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Spiritual power and peacemaking

By Patrick F. Drinan and Barbara Quinn

When Pope Benedict XVI was recently in Jordan, he spoke of the "power of spirituality." Later, in Tel Aviv, he urged the Israelis and Palestinians to "break the vicious circle of violence." But can spirituality have this kind of power? And if it could, how would we describe and explain it?

The claims of spirituality as a power for peace can be ambiguous. For one, spirituality can be inextricably confounded with organized religion, which, at times, has actually heightened violence. Furthermore, certain components of spirituality like asceticism can influence other fields that produce seemingly contradictory results like the militarization of sports and its warring offshoots, atheism and radicalism.

Spirituality can also be misconceived as a retreat from public life. However, even when spirituality is confined in a solitary or cloistered life, the human quest for its authentically is its outreach in love and justice. We have clear models of people who have witnessed to the power of spirituality in public life and peacemaking. Three of them were crucial in the 20th century: Mahatma Gandhi, Dag Hammarskjöld, and Pope John Paul II. All three had earned reputations as peacemakers, and all three seemed to thrive in a conflict-laden world where they could mediate or create peaceful institutions. For Gandhi, it was liberation from British rule and creation of an Indian national identity that could rescue a non-violence even as the state of India developed, and occasionally used, instruments of violence.

For United Nations Secretary-General Hammarskjöld, it was the organization of international peacemaking, the United Nations in particular, during some of the most tense and most dangerous moments of the Cold War. John Paul II did something similar with his “Nonviolence” and "The encyclical "Nonviolence" and "The encyclical On the Christian Life: Towards a Culture of Peace" - issued in 1974 and 1987 respectively - are a powerful testimony to the power of the spirit in public life and peacemaking.

As President Barack Obama addresses the Muslim world from Cairo University today, is there a power of spirituality that he embodies and that he can mobilize in the pursuit of peace?

As President Barack Obama addresses the Muslim world from Cairo University today, is there a power of spirituality that he embodies and that he can mobilize in the pursuit of peace?

What do these three models have in common and what can they tell us about spiritual power and peacemaking in the Middle East? First, all three thrived in a climate of conflict and could refrain from using military and sustained acts of politics and diplomacy that stoked vicious circles. Second, they established virtuous circles, although Hammarskjöld's efforts were cut short by his untimely death in the Congo. Third, each dug deep into their own spiritual, cultural and political background to energize his efforts and to bring discipline to them.

As President Barack Obama addresses the Muslim world from Cairo University today, is there a power of spirituality that he embodies and that he can mobilize in the pursuit of peace? We think yes, but we need to clarify how we understand this power of spirituality. In essence, it is always focused on belief in, and commitment to, ultimate values, whether this is God, universal compassion or some other ultimate principle. In adhering to a vision grounded in the deepest meaning of life, spirituality sees the unity and connectedness of all life. It makes credible a view of the way things can be as an alternative to the status quo. It fuels a "yes we can" attitude as it seeks to dissolve barriers to peace, justice and reconciliation. Second, spirituality is founded on dialogue, not with one's ultimate value but with all who share the need and hope for peace.

It requires the best gifts of intellect and heart, the stamina and moral capital, to wrestle through thorny issues and entrenched animosities in the search for a deep understanding of difference and need, of hopes and mutual strengths.

Finally, spirituality demands the asceticism and discipline to "force the coherence between vision and concrete strategies. Hardly privatised, it moves from ego-centric "I" to the welfare of the common good, negotiating with all relevant parties in the effort.

Obama can embody the power of spirituality in this sense. His vision aims to create virtuous circles, just structures and avenues to development so that peace is possible. He has the instincts to recognize and facilitate a new regional institution in the Middle East that includes both Israel and Iran, just as European institutions after World War II balanced two bitter enemies - France and Germany - so could Iran and Israel find themselves "nursed" in a way that stabilizes the region. Issues of water and energy could drive this new institution and give moderate voices in both countries an opportunity to be heard and orchestrated. Distractions are many, including the crises in Afghanistan and Pakistan. But Obama has a vision of possibilities as his major speech in Turkey in April indicated.

The power of spirituality is not in the escape from violence nor is it in charisma. It is, as Hugh Heeclo from George Mason University suggests, in being "institutionally minded" and reflecting deeply about how to find institutions for solutions that can create durable institutions. The prize in the Middle East is far more than a cease-fire or a Nobel award for Obama: the prize should be to construct a positive power of spirituality with institutions infused with values from spirituality such as vision and dialogue founded on trust and empathy, and the discipline and integrity to act accordingly. This is incredibly difficult, of course, and not just in the Middle East. But no one said this would be easy.
The Faculty and Undergrad Research
June 4, 2009

WASHINGTON -- Logic might dictate that the key to broadening participation in undergraduate research is to focus on students. But a panel of experts who gathered here Wednesday by the Council on Undergraduate Research kept circling back to the idea that the real key may be getting faculty on board.

The council assembled the group to talk about its newest book, *Broadening Participation in Undergraduate Research: Fostering Excellence and Enhancing the Impact*. They discussed various ideas for attracting and involving minority students and women to undergraduate research opportunities, and also for spreading those opportunities to fields beyond the sciences. But one common denominator among the suggested initiatives was faculty engagement.

"I don't want to let the faculty off the hook here," said Daryl Chubin, director of the Center for Advancing Science and Engineering at the American Association for the Advancement of Science. After discussing ways to encourage students to seek out research opportunities, Chubin suggested the burden should not just fall on the students to be mentored.

Faculty often deem undergraduates "unreliable" and "risks" as research project partners because they tend to change majors or otherwise commit limited time and energy to the discipline; professors want to know what their return on investment will be, Chubin said.

The other, maybe larger, factor in faculty resistance to involvement in undergraduate research is the effect on the race for tenure. As one mathematics professor in the audience pointed out, commitment by tenure-track faculty to undergraduate research can be "terrifying," because low or uncertain productivity from undergraduate research projects could easily slow progress toward the kind of job security that depends on published material.

When that is the case, said Beverly Hartline, dean of graduate studies and research at the University of the District of Columbia, the institution needs to build an undergraduate research component into the faculty reward system.

The University of San Diego, in fact, did that last year, according to a fellow panelist, Mary Boyd, the San Diego dean of arts and sciences. Following years of transformation, the chemistry department there has made undergraduate research a hallmark of its everyday work.

"We cannot imagine someone getting tenure here without it," Tammy Dwyer, the departing chair of the chemistry department, said of faculty involvement in undergraduate research.

Rank and tenure protocols of the university do not specifically require faculty participation in undergraduate research; however, college deans have asked departments to articulate their own expectations for promotion and tenure that fall in line with the more general university policy, Dwyer said. For the chemistry department, that meant writing in a requirement to match the departmental mission to be teacher-scholars.

As of last summer's revision, the No. 1 tenet under the scholarship component of the department's tenure track guidelines is mentoring undergraduates in research, Dwyer said.

That commitment to undergraduate research has been years in the making, beginning with a challenge from the Research

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Corporation in 2004 to develop a model for encouraging and fostering the department's mission of student and faculty collaboration. Five years and more than a million dollars later, the University of San Diego's chemistry department is built around the idea of "getting students to say, 'I want to go there because I know I will get research experience,'" Dwyer said.

"We were such a mom and pop shop before that," Dwyer said. "We asked ourselves, 'Are we up for this commitment?' And we are, and it's working brilliantly."

About 35 to 40 students per semester, and an average of 20 students each summer, participate in research with faculty members in the chemistry department. According to Boyd, those students are co-writing articles in top-line journals — which is attractive to the faculty members who were behind the movement in the first place.

An even stronger incentive for the faculty, though, is the infrastructure of support the department has implemented: "If you have expectations for publications and time spent shoulder to shoulder with undergraduates, you have to make time for them to do that," Dwyer said.

To that end, the department hired staff to help professors prep for labs; an adjunct faculty member coordinates the research opportunities for students; and, maybe most importantly, faculty are granted reassignment time for taking on set numbers of students for research. By taking 18 students under his wing, a chemistry professor can drop his required course load from six over two semesters to five.

Of course there are other obstacles to getting both students and faculty excited about creating the "community of scholarship," Dwyer said. Panel members Wednesday pointed out one of those barriers for students is often financial — students cannot afford to pass up a paying summer job to dedicate time to a lab for free. The University of San Diego, like other institutions with larger research programs, offers scholarships for qualifying students in an attempt to combat that problem.

What it needs to come down to, said Jeffrey Osborn, president-elect of the Council on Undergraduate Research and dean of the school of science at the College of New Jersey, is building research into undergraduate curriculums. Echoing what was said earlier in the panel discussion, Osborn emphasized that the way to broaden participation in undergraduate research is to make it part of the culture within pedagogical planning circles. Faculty and students alike have to be given credit for the research work they do, he said: "It has to be a centerpiece in any successful culture of inquiry."

— Kate Maternowski

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Housework wars -- some strategies

- Story Highlights
- Women do four times as much housework as men, study finds
- Some couples make lists of most important chores, divvy them up
- Wife: "If I simply put the laundry in front of him, he'll help fold it."
- When Bill cleans the diaper pail, wife gives him a free pass for rest of day

By Melissa Balmain

(Parenting.com) -- The other day I realized my living room carpet had disappeared. In its place was one big fruit-juice-, play-dough-, and hairball-stained mat.

"We never clean," I groaned to my husband.

"What are you talking about?" he said. "I vacuumed two weeks ago."

Like plenty of couples, Bill and I are proof that housework is one of the great marital divides -- up there with sex, money, and whether there's really such a color as chartreuse.

Sure, it can be easy to keep a home clean and serene before you're a parent. But after that, all bets are off. Almost half of couples with kids argue about cleaning, according to a national survey by the Soap and Detergent Association. We quarrel about when to clean, who should clean, and how to clean. And that's not even counting the fights we have about the other chores that keep a family going, from fixing dinner to fixing that leaky faucet.

"Housework is one of the top five things my husband and I argue about, because it has to be done on a daily basis and it's tiring," says Holly Taylor, an elementary school teacher and a mom of 3-year-old twins in Baltimore. "And there are times when neither of us has the oomph to do it." Parenting.com: How to drop the scorecard and work as a team

Finding that oomph is usually up to the mom, apparently. Although wives do half as much housework as those a generation ago, we still average 16 hours a week -- four times more than our husbands, according to a study from the University of Maryland.

These numbers are based on chores that, statistically speaking, both sexes like least: cooking, cleaning, and the like. (Both spouses spend several extra hours a week on such chores as yard work and pet care, which score much higher on the enjoyability meter.)

How can you induce your partner to do more of the dirty work? How can you break the cycle of toil-and-bicker in your own home? Here, some frank, parent-tested strategies:

Make a plan

"It helps if you both come to an agreement as to what your roles are going to be," says Teresa Elston, Ph.D., a family sociologist at the University of San Diego.

- Take a realistic look at how many hours you each work. Figure out who has the most time to get stuff done. The person who's around the most should, in all fairness, do more housework. This is how it works for Elston, who teaches part-time -- and that's okay with her. "I'm here more. If I were working full-time, I'd expect a much more even split." Her kids, Christa, 7, and Nicholas, 6, also help mop, scrub, and tidy. To motivate them, Elston blasts their favorite music on the stereo.
- Now write down which chores you feel are most important, have your husband do the same, and compare. If the lists are equitable, then anything you include that he doesn't could be your responsibility, and vice versa. The rest, the tasks you both consider necessary, are the ones you're going to have to divvy up. Some couples draw weekly chores from a fishbowl or assign them on a chart.

"On Fridays we'll write down all the stuff we were thinking of doing over the weekend and then make sure we both do some of it," says Lisa Vig of Mercer Island, Washington. Errands are on the list, along with laundry, making dinner for Saturday night, and fun activities with their 16-month-old son, Ross.

• If one spouse doesn't work, it makes sense that that person will do the lion's share of chores during the week, but on weekends there should be more equality. Caring for a house and the kids is a full-time job; the stay-at-home parent should get a break on Saturday and Sunday. Parenting.com: The sanest way to deal with clutter

Be patient with reluctant partners...

To get her husband, Jeremy Schwartz, to help out more at home, Merle Polchinsky of Willimantic, Connecticut, has tried the gamut. She's made sarcastic remarks. She's complained. She's even gone on strike.

"I put up signs all around the house -- 'I will not work!' -- and waited for him to come home. It wasn't necessarily productive, but it was funny -- even to him."

What is productive, she says, is "just being direct." She simply asks Schwartz to fix supper for the two of them and their 5-year-old daughter, Arielle, or to wash the dishes afterward.

"He'll do it if he's there and has the time -- especially if I say it in a nice, matter-of-fact way, because then it's just part of life and not an issue."

Mary Sanders, a mother of two, posts "honey do" lists of chores for her husband, Stephen, to tackle around their San Antonio, Texas, home. "She used to say, 'Here are five things I want you to do.' I hated that," says Stephen. But with the list, he feels less like she's nagging or ordering him around. "And we get to enjoy time with each other and the boys without worrying about things we have to do."

Another silent but effective approach that Mary uses: "If I simply put the laundry in front of him, he'll help fold it."

If your spouse has never folded your child's clothes or made a grocery list before, he might pull the old "This is too complicated for me." (My husband, a professor who keeps track of hundreds of students, claims he can't remember which drawer our son's pajamas go in.) Just stay firm and encouraging.

"I had to show my husband, Jim, how to load a dishwasher and do laundry. I started with one or two tasks a week, like changing the kids' sheets. Then I progressed," says Holly Taylor. Jim says he appreciates her pointers -- especially if she gives them on weekends, when he can focus on them. Parenting.com: Less work, more play

...And with forgetful ones

For many women, it's not a husband's lack of skill or enthusiasm for the work that bugs us -- it's that we always seem to be the ones who think of doing it in the first place. Why, we wonder, doesn't he ever remember that the kids need doctor appointments or that the newspaper has to be canceled before vacation or that the shower is actually part of the bathroom and needs to be cleaned with the rest of it?

Theories on this problem range from benign ignorance to deliberate blindness. Either way, it's best not to let resentment about it build. If you gently tell your spouse how much you'd appreciate not having to issue reminders, he may be happy to oblige.

Play to each of your strengths

Perhaps, like Teresa Elston, you're married to a vacuuming whiz, while you actually enjoy washing the car. Or maybe, like Lisa Vig, you take out the trash and your husband does the mending. "Lee is downstairs right now, reattaching a leg to a toy elephant," says Vig. "He sews buttons on too, and fixes holes in socks."

Ideally, a she/he split could work for many chores, with each of you doing what you like. As for those things neither of you enjoys -- is there a person alive who finds scooping out the litter box an uplifting experience? -- try to take turns.

Or you could let unpleasant jobs count more than others. There are some I hate so much (cleaning the diaper pail, say) that when Bill does them, I give him a free pass for the rest of the day, no matter how much time I spend cleaning or cooking. In my book, a lemon-fresh pail is worth at least as much as lemon-sauced sole.

Bite your tongue

Once, I'm ashamed to say, I griped about the way he'd scrubbed out that pail. Never again. As countless friends have since warned me, telling your spouse that he screwed up is bound to spark resentment and make him less willing to tackle it again. Their advice: Let it go.

If you think your spouse repeatedly falls short in the housework department, consider the possibility that your standards are too high. (Or that he's purposely burning the mac and cheese so you won't make him cook anymore. But let's not go there. It's more productive -- not to mention kinder -- to assume the best about each other.)

"Many women become territorial about the way housework is done," Elston says. "Men get put off. They think, 'I'll never get it right.' You do have to become more flexible about how things are done if you want your partner to participate more. You have to appreciate that he has his own ideas, and there's more than one way to load a dishwasher."
And if you still can't stand his sloppy loading one more minute? Suggest a chore you're less picky about. Or give diplomacy a shot.

"I'll say, 'Jim, I really appreciate this. You really did a nice job.' Then I say, 'Next time could you add this or change that?'" says Holly Taylor. "It's like when I write report cards -- you always put something positive first." Says Jim: "When she does that, it makes me feel a whole lot better than when she just gives orders."

**Thank and Reward**

Even when you're not trying to sugarcoat criticism, a little gratitude goes a long way. Try a heartfelt thank-you or "the counter looks great" -- it can only make him more willing to do his share. Better still, he might just compliment you back.

**Relax**

Another sanity saver, perhaps the smartest of all, is to quit trying for the House Beautiful look -- and go more for National Wildlife instead. Let the dust bunnies roam awhile (unless you have allergies). Forget about washing windows until the tiny handprints really obstruct your view. Leave toys out overnight; the kids will just rescatter them in the morning anyway.

"Since we've become parents, we've accepted that the house is going to be a bit messy, and we're not going to freak out about it," says Barbara Levison, a mom of two daughters, ages 2 and 6, in Sarasota, Florida.

Of course, "don't stress about the mess" can be a tough motto to adopt, especially if you're convinced that everyone else's house is cleaner or you feel, deep down, that doing housework is a way to show your family you care.

But as Lisa Vig learned soon after her son was born, not doing housework can be even more loving.

"I was on maternity leave and running around trying to get the clothes washed and this and that, and I was just exhausted," she says. "Finally, it dawned on me that I needed to stop and focus on the baby. I realized, 'This is the only time I have to really be with him, and here I am, matching socks!'"

Remembering what's important -- your child, your relationship with your husband, the quantity and quality of the time you spend together -- is what really matters in the end. Tonight, when I go into my living room, I plan to keep the lights dim and the music soft. Then, instead of arguing about whose turn it is to clean the carpet, maybe my husband and I can dance on it instead.

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Mary Boyd, Ph.D., Dean of Arts & Sciences, University of San Diego, and co-editor of the new book said, "Broadening participation in undergraduate research is about maximizing potential—the potential of students, research, and institutions—and expanding our understanding of the world. By fostering excellence, high-quality programs across the country are enhancing the lives of students, the direction of their scholarship and its impact on their disciplines and institutions."

Moderating the event was Scott Jaschik, co-founder and editor, Inside Higher Ed. Besides Dr. Boyd, other panelists included:
- Daryl Chubin, Ph.D., Director of Center for Advancing Science & Engineering Capacity, American Association for the Advancement of Science
- Beverly Karplus Hartline, Ph.D., Dean of Graduate Studies and Research, University of the District of Columbia
- Francisco R. SÁenz, Student, University of the District of Columbia

According to Broadening Participation in Undergraduate Research, the nation faces several imperatives: the need for more young people to fulfill their potential, for more students to study and pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and for more research-based solutions to the serious scientific, economic and social problems facing the nation.

"Undergraduate research is a proven and powerful way to achieve these goals," Dr. Boyd said later. "High-quality research and scholarship activities enhance educational outcomes, encourage young people to pursue STEM-related disciplines and contribute to the body of knowledge needed to tackle serious problems.

"Another equally important imperative is increasing opportunities for students who haven't traditionally been involved in research. The nation won't be fully prepared to solve our most difficult challenges unless we unleash the full potential of all our best and brightest students," Dr. Boyd added.

Panelists cited strategies at community colleges, minority-serving institutions, four-year colleges, comprehensive universities, and research universities that successfully expanded opportunities for undergraduate research, especially among students who are not traditionally involved in undergraduate research. Common to most of these successful programs were practical strategies for building sustainable programs; engagement of a broad range of participants, partners, and stakeholders; integration of programs into the fabric of the institution; advocacy for change and expanding participation; and alignment of departmental and institutional goals.

Broadening Participation in Undergraduate Research was recently published by the Council on Undergraduate Research and co-edited by Dr. Boyd and Dr. Jodi L. Wesemann, Assistant Director for Higher Education, American Chemical Society. It shares examples and practical strategies for building sustainable programs—programs that increase the research capacity of higher education institutions and the country, provide opportunities for students who have not traditionally been involved in research, and encourage all students to reach their full potential. It also discusses moving from individual and isolated research activities towards integrated and expanded efforts capable of engaging and challenging many more participants.

The book may be purchased at CUR's web site (http://www.cur.org/publications.html) or calling (202) 783-4810.

About CUR: The Council on Undergraduate Research (www.cur.org) supports faculty development for high-quality undergraduate student-faculty collaborative research and scholarship. Nearly 600 institutions and over 3000 individuals belong to CUR. CUR believes that the best way to capture student interest and create enthusiasm for a discipline is through research in close collaboration with faculty members.

Source: Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR)
Should Judges Set Immigration Policy? Panel Looks at Erosion of Political Control

WASHINGTON, June 1 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- On June 8, President Obama will meet with congressional leaders to start discussions on an immigration bill. If such legislation were ever to pass, a central element would be an amnesty for current illegal aliens in exchange for enhanced enforcement.

But what if those new enforcement measures were overturned by the courts? We would then see essentially a repeat of the bait-and-switch that followed the 1986 immigration law. This is possible because of the erosion of the "Plenary Power Doctrine," which holds that the political branches - the legislative and the executive - have sole power to regulate all aspects of immigration as a basic attribute of sovereignty. In the words of Justice Felix Frankfurter, immigration matters are "wholly outside the concern and competence of the Judiciary."

The plenary power doctrine has been affirmed by the courts countless times since the 19th century. Nonetheless, there is a movement underway among law professors and other activists to restrict political-branch control over immigration in favor of a judge-administered system based on the implicit idea that foreigners have a "right" to immigrate.

To explore this issue, the Center for Immigration Studies will host a panel discussion on Monday, June 8, 2009, at 9:30 a.m. in the Murrow Room at the National Press Club, 14th & F Streets, NW. Copies of a recent Backgrounder, "Plenary Power: Should Judges Control U.S. Immigration Policy?" will be available, which is also online at www.cis.org/plenarypower. The report examines the long history of the doctrine, the challenges to it launched by supporters of unrestricted immigration, and some possible responses.

Speakers:

Jon Feere: Author of the report and Legal Policy Analyst for the Center.

Peter Nunez: Former United States Attorney, former Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Enforcement, and current lecturer at the University of San Diego.

Jan Ting: Former Assistant Commissioner of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, and current Professor of Law at the Temple University's Beasley School of Law in Philadelphia.

The panel is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Bryan Griffith at (202) 466-8185 or press@cis.org.

Website: http://www.cis.org
Should Judges Set Immigration Policy? Panel Looks at Erosion of Political Control

Immigration  Thu, June 04, 2009 02:05 PM

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The panel is free and open to the public.

The Center for Immigration Studies is an independent research institute that examines the impact of immigration on the United States.

CONTACT:
Bryan Griffin at (202) 466-8185 press@cis.org
Who are the candidates for President?

Mahmoud Ahmadinejad: the current President is associated with the right wing, he would hold the Presidency for a second four-year period, the maximum period allowed according to the Iranian constitution.

Mir Hossein Musavi: a reformist candidate, painter and former Prime Minister (1981-1989), before the constitutional amendments of 1989, which abolished the office of the Prime Minister, allocating the power of that office to the Presidency. His wife Zahra Rahnejat, who has always been by his side during the campaign, is a prominent political scientist and an Islamic feminist.

Mehdi Karroubi: a progressive cleric, former speaker of the Iranian parliament who is unlikely to muster enough votes to win.

Mohsen Rezaie: a conservative, ex-commander of the revolutionary guards who also ran for the last elections in 2005 withdrawing after it became clear that he couldn’t organise much support amongst the right wing constituency. [AA]

How important are these elections for Iran?

These elections are important because they decide who will lead the government for the next four years, not only in its day to day business but also to a considerable extent in setting the government’s more general policies, both in style and substance. [AG]

How important are they for the rest of the world?

Iran is at the heart of everything in the region. It can not be divorced from what is happening in Palestine, Lebanon, Afghanistan, Central Asia in general and of course Iraq. The country has also forged close relations with “leftist” governments in Latin America (Chavez in Venezuela, Evo Morales in Bolivia, Daniel Ortega in Nicaragua, the Castros in Cuba and, albeit to a lesser extent, Lula in Brazil).

Apart from its immense oil and gas resources the Islamic-revolutionary model in Iran continues to project the country’s ideological power through out the Islamic worlds. [AA]

What is the President’s role in Iranian politics?

The President has both legislative and executive powers. Formally, all constitutional organs in Iran (the Parliament, Municipal Councils, Guardian Council, Assembly of Experts, Council for the Disenforcement of the Interest of the System and the Presidency) are enveloped by the office of the Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Khamenei the successor to the late founder of the Islamic Republic Ayatollah Khomeini. The Supreme Leader has veto powers over all the other institutions, but it is the informal power of the President, emanating from his election by the popular vote, that gives him a powerful mandate to follow an independent agenda, even if it would be opposed by the Supreme Leader. [AA]

Which candidate would the USA and Europe like to see as President?

Interestingly enough all four candidates have indicated that they would welcome a better relationship with the West in general and the US in particular. Although individual style has always been an influential variable in diplomatic relations there are more fundamental issues of national interest which would ultimately decide the pace and direction of such negotiations. However, given the current changes in tone and approach, particularly in the US, there are potential prospects for improved relations. [AG]

Most diplomats that I talk to would like to see the back of the current President Ahmadinejad. [AA]
CLASSICAL

Mora County Sunday Soiree: Operetta Benefit — North County Sunday Soiree will present a vocal recital of works from Gilbert and Sullivan’s “Pirates of Penzance,” “The Mikado,” “The Gondoliers” and Lehar’s “The Merry Widow” to raise money for Interfaith Community Services and Food Bank. 3 p.m. Sunday; Meadowlark Church, 1918 Redwing St., San Marcos; $10 (bring nonperishable food donations); northcountysundaysoiree.com.

San Diego Symphony & Gladys Knight — “Tux and Tennis” Summer Pops gala; 7:30 p.m. Saturday; Embarcadero Marina Park South, Convention Way at Harbor Drive, San Diego; $15-$65; 619-235-0804 or sandiegosymphony.com.

