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January 2009

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USD President / Board of Trustees
Janhabl Behera performed a Hindu dance in praise of the goddess Durga during the 16th Annual All Faith Service yesterday at the Immaculata Church on the University of San Diego campus. The service, whose theme was “Celebrating Religious Diversity,” marked the start of the university’s 60th anniversary celebration.

**Diversity is celebrated at All Faith Service**

**SAN DIEGO:** Worshippers of different faiths met under the blue-tiled dome of the Immaculata Church at the University of San Diego yesterday for the 16th annual All Faith Service.

The service is a yearly effort to bring religious leaders and students together in prayer. For this year’s event, themed “Celebrating Religious Diversity,” organizers arranged for a Hindu dance, a Buddhist chant, a Christian hymn, a Jewish blessing and a reflection by a local imam.

The service also marked the start of the university’s yearlong 60th anniversary celebration.

Other events are planned throughout the year, culminating with a black-tie gala in November.

USD is a Catholic university in Linda Vista that serves about 7,500 undergraduate and graduate students. ~A.C.
DATEBOOK | EVENTS CALENDAR FOR SAN DIEGO

Deportation Nation: History Repeats - A cultural series highlighting the issue of deportation in America. Opening reception, music and art exhibition 7 p.m. Saturday, Centro Cultural de la Raza, 2125 Park Blvd. Free. Exhibition runs through March 8. Information: (619) 920-1713.

Doggie Café. 6 to 8 p.m. tomorrow, San Diego Humane Society, 5500 Gaines St. Bring your dog to socialize with other dogs while you learn how to keep your pooch calm in a distracting, café setting. Dogs should be friendly and on-leash (one dog per human handler). Dogs should be at least 4 months old and up-to-date on all vaccines, including rabies, to attend. $10 suggested donation for the event. Information: (619) 299-7012 ext. 2230 or sdhumane.org.

“30 Great Drought Tolerant Plants for Your Garden” 1 p.m. Saturday, Tierrasanta Library, 4985 La Cuenta Drive. Learn about drought-tolerant plants. The 45-minute free lecture is is given by local landscape designer Doug Kalal. Information: (619) 200-7066 or sdgreatgardens.com.

World-renowned artist Peter Max will bring his latest exhibit the Wentworth Gallery In La Jolla. 6 to 9 p.m. Saturday, 1025 Prospect St. Exhibit will include latest installation of 44 portraits of President Barack Obama. Free and open to the public. Information: (858) 551-7071 or petermax.com.

San Diego State University’s College of Extended Studies will host a spring semester open house for its Osher Lifelong Learning Institute program for residents 50 and older. 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, SDSU Extended Studies Center on Hardy Avenue. Information: (619) 265-SDSU (7378) or neverstoplearning.net.

“The Art of Democracy,” a national exhibit focusing on how U.S. and Mexican politics affect the daily lives of people on both sides of the border. Runs through Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Cross Cultural Center, Price Center East, UCSD. Information: (858) 534-5689.

Miramar Young Marines, a program for boys and girls ages 8 to 18, is looking for new recruits for its class beginning Saturday. Information: (911) 796-5877 or miramarym.com.

Bill Powers, Border Power Plant Working Group, will use the SDG&E Sunrise Powerlink transmission line controversy to explore the issue of whether new transmission lines are a necessary component of a renewable energy future. 5 p.m. today, Biology Room, 1103 Muir College, La Jolla. Information: (858) 534-2457.

Five-hour San Diego Harbor Excursion Nature Cruise. Enjoy the beauty of coastal waters and learn about native sea life and local maritime history. Daily cruises from 10:15 a.m. to 3:45 p.m., with boarding starting at 10 a.m., Thursday through Sunday, through June. Tickets: $50 adults, $40 children (ages 4 to 12), $45 seniors and military with valid ID. Information: (619) 234-4111 or sdh.org.

Enrollment Options Fair. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Palisades Recital Hall, Balboa Park. Magnet schools, open enrollment and other options are available to students in the San Diego Unified School District. Learn about all the choices parents have for their child’s education at this fair. Open to the public. Information: (619) 299-5672.

San Diego Chapter Parents Of Murdered Children support group meeting. For the families and friends of those who have died violently. 6:30 to 8 p.m. the first Thursday of each month, Toby Wells YMCA, 5105 Overland Ave. Next meeting is Feb. 5. Free, adults only. Information: (858) 292-4767.

The University of San Diego’s 16th annual All Faith Service, today, will mark the start of the university’s 60th anniversary celebrations. Service begins at 12:15 p.m. in the Immaculata Church on the USD campus. “Celebrating Religious Diversity” is the theme of this year’s annual service. Information: (619) 260-4600.

Canyoneer’s Walk In Mission Trails Park. 9 to 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Mission Trails Park, Calle De Vida Trailhead (Thomas Brothers Guide: Page 1250 B-2). Information: (619) 255-0203 or sanmtn.org.

Datebook items should be submitted two months in advance of publication. For more information, call 621-8504, or send an email to datebook@uniontribune.com.
RELIGION CALENDAR

SAN DIEGO

Festive supper St. Mark’s Episcopal Church will host a supper honoring Robert Burns at 6 p.m. today. Enjoy country dancing, haggis, malt-whiskey tasting and more. Cost is $25. The church is at 4227 Fairmount Ave. Information: (619) 283-6242.

Lecture The Joyce Beers Uptown Community Center welcomes Seth Asser to speak from 7 to 8 p.m. tomorrow. Free. The center is at 1925 University Avenue Information: (619) 421-5844.

Celebration All Saints Lutheran Church will host an ecumenical celebration at 7 p.m. tomorrow. The church is at 6355 Redcliffe Drive. Information: (619) 453-3565.

Gospel concert First United Methodist Church of San Diego welcomes the Albert McNeill Jubilee Singers to perform at 6:45 p.m. tomorrow. Cost is $15 in advance, $20 at the door. The church is at 14th Camino del Rio S. Information: (619) 297-4366.

Concert St. Andrew’s-by-the-Sea Episcopal Church welcomes Pacific Camerata to perform at 7:30 p.m. tomorrow. Cost is $15 or $10 for students, seniors and Early Music Society members. Information: (619) 527-4457.

Lecture The Atheist Coalition of San Diego welcomes Sue Gonda to speak about the Salem witch trials from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Tuesday. Free. The lecture will be at the North Park Recreation Center, 4044 Idaho St. Information: (619) 342-7388.

Speaker The Ecumenical Council of San Diego County welcomes the Rev. Richard Elliott to speak at 11 a.m. Wednesday. The council is at 3530 Camino del Rio N, Suite 301. Information: (619) 459-8995.

Prayer ceremony The University of San Diego will have a prayer ceremony for the start of the semester at 12:15 Thursday. Free. Information: (619) 260-4900.

Open house St. Michael’s School will host an open house from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. tomorrow. Free. The church is at 15542 Pomerado Road, Poway. Information: (858) 485-1303.

Speaker San Rafael Catholic Parish welcomes Lane MacGhee to speak at 7 p.m. Tuesday and 9:30 a.m. Wednesday. The parish is at 283-42.

Volunteer night Talking Bibles International will host a volunteer information night at 6:30 p.m. Thursday. Free. Light refreshments will be served. The center is at 411 W. Grand Ave., Escondido. Information: (760) 735-8005, ext.

Concert La Mesa First United Methodist Church will host a concert with former Padres Dave Roberts and Geoff Blum from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. today. Cost is $10; tickets must be bought in advance. The church is at 659 E. Felicita Ave., Escondido. Information: (760) 745-2541.
Advanced Medical's Mazzo Says He's Committed to OC
By Vita Reed - 1/26/2009
Orange County Business Journal Staff

In the midst of leading Advanced Medical Optics Inc.'s sale to Abbott Laboratories, Chief Executive Jim Mazzo has promised to stay part of Orange County's business landscape.

Advanced Medical, a Santa Ana maker of eye surgery devices for vision correction and cataracts as well as contact lens solutions, is being bought for $2.8 billion by Abbott. Once the deal closes, expected at the end of the first quarter, Mazzo will stay on and run the business as Abbott senior vice president as well as Advanced Medical's president.

Mazzo's role is "not going to change at all," he said.

The veteran executive has spent many years working with educational institutions, including University of California, Irvine, and Chapman University. His ties to UCI are deep: he is a member of the UCI Foundation board, belongs to the university's Chief Executive Advisory Council, and heads up a capital campaign for the Gavin Herbert eye institute on campus.

Mazzo is a trustee at Chapman and at the University of San Diego, where his son attends and his daughter is an alumna. His wife, Kelly, also has heavy involvement.

"One of the things I liked about Abbott is that it's one of the best companies to work for, not only because of how it handles its employees, but its culture externally and its support of the external communities where it employs," Mazzo said.

As an example, the Abbott Fund, Abbott's philanthropic foundation, invested more than $385 million in grants and product donations in 2007, the last year for which statistics are available.

Medtronic Buying Device Maker

Medtronic Inc., a medical device maker with 550 workers at its Santa Ana heart valve plant, said it is buying Ablation Frontiers Inc., which is just over the county line in Carlsbad. Medtronic is paying $225 million, plus potential milestone payments, for Ablation Frontiers.

Ablation Frontiers makes devices to treat atrial fibrillation—the most common form of an irregular heartbeat. Medtronic said in a release that it's buying Ablation Frontiers in order to add it to a newly formed business unit, AF Solutions.

Medtronic has made other deals to build the unit up, including paying $380 million for CryoCath Technologies Inc., a Montreal-based company that makes devices that use cryoablation—a minimally invasive process to freeze and destroy diseased tissue—to treat an irregular heartbeat.

Ablation Frontiers was founded in 2004; its financial backers include Versant Ventures, which has an office in Newport Beach. Its chief executive, Keegan Harper, is a serial entrepreneur who also founded a pair of San Clemente-based medical device makers: Rox Medical Inc. and Cameron Health Inc.

Made in Canada

Alpine Biomed Corp., a privately held diagnostic device maker based in Fountain Valley, has bought Stellate Systems Inc. of Montreal. Financial terms were undisclosed.

Alpine makes devices for diagnosing acid reflux disorders as well as for neurological problems such as sleep disorders. Stellate designs, makes and distributes neurodiagnostic systems to hospitals, clinics and universities in more than 70 countries.

In a statement, Alpine said that buying Stellate gives it a strong foothold in the rapidly growing sleep
January 11, 2009

A Future in Directing Online Traffic

By PATRICIA R. OLSN

A COLLEGE internship at an interactive marketing company ended up the ticket to a promising career for Nick Yorchak, 22. During the internship, he learned a skill known as search engine optimization. In August, he was snapped up by LeeReedy Creative, a public relations and advertising agency in Denver, and given the title of search engine optimization director.

"So much for everyone asking me what kind of job a history major could get," said Mr. Yorchak, who graduated last June from the University of San Diego.

The birth of the Internet gave rise to jobs in areas like Web development and design. And as companies and consumers flocked to the Web, jobs in Internet marketing soon followed. Search engine optimization, part of Internet marketing, is what companies use to drive traffic to Web sites in the hope that consumers will buy a product or service, for example, or subscribe to a publication.

"The name of the game in S.E.O. is search-engine ranking," Mr. Yorchak said. The job involves "actions that will land a site at or close to the top in Internet search results," he said. Those tasks include identifying appropriate keywords for search engines like Yahoo or Google to home in on, and adding them to a Web site's programming code. So if a used-car company, for example, has used search engine tactics, and an Internet user searches a phrase like "pre-owned automobiles," its URL may appear prominently in the search results.

Such actions apply to what are called natural or organic search engine results, versus a paid sponsorship, in which a company buys a listing in prominent sections of the search results page, identified by terms like Sponsored Sites or Sponsored Links.

Google offers a search optimization starter guide at google.com/support/webmasters, which offers best practices for increasing a company's ranking in queries. An explanation of the search results page is also provided.

Whether the title is S.E.O. director, manager, architect or specialist, the appearance of such positions on job boards shows that companies are intent on generating more Web traffic. In the past, staff writers were often given the task as an extra responsibility, and in some companies, they still do this work. Advertising and public relations agencies also specialize in this skill.

It's not just hands-on practitioners who need search engine skills, said Katie Donovan, business development manager at the Sempo Institute in Wakefield, Mass. The organization is the educational division of the Search Engine Marketing Professional Organization, an industry trade group.

http://www.nytimes.com/2009/01/11/jobs/11starts.html?_r=1&ref=business&pagewanted=...
"The Web designer needs to understand the technique to target the appropriate audience," Ms. Donovan said. "Copywriters need to understand how to write Web site content that incorporates S.E.O. Public relations people need to understand S.E.O. so that when they post a press release, for example, the content will attract search engines."

The field has grown exponentially in the last eight years, said Jeffrey Pruitt, president of Sempo, which has about 850 members in 41 countries; about half are agencies. The field "involves more than optimizing Web sites today," he said. "For example, search engines are starting to read audio, video and image files on the Internet, so companies are incorporating S.E.O. tactics in news releases and podcasts."

A 2007 report by Forrester Research predicts that in 2012, companies will spend almost $9 billion on search engine optimization.

One way to learn the skill is to take a course, like the online one offered by Sempo, or to read books like "SEO: Search Engine Optimization Bible" by Jerri L. Ledford. Industry conferences are helpful and may offer courses as well, Ms. Donovan said. Some people, like Mr. Yorchak during his internship, learn on the job from others.

Scott Daughtry, 28, joined NetQoS, a software company in Austin, Tex., two years ago as a marketing coordinator and taught himself search engine skills by reading blogs and online forums. After his boss asked him if he wanted to put his mass communications background and knowledge of search engines to use, he became the company's S.E.O. specialist.

"I see more companies moving this specialty in-house," he said, calling it "such a complex function that it's hard to explain to an agency everything their employees would need to know about a client company to do the best job." Mr. Daughtry was promoted to marketing operations manager in August and now tracks the company's marketing performance as well.

MR. YORCHAK'S responsibilities have also expanded since he joined LeeReedy. He is now involved in social media marketing (broadcasting clients' messages on blogs, Facebook or YouTube, for example), and Web analytics, to track user behavior and other site metrics. His new title is director of online marketing.

Recently, Mr. Yorchak was handing out advice to friends who hadn't been able to find jobs since they graduated in June, and he used his good fortune as an example.

"You should learn search engine optimization," he told them.

*Fresh Starts is a monthly column about emerging jobs and job trends.*
Two local scholars experience inauguration celebrations

By Sefira Bracha Fialkoff - Sentinel Correspondent

Posted: 01/20/2009 01:30:26 AM PST

Millions of people are flooding the capital with energy, hope and inspiration this weekend.

Among these masses are two Santa Cruz scholars selected to attend the University Presidential Inaugural Conference in Washington, D.C. Holly Lillis of Larkin Valley and Kelsey Olson of Santa Cruz are participating in the conference and the ceremony of the inauguration of the 44th president.

"I had no idea what 2 million people felt like, but just being a part of such a massive group of united people that are all so excited about the same cause is really powerful," says Olson.

Olson, 21, is the daughter of Marlene Olson, director of Student Media at UC Santa Cruz, and Michael Olson, general manager of KSCO radio. Kelsey graduated from Harbor High and is now a senior studying psychology at Chico State University.

Lillis, 21, is the daughter of Santa Cruz County Superior Court Judge Heather Morse. She graduated with honors from Monte Vista Christian High School and is now a senior at the University of San Diego majoring in English with a minor in philosophy.

"A lot of the speakers we've been to so far have been really inspiring in talking about the power of youth in politics and how we can make a difference," says Lillis, who plans to pursue international justice work.

Inaugural scholars have the opportunity to interact with White House officials, congressional staff members, political experts and other VIPs, such as former Secretary of State Colin Powell and former Vice President Al Gore.

"It is so fantastic to see a country excited about finally having a real leader to pull ourselves together and come out of our desperate economic crisis," says Olson.

Hundreds of youth programs have brought thousands of students from across the globe to Washington, D.C. to witness history.

"I am truly grateful for the opportunity to participate in this historic occasion. It is a celebration of hope for all Americans," said Lillis.

Contact Sefira Fialkoff at 706-3252 or jcopeland@santacruzsentinel.com.
Santa Cruz County residents react to Obama's inauguration
Posted: Wednesday, Jan 21st, 2009
BY: TODD GUILD

The headquarters of the Santa Cruz County Democrats was packed Tuesday morning with people from across the county who had come to watch the inauguration of President Barack Obama.

The crowd of more than 100 remained silent for most of the event, but cheered raucously when a television reporter announced that George Bush was no longer president, and again when Obama was declared 44th president of the United States.

The inauguration of the first African-American president fell on the day after Martin Luther King Jr. Day, a coincidence not lost on Aptos resident Greg McCallister, who had hosted an MLK party in his home Monday night, then came with his children to the Santa Cruz Galleria for the inauguration.

"We celebrated history yesterday, and we're seeing history being made today," he said.

Similar inauguration-watching parties were held at churches, schools and homes across Santa Cruz County.

Students at H.A. Hyde Elementary School celebrated the historic event with a dessert dubbed "Barack-i Road."

In the weeks leading up to the election, teachers at the elementary school held a mock election in which students "overwhelmingly" chose Obama, principal Brett Knupfer said.

Teachers also explained to their students the gravity and importance of the inauguration, and discussed civil rights leader Cesar Chávez.

"It's not about Barack Obama as a person or if you like him or not," Knupfer said. "It's that we've elected a person who's not white to be our leader."

Watsonville resident Holly Lillis, who attended the event with several fellow college students as part of the University Presidential Inaugural Conference, said the crowd was hopeful and enthusiastic, but that being among millions of people was somewhat terrifying.

A crowd celebrates the swearing-in of Barack Obama at the Democratic headquarters Tuesday in downtown Santa Cruz.
"It was the sheer numbers," she said. "There was a very competitive, almost primal survival-of-the-fittest feeling. It was very tense, and they were struggling to keep control of the crowd."

Despite the throngs, Lillis said that a hush fell over the crowd during the musical performance of "Air and Simple Gifts" by Itzhak Perlman, Yo-Yo Ma and Anthony McGill, and even more so when Obama was sworn in as president.

Lillis, 21, graduated from Watsonville High School and is a senior at the University of San Diego, where she is majoring in English. She's also the daughter of Santa Cruz County Superior Court Judge Heather Morse.

Lillis said she left her hotel well before dawn to begin the two-mile walk to the inauguration site, battling immense crowds and temperatures that plunged well below freezing.

"It was amazing," she said. "We left our hotel at 2 a.m. to get to the mall to get the closest seating. We had to be there at 4 a.m. It felt like it was about 15 degrees with the wind chill."

Obama, long credited for his gift of eloquent speaking, gave an inaugural speech Lillis said was "amazing."

"I thought it was inspiring," she said. "I get a sense the next four years are going to be very quotable."

"I feel a power of words has returned to the White House," she said. "I think he can facilitate a change with the power of his words alone."

Despite her exhaustion and "running on fumes and coffee," Lillis said she was preparing for the post-inauguration ball, which was held at the Marriott Hotel, where she was staying.

"It's a very hopeful, exciting day," she said. "People's race or color or ages didn't matter. Everyone had a unique story. I can't explain the feeling of excitement and hope."

Watsonville City Councilmember Luis Alejo said he watched the inauguration from about 500 feet away.

"This was the experience of a lifetime, something I'll never forget," he said. "We saw a lot of people shedding tears."

Alejo said he arrived at 4 a.m., and stood in line for four hours to get to his section. After the event was over, it took him five hours to get across the Capitol Mall.

"Despite that, everyone was in a great mood," he said. "People endured a lot, but they wanted to be a part of history. We're going home feeling great."

"It was very powerful," said Alejo. "Looking around, you saw what a powerful day it was for many Americans."

*Photos by Tarmo Hannula*

(Published in 1/21/09 edition)
Carrillo grad aced college ethics bowl

Contributed by Kerry Benefield - Posted: January 21, 2009 3:09:21 PM

Maria Carrillo High grad Carolyn Straub will compete in the national intercollegiate ethics bowl in March after her team from the University of San Diego took first place in the recent regional competition.

Straub, who graduated from MCHS in 2005, was one of four students on the USD team that defeated Chico State at the competition held at the National Hispanic University in San Jose in December.

USD competed in five matches, each of which was 80 minutes long, according to organizers.

Questions were drawn from topics in science, politics, campus life, business and current events and included those on whether undocumented students should be allowed to attend public universities and the ethical issues surrounding the production of biofuels.

Does someone want to point these folks in the direction of Sacramento?

On second thought, I understand that answers are judged on a variety of factors including "intelligibility, relevance and thoughtfulness," so maybe they wouldn't fare so well in our state's Capitol after all.

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Del Mar resident participates in marine science research internship

Francis Parker School's science department has partnered with the Marine Science Department of the University of San Diego. In August 2008, Parker's Upper School science teachers Kathy Young and Susan Moerder joined USD's associate professor Dr. Sarah Gray and her research team in the U.S. Virgin Islands to study sedimentation on coral reefs. The research team brought back samples to continue work on the project in San Diego, and established an internship opportunity for the students.

Del Mar resident Maddy Jennewein was one of four Parker students selected to participate in the research internship with three USD undergraduate students and one USD graduate student. One afternoon per week, throughout the school year, Maddy and her fellow Parker students will have hands-on experience at the USD lab with their student-mentor.

Maddy Jennewein
Coral Bay Community Council Forum Hosts Speaker
by Source staff

Jan. 13, 2009 - CBCC Forum presents Dr. Sarah C. Gray of the University of San Diego, who will make a one-hour presentation, "Impacts of Development on Sedimentation in St. John's Bays," at 5:30 p.m., on Thursday, Jan. 15, at the new Pavilion at Concordia Eco Resort in Coral Bay.

She will describe her team's research on storm water sedimentation rates in Lameshur Bay, Fish Bay and Coral Bay and how they are conducting this research with the assistance of local volunteers and funding from NOAA. This research is a partner project under the Coral Bay Community Council's EPA CARE grant project. It will assist in pinpointing problem areas and relative rates of sedimentation. Everyone is invited; drive the downhill road to the Restaurant at Concordia for parking.

For more information, call the CBCC office at 776-2099.

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National Chairman of Institute of CPAs Visits the Territory
Ernie Almonte, chairman of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA), will visit the territory to kick off a financial literacy campaign by the Virgin Islands Board of Accountancy.

AARP Honors Christensen for Work on Divided We Fail
Delegate Donna M. Christensen will be honored with a special plaque during a press conference at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 13, in the AARP State Office.

HOPE Inc. Plans Biennial Gala Benefit for January 31
La Jolla Music Society presents the Venice Baroque Orchestra Jan. 24 at the Irwin M. Jacobs Qualcomm

La Jolla Music Society continues to celebrate their 40th Anniversary Season with the vibrant Venice Baroque Orchestra at the Irwin M. Jacobs Qualcomm Hall on Jan. 24 at 8 p.m. Widely acclaimed for its concerto and opera performances, the Venice Baroque Orchestra is one of Europe’s premier ensembles devoted to period instrument performance. Baroque scholar and Director of the Department of Music at University of San Diego, Dr. Angela Young, gives a pre-concert talk at 7 p.m.

Tickets are $25-$75 and are available through the La Jolla Music Society box office, (858) 59-3728 or online at www.LaJollaMusicSociety.org.
"Mugs of the Mesas" Exhibit of prehistoric ceramics from David W. May American Indian Collection associated with ancestral Pueblo people of the Four Corners region of Southwestern United States. Photographs of Cliff Palace at Mesa Verde National Park in Colorado included. Exhibit was curated by USD anthropology professor Tim Gross, designed by Paul Johnson, with photographs by William Lile. Viewing continues in the May Gallery — located in Serra Hall — through Friday, January 23, 610-260-4238. Thursdays, 1-3; Fridays, 1 p.m.; Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; through Friday, March 6. From: University of San Diego, 5998 Alcala Park, 92113, 858-525-5000.
School of Business Administration
Controlling what we can

Too many of today's headlines spell doom and gloom prospects on the global economy with challenges beyond the control of ordinary citizens. The headlines feed the sense of consumer helplessness and threaten to destroy the confidence that historically has characterized America's consumers and business leaders and contributed mightily to robust job growth, economic output and a positive national psyche.

During the course of my career, I have held positions that were national, regional and local in scope and direct impact. I understand fully the frustrations and fears of families and businesses at the local level watching corporate bankruptcies and government bailouts unfold on a global stage, with Washington, D.C., and New York City front and center.

Our feelings of loss of control are our reality. Such negative emotions are depressing and contribute to the downward spiral of jobs and incomes, thereby becoming a self-fulfilling prophecy, especially at the local level.

Prospects of recovery in jobs, real estate, housing demand and commercial real estate space in San Diego County are nonexistent based on Economic Indicators clearly forecast a grim outlook for the region — probably the worst since Dr. Alan Gin began publishing the Index.

In the face of these local challenges and the lack of control, we in San Diego are experiencing a visible national and global development: what nags me is that we as San Diegans ought to be able to identify at least a few actions that each of us in our own way can take to improve our individual and collective quality of life and attitudes about the future. This goes beyond counting your blessings. Rather, if each of us as individuals, or business/civic leaders, tries to identify and implement one or more small steps in a positive direction, our collective moves may just shorten this downturn and begin to sow the seeds of recovery sooner rather than later.

Two quick examples come to mind. First, this coming year as we contemplate our restaurant and or retail store choices with fewer dollars in our wallets and purses, we can opt for the lower-cost national chains and big-box retailers, which is a logical short-term tactic.

Or, if we care to help preserve the viability of our favorite neighborhood restaurant or clothing store so that they will exist when San Diego comes out of its funk, we could allocate more of our spendable dollars to these local merchants and, in effect, make an investment in their ability to hang on through tough times so that they can serve us well in better times.

These are quality-of-life questions where our self-serving, dollar-pining trips to the national/big boxes in the short run will diminish the pleasure we'll derive by retaining — perhaps higher-cost, but local, neighborhood restaurants and retailers for the long run.

The second example flies in my face, literally and figuratively, every time I approach downtown San Diego on Interstate 5. One high-rise building has a huge American flag proudly waving its welcome, reminding all of us of the greatness of America past, present and future. Many other high-rise buildings have American flags, but one dwarfs all others. The commercial rooftop display of the American flag, I honestly believe, would create a major, positive boost to our collective psyches and confidence.

Perception becomes reality. We can all recall the enormous increase in flag flying — on cars, in front lawns and on buildings — that occurred after 9/11. Collectively they affirmed that terrorism would not defeat America. No less so should we allow America's financial/housing collapse to defeat us.

Whether it is supporting a local charity, restaurant, retailer or service provider, flying a flag or affirming to friends or colleagues that they and what they do for us or for the San Diego region is important, we can all begin to take small steps to reverse the centrifugal forces trying to drag this region down. What better way to start off the new year?

Riedy, Ph.D., is the executive director of the University of San Diego's Burnham-Moores Center for Real Estate.

Source Code: 20090123
NEW CHAIRMAN EMERITUS NAMED BY USD

William “Bill” Ostrem, President of The EastLake Company, LLC and The Yokohl Ranch Company LLC, has been honored with the title of Chairman Emeritus by the University of San Diego’s Burnham-Moores Center for Real Estate.

Ostrem was recognized for his dedicated leadership, support, and contributions to the Burnham-Moores Center and for his service as chairman of its Residential Real Estate Committee of the Policy Advisory Board from 2005-2008.

“We’ve been so fortunate to have Bill Ostrem serve as chair of the Center’s Residential Real Estate Committee for the past several years,” said Louis Gallupo, Director of Residential Real Estate at the University of San Diego. “Bill has been instrumental as chairman by leading the committee, advising and supporting our faculty and staff, donating his time and personal gifts, and applying his real estate expertise to help achieve the Center’s goals of maximizing students’ opportunities to get involved directly in the real estate industry. We’re so grateful for all his efforts and thank him for his commitment to the Center.”

As one of 41 senior real estate executives on the Residential Real Estate Committee of the Policy Advisory Board, Ostrem has offered guidance, insight and support to the Burnham-Moores Center’s faculty and staff. He also has provided essential input in the areas of curriculum development, programming and conferences, student career development, applied projects and the expansion of real estate industry relationships.

“I’m very pleased to be named Chairman Emeritus by the University of San Diego’s Burnham-Moores Center for Real Estate,” said Ostrem. “The Center is an excellent institution that provides exceptional educational opportunities in real estate and offers a nationally recognized conference series, incredible connections with the real estate community, career and research services, and so much more. It’s truly been an honor to serve as chairman of the Residential Real Estate Committee of the Policy Advisory Board, and I look forward to my continued involvement with the Center.”

Recognized throughout San Diego for his achievements as the President of The EastLake Company, LLC, master planners and developers of the 3,200-acre award-winning EastLake community in Chula Vista, Ostrem also serves as President of The Yokohl Ranch Company LLC, master planners of the proposed 36,000-acre Yokohl Ranch community situated in the foothills of Tulare County, CA.

In addition to the University of San Diego’s Burnham-Moores Center for Real Estate, Ostrem is involved in numerous industry, community and service organizations. Currently, Ostrem is a member (and past president) of the EastLake Educational Foundation and the Sweetwater Education Foundation. He also serves as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the American Heart Association’s San Diego Division and as a member of the South County Economic Development Commission. Previously, Ostrem served as a member of the Presidents Council for the Building Industry Association (BIA) of San Diego County, the Board of Directors for the South Bay Family YMCA, the City of Chula Vista Urban Core Specific Plan Advisory Committee, and the City of Chula Vista Blue Ribbon Committee.
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Mortgage Crisis: Will Loan Mods Bring Relief?

Various new proposals for modifying mortgages aim to prevent further waves of foreclosures—but the scale of the task is daunting

By David Bogoslaw

The growing urgency to implement an effective fix for the deepening U.S. financial crisis is pushing policymakers to consider measures that were roundly rejected as too risky not very long ago. The limited success of the first $350 billion in TARP funds and the government’s wavering on how best to dispose of the toxic assets that are clogging banks’ balance sheets—and preventing a rebound in the credit markets—has added to the sense of urgency.

Former Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson favored using the financial rescue funds to recapitalize banks and other institutions seen as most critical to the health of the global financial system. But persisting doubts about the quality of assets on banks’ books amid further deterioration in home prices has stymied the government’s efforts to make inroads toward reviving the financial industry. Now that the estimated number of U.S. home foreclosures may be as much as four times the 2 million projected in late 2007, more serious attention is being given to the idea of using taxpayer money to get at the meat of the problem: the underwater mortgages that precipitated the whole mess. There are efforts afoot to improve the success rate of home loan modifications (popularly known as “mods”), which basically change the terms of the mortgage in question to improve the odds that the homeowner will be able to keep up with monthly payments. Fewer busted mortgages, the thinking goes, will lead to fewer foreclosures, which could potentially slow the rate of decline in home prices.

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. early on saw the need to address the financial crisis at its roots by modifying mortgages in order to prevent many more foreclosures and halt the cycle of declining home prices. But the FDIC’s own plan, which places priority on a risk-sharing arrangement under which the government would absorb up to 50% of the losses for second defaults and a reduction of the borrower’s monthly payment to 31% of his income, has come under fire recently. The big problem, critics say, is that the plan does not require balance writedowns by lenders on loans that exceed the underlying property value except as a last resort. Nor does the FDIC proposal provide either a way for the government to be repaid or sufficient incentives to encourage loan servicing firms to modify more mortgages.

LOSS SHARING

The version of the TARP Reform and Accountability Act of 2009 that the House passed on Jan. 21, which revises the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008, provides guarantees for certain losses incurred if a modified loan should subsequently re-default. FDIC spokesman Andrew Gray sees that as “recognition there is clear direction under EESA to implement the loss-sharing program” and sees the program proposed by FDIC as a “good means to achieve this.” He adds that any foreclosure mitigation program will ultimately be a collaborative process with the Obama Administration.

Restrictions in the FDIC plan on loss sharing for mortgages with negative equity and for loans that re-default
within six months aren't likely to stimulate many more modifications, wrote Jack Guttentag, professor emeritus of finance at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, in a Dec. 20 op-ed in The Washington Post. Guttentag's own plan, posted on his Web site, proposes that negative equity on all modified loans be eliminated, since negative equity is one of the main reasons for high re-default rates on modified loans. His plan also provides incentives for servicers and investors to write down loan balances, with the government sharing writedown costs and back-stopping payment insurance on modified loans, and includes a mechanism for repaying government outlays when the economy recovers. It also re-underwrites modified loans to minimize re-default rates and provide a basis for setting insurance premiums.

A major obstacle to implementing an effective loan modification plan has been the difficulty of determining property values, which is essential if lenders and loan servicers are to consider modifications before starting foreclosure proceedings on delinquent homeowners.

If a loss-sharing provision ends up as part of any loan modification plan the Obama Administration decides to adopt, the FDIC will be required to monitor any losses resulting from re-defaults. Smithfield & Wainwright, a real estate appraisal firm in Jacksonville, Fla., says the Mo-Mod appraisal process it has devised would not only provide the FDIC with tools it needs for oversight and accountability but would also provide a data feed to the Federal Housing Authority, the Housing & Urban Development Dept., Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac and other loan servicers to help with repackaging modified mortgages for securitization and quicker liquidation of foreclosed properties. The firm's chief executive, Hogan Copeland, says the Appraisal Institute's nationwide network of 23,000 members could process up to 500,000 mods a month using Mo-Mod.

INCENTIVES FOR SERVICERS
Yet another proposal, issued by three faculty members at the Columbia Business School on Jan. 7, likens the staggering task of getting consensus on loan mods among a vast number of investors in securitized pools of mortgages to that of large companies trying to get creditors to agree to debt restructuring. The proposal recommends two ways to get around barriers that keep third-party servicers from successfully managing the foreclosure crisis: an incentive fee structure that increases payments to servicers and better matches their incentives with those of investors, and legislation that would remove explicit barriers to modification of pooling and servicing agreements and reduce the risk of lawsuits for servicers who modify loans.

Professors Christopher Mayer, Edward Morrison, and Tomasz Piskorski, who collaborated on the plan, said it "might prevent as many as 1 million foreclosures at a cost of no more than $10.7 billion that can be funded by TARP money." They also said it would be much less costly to taxpayers than other proposals under consideration, with no requirement to provide pricey loan guarantees or losses for bad loans accruing to private investors instead of taxpayers.

"A homeowner is a candidate for loan modification when income is sufficient to make payments that, over time, exceed the foreclosure value of her home," the Columbia proposal said.

Norm Miller, a professor at the University of San Diego's Burnham-Moores Center for Real Estate, says he likes the Columbia proposal but thinks the cost to incentivize servicers would fall between $50 billion and $100 billion for the borrowers who qualify for modifications.

DURBIN'S AMENDMENT
If loan servicers remain resistant to modifying a substantially larger number of mortgages, the remedy for the looming foreclosure crisis could be in bankruptcy court. Currently, the U.S. bankruptcy code prohibits
modifications to a mortgage on a debtor's principal residence, but on Jan. 6, Senator Dick Durbin (D-III.) re-introduced a bill that would amend the code by removing that prohibition, extending the time frame allowed for repayment in order to lower monthly payments, and permitting bankruptcy judges to replace variable interest rates with a new interest rate that would keep the mortgage affordable over the long term while also compensating creditors for risk. The bill would also allow judges to waive prepayment penalties and enable debtors to maintain their legal claims against predatory lenders while in bankruptcy. A parallel bill was introduced in the House the same day.

Durbin and other Democrats are pushing to attach the bill to the economic stimulus package, but that "will be difficult because we've heard that Obama wants the stimulus package to pass both houses [of Congress] by 80%, and having this as an attachment would cause a lot of Republicans not to vote for the stimulus," says Paul Miller, a financial institutions analyst at Friedman Billings Ramsey (FBR) in Arlington, Va.

Even if Durbin's bill doesn't get attached to the stimulus package, the groundswell of support for the bill from the more liberal faction in Congress gives it a good chance of being attached to another piece of legislation, adds Miller. Three prior attempts to pass the bill over the past 14 months met with stiff opposition from mortgage lenders and Republicans.

Opposition to the bill stems from the notion that so-called "cramdowns," which force creditors to accept modified terms on outstanding debt they are owed, are usually bad for the market in the long run because they would spur lenders to require higher interest rates for future mortgages to compensate for the possibility of being stripped of control over assets, Miller says. It's also still unclear if the Durbin bill would be unconstitutional since Congress is prohibited from interfering with a contract such as a mortgage loan, he says.

CRAMDOWN SOLUTION?
Mayer and his colleagues at Columbia contend that Congress does have Constitutional authority to modify the terms of securitization contracts under the Commerce and Spending clauses. They recommend passing a law that eliminates explicit limits on modifications but say this legislation should only apply for up to three years, long enough to allow for a recovery in the housing markets and the broader economy.

It's easier to do a cramdown when the loans are still held by the banks that originated them, since banks are subject to federal supervision, while holders of securitized assets are not, according to Richard Green, director of the Lusk Center for Real Estate at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. Cramdowns on securitized loans are also tougher because it's harder to identify the owners of the mortgages, he says.

"That's why it's hard to come up with a practical mass-modification program," says Green. "Under normal circumstances, I think cramming down mortgages is a terrible idea, but these are not normal circumstances."

A year ago, the notion of revising the bankruptcy code to allow for loan modifications would have raised fierce objections over the moral hazard of allowing homeowners to escape their contractual obligations. But the urgency of the real estate crisis has changed many people's thinking, while others "have made the judgment that the moral hazard ship sailed a long time ago," says Green. "Things have reached such crisis proportions, we have to put such niceties aside and get ourselves through this." The only cure, he adds, is a mass-modification program, which is what the government used in the Great Depression.

MITIGATING MORAL HAZARDS
One way to reduce the moral hazard risk, he says, would be some kind of clawback provision in the modified
loans that require borrowers, in exchange for getting a new loan worth 90% of the reduced home value, to pay any profits they make on the sale of the home at a price higher than the new mortgage value, up to the original value of the mortgage, to the government. "I'm not naive—I don't think that would fully repay the cost of a program like this, but it would at least say to people this is not a free ticket to future riches," says Green.

Besides legal issues, there would be logistical snags in attempting a large-scale loan modification effort through the bankruptcy courts, says Green. Servicers can't handle the heavy volume of requests for modifications, so shifting that authority to the courts would presumably run into similar capacity constraints, he says.

Norm Miller at the University of San Diego is less sanguine about the role that mortgage modifications can play in resolving the housing crisis. He believes only 25% of delinquent mortgages qualify for modifications based on the 38% of income requirement, since he estimates that homeowners who have lost their jobs, died, or gotten a divorce account for half the defaults, while another 25% are due to higher resets of adjustable-rate mortgages that borrowers can no longer afford and loans that are underwater. Modifications will also work only in markets where home prices for the most part have stabilized.

"There are probably a few million people out there thinking this TARP money is going to help me stay in my house. We don't want to artificially prop up the process beyond what the fundamentals will support because all that does is delay the problem," he says.

Bogoslaw is a reporter for BusinessWeek's Investing channel.
Mortgage Crisis: Will Loan Mods Bring Relief?

By David Bogostow
Fri Jan 23, 8:08 am ET

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Durbin and other Democrats are pushing to attach the bill to the economic stimulus package, but that "will be difficult because we've heard that Obama wants the stimulus package to pass both houses (of Congress) by 80%, and having this as an attachment would cause a lot of Republicans not to vote for the stimulus," says Paul Miller, a financial institutions analyst at Friedman Billings Ramsey (NYSE:FBM - News) in Arlington, Va.

Even if Durbin's bill doesn't get attached to the stimulus package, the groundswell of support for the bill from the more liberal faction in Congress gives it a good chance of being attached to another piece of legislation, adds Miller. Three prior attempts to pass the bill over the past 14 months met with stiff opposition from mortgage lenders and Republicans.

Opposition to the bill stems from the notion that so-called "crumdowns," which force creditors to accept modified terms on outstanding debt they are owed, are usually bad for the market in the long run because they would spur lenders to require higher interest rates for future mortgages to compensate for the possibility of being stripped of control over assets, Miller says. It's also still unclear if the Durbin bill would be unconstitutional since Congress is prohibited from interfering with a contract such as a mortgage loan, he says.

Cramdown Solution?

Mayer and his colleagues at Columbia contend that Congress does have Constitutional authority to modify the terms of securitization contracts under the Commerce and Spending clauses. They recommend passing a law that eliminates explicit limits on modifications but say this legislation should only apply for up to three years, long enough to allow for a recovery in the housing markets and the broader economy.

It's easier to do a cramdown when the loans are still held by the banks that originated them, since banks are subject to federal supervision, while holders of securitized assets are not, according to Richard Green, director of the Lusk Center for Real Estate at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles.

Cramdowns on securitized loans are also tougher because it's harder to identify the owners of the mortgages, he says.

"That's why it's hard to come up with a practical mass-modification program," says Green. "Under normal circumstances, I think cramming down mortgages is a terrible idea, but these are not normal circumstances."

A year ago, the notion of revising the bankruptcy code to allow for loan modifications would have raised fierce objections over the moral hazard of allowing homeowners to escape their contractual obligations. But the urgency of the real estate crisis has changed many people's thinking, while others "have made the judgment that the moral hazard ship sailed a long time ago," says Green. "Things have reached such crisis proportions, we have to put such niceties aside and get ourselves through this. The only cure, he adds, is a mass-modification program, which is what the government used in the Great Depression.

Mitigating Moral Hazards

One way to reduce the moral hazard risk, he says, would be some kind of clawback provision in the modified loans that require borrowers, in exchange for getting a new loan worth 90% of the reduced home value, to pay any profits they make on the sale of the home at a price higher than the new mortgage value, up to the original value of the mortgage, to the government. "I'm not naive -- I don't think that would fully repay the cost of a program like this, but it would at least say to people this is not a free ticket to future riches," says Green.

Besides legal issues, there would be logistical snags in attempting a large-scale loan modification effort through the bankruptcy courts, says Green. Servicers can't handle the heavy volume of requests for modifications, so shifting that authority to the courts would presumably run into similar capacity constraints, he says.

Norm Miller at the University of San Diego is less sanguine about the role that mortgage modifications can play in resolving the housing crisis. He believes only 25% of delinquent mortgages qualify for modifications based on the 38% of income requirement, since he estimates that homeowners who have lost their jobs, died, or gotten a divorce account for half the defaults, while another 25% are due to higher resets of adjustable-rate mortgages that borrowers can no longer afford and loans that are underwater. Modifications will also work only in markets where home prices for the most part have stabilized.

"There are probably a few million people out there thinking this TARP money is going to help me stay in my house. We don't want to artificially prop up the process beyond what the fundamentals will support because all that does is delay the problem," he says.
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Analysts, however, cautioned that prices are likely to keep falling through 2009, and said the outlook for home sales is highly uncertain, despite a boost from low mortgage rates.

"I don't think we're close to a bottom yet," said Michelle Meyer, a Barclays (nyse: BCS - news - people ) Capital economist who sees nationwide prices falling another 15 percent this year. "We're still very far away from a normal housing market."

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The Associated Press
Monday, January 26, 2009

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Some in the real estate industry were encouraged by the surprising jump in sales and a big decrease in the number of homes for sale. "It looks like we are hitting bottom (in sales)," said Ronald Peltier, chief executive of HomeServices of America Inc., which owns real estate agencies in 19 states.

Interest these days is coming from prospective buyers like Todd Kuhn of Richmond, Va., who waited until prices dropped to a more affordable level before starting to look in earnest. He and his wife, parents of 14-month-old daughter, have visited about 20 homes this month.

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http://www.iht.com/bin/printfriendly.php?id=19680392
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Associated Press Writers David Twiddy, Adrian Sainz, Ellen Simon and Alex Veiga contributed to this report.

Correction:

Notes:
December home sales post unexpected increase

Alan Zibel, Associated Press
Tuesday, January 27, 2009

(1-27) 04:00 PST Washington --

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This article appeared on page A-2 of the San Francisco Chronicle
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By Alan Zibel Associated Press - Published: January 27, 2009

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December existing home sales unexpectedly rise: Times Argus Online

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Tuesday, January 27, 2009 6:50 AM CST

By Alan Zibel
Associated Press

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Originally published by Alan Zibel Associated Press.

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A service of YellowBrix, Inc.
Banks to unleash flood of REOs
Part I: Impact on inventories lags foreclosures

BY MATT CARTER, MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 2009.
Inman News

Editor's note: This is the first installment in a two-part series that focuses on the waves of foreclosed, bank-owned properties (also known as real estate-owned properties or REOs) that will hit the for-sale market, and the plans and pitfalls for reducing this inventory.

Inventories of unsold homes are likely to swell in coming months as lenders begin to push a growing backlog of repossessed homes up for sale -- often in communities already awash in distressed properties.

While builders have cut back drastically on the production of new homes (see story), it's likely lenders will soon be putting pressure on inventories even if they succeed in efforts to keep more troubled borrowers in their homes rather than foreclosing on them.

Because it can take weeks or months for lenders to put repossessed homes on the market, the impact of real estate-owned (REO) properties on inventories lags behind foreclosures. Government efforts to recapitalize banks through the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP) and other bailout measures may also have taken some of the heat off of lenders to unload REO properties at fire-sale prices.

But with the emphasis of TARP and other government relief efforts now expected to shift to creating jobs, helping troubled borrowers avoid foreclosure and providing incentives for home buyers (see story), lenders could soon unleash a torrent of real-estate owned, or "REO" properties -- even in markets already flooded with an oversupply of homes for sale.

"It's almost like a tsunami -- you can see it coming and you know it's going to hit but you can't get out of the way," said Ann Stickel, vice president of affiliated services with Sarasota, Fla.-based brokerage Michael Saunders and Co.

The value of REO property on the books of FDIC-insured banks at the end of the third quarter surged 21 percent from the previous quarter, to $23 billion. That total -- which includes single-family to four-family homes valued at $11.5 billion and another $1.5 billion in property purchased with FHA-backed loans securitized by Ginnie Mae -- represents a 134 percent increase from a year ago, according to the latest quarterly report from the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp.

Repossessions by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac grew by nearly 25 percent from the second quarter to the third quarter of 2008, hitting 15,196 homes, according to a recent foreclosure prevention report by the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA). With Fannie and Freddie repossessing homes faster than they could sell them, the companies were left with 95,553 REO properties to dispose of at the end of September -- a 25.5 percent increase in just three months.

Not all of those homes are in areas hard-hit by speculation and subprime lending, either. About six out of 10 homes in Fannie and Freddie's REO inventory were purchased with prime loans available only to borrowers with good credit.

Fannie and Freddie both stopped foreclosing on loans they own over the holidays (Fannie's moratorium is in effect throughout the end of January -- see story) and several states have passed legislation that's intended to slow down the foreclosure process. Lenders are also stepping up their efforts to do workouts and loan modifications with troubled borrowers, rather than foreclosing on them.

But those measures may only be slowing down the foreclosure process for many borrower, and the downturn in the economy and rising job losses have many convinced that foreclosure filings will continue to rise.

President Obama is promising Congress that $50 billion to $100 billion of the next round of TARP money will be committed to foreclosure-relief programs aimed at reducing mortgage payments for troubled borrowers, and broadening the scope of FHA's little-used "Hope for Homeowners" refinance program.

With more than half of the loans modified by lenders in the first half of 2008 already in default again (see story), it's clear that lenders will have to take the more drastic step of reducing the principal balance to make loan mods work, said Sean O'Toole, founder and CEO of ForeclosureRadar.com, a company that tracks California homes through the foreclosure process.

Forgiving loan principal is something lenders and loan servicers haven't been very willing to do so far, O'Toole said -- in part because of the potential for legal objections by investors who own the securities many mortgages were packaged into.
"We likely have $4 trillion in bad mortgage debt created during a period of inflated home prices," O'Toole said. "Any program that doesn't directly deal with eliminating that debt only delays the inevitable and makes this problem worse. Foreclosure remains the only working mechanism for clearing this bad debt at the moment."

If lenders aren't willing to do more meaningful loan modifications, Congress could give bankruptcy judges the power to "cram down" loan principal -- a bad idea, lending industry critics say, because that's likely to raise the cost of borrowing for all home buyers. Another idea is for the government to provide incentives to servicers or guarantee a portion of lender's losses when they agree to do loan modifications that involve principal write downs.

Some states have also attempted to address foreclosures, with limited success. O'Toole has been monitoring the impact of a California law, SB 1137, like similar statutes in other states including North Carolina, Maryland and New Jersey, is intended to slow down the pace of foreclosures by creating new hoops for lenders trying to go through.

California's law, which requires lenders to reach out to homeowners and extends the waiting period before initiating foreclosure proceedings, put a significant dent in notice of default filings when it took effect in September. But foreclosure filings rebounded in November and December as the new extended waiting period called for in the law expired.

Ominous statistics

Statistics compiled by data aggregator RealtyTrac hint at the magnitude of the problem nationwide. RealtyTrac tracked foreclosure-related filings on 2.3 million U.S. properties in 2008, an 84 percent drop from the year before, with 861,664 homes making it through the entire process to become REOs (see story).

The Mortgage Bankers Association's surveys of member banks suggest one out of 10 mortgages was either delinquent or in the foreclosure process at the end of September, and Moody's Economy.com estimates 12 million homeowners are "upside down" -- they owe more on their homes than their properties would fetch in today's market.

RealtyTrac senior vice president Rick Sharga told attendees at the Inman News Real Estate Connect conference in New York City this month that an analysis of 500,000 distressed properties in four states in the company's database found only about one in four were listed for sale in a multiple listing service, or MLS.

That suggests that as many as 75 percent of distressed properties have yet to hit the market, Sharga said, and that many of those homes will soon be putting pressure on inventory and prices as banks repossess them and put them up for sale.

Those are ominous numbers, given the 11-month supply of new and existing homes available at the end of November -- well above the six months generally considered to represent a healthy balance of supply and demand.

