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Spring break can mean service

Some students find volunteer work fulfilling

By TANYA RODRIGUES

When University of San Diego junior Dan Sengenberger returned from a recent school vacation, he heard a predictable question: "How was your spring break?"

Considering the often notorious images of college students partying and relaxing during spring break, Sengenberger's answer may have seemed unusual.

He did community service.

For Sengenberger and an increasing number of students, this spring break has become the time for a different kind of social action.

Students at USO and Point Loma Nazarene College are participating in programs this year that offer various forms of community service during spring break.

"I think that, before, there were two options: party or go home," said Michael Magevney, executive director of Break Away in Nashville, Tenn., an organization that coordinates volunteer work for college students during various vacations, including winter, summer and spring. "The emerging option is community service."

The move toward using vacation time for community service has been on the increase on a national level, Magevney said.

Pam Peterson, executive director of the local volunteer clearinghouse San Diego Cares, said volunteer-oriented spring breaks are positive alternatives.

"It's a great way to spend spring break, and exciting, because not only do the college students learn about their community, they contribute to the community," she said. "They end up feeling great about themselves, and they don't even have a hangover."

5 go to Arizona institute

From March 10 to 13, a group of five USD students went to the Baha'i Institute in northeastern Arizona, a religious organization that provides counseling and water-related necessities for local residents.

This was USD's first alternative spring break.

"I thought it would be good because so many schools' programs were successful, and I knew that it could be successful here," said USD sophomore Jennifer Levey, student coordinator for the event. "It gave USD students another type of opportunity to do a different type of community service."

The students' activities ranged from rebuilding fences and clearing land to creating a dirt parking lot and leveling land to begin a larger project of making a cultural dance arena.

"The things we did are going to be very helpful to them and their organization," Levey said. "It made me feel good to help an organization that needed it."

Said Sengenberger: "I got a lot out of my spring break that a lot of people didn't. I got to meet a lot of cool people from different schools, and I wasn't under any pressure. I had an opportunity to learn ... and the landscape was pretty cool."

Many of the USD students said their community service was coupled with lessons in culture and sightseeing opportunities.

"I liked the combination of community service, education and the chance for the participants to explore the surrounding area," said Barbara Petersen, assistant director for community service at USD.

She participated in the alternative spring break along with the students.

Groups well established

An extra benefit of the alternative spring break came from being around groups from other schools, said Petersen. She said the USD group saw how well established volunteer programs are at other universities.

"It emphasized how many students are doing this, too, and have solid programs," Petersen said.

More than 12,000 students nationwide participated in Break Away programs last year, said Magevney, who said community-service-oriented breaks will continue to become increasingly popular.

"We're finding a niche of students who want to do something different for spring break," he said.

(Continued)
Many students are often so busy throughout the semester that becoming involved in community service is difficult, he said, so programs that make community service more accessible make a difference.

Students at other local universities, including San Diego State, UC San Diego and California State University San Marcos, are not participating in specific, break-oriented activities this spring. Reasons cited include the stress of quarter terms, high percentages of students who work full time or part time and the lack of staff to coordinate such activities.

In Project YES, run through Point Loma Nazarene, students work on heavy-duty construction projects in the United States and Mexico, run small religious workshops for local communities and work with the homeless in inner-city Hollywood.

Greenhouse, ball fields

This year, Project YES activities began Friday and will run through April 13. They include building a commercial greenhouse in Teesto, Ariz., and a Little League baseball field and two sand volleyball courts in Dilkon, Ariz.

"I think it's rewarding when they sacrifice of themselves and give to others," said Project Yes Director Ron Fay. "They realize that they're the ones who really gain."

For Point Loma Nazarene sophomore Adam Theesen, the religious value of Project YES distinguishes it from most programs. The sacrifice that students make "gives them the opportunity to deny themselves of what they would normally do," he said.

"I feel it makes you look inside yourself and show the love of Christ to other people, and that's what's really important," Theesen said.

Project YES was founded in 1979 as an independent organization by students at California Polytechnic State University San Luis Obispo. Point Loma Nazarene took over the program nine years ago.

The two-week program is organized to accommodate different students' spring breaks. It currently involves close to 700 people, Fay said, and 84 are Point Loma Nazarene students. He said many come from other colleges and high schools on the West Coast, some affiliated with the Nazarene Church.

In the past, Project YES groups have built three-bedroom houses, put a water line under a highway and rebuilt church structures.

Professionals play role

Professionals play a large part in Project YES, Fay said. They train the students on the job to do the various construction work.

Student participants pay a $195 fee, which goes toward living expenses and building materials.

Theesen said those with Project YES do not consider their efforts volunteer work.

"People don't do it to be noticed, but because it's what Christ has called us to do: serve others," he said. "That is what this project is all about, serving others as Jesus Christ would."

Whether the service is done for religious reasons or personal satisfaction, students recognize how they benefit from their alternative spring break choices.

The USD and Point Loma Nazarene students said that while most students tend to make their spring breaks a time for utter comfort, relaxation and socializing, their spring break accomplishes that and more.

"It gives you the opportunity to do something meaningful with your time," said Mark Noizumi, a senior at USD who went on the trip. "This can be just as fun as any other spring break. It's really what you make of it."

"People get the idea that community service isn't necessarily fun or exciting. When you can look back, and you can see that you've made a difference in a person's life, or done something that really matters to people, it's time well spent."

Tanya Rodrigues is a student intern from the University of San Diego.
San Diego's Economy

San Diego County's leading economic indicators were up slightly in January compared to December, according to a report by the University of San Diego's School of Business Administration. With January's gain of 0.1 percent, the index has increased for 10 months in a row. On the down side, building permits decreased by 0.91 percent with only 356 residential units authorized in January. However, San Diego stock prices were up by 1.18 percent. Tourism also made a modest gain of 0.26 percent in January from December.
Oh, those embarrassing moments: stories from our religious leaders

By SANDI DOLBEE
Religion & Ethics Editor

Why didn’t you tell me not to shake the rabbi’s hand?

The e-mail message flashed white across the top of my deep blue computer screen.

The reporter had covered an event hosted by an Orthodox Jewish group. When she was introduced to the rabbi, she automatically extended her hand to greet him. He automatically recoiled.

Orthodox men and women who are married do not hug or touch people of the opposite sex.

“It’s just not done,” explains Stuart Matlins, editor-in-chief of the new interfaith guidebook, “How to Be a Perfect Stranger.”

Sigh. Life in the fast lane of religious pluralism is not easy.

Handshakes aside, Religion & Ethics asked a few local religious leaders to share some of their favorite mishaps as they navigate the cloverleaf of faiths.

Here’s a sampling of responses:

Bishop George McKinney, St. Stephen’s Church of God in Christ, San Diego: “I remember the first time I was invited to a Passover meal. I was seated with the rabbi at the table. I didn’t know anything.”

