News Clippings, January 1996

On the Town: Art Aplenty, USD’s Founders Gallery Opening Night, San Diego Magazine, February 1996 .................................................. 1

Women Today: Wife, Mother, and Religious Chooses Life In College Dorm (about Sister Helen Lorch), Catholic Women’s Network, January/February 1996 .... 2

All Faith Service Set at USD Campus, San Diego Union-Tribune, January 31 .... 3

USD Will Host Final Debate In Presidential Race, North County Times, January 30 ............................................................ 4

Panel Picks USD To Host Fall Presidential Debate, San Diego Union-Tribune, January 30 ............................................................ 5

Sites Offered For President, Vice President Debates, Boston Globe, January 30 ... 6-7

Presidential Debate Panel Makes Its Site Nominations, Washington Post, January 30 ............................................................ 8

Presidential Debate Panel Recommendation, USD Today, January 30 .......... 9

Presidential Rivals to Debate..., St. Louis Post Dispatch, January 30 .......... 10-12

Three U.S. Presidential Debates Proposed, Reuters Ltd., January 29 .......... 13

Presidential Debates, The Associated Press, January 29 ......................... 14

NJEMA ‘96, San Diego Union-Tribune, January 28 .................................. 15

Toreros Can’t Find Range Against Dons, San Diego Union-Tribune, January 28 .. 16

San Diego Economy Shown Picking Up Steam, San Diego Union-Tribune, January 26 ............................................................ 17

Tourism Helps S.D. Economy, San Diego Daily Transcript, January 26 .......... 18

Religion & Ethics Calendar ♦ Father Richard McBrien, San Diego Union-Tribune, January 26 .................................................. 19

‘Table’ Is Set For Its Mission: Getting To The Soul Of Matters (Sally Furay - founder of The Roundtable), San Diego Union-Tribune, January 26 .......... 20-21

Redemption In Reel Life (Statements and opinions make by USD’s Anne Hendershott, Sociology), San Diego Union-Tribune, January 26 .......... 22-24

Study Calls Latin American Courts Corrupt, San Diego Union-Tribune, January 26 ............................................................ 25
Opinion & UC Faculty Opposes Preferences (by USD's Gail L. Heriot, School of Law), San Diego Union-Tribune, January 26 .................................................. 26

Letters to the Editor & The threat of lawsuits at Adelphi U. (by USD's Dennis M. Clausen, English), The Chronicle of Higher Education, January 26 ...................... 27

Speech Sparks USD Past Depleted Northridge, San Diego Union-Tribune, January 25 ............................................................... 28

College Basketball & Holland may top Pepperdine's List, San Diego Union-Tribune, January 24 .................................................. 29

(FYI) Steep Drop in Rate of Student Loan Default, The New York Times, January 24 .................................................. 30

Brovelli Leads USD to Top of Conference, San Diego Union-Tribune, January 24 .................................................. 31-32

Lady Dons Too Tall, Too Good For USD, San Diego Union-Tribune, January 24 .................................................. 33

Burl Stiff: ‘Angels’ Take Center’s Awards Under Their Wing (Dr. Alice B. Hayes luncheon guest), San Diego Union-Tribune, January 23 .................................................. 34

Economy’s pace? Expect a trot, not a gallop, San Diego Union-Tribune, January 23 .................................................. 35

Economic Freedom, San Diego Union-Tribune, January 21 .................................................. 36-37

USD Women Set School Record With Ninth Consecutive Victory, San Diego Union-Tribune, January 21 .................................................. 38

Toreros Fall to Pilots as Coach Stews, San Diego Union-Tribune, January 21 .................................................. 39

USD Guard Knows Meaning of Success, San Diego Union-Tribune, January 20 .................................................. 40

Defensive Lapse Early in 2nd Half Costs USD, San Diego Union-Tribune, January 19 .................................................. 41

Religion & Ethics Calendar: Bishop Robert Brom Honored, San Diego Union-Tribune, January 19 .................................................. 42

USD Women Tie Mark With 8th Straight Win, San Diego Union-Tribune, January 19 .................................................. 43
USD's Bruso Hopes to Make Debut Tonight, San Diego Union-Tribune, January 18 ............................................................... 44

Law Briefs ⚖ USD Law Alumna Hired as Executive Director of Lawyers Club; Two USD Alumni Join Law Firm as Associates, San Diego Daily Transcript, January 17 .............................................................. 45

Legal Lines: In Court -- Michael D. Wellington (USD Law Alumnus), San Diego Daily Transcript, January 17 ......................................................................... 46

LMU Star Dressed For (Late) Success, San Diego Union-Tribune, January 14 ................................................................. 47

(FYI) Students in Need Face Crunch Time, San Diego Union-Tribune, January 14 ............................................................... 48-49

College Basketball ⚽ USD Finds Something in Reserve, San Diego Union-Tribune, January 12 ........................................................................... 50

Around The County ➡️ Marquette Official New USD Provost, San Diego Union-Tribune, January 11 .............................................................................. 51

Local Scene: Dr. Francis M. Lazarus appointed new provost, San Diego Daily Transcript, January 11 ................................................................. 52

Local Church † News in Brief: Election Yields Four New USD Trustees; Bishop Brom to Receive Ecumenical Award, The Southern Cross, January 11 .............. 53

Going ‘Home’ Was Right Choice For Fuller, San Diego Union-Tribune, January 11 .............................................................................. 54

King Can’t Miss; USD Women Can’t Lose To Northridge, San Diego Union-Tribune, January 10 .............................................................................. 55

People ⚽ Gertrude Patch, Jack Boyce, William Zures & Sandra Brue elected to USD’s Board of Trustees, San Diego Business Journal, January 8 ...................................................................... 56

Old Land Mines Go On Killing (About USD’s Daniel Wolf), San Diego Union-Tribune, January 7 .............................................................................. 57-58

Store Is Sent To Courthouse After Mail Transgresses No-Junk Zone, San Diego Union-Tribune, January 7 .............................................................................. 59

USD Beats Dons In WCC Opener, San Diego Union-Tribune, January 7 .............................................................................. 60

USD’s ‘University of the Third Age’ Offers Short Courses For Seniors, San Diego Union-Tribune, January 6 .............................................................................. 61
News Clippings, January 1996
Page 4

Breaking A Campus Color Line (About USD student Colleen Coffey),
The Washington Post, January 6 ........................................... 62

Walk on Water, San Diego Daily Transcript, January 4 ..................... 63

Local Report USD 81-Bucknell 56, San Diego Union-Tribune, January 3 .... 64

USD Not Sharp, But Gets a Win, San Diego Union-Tribune, January 3 ........ 65

USD Women Beat Pitt, San Diego Union-Tribune, January 1 .................. 66

Twenty ACCU Members on Templeton Honor Roll, January 1996 ............ 67
FOCUS Begins at 40

More than 225 guests turned out at the U.S. Grant Hotel bearing gifts. The presents were donated to FOCUS, the Friends of Children United Society, an organization committed to brightening the lives of children in need.

The event began in the lobby, where partygoers deposited their gifts and partook of an elaborate display of hors d'oeuvres and wines before being escorted to the Grand Ballroom for a lavish gourmet dinner and live entertainment. The occasion was Coronado cosmetic surgeon Kim Cook's 40th-birthday party, given by her husband, Dr. William Cook.

Highlighting the evening was a performance by the band that made "The Lion Sleeps Tonight" popular back in the '60s. And then the Tokens played the tune again, to a new set of lyrics written and sung by longtime friends of the Cooks, Rhoda Narins and Carol Davis.

—KIM CROWELL

1 Kim and Bill Cook
2 Madeleine and Frank Pavel Jr.
3 Paul and Alice Blume
4 Lynda and Fred Schnepfer
5 Happi Everett
6 Candace Berghman

Cup o' Kindness

Some 3,000 revelers brought in the new year at the Convention Center at the San Diego League's 11th annual New Year's Eve Masked Ball. Channel 10's Stephen Clark and Kimberly Hunt emceed.

A dinner buffet was set up in the main ballroom where guests filled their plates to a disco beat provided by local deejay Scott Valentine with Maximum Impact. Later, partygoers danced outdoors to the musical lineup of guitarist Peter White and saxophonist Tom Scott and country musician Steve Wariner, before a spectacular midnight countdown to '96.

The nonprofit San Diego League is made up of members of the local business and professional community who coordinate annual fund-raising events throughout the year for children's charities. The league has raised nearly $1 million for such causes since 1983.

Major sponsors of the event, co-chaired by Diane West and Sheri Karpinski, included Channel 10, Jazz FM98, KSON, SDG&E, Jack in the Box and Barona Casino.

—K.C.

1 Kimberly Hunt, Savannah Smith
2 Lisa Pelpendang
3 Jim Hollett
4 Diane West
5 June Borowski
6 Evelyn and Tom Page

Art Aplenty

San Diego museum and gallery directors joined area artists, collectors and art lovers at USD's Founders Gallery for the opening night of "Acquired Taste," an exhibition of works from the personal collections of local arts professionals. Guests viewed sculptures, sketches, prints and paintings by a who's who of artists, including Felipe Benito Archuleta, John Everett Millais, Shoji Hamada, Ellisworth Kelly and Cindy Zimmerman.

Gallery director Derrick Cartwright was joined by many of San Diego's top arts leaders and educators. They included Martha Longenecker, director of the Mingei International Museum; David Zapf, owner of the David Zapf Gallery; Larry Baza, director of the Centro Cultural de la Raza; Sally Yard, chair of USD's Fine Arts Department; and USD President Alice B. Hayes, who hosted a private reception for the artists and collectors and their guests following the opening.

—MARY CHARLES

1 Richard Trpzas
2 Sally Yard
3 Malcolm Warner
4 Tom Noel
5 Alice B. Hayes
6 Cindy Zimmerman
7 Martha Longenecker
Women Today

Wife, mother and religious chooses life in college dorm

by Rosemary Johnston
San Diego Correspondent

Her co-workers describe her as a living legacy and a bearer of the tradition at the University of San Diego. In her 85 years, Sister Helen Lorch is one of those rare people who has lived three vocations – as a single person, a married person, and for 25 years now, a member of the Religious of the Sacred Heart. She has, in effect, lived three lifetimes in one.

Sister Lorch lives in a room at the end of the hallway in the women's dorm on the second floor of Camino Hall on the university campus. Outside her door, a small sign reads: Sister Lorch, Resident Counselor.

Here she meets regularly with students, helping them navigate the shoals of adolescence and college life.

Campus chaplain Father Barry Vinyard remembers Sister Lorch as the 'grand dame of Point Loma' when he was in junior high school. A close friend of her son, Michael, now a principal at a local high school, Father Vinyard remembers her graciousness and sense of humor, as fresh today as it was when he first met her.

Sister Lorch grew up in the Midwest, met and married a surgeon, raised two children (daughter Sherry is a teacher in San Diego) and was widowed in 1961.

“Everyone thought I was crazy to become a nun,” she recalls, “but it was a choice I was glad to make.” She had already returned to school seven years earlier to complete studies for a bachelor degree in history. She eventually earned her master’s degree after entering religious life.

On campus, Sister Lorch has taught, served as resident director, and been an abiding presence to faculty, students, and alumni for almost 30 years.

How does she bridge the generation gap between her own 85 years and the teens with whom she lives?

“Kids relate well to grandmothers,” this grandmother of four explains. Father Vinyard has another explanation.

“She disconcerts the students,” he says. She speaks frankly, she speaks up for the truth, and she knows what's happening.”

In the past 30 years, Sister Lorch has seen thousands of students pass through the women's dorms. She continues to share with them the wisdom she has accumulated: commitment makes life stable and goals possible; God is a reality whether we accept God or not; until you find something better, you shouldn't change your way of life.

“I find students today have a better relationship with their parents than they used to,” she reflected. “They don't hesitate to call home for advice, but they know I'm here also.”

Described by vice president of student affairs Tom Burke as “Our number one basketball fan” Sister Lorch hardly misses a game or anything else for that matter. “She's kind of a legacy,” Burke said. “Wherever I go to meet with alumni or students, they always ask about her. She brings Christianity right to the people.”
All Faith Service set at USD campus

Linda Vista

University of San Diego will be host for the third-annual All Faith Service at noon tomorrow at The Immaculata church on campus. This year's theme will be "Celebrating a World of Religions at USD." President Alice B. Hayes will give the Call to Worship, and members of the USD community will officiate. The featured speaker will be Rabbi Wayne Dosick. USD is at 5998 Alcala Park. For more information, call 260-2247.
SAN DIEGO — San Diego has yet another major role in the upcoming presidential election, and an area university will have the long overdue chance to be at the center of it all.

Two months after the city hosts the Republican National Convention in August, the University of San Diego will host the year's third and final presidential debate, the Commission on Presidential Debates announced Monday.

The private, Catholic university in Linda Vista was ready to host the first presidential debate between then-Gov. Bill Clinton and President George Bush in 1992, but the candidates couldn't agree on the format and date of the event.

University officials canceled the forum 10 days before it was scheduled to be held, because they still didn't have assurance that it would be held.

"We've been at this for four years, so it's almost like a sense of closure," said Jack Cannon, director of public relations at USD.

"We tried so hard in 1992, and now we're ready to go. We're going to assure that the university and San Diego provide the nation with a great forum."

The debate is set for Oct. 16, just three weeks before the election. It will follow presidential debates in St. Louis and St. Petersburg, Fla.

The nonpartisan, nonprofit Commission on Presidential Debates began producing the presidential debates in 1988 to ensure that face-to-face, televised meetings between the major candidates happened every four years.

The television audience for the 1992 debates was the largest for any political event in history, drawing 97 million viewers for the third debate.

In both years, exit polls showed that more voters based their votes on the debates than on any other single issue, according to Janet Brown, a spokeswoman for the commission.

The recommendations by the commission must be approved by the campaigns.

More than 40 colleges, universities and cities expressed interest in hosting a debate, Brown said.

The debates involve complex logistics, such as bringing in enough phone lines for hundreds of journalists.

Cannon said the university plans to heavily involve students in the debate.

"We want students to use this debate as an episode in American history that they can look at as though it were a living laboratory," Cannon said.

"This really is history in the making."

Local Republicans say the selection of San Diego as the site for two major presidential events shows the importance of California in the election.

"This debate could make or break one of the candidates," said Edgar Acosta, executive director of the San Diego County Republican Party.

"I think the eyes of the world will be on San Diego."
Panel picks USD to host fall presidential debate

By JOHN MARELIUS, Staff Writer

The University of San Diego, left standing at the presidential debate altar four years ago, was chosen yesterday to host the final in a series of proposed presidential campaign debates this fall.

The nonpartisan national Commission on Presidential Debates designated USD as the site of a 90-minute debate to be held Oct. 16 between the major-party presidential nominees and any independent or third-party candidates deemed sufficiently serious.

Under the commission's proposal, the series of four 90-minute Wednesday evening debates would begin Sept. 25 at Washington University in St. Louis.

A vice presidential candidates' debate would be held Oct. 2 in Hartford, Conn., followed by an Oct. 9 presidential debate in St. Petersburg, Fla., and then the finale at USD.

Ten cities had been finalists for the debate out of 40 expressing interest.

USD officials yesterday hailed the announcement as a feather in the cap that will bring international exposure for the small Roman Catholic university overlooking Mission Bay.

"This is history in the making," USD President Alice Hayes told a news conference in the campus' Shiley Theatre. "The University of San Diego's selection to host a presidential debate is, I believe, a remarkable national endorsement of the city of San Diego and of our community."

But as USD officials know all too well, the fate of presidential debates is ultimately subject to the strategies and whims of the campaigns.

Four years ago, USD was tapped to host a presidential debate.

But after the school installed miles of wiring and tore out a section of seats in Shiley Theatre to accommodate a massive press platform, the event fell apart when negotiators for the Bush and Clinton campaigns failed to agree on terms for such an event in a timely fashion.

Janet Brown, executive director of the Commission on Presidential Debates, said she is confident the USD event will actually happen this time.

"We've worked on a number of different contingency plans."

The nonpartisan commission headed by two former national political party chairmen — Democrat Paul Kirk and Republican Frank Fahrenkopf — has gone a long way toward making debates a permanent fixture in presidential campaigns since it began sponsoring them in 1988.

The 1992 debate in Richmond, Va., between Bush, Clinton and Ross Perot drew a TV audience estimated at 97 million, the largest ever for a political event.

"I think it's been made very clear in the last several general election cycles that voters really expect the debates and they watch them and they learn from them, and they don't like it when there's some question as to whether or not they're going to happen," Brown said.

"So I think that the whole predictability and regularity of this process has increased greatly since we started."

The commission proposed that each of the 1996 debates feature a sole moderator rather than a panel of questioners and that at least one would be dominated by questions from the audience.

Four years ago, debate negotiations became a colorful campaign sideshow as George Bush balked at various formats and Bill Clinton's campaign resorted to dispatching volunteers in chicken suits to the then-president's campaign events.

