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One for the History Books

By Jill Wagner

The final countdown begins. On the eve of hosting a presidential debate, USD is buzzing with last-minute preparations for the event that will be seen around the world by an estimated 100 million television viewers.

Welcome banners will soon festoon Camino Hall and Hahn University Center. Hundreds of phone lines and computer hook-ups are being pulled into the UC, soon to be transformed into the media filing center. Shiley Theatre is ready, with its new paint, carpet, air conditioning and 500 auditorium seats. The Secret Service completed its survey of the campus.

Although the debate task force is trying to keep disruption of normal university life to a minimum, access to certain buildings will be more difficult and parking will get a bit sticky in the days preceding Wednesday, Oct. 16. Hahn University Center and Camino Hall employees will be required to obtain "event staff credentials" to get to their offices and work stations the week of the debate. On debate day, faculty and staff working in Camino Hall will be granted limited access once security sweeps are complete. More details will be passed on soon to affected employees.

Media are expected to set up shop in the UC beginning Sunday, Oct. 13, meaning the main dining hall and Faculty/Staff Dining Room will be closed to the campus community that day. The dining rooms and Traditions will remain closed through Thursday, Oct. 17. The Marketplace and Deli will be open during debate week, with access through the patio doors. Alternative dining facilities for students and employees will be set up in tents on the UC east parking lot.

The traditional fall holiday has been switched from Oct. 25 to debate Wednesday, so classes are canceled and some departments will be closed. Employees should consult their supervisors for specific plans that day.

Like many of the details surrounding planning of a major political event, parking plans are constantly changing, says Rana Sampson, director of public safety. In addition to at least 2,000 press members driving to campus, 45 television production trucks will be parked on the mesa for several days.

Sampson says Monday, Oct. 14, through Thursday, Oct. 17, will be the four most difficult days to park, and she is looking into off-campus sites for employees. Shuttle service to campus will be provided from the alternative lots.

And finally, enjoy. You're a part of "History in the Making!"

As of press time, these dates and times are accurate. If there are changes, faculty and staff will be notified.

Debate Special Events

Choral Concert. Celebrate the presidential debate at a concert by the Choral Scholars, 8 p.m., Oct. 11, and 3 p.m., Oct. 13, in Founders Chapel. The student group will perform "A Spectrum of American Music," including early California mission music and a set of choral pieces titled "Presidential Suite." Faculty, staff and administrators are invited to attend the concert for free.

Art Exhibit. Visit Founders Gallery and see what politics meant to turn-of-the-century Mexican artists and political satirists in "Political Skeletons: The Prints of José Guadalupe Posada and His Followers." The exhibit opens Oct. 3 and will run through Nov. 2. Gallery hours are 12:30 to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Admission is free.

An exhibit of San Diego Union-Tribune cartoonist Steve Kelley's work will also be on display in the gallery from Oct. 3 to Nov. 2.

Exhibit Lecture. SDSU Professor Janet Esser will open the gallery exhibit with a talk on "José Guadalupe Posada, Printmaker (and the Skeletons in Porfirio Diaz' Closet)," 5:30 p.m., Oct. 3, in Maher Hall 108.

Memorabilia Lecture. Edmund B. Sullivan, founding director of the Museum of American Political Life, University of Hartford, will speak on collecting political art and memorabilia, 4:30 p.m., Oct. 17, in Maher Hall 108.
His Handiwork Graces Every Nook and Cranny

By Jill Wagner

It's not often you sit at a desk as imposing and also as delicate as the one used by Sister Sally Furay. The handmade wooden desk fits perfectly with the hardwood floors and antique furnishings of the former provost's Maher Hall office. Its sheer size could make Sister Furay seem miles away from the person in the guest chair, yet with a slight lean forward, the distance suddenly shrunk and the room became much more intimate.

The desk is not unlike its maker, Manuel Rivera, a longtime carpenter in building maintenance. Rivera's length of service at USD is so vast he seems larger than life. Yet to meet the man in person is to understand the meaning of humility.

Rivera began his career at the College for Men in 1962. The young carpenter found a gifted teacher and instant friend in Manuel Hernandez, who took Rivera under his wing and honed the skills of the craftsman who in June was named runner up for the 1996 Employee of the Year Award. The recognition was especially sweet for the best friend of Hernandez — the annual award is named for Rivera's mentor, who passed away in February 1995.

Rivera learned his early carpentry skills in Mexico, he says, but it was Hernandez who taught him woodworking and how to build to the standards practiced in the United States. "He was my teacher," he says quietly.

Rivera fondly recalls memories of working directly for Bishop Charles Buddy, who commissioned the campus craftsman to build desks, bookshelves and the pews for the Immaculata Church. The crew often traveled to parishes in Imperial and Riverside counties to build pews and other furniture for the desert churches.

A budget crunch in 1968 forced layoffs, and Rivera had to leave Alcalá Park. The beloved carpenter returned in 1972 to the newly merged University of San Diego and has been caring for campus buildings ever since.

The jovial man chuckles lightly when he tells of knowing the details of every room and office on the 180-acre campus. His knowledge is so complete he can tell you what material the walls are made of, where the doors and windows are located and what color paint coats each cranny of the school.

Rivera now is to many of the new employees what Hernandez once was to him. "Manuel is often seen close by the side of new employees in the building maintenance department," his supervisor wrote in nominating him for Employee of the Year. "He quietly trains and assists them in learning the campus and the importance of service."

After 30 years on the job, Rivera is looking toward retirement next summer. He's ready, he says, but adds wistfully, "I'm one of the last links in the chain started by Bishop Buddy."

Perhaps his retirement will mark the end of an era, but Manuel Rivera's legacy is sure to live on.