It came time during the ritualistic Jewish meal to taste the bitter herb, which is usually horseradish.

“I dug right into it,” remembers McKinney. “And I nearly had to jump off from the table. It was so embarrassing. You’re supposed to take a little bit of it... It just set me on fire.”

As for his own worship service, McKinney tells of a first-time visitor who came into church and took a seat in the back. The man was getting quite comfortable, says McKinney. “He reached in his pocket and pulled out a cigarette and started smoking in worship.”

One of the deacons asked him to put it out. “He was sorry,” McKinney adds. “He just didn’t know.”

The Rev. Judy Slaughter, First Congregational Church, Escondido: She passes along a tale, which she admits she’s not confirmed, of a church visitor in Las Vegas.

When the man entered the sanctuary, he was met by an usher. The visitor slipped the usher a silver dollar — and asked to be seated up front.

Then there was a couple Slaughter was preparing to marry.

It came time for the couple to send out announcements about the upcoming wedding.

“They asked me if they should refer to me as ‘Father,’” she recounts.

She told them that Reverend or Pastor would do nicely, thank you.

Monsignor I. Brent Eagen, University of San Diego: Baseball caps are all the rage for students on campus. But while it’s fine in the Catholic tradition for women to cover their heads when they come into church, it’s not so fine for men.

“I think they do it because they wear them in class and everywhere else,” Eagen says. “But it’s a little off-putting.”

Still, he doesn’t usually say anything to the capped men who come to the campus Masses. “I’m always glad that they’re there,” he adds. “I don’t want to discourage them.”

As for his own experience, he goes back to a time when he was 10 years old.

Eagen’s best friend was the son of an evangelist minister. Good Catholics in those days didn’t go to other church services, but his friend’s family kept inviting him. Finally, a priest said he could go — if he didn’t participate in the service.

The family sat in the front row. But he didn’t stand and didn’t sing.

“I’ve always been embarrassed by that,” he says of the memory.

“I’ve often thought, thank God the church has changed,” adds Eagen, who grew up to become a champion of ecumenical participation.
Snapshot of county's economy is a positive one

Index climbs for 10th straight month, although gain is slight

By URI BERLINER  
Staff Writer

An index of the leading economic indicators for San Diego County rose for the 10th consecutive month in January, led by a continuing surge in local stock prices.

The index, a composite of six economic trends, reached 126.0 in January, up from 125.9 the previous month. The 0.1 percent gain was the smallest since April 1995, however.

The snapshot of San Diego's economy, which seeks to forecast trends six to nine months in the future, is issued monthly by the University of San Diego.

While the index showed improvements in stock prices, tourism, initial jobless claims and help wanted ads, it was held back by a dismal showing in the key component of building permits.

"If the trend continues, this will put a drag on the expansion of the local economy, given the importance of the construction industry in San Diego County," wrote Alan Gin, the USD economist who compiles the index.

The January index also was held back by the overall national economy, which slipped because of the partial federal government shutdown and severe winter storms.
Around Town


■ Affirmative Action and Cross Cultural Perspective, free lecture, 7:30 p.m., USD Campus, Manchester Conference Center. Sponsor: USD Department of Theological and Religious Studies. Information: 260-4054.

■ Institute of Management Accountants meeting, 5:30 p.m., USD Campus, Faculty/Staff Room. Sponsor: Institute of Management Accountants. Cost: $30 members, $35 nonmembers. Reservations: 451-3485, Ext. 3336.
A marriage of divorce law and therapy

The breakup of a marriage is traumatic on its own, but the adversarial legal system can create additional and unhealing scars. "For a divorcing couple, even if they don't like each other anymore, the goal should be to become something like cooperative business partners, sharing a common goal, in this case a decent upbringing for the kids," says George Sargent, a clinical psychologist and adjunct professor in marriage and family therapy at the University of San Diego.

Sargent, and his teaching partner Steven Hartwell, a clinical law professor at USD, believe that outcome is a lot more likely if family therapists and lawyers, early in their careers, learn to collaborate—to help couples come up with workable plans before they go to trial. Three years ago, Sargent and Hartwell launched a graduate course called "Law and Family Therapy."

While other law schools have exposed students to visiting family therapists or psychologists, the USD class is probably the first in the country to put law students and family-therapy students in the same room with a professor of each profession.

"Through the five-week course, we follow a single case involving a custody dispute," explains Hartwell. The case is based on a real divorce that happened in the real world, with a few composite elements thrown in from other cases. The focus is on a single issue: which parent, or both, will have physical custody of a 5-year-old child?

The students play the roles of parents, therapists, attorneys, judge, jury, friends of the parents and other witnesses.

Double vision

As Sargent points out, lawyers and family therapists inhabit different psychological worlds: The law profession tends to be dominated by "thinking-judgment" types who prefer to apply reason and logic; they like problems to be resolved and issues closed; in contrast, family therapy is dominated by "intuitive-feeling" types who prefer to perceive the world in terms of systems and possibilities, preferring intuition to logic.

So Sargent and Hartwell force the students to step out of their normal way of thinking. "Within 15 minutes, we have thrown these students into collaboration; they must deal with a request from the father to take the child for a long weekend visit to Chicago for a family reunion, a request which is opposed by the mother," says Sargent.

In subsequent classes, the students experience court-ordered psychological evaluation to determine the fitness of each parent to assume custody; students play the roles of housekeepers, teachers, pediatricians and others who know the parents.

In real life, mediation is often required by the court or sought privately by the divorcing couple, so the class goes through mediation, too. "Even if the students come up with a good solution, we tell them, 'Good job, but for the purposes of this class, you still have to go to court,'" says Hartwell.

For many of the students, the trial is wrenching. The problems they've been dealing with for weeks look entirely different when they get to court. For example, the father's light drinking, which may have been mentioned in passing during the therapy and mediation sessions, is described in court as alcoholism. The mother, who may have seemed a little controlling during the previous sessions, now comes across as a control freak.

"Not every lawyer tries to destroy the opposing parent," says Sargent, "but too often that's the direction the adversarial process takes."

At the end of the three-hour trial, the students are asked: "What did you learn?"

"Most of all, they realize that, in playing out these roles, they've forgotten the needs of the child," says Hartwell. "That realization stuns them."

On the positive side, the law students learn a different way of looking at divorce. "In an adversarial position, a lawyer doesn't want to reveal his hand; his goal is to find fault and then blame," says Hartwell. "In family therapy, however, you're not trying to beat anyone, but to enhance communication and dialogue, to find out why a family system isn't working and what can be changed." As a lawyer, Hartwell believes that young lawyers "can learn from that kind of thinking."

