nate Pasquale (El Camino);
  - Best lineman (from both offense and defense) - Sam Tupua;
  - Special teams player of the year - Gator Pugh (Rancho Buena Vista);
  - Kevin Kelly Award - Mike Tannave (Rancho Buena Vista High);
  - Captains - Christian, offense; David Motu (Oceanside), defense; Most Improved - Chris Calvert;

(Rancho Buena Vista);  
Academic Award - Justin Klingerman (Valley Center High).
3.83 GPA, Business major;
Most Inspirational - Taylor Cantelli;
Other special teams awards -
John Wildermuth, Hammer Award;
Cody McDoole (Carlsbad), Iron Man Award;
Kodak Scout Team Award -
Nate Org (San Pasqual);
Above and Beyond Award - Keith Dohart;
Coaches Awards - Joey Erickson (Mission Hills), Andrew Sugg;
Brett Winger, Braxton Brennan;
Jonathan Mitchell (Escondido);
Cody McDoole (Palbrook); Maurice Patterson (Oceanside).

— John Maule
Amy Mahinaen DeGroot, a junior outside hitter at USO, was named the West Coast Conference player of the week after sweeps of Loyola Marymount and No. 23-ranked Pepperdine. She had 31 kills in those matches, along with five blocks and 10 digs. DeGroot was later named WCC player of the year after leading the Toreros to their third consecutive conference championship, and the fourth in five years. USO coach Jennifer Peterson won coach of the year honors. Joining DeGroot on the first-team All-WCC list were senior setter Jessala Nyrop and sophomore All Troest. Junior libero Andrea Czeszti (Rancho Buena Vista) was honorable mention. Czeszti, a 5-foot-10 junior, led the Toreros with 375 digs.
Cross country

- UC San Diego’s Bre Schofield (Carlsbad) finished 22nd overall on the women’s side, while Jake LeVieux (La Costa Canyon) finished 92nd in the men’s race at the 2008 NCAA Division II national championships at Cooper’s Lake Campground in Slippery Rock, PA. Schofield capped her season with another strong performance, finishing the 6K women’s race in 22 minutes, 19 seconds. The redshirt freshman earned U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association All-American honors by virtue of her top-25 finish. LeVieux finished the men’s 10K in 33:06.

- The Point Loma Nazarene women finished 24th out of 32 squads at the NAIA women’s cross country national championship in Kenosha, Wis.

- Landon Bright of Point Loma Nazarene finished 23rd in the men’s 8K race at the NAIA men’s cross country national championship in Kenosha, Wis., to earn All-American status. Bright crossed the line in 25:05.8. He is just the fifth All-American in PLNU history.

- Cal State San Marcos women’s team recorded the best finish at the NAIA nationals in the program’s 10-year history, taking third place. Dallon Williams finished in 17:26, good for sixth place. Fellow senior Morgan Sjogren took 29th in 18:15. Sophomore Jeseca Sandoval was 29th in 18:16 and true freshman Caitlin Villarreal ran 18:39 to take 38th.

- On the men’s side, CSUSM finished 12th at the NAIA nationals. The squad was led by Alex Guaderrama, who finished 34th in 25:35. Second on the team was junior Dave Edwards, who was 42nd in 25:40.

Baseball

- The University of San Diego announced the signing of eight players to national letters of intent, including four listed in Baseball America’s top 100 recruits: Mike Dedrick, a 6-foot-3 right-handed pitcher from Canyon View High in Cedar City, Utah, is the 39th top high school prospect by Baseball America; Matt Moynihan, an outfielder at Cathedral Catholic, is No. 52; Cameron Garfield, a catcher from Murrieta High, is No. 63; James Neely, a right-handed pitcher from Santana, is No. 68.

— John Maffei
Two University of San Diego women’s volleyball Players earned American Volleyball Coaches Association All-Region honors. Junior outside hitter Amy Mahlmeister and senior setter Jessica Nyrop were named to the All-Pacific Region team and senior setter Jessica Nyrop takes home honorable mention honors. DeGroot Carbon Player of the Year, paced the Toreros offense with her team-leading 392 kills and was second on the team in digs with 231. DeGroot was also named the MVP of both the Aztec Invitational and the USD Tournament. Nyrop, a first-team All-WCC honoree, led the team with 1,012 assists on the season, and helped lead the USD offense to a .270 attack percentage, good for fifth best team attack percentage in the nation. Nyrop took home all-tournament honors at both the Aztec Invitational and USD Tournament.
Beach Crew Roundup

Story by Mike Guardabascio

As always, we like to keep you posted on our favorite rowers, the Long Beach State Crew team—turns out, they’ve had a couple of weeks! Check out these stories and pics, provided by Beach Crew!