Presidential Numbers

24 — Offices, classrooms and labs set aside in Camino and Sacred Heart halls for the candidates, the White House Press corps and the Commission on Presidential Debates.

696 — The number of seats that will eventually fill Shiley Theatre, when the debate is over and camera podiums removed.

700 — Phone lines installed in the Hahn University Center's media filing headquarters.

5,000 — Pins with the USD presidential debate logo ordered as memorabilia.
American Parlor Transformed into Museum

The French Parlor, with its elegant furnishings, hardwood floors and frequent music recitals, is distinctly European. It's lesser known neighbor, the American Parlor, now too has a feel that lives up to its name. Previously a study lounge off the foyer of Founders Hall, the American Parlor has been transformed into a Native American art museum.

Specially built cases and pedestals display Southwestern pottery and ceramics, Californian basketry, Kachina dolls and textiles. The David W. May Indian Artifacts Collection showcases only a small part of the 1,600-piece collection of Southwest Indian art bequeathed to the university by the family of May, a former USD student. Mary Whelan, professor of art, and students from her exhibition design class selected what she calls the masterpieces of the collection for the initial showing in the museum. The collection of artifacts and paintings includes items from numerous Native American tribes ranging from prehistoric pieces to reproductions, Whelan says.

Also with the help of student workers, Alana Cordy-Collins, professor of anthropology, catalogued and photographed each piece. Some of the items were more precisely identified by Cordy-Collins and her students, who pinned down which tribe produced the pieces and when. Cordy-Collins also is working on producing digital archives of the entire collection so students won't be limited to studying only the items on display in Founders Hall.

“We hope, after we get this initial exhibit up, to continue rotating the collection,” Whelan says. “Maybe we will do something on one particular tribe or a particular style of pottery. The collection is large enough that we can come up with new angles for the exhibits.”

SEA in Search of New Board Reps

The Staff Employees Association is accepting applications for new officers who will be elected to two-year terms this month. Any hourly, benefits-based employee is eligible to be president, vice president, secretary or treasurer. Elections will be held at the monthly board meeting, 2 p.m., Oct. 9, in the Hahn University Center.

New representatives also are needed to fill open seats beginning in November. All staff employees are eligible to sit on the board for the two-year terms. If you are interested in running for an office or becoming a representative, simply submit your name to Becky Gilbert, SEA president.

Don't forget — all SEA meetings are open to campus employees. Attend any second Wednesday of the month to find out more about the association that is working for you.

Road Trip!

Make reservations now to hop on an SEA-chartered bus for a 24-hour turnaround trip to Laughlin, Nev. For $20 per person, the trip includes a fun book and two free buffets at the Edgewater Hotel. Gamble in the casino of your choice or explore the new outlet mall. (Hint: Nevada has no sales tax!) The bus leaves the UC west parking lot at 7:30 a.m., Nov. 9, and returns the following morning. Reservations are required by Oct. 21. Call Kay Norton at ext. 2033 or Frank Holcomb, ext. 4518, for more information.

Look to the Net

SEA webmaster Frank Holcomb designs and maintains a useful, easy to navigate homepage where employees can go for all sorts of SEA information. The site at http://www.acusd.edu/SEA/ includes SEA history, the board meeting schedule, e-mail access to elected officers and a complete list of representatives and committee members. The site can also be found under the “Community” heading on USD's homepage.
Quality is Job One

By Jill Wagner

In her second "state of the union" address, President Alice B. Hayes touted the quality of an education at USD and encouraged faculty to continue their scholarly pursuits outside the classroom. The convocation speech, given Sept. 12 to a packed UC Forum, hinted at Hayes' and Vice President and Provost Frank Lazarus' interest in gaining more recognition for research conducted by faculty members.

USD is known for its commitment to teaching, Hayes noted, but added that there are several factors that go into bettering the quality of university life.

"An obvious measure is the level of scholarship we produce," Hayes said. "We have an active faculty and a quite respectable quality of output. The quantity of output is not comparable to that of other doctoral institutions because of the commitment to excellence in teaching. I think that's all right, as long as the quality is there.

"I encourage those of you who are involved in research and professional programs to seek the recognition you deserve, through publication and through application for grants," she continued.

There are specific events that will enhance the quality of education USD can offer its students, Hayes noted, including the presidential debate and the ongoing technological upgrade of faculty offices, classrooms, dormitories and apartments. The anticipated approval of the university's master plan by the San Diego City Council this fall will allow development plans to move forward, she noted. Mention of a parking garage in the valley drew cautious applause from the crowd of faculty and administrators. A new sports center and academic facilities also are priorities, she said.

As Hayes spoke of the quality to which she encourages all to aspire, it was the folks seated in the front row who represented just how deep the commitment to excellence runs in the veins of the university. Twenty faculty members have been named University Professors, Herzog Endowed Scholars and Steber Professors this academic year, and all attended the convocation.

The University Professorships, in recognition of outstanding career contributions or a project proposal that supports the USD mission, were awarded to: David N. Burt, Hugh I. Ellis, Lawrence M. Hinman, Robert Infantino, Mitchell R. Malachowski, Grant H. Morris, Virginia Nolan, Robert F. O'Neil, JoEllen Patterson, Cynthia M. Pavett, Mary A. Quinn, Patricia Ann Roth, Daniel P. Sheehan, Edmund Ursin and Sister Betsy Walsh.

The Herzog Endowed Scholars, in recognition of meritorious teaching in the School of Law, are: Steven Hartwell, Walter Heiser and Michael B. Kelly.

This year's Steber Professors, in recognition of substantial contributions to teaching, research and service, are: Dennis W. Krouse and Charles J. Teplitz.