As a therapist, Sargent believes that the future therapists learn a little humility, too. "They learn lawyers are human beings, and they learn that therapy or mediation can't always be the solution, that some parents need someone to make the decision for them, in order to protect the child."

Both types of students learn to avoid what he calls "counter-transference," projecting their own life experiences, particularly their own parents' divorces, onto a case.

Such personal examination is part of the normal education of therapists but not for lawyers, and it should be, according to Sargent. He also believes that society should encourage the growth of the mediation field (he points with approval to the increasing number of lawyers shifting from the adversarial system to mediation), that the public should be better educated about the availability of private mediators and that young people should receive more education about marriage, parenting—and divorce.

Indeed, the students in the "Law and Family Therapy" course realize viscerally the enormous pressures families are under today, and that individuals and institutions should do much more to build and save marriages, because, as Hartwell puts it, "once you go to trial, you turn your life over to somebody else, along with the fate of your children."

Richard Louv's column appears in Family Ties on Saturdays and on Page A-2 on Wednesdays. He can be reached by fax at 293-2148; by regular mail at P.O. Box 191, San Diego, CA 92112, or by e-mail at richardlou@compuserve.com.
GOP presidential candidate Alan Keyes told University of San Diego students yesterday he's staying in the race to ensure the Republican party remains on track with moral issues. Explaining why he has an Internet site, Keyes said: "There is no interference from the media when you're on the Internet. People get direct access to information on the Internet without any other interference."
Network of Juice
By Thomas K. Arnold

Even though Mayor Susan Golding is a shoo-in for reelection next Tuesday, she engaged in a fundraising blitz in the last few weeks that has enriched her campaign...
coffers by an additional $39,466. Most of that money, along with the balance of more than $100,000 shown on her latest financial disclosure statement, is being spent on a TV ad campaign engineered by Washington political consultant Larry McCarthy, whose notorious 1988 spots featuring Willie Horton, a black convicted murderer in Massachusetts who raping a white woman while on furlough, helped sink the presidential ambitions of Michael Dukakis.

Topping the list of last-minute donors to the Golding campaign fund are car dealers, whose money — more than $2000, in total — was collected at a March 8 breakfast at the Red Lion Hotel in Mission Valley. Area car dealers were invited personally by the mayor, and nearly all of them gave money. John Rose of Rose Toyota gave $150; Reina McLean of Seaside Buick, $250; Laird Mooney of Saturn of Kearny Mesa, $250; Peter Mossy of Mossy Nissan, $250; John Hine Jr. of John Hine Pontiac Mazda, $250; John McCallan Jr. of Pearson Ford, $250; Dave Grundstrom of the Marvin K. Brown Auto Center, $250; James E. Trevellian III of Trevellian Olds Subaru, $100; Daniel J. Wade of Miramar Pontiac GMC, $250; and Norman L. Erb II of Courtesy Chevrolet, $250.

Trevellian says the highlight of the breakfast was a speech by Golding in which she outlined her various accomplishments as mayor and her future plans. "She talked about plans for the city and the airport and the library and business in general," Trevellian says. He says he decided to write Golding a check when the hat was passed "because I think she's done a lot of positive things for San Diego. It seems we have a little more business-friendly environment than we did under the last mayor. It's still a long way from perfect, but it's better than it was."

Golding also received a $250 gift on March 8 from Gary Kaku, the beleaguered ex-chairman of the San Diego County Employees Retirement Association. Kaku and his fellow pension board members came under fire last year for taking 263 foreign and domestic trips since 1991 that were paid for by investment advisors and investment fund earnings. Kaku was reappointed to the board in 1992 by then-superior Susan Golding. At the time, he was being accused in lawsuits filed in both federal and state courts by unhappy investors — and by the federal Securities and Exchange Commission — of a string of securities laws violations in connection with failed business ventures.

Several others with ties to local government gave money to the Golding campaign. The mayor's former senior legislative aide, Mitchell Berner, gave $50. He's now working as chief of staff to Councilwoman Barbara Warden. Peter Hall, consultant to the San Diego Centre City Development Corporation, gave $50.

One donation that has raised eyebrows among Golding's competitors is a $250 cash gift she received on March 6 from David Norcross, a Washington, D.C., attorney who is employed by the Republican National Committee. Golding and City Manager Jack McGory are the two city officials who signed the contract with the Republicans to bring the 1996 GOP convention to San Diego in August, at an estimated cost to local taxpayers of millions of dollars.

Patrick Coleman, a former cop whose challenge to Golding has been endorsed by the county Democratic Party, says the mayor has been saying all along that the GOP convention will be a boon to the local economy. "But this is just one example of who the real beneficiaries are," he says. "The only people who are going to be making out on this whole deal are the corporate welfare people who are boosting their efforts to expand the stadium and the convention center to hold similar conventions in the future, and the politicians — particularly Susan Golding, in preparation for her run for the U.S. Senate."

Loch David Crane, the college instructor and magician arrested last week, when he carried a small picket sign outside a Golding campaign "forum" at USD, where she was the only speaker, adds, "I find it ironic and sad and pitiful. It shows one hand washes the other. Clearly they're in bed with one another, but I think it's unconscionable that city and taxpayer money is being given to a private group like the Republicans, and then the Republicans are funneling it back to her."

Golding's campaign statement also lists thousands of dollars from bankers, attorneys, and developers. Bruce Nunes, vice president of the Bank of Commerce, gave $200; John C. Bevelo Jr. of Peninsula Bank gave $10; and James Hartung of Scripps Bank gave $25. Two more attorneys from the downtown law firm of Luce, Forward, Hamilton and Scripps also chipped in money. Armin Calfo gave $10 and Dennis Doucette contributed $100. Their fellow attorneys have already given the mayor more than $3500 toward her reelection drive, with much of the money coming in around the time Golding and the city council met in a secret session and approved a no-bid contract "not to exceed $250,000" for Luce, Forward to sue a group of taxpayers seeking a public vote on the $66 million stadium bond issue.

In light of the mayor's well-publicized weight problem and tendency to go on crash diets six months before an election, it's fitting that one of the largest cash gifts, for $500, came from a personal trainer, John L. Gold's Gym, Leslie Weller, a resident of Chicago, gave $250 for the primary and $250 for the general election, although it appears unlikely that Golding will be forced into a runoff. Weller could not be reached for comment.

A handful of out-of-town business leaders also appear on Golding's donor list. Scott Beck, the former Blockbuster Video executive who is now chief executive officer of Boston Chicken, the fast-food franchise making inroads throughout San Diego County, gave $500. So did his partner, Joren Peterson, and Boston Chicken's vice president, Jeff Shearer. Beck and Peterson live in Colorado, while Shearer is based out of Chicago. All three donations were posted February 21.


