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4/18 Walk on Water Competition; KFMB
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4/26 City Council to Honor USD; San Diego 6
4/29 Microfinance Summit; NBC 7/39
4/30 Swine Flu stories; NBC 7/39, 10News, Fox 5
Alumni Honors 2009
USD to honor alumni Saturday

The University of San Diego will honor outstanding alumni from business, the military, public service and other fields Saturday.

The recognition event, USD Alumni Honors, will begin at 5:30 p.m. in USD’s Jenny Craig Pavilion.

Honorees include Denise Boren, a former Navy Nurse Corps member who spearheaded development of the innovative Heart Failure Clinic at the Naval Medical Center, San Diego; and L. Douglas Robert, a 25-year veteran of the Marine Corps who is now a senior program manager for ITT Corp.

Private equity investor John Cappetta, president of Cappetta Capital Partners, LLC and Richard Bartell, president of Bartell Hotels, one of the San Diego region's largest and oldest independently owned hotel companies, also will be honored.

"During our 60th anniversary year, we are very proud to honor these graduates who exemplify the university's commitment to excellence and public service," said USD President Mary E. Lyons.

For more information, go to sandiego.edu/alumnihonors or call 619-260-4819. Source Code: 20090427c2h
Humanitarians to Receive USD Alumni Honors

ALCALA PARK — University of San Diego graduates who have worked on humanitarian missions around the globe will be honored May 2. Honorees include Denise M. Boren, a member of the Navy Nurse Corps who has helped fight AIDS in Africa through the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, and Judy Kamanyi, an activist in Uganda for democratic development and human rights. Both will receive the Author E. Hughes Award for Career Achievement. Sandy M. Cassell Farrell, a retired family therapist, will receive the Bishop Charles Francis Buddy Award for Contributions to Humanitarian Causes, named in honor of USD’s co-founder. Farrell has helped raise funds for the Water Wells in India Project and provided shelter boxes for disaster areas. L. Douglas Robert, a San Diego executive with ITT Corp. and former president of the USD Alumni Board of Directors, will receive the Mother Rosalie Clifton Hill Award for Exemplary Service to USD. For information, visit www.sandiego.edu/alumni/honors.
USD alum Bartell to receive career achievement award
By DOUG SHERWIN

Richard M. Bartell, president of one of the region’s largest independently owned hotel companies, will be honored by the University of San Diego May 2. Bartell, who earned his law degree from USD in 1975, will receive the Author E. Hughes Award for Career Achievement.

"As someone who has used his law degree to become a successful entrepreneur and businessman, Richard brings a valuable perspective and insight to the board," said USD School of Law Dean Kevin Cole. "We're very proud to honor him for his tireless dedication to the law school and the San Diego community."

Bartell is president of Bartell Hotels, which has grown to seven hotels, including The Dana on Mission Bay, the Sheraton Hotel in La Jolla and Humphrey's Half Moon Inn and Suites, home to the highly acclaimed Humphrey's Concerts by the Bay series. He also serves on a number of boards supporting the tourism and educational communities in San Diego. He is the vice chairman of both the San Diego Tourism Promotion Corp. and the San Diego Port Tenants Association. In 2005, he became the fifth recipient of the distinguished Hall of Fame Award presented by the San Diego Convention and Visitor's Bureau.

USD Alumni Honors, part of the university's 60th anniversary celebration, begins at 5:30 p.m. May 2 in the Jenny Craig Pavilion. For more information, visit sandiego.edu/alumnihonors or call 619-260-4819.
Thomas Jefferson hosting high school mock trial event Friday

Law Briefs
By Doug Sherwin

Local high school students will participate in a mock trial competition Friday at 9 a.m. as part of Thomas Jefferson School of Law’s Street Law San Diego Program.

Students from three San Diego high schools — Hoover High School, the Monarch School and the Thussaint Academy — will participate. It will be held in the Earl R. Gilliam mock trial courtrooms in the Courtyard Building at 2120 San Diego Avenue.

This year marks the sixth annual competition, which draws more than 50 students to Thomas Jefferson’s campus for the competition. San Diego Superior Court judges Peter C. Deddish, Richard S. Whitney and Randy Trapp will provide over the trials.

The Street Law Program is a 12-week interactive program that covers topics ranging from how laws are made, to the effective administration of laws, current issues in criminal law, civil procedure, juvenile justice and the First Amendment. The program’s goal is to ensure that participating students receive a thorough understanding of the law and its impact on people’s lives. To help them become more informed citizens and active members of the community.

“We are thrilled to host the competition between these schools again because it demonstrates the high school students’ energy and enthusiasm for the program and our law students’ efforts to give back to the community,” said Alex Simpson, program coordinator of the Street Law Program.

Lucy Pfeiffer, Hamilton & Szperlie LLP attorney Kirsten M. Solberg was honored by Real Estate Southern California as one of its top 30 commercial real estate professionals under the age of 30.

Solberg, an associate in Lace Forward’s real estate practice group, was selected from a number of professionals in the real estate industry based on her experience and contributions. She is extremely active in the Southern California real estate legal community and represents some of California’s finest real estate owners, investors and developers.

Her practice focuses on purchases and sales, options, leasing and financing. Most recently, Solberg played a key role on the legal teams representing various clients in several significant real estate transactions, such as the purchase of a $400 million portfolio of 21 hotels nationwide and the review of a complex loan portfolio that included 59 loans. In addition to her legal practice, Solberg is dedicated to the community, serving on the Scholarship Selection Committee of the San Diego Foundation and volunteering with the San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program in the HIV/AIDS clinic.

Source Code: 20090412

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USD Alumni Honors part of the university’s 90th anniversary celebration, begins at 6:30 p.m. May 2 at the Jenny Craig Pavilion. For more information, visit sandiego.edu/alumnihonors or call 619-260-4819. Source Code: 20090405

Maggie T. Watkins has joined Best Best & Krieger as chief marketing and business development officer, the law firm announced recently. In her new role, Watkins will lead the business development and marketing initiatives for BB&K, the inland region’s largest law firm with 200 attorneys and offices located in Riverside, Ontario, Indian Wells and five other cities across California. BB&K is a full-service law firm with private and public agency clients.

“Maggie is an incredible asset and we are thrilled to have her as part of the BB&K team,” said James B. Gilpin, the partner who oversees the firm’s marketing efforts.

Watkins, 53, will focus her efforts on client outreach, sales training, internal and external communications, branding, advertising and market research for the firm. Source Code: 20090405

Fish & Richardson recently announced that it has received the National Life Sciences/Biotech Firm of the Year Award and the ITC Litigation Firm of the Year Award from Managing Intellectual Property magazine (MIP).

The awards were based on the results of MIP’s exclusive survey of the leading IP law firms across the country, which is culled from extensive research and interviews with practitioners. Fish received the awards at the Managing IP awards event in Washington, D.C. on March 31.

It is an honor to be named both the National Life Sciences/Biotech Firm of the Year and the ITC Litigation Firm of the Year for the second year in a row, said Peter Devries, president of Fish & Richardson. “It is especially gratifying because these rankings reflect the perceptions of our clients and peers.” Source Code: 20090405

California Western School of Law Associate Dean Laura Padilla received the Governors’ Award, presented by Stanford Associates, in recognition of volunteer service to her alma mater, Stanford University.

See Law Briefs on SA
USD to honor outstanding RSF residents
Richard Bartell and John Cappetta

Two Rancho Santa Fe business and civic leaders will be honored by the University of San Diego May 2.

Richard Bartell, president of Bartell Hotels, and John Cappetta, president of Cappetta Capital Partners, LLC, will each receive the Author E. Hughes Award for Career Achievement.

Bartell earned his law degree from USD in 1975. He oversees one of the region's largest independently owned hotel companies, which includes The Dana on Mission Bay, the Sheraton Hotel in La Jolla and Humphrey's Half Moon Inn & Suites, home to the highly acclaimed Humphrey's Concerts by the Bay series.

He also serves on a number of boards supporting the tourism and educational communities in San Diego. He is the vice chairman of both the San Diego Tourism Promotion Corp. and the San Diego Port Tenants Association. He also serves on the President's Council of Point Loma Nazarene University and the Board of Visitors for the USD School of Law.

Cappetta is a private equity investor and advisor through Cappetta Capital Partners. He also is the principal shareholder and executive chairman of LLI Funding, LLC, a San Diego-based real estate lending company. He earned a bachelor's degree in economics from USD's School of Business Administration in 1983.

Cappetta is an active community leader, serving as co-chairman of the Rancho Education Foundation. He is a trustee of the Bishops School and trustee and chief financial officer of the Emilio Nares Foundation, a nonprofit organization providing services to families of children with cancer.

"We are very proud to honor Richard and John for their impressive achievements and contributions to public service," said USD President Mary E. Lyons.

USD Alumni Honors, part of the university's 60th anniversary celebration, is a gala evening of dinner, tributes, and entertainment, honoring outstanding graduates in the areas of career and athletic achievement, contributions to humanitarian causes and volunteer service to USD. KFMB anchor Barbara-Lee Edwards is the mistress of ceremonies for this year's celebration.

The event begins at 5:30 p.m. in the Jenny Craig Pavilion. For more information, visit www.sandiego.edu/alumnihonors or call (619) 260-4819.
Cal Bank & Trust Wins nod for Support of The Old Globe

California Bank & Trust is being honored by the San Diego City-County Reinvestment Task Force for its undisclosed amount of financial support of The Old Globe Theatre. The bank financed the acquisition and renovation of the Globe's Market Street property, which is in one of California's 42 designated enterprise zones. San Diego city firefighters presented $2,000 to the Caskey Family YMCA on April 7. The funds will help provide financial assistance to needy families. The American Long Association held its evening in the Sky 2009 gala April 18 at Estancia La Jolla Hotel & Spa. Three Clean Air Leaders were honored: Vincent Mend, president, San Diego Office Interiors, at an indoor clean air visionary; Irres Sillings, California Center for Sustainable Energy, for her work in public programs and services; and Waste Management San Diego, as a responsible environmental steward. The Michael and Susan Dell Foundation awarded scholarships to 19 San Diego area students worth $380,000, which will be distributed at the rate of $20,000 each year for the next six years. Most of the Dell scholars are first-generation college students. The San Diego Humane Society and SPCCA implemented Paws to Success, a new program designed to save the lives of pets that otherwise would be euthanized in local shelters. The program is funded with a $1.4 million grant by the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals through a gift from the late Edith Hakas, a San Diego resident. Local Grainger branch managers presented a $70,000 donation to the San Diego Food Bank to help provide 200,000 meals for families in need. Grainger employee volunteers served meals at the Food Bank on April 8. Fresh Start Surgical Gifts raised $100,000 at its 17th annual Fresh Start for Kids Celebrity Golf Classic at Maderas Golf Club in Poway on March 15. The Allergan Foundation, Eco Waste Management, Barona Resort & Casino, and Davlin Investments were among the sponsors. The University of San Diego is honoring outstanding alumni May 2. Honorees for career achievement include Richard Bartell, president of Bartell Hotels, Daisy Becich, a nursing professor at Cal State San Marcos, and John Cappetta, president of Cappetta Capital Partners. Bartell, Becich and Cappetta will each receive the Author E. Hughes Career Achievement Award, named after USD's former president. L. Douglas Rob- bert senior program manager for ITT, will receive the Mother Rosalie Clifton Hill Award for Exemplary Service to USD. Employees of Barnhart participated in its Community Service Month in April. On April 4, employees kicked off the month by participating in a Bowl-A-Thon to benefit Junior Achievement of San Diego and Imperial Counties, raising $23,000 to support local programs. Other organiza-
Denise Boren, a nursing professor and former member of the Navy Nursing Corps, who spearheaded a heart treatment facility and has helped fight AIDS in Africa will be honored by the University of San Diego (USD) May 2.

Boren, assistant professor at the School of Nursing at California State University, San Marcos, will receive the Arthur E. Hughes Award for Career Achievement at the USD Alumni Honors, part of the university's 60th anniversary celebration.

Boren, who earned her doctorate in nursing in 2001 from USD's Hahn School of Nursing and Health Science, served in various leadership roles during her military career. A clinical specialist in cardiovascular nursing, she spearheaded the development of the Heart Failure Clinic at the Naval Medical Center in San Diego. The clinic has been successful in promoting the health, quality of life and social support of patients with chronic heart failure.

Another career highlight has been her work with the Naval Health Research Center on the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) in Africa.

She is an advisor on palliative care to military, police and corrections health care personnel in Swaziland and Zambia. She plans to develop a course to bring nursing students to Swaziland to study and provide support for HIV/AIDS care programs.

Boren and her husband, Tom, live in Valley Center. USD Alumni Honors is a gala evening of dinner, tributes and entertainment. It begins at 5:30 p.m. in the Jenny Craig Pavilion.

USD President / Board of Trustees
"Jasper Johns: Selected Prints, 1963-2008" Opening reception for exhibition of 29 prints by contemporary artist Jasper Johns, on view through Sunday, June 14, in Robert and Karen Hoehn Family Galleries in Founders Hall. Show includes "his masterpiece" Savarin 3 (Red). Hours: noon-6 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays; noon-4:30 p.m. Fridays through Sundays. 619-260-4261. Proc. University of San Diego (5998 Alcalá Park), 5 p.m., Thursday, April 23. (LINDA VISTA)
ART

ANIMALKIND at Art 412, SOBU campus, College Area. Jeffrey Vallance discusses his work in the group exhibit that explores the varying relationships between humans and animals. At 4 p.m. Thursday, April 23, 8tgallery.sdsu.edu.

PAUL BROGDEN at Main Tap Tavern, 518 East Main St., El Cajon. Brogdén displays his latest works of cartoon surrealism. From 7 to 10 p.m. Thursday, April 23. www.maintaptavern.com.

JAMIE JOHN'S EXHIBITION at the Hoerin Galleries, Founders Hall, USD campus. The opening reception for a collection of prints by the iconic 20th century American artist. From 6 to 7 p.m. Thursday, April 23, www.sandiego.edu.


IF MOVED at Device Gallery, 1815 Main St., Building B, Barrio Logan. Device's first exhibition since moving from La Jolla to the Gladsaxe in Barrio Logan combines kinetic (moving) sculptures. Also check out Gladsaxe's open studios. From 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Saturday, April 25, www.devicgallery.com.

SECURITY FOR ALL at Argoprop Gallery, 2837 University Ave., North Park. Closing reception for the collection of sculptures, drawings and animation by Mexico City-based artists Orlando Diaz, Judith Pedrosa, Hector Ivan Delgado and Rodrigo Bastos. From 6 to 9 p.m. Saturday, April 25. 819-384-7988, argopropspasos.org.

ROBERT WHITAKER at Morrison Hotel Gallery, 1260 Prospect St., La Jolla. The rock photographer presents a collection of his works, including many rare portraits of The Doors. From 6 to 9 p.m. Saturday, April 25. 858-551-0855, www.morrisonhotelgallery.com

MISSION FEDERAL ARTWALK. This 22nd annual event takes place on the streets of Little Italy with works by over 300 artists on display, live music, silent auctions, kids activities and more. From noon to 6 p.m. Saturday, April 25 and Sunday, April 26, www.missionfederalartwalk.org.


NATIVE at Swiv Tackle Circus, 500 S. Coast Highway, Oceanside. This group show featuring work by Miki Iwasaki, Josh Higgins, Jeffrey Dunkin, Thatcher, Toraya and others focuses on the evolution of Southern California natives. Includes music by The Minor Keys and DJ Blackass and free drinks. From 6 to 10 p.m. Saturday, April 25. 760-459-0700, www.swiftacklecircus.com

College of Arts & Sciences
According to apocryphal legend, "Quo vadis" is the question Peter asks Jesus when he encounters the risen Lord on a road leading away from Rome. In this Latin term, he is asking Jesus, "Where are you going." Jesus answers that he is going to Rome to be crucified again. This answer is what gives Peter the courage to return to Rome to face his own martyrdom.

Where are we going is a good question to ask two months into the Obama presidency. What have we seen in our new president to give us hope for an economic recovery and a chance for the good old United States to retain its pre-eminent place among the nations? Are the hopes that many Americans had for this president going to be realized or are we, again, standing on the precipice of doom and gloom?

Some would say that two months is too short a time to evaluate the positive and negative tones of a presidency. In other words, is the honeymoon over? The "honeymoon" concept of a newly elected president is defined as the short period after a president is inaugurated when the opposition party refrains from criticising Congress is inclined to support some of the president’s initiatives and the president receives high public approval ratings.

Within a month or two, partisan attacks generally resume and the honeymoon period ends. President John F. Kennedy extended the concept by calling on the then-Soviet Union to extend him a honeymoon period as a goodwill gesture. One of the shortest honeymoon periods on record was that of Gerald Ford whose pardon of his predecessor, Richard M. Nixon, sparked public outrage and led to a 30-point drop in popularity after his first month in office.

Professor Casey Dominguez of the University of San Diego has studied presidents from Kennedy to Bill Clinton and finds that on bills where the president has taken a position, there is a higher likelihood of passage in the first 100 days than in later periods in his inaugural year. The average success rate in the first 100 days is 88 percent, compared to 78 percent and 74 percent in the second and third 100 days.

Presidents are also more successful in their inaugural years than in other years (87 percent vs. 75 percent). However, the effect of the first 100 days is present only in times of divided government. Under unified government, their success doesn't really vary between inaugural years and other years.

So where, on this political journey, are we going with President Obama?

An objective viewer would have to report that the results are quite mixed. This week's issue of The Economist is quite correct in stating that "the President has had a bumpy ride in his first two months."

There can be no doubt that Obama is the Democratic Party's Great Communicator; definitely more articulate and charismatic than Ronald Reagan. In this post-modern age he is supertelegenic and appealing to the boomers and busters who are so fed up with political incompetence. But is that enough?

Most of Obama's experience has been in the not-for-profit sector and in local politics. He has no hands-on business experience in the private sector that fuels our economy.

This lack accounts for the failed nomination of two secretaries of commerce, one secretary of health and one head of the National Intelligence Agency. There are more than 20 vacant positions unfilled in the Treasury Department that, in this economic decline, should have been a first priority.

For someone who ran against the old-style politics and decried pork-barrel spending (those who know me, appreciate how much I am against that pork), there were 8,750 earmarks to be found in the $410 billion spending bill that he signed.

So far it seems that all his plans and actions are intended to spend enough money to delay the inevitable economic collapse. He must be more creatively proactive and do much more than that.

These past two months have seen gains and failures and the whole world is watching this president to see if he can succeed. This country has united around him hoping that he can stem the recession and halt the economic depression. After his G20 summit and this week's NATO meetings, he must shine. He must take action to get Europe and our other allies to go after al-Qaida and the Taliban in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

After all, if they are allowed to remain secure all of Europe is open to their attacks. Israel, America's only dependable democratically elected government in the Mideast, is now to be governed by a conservative-
centrist government under the leadership of American-trained Binyamin Netanyahu.

How will Obama interact with this major ally in stemming the nuclear threat from Iran?

We must pray that President Obama regroups from the bumps of these first two months and leads us toward economic stability and world peace.

I am reminded of what former British foreign minister Ernest Bevin (1881-1951) said, "If you let that sort of thing go on, your bread and butter will be cut from right under your feet."

So, "Where are you going?" is a most valid and appropriate question to ask our new president.

*Herbert A. Opalek is CEO of the Merced County Rescue Mission. He writes a column every other Saturday.*
**México vs. Colombia**

Las producciones mexicanas y colombianas se disputan el público telenoveler de EU

Martha Sarabia | 2009-04-06 | La Opinion

TERCER CAPÍTULO

Martha Sarabia/ martha.sarabia@lopinion.com

Como partido de fútbol o encuentro de box, los 'bulebrones' de México y Colombia se disputan desde hace unos años la supremacía en la pantalla chica estadounidense.

En una escena que, están principalmente las producciones mexicanas de Televisa y algunas de TV Azteca e incluso otras hechas por Telemundo en México, que han acaparado la atención de la audiencia estadounidense por varias décadas.

Como principal productora de telenovelas en el mundo, Televisa tiene una alianza con la cadena estadounidense Univisión que le garantiza los primeros lugares de audiencia, noche tras noche. Contra ellas compiten con dificultad las principalmente mexicanas de Azteca América y las internacionales de Telemundo.

Las más populares telenovelas mexicanas van desde la inolvidable Los ricos vs los pobres con Verónica Castro, donde las diferencias sociales se convierten en un obstáculo para una pareja, la trilogía de las Marías (María Mercedes, Marisela y María la del Barrio con Thalía, quien pese a ser una mujer pobre sin qué ocurrir a una rica y educada en un abrir y cerrar de ojos; hasta la actual Martana para siempre con Lucero, quien como una bella e impecable villana hace todo lo posible por hacerse la vida imposible el personaje de Silvia Navarro. Pero este grupo también incluye a Nada personal de TV Azteca, proyecto que estelarizan Ana Colchero y José Ángel Llamas y que reflejaba lo que vivía el pueblo mexicano durante el gobierno de Carlos Salinas de Gortari.

En la otra esquina están RCN y Caracol, las principales productoras de Colombia que en su momento sorprendieron con telenovelas de temática fresca o de contenido social, llenadas en grandes espectadores y dotadas con un novedoso sentido del humor. Trasmitidas en Estados Unidos principalmente por Telemundo, algunas de las más populares han sido la comedia Café con aroma de mujer con Margarita Rosa de Francisco, la historia de una mujer poco atractiva físicamente pero inteligente en Yo soy Belly, la fies, con Ana María Orozco y Mario Vargas Llosa; y ¡>1.

Tanto éxito han conseguido las producciones colombianas que varios de sus estrellas han sido adaptados al mercado mexicano y el país sudamericano ha atrajido producciones incluso de Televisa, que filmó en Cartagena la telenovela de época ¡>1.

Según Ana Bertha Uribe, cuyas investigaciones en las telenovelas serán publicadas en un libro próximamente, cada país tiene su estilo propio definido.

"Las mexicanas son más color de rosa, con exageración en los temas. Las historias en México provienen [primordialmente] de un solo partido [Televisa], son más rápidas [en contar la historia]. Las colombianas tienen más humor, [son] más intelectuales, con drama pero con humor", explica la instructora de la Universidad de Colima.

No obstante, las producciones del país vecino del sur son inmune la más populares.

"Sólo con los números [de audiencia] te puedes dar cuenta que las novelas mexicanas tienen una mejor distribución", aseguró Cristian C. Moran, profesora de la Universidad de San Diego quien se ha especializado en telenovelas durante una década.

Sin embargo, las colombianas poco a poco han ido ganando terreno.

Este pequeño triunfo se debe en parte a las diferencias que ofrecen a los televidentes las creaciones del paracaffe.

"Yo atribuyo el éxito de la telenovela colombiana al rompimiento de los esquemas de la Comediante. No encontramos con otras parádiguas. La gente salió muy rico y disfrito, y de repente les llamé la atención", dijo el escritor Gustavo Bolívar Moreno, cuya obra Sin tetas no hay paraíso fue adaptada para la versión televisiva, Sin senos no hay paraíso, que transmite Telemundo.

Uribe añadió que la "novedad" es algo que los televidentes siempre disfrutan, porque las cosas de la rutina. Asimismo, las situaciones sociales en las que ambas se enfocan son diferentes.

"Las novelas mexicanas son muy conservadoras, mientras que las colombianas tienden a desafiar más el status quo", afirmó Moran.

Agregó que esto se debe a los políticos de las compañías productoras más que a la que piensa la sociedad que representan. Incluso considera que los dramas de TV Azteca tienden a ser más avanzados y atrevidos que los de Televisa por las decisiones de sus ejecutivos. Ese fue el caso de Nada personal, un drama muy controvertido por ser el primero en hablar tan abiertamente de la corrupción en el gobierno mexicano y contar con situaciones tan atrevidas como las de la realidad de esa época.

El autor Bolívar destacó que en la nueva versión estadounidense de su novela — donde una jovencita hace todo lo posible por aumentar su busto para prostituirse con los narcotraficantes y conseguir dinero — tuvieron que cambiar algunas escenas para minimizar la violencia y crudeza que contenía la versión colombiana original.

Para actores como la colombiana María Fernanda Yepes, la razón de la popularidad de las telenovelas realizadas en su país se debe a que el público lego relacionarse con la temática de las telenovelas. "Definitivamente el hecho de que esta historia sea tan real [es la clave de su popularidad], comentó quien da vida a Yésica en >1.1

Yepes incluso mencionó que la situación de violencia por el narcotráfico que se está viviendo en México en estos momentos es la misma situación que sus personajes vivieron en los 80 y es por eso que público de...
¿Cuál es el nombre correcto de la fea original?

a) Betty Suárez
b) Leticia Padilla Solís
c) Beatriz Aurora Pinzón Solano
d) Leticia Beatriz Pinzón Solís

La respuesta de la trivía de ayer ¿Cuál de estos actores no participó en la telenovela mencionada? es d)

Saul Lisazo en 'Prisionera'. El histórico fue parte del elenco de 'Prisionera de amor', junto a Maribel Guardia y Leticia Calderón en 1994, pero no de 'Prisionera' que estelarizaron Gabriela Spanic, Mauricio Islas/Gabriel Porfy y Génesis Rodríguez, en el 2004.
Los galanes maduros
El público femenino de hoy prefiere como protagonistas a los actores más maduros
Martha Sarabia | 2009-04-04 | La Opinión

SEGUNDO CAPÍTULO

Martha Sarabia/ martha.sarabia@laopinion.com
A sus 85 años, Juanita Torres es fanática de las telenovelas, sobre todo cuando estas tienen a sus actores favoritos. Pero no le mencione a ningún galán juvenil.
"Me gusta mucho César Évora porque es un hombre. hecho y derecho y es un gran actor. Colunga es otro de ellos, me gusta completamente", dice la residente de Bell.

Con sus corpulentos cuerpos, voces fuertes y agradables rostros, los galanes maduritos han conquistado al público de las telenovelas. Actores experimentados como Eduardo Yáñez, Jorge Salinas, César Évora, Fernando Colunga, Miguel Varoni, Saul Lisazo y Juan Ferrara, entre otros, se han robado los corazones de miles de televidentes como Juanita, y logrado acaparar altos ratings para sus telenovelas.

Colunga, de 43 años, lleva actuando en telenovelas desde 1992, pero en los últimos años se ha consolidado como uno de los galanes más rentables a nivel internacional. En 2005, el actor mexicano dio vida a Luis Manrique y Arellano en Alborada y un año después al pirata bueno Ricardo de Salamanca en Pasion. Actualmente, su telenovela Manana es para siempre, que transmite Univision, ocupa el primer lugar de popularidad entre el público de habla hispana y su papel del guapo, inteligente y fornido Eduardo Juárez o Franco Santoro es indudablemente uno de los grandes atractivos del culebrón.

Los mexicanos Yáñez, de 48 años, y Salinas, de 40, fueron reyes de los ratings cuando protagonizaron "Usando la comedia, el argentino Varoni, de 44, alcanzó el éxito en Pedro el escamoso, emitida hace unos años por Telemundo. Su ingenudidad, peculiares pasos de baile y ocurrencias frases fueron características clave para ganarse el cariño de las féminas, así como puntos de audiencia adicionales para la cadena.

Otro actores adorado por las mujeres es el argentino Lisazo, de 52, protagonista de Mientras haya vida en Azteca América. Esta es su novela más reciente, aunque cabe destacar que no tuvo altos ratings en este país como sus antiguos proyectos en Televisa, como Acapulco, cuerpo y alma y Por tu amor, que se transmitieron por Univision.

El mexicano Ferrara, de 65, fue padre de Anahi y pareja de Ninel Conde en Rebelde y logró robar suspiros en la telenovela juvenil. Y ni qué decir del cubano Évora, de 49 años, quien de protagonico o antagonico arrasa con las del sexo opuesto. Su ronca voz y porte varonil lo han colocado como uno de los galanes más cotizados y exitosos, la novela más reciente Al diablo con los guapos el pasado Lo s expertos concuerdan en que la popularidad de los actores maduros se debe a que las mujeres son el grupo que domina el control remoto del hogar.

"El núcleo de la audiencia de las telenovelas son mujeres y los hombres maduros son un gran pera ellas", afirmó Kristin C. Morán, profesora de comunicaciones de la Universidad de San Diego. Quizá por eso algunos actores como Yáñez y Salinas realizan la mayoría de sus escenas sin camisa, mostrando más sus ejercitados pectorales que su calidad actoral. Aún estando un poco pasados de pesos, las mujeres se enloquecen al mirarlos.

Morán considera normal que esas mujeres quieran sentirse identificadas con lo que miran en la pantalla.

"Los que miran la telenovela son personas mayores porque aunque [la compañía que mide los niveles de popularidad] Nielsen asegura que las segundas y terceras generaciones ven televisión en español, mis investigaciones muestran lo contrario ya que las generaciones más jóvenes tienen más opciones televisivas. Me parece a mí que el público mayor es el que más se conecta con las telenovelas", aseguró la investigadora en el tema de televisor por más de 10 años.

Por otra parte, la experta asegura que algunos actores tienden a sobresalir más que otros, no sólo por su atractivo sino también por sus contratos extendidos con las televisoras.

"En el caso de Televisa, ellos tienen acceso a cierto grupo de actores por contrato y usualmente los actores más jóvenes tienen intereses diferentes" dijo Morán al comparar a los dos grupos de histriones.
México vs. Colombia: guerra de telenovelas
María Sarabia Martín [maris.sarabia@laprensa.com] | 2006-04-06 | La Opinión

Tercer Capítulo

Como parido deail hacia el encuentro de los dos, las oclusiones de México y Colombia se disputan desde hace unos años la supremacía en la pantalla chica sudamericana.

En una escena, están principalmente las producciones mexicanas de Televisa y algunas de TV Azteca e incluso otras hechas por Telemundo en México, que han encontrado un terreno de cultivo en los mercados sudamericanos. Como otras productoras de telenovelas en el mundo, Televisa tiene una alianza con la cadena sudamericana Univisión que le garantiza los mejores lugares de audiencia. No se puede dejar de mencionar lo mismo que hace todo lo posible por aumentar su éxito para convertirse en el mercado mundial, con el producto sea exitoso en otros países. Como principal productora de telenovelas en el mundo, Televisa tiene una alianza con la cadena sudamericana Univisión que le garantiza los mejores lugares de audiencia, noche tras noche.

Contra ellos compiten con dificultad las producciones de TV Azteca y la difusión de otras producciones de Televisa que han alcanzado la audiencia sudamericana. Televisa tiene una alianza con la cadena sudamericana Univisión que le garantiza el primer lugar en la audiencia. Para la estadounidense por el producto sea exitoso en otros países.

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Este podría ser el caso de Évora, quien en cuanto termina de hacer una telenovela inicia otra. Desde el 2005 hasta hoy ha participado en seis proyectos y todos en roles estelares, entre los que sobresalen Yo amo a Juan Querendón como Samuel, Mundo de fieras como los gemelos Gabriel y Demián y La mala madre como Esteban. Incluso en el proyecto juvenil de Al diablo con los guapos se embolsó un papel principal y el corazón de las televidentes a pesar de su personaje como el ambicioso Constancio Belmonte.

Al contratar a un actor reconocido como Évora, las productoras mejoran sus posibilidades de éxito y aceptación entre la audiencia porque el público ya identifica a los actores. Y que el actor sea guapo, definitivamente ayuda a mejorar esa probabilidad.

No se pierda el próximo capítulo: México vs. Colombia

Galanas de ayer
José Luis Rodríguez 'El Puma' en 'Estefanía' (1979)
Rogelio Guerra en 'Los ricos también lloran' (1979)
Andrés García en 'Tú o nadie' (1984)
Víctor Cámara en 'Topacio' (1984)
Humberto Zurita en 'De pura sangre' (1986)
Salvador Pineda en 'Mi pequeña Soledad' (1990)
Osvaldo Ríos en 'Kassandra' (1991)
Arturo Peniche en 'María Mercedes' (1992)
Eduardo Palomo en 'Corazón salvaje' (1993)
Francisco Gattorno en 'La dueña' (1995)
Guy Eckeren 'La mentira' (1999)
Fernando Carrillo en 'Rosalinda' (1999)

Test Telenovelería
¿Cuál de estos actores no participó en la telenovela mencionada?

a) Eduardo Yáñez en 'La verdad oculta'
b) César Évora en 'Atrázmame muy fuerte'
c) Miguel Varoni en 'La potra zaina'
d) Saul Lisazo en 'Prisionera'

Respuesta de la trivía de ayer

¿Qué actriz se rasuró la cabeza en plena escena con tal de seguir lo que dictaba su personaje?

Es b) Cynthia Klitbo en 'El privilegio de amar'. De esta manera la actriz logró impresionar a sus colegas y al público por su profesionalismo y dedicación al grabar la escena en una sola toma y despojarse de su cabellera al mismo tiempo.
Pasión por las telenovelas

CUARTO CAPÍTULO: Abundan los refritos
Martha Sarabia | 2009-04-06 | La Opinión

CUARTO CAPÍTULO
Martha Sarabia/ martha.sarabia@laopinion.com

Aunque el dicho popular asegura que las segundas partes nunca son buenas, en las telenovelas este no parece ser el caso.

Hoy en día, son contados los melodramas originales como Las tontas no van al cielo de Televisa, transmitida por Univision, o El rostro de Analia de Telemundo. Pero según reportes de Nielsen, ninguna de las dos telenovelas ha acaparado tan altos niveles de audiencia como los refritos Destilando amor, La fea más bella, Rebelde y Fuego en la sangre emitidos por Univision, o los de Telemundo como Doña Bárbara y El cartel.

Por eso no es de extrañar que la lista de versiones o adaptaciones de clásicos del género sea casi interminable.

Entre las más conocidas está Mañana es para siempre, la actual telenovela estelar de Univision que originalmente fue vista en Colombia como Pura sangre o Yo amo a Juan Querendón, un derivado de la colombiana Pedro el escamoso. La exitosa telenovela colombiana Café con aroma de mujer fue transformada en México a Destilando amor; Bodas de odio pasó a ser Amor real; y La potriza fue adaptada a Apuesta por un amor.

Entre las telenovelas juveniles, Quinceañera fue transformada en Primer amor... A mil X hora y la argentina Rebelde Way fue convertida en el fenómeno mexicano Rebelde, de donde surgió el grupo RBD.

Algunas ya están en su tercera versión como Fuego en la sangre, que anteriormente fue conocida como Las aguas mansas y Pasión de gavilanes; Y La madrasta, que anteriormente fue Vivir un poco. La reina de los refritos es sin duda la colombiana Yo soy Betty la fea. El guión o la colombiano Fernando Gaitán y producido por RCN, fue adquirido por una multitud de(cineras) do el mundo, con tal de revivir a su manera las vivencias de una mujer fea pero con un gran corazón que se enamora de un hombre que la hace sufrir.

"Las historias de venganza y amor son universales, además de ser las más complicadas de entender", explicó Kristin C. Moran de la Universidad de San Diego. Esto, aseguró Ana Bertha Uribe, es lo que le ha asegurado un éxito a los refritos en diferentes países.

"El eje central de la telenovela es que cuenta una historia de amor, con valores universales. Aquí y en China y en cualquier parte del mundo, la infidelidad va a ser castigada, la esencia no cambia", afirmó quien pronto lanzará a la venta un libro sobre telenovelas.

Aun cuando existen cambios en cada proyecto para asimilarlo a la cultura en la que será televisada, Uribe añadió que en este tipo de programas "la estructura del guión sigue siendo igual". Por ejemplo, en Rebelde los personajes hablaban al estilo "fresa", típico de los muchachos de familias adineradas en México. Asimismo, Destilando amor se enfocó en la industria tequilera mientras que Café con aroma de mujer estaba basada en los negocios cafetaleros.

Los conocedores del tema afirman que el paso del tiempo no afecta a los proyectos originales de la pantalla chica.

"El tema es el mismo, lo que ha cambiado es el ritmo, los movimientos de cámara, las modernización de ciertos patrones de actuar en el escenario. Cuando las telenovelas mexicanas se venden a los mercados internacionales, la política de ciertas empresas le quitan tecnicismos muy regionales", explicó Uribe.

Además de la aceptación del público, las compañías productoras cuentan con suficientes razones para querer explotar sus versiones originales.

"Una telenovela es un producto en un mercado económico donde se mueve mucho dinero; si no, no existiría. Una telenovela puede tener 10, 12 años de vida, se puede refritar muchas, pero se refritan las más exitosas. También las televisoras hacen convenios políticos y financieros de mucho dinero con otras empresas mundiales", aseguró Uribe.
Un ejemplo es la versión china de Yo soy Betty la fea, Ugly Wudi, una co-producción entre la empresa mexicana Televisa, la china Hunan Satellite TV y la productora independiente Nesound.

Moran aseguró que realizar copias de culebrones no es algo nuevo.

"En la industria de la televisión, es muy atractivo usar algo que ya ha sido exitoso, es más barato, es una fórmula comprobada. Pero esto no es único de las telenovelas, está pasando en todo el mundo", afirmó.

No obstante, para Uribe, el que una telenovela sea renovada y contada en diferentes países es el reflejo de la sociedad mundial que ha hecho que estos proyectos tengan éxito en cualquier nación.

"Más que refruto hay que pensar en términos de una cultura global con valores compartidos, eso no quiere decir que seamos iguales, sino que tenemos la misma sensación, cada quien desde su cultura" señaló.

Mañana: hombres telenoveleros
Test Telenovelería
¿Cuál es el título de la versión original de 'Victoria'?

a) Señora Isabel
b) Mirada de mujer
c) Tiempos de Victoria
d) Simplemente Marla

La respuesta del test novelero III ¿Cuál es el nombre correcto de la fea original?

Es c) Beatriz Aurora Pinzón Solano. Los otros nombres corresponden a otras versiones.

Por ejemplo, a) Betty Suárez es el de la versión estadounidense 'Ugly Betty' b) Leticia Padilla Solís pertenece a la versión mexicana 'La fea más bella' y d) Leticia Beatriz Pinzón Solís fue inventada.

La colombiana 'Yo soy Betty la fea' tiene versiones alrededor del mundo
La mexicana 'La fea más bella'
La serie estadounidense 'Ugly Betty', o Betty la fea
La china 'Ugly Wudi', significa fea sin rival o inigualable
La polaca 'Brzydula', Brzydula significa muchacha fea pero Ula hace referencia al nombre del personaje principal
La filipina 'I Love Betty la Fea' o Yo amo a Betty la fea
La española 'Yo soy Bea'
La hindú 'Jassi Jaissi Koi Nahi', que significa No hay nadie como Jassi
La alemana 'Verliebt in Berlin', que significa Amor en Berlín o Berlin enamorada
Concert to Celebrate USD’s 60th Anniversary

ALCALA PARK — The University of San Diego will host 60th anniversary symphony concerts at 8 p.m., Friday, April 24; and 2 p.m., Sunday, April 26. Both concerts will take place in Shiley Theatre, located in Camino Hall on the USD campus. Tickets at the door: $10, general admission; $8, seniors, staff and alumni; and $5, students with IDs. For more information, visit www.sandiego.edu, email syyung@sandiego.edu or call (619) 260-4106.
The San Diego Symphony — 8 p.m. Friday; Poway Center for the Performing Arts, 15498 Espola Road, Poway; $36, adults; $5, youths 18 and under; (858) 748-0505 or powayarts.org.

1st Marine Division Band — 7 p.m. Wednesday and April 23: California Center for the Arts, Escondido, 340 N. Escondido Blvd., Escondido; free; (800) 998-4253 or artcenter.org.

Caldar Quartet — 8 and 10 p.m. April 23; The Loft, second floor of Price Auditorium, UC San Diego, 9500 Gilman Drive, La Jolla; $15; also 8 p.m., April 24, Mandeville Auditorium, UC San Diego, 9500 Gilman Drive, La Jolla; $27-$37; (858) 534-8497 or artwp.com.

Quatuor Mosaïques — String quartet performs music by Haydn, Mozart and Schubert; 8 p.m. April 23; the Neurosciences Institute, 10540 John Jay Hopkins Drive, La Jolla; $26-$35; $10, students; (619) 291-3400 or www.sdem.ca.

Enchantsa Gallar Orchestra — Performing Vivaldi's Concerto in B minor with special guest Robert Weitzel. The program also includes the Pepe Romero arrangement called "El Baile de Luis Alonso," Scott Joplin's "The Entertainer" and Henry Mancini's "Baby Elephant Walk"; 8 p.m. April 24; Benedictin Lutheran Church, 525 Balour Drive, Encinitas; $10, suggested donation; www.enchantsaorchestra.com.

The Wellerstein Trio — Mainly Mozart Spotlight Series 2009 continues with this intimate concert featuring works by Mozart, Janacek/Coxe and Schumann; 8 p.m. April 24 and 25; the Neurosciences Institute, 10540 John Jay Hopkins Drive, La Jolla; $48; also 2 p.m., April 26; St. Elizaboth Seton Church, 5656 Santa Isabel St., Carlsbad; $25; and 5:30 p.m. April 26;
Classical

Sat. Marine Division Band — 7 p.m., Thursday, CenterStage Center for the Arts, Escondido, 240 N. Escondido Blvd., Escondido; Fee: (800) 988-3726 or streaming live.

Custom Mimosas — String quartet performs music by Beethoven, Mozart and Schubert. 8 p.m., Thursday, the Neuroscience Institute, 10640 John Jay Hopkins Drive, Escondido; Free; (800) 988-4253 or www.sdmht.org.

Mendelssohn Choir of Escondido — 8 p.m., Sunday, St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 6 San Guadalupe St., Carlsbad; $25; students: $10; students: (858) 239-0100 or malnortam.org.

The Weller1teln Trio — Mainly Mozart Series 2009 continues with 2 p.m., Friday, Escondido, 340 N. Escondido Blvd., Escondido; $22 · $37; (800) 988-4253.

The following concerts are free, unless otherwise noted:

University of San Diego 50th Anniversary Symphony Orchestra — Features the music talents of USD students, alumni, faculty, and guest artists, Thursday, 8 p.m., Thursday, the USD Concerts in the Park, M. H. de Young Memorial Museum, La Jolla; Free; (858) 534-3108 or www.usd.edu/concerts.

Back to Bach, San Diego — Presents the world premiere of Händel’s “Messiah” at the 8 p.m., Sunday, 9142 Buena Vista Way, La Jolla; $18; students: $12; students: (858) 298-9989 or www.backtobach.org.

California Women's Choral Holiday Jukebox — 50th annual concert and scholarship luncheon, 2 p.m., Thursday, 10640 John Jay Hopkins Drive, Escondido; Fee: $25; students: (858) 298-9989 or www.backtobach.org.

Peter O斯特 — "Return to Chopin" — Featured Concerto’s work in residence presents an encore piano motorful; 3 p.m., Sunday, Catherine Center for the Arts, Escondido, 240 N. Escondido Blvd., Escondido; $12; students: $5, students: (619) 744-1100 ext. 205.
**CLASSICAL**

**England's First Symphony**
San Diego Symphony, conducted by Jahja Ling, presents Edward Elgar's "Symphony No. 1." — Elgar's first symphony, as well as England's. Reservations: 619-235-0804. $15-$25. 8 p.m., Thursday, April 23 (DOWNTOWN).

**Calder Quartet**
String ensemble performs for ArtPower Petrgren presents Bartok's "String Quartet No. 3 in G Sharp Major," "String Quartet No. 19 in G Major (Dedicated)" by Mozart, Beethoven's "String Quartet No. 7 in F Major (Rasumovsky 1)," Pre-performance talk at 6:45 p.m. 858-534-3229. $10-$15. Mandeville Recital Hall at UCSD (9500 Gilman Drive), 8 p.m., Friday, April 24. (LA JOLLA)

**Peter Grimes**
Tenor Anthony Dean Griffey takes on title role in "Britten's masterpiece of English opera." Soprano Jennifer Casey Cabot plays Ellen Orford; Rod Griffey as Captain Bilsbrode. Tickets: 619-220-TIXS. $35-$200. San Diego Civic Theatre (1100 Third Avenue), 8 p.m., Friday, April 24; 2 p.m., Sunday, April 26. (DOWNTOWN)

**Spring Concert**
San Diego Young Artists Symphony plans recital of symphonic and chamber music by Beethoven, Mozart, Rodrigo, Haydn. Offering, 619-235-8067. San Carlos United Methodist Church (6554 Cowles Mountain Boulevard), 4 p.m., Saturday, April 25. (SAN CARLOS)

**Ostracized Music**
San Diego Jewish Music Festival continues with this "celebration of Jewish and Muslim music," Pianists Volker Ahmels and Friederike Hesse perform with young European musicians from Ostracized Music International Festival, spotlight "composers silenced by the Nazis." 858-362-1348. 819-234. Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center (4126 Executive Drive), 7:30 p.m., Saturday, April 25. (LA JOLLA)

**"Quartetto Sorrento"**
Grossmont Symphony presents "Quartet No. 6 in G Major" by Shostakovich and Shostakovich's "String Quartet No. 1 in E Minor." in college recital hall room 220, 619-644-7254. Free. Grossmont College (8800 Grossmont College Drive), 7 p.m., Sunday, April 26. (EL CAJON)

**La Jolla Symphony Competition Winners**
For mini-concert. Bring your lunch! 858-454-5872. Free. Lyceum Theatre (79 Horton Plaza), noon, Monday, April 27. (DOWNTOWN)
Critically-acclaimed Mo'olelo Performing Arts Company announces its fall 2009 production will be Heather Raffo's 9 Parts of Desire, running from October 7 to November 1, 2009, at the 10th Avenue Theatre in Downtown San Diego. Press opening will take place on Saturday, October 10, 2009, at 7:30 p.m.

Written by Heather Raffo, an alumna of the University of San Diego /The Old Globe M.F.A. program, 9 Parts of Desire explores the extraordinary and ordinary lives of a whole cross-section of contemporary Iraqi women living in Iraq, London, and New York. The play is a journey through the lives of these nine women as they deal with the world around them. Through their voices we hear multiple perspectives on and the sometimes conflicting aspects of what it means to be a woman in the age-old war zone that is Iraq. Surprising and captivating, the play received the 2005 Susan Smith Blackburn Prize Special Commendation and a Lucille Lortel Award for Best Solo Show.

Heather Raffo will be in San Diego on May 3, 2009, to receive the 2009 Author E. Hughes Career Achievement Award from the College of Arts and Sciences at USD and perform In Concert: The Sounds of Desire, a spoken word adaptation of 9 Parts of Desire with accomplished jazz trumpeter and Iraqi santoor player Amir El Saffar.

"It's no surprise Mo'olelo is tackling this play during our current political climate," says director Janet Hayatshahi (The Turn of the Screw, Cygnet Theatre) "As Americans, we can only benefit from a better understanding of Iraqi society. This play shows us, through a kaleidoscope of thoughts and images, the humanity of Iraq, instead of the war zone we have come to associate it with."

Mo'olelo means story in Hawaiian. Selected as the inaugural Resident Theatre Company at La Jolla Playhouse, Mo'olelo Performing Arts Company is a socially-conscious theatre organization dedicated to broadening the scope of San Diego's cultural environment by telling powerful stories that are as diverse as the islands of Hawaii, by paying Equity wages to local actors and developing environmentally-friendly theatre practices. A recipient of the Patte, San Diego Theatre Critics Circle, McDonald Playwriting and the Anti-Discrimination Awards, its mission is to create new works based on research within various communities, produce lesser-known works by master and contemporary playwrights, and educate youth. To learn more, visit www.moolelo.net or call 619-342-7395.

Heather Raffo (Playwright) - Heather trained as an actress and has spent the last ten years performing off Broadway, off West End, in regional theater and in film. She is the author of the play 9 Parts of Desire, a one-woman show told through the lives of nine Iraqi women. Heather is the recipient of a Susan Smith Blackburn Prize Special Commendation and the Marian Seldes-Gerson Kanin Fellowship for 9 Parts of Desire. She received a 2005 Lucille Lortel award for Best Solo Show as well as Helen Hayes, Outer Critics Circle and Drama League nominations, for outstanding performance.

Heather first performed 9 Parts of Desire in August 2003 at the Traverse Theatre, Edinburgh. It later moved to the Bush Theatre in London's Off-West End where critics hailed it as one of the five best plays in London in late 2003. It's New York premiere was at the Manhattan Ensemble Theatre, where the show ran for nine months and was a critics pick (of the New York Times, Time Out and Village Voice) for over twenty four weeks in a row. Most recently, Heather performed a concert version of the play at Kennedy Center with renowned Iraqi Musician, Amir El Saffar.

Since 2005 9 Parts of Desire has been produced across the U.S. was the fifth most produced play of the 2007-2008 season.
American theater season. It is currently being translated for international productions in Brazil, Greece, Sweden, Turkey and France. Publications are by Northwestern University Press and Dramatists Play Service as well as a number of anthologies.

Heather's recent acting credits include: In Darfur (world premiere The Public Theater, Delacourt) Nerjas ElSaffar, New York premiere Palace of the End, Epic Theater Center; Sarah Woodruff, world premiere The French Lieutenant's Woman, Fulton Opera House. Off-Broadway: Over The River and Through the Woods, Off Broadway/National Tour of Macbeth (Lady Macbeth), The Merry Wives of Windsor (Mistress Page) and The Rivals all with The Acting Company. Raffo received her bachelor of arts in English from the University of Michigan and her masters of fine arts in acting performance from the University of San Diego. She also studied at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, London. For current information regarding 9 Parts of Desire please visit www.heatherraerroo.com.

Janet Hayatshahi (Director) - Janet trained as an actor and has spent time on stage in San Diego, Chicago, and the central coast of California. She was an ensemble member of Sledgehammer Theatre from 2000-2005 and of Eclipse Theatre Company in Chicago from 1996-1998.

Her directing credits include: The Turn of the Screw (Cygnet Theatre), Inside Story: Middle-Eastern Tales (Theatre of the World Festival 2009, SDSU) and a staged reading of 9 Parts of Desire (Thurgood Marshall Human Rights and Global Citizenship).

Selective Acting credits include: Remains (Mo’olelo Performing Arts Company), A Dream Play, Macbeth, nu, [sic], Berzerkergäng, Richard III, Furious Blood, Phenomenal Acceleration, Chrysalis: Rapechild (Sledgehammer Theatre), Master Class (Poway Center for Performing Arts), Taming of the Shrew, Macbeth (Central Coast Shakespeare), Beyond Therapy, Marvin's Room, Rules of Love (Centerpoint Theatre Group), In Chicago: Agamemnon (European Repertory Theatre), Infernal Machine, Knights of the Round Table (Eclipse Theatre Company).

Janet received her BFA from Ithaca College, MA from San Diego State University, and also trained at the Pacific Conservatory of the Performing Arts. Janet will be an MFA candidate in Dance Theatre at the University of California, San Diego starting in the fall of 2009.

Janet currently teaches in the theatre departments of San Diego State University, Grossmont College, and San Diego City College and is a Teaching Artist for The Old Globe and The La Jolla Playhouse.
"An Intimate Evening with Charles Arlington" Original and unique magic show on offer when Charles Arlington — star of Triple Espresso — hits stage. 619-220-8653. Friday, May 1, 8 p.m.; $15. Ages 8 and up. North Park Vaudeville and Candy Shoppe, 2031 El Cajon Boulevard, (North Park)

"One Mike...San Diego: The Hilarious Show" Comedy show with guest host Alda Rodriguez, featuring Clayton Thomas, Donavon, headliner Ron G, 619-708-7975. Wednesday, May 6, 8 p.m.; $15-$20. Ages 21 and up. Comedy Palace, 8876 Miguel Boulevard, (North Park)

"Sounds of Iraq" A solo spoken word show of solos based on USO graduate Heather Raffo's play 9 Parts of Desire. Piece chronicles lives of nine women in modern-day Iraq. Jazz trumpeter and Iraqi santoor player Amir ElSaffar will perform urban and classical sounds springing from Iraqi and American roots. 619-260-2727. Sunday, May 3, 2 p.m.; $10-$15. Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice, University of San Diego, 5998 Alcala Park, (Union Vista)

"Voces of the New Califas" Spoken word, music, and theater from across "the Latino Golden State," featuring Cesar Cruz and headRush from Oakland, San Diego's Allee Reyes, Quino, and Teatro Iscah, 858-822-4059. Thursday, April 30, 6 p.m.; free. Centro Cultural de Raza, 2125 Park Boulevard, (Balboa Park)

"Word Magic" "Word wizard" Laurel A'sica presents her "Word Magic" literary entertainment in Warren Auditorium (located in SOLES building). Expect to gain "a new understanding of words through amusing stunts of cunning punning." Refreshments provided. 415-497-1555. Thursday, April 30, 7 p.m.; free. University of San Diego, 5998 Alcala Park, (Union Vista)

Family Plots Bay Area author Mary Patrick Kavanaugh discusses and signs her book, which was "awarded 16 rejections from prominent NYC publishers." 858-454-0347. Wednesday, May 6, 7:30 p.m.; free. Warwick's Bookstore, 7812 Girard Avenue, (La Jolla)
POETRY &
SPOKEN WORD

POETRY WITHOUT BORDERS @ Cal State San Marcos, 333 S. Twin Oaks Valley Road, San Marcos. Local artists Diego Avalos, Kimberly Dark, Adam Turner, Sharon Elise and more read at this spoken word event featuring drums, dancing, film in words, and other non-traditional forms of poetry. At 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 29. 760-750-4000. www.csusm.edu

GRAND SLAM @ San Diego Art Institute, Museum of the Living Artist, Balboa Park. A competition for ten local poets, with the top five representing San Diego at the National Poetry Slam in West Palm Beach, Fla. At 7 p.m. Thursday, April 30. 619-234-0811. $5. www.collectivepurpose.blogspot.com

MAY DAY READING @ The Ink Spot @ Art Center Lofts, 710 13th St., Ste. 620, Downtown. Chris Baron and Bruce Saffer International read poetry in honor of International Workers’ Day. At 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 1. www.sandiego.edu

SOUND OF DESIRE @ Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace, USD, Linda Vista. USD graduate Heather Battersby presents this multimedia performance chronicling the lives of nine women in modern-day Iraq, with music by trumpeter and santoor player Amir El Saffar. At 2 p.m. Sunday, May 8. 619-260-7600. $15. www.sandiego.edu
Diversionary Closes Its Season With Biting Comedy THE LITTLE DOG LAUGHED, Previews Begin 5/7

by BWW News Desk

Diversionary Theatre's sixth and final production of the 2008-2009 season is the biting contemporary comedy The Little Dog Laughed by Douglas Carter Beane. Directed by Robert Barry Fleming, this play takes a look at the scandalous world of Hollywood celebrities. Players in this fast-paced and hilarious farce include a spin-doctor agent, a rising movie star, a sexy "rent-boy" and his naïve and needy girlfriend. With photographers itching to catch the latest in celebrity gossip, a compromising photo can make or break your career. The Little Dog Laughed asks the question, "is there an escape from Hollywood's glass closet or is it better to just stay locked in from the inside?"

The Little Dog Laughed was nominated for a 2007 Best Play Tony Award and Julie White won the Best Actress Tony Award for her role as the Hollywood agent.

Douglas Carter Beane's stage credits include Xanadu, As Bees in Honey Drown, and Dancing in the Dark among others. Beane also provided the script for To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything Julie Newmar. He is a founding member of Drama Dept. and member of the Dramatist Guild.

Fleming won a 2008 Craig Noel Award for Outstanding Featured Performance by a Male in a Musical for his performance in Ain't Misbehavin' at the San Diego Rep. He is Director of the Theatre Arts Program at the University of San Diego. The cast features Karson St. John as the agent, Brian Mackey as the movie star, Bryan Bertone as the rent boy, and Kelly Iverson as the girlfriend. The Little Dog Laughed contains adult content and brief nudity.

Started in 1986, the mission of Diversionary Theatre is to produce plays with gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender themes that portray characters in their complexity and diversity both historically and contemporarily.

The Little Dog Laughed will preview on May 7 and 8, and open on Saturday, May 9 and run through Sunday, May 31. Performance times are: Thursday at 7:30pm, Friday & Saturday at 8:00pm and Sunday at 2:00 & 7:00pm, with an additional performance on Monday, May 18 at 7:30pm. Single tickets, priced $29-$33 with discounts for seniors, students and military are now on sale. Food for the opening night party provided by The Mission Restaurant. For information, call the Diversionary box office at 619.220.0097 or log on to www.diversionary.org.

Financial support for Diversionary Theatre is provided in part by the City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture.

Theater listings and commentary are by Jeff Smith. Information is accurate according to material given us, but it is always wise to phone the theater for any last-minute changes and to inquire about ticket availability. Many theaters offer discounts to students, senior citizens, and the military. Ask at the box office.