Ultimately, the Bush campaign abruptly reversed course and proposed a rapid-fire schedule of four debates in eight days — just past USD's self-imposed and already-postponed deadline after which the university said it could not hold the event without interfering with fall classes.

It was reported at the time that Bush campaign officials had become convinced they could not win California anyway and did not want to come to San Diego.

Jack Cannon, USD's director of public relations, acknowledged the star-crossed 1992 debate yesterday as he declared the university's eagerness to host a 1996 debate in Shiley Theatre.

"They say that theaters sometimes are inhabited by ghosts which perch around the ramparts up there," Cannon said in the theater. "And if there's a ghost here today, it's probably that of our old friend 'deja vu.' "

San Diego Union-Tribune

January 30, 1996
WASHINGTON - An independent commission yesterday chose St. Louis, San Diego and St. Petersburg, Fla., as the sites for three presidential debates this fall. Hartford was chosen for a vice presidential debate.

The recommendations, which must be approved by the campaigns, were made by the Commission on Presidential Debates, a private group led by former leading officials of the Democratic and Republican parties.

President Clinton's campaign had no immediate comment. Nor did those of his Republican challengers.

In 1992, the debates were staged partly as the group had recommended. But under pressure from President Bush's campaign, a panel, rather than a moderator, conducted one debate and half of another.

Clinton's campaign also pushed successfully to allow audience members to ask questions in one meeting. About 97 million viewers tuned in to the 1992 town-hall debate in Richmond, Va.

This time, the group recommends debates Sept. 25 at Washington University in St. Louis, Oct. 9 at St. Petersburg's Bayfront Center and Oct. 16 at the University of San Diego.

The vice presidential debate would take place on Oct. 2 at Hartford's civic center.

The commission wants a town-hall format in one debate, and the presidential candidates standing behind lecterns in a second.

In the third -- and also in the vice presidential debate -- the candidates would be seated and less formal than usual.

The commission also wants each debate to be 90 minutes long, and each to have a sole moderator instead of a panel of interviewers.

By late summer, the commission plans to pick three finalists for moderator for each debate and discuss them with the campaigns before making a decision.

Network TV anchors need not apply: commission co-chairman Paul G. Kirk Jr., a former chairman of the Democratic National Committee, said network TV news stars
have too strong a presence and distract from the candidates.

Ten cities had been finalists for the debates, among 40 that originally expressed interest.
POLITICS

Presidential Debate Panel Makes Its Site Nominations

If the bipartisan Commission on Presidential Debates has its way, St. Louis, San Diego and St. Petersburg, Fla., will host the 1996 presidential debates, while Hartford, Conn., will be the site of the vice presidential debate.

The recommendations, announced yesterday, must be approved by the campaigns.

Specifically, the group recommends presidential debates Sept. 25 at Washington University in St. Louis, Oct. 9 at St. Petersburg's Bayfront Center and Oct. 16 at the University of San Diego. The vice presidential debate would be Oct. 2 at Hartford's civic center. Each of the four dates is a Wednesday.

"This is a tremendous opportunity to showcase our city and state," Daniel Papernstle, head of a committee promoting Hartford as a debate site, told the Associated Press.

Ten cities had been finalists for the debates, among 40 that originally expressed interest.

The commission, which began producing the debates in 1988, wants a town-hall format in one debate, and the presidential candidates standing behind lecterns in a second. In the third—and also in the vice presidential debate—the candidates would be seated and the format less formal.

The commission also wants each debate to be 90 minutes long and to include foreign and domestic policy issues. Each would have a sole moderator instead of a panel of interviewers. By late summer, the commission plans to pick three moderator finalists for each debate and discuss them with the campaigns before making a decision.

But no network news anchors will get the job; Commission co-chairman Paul G. Kirk Jr., a former chairman of the Democratic National Committee, said network television news stars distract from the candidates.
An independent panel has recommended presidential debates Sept. 25 at Washington University in St. Louis; Oct. 9 at Bayfront Center in St. Petersburg, Fla.; and Oct. 16 at the University of San Diego.

A vice presidential debate would be Oct. 2 in Hartford, Conn.

The recommendations of the private, bipartisan Commission on Presidential Debates, led by former top officials of the Democratic and Republican parties, must be approved by the campaigns.

President Clinton’s campaign had no immediate comment, nor did those of his Republican challengers.

CAPTION: PHOTO,color,AP
PHOTOS,b/w,Jim Bourg,Reuters(2)

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PRESIDENTIAL RIVALS TO DEBATE HERE WASHINGTON U. IN LINE

St. Louis Post Dispatch

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08530069 PRESIDENTIAL RIVALS TO DEBATE HERE WASHINGTON U. IN LINE AGAIN TO BE IN NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT St. Louis Post Dispatch (SL) - Tuesday, January 30, 1996 By: Fred W. Lindecke

Missouri Political Correspondent Edition: FIVE STAR LIFT Section: NEWS Page: 01A

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TEXT: Chancellor Mark W. Wrighton called it "the equivalent of the Super Bowl."

For the second presidential campaign in a row, Washington University is expected to be the site of the first presidential debate. Mark your calendars for Sept. 25.

On Oct. 11, 1992, the Washington U. Field House was the dateline of worldwide news reports about the first debate among President George Bush, Democratic candidate Bill Clinton and third-party candidate Ross Perot.

The event brought attention to the school, its faculty members, students and alumni - and hundreds of visitors to the St. Louis area.

On Monday, at a press conference on the campus, university leaders, including Wrighton, told how excited they were to again be able to showcase the school and St. Louis.

"There are certain events that set the whole tone of a student's graduate or undergraduate career," said Edward S. Macias, executive vice chancellor. A presidential debate becomes a hallmark of a student’s experience, "similar to having a faculty member win a Nobel prize or one of our teams making it to the NCAA championships."

In Washington, the Commission on Presidential Debates announced all the debate sites. The second presidential debate will be Oct. 9 at Bayfront Center, St. Petersburg, Fla. The third presidential debate will be Oct. 16 at the University of San Diego.

One vice presidential debate will be Oct. 2 at the Civic Center in Hartford, Conn. Each debate will be 90 minutes.

The dates and locations are not final until the candidates approve them, but the commission said it believed its plan would be acceptable to both major parties.

After the 1992 debates, people in focus groups said they believed panels of questioners took too much time and attention from the candidates.

This year panelists will be dropped and replaced by a single moderator. The commission has yet to decide how the moderators will be chosen. Foreign and domestic
policy will be covered in each debate. In the St. Petersburg debate, people will be invited to ask questions in a town-meeting format.

No other school has been host to two presidential debates. How did Washington University pull it off?

William H. Danforth, chairman of the board of trustees and former chancellor, said: "We did them a great favor last time. We had Anheuser-Busch's support in the bag. And Jack was helpful." He was referring to his brother, former Sen. John C. Danforth, R-Mo.

To elaborate, William Danforth said that in 1992, Washington University stepped into the breach when it was discovered that all of the debate crew and equipment could not be moved to San Diego, where the first debate was scheduled, and then be moved on time to the site of the second debate.

With only seven days' notice, the university converted its field house into a television studio and media center in the centrally located St. Louis area. This site made the schedule of four debates in eight days possible.

Anheuser-Busch Companies Inc. contributed $500,000 for most of the 1992 expenses at the university and has pledged that amount, or whatever the cost, for this year's show. Stephen K. Lambright, vice president of the brewery, said the brewery was "proud of being a part of the St. Louis community."

Finally, William Danforth said having John Danforth as a member of the board of the Commission on Presidential Debates also helped.

"Venue Is Terrific"

Janet Brown, executive director of the commission, said William Danforth "covered the waterfront" on why Washington University was chosen again. She added that "the venue (at the university) is terrific, and the team there is as professional as you can find."

In 1992, about 1,000 media members covered the debate. This year the university is preparing for about 2,000.

Nancy Milton of the St. Louis Convention and Visitors Commission said the rule of thumb is that they will stay two days and spend about $186 per day. So the estimated cash impact on metropolitan St. Louis: about $744,000.

The television audience will be about 100 million people. The press center in the Washington University athletic complex will be hooked up with more than 3,000 telephone lines.

Mark Klapow of Stamford, Conn., is president of the Washington University Student Union. He was on campus for the 1992 debate.

"It was very exciting because it raised the level of political awareness," he said. "There was an excitement not normally there on political issues."
Libertarians Want In

Ken Bush, a spokesman for the Missouri Libertarian Party, called on the university and Anheuser-Busch to use their influence to persuade the debate commission to include the Libertarian presidential candidate in the debate.

Bush said that in 1992, the debate commission disqualified the Libertarian presidential candidate on grounds that the party "didn't have sufficient national publicity," even though the party was on the ballot in all 50 states, as was Perot.

Brown, the commission executive director, said the commission has an advisory panel that will recommend who is qualified to take part. Brown said the advisory panel evaluates grass-roots, financial and public support.

CAPTION: PHOTO, DRAWING

(1) Color Photo From AP - Washington U. Chancellor Mark W. Wrighton (right) and Chairman William H. Danforth announce the Sept. 25 debate. (2) Color Graphic Logo - CAMPAIGN '96

Copyright (c) 1996 The St. Louis Post-Dispatch DESCRIPTORS: ANNOUNCEMENT; TAB; SITE; LOCATION; SELECTION FIRST; 1996; CAMPAIGN CANDIDATE; DEBATE
WASHINGTON, Jan 29 (Reuter) - Three debates by the major presidential candidates within four weeks this fall in St. Louis, St. Petersburg, Fla. and San Diego, were proposed Monday by the commission that produces the face-offs.

The Commission on Presidential Debates said it wanted to hold the first debate on Sept 25 in St. Louis at Washington University, the second on Oct 9 at St. Petersburg's Bayfront Centre and the third on Oct 16 at the University of San Diego.

The commission also proposed a single debate between vice presidential candidates on Oct 2 at the civic centre in Hartford, Conn. Each of the four dates is a Wednesday.

The dates and locations are not final until they are approved by the candidates, but the commission said it believed its plan would be acceptable to both parties.

It said each nationally televised debate would be 90 minutes long and would include foreign and domestic policy issues. Each debate will have a single moderator, rather than a moderator and a panel of reporters as previous debates had.

Under the proposal, the candidates and moderator will be seated during the first debate and the vice presidential debate. At the second presidential debate, citizens will question the candidates in a town meeting format. At the third debate, the candidates will stand behind podiums.


The 1992 debates featured three candidates with independent Ross Perot joining Republican President George Bush and Democratic candidate Bill Clinton.

This year's debates may only have two participants, Clinton and the Republican nominee. No independent candidate has emerged, although another try by Perot is still possible.

REUTER
By SALLY BUZBEE
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) -- An independent commission on Monday chose St. Louis, San Diego and St. Petersburg, Fla., as the sites for three presidential debates this fall. Hartford, Conn., was chosen for a vice presidential debate.

The recommendations of the private, bipartisan Commission on Presidential Debates, led by former top officials of the Democratic and Republican parties, must be approved by the campaigns.

President Clinton's campaign had no immediate comment, nor did those of his Republican challengers.

In 1992, the debates were staged partly as the group recommended. But under pressure from then-President Bush's campaign, a panel instead of a moderator conducted one debate and half of another.

Then-challenger Clinton's campaign also pushed successfully to allow audience members to ask questions in one meeting. About 97 million viewers tuned in to that 1992 town-hall debate in Richmond, Va.

This time, the group recommends presidential debates Sept. 25 at Washington University in St. Louis, Oct. 9 at St. Petersburg's Bayfront Center and Oct. 16 at the University of San Diego.

The vice presidential debate would be Oct. 2 at Hartford's civic center.

"We sit down and pick the dates that don't run into big TV obligations -- the baseball playoffs and the World Series, especially," said commission spokeswoman Janet Brown.

The commission wants a town-hall format in one debate, and the presidential candidates standing behind lecterns in a second.

In the third -- and also in the vice presidential debate -- the candidates would be seated and less formal than usual.

The commission also wants each debate to be 90 minutes long, and each to have a sole moderator instead of a panel of interviewers.

By late summer, the commission plans to pick three finalists for moderator for each debate and discuss them with the campaigns before making a decision.

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Ten cities had been finalists for the debates, among 40 that originally expressed interest.

"This is a tremendous opportunity to showcase our city and state," said Daniel Papermaster, head of a committee promoting Hartford as a site.

The debates involve complex logistics, such as bringing in enough phone lines for hundreds of journalists, and corporations often help pick up costs approaching $500,000.

Colleges often field hundreds of student volunteers to help out, too.

The commission began producing the presidential debates in 1988 to ensure that face-to-face, televised meetings between the major candidates happened every four years.
FEB. 8

- Malaika Kodogo African Dance Troupe performance. 3:30 p.m., Poway Senior Citizen Center, 13094 Bowron Road, Poway. 748-2411.
- Buffalo Soldiers lecture by Prof. Dennard Clendenin. 7 p.m., USIU, Green Hall, 10455 Pomerado Road, Scripps Ranch. 635-4113.
- A panel discussion, "Gender and Community Leadership: An African-American Commentary," will feature SDSU professor Shirley Weber and Mesa College professor Starla Lewis. 7 p.m. University of San Diego, Hahn University Center. 260-6601.

FEB. 21

- Don Robinson's Dance Ensemble performance. 7 p.m., Educational Cultural Complex, 4343 Ocean View Blvd. 527-5282.
- Educational psychologist Julia Hare will address "Issues Facing the African-American Community in America Today." 7 p.m. University of San Diego, Hahn University Center. 260-6601.
Toreros can't find range against Dons

By SCOTT M. JOHNSON
Special to The Union-Tribune

SAN FRANCISCO — University of San Diego basketball coach Brad Holland knew San Francisco's defense would cause his Toreros problems last night.

But the Toreros offense did little to help itself in a 52-41 loss to the Dons at Memorial Gymnasium.

USD (8-9, 2-4) was forced to play catch-up all night long, as the Toreros went off to sluggish starts in both halves.

"(USD's shots) didn't fall the whole game," said Holland, whose team shot 27 percent from the field. "Our biggest problem was we didn't put the ball in the basket."

The Toreros missed their first five shots of each half, allowing the Dons (11-7, 4-2) to open up double-digit leads.

San Francisco opened the game having allowed the second-lowest point total per game (64.6) in the West Coast Conference and held seven opponents under 40 percent shooting from the field this season.

The Dons are 9-0 when holding opponents under 60 points.

"This was a total team effort," USD coach Philip Mathews said. "Defense is what won it for us."

The Toreros played a little defense of their own, holding the Dons to a 30 percent field goal percentage for the game, but USD's offense never got into a rhythm.

"They switched up a lot of defenses," USD captain David Fizdale said. "That disrupted our offense. They outworked us."

Fizdale scored all nine of his points in the second half.

The Toreros missed 10 of their first 11 shots from the field in the first half. The only bright spot for USD on offense in the first half was Andre Speech, who came off the bench to hit his first three three-point attempts, keeping the Toreros in the game.

Speech's third three-pointer of the half gave USD its first lead, 15-13, with 6:40 left in the half.

"He sparked us in the first half," Holland said. "We were dying out there."

Speech had nine of the Toreros' 19 points in the first half as USD shot 30 percent (6-for-20) of its field-goal attempts and the Dons took a 21-19 lead at the half.

USD again came out cold to start the second half, hitting only one field goal in the first nine minutes, as San Francisco opened up an eight-point lead.

"I don't think we were mentally ready to play at the beginning of either half," Fizdale said. "I didn't know why. If I did, we'd be undefeated."

A three-pointer by Fizdale cut the Dons' lead to 37-34 with 7:52 left in the game. But the Toreros would hit only two field goals the rest of the way, while San Francisco hit 10-of-12 free throws in the final 6½ minutes.

Speech and Brian Bruso also finished with a team-high nine points for USD.

San Francisco's John Duggan led all scorers with 19 points, as the Dons moved into a first-place tie with Gonzaga and Santa Clara in the WCC.

LOCAL SUMMARIES

USD 59, U. SAN DIEGO 45

UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO (16-8, 4-2)
Thompson 16, Brovelli 12, K. Ambrosia 8, King 7, Murray 7, Tyler 3, Pollard 2, Taylor 2, Murdock 2, Kagie 2.

U. OF SAN DIEGO (16-4, 4-0)


WCC

Conference Overall

W L Pct W L Pct

Gonzaga 4-0 .760 33 .986 22 .666 22 .666

San Francisco 4-2 .666 13 5 .722 22 .666 22 .666

Santa Clara 4-2 .666 13 5 .722 22 .666 22 .666

Loyola Mary. 3-2 .500 13 6 .684 22 .666 22 .666

Portland 3-3 .500 13 6 .684 22 .666 22 .666

Pepperidge 2-4 .333 9 9 .500 22 .666 22 .666

St. Mary's 2-4 .333 9 9 .500 22 .666 22 .666

USD 2-4 .333 8 9 .470

Yesterdays Games

Pepperidge 86, St. Mary's, Cal. 78
Portland 67, Gonzaga 56
San Francisco 52, USD 41
Santa Clara 78, Loyola Mary. 60

Thursday's Games

St. Mary's at USD 7
Santa Clara at San Francisco, 7
San Diego economy shown picking up steam

By URI BERLINER
Staff Writer

With initial unemployment claims plummeting, local stock prices climbing and tourists flocking to San Diego’s shores, the major index of the county’s economic performance rose last November for the eighth consecutive month.