Joshua Olshin, president of New York, N.Y.-based Transzan Interfaced Property Group, said that the possibility that a wave of REO properties is about to enter the market creates uncertainty and puts downward pressure on prices.

"People see the foreclosure numbers, and that banks are not even selling what they have, and then we have a whole new load (of REOs) coming on, and that's causing people not to price things appropriately and accurately," Olshin said. "It's kind of compounding the problem, I think."

Transzan helps institutional property owners like financial institutions, corporations, developers and investment groups market and sell property through auctions or a sealed bid process.

The government's TARP purchases of preferred shares gave some banks a thicker capital cushion -- if only fleetingly -- which regulators hoped they would use to make more loans. Instead, many banks have moved to acquire weaker competitors.

"Last summer, we began seeing banks be much more aggressive in the way they priced things," Olshin said. But banks may also not want to recognize losses that accompany the sale of properties at steep discounts when they are having difficulty raising the capital they need to meet statutory minimums, Olshin said. "To be frank, since the TARP money came in, they are still selling off (properties at auction), but they kind of took a step back."

In the process of acquiring troubled rivals, banks may write down the value of some of the bad loans on their books. Once the loans are written down -- often to as little as 20 cents on the dollar, Olshin said -- some of the pressure to foreclose on properties and sell them is gone.
"The loans are being carried for what they are worth, and they think there's upside potential" to hold onto properties and sell them when prices rebound, Olshin said. "We think there's not an upside potential -- that we're going to be in this problem awhile."

Lenders are trying to stretch out some of their losses, and avoid the need for massive new initiatives when possible, said Norm Miller, a professor at the Burnham-Moores Center for Real Estate at the University of San Diego. At the same time, Miller said lenders are "overwhelmed with the sheer volume of defaults which may fall into foreclosure."

Auction boom

Regardless of any pullbacks by lenders, Tranzon and other auctioneers had a banner year in 2008, and expect this year will be even better.

"I think we'll see a lot more properties moving to auction so that realize they need to sell at the market price," Olshin said.

Real Estate Disposition LLC (REDC), which claims to be the nation's largest real estate auction company, held 300 ballroom auctions in 2008 and sold nearly 33,000 foreclosed homes for $3.6 billion -- a seven-fold increase in sales volume and nearly triple the proceeds the company generated in 2007.

Company CEO Jeffrey Frieden said he expects to "smash that record" this year as banks and lenders continue to amass a huge inventory of foreclosed homes and are more motivated than ever to sell their inventory.

"I'd say all of the top 10 loan servicers have an auction strategy in place, and that between 5 and 15 percent of the (REO) portfolio is sold through auction," said Michael Davin, president and CEO of Hermosa Beach, Calif.-based discount brokerage CataList Homes Inc.

CataList, which provides marketing and transaction management expertise for sellers, is a partner with the Los Angeles Times Media Group and others in Zetabid, an online auction marketplace for bank- and builder-owned properties.

Industry groups like the National Association of Realtors, the Mortgage Bankers Association and the National Association of Home Builders have been pushing for more emphasis on incentives to buyers, such as tax credits, subsidized interest rates, and higher loan limits for Fannie, Freddie and FHA loan guarantees (story).

But O'Toole thinks such subsidies were what "got us into this trouble in the first place. Subsidies may increase demand, and in the case of subsidized interest rates might even increase prices, but for how long?"

Some observers fear that if the massive amount of delinquency is taking on to stimulate a recovery, inflation -- and higher interest rates -- are inevitable consequences. Inflation can shrink home sales because households are looking for an inflation-proof place to park their assets.

But rising interest rates can also reduce consumer's home-buying power, undermining prices. If interest rates shoot up, buyers who close a deal on a home with a subsidized mortgage could see the value of their homes plummet when subsidies end and interest rates shoot up.

"Unless we want to continue the foreclosure cycle, we need to return to traditional home-buying practices -- with qualified buyers, in affordable homes, at market interest rates," O'Toole says.

Stickel said she is all for programs aimed at preventing foreclosures and keeping troubled borrowers in their homes, because that would help check falling home prices.

"I really think if we can just keep people in their homes, we're going to do wonders for stabilizing our market," Stickel said. "I don't know if that's what a real estate agent wants to hear -- but if I can keep someone in their home, then I can sell a home."

But Stickel thinks a strategy emphasizing foreclosure prevention would actually produce a healthier environment than a market glutted with REOs, because stemming foreclosures would limit fear among lenders and get buyers off the fence.
From his perspective in Oakland, Jennings said the key to stabilizing neighborhoods hit hard by speculators and foreclosure is to get properties in the hands of homeowners, rather than investors, and to bring homes up to livable condition, or providing loans that provide the funds for buyers to make repairs on their own.

Jennings also wants to see more TARP money channeled directly into foreclosure relief -- including government guarantees of loan modifications -- rather than used to prop up banks' bottom lines.

"Let's hope the next round of TARP reaches consumers," Jennings said.
Forum: Water may be most pressing concern in 2009

By THOR KAMBAN
The Daily Transcript

LA JOLLA — San Diego could run dry, some big real estate investment trusts will file for bankruptcy, the Commercial Mortgage Backed Securities market may be dormant for another two years, and credit default swaps are ruining the economy.

There were a few conclusions reached at a Certified Commercial Investment Member meeting at the Estancia Hotel on Thursday. Former governor and past San Diego Mayor Pete Wilson set the stage by warning that if the recent Delta Smelt ruling, which could cost a third of our water from the Sacramento Delta, is coupled with a similar ruling on red-tagging salmon, this region could lose two-thirds of its Northern California supply.

"This wouldn't make any sense. The Peripheral Canal wouldn't help in this case," Wilson said.

Even if the region survives the water crisis, it still has to get through the economic meltdown. Kristin Gannon, a Goldman Sachs (NYSE: GS) managing director, said in 2007, the national CMBS market accounted for some $230 billion in transactions.

This figure was a mere $12 billion last year.

What's more, that market has been completely dead since last July — a couple months before the rest of the markets collapsed.

"We're starting to see a huge increase in commercial loan delinquencies," Gannon said. "It's the highest level we've ever seen and it's accelerating."

Gannon said there are currently $40 billion in CMBS mortgages that need to be financed, and that number will grow as well.

Gannon said it will probably be 18 months to two years before the CMBS market fully returns.

Gannon said the stress in the retail sector, for example, will mean that some large REITs will file for bankruptcy protection.

"REIT indices dropped by about 38 percent from 2007," Gannon said. "REITs are cutting their dividends and some are offering stock instead."

Everett Allen Greer, a Bank of America (NYSE: BAC) risk management director, said REITs have lost $72 billion since the beginning of the year.

Gannon further noted that along with a few REITs, some other mall owners such as General Growth Properties (NYSE: GGP), are also standing on a financial precipice.

General Growth owns the 880,000-square-foot Chula Vista Shopping Center, and the 500,000-square-foot Otay Ranch Town Center.

Norman Miller, Burnham Moore Center for Real Estate (of the University of San Diego) academic program director, doesn't believe the retail fallout is over.

"Not owning Wal-Mart, the entities that are going to get hit are the big boxes," Miller said. "There's an looming departure of the medium-box stores at Circuit City, Linens N Things and merry maids."

Miller said the industry believes retail will start to rebound in about one-and-a-half years.

Retail may rebound but there are other problems. Greer attributed the economic crisis not only to the subprime lending mess, but to the credit default swap instruments that are failing apart.

A credit default swap transfers third-party credit risk from one party to another, and is meant to effectively insulate debt, but the vehicle can collapse if the party providing the insurance is also unable to pay the debt and interest.

"Credit default swaps amount to $62 trillion in this country. The national debt is only about $11 trillion," Greer said. "These swaps are the poison that's destroying this economy.

The economy may be in rough shape, but Greer noted some bright spots.

"While San Diego's office vacancy is 17.7 percent and that's not good, the retail vacancy is still only 4.3 percent, most other surveys have lower figures," Greer said. "That's one of the best figures in the country."

Greer said.

Source Code: 20090123SBD
2 bills to stem foreclosures make headway in Congress

(San Diego Union-Tribune, The Via Acquire Media NewsEdge) Jan 14 – If congressional Democrats have their way, one of the first bills to cross President-elect Barack Obama's desk next week could be legislation that would set aside $40 billion to $100 billion to help financially troubled homeowners avoid foreclosure.

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Right alongside could be a bill to let bankruptcy judges rewrite the terms of primary mortgages for bankrupt borrowers. Both measures are winding their way through the House and Senate and could be ready for Obama's signature by the time he is inaugurated Tuesday. Obama has signaled that he is ready to sign.

Critics complain that the measures could reward people who took out risky loans, subsidizing their faulty financial decisions.

Proponents argue that if the tidal wave of foreclosures does not abate, it could sweep the economy into a self-perpetuating downward spiral. Already, rising foreclosures have weakened the nation's banks, which has stilled growth and led to rising unemployment, which in turn has resulted in even more foreclosures as laid-off workers miss their mortgage payments.

"Without doing more to control the wave of foreclosures, we could have a continuous flow of distressed mortgages, which would create problems for the economy as a whole," said Raphael Bostic, an economist and real estate specialist at the University of Southern California.

Since the collapse of the housing market two years ago, foreclosures have been rising steadily. Nearly 10 percent of U.S. mortgage-holders are behind on their payments. About

http://www.tmcnet.com/usubmit/2009/01/14/3914166.htm
2 bills to stem foreclosures make headway in Congress

Moody's Economy.com, an economic analysis group, estimates that more than 7 million American homeowners will default on their mortgages by the end of 2010, with more than 4 million ultimately losing their homes.

The loan-modification plan floating through Congress is designed to help at least 1.5 million of those people stay in their homes. The plan is based on a model developed by Sheila Bair, chairwoman of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp., a President Bush appointee who has been retained by Obama.

Under Bair's plan, housing payments for delinquent borrowers would be reduced to as low as 31 percent of their gross monthly income. To achieve such low payments, the terms on the loans would be extended to up to 40 years and the interest rates would temporarily be reduced to as low as 3 percent (after five years the interest rates would start adjusting upward).

In addition, some loans would be reduced through "principal forbearance" — postponing payments on part of the principal until the house is put, refinanced or nearly paid off.

For instance, a borrower with a $400,000 mortgage could get the principal temporarily reduced to $300,000, which would lead to a sharp reduction in interest payments. But the borrower would still be obligated for the full $400,000 by the time the mortgage matures.

"The ultimate goal is to modify these mortgages in a way that makes the payments sustainable to the homeowner and that on a net basis is beneficial for the investors and lenders," FDIC spokesman David Barr said.

Not everyone would qualify for the modifications. To weed out speculators, the modifications would be available only for owner-occupied homes. Borrowers would have to prove that they are financially unable to pay off their current loans but have the ability to pay back the modified loans.

Norm Miller, a professor of real estate at the University of San Diego, complained that the program would result in "a windfall gain for a certain type of borrower. And any time you provide benefits for just one group of people, you can destroy the market."

In addition, Republican leaders on Capitol Hill are attacking the entire bailout package as a waste of taxpayer money. "I will oppose the release of these taxpayer funds when the matter is considered on the House floor," House Republican leader John Boehner of Ohio said this week.

Proponents say that loan modifications help the economy as well as financial institutions by ensuring a constant flow of payments and helping limit the costs of foreclosures.

"This isn't giving away money," said Mark Gattuso, a real estate professor at San Diego State University. "People still have to pay down these loans."

The Federal Reserve estimates that loan servicers often loan 40 percent to 60 percent of the value of a mortgage when a home is foreclosed upon. The FDIC's goal is to make loan modifications more profitable for the lender than foreclosure would be.

The plan — which was initially met with resistance by the Bush administration — has gained support from some conservative economists. Martin Feldstein, former chief economic adviser to President Reagan, spoke in favor of FDIC-backed loan modifications.

"If (the foreclosure problem) isn't tackled, then all this local stimulus alone is not going to do the job," Feldstein told CNBC yesterday.

Besides providing funding for loan modifications, Congress is now moved to give bankruptcy judges the power to order modifications. Until this week, however, bankruptcy judges have the authority to rewrite the terms of car loans, student loans, credit card debt and even mortgages on second homes or vacation properties.
2 bills to stem foreclosures make headway in Congress

But they lack the power to modify primary mortgages. Bankers have lobbied heavily against giving bankruptcy judges such a right, arguing that it would lead lenders to charge higher interest rates on all loans to cover against possible foreclosure-related losses.

Last week, however, the proposal to alter powers of bankruptcy judges got a major boost when Citigroup—which services 7 percent of the nation's home loans—announced that it would support the plan.

Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Il., said the proposal "would help reduce foreclosures and would cost taxpayers nothing."

Loan modification has been tried in various forms over the past year. So far, the modifications have had mixed results.

A study last month by two bank regulatory agencies—the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency and the Office of Thrift Supervision—showed that 27 percent of the loans that were modified in the first quarter slipped back into default within three months and 55 percent defaulted within six months.

Paul Koches, executive vice president at Ocwen Financial Corp., one of the nation's largest loan servicers, sees a glass half-full in those numbers.

"If 55 percent have gone into default after six months, that means you've helped 45 percent, which is a pretty good start," he said.

Koches and other observers say one reason for the high rate of re-defaults is that relatively few of the modifications have substantially reduced the monthly payments on the loans.

Some modified mortgages even require borrowers to pay more than they were paying before, to make up for missed payments.

"Many of the modifications in the past 18 months looked what ordinary laypeople might think of as modifications," said Alan White, a member of the Federal Reserve's Consumer Advisory Board. "Nearly half of them increased the borrower's total debt instead of reducing it."

When monthly payments are reduced, there are fewer re-defaults.

The FDIC, which has modified 7,500 mortgages at Five Star Bank, a mortgage lender that the agency seized in July, reports that none of the modified loans have slid back into default. At Ocwen, which aggressively modifies mortgages by cutting interest rates and forbearing principal, only 25 percent of its 65,000 loan modifications have gone into default after six months—less than half the national average cited in the survey by the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency and the Office of Thrift Supervision.

"To do it properly, you have to consider how affordable and sustainable the loan will be for the borrower as well as whether it's fair to the investors who own the loan," Koches said.

"There's usually a point at which the interests of the borrower and the investor meet."

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Inventory becoming healthy

San Diego County home resales, median prices up for December

By JEN LEBRON-KUHNEY
The Daily Transcript

SAN DIEGO — San Diego home sales were up more than 10 percent in December from November, while prices were up slightly from November in the attached and detached markets, according to figures from the San Diego Association of Realtors (SDAR).

Sales were up for attached homes by 59.9 percent from 2007 during the same period last year while detached home sales were up 64.3.

Sold listings for attached and detached homes combined were up 15.3 percent for the year — a net gain of 3,792.

Month-to-month median prices improved by 2.6 percent and 2.8 percent for attached and detached homes, respectively.

Erik Weichelt, 2009 SDAR president, said he hopes the month-to-month increases in sales and median prices are the beginnings of an upward trend.

"We have more people getting involved with the purchaser process," he said. "So we're really hopeful that '09 is going to have a positive outlook. It sure seems that way."

Prices were still down about 30 percent from Dec. 2007, while the housing supply was down to 6.7 months in Dec. 2008 after having more than a year's worth of housing on the market during the same month last year, according to MarketPointe Realty Advisors.

While a six- to seven-month supply is considered "normal" in most markets, it still higher than what is custom for the San Diego County.

The county had a 1.9 months' average supply of homes from 1999 to 2004. Alan Nevin, MarketPointe's director of economic research, said having such few homes on the market drove home prices up, inflating the housing bubble.

However, the supply jumped to 5.2 months' supply in Dec. 2005 due to what Nevin

See Inventory on 3B

Inventory

Continued from Page 1B

described as people believing they could "make a killing" selling properties.

That figure rose until it reached 12.2 months' supply by the end of 2007.

Rick Hoffman, COO and president of Coldwell Banker's San Diego County and Inland Empire regions, described the current market as suffering from a "hangover" from the high prices of the earlier part of the decade.

In June 2008, the supply dropped to 7.5 months' worth and went down to its current level.

Nevin said the ratio of supply to homes sold is now at a healthy level.

"We've been under-supplied with listings from 1999 all the way up until the end of 2005," he said. "To have listings two-to-one to sales indicates the market was short of listings."

To determine a month's supply, one divides the number of houses listed by the number of homes sold in a given month.

He said foreclosures have played a large role in the supply of housing, but noted there have been fewer foreclosures over the last few months.

November saw foreclosure filings down nearly 50 percent from their peak in July 2008.

As the foreclosure market dries up, the supply of homes on the market will shrink, especially since there are relatively few new home projects, Nevin said.

Last month Mark Jeda, executive director of the Burnham-Moores Center for Real Estate at the University of San Diego, said banks have been trying to work out loans with borrowers while for- stalling filing notices of defaults, which is the first step in the foreclosure process.

Though there are a wave of Alt-A loans scheduled to reset in 2009 and 2010 that could affect millions of mortgages across the country, Nevin and Weichelt said they do not think those will have a big impact on the market.

Alt-A loans are in the area between subprime and prime loans.

"We're thinking that's not going to be a major issue," Weichelt said on behalf of SDAR, "but we won't know until we get there."

Nevin said he thinks home- owners whose interest rates are scheduled to reset will be able to work out or refinance before they default, citing that keeping people in their homes is a high priority for both the government and private lenders.

However, he said working out the loans would be a "bureaucratic nightmare" considering loans have been repackaged to where three different entities would have control of a loan.

Hoffman suggested borrowers with adjustable-rate mortgages contact their lenders to find out what their rate will reset at to determine whether they will be able to make the new payments, but said he was unsure of how many would actually do it.

Hoffman said he predicts an increase in inventory during the first quarter of 2009, but was hesitant to talk about what the long-term future of the housing market holds.

"It's really going to depend on a number of factors that are really outside of the housing industry," he said about when he thinks housing prices will return to pre-bust levels. "First of all, we have to get down to the end of the supply — not having a whole lot of new houses being built in the market will help that start that process. But the rest of the economy has to recover and the jury's out on that."

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INVENTORY BECOMING HEALTHY
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Notice of default totals double from November to December

Trustee's deeds climb 22%

By JEN LEBRON-KUHNEY
The Daily Transcript

SAN DIEGO — Notices of default (NODs) in San Diego County more than doubled from November to December 2008. After three straight months of NOD totals less than 1,500, December saw them jump up to 3,315 — the highest monthly total since June.

The number of NODs went down by more than half in September from the prior month, shortly after a change in the California Civil Code that required loan services to speak with borrowers 30 days prior to filing a notice of default.

Additionally, the number of trustee’s deeds, or notice of trustee’s sales, went up 22 percent from November to December from 1,144 to 1,400. It was the first time the number has gone up since July.

Mark Reidy, director of the Burnham-Moores Center for Real Estate at the University of San Diego, said in September he thought the figure then was “artificial” and predicted NODs and trustee’s deeds to rise a few months after the change.

Mark Goldman, a San Diego State University real estate professor and loan officer with Windsor Capital, agreed that the spike in December could be due to the postponement of foreclosure filings.

Additionally, Goldman said the economy probably has more to do with the increased number of foreclosures than adjustable-rate mortgages, adding that the loss of a job, uninsured medical problems and divorce are still the top three reasons why homes go into foreclosure.

“All of those things are happening in a declining economy at an increasing rate,” he said. “Money creates stress. Stress can ruin a marriage. Money creates stress. Stress can ruin health. So all these factors are exacerbating each other.”

Goldman said he would proceed with caution about calling the one-month spike in NODs and trustee’s deeds a “trend,” but said he could see the amount of foreclosure filings remaining somewhat stable in coming months due to factors ranging from the economy to the foreclosure moratoriums implemented by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac that have been extended through the end of January.

He said the moratoriums were delaying the inevitable for some homeowners.

Though there were some circumstances where distressed homeowners could bounce back from a financial setback, he said some people need to be realistic about not having the

See Default on 10A.
Default

*Continued from Page 1A*

income to afford their homes, go into foreclosure, "get it over with and get on with your life."

The foreclosure moratoriums enacted by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac last month seemingly did not have an effect on the notice of trustee's deed and NOD numbers because of the large number of other banks that have not postponed foreclosure filings, said Erik Weichelt, president of the San Diego Association of Realtors and an active real estate agent who specializes in bank-owned properties.

At the same time, he said, sometimes people need to go into foreclosure to keep the lending process moving forward.

"The only way (for banks) to get any part of their money back, so they can lend it out again to other potential home-owners, is through the foreclosure process," Weichelt said. "The banking industry has set this system up so the longer you delay a bank getting back its money, the more challenges the bank will have."

*Source Code: jennifer.lebron@sddt.com*

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Trustee's deeds up nearly a quarter
By JEN LEBRON-KUHNEY, The Daily Transcript

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Additionally, the number of trustee's deeds, or notice of trustee's sales, went up 22 percent from November to December from 1,144 to 1,400. It was the first time the number has gone up since July.

Mark Reiley, director of the Burnham-Moores Center for Real Estate at the University of San Diego, said in September he thought the figure then was "artificial" and predicted NODs and trustee's deeds to rise a few months after the change.

Mark Goldman, a San Diego State University real estate professor and loan officer with Windsor Capital, agreed that the spike in December could be due to the postponement of foreclosure filings.

Additionally, Goldman said the economy probably has more to do with the increased number of foreclosures than adjustable-rate mortgages, adding that the loss of a job, uninsured medical problems and divorce are still the top-three reasons why homes go into foreclosure.

"All of those things are happening in a declining economy at an increasing rate," he said. "Money creates stress. Stress can ruin a marriage. Money creates stress. Stress can ruin health. So all these factors are exacerbating each other."

Goldman said he would proceed with caution about calling the one-month spike in NODs and trustee's deeds a "trend," but said he could see the amount of foreclosure filings remaining somewhat stable in coming months due to factors ranging from the economy to the foreclosure moratoriums implemented by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac that have been extended through the end of January.

He said the moratoriums were delaying the inevitable for some homeowners. Though there were some circumstances where distressed homeowners could bounce back from a financial setback, he said some people need to be realistic about not having the income to afford their homes, go into foreclosure, "get it over with and get on with your life."
The foreclosure moratoriums enacted by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac last month seemingly did not have an effect on the notice of trustee’s deed and NOD numbers because of the large number of other banks that have not postponed foreclosure filings, said Erik Weichelt, president of the San Diego Association of Realtors and an active real estate agent who specializes in bank-owned properties. At the same time, he said, sometimes people need to go into foreclosure to keep the lending process moving forward.

"The only way [for banks] to get any part of their money back, so they can lend it out again to other potential homeowners, is through the foreclosure process," Weichelt said. "The banking industry has set this system up so the longer you delay a bank getting back its money, the more challenges the bank will have."

Send your comments to Jennifer.Lebron@sddt.com
Gloom, doom slated for county forecast

By REBECCA GO

SAN DIEGO — Event organizers foresee a crowded room this year at the county's annual Economic Roundtable, which is expected to draw more than 300 curious onlookers to the University of San Diego on Friday.

"This year is obviously unusual in a lot of ways," said Chris Heiserman, program manager with the county's finance and general government group.

"I'm hoping it will come together and provide us a horizon of how it all fits together and where we may be headed — although who can say?"

The event, now in its 25th year, promises a sweeping overview of the recession and a 2009 economic outlook for the region, state and nation.

The forecast will probably be one of the most negative on record, said SANDAG chief economist Marney Cox, who has been involved with the roundtable since its start in 1984.

"As we enter the new year, this decline is accelerating, not easing," Cox said. "It will be very interesting to hear the panelists' point of view as to where those points of strength are" in the economy.

The program will likely take a more governmental tack than in the past: An economist with the state government and the county assessor are among the six scheduled speakers, and commentary on federal fiscal and monetary policy is probable.

"We're fortunate to have someone from the (state) Department of Finance," Heiserman said of chief economist Howard Roth, who will take the first speaking slot.

"Obviously, the California budget is really big right now."

Chief assessment services assessor, recorder and county clerk Jeff Olson is expected to shed light on how local revenues have been affected by the slowdown in real estate.

Other speakers include Cox; Barbara Brown-Hahn, president of the Pacific Southwest Association of Realtors; and Ryan Ratchef, assistant professor of economics at University of San Diego.

Qualcomm also decided to help sponsor the event. Other sponsors include the San Diego Union-Tribune and the USD School of Business Administration.

The Economic Roundtable started as essentially a private county staff meeting in which local experts were brought in to help the county with its budget decisions. The first public event drew approximately 100 people, Moss said.

This year's forum will be held at USD's Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice Friday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

rebecca.go@sddt.com

Source Code: 20090113czh

Forecast — Continued from Page 1A

Forecast — Continued from Page 1A

see Forecast on 2A

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Source Code: 20090113czh
Most Forecasters at USD Panel Pessimistic About 2009

BY MIKE ALLEN

Except for a lone optimist, experts assembled to oppose about San Diego's economic prospects this year were dejectedly gloomy.

The consensus among the six speakers at the 2009 County of San Diego Economic Roundtable was to expect more of the same, and hope that a promised federal stimulus package gets approved quickly and alters down to the local level.

"The best hope is for 12 months of the same," said Ryan Ratcliff, an economics professor at the University of San Diego, which hosted the annual event. "I don't see any light at the end of the tunnel. We're in for more than 12 months of a very bad economy."

Howard Roth, chief economist with the state Department of Finance, sounded even more pessimistic.

"In the 27 years that I've been doing this, this is the worst I've seen, especially what's going on in the credit markets," Roth said. "2009 will be pretty bad."

Jeff Olson, chief of miscellaneous services for the county of San Diego, said as far as property valuations go, "we are approaching the bottom of the market."

Reaching Bottom

But when that bottom is reached could take two to three more years. Olson said don't expect a sharp rebound like the one that occurred in the last recession of 2002, but a more U-shaped recovery when conditions should stabilize, and "then slowly like it always has in previous down markets."

Yet not all were forecasting gloom and doom this year.

Marney Cox, chief economist for the San Diego Association of Governments, the regional planning agency, said San Diego likely won't do worse than the rest of the country, and because of $4 billion in planned construction and refurbishment projects by the Defense Department around local military bases, could do much better.

Cox, a veteran economic watcher who witnessed the depths the region sank to in the early 1990s, said that recession, resulting from a double whammy of heavy job losses in aerospace, defense and financial services "was substantially worse than the one we are in today."

Cox noted that job losses both nationally and regionally have been gathering steam. Through the end of November this region has lost about 15,000 jobs, with the biggest chunks coming in retail, construction and financial services.

Some predict the nation will lose some 2.5 million jobs before the recession ends, a figure that could translate to the county losing as many as 25,000 jobs since San Diego makes up about 1 percent of the national economy.

However, the number is constantly moving and because the state doesn't include the self-employed with its reports, it's difficult to figure the real number of lost jobs.

Cox estimated for 2008, it'll be down a net of 1,000 jobs. For this year, job growth will be minimal.

Most Forecasters at USD Panel Pessimistic About 2009

Continued from Page 3

Roth was at the other end of the spectrum, noting that California has already shed 150,000 jobs through November, and when the first month is reported this week, the state will likely show the loss of another 55,000.

As of November, the state's jobless rate was 8.4 percent, while San Diego's was 6.9 percent.

Roth forecasts the state's unemployment could rise above 10 percent this year.

Forecasts Show:

With housing as a major part of the local economy, the best signs noted by a few speakers was a growing in the foreclosures and slight rise in sales.

Yet, most sales remain in the lower end of the housing market, dominated by condos and homes taken to foreclosures through short sales arranged by lenders, said Mark Morgan, president-elect of the San Diego Association of Realtors.

"Improving the natural order when prices fall to a level where more buyers enter the market is a lack of credit, particularly in jumbo mortgages above $600,000," Morgan said.

While Congress and others are pushing for homeowner assistance to stanch the flood of foreclosures, very few — perhaps only 10 percent — will qualify for modifications because their credit health won't meet standards set by government agencies buying the mortgages, he said.

Cox was alone in saying the stimulus package proposed by the Obama Administration could make a difference.

If the $800 billion program gets approved quickly, and gets out to the state and local governments, a third of the planned projects could begin construction within six months to a year because they have environmental approvals in place.

But if that package isn't passed, "then I'm probably wrong," Cox said.
Expectedly grim, local economic numbers widen drop
By REBECCA GO, The Daily Transcript

A local index measuring the San Diego economy took another dive in December, driven by weakness in construction, employment and consumer confidence.

The Index of Leading Economic Indicators for San Diego County dropped by another 2.1 percent, the second worst monthly decrease ever.

The largest historic drops have all been in the last three months, with a record drop of 2.2 percent in October.

The local economic forecast remains weak for at least the first half of 2009, said University of San Diego economics professor Alan Gin, who compiles the index.

Job losses are expected to rise as real estate-related unemployment spreads to other sectors. Retail in particular will be hit hard with the closings of big box stores after a dismal shopping season, Gin said. Most of the indicators extended their push into negative territory substantially, sometimes by more than 100 basis points.

Building permits dropped, as did help-wanted advertising.

Claims for unemployment insurance surged -- a negative for the index -- posting the biggest drop among the indicators with a loss of 3.49 percent, compared to a loss of 2.1 percent in November and a drop of less than a percent in December 2007.

Local stock prices performed better than the other local indicators, with a drop of less than 1 percent.

The national index of Leading Economic Indicators, however, registered its first increase since April of last year, rising 0.59 percent. Gin cautions index watchers to postpone any celebrations for now.

"Whether this is aberration or a signal of a positive turning point for the national economy remains to be seen, as economists typically look for three consecutive changes in a leading index to signify the latter," Gin wrote.

Send your comments to Rebecca.Go@sddt.com
USD Index Shows December Decline
San Diego Business Journal Staff

An index measuring San Diego's overall economy showed the largest drop in more than a year in December with decreases felt in five of six components that make up the index.

The University of San Diego's Index of Leading Economic Indicators for San Diego County fell 2.1 percent last month, fueled mainly by large drops in building permits, consumer confidence, help wanted ads and the number of unemployment claims filed (which is measured as a negative).

Local stock prices fell as well, but by less than 1 percent. Only the national economic index, which is part of the USD index, showed a slight gain.

Alan Gin, the economics professor who compiles the index, said the local economy is expected to remain weak through the first half of 2009 and that job losses will mount.

"While job losses had previously been confined to real estate-related areas (construction, credit, real estate), the damage is now spreading into other sectors of the local economy," he said in the report.

The USD index has now declined in 32 of the last 33 months, with the three largest drops occurring in the last three months.

— Mike Allen
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ECONOMIC OUTLOOK 'UNCHANGED'

This just in: the local economy was weak last month.

Unemployment Rate: Jan '06 - Dec. '08

The local economy sustained its second-worst monthly drop in December, USD economist Alan Gin said today. The only up category was a slight tick up in the outlook for the national economy. Local stock prices were down moderately. But there were "huge drops" in the readings for four categories: building permits, unemployment insurance claims, consumer confidence and help wanted ads.

Building permits to construct residential units had its lowest level for any month on record in December. Records go back to 1973.

Here's Gin, referencing the latest unemployment numbers released last week:

The outlook remains unchanged from recent months. The local economy is expected to be weak for at least the first half of 2009, with job losses in particular expected to mount. ... Retailing has been heavily impacted, with a weak Christmas buying season causing retail employment to fall by 8,500 jobs in December compared to the same month a year ago. The numbers are expected to worsen with the post-holiday closing of stores such as Mervyn's, Circuit City, and Linens 'n Things.

-- KELLY BENNETT
The USD Index of Leading Economic Indicators for the county fell 2.1 percent in December. Huge drops in building permits, initial claims for unemployment insurance, consumer confidence and help wanted advertising pushed the Index to its second worst monthly drop. Local stock prices were also down, but moderately, while the outlook for the national economy actually edged upward. The USD Index has now fallen in 32 of the last 33 months, with the three largest drops ever in the last three months.

Economics Professor Alan Gin, author of the Index, says the outlook remains unchanged from recent months. The local economy is expected to be weak for at least the first half of 2009, with job losses in particular expected to mount. While job losses had previously been confined to real estate-related areas (construction, credit, real estate), the damage is now spreading into other sectors of the local economy.

Retailing has been heavily impacted, with a weak Christmas buying season causing retail employment to fall by 8,500 jobs in December compared to the same month a year ago. The numbers are expected to worsen with the post-holiday closing of stores such as Mervyn’s, Circuit City and Linens ‘n Things.

December’s decrease puts the USD Index at 108.4, down from October’s revised reading of 110.7.
Index: Local economy worsening

SAN DIEGO — San Diego County's economy deteriorated sharply on nearly every front in December, with a modest uptick in the broader national economy providing the region with its only bright spot, according to a monthly index compiled by a regional economist.

The University of San Diego's Index of Leading Economic Indicators fell 2 percent to 108 last month, continuing nearly three years of steady downward movement. Economist Alan Gin cited "huge" and accelerating declines in the numbers of building permits issued and help-wanted advertisements placed in the region, and growing numbers of local workers applying for unemployment.

The national Index of Leading Economic Indicators, a similar index compiled by an unaffiliated association of businesspeople and economists, edged up in December as a possible boon to San Diego County's economy, Gin reported.
Prices up in 92102

While overall San Diego housing prices dropped, some areas have resisted

By JEN LEBRON-KUIMY
San Diego Transcript

SAN DIEGO — From January to November 2008 saw overall median prices drop, 36 percent for attached housing and 28.4 percent for detached homes in San Diego County.

In January, the median price of a detached home was $425,800 while the median for attached homes was $300,000.

Prices have been falling consistently since the beginning of the year with month-to-month drops every month with the exception of February to March, when detached home prices remained flat and attached prices went up 1.4 percent.

Sold listings in the region have been up overall compared to 2007, despite seasonal declines in November.

In Dec 2007, Lawrence Yun, chief economist of the National Association of Realtors, gave a positive outlook for job growth and the replacement of sub-prime lenders to borrowers with weak credit with government-backed loans as reasons for the improved outlook.

"Despite over-exaggerated negative coverage on the housing conditions, many local markets are actually seeing price increases," Yun said in a press briefing. "Mortgage availability is improving."

However, his predictions about mortgage availability improving were not correct in most cases. As the credit market tightened with banks asking for bailouts, the mortgage industry had suffered.

In the third quarter of 2008, a mortgage industry consultant had a net employment change of 6,000 jobs, meaning more people were laid off than hired, according to data tracked by MortgageDaily.com.

Recently, Yun has been less optimistic about 2009. "We hope that, similarly, the current slowdown in home sales activity is a short-term phenomenon," Yun said in December 2008, noting that people in the real estate industry are "crossing our fingers" that the market will recover.

Thus, it is not all gloomy for San Diego.

San Diego’s 92102 ZIP code, which includes the neighborhoods of Golden Hill and South Park, has had detached median home prices increase more than a third from June to November, while sales have been up more than 40 percent.

At this point, the year-over-year median price for the area is down 9.27 percent from last November.

Some of San Diego’s most troubled areas in regard to foreclosures have seen month-to-month median price increases, coupled with higher sales activity in the past six months.

Chula Vista has been one San Diego County city that has been hit with a high number of foreclosures.

Chula Vista’s 91910 and 91911 detached median home prices are down year-over-year 24.6 and 20 percent, respectively. However, from June to November median prices have increased by 4.8 and 4.8 percent with prices increasing month-to-month.

Prices

Continued from Page 1B

Overall, as much as 15.6 percent.

Combined, these ZIP codes have seen detached home sales increase 11.3 percent in the past year.

Earlier this year, Steve Ring, broker of Century 21 First Choice, said that areas that have been hit the hardest by falling median prices are the ones consumers were more likely to purchase a home in.

"Of the properties that are selling, most of the prices are well below the median," Ring said. "I don’t know about California, but in San Diego we’re going to continue to see a drop in median prices."

In San Diego, home values reached what Ring described as "psychologically attractive" prices, leading many first-time homebuyers and investors to jump into the "feeling of gaining" on properties that are located in areas where the median price has dropped significantly within the last two years.

Despite an increase in sales and some markets’ prices improving, economists do not think the housing market will recover soon.

Professor Alan Gin of the University of San Diego said at a conference in December, it is possible that the market will recover by late 2009 at the earliest, but not without first describing it as a "death spiral."

According to a report by Trulia and RealtyTrac in December, consumers are increasingly hesitant to purchase foreclosed homes that are providing a glint in the market.

Rick Sharga, senior vice president of RealtyTrac said consumers need to be more willing to purchase foreclosed homes before the market can stabilize.

"The market situation is going to be very, very much a local one there are parts of the country that have probably more or less bottomed out at this point because they didn’t have the explosive appreciation rates some year back," Sharga said. "I think the continuing fall off is going to be felt in those hardest hit states (like California)... and the recovery there will be a little more problematic."

In San Diego, one out of every four homes is in foreclosure and more are expected when Alt-A loans mature later this year and in 2010.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

Source Code: 20090102dng
Bad Housing Market Claims Another Victim

Home Expo shutting its doors

By CONSUMER BOB

Updated 8:31 AM PST, Tue, Jan 27, 2009

Related Topics:The Home Depot Inc.

Home Expo and other retailers are closing their doors and blaming a struggling economy.

The employees found out Sunday in a conference call.

Watch Video

The Home Depot announced it's closing two of its EXPO stores in San Diego Monday. The move is part of a decision by the company to "exit its EXPO business."

EXPO to Close San Diego Stores

"To tell you the truth, I didn't see it coming," said Home Expo employee Jordan Dekay. The Home Depot owned chain said it will shut down all its Home Expo Design Centers and five Yardbirds, two Design Centers and BD Bath. That could lead to nearly seven thousand job losses.

"Everyone feels bad, they're losing their jobs. Like you see all the stuff on the news, how a lot of companies are coming down, and it finally hits us," said Dekay.

"There's less remodeling going on," said University of San Diego economist Allen Gin. "People need less furniture and home accessories."

Gin said this is just another store to fall to the tough economy. Already Circuit City, Mervyn's and Linens N Things have declared Bankruptcy. Gin said the growing number of closings and layoffs will carry over into new areas and stores.

"As more and more people lose their jobs, there's less spending in the economy. And so other areas that are not currently affected may eventually be impacted and we could see even more job loss," said Gin.

Find this article at:

A local economist says the region’s high dependence on construction jobs has made this recession unusually rough for San Diego. KPBS reporter Katie Orr explains.

University of San Diego economist Ryan Ratcliffe says in past recessions, the San Diego area has usually fared better than the state. He says the more highly educated workforce and mix of industries has insulated the region from higher unemployment rates. But that’s not the case this time.

Ratcliffe: You’ve lived through the couple of recessions, you’re used to, sort of, San Diego being, you know, it’s a slow down, but not as bad as the rest of the state and the rest of the country. And I think this time around it’s just gonna be different in that San Diego was overly reliant on housing as an engine of growth in the last five years. And unfortunately, now we’re going to pay for that.

Ratcliffe says some construction jobs could come back, but he doesn’t expect related housing industry jobs to return.

Katie Orr, KPBS News
The watch list

**STUFF TO KEEP AN EYE ON IN 2009**

BY JEN COMBS, KELLY DAVIS, D.A. KOLOZSOSO, KAROLYN LINDSAY, KEVIN SOKLAR, DAVID BELKNAP, DAVID HUN, AND BRUCE MOLY

Everyone does a people-watching round up. But who besides John Biele that does a people, place, and things to watch round up? amy following is hopefully comprehensive, but not of course complete or at least of the stuff of things being obliged to set aside for whatever reason that got our attention. In 2009 and then we think will pair everyone’s interest in.

**People**

*Surf Runners*—With the results of the November and primary run-ins yet to come, the San Diego mayor ready to name a new city council woman, we can look forward to seeing if the new mayor will be able to hold his ground, or be handed another term.

*Clark Dula*—The new San Diego City Council member is just out of San Diego—many would think him a red neck but as an example of supporting Dennis Frye for council president and having a staff behind him we were surprised by some City Hall suspects.

*Done with Donna*—Will she be running for her chance at a new term and has she been released to engage in discussion about Frye, or will she do a better job than her more vocal colleagues of conducting business?

*Randy Albiston*—The Pedres CEO put together in a tax that will pass last year and hasn’t done anything to improve the team and now it’s looking as if a rumour about owner’s going to be a problem, or maybe not.

*James Potter*—The UCSD political science professor’s research on how mass influence political participation has been featured in *The Colbert Report, Good Morning America* and practically everywhere else. But nothing says “industry insider” like being buried in the middle of the Wall Street Journal with co-author Christopher Lawford in *The New York Times Magazine’s Year in Ideas Issue*.

*James Brown*—Through the prestigious Harvard Graduate School of Design in competition for $100,000, the local architect is spending a year of study with other mid-career architects, artists and designers chosen from an international pool. He’ll focus on his career, and by the time he returns to Public Architecture, the firm he co-owns with James Gates, they’ll have some interesting new projects planned.

*Sean and Stacy Bailey*—The married duo behind the award-winning *Domestic* art shows of *Sanctuary NYC* and *Sanctuary LA* are setting up shop all over the city and recently launched a podcast that features interviews from local art leaders.

*Lynda Mousley*—The former curator for MCASD was hand-selected to head up the new private La Jolla Museum of Contemporary Art, and with national collectors who support her, it’s possible to get local artists a more national attention and some much deserved money.

*The Soft Pack*—The band formerly known as The Mansions has a residency in England and focus in local music.
Watch list

Continued from Page 9

The three傻瓜-Netizens on Sixth Avenue in Millbrae-When you see hard hats again, the economy must be improving.

South Park—If you haven’t driven past Juniper Street lately, you would have missed the new is opening every day window: a bike shop (Ode Culture) or exterior (Bill Cusden and the upcoming Station Burger), the neighborhood is progressing without losing its independent, left-of-center vibe. And with some of retail space available on Parks and 20th, we foresee more to come—resurrection may be on the horizon.

Culture—(El Camino and Palm) Preby's concert hall and adjacent piece and Planet and Institute and equipped Banker's areas. A new public development with three-ty in and more. Please are in the world.

Paul Collins—Forlorn to believe, but the ultimate movie is turning into the Bog. Wonder Woman started filming. The Boy Wonders and Barretts traded to the old mobile for a story and "Vince was at the base to view what the Condo Con have up their sleeves?.

David Ostrander's Back—It's called "Happy Farm," and you can track this on www.parminderland.com. We doubt this will become a big-city daily newspaper publisher is gathering around St. Mary's right now.

The LOW community—The strength in numbers protects that followed the passage of Prop J (redefinition of public safety). Meanwhile, the City Attorney Mike Aguirre's house? Check and double check!

Home prices will be up to down by year's end, with owners offering free units of their houses to entice willing to take the damaged checks off their hands.

Jerry will appear on a tortilla in San Valero, but it will be slurred by a "Titanus drug dealer.

The Book Church in Petaluma will pay $2 million to farm the tortilla, but the market will occasionally deliver the tortilla to the Truck or someone new to the Truck.

The holy tortilla will then be sold to a guy named Rich, made into a sandwich and enjoyed with a glass of Two Buck Chuck, exactly as Jerry intended.

With attendance at Petaluma Farm Day and conceptual projects featuring all around, expect the city's 1.5 million to countsmancidecide to forge a bike path project to increase Mayor Jerry Sanders' very own Bridge to Bluffness.

Post out of the Obama infrastructure stimulus package, Mayor Jerry Sanders will team with City Councilman Kevin Saddler to fund Fashions! Tony Young and Todd Chilson on a major proposal to close off San Mateo, El Camino, Del Mar, and El Camino Aralias to auto traffic and instead shuttle people north and south via a light rail line system.

A man will save a Starbucks in San Diego, choose a Circuit骑空ship from the menu, get in his car, place his order and, while waiting for his coffee beverage, Monsanto's not going to what city look like.

Your Internet radio station will last all day as the sending out of the "Tripod" (right head), "WTRB" (by the way and even "TMDA" (being in a few) in real-world conversation.

In response to the worsening economic downturn, Castro owner Tim Marlin will open a cafe-worksoup kitchen and live music hangout for unemployed hipsters. Called The Group of Work hustlers, this new Depression-themed bar will feature food-industrial house -comp ding, cheap homemade soups and wines and faced-out psychedelic versions of Woody Guthrie songs, all of prepared and performed by you and your friends.

Downtown's fiber-las fibers (Silligas, Ravy at The Ivy) will finally realize San Diego is not like L.A. and Miami and start treating customers to more than this dollar will drink. Adapt or die.

Things

Alan Ostrander's Sick of Leading Internet Initiative—Each month since 2006, the University of San Francisco economics professor has taken the responsibility of

The issues at City Offices—Budget concerned Mayor Bill Cusden with a fire a lot of stuff that permit you applied for seems to be taking an extra month to get perceived, you know what?

This covers our head—Palo Alto City Attorney Mike Aguirre used every footing trick in the book to raise the sky. Will City Attorney Ian Goldman demonstrate an appetite for the principle of should the cash head for friendlier shores?

The Municipal Unions—All hourly unions, representating the police, firemen, answers, the insurance and white collar, are scheduled for non-contract negotiations this spring. With the city's extensive $5 million shortage for fiscal year 2010, will be part of the solution.

Economic Times—Not that gloominess, sure, but the Australia real property prices have been hitting these already shadowed prices quite shyly. And with removal of dead trees coming to the thousands in San Diego in the next, we don't expect this to boost the top of Shady's budget priorities. That means lots of dead trees falling and more money for the budget. Look out.

Apropos of suggestions—An inside home photographer Seth Carter is launching this new idea that will combine arts, urban storyteller and fiction space, but from a design-minded, art director perspective.

Contra-cost—Paul Collins, the ultimate movie is turning into the Bog. Wonder Woman started filming. The Boy Wonders and Barretts traded to the old mobile for a story and "Vince was at the base to view what the Condo Con have up their sleeves?.

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Focus on China timed with lunar new year

On the Agenda
By Rebecca Go

The San Diego World Trade Center and the University of California, San Diego celebrate Chinese New Year this week with business in mind. The two have joined experts to discuss the outlook on China and are those hoping that the Year of the Ox brings some bullish undertones for San Diego business.

The Chinese New Year Business in China event Sunday, continuing into Tuesday. The San Diego World Trade Center, in cooperation with the Chinese Business Association of San Diego, is hosting the event.

Chairman Christopher Cox is among a slate of keynote speakers expected to engage in frank dialogue about corporate governance and other investing hot topics.

For more information, visit sdwwtc.org/events.

The High School of Management at UCSD examine "Doing Business in China" in a three-credit course that starts today at 7:30 a.m.

For more information, contact Lisa Giuliano at 858-227-7823.

The San Diego Legal Society Association takes a look at recent changes -- the good and the bad -- at San Diego Superior Court this week. The event Tuesday starts at 5:30 p.m. The featured speaker is Judge K. Barna.

The American Society of Civil Engineers discusses sustainable construction and maintenance of public infrastructure facilities at its Tuesday meeting at 5:30 p.m. For more information, contact Andrew St. John.

The San Diego Water Resources Association will discuss "Water the story" during their Thursday forum Tuesday, from 5 to 8:30 p.m. Participants can expect a discussion of how water is impacted and how to protect it.

The San Diego Chronicle - Executive News Network is hosting a workshop series, "Networking for Success" from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. The series includes sessions on connecting, preparing for meeting, and more.

To register, visit www.sdchronicle.com.

The San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce's 2009 Annual Dinner is being held Tuesday, at 5:45 p.m. View the event will feature an awards ceremony and induction of the 2009 board of directors. To register, visit sdchamber.org and click on "138th Annual Dinner."
A R O U N D  T O W N

Around Town is a weekly calendar of business-related events. Deadline for calendar items is three weeks in advance. Mail them to: Around Town, San Diego Union-Tribune, P.O. Box 120191, San Diego, CA 92112-0191 or e-mail them to financial@uniontrib.com.

T O M O R R O W
• "Where's the money? Options for financing your business in today's economy," 8 to 11 a.m., National University South Building, Room 123, 1255 N. Torrey Pines Road, San Diego. Sponsor: Connect. Cost: $45 pre-registered, $55 at the door. Information: (858) 964-1312.