Bach Collegium San Diego — Handel’s “Theodora” oratorio will be performed with guest conductor Richard Egarr; 7 p.m. Saturday; Balboa Theatre, 868 Fourth Ave., San Diego; $27-$80; 619-344-1726.

San Diego Symphony & Marvin Hamlisch — Summer pops patriotic program; 7:30 p.m. July 3 to 5; Embarcadero Marina Park South, Convention Way at Harbor Drive, San Diego; $15-$75; 619-235-0804 or sandiegosymphony.com.

San Diego Symphony Summer Pops with Dionne Warwick — 7:30 p.m. July 10 and 11; Embarcadero Marina Park South, Convention Way at Harbor Drive, San Diego; $15-$75; 619-235-0804 or sandiegosymphony.com.

University of San Diego Summer Chamber Music Festival — Various times and locations, now to 21; concerts include faculty performances, piano trios, ensembles and woodwind quartets made up of students from all over the world; USD; 5558 Alvarado Park, San Diego; most concerts are $12, general; $8; students; concerts held each weekday at noon are free; 619-250-4106 or see schedule at sandiego.edu/symphony.

North County Sunday Soiree: Operetta Benefit — North County Sunday Soiree will present a vocal recital of works from Gilbert and Sullivan’s “Pirates of Penzance,” “The Mikado,” “The Gondoliers” and Lehar’s “The Merry Widow” to raise money for Interfaith Community Services and Food Bank. 3 p.m. Sunday; Meadowlark Church, 1918 Redwing St., San Marcos; $10 (bring nonperishable food donations); northcountysundaysoiree.com.

“Star Spangled Pops”: San Diego Symphony with Marvin Hamlisch — Summer pops patriotic program; 7:30 p.m. July 3 to 5; Embarcadero Marina Park South, Convention Way at Harbor Drive, San Diego; $15-$75; 619-235-0804 or sandiegosymphony.com.

The African American Music Foundation presents a fourweek celebration of spiritual music: 4 p.m. Sunday; the Spirituals Community Chorus with Mary and Fabiola Johnston, bass Michael Morgan and soprano Dale Fleming at First United Methodist Church, 2311 Camino del Rio South, San Diego; freewill offerings; 619-846-0361 or aamuf.com.
CLASSICAL MUSIC

"Lions and Vipers and Bears, Oh My!" Enjoy selections from "Carnival of the Animals" by Saint-Saëns and other pieces celebrating the animal kingdom when Hutchins Consort performs. 760-753-7376. Saturday, June 13, 10am; free. Encinitas Library, 540 Cornish Drive. (ENCINITAS)

"The Creation" Haydn's well-loved work is presented by Westminster Choir, accompanied by an orchestra of San Diego Symphony musicians. Offering. 619-232-7513. Sunday, June 14, 8 and up. First Presbyterian Church, 320 Date Street. (DOWNTOWN)

Civic Organist Emeritus Robert Plimpton is joined by trombonist Tommy Phillips in concert. 619-702-8138. Sunday, June 14, 3pm free. Spreckels Organ Pavilion, 2311 Pan American Road. (BALBOA PARK)


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School of Business Administration
5 Things Real Estate Investors Must Know

Historically, real estate has moved in cycles. Downturns are a normal part of a healthy cycle. These are five important points to understand about real estate and where the market is headed.

1. Inflation is coming: Economists generally agree that high rates of inflation come when money supply outpaces the rate of economic growth. The Federal Reserve Statistical Release from March 5 saw the M1 Money supply grow at a seasonally adjusted rate of 27.1 percent. Economic growth, on the other hand, is not growing. According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, the fourth-quarter real gross domestic product decreased 6.3 percent. Although the U.S. economy is in a deflationary recession, at some point, probably late 2010, the tide will turn and we’ll see rapid inflation.

2. Moratoriums delayed the inevitable: Moratoriums were put in place during the end of 2008 on residential properties. Many banks were waiting to see if they would receive bailout money and have realized the money will come with strings attached. They are now proceeding with foreclosure. Markets will see a flood of residential homes likely peak in early 2010. This backlog of inventory will join an already large pipeline.

3. Commercial properties will take a hit: Since 1990, according to the National Council of Real Estate Investment Fiduciaries, or NCREIF, commercial properties have seen an average cap rate of 8 percent to 9 percent. (Cap rate equals income divided by value.) During market corrections, cap rates tend to overshoot the average before settling back into the historical equilibrium. Cap rates could go to 10 percent to 12 percent before settling at 8.5 percent. The higher cap rates climb, the less valuable the assets become.

4. New tenant base has all but disappeared: Few tenants are expanding. In addition, property owners are finding it hard to refinance their loans. They are forced to sell at a loss. The commercial-mortgage-backed securities, or CMBS, market bottleneck is severe and will take years to untangle. Rating agencies are clueless. They haven’t been able to develop a model to value commercial property assets pools. Banks and life insurance companies are staying away. This leaves a huge hole in the lending pool. Leverage is all but gone. All of these factors add to a downward pressure on commercial assets.

5. Real estate will rebound: According to The Long Cycle in Real Estate paper, published in 1997 by Ronald Kaiser, real estate has followed a rather predictable cycle that, absent from specific anomalies, has lasted 18 years. This downturn was very predictable and so is the eventual rebound. The market will bottom out, be stagnant for a few years, then begin to have price appreciation slowly, and then grow faster and faster until it overheats again ... and the cycle will repeat. The factors driving all of these occurrences will be different and people will say “this time it’s different,” but the outcome and the results will be the same.

5. Opportunity of a lifetime: The housing market will recover and people will be kicking themselves for not jumping in. If intimidation is holding you back, hire someone to buy, renovate and manage your portfolio. If you plan on going at it alone, do your research. Be comfortable with inspecting a home and developing a financial analysis. Find a property manager or learn it for yourself. Find contractors to renovate the properties and be ready for the eventual leaks.

Trevor Jensen is a graduate of the Burnham master’s program.
Savvy home shoppers can save at settlement

By Kathy Canavan, Special for USA TODAY

Home buyers dicker about appliances, cabinet styles and the move-in date but often question little when it comes to a pricey part of their purchase.

Closing costs — fees paid at settlement — can add up to thousands of dollars.

Yet, the costs and settlement process are mysterious for many. Half of mortgage applicants in a 2007 Federal Trade Commission study could not identify their loan amount on settlement forms.

How do bewildered buyers figure out what's supposed to happen and what they should be paying? In many cases, they don't, or they take the word of the title company and lender.

To make sure you don't overpay when buying a house, keep in mind that an eco

the house hunt.

Alan Stacy, housing counselor with Consumer Credit Counseling Services of Greater Atlanta, says a dream applicant has her financial paperwork close at hand; boasts a minimum credit score of 720 for a conventional mortgage or 620 for an FHA loan; and has educated herself, perhaps on the Internet, about how mortgages work.

Norm Miller, academic director at the University of San Diego's A. J. Man-Moores Center for Real Estate, says the savvy borrower will walk into the mortgage office with paycheck stubs, recent bank statements, two years of tax information and a printout of all savings account numbers, stock account numbers and cash-value insurance accounts.

"I'm going to come in with everything I can to make it easy for the lender," Miller says. "That's not only going to speed everything up dramatically, but you'll probably be considered a more sophisticated buyer, and they'll be fairly upfront with you."

Well-versed buyers fare better at the settlement table. A 2008 Urban Institute study showed lenders appeared to make lower-price offers to borrowers who seem more familiar with market terms.

Bart Shapiro, deputy director of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's RESPA office, which regulates settlement procedures, advises consumers to:

• Seek advice. Talk with relatives and friends who have gone through the mortgage process.

• Read. Newspapers, books and other media can acquaint you with real estate terms and the local market.

• Go online. Specifically, hit the HUD (www.HUD.gov), Federal Reserve (www.FederalReserve.gov) and Federal Trade Commission (www.FTC.gov) websites. All three offer free guides to mortgage closing costs. Also, check your state's website for tips. In January, HUD will issue standardized closing forms that will make fees clearer to consumers. In the meantime, buyers should inquire about any fees they don't understand.

• Shop around. Keep looking until you find a loan provider whose rates and approach you like. "Some folks use the phone or Internet, because you can work more quickly that way."

If you're refinancing, ask your current lender about a "streamline" refinance. Your current lender may not require a credit check, a full appraisal and other services that charge fees. One caveat: Streamlines sometimes carry higher interest rates than you'd get if you start again. Do the math.

Keep asking questions until you feel comfortable, Shapiro says, and don't sign anything until you feel confident.

Ads for no-cost mortgages are too good to be true: If you see an advertisement that says "no closing costs," what it means is they'll finance the closing costs for you, says Miller. "They just mean there's nothing out of pocket at closing."

• Search for savings. Mortgage lenders and brokers are required by law to give you a good faith estimate within three days after you apply for a loan. Many will give it to you earlier. The GFE, which lists estimated fees you'll pay at settlement, is divided into numerical sections. Look in the 800s and 1100s for fees that may be negotiable.

The 800 section lists administrative fees and fees for services your lender contracts for you — everything from checking your credit to appraising...
Savvy home shoppers can save at settlement - USA TODAY.com

your property. Check for double-dipping and inflated fees. If you're unsure about something, ask questions or request a discount.

There's some wiggle room for negotiating in the 1100s section. You may be able to whittle hundreds of dollars off your costs by informing your lender upfront that you'll secure title insurance on your own. You're not legally bound to use the lender's company, but you should make your intentions clear so they don't start a title search, too.

• Haggle lightly. While you can quibble about every line item, experts say things will probably go more smoothly if you make it clear that you're a comparison shopper who is crunching all the numbers.

"You want to say the same thing to each lender," Stacy of Consumer Credit Counseling says. "You want to say, 'Give me your best numbers. I'm giving you one chance to give me your best-faith estimate.'"

• Go with your gut. Select a lender or broker you trust, even if the fees are a few dollars higher, because the good faith estimate is just an estimate.

"There's nothing that's going to happen when you walk into that mortgage office that you can depend on. They can quote anything they want, and there's no way you can hold them to it," says Jack Guttentag, a professor emeritus at University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School who runs The Mortgage Professor website (www.mtgprofessor.com).

• Don't quit investigating too early. Request a HUD-1 form before settlement day. Federal law requires lenders to give mortgage applicants a copy of their settlement form, called a HUD-1 form, at least one day before closing, if applicants request it. Many lenders won't provide it until settlement day unless prompted.

Comb your HUD-1 for any numbers that are different from those on your good-faith estimate. Check for accounting errors, too. If you spot discrepancies, accounting errors or new fees, bring them to your lender's attention.

Find this article at:

☐ Check the box to include the list of links referenced in the article.

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USD Economic Index Enjoys Small Rise in April

An index measuring the overall health of the region's economy rose by two-tenths of a percent in April, breaking a string of 24 consecutive months of decline.

Four of six components in the University of San Diego's Index of Leading Economic Indicators, which was released May 28, showed gains during the month, causing the rise.

But the economics professor who compiles the data said observers need to exercise caution.

"Since economists typically look for three consecutive moves in one direction for a leading index to signal a turning point, it remains to be seen if a turnaround is in sight," said USD's Alan Gin.

The four components that increased were building permits, stock prices of local public companies, consumer confidence and the national outlook on the economy. Those gains were offset by big declines in the amount of help wanted ad lineage and new claims for unemployment insurance (measured as a negative).

Gin said a jump in consumer confidence above the rate in March (which declined from the prior month by 3.27 percent) marked the largest one-month turnaround ever recorded by any component in the index, and ended a string of 23 consecutive months of decreases. Consumer confidence increased by 2.78 percent.

The key to turning things around is moving from increased confidence to actual consumer purchases, particularly of big-ticket items like houses and cars, Gin said.

Yet even if a bottom is reached later this year, Gin said the rebound will likely be weak. "Indeed, there could be a significant period where the local economy remains flat after reaching that bottom," he said.

— Mike Allen
San Diego's economy still hurting, but better than rest of nation

By JEN LEBRON KUHNEY
The Daily Transcript

SAN DIEGO — San Diego’s economy is doing all right compared to the rest of the nation was the consensus reached at the University of San Diego’s first Mid-Year Economic Update.

The event, which was held by USD’s Burnham-Moores Center for Real Estate, featured economists Ryan Ratcliff, Kelly Cunningham and Marney Cox. Each of the men focused on various aspects of how the nation’s economic state is affecting the local economy.

Ratcliff, who was the first to speak, formerly authored the UCLA Anderson Forecast and is currently an associate professor of forecasting and economics at USD.

He mainly focused on national and state economics, and pointed to a slight recession in the early 2000s that helped the housing boom that eventually led to the bust.

When the stock market was growing with what Alan Greenspan described as “irrational exuberance,” the United States decided not to temper the growth, but prepare to help the economy when stocks began to fall.

When that started happening in late 2001, the federal government lowered interest rates. While this helped the stock market, it also led to unprecedented growth in the housing sector. Prices boomed and loans were easy to come by.

“When the history is written, historians and economists will decide Wiley E. Coyote was really the mascot of the last eight years or so,” he said.

Economy—
Continued from Page 1A

Diego compare to countries around the world. If you were to include California and San Diego on the list of countries with the largest economies, they would rank eight and 42nd, respectively.

While California is suffering because of job losses and budgetary issues, San Diego has been partially sheltered from the downturn. “San Diego’s doing comparatively better than the rest of the state,” said Cunningham.

The unemployment rate statewide is over 10 percent, while Cunningham predicted San Diego will have an unemployment rate near 9.7 percent or 9.8 percent at the highest.

Building on some of Cunningham’s themes, Cox said there are a few reasons for San Diegans to be some-what optimistic about the coming years.

While he did not say the county can expect large amounts of growth, things like housing prices and employment are stabilizing.

Additionally, he said local Department of Defense projects like Camp Pendleton’s $560 million hospital, will help shore up construction jobs — one of the hardest-hit local industries.

Even with some positives, Cox said there are still question marks that could throw a wrench in recovery. If consumers remain thrifty or banks keep excess reserves and do not lend money, it could hamper progress.

At the beginning of the forum, all three economists were asked by Burnham-Moores director Mark Reidy to “look into their crystal balls” to state when they thought the recession would end. However, each made his prediction with a lot of “ifs” and “hopefullys.”

Predicting the future is definitely not easy, said Ratcliff. Cunningham furthered the point, by saying a few years ago hardly anyone could have predicted where the country, state and county would be today.

“I think, out of 10,000 economists, maybe a dozen foresaw this,” he said. “On behalf of all of us, sorry, we were wrong.”

jennifer.lebron@sddt.com
Source Code: 20090611cg
Fall in demand for industrial space to go on

By Emmet Pierce
STAFF WRITER

For the second year in a row, the industrial real estate market in San Diego County is expected to see a loss of tenants due to the lagging economy, according to a midyear report by the Marcus & Millichap investment services firm.

Following a 1 percent increase in 2008, industrial vacancies are projected to climb by 1.3 to 10.1 percent this year.

If the projection is correct, it will mark the first time industrial vacancies in the county have exceeded 10 percent in nearly two decades.

Few new companies are coming forward to occupy vacant space as leases expire in warehouse and manufacturing buildings, analysts said. As the demand for space declines, landlords are expected to reduce rents to keep the business they have. Asking rents for industrial properties are forecast to fall 6.1 percent to $10.68 per square foot in 2009, while effective rents after concessions will fall 6.8 percent to $9.98 per square foot.

University of San Diego economist Alan Gin said yesterday the results of the report were expected, given the recession. In May there were 95,200 manufacturing jobs in the county, he added. A year earlier there were 102,700.

While manufacturing here long has been on the decline "this number is the worst we have had," Gin said. "We were losing the jobs anyway, but the recession has accelerated it."

The report forecasts that developers will complete 840,000 square feet of new industrial space this year, about 60 percent less than the county's annual average over the last five years.

San Diego real estate economist Gary London said other industries on the decline here, such as residential real estate, construction, finance and technology, will bounce back when the recession ends. The manufacturing jobs that are lost are not expected to return, however.

Volen, a real estate analyst and investment specialist at Marcus & Millichap, said the county's industrial-space market is holding up relatively well, compared with many other areas around the nation.

Rentals in established industrial areas such as National City, Poway, Mira Mesa, Kearny Mesa and Sorrento Valley will do better than outlying areas, such as Otay Mesa and Carlsbad, where speculative industrial development has occurred in recent years, he said.

"National City's vacancy rate is hovering around 2 percent overall with no vacancies in spaces larger than 20,000 square feet," Volen said. "There are still positive things going on."
Index: Economy is firming up

The University of San Diego said Thursday that its Index of Leading Economic Indicators rose 0.3 percent in May, to 101.2, following a 0.2 percent rise in April. Consumer sentiment, stock prices, local construction activity and national economic conditions buoyed the index, while measures of hiring and layoffs continued to weigh on it. The index’s six components measure economic data, though the index itself is an artificial number.

The index had fallen for 24 consecutive months through March.

“At this point, cautious optimism needs to be exercised,” Alan Gin, the USD economist who compiles the index, wrote in an accompanying report.
Economic Index Rises Again
San Diego Business Journal Staff

An index measuring San Diego's economy rose for the second straight month in May, mostly from a jump in the level of consumer confidence.

Alan Gin, the University of San Diego economics professor who compiles the index, which was released June 25, said cautious optimism should be exercised regarding the rise, and whether this means the local economy already bottomed out and is rebounding.

Should the index rise for a third consecutive month in June, that may signal that a bottom was reached. However, the local economy would likely stumble along for at least six to 12 months, Gin said.

Of the six components of the USD index, four showed increases, led by a 4.22 percent rise in consumer confidence. Other parts that rose were new building permits; stock prices of local businesses; and the national economic index of leading economic indicators.

Those gains were offset by a 3.12 percent increase in unemployment insurance claims (measured as a negative) and a drop in the amount of help wanted advertising.

Even after the economy does turn around, unemployment is still likely to continue at high levels as businesses tend to be cautious in hiring after a slump, Gin said.

"Still, the outlook is better than just two months ago, and a flat economy is better than one that is declining," Gin said.

— Mike Allen
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USD's Index of Leading Economic Indicators for San Diego County rose 0.3 percent in May, powered by another strong gain in local consumer confidence. It was the second consecutive monthly gain after 24 consecutive down months. Also supporting the advance were sharp increases in local stock prices and the outlook for the national economy, along with a smaller rise in building permits. On the downside, the labor market variables continue to plunge, with both initial claims for unemployment insurance and help wanted advertising sharply negative.

"At this point, cautious optimism needs to be exercised with respect to the local economy," says Alan Gin, professor of economics and author of the Index. Another positive reading for June would be the third in a row for the USD Index and would give the traditional signal of a bottom for San Diego's economy. That trough though would still be roughly six to 12 months in the future.

"As was mentioned in last month's report, the rebound is likely to be relatively weak, given that the positive numbers in the leading indicators have not been very strong. Finally, even after the economy turns around, unemployment is still likely to be high as businesses tend to be cautious in terms of hiring coming out of a slump. Still, the outlook is better than just two months ago, and a flat local economy is better than one that is declining.

May's decrease puts the USD Index of Leading Economic Indicators for the county at 101.2, up from April's reading of 100.9.
'The Outlook Is Better Than Just Two Months Ago'

The local economy increased again in May, largely thanks to a big gain in local consumer confidence, according to the latest USD economic index released today.

April's increase broke a two-year string of year-over-year declines in Gin's index. Along with the boost in consumer confidence, local stock prices increased and so did the outlook for the national economy. Building permits also logged a slight increase.

The negative categories were related to unemployment and help wanted advertising.

It's still too early, after two months of increases, to call it a trend. If the index is positive in June, that would mark three months in a row, and would be the traditional signal of a "bottom for San Diego's economy," wrote Alan Gin, a USD economist. But because economic conditions lag the index's indicators, the actual trough for the economy would be six to 12 months in the future, he wrote.

Here's Gin:
At this point, cautious optimism needs to be exercised with respect to the local economy. ...

As was mentioned in last month's report, the rebound is likely to be relatively weak, given that the positive numbers in the leading indicators have not been very strong. Finally, even after the economy turns around, unemployment is still likely to be high as businesses tend to be cautious in terms of hiring coming out of a slump. Still, the outlook is better than just two months ago, and a flat local economy is better than one that is declining.

-- KELLY BENNETT
Fight brews over accountants' role in market meltdown

By John Howard | 06/25/09 12:00 AM PST

One of Sacramento's most lucrative lobbying contracts - it was nearly $1 million annually during 2007-08 - is up for grabs, as the major accounting firms' prepare for a political and regulatory battle. The dispute between accountants and attorneys is reverberating in the Capitol and lobbying community, and looms as a potential issue in the 2010 race for state attorney general.

At issue is whether the accounting profession played a role in the meltdown of California's subprime mortgage market. Assemblyman Pedro Nava, D-Santa Barbara, the chair of the Assembly's banking committee, already has held two public hearings on the role of accountants. More hearings are scheduled, and he has been urged to use subpoenas and depositions - an unusual step in the Legislature.

"When an accountant attests to the accuracy of a financial document with an unqualified opinion, the public should be able to rely on the accuracy of that document," Nava said. "What responsibility, if any, does the accounting profession have? This is very complex. We will no doubt need additional hearings to explore this."

There also is no doubt that California has been especially hard hit by the turmoil in the mortgage markets: More than half of $1.38 trillion in subprime mortgages between 2005 and 2007 originated from 15 lenders in California, according to a May study by the Center for Public Integrity. Subprime lenders created mortgages that gave people with low credit ratings cheap initial payments that grew more expensive over time. Some subprime lenders allowed people to state their income without documenting it.

The question of whether accountants had a role in that meltdown is less certain.

Critics of the accounting industry's regulatory landscape, led by consumer attorneys, believe that accounting mishaps played pivotal economic roles twice in 10 years -- in the electricity market meltdown of 2001 as well as the collapse of the subprime mortgage market.

The accountants, rejecting that contention, say they don't set company policy, and don't make underwriting or strategic financial decisions. Others agree. "I have to say from my examination, I haven't seen anyone pointing to the accounting industry as having a substantive role in this crisis. In terms of having a material impact on the outcome, I haven't seen anybody say the accounting industry played a big role, Andrew Atkeson, a UCLA economics professor, testified before the Assembly.

But behind the issue is a tangle of politics, within the Democrat-controlled Legislature itself and statewide.

Accountants, deeply suspicious, believe they are being singled out by Nava and the attorneys for political reasons, and that hearings are a forum contrived to generate information that can be used against them.

Dana Basney, a certified public accountant and forensics auditor, as well as an economics professor at the University of San Diego, was more blunt. The allegations against the accounting profession, he said, are raised by "regulators who were looking for scapegoats for their own lack of oversight, and by plaintiff's lawyers looking to further their own economic interest."

Nava is a candidate for attorney general in a crowded Democratic field that includes two Assembly colleagues, Ted Lieu of Torrance and Alberto Torrico of Newark; former Assemblymember Joe Canciamilla; San Francisco District Attorney Kamala Harris; L.A. City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo; and Chris Kelly, the chief security for the Facebook web site.

The Democratic rivals are looking for issues that will distinguish them from the pack and are elbowing each
other for primacy. "Democrats for attorney general align themselves with consumers, Republicans align themselves with law enforcement," was the way one veteran Capitol observer put it.

Historically, accountants and attorneys have been at loggerheads in the Capitol. Earlier legislation by Assemblymembers Fiona Ma, D-San Francisco, and Roger Niello, R-Sacramento, intended to make it easier for California-licensed accountants to accommodate out-of-state clients, was blocked after critics said it would weaken accounting regulations and was discriminatory. Ma and Niello both are accountants. Similar legislation, SB 691 authored by Sen. Leland Yee, D-San Francisco, has passed the Senate and is awaiting a hearing in the Assembly’s Business and Profession’s Committee, chaired by Assemblywoman Mary Hayashi, D-Alameda. Yee’s bill requires 150 units of accounting study, rather than the current 120.

Earlier, attempts to boost the study requirements was criticized as discrimination against the poor and people of color because adding 30 additional credits would cost more.

"What ultimately swung me over was the fact that more than two thirds of the states already have adopted the 150 hours. When you have a situation whereby California accountants could end up being unable to practice outside the state of California, that gives you some pause," Yee said. The NAACP, he noted, dropped its opposition to the bill.

Nava, meanwhile, is in the midst of putting together his own bill on the accounting profession.

While the Capitol fight continues, the big accounting firms are looking for a new champion in the lobbying world.

The major accounting firms - known as the Big Four - have been represented for years by lobbyist Richard Robinson, an accountant and former Assemblyman from Orange County, who built a reputation for being effective and aggressive, in both the Legislature and in the ranks of lobbyists. But he is retiring, and the accounting firms are looking for new representation. On a temporary basis, they reportedly are being handled by Nielsen, Merksamer, Parrinello, Mueller and Nayor, a political law firm.

For several weeks, word that the big accounting firms - Deloitte, KPMG, PricewaterhouseCoopers and Ernst & Young - have been looking for a lobbyist has been going through the lobbying corps. The companies’ business is among the most lucrative in the Capitol.

According to disclosure reports filed with the Secretary of State, the four firms paid some $1.95 million to Robinson’s firm, Richard Robinson and Associates, from January 2007 through December 2008. The firms lobbied the governor’s office, regulatory authorities and on behalf or against a number of bills.

Joe Dunn, a litigator and former state senator who led an investigation into market manipulation during California’s electricity crisis, urged Nava and his committee to pull no punches. He said the committee should use its subpoena power to force accounting industry representatives to turn over documents and testify before the Legislature.