The monthly report, prepared by the University of San Diego, was delayed two weeks by the federal government’s partial shutdown, but it confirms what analysts have been saying for months: the economy is gradually picking up steam.

“The outlook for 1996 is positive,” said Alan Gin, a USD economist who compiles the index. With the pace of layoffs tailing off, he expects that joblessness will continue to decline and that the construction sector should pull out of its doldrums.

The quality of new jobs seems to be the only drag on the economy, Gin said.

“We're losing lots of relatively high-paying, middle management jobs,” he said. “If they're being replaced by low-paying service sector jobs or by people struggling to start their own businesses, that affects consumer spending.”

The USD index climbed 0.5 percent in November, reaching 125.2, as five components rose and only one — the national economy — declined.

Gin said San Diego should outpace the national economy for the rest of the year.

“We seem to be moving in opposite directions,” he said. “When the national economy was moving well, we weren’t. Now it seems to be the other way around.”

The USD report, patterned after the national index of economic indicators, is designed as a forecast of economic activity six to nine months in the future.

Gin’s optimistic forecast for 1996 is based on continued low inflation, a healthy stock market, declining interest rates, and modest growth in the gross domestic product of 2.5 percent.

Up Again
The University of San Diego’s index of leading economic indicators rose in November for the eighth consecutive increase.

SOURCE: University of San Diego
Tourism Helps S.D. Economy

USD Economic Index Shows 8th Straight Monthly Gain

By SUSAN GEMBROWSKI

Daily Transcript Business Writer

Led by a sharp rise in tourism, the San Diego economy improved for the eighth consecutive month, the University of San Diego Index of Leading Economic Indicators revealed yesterday.

Increases in November of all five of the Index's components forecast improvement in the local economy for 1996.

Cumulatively, the Index gained 0.5 percent in November to 125.2. The gain followed three strong months in July, August and September, with indicators of 0.5 percent or higher, and a 0.4 percent gain in October.

Tourism jumped a healthy 1.26 percent in November, compared to a drop of 0.02 percent in October. Despite the Republican National Convention, to be held in San Diego in August, tourism is expected to increase only slightly in 1996, said Alan Gin, the USD professor who compiles the Index.

The San Diego Stock Exchange, which tracks locally based stocks, climbed 1.16 percent for the month, although the October indicator rose a healthy 1.61 percent.

Another strong indicator was unemployment insurance, up 1.09 percent, a jump from the previous month's 0.88 percent. The move signals improved conditions in the labor market, with employment projected to increase by 14,000 jobs this year in San Diego County, Gin said.

Also up was help-wanted advertising, which rose 0.11 percent, compared to 0.25 percent the month before, and building permits, which rose 0.03 percent, with a 0.14 percent rise in October.

The news was not all rosy. Building permits have weakened in recent months, dampening hopes generated by strong showings in midyear, Gin said. Residential units authorized by building permits are projected to increase to 7,600, due to continued low interest rates.

The Index's forecasts are based on an expected downward trend in interest rates in 1996 and a reduction by the Federal Reserve in the discount rate by 0.5 percent during the year, which likely will lead to decreases in other interest rates, Gin said.

The Index showed a decrease in the national economy of 0.42 percent for November.

gembrowski@sddt.com
Catholic future: Father Richard McBrien, theology professor at the University of Notre Dame and author of 15 books, including the recent "Encyclopedia of Catholicism," will explore the future of the Catholic church at 7:30 p.m. next Friday, at USD’s Hahn Center. For ticket information ($10 in advance, $15 at the door), call 260-4784.
"We believe there is a spiritual hunger in our society. We believe coming together like this can enable us to share and deepen that spiritual hunger."

Sally Furay, a founder of The Roundtable

'Table' is set for its mission: getting to the soul of matters

By JOHN WILKENSTaff Writer

The event came wrapped in the trappings of Big Thought: "Our purpose is to engage laymen and -women in discovery and reflection on the resources of religion meaningful for living in the modern world."

And on the big day, Paul Saltman, a UCSD biology professor, walked to the front of the room, eschewed the lectern and asked a simple question: "Can faith help?"

And the audience, some 75 people gathered around tables in a meeting room at the First United Methodist Church in Mission Valley, sighed the sigh of the instantly comforted.

He would be speaking their language.

This was the inaugural event of The Roundtable, "a forum for the discussion of religion and values in public life." Founded by leaders from a variety of churches, its goal is to let the holy ghost out of the closet.

"In our complex and ever more fragmented society, it is becoming increasingly difficult to bring religious relevance to the great issues of our times," the founders said in a letter announcing the project.

"Thoughtful people who hold deep personal beliefs often are frustrated as they struggle to find a spiritual response to current societal problems."

Sally Furay, provost at the University of San Diego and one of The Roundtable's founders, put it this way: "We believe there is a spiritual hunger in our society. We believe coming together like this can enable us to share and deepen that spiritual hunger."

The plan is to be ecumenical, to invite Christians, Jews, Muslims and others. There will be three meetings a year, each featuring a prominent speaker discussing matters of faith and community.

Speakers like Paul Saltman.

"Can faith help?" he asked. "It's helped me."

Before he came to UCSD, Saltman taught at the University of Southern California, and there, as a self-described agnostic, he occasionally would debate theologians about the existence of God.

After one such debate, a young woman approached him, upset that he didn't believe in God. Saltman tried to explain that he was debating whether it was possible to know if a God existed, not whether he believed in one.

The woman said: "I don't know what I would do if you took my God from me."

Saltman never debated the topic again.

He told that story during his Jan. 18 Roundtable talk as a way of acknowledging his own acts of faith over the years, and as a way of explaining how his ethics and morals — the art of "what ought to be" — guide his life as a scientist.

Science and faith are often seen as opposites, but Saltman said anyone who claims to be a scientist makes at least three leaps of faith: that there is order in the universe, that human beings can understand that order and that it is good to understand the order.

He believes all three to be true, but said "perversions" of scientific knowledge such as pollution and the atomic bomb raise questions about whether it is truly "good" to understand the order of things.

For him, the application of scientific knowledge is guided by a series of values, including:

- A dedication to the optimization of human potential, tempered by a sense of responsibility to society.
- Treatment of the self and humanity as an end, not the means.
- Every step along the way has to be taken with dignity and decency and honesty," he said.
- An embracing of the indeterminacy of life. We don't like to live in ambiguity, Saltman said, but we'll never be rid of it, so recognizing it and embracing it will enable us to live each moment to its fullest.
- The biblical question "Am I my brother's keeper?" should be replaced by a statement: "I am my brother."

Concluded Saltman: "Expand your human potential and help others expand theirs."

Best known for his work in nutrition, Saltman has for many years expressed alarm at society's penchant for seeking "simplistic answers to complex problems."

In that sense, he was an ideal speaker for the first Roundtable. There are no simple answers to the questions posed by the forum's founders.

continued
"What can people of faith do to help create viable communities in a pluralistic, fragmented and violent age?"

"How can faith help us to know how best to live, given the rapid pace of change in technology, medicine, ideals and values?"

"How can followers of different religious traditions comprehend (and) respect (each other) and work together in harmony?"

"How can people nurture their personal relationships with God?"

The best way to find answers, said Penny Allen, another of the forum's founders, is to start talking about the questions.

“Our hope is that people will come to these meetings and leave thinking about the issues raised, talking about them, starting the dialogue,” she said.

Cecil Steppe, another founder, senses a move in that direction already with things like the Million Man March. “These were men standing up and saying they haven’t done enough, that it’s time to have a more positive impact on their lives and their families’ lives and their community.”

He said it is too easy in today’s society to lose sight of spiritual influences. “We forget that there is another side of us all,” he said. “No matter what you call that supreme being, it is there.”

As director of the county’s Department of Social Services, Steppe knows that talk of supreme beings and spiritual influence in public life makes some people uneasy. They see erosion of the separation between church and state.

“Because I’m in government doesn’t mean I don’t have a church,” Steppe said. “I am who I am. I let my principles, my moral and ethical beliefs, guide me in what I do."

“But I don’t superimpose my religious beliefs on the people I deal with.”

Anyway, concerns about a possible church-state conflict shouldn’t deter the dialogue, he added.

“Somebody has got to convene something,” he said. “The ‘who’ doesn’t matter anymore. It’s the ‘something.’ "
Prison counselors see themselves in Hollywood story of nun who befriends killer on death row

In the dark of the theater, they murmured their recognition when the nun's cross set off the prison's metal detector, nodded approval when the killer was coaxed to take responsibility and shifted uneasily when he was strapped in for execution.

"That was some movie," said Jim Murray, even before the lights came back up.

Except that for him and two others with him, "Dead Man Walking" is not just a movie. It is a look inside at what they do.

Murray, who is the area director of Prison Fellowship, watched "Dead Man Walking" with Anne Hendershott and Chuck Workman, who volunteer their time to minister to offenders.

They watched the movie to give their behind-the-scenes evaluation of the film, which is based on a real-life Roman Catholic nun named Sister Helen Prejean (played by Susan Sarandon) who befriended a convicted murderer (played by Sean Penn).

It's a deeply spiritual story, rooted in the Christian tenets of grace and mercy. The nun doesn't just try to save his life; she tries to save his soul.

And although this San Diego threesome does not work on death row, they still found common ground with Prejean's struggle.

"I was touched very much by it," said Hendershott, an associate professor of sociology at USD who has been a volunteer lay chaplain for about five years. "The message for me is, redemption is possible, but it's harder than you could ever imagine."

"Even though society has no room for (the killer played by Sean Penn), God has plenty of room for him, and, fortunately, there was one person there to communicate that," said Workman, who besides being a volunteer chaplain at Juvenile Hall is director of youth services at Episcopal Community Services and an ordained Baptist minister.

They have to accept responsibility for what they've done before they can heal, before they can change.

Jim Murray, Prison Fellowship area director

The thing that has gotten me through is the realization that the first person to follow Jesus into the kingdom of heaven was a convicted felon -- the thief on the cross.

Chuck Workman, volunteer chaplain at Juvenile Hall

The message for me is, redemption is possible, but it's harder than you could ever imagine.

Anne Hendershott, volunteer lay chaplain, associate professor of sociology at USD
Split on executions

But although they pronounced the film good and realistic, it did not change their minds about the death penalty.

Murray and Workman, both Protestants, support it. Hendershott, a Roman Catholic, is "very much against it."

"To me, (Dead Man Walking') showed the horrors of the death penalty," said Hendershott, adding later: "I don't think anyone should pay with their life. Every life has meaning."

"I think people by their behavior forfeit their right to live," countered Workman, although he does not think capital punishment is a deterrent to crime or should be used for revenge.

Scripturally, he said, "we are not taking a life; we are sending someone on to their Creator, to answer to their Creator for what they've done."

Murray agreed: "I think there is a certain element who are not well, and even though the Lord can redeem them, I think that execution is very plausible."

In the movie, Prejean discovers the pain of the victims' families during her quest to stop the execution. Murray discovered that pain a long time ago.

His 15-year-old son, Paul, was murdered in 1979 in Miami by a classmate over a $35 debt.

He cleared his throat frequently as he remembered driving all night looking for Paul. The next night, he said, he was watching the news when he saw a report about an unidentified body. He recognized Paul's clothing.

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His family, after much praying and discussing, forgave the boy who killed Paul. They also agreed that he should be tried as a juvenile, knowing that meant the sentence would be less severe.

That experience "had a great deal to do with going into a ministry," said Murray, a retired commercial real estate agent who began volunteering in prisons in 1983. A layman, Murray became regional director of Prison Fellowship five years ago, overseeing an outreach to an estimated 25,000 inmates in San Diego and Imperial counties.

Truth and revulsion

"Dead Man Walking" makes a great deal of Jesus' New Testament promise that "the truth shall make you free."

For Prejean, getting the convict to face "the truth" means getting him to take responsibility. Die with dignity, she coaxes; own up to your role in the deaths.

"They have to accept responsibility for what they've done before they can heal, before they can change," is the way Murray put it.

"Taking responsibility is kind of owning up to our role that we're ultimately the ones who choose," agreed Hendershott. "... Certainly there are victims, but God's given us free will."

Prejean, in the movie, also wrestles with her own feelings about the man she's supposed to be helping. "I don't know if I like him," she admits at one point in the film.

Workman enthusiastically identified.

"I have felt revulsion many times sitting with young people who are showing incredible disrespect for their victims," said Workman, the veteran among the trio. He's been a volunteer chaplain at Juvenile Hall since 1970, and as part of his work for Episcopal Community Services, he coordinates the chaplain program for the Probation Department.
Both Workman and Prejean turned to the Bible for guidance.

Prejean in the movie: "I'm just trying to follow the example of Jesus, who said every person is worth more than their worst act."

Workman in real life: "The thing that has gotten me through is the realization that the first person to follow Jesus into the kingdom of heaven was a convicted felon — the thief on the cross (who was crucified next to Jesus)."

There is, however, a difference between redemption and punishment. Sins may be wiped clean, but not the sentences.

"The problem I have is that a lot of the young men (in Juvenile Hall) mix their religion with their legal cases," Workman said. "If they get converted, therefore, God should get them out."

The character played by Sean Penn likes the nun because she isn't preachy. He expected hellfire and brimstone, he tells her after their first meeting. What he got was someone who asked questions politely and listened faithfully.

That, too, rang true for the San Diego workers. "Most of these fellas have never been listened to in their whole life," said Murray. "I don't think you approach it by going in and starting to preach and saying, 'Memorize these verses,' and everything will be fine."

Hendershott pulled out a religious-poetry book that she shares with the girls in Juvenile Hall. She believes poetry helps people learn to open their hearts.

Workman finds inspiration for his ministry in a painting — Michelangelo's "The Creation of Adam." The portrait shows God and Adam reaching out to each other, but not quite touching: "I see my role as stepping into that gap so God can touch a human being."

In the film, the nun is pressed by a pompous priest about why she wants to spend her time with a criminal. "What is it, Sister?" he asks. "Morbid fascination? Bleeding heart?"

She answers: "He wrote me. He asked me to come."

Workman had his own difficulties growing up, and so he's spent much of his adult life helping young people in trouble.

As for Murray, his wife was the first to volunteer with Prison Fellowship. "I, at first, just went to make sure she got back out," he admitted.

Hendershott was introduced to this ministry in Connecticut. She was evaluating a program for female substance abusers when she met some nuns who were working with female offenders. "And they let me help."

"The rewards are enormous," she said. "You don't go by numbers or quantities. . . . To help somebody find meaning in their life, or work toward finding meaning in their life, is very rewarding."
Study calls Latin American courts corrupt

By ARTHUR GOLDEN
Staff Writer

The ancient Greeks symbolized justice as a blindfolded goddess holding scales and a sword. A new study suggests that the symbol in Latin America perhaps should be a winking court officer clutching a cash register and extending an opened palm.

The administration of justice in Latin America is so corrupt, the study says, that it has become the butt of many jokes, such as the popular saying, "Deals for my friends, the law for my enemies," and "Make the law, and then find a way around it."

The study, prepared by the Hoover Institution, a conservative study center at Stanford University, drew fire from the dean of Baja California's largest law school, who called it an exaggeration. But two law professors in San Diego and a prominent business consultant said payoffs are common in Latin America's courts.

In fact, the study says, court officials at all levels in Latin America "have become accustomed to padding their often small salaries by taking bribes" to move cases forward or to influence the outcome. The bribes benefit judges and other court employees, contribute "to the disgrace of the system," and threaten democracy and economic advances, the study says.

William Ratliff, a senior research fellow at Hoover who was among the authors of the study, said from Stanford that he is "marginally optimistic" about the long-term prospects of fighting corruption in Latin America's courts.

The 37-page study, "Judicial Reform in Latin America," makes these points:

- In many Latin American countries, judges themselves are in charge of court administration and budgetary matters, which enhances their capabilities to skim the system.
- "We conclude that truly changing people's attitudes toward lining their pockets at the expense of the public, whether in pursuit of need or greed, is going to come only gradually," the study says.

The study was challenged by Javier Martinez, dean of the law school at the Autonomous University of Baja California in Tijuana, who said payoffs are the exception rather than the rule in court systems throughout Latin America.

Martinez said many judges in Latin America, most notably in Colombia, refuse to be bribed and routinely confront death threats because of their honesty. Judges like those, he said, show the Latin American judiciary at its best.

Indeed, Martinez said, if justice in Mexico was for sale "then it would not be worthwhile to be dean of a law school. It would be better to be the director of a financial institution."

