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## Ever Wanted to "Grade" the San Diego Media? Here's Your Chance...

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# NEWS RELEASE UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO



## NEWS BUREAU

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EVER WANTED TO "GRADE" THE SAN DIEGO MEDIA?  
HERE'S YOUR CHANCE ....

..."CLASS" BEGINS 7 P.M. TUESDAY, FEB. 13

(At the "head of the class:" Marty Levin, Cathy Clark, Barry Horstman, Janet Lowe, John Tenwolde, Andrea Skorepa, Robert Fellmeth)

Remember "anniversary" news coverage of the San Ysidro massacre at McDonald's or the PSA airliner crash in North Park?

Exploitation or the public's right to know?

Or how about late last year when Los Angeles Times reporters wrote about Sheriff Duffy's home security system and the sheriff claimed invasion of privacy?

Or when Roger Hedgecock was toppled from the mayor's office, the politician cried foul and sued the Copley Press for what he claimed was biased coverage of his affairs?

Is the media acting ethically? Does the media go too far?

Or is media-bashing a convenient, fashionable scapegoat for people in the news?

Should the media be held accountable, and, if so, to whom?

Legitimate questions. What are the answers?

On Tuesday, Feb. 13, journalists and news figures will attempt to tackle these issues during a free, public forum co-sponsored by the University of San Diego and the Society of Professional Journalists.

-more-

Channel 39 News anchor Marty Levin will moderate, employing a format that relies primarily on the audience to pose questions to the panel of experts.

The program, entitled "Accountability: A Report Card on the Media," begins at 7 p.m. and will be held in the Hahn University Center Forum. A hosted reception follows.

Cox Cable is scheduled to tape the 90-minute program for televising at a later date on Cox Channel 4.

Panelists include:

- \* Barry Horstman, a Los Angeles Times political writer who worked on the Duffy stories late last year that led to the sheriff's decision not to run for re-election.

- \* Robert Fellmeth, University of San Diego law professor and co-author of the 1986 Open Meetings Act amendment. He is also California Bar Monitor for the state Attorney General.

- \* Janet Lowe, book author and former Tribune financial editor.

- \* Andrea Skorepa, executive director of Casa Familiar, and chairperson of the San Diego Advisory Board on Police Communications and the Mayor's Latino Advisory Committee.

- \* John Tenwolde, a sheriff's homicide lieutenant who was commander of the sheriff's public affairs division. He also was a state Department of Justice consultant on police/press relations.

This is the fourth in a series of USD/SPJ programs on news media ethics. They are designed to assist the public in understanding the media and to provide the press an opportunity for self-examination.

For more information, please contact John Nunes at 260-4682 or Jane Clifford at 293-1327.

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