A year ago, Golding's out-of-town fundraising efforts came under fire when critics accused her of laying the groundwork for a gubernatorial run, had Wilson succeeded in his efforts to run for President. In the first six months of 1995, Golding flew to the Bay Area for a series of fundraisers, receptions, and speaking engagements, curryng favor with big GOP givers — many of them drawn from Wilson's donor list — with tales of her...
"business-friendly" civic policies, financial sharp-mindedness, and her trump card: snagging the 1996 Republican National Convention for San Diego. Campaign disclosure forms show that the Friends of Susan Golding '96 committee collected $5775 from Bay Area donors between January 1 and June 30.

"I don't like the idea that a lot of her money is coming from out of town," Coleman says. "I think if you are going to run for an elected local office, the majority of your funding should come from people within the jurisdiction you're seeking office for."

Crane agrees. "I think it only shows she has support from outside the city and she has her eyes on a prize that is not San Diego," he says. "She's leapfrogging her way to Sacramento over the backs of San Diegans."

Other last-minute Golding donors include Steve Alexander ($100), who works for the same public relations firm — Stoorza, Ziegaus and Metzger — as the mayor's campaign strategist, Tom Shepard; John Mabee ($250), chairman of the board of Golden Eagle Insurance; Dr. Seuss widow Audrey Geisel ($250); Ron Arnold ($250), a manager at Science Applications International Corporation, a leading local defense contractor; and old money king John Alessio ($250), owner of Mr. A's restaurant on Banker's Hill.

Andrew Viterbi, vice president of Qualcomm, gave $100, but the money was refunded after the reporting period. Qualcomm has one of two competing cellular phone technologies that have been the subject of a controversial battle over future service rights in San Diego.
Gov. and Gayle Wilson plan to catch a special performance by comedian Mark Russell Saturday night at the California Center for the Arts in Escondido. Also that evening, at the Town & Country, spy novelist Tom Clancy is taking to the podium to pay a "Debt of Honor" to Republican Jim Baize, a rival of Rep. Bob Filner, whom the invitation bills as a "Clear and Present Danger." C-SPAN plans to broadcast live at 6:40-7 a.m. Sunday from USD's Shiley Theater, to show the site of the Oct. 16 presidential debate.
business people are fond of finding the win-win solution to problems. One problem facing all employers is finding qualified workers. One solution is JobTrak.

JobTrak is a California-based company which posts job openings both electronically over the Internet and by phone at over 350 campuses nationwide. Employers win because the modest fees target a group of potential employees trained in the areas they need staffed. Students win by having 24 hour a day accessibility to jobs all over the country via both an Internet address and an 800 telephone number.

IDAP, a San Marcos technology firm specializing in communications has used JobTrak for three years and has found it a valuable tool for hiring.

“What I like is that I can make one phone call,” said Vice President Ken Ravazzolo. “They help us write the ads - everything. It’s a real time saver for us.”

Another aspect of the service Ravazzolo likes is that the students contacting the company because they have seen a job posting on the Internet are already demonstrating technological savvy. The company hires primarily entry-level programmers through JobTrak, for both full and part-time positions.

“We’d always go through JobTrak first, even if we were hiring above entry-level,” Ravazzolo said, “because JobTrak also reaches alums at these campuses.”

He has been pleased with the variety of jobs posted through JobTrak, Ravazzolo added.

“My wife has even used the service to find a baby-sitter. We’ve found students majoring in child development who’ve been more than qualified.”

CliniComp is a local software company which automates the charting process at hospitals. Human Resources Manager Jill Kobrin is new to the company but she has used JobTrak before and echoes Ravazzolo in what she likes about JobTrak. The company uses the service primarily for entry-level positions. But positions are also available that require any level of education from a bachelor’s degree on up through a Ph.D.

“Whoever dreamt up the idea did a good job,” Kobrin said. “It’s centralized so it’s one-stop shopping.”

Their use of JobTrak demonstrates one of the aspects of flexibility which have made it a tool for over 170,000 employers nationwide. Clinicomp, for example, posts its openings at universities with strong engineering schools such as Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. Each employer’s needs are different and specific so they have the option of listing an opening at as few as one campus or nationwide. Both undergraduates and graduate students have access to the service.

The flexibility also extends to each campus in how the service is contracted with JobTrak. San Diego State University (SDSU), University of California at San Diego (UCSD) and the University of San Diego (USD) are three of the largest of the area campuses which use JobTrak to varying degrees as part of their career center services. Each campus serves a different student population both in number and type of programs offered. For Judith Gumbinear, director of career services at SDSU, JobTrak is one of a number of services offered to students.

“You have to put it in perspective,” Gumbinear said. “JobTrak is just one component of what we have to offer.”

JobTrak is offered to SDSU students as part of their Internet access in searching for employment but not specifically identified by name. One reason for this, Gumbinear said, is that SDSU offers government and education job listings electronically, which
JobTrak does not. The most important part of addressing the career needs of SDSU students is to get them registered at the career center in order for them to use the other services offered, including career counseling, e-mail addresses, a jobs hotline and on-campus interviews.

According to Gumbinear, using JobTrak was not an easy decision, but the overall results have been good.

"I'm very pleased. It was not an easy decision," he said. "Most employers don't mind [paying the fee] but the downside is that some employers are getting charged who weren't charged before."

Previously any employer who had a position to offer would call or fax the listing and the business was handled on the phone by a staff person. Freeing staff time was an important consideration. Additionally, schools like SDSU which have exclusive contracts with JobTrak receive a portion of the employer's fee, which goes back into funding the career services centers.

Neil Murray, director of career services at UCSD feels that electronic job searching, using services like JobTrak are definitely the way of the future, although not yet the dominant method. Like SDSU, UCSD students also have a variety of alternatives to choose from when they look for work. Like SDSU he has found that using JobTrak has freed staff time.

"We could not have managed in terms of staff [keeping up with listings coming in via telephone]," said Murray. "But one of the primary virtues for us is that JobTrak by the way it functions affiliates you with a vast majority of campuses across the country. It's given our students access to a wider range of job listings than they would ordinarily have access to."

UCSD students can access the Internet job listings via any of the computer labs located across the campus. All campuses require students to register in the career service centers because while the home page of JobTrak is public, job listings are accessible only to students and alumni of each campus and each has a password to protect those listings.

Linda Scales, director of career services at USD is enthusiastic about JobTrak. Since the university is much smaller than the other two schools, the atmosphere and style are somewhat different. USD's contract with JobTrak allows them to accept listings themselves from some employers, but using the service has taken most of the burden off the staff.

"I think it's fabulous," Scales said. "It's a real asset for the students. It's a lot easier than going to the library to look through the listings. They're [JobTrak] always at our conferences and they're always accessible."