"These are tools that you may not be aware are available to you," said Dunn, now the president of the California Medical Association. “The court upheld our use of these tools. We issued subpoenas for documents. We ended up having produced millions of documents in response to those subpoenas. We actually did issue deposition subpoenas. It was the first time this Legislature had ever taken depositions...you do have the power to do that."

Ed Howard of the University of San Diego’s Center for Public Interest Law, which has long scrutinized the accounting industry, said the state needs a “good solid fact-based analysis of the role of the accounting profession in the financial meltdown.”

But Ma -- and others believe -- the attorneys' are motivated by something other than the search for truth.

"I am highly insulted over these attacks on the accounting profession by the CPIL," said Ma, who supports Yee’s bill. “They have attacked other professions as well, as they go after deep pockets. We have to get special educational training to be licensed, we take ethics training. People depend on us for financial statements, for tax returns, even to be registered on any of the stock exchanges. We take this very, very seriously."

http://www.capitolweekly.net/article.php?_c=y2st4y9zuk1frf&xid=y2s1reka235sit&done=... 6/29/2009
New round of census hiring to begin in county

Three offices to employ 4,500 temporary workers

By Hiram Soto

The U.S. Census Bureau plans to hire an additional 4,500 temporary employees in San Diego County in the coming months, including people with bilingual skills who can help accurately count ethnic communities.

Daniel Mendoza, the local census manager, said the bureau will open offices in National City, Santee and San Marcos by early October. Each will have 1,500 employees.

"We are going to begin another wave of massive hires, just as we did a few months ago," said Mendoza, referring to the 1,200 temporary employees hired during the first months of the year.

Census workers have recently finished updating a nationwide address list and recruitment has begun for employees for the peak season in early 2010. Census questionnaires will be mailed starting in February and must be returned by April 1.

The bureau is hiring about 800 more workers in the county than it did for the 2000 census. The census that year counted 3.4 million Latinos in the United States, 13.5 percent of the population.

Hispanic organizations complained that several million people were missed and have pressed the bureau for an accurate count.

In May 2008, the bureau estimated that the Latino population had reached 4.6 million, or 15.1 percent of the total estimated population.

HOW TO APPLY

Applicants need to sign up for an exam. Information is available at (619) 692-2200 or at www.census.gov.

The bureau is focusing on counting ethnic communities, particularly Latinos, many of whom do not trust the government and have been traditionally reluctant to participate in the census.

The census is taken every 10 years, and its data are used to determine the needs of the population and to assign more than $300 billion in federal funds. Alan Gils, a University of San Diego economist, said the hiring wave would have a positive effect on the county's economy, which had a 6.4 percent unemployment rate in May.

"If those 4,500 jobs came from a single company in San Diego, it would become one of the largest employers in the county," he said. "Everyday helps at this point!"

Mendoza said the government is working with churches as well as community groups to get the word out on the importance of every person in the country, regardless of citizenship status.

"There is no fear of being counted. It's not an IRS raid. It's not an immigration raid. Nobody is asking for anything; they just want to count people," said Ortiz from Barrio Stations.

The nonprofit organization has provided census workers with office space as well as other resources.

"Not everybody is excited about being counted," said Ortiz.

An evangelical group from Rhode Island recently created a stir by calling on Latinos to avoid being counted until Congress passes a comprehensive immigration reform that includes legalizing the estimated 12 million or so undocumented people living in the country.

"Before they count us, they need to legalize us," said the Rev. Miguel Rivera of the National Coalition of Latino Clergy and Christian Leaders.

But many others challenge that position, including Estela de los Rios, executive director of the Center for Social Advocacy, a human rights organization in San Diego.

"The Latino community is growing, and it's important that this segment of the population doesn't become disconnected from the rest of the country," she said.

Census representatives are looking to fill managerial positions in administration, operations and technology.
George Chamberlin's Money in the Morning

Thursday's mid-year real estate trends conference at the USD Burnham-Moores Center was interesting. There was little surprise in the presentations by the three economists who talked about the national, state and local economies and real estate prospects. The consensus seemed to be that any significant recovery is probably not going to show up until 2011, although there could be evidence of stability showing up later this year and throughout 2010. Probably the most encouraging comment was that since San Diego was among the first regions to feel the pain of the real estate decline and the economic consequences, the region may also be among the first to emerge from the decline.
On the Agenda
By Rebecca Go

More than $80,000 in prizes is up for grabs in UC San Diego’s annual Entrepreneur Challenge, which promises to reach its climactic moment Monday night. Five teams of student entrepreneurs will pitch their companies to a live panel of judges — including local business powerhouses Leo Spiegel, Larry Bock, Mary Ann Boyer and Duane Roth — at the awards ceremony Monday from 6-8 p.m.

Fast teams have gone on to court more venture capital, organizers say, and this year’s early frontrunners include innovators in skin disease detection, silicon microchips and water bacteria monitoring systems.

To attend, RSVP at challengesandiego.edu.

The Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce talks financing with SCORE in a Monday workshop from 9 a.m. to noon covering everything from loans to venture capital to other sources of funding. For more information, visit carlsbad.org.

The Harvard Business School Club of San Diego invites General Atomics Vice Chairman Linden Buehler to speak at its Tuesday CBO Forum between 7-8:30 a.m. To RSVP, visit hbsandiego.org.

Connect examines the risks of international sales and distribution at its FrameWorks Workshop on Tuesday from 9-11:30 a.m. To register, visit connect.org.

SCORE discusses Internet marketing at its Tuesday workshop from 9 a.m. to noon. For more information, visit score-sandiego.org.

The city of Vista and the San Diego Workforce Partnership open their Vista One-Stop Career Center on Tuesday at 11 a.m. The center, located at the Vista Townsite Community Center at 642 Vista Village Drive, will help local businesses fill open positions and offer employment and training services to job seekers.

The San Diego Software Industry Council kicks off a series of events this week with a Tuesday workshop on leveraging Google. Serial Internet entrepreneur Dmitry Shapilo will provide a special presen-

The San Diego Better Business Bureau hosts a business-to-business networking mixer Thursday from 4-6 p.m. For more information, visit sandiego.bbb.org.

The University of San Diego kicks off another year Thursday for professionals seeking more education. The weekly course will cover title insurance. Attend one, or attend them all for more information and to register, visit usdce.org/realestate. Those who register for both the title insurance course and next week’s real estate tax considerations course will receive a $100 discount.

The Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce focuses on networking excellence at its First Friday Breakfast from 7-9 a.m. For more information, visit carlsbad.org.

The San Diego Software Industry Council ends the week covering the sins of page design in its Friday presentation from 7:30-9 p.m. For more information, visit sdside.org.

The San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce provides an update Friday on how the county is faring in terms of federal stimulus funds. To RSVP for the 2-4 p.m. event, visit sdchamber.org.

SCORE presents an advanced workshop Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on bookkeeping software QuickBooks. For more information, visit scoresandiego.org.
There's a great conversation going in the comments below this post I wrote yesterday, which included the perspective of a USD professor who has decided with her husband to rent rather than buy in this market.

Here was Alex:

I'm in the same camp as the McAllisters. I rent a nice house by the beach in North County for $2,600 a month, and the owner is trying to sell the house for $1.4M. The house needs a couple of hundred thousand of work, so even haggling the price down a little you're still looking at spending $1.5M for this house.

Sandy adds:

If an asset is expensive to own but cheap to rent, something's out of whack and you'd best believe it's not the price of renting. ... Suffice to say I am a renter, watching my dream house drop in price like a day-after-Christmas sale.

Reader Mozart contributed some criticism of the notion that renters can expect to buy in the neighborhoods where they're renting:

Two things that don't go together are Mission Hills and affordability. Same with North County Coastal. These are the most desirable parts of San Diego if not the entire country. If you want affordability then move a little east, somewhere from El Cajon to Wichita should fit the bill.

I got a couple of e-mails today from readers who wanted to chime in:

Here's reader JH, who said he'd coincidentally took a property law class from Lesley McAllister, the USD prof we wrote about yesterday. JH said he's expecting more mortgages in his neighborhood will recast, forcing their owners to make sharply increased payments or walk away from their houses:

I live in Terrasanta, where I rent a [three bedroom, 1.75-bathroom] house for $1,750. At the peak, homes in my neighborhood were going for $500-$650K. Now, they're priced at $320-$400K. I still feel this is too much. Principal and interest payments alone on a $450K mortgage would top my rent. This before taxes, insurance, etc.

When I look at historical sales on redfin.com, I see that substantial number of homes in my area were sold during the bubble years at prices around 900K. The majority of these mortgages are probably underwater, and many were probably purchased using something other than a prime loan, so I anticipate that many homes sold in 2005-2006 will eventually go back to the bank. So, I continue to wait.

Truthfully, I'm studying for the Bar and couldn't buy anything now anyway, but it's just as well because I anticipate that the real estate collapse will spread to the middle tier of the market ....

And reader MF, a marketing manager in the medical device industry, said he and his family left San Diego more than three years ago -- close to the peak -- and sold a four-bedroom, two-bathroom starter home in Rancho Peñasquitos. They moved to Denver:

Here's more from MF:

We moved to Denver and bought something twice as big that was 2/3 less than what we sold for in S.D. At the time we thought we were putting San Diego in our rear view mirror, never to return to a real estate market that was spiraling out of affordability even for a dual income family.

Having watched the market dissolve back towards "affordability" we've decided to move our family of six back to San Diego County this summer and just listed our 6 bed/4 bath house in Denver, a stone's throw from Littleton CO. That being said we're still planning on renting for a while as the market seems pent up with overly optimistic sellers surrounded by short sales and pending foreclosures -- at least in North County areas like Carlsbad and San Marcos.

MF passed along a link to the house he's leaving in Colorado.

We have no illusions of finding a similar house in SD for under $600K - at least not yet ...

In March of 2006 when we sold our 4/2 in PQ at $587K (paid $324K in 2000) we looked at relocating because we didn't want to sign up for the $700 and $800K we were being told we qualified for - so we moved to Denver because we could get so much more for the money.

We couldn't foresee the bubble bursting, but we couldn't stomach the idea of a $4000/month mortgage payment either. In retrospect we were extremely lucky. We plan to sell for a few thousand more than we paid... In essence we took our equity and put it into a Denver "piggy bank" for 3 plus years.

Leave your thoughts in the comments below (if you're reading this in Survival, if not, go there), or you can always drop me an e-mail at kelly.bennett@voiceofsandiego.org.

— KELLY BENNETT
On the Agenda

The city of San Diego reviews its citywide Bicycle Master Plan at a Wednesday meeting from 6-8 p.m. at the Hall of Champions in Balboa Park. For more information, visit sandiego.gov/cpci.

The San Diego Press Club covers how to write for the Web in a meeting from visit sandiego.gov/cpci.

The San Diego Association of Realtors brings in its top producers for a panel discussion Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Register by Wednesday at reservations@wcrcsd.org. For more information, visit wcrcsd.org.

The San Diego County Bar Association discusses how the federal stimulus affects the health care industry in its Thursday Bar Association honors Hall of Champions in Balboa Park. For more information, visit egca.org.

The San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce hosts a discussion on business survival and restructuring strategies on Thursday from 7:30-9:30 a.m. Panel includes a bankruptcy attorney, a commercial banker, an investment banker and an accountant. To register, visit sdchamber.org.

A group of local economists provide a mid-year economic update Thursday at a 7:30-11 a.m. event hosted by the University of San Diego's Burnham-Moores Center for Real Estate. To register, visit usdce.org/bmcre/midyear.

The Pacific Safety Council covers trenching and shoring strategies on Thursday from 8 a.m. to noon. For more information, visit pscsd.com.

The San Diego Association of Realtors brings in an attorney to cover leases, repairs, evictions, notices of fair housing — all part of the landlord/tenant relationship. For more information about the Thursday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. program, visit sdar.com.

The Women's Council of Realtors brings in its top producers for a panel discussion Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Register by Wednesday at reservations@wcrcsd.org. For more information, visit wcrcsd.org.

The YMCA spotlights Olympic gold medalist Greg Louganis, who medaled in platform and springboard diving in 1988, takes the stage as keynote speaker for the Greater San Diego Business Association's 30th anniversary celebration Thursday at 6 p.m. Tickets for the dinner event at the Hard Rock Hotel downtown can be purchased at gsdba.org or by calling 619-296-4543.

Biocom hosts local state assemblyman Joel Anderson at its Legislative Roundtable on Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. RSVP by Thursday at biocom.org.

The YMCA spotlights women honored by their firm's executives, co-workers, families and friends in a luncheon awards ceremony Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. For more information, visit ymcsandiego.org.

The San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce hosts state Senator Gloria Romero for a Friday discussion on education and budget issues from 8-9:30 a.m.

The Neighborhood House Association offers a free foreclosure prevention class Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon. To register, call 619-263-7761 or e-mail HousingWorkshop@neighborhoodhouse.org. For more information, visit neighborhoodhouse.org/house/index.cfm.

Health-related businesses and nonprofits gather for Summer Healthcare Saturday, the largest annual free health fair in the East County from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Grossmont Center in La Mesa. The event will include health screenings and information on techniques and products. Prospective exhibitors can contact the East County Chamber at 619-440-6161 for a booth application.
The University of San Diego's Burnham-Moores Center for Real Estate is offering a course on real estate title insurance. The class will cover different title products, vestings and easements, taxes and assessments, and trust deeds, among other topics that will help transactions close economically and efficiently.

- Thursdays, June 4-25, 6 to 9 p.m.
- Douglas F. Manchester Conference Center
  5998 Alcala Park, in San Diego
- Cost: $450
- Visit www.usdce.org/realestate
REAL ESTATE CALENDAR

FEATURED EVENTS

THURSDAY, JUN 11 - SPECIAL EVENTS

MID-YEAR ECONOMIC UPDATE

Featuring Panelists:
Marney Cox, Chief Economist, San Diego Association of Governments
Kelly Cunningham, Economist and Senior Fellow, National University System Institute for Policy Research
Ryan Ratcliff, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Economics of Business Administration University of San Diego

Moderated By:
George Chamberlin, Executive Editor, The Daily Transcript.

Organization: USD Burnham-Moores Center
Information: https://www.openrangeweb.net/hosts/www.sandiego.edu/bmcr/event/buy.php?ydtbfecu263
Cost: $45.00 When: Hours: 7:30 AM - 11:00 AM Where: USD - Hahn University Center, 5888

Alcaia Park, Linda Vista
THURSDAY, JUNE 11

USD MID-YEAR ECONOMIC UPDATE

The University of San Diego's Burnham-Moores Center for Real Estate presents its first mid-year update, which will feature a panel of area economic experts offering their insights and forecasts for the local, state and national economies.

- 7:30 to 11 a.m.
- University of San Diego, Hahn University Center, 5998 Alcala Park, in San Diego
- Cost $45
- Visit www.usdce.org/bmcre/midyear
TUESDAY, JUNE 9-30
USD REAL ESTATE TAX COURSE
The University of San Diego's Burnham-Moores Center for Real Estate is offering a course examining various tax issues and opportunities available.
Topics will include taxes related to foreclosure, debt forgiveness, short sales, energy-efficient improvements and potential changes to tax law.
- Tuesdays, June 9-30, 6 to 9 p.m.
- Douglas F. Manchester Conference Center,
  5998 Alcala Park, in San Diego
- Cost: $450
- Visit www.usdce.org/realestate
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 118.6 in April 2008.
Leading economic indicators

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Before Madoff, Ivar Kreuger (Who?) Wore the Ponzi Mantle: Books

Review by Joe Mysak

June 24 (Bloomberg) -- Ponzi! Have you read and heard the word enough? Ponzi scheme, Ponzi boy, Ponzi-fest. Pin the tail on the Ponzi! When Ivar Kreuger, the Match King, blew in 1932, the press did just that.

Swindler! Crook! Liar! Kreuger was like the son of the original Ponzi, Charles, the famous pyramid-scheme fraudster who was nabbed in 1920. The press, and in those days almost all newspapers we’re talking about, plastered the label all over Kreuger, done with it.

Frank Partnoy, a professor of law and finance at the University of San Diego and previously master explainer of all things derivative -- in “F.I.A.S.C.O.” (1997) and “Infectious Greed” (2003) -- reclaims Kreuger from the ash heap in “The Match King.”

There’s a lot more to the story than the simple use of new investors to pay earlier ones, which is the essence of the Ponzi scheme.

All glory is fleeting. If you don’t recognize Kreuger’s name, you’re not alone. Known today chiefly by financial historians and those who major in obscurity, the enigmatic Swede cornered the match market in the 1920s and incidentally discovered Greta Garbo in his short-lived career as a filmmaker.

Taciturn Swede

As the Great Depression worsened, this required selling securities to new U.S. investors to raise the money to make good on outstanding promises.

"Ivar was no Charles Ponzi," Partnoy admits. "He wasn’t going to abscond with the money. He just wanted the flexibility to use the funds as he pleased, and to buy time if things didn’t go as planned." Much later in the book, the author concludes, "The lesson of Ivar Kreuger is not that his businesses were illegal. It is that they were alegal."

Kreuger’s death ushered in a binge of regulation, particularly in the area of disclosure.

Writing Rules

This “illegal/alegal” is a nice distinction. As Partnoy very artfully shows, Kreuger played games with the sketchy accounting and disclosure rules of the time because he could. Only after his death and the collapse of his companies’ stock prices did the U.S. Congress rewrite the securities laws to ensure that fast and loose accounting would never plague investors again; well, hardly ever again.

And in the end, as Partnoy documents, trustees found an awful lot of value in the Kreuger assets: There were real companies, real mines, and of course, real estate. It wasn’t all a shell game, as the press of the time led its eager readers to believe.

"The Match King" is best when the author translates Kreuger’s various moves into easily understood language. The author is less successful with analyzing Kreuger the human being, perhaps because there was so little to work with. The Match King took his greatest secrets to the grave; all the rest is a paper chase.


(Joe Mysak is a reporter for Bloomberg News. The opinions expressed are his own.)

To contact the writer of this column: Joe Mysak in New York at jmysakjr@bloomberg.net

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http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20670001&sid=aXDzxt8ka.3Y

6/29/2009
Regulator to Detail Plan for Derivatives

By STEPHEN LABATON

WASHINGTON — The new chairman of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission will ask Congress on Thursday to impose substantial new costs and restrictions on large banks and other financial institutions that deal in the complex and largely unregulated financial instruments known as derivatives.

Gary G. Gensler, the top regulator for futures trading, will provide significant new details of a plan announced three weeks ago by the Treasury secretary, Timothy F. Geithner. Mr. Gensler will disclose his proposal before the Senate Agriculture Committee, which oversees the commission.

Lawmakers said they had been told that Mr. Gensler would propose two sets of regulations — one set for the individual dealers of derivatives and a second set for the marketplaces where the instruments are traded.

Mr. Gensler has said that taken together, the two sets of rules would largely eliminate the loopholes that critics said would have weakened the Treasury secretary's plan, although some expressed concern that the proposals still might not go far enough to fully address problems that contributed to the market collapse.

If adopted, Mr. Gensler's proposal would fundamentally alter the way that derivatives dealers do business by imposing requirements, for example, for capital reserves and collateral — assets that would be forfeited in a default. The rules would impose significant new expenses on derivatives dealers, and could reduce their profitability.

Mr. Geithner said his proposal recognized the significant role that unregulated derivatives, particularly credit-default swaps, played in the financial crisis. Such swaps, a form of insurance against the default of a bond, played a central role in the near collapse of the American International Group last year. Rather than limiting risk as they are supposed to do, the swaps wound up spreading the crisis globally.

The plan is expected to run into sharp resistance from the industry, which this week proposed its own set of voluntary rules as part of an effort to head off more aggressive legislation. Some lawmakers who applauded Mr. Geithner's plan said they intended to press Mr. Gensler to be more aggressive in policing the marketplace even before Congress completes work on the derivatives legislation.

"Gensler has to show that the C.F.T.C. will have teeth and we can implement some things right now," said Senator Maria Cantwell, Democrat of Washington. She said she had asked Mr. Gensler in recent days to revoke exemptions given to some oil futures traders through what are called no-action letters that she said could permit the manipulation of prices to consumers.

"He laments that Wall Street will be pushing back on the plan proposed by the administration and him. I told him they could get a quick gold star by revoking the no-action letters," she said.

Some longtime critics of the absence of regulation of the derivatives markets applauded Mr. Gensler's approach.
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But Congressional officials said Mr. Gensler, in his testimony, would describe mechanisms to both supervise the marketplace of customized derivatives and impose standards that presume most derivatives are standard and subject to more rigorous oversight. For instance, any derivative accepted by a clearinghouse for settlement would be presumed to be a uniform derivative, not a customized one.
Human nature being what it is, at any given moment there is always a certain amount of embezzlement going on in a country's banks and businesses. Though the volume of all this larceny increases in good times, only during a financial crisis does its full magnitude come to light.

Every period of economic turmoil throws up its signature crook. It may be too early to select today's emblematic fraudster, but I suspect that, when the votes are finally in, Bernie Madoff will walk away with the prize. During the stock market crash of 2000-01, the name to reckon with turned out not to be that of an individual but a whole company, Enron. And the man who more than anyone else came to epitomize the global crisis that began in 1929 and culminated in the Great Depression was Ivar Kreuger.

"The Match King," by Frank Partnoy, is the story of Kreuger. Starting out in the match business in Sweden, he emerged on the European financial scene in the early 1920s when he decided to branch out into international banking. After World War I, most countries had a hard time borrowing in international capital markets. Kreuger decided to exploit his position as a leading European businessman by acting as a go-between, raising capital in New York and lending it to countries desperate for dollars. In return, he required from each borrowing nation a monopoly over the manufacture of matches. Among the governments with which he struck such deals were those of Ecuador, Peru, Poland, Greece, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Romania and even France and Germany. By 1929 he had reputedly become the third-richest man in the world.

Even when the Great Crash hit, he seemed to weather the storm reasonably well, successfully completing a $125-million deal with Germany at the end of 1929. But as the stock market kept falling, Kreuger found it more and more difficult to raise capital. Rumors spread that his accounts were riddled with inconsistencies and that he was being investigated by Swedish authorities. He was able to stave off bankruptcy only when $100 million in Italian government bonds miraculously appeared in his safe. On March 12, 1932, the public woke up to the news that he had shot himself through the heart in Paris. A few weeks later the Italian bonds were revealed to be forgeries.

All of which makes for a fascinating story. Partnoy, a former investment banker, now a professor of law at the University of San Diego, does a yeoman's job of leading us through the various financial machinations that kept the Kreuger empire afloat. Along the way, much is made of how Kreuger manipulated his auditor, a hapless, almost comical New Yorker by the name of Albert D. Berning, whom Kreuger alternately charmed, bullied and bribed not to ask too many questions.

But what goes on between a man and his accountant is poor raw material for drama. When it comes to financial crimes, the general reader is interested less in the complex mechanics of how they are committed than in the personality of the criminal. The fascination of someone like Madoff, for example, lies not in how he fabricated his transactions but in trying to get behind that sphinx-like smile to unmask the man who was able to sustain so vast a lie for so long.

Kreuger was no less interesting. He had six or seven residences, a hotel suite in London, apartments in Berlin, New York and Paris, through which he supposedly rotated a string of mistresses. From his office he would try to impress visitors by apparently fielding calls from Mussolini and Stalin -- all of them, it turned out, bogus. In an interview with the Saturday Evening Post, he declared that he owed his success to three things: "One is silence; the second is more silence; while the third is still more silence."

While Partnoy takes us through a maze of accounting shenanigans -- off-balance sheet debts, nonvoting shares, the network of offshore companies through which all the money was funneled around the world -- for most of this book Kreuger remains a lifeless figure, an unfortunate victim of the author's clunky and cliché-ridden prose, which sometimes reads like a Harlequin romance. Here, for example, is Kreuger's first meeting with his accountant: "Ivar met A.D. Berning and the men looked into each other's eyes. Ivar couldn't have been more pleased." Only in the last couple of chapters, as Kreuger spends days on end locked in his private suite, muttering and nerv ing himself to suicide, does Partnoy finally seem to find his voice and partially succeed in
WASHINGTON — The new chairman of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission will ask Congress on Thursday to impose substantial new costs and restrictions on large banks and other financial institutions that deal in the complex and largely unregulated financial instruments known as derivatives.

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The plan is expected to run into sharp resistance from the industry, which this week proposed its own set of voluntary rules as part of an effort to head off more aggressive legislation. Some lawmakers who applauded Mr. Geithner’s plan said they intended to press Mr. Gensler to be more aggressive in policing the marketplace even before Congress completes work on the derivatives legislation.

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Rediscovering banking like it used to be
By Andrew Bounds
Published: June 6 2009 01:20 | Last updated: June 6 2009 01:20

Every morning at 8.45, Mike Heenan, a trim 58-year-old in a pin-stripe suit and sensible spectacles, says goodbye to his wife and sets out on the 15-minute walk to his office in the Market Square of Stafford, a town of 65,000 people in the English potteries.

There's a decent chance that on his way he will run into one or two of his customers, many of whom he knows by sight, at least. But even if he doesn't, evidence of his business's long relationship with its home town is all around in the houses that line the quiet streets - houses often bought with the mortgages that Heenan and his predecessors have been carefully doling out to the people of Stafford (and latterly to those further afield) for 132 years.

When he reaches Market Square, Heenan enters the Stafford Railway Building Society and climbs the stairs to his office on the first floor for a meeting with senior managers. It's not a grand room - Stafford Railway has only one branch and 17 staff - and it doubles as Heenan's office at the accountancy firm Dean Statham, where he still has clients.