T H U R S D A Y
• "Hispanic Chamber of Commerce New Year's Mixer," 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., Seaduck Hotel, 1047 5th Ave., San Diego. Sponsor: San Diego County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. Cost: $60 members with RSVP, $30 non-members with RSVP, $25 without RSVP. Information: (619) 702-0790.
OTHER EVENTS

TUESDAY, JAN 27 - LUNCHEON
Rose Club Luncheon
Today's luncheon features speaker Alan Chin, Associate Professor of Economics with the University of San Diego, presenting on the topic of the National and Local Economic Outlook for 2009. Organization: Asian Business Association of San Diego Information: (858) 277-2822 www.abasd.org Cost: $25.00 - $30.00 When: Hours: 11:45 AM - 1:30 PM Where: Hall of Champions, 2131 Pan American Plaza, Balboa Park, San Diego

TUESDAY, JAN 27 - MEETING
Open Board Meeting
Join us to learn the California Center for the Arts, Escondido's agenda for 2009. Organization: California Center for the Arts, Escondido Information: (800) 988-4253 www.artcenter.org Cost: No Details Available When: Starts: 2:00 PM Where: The Escondido Room, 340 N. Escondido Blvd., Escondido

TUESDAY, JAN 27 - DINNER
138TH ANNUAL DINNER
This annual dinner will feature an awards ceremony and the induction of the Chamber's 2009 Board of Directors and 2009 Chairman of the Board, Ben Haddad of California Strategies. Organization: San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce Information: www.sdchamber-members.org Cost: $160.00 When: Hours: 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Where: Town & Country Convention Center, 600 Hotel Circle N., San Diego, 92108, Venue Phone - (800) 864-2608

WEDNESDAY, JAN 28 - FORUM
WHAT TO EXPECT IN 2009
Take advantage of this prime opportunity to visit with family business advisors and get your questions answered to be ready for the new year. Organization: University of San Diego Information: (619) 260-7699 www.sandiego.edu Cost: No Details Available When: Hours: 7:30 AM - 10:30 AM Where: USD - Douglas F. Manchester Conference Center, 5598 Alcala Park, San Diego
TUESDAY, JAN 27 - LUNCHEON
RICE CLUB/LUNCHEON
Today's luncheon features speaker Alan Gin, Assistant Professor of Economics with the University of San Diego, presenting on the topic of the National and Local Economic Outlook for 2009. Organization: Asian Business Association of San Diego Information: (619) 277-2822
www.asbasd.org Cost: $25.00 - $30.00 When: Hours: 11:45 AM - 1:30 PM Where: Hall of Champions, 2131 Pan American Plaza, Balboa Park, San Diego

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ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Alan Gin, associate professor of economics at USD and author of the USD Index of Leading Economic Indicators for San Diego County, will talk on the national and local economic outlook for 2009 at a Jan. 27 program sponsored by the Asian Business Association of San Diego. The event will be held in the San Diego Hall of Champions in Balboa Park. Networking and buffet are from noon to 1 p.m. and the program is from 1 to 1:30 p.m. The cost is $25 for members and $30 for nonmembers. Online registration deadline is Jan. 23. To register online, visit http://www.abasd.org/eventsFilter.php?id=280. For more information, call Erica Oyama at (858) 277-2822.
Jan. 16

The San Diego Economic Roundtable, 9:30 a.m. – Noon, registration and continental breakfast.
Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace Studies & Justice at the University of San Diego, 5998 Alcala Park, Attendance is free. To guarantee a seat, reserve your spot online before January 6 at www.sdcourty.ca.gov/fg3/sdentreg 09.html or call (619) 531-5413. The San Diego County Economic Roundtable is the region's longest running economic forecasting event providing insight into changing market conditions and new economic realities. For directions to the venue and parking information visit: https://peace.sandiego.edu/About/directions.html. For questions contact: christopher.heiserman@sdcounty.ca.gov or (619) 531-5413.
The Center for Wealth & Legacy Studies and the Burnham-Moores Center for Real Estate at the University of San Diego co-host a seminar on "Wealth and Real Estate in the Local Economy." The event will be held Wednesday from 7:30-10:30 a.m. To register online, visit wealthlegacycenter.org.
Horton takes helm

On the Agenda
by Rhonda Grider

Business takes a break to celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day and the start of a new proverbial sports season, pick up for the remainder of the week.

Several local organizations celebrate Inauguration Day with a gala on Tuesday commemorating the accomplishments of African-Americans. The 6-10 p.m. event will include a buffet, dancing, entertainment and broadcast from the Urban League at 619-266-6297, or visit connectsd.org for further details.

The San Diego Architectural Foundation enjoys its first Pecha Kucha Night, based on the Japanese term for "conversations" or "chit-chat." Designers are invited to meet at 8 p.m., with presentations starting at 8:20 p.m., to network and showcase their work. For more information, visit adarchitecture.org or e-mail FKN@darchitecture.org.

The San Diego Society for Human Resource Management presents Law Day on Wednesday from 7:30-10:30 a.m. to register online, visit sdhrm.org.

The Center for Urban Policy Research (CUPR) at San Diego State University is launching a new forum called "Urban Seminars" on the topic of "City of San Diego: An Urban Center for Growth & Innovation." The series will include a mix of speakers from the public, private and non-profit sectors, as well as a social networking event.

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BIABuilder
January / February 2009

TIM GODFREY, HORACE HOGAN, AND SU- SAN ERADATION, OF BREHM COMMUNITIES ACCEPTED NUMEROUS AWARDS FROM WILLIAM GORDON, SENIOR ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE AT THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GAS CO, FOR BEING ONE OF THE AREA'S FIRST HOMEBUILDERS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ADVANCED HOME PROGRAM.

BREHM COMMUNITIES was recognized by the Southern California Gas Co. for its effort to reduce the carbon footprint of Brehm homes, and for "going above and beyond state requirements." Brehm received the Advanced Home Program Award for reducing energy consumption of heating and air conditioning systems in the homes at Woodmoor in Wildomar, and SilverSage, HighView, and Rockridge at Lake Hills Reserve in Riverside.

BROOKFIELD HOMES opened the WindingOaks Recreation Center in Santa Ynez in October. This 55 million, three-acre facility is part of the WindingWalk community in Chula Vista, which is a development by Brookfield San Diego Builders, Inc. and Shea Homes. Brookfield also offered buyers a "six-figure discount" on purchases before the end of 2008 at its three new neighborhoods at Monarch elk Ranch in Winchester. These include Ironwood, Veranda and Acacia, which were discounted more than $100,000. November, the company held closed a 60% net sales for 2008, 11 of them in October. President Steve Doyle also launched the blog on www.expertsoninhomes.com.

BUNNELL-MOORES CENTER FOR REAL ESTATE (UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO) offers a multi-year program in real estate providing the skills necessary to compete for real estate careers at the middle- to upper-management levels or to become real estate entrepreneurs. There is a full-time cohort-based program completed in 11 months, or a part-time program, which is completed in 23 months. Are you looking for a competitive advantage in the current real estate market? Visit www.realrealestate.com or call 619-260-4872.

CAVIGNAC & ASSOCIATES, a Las Vegas-based risk management and commercial insurance brokerage firm, hired Lisa Hirsh as an account manager. Hirsh has 24 years of accounting experience, and previously served as president of Contractor Software Corporation. The company was also recognized by the U.S. Marine Corps for its donation of $1,000 to the San Diego Nice Guyz Victory Fund for Operation Caregiver, an effort that supports wounded martens, sailors, soldiers and their families.

CIELO VILLAGE announced the opening of Decanter, a California seasonal cuisine eatery owned by Tyson Knoch. The restaurant has a 1,000-s.f. outdoor patio and offers 200 wines by the glass. The Village also announced the future arrival of Harvest Ranch Market, scheduled to open in early 2009. For more information, www.cielovillage.com
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5
USD ARCHITECT’S PERSPECTIVE COURSE

Learn about the architect’s perspective of site planning and building design in “Community and Building Design,” a University of San Diego course that will emphasize mixed-use developments and other alternatives to urban sprawl.

- Tuesdays, Feb. 3 through Feb 24, 6 to 9 p.m.
- Douglas F. Manchester Executive Conference Center, USD Campus, in San Diego
- Cost: $450
- Visit www.sandiego.edu/ce
USD REAL ESTATE LEGALITIES COURSE

The University of San Diego's "Legal Aspects of Real Estate" course will provide an overview of the legalities behind acquiring, developing, and operating commercial projects. Students will learn how to identify legal risks and mitigate them.

- Tuesdays, Feb. 3 through Feb. 24, 6 to 9 p.m.
- Douglas F. Manchester Executive Conference Center, USD Campus, in San Diego
- Cost: $450
- Visit www.sandiego.edu/ce
REAL ESTATE CALENDAR

FEATURED EVENTS
WEDNESDAY, JAN 28 - SEMINAR
STRATEGIES & SOLUTIONS FOR 2009
Learn "Insider Secrets" you should know before you buy real estate. Find out how to find the deals with foreclosures, short sales, trustee sales, bank-owned (rao) and for sale by owners (fsbos). Join Vikki Kuick, Real Estate Investor and Realtor, Gary Laturno, Attorney, Real Estate Investor, Broker, other real estate experts will also contribute. Organization: Chicago Title Information: Gary Laturno (619) 741-9662 garylaturno@cox.net Cost: $10.00 When: Starts: 5:30 PM Where: Chicago Title, 2365 Northside Drive, 6th Floor, San Diego, 92108, Venue Phone: (800)4484267

WEDNESDAY, JAN 14 - CLASSES
COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT
This course provides an overview of every aspect of commercial real estate, from property inspection through follow-through after the property is sold. Organization: CCIM San Diego Information: Helen Bloomfield (858) 366-0379 cmcdsan@san.rr.com Cost: No Details Available When: Starts: 7:30 AM Where: Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice, USD, 5998 Alcala Park, San Diego, 92110, Venue Phone: (619) 260-7509

WEDNESDAY, JAN 10 - MEETING
FINANCE & REAL ESTATE MEETING
Come hear Jeff Isaac, the "Lawyer in Blue Jeans," and his down-to-earth, witty perspective about legal issues and current events. Organization: Alpine Chamber of Commerce Information: (619) 445-2722 info@alpinechamber.com Cost: No Details Available When: Starts: 6:30 PM Where: Fuller Hall, 2225 W. Victoria Dr., Alpine

THURSDAY, JAN 15 - CLASSES
URBAN DEVELOPMENT
This course will give you the tools necessary to be a successful real estate professional, including investing, property management, development, lending and more. Organization: University of San Diego Information: (619) 260-7699 www.sandiego.edu Cost: No Details Available Where: University of San Diego, 5998 Alcala Park, San Diego

Calendar

Continued from Page 1B

Issues and current events. Organization: Alpine Chamber of Commerce Information: (619) 445-2722 info@alpinechamber.com Cost: No Details Available When: Starts: 6:30 PM Where: Fuller Hall, 2225 W. Victoria Dr., Alpine

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TUESDAY, FEB 10 - CLASSES
LEGAL ASPECTS OF REAL ESTATE
This course will provide an overview of all legal aspects of acquiring, developing and operating commercial projects. Students will learn how to identify legal and business risks and more. Organization: UCSD Information: www.ucsd.edu Cost: No Details Available When: Hours:
00 PM - 9:00 PM Where: Manchester Executive Conference Center, SDS, 5998 Alcala Park, San Diego
OTHER EVENTS

THURSDAY, JAN 29 - CLASSES

URBAN DEVELOPMENT
This course will give you the tools necessary to be a successful real estate professional, including investing, property management, development, lending and more. Organization: University of San Diego Information: (619) 260-7699 www.sandiego.edu Cost: No Details Available Where: University of San Diego, 5999 Alcala Park, San Diego

THURSDAY, JAN 29 - PRESENTATION

ANNUAL REAL ESTATE TRENDS FORECAST
Don't miss an opportunity to hear one of the country's most influential economists, Joseph Quinlan, speak about the trends for real estate in San Diego in 2009. Organization: CREW San Diego Information: crew@crewnetwork.org Cost: $35.00- $85.00 When: Hours: 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM Where: Sheraton La Jolla, 3250 Holiday Court, La Jolla

SATURDAY, JAN 31 - SEMINAR

OPTIONS TO AVOID FORECLOSURE
Join us as we offer free advice on loan modifications, short sales, federal and state programs, bankruptcy and foreclosure scams. There is hope for homeowners! Organization: Laura & KicK Realty Cost: No Cost When: Starts: 10:30 AM Where: Chula Vista Public Library, 366 F St., Chula Vista

SATURDAY, JAN 31 - SEMINAR

HOW TO BUY A FORECLOSURE IN SAN DIEGO
- Fantasy vs Reality: Discover the truth about foreclosures/REOs. Attend this seminar and discover the truth for yourself! Organization: Gary Kent Homes & Estates Information: Gary Kent (858) 457-2900 www.garykent.com Cost: No Details Available When: Hours: 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Where: University City UTC Mall, 4545 La Jolla Village Dr, San Diego

TUESDAY, FEB 3 - CLASSES

LEGAL ASPECTS OF REAL ESTATE
This course will provide an overview of all legal aspects of acquiring, developing and operating commercial projects. Students will learn how to identify legal and business risks and more. Organization: UCSD Information: www.ucsd.edu Cost: No Details Available When: Hours: 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM Where: Manchester Executive Conference Center, USD, 5999 Alcala Park, San Diego

TUESDAY, FEB 17 - SEMINAR

UNDERSTANDING WRITTEN CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS
This continuing education seminar is designed for construction industry newcomers or anyone interested in learning more about written construction documents. Organization: Construction Specifications Institute (CSI) Information: (619) 401-6733, (619) 401-6733 www.csdcs.com Cost: $395.00- $100.00 When: Hours: 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM Where: Handlery Hotel, 950 Hotel Circle N., San Diego, 92108

WEDNESDAY, FEB 18 - CONFERENCES

13TH ANNUAL REAL ESTATE CONFERENCE
Make your reservations today to join us to learn about the national and international perspective on Real Estate in 2009 and more. Organization: Burnham Moore Center for Real Estate (USD) Information: Jodi Waterhouse (619)260-4231 jpw@sandiego.edu Cost: $95.00 When: Hours: 7:30 AM - 12:00 PM Where: San Diego Marriott Hotel & Marina, 333 W. Harbor Drive, San Diego, 92101
# Real Estate Calendar

## Featured Events

**Wednesday, Jan 28 - Seminar**

**Topics & Solutions for 2009**

Learn "Insider Secrets" you should know before you buy real estate. Find out how to find the deals with foreclosures, short sales, trustee sales, bank-owned (reos) and for sale by owners (fsbos). Join Vikki Kuck, Real Estate Investor and Realtor, Gary Latumo, Attorney, Real Estate Investor, Broker, other real estate experts will also contribute. **Organization:** Chicago Title.

**Information:** Gary Latumo (619) 741-9652 garylatumo@cox.net **Cost:** $10.00

**When:** Starts: 5:30 PM **Where:** Chicago Title, 2385 Northside Drive, 6th Floor, San Diego, 92108, Venue Phone - (800)448-4267

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**Thursday, Jan 29 - Presentation**

**Annual Real Estate Trends Forecast**

Don't miss an opportunity to hear one of the country's most influential economists, Joseph Quinlan, speak about the trends for real estate in San Diego in 2009. **Organization:** CREW San Diego Information: crewsd@crewnetwork.org **Cost:** $35.00 - $65.00 **When:** Hours: 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM **Where:** Sheraton La Jolla, 3299 Holiday Court, La Jolla

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**Other Events**

**Thursday, Jan 22 - Forum**

**Commercial Real Estate Investment 2009**

Former California Governor, US Senator and Mayor of San Diego Pete Wilson will be our keynote speaker. **Organization:** CCIM, San Diego Chapter Information: (619) 369-0379 ccim@sanuc.com **Cost:** $65.00 - $100.00 **When:** Starts: 11:30 AM **Where:** Estancia La Jolla, 9700 N. Torrey Pines Road, La Jolla, 92037

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**Thursday, Jan 22 - Classes**

**Urban Development**

This course will give you the tools necessary to be a successful real estate professional, including investing, property management, development, lend- ing and more. **Organization:** University of San Diego Information: (619) 260-7389 www.sandiego.edu **Cost:** No Details Available **Where:** University of San Diego, 5998 Alcala Park, San Diego

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**Tuesday, Feb 3 - Classes**

**Legal Aspects of Real Estate**

This course will provide an overview of all legal aspects of acquiring, developing and operating commercial projects. Students will learn how to identify legal and business risks and more. **Organization:** UCSD Information: www.ucsd.edu **Cost:** No Details Available **When:** Hours: 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM **Where:** Manchester Executive Conference Center, USD, 5998 Alcala Park, San Diego

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A complete listing of the Construction Calendar is available at San Diego Source — www.sddt.com/realestate. Send notices about upcoming events to robin.scott@sddt.com for a free listing.

—Compiled by Robin Scott
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
OTHER EVENTS

THURSDAY, JAN 8 - CLASSES
URBAN DEVELOPMENT
This course will give you the tools necessary to be an estate professional, including investing, property management, development, lending and more. Other Dates: Thursday, Jan 15 Organizing: CCIM San Diego Information: Helen Bloomfield (619) 366-0379 ccimsd@san.rr.com Cost: No Details Available Where: Starts: 7:30 AM Where: Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice, USD, 6598 Alcala Park, San Diego, 92110, Venue Phone - (813) 260-7609

THURSDAY, JAN 15 - MEETING
FINANCE & REAL ESTATE MEETING
Come hear Jeff Isaac, the “Lawyer in Blue Jeans,” and his down-to-earth, witty perspective about legal issues and current events. Organization: Alpine Chamber of Commerce Information: (619) 446-2722 info@alpinechamber.com Cost: No Details Available When: Starts: 6:30 PM Where: Fuller Hall, 2226 W. Victoria Dr., Alpine

THURSDAY, JAN 22 - FORUM
COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT 2009
Former California Governor, US Senator and Mayor of San Diego Pete Wilson will be our keynote speaker. Organization: CCIM, San Diego Chapter Information: (858) 366-0379 ccimsd@san.rr.com Cost: $85.00-$100.00 When: Starts: 11:30 AM Where: Estancia La Jolla, 9700 N. Torrey Pines Road, La Jolla, 92037

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County roundtable crowns slew of forecasting events

On the Agenda
By Rebecca Go

SAN DIEGO — Events pick back up this week as companies and organizations kick off 2009 with a forward-looking attitude. San Diego County picks up its crystal ball Friday with its 26th annual Economic Roundtable. Local experts in real estate, development, finance and economics discuss what the region can expect in the year ahead.

The Alpine Chamber of Commerce discusses the drought during a Tuesday breakfast from 7:15-8:30 a.m. with speaker Mike Uhrhammer of Public Data. For more information, visit alpine-chamber.com.

The Urban Land Institute San Diego-Tijuana presents its Infrastructure Report on Tuesday at 7:30 a.m., with the featured speakers planning to discuss how San Diego can build its way out of a recession. For more information, visit uliad.org.

The Building Owners and Managers Association awards Chula Vista Mayor Cheryl Cox with the title of Public Official of the Year at its Tuesday luncheon starting at noon. Event registration starts at 11:30 a.m. To register, visit boandma.org.

DIA Piper San Diego office hosts a discussion on Tuesday from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on venture capital investing in 2009 and the investment outlook for the year ahead. To register, visit sdpsd.com and click on "Events," or call (619) 699-2760.

Point Loma Nazarene University hosts an open house Tuesday from 5-8:45 p.m. to showcase the Permanian Executive Library for MIBAs in Mission Valley. For more information, call (619) 849-2664.

The International Council of Shopping Centers focuses on the future of San Diego's retail market Wednesday with its economic forecast. The 7:30-9 a.m. program includes an expert panel and breakfast. To register online, icsc.org and click on "Events and Programs." The CCIM Institute offers a course on commercial real estate investment analysis at the University of San Diego on Wednesday and Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Learn how to perform basic mortgage calculations and compare other data. To register, visit chapters.ccim.com/landings and click on "CCIM Courses."

The San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce holds its monthly Business After Five Mixer on Wednesday from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at the Handlery Network with more than 300 chamber members over drinks and hors d'oeuvres. Register at sdchamber.org.

The Engineering & General Contractors Association brings "In Talks: host Roger Hedgecock to speak" at its membership meeting Wednesday starting at 6:30 p.m. The event also includes the annual awards and the installation of officers and directors. For more information, visit egoa.org.

San Diego Mayor Jerry Sanders delivers the State of the City address Wednesday start-
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 the national economy, consumer confidence, building permits and help wanted advertising) of the San Diego economy as tracked by Alan C. Gin, an urban economics professor at the University of San Diego. The highest monthly rate is 129.4 in November 2007.
School of Law
USD School of Law unveils new Center on Intellectual Property Law and Markets

University of San Diego School of Law has launched a new Center on Intellectual Property Law and Markets. The center will train students in the fundamentals of intellectual property laws and the ways clients use IP rights to compete in real-world markets. It will also provide a forum where lawyers, clients, judges and policymakers can share ideas about IP doctrines and policies.

The center will be intellectually rigorous and intensely practical, according to USD School of Law Dean Kevin Cole. "It's not enough to train students in theory and doctrine," he explained. "Students need to know how patent, copyright, trademark and trade-secret laws work, and why they work as they do; but it's just as important that they understand how clients use these rights to develop and run businesses."

USD's focus on the role of IP rights in markets will distinguish it from other, more traditional IP centers. "Take open-source software, for example," said David McGowan, the Lyle L. Jones Professor of Innovation and Competition Law at the law school, who will head the center. "Understanding how the licenses work presents some nifty copyright issues in the abstract, and we'll teach those. But our students will also learn how different firms use open-source projects as a complement to a consulting business model or a hardware business model."

Providing opportunities for students and community members to engage current IP policy issues, the center's policy workshops will focus on the intersection between economic analysis and IP policy.

"Economic analysis is as central to IP policy now as it has been to antitrust law for the past 30 years. This means scholars who study law and economics can add value to the work of lawyers and clients," McGowan said. "The people you will see at our workshops will be the people you might see as experts or amicus counsel."

The Center on IP Law and Markets' first workshop, to be held in March, will focus on the question whether current patent doctrine imposes excessive royalties on defendants whose products may be the subject of multiple patents.

"It's called the royalty-stacking debate," McGowan said. "It raises questions such as whether courts should prefer damages to injunctions if infringement is found and, if so, how the damages should be calculated. Those are the types of questions that determine what your patents are worth once you get them."

The royalty-stacking program will feature scholars from Harvard, Stanford, Chicago and other leading universities as well as lawyers who work in the industries affected by this issue. Future programs will focus on such issues as reverse-payment settlements in pharmaceutical cases, antitrust and IP policy regarding conduct in standard-setting organizations, and inequitable conduct doctrine.

For more information about the Center on Intellectual Property Law and Markets, contact Professor David McGowan at dmcgowan@sandiego.edu.
The Federal Bailout Hasn't Fixed Bank of America

Bank of America's hasty Merrill takeover has put its future—and the federal bailout program—in question

By David Henry, Matthew Goldstein and Roben Farzad

Bank of America's (BAC) spectacular fall from grace has driven home two key points. First, even lenders that seem relatively safe from the credit storm can find ways to steer right into it, resulting in multibillion-dollar losses and brutal share sell-offs. Second, Washington's $138 billion rescue package of the Charlotte lender, cobbled together on the fly, is failing.

As the Obama Administration moves to change strategy to stabilize the banks, it needs to think bigger. The bailout, as it's currently structured, has amounted to little more than a temporary tonic to help BofA with its controversial acquisition of brokerage giant Merrill Lynch. "It's a Band-Aid," Leslie Rahi, president of consulting firm Risk Advisory, says of the government's remedy for ailing banks. "It's a camouflage, as opposed to a real remedy for ailing banks.

For all the weekend meetings on Capitol Hill to craft the rescue packages, Washington still hasn't addressed the underlying problem: Billions of dollars of toxic securities and loans languish on banks' balance sheets. "It's like a cancer that you have to cut out," says Frank Partnoy, a law professor at the University of San Diego. The surgery won't be cheap. BofA will need another $80 billion to withstand coming losses and build up a healthy amount of capital, estimates Paul J. Miller Jr., an analyst at research firm FBR Capital Markets (FBCM).

To be sure, no bailout could possibly solve all of the banks' problems, many of them self-inflicted. CEO Kenneth D. Lewis, under fire from angry shareholders, probably wouldn't be in this mess if he hadn't agreed to buy Merrill just after BofA's $4.2 billion purchase of mortgage lender Countrywide Financial and its $21 billion acquisition of banking chain LaSalle Bank. From the outset there was trepidation among BofA's rank and file about the Merrill purchase, particularly since the deal was forged during the same mid-September weekend that Lehman Brothers was filing for bankruptcy. One BofA derivatives expert, fresh off a 14-hour day, was summoned to a law office at 2 a.m. to inspect Merrill's numbers. In all, BofA had just 24 hours to check the books and make a decision. "It would take much more time than we were given to value [Merrill's illiquid] assets," says a senior BofA employee who works closely with management.

History shows that BofA's diligence was less than what was due. Lewis' advisers inside and outside the company expressed doubts about the Merrill deal, then valued at $50 billion—far more than its $27 billion market value at the time. But Lewis was ultimately swayed by his director of corporate planning and strategy, Gregory L. Curl, the architect of previous transactions. By the time the deal closed, Merrill's market price was less than $20 billion. A BofA spokesman says the due diligence on the Merrill transaction was adequate, noting that losses grew dramatically in December because of "market phenomena."

Now the hastily arranged deal is laying bare a host of problems. Investors are growing impatient: Since October, shares of BofA have fallen by around 70%. And some insiders are losing faith in Lewis and his senior management team. Employees on the trading floor are riffing on Lewis' dictatorial style, referring to the CEO as Kim Jong II, the North Korean leader. On Jan. 28, BofA's directors issued a statement backing Lewis.

So far, the government's solution to the problems at BofA and Merrill has been to throw money at them. The U.S. promised the two banks $25 billion back in October. BofA also raised $10 billion from private investors. In November the Federal Reserve quietly bought about $3.3 billion of collateralized debt obligations from Merrill through an entity called Maiden Lane III.

But BofA and Merrill have been burning through the fresh capital. Despite a combined $18 billion loss in the fourth quarter, they paid out $2 billion in dividends to shareholders. Merrill doled out a reported $4 billion in employee bonuses. And BofA upped its stake in China Construction Bank by $7 billion, to $19 billion, in November—only to cut it two months later, by $2.5 billion. With the banks' capital cushion wearing thin, Lewis turned for more money to the government, which complied in January, giving the bank $20 billion and providing guarantees on $118 billion in assets.

The terms of that deal only exacerbate BofA's woes. Most of the government's cash came in exchange for preferred stock, a special...
type of equity that requires the bank to pay a hefty dividend to the owners. The Treasury did so to protect taxpayers, figuring the government would get at least some return on their money. The downside is that BofA will have to pay out $5 billion a year to the government, which owns $49 billion worth of the bank’s preferred equity. That’s cash the bank needs to rebuild its capital base, a critical step before it can even think about boosting its lending. The stopgaps prolong the healing process for BofA and the broader economy.

NOT QUITE SOLVENT?
Likewise, the loan guarantees may forestall the purging of bad assets and further delay a recovery. The government has forced BofA to cover the first $10 billion in losses on its $118 billion loan guarantee of the toxic assets—largely securities backed by corporate loans and commercial mortgages. The hefty deductible discourages the bank from cleansing its portfolio, which would mean taking more writedowns and raising more capital. Why so? It’s not unlike an auto insurance policy that has a $1,000 deductible. If there’s a car accident and the repair costs total $3,000, the owner must pay the first $1,000. An individual who lacks the money is likely to continue driving the clunker as long as possible.

More important, the guarantees don’t cover some $50 billion of problem assets, according to analyst Richard Ramsden of Goldman Sachs (GS). It excludes $92 billion of loans made by Countrywide, one of the largest suppliers of subprime mortgages to borrowers with poor credit. As the recession grinds on, analysts also expect more credit-card debt and business loans, particularly those to retailers, to rot at BofA.

With so many dubious assets on the bank’s balance sheet, there are growing concerns about whether it is effectively, if not technically, insolvent. At last count, Bank of America’s assets exceeded its liabilities by about $210 billion, or roughly 10%. A financial institution is considered insolvent when its assets don’t cover its liabilities—and a regulator can take over a bank even before that happens. “We are a very liquid bank,” says BofA spokesman Robert Stickler.

But there are questions on both sides of the ledger. A small decline in the price of the company’s assets could bust the bank. The liabilities may also be understated: The tally doesn’t include BofA’s obligations to preferred shareholders, an increasingly large group. Already, Wall Street is questioning whether BofA is actually worth the $210 billion on its books. The stock recently traded at 7.35, which puts the company’s value at roughly $47 billion.

Time is running out for BofA. Top talent is fleeing, not only legacy bankers from the commercial bank but also top Merrill brokers. Some employees are even volunteering for layoffs, so skeptical are they of the bank’s future. Now, critics inside and outside the company wonder if Lewis’ days are numbered. Says FBR’s Paul Miller: “If there are any other big surprises—another big loss—I think the wall of protection will crumble around Lewis.”

Regardless of Lewis’ future, one thing is certain: The government can no longer afford to take half-measures or move slowly to prop up BofA and other banks. The economic recovery is hanging in the balance.

With Mara Der Hovanesian.

Henry is a senior writer at BusinessWeek. Goldstein is a senior writer at BusinessWeek. BusinessWeek Senior Writer Farzad covers Wall Street and international finance.

Xerox Color. It makes business sense.
The collapse of the country’s biggest variety retail chain, Australian Discount Retail, illustrates the harsh conditions facing private equity operators and the tough stance banks are taking with highly leveraged operators as global banking falls apart.

ANZ, nabCapital and BOS International pulled the plug yesterday when the two private equity operators, Champ and Catalyst, were unwilling or unable to meet the banks’ demand for fresh equity.

It is understood that negotiations broke down because the gap between what the banks wanted and what the private equity operators were willing to inject was too great.

The day ended with the banks appointing receivers Ferrier Hodgson to sell ADR, minus its Chicken Feed brand, and pay back the $95 million loan. The main brands are Go-Lo, Crazy Clark’s and Sam’s Warehouse.

ADR joins the growing ranks of companies that will be closed, busted up, sold, or get new partners this year as the banks cover their backs in the face of deteriorating economic conditions.

It is no surprise. Credit cards and personal loan losses and corporate collapses are set to spiral in the next 12-24 months as credit markets remain difficult.

In commercial property alone, the major banks have clocked up a $114 billion exposure, suggesting that as commercial property values decline, the segment could be a major contributor to bank loan write-offs in the next two to three years.

But, even coupled with exposures to companies such as ABC Learning, Alco Finance Group, Babcock & Brown and Centro Properties, it’s small beer compared with what is going on globally.

As the big global banks kick off the reporting season with horrifying results, investors will get a glimpse at the true and still largely untold story of what is really ailing the world financial system: credit default swaps (CDS) and collateralised debt obligations (CDO).

Last week, the US Treasury said it would back $US118 billion of of Bank of America’s toxic assets, $US83 billion of which were credit default swaps.

Citigroup also has some big exposures.

This was followed by the Royal Bank of Scotland’s revelations that part of its horror pound stg. 28 billion ($60 billion) loss was due to the write-down of US CDO exposures and monoline exposures.

Synthetic CDOs are a type of asset-backed security constructed from a portfolio of fixed-income assets. The investment is lost if and when nine companies out of a list of 100 default on their debt.

For the issuers that sold them, they are insurance contracts -- they get paid when there are nine defaults from the list -- and for the investors who bought them, they are ticking time-bombs as one by one the companies fall over.

In Australia, local councils, charities and banks are exposed to CDOs one way or another, but nowhere near the extent of their overseas counterparts.

The two banks with the biggest exposures are ANZ Bank and National Australia Bank, both of which have made write-downs in the past few months.

In its latest results at September 30, ANZ revealed that its mark to market exposure to these products was $US1.35 billion, and it had written off $US425 million.

As Royal Bank of Scotland can attest, the credit markets in November and December continued to deteriorate, and it will be interesting to see what impact this will have on ANZ’s mark to market exposure.
In the case of NAB, it has a $1.6 billion synthetic CDO exposure, against which it hedged a few months ago, coupled with a $4.5 billion corporate CDO with exposure to British commercial property assets. Time will tell how these fare.

The reality is nobody, not even the banks, know the repercussions of their exposure, or where it will end.

The latest Reserve Bank Bulletin reveals that the total off-balance sheet business of our banks has gone from $13.79 trillion at the end of June 2008 to $14.21 trillion at the end of Sept 2008. This is an increase of $420 billion. This represents a rate increase of 3 per cent for the quarter, or, an annualised rate of 12 per cent. In the same time the net equity of banks remained unchanged at $131 billion, even though both assets and liabilities increased by $200 billion each.

On the face of it, Australia came to the CDS and CDO party late and so will be relatively unscathed, but the global problems will wreak havoc on everyone.

Reports in the past few days from Citigroup, Bank of America and Royal Bank of Scotland, coupled with government bailouts and class actions, will mark what is expected to be an ugly time for the financial system.

Frank Partnoy, professor of law and finance at the University of San Diego, summed the situation in the Financial Times: "Although sophisticated investors recognised early on that this crisis was about solvency, not liquidity, and that the liquidity crunch arose from fear that banks could not repay their obligations, others came to this view more slowly. The last, as usual, were the credit rating agencies.

On Friday, they finally rose to the pulpit to give Citigroup and Bank of America an overdue eulogy, cutting their ratings. Just as their last-minute downgrades of Enron nailed its coffin, these also might be the end, at least for Citigroup."

He goes on to say that government intervention, like modern healthcare, can prolong the inevitable, but only for so long. "Soon we will bury more banks. Their children will survive but they will not. The massive government intervention of recent months merely provides a financial hospice, to give us time to say goodbye."

In Australia, our version of government intervention is guaranteeing bank debt and deposits. The banks have lapped it up, raising $45 billion in the past few weeks.

But the problems are far from over. At the root of it all, nobody trusts the banks any more -- not even themselves.

Their lack of transparency and slowness to divulge market-sensitive information has fostered a situation where people are worried about what else is lurking on or off their balance sheets.

This fear of the unknown and lack of faith in the banking system goes a long way to explaining why our banks were decimated on the equities market yesterday, with the worst hit, NAB and ANZ, falling 5.4 per cent and 5.1 per cent respectively, on the basis that they have the biggest exposure to these financial conduits. In the past year, their share prices have almost halved.

The mess that is the global financial crisis has a long way to play out and until it does, the banks will be in the firing line. In a bid to preserve their balance sheets, they will do all they can to protect themselves and their shareholders.

If that means winding up a company, that will be done.
Until now, the desperate machinations by central bankers, regulators, politicians, and industry officials have been characterized as "bailouts" and "rescues." Yet the realities among us know that none of those terms accurately describes what is going on.

However, in a commentary for the Financial Times, "Prepare to Bury the Dead: Wounded Big Banks," Frank Parnoy, a professor at the University of San Diego and author of the forthcoming book, The Match King: Ivar Kreuger and the Financial Scandal of the Century, offers up an epitaph that seems far more fitting.

Friday's bad news from Citigroup and Bank of America confirmed what many experts have long suspected: the subprime losses of 2007 were a bullet that fatally wounded the banks. Many lost so much money on toxic subprime mortgage-related derivatives that they have been essentially insolvent for more than a year. It has taken so long for these banks to fall only because of government support and some investors' bottomless capacity for denial.

Consider Friday's eye-popping figures. Bank of America recorded a $15.3bn (£10.4bn, €11.5bn) loss at Merrill Lynch, which it owns. Citigroup announced a total 2008 loss of $18.7bn, nearly half of which came from the fourth quarter. Even in the context of this crisis, these losses are epic.

At the same time, the US Treasury said it would inject $20bn into Bank of America and would backstop losses on $118bn of its assets. The government also sweetened its promise to support nearly triple that amount of assets at Citigroup by pledging loans of roughly $250bn from the Federal Reserve. These efforts are the financial equivalent of putting feeding tubes into dying patients.

A perusal of Citigroup's most recent disclosures reveals that it could not survive without government life support. The losses are just the beginning. Revenues overall are down by one-third compared with 2007. Principal transactions, which include head-spinning "variable interest entity" and other off-balance-sheet deals, declined 84 per cent last year. Bank of America's 2008 numbers were not as bad but, even excluding the Merrill losses, earnings were down by nearly $2bn.

Even worse, costs are increasing. Operating expenses were higher at both banks in 2008 than in 2007. Although commentators have focused on the bonuses of senior executives, compensation expenses overall at both banks were nearly as high last year as in 2007. Citigroup paid employees $32bn; Bank of America paid $18bn.
Planning a Start-Up? Help and Advice Abound

By KELLY K. SPORS

Laid off in the recession and thinking of starting a business? Or just tired of working for someone else?

It's hard to start a business alone. Aspiring entrepreneurs must tackle an onslaught of questions like what and where to sell, how to effectively market their product or service, how to structure their business -- even whether going solo is the best option for them.

There's no shortage of advice and resources for fledgling entrepreneurs. In fact, the biggest problem is figuring out whom to trust and what resources will be most useful. That involves scouting out what's available and judging what is worth pursuing. Yes, it's time-consuming. But one good piece of advice or personal connection can make or break your chance at success.

Here's a look at some possible places for new entrepreneurs to turn.

Development Centers

Partially funded by the federal government, Small Business Development Centers provide free counseling and help on a full range of issues such as business planning, financing and site location. There are about 900 SBDCs, spread across all 50 states.

The centers employ full-time business counselors, typically former entrepreneurs or M.B.A. graduates, who are well-networked and meet one-on-one with entrepreneurs or direct them to other services and professionals that can help, says Don Wilson of the Association of Small Business Development Centers in Burke, Va.

"Sometimes the most valuable service we offer is telling someone their idea isn't going to work," he says.

Many SBDCs host courses, such as FastTrac, an entrepreneurship exploration and planning program developed by the Kauffman Foundation, an entrepreneurship research and advocacy organization. Some SBDCs partner with local business incubators that offer free and low-cost office space and resources.

To find the nearest SBDC, go to asbdc-us.org on the Web.

Score

Need a business mentor with very specific experience or expertise? You might try Score, a nonprofit group of volunteer business executives who counsel entrepreneurs; it's loosely affiliated with the Small Business Administration.

There are about 11,000 Score volunteers nationwide and 389 offices. The volunteers mentor entrepreneurs long-term or just help with a specific question or need. People who don't live near a Score chapter can pose questions to a
counselor via email at Score.org.

A search tool on the homepage lets users find counselors in their geographic area or with a specific area of expertise. You can read detailed descriptions of the counselors' professional backgrounds to pick one that suits your needs.

**Campus Help**

Universities are eager to give students real-world experience in a host of entrepreneurial exercises, including feasibility analysis, business planning and market research. They do so by providing free and low-cost help to local entrepreneurs.

For instance, law students at the University of San Diego advise local businesses pro bono on legal matters such as business incorporation and getting licenses and permits. For $500 to $1,500, student teams at St. Louis University will conduct a feasibility analysis or help write a business plan. Local entrepreneurs also can get their product or service ideas evaluated in the school’s Idea to Product Competition.

Call your local universities’ entrepreneurship programs or business schools, or check their Web sites, to see what services they offer local businesses.

**Other Entrepreneurs**

An often-overlooked resource for new entrepreneurs is other successful business owners in their fields. Someone looking to start a business should compile a list of the five “smartest” minds in the industry and try to meet with those people face-to-face, says Bo Fishback, vice president of entrepreneurship for the Kauffman Foundation.

“If you think you’ve figured out a place where you can leverage some great value, go to talk to people in the space,” he says. These entrepreneurs -- assuming they’re willing to meet with you -- can answer questions about the industry and what it’s like running such a business. “The best things that come out of this meeting are introductions to other people who might be interested in helping you,” Mr. Fishback adds. “It’s a very self-directed kind of school.”

**Networking Groups**

Starting a business can be a lonely experience -- if you do it alone. Meeting other entrepreneurs who are in your town, or have similar experiences and problems, can be both therapeutic and educational.

Pretty much any city or small town in the U.S. has a Chamber of Commerce or other business group that hosts networking events, seminars and other resources for entrepreneurs. You also can find groups of business owners in your area on Web sites like MeetUp.com.

More and more business networking is actually taking place online. Though you might not form as close a relationship that way, you are more likely to find people in your industry to share experiences with.

Social-networking sites for start-ups include Sta.rtup.biz, StartupNation.com and Biznik.com. Other sites, such as MicroMentor.org, IdeaCrossing.org, PartnerUp.com and GoBigNetwork.com, can help match entrepreneurs with a business mentor, or even a potential investor.

Write to Kelly K. Spors at kelly.spors@wsj.com
Supreme Court Steps Closer to Repeal of Evidence Ruling

ADAM UPTAK
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WASHINGTON — In 1983, a young lawyer in the Reagan White House was hard at work on what he called in a memorandum "the campaign to amend or abolish the exclusionary rule" — the principle that evidence obtained by police misconduct cannot be used against a defendant.

The Reagan administration's attacks on the exclusionary rule — a barrage of speeches, opinion articles, litigation and proposed legislation — never gained much traction. But now that young lawyer, John G. Roberts Jr., is chief justice of the United States.

This month, Chief Justice Roberts, writing for the majority in Herring v. United States, a 5-to-4 decision, took a big step toward the goal he had discussed a quarter-century before. Taking aim at one of the towering legacies of the Warren Court, its landmark 1961 decision applying the exclusionary rule to the states, the chief justice's majority opinion established for the first time that unlawful police conduct should not require the suppression of evidence if all that was involved was isolated carelessness. That was a significant step in itself. More important yet, it suggested that the exclusionary rule itself might be at risk.

The Herring decision "jumped a firewall," said Kent Scheidegger, the general counsel of the Criminal Justice Legal Foundation, a victims' rights group. "I think Herring may be setting the stage for the Holy Grail," he wrote on the group's blog, referring to the overruling of Mapp v. Ohio, the 1961 Warren Court decision.

Justice Samuel A. Alito Jr. joined the Herring decision and has been a reliable vote for narrowing the protections afforded criminal defendants since he joined the court in 2006. In applying for a job in the Reagan Justice Department in 1985, he wrote that his interest in the law had been "motivated in large part by disagreement with Warren Court decisions, particularly in the areas of criminal procedure," religious freedom and voting rights.

Justice Alito replaced Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, who was considered a moderate in criminal procedure cases.

"With Alito's replacement of O'Connor," said Craig M. Bradley, a law professor at Indiana University, "suddenly now they have four votes for sure and possibly five for the elimination of the exclusionary rule."

The four certain votes, in the opinion of Professor Bradley and other legal scholars, are Chief Justice Roberts, Justice Alito, Justice Antonin Scalia and Justice Clarence Thomas, who is also an alumnus of the Reagan administration.

The fate of the rule seems to turn on the views of Justice Anthony M. Kennedy, who has sent mixed signals on the question. As in so many areas of the law, there are indications that the court's liberal and conservative wings are eagerly courting him. They are also no doubt looking for the case that, with Justice Kennedy's vote, will settle the issue once and for all.

The United States takes a distinctive approach to the exclusionary rule, requiring automatic suppression of physical evidence in some kinds of cases. That means, in theory at least, that relatively minor police misconduct can result in the suppression of conclusive evidence of terrible crimes.

Other nations balance the two interests case by case or rely on other ways to deter police wrongdoing directly, including professional discipline, civil lawsuits and criminal prosecution.

In Herring, Chief Justice Roberts seemed to be advocating those kinds of approaches. "To trigger the exclusionary rule," he wrote, "police conduct must be sufficiently deliberate that exclusion can meaningfully deter it, and sufficiently culpable that such deterrence is worth the price paid by the justice system."

That price, the chief justice wrote, "is, of course, letting guilty and possibly dangerous defendants go free."

The Herring decision can be read broadly or narrowly, and its fate in the lower courts is unclear. The conduct at issue in the case — in which an Alabama man, Bennie D. Herring, was arrested on officers' mistaken belief that he was subject to an outstanding arrest warrant — was sloppy recordkeeping in a police database rather than a mistake by an
officer on the scene. Since the misconduct at issue in Herring was, in the legal jargon, “attenuated from the arrest,” the decision may apply only to a limited number of cases.

But the balance of the opinion is studded with sweeping suggestions that all sorts of police carelessness should not require, in Chief Justice Roberts’s words, that juries be barred from “considering all the evidence.”

A broad reading of the decision by the lower courts, Professor Bradley said, means “the death of the exclusionary rule as a practical matter.”

In one of the first trial court decisions to interpret Herring, a federal judge in New Jersey took the broader view, refusing to suppress evidence obtained from computer hard drives under a search warrant based on false information supplied by a Secret Service agent. The agent had told the judge that DVDs found during an earlier search contained child pornography.

This was false: other law enforcement officials had reviewed the DVDs and had found no child pornography. The agent, who was leading the investigation, testified that he did not know of that review when he made his statement.

"This conduct," Judge Stanley R. Chesler wrote a week after Herring was decided, "while hardly qualifying as a model of efficient, careful and cooperative law enforcement, does not rise to the level of culpability that the Supreme Court held in Herring must be apparent for the exclusionary rule to serve its deterrent purpose and outweigh the cost of suppressing evidence."

Constitutional adjudication is not a science experiment, and it is often hard to say for sure what difference a change in personnel makes. In the case of the exclusionary rule, though, you can get pretty close.

On Jan. 9, 2006, just months after Chief Justice Roberts joined the court, the justices heard arguments in Hudson v. Michigan. The police in Detroit had violated the constitutional requirement that they knock and announce themselves before storming the home of Booker T. Hudson, and the question in the case was whether the drugs they found should be suppressed under the exclusionary rule.

Justice O’Connor, in her last weeks on the court while the Senate considered Justice Alito’s nomination, was almost certainly the swing vote, and she showed her cards.

"Is there no policy protecting the homeowner a little bit and the sanctity of the home from this immediate entry?" she asked a government lawyer, her tone sharp and flinty.

David A. Moran, who argued the case for Mr. Hudson, was feeling good after the argument. "I was pretty confident that I’d won," he said in a recent interview. "O’Connor had pretty clearly spoken on my side."

Three months later, the court called for reargument, signaling a 4-to-4 deadlock after Justice O’Connor’s departure. Justice Alito was on the court now, and the tenor of the second argument was entirely different.

Now Justice Stephen G. Breyer, who seemed to have been at work on a majority opinion in favor of Mr. Hudson, saw a looming catastrophe. The court, Justice Breyer said, was about to "let a kind of computer virus loose in the Fourth Amendment."

Justice Breyer had reason to be wary. When the 5-to-4 decision was announced in June, the court not only ruled that violations of the knock-and-announce rule do not require the suppression of evidence but also called into question the exclusionary rule itself.

In a law review article later that year, Mr. Moran went even further. "My 5-4 loss in Hudson v. Michigan," he wrote, "signals the end of the Fourth Amendment as we know it."

Justice Scalia, writing for the majority, said that much had changed since the Mapp decision in 1961. People whose rights were violated may now sue police officers, and police departments are more professional. In light of these factors, he wrote, "resort to the massive remedy of suppressing evidence of guilt is unjustified."

Justice Scalia cited the work of a criminologist, Samuel Walker, to support his point about increased police professionalism. Professor Walker responded with an opinion article in The Los Angeles Times saying that Justice Scalia had misrepresented his work. Better police work, Professor Walker said, was a consequence of the exclusionary rule rather than a reason to do away with it.

Justice Kennedy signed the majority decision, adopting Justice Scalia’s sweeping language. Oddly, though, he also wrote separately to say that "the continued operation of the exclusionary rule, as settled and defined by our precedents, is not in doubt."

Another important Warren Court decision on criminal procedure, Miranda v. Arizona, appears to remain secure.

Miranda, as anyone with a television set knows, protected a suspect's right to remain silent and the right to a lawyer by requiring a warning not found in the Constitution. The decision, like Mapp, was the subject of much criticism in the Reagan years.

But in a pragmatic 7-to-2 decision in 2000, the Rehnquist Court refused to revisit the issue. Miranda warnings, Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist wrote for the majority, had "become embedded in routine police practice" and had "become part of the national culture." Alito, Scalia and Thomas dissented.

Defenders of the exclusionary rule expressed a sigh of relief in November.

"From the point of view of those concerned about criminal procedure," said Yale Kamisar, a law professor at the University of San Diego, "they were saved by Barack Obama in the nick of time. If ever there was a court that was establishing the foundations for overthrowing the exclusionary rule, it was this one."

For now, said Pamela Karlan, a law professor at Stanford, "they don't have five votes to disavow the exclusionary rule by name."

At the same time, Professor Karlan said, "you are not going to see any dimension along which there is going to be an expansion of defendants' rights in this court."
Grand jury: Shift resources from children's home to delinquents

The Orange County grand jury recommended Tuesday that the county use up to half of Orangewood Children's Home to help rehabilitate juvenile delinquents.

The report also said reducing Orangewood's staff and making other cutbacks could save the county millions of dollars, but how the grand jury came to that estimate is unclear.

The number of abused, neglected or abandoned youth at Orangewood has dropped over the past few years while the number of staff has remained steady, according to the report.

Orangewood is capable of housing 236 youth, but the facility normally cares for less than 100.

"A reduction in the facilities and excess staffing of the Orangewood Children's Home will save substantial dollars without compromising its care for abused, abandoned or neglected children," the grand jury report says.

The grand jury recommended unused facilities at Orangewood be transferred from the Social Services Agency to the Probation Department, which manages the rehabilitation of delinquent youth. The details of the transfer and how the Probation Department would use the land are unclear.

The grand jury made a point of calling Orangewood a "luxury" facility for victimized children, adding that delinquent youth should receive equal treatment from the...
The Orangewood Children's Foundation was formed in 1981 to financially support the shelter for dependent children and the property was donated to the county in 1985.

"The home is really there for the children in these times of crisis and was really a gift from the community to the county," said Cal Winslow, the current chief executive of the Foundation. "To make a decision to use it in another way would certainly make a lot of those people ... concerned."

Contact the writer: 714-796-7024 or kkyle@ocregister.com

William Steiner, former director of Orangewood, said reducing the resources available to abused or neglected children could be a risky move in an economic recession.

"When you have unemployment pressures on families, the children sometime become the easiest targets," said Steiner, who now chairs the Orange County Juvenile Justice Commission.

Robert Fellmeth, director of the Children's Advocacy Institute at the University of San Diego, said the idea of taking resources away from dependent youth is "laughable."

"Dependent youth have done nothing wrong and the state is their parent," Fellmeth said. "They are strictly victims ... it's sensible that society feels compelled to invest a little more in these people."
As part of his solution to fix California's bleeding budget, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has proposed eliminating or merging a host of state boards and commissions in a scaled-down version of his unsuccessful plan in 2005 to streamline the state's bureaucracy.

The governor wants to create a Department of Energy to consolidate large state regulatory agencies, streamline information technology functions and dump a board overseeing landfills that has been widely criticized as a well-paid soft landing spot for politicians, including, most recently, former state Sen. Carole Migden of San Francisco.

Officials in Schwarzenegger's administration said the proposed changes would save $126 million the first year they are implemented and eliminate 371 jobs and 80 board positions. Meanwhile, Schwarzenegger continues to appoint people to high-paying jobs, including to the waste-management board he wants to eliminate.