In addition to job listings, JobTrak also offers students access to company profiles and job search tips and strategies. For an additional fee a company can list its profile on the network, allowing students the opportunity to learn more about a company prior to interviewing or to eliminate it from a search.

Listing fees are based on how many locations an employer chooses to post an opening and range from $.75 to $12.50. Full-time openings run for four weeks and part-time jobs run for two weeks. The service is free to colleges.

Representatives are available from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. to assist employers and 24 hours a day to anyone accessing via the Internet. Call (800) 999-8725 to list a job opening. The Internet address is: www.jobtrak.com.
San Diego mayoral candidate Pat Coleman accused KPBS radio yesterday of watering down the format of a candidate debate tomorrow to provide a safe haven for Mayor Susan Golding.

"This is nothing but the worst kind of political scam," said Coleman, a marketing consultant and ex-San Diego cop.

KPBS flatly denied the allegations.

"We are not mollycoddling the mayor," said Kate Concannon, producer of "These Days With Gloria Penner."

Coleman accused Golding of pressuring the station into several "concessions," including cutting the forum from two hours to one; banning phone-in questions from the public; and allowing the mayor's staff to "hand pick" 50 community leaders who will ask questions.

Golding campaign officials were not immediately available for comment. Tomorrow's broadcast, to be moderated by Penner, is the only candidate forum Golding has agreed to attend. It is set to air live at 6 p.m. on KPBS, 89.5 on the FM band.

"It's going to be exactly the same format that we had on Monday" with county Board of Supervisors candidates, Concannon said.

She said KPBS has "had to be very flexible" with the timing, because of Golding's schedule, but denied Coleman's claim Golding has an edge in panelists and questions.

"I can assure you that she has no control over the issues we're discussing during the program," she said.

Concannon said the panelists were selected "from my Rolodex" and from suggestions from KPBS' news staff. KPBS officials added that callers selected at random will receive studio tickets and may ask questions.

Concannon also said because the station is in the midst of moving into new studios, the taking of outside phone calls is technically difficult.

Coleman political consultant Bob Glaser provided no hard evidence of collusion between Golding and KPBS, but he insisted the fix is in.

"This stinks," Glaser said. "This has always been a call-in show."

Last week, Golding's challengers complained that they were not allowed to appear at a Golding "town meeting" at the University of San Diego. One, magician and college instructor Loch David Crane, was arrested by campus police after refusing to hand over a picket sign critical of Golding.
Allen Snyder, who teaches University of San Diego's legal clinics and is involved with the National Institute for Trial Advocacy, said access to courtroom space is a plus, but doubts there are many organizations that would be willing or able to pay for such access.

"NITA is a nonprofit organization, and we're usually able to find some space for free," he said. "A courtroom is nice, but the focus is really on lawyering skills. And a lot of the time for our classes, we've been able to get access to the courtrooms at night."
USD teammates as close as sisters on and off court

By TIM WILLETT

The decision to live together should have been an easy one. Kristine Smith needed a roommate. So did sister Michelle, who was migrating to the University of San Diego from Calgary, Alberta.

Not so fast.

"I loved not having a roommate," said Kristine, the lone senior on the USD women's tennis team.

Michelle, a freshman, vowed that she was "never going to the same school as my sister," before choosing USD over Berkeley, Arizona State and Pepperdine.

Not only did the three-time Canadian Junior National Champion change her mind after visiting Alcala Park, but she moved in with a familiar face.

"It's wonderful having her on the team," said Kristine, who plays No. 1 singles and doubles for the injury-plagued Toreros (4-6). "I was worried it would be too much time together, but it's turned out really well. I feel like we've helped each other out and I have a bit of family here."

Michelle has climbed to third on the singles depth chart but has had a tougher time adjusting to life away from home.

"There (Canada) I was a leader," said Michelle, who played on the pro satellite tour and was her country's top-ranked junior in 1995. "I came here and I had to get used to being part of a team."

The sisters are a contrast in styles, both on and off the court. Kristine (5-foot-8) relies on her power, Michelle (5-2) on her quickness. Kristine is a three-time West Coast Conference Scholar-Athlete; Michelle is attempting to rebound from a poor first semester. Kristine tends to keep to herself; Michelle considers herself very social.

"I don't know how they live together, but on the tennis court they're all business," said Toreros coach Sherri Stephens, whose team hosts the USD Classic Tournament through Sunday. "They're both very smart and they both know how to play the game."

Kristine is coming off her best season as a Torero. She and partner Yvonne Doyle won 21 of 26 matches and advanced to the quarterfinals of the NCAA Doubles Championships.

Whether she enjoys the same success this season matters little to Kristine.

"I'm enjoying tennis more and not putting so much pressure on myself," she said. "I want to walk out of here and say I had fun."

Michelle, after a rough start, is also starting to enjoy herself. Having a sister to lean on helps, even if that sister once punched her during a match back home.

"I'm happy we're together now," said Michelle. "We've built on top of a sister relationship."
Golding receives a warm welcome; Crane is arrested

By PHILIP J. LaVELLE
Staff Writer

Mayor Susan Golding got a warm reception under tight security yesterday at the University of San Diego — not long after one of her challengers got thrown into the cooler.

Perennial candidate Loch David Crane was arrested outside the University Center after refusing to hand over a picket sign topped by an American flag on a stick. The sign had a frowning face and the words, "Susan Golding won't debate."

"This is freedom in America!" the magician and college instructor yelled as he was led away from the University Center by campus police about 6:20 p.m.

Golding arrived 40 minutes later.

"You don't get a chance to speak at a Catholic university in public! Don't forget to vote March 26th!" bellowed Crane, wearing a stars-and-stripes shirt. "Don't vote for Susan Golding! This is what her brownshirts do!"

Crane was handed over to city police and booked into the central jail for trespassing.

Neither Crane nor Golding's four other challengers were invited to participate in last night's "town hall forum" sponsored by the Clairemont Town Council and the Linda Vista Community Association.

Organizer Josephine Bennett rejected challenger criticism that the event was sanitized for Golding's benefit. "This is not a political debate," Bennett said, "this is a community event ... for Linda Vista and Clairemont to get their issues raised to the mayor."

By political standards, it was a low-risk encounter for Golding, expected to trounce her lesser-known challengers in the March 26 primary. She fielded mostly friendly questions, her challengers were left on the sidelines and the format allowed no questioning by journalists.

But some questions mirroring those raised by her challengers were asked, including one about the controversial expansion of San Diego Jack Murphy Stadium.

A legal battle over the use of lease-revenue bonds without voter approval is currently under way in the courts. "In the last 20 years," Golding said, "the general fund has never been used to retire lease-revenue bonds."

Golding keyed on her core themes — boosting public safety, focusing on neighborhoods and cutting red tape for business — which brought her hearty applause several times.