**Anon(ymer)**
USD Theatre presents Nauni
Ibn-Khafis's drama about a young refugee named Anon. In an adaptation of Homer's Odyssey, Anon navigates "the chaotic landscape of the United States."
UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO, 5998 ALCAÑÁ PARK, USD, 858-269-4600.
THURSDAYS, 7:30 P.M. FRIDAYS, 7:30 P.M. SATURDAYS, 2 AND 7:30 P.M. SUNDAYS, 7:30 P.M. TUESDAYS, 7:30 P.M. WEDNESDAYS, 7:30 P.M. THROUGH MAY 7.
CLASICAL

Plugged In Palomar Electronic Music Ensemble for Concert Hour Series. 760-754-1150 x2316. Free. Palomar College Performance Lab (room D-10) (1140 West Mission Road), 12:30 p.m., Thursday, April 30. (SAN MARCOS)

Small Ensemble Concert Recital by members of San Diego Youth Symphony. 619-233-3232. Free. Neurosciences Institute (10640 John Jay Hopkins Drive), 7 p.m., Thursday, April 30. (LA JOLLA)

Students of Voice "Superb selection of works" promised. 858-534-3229. Free. Manzelli Recital Hall at UCSD (9500 Gilman Drive), 8 p.m., Thursday, April 30. (LA JOLLA)

"De-Lovely Cole Porter" San Diego Symphony packages evening of Cole Porter. Marvin Hamlish conducts, Michael Feinstein sings and plays piano. Aztec Concert Choir performs. 619-235-0804. $20-$85. Copley Symphony Hall (750 B Street), 8 p.m., Friday, May 1; 8 p.m., Saturday, May 2. (DOWNTOWN)

Junior Recital Soprano Sheree Hyakas, mezzo-soprano Amanda Leger, and pianist Robert Naranjo present vocal music by Schumann, Quilter, and Poulenc, as well as a selection of works for solo piano by French. Parlor of Founders Hall. 619-260-4171. Free. University of San Diego (5998 Alcala Park), 8 p.m., Friday, May 1. (LA JOLLA)

USD End-of-Year Concert This year's concert provides musical welcome to Dean Mary K. Boyd. Performances by USD music faculty, students, ensembles. Donations requested for Anne Catherine Swaine Memorial Scholarship and Sister Rossi Music Scholarship. 619-260-4171. Free. Shiley Theatre at University of San Diego (5998 Alcala Park), 2 p.m., Saturday, May 2. (LA JOLLA)

Passion! La Jolla Symphony and Chorus perform next "The DNA of Music" series concert. Steven Schick conducts orchestra, chorus, and guests in program featuring cellist Maya Beiser performing Elgar's "Cello Concerto," the U.S. premiere of "The General" drawn from music by Beethoven with text by noted music critic Paul Griffiths, and Beethoven's "Elegy" for chorus and string orchestra. 858-534-4637. $15-$25. Manzelli Auditorium at UCSD (9500 Gilman Drive), 8 p.m., Saturday, May 2; 3 p.m., Sunday, May 3. (LA JOLLA)

An Afternoon of Jane Austin Civic organist Carol Williams plays music of Jane Austen's time while dancers in period costume perform. 619-702-8138. Free. Spindrift Organ Pavilion (2211 Pan American Road), 2 p.m., Sunday, May 3. (BALBOA PARK)

Trumpet Time Nine trumpets, a tuba, and a rhythm section unite in Trumpets R Us to present "unique brass sound" for First Sunday Music Series. 760-753-7376. Free. Encinitas Library (540 Cornish Drive), 2 p.m., Sunday, May 3. (ENCINITAS)

East County Youth Symphony Violin soloist Kimberly Durlinger joins symphony and conductor Olga Restivo to play selections by J.S. Bach, Rimsky-Korsakov, and Dvořák. 619-444-0228. Free. La Mesa Community Center (4975 Memorial Drive), 3 p.m., Sunday, May 3. (LA MESA)

"History of the Brass Quintet III" Westwind Brass presents history of brass literature through performance of "top 10 compositions for the brass quintet," including Bozza, Arnold, Broughton, Dunton, Koejier, and Beaud. 619-501-3562. $15-$25. La Mesa First United Methodist Church (4690 Palm Avenue), 4 p.m., Sunday, May 3; 7:30 p.m., Monday, May 4. (LA MESA)

Anniversary Concert William J. Lullo, celebrating his 15th anniversary as organist at La Jolla Presbyterian Church, performs selections by Bach, Franck, Liszt, Lenare, Elmore, Handel, Schumann, Mendelssohn, Mulet. Reception follows. Requested donation $10. 858-729-5531. La Jolla Presbyterian Church (7715 Draper Avenue), 7 p.m., Sunday, May 3. (LA JOLLA)

Chamber Music Recital USD Chamber Music Ensembles, under direction of Angela Young, present varied program of chamber music favorites and novelties in French Parlor of Founders Hall. 619-260-4171. $5-$10. University of San Diego (5998 Alcala Park), 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 5. (LA JOLLA)
April 16, 2009

CLASSICAL

Faculty Voice Recital Baritone Scott Gregory sings Dichterliebe and Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen at University of San Diego (5998 Alcala Park), 8 p.m., Friday, April 17 (LINDA VISTA)

Peter Grimes Tenor Anthony Dean Griffey takes on title role in Britten's masterpiece of English opera. Soprano Jennifer Casey Cobet plays Ellen Orford; Rod Gil-frey as Captain Balstrode. Tickets: 619-220-TIXS. 55-$200. San Diego Civic Theatre (1100 Third Avenue), 7 p.m., Saturday, April 18, and Tuesday, April 21 (DOWNTOWN)

"H.M.S. Pinafore" Gilbert and Sullivan's comic nautical tale interpreted by Opera a la Carte. 800-988-4253. $17-$65. California Center for the Arts, Escondido (340 North Escondido Boulevard), 8 p.m., Saturday, April 18 (ESCONDIDO)

Earth Day Organ Concert By civic organist Carol Williams. 619-702-8138. Free. Spreckels Organ Pavilion (2211 Pan American Road), 2 p.m., Sunday, April 19 (BALBOA PARK)


Vocal Recital Virginia and Susan Jack Memorial Scholarship recital and reception for the winners. Applicants were required to sing two operatic arias and a selection from an oratorio or a cantata, each sung in the original key and language in which it were written. Free. Ronald Reagan Community Center (195 East Douglas), 2:30 p.m., Sunday, April 19 (E.L. CAHAN)

Australian Chamber Orchestra Violinist Richard Tognetti and pianist Paul Lewis lead ensemble. 858-459-3421 x109. $25. Saint James by-the-Sea Episcopal Church (243 Prospect Street), 4 p.m., Sunday, April 19 (LA JOLLA)

Soirée for Music Lovers Celebrate this concert series tradition with virtuoso violinist Janos Négyesy and friends. 858-334-3229. Free. Mandeville Recital Hall at UCSD (9500 Gilman Drive), 7 p.m., Sunday, April 19 (LA JOLLA)

"The Generation of Brahms" Violinist Victoria Martino continues "The Age of Romanticism, Realism, and Impressionism" lecture series. 858-454-5372. $14-$19. Athenaeum Music and Arts Library (1008 Wall Street), 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 21 (LA JOLLA)

Earth Day Concert World premiere of saxophone and string quartet composition performed by CSUSM faculty. 760-750-4266. Free. CSU San Marcos (333 South Twin Oaks Valley Road), 7 p.m., Wednesday, April 22 (SAN MARCOS)
Cropper Writers Series Pulitzer Prize winner Natasha Trethewey reads her poetry. 619-260-4242. Friday, April 17, 7 p.m.; free. B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice, University of San Diego, 5998 Alcalá Park, (LINDA VISTA)
DATEBOOK | EVENTS CALENDAR FOR SAN DIEGO

The Salvation Army Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center will present a Broadway Spectacular to raise money for an upcoming humanitarian mission trip to Swaziland, 7 p.m. Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday, The Joan B. Kroc Theatre, 6611 University Ave. Performers of all ages will be showcased in musical numbers from plays including "Wicked," "Rent," "A Chorus Line" and more. Information: (619) 269-1544 or showboxoffice.com.

The annual community Holocaust remembrance will be at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, David and Dorothea Garfield Theater, Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center, 4126 Executive Drive, La Jolla. Information: (858) 571-3444 or jewshinsandiego.org.

Pulitzer Prize winner Natasha Trethewey reads a collection of her poetry during the annual Choppa Writers Series, 7 p.m. tomorrow, Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice, 5998 Alcala Park. Free. Open to the public. Information: (619) 260-4783 or croppercenter.com.

Go Green, Save Green during Light Bulb Exchanges. County residents can exchange up to five incandescent light bulbs for compact fluorescent lights, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Birch Aquarium, 2300 Expedition Way, La Jolla. Information: (858) 534-FISH.

San Diego Association of Black Journalists will host Andrea Berry, senior vice president of broadcast operations for Fox, 6 to 8 p.m. tomorrow, National University's Spectrum Campus, Kearny Mesa. Information: (619) 549-9438.
BOOKS

THIRD THURSDAYS AUTHOR SERIES
at Adobe Chapel, 3950 Conde St., Old Town.
A book discussion series highlights local history, architecture and culture. This month:
Steve Willard discusses the San Diego Police Department. From 9 to 7 p.m. Thursday,

★ TOM ZOBELNER at BookWorks, 2070 Via De La Valle, Del Mar. The investigative
journalist discusses his latest book Uranus Was Energy and the Rock That Shaped

★ DAVID WEINGARTEN AND LUCIA HOWARD at Solo, 300 S. Cedros Ave.,
Solana Beach. Architect Weingarten and Howard discuss Ranch Houses: Living the

★ STEVIE CREED at Subtext, 2470 Kalmia Blvd., Little Italy. Author Michael Long dis-
cusses his book about Cedric’s custom shoe designs. Sole Jamboree, with a display of the
artist’s shoes. From 7 to 9 p.m. Friday, April 17. 619-875-0064, www.subtextstore.com.

JEAN TWENGE at MiraCosta College, 1
Barnd Drive, Oceanside. Twenge discusses
Generation Me, a sociological study of
people born in the ’70s, ’80s and ’90s. At
Library Foyer, MiraCosta College campus
At 7 p.m. Friday, April 17. 760-435-3065.
www.miracosta.edu.

NATASHA TARKHANENKO at Joan B. Kroc
Institute for Peace, USD, Linda Vista. Tarkhanenko
discusses her poetry books Native Guard and
Bechoy’s Ophelia. At 7 p.m. Friday, April 17.
USD MATH EXPLORERS

Locations: University of San Diego

Dates: August 24 - August 29

Cost: $300

Description: Grades 4-5; mathematics enrichment

Contact: (619) 260-4708

http://home.sandiego.edu/~lmcgrath/mathcamp
School of Business Administration
Study Co-Authored by CoStar Group Executives Wins Prestigious Academic Real Estate Award From American Real Estate Society

CoStar Group's CEO Andrew Florance, Senior Director of Analytics Jay Spivey, and University of San Diego Professor Dr. Norm Miller Document Significant Occupancy, Rent and Sale Price Premiums Found in ENERGY STAR and LEED Properties

April 08, 2009: 07:13 PM ET

BETHESDA, Md., April 8, 2009 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- CoStar Group, Inc. (Nasdaq:CSGP) today announced that the American Real Estate Society (ARES), an association of real estate thought leaders whose members include leading academic and professional researchers, selected a study conceived and authored by CoStar Group executives to receive the ARES Professor Dr. Norm Miller Document Significant Award for 2009.

Andrew Florance, CoStar Group's Founder and CEO, Jay Spivey, Senior Director of Research and Analytics for CoStar Group, and Dr. Norm Miller, Professor at the Bentley School of Science and Technology at the University of San Diego, authored the award-winning study, "Does Green Pay-off?" believed to be the first systematic analysis of property data to document the income premium associated with "green buildings," specifically those that have earned the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's ENERGY STAR label and/or LEED certification from the U.S. Green Building Council.

By analyzing the extensive data available through CoStar's comprehensive database of U.S. commercial property, the study found energy-efficient, sustainable buildings on average operated at higher occupancies and achieved higher rents, two variables that directly relate to higher net operating income. The study also found that, on average, these buildings sold for a higher price per square foot compared with peer office buildings that were not ENERGY STAR-labeled or LEED-certified.

The authors used a rigorous comparison of buildings that had the ENERGY STAR label or LEED-certification with a peer group of like-kind, non-labeled/certified office buildings correlated by building size, height, class and year-built, using a hedonic multiple regression model to confirm the results. The winning paper was published in the Journal of Real Estate Portfolio Management (JREPM) for 2008.

The authors used a rigorous comparison of buildings that had the ENERGY STAR label or LEED-certification with a peer group of like-kind, non-labeled/certified office buildings correlated by building size, height, class and year-built, using a hedonic multiple regression model to confirm the results. The winning paper was published in the Journal of Real Estate Portfolio Management (JREPM) for 2008.

Since the authors published the results of the study in July 2008, separate studies using the property information in CoStar's database -- one led by Luis Fernandez of the Henley Business School at the University of Reading, and another by John Quigley of the University of California at Berkeley and Piet Eichholtz and Nils Kok of Maastricht University in the Netherlands -- corroborated their original findings. In some cases, the authors noted, market premiums to be even higher. Most recently, Gary Pivo, Professor of Planning at the University of Arizona, and Jeffrey D. Fisher, Director of the Beinecke Center for Real Estate Studies at the Indiana University Kelley School of Business, analyzed data from the National Council of Real Estate Investment Fiduciaries (NCREIF) that resulted in similar findings.

"The Does Green Pay-off? study addresses one of the key issues regarding sustainable real estate development and management by showing that economic benefits accrue to the owners of green buildings," noted William G. Hardin III, Ph.D., Director of Real Estate Programs, Associate Professor and Knight-Ridder Research Fellow at Florida International University. "If we look 10 years down the road, we will see that green buildings become the norm in commercial real estate and other non-green buildings suffering from functional obsolescence. This difference will be reflected in rents and occupancy rates."

"While previous studies focused on the costs associated with making investments in energy-efficient design and construction, none are believed to have looked closely at the actual impact that green buildings are..."
having in the marketplace," said Andrew Florance. "Having flagged ENERGY STAR and LEED-certified buildings in our database since 2006, CoStar was in a unique position to critically examine this issue and we believe we were the first to report the substantial income premiums associated with green properties. It's also gratifying to see these results confirmed by several other respected researchers, providing ample evidence that energy efficiency and sustainable development are both good for the environment and good for business."

The authors agreed to donate the prize money from the award to the James R. Webb Foundation of the American Real Estate Society, an organization dedicated to supporting students pursuing a Ph.D. degree in real estate studies. The foundation is named in honor of Webb, an outstanding scholar and founding member of ARES who was a professor and director of the Real Estate Institute at Cleveland State University.

CoStar Group continues to be an active supporter of academic research involving the built environment. As part of its ongoing efforts to increase awareness of energy efficiency issues in the built environment, CoStar has joined with the American Real Estate Society to sponsor The Journal of Sustainable Real Estate (JOSRE), a new real estate monograph series with the goal of publishing a collection of research papers addressing sustainable real estate issues. The deadline for submitting research papers for the first issue in the series is May 15, 2009. Additional information on JOSRE, as well as the "Does Green Pay-off?" study, is available on CoStar's Web site at http://www.costar.com/pare/.

In addition to sponsoring additional academic research, CoStar offers qualified university professors and their students full access to its comprehensive online information services for use in their research and in the classroom. More than 1,100 professors and graduate students at more than 100 universities are currently enrolled in the program, including Harvard University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, The Wharton School of Business, The Ohio State University, Northwestern University, Cornell University, The Johns Hopkins University, The University of Colorado, Marquette University, the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill, the University of Reading, the University of Notre Dame, and Vanderbilt University. Additional information on the CoStar University program can be found at http://www.costar.com/specialprograms/costaruniversity.aspx.

About the American Real Estate Society

The American Real Estate Society (ARES), founded in 1985, is an association of real estate thought leaders. Members are drawn from academia and the profession at large, both in the United States and internationally. The Society is dedicated to producing and disseminating knowledge related to real estate decision-making and the functioning of real estate markets. For more information, visit http://www.aresnet.org/AboutUs.htm.

About the Burnham-Moores Center for Real Estate at the University of San Diego

Founded in 1983, the University of San Diego's Burnham-Moores Center for Real Estate is committed to delivering outstanding education, industry outreach, career and research services to advance socially responsible leadership in the real estate profession. As part of the University's School of Business Administration, the Center offers a Master of Science in Real Estate degree, an undergraduate minor in real estate, a Certificate in Real Estate Finance, Investments and Development, a Certificate in Land Use and Sustainable Community Development and several major industry conferences throughout the year. For more information, visit www.usdrealestate.com.

About CoStar Group, Inc.

CoStar Group, Inc. (Nasdaq:CSGP) is the number one provider of information/marketing services to commercial real estate professionals in the United States as well as the United Kingdom. CoStar's suite of services offers customers access via the Internet to the most comprehensive database of commercial real estate information throughout the United States as well as in the United Kingdom and France. Headquartered in Bethesda, MD, CoStar has approximately 1,300 people working for the company worldwide, including the largest professional research organization in the industry. For more information, visit http://www.costar.com.

This news release includes "forward-looking statements" including, without limitation, statements regarding CoStar's expectations, beliefs, intentions or strategies regarding the future. These statements are subject to many risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those statements. More information about potential factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those discussed in the forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to, those stated in CoStar's filings from time to time with the Securities and Exchange Commission, including CoStar's Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008 under the heading "Risk Factors." In addition to these statements, there can be no assurance that all energy-efficient, sustainable buildings will attain higher occupancy rates, rents or sales prices compared with their peer office buildings; that economic benefits will accrue to owners of all green buildings; that in ten years green buildings will become the norm in commercial real estate with other non-green buildings suffering from functional obsolescence; and that the difference between green and non-green buildings will be reflected in rents and occupancy rates. All forward-looking statements are based on information available to CoStar on the date hereof, and CoStar assumes no obligation to update such statements.

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CoStar Green Building Study Wins Prestigious Academic Real Estate Award from ARES

Study Authored by CoStar CEO Andrew Florance, Senior Director of Analytics Jay Spivey and Dr. Norm Miller, Professor at the Burnham-Moores Center for Real Estate at the University of San Diego

CoStar Group continues to gain recognition for its groundbreaking study on the income premium associated with "green buildings," specifically those that have earned the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's ENERGY STAR label and/or LEED certification from the U.S. Green Building Council. The American Real Estate Society (ARES) has recognized the study as the "Best Paper Published in the Journal of Real Estate Portfolio Management (JREPM)" in 2008. ARES, whose members include leading global academic and professional researchers, recognizes papers annually that explore the issues of applied real estate decision-making.

As CoStar announced, the study was conceived and co-authored by CoStar Group CEO Andrew Florance, Senior Director of Analytics Jay Spivey also of CoStar Group, and Dr. Norm Miller, Professor at the Burnham-Moores Center for Real Estate at the University of San Diego.

By analyzing the extensive data available through CoStar's comprehensive database of U.S. commercial property, the authors found that, on average, energy-efficient, sustainable buildings operated at higher occupancy levels and achieved higher rents than comparable "non-green" buildings in the same market, two variables that directly relate to higher net operating income for property owners.

The study also found that, on average, green buildings sold for a higher price per square foot compared with peer office buildings that were not ENERGY STAR-labeled or LEED-certified.

In conducting their study, the authors made use of CoStar's comprehensive database of commercial property, setting up a rigorous comparison of buildings that had the ENERGY STAR label or LEED-certification with a peer group of like-kind, non-labeled/certified office buildings correlated by building size, height, class and year-built. Florance, Spivey and Miller ran multiple iterations of the study, analyzing larger and larger samples and using a hedonic multiple regression model to confirm the results.

"This study, 'Does Green Pay-off?' addresses one of the key issues regarding sustainable real estate development and management by showing that economic benefits accrue to the owners of green buildings," noted Bill Hardin, the editor of JREPM and associate professor and Knight-Ridder Research Fellow at Florida International University. "If we look 10 years down the road, we will see that green buildings become the norm in commercial real estate with other non-green buildings suffering from functional obsolescence. This difference will be reflected in rents and occupancy rates."

As CoStar Group's Jay Spivey recalled, the impetus for the research grew out of adding the green buildings to CoStar's database beginning in 2006.

"We noticed that these buildings seemed to be attracting a great deal of interest, both from tenants and investors, and appeared to be out-performing others in terms of their occupancy, the rents they were charging and when they sold they were generally attracting top dollar in their markets," said Spivey.

But as he and Florance reviewed the literature, it appeared that almost all the research being done focused on the cost side of the equation: the costs associated with retrofitting or developing a green
property, measuring the corresponding reduction in energy expenses that would occur and using that as the basis for determining the corresponding return on investment.

"It seemed to us that no one was looking at the income benefits associated with green property," Spivey added. "We were excited about doing this study and analyzing the performance of green buildings in a way that no one had really done before, and because CoStar had data on all the buildings, including all the ENERGY STAR and LEED buildings, we were in a unique position to address that issue and analyze the actual performance green buildings were having in the marketplace," Spivey added.

Together, Florance and Spivey approached Norm Miller who also became intrigued by the idea. And although from their observation of individual buildings, the authors were aware that interest in green real estate was heating up, they too were surprised by the results of their study.

"Initially, people were a bit skeptical of the results we found because they felt the results may be too good to be true," Spivey said. "Even we were surprised at the substantial income premiums we found for green properties. And I think because we were the first to put forward this hypothesis people wanted to test our theory and validate our findings, which is exactly what happened."

Following their own rigorous confirmation process, the authors encouraged other researchers to review and validate their findings. They also made CoStar’s database available at no charge to the real estate research academic community for that very purpose.

Since then, other researchers have published separate studies using the property data in CoStar’s database. One study was led by Franz Fuerst of the Henley Business School at the University of Reading. And another by John Quigley of the University of California at Berkeley and Piet Eichholtz and Nils Kok of Maastricht University in the Netherlands -- both of which corroborated the findings of the original study, and in some cases, found market premiums associated with green properties to be even higher.

Most recently, Gary Pivo, Professor of Planning at the University of Arizona, and Jeffrey D. Fisher, Director of the Benecki Center for Real Estate Studies at the Indiana University Kelley School of Business, published a working paper abstract on the performance of responsible property investing (RPI), which include ENERGY STAR-labeled buildings as a component. Analyzing data from the National Council of Real Estate Investment Fiduciaries (NCREIF). Pivo-Fisher produced similar results, finding that a portfolio of RPI office properties performed better than, at less risk, than a portfolio of properties without RPI features.

As CoStar Group’s Florance noted in his firm’s announcement of the award, "It’s very gratifying to see these results confirmed by several other respected researchers, providing ample evidence that energy efficiency and sustainable development are both good for the environment and good for business."

As part of its ongoing efforts to increase awareness of energy efficiency issues in the built environment, CoStar has joined with the American Real Estate Society to sponsor The Journal of Sustainable Real Estate (JOSRE), a new real estate monograph series with the goal of publishing a collection of research papers addressing sustainable real estate issues. [NOTE: The deadline for submitting research papers for the first issue in the series is May 15, 2009. Additional information on JOSRE, as well as the "Does Green Pay-off?" study, is available on CoStar's Web site at www.costar.com/josre/]

In addition to sponsoring additional academic research, CoStar offers qualified university professors and their students full access to its comprehensive online information services for use in their research and in the classroom.

More than 1100 professors and graduate students at more than 100 universities are currently enrolled in the program, including Harvard University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, The Wharton School of Business, The Ohio State University, Northwestern University, Cornell University, The Johns Hopkins University, The University of Colorado, Marquette University, the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill, the University of Reading, the University of Notre Dame, and Vanderbilt University.
CoStar Group Honored by EPA with 2009 ENERGY STAR Award

Firm Recognized for Study Promoting Energy Efficiency Within Commercial Real Estate Industry

CoStar Group was one of several firms in the commercial real estate arena selected by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to receive 2009 ENERGY STAR awards.

CoStar received the Excellence in ENERGY STAR Promotion Award in recognition of its contribution to reducing greenhouse gas emissions through significant consumer education efforts aimed at increasing awareness of ENERGY STAR buildings and workspaces within the commercial real estate marketplace. CoStar Group's founder and CEO, Andrew Florance, accepted the award on behalf of the company at the annual ENERGY STAR awards ceremony held in Washington, D.C. on March 31.

CoStar, which became an ENERGY STAR partner last year, is the first information provider to receive an ENERGY STAR award. The company was honored for its work in communicating the value of ENERGY STAR labeling to commercial property stakeholders through a landmark study sponsored in partnership with the Burnham-Moores Center for Real Estate at the University of San Diego.

The CoStar study is believed to be the first to document the additional value that ENERGY STAR-labeled buildings attract in the market, generally outperforming their non-labeled peer buildings in several key categories, including higher rents, occupancy levels and sale prices.

To promote the study's findings, which found similar results for LEED-certified buildings, CoStar executives made numerous presentations at conferences around the nation hosted by real estate associations, brokerage firms and government agencies. Interest in the study remains high nearly a full year after the first formal report on the study was released.

CoStar first began flagging ENERGY STAR-labeled buildings in our commercial property database in 2007 as an initial step to heighten awareness about the connection between asset values and energy efficiency within our industry, providing industry professionals with a fast and convenient means for identifying ENERGY STAR buildings in their markets and across the country.

"Last year, we built on that initial effort through our study, which informed real estate professionals exactly what those blue ENERGY STAR icons on certain buildings stand for, and in many cases, how those icons may affect the value of their properties." Florance noted. "CoStar remains committed to our partnership with ENERGY STAR and the goal of making energy efficiency a fundamental part of doing business in the commercial real estate marketplace, helping our customers protect the environment, and make informed choices about the location of their stores and workplaces."

As part of ongoing efforts to increase awareness of energy efficiency issues in the built environment, CoStar has co-sponsored The Journal of Sustainable Real Estate (JOSRE) with the goal of publishing a new collection of research papers addressing sustainable real estate issues, including ENERGY STAR. Information on JOSRE, as well as more information on CoStar's study, is available on CoStar's web site at http://www.costar.com/josre/.

The Excellence in ENERGY STAR Promotion Award is given to a variety of organizations to recognize their efforts to improve energy efficiency and reduce pollution, resulting in significant cost savings. Award

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California Foreclosures Jeopardize Renters as Banks Seize Homes

By Ari Levy and Dan Levy

April 6 (Bloomberg) -- Laura Hecox was baffled when an officer from the San Diego County sheriff's department came to her home in February and said she was being evicted. She hadn't missed a rent payment on her four-bedroom house since moving there a year-and-a-half earlier.

"They told me to leave, to get a few things together," said Hecox, 37, who lives with and supports her four kids and mother. "I got booted out just like that."

Hecox didn't know the home she was renting in Chula Vista, California, about 10 miles north of the Mexican border, was in foreclosure because her landlord was a year behind on mortgage payments. The new owner was a group of investors led by JPMorgan Chase & Co., the third-biggest U.S. home lender.

In California, home to the most foreclosures in the country last year and about 5 million renter households, residents who are current on rent payments face eviction by banks unwilling to be landlords. At least one-third of the state's 267,000 foreclosure sales in 2008 were rental units, said Dean Preston, executive director of Tenants Together, a San Francisco-based non-profit group for renters' rights.

While thousands of tenants search for places to live, banks are losing out on the potential to collect monthly rent checks and flooding the market with empty houses that are declining in value. That's because they don't have the infrastructure or staff to deal with rental buildings, said William Acheson, an analyst at Benchmark Co. LLC in New York.

"Banks are notoriously bad property managers," said Acheson, who tracks real estate investment trusts. "If they can sell them at a 60 percent discount, they will," he said.

Biggest Home Lenders

Bank of America Corp., JPMorgan and Wells Fargo & Co. account for more than half of residential mortgages nationally, and are the biggest home lenders in California, according to Inside Mortgage Finance, a Bethesda, Maryland-based newsletter. All three are facing surging defaults from tumbling home prices and the highest unemployment in a quarter century.

"We don't have the capacity to be long-term landlords," said JPMorgan spokesman Gary Kishner in response to a question about Hecox. "We work with tenants on their transition from a property and that may include cash for keys."

The bank said it placed an eviction notice on Hecox's door in September. It was addressed to the landlord and "all others in possession," according a copy of the document.

More than 20 percent of properties in the U.S. facing foreclosure are rentals, according to a December report from the National Low Income Housing Coalition in Washington. Renters make up about 40 percent of families facing eviction.

$1 Billion in Rent

In California, more than 225,000 people in rental units lived in properties that went through foreclosure last year, according to a March 31 report from Tenants Together. The group estimates they occupied about 81,500 units.

Were banks to rent all those properties, they could collect more than $1 billion in annual rent, based on the median California rent in 2007, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Hecox, who works the overnight shift at a job-referral service, was met at her front door in the early afternoon on Tuesday, Feb. 24, by an officer from the sheriff's department and a real estate agent. They told her the home had been sold at an auction and she needed to leave. Hecox had been paying $2,250 a month, half from government assistance.

Eviction Notices

The property was taken back by the lenders on Aug. 29 at an appraised value of $243,000, 60 percent less than the outstanding balance on the mortgage, according to the trustee's deed. JPMorgan's Washington Mutual Inc. unit serviced the loan, which had been wrapped up into a security, and now has the property in its name.

Officers serve eviction notices when ordered by the court and aren't responsible for determining who occupies a property, said San Diego County Assistant Sheriff Kim Quaco. He said an eviction notice was posted on Hecox's door 11 days before she was forced to leave.

Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, the mortgage finance companies under federal control, have formal policies for renting to tenants. Starting in January, the companies hired property managers to reach out to renters and offer them new leases at market rates.

Management fees equal about 10 percent of a renter's monthly payments, said Norman Miller, professor of real estate at the University of San Diego.

The costs are outweighed by the economic benefits, which include the income stream from monthly checks and the upkeep provided by renters, according to Freddie Mac spokesman Brad German, who said about 20 percent of the 29,000 properties that they own nationwide are occupied by a former owner or renter.

Vacant Properties

"Vacant properties can be magnets for vandalism and crime and also have a negative effect on property values in the immediate vicinity," said German, in an interview from McLean, Virginia.

Rising delinquencies contributed to fourth-quarter losses at Charlotte, North Carolina-based Bank of America, which owns Countrywide Financial Corp., and at San Francisco-based Wells Fargo, owner of Wachovia Corp. JPMorgan, in New York, recorded a 76 percent decline in profit.

Bank of America spokeswoman Jumana Bauwens said the company follows Freddie and Fannie policies on any of their loans it services and is examining the programs to see if they are "viable for our organization."

Wells Fargo spokesman Kevin Waetke, referring to a document released by the bank in April 2008, said the bank deals with renters on a case-by-case basis. It doesn't have a "summary eviction" policy, he said.

'Adequate Notice'

"We make every effort to work with the current tenants and provide them adequate notice to make other housing arrangements," Wells Fargo said in the statement.

Banks should be following the lead of Fannie and Freddie, said Kevin Stein, associate director of the California Reinvestment Coalition, which works on behalf of low-income communities. He's proposing solutions, including re-renting to tenants, keeping utility companies from shutting off power and hiring brokers to ensure local and state laws are followed.

Most California cities require new owners give tenants 30-60 days to move, according to the state Department of Consumer Affairs. In the San Francisco area, where 70 percent of units are renter-occupied, and in Los Angeles, local ordinances forbid owners of most buildings from evicting without "just cause," such as missed payments. Six other states and Washington D.C. offer tenants some protection, according to the National Low Income Housing Commission.

Laws Ineffective

Lenders, grappling with surging defaults, are either ignoring or are unaware of the laws and are punishing renters who have done nothing wrong, said Preston of Tenants Together.

"A common thing after foreclosure is efforts to get tenants to move out without going ahead and serving them the legally required notice," said Preston, who started a hotline in February to help tenants in foreclosure. "They're under no legal obligation to move out just because someone tells them they need to."

Renters occupy about a quarter of all San Francisco buildings that receive default notices, the first stage of the foreclosure process, said Phil Ting, the city's assessor-recorder. Trustee sales, the last stage of the process in which foreclosed properties are sold to new owners, increased 133 percent to 667 last year and could double again in 2009 as unemployment rises, he said.

Ting and other San Francisco officials began sending letters last year to tenants in buildings that got default notices, advising them of names and phone numbers of housing-assistance groups.

Padlocked

"We were hearing horror stories where the owner was either totally checked out or had been foreclosed on," Ting said in an interview at his City Hall office. "Tenants came home, their building was padlocked and the power was turned off."

Genevieve Hilpert, a 35-year-old nursing student from Cameroon, said her San Francisco landlord left the U.S. in June last year and asked her to send $550 rent checks to a relative in Fairfield, California.

In December, Hilpert received a letter from a lawyer in Davis, California, representing Bank of America's LaSalle Bank NA, the owner of the house following a Nov. 19 foreclosure sale. The letter demanded details of Hilpert's lease agreement, which she had made orally with the old landlord, and threatened to evict her if she didn't respond.

Hilpert refused a cash offer from Bank of America to leave. She wrote to the lawyer with the help of Housing Rights Committee of San Francisco, asking where to pay her rent, and said she hasn't gotten a reply. Bank of America's Bauwens said the bank is working on the case.

"They made me feel like I don't deserve to live here," Hilpert said.

To contact the reporters on this story: Ari Levy in San Francisco at alevy5@bloomberg.net; Dan Levy in San Francisco at dlevy13@bloomberg.net

Last Updated: April 6, 2009 00:00 EDT
Rational Water Rationing

Walter police and tattletale neighbors are leaky ideas

A few years ago, California had a statewide water emergency. The situation was likely even more pronounced in the San Diegoland area. Right now, my water bills are fairly low. If I did face higher water prices, I would likely invest in water-saving devices, more efficient toilets and take shorter showers. But telling me or others that we can't wash our cars or have exotic gardens is an idea that will only create a lot of devise and sneaky water users. Pricing should be the solution, not regulation. In fact, regulation will only make matters worse in the long run as it will not encourage the kind of technology we need to desalinate water or re-capture both grey water and stormwater runoff.

While water is essential for life and, like clean air, is priceless, the great news is that we will never use it all up. It is inexhaustible, especially salt water, which is what differentiates water from other business and life sustaining systems that are drawn down into our homes and buildings.

It makes no sense to treat water the same way we do other resources like coal and oil and gas that are slowly becoming exhausted. It also makes no sense, except in extreme emergencies, to ration or regulate water. How can we expect the notion of water police for violations of our local water policies? Even though I may not like my neighbor constantly wasting his gas guzzling Hummer, he should have the right to do so and we should have the right to charge him the marginal cost of providing this unnecessary water.

We certainly do need regulation for the prevention of contamination and for those who do not control water use. Regulation that requires us to do harm is essential, but regulation that prevents harm to water resources is different from regulation on the consumption side. Each household and farmer should receive an average allocation per month — with some limited carryover — based on historic minimal and essential water needs. This allocation should be priced in line with current average pricing. As we consume more water, the price should proportionately climb to the level that exceeds the cost to desalinate water from the sea or capture storm water runoff.

Depending on the technology used, this can be from 3.25 to 5 times current water pricing. The most promising method to desalinate seawater is reverse osmosis. The expensive reason for the technology is that it includes in-line energy. The energy costs of the technology has kept it from being used more often, since it can cost more than $1,000 per acre-foot to desalinate seawater, compared with about $200 per acre-foot for water from normal supply sources. Yet many water consumers would gladly pay $700, $800 or more per acre foot for water and we should let them.

Desalination technology is improving, and costs are falling. Tampa Bay, Fla., is doing it for $500 per acre foot, which is roughly 3.25 times the cost of traditional water. As both the demand for fresh water and technology improves, more desalination will be occurring, especially in California. Would you pay 3.25 times your current water bill? If necessary you probably would. But you also would find builders designing houses with rainwater capture systems and grey water re-use systems and farmers boosting their use of drip technology. By keeping water pricing low and regulating quantities consumed, we not only delay the problem but we delay real solutions that the market could and would provide.

Norm Miller is a professor and director of academic programs at USD's Burnham Moores Center for Real Estate.
Winter Break for Decline
In Area Housing Prices

BY NED RANDOLPH | Staff Writer
San Diego home prices did a funny thing in late winter. They stabilized.
Median home prices were unchanged at $385,000 in February and March, even as sales volume increased, according to MDA DataQuick, a La Jolla-based research firm.
Analysts caution there is still a glut of unsold foreclosures that banks have yet to list for sale, which is likely to keep prices low.
Also, so-called jumbo loans, or loans above $417,000, have yet to return, leaving many buyers unable to shop in more expensive neighborhoods.
Homes in older, more costly neighborhoods have come down in value by half as much as homes in newer, more affordable neighborhoods, said DataQuick president John Walsh.
Most sales are in lower-priced, distressed neighborhoods, which will continue to drive the market until Jumbo financing becomes more widely available, said Walsh, who predicted that event as early as summer.
"Of late, the statistics haven't represented the overall market. Rather, to a large extent they've simply a reflection of what is selling — mainly distressed properties and homes in the more affordable neighborhoods," Walsh said.
San Diego saw 3,020 new and existing homes sold in March, a big jump from 2,473 sales in February and 2,108 sales in March 2008.

Usual Increases
DataQuick spokesman Andrew LePage said there are usually seasonal increases between February and March.
"Seasonally it's normal for sales to jump quite a bit, for example 30-plus percent between February and March," he said.
"Nothing unusual about that — you're just starting to pull out of the winter/holiday doldrums."

Foreclosure activity in San Diego increased in March, according to ForeclosureRadar.com, which is based in Northern California.
There were 3,192 notices of default cited in March, the first step in the foreclosure process; another 2,499 notices of trusts sales were sent and 862 properties sold at auction.
That's up from February, which saw 3,163 notices of default, 1,943 notices of trust sales and 1,276 properties sold at auction.
"We expect in general many stops, and foreclosures are likely up before they peak," said Norm Willey, University of San Diego Burnham-Moores Center for Real Estate. "There is an awful lot of lender inventory being held out of the market."

\[\text{SAN DIEGO BUSINESS JOURNAL} \]
\[\text{April 20, 2009} \]

"Seasonally it's normal for sales to jump quite a bit, for example 30-plus percent between February and March. Nothing unusual about that — you're just starting to pull out of the winter/holiday doldrums."

- Andrew LePage, DataQuick spokesman

Some of the nation's largest mortgage businesses such as Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, Wells Fargo and JPMorgan Chase say they increased foreclosure activity in recent weeks as moratoriums imposed by states expired and the Obama Administration's housing rescue plan spelled out incentives for lenders to reduce mortgages.
DataQuick will release first quarter statistics on San Diego foreclosure sales the week of April 20.
Regionwide, the firm said foreclosure re-sales accounted for 55.4 percent of March's existing home sales. It was even higher in February with 58.7 percent.

Cash-Only Offers

Brian Yin, founder of discount brokerage HousesWeb.com, says about half of his sales are in real estate owned by banks, or REOs and short sales, or sales where the bank might take less than what's owned on the property. And many banks will take cash-only offers over those involving financing.
"They're trying to write cleaner offers with shorter contingency periods," he said. "All-cash buyers are beating out traditional buyers, even if they're offering less."
Jumbo loans of more than $417,000 accounted for just under 40 percent of home purchases two years ago. Last month they accounted for just 10 percent.
Government-insured FHA mortgages, available to help home buyers in more affordable neighborhoods, are near record highs.
The FHA's mortgage made up 37.8 percent of purchase loans in March, compared with 21.1 percent in March 2008.
Jumbo financing is still too high for most buyers, says Miller.
"If they're way above spreads, Will we get back to the market by this summer? I hope so. It will likely come back in the next six months," he said. "That also means more volume and activity in higher price trends. Medians are going to shoot up like crazy, not because home values have gone up in value but because these homes are moving that have been dormant on the market."
New Policy on Short Sales Could Reduce Foreclosures

By Kate Berry
April 21, 2009

Trying to cut its losses, Bank of America Corp. has changed its policy on short sales, making it easier for borrowers to sell their homes instead of going into foreclosure.

Until a month ago, B of A and its Countrywide Financial Corp. had required that 10% of a home’s sale price go toward paying off home equity lines of credit before they would agree to a short sale. But Terry Francisco, a spokesman for the Charlotte company, said Monday that it changed its policy last month, agreeing to accept 5% of the sale price when there is no equity available to holders of the first or second liens.

The new policy “is based on the assumption that it is in the best interest of all parties involved to accept a short sale, as opposed to proceeding to a foreclosure,” Francisco said. “We believed that the previous policies set an arbitrary amount that did not take into account the savings derived from proceeding with a short sale.”

B of A expects the change to increase the number of short sales, he said, and even though it is releasing the liens, it reserves the right to pursue deficiency judgments against borrowers.

With foreclosure moratoriums being lifted in the past month, bankers are looking for ways to deal with an anticipated flood of distressed properties and are trying to determine which borrowers will get loan modifications and which will go into foreclosure.

Experts have long complained that the largest lender-servicers — B of A, Wells Fargo & Co., JPMorgan Chase & Co. and Citigroup Inc. — are also the most holders of second liens.

The four largest banking companies own 52% of residential revolving lines of credit, or $441 billion of loans in the second lien position, according to research by John Blank, senior managing director of Amherst Holdings LLC’s Amherst Securities Group LP. That includes $92.6 billion of second liens on their servicers’ books, she said.

Tom Kelly, a spokesman for Chase Home Finance, said it has a “disciplined process” for handling short sales with HELOCs.

The process includes determining if the offer is at fair market value, which may require a new appraisal, requiring that the borrower submit hardship information to determine their ability to contribute to the shortfall and investigating for misrepresentations and “non-arm’s-length transactions,” Kelly said. “This doesn’t happen every single day.”

Norm Miller, a professor of real estate at the University of San Diego’s Burnham-Moores Center for Real Estate, said 77% of foreclosures in California have second mortgages, most of them HELOCs, which often scuttle short sales.

There are other factors holding up short sales, including the commissions paid to real estate agents and mortgage insurance.

Some servicers have cut real estate commissions on short sales from the standard 6% to 3%, or less, experts said. To combat that practice, Fannie Mae adopted a policy March 1 saying the sales “may not be conditioned upon a reduction of the total commission” paid to real estate agents.

Matt McCabe, the president of Loan Resolution Corp., a Scottsdale, Ariz., company that helps lenders resolve defaulted loans, said servicers “put themselves in a position” to get a short sale rejected. “Some servicers were shying away from short sales because it takes so long and commissions were being cut, even though it saves lenders a lot of money.”

Rich Robin, the president and chief executive of National Quick Sale LLC, a Jacksonville, Fla., start-up that specializes in short sales, said mortgage insurance companies also are holding up the process, because the insurers take the first 25% loss on a short sale.

Experts agree that many servicers are ill-equipped to handle the negotiations that typically involve several lenders, a defaulted borrower and a willing buyer, who typically waits months before a package is approved. In some cases, short sale offers are rejected because the calculation for the property’s fair net value does not match the buyer’s offer — even if that offer is higher.

“Short sales have always been the last tool that servicers ever use, because they have to coordinate with too many stakeholders in the loan, and it takes a lot of follow-up,” said Cheryl Lang, the president of...
New Policy on Short Sales Could Reduce Foreclosures

Integrated Mortgage Solutions, a Houston consulting firm.

Servicers typically have a small staff with knowledge of short sales working out of the loss mitigation department, which is separate from real-estate owned specialists with expertise valuing properties. Many servicers "just don't have the technology and infrastructure to deal with short sales," Lang said.

Because the majority of short sales involve multiple lien holders, a buyer often waits at least 90 days before getting a response from a lender on an offer. In a rapidly changing housing market where prices are falling every month, many buyers are unwilling to wait that long and often walk away.

"The banks really need to get short sales done faster," McCabe said.

Some specialists said the government should not have given the largest lender-servicers money through the Troubled Asset Relief Program, because they were then unwilling to accept short sale offers and are waiting for the housing market to recover.

Tony Renzi, the president of GMAC Mortgage and chief operating officer of Residential Capital LLC, said servicers are starting to see "more flexibility from second lien holders," largely because of the sheer volume of foreclosures expected. "There's more of a recognition, given that the second lien would rather take something than see the property go through liquidation and have the second lien charged off. Getting something is better than nothing."

SourceMedia
Home prices still flat as
sales rocket 43 percent

Sights of stabilizing seen in lower end of market

By Roger Shawley
and Lori Welzalb

San Diego County home prices remained virtually flat in March for the third straight month, with sales of entry-level homes strongest, in the
clearing sign yet that at least the mar-
ter's bottom rung may have stabilized.

The county's median price was $298,000, unchanged from February and up $6,000 from January, according to the March DataQuick report. Sales dropped to 3,400, up 43 percent from a year ago, which was the biggest increase for any March in five years.

"The sales are the first thing that has improved to bring stability into the housing market, and there's a good reason why the sales are improving, and that's affordability," said

Esmail Abdil, director of Chapman University's Anderson Center for Economic Research.

"For all of Southern California, prices on the low end are probably near the bottom, if not there already. But at the high end, expect further price declines," Abdil said.

DataQuick reported that for all of Southern California, sales were up 52.3 percent from March 2008, prices were down 35.1 percent, and the median price of $298,000 was unchanged from February.

Still, industry analysts cautioned against declaring an end to the four-
year housing slump, in which the local median price has fallen 45 percent from the peak and 38 percent in the past year.

"It's a real sign, at least for now, of prices stabilizing," DataQuick analyst Andrew LePages said. "But it's too early to say."

LePage and other observers said they remain concerned about rising unemployment, an expected surge in foreclosures, weakness in the move-
up market and unsustainability of credit despite near-record low mortgage rates — 4.47 percent in last week's Freddie Mac mortgage survey.

For those who could get a loan, the average payment on March purchases throughout Southern California was $1,074, down from $1,141 in March 2008.

Norm Miller, a real estate professor at the University of San Diego, said he expects May and June to be "troubled months" if foreclosures increase after a period of moratoriums imposed by many banks. But he said the low rates argue for buying now.

"Prices may or may not go down more, but interest rates a year from now are likely to go up soon," Miller said.

Miller himself is searching for a

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Interest rates expected to be higher in a year

"Home prices have stabilized, and we're seeing lower sales on the high end," Abdil said. "But on the low end, there's been a reasonable amount of sales.

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Prices continue to fall
San Diego home resales up for 1Q, but still down from '08

By JEN LEBRON KUNNEY
The Daily Transcript

SAN DIEGO — Resales for attached and detached homes in San Diego County were up 22 percent from February to March, but it did not do much to help the year-to-date home sales figures.

Median prices for homes sold were down month to month, with detached homes falling 3 percent to $335,000 and attached units falling 5 percent to $275,760.

According to the San Diego Association of Realtors (SDAR) on Wednesday, the 2,257 homes sold last month brought the total number of homes sold in the first quarter up to 6,922, a 53 percent increase from the same quarter in 2008.

Despite the dramatic increase in sales last quarter, the total sales volume in dollars increased by less than 1 percent from $2.42 billion last year to $2.45 billion.

The low rise in sales revenue is likely due to steep decreases in median price within the past year.

The median price for a detached home sold in March 2008 was $440,000 compared to last months $335,000 — a difference of 26 percent.

This is 44 percent less than the median price in March 2007.

The median price of attached homes sold in San Diego has taken a more dramatic fall.

The median price of an attached home in San Diego County is down 41 percent from March 2009's median of $246,000.

Despite the median price being down, Tim Sullivan, President of Sullivan Group Real Estate Advisors, said the housing numbers show positive signs overall.

"Demand has been reignited," he said.

"The good news and the most important thing is that the first spike in the sand for a turn-around is that we start to see an increase in sales. And the reason we've seen that is because of that continual decline in pricing."

While an increase in home sales may take off some of the inventory on the market, last month's record high notice of default filings in San Diego County will likely result in more foreclosures and short sales.

"In 2007, we're going to be bringing foreclosures on almost as fast as we've been selling them," said Sullivan.

The foreclosures are coming from a different source than people unable to pay off loans due to their mortgages meeting at high interest rates, said both Sullivan and Tony Parker, chair of the Urban Land Institute's San Diego Tijuana District.

"You heard all the drama about subprime and all this other stuff we're now seeing a second bump on individual homes with the good borrowers with good credit with real mortgages are just going I spent $800,000 on this home and it's now worth $400,000? I've lost $200,000 of equity. Why bother they're just walking away," said Parker, who is also a principal at Encorpess Urban Developers.

Sullivan, conversely, thinks the spike is likely due to job loss — a factor that he said will play a major role in the recovery process.

See Resales on B5

Resales —
Continued from Page 18

"We're seeing foreclosures that are economically driven," he said. "People are losing their jobs to they stop paying the mortgage."

Job loss is the biggest threat to the stabilization of the housing market, said Sullivan.

However, he added that other factors for stabilization include consumer confidence and bringing down the amount of inventory in the market.

Many of the individuals buying lower-priced homes and foreclosures are investors. Some market observers think investment homes paid for in all cash cannot be a true gauge for recovery.

However, some local real estate experts, like Norm Miller, have said it is possible a floor could be forming as long as there are sales.

"It's not a place I couldn't own before and the investor can get a good return. That's two people who are happy," said Miller, who is the director of real estate academic programs at the University of San Diego.

Source Code: 200904090352

April 10, 2009

SAN DIEGO DAILY TRANSCRIPT
Housing Prices Level Out
San Diego Business Journal Staff

San Diego home prices did a funny thing in late winter. They stabilized.

Median home prices were unchanged at $285,000 in February and March, even as sales volume increased, according to MDA DataQuick, a La Jolla-based research firm.

Analysts caution there is still a glut of unsold foreclosures that banks have yet to list for sale, which is likely to keep prices low.

Also, so-called jumbo loans, or loans greater than $417,000, have yet to return, leaving many buyers unable to shop in more expensive neighborhoods.

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"Nothing unusual about that — you're just starting to pull out of the winter/holiday doldrums," he said.

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There were 3,892 notices of default sent in March, the first step in the foreclosure process; another 2,499 notices of trustee sales were sent and 662 properties sold at auction.

That's up from February, which saw 3,353 notices of default, 1,443 notices of trustee sales were sent and 662 properties sold at auction.

"I expect in general many starts and stops, and foreclosures are likely to go up before they peak," said Norm Miller with the University of San Diego Burnham-Moore Center for Real Estate. "There is an awful lot of lender inventory being held out of the market."

DataQuick will release first quarter statistics on San Diego foreclosure sales the week of April 20.

— Ned Randolph
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SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE

April 29, 2009

Home prices showed slower drop in Feb.

Don't assume rebound is near, analysts say

By Roger Shawley

SAN DIEGO Home prices showed slower drop in Feb.

April 29, 2009

Case-Shiller Home Price Index.

San Diego County's roller-coaster housing market is slowing its descent, according to the latest reading by the widely watched Standard & Poor's Case-Shiller Home Price Index.

February data released yesterday showed local prices down less than 1 percent from the previous month, the smallest such decline since 2007. Prices were off 60.5 percent from a year earlier, compared with a record 21.7 percent drop recorded last October.

As an index of 30 major cities showed prices were down 16.6 percent from a year earlier, the first time since January 2007 it didn't show a record decline.

But market watchers caution against breaking out the champagne and celebrating an impending rise in prices.

"No way on God's green earth," said Louis Galuppo, a real estate attorney and director of residential real estate at the National Association of Realtors.

"The San Diego market is slowing in its descent, and we're seeing some hope that the bottom is near," he said. "But there's a long way to go before the market is stable again.".

Case-Shiller report showed San Diego prices falling for the 33rd straight month, bringing them to the lowest level since July 2005 and off 41.4 percent from the peak in September 2005.

Case-Shiller analysts say that change, however, was in the range of 70 percent in the previous seven months. The index of seven markets the index has been the lowest 4 percent.

"The passing of seven months the index has been the lowest 4 percent," said the data.

"The market is still in a downward trend, but the rate of decline has slowed," said Galuppo.

"It's still a tough time to sell a home, but the number of foreclosures is decreasing," he said.

Galuppo said the decrease in foreclosures is due to the decrease in the number of homes being sold.

"The market is still tough, but it's improving," he said.

DataQuick analyst predicts new wave of foreclosures

has reported a similar trend, with median prices rising from $2,217,000 in January 2006 to a peak of $2,387,000 in November 2006 and falling back most recently to $2,386,000 last month.

But DataQuick's figures have also started to stabilize in recent months, with the median price rising from $2,386,000 in January to $2,386,000 in February and holding steady in March.

Galuppo said that with foreclosures expected to increase dramatically in the next few months, prices won't necessarily turn around and show consistent increases anytime soon.

"I think it's going to be a bumpy ride," he said.

It all depends on how much more buyers perceive as a bargain.

"We were projecting $600,000 to $100,000 of potential deals on the sidelines because they could afford to buy," Galuppo said.

"Now, they're sitting on the sidelines - they can afford to buy but are not looking to buy yet."
Forecast:

Unemployment could rise to 10% by next year

By THOR KAMAN BIBERMAN

LINDA VIITA — The economy might not return to normalcy until 2013 and San Diego's unemployment level may top 10 percent as early as next year.

These were a couple of conclusions offered at the Burnham-Moores Center for Real Estate's periodic breakfast on the University of San Diego campus Wednesday.

Ryan Ratciff, a USD assistant professor of economics, said the federal stimulus package won't begin to make a difference until late this year or early in 2010.

He added that while gross domestic product growth should return next year, the economy won't approach normal until about four years from now.

Ratciff said while almost all types of lending have declined, the securitized, especially mortgage lending, continues to be hit the hardest.

"But every single type of asset-backed lending has either gone into negative territory or totally collapsed," Ratciff said.

Ratciff said what is frustrating is while interest rates are low and real estate prices are down significantly, acquiring the debt often needed to make a purchase has become very problematic.

With the bank bailouts and other huge infusions of capital, ratciff said.

See Forecast on 2A

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Forecast

Continued from Page 34

say securitized lending will return — the question is when.

USD professor Norm Miller said he expects the commercial mortgage-backed securities (CMBS) market will return, but it will be a different animal when it comes back.

That likely means more regulations on the instruments than before.

Bank bailouts and other capital infusions may help jump start the economy, but putting large amounts of capital into the system has its downsides.

The speakers noted such flooding can lead to higher interest rates and major inflationary pressures.

Ratciff said this might mean searing prices, including for real estate, that could even double in relatively short order.

Miller said the clock is running and urged people who may need a loan for an acquisition, not to wait.

"With interest rates extraordinarily low (below 5 percent in some cases), lock in financing as soon as you can," Miller said. "This is a great time." Remember that good financing is more important than ever.

It may be a good time for investors, but the economy is in rough shape.

Alan Gin, USD associate professor of economics, said

USDT Index of Leading Economic Indicators for San Diego has shown a downward trend in 34 of the past 36 months.

"The drags we have seen in the past few months are the biggest drops we've ever recorded," Gin said.

Gin said about 37,000 jobs were lost in the 12-month period from February 2008 to February 2009 and predicted the current 8.8 percent county unemployment rate will hit 10 percent at some point before settling back down.

That means less demand for office, industrial and with so many out of work, retail space as well.

With permits for only 19 multifamily units pulled in the first two months of the year here, and former homeowners returning to the rental market, apartments could be the most stable asset class for investors.

"Apartments may benefit from low construction because it will lead to a supply problem," Gin said. "That 19 figure was down 53 percent from the comparable period a year earlier."

Miller said thus far at least, San Diego is bucking the national downturn in the apartment market because as few are being built here.

In contrast, he believes the downturn that has hit big box retail and many malls can't be avoided here.

"The good news is many of these properties are in big portfolios and the owners will be able to ride things out," Miller said. "The bad news is also that these properties are in big portfolios and are therefore may be subject to that much more risk when stores go under. We haven't seen this problem bottom yet."

General Growth Properties (NYSE: GGP) is a case in point.

The owner of the $800,000-square-foot Chula Vista Shopping Center and the 600,000-square-foot Otay Ranch Town Center has been struggling to stay solvent for at least the past year and its fate remains uncertain.

Real Estate Investment Trusts, especially those such as General Growth in the retail sector, can take a hit in a bad economy, but other REIT types may fare better.

Miller said he was encouraged by the success of a

ProLogis (NYSE: PLD) offering that successfully sold some 183 million shares at a price of $4.60 per share for about $1 billion.

ProLogis is a Denver-based industrial REIT that following its $2.6 billion acquisition of Catellus Development Corp. in 2005, reportedly became the country's largest REIT with an emphasis on industrial properties. Catellus, which itself was formerly owned by the Santa Fe Co., owned commercial and industrial property both in downtown San Diego and other parts of the city such as Kearny Mesa.

As for the residential side of the economy that started the big slide, Ratciff doubts the mortgage lending industry will ever return to what it was.

"It's kind of like manufacturing that way," Ratciff said.

biberman@eddt.com

Source Code: 30050415#Be
Local Economic Outlook is Bleak

Last Update: 4/30 8:35 pm

SAN DIEGO - An index used to gauge the health of the local economy was down sharply again last month, a University of San Diego professor announced Thursday.

The Index of Leading Economic Indicators for San Diego County fell 2.2 percent in March, according to Alan Gin, who compiles the index for USD's Burnham-Moores Center for Real Estate.

All six components of Gin's index were in negative territory.

There was a record drop in help-wanted advertising, and consumer confidence, building permits, local stock prices and the outlook for the national economy were also down, according to Gin.

There was also an increase in the number of people filing initial claims for unemployment insurance.

"The outlook for the local economy remains strongly negative at this point with no turnaround in sight," he wrote.

March's decline was the 35th decrease for the USD index in 36 months, according to Gin. It was also the sixth month in a row that the index declined by more than 2 percent.
Real estate experts debate effectiveness of government money in housing

By JEN LEBRON KUHNEY
The Daily Transcript

SAN DIEGO — Federal and state governments have pumped nearly a trillion dollars into the economy with billions flowing into the housing market.

When seven local real estate experts gathered at The Daily Transcript offices last week, they discussed how this money will affect the local market.

Norm Miller, director of real estate academic programs at the University of San Diego, said inflation is inevitable based on principles of macroeconomics.

"Eventually we're going to have inflation. Eventually we're going to have higher interest rates and that's going to lead to real estate being a good thing to own again," he said.

However, Alan Gin, professor of economics at the University of San Diego, said the state of the current economy may be able to absorb the cash flowing in without showing signs of dramatic growth or inflation.