Martinez said the 1,500 students at his law school must take a course in ethics. He described the school's 100 faculty members as excellent role models because of their respect for the law.

But Jorge Vargas, professor of law at the University of San Diego, asserted that court corruption "continues to be one of the most pervasive, complex and difficult-to-eradicate problems" throughout Latin America.

Vargas hailed the reform efforts of Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo, who in 1994 dismissed the 24 judges of Mexico's supreme court and created a system of filling vacancies that gives the high court a measure of independence.

However, Vargas noted that Zedillo's efforts have involved only Mexico's federal judiciary. State and local courts, where judges are appointed by state governors, still suffer from rampant corruption, Vargas said.

Mexican lawyers are well aware of the situation, Vargas continued, "and at Christmas time they give marvelous presents to judges, baskets of food—and sometimes more than that."

Some observers have speculated that accused Mexican drug boss Juan Garcia Abrego was deported to the United States this month in part because the Mexican government lacks faith in its own judicial system. On the contrary, Vargas said, Garcia Abrego would have received a fair trial in Mexico because of international pressure for honest proceedings in the case.

Looking south, Vargas said, Chile is probably the only country in the region with a "truly objective, efficient judicial system," one that the rest of Latin America should try to emulate.

William Slomanson, professor at the Thomas Jefferson School of Law and author of a textbook on international law, agreed that corruption in Latin America's courts is widespread. But he said it would be dangerous for Americans to try to impose their sense of morality on Latin America.

After all, "San Diego is the fraud capital of the United States," Slomanson said, and there are lots of problems connected with the administration of justice in the United States too.

Richard Loreta, a San Diego business consultant who has had extensive experience in Argentina, Brazil, Mexico and Venezuela, said palms are routinely greased to expedite civil cases in many Latin American countries.

Loreta cautioned that unless the nations of Latin America can guarantee transparent administration of justice to prevent "rip-offs" of new technology, those countries may find that foreign investors will take their money elsewhere.

Then again, Loreta said, corruption in the Latin American judiciary is hardly new, being a legacy of the Spanish colonial empire. "The problem is so ingrained that it is going to take forever to get rid of a habit that has been around for 500 years," he said.
OPINION

UC faculty opposes preferences

By GAIL L. HERIOT

Last July, after due deliberation, the UC Board of Regents voted to eliminate racial and gender preferences on UC campuses. It was a decision that most Californians support. But since then, opponents of the regents' decision have argued insistently that the decision should be reversed because it is out of step with the overwhelming majority of UC faculty.

There are many flaws in their argument, starting with their erroneous factual premise. Contrary to their assertions, a strong plurality of UC faculty supports equal opportunity, not racial and gender preferences — and a recent independent poll conducted by the Roper organization proves it.

News stories that ran in the months after the regents' decision were often misleading in this regard. Some made it appear that the regents' decision was extremely unpopular on UC campuses.

Most of the events covered in these stories, however, concerned small numbers of students. One activist student from UC Irvine was reported to have threatened the lives of the regents in September. In October, he and three other students engaged in an abortive hunger strike. It held the public's attention for a few days, but that was all.

Of course, several well-attended rallies at UC campuses called for a reversal of the regents' policy. In the end, however, there was no hard evidence that the majority of UC students were displeased by the regents' actions. Most simply went about their business of studying and attending classes. They publicly expressed neither approval nor disapproval.

That's why evidence that several UC faculty senators overwhelmingly opposed the regents on this matter appeared to be so significant. It initially lent credence to the claim that the regents' decision really is opposed by the great majority on campuses throughout the system. When the Berkeley Academic Senate voted 124-2 in opposition to the regents' policy, many people took notice.

Appearances, however, often are deceiving. The Roper poll, which was conducted last month, demonstrates that the UC faculty is hardly of one mind on the subject. Indeed, a plurality of the faculty members interviewed expressed views in harmony with the regents' policy.

Faculty members were read two statements by poll-takers and asked to identify which one best describes the policy the UC should pursue. The first of these statements was, "The University should grant preferences to women and certain racial and ethnic groups in admissions, hiring and promotions."

Only 30.7 percent of those polled selected this statement. The second was "the University should promote equal opportunities in these areas without regard to an individual's race, sex or ethnicity." A strong plurality — 47.7 percent — selected the second statement.

This poll was taken by the Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, an independent, politically unaffiliated, nonprofit organization associated with the University of Connecticut. It is one of the most well-respected public-opinion organizations in the world.

Public-opinion experts there randomly selected and interviewed over 1,000 members of the UC faculty. Unlike the faculty senate votes, the poll was confidential. Faculty members were free to speak their minds.

Why the discrepancy? Why do so many UC faculty members privately support the regents' decision while their representatives publicly vote to condemn it?

The answer is no doubt complicated. For one thing, faculty senate votes are often not representative of the faculty they purport to represent. They tend to be made up of members whose political agendas are more extensive than their teaching or research agendas.

Successful teachers and researchers ordinarily prefer to do what they do best — teach students and explore the frontiers of their areas of expertise — rather than to sit through endless parliamentary debate over matters of university policy.

Even more important may be the pall of political correctness that currently enshrouds UC campuses and indeed universities all over the country. Expressing an opinion can be dangerous on campus — especially if it is the "wrong" opinion.

Those who oppose racial and gender preferences can wind up being branded as "insensitive" or even "racist" and "sexist." Academics, never a group known for bravery, learn to be silent.

When the regents met again last Thursday to reconsider their policy in light of faculty opposition, they were not misled. Armed with the results of the Roper poll, supporters of equal opportunity, led by regent Ward Connerly, voted 12-4 to postpone indefinitely a proposal by student regent Edward Gomez to rescind their July policy vote. Action on a proposal by alumnus regent Judith Levin to make the policy nonbinding also was postponed.

Unfortunately, newly appointed UC President Richard Atkinson is now attempting to undermine the express wording of the regents' policy by postponing its implementation from fall of 1997 until the fall of 1998.

The large number of UC faculty members opposed racial and gender preferences can only hope that he fails in this arrogant endeavor to circumvent the regents' sensible policy.

HERIOT is a professor at the University of San Diego School of Law.
Letters to the Editor

The threat of lawsuits at Adelphi U.

TO THE EDITOR:
The decision by Adelphi University’s president and trustees to sue the leaders of the faculty union for exposing scandals and corruption in the administration is an exercise in shared arrogance (‘In The Box, January 5). The threat of future lawsuits against 57 other members of the Committee to Save Adelphi, including 10 students, is a declaration of war on shared governance, the university, and the public it serves. These lawsuits reveal a management megalomania that is consumed with self-interest.

Faculty and student leaders have alleged that Adelphi’s president and trustees have allowed resources to be diverted away from academic programs and into areas that personally benefit members of the administration. If this is not so, the administration should come forward with evidence to the contrary. Certainly the media would be willing to print their version of these controversial events.

In any lawsuit, Adelphi’s president and trustees will be able to draw on university resources to engage in lengthy, expensive legal maneuvers. (Is this more plundering of the university’s assets?) Faculty and student leaders will have access to none of these same resources. They will have to pay for their legal expenses out of their own pockets, even though they were the ones who attempted to protect their university from those who would exploit it.

The traditional system of checks and balances that has kept our universities relatively free of scandal and corruption is what is really under attack at Adelphi. The lawsuits are clearly attempts to intimidate and silence faculty leaders who, at great risk to themselves, have courageously defended their university from those who would plunder its resources.

There is nothing new about this story. We can read similar accounts in any book on American history, including recent debacles in the savings-and-loan organizations, and the Orange County financial scandals. Absolute power of the type that Adelphi’s president and trustees have claimed for themselves always creates the potential for absolute corruption. Under such leadership, our universities will inevitably be controlled and manipulated by a management elite to serve their own interests.

We must not lose our universities to those forces in human nature that will always sacrifice the needs of the many to the extravagances of the few. The faculty leaders are truly the ones who are protecting Adelphi University, and their voices must not be silenced. The president and trustees, meanwhile, are plunging Adelphi deeper and deeper into the twilight zone of frivolous, self-serving litigation. From all outward appearances, the lawsuits filed by the president and the trustees appear to be convenient smokescreens behind which the plundering of a university’s resources can continue unabated.

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San Diego
Speech sparks USD past depleted Northridge

By BRYAN RODGERS
Special to The Union-Tribune

NORTH RIDGE — For the first 17 minutes of USD's game against Cal State Northridge, the Toreros offense resembled the Matadors score board: broken and in shambles.

That is, until Andre Speech arrived with something to say.

The 6-foot-8 forward came off the bench and hit two three-pointers late in the first half to spur USD to a 72-56 non-conference victory.

Tipoff was delayed briefly because of an electronic scoreboard malfunction. As a result, the official time was kept on a stopwatch by the school's athletic director and the score on a flip-board.

"This was something I've never experienced before at any level," USD coach Brad Holland said. "Fortunately, the Northridge staff handled it well and it didn't create too many problems."

A faulty scoreboard wasn't Northridge's only problem.

Damion Morley, the Matadors' leading scorer, quit the team during the first half. Morley and coach Pete Cassidy had words in the closing seconds of the half.

After Cassidy told Morley he was being replaced in the lineup, the junior forward, who was averaging 16.7 points, said, "I quit," and left the building.

USD (8-8) trailed 28-21 when it rallied to close out the final three minutes of the half with a flurry.

Speech hit three-point shots on consecutive possessions and Brock Jacobsen added two layups during a 10-0 run to give USD a 31-28 halftime lead.

Speech finished with 19 points and connected on 4-of-5 three-point attempts.

"Andre played his best game of the year for us," Holland said. "You love it when a guy can come off the bench and give a team a lift like Andre did tonight."

The Toreros also got a big game from Brian Miles, who had a game-high 21 points. He hit 6-of-7 field goal attempts and was 6-of-6 from the free throw line.

USD's victory ended a three-game losing streak and extended the Toreros' winning streak against the Matadors (4-13) to five.

While USD shot a respectable 54.5 percent in the second half, the Matadors were a dismal 30 percent from the field.

USD did not trail during the second half, and put the game away for good with a 7-0 run in the closing minutes.

Jacobsen, who was returning to play in front of a hometown crowd, had 11 points for USD.

USD tied a season record for three-pointers made in a game with 10.

Brian Bruso also continued his comeback from an ankle injury. After making his season debut and playing 11 minutes against Portland, Bruso only played eight minutes last night and made two free throws.
Holland may top Pepperdine's list

By ED GRANEY and HANK WESCH
Staff Writers

Pepperdine University yesterday began a nationwide search for a new basketball coach.

One candidate might be in San Diego.

USD coach Brad Holland lost out to Tony Fuller for the Pepperdine job two years ago. Fuller resigned suddenly Saturday before the Waves' home game against Santa Clara.

Marty Wilson, 29, an assistant at Pepperdine since 1990, has been named interim head coach. Athletic director Wayne Wright said he hopes to hire a permanent head coach before the season is over. Pepperdine next plays Friday at Santa Clara.

Sources said Holland was favored among Pepperdine athletic department officials two years ago but was passed over by senior university officials in favor of Fuller, a former Pepperdine player and assistant coach.

Holland and Fuller worked together for four years at UCLA as aids to Jim Harrick, also a former Pepperdine head coach.

"I'm not going to make any comment," Holland, 38, said yesterday. "It wouldn't be appropriate at this time. I always thought (Pepperdine) was a natural for me, but now that I'm here it's in my best interests to keep working and trying to build this program.

"A lot of people coveted that job (two years ago). The school has a great tradition and location. It's a fine university."

Said Wright: "I have had no contact with Brad. We're just now getting into the (hiring) process. We're not close to seriously considering anyone, but our intention is to proceed as quickly as possible with the search.

"I've known Brad for a long time. He is a fine coach and a gentleman, a quality person, the type of person you look for in a coach. But again, we have had no contact. I have no idea what he is thinking."

Fuller, 37, announced his resignation after a pregame meeting just hours before the Waves lost to Santa Clara 87-76. The Waves are 7-9 overall and 0-4 in the West Coast Conference. Wright said Fuller was under no pressure because of the team's losing record.

Fuller, who played at Pepperdine from 1978-80, left San Diego State for the Pepperdine job before the 1994-95 season. The Waves went 8-19 in his first season — their worst record in 17 years — and five players transferred. Pepperdine began this season 7-4 but lost its final four games under Fuller.

"I'm as surprised as the next person about Tony leaving," Holland said. "I know Tony coveted the Pepperdine job."
Steep Drop in Rate of Student Loan Default

WASHINGTON, Jan. 23 (AP) — The percentage of borrowers defaulting on their Federal student loans has sharply dropped and the Government recouped $2 billion in the last fiscal year from those in default, Education Secretary Richard Riley said.

"These numbers reflect real and substantial progress," Mr. Riley said on Monday. "They are the product of several aggressive management decisions that were intended to get the default problem under control."

The rate of borrowers defaulting on student loans dropped to 11.6 percent in the 1993 fiscal year, the latest year for which figures are available. That was the lowest rate since official reporting on the default rate began in 1988. The rate has steadily declined since 1990, when it peaked at 22.4 percent.

"The program was hemorrhaging" Mr. Riley said.

Monday's news conference was intended to counter Congressional criticism by showing that the Education Department was improving its management of student loans. Republicans have sought to limit the direct-student-loan program, under which the Education Department bypasses bankers and lends directly to about 2.5 million students at 1,350 colleges and universities. The program has no limit on enrollment; Congressional Republicans would have it constitute no more than 10 percent of all student loans. Other Republicans want to close the department to save money.

Education Department officials have acknowledged that an improving economy helped reduce the default rate and that the Bush Administration deserved some credit. Mr. Riley, who was appointed by President Clinton in 1993, said he had made cutting the default rate his first goal.

Increased collections, combined with the lower default rate, reduced the net cost of defaults to $400 million in the 1995 fiscal year, down from $1.7 billion in the 1992 fiscal year. "Our collections on past defaulted loans are recouping more taxpayer dollars than ever before," Mr. Riley said.

The department reported that it collected $2 billion in the fiscal year ending Sept. 30 by suing borrowers in default, tapping their Federal income tax refunds and garnisheeing their wages.
Loves to compete:
After playing against boys all her life, 5-foot-10 Michele Brovelli is tearing up the girls for the Toreras.

Brovelli leads USD to top of conference

By BILL CENTER
Staff Writer

Michele Brovelli describes her basketball style as "scrappy."
"I've played against boys all my life... my older brother, his friends, my dad, guys at camp," Brovelli was explaining the other day. "To compete, I had to be physical."
"My game isn't what you would call 'ladylike.' I was never strictly a shooter or what I would call a great talent. But I've always been aggressive on the court. I'm a physical player."
"Tenacious" is the word University of San Diego women's coach Kathy Marpe used earlier this year to describe Brovelli.
In October, as USD was preparing to launch its season with an undersized and overall inexperienced lineup, Marpe carefully chose her words in detailing Brovelli's importance to the Toreros.
"We're depending on Michele to do some things that we wouldn't ask anyone else to try," Marpe said. "I think she'll pull it off because she's Michele Brovelli."

Four years ago, Brovelli entered the University of San Diego as a guard-forward. This year, she's playing the post.
At 5-foot-10, Brovelli defends the opposition's tallest — and usually most productive — player. On some occasions, Brovelli has been seven inches shorter than the person she's defending. Usually, there's a five-inch disadvantage.
"If the ball gets into the post, I'm in trouble," Brovelli said. "I can't block the shot of someone who is a half foot taller than I am and has played the post all their life."
So Brovelli's game is one of denial.
Stop the pass from getting into the middle. Fight for position. Move. Play in front, play in back, play to the side... move and deny. And don't give an inch.
"It's hard work," Brovelli said. "I get a lot of help from teammates. But usually, other teams want to try to isolate their post player against me. So it becomes a battle."
Brovelli's personal battle is a microcosm of USD's season. The little player who could has become an important cog of the little team that has — up until this point.
Picked to finish near the bottom of the West Coast Conference,
USD is tied for the WCC lead going into a home-and-home series this week against defending champ and co-leader San Francisco.

The 4-0 teams meet at the USD Sports Center tonight at 7, then again Saturday night in San Francisco’s Memorial Gymnasium as part of a rare doubleheader with the men’s teams.

USD enters tonight’s game riding a school-record, nine-game winning streak. Not bad for a team that started the season 1-6 and was routinely losing games by double figures.

“Explode that?”

“We’re working better as a team,” Brovelli said. “Defensively, we’ve become very aggressive. It throws a lot of people off that we’re so short (Brovelli and Nailah Thompson are the tallest USD starters at 5-10).

“We press. We run... we’re very quick. And we’re scrappy.”

A whole team of Michele Brovelli.

Longtime USD partisans got their first glimpse of Brovelli’s style a dozen years ago when she and her older brother, Mike, served as ball kids for the men’s team coached by their father, Jim.