She also announced that she will attend a candidate forum next week on KPBS radio, reversing an earlier stance of shunning debates.

In counterpoint to the friendly mood, several police officers — uniformed and plainclothes — were stationed throughout the room. Golding chief of staff Ben Haddad said event organizers received a threatening call from a man who asked about security while criticizing politicians.

But the only apparent police action was Crane's arrest, precipitated, officials suggested, as much by Crane's lust for publicity as by his love of free speech.

USD director of public relations Jack Cannon said he regretted Crane's arrest but had warned him and other challengers that — while they could hand out literature — picketing is not allowed on campus.
Golding tonight  Tonight's special 7:00 p.m. meeting of the Clairemont Town Council and the Linda Vista Civic Association at the University of San Diego featuring Mayor Susan Golding could be shaping up as a donnybrook. The event is billed as "an opportunity for a dialogue with the mayor highlighting community issues and concerns." The mayor's critics and reelection opponents, whom Golding has refused to debate one-on-one, say they'll be there, attempting to raise a host of questions about the city council's $250,000 lawsuit to block a group of taxpayers who want to have a public vote on the $66 million stadium-financing plan. "We just had a meeting of all four mayoral candidates, and they've all agreed to pass out fliers with the top ten questions to ask Susan Golding," says Bob Glaser, consultant for Pat Coleman, one of the candidates.
Local Colleges

USD hits it big in Vegas with a 12-10 victory

Designated hitter Kevin Schramm and first baseman Brock Marsh each had three hits, including home runs, to help the University of San Diego to a 12-10 victory over Southern Illinois in a non-conference baseball game yesterday in Las Vegas.

Schramm went 3-for-4 and drove in three runs; Marsh went 3-for-5, doubled, scored three times and drove in two. Right fielder and leadoff hitter Jeb Dougherty added four hits for the Toreros, Karl Schmidt three and Jay Parks and Jeff Powers each had two. Powers doubled and drove in three runs.

Jerry Hairston led Southern Illinois with two hits, including a home run, two runs and four runs batted in.

Bart Miadich (3-2) allowed seven runs in five innings for USD, but got the win.
San Diego Mayor Susan Golding will discuss issues and concerns of the Clairemont and Linda Vista communities at a Clairemont Town Council town hall meeting at 6:30 p.m. tomorrow in University Center, Forums A & B, University of San Diego. Information: 278-5596.
Around Town

Attorney Given USD's Bishop Buddy Alumni Award

Kathleen Dunn Wellman, the attorney who helped found a Carlsbad homeless shelter, is the recipient of the University of San Diego's 1995 Bishop Charles Francis Buddy Award for Outstanding Alumni Achievement. She earned both her law and undergraduate degrees from USD, and was honored by the alumni association for "sustained community and public service." Wellman is a founder of La Posada de Guadalupe, a homeless shelter for men. She also helped form "Caring Residents of Carlsbad," the nonprofit corporation that established La Posada in conjunction with Catholic Charities.
Truth to Be Told

Dear Editor,

In his request for a generous response to the Annual Catholic Appeal, Bishop Brom stated that one purpose of the appeal is: "To foster education in the Faith".

Yet in The Southern Cross, we find letter after letter to the editor complaining about dissent from Church teaching, in the schools of this diocese. Some letters seem to me to beg an explanation as to why there are no corrections of this problem.

Most outrageous was the all too plainly false statement by the new president of "our" University of San Diego, that "no dissenting groups exist on campus"!

Why doesn't The Southern Cross answer these letters? Wouldn't that "foster education in the Faith"?

Secular publications are delighted to report dissent in the Church. Shouldn't our diocesan paper supply the Truth?

Margaret L Johnson
La Mesa
Say San Diego Analysts
Loss Of Bank Research Dept.
Will Be Blow To Businesses

By SARA BONGIORNI
Daily Transcript Staff Writer

The abolition of Wells Fargo’s economic research department will mean one less resource for San Diego financial institutions and businesses trying to assess the region’s economic shifts.

The San Francisco bank’s decision means a yearly regional forecast compiled by economists at First Interstate Bank will no longer be available to San Diegans.

Although Bank of America and several local entities will continue to publish regional forecasts, one San Diego economist described news of Wells Fargo’s decision as a blow to local businesses that run the gamut from banks to hospitals.

“This means there’s going to be one less view out there as far as the economy goes,” Alan Gin, associate professor of economics at the University of San Diego, said yesterday. “It’s unfortunate, because you want to have as much information and as many viewpoints as possible when you’re making economic decisions.

“People are really going to miss this information,” Gin said.

Because most of the financial firms in San Diego are not large enough to support their own economic researchers, Gin said information provided by First Interstate has served as a valuable tool for lending institutions, real estate firms and others trying to gauge economic trends.

“This information has been especially valuable to people in real estate and lending institutions who need to know how risky the market is,” he said.

But the loss of the First Interstate report still leaves San Diego with several forecasting tools.

Bank of America publishes economic forecasts for the state twice a year, with special sections devoted to the San Diego economy.

The bank also publishes and disseminates additional periodic reports that look exclusively at the region, said Howard L. Roth, vice president and director of regional economics for Bank of America.

The last time the bank published a regional outlook piece was in August of 1995, Roth said.

The University of San Diego and Chapman University are also emerging sources of information on economic trends. In January, Chapman released its first regional economic forecast, and USD plans to begin issuing a yearly report of economic indicators some time next year, Gin said.

“In a way, this may create a new opportunity for either Chapman or our program,” he said.

John Burnham & Co. publishes a yearly forecast on San Diego’s real estate industry. The Greater San Diego Chamber of Commerce also puts out monthly economic bulletins, as well as a general economic forecast in January.

The San Diego County Association of Governments also publishes sporadic reports on regional employment and demographic information and the Center for the Continuing Study of the California Economy in Northern California publishes a yearly report on the state’s economy, with sections devoted specifically to San Diego.

In addition to cutting operating costs, Dan Conway, Wells Fargo’s San Diego spokesman, said elimination of the internal economics departments will mean greater reliance on regional consulting firms.

Because the merged bank will operate in 13 states, “We’re going to have a much greater need for local, regional data,” Conway said.
Toreros go coldly into the offseason

By BILL CENTER
Staff Writer

SANTA CLARA — The University of San Diego has been a Jekyll and Hyde basketball team this season.

Portland 65
Toreros 52

Last night, in the semifinals of the West Coast Conference Tournament, the good doctor abandoned the Toreros.

Fifth-seeded Portland — paced by a pressing defense and the Toreros' inability to make clutch shots and free throws — defeated USD 65-52 to close out the San Diegans' season at 14-14.

The 18-10 Pilots will meet second-seeded Gonzaga in tonight's final (ESPN, 9) at Toso Pavilion.