Much of his plan for reducing bureaucracy, which administration officials say will be expanded, targets professional boards and commissions in the Department of Consumer Affairs that are funded by licensing fees and not the general fund.

Critics of the governor's plan say some of the proposed changes are poorly conceived and would do nothing to close the $42 billion gap in the state's general fund budget (which includes $2 billion in reserves) through June 2010.

"These proposals do nothing to help the general fund. Nothing," said Julianne D'Angelo Fellmeth of the Center for Public Interest Law at the University of San Diego, who has studied state regulatory agencies for nearly three decades.

She said merging some boards, such as a proposal to merge the Professional Fiduciaries Board with the Board of Accountancy, could result in less oversight for consumers. The administration has released few details on what a consolidation would look like, and Fellmeth said "they haven't made the case yet" that it is a good idea.
Administration officials said the bulk of the savings - $100 million in the first year - would come from consolidating the state's information-technology functions.

Victoria Bradshaw, the governor's cabinet secretary, said that if the state government is going to ask taxpayers for more money to balance the budget, it needs to show Californians some bureaucratic belt-tightening.

"Whether something comes from the general fund or not, it is still money coming from the taxpayer," said Bradshaw, who is spearheading the effort on the changes for the governor. "It may come from a different source, and that money needs to be saved just as much as the general fund money."

Consumer boards and commissions on the list for consolidation are funded by fees charged to professionals they oversee, although the governor's current plan does not include a reduction in those fees.

Bradshaw said Migden's appointment to the Integrated Waste Management Board which Schwarzenegger wants to ax happened because there is an obligation to make sure it functions" as long as it exists.

Migden, who lost to now-Sen. Mark Leno in June's primary, was appointed last month to the last open seat on the six-person board, which oversees the landfills in California and includes three former state lawmakers. The job pays $132,178 a year.

The board has a $200 million annual budget and 150 employees who are paid with fees charged to customers when they dump items at a landfill, recycle tires and buy new electronic equipment.

Jon Myers, a spokesman for the waste board, said he would not "second-guess the governor's office" if it wants to get rid of the board. But he said the agency has helped make California the nation's leader in diverting trash from landfills to recycling centers.

Officials at other targeted agencies questioned whether the governor's plan will save money.

"I'm a 30-year veteran of state services and ... my impression is smaller agencies are more effective," said Adrian Griffin, assistant director of the Postsecondary Education Commission, which is on the list to be consolidated with the Student Aid Commission. The administration estimates the move would save $2 million per year.

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http://sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2009/01/26/BA9U15BBKB.DTL

This article appeared on page B - 1 of the San Francisco Chronicle.
Data dispels 'green' building cost myths

There is a perception in the real estate industry that constructing green buildings is more expensive than traditional buildings.

A California study asserted that most developers estimate the costs of building LEED-certified buildings to be 10 to 15 percent higher than conventional buildings.

The actual costs are hard to pinpoint, however, because there is a lack of shared data related to costs and difficulty in separating "finish" upgrades from green upgrades, among other reasons.

A study sponsored by the U.S. Green Building Council and other real estate and architectural groups has found that building green costs an average of 2.5 percent more up front.

The study found, however, that the financial savings over the life of the building would, conservatively, exceed this initial investment tenfold.

Other studies even argue that there is no premium at all to constructing green buildings.

For example, Harvard's Green Campus Initiative, which has delivered the first LEED Platinum building — the highest level in the USBC's LEED rating system — with no capital cost premium, but with an "involvement premium" of owner commitment to ensure all parties stayed true to the intended building plan.

Even if a cost premium exists for building green, developers can usually manage to recoup the costs of certifying the development as LEED through a variety of methods:

Energy Use

A 2003 California study concluded that on average green buildings are 25 to 30 percent more energy efficient than conventional buildings.

Green buildings also were noted to use less electricity during peak time, to be more likely to generate renewable energy on site and more likely to purchase grid power generated from renewable energy sources. The study equated the reduction of 30 percent less energy use, for a 100,000-square-foot state office building, to be worth about $44,000 per year, with a 20-year present value of expected energy savings worth more than a half million dollars.

In Tennessee, some utilities offer rebates for energy efficient commercial spaces. The Electric Power Board of Chattanooga, Jackson Energy Authority, Milan Public Utilities and Murfreesboro Electric Department all offer rebate programs for energy efficiency in commercial spaces.

Additionally, Tennessee has a loan program for energy efficiency projects for commercial and industrial small businesses, local government agencies and schools.

For example, Tennessee Energy Division offers low-interest loans, with a 0 percent or 3 percent interest rate depending on community, of up to $300,000, with terms of seven years for energy efficiency projects or projects shown to save energy or decrease energy demand for businesses with fewer than 300 employees or less than $3.5 million in annual gross sales or receipts.

The loan does not apply to new construction, but does make eligible all renewable energy technologies. Several of the energy efficiency loan programs are county-specific, while others are industry specific.

Insurance Discounts

Leading insurance companies began to take note of green buildings in 2007 by offering reduced-cost commercial insurance products, with a few even raising premium credits up to 5 percent or 10 percent in recognition of the fact that green buildings are likely to have lower risk for indoor air quality problems, as well as reduced energy costs, smoother operations and greater tenant satisfaction.

For instance, the Fireman's Fund Insurance Company provides incentives such as green upgrade coverage, green-certified building coverage, building commissioning coverage, energy prevention and green consulting.

Value and Rents

A study by the University of San Diego reviewed more than 2,000 large office buildings in the CoStar database and found that Energy
Star, which is comparable to the LEED certification program — office buildings since 2004 have had a 2 percent greater occupancy, with $2 per-square-foot rents.

The study showed that in 2006, Energy Star buildings sold at a 30 percent premium — in dollars per square foot — to non-Energy Star-rated buildings.

Additionally, a CoStar Group study found that LEED-certified buildings had a 3.8 percent higher occupancy rate, had rent premiums of $11.24 per square foot and sold for an average of $171 per square foot more than conventional buildings.

Investments
Investors have begun to support green buildings as ones that would increase in value and have a lower carbon footprint. In the current economic crisis, banks are more likely to finance more responsible developments with lower maintenance costs.

Water Conservation
In light of rising concerns over water supplies, particularly in the South, green buildings offer advantages both in terms of reducing water consumption and in lowering water-treatment costs.

Some studies note that water savings of 20 percent to 30 percent can also be achieved through the development of green buildings.

Employee Productivity and Health
Green buildings have enhanced indoor air quality and use of daylight. A 2006 review by Lawrence Berkley National Laboratory of 33,000 surveys of employee satisfaction showed that employees in LEED buildings showed greater satisfaction than employees working in conventional buildings.

In cases where ownership of the building is retained post-construction, it is shown that green buildings ultimately are not more expensive, but are actually less expensive in operational costs and overall worth.

As more architects, engineers and developers become experienced in applying LEED standards to obtain certification for their developments, the costs inherent in building green will be lowered, making it the more economical choice.

Elena Babaeva is an attorney with Waller Lansden Dortch & Davis in Nashville.
Though memorable beyond comparison, Barack Obama's election was not just about a black man becoming president.

For millions of Democrats (I include myself), independents and many others, it was about bringing hope and change to America - about why pragmatism trumps ideology, about the long-overdue shakeup of gridlock politics in Washington, and about how the Bush administration's obsession with unfettered free market practices led to a recession and an unprecedented problem of economic inequality that disproportionately benefited the wealthy.

It was also about breaking new ground to turn the page on our race-infected past.

To chart a different course, President Obama promised to jolt the economy back to life with a recovery plan of unprecedented spending, and to undertake a "line-by-line analysis of the federal budget" to root out costly programs that no longer work. A good symbolic beginning would be to eliminate the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

More than 20 years ago, I suggested that Congress form a commission to deal with the many problems we face that are vastly different from monitoring discrimination, the principal charge of the commission established in 1957. Such a proposal - politically impossible then - might have more support today.

In light of Obama's call to transcend the racial divide in our dealings with each other, I am even more persuaded that the Civil Rights Commission should go - but for reasons far more important than saving $8 million or $9 million a year.

The commission has outlived its usefulness. Its members, divided into hostile factions, are regularly mired in controversy and rancor. Majority and (sometimes angry) minority reports are issued periodically that few read. The commission today is not perceived across the political spectrum as a respected broker of accurate and reliable information.

It would be foolish to believe that discrimination and racism no longer exist. However, they are no longer the intractable and pernicious problems they once were.

The country has changed. Judged solely in terms of our national politics, Obama's election is dramatic evidence that race is no longer an automatic deal breaker. Due to the hard-fought and history-making successes of the civil rights movement that focused almost exclusively (and justifiedly) on racial grievances, white America has changed.

For black America, Obama represents what many see as a different transformation - in the words of William Raspberry, the longtime (now retired) columnist for the Washington Post, "the movement away from what might be called the civil rights paradigm." Today's black leaders "need to acknowledge that there are some problems the grievance model cannot address." This is very much in line with Obama's wish to see confrontational identity politics give way to an era of coalition and collaborative politics.

What strategies he may have in mind are not yet clear. One he believe, for example, that race should no longer be a determining factor in admissions to public school?

In his support of affirmative action, he has favored race preferences, describing race-neutral policies as "wrong for America." Yet he has also said that privileged young like his (he cited his own daughters) should not be open for
preferential consideration, which he knows has too often put whites and blacks into separate groups at odds with each other.

Polls have consistently shown that most Americans believe that race (and gender) are legitimate grounds for inclusion in designing government programs that will assist minorities and the disadvantaged in acquiring the skills to compete on an equal basis.

But they strongly disapprove of preferential treatment solely because of race. Is that where Obama would also draw the line?

Or does he favor income-based school integration as an alternative to integrating students by race? The Century Foundation's senior fellow Richard Kahlenberg has pointed out that not only is there an "overlap between race and economic status" that can produce a desirable amount of racial diversity, but mixing students by race "hasn't always improved black achievement."

In wanting to build bridges in our dealings with each, it has come to pass that Obama believes this is one of several, more promising ways for Americans to "get beyond race."

Civil rights commission members

The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights is a bipartisan federal commission responsible for investigating and reporting on civil rights issues.

The commission is composed of eight commissioners, three are appointed by the president, two by the president pro tempore of the Senate and one by the speaker of the House of Representatives. As of Dec. 15, 2007, the members were:

Gerald A. Reynolds, chair - Kansas City attorney and former assistant secretary of education for the Office of Civil Rights.

Abigail Thernstrom, vice chair - Manhattan Institute political scientist and former member of the Massachusetts Board of Education.

Gail Heriot - University of San Diego law professor.

Peter N. Kirsanow - Cleveland attorney and former member of the National Labor Relations Board.

Arlan D. Melendez - Chairman and chief executive, Pala Band of Indians, Pala Springs Indian Colony.

Ashley L. Taylor Jr. - Professor, Venable, LLP, former deputy attorney general of Virginia.

Todd F. Gaziano - Senior fellow in legal studies and director of the Center for Legal and Judicial Studies at the Heritage Foundation.

Michael Yaki - San Francisco attorney and former member of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors.

John H. Bunzel is a past president of San Jose State University, a former member of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, and a political scientist and senior research fellow at Stanford's Hoover Institution. Contact us at forum@sfgchronicle.com. The commission web site is www.ucr.gov.
Panel: U.S. patent system doesn’t need overhaul

BY DOUG SHERWIN
The Daily Transcript

The U.S. patent system doesn’t need a major overhaul, according to a panel of industry officials who are skeptical of Congress’ recent attempts at reform.

Representatives of both the pharmaceutical and software industries, along with a pair of patent attorneys, discussed the issue at a Daily Transcript roundtable sponsored by Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky & Pepe PC and the University of San Diego School of Law.

—Small fixes — fix the patent term, for the publication procedure — those bring value to the entire system,” said Christine Grizmacher, senior director of intellectual property for Gen-Probe Inc. (Nasdaq: GPRO). “But to declare the entire system broke and have Congress sweep in and try and fix it by changing the laws, which leads to more uncertainty, is not a cure.

“Incremental changes are probably beneficial. This so-called ‘patent reform’ is really only going to lead to more uncertainty. Businesses hate uncertainty,” said Dan Pigors, director of legal and business affairs for Sony Computer Entertainment America. “They’re really being overrun. I think that when I see some of these patent trolls, people are giving us a demand on, I think, ‘How did that issue?’ These people really don’t know our business.”

James Butler, senior director of patents for Amylin Pharmaceuticals Inc. (Nasdaq: AMLY), agreed.

“There is a problem in the patent office with the quality of examination that gets done,” he said. “And that really is best addressed within the patent office rather than backdoor it through the court system.”

Gen-Probe’s Grizmacher said not only are there too few patent examiners with the requisite expertise, but there’s not enough prior art for them to refer to. She also is concerned about the issuance of “junk” patents.

“Kind of like to see the patent examiners get more sufficient training and be required to have a more extensive background. “The European patent examiners really are a different class of examiners,” Grizmacher said. “You cannot train people and get people up to speed and develop them professionally if they’re leaving at that (65 percent) level on a national basis, and that’s what’s weakening the patent system.”

According to Qualcomm’s Hartogs, European patent examiners are viewed as a highly professional class with most being highly compensated.

“Here we relegate them to true public servants, and it’s reflected in quality of patents we get,” he said.

Pigors, the Sony executive, said prestige should be attached to the position of patent examiner in America.

Amylin’s Butler agreed.

“It’s surprising that something that has such a huge effect on the American economy as the U.S. patent office is considered pretty much considered a government backwater,” he said. “It’s an afterthought.”

Jim Cleary, a partner with Mintz Levin, said patent attorneys share some of the blame in the deterioration of patent quality.

Patent attorneys and representatives from the pharmaceutical and software industries discussed intellectual property issues at a recent Daily Transcript roundtable.

See Roundtable on 8

All photos: J. lei Wenzel
He said the patent at issue in the recent Federal Circuit decision In re Bilski came from a poorly written application. "Patent attorneys have to maintain that high level of quality as much as they can in the face of tighter and tighter budgets, and higher hourly fees," Cleary said.

Butler said the pharmaceutical industry depends on strong patents because its products require an average of 51 billion and 10 years to get to the market, with many failures occurring during the development process. "That's a huge bet to make up front," he said. "The only way we can recoup our investment is the exclusivity that patent protection allows."

Gritzmacher feels legislators are trying to fix the wrong part of the patent system, including the post-issuance process. "One way you can read In re Bilski," McGowan said, "is the Federal Circuit is saying (to the Supreme Court), 'We know you're interested in this. We'll just do it ourselves so it will get done properly.' After Bilski, I don't think there's going to be a lot of political pressure for the Supreme Court to take patent cases."

James E. Butler, Senior Director, Patents
Amgen Pharmaceuticals Inc.

James Cleary, IP Partner
Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky & Popeo P.C. (sponsor)

Daniel Figueroa, Director of Legal & Business Affairs
Sony Computer Entertainment America Inc.

Christine Gritzmacher, Senior Director, IP
Gen-Probe Inc.

Mike Hartung, Senior Vice President, Division Counsel
Qualcomm Inc.

Carl Kukkonen, IP Partner
Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky & Popeo P.C. (sponsor)

David McGowan, Professor
USD School of Law (sponsor)
On the Agenda
By Rebecca Go

Events pick up a bit as the new year begins, and this week offers a slim but varied selection.

The University of San Diego School of Law and the Center for the Study of Constitutional Originalism examines the 14th Amendment and the Bill of Rights on Tuesday. Law professors from across the nation will convene to present papers and discuss. For more information, visit sandiego.edu/usdlaw.

The San Diego Boat Show launches on Thursday and runs through Sunday, featuring shows, rides, exhibits and other activities. For more information, visit sandiegoboatshow.com.

Hensel Phelps Construction hosts a small business networking conference Thursday from 1-4 p.m. Business professionals are invited to meet and greet with the region’s largest subcontractors. For more information, call (949) 852-0111.

University of San Diego kicks off its course in urban development Thursday with a weekly core class — attend one or attend them all. Real estate professionals looking to boost their knowledge and careers are invited to attend. For more information and to register, visit sandiego.edu/ce.

The Corporate Finance Council looks to DefenseWeb CEO Douglas Burke for lessons on mergers and acquisitions at its monthly dinner meeting Thursday at 5:30 p.m. To register, visit corporatefinancecouncil.org.

The Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce starts off the month once again with its First Friday Breakfast from 7-9 a.m. Former TopGun instructor Bill Driscoll will discuss principles by which to better a business’ bottom line. Register online at carlsbad.org.

The Kernel-Panic Linux Users’ Group, or KPLUG, invites Linux novices and aficionados to its bimonthly Installfest on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. San Diegans are invited to come learn about the operating system, install it on their own computers or help others with their installation. For more information, visit kernel-panic.org.

The Chula Vista Library holds the last in its Spanish series of monthly foreclosure prevention workshops Saturday at 6:30 p.m. An attorney will be on hand to answer questions. Workshops in English are available at other locations. For more information, call (619) 691-5069 or visit chulavistalibrary.com.
USD honors nonprofit groups for excellence in governance

The University of San Diego's Institute for Nonprofit Governance presented its third annual Kaleidoscope Award for exceptional governance to Volunteers of America of Southwest California and the San Diego Jewish Academy.

The purpose of the award is to recognize, celebrate, promote and inspire excellence in nonprofit governance.

USD assistant professor Mary McDonald said it was "impossible to say one is more excellent than another."

McDonald, who served on the selection committee for the award, said what set the agencies apart was the fact they didn't separate passion from good, true work.

The goal of Volunteers of America, a nonprofit health and human services organization, is to "assist less fortunate individuals and families by providing them with the tools to improve their quality of life." The organization emphasizes programs that focus on social, spiritual, psychological and physical well-being of recipients in San Diego, Imperial, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino counties.

The organization's primary service areas include: Children and Family, Elderly and Disabled, Public Safety and Rehabilitation and Treatment and Recovery services.

San Diego Jewish Academy is an independent, private Jewish day school. The goal of the school is to provide "an unparalleled general and Judaic education for students in kindergarten through 12th grade by offering a challenging, integrated curriculum and opportunities for discovery, growth and enrichment in a caring and nurturing pluralistic Jewish environment."

Each organization received an honorarium of $500, a plaque of recognition and a proclamation from San Diego County Supervisor Greg Cox.

The organizations were selected based on their ability to show board accountability through evidence of principled fiduciary, strategic and generative governance. They were charged with proving that they were able to safeguard the organization's mission, oversee operations and ensure accountability.

They also had to show they were able to define core problems, to discover what is important to the organization and to make sense of it all, while focusing on the values, assumptions, insights, culture and judgments about the organization's past and present circumstances.
When to Go to War, Reducing Civilian Deaths Discussed at Local Symposium

Jan 27, 2009

Maureen Cavanaugh: The question of what constitutes a "just war" and issues of ethics on the battlefield have been debated by saints, scholars and soldiers for centuries. But the questions remain because in the heat of battle, in the quest for victory, innocents continue to suffer and many soldiers themselves bear the burden of guilt for a lifetime.

The International Society for Military Ethics will hold its symposium at the University of San Diego this week. The group has been meeting since 1979, discussing and debating issues of professional military ethics. This year, the subjects up for discussion include, the ethical issues surrounding private military contractors and "is there a duty to obey an order to wage an unjust war?"

Guest

- Dr. George Reed, associate professor in the School of Leadership and Education Sciences at the University of San Diego, and a retired Army colonel. Dr. Reed is organizing the 2009 International Society for Military Ethics (ISME) Symposium that will take place at USD later this week.
As donations wither, county's nonprofits are tightening belts

By Jeff McDonald

Nearly 45 percent of local charities have seen donations from individual donors decline as a result of the deteriorating economy, according to a survey by the San Diego Association of Nonprofits.

One of four respondents said donations plummeted between 20 percent and 50 percent since last year, and a little more than 7 percent said money from individual donors dropped by more than 50 percent, the survey found.

Corporate donations also have declined, although not as much as those from individuals and families, respondents said, and more nonprofit executives are expecting a similar decline in foundation grants.

"There's going to be a considerable amount of belt-tightening," said Doug Perkins, executive director of the charity association. "But how much remains to be seen."

According to the study, which was administered by e-mail last month, 14 percent of San Diego-area nonprofits have seen their caseload rise in the past year.

The drop in donations comes as charity officials from San Diego to Washington, D.C., have reported steep cuts in requests for services. That means many groups are being asked to deliver more services with fewer resources.

The survey was nonscientific, Perkins said the response rate was more than 50 percent and the association has about 60 members. There are more than 9,000 nonprofits in the county.

Laura Deitrick, a senior researcher at the Center for the Family and Center for Nonprofit Research at the University of San Diego, said the sampling was small but the findings match what she has heard from other nonprofit executives.

"It remains to be seen how bad it's going to get," Deitrick said. "When times are bad, demand for services grows up and at the same time funds go down."

Perkins said the San Diego Association of Nonprofits, which was formed in 1986 to promote and improve the effectiveness of local charities, is working to find ways that smaller groups can reduce costs by sharing "back-office expenses," such as payroll and bookkeeping practices.

He predicted that some charities will have to consider merging with other agencies in the coming months or face the prospect of dissolution.

"There may be some unfortunately that don't have the reserves and the reserves are going to make it through, just like a small business," Perkins said.

The survey was conducted two weeks after The San Diego Foundation and The Mission Foundation of San Diego County announced an initial grant of $5 million to 16 local charities struggling with the recession.

Perkins said the money has been critical in helping different groups and agencies to "redistribute" money to more critical and vulnerable populations, which would make a consultant's recommendations to cut spending more difficult for the troubled organizations.

Jeff McDonald (619) 542-4585; jeff.mcdonald@uniontrib.com
USD honors nonprofits

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The purpose of the award is to recognize, celebrate, promote and inspire excellence in nonprofit governance.

USD assistant professor Mary McDonald said it was “impossible to say one is more excellent than another.” Source Code: 20090115cze
USD's Institute for Nonprofit Governance has presented its third annual Kaleidoscope Award for exceptional governance to the Volunteers of America of Southwest California and the San Diego Jewish Academy. Each organization received an honorarium of $500, a plaque of recognition and a proclamation from San Diego County Supervisor Greg Cox. They were selected based on their ability to show board accountability through evidence of principled fiduciary, strategic and generative governance.
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.
Academy earns USD award

CARMEL VALLEY — San Diego Jewish Academy has been awarded this year's USD's Kaleidoscope Award for Exceptional Governance on Jan. 9 at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice.

The award is to recognize, celebrate, promote and inspire excellence in nonprofit governance and recognizes board excellence in ensuring accountability and safeguarding the school's mission.
Academy CRONED USD's KALEIDOSCOPE AWARD

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Jan. 12-14

The University of San Diego's Autism Institute will hold its Winter Conference at Muñoz Rosalie Hill-Hall auditorium. The theme is "With a Little Help From My Friends". National and international autism experts, educators and families will gather to learn how to better understand and support individuals with autism. The registration fee is $295 before Dec. 31, $308, and $320 from Jan. 1-12. Cost includes two graduate-level extension credits. For more information, go to www.sandiego.edu/math/institute or email autisminstitute@sandiego.edu. Phone: (619) 260-2953.
**SAN DIEGO CITY BEAT**

January 7, 2009

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**POLITICS & COMMUNITY**

**NAMI EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY MEETING** at University Christian Church, 3000 Cleveland Ave., Hillcrest. The National Alliance for Mental Illness covers the effects of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder at this free meeting. At 8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 8, www.namisandiego.org.

**SIERRA CLUB MOVIE NIGHT** at Sierra Club Office, 2620 Ray St., North Park. A 13-page food potluck is followed by a screening of *A Question of Power*, a documentary about the 1980 film *Patton*. At 5 p.m. Friday, Jan. 9, sandiego.sierraclub.org.

**WHEELCHAIR MISSION EVENT** at Confidential, 901 Fourth Ave., Downtown. Raise awareness and funds for the Free Wheelchair Mission at this charity event, featuring raffles, prizes and more. At 5 p.m. Friday, Jan. 9. 619-696-8118. www.runfor­mobility.org. $10.

**THE ECONOMY IN 2009** at Hall of Champions, 2731 Pan American Plaza, Balboa Park. The President of the SD Regional Chamber of Commerce and other local experts speak at this afternoon luncheon presented by the Calfish Club and the City Club of San Diego. At noon Friday, Jan. 9. 619-234-2644, www.cityclubofsandiego.com. $20 includes lunch.

**SAN DIEGO INAUGURAL CELEBRATION** at Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2200 Jimmy Durante Blvd., Del Mar. Why wait another week and a half to honor the swearing in of our 44th President? This party features dinner, dancing, special guest and a no-host bar. See website for more details. From 6 to 10 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 10. 858-756-1161, www.sddemocrats.org. $100.

**SHABBAT SHAMROCK** at Joyce Beers Community Center, 1220 Cleveland St., Hillcrest. Shabbat Shalom conducts a "Reach-In on the Economic Meltdown." At 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 12. www.aktivislandiego.org.

**WINTER AUTISM CONFERENCE** at Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace, USD, Linda Vista. A series of discussions supporting competence, confidence and image. See website for registration and details. From 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday, Jan. 19, through Wednesday, Jan. 21. 619-290-7205, www.sandiego.edu/krocinstitute.

**BUSINESS AFTER FIVE** at Handlery Hotel, 950 Hotel Circle N., Mission Valley. The SD Regional Chamber of Commerce holds its first business mixer of the new year. From 5 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 14. 619-208-0511, www.sdc­ham­ber.org. $20.
A workshop on the redesigned IRS Form 990 -- planned specifically for executive directors, senior staff, CFOs, controllers, board members and other nonprofit professionals -- will be held Friday (Jan. 16) from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at USD's Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice, 5998 Alcala Park. The program, called "What you need to know about the Redesigned IRS Form 990: A Training Workshop for Nonprofit Leaders," is offered by USD's Institute for Nonprofit Education and Research in partnership with AKT LLP, Moss Adams LLP and CBIZ MHM LLC. The fee is $200 per person. Breakfast and lunch will be provided.

To register, visit http://www.sandiego.edu/nonprofit/events. For more information, call Laura B. Stein at (619) 260-7442.
“It’s Being Done: Academic Success in Unexpected Schools”

Kerlin Chenoweth, author of It’s Being Done, will identify some key characteristics of high performing and rapidly improving schools where most of the students are children of color or children of poverty or both.

RSVP required: 619-260-8833

Thursday, January 15, 4 p.m.: $75.

University of San Diego, 5998 Alcala Park, LINDA VISTA
School of Nursing
Health care is the economy

Last year, General Motors paid more for health care than it did for steel. Starbucks' bill for health insurance exceeded its bill for coffee beans. One in five families paid one-third of their annual income for health care insurance. As a country, Americans spent more than $2.6 trillion for health care, the highest price tag of any country in the world. But, are we getting the best health care?

Frequently, we hear that this country cannot afford to provide health care for all Americans. Yet, emergency rooms are crowded with uninsured patients that sit for hours waiting for care. Clearly, Americans are already paying for specialized health care for those who need it.

One option frequently discussed is privatization of health care, but it does not seem to offer an effective solution to our broken health care system. In a recent study reported in the Journal of Health Care, when the federal government privatized 25 percent of Medicare, the quality of care decreased dramatically, bureaucratic forms increased substantially, and the price of health care jumped by 10 percent.

There is another option. Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) offer a viable, cost-effective solution to our health care crisis. APRNs are licensed registered nurses with master's or doctoral degrees certified through national board examinations. They practice in the role of physician, APRNs diagnose and treat patients who are acutely or chronically ill with common conditions.

When one considers that 45 percent of health care costs are spent on 2 percent of the population with chronic conditions, it is apparent that APRNs can play a vital role. Furthermore, APRNs are skilled at working with patients in their homes and in the community reducing the need for costly emergency room care.

Research indicates that patients and their families are quite satisfied with the health care they receive from APRNs. If one considers medical malpractice as an indicator of patient satisfaction, only 0.03 percent of lawsuits are directed against APRNs.

Currently, more than 14,000 APRNs are practicing in California and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics has noted that registered nursing is the top profession for job growth in the future. The average scientific salary for APRNs is comparable, given their education, skill and level of responsibility — approximately $81,957.

Both President Barack Obama's and Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's proposed new health care plans rely heavily on APRNs. President Obama's plan provides health care insurance for all. Obviously, the greater number of insured individuals, the less the cost of insurance. The plan stipulates that children must be covered, which is especially cost-effective because they are the healthiest of all patient populations. Small businesses will get a 50 percent tax deduction for insurance coverage costs, and they will not be able to refuse or drop health care coverage for their employees. Insurance companies will not be permitted to refuse to cover pre-existing conditions.

President Obama's plan eliminates copays for prevention and utilizes APRN in schools and work sites, and includes programs that focus on high-risk health behaviors such as smoking, obesity, etc. The plan also relies on APRNs to provide outpatient care to those with chronic conditions. Every health care program in Obama's plan has objective output measures and if positive outcomes are not obtained, funding to that program would be cut.

Schwarzenegger's health care proposal for California reflects policy recommendations from the Institute of Medicine, a think tank composed of nurse scientists, physicians and health researchers that provide independent advice about the nation's health. The Institute has warned that regulatory barriers to APRN practice are contributing to the problems in our health care system.

The media has focused on Schwarzenegger's aims to overhaul health care financing, streamline electronic record keeping and eliminate the growing strain on emergency rooms to serve the uninsured. However, little attention has been paid to another of his proposed important reforms — the removal of bureaucratic measures that limit the public's ability to select an APRN as a health care provider.

Unfortunately, in California, APRNs cannot own their practice or be designated as primary care providers on most insurance managed care plans. Removal of these barriers would do much to expedite the president's and governor's proposals for curing America's health care crisis and should be strongly considered by business and civic leaders.

Brea Harwin, PhD, RN, FAAN
University of San Diego
School of Nursing and Health Science

Source Code: 20090123tza
School of Peace
60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights — How far have we come?

By Robin Duncan

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

On Dec. 10, a confluence of concerned citizens and activists gathered at the Joan Kroc Intenational Peace and Justice Institute (IPJI) to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. To help them do this was none other than one of the members most voracious for committing and signing the document, Eleanor Roosevelt. Rather, she was brought to life by actress Rosina Reynolds, just for the occasion. As she took the audience back in time, Roosevelt/Raymonds reminded about that time of great turmoil in 1948. She was the only woman on the delegation and by many considered to be the most influential member of the U.N.'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.

As William Averese, a member of the panel, Associate Dean at the California Western School of Law, and a human rights lawyer who has worked with Amnesty International put it, "I've set on many panels with many distinguished individuals, but none of them can match the star power of Eleanor Roosevelt."

Signed by 41 countries and adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, the document declares the rights of all human beings in 30 carefully worded articles which have been solidified 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 and Voice of Women (VOW). After a 15-minute introduction by Mrs. Roosevelt, 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 Averese, as well as Maypole Cohn, professor at the Thomas Jefferson School of Law and president of the National Lawyers Guild. Cohn in her discussion focused on the human convention covering women and children.

Cohn said, "I have great hope that the coming administration will make good on the promise of human rights for all."

Dustin Sharp, a senior program officer for the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice and human rights investigator for the Human Rights Watch in Phnom Penh, West Africa expounded on the Declaration's original vision.

According to Sharp, "It was not some pie in the sky vision; on the contrary it was meant to be quite practical." He reminded the audience that personal liberties cannot exist without economic and social rights, and this seemed to be the general consensus of the other panists. Moreover, he warned, "as globalization increases there are many clear winners and losers, and unfortunately the gap is widening."

Jenil Prisk, the president of VOW said, "I hope that this evening creates a ripple effect for those that attended, and that we take a close look at human rights today."

Prisk, moved to start her human rights organization by the events of '91.

"I horrified me that there was war in our home, so I enlisted a lot of women and said we have to do something. Shortly after that, I reserved a room at the World Trade Center in 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 heard of directors evolved. Now the organization has ten directors — all women, from all walks of life. Prisk just recently hosted an event at her house for Wuah Kanaa, a special guest at the U.S. 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 U.S. called "Infirmity of Women," with award winning journalist and cookbook author Goldthorpe. 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 addressing the Millennium Development Goals, established by the United Nations Millennium Declaration as a commitment to a global partnership to reduce extreme poverty and halve the number of people living on less than $1 a day by 2015, and promoting universal primary education.

Mrs. Roosevelt ended the informative evening, echoing the sentiments of the panel by saying that we still have a long, long way to go. She also said, "It was not until I was in my mid 40s that I had the courage to be involved in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights — something that was so influential in promoting a peaceful world."

What does the future hold? Averese stated, "I am infused with optimism, but I am also a realist." He expressed concern that the world was moving in the wrong direction, and reminded the audience of the infamous words associated with the Holocaust, "never again," he hoped that it would not be replaced by "yet again."

"In light of this, it is valuable for us to be reminded of the timeless and democratic 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.vowandwomen.org, or for the U.S., visit http://peace.sandiego.edu.
When planning a January vacation with his girlfriend, Oakland resident Jeremiah Nadya had only Mexico in mind. "Tickets are dirt cheap if you know where to look," he says. "It's close. It's beautiful."

His sentiment is shared by many Bay Area travelers. But Nadya readily admits that a trip south of the border can also be something else: dangerous.

As President Felipe Calderon attempts to weed out police corruption and break down drug cartels, there has been a power vacuum among narcotic traffickers - and a new wave of narco-violence in Mexico. In its latest travel warning, the State Department declared in October that "some recent Mexican army and police confrontations with drug cartels have taken on the characteristics of small-unit combat."

Although experts say the major tourist destinations remain safe, many travelers from the Bay Area and elsewhere are avoiding areas like Rosarito Beach in Baja and limiting trips to border towns such as Juarez and Tijuana.

More than 5,600 people in Mexico died last year as a result of drug-related violence - double the number from 2007, according to Mexican newspaper El Universal.

"The bigger concern for American citizens - for whom the odds of getting kidnapped or killed are still extra-super-low - are the increases in other incidences of crime: small-scale robbery, assault, rape," says David Shirk, a criminal justice expert and director of the Trans-Border Institute at the University of San Diego.

"I think that Mexico in the past 10 years has experienced a significant increase in criminal activity," he adds, a situation he feels is likely to worsen in a global recession.

Skipping some destinations

Travel writer Maribeth Mellin, who lives in San Diego, has been happily exploring Mexico for more than 20 years. But during the past year, as drug-war-related crime shot upward, certain destinations have become off-limits to her.

"I live about 20 miles from Tijuana, and I haven't been for over a year. When I write about San Diego and Mexico, I no longer include information about Tijuana," she said. "Now I don't even recommend daylight trips there.

"I'm sorry to say that - I feel sorry for the businesspeople. I just think that your chances of being an innocent bystander or witnessing something bad are higher now."

The State Department declined to give numbers of U.S. victims of crime in Mexico, but noted in its update that "rates for robberies, homicides, petty thefts and carjackings have all increased over the last year across Mexico generally, with notable spikes in Tijuana and northern Baja California."

The reason for the rise in crime, according to Shirk and others, is the breakdown of the large cartels. It may be too soon to judge Calderon's strategy of making the criminal syndicates smaller, but, at least in the short term, it hasn't stopped the flow of narcotics through Mexico and has only fueled the violence.

Spike in kidnappings
"The problem with that (tactic) is that the crime gangs got broken but are not 'more manageable,' " Shirk said. He noted an increase in lower-level criminal activity - "not quite petty crime, but smaller-scale stuff. The big cartels never had much of an interest in kidnapping, for instance."

As of late November, there had been 943 reported kidnappings in the country, up from 630 in November 2007, according to the Christian Science Monitor. (Kidnapping is also known to be extremely underreported.) In one of the most publicized cases, an American security expert in the northern town of Saltillo to give corporations advice on how to avoid being abducted was himself taken away mid-meal at an upscale restaurant in late December. He remains missing.

Some recent visitors to Mexico say the reports of disorder have been overblown. Music teacher John Gabriel, 31, of San Diego recently returned from a month in the Mexican state of Veracruz and spent time in Tijuana. He said that the recent increase in drug-related violence was "a topic of conversation," but it didn't affect his trip.

"I would definitely say that the impression that the Americans get in the media is more intense and hyped-up than reality," Gabriel said, although he did acknowledge that he has curtailed drives down the Baja coast in response to criminal activity.

Bay Area resident Larry Habegger, who writes the syndicated World Travel Watch column, called security issues in Mexico "complicated."

'Be careful, stay informed'

"Millions of people go to Mexico every year without any incident whatsoever," he said. "The situation is grave in some sense, but it's not that significant for most tourists. ... But people need to be careful and stay informed where the major incidences are happening. I would not do a road trip to Baja, for instance. I would not go to the surf sites."

Mellin, the travel writer, says that although she has seen evidence of reduced tourism in certain parts of the country, the demand for her articles on Mexico seems to be just as strong in 2009.

"People who know Mexico will keep going. It is less expensive than many places, and it is easier to get there," Mellin said. She doesn't intend to do much differently other than avoid certain places.

"But then, I'm cautious. I don't do stupid things. I dress appropriately and I'm not rude to people. I try to speak Spanish as much as possible," she said, "These are all the things that I do as a traveler anywhere."

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http://sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2009/01/31/MNLS1567KO.DTL

This article appeared on page A - 1 of the San Francisco Chronicle
Mexico shifts course, aggressively extradites suspects to U.S.

Increase in cooperation comes as nations seek united front against rising drug violence

By Oscar Avila

11:32 PM CST, January 13, 2009

MEXICO CITY — Once Jesus Rodriguez had fled Illinois for his native Mexico as a suspect in a 1981 slaying, DuPage County prosecutors doubted he'd ever face justice.

Nearly three decades later, a chance arrest in a small Mexican town triggered Rodriguez's return to Illinois last month, a sign of renewed cooperation between U.S. and Mexican authorities.

Rodriguez was one of 95 people extradited from Mexico to the United States in 2008, a record 15 percent higher than the previous mark set in 2007.

The boom in extraditions comes at a crucial time as U.S. and Mexican law enforcement officials seek to integrate their battle against drug-related violence that caused more than 5,000 deaths last year in Mexico and has spilled into the United States.

The Bush administration has pledged $400 million in training and equipment for Mexico but has found it difficult to convince some U.S. lawmakers that Mexico can be a trustworthy partner.

U.S. officials have cited the rise in extraditions in lobbying for continued funding, although they said it was not a specific condition for receiving aid through the Merida Initiative, a security agreement begun last year between the U.S. and several Latin American countries.

U.S. Ambassador Tony Garza said extraditions "again demonstrated [Mexico's] relentless, focused commitment to confronting organized criminal networks and their vicious leaders."

Garza called it "cooperation that I am certain will only strengthen under the Merida Initiative."

David Shirk, a criminal justice expert and director of the Trans-Border Institute at the University of San Diego, said the extradition increase has resonated in Washington.

"Any form of cooperation is a tit-for-tat game," he said.

For decades, Mexico had been reluctant to turn over suspects to the U.S., seeing it as a loss of sovereignty. Also, Mexico's historic opposition to capital punishment kept officials from cooperating in cases where suspects might face the death penalty.

A 2005 Mexican Supreme Court ruling paved the way for increased extraditions by determining that life sentences in the United States would not be considered cruel and unusual punishment.

Likewise, the U.S. has reciprocated by extraditing 32 suspects to Mexico last year, also a record.

The increased cooperation is important in the Chicago area and other regions with large Mexican populations.

DuPage County State's Atty. Joseph Birkett said his office has "hundreds" of suspects believed to have fled the U.S., mainly to Mexico. His county includes part of Aurora, West Chicago and other suburbs where Mexican immigrants have flocked in recent years for manufacturing and service jobs.

In a telephone interview, Birkett said extradition has proved to be a valuable tool but also has placed prosecutors in a quandary.
Mexico shifts course, aggressively extradites suspects to U.S. -- chicagotribune.com

because they must pledge not to seek the death penalty under terms of a bilateral treaty with Mexico.

"I was more concerned in making sure that he was captured than making sure he faced capital punishment," Birkett said of Rodriguez. "It's always bad news when you have a fugitive. When they jump to another country, it poses a lot of problems."

Birkett considered the Rodriguez case a significant victory. He had been charged in connection with the slaying of John Spoors in suburban Addison. Prosecutors said Rodriguez gunned down Spoors after following him into a restaurant parking lot after a traffic dispute.

Rodriguez was captured in the central Mexican state of Zacatecas after he came to the attention of Mexican and U.S. authorities for a previous arrest in Mexico for drunk and disorderly conduct.

The largest number of last year's extradition cases from Mexico involved murders, according to the U.S. Embassy, but about a third of the cases involved drug trafficking and related money laundering.

Mexican and U.S. authorities say extradition helps prevent suspects from pursuing criminal activities while in Mexican prisons. Many high-level organized crime figures have bribed guards and other officials to run their enterprises from behind bars.

Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, head of the Sinaloa cartel, even bribed guards to help him escape from a maximum-security prison in 2001.

In a recent speech, Mexican President Felipe Calderon cited extradition in stressing that battling crime requires an integrated international strategy.

"Today, governments confront regional and global networks of corruption linked to organized crime, criminal organizations that do not recognize borders, laws or ethical principles," he said. "To be more effective in the fight against this serious problem, what are needed are international cooperation and legal instruments that facilitate the pursuit of criminals."

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Voices of Women and Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice to present 'Misfortunes of Wealth' Jan. 22

Voices of Women, in collaboration with Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice at the University of San Diego's Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies, will hold "Misfortunes of Wealth" on Thursday, Jan. 22, at 7 p.m.

"Misfortunes of Wealth" portrays the "schizophrenia" of people ricocheting between vast opportunity and the inability to make a life in the shadow of great wealth. It explores one of American society's endlessly fascinating scenarios: the one where inherited wealth and family intersect, and not always for the good.

"A beautifully written and moving work. Put in a general social context it sensitively portrays one family's experience and something revealing and moving about American society. It is magnificent. I truly couldn't put it down." —Ronald Steel, author of Walter Lippman and the American Century.

James O. Goldsborough, author, award-winning journalist and columnist at Voice of San Diego, will discuss his new book and the Presidency of Barack Obama, with specific reference to the effects of the recession on women and global community.

Nancy Janison, executive director of San Diego Grand Jeans, joins Jim to discuss effective philanthropy and how women, especially women, can play a vital role in supporting the efforts of philanthropic foundations during recession.

The event will be held at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice, Peace & Justice Theatre, located at 5998 Alcala Park, on the University of San Diego campus.

The event is free. RSVP today at rsvp@voicesofwomen.org

Founded in 2001 in response to the events of 9/11, Voices of Women (VOW) presents programs that raise awareness of global issues. Through its fundraising efforts, VOW has assisted organizations such as Save the Children, Women for Women International, the United Nations Association of San Diego, and Wheelchairs for Israel/Palestine. In addition, VOW's contributions have enabled a woman peacemaker in Uganda to continue her work, bought school supplies in Afghanistan, and supported a micro-credit program in India. As an education resource, VOW invites speakers from around the world to San Diego, providing an open forum to speak freely about women's issues and economic conditions in their part of the world. To learn more please visit www.voicesofwomen.org.
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Program to explore ‘Misfortunes of Wealth’

James O. Goldsborough, journalist and columnist at Voice of San Diego, and Nancy Jamison, executive director of San Diego Grantmakers, will speak at a gathering of Voices Women at 7 p.m. Jan. 22 at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice at the University of San Diego. Reservations are required for the program entitled “Misfortunes of Wealth. Send e-mail to rsvp@voicesofwomen.org.
MARCHETTO ARCHBISHOP: THE DIALOGUE IS A "MOTOR OF THE INTEGRATION OF THE MIGRANTES"

Intervention in the University of San Diego (California)

San Diego, Thursday 29 of January of 2009 (ZENIT Org) - The dialogue is a "motor of the integration of the migrants in the welcome societies", therefore it the past affirmed to Tuesday morning, monsignor Marchetto, Secretary of the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral of Migrants and Itinerantes to it.

The prelate took part in the University of San Diego (California) on the subject "A Religion, migration and national identity", emphasizing that the migrations constitute "a drama substantial sign of our tormented time", of a "vast phenomenon that some institutions and Governments wanted to control or to stop because they do not realize in question structural component of the socioeconomic and political reality of the present society".

By this, he explained, "is useless to try to eliminate the phenomenon", and is necessary however to confront it and to concentrate all the efforts in responding to the challenges that present/display and to identify the benefits that can contribute, using in the first place the instrument of the dialogue.

When people emigrate, the archbishop explained, "takes with himself not only the capacity to work and to produce, but also his characteristic people, the social treatments, education, convictions, conventions, the customs, the traditions, the beliefs, the religion", that is to say, "all the stable and lasting elements, and also the mutables and contingents, that characterize a culture".

The resistance that verifies when the immigrants arrive at a culture country and diverse tradition, "an obstacle to its disorient, mainly because the immigrant is different from the majority".

Therefore, it observed monsignor Marchetto, "the Catholic Church has emphasized the necessity to prepare to the people to the migration, through pre-migratory programs of formation and instruction, so that they are able to confront this situation".

Immigrants and society of welcome

In a new atmosphere, the immigrants look for generally company and security in those who come from their same nation and culture, but also they if they do not open themselves to the life and to the culture of the welcome society slowly, rejecting what they think that puts in danger its identity, can adopt a closed position, that takes to the formation of guetos with its compatriots and, unfortunately, to its marginalization.

To the other end the adoption in toto of the culture of the welcome country is located, "without at least evaluating its consequences on the own style of life".

Having neglected or unconsciously suppressed the own cultural identity, the immigrants become a "copy" of the local residents, almost, prevailing to the society of welcome of the enriching contribution that its culture could have contributed to him.

As opposed to these two extreme alternatives, the best solution for the relation between the immigrants and the population of the welcome country are "a channel of an authentic integration, with an open glance that it rejects to consider only the differences between immigrants and the residents, and that is prepared to welcome the positive contributions of all".

The "motor" of this process, stated monsignor Marchetto, is the dialogue, because true integration happens when an interaction between immigrants and local population is verified not only, but also cultural.

When the positive contribution of the immigrant is recognized the welcome society, through its culture and of its talents, the own immigrant more is motivated to find a high degree of interaction with the local population, and this takes to one heals cultural integration revealed.

The result of this dialogue, adds the prelate, is "a reciprocal enrichment of the cultures, and the society transforms itself into a mosaic in which each culture has its own place to compose an only drawing, that becomes more beautiful as it increases the multiplicity cultural".

Culture and religion

In his intervention, monsignor Marchetto also emphasized the existence of a "strong cultural bond between culture and religion, like it is possible to be seen by the fact that for some religions to religious identity and the cultural one agree".

In fact - it admitted, the international migrations have become a precious opportunity not only for the dialogue between the cultures, but also for the interior, because some countries with old Christian roots now provide with accommodations multicultural societies.

Against this background, it is necessary to guarantee to all the religious freedom, as it express article 18 of the Universal Declaration of the Rights of the Man. "If the society wants to benefit from the international migrations - it warned in archbishop must respect the freedom of the immigrants to profess, to practice and also to change its own religion".

From this point of view, the prelate has remembered the principle of the reciprocity, that must be understood not only like an attitude to make claims, but like a basate relation in the reciprocal respect and justice in legal and religious questions.

The reciprocity, observed, is also an attitude of the heart and the spirit who allows us to live together with such right and duties.

Single in this way, it concluded, it will be possible to be conscious of which Pope Benedict XVI in his Message for the World-wide Day of La Paz 2009 speaks, that is to say, that "we are contributor of an only divine project, the one of the vocation to constitute an only family in whom all - individual, towns and nations regulate their behavior with the principles of the brotherhood and the responsibility".

[By Roberta Sciampicotti, translation of Inma Alvarez]

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| A dónde ir |

High School Musical

_Hasta el domingo 1_


Deportation Nation

_Jueves 5 a sábado 7_

Serie cultural que se enfoca en la deportación en los Estados Unidos patrocinada por el Centro Cultural de la Raza y el Instituto Transfronterizo de la Universidad de San Diego. El jueves 5 a las 6 p.m. se presentan películas sobre inmigración, Warren Auditorium, 5998 Alcalá Park. El viernes 6 a las 7 p.m. habrá poesía y performance en el San Diego Central Library Auditorium, 820 E St. El sábado 7 a las 8 p.m. tocarán grupos locales música con conciencia social en el USD University Center, 5998 Alcalá Park. Todos los eventos son gratis. sandiego.edu/tbl.
Other
USD Student Sees ‘Fair Trade’ As Issue of Social Justice

Valerie Lizarraga serves as a Fair Trade Ambassador for Catholic Relief Services

By Denis Grasko

SAN DIEGO — In spring 2006, while protesting proposed immigration legislation, Valerie Lizarraga began to give serious thought to the root cause of illegal immigration. Why, she wondered, do so many Mexican citizens leave their homeland and illegally enter the United States, knowing that they will face exploitation, deportation and the anger of U.S. citizens?

While searching for answers, Lizarraga said she “mumbled upon” the concept of Fair Trade.

The international Fair Trade movement seeks to provide farmers and artisans in developing countries with a fair price for their wares, to establish long-term relationships between producers in the developing world and consumers in the United States, and to put safeguards in place to ensure environmentally-conscious production practices.

If the principles of Fair Trade were widely practiced, the 21-year-old Lizarraga said, “Farmers [wouldn’t] have to leave Chiapas, Mexico or Oaxaca, Mexico, to provide for their families, because [they would be] receiving fair wages at home.”

In June 2008, Lizarraga began a one-year term as a Fair Trade Ambassador. Working on behalf of Catholic Relief Services (CRS), the official international relief and development agency of the U.S. Catholic community, it is her responsibility to raise awareness of Fair Trade within San Diego. Because she is currently a senior at the University of San Diego, much of her efforts will be directed toward her campus community.