But San Diego State University real estate professor Mark Goldman said growth is not necessarily needed to sustain a vibrant real estate market.

Guy Cesaro, president of McMillin Homes, said tax credits from federal and state governments has encouraged some buyers to purchase new homes. His company has sold six new homes. See Housing on 2A
Continued from Page 1A

homes in the past two months at one of his developments in South County.

"It's certainly increased traffic, especially from the first-time buyers," he said.

The problem is, though, that some interested buyers cannot get financing due to underwriting standards, Asaro added.

Dave McDonald, president of the California Association of Mortgage Brokers San Diego chapter, said one way to loosen underwriting guidelines is remove credit scores from the equation.

"To open up the market you have to get rid of credit scores," he said. "They've never been a great predictor of whether someone can pay."

No one at the roundtable voiced any agreement with McDonald except to say credit scores are not a "great" predictor but can still statistically predict whether someone can pay.

Additionally, McDonald said underwriting standards need to be loosened for the self-employed and for those who owe more on their mortgages than their homes are currently worth.

It was generally agreed that, socially, "we have destigmatized people who have the ability to pay their mortgages but don't because they feel they're upside down," Goldman said.

Additionally, Alan Nevin, director of economic research for MarketPointe Realty Advisors, said those who are late on payments have an easier time refinancing.

Goldman said while the first reaction to those who are delinquent on payments is that they are skirting their moral obligations, he said those obligations go far beyond the home purchaser.

"I think the loan universe as we know it today is an inverted pyramid and at the bottom of it, holding the whole thing up, we have the consumer," he said.

Following the consumer is a myriad of people like the loan originators, the mortgage bankers, securitizers, credit rating agencies and then the investors who bought into bad loans.

"There was so much hunger for this crap paper and nobody cared," Goldman said.

Now, like the companies the homebuyer is holding up, Goldman said the average consumer is waiting for a "handout from Uncle Sam" that is not coming.

HOPE Now was a program instituted to help troubled homeowners avoid foreclosure. But according to a report from CNNMoney.com, the program has only helped one homeowner avoid foreclosure so far.

jenifer.lebron@sddt.com

Source Code: 20090331cnq
Real estate experts’ crystal ball cloudy at best

By THOR KAMER BERNHEIM
The Daily Transcript

The status of the housebuilding and home buying market was the topic of a recent roundtable at The Daily Transcript office.

Alan Gin, professor of economics from USD University of San Diego, said by his accounts, permits were pulled for only 67 combined residential units in January and only 89 units in February. This compares with several hundred permits per month in the single-family and several hundred in the multi-family area, respectively, in a more typical month in a typical year.

Gin, realizing that resale inventories will need to be substantially reduced before new homes may be sold in any quantity, said he is still suffering some hesitancy among resale buyers despite the lower prices and rock-bottom interest rate levels. Still, he does see a glimmer of hope in improving sales numbers.

The San Diego Association of Realtors reported that sales in the first two months of the year were up by about 50 percent over the like period a year earlier.

The problem is that most of these sales are back owned or otherwise distressed, according to Norm Miller, Borromero-Moore Institute of USD director of real estate academic programs.

"The numbers are bogus. We are not distressed real estate sales," Miller said.

Mark Goldman, San Diego State University president of real estate, warned that back-owned inventories could triple this year, but Alan Nevin, MarketPoint Realty Advisors research director, said numbers can be deceptive.

"Mark, you are not legal. Be careful about what you are saying," Nevin said, adding, "If you are saying that there is a lack of recent sales, be careful about what you are saying.

Goldman added, "Mark, you are not legal. Be careful about what you are saying."

Aaro said, "Aaro said at the time of this writing he knew of only 10 houses under construction in the San Diego Valley. Of those, 20 were being built by McMillin.

He said the average price was about $200,000 for a product he referred to as a detached condominium.

We said six houses in the past two months. That’s three a month. That’s unprecedented absorption," Aaro quipped.

Aaro, Nevin and Andrew Murphy, Building Industry Association president, said those who believe we have too many housing units now are not students of history.

"There is going to be a housing supply crisis in about three years," said Nevin.

Murphy agreed. "We need to be producing a whole lot more housing. We’re not going to be coming up with 20,000 permits like we once did," he said. "This year we’ll do 1,000 or 2,000 only. There is a huge level of pent-up demand."

On another topic, homebuilders and the BIA have long complained about developer impact fees. Murphy and Aaro said high impact fees — even if they backed worthy projects — makes even less sense in a bad economy.

"The least you need to do is defer fees to the back end of the transaction," said Murphy.

"There has to be a menu," added Aaro. "We’re asking for deferrals for fees that we didn’t think were appropriate in the

Mark Goldman (center), San Diego State University

All photos by J. E. Wernick
first place."
So when do the experts believe the housing market will turn around? Many have said that since San Diego was one of the earliest communities to see a downturn, it should be the first to emerge.
Gin doesn't agree with that logic.
He believes the national economy will begin to recover by the end of the year, with San Diego following suit about two quarters later.
Nevin cautions that with so many possible economic permutations and combinations, his crystal ball is cloudy at best.
"We are at month 15 in this recession, and 16 months (in the early 1990s) was the worst we've seen since we've been alive," Nevin said.

Roundtable Participants

Cly Asaro
President, McMillin Homes Division

Alan Gin
Professor of Economics, University of San Diego

Mark Calabria
Professor of Real Estate, San Diego State University

Dave McDonald
President, American Dream Real Estate

Norm Miller
Professor & Director of Academic Programs, Burnham-Moores Institute, University of San Diego

Andrew Murphy
President, ERA San Diego

Alan Nevin
Director of Economic Research, MarketPointe Realty Advisors

Despite the shrinking economy and glut of inventory, roundtable participants agreed a "housing supply crisis" is coming in about three years.
When to Take a Bullet?
Sunday, April 19, 2009

As the heroic captain Richard Phillips reminded us when he offered himself instead of his crew to the pirates, sea captains, like all good leaders, are expected to sacrifice themselves and their personal interests to protect those under their command. What are other examples of leaders who have succeeded or failed to live up to this obligation?

Retired Navy Capt. Bob Schultz directs the master of science in global leadership program at the University of San Diego's School of Business Administration.

By his willingness to give himself up as a hostage to the Somali pirates, captain Phillips was certainly aware that he was subordinating his loyalty to his family, friends and Vermont community to his loyalty to his crew and the demands of his profession. But that is part of the ethic of his profession, as it is in the military, police and other professions. By his willingness to make that sacrifice, he also enhanced the stature of his family and community, and so in that sense, his selfless action was also an act of loyalty to those other groups who could conceivably have suffered from his action.

Founder and former director of the Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy at the University of Massachusetts at Boston, Elizabeth Sherman is currently adjunct professor at George Washington University's Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration.

As we reflect on captain Phillips's heroism, it's worth remembering an English woman from our colonial history who stood up for her beliefs and in so doing, became an icon for individual rights. Anne (Marbury) Hutchinson (1591-1643) challenged both the Puritan church and the civil authority of Massachusetts to limit the content of religious ideas and the right of individuals to assemble and discuss unsanctioned ideas.


Captain Phillips was heroic, to be sure, but he was doing exactly what ship captains are supposed to do, what they are paid to do, what they are expected to do. In that sense, he was not exercising leadership at all. Compare Phillips to Anwar Sadat. Going to Jerusalem was an extraordinary act of leadership. He knew he was putting himself at risk. He acted way beyond his job description on behalf of a most noble aspiration: peace. That's leadership, and he paid the ultimate price.
USD

The University of San Diego's Burnham-Moores Center for Real Estate added three committee chairs to its policy advisory board. Sherm Harmer, president of Urban Housing Partners Inc., is the chair of the executive committee; Charlie Abdi, principal at Finest City Realty Advisors, chairs the commercial real estate committee; and Joseph Anfuso, president of Florsheim Homes, is chair of the residential real estate committee.
First San Diego MicroFinance Summit Coming to University of San Diego

First San Diego Microfinance Summit to be Held May 7 at University of San Diego's Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice

Event to Highlight Area's Contribution to Local and Global Microfinance and Foster New Partnerships to Expand Microfinance Initiatives

Lynn McMullen, Executive Director of Peace Alliance, to Give Keynote

The first San Diego Microfinance Summit will be held on Thursday, May 7, from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice on the campus of University of San Diego. The conference, which will highlight the local and international work of San Diego’s microfinance organizations, is open to all interested parties. Lynn McMullen, executive director of the Peace Alliance and a longtime microfinance consultant and fundraiser, will give the keynote address. Registration is $25 for the general public and $10 for students and is currently open at www.admicrofinancesummit.org.

Microfinance creates economic opportunities by providing business loans and other business development services to entrepreneurs who lack access to traditional forms of credit.

"When I needed a loan when my business was just getting started I, of course, tried with my bank first but did not get approved," explained Oskar Thorvaldsson, proprietor of Dr. Clark Store (http://drclarkstore.com), a Chula Vista-based nutritional supplement business. "I somehow found out about ACCION and got my first $10,000. When the manufacturing plant of my main vendor was up for sale, I graduated from ACCION to CDC Small Business Finance and, with lots of help from my loan officer and intense negotiations between seller, lender and buyer, I managed to buy the company. It could not have happened without ACCION and CDC."

The goal of the summit is to promote the effectiveness of San Diego’s microfinance organizations by sharing stories like Thorvaldsson's and to promote collaboration across the area’s microfinance community. Partnering organizations include ACCIÓN San Diego, CDC Small Business Finance, Foundation for Women, Grameen Foundation, International Rescue Committee, Point Loma Nazarene University, Project Concern International, School of International Relations and Pacific Studies at University of California, San Diego, and the Ahlers Center for International Business at University of San Diego.

The summit features a series of panels with speakers from across the national and international microfinance sector. In addition to practitioners, local microfinance clients like Thorvaldsson will offer their thoughts on how access to credit provides them with new opportunities. Lunch will be catered by local restaurateurs who are also current microfinance clients. During the lunch buffet, participants will be able to network with representatives of the microfinance organizations on hand. In addition to food, there will be a marketplace where other microfinance clients will sell their wares and services. Among the expected vendors will be artisans, musicians and bakers.

The Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice at University of San Diego is at 3008 Alcala Park, San Diego. For directions and parking information, visit http://peace.sandiego.edu/about/directions.html.
Venue Change for Thursday's Economic Forum

Just a quick note for any of you who are planning to join us on Thursday for what promises to be an interesting discussion about the state of the local economy:

We've had such a great response that we need to move to a larger venue. We won't be having the event at Liberty Station anymore; we're moving to the University of San Diego's Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice, on the first floor.

The forum, "The San Diego Economy: Where Are We Really?" will feature some great panelists:

+ Financial advisor and Professor Piggington himself, Rich Toscano.
+ North County real estate broker and recent Nightline celebrity Jim Klinge.
Ryan Ratcliff, USD economist and regular contributor to UCLA's Anderson Forecast whose exasperating house-hunting experience I wrote about last fall.

I'll join these gentlemen on the panel and Scott Lewis will be moderating. The panel is scheduled to run from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Again, the forum will not be at Liberty Station. It'll be at USD instead. So please join us Thursday. Everyone's welcome.

Parking Information:

There is no charge for parking. You will be directed to the Lower West Lot. Shuttle service runs from the Lower West Lot with a stop conveniently located at the Front Plaza of the Institute for Peace & Justice. On street parking is available throughout the campus, as is a large, central parking facility a few blocks from the IPJ. Please allow extra time for parking.

Directions to the University of San Diego and a campus map can be found here.

We look forward to seeing you on Thursday at 6 p.m. If you have any questions, please let us know.

-- KELLY BENNETT
Fourth Largest Credit Union Reducing Number of Offices

North Island Credit Union, the area’s fourth largest with $1.5 billion in assets, is closing three branches next month as part of an ongoing cost reduction plan.

The San Diego institution has been downsizing in the wake of suffering a terrible 2008. The credit union lost $92.2 million due to a huge uptick in defaulting and delinquent loans.

The targeted offices are in Carlsbad, Vista and the Clairemont area of San Diego, says Geri Dillingham, now co-chief executive following the abrupt departure of longtime CEO Michael Mastak.

“The two newer North County locations had smaller deposit bases and were growing slower than projections given the economy,” Dillingham said.

The lease for the Clairemont Square office expires May 31, and will be combined with the Kearny Mesa branch.

The office closes May 13. The Carlsbad branch closes May 22, and Vista shuts down May 29.

Following the closures, NICU, which moved its headquarters to Kearny Mesa from Chula Vista last year, would have 13 offices.

Dillingham says 23 front-line workers and 22 support employees will lose their jobs as a result of the closures. Those cuts are in addition to 59 other workers who were laid off last year because of poor financial results.

After the closures are done, NICU will have 339 full-time employees, down from 365 at the end of last year, and a high of 440 full-time employees in June, Dillingham says.

As of Dec. 31, NICU had $100 million in capital, giving it a capital to asset ratio of 6.46 percent, which regulators regard as adequately capitalized.

During the year, NICU reported that its membership declined by some 2,000 members, but Dillingham says the bulk of those were auto loan borrowers who paid off their debt, and didn’t request other services.

However, she says NICU has been gaining 750 to 800 new members monthly.

Laptop Theft Hit Lenders: The theft of six laptop computers from Orange County accounting firm Vareneke Time Day & Co. has forced a few local banks to contact customers to tell them that important customer data was on the PCs.

Several San Diego banks called or sent letters this month to customers after lenders were notified of the theft that occurred in early March.

According to a sheriff’s report, the laptops were stolen from the first-floor offices of Vareneke in Laguna Hills.

Ron White, managing partner for Vareneke, would not disclose the names of the banks, but said all were notified of the theft, as required by regulation.

Some banks notified customers.

One bank offered security monitoring services free of charge for added protection.

California Community Bank said it told 126 customers that they could use a credit monitoring service for a year, paid for by Vareneke, of course.

Boerio Springs Bank also notified customers of the theft.

Another local community bank, 1st Pacific Bank of California, uses Vareneke as its auditor, but did not notify customers because management didn’t think the theft would result in compromising customer personal data.

CEO Ron Carlson said the data contained on the stolen PCs concerned mainly corporate bank data—not personal account data. He also said that since the theft took place, there’s been no evidence that any personal data has been made public or compromised.

The laptop data wasn’t encrypted, but it does require two separate passwords to access, bankers said.

After a certain number of attempts to access the data, the laptops automatically lock up and cannot be reactivated without a network administrator...

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OTHER EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, APR 15 - PANEL DISCUSSION
BREAKFAST AT THE BMC

A panel of distinguished academic experts from the University of San Diego will offer their thoughts and encourage questions and comments from you. Breakfast will be included. Organization: University of San Diego Information: Julia (619) 260-7699 www.sandiego.edu cost: $25.00

Where: Hours: 7:30 AM - 9:00 AM Where: Joan B. Kroc Institute, Peace and Justice, 5998 Alcala park, San Diego, 92110
WEDNESDAY APRIL 15
USD COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE BREAKFAST
A panel of academic experts will provide insight on the future of the commercial real estate industry following the stimulus package and how it will look once it recovers at this breakfast program by the University of San Diego's Burnham Moores Center for Real Estate.

- 7:30 to 9 a.m.
- USD, Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice, 5998 Alcala Park, in San Diego
- Cost: $25
- Visit www.sandiego.edu/breakfast
UCSD to showcase clean cars

On the Agenda
By Rebecca Go

Clean cars will converge on the University of California, San Diego for the Ride Clean Car Expo on Tuesday. San Diego products from PiHybrid, Power Gear, MindSpring, Spectrum Aeronautical, San Diego Gas & Electric and ICS Corp. will join vehicles from well-known brands Toyota, Ford and Honda.

San Diego Mayor Jerry Sanders presents his proposed fiscal year 2010 budget to the City Council on Monday.

The San Diego Highway Development Association hosts Eric Howe, the executive director of nonprofit Move San Diego, for a discussion on regional public transportation at noon, Monday.

For more information, visit sdbhda.net and click on "Announcements."

The City Heights Community Development Corp. holds a public meeting at 6 p.m., Monday, about the possibility of a Fairmount Avenue mixed-use project. For more information, contact 619-554-2526 or info@cityheights.org.

The National Human Resources Association chapter talks over the economy's impact on human resources at its monthly breakfast meeting from 7:15-9:30 a.m. Tuesday. To register online, visit humanresources.org and click on "Meetings & Events."

The Urban Land Institute San Diego/Tijuana discuss working out distressed vacant real estate deals in a panel discussion from 7:30-9 a.m. Tuesday. The event is sold out.

Research firm Beacon Economic holds its second annual San Diego Economic Forecast Conference from 8-11 a.m. on Tuesday. Featured speakers will discuss the federal stimulus and the future for the city and state. To register, visit beaconeco.com and click on "Events."

Connect spotlights the art and science of marketing in a down economy in its FrameWorks Workshop from 9-11 a.m. Tuesday. To register, visit connect.org.

The San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development hosts "Building Relationships for Sales Success" on Tuesday from 10-11:30 a.m. To add your name to the waiting list, visit sdchamber.org.

University of San Diego's real estate experts come together to discuss the future of commercial real estate — post-recovery and post-stimulus — at its Breakfast at the BUC event Wednesday from 7:30-9 a.m. To register, visit sandiego.edu/breakfast.

The Association for Strategic Planning chapter hosts National City Police Chief Adolfo Gonzales for a Tuesday talk on how he restructured his police department to better allocate resources. Advanced registration is closed for the 4:30-6:30 p.m. event; for more information, e-mail rkuhns@alarakhia.com.
USD REAL ESTATE FINANCE COURSE

Burnham-Moores Center for Real Estate at the University of San Diego presents a four-week course that will provide working knowledge about the four types of income properties and will help students underwrite the cash flows from each.

- Wednesdays, May 6-May 27, 6 to 9 p.m.,
- USD, Douglas F. Manchester Executive Conference Center
- Cost: $450
- Visit www.usdce.org/realestate
CONSTRUCTION CALENDAR

THURSDAY, APR 23 - CLASSES
CERTIFICATE IN LAND USE AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
Course participants will be provided case studies and input from seasoned land use professionals to help them better understand the mandated, complex, expensive and time consuming process that is part of every significant land use decision made in the San Diego region. Organization: University of San Diego Information: Monica 619-260-5986 monica@sandiego.edu Cost: No Details Available When: Hours: 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM Where: USD Douglas F. Manchester Executive Conference Center, 5998 Alcala Park, San Diego, 92110, Venue Phone - 619-260-4600

THURSDAY, APR 30 - CLASSES
CERTIFICATE IN LAND USE AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
Course participants will be provided case studies and input from seasoned land use professionals to help them better understand the mandated, complex, expensive and time consuming process that is part of every significant land use decision made in the San Diego region. Organization: University of San Diego Information: Julia 619-260-7699 julierose@sandiego.edu Cost: No Details Available When: Hours: 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM Where: USD Douglas F. Manchester Executive Conference Center, 5998 Alcala Park, San Diego, 92110, Venue Phone - 619-260-4600
THURSDAY, APR 30 - CLASSES
CERTIFICATE IN LAND USE AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
Course participants will be provided case studies and input from seasoned land use professionals to help them better understand the mandated, complex, expensive and time consuming process that is part of every significant land use decision made in the San Diego region. Organization: University of San Diego Information: Julia 619-260-7898 juliarose@sandiego.edu Cost: No Cost Details: Available When: Hours: 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM Where: USD Douglas F. Manchester Executive Conference Can, 5999 Alcala Park, San Diego, 92110, Venue Phone: 619-260-4600
THURSDAY, APR 23 - CLASSES
CERTIFICATE IN LAND USE AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Course participants will be provided case studies and input from seasoned land use professionals to help them better understand the mandated, complex, expensive and time consuming process that is part of every significant land use decision made in the San Diego region. Organization: University of San Diego Information: Monica 619-260-8386 monica@sandiego.edu Cost: No Details Available When: Hours: 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM Where: USD Douglas F. Manchester Executive Conference Cen. 5998 Alca Park, San Diego, 92110, Venue Phone - 619-260-4600
CLASSES
CERTIFICATE IN LAND USE AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
Course participants will be provided case studies and input from seasoned land use professionals to help them better understand the mandated, complex, expensive and time-consuming process that is part of every significant land decision made in the San Diego region. Organization: University of San Diego Information: Julia 619-260-7699 juliarose@sandiego.edu Cost: No Details Available When: Hours: 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM Where: University of San Diego Douglas F. Manchester Exec, 5998 Alcala Park, San Diego, 92110, Venue Phone - 619-260-4600
THURSDAY, APRIL 9
USD ENTITLEMENT COURSE
The University of San Diego's Burnham Moores Center for Real Estate announced a new course to "Uncover the Mysteries of the Entitlement Process." The course will cover the entitlement process, the political nature of land development, identification of stakeholders and case studies.
- Thursdays, April 9, 6 to 9 p.m.
- University of San Diego, Douglas F. Manchester Executive Conference Center, in San Diego
- Cost: $450
- Visit www.sandiego.edu/landuse
Denver D.A. to speak on using DNA evidence to solve crimes

On the Agenda
By Rebecca So

SAN DIEGO — Denver district attorney Mitch Morrissey comes to town this week to chat with the City Club of San Diego and nonprofit LEAD San Diego about the use of DNA in solving crime cases.

Morrissey was elected district attorney in 2004 and is nationally known for his expertise in DNA technology, applying such technology in criminal prosecutions and working to ensure that the science is admissible in the courtroom.

Biocom gives a crash course covering the biotech and pharmaceutical industries Monday from 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Topics will include an industry overview, history and getting a drug or diagnostic to market. To register, visit biocom.org.

CommNexus makes lemonade out of lemons with its panel discussion Monday on “Why NOW is the Best Time to be an Entrepreneur” featuring local celebrity Sam the Cooking Guy. To register for this 5:30-7:30 p.m. event, visit commnexus.org.

The first North American Building-Integrated Photovoltaics business meeting kicks off Monday in San Diego and runs through Wednesday. The summit brings together photovoltaic manufacturers, architects, designers, commercial real estate developers, large homebuilders, building engineers, roofing contractors, vendors, distributors and investors. For more information, visit info@ewninc.com/dpx.

CommNexus examines “How to Turn Ideas into Money” with Daily Transcript technology correspondent and author Phil Baker at its Tuesday program from 7-9 a.m. Registration is closed.

Carlsbad-based research organization Syntact holds a free educational seminar Tuesday for biotech, medical device and pharmaceutical companies. Topics covered at the 7:30-10:30 a.m. event include “CDISC Standards, the CRO and Client Perspective” and “Legal Representation in the European Union.” To register, visit syntact.com and click on “Events” under “News.”

The state Board of Equalization holds a free small business fair at the Handlery Hotel on Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The event includes tax seminars, re-registration, call 888-442-3675, or visit bee.ca.gov and click on “Free Tax Seminars” under “News & Events.”

The San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce kicks off two entrepreneurship training courses this week Tuesday and Wednesday from 8:30-9:30 p.m. Tuesday will cover “Enhanced Sales Training,” while Wednesday will cover “Business Development, Strategy & Process.” Visit sdchamber.org and click on “Chamber Datebook” for eligibility requirements.

The Pacific Safety Council holds a training course Wednesday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. for anyone having to package, ship, load or transport hazardous materials. To register, visit safetycouncilonline.com.

Biocom and PR Newswire team up for a webinar on the effectiveness of company blogging. To register for the Wednesday 10-10:45 a.m. event, contact Jane Booth at 858-720-0337 or Jane.Booth@prnewswire.com.

Global Connect, the Japan Society of San Diego and Tijuana, and the World Trade Center San Diego discuss technology transfer programs and relationships with Japan in a lunch panel event Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. RSVP by Tuesday at wtc.org under “Events.”

The Burnham-Moore Center for Real Estate at the University of San Diego kicks off a new course on Friday titled “Understanding the Maze of Stakeholders.” The course will cover the land use entitlement process and understanding the interested properties involved. Attend one class or attend them all.

To register, visit sandiego.edu/ee.

After a brief break, San Diego State University resumes its foreign policy lecture series Thursday at 7 p.m. with a discussion on Africa, Darfur and humanitarian intervention. For more information, visit sandiego.edu/ee.

The San Diego Software Industry Council hosts on Twitter as a business tool at its Friday program from 7:30-9 a.m. Learn how to extend brand presence, connect with people who matter, and leverage the channel for a positive return on investment. To register, visit sdisc.org.

The San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce features a policy forum Friday from 8:30 a.m. to noon on the importance of cybersecurity as a public-private sector concern. To register, visit sdchamber.org.

The City Club of San Diego and LEAD San Diego hear from Denver district attorney Mitch Morrissey at its Friday luncheon at noon. To reserve a spot, call 619-487-
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 124.4 in February 2008.
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School of Law
Here It Is: The 2009 U.S. News Law-School Ranking

One piece of advice we got before applying to law school was this: Go to the best law school you get into. For us, that just meant applying to a whole bunch and going to the one rated highest on the U.S. News & World Report's annual rankings. (To end the suspense: We got into a bunch, got rejected from a bunch, and went off to the University of Michigan, which, at the time (1993), was ranked seventh.)

Since that time, if anything, the U.S. News rankings for law schools have only increased in visibility and, we'd argue, importance. Sure, like any ranking, they're imperfect; anyone with a college statistics course under his or her belt can quibble at length with the methodology. And some have quite impressively detailed the length to which schools game the system. Still, much to the chagrin of law school deans and faculties, the rankings matter — to students and hiring partners and judges and others — and in our opinion they'll continue to matter so long as 1) a more visible and reliable ranking fails to emerge and 2) the practice of law remains a profession that trades so heavily on status, prestige and pedigree.


According to Bob Morse, the director of data research for the magazine, the staff made several changes to the methodology this year. For starters, in the main law school rankings, the staff combined admissions data for full and part-time students. "In the past, we'd just used full-time," said Morse. "But some schools we think were gaming the system. There were some part-time programs that were set up just for US News reporting purposes."

Other changes made by Morse and his crew:

Traditionally, when calculating post-graduate placement rates, the staff lumped those students who weren't looking for a job in with those students who were but were still unemployed. That was changed for this year. "We just didn't count those who aren't looking as part of the calculations," says Morse.

The staff changed the timing of the bar-passage rate calculation. Instead of examining two half-years: or a split between the winter of one year and the summer of the following year, for this year's survey, the magazine looked at one full calendar year — in this instance, 2007.

For the reputation surveys sent to lawyers and judges, the staff used a calculation aggregated over the last two years, rather than just using a one-year snapshot. "We tried to reduce any volatility caused by having a low response rate in one year or another."

Rounding it all out was Kenneth Terrell, the magazine's education editor. He told us that among all the professional-school rankings, "law is the biggest lightning rod" for controversy. He explained that alternatives to the US News's rankings don't really exist, the way they do for business schools. "And frankly," he added, "if you go to a top law school, it can increase the odds of landing a prestigious clerkship and getting a high-paying job. It really has a significant meaning."

Want even more? The full U.S. News Best Graduate School Rankings, which which feature additional disciplines including business, education, engineering, medicine, among others, will be published Thursday, April 23 and are available at USNews.com.
USD ranked No. 61 among law schools by U.S. News
By DOUG SHERWIN

The University of San Diego School of Law was ranked among the top 100 law school in the country by U.S. News & World Report. USD was No. 61 in the 2010 rankings, which were released Thursday.

The school's part-time law program, meanwhile, was ranked seventh in the country by U.S. News & World Report, which just started ranking part-time programs this year.

San Diego's two other law schools also were ranked for their part-time programs.

Thomas Jefferson School of Law was No. 49, while California Western School of Law ranked No. 52. Additionally, USD's tax law program was ranked No. 11 in the nation, just behind Stanford and two spots ahead of Columbia. Among graduate tax program, USD was seventh, the highest ranking for a school west of the Mississippi. The special rankings were compiled by using votes from faculty members.
Local law schools' part-time programs among best in country
By DOUG SHERWIN, The Daily Transcript

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Source Code: 20090423czh
UCSD chancellor addresses Cal Western graduates

Law Briefs
By Doug Sherwin

University of California, San Diego Chancellor Marye Anne Fox addressed California Western School of Law graduates Monday during its spring commencement ceremony at the Spreckels Organ Pavilion in Balboa Park.

A total of 179 degrees were awarded, with 163 candidates receiving the Juris Doctor (J.D.), including one obtaining a dual J.D. and M.B.A., and two obtaining a joint J.D. and M.S.W., as well as nine receiving the Master of Comparative Law/Master of Laws in Comparative Law (M.C.L./M.L.M.), and six receiving an LL.M. in Trial Advocacy.

Honorary Doctor of Laws degrees were awarded to California Western Board of Trustees Chair Kenneth L. Greenman (1971), Vice Chair Constance L. Clapp (1974), and former Board of Trustees chairs Roy M. Bell (1974) and professor emerita George N. Gafford.

Acknowledging California Western's mission to train lawyers to be problem-solvers in a helping and collaborative profession, Fox said, "You will now be able to contribute to the transformation of our society. You have chosen an honorable profession, which will make a difference in people's lives," she continued. "Work steadily and purposefully, and you will flourish." Source Code: 2009042828

Jennifer Severson was recently installed as president of the San Diego chapter of the Association of Legal Administrators (ALA) at its annual leadership dinner at The Prado in Balboa Park.

Severson, office administrator for Lewis, Forward, Hamilton & Scripps LLP, has served on the board of directors of ALA-SD for the past five years. She will serve as president through March 2010.

Severson also is an adjunct professor in the paralegal program at the University of California, San Diego (UCSD). She takes over for Lucy Frederick, human resources director for Seltzer Caplan McMahon Vitek.

Other board members announced at the leadership dinner include President-elect Martha Field, office administrator for Troutman Sanders LLP; Vice President Liz Mackers, office administrator for Casey Gery Schenk Francavilla Blatt & Penfield LLP; Secretary Leslie Kaine, legal administrator for The Marsham Firm APC; Treasurer Jeff Takout, office administrator for Goodwin Proctor LLP; Director of Vendor Relations Lynne Holmes, CLM, legal administrator for Richard Sooy & Associates APC; Director Yvonne Kilmer, manager of human resources & benefits for Procopio, Cory, Haynes, Schatz & Graf LLP; Director Anna Rushworth, human resources director at Higgins Fielder & Mack LLP; and Frederick. Source Code: 2009042829

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Mintz, Levin, Cohen, Ferris, Glovsky and Pepero PC is being honored today by the San Diego County Bar Association for its commitment to public service. The firm will receive the 2009 Service Award for Public Service by a Law Firm or Agency at the bar's annual awards/law week luncheon and celebration of community service.

Mintz Levin was nominated for the award by the Center for Community Solutions (CCS), a non-profit San Diego agency that offers sexual assault and domestic violence prevention and intervention services, serving over 30,000 women, men and children each year.

The firm's main telephone number (619-234-5700) and fax numbers, as well as employee direct dial telephone numbers, will remain unchanged. Telecommunications will be disconnected the day before the move, on Thursday at 2 p.m. and will be operational by 9 a.m. on Friday. E-mail communication will remain operational at all times. Source Code: 2009042831

The attorneys at Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC are moving to One America Plaza (600 W. Broadway, Suite 1100) on Friday. Their San Diego office is currently located at 707 Broadway.

"One America Plaza is one of the best buildings in downtown San Diego," said the firm's San Diego office head, Keith B. Schar. "We were pleased that they had the perfect amount of space for our needs."

The firm's main telephone number (619-239-8700) and fax numbers, as well as employee direct dial telephone numbers, will remain unchanged. Telecommunications will be disconnected the day before the move, on Thursday at 2 p.m. and will be operational by 9 a.m. on Friday. E-mail communication will remain operational at all times. Source Code: 2009042832
USD launches legal studies program

By DOUG SHERWIN
The Daily Transcript

SAN DIEGO — Law school isn't just for aspiring attorneys anymore. The University of San Diego is joining a select number of law schools to offer a legal studies program for graduate students and professionals who want to learn more about the law but don't necessarily need a law degree.

"It gives us access to another group of potential students that will enliven the classroom because of their experiences," said Kevin Cole, dean of the USD School of Law. "And it also will give us the opportunity to grow our course offerings in some areas, depending on where the demand in the (legal studies) program might come from."

USD officials said candidates who would be good for the program include journalists, marketing professionals, biotech researchers and financial advisers.

The program also could be helpful for doctoral students in other disciplines, like political science, economics and international relations, who eventually want to teach.

"The traditional J.D. (Juris Doctor) is three years," Cole said. "It's not for everybody. It's designed for people who really want to be lawyers, but lots of people seek graduate degrees with an eye on teaching in fields other than law and would like having an opportunity to experience a first-rate legal education that's tailored to a subject matter they're interested in."

See USD on 3A
Requirements for the Master of Science in Legal Studies degree can be completed in as quickly as one year or as long as four years. Full-time (9 or more credits) and part-time (8 or fewer credits) options are available, and students can start in the fall or spring semesters. The program will be offered for the first time this fall.

Legal studies students will be taking classes alongside J.D. students and taking the same exams as regular law students.

"One of the reasons it will be a competitive program to get into is because we can't alter the nature of the instruction in a way that would dilute the experience for J.D. students," Cole said.

Since applicants to the legal studies program don't have to take the LSATs, the American Bar Association prohibits them from transferring their units into an accredited J.D. degree program.

Legal studies students will be graded on an honors/pass/fail basis unless granted special permission to be graded on the same scale as J.D. students.

"I don't see any significant downside to it," Cole said. "It's an option people have been enthusiastic to have an opportunity for, so I think it's a win-win.

“When you have an enriched J.D. program, it's not like we're going to max out every single class (size-wise). We have room to satisfy another segment of our population."

Students in the program will be able to structure their classes to fit their particular need. There are only a handful of required courses, with at least two electives from the first-year J.D. curriculum.

Cole said the program would be beneficial for people in the high-tech or biotech industry who might want to get one year with a concentration in intellectual property issues.

"They'd have a better idea of what the law is and why lawyers think the way they do," Cole said.

Someone in the financial sector might want to take courses in corporate law.

Cole said administrators would see what courses draw the greatest interest and refine the program over time.

"This gives you a chance to immerse yourself for a shorter period of time to master a doctrine for a person who hasn't gone through the law school experience," Cole said. "We think a year's time is sufficient enough to see what lawyers do and why they do it."

Source Code: 20090428be
USD launches legal studies program
By DOUG SHERWIN, The Daily Transcript

Law school isn't just for aspirin...Atten...y's anymore.

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Former AIG chief executive Maurice (Hank) Greenberg told Congress on Thursday morning that as much as $50 billion in payments that AIG has made in the past few months to banks and other financial firms, including Goldman Sachs and Deutsche Bank, should not have been made. Greenberg believes the banks should be forced to reinvest some of those trading profits in AIG by buying the company's shares.

"The cash payments to CDS [credit-default swap] counterparties should never have occurred," Greenberg told a House oversight committee. Greenberg is not alone in raising questions about profits that financial firms have been making on the unwinding of AIG's derivative bets. Last week New York attorney general Andrew Cuomo said he was looking into AIG's trading records to examine whether the payments the company made to other financial firms were improper. (Read "How to Know When the Economy Is Turning Up.")

Also troubling: Wall Street veterans are complaining that banks and other investment firms — many of which are recipients of federal aid — may be taking advantage of the taxpayer bailout of AIG to boost their profits. "It seems very possible that the banks are forcing AIG to unwind its contracts at a premium," says James Bianco, who runs financial-markets research firm in Chicago.

AIG is in the process of unwinding its large derivative-trading book; in the past few months, it has terminated as much as $1.1 billion in derivative contracts. Traders say Goldman Sachs, Citigroup and others have either driven hard bargains with AIG or made specific trades that would benefit from AIG's problems. Those moves are exacerbating the losses at AIG and increasing the cost of the insurer's bailout. "There is an argument to be made that the recent profits at the banks are because of AIG," says Bianco.

Last month AIG said it had paid out about $50 billion to various financial firms to which it had sold credit-default swaps, which are insurance contracts sold to bond investors and others. When a bond defaults, a holder of a CDS has the right to be reimbursed for the loss by the seller of the contract. AIG was one of the largest sellers of such contracts. Much of the credit insurance AIG sold was on mortgage bonds, which are backed by home loans. As
more and more homeowners defaulted, many of those bonds plummeted in value, causing the holders of AIG's CDS contracts to request payment. AIG used money it had received from the government to pay off those contracts.

Now Greenberg and others argue that AIG should not have made good on many of those contracts. These critics say it should have been obvious to the sophisticated financial firms who bought that insurance that AIG had no ability to pay out on such claims. So when AIG ran out of money, buyers of its insurance should have been forced to settle those claims for a fraction of what they were due. Instead, AIG took money from the government and paid the claims in full. (See 25 people to blame for the financial crisis.)

"The plan to [liquidate AIG] has also been highly controversial and in some cases puzzling," Greenberg told Congress. "It would have been more beneficial for the American taxpayer if the Federal Government had ... provided guarantees to [AIG's] counterparties rather than putting up billions of dollars in cash collateral to those counterparties."

It is unclear how the payments AIG made to other financial firms could be clawed back. Unlike swaps, CDS contracts don't trade on an exchange. And trading partners can unwind those contracts at any time they like. What's more, a rule change in late February, to which AIG voluntarily agreed, gives the insurers trading partners more leeway to name their terms in the cases of bond defaults that trigger CDS payments.

"Wall Street firms make money when people are in pain," says Frank Partnoy, who once traded credit-derivative contracts at Morgan Stanley and is now a law professor at the University of San Diego. "I don't know if that is what is happening, but if the question is whether banks would converge on a dying body — the answer is, Absolutely."

See the top 10 financial collapses of 2008.

Cast your votes for the TIME 100.

Find this article at:
http://www.time.com/time/business/article/0,8599,1889149,00.html
The Bernie Madoff of the Jazz Age

Ivar Kreuger, the so-called Match King, used a pyramid scheme to become the financier to European leaders. And then the market crashed.

By Susan Berfield

**The Match King:**
*Ivar Kreuger, the Financial Genius Behind a Century of Wall Street Scandals*
*By Frank Partnoy*
*Public Affairs; 288 pp; $26.95*

It was the 1920s in America, the Jazz Age. Skepticism and fear had given way to postwar exhilaration. It was a time of stark ambition and little restraint, of excitable and credulous businessmen, bankers, and stock traders. It was the perfect place for Ivar Kreuger. He was a Swedish industrialist, a brilliant mastermind; a charming, secretive man who tapped American investors to create a pyramid scheme that overshadowed Charles Ponzi. By the end, Kreuger was one of the world's wealthiest and most powerful men.

Then it all came crashing down.

Frank Partnoy's biography, *The Match King: Ivar Kreuger, the Financial Genius Behind a Century of Wall Street Scandals* is an absorbing tale and a poignant reminder that every boom has its scoundrels. Partnoy, a professor of law and finance at the University of San Diego, manages to explain Kreuger's complex dealings without diminishing the tension of his dubious rise and inevitable fall. What makes Kreuger an even more fascinating subject is the indelible mark he left.

As the title suggests, he devised financial tools and tricks that are used to this day: off-balance-sheet financing and nonvoting B shares, to name just two. He was also inadvertently responsible for large pieces of the American regulatory system, including the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, which established the Securities & Exchange Commission and gave shareholders the right to sue for fraud.

Kreuger's assault on the U.S. began in 1923, when he was in his early 40s. By then, he had co-founded a construction company in Sweden (Kreuger & Toll) and, more important, built a match monopoly (Swedish Match). But his real ambitions were more grand. He wanted to be a global financier at a time when the leaders of struggling European countries were beholden to such men. His plan was to offer these leaders cheap loans in exchange for match monopolies. What Kreuger lacked was the money to lend them. For that, he came to America.

Like all great conjurers, Kreuger knew how to create an illusion. He understood how to entice the privileged by remaining aloof. He could appear confident at the worst of times. As Partnoy puts it: "He knew markets reflected emotions and perception. In finance, there was no such thing as reality." In short order, Kreuger founded a new company, International Match, and got Wall Street investment bank Lee, Higginson & Co. to sponsor a major bond offering. Kreuger promised huge returns, and investors took the bait. The money was loaned to Poland. He was on his way.

Kreuger lent hundreds of millions of dollars to France, Spain, Germany, and other smaller countries. Much of the money came from new investors drawn in by ever more complicated and lucrative offerings. But the profits from his match monopolies and the interest on the loans didn't cover these payouts. Kreuger constantly needed more cash.

By 1928 he had displaced Jack Morgan as the world's top financier. Kreuger was a confidant of President Herbert Hoover and on good terms with most of Europe's leaders. He owned mines, railways, and real estate, and had created a web of deceptions and obligations so arcane that only he saw how precarious his empire was.

Few raised any suspicions until the markets crashed in 1929. As bankers began asking questions, the Match King retreated to his Match Palace in Stockholm, where he would lock himself in his Silence Room and shift around what money he still had. In March 1932 a group of leading bankers who were exposed to his securities planned to confront him in Paris. Kreuger committed suicide the morning of the meeting.

Lee, Higginson went bankrupt. But investors didn't lose everything. After 13 years of digging, the trustee for the bankruptcy court recovered 32 cents on each dollar. And Swedish Match survived. As Partnoy writes of Kreuger: "He was a builder as well as a destroyer."

Ivar Kreuger, Bernard Madoff: Both of their schemes were shocking in scope and audacity. Both ran circles around gullible investors and inattentive regulators. And both left us dumbfounded when the truth came out. Partnoy gives us a rich account of the Roaring Twenties' most astounding confidence man. Now bring on the Madoff books.

Berfield is an associate editor at BusinessWeek.

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http://www.businessweek.com/print/magazine/content/09_18/b4129076680755.htm
Lessons from 'the greatest swindler in history'

Frank Partnoy’s recounting of the 1920s rise and bloody end of Ponzi schemer Ivar Kreuger serves as another cautionary tale of the recurring excesses of global finance.

By Francesco Guerrera

April 6, 2009

Memo to Bernard Madoff: Do not pick up "The Match King" in the prison library. Inmate No. 30193-A has time on his hands, but he will not enjoy reading about one of his predecessors in Wall Street's rogues gallery.

Non-films, however, will find Frank Partnoy's tale of the meteoric rise and fall of the Swedish industrialist who dazzled investors in the U.S. and Europe until his Ponzi scheme disintegrated after the 1929 crash, an enthralling narrative comes into its own. The author displays a vivid touch in describing Kreuger's successful rise out of the lowly Good & Stable match company and his attempt to dislodge J.P. Morgan from the No. 1 spot on Wall Street. But, as with all tragedies, a sense of foreboding pervades. Few readers will be shocked to learn that the market turbulence and economic distress caused by the great crash of 1929 deprived Kreuger of financial oxygen. His cascade of companies could no longer pay dividends and procure money for loans-for-monopolies deals.

Kreuger made money from money, offering hefty dividends to attract investors to the repeated share offerings from his companies. Each capital raising was used to pay dividends from the previous ones as well as for government loans: a classic Ponzi scheme with the added kicks of secret slush companies and false financial statements.

His plan for riches was suitably grandiose: to dislodge J.P. Morgan -- then run by John Pierpont Morgan's son, Jack -- as the lender of choice to governments in the Western world while building a global match-making empire.

For a while, it worked. As countries worldwide struggled to make ends meet in the harsh postwar economic climate, Kreuger, with a penchant for bribes, persuaded governments to accept loans from his corporate empire in return for national match monopolies.

But where did "The Match King" get the money to subsidize half the globe? Not from the humble business of making matches or his other, mostly failed, ventures into moviemaking, construction and commodities.

Kreuger made money from money, offering hefty dividends to attract investors to the repeated share offerings from his companies. Each capital raising was used to pay dividends from the previous ones as well as for government loans: a classic Ponzi scheme with the added kicks of secret slush companies and false financial statements.

In the process of swindling scores of investors, Kreuger's brilliant, if bent, financial mind came up with innovations still in use, such as no-voting "B" shares and off-balance-sheet vehicles.

But perhaps his biggest intuition was to exploit the U.S. public's craving for the Next Big Thing.

Here, Partnoy's narrative comes into its own. The author displays a vivid touch in describing the Swedish parvenu's successful efforts to infiltrate the upper echelons of U.S. finance.

Wishful-thinking bankers from Lee, Higginson & Co., a blue-blooded investment firm; a credulous auditor from Ernst & Ernst, a respected accounting firm; and the mass of gullible investors are compellingly drawn figures -- part accomplices, part victims of Kreuger's bold failure.

As with all tragedies, a sense of foreboding pervades. Few readers will be shocked to learn that the market turbulence and economic distress caused by the great crash of 1929 deprived Kreuger of financial oxygen. His cascade of companies could no longer pay dividends and procure money for loans-for-monopolies deals.

By March 1932, the 52-year-old Kreuger was an emotional and physical wreck, and aware that his enterprise was about to be uncovered as a massive fraud. His end was as dramatic as his life: Kreuger killed himself with a single shot to the heart in bed in his Paris apartment.

"The match king" in the prison library. Inmate No. 30193-A has time on his hands, but he will not enjoy reading about one of his predecessors in Wall Street's rogues gallery.

If you want other stories on this topic, search the Archives at latimes.com/archives.
A Triple-A Idea

The disease has spread," says University of San Diego law professor Frank Partnoy, in remarks to be delivered today at the Securities and Exchange Commission. He's talking about the sickness in financial markets caused by the federal government's decision to select certain companies to judge credit risk. Instead of a free market judging the likelihood that a particular bond will be repaid, regulation by the SEC and Federal Reserve forces market participants to use the government's hand-picked experts at Standard and Poor's, Moody's and Fitch.

Mr. Partnoy argues that the financial meltdown could have been avoided if these anointed ratings agencies had never slapped their triple-A seals of approval on collateralized debt obligations (CDOs). Without the comfort of AAA, investors would have wondered how they could possibly have evaluated the mortgages buried deep inside these opaque securities.

Virtually everyone who has reviewed the causes of the meltdown has concluded that credit ratings were a major factor. Yet most in Washington now claim the core problem is that issuers of securities pay the major rating agencies for their analysis. Regulators now focus on managing this conflict of interest, but they appear unwilling to address the much larger conflict of interest: To wit, that the major ratings firms assess the creditworthiness of the U.S. government, even as they depend for their profits on the special status bequeathed by the government.

Since 1975, the SEC has anointed a small group of firms as Nationally Recognized Statistical Rating Organizations (NRSROs), and money market funds and brokerages have no choice but to hold securities rated by them. To this day, the Fed will only accept assets as collateral if they carry high ratings from S&P, Moody's and Fitch.

We aren't urging the Big Three to yank the U.S. Government's AAA rating as a show of independence. But we are suggesting that the SEC and Fed get out of the business of dictating which firms may judge credit risk. By all accounts SEC Chairman Mary Schapiro has an open mind on this issue. She could do worse than consult her colleague down the hall, Commissioner Kathleen Casey.

In a February speech, Ms. Casey explained the essential problem, which has nothing to do with how raters get paid: "The rating agencies' conduct and performance was entirely rational, and quite similar to the market dominance and behavior of other companies that have enjoyed a similar 'most favored' status from the government, such as Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. Although many of their ratings turned out to be catastrophically misleading, the large rating agencies enjoyed their most profitable years ever during the past decade."

Ms. Casey proposed last year to eliminate all references to NRSROs from SEC rules, but it was never enacted. Recent events have only confirmed her wisdom. Peter Fisher at Blackrock argues that it's time to abolish the NRSRO designation for entire firms and instead allow individuals to become licensed to do credit analysis, like brokers and equity analysts. Mr. Partnoy argues that instead of relying on the failed ratings agencies, regulators should harness the power of the bond and credit default swap markets, which yielded more accurate readings on the default risk of firms like Bear Stearns.

Those ideas deserve debate, but the starting point for reform must be ending the government-created oligopoly in credit analysis.
The Peril Of Financial Linguistics

Apparently, 'legacy' derives from an ancient root meaning 'it wasn't my fault and should still get a bonus this year.'

Daniel Gross
NEWSWEEK
From the magazine issue date Apr 6, 2006

In his timeless 1946 essay "Politics And the English Language," George Orwell condemned political rhetoric as a tool used "to make lies sound truthful" and "to give an appearance of solidity to pure wind." Were he alive today, Orwell might well be moved to pen a companion piece on the use of financial lingo. Remember those toxic assets? The poorly performing mortgages and collateralized debt obligations festering on the books of banks that made truly execrable lending decisions? In the latest federal bank-rescue plan, they've been transformed into "legacy loans" and "legacy securities"—safe for professional investors to purchase, provided, of course, they get a bonus this year even though we lost billions of dollars.

Using the word "legacy" to describe phenomena that are causing financial carnage is "crazy," according to George Lakoff, a UC Berkeley professor of cognitive science and linguistics, because "legacy typically suggests something positive." More insidiously, the word is frequently deployed to deflect blame. Legacy financial issues are, by definition, holdovers from prior regimes. Word sleuths advise me that "legacy" derives from an ancient Indo-Aryan root meaning "it wasn't my fault, and I should still get a bonus this year even though we lost billions of dollars."

The (not so) Big Three auto companies routinely refer to the now-unaffordable pension and health-care commitments entered into by prior management as "legacy costs." (And why not? They've convinced us to regard used cars as "preowned." ) Citi CEO Vikram Pandit last month told employees that "we are profitable through the first two months of 2009 and are having our best quarter-to-date performance since the third quarter of 2007." Huh? Citi, currently connected to a taxpayer-funded multibillion-dollar lending tube, is "profitable" only if you ignore the losses it continues to incur on lending decisions made in the previous years—legacy loans made by legacy bankers.

In this new paradigm, a legacy, usually a gift, is a burden. A potential loss is spun as a potential gain. War is peace. See what I mean by Orwellian?

The legacy gambit is necessary, in part, because the prior nomenclature used to describe the stuff in question was so corrosive. "Toxic" is one of those words that is so negative that it's just hyperbole," says Jesse Sheidlower, editor-at-large of the Oxford English Dictionary. The phrase "toxic assets," used widely in 2009, was either a sign of admirable reality, or an attempt to scare people into action. A middle ground of sorts was reached last fall when then-Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson rolled out the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP). Of course, calling some of those mortgage assets troubled was a little like calling Charles Manson a troubled person.

In trying to rebrand dodgy financial instruments, Treasury secretaries like Paulson and Timothy Geithner are continuing a recent tradition. So much of the finance sector's innovation in the past 30 years, it seems, wasn't developing new stuff, but rather developing new ways of talking about preexisting stuff. In the 1980s, labeling risky debt offerings as junk bonds was an intentionally ironic feint (pros knew that the instruments possessed real value). But as junk bonds went mainstream in the 1990s, they evolved into "high-yield debt"—their liability became an asset. Frank Partnoy, a reformed derivatives trader who teaches law at the University of San Diego, recalls that at Morgan Stanley in the 1990s, "we were constantly coming up with new acronyms to describe similar financial instruments. The goal: to present products, some of which had been discredited, in a more favorable light. At the height of the housing frenzy, I visited a large subprime lender in Irvine, Calif. These folks would have made a $425,000, no-money-down, negative-amortization loan to a 12-year-old presenting nothing more than Pokemon cards as collateral. Were they engaged in subprime lending? Absolutely not. This outfit, they informed me proudly, made "nonprime" loans.

The late senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan lamented declining societal standards in an essay entitled "Defining Deviancy Down." The language employed in the late credit bubble—let's rebrand it the Dumb Money Era—helped define solvency down. And words, even if they're thrown mostly by sophisticated professionals at other sophisticated professionals, can be just as damaging as sticks and stones. The people on Wall Street believed so fervently in their own rhetoric that they began to believe the financial houses on it. They changed the Kool-Aid through funnels. "If you call a mortgage-backed security AAA for long enough, you forget that its value could get cut in half," says Partnoy.

The problem isn't that words intended to change the conversation aren't accurate. Rather, the accepted terms turn out not to mean what people think they mean. Instead of helping to reduce risk, securitization—chopping up debt and distributing it—spread risk. Nonprime mortgages are frequently turned out to be subprime. A lot of high-yield debt turned out to be junk. This confusion over the meaning of financial terms, and the skepticism it engenders, may be the real legacy of the Dumb Money Era.
April 20: Statement – Partnoy on Oversight of Credit Rating Agencies

Location: Washington, DC  
Author: Frank Partnoy  
Date: Monday, April 20, 2009

The following is a statement of Professor Frank Partnoy, George E. Barrett Professor of Law and Finance, at the Securities and Exchange Commission Roundtable on Issues Related to the Oversight of Credit Rating Agencies on April 15, 2009.

I want to thank the Commission for inviting me to speak at this important roundtable. I have been writing about the deep flaws in our system of credit ratings for more than a decade, and I am grateful for this opportunity to share what I believe should be done to repair this seriously broken system. I am particularly grateful to be on a panel with Larry White and Alex Pollock, who I believe represent the majority views of economists and the private financial sector, respectively.

In my view, the central problem is not that the major rating agencies, particularly Moody’s and S&P, have been hopelessly incompetent, inaccurate, and conflicted in their assessments of credit risk, particularly in the structured finance area. All of those diagnoses are correct, of course. The recent performance of the major agencies is an embarrassment for our capital markets. But these are symptoms, and too much focus on symptoms ignores the underlying disease.

Instead, the key issue continues to be the overdependence on credit ratings. I have called the regulatory overdependence on ratings “regulatory licenses.” The idea of a “regulatory license” is just like any license – a driver’s license, for example. It is a permit to participate in some regulated activity. Rules that depend on ratings are regulatory licenses, keys that unlock the financial markets. One example is Rule 2a-7, which requires that money market funds buy only highly rated bonds. Another is the Talf. There are many regulatory licenses embedded in our state and federal laws and rules, so many that it is hard even to count or find them.

The disease has spread, like cancer. Today, private contracts, investment guidelines, and loan documents also depend on credit ratings. Market participants rely on credit ratings, even when they know better.

The result of overdependence on ratings is that credit rating agencies no longer play the role John Moody’s envisioned during the early twentieth century. They are not information intermediaries who survive and prosper based on the quality of their ratings.

Instead, they have shifted from selling information to selling regulatory licenses. The dysfunctional result is that they are no longer constrained by reputation. They can issue low quality ratings, but market participants still will pay for them. Indeed, they must pay for them, because of regulations that depend on ratings. Without a rating, many issuers will be locked out of the markets.

The overdependence on ratings began after the 1929 crash, and was furthered by the Commission, which since the 1970s has adopted various regulations that depend on ratings. After the Commission created the NRSRO designation, overdependence on ratings spread again the metaphor is a cancer – through our laws and regulations, and then through investment guidelines and private contracts. The result is
that the credit rating process is not just dysfunctional, but diseased.

What can be done? There should be two priorities, which I label "oversight" and "accountability." First, with respect to "oversight," there should be an independent credit rating agency oversight board, with authority not only over the substance of the ratings process, conflicts, disclosure, and pay, but also the much-needed transition away from regulatory reliance on ratings. This board must be truly independent, with separate funding and strict prohibition of rating agency involvement, and it should be charged primarily with encouraging substitutes for ratings, including both market measures and judgment.

Market measures are a particularly attractive substitute for ratings. For example, bond credit spreads and credit default swap spreads have been much more timely and accurate indicators of credit risk than ratings. There are many sources: Markit, Kamakura, and Ed Altman are prominent examples. The key is that these substitutes are based on market data, and are not insulated by a web of regulation.

Second, credit rating agencies must be accountable. Moody's and S&P have used an aggressive First Amendment campaign to insulate themselves from liability for behavior that would have led to damages for any other gatekeeper. At minimum, credit rating agencies should be treated like other gatekeepers, including bankers, accountants, and lawyers. When any gatekeeper commits fraud, breaches an agreement, or is reckless or negligent in conducting its business, it should be held accountable.

Unfortunately, Moody's and S&P in particular have been unaccountable. They participated in creating monstrous structured finance transactions that does not appear to be possible or likely, at least in the short run. The rating agencies should be held accountable as gatekeepers, and transactions related to ratings will resurface, and in a few years we will revisit another financial crisis dominated by highly dysfunctional ratings-driven transactions.

The recent financial crisis should, at minimum, produce these two reforms. If not, we will have suffered for no reason, the dysfunctionality related to ratings will resurface, and in a few years we will revisit another financial crisis dominated by highly dysfunctional ratings-driven transactions.

Thank you.

Overall Value: 4.40
CII urges oversight for credit-rating agencies

By Barry B. Burr
Source: Pensions & Investments
Date: April 15, 2009

A Council of Institutional Investors white paper has called for Congress to create a credit-rating agency oversight board to provide stronger oversight of credit-rating companies and also urging an end to the firms' exemption from liability, making them subject to civil fines under anti-fraud provision of securities laws.

The CII report also recommended a reduction in reliance on rating agencies.

"Alternatively, Congress could enhance the authority of the Securities and Exchange Commission to grant it similar power to oversee the rating business." The paper doesn't necessarily represent the views of CII members. "Most of our members believe credit-rating agencies should be more accountable and have more oversight," Amy Borus, CII deputy executive director, said in an interview. "Other than that, their views are all over the place. We don't have a policy on the issue" of credit-rating oversight.

"Credit-rating agencies helped to fuel the global credit crisis by failing to take steps to ensure that their ratings of structured financial products were accurate," Gregory Smith, general counsel of $36.6 billion Colorado Public Employees' Retirement Association, Denver, and a council board member, said in a CII statement about the paper. "Stronger oversight and real accountability for their actions will help restore the credibility of these financial gatekeepers." "Given the critical role that rating agencies play in the financial marketplace, the council commissioned the paper to elicit the pros and cons for investors of reforms that have been proposed for rating agencies designated as nationally recognized statistical rating organizations," the CII statement said.