Gonzaga (21-7), the regular-season co-champion, routed undermanned Pepperdine 76-48 in the first semifinal.

"At times, we were our own worst enemies," said USD coach Brad Holland.

"When the game was on the line, we couldn't convert on some easy baskets and free throws. If you shoot 28 percent for the game, you're not likely to win ... and we didn't."

As usual, USD got off to a slow start. Then Andre Speech came in, delivered some instant offense with a pair of three-point plays and ignited a 13-0 run that shot the Toreros to a 23-12 lead with 9:17 to play in the first half.

Over the next 19 minutes and 34 seconds, Portland would outscore USD 36-11.

The Toreros would commit 14 turnovers in the span. They would hit only 5-of-14 free throws — giving up a possible 12 points at the line if you count the front end of blown one-and-one opportunities. USD would make three baskets in 30 shots.

On Saturday night, a 53-17 second half shot the Toreros to a victory over third-seeded Loyola Marymount.

Last night it was USD's turn to have the cold hand.

After getting their 23rd point on a three-pointer by point guard David Fizdale, the Toreros didn't hit the rim in their next four possessions and had one basket to show for their next eight trips downcourt.

"We weren't taking care of the ball," said Fizdale, who got into foul trouble to compound the Toreros' woes. "A lot of this was my fault. I need to organize the offense. We weren't patient."

Much of the USD problems could be credited to Portland's overplaying press defense. Portland defensive specialist Dion Holton seldom gave Fizdale room to breathe and the Toreros occasionally forgot to come back and help Fizdale against the press.

But even when it did break the press, USD had problems cashing in easy shots under the basket.

Said Portland coach Rick Chavez: "I thought our defense played good for 40 minutes. I thought we did a good job of containing Fizdale, which I thought was a key to the game."

It was one of USD's poorer, all-around shooting efforts.

The Toreros shot 29 percent from the floor and downed only 3-of-14 three-point attempts. From the foul line, they converted only 59 percent of the time. USD also committed 20 turnovers (an unusually high seven by Fizdale) to 14 for Portland.

Brian Miles was the only Torero in double figures, with 13 points. Sixth-man Kweemada King led the Pilots with 16.

Looking back on the season, Holland said he was pleased with USD's strong finish. The Toreros won five of their last seven.

"With the injuries we had, this could have been an 8-19 season," said Holland. "We turned it into 14-14 and had we converted a few more tonight we could have extended it another game. I was very pleased the way we came on.

Said Fizdale, who set USD records for single-season (185) and career (465) assists while earning first-team All-WCC honors: "It wasn't always easy. We really stuck together and worked at this."

In the opener of the semifinal doubleheader, Cinderella Pepperdine ran out of glass slippers in the form of players.

The eighth-seeded Waves lost leading scorer Gerald Brown (torn knee ligaments) during Saturday night's 63-60 upset of host and top-seed Santa Clara.
Donors Honored: Local philanthropists Donald and Darlene Shiley will be honored March 23 with the Spirit of Discovery and Caring Award, from the George G. Glenner Alzheimer's Family Centers, Inc. The event will be held at the Sheraton Harbor Island Hotel and will include a silent auction, dinner and dancing.

The Shileys have donated to numerous biomedical, educational and artistic causes, including the UCSD Shiley Eye Center, the Shiley Sports and Health Center at Scripps Clinic, and the USD Master of Fine Arts Endowment. For more information on the dinner, call Judy Burgess at 543-4700.

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Sizzling second half lifts Toreros to tourney win

By BILL CENTER
Staff Writer

SANTA CLARA — The numbers are staggering. A 19-0 run. A 53-17 second half. Down by 12 at halftime, the University of San Diego last night defeated Loyola Marymount 75-51 in the opening-round finale of the West Coast Conference Tournament.

USD scored the first 19 points of the second half and went from a 34-22 deficit to a 41-34 lead before the third-seeded Lions finally scored on Mike O'Quinn's follow of his own miss.

Eight minutes and 46 seconds had elapsed in the half.

"This was amazing," said coach Brad Holland, whose Toreros will meet Portland (17-10) in the second half of tonight's semifinals.

Fifth-seeded Pepperdine (10-17), which upset top-seeded and host Santa Clara 63-60, will meet Gonzaga (20-7) in the 5 p.m. opener.

Both games will be televised by Prime Sports.

USD got off to a terrible start against the third-seeded Lions (18-11).

While the Toreros were shooting 38.5 percent from the floor and downing only one of nine three-point tries before intermission, O'Quinn exploded for 14 points to pace the Lions to a 34-22 halftime lead.

The second half started slowly. Brian Bruso hit a foul shot, then missed one. Brian Miles scored underneath. Bruso made another free throw, then missed another...and drew his third foul with 15:46 to play.

But seconds after Miles scored underneath to cut the gap to six, David Fizdale stripped Loyola Marymount's Ime Oduok of the ball and fed Andre Speech for a three-pointer.

Loyola Marymount led by three. Then by one after James Black hit a jumper in the lane.

Then Speech and Lamont Smith hit back-to-back threes around a pair of missed Loyola Marymount free throws.

The Toreros were off and running. Miles capped the 19-0 run with a jumper from the top of the key off a feed from Smith.

"This is one of the finest turnarounds from the first half to the second half that I've ever been associated with," said Holland, whose team improved to 14-13 with its fifth win in six games.

"That one was a Jekyll and Hyde. The second half didn't resemble the first half at all...and thank God. I can't remember seeing a game like that."

Speech had all 15 of his points in the second half. Ryan Williams scored all 14 of his in the second half. Miles scored 12 of his team-high 17 after intermission.

The Toreros shot 60 percent in the second half, won the boards and forced Loyola Marymount into 14 turnovers.

Fizdale had eight of his 11 assists after intermission before leaving the game after hitting his head on the floor with just under two minutes to play.

The Lions shot only 22 percent in the second half and were 0-for-13 from three-point range.

"We just started out chipping away," said Miles. "The momentum just built. About midway through the half, I looked up and I was in awe. We just played great."
The University of San Diego Presents Chicano/Latino Film Retrospective

The University of San Diego, in conjunction with Mesa College and the Centro Cultural de la Raza, is proud to present the "Chicano/Latino Film Retrospective." This retrospective will include feature films, documentaries and student films, as well as discussions with noted film directors, writers, historians and critics. The event is free and open to the public.

The schedule for the "Chicano/Latino Film Retrospective" is:

Wednesday, March 6 at 7:00 p.m., USD's University Center Forum A
Paul Espinosa will present the documentary "Los Mineros" and discuss the art of making documentary films that record the history of the Chicano/Latino community. Espinosa is an acclaimed writer, producer and director, whose most recent work is the feature film "... y no se lo trago la tierra" ("...and the earth did not swallow him").