In an arrangement once typical of Britain's former roll of 2,000-plus building societies but unique today, Dean Statham continues to provide the building society's chief executive - or secretary, to give Heenan his more traditional title. It has done so since 1892 when George Dean, auditor of the London and North Western Railway company and founder of Dean Statham, became secretary of Stafford Railway Building Society. His son Walter took over the firm - and the society - in 1912 at the age of 21 and stayed put for the next 60 years, interrupting his work only to fight in the Great War.

Heenan is only the seventh secretary of Stafford Railway, and Walter Dean would not feel out of place if he stepped into his office today. Behind a desk topped with green leather, there is a sturdy safe. Papers on the desk include decisions on mortgage applications and the society's latest asset position, though computer screens also track currency movements and the like. Framed photographs reveal Heenan's fingers. "This coin is believed to be very rare as it could possibly be the only penny to have slipped through Mike Heenan's fingers."

It is a mark of how far banking in Britain has changed - and how fast - that Heenan, who would once have appeared the quintessential English provincial bank manager, now seems a curious throwback to an age that has not just passed but been wilfully uprooted: consigned readily to history along with the steam trains that inspired the creation of Stafford Railway.

It is only because change has been so rapacious that almost everything about the way the society operates seems odd and old-fashioned, although apt to inspire nostalgia.

Stafford Railway was founded in 1877, 24 years after the Halifax, by local townspeople, guided by civic leaders such as the mayor, the vicar and directors of the London and North Western Railway that had just opened. The aim was to help workers buy houses and develop the land along the new line. The society's first mortgage built the Mechanics' Institute, a civic building that now houses the headquarters of the Staffordshire Education Authority.

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Equally, it is only because change has been so rapacious that almost everything about the way the society operates seems odd and old-fashioned, although apt to inspire nostalgia.

At Stafford Railway, staff answer the phones. Mortgage applications are approved personally by Heenan - who, by industry standards, earns a very modest £139,000 - or his deputy, Susan Whiting. Customers are sized up by experienced negotiators, not shovelled through standard credit-scoring procedures. Stafford railway will not lend more than 75 per cent of a property's value, or above 3.5 times income. The society offers only one residential mortgage product, with interest charged at its standard variable rate (currently 3.49 per cent, and 4.5 per cent for buy-to-let). The lack of choice could easily be put down to an over-cautious conservatism but it is a result of a sober assessment that the society could not offer the same value and customer service if it varied its products. Offering discounted or fixed rates to new borrowers penalises existing ones - and leaves little room for manoeuvre if base rates change fast as they have done recently. To avoid possible conflicts of interest, Stafford does not sell life assurance, travel insurance or repayment vehicles for interest-only mortgages. It has only had to repossess two homes in the past decade.

Stafford currently has outstanding mortgage loans worth £130m to 1,750 borrowers and deposits from more than 14,000 savers totalling £160m - so it lends out a bit less than it takes in, an extremely prudent way of doing things. And although it is small, its traditional approach has helped it to win numerous awards.

The squandered legacy
Stafford Railway was one of Britain's 10 smallest building societies

http://www.ft.com/cms/s/2/9310590e-4fde-11de-a692-00144feabdc0,dwp_uuid=a712eb94-...
including What Mortgage magazine’s Best Overall Lender and Best National Building Society for the past five years. After the FT first reported on Stafford last autumn, others took an interest. The Daily Mirror dubbed it the “safest bank in Britain” while the News of the World and Sunday Express wrote glowingly about its approach to saving and lending.

Of course, the contrast with the rest of Britain’s high street banks (several outcomes of which Heenan can see from his office window) is now all too obvious. In the fiasco that followed, customer service at Stafford was rated one of the worst in the country.

Heenan then rises to give his “state of the nation report” and it is immediately clear that this is what the 63 customers mostly remain loyal. The pursuit of shareholder value damaged the business.

The staff seems to attract refugees from exactly this type of bank. Mike Smith, who recently joined the board as a non-executive director, was a local branch manager for a high street bank but became disillusioned and left to become a regional manager for Handelsbanken, the Swedish bank. In his new job, he says, managers have less discretion over lending. Previously, “it was just about pushing products. Bonuses were tied to targets and there was no room for discretion. The rhetoric is all about customer service. That’s fine, but your ability to deliver it and do due diligence is diminished in a chase for growth. A monkey could have taken the lending decisions.”

Heenan then reads out his “state of the nation report” and it is immediately clear that this is what the 63 building society members and associated business contacts have to hear. His hands thrust in his pockets, the spotlight falls upon him. He begins by recalling last year’s address, when he warned about bankers trading in complicated derivative products that they did not understand. He castigated the greed, the bonus culture and the “too clever by half” financial engineering of many banks. His audience, wearied by the latest round of bank bailouts, starts to yawn. But at that time the bank manager was a fearless character who often seemed intent on stopping you doing what you wanted rather than trying to sell you the latest loan along with every bolt-on product he could find. His first bank was the Midland Bank. He told me I couldn’t have the car loan that I wanted; I would have to trim back a bit. It was good advice.

He quotes a leader from The Times on the stampede by building societies to shed their mutual status, driven by the desire to grow. “Those expressing doubts were ridiculed as steam train enthusiasts, hopeless romantics trying to save a business model that had no place in electrified modern capitalism.”

And there he stands, behind him the logo of Stafford Railway Building Society: a steam train.

Lately, mutual ownership has regained some of the intellectual currency it lost during the go-go years, when lending was let rip and cheap access to the wholesale money markets made cautionless reliance on deposits from savers look like a ruthlessly uncommercial way to run a bank. Ministers have been heard thinking out loud about the perceived virtues of mutual ownership: consumer financing, a culture of responsibility, good customer service and so on.

Building societies, however, have not dodged every bullet to hit the banking industry. In March, Dunfermline Building Society had to be rescued after it got into trouble. Its demise, say its critics, was down to a badly timed push to ramp up its commercial property lending, using funds from the wholesale money markets that it had raised to pay for the mistakes of others – Stafford is not the only small building society to have seen its profits dented by having to pay out millions of records should be maintained and updated every day with almost no errors. This activity does not require flair or imagination but does require conscientious individuals with integrity and loyalty. The Halifax was a precision machine that made the most of the talents of ordinary people. I came to understand the fundamental incompleteness of the cultures of retail and investment banking and why the marriage of the two so often leads to tears."

He concluded: "Those conscientious people who process deposits and issue mortgages are still there, though many have had the worst weekend of their lives. The business they do continues to make money. Customers mostly remain loyal. The pursuit of shareholder value damaged both shareholder value and the business. We let them all down."

To read John Kay’s original column in full, go to www.ft.com/squanderedlegacy

John Kay, the FT columnist, was a director of the Halifax, Britain’s biggest building society, in 1997 when it took the decision to convert itself into a bank. Last year, after the Halifax was rescued from collapse by Lloyds TSB, he unfriended releasing his role in an epistolary tale that he said summed up the financial crisis.

A simple business model, whereby funds are generally lent on the basis of funds received, where profit is generated to maintain financial stability and not for personal gain, and where you only lend people money that they can afford to repay – not just based on their current circumstances but allowing some margin for the unforeseen – is the model that works,” he intones.

"Many of us of my generation will remember their first bank manager. It was one of those things you always remembered, like your first car and perhaps your first love. But at that time the bank manager was a fearsome character who often seemed intent on stopping you doing what you wanted rather than trying to sell you the latest loan along with every bolt-on product he could find. My first bank manager was A. Nutter” – a pause for laughter – “from the Midland Bank. He told me I couldn’t have the car loan that I wanted; I would have to trim back a bit. It was good advice. Bankers have to learn to say no again.”

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the home he bought back then with the loan he obtained from a less risk-averse lender.

Some elements of the way Stafford Railway manages its affairs are, however, coming under scrutiny, most obviously the greater reliance on deposits by savers to fund banks' lending, though that of course means they cannot make as much profit as they did before. The personal touch, too, is on people's minds. “Everyone is talking about customer service,” said John Goodfellow, editor of Retail Banker International. “The likes of HSBC and Barclays could not follow Stafford Railway – costs would be too high – but branch banking is back. They want a presence on the high street with good staff.”

The question of what it costs to run a bank as Heenan does cuts both ways, however, as we now know. Stafford Railway specialises in what Frank Partnoy, professor of law and finance at the University of San Diego, calls soft information – knowing the customer, their relationships, the local area. Traders were looking at models not individuals. Perhaps assessing and pricing risk is better done by humans than by markets. Yes, doing it this way costs more, he acknowledges, but it could still work out less than the trillions so far spent on cleaning up the current crisis.

Nonetheless, Partnoy has reservations. “The question is whether we would pay [the extra costs] without having the damage first,” he says. “I'm sceptical. I think we will always have these cycles of mania.”

You are unlikely to feel yourself sucked into a cycle of mania at the dinner for members and contacts that follows Stafford Railway's annual general meeting. Heenan's PR people always lay on some entertainment for the guests. Last year they hired a magician. The pièce de résistance, though, came at the end of the meal when one guest at each table rose to join the waiters in song, all of them revealing themselves to be professional opera singers.

This time a harpist plays as guests arrive and the post-prandial entertainment comes from the Barbara Walton Singers, who run through a collection of Gilbert and Sullivan-type English standards before their show reaches its climax, in which they perform the blurb from the building society's website as if it were a psalm. Somewhat surprisingly, it's a gag that works. Heenan is not the only one beaming.

Last to speak at the dinner, as the clock ticks towards midnight, is John Goodfellow, the then chairman of the Building Societies Association. A diminutive Scot, Goodfellow extols the strength of the mutual model, which, he points out, has withstood numerous recessions. "It is your society and don't let anybody take it away from you," he growls at the end to raucous cheers. After he sits down, Heenan flits from table to table, buying drinks, chatting with his members, checking everyone is happy.

Andrew Bounds is the FT's north of England correspondent

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Putting conservation first

Energy-saving insulation, lighting and appliances urged before solar panels

By BRADLEY J. FIJES
brades@nctimes.com

The solution to California's energy crunch is as close as your rooftops, say advocates of home solar electricity.

Local leaders have endorsed solar electricity as a way of making San Diego County energy independent.

Cities in the region are working on plans to encourage its adoption.

Given the region's famously sunny climate, it seems natural.

But some energy experts say the rush to photovoltaic, or PV, home energy is obscuring an even better way to balance the energy budget: Conservation first.

"The best energy saved is the energy you didn't consume in the first place."

GEORGE GISSEL
Vice president of business development at Independent Energy Solutions

It's much cheaper to insulate well and install low-energy-use appliances and lighting.

While new homes often have those conservation features, millions of less-efficient older homes represent untapped energy savings, said Scott Anderson, director of the Energy Policy Initiative at the University of San Diego School of Law.

Solving energy first is also more cost-effective than installing a solar system for tens of thousands of dollars on an energy-wasting home, he said.

Anders found wide agreement with his views at a panel discussion on energy issues in late May at the California Center for the Arts, Escondido.

Because power plants are expensive to build, panelists said, the least costly way to balance supply and demand is to...
Conservation

continued from Page A1

reduce demand, especially at peak times.

"The best energy saved is the energy you didn’t consume in the first place," said George Eidt, vice president of business development at Independent Energy Systems, a PV installer. "We’re all for seeing both residential and commercial clients focus on energy conservation first."

Countering sticker shock Solar systems are major investments, said David Lloyd, an attorney with RKG Energy Inc., owner of the Racine Power Station in Carlsbad.

Lloyd said the cost is an obstacle to plans made by local governments to encourage rooftop solar electricity.

"You don’t want to go out and spend $40,000 up front to put PV on your roof," Lloyd said.

Solar power is also seasonally limited in its usefulness, said parallels Robert Anderson, director of resource planning at San Diego Gas & Electric Co.

"Our peak in the winter is about 8 o’clock at night. Rooftop solar isn’t going to give me any power at 8 o’clock at night," Anderson said.

That means much of the time a PV system generates no power, making it less economical, he said.

To help homeowners overcome that hurdle, the state is distributing $1.1 billion in incentives in the California Solar Initiative program.

The ratepayer-funded program provides residents with thousands or tens of thousands of dollars in savings, depending on the size and other characteristics of their solar system.

Residential solar installations in Southwest Riverside County received a median of $5,000 in incentives, according to Shames.

In North County, the median for incentives was $5,500.

The median is the midpoint where half the incentive amounts were less, and half greater.

Advocates for both Federal help for energy conservation has been increased through the stimulus bill, including increased tax credits for those who insulate their homes, install solar PV and hot-water systems, and geothermal heat pumps.

Solar power and energy efficiency complement each other, said Anderson, of the Energy Policy Initiatives Center.

After making a home energy-efficient, owners can always add a rooftop PV system, he said.

However, Michael Fikes, executive director of Utility Consumers Action Network, defended the cost-effectiveness of rooftop solar.

"Solar panels are the most cost-effective capital investment that a homeowner can make ... especially one that has already pursued the easy energy efficiency measures," Shames wrote in an e-mail.

"The attractive part of the solar PV investment for a household is the ability of customers to substantially cut their peak usage and for the option of being able to use that generated electricity for fueling their cars (plug-in hybrids) as well as other applications," he wrote.

Anderson said he isn’t disagreeing with Shames, because those "easy energy efficiency measures" are those he advocates doing first.

And once a home has been made energy-efficient, he said, a smaller and less expensive solar system might suffice.

Energy efficiency is on the rise.

How one remodeler does it

As solar power and other environmental issues become prominent, remodelers are responding to the demand.

One of them is Marrokal Design and Remodeling.

On a recent project at a Del Mar home, the company installed energy-efficient LED (light-emitting diode) lighting, a high-efficiency tankless water heater and solar electric panels.

The LEDs produce the same amount of light with 1 watt that would require 20 watts with traditional incandescent bulbs, said Mike Centurro, a design consultant with Marrokal.

Appropriately, the glass for the bar countertop was recycled from beer bottles, Centurro said.

And Veracruz’s headquarter itself is recycled: It’s an old Ford manufacturing plant in Richmond.

And the flooring is made from bamboo, which grows especially fast, making it an easily renewable construction material, Centurro said.

Marrokal’s approach to building has three main facets, Centurro said: a healthy lifestyle, environmental preservation, and saving water and energy.

Call staff writer Bradley J. Fikes at 760-730-6374. His blog is at bitblogs.sctimes.com.

FOR MORE...

In San Diego County, the solar incentive are administered by the California Center for Sustainable Energy, a community development program that provides residents with energy incentives, including conservation, It can be reached at www.energycenter.org or 888-544-1477.

SCA will discuss home solar systems at a public meeting June 15 in Wildomar.

These lights, seen in a Del Mar home, are made of LED or light-emitting diodes. JOHN KOSTER / For the North County Times.

Installing is from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the utility’s new Wildomar Service Center, 2445 Phillips Road. Those interested in attending can call 800-242-6222.

Information about the federal programs for solar and energy Star can be contacted by email through the site or by calling 888-782-2767.
Failing Kalab | Chapter 5 - Dealing with the fallout

Kalab Lay's death has sparked dialogue, but is it enough?

By Kate Braser, Libby Keeling

Sunday, June 14, 2009

EVANSVILLE — He was just a little boy, an innocent with no agenda, who inadvertently became a symbol of flaws within the system responsible for keeping children safe.

His parents' choices and circumstances, with consequences both painful and enduring, marked Kalab Lay before he was born, an unheeded warning of the marks his 3-year-old body would take to the grave.

Addiction, crime, violence, poverty, neglect and harsh punishment were Kalab's unfortunate inheritance, one for which he paid a dear and devastating price.

"I don't think there's been a child that's died in our community that's touched a nerve more than this child," said Rep. Dennis Avery, D-Evansville, a longtime champion of children's issues and transparency in the system designed to prevent maltreatment of the state's youngest citizens.

Dysfunction simmering for decades in Kalab's family finally erupted within a system that had numerous opportunities, but ultimately failed, to keep him safe from harm.

"Kalab opened many doors to possibilities so that children do not have to endure what he had to endure. The question is how many people are willing to walk through the doors that he has opened," said Melanie Doty of the WE CARE (Wholeness, Empowerment, Community, Awareness, Recognition and Education) project that supported the victims' rights bill, authored by Rep. Gail Riecken, D-Evansville, and signed into law in May.

"It's just a matter of when are people going to walk through those doors and do what needs to be done to protect our children," said Doty.

Amanda Brooks, Kalab's mother, was abused and neglected as a child. Kalab's father, Terry Lay, was a juvenile delinquent who matured into a felon with a lengthy criminal history including episodes of violence.

The volatile combination of Brooks, 34, and Lay, 41, ultimately proved deadly. Three months into a court-ordered visit with his parents in the family's home at Eastbrook Mobile Home Park, Kalab died of blunt-force trauma. Both he and his twin sister, Kayla, had been brutally beaten, reportedly by their parents, over a period of days.

"I think it is absolutely clear that the biggest problem was the judge ignored recommendations from the people close to the case," Avery said.

Embracing the memory of a boy they never knew, outraged individuals in the community came together, crying out for justice, holding vigil, raising funds for Kalab's headstone, promoting awareness of abuse and neglect and calling for legislative change.
"There were a number of incidences where children suffered unfortunate tragedies as a result of abuse and neglect," said Rep. Suzanne Crouch, R-Evansville, who co-authored the bill known as Kalab's Law with Riecken.

The bill was referred to but did not receive reading in the House Judiciary Committee. The bill calls for a registry of those convicted of child-selling, neglect of a dependent or battery upon a child.

Indiana has not released its 2008 data, but in 2007, 36 Hoosier children died as a result of maltreatment by caregivers. In Illinois fiscal year 2008, 88 children died as a result of abuse or neglect. The most recent data available from Kentucky is from 2005, when abuse or neglect took the lives of 41 children.

"It's all the Kalab Lays throughout the state that cause legislation like this to be drafted ..." Crouch said.

Although 14 months have passed since Kalab was killed, his legacy — including demand for transparency and accountability in child protective services — has endured even as new tragedies have moved into the headlines.

At best, Kalab's story will promote successful outcomes within the system that failed in its duty to protect him and keep him safe.

"In my opinion, it brought to light to everyone, especially in this community, how important it is to report any child abuse and neglect," said Suzanne Draper, executive director of Vanderburgh County CASA (the Court Appointed Special Advocate program).

The amount of information released about Kalab's life and death has fueled the community's passion, Doty said.

The Courier & Press obtained a copy of Kalab's Indiana Department of Child Services death investigation file through legislation championed by Avery in 2004. The law requires disclosure of DCS investigations into the death or near-death of a child as a result of abuse, abandonment or neglect.

In the first three months of this year alone, three children ages 16 months and younger have died, reportedly as a result of action or inaction by parents or stepparents.

"I just don't think it's right using him as a poster child," said Kalab's uncle and Brooks' brother, Patrick Lawrence. Ongoing media coverage and the community's focus on Kalab have been difficult on Kalab's surviving half brothers, who are in their teens, said Lawrence.

Still, it is Kalab who wears the mantle of child welfare reform.

Kalab was just a little boy who liked jelly beans and Spider-Man, according to his obituary; a little boy who enjoyed cartoons and playing with his twin, according to the Indiana DCS investigation; a little boy described as holding "big secrets" by former babysitter Heidi Frazure; and a little boy who died of traumatic brain injuries from repeated blows to the head, according to Vanderburgh County Coroner Annie Groves.

He was a little boy who never had the chance to blow out candles on his fourth birthday cake or pick out school supplies for the first day of kindergarten.

He was just a little boy, beaten, neglected and allowed to die by the people who were supposed to love him most.

In December, Brooks pleaded guilty to neglect of a dependent resulting in death in connection with Kalab's death and felony battery resulting in serious bodily injury to a person less than 14 years of age related to the physical abuse Kayla suffered.
The plea agreement includes a sentencing recommendation of 20 years on the battery count and 35 years on the count of neglect to be served concurrently in the Indiana Department of Correction.

It also stipulates Brooks must testify "completely and truthfully" against Lay if called upon to do so. Vanderburgh Superior Court Judge Robert Pigman is waiting to impose a sentence until Brooks has cooperated fully with law enforcement and testified against the man she filed for divorce from in February.

If the judge accepts the plea agreement, charges of murder, neglect of a dependent resulting in serious bodily injury and battery resulting in bodily injury will be dismissed.

Authorities believe Brooks and Lay physically abused the twins, but Lay is responsible for Kalab's fatal injuries.

Lay is charged with murder, neglect of a dependent resulting in death and neglect of a dependent resulting in serious bodily injury and is scheduled to stand trial in September in Jeffersonville, Ind.

If convicted in Clark County Circuit Court, where the case was moved because of pretrial publicity, the jury also could deem Lay to be a habitual offender, which could add as many as 30 years to his sentence.

According to Brooks' public defender, she was sexually, physically and mentally abused by men for more than 20 years. Speaking on the day of her plea, Evansville attorney Russ Woodson said evidence shows abuse continued after Brooks married Lay.

As a result of her background, Woodson said he did not think Brooks was capable of being a good mother. Avery concurs, saying child abuse is a learned behavior passed from one generation to the next.

That doesn't sit well with everyone.

"Being a product of generational abuse is no excuse, because you are a grown-up," Doty said. "You know you have choices and it is up to you to make the choices that are best for your child and yourself."

Information in Kalab's file indicating Brooks faced a 1997 charge of child neglect in Delaware County, Ind., is incorrect, Lawrence said. The Delaware County Clerk's Office could not confirm the charge.

Lay, however, pleaded guilty in 1996 to felony charges of resisting law enforcement and neglect of a dependent after being accused of fleeing Evansville police while "driving at an excessively high rate of speed, running stop signs and weaving in and out of traffic" with his 2-year-old and a 3-year-old in the car, according to court records.

He was sentenced to three years in the Indiana Department of Correction. The children's mother, Roselyn Stanton, was facing jail time on a separate matter and there reportedly was no one to care for the children, Lay told Illinois Department of Children and Family Services during a 2007 assessment. The couple relinquished their parental rights, and the boy and girl were adopted.

Lay has said there was "no doubt in his mind" Brooks caused Kalab's injuries, and told investigators he had no knowledge of the injuries Kayla suffered.

Lawrence said his sister told him Lay delivered the fatal beating four days before Kalab's hospitalization on March 31, 2008.

"My theory is that Amanda knew something had happened, OK? Something serious had happened. I think Amanda was scared. I think Amanda knew that once she took that baby to the hospital, here it goes all over again. They're going to come yank up all the kids. Here we go all over again, domino effect," Lawrence said.
"I believe Amanda was hoping everything was going to be all right and that (Kalab) would pull through. The worst-case scenario happened, you know what I mean? He died."

Kalab was seen last by an Illinois caseworker March 18, when Reagan Nelson of Lutheran Social Services informed the family she would be out of the office until March 31.

On April 1, Brooks' mother, Patricia Bivens, called Nelson at 8:45 a.m.: "(Bivens) was crying and screaming and telling (Nelson) how sorry she was. She did not know what was going on in the home," according to the caseworker's notes.

Bivens said Brooks had told her Kalab was brain dead, at which point Nelson became "speechless."

Both Brooks and Lay already were incarcerated at the Vanderburgh County Jail as Kalab remained on life support in preparation for organ procurement April 2.

His heart went to a 23-month-old girl in Wisconsin; his liver to a 1-year-old girl in Ohio; and both kidneys to a 75-year-old Ohio woman, according to Rick Posson, Indiana Organ Procurement spokesman.

When Kalab was hospitalized, one of Brooks' sons from her first marriage was living with the family at 2415 Long Point Drive. His father picked him up. Indiana DCS took custody of Kayla; Brooks' nearly 2-year-old daughter, whom Lay had not fathered; and the couple's 1-month-old son.

Bivens sought custody of the surviving Lay children: the older two, still in their Illinois foster home; Kayla, who was returned to her Illinois foster home; and the two younger children, who were placed in Vanderburgh County foster care.

Her effort was unsuccessful, turned down because of a "significant history" with child welfare services that began with allegations of abuse and neglect of her own children in the mid-1970s, according to an Indiana DCS report.

Lawrence said he believes Brooks has relinquished her parental rights to the five surviving children she had during her relationship with Lay. He does not know if Lay has relinquished his parental rights.

However, Lawrence said no one in Brooks' family, including her two oldest sons, is being allowed to visit any of the children who are wards of Indiana or Illinois.

"I sit back and cry sometimes about that. I really do," Lawrence said. "I loved them all."

Illinois DCFS spokesman Kendall Marlowe said when children are in the system, sibling visitation is a high priority. Maintaining sibling contact is of critical importance to children, he said, and DCFS operates under a mandate requiring good faith efforts to facilitate visitation for siblings and half siblings not placed together or not in the system.

"Once a child is adopted, the adoptive parents have sole legal authority to make decisions about who a child sees and when, just like any other legal parent," Marlowe said.

In Indiana, sibling visitation occurs at the discretion of the presiding juvenile judge, said Indiana DCS spokeswoman Ann Houseworth.

The last official word on the status of the three children in Illinois came from Saline County (Ill.) State's Attorney Mike Henshaw, who said the process for termination of parental rights is on hold.

Although Saline County Circuit Court Judge Todd Lambert was voted out of office by a narrow margin in November, he was appointed in January to serve as an associate judge. Henshaw said Lambert has recused himself from the Lay children's proceedings.
In the weeks after Kalab's death, Vanderburgh Juvenile Court Judge Brett Niemeier attempted to provide insight into the workings of the court and DCS by granting media access to the proceedings of the two youngest children in the Brooks-Lay case, who were — and still may be — in local foster care.

Niemeier also cited specific Indiana Code stating a juvenile judge may grant "any person having a legitimate interest in the work of the court or in a particular case access to the court's legal records."