Mr. Smith chairs the council's subcommittee on credit-rating agencies. Messrs. Partnoy and Smith participated in the SEC's public round table on rating agencies today.


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CII White Paper Urges Stronger Overseer, Repeal of Exemption from Liability for Credit Rating Agencies

WASHINGTON, April 14 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- The Council of Institutional Investors (CII) today released a white paper on the regulation of credit rating agencies that urges stronger oversight and accountability for credit raters.

The paper, "Rethinking Regulation of Credit Rating Agencies: An Institutional Investor Perspective," was written by Frank Partnoy, George E. Barrett Professor of Law, Finance and director of the Center on Corporate and Securities Law at the University of San Diego School of Law. Given the critical role that rating agencies play in the financial marketplace, the Council commissioned the paper to elicit the pros and cons for investors of reforms that have been proposed for rating agencies designated as Nationally Recognized Statistical Rating Organizations (NRSROs).

Specifically, the paper calls on Congress to:

- Enhance oversight by creating a new Credit Rating Agency Oversight Board or supplementing the authority of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to substantively regulate rating agency practices - including disclosure, conflicts of interest and rating methodologies - and reduce reliance on ratings.
- Remove rating agencies' exemption from liability under the Securities Act of 1933 and make NRSROs subject to private rights of action under the anti-fraud provisions of the securities laws.

"Credit rating agencies helped to fuel the global credit crisis by failing to take steps to ensure that their ratings of structured financial products were accurate," said Gregory Smith, general counsel of Colorado Public Employees' Retirement Association and a Council board member. "Stronger oversight and real accountability for their actions will help restore the credibility of these financial gatekeepers."

Smith chairs the Council's Subcommittee on Credit Rating Agencies. Both he and Partnoy are scheduled to participate in the SEC's April 15 public roundtable on rating agencies.

The 20-page white paper can be viewed on the Council's Web site, at: http://www.cii.org/UserFiles/file/CRAWhitePaper04-14-09.pdf The views and opinions expressed in the paper do not necessarily represent the views or opinions of all Council members.

The Council of Institutional Investors (CII) is a nonprofit association of public, union and corporate pension funds with combined assets that exceed $3 trillion. Member funds are major long-term shareowners with a duty to protect the retirement assets of millions of American workers. The Council strives to educate its members, policymakers and the public about good corporate governance, shareowner rights and related investment issues, and to advocate on members' behalf.

SOURCE Council of Institutional Investors
Out West, Winds Shift, But En Banc Dissents Might Be Here to Stay

Over the last eight years, the Ninth Circuit, a court historically known in equal parts for its left-leaning tilt and vast geographical reach, has been moving rightward. President George W. Bush appointed seven judges to the court. And the effective use of a once little-used procedure has allowed the conservatives greater influence on the court.

But now, President Obama will get the chance to shift the balance on the court back to the left. Two judgeships are vacant, a third is slated to open up next year, and a congressional bill could add six new judgeships to the court, bringing the number of active judges up to 35. Click here for a LA Times article from the weekend that provides a good snapshot of where the court is now — and where it's poised to go.

Still, according to the article, a renewed push to the left might not be able to blunt the impact of a tool used effectively by conservatives in recent years — the dissent from the denial of an en banc hearing. Conservatives have effectively used those dissents as a signal flare to the U.S. Supreme Court. The maneuver is used almost exclusively at the 9th Circuit.

Judge Consuelo M. Callahan (pictured), named to the court in 2003, said she believes dissent-from-denial opinions are an effective tool.

"I've heard from Justice [Anthony] Kennedy that they do not view dissents from denial, that it doesn't go unnoticed how many people signed," she said of the high court's decisions. "If I think a court has to be consistent in its rulings, which is why I put so much time and effort into the en banc process," she said, "and that I think we should be doing in correcting internal inconsistencies."

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Conservatives gaining sway on a liberal bastion

The U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals has been resolving disputes for 150 years in a region once prone to settling differences with pistols. Despite today's decorum, ideological gunfights still blaze.

By Carol J. Williams

April 19, 2009

Reporting from San Francisco — Marble columns, porcelain mosaics and Venetian skylights in the pastel James R. Browning Courthouse belie the rough-and-tumble origins of the West's authoritative law court.

Birthing in Gold Rush calamity and home of age on the frontier, the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals has been resolving disputes for 150 years in a region once prone to settling differences with pistols at high noon. If one looks closely at the bench in the main courtroom, there is a nick left by a bullet fired during the 1917 Hindu German Conspiracy Trial.

More recently, the nation's largest and busiest federal appeals court has been the scene of a more decorous battle between conservative and liberal jurists over civil rights, immigration, the death penalty and criminal law.

Conservatives have been gaining sway over a court for many years was widely perceived as one of the country's last bastions of judicial liberalism. Now, President Obama is about to start putting his stamp on the court, which is the last word on most federal legal issues in California and eight other Western states from Hawaii to Montana and Arizona to Alaska. Two judgeships are vacant, a third will come open next year, and a bill in Congress could add six positions to the court, boosting the number of active judges to 35.

Depending on the nature of Obama's appointees, they could arrest a conservative trend on the massive court, a shift that Chief Judge Alex Kozinski calls the 'regression to the mean' — a move toward what he sees as the national judicial mainstream.

That more conservative shift is one that Judge Stephen Reinhardt, one of the court's most prominent liberals, laments as an erosion of jurisprudence's human element. "I have have to have empathy. The law is not something you look up in a book and find the answer. If it was, we wouldn't need judges," said Reinhardt, who is critical of what he considers an overly 'proceduralist' approach by some colleagues.

Indeed, it is the effective use of a once little-used procedure — along with seven judges named by President George W. Bush — that has allowed conservative jurists to gain influence on the court.

The circuit courts have their own appeals process, known as an "en banc" rehearing, in which 11 judges can take up a case after a three-judge panel has already decided it. A court's active judges vote in secret to grant or deny a rehearing. If a rehearing is denied, a judge may write a dissent from denial.

Experts inside and outside the court say the conservatives have effectively used those dissents as a signal flare to the U.S. Supreme Court. The maneuver is used almost exclusively at the 9th Circuit.

"The en banc process is a mechanism for correcting panel opinions," said Kozinski, noting that with 48 judges available across the political spectrum, "it is entirely possible you'll get an outlier opinion from a three-judge panel.

Out of the 13,000 cases the 9th Circuit disposes of in a year, it is likely for lawyers write dissents from denial on no more than a few dozen, with the Supreme Court taking up just a handful of those.

The 9th Circuit these days is no more likely to be considered a "safe haven" by the Supreme Court than are other appellate courts, judicial statistics show. But the cases the high court does take, which often involve weighty constitutional matters, are potential to fundamentally change the interpretation of federal law.

Judge Consuelo M. Callahan, named to the bench in 2003, said she believes dissent-from-denial opinions are an effective tool.

"I've heard from Justice [Anthony] Kennedy recently they do look at dissents from denial, that it doesn't go unnoticed how many people signed," she said of the high court's radar.

Shaun Martin, a University of San Diego law professor and veteran appeals court analyst, believes the conservatives appointed by Bush to the 9th Circuit are especially active in calling cases to the Supreme Court's attention that offer an opportunity to undo some of the liberal judicial policymaking of the 1960s. The 9th Circuit has issued a number of decisions — known to stick in the craw of conservatives — that strengthened the rights of criminal suspects.

Bush's appointees insist they don't have marching orders from Washington to advance any high-court agenda — or the intent to do so.

Judges Sandra S. Ikuta, a frequent dissent-from-denial author appointed by Bush in 2006, said she was assigned simply "to do a good job and to follow the law."

One of the conservatives, Judge Jay S. Bybee, when he was an assistant attorney general, helped write memos guiding the CIA on how far it could go in using extreme torture while interrogating prisoners, according to Justice Department documents Obama released last week.

Some judges see the Supreme Court's inclination to review cases from the 9th Circuit as a judicial wrist slap for failing to fix its own legal misreads.

"I think a court has to be consistent in its rulings, which is why I put so much time and effort into the en banc process," said Judge Diamant F. O'Scannlain, just behind Kozinski as the longest-serving active judge among the conservatives. "We're not doing as good a job as we should be doing in correcting internal inconsistencies."

Called on to cite a few examples of recent decisions that needed correcting, O'Scannlain, with an I'm-glad-you-asked-that flourish, whipped out a list of 15 circuit cases from the last three years, all of which he had a role in bringing to the high court's attention.

Waddington vs. Sarausad, the 9th Circuit overturned a gang member's murder conviction, citing ambiguous jury instructions; in January the Supreme Court reversed the 9th Circuit.

In U.S. vs. Ressam, the Supreme Court tossed out a 9th Circuit decision to vacate the sentence of the "Millenium Bomber," who had targeted Los Angeles International Airport. In

In cases involving warrantless wiretapping, the reliability of DNA evidence and the government's right to maintain a cross on public land in the Mojave Desert, final decisions are pending.

Most of the 70-odd cases the high court reviews each term pique the justices' interest because they involve a key and contentious point of law, as much as church-state separation or the rights of defendants.

"They typically don't take your case to say, 'You did a great job!'" Molly C. Dwyer, clerk of the court, said of the high court's 75% reversal rate across the 13 circuits.

Reinhardt, 78, conceded the 9th Circuit remains the nation's most liberal — which, he added, "isn't saying much" considering the judiciary's shift to the right during Bush's presidency. Bush appointed 328 judges nationwide, replacing more than a third of the federal judiciary and leaving most circuits with majority-Republican appointees.

"The Republican right cares more about the courts than anything else," Reinhardt said of what he considers highly ideological choices since the mid-1990s. "That hasn't happened with Democratic presidents. Clinton had more appointments than Bush, but half of them were conservatives."

While the court has a number of strongly liberal or conservative judges, its center is sparsely populated, according to the confidential ratings of judges from both ends of the spectrum and lawyers who appear before them.
Kozinski, a libertarian, often sides with his more liberal colleagues on 1st Amendment issues, and Clinton appointees A. Wallace Tashima and Ronald M. Gould can also be ideological switch-hitters, according to their colleagues.

"I don't have a legal mission. My mission is to decide cases," said Judge Barry G. Silverman, one of Clinton's more centrist appointees. To be advancing a president's agenda "would be like asking an umpire if we can have more strikeouts today. I just call 'em like I see 'em."

Still, conservative legal analysts insist the 9th Circuit's track record and enduring image as left of the mainstream have created deformities in the justice system, such as "forum shopping" by plaintiffs.

Anna Nicole Smith's claim to triple-digit millions from the estate of her late husband, J. Howard Marshall, was hijacked from Texas to 9th Circuit jurisdiction through her filing with a federal bankruptcy court in Los Angeles, contends law professor Horace Cooper, a former Bush administration official who's now a senior fellow at the Institute for Liberty.

"I don't want a bankruptcy judge in L.A. to determine what Texas probate law is," Cooper said.

Beyond the highly charged ideological issues, the 9th Circuit's importance in the judicial system also reflects the cutting-edge intellectual property issues emanating from places such as Silicon Valley and Seattle, the preponderance of immigration cases in the Southwest, the backlog of death penalty appeals, and the sheer numbers of people, businesses and cultural and religious entities in the region.

In some judges' view, the circuit's vastness has its upside. Scattered among 17 cities, the randomly selected panels rotate among the venues, exposing judges to the diversity of the West's problems and issues.

On the road, most judges dine together on the first night of their weeklong panels. Despite the ideological gaps, the gatherings are described by all as convivial.

But appearances can be deceiving.

Judge Carlos T. Bea knowingly observed of the amicable atmosphere in which the strange bedfellows of the court conduct their business: "Don't mistake the necessary lubricant of civilization — good manners — with friendship."

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One doctor traded prescriptions for sex.

A pharmacist illegally popped pain pills while filling prescriptions.

And a dentist huffed nitrous oxide until he lost the feeling in his fingers.

They are among 46 doctors, nurses, pharmacists and dentists practicing in this area with records marred by substance abuse and, in some cases, criminal convictions, a five-month Bristol Herald Courier investigation shows.

Virginia shuffles addicted professionals through a five-year monitoring plan called the Health Practitioners’ Intervention Program. It’s a secretive program meant to keep participants sober and in the health care business, but it lacks the statistics to prove if it keeps working doctors off drugs and alcohol, or merely protects their careers.

There might be more area cases of addicted health care professionals who have remained beneath the public’s radar. State licensing boards keep some cases secret, even if physicians abuse alcohol or painkillers at work. Such addictions usually become public only after patients are endangered during a relapse.

Program supporters argue that secrecy is the only lure to voluntarily attract addicts. Otherwise, troubled doctors would battle addictions on their own, and lose. In the end though, the program pits the rights of patients against their doctors’ own medical confidentiality.

The Herald Courier uncovered 10 cases kept under wraps until repeated relapses forced licensing boards to intervene. Careers ended in half the cases. The others still work in health care.

One nurse abused oxycodone while working at a nursing home.

Another nurse, despite expulsion from multiple drug-rehabilitation programs, worked a year with an expired nursing license.

And a doctor continued his cocaine habit at the expense of patient care.

Backing them is a state law that allows health care workers great leeway before licensing boards deem them dangerous.

Secrets
Dr. Ram Singh traded prescriptions at his general practice in Norton, Va., for sexual favors and freely handed prescriptions over to patients with known drug addictions, a 1993 federal conviction revealed. He even penned fictitious patient names on prescriptions so police couldn’t trace the drugs back to his clients, state medical licensing records show.

The Virginia Medical Board yanked his license in 1997, three years after his federal prison stint. They gave it back to him two years later, and it remains valid, records show.

Unlike the secret cases, Singh’s drug history is known because he passed through a federal court, which keeps open records readily available to the public for the asking. He could not be found for an interview. A man who answered the phone at Singh’s home in Norton said he was out of the country and might not return this year.

Singh’s medical practice also could not be located, despite a Virginia law that requires doctors of medicine, osteopathic medicine and podiatry to list their current business addresses with the state’s Department of Health Professions. The address he provided the department eight years ago is no longer a medical establishment. The building is now the City Hall for Appalachia, a Virginia town that borders Kentucky.

Virginia law paves the way for anyone with a criminal background, such as Singh, to work in a licensed profession. Unless the licensing board determines that the criminal history poses a danger, applicants simply must be approved for the job. Child care and child-protection services are the only exceptions.

“What we look at in determining a physician’s fitness to practice is not only his or her technical skills, but whether that person jeopardizes not only the health, but the integrity, of the citizens of the commonwealth,” Steve Heretick, Board of Medicine president and a lawyer in Portsmouth, Va., said of the statutory guidelines.

State law also paves the way to keep an addiction secret through the Health Practitioners’ Intervention Program, which began in 1997. The program is Virginia’s main post-rehab monitoring system for health care professionals with drug or mental health problems, with oversight by the Department of Health Professions and monitoring by Virginia Commonwealth University. Professional licensing fees support the monitoring program’s roughly $2 million annual budget.

Most states fund similar programs, said Dr. Greg Skipper, who heads Alabama’s impaired physician monitoring program and authored a national study that tracks program success rates. Tennessee’s 31-year-old program is known as the Physicians Health Program. Only Nebraska and North Dakota lack such programs, while California abolished its 27-year-old program in 2007 after deeming it a failure and a public danger.

In Virginia, patients must undergo monthly, unannounced drug tests, stick with a rehab program, and follow any other medical board orders for five years. Usually, the monitoring program returns program participants back to work in their health care job six months after enrollment.

Retired lawyer and former Virginia state Sen. John S. Edwards, of Roanoke, proposed the law in 1997 that created the monitoring program after a legal client lost her nursing job over an addiction to painkillers prescribed following her own surgery.

“Virginia needed to do something like this for public safety reasons and to save careers,” Edwards said. “I’ve had more people tell me, who went through the program, that they don’t know what would have happened to their lives.”

Troubled health care providers can join the monitoring program without an alert going to a licensing board. Department of Health Profession investigators make the call of whether to keep the information secret based on whether the professional is deemed a danger to patients. Secrecy, program proponents say, is why the program works.

“It’s going to look like a safe haven, and you don’t get that if you go to the board,” Heretick said.

But this approach is questionable, said Jerry Flanagan, of the Santa Monica, Calif.-based Consumer Watchdog. He said the state board is choosing to remain ignorant about its own licensees.

“The weird thing about [the Virginia] program is that it’s keeping itself blind from the problem,” Flanagan said. “The board has a duty to know and a responsibility to make the decisions when to release the information.”

Escape

Before the monitoring program, drug-added health care providers had the option of signing into a rehab facility and risking discovery and discipline by a licensing board, or not seeking help at all.

Recovering addict and Big Stone Gap, Va., dentist Neal Davis contends that treatment, at the risk of exposure and losing a health care license, looks good only when death is near. That’s why secrecy is the best thing for problem-plagued professionals, he said.

Davis huffed nitrous oxide in the mid-1970s and quit only after a temporary loss of feeling in his hands. From there, Board of Dentistry records show a descent into alcoholism, and that he pilfered Valium and Hydrocodone from his office.

It wasn’t until 1990 that he decided his career had to take a back seat to his life.

“I’d probably have died from an overdose or a suicide” without some sort of intervention, Davis said. “This thing really had me … I didn’t know what to do.”

A grassroots, drug-recovery support group made up of Virginia dentists directed Davis into a rehab program. By then, Davis was desperate and didn’t care if his career was over. He was still in the rehab clinic when the Board of Dentistry received an anonymous call about his predicament. Instead of settling with hefty disciplinary action, the board helped monitor his recovery.
Even though the board worked with Davis, his case still made it into a public record because state law at the time did not offer health care providers confidentiality.

Now, even if a licensing board does learn of an addiction, it can send a person to HPIP and withhold disciplinary action—the trigger to make a case public. So, keeping addictions confidential is at the discretion of either a Department of Health Professions investigator or a licensing board.

"Really, what you do is protect the public by making sure the individual is identified and investigated, set for an evaluation and treatment, and continue with monitoring," said William Harp, executive director of the Virginia Board of Medicine.

"They [the Virginia monitoring program] will not OK a doctor to go back into practice until he or she is believed to be safe," he said.

Davis described the promise of confidentiality as the only safety net that can catch addicts, simply because the drugs blind the situation.

It was only after achieving sobriety that Davis could clearly deal his demons: "You reach a point where it doesn't work anymore. By then, you just want treatment," he said.

**Wants and needs**

Julianne D’Angelo Fellmeth, of the University Of San Diego School Of Law’s Center of Public Interest Law, describes such doctor-recovery programs as necessary evils—but only if they work. She headed a 2005 audit that exposed flaws in California’s recovery program and helped kill the program two years later.

Like Virginia’s program, the California plan ran on the premise that confidentiality would lure addicted doctors to recovery. Drug screens and close monitoring would keep program participants in check.

"It sounds good, doesn’t it?" Fellmeth said. "But what we found was that none of it was working like the medical board said it would."

Physicians quickly deciphered the timetables of the random drug tests and office inspections, Fellmeth’s study revealed.

Virginia’s program might have similar problems.

The addiction of former Abingdon, Va., doctor Patrick C. Wallace was a board secret until it involved patients. Months before losing his medical license in 2004, Wallace stole the very pain medication he prescribed for a patient, Virginia Board of Medicine records show. Wallace met the patient in a pharmacy parking lot, asked to check the just-filled bag of medicine, and pocketed one of the drug vials. The patient didn’t notice the vial was missing until after arriving home.

Still, one of the last straws for the medical board was discovering that Wallace might have used a batch of clean urine to cheat drug screens.

Wallace could not be located for this story. Internet phone records and a private background check list his home address as the Abingdon medical office where he used to work. Calls to a family member were not returned, and phone numbers listed for Wallace in Washington County civil and traffic court records are no longer valid.

Wallace landed on the medical board’s radar long before pocketing the patient’s prescription. On May 1, 2000, a drug-rehab facility diagnosed his problems with marijuana, cocaine, Hydrocodone and alcohol, board records show.

Months after that diagnosis, he contacted Virginia’s monitoring program, then a relatively new project. Wallace’s case eventually went to the Board of Medicine, where it remained a secret for more than four years.

The board deemed him a danger in early 2004, when state reports say he repeatedly responded late or not at all to hospital pages, forgot to follow up on patients’ tests results, and skipped a drug screen. Finally rousing the board’s suspicions, a report shows, was a police traffic stop that yielded a bag of urine in Wallace’s car.

A notation in an Aug. 14, 2004, report states that Wallace never had a witness present when he supplied urine samples for drug screens. His license was revoked the day of the report—four years after he joined the monitoring program.

Neither Wallace, nor any physician with a similar relapse history, will appear in the monitoring program’s statistics. No one tracks the numbers to show whether the Health Practitioners’ Intervention Program succeeds or fails for addicts.

"We’re not looking for a success rate. We’re doing it to return them back to practice," said Peggy Wood, intervention program manager with the Department of Health Professions.

It’s difficult to gauge how many HPIP participants relapse like Wallace and drop out. In addition to its addiction specialty, HPIP also monitors health care providers with mental health issues and possible medical impairments, such as diabetes, which gave one dentist the shakes when left untreated.

Numbers are broken down on how many participants complete the program each year versus those expelled. But the monitoring program does not further break down those numbers by addict, mental health and physical health.

HPIP reported an average 35 percent success rate for all of those categories from 2003-07. Again, the success rate includes participants who initially joined not just for addictions, but also for mental health and physical health reasons.

By comparison, Tennessee’s program, which treats addictions only, boasts a 90 percent success rate. Most state programs average a 78 percent
success rate, according to a national, five-year study released in November by Skipper, who heads Alabama’s drug-monitoring program. Both Virginia and Tennessee were included in Skipper’s study.

The remaining 22 percent either relapse and drop out of the program, retire from practice, move out of state without notifying licensing boards, commit suicide or die of an overdose or natural causes.

California Board of Medicine President Dr. Richard Fantozzi has relapse in mind when questioning whether any state licensing board should be in the business of monitoring addicts. California ended its monitoring program in 2007 after audits revealed loopholes that allowed doctors to stay in medicine for years despite chronic relapses.

“What are you, as the state of California, going to say? That it’s just a program and sometimes it fails?” he said. “That’s not a good answer coming from the state.”

Any idea of offering secrecy for doctors and other professionals who stick with the program is ridiculous, Fantozzi said, unless legislators can guarantee a perfect success rate.

California licensing boards still keep tabs on addictions by ordering problem doctors to join private programs. This way, the state is out of the addiction business, but still makes sure health care professionals are treated.

Patient rights

Health care insiders contend the key consideration to keeping an addiction secret lies in balancing a doctor’s medical confidentiality with a patient’s right to information about a physician.

Skipper, author of the national study, argues that medical privacy applies to doctors just as it does to patients.

“If a substance abuse problem is really a health issue, should it be possible for someone to be able to have information on all their doctor’s health problems?” Skipper asked. “That could be extended to every professional you work with: Do you have a right to know their health history, because it can affect their performance?”

Another philosophy is that patients don’t need to know. An American Medical Association report suggests that patients might lack the medical know-how to decide if a doctor’s drug addiction is relevant.

“... Such disclosure would place patients in the inappropriate role of having to determine whether a physician is safe, when the determination is most appropriately the responsibility of the profession,” the AMA states in its report “Physician Health and Wellness.” The manifesto first was issued by the AMA’s Council on Ethical and Judicial Affairs in 1992 and reaffirmed as an official position in 2004.

But health care critics like Dr. Sydney Wolfe, with the Washington D.C.-based consumer advocacy group Private Citizen, counter that such secrecy blatantly favors doctors over patient safety.

“We take the side of the patient — if you’re going to a doctor who has a drug or alcohol problem, you probably don’t want them to operate on you,” Wolfe said.

What danger signs

When it comes to labeling a doctor as dangerous, Virginia law leaves Department of Health Profession investigators and board members empty-handed. The board has not developed any guidelines on how to make that call. It’s left to the person in charge of either the investigation or the board hearing.

Flanagan, of Consumer Watchdog, finds the law too gray.

“You need an objective standard that is consistently applied, and that the public knows, so … you know what the line is,” he said.

Virginia law sets the bar high when labeling health care professionals as dangerous. There must be clear and convincing evidence of a violation — a stricter standard than the reasonable-doubt rule used in courtrooms.

“If you can’t connect the substance use with patient safety, then the connection fails,” the Board of Medicine’s Harp said.

An example of that high bar is found in the case against Dr. Olimpo F. Fonseca, who worked at a medical practice in Big Stone Gap, Va., when called before the board in 1994.

Scrutinized on allegations of over-prescribing pain medication, Fonseca admitted during questioning that he occasionally owned marijuana, an illegal substance.

Yet the board eventually concluded there was not enough evidence to prove his owning marijuana ever harmed his patients. The board dismissed the case.

Fonseca did not return multiple calls to his home. Telephone receptionists at the business he listed with the Department of Health Professions said he left the practice four years ago.
This high standard for bringing a disciplinary charge is also one reason that Dr. Singh, who served time in a federal prison for drug diversion, and others with criminal backgrounds are able to work in Virginia again.

"The board’s general thinking is that if a physician can be remediated, then he ought to be remediated," Harp said. "You don’t want to throw out the baby with the bath water."

Fellmeth, on the other hand, contends that boards need a specific limit for a physician’s chances at redemption. Otherwise, she argues, a drug-recovery program is little more than an excuse to avoid jail.

“How many bites at the apple are they going to get?” Fellmeth asked.

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Reader Reactions

Posted by (bmsgirl) on April 27, 2009 at 8:23 am

True...there are a lot of reasons that most people who need medical attention in this area can not get it, I call it a form of malpractice. To be charged all of that money and not even treated; almost as if you were taking car to have the breaks replaced and all they did was blow air on them. But I am concerned as to why this is just surfacing now? The statistics are a little outdated-hello, day old news cancel my subscription please.

Report Inappropriate Comment

Posted by (Jeff Hise) on April 26, 2009 at 9:26 am

Four test sites were chosen for a anti addiction drug not long ago. They were New York, LA, Florida and Bristol. Tells me alot and why if you truly need pain medication you can’t get it.

Report Inappropriate Comment

Posted by (tmullins) on April 26, 2009 at 6:08 am

Stuff happens, but in East Tennessee “ill doings” are called THE ACCEPTABLE STANDARDS OF HEALTH CARE.

http://www.wisecountyissues.com/?p=62

Horrifying care is called high quality care according to the Tennessee board of health licensure of hospitals, go figure.

Report Inappropriate Comment

Posted by (DMCT) on April 26, 2009 at 5:32 am

This is why patients can not get pain medication when they need it, not everyone is an addict—some really need it!! This also happens more than the public knows, Bristol is NOT EXEMPT!! Innocent patients have suffered (pain wise and even criminally) because of some “ill doings” of health care professionals right here in Bristol!!

Report Inappropriate Comment

Posted by (tmullins) on April 26, 2009 at 4:33 am

Now I see why the acceptable standards of health care are as disgusting as they are. No one is at fault for those “non-errors” that happen over and over and over in hospitals. East Tennessee and SWVA deserve better health care than what is deemed, defended and supported as high quality care.

http://www.wisecountyissues.com/?p=62

Report Inappropriate Comment

Page 1 of 1
CA Doctors Miffed at Medical Board’s Waiting Room Sign Proposal
Cheryl Clark, for HealthLeaders Media, April 13, 2009

California doctors may soon have to post the state Medical Board’s name, Web site, and phone number in their waiting rooms, so their patients know where to complain if they’re not happy with care.

Next month, the Medical Board of California will consider requiring any of the state’s 125,000 physicians who have waiting areas to “prominently” post a “large, clearly visible sign” 8.5 x 11 inches in 24-point type that says:

Medical doctors are licensed and regulated by the Medical Board of California.

www.mbc.ca.gov
(800) 633-2322

The Medical Board may allow doctors, especially those without waiting rooms, such as radiologists or pathologists, to notify patients in other ways, such as with a brochure or letter that includes similar wording, which could be sent with bills.

California would not be alone with such a posting requirement for doctors. Texas, Kansas, Georgia, and Idaho are among other states that have similar requirements.

“In my experience, many people do not know about the Medical Board of California’s existence or enforcement jurisdiction,” says attorney Julianne D’Angelo Fellmeth. Fellmeth was appointed by the board as “independent enforcement monitor,” a position created by the Legislature, to conduct a two-year examination of the board’s oversight process.

When they hear of a physician’s alleged misconduct, board investigators first look for court filings. “They routinely come across people who have sued doctors for malpractice but who have not filed a complaint with the Medical Board,” says Fellmeth, of the Center for Public Interest Law at the University of San Diego.

A physician’s failure to provide proper notice of the board’s authority could come with penalties or fines, Fellmeth said.

Medical Board member Mary Lynn Moran, MD, says she is likely to vote for a posting requirement. “If signage is required by cab drivers, it should certainly be expected of physicians to let the public know that they are held to a set of standards and regulated by the state,” says the Woodside plastic surgeon. “Consumers have the right to know that if they do not feel that their physician is acting professionally, that the overseeing licensing agency should be informed of their concerns.”

The exact language of the board’s proposed rule will be issued in several weeks, says board spokeswoman Candis Cohen. Before the rule takes effect, the full board will have to approve it, and then go through a regulatory process of up to six months.

Expectedly, some California doctors are not enthused.

Ted Mazer, MD, a CMA trustee, thinks the regulation “is a stupid waste of time. I think patients already know there’s a Medical Board,” he said. “Patients will see it, and say ‘OK. Whatever.’ But I don’t think they’ll remember that’s where they have to go if they have a problem later.”

But he also objects because he thinks the posting could encourage patients to report something to the disciplinary agency “that might be far more easily managed with a conversation with the patient.”

Mazer, a San Diego ear, nose, and throat specialist, also questioned Fellmeth’s motives. “Julie Fellmeth seems to feel that if she doesn’t currently have something to slap doctors in the face with, she should find something,” he says.

Mazer says he would only support such a requirement if health plans and others who make decisions about patient care as well as attorneys have to post such notices as well, referring patients to the Department of Managed Health Care or the State Bar of California respectively.

James Hay, MD, the CMA’s liaison to the Medical Board of California, also thinks the proposed rule is unreasonable.

“The doctor-patient relationship from the start should be based on mutual trust,” he says. Yet this proposed rule “does not seem to me to be a worthwhile thing to foster that doctor-patient relationship,” says Hay, an Encinitas family practitioner. If the Medical Board is supposed to educate the public, but hasn’t done it, “that’s the medical boards’ problem,” he says. “The Medical Board shouldn’t ask the physicians to do it for them.” There is enough legal room for such a regulation. A legislatively-mandated report last November by the California Research Bureau noted that a 1998 state law called for the Medical Board to require that doctors notify patients that they practice with oversight from the state. While many other California consumer protection agencies did pass such rules, including those that license architects, auto repair shops, pharmacists, engineers, surveyors, and pest control companies, the Medical Board has neither adopted nor proposed such regulations, the bureau report said.

That’s because of another 10-year-old law, which suggested doctors could satisfy the requirement by wearing a name-tag showing their type of practice and license status. Fellmeth says that view is now discounted. Besides,
wearing a nametag still doesn’t tell patients that the name of the agency to complain to is the Medical Board.

Fellmeth uses the example of the November 2007 death of rapper Kanye West’s mother, Donda, one day after being operated on by Los Angeles plastic surgeon Jan Adams.

“If Donda had known about the Medical Board and gone to the board’s Web site, she would have seen two medical malpractice judgments of at least $200,000 against Adams. He had been arrested and convicted twice of driving while intoxicated, grounds the medical board was using then in an effort to revoke his license,” Fellmeth says. Adams surrendered his license effective April 8.

The CMA currently supports a bill that would require health practitioners to disclose their license type and educational degrees, as well as their board certification. But the CMA bill stops short of requiring any mention that the Medical Board’s name, or its phone number be given to patients, Fellmeth says.

“If doctors voluntarily notified patients of the board’s existence, we would not need the regulation,” Fellmeth says. “But they do not. And it is the law.”

Cheryl Clark is a senior editor and California correspondent for HealthLeaders Media Online. She can be reached at cclark@healthleadersmedia.com.
Advice from Her Can Mean More Work for Her Husband

By EMILY ALPERT

An employee at the San Diego County Office of Education advises her boss on whether to retain attorneys for personnel cases, a decision that routinely leads to her husband's law firm receiving business from the agency.

Michele Fort-Merrill, who oversees the agency's human resources department, is married to William Merrill, a partner in Best, Best & Krieger, a San Diego law firm that frequently represents the county office. She has a financial interest in the firm of more than $100,000 annually through his income, according to state forms that disclose her economic interests.

When an employee is disciplined or other problems erupt with employees in the office, Fort-Merrill weighs whether or not an outside attorney is needed to help navigate legal issues, or whether human resources staff can handle the problem, County Superintendent Randolph Ward said in a recent interview. If she believes that lawyers are needed, she makes a recommendation to Ward, who then makes the ultimate decision on whether to hire an attorney.

Neither Ward nor Fort-Merrill specifies which attorney to use, Ward said. But BB&K is routinely used for personnel cases unless its attorneys lack expertise in a specific topic, Ward said. The county office does not have a written policy outlining the process by which attorneys are hired.

"It's been decided by history that Best, Best & Krieger would be used for disciplinary matters," Ward said. He added, "What typically happens is we would ask BB&K whether they have the expertise on a certain issue, and if we didn't feel they did, we would go to a different counsel."

The phenomenon is one in a spate of complaints raised in a recent lawsuit brought by former employee, Rodger Hartnett, who alleges he was fired for blowing the whistle on "a culture of corruption" in government business going to friends and spouses of San Diego County Office of Education employees.

While Fort-Merrill does not directly assign legal work to a specific firm, her advice helps determine whether the office turns to outsiders or its own staff to handle difficult issues — a frequent means going to her husband's firm.

University of San Diego public interest law professor Robert Fellmeth said that the practice would only be acceptable if Fort-Merrill had a much more limited role that involved no independent judgment in deciding when an attorney is needed, such as signing a form to formally request that the agency hire an attorney after an employee files a lawsuit against them. He cautioned that his opinion relied on the facts supplied by a reporter.

"If she is making decisions to invoke contracts with counsel and she knows that the firm generally hired includes her husband — there is a problem," Fellmeth wrote in an e-mail. "She influences the volume of business going to law firms — a substantial part of which inures to her husband's firm."

BB&K received nearly $688,000 in business from the office between July 2005 and July 2008 while Fort-Merrill oversaw human resources, according to documents Hartnett provided to voiceofsandiego.org. Fort-Merrill's husband has decades of experience as an employment and labor law attorney, according to the BB&K website, which lists him as one of only two attorneys in the firm who specializes in school labor relations law.

Ward said that there is no conflict posed by Fort-Merrill making the recommendation because he makes the final decision on whether or not to hire attorneys. He called BB&K "a staple counsel" and said that William Merrill, commonly known as Woody, had been hired by the agency long before both Ward and Fort-Merrill were employed there. He declined to comment on whether Fort-Merrill had ever recused herself from recommending whether to hire attorneys, saying it was too related to the ongoing court case.

"She is not involved in the decision to retain her husband's firm. I am the one that does that," Ward said. He added, "I've authorized the attorney. I authorize the company. There is no conflict with me."

But Fellmeth said that explanation falls short. "The 'approval' or 'review' by another official does not resolve the problem," he wrote in an e-mail.
Public officials are generally barred from making or helping to make government decisions in which they have a financial interest under California law. Being involved in the decision can include advising the decision maker. Roman Porter, executive director of the Fair Political Practices Commission, said that hiring, firing, promoting or demoting a spouse typically falls under those rules, and officials are generally supposed to recuse themselves from government decisions that could impact their finances, though the rules are complex and subject to interpretation.

Robert Stern, president of Center for Governmental Studies and former Fair Political Practices Commission general counsel, said he was unsure whether the practice posed a legal problem. He wanted to know how often the firm was chosen and how often William Merrill was the chosen attorney.

The San Diego County Office of Education was unable to provide documents last week showing how much was spent on the firm before Fort-Merrill got her position, how often it is retained compared to other forms, or how often her husband is the specific attorney retained.

If the firm were one of 100 that could be selected, Stern said he would be less troubled than if the firm almost always gets the work, as Ward suggested. Even if it is not a legal problem, Stern was uncomfortable with "the appearance" of the practice.

"It just seems like that's not the way it should be," Stern said. "She can't be making the recommendation to hire an attorney if she knows it's going to be her husband." He added in an e-mail, "If it is always or nearly always her husband's firm, I think she should not be participating even if the law allows her to do so."

William Merrill and Michele Fort-Merrill both declined to comment; Fort-Merrill referred questions to County Office of Education attorney Steven Cologne.

The San Diego County Office of Education helps support school districts by providing financial oversight, training and networking for educators, and technical assistance with new technology, among other functions. It also runs alternative schools for students in foster care and juvenile hall and for pregnant or parenting teenagers.

And it operates two joint powers authorities — organizations formed when school districts or other government agencies pool their powers to handle a common function. One handles legal claims brought against school districts; another buys benefits for school employees at a lower rate than the school districts could finagle on their own.

Both groups have faced recent allegations of conflicts of interest. The San Diego Union-Tribune recently reported that an employee who manages a retirement program for teachers and administrators boosted his salary by selling outside investments to the same clients.

The other is the focus of the ongoing lawsuit by Hartnett, the former employee who claims he "discovered and reported a culture of corruption within my department involving conflicts of interest and interpersonal relationships" that led to legal business being sent to friends and spouses of employees. He alleges that Fort-Merrill orchestrated his firing "because I had further discovered, exposed and reported what I reasonably believed to be conflicts of interest in her husband acting as general counsel."

Hartnett also claims he was fired for complaining about how business was rotated within a Joint Powers Authority operated through the County Office of Education that handles legal claims for school districts.

His suit highlighted the fact that two attorneys from one law firm, Stutz, Artiano, Shainoff & Holtz, have helped interview workers who would later oversee their billing. He also questioned whether it is appropriate for an employee to retain Stutz Artiano for his personal use.

A judge ruled last month that Hartnett should be given back his job and pay because the Office of Education's Personnel Commission failed to investigate his claims. The judge did not rule on whether those claims were justified, but said that the termination was invalid because the Office of Education did not follow the proper steps beforehand.

The Office of Education is appealing the ruling. It maintains that Hartnett was fired for negligence, insubordination and dishonesty, including discussing a confidential file with an outside attorney and lying about it.

The question of whether Fort-Merrill was involved in retaining attorneys, including the firm that employs her husband, came up during his hearing with the Personnel Commission, an internal body that weighs disciplinary issues.

Attorney Barry Vrevich, who represented Hartnett, questioned Ward about who recommended hiring an attorney for the County Office of Education for another hearing. Ward said that it was the human resources department and, when asked, clarified that it was "through Michele."

"Do you consider there to be anything improper about sending business to — the County Office business to spouses of employees?" Vrevich asked.

"I had that sole authority to approve any assignment of counsel," Ward replied.

Fort-Merrill was first hired by the county office in 1976 as a personnel analyst and resigned after several promotions in 1987. She returned to the agency nearly 14 years later as a human resources specialist and was tapped for her current post in 2005.

Please contact Emily Alpert directly at ealpert@voiceofsandiego.org with your thoughts, ideas, personal stories or tips. Or set the tone of the debate with a letter to the editor.
Charlene B. Thornton Named Special Agent in Charge of FBI Honolulu Division

Charlene B. Thornton has been named Special Agent in Charge (SAC) of the FBI's Honolulu Division. Director Robert S. Mueller, III appointed her to this position to replace SAC Janet Kammerman, who was recently appointed Associate Executive Assistant Director of the Human Resources Branch at FBI Headquarters. Most recently, Ms. Thornton served as SAC of the San Francisco Division.

Ms. Thornton entered on duty as an FBI special agent in 1979. Upon completion of training at the FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia, she conducted a variety of criminal, counterintelligence, and counterterrorism investigations at the Indianapolis and Los Angeles Divisions. In 1985, she was promoted to a supervisory position in the Legal Counsel Division at FBI Headquarters, where she assisted in the defense of the FBI and FBI employees. In 1989, she became Chief of the Legal Research Unit, responsible for providing legal advice and guidance to FBI executives and field offices.

Mrs. Thornton left FBI Headquarters in 1991 to return to the field. After three years supervising applicant, civil rights, white collar crime, and violent crime squads in the Baltimore Division, she was promoted to Assistant Special Agent in Charge of the Honolulu Division in 1995. While there, she managed all investigative programs and had primary responsibility for administrative management. She also oversaw the FBI's extraterritorial investigations throughout Asia and the Pacific.

In 1997, Ms. Thornton returned to FBI Headquarters as Deputy General Counsel, overseeing the FBI's legal training, forfeiture, and legal advice programs. She served in that role until 1999, when she moved to the FBI's Inspection Division. As an Inspector, she was responsible for overseeing comprehensive audits of the FBI's investigative and administrative operations.

Ms. Thornton was named SAC of the Birmingham Division in 2000. In that capacity, she directed all FBI operations in the Northern District of Alabama. In 2002, she assumed the duties of SAC Phoenix, responsible for all FBI operations in the state of Arizona. She served in Phoenix until 2004, when she was appointed Assistant Director of the Inspection Division at FBI Headquarters. In that role she was responsible for the oversight of internal investigations of employee misconduct, as well as for evaluating the FBI's investigative, financial, and administrative programs. In 2006, she was named SAC of the San Francisco Division.

Ms. Thornton graduated from Indiana Wesleyan University in Marion, Indiana, with a degree in Political Science and Economics. She earned a Juris Doctorate, with honors, from the Indiana University School of Law in Indianapolis, and a Masters of Law in Taxation from the University of San Diego Law School. She is a graduate of the National Executive Institute and is a member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police. In 2005, Mrs. Thornton was awarded the Presidential Rank of Meritorious Executive in recognition of her sustained high level of achievement in managing demanding and multifaceted FBI operations.
Honolulu gets new FBI agent in charge - Triangle Business Journal:

Honolulu gets new FBI agent in charge

Pacific Business News (Honolulu)

The FBI has named Charlene B. Thornton special agent in charge of the Honolulu division.

Thornton most recently was the special agent in charge of the FBI's San Francisco bureau, the federal agency said Monday in a news release.

She also has worked in that capacity in Phoenix, where she was responsible for FBI operations for the state of Arizona, and in Birmingham, where she directed FBI operations for the northern district of Alabama. She was appointed to lead the San Francisco division in 2006.

Thornton, who worked in Honolulu as assistant special agent in charge from 1997, also worked at FBI headquarters, where she most recently was the assistant director of the inspection division. She also was deputy general counsel and inspector at bureau headquarters.

Thornton is a graduate of Indiana Wesleyan University and has a J.D. degree from Indiana University School of Law and a masters degree in tax law from the University of San Diego Law School.

She succeeds Janet Kammerman, who was appointed associate executive assistant director of the human resources branch at FBI headquarters in Washington, D.C.
gathers energy experts to mitigate climate change

On Feb. 20, the University of San Diego's Energy Policy Initiatives Center (EPIC) and the Journal for Climate and Energy Law (JC3L) held the first annual Climate and Energy Law Symposium on the USD campus. Academics, government lawyers and private practitioners from around the country gathered to hear speakers discuss state and federal laws aimed at mitigating climate change.

California's Air Resources Board (CARB) Director Mary Nichols opened the event noting that the title of the symposium, "Federal Preemption or State Prerogative: California in the Face of National Climate Policy," incorrectly suggests that either a state or a federal entity is responsible. In fact, the answer is both.

With the change in Washington, California's own legislative scheme is not likely to change all that much. In her opinion, the likely outcome of any federal climate change law would not be to pre-empt state law, but rather a system of "cooperative federalism."

Under this "cooperative federalism" system, the federal government sets a "floor" of regulation, by marking the baseline level for pollutants that states must meet. If states want harsher regulations, they can pass more stringent laws, but there is no federal "calling."

Some commentators refer to this as the "laboratory" theory, from a popular opinion by Justice Louis Brandeis in the Supreme Court case of In re Air Quality, in which he referred to states as laboratories of democracy, setting both good and bad examples for federal law.

Chairwoman Nichol said that in her work as CARB's chair, she had the opportunity to see a state operate as a laboratory. What is needed, she said, is the federal government to step in and prevent a race to the bottom, in which the state with the lowest pollution requirements attracts all the industry, particularly when dealing with climate change since the pollutant operates in a global atmosphere. The federal government has to establish some sort of race-to-the-top, where states work to attract the jobs, federal money and the other benefits of supporting climate change technology.

University of San Diego School of Law Visiting Professor Richard J. Lazarus pointed out the largeness of creating regulatory schemes that both address and mitigate climate change without overly burdening the economy.

Borrowing a phrase from President Obama, Professor Lazarus said, "It won't be hard just for red states, and it won't just be hard for blue states. Mitigating the effects of climate change will be hard on the United States."

In waiting so long to act on the issue, stopping the harms would be impossible. Thus, hard is just too far along. At this point, the only solution is to mitigate them. And separate from the current climate change regulations, the process is needed to reduce the carbon-intensive lifestyles that have come from U.S. prosperity.

The process of making the conversion to a less carbon-intense society is going to be difficult, but there have been successful examples that follow, such as the Clean Water Act from the 1970s. As the Clean Air Act has to provide a real regulatory scheme to deal with climate change, new ideas are needed — including the potential of setting up a new body to deal with climate change.

"It is both daunting and exciting to craft a legal regime to address climate change," concluded Lazarus. But events like the symposium "give us hope" about crafting the solutions for the future.

Submitted by Andrew Adams for USD School of Law
Experts talk climate at Cal State

By Gideon Marcus

SAN MARCOS — The question is no longer whether human-caused global warming exists, but what humans can do about it. That was the message of the panel of experts that assembled for the “Tackling Climate Change” lecture at Cal State San Marcos on April 9.

According to the panelists, global warming is tied closely to “the greenhouse effect,” the property of the atmosphere that keeps heat from radiating out into space after the sun has warmed the Earth. The effect is a natural one and it keeps the planet in a tolerable temperature range. However, over the last century, mankind has pumped carbon dioxide through power generation and from the tailpipes of billions of automobiles. This CO2 has intensified the greenhouse effect, raising temperatures worldwide.

“The worry is not that there’s a greenhouse effect,” panelist Dr. Richard Somerville said. “The worry is that we're changing it. Better than one out of four molecules of CO2 in the atmosphere today are there because we put them there.”

Computer projections shown at

TURN TO CLIMATE ON 8

the lecture predicted worldwide temperature increases of more than 7 degrees Fahrenheit, which would shift global rain patterns and turn the subtropics into vast deserts. If things go on as they have, Somerville cautioned, the world will be virtually unrecognizable by the end of the century.

CLIMATE CONTINUED FROM 1

California, at least, is committed to keeping that from happening. The California state government passed AB 32 in September 2006, which calls for a return to 1990 greenhouse gas emissions by 2020. An executive order, signed by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger in 2005, calls for 80 percent reductions from the 1990 levels by 2050.

Getting there is the hard part. Current measures like the Pavley tailpipe emissions standards, a mandated 20 percent renewable energy portfolio for power companies and the low-carbon fuel standards for automobiles, should stop the rise of emissions but won’t bring them down.

“We can get it down to flat,” Dr. Nilimini Send, a panelist and energy policy analyst USD’s School of Law, said. “We’ll have to do a whole lot of small measures in order to get to that AB 32 target.”

This is where private industry comes in, business professor and panelist Dr. Jim Hamerly said. Hamerly acknowledged the government’s role in fostering research and generating plans, but said it will be for-profit businesses that drive emissions reductions.

“Unlike federally mandated programs ... my belief is that private investment does a much better job at measuring the economic viability of a technology or alternative and they do a much better job of ferreting out what works and what doesn’t,” Hamerly said.

Hamerly said that the amount of venture capital invested in “clean tech” has soared from less than $1 billion in 2005 to $8 billion in 2009. Hamerly cited the fact as proof that “clean technology” is reaching the point of profitability and therefore practicality.

Thanks in large part to these investment companies, some 220 startup “clean tech” businesses have sprung up in San Diego county alone. Hamerly said he expected the county to become an early stage hub for efficient technologies, much as it was for the pharmaceutical industry a decade ago.

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Sullivan Hill’s Carroll honored by Duke University

Law Briefs
By Doug Sherwin

Candace Carroll, an attorney with Sullivan Hill Lewin Raas & Engel, will be honored Friday with the Charles S. Rhyme Award by the Duke University Law School.

The award is presented to an alumna or alumnus whose career as a practicing attorney has demonstrated the highest standards of professionalism, personal integrity and commitment to education or community service.

Carroll is a life member of the Duke Law School board of visitors and is active in alumni affairs. She taught at the law school; represented the law school on the university-wide development committee for the recently completed and enormously successful financial aid initiative; and has been instrumental both in donating and in helping to raise scholarship funds for the law school.

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Each attendee will also be entered into a raffle to win prizes, including restaurant gift certificates and spa packages. Casino Night is YNLD’s signature event of the year and is sponsored by Asher Mediation; Casey, Gerry, Schaal, Franzese, Black & Pennfield LLP; Higa, Fletcher & Mack LLP; Jardine West; Peterson Reporting; Tamlesc Litigation Services; and Union Bank of California.

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School of Nursing
Building stress hardiness: Riding the wave in uncertain times

S
stress is not only pervasive in life, it is essential to it. For instance, without the stress of goals our hearts would weaken. However, when feelings of stress become overwhelming and chronic, the impact on physical and mental health can be substantial.

It is important to realize that it is not specific situations or events that cause stress, but rather our psychological response to these challenges that causes us to feel physical symptoms of stress (for example, increased heart rate or a feeling of tightness in the stomach).

We often cannot control the things that cause us to feel stress, but we can become more stress-tolerant; more able to respond to stressful events effectively. Stress-tolerant individuals are able to experience challenging situations without becoming overwhelmed. The image of a surfer being able to ride a great wave is an apt image of a stress-tolerant person.

In order to ride the wave, the surfer has to remain totally focused and present with the experience, paying attention to the body's position on the board, the direction and force of the wave, the presence of other riders. Allowing the mind to wander even briefly can result in losing the ride and being overcome by the powerful wave. Likewise, by remaining present and focused on our direct experience of a challenging situation, we are able to bring more skill and creativity to the present circumstance.

Unfortunately, we tend to get caught up in stories about the situation; imagining potential future disasters or remembering past difficulties. It is these self-generated stories that actually create a feeling of threat resulting in the experience of stress.

Stanford University professor Robert Sapolsky, describes in "Why Zebras Don't Get Ulcers," how mammalian (including humans) are "hard wired" physiologically to respond quickly to a perceived threat through a complex neurophysiologic process. When the brain identifies a threatening situation, the "fight or flight" response is activated resulting in a rapid release of stress hormones such as cortisol, epinephrine and nor-epinephrine, which in turn enables the body to either flee from or fight a threatening presence. This hard-wired response generally works well for mammals; for example, it enables the zebra to run quickly when it notices a hungry lion approaching.

Unfortunately, humans have the unique capacity to see imaginary lions lurking about (e.g. "My presentation will be a disaster and I'm going to get fired").

When the mind perceives a threat whether real or imagined, the stress response is activated. Allowing our mind to get caught up in frequent troubling memories or fantasies can lead to the stress activation switch becoming stuck in the "on" position. A chronically activated stress response results in high levels of circulating stress hormones that can lead to chronic health problems ranging from insomnia to cardiovascular disease.

Giving the mind a chance to tell the difference between a real and an imagined threat, allows us to push the "off" button of our stress response only when there truly is a threat present. Even if there is a "lion in the grass" and he's very hungry (e.g. they really are downsizing your department), we can respond more skillfully by dealing just with what's at hand and dropping the damaging stories that make the situation even scarier ("If I lose this job, I'll never get another").

It's easy to have our minds spin off in a hundred "what if" scenarios, often events that never happen.

Research has identified strategies that are effective in responding to stress by staying in the present moment and not being distracted by past or future thinking. Exercise, counseling and various mind-body techniques such as meditation, yoga and martial arts practice (e.g. Tai Chi) can improve our ability to respond when overwhelming feelings of stress come up. These strategies can produce relaxation and a heightened sense of well-being while also helping to slow down the worrying mind that just keeps the stress response going.

Learning to ride the wave of a challenging situation requires skill-building in stress management. We can learn to respond more effectively to what's happening in our lives with greater clarity and focus. We can become stress hardiers.
School of Peace
New challenges for Bersin on border

By David Shirk

On Wednesday, Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano announced details of her vision of the way ahead for coordinating U.S. border security in the Southwest. Among other measures, Napolitano signaled the appointment of Alan Bersin, former U.S. attorney in San Diego, as border czar.

This is Bersin's second time around as border czar, with some significant differences. When he was first appointed border czar in the mid-1990s, the Clinton administration was focused on resolving a perceived crisis of undocumented immigration. Bersin's latest appointment responds to current fears about drug trafficking and cartel-related violence. This time, instead of working simultaneously as a federal prosecutor, he'll be operating in the upper echelons of the Department of Homeland Security.

The new border czar brings to the position a unique combination of experience and connections. In addition to his new, high-level vantage point at DHS, Bersin brings valuable experience working in the Justice Department, and he has close ties to the State Department.

It was Bersin's connections to the Clintons that first brought him into public service. When Bersin was a Rhodes Scholar in the 1960s and early 1970s, he opted to study at Oxford along with Bill Clinton. Later, Bersin received a law degree from Yale in 1974, where he befriended Hillary Rodham.

In an Obama administration heavily laced with Clintonites, Bersin's formidable political and State Department ties could be critical in creating opportunities at the border, such as pushing forward the presidential permitting process in order to open and manage new ports of entry.

Bersin also brings to the position

Bersin appears to have ample support from Secretary Napolitano to bring greater attention and coordination to U.S. Southwest border security efforts.

According to a strong legal and prosecutorial perspective. He worked as an attorney beginning in the 1970s, and served as U.S. attorney from 1993 to 1998. He understands the need to focus on the criminal element through effective surveillance, investigations and the like.

As a longtime San Diego resident, Bersin also brings a strong understanding of the border region. In an article he published a few years earlier with the University of San Diego law review, Bersin described the border as the "Tercer Pais" or third country of NAFTA. Understanding the integrated nature of the border region — and its impacts for the larger North American community — is very important because of the enormous volume of legitimate cross-border traffic, which accounts for hundreds of thousands of legal crossings every day and some $300 billion in annual U.S.-Mexico trade, much of which benefits California.

Bersin has frequently championed the need to facilitate those vital flows by having adequate technology and infrastructure at the border.

The new border czar also brings a clear understanding that there needs to be collaboration between the United States and Mexico. He has developed very close ties to many of his Mexican colleagues, and recently he co-chaired a binational policy task force hosted at the University of San Diego along with the Pacific Council on International Policy. He's been working on this task force initiative for the past several months.
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By ELLIOT SPAGAT
The Associated Press
Sunday, April 26, 2009 1:22 PM

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By ELLIOT SPAGAT – 1 day ago

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Apr 23, 2009
Elliot Spagat - Associated Press

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Thu, Apr 23, 2009 PB Online

By Elliot Spagat
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The fate of the Arellano Felix gang also shows that the government crackdown is changing drug trafficking in Mexico from a discreet, disciplined business to an open public battle among smaller, less sophisticated criminals and to a bloody chaos plaguing the country.

"At least in the first two years, it hasn't led to smaller addictions to violence," he said. "The violence is increasing."

The arrests of other, smaller, but still powerful cartels, such as the Sinaloa, could help the government battle the Cartel de Jalisco Nueva Generacion, one of the first groups to revolt against Calderon's government offensive.

The violence has been driven by the rise of the Jalisco cartel, which has been able to expand its influence in the northwestern Mexican state of the same name, to the Gulf cartel based near the Gulf of Mexico and bordering the country.

The new Jalisco cartel boss is Roque Novelo who has become the new leader of the Sinaloa cartel, according to an army document dated February.

El Teo and The Engineer are hardly the leaders of the 1990s. The violence has grown since the 1990s, and the cartels have expanded their reach. But the government offensive has had some success, with the arrest of top leaders such as the Arellano Felix.

The apprehensions of Novelo and other top Sinaloa leaders have put pressure on the cartel, which has been forced to change its tactics. But the violence has not diminished, and the government is still struggling to control the country. The war against the cartels will likely continue for some time.
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Meanwhile, Mexican and U.S. drug enforcement officials closed up on the leadership. In 2002, Mexican authorities killed Ramon in a shootout in Mazatlan and, a month later, captured Benjamin, who remains in a Mexican prison.

After Benjamin's arrest, a key lieutenant already in custody opened up to U.S. authorities, according to David Herrod, a Drug Enforcement Administration agent who pursued the brothers for nearly 20 years.

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To capture Javier, the DEA planted a transponder under a yacht he used while it was at a Southern California dealership, said David Barick, his attorney.

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The split resulted from "a lack of leadership," said Duarte Miguna, who commands more than 2,000 troops in Tijuana. "It's very likely that the Engineer didn't command respect or legitimacy."

In the ensuing war, 12 corpses were dumped near a school in September, most either without heads or without tongues. Nine more headless bodies were found in an empty lot in December. The heads of three police officers were found with their credentials stuffed in their mouths.

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4/27/2009
The roots of Mexican city's violence: collapsing drug cartel, government on the war path...

ELLIO T SPAGAT
Associated Press Writer
12:22 PM CDT, April 26, 2009

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The fate of the Arellano Felix gang also shows that the government crackdown is changing drug trafficking in Mexico from a discreet, disorganized business to a brazen public brawl among smaller, less sophisticated criminals — leading to the bloody chaos plaguing the country.