Since winter 2007, USD has served only Fair Trade coffee and tea at all campus dining facilities, she said, but many students are still unfamiliar with the concept of Fair Trade.

Several educational events have already taken place.

On Oct. 1, during “Fair Trade Month,” Lizarraga held a food-tasting at Aromas, the campus coffee shop; the event included a sampling of Fair Trade coffees and tea, a screening of an educational video, and efforts to recruit more members for the on-campus group Students for Fair Trade and Sustainability.

On Nov. 22, she organized a trip for 12 students to Café Junto, a Fair Trade coffee roaster in Tijuana.

She also ensured that Students for Fair Trade and Sustainability would have a table at an on-campus alternative gift fair Dec. 9. Work of Human Hands, an organization that collaborates with CRS in selling Fair Trade goods, had its own table at the fair.

Lizarraga also assisted in the planning of a Jan. 12-17 trip to Chiapas, where a group of students, university staff and community members visited a Fair Trade coffee cooperative.

She further aims to increase collaboration between USD students and such local community organizations as Friends of Fair Trade.

Even before serving as a Fair Trade Ambassador, Lizarraga worked to promote Catholic Relief Services projects as a CRS Campus Associate, a position she has held since October 2007; she will step down after her graduation in May 2009. Always “very passionate about social justice,” she said, she was drawn to CRS because it brings “a faith perspective” to development and relief efforts.

She sometimes wonders if her academics are getting “pushed aside” because of her CRS involvement.

“But when I think about it, this is where my passion is,” she said, adding that it is also providing her with an invaluable learning experience that will continue to shape her life after graduation.

For more information on Fair Trade and certified products, visit www.usafairtrade.org.

The Southern Cross
Jennie Kuckertz is preparing to be part of history. The 20-year-old Clarendon Hills resident will be among the masses in Washington, D.C., when Barack Obama is sworn in as the U.S. president.

"I think there will be a lot of young people to be there," Kuckertz said. "I'm expecting a high level of excitement."

Kuckertz will fly to Washington with a schoolmate from the University of San Diego. Although neither of them have a ticket to the inauguration, they're hoping to at least catch a glimpse of the action near the Capitol.

"I'm going to get as close as I can," Kuckertz said. "Hopefully there will be TVs outside, like there were during the Grant Park speech."

The inauguration coincides with the March For Life, an annual pro-life march in Washington that occurs during the week of the anniversary of Roe V. Wade, the 1973 Supreme Court case that legalized abortion.

Kuckertz attended the event last year and will participate again this year. However, the Obama inauguration played an integral role in her decision to travel to Washington again.

"I don't know if I would have done one without the other," Kuckertz said.

A self-proclaimed "pro-life Democrat", Kuckertz considers herself politically active. In addition to her involvement with the pro-life movement, in November she was involved in a sociology class that worked to convince people from various social classes to vote.

She doesn't support all of Obama's policies, but she is enthusiastic about what his election means for America's future.

"I think a lot of things are going to change," Kuckertz said. "And after eight years of Bush, I think people are ready for that."
Reaction to the Second 2008 Presidential Debate

Kilde: youtube

students at the University of San Diego voice their opinions on the second presidential debate between Barack Obama and John McCain.

students at the University of San Diego voice their opinions on the second presidential debate between Barack Obama and John McCain.

Kilde: youtube

PÅ FORSIDEN NÅ:

Sats på storbyene i krisepakken

Byrådsleder Monica Mæland (H) fra Bergen, byrådsleder Erling Læs (H) fra Oslo, ordfører Leif Johan Seivland (H) fra Stavanger, ordfører Per Sigurd Sørøen (H) fra Kristiansand og ordfører Arild Hausberg (Ap) fra Tromsø skriver om storbyene.

Disse vil i sum bidra til å sikre velferden i kommunene. De i alle landets regionhovedsteder og kan bidra til fremknytning av nødvendig infrastruktur for storbyene og alle deres naboer.

Les mer [hordaland.hoyre]

Gazablør

Tolker krigens folkereett

Hei gode Høgrevenner, og godt nytt år

Høgre har som hovedfilosofi å give enkeltmennesket og næringslivet i stand til å ta ansvar for egen utvikling og egen fremtid.

Den 14. september går det norske folk til urnene for å bestemme kven som skal leie landet neste 4 år. Les mer [møreogroDenhoyre]

Gaza blør

Mølighet for naturopplevelser er viktig for folkes naturforståelse og miljøgjørem.

Høyre mener at den private eiendomsrett er den som best sikrer en forsvarlig forvaltning av naturområder.

Les mer [stavanger.hoyre]

Mulighet for naturopplevelser er viktig for folkes naturforståelse og miljøgjørem.

Høyre mener at den private eiendomsrett er den som best sikrer en forsvarlig forvaltning av naturområder.

Les mer [stavanger.hoyre]

Fylkeskommunen foreslår prosjekter for flere hundre... Les mer [val]

Tolker krigens folkereett

Før jul fikk Forsvarets høgskole bevilget manns egen stilling.

Fål opp personvernkommissjonens innstilling.

13.01.2009 i dag tra http://www.politikkavisen.no/www_Dyoutube_Dcom/frame_101_116864_89_73441... 1/13/2009
Local News

Campus Ministers Go Virtual To Draw Students

ANDREW NELSON, Staff Writer
Published: January 15, 2009

ATLANTA—Today's college students are always plugged into technology, don't carry the do-not-trust-anyone-over-30 hang-up and are not afraid to share details of their lives. But the idea of going out on a romantic date causes panic.

So, how's a Catholic campus minister supposed to engage them with the challenges of Jesus?

Being where they are, advise speakers at a national campus ministry convention.

Students like technology. Start a Facebook page.
Students like to talk. Ask probing questions.
Students are immersed in pop culture. Find the Gospel in today's media.

Meeting Jan. 6-9 in Atlanta, close to 300 lay ministers, sisters and priests focused on how to take Jesus' message to students who grew up with the Internet and have a worldview shaped by the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11.

Technology and college life today are tied together. And campus ministers have to utilize the tool.

Holy Cross Father Peter Walsh said a Web presence is almost mandatory, whether a Web page or being on the popular social networking group Facebook.

"It is kind of like having the church in the public square. Their faith is represented on the large public square," said Father Walsh. "Students are online. You should be there."

Walsh and his colleague Kathleen Byrnes, a campus minister, work at the St. Thomas More Catholic Chapel and Center at Yale University in New Haven, Conn.

They have several hundred students linked on their Facebook group. It allows them to communicate with people and also be easily available to students.

However, Byrnes said the technology is a tool that should at times be shut off. If a student e-mails a serious question, the minister engages the student but invites them to a face-to-face conversation, she said.

Technology can also be a crutch to hide isolation in a dorm. The campus minister can challenge students to have a "technology fast." Byrnes said students on retreats are told to leave behind cell phones. Being unhooked from technology is unusual for them and it allows them to focus, she said.

The Catholic Campus Ministry Association celebrated its...
Campus Ministers Go Virtual To Draw Students

40th anniversary with the national three-day convention. Its theme was "Jesus in a New Generation" as workshops coverd topics from "Christ Came to Heal," focused on the mentally ill student, to "What's Faith Got to Do With It" about the environment.

The Atlanta Archdiocese was represented. Father Bryan Small, the director of the University Catholic Center, a parish for students at Emory University and Agnes Scott College, presented the "Turning Water Into Funk" workshop on evangelization and pop culture. Father Edward Branch, chaplain at the Lyke House at the Atlanta University Center, led a discussion on building stronger connections between Catholic campus ministers at historically black colleges and universities.

Father Martin Moran, the executive director of the Cincinnati-based Catholic Campus Ministry Association, said campus ministers serve nearly 5 million students.

In today's students, they face a skeptical group that is interested in the spiritual aspects of religion, but suspect of the church.

"They don't buy into the institutional church," said Father Moran, the chaplain at Bucknell University in Lewisburg, Pa., for nine years. The challenge is to link students' desire to serve and the church, he said.

"We have to constantly invite people back to the faith," he said.

At the event, Bishop Gregory M. Aymond of Austin, Texas, was given the 2008 Exemplary Bishop Award for leadership in campus ministry.

Loneliness on campus can bring students to tears even as the technology links to people around the globe.

Boston College philosophy professor Kerry Cronin said students are quick to share their lives, including intimate stories. The students are waiting for a mentor to take an interest in what they do because the culture "is offering them a whole lot of nothing," she said during her keynote speech.

Students do not need to be preached at or be quoted the great works of ethics, she said. What they want are insightful questions that ask about their desires.

"You have to be hitting them where they are," she said.

Cronin said she realized the need for these discussions after a Jesuit priest spoke at a talk titled "Chastity and Courage." The lecture hall was packed, she said. She then gave a talk called "Take Back the Date" where students also jammed the room. As part of her classes, a student is required to ask a person out on a "level one" date, maybe for ice cream or coffee.

A minister has to "force the awkwardness" by asking a few questions and then listen, she said.

"They want to talk about why they are so lonely," she said.

On the small group discussion about Catholic ministry on historically black colleges, the tasks ranged from being of service to students, evangelizing people about the faith and offering Mass and sacraments.

Three priests talked about establishing programs on
Campus Ministers Go Virtual To Draw Students

"It's a new venture," said Franciscan Father Branch.

Father Branch said, "We need to make ourselves as large as we truly are and larger."

Mary Kruer is an assistant university minister at the Catholic University of San Diego. She is unfamiliar with the latest technology, so she scribbled to fill a notebook with information about the Internet during the technology workshop.

After 13 years in the field, Kruer said she has found students more technology savvy, but also isolated by it. They are searching for community beyond the online experience, she said.

"There is a generosity of spirit," she said, even as many today are "spiritual, but question religiosity," she said.

Christa Angeloni said she planned to return to her campus at Cabrini College, outside Philadelphia, with new ideas to connect with students. Angeloni said she wants to work on getting students to relate to the humanity of Jesus.

"They'll connect to Jesus the person, not overly focused on the divine, but the face of Jesus," she said.
WE SPEND THE WHOLE YEAR watching the people of San Diego. That’s part of our job. We watch people at parties, doing home remodels and wearing the latest fashion. As well, we keep an eye on what our politicians are up to, what current events are sparking interest and what the local sports teams are doing (please, sports teams, do something!).

And then comes the January issue, and our “50 People to Watch” feature. It’s highly anticipated, and a pleasure to … be done with. We get hundreds of pitches for inclusion in the list. Rest assured, we read every note and suggestion. Finding 50 folks isn’t the hard part—winnowing the list down is.

As always, we take pride in serving up the most eclectic such list in town. Our readers are not a business constituency, a single age demographic or a particular voting bloc. Granted, we skew toward a more affluent readership. But our readers represent a broad spectrum of races, religions, occupations and interests.

So our list reflects that. Look for the 12-year-old golf phenom … and the UCSD Pulitzer Prize winner. Read about the Grossmont College student who helped crack a cold case while interning for the San Diego Police Department … and then judge our selection of the new San Diego city attorney, or the tattooed activist who strives to keep Latino youths out of trouble. These are San Diego Magazine’s People to Watch—but they are also, simply, a shining cross-section of San Diego’s people.

WHAT’S GOING ON AT OUR LOCAL COLLEGES is also worth an extended look. Contributing writer Marcia Manna examines San Diego as a college town. She ventured onto the campuses of San Diego State University, Point Loma Nazarene University, University of San Diego, University of California, San Diego and California State University, San Marcos. And associate editor Julia Beeson Pollorono supplements the story by prying into the stereotypes of each school. Is SDSU really a hard-partying school? How much of a part does religion play in student life at PLNU? Read on and find out.

Also: Fitness expert Jorge Cruise shows how yoga can get rid of belly fat. Food critic David Nelson reviews the new French eatery Hexagone. Business writer Rich Acello dissects the idea to build a giant deck above the 10th Avenue Marine Terminal. And writer Tom Cushman previews the 2009 Buick Invitational golf tournament. Could Tiger Woods re-emerge from his rehab?

That’s certainly worth watching for. Enjoy the issue.

RON DONOHO
Executive Editor
rond@sandiegomagazine.com
THE VISION of a college student sitting in a library, reading a book under the glow of a desk lamp, is as vintage today as a Norman Rockwell painting. Young scholars are more likely to be found in the campus coffee shop, stationed in front of a laptop while texting messages on a cell phone.

Advances in technology are among the many trends impacting the landscape of higher education.

"There is a lot more access to information, and some of the best and most current research in the world is accessed through technology," says Point Loma Nazarene University president Bob Brower. "You can link outside resource people into the classroom, so you can have experts available virtually anywhere in the world. The variety of technology that supports learning helps make teaching better."

Other issues facing higher-education students and faculty in the 21st century include international study, federal funding, energy conservation and linking education to the job market. In short, you can't take a snapshot of student life without considering the bigger, more global picture.

Associated Students president James Poet, a senior at San Diego State University, says his fellow students are focused on going green and studying abroad. He's excited about the new Enhance, Evolve and Innovate initiative, a six-point campus referendum passed last year that allocated more than $1 million for special projects.

"There is about $300,000 made available for study-abroad scholarships," says Poet. "The students voted to tax themselves to provide these programs for themselves and fellow students."

"One of our other great initiatives this past term is Green Love, a movement toward sustainability. We decided to dedicate $250,000 for sustainable upgrades to our facilities," he says. "And after 12 years, we just renewed our lease with the city for Mission Bay Aquatic Center. We'll put solar panels over the entire facility and be able to produce 100 percent of the electricity."

San Diego's universities are challenged with preparing students for personal, regional and global achievement during a time when state budget cuts are causing the California State Uni-
SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY

From left, nursing students Brittany Wells, Michelle Fulkeson and Shannon Cannahan.

5500 Campanile Drive, San Diego, 619-594-6561
Founded: 1917
Serves: 30,460 undergraduates
Registration and in-state student fees: $3,754 per year
Motto: Minds that move the world

The largest university in the region, and one of the largest and oldest in California, SDSU was first known as San Diego Normal School, and its curriculum was intended to train elementary schoolteachers in "normal" subjects. Today, SDSU offers doctoral degrees in 16 academic and research disciplines.

The Imperial Valley campus is an SDSU branch with locations in Calexico and Brawley. The faculty there is multinational in classroom orientation and background. Interactive television provides students in Calexico the opportunity to participate in various classes broadcast live from the campus in San Diego.

"I'm especially proud of the way we are internationalizing our campus," says provost Nancy Marlin. "I like seeing growth from an international perspective because that's the world our students will be living and working in. No matter how wonderful our programs are in terms of diversity, you can't substitute for the experience of being abroad."

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

9500 Gilman Drive, La Jolla, 858-534-2230
Founded: 1940
Serves: 22,770 undergraduates; estimated total enrollment: 28,500
In-state tuition: $8,906 per year
Motto: Let there be light

Home to the San Diego Supercomputer Center, Scripps Institution of Oceanography and UCSD Medical Center, UCSD is one of 10 campuses in the University of California system. The San Diego Daily Transcript listed UCSD as the fourth-largest employer in the region last year. The coeducational research institution located in La Jolla consists of six undergraduate colleges, each offering personalized student opportunities and unique educational philosophies.

"UC San Diego has been built on a century of achievements at the Scripps Institute of Oceanography," says chancellor Marye Anne Fox, who taught organic chemistry for 23 years. "So when it first started, as an independent institution, there was a strong emphasis on science, engineering and medicine. The new expansion of the Price Center will add all sorts of things for students to do at night. There's a performance lounge, several restaurants, a nightclub, a movie theater, and there is even a hair salon."
Technology Trends

- The National Association for College Admission Counseling reports that roughly 29 percent of colleges use blogs to recruit students, and some universities advertise on Facebook or post promotional videos on YouTube.
- Students can share their opinions of schools and teachers online at websites such as studentsreview.com or ratemyprofessor.com.
- Blackboard Learning System is a virtual bulletin board used at many colleges for checking grades, posting assignments and even attending classes online.
- Now that movies can be seen on iTunes, students can upload documentaries and educational video lectures on a range of copies on the iTunes U section.
- CourseSmart offers more than 4,000 digital textbooks. SDSU students, for example, can buy a subscription for up to 540 days, print up to 10 pages at a time, search for key words and type in the margins. The price for an e-book is considerably less than the print version.
- All universities are likely to become wireless within the next five years, and access to bandwidth may become problematic by 2011.

Bragging Rights

- U.S. News & World Report's 2009 edition of America's Best Colleges ranked San Diego State University's international business program 14th in the nation.
- The University of San Diego ranked ninth out of 70 national universities listed as "Up-and-Coming Schools" by U.S. News & World Report's 2009 edition of America's Best Colleges.
- Point Loma Nazarene University's study-abroad participation was ranked 20th in the nation for universities granting master's degrees by a recent Open Doors report.
- University of California, San Diego expects to open its $53 million Conrad Prebys Music Center & Concert Hall, designed by renowned acoustician Cyril M. Harris, in May.
- Cal State San Marcos is one of 57 universities in the nation to be recognized for community engagement by the Carnegie Foundation.

UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO

5998 Alcala Park, San Diego, 619-260-4600
Founded: 1949
Serves: 5,121 undergraduates; total enrollment: 7,600
Basic tuition: $34,272 per year
Motto: Emittc Spiritum Tuum (Send Forth Thy Spirit)
A secular board of trustees oversees operations at this Roman Catholic institution overlooking Mission Bay. More than 60 degrees are offered at the bachelor's, master's and doctoral levels. USD is divided into six schools and colleges, including the School of Law and the new Kroc School of Peace Studies.

Provost and vice president Julie Sullivan sees a greater sense of accountability in higher education in administration and faculty, a feeling that they need to demonstrate student learning outcomes and preparedness in graduates. "There is a much greater expectation in terms of the sophistication and comprehensiveness of student services, whether that involves technology, academic counseling or career services," she says. "There is more focus on experiential learning—of extending the learning to outside the classroom but relating

CONTINUED ON PAGE 111
SAN DIEGO: COLLEGE TOWN
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 74
the two. That's why you see more emphasis on international studies."

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SAN MARCOS
333 South Twin Oaks Valley Road, San Marcos, 760-750-4000
Founded: 1989
Serves: 8,124 undergraduates; estimated total enrollment: 9,140
Tuition: $3,011 per year
Located in the rolling hills of North County, CSUSM is one of the fastest-growing colleges in the CSU system. Enrollment is projected to surpass 12,000 by next year. The university, considered a commuter campus, includes the College of Arts & Sciences, Business Administration, Education and the newly established School of Nursing at the Palomar Pomerado Health Education Center.

"What we realize is several of our future building projects need to be a student union and athletic field," says Karen Haynes, president. "While we have built athletic teams here, we can’t yet play softball or baseball on campus, and obviously those are venues for students coming together. Our next couple of years will focus on instruction projects that really help support and create more student life and student activities."

POINT LOMA NAZARENE UNIVERSITY
3900 Lomaland Drive, San Diego, 619-849-2200
Founded: 1902 in Los Angeles, moved to Pasadena and then relocated to San Diego in 1973
Serves: 2,346 undergraduates; total enrollment: 3,480
Tuition and fees: approximately $26,000 per year
Motto: Teach, Shape, Send
The 93-acre campus of this private, non-profit Christian university is known for its spectacular ocean views. In addition to the undergraduate campus, there are graduate programs at regional centers in Arcadia, Bakersfield, the Inland Empire and Mission Valley. A campaign to build a new science complex is under way.

Like USD, PLNU is open to students of all faiths, but it also offers courses and mission programs that address spiritual as well as academic growth. Blake Nelson, the Associated Student Body director of spiritual life, is a senior majoring in literature with a passion for film. He says his video work for Invisible Children and World Vision gave him the skills to pair “images of the poor with a Switchfoot soundtrack.” But studying abroad in Rwanda and Uganda helped him understand poverty in a broader perspective, and the trip impacted his faith in a way that helps him relate to the spiritual needs of students.

"I wanted to get a grasp on the historical, political and social contexts of these—and other—situations, so I could better translate them into stories on screen and on paper," Nelson says. "I left the trip a more knowledgeable student and a better storyteller, but with little hope. After immersing myself in the potential for humanity to tear itself apart, and learning how my own country has ignored, funded or denied other genocides, I was left with this: If our hope in Christ isn’t real, then we have nothing."
Local Company Wins Third Torch Award

By Janet Miller

Lately there have been abundant examples in business news of companies being operated in underhanded ways. It has become commonplace to read and hear news stories about crooked investment schemes, irresponsible lending, and gigantic bonuses for executives while their company's workers are being laid off. Day after day we hear of business people making the wrong choices and the burden that these choices have placed on our economy as a whole. It's enough to make one wonder if there are any ethical companies left.

The Better Business Bureau of San Diego certainly believes there are, and it recently bestowed its prestigious Torch Award for Marketplace Ethics on a handful of companies whose business practices demonstrate a significant commitment to ethical operations. At a luncheon held on December 9, one of the companies that received a Torch Award was Clairemont's own K-Co Construction, Inc.

This is the third time K-Co has been singled out in the last 6 years as winner of the Torch Award for San Diego companies with 11-24 employees. In 2004, K-Co also won the Council of Better Business Bureau's International Torch Award from a field of nominees submitted by BBBs all over the U.S. and Canada. The company has also been a local finalist four times in recent years. Judged independently, the BBB Torch Award competition evaluates nominees based upon the companies' demonstration of superior ethics in the marketplace with respect to their customers, vendors, marketing and advertising campaigns, conflict resolution policies, and level of community involvement are all considered. Each company nominated can submit a package of information that is reviewed thoroughly by volunteer judges who are themselves leaders in their respective industries.

It's been an award-winning season for K-Co, well known in Clairemont both for the many homes they have improved over the years and for their numerous contributions to local causes. The company was recently named Family-Owned Small Business of the Year by the USD Family Business Forum and two of their construction projects were recognized by the Clairemont Town Council with 2008 Beautification Awards.

According to general manager Chad Gardiner, "We take great pride in what we do for the community. I grew up in Clairemont and want to be a part of what makes this community great. Being recognized for our ethical business practices by an organization like the BBB is very gratifying!"

Congratulations to K-Co!
News Web Site Launching

Good news surfaces on the local media scene. There's a new "publication" on the horizon that will feature a big helping of community news, including sports and business. Web-based San Diego News Network, brainchild of the La Jolla-based husband-and-wife entrepreneurial team of Neil Senturia and Barbara Bry, is set to launch between Feb. 15 and March 1. Ron James, most recently a top editor at SignOnSanDiego.com, will manage the startup publication, while a number of ex-Union-Tribune staffers have been brought on board to produce original content. Bry participated in the very successful ProFlowers.com IPO a few years back and was the founding editor and CEO of online community newspaper voiceofsandiego.org ... The word on the street is not so good these days for many of San Diego's performing arts groups. Most are struggling with greatly reduced corporate funding, not to mention slowing ticket sales. One well-placed source familiar with the groups said two community theater nonprofits, as well as two of three local dance companies, are trying to keep doors open for another season while they sort through the challenge. Apparently, one theater group still hasn't paid all its bills accumulated from last summer ... Jeff Skiba, who won the Paralympics gold medal in the high jump at the Beijing games, has been named Challenged Athlete of the Year by the San Diego Hall of Champions. On Feb. 18, he'll be honored at the Town and Country Resort, along with Port Commissioner Stephen P. Cushman, who was instrumental in bringing the Red Bull Air Races to San Diego, and the late Junior Robles, who founded the Community Youth Athletic Association in National City. Visit www.sdhoc.com for details ... A familiar face is departing City Hall. Lynn Hijar, the popular head of the Office of Protocol under Mayor Jerry Sanders, leaves Jan. 31 to become CEO of local business Exclusive Event and to launch her own community relations agency. Hijar will continue to sit on the boards of the World Trade Center San Diego, United Through Reading, Japan Society of San Diego and Tijuana, Diplomacy Council, University of San Diego's Alumni Association, among other agencies. There's a local connection with the historic events of Jan. 20. Ryan Watanabe, an eighth-grade student at Francis Parker School, witnessed the ceremonies surrounding President Barack Obama's inauguration. Watanabe was part of a delegation of students attending a youth leadership conference ... High-profile PR and community relations man Bernie Pinerson has landed in the San Diego schools system, an announcement lost in the heat of the presidential campaign last fall. He oversees communications, government relations, community relations, translations and the race and human relations departments for the district.

Tom York pens the SDBJ Insider each week. Reach him at sdbjinsider@sdbj.com.
San Diego Observes MLK Day

Last Update: 12:18 am

SAN DIEGO - From gathering for breakfast to sharing work, San Diegans celebrated the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, amid preparations across the country for the inauguration of Barack Obama as president.

About 25 organizations teamed up to put on the 21st annual "All People's Breakfast" at Golden Hall with a theme of "Why We Can't Wait."

Obama’s inauguration as the nation’s first black president held added significance for people celebrating the holiday.

"There was a promise made in that that you can be anything that you wanted to be, and I told my children that," said Ashley Walker of the San Diego Human Relations Commission. "And tomorrow, it appears that what I told my children was not a lie."

Children will see the promise will come reality when Obama takes office, Walker said.

"It just means that anything is possible and you can reach for the stars," attendee Jennifer Blackmon said. "I could be president one day possibly and we can have a woman president."

The breakfast included a number of speakers and a gospel choir.

There was also a community breakfast held by the United African American Ministerial Action Council.

Hundreds of people came together to clean a Balboa Park canyon of overgrown brush while Kaiser Permanente employees volunteered at the San Diego Food Bank.

Volunteers with the University of San Diego helped to renovate Hannah’s House -- a family shelter in North Park, and San Diego State University held a luncheon for the holiday.

Courts and all San Diego city, county, state and federal government offices are closed Monday in observance of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

There will be a one-day delay in trash, yard waste and curbside recycling collection in the city of San Diego.

Parking meters will not be enforced in San Diego and most cities in the county, except in Del Mar.

There will be no mail delivery, and banks will be closed.

City and county libraries will be closed.

Metropolitan Transit System and North County Transit District buses and trolleys will operate on a normal Monday schedule.

"I Have a Dream"
San Diegans Monday celebrated the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, amid preparations across the country for the inauguration of Barack Obama as president.

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For more events happening Monday, click here.

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Maine Staff Sgt. Timothy Jelinek, from the University of San Diego NROTC, addresses the deficiencies of a high school Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps student during Area 11 Field Meet hosted by Ramona High School on Saturday. Twelve units from Riverside, Orange, Los Angeles and San Diego counties competed for the opportunity to advance to the state meet on March 7 in Santa Ana.
FOR THEIR BENEFIT

For Their Benefit is a weekly listing of activities sponsored by nonprofit organizations to raise funds for programs that serve San Diegans.

Jan. 31

The fourth annual "Diamond in the Rough" gala, an evening of cocktails, wine tasting, silent and live auctions, dinner and entertainment by comedian Frank Caliendo, benefiting students at Monarch School. 6 p.m.
Jan. 31 at Manchester Grand Hyatt, One Market Place, San Diego. $350, with tables of 10 available for $3,500 to $7,000; sponsorships available. Black-tie optional. (619) 685-8242, ext. 226.

Feb. 12

St. Jude's Academy, celebrating 61 years of education, benefiting Catholic education in the inner city. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Feb. 12 at University of San Diego, Mother Dorothy Day Hall, 5998 Alcala Park, San Diego. $100, (619) 264-2195 or (619) 264-3154.

Items for For Their Benefit should be submitted at least three weeks in advance and may be sent by e-mail: fortheirbenefit@uniontrib.com or by fax to (619) 293-5093.
DATEBOOK | EVENTS CALENDAR FOR SAN DIEGO

Shirley Weber, chair of Africana Studies at SDSU, will discuss "Building African-American Communities: A Legacy of Resistance and Resiliency," 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Room LL430 in SDSU Library, 5500 Campanile Drive. Lecture is in conjunction with the library's exhibit, "Creating Community: African-Americans In San Diego," in the library's Donor Hall. Free and open to the public. Information: (619) 594-4991 or infodome.sdsu.edu.

San Diego Public Library annual Black History Month book discussion, Black Women Write Black Women. This year the focus will be on the Alice Childress play "Wine In the Wilderness," and Dorothy West's novel "The Wedding." Professor Camille F. Forbes, an African-American literature and culture expert from UCSD, will facilitate the discussions. 6:30 p.m. Wednesday and March 11, in the Wangenheim Room on the third floor of the Central Library, 820 E St., downtown. Information: sandiegolibrary.org.

San Diego Chapter Parents of Murdered Children support group meeting: 6:30 to 8 p.m. the first Thursday of each month, Toby Wells YMCA, 5105 Overland Ave. Next meeting is Thursday, Free, adults only. Information: (858) 292-4784.

Associated Arts lunch and musical program, 11 a.m. Monday, San Diego Woman's Clubhouse, 2557 Third Ave. Cost is $8 and goes toward scholarships for worthy students in the arts. Reservations by tomorrow: (619) 582-0358.

Film: The Courage of Congolese People with Keith Harmon Snow. 7 p.m. Thursday, WorldBeat Cultural Center, 2100 Park Blvd. Information: (619) 230-1930 or worldbeatcenter.org.

Movie, lecture and Q&A session with filmmaker Isaac Aviles and his work Break of Dawn. 6 p.m. Thursday, USD Mother Rosalie Hall, 5998 Alcala Park. Part of the Deportation Nation film series. Break of Dawn depicts the story of Los Angeles musician, radio personality and activist Pedro J. Gonzalez and his deportation for speaking out against the mass deportations of Mexicans in the 1930's. Free. Information: (619) 920-1713.

The Salvation Army Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center is seeking performers for its Broadway Spectacular. This is the main fundraising effort for Kroc Kids Art With a Heart. The Broadway Spectacular will be on April 16 and 19 and includes songs from musicals such as "Annie," "Rent" and "Wicked." All ages welcome. A $100 donation is required to participate. All who audition will be included in the show. 4 to 8 p.m. Thursday or 2 to 6 p.m. Feb. 8, 6805 University Ave. Information: (619) 269-1411 or kroccenter.org.
French film festival — The Alliance Francaise de San Diego presents a festival of the best films from France in 2008. All films will be presented in French with English subtitles; the films will be presented twice; 5 and 8 p.m.; Salomon Lecture Hall, University of San Diego, Casa Alcala Park, San Diego; $10; free parking; afsandsdiego.org.
"Creating and Making the Most of Your Website" Roxanne Young will address this topic at this month's meeting of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators. Young will discuss the importance of using websites for promoting and marketing. In the Hahn School of Nursing, 619-715-5462. Saturday, January 10, 2 p.m. $7-$9. University of San Diego, 5998 Alcala Park, (LINDA VISTA)
Athletics
Toreros hoping to end ‘funk’ against Gonzaga

By Hank Wesch
STAFF WRITER

With apologies to Dennis Green, the analysis by USD men’s basketball coach Bill Grier of the West Coast Conference losses his Toreros have suffered recently to Saint Mary’s and Portland can be paraphrased as: “They are who we thought they were.”

Of course Grier’s voice from Spokane, Wash., yesterday didn’t resonate with the fire and anger of then-Arizona Cardinals coach Green in the infamous 2006 news conference after a loss to the Chicago Bears. But in his typically calm manner, Grier delivered a similar message.

“I’ve been really concerned about this three-game stretch all along,” Grier said. “Saint Mary’s really throttled us. I’ve been saying since last summer that I thought Portland was going to be much improved and now they’re 9-1 at home.

“Mentally, we’re in a little bit of a funk, but we’ve lost to two really good teams. And now we have to play another one.”

That would be No. 20 Gonzaga, perennial WCC powerhouse and a 69-62 winner over Saint Mary’s on Thursday in a battle of unbeaten for the league lead. That evening, one week after a 23-point home drubbing by Saint Mary’s, USD absorbed a 15-point loss at up-and-coming Portland.

What’s needed for the Toreros to return to the form that produced a six-game winning streak before the authoritative setbacks?

“We’ve got to get back to having a presence on defense,” Grier said. “(Portland) knocked down a bushel of threes on us and up until these last two games we’d been very good at defending against that.”

For the season, USD has made 101 of 282 three-point attempts (35.8 percent) while allowing 116 of 345 (33.8). But Saint Mary’s (7-for-16) and Portland (8-for-14) combined for 50 percent accuracy and 45 points from behind the arc.

“We had done a good job of not letting our offensive lulls affect our defense,” Grier said. “But it seems like we’ve had some letdowns on that (defensive) end as well lately.”

Gonzaga takes a back seat to few teams in the country when it comes to perimeter firepower.

Josh Heytvelt, the 6-foot-11 senior center who leads four double-figure scorers with a 14.4 points per game average, is comfortable, and can be productive, letting fly from three-point distance. The same can be said for a number of other Bulldogs, starting with 6-10 sophomore forward Austin Daye (13.3 ppg, 7.2 rpg).

The trip to Spokane was something of a homecoming last year for Grier, who took over at USD after 16 years as a Gonzaga assistant.

“Last year there were all kinds of emotions,” Grier said. “This year it’s not the same.”

He knows the Zags are what he thinks they are. And under the current circumstances, that isn’t a comforting thought.

Hank Wesch: (619) 293-1853; hank.wesch@uniontrib.com
Toreros Report

Today: at No. 20 Gonzaga
Tipoff: 3:05 p.m. at McCarthey Athletic Center in Spokane, Wash.
Records: USD 12-8, 4-2 West Coast Conference; Gonzaga 15-4, 6-0
TV/Radio: ESPN2 / 1090 AM

At a glance: The University of San Diego needs to make amends for its poor performance in an ESPN2 game last week not only to convince television execs to put them on the air in future years but also to improve their standing in the WCC. USD has dropped two straight after a 4-0 start to conference play, including last week's 65-42 blowout loss to Saint Mary's on national television. ... The Toreros lost at Portland 69-55 on Thursday to drop into fourth place in the conference standings and send them into the WCC's toughest venue having suffered consecutive convincing defeats. Gonzaga is 14-1 in its last 16 conference home games. ... Gonzaga beat No. 22 Saint Mary's 69-62 on Thursday to end the Gaels' 15-game winning streak and take sole possession of first place in the conference standings.

— Tom Shanahan
Pilots show Toreros they’re no longer a WCC pushover

PORTLAND 69, TOREROS 55

By Ian Ruder
SPECIAL TO THE UNION-TRIBUNE

PORTLAND, Ore. — The West Coast Conference’s Northwest swing, with Gonzaga and the University of Portland, always has been one of the more difficult trips for the league’s California teams.

But in recent memory, there was the consolation of what usually has been a relatively weak Portland opponent.

Last night, the Pilots gave the visiting Toreros notice that the perceived weakness no longer is the case, handing USD a lopsided 69-55 defeat.

"I think this two-game stretch is the hardest in the league and certainly tonight this one was tough," USD coach Bill Grier said.

Grier praised Portland coach Eric Reveno, who has patiently rebuilt the
TOREROS
CONTINUED FROM D1
Pilots’ early 12-2 run too much to overcome

Pilots in his three-year tenure.

"I was the guy that was saying over the course of the summer I thought they were going to one of the better teams in the league," Grier said. "Eric took some lumps early, but he redshirted some guys and he's got some guys who are a year older and tougher, and they execute well."

Said Revene: "I believed in what we doing last year, I believed that we had made progress, but it's not my style to go out and convince everybody else because you do that by winning."

The Pilots, (14-7, 5-1) off to their best start ever in WCC play, outshot, outrebounded and outscored the Toreros to move a game ahead of USD and into a tie for second place in the WCC with Saint Mary's, which fell last night to Gonzaga. The win was Portland's first over USD (12-9, 4-2) in their past five tries and only their second win in the teams' past nine meetings.

Senior forward Gyno Pomare has more Northwest trips than anyone on the USD roster and said last night's game was a new experience.

"This Portland team is vastly improved from what I remember," Pomare said. "They've got some great shooters out there. I've never seen them shoot the ball so well in my five years."

The Pilots only shot 45.7 percent from the field, but they made eight of 14 three-pointers and always seemed to have an answer when USD charged.

A 12-2 run five minutes into the game gave Portland a 25-13 cushion, and USD never was able to get back within five points. Nik Raivio finished with 17 points and nine rebounds for Portland.

While Portland's perimeter players drained open looks, the Toreros struggled to create open shots.

"That's a credit to their defense," Grier said, "but I just don't think we're doing a good enough job at screening and coming off screens looking to score. I've just got to do a better job with them offensively."

Pomare had a game-high 18 points and six rebounds, and Rob Jones had a solid effort with 13 points and 10 rebounds.

Pomare said the team still was recovering from last week's loss to Saint Mary's.

"We thought we got past that last week in practice, but obviously we've still got a couple of things to work out," he said.

"We definitely need to come together as a team."

USD SUMMARY

Portland 69, USD 55

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* Portland 25-9, 14-6 WCC, 8-3 overall, 10-1 at home.
* USD 12-9, 4-2 WCC, 4-8 overall, 4-5 away.

* Portland's shooting was 52.7 percent to USD's 46.2 percent.
* Portland outrebounded USD 39-27.

* Portland made six three-pointers to USD's five.

* Portland made 25 free throws to USD's 14.

While Portland had a 49-32 rebounding edge, USD had a 22-9 advantage in points off turnovers.

* Portland had a season-high 13 steals in the win.

* Portland's defense held USD to 40% shooting.

* Portland's bench scored 35 points to USD's 21.

* Portland's()
Sharp-shooting Portland dominates Toreros men

PORTLAND, Ore. — Nik Raivio scored 17 points and Jared Stohl added 14 to lead Portland to a 69-55 win over the University of San Diego on Thursday night.

The Pilots (14-7) hit 8-of-14 3-pointers to improve to 5-1 in West Coast Conference play, their best start since joining the league for the 1977-78 season.

Gyno Pomare led the Toreros (12-9, 4-2) with 18 points. Rob Jones added 13 points and 10 rebounds.

Portland led 34-24 lead at the half, but USD managed to stay within striking distance through the first 10 minutes of the second half.

Ethan Niedermeyer and T.J. Campbell then hit back-to-back 3-pointers to put the Pilots ahead 52-38, and the Toreros never threatened again.

Campbell went 3-for-3 from 3-point range and finished with 11 points and four assists.

The Toreros were 2-of-10 from 3-point range and missed half of their 14 free-throw attempts.
USD, Portland duel for second

Toreros, Pilots are in thick of WCC race

By Hank Wesch
STAFF WRITER

The USD men’s basketball team is in the middle of a three-game stretch that coach Bill Grier called the heart of its West Coast Conference regular season schedule.

And there’s no underestimating the critical situation the Toreros, recipients of a Portland, WCC, USD to Northwest road trip tonight at Portland, Ore.

USD (12-8 overall) and Portland (13-7) are both 4-1 in the WCC, with the only losses coming to the league’s two nationally ranked powers — USD to Saint Mary’s and Portland to Gonzaga.

A share of second place in the league, with the loser of tonight’s Saint Mary’s-Gonzaga showdown in Spokane, Wash., awaits the winner. Not to mention a confidence restoration if the winner is USD or a contending-status affirmation if it is Portland.

The Pilots haven’t finished higher than sixth in the eight-team league during the regular season in the last 12 years. But in the third year under head coach Eric Reveno, a nine-year assistant at Stanford under Mike Montgomery and Trent Johnson, the indications that change has come are abundant.

The Pilots have matched their best start ever in WCC play, joining the 1980 and 1998 teams. Portland has never accomplished a 5-1 league start. With nine regular-season games remaining, three victories would give the Pilots their most wins in a season in 13 years.

“The team that’s leading the Pac-10, Washington, was beaten by Portland,” Grier points out. Portland prevailed over the Huskies 80-74 in its season opener at home Nov. 15.

Portland is one of the bigger teams in the WCC, with four players 6-foot-9 or taller. But the big difference from recent seasons appears to be the smallest man on that roster, 5-9 junior transfer T.J. Campbell.

“They’ve added a point guard (Campbell) who gives them quickness that they didn’t have last year,” Grier said. “They have size inside, good perimeter shooters, and I think they have confidence. I know they’ve been pointing to this as a really big weekend, with us and Saint Mary’s competing to their place.”

USD has rebounded from the Saint Mary’s setback with commendable practice efforts this week, Grier said.

“ Their attitude is good, their approach to practicing has been good,” Grier said. “We’ve just got to get back to competing hard, battling and being aggressive.”

Among 330 NCAA Division I teams, USD ranks in the top 20 in free throw percentage (No. 18, 74.7) and scoring defense (No. 20, 59.6 ppg), two important areas for winning on the road.

The Toreros are 4-2 in “true” away, non-neutral site games this year. Portland is 8-1 at home.
Today at Portland

Tipoff: 7:05 p.m. at Chiles Center in Portland, Ore.
Records: USD 12-8, 4-1 West Coast Conference; Portland 13-7, 4-1
Radio: XFRS (1050 AM)

At a glance: University of San Diego coach Bill Grier considers traveling to the Pacific Northwest the Toreros' toughest West Coast Conference road trip of the year. In addition to being the longest distance the Toreros will journey from San Diego during conference play, the trip includes Saturday's game at No. 20 Gonzaga, the WCC's premier team for the last decade, and Thursday's battle against a suddenly successful Portland team. 

A year ago, Portland finished 9-22 overall and 3-11 in WCC play, but the Pilots, under third-year coach Eric Reveno, have matched their best conference start in school history to tie USD for third-place. Portland opened WCC play with a 67-60 loss at Gonzaga, but the Pilots responded with four straight wins against San Francisco, Santa Clara, Loyola Marymount and Pepperdine, the same four conference teams USD has defeated. 

Pilots sophomore G Nikola Radic is fourth in the conference in scoring, averaging 16.0 points per game. His 6.7 rebounds per game lead all WCC guards. USD is coming off one of its worst games of the year, a 65-42 loss to Saint Mary's last week.

— Tom Shanahan
Around the bases

- The MLB Network will carry 12 games from the Caribbean World Series, beginning with Venezuela-Dominican Republic at 2 p.m. Monday.
- ESPN announced the first half of its 2009 "Sunday Night Baseball" schedule. The Padres aren't part of the 12 games announced. The Cubs will on four times and the Mets twice. The season opener is Braves-Phillies on April 5. Jon Miller and Joe Morgan will be joined in the booth this season by ex-Mets general manager Steve Phillips.
- The MLB Network announced slugger Sean Casey will join its cast on "MLB Tonight." Matt Vasgersian hosts the nightly show, which also includes former major leaguers Barry Larkin, Al Leiter, Joe Magrane, Dan Plesac, Harold Reynolds and Mitch Williams.
- Cox will launch the MLB Network in HD on Feb. 23 on Channel 770.
- Larry King will have Dodgers manager Joe Torre at 6 tonight on CNN. Torre will discuss his controversial new book "The Yankee Years."
- Fox Sports Net will carry 125 Angels games during the regular season and five spring-training games. That's great news for fans in Southern Riverside County, but bad news in San Diego where Angels games on FSN are blacked out to protect the Padres.

Not forgotten

Lee "Hacksaw" Hamilton, who was let go by XTRA Sports 1360 before the station's purge two weeks ago, was given the Irv Kaz jersey. Award by the Southern California Broadcasters Association for his work on KLAC (570), a station that has also been restructured.

The award was the seventh time in his 22 years in Southern California that Hamilton has been recognized by the group.

— John Maffei

Hoops heaven

Both the San Diego State and University of San Diego men's basketball games are on national TV Saturday. USD is at Gonzaga for a 3 p.m. game on ESPN2. San Diego State is at Colorado State for a 6 p.m. game on the mtn.

UCLA hosts Stanford at 12:30 p.m. on ABC.

OK. How many of you get the mtn? How many get ESPN2? How many get ABC? Any wonder why San Diego State has a hard time getting national recognition?
Ibreros’ confidence takes a shot to the chin from Saint Mary’s

Bill Grier did not wait for the final buzzer. There was no time to delay, and not nearly enough points on the scoreboard.
The head basketball coach of the USD Toreros began walking toward the Saint Mary’s bench about four seconds from the finish of last night’s 65-43 spanking and, subconsciously perhaps, began scratching his head.
Grier’s body language suggested a man who was fresh out of schlock, an impression his players had spent most of the evening reinforcing to a national audience via ESPN2.
His challenge now is to make the game seem educational.
“We just didn’t have an answer tonight,” he said. “That’s my fault, I felt we were ready. I just didn’t do a very good job of preparing them.”
Grier’s sense of accountability is admirable, but unconvincing, for this game was neither an ambush nor an accident. The Toreros were labelled underdogs by a West Coast Conference opponent that now owns the nation’s longest winning streak and a clear claim to conference superiority.

SULLIVAN CONTINUED FROM PAGE 167
Toreros can’t match aggressive Gaels

More than once, Grier compared the experience to “being taken out behind the woodshed by your older brother.” There was little a coach could have done to prevent it except, perhaps, recruit better players.
Saint Mary’s, 19-1 and on an 18-game winning streak, scored 18 straight points after yielding the Gaels’ first basket, and held the Toreros to 14 points in the first half. USD’s 47 points were the fewest it had scored at home in nearly 21 years. The Toreros shot 32 percent from the field, had the second poorest victory (47-19) and performed in a manner that resembled a punch-drunk puncher being tossed out the ring.
“Tore they hungry because of what happened last year to them,” USD’s De-Jon Jackson said, referencing last year’s WCC Tournament. “This year, they came out and smacked us in the mouth and they kept hitting us.”
Since college players customarily take their benching points from their coaches, thebreadcrumbs were common in USD’s postgame comments. Grier spoke of his troops being figuratively punched early in the game — “They hit us and we covered up and got in the corner” — and his players picked up the theme as if it were a home ball.
The story Grier was selling was that the basic difference in the game was aggressiveness. The more credible conclusion is that in the absence of guard Brandon Johnson, who is lost for the season, the Toreros lack the quickness and tempo to compensate for Saint Mary’s interior muscle and offensive balance.
Some years, you just don’t match up, no matter how creative your coaching. This may be one of those years at USD, no matter how many players repeated Grier’s message that the game would not “define” their season.

“We just didn’t have an answer tonight. That’s my fault. I felt we were ready. I just didn’t do a very good job of preparing them.”

VILL GRIER
San Diego head coach

Center-Forward Pomare, who struggled to a season-low six points on three-of-11 shooting, was asked how soon he could put the outcome behind him. “I already have,” he said. “This game’s over and done with. I’m not going to dwell on it. I know I can play better than the way I did. We know we can play better than the way we did.”

Center-Gyno Pomare, who struggled to a season-low six points on three-of-11 shooting, was asked how soon he could put the outcome behind him. “I already have,” he said. “This game’s over and done with. I’m not going to dwell on it. I know I can play better than the way I did. We know we can play better than the way we did.”

Maybe so, but for a team that returns virtually intact from last year’s NCAA Tournament run and has yet to inspire comparable confidence this season. Last night’s loss dropped the Toreros to 13-8 on the season, 4-1 in the WCC. Some of that is a function of Brandon Johnson’s unexpected Achilles’ tendon, some to the difficulty of replacing such a dynamic player.
Trumaine Johnson played 38 minutes last night, scoring 11 points and earning credit for five assists, but the sophomore guard does not always convey a commanding vibe. He was admittedly frustrated last night by the fit of his shoes, and seemed to realize the outcome as if hurtful they might fall off. More than once, he did this while dribbling. It’s hard to imagine that one inspiring much confidence.
“We (were) playing laid back,” Johnson complained later. “We (weren’t) attacking as aggressively as we should have been. You can’t be disheartened by it. It’s a long season. . . . We can’t slow down.”
If last year all there is to it, then the Toreros would be fine. But Johnson was hard-pressed to cope with Saint Mary’s episodic Patrick Mills and Pomare was pretty much manhandled by Gaels center Omar Samhan. If none of this was attributable to aggressiveness, a lot of it was attributable to ability.
“We’ve got to come out next time swinging instead of being swung at,” Pomare said.
If only the first punch entered the last laugh.
USD's Gyno Pomare successfully defends a shot by Saint Mary's player Diamos Simpson in a game the Gaels won handily.

**Gaels still feel sting of 2008 tourney loss**

4:25 expired. The Gaels expanded the advantage to 30-10 with 2:31 remaining and took a 33-14 lead into the break.

It didn't get significantly better for USD in the second half. The Toreros trailed by 24 four minutes in and never got closer, than 17.

Saint Mary's got 16 points and 11 rebounds from Samhan, the latter total keying a 40-19 Saint Mary's dominance on the boards. Guard Patrick Mills had 15 points, seven below his average, but 10 of them came in the first half runaway. Mills also had five assists and five turnovers.

USD tried to extract points, especially early on, from Gyno Pomare, repetitively getting the ball to the 6-6 senior on the low block. But Pomare missed his first six shots, all jumpers away from the basket, before finally scoring a layup on a feed from Johnson with 3:20 remaining for his only points of the first half.

Pomare finished with six points on 3-for-13 shooting. Forward Roh Jones, also operating mostly away from the basket, was 6-for-8 and held scoring for the fourth time in his USD career. The first was a year earlier against Saint Mary's.

"We missed some shots early, which got us frustrated, and it snowballed on us," Grier said.

Gries said his frustration was not so much with the shots he took, but with the fact that he missed them.

"I can knock those down," Pomare said. "They just weren't falling tonight, and that's on me.

Pomare had averaged 18.6 points per game as USD went 24-1 against Saint Mary's last season. But Samhan won the battle tonight.

"I tried to do all the things to him that I don't like people doing to me," Samhan said. "That was physical, always touching him, always pushing him, things like that.

The Saint Mary's players hadn't forgotten the last time the teams met at the JCP. USD came from behind to prevail in double overtime in the NCAA tournament semifinals.

Did last night's blowout relieve that sting?

"No it doesn't," Samhan said. "That was one of the toughest losses we've experienced. This helps, but we'll have to beat them a few more times to get even.