In June 2008, the Indiana Court of Appeals granted a motion for a temporary stay filed by Brooks' attorney, effectively barring the media from attending the custody proceedings. The court later ruled Niemeier erred in releasing CHINS (children-in-need of services) records related to Kalab's siblings.

"Openness and transparency better serve children," said Amy Harfeld, executive director of First Star, a nonprofit organization in Washington, D.C., that focuses on improving the lives of children victimized by abuse and neglect.

Both Harfeld and Avery said Indiana law gives juvenile court judges the authority to open or close proceedings.

"More often than not, when decisions are made to try to keep proceedings a secret, the state is more interested in protecting the identity of their employees who may have erred than they are other children that may be at risk after a fatality like this," Harfeld said.

In April 2008, First Star and the University of San Diego School of Law's Children's Advocacy Institute released a report showing only a handful of states were in compliance with federal requirements for public disclosure of the deaths and near-deaths of abused and neglected children.

According to the report, a majority of states have policies giving confidentiality priority over children's welfare while preventing scrutiny that could lead to systemic reform.

The report also issued each state a letter grade based on its laws and policies related to disclosure of child death and near-death information. Only two states, Nevada and New Hampshire, earned an "A." Indiana was among four states to receive an "A-" grade.

Twenty-eight states got a "C+" or lower, and 10 flunked. Illinois earned a "B+" and Kentucky a "C-" grade.

In this year's general assembly, Avery said he worked to clarify Indiana's disclosure laws to advance the state's grade to an "A." The bill, which passed, provides more specificity in terms of what information should be released.

According to Kalab's file, the Lay twins and their two older siblings all had developmental delays, and the two living with foster parent Pam Sullens were described as having behaviors that pointed toward abuse. Kalab and Kayla were exposed to methamphetamine, alcohol and cigarette smoke while in the womb.

After Kalab was pronounced brain dead, the twins' LSSI caseworker arrived in Evansville to return Kayla to Illinois, according to notes written by Nelson and included in Kalab's file. During the drive, Nelson tried to reassure Kayla that nothing that had happened was her fault.

Standing in a McDonald's parking lot at 8 p.m., Kayla began crying. She did not want to go with the new foster parent and did not want Nelson to leave her side.

In an effort to comfort her, Nelson gave her a stuffed hippo to keep her company, a kiss and a promise to see her the next day.
Eventually, Kayla was returned to foster parents Michele and Gerald Mitchell, who had cared for Kalab and Kayla since they were removed from their parents' care at 2 months of age.

The transition from the Brooks-Lay home also proved difficult for the twins' younger sister, who was placed with the same foster parent as their 1-month-old brother.

"She still wakes up at night screaming and has to be reassured and put back to bed," the foster mother told Indiana DCS family case manager Amy Brandsasse about one week after the children arrived in her home. "(She) follows her from room to room, and they have to be in the same room."

As Indiana repeatedly denied Illinois' request to place the children across the state line in Illinois, Avery said the welfare of the younger children should have been given greater consideration.

"I wonder if those smaller children were abused ..." he said. "If those 3-year-olds were at risk, I believe those younger children were at risk."

Houseworth said statutory requirements for the interstate compact are more rigorous than those of an investigation stemming from a report of abuse or neglect.

The compact, for example, requires an FBI criminal background check while a reported allegation does not.

While the twins still were in Illinois foster care, LSSI called the Indiana child abuse hot line to report that Brooks repeatedly had lied about being pregnant. After her daughter was born in April 2006, Brooks told LSSI the child was her sister-in-law's and refused to provide access to records regarding the pregnancy and the baby's medical care.

"LSSI believes it is vital to assess her safety and well-being considering Amanda's past history," according to an Illinois DCFS report signed by LSSI caseworker Angela Nalley.

In the hot line call, Nalley reported Brooks, a prior meth user, had four children in Illinois foster care, all of whom were malnourished and in poor physical condition when they entered the system.

When Vanderburgh County DCS investigator Matt Murphy checked on Brooks, she admitted the child was hers. She said she had planned to put the baby up for adoption but changed her mind.

Murphy informed Nalley he was not concerned about the child's health because Brooks and the baby were living with Brooks' mother and had appropriate food, according to Illinois DCFS records.

In August 2006, Nalley saw Brooks and Lay after a court date they missed by arriving 30 minutes late. Nalley told the couple the case had passed legal screening, a first step in the adoption process, and Illinois DCFS would be preparing a petition to terminate their parental rights to the four children in state foster care.

One of the primary reasons for Indiana's repeated denial of interstate compact requests for the twins' placement was Lay's extensive criminal history.

"That's something we should look into. That might be something that would be valuable information for the (Indiana) DCS caseworker that's doing the investigation," Avery said. "It certainly wouldn't hurt to have that information."

While Kalab and Kayla were in Illinois foster care, three LSSI child welfare specialists working on behalf of Illinois DCFS recommended the court change its goal from returning them home to substitute care pending termination of parental rights.
The foster parents the four Lay children were placed with had indicated interest in adoption. Eight records from Kalab’s file show from July 2005 to November 2007 LSSI/DCFS recommendations to the court almost were split equally among returning the children to their biological parents, terminating parental rights and preparing the case for legal screening, a step in the adoption process.

"The whole system in itself is very complex and there's a lot that goes into these types of cases and the end result is horrific ..." said Draper, executive director of Vanderburgh County's CASA. "It's a more complex issue with two states involved."

The Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children has been in place for decades, said Anita Light, director of the American Public Human Services Association in Washington, D.C. The Association of Administrators of the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children is an affiliate of that association.

Under the ICPC, the association of administrators has the authority to advance regulations related to more effective application of the compact’s terms as well as to mediate disputes potentially arising between states.

When 35 states have ratified a new version of the ICPC, it will take effect. So far, nine states — including Indiana — have ratified. ICPC program manager Carla Fults said Kentucky has introduced the legislation, and Illinois has attempted to move toward ratification but the legislation has not passed.

Both Light and Fults declined to discuss the specifics of the Brooks-Lay case. However, Fults did say the existing ICPC includes language outlining violations, but the determination of whether a violation of the compact has occurred is left to individual states.

Enforcement authority, data collection, electronic usage, constitutionality, judicial authority and private versus independent adoption were among the issues evaluated in preparing the new ICPC, Fults said.

Providing more guidance to help states better understand what's expected and what can be resolved from one state to another are among the reasons for the development of the new ICPC, Light said.

The new compact would provide greater uniformity in application but not complete uniformity.

"States are very much in the business of accountability and examining what it is they're doing, where improvements need to be made and a real objective analysis of the kinds of resources that are needed to provide those services to children and families," Light said.

Indiana denied Illinois' third request for an interstate compact in March 2008 after the twins were placed with their parents.

"The interstate compact as currently written requires cooperation between states toward the protection of children and has achieved that goal in thousands of cases over the years," Marlowe said.

"The compact only succeeds ... when agencies, courts and attorneys fully understand and implement its requirements."

Illinois and Indiana authorities began exploring another agreement in support of the compact and to better coordinate the work of agencies, courts and attorneys in both states after Kalab's death, Marlowe said.

"In our day-to-day practice, we have increased scrutiny and follow-up on cases that were denied under the compact to ensure that they are handled properly," Marlowe said.

In addition to Lay's criminal history, an interstate compact was denied because of both parents' convictions on methamphetamine-related charges and lack of bonding between the twins and their parents.
Vanderburgh County DCS informed Illinois DCFS the twins should be removed from the Evansville home in a letter dated March 14, 2008 — 18 days before Kalab died.

"Due to the fact it was a judicial order that sent the children here, we were unable to take any action," Houseworth said.

If the same situation were to arise today, with a "sending" state ignoring denial by Indiana as the "receiving" state, Avery said changes in state law would allow Indiana to take the sending state to court.

Indiana DCS officials have said they still were waiting for Illinois to remove the children from the home when Kalab died.

If Indiana can be faulted for anything in the case, Avery said, it would be an unwillingness to get involved.

"Our unwillingness was based on sound reasoning," he said. "The children shouldn't have been in that family. ... This judge pretty much ignored the law."

Initially, Brooks and Lay indicated they would like the surviving children to be placed with Brooks' mother. However, in the divorce documents Brooks filed, she declined the opportunity to recommend someone to assume custody of the children.

Susan Tielking, former Indiana DCS spokeswoman, said the case caused state officials to reconsider policies for supervision of children who are placed in a home where an interstate compact was denied.

"Every year it seems like we do a little bit more but the only way we can know about those problems is if someone brings them to our attention," Avery said. "It seems like children keep dying and it should be of concern to us all. Is there something else we could be doing?"
Watching Home Prices Fall, and Cheering

In the height of bailout fever last fall, I wrote a story addressing some potential stakes of the various mortgage rescue plans under lawmaker consideration here and nationally.

I think it's always important to remind ourselves that beyond the throngs of underwater homeowners, there are others who stand to have their futures dramatically affected by government intervention in the housing market.

In that story, criticism of the various plans -- some of which have begun to be implemented -- ranged from those who worried that a bailout would entice people to quit making their payments to renters concerned that their tax dollars would go to artificially prop up a housing market that had seen prices soar unreasonably this decade because of easy-to-get loans.

In the story, I talked to Lesley McAllister, an assistant law professor at the University of San Diego. She and her husband and two kids rent a home in Mission Hills. They made the decision to rent and not buy -- even though they were homeowners in Northern California before they moved here three years ago -- during the boom, when prices were exploding.

People like the McAllisters and the Survival reader who moved to Wichita, often see home price declines as a good thing: a sign of a market on its way to a point of equilibrium. Even though prices are down 42.3 percent from their peak in November 2005, the local Case-Shiller index reading shows prices are still 47 percent higher than they were at the start of 2000.

Here's a bit from that story:

If prices keep falling, renters such as McAllister anticipate they'll be able to afford a house with a traditional mortgage, without stretching themselves to the limit or banking on future appreciation to make homeownership attainable.

Their voice was drowned out by the drumbeat of housing frenzy, and they dread being overshadowed again. They fear government plans to keep homeowners in their houses will unnaturally keep prices at unaffordable levels in some places. By helping homeowners stay in homes they could've never afforded without using exotic loans, governments might artificially buttress prices that have further to fall, McAllister said.

I checked in with McAllister last week to find out if she's begun to search for a home to buy. She wrote back this note and gave me permission to share it with you:

We are still renting. We don't think that prices in Mission Hills, where we think we'd like to buy, have come down enough. Rents have actually come down such that you can find a pretty nice [three bedroom, two bath] to rent for $2,500 or so. But sellers still seem to think they should be able to get $1,000,000 plus for a similar house. And just today a seller listed a house that they bought for $1,285 million in February 2007 for $1,475-$1,525 million (15% more). Until purchase prices come more into line with rents, we'll keep renting!

Are you in the same camp as the McAllisters? What signs are you watching in your neighborhood that will tell you it's time to buy? Anyone planning to rent long-term? Why? Leave your thoughts in the comments below (if you're reading this in Survival, if not, go there), or you can always drop me an e-mail at kelly.bennett@voiceofsandiego.org.—

KELLY BENNETT
School of Leadership and Education Sciences
State Sen. Gloria Romero, chair of the California Senate Education Committee, will visit the University of San Diego Friday to join in a forum discussing the state of education in California.

The forum, hosted by the school's Center for Education Policy and Law (CEPAL) and the San Diego County Office of Education, will be held from 2-3:30 p.m. in Mother Rosalie Hill Hall on the USD campus.

Romero also serves as chair of the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee on Education.

She will be joined by a panel of area educational leaders to discuss state education policy issues and those of most concern to San Diego County. Topics to be covered include greater school district flexibility, adequacy and equity of funding, teacher tenure and seniority, and role of the legislature in improving public education.

Panelists will include Jesus Gandara, superintendent of Sweetwater Union High School District; Todd Gutchow, Poway Unified School District board member; and Randy Ward, San Diego County Superintendent of Schools.

The session is open to local education and community leaders. Interested attendees should RSVP at sandiego.edu/cepal.

CEPAL is a joint undertaking of USD's School of Leadership and Education Sciences and the School of Law. Its mission is to foster better linkage between educational research, policymaking and practice. The center is led by Scott Himelstein, former deputy Secretary of Education for the state of California.
School officials around California are faced with the prospect of cutting seven days of school next year as a result of the state's money problems. But how does that loss affect student learning?

Education experts say a lot.
California is one of 42 states where students come to class 180 days a year. Some experts say each day matters in today's world of standards-based instruction and accountability. That's why they and other school reformers are upset with the Governor's proposal to cut the school year.

Helen Mendell directs student teaching at the University of San Diego. She says cutting school days can mean students don't learn a new set of spelling and vocabulary words, or a new set of math skills.

She says research shows kids need more class time to move forward.

"We think that school should be longer, we should have more school days," Mendell said. "Our research shows the more the kids are in school, the greater the academic gains. We know when they're out of school over the summer, they slide back."

State education officials say local school districts will determine how to structure their calendar to accommodate for the lost days. In some cash-strapped states, districts have opted to have four-day school weeks. However, officials tack-on more instruction hours within those four days.

The need to scale back on school days because of budgetary reasons comes at the same time U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan is financially rewarding districts for finding ways to lengthen the school day and school year.
Experts Worry About "Summer Learning Loss"

By Ana Tintocalis

Monday, June 22, 2009

Summer school programs across San Diego County have been scaled back because of the state cuts to education. KPBS Reporter Ana Tintocalis says education advocates worry about the "summer learning loss" that will result:

The "summer learning loss" is a term experts use when students lose their academic edge after the summer break. Maybe they're not as quick with converting fractions -- or maybe they take longer to read a book.

Education advocates say this year's "summer learning loss" could be even worse than in years past because summer school programs have been slashed.

Helen Mendell directs student teaching at the University of San Diego. She says elementary school kids are the most vulnerable.

"Young kids, especially, the gains they’ve made in reading and math, they slide back," Mendell said. "So then there’s reviewing and re-teaching things. That's one of the reasons the year-round school movement started."

School district officials agree, but say there's not much they can do. The state money to support summer schools are now being used to plug district budget deficits.

In fact, most San Diego County school districts are only reserving summer school only for students who are behind academically.

San Diego Unified is perhaps the only district that has expanded its program because close to half of the district's student population -- about 60,000 -- is considered basic or below basic in reading and math.

The district's Chuck Morris says summer school is now considered an extension of the school year. He says kids who don't do well this summer risk being held back.

"You come in, take it seriously, do your work," Morris said. "In many cases, it's not only the students. Some teachers differ in terms of how they teach summer school. We're trying to make sure there's quality control there that says our students are going to get the best they can get."

Morris says its part of making sure the district meets state and federal academic targets.
Leaders discuss nonprofits' roles, survival in recession

ESCONDIDO, Jun 04, 2009 (North County Times - McClatchy-Tribune Information Services via COMTEX) -- Some 100 Escondido leaders exchanged ideas at a Wednesday morning forum for keeping local nonprofit groups open and serving the community during the current recession.

With nearly 400 charities registered as 501(c)(3) organizations in the city, everyone from Mayor Lori Holt Pfeifer to a panel of seven nonprofit experts weighed in on strategies to weather the economic storm and improve how charitable groups that serve Escondido's residents.

The word of the day seemed to be "collaboration," as various leaders encouraged nonprofit groups to work together.

"Probably the only good thing about an economic recession is collaboration, because people are forced to work hand in hand to get things accomplished," said Jerry Van Leeuwen, Escondido's director of community services.

Van Leeuwen said many of Escondido's nonprofit groups provide services that complement the work of other organizations, and that working together will make nonprofit operations more efficient and effective.

He said the city can provide support to many of those efforts.

While no action was taken Wednesday, event organizer Katie Ragazzi said the meeting was aimed at launching a dialogue on how local nonprofit groups will continue their work in the face of decreasing revenue and increased demand for their services.

Pfeifer praised local nonprofit leaders for picking up where government assistance stops.

"The city can put a system together ... that allows you all to be successful, but you're the ones doing the work, touching people one at a time and building community," she said.

Later in the meeting, NonProfit Resource Group Director Debbi Stanley told the audience of nonprofit administrators to focus on the focus of their organizations during tough times.

"You have to know who you're serving. You have to know who you're trying to serve. That has not changed," Stanley said. "Fundraising is marketing. Fundraising is getting your message out there." Laura Deitrick, a researcher at the University of San Diego, said during the meeting at the Escondido Chamber of Commerce that health care and education are the top two nonprofit services in every community.

Deitrick called the recession's effect on the nonprofit sector a "quiet crisis," saying, "Nobody's telling anybody else, 'We're about to go out of business,' or, 'We're laying people off.'" Yet, in a United Way survey of San Francisco-area nonprofit groups released last month, a third of the organizations polled said they were in danger of closing within a year, and one-fifth had already laid off employees, even as 63 percent reported an increase in demand, said Deitrick.

Numbers were unavailable for San Diego County, which has more than 12,000 organizations listed as 501(c) with the state, but Deitrick indicated that North County groups are feeling the economic pain, too.

Paul Savo, executive director of a nonprofit drug recovery facility called the Fellowship Center, said that he has seen a marked increase in demand recently.
The center served 480 men in 2008, most from Escondido, and has a waiting list with dozens of men seeking assistance, he said.

"When you rehabilitate one individual, it gives back so much to the community that it's almost incalculable," said Savo, adding that nonprofit groups contribute more than services for the needy. "We shop locally, and we try to put our money back into Escondido ... and it's not just the Fellowship Center -- that's probably every nonprofit in this community." To see more of the North County Times, or to subscribe to the newspaper, go to http://www.nctimes.com. Copyright (c) 2009, North County Times, Escondido, Calif. Distributed by McClatchy-Tribune Information Services. For reprints, email tmsreprints@permissionsgroup.com, call 800-374-7985 or 847-635-6550, send fax to 847-635-6968, or write to The Permissions Group Inc., 1247 Milwaukee Ave., Suite 303, Glenview, IL 60025, USA.
Leaders discuss roles of nonprofit groups

By TOM PFINGSTEN
tpfingsten@nctimes.com

100 Escondido leaders exchanged ideas at a Wednesday morning forum for keeping local nonprofit groups open and serving the community during the current recession.

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"Probably the only good thing about an economic recession is collaboration, because people are forced to work hand in hand to get things accomplished," said Jerry Van Leeuwen, Escondido's director of community services.

Van Leeuwen said many of Escondido's nonprofit groups provide services that complement the work of other organizations, and that working together will make nonprofit operations more efficient and effective.

He said the city can provide support to many of those efforts.

While no action was taken Wednesday, event organizer Katie Ragazzi said the meeting was aimed at launching a dialogue on how local nonprofit groups will continue their work in the face of decreasing revenue and increased demand for their services.

Pfeifer praised local nonprofit leaders for picking up where government assistance stops.

"The city can put a system together ... that allows you all to be successful, but you're the ones doing the work, touching people one at a time and building community," she said.

Later in the meeting, Nonprofit Resource Group Director Debbi Stanley told the audience of nonprofit administrators to strengthen the focus of their organizations during tough times.

"You have to know where you're going, you have to know who you're trying to serve. That has not changed," Stanley said. "Fundraising is marketing. Fundraising is getting your message out there."

Laura Deitrick, a researcher at the University of San Diego, said during the meeting at the Escondido Chamber of Commerce that health care and education are the top two nonprofit services in every community.

Deitrick called the recession's effect on the nonprofit sector a "quiet crisis," saying, "Nobody's telling anybody else, 'We're about to go out of business,' or, 'We're laying people off.'"

Yet, in a United Way survey of San Francisco-area nonprofit groups released last month, a third of the organizations polled said they were in danger of closing within a year, and one-fifth had already laid off employees, even as 63 percent reported an increase in demand, said Deitrick.

Numbers were unavailable for San Diego County, which has more than 1,600 organizations listed as 501(c) with the state, but a recent indicator that community groups are in tough economic pain, according to Deitrick.

Savo, executive director of a nonprofit drug recovery facility called the Fellowship Center, said that he has seen a marked increase in demand recently.

The center served 480 men in 2008, most from Escondido, and has a waiting list with dozens of men seeking assistance, he said.

"When you rehabilitate one individual, it gives back so much to the community that it's almost incalculable," said Savo, adding that nonprofit groups contribute more than services for the needy. "We shop locally, and we try to put our money back into Escondido and it's not just the Fellowship Center - that's probably every nonprofit in this community."
USD AUTISM INSTITUTE

The University of San Diego’s Autism Institute will hold its summer conference from June 24-26, 2009, at Mother Rosalie Hill Hall.

The theme is “Together We Can Do It: Building Personalized Supports and Instruction Through Relationships and Collaboration.” National and international autism experts, educators and families will gather to learn about support and instruction for children, adolescents and adults with learning, sensory and movement differences. Registration is $145. Course credits and family scholarships available.

For more information, email autisminstitute@sandiego.edu or call (619) 260-7705.
SAN DIEGO — Half of all arsons are committed by juveniles. And San Diego's Burn Institute runs an education program for juvenile fire setters. Now, the institute has a partnership with the University of San Diego to provide counseling for some of the more difficult cases.

Ronn Johnson is a professor of counseling at USD who has counseled juvenile fire setters for many years. He says some kids set fires because they're curious. Some are impulsive. And he says some of them are expressing deep psychological problems.

"The toughest case I ever saw was a boy who not only had the issue of the fire setting, but also was involved in strangling small animals."

Johnson says this was a boy who suffered some severe child abuse.

"And one thing he would do is, after he'd strangled the small animals and killed them, he would set them on fire. One of these fires got out of hand and it set the garage on fire. The garage was connected to the house and the house went up," says Johnson.

Every year, the San Diego Burn Institute deals with about 250 local kids who are identified as either fire setters or bomb makers. Most of them are referred by the juvenile court system or local fire departments. Until now, the Burn Institute's program has been strictly educational. Kids learn what fire does to the human body. They learn how fire behaves and what the penalties are, for arson. Ronn Johnson has added the dimension of psychological counseling.

Gwenn Lammers is a juvenile fire setter interventionist with the Burn Institute.
"The bulk of the children who come through our program, I'd say maybe 80 percent, are what we'd classify as curiosity fire setters," says Lammers. "They are low-risk fire setters who have experimented with matches and lighters."

But then there was the ten-year-old who set fire to his infant sister's crib while she was lying in it. Lammers says the boy had a history of setting fire to toys.

"Toys of his own and toys of other children. And we found that he was experiencing some jealousy with the arrival of his little sister. So he set her crib on fire with the intent of getting her out of his life," she says.

The fire was stopped before it harmed the baby girl. Johnson says there's no one explanation for why a troubled kid sets fires. It may result from anger or depression. The fire setting can be expressive. A cry for help from someone suffering emotional pain from abuse or neglect.

Johnson says counseling is often the answer, but it isn't a quick fix for a pathological fire setter.

"Those are the ones that are going to require a lot more support than we can actually provide them in the roughly 15 to 25 sessions that we might work with them," says Johnson. "But if they follow up, with treatment after that, they tend to respond more appropriately over time."

Juvenile fire setting may seem like someone else's problem. But kids set fires on school grounds and in San Diego canyons. Gwenn Lammers says a firefighter was injured earlier this year in a fire set by one of the kids who ended up in the Burn Institute program.

Captain Mike Merriken is an investigator with the San Diego fire department. He says juvenile arsonists are generally boys who suffer some level of family neglect. He adds that fires set by kids are as dangerous and deadly as any other kind.

"I mean once the fire begins the juvenile has no control over the behavior of the fires," he says. "It's going to be a naturally occurring event. A firefighter has just as good a chance of being injured in a fire set by a juvenile as by an adults arsonist."

Merriken says most fire setting by kids happens outdoors, very often in canyons. And he's expecting the incidence to increase dramatically over the coming months as kids are out of school for summer. That will be increasing concern as the summer sun dries up the landscape and fire season starts coming our way.
WASHINGTON, June 2 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- Lee H. Hamilton, president and director of the Woodrow Wilson Center, today announced the members of the 2009-2010 fellowship class. The 24 fellows, most of whom will arrive in September 2009 to spend an academic year in residence at the Center, include scholars and practitioners from the United States, Australia, Bulgaria, Canada, Denmark, Israel, United Kingdom, and Uzbekistan.

"We are looking forward to having this prominent group in residence this fall at the Wilson Center," said Hamilton. "These men and women are distinguished in their fields of expertise and will enhance the intellectual discourse at the Center and the public policy community in Washington."

The list of 2009-2010 fellows is listed below along with the projects they will pursue while in residence at the Wilson Center.