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When the Arellanos dominated Tijuana — as fictionally portrayed in the Hollywood movie "Traffic" — there was a sense of order in the ranks. Cartel members were recruited from wealthy families and blended easily with Tijuana's elite.

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Other long-established gangs — from the Sinaloa cartel based in the northwestern Mexican state of the same name, to the Gulf cartel based near the Gulf of Mexico — are adding to the mayhem by openly battling for the Tijuana gang's once-secure cocaine and marijuana turf.

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Posted by bmeyer April 26, 2009 23:13PM

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Decline of a drug cartel

Mexico's Tijuana cartel has been weakened in recent years by increasing pressure from the U.S. and Mexican governments and competing cartels. The Arellano Felix brothers, once the most powerful and feared gang in Mexico, have been split apart. A top army commander says the powerful gang's warring factions are spent.

"They wore each other down," Gen. Alfonso Duarte Magica told The Associated Press. "They couldn't keep going at that pace."

To break down the country's other big cartels, Calderon is using the same strategy that put the Arellano Felix gang on the ropes. Drug violence throughout Mexico has claimed more than 10,700 lives since December 2006 - a sign, says Attorney General Eduardo Medina-Mora, that the government offensive is dividing and weakening the gangs as they battle for a tightening market.

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The fate of the Arellano Felix gang also shows that the government crackdown is changing drug trafficking in Mexico from a discreet, disciplined business to a public brawl among smaller, less sophisticated criminals - leading to the bloody chaos plaguing the country.

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When the Arellanos dominated Tijuana - as fictionally portrayed in the Hollywood movie "Traffic" - there was a sense of order in the ranks. Cartel members were recruited from wealthy families and blended easily with Tijuana's elite.

Now the four brothers who ruled it are dead or in jail, and the gang is run by Fernando Sanchez Arellano, a nephew in his 30s known as "the Engineer." He is at war with Teodoro Garcia Simental, a longtime cartel lieutenant of roughly the same age who broke away a year ago in a street shootout that killed 14 gang members.

Other long-established gang - from the Sinaloa cartel based in the northwestern Mexican state of the same name, to the Gulf cartel based near the Gulf of Mexico - are adding to the mayhem by openly battling for the Tijuana gang's once-secure cocaine and marijuana turf.

The Engineer's rival, known as "El Teo," is now allied with the Sinaloa cartel, according to an army document dated February.

El Teo and the Engineer are hardly the leaders of the 1990s, when Mexican cartels took over from Colombians as U.S. drug enforcement in the Caribbean and south Florida pushed drug routes to the U.S.-Mexico border.

In those days Ramon Arellano Felix was the enforcer who rode Harley-Davidson motorcycles and killed people for kicks. Benjamin Arellano Felix was the reserved businessman who dressed conservatively and, according to a 2003 federal indictment in San Diego, "had the ultimate decision-making authority."

The Arellanos killed anyone who stepped on their California-Mexico border turf, aided by corrupt Mexican officials. Their "chief enforcer" in the city of Mexicali, according to a U.S. indictment, was Armando Martinez Duarte, a former federal police official.

Yet the brothers tried to avoid violence in public, typically dissolving bodies in drums of chemicals or burning them in the desert, said John Kirby, a former U.S. prosecutor who co-wrote the 2003 indictment.

"Benjamin wanted things to be quiet," Kirby said. "He didn't want a bunch of bodies being thrown in the street."

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Alejandro and Alfredo Hoyos, San Diego-born sons of a Tijuana electrical contractor, joined Ramon at the best nightclubs and street parties. Their mother, Cristina Palacios, recalled that Ramon was wearing a mink coat and shorts the first time she saw him in 1987.

Ramon always paid for the beer, and soon the sons joined his operation.
Alejandro was 35 when he went missing in 1997. Alfredo, 36, is in a Mexican prison.

Palacios paused when asked what drew her sons to Ramon. "I think it was the adrenaline," she said.

But public acceptance of the Arellanos evaporated in 1993, when Ramon and a crew seeking to assassinate a rival killed Roman Catholic Cardinal Juan Jesus Posadas Ocampo in the Guadalajara airport — a case of mistaken identity.

Meanwhile, Mexican and U.S. drug enforcement officials chipped away at the leadership. In 2002, Mexican authorities killed Ramon in a shootout in Mazatlan and, a month later, captured Benjamin, who remains in a Mexican prison.

After Benjamin's arrest, a key lieutenant already in custody opened up to U.S. authorities, according to David Herrod, a Drug Enforcement Administration agent who pursued the brothers for nearly 20 years.

Arturo "Kitty" Paez, who in 2001 became the first Mexican drug trafficker to be extradited to the U.S. under a landmark Mexican Supreme Court ruling, gave authorities "the break we needed" to build a case against Benjamin and other top leaders, Herrod said in a public lecture last year.

He also helped lead them to the new boss, Javier, the youngest of the 11 Arellano Felix children. U.S. authorities intercepted radio communications of at least 1,500 kidnappings under Javier's reign, with most of the victims' bodies dissolved in acid, Herrod said. U.S. authorities say Javier had a drug-smuggling tunnel dug under the border that was longer than seven football fields.

To capture Javier, the DEA planted a transponder under a yacht he used while it was at a Southern California dealership, said David Bartick, his attorney.

The DEA persuaded the Coast Guard to watch the yacht for six weeks, Herrod said. The American cutter had finished its duty and was two hours up the coast when word arrived that Javier had left Mexican waters. By the time the cutter returned, its target was barely a mile beyond the 12-mile limit, making it legal to intercept the vessel. Javier pleaded guilty to drug charges in San Diego and was sentenced to life in federal prison.

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The split resulted from "a lack of leadership," said Duarte Mugica, who commands more than 2,000 troops in Tijuana. "It's very likely that the Engineer didn't command respect or legitimacy."

In the ensuing war, 12 corpses were dumped near a school in September, most either without heads or without tongues. Nine more headless bodies were found in an empty lot in December. The heads of three police officers were found with their credentials stuffed in their mouths.

Duarte Mugica says the warring factions are increasingly recruiting minors because they can't find experienced criminals. Some are paid only $400 a month to guard homes where kidnap victims are held.

The Arellano Felix cartel continues to suffer setbacks. Eduardo Arellano Felix, the last of the founding brothers, was captured in October. Other allegedly key operatives were arrested last year — Saul Montes de Oca as he prepared for the Baja 250 off-road race, and Gustavo Rivera in the beach resort of San Jose del Cabo.

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Categories: Court news, Crime, Latin America, government, safety

Comments

Footer
As infamous Mexican cartel totters, violence grows

4/27/2009, 4:00 a.m. ET

ELLIOT SPAGAT

The Associated Press

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Tijuana's case has shown how much time, effort and blood it can take to subdue even one cartel. Eighteen months after Arellano Felix's arrest, the border city's drug lords were still fighting the army and each other to control lucrative drug routes.

Now, after daily shootings and beheadings, 443 murders in the last three months of 2008 alone, Tijuana is quieter. Skeptics say the fall could be only a short-term truce among traffickers. But a top Mexican army commander says the powerful gang's warring factions are spent.

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To break down the country's other big cartels, Calderon is using the same strategy that put the Arellano Felix gang on the ropes. Drug violence throughout Mexico has claimed more than 10,700 lives since December 2006. A sign, says Attorney General Eduardo Medina-Mora, that the government offensive is dividing and weakening drug gangs as it battles for a tightening market.

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In those days Ramon Arellano Felix was the enforcer who rode Harley-Davidson motorcycles and killed people for kicks. Benjamin Arellano Felix was the reserved businessman who dressed conservatively and always wore each other's wedding rings, according to a former Mexican federal police official.

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Meanwhile, Mexican and U.S. drug enforcement officials shipped away the leadership. In 2002, Mexican authorities killed Ramon in a shootout in Mazatlan and, a month later, captured Benjamin, who remains in a Mexican prison.
After Benjamin's arrest, a key lieutenant already in custody opened up to U.S. authorities, according to David Herrod, a Drug Enforcement Administration agent who pursued the brothers for nearly 20 years.

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Mexico drug violence grows

AP

Monday 27th April, 2009 Posted: 14:35 CT (11:35 GMT)

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In Tijuana, drug war exacts a toll

Violence grows as cartel totters

By Elliot Spagat, Associated Press | April 26, 2009

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Arellano, de 36

Cuando los Arellano dominaban Tijuana existía un sentido de orden entre sus filas. Los miembros del cartel eran reclutados de familias acaudaladas.

Ahora, luego de una oleada de tiroteos de Alejandro la droga en esta ciudad fronteriza seguían peleándose entre sí.

"Benjamín quería que las cosas fuesen calladas," dijo Kirby. "No quería un montón de cadáveres en las calles."

El cartel atraía a algunas de las familias más prominentes de Tijuana.

Alejandro y Alfredo Hoyodan, los hijos estadounidenses de un contratista eléctrico de Tijuana, se unieron a Ramón en los mejores clubes nocturnos y finas callejeras en la ciudad. La madre de ambos, Cristina Palacios, recordó que Ramón lucía un abrigo de visón y pantalones cortos la primera vez que le vio en 1987.

Ramón siempre pagaba por las bajas menores y muy pronto los hermanos Hoyodan se sumaron a sus operaciones.


Falso se tomó una pausa ante la pregunta de qué atrae a sus hijos a Ramón Arellano Félix. "Pienso que fue la adrenalin," dijo.

Para la aceptación pública de los Arellano se evaporó en 1993, cuando Ramón y miembros del cartel que buscaban matar a un rival asesinaron por error al Juan Jesús Posadas Ocampo en el aeropuerto de Guadalajara.

Mientras tanto, funcionarios antidrogas mexicanos y estadounidenses comenzaron a debilitar la cúpula del cartel. En 2002, las autoridades mexicanas mataron a Ramón en un tiroteo en Mazatlán y, un mes más tarde, capturaron a Benjamin, que sigue encarcelado en México.

Luego de la captura de Benjamin, un importante lugarteniente del grupo que ya estaba bajo arresto comenzó a hablar con las autoridades estadounidenses, de acuerdo con David Herrod, un agente de la oficina federal antidrogas (DEA) que estuvo a cargo de los hechos durante casi 20 años.

Arturo "Kitty" Pérez, que en 2001 se convirtió en el primer narcotraficante mexicano en ser extraditado a Estados Unidos bajo un histórico veredicto del Tribunal Supremo de México, dio a las autoridades la información que necesitaban para preparar un caso sólido contra Benjamin.

Además le ayudó a capturar al nuevo líder, Javier, el más joven de los 11 hermanos Arellano Félix. Las autoridades estadounidenses interceptaron comunicaciones radiales de al menos 1.500 secuestros bajo el menado de Javier, con los cadáveres de la mayoría de las víctimas disecados en ácido, dijo Herrod. Las autoridades estadounidenses dijeron que Javier tenía un túnel de contrabando de drogas bajo la frontera que se extendía unos 700 metros.

Para capturar a Javier, la DEA plantó un transponedor bajo un yate que él usaba mientras la embarcación estaba en una concesionaria en el sur de California, dijo David Barrick, su abogado.

La DEA convenció a la Guardia Costera que vigilaría el yate durante seis semanas, dijo Herrod. Una embarcación de la guardia costera había concluido sus tareas y estaba dos horas coste arriba cuando conocó que Javier había salido de aguas mexicanas. Para cuando el guardacostas regresó, el yate estaba aún en aguas internacionales, lo que hizo legal su interceptación. Javier se declaró culpable de narcotráfico en un tribunal en México y fue sentenciado a cadena perpetua en una prisión federal.

La batuta del cartel pasó a las manos del ingeniero, de quien poco se sabe. Solamente en enero la DEA dio a conocer sus primeras fotografías del ingeniero y El Teo.

Los dos niveles se enfrentaron en una batalla que comenzó en un importante bulleard de Tijuana en una manana de sábado. El ejército mexicano dice que el ingeniero convocó a una reunión para ordenarle a El Teo que cesase los secuestros y los asesinatos. El Teo no acudió.

La división fue causada por una "falta de liderato", dijo Duarte Múgica, que comanda más de 2,000 soldados en Tijuana. "Es muy probable que el jefe no infunda respeto ni legitimidad".

En la guerra subsiguiente, 12 cadáveres fueron dejados cerca de una escuela en septiembre, la mayoría de ellos decapitados o con las lenguas cortadas. Otros nueve cuerpos decapitados fueron hallados en un lote yermo en diciembre. Las cabezas de tres policías fueron encontradas con sus credenciales en la boca.

Duarte Múgica dice que las facciones rivales están reclutando cada vez más a menores ante la falta de criminales experimentados. Algunos reciben una paga de apenas 400 dólares mensuales para custodiar las casas en las que se retienen a las víctimas de secuestros.

El cartel de los Arellano Félix sigue sufriendo descalabros. Eduardo Arellano Félix, el último de los hermanos fundadores, fue capturado en octubre. Otros importantes miembros fueron detenidos el año pasado: Saúl Montes de Oca, cuando se preparaba para la carrera automovilística Baja 250, y Gustavo Rivera en el balneario de San José del Cabo.

El grupo de El Teo también está en aprietos. Un presunto matón y ex policía, Angel Jacome Gamboa, estaba entre 60 personas arrestadas en un salón de bailes en Tijuana en marzo.

El general Duarte Múgica dice que el cartel de los Arellano Félix está dividido y debilitado, aunque no dice que esté acabado.

"Es parte de nuestra estrategia para crear división", dice. "Para crear desconfianza entre ellos".

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NARCOTRÁFICO

Se tambalea cartel mexicano de las drogas

En esta fotografía de archivo del 23 de enero de 2009, Santiago Meza López, al centro, quien confesó haber deshecho 300 cuerpos en ácido, es escoltado por soldados y policías federales en las afueras de Tijuana, México.

Tijuana, México — En la guerra de las drogas en México, la de la ciudad fronteriza de Tijuana es una historia en la que el gobierno dice estar ganando, pero la balanza se vuelve cada vez más sangrienta.

El arresto a bordo de un yate en agosto de 2006 de Javier Arellano Félix, líder del cartel de las drogas basado en Tijuana, desató una violenta guerra por la sucesión, que fue aprovechada por el presidente Felipe Calderón cuando asumió el cargo cuatro meses más tarde y declaró una guerra total al narcotráfico en México.

El caso de Tijuana ha mostrado cuanto tiempo, esfuerzo y sangre va a tomar para someter incluso a un solo cartel. Dieciocho meses después del arresto de Arellano Félix, los cabezas de las drogas en esta ciudad fronteriza se mantienen esforzándose entre sí y contra el ejército.

Ahora, luego de una oleada de tiroteos y decapitaciones en plena luz del día —443 asesinatos en los últimos tres meses de 2008— Tijuana está más calmada.

Los escépticos dicen que la calma pudiera ser apenas una corta tregua entre los traficantes, pero un alto comandante del ejército mexicano dice que las facciones rivales de la poderosa pandilla están agotadas.

"Se agotaron entre sí", dijo el general Alfonso Duarte Múgica. "No podían seguir a ese paso".

Para quebrar los otros carteles de drogas en el país, Calderón está empleando la misma estrategia que puso a la pandilla de Arellano Félix contra las sagas. La violencia del narcotráfico en México ha cobrado 10,700 vidas desde diciembre de 2006, una señal, dice el procurador Eduardo Medina Mora, de que la ofensiva del gobierno está dividiendo y debilitando a las pandillas del narcotráfico en su batalla por el control del mercado.

La guerra lanzada por Calderón podría no acabar permanentemente con el flujo de drogas, pero el objetivo, expresado por el presidente en declaraciones en febrero es debilitar a los carteles para 2012 a un punto en que el ejército y la policía federal pueden retirarse y dejar la tarea a las fuerzas policiales locales.

La suerte de la pandilla Arellano Félix muestra además que la balanza del gobierno mexicano está teniendo su efecto y que el narcotráfico deja de ser un negocio discreto y disciplinado para convertirse en una discordada pelea pública entre grupos criminales menores y menos sofisticados, lo que ha llevado al caos sangriento que afecta el país. "Al menos en los primeros dos años, no ha llevado a carteles menores controlables, sino a carteles menores y más violentos", dijo David Shirk, director del Instituto Trans-Border de la Universidad de San Diego.

Cuando los Arellano dominaban Tijuana existía un sentido de orden entre sus filas. Los miembros del cartel eran reclutados de familias acaudaladas y se coadyuvaban sin problemas con el estatuto de Tijuana.

Ahora, los cuatro hermanos que lo encabezaban están muertos o encarcelados, y la pandilla es dirigida por Fernando Sánchez Arellano, un sobrino conocido como "El Ingeniero". Sánchez Arellano, de 40 años, está en guerra con Teodoro García Simental, un veterano lugarteniente del cartel que se separó hace un año en una pelea callejera que dejó muertos a 14 miembros de la pandilla.

"La pandilla está muy agotada", dijo el gobernador de Baja California, Francisco García Caudillo, durante la semana pasada.
El ingeniero y El Teo no se asemejan a los líderes de los 1990, cuando los carteles mexicanos reemplazaron a los colombianos a medida en que las operaciones antidrogas lanzadas por Estados Unidos en el Caribe y el sur de Florida desplazaron las rutas de narcotráfico hacia la frontera mexicano estadounidense.

En esos días, Ramón Arellano Félix era el matón que tenía motocicletas Harley-Davidson y asesinaba por placer. Benjamin Arellano Félix era el hombre de negocios reservado que se vestía de forma conservadora y, de acuerdo con un auto federal de instrucción de cargos en San Diego, "tenía la suprema autoridad" en el grupo.

Los Arellano malaron a todo el que se interpusiese en su territorio en la frontera México-California, ayudados por policías corruptos. Su principal matón en la ciudad de México, de acuerdo con documentos judiciales estadounidenses, era Armando Martínez Duarte, un ex policía federal.

Aún así, los hermanos trataron de evitar la violencia pública, usualmente disolviendo cadáveres en ácido o quemándolos en el desierto, según John Kirby, un ex fiscal estadounidense que firmó el auto de inculpación de cargos en 2002.

"Benjamín quería que las cosas fuesen calladas", dijo Kirby. "No quería un montón de cadáveres en las calles".

El cartel atrajo a algunas de las familias más prominentes de Tijuana.

Alejandro y Alfredo Hoyodán, los hijos estadounidenses de un contratista eléctrico de Tijuana, se unieron a Ramón en los mejores clubes nocturnos y festas callejeras en la ciudad. La madre de ambos, Cristina Palacios, recordó que Ramón lucía un abrigo de visón y pantalones cortos. La primera vez que le vio en 1987.

Ramón siempre pagaba por las bebidas y muy pronto los hermanos Hoyodán se sumaron a sus operaciones.


Palacios se toma una pausa ante la pregunta de qué atrae a sus hijos a Ramón Arellano Félix. "Pienso que fue la adrenalina", dijo.

Para la aceptación pública de los Arellano se evaporó en 1993, cuando Ramón y miembros del cartel que buscaban matar a un rival asesinaron por error al Juan Jesús Posadas Ocampo en el aeropuerto de Guadalajara.

Mientras tanto, funcionarios antidrogas mexicanos y estadounidenses comenzaron a debilitar la cúpula del cartel. En 2002, las autoridades mexicanas molaron a Ramón en un túnel en Mazatlán y, un mes más tarde, capturaron a Benjamin, que sigue encarcelado en México.

Luego de la captura de Benjamín, un importante lugarteniente del grupo que ya estaba bajo arresto comenzó a hablar con las autoridades estadounidenses, de acuerdo con David Herrod, un agente de la agencia federal antidrogas (DEA) que estuvo a la caza de los hermanos durante casi 20 años.

Arturo Kitty Páez, que en el 2001 se convirtió en el primer narcotraficante mexicano en ser extraditado a Estados Unidos bajo un histórico veredicto del Tribunal Supremo de México, dio a las autoridades la información que necesitaban para preparar un caso sólido contra Benjamín y otros importantes líderes, dijo Herrod en una conferencia pública este año.

Además las ayudó a capturar al nuevo líder, Javier, el más joven de los 11 hermanos Arellano Félix. Las autoridades estadounidenses interceptaron comunicaciones radiales de al menos 1,500 secuestros bajo el reinado de Javier, con los cadáveres de las víctimas disueltos en ácido, dijo Herrod. Las autoridades estadounidenses dijeron que Javier tenía un túnel de contrabando de drogas bajo la frontera que se extendía unos 700 metros.

Para capturar a Javier, la DEA plantó un transponedor bajo un yate que él usaba mientras la embarcación estaba en una concesionaria en el sur de California, dijo David Bartick, su abogado.

La DEA convocó a la Guardia Costera que vigilase el yate durante seis semanas, dijo Herrod. Una emboscada de la guardia costera había concluido sus tareas y estaba dos horas costa arriba cuando conocó que Javier había salido de aguas mexicanas. Para cuando guardacostas regresó, el yate estaba aún en aguas internacionales, lo que hizo legal su interceptación. Javier se declaró culpable de narcotráfico en un tribunal en San Diego y fue sentenciado a cadena perpetua en una prisión federal.

La batuta del cartel pasó a las manos del Ingeniero, de quien poco se sabe. Solamente en enero la DEA dio a conocer sus primeras fotografías del Ingeniero y El Teo.

Los dos rivales se enfrencharon en una batalla que comenzó en un importante bulvar de Tijuana en una mañana de sábado. El ejército mexicano dio a conocer que El Ingeniero convocó a una reunión para ordenarle a El Teo que cesase los secuestros y los asesinatos. El Teo no acudió.
La división fue causada por una "falta de liderato", dijo Duarte Múgica, que comanda más de 2,000 soldados en Tijuana. "Es muy probable que el ingeniero no infunda respeto ni legitimidad".

En la guerra subsiguiente, 12 cadáveres fueron dejados cerca de una escuela en septiembre, la mayoría de ellos decapitados o con las lenguas cortadas. Otros cuerpos decapitados fueron hallados en un lote yermo en diciembre. Las cabezas de tres policías fueron encontradas con sus credenciales en la boca.

Duarte Múgica dice que las facciones rivales están reclutando cada vez más a menores ante la falta de criminales experimentados. Algunos reciben una paga de apenas 400 dólares mensuales para custodiar las casas en las que se retiene a las víctimas de secuestros.

El cartel de los Arellano Félix sigue sufriendo descalabros. Eduardo Arellano Félix, el último de los hermanos fundadores, fue capturado en octubre. Otros importantes miembros fueron detenidos el año pasado: Saúl Montes de Oca, cuando se preparaba para la carrera automovilística Baja 250, y Gustavo Rivera en el balneario de San José del Cabo.

El grupo de ETL también está en aprietos. Un presunto matón y ex policía, Ángel Jacome Gamboa, estaba entre 60 personas arrestadas en un salón de bailes en Tijuana en marzo.

El general Duarte Múgica dice que el cartel de los Arellano Félix está dividido y debilitado, aunque no dice que esté acabado.

"Es parte de nuestra estrategia para crear división", dice. "Para crear desconfianza entre ellos".

Comentarios

[+] Agregar Comentario
Cartel mexicano se tambalea, pero crece violencia

Ciudad de México. LaVoz con (april 23, 2009)

En la guerra de las drogas en México, la de la ciudad fronteriza de Tijuana es una historia en la que el gobierno dice estar ganando, pero la batalla se vuelve cada vez más sangrienta. El arresto a bordo de un yate de gasoducto de Javier Arriola, líder del cartel de la droga basado en Tijuana, desató una violenta guerra por la sucesión que fue aprovechada por el presidente Felipe Calderón cuando aunó al gobierno más tarde y declaró una guerra total al narcotráfico en México.

El caso de Tijuana ha marcado cuánto tiempo, esfuerzo y sangre va a tomar para someter incluso a un solo cartel. Dieciocho meses después del arresto de Arriola Félix, los caballeros de la droga en esta ciudad fronteriza se quedan pensando entre sí y contra el ejército.

Ahora, luego de una oleada de tiroteos y desapariciones en pleno luz del día... 443 asesinatos en los últimos tres meses de 2008, Tijuana está más camada. Los escritores dicen que la ciudad podría ser apenas una corta trampa entre los Líbres, pero un año comienzan el ejército mexicano dice que las facciones rivales de la poderosa pandilla están agotadas. "El agarrotar entre sí", dijo el general Armando Duarte Múgica, "no podrá seguir a ese paso".

Para quebrar los otros carteles de la droga en el país, Calderón está emprendiendo una nueva estrategia que pesa a la pandilla de Arriola Félix contra las sociedades. La violencia del narcotráfico en México ha crecido desde diciembre de 2006, una señal, dijo el procurador Eduardo Medina Mora, que de la ofensiva del gobierno está dividiendo y debilitando a las pandillas del narcotráfico en su batalla por el control del mercado.

La guerra lanzada por Calderón podría no acelerar permanentemente con el flujo de drogas, pero el objetivo, expresado por el presidente en febrero de declaraciones a los periodistas para 2013 para un punto en que el ejército y la policía federal pueden retirarse y dejar la tarea a las fuerzas policiales locales.

La suerte de la pandilla Arriola Félix muestra que la batalla del gobierno mexicano está teniendo su efecto y que el narcotráfico deja de ser un negocio discreto y disciplinado para convertirse en una discarada, peligrosa lucha entre grupos criminales y masa soñolienta, lo que ha llevado a caza sangrienta a la gente.

"Al menos en los primeros dos años, no ha llevado a cartells menores y más controlado, sino a cartells menores y más violentos", dijo David Schiavoni, director de la Universidad de Texas.

Cuando los Arellano dominaban Tijuana esculpía un sentido de orden entre sus filas. Los mensajeros del cartel eran recriados de familias acuarteladas y acuadraban en silencio con ellos. Ahora, los cuños han llegado de tiroteos y desapariciones en Estados Unidos, y la pandilla es dirigida por Félix Arellano, un sobrenombre conocido como "El Ingeniero". Sánchez Arellano, de 36 años, está en guerra con Teófilo Garcia Simón, un veterano lugarteniente del cartel que se separó hace un año en una pelea callejera que dejó muertos a 14 miembros de la pandilla.

Otras pandillas establecidas... donde el cartel de Sinaloa ha entrado al territorio abiertamente por el territorio en Tijuana. El rival del Ingeniero, conocido como "El Teo" o "Tres Letras", se ha aliado ahora con el "cartel de México".

El Teo y el Ingeniero no se sentan al lado de los líderes de los rivales, cuando las cartells mexicanos se reemplazan a los colombianos a mediados en que las operaciones antitácticas lanzadas por Estados Unidos en el Caribe y el sur de Florida desplazaron las rutas de narcotráfico hacia la ciudad mexicana.-

En esos días, Ramón Arellano Félix era el marido que tenía molotovs Scooter-Harley-Davidson y asesinaba por placer. Benjamin Arellano Félix era el hombre de negocios que se dedicaba a negocios, y la pandilla fue dirigida por Félix Arellano, un sobrenombre conocido como "El Ingeniero". Sánchez Arellano, de 36 años, está en guerra con Teófilo Garcia Simón, un veterano lugarteniente del cartel que se separó hace un año en una pelea callejera que dejó muertos a 14 miembros de la pandilla.

Así, ahora, los mensajeros tratando de evitar la violencia pública, usualmente discaradamente caballeros en ácido o "cocina" en el desierto, como el oficial John Keny, un ex-fiscal estadounidense que firmó el auto de incautación de drogas en 2002.

"Benjamin quería que las cosas fueran calientes", dijo Kirby, "yo quería un montón de cartells en las calles". El cartel atrajo a algunas de las familias mexicanas más prominentes de Tijuana.

Alejandro y Alfredo Hoyos, los hijos estadounidenses de un contratista eléctrico de Tijuana, se unieron a Ramón en los juegos de clubes nocturnos y festivas en el juego. La madre de ambos, Cristina Palacios, recordó que Ramón hacía un monto de drogas y facciones en los años 80 y 90. Hoyos dijo que era el "hijo de las drogas". La aceptación pública de los Arellano se evaporó en 1993, cuando el presidente y miembros del cartel buscaban matar a un rival que estuvieron de error el Juan Jesus Posada el estuvo en el escuadrón de Guardafine.

Mientras tanto, funcionarios antitácticos mexicanos y estadounidenses comenzaron a debilitar la cúpula del cartel en 2002. Los autoridades mexicanas mataron a Ramón en un tiroteo en Mazatlán y, un mes más tarde, capturaron a Benjamin, que sigue encarcelado en México.

Luego de la captura de Benjamín, un importante lugarteniente del grupo que ya estaba bajo arresto comenzó a hablar con la autoridades estadounidenses, de acuerdo con David Horne, un agente de la agencia federal antitácticas (DEA) que estuvo a la caza de los hermanos durante casi 20 años.

Arturo "Kitty" Pérez, que en 1991 se convirtió en el primer narcotraficante mexicano en ser extraditado a Estados Unidos bajo un histórico verdicto del Tribunal Supremo de México, dio a las autoridades la información que necesitaban para preparar un caso sólido contra Benjamín y otros importantes líderes, dijo Hord en una conferencia pública el pasado año.

Además, ha ayudado a contrarrestar el nuevo liderar: Javier, el más nuevo de los 11 hermanos Arellano Félix, y les...
Cartel mexicano se tambalea, pero crece violencia - Radio La Primerísima - La Gente - N...

Para capturar a Javier, la DEA plantó un transpondedor bajo un yate que él usaba mientras la embarcación estaba en una concesión en el sur de California, dijo David Bartick, su abogado. La DEA convenció a la Guardia Costera que vigilara el yate durante semanas, dijo Herrod. Una embarcación de la guardia costera había concluido sus tareas y estaba dos horas costera arriba cuando conoció que Javier había salido de aguas mexicanas. Para cuando el guardacostas regresó, el yate estaba aún en aguas internacionales, lo que hizo legal su intercepción. Javier se declaró culpable de narcotráfico en un tribunal en San Diego y fue sentenciado a cadena perpetua en una prisión federal.

La batuta del cartel pasó a las manos del ingeniero, de quien poco se sabe. Solo ante enero la DEA dio a conocer sus primeras fotografías del ingeniero y El Teo. Los dos rivales se enfrentaron en una batalla que comenzó en un importante bulevard de Tijuana en una mañana de sábado. El ejército mexicano dice que el ingeniero convocó a una reunión para ordenarle a El Teo que cesase los secuestros y los asesinatos. El Teo no acudió.

La división fue causada por una "falta de liderato", dijo Duarte Múgica, que comanda más de 2,000 soldados en Tijuana. "Eso es probable que el ingeniero no infunde respeto ni legitimidad". En la guerra subsiguiente, 12 cadáveres fueron dejados cerca de una escuela en septiembre, la mayoría de ellos decapitados e incluyendo las lenguas cortadas. Otros nueve cuerpos decapitados fueron hallados en un lote yermo en diciembre. Las cabezas de tres policías fueron encontradas con sus credenciales en la boca.

Duarte Múgica dice que las facciones rivales están reclutando cada vez más a menores ante la falta de criminales experimentados. Algunos reciben una paga de apenas 400 dólares mensuales para custodiar los secuestros. El cartel de los Arellano Félix sigue sufriendo descalabros. Eduardo Arellano Félix, el último de los hermanos fundadores, fue capturado en octubre. Otros importantes miembros fueron detenidos el año pasado: Salú Montes de Oca, cuando se preparaba para la carrera automovilística Baja 500, y Gustavo Rivera en el balneario de San José del Cabo.

El grupo de El Teo también está en aprietos. Un presunto matón y ex policía, Angel Jacome Gamboa, estaba entre 60 personas arrestadas en un sarón de balas en Tijuana en marzo. El general Duarte Múgica dice que el cartel de los Arellano Félix está dividido y debilitado, aunque no dice que está acabado. "Es parte de nuestra estrategia para crear división", dice. "Para crear desconfianza entre ellos".

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4/27/2009
Integrantes del Instituto Transfronterizo en la Universidad de San Diego, encabezados por el investigador David A. Shirk, se entrevistaron ayer con el alcalde Jorge Ramos Hernández.

EN BASE A ESTADÍSTICAS

Reconoce Universidad de SD reducción de violencia en BCS

LUCIA GÓMEZ RÁNCHERE

Tijuana.- Tendencias estadísticas de narcoviolencia analizadas por el Instituto Transfronterizo en la Universidad de San Diego indican que la violencia en Baja California ha disminuido, pero eso no significa que "haya un efecto a largo plazo para eliminar el narcotráfico en México".

"Nuestros manejamos estadísticas de narcoviolencia para generar mapas y observar las tendencias y durante los últimos tres meses nos han mostrado una disminución de la violencia en Baja California que probablemente se atribuye al esfuerzo que el gobierno federal ha hecho en esta entidad y otras de la frontera*

Así lo expuso ayer David A. Shirk, director del Instituto Transfronterizo en la Universidad de San Diego, en entrevista previa al encuentro que él y sus alumnos sostuvieron con el alcalde Jorge Ramos Hernández, en la Presidencia Municipal.

Queremos platinar con él sobre su experiencia, conocer cómo ha contribuido el gobierno municipal, cuál es la colaboración intergubernamental y preguntarle si ya hemos encontrado la solución para mejorar la seguridad en Tijuana, comentó el investigador con referencia a la entrevista que sostendría con Ramos Hernández.

"No estoy completamente seguro que vamos a poder decir que esto es el fin de la violencia, el costo de movilizar el Ejército y mantener los esfuerzos levantados en los últimos meses es muy alto y no así si necesariamente habrá un efecto a largo plazo para eliminar el narcotráfico en México", agregó.

"Báremetro de Justicia"

David A. Shirk habló de presentar "Justicia en México", proyecto de trabajo de temas de seguridad que realiza el Instituto, el cual trata de análisis de indicadores criminológicos en el país y la producción de estudios sobre el fenómeno delictivo y las reformas legislativas.

"Trabajamos con datos criminológicos del INEGI, permisos escritos a investigadores sobre las ejecuciones en diferentes estados de la República Mexicana.

Dijo que se planea llevar la propuesta de una encuesta denominada "Báremetro de Justicia" realizada a pobladores de la Zona Metropolitana de Tijuana para detectar las tendencias que redundan en la provisión de seguridad hasta los ciudadanos.

La misma encuesta incluyó 700 elementos de la población resultarán listas para cada uno.

"El objetivo es una encuesta que identifica la falta o no de conocimiento de cuestiones técnicas para evaluar el Estado de Derecho en México.

"Es un caso que nos interesa mucho, sería interesante replicar aquí el trabajo que realizamos en Alamos", refirió.

"Es un trabajo que nos interesa mucho, sería interesante replicar aquí el trabajo que realizamos en Alamos", refirió.

En este estudio de investigación se trata de tomar el pulso de la policía en México.

Todos sabemos que hay problemas y dificultades en la provisión de la seguridad en los propietarios, estudios antropológicos indican que los problemas están en el salario, entrenamiento, salud y falta de seguridad de vida para ellos y sus familias.

"Si queremos una policía profesional tenemos que tratar a sus integrantes como tales, darles un salario que les dé beneficios y servicios necesarios para hacer frente a sus trabajos", indicó.

No sólo estamos tratando de identificar las causas sino entender la vida de los policías, su forma de pensar y entender la vida de los policías, su forma de pensar.

Todos hablan de reformas, pero falta conocer la perspectiva de la gente que trabaja en ese área, la opinión de la gente que trabaja en ese área, la opinión sobre su trabajo y cómo mejorararlo, concluyó.
matan a 7 policías

12:00 AM CDT en Wednesday, April 29, 2009

Por ELLIOT SPAGAT/AP

Tijuana – En la guerra de las drogas, la de la ciudad fronteriza de Tijuana es una historia en la que el gobierno dice estar ganando, pero la batalla se vuelve cada vez más sangrienta.

El arresto a bordo de un yate en agosto del 2006 de Javier Arellano Félix, líder del cártel en Tijuana, desató una violenta guerra por la sucesión, que fue aprovechada por el presidente Felipe Calderón cuando asumió el cargo y declaró una guerra total al narcotráfico en México.

El caso de Tijuana ha mostrado cuánto tiempo, esfuerzo y sangre va a tomar para someter incluso a un solo cártel. Dieciocho meses después del arresto de Arellano Félix, los cabecillas de la droga siguen peleándose entre sí y contra el ejército.

Ahora, luego de una oleada de tiroteos y decapitaciones en pleno día –443 muertos en los últimos tres meses del 2008– Tijuana está más calmada.

Los escépticos dicen que la calma pudiera ser apenas una corta tregua entre los traficantes, pero un alto comandante del ejército mexicano dice que las facciones rivales de la poderosa pandilla están agotadas.

"Se agotaron entre sí", dijo el general Alfonso Duarte Mugica. "No podían seguir a ese paso".

¿Funciona la estrategia?

Para desmantelar los otros cártels en el país, Calderón emplea la misma estrategia que puso a los Arellano Félix contra las cuerdas. La violencia del narco en México ha cobrado 10,700 vidas desde diciembre del 2006, una señal, dice el procurador Eduardo Medina Mora, de que la ofensiva del gobierno está dividiendo y debilitando a las pandillas en su batalla por el control del narcotráfico.

La guerra lanzada por Calderón podría no acabar con el flujo de drogas, pero el objetivo es debilitar a los cártels para el 2012, que el ejército y la policía federal pueden retirarse y dejar la tarea a las fuerzas policiales locales.

La suerte de los Arellano Félix muestra que la batida del gobierno tiene efecto, ya que el narcotráfico deja de ser un negocio discreto y disciplinado para convertirse en una descarada pelea pública entre grupos criminales menores y menos sofisticados, lo que llevó al caos sangriento.

"Al menos en los primeros dos años, no ha llevado a cártels menores controlables, sino a cártels menores y más violentos", dijo David Shirk, director del Instituto Trasfronterizo de la Universidad de San Diego.

Cuando los Arellano dominaban Tijuana existía un sentido de orden entre sus filas. Los miembros eran reclutados de familias acuñadas y se codeaban con la elite de Tijuana.

Ahora, los cuatro hermanos que lo encabezaban están muertos o encarcelados, y la pandilla es dirigida por Fernando Sánchez Arellano, un sobrino conocido como "El Ingeniero". Sánchez Arellano, de 36 años, está en guerra con Teodoro García Simental, un veterano lugarteniente del cártel que se separó hace un año en una pelea callejera que dejó muertos a 14 miembros.

Otros grupos establecidos –desde el cártel de Sinaloa hasta el del Golfo– están contribuyendo a la violencia luchando por el territorio en Tijuana.

El rival del "Ingeniero", conocido como "El Teo" o "Tres Letras", se ha aliado ahora con el cártel de Sinaloa, según un documento del ejército.

Otros tiempos

"El Teo" y "El Ingeniero" no se asemejan a los líderes de los noventa, cuando los cártels mexicanos reemplazaron a los colombianos a medida en que las operaciones antidrogas de Estados Unidos en el Caribe y el sur de Florida desplazaron las rutas de narco hacia la frontera.

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El cártel atrajo a las familias prominentes de Tijuana.

El principio del fin

Pero la aceptación pública de los Arellano se evaporó en 1993, cuando Ramón y miembros del cártel que buscaban matar a un rival asesinaron por error al cardenal Juan Jesús Posadas Ocampo, en el aeropuerto de Guadalajara.

Mientras, funcionarios antidrogas mexicanos y estadounidenses comenzaron a debilitar la cúpula del cártel. En el 2002, las autoridades mexicanas capturaron a Ramón en un tiroteo en Mazatlán y, un mes más tarde, capturaron a Benjamín, que sigue encarcelado en México.

Luego de la captura de Benjamín, un importante lugarteniente del grupo que estaba bajo arresto comenzó a hablar con las autoridades estadounidenses, dijo David Herrod, un agente de la agencia federal antidrogas (DEA) que estuvo a la caza de los hermanos durante casi 20 años.

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La batuta del cártel pasó a las manos de "El Ingeniero", de quien poco se sabe, al igual que de "El Teo".

Los dos rivales se enfrenaron en una batalla que comenzó en un importante bulevar de Tijuana en una mañana. El ejército mexicano dice que "El Ingeniero" convocó a una reunión para ordenarle a "El Teo" que cesase los secuestros y los asesinatos. "El Teo" no acudió.

La división fue causada por una "falta de liderato", dijo Duarte Mágica, que comanda más de 2,000 soldados en Tijuana. "Es muy probable que "El Ingeniero" no infunde respeto ni legitimidad".

En la guerra subsiguiente, 12 cadáveres fueron dejados cerca de una escuela en septiembre, la mayoría de ellos decapitados o con las lenguas cortadas. Otros nueve cuerpos decapitados fueron hallados en un lote en diciembre. Las cabezas de tres policías fueron encontradas con sus credenciales en la boca.

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El cártel de los Arellano Félix sigue sufriendo descalabros. Eduardo Arellano Félix, el último de los hermanos fundadores, fue capturado en octubre. Otros importantes miembros fueron detenidos el año pasado.

El grupo de "El Teo" también está en aprietos. Un presunto matón y ex policía, Ángel Jácome Gamboa, estaba entre 60 personas arrestadas en un salón de bailes en Tijuana en marzo.

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"Es parte de nuestra estrategia para crear división", dice. "Para crear desconfianza entre ellos".

Cuatro agentes murieron baleados por atacantes que dispararon contra sus vehículos policiales frente a un comercio de repuestos automovilísticos. Otros dos ataques dejaron a siete policías muertos.

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matan a 7 policías

12:00 AM CDT en Wednesday, April 29, 2009

Por ELLIOT SPAGAT/AP

Tijuana - En la guerra de las drogas, la de la ciudad fronteriza de Tijuana es una historia en la que el gobierno dice estar ganando, pero la batalla se vuelve cada vez más sangrienta.

El arresto a bordo de un yate en agosto de 2006 de Javier Arellano Félix, líder del cártel en Tijuana, desató una violenta guerra por la sucesión, que fue aprovechada por el presidente Felipe Calderón cuando asumió el cargo y declaró una guerra total al narcotráfico en México.

El caso de Tijuana ha mostrado cuánto tiempo, esfuerzo y sangre va a tomar para someter incluso a un solo grupo. Dieciocho meses después del arresto de Arellano Félix, los cabecillas de la droga siguen peleándose entre sí y contra el ejército.

Ahora, luego de una oleada de tiroteos y decapitaciones en pleno día -443 muertos en los últimos tres meses del 2008- Tijuana está más calmada.

Los escépticos dicen que la calma pudiera ser apenas una corta tregua entre los traficantes, pero un alto comandante del ejército mexicano dice que las facciones rivales de la poderosa pandilla están agotadas.

"Se agotaron entre si", dijo el general Alfonso Duarte Mugica. "No podían seguir a ese paso".

¿Funciona la estrategia?

Para desmantelar los otros carteles en el país, Calderón emplea la misma estrategia que puso a los Arellano Félix contra las cuentas. La violencia del narco en México ha cobrado 10,700 vidas desde diciembre del 2006, una señal, dijo el procurador Eduardo Medina Mora, de que la ofensiva del gobierno está dividiendo y debilitando a las pandillas en su batalla por el control del territorio.

La guerra lanzada por Calderón podría no acabar con el flujo de drogas, pero el objetivo es debilitar a los carteles para el 2012, que el ejército y la policía federal pueden retirarse y dejar la tarea a las fuerzas policiales locales.

La suerte de los Arellano Félix muestra que la batalla del gobierno tiende a escojallos que el narcotráfico deja de ser un negocio discreto y disciplinado para convertirse en una descancada pelea pública entre grupos criminales menores y menos sofisticados, lo que llevó al caos sangriento.

"Al menos en los primeros dos años, no ha llevado a carteles menos, sino a carteles menores y más violentos", dijo David Shirk, director del Instituto Trasfronterizo de la Universidad de San Diego, cuando los Arellano dominaban Tijuana existía un sentido de orden entre sus filas. Los miembros eran reclutados de familias acaudaladas y se codeaban con la elite de Tijuana.

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Pasa la prueba visita de Obama

Eileen Tusa | 2009-04-19 | La Opinión

Terminó el primer encuentro y al parecer pasó la prueba. En términos generales, la reunión entre los presidentes de Estados Unidos y México, Barack Obama y Felipe Calderón, respectivamente, cumplió con las expectativas: una reunión con mucha carga simbólica, que abordaría brevemente los temas bilateral y que establecería las bases para lo que será la relación en los años por venir.

Aunque era evidente que no se realizarían grandes acuerdos o anuncios como resultado de la breve conversación entre los mandatarios, analistas coinciden en que esta primera visita era importante para enviar un mensaje con respecto a la relación, aunque algunos de ellos piensan que dicho mensaje pudo ser más contundente en ciertos aspectos.

"No salió nada muy concreto por que fue una visita muy breve y más bien hecha para reparar los daños que se habían dado en la relación últimamente, como las declaraciones sobre que México es un 'Estado fallido', que habían causado algún deterioro en la relación", consideró Laura Carlsen, directora del Programa de las Américas del Center for International Policy de Washington.

"Si fue un poco decepcionante porque era una oportunidad para dar un nuevo enfoque a la relación y tomar la dirección de lo que podría ser "el último tren" de esa relación, sino de la manera en la que esas discusiones llegan hasta allí", agregó.

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The US Department of Homeland Security has assigned extra border security officials to San Diego and Imperial Counties and to Tijuana. The additional agents are part of the Obama Administration’s effort to crack down on cross-border drug trafficking. KPBS Reporter Amy Isackson has the story.

Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano laid out details of her plan to fight cross border drug trafficking during a visit to the border.

The Secretary did not stop in San Diego or Tijuana. Though, she announced that homeland security agents are already in place in both cities. Or, they’re on the way.

It’s unclear how many agents. She says the agents will focus on intelligence and working bi-nationally.

David Shirk directs the University of San Diego’s Transborder Institute.

He says Napolitano’s focus on investigation sets it apart from previous boots to the border policies, "We need to be thinking about not just intercepting things at the border. If weapons and bulk cash are getting to the border, it is already too late."

Napolitano also says more agents will work on removing undocumented immigrants who’ve committed multiple crimes.

Amy Isackson, KPBS news.
Border analysts say searching for illegal guns in cars headed south to Mexico is largely ineffective. Wednesday, law enforcement authorities searched 3000 cars crossing from San Diego to Tijuana and did not find any firearms. KPBS Reporter Amy Isackson has details.

San Diego Sheriffs officials says more than 100 local, state and federal officers searched 3000 cars and 500 pedestrians headed to Mexico earlier this week.

Sheriff Bill Kolender says in a press release, the operation was aimed at helping Mexico combat drug violence. Drug cartels smuggle guns and money from the US to Mexico.

David Shirk directs the University of San Diego's Transborder Institute.

He says it is important the US government addresses its culpability in the drug war.

"That said, if you wait until you get to the border to try to stop arms smugglers, you're already too late. You're looking for a needle in a haystack. And, in many ways, these are organizations that are very sophisticated and have other means of moving illicit cargo across the border than in the backseat of someone's passenger vehicle," says Shirk.

Both US and Mexican officials eventually plan to screen all vehicles headed south into Mexico.

Amy Isackson, KPBS news.

Ex-prosecutor picked for new US 'border czar'

By ALICIA A. CALLOWELL and ELLIOT SPAGAT 16 hours ago

EL PASO, Texas (AP) - The job title — "border czar"— is familiar to Alan Bersin, who more than a decade ago led an effort to fight drug and human smuggling that had mixed results at best.

Bersin was tapped Wednesday to oversee America's efforts to keep drugs and illegal immigrants from flooding in from Mexico. As a federal prosecutor in the Clinton administration, he headed up a border crackdown that discouraged illegal crossings in the San Diego area but drove migrants to attempt more dangerous treks through the desert.

He acknowledged the difficulties of his assignment as he stood on a Rio Grande bridge linking El Paso and Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, a city especially plagued by the drug violence that has killed more than 10,650 people in that country since December 2006.

"I understand as a father and a former prosecutor that we need to actually deal with the problems like the vast consumer market for drugs in the U.S. and the ease with which cash and weapons are smuggled south," Bersin said.

Bersin, now the assistant Homeland Security secretary for international affairs, held a similar title from 1995 to 1998 — Justice Department special representative for the Southwest border. As he will in his new job, he worked with agencies on both sides of the border to help coordinate the U.S. government's efforts to curb the flow of drugs and illegal immigrants from Mexico.

Bersin brings a deep understanding of the border, like his boss, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano, a former Arizona governor. He rides horses on his ranch along the San Diego border, near the shanties of Tijuana, Mexico, in an area that was overrun with Mexican cartels until the mid-1990s.

Bersin's legacy from that job was a U.S. government border crackdown in 1994 and modeled on a similar effort in Mexico to help drug enforcement in those cities didn't actually change the number of illegal migrants, but pushed them to remote mountains and deserts, mainly in Arizona, where migrants have died of exposure and thirst crossing the border.

Even advocates of tough border enforcement say that still doesn't work.

"It demonstrated you can control the border, but the bad guys still find a way," said Peter Nunez, who preceded Bersin as the top prosecutor in San Diego and now teaches immigration policy at University of San Diego. "It's a long border, 2,000 miles long."

Napolitano, introducing Bersin in El Paso before continuing a tour of the border in New Mexico, agreed that for every success in one spot, the trouble would move to another.

As U.S. attorney in San Diego from 1993 to 1998, Bersin, 62, was known as an effective prosecutor with a knack for getting his bosses in Washington to devote money and attention to the border. Critics said the Brooklyn native's style was heavy-handed and uncompromising — a reputation that stuck when he was superintendent of San Diego public schools from 1998 to 2009.

The school board bought out his contract a year early after repeated clashes with the teachers union and some board members. Despite his inexperience at running public schools, standardized test scores rose under his watch and supporters welcomed his focus on improving math and literacy skills.

Hours into his new job Wednesday, Bersin set up a potential conflict with border governors and members of Congress who have demanded troops along the border to control possible spillover violence from Mexico.

"We should be very cautious to not misstate the security situation," Bersin said. "The poise comitatus have served this country well," he said, referring to the law prohibiting the use of military in a law enforcement capacity in the U.S.

After his rocky tenure in San Diego education, he largely avoided controversy during a stint as California's secretary of public education, an appointment of Republican Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, and as chairman of the San Diego County Regional Airport Authority.

Bersin is a longtime friend of former President Bill Clinton and has known Napolitano since they agreed in the 1990s to join the San Diego school board, where Bersin described Napolitano as the school's greatest advocate.

Though Bersin has little bearing on his new job, Rozental said.

"I think he was acting under instructions of his government," he said. "I think President Obama has different ideas about how to deal with these issues."

Elliot Spagat reported from San Diego.
New 'Border Czar' to Tackle Drug Violence, Beef Up Security

The administration's new 'border czar' Alan Bersin is charged with improving security and quelling drug violence along the Mexican border. Analysts assess his biggest challenges.

RAY SUAREZ: Given the recent spate of drug-cartel violence along the U.S.-Mexican border and the hundreds of thousands of people who try to enter the U.S. illegally each year through the southwest, the Obama administration has decided to bring in some extra help: a so-called border czar.

Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano named former federal prosecutor Alan Bersin to the post today in El Paso, Texas.

From 1993 to 1998, Bersin led the government's crackdown on illegal immigration along the California-Mexico border. During his last three years at the Justice Department, he also served as the southwest border representative for the attorney general.

Bersin's most immediate challenge is likely to be a drug war that's grown increasingly violent, with more than 6,300 killed in Mexico just last year. Napolitano said confronting the drug war was vital to the safety of the American people, as well.

JANET NAPOLITANO, secretary of Homeland Security: The rest of the United States has a stake in this, too. That the drugs that come across an unsecured border, infiltrate our neighborhoods and communities across this country. There is no state of this country that does not have a stake in this border.

RAY SUAREZ: The drug violence is likely to be a topic of discussion tomorrow, when President Obama meets with Mexican President Felipe Calderon in Mexico City.

Coordinating security efforts

RAY SUAREZ: To explore that challenge and more, we turn to David Shirk, director of the Trans-Border Institute at the University of San Diego, and Sam Quinones, author of the book, "True Tales from Another Mexico." He's been covering this story for the Los Angeles Times.

Professor Shirk, many of the functions that are being fitted into this new job already exist with the Drug Enforcement Agency, the Border Patrol, with the homeland security herself. Why have a border czar?

DAVID SHIRK, University of San Diego: Well, I think the idea is to try to focus and coordinate efforts on the U.S. side in a way that is often difficult to achieve with individual agencies each doing their own thing.

RAY SUAREZ: Alan Bersin had a similar job under Attorney General Janet Reno. Will it be different this time?

DAVID SHIRK: Well, I think the major difference is, in the mid-1990s, when the Clinton administration created the border czar position, the emphasis at that time was really on addressing undocumented immigration. Now the set of challenges that people are concerned about the most have to do with drug trafficking and drug cartel-related violence.

RAY SUAREZ: Do the Mexicans have a similar job?

DAVID SHIRK: Not presently. In the early years of the Fox administration, there was a border czar appointed at that time on the Mexican side. Ironically, we've never had a U.S. border czar or a Mexican border czar at the same time. And it would probably be very helpful for a homologous position to be developed to help Alan Bersin...
New 'Border Czar' to Tackle Drug Violence, Beef Up Security

I

Sam Quinones
Los Angeles Times

All of this has kind of put pressure on routes into the United States, ones that were pretty much established, and this has caused this kind of ferocious, intensely savage kind of violence that you've seen on TV.

David Shirk
University of San Diego

Unfortunately, the construction of increased fencing, higher levels of surveillance and patrol along key urban corridors of the border basically pushed many of the undocumented immigrants out to desert.

Fighting among cartels

RAY SUAREZ: Sam Quinones, when Americans glance at the television or a newspaper, they hear about violence, they see a very tense video of people shooting at people. But who's fighting whom?

SAM QUINONES, Los Angeles Times: Well, in general, there's three things going on. There's wars within certain cartels. They've been fighting among themselves for dominance now that certain capos have been arrested.

There's fights between cartels. The Sinaloa Cartel and the Gulf Cartel primarily have been fighting it out. Lately, the Sinaloa Cartel and the Juarez Cartel have been battling for the Juarez corridor into the United States.

And, thirdly, there's a new actor on the scene, and that is the Mexican government. For a long time, the Mexican government -- and I'm talking about in the 1970s and '80s -- elements of the Mexican government were involved in kind of facilitating and organizing the drug trade in Mexico. They were very much participants in all this.

Now, many years have passed. A lot of change has come to Mexico. So the new government has a totally different attitude now, and they're going after these cartel guys. They're not just going after loads of dope, they're going after guns, money and the capos themselves.

All of this has kind of put pressure on routes into the United States, ones that were pretty much established, and this has caused this kind of ferocious, intensely savage kind of violence that you've seen on TV in the last -- I would put it, actually, going back to about 2005, was when this all started.

U.S. aid trickling into Mexico

RAY SUAREZ: Sam, last year the United States government announced something called the Merida Initiative, promising about $1.5 billion in security aid for Mexico. Is it very much in evidence, as the Calderon government tries to crack down?

SAM QUINONES: Well, no, because I think only part of that, a portion of it -- I think it's maybe 15 percent or 20 percent of it -- has been funded yet. So I don't think that that has played much of a role.

I think that, you know, folks in the U.S. Congress and folks in the Mexican government are hoping that that will -- that will increase over the next few months.

RAY SUAREZ: Professor Shirk, the new border czar, Alan Bersin, is something of a known quantity in the world of people who watch Mexican-American relations because of the work he did in California on the border during the 1990s. Tell us about Operation Gatekeeper and how it's remembered today.

DAVID SHIRK: Well, Operation Gatekeeper, along with other efforts to concentrate border security resources and clean up the border region, has a mixed history.

On the one hand, it achieved many of its objectives in terms of making it much more difficult for unwanted elements to cross the border, whether it was undocumented immigrants or criminal agents.

Unfortunately, the construction of increased fencing, higher levels of surveillance and patrol along key urban corridors of the border basically pushed many of the undocumented immigrants out to desert and mountain areas and led to much higher levels of death and injury for people crossing the border, moving from double digits to 300, 400 people dying every year coming across the border.

That has -- that legacy of migrant death is something that I think critics of Bersin would attribute to him and to the effort to beef up border security.

RAY SUAREZ: And, Sam, did hardening the California-Mexico border push people to cross into Janet Napolitano's Arizona, where she was the attorney general?

SAM QUINONES: That's correct. I mean, what it did was restore the rule of law, essentially, along the San Diego corridor into the United States. That used to be just a totally chaotic place rife with crime, muggings, murders.
and so on.

But as David Shirk says, rightly so, it pushed everything further east. And so now the big corridor, both for smuggling immigrants as well as for smuggling drugs, is up through from Sonora into Arizona and, from there, across the country. So that's pretty much the effect that it had.

**Worries about Mexican sovereignty**

RAY SUAREZ: Let me ask you both before we go, any time the United States tries to mount operations in coordination with Mexico, there's often, on the Mexican side of the border, worry about Mexican sovereignty. What does Mexico want from the U.S., Professor, at this point?

DAVID SHIRK: I think that Mexico has been calling for many, many years for greater effort on the part of the United States to control weapon smuggling southbound into Mexico.

Gun laws in the United States are very lax compared to the gun laws in Mexico, and there's a perception in Mexico that we're not doing enough to actually control especially the flow of high-powered weapons into Mexico.

The other thing that Mexico often raises is this issue of corruption. Many Mexicans point out that, as much corruption as there may be in Mexico, it's difficult to believe that corruption somehow stops at the border and the reach of drug-trafficking organizations is somehow constrained by the border.