Before games and during the halftime intermission, the Brovelli kids would play one-on-one. Mike had the edge in size and experience. Michele was the aggressor.

“I take after my dad,” she said.

Although she attended high school in San Rafael while Jim Brovelli served USD as head coach, Michele always wanted to return to San Diego.

“When I was playing in high school, USD was my first choice for college,” she said. “I knew a lot of people here. It was always like my second home. I knew I’d be comfortable.”

This season has been particularly enjoyable for Brovelli.

“Everyone had doubts we could do this and a lot still do,” she said. “I never doubted that we wouldn’t turn it around after our slow start. But I never thought we’d win our first four league games.”

Brovelli is No. 2 on the USD scoring charts at 10.9 points per game. She leads the Toreros with 7.4 rebounds per game. Neither figure is a gain over her junior season. Then again, Brovelli wasn’t playing the defensive post as a junior.

If she continues at her present pace, she will finish among the top five scorers and rebounders in USD history.

USD TONIGHT

Women: USF (11-5, 4-0 WCC) at USD (10-6, 4-0) - Bill Center

Time/Site - 7, USD Sports Center.

USD update - Opener of home-and-home series this week between West Coast Conference co-leaders. Despite fielding the shortest starting lineup in the WCC, USD has won school-record nine straight after a 1-6 start.

Team defense might be the key. USD opponents have shot only 39 percent from the floor (24 percent from three-point range) and averaged 50.8 points per game in WCC play. In addition to playing the post on defense, 5-10 senior Michele Brovelli leads USD in scoring (12.8 points per game) and rebounding (9.5 rpg) in WCC play.

Kareem Mutrie and Nailah Thompson are both averaging 5.4 points and 5.4 assists - start for the Lady Dons.

San Francisco update - Defending WCC champs have won last three against USD. Lady Dons are led by 6-3 C Valerie Gillon (17.5 ppg, 9.3 rpg). Two juniors from San Diego County - 5-10 F Renee Demirdjian (Carlsbad High; 8.9 ppg, 4.9 rpg) and 5-7 G Jamie Shadian (Poway High; 8.4 ppg, 5.4 assists) - start for the Lady Dons.

End
Lady Dons too tall, too good for USD

By BILL CENTER
Staff Writer

Sometimes a good plan isn't enough.

For 20 minutes last night, the University of San Diego played tenacious defense and hustled its way to a 25-25 draw against the tallest and most talented women's basketball team in the West Coast Conference.

Then the sleeping giants of the University of San Francisco came alive at the USD Sports Center.

Final score in the meeting of WCC co-leaders — USF 67, USD 42.

Halted is USD's school-record nine-game winning streak.

Alive is USF's run of 21 straight wins against WCC competition.

"The bubble kind of burst," admitted USD head coach Kathy Marpe after the Toreros fell to 4-1 in WCC play and 10-7 overall.

"It's amazing what we've done so far. But we didn't have an answer tonight. They're so big. There were times we moved the ball around and wound up with nowhere to go with it.

"We couldn't see the basket through the trees."

Led by Belgian national team player Valerie Gillon, the Lady Dons were taller then the Toreros to a woman. Backing the 6-foot-3 Gillon were four other players 5-foot-11 or better. USD's tallest starters were Michelle Brovelli and Nailah Thompson, both 5-10.

USF had a 41-26 edge on the boards. Gillon had four of the Lady Dons' eight blocked shots. USD never blocked a shot ... never came particularly close.

USF really pushed the size advantage when Thompson picked up her third and fourth fouls in a 12-second span.

When Thompson was benched with 15:42 to play, USF was clinging to a 31-29 lead. When she returned 10 minutes later, the count was 54-36.

But the hottest hand in the 23-7 run did not belong to one of the inside towers.

Junior point guard Jamie Shadian scored 12 of her game- and season-high 14 points during the run — including a three-point bomb that gave USF its first double-digit advantage.

"USD took us out of our game in the first half," said Shadian, a Poway High product. "In the second half, we settled down, started taking our time and got the ball inside.

"And we played some defense. When we stopped them from scoring, we took away their opportunity to press.

USF — now 5-0 in WCC play and 12-5 overall — scored as many points in the second half as USD had for the game. The hosts shot just 21 percent in the second half and turned the ball over 10 times.

Brovelli and Kari Ambrose had 11 apiece for the Toreros, who face the Lady Dons again Saturday night in San Francisco.
The pistol-packing police sergeant exchanged views with the new president of USD.

The director of Mingei International chatted with a traffic reporter and two of the pillars at KPBS.

The chairman of the San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture compared notes with the president of the San Diego Museum of Art.

And so it went the other day at a luncheon held upstairs in that museum, a Balboa Park institution.

In the eyes of hostess Sally Bullard Thornton, all 60 of her guests had at least one thing in common: Each is an "Angel."

Which, in this case, means they're all lending their support in one way or another to the upcoming Women's International Center "Living Legacy" Awards.

Ellen Revelle Eckis — a local “Living Legacy” who has made an art of philanthropy — was Sally’s guest of honor.

Among the party’s well-dressed women, Sgt. Micki Farrell was a standout in her crisply tailored police uniform. Micki — daughter of the late Mary and Maj. Gen. Walter Greatsinger Farrell — is a longtime friend of the Thornton family.

She and Alice Hayes, new president of the University of San Diego, were part of a crowd that also included the Mingei’s Martha Longenecker, KPBS mainstays Gloria Penner Snyder and Stephanie Bergsma, broadcast personality Monica Zeich, arts commissioner Sandra Pay, and SDMA President Lyn Gildred.

The museum’s Steve Brezzo and Jane Rice were there, and so were Robin Parsky, Anne Ratner, Lael Kovtun (in a notable suit of gilded French tweed), Dian Peet, Francy Starr, Cathryn and Dave Ramirez, Joy Frieman, and Mary Elizabeth North.

Luncheon guests: Police Sgt. Micki Farrell (left) chats with Alice Hayes, president of the University of San Diego, at the Thornton luncheon honoring Ellen Eckis.

Harp lends a musical note

Harpist Sheila Sterling played pleasant airs for such guests as Elaine Galinson, Mary DeBrunner, Margo Schwab, Mary and Irby Cobb, Jana Poff, Betty Dow (she was one of several women who wore hats), Peggie Dozier, Alice Dutton, Mare Edwards, Phyllis Haynes, Dorothy Hummell, Carolyn Iturralde, and Marjie and Eldon Atwood. (The Atwoods mentioned that they are saddened by the recent death of their friend Frank Olive, the top-drawer Manhattan milliner.)

Patricia Karetas was there, and so were Gloria Lane (she’s founder and president of the Women’s International Center), Harriet Levi, Jan Loomis, Jeannette Maxwell, Liz Bowman, Anita Brown, Doris Lee McCoy, Sally McMurray, Phyllis Parrish, Reba King, Margaret and Robert Rector, Margaret Sell, Mary Walker, Iris Strauss, and Betsy and Dr. Michael Weismann.

John Thornton, Sally’s husband, and Steve Thornton, their son, were among the outnumbered males on hand.

The menu offered smoked aubergine soup, roasted duck breast, a medley of vegetables, and, for dessert, warm apple crisp (Granny Smith apples) with butter-pecan ice cream. The SDMA Sculpture Garden Cafe catered, and the wines, of course, were from the Thornton’s winery in Temecula.

Guests gathered before lunch in the museum’s Thornton Rotunda — around the Thornton Fountain — then moved up to the Fitch Baroque Gallery for lunch.

There they were surrounded by works from the palettes of Velasquez, Canaletto, Guardi, Cotan, Zurbaran and other painters of note.

For an hour or two, it had to have been the grandest luncheon in town.
Economy’s pace? Expect a trot, not a gallop

California, San Diego to forge ahead, slowly

By URI BERLINER, Staff Writer

With the GOP convention coming to town and recent accounts of a resurgent California economy, a breakout year might be expected for San Diego in 1996. Don’t hold your breath. Look for San Diego’s economy to proceed at a steady trot rather than a full gallop.

“It’s not boom time like the ‘80s, but 1996 will be the best year of the decade,” said Max Schetter of San Diego Chamber of Commerce’s Economic Research Bureau.

Judging by the county’s nearly catatonic performance in recent years, Schetter admits that’s not saying much. He expects 8,000 building permits in 1996, an improvement from last year’s woeful estimated 6,550 but a far cry from years when 30,000 was commonplace.

The chamber predicts an increase of 16,500 payroll jobs this year and real growth in the gross regional product of 3.1 percent, the best gain since 1989.

For those with assets tied up in heart and home, the year’s prospects are not so cheery. Inflation-adjusted home prices will fall 1.9 percent, the chamber predicts, the seventh consecutive annual decline but the smallest drop of the dismal run.

Even if the national economy continues to sputter, Schetter expects California and San Diego to forge ahead but not at breakneck speed. “This isn’t a robust recovery. It’s more of a slow but sure thing,” he said.

Alan Gin, an economist at the University of San Diego, expects tepid gains this year: 7,600 building permits and 14,000 new jobs.

“I don’t see where the job growth is going to come from,” Gin said. “There’s no engine like manufacturing. We have a strong high-tech sector, particularly telecommunications, but it’s not enough to drive the economy.”

Others see the region gaining vitality, weaving itself from federal dollars that sustained the defense industry.

“We’re now a city of small businesses, it’s more of a diverse economy,” Mark Riedy, a professor of real estate finance at USD, said. “We’re past the hurdle of military spending cutbacks.”

In the next few years, San Diego will prosper from public and private construction projects, ranging from expansions at the convention center and San Diego Jack Murphy Stadium to the development of the Legoland theme park in Carlsbad.

“I think 1996 will be good and 1997 will be very good,” Riedy said.

He predicted that the steady decline in mortgage interest rates will finally pay off. “There’s an awful lot of pent-up demand,” he said. “With interest rates as low as they are and values having come down so much, we’re going to start seeing lots of activity.”

Riedy expects industrial and commercial development to gain solid momentum, with residential construction the last to pick up the slack.

“Five of the local banks raised new capital in 1995,” he said. “They wouldn’t have done that unless they were confident. They want to grow with the economy.”

From the outside looking in, Los Angeles-based First Interstate Bank is equally bullish on San Diego for 1996.

In a recent forecast, First Interstate predicted San Diego will add 25,000 jobs this year and 29,000 in 1997, increases of 2.7 and 2.9 percent, exceeding the state average. Those forecasts dwarf the more modest expectations of the San Diego chamber and USD’s Gin.

New residents will help fuel San Diego’s recovery, according to First Interstate. The county’s population will hit 2.8 million by midyear 1996, lifting total personal income to $64 billion, an increase of 6.8 percent from the previous year.

Two other bright spots could be trade and tourism. Visitors are beginning to return to California, after having shied away in the wake of earthquakes, floods, fires and riots. The exposure generated by the GOP convention could attract even more tourists.

First Interstate expects the North American Free Trade Agreement to pay dividends to San Diego in 1996, as the Mexican economy recovers from last year’s crushing peso collapse.

“Mexico shows a strong appetite for San Diego’s two leading export products — electronics and industrial equipment,” the chamber’s economic forecast said. “With the Mexican economy stabilizing, San Diego exports to the south will continue to boom.”

Others, however, contend the region is a laggard when it comes to international trade. They say Texas has played a better hand than California in courting Mexico. They doubt San Diego can build a thriving economy around tourism and small business, and they fret over the area’s transportation facilities.

“Where’s NAFTA, where’s the Pacific Rim?” asked real estate consultant Sanford Goodkin. “San Diego isn’t aggressively pursuing trading partners. It hasn’t come up with anything besides figures of speech like ‘America’s Finest City.’”

To Gin of USD, the region’s economic obstacles are daunting: no major corporate players, inadequate transportation links.

Without a legitimate international airport, an active deep-water port and improved rail lines, Gin says, San Diego will remain a peripheral player in the global economy, a sunny place with Sea World and the beach, but not an influential region on par with the San Francisco Bay Area or even Seattle.

“Great metropolitan cities are located along transportation junctions,” Gin said. “We’re competing against the infrastructure of Los Angeles and Baja’s, too, which is improving.”

Gin also worries about the growing disparity between the economic haves and have-nots, especially because San Diego now provides far fewer high-wage manufacturing jobs.

“There are still parts of the country where a person with a high school degree can get a decent job working with his hands,” he said. “That doesn’t seem to be the case in San Diego.”

Riedy contends San Diego is better off nurturing small high-tech start-ups than relying on a few major companies and the federal government. He’s confident the labor market will improve.

“If you have enough small businesses, they’ll generate jobs,” he said.
Think tank ranks U.S. only 7th in free market study

By ARTHUR GOLDEN
Staff Writer

Hong Kong enjoys more economic freedom than the United States. Eighty-five countries have better economic records than Mexico. And reports of economic reforms in Cuba are greatly exaggerated.

Those are the conclusions of a provocative new study, titled "Index of Economic Freedom," which also finds that Panama has surpassed Chile as having the most promising economy in Latin America.

The 364-page report, published recently by the Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank in Washington, is intended to demonstrate an article of conservative faith: government interference is bad for a nation's economy.

But experts in San Diego challenge that conclusion, arguing that nations must strike a balance between free markets and state control of economies.

In the study, Heritage analysts Brian Johnson and Thomas Sheehy measure economic freedom in 142 countries by weighing government control over a number of factors such as trade, taxation and banking policies.

The study lists the United States in seventh place on economic freedom. Hong Kong is ranked first, followed by Singapore, Bahrain, New Zealand and Switzerland (tied for fourth) and The Netherlands.

"Mexico still imposes limits on economic freedom, especially in respect to non-NAFTA members."

INDEX OF ECONOMIC FREEDOM
Heritage Foundation

Explaining why the United States does not lead the pack, the authors say that as countries become wealthy they begin to add social programs that make them slip down the scale of economic freedom.

On the other hand, the authors say, Hong Kong and Singapore "are still growing and developing and have not yet begun to restrict their economies with post-industrial welfare and environmental policies."

Indeed, the study says, Hong Kong "is one of the most economically free regions on earth," mostly because "the government does not interfere in the marketplace."

But in the United States, the study says, "economic growth and living standards have leveled off as some economic activity is being hindered by increased government intrusion."

Perceived expansion of government intervention led the authors to place Japan in 15th place, Germany in 17th and France in 22nd.

The report lists Panama as the highest-ranked Latin American country, tied with Kuwait and Malaysia in 27th place worldwide, but ahead of Chile and El Salvador, which are in a tossup with Norway for 30th place.

Panama, Chile and El Salvador — along with Guatemala, Costa Rica, Argentina, Bolivia, Paraguay and Uruguay — have economies that are "mostly free," the study says.

President Ernesto Pérez Balladares of Panama "advocates a strong policy of economic liberalization," the study says, underscored by the lack of restrictions on his nation's banking industry, Latin America's biggest.

In fact, the study says, Panama deserves special consideration from foreign investors because it has no central bank, relying on the U.S. dollar as legal tender and has thus been able to keep inflation under control.

"continued"
Panama’s status as a banking haven places it fractionally ahead of Chile and El Salvador in the Heritage ranking. Nonetheless, Chile is praised as a “shining example” of economic success, and El Salvador is lauded for its “signs of increased prosperity” after a decade of civil war.

Farther down the list, the authors rank Mexico in a tie for 86th place, with Guinea, Madagascar and Slovenia.

Mexico has a “mostly unfree” economy, the study says, a rating in Latin America shared by Honduras, Nicaragua, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Brazil and Venezuela.

Despite joining Canada and the United States in the North American Free Trade Agreement, the authors say, “Mexico still imposes limits on economic freedom, especially in respect to non-NAFTA members.” Recent U.S. capital infusions “likely will have little impact on helping Mexico to cope with its economic inefficiencies,” the study says. “Rather the Clinton administration program to bail out Mexico likely will result in postponed economic reform.”

The study adds that “Mexico has already increased restrictions on economic freedom by resorting to wage and price controls.”

The study also faults Mexico for a high degree of regulation that it says makes opening a business a complicated task. By comparison, the study says it is easier to open a business in the African nation of Madagascar.

Ricardo Ramírez Leal, spokesman for Mexico’s consulate general in San Diego, declined comment on his nation’s ranking in the study.

But Ramírez said anyone looking at Mexico should recognize that the country is undergoing profound transformations that are intended to modernize its economy. Ramírez said the bleak image of Mexico abroad often does not correspond to its promising economic reality.

Cuba is at the bottom of the Heritage Foundation’s listing, tied for 140th and last place with Laos and North Korea.

“Despite recent news reports about Cuba’s move toward a free market, there is nearly a complete lack of legal and private economic activity” in the island nation, the study says.

Furthermore, Heritage asserts, Cuba is among the most repressive economies in the world, and is characterized by centralized government planning that is “rife with corruption and graft.”

Reviewing the study, Ross Starr, professor of economics at UCSD, said the Heritage Foundation is absolutely correct in asserting that a free market can generate a high level of economic growth. But, he added, “it is a little bit bizarre to say that growth cannot occur without a free market.”