"That wasn't just a sting (last season), it was more like an ACL injury — it hurt bad," Mills said.

After last night, USD knows the feeling.
USD shocked and awed

No. 23 Gaels dominate from the start; Toreros' win streak ends at six

By Hank Wesch

A company of about 500 uniformed, recent graduates from the Marine Corps Recruit Depot were guests of USD at the Jenny Craig Pavilion last night.

And while the Marines cheered loudly, possibly under orders, for USD, they were probably the most likely group in the overall crowd of 5,160 to fully appreciate the "Shock and Awe" strategy, Saint Mary's basketball style, that the Gaels executed in stomping USD 65-42.

Saint Mary's, ranked No. 23 in the ESPN/USA Today coaches poll, extended its school record winning streak to 15, the longest active in the nation after Wake Forest's loss earlier this week. The Gaels are 18-1 overall and 8-0 in West Coast Conference play.

USD's six-game winning streak ended resoundingly. And it was the second-lowest Toreros point total at home in the school's Breyer Division I history, behind only a 41-40 loss to Saint Mary's on January 29, 1988.

"All I can say is that was like being taken behind the woodshed by your older brother," said USD coach Bill Grier before going on to use a price fight metaphor.

"They hit us early and we covered up and went to a corner and we were really on our heels after that."

USD (18-4) got the opening tip and guard Travonne Johnson scored a layup off an alley-oop pass on the first possession of the game. So much for Toreros highlights.

Saint Mary's imposed its will by going on a 15-0 run before Grier was forced into calling a timeout with only
NCAA Game Summary - Saint Mary's-CA at San Diego

Updated 9:15 PM PST, Thu, Jan 22, 2009

Related Topics:San Diego Toreros | West Coast Conference | Western Athletic Conference | Saint Mary's Gaels

San Diego, CA (Sports Network) - Omar Samhan tallied 16 points and 11 rebounds -- both game-highs -- as the Saint Mary's Gaels stayed hot with a 65-42 win over the San Diego Toreros in West Coast Conference action at Jenny Craig Pavilion.

Saint Mary's (18-1, 5-0 WCC) extended its win streak to 15 games, currently the longest streak in the nation. Patrick Mills chipped in with 12 points, and Carlin Hughes finished with 10.

De'Jon Jackson led San Diego (12-8, 4-1) with 15 points, followed by Trumaine Johnson with 11.

The Gaels took control early, shooting a scorching 59.1 percent from the floor in the first half. In contrast, San Diego shot just 24 percent, as Saint Mary's took a commanding 32-14 halftime lead.

The Gaels extended their lead to 24 points four minutes into the second stanza, and they went on to shoot 52.2 percent from the floor over the final 20 minutes.

Saint Mary's held a decisive 40-19 rebounding advantage for the game.

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SAN DIEGO, Jan. 22 (UPI) -- A 16-point, 11-rebound performance by Omar Samhan Thursday led No. 22 St. Mary's to its 15th consecutive victory -- 65-42 over San Diego.

The Gaels opened the game with a 13-2 run, built a 31-14 halftime lead and coasted during the final 20 minutes.

Samhan made 8-of-9 shots from the field and St. Mary's hit 55 percent of its attempts overall. Patrick Mills added 12 points for the Gaels (18-1, 5-0 West Coast Conference).

St. Mary's only loss this season came against Texas-El Paso Nov. 27.

San Diego had a six-game winning streak snapped. The Toreros (11-8, 4-1) were led by De'Jon Jackson with 15 points and Trumaine Johnson with 11.
San Diego Sports
Saint Mary's Tenacious Defense Frustrates USD
USD Falls to St. Mary's 65-42
By Dan McDonald
PUBLISHED ON Fri, Jun 22nd, 2007
Last updated Fri, Jun 29th, 2007

On Thursday night the USD Toreros men's basketball team lost to 22nd-ranked Saint Mary's Gaels 65-42.

Toreros' Head Coach Bill Grier had hoped to extend his team's winning streak to 7 in a row and start 5-0 in the WCC for the first time in school history. Instead, the Toreros had the lowest offensive output of Grier's tenure at USD.

The Gaels' tenacious defense in the first half was the story of the game. The only lead that the Toreros would have all night was 0-2 courtesy of a Trumaine Johnson jump shot just 11 seconds into the game. For the next six minutes Saint Mary's took control, going on a run of 15 unanswered points.

The Toreros would not get their second basket until 6:10 into the game. By the end of the half, the Gaels had posted an insurmountable 32-14 lead. This was largely due to the Toreros' dismal 24% shooting, just 6 baskets for 25 attempts.

After the game, Grier spoke of his team's inability to get anything going. "Early in the game they punched us a couple times... We missed some shots early and that got us frustrated and it snowballed."

Torero Guard Pomare who leads the team with 14.8 points per game, average only managed 1-7 in the first half for 2 points and was only 3-12 for 6 points for the game.

Commenting on his performance Pomare said, "I couldn't get the half to drop for anything tonight. The team goes when I go and I didn't play well tonight against a good team."

When asked if any of his shots were rushed in the first half, he responded, "I was doubting myself, I wasn't really expecting it to go in. I found Trumaine [Johnson] at one time in the second half. I probably should have done that more in the first half."

Johnson acknowledged that Pomare was not the only Torero to struggle offensively. "Gyno is our main man so when his shots aren't falling usually they fall for me, but tonight they weren't falling and that hurt us a lot."

Johnson was asked if it was frustrating that the Gaels' aggressive defense did not result in more foul calls against the Gaels. He responded, "It [frustrated] but coming into this game, coach told us that they were going to hold, grab, and hit us going to the basket. Coming in, we kind of expected that and that's what happened and we just couldn't finish. We couldn't get our shots in."

In the end, both Pomare and Johnson remained positive despite the
disappointing loss, Ponsire said, "The game is over and done with. I am not going to dwell on it and I will play better than I did." Johnson echoed Ponsire's thoughts, "You got to keep your head up and you have to look forward to the other games. We have a lot of games against a lot of good teams in this league that we still have to play."

Even coach Grier tried to keep a positive outlook as he turned his focus to next week: "This game does not define our season. We just got out there and we're ready to play.

With a week between games the team will take today off and then prepare for what Grier believes will be the "toughest two game road trip of the season." The Toreros will face Portland on Thursday the 29th, followed by Gonzaga on Saturday the 31st.

Despite the loss, USD is still a very good basketball team. One should suspect that Coach Grier's Toreros will be able to overcome this loss and be competitive for the rest of their conference play.

Sports Category : Games
Sports Subject : Basketball

About the author: Dan McLellan is a San Diego native and Charger season ticket holder since 1993. He also has a weekly Charger podcast at www.DanMcLellan.com.

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Blowout Loss for USD

By JIM STONE

Updated 8:48 AM PST, Fri, Jan 23, 2009

Related Topics: Saint Mary's Gaels | West Coast Conference

The Toreros of USD lost their first game in the West Coast Conference after losing to St. Mary's

The Toreros of the University of San Diego were riding high going into their game with St. Mary's on Thursday night. They felt a lot worse after being embarrassed by the nationally ranked Gaels 65-42.

Watch Video

Samhan led St Mary's with 16 points. The Gaels won it 65-42 to extending their winning streak to 15 in a row

St. Mary's vs U.S.D. Toreros

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The Gaels jumped out to an early 13-2 lead, and never looked back before a sellout crowd at the Jenny Craig Pavillion. Australian Olympian Patrick Mills scored ten of his twelve points in the first half, as St. Mary's led 32-14 at the break. Center Omar Samhan finished with sixteen points, and eleven rebounds to lead the Gaels, who extended their winning streak to fifteen straight games.

De'Jon Jackson had 15 points for USD, as their WCC record fell to 4-1. The Toreros are 12-8 overall. They've got a difficult trip next weekend to the Northwest that includes a matchup with Gonzaga on January 31st.

Find this article at:

http://www.printthis.clickability.com/pt/cpt?action=cpt&title=Blowout+Loss+for+USD+...
Bad break not stopping Toreros

By Jennifer Starks
Staff writer

Posted: 01/21/2009 08:40:46 PM PST

It didn't take long for Rob Jones to hear the murmurs.

In many ways, they began the moment San Diego point guard Brandon Johnson ruptured his Achilles tendon last month and was lost for the year.

There goes the season, some said. So much for a run at the West Coast Conference title.

"Most definitely, you saw the whole crowd, all the whispers," said Jones, a sophomore guard. "At that point, we could've packed our bags for the year and given up. We heard all of the talk."

At first, it seemed the chatter had plenty of substance. Johnson was a four-year starter for the Toreros, their leading scorer and unquestioned floor leader.

Whatever prattle Johnson's injury generated hasn't rubbed off on Saint Mary's College. San Diego's recent history and its unblemished start in the WCC have the Gaels taking little solace in his absence heading into tonight's game at the Jenny Craig Pavilion.

"I imagine people would write them off," Saint Mary's forward Diamon Simpson said. "But people underestimated them all of last season, and they made it to the second round of the (NCAA) Tournament. We need to go in there not underestimating them because they don't have Brandon Johnson."

The Toreros were 2-1 against the Gaels last season, including a 75-69 double-overtime victory in the WCC Tournament semifinals. Johnson, the MVP of the tournament, played a key role in the two wins over the Gaels, averaging 26.5 points.

When he went down, San Diego, the team that stunned the conference by winning the 2008 WCC Tournament and knocking off Connecticut in the first round of the NCAA Tournament, went through a bit of a tailspin. The Toreros lost three consecutive games as players adjusted their roles. But the return of sophomore point guard Trumaine Johnson from suspension and junior guard De'Jon Jackson from a knee injury have helped them get back on track.

San Diego has won six games in a row and posted a 4-0 conference start for the first time in the school's Division I history. The Toreros are 12-7 overall.

"I call Brandon automatic offense," Jones said. "Whenever we needed a bucket, he was the go-to guy. "... In some ways, Brandon overshadowed others' hidden abilities. With him being gone, others have stepped up and shown why they were recruited to the Division I level."

That said, even Toreros coach Bill Grier admits the challenge becomes more difficult against the Gaels (17-1, 4-0 WCC), whose 14-game run is the longest active winning streak in the nation, thanks to Virginia Tech snapping No. 1 Wake Forest's 16-game streak Wednesday.

"Not having him will hurt us in this game more than any of the others," Grier said. "We'll probably put Trumaine with Patty (Mills), but last year, we could rotate on him. He just presents such a difficult matchup. ... What I'm worried about is Trumaine getting worn out."

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Saint Mary’s coach Randy Bennett has some worries of his own. Even without Johnson, San Diego still boasts a cast of characters capable of keeping him up at night.

“You can have a tough injury and have two weeks when the kids’ focus gets on something else. It can affect some,” Bennett said. “That’s what happened early, but never did I think they would not be a factor in the conference race.”

Notes: Gyno Pomare leads San Diego in scoring (15.3 points per game) and rebounding (9.0 per game). … Saint Mary’s made history with its 96-46 rout of Pepperdine last week. The victory marked the team’s 14th straight, the longest win streak in school history. At 17-1, the Gaels are off to the best start in program history.

Contact Jennifer Starks at jstarks@bayareanewsgroup.com.

SAINT MARY’S REPORT
Today’s men’s game: at San Diego TIPOFF: 6 p.m., Jenny Craig Pavilion TV/RADIO: ESPN2; 1640-AM

CAI REPORT
Today’s men’s game: vs. Oregon State TIPOFF: 7:30 p.m., Haas Pavilion, Berkeley RADIO: 1550-AM
Gaels' streak on line in tough San Diego
Steve Kroner, Chronicle Staff Writer
Thursday, January 22, 2009

(01-21) 20:32 PST -- St. Mary's hasn't lost in nearly two months. Tonight, the Gaels play in a building in which they lost twice last season.

Riding a school-record 14-game winning streak, the Gaels (17-1, 4-0) go for sole possession of first place in the WCC when they face the Toreros (12-7, 4-0) at San Diego's Jenny Craig Pavilion.

In 2008, St. Mary's lost 63-55 at San Diego in the regular season and 75-69 in double overtime in the WCC tournament semifinals.

After losing senior guard Brandon Johnson (Achilles tendon) for the season Dec. 6, San Diego struggled, dropping home games to San Jose State, New Mexico and Boise State in a two-week span.

Since the loss to Boise, the Toreros have won six straight.

"Not to diminish what they've done - what they've done is impressive - but I'm not surprised," St. Mary's coach Randy Bennett said.

"I can honestly say that when that happened, I told our guys, 'Hey, they're still going to be a pretty good team' because they had enough depth to cover themselves."

The Gaels have covered themselves in victory in every game this season except for a 75-62 loss to UTEP on Nov. 27.

Last week, St. Mary's overwhelmed Loyola Marymount 78-53 and Pepperdine 96-46. Bennett said his players are aware they're facing much stiffer competition this evening in San Diego and a week from tonight at Gonzaga.

"They know the deal," he said. "They're experienced. What they did last week, they're expected to do and what they're doing this week is more of a challenge. You can play really well and not win."

USF-Santa Clara: Two teams trying to avoid sole possession of last place meet at the Leavey Center on Friday night.

USF (8-11, 0-4) and Santa Clara (7-13, 0-4) have the same WCC records, but that's somewhat misleading. The Dons' four losses have come by 15, 12, 18 and 34 points. The Broncos have had two one-point losses (at St. Mary's and at Portland) and a 55-50 loss to San Diego in which they led with less than a minute to go.
Saint Mary's, San Diego put perfect WCC records on line-

01/22/2009

No. 22 Saint Mary's (17-1), San Diego (12-7), 9:00 p.m. EST

SAN DIEGO (Ticker) – After a narrow victory in its West Coast Conference opener, 23rd-ranked Saint Mary's has cruised to wins in its last three matchups.

Things do not figure to be as easy when it opens a crucial three-game, conference road trip against San Diego on Thursday.

The Gaels (17-1, 4-0 WCC) edged Santa Clara, 63-62, on January 9 thanks to a last-second 3-pointer by Patty Mills. Late-game dramas have not been necessary since as Saint Mary's has won its last three by an average of 27.0 points per game.

Riding a 14-game winning streak, the Gaels are led by the Australian Olympian Mills. He is averaging 19.1 points per contest, including a season-high 31 against Santa Clara.

Saint Mary's travels to Gonzaga next Thursday before a date with Portland on January 31.

After a disappointing 6-7 start to the season, San Diego (12-7, 4-0) has won six straight to resemble last year's squad that upset Connecticut in the NCAA Tournament.

The Toreros also struggled early last season, starting the campaign 8-11 before reeling off 10 wins in their last 12 regular-season games and winning the WCC tournament with a shocking victory over Gonzaga.

San Diego is coming off a 70-59 win over Loyola Marymount on Saturday. Gyno Pomare led the way with 18 points and nine rebounds.

In the absence of last season's leading scorer Brandon Johnson, who ruptured his left Achilles' tendon in a loss to San Diego State on December 6, Pomare has picked up the slack with 14.8 points per game.

In the absence of last year's leading scorer Brandon Johnson, who ruptured his left Achilles' tendon in a loss to San Diego State on December 6, Pomare has picked up the slack with 14.8 points per game.

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Saint Mary's-CA (17-1) at San Diego (12-7)

BY SPORTS NETWORK, The Sports Network
Comment on this story

GAME NOTES: Still flying under the radar as far as the most current AP Poll is concerned, the Saint Mary's Gaels try to extend the program's longest win streak tonight as they challenge the San Diego Toreros in West Coast Conference action at Jenny Craig Pavilion in front of what is expected to be a sell-out crowd. The Gaels have just a single blemish on their schedule in 2008-09, bowing to UTEP during the 76 Classic in Anaheim back in November. Since that untimely loss, the Gaels have blown past 14 consecutive opponents and enter Thursday's action riding the nation's longest win streak as a result of top-ranked Wake Forest's loss to Virginia Tech on Wednesday night. The most recent victim for SMC was the Pepperdine Waves who fell in a lopsided 96-46 decision on Saturday. As for the Toreros, they've been on a roll of their own in recent weeks with six straight wins and eight in the last nine outings, with the lone loss coming by a mere three points versus Boise State in non-conference action. Last Saturday saw San Diego top Loyola Marymount in a 70-59 final as the team is now tied with SMC atop the conference standings at 4-0. The Toreros gained some distance between the two programs last season in terms of the all-time series, winning two of three meetings to move to 34-31 since the relationship began during the 1970-71 campaign. The most painful of the losses for the Gaels in 2007-08 came in the semifinals of the WCC Tournament in San Diego, a double-overtime affair that finished up 75-69 in favor of the host school.

With the Gaels making almost as many three-point baskets (seven) in the first half as Pepperdine had overall field goals (nine), the outcome was never in question as SMC sprinted to the 50-point win at home. Diamon Simpson was one of four players in double figures with his 24 points, followed by Carlin Hughes with 16 and he dished out eight of the team's 27 assists. Patrick Mills contributed 13 points, nine assists, five rebounds and four steals, followed by Clint Steindl with 11 points off the bench to make up for Omar Samhan who tallied just two points in 19 minutes of action. Mills remains the top scorer for the Gaels this season with his 19.1 ppg, a nice jump over his 16.3 ppg career mark. Despite his lackluster offensive effort versus the Waves, even though Saint Mary's didn't need him, Samhan is still second with 13.8 ppg, adding 9.7 rpg as well. Simpson, who now has 612 rebounds for his career and stands as one of the top men on the glass in school history, accounts for 13.1 points and 11.2 rebounds per outing thus far as the team beats up opponents in the paint by nearly eight rebounds per game.

Even though the Lions made good on only 35.4 percent from the field over the weekend, the visitors never went away completely against San Diego, which afforded the Toreros just an 11-point home win. Before fouling out, Gyno Pomare accounted for 18 points and nine rebounds, both of which were team highs for USD, while Matt Dorr tacked on 11 points and Rob Jones finished with nine points and eight rebounds for a team that forced 17 turnovers and limited LMU to just 4-of-16 shooting behind the three-point line. Pomare leads the team in several stats heading into action this week with his 14.8 ppg, 7.0 rpg, 22 blocked shots and 22 steals, and it doesn't hurt that he's been able to convert his free-throw attempts at an 80-percent clip either. Not having Brandon Johnson (13.5 ppg, 3.9 rpg) available because of injury has not helped matters for the Toreros, as they pick up 13.1 and 10.6 ppg, respectively, from Trumaine Johnson and Jones. The loss of Brandon Johnson means the group is having trouble separating from opponents who are scoring just 59.3 ppg this season, compared to 63.9 ppg by the Toreros.

San Diego will certainly give the Gaels a run for their money, but incentive for Saint Mary's is to seek revenge for the tough loss in the conference tournament last season, as well as maintaining momentum heading into the home stretch this time around.

Fact Stats
Game Date and Time
Predicted Outcome

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Toreros Report

Today: vs. Saint Mary's

Time: 6:05 p.m. at Jenny Craig Pavilion
Records: Saint Mary's 17-12; USD 13-16
Coast Conference: USD 12-7
TV/Radio: ESPN2/XPRS (1090 AM)

At a glance: Ten months after its upset of Connecticut in the first round of the NCAA tournament, the University of San Diego continues to receive recognition in the form of national exposure. ESPN2 will make today’s matchup with Saint Mary’s a nationally televised event. The two schools are tied atop the WCC standings, with Gonzaga (12-4, 30) a half game back. ... Saint Mary’s is ranked No. 22 in the nation in the ESPN/USA Today poll and received the second-most votes among teams not ranked in the Associated Press Top 25. The Gaels have won a school-record 14 straight games. ... Sophomore G Patrick Mills leads Saint Mary’s in scoring, averaging 19.3 points per game. Mills was a first-team All-WCC pick as a freshman and averaged 14.2 ppg for Australia in the 2008 Olympics. ... Senior F Diamon Simpson (13.1 ppg, 11.2 rebounds per game) and junior C Omar Samhan (13.8 ppg, 9.7 rpg) give Saint Mary’s a potentially dominant frontcourt. Simpson is a returning all-conference pick, while the 6-foot-11, 265-pound Samhan has the size few teams in the WCC can counter. USD will counter with 6-6, 240-pound senior Sylvain Debresse (14.8 ppg, 7.0 rpg).

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Tom Shanahan
Low-key Pomare gives USD high output

By Hank Wesch
STAFF WRITER

Stan Washington returned to USD a year ago for the men's basketball alumni lunch and pickup game before the Toreros took on San Francisco.

Washington, USD's all-time leading scorer at the time, met and played a little one-on-one against Gyno Pomare.

"He won," Washington recalled yesterday by phone from Charlotte, N.C., where he works in social services.

The acknowledgment was delivered with a laugh and no reference to the 34-year age difference between Washington, who'll turn 57 tomorrow, and the player who now holds both the USD career scoring and rebounding records.

"He seemed like a fine young man, and I guess the record couldn't go to a finer athlete," Washington said.

Washington plans on watching tonight as USD takes on Saint Mary's in a showdown of West Coast Conference unbeatens at the Jenny Craig Pavilion. The game will be on ESPN2.

Pomare plans on adding to his 1,562 career points. On Dec. 30, he passed the 1,472 that Washington put up from 1971 to 1974, scoring 10 points in a victory at Mississippi State that started USD on the six-game winning streak it takes into tonight's contest.

Things were different when Washington, a 6-foot-4 guard, set the scoring record that would last for almost 35 years. USD was an NCAA Division II affiliate, five

SEE Pomare, D3
USD is 70-47 in three years with him in post

years away from stepping up to Division I. And there was no three-point shot.

"I think I would have put (the record) way out of reach if there had been a three-point shot back then," Washington said. "And back then, we only played three years of varsity because there was a freshman team.

"Not to take anything away from Gyno's record. I'm glad that he has it."

Pomare said he came out of El Camino High five years ago with hopes, but no expectations, of doing what he has done. His reaction to the achievement has been typically, for him, low-key. "It's an accomplishment. It's something I'll always remember and cherish," Pomare said.

How has the 6-foot-8, 240-pound Oceanside native done it?

"God-given talent," Pomare said. "He blessed me with the skills I have and I just went out there and went to work with it and played."

As Pomare came out of high school and early in his college career, basketball insiders had a different opinion of his talent because of a very mortal, easy-going attitude.

"People think that I need to get a fire lit," Pomare said. "I'm not that much of an emotional guy and just because of my demeanor out there it might not look like I'm working that hard at what I'm doing.

"Sometimes, that's the way it is. But more often than not, it's just that I'm a laid-back guy, not very emotional — and that can be seen as not playing hard."

As an assistant at Gonzaga, Bill Grier scouted Pomare in high school and was among those who doubted whether he had sufficient drive to excel in Division I. The doubts didn't vanish instantly, Grier said, when he took the USD head coaching job last year and inherited Pomare.

"When I first got here, Gyno was going through a tough time recovering from off-season foot surgery, and I didn't know if he was going to handle it or not," Grier said. "But as the foot got better and he got more comfortable with me and the new staff, little by little, it became clearer to me that he's got more fire burning inside than it looks like from the outside."

Pomare's philosophy on the court is one that any coach would appreciate.

"On offense, always try and get a stop," Pomare said. "On defense, always try and get somebody a chance to score, whether it's myself or one of my teammates. I always try to do whatever I can to try and get us a win."

Pomare redshirted his first year at USD. The Toreros are 70-47 the last three-plus seasons with Pomare in the post, with one WCC Tournament championship and an NCAA Tournament victory over Connecticut.

Pomare contributed 22 points, many of them on mid-range jumpers over 7-foot-3 Hasheem Thabeet, in the win over UConn.

"I don't realize, before seeing it day after day in practices and games, just how good his hands are," Grier said. "He has terrific hands; he catches everything and he has a knack for putting the ball in the basket, which is why he's the school's leading scorer."

Grier, who worked with a series of excellent big men at Gonzaga — including Casey Calvary, J.T. Batista and Josh Heytvelt — rates Pomare with all those Zags.

"He deals with the double-team as well as any kid I've ever coached," Grier said. "He may not be as athletically gifted as some of those guys, but his basketball skill level is high and he has good timing and instincts."

"He also has a good feel for the game and is a smart player on the floor. Usually you get that from the guards, not the big man."

Pomare also has made his last 18 free throws. The first two in the series were technical foul shots with 38.6 seconds remaining as the Toreros pulled out a victory at Santa Clara.

"How many teams use their five men to shoot technicals?" Grier said.
USD Toreros Basketball off to a record start

by Chuck Kanaia

Last season, winning the WCC Tournament wasn’t enough for the USD Toreros men’s basketball team. They went into the second round of the Big Dance’ NCAAs Tournament, after upsetting highly ranked Connecticut.

That still isn’t enough for this season’s 2008-2009 bunch of mostly returning players directed by head Coach Bill Grier who now in his second year at the helm already has his squad off to a record start.

The (13-7, 4-0 WCC) USD Toreros have won six straight and are off to their best start ever in the 29 seasons in the WCC with their (4-0) conference record after recent victories over Pepperdine and Loyola Marymount took them to their current ninth place in the Jerry Craig Pavilion.

After a hard fought 55-50 win from behind victory at Santa Clara earlier in the month and a 62-47 win of Pepperdine last Thursday, the Toreros struggled in the 70-59 loss to Loyola last Saturday, although the final score did not indicate that.

Never really seeming to get into a rhythm, it wasn’t pretty as Loyola kept hanging around staying within single digits, badly out hustling the host on the offensive glass in the first half until the Toreros turned it around in the second with nine offensive boards of their own, leading to free throws by USD to put them away at the end.

Toreos team victory against Pepperdine. Photo by David Henry

This USD victory was spurred on by their liferman Gyno Pomari’s perfect 8 for 8 from the free-throw line.

Last year picked First Team All-WCC, the senior entered his final season 7th in all-time scoring, and 3rd in all-time in rebounding among USD Division I players.

Pomari finished the game last Saturday with 18 points and 9 rebounds in 29 minutes.

Gyne provides valuable leadership to the team especially now that last year’s WCC Tournament MVP Brandon Johnson is out for the season recovering from a ruptured Achilles heel tendon.

Picking up the slack for B.J. Saturday evening was last year Spokane Community College transfer sophomore guard Matt Don with 11 points. He also hit some rare three-point shots in the game.

Toreros supporting cast of returning underclassmen Danny Beevan, DeShon Jackson, Chris Lewis, Trumaine Johnson, Rob Jones, Doyle Grady, Clinton Houston, Nate Lomax, and Nick Price bring valuable youthful experience to the court for Bill Grier’s team in 2009.

“It’s a win and I’m disappointed in our approach but it’s a win and I’m happy about that,” said head coach Bill Grier referring to the victory over Loyola.

“I’m very disappointed in how we rebounded the ball. I just feel we played tentative and sometimes scared on offense, but it’s something we can fix. Unfortunately we might have been looking forward to St. Mary’s and not focusing on the task at hand.”

“We have a really important week. We’ve got to get back to work and have some tough, hard road practices. I think we’re (St. Mary’s) really good. They have a very good basketball team,” said the second year head coach.

“They have very, very, good size. I think Dionson Simpson (11.5 pp) is the shining star of that group. He is in better shape this year and a playing harder with more purpose, and that’s scary. We will have our hands full. We just have to get ready this week, ready to go.”

Carrying their 4-0 conference record into the Jerry Craig Pavilion this Thursday the Toreros go for all the marbles, first place in the conference setting up a matchup against nationally ranked St. Mary (17-1, 4-0 WCC).

After getting eliminated in the WCC Tournament last year by USD, the Gaels will be exacting revenge on the Toreros.

Tip-off is set for 5 p.m.
Johnson's Defining Moment

By Tom Shanahan

Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2009 | University of San Diego sophomore point guard Trumaine Johnson acknowledges his stubbornness.

"I'm hard-headed," Johnson said with a grin as he sat courtside after a recent practice at USD's Jenny Craig Pavilion. "Anybody will tell you that."

USD coach Bill Grier is one of those "anybodys." He says the trait frustrates him and his staff as they try to coach the Houston street ball out of Johnson to transition him into what he has rapidly become this season -- one of the most explosive point guards in the West Coast Conference.

"In Houston, guys showboat a lot," Johnson said. "I grew up watching guys shoot fadeaways. I had a lot of bad habits to break to refine my shot and my game.

But Grier adds, "that's also what makes him a good player." The stubbornness makes The 6-foot-2, 190-pounder tenacious at both ends of the court. It makes him keep coming back for more.

Although Johnson admits to being hard-headed, he's most definitely not thick-headed.

If he was, the Houston street ball might have taken over in the final tense moments of USD's 55-50 win at Santa Clara on Jan. 11 when Santa Clara guard Perry Petty swung an elbow at Johnson's head.

Because Johnson plays with WCC savvy rather than Houston street ball, he won't be serving another suspension. He'll be taking the floor Thursday when No. 22-ranked St. Mary's (17-1, 4-0 WCC) and USD (12-7, 4-0 WCC) meet in a nationally televised game on ESPN2 that may be a sellout Thursday at the 5,100-seat Jenny Craig Pavilion.

Here's what happened: USD trailed 48-47 with 1:18 left in the game when Johnson pressed the Broncos' Petty near midcourt. As Johnson reached in across Petty's body and the referee called a foul on Johnson, Petty swung a high elbow at Johnson's head to get him to back off.

Johnson took a menacing step toward Petty, but then suddenly slowed his pace and kept walking passively past Petty.

"I caught myself," Johnson said. "My gut reaction was to go after him, but something stopped me. The suspension made me grow up. A lot of things flashed through my mind, but when I heard the whistle (signaling the technical), it snapped me out of it. Otherwise, I might not be here right now."

That's the defining moment in shedding his Houston street ball, and it can be traced back to Grier getting tough with him to start the season. Johnson was suspended for the first eight games for breaking team rules and sat him four more games. Johnson said the suspension was for skipping classes and similar infractions.
"He's really grown and matured and started to take on accountability," Grier said. "I want him to do things both on and off the floor the right way and be accountable for his actions. That's the biggest thing that has come about from all this. He's shown great maturity this past month."

Since Johnson returned seven games ago, he has led the Toreros to six straight wins, including the school's first 4-0 start in WCC play since joining the conference 30 years ago. He's averaging 13.1 points, 2.7 assists and 1.8 steals.

A year ago, when he was playing alongside All-WCC guard Brandon Johnson, he averaged 5.7 points in a supporting role while helping the Toreros win the WCC tournament and a first-round NCAA tournament upset of Connecticut.

But this year he's been forced into a more commanding role after Brandon Johnson (no relation, although he's also from Houston) went down for the year with a ruptured Achilles' tendon in the season's eighth game.

He's responded with more than the usual improvement expected from a freshman to sophomore season. He appears to have skipped his sophomore year to his junior season.

"His maturity has gone sky high, and he's evolved into the player he should have been all along," Brandon Johnson said. "Overall he's become one of the best players in the conference, and I'd say one of the best sophomore guards in the country. I'm giving him that much respect."

Those Houston street ball moves might have lowered scouts' evaluation of Trumaine Johnson in high school, which made him still available when Grier was hired as USD's new coach after the 2007 season.

Johnson had scholarship offers from Vanderbilt and Nevada during the November signing period of his senior year at Houston's Kirkwood High, but when he waited too long to commit, both schools gave the scholarship to another player.

That's how someone with his talent and rare quickness was still available to become Grier's first recruit.

"It was hard for me to agree with Coach Grier at first, but he knows what he's talking about," Johnson said. "I didn't understand why he was so hard on me, but he sat me down and talked to me. I realize now I'm his first recruit and I have to set an example. I take some pride in that."

Tom Shanahan is voiceofsandiego.org's sports columnist. He is the media coordinator for the San Diego Hall of Champions and an occasional writer for Chargers.com. You can email him at toms@sdhoc.com. Or send a letter to the editor.
Toreros’ Johnson making up for lost time

Sophomore’s return has sparked USD turnaround

TOM SHANAHAN
FOR THE NORTH COUNTY TIMES

SAN DIEGO — The sports world is filled with tales of jocks run amok, so the lengthy suspension imposed on University of San Diego sophomore Trumaine Johnson left plenty to the imagination.

More than an official explanation was never offered, but is known is that the point guard, a returning starter from last year’s surprise NCAA tournament team, was suspended for the season’s first eight games.

Johnson then sat out the bench for another four games before coach Bill Grier allowed him any floor time.

“When it first came out I was suspended, people probably thought I was messing around and stuff,” Johnson said. “I don’t want people thinking that. I just wasn’t handling business in my classes and doing things the way Coach wanted. I wasn’t losing my mind, Coach just won’t let me get away with anything.”

Whatever the reason, Grier seems to have made his point. Since returning, the 6-6, 202-pound Johnson — with 10 pounds of added bulk from a year ago — has led the Toreros (12-7) on a six-game winning streak.

He has steadied the backcourt with ball-handling, improved the defense with quickness, and opened up the inside game with passing and outside shooting.

That has all added up to per-game averages of 12.1 points, 2.7 assists and 1.8 steals for Johnson. A key reason why USD is off to a 4-0 start in West Coast Conference play, the Toreros’ best since joining the WCC 10 years ago.

The Toreros are 6-0 since sophomore Trumaine Johnson returned from a suspension.

Hayne Palmour IV / Staff Photographers

> TOREROS

Continued from C1

at the Jenny Craig Pavilion is a near-sellout and will be telecast nationally by ESPN2.

“When I wasn’t practicing or playing with the team, the only thing I did was go to school and practice in the gym,” Johnson said. “I’ve been working on my shot, I’ve been listening to the things the coaches tell me.”

And Grier has taken notice.

“I think he improved throughout the course of last season until he was one of our best players,” Grier said. “He just kept getting better and better. The thing that helped him the most is in the offseason, he got stronger. You combine that with his quickness, and he’s able to hold his feet better when guys bump him on the way to the basket.”

The suspension also taught Johnson to discipline himself.

In a 55-50 win at Santa Clara on Jan. 11, USD trailed 48-47 with 1:19 remaining when Johnson was called for a foul as he aggressively reached in while defending Santa Clara point Perry Petty. But while the bodies were still engaged, Petty swung his elbow at Johnson’s head.

Johnson took a step toward Petty and then appeared to bite his lip as he kept walking. He admitted that he wouldn’t have ignored the blow if Grier hadn’t put him through the discipline of a suspension.

Instead, Petty was called for a technical foul for swinging his elbow. USD senior Gyone Foran hit both free throws. Johnson added a basket, and rattled Santa Clara turned the ball over on the Toreros eventually won by five points.

“I taught myself,” Johnson said. “My assignment was to go after him, but something stopped me. The suspension made me grow up. A lot of things flashed through my mind, but when I heard the whistle (signaling the technical), it snapped me out of it.

“Others, too. I might not be left right now.”

USD sophomore Trumaine Johnson is averaging 12.1 points, 2.7 assists and 1.8 steals per game since returning from suspension.
Toreros manage to ‘take care of business’

It’s not easy, but USD wins its sixth straight game

TOM SHANAHAN
FOR THE NORTH COUNTY TIMES

SAN DIEGO — Bill Grier stood outside Jenny Craig Pavilion talking up University of San Diego basketball with 500 kids and parents from military bases around San Diego, including Camp Pendleton.

This was only an hour and 10 minutes before game time, and that tells you how hard the Toreros coach works to sell his program to fans, since most coaches that close to tipoff can only babble X’s and O’s.

Of course, nothing sells a program like wins, and USD improved to 4-0 in the West Coast Conference play for the first time in a 70-59 win over Loyola Marymount on Saturday night between two foes.

USD improved to 12-7 overall with its sixth straight win, setting up a showdown Thursday with Saint Mary’s (17-1, 4-0 WCC), a team ranked 25th by ESPN/USA Today and among others receiving votes by The Associated Press. The game is being broadcast on ESPN2/1090 at 7:30 p.m.

“I’ve been on a roll,” said senior forward center Gyno Pomare, the El Camino High alum who finished with 18 points, nine rebounds and two blocked shots. “We’ve got to take care of business at home and try to win every game possible on the road.”

Gonzaga (12-4, 3-0 WCC), where USD travels Jan. 31, is right behind the league leaders.

“Take care of business at home” is about all USD managed against Loyola Marymount, which dropped to 11-8 and 6-3.

“We might have lost just two to Saint Mary’s,” Pomare said. “That’s kind of a natural tendency when you’re playing a team like them, but a team that’s ranked coming in. But if we play this way against Saint Mary’s, we’ll win.”

USD started quickly, taking leads of 11-4 and 15-9 before the Toreros must have decided they could take it easy. Loyola Marymount closed to within 30-24 with 9:47 left in the first half, but two 3-pointers by senior forward Jarred DuBois helped the Toreros to a 27-22 halftime lead.

USD came back to take the lead after Pomare’s go-ahead three pointer and a 3-3 three pointer by guard Matt Door for a 41-32 lead. USD is 21-7 this season, including 2-4 on 3s.

USD led 52-44 in the game with a 7-0 run that gave the Toreros a 53-46 lead at the 9:55 remaining.

USD was 8-for-8 from the line for the second straight game, counting the two technical free throws he hit late in last week’s 55-50 win at Santa Clara, he has made 18 straight and 25 of 26 in the last three games.

USD is 12-7 overall with its sixth straight win, while Saint Mary’s is 15-3 overall, including a 1-2 WCC record.

USD finished the non-conference portion of its schedule at 3-5 overall. USD went 2-0 in the WCC last week, while Saint Mary’s is 1-2 in conference play.

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USD is 2-0 overall and 1-0 in the WCC.
USD never trailed. LMU (0-18, 9-3 WCC) stayed within seven points for most of the game but crept to within one with less than three minutes remaining before halftime and again less than two minutes into the second half. "We just have a tendency to play opponents' level, and that's what it was," Loyola Marymount's Rob Jones said. "It's a pretty obvious case of looking past LMU to Saint Mary's." "I think we did," Pomare said. "We were fortunate enough to pull it out, but the practices coming up are going to be tough." Pomare led USD with 18 points and five rebounds, playing 39 minutes before fouling out with 1:57 to play. The El Camino High grad was 8-for-8 from the free throw line and has made 18 straight and 25 of his past 28. "I've been practicing a lot," Pomare said in explaining the streak of which he was unaware. "Free throw shooting is big every game, and we didn't want to lose a game because of free throws." Matt Dorr had 11 points for USD while Rob Jones, DeJon Jackson and Danny Brown contributed nine apiece. Dorr and Brown both went 3-for-4 from three-point range. Brown hit two near the end of the first half to give USD a 22-23 lead at the break. Dorr connected on back-to-back chances with less than four minutes remaining to keep LMU at a comfortable, if not large, distance away on the scoreboard. "They were in the game (22-23 at end of first half). We were in the game pretty much the whole game," Brown said. "They would go on their runs and we would go on our runs and we would have a good showing right before the half and then picking up our shots in the second half and making our shots on the perimeter." "A couple of teams have done it (scored 22 consecutively), but they pretty much stayed in it. And they were very aggressive about the way they played it, it was good to see them good to get the win," Pomare said. USD (3-7, 4-0 WCC) has won six straight and has posted a 40-0 conference start for the first time in school's Division I history. But last night's contribution to both streaks was not something the Toreros were inclined to savor. "There's been a lot of talk about this game next week (Saint Mary's) and unfortunately I think we played thinking about that game rather than focusing on the task at hand," USD coach Bill Crier said. "Credit to LMU, they played very hard. But I didn't think we were in sync right at all, and it's more a mental thing than anything."
San Diego goes 70-59 to beat Loyola Marymount

The Associated Press

Posted: 01/17/2009 08:25:04 PM PST

SAN DIEGO—Gyno Pomare scored 18 points and had nine rebounds to lead San Diego to a 70-59 win over Loyola Marymount on Saturday night, extending its season-high winning streak to six games.

San Diego (12-7, 4-0 West Coast Conference) failed to pull away from the Lions (1-18, 0-3) even after taking 10-point leads twice in the second half, the last time with 5:56 to play.

The Toreros held Loyola Marymount to just 35.4 percent shooting from the floor, including 4-of-16 from 3-point range.

San Diego finished 23 of 30 at the free throw line with Pomare going 8-for-8. Loyola stayed close most of the way, in part, to making 21 of 24 free throws.

Freshman Jarred DuBois led Loyola Marymount with 25 points and LaRon Armstead added 11.
Recap: San Diego vs. Loyola Marymount

BY SPORTS NETWORK

Gyno Pomare tallied 18 points and nine rebounds to lead the San Diego Toreros to a 70-59 decision over the Loyola Marymount Lions in a West Coast Conference tilt.

Matt Dorr added 11 points for San Diego (12-7, 4-0 WCC), which extended its winning streak to six games.

Jarred Dubois poured in 25 points in the loss for Loyola Marymount (1-17, 0-3), which is now 0-13 away from home. The Lions also got 11 points from LaRon Armstead.

San Diego shot 52.6 percent from the floor in the first half and led 27-22 at intermission.

The Toreros sealed the victory with an 18-of-22 effort from the foul line in the second half.

San Diego hit 7-of-13 three-pointers in the clash and limited the Lions to 35.4 percent field goal efficiency.

Game Notes

USD's Grier weighs in on stress

By Hank Wesch
STAFF WRITER

Bill Grier didn’t think his diet or exercise routine had changed significantly.

But at one point last season, his first as USD men’s basketball coach, he stepped on the scale and found that he was about 18 pounds lighter than his assistant-coaching weight for 16 years at Gonzaga.

“Stress affects everyone in all kinds of different ways,” Grier said this week. “Last year I put so much pressure on my- self. This year, maybe because I’ve learned something, my weight is staying about the same.

But me, personally, I don’t sleep well at night. I have thoughts about the team, the next game and what we should do.”

The subject of stress and being a Division I head basketball coach had come up because of the announcement Monday that Bill Bayno had resigned from his position at Loyola Marymount. USD hosts LMU tonight at 6 in a West Coast Conference game at Jenny Craig Pavilion.

In a statement released by the school, Bayno listed “medical reasons and on the advice of my doctors” as the reasons for his resignation. The former UNLV head coach (1995-2000) had been on a leave of absence for personal reasons since Nov. 24 after coaching the Lions through the first three games of his initial season at the Los Angeles school.

LMU Athletic Director William Husak may have touched on more specifics in a statement that included: "The LMU family wishes Bill continued progress in his comeback from the emotional distress triggered by responsibilities associated with being a head coach."

At the same time as Bayno’s resignation, it was announced that Max Good, who had been running the team in Bayno’s absence, had signed a multiyear deal to be LMU’s head coach.

Good, a Bayno assistant dating back to the UNLV days, told the Los Angeles Times that (Bayno) said he’s not comfortable being a head coach. ... They say one in five people in America have depression issues. He’s a recovering alcoho- lic but he hasn’t had a drink in seven years. This has nothing to do with drugs or alcohol."

To Grier, Bayno was more than just a fellow WCC head coach. Grier said he considered Bayno a good friend, a relationship forged in recent years when Bayno’s scouting duties for the Portland Trail Blazers often brought him to Gonzaga, where Grier was an assistant.

“I’ve left messages on his cell phone, wishing him the best, but I haven’t heard back,” Grier said. “I feel for Bill because obviously this is something that has affected his life greatly. It’s an unfortunate situation that has to be hard on the (players), the staff and everyone involved with the LMU program.”

Hank Wesch: (619) 293-1853; hank.wesch@uniontrib.com

TODAY'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

LMU at USD MEN

Site/time: Jenny Craig Pavilion / 6 p.m.

TV/radio: Ch. 4 San Diego / 1090-AM

Records: USD 11-7, 3-0 WCC; LMU 1-7, 0-2

Outlook: Toreros have won five straight and are off to 3-0 start in WCC play for the first time in 30 years as league affiliate. Lions begin season 0-15, beat CS Bakersfield, then lost to Pepperdine (59-57) and Saint Mary’s (78-53) in conference play.

USD WOMEN at LMU

Site/time: Gersten Pavilion / 8 p.m.

TV: ESPN

Records: USD 12-5, 3-0 WCC; LMU 11-5, 1-1

Outlook: The Toreros carry a six-game winning streak into tonight’s game, which is their first since Thursday, when Amber Sprague became the all-time leading scorer for USD women’s basketball. The Lions are coming off a 69-52 victory at home Thursday over Saint Mary’s.
Loyola Marymount (1-17) at San Diego (11-7)

BY SPORTS NETWORK, The Sports Network

GAME NOTES: The Loyola Marymount Lions try yet again to log their first road win of the 2008-09 campaign, as they drop in on West Coast Conference foe San Diego at Jenny Craig Pavilion. The Lions, who are currently 0-10 in true road games and 0-12 away from home altogether, played their first game for newly-named head coach Max Good on Thursday night, but the result was much the same as they’ve been all season with a 78-53 setback versus Saint Mary’s on the road. Good, who had been the acting head coach while Bill Bayno was out with a health issue, was recently named the permanent leader after Bayno delivered his resignation earlier this week. As for the Toreros, they too were in action two nights ago, but in their case they came up with a resounding 62-47 win over Pepperdine to remain perfect in WCC play at 3-0. USD has rattled off five straight wins overall since bowing to Boise State by just three points, three days before Christmas. LMU leads the all-time series between the teams by a count of 38-37, but the Toreros have won two straight over the Lions, including an 86-65 blowout the first week of March last season. LMU will host USD on February 12th.

The Lions barely had time to celebrate the announcement of coach Good to his permanent position as they trailed by 21 points at the break on Thursday night and eventually lost by 25 points on the road to the Gaels. Jarred DuBois accounted for 17 points, LaRon Armstead 13 and Kevin Young another 12 points for the Lions, but the team turned the ball over 16 times and shot just 4- of-12 behind the three-point line. With Vernon Teel on the sidelines with an injury, DuBois has assumed the top spot on the scoring chart for LMU with his 13.1 ppg, although he is shooting just 33.5 percent from the field in the process. Armstead contributes another 10.1 ppg as a 41.6 percent shooter, but the team overall is struggling mightily with a weak 35.3 percent from the floor and 29.2 percent behind the three-point line. With nearly 16 turnovers per game, the Lions are limiting themselves to very few scoring opportunities which have resulted in just 54.1 ppg.

San Diego scored the first points of the game against the Waves on Thursday and never looked back, leading by as many as 21 points in the second half as the team took great care of the ball with a mere five turnovers. Trumaine Johnson was tops on the scoring list for the home team with his 16 points, followed by Gyno Pomare with 14 points and six boards. Coming off the bench was Roberto Mafra who dropped in 12 points on 5-of-6 from the floor in just eight minutes of action. Although he has played in just six games for the Toreros this season, Trumaine Johnson has accounted for 15.0 ppg, having knocked down 52.6 percent of his three-point tries and 53 percent from the floor overall. Pomare’s 14.6 ppg is second on the unit, his 6.9 rpg tops on the list for San Diego, a team that is producing only 63.6 ppg, but giving up a mere 59.3 ppg as one of the better defensive squads in not only the West Coast Conference but the nation at this point in the season.

Unfortunately for the Lions, as hard as they might work and as much as they might want it, the chances of coming up with a win against another one of the elite teams from the WCC is a long shot tonight.

Fact Stats

Tipoff: 6:05 p.m. at Jenny Craig Pavilion
Records: LMU 11-7, 6-0 West Coast Conference; USD 11-7, 3-0
TV/Radio: Ch. 4 / 1060 AM

At a glance: USD is off to its first 3-0 start in 30 years of playing in the WCC and, unless the Toreros stumble against hapless Loyola Marymount, coach Bill Folie’s team should improve to 4-0 to set up a showdown with No. 25-ranked Saint Mary’s (18-1, 3-0) on Thursday at the home. ... Saint Mary’s would also enter the game 4-0 if the Gaels win at home tonight against Pepperdine (4-14, 1-1). ... Gonzaga (11-4, 2-0) also is undefeated in conference play. ... USD’s third straight WCC victory was a season-best fifth overall as the Toreros had little trouble defeating Pepperdine 62-47 Thursday at the home. ... Sophomore PG Thomas Jenkins has not only added offense with a scoring average of 15.0 per game in the six games since he returned to the lineup, his ability to hit from outside and penetrate has opened the floor for senior F/C Kyle Romine, who has averaged a near double-double with 14.8 ppg and 9.8 rpg in the five-game winning streak.

— Tom Shanahan
USD opens league play 3-0 for first time

By Hank Wesch

The Toreros easily beat the Waves for USD's fifth straight win.

USD 62, Pepperdine 47

Waves outrebound USD, but that's it

In the 30 previous years of its membership in the West Coast Conference, the USD men's basketball team never had started a league season 3-0.

The 30th was the charm.

Getting 16 points and four assists from sophomore point guard Truman Johnson and a combined 26 points from the center combination of Cyrus Payne and Robert Jordan, the Toreros dismantled Pepperdine 62-47 before 3,551 last night at Jenny Craig Pavilion.

The fifth straight win for USD (3-0) boosted its WCC record to 5-0 for the first time in school history. In 1986-87, when USD produced a 12-1 league record, the lone defeat came at Gonzaga in the second game of the conference season.

"I'm really happy (about 3-0), but like I told the team, let's not be satisfied," USD coach Bill Grier said. "We have to move on and get ready for Loyola Marymount (tomorrow)."

A 64 WCC start looked enticingly achievable after the Toreros entered 3-0 from a WCC-opening Bay Area road trip by pulling out a victory in the final 30 seconds Sunday at Santa Clara. Pepperdine (now 4-14, 1-4) and LMU (0-17, 0-0) were tabbed for the lower rungs of the WCC standings at the preseason and have lived down to the prediction.

But Pepperdine had won three of four before last night and opened league play with a victory over LMU. That was enough to wrinkle Grier's brow.

"Coming into this game, I was concerned about if we would have an emotional letdown after two tough games up in the Bay Area," Grier said.