So I think Mexico is also looking for sincere efforts on the part of the United States to identify our responsibility and our contributions to what is a bi-national problem.

RAY SUAREZ: Sam, I've got time only for a very quick, final thought from you on that question.

SAM QUINONES: I would say, simply, though, that the other side of the coin is that the corruption surely is a problem in Mexico. The lack of strong institutions clearly is a problem in Mexico. If Mexico is looking for that from the United States, another thing they might need to do is look to themselves as well. This is definitely a problem down there and part of what this war is all about, as well.

RAY SUAREZ: Sam Quinones and Professor Shirk, gentlemen, thank you both.

DAVID SHIRK: Thank you.

SAM QUINONES: Thank you.
Border czar will try to repeat his success

The Homeland Security secretary is expected to name Alan Bersin, who was credited with taming a lawless area between Tijuana and San Diego during the Clinton administration, to a similar post today.

By Richard Marosi and Josh Meyer

April 15, 2009

Reporting from San Diego and Washington — A former U.S. attorney who oversaw a crackdown on illegal immigration on the California-Mexico border a decade ago will be appointed the Southwest border czar by the Obama administration, according to a Department of Homeland Security official.

Alan Bersin, who served in a similar post during the Clinton administration in the 1990s, will be charged with controlling illegal immigration and drug violence amid Mexico's ongoing war against organized crime, the official said.

By choosing the aggressive former federal prosecutor credited with taming a once-lawless area of the region, the Obama administration appears to be signaling that improving the U.S. response to the threat of Mexican drug cartels is a priority.

Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano has said in recent congressional testimony and speeches that she is concerned about indications of a lack of cooperation and dysfunction among the many U.S. federal agencies combating the cross-border trafficking of weapons, drugs and migrants.

The appointment of Bersin is one of the keystones of her new strategy, the department official said.

"The position will focus on illegal immigration into the U.S. as well as southbound gun trafficking and cash smuggling," said the official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because the news of the appointment, first reported by Associated Press on Tuesday evening, has not formally been authorized to be disclosed publicly.

Napolitano is expected to name Bersin to the position today during a visit to the Southwest border.

It was not immediately clear what kind of authority Bersin will have over the myriad border agencies. The post is within Homeland Security, and Bersin will report to Napolitano, according to the official.

During his first stint as border czar from 1995 to 1998, Bersin oversaw the unprecedented increase in fortifications and enforcement along the San Diego-Tijuana border, which had become symbolic of illegal immigration run amok.

People poured across by the hundreds in nightly "banzai" runs, dashing through fences and canyons. Miles of fencing and hundreds of new U.S. Border Patrol agents helped restore order. But the crackdown, experts note, only shifted immigration flows east, first to California's Imperial Valley and then to Arizona, the current epicenter of illegal immigration into the U.S.

Bersin was credited with improving relations with his law enforcement counterparts in Mexico, which experts note is key for achieving any long-term progress. "I think the message is that they are serious about trying to work with Mexico to address these binational problems," said David A. Shirk, director of the Trans-Border Institute at the University of San Diego. "They want to have a go-to person that can coordinate on a broad range of complex issues."

After his stint as border czar, Bersin became the superintendent of schools in San Diego. In 2005, California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger appointed Bersin secretary of Education.

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josh.meyer@latimes.com
Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano named former federal prosecutor Alan Bersin as the next "border czar" to lead U.S. Customs and Border Protection during a Wednesday news conference in El Paso, Texas.

"Alan brings years of vital experience with local, state and international partners to help us meet the challenges we face at our borders," Napolitano said in a statement, according to the Washington Post. "He will lead the effort to make our borders safe while working to promote commerce and trade."

Bersin, 62, will take over the largest agency under the Department of Homeland Security. U.S. Customs and Border Protection oversees more than 7,500 miles of U.S. border with Mexico and Canada, with a $9 billion budget and 38,000 customs agents and border patrol guards. In his new position, Bersin will be responsible for overseeing the interception of drugs and illegal immigrants at airports, seaports, and border crossings, while keeping the flow of legal traffic and goods unhindered.

His nomination comes at a time when renewed drug cartel violence along the U.S.-Mexico border has emerged as a critical security challenge. Bersin will oversee efforts to reduce that violence and stem the influence of cartels along the border.

Bersin formerly served as Southwest border representative for the U.S. border with Mexico between 1995 and 1998 under President Bill Clinton. He was known to be effective at cracking down on border crime and lowering illegal crossings, particularly around the San Diego-Tijuana junction.

"He was known in that role as a pragmatist, which seems to fit the Obama administration," Wayne Cornelius, director of the Center for Comparative Immigration Studies at the University of California San Diego, told the Los Angeles Times. "They want to have a go-to person that can coordinate on a broad range of complex issues."

Bersin has also served as secretary of education for California, superintendent of San Diego schools and U.S. attorney in San Diego.

Media reports categorize his time as San Diego schools chief as stormy, as he regularly faced off with teachers and school board members. Still, his performance earned him the nod from California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger to serve as the state's secretary of education in 2005.

"Alan is a reformer and that is what I love about him," Schwarzenegger said in announcing the appointment. "As superintendent, he launched a major administrative reorganization and an academic reform plan aimed at improving student achievement. And the plan is working."

Born in Brooklyn, Bersin attended Harvard University and later Oxford University as a Rhodes Scholar, where he befriended Bill Clinton. He also holds a law degree from Yale. He is the U.S. chair of a new task force on the U.S.-Mexico border region, organized by the Mexican Council on Foreign Relations and the Pacific Council on International Policy.

Bersin also serves as the chair of the executive committee of the San Diego County Regional Airport Authority.

The border chief announcement comes as President Barack Obama prepares to travel to Mexico Thursday to meet with Mexican President Felipe Calderon. The U.S. government announced plans last month to help Mexican authorities combat violent drug gangs south of the border and renew a focus on curbing the southbound flow of U.S. guns and smuggling profits to the cartels.

--- Compiled from wire reports and other media sources
Another Czar is Born!

By Liz Harper

Indeed, as some feared and others hoped, the Obama administration does like its czars and special envoys.

We've already got the war czar, climate czar, health czar, urban affairs czar, drug czar, and a special envoy for the Summit of the Americas, to name a few.

And as of April 15, we now have a border czar when Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano named former federal prosecutor Alan Bersin, 62, to the newly created post at a press conference in El Paso, Texas.

Well, his official title is Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Assistant Secretary for International Affairs and Special Representative for Border Affairs.

Somehow I imagine him as Superman, swooping in to save the U.S. from spillover of narco-violence, and to crack down on the flow of guns and drugs across the border.

Actually, his job is even bigger than that (though no cape is involved, as far as I know). Bersin will coordinate the efforts and resources of local, federal and state agencies on counter-narcotics matters, as well as other transnational issues, like cross-border commerce and immigration.

"Alan brings years of vital experience working with local, state and international partners to help us meet the challenges we face at our borders," said Secretary Napolitano. "He will lead the effort to make our borders safe while working to promote commerce and trade."

That's a mighty big challenge.

But Superman or not, Bersin does come to this position with plenty of experience. During the Clinton administration, he served as the U.S. Attorney General's Southwest Border Representative and the U.S. Attorney for California's Southern District, with a focus on stemming illegal immigration, and coordinating law enforcement between Mexico and the United States. As federal prosecutor, he racked up an impressive number of drug convictions. As the Southwest border czar, Bersin in 1994 oversaw "Operation Gatekeeper," a controversial program that beefed up security in the southwest border region.

While human smuggling decreased in that area, the "higher levels of surveillance and patrol along key urban corridors of the border basically pushed many of the undocumented immigrants out to desert and mountain areas and led to much higher levels of death and injury for people crossing the border," according to David Shirk of the Trans-Border Institute at the University of San Diego in a discussion with The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer.

For that reason, his appointment was met by criticism from several human rights groups, like the American Friends Service Committee.

Pedro Rios of the American Friends Service Committee told the San Diego Union Tribune that Bersin's "iron fist" approach doesn't "respond to the needs of border community members who are still dealing with the errors of policies, like Gatekeeper."

Nevertheless, Chapell Lawson of MIT, who served as a director of inter-American affairs on the National Security Council during the Clinton administration and knows Bersin personally, called it "a brilliant and inspired choice."

"I'm going through my mental rolodex—and it's hard to think of anyone else in the U.S. who would be more qualified than him. He understands the border region; he lives in a border area, he's been immersed in border issues going on two decades now. Plus, he's well respected in the U.S. and in Mexico," Lawson said.

When asked why this new czar position was even created in the first place, Lawson called it "essential for the DHS to coordinate the inter-agency process" on counter narcotics, trade and immigration issues.

So, is a new czar enough to tackle the narco-violence and human smuggling problems along the U.S. border with Mexico?

One surely can't expect a mere mortal to do the superhero task of solving these problems.

Certainly not alone.
"My great hope is that Mexico will name a counterpart on their end—to have parallel structures on the border. Right now, there is no Mexican border authority—that would help a lot. There are consulates, but not a Mexican border patrol to talk to their U.S. counterparts with their walkie talkies," Lawson told me.

"You need a coordinator on that side. So, long-term goal, there needs to be a real border control and customs agency in Mexico. In the short term, it would greatly improve the working relationship if Mexico had its own border czar," Lawson concluded.

As assistant secretary for international affairs for Homeland Security, Bersin reports directly to the Secretary of Homeland Security. His portfolio includes the southwest border, overseeing relevant DHS agencies, helping to coordinate border security efforts with the State and Justice Departments, and building relationships on the state and local levels. It does NOT include having a direct role with the Merida Initiative, or taking on a policymaking role, an official from Homeland Security said. He's not going to be working at the White House or for the White House, as a good source said, stressing, he's going to be the secretary's point man on border issues.

But, it's not yet clear what authority he may or may not have over other DHS agencies, like Customs and Border Protection and Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Permanent chiefs for both agencies remain vacant.

Napolitano's announcement came a day before President Obama headed to Mexico City to meet with Mexican President Felipe Calderón. Drugs, guns, border security and commerce were expected to be top items on their agenda.

Source URL: http://www.americasquarterly.org/border-czar

Links:
WASHINGTON - A former U.S. attorney who oversaw a crackdown on illegal immigration on the California-Mexico border a decade ago will be appointed the Southwestern border czar by the Obama administration, according to a Department of Homeland Security official.

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By choosing the aggressive former federal prosecutor, who was credited with taming a once-lawless area of the frontier, the Obama administration appears to be signaling that improving the U.S. response to the threat of Mexican drug cartels is a priority.

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But the crackdown, experts note, only shifted immigration flows east, eventually to Arizona, the current epicenter of illegal immigration into the U.S.

Bersin was credited with improving relations with his law-enforcement counterparts in Mexico, which experts note is key for achieving any long-term progress.

"I think the message is that they are serious about trying to work with Mexico to address these binational problems," said David Shirk, director of the Trans-Border Institute at the University of San Diego. "They want to have a go-to person that can coordinate on a broad range of complex issues."

After his stint as border czar, Bersin became the superintendent of schools in San Diego. In 2005, California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger appointed Bersin secretary of education.
By Miriam Raftery

April 16, 2009 (San Diego)—Alan Bersin has officially been appointed Border Czar by President Barack Obama, Homeland Security Director Janet Napolitano announced today. Bersin held a similar position during the Clinton administration. He served as U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of California and the U.S. Justice Department’s special representative for the Southwest border. He was Education Secretary of California and Superintendent of San Diego Schools, often clashing with teachers’ unions. During his prior tenure as border “czar,” Bersin advised Attorney General Janet Reno on strategies to reduce illegal immigration, human and drug trafficking. He tripled felony prosecutions, including immigration and drug offenses, but sparked controversy for implementing “Project Gatekeeper,” which fortified the border near San Diego but has been blamed for a rise in immigrant deaths.

"Unfortunately, the construction of increased fencing, higher levels of surveillance and patrol along key urban corridors of the border basically pushed many of the undocumented immigrants out to desert and mountain areas and led to much higher levels of death and injury for people crossing the border, moving from maybe 100 to 200 people dying every year coming across the border...that legacy of migrant death is something that I think critics of Bersin would attribute to him and to the effort to beef up border security," said University of San Diego’s David Shih, covered in an Online NewsHour interview.

“Operation Gatekeeper was the beginning of an effort to restore the rule of law to the border,” Bersin said, according to a San Diego Union-Tribune article today. He blamed the rise in border-crossing deaths as “largely a function of the migrants being taken there by smugglers.”

Napolitano praised Bersin for his experience working with “local, state and international partners to help us meet the challenges we face at our borders.” She added, “He will lead the effort to make our borders safe while working to promote commerce and trade.”

Addressing rising drug cartel violence along the border is expected to be one of Bersin’s top priorities. “Because of the violence in Mexico, there has been a focus on assuring security and avoiding spillover from that violence,” he said, adding that today’s challenges are very different than during his prior tenure in the 1990s.

A native of New York born into a Jewish family, Bersin is married to San Diego Superior Court Lisa Foster and is father to three daughters, Alissa, Madelein and Amalia Rose. A graduate of Harvard, he was also a Rhodes Scholar and received a law degree from Yale University.

Following today’s announcement of his appointment, which was made in El Paso, Texas, Bersin was scheduled to depart on visits to border communities including Del Rio, Laredo, Hidalgo, McAllen, and Brownsville to meet with law enforcement authorities to discuss coordination of border policies among state, federal and local authorities.

More April 2009 Articles Border Issues News Alan Bersin border czar border violence

Napolitano promises more agents at San Diego-area checkpoints

The secretary of Homeland Security says an additional 24 agents will work to intercept Mexico-bound vehicles carrying weapons and drug profits. By Richard Marosi

April 2, 2009

Reporting from San Diego — Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano on Wednesday promised to add two dozen agents in the San Diego area to inspect Mexico-bound vehicles for weapons and drug profits, as part of the federal government's new anti-drug plan.

On her first visit to the Southwest border since announcing the anti-trafficking blueprint last week, Napolitano said the agents would help staff checkpoints that had been used sporadically for the last two years. They would look to intercept high-powered weaponry that is believed to be fueling much of the drug violence in Mexico.

Southbound checkpoints have turned up numerous weapons and millions of dollars, including the March 19 discovery at the Laredo, Texas, border crossing of $3 million hidden in a passenger bus.

"We're taking them on, and we're taking them out. That's our goal," said Napolitano during a news conference at the Otay Mesa border crossing in San Diego County, where a cache of recently seized AR-15 assault rifles was on display.

Some experts, however, doubt the strategy will have a significant effect, saying illegal drug trafficking into the United States has not been reduced despite the presence of hundreds of inspectors and new technology, such as X-ray machines to detect contraband.

They say the increased focus on southbound vehicles would snarl traffic at border crossings, where long wait times already cost the Tijuana-San Diego region more than $4 billion per year in lost sales, tourism and other economic output, according to the San Diego Assn. of Governments.

"The knee-jerk reaction of policy makers in Washington is often to see that border as a leaky valve that you can clamp shut and stop illicit flows," said David Shirk, director of the Trans-Border Institute at the University of San Diego. "But the reality is, you're causing the biggest costs to licit traffic flows across the border."

Napolitano said new technology, including license plate readers, would help speed up the inspection process.

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On a blazing afternoon a few weeks ago in Rio de Janeiro, Jamie Cooper jumped into the back of a black police SUV, one of a convoy of four vehicles. In a flash of lights, the convoy raced through the city towards the neighborhood of Kajú, home to one of the scores of favelas across the Brazilian city. Deep in the shanty town, the vehicles screeched to a halt in front of a two-story home. The building was palatial by slum standards. Cooper saw a small swimming pool and noticed a glow of a plasma screen television through the windows. Inside, he could see expensive, well-tailored suits, the sort of suits you see along the promenade at Ipanema Beach, not in the slums. A sense of calm, made up of agents from the Rio de Janeiro civil anti-piracy unit and the local police force, jumped from the cars and crowded around the home’s front door. One of the agents kicked in the door and the group streamed in, machine guns bristling in the air like antennae.

Cooper remembers commotion: Shouted voices, children crying. A man and a woman, the home’s inhabitants, were ordered at gunpoint to raise their hands. In one corner of the hot living room, a computer hummed. Stacks of booty lined the walls—recently burned pirated DVDs of music, software and movies. The cops had found what they were looking for: A stash of counterfeit goods with a street value of more than $20,000.

The man and woman were stuffed in the back of one of the SUVs, then the pirated goods were loaded in the back of a truck and the convoy headed back to police headquarters, leaving the favela before dark, when even an armored convoy could be in danger.

The raid in Rio was one of several anti-piracy operations Cooper and his Chilean cameraman have taken part in over the last few months. Cooper, a professor of law at California Western School of Law, has spent the first few months of 2009 engaged in a battle that is both personal and professional. With funding from the Justice Department, the self-proclaimed “gonzo lawyer” has been traveling Latin America collecting footage, music and documentation to produce an educational and training video on the global problem of intellectual property piracy.

Cooper hopes to highlight the need for reforms in Latin America and elsewhere to help protect intellectual property rights, and views such reforms as a vital phase in the development of a country’s legal system. Protecting intellectual property by fighting piracy fosters creativity, helps ensure safe working conditions and can help choke off a lucrative source of income for organized crime and terrorist groups, he said.

It’s not the first time the baby-faced, 43-year-old former photographer and film producer has embarked on an ambitious project in Latin America. Over the last decade or so, Cooper has helped educate Bolivians about their new constitution, worked on reform of the Ecuadorian, Peruvian and Chilean legal systems, and started a program aimed at turning Bolivian “shoeshine boys” into human rights educators.

That work has earned Cooper a reputation as one of a re-emerging breed of academics: Young, passionate thinkers who are more than willing to forgo the ivory towers of academia for a chance to get their hands dirty with the world’s problems. That might mean packing his suitcase with layers of Kevlar body armor and dashing the occasional bullet, but Cooper’s enthusiasm and selflessness have helped him carve out a niche in the local academic world that has won him sincere respect from his peers.

“He has an almost hyperkinetic energy about him,” said David Shirk, director of the Trans-Border Institute at the University of San Diego. “He’s not the typical academic focused on writing papers. In fact, he rejects the idea of the typical academic. He has a post-modern mind and he’s always thinking about the way technology, ideas, action and advocacy intersect.”

Cooper’s latest project strikes at the heart of an issue that he has had first-hand dealings with: Intellectual property piracy, or the global market in the stealing of ideas.

In the mid-1990s, when he was working as a photographer for Marie Claire magazine, several of Cooper’s photographs were reprinted, without his permission, in the Corriere della Serra, an Italian newspaper.

Cooper sued, eventually recovering almost eight times what the newspaper would have paid him for the shots. The incident sparked an interest in intellectual property that has stayed with him and grown as he has learned more about the growing problem of piracy.

“It was very upsetting to have my rights stolen from me,” he said. “But I saw that hell hath no fury like an artist — who also happens to be a lawyer — scorned.”

In recent years, Cooper has made the protection of intellectual property a growing focus of Proyecto Acceso, the nonprofit that he co-founded and directs that promotes judicial reform and legal rights education in Latin America and is headquartered at Cal Western. In 2003, on a research trip to Paraguay to work on another project, he took the opportunity to study intellectual property piracy first-hand.

Cooper wanted to investigate something he had read about in academic papers and trade journals: A claim that, each year, millions of dollars made from the sale of pirated goods finds its way into the hands of organized crime and terrorist organizations.

He also wanted to establish just how much the Paraguayan government and police forces knew about the local black markets. He interviewed the president, the attorney general and several senior judges, lawyers and prosecutors. He also went undercover, accompanying local Paraguayan police forces on raids into the capital, Asunción, and Ciudad del Este, a sprawling free-trade zone in the tri-border area of Paraguay near the borders with Brazil and Argentina.

The trip introduced Cooper to the vast, interconnected piracy gangs of Latin America. He said he learned on that trip just how insidious the problem of piracy has become in some South American countries.

“It’s been estimated that 70 percent of Paraguay’s GDP is based on counterfeit products — 70 percent!” he said. “The money goes all the way to the top. There’s so much money involved that in Paraguay and Brazil there are pro-piracy congress people who are in the pockets of the counterfeiters.”

Back in San Diego, Cooper made more reconnaissance trips across the border into Mexico to learn more about the piracy trade.
In 2004 and 2005 he visited a shell of a building that served as a factory in Tijuana where concrete statues of Winnie the Pooh were being knocked out by the dozen to be sold at the side of the road at the main border crossing into California. He was shocked by the dangerous work conditions and the health and safety violations he saw. Statues destined for children's bedrooms in the United States were being slugged with layer upon layer of toxic lead paint in a scene akin to a medieval workshop, within spitting distance of the U.S. border, he said.

"What was fascinating was that 200 years of employee and occupational standards had yet to reach that factory. It was shocking," Cooper said.

Increasingly, as he learned more about the issue Cooper began to see intellectual property piracy as a double-edged sword cutting into national interests: In addition to the billions of dollars lost by American companies through the sale of pirated goods from Versace to Viagra, the profits from those goods were often also indirectly harming the United States because they went to fund criminal and terrorist groups.

Cooper summarized his academic research and the findings from his fieldwork in a 2005 article for the California Western International Law Journal titled " Piracy 101."

"Mounting evidence confirms that the sale of counterfeit goods has become terrorists' most important income-generating activity," he wrote. One of the globe's hotspots for generating such income was the Ciudad del Este in Paraguay, he wrote, which by 2005 had become "a mecca for terror and crime organizations."

This year, the RAND Corporation, a non-profit think tank, published "Film Piracy, Organized Crime and Terrorism," a book that named the tri-border area as "the most important financing center for Islamic terrorism outside the Middle East, channeling $20 million annually to Hezbollah."

The terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001 opened the door to increased funding from the federal government for tackling piracy, Cooper said. In January, after many years of trying, Cooper finally was commissioned by the Justice Department to document the dangers that piracy poses to legitimate businesses and public health and safety throughout the Americas.

He and his team will be spending much of 2009 researching, filming and editing an educational and training film on intellectual property rights that will eventually be made available in embassies and U.S. government buildings around the world. The film will also appear in at least one film festival, and will be sent to law enforcement agencies all over the world.

The trip to the tri-border area was the third such trip Cooper has taken to Latin America in recent months to continue his research. Over three weeks, he went on two raids that netted a total of 24,000 counterfeit DVDs, games, software and CDs, including copies of popular movies like "Slumdog Millionaire" and also top Argentine and Brazilian films.

The raids also uncovered pirated copies of popular books like the Harry Potter series. Because the pirates generally sell DVDs and CDs for $1 each, instead of the average $15 legitimate price tag, Cooper estimates that the street value of the goods, roughly $24,000, should be multiplied by 15, to $360,000. That is a more accurate estimate of the real value lost to the industries that manufacture and distribute legitimate products, he said.

Cooper and his cameraman also filmed in the street markets of Sao Paolo, Brazil, collecting footage of pirated goods laid out on tables on the city streets. Thugs tried to steal their camera a couple of times, but the four armed undercover policemen who milled around them at all times proved adequate protection.

Cooper and his team have also been collecting songs about piracy to form a soundtrack to the film. Musicians from Bolivia, Paraguay, Brazil, Mexico and Chile have donated songs that they wrote and performed specifically for Cooper's project. In the mix will be: Paraguayan polka; hip-hop and ska from Bolivia; drum and bass from Chile; and rock from Brazil.

Closer to home, Andy Summern of the band The Police, who lives in Santa Monica, is also donating a song.

The amount of support he has received from local musicians in Latin America shows that his work is not just important for protecting American interests, Cooper said.

Protecting intellectual property is what Cooper calls a "second generation reform" that comes after a country has established a functioning legal system and made other developmental gains. With that reform comes protection for local inventors, musicians, writers, scientists and other artists, he said.

"It rewards innovation," he said. "It's not just Madonna and Bill Gates who are getting ripped off. They have marketplaces outside of Latin America, like the U.S., where intellectual property rights are protected and they can make a living. Paraguayan folkloric musicians, Bolivian musicians, don't have a marketplace outside their own respective countries or cities. If a very popular song is being pirated, they don't have a way to make a living."

Wayne Cornelius, director of the Center for Comparative Immigration Studies at UCSD, said Cooper is helping to keep alive a spirit of "dust-on-the-boots" fieldwork that has gradually been fading from American campuses.

Academics studying social sciences and the law in the U.S. have become increasingly focused on interpreting existing data, rather than digging into the subjects they are studying themselves, Cornelius said.

"There's only so much evidence you can get from reading other people's work," Cornelius said. "Some issues have simply not been studied vigorously by anybody and you've got to go out and get your own data."

Cooper's film will be debuting at the Rio de Janeiro International Film Festival in late September. He leaves for Chile to work on a separate project and to carry out more research on May 20.

Correction: The original version of this story incorrectly identified the name of Wayne Cornelius' center. We regret the error.

Please contact Will Carless directly at will.carless@usc.edu or with your thoughts, ideas, personal stories or tips. Or set the tone of the debate with a letter to the editor.
'Let the war begin'

More than 20 people have been killed in the Vancouver region since the beginning of this year in what police describe as targeted shootings. No one has offered a suggestion for when the violence will end. But the root cause of the violence is no secret.

VANCOUVER — David Banh was dead, slumped over in the driver's seat of a white SUV, when police drove into the parking lot of a pizza restaurant in East Vancouver. Less than 48 hours later, 24-year-old Lionel Tan was shot dead at a Husky gas station, about 15 minutes away from the pizza place. It looked as if he had just gotten out of his car to go into the convenience store; the engine on a silver BMW convertible near the body was still running when police arrived.

The brazen killings last week, which police say had the hallmarks of gangland murders, occurred despite the arrests in the past few weeks of men who were allegedly prominent figures in three of the most active gangs in B.C. — the Red Scorpions, the Independent Soldiers and the UN gang. With almost daily shootings on city streets, police efforts so far have had no visible impact on gang activity.

International surveys continue to remind Vancouver that Canada's Olympic city is widely regarded as the best place in the world to live. But with almost daily carnage on the streets, Vancouver is losing its stellar reputation nearly as fast as the seconds speed by on the city clock that marks the time to the opening ceremonies of the 2010 Winter Games next February.

For months, civic boosters were concerned about how Olympic fans would react to the drug-infested Downtown Eastside neighbourhood. The Independent, a British newspaper, raised the stakes recently, questioning whether Olympic fans will be safe anywhere in the city.

Julian Sher, co-author of The Road to Hell: How the Biker Gangs are Conquering Canada and Angels of Death, Inside the Bikers Global Crime Empire, said in an interview this week that the recent arrests of people allegedly associated with gangs were likely no more than "an opening volley by police" and not a signal that gang violence has been squelched.

"It's an indication that the battle is beginning," Mr. Sher said. "[The police are saying,] let the war begin."

The violence in Vancouver is reminiscent of Montreal in the late 1990s, when the city lost control of its streets to gang rivalry. More than 160 people, including several innocent bystanders, were killed or seriously injured before police regained the upper hand.

Mr. Sher said that errors made in Montreal may have been repeated in Vancouver. The shootings and killings are shrugged off as long as victims are gang members targeting each other and no innocent bystanders are affected. "Police, and to some degree the public and even politicians, initially take an attitude that this is the gangs cleaning up their own garbage," Mr. Sher said. "So [everyone] lets it slide, it gets out of hand and the gangs develop an attitude they can get away with murder."

"What is frightening about the gunplay over the past few months," he added, "is not just the body count, which is significant. It's the arrogance, that Al-Capone-style arrogance that this is my city and I can do what I want with impunity."

Marijuana's lethal costs

More than 20 people have been killed in the Vancouver region since the beginning of this year in what police describe as targeted shootings. No one — neither police, prosecutors nor political leaders — has offered a suggestion for when the violence will end.

Despite the apparent impotence of the authorities, the root cause of the violence is no secret. Police repeatedly point to B.C.'s marijuana trade as the prime source. Estimates of the value of the illegal trade indicate the business is something that some feel is worth fighting over, ranging anywhere from $1-billion to as much as $7-billion.

Numerous recent court cases have revealed that B.C. drug dealers sell the marijuana into the distribution system in exchange for cocaine, guns and U.S. currency. Violence erupts as vertically integrated groups compete for control over production and distribution of their products.

Police routinely bust British Columbians involved in running indoor marijuana grow operations. Almost every week, three or four Canadians who are nabbed while trying to smuggle drugs and guns across the border are brought before a U.S. magistrate, a U.S. attorney said in a recent interview.

Authorities south of the border have also tracked a high number of gangs in Washington State with links to Mexican gangs that are in the midst of their own deadly competition over the drug trade. The University of San Diego-Traffic-Border Institute says 7,337 people have died in drug-related violence in Mexico since January 2008.
of 2007.

In Quebec, where rival gangs battled over control of the drug trade, the beginning of the end came in March of 2001. It was then that more than 2,000 police officers across the province carried out more than 130 arrest warrants and seized gang assets, including 20 buildings, 70 firearms and millions of dollars in cash, crime reporter and author Paul Cherry wrote in The Biker Trials, Bringing Down the Hells Angels.

An international biker gang called the Bandidos mounted an effort to take over the drug turf abandoned by the Hells Angels and its rival, the Rock Machine, after the arrests, Mr. Cherry wrote. Police effectively undermined the control of the Bandidos on June 1, 2002, with 62 arrest warrants that led to charges of drug trafficking and conspiracy to commit murder.

Within three years, the homicide rate in Montreal fell to the lowest among Canada's five biggest cities. Last year, Montreal had its lowest number of homicides since 1972.

Michel Auger, a crime reporter for more than 40 years who wrote extensively about the bloody gang war in Montreal, was shot six times in the back in 2000, but survived without serious injury. He said in an interview this week that the violence in Montreal came to an end only after police arrested those at the top of the criminal organizations.

Street gangs cannot be viewed in isolation, he said. "There is no other way. You have to get to the top." Authorities have to be prepared to spend "a lot of money" on investigators and prosecutors, Mr. Auger added. "Otherwise you are going to catch only low-level operators."

But Vancouver police face hurdles that were not part of the scene in Montreal, Mr. Auger added. Montreal police were going after known and experienced criminals in their investigation of the Hells Angels; police could reasonably predict the biker gang's tactics. Vancouver police are confronting street gangs made up of young offenders who are not as organized as bikers. Also, more guns are on the street and huge profits from drug production and trafficking have attracted more criminals.

Police in B.C. this week readily admitted that the gang war is nowhere near over. "We're not going to think that arresting a couple of people is going to resolve this," said RCMP Corporal Dale Carr, a spokesman for the Vancouver region's integrated homicide investigation team.

The IHIT officers earlier this month made four arrests of alleged gang members in the so-called Surrey Six case, in which two innocent bystanders were killed in an exchange of gunfire that also claimed the lives of four men linked to gangs. A few weeks earlier, Vancouver police arrested five men linked to a gang conflict in southeast Vancouver between the so-called Sanghera group and the Buttar gang.

Superintendent Rob Rothwell of the Vancouver Police Department said gangs have been destabilized by recent arrests as members wonder who they can trust, what information police might have and who the next police targets might be.

"Once the gang loses that element of trust amongst themselves, the gang essentially disintegrates and they lose their power base, so, although not every gang member is in jail, the gang itself can no longer function as an effective unit," he said, adding that the "sobering effect" can be as effective as arrests and charges.

He acknowledged that the gang war is not over. "But I would certainly agree we have been very effective in destabilizing the gang activity," he said.

Mr. Sher said the recent arrests appear to be a significant breakthrough in the effort to stop the shootings and killings in public places. "But the cops I speak to," he said, "are not yet bringing out any bottles of champagne."

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Small Business

To succeed, make promises, and then deliver consistently

Travel

Book excerpt: Grizzlyville: Adventures in Bear Country
Human Rights Watch analyst to speak at USD

SAN DIEGO: A senior analyst with the group Human Rights Watch will speak on his investigations into conflicts in Afghanistan, Iraq and the Middle East during a talk May 7 at the University of San Diego.

The event is scheduled to start at 7 p.m. in the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice Theatre at the university, 5998 Alcala Park.

Marc Garlasco will describe how Human Rights Watch researchers collect evidence in war zones. Garlasco goes deep into the war zones as part of Human Rights Watch's emergency team.

He also worked in intelligence for seven years at the Pentagon.

Human Rights Watch is an independent organization that strives to focus international attention on places where human rights are being violated. ~A.V.
Equestrian Order Gathers

ALCALA PARK — The Western Lieutenancy of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem held its annual mid-year meeting March 26 at the University of San Diego.

The meeting was preceded by a Mass in Founders Chapel. Bishop Robert H. Brom presided at the celebration of the Eucharist, Father William Headley, CSSp, the dean of USD's Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies, spoke at the meeting.

Members of the order are known as “Knights” and “Ladies.”

Pictured: Sir Tom Kyd (left), the new area councilor of the Western Lieutenancy, and Sir William Davidson (right), who just completed eight years as area councilor.

The Southern Cross
World Affairs Council programs

RANCHO BERNARDO — The World Affairs Council, North County Chapter meets at 10 a.m. Thursdays in the meeting room at Remington Club II, 16922 Hierba Drive. May's programs are as follows:

- May 7: Father William R. Headley, Ph.D., Dean of the Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies, University of San Diego will discuss "New Optics on the Israeli-Palestinian Situation."
- May 14: Bill Rider, co-founder of American Combat Veterans of War (ACVOW) will present "The American Warrior: Overcoming Combat Stress."
- May 21: Dr. Lindsey Lupo, Assistant Professor of Political Science at Point Loma Nazarene University, will discuss "The Long Road to Freedom: Democracy, Democratization and Post-Conflict Justice."
- May 28: Miko Peled and Nader Elbanna will present "Born Enemies, a Palestinian and an Israeli, Found Friendship in Their Mutual Support of a Common Cause."
ALCALA PARK — The Trans-Border Institute at the University of San Diego, with support from the Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies, is hosting a major international conference April 15-16. The conference, titled "Migration, Religion and National Identity: Exploring Faith and Belonging in the Migrant Experience," will take place at the Joan B. Kroc Theatre on the USD campus. From the decision to leave one's home country to the reactions of receiving communities, religion has long been a significant factor in the relocation and integration of migrant peoples around the globe. The conference examines these topics from a historical and comparative perspective, and features accomplished academic and religious experts from the United States and abroad. For more information, email lawerence-09@sandiego.edu, call (619) 260-4166 or visit www.sandiego.edu/tbi.
**GOOD NEWS, ETC.**

April 2009

**WEDNESDAY APRIL 15**

11:30 a.m., Christian Women's Connection luncheon, speaker: Yvonne Karlin, location: South Bay Banquet Center, Bonita, reservations: 619-422-1628.

6 p.m., "Migration, Religion and National Identity Conference, Exploring Faith and Belonging in the Migrant Experience," continues on April 16, sponsored by: Trans-Border Institute, University of San Diego, location: Joan B. Kroc Theatre, USD, 619-260-4166.
SAN DIEGO READER
April 9, 2009
CALENDAR

"Migration, Religion, and National Identity" Conference, subtitled "Exploring Faith and Belonging in the Migrant Experience" hosted by Trans-Border Institute will examine migrant topics from historical and comparative perspective. 619-260-4166. Wednesday, April 15, 6 p.m.; free. University of San Diego, Alcaldie Park. (LINDA VITIKA)
THURSDAY APRIL 16

9 a.m., "Soli Deo Gloria—Reflections on the Resurrection," Easter season fine art exhibit, continues through April 18, free, North Coast Calvary Chapel, Carlsbad, 760-929-0029.

6 p.m., "Migration, Religion and National Identity Conference, Exploring Faith and Belonging in the Migrant Experience," sponsored by Trans-Border Institute, University of San Diego, location: Joan B. Kroc Theatre, USD, 619-260-4168.
Cayotes: Two coyotes smuggle their buddy across the border, and it's so simple that they turn it into a business. Part of USD Border Film Week, it screens at 6 p.m. Thursday, April 2, at the Joan B. Kroc Theatre on the USD campus. Free.
Other
USD develops arts business certificate program
By JENNA LONG, The Daily Transcript

The University of San Diego's Division of Continuing Education will launch a new art certificate program in May.

The program, "Business for the Arts and Nonprofit Art Organizations," (BANAO) was designed to meet the needs of the art professional and foster creative alliances, so he or she can confidently overcome the challenges of today's art market. A free Informational Session will be held at USD's Manchester Executive Conference Center on April 21 from 6-7 p.m. for potential students to meet instructors and learn about the program.

For more information regarding this program and registration, contact Karla Duarte, academic art program coordinator, at kduarte@sandiego.edu or 619-260-5986 or go to sandiego.edu/businessforarts. The University of San Diego is located at 5998 Alcalá Park, San Diego, CA 92110.
Christopher Wessells joined University of San Diego as its vice provost and chief information officer in March 2006. In a short three years, he has transformed the technology environment and service from one of not being able to rely on the basics to one of being at the forefront of technology and applications. Wessells has provided strong leadership to his team and the university. He is technically astute, able to evaluate and improve the technical decisions of his staff, and a strong strategic thinker and planner. During his tenure, he has greatly expanded the bandwidth and improved the reliability and security of the campus network. He changed the e-mail provider, so that e-mail is a reliable service. His staff is customer and user-oriented. He has established a user advisory committee and is well-known and involved across campus.

Before coming to USD, Wessells was the interim vice provost for information services, dean of university libraries and assistant chief information officer at University of Rhode Island for five years. Prior to this, he was information technology coordinator for the board of governors for higher education in Rhode Island for ten years.

Wessells successfully completed the implementation of the Oracle human resources and financial systems at USD and has taken a primarily paper-based student admissions, registration and financial aid process and implemented the Banner Student system at the university. This has greatly increased efficiency and customer service for the entire university. Wessells has been an active leader in introducing academic IT to USD's teaching and learning mission. He has led efforts to train and assist faculty in the use of course management software (e.g., blackboard and web CT), clicker devices, collaborative learning and Web conference applications (e.g., WIMBA), and podcasting.
Alternative Spring-Break Experience Proves Challenging, Rewarding for USD Students

By Julia Campagna

TIJUANA — Community, Spirituality, Service. Simplicity.
These are the tenets of the University of San Diego’s annual Tijuana Spring Breakthrough, an alternative spring break experience offered through USD’s University Ministry program.

This year, a group of 22 students and two University Ministry staff members took part in the event, held March 6-12, and spent a life-changing week among the poor and marginalized of Tijuana.
Crisscrossing the city in a caravan of four minivans, students engaged with people from all walks of life, including fair-trade business owners at Café Justo, migrants at Casa del Migrante, children and infants at the orphanage Hogar Infantil La Gloria, the homeless at Casa Juan Diego, and the elderly at Casa de las Madres. The group also performed physical labor, served dinner, washed windows, weeded, painted and cleaned.

But what left the deepest impact was the interpersonal connections that each group member developed with people on the other side of the border.

“The relationships we built with the people of Tijuana are something special,” freshman Tom DeCarlo said. “They are permanent relationships, not in the sense that we will likely see our friends very often, but permanent in that we will never forget the people we met, and they will never forget that we cared about them.”

Freshman Ansa Yoonterzeh and sophomore Terrey Allen were invited into the house of a local family in the Valencias, “or community, where the group stayed. After a conversation of more than an hour, the owner of the simple house, Felipe, concluded the exchange with the words, “Dios nos dio esta noche” — “God brought us together” — and “Si estebacham no estebacham esta noche” — “God was with us this night.”

The group was particularly touched by the stories of the men at Casa del Migrante, most of whom are recent deportees from the United States. Many of the men had lived in the United States for almost 20 years and had spent little time in Mexico since emigrating as small children. After deportation, these men found themselves in Tijuana, without a support system and, in some cases, unfamiliar with the city.

The USD group spent time sorting through donations and items migrants had left behind, letters from wives and children, deportation documents, toothbrushes and socks — pieces of lives left behind in transition.
Throughout the week, the students embraced the opportunity to fully engage with the city of Tijuana and explore many of its communities.

In the community of Puesto Gonzalez, the students learned about micro-financing.
In La Madera, they watched a soccer game and shared dinner and conversation with a youth group.
For the entire week, the community of Maclovio Rojas served as their home, classroom, church and playground. The group spent each night in the community, living with the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange. Every night, the group sat in a circle on their sleeping bags and reflected on the day. They talked about the people they had met and with whom they had shared stories and meals. They remarked upon the joys and struggles they had encountered among the people of Tijuana.

The alternative spring break challenged participants’ expectations and called them to move beyond their comfort zones.

“Realizing the struggles faced by people who I found so similar to myself and my family, starkly knocked me off my pedestal of entitlement, and challenged me to question why and how we ended up in different places,” said sophomore Jennie Kueker.

When asked to condense the seven-day experience into just one word, the students who participated in this year’s Tijuana Spring Breakthrough opted for words like “eye-opening,” “challenging” and “revitalizing.”
Students Compete for $10K in Business Plan Contest
San Diego Business Journal Staff

A panel of judges who have braved the real-world economy plan to evaluate the potential of student business plans during a business plan competition April 17 at the University of San Diego.

Ideas to be presented include:

• A Web-based service that can make renting easier for landlords and tenants.
• A no-sweat line of dress shirts.
• A valet service for campus parking.

Undergraduate business students are set to present their plans from 1 to 4 p.m. in Rooms 226 and 229 of Olin Hall on the USD campus. Graduates compete from 6 to 9 p.m. in Room 225.

Students are vying for $10,000 in prize money. Finals are May 8.

— Brad Graves
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More college students study abroad, grow at home

Posted by hewillia April 02, 2009 06:00AM

CHASE O'BYRNE Chase O'Byrne, (left) a 2006 Lake Ridge High graduate, rode dirt bikes with the local kids in Namibia during his trip through Semester at Sea.

University of San Diego junior Chase O'Byrne wanted to see the world rather than read about it, so he signed up for a Semester at Sea and set sail from Nassau last summer.

In four months, the 21-year-old 2006 Lake Ridge High School graduate had paraded in costume through the crowded streets of Tokyo, seen dead bodies float down an Indian river in a Hindu religious custom, and swum through waterfalls in Malaysia.

O'Byrne and many other former Clackamas County students joined record numbers of American students taking their studies abroad last year. A survey by the Institute of International Education showed 241,791 Americans studied overseas during the 2006-07 academic year, almost 150 percent more than a decade ago.

Students pack their bags for a variety of reasons, ranging from wanting to master a foreign language to building their resume. The experience comes with challenges -- it's not cheap and re-entry can be a shock -- but students and their parents agree that the students' personal growth makes it worthwhile.

Reasons they go

Like many study-abroad students, 21-year-old Jamison Merrill, a Lake Oswego High School alumnus, wanted to learn to speak another language.

He chose a home-stay program in Ferrara, Italy, through the University of Oregon. In addition to communicating with his host family, Merrill took all his classes in Italian. By the time he came home, he was conversationally fluent.

Molly Laue, 20, who went on to Santa Clara University after graduating from Wilsonville High School, chose a less-traditional destination: Legon, Ghana. She hoped to experience a completely different culture and as a pre-med major wanted to intern in a medical clinic.

Laue initially was disappointed when she was assigned to an orphanage, but afterward described it as "a blessing in disguise, as it was the best part of my experience." She raised money from friends and family to provide vaccinations and doctor visits for the children under her care. "I could see the difference I was making by being there," she said.

For other students, study abroad is a way to earn college credit while traveling.

JJ Hanna, a 22-year-old Clackamas High grad, returned to the University of Oregon with 12 business credits for two classes he took at the Copenhagen Business School last summer and had another dozen credits in Global Context waived. In addition, he found time to visit Norway, Germany, Ireland, Switzerland and the Netherlands during his six-week stay.

Once they reach their destination, students branch out and see the world. Their travel logs read like "1,000 Places to See Before You Die": Morocco during Ramadan, the Swiss Alps for canyoning, Pamplona to run with the bulls, and a pub crawl through London to celebrate a 21st birthday.

Facing challenges

Finances pose one of the biggest obstacles to students wanting to take their studies overseas. Usually, financial aid can be applied to the cost of study abroad.

Scholarships are available, though competition for them can be fierce. Some are country or language specific, such as the Bridging Scholarships, which awards up to $4,000 for study in Japan; others are more general, such as the Rotary Foundation's Ambassadorial Scholarships.

Jenny Lamb, a 23-year-old Oregon City High School graduate, estimated that her semester in Denmark cost her twice as much as studying at Oregon State University, in part because of Denmark's high cost of living.

Top 10 Destinations of U.S. Study Abroad Students, 2006/2007

1. United Kingdom
2. Italy
3. Spain
4. France
5. China
6. Australia
7. Mexico
8. Germany
9. Ireland
10. Costa Rica

Source: Open Doors 2008

http://blog.oregonlive.com/clackamascounty_impact/2009/04/more_college_students_study... 4/2/2009
Lamb pieced together loans, scholarships and savings from an on-campus job during the school year and a full-time summer job. "I knew that it was going to cost a lot," she said, "but I just wanted to go badly enough that I wasn't going to let money be the reason I couldn't go."

Coping with how Americans are perceived abroad — often negatively — is another challenge students face. "One of the hardest adjustment issues has been being singled out to represent the U.S. and defend its government's policies," said Joseph Hoff, Oregon State University's director of International Degree and Education Abroad. He added that for many students, it's the first time they've been identified first and foremost as a "U.S. American."

Lakeridge graduate Connor Martin, 20, who studied in Madrid through Chapman University, said he tried to be a positive representative of his country. "You realize that people are just different in the world, and that your way is not always the best way to do things," he said. "I feel I'm truly an ambassador of the United States and I've tried not to live up to the negative stereotype."

Students expect to make adjustments in their host country, but many found that returning home requires an adjustment of its own.

"It's weird being back," said West Linn High graduate Ben Normandin, 20, who studied in Copenhagen last fall through the University of Oregon. He's having to get reacclimated to limited public transportation and the fast pace and consumerism of America. He hopes that some of the Danes' fabled happiness and easygoing nature rubbed off on him.

Culture shock on re-entry is normal. In a letter to parents of students studying abroad, Santa Clara University explained, "We often hear students say that returning home was much more difficult than going abroad. There can be tears and confusion, misunderstandings and disappointment." Students find they miss the sense of adventure and friends who shared their same experiences.

Reaping rewards

Once home, students find their experiences have taught them real-life skills — such as patience when the Italian trains went on strike — and broadened their perspective.

"I'm much more likely to initiate conversations with people I don't know," said 22-year-old Jordan Fry, a Sandy High graduate who recently returned from a quarter in Grenada, Spain, through the University of Oregon. "After living in a country where I knew no one and had to reach out to make friends, I've become much more social and open back here at home."

Merrill said his four months in Italy taught him to slow down. "Their pace of life is so different and has taught me that not everything needs to be done at once, like we try to do here in the states."

Parents see the change, too, describing their children as more independent and goal-oriented. "For the benefit she received, I thought it was money well spent," said Debi Laue, Molly's mom. She traveled to Ghana to visit her daughter and was amazed at how resourceful Molly had become.

Of the 3,700 alumni who responded to an IES Abroad survey, 90 percent indicated that studying abroad influenced them to seek out a greater diversity of friends, while 96 percent said it gave them more self-confidence.

Roger Adkins, program coordinator for Western Europe Study Abroad Programs at University of Oregon, said college students who go overseas "often come back with a new sort of worldly perspective and situatedness that is unique and impossible to replicate on campus."

Students agree. "Studying abroad is the best experience you could possibly give yourself," said 22-year-old Tiffany Nofziger, a Canby High School grad who attends OSU. She loved her first experience abroad in Spain so much that she followed it up four years later with a stint in Hong Kong.

For Normandin, the choice is obvious. "You are going to have so much more fun going abroad than staying at school," he said. "Think about it. Would you rather go to a football game over the weekend or travel to Germany?"

Study abroad resources

Students looking for information on studies abroad should start with their school's college-study-abroad office. Most hold regular informational sessions. Some colleges also offer peer advisers - students who have returned from overseas and can offer the benefit of their experience.

Other resources include:

- www.studyabroad.com offers a comprehensive directory of all types of study abroad programs and includes a downloadable guide for both parents and students.
- www.studyabroadfunding.org organizes scholarships, fellowships and grants by country and subject.
- www.transitionsabroad.com features an online magazine with articles written by students and study abroad professionals.
- www.ciee.org lets you search among its approximately 104 study abroad programs in 35 host countries.

http://blog.oregonlive.com/clackamascounty_impact/2009/04/more_college_students_study... 4/2/2009
KYOTO PRIZE

The Inamori Foundation names the 25th annual recipients of its Kyoto Prize, Japan’s highest private award for global achievement on June 19. The naming serves as a prelude to the ninth annual Kyoto Prize Symposium March 17-19, 2010, in San Diego. The symposium — a three-day event that celebrates the lives and works of the latest laureates — includes a scholarship gala and public presentations by the honorees at SDSU, USD and UCSD. The Kyoto Prize will be awarded in “Advanced Technology,” “Basic Sciences” and “Arts and Philosophy.”
L.I.F.E. Week Sheds Light on Issues of Human Dignity

By Michael Loewer-Capay

ALCALA PARK — The advertising message appeared on the afternoon of April 2:

"University of Life" flyers appeared on bulletin boards and sidewalks throughout the University of San Diego campus. A full-color postcard was slipped under the door of every residence on campus. Banners were hung from buildings.

The message was clear: L.I.F.E. ("Living It for Everyone") Week was about to begin.

The annual event, held this year from March 30-April 3, is a five-day educational campaign designed to raise awareness of major life and human dignity issues.

"Our goal is to educate the USD community and others on multiple issues involving protecting and respecting the sanctity and dignity of life for every human being," said Thirza Kanda, the president of USD Students for Life, a student group facilitated and advised by University Ministry.

L.I.F.E. Week co-sponsors included Associated Students, Alpha Chi Omega, the Romero Center, Students for Peace, Residential Life, the Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies and the Women's Center.

Jennie Fieckert, the treasurer of Students for Life, noted that L.I.F.E. Week educates students about "issues that they may not hear about every day" and encourages them "to step outside of their comfort zone, to make a difference and do something." During this year's event, one day was devoted exclusively to each of the following topics: human trafficking, domestic violence, genocide, poverty and abortion/adoption. Students manned information tables outside the University Center each afternoon; evening programs were planned to further highlight each issue.

L.I.F.E. Week kicked off this year with prayer for life and dignity, offered during the 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. Sunday Masses, March 29, in USD's Rosary Chapel.

Among the week's highlights was an interactive multimedia presentation by the Not For Sale campaign, held March 30, during a day dedicated to the issue of human trafficking.

Not For Sale is a San Francisco-based non-profit that mobilizes young people to use innovative means to abolish modern-day slavery in their own backyards and around the globe.

On April 2, a day focused on the issue of poverty, Students for Life hosted a picnic/packing party during the afternoon hours. More than 100 students stopped by to make sandwiches, which were later distributed to homeless men and women by St. Vincent de Paul Village in downtown San Diego. That evening, more than 300 students gathered for a free screening of the Academy Award-winning film "Slumdog Millionaire" and a discussion on poverty, both at home and abroad.

Elvis Babila, a USD senior, attended several L.I.F.E. Week events last year and had such a positive experience that he decided to join this year's leadership team. He assisted with planning for the pro-life movie marathon held April 3.

"Life is precious. That's what we're about," Babila said. "Students for Life is a group that is inclusive and respectful, and we approach people in a friendly but straightforward manner."

The Southern Cross
GAY & LESBIAN TIMES
April 23, 2009

(l-r) University of San Diego United Multicultural Center Graduate Assistant Frank Panozzi, USD PRIDE Co-Chair Iliana Kaczynski, USD Vice President of Student Organizations Alejandro Cervantes and USD Legal Research Center Public Services Head John Adkins
The opportunity to cheer for a team coming off a third-consecutive division title brought a record 420 women to the University of San Diego's Jenny Craig Pavilion Sunday morning for preliminary auditions for the 2009 Charger Girls.

By the end of the day, 68 talented finalists were selected to compete for a spot on the 28-member team.

"It's great to see the program continue to grow in popularity," Charger Girls Director Lisa Simmons said. "The Chargers also came off another great football season, and everybody reaps the reward of that."

Of the 420 candidates, 27 previously danced for professional sports teams, some in the NBA and some with NFL teams other than the Chargers. Eighteen of the finalists fit in that category. Women came throughout Southern California to audition. The candidates also included women from Washington, Utah and Arizona, and one finalist traveled from Japan to participate.

"With the Chargers being the only NFL team in Southern California, our talent pool pulls from Los Angeles, Orange County, San Diego, and throughout the region," Simmons said. "We have candidates that don't currently live here but will relocate if they make the team."

Preliminary auditions began with registration at 9 a.m. Sunday morning as women made their way to San Diego to audition. Once the women hit the gym floor at 10:30 a.m., the competition began. Choreographer Jeannine Sabo, who has previously worked on Broadway plays and with artists such as the Backstreet Boys, kicked off the morning by teaching the women a 32-beat routine.

The women had approximately 45 minutes to learn the steps before performing them in front of a panel of judges. Then, three at a time, the women had the opportunity to perform what they'd just learned. While dancing ability is a priority, the judges were also critiquing attitude, appearance and showmanship.

"We're looking for the total package," Simmons said. "We want women who have a strong cheer, dance and performance background as well as overall charisma. It's also important to us to have powerful, intelligent and educated women to represent the program well in the community."

After each girl had their opportunity to perform the short routine, the judges huddled for nearly one hour to cut the list to 160. Those advancing to the second round were taught another routine Sunday afternoon and went through the same audition process as they did in the first round.

Girls from last year's team are required to audition again. However, veterans are given a bye through the first round and join the audition in round two.

The women making it through the second round will go through a series of interviews on Tuesday. Wednesday night, the finalists will perform a final dance routine and at the conclusion, the judges will select the new squad.
¿Recién llegado?

Novedoso curso da información básica para no hincharte

Nuria de la Vega (Efe)

¿Has recién llegado a este país y no entiendes el hoy y mañana de los asuntos de la vida cotidiana?

Ten por seguro que no eres el único que te siente en la deriva en tu nuevo mundo. Pero ahora hay una opción para evitar las clásicas metedas de papá que cuentan tiempo y dinero.

Es un curso en español dirigido a los recién llegados y explica objetivamente el sistema financiero y todo lo que necesitas para manejar adecuadamente en el sistema de vida de este país.

La división de educación de la Universidad de San Diego realizó una Guía para el Recién Llegado. (Ver recuadro.)

Es un curso que realizará por primera vez y solo se sabe si continuará ofreciéndolo en el futuro. Comprende diversos temas críticos. Uno de ellos es cómo funciona el sistema financiero, desde cómo se recuestran los impuestos hasta cómo crear un buen crédito y cómo funciona el sistema de seguros. Explica cómo obtener seguros de salud y auto y cómo funcionan.

Otros temas serán cómo funcionan las universidades y cómo certificar los conocimientos profesionales hechos en el extranjero. Y todo un vistazo a las reglas empresariales, habitación como abrir un negocio.

Los creadores del curso son dos informáticos, un estadounidense mexicano y un empresario argentino. El académico Alejandro Castañeda, de 52 años, es colaborador de la Universidad de San Diego, en la división de educación continua.

Estudió filosofía y letras en la UNAM y tiene una maestría en comunicación visual. Norberto Cappiello, de 55 años, es un empresario argentino especializado en las importaciones chinas.

Castañeda, quien vive en Chula Vista, dijo que la creación de este curso lo propuso a la universidad tras percibirse que hay muchos inmigrantes con varios años en este país que no han logrado entender el concepto de la vida estadounidense. En su opinión, uno de los errores más comunes que cometen los mexicanos es no crear un buen historial de crédito.

"Es donde más se descalabran en México, pero más solamente cuando pagas en efectivo", dijo. Cuesta contratar a más de 20 años.

"Hay error de los padres, no hay ni siquiera un asesoramiento para los padres de los asaltos arreglados, para que los niños se adquieran el crédito. Es una forma de vida de su lugar de origen, mientras que los hijos se adquieran el crédito. Es un problema de cultura social. Lo que sigue es el cheque cultural. "Conocemos a las familias que tienen hijos que no pagan por el daño", dijo Castañeda.

Un líder de la educación, que trabaja con inmigrantes, explicó la complejidad del sistema.

"Es muy necesario y lo que pretendía era tener un contacto en la calle. Es un sistema de vida nacional, dijo David Valenzuela, director del Instituto de Padres para la Educación de Niños, que trabaja con inmigrantes.
Mark Hargrove

Mark Hargrove follows his family members around the house, turning the lights off behind them when they leave a room. It drives them crazy. "But it's actually started to work because my sister's become a recycling fiend," said the 16-year-old senior at High Tech High International in San Diego. "And we downgraded from a six-cylinder car to a four-cylinder that's more fuel-efficient."

His friends would probably describe Hargrove as "active and vocal." He runs track and cross country, practices yoga with his dad, works as a surf camp counselor and recently returned from a school trip to Egypt.

Last year, he attended Jane Goodall's Global Youth Summit in Florida. The gathering of 400 young people from around the world features panel discussions on conservation and environmental issues, and encourages them to start their own work when they return home.

Hargrove joined more than 200 other attendees in founding the Global Youth Council for Wildlife Conservation (youthforwildlife.org), which works to protect wildlife.

"The group's first project is a rehabilitation center that takes care of animals. He's been an intern with the Jane Goodall Institute for Peace & Justice and has traveled around the world to see how they treat animals. "I've been spending 10 years and I go camping about four times a year, so nature is a big part of my life," Hargrove said.

His dad's side of the family had about 50 acres in their native Florida that included a lake and lots of trees. The family would go there every year. Hargrove and his younger brother would spend hours exploring the dense woods.