Generations Reunite At Legend’s

Friday, December 5th, at Legend’s in Belmont Shore, the team hosted an alumni dinner to kick off its first ever “Back to the Beach” weekend, part of an effort to reach out to alumni and keep the tradition strong. Rowers from the very first teams got a chance to eat and relax with the team’s newest members, along with everyone from the decades in between. The dinner was such a huge success, the team is considering making it an annual event.

Friends And Family Row

We got a chance to get out on the water with the team at an ungodly early hour earlier this year, and on Saturday the 6th, the team afforded the same opportunity to their supporters with their Friends and Family Row— but first, they made them erg. Then five mixed 8’s launched and made the trip up and down Alamitos Bay.

Christmas Regatta

For the 41st year, the Long Beach Christmas Regatta, also known as the Bill Lockyer Christmas Regatta, was a huge success. This year, the Beach Crew team was a big part of that success, with a strong showing. Other universities in attendance were: University of San Diego, San Diego State, UC Irvine, Cal Maritime Academy, and University of Arkansas. Probably the most exciting heat of the weekend was the Men’s Novice come-back against University of San Diego. After falling only to USD in the eights, the 49ers fought back in both fours pulling ahead of USD’s and ended up winning first and third, respectively. Several boats from the Women’s team placed second only to USD.
The Regatta closed the successful 'Back to the Beach' weekend.

Going To See the Queen

They usually row in Marine Stadium, so it must be a trip for these rowers to get out in the open ocean--this year they did so again on December 12th, making their annual trip to pay respects to the Queen. The Queen Mary, that is. Now, according to their website, the team is actually going to take a few weeks off to study for finals and enjoy the holidays. The rest of us will be shocked to learn that the crew team knows how to take time off.

Tags: lbu crew

Mike Guardabascio is a freelance writer (ie, poor), CSULB grad (go Beach!), and a Long Beach native (ie, lucky). He played AYSO soccer, YMCA basketball, and pickup games of everything else, in every park from Cherry to El Dorado. He loves what he does.

Read more from Mike Guardabascio
USD's Matthews earns All-America honor

USD wide receiver John Matthews has been named to The Associated Press FCS All-America first team.

Matthews led the Football Championship Subdivision with 102 catches for 1,478 yards.

"It's a tremendous honor," Matthews said yesterday. "I just have to thank all of my teammates and coaches who made it possible. It's definitely a reflection of the success of the team and the respect our program has earned on a national level over the last five years. I feel that has a lot to do with it."

USD posted a 10-2 record for the second straight season.

Matthews, who finished seventh in voting for the Walter Payton Award that honors the best offensive player in the FCS, ranked No. 1 among FCS receivers in touchdowns receptions (21), receptions per game (8.27) and receiving yards per game (134.30).

He leaves USD as the record holder for receiving yards (3,615) and TD receptions (50), and is second all-time in overall receptions with 195.

Matthews is the third Toreros player to be named to The Associated Press FCS All-America first team. Last year, senior defensive end Eric Bostick and junior return specialist J.T. Rogers were selected.

Matthews also recently was named the Pioneer League's Offensive Player of the Year.

— KEVIN GEMMELL
USD player selected

USD defensive back Patrick O'Neill has been named to the 11th Annual Football Championship Subdivision Athletic Directors Association Academic All-Star Team.

The Toreros defensive captain was one of 43 winners out of 79 nominees. He carries a 3.84 GPA and is a double major in marketing and business.

The senior had 17 solo tackles and three assists for the Toreros, who finished 9-2 for the second straight year. O'Neill is a three-time USD Scholar-Athlete of the Year.

— KEVIN GEMMELL
Bucs like Johnson’s role-playing

As soon as he picks up a football and begins throwing it around the park to his bats, every kid immediately assumes the identity of his favorite quarterback, Favre, Brady, Rodgers, Romo, Breese, McNabb, Breese, Manning, Pick one. Josh Johnson gets to be them all, a different one every week, and he gets to do it against an NFL defense. Whoever the other team has at quarterback, that’s him.