In a similar opinion, Gregory Gazda, professor of international marketing at the University of San Diego and executive director of its John Ahlers Center for International Business, said that “for an economy to be vibrant and effective and growing, there needs to be a balance” between a free market and government intervention. “I cannot imagine an economy that would be devoid of government influence,” he said.

Joseph Grunwald, a faculty associate in the economics department at the University of California San Diego, said that although too many regulations can hamstring a nation, “some kind of government intervention and control” is essential, especially to help the less fortunate members of society.

And, Norris Clement, professor of economics at San Diego State University, described government intervention as just one element in the overall economic health of a nation. By focusing entirely on government regulations, Clement said, Heritage has presented “a very partisan view of the development process.”
USD's women's basketball team set a school record with its ninth straight win, defeating Portland 54-44 in a West Coast Conference game before 620 last night at the USD Sports Center.

The Ambrose sisters, Kari (11 points) and Heidi (10), led the offense and Michele Brovelli had 10 rebounds for the Toreros (10-6, 4-0 WCC).

"We handled their half-court pressure well," said USD coach Kathy Marpe. "Heidi Ambrose came off the bench and played well. She was smart and very competitive."

Malia Andagan and Nailah Thompson each added nine points and six rebounds for the Toreros, who made 16 of their 23 free-throw attempts. Wendy Toonen and Laura Sale each scored 12 for the Pilots (11-5, 2-2), who were 0-for-2 from the line.

USD — which won eight straight two other times, more recently during the 1989-90 season — has held its last eight opponents to fewer than 60 points. The Toreros are tied for the WCC lead with San Francisco and will host the Dons on Wednesday.
Toreros fall to Pilots as coach stewed

By KEN WHEELER
Special to the Union-Tribune

PORTLAND — Brad Holland had a hard time recognizing his USD basketball team last night. In fact, the coach of the Toreros said it looked like a bunch of guys he'd never seen before.

"We allowed their pressure defense to get to us," Holland said after the University of Portland Pilots steamed to a 78-64 victory before 2,124 in the Chiles Center.

"To me," Holland continued, "that is just a matter of competing. I felt we competed for only about 10 of the 40 minutes."

That wasn't nearly enough as Portland (11-5, 2-2 WCC) ended a two-game losing streak and extended USD's to three.

Portland took over the game late in the first half when it ran off 13 points as the Toreros (7-8, 2-3) turned over the ball four straight times and did not put up a shot. That gave the Pilots a 36-27 lead, and USD never got closer than five the rest of the way.

"We let their defense get to us," Holland said.

Portland built its lead to 13 in the final five minutes of the first half, but the Toreros managed to get back within 44-35 at the half.

With sophomore forward Ryan Williams scoring six of their first eight points in the second half, the Toreros were within five at 48-43 with 15 minutes to play. But that's where it ended. Portland scored the next four points, 12 of the next 14 and 19 of the next 23.

This performance, Holland was quick to point out, was not typical for the Toreros.

"I felt I was not watching our basketball team," he said. "It was like I was watching some other team, some team I didn't know, and I didn't like it. It was tough."

Portland, Holland said, "is a very good team," one that he predicted "will make a run for a spot in the top third of our league. Obviously, they got it back together after their loss to San Francisco (on Thursday), and we were the recipients."

While it didn't help last night, the Toreros did get a lift for the future when junior forward Brian Bruso made his first sustained appearance of the season. Bruso, a projected starter, was lost to the team when he broke his left foot in warm-ups before the season opener.

"It was great being back," Bruso said after playing 11 minutes, getting four rebounds and scoring three points. "I was really tired of sitting on the bench. What happened didn't seem right at all, but I was out only seven weeks. I recuperated pretty fast."

The Toreros shot well, hitting 26-of-46 from the field, including 8-of-16 three-point attempts. But 22 turnovers, compared with only 10 by Portland, nullified that.
USD guard knows meaning of success

By JOANNA SCHMITCKE

If Nailah Thompson has anything to do with it — you can be sure it’s a success.

Much like her name.

In Swahili, Nailah (pronounced Ni-E-lah) translates to “success.”

And it seems as though with anything Thompson touches, whether it is a basketball or a biology textbook, success follows.

Thompson, who has started in all 15 games at guard for the USD women’s basketball team, was born almost three months premature with complications leading to 36 hours of labor for her mother, Ruth. So it is safe to conclude that things could only get better. And they have.

Especially for USD (9-6, 3-0 WCC), which is riding a record eight-game winning streak into tonight’s conference matchup against Portland at 7 at Alcala Park.

“Nailah is definitely the leader of the future,” said USD coach Kathy Marpes, who is in her 16th season with the Toreros. “She’s one of those people who will step up and get the job done every time.”

Thompson, a biology major with an eye on med school, hasn’t stepped; she’s climbed.

The 5-foot-10 guard/forward is leading the team in scoring at 12.1 points per game and is second on the team in rebounds (4.6 per game). And, mind you, she’s only a sophomore. And she’s only been playing basketball for six years.

“She’s worked at basketball like she’s worked at everything else — hard,” Marpes said. “Once Nailah embraces something, she does whatever is necessary so it’s successful.”

Thompson’s basketball career at Lowell High School in San Francisco (where she had a 3.5 grade point average) began as something to keep her busy. Thompson carried Lowell to a No. 11 ranking in state her senior season and finished her four-year varsity career as the school’s leading scorer and rebounder, averaging a double-double (21 points, 10 rebounds) per game.

“In high school, basketball was something to do,” said Thompson, named to the WCC all-freshman team last year. “I wasn’t very good so it was a challenge to get better.”

Once again she succeeded.

“It’s really exciting to see a sophomore come through for us,” senior forward Michele Brrovelli said. “A lot of times she picks it up for us. Nailah will get on us hard and turn us around.”

About 180 degrees.

The Toreros began the season losing six of their first seven games. Currently, USD is sitting atop the WCC standings along with USF, which beat Portland on Thursday night 73-64.

“We’re probably not the most talented team in the league,” said Thompson, “but as long as we play hard I think we can be successful and beat anyone in the conference.”

And success seems to follow Nailah Thompson.

Joanna Schmitcke is a Union-Tribune news assistant.
Defensive lapse early in 2nd half costs USD

By DAVE BOLING
Special to The Union-Tribune

SPOKANE, Wash. — In so many ways, the USD Toreros did what was necessary to defeat Gonzaga last night.

They held the West Coast Conference’s top shooting team to a frosty 42 percent.

They limited the Bulldogs to 60 points — the lowest opponent total of the season.

They forced the Bulldogs into 14 turnovers to their own dozen, and they choked off all-league point guard Kyle Dixon with just six points and one lonely assist.

So why, then, did the Toreros leave the Martin Centre with a 60-53 loss?

"Because we slacked up just a little bit, let our intensity level drop," said David Fizdale, USD’s senior point guard. "And you can’t do that against these guys because they’ll make you pay for it."

In the nine minutes after intermission, Gonzaga (11-4 overall, 2-1 WCC) broke open a 25-25 tie and pulled out to a 52-37 lead.

"We just didn’t compete defensively at the start of the second half the way we did in the first half," USD coach Brad Holland said. "And they got their offense going then."

The Toreros (7-7, 2-2) climbed back up inside the Bulldogs’ jerseys with their aggressive man-to-man defense and fought back into the game, though.

With a strong offensive surge by Brian Miles off the bench, USD closed the deficit to 54-51 with 1:03 left.

The Toreros were then doomed by a clutch play by Gonzaga senior forward Jon Kinloch, who had struggled mightily all night.

With the shot clock on its final ticks, Kinloch was trapped on the baseline by USD sophomore Ryan Williams. Kinloch pump faked, though, and Williams went airborne for the block.

Kinloch ducked under Williams for the basket that put it out of reach for the Toreros.

"That was a case of a sophomore leaving his feet and a senior stepping up and making a big play," Holland said.

"I felt it was the very least I could do since I was struggling so bad," said Kinloch, who had made only 2-of-10 shots until that point.

Fizdale, who led the Toreros with 16 points, five assists and three steals, thought the USD defense had come up with a giant stop — only to sink with disappointment when Kinloch’s leaner slipped through the net.

"We thought that the clock had run out on him," Fizdale said. "But it was a great play. Every time we come up here, it’s always a game like this, always a real war. There’s never been a blowout, but I’ve never won one, either."

Although the USD defense gave Gonzaga considerable problems, the Toreros were unable to match up with Gonzaga’s 7-foot forward Paul Rogers, who finished with 21 points and 10 rebounds.
Roman Catholic Bishop Robert H. Brom will preside over a "Solemn Exposition of the Holy Eucharist" at 4 p.m. Sunday, at the Immaculata on the USD campus. The service, on the eve of the anniversary of the court decision legalizing abortion, is in response to the pope's call for a "great prayer for life." Information: 490-8323.

Also honored: Roman Catholic Bishop Robert Brom (left) and Episcopal Bishop Gethin Hughes also will be honored at next week's Ecumenical Council tribute dinner. The two bishops signed a historic covenant of cooperation between the two dioceses in 1994.
Let's play keep-away: Gonzaga's Sandy Gere keeps the ball from USD's Michol Murray during first half at the USD Sports Center.

Local Teams

USD women tie mark with 8th straight win

The USD women's basketball team routed Gonzaga 78-55 and tied a school record with its eighth straight win last night in a West Coast Conference game at the USD Sports Center.

Michelle Brovelli scored a season-high 21 points and pulled down 10 rebounds for the Toreros (9-6, 3-0), who led by 15 at halftime and opened the second half on a 12-0 run.

"The pressure was the difference," said USD head coach Kathy Marpe. "We kept them playing our style of game. We tied the best-ever winning streak. It is a tribute to the team's work ethic and belief they have in themselves. They are putting in the work and it is paying off."

USD pulled off eight-game win streaks two other times, most recently during the 1989-90 season.

Laura King and Nailah Thompson each added 14 points for the Toreros, and Kari Ambrose finished with 13. Joy Pauley led Gonzaga (3-12, 1-2) with 25.

USD is tied with San Francisco atop the WCC. The Toreros will host Portland at 7 p.m. tomorrow, then San Francisco at 7 p.m. Wednesday.
USD’s Bruso hopes to make debut tonight

By BILL CENTER
Staff Writer

For the first time this season, Brian Bruso hit the road yesterday.

Tonight, Bruso hopes to hit the boards when USD opens its annual two-game swing through the Pacific Northwest against the physical Bulldogs of Gonzaga.

“This is my type of game and I’d hate to miss it,” Bruso said Tuesday after concluding his third practice. “Gonzaga likes to bang on the boards; I like to bang on the boards. It’d be a good place to finally get it going.”

Bruso figured to be USD’s most physical player this season. But hours before the season opener Nov. 24, the 6-foot-7, 225-pound junior broke a bone in his left foot during a shoot-around.

“I came down on the side of James Black’s foot when he was walking by,” said Bruso. “I heard a snap, but I thought it was a sprain.”

A pin was inserted into Bruso’s foot during surgery. Doctors said he’d be out at least two months. Eight weeks later, he has been given the green light.

“We’ve certainly missed his toughness inside, but I don’t know yet if we’ll use Brian this weekend,” said USD coach Brad Holland. “If he is ready, he’ll play.”

The Toreros could use Bruso for several reasons tonight. Not only is Bruso a tough inside player who could battle Gonzaga’s twin towers of 7-foot Paul Rogers and 6-9 Scott Snider, but the Toreros could be without 6-9 Brian Miles, who is ailing with an injured toe and the ongoing effects of the flu.

Bruso averaged 9.9 points and 5.3 rebounds last season and shot 58 percent from the floor and 67 percent from the foul line. He was ticketed to team with Ryan Williams at power forward this season. Because he redshirted as a freshman, Bruso could not take a medical redshirt season.

“It’s been frustrating sitting at the end of the bench waiting to heal,” said Bruso. “I’m ready.”
With an MBA from the University of San Diego last spring, Addie Mentzer applied for the assistant director position at the San Diego County Bar. Even though she didn’t get the job, Mentzer impressed enough people that she was hired as the executive director of Lawyers Club, succeeding Beverly Schneider. “I love it here,” said Mentzer. Lawyers Club has almost 900 members; its president is Stephanie Sontag of Post Kirby Noonan & Sweat.

Stephen Grebing and Brian Worthington (USD) have joined Wingert, Grebing, Anello & Brubaker as associates. Stephen and his father, Charles, both went to Cal Western. Another father-son combination at the firm is retired Justice William Todd, who’s of counsel, and his son, Christopher Jr., a partner. The firm has 23 attorneys, including 12 partners.
IN COURT

Michael D. Wellington

Courtroom: Superior Court. Dept. 2.
694-4222.
Clerk: Douglas Peck
Bailiff: Bob Vigil
Court Reporter: Patty Whitelaw
Area: Juvenile cases.
Court Appointment: Appointed to newly created position by Gov. Deukmejian March 6, 1989.
Law School: USD School of Law.
College: SDSU, 1968.

Tidbit: Plays electric and acoustic guitar. Was in five-piece rock band “Law and Motion” with other attorneys who played charity benefits. Also enjoys photography and computers.

Compiled by Michael D. Frounfelter frounfelter@sddt.com
LMU star dressed for (late) success

By BILL CENTER
Staff Writer

Loyola Marymount point guard Jim Williamson showed up at USD last night wearing the wrong sports jacket.

Loyola 63
USD 56

Lions coach John Olive penalized Williamson by ending the junior's streak of consecutive starts at 56.

"Rules are rules," Olive said. "Dress codes might not seem that big, but I believe you have to follow through on the little things."

As far as USD is concerned, the punishment should have been harsher.

Williamson came off the bench to throw a blanket over the Toreros' hopes of winning three straight at the start of a West Coast Conference season for the first time in their 17-year association with league.

Although the Toreros did a nice job neutralizing the Lions' 6-foot-9 Ime Oduok (10 points, 11 rebounds), they had no answer for the shortest man on the floor.

Williamson scored 21 points, capped by a wild, running one-handed half-hook with 31 seconds to play that killed a USD rally and led the visitors to a 63-56 victory.

The Toreros had pulled to within three-point basket and had just missed an opportunity to tie the game when Williamson ran 30 valuable seconds off the clock before swishing his hook over the outstretched arms of Toreros forward Brian Miles.

Williamson is 5-10. Miles is 6-9.

No problem.

Four previous times in his career, Williamson — the son of a former All-WCC player at Loyola Marymount — had won a game with the final shot.

"What was the degree of difficulty on that one?" said USD coach Brad Holland. "It was a lucky basket."

And a killer.

For despite a poor offensive effort accentuated by a pitiful 9-for-18 from the foul line, USD (7-6, 2-1 WCC) had used a tough defense to rally from a 12-point deficit. The third straight win was there for the taking.

"I thought we looked a little tired at the end of the game, but some of that could be because we worked so hard on defense," said Holland.

"With the exception of a few breakdowns on Williamson, I thought we did a tremendous job defending Loyola Marymount. Our problems were at the other end."

USD shot 41.5 percent from the floor and had 13 turnovers.

"San Diego has been playing tremendous basketball," said Olive. "For us to come through tonight and get a win is quite an accomplishment. Offensively, they're strong."

The Lions (10-4, 1-1) appeared ready to break the game open in the closing minutes of the first half when they scored 12 straight points from a 16-16 tie.

But freshman Brock Jacobsen, who led USD with 16 points, closed the first half with a three-pointer and ignited a USD second-half run with a three just before a three by Andre Speech.

Two straight Jacobsen baskets and a follow by Miles cut the Lions' lead to three at 57-54. Williamson hit two free throws to make it 59-54.

Twice on the next possession, USD forward Ryan Williams went to the line for two shots. Both times, he was 1-for-2. Still, the hosts got the ball back with 1:20 to play and down by three.

The plan was for Jacobsen to shoot a three for the tie. Instead, he passed to Nosa Obasohan in the lane. Obasohan's shot was rejected by Mike O'Quinn.

The Lions cleared the way for Williamson.

Now it gets tough for the Toreros, who travel to the Pacific Northwest next weekend and play four straight on the road.
Jackson wants to study business and computers at the University of Pennsylvania next fall.

But the Memphis high school senior knows she will need financial help meeting the cost: Tuition, room, board, fees, books and supplies cost an estimated $26,606 at Penn this year.

"I don't want to be in a loan plan, so I have to look hard for money," Jackson says.

For Jackson and tens of thousands of other high school and college students, now is crunch time — the time of year for sending in applications for financial aid for the next school year.

Guidance counselors and other experts advise high school students and their parents to start the loan search early — as soon as the student's sophomore year in high school. And, when you apply for aid, get the forms filed as early as possible, they say.

As Jackson discovered, finding money is hard and time-consuming, a labor she started as a high school junior. She leafed through scholarship books and applied for several from those offered by companies like Coca-Cola to fraternal groups like the Elks and to labor organizations such as the AFL-CIO. And, she plans to enter at least two scholarship essay contests.