He's not sure what kind of career he wants, but he's thinking of studying international development and Spanish at UCLA. Perhaps he'll be able to prevent the degeneration of nature on a global level.

— Lisa Deaderick

Do you know of a student, school or teacher who should be in the spotlight? Contact Lisa Deaderick at (619) 293-2504 or lisa.deaderick@uniontrib.com.
Inspired by tragedy

Werner Herzog, cast and crew act out scenes eerily similar to 50-year-old Pacific Beach matricide

By Lee Grant
ARTS CRITIC·AT·LARGE

He was a basketball star at St. Augustine High, a scholar and athlete at the University of San Diego, a dramatic presence in Old Globe Theatre production, a promising grad student in drama at UCSD.

On June 16, 1979, Mark Yavorsky, then 34, marched across the street from the home in Pacific Beach shared with his mother, Mary Weisman, 65. In a neighbor's living room, where she had sought refuge, Yavorsky slashed her to death with a 3-foot antique saber.

Three decades after that crime, which garnered vast national attention, a film "inspired" by the event, directed by the provocative Werner Herzog, spent most of last month shooting around San Diego, including the usually serene streets of Point Loma.

Yavorsky's actions were eerily reminiscent of a scene out of the Greek tragedy "Orestes," in which a man slays a mother in revenge for the death of his father. Yavorsky had been cast for the lead role in "Orestes" at UCSD. According to newspaper articles, he left campus two weeks before it was to premiere, dropped from the cast when he became "grossly psychotic."

"He always seemed to have a classic, dramatic sense of life. He was an excellent writer and poet. Not many about mountains, but he had that romantic tradition of poetry. He wrote a lot about his father who had died, whom he had never known."

- UCSD English professor Dick Pease on student Mark Yavorsky, from The San Diego Union, June 15, 1979

A few days ago, perched on the stoop of a house on Zola Street, Herzog, 90, emphasized more than once that the production, "My Son, My Son, What Have You Done?" is not precisely from the Yavorsky case. "It's not a literal," he said. "You never even see the actual crime."

There's no recreation, either of Yavorsky's escapades on the road after being released from Patton, taking off from the faculty in San Diego, being arrested in Vermont after allegedly brandishing a knife in front of high school students.

Herbert Gold, a Boston University classics professor and regular Herzog collaborator, discovered the bizarre true story "serendipitously," he says, and wrote a screenplay called "My Son, My Son, What Have You Done?" (the title having both biblical and Greek literary significance).

Produced by David Lynch, of "Twin Peaks" notoriety, it has been filming here with an impressive cast, including recent Oscar nominee Michael Shannon ("Revolutionary Road") in the Yavorsky role, the character's name changed to Brad McCullam. Of sec Tragedy, G3
TRAGEDY

CONTINUED FROM 01

Obsessive, dark issues are explored

his actor, Herzog says, "He has emotional intelligence." There have been locations at Balboa Park's Alcazar Garden, Paradise Valley Hospital in National City, a motel in San Diego, downtown's The Theatre Inc., a Tijuana hotel room and the San Diego Coronado Bridge.

For years, Yavorsky's sanity was the subject of legal wrangling. Now, 64, he's residing in Alameda County, according to Herzog, who arranged an uneasy visit with him.

"He was argumentative," Herzog said. "I felt it imperative to keep a distance from him, to stay away.

"Everything just kind of evolved for him, a young man who wanted very much to star in whatever he did."

- Former VBS basketball coach
John Cunningham, who became friends with Yavorsky's half-brother,
John Wethan, a Kansas City Royals catcher and manager,
The San Diego Union, June 12, 1979

Herzog in San Diego has inspected the cast, including Shannon, 35, "I'm very glad we're actually shooting here," the tall, lovely actor said during a break. "Me and Herb (screenwriter Goldby) were driving around the other day (in Pacific Beach), and Herb said to me, 'That's the street Mark actually lived on.' It gave me a chill. "San Diego has a distinctive character (she's been here often to see actress girlfriend Kate Arrington perform at The Old Globe), it's isolated and tranquil. A violent killing like this one set here makes the story all the more unusual."

-Said Grace Zabriskie, 47, a co-star of HBO's 'Big Love,' who plays the slain mother in 'My Son, My Son, What Have You Done?': "It's exciting to know that we're actually doing it in the place where it happened."

On that day, the place is a cramped living room in a vintage Point Loma home. Herzog was holding up the action, keeping Shannon, Zabriskie, Irma P. Hall and Lorena Bovee in dramatic character. The moment focused on this line from Zabriskie: "Dad died to another me with a pillow. I don't think he was dreaming." Photographers Peter Zeillinger (consulting with Herzog in German), sound technicians and assorted assistants waited, too. There was the rumbling engines of another flight from Lindbergh Field

"Then, 'Let's go take a picture!'"

Outside on the front patio was the home's owner, Allen Whitchard, a retired computer consultant. A producer scouting locations knocked on his door to ask if the company could take over his place for a few days. They'd be paid a small fee. He and wife Marcie agreed and stayed out of the way while the crew dragged wires and equipment around their dinghy redbrick.

"These people are absolutely wonderful," Whitchard said. "They always ask before they do anything and are extremely careful."

The production created terror among those in the neighborhood, folks ducking under the yellow police tape roping off 30th Street near Willow to peer from a distance at the activity, spotting over a couple of weeks actors such as William Debrce and Chloe Sevigny.

"Usually, the biggest excitement around here is the up-and-down from Rock Church parking," said Prudence Horne, a painter, whose home is up the street. She was hanging out the other day near the action undisturbed.

Producer Eric Basset, a partner in Lynch's production company, said there were plans to shoot in Coronado. "They made it difficult for us, their whole board. We ended up saving money moving to San Diego (the film's budget is under $30 million)." It's scheduled for release in June.

"A brilliant scholar" accused of stabbing his mother to death with an antique sword in June 10 nodded quietly yesterday as the judge ruled him insane. He was quoted by newspapers as saying he killed his mother to protect her from an expected nuclear holocaust.

- The San Diego Union, Aug. 7, 1979
Herzog takes on an interview like he might a movie — considering questions and turning them inside out. When asked if Yavornycky was paranoid, the director answered, "Maybe the rest of the world is paranoid!" How will the plot play out? "It'll end when it naturally does."

The actors were not here for the money but a chance to work with a legendary director. "Nobody makes films like he does," Shannon said. "It's an exciting challenge, all his different styles and angles. He wants to see things happen. We're both drawn to stories of people dealing with crises, people not sitting around enjoying themselves and having a cup of tea."

Despite his big-time marketability, Shannon is comfortable with small films like this one. "The more money that's involved," he says, "the better. Hollywood blockbuster budgets, more people are swarming around making sure it's palatable for everyone in America. "Here, you can take more chances."

Herzog, still in his character's bathrobe, during a lunch break, "Herzog's on an extremely short list of directors I really hoped to work with, because his approach is so clean, on his own terms. Then there's all his unique films. He's not under anyone's control, not even his own. He's in every moment. He doesn't see what's wrong but what could be better. He sees opportunities."

The cast and crew were staying at a Best Western on Shelter Island. "It's like open-heart surgery," Herzog said of the way he works, "whispers only, nobody makes a racket, no cell phones. All of us here do those films with our heart." He can breathe, though, when during a scene someone outside inadvertently walks by a window. "Quite a few glitches," he says, after a cut, "Cut!"

Herzog approaches his work in a free-form kind of way, the script a guide to which he's not necessarily attached. He stressed that the movie might have emerged from the Yavornycky case but it's only a means to explore the kind of obsessive, dark issues considered in his films like "Grizzly Man" and "Fitzcarraldo."

"About 70 percent of the script is false (not taken from the Yavornycky story), loosely made up," he said. And being in San Diego, said Herzog, unwilling to acknowledge the city's significance to the story, "was just a matter of convenience and not because the original story was set here. It's a friendly environment, close to L.A. for supplies."

Healed back to his actors, Herzog cautions a visitor. "Don't tell what the story is just say it's simply Greek tragedy."

"You had at one time great promise. You were an outstanding athlete at USD, an actor at the Old Globe Theatre, and you showed great promise at both on stage and on screen. I hope you will in time become a substantial, productive factor in the community. It will take time and effort on your part."

---

Superior Court Judge

Herbert Chernow, during a panel hearing for Mark Yavornycky, from a San Diego Union article, Oct. 6, 1984

Lee Brunn: lee.grant@usfedlib.com
During a break at a home on Zola Street, camera angles got adjusted and director Herzog (hand on chin) surveyed the environment. The company filmed around San Diego for nearly a month.

Nelvin C. Capala / Union-Tribune photos
Upcoming Obama Notre Dame address reignites Catholic identity debate

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Pete Munsey of Baltimore didn't vote for President Barack Obama and the 45-year-old Catholic Republican doesn't like many of his policies.

But he also doesn't believe the new president will compromise the Catholic integrity of the University of Notre Dame if he delivers the commencement speech at the Indiana school as scheduled.

"It's always been my understanding that institutions of higher learning were supposed to be places where complex issues could be discussed and debated," Munsey said. "Just because a guest speaker supports a cause that goes against Catholic teaching doesn't make him a threat to the Catholic identity of the school. Notre Dame is still going to hold onto its core values."

Vocal Catholic bishops from across the U.S. disagree with Munsey on that point and have denounced the Notre Dame president's choice for a commencement speaker for the 2009 graduation May 17. Those bishops emphatically stated that Obama's support for legal abortion and embryonic stem cell research makes him an inappropriate selection as a speaker and as a recipient of an honorary doctorate.

Groups such as the Cardinal Newman Society, a self-appointed watchdog group of Catholic higher education, and the American Life League, a pro-life organization, have called on Holy Cross Father John I. Jenkins -- president of Notre Dame -- to rescind his invitation to Obama and mounted petition drives that claim hundreds of thousands of Catholic signatures to achieve that goal. They also have questioned the university's Catholic identity.

"When we extend honors to people who do not share our respect and reverence for life in all stages, and give them a prominent stage in our parishes, schools and other institutions, we unfortunately create the perception that we endorse their public positions on these issues," said Archbishop John J. Myers of Newark, N.J. "We cannot justify such actions, and the (U.S.) bishops have stated so clearly and strongly.

Archbishop Myers was referring to the U.S. bishops' 2004 document, "Catholics in Political Life," which states in part that "the Catholic community and Catholic institutions should not honor those who act in defiance of our fundamental moral principles. They should not be given awards, honors or platforms which would suggest support for their actions."

When Pope Benedict XVI met with U.S. Catholic educators at The Catholic University of America in Washington in April 2008, he stressed their institutions of higher education must strive for intellectual excellence, while maintaining their Catholic identity.

Notre Dame's invitation to Obama to speak at commencement -- and the honorary degree it will bestow on him -- has reignited the national debate on how Catholic institutions of higher education should express their Catholic identity.

But in the past year there have been other incidents at Catholic universities calling their Catholic identity into question.

Bishop Joseph F. Martino of Scranton, Pa., was embroiled in a public dispute with the leadership of Misericordia University after a gay rights activist was invited to give a lecture on campus.

The University of San Francisco and other Catholic universities by giving Irish President Mary McAleese an honorary degree even though she has publicly supported gay rights and women's ordination in the Catholic Church.

Jesuit-run Fordham University and the school presented U.S. Supreme Court Justice Stephen G. Breyer with a prestigious ethics prize, despite objections by the Concerned Alumni Society and Cardinal Edward M. Egan of New York because of the justice's decisions to uphold legal abortion.

The University of San Diego revoked the appointment to its faculty of a nationally known Catholic feminist theologian -- Rosemary Radford Ruether -- after learning she was a member of board of advisors for Catholics for Choice, an organization that supports legal abortion. The revocation came after the Catholic university received several complaints from Catholics who disapproved of the appointment.

"It is a part of the continuing evidence that Catholic universities are becoming intellectual and cultural ghettos where the controversial issues cannot be discussed," Ruether told Catholic News Service following the revocation, "and people with critical views cannot teach even if they do not intend to discuss those issues specifically."

Other Catholic universities and colleges have been criticized for allowing controversial plays -- such as "The Vagina Monologues" -- to be staged on their campus, because the dialogue contains graphic descriptions of sexual acts, homosexuality and other hot-button issues.

"We really don't think these criticisms are fair, especially when they come from special-interest groups ... that try to force everyone into a very narrow version of Catholic teachings that don't always fit within the depth of the Catholic traditions," said Kristine Maloney, a spokeswoman for College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Mass.

"We don't see a conflict with our Catholic identity if we have a speaker on campus who may have views that are in conflict with Catholic teachings," Maloney said.

"We consider the contributions the speaker has made to society as a whole, and that doesn't necessarily mean we endorse all of their positions or views. We're committed to a Jesuit tradition, which doesn't suppress educational issues and intellectual debate," she said.

Patricia McGuire, president of Trinity Washington University, argued that Catholic universities are just that -- universities that are Catholic in their founding congregational charters and ongoing mission commitments.

"The diminishment of the idea of the university by (such) groups betrays two centuries of intellectual advancement and real leadership by Catholic higher education in this nation," McGuire told CNS April 9.

"Generations of priests, nuns and lay faculty worked incredibly hard, often without wages or with very low wages, to make Catholic universities accepted in the mainstream of American life as legitimate universities, not just parochial schools," she said. "The actions of self-appointed "watchdogs" dishonor this tradition by attempting to marginalize our institutions."
Vincentian Father David M. O'Connell, Catholic University's president, told CNS that while Catholic college educators shouldn't fear education about views or positions contrary to Catholic teachings, they should be respectful of the church's moral values.

"We should be concerned when legitimate educational activity about such matters becomes advocacy or the perception of it," Father O'Connell said. "Positions contrary to the church are not, cannot and should not be presented as equally valid to what the church holds or teaches on our Catholic campuses."

The president of Wyoming Catholic College, Father Robert W. Cook, asked in his letter to Father Jenkins that he rescind his invitation to Obama.

"While President Obama may have spoken eloquently and powerfully about race and has taken leadership of the country facing many challenges with intelligence, courage and honesty, his pro-abortion agenda trumps it all," Father Cook said in his letter. "No authentically Catholic organization can rightly honor those who act in defiance of our fundamental moral principles."
ONE TIME ONLY

1,998 Miles: Filmmaker and USD grad John Carlos Frey will be on hand to premiere his documentary about U.S. border-security policies and their humanitarian impact. Screens at 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 1, at the Joan B. Kroc Theatre on the USD campus. Free.
Vincent Who? Documentary about the 1982 murder of Vincent Chin, who was killed by two autoworkers who accused the Chinese man of being A. Japanese, and B. responsible for Detroit’s employment hemorrhage. Presented in the San Diego Asian Film Festival, it screens at 6 p.m. Wednesday, May 6, at the Institute for Peace and Justice at the University of San Diego.
FILM

Freedom Riders Catch mountain-biking film capturing "the evolution of freeriding from stealth trail building to forging a working relationship with the U.S. Forest Service to establish the first-ever downhill specific trail...in the Teton Pass area of Wyoming." 619-922-0446. Thursday, April 30, 8 p.m.; Friday, May 1, 7:30 p.m.; $10. Ray Street Studios, 8456 Ray Street. (NORTH PARK)

Persepolis Ann Zivovsly leads discussions before and after "a coming-of-age tale about finding one's place in the world" when Cinema Society of Carlsbad convenes. Cinema chat at 1:30 p.m. In French with English subtitles. 760-602-2028. Saturday, May 2, 1:30 p.m.; free. Schulman Auditorium at Carlsbad City Library, 1775 Dove Lane. (CARLSBAD)

Roman Polanski: Wanted and Desired Documentary by Marina Zenovich reopens Polanski's controversial case. 619-236-5800. Monday, May 4, 6:30 p.m.; free. San Diego Public Library, 820 E Street. (DOWNTOWN)

Vincent Who? San Diego Asian Film Foundation kicks off Asian Pacific Heritage Month with screening of Tanya Lau and Curtis Chin's documentary focusing on "the historic murder case of Vincent Chin and its impact on our community." Co-director Curtis Chin is expected to take part in discussion about racism, dangers of labeling, and film. At 6 p.m., reception at 5 p.m. 858-555-1264. Wednesday, May 6, 6 p.m.; free. Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Security, University of San Diego, 5998 Alcala Park. (COLD VISTA)

Food for Thought Film Series Scott Hamilton Kennedy's documentary The Garden tells story of 14-acre community garden in South Central Los Angeles whose farmers fought back when their garden was threatened with destruction by city hall. Event—fittingly, held in campus cafeteria—includes discussion about local food movement, ways to support return to locally grown, fresh, healthy food. 619-255-0345. Saturday, May 2, 6 p.m.; free. San Diego City College, 1313 Park Boulevard. (DOWNTOWN)
POLITICS & COMMUNITY

* BORDER FILM WEEK at Joan B. Kroc Theatre, 6811 University Ave., Rolando. USD's Trans-Border Institute presents 1989 Miles and Coyote, the final two films in the series, screen at 5 p.m. Wednesday, April 1 and Thursday, April 2, respectively. 619-265-1556, www.sandiego.edu/events.

ZAKI DAMUNI at Malcolm X Library, 6148 Market St., Diamond District, Damuni, of the Al-Awda Palestine Right to Return Coalition, gives a presentation. There will also be a screening of Occupation 101. From 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, April 1, 619-260-4881.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR MARRIAGE at The Center, 3908 Centre St., Hillcrest. The San Diego LGBT Community Center hosts a town hall meeting to discuss the next steps in the fight for marriage equality. From 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, April 2, 619-299-2077, www.eqca.org/townhall.

ELECTRONICS WASTE DISPOSAL DAY at E-World Recyclers, 2803 Ash Street, Vista. Bring your old computers, TVs, fax machines, and printers to be recycled for free. No large appliances or hazardous waste will be accepted. From 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 4, 760-599-0888, www.evorldrecyclers.com.

* TORREY PINES COMMUNITY GARBAGE BALM Households in the Torrey Pines Community, west of I-5 and north of Del Mar Heights Road, will sell their trash so it can become your treasure. From 7 to 11 a.m. Saturday, April 4. www.torreyinescommunity.org.

RHYTHMS TO PEACE at USD, 5008 Alcala Park, Linda Vista. A screening of the short documentary Rhythm to Peace, about a woman working to bring peace to a divided village in Cameroon, QA and refreshments to follow. At the Peace and Justice Theater, USD campus. From 7 to 9 p.m. Monday, April 6, 619-260-4881, www.sandumcon.com/peacetopace.html.$20.
Rhythms to Peace: Examines Susan Tenight-Okwan of Cameroon as she moderates a centuries-old dispute over exactly who is chief of a village. Screens at 7 p.m. Monday, April 6, at the Peace and Justice Theatre on the USD campus. Free.
April 22, 2009

MUSIC

MINNESOTA MUSEUM OF SCIENCE, 2400 11th Ave., S.E., Minneapolis. $6.50 at the door, $6 to museum members. 6:30 p.m. Thursday, April 9.

MUSICAL ESSENTIALS, 2101 Broadway St., NE, Minneapolis. $20 for regular tickets, $15 for students. 8 p.m. Thursday, April 9.

MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY, 2400 11th Ave., S.E., Minneapolis. $7.50 for adults, $5 for children. 8:30 p.m. Thursday, April 9.

MUSICA TUSCANA, 4620 1st Ave. S., S.E., Minneapolis. $9 for adults, $5 for students. 8 p.m. Thursday, April 9.

MUSICAL SOCIETY OF MINNESOTA, 2400 11th Ave., S.E., Minneapolis. $10 for adults, $5 for students. 8 p.m. Thursday, April 9.

MUSICAL GUILD, 2400 11th Ave., S.E., Minneapolis. $10 for adults, $5 for students. 8 p.m. Thursday, April 9.

MUSICAL INSTITUTE, 2400 11th Ave., S.E., Minneapolis. $20 for adults, $15 for children. 8 p.m. Thursday, April 9.

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University of San Diego:
5998 Albina Park, USU, K19-260-4600.

Sunday, 5 p.m. — Dusted and Dazed
Confessional, With Get Back
Loretta, Early States, the New
Archeol, and the Disease. Pop/rock.
$25.
University of San Diego:
5998 Alcala Park, USD, 619-260-4600.
April 26 — Dashboard Confessional.
June 14 — The Cedar Chest Chorus and Pacificaires.
University of San Diego: 22%
Alfred Park, 1260, 619-260-4600.
April 26 — Dashboard Confessional.
June 14 — The Cedar Center
Chorus and Pacificaires.
**OTHER EVENTS**

**TUESDAY, APR 28 - MEETING**

**MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

Meeting will include speaker Michael Lincoln, director of the Foundation for Personal Financial Education. 

**Organization:** Retired Employees of San Diego County, Inc.  
**Information:** Karen Hazel (866) 688-8229 resdc@resdc.net  
**Cost:** No Cost  
**When:** Hours: 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM  
**Where:** Joyce Beers Hall, 4065 Vermont St., San Diego.  
**Venue Phone:** 92103

**WEDNESDAY, APR 29 - SEMINAR**

**PEACE OF MIND IN TURBULENT TIMES**

USD's Office of Corporate and Professional Education has teamed up with The Center for Wealth & Legacy Studies to offer the third seminar in a four-part series on investing in turbulent times, protecting assets and handling turbulence in the family.  

**Organization:** USD Office of Corporate and Professional Education  
**Information:** Julia 619-260-7699  
**juliarose@sandiego.edu**  
**Cost:** No Details Available  
**When:** Hours: 7:30 AM - 10:30 AM  
**Where:** USD Mother Rosalie Hill Hall's Warren Auditorium, 5998 Alcala Park, San Diego, 92110.  
**Venue Phone:** 619-260-4600

**THURSDAY, MAY 7 - SUMMIT**

**FIRST SAN DIEGO MICROFINANCE SUMMIT**

This summit will highlight the San Diego area's contribution to local and global microfinance and foster new partnerships to expand microfinance initiatives.  

**Organization:** San Diego Microfinance Summit  
**Information:** www.sdmicrofinancesummit.org  
**Cost:** $10.00- $25.00  
**When:** Hours: 8:30 AM - 2:00 PM  
**Where:** Joan B. Kroc Institute of Peace and Justice, USD, 5998 Alcala Park, San Diego, 92110
Get the Skinny on Gardening
Annual home gardening seminar offered by Master Gardener Association begins with registration in Hahn University Center foyer. Classes cover myriad topics, including "Bringing Succulents into Your Garden," "Ten Steps to a Smart Garden," "Native Landscaping Secrets for Success," "Fall and Winter Flowering Salvias," "Dragon Fruit," many, many more. Pay $40 for choice of three classes (in advance); day-of registration is $15 per open class. Suggested advance registration: 858-694-2860. Saturday, April 25, 7:30 a.m.; $15-$40, University of San Diego, 5998 Arch St. (ENCINITAS)
The Notre Dame Club of San Diego will host the Hesburgh Lecture on April 16 at the Kroec Institute for Peace & Justice on the USD campus. The lecture is an annual event held in honor of Father Ted Hesburgh, the former long-term president of the university. Professor Michael Lykoudis, dean of the School of Architecture at Notre Dame, will present "Building After the Oil Age in a Time of Global Warming" -- a lecture concerning how the principles of traditional architecture and urbanism will provide the foundation for sustainable development in the 21st century. Admission is free and open to the public. Appetizers and beverages will be served starting at 6:30 p.m., and the Hesburgh Lecture will begin at 7:15 p.m. RSVP to Kevin Reisch at (619) 992-6315 or kreischlaw@san.rr.com asap.
The Boogie Moms®, Mindee Doney and Julie Pickens, Selected as Key-Note Speakers for the First Annual Conference to be Held September 16th, 2009 at the University of San Diego, Joan Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice

SAN DIEGO--(BUSINESS WIRE)--The co-founders of Little Busy Bodies, Inc®. and inventors of Boogie Wipes®, Mindee Doney and Julie Pickens, have been selected as the key-note speakers for the Moms in Business Unite Conference to be held at The University of San Diego, Joan Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice on September 16th, 2009. This conference is the vision of Mom Business Associates (MBA), a networking group for mom business owners who are looking to join a group that is sensitive to their needs and understands the challenges of being both business owner and mother. MBA provides support, training and resources for moms who already own a business, as well as a Mom-to-Mom mentorship program for new entrepreneurs. The full day, educational conference will include the key-note address from The Boogie Moms®, panel discussions, breakout sessions, networking, award ceremonies, a resource marketplace, and on-site childcare to support and promote the growing number of women/mom-owned businesses.

"When we heard about the Moms in Business Unite Conference, we knew we wanted to get involved to exchange ideas and help be a resource to moms," said Mindee Doney, VP and Director of Marketing for Boogie Wipes. "We've been offering individual consulting to fellow mompreneurs trying to get their businesses off the ground, and being able to directly reach so many moms at the conference will be an amazing experience," she continued. "We consider ourselves very lucky to be able to share our experiences and knowledge, both as moms and business owners, with fellow budding mom entrepreneurs," said Julie Pickens, President and CEO of Boogie Wipes. "Hopefully our insight and advice will help bring these women the success they deserve," she added.

In addition to the key-note address from Mindee and Julie, educational break-out sessions will be focused into four tracks: GETTING STARTED, the ideal sessions for women who want to learn how to start their own business, RUNNING EFFICIENTLY, the perfect sessions for women who have established businesses but want to learn how to run it more efficiently, NEXT LEVEL, a jumping off point for those who have a thriving business and want to get ahead of the curve, and INVENTOR FAST TRACK, taught by the The Boogie Moms®, where attendees will benefit from real-world knowledge and learn how to take their inventions from "concept to cart." More conference details are available at www.momsinbusinessunite.com.

"As the Key Note Speakers and facilitators of all four Inventor Fast Track sessions, The Boogie Moms® will provide exceptional value by offering tangible, relevant knowledge to our attendees, who represent the fast growing segment of women/mom business owners," said Randa Cote, Moms in Business Unite Chairwoman, mom, and founder of SPE Solutions, a growing management consulting company.

ABOUT BOOGIE WIPES®

Mindee Doney and Julie Pickens, often referred to as The Boogie Moms®, developed Boogie Wipes® in 2007 as a solution for their kids’ runny, red noses. After trying to use saline spray, bulb syringes and regular dry tissue, they became certain there had to be a better way to treat a stuffy nose. Months of market research resulted in an answer as plain as the nose on their face—a saline-infused moist wipe that soothes chapped, sore noses while dissolving mucus. After an extensive development and manufacturing process, and keeping their noses to the grindstone, Mindee and Julie shipped their first order of Boogie Wipes® in December, 2007. Since then, Boogie Wipes® has found the smell of sweet success selling in 20,000 retail stores nationwide. The Boogie Moms® are thrilled their innovative idea helps parents and kids boogie through cold season without missing a beat!

ABOUT MOM BUSINESS ASSOCIATES

Founded in 2007 by Dr. Sherry Nouramin, the mission of Mom Business Associates (MBA) is to remove barriers for Mom Business Owners and the growing community of Stay At Home Moms, so that they can become successful as both independent income earners and care givers for their families. MBA supports Mom Business Owners by providing a business networking environment that is sensitive to their challenges and needs as mothers. MBA supports its members in their efforts to gain financial independence, by providing free business coaching, education and guidance. The true measure of success in life is the degree by which balance is maintained between work and personal endeavors, MBA has been established to help moms achieve that balance. www.mombusinessassociates.com

Contacts
Moms in Business Unite
Randa Cote, Chairwoman
619-548-1821
rcote@momsinbusinessunite.com


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HOW TINY LOANS DO BIG THINGS

The first San Diego Microfinance Summit is set for May 7 from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at USD's Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice. The conference, which will highlight the local and international work of San Diego's microfinance organizations. Lynn McMullen, executive director of the Peace Alliance and a longtime microfinance consultant and fundraiser, will give the keynote address. Registration is $25 for the general public and $10 for students. Details are at http://www.sdmicrofinancesummit.org.
OTHER EVENTS

THURSDAY, APR 23 - COURSE
EVENT MARKETING COURSE
This course examines how to use events to promote products, services and organizations. Organization: University of San Diego Information: Monica 619-260-5986 monica@sandiego.edu Cost: No Details Available When: Hours: 5:30 PM - 9:30 PM Where: USD Douglas F. Manchester Executive Conference Center, 5998 Alcala Park, San Diego, 92110, Venue Phone - 619-260-4600

THURSDAY, APR 23 - WORKSHOP
NETWORKING TO NETWEAVING
Join us for Networking to Netweaving: Start weaving your contacts into relationships. Workshop includes lots of interaction and netweaving. Organization: Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce Information: (760) 931-8400 Cost: $10.00- $30.00 When: Hours: 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM Where: Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce, 5934 Priestly Dr., Carlsbad, 92008, Venue Phone - (760) 931-8400

FRIDAY, APR 24 - SEMINAR
BUILD SUCCESSFUL CAMPAIGNS ON FACEBOOK
Are you using Facebook to build your company's brand? Johnny Chan from eBoost Consulting says Facebook is now a social network you can't ignore! Learn a proven approach to using this social media tool that you can apply immediately! You'll get an inside look at Ideation, strategy and execution for the most successful Facebook campaigns. Organization: Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton LLP Information: www.sheppardmullin.com Cost: $35.00- $45.00 When: Hours: 7:30 AM - 9:00 AM Where: Sheppard Mullin, 12275 El Camino Real, Suite 200, San Diego, 92130

FRIDAY, APR 24 - WORKSHOP
LEARN WITH LUNCH BYTES
The chamber and a Microsoft-certified trainer from Fusion Factor Corporation will offer PowerPoint Beginners and an advance class. Organization: Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce Information: Angela Hellman 760-931-8400 ahellman@carlsbad.org Cost: $10.00 When: Hours: 11:30 AM - 2:00 PM Where: Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce, 5934 Priestly Dr., Carlsbad, Venue Phone - 760-931-8400

WEDNESDAY, APR 29 - WORKSHOP
UNDERSTANDING RECENT CHANGES TO FMLA AND COBRA
Participants will learn about several new laws, including revisions to the Family Medical Leave Act. Organization: Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce Information: Devaney Gibbons 760-931-8400 dgibbons@carlsbad.org Cost: $25.00- $35.00 When: Hours: 7:30 AM - 9:00 AM Where: Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce, 5934 Priestly Dr., Carlsbad, Venue Phone - 760-931-8400
TUESDAY, APR 21 - DINNER PROGRAM
BUSINESS ETIQUETTE AT HOME AND OVERSEAS
Catherine Movbray Lorenz, international speaker and trainer with Communication Tools for Success and Paula Dabney, Business Image Coach at Imagewillimpact.com will host this workshop to provide tips and tools to ensure success in the corporate environment, both at home and abroad. This program is for those looking to take their business to the next level, interviewing for a new position, traveling overseas for business or pleasure, or for those who wish to upgrade their personal and professional brand. Full dinner and wine included.
Organization: Women's Global Network (WGN) Information: www.wgnglobal.com Cost: $25.00-$30.00 When: Hours: 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM Where: Keller Williams Realty-Carmel Valley, 12265 El Camino Real, Suite 180, San Diego, 92130

TUESDAY, APR 21 - BREAKFAST MEETING
ESCONDIDO STATE OF THE CITY BREAKFAST
The State of the City Breakfast will feature, Mayor Lori Holt Pfeiler. Prepaid reservations are required and accepted through April 17th. Seating is limited. Organization: Escondido Chamber of Commerce Information: Suzanne Woods (760) 745-2125, ext. 204 sweeds@escondidochamber.org Cost: $10.00-$16.00 When: Starts: 7:30 AM Where: Escondido Country Club, 1600 W. Country Club Lane, Escondido, 92026

TUESDAY, APR 21 - CLASSES
BUSINESS FOR THE ARTS AND NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS
This Certificate in Business for the Arts and Nonprofit Art Organizations aims to train professionals about the importance of developing and managing art projects, fundraising, leadership, promotion and sales, while networking with other professionals. Organization: University of San Diego Information: Karla Duarte 619-260-5986 kduarte@sandiego.edu Cost: No Details Available When: Hours: 8:00 PM - 7:00 PM Where: USD Douglas F. Manchester Executive Conference Cen, 5968 Alcala Park, San Diego, 92110, Venue Phone - 619-260-4600

TUESDAY, APR 21 - DINNER MEETING
EWI MONTHLY DINNER MEETING
Join us this month with special guest appearance by Elaine Swann, The Etiquette Lady, who will be presenting Business Etiquette. Organization: Executive Women International (EWI) Information: Pat Evans pat.evans@visitsandiego.com Cost: $45.00 When: Starts: 5:30 PM Where: Marriott, Del Mar, 11968 El Camino Real, San Diego, 92130

TUESDAY, APR 21 - WORKSHOP
HOW GREAT COMPANIES TURN CRISIS INTO OPPORTUNITY
University of San Diego Office of Corporate and Professional Education in partnership with Strategic Development Worldwide announce a timely and effective workshop designed to help CEOs and executive management take a fresh look at the way they run their business. Organization: University of San Diego Information: Julie (619) 260-7699 monita@sandiego.edu Cost: $150.00 When: Hours: 7:30 AM - 12:00 PM Where: University of San Diego (Manchester Center), Marian Way (off Linda Vista Road), San Diego

WEDNESDAY, APR 22 - BREAKFAST MEETING
MANAGING EMPLOYMENT COSTS/ISSUES DURING TOUGH ECONOMIC TIMES
Maria Burke Kenny, Esq., Partner at Luce Forward will address the topic. RSVP via email or log on to: www.acteva.com/gosdshrm. Organization: San Diego Society for Human Resource Management Information: sdshrm@sdsbhrm.org Cost: $15.00-$30.00 When: Hours: 7:30 AM - 9:30 AM Where: Tri-City Medical Center, 6250 El Camino Real, Carlsbad, 92009

THURSDAY, APR 23 - COURSE
EVENT MARKETING COURSE
This course examines how to use events to promote product lines and organizations. Organization: University of San Diego Information: Monica 619-260-6000 monica@sandiego.edu Cost: No Details Available When: Hours: 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM Where: USD Escondido Executive Conference Cen, 5968 Alcala Park, San Diego, 92110, Venue Phone - 619-260-4600
THURSDAY, APR 23 - COURSE
EVENT MARKETING COURSE
This course examines how to use events to promote products, services and organizations. Organization: University of San Diego
Information: Monica 619-260-5986 monica@sandiego.edu Cost: No
Details Available When: Hours: 5:30 PM - 9:30 PM Where: USD
Douglas F. Manchester Executive Conference Center, 6998 Alcala Park, San Diego, 92110, Venue Phone - 619-260-4800
Local resident saves animals with $1.4 million grant

OrgWatch
By Jenna Long

The San Diego Humane Society unveiled its new "Paws to Success" program, which is designed to save the lives of hundreds of pets that are euthanized in San Diego area shelters each year due to treatable medical or behavioral conditions.

The program will be funded with a $1.4 million grant by the ASPCA (The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) through a gift from the late Edith Hakan, a San Diego resident and longtime supporter of both the San Diego Humane Society and ASPCA.

While the San Diego Humane Society has not had to euthanize "breachable" animals in more than eight years, other shelters have not been as fortunate. Through assessing the reasons for euthanasia of these pets in San Diego shelters during the last year, the San Diego Humane Society created the Paws to Success program with the goal of reducing the euthanasia of treatable animals in shelters countywide by 20 percent by 2010, and ultimately ending euthanasia of treatable animals within 10 years.

"Many shelters across the country are working with limited resources," says San Diego Humane Society President Dr. Mark Goldstein. "Unfortunately, when the resources are not available to treat these pets, they are euthanized. The Paws to Success initiative will open up valuable new resources to shelters across the county, providing a safety net to hundreds of San Diego pets."

The University of San Diego's Division of Continuing Education will launch a new art certificate program in May.

The program, "Business for the Arts and Nonprofit Art Organizations," (BANANO) was designed to meet the needs of the art professional and foster creative alliances, so he or she can confidently overcome the challenges of today's art market. A free Informational Session will be held at USD's Manchester Executive Conference Center on April 21 from 6-7 p.m. for potential students to meet instructors and learn about the program.

For more information regarding this program and registration, contact Karla Duarte, academic art program coordinator, at kduarte@sandiego.edu or 619-250-9936 or go to sandiego.edu/business.

The University of San Diego is located at 5998 Alcala Park, San Diego, CA 92110. Source Code: 20090409gs

** Flood Church and the Kearny High student body will host Shine Day, a community-wide "spring-clean" for the Linda Vista neighborhood on May 2 at Kearny High School.

The daylong event consists of four opportunities to serve the Linda Vista community: Kearny High and residential clean-up and improvement, which involves working together to beautify the high school campus and helping Linda Vista residents with house projects and spring cleaning, a community-wide rummage sale and a medical fair. The rummage sale will be held in the Kearny High parking lot, where residents are invited to sell their items at a mini-street fair and the medical fair will feature health education presentations and free health screenings.

The event will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the corner of Mesa College Drive and Linda Vista Avenue. To volunteer, contact Shiane @ DIVER INTO FLOOD.com or 858-284-2830. For more information, visit DIVERINTOFLOOD.com. Source Code: 20090409gs

** The San Diego Food Bank hosted a major mega- and food fair Wednesday at the junction of Waring and University.

Volunteers with San Diego have donated $70,000 to the San Diego Food Bank to help bridge the gap for food assistance in the local community.

The donation will provide more than 200,000 meals for San Diego residents and families. Source Code: 20090409gs

** Mission Federal Credit Union formally announced its title sponsorship for ArtWalk 2009.

Mission Federal ArtWalk is a large, free arts and cultural festival during the weekend of April 25 and 26 in Little Italy, where the streets will be transformed into 16 blocks of arts, music, food and culture in action.

Now in its 25th year, Mission Federal ArtWalk features more than 150 artists, 25 bands, vendors, food and fun — including a special area at Amici Park known as "KidsWalk," for creative.

See OrgWatch on 44.
TUESDAY, APR 21 - WORKSHOP
HOW GREAT COMPANIES TURN CRISIS INTO OPPORTUNITY

University of San Diego Office of Corporate and Professional Education in partnership with Strategic Development Worldwide announce a timely and effective workshop designed to help CEOs and executive management take a fresh look at the way they run their business. Organization: University of San Diego Information: Julia (619) 260-7699 monica@sandiego.edu Cost: $150.00 When: Hours: 7:30 AM - 12:00 PM Where: University of San Diego (Manchester Center), Marian Way (off Linda Vista Road), San Diego
TUESDAY, APR 21 - CLASSES

BUSINESS FOR THE ARTS AND NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

This Certificate in Business for the Arts and Nonprofit Art Organizations aims to train professionals about the importance of developing and managing art projects, fundraising, leadership, promotion and sales, while networking with other professionals.

Organization: University of San Diego
Information: Karla Dusar
Phone: 619-260-5986
Email: kduarte@sandiego.edu
Cost: No Details Available

When: Hours: 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Where: USD Douglas F. Manchester Executive Conference Center, 5998 Alcala Park, San Diego, 92110
Venue Phone: 619-260-4600
TUESDAY, APR 21 - CLASS
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TUESDAY, APR 21 - DINNER PROGRAM
BUSINESS ETIQUETTE AT HOME AND OVERSEAS

Catherine Mowbray Lorenz, international speaker and trainer with Communication Tools for Success and Paula Dabney, Business Image Coach at Imagewillimpact.com will host this workshop to provide tips and tools to ensure success in the corporate environment, both at home and abroad. This program is for those looking to take their business to the next level, interviewing for a new position, traveling overseas for business or pleasure, or for those who wish to upgrade their personal and professional brand. Full dinner and wine included. Organization: Women's Global Network (WGN) Information: www.wgn-global.com Cost: $25.00 - $30.00 When: Hours: 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM Where: Keller Williams Realty - Carmel Valley, 12266 El Camino Real, Suite 180, San Diego, 92130

WEDNESDAY, APR 22 - BREAKFAST MEETING
MANAGING EMPLOYMENT COSTS/ISSUES DURING TOUGH ECONOMIC TIMES

Marie Burke Kenny, Esq., Partner at Luce Forward will address the topic. RSVP via email or log on to: www.acteva.com/go/sdshrm. Organization: San Diego Society for Human Resource Management Information: sdshrm@sdshrm.org Cost: $15.00 - $30.00 When: Hours: 7:30 AM - 9:30 AM Where: Tri-City Medical Center, 6250 El Camino Real, Carlsbad, 92010

THURSDAY, APR 23 - COURSE
EVENT MARKETING COURSE

This course examines how to use events to promote products, services and organizations. Organization: University of San Diego Information: Monica 619-260-5986 monica@sandiego.edu Cost: No Details Available When: Hours: 6:00 PM - 9:30 PM Where: USD Douglas F. Manchester Executive Conference Cen, 5698 Alcala Park, San Diego, 92110, Venue Phone - 619-260-4600
TUESDAY, APR 21 - CLASS
BUSINESS FOR THE ARTS AND NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS
This Certificate in Business for the Arts and Nonprofit Art Organizations aims to train professionals about the importance of developing and managing art programs, fundraising, leadership, promotion and sales, while networking with other professionals. Organization: University of San Diego Information: Karla Duarte 619-260-5986 kduarte@sandiego.edu Cost: No Details Available When: Hours: 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Where: USD Douglas F. Manchester Executive Conference Cen, 6998 Alcala Park, San Diego, 92110, Venue Phone - 619-260-4600

TUESDAY, APR 21 - WORKSHOP
HOW GREAT COMPANIES TURN CRISIS INTO OPPORTUNITY
University of San Diego Office of Corporate and Professional Education in partnership with Strategic Development Worldwide announce a timely and effective workshop designed to help CEOs and executive management take a fresh look at the way they run their business. Organization: University of San Diego Information: Julia 619-260-7824 julia@sandiego.edu Cost: $150.00 When: Hours: 7:30 AM - 12:00 PM Where: University of San Diego (Manchester Center), Marian Way (off Linda Vista Road), San Diego

THURSDAY, APR 23 - COURSE
EVENT MARKETING COURSE
This course examines how to use events to promote products, services and organizations. Organization: University of San Diego Information: Monica 619-260-5886 monica@sandiego.edu Cost: No Details Available When: Hours: 5:30 PM - 9:30 PM Where: USD Douglas F. Manchester Executive Conference Cen, 6998 Alcala Park, San Diego, 92110, Venue Phone - 619-260-4600
TUESDAY, APRIL 21
USD PROFIT IMPROVEMENT WORKSHOP
Receive a fresh look at how to run your business at this profit improvement workshop by the University of San Diego's office of corporate and professional education and Strategic Development Worldwide.

- 7:30 a.m. to noon
- University of San Diego, Manchester Conference Center
- Cost: $199
- Visit www.sandiego.edu/profitimprovement
On the Agenda
By Rebecca Go

SAN DIEGO — Financing is a hot topic in any industry these days, and it’s the subject of an inaugural clean technology industry gathering in San Diego this week. The CleanTech Capital Summit, organized by Infocast, brings together the decision-makers and the capital providers to focus on the money, the financial structures and market trends.

The Pacific Safety Council offers a weeklong safety course Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. To register, visit PacificSafetyCouncil.org.

CB Richard Ellis (CBRE) partners with the UC San Diego’s von Liebig Center on Monday for a free seminar from 12-1 p.m. on real estate challenges faced by new companies.

First U.S. prosecutor David Iglesias delivers a lecture Monday at 7 p.m. about the Bush administration’s firing of seven U.S. attorneys, including Carol Lam of San Diego. The event at the Price Center East Ballroom at UC San Diego is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Shannara Madrid at 858-534-7704 or snmadrid@ucsd.edu.

The city of Escondido features its State of the City address Tuesday at 7:30 a.m. with Mayor Lori Holt Phelan. The North Chamber of Commerce hosts its quarterly technology (Q-Tech) workshop Tuesday from 7:30-9:30 a.m. at the Chamber office in Rancho Bernardo. Attendees will learn how to maximize mobile devices, software and other useful office technology. To register, visit cbegon.com or call 888-497-7797.

The University of San Diego hosts a profit improvement workshop for executives on Tuesday from 7:30 a.m. to noon. CEOs and other executives are invited to take a fresh look at the way they run their businesses. For more information, visit sandiego.edu/profitimprovement or contact Julie at julianarse@sandiego.edu at 619-260-7099.

The North County chapter of the Lawyers Club of San Diego seeks out investing secrets with financial advisor Morgan Smith at its Tuesday program at 12:35 p.m. RSVP to chapter president Dawn Hall Caudent at db@pro conclu.com.

San Diego Metropolitan Credit Union tackles budgeting basics at its workshop Tuesday from 3:30-6:30 p.m. To register, call 619-278-6724 or e-mail workshops@sdmcu.org.

San Diego Software Industry Council hosts skills in evaluating a sales presentation at its Tuesday program from 3:30-7:30 p.m. A local executive will be showcasing online research company iTracks. To register, visit sdish.org and click on “More Events.”

The local chapter of Executive Women International brings in etiquette maven Elaine Swann for a discourse on business etiquette at 11 a.m. To register, visit ewi.org.

The Alpine & Mountain Empire Chamber of Commerce hosts Daily Transcript Executive Editor George Chamberlin for a talk on markets Thursday from 5:30-7:30 p.m. To register, visit apmtc.org and click on “Events.”

The local National Investor Relations Institute chapter examine XBRL, also known as extensible business reporting language, at its Thursday program from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Register by Monday at nirdiego.org.

The San Diego Software Industry Council analyzes the financial crisis with University of San Diego professor and former investment banker Frank Partony on Thursday from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Partony will discuss the historical parallels to this financial crisis, the financial models and opportunities for analytics. To register, visit adsc.org and click on “More Events.”

Bloom holds a workshop on intellectual property Thursday from 7-11 a.m. An expert panel will offer advice and guidance on how to manage portfolios in changing economic times. To register, visit bloomco.net.

Citizens Coordinate for Century 2 addresses redevelopment issues at its breakfast dialogue Thursday from 7:30-9:30 a.m. Reserve a spot by contacting 619-235-7196 or c2sandiego@oglobal.net.

Real estate experts gather to dispense advice and tips on buying real estate Thursday at 5:30 p.m. For more information, contact Gary Laturno at 619-741-5632 or gary
Carlsbad
**To Open Life Insurance**
Lincoln Natural Corporation, 150 North Radnor-Chester, Radnor, PA. Plan to open a new branch office at 6183 Paseo Del Norte Ste. 280.

**New Branch Wireless Store**
Greatcall Inc. P.O. Box 4428, Carlsbad. Plans to open a new branch store at 1950 Camino Vida Roble.

**Construction Underway Industrial Office**
Opus Corporation, 10350 Bren Road West, Minnetonka, MN. Construction underway on a 610,564 sq. ft. industrial office at Lionhead Avenue & Melrose Drive.

**To Open National Clinic**
San Diego State University Research, 5250 Campanile Drive, San Diego. Plan to open a new medical clinic at 450 Fourth Avenue.

**To Open Physical Therapy**
Integrated Physical Therapy, 7910 Frost Street, San Diego. Plans to open a new branch office at 450 Fourth Avenue.

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**Del Mar**
**To Open Collection Agency**
Johnson & Roundtree Premium, 1215 Camino Del Mar, Del Mar. Plans to open a new office at 12835 Point Del Mar Way.

**Jamul**
**New Branch School**
Lakeside Union Elementary, 12335 Woodside Avenue, Lakeside. Plans to open a new branch school at 2410 Mount Elena Way.

**Construction Underway Hospital**
McCarthy Building Company, 1341 North Rock Hill Road, St. Louis, Mo. Construction underway on a 382,000 sq. ft. Scripps Cardiovascular Institute at 9835 Genesee Avenue.

**San Diego County**

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**Planned Hospital**
Rady's Children Hospital, 3020 Children's Way, San Diego. Plans to construct a 4-story acute care facility for children that consist of 80-rooms at 3020b Children's Way.

**Planned Mixed Use**
University of San Diego, 5335 Remington Road, San Diego. Plans to develop a 1,000-unit apartment complex with a 10,000 sq. ft. conference room, admin office and retail space at 5335 Remington Road.
Athletics
NCAA rules USD's Rogan is eligible for '09

USD All-America running back J.T. Rogan has been granted a sixth year of eligibility by the NCAA after missing almost the entire 2008 season because of a left knee injury.

"There was a lot of thought that it wasn't going to happen," said Rogan, a Coronado High graduate. "But I felt like the case we put together was very strong. I'm always going to be a Torero. I'm just excited to be an 'active' Torero again."

In the first quarter of the 2008 season opener against Marist, Rogan suffered a complete tear of the anterior cruciate ligament, a partial tear of the medial collateral ligament, medial and lateral meniscus damage, and a lateral femoral condyle microfracture.

Rogan, who redshirted his freshman year, had to file for medical and hardship waivers to receive the sixth year. He received the good news two days ago from USD compliance coordinator Brent LeVasseur, whom Rogan credits for getting the extra year.

In 2007 Rogan was named first team FCS All-America and led the nation in kickoff returns. As a running back in 2007, he rushed for 1,021 yards and 10 TDs, while catching 30 balls for seven TDs. USD opens the 2009 season Sept. 1 at Azusa Pacific, and Rogan said he expects to play in that game. He had to undergo a second surgery in February to have scar tissue removed and said he's about "60-65 percent" right now.

"He really has two major hurdles to overcome," said USD head coach Ron Caragher. "He got over the first one. Now he has to worry about his health. The one thing on his mind is to get that knee back in shape in four months' time and it will be here sooner than later. But we're excited and we welcome him back."

Rogan has been assisting the coaches since spring camp started last month, working with the running backs. The team breaks camp with an intrasquad game April 25 at 11 a.m. at Torero Stadium.

— KEVIN GEMMELL
USD's Matthews to Indy

USD wide receiver John Matthews signed with the Indianapolis Colts as an undrafted free agent. The 6-foot, 200-pound Matthews, a first-team FCS All-American, said he received offers from the Colts, Chargers and Baltimore Ravens.

"It pretty much came down to flipping a coin between San Diego and the Colts," Matthews said last night from his family's home in Colorado. "I had a good feeling about it. (The Colts) showed a lot of interest throughout the whole process. It was a very tough decision. But I'm going forward with it and feeling good about it."

Last season Matthews caught 102 balls for 1,478 yards and 21 touchdowns for the non-scholarship Toreros and was named the Pioneer Football League's Offensive Player of the Year. He leaves for Indianapolis on Thursday and reveled at the prospect of catching balls from Peyton Manning.

"If that happens, it's going to be pretty surreal," Matthews said. "There are a lot of great receivers on that roster and I'm excited for the opportunity."

The Colts drafted one wide receiver, BYU's Austin Collie in the fourth round.

Staff writer Kevin Gemmell contributed to this report.
Matthews might be a nice catch

USD star seeking chance in NFL

By Kevin Gemmei
STAFF WRITER

John Matthews is tiring of draft labels. Bubble guy. fringe guy. draftable, not draftable. blah, blah, blah.

"I just want to get things moving," said the most decorated wide receiver in USD history. "I don't care where I end up. I just want a chance to play and show what I can do.

Whether John Matthews is selected in this weekend's NFL Draft or signs as a free agent remains to be seen. His agent, Jack Bakhliari, says he's 50-50 it Matthews gets picked in the second round draft, but at least one export has him off the board.

"I haven't spoken to teams that have shown a draftable interest," said Nolan Nevrroad of Pro Football Weekly. "The really good NFL teams, they make their living drafting from Round 6 on. A lot of teams still find a lot of great talent. Look at what San Diego did in 2003. They came away with three pro bowlers in Antonio Gates, Kris Diekman and Keanin Osgood. All undrafted free agents. I'm not sure anyone has matched that feat.

But Matthews isn't put off by the prophecy. He's confident his resume speaks for itself: FCS first-team All-American, Walter Payton Award finalist, Pioneer Football League Offensive Player of the Year. And with a view of USD receiving records to his credit, Matthews said he'll open some eyes.

"I feel confident once I end up in a camp that I'll surprise people and exceed people's expectations," he said. "I think I can be a guy who can show up and be a, let's say, a 2-3 team guy. And the other teams who are interested in me as a free agent. The 6- foot, 205-pound Matthews has taken trips to Seattle and Indianapolis and has also worked out for the Chargers.

Last year the Chargers signed USD defensive end Erik Balch with a free agent. He was cut at the end of training camp but spent time on the practice squads of the Chargers and 49ers before signing with the Chargers this winter. Bakhliari, who also represents Balch, said the Chargers will get the same treatment as any other team.

"I know (Director of College Scouting) John Simon and (General Manager) A.J. Smith and the receivers coach have done their homework on him," Bakhliari said. "They never believe in him, I know that. They will most likely be on the short list anyway, depending on what they do in the draft. If they don't take a few receivers they will move down on our board just like any other team. My job is to send John to the team where he has the best opportunity. And just because he can drive to the facility doesn't mean a thing.

Matthews' numbers this season were as good as any receiver in the country. He caught 102 balls for 1,478 yards and 21 touchdowns.

Torreros update

USD is in the final week of spring football. All practices this week are open to the public before the team breaks camp Saturday with an intra-squad scrimmage. For details, go to www.USDrocs.com.

Kevin Gemmei (619) 794-3504
kevin.gemmei@usdtrib.com
No. 16 TCU outlasts San Diego State

TCU scored three runs in the top of the eighth inning to take its first lead of the afternoon and then held on for an 8-7 victory over the San Diego State baseball team Saturday at Tony Gwynn Stadium.

The win improved the 16th-ranked Horned Frogs to 26-12 overall and 7-4 in the Mountain West Conference. The No. 19 Aztecs dropped to 28-16 and 10-7 in conference.

After the visitors opened the game with a run in the top of the first, SDSU came back to put four on the board in the bottom of the inning. Freshman Jomel Torres then tripled to right-center, scoring two runs to make it 4-1.

The Horned Frogs closed to within a run in the third on a two-run homer by Matt Carpenter, but the Aztecs responded with a run in the bottom of the inning on a double by Erik Castro and RBI single by Cory Vaughn.

San Diego State re-took the lead in the bottom of the fifth as Blackburn's single was followed by Jomel Torres' first collegiate home run to give SDSU a 7-5 advantage.

Toreros rap Portland

The University of San Diego baseball team pounded out 17 hits on route to a 13-4 win over the University of Portland in a West Coast Conference game at USD's Cunningham Stadium.

The Toreros improved to 26-17 overall (9-5 in the WCC) and coupled with a Loyola Marymount loss, the Toreros are again tied for first place in the WCC. With the loss, the Pilots fell to 21-19 overall and 5-9 in the WCC.

A.J Griffin (7-2) turned in a dominant pitching performance for the Toreros, as he allowed three runs on six hits, while striking out 10 batters.

Trujillo shines in scrimmage

The USD football team closed out spring practice with the Blue-White scrimmage at Torero Stadium.

Quarterback Sebastian Trujillo led the way offensive-ly as he completed 13-of-21 passes for 227 yards and three touchdowns. He connected for two scores to wide receiver Godrey Smith, who hauled in TD receptions of 80 and 9 yards.

CSUSM sweeps finale

The Cal State San Marcos softball team defeated Hope International 9-0 and 4-1 to close the regular season with a 30-21 record.

In game one, pitcher Ciera Ashman threw a five-inning shutout and hit a grand slam. Game two was ace pitcher and senior Melissa Lerno's last home start, and she threw a complete-game three-hitter.
Mickey Crawford, an offensive and defensive lineman for the Anderson High football team, has signed to play for the University of San Diego.

A team captain, Crawford was a second team all-district defensive lineman last season and was named to the honorable mention list at guard. He played both ways for the Trojans in the final three games of the season.

On defense, Crawford had 40 tackles (22 solo), three sacks and forced two fumbles.
Combines seeping down to high school players

By Kevin Gemrell
STAFF WRITER

The NFL Combine might be the ultimate cattle call. Top college players are herded into Indianapolis and evaluated from head to toe. If the same is applied to high school football, does that make the prepsters veal? If so, "veal" is the season for the calves to groom.

As the NFL prepares for another draft this weekend, the next generation of top players - as some would have them believe - gears up for high school combines and camps.

> TUESDAY CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Scholarship hunt leads players to attend combines

Some see combines as just another way to cash in on high school athletes. From summer leagues and AAU club teams to corporate-sponsored all-star games, many players have started to be more careful about putting their names into the spotlight.

Most, major sports apparel companies offer high school combines, with the promise that hundreds of college coaches will have access to a player's video and statistics.

Some believe combines are a mere way to make money without any value to the players. But others see them as a necessary part of the recruiting process.

Does it work? Depends on who you ask.

The National Athletic Testing System (NATS) has conducted combines in San Diego the past two years. More than 120 participants attended last year's event, and NATS hopes to draw more this year.

The combine is open to any high school athlete in California, and the cost is $150 per athlete. NATS officials say they are looking to add more events to the schedule.

Some argue that combines create false expectations for athletes, but Aaron said the NATS program provides just the opposite.

"We're not in the business of making kids look good or bad," Aaron said. "Our program gives them a real chance to show what they're doing out there to people who watch their game. It's not standardized across the country, and they can see our college coaches. We're not the only ones looking at them. The way it's going to be.

"Combine players are getting to be noticed. It's the fringe athlete - and the smaller college that don't have significant recruiting budgets - that many combines target."

At Vista High last month, former Chargers Pro Bowl running back Chuck Muncie held a combine. He said what separates his company from others is his combine will be streamed live on the Internet for college coaches to watch.

The NCAA ruled in 2006 that coaches weren't allowed to attend combines.

Muncie's company, EHN Sports, creates an online digital video profile of the athlete, complete with game film that players can upload and video of the combine. Muncie said more than 600 college coaches see his services.