"He has a feel for the game," said, "that’s my role."

Raiders Coach Tom Cable, the No. 1 quarterback on the depth chart, said Johnson is the kid that gets the scout report. Johnson is a great runner, so Cable has the scout team have him cover every ground and running plays for the scout team. The kid is the kid that thinks enough of himself to keep him away from the scout team.

Johnson is the kid that thinks enough of himself to keep him away from the scout team. Every week he’s handed the nickname. In NFL years, he’s a newborn.

Johnson also was the "sandwich guy." He was responsible for making sure the other three kids — Jeff Garcia, Brian Griese and Luke McCown — got their sandwiches on road trips. Repeat, was. "He’s done a very good job," Garcia said. "Actually, we fired him."

Details are sketchy, but Johnson, 22, swears that Johnson, 22, swears that it wasn’t his fault. All is good fun. Part of the gig, Roostertuff.

Whatever they ask of me, I do," he said recently by telephone. "Even when it’s not necessary, they do something just to mess with me."

The point is, Johnson’s still around to be messed with, and the Bucs are convinced that he’ll stick around for years to give rookies the kid of grief he’s getting now. He won’t be playing in today’s game against the Chargers, almost surely won’t even be activated, but Johnson has earned his place in the minds of those people that matter.

"We give him a hard time, but he’s a great guy with a great future," said Garcia, a 12-year NFL veteran. "The kid is extremely smart and has adapted and learned this system faster than I would have thought or imagined. He has great athleticism, great tools, very fine arm and mobility."

He’s going to be somebody if he can just hone his skills and really tighten things down for himself as far as his accuracy and his reads. He has a great understanding of the game and the system. When he gets his opportunity in the future, he can be very successful with it."

The man who has considerably more say about Johnson’s future, coach Jon Gruden, talks about this ex-Toreros leader as well worth the fifth-round pick the Bucs used for him.

"The plan all along was, No. 1, let’s recognize that he’s gonna be a redshirt and learn the NFL game, get himself acclimated to this style," he said. "And then we can see what we’ve got. He’s one of the best young guys I’ve been around. There’s a credit to the coaches in here and a credit to him. He loves the game and has a charisma about him. I’m really excited about him."

Not anyone thinks Gruden a little overenthusiastic in his praise for Johnson, knows that there’s an underlying skepticism at work. Of all the head coaches in the NFL, whom Johnson could’ve wound up with, he had to get the one who’s a Daytona alum, which basically is to Bucs coach Jon Gruden.

"When the Bucs coached in the NFL, whom Johnson could’ve wound up with, he had to get the one who’s a Daytona alum, which basically is to Bucs coach Jon Gruden," said. "We had a little wager."

They’re just enough, none of the things rookies are made to wear around as part of having rituals. "When USD had its national best in for the first time," said. "He’s one of the best young guys I’ve seen, and he was outstanding. He was a leader on the team. He was a leader in the community. He was a leader in the classroom. He was a leader on the field."

"He’s one of the best young guys I’ve been around," says Tampa Bay coach Jon Gruden about backup quarterback Josh Johnson, a rookie cut at USD. "Guly Sphere"
Five questions with ... Steve Mooshagian

Published Monday, Dec. 08, 2008

Former Sacramento State football coach Steve Mooshagian recently completed his second season as assistant head coach at the University of San Diego.

How has your experience been in San Diego and what are your duties?

I've enjoyed my time at the University of San Diego. It has been a blessing for both me and my family that I got the opportunity to come here. The kids are not like any other team I've ever coached, they are selfless, hard-working and true born winners that come to our program. It's my job to oversee the program under the guidelines and philosophy of the head coach.

When you look back at your experience at Sacramento State, what do you most remember?

I am not going to say everything was great because it wasn't, but I did have some great times with the Hornets. We beat two top 15 teams (Idaho State and Montana State) my first two years as well as competed hard against Cal (in 2005) versus my longtime friend, Jeff Tedford. My final year, we played hard all season and still finished with the second best Big Sky (Conference) record in the school's history, and that's something I can be proud of.

If you could go back and do one thing different at Sac State, what would it be?