She has people like Adele Hines to inspire her.

Hines assembled financial aid to cover all but $2,700 of the $21,000 it will cost for her freshman year at Rice University this year, she says. Hines started in September looking for money to fill that gap for her sophomore year and is getting ready to reapply for the grants and scholarships she has this year, as most programs require.


Like most other high school students looking for financial aid, Hines filed and Jackson is getting ready to send in the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). That is the basic application for aid based on financial need.

When the government gets the forms printed and distributed, they will be available in high school guidance and college financial aid offices.

"That's required for all students seeking aid, even if you just want to qualify for unsubsidized government loans," Chany says. Make sure you fill out the correct version — red and white 1996-97 forms — Chany adds.

Those forms can be completed and sent in anytime after Jan. 1, as soon as students and parents have income numbers for 1995.

Many private colleges also require aid applicants to file the College Scholarship Service Financial Aid PROFILE form, says Inez Boyd, a high school guidance counselor.

To get a form, you have to apply or register. Registration generally costs about $5.50, with a fee of $14.50 or so for each college to which you send a copy. High school guidance counselors have fee waivers they may give to students whose family income falls below certain levels. That's $29,980 for a family with four dependents, Boyd says.

Some colleges send out their own financial aid forms with applications for admission. At others, the admission application is also the financial aid form.
Less than 1 percent of available college aid is from outside scholarships — those that are not based on need nor are given by the schools — he says. And any aid you get from such sources may reduce the need-based aid you get.

You’re better off going after local awards, many of which are posted in high school guidance offices, Chany and the guidance counselors say. You may also contact local churches and community groups.

Loans, however, remain the primary source of aid for most college students, and the amounts students need to borrow are going up with the cost of college. Students and their parents may get loans through the federally subsidized programs covered through the FAFSA form or go after money themselves.

Many schools also have lists of preferred commercial lenders who will send applications to students and, if loans are approved, send money directly to the college. In other cases, parents and students may want to arrange loans with their local bankers.

Whether grants, scholarships, contests or loans are to be sources of college finance, Boyd says, “Parents need to take an active role in the college selection and the financing of their student's education.”

**FINANCIAL AID FOR COLLEGE**

**SCRIPPS HOWARD NEWS SERVICE**

Here are the types of federal aid available to college students:

- **Pell Grants**: Monetary gifts up to $2,340 a year to undergraduates, based on financial need.
- **Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants**: Monetary gift up to $4,000 for undergraduates, based on need with first preference to Pell grant eligible students.
- **Federal Work-Study**: Students may work part time to earn money for college expenses, up to the limit of the award. Schools coordinate jobs, and eligibility is based on financial need.
- **Perkins Loan**: The school lends up to $5,000 to undergraduates, $5,500 to graduate students at 5 percent fixed rate of interest. Eligibility based on financial need. Principal and interest payments are deferred while the student is enrolled at least half time.
- **Stafford Loans**: Subsidized version with variable interest rate up to 6.25 percent, based on need. Unsubsidized loans not based on need. Amount varies for financially dependent undergraduate, full-time independent undergraduate or graduate student status.
- **Federal Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students**: Adjusted variable rate capped at 9 percent, available to parents, not based on need. School determines eligibility. May borrow up to the difference between school costs and other financial assistance.

Sources: The Student Guide to Financial Aid from the U.S. Department of Education, Educational Services of the South.
USD finds something in reserve

By BILL CENTER
Staff Writer

The situation looked bad for USD's basketball team last night. Brian Miles was home sick with the flu. Fellow power forward Brian Bruso was still unable to play on his broken foot. And guards David Fizdale and Brock Jacobsen were having off nights.

Naturally, the Toreros won.

The unlikely heroes of USD's 81-70 West Coast Conference victory over Pepperdine at the USD Sports Center were named Nosam Obasohan and Rocco Raffo — and Kareem Mutrie, Andre Speech and Ryan Williams.

Seven Toreros scored between eight and 12 points and USD (7-5, 2-0) led by as many as 19 en route to a second straight home victory to open the WCC season.

"That was a good win for us," said Raffo. "With everyone out, we had to pull together. Usually it's one person. Tonight there were a lot."

"Before the season, I thought depth was going to be a plus for us," said USD coach Brad Holland. "But we didn't know the depth would include Rocco and (walk on-turned-starter) Mike Courtney."

In the first half, four Toreros — Obasohan (two), Speech, Mutrie and Lamon Smith — came off the bench to hit three-point shots.

Raffo had a season-high eight points before intermission and doubled his season total of assists with two. Obasohan finished with a career-high 12 points on 5-of-6 shooting.

The Toreros shot 64 percent in the first half to jump to a 40-24 lead against the Waves (7-5, 0-1), although Fizdale didn't score and Jacobsen had one basket.

"I just like the way we're playing," Holland of the Toreros.

"We've been shooting the ball better and we played solid defense even when they made a run at us in the second half."

USD led 63-44 on Smith's second three-pointer with 9½ minutes to play when Pepperdine went into a full-court press that rattled the hosts.

Pepperdine twice cut the deficit to seven. But USD held off the Waves by hitting 11-of-12 free throws down the stretch.

"The team attitude has been a lot different the past three or four games," said Raffo, who has been starting at center in Holland's "hustle" alignment. "We're talking to each other, moving on defense. We're taking all the yelling constructively."

No one got yelled at more harshly than Obasohan a week ago for his defensive effort against San Francisco.

"Last year, it would have bothered me as a freshman," said Obasohan. "But I was slacking it and the coach is always right."

USD's bench outscored Pepperdine's 39-6.

The Waves were even more short-handed than the hosts. Sixth man Wil Weir has missed Pepperdine's last two games with asthma and guard RJ Powell is out for the season with a knee injury. Pepperdine suited only eight players. Two of those were lost to fouls and three more finished the game with four.

"We dug ourselves too big a hole in the first half," said Pepperdine coach Tony Fuller. "We came out flat and San Diego shot extremely well."

Forward Gerald Brown led Pepperdine with 25 points and paced the second-half run.

Obasohan and Ryan Williams led USD with 25 points and paced the second-half run.

USD hosts Loyola Marymount tomorrow night at the Sports Center. In 17 seasons of WCC play, USD has never opened the conference season with three straight wins.

Close quarters: The Toreros' Ryan Williams reaches around Pepperdine's Gavin Van Der Putten to put up a shot.
Marquette official
new USD provost

Linda Vista

The University of San Diego has selected a Marquette University administrator to take over as provost and vice president for academic affairs.

Francis M. Lazarus, 51, vice president for academic affairs at the Milwaukee institution, will succeed Sister Sally Furay on July 1. Furay is retiring after 24 years in USD's No. 2 administrative post.

In a statement issued yesterday, USD president Alice B. Hayes said Lazarus "has had a distinguished record of leadership in Catholic higher education and, under his direction, this university is certain to reach new levels of excellence."

Lazarus joined Marquette University in 1988 after previous administrative posts at the University of Dayton (Ohio) and Salem College in Winston-Salem, N.C.

He was named an Administrative Fellow of the American Council on Education in 1978, serving one year as a special assistant to the president of Memphis State University. From 1970 to 1973, he was an assistant professor at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

As a professional archaeologist, Lazarus has participated in excavations in Greece and Israel. He earned his master's and doctoral degrees in classical languages from Cornell. Lazarus and his wife, Carol, have three children and live in Brookfield, Wis.
USD v.p.: University of San Diego President Alice B. Hayes has announced the appointment of Dr. Francis M. Lazarus to be the new provost and vice president for academic affairs. Lazarus, who has a long history of leadership in Catholic higher education, comes from a similar post at Marquette University in Milwaukee and succeeds the present provost and academic vice president, Sister Sally Furay.
Election Yields Four New USD Trustees

The University of San Diego has announced the election of four new members to its Board of Trustees: William J. Zures, president of The Zures Companies since 1984 and member of the Church of the Nativity; Entrepreneur Sandra A. Brue, founder and president of Sandicast and board member of the San Diego Chamber of Commerce; Sacred Heart Sister Gertrude Patch, director of the Center for Faith and Culture at Loyola University in Chicago; and Jack Boyce, USD vice president for financial affairs from 1975 to 1992.

Bishop Brom to Receive Ecumenical Award

Bishop Robert Brom is among the honorees at the Ecumenical Council of San Diego County's annual Tribute Dinner. The Jan. 24 event, marking the organization's 25th anniversary, will see Bishop Brom honored together with Bishop Gethin Hughes of the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego, for their historic 1994 signing of a Covenant of Cooperation. The Ecumenical Council is an association of churches and individuals sharing study and worship, and administering social-service projects. All are invited to attend the dinner. Call 454-1128 or 296-4557 for more information.
Going ‘home’ was right choice for Fuller

Tony Fuller still says it was a tough decision.

A tough one, but not one he spent a long time making.

When Pepperdine University offered him the opportunity to become head basketball coach at his alma mater in 1994, Fuller quickly said adios to San Diego State.

Fuller’s exit from Montezuma Mesa was so fast, it appeared the Aztecs job had been nothing more than a way station in his career.

“Not so,” Fuller said yesterday from his office in Malibu. “It was tough to leave San Diego State. We had put in a lot of work down there rebuilding the foundation of that program. San Diego State gave me my first opportunity as a head coach, and I was very appreciative. Although we hadn’t won a lot, I thought we were headed in the right direction.”

Then Pepperdine called Fuller—a fact he believes is important. “Pepperdine asked me to come home as the head coach,” Fuller said. “Truthfully, Pepperdine is the only place I ever wanted to coach. My relationship with Pepperdine goes back 18 years as a player and an assistant coach. I love this place. I chose to say yes. I really felt I had to return.”

Tonight, Fuller returns briefly to San Diego. But he won’t be visiting Montezuma Mesa. He’ll be across Mission Valley at Alcala Park, where his Waves take on front-running USD in a West Coast Conference game.

Fuller’s new team is young and athletic. It has a bright future—like the Waves’ 37-year-old coach. “When I left San Diego State, I was concerned about how people would perceive the move,” said Fuller. “The toughest part of the transition was the relationships. At first, I didn’t realize how many other people’s lives I was affecting. Breaking the ties down in San Diego was difficult. It was very emotional. I hope my friends in San Diego recognize that for me this was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. I’m at Pepperdine as long as they’ll have me.”

“But I’ll always have a piece of San Diego State in my heart. I know about the heartache and effort that went into starting the rebuilding process there. I appreciate what Fred Trenkle has done. To see the Aztecs program grow to fruition has been good. It was tough to leave after we put in so much time on the infrastructure.”

Fuller still remembers his first days as San Diego State’s coach. “There was trash in the desk drawers,” he recalled. “We literally had to clean the offices before we went to work. By the time we left, the program was far more stable than it was when we arrived. There was an academics adviser in place and a study hall. We had begun a post-eligibility aid program.”

Fuller’s Aztecs posted 8-21 and 12-16 records in two difficult seasons of reconstruction. His Waves were 8-19 last season—giving Fuller an overall coaching record of 28-56 entering this season.

Fuller’s Waves are 7-5 despite playing nine games on the road. In one stretch, Pepperdine spent 20 of 28 days on the road.

“This was the last schedule I didn’t have a hand in,” said Fuller, who replaced current Kansas State coach Tom Asbury. “We owed a lot of our opponents pay-back trips. We made them all up this season.”
Laura King scored 16 points with perfect shooting to lead the University of San Diego women's basketball team to a 75-40 rout over Cal State Northridge last night at USD. King made 4-of-4 from the field, all on three-point attempts, and hit 4-of-4 free throws.

Kari Ambrose added 11 points for the Toreros (6-6), who led 35-19 at halftime, and Malia Andagan finished with 10 points.

Maureen Batiste led the Matadors (2-13) with nine points and Carrie Dormire had 10 rebounds.

PLNC 74, SOUTHERN CAL COLLEGE 46 At Costa Mesa Danielle Phipps had 18 points and 10 rebounds for the Crusaders (4-12, 1-0 Golden State Athletic Conference) in a rout of the Vanguards (6-8, 0-1). Paige Hall added 14 points for PLNC. Heather Woodruff led SCC with 10 points.

Men

SOUTHERN CAL COLLEGE 79, PLNC 68 At Costa Mesa Kevin Carlson scored 21 points to lead the Vanguards (9-6, 1-0 GSAC) past the Crusaders (8-8, 0-1). Robert Darville added 13 points for SCC, Eric Walker had 11, and Marlon Watson finished with 10 points and 11 rebounds. Chad Urie led PLNC with 22 points and nine rebounds.

CAL STATE LOS ANGELES 80, CHRISTIAN HERITAGE 67 At Los Angeles Simaine Stewart scored 19 points and Derrick Barnes added 18 to lead the Golden Eagles (8-6) past the Hawks (9-10). Kelvin Starr led CHC with 18 points.
.miscellaneous

Dave Carothers has been named to the board of directors of the San Diego Employment Round Table. Ronald Ottinger, Rudy Castrejita and John Linehan have been appointed to the Private Industry Council. Diane Lovell has been named manager of the South Metro Career Center. Beth McGovern was elected president of the San Diego Chapter of the National Organization for Women. Gertrude Patch, director of the Center for Faith and Culture at Loyola University in Chicago, was elected to the University of San Diego's board of trustees, as were Jack Boyce, William Zures and Sandra Brue.
Old land mines go on killing

180,000 in Central America are threat to life, economy

BY ARTHUR GOLDEN
Staff Writer

Years after the fighting has ended, thousands of buried land mines in Central America still pose a lethal threat to civilians and soldiers — and a grim reminder to U.S. troops in Bosnia about the slow pace of mine removal.

An estimated 180,000 mines were sown in Central America during the 1980s, far less than the 3 million to 6 million believed planted in the Balkans, where American soldiers are being deployed as peacekeepers.

But relatively few of the mines in Central America have been detected and disarmed, according to retired U.S. Army Col. William A. McDonough, who helped direct mine-removal operations there.

"Besides being a personal security and safety hazard, the mines are an impediment to the restoration of economic activity, particularly agricultural activity" in chronically poor Central America, McDonough said.

Among other things, McDonough said, removal of the mines would be an important step toward gaining the confidence of Central Americans in their governments' ability "to tidy up the effects of a decade of conflict."

McDonough is an adviser to Terra Segura International, a new nonprofit organization based in San Diego that is attempting to help countries of the Third World develop effective, inexpensive mine-removal techniques.

Terra Segura was founded by Daniel Wolf, adjunct professor of Latin American studies at the University of San Diego and director of its TransBorder Institute, a think tank involved with U.S.-Mexico border issues.

Wolf said he got the idea for Terra Segura — a Catalan phrase meaning safe earth — while doing graduate research in Nicaragua and El Salvador in the early 1990s, and seeing soldiers and civilians who had been maimed by the mines.

Terra Segura is completing the first draft of a 300- to 400-page handbook on mine removal that has been funded by a $40,000 grant from the Institute of Peace, a U.S. government agency based in Washington.

In addition, Wolf has designed and tested a small machine to detonate anti-personnel mines, which he calls "the armadillo." But Wolf said he is delaying development of the machine until the handbook is published.

The basic problem in land-mine removal, Wolf said, is that an explosive device that cost as little as $3 to produce may require an expenditure of $300 to $1,000 to find and deactivate.

"De-mining programs are slow and expensive, requiring a lot of skill and intensive labor, and are highly dependent on expertise and financial resources," he said.

The danger of the explosive devices was dramatized Dec. 30, when a U.S. military policeman in Bosnia was injured when his all-terrain vehicle struck an anti-tank mine.

Indeed, land mines claim more than 200 victims a week and are a daily threat to civilians in 63 countries, according to Edward Girardet, who monitors worldwide humanitarian activities from Geneva, Switzerland.

"The real horror of land mines is that they are delayed-action weapons which cannot distinguish between the fallout of a soldier or an innocent civilian," Girardet wrote in a recent report on efforts to ban the devices.

Those efforts have clearly failed. The Central Intelligence Agency estimates that as many as 400 million land mines remain planted around the world. And in just one country, Afghanistan, mines have killed or maimed more than 400,000 people in recent years, the State Department says.

In Nicaragua and El Salvador, exploding land mines killed thousands of soldiers and civilians, and destroyed cattle on which farmers depend for their livelihood. Maimed land-mine victims in those countries have been unable to obtain suitable prosthetic devices because they are too expensive.

"Only a drop in the bucket" of the estimated 180,000 land mines in Central America have been removed, McDonough said by phone from his home in Columbia, Md.

From 1990 until he retired from the U.S. Army in July, McDonough served as a supervisor of training for land-mine clearing activities in Central America sponsored by the Organization of American States (OAS). He remains active as an OAS adviser.

Much of McDonough's time has been spent in Nicaragua, where an eight-year insurgency between the then-Sandinista government and U.S.-backed Contra rebels ground to a halt in 1990. The OAS spent $1.5 million on mine-removal efforts there.