"But I think for the most part we had a good approach. USD scored the first nine points, in the first 4:15 of the game and went on to a 30-17)

USD SUMMARY

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West Coast

USD 62, Pepperdine 47

USD outrebounded Pepperdine, 36-26, in the second half and came away with the win.

USD's 36 rebounds were USD's lowest total of the season. Rooster from nine in a December loss to Boise State.

Defensively, USD held Pepperdine to 36.5 percent shooting in the first half and 42 percent for the game, and the Toreros forced 13 turnovers while blocking seven shots. The blocks total tied the season high established against Loyola Marymount.

"I was kind of disappointed in the way we rebounded the ball," Grier said. USD's defense had a 37-25 edge in field rebounds. "But I was certainly pleased with the way we dug in and, at the start, made the shots they didn't like right back. Offensively, we had to be more efficient, but we certainly outrebounded 36-26, almost 60 percent, so I'm happy.

USD scored USD's first four points in three seconds, then had eight consecutive rebounds by halftime.

USD, led by 6-foot-11, 256-pound Braziliain Jose Calderon, and finished one short of his season scoring total in his

USD season.

Johnson scored the next five points, after Pomare's initial four to open the game, then went quiet before getting up 11 in the second half. He came in averaging 14.6 per game.

"We were coming off a big win (at Santa Clara) and we knew Pepperdine hadn't won that many games, but we tried to just come out and play hard like always," Johnson said. "We played well with the lead, and winning is always lovely."

Junior guard DeJon Jackson, who came out of the Bay Area trip with a left shoulder sprain and missed the game in Santa Clara, started for USD.

USD outrebounded Pepperdine, 36-26, in the second half and came away with the win.

USD's 36 rebounds were USD's lowest total of the season. Rooster from nine in a December loss to Boise State.

Defensively, USD held Pepperdine to 36.5 percent shooting in the first half and 42 percent for the game, and the Toreros forced 13 turnovers while blocking seven shots. The blocks total tied the season high established against Loyola Marymount.

"I was kind of disappointed in the way we rebounded the ball," Grier said. USD's defense had a 37-25 edge in field rebounds. "But I was certainly pleased with the way we dug in and, at the start, made the shots they didn't like right back. Offensively, we had to be more efficient, but we certainly outrebounded 36-26, almost 60 percent, so I'm happy.

USD scored USD's first four points in three seconds, then had eight consecutive rebounds by halftime.

USD, led by 6-foot-11, 256-pound Braziliain Jose Calderon, and finished one short of his season scoring total in his

USD season.

Johnson scored the next five points, after Pomare's initial four to open the game, then went quiet before getting up 11 in the second half. He came in averaging 14.6 per game.

"We were coming off a big win (at Santa Clara) and we knew Pepperdine hadn't won that many games, but we tried to just come out and play hard like always," Johnson said. "We played well with the lead, and winning is always lovely."

Junior guard DeJon Jackson, who came out of the Bay Area trip with a left shoulder sprain and missed the game in Santa Clara, started for USD.
Yet, Pepperdine (16-7, WCC) started four freshmen, including Moxon Hills High School Taylor Darby, and one sophomore — forward Jeff Thompson, the son of the former NBA player. Thompson led the Waves with 15 points.

Darby, who finished with five points and two rebounds, started for the 17th time this year. The 6-foot, 7-inch center entered averaging 6.4 points and 7.0 rebounds, with his rebounding mark ranked fourth in the WCC.

"He didn't play well tonight, but he's been a pleasant surprise for us," Ashby said. "That was probably his poorest game of the year. That happens sometimes when guys come home and they try too hard. But he's going to be a good player for us."

That can happen when you're coaching a veteran team coming off a NCAA tournament season and that
Pepperdine can't get on track in San Diego

Staff and Wire Services

Updated: 01/15/2009 10:38:35 PM PST
Trumaine Johnson scored 16 points and Gyno Pomare added 14 as San Diego extended its winning streak to five with a 62-47 win over visiting Pepperdine on Thursday night.

San Diego (11-7, 3-0 West Coast Conference) held the Waves to 35.2 percent shooting. The Toreros have limited their past three opponents to an average of 49 points per game.

San Diego has won its first three conference games for the first time since joining the WCC in the 1979-80 season.

Mychel Thompson scored 15 points to lead Pepperdine (4-14, 1-1), which had won three of its previous four.

Women's basketball

Arizona State 68, UCLA 44: Dymond Simon scored 14 points and Kirsten Thompson had 10 of her 12 in the second half as the Sun Devils (11-6, 3-2 Pac-10) won their third consecutive with the victory over the Bruins (11-4, 2-2).

Simon had 10 of her points on foul shots as the Sun Devils were 24 of 29 from the free-throw line, including a 6 of 6 performance by Thompson.

Doreena Campbell scored 13 points to lead UCLA.

Arizona State made 54 percent of its field goals in the first half to build a 33-18 lead, outscoring the Bruins 20-8 over the final eight minutes. The Sun Devils opened the second half with an 8-2 run for a 41-20 lead and they led by as many as 28 with 7:52 remaining.

USC 77, Arizona 71: Ashley Corral scored eight of her 16 points in overtime to boost the Trojans (9-6, 3-1) in overtime in Tucson, Ariz., against the Wildcats (7-9, 0-5). Corral sealed the victory with two free throws with 22 seconds remaining to put the Trojans ahead by six.

Brian Gilbreath had 15 points and 10 rebounds for USC while Camille LeNoir added 14 points.

LeNoir had tied the score at 65 in regulation with a driving lay-up with 27 seconds remaining.

San Diego 69, Pepperdine 57: Jazmine Jackson, Skye Barnett and Taylor Smith each scored 10 points for the Waves (8-8, 1-1 West Coast Conference) in the loss to the visiting Toreros (12-5, 2-0).
Johnson paces San Diego to win over Pepperdine

Associated Press - January 16, 2009 1:15 AM ET

SAN DIEGO (AP) - Trumaine Johnson scored 16 points and Gyno Pomare added 14 as San Diego extended its winning streak to five with a 62-47 win over Pepperdine on Thursday.

San Diego (11-7, 3-0 West Coast Conference) held the Waves to 35.2% shooting. The Toreros have limited their last three opponents to an average of 49 points per game.

San Diego has won its first three conference games for the first time since joining the WCC in the 1979-80 season.

Mychel Thompson scored 15 points to lead Pepperdine (4-14, 1-1), which had won 3 of its last four games.

The Toreros scored 12 unanswered points in the first half to take a 27-10 lead with 4:22 remaining. The Waves, who trailed 30-17 at halftime, never cut the lead to less than double digits.

Roberto Mafra scored 12 points off the bench for San Diego, which had eight blocked shots and committed only five turnovers.

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San Diego hands Pepperdine a loss

Toreros win their fifth game in a row by beating Waves, 62-47.

January 16, 2009

MEN

San Diego 62, at Pepperdine 47: Trumaine Johnson scored 16 points for the Toreros (11-7, 3-0 West Coast Conference), who have won five straight. The Waves (4-14, 1-1) shot 35.2%.

UC Davis 85, at Cal State Fullerton 74: Vince Oliver scored 27 points for the Aggies (7-10, 2-2 Big West), who won at Fullerton for the first time in school history. Josh Akognon and Jacques Streeter had 20 points each for the Titans (8-9, 2-3).

at UC Irvine 52, Pacific 51: Eric Wise made a free throw with 15.7 seconds left for the Anteaters (5-11, 3-1 Big West), who led by 15 points at halftime. Pacific (9-6, 2-2) went on a 21-5 run, but Michael Hunter scored five points in five minutes for Irvine.

at St. Mary's 78, Loyola Marymount 53: Omar Samhan had 12 points and 11 rebounds for the Gaels (16-1, 3-0 WCC). Jarred DuBois scored 17 points for the Lions (1-17, 0-2).

WOMEN

at Arizona State 68, UCLA 44: Dymond Simon scored 14 points and Kirsten Thompson had 10 of her 12 in the second half for the Sun Devils (11-6, 3-2 Pac-10). Doreena Campbell scored 13 points for the Bruins (11-4, 2-2).

USC 77, at Arizona 71 (OT): Ashley Corral scored eight of her 16 points in overtime for the Trojans (9-6, 3-1 Pac-10), sealing the victory with two free throws with 22 seconds left. Ify Ibekwe led the Wildcats (7-9, 0-5) with 20 points and 14 rebounds.

-- associated press
San Diego 62, Pepperdine 47

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 »

Photo Wire


Team Stat Comparison

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Game Leaders

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Game Flow

http://sports.espn.go.com/ncb/recap?gameId=290150301

1/16/2009
SAN DIEGO -- Trumaine Johnson scored 16 points and Gyno Pomare added 14 as San Diego extended its winning streak to five with a 62-47 win over Pepperdine on Thursday.

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http://sports.espn.go.com/ncb/recap?gameId=290150301
GAME NOTES: The San Diego Toreros begin a three-game homestand tonight by entertaining the Pepperdine Waves in West Coast Conference play at Jenny Craig Pavilion. The Toreros have started to heat up following a slow start to the season, as they have won four straight and six of their past seven outings. The team’s last two victories have come in conference play, including a 55-50 triumph at Santa Clara on Sunday. Now at 10-7 overall, San Diego returns back home, where it has gone a modest 4-3 thus far. As for Pepperdine, it has won three of its last four outings following a lengthy 12-game slide. On Saturday, the Waves nipped Loyola Marymount 59-57 to kick off their WCC slate. It was the second straight win for Pepperdine, which now sits at 4-13 overall. The Waves lead the all-time series with San Diego, 52-30, but the Toreros have won the last eight encounters.

The Waves are committing 18.4 turnovers per game and they are shooting a lackluster 39.9 percent from the floor and 39.0 percent from three-point land. Pepperdine, however, is shooting 44.7 percent from the floor and 34.6 percent from beyond the arc. The Waves are committing just 13.8 turnovers per game and are shooting 47.7 percent from the floor.

On the season, San Diego is connecting on 45.8 percent of its attempts from the field and 74.2 percent from the foul line for the win. Pepperdine, on the other hand, is shooting 42.4 percent from the floor and 68.0 percent from the foul line.

San Diego has owned Pepperdine over the past few years and there is no reason to think that will change tonight. Expect the Toreros to lock down on defense and coast past the Waves tonight.

Fact Stats
Game Date and Time
Predicted Outcome
Associated Press

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San Diego has won its first three conference games for the first time since joining the WCC in the 1979-80 season.

Mychel Thompson scored 15 points to lead Pepperdine (4-14, 1-1), which had won three of its last four games.

The Toreros scored 12 unanswered points in the first half to take a 27-10 lead with 4:22 remaining. The Waves, who trailed 30-17 at halftime, never cut the lead to less than double digits.

Roberto Mafra scored 12 points off the bench for San Diego, which had eight blocked shots and committed only five turnovers.
Today: vs. Pepperdine

Tipoff: 7:05 p.m., Janny Craig Pavilion
Records: Pepperdine 4-1, USD 1-1 West Coast Conference; USD 107, 2-0
Radio: XPRS (1090 AM)

At a Glance: Pepperdine is rebuilding under the return of Tom Asbury as head coach. The Waves were one of the WCC's strongest teams in the early 1990s under Asbury, who posted a record of 125-69 in six seasons from 1989-94. Pepperdine, though, is rebuilding with Asbury the school's third coach in three seasons. Of the 12 players on the roster, 10 are freshmen or sophomores. Sophomore F Mychal Thompson (6-foot-7), son of the former NBA player, leads the Waves in scoring at 11.1 ppg and freshman G Kalon Bell (6-5) is second at 10.8. Pepperdine won its WCC opener at home last week with a 59-57 victory over Loyola Marymount (1-16, 0-1). With Pepperdine and LMU picked to finish at the bottom of the WCC standings, USD can follow up last week's 2-0 start at San Francisco and Santa Clara with a 4-0 start with a home sweep of Pepperdine and Saturday against LMU.

The Toreros have won four straight since the return of sophomore PG Thumlane Johnson (6-2) from a suspension. Johnson is averaging 14.8 ppg in five games played. His play has helped open up the inside for senior F/C Gino Pomare, the El Camino High alum. In the four-game winning streak, Pomare is averaging nearly a double-double with 15.0 ppg and 9.8 rpg.

— Tom Shanahan
Sophomore solid during guard crisis

By Hank Wach
STAFF WRITER

Whatever happened to Dev in Ginty, the freshman walk-on guard for the USD men’s basketball team who, on Dec. 29, 2007, almost single-handedly took down Kentucky at Rupp Arena?

He’s a sophomore, scholarship player now who hasn’t done anything nearly as spectacular since then but has settled solidly into coach Bill Grier’s backcourt rotation.

And, along with sophomore newcomer Matt Deerr, Ginty helped the Toreros through an early-season guard crisis when they were dealing with the losses of veterans Brandon Johnson and DeJon Jackson in injury and Traumaine Johnson to suspension.

Gingy’s defensive and three-point prowess was needed most to take the point. And he’s done a good job getting stronger, and he’s becoming a better defender,

USD COACH BILL GRIER, about guard Devin Ginty

He’s done a good job of improving his body and getting stronger, and he’s becoming a better defender.”

Devin Ginty (3) has assist-to-turnover figures (27-17) that are the best on the USD squad. San Diego Union-Tribune

Ginty has been a solid hand in the backcourt rotation. He’s done a good job of improving his body and getting stronger, and he’s becoming a better defender,” Grier said.

“He worked so hard and

harder than anyone over the summer logging gym time.”

During several weeks when USD went through a guard shortage, Ginty and Deerr shared duties at the point. The return of true point guard Tremaine Johnson and shooting guard DeJon Jackson has enabled Ginty and Deerr to move back to their more-natural shooting guard spots.

“Ginty has a solid feel on either one to handle the ball now,” Grier said. “It was tough on them when they had to kind of play out of position, but Devin’s assist-to-turn-

over ratio is over 3-1.

Ginty was a 35.6 percent shooter from three-point range (15-for-42) while seeing action in 28 games with seven starts last season. He’s hitting at a 59 percent clip (13-for-22) this season, having played in all 17 games with seven starts.

Ginty’s best game was a 10-point, five-rebound effort in a win over Marshall on Jan. 2. On Friday, his three-pointer was the key to USD’s 83-79 victory over Pepperdine in a WCC contest.

“He’s had some moments where he’s played well, and some where he hasn’t,” Grier said. “He’s had a couple of games where he shot well, but he hasn’t been consistent. A little earlier in the year, I think he was trying to do too much.”
By Hank Wesch  
STAFF WRITER

SANTA CLARA — USD's men's basketball team turned a stunning last-minute change of fortune into a 55-50 victory over Santa Clara yesterday afternoon. The Toreros' fourth straight victory completed a sweep at the West Coast Conference-opening road trip to the Bay Area and sends them home atop the league standings to start a three-game homestand. Yesterday's game turned with 38.7 seconds to play at a point where Santa Clara was positioned to take control, if not put it away.

Santa Clara had the ball, leading 48-47, coming out of a timeout after securing a long rebound of a missed three-pointer with 42 seconds to go. The Broncos got the ball in to junior guard Perry Petty, who was crowed and fouled by USD guard Trumaine Johnson.

Instead of heading directly for the free throw line, however, Petty threw an elbow that struck Johnson a glancing blow on the head. Technical foul against Petty.

USD senior forward Gyno Pomare made the two technical foul free throws at one end to give USD a 49-48 lead, then Petty made two at the other end to put the Broncos back in front 50-49.

The result of the incident, however, was that USD got the ball back trailing by only one when Santa Clara might have gone up by three.

Johnson then took the in bounds pass, jetted downcourt and made a floater in the lane with 30 seconds to play to put USD ahead for good.

"Perry hadn't shot a free throw yet, so we wanted to get it up into him and try to get a steal or put him on the line," Grier said, adding that he didn't know why Petty threw the elbow after the foul.

Petty entered the game a 71.1 percent free-throw shooter (27-38). "Trumaine kind of was up against him and Petty came up and around with the elbow," USD sophomore forward Rob Jones said. "A competitor's reaction at the wrong time is exactly what it was."

Once ahead, USD (10-7, 2-0 WCC) forced two turnovers and made four free throws in the final 30 seconds, two apossible by Matt Dorr and Pomare to set the final score. Santa Clara (7-11, 0-2) suffered its second heart-breaking loss in three days.

The Broncos fell to Saint Mary's on Friday on a three-pointer by Gaels star Patrick Mills with 2.6 seconds to play.

Yesterday's was an eventful ending to a game that had been mostly plodding to that point, with the Broncos' 6-foot-11, 275-pound senior center John Bryant and USD counterpart Pomare (6-8, 240) engaging in about the eighth Big Man Bash of their careers.

Bryant, rated the seventh-best center in college basketball by one service, finished with 19 points, 12 rebounds and three blocks. Pomare matched Bryant for the game high with 19 points and had 10 rebounds.

Jones (17 points) was Pomare's main offensive support. He was 3-for-10 from the field at one point, but made his last three, in the final 7:32, to help spark the comeback. "I can't say it was a very pretty game," Grier said. "Typical for this league grinding-type game. We struggled shooting the ball (38 percent to SCU's 48.8) but that's a credit to their defense."
The USD men's basketball team takes advantage of a technical foul in the final minute to score an important road victory over Santa Clara.
Toreros remain hot, defeat Santa Clara

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SANTA CLARA — Gyn Pomare scored 19 points and had 10 rebounds as the University of San Diegos mens basketball team scored 10 points in the final minute, 18 seconds to beat Santa Clara 55-50 on Sunday.

Rob Jones added 17 points for the Toreros (10-7, 2-0 in the WCC), who won their fourth straight game and for the sixth time in seven games.

John Bryant had 19 points and 12 rebounds for the Broncos (7-11, 0-2), who lost their fourth straight. Perry Petty added 10 points.

The Broncos had the ball with a one-point lead with fewer than 40 seconds remaining. Trumaine Johnson fouled Petty, who in turn was called for a technical foul. Both players made their free throws, but the Toreros regained the lead for good when Johnson hit a short jumper with 30 seconds remaining for a 51-50 edge.

USDs Matt Dorr made a steal that led to a pair of free throws and a 53-50 lead. Jones added two foul shots with under a second remaining for the final margin.

The Toreros, who won after trailing at halftime for the first time in seven games, lead the WCC with a .742 free throw percentage after making 15 of 16.

Bryant recorded his 11th double-double, second in the nation to Oklahoma's Blake Griffin, who has 13. He also surpassed 900 career rebounds. Marc Iussoni scored eight of his 10 points in the final five minutes.

The Toreros took advantage of four Santa Clara turnovers early in the second half to take a 26-25 lead. The game remained close the rest of the way.

The Toreros missed nine of their first 11 shots and trailed 17-7 with just over eight minutes to play in the first half.
Pomare leads Toreros to 55-50 win

The Associated Press
Monday, January 12, 2009

SANTA CLARA, Calif.: Gyno Pomare scored 19 points and had 10 rebounds as San Diego scored 10 points in the final 1:18 to beat Santa Clara 55-50 on Sunday.

Rob Jones added 17 points for the Toreros (10-7, 2-0 in the WCC), who won their fourth straight and sixth of seven overall.

John Bryant had 19 points and 12 rebounds for the Broncos (7-11, 0-2), who lost their fourth straight and seven of nine. Perry Petty added 10 points.

The Broncos had the ball with a one-point lead with less than 40 seconds remaining to play. Trumaine Johnson fouled Petty, who in turn was called for a technical foul. Both players made their free throws, but the Toreros regained the lead for good when Johnson hit a short jumper with 30 seconds remaining for a 51-50 edge.

Matt Dorr made a steal for San Diego that led to a pair of free throws and a 53-50 lead. Jones added two foul shots with under a second remaining for the final margin.

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The Toreros took advantage of four Santa Clara turnovers early in the second half to take a 26-25 lead. The game remained close the rest of the way.

The Toreros missed nine of their first 11 shots and trailed 17-7 with just over eight minutes to play in the first half.

The Broncos went scoreless in the final 2:16 of the half, and were just 3-of-10 over the final 8:25.

Santa Clara led at halftime, 23-17.

Correction:

Notes:
Broncos 'awful' against Toreros

Santa Clara coach Kerry Keating couldn't contain his frustration after watching his team sleepwalk through a 55-50 loss to visiting San Diego on Sunday.

"The most disappointed I've ever been since I've been the coach here," the second-year coach said. "I'm always disappointed when we lose, but I'm really disgusted right now because we handed them a game in our home gym because our effort was awful."

The biggest breakdowns came in the final minute. With Santa Clara leading 48-47, San Diego's Trumaine Johnson fouled Perry Petty. The Broncos point guard took offense to the hard foul and, while the pair was tangled up, swung his elbow into the back of Johnson's head and was called for a technical foul.

"We have to be smarter than that, especially in the last 40 seconds," Keating said.

The teams traded the subsequent free throws, with Petty's shots giving Santa Clara a 50-49 lead with 38.7 seconds left. Johnson followed with a jumper that gave San Diego a 51-50 lead with 29.3 seconds left, but Santa Clara didn't even attempt a shot in its final two possessions: Kevin Foster throw a pass away, and then John Bryant was called for traveling with seven-tenths of a second remaining.

Other than Bryant, who had 19 points and 12 rebounds, the Broncos (7-11, 0-2 WCC) struggled. They committed 20 turnovers, and the reserves failed to score a point.

"We just came out flat," Bryant said.

Bryant, who attended Pinole Valley High, recorded his 11th double-double of the season, second in the nation to Oklahoma's Blake Griffin (13). The senior center also went over 900 career rebounds.

Gyno Pomare had 19 points and 10 rebounds for the Toreros (10-7, 2-0).

"We are lucky we didn't get beat by 30," Keating said.

No. 1 Pittsburgh 90, St. John's 67: DeJuan Blair had 23 points and 18 rebounds, and the Panthers (15-0, 3-0 Big East), playing for the first time ever as the nation's top-ranked team, beat the visiting Red Storm (10-5, 1-2).

No. 4 Wake Forest 92, No. 3 North Carolina 89: Jeff Teague scored 34 points to lead the Demon Deacons (14-0, 1-0 ACC) past the visiting Tar Heels (14-2, 0-2). Chas McFarland added 20 points for Wake Forest, which remained one of three unbeaten in Division I (Pittsburgh and Clemson are the others). Danny Green led North Carolina with 22 points. Tyler Hansbrough, last season's Associated Press Player of the Year, added 17 but went without a field goal in the second half.

No. 10 UCLA 64, USC 60: Darren Collison scored 18 points, and the visiting Bruins (13-2, 3-0 Pac-10) held off the Trojans (10-5, 1-2). Freshman DeMar DeRozan scored 11 of his 15 points in the first half for USC, which blew a five-point lead in the second half. Collison's school-record consecutive free throw streak ended at 43 when he missed the first after being fouled at 14:37 of the second half. About
Coach furious over Santa Clara's loss

By Laurence Miedema
Mercury News

Posted: 01/11/2009 08:13:12 PM PST
Santa Clara Coach Kerry Keating couldn't contain his frustration after watching his team sleepwalk through a 55-50 loss to San Diego on Sunday at the Leavey Center.

"The most disappointed I've ever been since I've been the coach here," the second-year coach said. "I'm always disappointed when we lose, but I'm really disgusted right now because we handed them a game in our home gym because our effort was awful. Plain and simple. Period."

The listless effort came 36 hours after the Broncos took conference heavyweight St. Mary's to the limit on the road, losing 63-62 on a buzzer-beating shot.

But other than center John Bryant, who scored 19 points and had 12 rebounds, the Broncos (7-11, 0-2 West Coast Conference) seemed uninspired. SCU committed 20 turnovers, didn't attempt a free throw in the first half, and the reserves failed to score. Kevin Foster, coming off 31 points against St. Mary's, scored four points.

Keating said he saw signs of the young team's lack of focus and aggressiveness during the morning shootaround, and it clearly carried into the game.

"It was like no one wanted to be there," Keating said. "That's just putrid."

Bryant said, "We were struggling the whole game trying to get everybody to play hard. We're a good team. We just came out flat. I take responsibility, letting the freshmen mess around during the walkthrough, going through the motions and not paying attention to details."

Despite SCU's struggles, San Diego (10-7, 2-0) was even more inept offensively in the early going, allowing the Broncos to lurch to a 23-17 halftime lead. The advantage evaporated when the Broncos committed five turnovers and missed three of their first four field-goal attempts in the second half.

The biggest breakdowns came in the final minute. With SCU leading 48-47, San Diego's Trumaine Johnson fouled Perry Petty. The SCU point guard took offense to the hard foul and, while the two were tangled up, swung his elbow into the back of Johnson's head and was called for a technical foul.

Keating said, "We have to be smarter than that, especially in the last 40 seconds."

The teams traded the subsequent free throws, with Petty's shots giving SCU a 50-49 edge with 38.7 seconds left. Johnson followed with a jumper that gave San Diego a 51-50 lead with 29.3 seconds left, but SCU didn't even attempt a shot in its final two possessions: Foster threw a pass away, and Bryant was called for traveling.

"We are lucky we didn't get beat by 30," Keating said. "I just can't believe we let an opportunity like this go."
San Diego (9-7) at Santa Clara (7-10)

BY SPORTS NETWORK

GAME NOTES: The San Diego Toreros will try to continue their recent surge this evening, as they square off against the Santa Clara Broncos in West Coast Conference play at the Leavey Center. The Toreros enter the til on a roll, as they have won three straight and five of their last six games following a 4-6 start to the season. Most recently, the team opened its WCC schedule with a 65-50 victory at San Francisco on Friday. San Diego, which won the WCC Tournament last season, improved to 3-2 on the road with the victory. As for SCU, it has dropped several close games this season and that was the case in its WCC opener, falling in the final moments at Saint Mary’s, 63-62, on Friday. It was the second straight loss and third in four games by Broncos, who dipped to 7-10 overall. The team though, now returns back home, where it has gone 5-1, including two straight wins. SCU also leads the all-time series with San Diego, 34-28, although the Toreros won both meetings last season.

The Toreros shot a sizzling 57.9 percent from the field, including an 8-of-16 effort from long range, as they raced past San Francisco on Friday. The team also won the battle on the boards by a 30-21 margin. Traumele Johnson matched his career-high with 22 points and he also dished out six assists to lead San Diego. Gyno Pomare registered a double-double with 11 points and 10 rebounds, while Rob Jones had 10 points and eight boards. Johnson, in four games this season, has averaged 16.8 ppg for the Toreros and shooting 55.6 percent from the floor. Pomare adds 14.3 ppg and a team-best 6.7 rpg to the rotation, while Jones contributes 10.6 ppg and 5.7 rpg. Overall, San Diego is netting 64.2 ppg and limiting foes to 60.7 ppg on the season.

Patrick Mills hit a three-pointer with 2.6 seconds left, sending the Broncos to a heart-breaking 63-62 loss on Friday. Freshman Kevin Foster gave SCU the lead on a three-pointer with 12 seconds remaining, but it was unable to survive Mills and company in the setback. Foster, though, had a career night, finishing with 31 points on 11-of-19 field goals and 5-of-9 three-pointers. John Bryant added eight points and nine boards, to go with five blocks and three steals. On the season, Bryant is averaging a double-double with team highs of 17.4 ppg and 12.1 rpg and he has also posted 45 blocks. Foster is next in line at 13.7 ppg and she is shooting 41.3 percent from long distance. As a team, SCU is scoring 64.7 ppg and outrebounding opponents by 4.6 rpg.

Despite their losing record, the Broncos have been rather competitive all season long and they should be able to continue their solid play with a win this evening.

Fact Stats
Game Date and Time
Predicted Outcome

http://www.macon.com/284/v-print/story/583226.html
TODAY'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

USD at SANTA CLARA
Site/time: Leavey Center / 2 p.m.

TV/Radio: Channel 4 San Diego / 1090-AM

Records: USD 9-7, 1-0 WCC; SCU 7-10, 0-1

Outlook: USD has won three in a row and is fresh from WCC season-opening win Friday at USF. Broncos have lost three straight, the last a 63-62 heartbreaker Friday at Saint Mary's on a three-pointer by Gaels' Patrick Mills with 2.6 seconds left.

- HANK WESCH
Alternate programming

- The USD-Santa Clara men's basketball game at 2 p.m. Sunday on Channel 4 will go head-to-head with the Chargers game. Too bad, because it figures to be a good matchup featuring two former North County high school stars: USD's Gyno Pomare (El Camino) and Santa Clara's James Rahon (Torrey Pines).
- Also Sunday, the San Diego State women's basketball team will play Utah at 1 p.m. on the mtn.
- The Utah-San Diego State men's basketball game will go head-to-head Saturday with the Ravens-Titans playoff matchup. The Aztecs host Utah at 1 p.m. on Versus.

— John Maffei
Tipoff: 2:05 p.m. at the Leavey Center, Santa Clara
Records: University of San Diego 9-7, 1-0 West Coast Conference; Santa Clara 7-0, 0-1
TV/Radio: 4 SD / XPRS (1090 AM)
At a glance: Santa Clara is coming off a
last-second 63-62 loss to Saint Mary's.
... USD is in position to open WCC play
24 on the road after a 65-50 win Friday
at San Francisco. Sophomore PG Tam-
athie Johnson scored a career-high 22
points and senior F/C Gyno Pomare (El
Cariano High) posted a double-double
with 11 points and 10 rebounds.

--- Tom Shanahan
USD puts San Francisco in a fog in WCC opener

By Hesk Wash
STAFF WRITER

SAN FRANCISCO — Tony Buntin let his heart show.
USD men's basketball team showed some in handling San Francisco 65-50 last night before 2,671 at War Memorial Gymnasium.
Buntin matched a career-high with 22 points for USD in the West Coast Conference season opener.
USD got off to a roaring start by scoring the first six points and never trailing against a Dons team being rebuilt by former coach Rex Walters, a former Kansas and HBA player.
Sophomore point guard Travis Jackson matched a career high with 15 points, including 4-for-6 shooting from beyond three-point range, to lead USD.
And senior forward gyro Po­more had a double-double of 11 points and 10 rebounds while drawing primary defensive duty on USF's Dior Lowhorn, the league's leading scorer.
Lowhorn, who carried a 20.3 points-per-game scoring average into the game, got 18. But only four of those came in the first half, which ended with USD ahead 34-25, and none in the second half were timely enough to give USF real hope of coming from behind.
"Lowhorn is a monster inside and we wanted to contain him as much as we could," Po­more said. "I tried to do everything I could to keep him from getting the ball down low. We wanted to try and keep him under 20 and let the others try to beat us."
Johnson, in his fourth game back from suspen­sion, hit the first three three-pointers he took as USD bolted to a 17-7 lead. And Johnson, who also had six assists, continued to contribute plays that kept the momentum in USD's corner.
"It was just working for me," Johnson said of his three-point shot. "I've listened to what the coaches said about my form and it's getting better."
Johnson is averaging 16.8 points per game since his reinstatement, and his quickness helps on offense and defense. And he's possibly still not in complete playing shape.
"I never want to come out, but I was asking the coaches for a couple of breaks tonight," said Johnson, who played 34 minutes. "I'm getting in better shape."
USD's 9-7, 1-0 WCC extended its winning streak to three games and defeated USF (6-6, 0-0) for the fourth straight time.
"We knew they would change up defenses, so we couldn't really have too many get things in mind," USD coach Bill Grier said. "Our kids did a good job of understanding what we needed to do on offense. But defensively was where I was really pleased.
"To hold them to 25 points in each half and four three-pointers was really an accomplish­ment."
Unlike their non-conference finale against Marshall at home a week earlier, USD showed it could play while ahead. A 16-point lead with less than eight minutes to go was cut to seven with 33 seconds remaining in that game.

San Diego Union-Tribune
January 10, 2009

TOREROS 65, USF 50

TOREROS 65, USF 50
road to start a conference sea­son aren't expected or common­ance in NCAA Division I basketball.
But the Toreros got their West Coast Conference season off to a roaring start by scoring the first six points and never trailing against a Dons team being rebuilt by former coach Rex Walters, a former Kansas and HBA player.
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Toreros win WCC opener

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN FRANCISCO—Trumaine Johnson tied his career high with 22 points, and the visiting University of San Diego men's basketball team flirted with its highest shooting percentage of the season in a 65-50 victory over San Francisco in the teams' West Coast Conference opener Friday night.

Johnson added six assists, and Gyno Pomare recorded a double-double with 11 points and 10 rebounds for USD (8-8, 0-1 WCC), which has won five of its last six games after a 4-6 start.

USD (8-8, 0-1) hit its first eight shots, half of them 3-pointers, to open up a 28-13 lead after 11 minutes. Johnson, who missed the Toreros' first 12 games of the season because of a team-imposed suspension, had nine points in the run.

USD shot 57.8 percent from the floor and knocked down eight of 16 3-pointers, moving the ball too quickly for San Francisco's man-to-man trap and shooting over the Dons' 2-3 zone.

The Dons eventually regained enough of their defensive bearing to force the Toreros into nine first-half turnovers.

Up next

Sunday: Toreros (9-7, 1-0) at Santa Clara (7-10, 0-4), 2 p.m.
W/Radius: 4 SD / 1090 AM
San Diego (8-7) at San Francisco (8-7)

BY SPORTS NETWORK

GAME NOTES: Two teams with identical overall records finally begin West Coast Conference play tonight as the San Diego Toreros pay a visit to the San Francisco Dons at War Memorial Gym. The Toreros have been out of action since last Friday when they began the new calendar year with an 80-70 win against Marshall at home. The victory was the second in a row and the fourth in the last five outings for the Toreros as they moved a game over .500 at 8-7 . As for the Dons , they are heading in the other direction after winning five of the first six outings of the season. Last Saturday, the squad cruised Cal State East Bay in an 80-40 rout, halting a three-game slide, but it was still just the third win for the team since the end of November. In terms of the all-time series between these two schools, San Diego leads by a count of 31-30, thanks to a season sweep of the Dons last year. The squads are set to meet once more during the regular season on February 7th at Jenny Craig Pavilion in San Diego.

Gyno Pomare, recently named the West Coast Conference Player of the Week, led five San Diego starters in double figures versus Marshall as he dropped in 20 points in the team's most recent victory. Rob Jones added 13 points, Matt Dorr and Trumaine Johnson tallied 12 apiece and Devin Ginty chipped in 10 points as the Toreros survived just three offensive rebounds and 22-of-36 shooting at the free-throw line. Luckily, the Toreros shot an impressive 57.8 percent from the field and 6-of-13 beyond the arc versus the Thundering Herd. Johnson has appeared in just three games for the team thus far, but he has had an immediate impact with 15.0 ppg on 51.5 percent from the floor. Pomare checks in with 14.6 ppg and a team-high 6.5 rpg as he looks the ball extremely well from the field at 55.1 percent. Jones account for 10.6 ppg as the only other active double-digit scorer since Brandon Johnson went to the sidelines with a ruptured left Achilles the first week of December. The team is limiting opponents to just 61.4 ppg.

Playing against Cal State East Bay did little more than boost the stats for the Dons and give some of the reserves some actual playing time. Dior Lowhorn tallied a game-high 21 points and cleared six rebounds in 29 minutes of work, followed by Christian Hernandez who came off the bench to knock down all four of his three-point tries and pull down seven rebounds in 21 minutes. Manny Quezada and Angelo Calolaro chipped in with 12 and 11 points, respectively, as San Francisco shot better than 60 percent from the field and held the opposition to just 25 percent. Lowhorn's 20.3 ppg is almost twice what any of his teammates are pulling up at the moment, thanks in large part to his 60 percent shooting out on the perimeter and 48.7 percent accuracy overall. Quezada is also the top rebounder for the group with six per game, but he could stand some improvement in the passing area since he has but 12 assists in 15 starts. Calolaro, who has been in and out of the starting lineup, accounts for 11.9 ppg and is tied for the lead with 50 assists. The matchup of Pomare and Lowhorn should be a great one, which is why it will probably be the supporting cast for the Dons that carries the team to victory at home tonight.

Fact Stats
Game Date and Time
Predicted Outcome


Sports Media JAY POSNER

More NFL

• The playoff weekend begins tomorrow with Ravens-Titans at 1:30 p.m. on CBS. "This will be a bloodbath," said Dan Dierdorff, who will work the game with Greg Gumbel. "If you like old-fashioned, rock ‘em, sock ‘em football, this is a game that will appeal to you."

• For some reason the least glamorous matchup of the weekend, Cardinals-Panthers, is in prime time at 5:15 tomorrow night on Fox. Kenny Albert, Daryl Johnston and Tony Siragusa call that one. The network's No. 1 team, Joe Buck and Troy Aikman, will be in New Jersey for Eagles-Giants at 10 a.m. Sunday.

• The 20 highest-rated TV shows in San Diego since Sept. 1 have been 17 Chargers games and three NBC pregame shows leading into Chargers games, according to Nielsen Media Research. The top ratings, not surprisingly, were 37.4 for the Denver game two weeks ago and 38.6 for the playoff game last week. The regular-season average was 26.8, up 3 percent from last year's 26.0.

• Those are pretty good numbers, but nothing like those in Pittsburgh, where Steelers games averaged a 44.5 rating, a league high. For comparison, note that exactly one Chargers game since the mid-1990s exceeded that average — the divisional playoff versus the Patriots two years ago posted a 47.1.

• All three games not involving the Chargers will be carried on XX Sports Radio (1090 AM).

Flipping channels

• Word is everything remains on track for former Tulsa Drillers announcer Mark Neely to be hired as the Padres' TV voice on Channel 4 San Diego, but an announcement is not expected until next week.

• PBS announced it will air a new Ken Burns documentary, "The Tenth Inning," in the spring of 2010. It will coincide with a rebroadcast of Burns' amazing nine-part series, "Baseball," which debuted in 1994 (and is being shown on MLB Network over the next two months). The new "inning" will examine baseball from 1993 through 2008.

• SDSU-Utah basketball is on Versus at 1 p.m. tomorrow, then it's back to The Mtn. for Wednesday's 6 p.m. game at Wyoming. USD's games at USF (7 tonight) and Santa Clara (2 p.m. Sunday) will be on Channel 4, although I'll go out on a limb and say not many folks will be watching that Sunday game.

• Still receiving responses regarding last week's column on XX Sports Radio's horrendous new afternoon-drive show, with the total approaching 75. Exactly two disagreed with my opinion. Most alarming for the station should be that many people said they've erased 1090 from their preset buttons. That means they've lost listeners not just for four hours, but 24.
Weathering the Storm
USD on rebound after dealing with injuries, suspensions

Story by Tom Shanahan • For the North County Times

University of San Diego men’s basketball coach Bill Grier and his wife, Nicole, walked with young daughter Giselle following a recent game when they crossed paths with media members.

One was John Ken'tore, the USD radio analyst for XX Sports Radio. Aware that Nicole is pregnant with the couple’s second child, Ken'tore asked if they knew yet whether they were having a boy or girl.

“It’s a girl, and that’s OK,” Nicole said. “Bill has enough boys already.”

There’s been especially true early this season, as Grier’s players confronted him with some boys-will-be-boys headaches. He was forced to suspend three players — two starters — for breaking team rules. Injuries have also sidelined two starters.

But the problems haven’t undermined the Toreros (6-7), who are improving leading into their West Coast Conference opener Friday at the University of San Francisco. A possible return trip to the postseason remains on the radar.

“You’re not going to put somebody into a job as a head coach unless you feel they can handle problems,” USD athletic director Ed Snyder said. “(Grier) came here with a reputation that people who played for him loved him. Yeah, he’s tough, but he’s fair.”

Among the injuries and suspensions:

■ Senior guard Brandon Johnson, the MVP of last year’s WCC tournament title team, was lost for the season when he ruptured his Achilles’ tendon at San Diego State.

■ Senior forward/center Gino Fontane of El Camino High, the school’s career scoring and rebounding leader, was suspended for the season opener.

■ Sophomore point guard Trumaine Johnson was sus­ pended for the first eight games and missed four additional games because Grier thought he hadn’t done enough to earn playing time.

■ Sophomore forward/center Clinton Reeves was suspended for the first five games but has played in only five of the 10 games since his return.

■ Junior guard/forward De’Jon Jackson has missed eight games with a knee ailment.

Trumaine Johnson, in particular, could have staked upon his return. But he was concrete when he came back to the lineup, scoring 16 points off the bench against Boise State.

“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 tried to take short cuts. I can’t be mad about the punishment, because it was all up to me.”

In Johnson’s first start, against Mississippi State, he scored 17 points with six steals. In his first start at home, against Marshall, he hit 3-of-6 3-point field goals to finish with 12 points and three assists.

USD beat Marshall 80-79 last week with a solid 32 minutes of play before getting sloppy down the stretch. USD had three previous losses — to San Jose State (56-52), New Mexico (57-54) and Boise State (75-72) — that could have been affected by the injuries and suspensions.

A year ago, the Toreros were still learning Grier’s system in an up-and-down November and December before they finished 14-3 down the stretch.

Snyder said he sees similarities to last year, though for different reasons.

“My comment to Bill after we lost the New Mexico game (was) guys were forced to play out of position, and it reminded me of last year,” Snyder said. “I think guys are starting to figure things out and it’s starting to click. It’s eerily like last year.”
Inside
- USD men's basketball coach Bill Grier has endured injuries, suspensions this season / C-6
USD senior forward Gyno Pomare was selected West Coast Conference Player of the Week after leading the Toreros (8-7) to two victories, over Mississippi State (10 points, 15 rebounds) and Marshall (20 points).
**Sports**

**Monday**

Girls prep soccer — La Costa Canyon vs. Carlsbad, 5 p.m. at Pine Creek School; El Camino at Mission Hills, 5 p.m.; La Jolla at San Dieguito Academy, 5 p.m.; Poway at Cathedral Catholic, 7 p.m.; call schools for directions.

**Tuesday**

Prep boys basketball — Orange Glen at Ramona, 7 p.m.; Oceanside at San Marcos, 7:30 p.m.; Valley Center at Mt. Carmel, 7:30 p.m.; Army-Navy at Calvin Christian, 5 p.m.; Vista Calvary Christian at Tri-City Christian, 7 p.m.; La Jolla Country Day at Santa Fe Christian, 7:30 p.m.; Canyon Crest at San Dieguito Academy, 8 p.m.; call schools for directions.

**Wednesday**

Women's college basketball — Wyoming vs. San Diego State, 7 p.m.; Cox Arena, SDSU, 5500 Canyon Crest Drive, San Diego; $7-$9; goaztecs.com; Palomar College at San Diego Mesa College, 7 p.m.; 7260 Mesa College Ave.; San Diego City College at MiraCosta College, 7 p.m.; 1 Bernard Drive, Oceanside; free; www.miracosta.edu/sports.

**Thursday**

Men's college basketball (left) — The Waves of Pepperdine break into the Jenny Craig Pavilion to meet up with the Toreros for some West Coast Conference action; 7 p.m.; USD, 5998 Alcala Park, San Diego; $8-$16; usdtoreros.com.

**Friday**

Girls prep basketball — Oceanside at Westview, 8 p.m.; Mt. Carmel at San Marcos, 6 p.m.; Orange Glen at Valley Center, 6 p.m.; Rancho Buena Vista at La Costa Canyon, 7:30 p.m.; Poway at Torrey Pines, 7:30 p.m.; Escondido at Carlsbad, 7:30 p.m.; Rancho Bernardo at San Pasqual, 7:30 p.m.; Mission Hills at Vista, 7:30 p.m.; Fallbrook at El Camino, 7:30 p.m.; call schools for directions.

**Saturday**

Prep wrestling — Poway, Carlsbad, Vista, Fallbrook, La Costa Canyon, Mt. Carmel in Five Counties Tournament at Fountain Valley High School; Rancho Bernardo, Fallbrook in Rancho Bernardo 10-Way at Rancho Bernardo High School; Oceanside, Escondido in San Clemente Tournament at San Clemente High School; call schools for directions.

USD's Brandon Johnson before his season-ending injury.
Espnu BracketBusters game set for USD

Toreros will host U. of Pacific Feb. 21

By Hank Weis
STAFF WRITER

The USD men's basketball team got its ESPNU BracketBusters assignment yesterday afternoon and will host the University of Pacific Tigers on Feb. 21 at Jenny Craig Pavilion.

Game time has yet to be determined but is expected to be either 6 p.m. or 7 p.m. to allow time to clear the facility following the Toreros women's game against Saint Mary's at 2 p.m.

The USD and Saint Mary's will have faced each other for the second time this season two days earlier in Moraga.

The USD-UOP game is not scheduled to be televised and, based on the two schools' records and RPI, would figure to have little, if any, ramifications for the postseason.

USD redeemed itself for BracketBusters selection and earned a host opportunity, with last year's WCC Tournament championship season that included an NCAA Tournament victory over Connecticut. The Toreros' 2006-07 season has been rocky, however, and coach Bill Grier's team has lost three straight going into a two-game homestand against Santa Clara on Thursday and San Francisco on Saturday.

"For us, it (BracketBusters game) is an opportunity to play a good team this year and have them on our schedule again next year," Grier said. "We have to return the game next year and their place is a tough place to play."

UOP (22-11, 5-3 Big West), from Stockton, will be participating in the BracketBusters for the fifth time. The Tigers of 21-year veteran coach Bob Thomason are 3-1 in previous assignments, winning at Montana in 2007 and at home over San Jose State last year.

"I haven't had a chance to see them this year, but I know Bob does a great job and has a wonderful program going," Grier said. "They execute well, don't make mistakes and hardly beat themselves."
Cold spell can't slow down USD in win over Marshall

TOM SHANAHAN
FOR THE NORTH COUNTY TIMES

SAN DIEGO — This is how well the University of San Diego’s men’s basketball team played the first 32 minutes Friday against Marshall: the Toreros didn’t score a field goal the last 8:20, yet they still beat the Thundering Herd by 10 points, 80-70.

The win, in front of 1,129 at the Jenny Craig Pavilion, improved USD’s record to 8-7. The Toreros open West Coast Conference play Friday at the University of San Francisco and Sunday at Santa Clara.

“I thought the first 32 minutes was probably the best basketball we played all year,” said USD coach Bill Grier, before offering an ironic smile and punch line by adding: “If it was a high school game, it would have been a perfect game.”

But the college game is 40 minutes long, and for awhile it looked like the Toreros would need every bit of the 31-point cushion they enjoyed before Grier began substituting with 7:14 remaining and the Toreros leading 68-37.

“In the locker room, I told the guys I was proud of them for the way they came out and got after it and played excellent defense,” Grier said. “But we all need to learn something from that last eight minutes. We missed a couple of free throws and then it all kind of snowballed on us.”

As Marshall (7-6) hit 3-pointers and began fouling the Toreros, the Herd crept back into the game thanks to USD making only 12-of-24 free throws in the final seven minutes.

USD senior forward/center Gyno Pomare finished with 20 points, his third 20-point effort of the season, to go with four rebounds, two blocked shots, two assists and a steal.

Before the game he was recognized for breaking USD’s career scoring record with 10 points scored in Tuesday’s win at Mississippi State.

He was greeted at center court by athletic director Ky Snyder and received an ovation from the fans.

“That was great,” Pomare said. “USD has shown me some love. That was a nice gesture that I dedicate to my mom.”

Pomare, who earlier this year also became the school’s career rebounding leader, has totals of 1,500 points and 771 rebounds.

One reason for USD’s brilliant 32 minutes was the return of junior guard/forward De’Jon Jackson. He scored six points with two assists in his second game back — and USD’s second straight win.

“He gives us things that don’t show up in the stats,” Grier said. “He makes the right pass, he gets a hand on a ball, he helps in the post so they can’t feed the ball inside.”
Marshall's Rally Falls Short
Posted Saturday, January 3, 2009; 01:08 AM
Updated Saturday, January 3, 2009; 01:28 AM

The Herd can't overcome huge deficit.

Story by Steve McGehee
Email | Bio | Other Stories by Steve McGehee

The University of San Diego defeated Marshall on Friday night, 80-70 at the Jenny Craig Pavilion. Marshall Junior Wilkerson paced the Herd with 22 points and 15 rebounds. Tyler's 15 rebounds tied a career high.

The Thundering Herd trailed 17-15 after Wilkerson converted on a jumper with 8:23 left in the first half, but Toreros go on a 22-2 run to end the first half. The University of San Diego led 39-17 at half time. Marshall was 0-10 from beyond the three-point line in the first half. Marshall finished 5-22 from behind the three-point line.

The Toreros led by 31 points with 7:54 remaining in the game. USD's lead was shaved down to seven points with 52 seconds left in the game, thanks to Shaquille Johnson's three pointer. Marshall could get no closer than seven.

Marshall Freshman Damier Pitts finished with 14 points, going 9-9 at the free throw line. Shaquille Johnson added 11 points, Dago Pena finished with 10 points for the Herd.

Marshall (7-6) begins Conference USA play on the road next Wednesday night against the Memphis Tigers. Tip-off from the FedEx Forum is set for 9:00 eastern.