There isn't much I can say I would change. You live and learn, and I believe I have become a much better coach and person after my final year in 2006. The hardest part I faced at Sac State was changing the culture and the mindset of the program. All four years we were over-scheduled and under-funded. I really didn't notice that until I came to San Diego, where the culture is winning, and that is not easy to develop in a losing program. I'm a stand-up guy and I realize I didn't do everything right, and I can sit here and say things could have been different with a bunch of "ifs," but it is what it is and everything happens for a reason.

Because of your experience in both college and the NFL, which do you prefer, and would you coach in the NFL again?

I wouldn't say I prefer one or the other - each has its perks and each has its downfall. At the collegiate level, you get to not only develop the individual as an athlete but you get to better the individual as a person and young man. In the NFL, you get to focus on what you're doing as a coach more than worrying about grades, scholarships, etc. The pressure is great and the highs are so very high and the lows are very low. You know that the NFL is a business, and coaches and players come and go every year. I would love to get back into coaching in the NFL someday. Whether it be next year or 10 years from now, I don't know, but I enjoy a challenge and whatever God's plan is for me, I will follow.

Which is more difficult: A college head coach becoming an NFL head coach or a NFL head coach becoming a college head coach?

Going from the NFL to college can be overwhelming, especially if you haven't coached in college before. You have to deal with things like academics, degree percentage, recruiting, parents and alumni. Some coaches can hit the ground running and some get caught up in uncertainty. Going from college to the NFL can be a shock as well. The pressure can smother a coach in unfamiliar territories. Some coaches are built just for the collegiate level and some are built for the NFL. That's what the owners and athletic directors do for a living, try to weed out the contenders from the pretenders.

- Victor Contreras
APRIL 16, 2009
Invitational Golf Tournament
Grossmont Hospital Foundation’s annual invitational golf tournament attracts physicians and community and civic leaders for an exciting day of golf, prizes and awards. The event is hosted by foundation staff and volunteers. Proceeds help fund patient programs and services at Sharp Grossmont Hospital. Sponsorship starts at $4,000. Contact Bill Navrides at 619-740-4316. sharp.com/foundation.

APRIL 18, 2009
Morning Glory Jazz Brunch
St. Madeleine Sophie’s Center presents the 12th annual Morning Glory Jazz Brunch, featuring tours of the certified organic garden, art walk, live jazz music, 10 to 15 restaurants, floral demonstrations, live auction and an opportunity drawing including a $10,000 cash and prize giveaway. All proceeds benefit the organic garden of St. Madeleine Sophie’s Center. $350 to $450 per person. Contact Nora Boswell at 619-442-5129, ext. 317. smsc.events@scripps.org.

APRIL 18, 2009
Walk & Fun Run
Raise awareness and support the cause by putting on your walking shoes for the Parkinson’s Disease Association’s annual Walk & Fun Run. Bring the family — and the dog — to help raise funds for research and local programs and services. Contact Bianca Koplewicz at 619-273-6763.; pdasd.org.

APRIL 18, 2009
Annual Gala
California State University San Marcos’ annual gala features an evening of entertainment, dinner and dancing to benefit CSUSM and students. $350 per person. Contact Carmen Arciniega at 760-750-4402. casusm.edu/giving/events.

APRIL 18, 2009
Tour de Cure
Tour de Cure® is the American Diabetes Association’s signature cycling and fund-raising event, which takes place in more than 80 cities nationwide. Participants are invited to ride a coastal route that encompasses everything from a breezy 30-mile course to a full 100 miles, raising funds to support the ADA. Contact Andrea Fleming at 619-334-3897, ext. 7418. diabetes.org/tourdecure.

APRIL 18-MAY 5, 2009
16-Day Cruise
Sail to benefit the Elizabeth Hospice onboard Holland America’s Westerdam on a 16-day cruise from Fort Lauderdale through the Panama Canal, returning home to San Diego. Ports include Bahamias, Aruba, Columbia, Panama, Costa Rica and Mexico. Room rates vary. Contact Shelly Drew at 760-737-2050. elizabethhospice.org.

APRIL 23, 2009
Bake Day

APRIL 25, 2009
Linda Vista Multicultural Fair & Parade
Come out for the 24th annual Linda Vista Multicultural Fair & Parade. The Linda Vista Cultural Fair was established in 1985 to build community pride and promote cultural awareness. Join the fun while enjoying the entertainment and the community of Linda Vista. Free admission. Contact Lori Summers at 858-278-0771. baysidecc.org.