McDonough said the Nicaraguan army planted some 120,000 mines in defensive positions around highways, bridges, hydroelectric plants and electric power towers. In some cases, McDonough said, 50 mines would be sown around the base of a tower and rings of land mines would encircle a power plant for three miles from its generator.

From June to December of 1993, McDonough said, OAS trainers helped Nicaraguan soldiers remove 3,000 mines. The OAS team departed at the end of that year, but he said the Nicaraguan army has managed to remove an additional 6,000 mines.
In El Salvador, where a decade-old civil war between leftist insurgents and conservative administrations ended in 1992, the mine-removal situation was so urgent that the government could not wait for international help.

So, McDonough said, El Salvador contracted with a private Belgian firm that removed about 5,000 mines for $5 million. Government troops and former rebels collaborated to identify the mined sites, he said.

Even Honduras and Costa Rica, which were at peace during the turbulent 1980s, are discovering their territory has been laced with potentially deadly mines.

The Contras used Honduras as a staging area. McDonough said the Contras placed mines on the Honduran side of the Nicaraguan border to discourage pursuit by the Sandinista army.

And in an ironic twist, a legal victory for Honduras has added to its mine-clearing woes.

Honduras and El Salvador had long disputed the right to claim certain pockets of land along their border. In 1992, the International Court of Justice awarded most of the land to Honduras. But that victory also meant that Honduras inherited the problem of removing mines that had been planted on the land by the Salvadoran guerrillas. The rebels had used the disputed turf as safe havens.

The land-mine problem in Costa Rica was an outgrowth of the Contra war. McDonough said the Contras are believed to have placed about 1,000 “harassment” mines on the Costa Rican side of Nicaragua’s southern border. Additional land mines were sown on the Nicaraguan side of the San Juan River that separates the two countries and swept into Costa Rican territory as the result of flooding, McDonough said.

Underscoring the difficulties in mine removal, McDonough said that ringing alarms on detection devices have led the Honduran army to unearth more than 2,500 sites — but only six of them contained buried explosive devices. The other sites held discarded weapons, shell casings and even tins cans that set off the alarms.

Honduras has assigned 120 soldiers to mine-clearing operations that are being funded by about $1 million in OAS funds. Costa Rica is forming a 10- to 20-member civilian mine-disposal unit that should begin work early this year.

Mines are also a problem in Guatemala, where leftist rebels have engaged in a low-intensity conflict for more than 30 years. Peace talks have been sputtering along since the late 1980s.

“The peace process in Guatemala needs to advance further before the OAS will get involved” in mine-removal operations, McDonough said. Three rural areas of the country, including one near the Mexican border, are heavily mined, he said.

McDonough acknowledged that Central America as a region is only lightly mined in comparison with Bosnia.

“But all you have to do is see a child in Central America who has lost a leg because of a mine and then you can appreciate the importance of making the area safe,” he said.
Robert Beken is always cordial to me, but I never forget that he is armed and dangerous.

The day we met, Beken raised a pistol and blew huge, well-placed holes in a male silhouette 10 yards from us. That was two years ago, when Beken and his daughter invited an anti-gun columnist to a firing range. They introduced me to their hobby, but the lesson stopped short of changing my mind.

However, they did teach me one thing: Don't mess with Bob Beken.

Computer City did.

Junk

Despite his affection for a well-oiled .45, Bob Beken's pen is mightier than his Smith & Wesson.

Using the former, he’s taken aim at the daily tide of printed waste that flows into most people’s mailboxes.

“I used to get lots of junk mail,” Beken said, “mounds of junk mail.”

No longer. Today, Beken’s mailbox is a junk-free zone. Using the Mail Preference Service, a Farmingdale, N.Y.-based adjunct of the Direct Mail Association, he’s stripped his name from mailing lists. When a company breaks through his blockade, Beken fires off written orders to cease.

Still, Beken is a consumer. On April 8, he bought a few bytes from the Computer City store on Kearny Mesa. He wrote a check, gave it to the clerk — and watched the clerk type his name and address into the store’s computer.

“You’re not putting me on your mailing list, are you?” Beken asked.

“No,” the cashier replied, “we’re not. We’re doing that because you wrote a check.”

Beken snatched back the check, then drew his pen. “Computer City,” he wrote on the check’s reverse, “agrees NOT to place Robert Beken on any mailing list or send him any advertising or mailings. Computer City agrees that breach of this agreement by Computer City will damage Robert Beken and that these damages may be pursued in court.

“Further, that these damages for the first breach are $1,000. The deposit of this check for payment is agreement with these terms and conditions.”

The clerk read this, consulted another employee, then thanked Beken for his business. And started sending him mail.

Wake-up call

By October, Computer City had sent “Preferred Customer” Beken four mailings. The company also ignored two letters he wrote in protest.

Beken’s third letter informed the company they had a date in Small Claims Court.

On Nov. 28, Judge Jerome E. Varon heard Beken v. Computer City. Varon may possess the wisdom of Solomon, but in this case, he could use the patience of Job.

“Are we at the stage where this is what the litigious society is all about?” he asked.

Yes, we are.

“Are we at the stage where this is what the litigious society is all about?” he asked.

Yes, we are.

The direct-mailing industry needs these sorts of messages to wake up to the fact that people are angry,” said Beth Givens, project director of USD’s Privacy Rights Clearinghouse.

Every year, 65 billion pieces of unasked-for mail hit American homes and offices. That’s 30 pounds of stationery for every adult and child in our nation.

Beken argued that he is entitled to his privacy, and that Computer City was bound to respect his written request.

“This is a breach of contract,” he told Varon. Not so, replied Computer City’s manager.

“He didn’t deal with anybody in authority,” said Philip Finkel. “I’m not sure we have a valid agreement. It seems a little one-sided.”

Finkel admitted that, despite assurances to the contrary, Beken was placed on the company mailing list. But his name has been removed, Finkel said, and was not passed to any other company.

When Varon rules on this case — an opinion is expected any day — he will inform both parties. By mail.
USD beats Dons in WCC opener

Fizdale leads way with timely shots and solid defense

By BILL CENTER
Staff Writer

For USD to win basketball games, point guard David Fizdale must play well. Last night he played great. The 6-foot-2 senior had 19 points, seven assists and five steals to lead the Toreros to a West Coast Conference-opening 75-66 victory over the University of San Francisco at the USO Sports Center.

Seventeen of those points and three of those assists came in the second half, when Fizdale outplayed Gerald Walker, the Dons' two-time All-WCC point guard.

"That's the best half of basketball David's played for me," said second-year USD coach Brad Holland. "I thought for a 10-minute stretch opening the second half he controlled that game. He had command, played with confidence."

First-year USF coach Phil Matthews agreed: "Fizdale hit some big shots with the clock running down that put the dagger into us."

To be exact, Fizdale hit three shots with the shot clock approaching zero in the first 10 minutes. Two were three-pointers.

But Fizdale's best scoring game of the season was only half the equation. He handled the ball on every USD possession and defended against Walker on the opposite end of the floor.

Walker finished with a game-high 23. But he had only 11 points and two assists after intermission.

"Overall, this might have been my best half at USD," said Fizdale, who never took a rest after intermission. "Offensively, I know it was. I just felt in the flow of the game."

As important as his bombs were, Fizdale's best play was a zone-splitting drive with 3½ minutes to play.

The Dons (7-6) had just converted a Walker steal -- he is the WCC's all-time leader in steals -- into a lay-in to cut USD's lead to six.

But Fizdale split the USF press, drove to a layin and was fouled in the process. His free throw put USD up 65-56.

"After they scored, I told myself we couldn't get tentative," said Fizdale. "I wanted to push it up floor and be aggressive."

He was.

"We needed an offensive game like that from Fiz," said Holland. "He made some shots that had been absent from his game. He gave us a lift. But overall, I thought this was a solid all-around effort, particularly on defense."

USF's best outside shooter (John Duggan) was 5-for-17 from the floor, including 0-for-7 from three-point range.

Meantime, freshman Brock Jacobsen backed Fizdale with 16 points on 6-of-6 shooting from the floor. USD shot 57 percent from the floor, 63 percent in the second half.

For the second straight game, Holland opened the game with reserves Rocco Raffo, Mike Courtney and Brian Miles up front with Fizdale and Jacobsen.

Holland's hustle unit opened both halves strong. But it was the five of Fizdale, Jacobsen and Lamont Smith at the guards with Andre Speech and Miles up front that held USF in check over the final eight minutes.

"It's been tough up until now," admitted Fizdale, "because we haven't been playing as a team. I think we've started to turn that around. I hadn't been filling my role, either. But tonight, everyone was clicking."
The University of San Diego is offering continuing-education courses for senior citizens older than 55. The three-week session runs from Monday to Jan. 26 and meets on campus in the Manchester Executive Conference Center.

In its 18th year, the "University of the Third Age" will focus on such diverse subjects as literature, patient-doctor communication, classical music and tai chi.

Cost for the full three weeks is $65. Participants also may register for two weeks for $55 or one week for $40.

University of San Diego is at 5998 Alcala Park. For reservations, registration and schedule information, call 260-4585.
Colman McCarthy

Breaking A Campus Color Line

At the University of San Diego, Colleen Coffey, a white third-year student, is the elected treasurer of the Black Student Union. She joined the organization last year to get some outside-the-classroom education about racial diversity. Black students not only welcomed her, they saw her leadership skills and urged her to run for office. She did, and won.

Were Coffey studying at some other campuses—the College of the Holy Cross in Massachusetts, the College of Wooster in Ohio, Oberlin College in Ohio—the color of her skin would exclude her from holding office in a black organization, even though her student activities money helped fund it. She could be a member but not a member holding power.

At Holy Cross, the exclusion is justified by Keon Carpenter, president of the 60-member Black Student Union. He told the Chronicle of Higher Education: "It's a matter of determining our own destiny. Only black students can speak to the experience of being black on this campus."

The Holy Cross student government wasn't buying. It voted to end the discriminatory policy, a decision that led some black students to stage protests that included boycotting athletic practices. College administrators overruled the student government and reinstated the Black Student Union policy of limiting leadership roles to those of "African descent."

Whatever benefits black college students might think they are gaining by imposing racial rules, the negatives are greater. A wall is a wall no matter who builds it. A white student at Holy Cross, Wooster or Oberlin can be as effective as a black student at running a campus organization, including one concerned about racial equity. Presumably that's a major goal of the Black Student Union at Holy Cross. If it isn't, then it might think about seeking operational funds from black separatist groups, not the Campus Activities Board.

College blacks at the three schools appear to want it both ways. They tell white students that membership is open to them, but not leadership. But what if a white student happens to be gifted at fund-raising or motivating or writing and speaking, and wants to offer those skills to the group as an elected officer? What's the answer? A negative: Sorry, we'll go it alone? Or a positive: Thanks, we accept your help, we're in this together?

For sure, false integration exists, of a kind that minimizes the brutal effects of past and present white domination of blacks. Country clubs with 400 white members and two black members are faking it. At Holy Cross, Keon Carpenter's argument that "only black students can speak to the experience of being black" is valid. The same for whites. So why not expand the discussion?

There is no "black" destiny, as Carpenter claims, only a human one. To pretend otherwise is to reinforce separatism, which in turn justifies nationalism, groupism and all the other arbitrary divisions and boundaries that have caused history's wars and hatreds.

College campuses ought to be a primary place where black-only rules are as out of place as white-only rules. There's enough of a problem as it is with self-segregation among students in dining halls, dorms and at sporting events. If a campus is where learning is meant to flourish, how can that happen if black and white students aren't educating each other about their lives and experiences?

Race relations need to rise above a black-white framework, as if racial identity is the only identity. It's true that people of color have far more to lose if America's pervasive anti-black racism continues. It's true also that the losses are likelier to continue if white allies are kept at a distance.

In "Uprooting Racism: How White People Can Work for Racial Justice," Paul Kivel writes that "people of color will always be on the front lines fighting racism because their lives are at stake. . . . It can be difficult for those of us who are white to know how to be strong allies for people of color when discrimination occurs."

At the University of San Diego, one white person did overcome the difficulty. She joined the Black Student Union and offered her leadership skills. They were embraced. Everyone gained. If there's a better way to chip away at racism, what is it?
Walk on Water: University of San Diego's Walk on Water engineering contest, which takes place Feb. 24, has its own Web homepage. It was recently named the World Wide Web's "Geek Site of the Day." As of yesterday, the homepage had 1,941 hits, reports public information representative Kate Callen.
USD 81, BUCKNELL 56  At USD Michele Brovelli had 16 points and nine rebounds, and Nailah Thompson added 15 points and five rebounds to lead the USD women to a 25-point rout of Bucknell at the Sports Center. Kari Ambrose added 11 points for the Toreros, who led by 12 at the half and by as many as 30 points in the second half. The win was the third straight for USD (4-6). Bucknell (6-6) failed to have a player score in double figures. The Toreros host Cal Poly San Luis Obispo at 7 p.m. Friday.
USD not sharp, but gets a win

By BILL CENTER
Staff Writer

A win is a win.
But the University of San Diego's 67-61 victory over Northern Arizona at the USD Sports Center last night also might be a warning.
The hosts were not particularly sharp in their final West Coast Conference tuneup.
So, if USD hopes to have any success in a league where every other team posted a winning non-conference record, the Toreros had better improve ... fast.
USD has only three more practices before hosting San Francisco in the WCC opener Saturday.
"We know full well that a lot of teams in our conference are looking at us right now and licking their chops," USD head coach Brad Holland said after the Toreros had to rally in both halves to down the 3-7 Lumberjacks.
"It was nice to finish with a win and get back to playing team basketball. We got back to more of a San Diego State-type effort."
Holland keeps reminding his players of their 69-64 victory over the Aztecs last month.
That was USD's best outing of a hot-and-cold 5-5 season.
"We had an attitude that night," said Holland. "An intensity."
Certainly, the Toreros have had that intensity in spurts since. But not for an entire game.
And it will be at least two weeks before their most physically commanding player — forward Brian Bruso — is ready to play because of a broken foot. And top outside threat Sean Flannery (knee) is done for the season.

"We're missing some key ingredients," said Holland. "So, for us to be successful, every possession, offensive and defensive, must mean something. We have to play a deliberate style."
Holland attempted to light a fire under his team last night by handing three reserves their first starts.
Usually, Rocco Raffo and Mike Courtney are far down the bench while Brian Miles has been the first forward in. But Holland rewarded the three for their efforts in practice.
"The players who started are the ones who have been working the hardest," reasoned the coach. "I don't know if it lit a fire, but I'm going to go with the guys who play hard. I have to."
Play hard or no, the Torero starters didn't overwhelm the Lumberjacks at the beginning of either half. But when the regulars — Ryan Williams, James Black, Nosa Obasohan, Lamont Smith and Andre Speech — entered the game they supplied a spark that was apparently lacking in last weekend's embarrassing 90-63 loss at Notre Dame. USD had 21 first-half turnovers in that debacle.
Last night, the turnover count was 16 for the game and only four in an efficient second half that saw momentum swing on the hot hand of the 6-9 Miles.
With 11 minutes to play, USD trailed 43-39 after a running four-foot jumper by Northern Arizona scoring leader (22) Charles Thomas.
Miles scored nine straight points, including a top-of-the-key jumper that put USD ahead to stay at 46-45.
"I think this was a big step for us," Miles said of the game. "There have been a lot of changes. We came together as a team. I think we have a new look."
There were a couple of hopeful signs. USD scored five baskets on offensive rebounds and had a rare edge on the boards. They also hit four of their seven three-point tries in the first half.
"I think we're ready to take it to the next level," Miles said.
That would be the WCC.
USD women beat Pitt

Nailah Thompson had a career-high 26 points and 11 rebounds as the USD women's basketball team defeated Pitt 61-58 yesterday at the USD Sports Center.

The Toreros dug themselves a hole in the first half, shooting 39 percent, and trailed 33-25 at the break. USD shot 50 percent in the second half.

Pitt (1-10) was led by Latia Howard with 18 points and Gina Montesano with 17.

Thompson, the only Torero in double figures, had her second straight double-double. Michol Murray and Laura King each scored nine.

The Toreros (3-6) host Bucknell tomorrow at 5 and Cal Poly San Luis Obispo on Friday.
Twenty ACCU Members on Templeton Honor Roll

The 1995 Templeton Foundation Honor Roll for Character Building Colleges recognizes institutions that have made character development an integral part of the educational experience. This year's honorees include Santa Clara University, the University of San Diego, Barry University, the University of Notre Dame, Loyola University of New Orleans, Boston College, Stonehill College, St. Louis University, Carroll College, Notre Dame College (NH), the College of Mount Saint Vincent, St. Bonaventure University, Franciscan University of Steubenville, John Carroll University, the University of Portland, King's College, Villanova University, the University of Dallas, Gonzaga University, and St. Norbert College.