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Other Sports Categories

- Baseball
  - Post One Wins Opening Game In State Tournament
  - Post One Ready For State Tournament
- College
  - Winning it for Hogan
  - The Mountaineers Just Want to Have Fun
- High School
  - St. C's Blednik, Clifford Reach 300 Wins
  - John Marshall Routs St. C Boys 62-41
- Marshall
  - One More Road Trip Left For Herd
  - Herd Trying to Take a Page from 2007's Book
- Ohio Valley Greyhounds
  - End Of An Era for Wheeling Football Team
  - Greyhounds Cease Operation
- West Liberty
  - West Liberty makes it six in a row over Jesuit
  - West Liberty Rolls Past OU Eastern
- Wheeling Nailers
  - Snively's Game Winner Lead Nailers
  - Nailers Rally Comes Up Short Against Elmira
- Bethany College
  - Bethany Hires Mike Summey as Mens Basketball Coach
  - Huffman Steps Down as Bethany Mens' Basketball Coach
- Friends of Coal Bowl
  - WVU Wins Third Straight Friends Of Coal Bowl
  - Friends of Coal Bowl One Day Away
- Inside Track
  - Race Three in Kansas
  - Burton wins Chase Race #2
- NFL
  - Romeo Crennel Fired as Browns Head Coach
  - Browns Blanked by the Bengals 14-0
- Steelers
  - Steelers Will Play Chargers Sunday Afternoon at 4:45
  - Steelers Rout Browns 31-0; Roethlisberger Inured
- West Virginia Power
- WVU
  - Alex Ruoff Named Big East Player of the Week
  - Winning it for Hogan

Toreros Report

Today: vs. Marshall

Tipoff: 7:05 p.m. at Jenny Craig Pavilion
Records: Marshall 7-6; USD 7-7
Radio: XPRS (1090 AM)

At a glance: Last season USD followed its milestone win at Kentucky by losing two days later at Marshall, 78-60. Coincidentally, USD is again coming off an upset of a Southeastern Conference school on the road, a 64-61 overtime win Tuesday at Mississippi State.

... Against the Bulldogs, senior F/C Syno Po-mare added the school career scoring record to the rebounding mark he set earlier this season. He finished with 10 points and 15 rebounds, and has 1,480 career points — passing the scoring record of 1,472 set by Stan Wozington (1971-1974).

— Tom Shanahan
USD hopes Vegas is Win City

WCC's season-ending tournament will be held at a neutral site

By Hank Wuschw

MOUNTAIN West Conference coaches are upbeat because the league's regular season only leads to a tournament in Las Vegas, where UNLV will again have homecourt advantage.

West Coast Conference coaches are infrared because the regular season leads to the Tiger-forested Orleans Arena in Las Vegas, the first and only site for a conference tournament in the 25-year history of the event.

Different strokes for different folks.

"It's a little bit of a challenge to see how much of a lot of years, Gonzaga coach Mark Few said of the move to the Orleans at the WCC media day in Las Vegas in October. "Having it at a predetermined campus site, the team that won a regular season didn't get 56000. and could win at a disadvantage."

Few spoke from experience. His Gonzaga teams have won outright or shared the regular season WCC title 10 of the past 11 years. They've won the WCC Tournament, and automatic berth in the NCAA Tournament, eight of those 11 years.

The past two tournament losses for the Zags came to USD in championship games at USD in 2007 and last season.

The WCC regular season starts tonight in the San Francisco Bay Area, with USD at San Francisco and Santa Clara crossing the bay to visit Saint Mary's. Gonzaga opens its title defense at home against Portland tomorrow, while Loyola Marymount makes the short trip to Malibu to take on Pepperdine.

If things play out to preseason predictions, and all indications are a combined 11-9 record against nonconference games by the eight WCC affiliates prove true, the circumstances in March in Las Vegas will be similar to what they were last year.

Gonzaga, Saint Mary's and USD are preparing to slap it out for the title, with the first two of current conference standings suggest the Zags have the upper hand.

Gonzaga went into Wednesday night's game at Tennessee on a three-game winning streak. The Zags were in overtime to No. 2 Connecticut, followed by Portland State at home and at Utah. But the Zags look to build on the same winning streak to re-establish themselves as the team to beat in the WCC.

"I think, if you look at talent alone, they still have the best home winning streak to re-establish themselves as the team to beat in the WCC."

Trumaine Johnson, shooting last month against Boise State, has returned from suspension for USD. Greg Faulkner/UT

WEST COAST CONFERENCE

Projected order of finish (Current record in parentheses)

1. Gonzaga (9-4) Playing eight straight nonconference schedule in the nation was no picnic, but Wednesday's win at Tennessee shows regular season games are ready now.

2. Saint Mary's (15-9) Sophomore point guard Patrick Mills gained international renown leading Australian Olympic team.

3. USD (8-7) Ready for at suspension. Very tumultuous and come together when it counts the least season?

4. Portland (9-6) Won over Washington and Nevada among the nation's leaders in overall rebounding and average per game (6.3).

5. Saint Francis (6-7) New era under coach Steve Lents plus league ranking (2007-08) and current (2007-08) for leading the WCC.

6. Santa Clara (5-4) Foraminable center John Bryant (16-6, 21-13) is among nation's leaders in overall rebounding and average per game (6.3).

7. Pepperdine (10-13) Tony Asbury returns to coach after 14 years away and has seven freshmen or sophomores among top-flight players, six of which are from 2007-08.

8. Loyola Marymount (1-15) Lions lost coach Bill Byrne for personal, medical reasons early and have no seniors or upperclassmen on a roster.

HANK WUSCH
THE STUDENTS SPEAK
Is San Diego State University really the raucous party school people think it is? Is there a good
totality of Point Loma Nazarene University students? Local college students dispel the
myths and offer insight into San Diego's diverse campus culture.

BY JULIA BEESON POLLORENO

THE STUDENTS SPEAK
continued from page 75

she says, "I'd say the students are less conserv­
tive than some people think they are. We do have a vocal conservative con­
gress, but it's definitely the most liberal of the Nazarene universities.''
A vocal—but not necessarily conserva­
tive—group of "cray, cray-walking" male
students who call themselves The Huckle
Hurt inject some lively college spirit into
And with the hopes pinned in
FLNU colors, these guys cheer at nearly
all men's and women's soccer and basket­
ball games (there's no football team). It's
one of the more visibly energetic sides to
the serene, coastal campus.

Subsidized by the Nazarene Church,
PLNU "does feel like a religious university,''
says Moore. "Almost every class I've taken
has to do with the question: What does it mean to
be a journalist/philosopher/mathematician/sex seeker and a Christian? And we've
had chapel three days a week.

She says the university's religious foun­
dations inform another aspect of student
life: "The Nazarene Church sees itself as a
denomination that has historically fo­
cused on issues of social justice and hu­
manitarianism, so there is a huge push on our campus for social justice,
humanitarianism and environmental ac­
cion.''

And what of the reputation that Christ­
ian kids won't at PLNU with an eye to
marrying off?

"Our students are often so eager to
get married," says Moore. "Considering the number of our friends and acquain­
tances who've gotten engaged in the last
few weeks, I can't say that the "King by
spring" motto has been disproved.''

With PLNU's strict no-drinking policy
(on campus or on off-campus, even if
you are 21), some students head to Ocean
Beach and Shelter Island, where they un­
wind around a bonfire. (With the beach
beside them pretty much uphill, we're guessing they weren't drinking there, either.)

GOOD SPORTS
Toro pride was never more palpable than
during last year's NCAA basketball tourn­
ament, when the University of San Die­
gos' team pulled off a stunning first­
round upset of top-ranked University of
Connecticut.

"It's encouraging to see students so ex­
cited about an athletic team, because our
25

People and events to watch in the San Diego sports scene in 2009

By Don Norcross
STAFF WRITER
Will Grier go?

USD opened the basketball season losing its leading scorer and emotional pulse when point guard Brandon Johnson ruptured an Achilles' tendon. After an expected funk, the Toreros not only recovered but have bolted to the top of the West Coast Conference at 4-0.

What happens if the Toreros advance to the NCAA Tournament? As Oregon State did last spring, will another school make a run at head coach Bill Grier? And if so, can Grier resist?

SDSU, USD women's hoops

San Diego State's Cox Arena hosts the first- and second-round games in the Women's NCAA Tournament on March 21 and 23. Wouldn't it pad attendance and create a buzz if two of the teams playing in the subregional were SDSU and USD?

The Aztecs (11-4) are attempting to feel March Madness for the first time since 1997. USD (12-6 after last night's loss to Loyola Marymount) will be trying for back-to-back trips to the dance.

Word of caution to prospective SDSU opponents: The Aztecs are 8-0 at their home digs.
Gaidi Finnie

Finnie served as business manager of the intimate North County Repertory Theatre before accepting the position of managing director last year. His plans include increasing the theater's regional profile. "We will be bringing more artists and directors from around the country," Finnie promises. "San Diego will have to take notice of the small but elegant theater."

Bill Grier

In his first year as head basketball coach at the University of San Diego, Grier scaled heights rarely seen in this hoops-starved town. His Toreros went 22-14, won the West Coast Conference tournament (beating ranked teams Gonzaga and St. Mary's) and then topped Connecticut in the first round of the NCAA tournament. Oregon State tried to lure Grier away, but he's coming back to coach an exciting team that returns all five starters.

Terry Grier

Last year, more than $50 million in state budget cuts called for reform that included laying off teachers, eliminating more than 100 central office positions and assigning school-improvement offices to oversee 20 schools. The good news is that Grier, the new San Diego Unified School District superintendent, hopes to lower class sizes in elementary schools and ensure that every high school offers at least 30 advanced placement courses.

Ruben Galvan

He's an identifiable character playing man-about-town reporter for San Diego 6 News in the Morning. Galvan—okay, Ruben, nobody calls him Galvan—and the whole former Fox News crew switched call letters and stations earlier this year. But if you're flicking the dial, it's his frenetic and magnetic interview style that gets some viewers to stop (and others to hit the mute button). Love him or lump him, he's becoming iconic.
SAN DIEGO CITY BEAT

January 14, 2009

SPECIAL EVENTS

*MONSTER TRUCK JAM at Qualcomm Stadium, 5449 Friars Road, Mission Valley. The famed motorsport event makes a stop in San Diego. At 7 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 17. www.monsterjammonths.com.

SAN DIEGO STAMP EXPO at Al Bahr Shrine Center, 5440 Kearny Mesa Road, Kearny Mesa. Get your stamp collection appraised and peruse a large collection of rare stamps. At 10 a.m. Friday, Jan. 16, through Sunday, Jan. 18. www.sandiegostampexpo.com.

*RETRO VINTAGE REVUE at Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Blvd., Del Mar. This antique expo features the best in retro furniture, decor and fashion. From 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday, Jan. 16, and Saturday, Jan. 17, and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 18. 858-755-1161, www.delmarshow.com. $8.


*SAN DIEGO MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL at Martin Luther King Jr. Promenade, Harbor Drive, Downtown. Celebrate International culture with storytelling, live music, family activities, food and more at this free event. From 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 17. www.ccdc.com.
Burns lands on feet with University of San Diego

THE NEWS TRIBUNE
Last updated: January 14th, 2009 03:26 AM (PST)

Mike Burns can stare out his office window and see clear skies, lush lawns and college students wearing shorts and T-shirts on a daily basis.

Welcome to his new-start life at the University of San Diego.

It is drastically different from his years in the eastern part of Washington — first as an assistant at Central Washington, then under former coach Dick Bennett at Washington State and finally as head coach for Eastern Washington University and Spokane Community College.

"Today the weather is 80 degrees and clear as a bell," he said hours after the Toreros held a 9:30 a.m. practice Tuesday, helping coach Billy Grier break down film on Pepperdine, the team's next opponent.

"It's a little different than Spokane," he said of the snow-bound city. "You'd need a helicopter right now to get around there."

Burns, a Tacoma native, is enjoying the best of two worlds. He gets to coach under Grier, one of his longtime best friends. And he nearly has gotten all of his coaching "mojo" back after being abruptly released by Eastern in May of 2007 with two years remaining on a five-year contract.

"Coaching, like playing, is about having confidence in what you're doing," Burns said. "I was robbed a little bit of that by the way things happened."

It's still unclear what really happened with Burns at Eastern. He compiled a 38-49 record in three seasons after he took over for Ray Giacoletti, who left the program in 2004 to take the head job at Utah.

In 2007, the Eagles had Kentwood High product Rodney Stuckey, the Big Sky Conference's most valuable player. But they went 15-14 that season and failed to make the conference tournament.

That spring, Stuckey declared for the NBA draft, leaving Eastern after two seasons. A week later, Burns was removed as coach by interim athletic director Michael Westfall, and the school reported itself to the NCAA for alleged program violations.

Months later, in August, Eric Hughes left the Spokane CC men's program to take a position with the Toronto Raptors, and Burns was hired as his replacement. In 2007-08, Burns led Spokane CC on a 24-game winning streak, to a 30-2 record and an appearance in the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges title game, losing to Yakima Valley CC.

"I was around a great administration for a junior college ... and around great kids. It was therapeutic for me," Burns said. "They did the things I asked, and more. And that year helped me regain a lot of my confidence."

Burns, 46, was hired as an assistant at the University of Idaho, but last June Grier contacted him about an open position on his staff at San Diego after Walter Roese left for Nebraska.

He was Grier's only addition for this season, and has taken on most of San Diego's recruiting responsibilities. He is also heavily relied upon for writing up defensive game plans for upcoming opponents.

The move couldn't have come at a better time. Burns' wife, Mary, grew up in Los Angeles, and is able to tend to her elderly father. Burns' twins, Bode and Kylie, turned 2 in September.

"I'm doing what I love to do, and with people I love being around, professionally and personally," Burns said. "People look at the Eastern thing and might say, 'Poor Mike Burns.' But at the end of the day, I'm in a better place."

Notes

http://www.thenewstribune.com/1043/v-printerfriendly/story/594195.html

1/14/2009
Amber Sprague, USD's all-time leading scorer, initially hated the area

Amber Sprague, the Toreros' first WNBA player, originally hated the city of San Diego after moving here to attend USD.

Sprague's presence this winter has prompted Sprague to take on a larger leadership role as a fifth-year senior. "I'm not emotionally on the court, as I've had to learn how to be more vocal," said Sprague, a two-time All-West Coast Conference pick who recently passed Susie Englund to become USD's all-time leading scorer. "Sprague has dribbled the ball and Kafka (Mangrum) has also helped with the leadership. I didn't realize how much Rego did until now. It's taken three of us to replace her leadership."

The leadership transition has, at times, been a struggle, as evidenced by the Toreros' victory over San Diego State and their 3-0 start to WCC play. At other times, it has been easier — USD's loss to Portland on Thursday was its third straight conference defeat, dropping the Toreros (28-3) to fourth place in the conference standings.

"Our goal is to finish better than last year," Sprague said of the Toreros' first-round exit from the NCAA tournament. "The scoring record was something I wanted to do when I got here, but I don't want that to define my season."

Sprague was a key reason USD believes it can overcome a young backcourt and return to the NCAA tournament. She is averaging 16.4 points and 8.2 rebounds a game while attracting interest from WNBA scouts.

"She definitely on their radar," USD coach Cindy Fisher said. "She's got a lot of players that can do all the things Amber can do. She can play inside, she extended her game outside and she can bring the half-court game when she has to."
Gonzaga at USD women

Site/Time: Jenny Craig Pavilion / 2 p.m.
Records: USD 12-6, 3-3 WCC; Gonzaga 18-4, 6-0

Outlook: The Toreros will try to end a three-game losing streak against the first-place Bulldogs, who remain undefeated in West Coast Conference play.
USD falls in double OT to Saint Mary's

USD dropped a WCC heartbreaker to Saint Mary's, losing 76-74 in double overtime at Moraga.

The Gaels led 74-72 in the second OT when USD's Morgan Henderson hit a jumper to even the score with 35 seconds left. A missed jumper by Saint Mary's and a Sam Child rebound gave USD hope, but the Toreros (2-7, 3-1) turned the ball over and the Gaels (7-13, 3-2) scored with five seconds left.

USD senior Kiva Herman led all scorers with 29 points while Amber Sprague had 16 points and 11 rebounds.
LMU women stop USD's six-game streak

USD's six-game winning streak ended last night as host Loyola Marymount beat the Toreros 78-61 in West Coast Conference women's play.

USD senior center Amber Sprague led the team with 23 points on 7-for-21 shooting from the floor (8-for-8 from the foul line), with Kiva Herman adding 19 points and three blocked shots for USD (12-6, 3-1).

Candice Nichols scored 19 points and Renaby Young had 16 for LMU (12-5, 2-1), which outrebounded USD 46-32.

The Toreros started out well, with a 6-0 run but LMU came roaring back with the next six points and outscored USD 22-13 in the final seven minutes of the first half to take a 44-27 halftime lead.

In the second half, the Lions built a 19-point lead at 50-31, but a Sprague jumper sparked a 7-0 USD run to pull the Toreros back to within 12 at 50-38 with 15:26 to go in the game. But that's as close as USD would get as the Lions went on a 6-0 run to regain the momentum and put it away.
Sprague sets record as Toreros top Waves

UNION-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICES

In pacing USD in scoring last night, Amber Sprague became the Toreros' leader in a much more impressive category.

The senior center scored 17 points in USD's 69-57 victory at Pepperdine and set the all-time scoring record for a Toreros women's basketball player, surpassing the mark previously held by Susie Erpelding (1996-2000) at 1,510.

Sprague, who has 1,517 career points, scored six points in the first half against the Waves, then hit two three-pointers in the first two minutes of the second half, the second coming with 18:12 remaining, to break the record.

Dominique Conners had 14 points, while Kiva Herman scored 13 and Kelly Winther added a season-high 10. As a team, USD shot 43 percent from the floor and outrebounded the Waves 46-37.

Pepperdine shot 30 percent from the floor, including 3-of-16 from beyond the arc.

Sprague notched a double-double with 11 boards, and she had two blocked shots and four steals.

With the win, the Toreros improved to 12-5 overall, 3-0 in the West Coast Conference. They have a season-high six-game win streak.

SPRAGUE TOPS USD CHARTS

Senior Amber Sprague is now the career leader in points scored by a Toreros women's basketball player. USD's top five:

1. Amber Sprague (Mission Bay) 1,517
2. Susie Erpelding (OLP) 1,510
3. Marta Menuez 1,233
4. Candida Echeverria 1,211
5. Chris Enger (Vista) 1,187

Pepperdine fell to 8-8, 1-1.

In the first half, San Diego raced to a 12-0 start before stretching that to a 20-4 lead with 12:48 to go.

In the second half, the Waves trailed by as many as 22. A late 9-0 run got Pepperdine to within 11 with a little more than a minute left, but it was too little, too late. Sprague capped USD's night by sinking two free throws.

USD will return to action at 8 p.m. on Saturday against Loyola Marymount in Los Angeles.
TOREROS: Amber Sprague becomes the all-time leader in points scored for the USD women's basketball team/D4

FRIDAY
January 16, 2009

THE SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE
Sprague leads rally in Toreros victory

By Nicole Vargas
STAFF WRITER

With a three-game road trip on the horizon, USD women's basketball player Amber Sprague would have liked to set a career scoring record at Jenny Craig Pavilion in front of her family and friends yesterday.

But before the game began, the Mission Bay graduate made it clear her priority was team victories over individual accolades.

Despite having scored only 10 of the 21 points she would have needed, the record seemed to be the furthest thing from Sprague's mind as she helped the Toreros overcome an 11-point halftime deficit to upend Santa Clara 67-54.

Sprague, with classmate Kiva Herman and freshman point guard Dominque Conners, keyed the second-half comeback in front of a crowd of 467 that has USD (11-5, 2-0) atop the West Coast Conference standings.

“We're not starting out strong,” head coach Cindy Fisher said. “I just want them to get the confidence out of the gate.”

A slow start had the Broncos (2-15, 0-2) nearly doubling the Toreros' field-goal percentage in the first half, with Santa Clara putting in 46.4 percent of their shots compared to USD's 24.2 percent.

The Toreros, though, turned the game around in the final period thanks in part to an 18-0 run that put USD ahead for good with 10:04 left.

Sprague Nearing Toreros Record

Amber Sprague needs 11 points to become USD's all-time leader in career points in women's basketball. The top five scorers:

1. Susie Erpelding (OLP) 1,510
2. Sprague (Mission Bay) 1,500
3. Marta Menuez 1,233
4. Candida Echeverria 1,201
5. Chris Enger (Vista) 1,187

“We just needed to pick it up defensively and have confidence in our shots,” said Herman, who scored 14 of her game-high 20 points in the second half.

Behind Herman, Conners (La Jolla Country Day) finished with 16 points and a career-high seven rebounds, and has scored in double figures in eight of the past nine games. Sprague's 10 points came with eight rebounds, while sophomore Emily Hatch made it difficult for the Broncos to get second-chance opportunities to score, finishing with a career-high 15 rebounds.

“Emily has done such an amazing job for us,” said Fisher, who counted Hatch and classmate Sam Child as the unsung heroes of the game.

“It has taken so much pressure off the rest of the post players.”

Santa Clara scored only nine points off its own rebounds. The Toreros, by comparison, scored 20 in the same manner.

The Broncos also struggled with 18 turnovers.
USD women vs. Santa Clara

Site/time: Jenny Craig Pavilion/2 p.m.
Web: usdtorers.com

Records: USD 10-5, 1-0; SCU 2-14, 0-1

Outlook: Senior Amber Sprague (Mission Bay) needs 33 points to set a career scoring record before the Toreros head out on a three-game road swing. Her career-best: 33 vs. UC Irvine in 2005.
Sprague, Conners rally USD in second half

By Nicole Vargas
STAFF WRITER

Entering the start of West Coast Conference play, the University of San Francisco's women's basketball team knew Kiva Herman was pacing the USD offense. The Toreros, however, couldn't come up with an answer for senior Amber Sprague or freshman Dominique Conners last night.

Another steady game by Sprague, coupled with a second-half scoring surge by Conners, paved the way for a 69-62 victory over USF at Jenny Craig Pavilion.

Sprague edged closer to the school's career scoring record, putting in 22 points on 7-of-14 shooting to go with a personal-best nine blocks and seven rebounds for the Toreros (10-5, 1-0). The Mission Bay grad needs 48 points to pass USD alumna Susie Erpelding (OLP), who ended her career in 2000 with 1,510.

"Amber just willed us to win," Toreros head coach Cindy Fisher said of Sprague, who made all eight of her free throws. "You look at that stat line and it's just amazing."

The Dons (4-11, 0-1) held a 34-31 halftime lead, edging USD on the strength of five early three-pointers, three from Shay Rollins, and 12 points scored off Toreros miscues. By comparison, USD made just a single three-pointer and scored only six points off turnovers in the half.

The Toreros put together a quick 19-4 run in the second half to take the lead and built the advantage to 12 points on a fast-break layup by Conners with 14:56 remaining. Conners (La Jolla Country Day) scored 13 of her 18 points in the final half.

"She's done a great job stepping up," Sprague said. "She's the player on the floor that I have complete confidence in."

Added Fisher: "Dominique showed great leadership. She had a great game, and gets better and better every day."

Despite drawing plenty of attention from USD's defense, Herman still finished with 10 points, and sophomore Emily Hatch added nine. The Toreros also got valuable minutes for juniors Kelly Winter and Morgan Henderson. Winter had been out for more than a season with a shoulder injury, and Winter had missed three games with a foot injury.
Stanford women post historic rout

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jayne Appel had 21 points, nine rebounds and two blocked shots in only 19 minutes. Jeanette Pohlen added 16 points and eight assists and No. 11 Stanford made 14 3-pointers on the way to the largest margin of victory in conference history, 112-35 over visiting Washington on Thursday night.

Jillian Harmon scored 14 points in 16 minutes of action as the Cardinal (12-3, 3-0 Pac-10) topped a 73-point win over Long Beach State from Dec. 8, 1993 (122-49) with their fourth straight victory since losing at two-time defending national champion Tennessee on Dec. 21 in a rematch of last season's NCAA title game.

Sarah Morton scored seven points to lead Washington (5-7, 1-1), which couldn't keep up from the opening tip and fell behind big right away to fall to 0-3 against ranked opponents this season.

It was Stanford's sixth consecutive win in the series, 10th in a row at home against the Huskies in Maples Pavilion and 10th in 11 overall dating to Jan. 4, 2004.

Toreros report at San Francisco

Tippett 7:05 p.m. at War Memorial Gym,

Recorder: USD 8-7; San Francisco 8-7

Radio: XPRS (1050 AM)

At a glance: Here's an interesting comparison of scores to consider as USD opens West Coast Conference play at rebuilding San Francisco. The Toreros have a two-game winning streak, with impressive victories over Mississippi State (84-61, overtime) and Marshall (80-70). One week after USD's upset at Mississippi State (105) of the Southeastern Conference, the Bulldogs routed Western Kentucky 96-67. That's the same Western Kentucky that advanced to the Sweet 16 last year by defeating the Toreros after USD's upset of Connecticut. The Toreros are 20 since the return to the lineup of sophomore PG Trumaine Johnson (suspension) and junior G Dejon Jackson (knee injury). Senior F/C Osho Ponsah of E Carmelo High, USD's career scoring and rebounding leader, was named the WCC player of the week for his performances against Mississippi State (10 points, 15 rebounds) and Marshall (20 points, four rebounds). USD's roster includes Peter Smith, a true freshman from Escalidco High who has seen limited playing time.

MEN'S TOP 25

Xavier 70, Saint Louis 44

At Cincinnati: Derrick Brown didn't miss a shot while scoring 20 points and C.J. Anderson added 13 as No. 16 Xavier (12-2, 1-0) beat Saint Louis (9-6, 0-1) in the Atlantic 10 opener for both teams.

Arizona St. 68, Oregon St. 38

At Tempe, Ariz.: James Harden scored 22 points, and No. 20 Arizona State (13-2, 2-1) allowed the fewest points by a Pac-10 opponent in 31 years as a conference member, beating Oregon State (8-7, 1-2).

Butler 64, Wright St. 48

At Indianapolis: Matt Howard scored 14 points to lead No. 21 Butler (13-1, 4-0 Horizon League) past Wright State (6-8, 2-3) for its fifth straight victory.

Minnesota 52, Iowa 49

At Iowa City, Iowa: Lawrence Westbrook and Travis Busch each scored 30 points, and No. 22 Minnesota (14-1, 2-1) rallied from a 13-point deficit, then hung on to beat Iowa (11-5, 3-2).

Women's highlights

Rashanda McCants scored 17 points and No. 2 North Carolina improved to 2-0 (1-0 ACC) with an 83-74 victory over host Clemson (7-3, 1-1). Storey Stricklen scored 18 points, including two late free throws, to lead No. 7 Tennessee (13-2, 1-0 SEC) to a 69-64 win over visiting Kentucky (10-6, 0-1) in coach Pat Summit's 956th career victory. Mickel Picco scored on a driving layup with less than 1 second left in overtime to lift visiting Boston College (12-3, 1-0 ACC) past No. 22 Georgia Tech (12-3, 0-1), 65-64.

Note

CAL STATE NORTH RIDGE: Men's coach Baily Brunsell said he was "shocked and saddened" by the arrest of his son, along with two players and another man, on charges of commercial burglary and grand theft.
USF at USD WOMEN
Site/time: Jenny Craig Pavilion / 7 p.m.
Web: usdoreros.com
Records: USD 9-5, USF 4-10
Outlook: The Dons have played a tough preseason schedule, including a visit to Tennessee, games against a pair of Pac-10 teams (Washington State and Oregon State) and a trip to Wyoming. They lost all four of those games, including 82-60 to Wyoming on Saturday.

Online: Senior Kiva Herman, in the midst of a terrific season, leads the Toreros into their West Coast Conference opener tonight. Read staff writer Nicole Vargas' story at uniontrib.com/sports/usd
Local athletes see action over winter season

By Dave Thomas | Village News

A number of high school graduates with ties to the La Jolla area are seeing action this winter at different college campuses.

In women's basketball, Michelle Brunker (The Bishop's School) is a freshman guard for the Louisiana at Lafayette team. Brunker netted a career-high 12 points in a recent 69-42 victory over Savannah State.

Elsewhere, Dominique Conners (La Jolla Country Day School) is a freshman guard for the University of San Diego women's basketball team.

Conners had a solid outing last Saturday (Jan. 10), tallying 16 points, pulling down a career-high seven rebounds and dishing out five assists in a 67-54 victory over Santa Clara.

Chelsea Burns (La Jolla Country Day School) had a career-high 15 points to lead Utah State to a recent 72-58 win over New Mexico State. Burns is a freshman guard/forward for the Lady Aggies.

Mercedes Fox-Griffin (La Jolla Country Day School) is a senior guard for the Oregon State University Lady Beavers.

Fox-Griffin tallied 11 points to go along with six assists and four rebounds in last Saturday's 68-43 victory over Arizona. Fox-Griffin scored a team-high 10 points two nights earlier in a 61-36 loss to Arizona State.

In women's water polo, Sarah Van Norman (The Bishop's School) is a sophomore 2-meter player for USC.

As a true freshman last season, Van Norman tallied 17 goals and had a career-high four goals against Michigan in the NCAA Tournament.

Elsewhere, Koree Blyleven (The Bishop's School) and Chelsea Smith-Carmichael (The Bishop's School) are members of the Stanford University squad. Blyleven is a senior driver, while Smith-Carmichael is a sophomore driver.

Keller Felt (La Jolla High School) is a sophomore driver on the University of Michigan team. Felt and the Wolverines will visit San Diego Feb. 7-8 for the Triton Invitational at UCSD.

If you know of any graduates of The Bishop's School, La Jolla High, La Jolla Country Day or University City High that are making a mark in college sports, contact hoopsthomas@yahoo.com.
USD wins local event

With temperatures in the mid-50s and a frigid wind blowing at La Jolla Country Club, it didn’t feel like spring golf yesterday in the 2nd Annual San Diego Intercollegiate, presented by Lamkin Grips. USD sophomore Gunner Wiebe, though, made the best of it. In the 36-hole event featuring the five local men’s college squads, Wiebe shot the day’s only sub-par score, a 2-under-par 70 in the afternoon, and won medalist honors at 1-over 145. He led the Toreros to their second straight team victory in the event as USD edged runner-up San Diego State 605-607. Pt. Loma Nazarene finished third with 614 and was led by reigning NAIA national champion Sam Cyr, whose 73 in the morning was the only round under 70. Cyr tied for second at 150 with Cal State San Marcos’ D.J. Harris. Ben Murray (USD) and Ryan Citarella (SDSU) tied at 151. Cal State San Marcos (632) was fourth and UCSD (635) was fifth.
JANUARY 1, 2009
USD Golf Classic

JANUARY 6, 2009
Sharp Memorial Hospital Dedication
Take part in the dedication of Sharp Memorial Hospital—San Diego's newest hospital—an exclusive event with a behind-the-scenes tour of the facility. Access to this event is by invitation only. Contact Christina Jordan at 858-849-4811.

JANUARY 11, 2009
La Jolla Motor Car Classic
The La Jolla Motor Car Classic pays tribute to some of the world's finest automobiles at beautiful La Jolla Cove. Monarch School is honored to receive support from this outstanding event. Monarch School serves nearly 500 homeless and at-risk kids each year in grades K-12 and provides them with an accredited education and enrichment programs as well as providing for their basic needs. Information: 619-233-5008. lajollabythesea.com.

JANUARY 11, 2009
Art, Wine and Cheese Reception
The art, wine and cheese reception at San Diego Hospice & 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. sdhospice.org.

JANUARY 15, 2009
For Preuss, with Ludwig
The 14th annual For Preuss, with Ludwig concert benefits the Rebecca Elizabeth Lytle Memorial Scholarship at UCSD's Thurgood Marshall College. The Rebecca Elizabeth Lytle Memorial Scholarship Fund was endowed in 1993 to support and encourage a select group of first-year students enrolled in Thurgood Marshall College who are the first in their family to attend college. $40 per person. Information: 858-534-1907. rel.ucsd.edu.

JANUARY 24, 2009
Art, Wine and Cheese Reception
The art, wine and cheese reception at San Diego Hospice & 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. sdhospice.org.

JANUARY 25, 2009
Palazzo Promenade Gala

JANUARY 25, 2009
Donating a Dollar for Dollar$ annual Spin-a-Thon
Cal-Diego Paralyzed Veterans Association's Rolling and Bowling for Dollar$ pool tournament raises funds and awareness for sports and recreation for paralyzed veterans. $50 per team of four. Contact Kelly Price Noble at 858-450-1443. caldiegpva.org.

JANUARY 31, 2009
Spin-a-Thon
The Magdalena Ecke Family YMCA holds the seventh annual Spin-a-Thon, 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. More than 150 participants making up 40 teams will ride stationary studio cycling bikes for 12 hours straight. All proceeds benefit the annual Giving Campaign, which enables children, families and seniors in need to participate in YMCA programs they would not otherwise be able to afford. Contact Lisa Cameron at 760-942-9623, ext. 1007. ecke.ymca.org/english.
January 4, 2009

Ho'olaule'a honors the best in Hawai'i

Advertiser Staff

Hawai'i golf will go prime time on Jan. 16 when the inaugural Hawai'i Golf Ho'olaule'a Awards will bring all the game's different faces together to "Celebrate Golf Excellence in the Islands."

The celebration honoring Hawai'i professionals, amateurs and industry leaders will recognize more than 30 individuals, from the Aloha Section PGA to First Tee of Hawai'i. The banquet is open to the public. Tickets are $60 for adults and $45 for children (18-under).

It begins at 6 p.m. at Hilton Hawaiian Village. Registration is online (aloha.pga.com) or by calling 593-2230. Deadline is Wednesday. Proceeds benefit Aloha Section PGA Foundation.

This is the first time all the state's golf associations will celebrate together. Among those being honored are Dr. Richard Ho, who will receive the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Hawai'i State Golf Association, and Jay Hinazumi, the HSGA's Volunteer of the Year.

Punahou graduate, and University of San Diego freshman, Alex Ching is the HSGA's Amateur Golfer of the Year and the high school Player of the Year. Ching won five Hawai'i tournaments last year, including the 100th Manoa Cup and state high school championship. Phil Anamizu is Senior Amateur of the Year.

The Hawai'i State Junior Golf Association will honor eight Players of the Year in different age groups, including Cassy Isagawa and high school seniors David Fink and Kristina Merkle, also the Outstanding Girls high school Player of the Year.

Kaua'i Lagoons Director of Golf Scott Ashworth is Aloha Section Professional of the Year. Ashworth started his Hawai'i career at Ko Olina, went to the Mainland, then returned to help with the three-year, $13 million renovation of the two Ka'anapali courses and clubhouse before taking over at Lagoons.

He has been heavily involved in Kaua'i junior golf, as well as mentoring several PGA apprentices. He is currently Aloha Section PGA Secretary and was the Billy Casper Golf Management Company Head Golf Professional of the Year in 2005.

GolfTEC Honolulu's John Lynch earned Aloha Section Player of the Year honors for the second time in five years. The honor includes a spot in next week's Sony Open in Hawai'i. Lynch has won more than 10 section events in the last eight years, including the 2008 Stroke Play Championship.

Hilo Muni's Lance Taketa is Senior Player of the Year. The Section will also honor University of Hawai'i-Hilo coach and Big Island junior leader Earl Tamiya with its Distinguished Service Award.

Claude Brousseau is Teaching Professional of the Year. He started at Kapalua Golf Academy in 2006 and has made a significant impact on the academy's growth and development in his short time on Maui. He also is an assistant coach for Lahainaluna's girls team. His instructional articles have been featured in Golf Magazine and Golf Digest and he is a contributing writer for Inside Golfer and Golfing Magazine, which named him Hawai'i's top teacher in 2007.

Hualalai's Earl Sanders is Golf Course Superintendent of the Year. Sanders worked with Jack Nicklaus' team for several years at the private course. He helps with everything from course

San Diego ready for another run

January 20, 2009

Kendall Rogers
Rivals.com College Baseball Editor

San Diego almost has accomplished every goal.

The Toreros have become the premier program in the WCC and a top program on the West Coast. They also have made an imprint on the national scene. But even after accomplishing so much, the Toreros have much more to prove.

Winning 40 or more games during the regular season is fine and dandy for most coaches, but Rich Hill wants more. He wants to guide his program to the College World Series. Could it finally happen this season?

The Toreros must replace 2008 Rivals.com National Pitcher of the Year Brian Matusz and two-way star Josh Romanski, among others. However, they welcome back almost every key hitter and another talented pitching staff.

Hill listed his team's strengths as quality of pitchers, pitching depth and offensive experience from top to bottom in the lineup.

In terms of weaknesses, Hill prefers to call them challenges. However, he said the Toreros must find a way to hit for more power.

If San Diego's offense can step up and the pitching staff continues where it left off last season, there's no reason why the Toreros shouldn't win a regional, compete in a super regional and have a chance to get to Omaha.

That goal eventually will get accomplished. Hill just hopes it occurs sooner rather than later.

SAN DIEGO AT-A-GLANCE

Offense

The first thing you think about when it comes to San Diego is pitching, but the offense hopes to step up this season.

The Toreros finished last season hitting .304 as a team and welcomes back several key players, including leading hitter James Meador, Jose Valerio, Kevin Muno, Sean Nicol and Victor Sanchez.

Meador batted .374 with six homers and 57 RBIs last season. He also recorded 16 doubles, three triples and 120 total bases. Additionally, he slugged .561 and had a .422 on-base percentage.

Valerio finished last season hitting .336 with five homers and 26 RBIs. He also had a .497 slugging percentage and a .379 on-base percentage.

Muno batted .326 with four homers and 29 RBIs last season, while Nicol hit .313 with 27 RBIs.

Sanchez could take his game to the next level this season. A
must be more consistent at the plate.

LAST SEASON

Record: 44-17, 16-5 in WCC

In a nutshell: After earning a national seed two seasons ago and falling to advance to a super regional, San Diego entered last season with a chip on its shoulder. The Toreros, though, had another good campaign but were unable to make a bigger statement on the national stage. USD put together another 40-plus win season and also compiled an impressive conference record. USD competed in the Long Beach regional and lost to eventual national champion Fresno State in the regional title game. The Toreros had another successful campaign, but didn't meet their biggest goals.

PROBABLE STARTERS

C Nick McCoy (Jr.)
1B Jose Valerio (Sr.)
2B Zach Walters (So.)
SS Sean Nicol (Sr.)
3B Victor Sanchez (So.)
OF Bryan Haar (Fr.)
OF Kevin Muno (Jr.)
OF James Meador (Jr.)
DH Tony Strazzara (So.)
Mike Lugo (Sr.)
SP Kyle Blair (So.)
SP Sammy Solis (So.)
SP Matt Thomson (Jr.)
CP AJ Griffin (Jr.)

Head coach: Rich Hill

2009 OUTLOOK

The Toreros haven't taken the next step and reached a super regional the last couple seasons, but hope to finally make that happen this season. The Toreros obviously have some tough holes to fill with the departures of ace pitcher Brian Matusz and talented two-way player Josh Romanski. But don't let those departures fool you. San Diego still is in very good shape. USD welcomes back several seasoned hitters, while the pitching staff is in great shape with the return of Kyle Blair, Sammy Solis, AJ Griffin and others. The Toreros should have a productive offense and a very good pitching staff. That usually is a great combo for success, but the Toreros are looking at the bigger picture. They want to take the next step on the national stage.

Campbell are in a class of their own.

Griffin is one of the nation's best closers and is coming off a monster sophomore campaign. He made 29 appearances last season and had a 1.96 ERA in 46 innings of work. He also recorded 14 saves and struck out 49 while walking 12. Opponents hit Griffin at a .192 clip.

Campbell is the sleeper of the staff. He has battled some injury issues in the past, but really stepped up his game during fall workouts. Campbell made 14 appearances last season and had a 4.01 ERA in 24 2/3 innings of work. He also struck out 18 and walked 4, while opponents hit him at a .265 clip.

Shoes to Fill

The Toreros have a few shoes to fill this season but still are in great shape.

On the mound, USD must find a way to replace Brian Matusz, Josh Romanski and Ricardo Pecina.

Matusz made 14 starts last season and had a 1.71 ERA in 105 innings of work. He also struck out 141 and walked 22, while opponents hit him at a .211 clip.

Romanski was a two-way star for the Toreros. He had a 4.00 ERA in 96 2/3 innings of work as a pitcher last season, while he batted .324 with six homers and 49 RBIs. He also recorded 14 doubles, one triple and 21 total bases.
Pecina also is a tough loss. He made 16 appearances last season and had a 3.29 ERA in 63 innings of work. He also struck out 78 and walked 21, while opponents hit him at a .252 clip.

Offensively, the Toreros must replace Kevin Hansen and Logan Gelbrich.

Hansen batted .338 with a home run and 40 RBIs last season, while Gelbrich batted .271 with eight homers and 34 RBIs.

**Must Step Up**

San Diego has several players that will be key contributors this season, but three players really need to step up, Victor Sanchez, Kyle Blair and Sammy Solis.

Sanchez was a very highly touted player out of high school and showed great power as a freshman last season. However, his batting average and on-base percentage were dismal. Those numbers must improve this season.

Blair and Solis each had important roles last season, but with Matusz, Romolski and Pecina out of the mix this spring, there's not as much room for error.

If Sanchez, Blair and Solis have productive campaigns, the Toreros once again should have a great campaign.

**Impact Newcomer**

The Toreros won't have to rely too much on newcomers, but keep an eye on freshman outfielder Bryan Haar.

The 6-foot-3, 290-pounder is versatile and can play several positions. The Toreros, however, really need him to be a star in the outfield this season.

Haar also will be very important from a depth chart standpoint.

Kendall Rogers is the college baseball editor for Rivals.com and Yahoo! Sports. He can be reached at rogersk@yahoo-inc.com.

Yahoo! Buzz

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http://collegebaseball.rivals.com/content.asp?CID=902530
Baseball America takes a look ahead at 2009 NCAA tournament field

By Aaron Fitt
Baseball America

It might be only January, but the experts at Baseball America have their eyes on the prize. They're thinking ahead and projecting the field for the 2009 NCAA baseball tournament. Here's how they see the 64 teams panning out.

College Station
1. (1)Texas A&M** 1. (2)North Carolina** 1. (3)LSU** 1. (4)Fullerton, Calif.

Baton Rouge, La.
2. (2)NC State 2. East Carolina 2. Miami 2. Oregon State

Fullerton, Calif.

Houston

Baton Rouge, La.

Austin, Texas

North Carolina

Fullerton, Calif.

I. 2. East Carolina 2. (2)LSU** 2. (3)Texas A&M** 2. (4)North Carolina**

1. (3)Indiana* 1. (4)Army*

Mississippi

Charlotte


1. (5)Mississippi*

Los Angeles

1. (7)Southern Miss.

Louisiana

2. (6)LSU**

1. Missouri*

Oxford, Miss.

1. (8)Virginia

Louisiana

3. (3)LSU**

4. (4)Southern Miss.

Los Angeles

3. (2)LSU**

4. (3)Virginia

Louisiana

4. (1)Texas A&M**

1. (5)Mississippi*

Los Angeles

Arkansas

2. (6)LSU**

1. (7)Southern Miss.

1. (8)Mississippi*

Arkansas

3. (3)LSU**

2. (4)Monmouth*

Los Angeles

4. (5)Mississippi*

1. (7)Southern Miss.

1. (8)Mississippi*

Arkansas

The SEC has no such weak patch, as all 12 teams should be very competitive. Auburn and South Carolina are two of the toughest omissions from the field of 64, but the SEC will not get nine bids this year because the ACC will be stronger in the middle than it was in 2008, when UNC, Miami and Florida State dominated but the league got just six bids. The ACC will climb back to eight berths in 2009, highlighted by Duke's first regional appearance since 1961. The SEC and ACC lead all conferences with eight bids apiece, while the Big 12 and Pac-10 each place six teams in regionals.

Along with the Gamecocks and Tigers, other teams that will land on the wrong side of the bubble are Houston, Arizona, Cal Poly, San Diego State, South Florida and Dallas Baptist. All are talented enough to make strong pushes for regional bids, but all have significant questions to answer. Dallas Baptist should be a very good team with abundant offensive talent, athleticism and a few power arms, but its soft schedule -- with just two three-game series, against Oral Roberts and Texas A&M, against 2008 regional teams -- will keep it from earning its second straight....
regional bid. The independent Patriots play 37 total games against Binghamton, Siena, Oakland, Central Arkansas, Louisiana-Monroe, Minnesota, Louisiana Tech, Houston Baptist, Northeastern, Utah Valley State, Northern Colorado and Jacksonville. Even winning the vast majority of those games won't salvage DBU's RPI.

Like the ACC, the Pac-10 will be less top-heavy in 2009, helping it climb from five regional berths to six. USC and Arizona will battle it out for the last spot, but the Trojans have the advantage of the nation's best overall player in Grant Green. He'll carry USC back to the NCAA tournament for the first time in coach Chad Kreuter's tenure.

Mid-major contenders Kent State and Fresno State each earn No. 3 seeds thanks to conference RPI troubles, but both could be very dangerous in the postseason. Recall that Fresno won the 2008 national title as a No. 4 seed. On a side note, Kent State's trip to Georgia Tech would provide a nice story line, as Golden Flashes coach Scott Stricklin came to Kent from Tech, where he was an assistant coach. Another story line of note is Princeton, coached by North Carolina alumnus Scott Bradley, playing in Chapel Hill as the No. 4 seed.

San Diego is the only No. 1 seed that won't host, as Cunningham Stadium is ill-equipped and Tony Gwynn Stadium across town provides scant home-field advantage. The Toreros hope to follow Arizona's example from 2008 and become another Western team to win a Midwestern regional as a top seed.

The last four teams into the field are Duke, USC, Notre Dame and Michigan. Those four, as well as Troy (which gets in safely as the No. 2 team in the Sun Belt Conference), earn No. 4 seeds as at-large teams.

The state of Florida gets shut out of regionals for the first time since 2006. Before that, the Sunshine State had hosted at least one regional for 30 straight years. It's easy to envision Florida State, Miami and Florida playing their way into regional hosting position, but those teams could also easily finish outside the top three in their conferences. Neither the ACC nor the SEC is likely to host four regionals if the Big 12 is as strong as expected.

Perennial Missouri Valley Conference power Wichita State misses the NCAA tournament for the third time since 1987. The Shockers are extremely young and will be passed by a veteran Missouri State club in the MVC. The Bears make up for a mediocre conference RPI and earn a No. 2 seed thanks to a strong nonconference schedule that includes 16 games against Nebraska, Oregon State, Arkansas, Oral Roberts, Oklahoma State and Missouri.

For more information on college baseball, check out Baseball America.
Football

University of San Diego senior wide receiver John Matthews was named to the 2008 Sports Network All-America first team. Matthews, who earlier was named a first-team FCS Associated Press All-American, was also recognized by College Sporting News on its 2008 Fabulous Fifty Division I FCS All-America team. He recently was added to the roster of the Texas vs. the Nation All-Star Challenge, which is Jan. 31 in El Paso, Texas.
Hallie Huston coaching the Torreys in time off from USD soccer team

During her four years as a high school student on the campus of La Jolla Country Day, Hallie Huston became as much a part of the girls' soccer program as the colors blue and white. Now, after two years away, the former Torreys star is back on the field at Country Day - only this time, she's on the sidelines.

Huston, a 2006 graduate of Country Day who was named to the All CIF San Diego Section team after each of her four seasons there, is back on campus this fall as an assistant to head coach Dave Jenkins. It's a new role that she is squeezing in between classes and soccer practices at nearby USD.

"I've always sort of been interested in coaching, and I thought being able to coach with Mr. Jenkins would be fun," Huston said. "I just really love soccer, and I wanted to share my passion for soccer with high school kids."

Huston is a junior midfielder for USD, and has been a consistent contributor for the Toreros since landing on the north La Jolla campus. As a freshman in the fall of 2006, she started all 20 of the team's games, scored three goals and notched three assists. As a sophomore, she contributed three assists, and this fall, Huston scored one goal and added two assists.

Her busiest time of the year is during soccer season, and when the Toreros' 2008 campaign ended Nov. 17 with a loss to UCLA in the second round of the NCAA tournament, Huston's schedule was freed up a bit. Jenkins, whose previous assistant had left the position suddenly, had already asked Huston to work with him, and she gladly accepted.

One of Huston's most valuable assets, both she and Jenkins agreed, is her ability to relate to Country Day's players. After all, it wasn't that long ago that she was wearing the same uniform. A handful of the current Torreys seniors were teammates of Huston's when Country Day won the CIF SDS Division IV championship during her senior season.

"The girls really like her, and she's really positive," Jenkins said. "USD is really a quality program, and Hallie brings an intercollegiate feel to the practices.

"She has a totally different connection with the girls than I do."

Because of her new commitment, Huston's daily schedule is extremely busy. She works out with the USD soccer team in the morning, attends classes until mid-afternoon, and goes straight to practice or games at Country Day.

"At the end of the day, I'm exhausted," Huston said, "but it's definitely worth it."

Gregory Ball
Gregory Ball covers sports for La Jolla Light. He can be reached at ballgregory@yahoo.com.
The match between two of Southern California's top prep basketball players lived up to the hype Friday night at the Jenny Craig Pavilion on the UCI campus.

Los Angeles Fairfax high school's top gun, Renardo Sidney, scored 28 points. His counterpart, Jeremy Tyler, of the San Diego High Cavers, scored 27 points. Both players showcased their talents before a national ESPN audience with high-powered slam dunks, drawing "oohs" and "ahhs" from the crowd.

Sidney, who wears No. 1 and stands 6-foot-10, is considered one of the nation's top seniors.

The Cavers were playing without their head coach, Kenney Roy, who is under suspension for alleged CIF rules violations. Martin Thomas, who has guided the junior varsity this season in now the Caver's varsity coach.

Basketball fans would do well to follow the careers of prepsters Sidney and Tyler. They will be exciting fans the rest of their prep careers in college. With some hard work, they will possibly enjoy the riches of the NBA.

Hoopsters

continued from page B3

of the nation's top senior prospects.

Tyler, who also wears No. 1, is considered one of the nation's top seniors.

Although the two top guns lived up to their billing, the game itself was a blowout. Fairfax took the lead with a 15-point run in the middle of the first quarter and never looked back.

The Cavers were playing without their head coach, Kenney Roy, who is under suspension for alleged CIF rules violations. Martin Thomas, who has guided the junior varsity this season in now the Caver's varsity coach.

Basketball fans would do well to follow the careers of prepsters Sidney and Tyler. They will be exciting fans the rest of their prep careers in college. With some hard work, they will possibly enjoy the riches of the NBA.