Wednesday, March 13 at Mesa College, (time TBA)
Mesa College film students will present their works.

Wednesday, April 3 at 7:00 p.m., USD's University Center Forum A
Film director Olivia Olea will present and discuss her documentary "Por la Vida." This one-hour film explores street vending and the civil violations of Latinos. The film was written and co-produced by Nico Panigueti, the Oscar-winning producer of "The Panama Deception."

Thursday, April 11 at 6:00 p.m., USD's University Center Forum A
Professors Mike Ornelas and Gail Perez will present and discuss the landmark film, "Salt of the Earth." The discussion will focus on the historical background and gender issues.

Thursday, April 18 at 7:00 p.m., USD's University Center, Room 1076
Noted Chicana film critic Rosa Linda Fregoso will present and discuss "The Devil Never Sleeps," a film by Lourdes Portillo, Fregoso is also the author of the Bronze Screen."
Why is the government so adamant?

By RODNEY G. PEFFER

Last week, Cuban MiGs shot down two small aircraft operated by the Cuban-American exile group Brothers to the Rescue, killing four of its members.

While I personally remain skeptical of the group's claim that their planes had not encroached into Cuban airspace (as they admittedly had done in the past), I want to speak here not about this provocative incident but about the story here in San Diego concerning U.S.-Cuban relations that has, unfortunately, not received nearly as much attention.

On Wednesday, Feb. 21, about 11:30 a.m., the Rev. Lucius Walker Jr. and four other volunteers associated with Pastors for Peace began a "fast for life" just a few yards of the U.S. side of the San Ysidro border crossing.

They have vowed to stay there and not to eat until the 400 outmoded computers seized by the U.S. government on Jan. 31 and Feb. 17 are released back to the Pastors for Peace so they can be sent to the Martin Luther King Jr. Center in Havana, from whence they will be distributed to hospitals and clinics to be used in a U.N.-sponsored program to update the data-sharing capabilities of the Cuban healthcare system.

Two interesting questions arise here. Why are these U.S. and Canadian citizens risking their health — conceivably even their lives — to accomplish this goal? And why is the U.S. government so adamant about preventing this that over the last several weeks it has mobilized over a thousand federal, state and local law enforcement personnel in the San Diego area and spent an estimated $1 million of our tax monies to do so?

In answer to the first question, Pastors for Peace has stated that "facing the cruel, inhumane policy that forces shortages of food and medicine on 11 million innocent Cubans, we are compelled to lay our lives on the line as a means of saying 'no' to our country's policy of death, and 'yes' to life and peace.

"We cannot match the force or resources of the government, and so we have decided to make the only and ultimate sacrifice — ourselves. We consecrate this liquid-only 'fast for life' to the release of the computers, which the churches of Cuba have requested and which will significantly improve the medical care of the Cuban people."

The second question, it seems to me, is the more difficult one. After all, the Cold War is over. Recently, the United States established trade relations with Vietnam and has been trading with China since 1972. Moreover, the government has allowed other forms of medical aid to be sent to Cuba without a special license; on Feb. 17 at San Ysidro, it allowed over 1,200 pounds of medicines, bandages, etc., destined for Cuba to pass, while seizing some 40 or 50 pieces of antique computer equipment good for nothing but acting as terminals.

Moreover, every one of the first five Pastors for Peace caravans taking humanitarian aid to Cuba included similar computer equipment, and even though the government usually delayed and harassed these caravans, it has always let all of the aid — including the computers — pass through to either Mexico or Canada in transit to Cuba. Given these facts, the seizure of these computers and the government's refusal to release them simply doesn't make sense. And the magnitude of the government's efforts is, I submit, utterly inexplicable.

How many U.S. citizens really want their hard-earned tax dollars spent in this way? Wouldn't this million dollars have been much better spent on improving public health-care facilities or services in the United States? More important, how long will the U.S. government make these five humanitarians — acting in the great moral tradition of civil disobedience of Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King Jr. and Caesar Chavez — go without food, risking their health and well-being?

(Lucius Walker and 10 other caravanners had to fast for 23 days a few years ago to get the government to release a little yellow school bus they were aboard in Laredo, Texas. But eventually the government caved in and not only released the bus but provided new tires and a new battery for it before sending it on its way to Cuba via Nuevo Laredo.)

And how long will the United States continue its immoral and — arguably — unconstitutional travel ban and economic embargo against a small Third World country which was bold enough to break from the U.S. sphere of economic and political control in order to forge its own destiny and pursue the goal of providing quality health care, education and cultural opportunities for all of its citizens, rather than — as is the case in almost all other developing countries — for just a privileged few?

PEFFER is a professor of philosophy at the University of San Diego.
The topic of an interesting talk at University of San Diego on March 28 is “What Is Affirmed in Affirmative Action? Cross Cultural Perspectives.” The speaker is Arvind Sharma of McGill University, Montreal.

A member of McGill’s Faculty of Religious Studies, Sharma is a specialist in South Asian religions and the philosophy of religion. He is currently the co-editor of the Journal of Religious Pluralism.

Sharma has studied the religious, ethical, and political implications of the Indian version of affirmative action, which has established a system of “reservations” that set aside as much as 50 percent or more of legislative seats, university admissions, and government jobs for members of former low-caste groups. These groups comprise the world’s largest underprivileged community, one that has endured centuries of discrimination.

With rural, low-caste India experiencing a political awakening, there is the possibility that these reservations will be extended to the military and the private sector. Right-wing Hindu nationalist groups, much like conservatives in the U.S., are strongly opposed to their government’s “affirmative action” policy, and this opposition has lead to riots, public suicides, and acts of violence against low-caste groups.

In his address, Sharma will share the results of his work on reservations in India, and provide some cross-cultural reflections that throw light on the ethics of affirmative action in the U.S.

On March 30, Arvind Sharma will be joined by Padmanabh S. Jaini of UC Berkeley and several other leading scholars of South Asian religion in a conference discussing the environmental implications of Hindu, Buddhist, and Jain beliefs and practices, also at the University of San Diego. The conference is titled “Religion and the Environment in South Asia: A Meeting of Concerned Scholars.”

Jaini is one of the world’s foremost scholars of Jainism and Buddhism. Other South Asia scholars participating include J. G. Arapura, McMaster University; Robert E. Brown, UCLA; Christopher K. Chapple, Loyola Marymount University; Kathleen Dugan, University of San Diego; and Vijaya R. Nagarajan, UC Berkeley.

Topics covered will range from attitudes toward nature in the Hindu, Buddhist, and Jain scriptures and philosophical texts to the environmental implications of Earth Goddess worship. The conference will conclude with an open discussion of the question “How ‘Ecological’ are the Religions Indigenous to South Asia?”