Katherine Benton-Cohen, Assistant Professor of History, Georgetown University. "The Last Immigration Crisis: A History of the Dillingham Commission, 1907-1911"

Denise Brennan, Associate Professor of Anthropology, Georgetown University. "Life after Trafficking: Resettlement After Forced Labor in the United States"

Nathan Brown, Professor of Political Science and International Affairs, George Washington University. "Islamist Movements in the Political Process: Ideology, Organization and Semi-authoritarianism"

Christopher Candland, Professor, Department of Political Science, Wellesley College. "The Islamic Social Sector and Human Security in Pakistan"

Bhumitra Chakma, Lecturer in War and Security Studies, The University of Hull, United Kingdom. "South Asia's Three Dimensional Nuclear Deterrence: Examining the US Factor"

Stacy Closson, Trans-Atlantic Post Doctoral Research Fellow, German Institute for International and Security Affairs. "Energy Empire: Russia, Europe, and the Politics of Energy Dependence"

Devin Fergus, Assistant Professor of History, Vanderbilt University. "The Ghetto Tax, 1974-2000"

Sara Friedman, Associate Professor of Anthropology, Indiana University. "Exceptional Citizens: Chinese Marital Immigrants, Contested Borders, and National Anxieties across the Taiwan Strait"

Kathleen Frydl, Assistant Professor, Department of History, University of California at Berkeley. "Drug Wars"

Sheldon Garon, Dodge Professor of History and East Asian Studies, Princeton University. "Home Front: A Transnational Study of Japan, Germany, Britain, and the United States in World War II"

Young-sun Hong, Associate Professor of History, State University of New York, Stony Brook. "The Third World in the Two Germanys: Development, Migration, and the Global Cold War"

Maria Ivanova, Assistant Professor of Government and Environmental Policy, The College of William and Mary. "Changing Course: Reclaiming US Environmental Leadership"

Jerome Karabel, Professor of Sociology, University of California at Berkeley. "The American Way: How the United States is Different and Why it Matters"

Elyor Karimov, Professor of History, Institute of History, Uzbek Academy of Sciences, Uzbekistan. "Islamic Political Culture in Central Asia: Roots and Historical Legacies"

Asher Kaufman, Assistant Professor of History and Peace Studies, University of Notre Dame, Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies. "Contested Frontiers: Conflict and Potential Resolution in the Syria, Lebanon, Israel Tri-Border Region"

Rachel Kerr, Senior Lecturer in War Studies, King's College London, United Kingdom. "International Peace and Security and International Criminal Justice: The International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the Western Balkans"

Alan Kuperman, Associate Professor of Public Affairs, LBJ School of Public Affairs, University of Texas at Austin.
"Moral Hazard of Humanitarian Intervention"

Pardis Mahdavi, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Pomona College. "Traffic Jam: Gender, Sexuality, Migration and Trafficking in Dubai"

Joseph McCartin, Associate Professor of History, Georgetown University. "Unions of the State: Collective Bargaining and the Politics of Governance, 1960-2002"

Flagg Miller, Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, The University of California, Davis. "The Osama Bin Laden Audiotape Library: Echoes of Legality"

Dinhaw Mistry, Associate Professor of Political Science and Director, Asian Studies, University of Cincinnati. "The Nuclear Agreement with India: Diplomacy, Domestic Politics, and the Building of a Strategic Partnership"

Karsten Paerregaard, Associate Professor of Anthropology, University of Copenhagen, Denmark. "A Brave New Migrant World: The Development Potential of Peruvian Transnational Migration"

Martin Sherwin, University Professor of History, George Mason University. "Gambling with Armageddon: The Military Hawks and the Cuban Missile Crisis, 1945-1962"

David Shirk, Assistant Professor of Political Science and Director, Trans-Border Institute, University of San Diego. "The Rule of Law in Mexico and the Border Region"

Media with questions should contact Sharon McCarter at (202) 691-4016 or by e-mail at sharon.mccarter@wilsoncenter.org.

The Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, established by Congress in 1968 and headquartered in Washington, D.C., is the living national memorial to President Wilson. The Center establishes and maintains a neutral forum for free, open, and informed dialogue. It is a nonpartisan institution, supported by public and private funds and engaged in the study of national and world affairs.

SOURCE Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars

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Grauer School students garner top awards and achievements

The Grauer School announced a series of student honors and achievements as the 2009 academic year came to a close at the graduation and commencement ceremonies on June 12. The two first place award-winners of the 48th Annual California Science Fair, held on the USC campus in May were 8th graders Stewart Wirick and Weston Braun. Stewart captured 1st Place in physics and astronomy, while Weston received two special awards, the MLIM Award for Excellence in Electronics and The Silicon Bole Award. Over 1,000 high school and middle school students from throughout the state competed with 101 originating from the County of San Diego, hence the odds of two winners from one school were less than .1 percent.

During 2009, the student Leadership class implemented 28 special events in and off-site campus events. In Journalism, 6th grader Sage Stahmer won the Encinitas Sister City Competition and trip to sister city Akita, Japan and Rose Brady-Denton and Kahlo Vazquez won the Character Development essay contest sponsored by the University of San Diego Character Development Program. Students from San Diego County competed and the The Grauer School, with an enrollment of 150 students, produced two winners. USD JUDGE Dr. Robert Infantino, explains THAT Rose's winning essay, "was a story of her grandfather who died recently. The essay had elements of humor, was explicit about the values that he shared over the years, about the aspiration he left to his family and about the virtues of soul such as caring, kindness, compassion and courage. Nicely written as well."

Grauer Athletes dominated a number of team sports this year and the school enjoyed it's most successful seasons in Flag Football, Girls Soccer, Girls Basketball and Tennis while celebrating league championships in first year sports Cross Country and Track and Field. The school also attracted the Junior State Science Fair winners Weston Braun and Stewart Wirick.

US Open Champion. Coco Vandeweghe this year as a pupil. Danny Dean, grade 9, came in number one in the women's division for the 2008-09 La Jolla YMCA surf series.

According to Head of School, Dr. Stuart Grauer, "The extraordinary achievements of our students add fuel to the small schools movement regionally and nationwide — schools of under 200 provide each student with unrivaled mentoring and access to personal opportunity. At a time when budgets are shrinking and students are disappearing into class sizes of 40 and up,

The Grauer School remains focused on leadership development and mastery learning. These are lucky kids."

The Grauer School is located at 1500 South El Camino Real in Encinitas and scholarships are available. For additional information, call (760) 944-6777 or visit www.grauerschool.com.
School of Nursing
Promoting safe and effective nursing care through simulation

How do you ensure that the nurse taking care of you or your loved one is experienced in the procedure he or she is doing? How do we help prevent medical errors and potentially lower costs in our health care system? Simulation may be an answer to both questions.

There are serious concerns. In a report, "To Err Is Human: Building a Safer Health System," the Institute of Medicine (IOM) estimates that as many as 44,000 people die in hospitals each year as a result of medical errors. Medical errors also lead to increased lengths of stay for patients for increasingly common events that occur in hospitals—falls, infections and skin breakdowns, to name just a few. For example, the average cost associated with a patient fall is estimated at $19,440, according to a 1998 article in the "Medical Care" Journal. All told, these medical errors cost our nation a staggering $37.6 billion each year, according to the IOM.

Simulation has been defined as "the imitation of some real thing, state of affairs, or process." What does this mean for nursing education? A major challenge in training health care professionals is that there is always a first time for students at any skill or situation — simulation simply means that this first time is done in a controlled setting far removed from real patients. Even once students are in the clinical setting working with patients, it is impossible to ensure that they are all of a certain type of case, yet we expect them to deal with this situation safely and effectively upon receiving their license.

With simulation, you can ensure that all students have managed anything from a patient experiencing chest pain to a full blown "Code Blue" cardiac arrest situation by the time they graduate, and that they have done so in a safe environment in which they can receive helpful feedback.

When do medical errors occur? Usually errors are multi-factorial, and happen when there is a communication breakdown or a larger systems issue. This is why our simulations don't only address skill-based procedural events such as how to start an IV drip, but also incorporate the complexity of the health care setting. For example, the student nurse would have to recognize a patient need, contact the physician communicating clearly and concisely the issue at hand, then repeat back the medication order verbally for confirmation before starting the IV.

Simulation has long been used in other "high-risk" industries such as aviation and nuclear power generation, and it is just now coming of age in medical and nursing education. Recently the California Board of Registered Nursing approved the use of simulation-based activities to count for 33 percent of needed clinical hours in training for nursing students in the state, a positive step that has allowed schools to devote the necessary resources to developing their simulation programs.

At the University of San Diego School of Nursing and Health Science, we have developed a Simulation and Standardized Patient Nursing Laboratory, in which all of our graduate students receive clinical training and are tested for clinical competence. We have dedicated faculty who are experts in simulation who help integrate simulation throughout our curriculum to prepare high quality nurses and nurse leaders. We have an active Standardized Patient program in which we recruit local actors and community members to be trained to present with different conditions and provide a realistic human element to our simulations.

We have a data management system, which allows us to track students in simulation and store it on our video server for faculty and student review.

As you might expect, the major barrier to the implementation of simulation programs in universities and hospitals thus far has been the start-up costs. High-fidelity simulators (life-size mannequins which can breath, have vital signs, and even speak) need to be purchased, which can cost anywhere from $30,000 to $75,000. Faculty and staff then need to be trained in simulation best-practices, and standardized patients (essentially actors who can be trained to play the role of a patient) need to be hired. However, one could easily argue that these costs seem negligible compared to the cost — both human and financial — of medical errors in this country.

The bottom line is that more resources at universities and health care facilities need to be devoted to developing these types of simulation program to teach and train students and staff at all levels.

The Institute of Medicine outlines a comprehensive strategy that health care providers and the industry as a whole can adopt to reduce preventable medical errors, including the use of technology and improvements in education of health care providers online at iom.edu. Finally, for more information about simulation and how you can get involved with simulation in your setting visit innacsl.org or sicn.org.

Calhoun, MSN, RN, is a clinical assistant professor at the Helen School of Nursing and Health Science at the University of San Diego.

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San Diego’s Nurses Need Teachers

By Lori Saldana

San Diego has a well-earned reputation for being a leader in medical practice and research. Excellent university hospitals, biomedical facilities and research institutes form the base of San Diego’s progress in the field of medicine.

Yet, these great institutions could not function without the health professionals, and especially the nurses, that come from San Diego State University, the University of San Diego and San Diego City College.

We’ve been hearing for quite some time about California’s nursing shortage. Within 10 years, the U.S. Bureau of Health Professionals projects the nation’s shortage of nurses will exceed 1 million. In California alone, the nursing shortfall will reach 116,600 by 2020, and in Southern California, that shortage is said to be steeper than in other parts of the state.

Every time you enter a hospital your health, even your life, rests in the hand of capable nurses. Nurses distribute medicine, maintain life-sustaining machines and provide a constant flow of information. In some cases, nurses are even called to serve as translators in emergency situations with patients who do not speak English. Accuracy in the face of extreme urgency and pressure is the hallmark of a well-trained nurse. Add to that the ability to provide compassion and comfort to patients in need and you have the makings of a great nurse.

Our local colleges and universities are working hard to provide nurses for our hospitals and medical industry. San Diego State University, the largest producer of baccalaureate nurses in the county, graduates 200 nurses into the workforce each year. A major challenge prevents that number from being higher: the lack of nurse educators. Unable to recruit and hire qualified faculty, nursing schools are turning students away at a national rate of tens of thousands per year.

Nursing is the most competitive degree program on many California State University and community college campuses, with some campuses even setting up lotteries to ration out seats in their nursing programs. Thousands of qualified applicants are being turned away or delayed in joining the nursing profession, because we cannot recruit enough faculty with teaching-level degrees.

State Assembly Bill 867 would allow the CSU, the nation’s largest public university system, to offer a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree, the degree needed to become a nurse educator. The CSU has always been a leader in training highly-skilled nurses. This bill would help CSU’s nursing schools address the nursing shortage by training and educating needed nursing faculty.

According to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the top reason nursing schools in the U.S. turn away applicants is because of a lack of faculty. In fact, in a recent AACN survey more than 60 percent of universities said they needed additional faculty – and more than half of those required a doctorate level degree for the position. But recruiting and sustaining a nursing faculty with doctorate level education is subject to supply and demand. Too few nurses hold educator-level degrees, and those who do are being enticed to take higher-paying hospital and medical positions.

Having the CSU offer this doctorate will put advanced practice nurses academically at the same level as other clinical practitioners, therefore increasing the desirability of becoming a nurse educator. Currently, nurses are required to spend the same amount of time to obtain a master’s degree as many other clinical positions spend to obtain a doctorate level degree.

Another important reason to support this bill is the change that will occur in the educational requirements for nurses. The AACN is phasing out master’s level degrees (to be done by 2015) and making the DNP the industry standard for advanced level practitioners. The demand for the degree is expected to rise. If the CSU is not given the ability to provide this degree, the faculty shortage will potentially be even worse in the coming years. Currently only three private universities in California offer this degree, which means the cost of the program is not always affordable and could deter those who want to become nurse educators from pursuing this career path.

But this bill is about much more than a degree – it is about providing Californians with the high-quality health care that we so desperately need. Baccalaureate-prepared nurses are increasingly sought by hospitals because they have shown to have better patient outcomes when compared to non-baccalaureate nursing staffs. Without the faculty at the CSU level to teach these nursing students, we will perpetuate the nursing shortage and continue down a slippery slope with the health of Californians at risk.

Lori Saldana represents the 76th Assembly District and serves as California State Assembly speaker pro tempore. She co-authored of AB 867.

REVISED 06/10/09
School of Peace
The roots of Mexican city's violence: collapsing drug cartel, government on the war path

By: ELLIOT SPAGAT
Associated Press
06/20/09 7:40 PM EDT

TIJUANA, MEXICO — In Mexico's drug war, Tijuana tells the story of a government that says it's winning, even as the battle gets bloodier.

The arrest aboard a yacht in August 2006 of Javier Arellano Felix, the boss of the Tijuana-based Arellano Felix cartel, sparked a savage war of succession — one that President Felipe Calderon moved to exploit when he took office four months later and declared war on the whole drug business in Mexico.

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 daytime shootouts and beheadings — 443 murders in the last three months of 2008 alone — Tijuana is quieter. Skeptics say the lull could be only a short-term truce among traffickers. But a top Mexican army commander says the powerful gang's warring factions are spent.

"They wore each other down," Gen. Alfonso Duarte Mugica 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 people 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.

Calderon's war may never choke off the drug business entirely. But the goal, he told the AP in late February, is to beat back the cartels by the end of his term in 2012 to a point where the army and federal police can withdraw and leave the rest to normal policing.

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 brazen public brawl among smaller, less sophisticated criminals — leading to the bloody chaos plaguing the country.

"At least in the first two years, it hasn't led to smaller and more manageable (cartels), it's just led to smaller and more violent," said David Shirk, director of the University of San Diego's Trans-Border Institute.

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 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 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.

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.

The roots of Mexican city's violence: collapsing drug cartel, government on the war path [...]

"Benjamin wanted things to be quiet," Kirby said. "He didn't want a bunch of bodies being thrown in the street."

Their business attracted some of Tijuana's most prominent families.

Alejandro and Alfredo Hoyodan, 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.

The cartel baton passed to the Engineer, about whom little is known. Only in January did the DEA release its first photos of the Engineer and El Teo.

The two rivals battled in a shootout that began on a major Tijuana boulevard early one Saturday morning. The army says the Engineer called a meeting to order El Teo to stop kidnappings and executions; El Teo didn't show.

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.

El Teo's camp is also in trouble; a suspected hit man and former Rosarito police officer, Angel Jacome Gamboa, was among 60 people detained in a Tijuana ballroom in March.

In January, the army raided a three-day party and captured Santiago Meza Lopez, who confessed to dissolving 300 bodies in vats of liquid over the previous year under El Teo's orders. Duarte Mugica said El Teo and two top deputies escaped to the beach five minutes before troops arrived.

"It is all part of our strategy to create division," he said, "to create mistrust among themselves."

Find this article at:
http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/world/ap/48688457.html

Check the box to include the list of links referenced in the article.

A Rosarito cop enters the municipal palace — City Hall — and approaches the office of the secretary of security, Jorge Montero. Unholstering his sidearm, he evacuates the weapon of its magazine. He clears the chamber and hands the pistol to a dark-skinned, crew-cut guard. No words are exchanged — only stolid tension.

The guard is a former soldier in the Mexican Army, and he is one of three young men dressed in black paramilitary gear. He totes an AR-15 rifle — which is locked and loaded, with an extra magazine taped into place for easy retrieval — and stares stonily into the building's central courtyard. He tucks the officer's firearm into the back of his belt and dismisses the man with a tilt of his head.

It repeats interminably in this small beach town, where officers interface awkwardly with the prefect's rigid security detail. Former servicemen compose that detail, and they know that the interim separating their boss from the last attempt on his life is measured in mere months. They also know the hit team that came for him was manned by the department's own cops.

Montero believes the cartel wanted to make a statement more than a kill. Maybe those gunmen wouldn't have assassinated him. Maybe the event was only to be a high-stakes kidnapping — a daring action to cast aspersions on the sovereignty of the city, the state and the Mexican Army.

He slides a DVD into a laptop, and a shot of the parking lot behind police headquarters flickers onto the screen. A procession of vehicles appears, Montero's armored truck in the middle. The secretary's entourage has just returned to the office. The security footage reads 12:49 p.m. It is the afternoon of Dec. 18, 2007, three weeks after Montero assumed command. At 12:52, a plainclothes bodyguard in the rear parking lot wheels around and sprints for the back door. Twenty yards away, his partner, Guillermo Castro-Corona, stands at the side of Montero's vehicle.

A convoy of five black SUVs appears. A point car in front and a chase car behind break off and pass from sight. A commando team with evident tactical training alights, and Castro-Corona — his egress blocked by the armored truck — is shot down immediately. A hooded dragoon in a flak jacket moves to his position and ensures the kill. The picture cuts to the front of the station, where another team of commandos, moving in a three-man unit, enters the building.

"Holy shit, sir, they're feds," says a wide-eyed public relations officer. His name is Fernando, and he is 23 years old. This is the first time he's seen the footage. He's young enough to be shocked by the violence and so green he's ignorant of the fact the cartel always comes in federal police uniforms.

Outfitted in a farrago of camouflage and Kevlar with AFI (Agencia Federal de Investigaciones) insignia, the synchronized commandos cover each other's backs and guard their lanes of fire. Heads pivot, and fingers tease triggers on automatic weapons. At the sole hallway leading to the secretary's office, they turn the corner as a unit, with their target trapped and outgunned.

"It's my own movie," Montero says with a broad smile, swinging around in his swivel chair.

This is the third time I've interviewed the secretary, and his character deepens with every encounter. He is a reserved man with good manners, and he seems mildly amused — by the security footage or the attention it's generated, or both. The feel in the air is otherwise surreal, given the Hollywood nature of the video and the fact its star is seated on the other side of a large desk. A slight man with looks that are given more to European genes than the indigenous strains in his mestizo Mexican blood, Montero is soft-spoken and bespectacled.

The smart appearance — one more befitting of a high school math teacher or an accountant — is at
variance with his plucky personality. It's not the likeness you might imagine behind the vigorous security detail he carries. Until the summer of 2008, the secretary was guarded by a Special Forces detachment from the Mexican Army.

"I think they had certain objectives," Montero says of the cartel that came for him. "With the presidential administration of Calderon, people began talking of militarizing police departments. In Mexico, the most trusted institution is the military, maybe even more than the church. So I think the mafia had the idea that 'If the government puts a military man in office and we manage to kill him, it will be a message — a message that whomever you appoint, we'll kill. Or... you can cooperate with us.'"

"They didn't manage to kill me, but they said, 'Okay, he'll step down. And another will come, and we'll kill him — or at least try to kill him — and he'll go, too.' But I'm still here. So what's been created? A lot of frustration. And for that, I know they'll try to kill me again. But I have to continue serving my country."

Montero is a Special Forces vet and the son of a Mexican general. He was in the army for 24 years and retired in 2007 because of a back injury. He was recommended for the Rosarito position by Aponte Polito, a firebrand general in charge of the army's second sector. Polito, in just over a year in Baja California, developed a reputation for results in the fight against organized crime. He also managed to ruffle the feathers of a list of local bureaucrats. One source surmises that in taking the lead in the fight against organized crime, Polito stole the thunder of underperforming Baja California functionaries.

A political firestorm erupted in the summer of 2008 between the nearly retired Polito and state authorities. The general was recalled to Mexico City, ending the providential security arrangement that protected Montero (whose elite guard has since been replaced by the department’s soldiers-turned-cops). Undaunted by the loss of his formidable backer, the secretary has vowed to push on in the struggle against organized crime, a fight many call suicidal and which is ultimately the result of his own refractory sense of honesty. As a municipal police chief, he doesn’t have the power to investigate or challenge the area's reigning cartel, the AFO — Arellano-Felix Organization — but in refusing to cooperate with it, he's initiated a war ipso facto.

The incident surrounding General Polito’s dismissal is telling, and may mark a small but salient victory in organized crime’s broad attack on Mexican society. In addition to the internecine war against the country’s police structure, cartels have managed to wend their way into politics at all levels. Though Polito is mum on the subject (Montero says talking to the media precipitated his fall), inside sources suggest the cartel utilized state-level political connections to have him removed. If that’s true, it means even when the capos can’t match the government gun-for-gun, they can flank with the aid of the legislature.

Dr. Dante Haro, a law professor and organized-crime expert at the University of Guadalajara, says that for a generation, Mexico has been the trampoline connecting the coca-producing South American countries and the purchasing states of North America. The country’s business, industry, government and social networks have been saturated with narco money, and a cottage industry of lawful enterprise designed to launder illicit profits has been established (particularly in the money-exchange, hotel and gambling industries). Political campaigns everywhere are being underwritten with drug money, Haro says, and politicos — especially at the state and municipal levels — continue to be compromised.

"I don't want to be a hero," Montero says, "because I'm not. But I want people to say, 'When he was here, he made a difference.' What's important is that, one way or another, I'm showing my kids what it is to be a good person. People ask me, 'Is it worth your life?' No, it's not. But I want to be part of those ushering in a new era. Not as Secretary Montero — just as another guy doing his little part to begin the change."

His point touches on what might be one of the keys to ending Mexico's civil war — a grass-roots social movement. Organized crime's latest gambit — putting society-at-large in the middle of its war with the government — may compel a sea change. Mass demonstrations have gained momentum over the past few years as the nostalgic Robin Hood figure associated with 1980s drug bosses has morphed into an unbalanced modern-day pirate, willing to use the lives of his countrymen as leverage.

But if the tidal swing has begun, it's nascent. The resistance of men like Montero is rare. Police throughout Mexico are walking off the job — often en masse. Entire forces in small towns have abnegated their badges after seeing their names on organized-crime threat lists — an archaic (but no less effective) tactic in a guerrilla war that's been made more nettlesome by the enemy's seamless ability to blend with the civilian population. And that was before 2006 when organized crime declared open war on Mexico.

Shortly after taking office, in December of that year, the regime of Mexican president Felipe Calderon followed through on its threat to...
extradite 15 jailed Mexican drug lords to the United States (the same extradition process that spiked violence in Colombia 15 years ago but also initiated the demise of that country's major cartels). Mexican narco responded with increasingly gruesome and terrifying acts against the government and populace. According to Haro, Calderon was forced into playing his last hand — military force — almost immediately after arriving at Los Pinos, Mexico's White House.

Haro suggests that because Calderon was elected by the barest of margins (the vote ultimately went to the courts, a la Gore-Bush, and was hotly contested by his opponent, the popular leader of Mexico City), the inchoate president used the army to flex his chief-executive muscles and assert his legitimacy. But he may have underestimated the strength of the cartels, Haro says, and the level to which they'd become incorporated into the fabric of Mexican society. As a result, he put the country into a war that may not be winnable.

More than two years after his offensive was launched, Calderon's decision to militarize police departments has raised serious political and human rights concerns, but (despite localized victories) hasn't had a discernible effect on the violence plaguing the country. More than 5,300 people were murdered in Mexico in 2008, most of them in connection with narcotics — a doubling of the 2007 figure. The pandemonium is no surprise, meanwhile, to many of the country's cops, who say the soldiers patrolling Mexico's streets are fundamentally different than policemen.

"A soldier, he doesn't know anything," says former Rosarito police chief Valente Montijo-Pompa. "His job is not to think. His boss says, 'Kill,' he kills whoever is in front of him. A policeman — he's supposed to know everything that's happening on his beat. And that's part of the problem. Sometimes cops know too much."

The comment touches on the fact that police at all levels have been suborned and corrupted by organized crime. In fact, the former chief says, the Procuraduria General de la Republica (Mexico's attorney general's office and its top policing organization) was for decades the manager of organized crime's plaza system.

In 2007, I sat down with a high-level source at the PGR, who acknowledged the agency's deep ties with narcos. She said that in the 1990s, the PGR realized the narcotics industry had gone international. In the age of globalization, cartel capos found themselves unbound by the notion of borders.

To combat the trend, Mexican law enforcement began cooperating more closely with authorities in the United States. More recently, it's put bigger guns on the streets to match the mafiosos' ever more brutal tactics. The real question is: How does a country fight against the market system itself? The source had no answer. She fecklessly pointed to the example of Colombia and suggested the worst is yet to come.

The situation is bleak, but Dr. David Shirk, of the University of San Diego's Trans-Border Institute, says it's not hopeless. Mexico's policing structure, he says, looks a lot like the U.S. system did just 70 years ago, before the institution of checks and balances and internal regulation. And even the U.S. government, contrary to popular belief, was never able to conquer organized crime. In the 1930s, it quit the fight on Prohibition, opting out by changing the law. And, Shirk says, even in the 1980s, when heavy federal pressure ostensibly vanished the Northeast's Sicilian crime syndicates, evidence suggests the mob merely went deeper underground.

In the age of unfettered capitalism, everything comes back to money, and as one American cop suggests, maybe the difference between the developing nations and the already developed can be divined through Maslow's hierarchy. Cops in the United States, with their basic needs comfortably managed, are able to address higher, more ethereal notions on the scale, like ethics and justice. While for a cop in Mexico, with low wages, no benefits or retirement, working in a notoriously unsteady job market, the impulse is to set aside as much as possible and to do it quickly — by whatever means necessary, Montijo-Pompa says.