SHOWTIME

In addition to games on Friday nights, high school football players have other opportunities to show their skills to college recruiters:

> COMBINING

Who: Athletes are measured on speed, strength and agility.

Why: To document performance and make those numbers available to college coaches.

When: Usually open to high school players of all ages.

Where: Usually in late spring or summer when colleges have wrapped up spring workouts and are looking ahead to the next year's recruiting season.

Assessment: Most combines have an online database that college coaches can access for free. Some other online streaming of the combine and video profiles of each event.

Costs: Most are between $55 and $75. Some have "all-day" like Web pages for the athletes that can be customizing for $100.


COLLEGE CAMP

What: The NCAA does not allow college coaches to attend combines, so some colleges hold their own two-day camps. Athletes are measured on position drills and a skills test. Coaches are allowed to watch but can't make contact with players outside of the recruiting period.

When: Access to recruiting is limited for players not invited to camp.

Where: Most camps occur in the late spring or summer.

Assessment: Multiple recruiting sites film the skills day and post the video online.

Costs: Between $50-$75 for individuals and up to $400 for groups of teams.

Leads: San Diego State is holding its camp June 2-13 and June 19-20. High school all-star camp June 17. USC is holding its Rising Stars camp June 24-25.

KEVIN GEMRELL

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LOCAL COLLEGES

The USD men's basketball team announced the signing of Rafael Crescencio of Santo Andre, Brazil, to a national letter of intent. Crescencio, a 6-foot-9, 220-pound forward-center, will have two years of eligibility with the Toreros. Crescencio played at Arizona Western College in Yuma the past two seasons. As a sophomore he helped the Matadors win the Arizona Community College Athletic Conference title.

- After playing what they believed was their final game at Sunset Cliffs Park three weeks ago, the players on the Point Loma Nazarene softball team have been granted one last homestand. The Sea Lions will host a round of the GSAC playoffs starting today. Vanguard and Concordia open with a game at noon, and the winner meets PLNU in a best-of-three series starting at 2 p.m. The second game will be played at noon tomorrow, with the third game following at 2 p.m., if necessary. (For video of PLNU's last regular-season game at its longtime field, go to uniontrib.com/sports.)

- NICOLE VARGAS
USD men's basketball coach Bill Grier said yesterday that he was unaware his name had been among those rumored as candidates for the Washington State job and indicated he was not interested in being considered for it.

Grier, an Oregon native and University of Oregon graduate, speculated his name was mentioned because of his Pacific Northwest background. He spent 16 years as an assistant at Gonzaga University in Spokane, Wash., before taking over two years ago at USD.

"I'm not going to get into the coaching (job carousel) thing," Grier said. "I feel good about the kids we have returning here next season and I'm happy with where I am. This is a good place with a lot of very good people to work with."

In his first season at USD, Grier led the Toreros to a 22-14 record, West Coast Conference Tournament championship and an opening-round NCAA Tournament victory over Connecticut. After the season, Grier interviewed for the Oregon State head coaching position that eventually went to Craig Robinson, brother-in-law of President Barack Obama.

Beset with injuries and discipline problems, USD went 16-16 this past season and was eliminated in the quarterfinal round of the WCC Tournament.

Grier said he had no regrets about how the Oregon State situation worked out.

"I think OSU hired the right guy," Grier said. "I made the decision I thought was best for my family and I'm happy with it. Our season (at USD) didn't go as well as anybody -- players, coaches or fans -- thought and hoped it would, but I'm optimistic for next year."

Among the other possible candidates mentioned for the Washington State job are Saint Mary's coach Randy Bennett, a former USD assistant, and current Gonzaga assistant Ray Giacoletti, who replaced Grier on Mark Few's staff.

Giacoletti is a former head coach at Utah, Eastern Washington and North Dakota State.

The Washington State position became open Monday when Tony Bennett accepted the job at Virginia.
Cougars looking at USD's Grier

STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

University of San Diego basketball coach Bill Grier didn't return his Toreros to the post-season after last year's NCAA tournament success, but his name was still quick to appear on a short list of candidates for the vacant head coaching job at Washington State.

The Associated Press reported Tuesday that Washington State athletic director Jim Sterk identified two coaches — Grier and Portland State coach Ken Bone — as potential targets for the job that was left vacant when Tony Bennett resigned to take the same position at Virginia.

Sterk told the AP he would like to hire a new coach in about a week.

USD athletic director Ky Snyder, through a school spokesman, said Washington State hasn't called for permission to speak with Grier.

"It's our policy not to comment on personnel issues and contracts," said Ted Green, USD's associate athletic director for media relations. "This time of year when there are coaching changes going around, names get thrown around, but we don't comment on rumors and speculation. But I can tell you that Ky says he has not been contacted by Washington State."

Grier has significant ties to the Pacific Northwest, having spent 16 years as an assistant coach at Gonzaga before coming to USD in 2007. He was raised in Oregon and last year was courted by Oregon State for its vacant head coaching job.

— Tom Shumlin
CV charity holds 4th Annual Golf Tournament Fundraiser

The Christopher J Collins Foundation, a local Carmel Valley charity, continues its mission to develop confidence and leadership in San Diego's youth, by hosting its 4th annual Charity Golf Tournament and Silent Auction at Coronado Golf Course, Monday, June 15. This year's beneficiaries of the Christopher J. Collins Foundation Golf Tournament will be the American Diabetes Association and United Through Reading®, a program that unites families separated by military duty through reading programs.

Each year the Christopher J. Collins Foundation dedicates itself to helping kids in the immediate San Diego community by raising money for secured charities who reach out to youth in areas of athletics, academics, and art. Since its founding in 2005 by Christopher Collins's family, including his sister Kristin Watkins of Carmel Valley, the Foundation has raised well over $65,000 that has gone directly into the San Diego Community.

This year's events, expected to draw over 200 participants to the Coronado Golf Course on Monday, June 15, will begin with a putting contest followed by a shotgun start golf tournament at 1 p.m. Registration fees for the golf tournament are only $125 and include greens fee, cart, lunch sponsored by USA Federal Credit Union, range balls, cigars, $1 drinks, putting contest entry, commemorative tournament shirt, goodie bag, dinner reception sponsored by Sullivan Internation al Group and silent auction.

The evening events, which are open to golfers and non-golfers alike, will include the silent auction, reception, and awards dinner all beginning at 5:30 p.m. You can register to attend just the evening events for a mere $45. Browse through sports memorabilia, vacation opportunities such as a Cabo San Lucas vacation, a Roundtown bike, season tickets to the University of San Diego men's basketball season, concert tickets from the Belly Up, and much more as you enjoy the magnificent views of the water and downtown San Diego that Coronado Golf Course can offer.

For information on how you can become a sponsor, or for more about the Christopher J. Collins Foundation and the Charity Golf Tournament and Silent Auction, please visit http://chriscollins.golbeg.com.
WOMEN'S TENNIS: Aztecs lose San Diego battle to Toreros

Michael Meraz, Staff Writer

Sophomore Julia Trunk teamed up with Holly Bagshaw to get a doubles victory, but she wasn't able to pick up a singles point against the Toreros.

In the battle for San Diego, the No. 42 San Diego State women's tennis team was looking to rebound against the University of San Diego after a 7-0 drubbing at the hands of the Washington Huskies last week.

SDSU (15-7) started the match in a good rhythm, but then went cold, both literally and figuratively, and ultimately fell to No. 54 USD 4-3.

"We really wanted to come out and just gun it," senior Esther Cadua said. "Sometimes in athletics outside circumstances kind of neutralize the playing field."

The Aztecs opened the match by taking the doubles point with victories coming from the No. 58-ranked doubles team of senior Holly Bagshaw and sophomore Julia Trunk, as well as from the team of freshman Emma Cioffi and Cadua.

As SDSU was gaining its rhythm in its singles matches, the weather decided to put a temporary halt on the action not once, but twice.

"It did have an effect on our play," Cadua said. "But the conditions work both ways. Whoever was mentally stronger was going to win the match."

With the rain and cold weather making it nearly impossible for the Aztecs to get into any kind of rhythm, the leads that many of the players had soon dwindled away as action resumed. Even with the efforts of Cadua, who won her singles match 6-2, 6-2, and senior Milana Yusupov, who won her match 6-4, 0-6, 6-2, the Toreros ultimately proved too much for SDSU.

"Even though I won both of my matches, this is a devastating loss for myself and the team," Cadua said. "This is the first time in my four years that we have lost to USD."

Tied at three points apiece, the deciding match of the day was a highly competitive one between freshman Roxanne Ellison and USD's Marite Raygada. Despite a valiant effort and a dominant first set by Ellison, Raygada came back to hand the Aztecs their second loss in a row with a 2-6, 6-3, 6-2 win.

With the Toreros being SDSU's final non-conference meet of the season, the team will now travel to Las Vegas to take on conference opponents BYU and Utah. The matches will be the last chance for the Aztecs to prepare for the Mountain West Conference championships in Albuquerque on April 22.

"Hopefully we can use this loss to pump us up for conference," Cadua said. "It should make us more focused to go get that ring."
In what was supposed to be a shining moment for the San Diego State women's tennis team seniors, No. 37 SDSU had Senior Day turn into one of its worst losses of the season as it was downed by Washington.

Shortly after honoring the senior trio of Holly Bagshaw, Milana Yusupov and Esther Cadua before the match, the Aztecs (15-6) were never able to find any kind of rhythm and were defeated handily by the Huskies 7-0.

Boasting two nationally ranked players, Washington completely swept SDSU in the singles' matches, the most competitive being a 6-3, 7-6 (8) loss by Cadua. The Aztecs' only victory last Friday came from Roxanne and Sierra Ellison with an 8-7 (2) victory in second doubles.

SDSU was swept in the other two doubles matches, however, causing it to lose the all-important doubles point.

Fortunately for the Aztecs, Washington is not a Mountain Western Conference opponent, and the loss will have no effect on their conference record. SDSU now turns its attention to its final non-conference match of the season against the University of San Diego.

The Toreros are also coming off of a very tough loss to the Huskies after losing 6-1 last Saturday. The No. 54-ranked USD has a nationally ranked player of its own in senior Tammy Kevey, who was the only Torero to win a match against Washington. With such a devastating loss to the Huskies, the Aztecs know they must have a short memory if they are to regain their form before MWC play resumes.

"We just have to keep fighting," Yusupov said, "making sure we play hard and stay focused." SDSU will head into the match with the usual duo of Bagshaw and sophomore Julia Trunk leading the way, playing in Nos. 1 and 2 singles, respectively. The two also combine to form the Aztecs' No. 58-ranked No. 1 doubles team with a 13-7 overall dual match record. Although the Toreros are not an MWC opponent, the crosstown rivalry between the two teams is something that definitely motivates SDSU.

"It's usually a very competitive match," Yusupov said. "It's going to be a lot of fun."

The Toreros will likely be out for revenge, as the Aztecs easily beat them last season in a 7-0 rout at the Aztec Tennis Center. The match will be at 1:30 p.m. today at the USD West Tennis Courts.
WOMEN'S TENNIS: Victory in Salt Lake City

Micheal Meraz, Staff Writer

After dropping a disappointing match to University of San Diego, the No. 42 San Diego State women's tennis team was looking for a rebound.

SDSU found that bounce-back opportunity in Las Vegas this weekend, as the Aztecs downed No. 57 BYU on Friday, before handling fellow Mountain West Conference opponent Utah 5-2 on Saturday.

"I thought it was very important we come over here and make a statement against two pretty tough opponents," head coach Peter Mattera said. "We certainly had two really good days in the desert."

SDSU was led once again by the duo of senior Holly Bagshaw and sophomore Julia Trunk, who won their doubles match against Utah 9-8, and their singles matches 6-2, 6-3, 6-3, respectively.

Also contributing were the always-reliable doubles team of freshmen Roxanne and Sierra Ellison, who won their doubles match 8-6.

"We definitely had a very successful weekend," Mattera said. "Our seniors really performed well today, as they have throughout their entire careers."

Seniors picking up victories for the Aztecs included Milana Yusupov, with a 6-0, 6-4 victory, as well as Esther Cadua, with a 6-2, 6-0 win. The wins will be the final dual matches for the likes of Bagshaw, Yusupov and Cadua.

"It was nice to see them finish the season on a positive note," Mattera said. "But we really have so much tennis left to play." SDSU now turns its attention to the Mountain West Conference Championships, where it will most likely be a third seed, and take on a very familiar Utah squad in the first round.

The Aztecs' successful season comes down to one tournament, in which they have been looking forward to all season.

"One of our main goals was to win the conference tournament," Mattera said. "Our other is to make the NCAA Tournament."

As SDSU is all too familiar with, a strong record and ranking may not be enough to get into the NCAA Tournament. The Aztecs are focusing on not leaving the decision up to the voters.

"We can only control our wins and losses," Mattera said. "But we're still very focused on winning the conference and getting an automatic bid."

If SDSU does in fact win the conference, it will be its first championship since the 2003 season, but as for right now, the Aztecs are focused on handing the Utes, or whomever they face, another loss.

"It really helps that we had a strong performance today," Mattera said. "Hopefully we go in there with a lot of confidence."
Amazing place, race for Michigan

Wolverines women pull off Crew Classic upset

By Mark Zeigler
STAFF WRITER

Mark Rothstein would prefer you don’t call it a bet, given the NCAA’s sensitivities toward gambling and all.

“A challenge,” he said, “sounds better.”

It was two years ago, and a few of his Michigan women’s rowers kept bugging him about racing at the San Diego Crew Classic once season, about trekking to the shores of Southern California after another long Midwest winter. So “off the cuff” he offered a deal to certain athletes:

If one of them clocked under 7 minutes for 2,000 meters on the ergometer, they could go to the Crew Classic.

Last year, Caitlin Trumble went 6:59.

“Didn’t think it was too likely to happen,” Rothstein admitted on the shores of Mission Bay yesterday, shortly after the trophy presentation of the Jessop-Whittier Cup for the regatta’s premier collegiate women’s race. “I had forgotten about it.”

“But it was the first thing they said after Caitlin did it. A bunch of them came running up to me, saying, ‘We’re going to San Diego.’”

Rothstein kept his promise, returning to the Crew Classic after an eight-year hiatus, and his sixth-ranked varsity women rewarded him by upsetting No. 4 Washington by 2½ seconds to claim the first Jessop-Whittier Cup title in school history. It was only the third time in 35 years the winner was not from the West Coast, and the first since Boston University did it in 1991.

Not bad for a team that trains on a lake where the ice melted less than a month ago.

Or a team that is almost exclusively American in a sport that increasingly relies on international rowers.

The UCSD men’s team celebrates its Cal Cup victory, which brought a guaranteed spot in next year’s Copley Cup competition. Mark Zeigler / Union-Tribune
Fast start helps Cal to another Copley Cup win

in second place, had six of the eight oars pulled by foreigners. USC, in fifth, had eight of eight. Trumble, an Australian rclarly, technically in Michigan's only foreigner in its varsity boat. She was born in Canada and lived in the United States for several years before returning to Australia. She speaks with an American accent.

"This is definitely a great confidence boost for the team," Trumble said.

Ditto for UC San Diego, which is quietly becoming among the top men's crew programs on the West Coast despite being a Division II school with little rowing pedigree. USC won the men's Cal Cup, which is for the next out of crews not invited to the Copley Cup. The carrot is the winner gets a lane in the Copley Cup the following year.

The Tritons won the school's first Cal Cup in 2007 and raced in the Copley Cup last year, and coach Zach Johnson lobbied hard to have his team stay there this year instead of returning to the Cal Cup. They were denied.

Jon Smart, the Crew Classic vice president for race operations, explained the procedure: Each summer, a committee correlates extends invitations to the Copley Cup field — usually 12 boats — based on the previous season's final standings.

"UCSD," Smart said, "didn't quite make the cut."

"We were told that we weren't competitive enough," said Johnson, whose varsity boat includes five guys who learned how to row in college. "They didn't think we had enough to do well in a race with big-name schools from across the country. Hopefully they'll start looking a little closer to home."

"This is also justification," said Johnson. "Yesterday's Cal Cup triumph had far less drama than in 2007, when the Tritons realized shortly before the race they had no cars because their women's team inadvertently had taken them. They borrowed baby blue cars from USD and staged a dramatic come-from-behind victory over UCLA by a foot.

With their own cars, they powered away midway through the 2,000-meter course and never were seriously challenged. Second-place USD was nearly three seconds back.

"When I asked them how they felt (Saturday), they said they had a whole other gear they hadn't gone to," Johnson said. "I didn't know how much to believe them, until today."

The Cal men used a similar formula to win the Copley Cup, which yesterday featured five of the top men's seven crews in USRowing's national rankings. After a lackluster performance in Saturday's heats, where they finished behind rival Stanford, "When we had the lead, we knew how to win," Johnson said. "Obviously, it's never fun losing to Stanford. Let's just say it worked."
Kelp delay

Yesterday morning’s races were delayed by 20 minutes because of kelp, of all things. It would have been far longer had it not been for a crack team of volunteers that began clearing the 2,000-meter course at 5 a.m., and racing was back on schedule by 10:15...

Stamford was the surprise winner of its Copley Cup heat and had the day’s best time at 5 minutes, 50.09 seconds. The Washington men won their heat in 5:51.65... Michie and Washington won their Whittier Cup heats, meaning the advantageous inside lane in the final... The USD and UCSD men and USD women all advanced to today’s Cal Cup finals.

SCOREBOARD

San Diego Crew Classic
On Cowan Point Shores, Mission Bay

Men’s Collegiate Varsity Cup A

Men’s Collegiate Varsity Cup B

Men’s Collegiate Varsity Cup C

Women’s Collegiate Varsity Cup A

Women’s Collegiate Varsity Cup B

Women’s Collegiate Varsity Cup C

Women’s Collegiate Invitational

Women’s Collegiate Invitational

Women’s Collegiate Invitational

Women’s Collegiate Invitational
B Jaws-Wallace Cup: 1. USC, 6:40.31; 2. Miami, 6:40.90; 3. UCLA, 6:44.76; 4. Miami, 6:50.38.

Men’s Collegiate Novice A & Dorrin Grenier Memorial Cup

Men’s Collegiate Novice B Dorrin Grenier Memorial Cup

Women’s Collegiate Novice A
Manhattan Cup: 1. Occ, 6:14.10; 2. UCSB, 6:41.45; 3. Occ, 6:41.52; 4. Occ, 6:41.52; 5. UCLA, 6:41.52; 6. CSULB, 6:41.52.

Women’s Collegiate Novice B

Women’s Collegiate Novice B
USD Women's Soccer Holds Casino Night

XK Staff
Posted: Sunday, April 12, 2009 9:35 am

University of San Diego women's soccer team invites the community to attend its Sixth Annual Casino Night fundraiser, which raises money for the Torero women's soccer program. The festivities will kick off on April 18 from 6-10 p.m. in the Jenny Craig Pavilion.

There will be music, dinner and drinks, socializing and games. Attendees should expect a fun and entertaining night while supporting women's soccer and meeting the players and coaches.

Tickets are $60 per person, and the event is semi-formal. Entrance fees include dinner and drinks, two raffle tickets and $200 in chips to participate in the casino games. Chips can be turned in at the end of the evening for raffle tickets with the chance to win prizes.

To learn more about Casino Night and/or about the alumni game earlier that day, click here.

The 2008 Women's Torero Soccer Team (Courtesy of Brock Scott)
Summer College Camps

Think college is just for the over-18 crowd? Think again!

San Diego is rich with opportunities for children to get a taste of college campus life during summer and enhance their academic and athletic prowess. Whether you choose a sports program or an academic one, there are a variety of programs available for children from Kindergarten age to 17 years old.

Aside from keeping them busy during the often-idle summertime, letting your children attend a college camp serves another very important role: planting the seed that college is in their future—not an option, but their destiny.

What's the difference between a college camp and a traditional camp? As a general rule, the answer lies in the level of concentration on a unique subject of interest. While many camps such as YMCA's Camp Marston offer a broad experience for campers (from archery to swimming to s'mores), most college camps target a specific topic and cover it in depth.

Some of the college camp programs in San Diego include videogame programming, basketball and other sports, robotics and movie making. While each program varies somewhat, many offer campers the choice of either attending as a resident camper or a day camper.

Since some of these camps are pricey, be sure to take advantage of early enrollment discounts.

Mary Hay Davis
Sports Camps

Does your child prefer the allure of the outdoors to that of a confined classroom? Then a summer sports camp is the answer for you.

The majority of summer college sports programs are sport-specific, allowing your child to develop his individual skills to a higher level. While the focus is on fun and personal development, college sports camps can also be an avenue for college-level coaches to see your child.

Before you start planning your child's college or major-related career, however, get the facts of your eyes. It is important to make sure that a college sports camp is actually something your child wants to do—his dream, not your.

University of San Diego Sports Camps

Not only does USD offer specialty camps in baseball, basketball, dance and cheer, football, soccer, swimming, tennis and more, but they also offer a comprehensive all-sports camp that emphasizes sportsmanship, individual skills, and teamwork. Programs and schedules vary, but most are offered June-July. Check age requirements for each individual program.

www.usdcamps.com/site.aspx; 619-260-2999

San Diego State University Sports Camps

Located high atop Mount Soledad, San Diego State University offers a variety of sports camps for your young athlete. Check for individual camps through the main Aztec Athletics website, under your child's sport of interest:

http://aztecs.sdsu.edu/sites/aztec-sports/football/summer-camps

Baseball Camps

Various programs throughout July and August for ages 8-18

http://coleguebaseballcamps.com/calendar.html?ID=1058&area=ABC;
619-594-6186

Super Summer Scholars

Want to sneak in a little learning, disguised as fun? Then an academic-based college camp is just the ticket.

College camps keep kids active and engaged, and they are also a great way for kids to meet new friends with similar interests. In fact, many four-year college students now follow this model when assigning students to dormitories, as administrators have come to realize that grouping students with similar interests is beneficial.

Cal State San Marcos SuperCamp

Offering a variety of programs including Senior and Junior Basketball (academic programs meant to build up skills such as decision making, problem solving, team-taking strategies for SAT/ACT prep), leadership training, language programs (Spanish and Mandarin), as well as a variety of other academic-based programs.

www.supercamp.com/summer-camp-programs.htm; 800-285-3276

UCSD ID Tech Summer Computer Camps

Kids from 7-17 years old will have a fantastic time exploring high-tech areas of interest, including making their own videogames, Website design, robotics and digital movie making. There’s even a combination Surf & Tech Camp that lets kids spend part of the time on technology, and the other part surfing.


San Diego State University Teen Academy

A subject-based day camp for kids in grades 9-12. Students gain hands-on experience in Website design, TV/video production and videogame programming, and receive instruction from industry experts in their respective field of expertise. There’s even a Writer’s Academy as well as a Model Tech camp, for your future creative or tech-minded. College of Extended Studies

www.css.sdsu.edu/summerdaycamp.html; 619-574-5674

A Smart Way to Get Ahead

Many colleges now allow teens 16 and older to enroll in a college-level course during the entire academic year, including Fall, Spring and Summer terms. Most require the student to have permission from a parent as well as the approval of a high school counselor.

This is a terrific opportunity for fall athletes to hone their skills for their sport of choice, as well as for other students to explore areas of interest such as drama or art (and build up some college credits along the way).

Be warned, however, that these are real college courses with real grades, so make sure your child is up for the time and energy commitment needed to do well in the chosen course.

By enrolling during this period of exploration, your scholar or student-athlete can return to high school come Fall and proudly declare, “Oh yeah! I have a 4.0 college GPA!”

San Diego State University Reading Skills Program

Help your child become a better reader. Children from Pre-K to 12th grade (and even college students and adults) will benefit from a well-paced, comprehensive program that helps increase fluency, build vocabulary and expand comprehension via word-attack skills and phonics. Most programs are five weeks in length and run through June, July and August.

www.css.sdsu.edu/reading; 619-574-8888

Southwestern College Math Bridge Program

For Sweetwater Union High School District seniors who will be entering Southwestern College in Fall 2009. This program helps students shore up their math skills and build a solid foundation for college-level math courses.

www.swwc.edu/hsbridge/index.asp; 619-421-6700, ext. 5369

Alpina mom Mary Davis is a freelance writer.
Damon, Marauders 'showcased' top roundball effort

by Don Norton

Despite having to play out the final basketball game of his senior year with a broken foot, Mira Mesa’s scoring leader Damon Williams still finished as one of the Eastern League’s overall top scorers.

The men and women’s CIF play grand finale came to the USD Jenny Craig Pavilion last weekend, but neither Williams or his Dan Regas’ Marauder teammates were in the mix unless as game spectators. Rather, the Division I championship matched top-seed El Camino against No. 2 Torrey Pines for the plaque and medals in a late Saturday game.

Hobbled by a broken bone in his foot, the 6-foot-7 Williams was held to just 8 points in his final quarterfinals 56-45 game against the top seed team. Even so, he finished his season with 619 points for an average 21.34 a game for his senior year. Those numbers could be misleading. Against Carlsbad in the first round game, he dumped in 24 and before that in a regular season finale.

In the competition, Williams and sophomore Marcus Smith led the Marauders to a final Eastern League championship against Hoover. The Cardinals were led in the final San Diego standings by point leader Eric with 566 season points for a 17.69 average.

But then the Mira Mesa finish didn’t only involve Williams. There was also 6’3” senior Kevin Ozier, who had 19 counters in one of his late season games. Also senior teammate Eulo Aquino with 13 against El Camino in the quarters and then 6-1 sophomore Smith.

Chris Mendoza and 6-foot-2 Brandon Chambers were two more seniors, as well as another 6-foot-3 forward James Lizaraga-Davis. Chambers at 6-2 did guard work for the team. There were guards Jeff Bradley, Jylan Carpio, Timur Tatirevlev, Derek Olson, and Jonathan Maymon, as well as 6-4 Jake Stearns in a forward position.

Mira Mesa and Hoover finished with a top of the league 8-2 ranking to tie for the championship although the Cardinals headed for the Division II playoffs boasting a top seed 26-7 record. Regas’ Marauders provided one more surprise battle at 17-12.

The Cardinals continued to live up to seeding expectations by way of a 76-35 defeat of El Capitan in the Division II layup for an advance to the Friday night championship. There, they took on Oceanside, which had edged Lincoln, 64-60, in the other semifinals test.

That Division II decided was to come in a highlight final 8:05 game.

Disappointed as to not figuring into the finals Marauders’ style? Rather than that, coach Dan Regas was surprised.

“It was our first league title in four years,” he said “and came up as a high we weren’t that sure of with the current team.”
Riverside squeaks out win over USD

UC Riversidel pushed across the game-winning run in the top of the sixth when Ryan Goetz hit into a double play with the bases loaded in a 2-1 win over visiting USD in a nonconference game yesterday.

With the loss, the Toreros fell to 27-18 overall, and with the win, the Highlanders improved to 25-13 overall.

UCR (25-13) scored in the fourth to take an early lead, but the Toreros (27-18) evened the score in the bottom of the fifth. With two outs, Bryan Haar got things started with a single through the left side. Jon Hotta then drove in Haar with a double down the left-field line to tie the game.

Darrin Campbell (3-4) took the loss for USD; Ryan Platt (3-0) picked up the win for the Highlanders.
Nicol drives in five for winning USD

UNION-TRIBUNE

Sean Nicol led the USD baseball team by going 4-for-5 with three doubles, one home run and five RBI, and the Toreros pounded out 12 extra-base hits in a 17-7 win over visiting Portland yesterday afternoon.

Austin Green went 2-for-2 with two home runs and three RBI for USD, which improved to 27-17 overall and 10-5 in the West Coast Conference. The Pilots fell to 21-20 and 5-10.

Zach Walters, Chris Engell, Tony Strazzara and James Meador recorded multiple hits for the Toreros.

Matt Hauser (4-1) got the win as he allowed four runs on six hits in 3 2/3 innings. Scott Denault picked up his second save of the season, allowing no runs on three hits while striking out a career-high seven batters in four innings.
LOCAL COLLEGES

USD coasts to WCC win vs. Portland

Host USD pounded out 17 hits en route to a 13-4 win over Portland yesterday afternoon in a West Coast Conference baseball game.

USD starter A.J. Griffin (7-2), a Grossmont High alum, dominated, allowing three runs on six hits while striking out 10 over seven innings for the Toreros (26-17, 9-6).

Pilots southpaw Scott Burls (4-3) took the loss, allowing eight runs — seven earned — on 11 hits in 4 1/3 innings as Portland fell to 21-19, 5-9.

Bryan Haar, another Grossmont High alum, went 3-for-5 with a double, homer and five RBI, Zach Walters was 3-for-4 with two doubles, Chris Engell went 3-for-5 with a triple and one RBI, and James Meador (Ramona) was 2-for-5 with a home run and four RBI.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PORTLAND at USD</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Where:</strong> 3 p.m.</td>
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<td><strong>Where:</strong> Cunningham Stadium</td>
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<td><strong>Outlook:</strong> After playing nine straight conference road games, the Toreros (25-16, 8-4 WCC) return home tied for first place with Loyola Marymount, their opponent next weekend. James Meador is hitting .400 in WCC games and ranks second overall with a .385 average. Portland (20-18, 4-8) is coming off a series win against Gonzaga and features freshman right-hander Kyle Kraus, who ranks third in the WCC with a 3.00 ERA. The series continues at 1 p.m. tomorrow and noon Sunday.</td>
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More baseball

A five-run seventh inning by No. 9 Cal State Fullerton helped the host Titans (25-11) win 8-5 over visiting USD.

Dustin Garrieau's solo homer and a two-run triple by Gary Brown were the big blows for the Titans.

Chris Engell led USD (25-16) with two hits, including a homer and two RBI. Brian Farris also had a solid day as he went 2-for-2 with a double and an RBI.

USD used seven pitchers, with reliever Scott DeNault (3-3) taking the loss. DeNault, the Toreros' fifth pitcher, gave up four runs on three hits over 1⅓ innings. Colin O'Connell, the third of four Titans pitchers, got the win, his first of the season.

The Toreros return to action Friday when they host the University of Portland in the first of a three-game West Coast Conference series at USD's Cunningham Stadium.
The 24th-ranked USD baseball team avoided a three-game sweep at Saint Mary's with a 9-7 win yesterday, powered by a 4-for-5 effort from James Meador. The Toreros (25-15, 8-4 in the WCC) led 9-7 after four innings and held the Gaels (23-18, 5-7) scoreless over the final five innings. Meador had a double and two RBI, and Sean Nicol went 2-for-3 with one home run and four RBI. Matt Hauser (3-1) was credited with the win, allowing one run on five hits in 3 1/3 innings of work.

USD next travels to Cal State Fullerton for a single non-conference game tomorrow at 6 p.m.

More baseball
Rafael Neda's sacrifice fly in the bottom of the ninth brought home the winning run as New Mexico beat No. 15 San Diego State 6-5 in the series finale in Albuquerque, N.M.

The win put the Lobos (30-11) into a three-way tie atop the Mountain West Conference at 10-6. The Aztecs (25-14, 9-6) loaded the bases with no one out in the top of the ninth inning, but two New Mexico relievers got a pair of pop outs and a ground out to end the threat.

Tennis
USD sophomore Dean Jackson upset Pepperdine's Omar Altman, but the 17th-ranked Waves beat the USD men in tennis 4-1. The win clinched the 21st WCC title for Pepperdine.

The USD women swept the University of San Francisco 4-0 to take third place in the WCC women's tournament at the Barnes Tennis Center in Point Loma. That gave the Toreros a 13-9 overall record.
Host Saint Mary's stopped West Coast Conference foe USD 5-3 at Moraga, scoring all five of its runs in the second inning. Sean Nicol, James Meador and Steven Chatwood all went 2-for-5 for the No. 24-ranked Toreros (24-15, 7-4). The Gaels are 23-17, 5-6.
COLLEGE BASEBALL TODAY

NO. 15 SDSU at NEW MEXICO
When: 5 p.m. PDT  Where: Isotopes Stadium
Outlook: The Aztecs (25-13, 8-4 MWC) and Lobos (28-10, 8-4) begin the second half of conference play tied for first place. SDSU will have All-America pitcher Stephen Strasburg (7-0, 1.49 ERA) on the mound tonight facing the MWC's top offense (9.9 runs per game, 1.003 OPS). The series continues at 5 p.m. tomorrow and 11 a.m. Sunday.

NO. 24 USD at SAINT MARY'S
When: 3 p.m.  Where: Louis Guisto Field
Outlook: The Toreros (24-13, 7-2 WCC) cooled off after last weekend at Gonzaga, losing two out of three, but picked up a big win Tuesday against No. 3 UC Irvine. A.J. Griffin (6-1, 2.23), USD's career saves leader, has started games in each of the past three weeks and won all three. The Gaels (22-17, 3-6) have lost five straight WCC games. The teams also will play at 1 p.m. tomorrow and Sunday.
April 14, 2009

Rankings are from CBI Composite Poll
click here for complete list of scores

Around the Bases

**Haniger has four hits as Georgia Tech gets past Georgia**

*LSU edges UNO; Rice, UC Irvine, North Carolina, Arkansas, Baylor all fall*

In Athens, Ga., Jason Haniger went 4 for 5 with a homer as No. 12 Georgia Tech defeated No. 3 Georgia 11-6 Tuesday at Foley Field. Haniger had a two-run homer in the first and Jeff Rowland had a two-run triple in a three-run third as the Yellow Jackets (22-8-1) took an early 5-0 lead. Cole Leonard and Matt Skole also went deep for Georgia Tech. Michael Demperio had a two-run homer in the second for the Bulldogs (29-7). Joey Lewis, Bryce Massanari and Levi Hyams also had dingers for Georgia. Colby May had three hits for the Bulldogs.

**No. 1 LSU 8, New Orleans 6**

In Baton Rouge, La., Blake Dean homered in his third straight game as LSU outscored UNO at Alex Box Stadium. Dean had a three-run homer in a four-run third as the Tigers (27-9) took the lead for good at 4-2. Mikie Mahtook had three hits and a run for LSU. Kyle Maldonado knocked in three for the Privateers (13-22).

**Texas A&M 7, No. 2 Rice 3**

In Houston, Brooks Ratcliff drove in four with two RBI as Texas A&M got past Rice in front of 4,541 at Reckling Park. Barrett Loux (2-1) fanned nine in five innings for the Aggies (22-14). Adam Smith homered in the third to snap a 1-1 tie and give Texas A&M the lead for good. Luke Anders also went deep for the Aggies. Brian Fitts and Anthony Rendon both had three hits for the Owls (25-9).

**San Diego 5, UC Irvine 4**

In San Diego, Nick McCoy had a double, a homer and two RBI as USD knocked off UCI at Cunningham Stadium. McCoy homered to start a two-run second for the Toreros (24-13). Eric Deragisch and Jeff Cusick had RBI singles in the third to put USD ahead to stay. McCoy's RBI double capped a two-run fifth to give the Toreros a 5-2 lead. Francis Larson launched a two-run homer in the sixth for UCI before USD added a pair in the eighth. Chris Engell had three hits for the Toreros. Deragisch and Ben Orloff both had two hits for the Anteaters.

**High Point 11, No. 6 North Carolina 9**

In Chapel Hill, N.C., Bill Manion's two-run single in the eighth put High Point on top to stay in its win over UNC at Boshamer Field. Jeremy Berg (3-1) allowed one hit over 2.2 scoreless innings with no walks and three strikeouts to secure the win for the Panthers (14-17). Billy Alvino had three hits and five RBI for High Point. Alfie Wheeler had four hits and three runs, and Jeff Cowan had two hits and four runs for the Panthers. Garrett Gore and Mark Fleury both had two hits, two runs and one RBI for the Tar Heels (27-10).

**No. 7 Cal State Fullerton 9, USC 2**

In Los Angeles, Jared Clark doubled twice and knocked in four as Cal State Fullerton won at USC. Clark had a two-run double and scored in a three-run first for the Titans (23-9). Mike O'Neill had a two-run homer in the bottom of the frame for the Trojans (17-15). Nick Ramirez went deep in the fourth and Clark added a sac fly in the fifth for Fullerton. Christian Colon scored three for the
No. 23 San Diego 9, Gonzaga 2
In Spokane, Wash., Jon Hotta had two hits and two RBI as USD evened its WCC series with Gonzaga. Jose Valerio and Zach Walters had consecutive homers in the ninth for the Toreros (7-1, 23-12). Tyson Van Winkle had two hits and a run for the Bulldogs (5-3, 22-10).

No. 24 San Diego State 8, UNLV 6
In Las Vegas, SDSU scored three in the eighth to rally past UNLV and clinch its Mountain West series at Earl E. Wilson Stadium. Josh Chasse homered and drove in three for the Aztecs (8-3, 25-11). Jarred Frierson had three hits and a run for the Rebels (4-7, 15-18).

Delaware 27, Hofstra 2
In Hempstead, N.Y., Ryan Cuneo tied a school record with three home runs as Delaware hammered Hofstra in CAA action at University Field. Cuneo scored four and drove in six. Carlos Alonso (4 for 6, 4 R, 1 RBI), Ryan Reed (5 for 7, 1 HR, 4 R, 3 RBI) and Pat Dameron (5 for 6, 3 R, 4 RBI) all had huge days for the Blue Hens (6-4, 20-11). Mark Stuckless had two hits, a run and a RBI for the Pride (1-9, 5-20).

Ohio State 6, Michigan State 1
In Columbus, Ohio, Alex Wimmers carried a no-hitter into the eighth before settling for a two-hitter as OSU defeated MSU in the opener of their Big Ten series at Bill Davis Stadium. Wimmers (6-1) walked one and struck out 11. Eric Roof got the first hit for the Spartans (3-4, 11-19) with a leadoff double in the eighth. He moved to third on a bunt single and scored on a balk. Zach Hurley homered to lead off the first for the Buckeyes (4-3, 24-7), preventing Nolan Moody (4-4) the chance for consecutive no-hitters. Dan Burkhart had a three-run homer in the seventh as OSU built a 5-0 lead.
Arizona State routs Cougars

Top-ranked Arizona State hit four home runs and defeated Washington State 13-3 Friday in the opener of a three-game Pac-10 Conference series.

It was the 12th straight win at home by the Sun Devils (24-7, 9-1) over the Cougars (14-14, 4-3).

WSU senior Matt Way (4-3) was touched for four runs, including a pair of home runs, in the bottom of the first inning.

WSU responded with three runs in the second, including RBI singles by Matt Argyropoulos and Cody Bartlett. But Sun Devils pitcher Mike Leake (8-1) shut out the Cougars in the final seven innings and finished with 12 strikeouts. Argyropoulos had his fourth straight two-hit game.

• Also in the Pac-10: Jake Rife hit a double and home run and turned in the Huskies' longest start of the year in the University of Washington's 7-2 win over visiting California. Erickson worked eight innings and Paul Lyons two runs for the Huskies (13-19, 3-5). California dropped to 15-16.

• West Coast Conference: First-place San Diego evened its road series with Gonzaga by winning 9-2 on the second day of their three-game set. The Toreros (23-12, 7-1) scored three times in the fourth inning and scored twice each in the seventh and ninth. Jose Valerio, a .152 hitter, and Zach Waters each homered for San Diego.

Tyson Van Winkle was 2 for 4 for the Bulldogs (22-10, 5-3) and Ryan Wiegand’s sacrifice fly RBI moved him into sole possession of second place on the career list with 184. He is two behind all-time leader Jeff Hainline.

• Northwest Conference: Whitworth University salvaged a split of a doubleheader at Pacific Lutheran, winning 8-7 in 10 innings following a 23-3 loss. The Pirates (6-22, 4-18) trailed 7-1 entering the seventh inning when they loaded the bases on singles. With two out, Nick Combo struck out, but a wild pitch prolonged the inning and JR Jarrell singled home two more. Whitworth tied the game in the ninth with three more runs, including a bases-loaded walk. Kevin Valerio, hit by a pitch, scored the winner on Luis Tovar’s two-out double in the 10th. Takemura and Scott each had three hits.

Softball

NWAACC: Sean Topp pitched a three-hit shutout, striking out nine in the opener and Michelle Wells provided the offense as Community Colleges of Spokane (23-5, 13-3) swept a doubleheader, 5-0 and 9-8, against visiting Columbia Basin (8-17, 4-11). Wells hit a solo home run in the first game and hit a three-run homer in the sixth of the second game as the Sasquatch rallied from a 7-2 deficit.

• Scenic West: North Idaho College (28-17, 24-12) split one-run games in a road game at College of Southern Idaho (33-15, 26-10), losing 1-0 in the eight-inning opener before scoring four times, the final three runs on Briggett Plenger’s home run in the seventh for a 7-6 victory in Game 2. Karri Johnson was a hard-luck loser in Game 1. Designated hitter Brianna Harbour and Plenger were both 3 for 4 in Game 2.

• Northwest Conference: Whitworth swept a doubleheader at Lewis & Clark College, 8-4 and 6-3 in Portland. The Pirates improved to 12-14 overall and 8-8 in league.
(20-10). Carpenter went deep in the fifth and eighth as TCU built an 8-1 lead. Carpenter had three walks and scored four. Ellington had three hits and two runs. Matt Vern added two hits and three RBIs. Jordan Rutenbar had one hit and one RBI for the Broncos (6-28).

**Gonzaga 14, No. 23 San Diego 2**

In Spokane, Wash., Matt Fields fanned seven in 7.2 innings as Gonzaga stopped USD in the opener of their WCC series. Fields (5-1) allowed two runs to the league's leading offense. Ernesto Ortiz had a two-run double to cap a six-run third as the Zags (5-2, 22-9) took a 7-2 lead. Drew Heid had four hits and two RBIs for Gonzaga. Ryan Wiegand drove in three for the Bulldogs. James Meador had two hits and two RBIs for the Toreros (6-1, 22-12).
had two hits and a run for the Wildcats (3-9, 14-16). Dwight Childs drove in two
for Arizona.

No. 21 Cal Poly 13, Pacific 8
In Stockton, Calif., Luke Yoder had three hits, including a three-run homer to cap
a seven-run eighth, as Cal Poly won its Big West series against Pacific at Klein
Family Field. D.J. Gentle and Kyle Smith both had three hits for the Mustangs
(5-4, 24-8). Cal Poly built a 6-1 lead before the Tigers (5-4, 12-18) scored four in
the fifth to pull to within one. The Mustangs put the game away in the eighth.
Ben Gorang had two hits and two RBI for Pacific. Mike Walker had two hits and
two runs for the Tigers.

No. 22 TCU 18, Texas-Pan American
In Edinburg, Texas, TCU followed up yesterday's no-hitter with an equally
impressive one-hitter today against Texas-Pan American. Four pitchers combined
to strikeout six as Greg Holle (4-1) picked up the win and Horned Frogs (6-3,
22-10). Matt Vein, Hunt Woodruff and Matt Clinton struck out in three runs. The
Broncos (6-30) collected their only hit of the day with Garrett Bivone’s lead-off
single in the ninth. Derek VerHagen promptly struck out the next three batters to
end the game.

Gonzaga 4, No. 23 San Diego 2
In Spokane, Wash., Steven Ames fanned 10 in going the distance as Gonzaga
won its WCC series with USD. Armes (6-0) allowed six hits and one earned run
with one walk. Ernesto Ortiz had a two-run double in the fourth to snap a 2-2 tie
for the Bulldogs (6-3, 23-10). Evan Wells had two hits and two runs for Gonzaga.
Tyson Van Winkle had two hits and two RBI for the Zags. Tony Strazzara had
two hits and one RBI for the Toreros (7-2, 23-13).

UNLV 9, No. 24 San Diego State 6
In Las Vegas, Anthony Morel had four hits, two runs and two RBI as UNL V
salvaged the final game of its Mountain West series with SDSU at Earl E. Wilson
Stadium. The Aztecs (8-4, 25-12) scored single runs in the seventh and eighth to
tie it at 6-6 before the Rebels (5-7, 16-18) plated three in the bottom of the eighth
to secure the win. J.J. Sferra had three hits and two runs for UNLV. Chris Wilson
had three hits, including a home run, and three RBI for SDSU.

Auburn 8-2, No. 25 Florida 7-24 (Game 1–11 innings)
In Auburn, Ala., Josh Adams went 5 for 6 with two homers and drove in a career-
high six for the Gators (8-6, 22-12) in their SEC split with Auburn at Plainsman
Park. Stephen Locke (1-0) picked up his first victory since May 16, 2008, against
Vanderbilt by pitching eight innings of two-run ball. He fanned a season-high six.
Jon Luke Jacobs (3-2) surrendered six runs, five earned, over five innings for the
loss, while Casey McClory got two hits for the Tigers (7-7, 23-11). In Game 1,
Justin Hargett blasted a game-winning homer in the 11th to give Auburn the
victory. Reliever Bradley Hendrix (6-2) threw two scoreless innings for the win,
while Alex Panteliadis (2-4), the sixth Florida pitcher, suffered the loss. Preston
Tucker went 2 for 5 with two RBI for the Gators.

Georgia State 14, Old Dominion 13
In Atlanta, after ODU had a grand slam to cap a five-run rally in the top of the
career-high six for the Gators (8-6, 22-12) in their SEC split with Auburn at Plainsman
Park. Stephen Locke (1-0) picked up his first victory since May 16, 2008, against
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while Alex Panteliadis (2-4), the sixth Florida pitcher, suffered the loss. Preston
Tucker went 2 for 5 with two RBI for the Gators.

Northwestern State 9, UTSA 4 (10)
In San Antonio, Joe Urtzuastegui had a three-run homer in the first and a two-
run double in the 10th to lead NSU to the Southland series win over UTSA.
Urtzuastegui, getting his first start of the season at third, had two hits, four runs
and a career-high six RBI. The Roadrunners (9-9, 18-17) scored two in the ninth
More baseball

No. 21-ranked USD lost to host Gonzaga 4-2 in a West Coast Conference game. Tony Strazzara was 2-for-4 with a double and Matt Thomson (5-1) absorbed the loss for the Toreros, allowing four runs on seven hits while fanning eight over eight innings. USD is 23-13, 7-2... Cal State San Marcos split a doubleheader with host Chapman, losing the first game 11-7 before a 16-hit output led to a 10-8 win in game two. Dane Ponciano and Louie Russo both had three hits for the Cougars (21-12) in the second game.
Toreros drop Zags

The 21st-ranked USD baseball team bounced back with a 9-2 win over Gonzaga to even the three-game series in Spokane, Wash. The Toreros improved to 23-12 overall, 7-1 in the WCC. The rubber game is today at 11 a.m. The Zags fell to 22-10, 5-3.

AJ Griffin (6-1) picked up the win, striking out seven in eight innings.
Toreros routed

Gonzaga (22-9, 5-2 WCC) scored 13 unanswered runs to deal 21st-ranked USD (21-12, 6-1) its first West Coast Conference loss of the season, 14-2, yesterday in Spokane, Wash.
Toreros rained out

USD's game last night at Stanford was rained out and will not be rescheduled.
The Toreros (21-11, 6-0 WCC) head to Spokane, Wash., to begin a three-game West Coast Conference series tomorrow night against Gonzaga University.
More baseball

Despite giving up eight runs in the second inning, and 10 runs overall, USD starter Matt Thompson pitched seven innings to grab the win as the Toreros rode an offensive barrage to down host Santa Clara 22-10. USD amassed a season-high 22 hits in improving to 21-11 overall, 5-0 in the WCC.

In Chico, sixth-ranked UC San Diego tightened its grip on first place in the CCAA with a doubleheader sweep of Chico State. The Tritons won the opener 10-8 and the second game 5-3. UCSD (22-7, 19-4) holds a 3½ game lead on second-place Sonoma State.

Point Loma Nazarene split a twin bill with host Westmont, salvaging the second game 8-2 after dropping the first 7-4.
April 5, 2009

**Rogers review: San Diego back in as winner**

Kendall Rogers
Rivals.com College Baseball Editor

**ATHENS, Ga.** - Sunday's series finale against Georgia and the atmosphere surrounding the contest is one of many reasons LSU pitcher Lance Leatherwood decided to return for his senior season.

Coleman threw in relief Friday night against the Bulldogs, but returned to the mound for the start in the series finale. He didn't disappoint and led the Tigers to a 7-5 win and a huge road series win over Dave Perno's team.

LSU isn't the only team that has a big winner this week. Other teams that had good weeks include George Mason, East Carolina, Georgia Southern, Oklahoma, Mississippi, Washington State, UC Irvine, North Carolina and San Diego.

On the negative side of the spectrum, New Mexico had a dismal weekend at TCU while former Sun Belt leader Middle Tennessee State was swept at Louisiana-Lafayette. Other teams that had weeks to forget include Cal State Fullerton, Pepperdine, Duke, Ohio State, Michigan, Missouri, UTSA and UCLA.

We unveil the week's winners and losers.

**Winners**

**LSU:** The Tigers had a rather interesting week on the diamond and really showed what they're made of in a weekend series against Georgia. After dropping an 8-7 decision to Tulane in a hard-fought mid-week contest, the Tigers wasted little time bouncing back with an 8-4 triumph in the series opener. The Tigers dropped Game 2 to the Bulldogs but bounced back to win Game 3 by a score of 7-5. The Tigers now have won four-straight series, all in conference play.

**George Mason:** UNC Wilmington entered the weekend atop the CAA standings, and conventional wisdom suggested it probably would take this weekend's series at George Mason. However, that didn't happen and the Patriots made a huge statement. The Patriots began the week with mid-week wins over Elon and N.C. State. They also took East Carolina: The Pirates have their most important week of the season coming up this week, but they did a great job of not looking forward to matchups with North Carolina, UNC Wilmington and Rice. ECU began the past week with a pair of nice mid-week wins over Elon and N.C. State. They also took care of business at UAB over the weekend. ECU won the series opener 6-3 before winning the next two games 15-9 and 10-9. ECU made a statement this past week but could accomplish even more this week.

**Georgia Southern:** After losing two of three to Elon two weekends ago, the Eagles desperately needed to take care of College of Charleston at home to stay in the Southern Conference title race. The Eagles didn't disappoint. They began the three-game series with a thrilling 15-14 victory before winning Game 2, 15-7. The Eagles completed the series sweep Sunday afternoon with a 20-8 triumph. GSU's RPI received a huge boost from the series against the Cougars.

**Oklahoma:** The Sooners made their case as the Big 12's premier team this past week. The Sooners began the week with a dominating win over struggling Nebraska, and really stepped up on the road against Missouri. The Sooners won Games 1 and 2 by scores of 2-1 and 7-4 before losing the series finale. OU probably can't wait to play Texas in Austin, Texas, in two weekends, but it first must take care of business against Wichita State in the mid-week and Texas Tech at home next weekend. OU currently is looking pretty good in the Big 12 race.

LSU coach Paul Mainieri was ecstatic with his team's play at Georgia this weekend.
Mississippi: The Rebels had their most impressive week of the season. After winning three mid-week games against Arkansas State, Jackson State and Memphis, the Rebels took care of Kentucky in impressive fashion over the weekend. They defeated the Wildcats 4-3 and 10-3 in Games 1 and 2 and completed the series sweep Sunday afternoon with a dominating 8-0 victory. With another good SEC series win, the Rebels are in business and should take two games from South Carolina at home next weekend. The Rebels certainly are back in the hosting mix.

Washington State: The Cougars played an incredibly tough non-conference schedule an appeared to be in trouble en route Pac-10 play. But after a pair of losing series, the Cougars actually are in very good shape. WSU started conference play with an impressive road series win over California. The Cougars put together another nice series win over UCLA this weekend. The Cougars won the series opener 7-2 and beat the Bruins 5-2 in Game 2. They dropped the series finale to the Bruins, but still had a great weekend on the diamond. WSU now has a 4-2 conference record.

UC Irvine: What a phenomenal week for the surging Anteaters. Irvine swept Cal Poly last weekend and didn't skip a beat this past week. The Anteaters began the week with a dominating 19-8 win over Loyola Marymount before playing Cal State Fullerton this weekend. The 'Eaters didn't disappoint against the Titans. Irvine won the series opener 2-1 before clinching a series win with a 6-1 triumph in Game 2. Irvine lost the series finale to the Titans, but the damage was already done. The 'Eaters certainly made a huge statement with an impressive series win over Fullerton.

North Carolina: The Tar Heels had only played one road series before this weekend and that was against an average Virginia Tech team. Naturally, many observers felt Georgia Tech might give the Tar Heels a rude awakening. Well, that didn't happen. The Heels began the series with a 4-2 win before losing Game 2 10-6. The Heels, though, bounced back to win Game 3 13-10 to earn the series win. In other weekly action, the Tar Heels took care of Davidson and Old Dominion in mid-week action. UNC is on cruise control with a huge week of games coming up.

San Diego: The Toreros raised some eyebrows with a series sweep over preseason favorite Pepperdine last weekend, but they took another step forward this weekend by completely dominating Santa Clara. The Toreros won the series opener 9-4 and captured a 22-10 victory in Game 2. The series finale, meanwhile, went heavily in their favor. After suffering some bad injuries the past few weeks, the Toreros have seemed to rally around those setbacks. Give coach Rich Hill credit for keeping this team together through thick and thin.

Losers

New Mexico: Perhaps the Lobos didn't like the idea of being ranked after all. The Lobos began the horrendous week with a pair of mid-week games against Texas Tech. They split the series with an 8-4 loss in Game 1 and a 15-7 in Game 2. This weekend, though, the Lobos were welcomed to the real world against TCU. The Lobos dropped the series opener 7-3 before losing Game 2 4-2. The series finale, meanwhile, ended with an embarrassing 19-3 loss to the Horned Frogs. After a dismal week, the Lobos head back to the drawing board looking for answers.

Cal State Fullerton: We're probably being a little tough on the Titans by putting them in this category, but we know coach Dave Serrano is ultra disappointed with his team. The Titans began the week with a mid-week split against Arizona State, but really failed to impress against conference rival UC Irvine this weekend. The Titans dropped the series opener 2-1 before dropping Game 2 6-1. The Titans came back to win the series finale, but the series loss already was official. Not a good week for Fullerton.

Pepperdine: We really didn't think things actually could get worse for the Waves, but they did this weekend. The Waves didn't play a mid-week contest this week but played host to a solid Gonzaga team. It wasn't pretty from an offensive standpoint. The Waves dropped the series opener 3-1 before losing Game 2 by a score of 4-1. The Waves held on to win the series finale, but the damage was already done. The Waves now have a 17-13 record and a 1-5 record in conference.

Middle Tennessee State: Want a perfect example of what not to do when you're leading a conference race and have a high RPI? Just look at the Blue Raiders. MTSU entered the week leading the Sun Belt, but now has some questions to answer. The Raiders began the week with a mid-week win over Austin Peay before traveling to the state of Louisiana to face Louisiana-Lafayette. The Raiders didn't do much.ULL won the series opener 5-2 and captured the series win with a 10-5 triumph in Game 2. Game 3, meanwhile, finished at 14-7 in the Ragin' Cajuns favor.

Duke: The Blue Devils appeared to be in fantastic shape after upsetting rival North Carolina a few weekends ago, but they've since taken a huge step back. The Devils dropped two of three to Wake Forest two weekends ago and didn't exactly impress against Clemson this weekend. The Devils dropped the series opener 7-3 and bounced back to win Game 2 by a score of 10-7. The series finale, though, went Clemson's way to the tune of 10-1. The Blue Devils have a 20-11 record and a 7-8 mark in conference. That probably wouldn't get it done for a regional berth.

Ohio State: The Buckeyes entered the week as a pretty safe bet to be a regional host if they continued their winning ways. Unfortunately, they didn't do that. The Buckeyes began the week by splitting a pair of mid-week games against Xavier and Marshall. They didn't fare any better against Minnesota this weekend. The Buckys lost the series opener 7-5 before bouncing back to win Game 2 by a score of 3-2. The series finale, though, was a disaster as the Golden Gophers captured a 16-3 victory. The Buckeyes desperately need to take care of business against Michigan State next weekend.

Missouri: The Tigers appeared to be turning the corner when they took two of three from Texas A&M at home a few weekends ago, but that hasn't been the case. The Tigers dropped two of three at Oklahoma State last weekend and didn't fare any better against Oklahoma at home this weekend. The Tigers dropped the first two games of the series by scores of 2-1 and 7-4 before winning the series finale 5-4. The Tigers now have a 15-16 record and a 5-7 mark in conference play. Not good at all.

Texas-San Antonio: The Roadrunners entered the season as a strong candidate to earn an at-large
USD completed host Santa Clara until an eighth-inning hiccup as the Toreros beat the Broncos 9-4. Pitcher Kyle Blair (3-1) had a shutout until giving up four runs in the eighth, and the Toreros rode four doubles to a five-run fifth inning. Blair gave up 10 hits and struck out eight.
Strasburg on Thursday

Aztecs All-America right-hander Stephen Strasburg will make his next start Thursday night at UNLV, a school spokesman said. After his most recent game last week, it was thought Strasburg (6-0, 1.49 ERA) would pitch Friday against the Rebels. But manager Tony Gwynn has opted to pitch his ace in the series opener Thursday.

SDSU, which is tied with TCU for first place in the Mountain West Conference, went 4-2 in non-conference games last week to improve to 22-11. The Aztecs moved up from No. 21 to No. 18 in the Baseball America poll released yesterday. USD (22-11) is ranked No. 25.
USD loses to UCR

UC Riverside scored three runs on four hits, helped by a USD error, in the bottom of the eighth in an 8-7 comeback win over the visiting Toreros (19-11). Paced by three hits apiece from Tony Strazzara and Jon Hotta, USD out-hit the Highlanders (17-6) 14-12.