APRIL 25, 2009
Rhythm & Vine
Be a part of the inaugural Rhythm & Vine, benefiting the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater San Diego, with world-class wineries, breweries, restaurants and bands. The night includes a separate VIP celebration, available to those who have purchased VIP passes for the event, hosted by Westfield North County. Contact Shannon Erick at 760-746-3315, ext. 211 or sfrick@sdyouth.org.

APRIL 27, 2009
Torero Football Golf Classic
MAY 8, 2009
Dream Day
Dream Day is an informal, fun event where one-of-a-kind experiences are auctioned off runway-style by the lively participants of the auction packages. All proceeds go to Fresh Start's mission of providing free reconstructive surgery for children with physical deformities. $50 per person.
Contact Amelia Devine at 760-448-2029.
freshstart.org.

MAY 8, 2009
Heroes Luncheon
Senior Community Centers provides a safety net for seniors living in poverty, giving assistance to seniors from ages 60 and up during their most difficult circumstances. The Heroes Luncheon provides an opportunity for business and community members to join together and help ensure that seniors in our community continue to get the critical services they need. Contact Shewna Richardson at 619-235-6772, ext. 305. servingseniors.org.

MAY 8, 2009
Mama's Day
At Mama's Day, the yearly feast of the senses, supporters of Mama's Kitchen enjoy signature dishes from more than 65 of San Diego's top chefs. Held at the Hyatt Regency La Jolla, the 18th annual extravaganza features culinary delights of San Diego's finer restaurants, a silent auction, opportunity drawing and a popular deejay. $125 per ticket.
Contact Cindy Bartelli at 619-333-6262.
mamaskitchen.org/events/mamasday.php.

MAY 9, 2009
Walk for Hope
Make a difference in the fight against breast cancer by joining City of Hope's 10th annual Walk for Hope, an inspiring and leisurely 3K walk and 5K fun run. Besides supporting cancer research, education and patient care with the funds you raise, you'll make new friends, qualify to win prizes, enjoy giveaways and entertainment. $30 per adult; $20 presale price.
Contact Sherri Edell at 858-353-6843.
walk4hope.org/sandiego.

MAY 11, 2009
Roof Raisers
La Costa Resort & Spa hosts YMCA's 39th annual Roof Raisers. The day begins with an optional game of golf at the resort and concludes with an evening of hors d'oeuvres, cocktails and a sit-down dinner prepared by award-winning chefs. Funds raised are used to improve the lives of North County families and the Magdalena Ecke Family YMCA. Prices begin at $450 a person.
Contact Emily Coupe at 760-942-9622.

MAY 14, 2009
USD Sports Banquet
The University of San Diego Athletics Department's 31st annual USD Sports Banquet, celebrating men's and women's athletics, is at the Jenny Craig Pavilion. $50 per person. Information: 619-260-5917.
usdathletics.com.
Community kicks off first annual Linda Vista Soccer Tournament, Club aim to spark kids' interest in staying healthy and safe

The community of Linda Vista held the first annual Linda Vista Cup Soccer Tournament on Saturday, November 15, to help kickoff the Linda Vista Soccer Club.

The Linda Vista Cup featured over 100 boys and girls ages nine through 18 years for a day of competition and camaraderie. The event was organized by the Linda Vista Collaborative in partnership with numerous organizations including the San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency.

"The Linda Vista Soccer Club and this 'kick off' tournament are exciting new opportunities for the youth of this community," says County Supervisor Ron Roberts, whose district includes Linda Vista. "What better way to get fit, stay healthy and stay off the streets than by playing soccer with your friends."

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During the one-day tournament, teams of all abilities learned the fundamentals of soccer and sportsmanship from volunteers and organizers from Mesa Community College, the University of San Diego, local churches, and members of the Linda Vista Collaborative who represent a large cross-section of the community.

Programs like the Linda Vista Soccer Club are good for the youth and the community. Coaches provide a healthy outlet for socializing and getting children active on an ongoing basis. Regular exercise is also a proven way to address the problem of obesity in children. Through soccer, the participants will not only have the opportunity to expend energy, they will form new friendships, and learn important life lessons like teamwork and sportsmanship.

For more information about the new Linda Vista Soccer Club, please contact Mike Lamont (858) 344-9349.