Violence and rhetoric have clouded the situation at the border and given cover to illegal networks connecting drug barons and human smugglers with dirty cops and compromised politicos. But the underlying realities are as transparent as freshman biology and economics. Demand is the driving force behind the market system, and America's thirst for drugs and cheap labor have fueled two of Mexico's most profitable (illegal) lines of commerce. But even those lines are more complicated than they look. Almost everyone, for instance, loses in the immigration schemata. Mexican immigrants are financially victimized (though abusive U.S. situations are often better than the ones they faced in Mexico), while America's middle class has become anxious about a population influx it increasingly perceives as a cultural threat. Legislators and border enforcement, meanwhile, have been roundly criticized, because at the heart of the matter is failed immigration law they've created and uphold, respectively.
Legal immigration is strictly limited—giving rise to the profitable phenomenon of illegals who work without benefits, insurance, disability coverage, tax garnishments or a livable wage—which should theoretically restrict supply. Yet with a poor country just south of a porous border, American hiring bosses in the poultry, agriculture (manufacturing and construction sectors) have had access to a bottomless pool of undocumented immigrants. The laws of the market are at loggerheads with the laws of the state, and big companies have profited from the collusion. An irrefutable fact is that as long as the Mexican and U.S. economies are startlingly disparate, an unending stream of people will flow from high-pressure areas of Latin America’s destitution to low-pressure areas of North American capital abundance (which also explains the relative lack of undocumented traffic—and security—at the United States’ northern border).

Massive corporate representation on Capitol Hill suggests the flawed laws won’t change anytime soon, but it’s business’ suborned supporters, the American consumer, who ensures the system will stay broken. Until Americans are willing to forgo $13 Converse sneakers and 99-cent heads of lettuce, talk of change at the border will remain mere talk. On a parallel track, as long as there is demand for drugs (the case throughout recorded history), and state authority proscribe the use of them (driving up prices), there will be people willing to take risk to fulfill supply. And as the war on drugs has made increasingly clear, it’s impossible to eradicate all the coca, marijuana or poppy seed in the rest of the world.

As Ben Wallace-Wells sedulously detailed in the article “How America Lost the War on Drugs” (Rolling Stone, December 2007), U.S. authorities may finally be waking up—three decades into the fight—to the idea that demand-side policies are the key to mitigating the negative social effects of narcotics. To this point, demand has been addressed more punitively than comprehensively, and the collateral damage is evident. Prison populations have swelled twelve-fold since the inception of the war on drugs, while access to the criminalized products has been virtually unaffected. A generation of addicts, meanwhile, has been treated largely by cops instead of doctors.

As a corollary of proscription, sectors of the sprawling supply chain—including the monopolistic cartels at the top—have reaped huge rewards. And in the midst of the turbidity they’ve generated, bilateral law enforcement has, for more than two decades, offered the same tired platitude in the face of increasing violence: The cartels are injured and acting desperately due to policing successes. But even the cops’ most notable triumphs, the dismantling of the upper echelons of several cartels, have engendered their own unintended consequences. The feds have often cut the head off a monster only to create multiple, less-manageable mini-monsters (the AFO is a prime example). Those small syndicates have, in turn, become part of the perfect storm in Mexico’s contemporary crisis. According to Haro, those mini-monsters have been populated by some part of the 132,000 soldiers who deserted Mexico’s army between 2000 and 2006. Similarly, he says, a sizable portion of the country’s police force is playing for both sides of the cop-smuggler divide. And as long as the present conditions persist—with great wealth circulating in the smuggling markets and relative poverty facing those in the law enforcement and military sectors—there will be no mechanism in Mexico to drive change.

Jose Luis Lugo-Baez was a corpulent Rosarito cop with an impudent grin. A fellow officer says he was a known mafia commodity within the department. In the winter of 2008, he was incarcerated for his participation in the assassination of Secretary Montero. When the arrest was announced, I was sitting in front of a television in the Tijuana living room of a source I call Buford Pusser (a liaison between the state and the military who was privy to the particulars of the Lugo-Baez case). The dirty cop stared defiantly at the camera as he was presented at a press conference on the five o’clock news. Behind him were pounds of marijuana, several cell phones and a number of automatic weapons pulled out of the trunk of his patrol car.

Ironically, it may have been Montijo-Pompa, without a badge for more than a year at that point, who saved the secretary’s life. "Before I left office, I stood asking the government, the state police, ‘Give me guns, give me guns, give me guns,’" Montijo-Pompa says. "And just a week before I left, they sent me five G3 automatic rifles and 2,000 bullets. So I left them over there."

"When Montero came, he found these five guns. His bodyguards were ex-military guys—they belonged to the group I formed—and they knew how to use the guns. When the cartel came, they never expected those cops could respond. They found out it wasn’t going to be so easy, so they flew away."

Back in Montero’s office, soundless security footage continues playing across the screen of his laptop. Commando teams have breached the former police headquarters building in two places, and the three-man unit in front turns a corner, into the hall leading to Montero’s old office. They disappear off the right of the screen, and in the void there’s nothing, only the long white reception counter near the entrance. Seconds tick off silently, with the weight of hours, and then a wrath-like cloud materializes.

The smoky substance is dust, Montero explains, generated by gypsum board in the walls being pulverized by gunshots. Bullet holes erupt, and the first of the three gunmen—a spooked cartoon character—scrambles back onto the screen. He finds his feet again, before the reception counter, and hightails it for the door.

On his heels are two fellow gunmen, their precise movements abandoned for the havoc of unchecked flight. Several minutes go by with nothing, save for the hazy residue in the air, before Montero and his chief bodyguard appear. Their 9-millimeter handguns are leveled and at the ready. They clear the room in two-man fashion and exit the building, seeking dialogue with their attackers.

"That’s it," Montero says demurely. "That’s the end of my movie."

"When asked about Lugo-Baez, the secretary says the majority of his department is likely corrupted and that many on that 18-man hit team were probably his own officers. But he can’t change a 300-man outfit overnight—the cartel is always trying to infiltrate police forces—and turning the department on its head would only succeed in changing out crooked cops for straight mafiosos. Corruption is inherent to Mexican police forces, he says, and one of the preeminent challenges to the country. Even so, fundamentally, it’s economics—prohibition and American demand—that have fomented the crisis of violence."

But if it was the dirty collusion of the profit motive and Maslow’s hierarchy that sent Lugo-Baez and other cops in search of their boss’s life, it was economics that drove Rosarito’s decision to fight back, too. The town’s current mayor, Hugo Torres (an independently wealthy business tycoon and the owner of the historic Rosarito Beach Hotel), took the job to eliminate police corruption that was stalling tourism. He says he had no intention of fighting the cartel.

"I was the head of the business guild," Torres explains. "I told Mayor Macias that his police had to stop taking money from tourists. And he told me, ‘That’s no problem; don’t worry about it.’ I knew if his PAN party stayed in office, it would be more of the same. So I ran against him. I was 73 years old. I didn’t need to be mayor. I didn’t want to be mayor. But I thought I had to do it."

"When I took office, I went to meet the new governor and realized that people at the state and federal level were committed to fighting the cartel. We had cooperation at all three levels of government. So I went to the army, and they recommended Secretary Montero. That’s how the fight began."

When I ask Torres if former mayor Macias-Garay and his city attorney, Juan Esquivel, were linked to the AFO — as I’d been told by a number of sources in Rosarito — he declines to answer on the record, though he confirms that popular perception in town is that the two men were tied to organized crime. Secretary Montero, whose office is down the hall, goes as far as suggesting the DEA and FBI should have dossiers on the former PAN (Partido Accion Nacional) politicos. The gringos are Rosarito’s only hope, he says, because state-level authorities in Baja have been compromised by the cartel, and the feds are seated thousands of miles away, in Mexico City. But Eileen Ziegler, the public information officer for the San Diego field division of the Drug Enforcement Administration (which has an office tower about 40 miles north of the ranch where three Rosarito officers were slaughtered in 2006), says San Diego agents know nothing of events south of the border — Rosarito is investigated from the DEA’s Mexico City bureau. That agency, in fact, shares a strategic vision with the Washington Post — both organizations say they cover the border region from Mexico City bureaus (akin to covering D.C. politics, or policing its streets, from Anchorage, Alaska). That fact has contributed to the ineffectual, often contrapuntal bigovernmental response to the crisis generated by Mexico’s Columbianization.

The country’s modern jeremiad of pain and bereavement, meanwhile, has grown more plaintive every year, and a generation of youth has stumbled into adolescence bereft of the voices of its dead fathers. In the place of effective government support or hard answers, the people of Mexico have fallen back on faith—and the credence imparted by an assassinated cop to his 6-year-old son: Because God wants it that way.

But God doesn’t have answers either, Montijo-Pompa says. And the killing hasn’t been this bad since the revolution — when it was firing squads that made the difference. In fact, the former chief hazards, they might be the only remedy to today’s corruption, perfidy and bloodshed.

"But then," he says with a smile as old as the Sonora, "who controls the firing squads?"

S.D. Uddick writes for San Diego Magazine, where the border trilogy was originally published.
Other
HONORS

Aundrea Winters of Poway graduated from the University of San Diego with a bachelor's degree in communication studies. She plans to pursue a career in public relations. A 2003 graduate of Poway High School, Winters is the daughter of Richard and Holly Winters.

Bryan Mason of Poway, graduated with honors from San Francisco State University with a Bachelor of Arts with emphasis on Creative Writing. He plans to remain in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Christopher Mason of Poway, graduated from the University of San Francisco School of Law in May 2009. He received his Juris Doctorate Degree with an emphasis in Intellectual Property and Technology Law.

Two Poway residents graduated from The Bishop's School in La Jolla on Friday, May 22. Kelsey Gold, daughter of Dr. Mark and Karen Gold, will attend University of St. Andrews in Scotland. Taylor Maxey, daughter of Michelle and Theo Maxey, will attend Washington and Lee University.

The Rancho Bernardo Lions Club on June 2 awarded $2,000 in scholarships to four high school students and members of LEOs for their community work and scholastic achievement. Scholarship recipients are Joshua Rodriguez of Rancho Bernardo High School and Tiffany Firestone, Raquel Mor and Ashley Mukai of Westview High School.

Gail Kopperud of Poway, a senior majoring in biology at Ripon College in Ripon, Wis., was named the recipient of the 2009 Dr. Charles Nichols Award in Biology during a ceremony held April 22. The award recognizes a junior or senior with a special interest in botany. The recipient receives a cash award. Kopperud is the daughter of H. Scott and Laura Kopperud of Poway.

Items should be e-mailed to bnorton@pomeradoneus.com.
CNMI resident graduates from USD

Jackie Che, a former CNMI resident and a 2005 Mount Carmel School graduate, received her bachelor's degree in History on May 24, 2009. Che graduated with honors from the University of San Diego, California.

Che received honors in History and Anthropology, her minor, maintaining a 3.67 grade point average in History and a 3.9 G.P.A. in Anthropology.

Che has been accepted to USD's Master's program in Higher Education Leadership, and she plans to eventually receive an Ed.d in Education Administration.

"From the moment that I was aware of the university's devotion to global understanding, intercultural awareness, and efforts to build effective leaders, there was no hesitation on my part in wanting to pursue my graduate studies in my Alma Mater," said Che.

Che said the University of San Diego motivates students to toward leadership and social change.

"I have a deeply held commitment and appreciation for diversity and the impact that access to higher education has in uplifting lives in all communities," said Che. "With this degree, I hope to... effectively work for equity and opportunity for all students, minority and disenfranchised, no matter their age or position in life," she added.

Jackie Che is the daughter of Peter and Violeta Che. She is the niece of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial. Violeta Che is the younger sister of first lady Josie Fitial.

Gov. Fitial congratulated Che for her academic accomplishment and said that he was very proud to see CNMI students graduate from college and do well in the United States. (PR)
June 11, 2009

Palm Desert High School alumni earn college degrees

Staff reports
Palm Desert Sun

John K. Feller of Palm Desert graduated from Villanova University, Pa., during a commencement ceremony on May 17 in Villanova Stadium. Feller earned a bachelor of science in biology.

Katelyn Collings of Palm Desert graduated magna cum laude from the University of San Diego May 24. Collings earned a bachelor's degree in international relations with a minor in art history.

Collings is a 2005 graduate of Desert Christian High School. Her parents are James and Desiree Collings.
ALUMNI HONORS
THE STARS COME OUT AT USD

Ten outstanding University of San Diego graduates were honored for their achievements in the arts, business, athletics and public service at their annual gala. Among the honorees was Richard Bartell, president of Bartell Hotels; Denise Boren, a former member of the Navy Nurse Corps who helped fight AIDS in Africa and NCAA women's tennis champion Zuzana Lesenarova.

Yolanda Wolkhe-McCade, Sandy Farrell y Mary Lyons.

Gary Neary y David O'Brien.

LAS ESTRELLAS BRILLAN EN USD
Diez distinguidos ex-alumnos de la Universidad de San Diego fueron reconocidos por su excelencia en el arte, comercio, deportes y servicio público en su gala anual. Entre los conmemorados se encuentra Richard Bartell, presidente de Hoteles Bartell; Denise Boren, ex-miembro del Cuerpo de Enfermeras Navales, donde ayudó a combatir el SIDA en África; y la campeona NCAA de tenis Susana Lesenarova.

Yolanda Ingle y Catherine Whelan.

Richard y Liz Bartell.
Roland y Margarita Hernández con Kevin Cole.

Doug y Elizabeth Robert con Sam Aisha.
'University of the Third Age' Offered July 13-30

ALCALA PARK — The University of San Diego will offer its "University of the Third Age" program July 13-30. Without any prior academic requirements, participants (age 55 and older) are given the opportunity to engage in educational workshops, enlightening conferences and experiential field trips, and to make new friends. USD has offered this lifelong learning experience for more than 30 years. The program takes place twice a year at USD’s Manchester Conference Center. Registration is now open. To learn more about the program, visit www.sandiego.edu/u3a. For additional information, contact Jodi Waterhouse and Adriana Serrano at (619) 260-5976 or aserrano@sandiego.edu.
Suns move training camp to USD

The Phoenix Suns will hold this season's training camp at the University of San Diego.

The Suns said Monday that the camp will run from Sept. 28 to Oct. 4.

Phoenix had held its training camp at the University of Arizona in Tucson in 2005, 2007 and 2008. The Suns' 2006 camp was held in Treviso, Italy, as part of the NBA Europe Live Tour.

USD to host Mira Mesa
graduation Monday night

by Don Norton

Mira Mesa High School graduation ceremonies are due Monday night but not exactly as school football coach Gary Blevins and others had foretold it some weeks earlier.

Rather than out on the school stadium football field as in past years, the June 15 big "gown and cap" day will become an early affair with ceremonies moved to San Diego University in Vista. It will offer this year's graduates and their families a taste of collegiate splendor.

But that wasn't the reason for this year's move. Rather, it had to do with the reconstruction of the football field that, according to Blevins, "we looked to being completed in time for graduation ceremonies. It's always great to hold it there."

Not only isn't the work completed, but "when it is finished, it will probably need 30 days or so more before it can be used," said a source.

As a result, this year's graduation "night" will be moved to the Jenny Craig Pavilion. Ceremonies are set to begin at 5 p.m. and last until 7, said the school source.
**ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT**

**SUNDAY**

**SAN DIEGO DANCESPORT CHAMPIONSHIPS** — Finale of this three-day amateur and professional dance competition in Latin, freestyle, smooth, American rhythm and standard styles; 9 a.m. to noon; The Westin Gaslamp, 910 Broadway Circle, San Diego; $20-$50, session pass; 619-239-2200 or sandiegodancesport.com.

**SOPRANO ALIZE ROZENYAI** — 2 p.m.; Founders Hall, University of San Diego, 5998 Alcala St., San Diego; free; 858-592-9790.
RB singer in concert

RB resident Alize Rozsnyai, a soprano, will present a recital at 2 p.m. Sunday, June 14 in the French Parlor of Founders Hall on the campus of the University of San Diego, 5998 Alcala Park. She will be accompanied by Diane Snodgrass on piano. Alize just completed her sophomore year at Indiana University. For more information, call 858-592-9790.
Soprano Rozsnyai returns for concert

Soprano Alize Rozsnyai will present a recital Sunday, June 14, 2 p.m. in the French Parlor of Founders Hall on the campus of USD, 5998 Alcala Park.

She will be accompanied by Diane Snodgrass on piano. The concert is co-sponsored by the Musical Merit Foundation of Greater San Diego. Rozsnyai just completed her sophomore year at Indiana University where she is a student of renowned singer, Carol Vaness. Rozsnyai will be attending the Curtis Institute of Music in the fall. She was the first place winner in the voice category for the 2008 Musical Merit Foundation of San Diego Competition, and was also awarded a full scholarship from this organization to the Aspen Music Festival for summer 2009.

The winner of numerous competitions, most recently, in 2008 and 2009, Rozsnyai was awarded a Shirley Rabb Winston scholarship from the National Society of Arts and Letters, where she was also one of three finalists representing the Bloomington, Ind., Chapter in the national finals.

Also in 2008 and 2009, Alize was a National Semi-Finalist in the Palm Beach Opera Competition where she was the youngest competitor present, and received an encouragement award. She was also selected to sing at the Savannah Music Festival American Traditions Competition in Savannah, Ga.

This past November, Rozsayai won 1st Prize in the Los Angeles Liszt International Competition.

The concert is free to the public. For more information please call (858) 592-9790.
June 14
Spring Choral Concert, 2:00 pm, Shiley Theatre, Gammon Hall, University of San Diego, 9500 Alcala Park. Two-hour program features solos and small groups in addition to the full chorus. An instrumental ensemble provides accompaniment. As a gift to themselves and the community, the Pacificaires and Cedar Center Chorus have prepared a repertoire that honors the present. The songs selected by director, Ms. Eunice Williams, share the joys and laments of life as rendered in American ballads, folk songs, show tunes, spirituals, and patriotic rousers. For information on this free public performance, contact Eunice Williams at eunice.williams@usd.edu or 619-534-7548.
FREEBIES


Alice Roxanyai The young, up and coming soprano will be accompanied by pianist Diane Snodgrass in Parlor of Founders Hall on campus of University of San Diego. University of San Diego, 5998 Alcala Park, Mission Valley. June 14. 619-260-4600.


Detour with Danielle Duhaie, author of *Coyote’s White Buffalo Among the Navajos,* tells about growing up white among the Navajo in New Mexico. Encinitas Branch Library, 540 Cornish Drive, Encinitas. June 17. 760-753-7376. Free.


danette


Detour with Danielle Duhaie, author of *Coyote’s White Buffalo Among the Navajos,* tells about growing up white among the Navajo in New Mexico. Encinitas Branch Library, 540 Cornish Drive, Encinitas. June 17. 760-753-7376. Free.


Detour with Danielle Duhaie, author of *Coyote’s White Buffalo Among the Navajos,* tells about growing up white among the Navajo in New Mexico. Encinitas Branch Library, 540 Cornish Drive, Encinitas. June 17. 760-753-7376. Free.
RELIGION CALENDAR

NORTH

Concert: Church at Rancho Bernardo, 17740 Bernardo Plaza Court, welcomes Ken Turner to perform gospel, jazz and classical music, 6 p.m. tomorrow. $10 advance or $12 day of event. Tickets may be purchased at the church. Information: gerry@thechurchatrb.org.

Father's Day Mass: Mission San Luis Rey, 4050 Mission Ave., Oceanside, will have a Mass and dinner in honor of Father's Day, 6 p.m. Wednesday. $15 adults; $8 ages 12 and under and free ages under 4. Information: (760) 757-3659.

Book discussion: Mission San Luis Rey, 4050 Mission Ave., Oceanside, will have a two-part book workshop discussing "The Original Blessing," written by Matthew Fox, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. June 20 and July 18. $20 per session. Reservations: (760) 760-757-3659.

Concert: San Rafael Catholic Church, 17252 Bernardo Center Drive, Rancho Bernardo, welcomes "The Crush" to perform spirituals, jazz and big band music, 7 p.m. June 20. $10 donation requested. Information: (760) 487-4314, ext. 225.

SAN DIEGO

Greek festival: Spyridon Greek Orthodox Church, 3655 Park Blvd., will host the 40th annual Greek Festival, featuring food, music, dancers, children's activities and more, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. today and 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. tomorrow. Free admission 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on each day. Information: (619) 297-4165.

Open house: Rippa Fellowship, 710 13th St., Suite 314, will celebrate the opening of its new meditation center, noon to 5 p.m. Free. Information: (619) 906-4291.

Speaker: Congregation Dor Hadash, 4858 Ronson Court, welcomes Dr. Linda Robinson to discuss "Living with HIV," 7:30 p.m. today. Information: (858) 268-3674.

Speaker: Vision Center for Spiritual Learning, 11260 Clairemont Mesa Blvd., welcomes the Rev. Michael Dowd to discuss contemporary evolution as theology, 10 a.m. tomorrow. Free. Information: (619) 303-6609.

Choral concert: University of San Diego, Shiley Theatre, 5998 Alcala Park, will host a choral concert, 2 p.m. tomorrow. Free. Information: jopowers1@san.rr.com.
MEETINGS: The following support groups will meet at 10 a.m. today at these locations: 
Family Dementia Support Group, ActlvCare at Point Loma, 3423 Channel Way, San Diego, information: (619) 224-7300; Mended Hearts, Sharp Spectrum Building in the boardroom, first floor, 8695 Spectrum Center Court, San Diego, Information: (858) 566-3886.
CONCERT: The Cedar Center and Pacificaire choruses will perform a program, "The Best of Times!" from 2 to 4 p.m. tomorrow at Shiley Theatre in Camino Hall, University of San Diego, 5998 Alcala Park, San Diego. Free.
CLASS: "Holistic Healing," a class that will teach the principles and techniques for healing and relaxing, will be from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Monday at Sharp Memorial Outpatient Pavilion, Classroom A and B, 3075 Health Center Drive, San Diego. Free. Registration: (800) 827-4277. For transportation: (619) 233-1640.
DISCUSSION: "Medicare Made Clear" and "Chronic Illness Plans," will be presented at 10 a.m. Wednesday at the Gloria McClenan Senior Center, 1400 Vale Terrace Drive, Vista. Free. Reservations: (760) 639-6162.
DANCE: Widow or Widowers (WOW) will host a dinner and dance at 5 p.m. Wednesday at the El Cajon Elks Lodge, 1400 Washington Ave., El Cajon. Information: (619) 461-7692.
CAREGIVING: Learn the basics of hands-on care for a loved one at home from a registered nurse from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. June 20 at Sharp Grossmont Hospital Brier Patch Campus, Classrooms 13 and 14, 9000 Wakarusa St., La Mesa. Cost: $10. Reservations: (800) 827-4277.

Send items The San Diego Union-Tribune, P.O. Box 120191, San Diego, CA 92112-0191; e-mail to seniorscene@uniontrib.com or fax to (619) 293-2148. Deadline is three weeks before publication.
University of San Diego
5998 Alcala Park, USD, 619-260-4600.
Sunday, 2pm — The Cedar Center Chorus and Pacificaires. Featuring conductor Eunice Williams and accompanists Vicky Heha-Shaw and Nezni Hobbs. World. Free.
IN PERSON

"Glorious Groove of Shabbat" Lipinsky Family San Diego Jewish Arts Festival continues with concert by Hasidic star Benny Friedman (7:30pm), who "returns to perform, teach, and share the most beautiful, and groovin' melodies and stories of Shabbat." Rabbi Zalman Carlebach and Rabbi Moshe Leider present lecture entitled "Making Your Shabbat Table More Meaningful and Joyful" (6:30pm). 619-544-1000, Monday, June 15, 6:30pm; $18-$36. Lyceum Theatre, 79 Horton Plaza. (DOWNTOWN)


"The Best of Times Is Now" Concert of vocal and choral music by Cedar Center Chorus and Pacificaires, including American ballads, folk songs, show tunes, spirituals, classical pieces, "patriotic rousing." 619-388-1800 or 858-232-7548. Sunday, June 14, 2pm; free, Salk Theatre at University of San Diego. 5998 Alcala Park. (LINDA VISTA)


Running From Coyotes: A White Family Among the Navajo According to Navajo myth, if a coyote crosses your path you should turn back and not continue your journey or something terrible will happen. Author Danalee Buhler -- who spent childhood dodging coyotes -- visits library, 760-733-7376. Wednesday, June 17, 6:30pm; free. Encinitas Library, 540 Cornish Drive. (ENCINITAS)

Thank God for Evolution "For years, I demonized Darwin and clung to religious beliefs as fire insurance that would save me from a hellish afterlife," says Reverend Michael Dowd. "Now, I thank God for Charles Darwin." Dowd discusses his book June 14 at 9am. At 12:30pm on the same day, Dowd presents "The Gospel According to Science: EVolutionary Good News." 619-303-6609. Sunday, June 14, 9am and 12:30pm. Vision Center for Spiritual Living, 11260 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard. (TERRAMARINA)

An Original King of Comedy Actor/comedian Cedric the Entertainer takes the stage. 619-220-8497. Saturday, June 13, 7:30pm; $35-$65. Palomar Starlight Theatre, 11154 Highway 76. (PALOMAR)

June 12, 2009 CALENDAR
POLITICS & COMMUNITY

A NEW WAY FORWARD. San Diego State University Center, Room 107, USD campus, 6896 Alcala Park, Linda McElroy. A panel of experts including Jerald Cisneros, Juan del Rio, Lee Van Ham and Doug Kahnew discuss the "Housing and Economic Meltdown." From 6 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, June 10. 619-260-4081. www.sandiego.edu.
SATURDAY

JULY 11


9:30 a.m., Aglow International of San Clemente breakfast meeting, speakers from Warrior Faith Ministries, men & teens invited, location: Pacific Golf Club, RSVP: 949-492-1488.
Community Healthcare Calendar

To submit a community healthcare event for possible magazine and website publication, email KLewis@SDCMS.org. All events should be physician-focused and should take place in San Diego County.

Fresh Start's Surgery Weekend: A team of dedicated medical volunteers donates their time and expertise to provide disadvantaged children with the highest quality medical services and ongoing care. June 13-14, July 25-26, September 12-13, and November 7-8 at the Center for Surgery of Exce llitas. Contact (760) 444-2021 or mnl.freshstart.org or visit www.freshstart.org.

Riverside County Medical Association's 25th Annual "Cruise Thru CME" (Eastern Mediterranean) July 6-17. Call (800) 745-7545.

25th Annual Primary Care Summer Conference August 7-9 at the Paradise Point Resort, San Diego. Visit www.scripps.org/conferenceservices.


2009 San Diego Day of Trauma October 30 at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice UCSD. Visit www.scripps.org/conferenceservices.

XVII World Congress of Psychiatric Genetics Offers a forum for exchange of the latest scientific data and education for the interested clinician. November 4-6 at the Manchester Grand Hyatt, San Diego. Contact (858) 534-3940 or ocme@ucsd.edu.


Un Día de Esperanza para la epilepsia

Servicios El Latino

La fundación de Epilepsia ofrece una conferencia dedicada a jóvenes que padecen de Epilepsia. El propósito de el evento es para que pacientes de Epilepsia encuentren respuestas a sus preguntas y puedan conocer a otra gente dentro de su misma comunidad con la misma necesidad.

La conferencia está diseñada para alcanzar las necesidades de todos los que padecen de esta enfermedad con un enfoque a los jóvenes.

Con más de 45 mil casos nuevos de epilepsia anualmente en jóvenes menores de 15 años es de gran importancia para los pacientes y sus familias estar informadas para poder vivir una vida de alta calidad a pesar de la enfermedad.

Se le ofrece una invitación a adultos y jóvenes con epilepsia, a pacientes y amistades de los pacientes, a la comunidad profesional médica y a toda persona que de alguna manera sea afectada por la enfermedad.

La conferencia será el 27 de Junio 2009 de 7:30am a 4:30pm. Será en la Universidad de San Diego, Joan B. CROC Institute for Peace and Justice, 5998 Alcala Park, San Diego.

Athletics
The countdown of the 50 most influential people in San Diego County ticks its way down to recognizing the most influential person in San Diego soccer. This week, XK San Diego counts down Nos. 40-31. Check back next week for the next 10 difference-makers.

To see Nos. 50-41, click here.

40. Carl Higham: As the Carlsbad Lightning's director of girls, Higham has enjoyed successes that range from State Cup champions, Surf Cup champions, Nomads champions and more. Higham has been with Lightning for 14 years and counting. In addition, Higham's Carlsbad HS girls varsity program is always one to watch. Higham is a former ODP coach.

39. Alexandra Bailey: This speedy forward with fancy footwork is as talented as they come. She enters her third year at Torrey Pines HS and already boasts two years of varsity playing experience. Bailey plays competitive soccer for Surf and is an ODP regular. Despite ESPN accolades, CIF awards and more, Bailey's contributions to San Diego soccer haven't begun to meet their full potential. Keep an eye on this one.

38. Jose Altamirano: The famed midfielder from Southwest HS (DMCV Sharks) boasts an extensive resume for a recent high school graduate. Altamirano, who is a member of three U.S. National Teams (U20, U18, U17) and a three-time NSCAA Youth All-American (2006-08), was ranked by ESPNRISE.com as the third best prospect in the country. Voted the 2009 San Diego HS Player of the Year, Altamirano will continue his impact on the San Diego soccer community as he heads to SDSU in the fall.

37. Rachel Buehler: San Diego born and bred Olympic gold medalists are shoe-ins for this most-influential list. Buehler, a Torrey Pines HS alum, nabbed the gold in 2008 in Beijing. The DMCV Sharks helped develop Buehler's game in the early years. Surf took over the last seven years to round out Buehler's club days. Buehler, a defender, is a Stanford graduate and currently plays for FC Gold Pride. Perhaps most importantly, she earned XK San Diego's first Athlete of the Year honor in 2008 (please note the humor).

36. Bob Petterson: Petterson serves as the volunteer president for the Southern California Soccer Officials Association of San Diego, which has been the exclusive provider of high school soccer referees for games in the San Diego CIF Section. Petterson acts as the mediator between the SCSOASD and the High School Sports Officiating Coalition (HSSOC) to ensure that his referees are paid fairly for their services. The 2009 high school soccer season was greatly impacted by the loss of high school soccer referees because of the ongoing impasse over fees.

35. Manny Neves: Neves hails from the island as the director of coaching for the only Coronado soccer competitive club, Nado Select. The former professional soccer player boasts an extensive resume and also runs the Manny Neves Soccer Academy.

34. Jerzy Szyndlar: Szyndlar is responsible for helping to develop the influx of girls soccer in San
Diego. The FC Bratz director of coaching, who has a widespread coaching resume that includes Mesa College and La Jolla HS, has helped mold many talented females into exceptional athletes.

33. Malcolm Tovey: Tovey heads up the coaching staff at the Rancho Santa Fe SC as the director of coaching. The acclaimed coach has turned his soccer and educational background into a winning formula for the Attack, which boasts many state, national and tournament wins. Tovey also serves as the head coach for The Bishop’s School boys varsity soccer team, which was the 2009 Coastal South League champion.

32. Mario Mrakovic: This 360 Croatian is a jack-of-all-trades. He owns and operates the San Diego Futsal League and runs year-round camps and clinics. He also runs Surf’s GRASSROOTS program. Mrakovic offers contagious enthusiasm for everything he is involved in.

31. Ada Greenwood: As the University of San Diego’s women’s coach, Greenwood recruits some of the top talent in the nation. Lucky freshman are plucked from San Diego’s own backyard each year. Since 2003, Greenwood has run a very competitive program. The England-bred coach’s Surf teams are always perpetual national and Surf Cup winners, as well. His Surf players have and will continue to span the nation, playing for the top colleges.

Mario Mrakovic and Ada Greenwood offer encouragement and advice.
USD Set to Conduct a Girls Clinic Sunday

XK Submission
Posted: Wednesday, June 3, 2009 10:33 am

The University of San Diego is hosting a shooting clinic for competitive girls U8-U18 on Sunday, June 7 from 2:15-4:15 p.m. at the campus' lower "Valley" field next to the stadium. USD women's coach Ada Greenwood and some of his players will conduct the clinic with all the proceeds going to Kick for Hope.

The clinic, which is $25, will also include free admission to the WPSL game between SD United and the SeaLions following the clinic at 4:30 p.m. at the Toreros Stadium. Clinic fees will be collected at the field but players wanting to attend need to RSVP to abelm@kickforhope.org.
MANOA CUP

Champion Ching ousted by Nino at Manoa Cup

By Brian McInnis

POSTED: 01:30 a.m. HST, Jun 19, 2009

Kurt Nino's father has a new job.

Amor Nino doubled as a masseuse for a day, and might have to supply a few more therapy sessions if his son continues to roll through the 101st Manoa Cup.

Kurt Nino ousted defending champion Alex Ching, 3 and 2, yesterday in a round-of-16 match played at an exceptional level from start to finish at Oahu Country Club.

The two friends and past champions came into the day battling ailments -- a balky back for Nino, a recent illness for Ching -- but it was the 2007 champ who survived another trek up and down the hilly Nuuanu course and advanced to today's quarterfinals.

Nino denied Ching a chance to become the first back-to-back winner at OCC since Brandan Kop accomplished the feat in 1997 and '98. The 21-year-old won four of the final five holes to pull away after the match was all square at the turn.

Afterward, the recent University of San Francisco graduate gestured at Dad as his reason for surviving a third opponent at the state amateur match play championship.

"Yeah, I got my personal masseuse right here," Nino said. "Nah, I tried to stretch a little bit, have my dad loosen me up (Wednesday), and that's about it."

He and 2004 champ Ryan Perez, a 3-and-2 winner over Samuel Rodriguez III, are the only past champions remaining. A grueling test awaits; the quarterfinals teed off at 7 a.m. today, with the winners rewarded by playing again in the noon semifinals.

"For this tournament, I think I'll do that for him, just to keep him going, fix him up a little bit," said Amor Nino, a food manufacturer who's also caddied this week. "Whatever a dad can do. Unless he wants to go see the (therapist) again to get a professional one."

Yesterday's match swung on Nos. 12 and 13, when Nino and Ching faced similar shots but elicited different results.

On 12, both faced a chip up onto the green and needed to apply considerable backspin to get the ball near the pin. Nino succeeded with an amazing shot, but Ching's ball hit a dead spot on the green and didn't budge.

Nino converted that go-ahead hole, then the two found themselves with nearly identical 7-footers for birdie on 13. Nino went in, but Ching came up an inch short.

"I think that was good for me to putt first because it gives me the advantage," Nino said. "I knew the line, I played with it and it went in. Alex, I don't know if he pushed it or anything, but he missed and that gave me a good boost."

It turned out to be the key shot of the match, as the defending champ never recovered, despite matching Nino with no birdies in 16 holes.

Ching refused to use his fatigue as an excuse.

"Today I was just going to go out there, have fun and play," said Ching, a member of the University of San Diego golf team. "We just went out there and both of us made a lot of birdies. He made some more putts than me, so that's how it ended up."

The drama wasn't confined to the battle of past champions. Of the eight matches yesterday, three went to extra holes, including a 22-hole thriller between David Saka and Kalena Preus.

Saka saved himself on the 21st hole with a great chip from below the green to within a foot of the cup, and followed by sticking his tee shot on the par-3 No. 4 hole to within 2 feet to win the match. He is the highest remaining seed at No. 3.

"I got lucky," said Saka, a Moanalua High senior-to-be.

T.J. Kua outlasted Bradley Yosaitis in 21 holes by staying steady until Yosaitis muffed two chip shots and conceded victory.

Christopher Armanini bested 14-year-old Rudy Cabalar on the 19th hole when the Campbell sophomore had a birdie putt lip out.

Punahou alum Alex Ching is All-America honorable mention

Advertiser Staff

Punahou graduate Alex Ching, who just finished his freshman year at the University of San Diego, was named to the Ping All-America honorable mention team by the Golf Coaches Association of America. There were 10 players named to each of the first, second and third teams, and Ching was one of 33 players to be named honorable mention.

Last year Ching won the state high school championship in his only year of high school golf. This year he led USD to its first team appearance at the NCAA Championship. He was tied for first after two rounds and finished 13th after shooting 70-68-76. USD was 13 out of 30 teams.

"I'm very proud of Alex and the season he had," said USD head coach Tim Mickelson. "It's nice to see that he was rewarded with All-America status for his play this year. While college golf is a team effort, Alex was instrumental in our success this year in that 37 of his 38 rounds were counted towards the team score. That is outstanding for any player, and quite remarkable for a freshman to have that type of impact. The sky's the limit for him."

Ching, the 2009 West Coast Conference Freshman of the Year, finished with a team-best scoring average of 71.72. He becomes the Torero's first All-American. Prior to nationals he tied for 24th at the NCAA West Regionals with a 214 total (72-69-73), and tied for 15th at the WCC Championships with a 217 finish (74-72-71).

Ching will defend his Mānoa Cup title next week at Oahu Country Club.

Chan Kim, the 2006 state high school champion for Kaimuki before moving to Arizona, earned all-West Region honors. He is an Arizona State freshman.
San Diego State and USD each will host one of six regionals in the next two NCAA Division I men's golf championships. The 2010 regional (SDSU) will be played at Carlton Oaks in Santee, with the 2011 regional (USD) at The Farms Golf Club in Rancho Santa Fe.
The USD men's rowing team finished a productive run through the national championships yesterday at Lake Natoma in Sacramento. The Varsity 8 boat had a time of 6 hours, 23.52 minutes, good for sixth place in its heat. The team now is ranked 18th in the nation. The Varsity 4 boat finished second in its heat with a time of 6:57.23. It is ranked 14th.
Men's basketball coach made more than $470K in '07

USD basketball coach Bill Grier earned more money in his first full year than all but one other person at the school — $471,123, including benefits, according to the school's recently completed tax form for fiscal year 2007.

Only USD President Mary Lyons earned more: $493,479, including benefits. It is believed to be the first time one of the school's current coaches has been among the school's top five paid employees.

"This is the cost of doing business in Division I sports," USD Athletic Director Ky Soder said.

Grier's predecessor, Brad Holland, was listed among the top five in the 2006 fiscal year, but his $404,732 package, including benefits, was skewed. It may have included as much as double his annual salary because he had a year left on his contract when he was fired in March 2007.

Grier earned $383,581 in compensation, $124,809 in benefits and $32,017 in expenses the year he was fired. His total package was $539,407 in the fiscal year from July 2007 through June 2008. His total package in compensation, $342,169, is $41,020 less than what USD coaches had made in recent years.

Grier's annual compensation is less than what West Coast Conference rival coach Mark Few of Gonzaga earned in fiscal year 2006 — $416,533, including $405,523 in expenses, according to Gonzaga's tax form. Both earn far less than colleagues at bigger programs, such as Kentucky, where newly hired coach John Calipari is set to earn $1.7 million this year.

"Within Division I athletics, coaches' compensation is often higher than the academic community," USD spokeswoman Pamela Gray Poyton said. "I suspect that's just what it takes to be competitive now with coaches."

It's a new development at USD, where administrators, law school professors and deans dominate the school's list of highest-paid officers and employees. Provost Julie Sullivan earned $363,581, including benefits in fiscal year 2007, law professor Sairin Patel earned $321,440, including $35,538 in benefits, and Provost Julie Sullivan earned $363,581, including benefits in fiscal year 2007, law professor Sairin Patel earned $321,440, including $35,538 in benefits.

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USD Boys Basketball Camps

What: University of San Diego men's basketball coach Bill Grier and his staff will be hosting a variety of team and individual camps this summer. 

Who: There are camps for boys ages 8-12 and 13-18.

When: The high school individual camp (ages 13-18) runs from July 5-8, and the Li'l Toreros camp (ages 8-12) is July 9-11. Team camps are June 29-July 2 (games and instruction) and July 19-21 (games only).

Where: Jenny Craig Pavilion, University of San Diego, 5998 Alcala Park, San Diego.

Web site: www.usdcamps.com/Camps/Basketball_Boys.htm
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UC San Diego hoops signs three

BY JOHN MAFFEI
jmaffi@nctimes.com

UC San Diego has signed three high school seniors to letters of intent: Justin Bruce, a 6-foot-6 forward from Hayward, Tyler McGraw, a 6-3 guard from Oceanside, and Colin Porter, a 6-6 forward from Turney Pines High.

Porter, a two-time All-North County selection, averaged 11.7 points, 5.6 rebounds and 1.3 steals while helping the Falcons to the Avocado League championship as a senior.

"Colin is a very versatile big guy who does a lot of the dirty work on both ends of the floor," UCSD coach Chris Carlson said. "He can guard different positions and isn't allergic to hard work. He comes from one of the best programs in San Diego County and has been very well coached."

Moving on

- Palomar College outfielder Melissa Elliott (Christian Union Academy) signed a letter of intent to play softball next season at North Dakota. Elliott hit .360 in 27 games for the Pacific Coast Conference champion Comets. Previous Comets who signed with four-year colleges include pitcher Alex Hutchins (Texas A&M Corpus Christi), shortstop Andy Antion (Adrian Christian), third baseman Shaunna Barron (Adrian Christian), pitcher Chelsea Blackman (Jamestown College) and catcher Andrea Medden (Cal State Monterey Bay).

- Palomar College's Richard Laflather (second-year) and 6-foot-8, 205-pound sophomore, has accepted a scholarship to play men's basketball for the Mustangs. A two-year starter for the Comets, averaged 12.9 points and 5.8 rebounds in 25 games this season. He was the first-team All-Pacific Coast Conference selection.

Men's golf

- Point Loma Nazarene's Sam Cyr became the first golfer in 16 years to win consecutive NAIA national championships when he captured his second straight title recently. Cyr was the only player to shoot below par for the four-round tournament, finishing at 2-under 282, and helping the Sea Lions tie for 12th place in the team competition.

Women's golf

- Lionel DeVilla and Roxanne Mejia of Cal State San Marcos were named NAIA honorable mention All-Americans. The sophomores led the Cougars to a 10th-place finish at the national championships.

Baseball

- Point Loma Nazarene lost 11-8 to Lubbock Christian in the NCAA World Series championship game. The Sea Lions finished the season 45-10. Third baseman Nick Karcher, catcher Tim Winslow and pitcher Andrew Rovida were named to the all-tournament team.

Softball

- Point Loma Nazarene's Melissa Gomez (first team) and Tyler Lent (second team) were named NAIA All-Americans. Both were also named to the national championship all-tournament team.

Track and field

- Two San Diego State athletes earned berths in the NCAA championships on the final day of the NCAA West regional championships at the University of Oregon. Karoline Koehler, who had already qualified in the long jump, won the triple jump in a school-and-meet-record 44 feet, 3 inches, and also achieved a qualifying mark in the 300 meters. Teammate Nicole Stouff was qualified in the 400.

- Christine Merrill, Linda Kulmala and Danielle Tha won individual national titles. Helping the UC San Diego women to a third-place finish of the NCAA Division II championships in San Angelo, Texas, Merrill won the 400 hurdles (56.59 seconds), Kulmala took the high jump (5-11¼) and Tha placed first in the hammer throw (196-6). It was the Tritons' best team finish as a Division II school.

- Melissa Blackman of Point Loma Nazarene and catcher Andrea Medden (Cal State Monterey Bay) were named NAIA All-Americans.

- Thirteen Point Loma Nazarene athletes achieved All-America status at the NAIA championships in Edwardsville, Ill. On the women's side, both the Sea Lions' 3,200 relay (Angie Alfaro, Elise Monzo, Kristen McCreary and Megan Meyer) and 4,400 relay (Tami Anderson, Kelsey Sutherland, Jordan Turner and Sarah Laine) teams were honored. So were pole vaulter Rebecca Duckworth and shotputter Emily Holding and Rebecca Gula.

- Former Triton Nikki Glaeser, who was named an All-American for her performance in the 400, on the men's side, the Sea Lions' 3,200 (10:00.00) and 4,400 (13:45.70) relay teams were named All-Americans.

- Cal State San Marcos' Kaline Williams (3,000 steeplechase), Morgan Sjogren (10,000), Christie Villareal (5,000) and Tony Guadagnini (1,500) earned All-America honors at the NAIA nationals.

Women's water polo

- Three San Diego State players were named to the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation all-academic team. Senior Jenna Schuster was recognized for the third consecutive season, while classmates Anna Greaves and Kailey Friedlander earned her second career academic honor. They were joined by sophomore Sarah Brady.

Women's tennis

- Point Loma Nazarene's Kristel Nystrom (Santa Fe Christian) teamed with teammate NAIA All-American honor of the national championships in Alabama.

Men's tennis

- USD sophomore Dean Jack- son was named to the Intercolle- giate Tennis Association (ITA) All-America team. Jackson, who entered the NCAA championships ranked 85th in the nation, reached the round of 36 to earn his first All-America honor. Jackson finished the year ranked 34th in singles with a 22-8 record.

- Brett Maul was named head coach at USD. Maul has been an assistant coach with the USD men's team since 2005.
Padres’ next pick gifted, but dubious?

Pitcher Sampson questionable past

By Bill Center
STAFF WRITER

Issues that would have steered the Padres away from some picks in past years apparently did not factor into the 2009 draft.

After drafting Scott Boras client Donavan Tate with the No. 3 pick Tuesday and adding another athletic and high-profile center fielder with their second pick, the Padres led off the second day of the draft yesterday by taking a gifted but controversial high school pitcher.

Two rounds later they drafted Santana High pitcher James Needy, who must choose between the Padres and a full scholarship to the University of San Diego.

"For the most part, we took the best available player," said Grady Fuson, the Padres' director of scouting and player development.

With the third pick of the second day, the Padres selected right-handed pitcher Keyvius Sampson from Forest High in Ocala, Fla.

Some projections had the 6-foot, 185-pound 18-year-old going as high as a compensation pick between the first and second rounds. Most predicted his selection well before the end of the second round.

After all, Sampson had 10 wins, a 1.48 ERA and 123 strikeouts against 19 walks in 64 innings — with a fastball that registered between 93-96 mph.

He joins Tate and second-round pick Everett Williams as the third member of the Aflac High School All-American team selected by the Padres.

But on July 21, 2006, Sampson was arrested with two friends and charged with a first-degree felony when a loaded .357 Magnum, a loaded pellet gun and two stocking masks were found in a car being driven by Sampson.

According to police reports, Sampson cooperated with officers at the scene and said he was not aware of the guns, which apparently were used to threaten two other teenagers. He spent two weeks in detention.

"I was with the wrong people at the wrong time and it was a terrible event that happened," Sampson told the Ocala Star-Banner.

Sampson was suspended from high school and was unable to play baseball in the spring of 2007.

During that season, Sampson's mother died of cancer. He has lived with a coach since and has signed a letter of intent with Florida State.

SEE Padres draft, DB
"The entire community has rallied around Sampson," said Padres Scouting Director Bill Gayton, who also said a number of teams had problems evaluating Sampson.

"His velocity varied every time we saw him. We had him all over the place."

Needy presents quite a different question. The San Diego High grad must decide between attending USD and signing with the Padres.

"I'm looking forward to playing baseball for San Diego or San Diego," the 6-foot-6, 220-pound right-hander said. "I have a lot of thinking to do, but I don't think I can make a wrong decision here.

"They are both great opportunities."

Needy, 18, was 9-4 with a 1.14 ERA and 87 strikeouts in 79 innings in his senior season. He is a fastball-slider pitcher, although his coach, Jerry Henson, said Needy has developed a decent change-up.

Needy said he didn't think that much about the draft before being called by the Padres.

"I tried to keep my expectations to a minimum," Needy said. "I heard I might go anywhere from the third to the 10th rounds and some teams called me because they thought signability was an issue.

"But I didn't want the draft to affect my immediate goals."

With their fifth-round pick, the Padres selected 21-year-old switch-hitting catcher Jason Hagerty (63, 220) out of the University of Miami. Their 23rd-round choice was Jeff Ibarra, a left-handed pitcher from Lee University in Tennessee who previously pitched at Palomar College.

The 50-round draft, which yesterday covered rounds 4-30, concludes today.

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Beathard Makes Name for Himself

By Tom Shanahan

The young football player's surname is Beathard, and that name rings a bell in any football town. San Diego, certainly, is no exception.

Bobby Beathard was the general manager of the Chargers when the franchise made its only Super Bowl trip in the 1994 season. That followed his career with the Washington Redskins, when he built two Super Bowl champions in the 1982 and 1987 seasons, not to mention a third Super Bowl season in 1983.

But back to that young football player I mentioned: a safety from La Jolla High, who is bound for the University of San Diego.

Add on his first name, and Robbie Beathard hears the obvious question over and over. "There is no relation," said Robbie with a laugh, providing the answer to a question before it was fully stated. "I get asked that all the time. Pretty soon I'm going to start telling people I am related to him. I might get me more interest as a football player."

His parents named him Robert Drake Beatbard for his grandfather, and he has gained plenty of attention on his own merits. He would stand out as a football player if his name was Robbie Smith.

In addition to earning an offer from USD, the scholar-athlete with a 4.31 grade-point average was weighing offers from Ivy League schools Harvard and Columbia. He also had an offer from UCLA as a preferred walk-on.

But before graduation last week, he picked up a prestigious award to his bio when he was named the 2009 recipient of the Brent Woodall Memorial Scholarship.

Woodall was a three-sport athlete at La Jolla that graduated in 1988 at the San Diego Tribune Prep Athlete of the Year. He went on to play football at Cal as a tight end and pitch in the Chicago Cubs minor league system.

A scholarship honoring La Jolla's top student athlete was established in his name after he died in the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York.

"As a student, an athlete and as a son, Robbie is the kind of kid that fits perfectly the character of Brent Woodall," said Rey Hernandez, a long-time La Jolla assistant coach.

Hernandez, who takes over as La Jolla's head coach in 2009 following 31 years as an assistant at La Jolla and Helix, had Woodall as a student at Muirlands Middle School before he joined La Jolla's coaching staff.

He added Beathard received what is considered La Jolla's most important football honor when he won the Gene Edwards Ironman Award. The late Edwards was a San Diego high school football coaching legend at La Jolla.

"Robbie was the kind of kid Gene and Brent both would have loved," Hernandez said. "Of all the years I've coached, he's the most dedicated and committed kid I've had. He does everything you ask of him as a student and citizen. Any school would have been lucky to get him."

"It's hard to predict how someone will do in college, but I've told college coaches that recruited Robbie, as far as character and desire, I guarantee you that you will be proud of how he represents your school."

Beathard said he picked USD for the chance to stay home and play for a strong football program. The Toreros are entering their third season under Ron Caragher, who has gone 18-4 the last two seasons.

"The deciding factor for me to USD had everything I was looking for in a school," Beathard said. "No. 1, they have academics. I was looking for a competitive program where I could be successful on the field as opposed to trying to make it at a powerhouse Division I program. Plus, I love San Diego and the people. That was the icing on the cake."

Beathard's name will now be engraved on a plaque hanging on a wall in the school office with the names of the other Brent Woodall scholarship recipients.

"I first started learning about him as a freshman when I saw the plaque," Beathard said. "I did some research, and he was a role model and he's someone I've tried to model myself after. I can't describe what it feels like to win an award in his name."

"It's a terrible thing that happened to him, but from what coaches here have told me about him, he was the kind of guy that was trying to help everyone get out before him."

Robbie Beathard said he's never met Bobby Beathard, but he'd love to some day.

And if they were seen talking on a football field, people that recognized Bobby Beathard talking to a USD kid with Beathard printed on the back of his jersey would no doubt be asking themselves that familiar question.

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